



Writer's Block

A Cindy Bauer Books Newsletter

Volume 3 - Issue 6 - June 2009

What a crazy month May has been! I really need to start jotting things down for my column so I don't forget anything. I'm not sure I even know where to begin, but I'll give it a whirl anyway.

I guess I will start with my biggest news. I have a very special guest interview planned for December. Not a best selling author, either.

But indeed, a very well known name, nonetheless!

Do any of you remember the USA network TV show, *The 4400*? Remember the theme song? It was "*A Place In Time*" and was sung by *Amanda Abizaid*. She also sang the theme songs for the hit TV shows, *Charmed* and *Smallville*. Well... Amanda has graciously agreed to allow me to interview her for the December issue of *Writer's Block*!

I suppose I should start from the beginning, eh? (Chuckle - Grin). When I was getting ready to make my book trailer for *Chasing Memories*, I thought of that song, *A Place In Time*. It would've been perfect! I checked various websites to see if I could find out how to contact Ms. Abizaid or her manager to ask permission to use the song.

After not hearing back from her, I was not surprised since she is so famous, so I used something else. Some public domain music. Well, not long after I finished doing the book trailers for *Chasing Memories* and *Shades of Blue*, Amanda did get back to me on that. I couldn't have used the song as Paramount Studios owned the rights to it, but to make this story as short as possible, that's how Amanda and I began conversing. I tried not to bug her after finding out I would have to contact Paramount on that song, of course, because she is so well-known and I figured she had more important things to do than waste time talking to little 'ol me.

A couple of weeks ago, Amanda sent me her new



Cindy Bauer

email addy to use, so I thought "Hmmm. I don't have an interview lined up yet for December. I wonder if she'd be interested?"

Lo and behold, Amanda is a very "down-to-earth" gal and agreed. In fact, she's looking forward to it. So don't forget to check out December's issue and if you can think of any questions you'd like Amanda to answer, send me an email and I'll put it under consideration. If I do use your question, I will give you recognition for your "request".

Amanda has an amazing voice and I'm really looking forward to this interview. It should be a lot of fun!

I'm almost done editing *Crystal Clear* and though later than I'd planned, it will release sometime in June, so I'm very happy about that (and my patient readers are, too!)

V.K. Sansone has two more new releases she'd like to announce. *Heavenly Hannah's Little Black Hat* and *Pandora's Incredible Journey*. Both are children's books and should be showing up at Amazon sometime in July, though they are available now at Lulu by visiting her storefront, <http://stores.lulu.com/vksansone/>.

I've also been busy getting my flower gardens into shape, but I still have a lot to do. I was able to get some of it planted in late March, before all the rain hit us, but I didn't get the rest of it in until week before last. So it'll be a little later coming up for me. Drats! And I still have a little more weeding to do in one. I used to try to keep up on it at least every other day, but this year, with all the rain, I decided to heck with it. I waited until it appeared we would only get occasional rain so I could just go out and do it all.

Not smart, let me tell you. Took me 3-4 days to get just that one huge bed weeded out and the remainder planted to fill in the bare spots. I hate to admit it, folks, but I do believe I'm getting just a wee bit old for this and I hope by putting in what I did put in this year, I won't have to do so much next year because I can just shake out the seed this fall and they'll come back up next year.

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Meet Lynn Emery:

**Emma Winner
Author of the Year
2004**

Mix knowledge of Louisiana politics and forensic social work, with the dedication to write fiction while working each day in an acute psychiatric unit for women, and you get a snapshot of talented author Lynn Emery. Lynn has been a contributing consultant to the magazine *Today's Black Woman* for three articles about contemporary relationships between black men and women.

Lynn sold her first novel in 1995 to Kensington publishing for their groundbreaking Arabesque line. *NIGHT MAGIC* went on to be recognized for Excellence in Romance Fiction for 1995 by Romantic Times Magazine.

Her third novel, AFTER ALL, became a movie produced by BET and aired on December 3, 1999. Holly Robinson Peete was the female lead as Michelle Toussaint, an investigative television reporter.

In 2004 Lynn won three coveted Emma Awards. She was chosen Author of the Year and her novel *KISS LONELY GOODBYE* won Best Novel and Favorite Hero.

A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Lynn writes after work and on weekends. Flagging energy does not present a problem. "I began to write when I was eleven years old and I won't ever stop. That tough little kid inside me who dreamed of holding her own book won't hear of it. Let me tell you she cracks the whip!"

Lynn's latest novel is *SOULFUL STRUT* is from HarperCollins. She has also completed an inspirational non-fiction book called *BE ENCOURAGED: WORDS OF SUNLIGHT FOR THE SOUL*.

For more information contact Lynn at lynn@lynnemery.com.



Lynn Emery

<http://www.lynnemery.com>

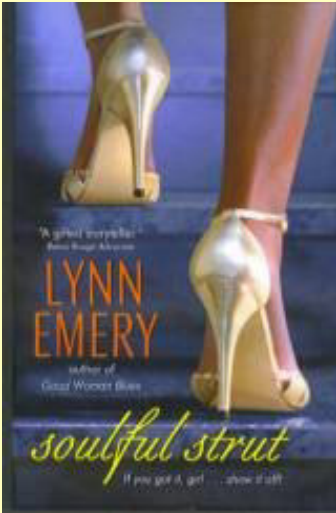
Welcome to *Writer's Block - A Cindy Bauer Books Newsletter*. This month we have Emma Award Winner Lynn Emery. Now, let's learn more about her!

CB: You're from Louisiana. Let's begin with a brief description of growing up in Louisiana; your family, education, marriage, children, etc.

LE: I grew up in south Louisiana where I still live. I'm single and don't have any kids, more time to write. As for a description of growing up in Louisiana, hard to keep it brief. It's hot, humid and full of fun. The history of our state goes a long way to explain our culture. We were first a Spanish possession, and then they sold us to France. The French didn't keep us long before they sold us to America. Toss in Native American, African and Caribbean influences and you have an idea why we're so spicy and fun.

CB: When you say you are a mixture of Louisiana politics and forensic social work, how exactly are the two connected?

LE: I've worked in Louisiana government for years, so I
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Soulful Strut

New life, hot love

Monette Victor spent 15 years in prison for a crime she didn't commit. Now she's free, and making up for stolen time. She's bared her soul in a best selling tell-all memoir, hosts a hit radio talk show, and has more speaking gigs than she knows what to do with. And she's counseling young

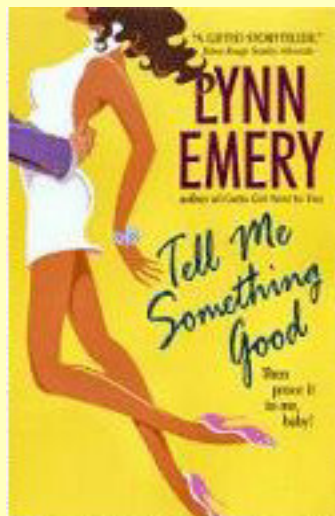
black women at risk. Monette's suddenly the hottest sister in the city--and she's got no time for romance.

But here comes Jayson Odum, a self-made businessman and a sweet, black Adonis in overalls. It's all wrong and Monette knows it. His folks are the Huxtables, her's are pure, messed-up 'hood'. She's an ex-con, he's so clean he squeaks. Monette's had to stay tough to gain respect, and she can't afford any more mistakes in her life. But she's about to be blindsided by a big dose of bad trouble--and maybe driving Jayson away would be the worst mistake she ever made...

Tell Me Something Good

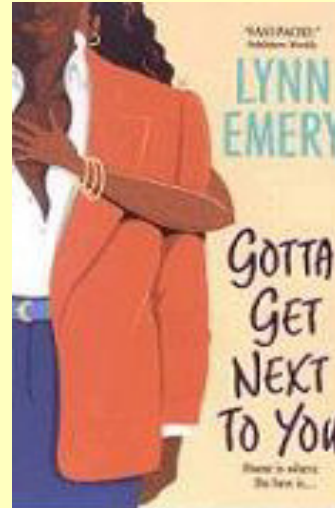
Good Lovin'

Lyrissa Rideau's determined to reclaim her legacy: a valuable heirloom that was stolen from her family decades ago. She's been hired to evaluate the art collection of the powerful Creole St. Denis family, and her goal seems close at hand, but there's a complication--Noel St. Denis is giving her the eye. New Orleans's most eligible bachelor, the dusky, upper-crust dreamboat is used to getting anything he desires. And if Lyrissa's to succeed, she'll have to keep her own eye on the prize...and off of Noel's fine, manly form!



What's up with the woman? The king of the brief, hot

affair, CEO Noel's got the money, the power and enough sweet talk to charm any lady--yet Lyrissa's the first to make him consider a permanent merger. He'd love to taste those luscious full lips, but it's also clear she's got something besides loving on her mind. Lyrissa thinks her secrets and her heart are safe, but she'd better watch out--'cause sexy Noel's coming on...with a passion!



Gotta Get Next To You

A man named trouble

Smart, good-looking, and newly divorced, Andrea Noble thought coming home to Louisiana would be the perfect cure for her Big City Blues. But her new position as director of the floundering, badly disorganized Bayou Blue Health Clinic is bringing this sistah nothing but grief. And it

doesn't help that the one man who comes to her rescue is tall, charming, righteously handsome--and has "serial lover" written all over him.

Jamal Turner is a hot chocolate dream to be sure--the kind of man who could add real fire to the slow, sultry evenings in a sleepy small town. Andrea knows what that kind of trouble's about--and she's determined to keep cool, no matter how badly her body burns for what she's missing and Jamal's got. But Jamal is a man on a mission and not here for love--though the fine, independent lady he's secretly been hired to investigate is suddenly doing something serious to his heart...

All I Want Is Forever

Coming Home

Talia Marchand has come a long way from Pointe Coupee Parish to Washington, D.C.--and this smart and beautiful political consultant never wants to go back. But the past and painful family responsibility are calling her home to tiny Rougon--and to Derrick Guillory.

As tempting as the richest chocolate, Derrick shared a first passion with Talia when they were both young and **(continued on page five)**

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have gotten to see some of the inside workings and how politics affects so much of our lives here. Part of that time I've done some forensic social work, so that's the only connection.

CB: You have 14 published novels now and your second one, *After All*, was made into a movie. Can you tell us a little about how the movie deal came about?

LE: My first publisher, Kensington, sold the Arabesque imprint to Black Entertainment Television (BET). This came about during negotiations between Kensington and BET to buy movie rights to some of the novels, which led to BET offering to buy the imprint outright and become a publisher, BET Books. From there BET selected five Arabesque novels that were produced as made for television movies. I didn't have anything to do with the selection. In fact, I didn't even know they were considering one of my books.

CB: Does your family or previous events in your life ever play a part in your story ideas and if so, in what way?

LE: My family on both sides had great storytellers, so my love of fiction came naturally. I have used kernels of stories I heard as a child to develop plots and subplots. I eavesdropped a lot as a kid :

CB: Is anyone else in your family involved in any way in the business of writing and publishing and if so, how?

LE: Except for a nine-year-old niece who announced that she intends to be a writer like me, there is no other writer in my immediate family. As for the huge extended kin, lots of distant cousins, I don't know of any.

CB: You won 3 coveted Emma Awards. How exciting! Tell us a little about how that came about?

LE: The Emma Award is named after pioneer independent bookstore owner, Emma Rodgers. For thirty years she and a partner ran Black Images Book Bazaar and helped scores of black authors reach readers. The Emma Awards are judged by those who attend the Romance Slam Jam conference. This conference is devoted to celebrating black romance authors and their devoted fans. In 2004 I was honored to win Best Novel and Favorite Hero for my novel *Kiss Lonely Goodbye*. I also won Author of the Year.

CB: Besides your novels, what other areas of writing have you done?

LE: I write a regular column for a blog, The Readers Rooms (<http://readersrooms.com>). I also have two blogs of my own, As I Was Saying... (<http://lynnemery.blogspot.com>) and Be Encouraged (<http://www.BeEncouraged.wordpress.com>). I have a serial mystery novella at A Darker Shade of Midnight (<http://ADarkerShadeOfMidnight.blogspot.com>).

CB: Is there any specific genre you prefer when writing and if so, why?

LE: Right now I'm into the mystery genre. Actually that's what I wanted to write from the start, but it just happened that the first book I sold was a romantic suspense novel.

CB: You work during the day. How do you ever find the time to write?

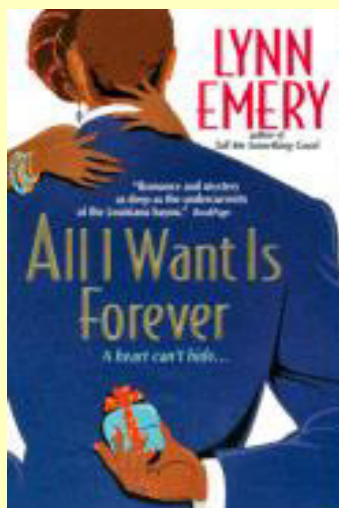
LE: One word, discipline. I've learned to say, "No" to others and myself.

CB: Has any of your work ever been rejected or not published?

LE: Ouch! Don't make me re-live the pain 😊 but yes, I've been rejected.

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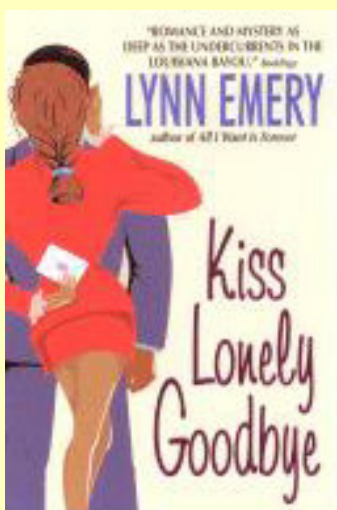
troubled--and a dark, deep, and dangerous secret. Now an investigator for the local D.A., he thinks he's over the lady who was his world back in the day. But the years haven't changed his feelings for Talia--and he finds it impossible to deny what's meant to be. Talia thought she could get away; Derrick thought he could forget. And now that they're together again, love's true promise must be honored--and the ghosts that have haunted their lives must finally be destroyed.

Kiss Lonely Goodbye

Dark, Rich And Beautiful

Nicole Summers Benoit is stunned. She has inherited the mega-profitable Summers Security firm from a late uncle she never liked. But she's a sister with brains as well as looks, and she's determined to prove she's got the goods to run a major company. First, though, she needs to convince vice-president Marcus Reed--a man so fine he makes her knees weak, but with a chip on his shoulder as big as Mount Rushmore.

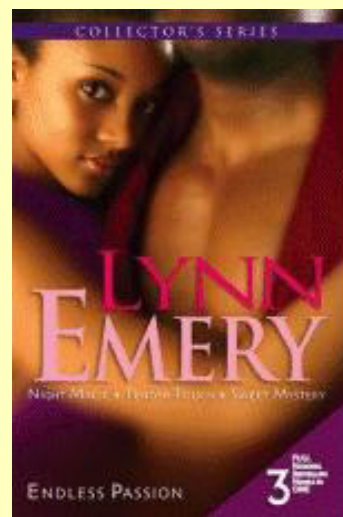
Marcus is proud to have worked his way out of the 'hood and up the corporate ladder--and nothing riles him more than pampered Black-American Princesses. And now one's been handed the CEO position that was rightfully his! Nicole is one smart, sexy boss lady, however--and soon he's working hard to create some serious heat with her after business hours rather than hoping to see her fail. But when a crime wave hits Summers Security and Marcus is targeted as the prime suspect, not only is the company's future in danger, but a hot new love could freeze up as well.



Endless Passion

Night Magic
Tender Touch
Sweet Mystery

Three suspenseful love stories that also explore family relationships.



The Lipstick Chronicles: Book One

“Anthology which includes Lynn Emery's novella, Tumbling Down.

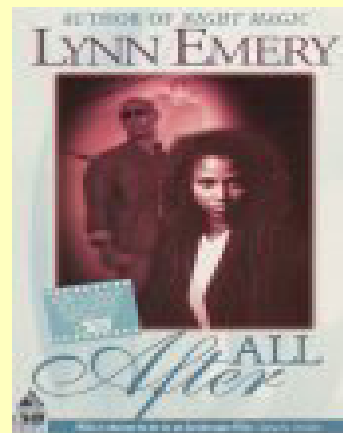


Sexy new chronicle of five women at work, at play, and in love. Together, they make up Allheart.com, the online greeting card company where romance is more than just business. With lives in progress and love in limbo,

they aren't asking for much. Just a decent man, a good cocktail, and a close friend. In the meantime, two out of three ain't bad...

After All

Unable to forget her passionate relationship with contractor Anthony Hilliard five years earlier, New Orleans reporter Michelle Toussaint is devastated when his betrayal leads to her father's financial ruin. (Original. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.)



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CB: What one factor would you consider to be the most valuable when you are trying to plot out your stories?

LE: Knowing the characters and how their personality traits will affect the story events.

CB: Tell us a little about the novels you've published?

LE: Until now most have been romantic suspense with a few of them leaning more toward women's fiction. All are set in Louisiana, except one novella in *The Lipstick Chronicles* that is set in Washington, D.C.

CB: Where can we purchase copies?

LE: Any major online store like B&N.com (<http://www.bn.com>), PowellBooks.com (<http://powellbooks.com>) or Amazon (<http://amazon.com>). Some of them may be out of print. My last book was out in 2006 so I doubt they're stocked in bookstores. However they can be ordered.

CB: Do you offer signed copies and if so, how does one get one from you?

LE: I don't have signed copies. Storage would be a problem with 14 books! LOL

CB: What valuable piece of information would you like to share with other aspiring writers who hope to, but haven't been able to publish their work yet?

LE: Study the craft and network with other writers. Attend writing workshops, but make sure it's one that will meet your needs.

CB: What websites can we visit to learn more about you and your work?

LE: My website is <http://www.lynnemery.com> or my blog, which is more up-to-date, As I Was Saying... (<http://lynnemery.blogspot.com>).

CB: What are you currently working on?

LE: A mystery novel that can be described as a cozy. I'm actually in the final stages of polishing it.

CB: You have published with several publishers. Of all these, which do you feel is the best one and why?

LE: That's hard to say, all of them were good for me at different stages in my career. Each one had strengths and weaknesses, but HarperCollins and Penguin/Putnam do a fabulous job of distribution.

CB: In what ways do you promote your books, or do you have an agent or publicist who handles all of that for you?

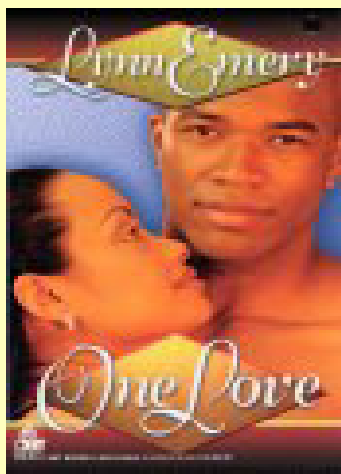
LE: I have done promotions on the Internet, using my website of course. But I've also done promotions or ads on romance fiction websites. I've done book signings of course, radio and television interviews and more. I've done lots of different things over the years.

CB: What has been the most challenging aspect in writing and publishing that you've run across and why?

LE: Promotion and marketing tie for second place to writing the book on this one! Getting your name known is

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One Love

From Publishers Weekly...

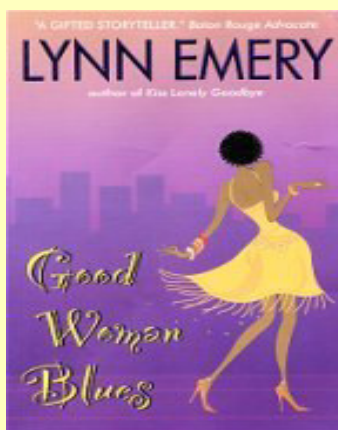
“Recovering alcohol and drug addict Lanessa Thomas is the atypical heroine in Emery's (A Time to Love) refreshing romance about second chances. Three years of sobriety and success at a thriving research company have transformed Lanessa, but can't prepare her for a

confrontation with her lost love, Alex St. Romaine. Sparks fly when the handsome and newly divorced computer consultant unexpectedly forgives Lanessa's past transgressions, and the two vow to start anew. But instead of settling into the staid family life Alex proposes (which includes developing a relationship with his bratty twin daughters from his previous marriage), Lanessa slips into her old routine, leading to another breakup. Reacquainting herself with Baton Rouge's movers and shakers, Lanessa unwittingly gets involved in a dangerous and illegal business scheme. Emery's sense of Southern decorum shows throughout the fast-paced narrative, particularly when Alex, despite their breakup, gallantly steps in to save Lanessa. (Oct.) ~~*Copyright 1999 Cahners Business Information, Inc.*

Good Woman Blues

Sometimes it's all got to go bad to turn out good...

It didn't take much for Erikka Rochon's charmed Big Easy life to hit rock bottom: a car accident, a scandal--and suddenly she's gone from climbing the corporate ladder to being driven out of town. Ordered to take some time off, an always-on-the-go sister now has nowhere to go, except back home to the bayou to slow down and figure out why a smart, beautiful, professional lady who always had time to party never found time for happiness.



hood, filled with good aromas and feelings, and a much-needed mixture of tenderness and tough love. But a good woman who lost her way needs something more to chase her demons and her blues--and it might just be Gabriel Cormier, the tall, quiet son of Loreauville's most prominent family, a man with a past more notorious than hers.

It could be love. It could be heaven. It could be more trouble knocking on Erikka's door...



Night Magic

Avoiding emotional entanglements since the death of her mother, attorney Savannah St. Julien becomes involved in a case involving a ruthless chemical company and meets handsome environmental engineer Paul Honore.

Silver Bells

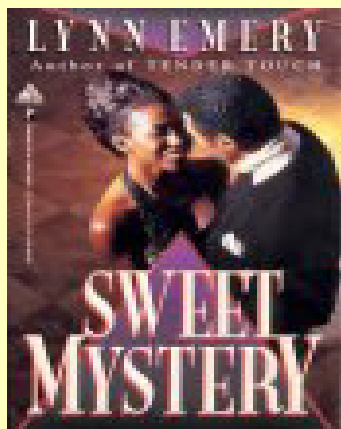
From Library Journal
“Pinnacle's Arabesque line continues its annual holiday tradition with this diverse trio of contemporary African American romances, each highlighting a different winter celebration. In Gwynne Forster's "Christopher's Gifts," an upscale interior decorator finds happiness with the man she has hired to be her chauffeur; in Carmen Green's appealing "Whisper to Me," a lovely teacher introduces the rich traditions of Kwanzaa to a widower and his seven-year-old twin girls; and in Lynn Emery's compelling "To Begin Again," a determined social worker activist finds that love does not follow party lines. Although the stories are not equally well done, they make for pleasant holiday reading. ~~*Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.*



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Aunt Darlene's house was Erikka's safe haven in child-

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Sweet Mystery

Rae Dalcour lives her life with no excuses. A blues guitarist, she is still the wild child who followed a dream, and one who never planned on going home. But the bayou of Belle Rose, Louisiana, is the only place to turn when her father dies unexpectedly, awakening old family ghosts. Then Rae en-

counters sexy builder Simon St. Cyr, a link to the troubled Dalcour past, and a seductive reason to make Belle Rose home again.

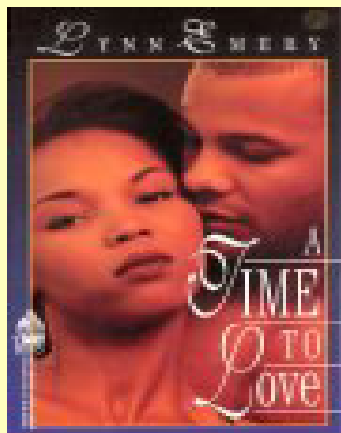
Tender Touch

A broken heart has made Jade Pellegrin trade her dreams of finding the perfect man for a more practical one: the perfect career. So when she lands a prestigious position with a high-ranking Louisiana politician, she is convinced she has everything she could ever want. Then, she is assigned to work closely with handsome community activist Damon Knight--and she wants more.



A Time To Love

Everyone in the small town of Solitude, Louisiana, whispers rumors about Neva Sterling Ross and the fact that men who are drawn to her seem to come to tragic ends. After suffering so much loss and pain, Neva has decided to give up on love forever. But when strikingly handsome newcomer Chandler Macklin asks her to help him research his family's roots, she can't refuse.



to help him research his family's roots, she can't refuse.

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tough.

CB Are there any other points you'd like to tell us about that I may not have covered in this interview?

LE: There are so many opportunities for writers to get their words out into the world now, technologies that didn't even exist when I first sold back in 1994. Seems like ancient times now when authors having websites was a new thing. Writers should love to write and keep writing, and give readers your very best.

CB: Lynn, I want to thank you for taking time from your schedule to allow me this interview for *Writer's Block June 2009 issue*.

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Hurrah! Of course, the weeds will also come. There's no getting around them I guess. At least, not until I become rich and famous and can afford a landscaper or gardener, whichever they call them nowadays.

Oh yes, gosh I almost forgot! Donetta Garman's newest book is out now. It's a historical fiction and it's reallllllllllllly good! It's called "The Length of a Dream" so don't forget to order your copy today!

We finally broke down and got hubby one of those new-fangled tv sets. Should arrive this first week in June sometime. Not as big as he wanted, but hey, we aren't rich either, as I'm sure most of you can relate to. It's one of those HD LCD flat screens. A 37-inch one. I'm going to appreciate it, too, because I can't see ours anymore. Our living room is really long, nearly 25-foot, and the set we have now has the curved screen on it. So the TV-Guide channel is blurry on the sides. I can walk right up to the TV-set and still can't read it. And with football season approaching, we decided it was time to "get with the program" and get some updated equipment.

I'm sure I've forgotten something, but I hope that's everything. Like I said, May was a crazy month! Until next month, God Bless!

Cindy



Coming in December!

Amanda Abizaid