

# **Author Interview With Andrea Matthews**

## **by Itsy Bitsy Book Bits**

How Did You Get Into Writing?

- I've been writing as a hobby for as long as I can remember. I always loved creating stories, so writing them down was the next natural step. I started with poems and song lyrics, then about thirty years ago, I wrote my first draft of Thunder on the Moor. But with working and raising my kids, it got put on the back burner. I continued writing other stories, but not really doing anything with any of them. Then a few years ago, I finally decided to get serious, joined a writing group., and started viewing it as a career.

What's Your Favorite Genre to Write?

- Historic/Paranormal Romance & Mysteries

How many published books have you written?

- 2

Who are some of your inspirations?

- In life - my parents. They taught me to dream.

Do any of your stories have personal experiences in them?

- Little bits and pieces, but as they're mostly set in the distant past, so not too much.

Who are some of your favorite authors to read?

- Susanna Gregory, Victoria Thompson, Janet Evanovich, Elizabeth St. John, GK Brady, and many more. As a librarian, I'm an avid reader.

Do you write one book at a time or do you have several going at a time?

- Usually one I'm working on to get ready for publication and another I'm just starting. I like to mix things up a bit. It gives me a fresh perspective when I step away for a day or two.

What are some of your hobbies?

- Reading, Genealogy, Crafts

What has been your most rewarding experience since publishing your work?

- Seeing my book on the shelf in my library. It was quite a thrill to see my book standing beside such great authors and watching people actually take it out.

When reading reviews, what is something you love to see written?

- That people can identify with my characters and grow to see them as friends. And that my stories touched them in some way. One of the nicest things someone wrote was that there were places in the story that she cried, but in a good way.

If you could spend the day with one of your characters, who would it be and what would you do?

- I don't think I could pick just one. I love each character I write. But if I had to pick one - Oh, I just can't. The others might find out. lol

What are you currently working on?

- I just finished my first book in the Cross of Ciaran series, and am now working on the second book in the Thunder on the Moor series, entitled Ride with the Moonlight, which I hope to publish toward the end of November. Then it's on to Book 2 in the Cross of Ciaran series.

What's your writing routine?

- Whenever I can. I don't really have a routine. I write as much as I can, whenever I can. Of course, that includes doing a lot of research first, since most of the books involve some historical aspect, so I don't actually get to write everyday. But I enjoy the research too.

Do you have any superstitions when it comes to writing? If so, what?

- Not really. I do have a bulletin board with pics of what I envision the characters and places might look like etc. but that's really more for inspiration, not really a superstition.

What is the best writing advice you've ever received?

- Write the story you want to write and stick with it. Don't give up.

Where do you find the names for your characters?

- Just about everywhere, from family names to baby books, to cereal boxes. For Thunder on the Moor, I wanted names found on the 16th century Anglo-Scottish border, so I examined Border reiver records. For my Celtic series, I used ancient Celtic name books and Celtic myths.

What is your favorite book made into a movie/tv show?

- That would have to be Harry Potter

Anything else you want your readers to know about you?

- I was a fencer in college, so I love writing sword scenes. My favorite singing group is Celtic Thunder and my favorite comedians are Foil, Arms, and Hogg.

If you won the lottery what would you do with the money?

- Take my family on a vacation to Disney World and do everything first class.

In your everyday life how do you give back to the world?

- As soon as we can go out again, I'll go back to my church choir and outreach. Alas, at the moment, I can't do too much along those lines except help with food for the food pantry.

If you could give your younger self one piece of writing advice, what would it be?

- Have confidence in yourself. You've got this.

What's your favorite genre to read?

- Historical anything, but mostly romance and mystery. Also time travel and fantasies that keep one foot in the real world, like Harry Potter.

If your life was a song what song would it be and why?

- You'll Never Walk Alone - Because I never have. No matter how tough things have gotten, God's always brought me through them and things have worked out for the best.

Name two authors you wish more people knew about

- Elizabeth St. John and GK Brady