

Author Interview With Laurie L.C. Lewis by Itsy Bitsy Book Bits

For those new to your work, please tell us a bit about yourself, your books and your genre/s

- I'm a weather-whining lover of Tom, my four kids, their spouses, and my thirteen amazing grandkids. I'm also crazy about seafood, nesting boxes, twinkle lights, sappy movies, and the sea. I'm completely and unapologetically craft-challenged and a danger to myself and others when in possession of a glue gun.
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- I was born in Baltimore, and we raised our family in Maryland, so I'll always be a Marylander at heart. My Maryland years, spent within the exciting and history-rich corridor between Philadelphia, Baltimore, and D.C., made me a politics and history junkie, but I love my quiet life and new home along Utah Lake.
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- I try to write books that uplift and inspire. I've published fifteen novels in multiple genres, penning my women's fiction and romance novels as Laurie Lewis, and my historical fiction novels as L.C. Lewis. My novel, "The Letter Carrier" was awarded with two Whitney Awards--one for Best Historical Fiction, and one for 2023 Novel of the Year. A few months later it was awarded an international award as the Reader's Favorite Gold Medalist for Inspirational Fiction. I've also been honored with the 2017 RONE Award for Inspirational Fiction for my novel, "The Dragons of Alsace Farm," two New Apple Literary Awards, and a few finalist awards from BRAGG, the Whitney Awards, and USA Best Books.
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- My next release will be volume two in my "Silver Buckle Brides" series titled, "The Better Man." It will release March 28th.

What lessons have you learned as a writer?

- The importance of balance in your life. I get obsessed on one track or another all the time, but I'm happiest and most creatively productive when I have good balance in all aspects of my life. Also, I'd say, just get started, whether it's the first book, a new chapter, or a new scene. If you're stuck or doubting yourself, just begin, and trust that the creativity will kick in.

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

- I am very active in my Church community. I work with the Women's auxiliary now. We look after the needs of individuals and families. I also look at the local community boards to see who needs help and support. Ultimately, the best gift I give to the world is in doing my best to strengthen and support my family members so they are assets to the communities in which they live.

If your life had a theme song what would it be?

- "I'm Not Throwing Away My Shot," from Hamilton. It inspires me to not waste my opportunities.

Name two authors you wish more people knew about

- Deb Graham and Jennifer Weaver.

What are some of your hobbies?

- Water Aerobics, Family History, Genealogy, travel, anything with family or friends.

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

- "It stayed with me after I closed the book."

What are you currently working on?

- I'm winding things up on a Contemporary Christian Romance titled, "The Better Man."

What books are currently in your to-read list?

- The Boys in the Boat, The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride

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

- Lauren Brooks' Heartland books.

What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

- I used to sing in an annual ensemble cast that performed to raise money for Boy Scouts. I'm also a kidney donor.

Its Release Day! How do you celebrate?

- Dinner out and lots of nail-biting over those first reviews.

What is your writing routine with a new book? Do you outline your stories or do you do what the characters tell you to do as you go along? Mix of both?

- A mix of both. I outline generally, and then I let the characters take me where they must.

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

- "The Letter Carrier" was an eight-year project based on the life of Michelle Naget, whose home was commandeered by the Nazis during the occupation of France. Her brothers never spoke about the events the family endured, but once the book was written, and the younger generations of the Naget family read about their brave family's experiences, they said they finally understood their fathers, and the family now is closer than ever.

What got you into writing?

- I always loved to write for my own pleasure, but after reading someone else's book, I said, "I could write a book like this," and I tried.

If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?

- Teleportation. Commuting and traffic make me crazy.

If you came with a warning label, what would yours say?

- Do not disturb when quiet.

What's your go to sweet treat?

- Utah Truffles

Is there a genre you'd love to write in that you haven't yet? If so, what genre?

- I would LOVE to write a wonderful Children's book.

What's the most surprising thing you've learned while writing your books?

- The power and impact of words and ideas. Writers have the capacity to entertain, education, move, inspire, heal, and unite people. That's a great super power!

What was your hardest scene to write, and why?

- Probably a few of the scenes from "The Letter Carrier." I was trying my hardest to be Michelle's voice. To be invisible. That was a challenge.

What characters in your books are most similar to you or to people you know?

- Almost every character has some part of me or some shared experience I tap into it. I'd love to have it said that my character Frannie from "Dark Sky at Dawn" most resembles me. She's audacious, especially for her day.

What do you need in your writing space to help you stay focused?

- Healthy snacks, a mug of water, order in my room.

If one of your books were to be made into a movie, which actors would want to play your characters?

- That would very much depend on the book, but if i were casting my new book, 'The Better Man,' I'd love to have Jennifer Lawrence and Timothée Chalamet in the leads.

You are filling out this interview as part of a tour with Itsy Bitsy Book Bits. What made you choose Itsy Bitsy Book Bits?

- **You're the best!**