

Author Interview With Linda J Burson by Itsy Bitsy Book Bits

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

- After living and working in CT for over 33 years, with my two girls on their own, my husband retired from his career, and we moved to Virginia.

As of this interview, I have a complete romantic suspense series available. There is a total of 13 books in the MARCY SERIES. It is a continuous series, meaning they need to be read in order. These novels are not meant to be standalones.

I do have three other single title novels. Two other romantic suspense books called THE KIDNAPPING and THE COLORS OF MY LIFE. I also have a mystery novel called MURDER AMONG FRIENDS. As a part of an anthology called WHERE THERE'S MURDER, THERE'S MYSTERY, I have a short story called LIES AREN'T FOREVER that continues with the main character from MURDER AMONG FRIENDS.

I'm in the process of writing another mystery and have just completed a Women's Fiction novel called WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU.

What lessons have you learned as a writer?

- That when I start a new book or continue with one, I'm in my element. I have more focus and concentration when I'm involved with the writing process. I've always had a hard time focusing on one thing at a time, but when I get an idea for a book; I'm excited. I look forward to seeing where it takes me and how it will end. I don't have to have all the answers at the beginning. It's all right to be surprised by the outcome.

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

- It's always fun to dream about how we would spend lottery money. It would all depend on how much the winnings are. If we're talking about the multi millions that the Powerball provides, the first thing I'd do is put money in a trust for all the children in my life so they may attend college if they desire, or to assist them in building a career. Next, I'd buy a home closer to my daughters and grandchildren. Then I'd donate money to all my favorite charities. My mother was a great community leader in our small home town. She gave of herself constantly, helping others, especially the youth. I'd love to start a scholarship in her name to continue her generosity. One of the things I'd love to be able to do is give large tips to service related employees. How wonderful would it be to leave a hundred dollar bill to a struggling wait person at a restaurant?!

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

- If I can be thoughtful and patient with anyone I meet, I feel that passes the be kind to others, onward. Being helpful with a smile, and trying to donate my time, and sometimes money, to those in need brings me a feeling of peace.

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

- Interesting question. I don't feel I can answer this with just one song. After reading this question, I probably have about a hundred songs milling around in my head.

Name two authors you wish more people knew about

- Again, I can't really answer this. I've read numerous books by Indie authors that I've enjoyed and felt the writing and story was amazing enough to be picked up by a literary agent and published, but they were never afforded the opportunity.

What are some of your hobbies?

- I, of course, love to read. Even though I write novels and attempt to gain recognition with them, I still consider writing one of my hobbies. I love to bake, sing songs, play the piano, if my fingers allow it, and spend hours with my grandchildren. Taking a lovely country drive in a convertible is my muse. It relaxes me and gives me the clear mind I need to continue writing. And if it's warm enough outside, I love to float around in a swimming pool. If I'm near a body of water, just sitting and staring out into it brings me a comfort that's difficult to describe.

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

- I truly enjoy when a reviewer picks up on a specific element I had with regards to the story and understands where I was going with my thoughts. I love it when they feel they were surprised by the outcome and were entertained throughout.

What are you currently working on?

- I'm in the middle of another murder mystery.

What books are currently in your to-read list?

- I enjoy Harlan Coben's writing style, specifically the Myron Bolitar series, so I have a few of those I'd like to read. Also, Janet Evanovich books always make me laugh out loud, so there are a few of hers I'd still like to read.

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

- I love the Virgin River book series by Robyn Carr, so I'm enjoying the Netflix TV series.

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

- That my book, **MURDER AMONG FRIENDS**, is **LOOSELY** based on me. I actually did work for a private investigator in my younger years.

What inspired that first story you wrote?

- I was having a difficult time dealing with some situations in my life. Any time I watched or listened to news programs, all the crime and violence would disturb me. I remember reading some psychology books that said if you control the situations that upset you by changing or rearranging the scenarios, you may be able to release some of the built-up anger. So, I had this idea to take certain circumstances that occurred and handle it by having a strong woman take matters into her own hand, along with a trusting partner, and remove all the anger and hostility by removing the problems, namely violent criminals. Of course, she has her weak moments and is a mass of contradictions, but when push comes to shove, she can handle almost anything.

What is your favorite family tradition?

- Celebrating Christmas as a family all day in our PJ's, and then celebrating my husband's birthday in the evening, still in our PJ's, with birthday cake.

If you could slip into the life of one of your characters, would you? If yes, who and why?

If no, why not?

- I love all my characters so much; I could easily slip into any of their lives. I suppose since I've spent so much time on my **MARCY SERIES**, Book 1 - 13, and I love them all so much; I could become Marcy without thought. Even though her life can be a complete mess at times; I admire the tenacity and strength she shows through all the tragedies in her life. And there is nothing better than a happily ever after. Besides, as far as I'm concerned, who couldn't fall in love with Brad, Liam, and Connor?!

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

- I dream it often, so the answer would be to fly. Just to look up, raise my arms, put my legs together and take off through the air, going higher and higher. First of all, I'm deathly afraid of heights, so maybe it's my way of attempting to conquer that. Also, it brings me such a sense of freedom. And I love a great view. What better view than from above?! Plus, since

I'm the only one who can fly, (LOL) I'm easily able to get away from those trying to stop me from living my way, or trying to capture me.

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

- They have always done a wonderful job of promoting my books in the past.