

Interview at Laurie's Thoughts and Reviews (general interview)



Do you use a pen name? If so, how did you come up with it?

I do, though it's not exactly made up. I use my first two initials, M.K. (and you thought I was going to tell you what those stand for), and the McClintock is a family surname on my paternal grandmother's side. I knew I wanted to 'keep it in the family' and not make up a name that meant nothing to me, so I pulled out the many pages of ancestors and picked out one I liked, but also one that I felt fit with the type of stories I wanted to write. Thus, was born MK McClintock.

Are the names of the characters in your novels important? How and why?

Important to whom? I suppose a reader may not realize how a character's name is chosen and perhaps for some authors, it's simply a matter of choosing a name they like. For me, the name just has to fit – a bit like when a parent is holding their newborn baby and they just feel or know what fits that little person. Sometimes I just pick out a name that I feel fits with the personality of a character, but there have been a couple of instances when the name just didn't fit. Ethan and Brenna both had different names when I started out, but as their characters began to unfold, I just didn't feel it. I stepped away from the book for a bit and wouldn't continue until they had the right names. A few days later, we had Ethan and Brenna.

As for how the names are important for the book – for this author, it was important to have names that reflected heritage or geographic location (in the case of women in the first two books). For the Gallagher's, it was more about the names just fitting with the personalities. Eliza's name came off my family tree (she was the original McClintock, so it was fitting). I'm sure the names mean more to me than they would to readers.

What are the most important attributes for remaining sane as a writer?

I often wonder if I'm an abnormal writer! I find nothing difficult about remaining sane as a writer. In fact, it's one of the most enjoyable things I've ever done. I don't let anyone other than myself, push me to make deadlines and I don't write something I don't want to just because it's popular or the next big fad in books. I'm a deliriously happy writer...unless someone interrupts my writing!

If I were to the most important attribute, I would say that it's absolutely crucial that a writer enjoy what they do. Writing and publishing is not without ups and downs, so in the end, it should be worth it.

How do you react to a bad review of your book?

I have had a few critiques where the author critiquing thought I would be upset by what they wrote, but I've yet to be upset by anyone's opinion of my books. Truth be told, most of us, writers and readers, have widely different tastes and so it's okay if someone likes it more than others. I dislike plenty of books that others have raved about – there are enough writers and readers to go around and fill all the niches. I do recall recently a review on one of my books where the reviewer (also a writer) wasn't especially fond of the ending – most likely because it leaves the reader without a final conclusion to something that is picked up in the rest of the series. That's okay too – not everyone has to understand why we write the way we do. I write fiction and I write for entertainment – I want it to be fun.

Tell us about your favorite restaurant.

Tigh Na Sgiath (don't ask me to pronounce it). Oh, to be there again and not just in my dreams! Tigh Na Sgiath is actually a country hotel in the Scottish Highlands, and there just happens to be a fabulous little restaurant there with (not kidding) the most amazing chef. Ian and Elaine MacDonald-Coulter own and run the property – Elaine is the amazing chef. I've had the pleasure of sampling food by some amazing chefs over the years and to this day, Elaine's food is still the best I've ever had. Each night was a new culinary adventure-I tried foods I don't normally eat and there not one single thing on the menu that wasn't fabulous.

The Author

Award-winning author MK McClintock writes historical romantic fiction about chivalrous men and strong women who appreciate chivalry. Her stories of adventure, romance, and mystery sweep across the American West to the Victorian British Isles, with places and times between and beyond. With her heart deeply rooted in the past, she enjoys a quiet life in the northern Rocky Mountains.

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