

Interview from a visit at Elizabeth McKenna's Blog (general interview)



Tell us about your writing process. Do you outline, or are you more of a seat of your pants type of a writer?

I used to just sit down and write; at least that's how I began my first two books. I'd write when the mood struck, which meant that I was writing my first book over the course of a few years. I'm now definitely a plotter. I like to have an outline, but I never let that outline force the story if something doesn't feel right.

For instance, in *Gallagher's Choice*, I had a specific idea of how the book would play out, but toward the end I realized that my original idea wasn't going to work, so I had to make a drastic change. I like remaining flexible and allowing the story to follow its own path, but an outline keeps me from going too far into the land of "this makes absolutely no sense."

What is the highest goal that you desire to meet as an author?

I don't have a set "high goal." I know I want to learn as much as I can, enjoy myself, and work hard so each year my books are better than the year before. I didn't go into this with dreams of being a NYT or USA Today Bestselling Author—that would be awesome, and it's definitely something worth achieving, but it's not what I wake up thinking about. I want to be challenged, and because I'm still a fairly new author, I have the opportunity to try different things.

What is the best piece of advice you would give to someone that wants to get into writing?

Know what you're getting into and do it right! When I first started, my ignorance about the industry could fill Flathead Lake. I learn well by doing, but I wish I would have been more prepared. Be certain you're willing to devote the time and mental energy necessary, and absolutely make certain you have a good editor.

How do you spend your free time? Do you have a favorite place to go and unwind?

I live in Northern Montana, which means I have an outdoor playground at my disposal, and I make good use of it. I don't like the heat, so during the summer I unwind before the day begins when it's still cool outside in the morning—usually walking or gardening. During the winter, I spend a lot of time in Jewel Basin, a local hiking spot with great walking trails, snowshoeing with the dogs. I love to sit by the fire and read during the

winter, and when it's too hot for me in the summer, I sit in the living room with AC blasting, and knit scarves while dreaming of winter.

Can you share with us something off your bucket list?

I have so many things on that list, and it seems like every time I check one off, another gets added. I've done so much the past ten years that right now I'll admit I'm a little tired and enjoying a break, but at the top of the list is to return to Scotland, which I'm working on. I guess that makes it a redo from my bucket list, but I love Scotland and if I had to give up everything else on that list just to return when I could, I would gladly make that choice.

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.

Website: www.mkmclintock.com