

Interview

**Jennifer
Ashley**

LIBROS DE
Romántica



Introduction

I know I've said it more than once, but you can not imagine the honor and pleasure for me to do an interview like this.

Sometimes we read books of foreign authors and we see them very far, and to have this opportunity makes me very happy, furthermore Jennifer is a close and simple person, and she didn't hesitate to give me the "of course" to do the interview.

Jennifer Ashley is becoming famous in Spain for its Highland Pleasure series, but has many books published in the U.S., I just hope we have the pleasure to continue reading her books in this side of the pond.

Claudia

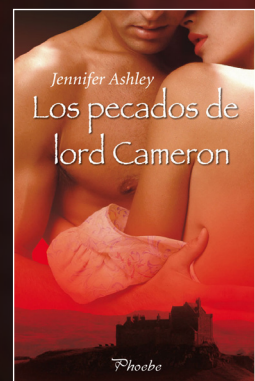
Biography

New York Times and USA Today Bestselling author Jennifer Ashley has lived and traveled all over the world, and now lives in the Southwest. She writes historical, paranormal, and contemporary romance as Jennifer Ashley; mysteries as Ashley Gardner; and paranormal romance and urban fantasy as Allyson James.

Jennifer's/Allyson's/Ashley's novels have won RWA's RITA award, the Golden Quill, RT Reviewer's Choice awards, and the Prism award, among others. Jennifer's novels have been also been translated into nearly a dozen European and Asian languages.

Jennifer enjoys writing and reading above all else, but her hobbies include cooking, hiking, playing flute and guitar, painting, and building miniature rooms and dollhouses.

Her books published in Spain:



Interview

Welcome Jennifer to "Libros de Romántica" I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity and let us know you a little more. And I appreciate the help of Lorena Luna, Eva Navarro, Elena Presedo, Charo Valverde and Dunia Vidal for their collaboration in the interview.

1.- When was the first time that you began to write?

I started writing at age eight, when I started making up little stories and writing them down. I did that all my life, for entertainment, but I always knew that someday I wanted to write a book and have it published. Many years later, I decided to start writing seriously, and wrote for about six years before selling my first book. I loved writing fantasy/science fiction, but turned to romance, because I wanted my characters to fall in love and find happily ever after.

2.- Here in Spain we know you only as Jennifer Ashley, but in the U.S. have also published books as Allyson James, and Ashley Gardner. Why do you publish books with these three names?

At the same time I sold my first romance as Jennifer Ashley, I sold a mystery series as Ashley Gardner (Captain Lacey Regency Mysteries) to another publisher. The publishers asked that I take two different names. I was happy with that, because the mysteries are very different from my romances. Allyson James came along when I started writing erotic romance for Ellora's Cave. I was afraid no one would like my erotic romances, so I used a different name. But then readers did like the books, so I kept Allyson. I use the Allyson James name when I want to write something a little different than the Jennifer Ashley romances (e.g., Stormwalker series).

3.- In Spain there are only three books published of the Highland Pleasures Series, but in the U.S. have already published the fourth in this series and you have scheduled dates for the other books in it: in January 2013 the fifth (The Seduction of Elliot McBride) and in October of the same year the sixth (the Wicked Deeds of Daniel Mackenzie, this title can be even modified), the sixth book will be the last one or the series will be more books, if so can you tell us how many ther will be?

I just signed a contract with Berkley to do more in the Highland Pleasures / Mackenzies series: two more novels after Wicked Deeds of Daniel Mackenzie, and three novellas (about Mr. Fellows, and other characters). So that will be eight books in all, plus three novellas. I hope these can reach readers in Spain!

4.- The first book in the series "The Madness of Lord Ian MacKenzie" was a book that revolutionized a little the historic genre, Ian has a small disorder, which makes him a very special character... how do you come up with this character, what was it that made you create Ian?

I love Ian :-). He and the rest of his brothers walked into my head one day, and haven't left since. I knew Ian was different from the others, and I realized he was autistic, or more specifically had Asperger's Syndrome. I started thinking about how difficult it must have been to have had AS when no one knew what it was, or knew what autism was. I did a lot of research about "madness" and people's attitudes to them in the past. Poor Ian suffered, but at least he has brothers to take care of him.

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5.- As you know in Spain is being edited Highland Pleasures series, which is widely accepted and as anxious readers, we don't like to wait long since the book go out there and it's published here in Spain, we would like to know if you have sold translation rights of the complete saga or book to book.

I think the translation rights are bought book to book (or maybe 2-3 books at a time). I haven't heard yet how many I've sold Spanish rights to yet. Sometimes it takes a while. If you like the books, please contact the Spanish publisher and ask for more!

6.- You have also published books of paranormal genre, do you think that someday will be published these other series here in Spain?

I would love to have all my books published in Spain (and the rest of the world). My agent and publisher are always working to interest other publishers to do translations. I hope more of my books can be released in non-English editions.

7.- Do you like the covers that were chosen in Spain for the first three books in the series Highland?

The covers are pretty. They are more subtle than the American versions, and lovely.

8.- Do you have a any new, can you tell us something?

On December 31 (New Year's Eve), the fifth book in the Mackenzies series The Seduction of Elliot McBride came out in the U.S. It is the story of Elliot, the brother of Ainsley from Many Sins of Lord Cameron. Also in December, I released, A Mackenzie Family Christmas, which is a story of all the brothers and their families, coming together for a Highland Christmas.

I am currently working on The Wicked Deeds of Daniel Mackenzie, the story of Cameron's son Daniel. I will jump ahead in time to 1890, when Daniel is 25, to give him a love story. I'm also working on Inspector Fellows' story and more stories for Ainsley's brothers.

9.- How did you get the Highland Pleasures series, what was the first thing that came to mind?

As I said, the Mackenzie brothers walked into my head one day, and demanded I write about them. I couldn't stop thinking about them, and I thought, maybe readers wouldn't be able to either! So I sat down and started writing about them-who they were, where they came from, their pasts, and they came alive.

10.- You write about several genres. Which do you most identify with or feel more comfortable when writing?

I write romance, mystery, and fantasy; and in romance, I write paranormal and historical romance. I like them all! I love romances, because I can write about people falling in love and working through a relationship to find happiness. Historicals are wonderful, because I can write about the past, and beautiful houses and beautiful clothes. I like paranormal romance, because I grew up reading fantasy, and I enjoy melding fantasy (shape-shifters) with romance.

I also have a mystery series set in the Regency, called the Captain Lacey Regency Mysteries, which I write as Ashley Gardner. I enjoy the Regency setting, I like writing the dark, gritty mysteries, and I love Captain Lacey. He's a former soldier, who fought the French in Spain and Portugal, then returned home to try to figure out how to make a living. He starts solving crimes by accident. Many characters populate the Lacey books, and they are all like old friends.

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11.- You win several awards, you are translated into several languages, you are recognized by New York Times Bestseller. Do you think these public recognition involve a great responsibility to your readers, or you are satisfied with what has been achieved?

I write because I love the characters I'm writing about, and I love telling their stories. I'm happy when the books do well, or when I win awards (nice bonus!), but that's not why I write. I like being able to make a living at something I enjoy doing, but even if the awards, bestseller lists, and royalties went away, I'd still write. I like creating a world out of nothing, and making something as beautiful as I can. Challenging to make the book the best you can when the publisher has deadlines, but I do my best!

12.- Is there a character that you think it could be difficult to put the story down on paper?

I have to say that all characters are difficult to write. :-) I have to get inside their head, and it's not easy. I do a lot of pre-writing for characters, learning who they are and what happened to them in the past before I write the book. I don't outline my plots, but I do outline my characters.

13.- Do you have any preference over your characters? Whose?

My favorite characters tend to be strong women and strong but vulnerable men. I've written so many characters now, I can't pick one who is my favorite. But I'll say that so far I love all the Mackenzie brothers and Elliot McBride; Captain Lacey from my mysteries; Spike, Ellison, Sean, and Dylan from the Shifters series; Janet Begay and Mick from the Stormwalker series (which I write as Allyson James) . . . and so many more :-) If I didn't love a character, I couldn't write about them.

14.- How do you get the information when you are going to start a story?

From many, many sources. I research all the time. I have rows of books, favorite websites, notes, articles, and people I talk to. The great thing about being a writer is that if you're looking for information on a particular time period, subject, or detail, you can always ask another writer! I've had authors send me folders of research material and books on settings or other things just to help me out. And hopefully I help other authors in return.

Basically I research the general background of my period (in the Mackenzies case, Victorian England and Scotland), and then do research on specifics before each book (e.g., cameras for Duke's Perfect Wife; horseracing for Many Sins; art for Mac's book; autism and asylums for Ian's).

15.- How does come to you the stories? an image, a scene ...?

I usually start by imagining characters in a situation. It might be something from the middle of the book, or the first scene, or the last scene. I "watch" them until I see if there's something there that will make a story, and then I start writing it. I then pause and work out more details about the characters, as I said before, really getting to know them before I start serious work on the book.

16.- At the time of writing do you breathe in any writer that you really like?

I like to read all the time, whether I'm writing or not, though when I'm writing I don't always have time! When I'm writing, I like to read something that's completely different from what I'm working on—for example, if I'm writing a historical mystery, I might read a contemporary romance; if I'm writing a historical romance, I'll read a contemporary mystery. :-)

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17.- Do you interact regularly with your reader in social networks?

Yes. I have a Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/jenniferashleyallysonjamesashleygardner> and a Twitter account: <http://www.twitter.com/jennallyson>

18.- As a writer of romance novels, What kind of novels do you prefer to read?

I love a good murder mystery! I'm fond of Lindsey Davis and her Falco mysteries, and Donna Leon with her mysteries set in Venice. I also like Elizabeth Peters and her Amelia Peabody books. I do like romances too, particularly Eloisa James and Mary Jo Putney, and I like contemporary romances as well. In fantasy, I like Terry Pratchett and Patricia Briggs.

19.- Do you have a favorite genre?

I rarely read anything but mystery, fantasy, and romance. I love genre books! I hardly ever read mainstream novels, though I like classic thrillers like Day of the Jackal and Bourne Identity, and anything by Elmore Leonard. If a book has adventure and romance, I will probably like it. :-)

20.- What is your favorite book and why?

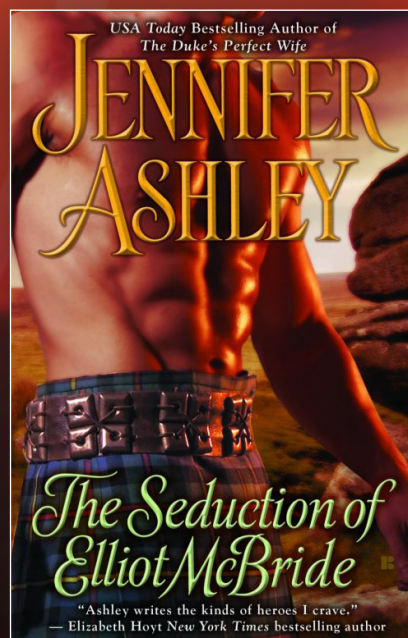
I have no idea! :-) I like so many, and they are all so different.

Jennifer, it has been an honor to have you here and feel so close, thanks for this opportunity, it was a pleasure to do this interview.

Thank you!

Exclusive!

This is the cover of her new book published in the U.S. "The Seduction of Elliot McBride".



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