



**Susan
Elizabeth
Phillips**

Interview

LIBROS DE
Romántica

Introduction

Lately, I use to write a little introduction before to start the interviews, and this is because I need to say with words the happiness and the pleasure that I feel when I have the power to make that big authors, like Susan Elisabeth Philips, give to me that privilege. It's something really special.

All the people who know me know that I am a big fan of SEP, she is one of my favourite contemporary romance writers, and have this opportunity makes me feel plenty of happiness, and for that I like to write it and transmit all the sensations that I am feeling right now.

Susan Elisabeth Philips is a great author; all the romantic novel's lovers have her books like treasures. It is because all her stories catch us and allow us to live beautiful stories page to page.

It is for that I can say that It is a great satisfaction to have her here, and meet her a little bit more.

And definitely I want to thank to my faithful collaborators Lorena, Eva, Elena, Charo and Dunia for their help in the interview.

Claudia

Interview

Susan, welcome to 'Libros de Romántica', it is a great satisfaction to do that interview. Thanks for give us that opportunity to know you a little more.

1. You started to write, like you said in your website, for accident and with a friend. Tell us how happened this.

SEP: It's a fairly long story, which I've posted on my website, but here's the mini version. When my sons were small, I began writing a historical romance with a friend. We were doing it just for fun and couldn't have been more shocked when the first publisher we sent the manuscript to bought it.

2. The last award that you won was the Romantic Times Pioneer Award, in April 2012. How do you feel with this award?

SEP: All of my awards are special to me, but not as special as the wonderful comments I hear from readers.

3. The last book published in Spain have been 'The great escape' (which belong to the American's Ladies series), but the Publisher have been publishing in a different order. First the published 'Call me irresistible', later 'Fancy Pants' and 'Lady Be Good' together and finally 'The great Escape'. We are annoying, like readers, with the Publisher because they have not respected the correct order. What do you thing about this? Do you know the reason to do that?

SEP: I can understand your frustration with the publication order of my books. Fortunately, the books can be read in any order. I will pass on your comment to my Spanish publisher. They have been so wonderful to work with, and I'm sure they'll take notice.

4. Do you have a special book for you between all that you have published? Do you have any character more special to you which you remember him/her with more love?

SEP: My favorite book is always the one I just finished writing. As for favorite characters, too many to say.

5. In the last book published in Spain 'The great escape' there is a deleted scene. That scene won't arrive to Spain and in this scene you explain which is the origin of Panda's name. Can you tell us in a few words that scene to have access to this part of the story?

SEP: To read "How Panda Got His Name", please register on my website for my Members Only Lounge

6. Until now you have refused a lot of offers to film your books for TV, due you want to have the control and you don't think that the final result could be like the books. And beside this you think that is impossible to do in a film too. Do you think with the same point of view when nowadays there are a big quantity of romantic books that there are being adapted to the cinema?

SEP: Every time I open my e-mail, I hear from a reader who wants one of my books to become a movie. But, think about it... We all want to see a movie that actually duplicates the book in our heads, and Hollywood doesn't do that. The final scripts seldom bear any resemblance to the original book, and is that what you want? I don't. I'm too much of a control freak. Over the years, I've declined a number of offers to have my books turned into TV movies, and I've slept like a baby afterward. As for feature films... That's very complicated and highly unlikely.

7. In the American's ladies series, Will be 'The great escape' the last one?

SEP: There is no official "American Ladies" series. I'm not sure where that term even came from. Not from me! To find out more about how my books to relate to one another, please visit SEP Books in Order on my website.

Interview

8. We can see that the Chicago Star series have finished, but you still give us the opportunity to enjoy with some characters in other books. Why do feel the need to put them in the books? This fact is a thing that we adore

SEP: All my characters live in the same creative universe, so it's certainly possible Stars' characters could pop up in other books.

9. One of my favourite books, between all the contemporary romantic books, is without doubt 'Kiss an angel'. This beautiful story about the life in the Circus, It has captivated many people. Which kind of documentation was necessary to write the story in that particular background like is the Circus lifestyle?

SEP: Years ago, I spent a few days wandering through a travelling circus that set up in a field behind my house. I knew I wanted to write a book about it at some point, and was so glad when I finally did.

10. In Sugar Baby was the first time, and I think that the only one, whose main male character have untied so much interest on me due his initial description. We always read about the perfect men that some romantic authors use to write in their books, but on the other hand the female main character it can have blemishes. For me, personally, this thing it is very unfair but is not the case of Colin Byrnea. Later to read 'Sugar Baby' I arrived to the conclusion that it's not important how the writer explains the character, the thing that is really important, is how she can make that you see him beautiful, like a felt with Colin. How did you create this character? Did you think in someone or was only your imagination?

SEP: You are referring to AIN'T SHE SWEET? All my characters are only from my imagination, but I think we can all identify with her feelings.

11. Have you ever thought to write in other genre or is the contemporary where you are more comfortable?

SEP: It's what I do, and there can't be anything more satisfying than knowing you've found the path in life you were meant to take. But there's also something special about this genre. I believe life is too short to make a habit of reading depressing books, and life is definitely too short for me to write them. I'm basically an optimist, which is what I love about popular fiction in general. In the romance, the lovers will find their happy ending, which means babies will be born and civilization will go on. The great romance novel affirms our core values as a society¾values we may believe are slipping away from us. We write about love and justice, trust and loyalty. About forming families and community. The lovers' path will be treacherous¾and almost certainly paved with deliciously hot sex(!)¾but our hero and heroine will eventually find their way just as we hope we will find ours. What's not to love about that?

12. Have you a favourite character or a main favourite couple between your books or someone that have been harder to write for you?

SEP: All of them are difficult for me to write! Not only do they give each other trouble, but they do the same with me! No favorites, though. That would only hurt their feelings.

13. What kind of books do you prefer to read?

SEP: I love positive stories about family and relationships, whether popular fiction or literary novels. I'm not much of a suspense reader and I hate depressing books. I want great characters and hope for the future. As for favorite authors... Too many to count. I love Kristin Hannah's work, Patricia Gaffney, Jayne Ann Krentz, Jennifer Crusie, Sarah Bird, Ruth Reich, A.J. Jacobs, Rob Kurson. The Harry Potter series. I don't read thrillers or anything gory. That said, I loved Suzanne Collins amazing Hunger Games trilogy. I'm thrilled that so many of today's wonderful Y.A. novels are finding an adult audience.

Interview

14. How came to you your stories? It is an scene, a face that transmitted something to you, etc?

SEP: My writing process is not in an organized, efficient fashion. I get a glimmer of an idea, sit down, and write until I run down, which tends to happen much too quickly. Then I pull out my yellow legal pad, one of my special pens, and I start doodling away?jotting down all kinds of stuff until I jot down something that makes sense. I then run back to my computer and write until I run down again. Then I start all over with the yellow pad. It's a creaky, painful process, but it's my process and I've made peace with it. Sort of.

15. What do you feel when you finish one of your stories?

SEP: Relief!

16. Are you the kind of person who always travels with a book on her baggage?

SEP: Yes, most definitely. I'm always reading.

17. Do you like speak with your fans in the social networks?

SEP: My primary contact with readers is through FACEBOOK, Twitter and my website. My readers inspire me and I love the way they share their stories with me. I love meeting fans in person, but that doesn't happen as often as I like. To my International Readers, I wish I could thank each one of you personally! Knowing readers all over the world are responding to my stories has been the single most incredible part of my career. Some days I have to pinch myself to believe my good fortune.

18. Do you like choose the image of the covers of your books?

SEP: The wonderfully talented Art Department at Harper Collins designs my U.S. book covers, but I do have a say in the design. The international covers are designed by the international publishers.

19. Have you thought to come to Spain for do a visit?

SEP: In 2009, I took a fabulous walking/hiking trip exploring the area between Granada and Sevilla in Southern Spain. Here is the link to pictures of my wonderful trip to your beautiful country. I can't wait to visit again! http://susanelizabethphillips.com/photos-Spain_Sep2009.html

20. What are you writing now? Can you tell us something about your next book?

SEP: I'm currently in the early stages of my next book, but I'm not quite ready to talk about it yet. Visit me on my website, Facebook or Twitter for updates.

21. Which is the last book that you read?

SEP: Yes, Chef, by Marcus Samuelson. Non fiction.

Susan, thank you for answer all the questions. Was a pleasure to have you here and meet you more deeply. Thank you very much!

Thank you!

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