

Sage McCall, Heroine-Lights, Camera. MURDER!: Wow, where do I begin? "Lights, Camera. MURDER!" is an exciting novel that uses a reality show as a backdrop? Where did you get the idea?

Linn Ft, Author: I love reality shows especially the ones involving adventure. So I coupled my interest in reality shows with my love of romantic suspense and mystery. "Lights, Camera. MURDER!" is the result.

Sage: Do you have background in the film industry?

Linn: Not me, my husband Chris used to be in the movie industry so he provided me with a lot of insider information. I still had to do a lot of research on reality shows and other elements in the book.

Sage: Jon and I got off to a bumpy start. He wanted the 'TV Show out of his small town.

Linn: Yes and as you know Jon has his reasons. With the popularity of the show, he knew the publicity it will disrupt like St. Gabrielle. By the way, I always knew you two were attracted to each other. It took a murder to bring you two together.

Sage (laughs): It wasn't easy, but tell me about your other characters in my book?

Linn: There's the security team, Double K, Reese and Cowboy Bob. Then of course, the director Hillary, her assistant Connard and a whole cast of characters, 85 to be exact but it takes that many to make a reality show. Between casts, contestants and the production crew not including the drivers and craft services, some of these reality shows will use twice as many. I was conservative. The secondary characters are important and help move the story along and well as provide delicious red herrings for the reader to find.

Sage: Your Villain.... And I won't name him.

Linn: Thanks!

Sage: This is more comment than question, but I didn't suspect him until the very end.

Linn: Great.....neither will the reader but there are enough clues buried in the book that when he or she is revealed, the reader have the same "aha!" moment that you did. I love keep the readers in suspense but want my storylines to make sense as well. I'll never trick the reader.

Sage (giggles): It's fun to talk about it now, but geeze, it was pretty scary at the time.

Linn: Yes, well, but the location is Florida.

Sage (frowns): Swamps, Alligators, Sharks, poisonous plants. You didn't miss a trick.

Linn: Thanks! I try to make the most of my settings.

Sage: Now I understand this is a series, right?

Linn: Right. The future books will be about the movie industry. Your sister, Fallon will have her own suspense in "Change of Dreams" a romantic comedy but its Mallory, your younger sister who has the most terrifying adventure in "Cold River Murders."

Sage: Will Jon and I appear in these books?

Linn: Yes, but the books will be about Fallon and Mallory; I don't want to disrupt your life with Jon.

Sage: I appreciate that. Did you base Jon after any one in particular?

Linn: It's extremely hard for a writer to use real people. Real people never do what you want them to do. His strong character is his own but I do have a picture of Julian McMahon on my desk when I was writing this book. He is one of the most handsome men in the world.

Sage: How much of you is invested in me?

Linn: Oh gosh, you are who I'd like to be I suppose but I don't have the inclination to be a third degree black belt and proficient with a gun. But of course, with the challenges you face these skills do come in handy. I think all authors invest themselves with their heroines and as a reader; I want to identify with my exciting heroines. I hope my reader do!

Sage: I find your books more sensual than sexual.

Linn (blushing): Thanks, it's all about the romance for me. I once read that by the time readers get to the 'big scene', the only person who wants the hero/heroine to make love more than they do is the reader. I adhere to that, my Readers are very important to me.

Sage: So what can we expect next from you?

Linn: Thanks for asking. I am working on another romantic suspense book set in Florida, "Pirates in Paradise" about modern day drug traffickers, The Witness Protection Program as well as a goodly amount of hunky FBI and US Marshals. My next is "Haunted Hearts" a scary, comedic romp about hauntings in St. Augustine.

I have two books planned for spring. Mallory's Book, "Cold River Murders" and a terrifying suspense "Black Water" set in Louisiana. If voodoo scares you, as it does me, you won't want to miss that one.

Sage: Well, thanks for writing about me.

Linn: You are welcome. You have a story worth telling. I hope the readers will enjoy your adventure as much as I did writing them.

Sage (smiles): I'm sure they will.

More questions for Linn Random or Sage McCall? Write her directly or sign up for her periodic newsletters about her future books on Contest page.