

# The Romance Studi♥

## Who's Featured?

### Sara Reinke

The ordinary and seemingly unrelated lives of Trejaeran Muirel and Qynh Reoder are forever and irrevocably changed when they learn they are brother and sister, twin heirs to the throne of Tiralaonn, and the children of a murdered King of Men and Queen of the Elves.



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By Elfin prophecy, one of them will one day defeat Ciardha, the evil and immortal Queen who now reigns over the realm, and restore the alliance of Menfolk and Elves. The twins have been raised apart and in secret for sixteen years to keep them safe from Ciardha and her dark army of Damantas. When their havens are discovered, their families attacked, Qynh and Trejaeran are rescued from certain death and brought among the rebel forces of the Comhar, an alliance of Men and Elves who mean to see the twins fulfill their promised destiny. Qynh has witnessed the butchering of her family at the sword points of Ciardha's soldiers and is more than willing to greet this fortune. She is heartbroken with grief over the loss of her family, and eager for revenge. She is also falling in love with Kierken, a young Donnag'crann Elf who rescued her from the Damantas. Kierken shares in these fostering and tender affections, and theirs is a relationship that will not go unnoticed by those among the Comhar with their own ambitious agendas for the heirs. Qynh's brother, Trejaeran is not so eager for vengeance. His father yet lives, abducted by the Damantas, and he would risk his own life--even his very soul--to see his father freed. Trejaeran follows his heart, embarking with a group of Comhar warriors to rescue his father, while Qynh follows the path destiny would seem to dictate for her, riding forth with the Comhar army to wage war against Ciardha. Along each of these perilous and battle-fraught journeys, as new friends are made, unexpected enemies are discovered, and loves are fostered and broken, the twins must ultimately decide whether their fates are predestined, or determined by their own hearts.

### Reviews for Book of Days

"A wonderful read...one to savor." - **Sheri L. McGathy, author** ("The Elfen Gold" Series)

**Rated 5 out of 5 at Love Romances Reviews:** "Sara Reinke has written a marvelous fantasy of the highest caliber."

**Visit Sara Reinke's web site**

**Join Sara Reinke's Yahoo group**

## Read an excerpt from Book of Days

### About Sara Reinke

**Sara Reinke** lives in Louisville, Kentucky with her husband, son, cat and dog. An award-winning writer, Reinke most recently earned an Artist Enrichment Grant for a fiction writing project from the Kentucky Foundation for Women. The epic fantasy, **BOOK OF DAYS** is her first novel-length publication. She is a proud member of the Louisville Romance Writers Chapter of RWA, Flowers & Hearts Group and Authors Unlimited.

### An Interview with Sara Reinke

By **Holly Hewson** Marketing Director for **The Romance Studio**

**HH: Sara, welcome to The Romance Studio. Please tell us about your smashing new book, Book of Days.**

**SR:** In **BOOK OF DAYS**, two young people discover they are brother and sister, twins and heirs to the throne of Tiralainn. They also learn that it has been foretold that one of them will overthrow an evil and ancient Queen who had murdered their true parents and stolen the rule of the land from them. The prophecy doesn't say which twin will prevail, and during the course of the story, they must decide if their lives are truly dictated by that promise of fortune, or if they can choose their own destinies for themselves. It's a story of love, not just between blood relatives, but the bonds that form with those as dear to us as family. There's some romance involved, a touch of magic and a lot of action -- a real epic adventure I think readers will enjoy.

**HH: What gave the idea for this incredible story?**

**SR:** I wrote **BOOK OF DAYS** after a nearly 10-year hiatus from fiction writing. After college, I pursued a career in journalism, even though fiction writing has been my passion since I was very young. I didn't believe that I could ever make it as a published author, and decided to go after more "mature" career aspirations. Then, in 2001, my uncle died from inoperable cancer, and then, several months later, my father-in-law died from a heart attack. They were both relatively young, and their deaths had very profound impacts on me. I realized that I had to at least try to fulfill my dreams and ambitions for becoming a successful, published author; that this is what I was supposed to do with my life. And, thus galvanized, I began writing **BOOK OF DAYS**.

**HH: What sort of research did you do to bring your story of danger and intrigue in an elven world to life?**

**SR:** I based the culture in **BOOK OF DAYS** on the feudal system, and medieval ways of life, so I studied quite a bit in my world-building efforts. Unfortunately, the original draft was a good five times longer than what has been published by **Double Dragon**, and I had to do a lot of self-editing to get the book to a marketable length. As a result, a lot of what was written to reflect this research ultimately didn't make it into the final, published version of **BOOK OF DAYS**. For example, in previous versions, I went into a lot more detail about the twins' lives in their foster homes. Qynh's father was a weaponsmith, and Trejaeran's, a farmer, and so I had to familiarize myself with the day-to-day and season-to-season activities each of these occupations would have involved. I was disappointed that

in the end, I cut most of that, even though I know it was a necessary move.

I also had to cut a lot of what makes one of the story's heroes so extraordinary. Kierken, the principle love interest for Qynh in the story, is studying to become a Buion, a very prestigious class of warriors among the Elves. I had originally designed his training to include all kinds of disciplined rituals, like fasting, meditation, scholarly studies, weapons training and more. I had crafted the Buion to adhere strictly to a code of ethics I based on the principles of courtly love and chivalry. And while Kierken is still a hero in the book, and I think he comes across as extremely noble and capable, in early versions, his training, and the sacrifices it demanded of him, were particularly emphasized.

Again, these decisions to omit that sort of information were solely my own, and made because the book needed some drastic revisions if I ever hoped to get it to a length where a publisher would consider it. But I am pleased that some of the key sequences, such as the siege of the royal city, Belgaeran, remained pivotal in the published book, and included a lot of research I had done into medieval siege warfare techniques. I also researched a great deal about Irish and Scottish Gaelic dialects, which the language of my Elves, called "Gaeilgen" is based on. I'm not a linguist by any stretch of the imagination, but I enjoyed learning the basics of their grammatical rules and pronunciation, and building my own dialect from there.

**HH: Will there be any sequels to Book of Days?**

**SR:** Yes, as a matter of fact. **BOOK OF THIEVES** has been accepted by **Dragon Tooth Fantasy**, the same imprint that has released **BOOK OF DAYS**. It's set twenty years after the events described in **BOOK OF DAYS**, but involves many familiar faces from the first book. There is a third, **BOOK OF DRAGONS**, which I will undoubtedly submit for **Dragon Tooth Fantasy's** consideration in the future. It needs some editing beforehand. Like the original version of **BOOK OF DAYS**, it's a monstrous volume, more than 750,000 words, I think. Waaaaayyy too long, LOL!

**HH: What are you working on now?**

**SR:** As someone who writes different genres, I always have multiple irons in the fire. I've got a fourth installment in the Tiralainn series, **BOOK OF ORACLES** that has been about half-finished for more than a year now. I need to get back into it and complete it. I'm in the midst of working on a historical romance called **HEART'S RANSOM** underway, and a non-romance historical set in the fifth century, A.D. Byzantine Empire in progress.

**HH: What do you enjoy reading?**

**SR:** I actually like ancient historical fiction. Patrick Larkin's "The Tribune" is a phenomenal book, one of the best I've read in a long time. I enjoy Steven Pressfield, as well. I've been eyeballing my husband's dogeared copy of "The Once and Future King" for awhile now, because I'm in a fantasy fiction mood, and have never read that one. I try to wedge reading for pleasure in with writing for pleasure and reciting "The Cat in the Hat" nearly from my memory to my 10-month-old son.

**HH: What goals have you set for yourself as a writer in 2006?**

**SR:** Finish all three of my works in progress and then get them out there for publication consideration. Come up with three new ideas, one for each of the genres I enjoy writing, and begin trying to find more time to work on them, too.

**HH: What do you do in your spare time?**

**SR:** What is that? Ha, ha, just kidding. As lame as this sounds, I write. Writing fiction has never been a chore or work for me. It has always been something I've loved to do, and something that could easily occupy all of my time. When I'm not writing, I'm coming up with ideas in my mind for stories in progress, or new ones waiting in the wings. I can't go on vacation without bringing my laptop, or a manuscript in progress, or both. Writing is relaxation for me, and a pleasure.

**HH: How can fans get in touch with you?**

**SR:** I love to hear from readers. Please feel free to email me at any time: [sara@tiralainn.com](mailto:sara@tiralainn.com). I also maintain a Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tiralainn>, and folks can find out lots about me there. I post my bi-monthly newsletters there, as well as information about upcoming releases, contests, excerpts and more. I also try to pack in plenty of members-only goodies to make membership worth your while.

**HH: What are you thankful for this year, Sara?**

**SR:** My son. My husband and family. My first book in print. And all of the wonderful, talented and extraordinary friends I've made along the way.

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