

# Interviews

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## Sue Crawford

## Sara Reinke

**Genre:** Fantasy

**Date:** 09/28/2005

### **Tell us a little about your latest release**

In *BOOK OF DAYS*, 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 Tiralainn, and the children of a murdered King of Men and Queen of the Elves. 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. *BOOK OF DAYS* is now available in electronic and trade paperback formats from Double Dragon Publishing through their new Dragon Tooth Fantasy imprint.

### **What are you working on at the moment?**

My current project is a historical novel set in the Byzantine Empire, a biography of an Eastern Roman Empress. Last year, I received a grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women for the initiation of this project.

### **When did you first decide you wanted to be a writer?**

I've wanted to write almost from the moment I could toddle upright, I think. There isn't a time in my life when I don't remember writing stories. I started as a young child, scribbling stories into spiral bound

notebooks. When other children wanted bikes or Barbie dolls for Christmas, I wanted a typewriter, and then later, a word processor. I have always known that's what I wanted to be "when I grew up."

### **Who has had the most influence on your writing over the years?**

My mother has always greatly encouraged and supported my writing endeavors, from the time I was very small. She has always been the first to read any of my books, and I can always trust and depend on her to give me an unbiased, honest opinion of the work. She keeps me inspired and motivated.

### **What are the best tools out there for new writers?**

Small, independent presses, without a doubt. Legitimate ones (not vanity or subsidy publishers) can help aspiring authors break into a field that is stymied and strangled by the song-and-dance of the big publishing companies. As far as researching publishers, agents, etc., Preditors and Editors and the Writer Beware Service at [sff.net](http://sff.net) have always proven invaluable to me. There are also plenty of online support groups and communities for writers now, so no one ever has to feel alone in the trials, tribulations and triumphs that come from writing.

### **What promotions have you found to have the most impact?**

Definitely putting forth the investment to maintain a high-quality, professional website. Check it out at [www.tiralainn.com](http://www.tiralainn.com). I also maintain an ongoing blog at the site, and host a Yahoo group forum, through which I maintain correspondences with potential readers, post my newsletter, etc.

### **What have you learned from your favorite writers?**

Stephen King - the fine and wondrous art of good dialogue. I have also always loved Shakespeare, even though that seems such an cliché answer. There is so much hidden, cynical and backhanded wit in Shakespeare's work that is too often overlooked or lost in the translation, so to speak. He had a wicked sense of humor. Pat Conroy, because as a true "southern" author, he has a true gift for long, meandering, lilting, melodious narrative, and dynamic, powerful, engaging, emotional dialogue. His "The Lords of Discipline" was the first book to ever move me to tears.

### **A few words of inspiration**

Never, never, never give up. If you stumble along the way, pick yourself up, dust off and keep moving forward. Never stop looking for ways to motivate and inspire yourself. Never compromise on your dream, and pursue it vigorously. Never stop improving on your own work -- and learn to self-edit. It will pay off in the end.

## **Louise Karczmarz**

**Genre:** Modern Fantasy, High Fantasy, factual books, poetry and roleplay.

**Date:** 10/27/2002

### **Tell us a little about your latest release**

My latest releases are *Quando Angelus Vagit* the first book in the Angeli Series and *Internet Shorthand for Beginners*. Reviews and excerpts of my books can be found at

[http://www.geocities.com/anient\\_earle/index2.html](http://www.geocities.com/anient_earle/index2.html) Both books can be previewed/purchased at <http://www.ebooks.uk.net> Quando Angelus Vagit is based in Modern day Chicago and explores the possible existence and actions of the Supernatural.

### **What are you working on at the moment?**

I am currently working on the second book in the Angeli Series - Bruma pro Antitheus. An excerpt can be found on my home page and at the back of Quando Angelus Vagit. It is due for release in January. I am also working with another author called John Aridi to create The Scorched Wings - a paperback magazine. This magazine is a collection of both factual and fictional stories in many genres as well as poetry.

### **When did you first decide you wanted to be a writer?**

I first began writing when I was 9 years old. I have always enjoyed writing but never until now have I taken the idea that I could write for a living into serious consideration. My work was first published when I was 10 years old in a local poetry book for children. Another poem of mine was used in secondary school on regional television to advocate a peer to peer counselling group. When my sensible plans to work with children with special needs fell through due to pregnancy I began to write once more. I have always had a vivid imagination, I cannot imagine what life would be like if I didn't tell stories. Role play and live role play are some of the most enjoyable pastimes I have ever taken part in. This has aided me in keeping my sense of the childlike fantastical alive.

### **Who has had the most influence on your writing over the years?**

A friend who stayed up with me until the small hours of the morning to help me to edit and sometimes just to talk about the whole process. When I did not believe in myself he was there with an encouraging word but he was not scared to say if he didn't like something I had written. Flawed even, he is the nearest to perfection that I have met in many years. He is my inspiration, my muse, he is one of the reasons that I write. Each of my friends has a special quality that they bring to the friendship and they are all supportive and I would thank them every day just for being themselves if they wouldn't think I was mad.

### **What are the best tools out there for new writers?**

Honest reviewers, be that friends or strangers. The services of free editors. While they may not necessarily be professional they may find things that the writer may have missed being closer to the story. A different perspective is always helpful.

### **What promotions have you found to have the most impact?**

The most effective form of promotion that I have come across in my experience has always been word of mouth. There is no better promotion for a writers work than the recommendation of someone who has read it. A close second would be reviews either good or bad. They all go to show a reader what they can expect from the work before they invest in a copy.

### **What have you learned from your favorite writers?**

My favourite writers at the moment are somewhat unknown. A young author from the Isle of Wight

called John Aridi writes poetry and science fiction. His style has been described as 'cinematic' - you could close your eyes and imagine yourself there. That is what I am for in my writing, to show the reader what is happening, how the characters feel rather than spell it out for them. Another author that is not widely known C. I. Coral has given me pause for thought with his imaginative tales and the depth of research into his ideas. I strive towards backing up the ideas in my head with the facts needed to make the storyline believable.

### **A few words of inspiration**

For authors the path to success is rarely a fast and easy road. There may be times when a writer feels very alone with their work. Self-doubt is often the result. I would encourage anyone that would like to be a writer to give it their best shot. Life is only so long and when it is quite possibly the only one that one will get then it seems such a waste to carry regret through it. A story is as individual as the writer, the temptation to fit a story to a publisher is one that I still have to learn to resist. As a reader I believe that the first person perspective in a story should only be taken after some consideration. It can lead to confusion between tenses which looks unprofessional and confused and a linear feeling to the plotline. If writing is in your soul, then I wish you the very best of luck with finding your voice.

**Genre:** Romance/mainstream/paranormal

**Date:** 10/27/2001

### **Tell us a little about your latest release**

Cricket and the Cowboy is a lighthearted romance between a girl named Cricket and the Quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys.

### **What are you working on at the moment?**

Actually, I've got two WIP's. One is about friends, where one is the driving force to get a Country Singer and her best friend together. The other is about a girl who finds herself married without her knowledge and how she gets out of it.

### **When did you first decide you wanted to be a writer?**

I've always wanted to be a writer, even as a child I wrote stories to entertain myself. As for what has kept me writing, well, I guess it was all the books I read and when finished, I would say, "I can write better than that!"

### **Who has had the most influence on your writing over the years?**

I would have to say that friends have had the most influence on my writing. But, other than them, my critique group. It was this group that gave me the confidence to submit my manuscripts to publishers after I had given up.

### **What are the best tools out there for new writers?**

I think the best tool today is the internet. Everything a person needs to know can be found on the Internet.

**What promotions have you found to have the most impact?**

Word of mouth and friends who have shamelessly pushed my books.

**What have you learned from your favorite writers?**

Goodness, I'd be hard put to name all the writers that I love. Evryone from Shakespere to some as yet, unknowns. What I've learned from them is that every writer is different, has a different voice and a different way of telling a story. Just because I'm different, doesn't mean that I'm not a writer.

**A few words of inspiration**

My advice to all new writers is to never give up. My motto is: "You have not failed until you stop trying."



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