

## **Interview with Harlequin Blaze author, Tawny Weber**

### **How do you describe your writing?**

Sassy, sexy, upbeat. I like to write sexy stories that make women feel good, feel empowered -like they can do anything they dream of. Even so, I'd say there is definitely a smart-alecky edge to my writing that keeps it fun and humorous.

### **What about your writing process?**

I'm a character driven writer, so even when I start with a premise or idea, I have to find the right characters to play it out. Once I have a solid idea of who the heroine and hero are, a rough handle on the plot and a clear conflict, I like to write the first three chapters. I'll spend as long on those as I do the entire rest of the story, because they are where I really get to know the characters and understand their inner conflict. Once those chapters are solid, I can write an outline, then the rest usually flows.

### **How long have you been writing romances? How long were you seriously writing before you were published?**

After sharing my "I wish I could be a romance writer" dream with my husband, at his urging I joined Romance Writers of America and started writing in 2002. I sold in May of 2006, so it was 4 years.

### **What drew you to write hot, sexy books?**

I love to read hot, sexy stories --I always have. It makes sense to write what I love to read, right? I like the stories that empower women, celebrate relationships and make me laugh - hopefully mine do all that.

**Who is your favorite hero you've written. Do you find it hard or easy to fall in love with one of your own characters, and how does your husband feel about that?**

I'd have to say I like Jesse from DOUBLE DARE best of all - if only because he's the hero who sold my first book. That aside, he's also an easy man to like. Sexy, strong, but with a deep layer of integrity that just makes you want to hug him. I can't say I'm in love with him, probably because I know Audra (his heroine) would kick my butt. She's tough. As for my husband- he'd probably fall for Audra himself. And since some of the traits I liked best about Jesse are lifted straight from my husband's personality, I'm sure he won't be jealous.

**What do you do to prepare yourself to write a hot love scene? Do you have a ritual, special music, candles, etc?**

I make sure the kids are in bed, put on my headphones and just write. Sometimes I'll light candles, if I think of it, but that's more a writing ambiance than anything specific to writing a love scene.

**What's your writing routine or schedule like?**

I write late at night. Usually between 10pm and 1 or 2am. Mostly because it's quiet and the house is asleep, but also because my creative side seems to hit its stride after dark. If I'm in the middle of a story, I'll usually write seven days a week. If I get stuck, I turn to some other form of creativity, like scrapbooking, until I'm unstuck and can dive back into the story.

**Are there any books, websites, or tips you can offer people who want to write?**

Romance Writers of America! If you want to write romance- hot, sexy, sweet, scary- any romance, I strongly recommend you join RWA. There are some great online workshops offered each month, and if you're lucky enough to find a local chapter, the support and education you receive can't be beat. Otherwise, I think reading as much as you can-- both romance, other genres, and how to write books-- is one of the smartest things an aspiring writer can do.

**Any writing achievements you'd like to share?**

UNDERCOVER SEDUCTION\* 2006 Golden Heart nominee -  
Best Short Contemporary

UNDERCOVER SEDUCTION\* 2005 Harlequin Blaze Challenge -  
First Place

RED HOT ANGEL 2005 Golden Heart nominee -  
Best Short Contemporary

HER CUP OF TEA 2004 Golden Heart nominee -  
Best Short Contemporary

*\*UNDERCOVER SEDUCTION later retitled to DOUBLE DARE*