

Lisa Hendrix's Biography

Lisa Hendrix fell in love with the *Man from U.N.C.L.E.* when she was ten and has been fascinated by handsome, dangerous men ever since. That interest led eventually to romance novels—the writing of which, coincidentally, put her in a hotel elevator with former *U.N.C.L.E.* star Robert Vaughn at a **Romance Writers of America** conference.



The route to that conference was a long one. Born in Kansas and raised in Colorado, over the years Lisa found herself living in California, Alaska, Oregon, Japan, and Washington, doing work that ranged from executive secretary to rear chainman on a survey crew to ESL teacher. Through all those moves and jobs, romance novels became and remained her favorite escape. Eventually, she realized she was tired of simply reading and was ready to try her hand at writing—an aspiration her mother found amusing, considering how she hated to write letters as a child. But then, letters don't generally star those handsome, dangerous men. Many crumpled and deleted pages later, Lisa sold her first romance, and she has been happily pursuing the perfect fictional hero ever since. (She found her perfect real life hero some twenty years ago and is still blissfully married to him.)

Lisa has written western romances and contemporary romantic comedy for Berkley, but has now returned to her medieval romance roots with ***The Immortal Brotherhood***, a centuries-spanning series of paranormal historical about a crew of Viking warriors cursed to live as immortal were-beasts. The third book in the series, *IMMORTAL CHAMPION* will be published in January 2011.

A long-time member of Romance Writers of America, Lisa lives in southern Oregon with her software-developer husband, two active teenagers, and assorted small furry and finned creatures. When not actually writing, she knits, walks around town talking out plot points into a digital voice recorder, and spends way too much time doing research in libraries and on the Net.

She still holds out hope for an equally serendipitous encounter with David McCallum.

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IMMORTAL CHAMPION

January 4, 2011

Some beasts aren't meant to be tamed...



He faces a future of cold uncertainty, until her warm embrace...

Part of a Viking crew of warriors cursed by an evil sorceress, Gunnar the Red must toil through eternity as half-man, half-beast, living out his days as a great bull, while his nights are spent in human form. And though he keeps mostly to the wilds, his heart yearns for the simple comforts of man—and the chance to redeem a tragic past...

Seeking refuge from a bitter winter in the welcoming hall of Richmond Castle, Gunnar rescues two maidens when a blaze erupts—and his destiny is forever altered. For one of the young women is Lady Eleanor de Neville, who is immediately entranced by her rescuer. Her kiss of gratitude—the brief touch of her lips against his cheek—awakens a longing in her soul. And even when she is betrothed to another, Eleanor never forgets her courageous knight.

When Gunnar rides back into Eleanor's life, she is consumed by undeniable passion. And though his body surrenders to her every touch, Gunnar's heart remains imprisoned by the curse—and only the magic of the truest love can save him...

Hi-res file of the cover is available for press use at <http://lisahendrix.com/about/press-kit/>

Q & A with Lisa Hendrix

Do you have one of those great first sale stories to share?

Kind of. Because of some work I did on a small conference in Washington State, I had an extended phone conversation with a romance editor. The only book I had anywhere near done was my terrible, wandering first novel, which had a medieval setting. This editor's house didn't publish medieval romance at all back then, but the editor encouraged me to make an editor appointment anyway, just to practice pitching a book. She said she'd give me some tips and tell me whether she thought the idea was commercially viable and suggest which houses might be interested.

However between that conversation and the actual meeting, I realized the idea I had for another medieval could actually be set in the Old West—and she was looking for western historical romances. I typed out a very short synopsis, printed it up on a dot matrix printer, and carried it in to the appointment. After she got over the fact it wasn't a medieval, she got very interested and asked me how fast I could do a proposal, which in fiction is a full synopsis and three chapters. I said I didn't know, since I'd never done one. She suggested I could do it in a month, and asked me to please buy a better printer—so I did both. Six months later, when they had openings in their schedule, I got *The Call*.

Or rather, my mom got the call. I was out. She took a message, and I had to call back, knowing what it was about. Took a lot of the buzz off—although I still did the happy dance around the kitchen.

So the fact that I sold an unfinished book as a first time author is pretty cool, but the call itself, not so much.

Describe your writing schedule.

In one word, erratic. I spend an extensive period researching and noodling around, getting the characters and story down, and then the early chapters go very slowly as I work to get all the threads in place. But once I get going, I build, writing faster and faster as I go. Altogether, it takes me six to nine months to produce a book, but I typically do the last part in six to eight weeks.

What do you feel makes a "good story?"

Strongly developed characters, a plot that keeps moving, touches of humor...and a happy ending. As a reader, I always loathed spending hours of my time getting invested in characters and then having the author either leave things unresolved or, worse, dumping on the characters and leaving them hopeless, helpless, and fundamentally unchanged.

That's why I haven't read much in the literary genre since I left college, and why I will *never* write in it.

Romance is always hopeful. You may not always get Happily Ever After, but you are guaranteed at least Hopefully Ever After. That HEA is the reason I read and the reason I write.

How has your writing changed over the years?

I have no idea how to answer that question. I'm not sure any writer really could unless it was some change they deliberately set out to make. I haven't, so any changes are strictly natural evolution. I can only hope it's been to the better.

Where did the idea of the Immortal Brotherhood come from ? And where is it going to?

I know it sounds corny, but I had a dream. I awoke from a sound sleep with the image of a tall, blond man in my head. He was wearing a dinner jacket, but I knew that he was a thousand years old and that he spent his days as a bear. Well of course I had to write about him. I noodled around with the idea for nearly a year as it evolved: Who was he? Why was he cursed, and by whom? Was he the only one cursed? If not, who were the others and what kind of animals did they become? Why those animals? Research and world-building raised questions, which had to be answered with more research and world-revision.

Eventually I realized there must be nine Viking heroes, because nine is a sacred number to the Norse gods (that's why there were nine members in the Fellowship of the Rings). My research turned up the concept of *fylgjur*, or spirit companions, the Viking equivalent of totemic animals, and I realized that was surely what determined which creature each man became. The nature of each beast determines whether the man is animal by day or by night. I figured out how each might be able to break the curse. And I realized that each man's story would take place in a different century.

The first book, *Immortal Warrior*, was set in 1096, and is about the first of the warriors to find a life among humankind. The second, *Immortal Outlaw*, was set in 1286, and is the story of what *really* happened in Sherwood Forest. The current book, *Immortal Champion*, is set in the early 1400's and involves those two infamous bickering families of northern England, the Nevilles and the Percys. *Immortal Defender*, coming in 2012, is set in Elizabethan England, and future books will be Restoration, Georgian/Regency, etc., right up to the contemporary story of the man in the dinner jacket, Brand, the captain of the cursed crew and the last and loneliest of my heroes

And yes, all nine books will have the word Immortal in the title.

Reviews for the Novels of Lisa Hendrix

"Absolutely stellar!"

~ Meljean Brook, NYT Bestselling Author

IMMORTAL CHAMPION

TOP PICK, 4-½ Stars, KISS Hero "Captivating...Even readers unfamiliar with the series will be enthralled by Hendrix's masterful storytelling and talent for seamlessly blending magic, myth, and romance." ~ Kathe Robin for *RTBookreviews*

"Brimming with adventure and romance, Lisa Hendrix's The Immortal Brotherhood series seamlessly weaves together magic and history to create an enchanting tale. The brotherhood's cursed warriors are the strong and sexy stuff of legends, and Hendrix draws each character with a deft and clever hand. An absolutely stellar series!" ~ Meljean Brook, author of USA Today Bestseller *The Iron Duke*.

"The best part, by far, was Hendrix's voice. She's got a great flare for the historical paranormal genre. Just enough irreverence to remind us that we're in a magic land, but enough solid historical detail to delight even the most stringent historical fan among us. Fan-frickin-tastic." ~ Rebecca Lynn for *Enduring Romance*

IMMORTAL OUTLAW

Amazon Top Ten Best in Romance, 2009

"Lisa Hendrix has a great talent and *Immortal Outlaw* is one book that will have readers riveted."—*Fresh Fiction*

"The hero of *Immortal Outlaw* is very yummy and the heroine is one that any reader can easily come to love and really root for...Lisa Hendrix knows how to give you what you want...I just loved how this whole love story played out."—*Night Owl Romance*

"Filled with action...The audience will relish Lisa Hendrix's enjoyable entry."—*Midwest Book Review*

"Some terrific entertainment is packed between the covers of Hendrix's *Immortal Outlaw*...highly recommended to any fans of historical romances or paranormal romances."—*The Good, the Bad, and the Unread*

TOP PICK, 4-½ Stars, KISS Hero "Imaginative, fascinating, adventurous; a fantastic read. Hendrix knows how to blend myth and magic in a way that enchants readers...The

second installment, based on the Robin Hood legend, has passion, adventure, history and characters you'll treasure." ~ Kathe Robin for *RT BookReviews*

"A great installment in the Immortal Brotherhood series."—*The Book Binge*

IMMORTAL WARRIOR

"Bringing together Norse sagas, English history and medieval fairy tales, Lisa Hendrix brings her imagination to bear to create a story that will delight with its familiarity, but a familiarity in a completely new context, that of paranormal romance. Tinged with a delightful darker echo of Chaucer's Wife of Bath's Tale (*The Canterbury Tales*), John Gower's The Tale of Florent (*Confessio Amantis*) and the Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnell, Lisa Hendrix adds her own unique vision to this popular classic tale of magic...Absolutely stunning." ~ Merrimon Crawford for *Medieval Book Reviews*

"Gripping ... I expect both this book and its sequels to find their way on the must-buy lists of book lovers everywhere!" ~ Jennifer A. Ray for *Wild on Books*

"*Immortal Warrior* will sweep you off your feet...a fast paced paranormal delight that will have you adding Lisa Hendrix to your must buy list. Shifters, Witches, Norse gods and more make this series unforgettable." ~ Tammie King for *Night Owl Romance*

TOP PICK, 4-½ Stars "A bold and beautiful fairytale for grownups: an enchanted story of a stalwart warrior and a feisty lady...Not to be missed!" ~ Kathe Robin for *RT BookReviews*

"Blending paranormal with historical and a touch of the comedy that she is known for, Lisa Hendrix gives us the first in a stunning new series bound to rocket straight to the bestseller list. Her heroine was smart and sassy, her hero was strong and patient, the subplot was awesome and the twist at the end was completely unexpected. I can't wait to get my hands on the next one." ~ Valerie for *Manic Reader*

About Romance Fiction

Source: Romance Writers of America

(<http://rwanational.org>)

Two basic elements comprise every romance novel: a central love story and an emotionally-satisfying and optimistic ending.

A Central Love Story — In a romance novel, the main plot centers around two individuals falling in love and struggling to make the relationship work. A writer can include as many subplots as he/she wants as long as the relationship conflict is the main focus of the story.

An Emotionally-Satisfying and Optimistic Ending — Romance novels are based on the idea of an innate emotional justice—the notion that good people in the world are rewarded and evil people are punished. In a romance, the lovers who risk and struggle for each other and their relationship are rewarded with emotional justice and unconditional love.

Romance Industry Statistics

Sales:

(source: *Business of Consumer Book Publishing 2010*)

- Romance fiction held the **largest share of the consumer market** in 2009 at 13.2 percent, generating **\$1.36 billion** in sales in 2009.
- **9,089 new romance titles** were released in 2009.
- In 2009, romance was the **second top-performing category** on the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *Publishers Weekly* best-seller lists, beat only by the movie tie-in category.
- **74.8 million people** read at least one romance novel in 2008. (source: RWA Reader Survey)

Romance Market Share Compared to Other Genres:

(source: *Simba Information* estimates)

- Romance fiction: \$1.36 billion in estimated revenue for 2009
- Religion/inspirational: \$770 million
- Science fiction/fantasy: \$554 million
- Mystery: \$674 million
- Classic literary fiction: \$462 million

Lisa Hendrix Complete Book List

The Immortal Brotherhood series:

<i>Immortal Warrior</i>	Berkley Sensation	November 2008
<i>Immortal Outlaw</i>	Berkley Sensation	June 2009
<i>Immortal Champion</i>	Berkley Sensation	January 2011

Plus six more books to come, including *Immortal Defender* in 2012

Backlist:

<i>Runaway Bay</i>	Berkley, Single Title
<i>To Marry an Irish Rogue</i>	Berkley <i>Irish Eyes</i>
<i>Razzle Dazzle</i>	Berkley <i>Magical Love</i>
<i>Drifter's Moon</i>	Diamond <i>Wildflower</i>
<i>Hostage Heart</i>	Diamond <i>Wildflower</i>