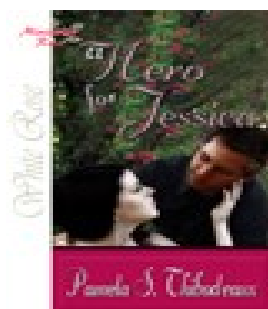
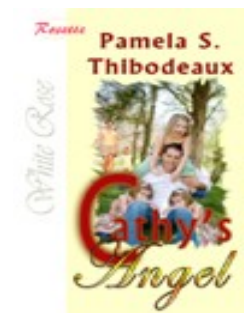
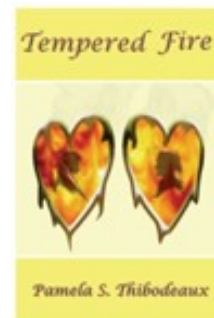
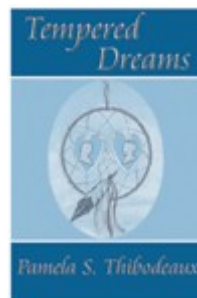


An Interview with Pamela S. Thibodeaux

By:

TANNIA E. ORTIZ-LOPES

(<http://timewithtannia.tripod.com>)



1. Tell us about yourself

I am a Christian/housewife/mother/grandmother/full-time sales producer/writer as well as the Co-Founder/President/Treasurer of Bayou Writers' Group.

2. Between your GED in 1978 and your Office Occupations degree in 1992, you did a variety of jobs including book keeping. However, no writing during those year. Was your love for God and your desire to glorify Him the stimulant of your creativity? If yes, share your writer's calling with our reader. If not, then tell us the "rest of the story."

Oh there was plenty of writing in those years...all in 5-subject notebooks. ☺ In 1993 I bought my first word processor and began typing in all those stories. Actually my love for God was not initially the stimulant for my creativity. While pregnant with my daughter I read one-too-many *sappy little romances* and thought I could do better. LOL! However, in 1989 I recommitted my life to Christ and committed my writing to Him praying that I never write *just another romance*, but something that would glorify Him. That's when my focus changed from secular romance to what I write today.

3. You have belonged to several writers' associations which one of them would you recommend the most and why?

I would recommend the association that meets the individual need of the author and his or her career goals, whether that be a small, local organization like Bayou Writers Group (<http://www.geocities.com/bayouwritersgroup>) which I co-founded, or a national one like RWA (Romance Writers of America) or American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW).

4. From Coeur de Louisiane you received two awards; "Diamond in the Rough," (1999) and "Ruby" (2000). What is the significance of these awards for your career? Please share that moment of achievement with our readers.

Writing is a profession where too few are really recognized for their talent and winning an award of any type is always good for a writer. An award or some other form of recognition validates your dream.

5. You also received from RWA, the "RWA Pro Pin" (2001). What is RWA? Explain the importance of this Pro Pin. How this award changed your life?

RWA (Romance Writers of America) is one of –if not the- largest writing organization in America for romance writers with chapters and sister organizations all over the world. Although the award did not really change my life, it too, validated my dream. In order to get the pro pin from RWA (at the time I was a member) you had to prove that you'd not only completed a novel but submitted it. I sent in copies of my query and rejection letters for my novel *Circles of Fate* (still un-contracted) in order to receive my pin. Although I received other awards before and since (though not from RWA since I am no longer a member), earning this award early in my career helped validate my dream because it showed that I was actively pursuing the publication of my writing. Finishing a novel is a great

accomplishment, getting over your fears to submit it even greater. This pin awards authors for these milestones in their career.

6. You write both fiction and non-fiction books. Which of these genre is your author's home based and why?

My passion is romance so this would be my home base. The reason is simply this...I love, *LOVE!* All those gooey emotions, the limitless dreams, unlimited possibilities, and visions of happy-ever-after are what make this world go around. If more people would remember how it feels to be in love, love would abound and love would solve every problem in the world. After all, *Love is patient and kind, it is not jealous or boastful, arrogant or rude, love does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful nor does it rejoice at wrong but rejoices in right; Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things. Love never ends!* (1 Cor. 13)

7. Do you consider your inspirational stories a venue to encourage readers to develop a personal relationship with Jesus? If yes, how do you incorporate that desire of your soul into the story line without sounding preachy?

Yes, my prayer is that everyone who reads my stories will be encouraged to seek or develop a personal relationship with Christ. I try not to sound preachy but to show through the characters actions that Jesus is real, that it is possible to walk with Him and that only He can restore, heal and complete a life. I'm sure you've heard the old adage *actions speak louder than words*. That's especially true for Christianity. It is easy to spout bible scriptures, but to actually live the life of a Christian is always circumspect. I try to portray my characters in a realistic way...they doubt, they get angry with God, they curse or swear, they get carried away sensually, but in the end, -and herein lies the key- they choose to do what is right according to biblical principles. Jesus is very real to me. I talk with Him, I hear the voice of His spirit guiding me and giving me direction. I try to show through the character's actions and choices, that He is as real to them.

8. You have published three books in the "Tempered" series and are currently working on the fourth one? What inspired this sequel? Is the title of the series, "tempered" based on the personality of the two main characters, Craig Harris and Tamera Collins? Please share with our readers a small summary of each book.

I must admit that the personality of the characters in *Tempered Hearts* had something to do with the title of the series. However it was more the comment made by Craig's grandfather that sealed the fate of these books: *Only when hearts are tempered, minds are opened and wills are softened can man discern the will of God for his life*. No matter what the subject or situation of any subsequent book in the series, this one statement remains true.

Tempered Hearts: Jaded from his past experiences, rancher Craig Harris has sworn off women. Veterinarian Tamera Collins is grieving the loss of her parents and her fiancé's betrayal. Can these two strong-willed people open their heart and mind to the will of God for their life?

Tempered Dreams: Katrina Simmons has spent most of her life in abusive situations. The minute he lays eyes on her, Dr. Scott Hensley (introduced in *Tempered Hearts*) knows the little spitfire is what his heart has searched for. Only problem is, she's married to an abusive alcoholic. Can the gentle doctor save her life and win her heart in the process?

Based on Proverbs 22:6, *Tempered Fire* revolves around Craig and Tamera's daughter, Amber, and Stanley Morrison. Conflict occurs when daddy's little girl grows up and finds love of her own. Craig is faced with the hardest lesson a devoted father has to learn: ***To let go and let God make of His children what He will.*** They are after-all, only a gift, entrusted to Craig for as long as God allows. Through love and laughter, triumph and tragedy, Amber and Stanley must learn the absolute meaning of trust and forgiveness if their marriage is to last as long and be as strong as her parents'

9. Where can our readers purchase the "Tempered" books?

The Tempered books are available in [Ebook](#) and Print and can be purchased through your favorite bookstore or online at amazon.com.

10. "The Inheritance" takes on a difference theme and scheme than the "tempered" series. Can an inheritance bring meaning to a 39 yrs. old widow and empty nest woman? What is the background story of this book?

When I heard about Harlequin's NEXT line and the fact that they wanted heroines over forty or in the next stage of their life, this thought came to mind; *they say life begins at forty but for Rebecca Sinclair, that's far from the truth.* Of course numerous questions followed and I just had to find out what was going on in Rebecca's life to make her feel that way. ☺

The Inheritance: Raised by high-powered, self-centered executives, Ray Jacoby is insecure when it comes to expressing the love he's harbored for the little widow on his mail route for over a year. Lonely and confused, Rebecca Sinclair has no idea what to do with her life. Can two basically shy people open their hearts to love and the possibility of a future together? Find out in: *The Inheritance* By Pamela S Thibodeaux

The book is available in paperback and ebook and can be purchased through your favorite bookstore, amazon.com, or [online](#).

11. Do you prefer ebooks or paperback? Share with us your perspective of advantages and disadvantages of each of these markets?

Personally I prefer paperback. Although I have bought ebooks on occasion, for me, nothing beats curling up in bed or in a hot bath with my favorite book. However, I do believe ebooks are the wave of the future. Many young people will buy an ebook before they buy a print book. One of the advantages of ebook over print is that the royalty is usually higher on the sale of an ebook compared to the sale of a print book. Also, having my books available in both venues allows me to reach more readers. The only disadvantage I see of being solely E-published is that you miss out on a lot of readers who, for whatever reason, do not purchase ebooks. Regardless of the advantages and disadvantages of either, we all have to start somewhere. For many (myself included), e-publishing is the way to get your work out there

and start creating a name for yourself. This is also true for those of us who write “outside the box,” whose books won’t fit in a specific spot on the shelf. Another advantage is that an ebook as well as a POD (print on demand) book will remain available for purchase long after many traditionally published books. Also, some ebook publishers, like The Wild Rose Press, will publish short stories in ebook form, complete with covers! You won’t find this option for many print books, unless you get picked for a specific anthology. This too, gives an author opportunities and exposure they may not otherwise have.

12. Do you consider blogging an essential marketing tool for writers? Tell us about your blog, <http://pamswildroseblog.blogspot.com>

Along with numerous other things, blogging is another tool in which authors can use to promote their books. This blog was initially set up so that I could participate in blogs for The Wild Rose Press, hence the name. However, it quickly became my first blog of choice. I have numerous blogs at various sites (myspace, shoutlife, etc) but time constraints prevent me from blogging at all of them on a regular basis, so I use this one as a way to stay in contact with my readers on a consistent basis.

13. Are you working on new projects?

Always. ☺ Currently I am awaiting release of *Tempered Joy*, the 4th book in my *Tempered* series and I have just completed the second round of edits for *The Visionary*, a single title, women’s fiction novel which is contracted through [Enspiren Press](http://www.enspirepress.com) and will be released this year. I also have three short stories which are available as short ebooks through The Wild Rose Press. I have another WF novel and a gift book idea which are uncontracted. I have several other ideas which are in various stages of development. Below are the blurbs for *The Visionary* as well as my current short stories:

Tempered Joy: The first meeting between Ace Harris (Craig and Tamera's son -Tempered Hearts) and Lexie Morgan (Scott & Trina's adopted daughter - Tempered Dreams) is disastrous to say the least. He is a champion cowboy and award-winning bull rider. She thinks rodeo cowboys have rocks for brains and a death wish for a soul. However when they meet up again 2+ yrs later, both have suffered the loss of loved ones and are afraid of love. But only love can truly heal a grieving heart. Can one sizzling summer open their heart to the love of a lifetime? Find out in *Tempered Joy* - coming 2008 from Com Star Media! (<http://www.comstar-media.com>)

The Visionary: Twins Taylor and Trevor Forrestier (pronounced foresjay) seem to have it all...good friends, loyal employees, and a successful business but the two share a deep, dark, secret. They share a childhood wrought with lies and deceit and the kind of abuse that is disgustingly prevalent in today's society. Can the love of God and the power of forgiveness heal these wounded souls? Find out in *The Visionary* - coming 2008 from Enspiren Press! (<http://www.enspirepress.com>)

Cathy's Angel

© 2007 The Wild Rose Press

Single mom Cathy Johnson is tired of running her life alone...what she needs is a well-trained angel to help out. Jared Savoy gave up the dream of having a family when he discovered he is sterile. Can a confirmed bachelor and the mother of four find love amid normal daily chaos? Find out in [*Cathy's Angel*](#) by Pamela S Thibodeaux

Choices

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Best-selling novelist and songwriter, Camie Rogers has penned numerous accounts of the secret love she holds in her heart. Country-Music Superstar Kip Allen has changed from the shy, humble boy, to the epitome of "star." Can the two rediscover each other after one night of his Home is where the Heart is Tour? Find out in [*Choices*](#) by Pamela S Thibodeaux

A Hero for Jessica

Anthony Paul Seville is known as the 'most eligible bachelor' in New Orleans, possibly even the entire state of Louisiana, but finds himself alone—completely and explicitly alone. Jessica Aucoin is a writer on her way to fame and fortune, but is haunted by a man from her past. Will the "champion" lawyer and the author of romantic suspense find love written in their future? Find out in... [*A Hero for Jessica*](#) by Pamela S Thibodeaux.

http://www.thewildrosepress.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=764

14. How can our readers contact you?

Readers can contact me through my website <http://www.pamelathibodeaux.com>, email me @ pthib-7@centurytel.net, pthib07@yahoo.com or pthib07@hotmail.com and I can be found these places on the *Net* :

Good Reads: <http://www.goodreads.com/profile/PamelaSThibodeaux>

Shout Life: <http://www.shoutlife.com/pamelasthibodeaux>

Bebo: <http://www.bebo.com/PamelaST3>

Book Marketing Network: <http://bookmarket.ning.com/profile/PamelaSThibodeaux>

Connect to Romance Books: <http://writersatplay.ning.com/profile/PamelaSThibodeaux>

My Space <http://www.myspace.com/pamelasthibodeaux>

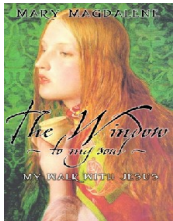
15. A word of advice for new authors.

Whatever you write, write well. Strive for excellence. Stay teachable, pliable, and flexible. Never believe that you know it all because knowledge is power and the more you know the more valuable you become. Above all share what you learn with others and make someone's load lighter to bear.

Thank You, Tannia for having me here this month and for such intriguing and informative questions!

Pamela S. Thibodeaux

"Inspirational with an Edge!"



Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés, author of *The Window To My Soul; My Walk With Jesus* (ISBN 0975393359; 2004 Tate Publishing; www.tatepublishing.com). Author's websites: <http://www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopes> and <http://timewithtannia.tripod.com>. The author also has a blog at www.amazon.com

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Reader's Comments:

Date Received: July 2 2008

Name: JOYE

Email: JWIsley@aol.com

Comment: Enjoyed reading the comments. I am always looking for new authors to read.

Date Received: July 12, 2004

Name: Jessica Ferguson

Email: jessy31writer@aol.com

Comment: Good interview, Pam! We never know just how hard it is to write those sappy little romances until we give it a try. LOL That very thought--I can do better--draws alot of wannabes into the business. We ALL have that same thought. :)

Date Received: July 12, 2008
Name: flchen1
Email: f.chen@comcast.net

Comment: Hi, Pamela and Tannia, thanks so much for this interview--I really enjoyed it! I didn't know much about Pam's writing before, and am very glad to learn more!

Date Received: July 12, 2008
Name: Amelia
Email: sunflower95_daisy@yahoo.com

Comment: Great interview! I enjoyed reading it. I haven't read your books yet, but they sound great.

Date Received: July 12, 2008
Name: melanie gordon
Email: arafel1962@yahoo.com

Comment: WOW These books sound great. Being a christian myself.I had given up on finding christian contempary romance now I have found you.

Date Received: July 12, 2008
Name: Donna Shepherd
Email:donna.shepherd@gmail.com

Comment: I enjoyed learning more about Pam. A very inspiring road to publication! Thanks.

Date Received: July 14, 2008
Name: Winona Cross
Email: wbc1969@bellsouth.net

Comment: Pam is a good friend of mine. I enjoyed her interview very much. I've read and own all of the "Tempered" books and "The Inheritance." Lovely books. Looking forward to "Joy." Pam is quite the talented author. I wish her nothing less than the best.

Nona

Date Received: July 13, 2008
Name: S. Leone
Email: snowdance1@gmail.com

Comment: Great interview! :)

Date Received: July 18, 2008
Name: Crystal Renfro
Email: crystalgt@gmail.com

Comment: I really enjoyed reading your interview. The Tempered series looks awesome and the first two books in particular are going onto my "wish" list right away. Books about Vets and individuals in recovery are some of my favorite themes.

Crystal

Date Received: July 23 , 2008
Name: Elaine Cantrell
Email: elainecsc@aol.com

Comment: Thanks for a great article. The Tempered series looks good, and I love the comment made by Craig's grandfather.

Elaine Cantrell

Date Received: August 5, 2008
Name: Ruth Ann Nordin
Email: ruth@ruthannnordin.com

Comment: Dear Pamela,

I stumbled upon your book, The Inheritance, and was thrilled that you write the kind of inspirational romance I've been searching for. I've been writing Christian romances with a good dose of sensuality but have been searching for someone else who does the same. It's refreshing and exciting to know you are out there. Keep up the good work!