

Q. Comedy or drama? Your books seem to span both tones. Do you have commitment issues?

A. It's true, my books fall into the category "dramedy," a word I'm hearing more and more. Dramedy was first coined back in the 70s with TV show "One Day at a Time" followed by "M*A*S*H." These were half-hour sit-coms that dealt with hard hitting, real life issues, not unlike my own stories (which, like my heroes, last considerably longer than half-an-hour).

More recently, I point to Josh Whedon's body of work as my inspiration. There's death and destruction, sure, but in a fun, uplifting kind of way. One of my fave Buffy moments is when she takes out "The Judge" in a food court using a rocket launcher. I love the juxtaposition of the supernatural with the mundane. I try to use that in my books. I give examples but... *Spoiler*.

Q. You're known for some wacky ideas, Storm. Where do you come up with them?

A. I tend to get ideas in the shower or walking the dogs. Scientists say that has something to do with your X lobe being engaged in a simple task leaving your Y lobe to... oh, look. Squirrel! I don't recall the physiological details, but it works.

I purchased an Aquapad, which is a small waterproof notepad that sticks to your shower wall with suction cups. It comes with a special pencil. I use those to write down all my brilliant thoughts before they wash down the drain. Sometimes it's: "Peter Pan would make a great secret agent!" and sometimes it's: "Don't forget the dog food."

In the dog park, I dictate my ideas using my iPhone's speech-to-text feature. Recently, I returned home to discover I'd recorded, "...and then the sister of the villain should get the—*Here, Stormy. Good dog. C'mere. That's a good boy. Treat! Treat!*—magic hairbrush and take it to..." Oh, sure. *That*, autocorrect gets right.

Q. What about m/m fiction attracted you to write it?

A. Like many others, I first came across m/m fiction while reading fanfic. The fandom was Highlander, as I recall. Yes, Dundan/Methos—Baby’s first pairing.

I loved the m/m relationship dynamic and still do. In many (not all, of course) male/female romance novels, the author must work hard to find reasons to keep the couple apart. Some of those internal conflicts are tenuous at best.

But to me it seems the areas for conflict between two men are greater. They resonate as more real. I’ve written denial (GYM DANDY), working together and not wanting to get distracted (LOST BOYS 2.0), wrongful arrest (ASSUME THE POSITION) and being two different species (SHIFT HAPPENS)! I did a lot of research around jaguars for that last one. Ask me about a jaguar’s penis. I know this one! (FYI, there is no inter-species sex in the book.)

My latest book, RE-INVENTING LOVE, is set in 1910, when homosexuality was considered a crime. Being caught could result in imprisonment, or, in the case of our hero Maximilian Grün, he would be deported back to Germany, where the land of his birth would quickly become the land of his death!

Q. Tell us about yourself.

A. I was born very young... and I’ve been writing ever since.

Not true. (Why do author bios often say they’ve been writing since they were kids? No other profession does this. If my gynecologist said he’d been... but I digress.)

Truth is, I’ve been writing since we accessed the internet via stone tablets—about 1999—beginning with fanfiction for a TV show called *The Sentinel*. Anybody remember that show? At first my stories were pretty awful, but like the John Cleese character in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, “I got better.” In 2009, my first full-length novel, a gay romance titled GYM DANDY, was published. But not before being contracted and uncontracted and contracted again... It was ever thus in publishing, eh? (It’s available again at all your fave online booksellers.)

Now I write fun male/male romance and adventure as Storm Grant and wacky urban fantasy

under my (mostly) real name, Gina X. Grant. There may be a Grant triplet in the offing. I just submitted a contemporary YA “issue” book to my agent.

My hobbies? I read, I write, I walk the dogs.

Q. Give us the 140-character story pitch for your latest book, RE-INVENTING LOVE

A. When a ghastly lab accident blows a respected inventor away, his loyal assistant must devise a way to bridge the gap between the planes of existence to reunite them in life and in love.

Q. Where did the idea for RE-INVENTING LOVE come from?

A. I fell in love with the Canadian TV show, Murdoch Mysteries and became inspired to write a Steampunk story about young inventors in love.

Q. How is RE-INVENTING LOVE a story only you could’ve written?

A. My mother was raised, in part, by her grandmother, so I had only to channel the kind of words and expressions my mom used to capture the tone and feel of 1910 Toronto.

Q. What was the hardest thing about writing RE-INVENTING LOVE?

A. The sex. No, not hard like that. Well, yes. That, too, but really I wanted to bring the guys together early on. But Max insisted on being the mature, self-sacrificing hero and holding their love at bay to keep them out of trouble with the law. But they do get in some angsty stop-n-start sex, and at the end of the book there’s a big climax. Well, yes. That, too.

Q. What Did You Learn Writing RE-INVENTING LOVE?

A. I focused more on character. I tend to be all about the clever plot twists and fancy word play. But this time, Max and Jasper (and sister Octavia) came alive for me. And they did things that surprised the hell outta me.

Q. What Do You Love About RE-INVENTING LOVE?

A. The characters, the plot, and the humor. I had a blast researching and then twisting my findings. Bless Wikipedia and all other information sources on the Internet. I can't imagine how people wrote historicals before the Internet. They must have—gasp! —gone to the library and Looked Things Up!

Q. What would you do differently next time?

A. I would try to be more patient. I shopped it around before it was quite ready. Indeed, I did a complete re-write after MLR contracted it.

Q. Give us your favorite line or short passage from RE-INVENTING LOVE:

A. *Here's the X-rated one:*

“Trust me, Max.” Jasper grinned and nipped Max’s chin playfully. “I shall be the soul of discretion.”

Trust Jasper? Without hesitation. Max might have said so, but he found his mouth once again occupied with other, much more pleasurable activities than speaking.

And the family oriented one:

Max had no idea if his employer was inclined toward men. Sometimes Max suspected so, given the way their gazes met and locked on each other, the way Jasper touched Max when he wanted his attention, the way there had never been any mention of a woman in Jasper’s life. Max sighed. Was it diligent observation or merely wishful thinking? He could conduct an experiment to find out, but knew he would enter into it with unscientific bias.

Q. Why do you think so many women love to read m/m?

A. A change is as good as a rest? This is an ongoing discussion and I think the answer is as varied as the women who read it. A different power dynamic, more realistic reasons for conflict between the couple, a chance to put the *fruit* in *forbidden fruit*... One friend used to say “two penises are better than one.” Hmmm.