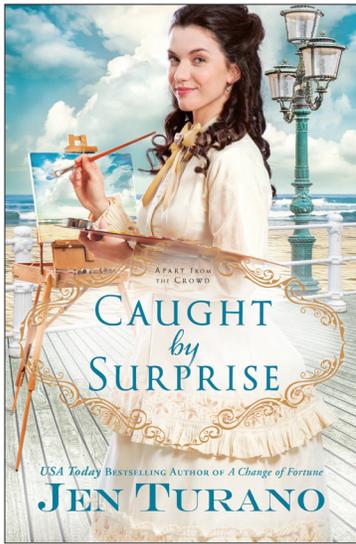




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH JEN TURANO



Caught by Surprise

APART FROM THE CROWD
by Jen Turano

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1. Temperance Flowerdew, your heroine in *Caught by Surprise*, is an unusual name. How did you come up with that?

While I'd love to take credit for the name, I got it from a friend of mine who was doing research on her ancestors. She told me she'd found someone named Temperance Flowerdew, and the moment I heard the name, well, I just knew I'd have to use it at some point—with my friend's permission, of course. Then, this same friend mentioned she'd also found a Mercy Miner. That's just a great name, and as I was wondering how to use it, a character sprang to mind, and Mercy Miner took on a life of her own.

2. After Temperance is abducted from New York, she ends up in Chicago. Any specific reason why you sent her there?

When I was doing research for another book, I ran across Bertha Palmer of Chicago. She married an older gentleman, Potter Palmer (she was twenty-one, he was forty-four), and he, for a wedding present, built her the Palmer House Hotel. Thirteen days later, it burned to the ground. The fact that Potter took out a large loan to rebuild the hotel for Bertha intrigued me. So, just for fun, I read a few books about historic Chicago, then thought that would be the perfect place to send Temperance after she gets snatched from the streets and takes a bit of a wild ride to Chicago.

3. Temperance Flowerdew and Gilbert Cavendish were childhood friends. What made you write a *friends-to-something-more* romance?

I've rarely done friends-to-something-more romances, except for the two novellas I've written (*Gentleman of Her Dreams* and *At Your Request*). But I like the trope, and when Temperance decided she didn't want to be the timid character I wrote her in the first book, I needed a reason for her to come out of her shell. Having her best friend from childhood show up on the scene allowed her to remember who she used to be before she'd experienced a great loss, and then it was fun to write their relationship changing because it was an experience that truly caught them by surprise.

4. Was there something that caught you by surprise as you were writing this story?

There were a few plot twists at the end that I completely did not see coming.

5. Do you have a favorite scene in the book?

I have several, but the scene with Temperance, Mercy, and Eugene on the train at the beginning of the book was a riot to write. I also like the paint scene because it's a bit out there.

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