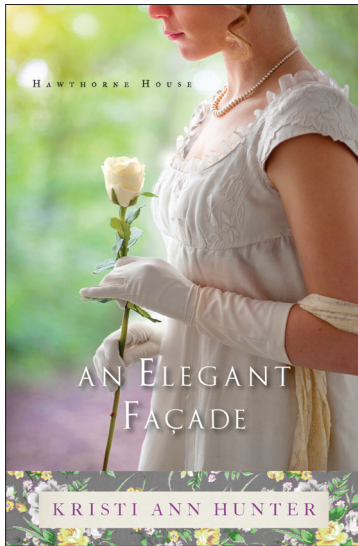




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH KRISTI ANN HUNTER



An Elegant Façade

HAWTHORNE HOUSE
by Kristi Ann Hunter
Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-1825-5
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1. What were some of the things you found most interesting to research for this novel?

Colin McCrae, the hero of this book, is the Regency equivalent of a venture capitalist. He's immersed in investments and looking for the next successful business venture. I had a lot of fun looking into the business side of things, such as what investments were doing well for people, how the stock exchange worked at the time, what the business-minded men were reading. The most fun, though, was learning about the new inventions of the period, such as steel pens, arc lamps, and even the first stages of building a tunnel below the Thames River.

2. How does *An Elegant Façade* fit in with the rest of the Hawthorne House series?

An Elegant Façade actually starts before the end of the previous book, *A Noble Masquerade*. This means some of the action and scenes will be familiar to readers of the other novel, though the scenes will be seen from a different perspective. That is, I think, one of the really interesting aspects of this book. As the title suggests, not everyone in this book is as they seem and seeing things happen from someone else's viewpoint often gives you a different take on their personality and motivations.

3. Georgina almost plays the role of villain in the two previous series stories—book 1, *A Noble Masquerade* and the ebook-only prequel novella, *A Lady of Esteem*. What makes her the heroine of this one?

No, Georgina is not the most likable of ladies in the first two stories, and a lot of people have asked me if that made it difficult to write a book for her. The fact is, it was almost a relief to write Georgina's book, because Georgina has a secret and I have known all along what it was, which made it hard to keep any sympathy out of the first two novels. I love that this book lets readers finally see her for who she really is and learn that there is so much more to her than being a bratty, selfish younger sister.

4. What inspired the spiritual elements of this book?

The spiritual elements of this book were actually some of the first things I decided on. Even before the rest of the series had been written, I knew that this book would utilize truth from the book of Ecclesiastes, which is often a difficult book to understand. I believe fiction is a great tool for making the essence of difficult truths more accessible. Georgina and Colin were designed to show the opposite sides of a spectrum, both of which can be contrasted to the lessons in Ecclesiastes.

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