

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH ROSEANNA M. WHITE

A Name Unknown

 SHADOWS OVER ENGLAND
 by Roseanna M. White

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1. What drew you to choose the time period of this novel? What about it interests you?

I'd gotten to know the Edwardian era while writing my previous series and fell in love with the time period. The world was really in a unique place, where the old traditions were still lingering, but new technology was quickly gaining a place. We have both automobiles and horse-drawn carriages, electricity in some places but not all, and still a startling gap in England between the upper class and the average person. I love exploring this meeting of old and new, in those years when the world was on the cusp of a revolution of ideas as well. Sensibilities were changing, and the world was beginning to be what we'd term "modern," but there was still that charming something of an era gone by.

2. What's an interesting fact you came across and included in the novel?

Quite a few interesting facts actually inspired the novel! The first was that King George V changed his name during World War I from the German Saxe-Coburg to the English-sounding Windsor. It made me wonder if other people of German heritage may have done the same. That combined in my head with what I'd learned about how England employed artists and writers and musicians during the war to include propaganda messages in their artwork, and suddenly I had my hero: a novelist of German descent writing under a pen name.

3. What made you want to write an inspirational series about a family of thieves?

I love writing redemption stories—and I also love showing unexpected nobility in my characters. I put those two loves together when I formed my family of fictional thieves. Though they steal in order to survive, these characters have banded together and forged a true family, full of sacrificial love. In many ways, these orphans and outcasts have a better grasp on love and giving than the normal families they encounter. But they are so desperately in need of redemption, salvation, and learning of the Lord's love, that it was a moving experience to write them as they realize that God was guiding them all along and had something better in store for them.

4. What's your favorite element of *A Name Unknown*?

The BOOKS! I loved featuring books and writing in this story, and like to think that the library at my hero's home, Kensey Manor, is a character unto itself. Through the course of the story, this room goes from something chaotic and intimidating to a well-ordered haven ready to share its secrets. And it certainly has some!

5. The hero in *A Name Unknown* is a novelist. Is his writing process like yours?

In some ways, it definitely is. Though Peter writes a different genre than I do (adventure novels), much of his brainstorming process reflects my own. And I *may* have borrowed my own tendency to get caught up in the story to the exclusion of all else when I described people having to knock on his door for five minutes to actually get an answer from him. . . . It was so much fun to write about a writer, and in doing so, share a bit about myself with my readers.