



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH JEN TURANO

1. *Storing Up Trouble* is the third and final book in your AMERICAN HEIRESSSES series. What sets Miss Beatrix Waterbury apart from the other two heiresses in the previous books?

I knew when I came up with the idea for the series that I was going to have to write three distinctive heroines to keep each story fresh. Miss Isadora Delafield in *Flights of Fancy* is your typical heiress—a true member of the New York Four Hundred who goes to extreme measures to avoid marriage to a dastardly duke. Miss Poppy Garrison in *Diamond in the Rough*, on the other hand, is an unexpected grand heiress—new to the ways of New York society and prone to mishaps as she tries to navigate her way through all the rules and expectations that come with entrance to the elite. That left the third story, and I decided it would be interesting to have an heiress who was a member of the elite but was thought by everyone in society to be eccentric. Miss Beatrix Waterbury proved to be the perfect heroine for that. She’s not keen to follow rules, and instead of spending most of her time participating in all the frivolities of a New York Season, she’s thrown herself into helping the suffrage movement. But because she is from one of the wealthiest families in the nation, she can’t relate to the difficulties working women experience on a daily basis, which is why I decided that to really set Beatrix apart from the other two heiresses she needed to take on a job at a department store. The story just fell into place from there.

2. Did you encounter any unusual obstacles when writing *Storing Up Trouble*?

It seems that with every book, I encounter an obstacle or two. But with this book—wow, the obstacles were ones I certainly wasn’t expecting. My husband had two major surgeries while I was writing this book, so instead of having the luxury of pounding out a first draft from the comfort and quiet of my home office, I wrote a good many chapters in waiting rooms and then in my husband’s hospital room when he was napping. It is not an experience I want to go through again, which is why our big goal for this year is to keep Al out of the hospital. So far, so good, although this pandemic is throwing a wrench into our odds of keeping everyone in the household healthy.

3. Any interesting tidbits you want to add about this story?

Since I was inspired to write Mr. Norman Nesbit after reading books on Nicola Tesla and Thomas Edison, I’m now completely certain that I was never meant to be an engineer or inventor. I had to reach out to my son, who is an engineer, to have him try to explain to me a bit about how double electrical currents work. I came away from that conversation more confused than when I started, but because I’m fairly certain I almost fell asleep as my son was going on and on about currents, I thought it would be hilarious to use that for one of Norman’s quirks. That’s why he often launches into dissertations about his work, completely oblivious to the idea that his audience doesn’t know what he’s talking about, nor do they want him to expand on his theories to help them understand because that might very well have him going on and on for another hour or so.

4. Did you end up writing any secondary characters you weren’t intending on including in the story?

Miss Theodosia Robinson springs to mind. I wanted Norman to have a sidekick, but he’s so socially challenged that when I tried to give him a male sidekick, it fell short. Theodosia just popped into mind one day while I was hiking, and before I knew it, she’d made her way onto the page. She was the perfect friend for Norman because she’s also socially challenged, as well as having no idea how to use her incredible intellect in a scientific world that’s ruled by men.



Storing Up Trouble

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by Jen Turano

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