

Interview with Editor **Melissa Endlich**

by Dianna Love Snell, 2007

Bio:

Born and bred in New York, Melissa Endlich has worked in the publishing industry for fifteen years, the past eight at Harlequin/Silhouette. Since 2005 she's been an Editor for Steeple Hill Books, working mainly on contemporary inspirational romances. Currently she is overseeing the launch of Love Inspired Historical, a brand new line of inspirational historical romances, launching in February 2008. After so many years in the publishing world, Melissa still considers herself very blessed that she is paid to read books that she would gladly read for free, and considers it a mission to help spread love and faith through inspirational romance fiction.

Publisher name and location:

Steeple Hill, New York City

How long have you been an editor and what was your path to being an editor?

I've been in the publishing industry for fifteen years, but I've been in love with reading since I was old enough to hold a book on my own. ☺ I studied English literature and journalism in college, and worked for Reader's Digest for several years on general non-fiction books. I've been with Harlequin for over eight years, and have worked on contemporary, historical and inspirational romance fiction. I'm thrilled to be heading up Love Inspired Historical, the brand new line of inspirational historical romances, launching in February 2008.

Sub-genres you are acquiring and if there are any specifics about those genres you'd like the writers to know.

I'm currently acquiring inspirational romance for all the Steeple Hill programs (Steeple Hill single title, Love Inspired, Love Inspired Suspense and Love Inspired Historical), but focusing mainly on the LI Historical line.

I'm looking for inspirational historical romances 70-75,000 words long, rich in historical details and set in various countries and time periods, including Americana (e.g., Westerns, post-Civil War, etc.), European historical eras (e.g., Regency, Tudor, and Victorian England, Scotland, etc.), 20th century (turn of the century through World War II) and biblical fiction. I'm also interested in stories featuring missionaries abroad in exotic locations during various historical periods.

As with the other Steeple Hill lines, Love Inspired Historical features wholesome language, and will not contain explicit sensuality or graphic violence. These novels reflect our readers' commitment to faith and high moral values.

How do you prefer submissions based on a conference appointment request?

At conferences, I prefer meeting with authors who have complete manuscripts ready to be read by an editor. If I request a project from an author appointment, the author should send the manuscript to me within a few months' time, and should mention in the cover letter that we spoke at the conference.

What is a pet peeve to do with submissions and/or working with writers?

Make sure that when you submit your complete manuscript, it's accompanied by a synopsis. I can't count the number of times I've received manuscripts without synopses. It drives me crazy! Don't make an editor have to come asking for the synopsis. I know that writing a synopsis is a task every author dreads: how do I condense my beloved book into 8 to 10 pages? But if an editor loves your writing, and wants to buy your book, the synopsis is something she needs to help make the case that your project is something special that should be published.

© breakintofiction.com
2007

All rights reserved **First Published in GRW Galley in**

www.breakintofiction.com

~*~