

I'm honored to host Sheri Gilmore in the XXXGuest Cottage. Won't you join me in welcoming her?

She's here with a tasty excerpt of one of my favorite books, "One Thing Leads to Another," and the inside scoop on her latest releases.

Welcome to the guest cottage Sheri, please, make yourself at home.

I've stocked the pantry with your favorites: Coffee, Chocolate, and Cheesecake. (I snuck at peek at your fabulous website, www.sherisecrets.com.) How do you like the décor?



Hmm, very decadent, Jade – love it!

Do you mind telling us where you hale from?

I was born in Mississippi and for the most part grew up here with a few stints in Louisiana around Baton Rouge and in Tennessee around Nashville. I also got to travel a bit due to my relatives living all over the United States: San Francisco, Brooklyn, Illinois, Georgia, etc. .

At present I live on the Mississippi Gulf Coast where I have been for fourteen years with my husband and children.

Any news or new releases you'd like to share?

This month (July) I have my first release coming out with Red Sage Publishing, called 'Bunko' in their *Secrets Vol. 16, FORBIDDEN DESIRES*.

I heard you were going to be doing a book signing. soon. When and where?

August 19th at 2:00 p.m. in Jackson, Mississippi
At Border's Bookstore in Dogwood Plaza
On Lakeland Drive

Why did you begin writing?

I don't think I had a choice. That was what I was born to do.

When did you first consider yourself a *writer*?

Probably when I won my first writing award in the second grade for a really short essay that I wrote on World peace!

Was there a particular person or event that inspired your first book?

Well, if you're talking about my VERY first book when I was 8-years old, it would have to have been *Star Trek*. I was (and still am) a huge fan.



If you are talking about romance, I started writing them in high school because I didn't like the way the ones I was reading ended, so I would re-write them to suit how I thought the stories should go – just for me.

My first story that sold – 'Pure Sin' in Naughty Stories from A to Z, Volume 4 was inspired by a dream I had.

Who or what are your influences?

People I meet or events I see on television or read about in the paper. Also, I would say life in general and subjects that I am studying usually trigger a need to create a story so I can understand the concepts that I am investigating.

Do you believe your environment figures into your writing?

Yes. I think that is true for all authors. You write what you know. I know the South, so the people and places in this region are evident in a lot of my stories.

If so, I have to ask... Will we be seeing a hurricane story in the future?

As a matter of fact... my next installment in the Loose Id trilogy, **THE PREACHER'S DAUGHTERS** will be set in the time period right after Hurricane Katrina. I am finding it rather difficult to write.

Do you have a specific writing style?

Publishers have told me they 'like' my style, but I'm not sure if I can define it for you. I write 'gritty'. I prefer to write my characters as realistic as possible to how I see real people acting and reacting in life.

What genre are you most comfortable with?

Erotic-Paranormal with lots of horror mixed in.

How do you come up with the titles for your books?

I usually find some phrase or theme in the book that stands out to me. 'One Thing Leads to Another' came from the 80s song with the same title. I used the lyrics as the theme for each progressing chapter of the book.



I know you're outspoken about domestic violence.

Yes. As a registered nurse, I have seen many atrocious things that people do against themselves and others.

It is a situation that is intolerable. No one has the right to control another person using the threat of physical or mental violence. There is a way out though, but it takes a lot of willpower and determination to do what needs to be done.

Persons in those situations need to know there are people and places that will help them escape a violent environment, but THEY are the ones, who have to make the decision to change their own lives.

You can't help someone, who doesn't want to be helped.

I really connected with the character, Rose, in "One Thing Leads to Another." I loved her growth, throughout the story. Did you have an underlying message in mind when you wrote that book?

Yes, I did. Two in fact. First, I want people to understand that we are all human. We all deserve love, friendship, and whatever happiness we can find on this plane of existence no matter who we are – teacher, preacher, hooker, stripper, auto-mechanic...

We all need love.

Second, women are not at the mercy of the men in their lives. It's their life. It's up to them to determine what they are going to do with it and go after what makes them happy, whether it's flying an airplane, writing an erotic-romance book, allowing them to explore the kinkier side of their passions, or to fall in love with a fantastic man, who just so happens to run a whorehouse! It doesn't matter if anyone else thinks it's wrong. Only you can make you happy.

How about your other books?

Well, I've been accused of having the knack of 'agitating the hornet's nest' with the controversial themes and concepts of my stories. I want to bring ideas and issues that people tend to push under the rug and keep out of sight, because it might be a little too unpleasant to view or contemplate out in the open.

Life is life – it *ain't* pretty, folks. If my stories make someone explore an issue they've been avoiding, or maybe encourage them do something to learn more about an uncomfortable idea, or better yet to change something in their life for the betterment of themselves, then I've done what I set out to do.

Are experiences based on someone you know, or events in your own life?

I would say both. I try to keep a low profile, but my life has been fairly interesting and filled with some very outrageous characters. Ones that I am proud to call friends and some I don't hesitate to call enemies. These people always find a way into my work, as well as my own experiences with life.

What books have most influenced your life most?

Goodness, there are so many! I could read when I was four and I read books in the third grade that were on a high school level, so there have been quite a few, but the ones that stand out the most and burned a lasting impression into my psyche are Dante's *Divine Comedy* and John Coughlin's *Out of the Shadows: An Exploration of Dark Paganism and Magick*.

The first forced me to consider a different side to the 'good vs evil' debate. The second changed my view of the world forever.

If you had to choose, which writer would you consider a mentor?

From the above – I have always considered John Coughlin as my first teacher/mentor in the world of the occult. From the world of erotic-romance, Robin Schone was a great influence on my writing style. I love her work.

What book are you reading now?

I usually read around 4-5 books at a time. I'm slacking at present. Right now, I am working on two: Secrets, Vol. 16 FORBIDDEN DESIRES (because I haven't read my co-authors' stories), and The Gift of Fear and other Survival Signals that Protect Us from Violence.

Are there any new authors that have grasped your interest?

There are, but over the last year I haven't been able to enjoy exploring them all. Some of the ones that I have enjoyed are Diane Charles Linford, Silvia Violet, Melanie Atkins, and Jade Rivers.



What are your current projects?

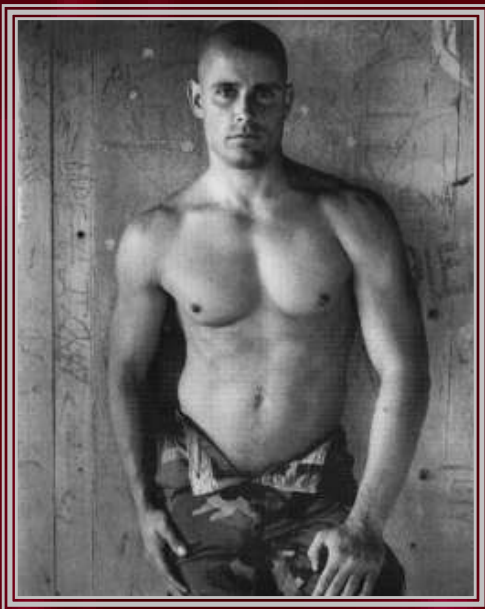
Currently, I am working on the third installment of THE PREACHER'S DAUGHTERS, 'Wild Chaote' and a novella, 'A Woman's Offering' for a Day of the Dead Anthology, both for Loose Id.

Do you see writing as a career?

Yes. It has always been my dream to be a published author. I take my writing very serious.

If you had to do it all over again, would you change anything in your latest book?

Hmm, that would be 'Witching Hours'. No, I wouldn't. I know some people had a problem with it featuring a preacher, but you know, preacher's are people, too, and all the one's I've ever met are not much different than most of us with the same needs and desires.



Can you share a spicy little bite of your current work with us?

I would love to, but it is in such a rough draft stage right now, I don't think I can. I will say that it is what I would term 'erotic-horror' romance. I'm sure it is going to disturb many people, but at the same time fascinate them.

Is there anything you find particularly challenging in your writing?

Commas. 😊

Who is your favorite author and what is it that really strikes you about their work?

Again, Robin Schone, but I particularly like Sherrilyn Kenyon's and Laurell K. Hamilton's work too. Vampires just turn me on – real or fictional – in a very scary, twisted way.

Who designed the covers for your books?

Ooo, I've had some really great cover artists to work with – Scott Carpenter, April Martinez, and Christine Griffin.

Did you learn anything from writing your book?

Always! Research is my favorite part of writing.

Do you have any advice for other writers?

You can't sell the book, if you don't write it. ;)

Do you have anything specific that you want to say to your readers?

Thank you. I am so amazed and truly flattered every time I receive a letter from one of you, telling me you love my work, or that my work inspired you in some way. It doesn't matter if I ever get rich writing (although I won't argue if someone wants to pay me a cool million for a story! LOL.), if I know that I had a positive effect on someone or something. That's why I write.

I'd love to hear from you at sgilmore@sherisecrets.com, or drop me a line to P. O. Box 1541, Pascagoula, MS 39568.

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One Thing Leads to Another – Excerpt

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Rose eased a foot down one step, then hesitated. *Had she taken a wrong turn?* The basement of the old house had a myriad of rooms and corridors, dark and dank. She looked over her shoulder. Electric candles flickered in the wall sconces, and the only sound was a slight creaking the closer she drew to the door in front of her.

"Nathan?" She pushed the door open and stepped inside.

The sound of yawning metal entwined with deep moans to echo throughout the darkened room. Her heart skipped several beats, as she tried to focus on the contraption in the center of the room. Metal poles angled inward to support a huge swing-like device made of a leather harness with metal hooks and chains. A woman, her body held captive by the harness, lay weightless, suspended several feet above the ground.

Rose's heart skipped a beat. *Was she dead?*

Her eyes adjusted to the dim light and focused on where she thought she'd seen a figure in the corner, standing beside a long, narrow table covered with various objects. She squinted, but couldn't make them out.

"Nathan?" she called, again. A slight breeze brushed her bicep, and she turned, but no one was there. Looking back at the woman, Rose could see her hands and feet stretched as far as they would spread. A warm flush eased across Rose's face and neck. She had to swallow to ease the embarrassment, washing over her at the sight of the woman's bared pussy, open and vulnerable.

The gulp turned into a gasp as strong hands wrapped around her upper arms and pulled her against a rock-hard chest. A raspy, hot breath whispered close to her ear and sent chills of anticipation and fear through her abdomen to her clit. Deft fingers traced the contour of her breast.

"Did you wear the rings?" he asked. His voice sounded husky with a slight tone of need that made her body juices flood between her legs.

She nodded, and while he held her with one hand, he worked a gloved hand into the loose robe she wore and tweaked the metal rings she'd attached to her nipples when she'd dressed earlier. She cried out and tried to pull away, but he held her fast.

"Scream for me."

