

Q&A WITH KIRSTEN WEISS

When and why did you begin writing?

I started writing when I was a little kid and continued off and on. My confidence took a knock about fifteen years ago, and I stopped writing. But I picked it up again five years ago and am thrilled I did.

What inspired you to write your first book?

I'd quit my job and was at my wits end. Like one of my characters, I was making the transition from international work to a career in California, and no one seemed to want what I was selling. So I started brainstorming job ideas and came up with "metaphysical detective." (In brainstorming, any wild idea works). Then I started wondering what a metaphysical detective would do, and what sort of person would have that job, and what her name might be... And so my first book, *The Metaphysical Detective*, was born.

Is there a message in your stories that you want readers to grasp?

Each story is different. But generally, I believe life is as enchanting, fun and magical as you want it to be. I try to bring those elements to my writing.

You write in a lot of different genres. Why so many?

The foundation of creativity is taking two or more things and mixing them together, which is why I enjoy blending genres – urban fantasy plus mystery, steampunk plus suspense, cozy mysteries with a hint of magic.

But the element that is consistent through all of my books is enchantment. Even in my cozy mystery novels, where magic is light to non-existent, there's always an element of wonder.

If you could have a dinner party and invite any authors, living or dead, in any genre, who would you invite?

There are six authors who inspire me: Agatha Christie for the mystery, PG Wodehouse for the fun, WB Yeats for the beauty of language, Edgar Allan Poe for the spooky horror, Oscar Wilde for his wit, and Nora Roberts, because that woman rocks at romance and suspense. I couldn't leave any of them off my mythical dinner invitation!

