

Q & A for Shooting Stars Magazine

1. How did you first decide to write a story about vampires? Had you previously been a fan of other vampire novels?

I had been a fan of vampire novels, but didn't expect to write one. I got hooked on the idea of "princess vampire" after mis-hearing a line in a peanut butter commercial. The character and plot developed from there!

2. What songs would be on the soundtrack to La Vida Vampire?

A whole lot of Beach Boys, some Jan and Dean, and, of course, "Wipe Out." (Love the drum solos!)

Specific songs? "Catch a Wave (and You're Sittin' on Top of the World)," "Let's Go Surfin'," "Surfin' Safari," "Surfin' USA," "Surf City." Maybe "Surfer Girl."

3. Your main character is a surfing vampire. How did you come up with this idea? Did you have any other ideas for a quirky vampire hobby before surfing?

I didn't come up with this as much as the character herself presented it. Once I learned she was a part day-walker, I figured Why Not? Cesca also plays bridge, and that's the "hobby" I had in mind for her. We kept it.

4. What has been the highlight of writing so far?

The incredible reviews and being on trade paperback bestseller lists have been huge highs. Hearing from people who love the book (who aren't even family or friends!) has been a huge high. Mostly, though, my highs come from knocking on my character's door and having her come out to play with me.

5. Do you read other vampire novels nowadays or are you worried about getting ideas from them?

I do read other vampire novels. I'm fascinated with what other authors are doing, and I love their characters, so I don't want to stop reading them. Many authors are doing the dark, edgy stories, whereas I'm doing a lighter version. As for getting ideas from other books, that could happen. In fact, it's difficult in the extreme to read any book and not get ideas. Everything writers do, see, hear, etc. sparks ideas, but we put our own twist on them.

6. If you had to cast the main characters for a movie version of your novel, who would you pick?

Oh, gosh, I have no clue!

7. What other paranormal characters would you love to write about?

I'd adore tackling shape-shifter characters, or faeries, or witches. I have ideas floating around, but the authors I've read are doing these paranormal characters (and others!) so very well, I have yet to come up with a new slant. (Perhaps I need another peanut butter bit of inspiration!)

8. Are you currently working on anything at the moment? If so, can you tell us a bit about it?

I'm waiting for my editor's revisions on the second book in the series - boy, did I have fun with this one, too! The short of it is that Cesca agrees to "protect" a vamp who is a former court jester. Jo-Jo wants to be a standup comic, but he brings trouble from Cesca's past. The title is LAST VAMPIRE STANDING, and its scheduled for May 2009.

9. If you could wish on a shooting star, what would you wish for and why?

I'd wish for balance, health and peace for the Earth and all who live here.

Nancy Haddock, Author of *La Vida Vampire*