



# MALICE AUTHORS

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## MALICE NEWS

### IN THIS ISSUE

We are very lucky to have the Q4 group join us this month!

A quick introduction to the lovely Q4 – they are a group of amazingly talented writers who span various genres but they all share a love for writing! Please give a warm welcome to Erin, Leah, Rebecca and Monica!



*Every book, every volume you see here, has a soul. The soul of the person who wrote it and of those who read it and lived and dreamed with it. Every time a book changes hands, everytime someone runs his eyes down its pages, its spirit grows and strengthens.*

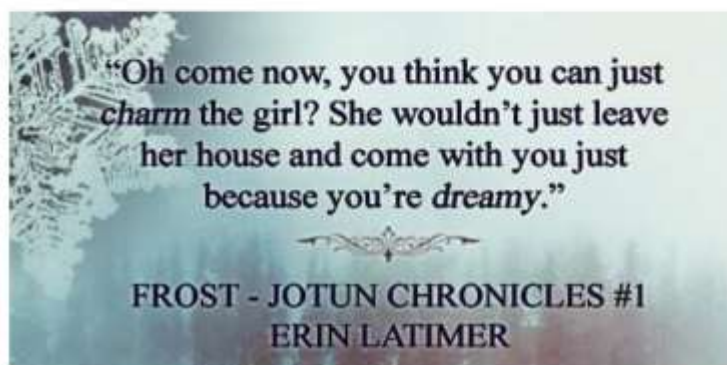
*Carlos Ruiz Zafon*

# MALICE FEATURE

## INTERVIEW WITH ERIN LATIMER

When you first started *Frost*, was it a story that you had extensively planned beforehand or was it a whim that took a life of its own once you started getting it on paper?

*Frost* was a total whim. I sat down and started writing and wrote about half the book, it was only at that point that I decided to start plotting it out so I actually knew where I was going.



What was it that triggered the inspiration to write *Frost*?

I had just moved to Grande Prairie, and I was constantly freezing. At times I found myself wishing I couldn't feel the cold anymore, and that's when I started thinking about this girl who moves to a very cold place and realizes just that...the cold doesn't affect her.

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*"I froze the first boy  
I ever kissed.  
And I don't mean he  
got cold feet..."*

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*Frost* features a heroine that a lot of readers can use as a role model. Were you conscious of having Megan being shown as a role model for younger girls?

Not at first. But I've always believed that YA writers have this incredible balancing act. They must be true to real life situations that teens get into, and they must also realize they have some kind of influence over their teen readers and be responsible about it.

Of all the stories you have written, is there a character that you find yourself most similar to?

There's a little bit of me in every character, but the characters are also nothing like me. That will make sense only to those who read and write, but it's true. I can't think of any one character that stands out as more "like" me than the others though.

There is a huge stigma against young adult novels recently but there has also been a big roar of support for the YA genre and the themes it plays on. As a YA author yourself, do you feel as if the recent wave of supporters has made the genre even more popular than it was years before?

I do think that YA gets a lot of press, both positive and negative. And YA is now read by people of all ages. Honestly, the bigger it gets the happier I am, I just hope it continues to grow and change for the better.



# MALICE FEATURE

## INTERVIEW WITH LEAH CRICHTON

**When writing a story, what is something that has to be completed before you even consider posting the first chapter? Do you have to have the first few chapters written?**

A cover, an idea of my characters and who they are, and a chapter. Truth. I'm such a "pantser" that I wing it most of the time. I probably shouldn't admit that, but there you go! At least one but more is better.



**Do you just have an idea map and you write and let the characters take you where they want to go?**

I plan a little bit. Make a very general outline. Beginning, middle, end. As for everything that happens in between, I can plot all I want... the characters have a mind of their own. Every. Single. Time.

**A lot of stories are often compared to other ones such as "The Hunger Games meets Game of Thrones." How would you describe Before Sunday?**

The Time Traveller's Wife meets The Notebook

**One big advantage for stories with contemporary elements weaved in is realism, because it allows readers to imagine themselves in the character's shoes. Is there a scene in Before Sunday that you have personally experienced beforehand that you wanted to use as story material?**

I'll never tell. Just kidding. I can't say I've had a beautiful man appear out of nowhere and profess his love. That said, I think in every story— real or completely surreal world building— there is a piece of themselves every writer bleeds onto the paper. Lola is a book nerd. I can relate!

**Before Sunday is a bit of a fusion of contemporary and fantasy with the time travelling element and generally speaking, finding stories like that is a little harder than finding someone strictly fantasy. Is there a reason why you chose the two genres instead of making it just simply fantasy or contemporary?**

I didn't choose exactly. It just happened that way. I write mostly contemporary. It's unquestionably my strongest writing skill set but I must have had a dream or something about a girl who wishes for a guy on a cupcake because I woke my husband up and told him to remind me in the morning. He did. I started writing and the rest is history.

**In your opinion, what makes Before Sunday different from the other stories that you have written?**

The very first story I ever wrote was a paranormal romance. Since then, I've been writing contemporary. It's been a while since I've mixed genres. Also, I'm trying to push myself more and more to step outside the comfort zone in terms of "steamy" scenes. Before Sunday promises a bit more of that than my readers are used to.

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*Jak shrugs. "I should  
be asking you that.  
You're the one  
who wished for me."*

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# MALICE FEATURE

## INTERVIEW WITH REBECCA SKY

**What was it like writing a contemporary/paranormal story?**

It was a ton of fun actually. I tried to think about how I'd see the world today if I had a paranormal power and I injected that into my characters. I also didn't have to stress about my characters vocabulary or building the world around them, as it was the same world we are in now, which made my job writing it so much easier.

**In *The Love Curse*, are there any characters that are inspired by people that you personally know? Are any of the characters similar to yourself?**

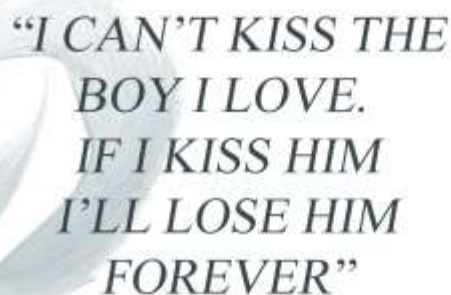
There is actually. There's a character named Heinz that I based off my grandfather. My grandfather was a quirky Austrian man who refused to wear pants, (he wore a dress shirt, pocket handkerchief, suspenders hooked into tighty-whitey undies, with black socks pulled up), he did his hair like Elvis Presley, and made all sorts of random things. Let's just say it got awkward when I brought people over to visit. Though in my high school days it became a right of passage for any guy who wanted to date me. I'd be like, "Sure, but let's go visit my grandpa quickly." If they guy could hold himself with my grandfather than I'd give him a chance. LOL

I think it's impossible for authors to not put pieces of themselves in each character. I try to remove myself from them, but as I'm in their heads writing them, my voice and ideals often trickle through.



Then no, I don't think it's a gift  
to steal a man's will. I think  
it's selfish. Awful even.  
What good does it bring?

THE LOVE CURSE  
REBECCA SKY



*"I CAN'T KISS THE  
BOY I LOVE.  
IF I KISS HIM  
I'LL LOSE HIM  
FOREVER"*

**Was there a particular reason why you chose to write about a girl that is cursed to kiss a boy she loved?**

Well my character is cursed that she can't kiss someone without making them fall in love with her. So when she actually loves a guy, she doesn't want to kiss him because she wants him to love her for her, not because she forced him to love her with her curse. I just thought about the concept on a whim one day after writing my book *Mood Scale*, where a little mermaid girl kisses a boy and he turns into a merman. It made me think about the power of a kiss and *The Love Curse* was born.

**If you had a chance to travel back to when you first started *The Love Curse*, would you tell yourself just how far your hard work would get you?**

I'd travel back in time for sure. But I wouldn't tell myself anything like that—I'd probably poke fun of my bad haircut or something. I think telling myself would add a pressure to the process of writing, and part of my love for this book was that it was a fun, stress free, book to write.

**There are people that scoff at the idea of a girl who breaks the rules to fall in love—but there are certainly books that can stand apart from that crowd. In your opinion, what about *The Love Curse* sets it apart from the sea of star-crossed lovers?**

Well actually in *The Love Curse* the girl doesn't break the rules. It's the guy. But I can't say more without giving away the ending. But what I will say is, my star-crossed lovers are star-crossed because being together would mean the loss of one of their minds, the ability to make decisions and to think for themselves. So it adds another dynamic to their love. They can never touch, which makes it hard to be together.

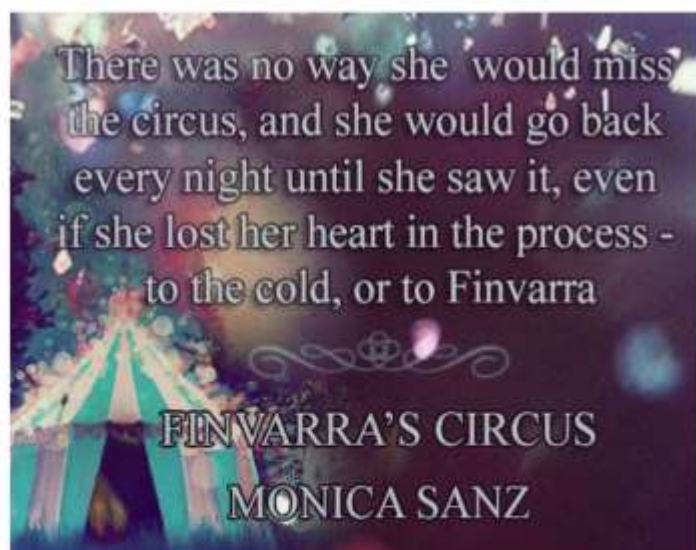


# MALICE FEATURE

## INTERVIEW WITH MONICA SANZ

Fantasy plays a huge part in a lot of your stories. Has that always been a genre you have enjoyed reading and writing in, or was it an instance where there was an author/book that completely changed your view on what you wanted to write?

It all developed pretty organically. I read a lot of adventure, mystery, and paranormal when younger, yet the first story I ever wrote was fantasy, so I guess the desire was always there. I've always felt that there is so much more to the world than what we see, and that helps me when I write because I create my "worlds" based on what I imagine these other worlds being



Have you ever considered dabbling in different genres? If so, which one(s) would you be most inclined to venture towards?

I've recently dabbled in mystery/suspense which was something I always wanted to do. A Witchling's Rites has magic, but a huge part of the plot is my feisty witch teaming up with her Professor to solve a string of murders. Now that I think about it, I have other stories drafted that fall into mystery/suspense, so I guess that will be my next genre to tackle.

Currently you have published two books, *The Awkward Love Song of Abigail Archer* and *Finvarra's Circus*. Between the two books, which would you say was the one that took the most emotional toll on you?

Abigail Archer for sure. I love both books for different reasons, but that book has always been very raw, and the characters felt so real, as did their pain. The cast of characters was very small, and that allowed me to dig deeper into their desires/regrets/motivations, which in turn made for a very personal experience.

*Finvarra's Circus* is about a girl who literally runs away with a magical circus. Was this something you have personally wanted to do in the past?

Ha! No lol I never actually wanted to join the circus, but if the Ringmaster was anything like Finvarra, I'd definitely reconsider :)

If you could only pick three words to describe *Finvarra's Circus*, which would they be?

Whimsical, magical, home.



The thought alone tangled his resolve. A secret part within him whispered odd and curious words that burned in his core. *If her name was indeed on the list, then you can you her . . .*



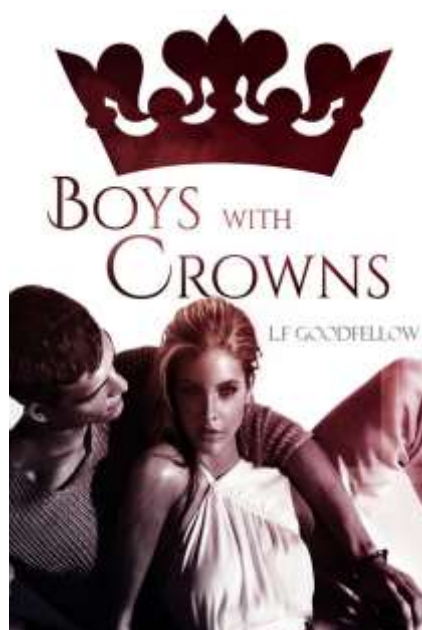
THE AWKWARD LOVE SONG OF ABIGAIL ARCHER  
MONICA SANZ



# THE VAULT

Don't forget that some of these stories are completed short stories and some are works in progress and even samples! Have fun reading and don't forget – what we put into the vault is up to you! If you want to something updated, please let the authors know through twitter, tumblr, facebook and even our email. Happy reading!

The link to the vault - <http://maliceauthors.wix.com/maliceauthors#!vault/c24vq>



PASSWORD—IN ALL CAPITALS, THE GROUP NAME OF THE AUTHORS INTERVIEWED

## WHAT IS TO COME?

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It has been a crazy month! We had a great Valentine's Day event and we continued with another event early in March when one of our MALICE girls, Mira Toria, released her debut novel! Thank you to everyone that participated and congratulations to the winners of that night!

We realise that we did not release a newsletter in February and that is because we will be putting out a new newsletter bimonthly now. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but this way we are still able to update the vault with new stories for you guys while keeping to our own personal goals to put out brand new novels as quickly as possible.

Thanks for understanding and we will see you soon!

*MALICE*  
*Authors*

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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Stay connected with us by liking out facebook pages as well as the MALICE one:

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Ornamental  
Designer



I DESIRE THINGS  
THAT WILL DESTROY ME  
-SYLVIA PLATH

