

5 QUESTIONS

Vampire erotica 'makes me feel young': Author

Ottawa writer Patricia McCarthy embraces blood, boldness and sexuality in her vampire erotica.

The Crimson Woman, the third novel in her Crimson series, will be launched at Venus Envy, 320 Lisgar St., on Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

The self-published novelist also writes poetry and a blog, which can be found on her website at www.patriciakmccarthy.com.

Earlier this year McCarthy, 45, also shared her verbal prowess when she presented her Dirty Talk in Five Easy Steps seminar at Sexapalooza.

When she's not writing or talking about sex or vampires, McCarthy recharges her energy and imagination with dark chocolate, espresso and reading material outside of her genre.

Q: Why do you think vampire-themed film and art is so popular?

A: Vampires are fantasy, and fantasy is an intoxicant. And the vampire mythology is especially appealing because it mixes immortality and power with that age-old

human desire: Lust. How can popular culture resist?

Q: Your genre is "vampire erotica." What is it with you, the supernatural and sex?

A: In their separate ways, erotic poetry and vampire short stories found me.

But when I combined the two elements, willingly plunging myself into vampire erotica novels, then I knew it was time to whip out the power

tools.

Q: On your website you list positive reviews as well as rejections. Did rejection from publishing houses play a role in your decision to self-publish?

A: Rejection is par for the course for all authors. I courted many TPB's (thieving publishing bastards) but the desire for creative control ultimately compelled me to

publish independently. And it's been a pleasure collaborating with independent editors, proofreaders, a copy editor and more recently a publicist. But if I hadn't chosen to become independent, how else could I wreak havoc on the literary community?

Q: The Crimson series has connected with a fan base. What's the strangest experience you've had with a fan?

A: One reader declared, after reading *The Crimson Man*, that I needed psychological counselling. "Of course I can benefit from therapy," I replied, "That's why I write vampire erotica."

Q: *The Crimson Woman* is the third of what might be a sextuplet of novels. Does everyday life at times pale to the adventures of your characters?

A: Everyday life infuses my characters with believability, whose idiosyncratic natures are inspired by real-life people. Life rarely pales when you write vampire erotica — it makes me feel young.

— Adrienne Ascah, for 24 hours



24 hours news services

BLOOD, SEX AND TEARS: Ottawa author Patricia McCarthy's latest book, *The Crimson Woman*, is part of her series of vampire erotica.