Author Interview Questions

As I plan to have author media kits for all of my authors by the end of the month I will need some great interview questions to put in them. This may also be used for a “meet the author” session I would like to run on Facebook. Please answer any of these that pertain to you or that you find fun. You don’t need to answer all of them but I would like a good amount to use in the media kits. (I will use 10 there probably and would like to be able to pick the ones I think represent you best). Thank you.

**Andrea Merrell**

1. What does your writing process look like? **My desk is littered with a variety of folders, notepads, Post-It Notes, scrap pieces of paper, and notebooks. When I get an idea, I grab the closest piece of paper and write it down before it flies away. I have to frequently stop, clean my desk, and get organized or it’s like cooking in a dirty kitchen.**
2. Do you have any strange writing habits (like standing on your head or writing in the shower)?
3. What book do you wish you could have written?
4. Just as your books inspire authors, what authors have inspired you to write?
5. If you could cast your characters in the Hollywood adaptation of your book, who would play your characters?
6. How important are names to you in your books? Do you choose the names based on liking the way it sounds or the meaning? Do you have any name choosing resources you recommend?
7. What do you consider to be your best accomplishment? **Being married to my best friend and the love of my life for over forty years.**
8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years? **Ten years older. ☺**
9. Were you already a great writer? Have you always liked to write? **I have always enjoyed writing, but got serious about it sixteen years ago when someone said “You’d better get with it. You’re not getting any *younger*, you know.”**
10. What writing advice do you have for other aspiring authors? **Invest the time, effort, and money required to learn the tools of the trade and polish your skills.**
11. If you didn't like writing books, what would you do for a living? **Be a professional reader and grandma. (Is there such a thing?) ☺**
12. Are you a plotter or a pantster? **Definitely a SOP (seat-of-the-pants) writer. I get lost in plot points, charts, and storyboards.**
13. Do you read your reviews? Do you respond to them, good or bad? Do you have any advice on how to deal with the bad? **Bad reviews come with the territory. Writers have to develop a tough rhino skin and learn to focus on the good instead of the bad.**
14. What is your best marketing tip? **Word of mouth and developing relationships that will continue long after the marketing.**
15. What is your least favorite part of the publishing / writing process? **Marketing is definitely not my sweet spot. I prefer to stick with writing and editing.**
16. Is there one subject you would never write about as an author? What is it? **Some subjects are touchy, but I’ve learned the more real and transparent we are as writers, the more our readers can relate. People learn more from our mistakes than they do from our victories.**
17. Do you have a favorite conference to attend? What is it? **The Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference (BRMCWC) was my first, so it holds a special place in my heart. I also love Writers Boot Camp which takes place every year at The Cove.**
18. Is there a certain type of scene that's harder for you to write than others? Love? Action? Racy?
19. Is this your first book? How many books have you written prior (if any?) **My first book is *Murder of a Manuscript: Writing and Editing Tips to Keep Your Book Out of the Editorial Graveyard*. I also wrote a short Christmas story, *The Gift*, which is part of the Christmases Past collection by Helping Hands Press. I have been published in several anthologies.**
20. What are you working on now? What is your next project? **After the release of *Praying for the Prodigal*, I plan to concentrate on fiction. I have three novels in various stages that are begging to be finished.**
21. Who is your favorite author and why?
22. What is your favorite quote from your book? (1) **The staggering truth is: even *good* kids rebel, and even *good* parents can end up with a prodigal. (3) Remember … there is *always* hope for the prodigal.**
23. What literary character is most like you?
24. What secret talents do you have?
25. Where is one place you want to visit that you haven't been before? **Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. I would love to see where Anne of Green Gables was filmed.**
26. When did you first realize you wanted to be a writer?
27. How long does it take you to write a book?
28. What is your work schedule like when you're writing?
29. What would you say is your interesting writing quirk? **When I get stuck on a project or have too much multi-tasking going on, I stop and play a game of Super Mah Jong Solitaire, then go back to work.**
30. How do books get published? **No one knows the answer to that question. ☺**
31. Where do you get your information or ideas for your books?
32. When did you write your first book and how old were you?
33. What do you like to do when you're not writing? **Read, play computer games, and spend time with my family.**
34. What does your family think of your writing? **They are extremely supportive, especially my husband.**
35. What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?
36. How many books have you written? Which is your favorite?
37. Do you have any suggestions to help me become a better writer? If so, what are they?
38. Do you hear from your readers much? What kinds of things do they say?
39. Do you like to create books for adults?
40. What do you think makes a good story?
41. As a child, what did you want to do when you grew up?