



BONUS

PARAPHERNALIA

from

Gina Marie Long



CONTENTS

FAQ on several books	- Page 2
Book Blog Interviews	- Page 11
Poems	- Page 18
Book Signing Photos	- Page 23
Book Trailers (on YouTube)	- Page 24
Contact Info	- Page 24

FAQ

SPOILER ALERT!!

Unknown Touch: Werewolf Series, 1

FAQ

Q: *Does Dominic ever get a real girlfriend?*

A: "Ever" is a very long time. And who's to say that he doesn't end up with Kara? Nothing is set in stone. I don't have an answer one way or the other. I sure hope he ends up with a girlfriend as he is such a caring person.

Q: *Have you decided if Kara is going to convert?*

A: Yes, I have decided. I won't directly answer this one. What do you think?!

Q: *Will Kara keep her special mental abilities if or when she converts?*

A: Can't say.

Q: *Could the werewolf curse cause the lack of children?*

A: Yes. The answer is a bit involved & will be talked about in future books.

Q: *If the original witches that cursed the werewolves in the first place were to die, are the werewolves then "cured"?*

A: No. The original witches have already died. For example, Daniel is 342 werewolf years old. Those witches were not immortal & died normal deaths.

Q: (I've reworded this question) *Do the werewolves continue on as if time has frozen them in a certain age and a play button has been pressed?*

A: Yes, more or less. Daniel & the majority of his pack were turned into werewolves while they were all around the ages of 18 – 27, give or take. Their physical appearance will never look older than about 30. The ones that were BORN into werewolves, will grow into adults & again, won't physically look older than 30. Now, if someone is 50 years old & gets turned into a werewolf, he reverts BACK to his prime – about 30 years old & stays that way...which you might think is a blessing, but there would still be repercussions to deal with.

Q: *Do the werewolves want to go back to their original selves...in other words...if given the chance, do they want the curse lifted and become human again?*

A: Hmm...this has not been addressed yet. I'm sure there would be some that would want to live normal lives, but most have been werewolves for so, so long that this is all they know. This is their life. And, of course, we have the ones that were born werewolves and they do not know any other way of living. There's the possibility that the curse cannot ever be lifted, either.

Q: *If a werewolf turns/converts/bites someone, how is that particular person effected?*

A: That new werewolf has all the exact traits & similarities as other werewolves: strength, speed, agility, heightened senses.

Q: --I received numerous questions about the vampire, Josiah...--

A: Sorry, but I have chosen not to answer any of those questions at this time. I feel in doing so it would weaken the impact and thrill of learning the vampire traits while a person reads about them in an upcoming novel. I kept trying to come up with a way to answer some of the questions, but I sensed the anticipation would be ruined for future stories.

Q: *How come none of the villagers question why the adult werewolves never age (the villagers don't know they are werewolves)?*

A: That will be answered in Book Two. I'll just say the werewolves get a little help from some allies with this one.

Q: *Do the werewolves have souls?*

A: I am definitely staying away from the religious side of this! But, to give a basic answer (my personal feelings) - "yes, they do have souls" and I'll leave it at that. At NO time during the series will I attempt exploring religion and try to tie it in with any of the paranormal, supernatural events or characters. Opinions on religion and souls are a delicate, controversial subject.

Q. *How many books will there be in the series?*

A. Three.

=====

Unknown Scent: Werewolf Series, 2

FAQ

Q: *Who or what are the "unknown"?*

A: The Unknown are the supernatural beings: werewolves, vampires, demons, etc. They are called the Unknown because they try to hide their existence from humans.

Q: *What do the titles of the books mean?*

A: "Unknown" refers to the supernatural beings. The second word is one of the five senses (of course, there is the sixth sense of intuition-perception...). So, the titles can stand for: Werewolf Touch, Werewolf Scent, etc. The werewolves have heightened senses. Titling the books with the different senses creates a common theme in the series. Also, the titles can refer to the vampires or demons and their unique senses. Not only that, but it can include how Kara relates to the supernatural beings sensory experiences! Scattered throughout the storylines, I have made a point to discuss or explain what senses several characters are feeling.

Q: *Will there be more demons in the future?*

A: I'm not sure. Probably not in Book 3.

Q: *Will we learn more about vampire mythology, like we did with the werewolves?*

A: I heavily explained the "rules" of "my" vampires in Book 2.

Q: Where do you come up with character's names?

A: I research the internet. If I know the approximate timeframe a character was born, I'll look up names that were popular during that point in history. Also, I choose names that I like or that have a cool sound/ring to them.

Q: The werewolves rip their clothes to shreds if they don't remove them before transforming. But what about vampires? You never said Josiah removed his clothes before transforming...what happened to his clothes when he transformed?

A: Vampires' abilities far surpass what werewolves are capable of doing. A significant example: Josiah is able to turn into mist. Plus, he can shape shift into many other animals. The clothes vampires wear need to be of natural materials. The clothes are absorbed within the vampires' very substance since they are able to manipulate molecules and particles.

Q: Wouldn't Daniel have "smelled" Dominic on Kara after the make out session?

A: Yes. And Kara would've told (= lied to) Daniel that Dom and she sat for an hour or so talking about the current chaos and possible scenarios. She would've told Daniel that she gave Dom a hug (not uncommon) before they retired for the night...explaining Dom's scent on her body.

Q: You barely talked about Rachel's pregnancy in Book Two. Will we learn more at some point?

A: Yes. You will eventually find out how it all turns out.

Q: What about the "working phone lines" in the underground facility? Wouldn't this compromise the secrecy of The Liaison - with the phone company knowing there was someone making calls from down there?

A: Tessa – who is a computer whiz - finagled, along with Dom who is also great with technology, the phone lines. They illegally hacked into wiring on a nearby telephone pole.

Q: Do the werewolves have souls? And the vampires?

A: Yes and yes. The first question was asked in the FAQ for Book One, too. For my stories, these supernatural beings definitely have souls. They are real, living, breathing, thinking, decision-making, creatures/species. I will NOT write about the religious aspects of souls and what it all means or doesn't mean pertaining to werewolves and vampires. Lexy deals with ghosts...spirits...which for some people could be considered a person's soul. I will likely write

about their souls, but not in a deep, religious manner. And we'll leave it at that =)

=====

Rocked: A Chelsie Valdar Saga, 1

FAQ

Q: *Is the girl on the book cover supposed to represent Chelsie?*

A: Yes. And you can see a sword in her hand, which represents the Tyrting sword.

Q: *Is this a trilogy?*

A: Yes.

Q: *What will the other two books be about?*

A: This first book deals with the PRE-Apocalypse time. So, the second book will be about THE Apocalypse time - what Chelsie and her group experience as Yellowstone explodes and the immediate aftermath. And the third book will be about the POST-Apocalypse time and how life has changed.

Q: *So, does Chelsie end up choosing Lucas or Bo?*

A: That is just TOO much of a spoiler to spill here. And the person she chooses at the end of this book, doesn't necessarily mean that she'll stay with him forever. Then again, she might. Who knows?

Q: *This story transpires over one week?*

A: Yes. If you ever watched the TV show "24" with Kiefer Sutherland (or other similar shows), that is where I got the idea on how I wanted to pace this book. Fast moving, keeps the suspense high, takes you through the motions of what happens to Chelsie (& her gang) every step of the adventure. Except "24" played out an entire hour by the second and minute during each episode. "Rocked" is not THAT detailed. If it was, it would be 3 billion pages long.

Q: *Is this written in first person?*

A: Yes. And it's also PRESENT TENSE, which isn't seen as often. I believe "Hunger Games" is

written in present tense. This was a challenge for me, but after several chapters, I fell into a groove. I really wanted the reader to experience the story through Chelsie's eyes and emotional state AS things happened to her.

Q: *Is the Tyrfing sword real?*

A: It's on the internet, so it MUST be real! Actually, there are all kinds of myths and legends about the Tyrfing sword and Hervor and her Viking family. I used those legends in this story. Very interesting stuff.

Q: *The Bigfoot characters are something a little different. Where did you get the idea?*

A: I think from a cable TV show about searching for Bigfoot. And, yes, I wanted to come up with a being/creature/species that we've heard about before, but wasn't as popular as werewolves and vampires. But I still love them, too!

Q: *What are the different supernatural beings in this book?*

A: Bigfoot, werecats and werewolves. Vampires are mentioned, as they do exist in this "world", but no vampire characters are introduced. Yet.

Q: *What is the plural of Bigfoot?*

A: Bigfoot. Just like the plural of deer is deer.

Q: *Which forest were they in?*

A: Willamette National Forest, Oregon.

Q: *Remind me again of the life spans of the different beings...*

A: Werecats and werewolves live hundreds of years. Vampires can live thousands of years. Bigfoot usually live to be about 100.

Q: *What is everyone's age?*

A: Chelsie: 17. Bo: 17. Lucas: 19. Ash: 16. Jessie: 16. Alex: 18. Chelsie's Dad (Mark): 40.

Q: *Is this Apocalypse going to be really bad?*

A: Yes. That's why it's called an Apocalypse, AKA: Armageddon, Day of Reckoning, Judgment Day, End of the World. So, yep, this is the nasty one.

Q: *Do the names of the characters have any special meaning?*

A: Some do. Chelsie, Ash and Bo are named after my dogs who have all passed away. And the one dog was actually Ashes, not Ash. Jessie is named after my current pet cat. Gator is my mom's dog.

Q: *Why did you choose Chelsie's hometown as Estacada, Oregon?*

A: I purposefully meant to choose a place where actual Bigfoot sightings are common. Estacada, Molalla, Clackamas County region...Oregon in general. And I like small towns, so Estacada was perfect with the larger city of Portland nearby.

Q: *Alex is really nutty, huh?*

A: Yes, which makes his character extra fun and intriguing. You never know whether he's going to do something good or bad. And when he might suddenly spin out of control. He definitely creates problems for Chelsie and her gang. Sometimes he's helpful but he's still deranged...plagued with mental problems. Do you trust him or not?

Q: *Will we read more about Zane the werewolf?*

A: Yes. He'll be returning in the next book.

Q: *Is this series related to or a spin-off from your Werewolf Series?*

A: NO. I decided to keep them completely unrelated...otherwise the Werewolf Series storyline would also have to deal with The Apocalypse and I didn't want that.

Q: *Isn't Chelsie's dad supposed to have possession of the sword?*

A: Perhaps. But she is now attached to it. She is destined to wield the Tyrfin. The Tyrfin is meant for her. Chelsie and her brother are important in sculpting the new world. Possessing a powerful and mystical weapon can aid them in various ways...which you'll have to wait to read about in the next book.

=====

The Reaper's Cat
FAQ

Q: *Do I see a ghost on the cover or am I losing my mind?*

A: Yes, that is a ghostly image on the book cover.

Q: *How long did it take you to write this book?*

A: Three weeks!! I wrote it during November 2014. I entered the NaNoWriMo Writing Challenge (National Novel Writing Month) and finished the month as a WINNER! NaNoWriMo involves writing 50,000 words within a month. I surpassed that figure, as *The Reaper's Cat* has around 70,000 words!

Q: *Did you outline in advance before the NaNoWriMo Challenge?*

A: Nope. I dove in head first. I made the decision to enter the challenge at the last minute. There wasn't enough time to create an outline. I spent about one day coming up with names, places, main plot, and how I wanted it to end.

Q: *Do you have a black cat?*

A: No, I have tortoiseshell cat, or tortie, as some people fondly call them. Her name is Jessie and I rescued her... she was a stray hanging around my back yard for five weeks and then we "adopted" her.

Q: *Do the names of the characters refer to anyone or mean anything?*

A: Yes. Since I had very little time to come up with names when I wrote this book (because of the urgency with competing in the NaNoWriMo Challenge), I needed to think of names FAST! And so, here's what most of them refer to:

>>Baylor: we were watching a season of Survivor and this was the name of a contestant.

>>Riley: from my days of watching *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*... one of Buffy's boyfriends.

>>Gwennan: quick research on the internet to find a "different" type of name that had an important, significant meaning to it. Gwennan means: Blessed.

>>Merle: from *The Walking Dead*... bad guy.

>>Cammie: from *The Originals*... nice girl, pretty, neat name.

>>Dixon: from *The Walking Dead* – Daryl's (& Meryl's) last name.

>>David: an ex-boyfriend from my high school days.

>>Caroline: character from *The Vampire Diaries*.

>>Sarah: just popped into my head!

>>Jack: a play on words... Jack the Reaper/Jack the Ripper. HA!

>>Ian: paying homage to Ian Somerhalder/Damon of *The Vampire Diaries*.

>>The FAKE town: Meyer Hills, Arkansas: Meyer is dedicated to Stephenie Meyer, author of *The Twilight Saga*. Not long after reading the series, I started seriously writing my own books. Arkansas is the state where my mom lives (at the time I wrote this).

>>The Reservoir: was a REAL place I went to as a teenager with several of my friends. The shack and several other details about it in the story are made-up. Some of the details describing The Rez do come from my memories of actually being there, though. But not all!

Q: *Baylor was a beautician. Does that mean anything?*

A: Yep, I've been a licensed beautician for years! I used to own a beauty salon, but sold it in 2010 and started writing full-time.

Q: *Did you create the book cover?*

A: No. I found a graphic design artist.

Q: *Is The Reaper's Cat a series?*

A: No. I wanted to focus on writing a stand-alone novel.

Q: *Oh, come on! Please! Make it a series!?*

A: Well... never say never, right? So, who knows?

Q: *Did you have a brother that died?*

A: No! That was purely fictional for the story. All for the drama!

Q: *Did anything horrible happen to you in your life that this book is based upon?*

A: No, thankfully!! I just watch and read A LOT of scary stuff and I get crazy IDEAS!

Q: *The story definitely has some helpful cat care info in it. Is there a reason for that?*

A: Yes. I also own a cat care website: www.catstheboss.com. I thought it would be cool to offer my cat-loving visitors there something interesting... a story that includes a cat J

Q: *This is written in first person, PRESENT tense. Are all your novels written that way?*

A: No. So far, they are all written in FIRST person, but some are PAST tense. And, yes, it gets very confusing for me at times. I'm not sure which way I prefer to write. The first time I wrote in PRESENT tense, I thought I would go crazy. By the time I finished that book, I had gotten accustomed to writing that way, though.

=====

BOOK BLOG INTERVIEWS

Here is my [From the Shadows](#) Book Blog Interview:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013

Q + A with Gina Marie Long ("Rocked")

Please welcome today's paranormal guest author Gina Marie Long. Gina is the author of [Rocked](#).

EJ: *When did you begin writing?*

Gina: Back in high school, I mostly received A's on essays with positive notes scribbled in the margins from the teachers, so I felt I had potential. Throughout my teenage years, I wrote nearly 50 poems. I realized I had an interest in writing a book about 20+ years ago (oops- showing my age!) and toyed with the concept at that time. Nothing came of it. Several false starts. In 2009, I vowed to myself that I would write a full-fledged novel. I was frustrated with life and wanted to sell my small-town beauty salon (I was the sole owner and operator) but needed another job or career. I thought, what the heck? I finished my first novel, Unknown Touch-Werewolf Series-Book 1, in 2 1/2 months and was published in October 2009. Rocked-A Chelsie Valdar Saga 1 is my third novel.

EJ: *What brought you to the paranormal genre?*

Gina: I have always loved paranormal, supernatural, scifi, and fantasy movies, TV shows and books. I vividly recall reading The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings trilogy as a teenager. I can never get enough of werewolves, vampires, witches, werecats, Bigfoot, demons, psychic stuff, aliens, and ghosts. Authors who've inspired me: Anne Rice, Amanda Hocking, Stephenie Meyer, Christine Feehan, Jacquelyn Frank, Suzanne Collins, Karen Marie Moning and many more. There are too many shows and movies to list that influence my writing...but what just popped into my mind first are the Underworld series and Buffy the Vampire Slayer (TV show).

EJ: *If you could be any paranormal or have any one supernatural talent, what would it be? Why?*

Gina: It would be nice to heal people with my touch. So many of my friends and family have died or are fighting life-threatening diseases and illnesses. Especially cancer.

EJ: *Tell us why readers will enjoy your new release.*

Gina: I'm like a mixture of Amanda Hocking and Stephenie Meyer - I write young adult thrillers mixed with supernatural creatures. *Rocked* focuses on Chelsie Valdar, a modern-day Viking warrior teenager. Throw in Bigfoot who shape shift into humans, an abandoned werecat, the search for a weapon, a stalker, and the clock ticking down to the impending Apocalypse-in one week. Whew! Of course, I left out what kind of Apocalypse...kind of makes you wonder, huh?

EJ: *If your book(s) were being made into a movie, who would you cast for the leading roles? Why?*

Gina: That is a tough question. I have Chelsie as the main character (written in first person, present tense) and several important characters involved with her. Hmm... Kristen Hager (plays Nora on *Being Human* - Syfy) would be the character Chelsie Valdar because when I look at her, I actually "see" Chelsie. She's tough but has a soft side and physically looks the part. Next, Ksenia Solo (plays Kenzi on *Lost Girl* - Syfy) would be the character Jessie in my book. The actress probably wants to avoid being another sidekick, but she is so quirky, cute, petite, and the darker hair are the reasons I'd pick her. Jared Padalecki (plays Sam on *Supernatural* - CW) would be the character Bo because he physically looks the part and his personality fits. Ian Somerhalder (plays Damon on *The Vampire Diaries* - CW) completely looks like my character Lucas...but could be taller! His expressions, mesmerizing gaze, cocky attitude fit the part. And Dylan O'Brien (plays Stiles on *Teen Wolf* - MTV) would be the character Alex because he's able to pull off being funny, cocky and I could see him flip to deranged in a heart beat, becoming totally unstable. His facial expressions, realistic acting and timing are perfect.



The Apocalypse is coming...in one week. Chelsie Valdar and her brother are modern-day Viking warrior teenagers. They must find a mystical sword belonging to their ancient ancestor and flee to safety at a secret shelter, if they hope to survive. As the clock ticks, several Bigfoot and an outcast werecat become invaluable friends helping with the search for the sword and offering supernatural protection. Misfortune haunts their every move. Conflicts delay their progress. Especially when a devious and deranged enemy is infatuated with Chelsie and hungers for the sword, desperate to escape to the shelter with Chelsie by his side. Time is running out.

Thank you Gina for joining us here today at From the Shadows!

To learn more about [Gina Marie Long](#) and her books, please visit her website.

Posted by E.J. Stevens

~~~~~

Here is my [Once Upon A Twilight](#) Book Blog Interview:

Monday, May 16, 2011--Author Interview:

Gina Marie Long, author of the Werewolf Series

Help us welcome today to the blog, author Gina Marie Long. She is the author of the Werewolf Series: *Unknown Touch - Werewolf Series - Book One* and *Unknown Scent - Werewolf Series - Book Two*. Now we hope you enjoy reading the Q&A that Jenny asked.

Welcome Gina!

**OUaT: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?**

I'm an only child. I grew up in a rural town with a population of about 800 from the time I was a baby until I was 18. Then I moved out from my parent's house and fled to the big city...6 miles away with a population of 7,000 - Oh boy. I'm married with no kids. I have ADHD and OCD, which messes with my ability to focus. And I talk a lot and can make friends with a rock.

**OUaT: I read that you owned/operated a Beauty Salon for 16 years? What influenced you to change careers after so many years? When did you first realize you wanted to be a writer?**



Yes, I was a single owner and sole operator of a beauty salon for 16 years – in that location. But in the big picture, I had been “doing hair” for 25 years. Gulp. I’m giving my age away! And actually, going back further, I attempted my first haircut on my best friend when I was a mere 14 years old! I must’ve done a decent job because she continued to let me cut it (and eventually perm and highlight it)! During the last several years with my beauty salon, I had hit the burn-out phase working on hair, though. I loved my customers but no longer liked the business end of it and everything I, alone, had to take care of. I realized I had an interest in writing 20 years ago and toyed with writing a book at that time. Nothing at all came of it. I recalled in high school getting A’s on essays with positive notes scribbled in the margins from the teachers, so I felt I had some potential but didn’t fully submerge and commit myself to a full-fledged novel until 2009. I was frustrated with life and wanted to sell my shop but needed

a job or another career. I thought, what the heck? Write “the” book now! If anything, it’s something to concentrate on and alleviate my aggravation with my current situation. In my spare time, I pumped out the first book in my Werewolf Series. *Unknown Touch* was finished in 2 1/2 months and published in October 2009. I finally sold my beauty salon in June of 2010 and devoted myself to writing full time as a career in some form or fashion. In March of this year, *Unknown Scent* was published. There is a catch to all of this: I’ve given myself two years (financially can’t go longer than that) to attain a legitimate, modest, income-producing career in writing. I have one year left. Tick, tick...

**OUaT: Is there any particular author or book that influenced you in any way either growing up or as an adult?**

As a child/young teen, the books or authors that stand out in my memory are *Watership Down* by Richard Adams and several Judy Blume books. Then as a teenager I read J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Wow. Very involved and deep. A complete WORLD this genius had created! Moving on...as a young adult/adult, Anne Rice was superb! Eventually, the one author who ultimately sparked my desire to get serious and write a book was Stephenie Meyer. Beyond her, several authors I admire and bow down to are Christine Feehan, Jacquelyn Frank, Karen Marie Moning and Amanda Hocking. Sorry, I couldn’t pick just one book or one author!

**OUaT: Did you design the cover?**

The cover is actually a photo I chose and purchased from an online image site! My publisher cropped it and added the printed words. One interesting note: the title is actually a Werewolf Font, according to what my publisher told me. The type is made to resemble animal hair!!

**OUaT: Will you have a new book coming out soon? PLEASE PLEASE BOOK 3!**

Hopefully, I will have a new book out in a few months that I will self-publish. Yep, I’m gonna jump on the bandwagon and try my hand at it like many famous authors have done. It will be a Bigfoot Series! I will heavily promote it as an eBook on all the major sites that sell eBooks and will still offer it in paperback, too, through Amazon. I’m only taking a pause on my Werewolf Series but plan on writing Book 3 of it after the first Bigfoot book is done. As long as my publisher wants me, I will stick with them for the Werewolf Series, but self-publish the Bigfoot Series, just to be clear on that.

**OUaT: How did you develop the plot for “Unknown Scent”?**

I sat down with a notebook and brainstormed on and off for days. I jotted down what “makes” a good story – what are the important elements to include in it (example: good vs. evil, some

form of romance, supernatural goodies, etc.). I asked myself what I was interested in: specific types of story lines, TV shows, movies, other books. I tossed around about three different ideas and settled on one to write. I created an outline of the story from start to finish. I basically know how it's going to end before I start writing. Plus I research on the Internet anything I need to know for the book. I come up with names, locations, book title, chapter titles, background stuff on the characters, the timeline of events/scenes in the book, etc. I have most of this all figured out before I start typing Chapter One.

**OUaT: What is the craziest thing you've learned while writing?**

That question could be taken several ways...Here's a few different answers: While I actually write, I've learned that I just cannot let it flow and type endlessly. I have to type a little and edit a little and I just assumed I'd be able to zip off page after page and come back later to proofread and edit it. No can do. On a positive note to that, I don't have to edit as much after the book is finished. Another way to answer your question: Some crazy things I've learned while writing have to do with all the cool myths and mythology I draw from/use for certain character's background. The research is fun, mind-blowing and stirs my creative juices into weaving the old legends into my own story. Of course, I can't give you an actual example, because I don't want to spoil HOW my werewolves and vampires become or are who they are...mwahahaha...(oh that was lame).

**OUaT: It's almost summertime, YAY! What's your favorite thing to do outside?**

Sitting in the sun or shade, reading a book (usually on my Nook) and sipping coffee with approximately ten mini-marshmallows that's spiked with two sugar-free sweeteners. Yep. That's the truth.

**OUaT: What questions are you never asked in interviews but wish you were?**

Hmm...How about: What surprises have you learned as a published writer? My answer: I'm shocked at the number of writers (published or not) or wanna-be writers out there in the world. Until I really dove into the whole writing business, I had no idea that so many people were out there doing or trying to do the same thing as me! The competition is tremendous. Also, the amount of time I spend on promoting my books is unreal. I have a small publishing house and I understand they don't have the time or money to devote much to marketing each individual author and almost all of it falls on us – the writers. That means a good portion of time that I should be writing, I'm working on ways to get my books "out there". Sad, but true. Luckily, and perhaps oddly, I love marketing! But am still shocked when I look at the clock and realize the day is over and I never typed a single word in my next novel.

**OUaT: Is there anything additional you would like to share with your readers?**

Oh now that's a loaded question. We could be here for hours with my answers...OK...I'll attempt to summarize. I love to use ellipses (plural)...and I know I overuse them...so you'll have to deal with it...okay?! [chuckling] Next...I try to keep my writing PG-13 for two reasons: 1) I want to have a broad age-range for readers of my books and we know tweens and teens are eating up the genre I write in; 2) My parents and sister-in-law read my books and I just can't handle writing sex scenes knowing they'll read it. Awkward! It's just the way I am! Next...Advice about writing: Try to follow in the footsteps of those who have succeeded. Dissect what they've done right (and wrong). Don't reinvent the wheel when others have already created the blueprint for you. The meaning of success is different for each person. Most success requires luck, timing, time itself, reaching out, persistence, investment (some money), who you know, a well-written entertaining story and NOT giving up.

# **A PEEK INTO MY PAST: POEMS FROM MY TEENAGE BRAIN**

## **By Gina Marie Long**

This isn't meant to be fancy or intended to be published in a full-blown book format. This is simply me, showing you that I'm a regular person, giving you something to enjoy. Perhaps these poems might make you laugh, cry or think, "gee, this stuff is crap". Either way, I hope it's entertaining, as I wrote these when I was 14 to 17 years old. I have a notebook filled with 60+ poems, all written during that timeframe. But these were the best of the bunch. For me, I'm bouncing between satisfaction and complete embarrassment. Have fun!

### **SUMMER NIGHTS**

We're standing together,  
Feeling the warm breeze,  
Watching the sun set,  
Leaning against trees.

The summer nears its end,  
We think of nights past,  
All the fun we had,  
Wishing they could last.

The parties were a blast,  
With danger so near,  
Coming home late,  
And filled with fear.

The summer nights,  
With a special someone,  
Are memories kept,  
And never forgotten.

Now the ending of summer,  
Is a sad time for all,  
But there are new things ahead,  
In the upcoming fall.

## DAY BY DAY

Take things day by day,  
Don't push life past its limit,  
Take the good with the bad,  
And everything that comes with it.

Everyone has ups and downs,  
Try to think positive thoughts,  
Don't be so hard on yourself,  
Don't become overwrought.

Don't rush life past you,  
And watch out for routine,  
Adventures are exciting,  
Things are better than they seem.

When depression sets in,  
Get a grip on yourself,  
Remember something pleasant,  
Store sadness on a shelf.

Bring out your best side,  
Keep negative images away,  
Love the world and yourself,  
And take things day by day.

## PAIN

I'm crying and crying,  
I can't stop the tears,  
It's only been three days,  
But it seems like years.

I love you so much,  
And I miss you like hell,  
Do you even miss me?  
It's impossible to tell.

Thoughts of you,  
Race through my mind,

You were special to me,  
You're one of a kind.

You've hurt me deeply,  
But I still love you,  
I had tried my best,  
Not much else I could do.

I'm sorry I'm not perfect,  
And that I bitch at times,  
But sorry doesn't sink,  
Into your warped mind.

You saw only my faults,  
But I have good qualities too,  
You couldn't love me as I am,  
Trying to mold me into something new.

My pain will stay in me,  
It's hard to accept you as just a friend,  
It's because I'll always love you,  
Is this truly the end?

### **SENDING YOUR WAY**

Here, catch a kiss,  
That I'm sending your way.  
I know you won't miss,  
Raise your hand and catch it today.

Here, catch a hug,  
That I'm sending your way.  
Jump high off the rug,  
Embrace it and go play.

Here, catch my tears,  
That I'm sending your way.  
Missing you...it feels like years,  
Hold me in your heart today.

## TO DEATH DO I DIE

One of your smiles,  
Can brighten my day.  
A card from you,  
Has so much to say.

Being with you,  
Makes me warm inside.  
I feel like I belong,  
There's nothing to hide.

Any fights we have,  
Are quickly forgotten.  
We both compromise,  
No longer feeling rotten.

I love looking in your eyes,  
And the way that they glow.  
They say what you think,  
I watch the passion grow.

You hold my hand,  
In many different ways.  
Either gentle or firm,  
Protectively or to play.

Your mouth is so cute,  
And I love your sweet kiss.  
It can be tender or forceful,  
Sending me into bliss.

One more thing,  
As I stare into your eyes,  
I love you forever,  
To death do I die.

~~~~~

(Note: This next poem I wrote as an adult... on the day my dad died, March 25, 2013. I wanted to include it, since I'm not sure I had actually written any other poems since I was a teenager. That fact alone made me feel this poem was significant and important in dealing with a tragic event in my life. Remember, I wrote this ON the day my dad died, so I was filled with grief and anger.)

For My Dad - Roger J. Long
Never To Be Forgotten, Always To Be Cherished

Grief plunges deep into my soul,
As tears flow down my cheeks.
Dad no longer suffers now,
As he had for many weeks.

I struggle to breathe,
As sobs rip through my chest.
Dad was one of the good guys,
This shouldn't happen to the best.

Dad told us to be strong,
As he needed that in his final days.
But he worried about Mom,
Desperate in his ways.

Immense sorrow consumes me,
As death keeps us apart.
To never hear his voice or see him smile,
I will miss Dad with all my heart.

~~~~~



First Book Signing  
Marine Library, Marine, Illinois  
Nov. 7, 2009



Box TV, Highland, IL  
April 30, 2011

~~~~~

BOOK TRAILERS

My original book trailer created for Unknown Touch: Werewolf Series, 1 can be seen here:
<https://youtu.be/AnCOOf23YBc>

Version 2 (professional) book trailer created for Unknown Touch: Werewolf Series, 1 can be seen here:

<https://youtu.be/rS5oYpuEtnE>

The original book trailer created for Unknown Scent: Werewolf Series, 2 can be seen here:

<https://youtu.be/FkGSOCYLSkc>

~~~~~

I hope you enjoyed all the extras! Most (if not all) of the material here is no longer found on my website. When I restructured the site to make it more sleek and professional, I removed a lot of my original content and realized it would make a fantastic bonus bundle for readers! Some material (e.g. – the FAQ for *The Reaper's Cat*) had only been posted on my site for a very short time and then I removed it to create this BONUS PARAPHERNALIA.

As long as I have your correct email address (or you haven't unsubscribed), I will send you an email when I have new book releases, contests to win goodies, or special deals. Don't worry – you won't be flooded with emails. You'll likely only receive something from me once a MONTH (or longer)!

Please feel free to contact me!

Email: [ginamarielong@gmail.com](mailto:ginamarielong@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ginamarielong.com](http://www.ginamarielong.com)

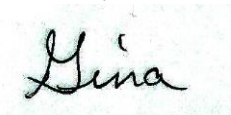
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ginamarielongfans](http://www.facebook.com/ginamarielongfans)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ginamarielong](http://www.twitter.com/ginamarielong)

If you've enjoyed my books, I would so appreciate a short review at Amazon or Goodreads or B&N... Thank you!

If not for YOU (the reader), I am nothing. I create the stories and you consume them!

Thanks,



Gina Marie Long