

The Granny Series by Kelsey Browning *and* Nancy Naigle

Q&A

Q: Where did the idea for The Granny Series come from?

Nancy: Kelsey and I shared a hotel room at a conference, and one evening we were relaxing in our jammies – me in my scotty-dog jammies and Kelsey in her moose pants – and we got to talking about my ex-husband. That spawned a conversation about a former family member that Kelsey and her momma had considered “taking care of.” As she chronicled the whole plan, I couldn’t help but laugh. Apparently, her mom volunteered to do the “taking care of” because she could get three square meals and free health care in prison. Kelsey’s response to her mom was, “Good, because I look horrible in orange!” We went to bed late, late, late that night after hours of silly girl talk and giggles, but the next morning I just couldn’t quit thinking about that story and her momma—a granny!—going to jail. We both knew we had to write a story like that...and The Granny Series began.

Q: What’s it like writing with a partner? Benefits? Challenges?

Nancy: This wasn’t my first time to co-write a book, but it was for Kelsey. We really have a great writing relationship. We feed off of each other’s energy and there is no hesitation about tweaking or running with the other’s thoughts. It’s so natural that there comes a point where we can’t remember who wrote what.

Q: How does the actual plotting and writing work when you’re co-writing?

Nancy: We use Scrivener and share a Dropbox folder to keep our files centrally located since I’m in North Carolina and she’s down in Georgia.

Kelsey: And now that Nan has retired from her career in the banking industry, we’re able to get together to work more often. About two-three times a year, we’ll meet and write up a storm, usually to the tune of 12,000 words a day.

Q: How did the two of you meet?

Nancy: Kelsey and I met at the 2009 RWA Conference in DC through a mutual friend. Three years later, I happened to mention on Facebook that I was headed to California. Kelsey saw the post and asked where I’d be. Turned out I was staying very close to where she lived at the time and we set up an evening to get together. Our real friendship started from there.

Q: What strengths do each of you bring to the writing process?

Nancy: I’m great with setting, and the sweet emotional stuff, but Kelsey rocks dialogue. It’s a great mix.

Q: Each of you also writes romance. Why start a cozy suspense series?

Nancy: All of my books always have a little suspense in them. The grannies lent themselves to the storyline. Vigilante grannies just sprang to life.

Kelsey: I never expected to be writing cozy (because in my contemporary romances, I write rather...ahem...hottish love scenes). But this idea just grabbed us. Anything that makes me laugh this much HAD to be written. By me ☺.

Q: Tell us a little about The Granny Series characters.

A: In For a Penny starts with *Lillian Summer Fairview*. Her husband up and died on her, leaving her nothing but trash bags full of losing scratcher lottery tickets. Now, her creative solution to her money problems has landed her sweet Southern hind-parts in one hot mess.

Handygal **Maggie Rawls** is Lil's BFF from their days at William & Mary. Recently widowed, Maggie moves to Summer Haven to keep Lil company and help her look after Summer Haven, the family estate.

When Californian **Serendipity Johnson** shows up at the local Wal-Mart in her VW Camper Van, Sheriff Castro has three choices—shoo her out of Summer Shoals, arrest her for boondocking, or take her to Summer Haven.

Abby Ruth Cady is Texas to the tips of her custom cowboy boots. When Teague Castro asks her to come to Georgia to spy on a group of blue-hairs at some fancy-schmancy estate, Abby Ruth heads out to help. But she quickly finds that tagging along with these gals is way more fun than tattling on them and joins them in the search for a double-crossing funeral director.

Q: Which Granny is your personal favorite?

Nancy: Oh gosh, I love all them to bits. It's funny because on the surface they are very stereotypical but as the series plays out y'all will get to know what's ticking underneath and driving these gals. Today my favorite is Maggie, but tomorrow I'll probably pick a different one ☺

Kelsey: You know, I'll always have a soft spot for Abby Ruth. She is a Texan, after all. But I'm totally attached to all the grannies for different reasons!

Q: The Grannies all look so skinny in their pictures. Where's the full-figured representation?

A: Oh honey, haven't you heard of glamour shots?? Maggie is a nice size 16, and you can bet the grannies will come in all shapes and sizes. We were so lucky to meet up with Michelle Preast who took our descriptions and brought the grannies to life. We even have foot-tall paper dolls of all the grannies and that handsome sheriff that join us on our writing excursions.

Q: And Sera looks awfully young—what's the deal?

Nancy: Sera does look young, and she is. Grannies aren't all old ladies. Honey, these are not your momma's grannies. These gals are more like Dirty Harry...over 50, female and from the south. I'm over 50...I still look pretty young too! Kelsey hasn't caught up to granny-age yet but I'm sure she's going to have that Abby Ruth style going on.

Kelsey: Haven't you heard that 70 is the new 50?? And if that's the case, then Sera gets a 20-year pass as well, so it's not surprising she looks like she's in her 30s or 40s!

Q: Do you have plans for more Grannies in future books?

Nancy: Absolutely!! We've got five total scoped out so far, but we'll let the readers guide the pace and frequency. We've also debuted some fun PICK YOUR PASSION novellas that chronicle Sheriff Teague Castro and Jenny Cady's reunion love story. The reader gets to decide whether they want to read sweet love scenes or opt for the heat where Kelsey brings her sassy sexy writing style to the page and "makes Teague's day!"

Q: I noticed there's a little strong language in The Granny Series. That's not normal for Nancy's work – what's up?

Kelsey: Blame it all on me. I have an incurable potty mouth. However, hopefully you noticed the language used in the stories fit the voice of the character using it.

Q: When will Lil get out of jail?

A: Wait and see. ☺

Q: Other than The Granny Series books, what do each of you write?

Kelsey: I write sass-kickin' romance, which means sassy heroines, down-to-earth heroes, and pretty darn sexy love scenes (get some ice water and a fan!). The four books in the Texas Nights series are:

- Personal Assets
- Running the Red Light
- Problems In Paradise
- Designed For Love

I'll also have several novellas releasing in 2015, including Amazed by You, which is part of a St. Paddy's Day "Get Lucky" anthology.

Nancy: I write love stories from the crossroads of small town and suspense. The Adams Grove series is now six books.

- Book One – Sweet Tea and Secrets
- Book Two – Out of Focus
- Book Three – Wedding Cake and Big Mistakes
- Book Four – Pecan Pie and Deadly Lies
- Book Five – Mint Juleps and Justice
- Book Six – Barbecue and Bad News

I also have two other novels coming out in 2015. Sand Dollar Cove and a women's fiction titled Life After Perfect.

Q: What's next for the Grannies?

A: Book three, In High Cotton, will release mid-April 2015 (just in time to cheer you up after that cruddy ol' tax day!). You can also expect another Jenny & Teague novella in 2015.

Q: Do you have a website for the series?

A: Sure do. www.TheGrannySeries.com.

Q: How do I get The Granny Series swag?

A: You can request granny swag through the website—www.TheGrannySeries.com.

Q: Tell us a little about each of you and your writing strengths?

Kelsey: I'm very much a character-driven writer. My characters always come to me before the story does (the Grannies are a great example of that!). I've been told I'm decent with the dialogue and write a hot love scene (sorry, no Granny love scenes – we'll always stop at the bedroom door there ;-)).

Q: Have you had disagreements during the co-writing process?

Kelsey: Will you throw rotten tomatoes at us if we say no? Seriously, we don't fight. We know each person has the best interest of the series at heart, and the story is what matters most. That being said, I'm a big ol' meanie and won't let the characters wink or quiver nearly as much as Nancy would like.

Q: Why did you decide to set the series in Georgia?

A: Nancy is a native Virginian who recently relocated to North Carolina, and Kelsey is originally from Texas. Georgia was pretty much in the middle. It was a coincidence (a great one!) that Kelsey ended up moving to Georgia in 2012.

Q: Is the Tucker Torpedo a made-up car?

A: No. It's a real car.

Q: Are the Grannies based on your own grandmothers?

Nancy: Not mine.

Kelsey: Mine neither – none of our grannies has my grandmother’s big boobs (we like to call them muffins in my family).

Q: Where can I sign up for more information about The Granny Series?

A: We have a newsletter and we keep our website up-to-date at www.TheGrannySeries.com

Q: Where can I find out which of the Grannies I’m most like?

A: Ahhh...we’ve got a treat for you. We have a WHO’S YOUR GRANNY quiz. Jump on over to www.TheGrannySeries.com and find out.

Q: When will Teague get his own story? Will he and Jenny get together?

A: Teague is now starring in his own set of novellas – whatcha think about that? Check out the first in a three-novella series, Always On My Mind.

And don’t worry. We’ve handled the sweet (Nancy’s readers) vs heat (Kelsey’s readers) by allowing the reader to PICK YOUR PASSION. A pretty innovative idea that we’re really proud of being the first to try in the romance market.

Q: When will the next The Granny Series book be released?

A: IN FOR A PENNY - available now

FIT TO BE TIED - available now

IN HIGH COTTON comes in April 2015, and you can bet we’ll holler it from the mountain tops when we have more information on the next ones.