



Vol. 2, No. 10, March 6, 2020

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From the Editor



Hello all!

Are you thinking of a short story to go with one of the three pictures above? You could be the winner of a \$50 gift card! There's two weeks left. ([Details here.](#))

I'm finding it hard to concentrate and work on this newsletter. Mr. and Mrs. Cardinal are twittering about in the bushes right in front of the window my desk faces. Every year they raise a family in a nest high in the evergreens that are as tall as the roof. It's difficult to jump into the past when Spring is in my face.

Fortunately, the newsletter is all together, except for this little blurb from the editor. (Sounds fancier than saying 'from me', right?) Read on and meet author D.S. Elliston this week. Later through the year, many of our favorite authors from last year will be returning to share news of their books scheduled for release in 2020.

Happy reading and even happier writing!

Trisha

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Dirty Thirties



Do you find that you're fascinated with certain periods of time? Are there eras that become your favorites? Are there certain years that beckon to you, calling you to revel in the past?

That's the 1930's for me. I don't know why. There's something about the plight of America, struggling through the Great Depression that tugs on my heartstrings. I see the pictures that document the difficulties they dealt with. I cringe when I see the massive dust storms that devastated so much – enough so that the decade is frequently called the 'Dirty Thirties'.

Maybe it was reading *Grapes of Wrath* at an early age that fueled my fascination with the lives of people living through that decade. Maybe it's because my parents were born then; my dad in 1934 and my mom in 1936. Maybe it's all the stories I heard growing up, about their childhood and early days.

And then, as an adult many years later, the quilt squares I found in a yard sale, from Athelstan, Iowa, were stitched in 1934. These quilt squares quickly worked their way into my heart. Through them, I discovered new friends. I became attached to women from the past that I'd never met. They're back home now, in the Taylor County Historical Museum in Bedford, Iowa. A small piece of my heart hangs next to each of the 30 squares displayed in the museum.



Whatever the reason, or multitude of reasons, the 1930s is my favorite decade. Here's a few of the major events through the decade.

Major Events of the 1930's

1930

Pluto Discovered
1st diesel engine automobile trip (Packard sedan) completed
"Mickey Mouse" comic strip 1st appears

1931

Al Capone Imprisoned for Income Tax Evasion
Empire State Building Completed
U.S. Officially Gets National Anthem

1932

Air Conditioning Invented
Amelia Earhart First Woman to Fly Solo Across the Atlantic
Zippo Lighters Introduced

1933

Adolf Hitler Appointed Chancellor of Germany
FDR Launches New Deal
Prohibition Ends in the U.S.



1934

Bonnie and Clyde Killed by Police
Cheeseburger Created
The Dust Bowl
Shirley Temple stars in *Stand Up and Cheer* and *Little Miss Marker*

1935

Ma Barker and Son Are Killed in Police Shootout
Monopoly Board Game Released by Parker Brothers
Penguin Introduces the First Paperback Books
Social Security Enacted in U.S.

1936

Carnegie Publishes *How to Win Friends and Influence People*

Hoover Dam Completed

The Book *Gone With the Wind* First Published

1937

Amelia Earhart Vanishes

Golden Gate Bridge Opened

Shirley Temple stars in *Heidi*

1938

Broadcast of "The War of the Worlds" Causes Panic

March of Dimes Founded

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is the First Full-Length Animated Cartoon

Superman First Appears in Comic Books

Volkswagen Beetle First Produced

Shirley Temple stars in *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*

1939

World War II Begins

Helicopter Invented

Wizard of Oz Movie Premieres

Gone with the Wind movie Premieres

Grapes of Wrath published



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Author Spotlight – D.S. Elliston

The longer Pages of the Past runs, the more trouble I get into. In searching for authors to interview, I keep finding new authors and discovering more and more books I want to read. Oh my, that TBR stack keeps getting higher instead of smaller. This week our guest is D.S. Elliston, talking about more fascinating books to add to my stack.



Greetings, before I begin my interview, I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity to share some insight into not only my work but for the readers to get to know me a bit better. I shall endeavor to answer the questions set before me in such a way that one might feel I am sitting next to them, and we are just chatting. I hope you enjoy learning a bit more about Legends of NOLA, myself, and with a chuckle or two along the way.

D.S. Elliston

Welcome D.S. Elliston! Your trilogy of books, *The Lake*, *Lovers in Stone*, and *The Pirate Laffite* (due out Summer 2020) is set when Tori, in 1989, finds herself in 1810 through a portal. Through the three books, she is searching for her way home. How did you come up with the idea?

That is an intriguing question. I wanted to write historical fiction and have the reader experience what a modern-day female might go through if suddenly she slipped back in time. Using my knowledge of history, that was taught to me in school, and what I recalled date wise, it surprised me at how much I knew, but could not prove. More so, I was amazed at how actual historical dates escaped my memory. Not wanting to begin the story in the past, I came up with the idea of using time travel, a novel approach for the mid 1980's. The added tension of my heroine being trapped in the past was the path I chose. Tori goes back to 1810 New Orleans, leaving behind her daughter, family friends, and new love interest. All she wants, therefore, is to return to her own era and escape the horrors and challenging living standards, while not doing anything to change history.

What drew you to go back to the year 1810?

It was a date reached by the research I did and learning the approximate arrival time to New Orleans of my historical hero, Jean Laffite. I needed him established if only for a short time before my time traveling female's ordeal would begin. The time and dates of the Battle of New Orleans were also taken into the equation; after all, it was my goal to show why Laffite set about doing what history tells us he did. Against all the odds or any reasonable explanation, this pirate and his men helped the Americans and Andrew Jackson fight the massive invading army of the British.

What is it about New Orleans that drew you to set your stories there?

The almost forgotten history of the Battle of New Orleans was the biggest draw. The fact that this battle against a foreign enemy was the last fought battle on American soil drew my attention. Had we lost, our history would have been radically changed. Then there was the story of The Gentleman Pirate, Jean Laffite and how he helped Andrew Jackson win the fight against the British.

If you ever have the chance to visit New Orleans and go beyond the French Quarter and the famous Bourbon Street, beyond the jazz and restaurants and off the beaten path, you will find a culture as old as the city itself. This diversity in cultures, the people, and ghost stories, that is what drew me there and still does. The restored plantations, the myths, legends, and its people will take hold of you and, without a doubt, have you wanting more. Many who visit return again and again. It is a unique blend of Creole, Cajun, African American, and more. The flavors, the sites, and sounds bubble together and create an artist pallet for those who seek out its secrets. From Ghosts to Vampires, from the French Quarter to riding the cable car into the Garden District. The riverboats, the bayous, Cafe du Monde, and the nightlife are just the tip of the iceberg.

You can visit the battleground today, and like many of the other locations in the story, you can visit them too. All of these historical facts make this one of my favorite places on the planet. I miss it when not there, and once we arrive, we, as the Creoles say, (*laissez le bon temps rouler,*) let the good times roll.

Do you have any favorite methods you use in researching your books?

My favorite method was investigating old documents in the Historic New Orleans Collection research center. The prestigious historical collection was made possible by the Kemper and Leila Williams Foundation and who's building is located on Royal Street. They have, over the years, been my most significant source of documents and facts, all of which were required to put together the epic adventure while maintaining the historical integrity of the timeline, events, and characters involved.

Next would be visiting the actual historic sites. Also, when I write, I live in the moment. You might say I am a method author. If I can't experience what I have to describe, I try my best to get as close as I can.

What challenges have you found with writing historical fiction?

The greatest challenge is getting history correct, or as close to perfect as one can. With this story, so little is known about the man Jean Laffite and his brother. The gentleman pirate arrived in NOLA and left; those are the only two solid facts known about this man. Spending long hours in the research library and taking notes and staying on track was always a challenge. Portraying historical characters as close to their descriptions as were recorded in their time, was also important to me.

The Pirate Laffite is due out this summer. What is it like in an author's life as you're waiting for your next 'child' to be birthed?

With each book, when I type the words, to be continued or the end, it feels surreal. I am nervous, anxious, and a little bit concerned. I find myself wanting to go back and look at the book to make sure I did not miss something. When you are as close to a story as I have been to this one, when the people in the pages become so real, that you visit their graves in the modern-day cemetery number one and two, you can't really understand the emotions that are invoked.

Do you have any plans for another book in this series? Or any plans for another works that you would like to share with us?

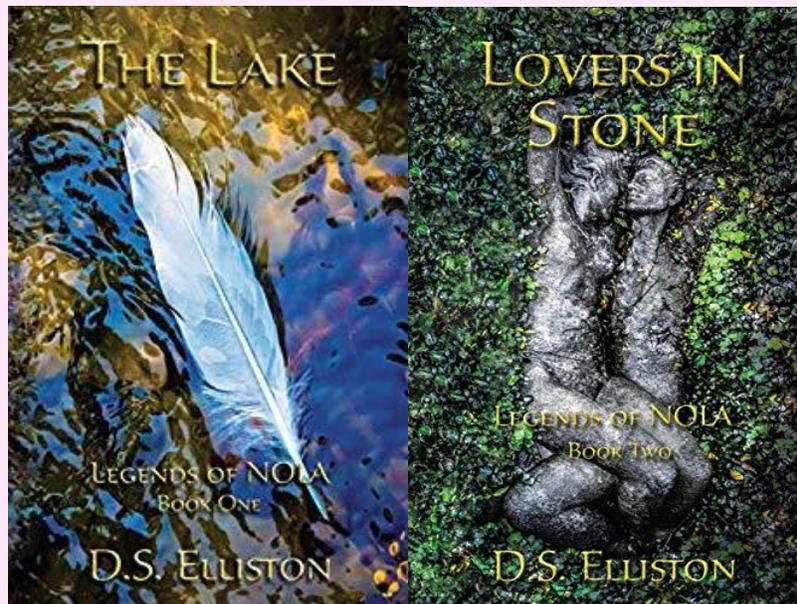
As you read this interview, I am working on book four, title *Allies and Enemies*. This title should be the last book in the series, but I won't know until the final edit, there might have to be a book five to complete the story.

The Wardrobe, under another pen name, was written as a stand-alone book but has grown a following around the world, with fans wanting more. Knowing this and not confident it could be accomplished, I reached out, and with the help of my son, who gave me the idea of a way to continue the saga, I have begun. The first chapter is completed and is bound to shock the reader; it shocked me.

I have decided that my sounding board for the following books in The Wardrobe series, will be my son, who is a talented scriptwriter, actor, and also my photographer. It will be his photos that will grace the pages of the Legends companion book. Dylan is the creator of all my book covers, and when you read each book, you will come to a greater understanding of the cover design and its link to the story told between the pages.

So, there you have it; our chat has to end now. I do hope I was not too long-winded. Please stop by Facebook pages, [Author D.S. Elliston](#) or [Legends of NOLA](#), to keep up to date with all the news. [The Wardrobe also has a page](#), and you are invited to partake and join in if you dare. I write under a different pen name for my horror story. Susan Elliston is the woman who dares to write a thriller that keeps you on edge. D.S. Elliston will stick with historical romance/time travel.

Thank you for spending this time with me. D.S.



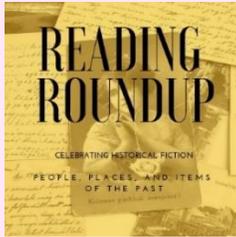
[The Lake](#)

[Lovers in Stone](#)

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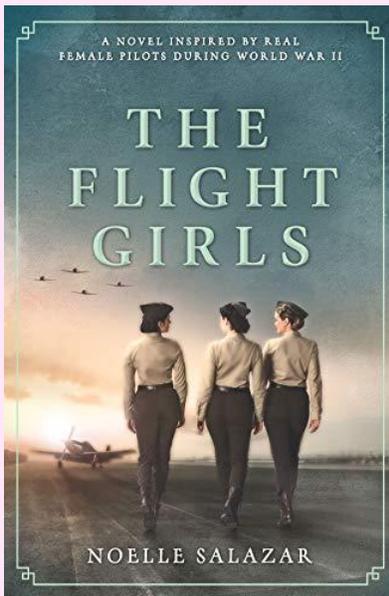
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The 1940s

The Flight Girls

Noelle Salazar



1941. Audrey Coltrane has always wanted to fly. It's why she implored her father to teach her at the little airfield back home in Texas. It's why she signed up to train military pilots in Hawaii when the war in Europe began. And it's why she insists she is not interested in any dream-derailing romantic involvements, even with the disarming Lieutenant James Hart, who fast becomes a friend as treasured as the women she flies with. Then one fateful day, she gets caught in the air over Pearl Harbor just as the bombs begin to fall, and suddenly, nowhere feels safe.

To make everything she's lost count for something, Audrey joins the Women Airforce Service Pilots program. The bonds she forms with her fellow pilots reignite a spark of hope in the face war, and—when James goes missing in action—give Audrey the strength to cross the front lines and fight not only for her country, but for the love she holds so dear.

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