

LIGHT MY FIRE, the third Aisling Grey novel, was published November 2006.

LMF was an absolute joy to write. When I think of the first four Aisling books, I think of YOU SLAY ME as the starter book, FIRE ME UP as the things get hairy book, and LIGHT MY FIRE as the dump everything humanly possible on Aisling book. This is the book where I feel Aisling really begins to grow emotionally and professionally. The first order of her business was to push Aisling to the point where she realized that she couldn't continue to that she was meant to be with Drake.

But Aisling is no pushover, not even for me, so it took some doing to bring her to see the light. As far as Drake was concerned, he was even more fun to write in this book than the previous two, because he was now in a place where he realized that he couldn't go on without Aisling, which meant he'd have to learn how to compromise (something pretty much foreign for him). And I left most of his struggles off stage to save the reader's sanity, but there was enough residual resistance left for Aisling to overcome, which in turn, allowed her to stop focusing on herself and began to think of her and Drake as a couple.

After I pushed Aisling to the point where she was willing to work with Drake, the intricate nature of dragon politics got some attention. I'd been building towards an all out war between the red and green dragon since the very first book, and finally realized just how that was going to manifest. I wasn't quite sure until I found myself writing a scene where Aisling was skewed with a sword that quickly set the tone for the rest of the attacks, which angered rather than frightened her.

I hadn't originally intended for Aisling to become a prince of Abaddon, but I thought it would be a lovely dichotomy of her genuinely good nature against a position that pretty much represented the pinnacle of evil. I was conflicted with the need to allow her to use her Guardian powers and abilities, while at the same time, keeping her from becoming an all powerful creature no one could stop.

I decided she needed to understand just how easy it would be for her to lose some of her abilities. Thus, the dark power was born. And once I knew it was going to offer her the temptation of an easy way out, so to speak, it became obvious that she had to become a prince. Bael was also a bit of surprise in that I hadn't seen him as having such a devious role in Aisling's life, but it made sense that he would be desperate to use any tactic to hang onto his job. He was the tool I used to knock off a bit of Aisling's cockiness. In fact, the scene where Bael forces her into pryncedom is one of the few instances where Aisling was quite honestly a hair's breath away from being utterly destroyed. And I think it taught her a much needed lesson.

Jim and Rene's origins were something that had cropped up repeatedly in emails, so I figured I'd better deal with both of those questions. I'd known since FIRE ME UP who and what Rene was, but Jim's origin was a bit more difficult in that I couldn't quite decide how I was going to explain a demon who wasn't very demonic in the end. I settled on him being a bit of a practical joker, someone whose sense of humor was going to get him in trouble. Thus, it was that he was kicked out of the Court of Divine Blood, and into the control of a demon lord, who also ended up kicking him out. The idea of Jim as a minor heavenly being still gives me the giggles.

I'd long promised readers that one of Drake's family members were going to make an appearance in this book. Catalina, Drake's mother, was a sheer delight to write. She was so over the top, but I knew she had to be in order to explain why Drake was the way he was—he had to come by all that arrogance somehow. I admit it was a bit of a surprise to find out she actually killed Drake's father, but it fit perfectly into her personality.

Unlike Aisling, I have always enjoyed seeing shades of gray where others see black and white. This was one of the reasons why Gabriel did some things in this book that may have shaken some fans' belief in him. It was intended to remind Aisling and readers that everyone is not necessarily what they appear to be.

I was interested to see that many readers remained faithful to their belief in Gabriel stating that they believed he was being duped or otherwise coerced into acting in a manner that seemed to be at odds with Aisling and Drake. I've always been a fan of bad boys.

Trivia time! When I started writing the book, I never intended the issue of a possible pregnancy to become a big deal. But as the plot progressed, it became apparent that this wasn't going to be a situation which would be resolved a few chapters in as I had originally intended. Instead, I realized that it would be an excellent thing for Aisling to not know if she was pregnant or not, since it allowed her time to come to a decision about Drake that wasn't driven by anything other than her feelings for him.