

1. What or who inspired you to write this book?

Ruby Rest began with the question Preston asks Edda and Edda then later asks herself:

“The caterpillar in the cocoon, how do you think she feels? Is she cozy and snug, with a fat belly, knowing she’ll soon emerge transformed into a new creature of unsurpassed beauty? Or is she claustrophobic and scared, not really understanding what is happening to her, only hoping deep down that somehow, someday she’ll break through and see the light again?”

That was the question I asked myself and Edda’s journey led me toward the answers.

2. I loved the fact that the rose was used symbolically so often throughout the book and that the color red was everywhere. What made you choose red and what made you choose the rose? Is this how the title of the book came about or was it the other way around?

Red: strength, passion, energy, rage... I am an intensely visual person so different colors represent my characters to me in my mind’s eye. Edda is red with all of the strengths and weaknesses of the complex color. She is passionate but also vulnerable in her utter visibility, intense in her depth while susceptible to her powerful emotions. The rose is the same. A rose is alluring in its beauty, but that intense power also makes it defenseless at times. What I love about the Altissimo rose used throughout the story is the contrast of its yellow core. The yellow stamens really represent a strong light in Edda that she herself does not even recognize.

The title *Ruby Rest* is another link to the red woven throughout the story and Ruby Rest itself. The rose and rubies are all interconnected and hail back to the opulent remnants of a beautiful world unseen to the current day residents of Carmel. The title also becomes somewhat ironic in the fact that rest can actually be found in the remains of tragedy.

3. I expected more of a story to come about concerning the rubies that Edda found. What was their actual significance? Were they only there to show how the cottage got its name?

The rubies essentially are introduced like spoils in a tomb but come to lead Edda to a greater understanding about life itself. They reflect a former life of rapture in Mrs. Bunyard that isn’t apparent from Ruby Rest’s decaying outer shell. The rubies are what connect Edda to Mrs. Bunyard’s unseen world of pleasure and pain. Perhaps the most important rubies are those found on the ring. It is when Edda wears the ring that she is most connected to Mrs. Bunyard’s world and the beauty and sense of loss found there.

**4. In what genre would you as the author classify this book?
Romance? Suspense? Why? I see elements of both and am curious.**

Suspense. Romance is definitely integral to *Ruby Rest* just as romance is integral to a woman's life. That is where I see the delineation however. The story is about Edda's life, not necessarily focused on her romantic life as significant as that may be. The core of *Ruby Rest* is Edda's journey and search to understand life, to survive and then to thrive in the face of tremendous loss and danger. Romance is a huge part of her life, but I think the suspense outweighs the romance in the heart of the story. You're right though. It's undeniable that suspense and romance are so interconnected throughout *Ruby Rest* that a case for romance could easily be made.

5. Are you planning another novel anytime soon?

I am currently in the final editing stages of a mystery set in Sonoma Valley which will go to my agent soon. I also just started writing a new novel set in Barcelona which I'm really looking forward to getting into.

Read the review at: <http://amateurdelivre.tripod.com/id2.html>