

5 minutes with ... Clare Miles



Which author would you most like to meet?

I've been lucky that I've met many of the authors that I admire/love to read through RWA. Of the ones I have yet to meet, Susan Elizabeth Phillips is top of the list. I love her characters, settings and that she doesn't shy away from hard-hitting topics, all of which she delivers with such humour and uniqueness that she makes it look easy ... which of course it isn't. And as she herself has aged, her voice, characters and the issues they tackle have remained as fresh and relevant as at the beginning of her career. She's an absolute inspiration as a writer and thanks to her social media account seems like a fun, vibrant person.

What place would you most like to visit?

I'd love to walk the Camino de Santiago (probably not all of it, but definitely part of it), which finishes in Spain. Traditionally a pilgrimage (and many still do so for this reason), it combines religion (for those interested) with exercise (walking), beautiful countryside, quaint villages, fabulous food, vineyards/wineries and history ... really something for everyone.

Are you a plotter or a pantsier?

I'm a pantsier. Many times I've wished I wasn't and maybe that will evolve over time, but currently that's me. I do know the goal, motivation and conflict of my characters (thanks Debra Dixon for a model that speaks to me) before I start writing, along with their backgrounds (although they do still surprise me), all of which I use to drive the story forward.

What is the nicest thing a reviewer has ever said about one of your books?

Having had my debut full-length novel published this year, reviews in general have been a massive thrill. The fact that someone has taken the time not only to read my book, but enjoyed it enough to review it ... wow ... it gives me a massive thrill every single time I get a new one (and reread them). So thank you to everyone who has taken the time to give *Falling for the King* a positive review. Never doubt how much it is appreciated.

Other than books, what is one item you can't resist buying

Retro things for my 1970s apartment! I'm a big fan of the second-hand economy as it's such a buzz to give something a new lease of life as well as being good for the environment and, most of the time, hip pocket. For anything purchased from an op shop it has the added bonus of assisting the charity it supports. Win-win in every way, I'd say.

You can find out more about Clare on her website.

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