

## **THE AUTHORS SHOW – Romance**

**Author: Elizabeth Ferry-Perata**

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” Mark Twain

What makes a dream a reality? Is it thoughtful planning or taking a leap of faith? I guess the answer would be different, depending on who you ask. For me, making a dream a reality is sometimes having the courage to just take the plunge and just do it. You never know what might happen. The above quote by Mark Twain, is what gave me the courage to jump into writing. It allowed me to transfer my dreams into reality. Thus, my writing journey began. I always had one eye on my children and one eye on my career. I worked a typical Monday through Friday 45+ hours a week job. But, funding got cut one year for my job and I was one of the unfortunate people laid off. It was devastating! I thought, what I am going to do? Here I was this educated, middle aged adult women with a family to support. I worked my tail off to be well-respected in my field with a vast amount of knowledge that I loved to share with others. Instead of feeling defeated, I thought, how can I rise above from this? What legacy do I want to leave my family? After a lot of thought, I took control and jumped into the unknown. I wanted to share my knowledge and write. Live my dream.

I had the opportunity to do something that had always been on my “bucket list”. I had the opportunity to write. As I began to spend time with my children, this idea formed in my head, so I began to write every day. Now, what was interesting to me, is instead of writing about education, I wanted to change gears and write something that I was passionate about. I wanted to write fiction novels. At first, I thought the story was going to be a basic story about how a boy and girl meet, fall in love and live happily ever after. However, as I got into the story, I realized that I wanted to write something that would intrigue readers and get them to think about how would they deal with certain situations if they were faced with them. When I made the characters, I derived from real-world people and situations. I interwove my background in child development into the storyline. Thus, my book, Grains of Truths, was created.

Grains of Truth is an intense, emotional and passion-filled story about two best friends looking for that one thing everyone wants — love. It's a story about friendship and accepting what you can't change. Grains of Truth will move you to tears and leave you astonished. It's a must-read story with an unexpected twist. Although the story isn't fantasy or particularly unique; it deals with everyday people and their personal challenges and desires. I am currently writing my second book Public Truths. It's a complex romance about a Hollywood publicist who falls for her bad boy client, a major star with a reckless past. Like Grains of Truth, this story has a lot of layers and subtext. I am just now writing it and excited to see how it finishes.

As an author, I want to create characters that are relatable. They could be perhaps about a women we all know who live in our neighborhood. The book's characters in Grains of Truth, are highly relatable and flawed just like everyone. How the story unfolds and what happens and particularly the subtext are unique and thought provoking. When the reader finishes the book, he or she will be surprised and perhaps enlightened. If I just write the words, describing things only visually, then the rest of the senses would be lost. We have five senses, why not write about them all so that the reader feels the story with their whole body? What are the smells in the room? The sounds they hear? The textures they touch? This evokes certain thoughts, feelings and attitudes awaking in my reader. Thus, the settings and the characters of the story come alive.

As a writer, I want to create stories where people escape from the hustle and bustle of life and fall in love with characters and places. I want my audience to feel alive emotionally and tell others about their experience after experiencing my stories. I enjoy telling my stories and I get to spend time with my families. I feel like I have the best of both worlds.

Sometimes we ask ourselves is this all worth doing? Is dreaming big and exploring who you are something that I should be doing? As I continue down my path as an author, I feel that yes this is what I want to do. No regrets and no turning back. I want to be able to share stories with others. I want to show my children that sometimes by taking a leap of faith, you can land on your feet and be ok. Yes, you should have a "backup plan", but you should also follow your heart and do what you love to do. Now just because my children see me chase my dreams,

doesn't mean I don't' still have expectations that they have to abide by. My children still need to do well in school, do their chores at home, and respect their elders. But, I've become their example, that they need to explore and dream and find out what makes them happy. They need to find out what they are passionate about and chase that. Since beginning my writing journey, this has sparked some very good conversations and my children are now more open to trying things out to see if they like something. I feel that my children are becoming more of who they want to be not with me telling them who they should be. As I continue to write and explore more plotlines, I do know that I want to leave a legacy much as Mark Twain's famous words: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do". Sometimes, just by taking the leap of faith, unexpected doors open and dreams do become reality. I hope that you do the same. Make your dream a reality.