

Q & A

WITH JACKIE COLLINS

1. When did you start to write?

I was nine years old, and even then I loved making up a diverse group of characters.

2. Who was your inspiration?

Early authors I devoured were the English children's writers, Enid Blyton, and the wonderful Charles Dickens. Then as I reached my teen years, I moved on to Harold Robbins and Mickey Spillane! Quite a change!

3. Did you like those authors because of all the crazy sexual content?

No. I found the sex in their books to be very one-sided. The male characters seemed to have all the fun, and the women were simply available. I knew that when I started to write, things would be different.

4. Your signature character, Lucky Santangelo, has become a real life superstar in her own right with your millions of fans. Why do you think she is so popular? How does Lucky represent the ultimate modern woman?

Lucky Santangelo is a superstar to all my readers. They simply love the character Lucky. I think it is because she is a strong woman in what is still somewhat a man's world, and she is beautiful, smart, sexy and determined. Lucky does all the things that women like to do, and yet never quite have the courage, and she says all the things that women would like to say, and aren't quite sure they can get away with it. Lucky kicks ass!

5. "Goddess of Vengeance" revolves around Lucky Santangelo and her new casino and luxury apartment complex in Las Vegas. Why do you think Vegas has now become the *see and be seen* Mecca for Hollywood's It crowd?

Vegas is very exciting to the Hollywood It crowd. First of all, people feel they are on vacation and, secondly, they feel they are entitled to do anything they want – and most of them do! It's a fantasy land of gorgeous hotels and gorgeous people and fun activities. In Vegas they can get totally lost in their own star power with no recriminations unless, of course, they do a Britney Spears and get married for forty-eight hours!



6. Where will the continuing saga of Lucky Santangelo take us after “Goddess of Vengeance?”

I have written about Lucky now in seven books, and created two miniseries for NBC Television that lasted ten hours! I think I might have gone as far as I can go with Lucky! Although, I am very fond of her daughter, Max, who is still a teenager, and is a little Lucky waiting to happen! Max has a long way to go, as does Bobby, Lucky’s incredibly good-looking son. So I might be writing about Lucky’s kids for many more books!

7. Without naming names, what is the most outrageous or bizarre story you have ever heard about a Hollywood superstar?

I have heard so many outrageous stories about Hollywood superstars that it would fill a book! Actually, I think I’ve filled twenty-seven books!

8. The favorite question to always ask you is how much of your storylines and characters are based on real events and people. Is there anything you have ever heard or seen that made you think, “I couldn’t even put this in a novel, no one would ever believe it”?

My characters and storylines are very much based on real events and people. I often see a situation that is so bizarre that I feel I cannot write it because it would become detrimental to the characters I am writing about. Truth is much stranger than fiction. We have only to look at headlines over the last few years – Anna Nicole Smith, Phil Spector, and other countless scandals. Not to mention all the cheating husbands.

9. During the past several years the Hollywood, Vegas, and New York scenes have been invaded by the celebantes, heiresses, and It girls, many of whom are famous simply for being famous. How has this invasion changed the landscape of the fame industry?

The film industry has always embraced people with no talent. It’s the personality that counts, and the looks. When you consider politicians today it’s all about how they present themselves on television. If Obama was short and ugly, he wouldn’t be where he is today.

10. What’s more fun: Living in Hollywood or writing about it?

I love living in Hollywood, it is a fantastic city. Los Angeles has always been my dream place. It is a sprawling metropolis and I love it a lot! Writing about it is fantastic. I have another twenty-seven books to come! And more stories than I can ever tell!

11. Considering your amazing run as a Hollywood and literary icon, how would you define true glamour?

True glamour is in the mind of the beholder. I have never considered myself glamorous, but I have been told I am – I think it’s because I have a great deal of self confidence and my message to women is girls can do anything! I have always believed this slogan and most of my heroines believe it too. And that’s the secret to my success!