

Lynda Hilburn Blog Interview

Paranormal "First Sale Stories" Questions

What's the name of your first paranormal book? [LA VIDA VAMPIRE](#)

When was it published? [April 1, 2008](#)

Which publishing house? [Berkley \(trade\)](#)

What's it about?

[What was the inspiration for the book? A peanut butter commercial in which I misheard a line was the initial spark.](#)

[Is it part of a series? Yes, it's the first book in the series.](#)

[What do you like most about your paranormal characters? I think I most like that they keep surprising me.](#)

[What's your favorite aspect of the book?](#)

[How long have you been writing fiction? I've been fiction writing for over 20 years.](#)

[Is this your first paranormal manuscript? Yes, it is. Previous manuscripts were romantic comedy and romantic suspense. One had a paranormal element.](#)

[Is paranormal your main focus? Paranormal is a main focus at the moment, but I'm working on a cozy mystery series, too!](#)

[What attracts you about the paranormal characters/situations you write about?](#)

[How long did it take to sell your book, from the time you finished your manuscript? I finished the manuscript in May, and sold in February. However, I've been writing for over 20 years.](#)

[Did you have an agent when you sold your first book? No. I hired my agent within 24 hours after I got The Call.](#)

[Do you recommend that a pre-published writer focus on finding an agent first, or do you think it's OK to submit directly to the publisher? I think it's great to submit directly to the publisher, especially if an editor has requested a partial or full. It writer might expect to wait longer for an answer without an agent, and I recommend an agent in order to get the best contract terms possible. However, if a publisher accepts unsolicited work, by all means submit!](#)

Thinking about the notion of “It’s always darkest before the dawn,” what was the lowest point in the process for you? Was there a time you almost gave up?

You don’t have to mention numbers, but did you get a nice advance? [I got an advance that made me very happy!](#)

What was the process of revisions/rewrites like?

Did your agent suggest changes? [No, my agent doesn’t generally suggest changes. She leaves revisions to the writer and the editor.](#)

What was it like, working with the editor at your publishing house? [Leis Pederson is my editor, and she is amazing! She’s clear, concise, offers great suggestions, and she was very patient with me during the copy edit phase. As much as I’ve heard authors talk about that process, my learning curve was not as smooth as I might’ve liked!](#)

Do you have any words of wisdom for us regarding rewrites/revisions?

Were there any surprises for you about the contract you signed? [No, no surprises. I pretty well knew what to expect.](#)

Do you get a lot of help marketing your book, or do you have to do it yourself?

What’s your best marketing advice?

Did you have input about your cover? [No, not initially. I did ask if the character’s blouse could be changed from the original black to a different color. Though she is a vampire, Cesca doesn’t dress like one. I was most grateful that the blouse color was changed!](#)

Have you done any book signings? If so, what were they like?

If you could go back and do something differently, what would that be?

What was the biggest happy surprise in the process?

What are your writing plans for the future?

What advice would you give to all the pre-published writers out there?

How can readers find out more about you? [Readers may visit my web site – <http://www.nancyhaddock.com>. They can also play the Where’s Cesca contest game on the Beach Party page!](#)