

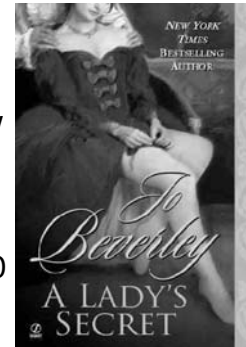
## Jo Beverley: 21 years and counting

People used to come of age at twenty-one. I'm wondering if that's happened to me yet in the writing life. This writing business seems to be an endless growing and learning experience, but that's a good thing. If the learning stops, if the surprises stop, I'll stop.

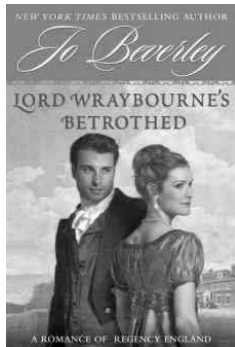


I sold my first novel in 1988. It had a print run of 1,000 copies and a Victorian Lolitta on the cover. I had no say over that. It was a library hardcover, however, so some of those copies are still out there.

My 2008 novel, *A Lady's Secret* spent 4 weeks on the in-print NYT list, reaching #10. I had input into the cover, and I love what the art department did with my idea.



In 2009 that first book, *Lord Wraybourne's Betrothed* will be reissued in trade paperback. The print run will be a lot more than 1,000 copies, and again the art department worked with an idea I had. No more Lolita.



Along the way Jane Austen became all the rage and the traditional Regency died. Go figure. Did you know that once the Regency period was considered unsuitable for historical romance? Go figure, indeed!

In 21 years I've had thirty-three romances published plus a bunch of novellas, a couple of them science fiction, and altogether they've won me a bunch of awards, including the Golden Leaf, the Award of Excellence, the National Readers Choice, the SF Sapphire award, and a two Career Achievement awards from Romantic Times.

I'm a member of the RWA Hall of Fame and Honor Roll and am proud of my five RITAs, accolades from my peers. I've also acquired some some dents and bruises, as have we all. So, I've learned a lot, sometimes from my own mistakes but sometimes from hearing about the problems of others, so I'm willing to share.

But I believe there's a limit to what the experienced writer can give to the new one, for the new writer today is exploring a different terrain, which provides different benefits and demands different skills.

There's no point in my sharing what I learned about using a dot matrix printer, is there? How important it once was to understand that. And how tentatively we authors moved onto the internet, and worse, the World Wide Web! As one of the earlier explorers, I remember warnings from editors and agents that I'd end up starving in the gutter with cyber-goo on my face.

All the same, sometimes we experienced writers can sketch a map for those following, and even write on it, "Here is fresh water and good food," and "Here be dragons!"

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