**Q&A with Award-Winning Author Sabrina A. Fish**

**Q: How long did it take to write each of the first two books in the series?**

A: I get faster with each book. Diomere’s Exile took about 18 months and Diomere’s Healer took 15 months. Diomere’s Mercenary is on track to take about 12 months.

**Q: Why mermaids?**

A: I find the idea of them fascinating and have since I watched The Little Mermaid as a kid, but knew I didn't want to write a typical "innocent mermaid saves the prince from drowning and falls in love with him" scenerio. So I made my mermaid a scary tough female and the prince her abducted nephew who she's determined to find and bring back home. My mermaid still gets to fall in love...if she'll just get out of her own way.

**Q: So far you have 2 books published in The Gate Keeper Chronicles. How many books are you planning to write in this series?**

A: Five. One for each of the Quinones sisters to go with the five gates between the two worlds I've created.

**Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?**

A: It can take 2-6 months, or more. And I really never stop improving on that research. First, I draw a map of my world. Creating a believable fictional world means you have to create different climates based on where you've placed mountains, trees, water, etc. Then the culture and religion are shaped by that climate. So I do a lot of research on the different parts of the real world: religions, cultures, languages, peoples, etc.

**Q: We know you share deleted scenes in your newsletter. Are there many of them?**

A: Ha! SO many. The scene that really hurt the most to remove was my prologue to book 1 which showed Reis' abduction. I still love that scene.

**Q: Your characters all have interesting names. How do you go about selecting the names for your characters?**

A: After I've selected the various cultures and languages for my world, I assign my characters names that match with their homeland. Fun note: My critique partners began noticing my tendency to name my male lead characters with names that began with "R" in the first draft of every story I've ever written. Since I was also once in the Army National Guard, they helped me come up with my street team name, Sabrina's R'my.

**Q: When can we expect your next book?**

A: Book 3, Diomere's Mercenary, will be finished this summer, hopefully. So late fall or early winter.

**Why Romance?**

Falling in love is a high like no other. By writing romance, I get to experience it over and over.