

PRESS KIT

JADE LEE

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For a Bio picture, please download from Jade’s website www.jadeleeauthor.com

For more information on Jade, feel free to contact her at: jade@jadeleeauthor.com

JADE LEE



JADE LEE has two passions (well, except for her family, but that's a given). She loves dreaming up stories and playing racquetball, not always in that order. When her pro-racquetball career ended with a pair of very bad knees, she turned her attention to writing. An author of more than 30 romance novels, she's decided that life can be full of joy without ever getting up from her chair.

A *USA Today* Bestseller, Jade has been scripting love stories since she first picked up a set of paper dolls. Ball gowns and rakish lords caught her attention early (thank you Georgette Heyer), and her fascination with the Regency began. Now an author of more than 30 romance novels, she finally gets to play in the best girl-heaven place of all: a Bridal Salon! In her new series, four women find love as they dress the most beautiful brides in England. Look for the first books in Feb/March 2012 with *Engaged in Wickedness*, an e-book novella, and *Wedded in Scandal*, a Berkley Sensation novel.

And don't forget **KATHY LYONS**! She's Jade's lighter, contemporary half. Kathy writes for Harlequin Blaze. She loves the faster pace of category books and that her humor can really let fly. She leaves the dark, tortured love stories to Jade.

If you're wondering where Katherine Greyle comes in, she's Jade's first persona. Sweet, funny, and with a love of all things regency, Katherine started publishing back in the 1900s. (She won't say how long ago!) But never fear, the romantic soul is the same whether it's Jade, Katherine, or Kathy!

So if you love that special feeling when two people just fit, then email her through her website www.jadeleeauthor.com. She's also on social media at Facebook – JadeLeeBooks and Twitter – JadeLeeAuthor.

EXPERTISE

Jade finds this section especially funny since she feels like she's just spent her professional career learning how to be a CEO of family, entertainment, and a failed racquetball career. However, it turns out that there are a few things she knows a lot about...or at least thinks she does.

1. How to Write and Sell a Romance – This seems obvious, but with an MFA and over 30 books written and sold, Jade's got a few opinions. She's a popular speaker with a dozen or more talks including *The Core of Romance*, *The Zen of Publicity and Promotion*, and *Writing Aid* from a Screenwriter for a Novelist. She's also done a variety of How To workshops on dialogue,

setting, imagery sets, and more.

2. You are CEO of a Small Business – Most people don't realize that in today's novel market, the writer not only has to produce an excellent product, but he has to market it, package it, promote it, and ultimately do all of that for himself, too. The author AND the product need to be packaged as a celebrity. There's a ton of work that goes into that, and most authors haven't a clue where to begin.

3. Racquetball – Years ago, Jade (under her real name) was nationally ranked in women's racquetball. She went pro for a couple weeks, then had injuries end her career. She still plays, still loves the game, and still dreams of climbing the ranks again in the age divisions. At one time, she was certified to teach racquetball and also to referee.

4. Energy Healing – Jade's spent years studying a type of energy healing known as Energy Mirrors. You can see their website here: www.energymirrors.com She is NOT certified, but she can talk extensively on how a spiritual/meditative life has helped her achieve success in her career and peace within her heart and mind.

AWARDS

USA TODAY BESTSELLER – #128, March 5, 2006 *Seduced by Crimson*
2 BOOKLISTreviews

“Lee's deft eroticism hasn't lost any of its power. With her latest variant on the Tigress practice, Lee's star continues to burn bright.” (Nina Davis on *Burning Tigress*)

“If Lee's skills continue to grow at this rate, it will be she who becomes an Immortal.” (Nina Davis on *Desperate Tigress* – STARRED review)

3 PRISMS – **Best Erotic 2006** *White Tigress*

Best of the Best 1999 *Oracle* (by Katherine Greyle)

Best Futuristic 1999 *Oracle* (by Katherine Greyle)

RITA FINALIST

2008 Best Historical for *Tempted Tigress*

1999 Best First Book *Oracle* (By Katherine Greyle)

2 HOLT MEDALLIONS 1999 Best Futuristic and Best First Book *Oracle* (by Katherine Greyle)

1 Romantic Times BOOKclub Reviewer's Choice WINNER

Tempted Tigress 2008 Best Historical KISS

3 Romantic Times BOOKclub Reviewer's Choice Nominee

Wicked Seduction 2011 KISS Award for Best Hero

Desperate Tigress 2003 Best Sensual Historical

White Tigress 2003 Best Historical
2 Romantic Times BOOKclub TOP PICK *Seduced by Crimson* and *Desperate Tigress*
3 Romantic Times BOOKclub KISS awards for *Desperate Tigress*, *No Place for a Lady*
(Greyle), *Major Wycliff's Campaign* (Greyle)
PEARL 2005 Best Erotic Romance finalist
PASSIONATE PLUME 2006 Historical #2, *Hungry Tigress*
GAYLE WILSON 2007 finalist for *Seduced by Crimson*

EDUCATION

1987 Master of Professional Writing, University of Southern California
1984 AB *Cum Laude* – English, University of Michigan

FUN FACTS ABOUT JADE LEE

According to family legend:

- * One of Jade's ancestors signed the document that leased Hong Kong to the British for 99 years.
- * Jade's great grandmother had bound feet—barely over 3 inches long. When running to an air raid shelter from bombs in WWII, her grandsons had to carry her—one on each side—while her gets still ran in the air.
- * One of Jade's ancestors governed a province in China that was troubled by bandits. When he finally caught the evildoers, he cut out the leader's heart and ate it raw to intimidate the others. It worked!
- * One of Jade's ancestors put two carved stone dragons on trial for destroying crops and damaging property. According to the trial, these two dragons left a temple wall to play in the river thereby causing flooding and crop damage. They were found guilty and sentenced to remain on the stone pillars for eternity. To large iron spikes were then pounded into the center of each dragon. And the flooding stopped!
- * One of Jade's ancestors hid for a week under a bed when bandits took over his home. The boy was eight years old and the only survivor of his village. After the bandits moved on, he left his home and walked to the Christian mission in the next county.
- * One of Jade's ancestors was the first female dentist in Indiana. In her spare time, she caught and canned sparrows. She would tie corn kernels to a piece of string and dangle them from a tree. When the birds ate the corn, they would be caught on the string. She would then take them,

can them, and then give them to her relatives as Christmas presents.

* Jade's father is the foremost authority in the world on the evolution of camel crickets.

* Jade was a pro racquetball player for 3 weeks. Then her knees blew out and ended her career.
But she still plays!

APPEARANCES in 2012

March 8-10 *PASIC Power Conference* – New York, NY
Speaker, Publicity and Promotion

March 24 *Rose's Bookhouse* signing – O'Fallon, MO (near St. Louis)

April 8 *Jade Lee's Bridal Favors Launch Event* – Dallas, TX

April 10 *Barbara Vey's Reader Appreciation Event* – Oak Creek, WI
Sponsoring Author

April 9 - 16 *Romantic Times Convention* – Chicago, IL
Special Reader Event – Bridal Favors Series

June 1 - 3 *WisRWA Write Touch Conference* – Wausau, WI
Speaker, The Core of Romance
<http://www.wisrwa.org/conference.html>

June 22 - 24 *RomCon*
Speaker – Chat with Jade Lee
Speaker – Strip a Hero
<http://romconinc.com/>

July 25 - 28 *RWA Annual Convention* – Anaheim, CA
http://www.rwa.org/cs/conferences_and_events

August 8 - 12 *Authors After Dark* – New Orleans, LA
<http://www.authorsafterdark.org/index.html>

August 31 - Sept 3 *Dragoncon*
<http://dragoncon.org/>

November 9 - 11 *Readers-N- 'Ritas* – Dallas, TX
Launch Party event, Nov 11

JADE LEE

Title (release month-year) Publisher ISBN

Devil's Bargain (7-04) ISBN: 978-1-937198-10-7

Seduced By Crimson (3-06) ISBN: 978-1-937198-21-3

The Dragon Earl (9-08) ISBN: 978-1-937198-11-4

Wicked Surrender (9-10)– Berkley Sensation – ISBN 978-0-425-23636-9

Wicked Seduction (4-11) – Berkley Sensation – ISBN: 978-0-425-24015-1

BRIDAL FAVORS SERIES

Engaged in Wickedness, a novella (1-12) ISBN: 978-1-937198-22-0

Wedded in Scandal (3-12) – Berkley Sensation – ISBN: 978-0-425-24593-4

Engaged in Passion, a novella (6-12) ISBN: 978-1-937198-23-7

Wedded in Sin (10-12) – Berkley Sensation

TIGRESS SERIES

White Tigress #1 (1-05) ISBN: 978-1-937198-19-0

Hungry Tigress #2 (6-05) ISBN: 978-1-937198-18-3

Desperate Tigress #3 (11-05) ISBN: 978-1-937198-17-6

Burning Tigress #4 (6-06) ISBN: 978-1-937198-16-9

Cornered Tigress #5 (1-07) ISBN: 978-1-937198-15-2

Tempted Tigress #6 (6-07) ISBN: 978-1-937198-14-5

BLAZE

The Tao of Sex (1-08) – HQ Blaze – 978-0-373-79378-5 / ISBN 10: 0-373-79378-2

Getting Physical (9-09) – HQ Blaze ISBN: 978-0-373-79493-5

The Concubine (2-09) – HQ Blaze–HISTORICAL ISBN: 0-373-79453-3

FANTASY

Dragonborn (3-08) – ISBN: 978-1-937198-01-5

Dragonbound (4-09) – ISBN: 978-1-937198-02-2

Bundled Dragonborn and Dragonbound ISBN: 978-1-937198-03-9

ANTHOLOGIES

Shards of Crimson (1-07)–Dorchester/Love Spell – 0-505-52710-3

Winter Heat (1-09) Anthology – Harlequin ISBN: 0-373-83730-5

NOVELLAS

Kung Fu Shoes – ISBN: 978-1-937198-13-8

SHORT STORY

The Time – ISBN: 978-1-937198-00-8

KATHY LYONS

Under His Spell (4-10) – HQ Blaze ISBN: 0373795394

Office Ups and Downs (9-10) – HQ Blaze ISBN: 0373795807

In Good Hands (3-11) – HQ Blaze ISBN: 978-0-373-79603-8

Night After Night... (3-12) – HQ Blaze ISBN: 0373796838

KATHERINE GREYLE

Oracle (8-98) ISBN: 978-1-937198-04-6

A Lady's Lessons – Three book bundle – ISBN: 978-1-937198-28-2

Rules for a Lady (1-01) ISBN: 978-1-937198-05-3

Major Wycliff's Campaign (10-01) ISBN: 978-1-937198-07-7

Miss Woodley's Experiment (4-02) ISBN: 978-1-937198-06-0

Playing with Matches anthology(4-03) – New American Library / Signet – 0-4512-0830-7

No Place for a Lady (5-03) ISBN: 978-1-937198-08-4

Almost an Angel (10-03) ISBN: 978-1-937198-09-1

By Fate's Hand anthology (6-04) – Imagine Books – 1-893896-20-X

ARTICLES BY JADE LEE

The Core of Romance by Jade Lee

Why do you hero and heroine fall in love? I've read so many books where either character could be replaced by a high class hooker and the result be the same. Love in those books comes from hot sex. Lots of hot sex! Now, I'm a fan of great sex as much as anyone, but that's not a good reason to make a lifelong commitment to someone.

In my world, heros and heroines fall in love because they make each other change for the better. Now, I have seen good no-change characters in romance. The heros of Gena Showalter's Lords of the Underworld series comes to mind. I love those books! But for most of them, the hero doesn't really change. He's a noble warrior who is so tortured, the reader (okay, me) just wants him to be happy. So when the heroine comes along and makes him happy, we all cheer.

If you can pull off one of those heros, then more power to you. I can't. I need my heroine to make the hero a better person (and the reverse). So how do we do that? Well, it's in the core character creation.

When you write your lead characters, figure out what they do best. Not build a better mousetrap, that's too specific. Make it bigger like build a community. Or analyze data (also know as seeing patterns in data). Or being a charismatic leader. All of these are great examples of core character strengths. But inherent in them are weaknesses. The builder of a community risks mowing down the little people for the greater good. The analysts can get so bogged down in details that s/he never sees the bigger picture. The leader can be on a power trip big time or be fooled into leading to the wrong place.

So once you have the core character, then you have the perfect structure all lined up. Do the following list for both your hero and heroine (because, remember, both of them have a core strength and a corresponding core weakness).

1. Establish character as heroic
2. Show character's strength but hint at the weakness.
3. Oh bad, the weakness is a big weakness, and it's caused a *problem!*
4. The other character points out the problem. Sees the strength, but also the weakness.
5. (Change is hard!) "I don't have a problem! You're absolutely wrong!"
6. "Well, okay, you're right. Let's fix this together."
7. All fixed! "You were right, and I'd never have seen it without you. In fact, I need you in my life to keep me from doing that ever again!"

Do that for both characters, flow in the sexual steps to romance, and bam, you have a clear, clean and multi-dimensional plot! Woo hoo! And that, according to me, is the Core of a Romance!

American Born Chinese—When Cultures Clash, Neuroses (and Romance) Are Born

By Jade Lee

Once upon a time (in the fifties), a Chinese princess married an Indiana Hoosier. She was indeed the descendant of royalty, had played in Chang Kai Shek's home, and was well aware of her full and rich heritage. He was an Indiana man taught staunch middle class values of hard work, nuclear family, and the value of a good education. In the sixties, they gave birth to a daughter. Actually, they added several daughters to their nuclear family, but I refer to myself—Daughter Number 2.

Few Americans can understand what birth order means to a Chinese child. All is done by numbers. Each child has responsibilities according to their rank and sex. And though each child is given a name—Unyielding Perseverance or Spring Jade—each child is known by their birth number as well.

But we were speaking of me—Daughter Number 2. At the moment of my birth, I was given two powerful and conflicting birthrights: to obey in silence (think porcelain doll) while simultaneously standing up for truth, goodness, and the American way. This created a huge conflict in my young mind. True, I could stand up in silence, but once standing, I wanted to move. And once speaking the truth, I had no interest in shutting up.

How, then, did I cope? Split Personality. I'm not joking here. Away from my mother, I learned to be American! An exclamation point was absolutely integral to that personality for everything I did was loud, dramatic, and over-the-top. But in front of my mother, I was very Chinese. I walked a step behind her and kept my eyes lowered at all times. My hands were often folded in front of me, and my mouth...well, I tried to keep it shut. I think I did an admirable job. My mother emphatically does not.

Not surprisingly, I learned to hate being Chinese, but also got rather tired of being American. Loud drama is all well and good, but sometimes I just did want to sit in silence. But that brought on all the other difficulties of being Chinese, pre-eminent of which was *Guilt*. I was guilty of not studying hard enough for my chemistry exam, though I doubt a zillion more study hours would have made any difference. I was guilty of thinking extremely nasty things of my mother. I was also guilty of lying to assign my various misdemeanors to a sibling.

Enter the most patient man on the planet—my husband—who's biggest asset was that he is Caucasian and understood absolutely none of this. He was baffled by my rage at my parents and the way I despised wearing those sexy Chinese dresses. He was entertained by my American side because, frankly, that's what I was: an entertainer perpetually on stage. During those moments, he simply sat back and watched the show. He held me when exhaustion set in, and he listened to what must have seemed like incomprehensible spinelessness when faced with my mother's displeasure. And I really shouldn't confess the competition my older sister and I had to have the first grandson—although, honestly, I think he enjoyed those months of trying to get pregnant.

In short, he loved me and gave me the space I needed to find peace between the warring halves of my soul. He is why I write romance and truly believe that love conquers all. Let me

give you an example. A few months ago, I turned to him in exasperation and demanded, “Tell me again why I love you?” He thought and thought, then finally answered, “Because I listen when you complain about your mother.” He didn’t say he understood, only that he listens. And after twenty-five years, I realize that sums it all up. He loves me. At war or at peace, he has stood beside me. Why wouldn’t I believe that love conquers all? And why wouldn’t I want to share that with the world in my books?

Are You A Chinese Wife?

By Jade Lee

A few months ago, my aunt was faced with a horrendous decision. When shown proof of her husband's long-time infidelity, Auntie Linda chose to become a traditional Chinese wife rather than divorce the bastard, as was my very American recommendation. She chose to separate their finances completely, but to remain married for the simple companionship he offered when they were together.

Understand that at sixty-two, Auntie Linda still runs her own international company and looks better than I do in a bathing suit. But the fear of being alone at her age overcame the need for true love in her golden years. "We still have a good time when we're together," she said. And do you know what was most odd about that? I was NOT surprised by her choice.

Marriage for companionship is an old idea. Ancient China—especially among the elite—was a land of polygamy where first wives were rarely chosen for love. Even if love grew, first wives had to share their husbands with younger, prettier concubines. They learned by necessity to accept what attention they received and be grateful for it. Their lives became centered around their children and making sure their sons were devoted to them.

Modern day doesn't glorify such an existence, but it's certainly not unusual. I've sat eavesdropping on my older female relatives as they brag that there's no sex in their lives. They're too old for passion, they say, and thank God their husbands have finally figured that out. As for me, I'm part of a two career couple and a veteran of the Diaper Days. I vividly remember climbing into bed after soothing a toddler nightmare only to have my husband snuggle in close with his own ideas. Shoving him away, I pointed at the bathroom and told him quite clearly to go use his hand. I needed some sleep.

We're long past the baby stage now, about two years away from a totally empty nest. And though I still never get enough sleep, I'm more likely to be woken by my own nightmare than my children's. Do I look at my husband with kitten eyes and breathless anticipation? Not since our honeymoon. I get as much joy out of watching an episode of *The Closer* with him as I do from any bedroom antics. And though he never found a mistress, he does spend a lot of time on the NFL, NBA, and *Civilization IV*. I, in turn, am volleyball mom, basketball mom, and soon-to-be graduating senior mom.

So does that mean that from laziness and creaky joints, I have descended into my own form of a traditional Chinese marriage? No. Or at least I hope not. Baring an incapacity, physical passion is an important part of romantic love. It may take us a bit longer to get the blood flowing, but fortunately we've got the time.

And if we ever need a little boost in the romance department, I've got a few hundred romance novels to read where love and sex are intricately and often beautifully intertwined. After all, according to an Emory University study, readers of romance novels have a more active sex life than those who didn't. That is one of the reasons I also write romance. What better way to enjoy a happy sex life than to spend hours creating it on the page? My husband even gets extra bonus points if he reads my books and becomes a bit more romantic.

That's the brass ring of love—companionship *and* passion well into the golden years. It's what I want in real life and what I offer in my novels. I won't fault anyone who settles for less because some days, less is all I can handle. But as I look into the future, I'm still reaching for those golden moments in front of the tv and in the sack.

By the way, Auntie Linda just called. She's filling for divorce. Turns out her husband wasn't all that good a companion after all.

WRITING ON CAFFEINE

By Jade Lee

Few people understand the importance of a ROUTINE when making a pittance...er, I meant a living...as a writer. Where do you work? How do you work? When do you work? These are all questions a selling writer fields with every interview.

Here is the usual answer: I work wherever I am, as diligently as possible, as often as possible. This is my job and I must treat it as such or I will end up eating Oreos while watching Gilmore Girls.

Here is the real answer: Whenever I can't think of something else to do...including watching Gilmore Girls.

Therefore, in order to write, I must create a routine—aka, RUT—so deep, so intractable, so unforgiving that I have no choice but to write. Sucks, but it's true. No one (except maybe people whom I despise) actually LOVE writing. I love thinking about writing. I love having written. But the act of putting words to paper is a royal pain in the butt. Therefore, I must create an environment where a royal pain in the butt is BETTER than the alternatives. In this way, writing is much like exercise. I mean I like the results, but do I really want to lift weights or run on a treadmill? Do I really want to find a new ways to write perky, kick-butt or find the right dialogue for scary villain guy? Heck, no. But I don't get paid unless I write.

It takes three weeks to establish a habit. Therefore, the initial creation of aforementioned RUT begins with SET A DAILY TIME to create the groove. Write at the same time every day for three weeks. Could be for twenty minutes, could be for ten hours—whatever works for you. Though I should say RUTS are really hard to create for ten hours. That'd be like waking up one day and saying, it's time to run a 10k or put a wall around China. Possible, but do you really want to do that? Every day for three weeks?

Step two is to CREATE A DAILY GOAL. I choose a page count goal. I don't get to nap or get a pedicure until I've written seven pages. One book it took me four months to have enough time for that spa visit. By the way, I recommend starting with a small daily goal then adding up. That's much better than the way I did it of counting how many pages I need to write daily to make my contract. Panic also works wonders as an incentive, but I digress.

Many people set a timer for their daily goal—30 minutes, two hours, whatever. Unfortunately, I've found that a timer only times the moments when I sit in my chair. It doesn't actually encourage written pages because there's lovely distractions like e-mail and internet blogs. And

that leads to the next step.

Step 3 – REMOVE DISTRACTIONS. I write in certain cafes specifically because they don't have internet. I know people who have taken all games off their computer. Gasp! The alternative to this is to CREATE INCENTIVES. Bribery is alive and well in my rut-creation world. Finish two pages and then get CHOCOLATE! Whatever it takes. You may not be able to fit your hips into the author photo, but heck you'll have published books that contain a lovely head shot!

Then finally—CREATE A TRIGGER. You know that fabulous moment when the words flow and everything is right with your creative world? Well, me neither, but I swear we can prepare for those moments by creating a unique trigger to reinforce a writing zone. Scent is a powerful tool. During your three weeks, burn a beeswax candle. Pretty soon, smelling beeswax will leap you into the creative zone. Not a candle fan or afraid you'll accidentally set a contract on fire? Coffee works fabulous for me. Smell coffee, engage brain. Taste a soy latte—yes, I really do drink those—it's time for serious writing! This works in the reverse, too. Taste Oreo? Get ready for Gilmore Girls. Feel sexy lingerie...well, you get the idea.

The ugly fact is that a writer's life must be filled with self-discipline. If you're short on that, then either give up on having a paying career as a writer or find a way to mire yourself deep in the writing rut. And who knows, sniff some caffeine and you might just end up on the best seller's list.

Check out some of Jade's caffeine-induced writing at www.jadeleeauthor.com or at bookstores everywhere!

IMAGINE THIS...Part 1

Imagery and Characterization, can the two ever meet outside of an English class?

By Jade Lee

Is your hero a volcano, seething with fury and ready to burst at any moment? Is your heroine a skittish crane attempting to fly far, far away whenever trouble startles her? How about something more basic? Earth, air, fire, or water. When they're angry, do they darken, flash, seethe, or boil? When they're excited, do they thicken or sear, experience lightning or rivers of fire?

Talk about imagery and even writers roll back to their worst high school English class. That's unfortunate because there is no easier tool for characterization than using good consistent imagery. How many of us have read something like this: His touch was like a hot brand against her skin. Her heart quivered with longing as he stabbed her with his arrow of love. Okay, maybe not that last one, but you get the idea. Cliche imagery for cliche stories.

So many romance novels end up with Ken and Barbie characters. Physically they're perfect, emotionally they're perfect—except for their one scar that is the focus of their arc. Barbie needs to learn to trust because she's been dumped before. Ken lost his last girlfriend to a fire because he was in a coma at the time therefore it was all his fault and he now has to protect the world from its own stupidity. I'm making fun here, but romance readers know how the same emotional baggage in the hands of one author is farce in someone else's.

So how do you make your characters deeply emotional people with real problems instead of Ken in a coma? Hard work. Ha! You thought I was going to say imagery. No, good imagery will not save a stupid book. But consistent imagery will deepen your characters and—here's the good part—keep your themes in your head from the beginning all the way through to the end of the book. Yup. Since writing is HARD WORK, anything that makes it EASIER WORK gets a thumbs up from me.

Raise your hand if you're wondering what the heck I'm talking about. Think of your heroine. For this example, we'll call her Better Than Barbie (BTB). What's her character arc? What does she learn through the course of the book? How does she change? If you can't answer that, sit down and think of an answer. You can't write a credible book without it. Remember, the answer could be that she doesn't change. Despite everything, she remains rock solid in her beliefs.

Great, now BTB has a character arc. Let say BTB needs to learn to forgive, not only herself for her bad choices but her Mother From Hell who set her up with the Fiancé from Hell complete with the Family from Hell. Okay, what image best fits a woman who needs to learn forgiveness?

Let's start with the easy part: earth, air, fire, or water. If she's a religious character—water. You can use all that great baptism, washed clean, purified imagery. If she's a stable character, grounded in her location or family or her job—then go with an earth concept. If BTB is quick tempered, someone who can either lash out or inspire—go with fire. Lastly, air. I chose air for the dreamers, the mystics, the people who wander around in their brain rather than the world because they're either brilliant (genius academic) or lost in their imagination (airhead creative...ie, me).

Let's go with the airhead creative. She's an air person. Therefore colors that work for her would be pastels—light blue, white fluffy clouds. I'd make her a blonde with blue eyes that can grow really pale when she's off day dreaming. Her body type is ethereal, ephemeral, and when Not-Ken looks at her, he wonders if she'll just be blown away by the troubles of the world. She is the kind of person that all heroes want to protect.

When BTB becomes passionate, her eyes darken to a mysterious midnight sky. Her passion is surrounded by words like lightning, turbulence, and electric sensations—all those things that are associated with weather. Her happy laugh is light and brightens everything around her. Her ironic, snarky moments have a crisp snap to them. Now all of a sudden whenever you write about BTB, you have a whole slew of words to latch onto. She'll walk lightly instead of with a heavy tread. She'll float through a room instead of cut or stomp or glide.

Now think of her problem and start including words that demonstrate that. First scenes will include one or two words that indicate her need to forgive: stagnant, stuffy, choking, distant, maybe even dizzy. But as she moves through the book—especially in moments that reveal change—her imagery will change too. Her words or clothing will flow, her touch will feel like a benediction or the sun finally coming out. Learning to forgive will feel like a gentle spring rain that cleanses rather than punishes.

Sadly, no one but another brilliant writer will notice your imagery set. At least not on a conscious level. It's all subconscious, but it helps create a unified feel for your characters that will flow (or drift or root or burn) through your entire book. And it helps you remember that BTB starts out as an air head but when hanging out with Not-Ken, she gets more grounded, and yet he appreciates the lightness to her spirit. Maybe she cools his volcano fire.

For more on consistent imagery sets, wait for part 2 or check out Jade's novels. Then e-mail her jade@jadeleeauthor.com with your guesses as to what imagery she chose for whom. Win a prize if you get it right! www.jadeleeauthor.com

IMAGINE THIS...Part 2

Imagery and Characterization, can the two ever meet outside of an English class?

By Jade Lee

Seething volcano or skittish bird, what image best fits your characters and why would anyone care? Last time I talked about giving a unified imagery set to your main characters. I outlined how choosing basic element properties to your characters creates adds texture and EASE to a character arc. We went with the basic earth, air, wind, and fire possibilities. But let's say you want to go one step further. How would that work and why?

Make your imagery more specific. First off, add metal to your list of elements. Then while you're at it, maybe add all the elements of the periodic table. What if your hero is a tinman in search of a heart? Give him metallic colors to wear and surround himself in. Make him bendable, but when he adjusts to the heroine it gives him a sharp edge to his words and actions.

Now start picking out words to use for your hero. Match it with all five senses, but make sure to pick words that reflect both the good and the bad. You want to be able to indicate your character's changes from a problem through growth into happiness (and love). Confused? Try these examples. For sight—metallic and reflective. When people look at him they see themselves reflected back, not the man himself. When you describe him and his environment surround him in chrome and give him a tin car toy collection. Let the heroine see him as childlike but cold. Then as he grows around her, you can add color to his clothing and surroundings.

Sound—tinny, brittle. You don't have to make his voice sound tinny or thin. That's not hero-like! But he can speak with a brittle edge or it can grate like metal on metal. He can hit something that clinks. When he's depressed he can have a hollow echo to his tone, but as he warms to the heroine, his voice gets depth and color. Eventually—at the end—someone hears his heartbeat. Even the music he listens to changes from Metallica to country—or maybe that's too much of a stretch.

Touch—sharp but malleable. Initially his touches are cold and angry words hit like shards. But as he changes, his rough edges smooth. His face is not chiseled but pressed or shaped. Then when he smiles he shows a kind of light (heroine's reflected light). She warms him (because metal doesn't carry his own warmth), but he protects her and brings out her child-like qualities (because he's a tin toy).

Now you add taste and scent. Truthfully, with a tin toy image, I stick with cold feel, metallic taste, and sterile scent. None of that is erotic or hero-like. So if you mention these things, keep them at the beginning of the book, letting the negative words drop away as he changes for the better. He is, after all, gaining a heart and growing into a real boy. But remember, he can be a

geologist or a metal worker. He can work in a sterile room or be comfortable in clinical settings.

IMAGINE THIS – Part 1 / Jade Lee

So now you get the idea, but don't just stop there. Make your images very specific. My hero in *Tempted Tigress* is a Chinese ink and brush set. He's a scholar and when he feels drained, I say that his words were like ink mixed too thin. His body is thin and pointed, and during the love scene, his touch paints words on her. My heroine in *Cornered Tigress* is a cat. Every time she enters a room, she experiences it first through taste and scent. When she's afraid she tends to go into tiny enclosed spaces. You can use anything that sparks your imagination, so...go wild!

To read examples of imagery, check out Jade's novels. Guess at her imagery sets, then email her about places where she's inconsistent: jade@jadeleeauthor.com. But don't be surprised when she responds: Good catch, but that was my editor's fault. BTW, her editor's imagery set is as a catcher's mitt—all faults are caught by him. Praise, however, wings over his head to Jade!