

INTERVIEW WITH ELECTRA ROME PARKS

Author of *The Ties That Bind*
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AMAG: Why did you choose a military setting for this novel?

Parks: I chose a military setting out of pure curiosity and fascination with the military environment. From what I've been told, the military community is a close-knit and totally different culture from civilian. I have never served in the military, but on a previous job I traveled, on a monthly basis, to a military town in North Carolina. At the time, soldiers were always in the news and active in the community. I'd see military couples in the mall or at the grocery store, and I'd always wonder about their lives. I asked myself a couple of "what if" questions and thus, *The Ties That Bind* was born.

AMAG: Where are the boundaries regarding love and friendship?

Parks: Boundaries are set at a personal level. I think we all have our individual boundaries regarding love and friendship. However, there are some unspoken boundaries, between family and friends, that shouldn't be crossed, i.e., a girlfriend doesn't date another girlfriend's ex-boyfriend.

AMAG: Is Brice character out there more than we may think?

Parks: Oh yeah. Most definitely. There are many Brices in the world we live in. Listen closely to the news, read the newspaper, talk to a family member or friend, or ease drop on a conversation on the train. Brice-like men are alive and thriving. There are so many men. . . and women who have to be in complete control and exert their power over someone else. These people with Brice's characteristics aren't happy unless they are dominating or controlling another person's life.

AMAG: An author in Atlanta, how is the market?

Parks: The literary market in Atlanta is exploding! We have a small and growing community of writers who know and support each other. There are always networking opportunities taking place all over the city and at various venues to promote your books. Additionally, there are several large book clubs, boasting more than 100 members, in Atlanta that support and promote local, self-published and mainstream authors. *Booking Matters Literary magazine* calls Atlanta home, and many literary organizations such as book clubs and writer's groups choose Atlanta to host their annual gatherings/functions.

AMAG: What is one Joy of self publishing?

One joy of self-publishing is that the author maintains complete and total control over their product.