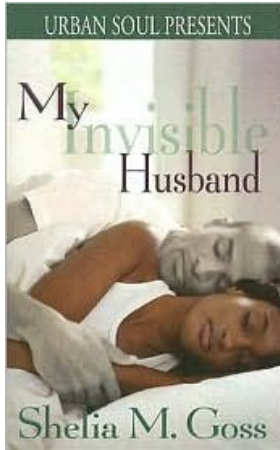


## INTERVIEW WITH SHELIA GOSS

Dara Girard

Shelia M. Goss is celebrating the release of her fifth women's fiction novel - *His Invisible Wife* on the Invisible Love tour. She's also the author of *My Invisible Husband*, *Roses are thorns*, *Paige's Web*, *Double Platinum* and the new teen series, *The Lip Gloss Chronicles*.



### 1. Why did you initially choose to self-publish?

After encouragement from other authors and readers of my unpublished works, I decided to take a leap of faith and try publishing myself. I'm glad that I did. I learned a lot about the publishing business and I feel that it helped prepare me for entering the mainstream world of publishing.

### 2. Would you encourage other authors to self-publish?

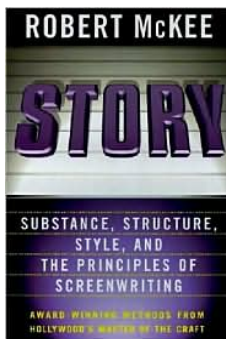
There are pros and cons to both being self-published and being with a traditional publisher. My best advice is for the author to do their research on both and decide which route is best for them. At this stage of my career, being with a traditional publisher works better for me.

### 3. What was your journey to getting published by Urban Soul?

By the time I got picked up by Urban Soul, I had gained some success prior with my book *My Invisible Husband*. The book was on several best-sellers list including the *Essence Magazine* Best sellers list. I think because of that prior success, I got noticed by the publisher. I went through the normal process of sending a query, etc... and the rest is history.

### 4. When facing rejections early in your writing career, what motivated you to keep going?

I feel that God gives us all talents. Writing happens to be the talent He blessed me with so I didn't let rejection deter me from my ultimate goal of getting published. Rejection to me is like fuel to a furnace. It kept me motivated to learn as much as I could about the craft and proceed forward until some of the barriers broke down.

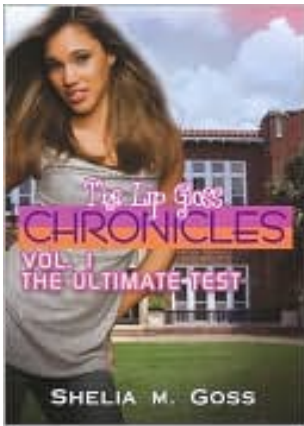


### 5. What book(s) have contributed to your writing success?

*Story* by Robert McKee

## 6. Who has been a support on your writing journey?

There have been many people. The number one person would be my mom. During those weak moments, she was the one to remind me of the gift so I wouldn't give up. Vincent Alexandria and Magdalene Breaux were two authors who mentored me and I'll always be grateful for them because I learned a lot from them about publishing. Emma Rodgers of the now closed Black Images was the first bookseller to give me my start and she introduced me to Francis Ray. The ladies of the seriousnovelist (Carla Curtis, Peggy Eldridge-Love, Linda Grosvenor, Cherlyn Micheals) were there during the beginning stages and were not only a wealth of information, but a great support system. I could go on and on. I've been blessed to be part of a good network of writers from the beginning stages of my career until now.



## 7. You write both women's fiction and young adult. How do you shift between genres?

I only work on one manuscript at a time so it's easy for me to write in multiple genres.

## 8. How do you balance the work of writing and promoting your novels?

By the grace of God...lol Promoting is fun but tiresome because it can eat up a lot of your day. I've learned how to do graphics so I've been able to implement those skills with promoting my books. My normal routine is to work on promotions at least an hour a day so I can at least feel like I'm getting something accomplished in that area.

## 9. What is one question you wish aspiring authors would ask you and how would you reply?

Wow...now that's a hard question. I don't know what that question would be, but I do have a few comments. The best advice I could give an aspiring writer is to write a complete manuscript, revise, join networking groups and research. Google is a writer's best friend. When asking questions to other authors, be specific. A generic question like "how can I get my book published?" will not yield you the response that you want. Why? Because there's no magic formula to getting your book published. Asking specific questions will show that you've taken the time to do your research and that you're serious about the craft of writing.

Visit Shelia's website <http://www.sheliagoss.com> or [www.thelipglosschronicles.com](http://www.thelipglosschronicles.com) for more information about her books.

### **About His Invisible Wife:**

Texas businessman Jacob "Jake" Banks is about to lose his business and everything else he's worked for until his uncle dies and leaves him as the executor of his estate--only



catch is, he has to marry and marry a specific woman in order to cash in on the inheritance. Big problem, since Jake has vowed to be a bachelor for life.

Brianna Mayfield is at her last rope. Her father lost his business due to Jake's uncle turning down a loan. She's convinced this caused her father to fall into a deep depression. She blames the Banks and vows to pay them back one day. When she sees an ad in the paper for a job at her self-proclaimed enemy's company, she feels her luck is turning around. She applies and is later approached by Jake with a proposition she can't turn down.

How far would you go for a million dollars?

*His Invisible Wife* can be pre-ordered on Amazon.com. It will be in stores in July.

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