

## Love in the storm ft. J. A. Boulet

Welcome! In this new interview, Hungarian writer J. A. Boulet, author of a book series starting with an 1875 immigration, a small pox epidemic and spanning the periods of WW1, the Great Depression and WW2. The author of "*The Olason Chronicles*", has agreed to participate in a brief chat about her work.

The series caught my attention both because of the intriguing time setting and because the protagonist faces a period of self-destruction and pain. The series is a family saga. *The Wars Between Us* (Book 3) is about the protagonist suffering self-destruction and pain, from many wrong turns in life, that he tries to escape through alcoholism and joining the war. The woman he falls in love with stands by his side through everything.

So, let's start right away with the questions to better delve into this work! To begin with, describe us a little better and in more detail the story of the trilogy. Please include all three books. What is the setting? What are the main characters? What are the most important themes?

Book 1 starts in 1875 as Icelandic immigrants flee to Canada. They encounter extreme weather, deaths, racism and a deadly epidemic. The main character in book 1 and 2 is Nathanael Olason, a 17 yr old boy that grows into a father, then later on a grandfather. He falls in deep love with a local Cree woman.

Book 2 continues the family saga with WW1 scenes and navigating the world of grief. As Nathan's grandson, Mike, trains as a sniper at Vimy Ridge France, Nath is faced with losing yet another family member. Nath struggles to make sense of life and it's many twists.

In book 3, the main character is Nathanael's son, Zachary Olason, who walks down an unsteady path of alcoholism trying to find his way in life, during the Great Depression and WW2. He falls in love and then sinks to the bottom of hell. Zack feels the only way to save himself is to join the Battle of the Atlantic as he prepares for the fight of his life during WW2.

In order to best communicate these themes and the climate during those terrible years, what narrative techniques and what kind of style and writing did you use?

I write in third person limited with some omniscient point of views of secondary characters. I like to go into my character's minds and make the reader feel the emotions of the important characters. It draws you into the events and family saga with a pull so strong you feel like you are back in history.

I also write sexually explicit scenes in a very real sense. It's clumsy, never perfect and sometimes rushed. I write real sex and the journey from liking someone, thinking about them every day to finally falling in love.

Documenting a distant historical period such as the Great Depression and World War II, were there any facts, characters or events, even personal ones, that inspired you? Why did you choose that particular period?

In Book 3, *The Wars Between Us*, I had planned to write about WW2. I was always very interested about the Great War and WW2 because my father served in Hungary at the very end of WW2. He never talked about it much so I've always filled things in with my imagination.

I chose the Navy in Book 3 because a friend of mine is a Navy veteran and he suggested writing about the Navy, so I did and I'm glad. The book turned out wonderfully.

Why did you specifically choose to balance a period of suffering through the pursuit of love? I've always written my romances in this way. I can't write any other way. I need action, government, wars, conflict and hardship to balance with the romance scenes. Why? I suppose it's because real life is not always easy and finding the right person to walk the long journey of life with you is like finding gold.

Now, name three things about your novels that you are most proud of, and explain why.

1. I am very proud of the scenes during the smallpox epidemic in 1876. I researched this extensively.
2. I am also very proud of the Vimy Ridge battle scene. I had studied Vimy Ridge, visited museums for two weeks intensively before writing that battle scene.
3. And lastly, I am very proud of the battle scene of Convoy ON-127 and the sinking of HMCS Ottawa. It is a high adrenaline scene and was something I had worked very hard on to find the right battle scene, the correct dates and the right ships to fit into my story.

Finally, a classic question: what advice would you feel like giving to all aspiring writers?

Do what makes you happy. If you have to work two jobs and write in the evenings, then do that. Life is not about making the most money, it's about supporting the ones you love, contributing to society and doing what you love. If writing makes you happy, never ever give it up.

Well, thank you again for participating! 😊

Please feel free to include the links for your works and your personal page(s) for those interested.

My website:

<https://jaboulet.ca/>

The Olason Chronicles series on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.it/J-A-Boulet/e/B087X91J6R>

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B08DS72HXG>

The Wars Between Us book trailer on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/4MuWl1cDz60>