

HOST HELPER

Suggested Interview Questions for **PATRICIA GUSSIN. author of *Shadow of Death***

1. You have an interesting background as a doctor and medical researcher. What prompted you to write a novel?
2. How did the story line for *Shadow of Death* come to you?
3. The novel's protagonist, Laura Nelson, is, as you were, in medical school in Detroit during a time of extreme unrest. Is the book autobiographical in any way?
4. As someone who was there during the Detroit riots, was it hard to revisit what must have been any incredibly scary and challenging time? Why did you choose this as a backdrop for the book?
5. In *Shadow of Death*, Laura Nelson struggles with the demands of work and family. Tell us how you handled the demands of family and career.
6. You tackle some tough issues in *Shadow of Death*. What prompted you to weave the story of the black and white families into the plot? Is this a social statement?
7. You also tackle religion in the story yet your protagonist flies in the face of accepted moral values. How do you reconcile this dichotomy?
8. One of the things I found most impressive about the novel was the pacing. I noticed that bestselling author Don Bruns praises your gift for pacing and describes the book as having "a plot that races along like a runaway gurney in a hospital corridor." How were you able to keep the suspense and action at such a tremendous level throughout the story?
9. For those of us who have had the pleasure of reading the book, we know what happens to Laura Nelson. What has happened to Patricia Gussin since those medical school days? Please bring us up to speed.
10. Can you offer any advice for aspiring writers?
11. How can I learn more about you? Do you have a website?
12. Where can listeners buy a copy of *Shadow of Death*?