

Lawson Gartner Publishing  
For Immediate Release  
Contact: Nicole Evelina  
314-614-6588  
Nicole.evelina@att.net

**LOCAL AUTHOR WINS MULTIPLE AWARDS FOR DEBUT NOVEL**

*She took home four awards for two novels at Chanticleer Author's Conference  
and a Gold Medal at the Next Generation Indie Book Awards*

**ST. LOUIS (June 3, 2016)** – St. Louis historical fiction author Nicole Evelina's debut historical fantasy novel, *Daughter of Destiny*, has been named Best Book 2015 by Chanticleer Reviews. It also took home grand prize in the Chatelaine Awards for women's fiction/romance and first in category for legacy/legend in the Chatelaine Awards, all of which were handed out at the Chanticleer Author's Conference in Bellingham, Washington.

*Daughter of Destiny* also won a Gold Medal as winner of the fantasy category in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards, which were given out last month in Chicago. It is also a *Library Journal* SELF-e Selection and was positively reviewed by that publication.

*Daughter of Destiny* is the first book the Guinevere's Tale trilogy, which tells the female perspective of Arthurian legend through Guinevere's eyes. It focuses on Guinevere's life before her legendary lover. But she's not the fading flower of medieval legend. Evelina's Guinevere is a sword-wielding priestess born into the war-torn world late fifth century Britain. Descendent from a Celtic mother born to lead the Votadini tribe and Roman father, she is a woman of her own mind who takes action to shape her destiny.

As a young girl, terrifying visions force Guinevere to Avalon, where she meets Morgan, a woman of questionable parentage who is destined to become her rival. As Guinevere matures to womanhood, she gains the powers of a priestess, and falls in love with a man who will be both her deepest love and her greatest mistake. Just when Guinevere is able to envision a future in Avalon, tragedy forces her back home, into a world she barely recognizes, one in which her pagan faith, outspokenness, and proficiency in the magical and military arts are liabilities. When a chance reunion with her lover leads to disaster, she is cast out of Northgallis and into an uncertain future. As a new High King comes to power, Guinevere must navigate a world of political intrigue where unmarried women are valuable commodities and seemingly innocent actions can have life-altering consequences.

The second book in the series, *Camelot's Queen*, which covers Guinevere's life as Arthur's wife, is out now. The final book, *Mistress of Legend*, will be released in 2017.

A forthcoming novel written by Evelina, *Madame Presidentess*, also took home first in category for Women's US History in the Chaucer Awards for historical fiction at the Chanticleer Author's Conference. This historical fiction novel, which will be published July 25, tells the story of Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to run for president in the United States in 1872. Victoria

lived and ran a business in St. Louis for a few years and met her second husband, Col. James Blood, here.

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### **About the author**

Nicole Evelina is a multi-award winning St. Louis historical fiction and romantic comedy writer. She is one of only six authors who completed the first week-long writing intensive taught by #1 New York Times bestselling author Deborah Harkness in 2014. Nicole has traveled to England twice to research the Guinevere trilogy, where she consulted with internationally acclaimed author and historian Geoffrey Ashe, as well as Arthurian/Glastonbury expert Jaime George, the man who helped Marion Zimmer Bradley research *The Mists of Avalon*. She can be found online at <http://nicoleevelina.com>.

### **Praise for *Daughter of Destiny***

"A new twist on an old tale that gives agency, sympathy, and personality to a woman typically cast as a one-dimensional adulteress. Classic characters find their way into Guinevere's orbit in unexpected ways, keeping the novel both familiar and fresh."

- *Library Journal*

"Evelina's re-imaginings of this familiar material is unfailingly energetic and innovative, and her version of Guinevere herself is captivating virtually from the first page - no small feat in an overall plot with such well-defined parameters. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and look forward to its sequel." - Historical Novel Society

"A gripping read that brings a wonderfully depicted Guinevere tumbling out of the shadows of myth."

- Anna Belgrave, author of *The Graham Saga*

"Written in lyrical prose and deposits you right in the middle of medieval times. The writing is fast paced, historically correct for the era, and a page turner. I sympathized with the character whom fictional history buffs branded a lustful harlot ...Great twist at the end. Evelina's 15 years of research are a powerful addition to a fantastic read. Can't wait for Book Two. Prepare to embrace Guinevere. I feel privileged to have read this outstanding novel by a great writer."

- Sandra Masters, *Readers' Favorite* (5 star Review)

### **Book Facts**

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