Julia Quinn is the author of 17 consecutive #1 New York Times best-sellers including “Mr. Cavendish, I Presume,” which reached #1 on the mass-market paperback fiction list. Julia is one of only 16 authors to be inducted into the Romance Writers Hall of Fame! Her most popular series, The Bridgertons, is currently being developed by Shondaland as a Netflix series, with Scandal veteran Chris Van Dusen adapting and show running. Julia completed her latest novel, “The Other Miss Bridgerton,” in November 2018.

Johnson County Public Library: How did you get started writing?
Julia Quinn: I began “Splendid,” my first novel, during the summer between my junior and senior years of college. I honestly don’t remember what led me to sit down in front of my computer and write the first few words, but by the end of summer I had four chapters done. I picked it up again after I graduated, and I worked on it while I took pre-med classes and applied to medical school. Amazingly, I was accepted to med school the same month I got my first book deal.

JCPL: Why did you choose Romance? Did you start out trying to write a romantic/love story? Did you have characters in mind that would lend well to Romance?
JQ: It was what I loved to read!

JCPL: What is the hardest thing about writing?
JQ: Actually doing it. Unfortunately, the only way to finish a book is to finish it. Believe me, if there was another way, I would have figured it out by now.

JCPL: What can you tell us about the books being adapted into a Netflix series? Did you ever think your books would be adapted for the big screen?
JQ: To answer your second question first—No. Hollywood has not traditionally looked to romance novels for source material, so I never dreamed my books would be adapted. “Downton Abbey” demonstrated the public’s thirst for period pieces but, it wasn’t until the success of “Outlander” that Hollywood began to realize how hungry readers were for adaptations of historical romance. “Outlander” isn’t technically a romance series, but the romance between Jamie and Claire is a huge part of the story, and it’s no secret that romance readers make up a large part of Diana Gabaldon’s audience.

I wish I could spill the details on the upcoming Netflix series, but we’re still very early in development, and I honestly don’t have many details to share.

JCPL: What is your favorite time period or era to write about?
JQ: It depends on whether they are already a romance reader. For people who have never tried a romance, I usually recommend “What Happens in London” because it doesn’t seem to fit the stereotype that many people have of romance novels. For people who do read romance, I usually recommend the Bridgerton series. It’s my most popular, and it’s currently being developed for Netflix, so there has been a big resurgence in interest.

JCPL: If someone hasn’t read any of your books before where would you suggest they start? Do you have a favorite series?
JQ: If you didn’t write, what would you do for a living?
JQ: I would imagine I’d have finished med school. So, I’d be a doctor.