

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

“I was mowing the lawn—it’s my peace and quiet time—and it just came to me.” Writing her first published contemporary western romance wasn’t really that easy for Rachel Gloy Ervin of Ogallala.

“Under a Prairie Moon” was self-published by Ervin under the pen name Krista Kedrick. It’s a romance set in the Sandhills, where a city girl meets a rancher.

There are “spicy scenes, but not over the top,” Ervin said of her novel. She said grandmothers Edith Gloy of Imperial and the late Phyllis Nordhausen of Wauneta would not approve of anything racy.

Ervin was born in Wauneta but has lived in Ogallala most of her life. She and husband Brian, a farmer, have two daughters, Marlee, 6 and Alexandra, 2 1/2.

The 31-year-old said she has been a writer since she was nine years old and won a writing contest with an essay about her cat.

“I really got started with my anger journal,” she laughed. Ervin doesn’t like confrontation and expresses her true feelings in private writing.

After receiving an Associate degree in horticulture from Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo., Ervin began taking writing classes. After several childrens’ book classes, she decided the long novel was more her speed.

Western romance published by area author

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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Her first book “will stay in the drawer,” she stated, as she’s not impressed with it. Her second one, “Under a Prairie Moon,” took 18 months to write the first draft, 10 rewrites, editing by family and friends, while Ervin designed the cover, for a total of three years to when a publisher first indicated interest.

Ervin calls herself a “situational writer.” “I think up a situation and then the characters that might be in that situation.”

Her characters are “everyone I know and no one I know.” No incidents in her novel are based upon real events, but she is familiar with four-wheeling, which is mentioned in the novel.

Ervin decided to self-publish, she said, for several reasons. A publisher owns the rights and decides in what form the book is offered, as in e-book form only, or print form.

Self-publishing “gives me the freedom to decide where the book goes. I like the freedom of doing it myself,” she stated. “The royalties are higher, too.”

Ervin designed her own web site (www.kristakedrick.wordpress.com) and does her own promotion by attending book signings, speaking engagements and craft fairs.

She also “intermingles” with other authors online, getting her name in front of the publishing world.

She ordered 225 copies of the paperback book in her first shipment, but has had to order more due to demand. Her book has also sold in Great Britain.

The book is available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble, and also in paperback at www.createpace.com/3659570.

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Locally, it is available at The Imperial Republican, Wauneta Breeze, Grant Tribune and Hatch's Super Foods in Grant for \$12.

Ervin is "about two-thirds" of the way through in completing her second single title book. After that she has a three-book series planned, set in Nebraska. "I have a whole folder full of ideas," she beamed.