

Write His Answer: Researching Your Novel

Workshop with Liz Curtis Higgs

He did his best to find just the right words.

And what he wrote was honest and true. Ecclesiastes 12:10 NIRV

As a writer of both contemporary and historical novels, Liz Curtis Higgs believes the best fiction is built on a solid, factual foundation, which research alone provides. From hands-on experience to online exploring, from finding the right books to interviewing the right people, Liz will show you how to create a believable time and place for your stories.

The Beginning of The End

Choosing a location (or letting your characters choose it for you)

Choosing a time period (or letting your resources choose it for you)

Three rules of writing

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Two kinds of historical novels

- 1.
- 2.

Why research matters

Research every word (not kidding)

Research every scene

Research methods that work

1. Novels published *during* your time period

2. Nonfiction written *about* your time period

3. Research on site

What to take

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Where to visit

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

What to ask people

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How much time and money you should invest in research

From a reader:

*“I love historical fiction
because it’s like a history class
and an adventure,
all rolled into one.”*