



Today we present an interview with Irene Radford, author of the short story "Price of Command" in the *anthology [Space Grunts: Full-Throttle Space Tales #3](#)*.

Irene has been writing stories ever since she figured out what a pencil was for. Combining a love for Medieval history and a fascination with paranormal, Irene concentrated on fantasy writing. In her spare time, she enjoys lacemaking and is a long time member of an international guild. Irene and her husband currently make their home in Welches, Oregon where they share their back yard with deer, coyotes, bear, raccoons and too many bird species to mention. Her website is www.ireneradford.com.

How did you get involved with *Space Grunts*?

David Boop asked if he could include me in a list of potential authors for upcoming anthologies. I thought it would be a hoot.

What angle did you explore on the theme of <Space Grunts> in your story "Price Of Command"?

I grew up in a military family. I had a family in the Stargods Trilogy -- a crossover high fantasy with space opera elements -- with more complications and dysfunctions than my own. I wanted to explore more of what happened to them when they separated at the end of "The Renegade Dragon." For more about that trilogy look me up at www.ireneradford.com.

Where do you get your story ideas?

For short fiction, I rarely think short. Most of my "Short" ideas turn into multi book series. But when I get invited to an anthology, the theme often triggers something. A lot of times I can tie the story to a longer work in the inventory or upcoming.

What do you see as some of the advantages of the short story format over longer fiction formats, such as novels?

Short fiction presents an encapsulated piece of the human condition that can be consumed in one gulp. The best short fiction then grabs the theme and drives it home in a sucker punch at the end, either a wild twist away from the expected, an outrageous pun, or a critical and unsolved question. It makes the reader think. Because it's short, the reader can explore new genres and writing styles without the major commitment of a longer novel. A great way to find new authors.

Did you choose to write, or did writing choose you?

Writing has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. As a small child I'd put myself to sleep at night by imagining myself as the center of a story and continued it from night to night. But I didn't take my writing seriously until well into my 30s. That was a deliberate choice to bring a secret part of my life to the forefront. A choice I've never regretted.

What can readers expect from you next?

Under my pen name P.R.Frost I'll have a new book in the Tess Noncoire series "Faery Moon" June 2, 2009. I got to go to Las Vegas to research this one. I'll be promoting it at [Baycon](#) May 22-25, 2009. Under my other pen name C.F. Bentley, "Enigma" will be out in August. And I've just signed contracts for two books written by Irene Radford (yay back to the original). No dragons. This is an urban fantasy about a Pixy with a problem, Thistle has been stripped of her wings, her magic, and her clothes, grown to human size and dumped in Memorial Fountain at the height of rush hour on a hot August morning. The only people who can help her are the brother and sister she befriended as children, only Dusty and Dick have grown up and don't believe in Pixies anymore.