

May 10, 2007 - Thursday for the Women's Expo in Kingsport, TN

Interview with Marie Nicole Ryan

Why did you choose to write romantic suspense? I've always loved romances and mysteries. By writing romantic suspense, I'm able to blend the two genres and have the best of both worlds...

What influences your writing? Everything I see on the TV, newspaper, people, a word, an anecdote. It's all fodder my writer's mind. Also really hot guys influence my writing since I get to makeup stories about them.

What do you read for pleasure? Not as much as I did before I started writing seriously, but now that I'm a full-time author, I save my weekends for reading.

What were your favorite books as a child? I loved the Nancy Drew, Dana Girls, Hardy Boys Mysteries. I also was very fond of the Cherry Ames books--must've been the reason I became a nurse before I became a writer.

What are some of your "civilian" hobbies or interests? I love home decorating shows, antique stores, and most of the forensics shows on TV.

Do you have a writing ritual? Other than playing light classical or New Age Music while I write, I don't have much of a ritual. I don't need candles or anything like that. Just my music, an idea and my butt in the chair.

Which do you like better, the action of writing the story, or the sense of completion once the story is done? There's nothing like the sense of completion--I call it relief--I feel at the end of the story. I call it relief because some of these stories were like pulling teeth and I'm more than glad to be through with them. On the other hand, some of them go so fast they're like slurping down ice cream--sweet and silky.

What is the hardest part of writing a story? The first twenty thousand words.

Do you have an "interesting" writing quirk? You mean like I write naked or standing on my head? If I told you, I'd have to kill you.

How did you celebrate your first writing contract? Cried, called everyone who would remotely be interested. Boring, I know. You can leave this answer out if you want.

Do you continue to celebrate contracts? Not really. Until a couple of weeks ago, I lived alone and other than doing the happy dance, there wasn't much else to do.

Even after the success of your books published to date, do you still get nervous at all when you submit new stories? If I'm submitting to my current editor who seems to like my writing, I don't really worry. Maybe I should, but I don't. If I were submitting to another publisher--say a mass market publisher--I would definitely be on pins and needles waiting for a response.

Does the fear of rejection ever go away? Not really. There's always at least one reviewer who hates your work and doesn't mind saying so in a public forum. There are agents who still turn you down for representation.

Pick one of your titles and tell us about the movie version, the actors, the setting, the

costumes, etc. I *would* pick SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS, but it has to be a mini-series. It's much too long and involved to be a two hour movie. So, LOVE ON THE RUN would make a good date movie. It has an American woman (Kelly Ripa) and child in jeopardy, a yummy Scotland Yard detective (Clive Owen) who takes them on the run from Oxford, England, to France, Switzerland, Italy and back to Provence for a showdown with her evil ex-husband (soap actor Maurice Benard) and his terminally dumb brothers (Vin Diesel and The Rock). I'm not sure who would play the child. Someone with dark hair and eyes like his Greek father. Since this is a contemporary romantic suspense, no costumes required, EXCEPT there is one scene where the Scotland Yard detective has to dress up like a woman. Yes, there's romance, humor and danger enough for a two hour movie. And there can always be a sequel, because I've already written the first of what I hope will be a mystery/suspense series with my two protagonists.

Who is lucky enough to read your stories before your editor sees them? My mother and sisters.

What do you like the most about living in Middle Tennessee? I like the long Spring, Summer and Fall and fairly reasonable winters. I like the mostly friendly folks who inhabit this part of the country. It's a beautiful area as well. Must like it because I've lived here for the last thirty-seven years and don't have any plans to move...unless I make enough money to buy a summer house in Canandaigua, NY.

What tools do you feel are must-haves for writers? Supportive friends and families. Oops, they're not exactly a tool, are they? Hmm. Computer, keyboard, and an imagination. Other tools which aren't completely necessary, but are nice to have. Wireless laptop, AlphaSmart, and a good e-book reader for those electronic books hot off the press.

What's your favorite desert? It's a close contest between cheese cake and butter pecan ice cream.

Does your family know your write sexy romantic suspense (genre)? Oh yeah!

What can readers look forward to from you in the future? My first book, LOVE ON THE RUN, is being re-released by my current publisher, Samhain Publishing, on November 6th. It's been revised and expanded from its original form. Yes, it's a tad sexier, too.

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