



Don't miss this weeks podcasts from *What's Hot in Romance*. The Featured guests are authors JoAnn Smith Ainsworth and Amber Leigh Williams. Be sure to tune in every Monday night for the live broadcast from 9:30 - 10:30 pm est at [Blog Talk Radio](#)

That's right, What's Hot In Romance internet radio show is on Blog Talk Radio, where our host Cat Johnson has a full schedule of not to be missed romance authors in every genre. So please tune in to <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/whats-hot-in-romance> at 9:30 pm est.

[Listen to our interview with authors JoAnn Smith Ainsworth and Amber Leigh Williams.](#)

Wildfire would like to welcome author Marie-Nicole Ryan.

Marie-Nicole Ryan

Julie: How long have you been writing? What inspired you to pick the pen up one day and create characters that capture the imagination?

Marie-Nicole: I don't really count the one-hundred pages I wrote on an old Smith-Corona portable typewriter. If I did, I'd have to say I've been writing since the late seventies. But I never finished that manuscript and didn't pick up a computer keyboard until the 1998. What inspired me? I really have to tell? Okay, it was the romance of Michael and Nikita on the USA cable show, *La Femme Nikita*, that inspired me to start writing fan fiction on an Internet story board. I received a lot of positive comments and that's what really inspired me to write something original.

Julie: What influenced you to get published? How long did it take for your first book to get published?

Marie-Nicole: All the books I've ever read—thousands. The manuscript I started back in the seventies was historical romance because that's what I was reading then. My first book was published in 2002, but it was my second completed manuscript. The first manuscript was published in 2003.

Julie: What are the elements of a great romance for you?

Marie-Nicole: That would have to be a hero I can fall in love with and a heroine with whom I can identify. Throw in a stalker or serial killer, and I'm in Heaven.

Julie: How much does reader reaction mean to you as an author?

Marie-Nicole: Naturally I want my readers to love my stories, and yet I know it isn't possible for everyone who reads one of my books to love it. I love hearing from readers and usually enjoy what they have to say. Always I try to respect all opinions and appreciate the time the reader took to try one of my stories.

Julie: What do you hope readers get from your books?

Marie-Nicole: I hope they have a whale of a good time and have a bit of fun along with the suspense. Economic conditions being what they are currently, I hope the reader can forget their problems for a little while. Writing certainly helps me do the same.

Julie: What is your writing process? Do you outline, fly by the seat of your pants or a combination of both?

Marie-Nicole: I started out as a true flying by the seat of my pants writer, but now I'm sort of a combination. I try to review Vogler's *The Writer's Journey* stages to make sure I'm not missing any of the story elements.

Julie: What do you feel is the most important thing that first-time authors should know?

Marie-Nicole: Be careful what you say in your blogs and on other writers' blogs because it might come back to haunt you.

Julie: Any advice for aspiring authors?

Marie-Nicole: Be patient. Ninety-eight percent of the time it won't happen overnight, even though we all believe we're the exception. Continue to work on your craft and accept what constructive criticism you receive with grace.

Julie: What's next for you?

Marie-Nicole: I don't have anything under contract at this time, but I hope to have good news soon.

Julie: What are you working on now?

Marie-Nicole: I'm in the second round of revisions on a historical western novella. It's quite a departure from my usual fare of contemporary romantic suspense or mystery/suspense and it's a real challenge.

Julie: What do you hope for your writing career in the next few years? Any goals that you have yet to obtain that you have set for yourself?

Marie-Nicole: I have yet to find an agent and I'm working on finding one now. After that—who knows?

Julie: What books are currently on your nightstand?

Marie-Nicole: I just cleaned everything off my nightstand because I'm dog-proofing my house, but here's what I moved: Lee Lofland's *Police Procedure and Investigations*; *Don't Murder Your Mystery* by Chris Roerdon; *Incident at Twenty Mile* by Trevanian; *Surgeon Boss, Surprise Dad* by Janice Lynn. The two novels were read in their entirety, and the references have gone to my reference shelves. I also have a Kindle with about forty books on it.

Julie: Dealing with writing deadlines can be a challenge. What do you do to cope with the stress?

Marie-Nicole: Deadlines don't stress me at all. A deadline means I have a contract. It's not having a deadline I find stressful. That said, I don't have the experience of ever having signed a multi-book contract. That would probably prove more stressful than working without a contract and not submitting until there is a completed manuscript which is more common in the small press/e-published world.

Julie: If someone hasn't read any of your work, what book would you recommend that they start with and why?

Marie-Nicole: It would depend on what sensuality level the reader prefers. *Too Good to be True* and *Holding Her Own* are the most erotic of my work. *Love on the Run* is more of a category romantic suspense, and *One Too Many* is its mystery/suspense with romantic elements sequel. I like to describe my stories as romantic suspense with a helping of family drama on the side. All my books, no matter the genre or sensuality level contain that family element to some degree. It's not for everyone, but that's how the stories form in my brain.

Marie-Nicole Ryan is an award-winning author of romantic suspense. She's had a lifelong love affair with books, so it was only natural that she'd eventually get around to writing her own. She lives in Nashville, TN, and is in the process of adopting a Sheltie from a local rescue organization. She and the Sheltie are both on a weight reduction regime—they're a perfect match.

Backlist:

See You in My Dreams, Wings ePress, no longer available

The Man for the Job, Wings ePress, no longer available

Too Good to be True, Samhain Publishing

Love on the Run, Samhain Publishing

One Too Many, Samhain Publishing

Holding Her Own, Samhain Publishing

Coming soon:

Keeping fingers crossed on this one. Hope to have good news soon.

Links:

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Until next time!

Julie Cummings

Wildfire Interview Coordinator

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