



Pink Ladies Blog

Inspired Minds with Marcia James

Friday, May 25th, 2007

Marcia James writes hot, humorous romances. Her comic romantic suspense, *At Her Command*, was released in trade paperback March 2007. Marcia, thank you for stopping by to talk about your creative inspiration with the Pink Ladies.

This topic is a challenging one for me because I don't find inspiration from music or objects, although I do have some serious eye-candy in my home office - a sexy screen-saver and romantic movie posters, like one from *Ghost*. Instead my inspiration comes from humor - my own sense of the ridiculous, which can be triggered by anything from an Internet joke to a chorus line of sparrows courting on my office windowsill. If I find myself down and not in the right mood to pen humorous romance, I can find inspiration (and an attitude adjustment) in favorite shows, from *The Daily Show* and *The Colbert Report* to *Monk* and *Saturday Night Live*.

In my first novel, *At Her Command*, I enjoyed exploring the comic possibilities of the premise, "What if the FBI, DEA and DC police department unknowingly put agents undercover at the same hedonistic club? And the sexually inept DEA heroine has to take on the role of a dominatrix, while the Alpha male cop is forced to act submissive as a club client?" A sensual comedy of errors emerged, balanced by the suspense side of the plot. There's mistaken identities and murder, word play and gun play - and through it all, lots of romance and sexy situations.

I enjoy writing four-legged secondary characters, so I thought, "What would be the least likely breed to be employed by the DEA as a drug-sniffing dog?" I chose a tiny Chinese Crested hairless dog, and Smokey became so popular, I use a caricature of him as my logo.

Some of my favorite authors who sprinkle humor liberally in their books include Patti Berg, Elizabeth Bevarly, Jennifer Crusie, Susan Donovan, Janet Evanovich and Susan Elizabeth Phillips. I'd love to hear from others about the books that make them smile and the things that make them laugh!

I'll be in and out today running errands, so I may not be able to respond to comments until this evening. But, tomorrow morning, I'll put all the commenters' names into Smokey's dog dish and draw a winner for a sterling silver charm and one of my PR giveaways - a thumbcuff keychain. I'll announce the winner on this blog post tomorrow.

Note: Be sure to check out Marcia's Web site, <http://www.marciajames.net>, to learn more about her and *At Her Command*.