

Interview
Romance Diva's
www.romancedivas.com
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I'm so excited that your first Blaze is now available everywhere! I bought mine at Target (isn't it exciting to find your books at Target?). Could you start out by telling us about DOUBLE DARE?

It's WILD to find my books in stores to begin with, but finding them at Target, WalMart –and yesterday... the GROCERY STORE! simply blows my mind. Thanks for buying a copy ☺

Double Dare is a story of a bad girl trying to hold onto her reputation by taking her friends' dare.... to DO the next guy to come into the nightclub. The hottie she ends up with is an undercover cop who suspects her of being involved in an identity theft ring. Being the good boy he is, he is just as determined to keep his hands off her as she is to fulfill her dare and do the hottest guy she's ever met.

There are few things more exciting in life than selling your first book. Tell us about your first sale story. I know you worked hard to achieve your goal.

I did work hard, thank you!!! LOL. Double Dare was my third Golden Heart finaling manuscript and also won the Harlequin Blaze contest in the fall of 2005. After targeting Harlequin for 3 years, I was ready to refocus elsewhere, so figured this was my last shot. I met with my editor at the Desert Dreams conference in April of 2006 and she let me know she loved the partial and was looking forward to reading the full. In conversation, I mentioned that unless I managed to sell, I wouldn't be attending the National conference. It took me about a week after the conference to get the full manuscript to her and she called me 3 weeks later... Memorial Day! The first thing she said when I answered the phone was "Book your flight, you're going to conference."

I know we've all come to writing romance from different places. What inspired you to write your first romance? Was this your first time writing fiction?

I started reading romances when I was in grade school. I love the genre, and haven't ever had any interest in reading anything else. There is something so empowering and inspiring about romance and the promise it offers. For years, it was my secret dream to write, but I never considered actually trying until I mentioned it to my husband and his reaction was "why aren't you doing it, then?" I couldn't answer that LOL. So I dove in. I take an average of 2 workshops a month – mostly online, on all variety of topics, and have read every writing craft book I've been able to get my hands on.

You have a busy home life--case in point, you home school your daughters! What is it like balancing home, kids, husbands and writing? (I'm waiting anxiously for tips!)

LOL I juggle a lot. One of the most important lessons I've taught my daughters is to believe in themselves and to pursue their dreams. I sold the same month my oldest daughter graduated high school (I started writing the same year she started high school.... cool, huh?). I write at night and we do school late morning/early afternoon, so they don't really conflict. Things are a little more challenging this month because of promotion for Double Dare, but my husband takes days off work here and there to pitch in. One of the key things, I think, is that my entire family feels involved in my writing career. When conflicts arise, we look at priorities and try to find a way to make it all work. I'll skip a chapter meeting for my daughter's drama class, she'll play quietly so I can finish a scene. My husband and I make sure we get one-on-one time at least once a month, dinner out, a drive – whatever it takes to give us a chance to

talk and connect. So far, its working pretty well LOL. I will admit, the house is usually on the messy side, though.

Two things I love to know about other writers: 1. Who is your favorite author? 2. What is your writing process like?

My favorite author is Vicki Lewis Thompson. I love both her category books and her single-titles. She's made Nerds sexy!!! When I received my cover quote from her, I was blown away. It was simply the most incredible thing – I can't even describe it!

My writing process is pretty linear and neurotic. I've got a fab plotting group I brainstorm with, then I write up a synopsis (I actually like them <beg>) Then I drive my CP's nuts during the writing (and rewriting) of the partial, worrying and picking it apart. This often takes as long as writing the entire rest of the book. But once the partial is solid and I sketch out an outline, I pretty much fly through the rest of the story. Other than the partial neurosis, I rarely rewrite until its revision time – so my first draft is my final draft.

One of my favorite things is to go on and on about the incredible writing community that we've got in the SF Bay Area. I have a feeling that this has been a big part of your life too. What role do other writers play in your career?

I've been incredibly lucky to know so many fabulous writers. I can honestly say my writing friends are one of the greatest blessings in my life. I belong to the SFA-RWA chapter and the Black Diamonds, as well as various online chapters and I'm always blown away at the simple support and encouragement offered from other writers

I'm thrilled that you've sold two more books--give us the dish on their titles and storylines.

You're so sweet! Thanks ☺ The titles are Does She Dare? and Risque Business.

Does She Dare? is out in January, and it's Double Dare's heroine's best friend's story. In it, Isabel is tired of being the good girl, especially since that translates to a lousy sex life. She decides to take control and make all her fantasies come true... so she creates the ultimate Man Plan...a list of her all time hottest sexual fantasies. Then she accidently gives it to the one guy who's starred in her every fantasy since high school – the ultimate bad boy who's back in town to stir up trouble.

Risque Business is a makeover story in a new series I'll be doing with two other awesome Blaze authors –Mara Fox and Cami Dalton. Its about a literature reviewer out to make a name for herself and an erotic suspense author out to save his reputation go head to head in a game of sexual one-upmanship. When newly made over Delaney Connor publicly critiques best-selling author Nick Angel's inability to bring emotion into his stories, it hits him where it hurts... his sales and his ego. In retaliation, he issues her a challenge of his own. Either prove good sex needs emotions... or admit the greatest sex in the world is purely physical.

And what are you working on right now?

I just turned in the revisions for Does She Dare? and am waiting to hear on the partial of Risque Business to see how my editor liked the direction I went. I'm taking a break over the next week or so to focus on promotion for Double Dare, but will be finishing up Risque Business before the National Conference. I'm also putting together a proposal for a series that I'm super-excited about.