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Romance™

SPRING 2009

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NEW BONUS BOOK CATALOGUE INSIDE!

Introducing 2 exciting



Lynn Raye Harris

You may not have heard of Lynn Raye Harris before, but her name will certainly be on your lips once you've read her fabulous first book *Spanish Magnate, Red-Hot Revenge*.

Lynn read her first Mills & Boon® romance when her grandmother carted home a box from a yard sale. She didn't know she wanted to be a writer then, but she definitely knew she wanted to marry a sheikh or a prince and live the glamorous life she read about in the pages! Instead, she married a military man and moved around the world. She's been inside the Kremlin, hiked up a Korean mountain, floated on a gondola in Venice, and stood inside volcanoes at opposite ends of the world.

We caught up with Lynn to find out about her fantastic first story, and how she feels about writing for the Modern™ series.

Congratulations on becoming a Mills & Boon author! It's great that you were discovered through the *Instant Seduction* competition run by M&B—what was it that made you enter the competition?

It's a dream come true to be a Mills & Boon author. Suddenly, instead of just losing myself in the pages of my favourite authors'

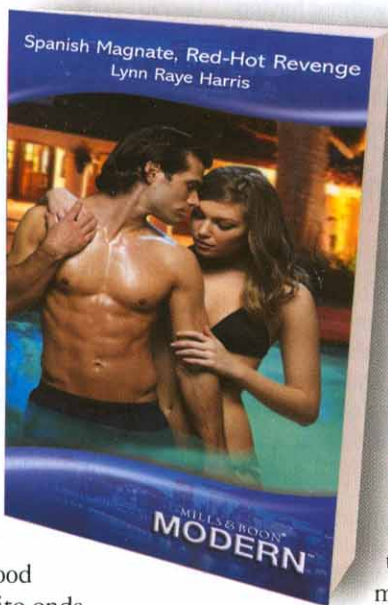
books, I'm writing my own stories that I hope will find a place in readers' hearts. Winning the competition was one of the most amazing things that ever happened to me! I'd been thinking of writing a Mills

& Boon Modern forever—because I'd been reading them forever. But I'd been writing other stories instead. The competition announcement spurred me to finally try and write for the line I'd always loved. I'm very glad I did!

How did you feel when you received the call that you had won the competition, and then when you were told M&B wanted to buy your book?

I never tire of reliving these moments! I think the winning call was the most exciting simply because it was so unexpected. I entered

the competition and tried to forget about it. Truthfully, I just hoped to get a request for more of my work. I never expected to win the whole thing, especially when there were over 600 entries! The day the call came I actually missed it and didn't discover it until much later that night. When I saw the phone number on my mobile, I realised it wasn't a US number. A little investigation revealed that the country code was British—by then I was trembling. When I realised the number



NEW authors!

belonged to Mills & Boon®, I was a complete wreck until I finally heard from my new editor the next morning. Still, I expected to hear I was a runner-up, not the winner. It's a good thing I was sitting down when I got the news because I don't remember much else.

Six months later, after a lot of hard work, I got the call that Mills & Boon wanted to buy my winning entry. And I was thrilled! I'd hoped that would be the outcome of winning the competition and working with my editor, but there were no guarantees. And though the first call was more exciting, the sale call was every bit as wonderful. I floated for days.

What can readers look forward to from your first Mills & Boon Modern™ title: *Spanish Magnate, Red-Hot Revenge*?

I think it's a highly emotional tale with a delicious hero, a strong heroine, and plenty of passion! The setting moves from Hawaii to Spain to Dubai to New York—and back to Spain again. Alejandro and Rebecca were fun to write about, and I hope readers will enjoy taking the journey with them. Red-hot revenge is always exciting!

What (or who!) was the inspiration for your gorgeous Spanish hero?

I took a trip to Madrid a few years ago. Late one evening, as I was cutting through the Plaza Mayor, I saw this beautiful canvas that a local artist was selling. The painting was of a bullfighter. I was deeply impressed with the man, the swirl of the cape, and the muted background against which he and the bull moved. It was so beautiful I had to have it. When I sat down to write about Alejandro Arroyo Rivera de Ramirez, I knew he was

the man in the painting. He's no longer a bullfighter, but it's a pivotal part of his background. He is a strong, honourable man who knows what it is to work hard for everything he has. And he's sexy as sin...

Describe your typical writing day....

Writing is my job, so I get up in the morning and head for my office just like I would if I had a job outside the home. Except I get to wear my pyjamas to work. I spend an hour or two reading emails, blogs, and checking my Facebook and MySpace profiles. Then I open up the current story and get to work. Some days, it goes really well. Other days, I delete more than I keep.

Can you give us a sneak preview of what your next Mills & Boon Modern (*Cavelli's Lost Heir*—out in October 2009) is about?

My next book is about a Mediterranean prince and the woman who had his baby after a one-night stand. Prince Nico Cavelli and Lily Morgan have a tangled history—but Nico doesn't know Lily had his baby until circumstances bring them together again. Once he learns about his son, he'll let nothing stand in the way of making Lily his wife—and making her pay for keeping his child a secret.

Finally, do you have any tips for aspiring authors who want to write for Mills & Boon?

My tips are of the simple variety: Never Give Up. Engrave that on your forehead (or post it on a stickie) and refer to it every day. That's my biggest tip, but here are a few others. Read a lot. Treat writing like a job. Learn from your mistakes and be willing to revise. Join a good organisation, like

Romance Writers of America or its equivalent where you live, and hook up with like-minded people. Study the lines and know where your work fits. If you read a lot, you will naturally find what you like the most, the line that moves you, and that's probably what you'll end up writing. And one more thing: Never Give Up. (Because it can't be said enough.)

*'Spanish Magnate, Red-Hot Revenge' will be available from June 2009 to Book Club subscribers and on our website from July 2009: www.millsandboon.co.uk
N.B. Customers who subscribe to 8 or more Modern titles per month will automatically receive this title in their June parcel.*