

The Call with Debut Author **Patricia Sargeant**

This interview originally appeared in the June 2006 issue of The Motivated Writer ezine. Reprinted with permission. To subscribe to The Motivated Writer, please log on to TheMotivatedWriter.com.



You Belong To Me is a romantic suspense that reunites a divorced couple in a race to unmask a serial killer.

You Belong To Me, Kensington Dafina Books, Available November 2006

The Where: I received the call March 1, 2006. It was about 9 a.m., and I was in my office at work. I'm an editor in the Marketing Division of a state agency. A co-worker had dropped in for an impromptu meeting. Unfortunately, it was a very busy morning, and the impromptu meeting wasn't helping. I was trying to appear interested, but my mind was racing with possible ways of getting this person out of my office. That's when the phone rang.

I have caller identification. Although I didn't recognize the phone number, I pretended to. I told my co-worker I had to take the call. It was very important. I'd been waiting for that person to contact me. Little did I know the truth of those words.

Most Memorable Moment: The call itself is very memorable because of what it meant to me. I really love *You Belong To Me's* characters and plot. The thought they'd never find a home made me a bit sad.

How Long: I've been writing book-length fiction since 1991. But it wasn't until I joined Romance Writers of America in 1998, that I started to learn the craft and business of fiction writing. You never stop learning those things, though.

Star Factor: That part of the call is a blur. Karen Thomas said many very nice and encouraging things about *You Belong To Me*. The two things that stuck with me is she likes my writing voice and the plot.

My agent, Roberta Brown of The Brown Literary Agency, said my voice is soft, sensual and sexy. That time, I wrote down the comments so I wouldn't forget them.

Lesson Learned: The contract is upper most on my mind because I've recently received it. It's very important to carefully review and understand the contract. Writing is an art, but it's also a business.

Creative Process: You have to get past the blank page. The blank page will defeat you, if you let it. Don't let it. Award-winning author Jennifer Crusie often refers to the don't-look-down draft. I've taken her advice to heart. I know what I want to have happen in the scene. I know where I want the scene to take place. With those things in mind, I start writing. I figure I can smooth out the scene during revision. But I won't have anything to revise if I don't start writing.

On the Nightstand: Nora Roberts's *Northern Lights*. I'm loving it.

One More Thing: If it's your dream to become a published author, don't ever give up. Keep writing, keep hoping, keep knocking on doors.

Visit Patricia Sargeant online at www.PatriciaSargeant.com

