



THE INSIDE SCOOP

Did you know that author Marcia James...

- * Wrote, produced and directed training videos for the U.S. Navy? (She videotaped aboard nuclear subs, a minesweeper, a destroyer and a tender.)
- * Writes romance author profile articles for her local weekly newspaper?
- * Has an Interdisciplinary Masters degree in Communications and Creative Writing from American University in Washington, D.C.?
- * Participated in a March of Dimes Celebrity downhill ski race in Big Bear, CA? (Her team captain was Olympic gold medal pole vaulter, Bob Seagren.)
- * Spent two days of her honeymoon fishing with her husband for rainbow trout in one of Kauai, Hawaii's beautiful reservoirs?
- * Was a medical writer for hospitals and organizations such as the Visiting Nurse Association?
- * Petted a dolphin in the Florida Keys and rode an elephant in California?
- * Worked as an advertising copywriter, developing everything from print ads and brochures to radio and TV commercials?
- * Spent an evening as the media escort for Tom Selleck during a U.S.O. event? (Held at Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center, it was a televised, celebrity-filled Bob Hope birthday special.)
- * Received her first rejection letter – a personalized one vs. a form letter – for a poem she submitted to *Good Housekeeping Magazine* when she was in high school?
- * Worked as a production assistant on a Chinese beer commercial? (Her husband was one of the extras in the crowd scene.)
- * Wrote a short play in the seventh grade for the Latin Club featuring a risqué song that prompted the teacher to send a concerned note home to her parents?
- * Asked her wedding guests to consider donating to charity vs. giving her gifts? (Thanks to press releases sent out by several charities, her wedding was featured in *People Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, and *Brides Magazine*.)

- * Was a movie extra in a church scene for the *War and Remembrance* miniseries. (The part required 1940s dress, hairstyle and make-up but no acting, thank goodness.)
- * Started writing poetry by the second grade and continued to write creatively for fun?
- * Inadvertently made Steve Martin laugh at an American Film Institute event? (From off-stage, she was using ineffective hand signals to guide a sound tech to where director Martin Scorsese sat.)
- * Worked as a sound technician for an NBC-TV affiliate in Maryland? (This was a challenge, given the weather girl's sometimes salty language.)
- * Fly-fished in Sun Valley, ID and Jackson Hole, WY?
- * Broke her leg rollerblading?
- * Organized the pre- and post-party entertainment for the D.C. movie premiere of *Dirty Dancing*? (This was just one of the movie events she participated in for organizations like the American Film Institute and Women in Film & Video.)
- * Had youthful ambitions to be a zoologist and work for a performing animals park?
- * Once asked actor David Niven, who was appearing on *The Charlie Rose Show*, what Scotsmen wear under their kilts? (The answer? Nothing.)
- * Was part of the first 50% male/50% female undergraduate class at the previously all-male University of Virginia?
- * Plays golf and loves to drive from the men's tees, but hates putting?
- * Took four state beauty queens on a singing and dancing tour of VA hospitals during her time with the USO?
- * Presents workshops on author self-promotion?
- * Has interviewed or spoken with a wide variety of celebrities from Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker Charles Guggenheim to vaudeville and movie comic Eddie Bracken? (One of her favorite memories is literally bumping into George Burns.)
- * Played the cello poorly for a year in elementary school?
- * Appeared on a local TV station's news show for a segment on romance writing?
- * Collects snail figurines and has over 1,000 of them in glass, ceramic, metal and wood? (Check out the caricature of Marcia on her Website's Contact Me page.)