

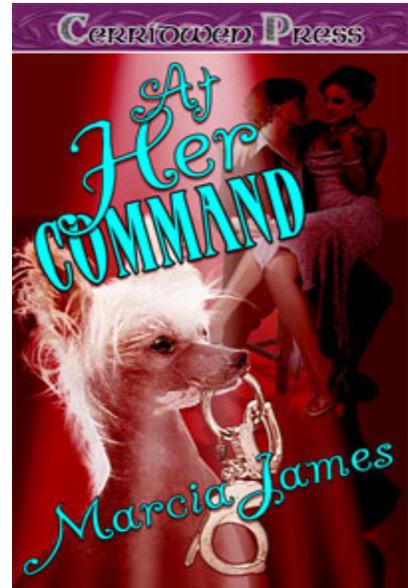
The Call, Featuring Marcia James By Kelley St. John

www.MarciaJames.net

AT HER COMMAND ~ Cerridwen Press ~ August, 2006

KSJ: Where were you when you received the call?

MJ: I actually received “The Email,” not a call, when a Cerridwen Press editor announced they wanted my comic romantic suspense, AT HER COMMAND. I was working in my home office at the time on a different manuscript. I did a double take when I saw the email’s subject line: “At Her Command – Contract Offer.”



KSJ: Do you remember the date, time, etc.?

MJ: It was May 8, 2006 at 1:43 p.m. I saved the email!

KSJ: Whom did you tell first?

MJ: I was dying to tell my husband and my critique partners first, but I couldn’t reach *any* of them. I finally got them on the phone several hours later. By then, I was ready to stand on a street corner and shout out the news. But I restrained myself until I told those who had supported me through this whole process.

KSJ: What did you do to celebrate?

MJ: My husband and I enjoyed a romantic dinner at the 4-star restaurant we usually reserve for anniversary and birthday celebrations. My girlfriends took me out for ice cream. Both events were yummy! Personally, I treated myself to a day of guilt-free shopping.

KSJ: How long after the call did your book hit the shelves? Or, if it isn’t available yet, when will it hit the shelves?

MJ: It was three-and-a-half months from The Email to my 8/24/06 e-book release. Luckily, my editor, Mary Moran, said my manuscript was “very clean,” so there weren’t many revisions. My biggest stress was getting my Web site up-and-running while dealing with all the publishing chores -- the contract, revisions, cover art, author bio, book blurb, book excerpt, etc.

KSJ: How did your book make it to the right editor’s hands? Via a contest? An agent? A query?

MJ: The Managing Editor of Ellora’s Cave/Cerridwen Press, Raelene Gorlinsky, was a guest at my Central Ohio Fiction Writers’ chapter’s conference last fall. She welcomes electronic submissions of partials to submissions@ellorascave.com. Then an editorial reviewer reads the submission. If that person feels it shows potential, s/he “places it in a queue for an acquiring editor.” Editor Mary Moran read my partial and requested a full manuscript, so I knew it was being considered seriously.

KSJ: What was the original book title? If it changed, what did it become?

MJ: AT HER COMMAND was the original title, and it ties into the plot nicely. The heroine is a DEA agent who goes undercover as a dominatrix at a sex club. She's a real fish-out-of-water there, which contributes to the humor in the book. So I'm glad the title didn't change.

KSJ: Did you have a website prior to getting the call? Do you feel it helped with your sale? And, if you have a website, what is the url?

MJ: Unfortunately, I did not have a Web site before I got a book contract. Thanks to how quickly e-books are released – and due to my basic technophobe personality – I hired Web designer Karen McCullough to do my site. She's a fellow Cerridwen author as well as a computer whiz. I wanted to brand myself as an author of "hot, humorous romances," so my Web site reflects that. The URL is www.MarciaJames.net. I'm using my Web site to promote my unsold manuscripts as well as my Cerridwen book. For example, the heroine in my comic mystery work-in-progress is a sex therapist/amateur sleuth. She "writes" a sex advice column on my Web site.

KSJ: And finally, is your book available for readers now? If so, where can they buy a copy?

MJ: My book is available from Cerridwen Press (CP), and visitors to my Web site can click on a link that takes them directly to the CP page to buy and download the e-book. As a romance reader as well as an author, I wasn't sure at first if I would enjoy reading an e-book. But I found having a couple of good books on my laptop allowed me to sneak in a chapter of reading whenever I felt the need for a "romance fix." And a friend who downloads e-books onto her PDA loves being able to store numerous books on her Palm Pilot and increase the books' font, so they become essentially large print e-books. I'm now an e-book convert!

Order Marcia's book by using the following link:

<http://www.cerridwenpress.com/productpage.asp?ISBN=1-4199-0704-2>



Kelley St. John's newest release, REAL WOMEN DON'T WEAR SIZE 2, is available now from Warner. Visit her website: www.kelleystjohn.com to read over one hundred fifty interviews on THE CALL. And when you get THE CALL, or if you've already received the call and want to share your story, send her an email at Kelley@kelleysbooks.com so she can feature you.

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