

What HOUSE Needs is a Good NURSE!

By Lynne Marshall ©

April 2008

This article was my debut blog for LOVE IS THE BEST MEDICINE – the Medical Romance author’s blog. I enjoyed writing it so much that I wanted to share it with you on my website. (In case you missed the blog) www.medicalromance.blogspot.com Various Medical Romance™ authors post a new blog each week. Stop by for interesting articles and book giveaways!



Forget Dr. Cleavage, I mean Dr. Cuddy, what Gregory House needs is a good old fashioned, level headed nurse. That’s right. No one would be better suited for the job of straightening out this train wreck genius, than the possessor of the four key characteristics of a good nurse: Competence, compassion, caring and a touch of kink (pretend it’s a C.)



For years nurses have had to live down stereotypes as being virginal white uniformed student nurses and/or wild party girls, versus old battle-axes. I believe that ongoing outlook has caused us to be overlooked in our true role as skilled and knowledgeable medical professionals. I also

believe the same attitude has forced nurses into the shadows on this popular TV program. Let's face it; what House needs is a woman in crepe-soled shoes with a no-nonsense approach to life. Gregory House needs to be paired with a staunch patient advocate willing to stand up to him when he insists on torturing his latest mystery case with a plethora of tests. He needs someone who will march in and offer exceptional bedside care so the patient's family won't even think about suing. What he doesn't need is another doctor in a skirt one size too small.

My guess is the writers of House used irreverent yet lovable Hawkeye Pierce from MASH as the stepping off point when they created a pill popping Gregory House, the grand possessor of an overblown ego and oftentimes grossly negligent M.D. If they'd concentrated more on the nurses - the heart and soul of any medical institution - instead of the young team of doctors (who seem to do every procedure and test themselves - ha ha to that little notion) they would have created a new member on House's medical team.

This modern-day Florence Nightingale would be a strong spirited, technically skilled, yet subtly sexy nurse who'd actually care about the patient. She'd insinuate her way into House's libido, impress the heck out of him with her hard-earned medical adeptness, maybe even subtly suggest an occasional diagnosis from her own practical experiences from the trenches as a bedside nurse, and force Greg to get his act together before he loses his license. If only I ruled TV Land.

Since House seems to be losing some of it's original flash, a new female character in the form of a top-notch nurse might pep up the storyline, too. What do you say currently striking writers for House? Maybe now's the time to think about making a change to the show's line up.

Over the years there haven't been nearly enough movies made where nurses have been portrayed in a positive light. They're usually stereotyped as either evil witches or bimbos, but as a fellow RN, I can always hope things will change. One movie that hit the right tone when it came to the nurse character was **The Bone Collector** starring Denzel Washington and Queen Latifa.



There was no doubt that the quadriplegic criminologist and the conscientious nurse shared mutual respect. Ah, a breath of fresh air.

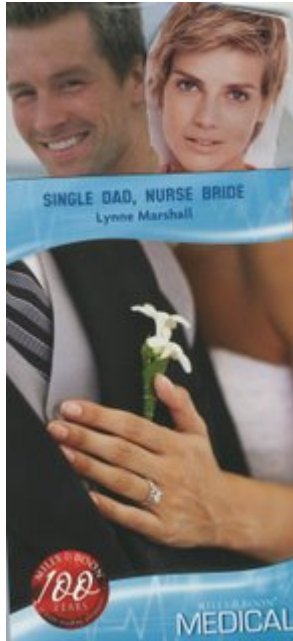
I have to admit the most deliciously evil nurse ever written was by Stephen King in **Misery**. Kathy Bates took the medical profession to a whole new wonderfully wicked level with her crazed, romance reading - "I'm your #1 fan" - and author stalking nurse, Annie Wilkes.



So here's your opportunity to chime in for a chance to win an assortment of books. I will give a list of titles and the winner may choose four books!

Who is your favorite nurse on TV or in Movies?

Oh, I guess I should tell you a bit about my latest book. Dr. Dane Hendricks is an arrogant orthopedic surgeon who sees the light when a feisty and compassionate nurse, Rikki Johansen, puts him in his place. This is my first book cover without faces on it, so for your viewing pleasure and the fun of it, I've added the prototypes I used while writing this story.



Single Dad, Nurse Bride is still available at eHarlequin
<http://www.eharlequin.com/storeitem.html?iid=16433&cid=264>

This book is also available via Amazon, Borders, Barnes & Noble.