

Lynn Ames...  
Brains beyond the beauty  
by

DK Ward

Lynn was once "spokesperson for the nation's third largest prison system", and "press secretary to the New York State Senate Minority Leader." These days, Ms. Ames is a "nationally recognized speaker and public relations professional with a particular expertise in image, crisis communications planning, and crisis management." She's also the author of 5 best-selling, critically acclaimed novels (*The Price of Fame*, *The Cost of Commitment*, *The Value of Valor*, *The Flip Side of Desire* and upcoming, *Heartsong*). You can find her short stories in several anthologies: *Romance for LIFE* (of which the proceeds from the sale will go towards breast cancer research), *Call of The Dark: Erotic Lesbian Tales of the Supernatural* (a personal favorite), *Telltale Kisses*, (twenty lesbian romance stories whose purpose is to raise money for a children's sports program in need), *Stolen Moments: Erotic Interludes 2*, and *Infinite Pleasures* (a benefit project to raise funds for the Golden Crown Literary Society [GCLS]). Whew! Does the woman fight for her causes or what?

**Who is Lynn Ames?**

**Lynn Ames:** *Lynn Ames is someone who cares about a lot of things deeply, lives her life passionately, always strives for perfection, loves bringing people joy, and is, most surprisingly, an introvert. She's a conundrum, a quixotic pragmatist, which gives you an idea just how confusing it can be to live in her head-a scary place, indeed.*

**I've come to the conclusion you're nowhere near reaching your peak as a novelist, and I'm sure there are many more novels to come. How has your writing evolved over the years?**

**LA:** *First, let me say I hope you're right-I'd hate to peak too early . Perhaps others would be more qualified to answer this question than I, but I'll give it my best shot.*

*I hope with each new novel I continue to learn, grow, and refine my technique. Certainly I would say that my writing has gotten tighter and I've become more comfortable in my writing "skin" over time. I've always been a storyteller. I suppose the biggest difference is that I've learned to be more technically adept at telling the tales.*

**You've traveled a lot; what's your favorite place to visit?**

**LA:** *This is a tough question. There are so many beautiful and interesting places in the world. West Africa, for instance, was fascinating and taught me lifelong and powerful lessons about attitude, the human spirit, and never taking our advantages for granted. New Zealand was a glorious place and the Kiwis were wonderful, welcoming people. In the United States, the Grand Tetons in Wyoming provided spectacular scenery, and the Red Rocks in Sedona were inspiring and humbling. Going abroad again, St. John had sun-washed beaches. Cozumel, Mexico, boasted the bluest, clearest water I've ever seen anywhere, Puerto Vallarta had the best weather, St. Thomas was home to the finest jewels and jewelry stores (hey, a girl likes her diamonds), Guatemala and Belize featured fascinating ruins and the rain forest...Do you want me to go on? Each place I visit I discover something to love, and I've barely scratched the surface.*

**When you're travelling around the world, do the stories start to form from the experiences, or do these things come to you when you're sitting at home?**

**LA:** *Both. Story ideas for me are largely generated by watching the world around me, experiencing life, and asking the simple question: "What if?" An idea for a plot might be triggered by a story in the media; current events (which may or may not garner media attention); a life experience; something in my "other" professional life, etc.*

**If you were stranded on an island, what three items would you wish you had brought with you (no animals, sorry)?**

**LA:** *Well, you didn't exclude my partner, so she'd be first on my list ;-). I wouldn't need much else, but I suspect we'd be best served by adding a long-term form of nutritional sustenance and a comprehensive first-aid kit which would, of course, include sunscreen and a lighter with which to create fire. Promise me I'll get stranded soon? LOL.*

**Intaglio Publications** sounds like a fascinating place to be a part of. What was it about the company that stood out from the rest and assured you they were *the* publisher for your work?

**LA:** *In a name, Kathy Smith, who is the president of Intaglio and StarCrossed Productions, the amazon.com of lesbian fiction. Kathy has more integrity than anyone I know. Everything she does, she does with the best interests of her authors in mind. She's got an excellent head for business and that gives me confidence in the viability of the company. She's committed to producing a quality product. All of these things were factors I considered at the outset. Naturally, the other major factor is that my writing style, including novel length, topics, and genre mesh well with Intaglio's portfolio.*

**Was the transition from FanFic writer to lesbian novelist easy? Or do you consider the two the same?**

**LA:** *LOL. I don't know, as I never had that transition to make. LOL. I've never written a piece of fan fiction, although I've read and admired many wonderful FanFic stories and writers. And, before I go any further, let's clarify what we're talking about here.*

*By definition FanFic involves taking existing characters and creating new adventures for those actual characters. Über fiction exists when a writer takes the essence of existing characters, i.e. Xena and Gabrielle or Captain Janeway and Seven-of-Nine and pours that essence into new characters in new worlds or settings. Original lesbian fiction is, well, original and so are the characters.*

*Whew, okay. Glad we're on the same page now, so to speak (sorry, that was an awful pun).*

*Since I'm pretty sure you're talking about the origins of my characters Katherine Kyle and Jamison Parker, the protagonists of *The Price of Fame*, *The Cost of Commitment*, and *The Value of Valor*, I'll answer with them in mind.*

*Katherine Kyle was a character I invented in 1991 for a "straight" novel I had tentatively titled, *Correct Me If I'm Wrong* (awful, I know). In that book we never*

see a love interest for Kate, as the book begins with her husband, David, having been killed in a supposed accident that Kate knows to be revenge aimed at her. Time and circumstances conspired against me and I never got further than writing the prologue and the first chapter plus of that book, but I think you and your readers will find the opening paragraph of **Correct Me If I'm Wrong** of particular interest. I've never shared it on a wide public scale anywhere before and I hope you'll ignore the questionable prose \*g\*:

*The day dawned bright and clear, a typically crisp early fall day in Vermont. The sun peeking up over the mountains and treetops bathed the solitary figure in a golden light. Long, raven hair neatly held back in a French braid, piercing blue eyes focused intently on the road ahead, and long, lean body eating up the ground with effortless ease, Katherine Ann Kyle smiled to herself; this was her favorite time of day.*

*Obviously, there is a striking physical similarity between my Katherine Kyle and a certain warrior princess. As a result, when I showed the fledgling **Correct Me If I'm Wrong** manuscript to two Xenite friends of mine ten years after I wrote it, they began working on me to turn my no-doubt best-selling straight thriller into a piece of Über fiction. I resisted. They persisted. Still, I resisted. After six months, I realized that resistance was futile \*wink\*, but I couldn't see how the transition could be made. After all, Kate had a dead husband whom she was mourning. In order to create something Über I would have to make Kate a lesbian and invent a love interest for her. And thus Jay and a pseudo-Über was born as a nod to my friends. I say pseudo-Über because, beyond their physical likenesses, there really isn't anything Über about Kate and Jay. I guess I did what we'd call in the modern lexicon "opting in."*

*Now aren't you glad you asked the question? LOL.*

**Tell us more about the woman behind the author. What do you do when you're not writing and attending book signings/readings?**

**LA:** *I'm a problem-solver by vocation and avocation, so I spend a lot of time doing that. In my capacity as a public relations expert it's my job to help companies and individuals be who they say they want to be. But I suspect you were more interested in what I do for fun, eh? I work out and play sports, I watch sports, I go to the movies and read books, I enjoy the theater, I play with the dogs, I hike, I try to find something to enjoy about every day.*

**What is one of your goals that you haven't yet reached?**

**LA:** *LOL. I want to train killer whales, but I suspect that will have to wait for my next lifetime. On a serious note, I want to do something that enriches the lives of others. I think that's an ongoing as opposed to a static goal, though.*

**You're obviously a "Woman of many Skills", but can you cook?**

**LA:** *As a friend of mine says, I make great reservations. Actually, I can cook, but mostly I choose not to.*

**You have a new book coming out soon, *The Flip Side of Desire*, would you tease us a little and tell us something about it that we won't read on the website or in a review?**

**LA:** *Hmm...what can I tell you that won't give too much away? *The Flip Side of Desire* is the first and only book I've ever written to go with the book cover. My cover designer, the very talented Valerie Hayken, sent me an image last summer. She said, "I've created this great book cover. Now you have to write me the book." I think we should examine why I always feel a need to do what I'm told. LOL. I created the plot for the book to match the mood of the cover. Let me just say, "Never again."*

**I'd like to thank you for taking time out of your very busy schedule to sit down and answer these questions. I'll close this interview as I always do: Is there anything you'd like to leave us with? Quotes of inspiration? Things we may not know about Lynn Ames?**

**LA:** *Thank you for the opportunity. I can't remember the last time my brain was given such a good workout. I wake up everyday asking myself how I can make a difference-well, that's right after I think about why it is the dogs feel a need to have an all-star wrestling match in the bedroom at 5:45 every morning. \*g\**