

THE "AW" FACTOR by Lynne Marshall©2009



What is it about babies that make us all get gooey inside? Perhaps it's their innocence, or their vulnerability. Their compactness? Maybe it's the fact that they all seem to have huge, wondering eyes.



And they smile a lot, too, and even though that smile is usually accompanied by drool, we think it's adorable. It's the one time in our life when it's okay to be pudgy. In fact, round and dimply is a requirement in order to be cute in babyland. I've been blessed by the cover gods with a gorgeous baby for my current release - ASSIGNMENT: BABY, available in the UK, March, April in Australia, and in the US in July 2009, and I've been grinning until my cheeks cramp ever since.



If you're anything like me, upon seeing this picture, you probably worried whether they'd cleaned the stethoscope properly before allowing the baby to teethe on it. I'm sure they did!

ASSIGNMENT: BABY is what I call a “do-over” romance. As a kid I used to ask for do-overs when I played a game and didn't get it right the first time. Wouldn't it be nice if we could still do that as grown-ups?

You've probably heard the term reunion story used for these second-chance romances, and here's how this one goes. Hunter Phillips and Amanda Dunlap used to be married, and they were both driven by the same desire – to focus on their professions. Hunter never wanted children for his own personal reasons, and Amanda signed on to the plan because she wanted to continue with her education until she'd achieved her PhD. Then after one clarifying moment changed her mind - and Hunter wouldn't bend on his vow to remain childless - they separated.

Fast forward three years. Amanda is a nurse practitioner and is in charge of **The Mending Hearts Club**. (Yes, it **is** meant to be a metaphor, and it **was** the title for this work-in-progress, but as you know we authors **never** get to name our own books) Her mentor - the M.D. who'd agreed to oversee and coauthor the journal article she'd planned to write as the result of this study - must step down for personal reasons. This throws a wrench into the works.

Hunter is chosen as his replacement. He has no choice because he owes his medical advisor a personal favor. Amanda is a professional and can deal with life's surprises, but the one thing she can't handle is the certain something Hunter walks in with...



I hope I've intrigued you enough to take a look at **ASSIGNMENT: BABY**. I loved writing it. I loved forcing these two hard-headed people to get over it already! And fall back in love for their proper happily-ever-after. If you'd like to read an excerpt from the first chapter, check out the articles from January and February at [this website](#).©2009