

Why I Wrote *HER L.A. KNIGHT*

By Lynne Marshall

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It's no secret that I consider nurses to be the heart and soul of any hospital. And as an R.N. for over two decades, I have experienced a broad range of medical heroes, many of whom weren't doctors, but were everyday hospital personnel. These were the people I wanted to spotlight in my medical romance stories, the hardworking folks I admire.

Several years ago my husband and I were having some work done on our car when I noticed the young office manager approach. She took California casual to a new level wearing short shorts and a summery top. The scars and gashes on her legs could not be ignored. She'd obviously been in a horrible accident, and had no qualms about showing off the evidence. When I felt the time was right, and I wasn't invading her privacy, I asked her what had happened. She said she had been hit head-on by a drunk driver many years ago when she was a teenager. She'd undergone five operations and several years of rehab, and was proud to be able to walk again.

Her story started my creative wheels turning. What if, I thought? What if? From that "what if" Registered Nurse China Seabury was born.

Add to that a recent rumor I'd heard at work. A doctor in the ER didn't want to allow PAs to work there any more. He felt they were a liability, and since California is a heavily litigious state, the powers that be listened to his request and transferred all of the ER Physician's Assistants to other departments, leaving the ER short on skilled and useful staff. It drove the point home to me that even though they are trained by medical doctors, some doctors don't

respect Physician's Assistants and their level of independence in the medical field. From that reality, fictitious ER PA Rick Morrell took form.

There are only three countries in the world that train and license Physician's Assistants. They are the USA, China, and Russia. These skilled, physician-trained professionals are invaluable members of the medical team in both busy urban and isolated rural settings. In many cases, they were first trained as medics in the military with strong backgrounds in trauma medicine.

In my first US release, **HER L.A. KNIGHT**, I felt it was fitting to make my hero a PA searching for his due respect, and my heroine an emotionally and physically wounded nurse who, along with the help of the hero, finds her way to self-forgiveness. Maybe together they'll learn the meaning of unconditional love—something we all need more of in our lives.