

Katy resident and author Sophie Jordan also writes under the name Sharie Kohler

Sparks Fly for Katy Author

Local Romance Writer
Enjoys Success in
the Suburbs

Written by Stephanie K. Rice

Your favorite easy chair, a high-noon sun, and a slowly whirring tropical fan fluttering the pages of the perfect romance novel – the ideal ingredients for lolling away a lazy summer afternoon. After all, who doesn't enjoy a little romance in the summer time?

Have you ever been curious about who writes those romance novels that can so easily transport you to another time and place? Perhaps she's a single career woman living in the big city. Well, maybe. But is she a suburban mom and wife living right here in Katy? Most definitely. Sophie Jordan, aka Sharie Kohler, is our very own USA Today top-selling historical romance author.

A Passion for Books

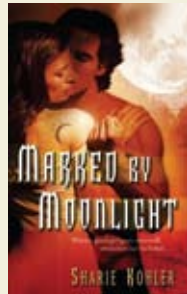
Jordan has a long-standing love for books. She even visits her local bookstore just so she can smell them! So it isn't too surprising that she wrote her first historical romance in the back of her high school Spanish class. She was constantly writing as a teen, and it was her passion for writing and history that led her to pursue a double major in English and History at college. A brief stint in law school taught her that the judiciary was not nearly as interesting as literature. Teaching English seemed the natural recourse. After several years teaching high school students to love the classics, Jordan resigned following the birth of her first child and decided it was time to pursue her long-held dream of writing.

Going Through the Door

Sophie found Romance Writers of America, a national organization that offers assistance to writers seeking to be published, when she and her husband, Jared, were on their way to attend the closing on the purchase of their home. "We were running late and hurrying along the corridor. I looked up and there on one of the doors was a sign that said 'Romance Writers of America.' Had my husband not been physically pulling me down the hall to get to the closing meeting, I would have walked in that door right then," says Jordan. Eventually she did walk in the door, and found women, and some men, talking about agents, proposals and their books. "I was awe-inspired," says Jordan.

Fate Intervenes

Jordan continued to develop her craft and began targeting agents in New York City, all while caring for her family. After two and half years, Jordan still had no agent. One Sunday afternoon, she and her husband decided it was time she returned to teaching. "I was very sad because it felt like I had to shelve my dream. But I knew I had to do what my family needed, and that was for me to go back to work," says Jordan. The very next day, the phone rang, but she let the answering machine pick up. The female caller was most definitely a New Yorker (Jordan could tell by the strong accent), and she indicated that she wanted to represent Jordan to the New York publishing houses. Jordan recounts, "I was so excited I couldn't even pick up the phone to talk to this woman. I was screaming, my two year old was screaming too, and when I called my husband, he was unable to understand what I was saying to him!" As fate would have it, Jordan and her agent sold her first manuscript within two weeks.



Sophie at home in Katy with her family

Romance Blossoms

In less than three years, her first book, *Once Upon a Wedding Night*, a 2006 Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Nominee for Best First Historical, hit bookshelves. Her second novel, *Too Wicked To Tame*, released in March 2007 with a bang, landing on the USA Today Bestseller's List. More bestsellers followed with *One Night with You* and *Marked by Moonlight*, both released in January. *Marked by Moonlight*, written under the name Sharie Kohler, is her first foray into the paranormal romance genre. This summer her fifth book, *Surrender to Me*, will be published.

Always a fan of Alfred Hitchcock, Agatha Christie and shows like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, Jordan chose to write contemporary paranormals under her real name Sharie Kohler. *Marked by Moonlight*, book one of the *Moon Chaser* series, is a sexy, suspenseful, heavy-action read set in Houston. Readers are already clamoring for her second paranormal, *Kiss of a Dark Moon*, which hits bookstores in October. **KM**

STEPHANIE K. RICE is a wife and mother of two in Katy and is a lover of reading all things published – books, magazines, and newspapers.



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