

## A DIVA'S CHRONICLES...



### Romance Novels Are The Way To A Scholar's Heart

by Crystal Jordan

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Last month, I had the privilege of presenting at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference in New Orleans.

First, I have say that this was my first trip to New Orleans and it rocked beyond description.

But I digress. Back to the scholars.

The first contact I ever had with romance scholars was at last year's PCA/ACA National Conference when Dr. Eric Selinger (one of the chairs of the Romance Section of PCA) invited me to speak about e-publishing and erotic romance. I was hooked. As long as they'll have me, I'll keep coming back to present. I spent way too many years in college, so the whole scholarly thing is something I'm used to. Imagine combining my scholarly training with my adoration of romance novels. It's a match made in geeked out heaven.

What's really cool is that there's a group of scholars out there, growing in number every year that I go to this conference, and all of them are interested in studying romance as if it were just as serious a genre as all the other "serious" literature, as if these books and this body of work is just as worthy of study as all the others. It pretty much rocks to be around these people (though I must admit they're all way, way smarter than I am).

Even more amazing is that they're starting a scholarly society and peer-reviewed journal just dealing with the study of popular romance. This includes not only romance novels and the authors who write them, but also movies, poetry, and anything else that falls into pop culture and has romance in it.

This covers a lot of ground, as you can imagine.

I'm pretty excited to be involved in developing this society and journal (even in small part) by working on their website and forum (which is still in development). Anyway, it's the International Association for the Study of Popular Romance (<http://www.iaspr.org> if you want to know more) and they're putting together their first international conference in Brisbane, Australia in August. I'm so bummed I won't be there, but it'll be in Belgium next year and I hope to go, and it'll be somewhere in North America the year after (I think Chicago, Illinois and Vancouver, British Columbia are on the short list). Definitely hitting that one!

It's about time romance got some recognition from the scholarly community, and I can't wait to get this ball rolling!

**About Crystal:**

*Crystal Jordan began writing romance after she finished graduate school and needed something to fill the hours that used to be eaten away by homework. She is originally from California, but has lived and worked all over the United States. Currently, she serves as a librarian at a large research university in the Rocky Mountains and writes paranormal, futuristic, and erotic romance.*

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