



Mary Kay Andrews

Hissy Fit
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How did you get the idea for Hissy Fit? Is there a difference between a hissy fit and a temper tantrum?

I got the idea for **Hissy Fit** while taking a bubble bath and pondering life. I wanted to write about a young contemporary woman who is betrayed and forced into pitching a hissy. I think a hissy fit is probably gender-linked to women, and can include acts of physical violence including but not limited to face-slapping, china-flinging and criminal defacement of private property.

When Keeley wonders aloud how A:J. could have cheated on her, Gloria responds, "He's a man, that's all. They're all the same you know." Do you share that sentiment? What, if any, do you see as the essential differences between men and women?

I probably have a higher regard for men than Aunt Gloria, but I do think men are vastly different, and genetically less evolved than women. We are emotionally invested in the world, while men, basically, just want what they want. See Woody Allen for example.

Under your real name, Kathy Hogan Trocheck, you wrote many very successful detective novels, most starring the amateur sleuth Callahan Garity. Even Hissy Fit has a strong sleuthing subplot. So what inspired you to try women's fiction? Was it a difficult transition? How would you compare the two genres, as an author of both?

I wrote ten mysteries under my own name, and then had an idea for a book that became **Savannah Blues**. That book has a murder, and a mystery, but the solution of the mystery isn't a major plot device. The reader mostly cares what happens to Weezie, the protagonist of that book. And that's when I segued from writing about to crime to writing about crimes of the heart. It was very tricky making the transition from straight mystery, but I have a crackerjack editor who helps me every step of the way. Writing a mystery involves a lot of structure and painstaking plotting, while women's fiction is all about finding out how these protagonists find their way in the world.

Would you say your work as a journalist affected your fiction?

My fourteen years spent as a journalist informs my fiction in lots of ways, from my attention to dialogue, to research, to being able to write through difficulties all the way to the end of the book.

Could you tell us a little bit about your latest project?

Mary Kay's fourth novel, **Savannah Breeze**, is the sequel to **Savannah Blues** that my readers have begged for. In it, Weezie's best friend, BeBe Loudermilk finds her world turned upside down when a new love interest robs her blind and blows town. BeBe finds herself the unsuspecting owner of a run-down motel on Tybee Island, being managed by a scruffy charterboat captain named Harry. BeBe being BeBe, she won't allow herself to be victimized. She enlists the aid of Harry to get her old life back. **Savannah Breeze** should be out from HarperCollins in April '06.