

# Nicole R. Locker – Suggested Interview Questions/Author Q&A

*Boss Unyielding: A Secret Baby Office Romance*

## **Q. What was your inspiration for writing Boss Unyielding?**

A. Writing Boss Unyielding was a unique experience for me out of all the books I've written so far. I wanted to write a new story that would challenge me as a writer, and I wanted to include some of the popular tropes in romance that my email subscribers have indicated in a [survey](#) were themes they couldn't pass up. It was challenging for me to write a Secret Baby novel because I'm not, nor have I ever been, a baby person. (I also have never had human children of my own.)

## **Q. Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?**

A. Actually, yes I did. When I first started writing fiction romance, I pondered using a pen name because of the work I do in my full time, day job as a supervisor in the social work field. Things come into play, such as witness credibility, ethics, and all kinds of things that still make me wonder if I should have went ahead with one. I ultimately chose not to, but I plan to cross over into Paranormal Romance in the near future, and will likely use a pen name for that so not to confuse my readers.

## **Q. Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?**

A. I try to do a little bit of both. I like to choose popular tropes that readers are really into at the moment, but then put my own spin on it and make it true to my voice. I've had some really positive feedback on this, too, with reviewers commenting that, even though it was yet

another “billionaire” book, for example, there were some fresh, unique perspectives and happenings that set my work apart.

**Q. What other authors are you friends with, and how do they help you become a better writer?**

I have made several amazing author friends since my journey began as a romance author. A few of these include Kharma Kelley (author of PNR/UF), who gives me brilliant ideas of new projects to write, and had it not been for her, Boss Unyielding would have never been. Erin Lee Daniels (author of contemporary romance with characters of color), whose eloquent words and romantic ideals have inspired me in so many ways. Jami Albright (romantic comedy) who brings fun, laughter, and enthusiasm to the table. L.M. Halloran (contemporary romance) who I have unofficially dubbed the queen of angst, her work is so thoughtful, in depth, and downright emotionally wrecking sometimes, I often try to channel that when writing in conflict to my books. Each of these talented women has been so supportive and helpful to me, I can only hope I can repay them the favor.

**Q. What’s your favorite under-appreciated novel?**

A. I seriously cannot say enough good things about the Mageri Series (paranormal romance) by Dannika Dark. That’s five novels, but who’s counting? I wish everyone would read these so that we can all gush over them together.

**Q. How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?**

A. I have about four unfinished books at the moment. I’m working on a sequel novella to Boss Unyielding, which is tentatively titled Boss Unavowed. I also have a spin-off in the works called Boss Unwavering, which will feature a female character from Boss Unyielding. Then I have

several chapters and an incomplete outline for my sequel to Tragedy and Desire, which is titled Desire and Deception. There's a new standalone I've started working on involving a Hero who's just been released from prison on an involuntary manslaughter charge, which I plan to be a "best friend's sister" themed novel. And finally, I have numerous pages of world building for a Paranormal Romance I plan to write eventually, which I'm getting really excited about.

Q. What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

A. I do the vast majority of my research on Google, though I have done some personal interview type research from time to time. I have researched things like Google Earth maps, local restaurants in certain locations and what they look like, food they have listed on their menu, etc. I have searched apartment buildings and apartment layouts, traffic routes, average temperatures of locations at certain times of year. Then there have been job profiles and typical job duties of certain professions. The list goes on.

**Q. What's the most difficult thing about writing characters from the opposite sex?**

A. Funny enough, I actually tend to relate well to a man's persona, because I tend to think more like a man than a woman. I tend to have the "Alpha" personality, the one that takes charge and is always the one in control of things. I joke that I'm always the man in my relationships, and yes, I am completely heterosexual. Maybe I've just been dating the wrong men. The only part about writing about men that I've found a little bit challenging has been the steamy scenes, since I don't actually have a frame of reference for what it feels like to be a man getting down and dirty.

**Q. How do you select the names of your characters?**

A. Most of the time, I will do a Google Search for popular male or female names, and scan the lists for names that pop out at me. Some other things I've done have been scanning the names in movie credits. In one of my first books, *Second Thoughts*, which is a college romance novella from the male's POV, I named all the girls our Hero goes on dates with after all my girlfriend, and I'm pretty sure none of them have yet to even notice. (Thanks, ladies.) The one name that stands out among the crowd, though, is the name of Rogan Rayner, the Hero of *Boss Unyielding*. His name is a mix between my Pit Bull, Rogue, who passed away in February 2016, and the Pit Bull I got since that time, who I named Logan. I'm a huge lover of pit bulls, and Rogue was genuinely more like a child to me than just a pet. It still breaks my heart that he's gone, and I wanted to memorialize him by naming a character after him in one of my books.

**Q. Do you hide any secrets in your books that only a few people will find?**

A. I don't necessarily hide any secrets in my books, per se; however, I do put a lot of thought into the psychology of my characters that I don't think most people would ever pick up on. This might be things in the character's history that have caused them to be a certain way in the present. It may be in the character's body language, or things of that nature.

**Q. Does your family support your career as a writer?**

A. No, but not because they don't like it. It's because they don't know about it! Let's just say I write things I wouldn't want my mother to read! I have no doubt if they did know, they would be fully supportive.

**Q. How long on average does it take you to write a book?**

A. This is different for every book I've written so far. My first romance book, *First Impressions: A Novella*, took me a total of 2 years to write, though mostly because I wrote three chapters and put it down, not picking it back up until a year and a half later. *Tragedy and Desire* took me about 7-8 months to write, and *Boss Unyielding* I wrote in under 30 days. It mostly depends on how motivated I am to write it, how interested I am in the story line, and how self-disciplined I am to block out the million distractions and just write it.

**Q. What authors do you like to read? What book or books have had a strong influence on you or your writing?**

A. There are several authors I love to read. Pretty much any and everything by Dannika Dark, you can bet I'm going to fit it into the top of my TBR pile. Contemporary Romance authors I love include Lauren Blakely, Laurelin Paige, Sylvia Day, Jana Aston, Faleena Hopkins, Vi Keeland, and I'm sure there are others. Then there's Paranormal Romance, which includes K.F. Breene, Shannon Mayer (UF), and Linsey Hall (PNR/UF). [Here's an article](#) I recently wrote on my early writing influences as a romance writer, and what they have in common with what I tend to write.

**Q. Could you describe the mundane details of writing: How many hours a day do you devote to writing? Do you write a draft on paper or at a keyboard (typewriter or computer)?**

A. The length of time I write per day varies, depending on my other responsibilities. While I don't have my own children, I do have custody of my nephew, so I work my day job, come home and spend time with my nephew, and writing time fits into the time before I fall asleep at night, and on weekends. As for how I write, sometimes I sit down at my laptop and type in my story, but the majority of the time, I use a pen and

blank journal to write my books in, scene by scene. Then I'll go back and use the talk-to-text feature on my phone to transfer it from hand written to typed word. I find that using a pen and paper tends to bring out my creativity a million times better than when I'm typing on the computer.

**Q. What's more important: characters or plot?**

A. This is a tough question to answer. I think for me, character details are going to be the main thing that drives the plot. If their characteristics, traits, and personality are not what get them in the situations they find themselves in, they at least determine how he character is going to respond. I think if you have a strong character profile, then your plot will come a lot easier and more natural.

**Q. What has surprised you most about readers' responses to Boss Unyielding since its release?**

A. I have been in awe of the responses I've seen from readers of Boss Unyielding. I think what has surprised me most, and maybe surprised isn't quite the right word, but how readers have raved about the chemistry between Farren and Rogan, and also how he was more attracted to her for her intelligence than he was just her good looks.

**Q. Some reviewers allude to a particular topic within the book that wasn't ever resolved or given clarity on. Was this intentional, or are there plans for a follow up?**

A. I wouldn't say it was necessarily intentional as it was just supposed to be a sort of minimal part to the book. I hadn't realized it would receive so much intrigue, and that was a mistake on my part, but part of this was because Boss Unyielding had originally been intended to be a short novella, and also not quite as steamy as it turned out to be. This particular part of the story was just meant to give a little bit of a glimpse

into Rogan's past, but the majority of this story focused on Farren, her perspective, and her journey through the story's events. The good news is, I'll be shedding more light on this particular, unfinished business in the sequel, *Boss Unavowed*, which also happens to be intended to just be a novella. We'll see when all is said and done!

**Q. When did you first realize you wanted to be a writer?**

A. The first time I knew I wanted to be a writer was when I was only nine years old. My fourth grade teacher introduced our class to poetry, and I wrote my very first poem that year, which sparked my love of writing in general. I kept blank journals that I would fill up with poetry, on up through High School, and I wrote in a journal every day, which was sort of my escape and my release. It wasn't until my 7<sup>th</sup> grade year that I started writing short stories, most of which were my little innocent fantasies about the boy I had a huge crush on at the time, and it wasn't until I hit my thirties that I really started getting serious about writing. That was after I had completed my Master's degree.