

Interview with Newly Published Author Trish Milburn/Tricia Mills

By Tami Brothers

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Trish Milburn has been writing fiction since college, but got serious about actually getting published in 1996. Her first book, *A Firefighter in the Family*, was released in September 2008 and in April, her first YA novel, *Heartbreak River*, was released. You can find Trish just about everywhere on the Internet. She's a regular on several different loops and blogs, including the Supernatural Sisters (which is quickly becoming one of my favorite hangouts).

Hi Trish!!! Can you tell us about your "Call"?

I got the call in July 2007, after 11 years of submitting. Fate has a funny sense of humor because I was sick as a dog the day my agent called me to tell me I'd sold two YA novels to Razorbill (part of Penguin). I was in bed asleep, running a fever, when she called. For the rest of the day, I would call or e-mail friends with the news, then go back and sleep awhile, then get up and call some more people.

How did you go about getting an agent (if you have one) or did you submit directly to an editor? If you have an agent, how long was it before they sold your story?

During the first probably seven or eight years of submitting, I would just do the query route with editors and agents, meet them at conferences, try to get my stuff in front of them through contest finals – the usual story of writers trying to break in. My agent, the wonderful Michelle Grajkowski at Three Seas Literary, actually sent me a rejection the first time I queried her. But I changed part of my focus to YA and sent her a YA project. She liked it, and after we met and talked again at a conference Knoxville, she called the next day to offer representation. She stuck with me over the next three to four years before I finally sold.

What is your take on writing contests and critique partners? Would you recommend an unpublished writer seek these out?

At least in the early years of your career, especially before you sell and are working with an editor and/or agent, I think critique groups are invaluable. I was fortunate to have a fantastic one – two ladies who are now RITA winners (Annie Solomon and Beth Pattillo) and another lady who isn't writing fiction anymore. We were together as a critique group for a number of years, until we all got really busy with contracts and, well, just life in general. I think it's very important to find a good critique group, and everyone in it should have a conversation before critiquing ever begins about what each expects in critiques. I also think it's good to

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try to find partners who are either at your level or a bit beyond. When our group got together, none of us was published but we all had been at it for several years.

Did you have a website or blog before you sold? If yes, do you think it helped to have that up before hand? And if no, do you wish you had set one up before The Call?

I did have both, and I took part in several group blogs. It was so good to have these things in place, showing that I was treating this as a profession even before I sold. It was nice not to have to worry about setting them up and beginning to generate name recognition, at least within the romance writing world, when I got the first contract.

Is there something about this whole process that made you say, “If I knew then what I know now, this would have been much easier?”

I don't think so. It really is a process, sort of like when you're in college and graduate school. You're training and studying to be a professional writer. I think each person has a personal timeline on how long that process will take; we just don't know how long that timeline is when we start. And that's probably a good thing.

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Web site (including personal blog):
www.trishmilburn.com

Group Blogs:

Romance Bandits
<http://romancebandits.blogspot.com/>

Wet Noodle Posse
<http://wetnoodleposse.blogspot.com/>

Supernatural Sisters
<http://supernaturalsisters.blogspot.com/>

Harlequin American Authors
<http://www.harauthors.blogspot.com/>

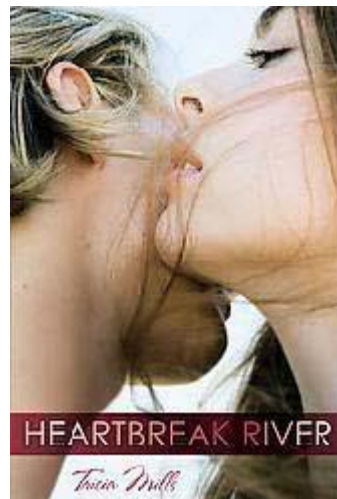
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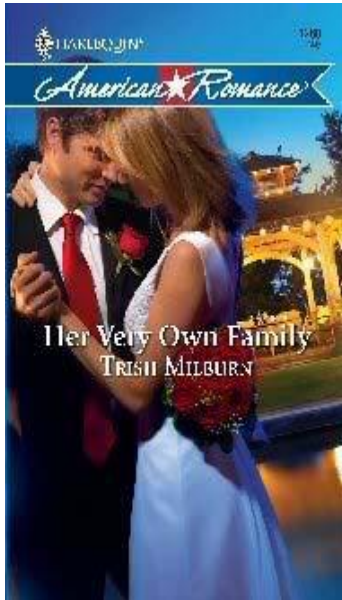
A Firefighter in the Family, Harlequin American, September 2008

Heartbreak River, written as Tricia Mills, Razorbill, April 2009 (YA)

Her Very Own Family, Harlequin American, May 2009

Ice and Desire, written as Tricia Mills, Razorbill, Summer 2010





Trish Milburn is Everywhere!

July 2009

In the May/June *Galley*, we interviewed Trish about her newly published author status. For some reason, her picture and the pictures of her books were accidentally left out of the article. Because Trish has been such a huge part of Romance Writers of America and GRW, as well as a terrific inspiration to many of our PRO and even Published members; we wanted to post these pictures and let you know where else you can find Trish.

Trish's most recent releases were a heart touching young adult story called **Heartbreak River** in April 2009 and a Harlequin American Romance, **Her Very Own Family**, in May 2009. She has a new Harlequin American release coming in March 2010, **The Family Man**, and another young adult story in the summer of 2010, **Winter Longing**.

Here are some of the places you can find her.

Social Networking sites are:

Shelfari
GoodReads
Manic Readers
MySpace
Facebook
Twitter
Romance Book Junction
Coffee Time Romance

She can also be found blogging at the following sites.

Trish Milburn
Wet Noodle Posse
Romance Bandits
Supernatural Sisters
Nobody Writes It Better
Harlequin American authors

And if that isn't enough, check out her YA News and Reviews column over at <http://www.romancenovel.tv/>.

Like I said, Trish is literally EVERYWHERE!!! Check her out when you get a chance and let her know you read about her here in *The Galley*!!! Better yet, grab one of her books. I know you won't be disappointed.

Tami Brothers is the Registrar for the 2008/'09 Moonlight & Magnolias writers' conference; as well as a one of many PROs currently serving on the National PRO Communications Committee. You can read more about Tami on her website at www.tamibrothers.com or at <http://petifoursandhottamales.blogspot.com/>.