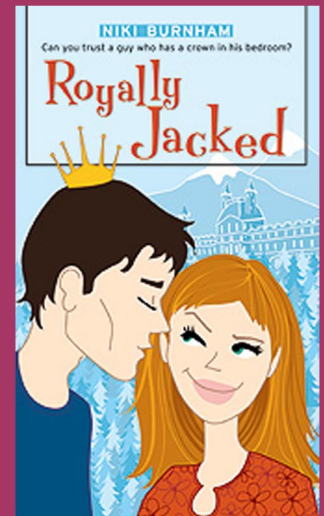
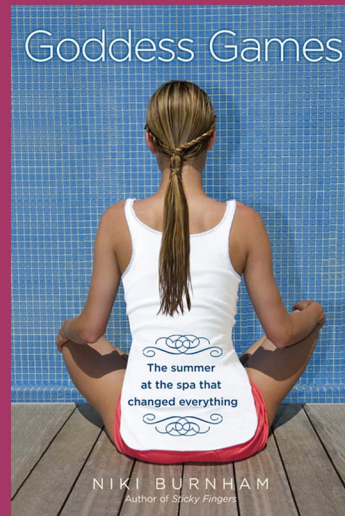


niki burnham



Niki Burnham's readers know when they pick up one of her books that they're guaranteed a fun, romantic read where believable characters face larger-than-life situations. Letters she's received from her fans often begin with sentences like, "I could completely picture myself as Valerie." or "You made me feel like this could happen to me."

It's that realism—even in books that feature not-so-common people, such as a European prince, a straight-A student headed for Harvard, or the daughter of an Oscar-winning actress—that keeps Niki's readers coming back for more. It also means a lot of Niki's reader mail ends with the question, "How did you ever come up with that idea?"

Niki's quick to answer those letters by explaining that, in her experience, the best stories originate when authors take a snippet of real life and then begin asking themselves, "What if...?"

Niki can tell you the exact date of the 'what if' moment that launched her career as a novelist—June 19, 1999. She had two magazine articles due later that week and a yard in desperate need of attention. However, she decided to take a break and crash in front of the television with a gigantic bowl of popcorn to watch England's Prince Edward marry Sophie Rhys-Jones. Since the articles were for bridal magazines, she told herself that watching a royal wedding qualified as 'work.'

During the endless commercials, she flipped to CNN, where the discussion focused on the continuing conflicts in Kosovo and the Middle East. Soon she began asking herself, "What if...?" What if a refugee camp worker in a war zone—maybe even someone who spent her days digging latrines or scrounging for much-needed medicines—met up with a crown prince? Could people from such disparate backgrounds learn something from each other? Or would they even give each other a second look? Those questions led her to write her first romance novel, *GOING TO THE CASTLE*, which was published in December 2001 under the name Nicole Burnham.

Whether written for adults or for teens, Niki's stories are all the result of asking herself 'what if?' questions. And as her readers know, those questions always circle around the complex push-pull of romantic relationships. In Niki's newest book, *GODDESS GAMES*, three teens face their own relationship questions. If a teen girl's father promised to return home, then didn't, would it change the way she reacted to a boy who wanted to go out with her? What if another girl, one with a solid boyfriend, became her roommate for the summer? And what if a third girl, one who viewed boys as a mere means to climb the social ladder, moved in with them, too? How would they all relate to each other? Would any guy have a chance?

Since Niki's originally from Colorado, she set *GODDESS GAMES* there, creating the fictional

town of Juniper, which draws on elements of several Colorado mountain towns. But Niki doesn't just set her books in Colorado. As an Army brat, Niki has had the opportunity to live all over the world. She graduated from a Department of Defense high school in Mannheim, Germany, and continues to travel to Europe to as often as possible. She drew on those experiences to create her wildly popular series of books about American teenager Valerie Winslow. Starting with ROYALLY JACKED, teens have loved having the chance to explore Europe with Valerie (and follow along as she meets up with a gorgeous prince!) Valerie sees the world through an offbeat lens. When her mother leaves her father for a woman, Valerie deals with the emotional toll through humor, and even learns to understand both her mother's decision and her father's need to create a new life for himself.

Reviewers have also become fans of Niki's books. ROYALLY JACKED was named a Teen People Pick, was selected for the New York Public Library's list of "Books for the Teen Age" recommended read, and was named a YALSA "Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Readers."

In addition, the Romance Writers of America awarded Niki the organization's highest honor, its RITA award, for her book THE KNIGHT'S KISS, which she wrote under the name Nicole Burnham. In Niki's trademark style, THE KNIGHT'S KISS took a real-life situation--a popular European princess whose pet project was to protect her country's historical treasures--then added a larger-than-life twist in the form of a medieval knight and managed to create a believable world. All About Romance's Sandy Coleman said about THE KNIGHT'S KISS, "Gosh darn it, Nicole Burnham is good...it's hard to explain just why I think she's so good, but there's an effortless flow to the story, the dialog rings true, and both Nick and Isabella were real people...(this author)'s definitely got the goods."

Niki's thrilled with her success, as it means she can continue to write stories that speak both to her personally and to her readers. When she's not traveling, writing, or hanging out at the popular bulletin board on her website, www.nikiburnham.com, you can find her attending Red Sox games (she's a season ticket

holder), catching up with the latest on The Young & the Restless, or walking her happy-go-lucky dog, Tipper.

Niki earned her undergraduate degree in political science magna cum laude from Colorado State University, where she was Phi Beta Kappa, then received both her MA in political science and a law degree from the University of Michigan.

Niki and her husband currently live in Boston, Massachusetts, where she is hard at work on her next novel.

For information on film/tv/audio/foreign rights to Niki's books, please contact Hannah Brown Gordon of Foundry Literary + Media by sending an e-mail to HGordon@foundrymedia.com.

For review copies of Niki's books, please contact Paul Crichton of Simon & Schuster Publicity by sending an e-mail to Paul.Crichtonr@simonandschuster.com.

To schedule an interview with Niki, please send an e-mail to niki@nikiburnham.com. For the fastest response, please put "Media Inquiry" in the subject line.



Photo by Susan Wilson