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Love Knows No (Genre) Boundaries by Jill Shure

Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 02:02PM

Between doing laundry, working out and defrosting something for dinner, I like to escape to another world through writing. Or reading. Send me back in time, put me in the arms of someone with staggering biceps, a cleft in his strong chin, and a wicked grin, and I've left all the daily chores in the recycle bin out in my garage.

But I often miss the days when a writer could jump between genres as easily as tearing off a page from a yellow legal pad. Writers such as Herman Wouk, a favorite of mine, not only penned my favorite love story, *Marjorie Morningstar*, but he also won a Pulitzer for his World War II novel, *The Caine Mutiny*. And he managed to do this without changing his name. His versatility was not limited by an industry married to writing genres as it is today.

During his greatest output, Wouk wove a magnificent love story around his character Natalie Jastrow, for his outstanding historical series beginning with *Winds of War* and later *War and Remembrance*. Any reader who wishes to bite off something with greater scope can still find these novels not only romantic but steeped in history.

In this vein, I embraced the historical aspects of the late 1920s and early 1930s in my novels *Night Jazz* and *Night Glitter*. I used a Magic Fingers Massage Machine to send my heroine Jeri Devlin back to 1929, to those last hours of raucous celebration and gaudy glamor during the Jazz Age just before the dark days of the Great Depression devoured the good times.

In *Night Glitter*, Jeri is almost defeated by the Great Depression's economic woes as well as her turbulent passions for two different men, both of them wildly attractive yet different.

Using history as an obstacle adds to the conflict in the novels, something my hero Herman Wouk understood well. And having the freedom to write a fictional romance with a dash of history, a bit of time-travel, and a whole lot of adventure...well, I believe that's the stuff that great, timeless stories are made of.

As a writer and an avid reader, I embrace all that is possible in fiction. If I'm going to leave the dishes until later, I want to be swept away by someone with both the skill and scope to surprise me.

As romance readers, are you partial to one or more subgenres? Do you have a favorite genre *outside* of romance?



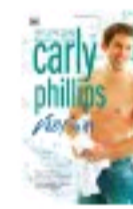
Learn more about Jill Shure, *Night Jazz*, and *Night Glitter* at www.jillshure.com. Visit Jill's blog at <http://jillshureis.blogspot.com>. Follow Jill on twitter @jillshure, become a friend of Jill Shure on Facebook, or send Jill an e-mail at jillshureauthor@gmail.com.

CLICK HERE to order your copy of *Night Glitter* today! Also check out Jill's other releases *Night Jazz* and *Night Caps*.

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by Cheryl Holt



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