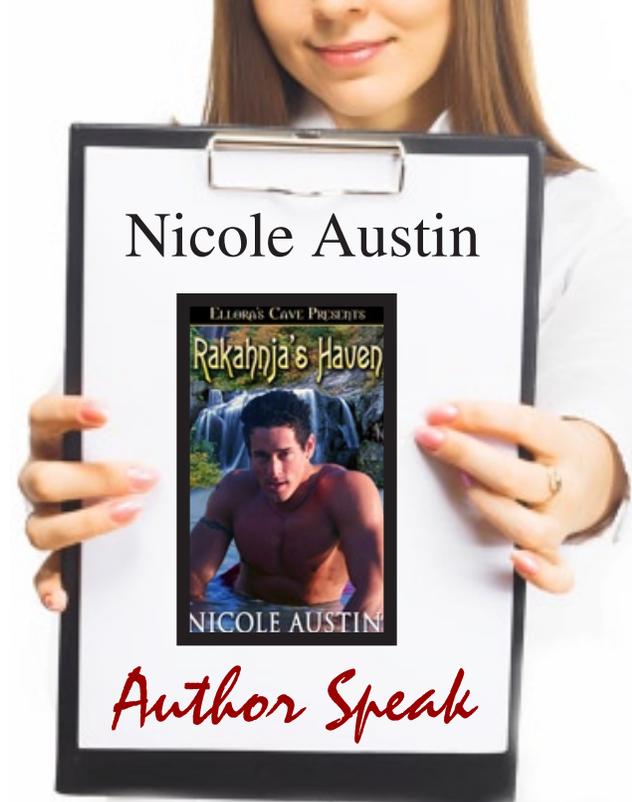


Nicole Austin...

Unable to decide what she wants to be when she grows up (or if she actually will ever leave Neverland), Nicole Austin has dabbled in a bit of this and that, somehow managing to wind up with three college degrees and two careers in the process. How that happened is anyone's best guess, but in her next life she wants to be the person who rubs shiny oils on hunky romance cover models.

Currently, Nicole spends her weekends playing with the kids at a local children's hospital and occasionally taking a few CT Scans. Very possessive of her kids, there's nowhere else she'd rather be with the exception of penning a steamy erotic romance. The rest of her week is devoted to arguing with the voices in her head over their seductive stories. Oh, and by the way, Nicole is a vampy creature of the night who prefers the cover of darkness for conducting her nefarious activities, such as performing erotic research guaranteed to make the most jaded reader blush.

Nicole's aversion to labels, boundaries and anything considered normal or vanilla is the impetus behind her creation of characters and tales that push limits and span multiple genre. Rules, what rules? Oh, you mean that thick book balancing the broken leg of a desk she refuses to utilize, instead enjoying the freedom granted by her third arm (an appendage formerly known as a laptop).



After years of her friends repeated demands to send one of her stories off to a publisher, Nicole finally took the plunge. Amazingly enough, someone in the know (Nicole still insists that someone should have known better or perhaps was on crack at the time) sent a wordy, thoroughly puzzling legal document she's been assured (by a shady ambulance chaser and distant relative of dubious parentage) is a publishing agreement. Along with this accord came one of those dreaded titles. It's been three years, but she still looks around to see who people are talking about when referring to the multi-published author. She thinks it would be really cool to get the autograph of a paperback writer. As a bonus, she sometimes gets to write with the sister of her heart, author TK Winters.

From time to time those crazy publisher types send Nicole boxes of print books with her name on the cover. One of her favorite pastimes is stroking the beautiful artwork, and (being careful not to commit the sin of cracking the spine) pressing her nose between the pages to breathe in the wonderful aroma of paper, ink and glue. Hmm...maybe inhaled industrial strength glue fumes explains the invite she got to join forces with a group of prolific authors—Nathalie Gray, Sahara Kelly, Sally Painter and Ciana Stone—The Hussies

TM. Or perhaps they recognized Nicole's inner hussy. Whatever the reason, they handed her keys to The Hussies blog and set her free, sparking her newest obsession and impish delight of shining a spotlight on the most taboo of topics. Since it's merited, Nicole doesn't mind her most recent designation, The Naughty Hussy.

You can check out her wicked (quite possibly politically incorrect and socially unacceptable) straight-talk and are encouraged to share your opinion every Thursday by visiting www.thehussiesblog.blogspot.com.

For the latest dirt on Nicole visit her fantasy world (a.k.a. Nicole's website) www.nicoleaustin.net.

