



## Susan Lyons / Susan Fox

For sexy romance that's  
passionate, heartwarming, and fun!

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### Who Inspires You?

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I'm always delighted when someone pays me the wonderful compliment of saying I inspired them. What could be better than that? During our lives, various people inspire us in various ways. I know one big moment for me was when, as a very beginning writer, I went to a day of workshops presented by local romance authors – and I realized that normal women like me, living in my community, had become multi-published. If they could do it, why couldn't I? Their inspiration helped me stick the course through the hard, hard years of pursuing my dream.

So, for my opinion poll contest in November 2010, I asked, *Who has inspired you in your life, and in what way?*

Here are some of the responses I particularly enjoyed (lightly edited, and anonymous).

- ♥ My mom has always been and always will be my hero. She has shown me how to be a strong woman and I love her so much for all that she has instilled in me. Rock on, Mom!
- ♥ This may sound a little sappy sweet, but my husband is my inspiration. He knew when he was 17 that he wanted to build a house, a family and a business by the time he was twenty. I made him wait a year for the wife but he did it ALL. With his own two hands. I watched him dig the footers for our home and lay each course of block. He amazes me with his determination and drive. If he could achieve his goals, I can certainly shoot for mine!
- ♥ A couple of teachers really inspired me to achieve my goals. And my father, who wanted his child to graduate college, which I did. I became a teacher and hopefully inspired some of my students.
- ♥ My mother. She was a wise woman who did know more than me. For example, she knew that my first husband was a bad one. She would be happy to know I did it right the second time – 26 years, and going strong!
- ♥ My grandmother inspired me to be my own person and to come out of my shell a bit. She made me feel special.
- ♥ Rose Kennedy inspired me to do a slow recovery from massive depression over a bad marriage and loss of two baby daughters. Now, 25 yrs later, I can make it on my own.
- ♥ My husband, who believes in me no matter what.

- ♥ When I was starting back to school to get a degree to support my kids after a divorce, a woman told me that I was a strong person and that it was up to me whether I let things get to me. I have tried to live my life that way and have to say it helped me keep the drama of life to a minimum.
- ♥ When others go out of their way to help or pay a compliment, I feel inspired look to my own life and to pass it forward.
- ♥ A teacher I had in summer school, who showed me that reading could be fun.
- ♥ My mother. She has given me an appreciation for music, art, life, travel, and most importantly, reading! She is the most intelligent woman I know. She keeps my brain from turning to mush!
- ♥ My brother. When he was ten, he had non-Hodgkins lymphoma. He went through a very hard few months with all of the chemo and treatments. Then later in life, he got himself hooked into the wrong crowd, which led him to his decision to join the Navy. He met the love of his life and is now a father. My brother had so many hardships put in front of them, but he never let that stop him from turning his life around, whether by surviving cancer or wanting to change his life after some bad decisions.
- ♥ Life in general inspires me so much everyday. I try to live life loving life, and I remind myself that even at the hardest of times, I am incredibly lucky. When I trip in life, I make it part of my dance.
- ♥ Terry Fox. He faced cancer with courage and inspired a nation. I was in my pre teens, but today people still talk about him with awe.
- ♥ My mother, a breast cancer and malignant melanoma cancer survivor.
- ♥ My aunt. She's an amazing, can-do woman, yet still can be quiet and unassuming. She made time in her busy day to take me or my sister on "girls shopping trips" to make us feel special. She takes care of both her older husband and mother without complaint or thought of herself. She still teaches twi-kwan-do in her 60s, and when there is something new going on or she has time, she take college classes. She is what every girl wants to grow up to be.
- ♥ My best friend inspires me. Even though life has thrown her a lot of curveballs, she keeps plugging along with a positive attitude, helping others along the way even though she has very little for herself.
- ♥ My husband, who has encouraged me through the years. I wouldn't be who I am without his help.
- ♥ My mother inspired me. She was neither "book educated" nor fancy, but she was generous with her love and compassion.
- ♥ My older sister has inspired me to do many things. She has inspired me to write, for one.

- ♥ My dad. He has been disabled since he was 29 (broke his back badly) but would not accept handouts so worked and still does at 70 years old. He just takes it all in stride. He amazes me.
- ♥ My dog inspires me every day. His previous owners abandoned him, yet he is the friendliest, sweetest dog who doesn't hold a grudge. He is thriving despite his less than perfect start in life, and I am so grateful that we found each other. He reminds me every day that you can bounce back and be happy.
- ♥ My grandmother . She always knew the right things to say and she taught me a lot about needlework, sewing, life's lessons, and loving others. I think I became a teacher because of all that she had taught me.
- ♥ My husband. He is an extrovert and I have always been extremely shy. He has shown me that I just need to speak to people and they will respond.
- ♥ My mother, for always being young at heart and keeping busy, even in her golden years.
- ♥ My mother-in-law. She was a wonderful woman who taught me so much. She inspired most by her example and by her strength in adversity, and I miss her every day.
- ♥ My mom's best friend. She helped me and was there for me after my mom died. She has become my daughters' grandma in my mom's absence, and I don't know what I would do without her.
- ♥ My sister. She's always told me to believe in myself and be the best I can be. She always says to "keep the faith" – things will get better if you think positive.
- ♥ My best friend. Her courage and endurance inspire me to be a better person and friend.
- ♥ My mother inspires me to be the best mom I can be!
- ♥ My youngest daughter has inspired me to be more bold and daring when it comes to traveling. She has visited 11 countries by saving her money from waitressing, and always tries new things when traveling.
- ♥ Sandra Day O'Connor. When her husband got Alzheimer's and was put in a nursing home, she visited him even when he took a lady companion there. To me she is someone to look up to. A hero in understanding.
- ♥ My dad. He's a hard man but a fair one, and lets us kids know we are loved. He taught me principles that I still live by today. He is 75 and in poor health, but the memories and his character still teach me daily.