



# M. L. DOYLE

WRITING ABOUT WOMEN IN COMBAT BOOTS  
WWW.MLDOYLEAUTHOR.COM



## ABOUT M. L. DOYLE

M. L. Doyle aimed to prove her brother wrong when she joined the Army on his dare. A few decades later, she not only confirmed that she could, contrary to his warning, make it through basic training, her combat boots took her to the butt-end of nowhere and back countless times and she lived to tell about it ... or write about it as it turned out.

A native Minnesotan, Mary lives in Columbia, Maryland where her evil cats force her to feed and care for them including cleaning up their poo. To escape from her torture, Mary loves to hear from readers and to escape into the stories she tells.

## GENRES

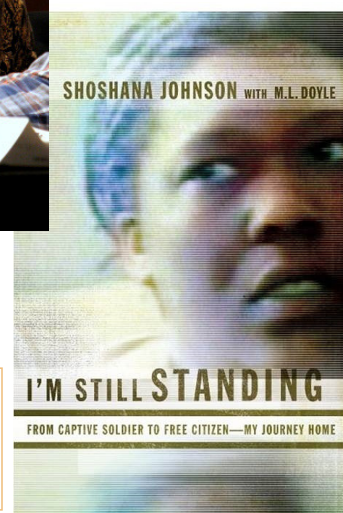
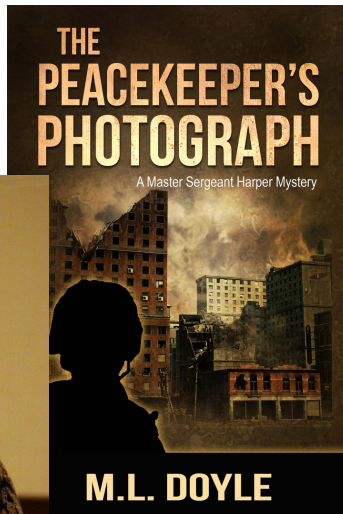
Unafraid of genre jumping, Mary has co-authored two memoirs, a three-book mystery series, a four-novella erotic romance series, and has just published the first book in a planned urban fantasy series.

Her writing and essays have appeared on The War Horse.org, The Good Men Project, O'Dark Thirty and The Wrath Bearing Tree.com, an online magazine for which she serves as part of the editorial board.

## WRITING WORKSHOPS

Mary participate in public readings and has served as a panelist for writer's workshops around the country speaking about veteran, women and minority writing challenges. From The Association of Writers and Writing Workshops (AWP), The War, Literature and the Arts Conference (WLA), Bridging the Gap, The Veteran's Writing Workshop and The Writer's Center in Bethesda, MD.

Mary is a War Horse Writing Seminar fellow and a featured instructor for The On Point Women's Warrior Writing Workshops which help women veterans tell their stories.



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## Awards

- The Cary McCray Literary Award for best new mystery
- The Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPY) for best mystery
- Nominated for an NAACP Image Award in the Literary Autobiography/Memoir category

## Reviews

"Once I started in on author M. L. Doyle's Master Sergeant Harper mystery series, featuring career soldier Lauren Harper, they were so much fun that I devoured one after the other, thanks to my insidious enabler, Amazon Prime."

**Andria Williams, Best selling author of *The Longest Night* and blogger for The Military Spouse Book Review Blog**

"Johnson endured her captivity with courage and emerged with honor. With help of former Army reservist Doyle, she vividly, simply and unpretentiously tells her tale."

**Publisher's Weekly**

"A fascinating glimpse into the seldom-seen world of crime investigation within the armed forces. A strong and conflicted heroine grapples with justice and love in this gripping tale."

**Toby Neal, best selling author of the Lei Crime series and more.**

"A blending of Iraq war vet meets demigods, goddesses and witches...a delicious read. Like a captivating lover, it will leave you satisfied, but wanting more."

**Susanne Aspley, McKnight Award winning author of *Ladyboy and the Volunteer***



The latest release  
set for July 2019

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## Q & A with M. L. Doyle

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**Q: Has your interaction with fans, for example, at conventions, affected your work?**

A: Yes, in that I want to keep them happy! I've found most interactions with readers to be great fuel for my desire to keep at it. I absolutely love going to book club meetings and talking to people who have all read one of the books and hearing directly from them what they liked, what they didn't like, what they thought of this or that. It doesn't alter my writing directly, but it does make me want to write the best book I'm capable of writing. If a reader gets to the end of one of my books and feels satisfied, there's nothing better than hearing that.

**Q: Is there any particular incident (a letter, a meeting, a comment that stands out?)**

A: The central character in my Master Sergeant Harper mystery series is a female Master Sergeant in the U.S. Army. She's a good soldier who travels all over the world and stumbles upon bodies and mysteries she's forced to solve. The locations she travels are all places I visited while in uniform. It's a chance for me to revisit old experiences and memories, most of them fond ones.

I was at a book festival in St. Paul, Minnesota when a woman came up to me and said, "Do you remember me?" She was someone I'd met in Army basic training. She'd slept in the lower bunk to my top bunk and I hadn't seen her in forty years, but the recognition was immediate. It was an amazing experience to see her and to know my books are what drew her to the festival.

**Q: Do you have a favorite author or book (or writer or film or series) that has influenced you or that you return to?**

A: My mother loved mysteries and would recommend books to me. I credit her with telling me to read my first Dick Francis novel. He was one of my mother's favorites and quickly became my favorite as well.

Francis was a British author who wrote mysteries centered on the British horse racing industry. I absolutely love his books and have read most of them multiple times. It was natural for his books to be huge influences on my mystery writing. I tried to take his method of introducing the reader to different aspects of the racing industry and turn it to my own purposes. I try to introduce readers to the military, to what it's really like to be a soldier. Not a hard charging, special operations, kill-'em-with-your-pinky kind of soldier, but the normal, regular life of the everyday soldier, the kind of life a majority of soldiers live.

Aside from mystery, I also love urban fantasy and Jim Butcher's Dresden Files are my favorites in that genre. I love the idea of there being magic, demons, and supernatural creatures in the everyday world. I try to make it all believable in my Desert Goddess series.

Continue ...

## Q & A with M. L. Doyle - cont.

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**Q: Who is the person you would most like to be trapped in a lift (elevator) with? or a spaceship?**

A: Right now, I'd love to be trapped in a lift with my mom. She died before my first book was published and I've always wished she'd been there to see me take those beautiful, hardcover books out of the box for the first time and to see them in book stores. I think she would have been very happy and probably surprised that I'd actually done what I'd set out to do.

In a spaceship? That's a tough one, but I think I'd have to say one of my characters. Harry Fogg is a British Special Air Service soldier with a quick wit and an ability to get out of tough situations. If anyone could help me survive and keep me entertained while being trapped in space, it would be Harry.

**Q: Who is the person you would most DISlike to be trapped in a lift with? Or a spaceship?**

A: I hate to get political, but if I were trapped in a lift with Donald Trump, one of us would not survive the experience! If we were in a spaceship, he'd be headed directly to the airlock.

**Q: What would you pack for space? (Is there a food, beverage, book, teddy bear, etc that you couldn't do without?)**

A: My Kindle loaded with a thousand books. I could float through space for many lightyears as long as I had something to read.

**Q: What is the most important thing you would like to get/achieve from your work?**

A: I just want to write the best book I'm capable of. I have no illusions of getting rich, or selling millions of copies. If I can write a good book and readers enjoy it and want to read more, I've done my job.

**Q: What is the special satisfaction of your work?**

A: I love it when a character surprises me. I put them in a room with someone or some situation and they do something I didn't expect? There's nothing better than that. I usually work from a very rough outline so when they do surprise me, I'm perfectly happy to scrap previous plans and go with the flow. I can get lost in that experience for hours.

**Q: Where were you born?**

A: I grew up on a five-acre hobby farm in Excelsior, Minnesota, U.S. with three siblings, several dogs, cats, horses, geese, turtles and even a bull. At the time, we were the only black family in the town and throughout our school age years, were the only black children in our schools. By the time we were hit puberty, we all wanted to move to the city, so we moved to South Minneapolis, where we all graduated from Washburn High School.

**Q: Where have you lived before?**

A: I lived in San Francisco for a couple of years right after high school when I was young and dumb. Then while working for the Army I lived in Germany for just over 7 years. I came back to the states for a couple of years, then took a job in Seoul, Korea. That lasted about 18 months, and now I'm back in the states.

**Where do you live now?** Columbia, Maryland, U. S.