

All Kinds of Alphas: The A to Z's of Alpha Heroes
from three writers who always write them

1. Definition of an Alpha hero.

2. Common traits of Alpha hero.

- Physicality
- Occupations
- Characteristics / Qualities
- Core values

3. The allure of an alpha hero.

- Why would you want to write about an Alpha hero?
- Does Alpha = asshole?
- Is everyone is going to agree on what's a good/bad alpha hero?

4. Examples from movies and books of different types of Alphas:

PROTOTYPICAL ALPHA

Tough/Warrior Alpha

Jack Bauer on 24
Aragon (Viggo!) in Lord of the Rings
Russell Crowe in Gladiator
Hector (Eric Bana) from Troy
Clint Eastwood
Any one of Monica's books
Danny in Unleashed (Jami),

Chief Alpha

The Tudors
Jack on Lost,
Russell Crowe in Gladiator
Clive Owen in King Arthur
Any one of Monica's books
Logan in Wild Heat (Bella)

“Extreme” Alpha

The Punisher
Commando
The Transporter
Bruce Willis in Die Hard

Bad Boy Alpha

The old James Bond
Sawyer on Lost

Hans Solo in Star Wars
Game For Anything (Bella)

Wounded Alpha

The new James Bond
Derek in Kept (Jami)
Sam in Hot As Sin (Bella)
Patrick in Highland Outlaw (Monica)
Alex in Highlander Unmasked (Monica)

Swashbuckling Alpha

Indiana Jones
Errol Flynn
Nathan Fillion in Serenity

NON-TYPICAL ALPHA

“Geek” Alpha hero
McGuyver

Gentle Alpha

Superman
Magnum PI
The Rock (actor)
Tom Hanks in Saving Private Ryan
Dominic in Game For Seduction (Bella)

5. What kind of heroine is a good match for an alpha hero?

6. Tips of how to apply it to your writing – what the reader really wants.

- Getting inside his head. How do men talk?
- How do they relate to each other?
- How much introspection do these guys really have?
- How to put your hero in a position to shine.
- How to write about his feelings
- What genres are the best fit for an alpha heroes?
- Are there trends with alpha heroes? Are they softening? Or getting tougher?

7. More resources for Alpha dialogue & characterization:

- Black Hawk Down
- Rescue Me
- Linda Howard
- Shannon McKenna
- JR Ward
- Catherine Coulter (historical)

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES:

Jami Alden, Bella Andre, and Monica McCarty have worked together as critique partners for five years. During that time, they've sold thirty books.

Jami Alden is the Holt Medallion nominated author of *Delicious*, *Private Party*, and *A Taste of Honey*, as well as several novellas for Aphrodisia. *Private Party* was chosen by Cosmopolitan Magazine as a Red Hot Read for their November 2007 issue. Jami's latest books (*Caught*, *Kept* & *Unleashed*) are part of a sexy romantic suspense series for Kensington Brava. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her socially well adjusted alpha male husband, her sons, and two dogs that patiently listen to dialog and help her work out plot points. www.JamiAlden.com

Since getting “the call” in 2004, **Bella Andre** has sold twelve books. The first book in her Bad Boys of Football series from Pocket trade, *Game For Anything*, was the August 2008 Red Hot Read for Cosmopolitan Magazine. The first two books in her *Hotshots: Men of Fire* series from Bantam Dell about elite firefighters are out this year - *Wild Heat* in May and *Hot As Sin* in December. Before writing romance, Bella got an Economics degree from Stanford, was a dot com Marketing Director, and did Feng Shui consultations. www.BellaAndre.com

A Golden Heart finalist in 2005, **Monica McCarty** burst onto the romance scene in 2007 with her bestselling Scottish historical trilogy: *Highlander Untamed*, *Highlander Unmasked* and *Highlander Unchained*. All three books hit the USA Today list and the second and third also hit the NY Times Extended list. In 2007, *Highlander Untamed*, was one of Amazon's Top 10 Romances, was chosen as the Best Historical Debut by Lifetime TV, won the National Readers choice award for the Best Historical romance, and received honorable mention in the HOLT Medallion. Monica's latest books are *Highland Warrior*, *Highland Outlaw* and *Highland Scoundrel*, her second back-to-back trilogy with Ballantine. www.MonicaMcCarty.com