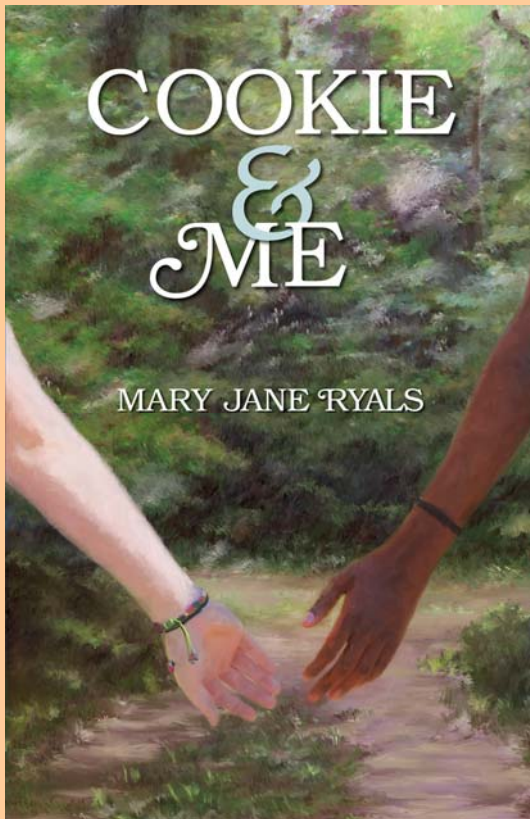


New Fiction from Kitsune Books

Cookie & Me

By Mary Jane Ryals

“*Cookie & Me* is every bit as evocative of race relations in the South as Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The story is set in the turbulent sixties and features two main characters who struggle across racial lines to form a friendship that sustains them both. The writing is so visceral, you can almost hear Aretha, feel the humidity and taste the mulberries. I love this book. —Lu Vickers, *Breathing Underwater, Weeki Wachee: City of Mermaids*



Front cover design & art by Carol Lynne Knight

MARY JANE RYALS holds a Ph.D. from Florida State University, where she teaches writing in the FSU College of Business and the university’s Valencia, Spain program. She edits the *Apalachee Review* literary magazine, and served as 2008-2012 Florida Big Bend Poet Laureate.

She is the 2006 winner of the Yellow Jacket Press Chapbook Contest for *Music in Arabic*. Her short story collection, *A Messy Job I Never Did See a Girl Do*, is available from Livingston Press, and her nonfiction book, *Getting into the Intercultural Groove*, was released in 2006. Kitsune Books published her first bound poetry collection, *The Moving Waters*.

Of her writing, Ryals says, “I bow to the black and white friends who taught me how to be in this world, and to my Spanish friends who have showed me how to make a festival of this full, brief moment we occupy on earth.”



Mary Jane Ryals writes like a sassy hybrid of Eudora Welty and Lee Smith. Rayann Woods, her heroine, is as biting funny as Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and as sharply honest as Huck Finn. Ryals knows her North Florida backwoods, her debutantes, her good ole boys and her Jim Crow history. This novel is at once charming and unsparing, hilarious and profound. I hope this isn’t the last we hear from Rayann. She’s my kind of girl. —Diane Roberts, *Dream State, Between Two Rivers*

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