

Joy Rocco Bio

I'm a Southerner born in Nashville, Tennessee, to a mother who was born and raised in Tennessee. That's about as Southern as you can get. Moving to Florida rid me of some of my accent but not all. It's difficult to eliminate it completely once it's thick as molasses. I don't think I have an accent until someone asks me where I'm from. And, contrary to what most folk believe, Florida might be south on the map but it is far from Southern. My father grew up in Fort Myers, Florida, but traveled to Nashville to work in radio. He met my mother and married her while he was in Nashville. We moved to Knoxville after a couple of years. Television was just getting started and he was hooked. As a small girl I remember driving with him to Oak Ridge to watch "snow" on a little bitty screen. He knew it would be coming to Fort Myers soon, so after a stint in Memphis, where he let a young local fellow come over and sing a couple of songs and play his guitar live on the radio, we moved to Florida. The young fellow's name was Elvis Presley.

In Florida, he helped get the first television station on the air and was the news anchor for years. I had started the first grade in Knoxville but I ended up attending his elementary school and had his same first grade teacher to finish my first grade year. My mother, (remember--she was Southern) was a stay-at-home mom who looked after the children and her husband.

I'm married to a Yankee, Bob is from New Jersey, but I don't hold it against him since he overlooks my grits for breakfast. He still makes a face when he sees them. His first experience with grits happened while he attended the University of Miami (Florida) and a buddy ordered them. His comment was, "what the heck is a grit?"

After graduation I lived in Alabama for a while and completed a course in interiors. Y'all don't know how good it felt to be back in the "south". I loved it, all those trees and hills, even a couple of small mountains. I was in hog heaven while it lasted.

Back in Florida, I spent many years in the Tampa Bay area as a commercial and residential designer/space planner which produced an instant income while writing my first novel. It took nearly 10 years to write. During that time I wrote design articles for several magazines, copy for ads, sales manuals, and interior design books. None were fulfilling. I needed to write fiction to use my imagination. All my books are written solely by me. I love sweeping readers away to another time and place where they can play out fantasies without leaving their home--only their challenges are left behind for a few hours. Oh, I also had two children during that time so I was a little busy.

My first novel-a mystery/romance set in Manhattan, called [Chocolate Days Margarita Nights](#) has a real surprise ending. I have just completed the second, a fiction romance. I have another mystery completed just waiting to be edited and a new one in progress. The first book was published under a pen name, mckenna davis. When it was restocked someone used my real name instead--so much for anonymity. My new book, fiction romance set in Birmingham, Alabama, [Strawberries in December](#). *Both books are available at Amazon.com*, print and all major book stores. [Strawberries in December](#) is also available for Kindle, Nook, ebook, ipad, iphone and other electronic reading devices.

All my books, even the mysteries, will have a little romance in them because, no matter where I live, at heart, I'm still a romantic Southern Belle.

Strawberries in December

Authored by Joy Rocco

Alexandra Stevens, an unhappy wife, bucked traditions of the Old South where women created a beautiful home, beautiful children and were steel foundations of successful men. When a handsome stranger arrived on the scene, three lives collided head-on.

Anxious to make a wealthy new acquaintance his client, Ken, abusive and domineering, compelled his exquisite wife, with her Southern charm and intelligent savvy, to entertain the man who is in fact, the handsome stranger pursuing Alexandra at every opportunity. Constantly being thrown together, Alexandra is torn between duty and honor to southern tradition, her husband, and sons or passion and true love.

The delightful cast of characters merged into a passionate mix of personalities, waltzing through the story with private agendas. They collide in a fatal crescendo of lust, love, money and deceit.