

Who is Marci Waters?

Marci Waters is a beautiful woman in her late 30's although she doesn't look more than one in her late 20's! In her early twenties, along with Detective London and three other friends looking for direction in their lives, all joined the police academy together.

It wasn't long after their graduation and rookie year that most went separate ways, except for London who stayed in Dallas, TX. Marci moved to the Northeast where as a uniform police officer she was often harassed by other officers and even civilians whom she served and protected on the streets. Although this was many years ago and even after many police departments instituted the sexual harassment policies many of the women got the same treatment but it often wore off because those whom she served with, in her precinct and those in other precincts around the city, were mostly tomboy types and/or those who were successful in hiding their attractiveness, but Marci, despite wearing very minimum to no make-up, purposely wearing clothing, namely her uniform that was a size larger to keep from being too form fitting and clinging to show her natural curves, she was still an attractive woman. Unfortunately, many of the men in her department couldn't or wouldn't look at her as just a fellow officer. Instead they made jokes and harassments both verbal and whenever the opportunity was even vaguely open, it would be physical by rubbing up against her, inappropriately touching, slapping and blatantly grabbing her body. The constant action of overly dosed testosterone men acting like a group of uncontrollable teenage boys, finally took its toll, and after repeated warnings to stop, she went off on one occasion where she put the beat down on two fellow officers, breaking one of their noses! And unbelievably she was reprimanded.

The next couple of months she did get a reputation of one to not be messed with, the physical harassment stopped but the verbal continued – when they were far enough away not to get hit! But it was obvious that nobody took her seriously as a police officer, even though she faithfully did all the tasks and assignments she was given and did them very well. Sure there were the typical sophomore mistakes made, but they were fewer than most and Marci learned a lot more from them. Dedicated to being a police officer and spending time and effort on being the best she could be, seemed not to be good enough for either her fellow officers or her superiors. When she realized this unfair treatment, endless comments and jokes about her looks, and the plain lack of respect wasn't going to change, she decided to make a change herself. She quit the police department and went to college where she worked for her degree. At first she wasn't sure what she wanted. She still loved investigating crimes even though her part as a uniformed cop was minimal on major crimes like murder, rape, or kidnapping, she worked her "beat" and often would ask questions to try and figure it out while staying out of the detectives' way. When thinking about all of this and how much she wanted to continue in some capacity, she decided to get into medical research with the possibility of returning to the police force to work in their forensic department.

After earning her Bachelor's degree she did go to work for another police department in another new city, Baltimore. She continued her graduate work in college while working as a junior in the forensics department. The razzing and jokes happened a little in the beginning and then quickly came to a stop. Except for the normal newbie ribbing if she or others in the department got a guess wrong, or messed something up! But at least this group was more mature, included two other women and she wasn't being singled out because of her looks or body. And although she would laugh with them when the joke was about a wrong guess, inside she would still be upset. Not at being made fun of, but because she is a bit of a perfectionist and cannot stand getting it wrong. Partly because of her nature but just as much as she felt she had to do everything twice as good just to be recognized as an equal and get the credit she deserved and earned through her work, dedication, and perseverance through most of her life.

Marci continued to work her way up in the ranks and amazingly, with the time and energy she had after work, she completed her graduate studies and her dissertation to earn her Ph.D. During

those hectic times she also met a guy while studying at her favorite local coffee house. He made the right moves and was a really nice and down to earth kind of guy, once you got past the tailored outfits and perfect smile. Marci was smitten and after a four-month courtship he proposed to her. Marci said yes and immediately the arrangements were being made. It was a major big deal as he came from "old money" and his mother and sister had to do everything just right for a proper wedding in the right church and a huge reception in his parent's summertime home in the Hamptons. Although it was more of a modern day castle than a summer home!

During this time her fiancé, Graham, changed and suddenly seemed as if the guy she met disappeared. It became very clear that once they married, he was expecting her to become the model wife and future mother to his children, to carry on his name, and act as was expected among all of the other "old money" Ivy League family structures. No longer would he "allow" her to work and she was required to become the social and event planner or hostess that his mother and sister were. This caused a lot of stress and eventual tension between them. Even though she would compromise on some situations, Graham never compromised. It was becoming too much to handle.

When the day of the wedding suddenly was upon her, she went through the motions with a fake smile, a fake so good no one else could tell. She dressed in an incredibly beautiful gown and walked down that aisle as a most beautiful bride in the huge Catholic cathedral that saw the wedding of generations of Graham's family. Marci was in place next to Graham as the priest performed the ceremony. This went on for sometime and Marci wasn't expecting it to drag on so long as she has never seen a Catholic wedding service except on television and had no idea it would take what seemed like an eternity. This only gave her time to think and that's when she realized she had been faking herself and could not live this life controlled by another. Before the "I do's" she looked right at Graham and although he didn't want to admit it he knew what was coming. She apologized and ran out of the church.

The next couple of years she put everything into her work and had no social life except on the few occasions she gave in to her colleagues twisting her arm to come out with them and have drinks, even though she didn't drink. The only other time she was around groups of people socially was when she was at the gym working out. There she put a lot of focus on fitness, health and enjoyed a class in defensive combat! Just like when she is in the night clubs with her co-workers she gets men hitting on her at the gym. But every guy who made his moves on the beautiful Marci was shot down in flames until the only ones attempting were new gym members! She wasn't interested in any relationship and wondered if any real men still existed. Usually when contemplating this, her thoughts turned to her dear old friend, London, a fun, exciting man full of life, yet still practical, caring and understanding. Although they were just friends, she did have a little crush on him, but he never made any romantic gestures toward her. And at that time, she didn't have the courage to make the first move. That was then and if she ever had such inclination toward another man nowadays, she would not hesitate to make her intentions known!

Time came for promotions and Marci was passed by every time she applied for a higher position in the forensics department. The captain of the department eventually did promote her to be his unofficial second in command but even that took a lot longer than it should have. Marci was good and she solved a lot of hard to solve cases. Don't know if it was that the captain didn't want to lose her to another department, his ego, or just fear she would eventually get his job, but he tried to keep her down even though it was her name in the newspapers when the cases were solved.

When it became too evident that she wasn't going to get anything more, she looked for a leadership position with other departments and to keep away from the captain's reach of influence, she searched for openings in other cities where she could be evaluated for her talent and work. She looked for months and months and even interviewed a few times in different cities across the country but none hired her. Then came an opening back home in Dallas, Texas where she immediately applied and before she knew it was hired. So began another new chapter in her life, but the difference this time was it was one she looked forward to with familiarity and

excitement! So she packed up and moved home to accept the job as head of the Dallas Police Departments' Forensic Science team.

Of course she inquired about her dear old friend London and wanted to see him as soon as possible. She learned he was a homicide detective and immediately went to see if he was in. Marci knew of his tragic loss that all happened while she was in the middle of her relationship and wedding plans with Graham. He would not allow her to go see London at that time. She worried that London would never forgive her and therefore never contacted him even after her infamous run out of the church.

Marci also was aware of London's opinions of the news media and more importantly, for the forensics department through the news media reports and from friends that she still had in Dallas and kept in contact with over the years. So she knew she was walking on egg shells for not staying in touch and for being one of those "lab rats" as he called forensics detectives, but she risked it all to hopefully rekindle the friendship she had with London and had missed a lot over the years.

CAUTION – SPOILER ALERT – This is where Marci first enters our story in the screenplay, "London Time." The remaining text describes some of the scenes and relationship development – although it doesn't give everything away, if you wish to read it as it happens in the "London Time" screenplay, or in the film once it is made, please do not read any further!

Marci set her luggage at the Stoneleigh Hotel where she plans to stay until she can find more suitable living arrangements, and then made it directly over to the Dallas Police's Homicide department to find London. Wow! She wasn't sure if it was just the longing for a dear friend who understood her, the excitement of working with him again, or destiny that filled a hole inside her as soon as she first laid eyes on London, but it didn't matter. She played it cool as only she could and fortunately London was very receptive to her. She saw London, the man and not his wheelchair which is a little bit more common from people who knew him before his accident, but for her, his wheelchair was nothing more than the color of his eyes, a part of him, but not the whole. Although that might not be a fair comparison since she always loved his eyes that were a lot more beautiful to look at! London suggested they meet up for dinner that night and catch up on everything with one another. Marci happily agreed and sang a little song inside as she walked away with a little extra swing in her step. She was conscious of it and it felt good to freely use some of her abundant feminine allure that she had been repressing for years, but it was not over the top, and it did as she hoped it would in keeping London's attention as she walked away all the way down the hall! And it certainly did not escape that of his younger partner, Detective Richmond when he entered the hall just as she was leaving! Tonight she will find the right time to tell London why she was back in Dallas and her job as the new head of the forensics' department that she loved so well. Surely he will understand or at least accept?!

The following are a few points about her that come up in the screenplay story and describe a little more about who she is.

- Marci is a strong woman when she needs to be. This is displayed and magnified in the course of dealing with her new position as head of the forensics department, and the resentment from some of her new colleagues because she was hired from outside the department and her relationship with the man they all semi-jokingly call Evil London, along with her specific details in processing a crime scene, all causes contention with the team right away. But Marci makes it clear where she stands and how their jobs and the investigations of each crime scene are a lot more important than their feelings. She earns

their respect and acceptance as their new leader right from the first crime scene they work together on at the high rise apartment of Cindy Ross.

- Marci is instrumental in helping London deal with his recurring nightmare of the night he lost his wife and child, and became paralyzed by the drunk driver that hit them. This is very significant since before her arrival he had contemplated and even nearly attempted suicide to escape the terrible memory of the tragedy. Despite this haunting that happens regularly for the past several years and has turned him into a very rough character, it is Marci who puts it into perspective when he confides in her which allows him to finally put the events in their proper place and get on with living life. Marci is essential to London's character arch.
- She can handle herself despite the stereotypes of her Cover Girl looks and when the action begins she not only holds her own but often does even more! This is evident when the time comes to get the person she and London know, but cannot prove for one reason or another, is guilty of the murders. She can handle a weapon, kick in doors and kick some tail, all with purpose. And when the gunfire and all hell breaks loose at the end of "London Time" she saves Detective Richmond's life moments after he questioned whether she could handle a weapon! She has chose to learn and excel when facing the challenges in her life, rather than sit around and just let them happen to her and they all have made her what she is now. This is why she is respected and either admired or feared. Today she has the kind of confidence that is earned and she uses it without flaunting. She is, by no doubt, beautiful and dangerous!
- Marci also knows and shows her softer side when she takes care of the bruising on London's chest that he acquired from pressing a table up against a suspect earlier that day. Marci has many qualities and among all of her surroundings of toughness and ugliness of the world, especially in her work, she hasn't lost her desire to help others. And even though she has resisted displaying her feminine side to combat the unfair discrimination and treatment she has been stereotyped with in the past, she has no problem expressing it now, in certain circumstances. This becomes evident in her personal life as she and London begin a romantic relationship.
- Marci is strong in her professional and personal life. When Lori Love, who is using a Dallas travel agency as a front for her illegal drug operations, expresses her interests in London which is a curiosity even to her since she never thought of a man in a wheelchair as a desirable man, but Marci makes it clear that London is her man!
- Marci is also a wonderful diplomat. In a heated situation that only gets hotter, Marci is a level headed person and the only one that can settle London down and smooth out situations such as when she and London are in the parking lot of the Hard Rock Café and ambushed by a tv news reporter. And despite his job being on the line, London goes on one of his usual tirades about the news media while the cameras are turned on! Thanks to Marci taking control over the interview, he will have a job the next day!
- She has this way of being ready to deal with situations at a blink of an eye. And usually, not always, but usually is right on the mark. She relies on her instinct and it rarely lets her down.
- Marci knows the positive and negative side effects of her appearance and has learned how to turn it into a life affirming lesson. She acknowledges that many see her as beautiful, sexy, and very attractive, and now accepts that some people will stereotype her no matter what – therefore she is going to be herself – wear the clothes she wants to wear – and even in her professional life she presents herself professionally but with a bit of style and no longer worried if it should also compliment the wonderful curves and

frame of a woman. And maybe a little extra to keep London's attention when they are not busy trying to solve the murders. The two of them have a lot in common and understand each other a little more as they discovered during a conversation over dinner – they both know what it is like to be stereotyped and treated as less than equals with other people forcing them to feel like they have to be twice as good for the same recognition as others. It is because of this understanding that London unknowingly has helped Marci come full circle in her life – and free herself to be herself – regardless of what other people think. Marci is 100% woman and is well rounded regardless of how many men look at her only as a sex object. She handles it as she does with so many other aspects of her life, sometimes with wit, sarcasm, or head on for what it really is and setting it in its proper perspective.

There is no doubt by the end of “London Time” just how important Marci is on many levels from her job as a crime scene investigator, her position within the team as a leader, and within all the facets of her relationships with London.

Clearly they make each other better and feeling more complete. They definitely belong together and it is obvious that they will continue to work side by side, as equals with their own talents that compliment the other, both professionally and in their personal life together!