

# Gotta love a little controversy...

As I manage to infect more new readers with the insidious Rowan Gant virus, gaining new fans along the way, there always seems to be a little controversy to go along with it. The primary thing being Ben Storm, and some of his language... Now, some of you might think I am talking about his flagrant use of expletives...Hey, I've actually received mail telling me that "cops don't talk like that." Hmmm, you know, that's true-- After hanging out with some cop buddies of mine, when I started writing Ben's dialogue, I actually had to clean it up a bit.

But, that's not the particular lingo I am talking about. Every now and then I get someone taking me to task, or in many cases simply asking, "why Ben sometimes uses the word *squaw*," as in their estimation it is a vulgar invective meant to describe a part of a woman's anatomy. They figure that since he is Native American, he should certainly find this word horribly offensive, and is thereby grievously insulting Felicity whenever he refers to her as "*Red Squaw*".

Well, I usually meet these emails and letters head on with a response, but I thought perhaps I'd put something up here on the site just to curb some of that. It's not that I get an enormous number of these question/complaints-- more like a half dozen per year. But, if my answer is already here for you to see, then that'll save some typing on everyone's behalf! <GRIN>.

So, here's the deal:

**Number One:** My Native American friends tell me that they are not offended by the word, as it simply means "woman" or "young woman" in their vernaculars. Now, before using this word I did do some rather intense research into it. Therefore, I would like to provide you with this [LINK](#) for an expert commentary on the subject by someone with more letters behind his name than me.

**Number Two:** Overdone political correctness makes me want to vomit. 'Nuff said.

Oh, and by the way-- the same thing goes for *Tonto*. That collection of syllables, however, not only does NOT mean "idiot" or "moron" as some will have you believe, it also doesn't mean "loyal friend". In fact, it doesn't mean anything and it isn't even a real Native American word. It's something that was made up for the Lone Ranger.