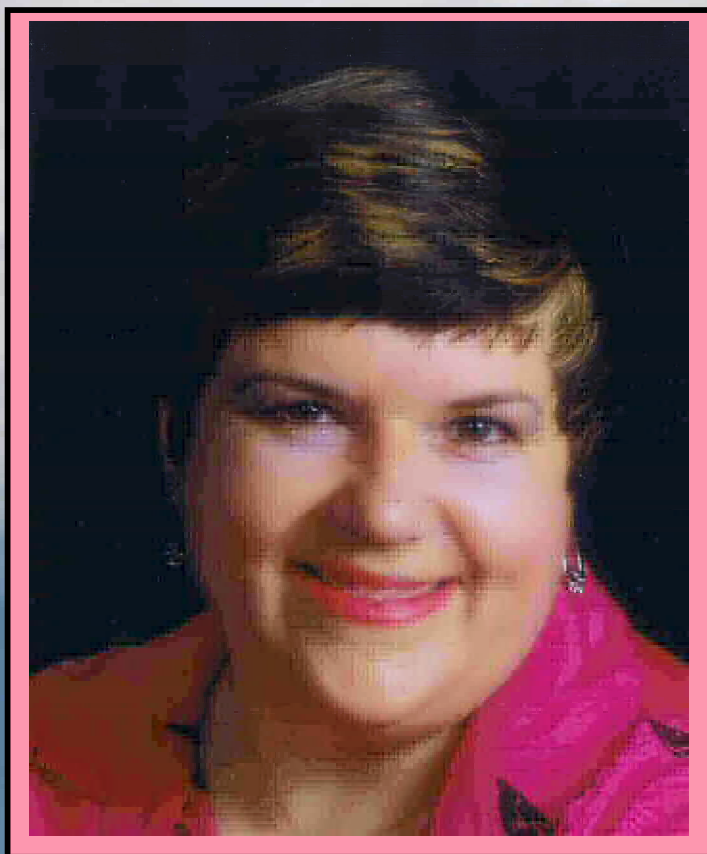


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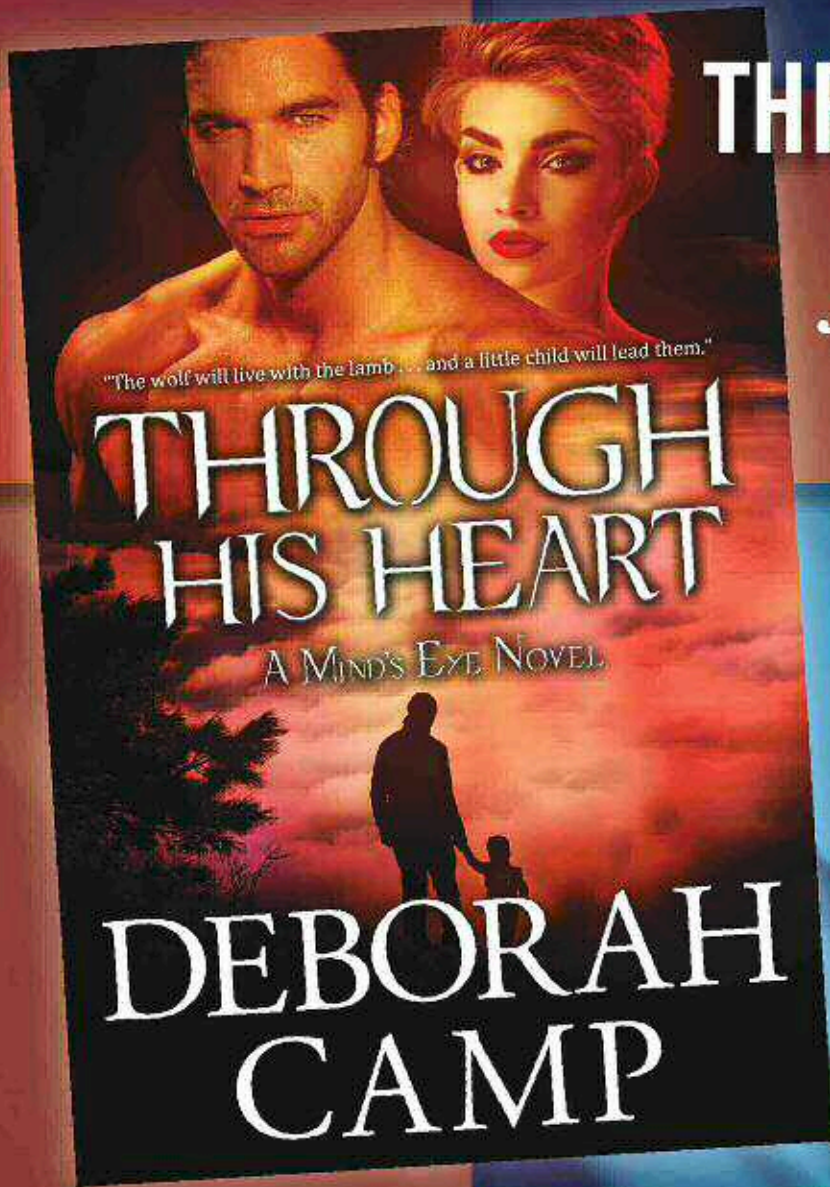
**Location! Location! Location--
counts in stories too, says one of
the best...Deborah Camp**



**Catch up with Sharon West's
hot SEAL series... inside**



Reviews! Reviews! Reviews!



THROUGH HIS HEART

BOOK #3 IN THE

Mind's Eye series

BY DEBORAH CAMP

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"I LOVE this series!"

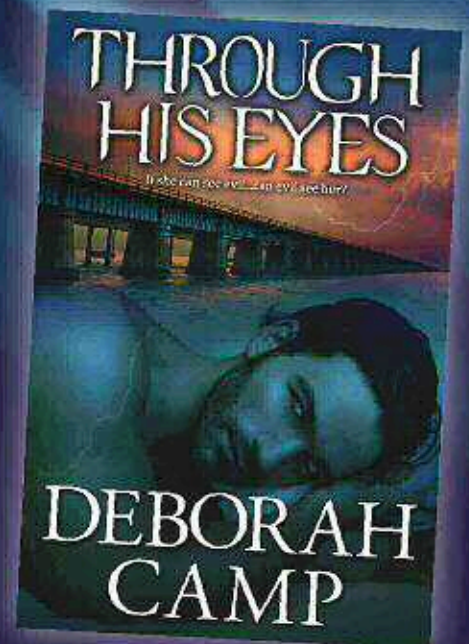
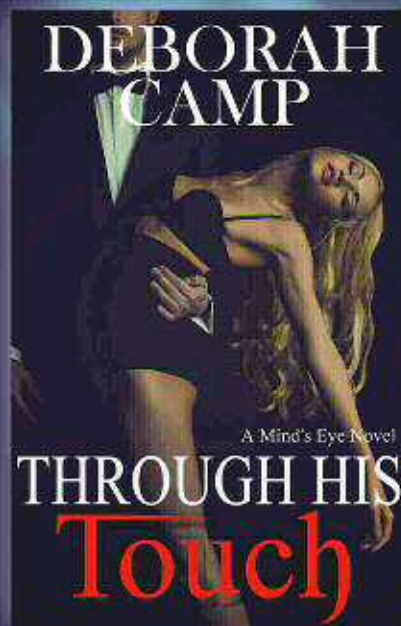
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Places, Everyone!

How Setting Can Affect Characters and Readers

By Deborah Camp

When I'm dreaming up a novel – especially an historical one – the place where my characters will live and interact is almost a character within itself. I have used real places and places I've invented. Either way, research and attention to detail is involved.

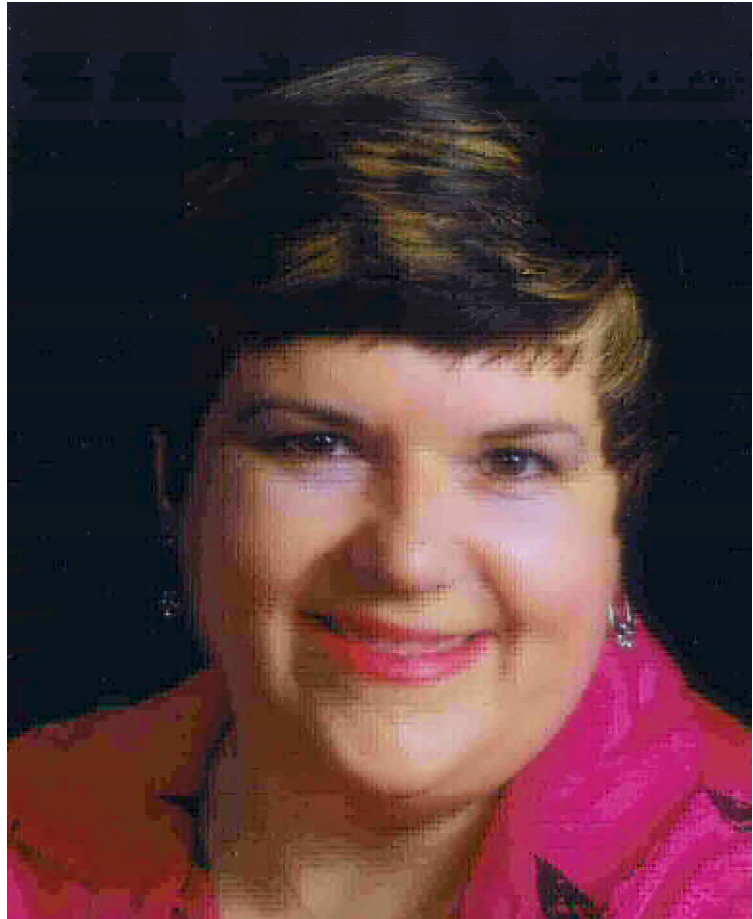
While I don't like to spend paragraph upon paragraph describing a street, a house, or land and other terrain, it's imperative that I set the scene so that my readers get a sense of “place,” “time,” and “season.” The year and/or era when something happens in a novel should dictate how characters view the world and their circumstances.

The novel I'm writing now is set in Texas a few years after the Civil War. To give you an idea of a novelist's “ground-work” when it comes to setting and time, I have spent at least 20 hours reading about Texas after the war ended. I wanted to become familiar with the different factions and feelings swirling in the area because it was a time of upheaval and fractured alliances. It was also a period of extreme hatred for many people. The Confederacy had lost the war and most Southerners were bitter and experiencing a sense of denial, much as one would after a death, for the country they had known was gone. Many of them were simply refusing to give it a proper burial.

Through my research of “place” and “time,” I found different motivations for characters. The Civil War affected everyone – but in vastly different ways. The struggles they faced following the war were almost as traumatic as the war itself. As I created my character studies and profiles, I put myself in their shoes so that I could see the world from their perspective.

The look of a place requires pages and pages of notes. If I'm using a real town or location, I try to go to that place (for contemporary novels) and experience it first-hand. For historical settings, I do extensive research about the topography and the history of the towns and cities I'm using for the book. Writing about actual places can be tricky. For instance, one doesn't want to mention a hotel in the winter 1876 St. Louis that burned down in the spring that year. And don't think readers won't notice. Someone always does!

Even towns or places I create have to be mapped out so that I have a solid image of them that doesn't waver and confuse the reader. In my current novel, *THROUGH HIS HEART*, I created a town called Cotton, Missouri. First, I Googled that name to be sure there wasn't a Cotton, Missouri. Then I set it in the boot heel of the state, which is an area I'm quite familiar with since it's where I was born and much of my extended family still lives there. It was easy for me to draw from my memory of how the land looks, the weather, the buildings, and how the people of that region sound. I used one of the small towns I have frequented as a twin for Cotton. Even



“pretend” places must be described. Street names and businesses need to be mentioned to lend veracity. This helps readers to imagine them and feel comfortable in them.

The balancing act is to tell enough about a setting to allow readers to snuggle into it, but not so much that they start skipping paragraphs to “get back to the good part” of the book. I like to dribble it in. It’s always better if the point-of-view character is experiencing the setting and interacting with it. For example, which descriptive passage seems more engaging to you:

#1 The land was mostly flat, which made it good for cattle to graze on. Copses of trees here and there provided umbrellas of shade and a stream meandered along the far west corner of the ranch. An outcropping of hills along the northeast border sheltered coyotes, cougars, and a few wolves, just to make life more interesting and challenging. It was good land. Land worth dying for.

#2 Brady stared across the land where he and his brothers had raced horses, chased rogue bulls, and rounded up stubborn heifers to keep them from becoming prey to coyotes and other varmints. He could almost hear their laughter echoing from the outcropping of hills in the distance. A wistful smile tugged at the corners of his mouth as he recalled lazy afternoons lying in the shade of spreading elm branches or cooling off in the stream that ran along the far west border. He and his brothers had worked hard, but they’d played just as hard. This ranch had been their whole world. It was good land. But was it worth dying for? The smile vanished as the pain of loss twisted his gut and tore at his heart. He’d gladly let the damn Yankees take it if it meant he could ride away from it with his brothers by his side, full of life and laughter once again.

In the second example, the setting is woven into the character of Brady. We experience it with him and it’s more than just a description. It’s emotional and gives insight to him. If snow covered the area he was surveying, it would evoke a completely different feeling for the reader. That’s why it’s also important to determine what time of year to set a book in and to remember that not every day is sunny or cold.

Where your characters are, why they’re there, and what they think of adds depth to a novel. Too much of it and your readers get bogged down, but give them too little and they feel displaced and rootless. As it is so often with writing, finding the balance is the challenge and the reward.



It is with deep regret that we announce the passing on August 13th of one of our greatest supporters, Edith M. Roberts, mother of *AdC* editor, Lani Roberts. She led such a multi-faceted life and was such a dynamic woman that *AdC* featured her on the February, 2012, issue in honor of Black History Month.

Mrs. Roberts was the wife of the first Tuskegee Airman, George “Spanky” Roberts. Having been there from the beginning of this Tuskegee Airman ‘experiment,’ she documented the events of World War II and her husband’s involvement, not for the purpose of creating history, but to provide a living log to her son who might not ever meet his father.

The impact of her life is not because of her husband’s achievements, but because of her own. A graduate of West Virginia State University, Mrs. Roberts held a degree in music and later got a Masters in Social Work. She counseled many; she was the pianist for several churches. Later, she carved a niche for herself by teaching others of the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen.

“You have to know your history,” she said in a quote to *AdC*. Though schools were among her favorite places, she gave presentations to whoever was interested in learning about the history of the Tuskegee Airman, including George Lucas when he made the movie *Red Tails*.

She leaves behind four children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren her Delta sorors, and thousands of friends.



SEAL My Home

by Sharon Hamilton

SEAL My Home is a sexy, yet serious new installment in the Bad Boys of Seal Team 3 series by NYT bestselling author Sharon Hamilton in which a Navy SEAL who was orphaned at birth learns he might be the son of a billionaire. Fans of Kaylea Cross and Cristin Harber will fall in love with SEAL My Home.

Series: Bad Boys of Seal Team 3 (SEAL Brotherhood)

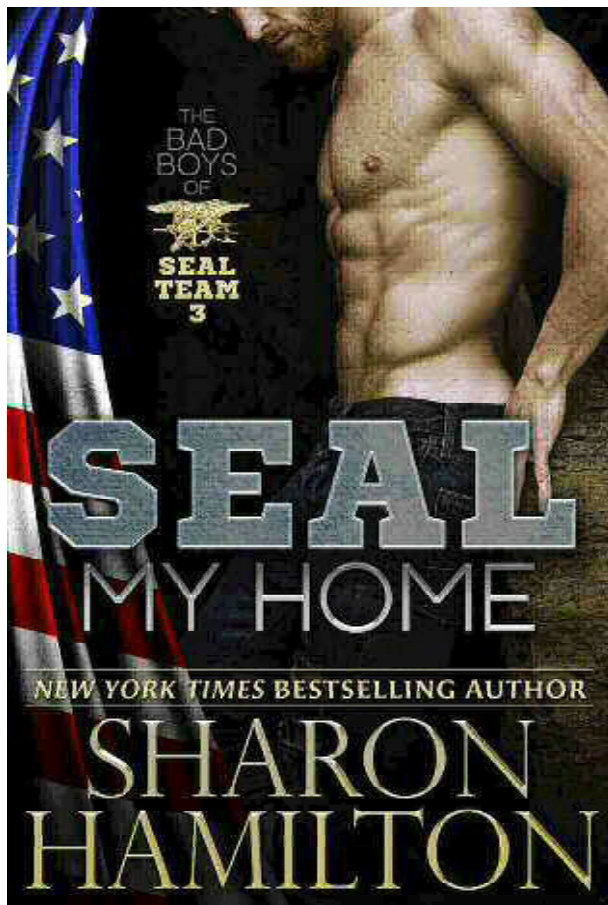
Genre: Military Romantic Suspense

Synopsis:

Bad boy Rory Kennedy was raised in foster care, bouncing in and out of trouble along the way. He finds his true family and real brothers as a Navy SEAL, one of the Navy's elite warriors. When his BUD/S instructor barked the SEAL's Motto: Only Easy Day Was Yesterday, he knew he had found home.

Megan Palmer works in a bookstore and finds her passion in life through reading steamy romance novels. Her brief affair with a man she later found out was married has left her damaged, until she meets the handsome SEAL, who stands ready to open her world and give her things she's only dreamed.

On a skiing trip, Rory suffers a possible career-ending injury and also comes face to face with a past he never knew of, and a family who had abandoned him. His relationship with Megan is tested to the breaking point as Rory wades through the dark waters of recovery and whether or not he can live without the life he loves. A home-grown terrorist cell forces his hand and he discovers his true purpose.



Excerpt from SEAL My Home:

Whatever she'd bottled up had come loose. Her appetite met her need, which should have scared him. But for the first time, he wanted her to need him. He could fill her up. She was starving for it.

And so was he.

She was sleeping, and he fell into her rhythm, inhaling when she did, exhaling also in tandem, feeling her soft sex crowning his thigh. He thought of all the lovely things he wanted to say to her, but knew he shouldn't. He knew the speaking part would mess up what he now felt, something he rarely felt. Happiness.

He tried to breathe without making a sound, hoping that this time together, which was as precious to him as the love making part, was prolonged for as long as possible. She was fire and ice. The salt and the caramel. She tucked inside the hard exterior of his soul and shivered, rested there under his protection.

He must have twitched or done something, because she startled and rose up quickly, rolling to the side and covering herself up. He could almost feel her heavy thoughts tossing about the room as he viewed her light pink spine glowing in the near moonlight as she sat on the edge of the bed away from him. An inch of her butt crack was in shadow, but the alabaster surface of her skin was flawless and made her look like

a statue.

He inhaled without a sound, and let his index finger trace down the middle of her back, traveling over the ridges of her vertebra. She stiffened at first, then rolled her head to the side and killed him with the blue gaze that showed him she was still hungry.

"Come here, Megan," he said, worried he'd been a little too loud.

She touched her shoulder with her ear in a shy move that belied her real feelings for him. He could see it in the coral shaded corners of her lips, how they quirked up at the ends.

About Sharon Hamilton:

New York Times and USA Today and Amazon Top 100 Bestselling Author Sharon Hamilton's SEAL Brotherhood series have earned her Amazon author rankings of #1 in Romantic Suspense, Military Romance, and Contemporary Romance. Her characters follow a sometimes rocky road to redemption through passion and true love. Her Golden Vampires of Tuscany earned her a #1 Amazon author ranking in Gothic Romance.

A lifelong organic vegetable and flower gardener, Sharon and her husband live in the Wine Country of Northern California, where most of her stories take place. When she's not writing, you will find her in the garden, getting verra verra dirty.

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An Exclusive Interview with Daniel Hosse **Brought to You by Debra Parmley's Cover Model Corner**

Debra met Daniel Hosse at the A Day with the Authors event hosted by Sandy Sullivan, Secret Cravings Publishing, in Nashville last May and invited him to do a Cover Model Corner interview.

Welcome and thank you Daniel!

Debra: *What was the first cover you appeared on and how did this come about?*

Daniel: The first cover I shot was for Renee Lee Fisher. She actually contacted me after seeing one of my shots online and asked me to be on her cover.

Debra: *If you could do a photo shoot anywhere in the world for a cover, where would you most want to go? What sort of shoot would it be?*

Daniel: I'd love to do a shoot in the mountains. I've always wanted to do a rustic photo shoot on location somewhere like that.

Debra: *Beyond romance novel cover shots, what other projects or jobs keep you busy.*

Daniel: I write poetry as well and it's one of my primary passions.

Debra: *Poetry is one of my passions too. I do love a good poem. If you wrote a book, what would it be about?*

Daniel: I have written two and am in the process of formatting them for publication. Both are poetry books.

Debra: *Excellent! I look forward to reading them! This question is almost always asked in interviews because your fitness level is beyond the average persons. What is your exercise routine and what sort of nutrition plan do you follow to achieve and maintain your level of fitness?*



Daniel: I work out an average of 6 days a week, focusing on different muscle groups each day. Diet is the biggest part and struggle for me. I've always been a "hard gainer" so keeping my weight up and eating constantly is the toughest challenge.

Debra: *If you could share three simple fitness tips the average romance reader could do every day to stay healthy, what would they be?*

Daniel: Drink water, eat clean, and listen to your body.

Debra: *Excellent advice. It's your birthday dinner and the calories don't count. What's on the menu and what are you drinking?*

Daniel: Sushi and green tea...mmmm.

Debra: *Oh, that sounds delicious. How would you describe the perfect romantic evening?*

Daniel: You know I don't think there is a perfect evening, but rather a perfect date. It'd be "her" that would make any evening romantically perfect.

Debra: *Now that is romantic. Please share one unusual fact about you or your life.*

Daniel: I love big band music and old radio tunes.

Debra: *Oh, what fun! Okay now Eight Quickie Questions:*

Watching the sunrise or watching the sunset and the stars?
Definitely the sunset and stars.

The beach or the mountains?
Mountains for sure.

Primitive camping or luxury hotel?
Camping any day, every day.



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Spotlight Interview



This month the Spotlight Shines on...

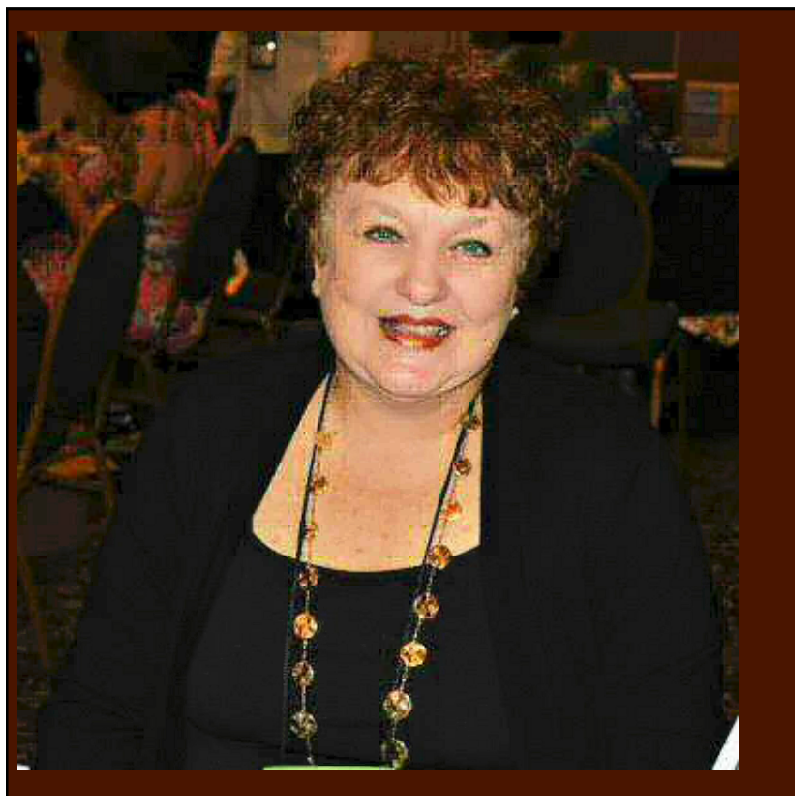
Shannon West

Shannon West lives in the South with her family. A lover and avid reader of M/M romances, she has written over sixty short stories, novellas, and novels. Her books have produced numerous international bestsellers. She is a two-time Rainbow Awards finalist and an All Romance e-books top ten bestselling author.

When did you start writing and why?

I've been writing for about four years. My first book was a male/female historical—not exactly sweet, but not erotic. The story was about one of my grandmothers who died many years before I was born. My mother made a remark once about how her father had always loved his first wife more than he loved her mother, and I remember being horrified and scandalized by this from the time I was a little girl. No one could give me much information on either of them, so I decided to make my own story. That was the beginning of my writing career and I've never stopped since. That book was called *Standing on Stolen Ground*, and I wrote it under a different name. But that was the beginning and from that point on, I was hooked.

What have you learned about writing since you



started?

That it's really, really hard! Hard to do, hard to find time to do it, and hard to put your work out there and risk having someone hate it. Of course,

when they like it, it's so rewarding. I love telling stories and I love writing, but it's sometimes difficult to make time for it in a busy schedule. I absolutely have to make it a priority or I'd find a millionaire.

Tell us about your new book or series.

I'm doing a new series with Victoria Sue right now that I'm excited about. It's called *Supremacy of Wolves*. In this world, a plague has destroyed all but thirty percent of the human population and the wolves have taken over. They are benevolent, but think like wolves, of course, and like pack hierarchy and discipline. Humans, whom they consider to be impulsive and reckless, are like omegas to them. They should be cared for properly, but have to be made to stay in their places and respect the supremacy of the alphas. When one of the rebels who tried to assassinate Quinn, the supreme alpha, is captured, the alpha decides to make an example of him. Quinn doesn't want the young man, Aaron, to become a hero to the rebels, so he makes him his love slave and tries to train him to be a good omega mate. As you can imagine, this doesn't work out as planned, and Quinn is soon in danger of falling totally in love with his stubborn, beautiful captive.

To get up in the morning and write a couple thousand words, have lunch with a friend and then go shopping! Dinner with the hubs and then watching *Outlander* on TV.

Do you have any hobbies?

Reading! I love to read and have to allot myself time for it or that's all I would do. I also love to travel and see new places and meet new people.

What authors do you admire?

So many! For romance, though, I'd have to pick Josh Lanyon, Harper Fox and LB Gregg. Love some Andrea Speed and Abi Roux too.

What is the worst thing about being an author?

The writing slumps where the words won't come! You have to just keep working your way through them, but they're the pits.

What is your idea of a perfect day?

Continued on page 16

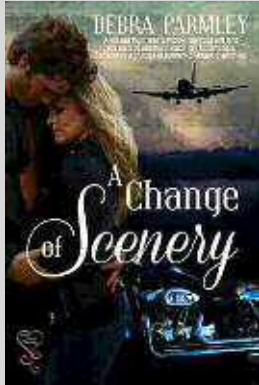
Jordan McAlister may not know the difference between biscotti and bruschetta, but she has no trouble finding trouble wherever she goes.



www.lizlipperman.com



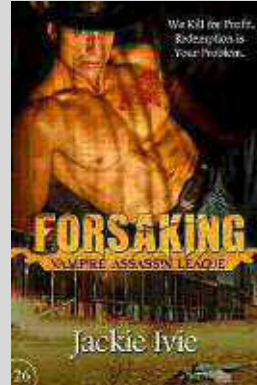
AdC's Bookshelf



A Change of Scenery

At the shuttle stations she is handed a letter, which says she cannot board the Zuilund Super Shuttle until she receives an injection of Sendot, a new drug that prevents a new deadly gastrointestinal illness.

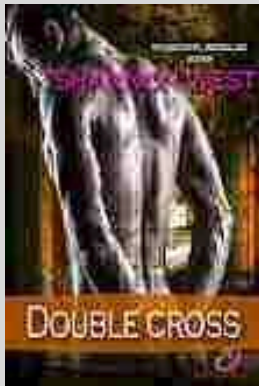
DebraParmley.com



Forsaking

He was thankful he'd cleaned up in his big Victorian claw-foot tub and donned new store-bought underwear briefs before heading into the city last night.

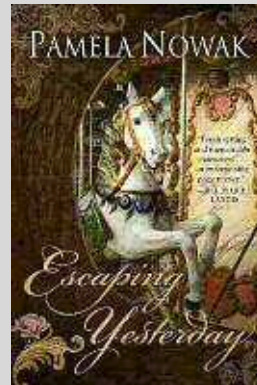
JackieIvie.com



Double Cross

When F.B.I. agent Ryan Tucker get the job of escorting a federal witness to court in D.C., he thinks it's just another boring case on his downhill slide from the top.

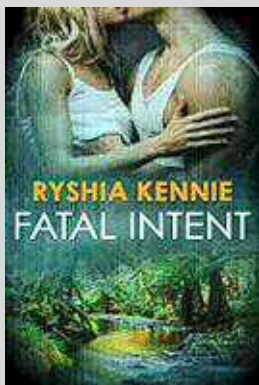
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Escaping Yesterday

1905: Elitch Gardens...an amusement park on the verge of expansion...two troubled people escaping traumatic pasts...one very present danger...and a love neither expected.

PamelaNowak.com

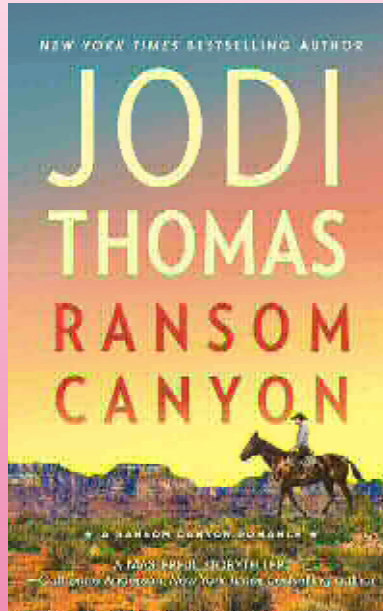


Fatal Intent

An expedition into the Borneo rainforest is a once-in-a-lifetime chance for entomologist Garrett Cole. It's this trip that could finally make her a star in her field.

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Here's an exciting excerpt from Ransom Canyon:

Following the deaths of his wife and only child, wealthy and prominent rancher Staten Kirkland swore he would never love again. All that keeps him going are his ranch and the grief he shares with his deceased wife's best friend, Quinn O'Grady—his rainy-day woman. But after years of shared misery, something suddenly changes with the reclusive ...Quinn.

Read more of Ransom Canyon and many other authors at <http://www.affairedecoeur.com/blog/>





Spotlight Interview



Michelle M. Pillow,

New York Times & USA Today Bestselling Romance Author

Michelle M. Pillow is a *New York Times & USA Today* Bestselling Author writing in many fiction genres, including the Bestselling Dragon-Shifter series *Dragon Lords* and *Captured by a Dragon-Shifter*, and the mischievously magical *Warlocks MacGregor*. Works also include *Lord of the Abyss*, *Lords of the Var*, and the National RT award-winning historical *Maiden and the Monster*.



Michelle M. Pillow

When did you start writing and why?

I have always been interested in telling stories, whether it was with words or pictures. For the longest time I thought I'd become a professional photographer, but my writing career took off and photography took a back seat. There are so many facets to writing a book that I love—telling a story, researching and learning new things, the challenge of characters and world building. I do hope to pick up the camera again someday, but for now I love telling stories with words.

I have the best job in the world. My first book was published in 2004 and over ten years later I have nearly 100 titles published.

What have you learned about writing since you started?

That there is a huge difference between writing for fun and writing as a career. Being a career author means I have to do so much more than simply write a book. I have to know how to build websites, marketing and promotions, read legalese. I'm not complaining. I absolutely love what I do.

Tell us about your new book or series.

I have several series going at all times. Right now, my newest series installment is *Captured by a Dragon-Shifter*. It's connected to my bestselling romance series, *Dragon Lords*. *Dragon Lords* are set in the future. *Captured by a Dragon-Shifter* are the modern day ancestors to those dragon-shifter heroes. Currently,



there are several series installments connected to *Dragon Lords* series including *Space Lords*, *Lords of the Var* (cat-shifters), and more. Readers can find a series installment Reading Order or more information on my website, www.michellepillow.com.

What is your idea of a perfect day?

Any day I get to spend with my daughter.

Do you have any hobbies?

I love to travel, take photos, beg people to feed me. I love to try new things. I've been to the Mayan temples in Belize, went on paranormal investigations of old Vaudeville theatres and historical museums, I've swam with sharks—well, they did most of the swimming, lol.

What authors do you admire?

Mandy M. Roth is not only a talented author and awesome person, she's my sister-from-another-mother. We both started at the same time and have grown together as authors. I admire her greatly because

I know how hard she works and how giving she is to other people.

What is the worst thing about being an author?

Very long, isolated hours needed to get the job done. It can be a lonely process, but not necessarily a bad one. The internet has helped out with that, even if your friends are only interacting virtually. But, on the other hand, you need those uninterrupted hours to concentrate.

Non-authors seem to think books just happen, or if you have five hours to write (even if they're interrupted hours) then you should be done. The process just doesn't work like that. If an author's head is pulled away from what she's doing, then it's really hard to find that headspace again and keep going. I know a lot of authors who regularly log 15-18 hour workdays.

The best thing?

The readers! I love my readers. Their support of my work has been phenomenal. I mean, I get to make things up for a living. How cool is

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that?!

What do you expect to be doing 10 years from now?

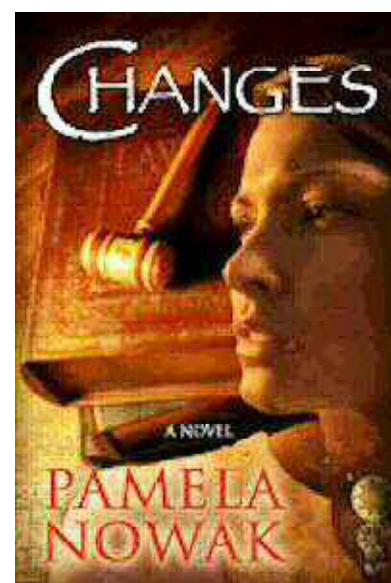
I love to learn and try new things. I hope to keep developing my craft and expanding into new territory. I believe in keeping my eyes open for new opportunities and taking chances. For my career that might be working on a nonfiction book, or compiling a photography book. I'd love to do something with traveling, as well. Regardless, I will probably still be writing and telling stories.

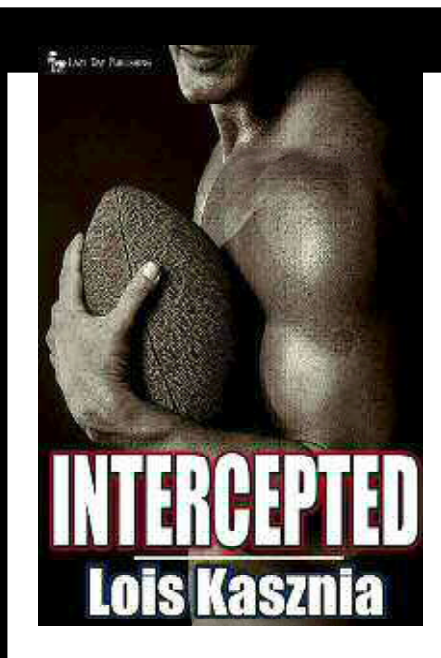
What can we expect from you next?

My next release is *Warlocks MacGregor: Spellbound* on July 7, 2015. The series features mischievously sexy modern day Scottish warlocks living in Wisconsin. The MacGregor brothers are all about having good time, pulling pranks, erm "helping" their siblings find love. This is a newer series for me, but the feedback so far is that it's one of my funniest group of guys.

<http://michellepillow.com/title/spellbound/>

Continued on the next page





Intercepted:
 Sexy NFL Linebacker, Brainsy Mom, Precocious son equal Hot
 Romance
[www.blushingbooks.com/index.php?|=product details&p=3325](http://www.blushingbooks.com/index.php?|=product%20details&p=3325)

West Continued

you can hardly get them down!

What do you expect to be doing 10 years from now?

Still writing, I hope. And still traveling around the world. I'll do that as long as I can!

What can we expect from you next?

More lovely wolves and other shifters. Maybe some BDSM stories, because I love those too.

Pass on some words of wisdom, please, to aspiring authors.

Be jealous of your writing time and don't let anything interfere with it. It's easy to start a story, but hard to keep going and actually finish one. Just keep at it, and keep telling your stories, because only you can tell them. We're all dying to read them and fall in love over and over again.

Pillow spotlight cont.

Pass on some words of wisdom, please, to aspiring authors.

The biggest mistake I see aspiring authors make is that they don't finish the book. They talk about it. They tell people about it. They ask questions about it. They daydream about getting a book deal and being famous. But the one thing they don't do is actually *write the book*. It's not easy to be a professional author and not everyone will make it "big", but you need that book in order to make a go at making your dreams a reality. So my advice is: write the book. And when that book is done, write another book. Then another, then another...

My second piece of advice is to do it "right". Take your time, examine your grammar, think about your characters and worlds. Make sure you work with a reputable publisher and/or editor. Even self-published books need to see an editor, and a final line editor. Authors are too close to the project and won't always realize when they're making a mistake. Another set of eyes always helps and can only make the story stronger.

Book Release Newsletter: michellepillow.com/newslettersignup/
 Author Website: MichellePillow.com
 Facebook: facebook.com/AuthorMichellePillow
 Twitter: [@MichellePillow](https://twitter.com/MichellePillow)
 Fan Club: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MichellePillowFanClub/>



HOW I GOT PUBLISHED *or*

The Road to Getting Published is Rocky

by Kat Martin

After writing for so many years, it's almost hard to remember how difficult it was getting my early books sold. I'm sure every author has an interesting tale of how he or she got published. In my case, my husband Larry had written an historical novel titled *Shadow of the Mast* set in early California, but he couldn't find a publisher. I loved the book, which was extremely moving and very romantic.

Since I was a voracious reader and adored the book, I couldn't understand why publishers weren't snapping it up. (I still have no clue as to how New York publishers actually think.)

I decided to see if maybe there was something I could do to polish it a little, maybe help it sell. By the time I was finished, I was hooked on the idea of writing a book of my own.

I chose a western romance because I had a western background, and *Magnificent Passage* was born. Now both of us had books to sell, which we tried to do by attending conferences, looking for an editor who might be interested, and trying to find an agent.

At a conference in Fresno, California, we met an agent who agreed to read sixty pages of any attendee's manuscript. We sent the pages and the agent took both of us as clients.

Unfortunately, those manuscripts were summarily rejected by every publisher in NYC! Despair set in. Picking ourselves up, we each started writing another book.

Months later, the very last publisher my first manuscript had been sent to decided to buy it. Pageant Books made it the lead title for their new romance line, a great start for me.

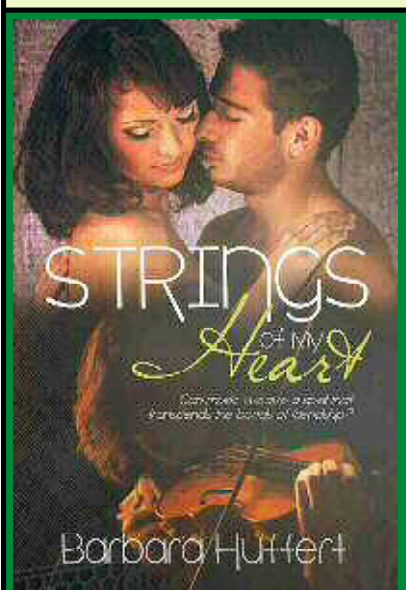
During that time, L.J.'s manuscript, his second western novel, *Tenkiller*, was sitting in the slush pile at Kensington where it had been for nearly a year. It was picked up, read, and purchased. After all the waiting, we were published six weeks apart, which meant we could travel and promote our novels together.

The bad news was my first publisher closed its doors after just two of my books were printed and I was out on the street again. Again, I was rejected everywhere.

Totally distraught, I was trying to bolster the courage to keep writing when, at the last possible moment, Berkley picked up my next novel, *Captain's Bride*, and again, the book was chosen as a lead title. Even after that, it was no easy road.

Since those early days, I've written for nearly all the major houses. Some were a real pleasure, others not so much.

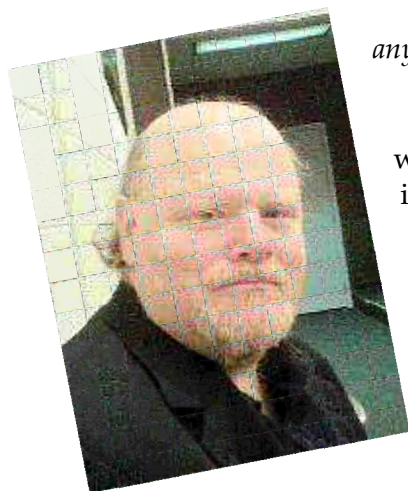
Currently, Kensington is publishing my Romantic Suspense novels. In *AGAINST THE TIDE*, Rafe Brodie is the captain of a charter fishing boat fleet in tiny Valdez, Alaska. He is fascinated by the new owner of the Pelican Café, Olivia Chandler. Read the rest of this teaser on www.adcmagazine.com/blog



Strings of MyHeart
Her music sets his world on
fire.
www.barbarahuffert.com

Movies of Your Mind

I Get Letters by Bennet Pomerantz



"To send a letter is a good way to go somewhere without moving anything but your heart."--Phyllis Theroux

It is amazing the amount of email messages you get when you write a column. The questions, the comments, the interests people show in you from your words and what you say. It hit home for me after I received a few emails in the last few weeks.

Let me say this, I love the interest in me and what I write. I also have gotten some weird responses, as well the good. There was a man from Sunrise, Florida, who wanted me to write a book FOR him. I told him what I charge. He thought I work for FREE!

Today's column will include a few emails I have received. I have edited them for content...some of them are LONG.

There is this lovely email letter I received last week:

Mr. Pomerantz,

Are you the same person who wrote in the collection "Loving Hearts Live Forever," as well as writing for Affaire de Coeur?

I wondered since I bought that book last year for my wife after her father died. She loved the prose piece "The Fisherman's Son." It helped her through a rough patch or two after his death. If you are, thank you in advance.

I wondered if you were the same person as that author.

Dale

Dale,

I am the same person who writes this column, my weekly columns, "AUDIOWORLD" & "To Be or What," and "A Piece of My Mind" in *Night Owl* magazine. I also host a few radio shows on Blog Talk Radio. I am lucky to say I have pieces in both "Loving Hearts Live Forever" (one) and the currently released, "Loving Hearts Live Forever" (two book collection) and I also write a few other things, too.



Thank you for your kind words and support!
This email was interesting – the power that some readers think I have!

Bennet Dear,

(This is an amazing introduction since the woman who wrote me the email that follows and I don't know each other!)

My local newspaper stopped carrying your weekly "AUDIOWORLD" column and all I have for reading audio reviews is your "Movies" column in Affaire. I loved your "AUDIOWORLD" column. Can you write my paper and see if you can have them put your column back in it?

Diana

Diana,

It is the nature of the beast to have pieces shorten and remove syndicated columns from newspapers. Newspapers and many magazines are becoming a dying breed. Small papers, usually in a cost cutting measure, take out syndicated columns like my "AUDIOWORLD" column to save the paper money.

Do I like it? Not really. However, this is happening more and more lately and NOT just to me. The best way for you to get my column, or any other, reinstated is to write the paper directly. If enough people would tell them they want it, a small paper will listen to its audiences.

This last email selection I wanted to share is a special one.

Dear Bennet Pomerantz,

I have enjoyed your column in Affaire for a number of years now. I find you an honest reviewer of spoken word productions. Wondered if there was a selection process you do when you review audio materials. Also I wondered how much of the selection is your picks and not told to review an audio production by a higher up.

Marie

__**__

First, thank you for your kind words.

Years ago, I tried to get topical. Trying to group and lump similar audio projects together in columns, over the years, I have found out, didn't work.

Note, I have NEVER been TOLD to review any audio for any column I write (Thank you, Louise!). The selections of what I review are what I think the readership wants to know...a few times I have been wrong, but most of the times I have been right. Thank you for your interest.

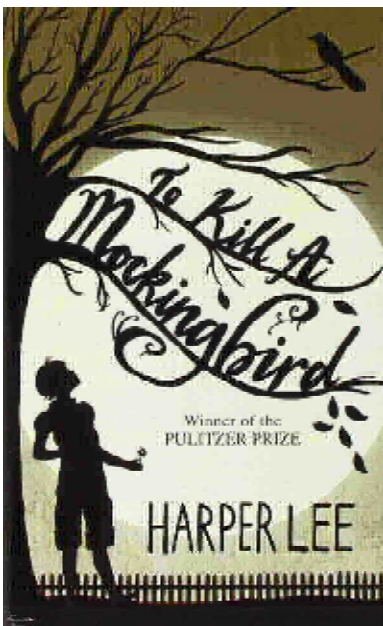
__**__

Now, the reviews--on the next page...



Go Set a Watchman
Written by Harper Lee
Read by Reese Witherspoon
Caedmon Audio (a Harper Collins
imprint)
Unabridged Recording
978-0062409904

This is a review of the sequel (pre-sequel) to the classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. On a personal note, I loved *Mockingbird*; I grew up reading it in high school and beyond. It is one of the books I would read every few years just to enjoy the crisp prose. However, I take this unabridged audio book on its own merits and not on *Mockingbird*, itself, as most other critics and reviewers have done when reviewing this novel. I would suggest getting a copy of Sissy Spacek narrating *Mockingbird*, also from Caedmon. In saying that, this, in a way, is a double-edged sword, because I also need to point out that this sequel is incomplete without discussing *Mockingbird*.



Jean Louise Finch, who was six in *Mockingbird*, is now twenty-six. Her father Atticus is ill with growing old. Her ideal of worshipping her father, even though the values she thought he had, is shaken. It is a total 360 from *Mockingbird*. She sees her life changing. People she thought she knew, she does not and those she does know have become foreign to her. Family and friends test her nettle and her morals.

At the beginning of her narration, Reese Witherspoon loses her narrative voice. Her character voices run together rather than give you a complex vocal array of her talents. You may assume you are in for a long haul in vexing the beginnings of this audio production if you want to continue listening.

However, after listening to the second of six CDs, she finds a certain spark that makes you want to listen more. I cannot say if it is the Oscar-winning actress finding her vocal shading or a performance coming to the surface. But, toward the last CD, you will be so emotionally wrapped up in the story that you cannot stop listening.

The text, on the whole, is a discussion of civil rights and liberties with Scout, the idealist, and, again, Atticus, her hero and her parent...and in her own way, a bigot to the black cause. This novel is Scout's story and told in point and counterpoint. This is the old south of the 1950's where women's rights were not brought forward, as they were in the 1970's. The discussion is frank and opinionated, but it moves the story well. Ms. Lee drives the text so well you will want to keep listening after it is over.

If you are hoping for another *To Kill a Mockingbird*, you won't get it here. What you will get is a story that will make you think and feel. I am glad someone unearthed this manuscript. But it is sad that it took so long to get this published.

When this column sees print, I want to say thank you to all the readers. Keep the letters coming. Keep asking questions; it shows your interest in this column, the magazine and the author who writes it. This column is NOTHING without you, the reader!

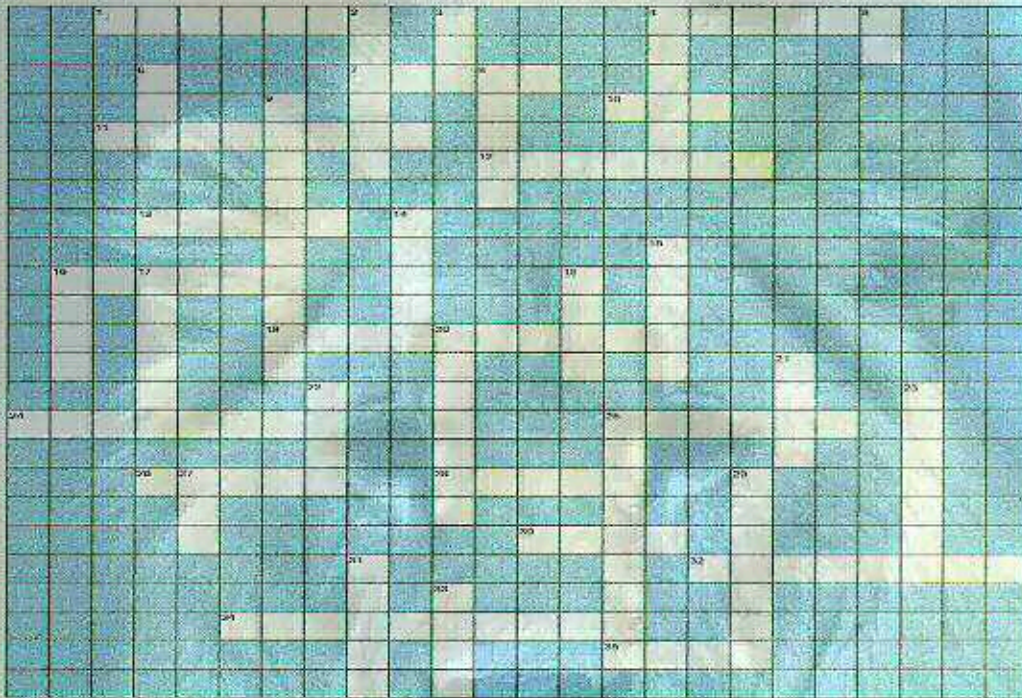
Until next time, I will be under the headsets!

Grab your sexy Pool Man now
He can really cook.
www.SabrinaYork.com

Puzzle

Leo, the Lion

Louise B. Snead



Across

1. This city's pro football team is the Lions.
4. Three time Academy Award winner, Robert _____ is a Leo.
7. Japanese cartoon, "White" lion.
10. This Quincy Jones' adaption of the Wizard of Oz features Ted Ross as the scared one.
11. The Godfather's last name means Heart of a Lion.
12. Only sign that that's dubbed as _____.
13. The son in The Lion King.
16. The Lion in _____, Academy Award winning movie starring Kate Hepburn.
19. In India's Gir National Forests, lions are almost extinct. They are _____.
24. Lions depicted on shields to represent courage.
25. Famous Egyptian display of the body of a lion with a human head.
26. Turkish word for lion.
28. The _____ Books, featuring authors Michelle Pillow and Maddy Roth, is AdC's calendar spot for August.
30. The bad lion in The Lion King.
32. This lion lacked courage.
34. This house of bravery is in J.K. Rowlings' Harry Potter series.
35. The female lion in Born Free.

Down

2. In their song, the lion sleeps tonight.

3. A lion roars at the beginning of their movies.
4. This Biblical character was in the lion's den.
5. Baum's famous movie, The Wizard of _____.
6. The Zodiac sign for July 23rd - August 22nd.
8. This African-American Academy Award winner is known for her beauty.
9. Dog breed that has features like a lion. (I had one.)
14. The Ghost and the Darkness is a film about a lion that kills 133 people in 9 months in this country.
15. The community that lions live in.
16. Shannon _____, author of Double Cross is the AdC featured July author.
17. The "Greatest Lion" is featured in this movie series.
18. What element is Leo?
20. This city's public library is known for the lions in the front of it.
21. Popular musical that starts with the birth of a lion: The Lion _____.
22. City in France named for Lion.
23. _____, the Lionhearted.
25. This Asian city, when translated, means Lion's city.
27. Only sign that is ruled by this _____.
29. This material girl was born a Leo.
31. Leo is the (number) Zodiac sign?
33. Leo's mantra: "I _____."

This puzzle is dedicated to Cecil. Not only are July and August the months of the Zodiac sign of Leo the lion, but the recent murder of Cecil by poachers and hunters brings attention to the need for supporting those charities that try to save them. Contribute to your favorite wild life rescue before all the lions are gone.

Snow skiing or water skiing?
Snow skiing, please.

Favorite movie:
It depends on the genre, but *The Notebook* is an all-time favorite.

Best book you ever read:
The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
Sport to play:
Bass fishing... hey, it's a sport.

Sport to watch:
I honestly don't watch much TV. I'd rather be doing something myself than watching someone else play a game.

Debra: Thank you Daniel, it's been fun getting to know you. Before we end, do you have a poem you might like to share with our readers?

Daniel: *Yes, I can do that.*

The Cricket's Waltz
by Daniel Hosse



High in the hills there lived a man,
Old and wise of gaze,
In a little cabin of log and stone,
Living out his days,
Each night he'd sit beneath the moon,
Rocking in his chair,
He'd settle back and light his pipe,
And at the stars he'd stare,
The wind would oft' blow softly past,
To ring his horseshoe chimes,
Pipe smoke rising gently up,
Smoky phantoms lost in time,
'Twas early fall as he sat,
One quiet starry eve,
The year nineteen and sixty two,
Yes I do believe,
No wind did blow to carry off,
The chimes they did not ring,
Instead, as he gently smoked,
He heard a cricket sing,

For a moment the old man was moved,
Stopped rocking in his chair,
The cricket's song 'twas like a waltz,
At some forgotten fair,
The little tune rose and fell,
A symphony of Nature's crafting,
Old man smiling to himself,
His pipe smoke still a' wafting,
He then began to rock in time,
With his musical little friend,
So they waltzed into the night,
Until the song did end,
The old man then rose and bowed,
Bid the cricket well,
Turned and walked into his home,
'Neath the moonlight soft and pale,
So each night the two would sing,
The cricket and the man,
And all the woodland animals,
Would come listen to their band,
Perhaps God himself among the crowd,
No one really knew,
But how beautiful were the songs,
Of that timely two,
Fall's final leaf then fell one day,
And the old man became ill,
He softly lay upon his bed,
The cricket upon his sill,
When he took his final breath,
His little friend then sung a dirge,
Hopped away into the night,
Nary a sound was heard,
Then on that eve beneath the moon,
With a flowered wreath upon the door,
The porch was empty,
Just a rocking chair,
And the cricket waltzed no more.

– DNH 06/2014

Debra: *Thank you Daniel, what a lovely poem. And such a nice way to end. Thank you for visiting with me on Cover Model Corner.*

For more of Daniel's poetry, be on the lookout for his book which is coming soon. You can find Daniel on Facebook: www.facebook.com/danielhosse and Instagram – @kadath

Coming in September, 2015

Ashley, A. *Night's Surrender*, Zebra
Ayres, D. *Primal Force*, St. Martin's
Brockway, C. *Highlander Undone*,
Montlake
Campbell, M. *Avelynn*, Griffin
Devon, C. *Tall, Dark and Immortal*, St.
Martin's
Dodd, C. *Obsession Falls*, St. Martin's
Duvall, D. *Shadows Strike*, Zebra
Fox, C. *Burned Deep*, Griffin
Herron, R. *All the Beautiful Brides*,
Montlake
Ivy, A. et al. *On the Hunt*, Zebra
Johansen, I. *Shadow Play*, St. Martin's
Leigh, L. *Wicked Lies*, St. Martin's
MacKenzie, S. *What to Do With a Duke*,
Zebra
Thomas, J. *Ransom Canyon*, Harlequin
York, S. *Hannah and the Highlander*, St.
Martin's Press
Lowecey, A. *Second to None*, Henry Press
Nowak, P. *Escaping Yesterday*, Five Star
Taylor, A. *On the Road*, Henry Press

Coming in October, 2015

Angelini, J. *Trial by Fire*, Feiwel &
Friends
Anton, M. *Enchantress*, Plume
Ayres, D. *Irresistible Force*, St.
Martin's
Baxter, M. *One Night More*, Zebra
Brockway, C. *The Songbird's
Seduction*, Montlake
Dodd, C. *Virtue Falls*, St. Martin's
Enoch, S. *Some Like It Scott*, St.
Martin's
Leigh, L. *Ultimate Sins*, St. Martin's
Palney, M. *Not Quite a Wife*, Zebra
Scott, K. *Play*, St. Martin's
Scott, M. *The Devil in Denim*, St.
Martin's
Stuart, A. *Never Marry a Viscount*,
Montlake
Warren, C. *Stone Cold Lover*, St.
Martin's
Clark, M. *The Cinderella Murder*,
Simon and Schuster
Dashofy, A. *Lost Legacy*, Henry
Press
Johansen, I. *The Perfect Witness*, St.
Martin's

Coming soon



Contemporary Romance Reviews

Break Your Heart

Rhonda Helms
Kensington
Trade Paperback
978-1617731228

In Megan's last semester of college she signs up for a class taught by her senior thesis advisor, Professor Reynaldo. On the first day, the classroom door opens. In walks the extremely handsome Professor Muramoto. Professor Reynaldo is sick and unable to teach for the rest of the year. Professor Muramoto will be taking his place. Megan is thrilled! Having him as her advisor means lots of private conferences with Professor Muramoto!

As the year continues, Megan is embarrassed to realize that she has a crush on Professor Muramoto, or as she likes to think of him, Nick. Late one night Megan emails Nick using the pretext of thanking him for his recommendations on her thesis. She includes some personal chitchat. He replies in kind and soon an online flirtation begins. Their relationship becomes progressively more physical. Soon Megan is spending most nights at Nick's house. But at school they manage to limit themselves to exchanging heated looks.

Megan and Nick know their affair is risky. If she's found out, Megan will be kicked out of the grad school program that she's starting in the fall. But if he's found out, it will very likely mean the end of Nick's career.

This is a sequel that can be read alone. For a book that has very little plot, it's surprisingly hard to put down.

Sheila Griffin

Brown-Eyed Girl

Lisa Kleypas
St. Martin's
Hardcover
978-0312605377



Avery Crosslin had suffered through a humiliating jilting at the altar. Rather than wallow in her sorrow, she put on her big girl panties, gave up her dream of being a fashion designer and, instead, became a wedding planner extraordinaire. Of course, she had to get out of New York to do it, but the slower pace of Houston fits her just fine. And nobody there seemed to mind her full-figure like her stick figure girlfriends in New York. Plus, her Type A personality was perfect for her entry into Houston society and success for her business. Then she met her half-sister Sofia, from one of her wandering father's many wives, and her life was complete. She now had family, a successful career and her heart was safely insulated against any further hurt. Her life was perfect until Joe Travis sauntered into it.

Joe Travis was of the Travises of Houston society, but his self-made, no-nonsense father had made sure that all of his sons and daughter had been raised to respect hard work and not rely on their wealth. In fact, Joe was so laid back that Avery didn't even recognize him as the son of one of the wealthiest Texans in the state. She saw his camera equipment at one of her society weddings and assumed he was the photographer, so started issuing orders. When he just gave her one of his oh-so-charming smiles and proceeded to totally ignore her commands, Avery was beside herself. He was going to ruin her perfectly

planned society wedding! Then she found out he was a guest and tried to hide her mortification. Joe found her utterly beguiling and decided right then that she was who he wanted--forever.

Ms. Kleypas has penned an utterly delightful happily-ever-after romance with the perfect couple to help fall in love. Avery is a little skittish because of her past hurts, and Joe is the perfect, romantic, patient hero to calm her down. This is one of those novels that the reader will just say, "Ahhh" when they reach the last page. And with the interaction of the secondary characters plus her quirky little dog, this is a five-star read all around. Well done, Ms. Kleypas!

Lani Roberts

A Change of Scenery

Debra Parmley

Sweet Cravings Publishing

E-book

B00RD7SSJI

****1/2

Cyree Heat, a professional belly dancer, needed a break and was heading to Grand Cayman. When she arrived at the airport counter, they handed her a paper to read and sign--permission to receive a shot. After being knocked over by a woman, Cyree started watching the crowd. Anxiety started creeping in, something wasn't right. The more she looked around at the people, the more odd things appeared to her.

She decided to get out of the way and entered an abandoned lounge. The door slammed behind her and she was locked in. Once her eyes adjusted to the dark, she realized something had happened, something very serious.

This reader was disappointed for one huge reason. It wasn't long enough! The author can take this story and make a great series out of it (hint). Ms. Parmley pulls her readers in from the very beginning, keeping the reader enthralled all the way to the end.

Lauren Calder

Contemporary

The Devil Wears Spurs

Soraya Lane

St.Martin's

Mass Market

978-125006008-2

****1/2

Chloe is new to Texas and has already found trouble in the form of a very seductive cowboy. Ryder King needs Chloe to help him win back some money he lost due to his gambling problem.

The pair heads to Las Vegas to use Chloe's skills in cards. This would all be simple if the two hadn't found some kind of chemistry that makes them wonder if they can really be a pair.

This was an all around good book. The pacing was well done, and the story was complicated enough to keep interest. It was a good idea to send them to Las Vegas as that is a very exciting place for the romance between characters to happen.

Lenore Lovecraft

Exit Strategy

Lena Diaz

Avon

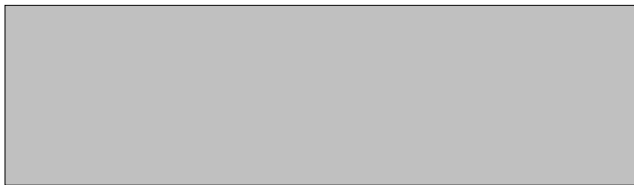
Mass Market

978-0062349088

****1/2

Sabrina Hightower's house has been burglarized, and now she's been kidnapped. Who would do this to her? Is her cousin so desperate for the family money that he would go to these lengths to keep her from looking for their grandfather and proving he's still alive? She doesn't have any answers and has little ability to defend herself, as she has no clothing except a nightshirt and is without her glasses.

Mason Hunt's job is to kill Sabrina, but he has been alerted that his target might actually be innocent. Instead of executing her, he takes her with him so he can finish the job later if she truly is guilty. He has some help, but his source has gone rogue from EXIT, the secret



agency he works for. His work as an enforcer for EXIT is important to him, and being declared rogue could be a death sentence.

Lena Diaz's latest launches a new series that connects to her prior series through some of the main characters, but can stand alone. The tale hits the ground running and rarely lets up, putting its heroine through the wringer on the way to the climax. The tortured hero is compelling, and readers will love him.

Heather Nordahl Files

Hard to Let Go

Laura Kaye

Avon

Mass Market

978-0062267948



Kat Rixey comes to her brother's tattoo parlor, Hard Ink, to get away from a stalker ex-boyfriend until a restraining order can take effect. She stays because danger keeps her there. Her brother Nick and his friends are fighting to get to the root of a conspiracy that caused their names to be dragged through the mud. The fight to clear their names has shown them that not everything is as it seems, and has put their lives at risk.

Beckett Murda's abusive childhood has left him thinking very little of himself. One of his friends lost a leg protecting him in battle, leaving Beckett feeling guilty because he feels he is not worth the sacrifice. He's blown away by Kat but knows the anger he bears from his past means that he shouldn't pursue anything with her. They don't even like each other, do they?

No summary can encapsulate this concluding chapter of the uniformly extraordinary "Hard Ink" series. Beckett's and Kat's explosive chemistry sings the pages, and readers will love following their other favorites' continuing relationships. Best of all, the ongoing mysteries are solved, satisfying readers in every way.

Heather Nordahl Files

It's In His Heart (A Red River Valley Novel)

Shelly Alexander

Montlake Romance

Trade Paperback

978-1477829905



Ella Dennings had to get her life together. She missed her husband Bradley something awful, so she figured by staying in his cabin in Red River while she figured out what to do with her life would help her get over his untimely death. She drove his BMW and, with his English bulldog Winston, to the cabin for the summer. She needed to be alone, away from Albuquerque which was too full of memories of Brad. He had owned half of the cabin with his best friend Cooper Wells, but since Ella didn't like Coop and Coop didn't like her, she had made sure that he knew she was coming for the summer and wouldn't be there. Once she figured her next life's path, she fully intended to sign over her half of the cabin to Coop. It was what Brad would have wanted. What he wouldn't have wanted was Ella stuck in a muddy ditch, hiking through the pouring rain carrying a 65-pound bulldog and arriving at the cabin where a practically naked and very irritated (but sexy as hell) Cooper Wells answered the door.

Coop couldn't believe his best friend's widow was standing outside their cabin looking like a drowned rat. He and Bradley had grown up like brothers and had both become chiropractors. But, unlike Bradley, Coop had become a chick magnet in Albuquerque and was currently hiding out in his hometown while his lawyer settled a sexual misconduct allegation he was being accused of by an irate ex-girlfriend. His lawyer had stressed he needed to keep his nose clean under any circumstances while she tried to get his license back. The last thing he needed was Cinder-Ella, as he had dubbed her, back in his life. Everything about her intrigued him and that guilt, plus his not being there for Brad while he lay dying of cancer, was eating him alive. So he took it out on Ella. And now she was here with the intention of staying for the summer. Could his life get any more complicated?

It's In His Heart is a heartwarming, well-written story of two people who share a grief and attraction but aren't real sure what to do about it. The chemistry between Coop and Ella sizzles, but Ella is understandably reluctant to pursue the attraction, as is



Loving the Chase (Heart of the Storm)

Sharla Lovelace

Montlake Romance

Trade Paperback

978-1503944817

Coop. With the help of the entire town of Red River, Ella's best friends from Albuquerque, and her and Coop's two amorous male dogs, not to mention Ella's secret as an erotic romance novelist, this is a mix of new beginnings, sizzling sex and good humor that can't be beat!

Lani Roberts

Looking Through Darkness (Trading Post Book 2)

Aime & David Thurlo

Forge Books

Hardcover

978-0765334046

****1/2

Leigh Ann has been a widow for eighteen months. After her husband's death, she found out that Kurt had been having a string of affairs. To make matters worse, Leigh Ann finds information that indicates that he was embezzling. She gives the evidence to the police. Turns out this may not have been such a good idea. Now the police believe that when Leigh Ann found out about Kurt's cheating, she killed him and hid the money. Apparently someone else thinks so, too.

Leigh Ann has noticed a black car behind her on the road a couple of times, but she didn't think anything of it. Then her car's blocked in on a deserted road, and Leigh Ann is chased by two masked men wielding clubs. She calls the police, but the men disappear before they arrive.

Melvin, a blind sculptor who's in love with Leigh Ann, asks her to move in with him until everything settles down. She returns his feelings, but Leigh Ann is reluctant to take such a big step. Then the incidents escalate and she agrees. Will the couple be able to make a new life together? Will Melvin be able keep Leigh Ann safe long enough for them to find out?

This is a continuation of a series. It can be read alone and is a really good book.

Sheila Griffin

Unlike a lot of storm chasers, Zach Chase and his siblings don't do it for the thrill. They gather information that will save lives. Zach hopes to someday have sponsors. This will allow them to get better equipment. For the first time there's a chance of making his dream come true, as Zach has been approached by a producer who wants to discuss a reality show about his family.

Zach enters the meeting ready to charm Nicole. Instead of Nicole, the meeting's being run by her assistant. Zach is stunned. He hasn't laid eyes on Maddi in seven years.

Maddi dreads seeing Zach again. She hasn't spoken to him since the day he chose to chase a tornado right before their wedding. While Zach was out, the tornado changed paths, bringing the house down around Maddi. Hours later when he dug her out, Maddi told Zach that she couldn't handle him always choosing tornadoes over her.

The network execs decide to film a pilot episode. Nicole can't make it to the shoot, so she sends Maddi instead. All the old feelings rekindle between Maddi and Zach, but she still refuses to play second fiddle to storm chasing. Is there any chance they can make it work this time around?

This is the beginning of a series. Although filled with vulgar language, it's a very good book.

Sheila Griffin



Miss Match

Laurelin McGee

St. Martin's

Mass Market

978-1250059185

Andy Dawson needs a new job so she and her sister can continue to pay their bills. The exceedingly ugly ending at her last job has made it tough to find employment, so her sister shows her a want-ad for a "personal concierge" and pushes her to apply for the position. Andy does not want to play matchmaker for Blake Donovan, especially once he interviews her. He's gorgeous, but reveals inner ugliness every time he opens his mouth.

She rejects his offer, but Blake is determined to change her mind. She tries to get a job at a hipster wine bar. Blake inadvertently gets her fired before she is truly hired, leaving her no choice but to accept his job offer. She gets to work on finding him a woman who meets his requirements but finds that the man is hard for her to resist because he's not as ugly on the inside as she first thought.

The writing team of Laurelin McGee makes their debut with this fun, smart, and sexy tale. Blake is well portrayed as a complex, layered hero, and Andy is an excellent heroine whose gift for reading people will intrigue the reader. An unnecessary late conflict is the only flaw in this sparkling diamond of a tale.

Heather Nordahl Files

SEAL My Home

Sharon Hamilton

Self-Published

E-book

B00TSXRDW8

***1/2

Rory is a SEAL, part of the elite Team 3, and has no intention of settling down. He loves the ladies and has his eye on Megan. She's innocent but wants to get

wild, and Rory is happy to fulfill her wishes. They get together with no intention of turning this into more, but intentions change.

Rory is badly injured and finds himself in a hospital room with a man who thinks Rory is his son. Rory was an orphan and wants no part of such late parenting, so will not submit to a blood test. But they will continue to be thrown together. And both Rory and Megan are in a danger they don't see coming. A man who sees Americans as the enemy will stop at nothing to take Megan, and to take vengeance on Rory.

Sharon Hamilton's latest is part of a long-running series, so there is a plethora of characters who might be difficult to keep straight without having read prior titles. Rory's and Megan's relationship becomes serious surprisingly fast. But readers will find much to enjoy here, especially in the camaraderie between Rory and his fellow SEALs.

Heather Nordahl Files

Sex Becomes Her

Regina Cole

Kensington

Trade Paperback

978-161773780

***1/2

Eliza Jackson was miserable and she shouldn't be. She loved her small hometown, had her very own house and worked at a job she loved. The only problem was that the man she thought she loved and had confided her innermost sexual fantasies to was the son of her boss. Upon learning of her fantasies, he had freaked out and started vicious rumors at her job and in the town. Now, everywhere she went, her precious hometown treated her like she was some kind of freaky pariah. And Liza was miserable. Then salvation arrived in the form of an invitation to be a bridesmaid at her best friend's wedding in Hawaii! Liza decided that was just what she needed to re-invent herself and leave the shy, miserable chemist behind for two weeks and become a sexy, free-thinking bombshell while enjoying the sights (and men) of Hawaii! Could she actually pull it off?

When Chandler Morse accidentally bumped into the sexy gorgeous brunette at the airport and knocked the contents of her purse flying, he was immediately apologetic and tried to help pick up the contents. The young lady in question was so mortified and embarrassed that she refused to let him help her.



She intrigued him. She was obviously trying to come across as sexy and flirty and failing miserably. He hoped she was going to Hawaii like he was so he could further investigate this intriguing woman. Little did he know that they were on their way to the same wedding, and two weeks in paradise that would change their lives forever!

Regina Cole's sexy tale of two people finding each other at a crucial time in their lives is a tale of spitefulness and small-mindedness on one hand and loving acceptance on the other. Eliza is well-educated and a sexually adventurous heroine who gets crucified for her way of thinking, while Chandler is the newly-divorced hero who is still recovering from the devastation of his wife leaving him for being over-sexed. The characters are well developed and their journey in discovering each other while in paradise makes excellent reading. Chandler is very understanding in his thinking and is the perfect partner to soothe Liza's guilt away. This would have been a five star review except for the fact that Liza's constant worry about what people think of her, even in light of her previous experience at home, gets a little tiring after a while. Chandler shows that he's open to new ideas with no judgment, and Eliza still won't let go. But everything is nicely resolved in a wonderfully romantic way that will leave a warm glow in your heart.

Lani Roberts

Treasured by Thursday (Weekday Brides Book 7)

Catherine Bybee
Montlake Romance
Trade Paperback
978-1477828045

Gabi is a matchmaker...of sorts. She finds marriage partners for people who've decided that having a spouse would be advantageous but don't want the hassle of dating.

Hunter is a billionaire who needs a wife immediately. When Gabi refuses to accept him as a

client, Hunter changes his tactics. He blackmails her. His knowledge of several offshore bank accounts under her previous married name is one of the things that Hunter uses to persuade Gabi to marry him. This is the first she's heard of the money. Of course, the IRS might find that hard to believe. If Gabi marries him, Hunter will ensure that she's not prosecuted for tax evasion. Gabi verifies that the accounts exist. Then she changes their passwords. Bad idea. The people who've been using the accounts can no longer access the money. And they're not happy.

As Gabi and Hunter spend time together, they begin to fall in love. This upsets both of them. Gabi's sworn she won't risk her heart again, and Hunter doesn't believe in love. Then Gabi's threatened and Hunter realizes that he loves her. Now to find and stop whoever's targeting Gabi. Unfortunately, his foes prove elusive. Has Hunter finally found a problem his money can't solve?

This is the conclusion of a series. It can be read alone. It's a very good book.

Sheila Griffin

Trouble When You Walked In

Kieran Kramer
St. Martin's
Trade Paperback
978-1250009937
**** 1/2

Cissie Rogers was a typical small town librarian--shy, unmarried, 32 years old, dressed like a typical librarian (complete with rimless glasses), and lived with her grandmother. She loved her life in Kettle Knob, North Carolina, and loved the centuries old library. Her family, the Rogerses, had been one of the original settlers of Kettle Knob, along with the Braddocks.

Unfortunately, Boone Braddock, handsome, charming, school quarterback in high school and loved by every single (and some not so single) woman in Kettle Knob and the neighboring town of Campbell, was also the town mayor and had been for five terms. He, too, was following in his ancestors' footsteps. A Braddock had been mayor of Kettle Knob for as long as anyone could remember. And that was just fine except now Boone, along with Campbell's mayor, wanted to move Cissie's library to a strip mall halfway between Kettle Knob and Campbell and use her vintage library as

Affaire de Coeur



a waste management center!

When Boone came in to tell Cissie about the town council's decision to move the library, he felt really bad. He had known (and noticed) Cissie since fourth grade when he gave her an apple and told her he liked her glasses. But then other things had gotten in the way--hormones, popularity and girls with breasts--and Boone never got around to following up on his attraction. Now it was too late. Cissie was a reader, a librarian no less, and Boone had been carrying around a secret since childhood that he knew would ruin any chance he had with Cissie. So he did his mayoral thing, coached high school football and charmed the entire populace of Kettle Knob instead. So imagine his surprise when Cissie decided that the only way to save her library was to run for mayor against him!

Trouble When You Walked In is the perfect name for this lovely Southern charming romance. Boone is the epitome of Southern, gentlemanly charm that will make every female fall in love with him. And Cissie is not quite as uptight as she pretends. She's just waiting for her prince in shining armor to come through the library doors and sweep her off her feet. When Boone walks in instead, all her teenage fantasies come flooding back. Cissie and Boone are direct opposites of each other and, as such, are made for each other. This is an easy-to-read romance with lots of quirky small town Southern secondary characters like Nana and her cat Dexter. A pure romanticÆs delight!

Lani Roberts

Truly Sweet

Candis Terry

Avon

Mass Market

978-0062351159

Jake Wilder has returned from war a broken man. He believes that an order he gave resulted in his best friend's death. Because Eli will never know his unborn child, Jake thinks he doesn't deserve a wife and child of his own, or any happiness at all. Despite these dark inner feelings, he can't help but notice that his old

teen sparring partner, Annie Morgan, is now all grown up and simply stunning.

Annie has always had feelings for Jake that have never been returned. She left Sweet, Texas, a few years ago. Now she's back, a single mom of adorable Max. Jake is now showing her the desire she never saw before, but she refuses to be used. Any man who wants her body must also want her heart as part of the package—she won't be any man's booty call. And Jake is in no place to love anyone.

Candis Terry's latest is a sometimes heart-wrenching tale of the torment for one man who made it home from war. He and Annie are a good match, and while the story stands alone, longtime readers of the series will enjoy following the continuing stories of other members of the Wilder clan .

Heather Nordahl Files

When Love Happens

Darcy Burke

Avon Impulse

E-book

978-0062389343

Sean Hennessy is married to Tori Archer, but they've spent most of their marriage apart. Right after their wedding, Tori's brother Alex committed suicide, so she went back home to Ribbon Ridge and never even told her family that she was married.

Sean wants to find a way to stay married... and he has been handed a way to see her again. He's been tasked with the job of getting the Archer family, who once had a reality show, to film a reunion Christmas special. This is a tall order, as the family is still dealing with the turmoil of their loss. Also, Tori won't even acknowledge that she knows Sean, and she's making it clear she wants a divorce. Despite their chemistry, what chance do they have?

Darcy Burke's latest "Ribbon Ridge" novel gives readers insight into Tori's character and the delicious hero that she pushes away. Readers can feel her denial of her problems, which is both frustrating and achinglly real. Fans of the series will love this tale.

Heather Nordahl Files

HISTORICAL ROMANCE



Reviews

A Change of Heart

Molly Jebber

Zebra

Mass Market

978-1420137613

After Becca was left at the altar, she decided to go visit her sister Ruth in Massillon, Ohio. Becca hasn't seen her since Ruth left their Amish community to marry an Englisher.

Matt, a handsome doctor, needs a nurse. Becca is a midwife and is eager to help. But in 1899, it's considered unseemly for an unmarried woman of good moral character to be alone with a man. Matt assures her that his office manager will always be present when Becca is working. He's thrilled to have such a pretty helper.

As Becca and Matt face crisis after crisis together, their mutual attraction deepens into love. But Becca is not acceptable to Matt's wealthy parents. Mrs. Carrington's blatant rudeness towards her continues and Matt comes to a decision. Until his mother is ready to welcome Becca into the family, she is not welcome in Matt's home or office. Becca is torn. Surely God doesn't want her to come between a man and his parents. But how can she give up the man she loves?

This is the first in a series. The crises and resolutions happen so rapidly that the reader doesn't have time to develop concern for the characters. The longest cliffhanger is resolved by the end of the following chapter. This unrealistic book is reminiscent of the melodramas of yesteryear.

Sheila Griffin

A Duke But No Gentleman

Alexandra Hawkins

St. Martin's

Mass Market

978-1250064721

***1/2

Alexandra Hawkins' Georgian romance series "Masters of Seduction" shows the genesis of a feud that turns boyhood friends and companions in vice into bitter enemies.

The Duke of Blackburn and the Marquess of Norgrave make a wager that involves innocent young Lady Imogen Sunter. The first to seduce her into surrendering her virginity wins the wager. Except this time, Tristan, Lord Blackburn, has feelings for the lady in question, when countless other ladies were merely conquests. As he seduces Imogen for the wager, he realizes that he wants her for good. However, Norgrave hates to lose, and he is more than willing to play dirty in order to claim his prize.

A Duke But No Gentleman is an edgy, sensual novel that shows just how heartless a rake can be. Tristan earned his rake status, but deep inside, he has a heart and a sense of right and wrong. Imogen is a sweet, loving, and admirable heroine who will make readers feel anger at her for allowing herself to be used as a pawn between the men. Thankfully, the love that develops between Tristan and Imogen is believable. However, content in this book takes this novel into dark territory that may be uncomfortable for some readers.

Danielle Hill

Historical

The Earl Claims a Bride

Amelia Gray

St. Martin's

Mass Market

978-1250042217

***1/2

The second book in Amelia Gray's "Heir's Club of Scoundrels" features Harrison Thornwick, the sole surviving member of his family, who has repented his dissolute ways and taken up the concerns of his earldom. He is given an ultimatum by the Prince Regent: Marry the bride he has selected, and soon, or go to prison for his past dueling escapades. His prospective bride is Miss Angelina Rule, a woman in love with another man, but she is pressured to marry him to save her father from debtor's prison. They will pretend their engagement over the Season, giving Angelina time to save her father, since Harrison doesn't want a bride who loves someone else. But love apparently has other ideas.

This is an engaging historical romance. Angelina is very sweet and likable, and Harrison is seductive, alluring and principled, despite his past. They share believable and appealing chemistry. However, the story does seem to lack conflict, despite the obvious love triangle. Additionally, secondary characters, including Captain Maxwell, Angelina's first love, could be better fleshed out. The ending is abrupt and leaves some pertinent aspects unresolved. Despite its shortcomings, historical romance aficionados will appreciate this well-written story with its engaging leads and their potent romantic chemistry.

Danielle Hill

The Highlander Takes a Bride

Lynsay Sands

Avon

Mass Market

978-0062273598

Saidh Buchanan's cousin Fenella is a widow

for the fourth time. This leaves everyone suspicious of her, particularly her mother-in-law. Saidh doesn't entirely like Fenella but doesn't feel like she can abandon her when she so clearly needs a friend. As Fenella spends most of her time weeping in her room, Saidh does not have much to do. But she does have an appealing distraction in the new laird.

Greer MacDonnell is captivated by Saidh from the moment he sees her. He doesn't have much experience with innocents, and she is a complete innocent. But desire will have its way, and her many brothers arrive at MacDonnell too late to protect her honor. Saidh is unconcerned with honor and must be convinced to marry.

Lynsay Sands can be counted on to write fun, entertaining medieval romances. There's not much of a period feel, but readers will revel in the characters and delight in the plot.

Heather Nordahl Files

The Last Summer at Chelsea Beach

Pam Jenoff

Mira

Trade Paperback

978-0778317548

When she was sixteen, Addie's mother put her on a boat to America. Mamma promised that she and Papa would join Addie soon. But they never came. Shortly after Addie arrives, she and her aunt leave to spend the summer at a seaside rental. A month later a station wagon pulls up to the house next door. A swarm of boys comes tumbling out. But once Addie sees Charlie, the oldest son, everyone else seems to disappear. But such a golden boy could never fall for a girl like her. Could he? Soon Addie seems like a member of their family. Mrs. Connally thinks of her as the daughter she never had. Then summer ends. It's time to go back to the real world.

In 1941, a nice Jewish girl doesn't walk to the Irish-Catholic part of town where the Connallys live. But Addie finally convinces her aunt to let her visit them. Once again, she's one of the family. Then tragedy strikes. In a flash, the Connallys disappear in the night. Addie's in shock. How could the people that claimed her as one of their own be gone without a word? If Charlie loves her, how could he just abandon her?

This story is filled with missed opportunities that leave the reader screaming in protest. It's an interesting book.

Sheila Griffin

Put Up Your Duke

Megan Frampton

Avon

Mass Market

978-0062352224

Nicholas Smithfield was content with his debauched life when he gets shocking news. He is now the Duke of Gage, as the prior holder of the title has been declared part of an illegitimate family line. Now, not only has Nicholas inherited a title and responsibilities, he has also inherited a fiancée. He hadn't imagined marrying at all, and he certainly does not want to accept a bride not of his choosing. When he meets Isabella Sawford, he sees a beautiful, but cold, woman.

Isabella's cold facade masks a confused woman who has never been allowed to express an opinion or show emotion. She has spent her life doing nothing but submit to her parents as they groom her to be the perfect duchess. Although her intended duke has changed, she does not want the new one any more than she wanted the old one. But, reluctant as they both may be, the contract is ironclad.

Megan Frampton's latest is a well-written tale with a riveting heroine. Her relationship with her sister is absolutely lovely, and little touches of humor are scattered throughout the tale.

Heather Nordahl Files

Desire Me Now

Tiffany Clare

Avon Impulse

E-book

978-0062380432

****1/2

Amelia Somerset flees her latest job when her employer drugs her and tries to rape her. When her purse is stolen and she is injured trying to catch the thief, she is on the brink of despair. Then a man rescues her and takes her home with him.

Nick Riley is tough and immensely wealthy. He is immediately taken by Amelia. He gets a doctor to

Historical

treat her injured foot and gives her a job as his secretary. What he wants most of all is to get her in his bed. The sexual tension that burns between them quickly hits fever pitch. Amelia is an innocent, despite the horrors in her past, but Nick seduces her quickly and thoroughly. Amelia fears that her past will eventually catch up with her.

Tiffany Clare launches a series with this scorching hot tale. The characters are complex and mostly escape cliché, and the love scenes are intense. Some plot threads are not tied up at the end of the story, making readers wait until the next installment.

Heather Nordahl Files

Mad About the Major

Elizabeth Boyle

Avon Impulse

E-book

978-0062322890

Arabella "Birdie" Tremont does not want to marry a stranger of her father's choosing. One night a case of mistaken identity finds her in a very compromising position in the garden at a party. Her father catches her and seals her fate, as he has now decided that she will be married very soon. In a reckless attempt to escape her fate, she jumps out of the family carriage so she can make her own way and be free of marrying an old man.

Major Kingsley is being made to marry as well, and he's doing his best to delay the inevitable. Birdie is not the delay he had planned, but to keep her safe, he reluctantly accompanies her and grants her the three boons that she requests.

Elizabeth Boyle pens a short novel in her "Bachelor Chronicles," and fans and the uninitiated alike will enjoy the results. Her impetuous heroine is a true original, and her hero does his best to keep her safe.

Heather Nordahl Files



PARANORMAL

ROMANCE REVIEWS

Heat of the Moment (Sisters of the Craft)

Lori Handeland

St. Martin's

Trade Paperback

978-1250020130

****1/2

Red-headed Becca Carstairs was born to be a veterinarian. She had never lost a patient, was able to heal wounds that seemed beyond healing, and somehow knew where the animals hurt. People commented on her wonderful natural abilities. What the residents of small Three Harbors, Wisconsin, didn't know was that Becca could hear the animals' thoughts. She'd discovered that little talent when she was just a small child but had stopped telling people about her conversations after she realized people were looking at her strangely, including her parents. But the people of the quiet rural community appreciated her services, especially when branded, mutilated animals starting showing up on the abandoned property of Owen McAllister, the town bad boy with the crazy mother and Becca's one true love who had broken her heart ten years earlier when he had abruptly left town and Becca to join the Marines. Now Owen and his MWD (military weapons dog) were back.

The minute Owen and Reggie, his explosive sniffing military dog, stepped into Three Harbors, he knew it had been a mistake coming back. But both he and Reggie had some extensive healing to do after being injured in Afghanistan during an explosion. They both had serious PTSD, and Owen figured Three Harbors was the quietest, safest place in the world to heal. Plus, Three Harbors had Becca, the one girl who hadn't looked at him like his mother's schizophrenia was contagious. Owen loved her with all his heart but had to stay away from her. That was going to be hard to do though, when, upon returning home, he found the

mutilated remains of dead animals in his home, which meant calling the local vet. Suddenly, Owen and Reggie were immersed in murders, brandings, witchcraft and several attempts on Becca's life.

Heat of the Moment is the second book in the *Sisters of the Craft* series by Ms. Handeland. It continues the story of the second sister, Becca, and her discovery that she's a witch. The characters are excellently written and Becca's and Owen's chemistry is so palpable it practically flies off the page. And Reggie, the highly trained Marine weapon dog's puppy love for Pru, the wolf with human eyes, is almost comical. This is an extremely well-written storyline that, even though the second in a series, can be read alone. Some of the characters from the first book are brought into this story, but the reader won't be lost if they haven't read the first book. But I highly recommend it. This is an outstanding series.

Lani Roberts

Sex and Trouble

Marilyn Mann

Ellora's Cave

E-book

978-419927195

Marielle Greenlea's father just died in Austin, Texas, and she has travelled to his home to collect her inheritance. She gets his beautiful Victorian mansion and everything in it, including the staff. She finds out that she is a witch and must protect her family home and powers against her father's enemies. James LePierre is the biggest enemy to look out for, and he has his sights on Mari. She is sure to have an adventure with her inheritance.

This reader loves the paranormal type story, so this was gonna be a good one. The author did a good job of making me feel for Mari in her situation with her new mysterious life. The pacing was well done, and the

PARANORMALS

sex was very sexy. For me, the only thing that took me out of it all was the names--they were so typically paranormal that I kind of got sucked out by them.

Lenore Lovecraft

Smoke on the Water (Sisters of the Craft)

Lori Handeland
St. Martin's
Trade Paperback
978-1250020147



Willow Black and Crazy Mary were friends. At least as close to friends as one could get while institutionalized at the Northern Wisconsin Mental Health Facility. Willow was there because, since she had been a child, she had claimed she could see visions, even in the tiniest of raindrops. She had been found abandoned under a black willow on the side of the road (hence the name Willow Black) and had been in and out of foster homes for a while. Foster parents had a tendency to send back a kid that would shriek in absolute terror every time they tried to give her a bath, a glass of water to drink or it started raining, which it did around her a lot when she got upset. Then, after one of her visions, she stabbed a man whom she said was going to stab her, brand her, and then burn her. Since the man had no knife, she was institutionalized as a paranoid schizophrenic. Crazy Mary thought she was a witch and would often become violent, screaming that "he was coming to get her." But whenever she was around Willow, she became totally lucid and calm. Then the new psychiatrist came to the hospital and, around the same time, Willow's caseworker revealed she was Wiccan, so he gave permission for her to teach Willow and Mary how to cast spells.

Dr. Sebastian Frasier was a haunted man--literally. His parents had died in an auto accident when he was in college, and he had taken over the care of his 15-year-old sister. Unfortunately, she had died of an overdose, and he blamed himself. He became a psychiatrist to help make up for his inability to see that his sister had been in trouble. Now he was the head of a psychiatric hospital that housed Crazy Mary, who

thought she was a witch, and Willow Black, one of the most beautiful young women he had ever seen. But he was a psychiatrist, and she was a patient with delusions who saw visions. He didn't believe in any of that hocus-pocus, but would do whatever was necessary to help Willow.

This is the third in the "Sisters of the Craft" series and it's one of the best. Ms. Handeland neatly ties up all the loose ends as she brings the sisters together in their fight against the evil witch hunter, Roland McHugh. Everyone gets her happily-ever-after, tinged with humor and luscious romance, even the ever-present Henry and his wolf, Pru. A marvelous series and so well written that, even if you don't read the first two novels, you won't be lost in the story.

Lani Roberts

Soul Scorched: A Dark Kings Novel - Book 6

Donna Grant
St. Martin's
Mass Market
978-1250071934

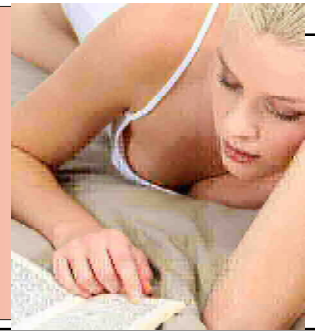
Darcy is a Druid. She was approached by a man claiming to be a dragon trapped in human form. He said that he'd been betrayed and his magic bound. If Darcy can release his magic, Ulrik will be able to resume his true form. After much time and effort, Darcy was finally able to free some of his magic. As she worked on him, Darcy experienced Ulrik's memories. She felt his pain when his human lover betrayed him. She felt his rage when his brother dragons killed the woman. She felt his desire to kill all humans. She felt his determination to seek revenge against the dragons who sealed his magic to stop him from destroying all of mankind.

Warrick is a Dragon King. These immortal guardians easily shift from their dragon form to their human form. He locates the Druid who freed Ulrik's magic. Warrick is a loner, but something about Darcy draws him. As he spends time with her, Warrick begins to fall in love. How can he have any kind of a future with someone who, not only partially freed Ulrik's magic, but doesn't think she did anything wrong by doing so?

This is a continuation of a series. It can be read alone, but will be less confusing if one has read the previous stories. It's a good book.

Sheila Griffin

EROTICA ROMANCE REVIEWS



30 Days

Christine d'Abo
Kensington
Mass Market
978-1617739545



Alyssa's husband was dying when he gave her the envelope. Inside it were thirty index cards. Rob told Alyssa that the envelope was to be opened after his death. Someday she'll see a guy and think, "nice butt." When that day comes, Alyssa is to open the envelope and follow the instructions inside. Each card lists a different sexual activity for her to engage in. Alyssa is to do them without feeling guilty. Rob wants her to be happy. But starting a relationship with the first guy she's attracted to is a recipe for disaster. Alternatively, these cards are a recipe for carefree sex.

Two years after Rob died, Alyssa notices a man moving in nearby. When her first thought is, "nice butt," Alyssa realizes it's time to break out the cards. Harrison is only in town for three months. Perfect! Alyssa decides on the direct approach. Unsurprisingly, he readily agrees to help Alyssa with her project. Months of fantastic sex ensue. But somewhere along the way, Alyssa's fallen in love. Hopefully, Harrison feels the same way. But what happens when it's time for him to leave?

Roughly two-thirds of this story is comprised of graphic sex. If the reader does not find this off-putting, it's an extremely good book.

Sheila Griffin

Elle

Emma Mars
Harper Perennial
Trade Paperback
978-0062274199

Elle Lorand's engagement to the powerful

David Barlet has been broken, and now she is involved with his older brother Louie. She has left David's house in favor of Louie's home, and she intends to marry him. But one tremendously scandalous art exhibit wreaks havoc on their lives.

Louie is arrested because of publicly displayed sexual images, and Elle is given reason to doubt her lover when private erotic writings show up on a website. She uses her time apart from him trying to solve mysteries that the brothers have carefully concealed.

Emma Mars' latest is the second in a trilogy and does not stand on its own, so readers are advised to read "Hotelles" first before reading this one. The language and love scenes are graphic, but the lovers are apart for a significant portion of the tale. In all, this tale is a unique and moving experience.

Heather Nordahl Files

Sinful Rewards 12

Cynthia Sax
Avon Red Impulse
E-book
978-0062354327

Today, Hawke proposes to Bee Carter. She refuses—she thinks he's doing it because the condom broke. She does not want Hawke to be trapped by pregnancy and watch him get more and more unhappy with her until he leaves. But eventually she figures out that while he has not used the words, he has shown his love with every action. She is afraid that her doubts have pushed him away, but is determined to show him that she will fight for his love.

Cynthia Sax wraps up her "Billionaires and Bikers" serial with this tale. Many secondary characters make cameo appearances here, and Bee's and Hawke's romance is wrapped up in sweet fashion.

Heather Nordahl Files



MYSTERY

BOOK REVIEWS

Beyond a Doubt

Nancy Cole Silverman

Henry Press

Trade Paperback

978-1941962732

Radio news reporter Carol Childs is back to solve her second mystery. This time she's pursuing answers in the death by falling of a judge's daughter in the Hollywood Hills. The young woman's disappearance and murder is related to a string of missing girls. As Carol digs deep beneath the glitz and gloss of the Hollywood nightclub scene for answers, she uncovers a sex trafficking ring with connections to a huge player in Hollywood real estate, one who doesn't like her asking questions.

Silverman continues to delve into the dark side of Hollywood in this engaging, well written novel. The mystery is tautly plotted, and almost noirish in content. Carol keeps the reader's interest with her keen eye for facts and a brain that asks the hard questions. Although the content isn't graphic, some readers may find the sex trade and human trafficking elements, and a villain who is relentlessly amoral and politically powerful, disturbing. However, readers who love a good mystery with a savvy, committed heroine who's not afraid to pursue her cases to the very end will appreciate Carol Childs. Her determination to help the girls, see justice done, and crusade against corruption will win over even the more jaded reader.

Danielle Hill

Smothered, Covered, and Dead

Liz Lipperman

The Story Vault

E-book

B00YEZLKR4

****1/2

Jordan McAllister writes the *Kupboard* articles for the local newspaper. She has returned with her group of friends to solve another mystery. When one of the gang, Rosie LaRue, got involved with her ex-husband, Jordan was skeptical. Unfortunately, Rosie called her for help. She found her ex dead on the sofa with an ice pick in his chest. Rosie was in trouble.

Determined to help her friend, Victor, one of her neighbors from the group, joins Jordan and they decide to do some sleuthing and investigating on their own. While they were searching and following through on leads, they found another dead body.

Ms. Lipperman delivers as usual. She has whipped up a masterpiece with well-developed characters and a great storyline. Bonus recipes at the end!

Lauren Calder





Booty from the Other Genre

Naked

Eliza Redgold
St. Martin's Griffin
Trade Paperback
978-1250066152
****1/2

The legend of Lady Godiva is one that many know. To free her people from being overtaxed, she rode through the streets naked. She was only covered by her hair. Her husband Lord Leofric demanded this to lift the tax. He and Peeping Tom were the only ones who dared look at her; all others just closed their doors and windows.

This retelling of the classic story is very good. In general I do not enjoy historical things but I found this to be a pleasant and easy read that did not bore me. It was not bogged down with old language, and the inspirational story was a very interesting one that had plenty of room for the love story angle the author took.
Lenore Lovecraft

The Darkness Rolling

Win and Meredith Blevins
Tom Doherty and Assoc.
Hardcover
978-0765368608



This story unfolds in a broken-down trading post in Monument Valley. This is Navajo Indian land. Yazzie Goldman is returning home. He hasn't seen his mother in six years. The problem is there is another man also returning to Monument Valley, and he is pure evil. He calls himself Zopilote, the Buzzard. He wants to destroy the entire family. It was once his family, but no more.

Zopilote's hatred goes deep. It goes back 25 years in the past. Twenty-five years ago he killed a man who was involved with his wife. However, this was after she had broken up with him; so she wasn't doing anything wrong. Buzzard went to jail for 25 years, and he blames his family for helping the court system put him there.

While he was in jail, he performed a ritual called Darkness Rolling. To the Navajo Indian, the wind is sacred because they believe all life comes from it. They believe this sacred wind is inside of a man as well. When it is inside, it will either be good or evil. The name for this evil wind is Darkness Rolling. By practicing Darkness Rolling, the Buzzard embraced his hatred and worshipped it like it was a god. He returned to Monument Valley and stalked his family at the trading post like a predator sizing up his victims for the kill. He has the advantage of surprise. But sometimes all that hate can work against you, too. One thing is for sure—someone is going to die in the end.

Well done.

Paul Zunino

The Summer of Good Intentions

Wendy Francis
Simon & Schuster
Trade Paperback
978-1451666427
***1/2

For as long as they can remember the Herington sisters have spent every July at the family's beach house. This year is no exception, but now everything is different. It's the first time they've been to Cape Cod since their parents got divorced.

Maggie, the oldest, is increasingly aware of how quickly time is passing. Her kids are growing up

too fast. Maggie misses the days when she had a baby to cuddle. Maybe it's time for another one.

Jess, the middle sister, and her husband barely speak and never touch. Their marriage is falling apart. Jess has a secret. If Tim finds out what she's done, he'll never forgive her. It will be the end of their marriage.

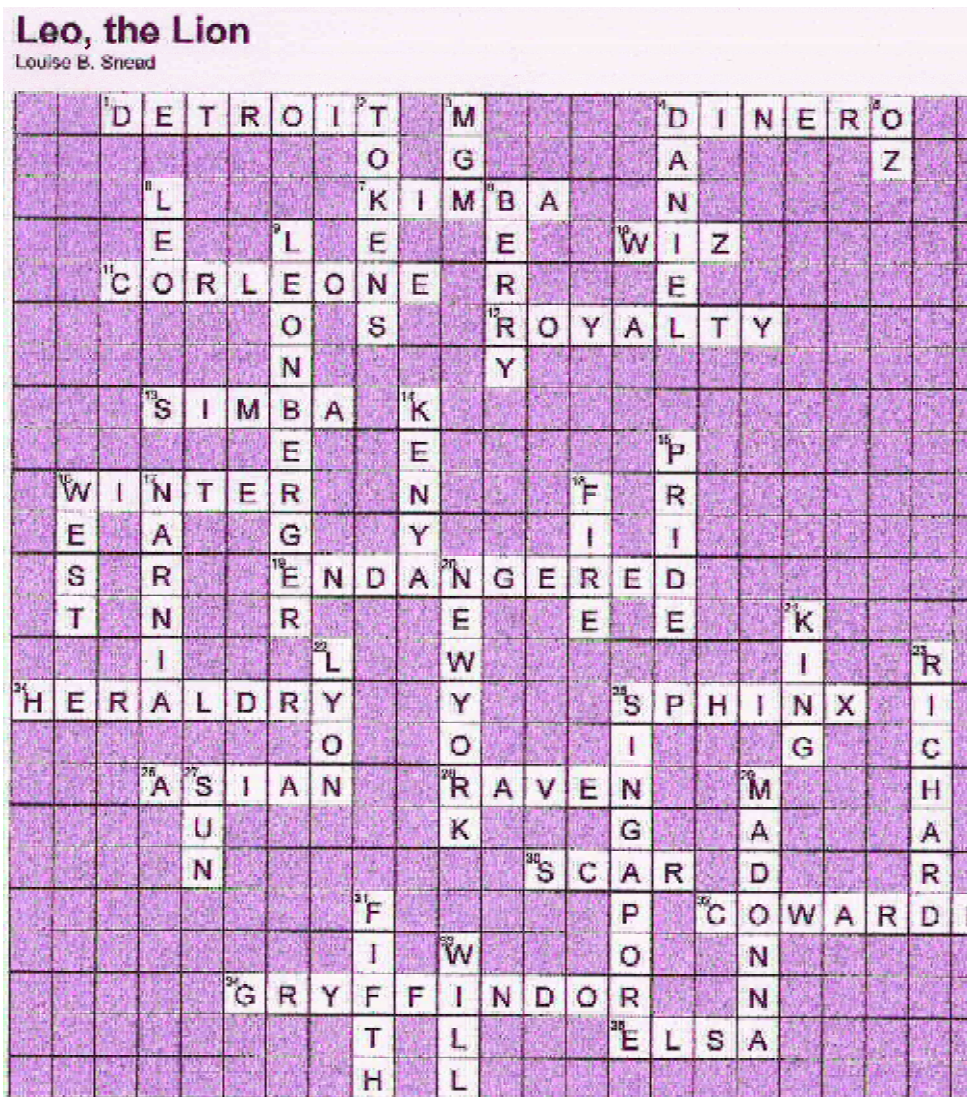
Virgie, the youngest, is a reporter. The frantic pace of her job is taking its toll. She's been experiencing some troubling symptoms. Virgie is hoping that the vacation will cure them. She hopes they're due to exhaustion, but deep down

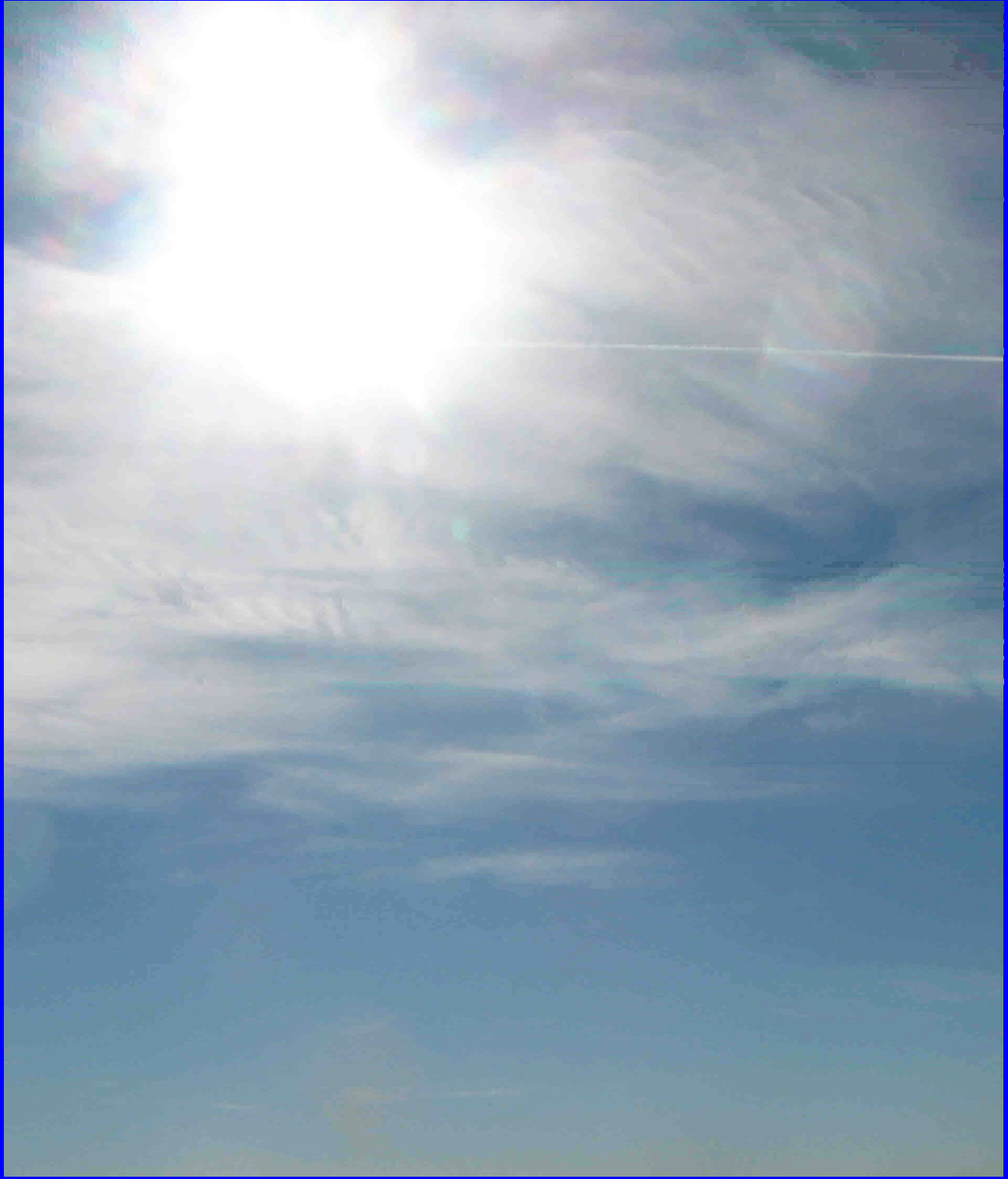
Virgie's afraid that something's seriously wrong.

Their mother was supposed to come to the lake the week after their dad. But she's changed her plans. Now they'll both be there at the same time. To make matters worse, she's bringing her new boyfriend.

This is a character-driven novel. If one enjoys those, this is an enjoyable book. Readers looking for a strong plot should give this one a miss.

Sheila Griffin





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