

July/August, 2016

Affaire de Coeur

Bringing you 35 Years of Honest Reviews

The Swimsuit Edition

It's not your typical swimsuit Issue

Reviews!

Reviews!

Reviews!

See Our Other Swim-
suits Inside



Debra Parmley Has Been Busy
An Interview with Model Chase Borst

Knight Defenders

***It was all King-
freakin - Arthur's fault.***



www.facebook.com/victoriasueauthor
twitter @Vickysuewrites

July/August, 2016

Affaire de Coeur

CONTENTS

The Staff

Publisher in Chief
Louise Snead

Copy Editor
Lanelle Brent

Vice President of Advertising
Pamela Ackerson

ROM-CON Director
Barbara N. Keenan

Audio Reviewers
Bennet Pomerantz and Letteticia Elsasser

Literary Reviewers
Susan Boles • Mildred Burkett • Lauren Calder • Heather Nordahl Files • Sheila Griffin • Danielle Hill • Lenore Lovecraft • Lani Roberts • Paul Zunino

Affaire de Coeur is published bimonthly at 3976 Oak Hill Road, Oakland, California 94605-4931 Telephone (510) 569-5675 Fax: (510) 632-8868 Email address affairedecoeur@adcmagazine.com *Affaire de Coeur*. Inc. # 0739-3881. Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without written permission. All books and material reviewed by this publication have been read by the reviewer, and are the opinions expressed are those of the reviewer. Release dates and prices are subject to change by the publisher without notice.

Subscription rates for the U.S.A. are \$38 for 12 issues First Class. Third class subscriptions are \$30.00. Canadian subscriptions are \$65.00 for one year. Other foreign countries' rates are dependent upon the cost of mailing. Single copy price is \$5.95

Visit us at www.adcmagazine.com or www.affairedecoeur.com

Presenting the *Affaire de Coeur*
Swimsuit Edition 4

--

Villain Demands His Own Love Story--Renowned author Adrienne de Wolfe explains 6

The First Spotlight Interview is on...
JoAnn Ainsworth 8

Debra Parmley lands Chase Borst in her
Cover Model's Corner 12

The Other Spotlight is on....
Rachel Brimble 16

Winners of the Cover Art Contest
Announced 35

Departments and Columns

Fun and Games 18

Contemporary Romance
Reviews 19

Historical Romance Reviews 25

Erotica Reviews 30

Mystery Reviews 31

Audio Reviews 32

Booty from the Other Genre 36

Better Late Than Never Reviews 38

Presenting... *Affaire de Coeur's* Swimsuit Edition

Welcome to *Affaire de Coeur's* swimsuit issue. Okay, so it's not quite the same as the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue, but, hey, we appeal to an entirely different audience, one with a sense of humor. Not to be disparaging about another

magazine, but if you notice our swimsuit ads sprinkled throughout the issue, you will see that they are tasteful and they promote **reading**. I conceded that from its beginning in 1964 the women in *Sports Illustrated* are breathtakingly beautiful. They

complement the swimsuits they wear. I would be proud to be on the cover of *SI*. Who actually reads the Swimsuit issue of *Sports Illustrated*?

Our cover features what I call a safe swimsuit; one that reveals very little of the actual torso of the



This photo is credited to Ivan Sayers at the Maritime Museum in Vancouver.



Soak up the sun
and submerge yourself

Fated Love by Susan Boles

Creating mystery and intrigue
for your reading pleasure...

www.susanbolesauthor.com

body. It's a safe bet that the back of this swimsuit leaves a modest sample of back to the viewer but completely covers the cheeks (no thongs or buns hanging out). This is the type of swimsuit I would wear, as I have much to hide. But this type of suit would be considered scandalous from where it all began.

It's a shame what women have had to put up with in terms of clothing over the centuries. The early swimsuit/bathing suit was no different. Women's clothing had to reflect not only the mores of society, but the new accessibility of beaches because of trains and the swimming activity itself. But, whatever she wore had to be modest and non-revealing. It was said that women often used weights to prevent their dresses from floating up in the water and showing their legs. What about drowning?

Before then, in the early 1800's, beach wear included the

Seaside walking dress, a full length, to the ground gown, usually pink or white and, of course, with long sleeves with cuffs.

Queen Victoria's era brought the world the bathing machine. Believe it or not, this was a horse-drawn house where the occupant therein could change clothes, bathe in the shallow waters off the shore and return via the same method when her bath was finished.

The French, of course, were credited with being the first to bring swimsuits to the fashion world between 1890 and 1900. Early swimsuits were dark, usually black or blue. To break the austerity of lines, it was trimmed with white. The favorite fabrics for these garments were alpaca or flannel. (Could she really swim in those fabrics?) Of course, no part of the body could show, and there was the emphasis on keeping the skin as white as possible--unblemished by the sun--as a sign of purity. (Oops, that left out about 20 million of us!)

Toward that goal, the neckline was kept high, the bodice was loose-fitting, and her arms were covered by elbow-length leg-of-mutton sleeves. She wore bloomers beneath the skirt of her swimsuit and accessorized her ensemble with black stockings and laced-up bathing slippers made of serge or straw, Turkish towel or canvas shoes. Let us not forget the fancy caps that topped off the look.

The voluminous yards of material used to cover the woman's body began to dwindle in the early 20th century. Though they were still accompanied by long stockings, by 1910, the contours of a woman's body could be detected, and the sun was no longer something to avoid. Because women began to take up the actual sport of swimming, the heavy fabrics were dropped, and the knitted, one-piece swimming suit began to take its place. Portions of actual body were seen from the tops of the stockings

Continued on page 11
Swimsuits

Villain Demands His Own Love Story in

Devil in Texas

by Adrienna deWolfe

No one was supposed to fall in love with him – least of all me. He was supposed to be the evil gunfighter, who gets ventilated by the hero. (In Western slang, the definition of ventilate is “to fill a man full of bullet holes.” Great image, right?)

So there I sat, plotting the climax in my new historical romance, when my *very* mulish villain dug in his heels and said, “Whoa! You got me all wrong,



Wolfie. I’m not so bad. I’m funny! How many outlaws do you know with get-away horses named Pancake? And what about that time I broke the bed ‘cause I was so . . . uh . . . *spirited* in the whorehouse? I’m too adorable for Boot Hill! I need a book and a woman of my own!” “Eros in Spurs,” as the rascal is so aptly named, can be extremely persuasive. The next thing I knew, I was doing something crazy: rewriting the plot of a previously published romance so I could redeem William Cassidy

and star him in his own series of romantic whodunits. *Devil in Texas* (Book 1, *Lady Law & The Gunslinger*.) reunites “Coyote Cass” with Sadie, a wise-cracking, pistol-packing Pinkerton Agent -- the one woman whom Cass has never been able to forget.

I think star-crossed lovers make the most interesting reads. Imagine how much pent-up emotion gets triggered when old flames reunite. I was striving for that intensity when Cass walks into a Galveston casino and comes face to face with the temptress who broke his heart. For her part, Sadie describes how desperately she struggled “to forget the searing heat of his kisses” when Cass galloped out of her life for the second time in their tumultuous history.

Turning a villain into a hero requires an author to walk a tight-rope: how much “bad” can the reader forgive? Cass turned vigilante at an early age because he wanted to “clean up Texas and make it a safe place for little kiddies to play.” Sadie dubs him “Lucifire,” because he’s a devil with a gun – and he’s hotter than a pitchfork under the sheets.

But if we’re talking true confessions, then I have to admit, I was more worried about making readers love Sadie. Why? Well . . . let’s just say she kicks butt. *A lot*. Like Cass, she has a checkered past. Becoming a Pinkerton was her way of fighting corruption on the frontier. I wrote her like a female action hero: daring, resourceful, and *funny*. The way my brain’s wired, I just can’t write books without humor. (So for all you suspense purists, I apologize in advance for Vandy the Raccoon.)

Sadie’s sass is the perfect foil for Cass’s “Coyote Charm.” Their best lines drip with sexual innuendo, which makes their battle of wits so wickedly delicious.

Sneak Peek:

DEVIL IN TEXAS

Book 1, *Lady Law & The Gunslinger*

By Adrienne deWolfe

(Pre-Order May 15; On Sale July 12)

[Scene Setup: Cass and his 17-year-old sidekick, Collie, have surprised a bearded burglar, climbing through a hotel window.]



The burglar's chuckle was low and husky, conjuring images of whiskey, scarlet, and sin. Cass frowned. Why did that laugh remind him so poignantly of Sadie?

He cursed himself. Now wasn't the time to get distracted by grief. Sadie had betrayed him. She'd told the Rangers about his murder warrant. After a hurt like that, he shouldn't have cared that the golden-eyed hellion had vanished in a fire.

He dragged his thoughts back to his prisoner. "What's that bulge under your coat?"

The ghost of a dimple peeked beneath the thief's derby. "The usual."

"Want to be more specific?"

"See for yourself."

Cass frowned. This conversation was familiar—macabrely familiar. But his memory had to do with Sadie and a skimpy negligee that had nearly stopped his heart. "Take off your hat," he commanded suspiciously.

Another saucy dimple peeked. "You want it? Come and get it, hotshot."

Cass' patience was rapidly unraveling. Defying knives, blinding powder, and whatever else the thief

might throw, he stalked closer. A tepid breeze stirred the draperies. The masculine scents of leather and horse wafted past his nose, along with the feminine fragrance of rosehips.

Sadie's favorite tea.

Now Cass was close enough to notice anomalies beneath the burglar's bowler: a mustache that was just a hair off balance. Lips that were pink and kissably soft. Cass's brain told his senses they were liars, but his heart couldn't give up the hope. With a shaking hand, he knocked off the thief's hat.

Eyes as hot as golden brands burned into his.

In the next instant, a boot sent his gun flying. A second drop-kick plowed into his midsection.

"Son of a—" Cass stumbled to his knees, winded.

Collie reached for his revolver.

"No!" Cass tackled the boy. They hit the carpet in a tangle of limbs.

"That's Sadie!"

"Are you loco? Sadie's dead!"

They flopped like a couple of beached whales.

*Continued on page 11
de Wolfe*



Spotlight Interview



This month the Spotlight Shines on... *JoAnn Ainsworth*

The skills JoAnn Smith Ainsworth learned from her horse-and-buggy ancestors create vivid descriptions of time and place in her four historical romance and two paranormal suspense novels. Ms. Ainsworth has B.A. and M.A.T. degrees in English and has completed her M.B.A. studies. Learn more about this award winning author: <http://www.joannsmithainsworth.com>.

AdC: *When did you start writing and why?*

JASA: My original goal was financial, but the process of writing quickly turned into a passion. When I approached the age of being a senior citizen, I thought of ways to supplement Social Security. My college major of English started me looking at writing as a second career. Little did I know how difficult it is to write a novel and how much I had to learn to be good at it!

My first four years were spent in online classes and rewriting *MATILDA'S SONG*. Then I got the hang of it and can generally write a novel in a year and a half. Online classes continue because I have a strong desire to improve my craft. Even if I never sell another book, I will continue writing because the creative adventure brings me great joy.

AdC: *What have you learned about writing since you started?*

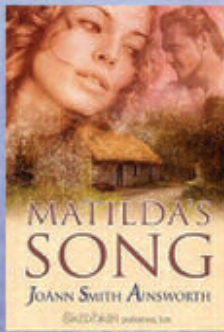
JASA: I learned it takes a long time to get established as an author. We authors wish that all we had to do is write, but these days we have to



Author, JoAnne Ainsworth

promote ourselves as well. It's a totally different skill set and it took me a while to get comfortable with "tooting my own horn"—a necessity in today's marketplace.

I also learned the Internet has affected the way books are written—fewer pages, shorter sentences—chapters—scenes, faster pace, less



Expect Trouble (Book 1) Affaire de Coeur Review: "This talented author strategically and skillfully takes the reader on a trip that will stay with them for a very long time. What a treasure!" Lauren Calder

"The story has moments of humor, joy, pain and danger; an excellent combination. *Matilda's Song* is a book I would gladly read again." Letteta Elsasser

"*Out of the Dark* is a Medieval with a tightly woven plot and vivid descriptions of time and place. Strong and intense characters, a murder plot, and a love story make JoAnn Smith Ainsworth an author to be appreciated. I loved it." Letteta Elsasser

Farmer and the Wood Nymph (Book 2) Review: "If you love westerns, this is the book for you. Great characters, great plot, and a story that will make you smile."

Look for *Expect Deception* from SheWrites Press June 14, 2016

www.joannsmithainsworth.com

description, and more dialog (which means more white space around passages of text). Since I started writing at the advent of the Internet into everyday life, I've been able to adjust.

AdC: *Tell us about your new book or series.*

JASA: *Expect Deception* (Book 2 of the "Operation Delphi" series) released 6/21/16 from She Writes Press, Inc. In this series, five psychics (assigned to the U.S. Navy during WWII) hunt Nazi spies.

The hero is the skeptical naval commander in charge of setting up the project. The heroine is the clairvoyant U.S. WAVE assigned to oversee the administrative aspects of the top secret facility and lead the psychic team. Each psychic has

a unique skill to bring to the mix (clairvoyant, medium, crystal ball reader, laying-on-of-hands healer, and seer of ghosts). In the first book of the series, they get to know one another enough to watch the other's "psychic" back.

The newly released second book brings in a spy skilled in black magic, who can invoke demons. The Navy's team of psychics must reach beyond their individual skills and unite as a group to have enough powers to fight back.

AdC: *What can we expect from you next?*

JASA: In Book 3, *Expect Betrayal* (currently being written), the hero and heroine travel to war-torn London to retrieve a book of counter spells smuggled out of Nazi-controlled

Bavaria by the heroine's family. What they don't know is that an assassin is shadowing their steps and has orders to kill them and take the book to Hitler.

AdC: *What is your idea of a perfect day?*

JASA: When the writing flows and the research concludes quickly and easily.

AdC: *Do you have any hobbies?*

JASA: I like to exercise with friends in the city's indoor swimming pool.

AdC: *What authors do you admire?*

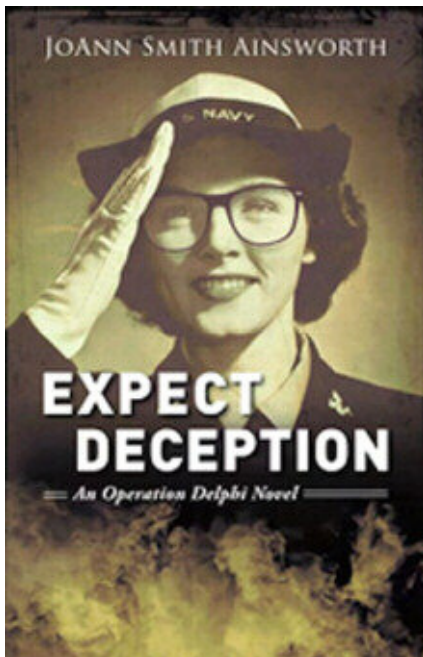
JASA: I love Jim Butcher's ability to bring touches of the ordinary world skillfully into his extraordinary story worlds. My writing is the opposite. I write an ordinary world and bring in

JoAnn Smith Ainsworth



77-year old novelist
JoAnn Smith Ainsworth holds
copies of her paranormal suspense
series, Expect Trouble and
Expect Deception, wherein the
U.S. government recruits psychics
to locate Nazi spies during WWII.

JoAnnSmithAinsworth.com twitter.com/JoAnnAinsworth
facebook.com/JoAnnSmithAinsworthAuthor



touches of the extraordinary.

AdC: *What is the worst thing about being an author?*

JASA: A blank page and knowing you will be filling 300 of them and you're not sure exactly how you'll do that.

AdC: *The best thing?*

JASA: When the words flow and the ideas click.

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

JASA: Writing more stories in the WWII paranormal suspense series.

AdC: *Pass on some words*

of wisdom, please, to aspiring authors.

JASA: If writing is your passion, never give up—no matter what life throws at you.





Swimsuits, cont.

to the bottom of the trunks. (Oh, my!)

The most revolutionary changes in the swimsuit came in 1947 and 1948, introduced by the French. Under their design, the swimsuit became the most abbreviated, consisting of two parts; a G-string and a bra. Naturally, this was not quite acceptable to the Americans, and we added a few more inches to the French Bikini while holding onto the once piece--with alterations. Those variations took the form of low back, loss of bra straps, and bare midriffs. The bikini over time lost a lot of its bottom, giving way to thongs.

When one thinks of the changes from the 1910 swimsuit to what we currently see on the beach and

at poolside, we are amazed. When one considers that it seems to be irrelevant what kind of body is stuffed into some of the swimsuits, that modesty has fallen by the wayside, some are appalled. But not me. I know how I look in a bikini, and that's why the swimsuit on the cover is for me. What's your style?



Affaire de Coeur

Adrienne de Wolfe, cont.

Sadie glanced over her shoulder, that wicked dimple flirting with her lips. One last smirk for his embarrassment. One last sigh for all that might have been.

Then, with an audacious wink, she fled.

About Adrienne deWolfe

Adrienne is the national bestselling author of action-packed Western Historical Romance novels, where feisty Heroines buck the conventions and true Heroes must be wickedly funny. Currently, she's writing the next book in her *Lady Law & The Gunslinger* series. For sneak peeks of her sassy ladies and sizzling rogues, visit <http://WildTexasNights.com>.

Debra Parmley's Cover Model Corner--

Chase Borst

I'm excited to be interviewing Chase Borst on Cover Model Corner today. I met Chase in May at the Weekend with the Authors in Nashville, Tennessee, this year, and he graciously agreed to an interview.

DP: Chase, what was the first cover you appeared on and how did this come about?

CB: My first cover was *Roping Him In* by Sidda Lee Rain.

Michel Prince is an author and owner of Royal Touch Photography. She worked out at the gym that I worked



at a few years back. She approached me one day and asked if I would be interested in doing a photoshoot with her for images that could potentially be used as book covers. I agreed and things just progressed from there. I honestly had no clue what I was getting myself into or what the outcome would be, but I have met a lot of really cool people and had some pretty awesome experiences since I started.

DP: 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?

CB: Somewhere tropical for sure. I would really love to go to Kenya. The beaches look amazing. I think I would like to do a romantic shoot with my significant

other. Besides their beaches, the inland backdrop of Kenya is cool, too. I would probably want to do daytime photos with both backdrops, hoping for some giraffes or elephants in the shot. And, of course, some sunset photos inland, as well as on the beach.

DP: Ah, there is nothing quite like a beach anywhere in the world, especially at sunset. Giraffes and elephants; now that would be fun. Beyond romance novel cover shots, what other projects or jobs keep you busy?

CB: My girlfriend and I recently started a meal prep business, Core Meals. We heard from so many people that nutrition is their biggest struggle for a number of reasons, so we provide them a very affordable, convenient way to eat healthy. I also spend a lot of time reading and learning about health and wellness.

DP: If you wrote a book, what would it be about?

CB: I would probably tell a story about a person with a very troubled childhood and overcoming their obstacles and hardships. The book would be a timeline of their life and how they reacted to and overcame the struggles.

DP: That is a story I would read or would love to hear one day.

DP: 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?

CB: My fitness routine consists of heavy resistance training 5-7 days per week, sometimes twice a day. Honestly, I don't really follow a plan. I generally rotate body parts in a 4 day split, and try to push myself while at the gym. I generally do not do cardio unless I'm in show prep and even then it's minimal. My diet in show prep restricts the types of foods I eat, my caloric intake, cycle my macros according to my training. When I'm not in prep I like to eat a wide variety of healthy foods, I'm a good cook and I enjoy it, so I get to be a little more creative with my meals. I generally do not track macros or calories but keep things pretty clean overall. I do like treats, though, and definitely eat them in moderation when I am not preparing for a competition.

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

CB: 1. Nutrition comes before fitness and should be top priority. If you aren't eating right, you are just spinning your wheels in the gym. I highly recommend an app to log your daily intake, and log EVERYTHING you eat. (I like my fitness pal.) A lot of people are in denial about what they put into their bodies.
2. In the gym, primarily focus on strength training while supplementing cardio. Too many people think cardio is the answer for weight loss or to achieve their desired physique. Cardio is necessary, but in the right amount. Too much cardio can have the opposite effect that most people desire. The after effects of resistance training boost the metabolism for much longer than cardio and the muscle acquired from weight training also increases your body's ability to burn calories while at rest.
3. Challenge yourself and push your limits. You would be really surprised by what you are capable of. Most people sell themselves short in the gym and set limits in their head as far as how much weight they can handle,

especially women. Lifting heavy does wonders for the female body. If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you.

DP: Thank you for that excellent advice. Nutrition is so important. It's important to eat healthy. Sometimes it's fine to cheat though. It's your birthday dinner and the calories don't count. What's on the menu and what are you drinking?

CB: It was my birthday a few days ago...I enjoyed sushi, steak, ahi tuna and a grilled pineapple mojito served with a sparkler in it.

DP: Well happy belated birthday! What a fun menu!

DP: Describe the perfect romantic evening.

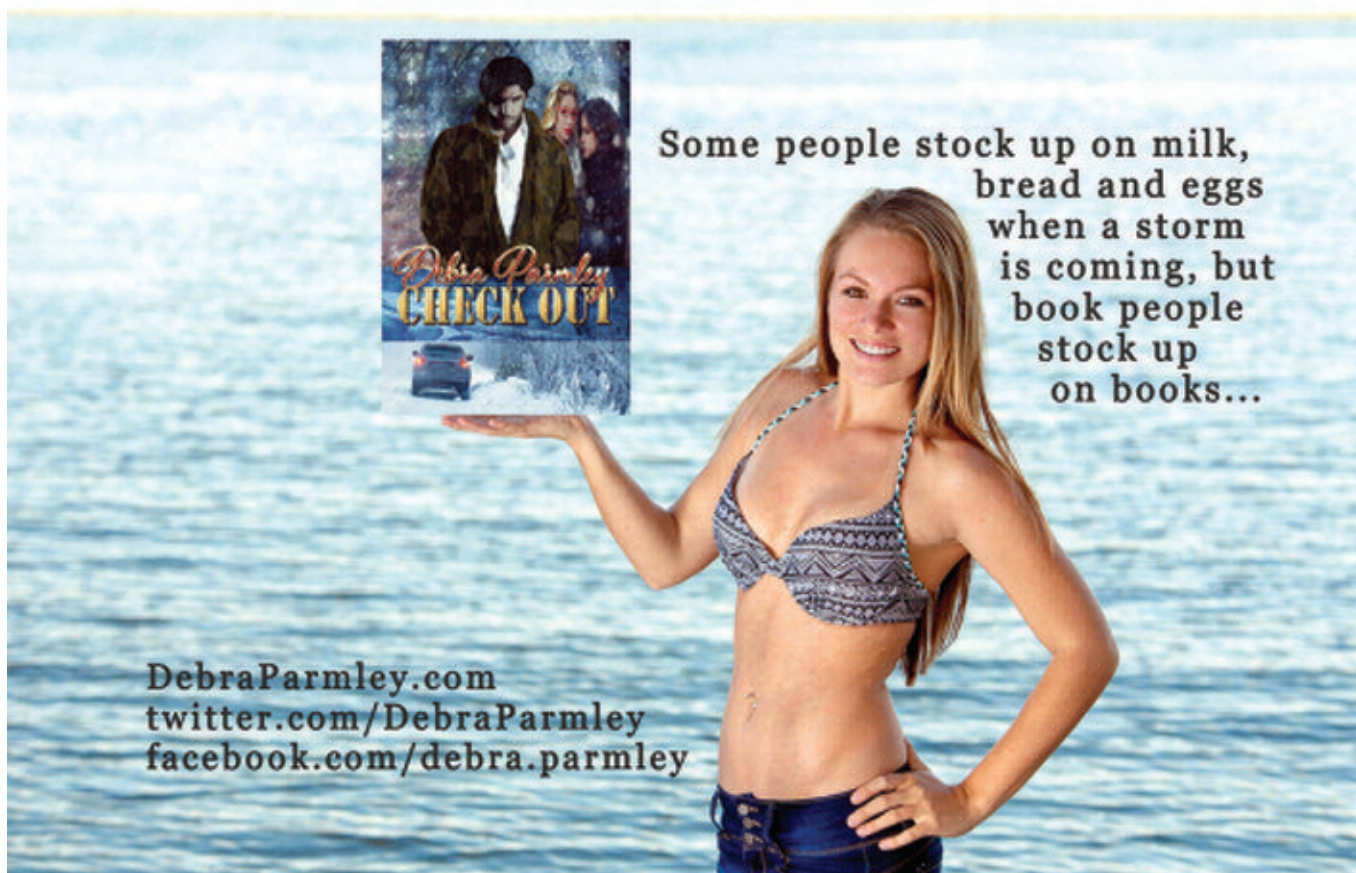
CB: I would pick her up and we would go to Willow River State Park and hike down to the waterfalls, hand in hand, while having an intimate conversation. We



Chase and Debra

would hike around in the serenity of sounds and beauty of the constant flow of water, watching every one of her movements. At some point, take a moment to sit in silence on one of the many rocks while taking each other in. Then we would hike up to the top of an overlook with an amazing view of the natural beauty of the park, talking about life, with her in my arms, kissing her neck

Continued on the next page



and shoulders. From there we would head back home and enjoy a candlelit dinner. Afterward, we would cuddle up on the couch and watch *The Notebook*, paying more attention to her than the movie. Talking silently to her with my hands. When the moment was just right, I would kiss her and then carry her up the stairs...

DP: Please share one unusual fact about you or your life:

CB: I was homeless at one point in my life.

DP: I'm so glad you're not homeless now. What an inspiration you can be to others!

DP: Eight Quickie questions:

- 1.) Watching the sunrise or watching the sunset and the stars? **Sunset and Stars.**
- 2.) The beach or the mountains? **Beach.**
- 3.) Primitive camping or luxury hotel? **That's a tough one, probably luxury hotel.**
- 4.) Snow skiing or water skiing? **Snow.**
- 5.) Favorite movie? **Close tie between *The Notebook* and *American Gangster*.**
- 6.) Best book you ever read? **Where the Red Fern Grows**
- 7.) Favorite sport to play? **Basketball, but golf is a close second.**
- 8.) Favorite sport to watch? **Basketball.**

DP: Chase, thank you for visiting with me today. It's been fun

getting to know you. Before we say goodbye, how can fans stay up to date on your latest news? Do you have any news or announcements to share?

CB: Website:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChaseBorstModel/>

Where to find my exclusive photos for purchase

<http://www.royaltouchphotography.com/>

My business page

<http://www.coremealsmn.com>

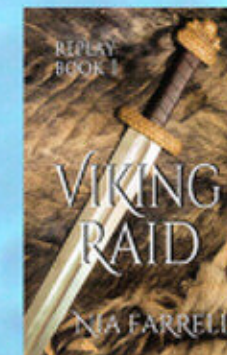
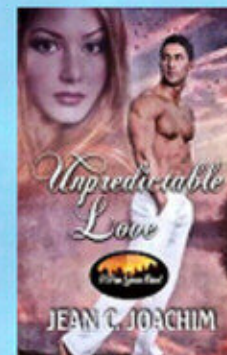
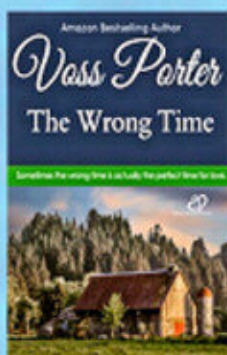
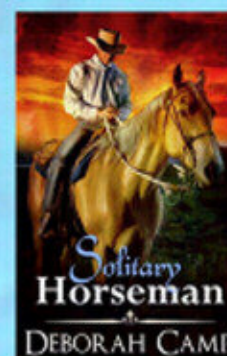
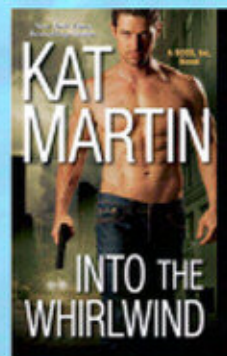
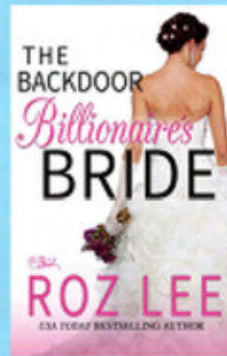
Debra Parmley is known for her Cover Model Corner interviews, which are often featured on *Affaire de Coeur* magazine. A hybrid author, Debra is a multi-genre author of historical romance ranging from the western to the 1920's, contemporary romance with military heroes, romantic suspense, paranormal and fairy tale romance. Damsel-in-distress stories are some of her favorites and her westerns have been described as gritty. Fascinated by fairy tales and folktales ever since she was a young girl, she has always ended her stories with a happy ever after. You can learn more about Debra at www.debraparmley.com

You can also listen to her Internet radio show "Book Lights – shining a light on good books!" at 8:30 p.m. EST on Tuesday evenings on Blogtalk Radio.

Book Lights: <http://bit.ly/29Gw463>

Photographs courtesy of RLS Photography and Royal Touch Photography

Look What You Can Find on AffairedeCoeur.com!



Summer Reads Make Me
Feel Fine...Blowing Through
the Imagination in my Mind!



Spotlight Interview



Rachel Brimble

Rachel lives near the famous city of Bath, England, with her husband of 18 years, their two teenage daughters and chocolate Labrador, Tyler. She writes mainstream romance and romantic suspense for Harlequin Superromance & Victorian romance for eKensington/Lyrical Press.



AdC: *When did you start writing and why?*

R.B. I started writing short stories in 2001 and novels in 2006 – The Wild Rose Press published my first book, *Searching For Sophie*, in 2007 and I've had at least one book published each year since. I started writing because it was always a dream of mine to be a published novelist and I had a 'now or never' moment!

AdC: *What have you learned about writing since you started?*

R.B. That it's hard work! I have nearly finished my nineteenth novel and it never gets any easier. A lot of hours go into writing a book, plus there is editing and endless promotion. It truly is a full-time job.

AdC: *Tell us about your new book or series.*

R.B. My latest book is Book 6 in my "Harlequin Templeton Cove" series. *Saved by The Firefighter* is a contemporary romance dealing with overcoming grief and trusting someone else to take care of you. I loved writing this book!

AdC: *What is your idea of a perfect day?*

R.B. A full day's uninterrupted writing, followed by a delicious dinner of my husband's amazing fish pie and a glass or two of chilled white wine. Bliss!

AdC: *Do you have any hobbies?*

R.B. I'm an avid knitter. I love it and find it a huge stress reliever. I'm never happier than sitting in front of the TV with my knitting. Haha!

AdC: *What authors do you admire?*

R.B. So many, but my favorites are Nora Roberts, Jill Shalvis & Philippa Gregory.

AdC: *What is the worst thing about being an author?*

R.B. The time spent promoting rather than writing! It is so necessary to promote your work as publishers are doing less and less. It can be hugely time consuming but, hopefully, it pays off in the end.



AdC: *The best thing?*

R.B. I think I have the best job in the world – to be able to spend all day making up characters and stories is a dream come true. I love nothing more than when a reader or reviewer tells me how much they love my books and why.

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

R.B. Hopefully, still writing and getting my work published. I truly don't want to do anything else but write until I can't any longer. Fingers crossed, the ideas will keep coming!

AdC: *What can we expect from you next?*

R.B. My next book will either be a

single title romantic suspense or an Edwardian romance which I hope will be the start of a new series. It completely depends who accepts which book first.

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

R.B. Write, write, write! It's no good dreaming about something and expecting it to happen. You have to find the courage to submit your work to an agent or publisher, forget about it and move on to the next project. With hard work, determination and dedication, you will be published. Promise!





Across

1. Sherlock Holmes hounds were from here.
3. Jaw's snacking place--Martha's _____.
8. All dogs go there.
9. _____ *Burning.*, the Medgar Evans story.
12. Sea where Nemo's dad found Nemo.
15. People are sleepless there.
17. Trail of Tears ended in this state.
19. Dumas placed his hunch-back here.
23. _____, we have a problem.
24. Site for football team the Titans (which you're supposed to remember.)
25. Home of Disney World
27. *North _____ Forty*
28. "San _____, Open your Golden Gates..."
33. *Gone With the Wind* setting.
34. Female serial killer "Monster" worked this state.
35. *China Town* was filmed in Los _____.
36. Viva Las _____
37. French city noted for its movie premiers.
38. Here's looking at you, Kid.

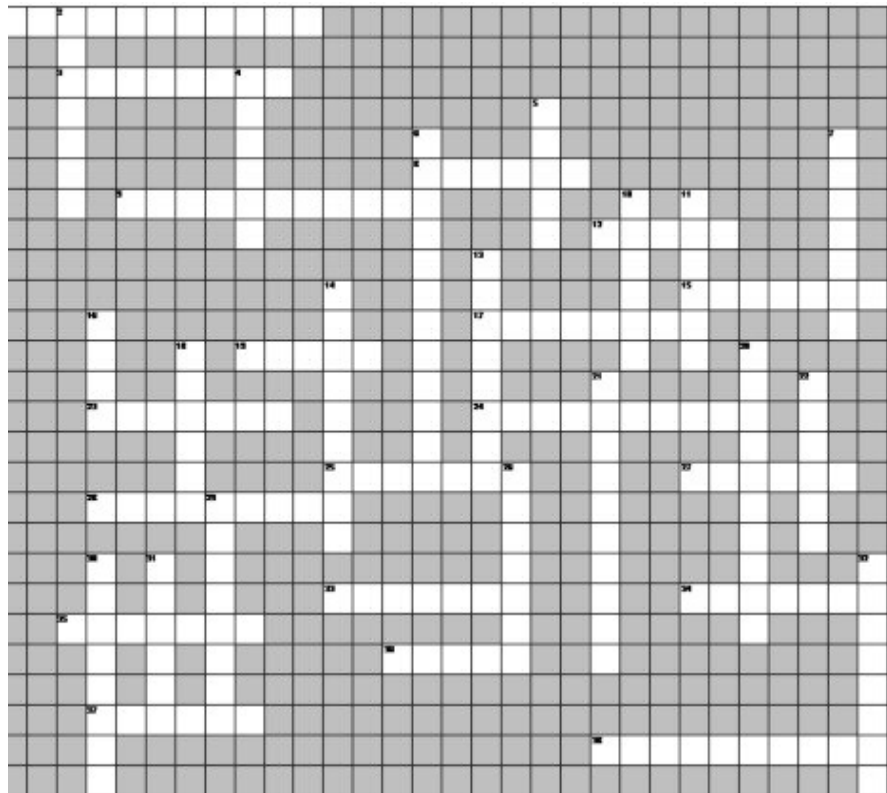
Down

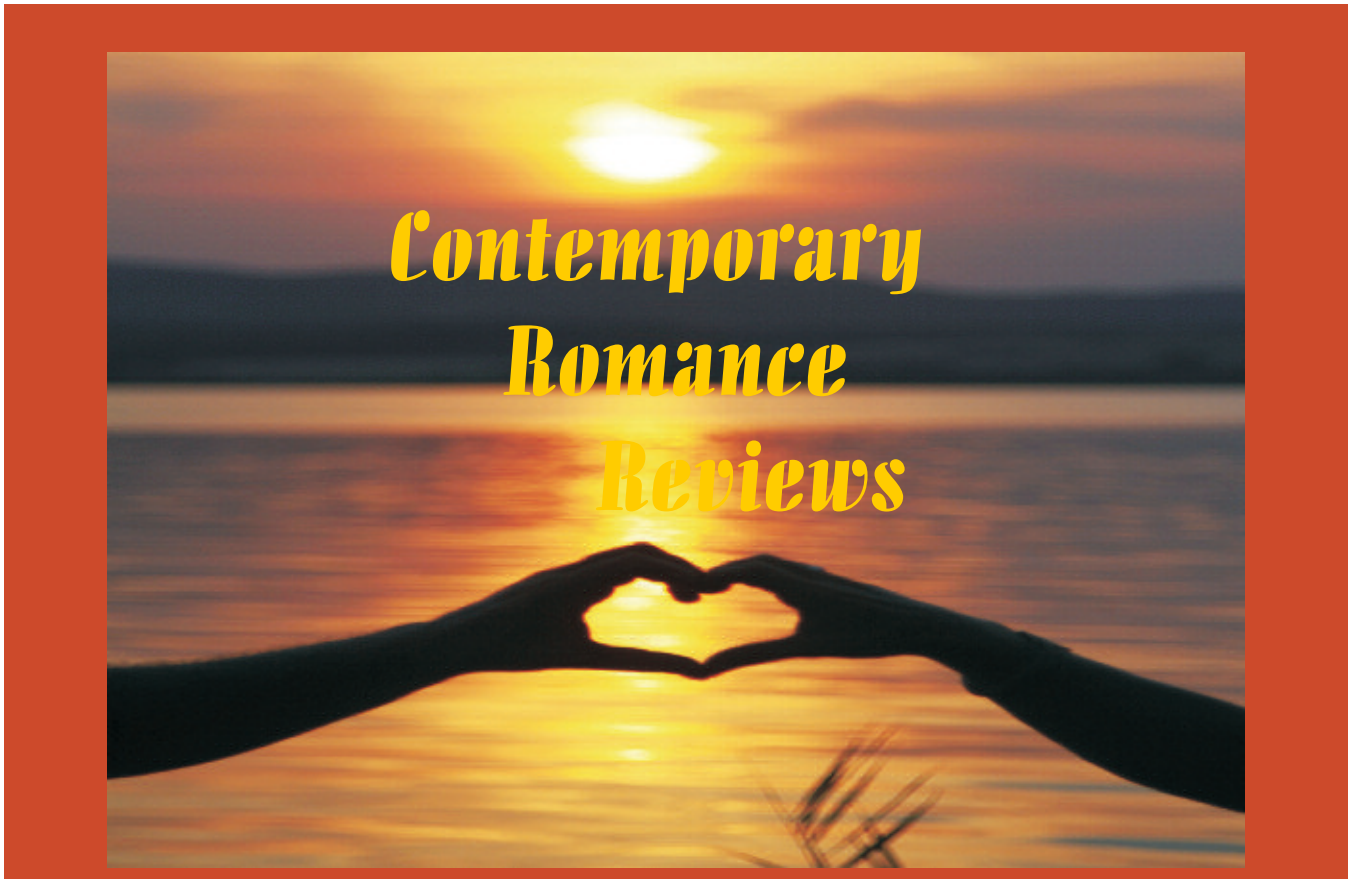
2. Where Rossini's barber was from.
4. 007 sends his messages from here with love
5. *Top Gun City*, San _____.
6. Hanks/Washington movie about AIDS.
7. _____ *Hills Cop*
10. Jack the Ripper's operating

Location, Location...

by Louise B. Snead

11. Setting for *In Cold Blood*.
13. Background for *Outlander*.
14. This magical town appeared every 100 years in Ireland.
16. She and Thelma went over the state's cliff of the Grand Canyon
18. Setting for Paul Newman's *The Verdict*.
20. The roarin' 20's dance originated here.
21. Neil Simon Comedy starring Walter Mattheau _____ *Suite*.
22. _____ *Five-O*
26. New _____, the setting for the Princess and the Frog.
29. The Godfather's birth place in Italy.
30. The *Coal Miner's Daughter* is from this state.
31. State where Goonies was filmed.
32. Scene of the creepy *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.





Awakened

Kate Douglas

St. Martin's

Mass Market

978-1250064783

★★★★1/2

Mandy Monroe and Marc Reed have known each other for a while. She had a crush on him years ago, before they ever met. Now they're roommates, and both of them hesitate to make a move, until they're alone in the apartment together. She's down because she just lost her job, so he suggests a movie marathon...that ends with them in bed together.

He will not stay in bed with her, though. He has been experiencing scary dreams that make it look as though he killed a woman years ago. When he tells Mandy, she suggests hypnotherapy. This sends him down a path of seeking the truth of what happened when he was four years old.

Kate Douglas wraps up a trilogy with this well-written, engrossing tale. There is a lot to recommend here--stellar characters, plot, and sensual love scenes-- but

the best part is how the hero and heroine work as a team to solve the mystery of Marc's past. This standalone tale is a joy to read.

Heather Nordahl Files

The Backdoor Billionaire's Bride

Roz Lee

C.S. Publishing

Trade Paperback

978-0986399992

★★★★1/2

After Ford Adams' father passed away, Ford inherited the family business. Looking into the financials, he soon realizes that the business is in deep trouble. The situation wouldn't have hurt him or his income, but it would devastate his mother's living situation and the small town.

Betty Jean Parker was his father's right hand, helping to run the business as best as she could. Surprised that she inherited a portion of the business, she was even more shaken when she found that they were about to close the doors. When Ford came up with an idea on how to save the business and the town, Betty Jean reluctantly agreed. The only problem was, she had no idea what she was

Contemporary

getting herself into.

The Backdoor Billionaire's Bride is an excellent story with an exceptional twist. Roz Lee pens a sexy, steamy, alluring tale that is sure to please while taking her readers on an exhilarating ride.

Kitty Lane

Bed, Breakfast and You

Maddie James

Turquoise Morning

Trade Paperback

978-1622374557

★★★★1/2

Suzie Schul has finally started to get herself and her life together since her husband left her for her sister. She's happy, has her own bed and breakfast, and has published a cookbook. Having her fling with the younger Brad Matthews was in her past, or so she thought.

Brad Matthews had a plan, and he was determined to succeed. He was going to build a successful resort and get the woman of his dreams back into his life. The last thing he expected was Suzie's rejection of his plans. The fire still burned, but it exploded in his face when she learned that he was going to tear down a local landmark.

Maddie James scoops the reader into the story from page one. This reviewer fell in love with the characters and the author. It's great to find an author that makes you want to read more of her stories. Highly recommended.

Kitty Lane

The Fiery Boys

Sage Ardman

R.L. Ranch Press

E-Book

BO1DQ08GQA

★★★★1/2

Annalisa Ricci loves The Fiery Boys, a band from her youth, and now they're back on tour. Ecstatic, she buys tickets for the local show, and she and her friends enter a photo contest. The winner will ride the Fiery Boys' tour bus for a week while they're on tour. Annalisa is shocked

to discover that she's won the contest. Finally, she'll meet her teenage crushes and spend time with the band who got her through a crushing loss.

River, Chuck, Gabe and Buck are nothing like her expectations. Chuck sleeps with groupies in bunches. Buck is angry about everything. At least River (her main high school crush) and Gabe (the stoner) treat her like a friend. Unless she wants to sleep with the very available Chuck, Annalisa is unlikely to get any action with any member of the band. What's worse is that hordes of Fiery Boys fans hate her, especially a superfan named Inferna. Is this once-in-a-lifetime experience worth the notoriety and hatred she has to deal with?

Sage Ardman launches her "Fame" series with this impressive tale that skillfully conceals the identity of the hero and provides many entertaining and surprising twists along the way. Fans of rock-star romances will find much to enjoy here, and readers will look forward to the next chapter of what is sure to be an exciting series.

Heather Nordahl Files

Finding Faith

Reana Malori

Indie Published

Trade Paperback

978-1517306038

★★★★1/2

Faith Douglas watched as the new neighbors moved in next door. It took a while, but she figured out that the neighbor was a widower with a young child. Because she tended to be quiet and reserved, it took all the gumption she could muster just to introduce herself.

Cooper Branson had absolutely no intention of getting involved with anyone again. No one could ever fill the shoes of his first wife. When Faith came into his life, he didn't realize how important she had become.

This is an inspiring love story, gripping, and full of reality that makes the reader cheer for the characters all the way to the end!

Kitty Lane

He Loves Me Not (Suspicious Circumstances, Book 2)

Morgan K. Wyatt

Sleeping Dragon Press

E-Book

978-1311134073

☆☆☆

Miranda is seeking sanctuary in an abandoned lighthouse after suffering horribly at the hands of her now ex-husband. She just wants to put her life back together again but is not yet ready to do that out in the world with everyone else. The company of her dog, Winchester, and visits from her brother are helping her along the path to recovery.

Nick wants desperately for his sister to be whole again. After being pushed off a cliff by her husband, Mina washes up on the shore near the lighthouse with no memory of who she is or why she was in the water. Her arrival stirs up a hornets' nest of issues, not only for herself, but for Miranda and Nick, too.

Then there's Jack who is a government agent who faked his death and is in the area.

I really wanted to give this book five stars. Nick, Mina and Miranda are all interesting characters, and the story was suspenseful and intriguing in itself. But, while the overall story was very interesting, there were too many POV's going on for one book. This made it difficult to stay in the storyline. The character of Jack was not truly related to the rest of the characters at all, so it felt like there was another book mixed in with this one.

Susan Boles

Hell Breaks Loose

Sophie Jordan

Avon

Mass Market

978-0062423733

☆☆☆1/2

First Daughter Grace Reeves feels trapped in a life that does not allow her to make any of her own decisions. So one day, she escapes her security detail, only to discover she has made a terrible mistake. She is abducted by scary, seedy characters and thrown into a van. Her fear is high, but will the new man who joins her kidnapers keep her safe?

Reid broke out of prison with a mission--to get to a man named Sullivan. First, he goes to his brother, only to

Affaire de Coeur

Contemporary

find that his little brother has become a loser who hangs out with other criminals. Now they have kidnapped the President's daughter on Sullivan's orders in an act of revenge. Reid can't believe his brother could be involved in a plot to rough up and kill anyone. How can he find a way to protect Grace while also earning the trust of the losers surrounding his brother?

Sophie Jordan's latest is part of her "Devil's Rock" series, but it is a standalone novel. Readers who like their heroes with a hefty dose of grit will enjoy Reid and will fall for him just like Grace does.

Heather Nordahl Files

Just Kiss Me

Rachel Gibson

Avon

Mass Market

978-0062247421

☆☆☆1/2

Vivien Leigh Rochet grew up poor with a bipolar mother. Now, she has her dream life as an actress, but that life is thrown into upheaval when her mother dies. Freeing herself from her busy schedule isn't easy, and her loss devastates her. Now she must face her past while she takes care of her mother's estate.

Henry Whitley-Shuler is part of that past. Growing up, she resented him along with the rest of his family. Now, she's stunned to find him attractive. Henry gave up his high-powered Wall Street life in favor of a return to Charleston. He doesn't expect Vivien to disrupt his life so thoroughly.

Rachel Gibson's latest features a well-crafted heroine and hero. The tale has some surprises, and readers will be riveted to the page as they follow the intriguing plot. A delight!

Heather Nordahl Files

Contemporary

Must Love Wieners (Rescue Dog Romance -Book 1)

Casey Griffin

St. Martin's Press

Mass Market

978-1250084675

★★★★1/2

Piper is delivering a singing telegram when she trips and lands with her hands in the lap of the executive she's supposed to be singing to. How embarrassing! She finishes her song and hurries outside. Piper needs to get her cab back to the taxi company's dispatch center before she goes to work at the Dachshund Rescue Center.

Aiden, the sexy executive that Piper inadvertently felt up, comes into the center to pick up the dog that he's adopted. Aiden offers her a job as his dog walker. Since she's lost two of her three jobs, Piper accepts.

Aiden claims that he doesn't have time to come home in the middle of the day to walk his new dog. Yet every day when Piper shows up, Aiden is there waiting. As they walk their dogs together, Piper and Aiden begin to fall in love.

Then the incidents start--the vandalizing of the rescue center and Piper's car are just the beginning. Is the perpetrator Aiden's jealous assistant? Or could it be the student that got kicked out of college when Piper reported that she was cheating? Or is someone more sinister behind the attacks?

This is the beginning of a fun new series. While not as humorous as the title suggests, it's a very enjoyable book.

Sheila Griffin

Right Kind of Trouble

Shiloh Walker

St. Martin's Press

Trade Paperback

978-1250067968

★★★★1/2

Moira McKay of McKay's Treasure was the oldest of the McKay siblings. When her parents were killed in a car accident when she was in college, she took over the reins of raising her siblings and running the multiple companies of the McKay holdings. She put everything else on hold including her life. It is now twenty years later. All her siblings have settled down and started having babies. The McKay holdings are thriving, and Moira is totally miserable and lonely. But she knows it's her own fault. She has been pushing away the love of her life for over twenty years, and she figured he had finally moved on. Then someone started stalking the family, and mysterious, deadly accidents started to happen. Moira could only turn to the one person that she had vowed never to count on again.

Gideon Marshall had loved Moira all his life. He grew up in McKay's Treasure and, at one time, they were sweethearts. The entire town expected them to get married. Then, after her parents' death, Moira pushed Gideon away--repeatedly. Everybody and everything else came first. So Gideon joined the service and went away, thinking it would help him get over Moira, but it didn't. So he returned to McKay's Treasure and became the town's sheriff. Now someone was stalking the McKay family, and it was his job to protect them, even if Moira didn't want him around.

This is the third book of the story of the McKay family, and it is a brilliant conclusion to the saga. Moira loves Gideon and Gideon loves Moira, but neither will let themselves admit it until tragedy throws them together. Ms. Walker had done an outstanding job of bringing the McKay family full circle and providing a happy ending for all while continuing the mystery of who wants to harm them and why. Moira and her stubbornness can get tiresome at times, but the patience and steadfastness of Gideon is truly hero worthy.

Lani Roberts

Contemporary

Someone Like You

Jennifer Gracen

Zebra

Mass Market

978-1420139167

☆☆☆1/2

Recovering from a disastrous relationship, Abby moved home to help her sister take care of her son. One of the ways Abby is helping is by coaching Dylan's soccer team. Abby's lack of soccer knowledge is compensated for by her enthusiasm. But enthusiasm doesn't win games, and Abby's team hasn't won a game yet.

Pierce recently resigned in disgrace from England's Premier Soccer League. When he sees Abby's coaching attempts, Pierce volunteers to help. She's intrigued, but suspicious. Abby finds it hard to believe that this famous playboy is helping out out of the goodness of his heart.

Surprisingly though, it's the truth. When the scandal broke, Pierce's teammates believed the lies. Between the loss of his "friends" and his career, Pierce feels lost. Coaching will keep him occupied until Pierce figures out what he's going to do for the rest of his life. The fact that his co-coach is a sexy woman is an added bonus. As the season progresses, Abby and Pierce begin to fall in love. But she is having a hard time trusting him. She's been burned before. Can Pierce convince Abby that he's changed; that all he wants is to spend the rest of his life with her?

This is a continuation of a series. It can be read alone. It's filled with steamy sex and R-rated language, but very little plot.

Sheila Griffin

Then He Kissed Me (Cottonbloom -Book 2)

Laura Trentham

St. Martin's Press

Mass Market

978-1250077646

☆☆☆

Tragedy separated best friends Nash and Tally when they were ten years old. Nash's mom died, and he moved away to live with his aunt. Now, eighteen years later, he has returned. Nash wants to see if he and Tally have the same connection they did years ago.

Tally notices right away that nerdy Nash has grown up nicely. He's also a gentleman. When Tally's ex-boyfriend gets aggressive, Nash steps in and defends her.

Nash wants more than friendship, but he's worried that if he moves too fast Tally will pull away completely. Little does Nash know that she's having her own problems remaining just friends. Tally is scared to attempt a real relationship with him. Does Nash see their romance as just a happy childhood memory? Is there a chance he wants more? Even if Nash wants a true relationship, does Tally dare to risk it? He's a college professor, and she had barely graduated from high school. He has traveled the world, and she has rarely left the area. If the relationship ends badly, (and they always do) she will lose her best friend...again. Can Nash convince Tally to take a chance?

This continuation of a series can be read alone. It's filled with awesome sex but has very little plot. If one enjoys the typical boy-meets-girl romance, they will enjoy this breezy summertime book.

Sheila Griffin

Till I Kissed You (Cottonbloom-Book 3)

Laura Trentham

St. Martin's Press

Mass Market

978-1250077622

☆☆☆1/2

Nothing could come between high school sweet-hearts Regan and Sawyer...until Sawyer broke Regan's heart. She began to hate him. Sawyer moved away and Regan rarely thought of him. Now Sawyer is back and she can't stop remembering how it felt to be in his arms.

Sawyer desperately tried to explain that he didn't

Contemporary

cheat on her, but Regan adamantly refused to see him or accept his calls. Finally, Sawyer gave up. He may have moved to the big city, but Sawyer's heart remained with a certain small town girl.

There's an upcoming contest for small town festivals. The best one will win a cash prize. Regan is in charge of the festival in her town. Across the river, Sawyer's in charge of the one in his. Soon the dirty tricks start. Sawyer is the obvious suspect, but when things escalate, Regan begins to doubt he's behind the mishaps. Sawyer knows he's not guilty, and he doesn't plan to leave Regan unprotected until the culprit is caught. As the two spend time together, the old feelings resurface. Will Sawyer be able to convince Regan to risk her heart again?

This is a continuation of a series. It can be read alone. Other than some great sex, not much happens until the last chapters. If one enjoys the typical boy-meets-girl romance, they will enjoy this book.

Sheila Griffin

Under the Wire

HelenKay Dimon

Avon

Mass Market

978-0062441287

☆☆☆☆1/2

Geologist Cara Layne is in Russia on a scientific expedition when her campsite is attacked. The other members of her team are gone, so she is in quite a state when Reid Armstrong and his partner find her. It is not a simple matter to get her out of the field and out of Russia. Why would a science team be attacked? There must be a secret mission beyond what Cara knows.

Reid and Cara were a couple not that long ago, and he wanted to marry her. But she walked away, fearing that their love was not real. Now she knows it was real, at least on her side. Reid does not want to talk about it. There isn't much time for conversation, either, as dangerous men are on their trail, and safety is nowhere to be found.

HelenKay Dimon's latest is a standalone installment of her "Bad Boys Undercover" series. Her hero and heroine have undeniable chemistry, and the plot will leave readers guessing. A fabulous read!

Heather Nordahl Files

Where Love Lies

Julie Cohen

St. Martin's Griffin

Trade Paperback

978-1250081742

☆☆☆1/2

Felicity met Quinn a few months after her mother died. Less than a year later they were married. Now they've moved to the tiny town where Quinn grew up. It's a place where doctor/patient confidentiality is nonexistent. During one appointment Felicity mentions in passing that she is thinking of going off birth control pills. The next time the doctor sees Felicity's mother-in-law, he tells her that Felicity and Quinn are trying to get pregnant. Soon the whole town is anxiously awaiting the happy event. There's just one problem. Felicity isn't sure she's ready to have a baby.

Lately, Felicity's been catching phantom whiffs of frangipani that no one else smells. The flower's scent reminds her of the one who got away. Ewan had been the model for one of Felicity's mother's paintings. The first time Felicity saw him, Ewan was naked. Her mother painted him in front of a multitude of frangipani. For two months Felicity and Ewan were inseparable. Then suddenly it was over. She was devastated. Since then Felicity has associated the scent of frangipani with him. Maybe the smell of the flowers is a sign that she needs to find Ewan. Should Felicity stay with the one who loves her or go back to the one she loves?

This novel has a sprinkling of vulgar language and is a very interesting book.

Sheila Griffin



Historical Romance Reviews

Chasing Lady Amelia

Maya Rodale

Avon

Mass Market

978-0062386762

☆☆☆1/2

The new Duke of Durham and his sisters are viewed with scorn by London Society. Lady Amelia Cavendish is one of those upstart Americans, and she has no interest in fitting in. One night, she takes off her shoes at a ball, which causes a scandal when she's found out. After the ball, she snaps and throws a fit. Then, not realizing she's been given laudanum, she wanders from her room into the street, looking for the singing man she heard.

Alistair Finlay-Jones is wandering home when a beautiful woman finds him. He thinks she's drunk, and

Affaire de Coeur

she is clearly unable to tell him where she lives. Not knowing what else to do, he takes her home with him. The next morning, he figures out who she is--she's the woman he must convince to marry him. And then the adventure begins.

Maya Rodale's latest in her "Keeping Up With the Cavendishes" series is a fun, quick read with snappy dialogue. Alistair is a particularly wonderful hero who will be compelling for readers. While readers do not need to have read the prior installment, it is recommended to read both for maximum enjoyment.

Heather Nordahl Files

Historical

Devil in Texas

Adrienne deWolfe

ePublishing Works!

E-book

978-1614178392

☆☆☆1/2

Sadie Michelson is a Lady Pinkerton agent working to learn Baron Westerfield's secrets and bring him down. The plan is to use her skills at singing and seduction to get her man. But things go horribly awry when she spots William "Cass" Cassidy in the crowd right before she goes on stage. They have a history as lovers, and he can easily blow her cover. Instead, her dressing room is set aflame, and in the chaos of escaping the fire, Cass believes that Sadie is dead.

The job must go on. Sadie continues her pursuit of Baron in a variety of disguises. Cass works for Baron now, and though he has a dream of being a Texas Ranger, he fears that dream is impossible due to events in his past. Now, his life can be a comedy, what with his sidekick Collie and Collie's pet raccoon. When he discovers Sadie is still alive, he can't understand what she's doing. What's with all her disguises? Meanwhile, Sadie is sad that she and Cass seem to be working on opposite sides.

In this first title in her "Lady Law & the Gunslinger" series, Adrienne deWolfe serves up a dose of pure fun. Her feisty heroine, charming hero, and assortment of secondary players are loaded with character. Some of these characters were in a prior series, but for the most part, readers will be able to keep up. The tale is liberally infused with a Wild West flavor that really spices up the tale. Fans of suspenseful Westerns should get this one on their e-readers!

Heather Nordahl Files

The Highlander

Kerrigan Byrne

St. Martin's Press

Mass Market

978-1250076076

☆☆☆1/2

Miss Phillomena Lockhart is hired as the new governess for Lt. Col. Liam Mackenzie, the Demon Highlander's, two children. She is hiding from a very dangerous enemy. What better place to hide than with the most dangerous man of all? She should be intimidated by a brutally handsome, intimidating mountain of a man, but his gaze speaks of hurt, and their souls seem like kindred spirits. Can their newfound love overcome Mena's secrets and Liam's dark past?

This is a steamy, involving and intense Victorian romance. In this novel, picturesque Scottish Highlands hide dark secrets, and sinister legends that complement a hero like Liam. He is the kind of hero that historical fans will sigh over--very physical and hot-blooded. Mena is a heroine that most readers might have known and can easily feel sympathy for. Readers will root for this couple to find a happy ending together and to conquer their demons. Liam's tortured past is front and center in this book, and his developing feelings for Mena cause this man with no future and no hope to believe that he can be forgiven for his past sins. With adventure, steamy romance, and compelling leads, *The Highlander* is a sure historical romance hit.

Danielle Hill

His Scandalous Kiss

Sophie Barnes

Avon

Mass Market

978-0062358912

☆☆☆☆

When Richard Heartly came home from the war, he was wounded in both body and spirit. As he hides his scarred face from the world, he works towards revenge against the one who is to blame for his scars. He is at Thorncliff Manor with his family but will not let most of them see his face. When his hostess holds a masquerade, he comes out to be at the party, face completely covered by a mask.

At the masquerade, he sees a lady who enchants him.

He cannot resist Lady Mary, but he can't bear for her to

Affaire de Coeur

Editing Services
 Substantive/Developmental • Content • Line
 A thorough and detailed edit. Free Sample Edit Available!
 Chrissy Szarek
 ca@caszarek.com www.caszarek.com/editing

see his scars so while he wants to see her again, he will not show his face or reveal his identity. Because of this, her aunt bars Mary from seeing him again, but they can't stay away from each other, so Richard comes up with a way they can continue to see each other in secret. They both have secrets that they keep.

Sophie Barnes' latest "Secrets at Thorncliff Manor" title is very well written with surprise twists. Her hero and heroine are appealing, and the plot will keep readers riveted.

Heather Nordahl Files

Magnate (The Knickerbocker Club-Book 1)

Joanna Shupe

Zebra

Mass Market

978-1420139846

☆☆☆

Elizabeth is a rebellious blue-blood. Rules be damned, she is going to start her own investment firm. To do this, Elizabeth needs a man, and she knows just the man she needs.

Emmett pulled himself up from utmost poverty to astounding wealth. The upper class's opinion is irrelevant to him. He's intrigued by Elizabeth and her business proposition.

While meeting with Emmett in a private dining

room, Elizabeth is overcome with passion. She's in his arms when her brother bursts in! William demands that Emmett marry Elizabeth. He refuses and William threatens to deny Emmett's sisters entrée to polite society. Emmett capitulates.

Immediately after the wedding, Elizabeth learns of the blackmail. Elizabeth decides that she will not consummate the marriage and will seek an annulment. A freak blizzard strands Elizabeth and Emmett and her resolve is forgotten.

The couple is settling into marital bliss when someone buys thirty percent of the shares in Emmett's company. When he learns that Elizabeth bought the shares, Emmett believes that she has betrayed him. Can Elizabeth convince Emmett that she bought the shares to protect him from a hostile takeover? Will Emmett ever learn to love Elizabeth the way she loves him?

This is the beginning of a new series. It's filled with exciting sex and a smattering of vulgar language. It's an interesting book.

Sheila Griffin

The Pleasure of the Rose

Jane Bonander

Diversion Books

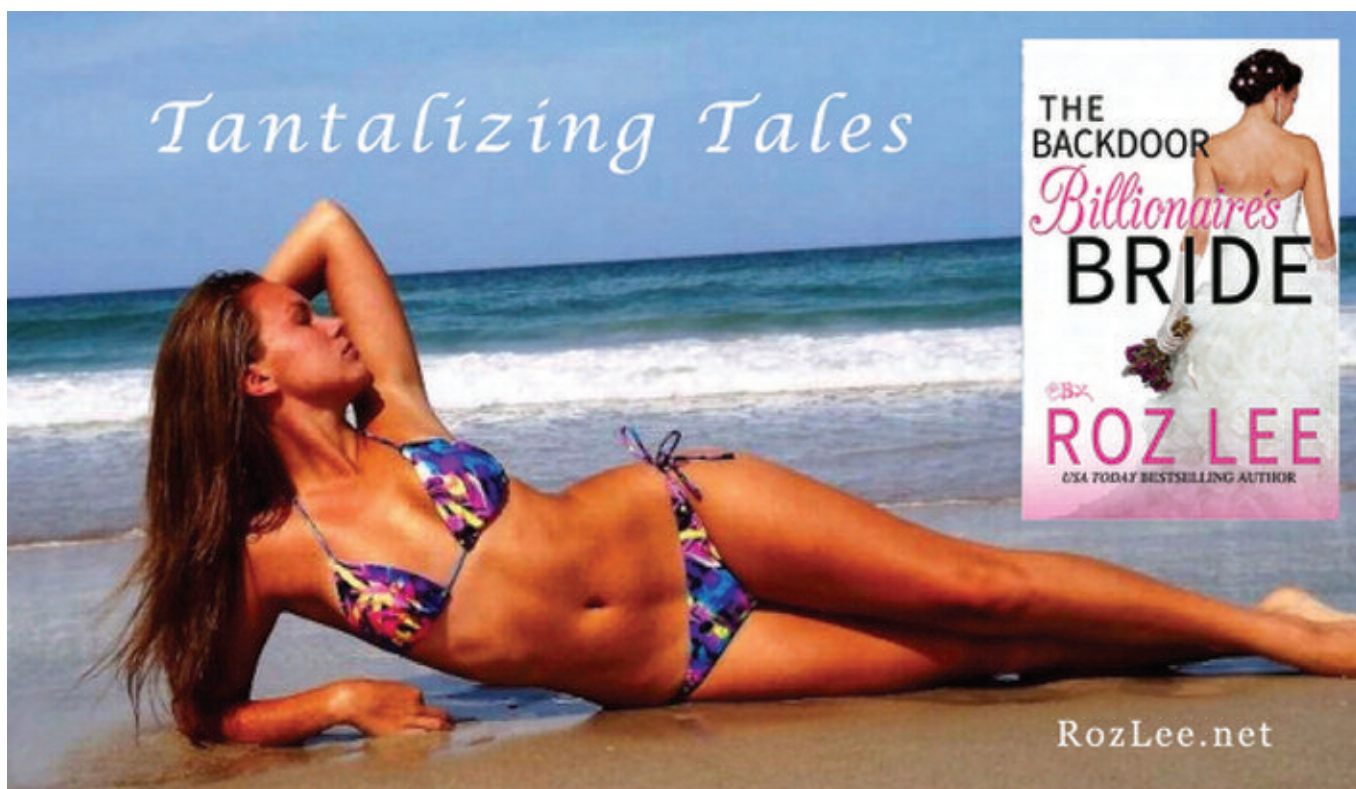
Trade Paperback

978-1682302897

☆☆☆1/2

Fletcher MacNeil, a Texas half-Comanche, half-Scottish man, gets a reprieve from an unjust death sentence when he learns he is the new Duke of

Tantalizing Tales



Historical

Kintyre. To retain the fortune that comes along with it, he must marry and produce an heir within a year. Geddes, the family lawyer and man-of-affairs, suggests his sister, Rosalyn, the estate's widowed housekeeper. Rosalyn doesn't know what to think of this new duke with his wild ways. Can they find an accord between them, marry and have a child together?

Jane Bonander takes a rugged man of the West and implants him in the land of his father's heritage, Scotland, where he has to adapt to a new way of life and convince his reluctant bride that he is worthy of her love and trust. The view of life on a small Scottish island was fascinating and engrossing. Fletcher and Rosalyn are charismatic leads, strong-willed and flawed, but lovable. They have a lot of chemistry

between them, and their courtship and road to love make for enjoyable reading. Overall, this is a well-written romance, although too short, with suspense that is anticlimactic. Western and Scottish historical romance fans will appreciate the union of both in this book.
Danielle Hill

Why Do Dukes Fall in Love?

Megan Frampton
Avon
Mass Market
978-0062412829
☆☆☆1/2

Edwina Cheltam was left in

straitened circumstances by her husband when he died, so she needs to find employment. She applies for a position as secretary to Michael, the Duke of Hadlow. It is quite unusual for a woman to be a secretary, but she is the first candidate he has interviewed who is not irritating or stupid or both. He has little patience for most people, but Edwina does not try his patience.

Edwina lives in the Duke's huge residence and is even allowed to keep her daughter with her. Michael is astounded by his impulsive generosity towards Edwina, but it is his attraction to her that is the biggest surprise. She feels the same way, but as their professional relationship inches towards something more, she knows it has no future.

Megan Frampton's latest "Dukes Behaving Badly" may be her best yet. Edwina's daughter Gertrude is adorable, and Michael is a terrific, complex character. The sexual tension between hero and heroine sizzles. Not to be missed.

Heather Nordahl Files

Erotica Romance Reviews



Nailed

Opal Carew

St. Martin's Press

Trade Paperback

978-1250052872

★★★★1/2

River Cassidy had always been the slightly odd girl in school. She wore quirky clothes with lots of pizzazz and had always been fascinated with glitzy nail polish. Her dream was to own her own nail polish business. Presently, she worked at Giselle's, a high-end cosmetics and accessories shop, but she wasn't happy. So she decided to start a Kickstarter page to see if she could raise enough money to start her own business. Much to her surprise, she had only one contributor and that person had funded her entire campaign! Now she just had to have dinner with whoever it was and thank them for helping make her dreams come true.

When River arrived at the very expensive restaurant that her benefactor had picked out, she wasn't sure she could afford it. Then she saw Kane Winters and all her college insecurities came flooding back. The way he made her heart flutter, the feel of his hands on her and

the humiliation that he had caused her--humiliation bad enough that she had dropped out of school. Kane was everything River was not. He came from wealth, then made his own millions after school, and was handsome, sexy and charming. And River would never forgive him. Kane knew he had his work cut out for him. He had been obsessing over River since college and had been looking for her to make up for the humiliation she had suffered. When his business partner saw her Kickstarter page, Kane figured out a way to make it up to her. He would fully fund her business if she would marry him!

This is a wonderful, quirky, heartwarming book with a twist at the end that this reviewer really didn't see coming. It doesn't ruin the book, by any means, but it does leave the reader with a lot of questions about the relationship that develops between River and Kane. Both are very likeable and their characters are well developed. River is overly sensitive, with good reason, but Kane is patient and understanding and, even though he sounds like a jerk for forcing her to marry him, he's not. This is a good book.

Lani Roberts

Erotica

Sexual Healing

Allison Hobbs and Cairo

Strebor Books

Trade Paperback

978-1593096724

★ ★ 1/2

Cruz Fontaine used to be a big-time gangster in his little part of the world. He was a tall, good-looking, brown-skinned man who had lots of money and lots of women. He had been in the game since thirteen after he lost his mother and broke his promise to her never to sell drugs. He had always felt guilty about that, so when he had the chance, he got out of the drug game and went legit. Now he coached underprivileged boys and helped out in his neighborhood. He was a self-made millionaire, and he figured he had everything he wanted. He couldn't figure out why he felt like something was missing. All he had to do was snap his fingers and women would come running to do whatever he wanted. What was missing?

Arabia Knight knew she was hot. She kept herself runway ready, always fabulous and knew her way around men to get what she wanted--married men. Her mother was a grade-A gold-digger and Arabia had always felt she had killed her father for his money. Her three sisters were all happily married, but Arabia couldn't see it. She had a good job, a fancy car, big penthouse, designer clothes and didn't pay for any of it. Her money was her own and her married men paid for everything else. But she kept her freaky side to herself. She couldn't have her benefactors find out just how down and dirty she could get. And right now she was feeling totally freakish and wanted to get nasty. So she went hunting at her sex club.

This was a hard book to get through. There is so much vulgarity and obscenity throughout the book that it was hard to like the erotic parts. Written in the vernacular of the streets, both Cruz and Arabia are hard characters to warm up to. If you can make it through to the end, there are redeeming qualities in both Cruz and Arabia, but this is definitely not a book that I would recommend reading out in public.

Lani Roberts

Sweet Thang

Deatri King-Bey

Hourglass Unlimited

Trade Paperback

978-0982967348

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Joy was a happy, well-adjusted thirty-three-year-old virgin who taught elementary school. She was the youngest of an affluent Black family, and she was the baby of the family, literally. Her mother was extremely over protective and Joy's siblings were CEO's, university department heads, etc. and, as far as her mother was concerned, Joy was a failure and disappointment because she preferred to be "only" a fourth grade teacher. Joy's mother decided that Joy needed a strong man to "take her in hand," so she introduced her to Edward, a wealthy, older, overbearing, arrogant doctor her mother thought was just perfect. Bertha, Joy's grandmother, on the other hand, went online and created a profile for Joy on a dating site under the handle Sweet Thang.

Sean had been two-timed by women one time too many. After throwing out his fiancée when he came home early and found her in bed with another man, Sean needed an outlet for his rage. So he signed onto a chat room under the moniker of Angry White Man and ranted and raved about the female gender. He would either get agreements (from the men) or outrage from the women until he started chatting with Sweet Thang, who challenged his outlook and opinions on so many levels that he was totally intrigued. She constantly called him on his crap but did it in a lighthearted, logical manner. Before long, Sean knew he was smitten, and he had never even met her!

I have to admit that, as an African-American woman, I found the title of this book totally off-putting. As I got into the story and discovered Sweet Thang was Joy's grandmother's doing, my whole perspective changed, and I really enjoyed this book. It's an extremely well-written, sexy book without the crassness of most eroticas. Joy and Sean click on a friendship, intellectual level before ever meeting, and he respects the fact that she's a virgin and doesn't find it weird or unusual, which was like a breath of fresh air. Ms. King-Bey deals with several deep emotional matters, like family, molestation, stalking and female empowerment, without becoming the least bit preachy. The sex scenes sizzle, and both Joy and Sean are delightful lovers--eventually. And the secondary storyline of Sherri, Edward's long-time mistress, is just as intriguing as her main characters. This is a five-star read from start to finish.

Lani Roberts



Arsenic with Austen

Katherine Bolger Hyde

Minotaur Books

Hardcover

978-1466872424

☆☆☆1/2

and mankind, along with her analytical nature, makes her a distinctive heroine and gives her an edge as a good detective. Emily's relationship with Luke is a nice romantic flavoring to this novel. *Arsenic with Austen* is a good start to a promising series.

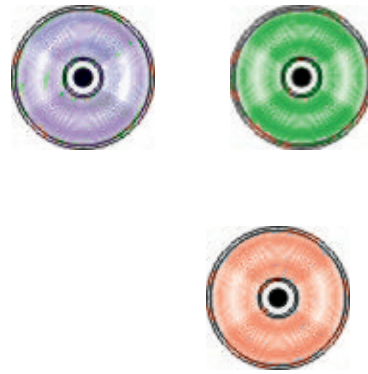
Danielle Hill

Arsenic with Austen is first in a cozy mystery series featuring widowed college literature professor Emily Cavanaugh. She inherits her recently deceased aunt's fortune, quickly realizing that her aunt's death is a murder. She goes back to Stony Beach, Oregon, to settle her aunt's affairs and meets her first love, Luke Richards, now the sheriff. Apparently their romantic feelings haven't died.

Emily learns that whoever did in her aunt has nefarious intentions for her as well, eager to get her out of the way between them and her aunt's lucrative fortune. Using her love of literature, can Emily figure out who killed her aunt and protect herself in the process?

This is a good contemporary mystery with an interesting setup. The references to classic literature will appeal to bookworms, and the cast of characters is nicely quirky. While suspenseful in parts, including an exciting climax, the pace stutters in others. Emily's faith in God





Audio Books

Buried

Author Kendra Elliot

Narrated by Luke Daniels

Brilliance Audio

CD

978-1469289342

**** 1/2

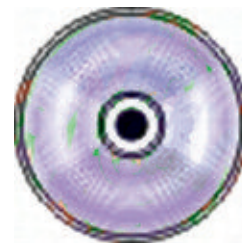
Buried secrets and a notorious serial killer are the premise for *Buried*, part of the “Bone Secrets” series by author Kendra Elliot. Performed by Luke Daniels, *Buried* is a thrilling and chilling story he brings to life for the listener. There is a school bus unearthed as Michael Brody stands with the police, ready to begin the daunting task of identifying the many bones. Michael is waiting to see if his brother Daniel is one of the victims that disappeared 20 years ago. When the identification is finished and Daniel isn’t one of the victims, he begins a search to find the lone survivor, Chris Jacobs, and get some answers.

Jamie Jacobs is wary when Michael shows up at her home asking questions about her brother. Chris is a recluse, still damaged by his ordeal, and he doesn’t want to be found and doesn’t want to face the press again. Michael needs her help to locate Chris and find more information about his brother. Working together to find answers, they soon develop a closeness and trust each has been looking for.

Romance and intrigue combine as they uncover a sadistic killer and his victims. I thoroughly enjoyed

Buried, and plan to purchase more in this series.

Lettetia Elsasser



End Game

Catherine Coulter and J.T. Ellison

Narrated by Renee Raudman and Macleod Andrews

Brilliance Audio

CD

978-1491545898

****1/2

The End Game is a *Brit in the FBI* addition that is a non-stop action thriller from the first pages. Co-written by Catherine Coulter and J.T. Ellison, FBI agents are investigating a violent group known as COE, Celebrants of Earth. Known for their bombings and violent propaganda, agents Nathan Drummond and Mike Caine barely escaped a bombing at a refinery. When they find a suspect and his guards dead, they are convinced it is COE. As the group

Audios

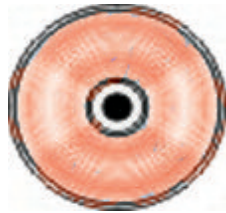
launches a cyber-attack on several oil refineries, they have a priority to stamp out the group and its followers.

CIA agent Vanessa Grace has been undercover in COE, assigned to steal information and bombs. With a brilliant young scientist developing the bombs and leading the dangerous group, she uncovers another threat; the infamous assassin, Zahir Damari, working to steal the same bombs to provide Hezbollah and other Iranian contacts with necessary weapons. He also plans to assassinate the President and Vice President of the United States.

Bring the help of American FBI Agents Dillon Savich and Lacey Sherlock, along with the CIA, Mossad, and Secret Service, and you have a brilliant thriller like most of Coulter and Ellison's books. Read by Renee Raudman and Macleod Andrews, their voices lend credence and bring life and drama to the story. I can always count on Coulter and Ellison to write great fiction.

L e t t e t i a

Elsasser



The Hidden

Author Heather Graham

Narrated by Phil Gigante

Brilliance Audio

CD

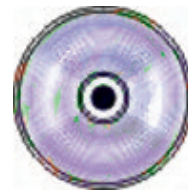
978-1491505571

Scarlet Barlow is a historian working at a small museum. She loves the place, with its majestic scenery and friendly staff and people. But strange things are happening at the B&B. Statues in the museum are being moved, strange photos of a dead couple from 100 years ago are turning up on her camera. There was a murder on this same spot shortly after the Civil War, and it seems like the same murderer is committing crimes in the present day.

FBI agent, Diego McCullough, still reeling from his recent divorce with Scarlet, has been asked to join the Krewe of Hunters. The Krewe is not your usual group of agents; they are a unit that deals with "unusual paranormal" situations. Scarlet needs help and he is quick to go to her aid, particularly when Nathan Kendall, murder victim from the distant past, begins to talk to her.

The Hidden is a fast paced ride with many situations to keep the listener interested. Estes Park, Colorado, is the setting for *The Hidden* and narrator Phil Gigante brings the story to brilliant life. His smooth voice has a range that enables him to let the listener know which character is speaking and Heather Graham has a gift for writing paranormal and romantic suspense rolled into one. I would recommend this book to anyone that enjoys this genre.

Lettetia Elsasser



The Highlander's Vow

Author Barbara Longley

Narrated by Luke Daniels

Brilliance Audio

CD

978-1511376303

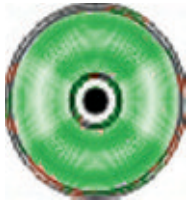
Though I am not normally a fan of time travel romances, *The Highlander's Vow* was an enjoyable book from beginning to end. Murderous plots to kill her by her betrothed send Sky Elizabeth on the run, only to fall through a portal that lands her at the feet of a 21st Century knight in tarnished armor.

Struan, bastard son of the Earl of Sutherland, once escaped death through the same portal. When Sky literally lands at his feet, he knows what has brought her to this century. His chivalrous upbringing has him vowing to protect the lovely woman, though he is very attracted to her. Sky may be attracted to Struan but she must gain his help in returning to prevent a clan war.

Filled with passion, intrigue, and a great cast of characters, *The Highlander's Vow* is part of the "Loch Moig" series by Longley. Performed by Luke Daniels, his voice lends itself to bring the scenes to life as this reader listened. I truly enjoyed *The Highlander's Vow*

Audios

and will be listening to more in this series.
Letitia Elsasser



Wicked Angel

Author Julia London

Narrated by Anne Flosnik

Brilliance Audio

CD

978-1491507445

A classic from Julia London, *Wicked Angel* is one of my favorite books by this author. Lauren Hill, aka Bavarian Countess Bergen, is a beautiful, sensible, warm-hearted woman who cares deeply for a brood of orphans she has taken into her care. Fallen on hard times, she is happy to spend time with the children, growing a profitable garden of tomatoes and pumpkins, chasing pigs through the fields, and stumbling upon a gorgeous man out for a ride.

When Alexander Sutherland meets this lovely country girl, he is bemused, aroused; she captured his heart. His responsibilities as the Duke of Sutherland have him betrothed to a lovely and generous woman of his own class. When the *ton* starts buzzing about a beautiful Countess, Alex recognizes the country girl he met before. Curious and on guard about what scheme she has planned, he vows to uncover her and make certain she is punished. His attraction keeps him from following through with his plans.

Wicked Angel is one of those stories that make you fall in love with the characters right away. The many twists and turns as the love story evolves make this highly entertaining. Read by Anne Flosnik, her voice lends itself to bringing the time and place to vivid life.
Letitia Elsasser

Shadows fall...
Magic rises.

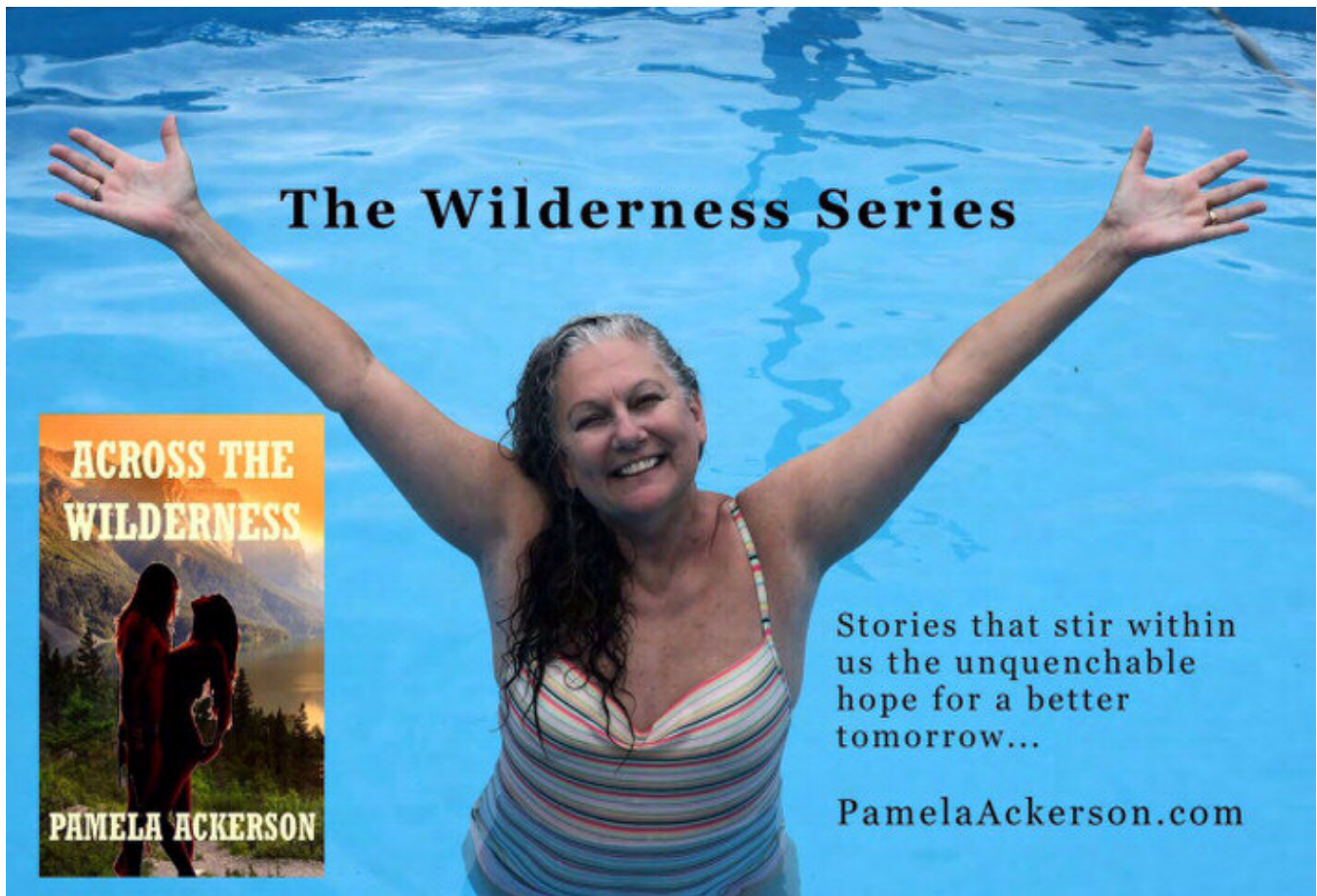
SWORD'S CALL
C.A. SZAREK

LOVE'S CALL
C.A. SZAREK

ROGUE'S CALL
C.A. SZAREK

She's on the run.
He's a rogue.
Can he protect her?

www.caszarek.com



Winners of the Cover Art Contest Announced--37233 votes

Hot Guyz Patrol

- 1st Place--*Time to Die* by Jackie Ivie (1409)
- 2nd Place--*Exist* by Jackie Ivie (1224)
- 3rd Place--*Trouble in Paradise* by Barbara Dan (883)

- His Wicked Dream* by Adrienne deWolfe (292)
- No Greater Hell* by Jerrie Alexander (76)
- Highland Hart* by Cooper McKenzie (64)
- Stud for Hire* by Sabrina York (44)
- Hot Rod* by Sabrina York (25)

Almost Kiss

- 1st Place--*First Impressions* by Peggy Jaeger (12055)
- 2nd Place--*Renegade Heart* by Madeline Baker (5727)
- 3rd Place--*MacGregor's Bride* by Barbara Dan (2334)
- Texas Lover* by Adrienne deWolfe (612)
- Knight to Remember* by Catherine Kean (164)
- Defiant* by Sabrina York (37)
- Guide Me* by Chelsea Brighton (24)
- Training Tessa* by Debra Doggett (6)

Gorgeous Gals

- 1st Place--*An Angel's Redemption* by Annalisa Russo (539)
- 2nd Place--*The Oracle* by Miranda Lynn (503)
- 3rd Place--*Dance of Desire* by Catherine Kean (195)

- Love and the Pursuit of Justice* by C.K. Charlotte (100)
- The Color of Courage* by Natalie J Damschroder (66)
- Beauty and the Highland Beast* by Lecia Cornwall (20)
- The Backdoor Billionaire's Bride* by Roz Lee (18)
- Tears in the Dust* by Virginia Crane (16)

Uniquely Yours

- 1st Place--*Lady of the Two Lands* by Elizabeth Delisi (7880)
- 2nd Place--*The Hummingbird Wizard* by Meredith Blevins (1518)
- 3rd Place--*Summer of Irreverence* by Cathrine Goldstein (1043)

- Chase the Lightning* by Madeline Baker (187)
- Voices of Angels* by Peggy Jaeger (145)
- A Solitary Horseman* by Deborah Camp (34)
- Home at Last* by Mary Jane Morgan (28)

Booty from the Other Genre



Panacea

F. Paul Wilson

Tom Doherty Associates,

Hardcover

978-0765385161

★★★★★



Panacea begins with Laura Fanning, a very frustrated medical examiner, who cannot determine the cause of death of two badly burned bodies. They were in such perfect health that they never should have died. The fire that burned them was not the cause of death.

Both bodies had a strange tattoo--a pole with something wrapped around it and a drawing of a comet falling to earth. Later she would find some text that identified it as the "falling star that slew summer." This was an asteroid that caused a perpetual winter on Earth in 536 A.D. And then there was this belt with strange markings on it.

The riddle was that the tattoo could be used to decode the figures on the belt that would show the location of the asteroid. If one found that location, the key to a miracle drug called Panacea would be found there. The trouble was, if one found the location, what would they look for? What would the drug Panacea look like?

Dying billionaire Clayton Stahlman will give her five million dollars to look for the drug as well as offer his body guard Rick Hayden for protection. The body guard turned out to be a good idea. A fanatical cult called the 536 Brotherhood wants to kill her for the drug. They believe that curing all disease goes against God's will. They want to find the drug so that they can destroy it. And then there is the cult that owns the drug. What is their agenda?

Panacea is fast moving and very well done.
Paul Zunino

Spells of Blood and Kin: A Dark Fantasy

Claire Humphrey

Thomas Dunne Books

Hardcover

978-1250076342

★1/2

Lissa's grandmother was a Koldun'ia, a Russian witch. She was teaching Lissa her craft when she unexpectedly died. The old woman's death was a tragedy for more people than just Lissa.

Maksim became a berserker centuries ago when the ability to blindly kill was highly valued. In the modern world this trait is less desirable. Decades ago Maksim saved the witch's life. In return, she placed a restraining spell on the beast that lives within him. Her death has broken the spell.

Maksim has lived in relative peace since the binding spell was cast. When he is consumed by the violence once again, Maksim knows something has gone wrong. He seeks out the old woman to find out why the spell has stopped working.

Along the way, Maksim infects a young stoner with his berserker blood. With the restraining spell gone, all of Maksim's concentration is centered on not killing anyone. By the time he realizes that he's infected someone, Maksim has no idea how to find the young man. If Maksim doesn't find him soon, the need for violence will overwhelm the boy and he will begin to kill.

The main characters in this story are not likeable people. There are secondary characters who are likeable, but they only have minor roles in the story. This is a very dark and dismal book.

Sheila Griffin

Booty

A Time of Torment

John Connolly

Atria Books

E-Book

978-1501118326

★★★★★



One has only to read the first chapter to realize that this book is science fiction horror. Serial killer Roger Ormsby likes to go after children. But he likes to do more than that--he wants to make the parents and relatives of those he kills suffer also....for decades if he can manage it.

However, he is not crazy. He is possessed by a spiritual entity called the "Grey Man." Connolly describes the Grey Man as something that does not really exist because it has no body. So you can't kill it because it is not alive

like we are.

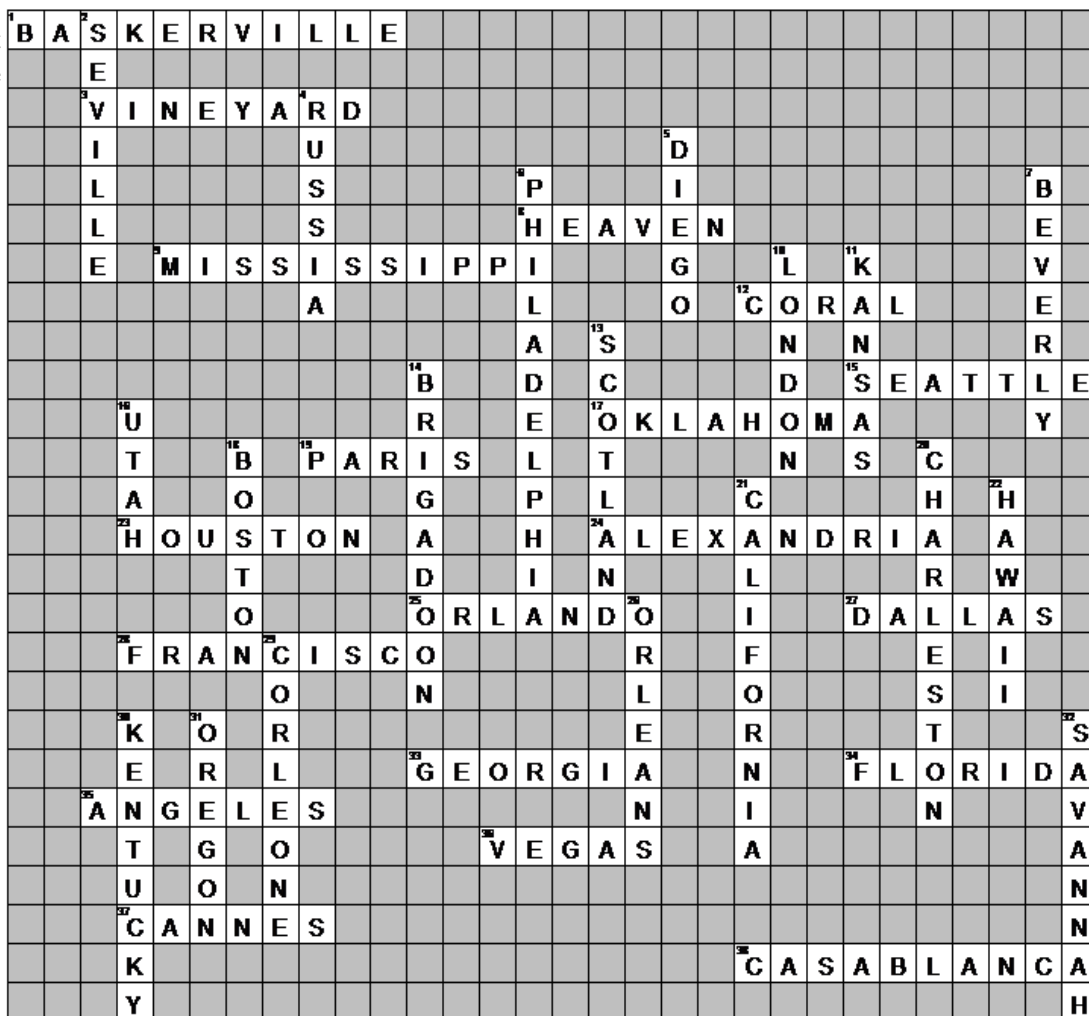
Since this book is a "Charlie Parker" mystery novel, Parker is the central character in it. He is a private detective who comes to the aide of Jerome Burnel who needs his help badly.

Jerome made an innocent mistake that may cost him his life. He stopped at a gas station to get a cup of coffee. However, the station was being robbed at the time. Jerome shot the attacker and became an instant hero. The problem was the bad guy didn't look quite human. He was too tall, and there was something wrong with his teeth. Too white. And his fingers too long for his hands. What all this means is that the robbery is only the beginning of his problems. Now someone is after him--actually, more than one is after him.

To get to the bottom of things, Parker must enter an isolated community called "The Cut." But The Cut plays by its own rules and its own laws, and they will worship a creature called "The Dead King." One wrong move, and Parker will vanish just like others have before him.

Well done!

Paul Zunino





Better Late Than Never (Galley's sent to us too late to go in the past issue)

How to Manage a Marquess

Sally MacKenzie

Zebra

Mass Market

978-1420137149

☆☆☆☆

Nate, Marquess of Haywood, has been impacted by the Spinster's Curse along with his cousin, the Duke of Hart. His mother made him swear on her deathbed to protect his cousin from the curse, even if that meant he would have to put off marriage until he turned forty. When he accompanies his cousin, he is tempted for the very first time to break his vow when he meets Miss Anne Davenport.

Anne wants to be the next spinster at the Spinster House of Loves Bridge, if only to get away from her father and his young soon-to-be-bride. Marriage will just get in the way of both their plans. But best laid plans....

Sally Mackenzie's characteristic humor and sexy romance is showcased in *How to Manage a Marquess*. Nate is a very nice man, quite honorable and determined to do the right thing. He's fixed on ignoring his heart and libido, but his feelings for Anne get in the way. He is protective and sympathetic of her in the situation she faces with a father remarrying and being a spinster with nowhere to go. Together they have great chemistry. MacKenzie takes the time to develop their romance to its satisfying conclusion.

Danielle Hill



AdC

AFFAIRE DE COEUR

Fall in Love with Us Again!

The only place you can have an affaire without the guilt.

Don't miss out on up-and-coming news about the Romance market. Featured in *Writer's Market* and voted one of the top ten publications in San Francisco Bay Area, *Affaire de Coeur* offers:

Interviews with your favorite authors

Writing tips from those who've made it

Audio Reviews

Booty from other genres

Reader/Writer Awards

Reviews, Reviews, and more reviews!



FREE Online Issue with every print subscription

Renew Your Affaire Today!

12 Issues: ~~\$35~~ Now Only **\$17.00!**
24 Issues: ~~\$65~~ Now Only **\$32.50!**
12 **ONLINE** issues **\$10.00!**



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Checks Payable to: *Affaire de Coeur*
3976 Oak Hill Road Oakland, CA 94605
or Renew online with PayPal!

NOW AVAILABLE ON YOUR IPAD OR MOBILE DEVICE!

To Get Our Paperless Subscription, visit
www.adcmagazine.com/subscriptions.html

