

March/April, 2018

# *Affaire de Coeur*

*Bringing You 37 Years of Honest Reviews*

What would happen if all the women and their inventions disappeared? Read Louise Snead's story,

"Women" inside

March is Women's History Month, and Debra Parmley's corner brings us a woman cover model--Kristin Hope Mazzola



Meet Charity Parkerson  
of Punk and Sissy Publications

**Reviews!**  
**Reviews!**  
**Reviews!**



AdC shines their spotlights on Peggy  
Jaeger and Rachel Bramble







# Affaire de Coeur

## The Staff

### Editorial Director

Louise B. Snead

### Editor in Chief

Lanelle Brent

### President of Advertising and Marketing

Pamela Ackerson

### Founder and ROM-CON Director

Barbara N. Keenan

### Literary Reviewers

Mildred Burkett • Lauren Calder • Martin Chan • Letteta Elsasser • Heather Nordahl Files • Sheila Griffin •  
Danielle Hill • Lacy Hill • Lani Roberts • Angel Shaw • Paul Zunino

*Affaire de Coeur* is published bi-monthly at 3976 Oak Hill Road, Oakland, California 94605-4931 Telephone (510) 569-5675  
Fax (510) 632-8868:

Email address: [affairedecoeur@adcmagazine.com](mailto:affairedecoeur@adcmagazine.com)

*Affaire de Coeur* Inc #039-3881. 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 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 \$36 for 12 issues First Class. Third class subscriptions are \$24.00 for 12 months. Canadian  
subscriptions are \$65.00 for one year. Other foreign countries rates are dependent upon the cost of mailing. A single issue is  
\$5.95. A subscription may be purchased on line at [www.adcmagazine.com/subscriptions](http://www.adcmagazine.com/subscriptions).

Visit us at [www.adcmagazine.com](http://www.adcmagazine.com) or [www.affairedecoeur.com](http://www.affairedecoeur.com)

*Pictures of flowers featured in this issue were taken by Louise Snead at the Japanese Tea  
Garden in San Francisco, California*

## CONTENTS

March-April, 2018



## \* Departments and Columns

Puzzler	21
Contemporary Romance Reviews	26
Historical Romance Reviews	29
Erotica Romance Reviews	32
Mystery Reviews	33
Paranormal Romance Reviews	35
Audio Reviews	36

## Articles

Punk and Sissy Publishing	4
“Self-Publishing Does Not Have to be a Disaster	6
“Liar, Liar....” Sixty-year-old Judith Hill continues her online dating saga	9
The First Spotlight is on Peggy Jaeger	12
This issue of Debra Parmley’s model corner features cover model--Kristin Hope Mazzola	14
The Second Spotlight is on Rachel Brimble	18
What would we do without women?	22



# Punk and Sissy Publishing House



*Charity Parkerson is an award winning and multi-published author with several companies:*

*\*Seven-time Readers' Favorite Award Winner*

*\*2015 Passionate Plume Award Finalist*

*\*2013 Reviewers' Choice Award Winner*

*\*2012 ARRA Finalist for Favorite Paranormal Romance*

*\*Five-time winner of The Mistress of the Darkpath*

*Born with no filter from her brain to her mouth, she decided to take this odd quirk and insert it in her characters.*

*Thank you for taking the time to visit with us. Here are some burning questions from authors and readers looking for a good, honest, and reliable publisher.*

**AdC:** When did you know you wanted to help authors with their dreams of becoming a published author and how long have you been in the publishing business?

**C.P.:** I've been in the publishing business about 14 years. My mom is also an author, and we both started out traditionally published. I moved to self-publishing ahead of her, so I'd already made all the mistakes before she decided to try it. Helping her publish her books was my first step into helping other authors. It was never an intentional plan. I just found myself taking on

more and more authors as I met people who fit.

**AdC:** What type of books do you publish?

**C.P.:** Everything from children's books to poetry to hardcore erotica. You can get an idea of what we do from the excerpts cited with each book cover on the next page:

**AdC:** What do you look for and expect from an author?

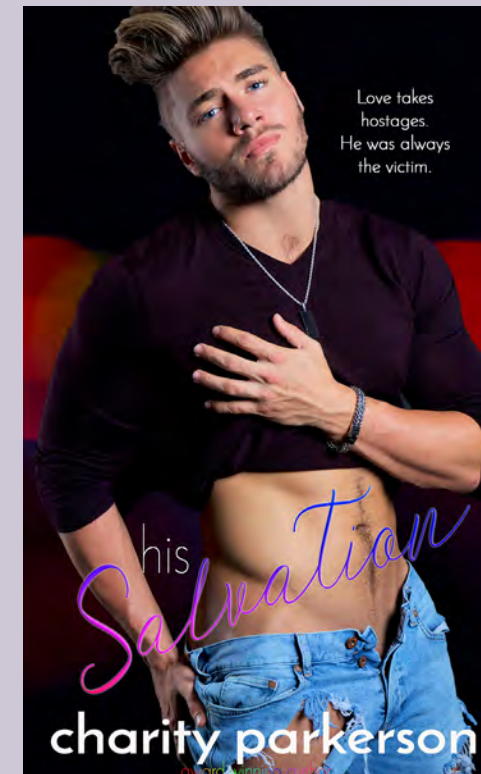
**C.P.:** I look for people who can't quit. Not people who I think won't, but people who can't. Writing is a hard career path. I know some people make it look easy, but it's not. People give up this career all the time, because it's a real struggle. If you think you can quit, you should. If you know you can't, then you're in the right business.



## Excerpt from *Pure Hell*

*Not good enough for heaven but not bad enough to burn. Kylie has a slight problem. She's dead and trapped between the realms. Left with no options, she follows Detective Liam Stone on the hunt for her killer. Death has left Kylie invisible but does nothing to dampen her desire for the sexy detective. Instead, it gives her the freedom to do as she pleases with his body, and what a delicious body it is.*

*Liam's determined to solve Kylie's case but as the clues uncover an underground world of demonic torture and pacts, Liam must face his own secrets or the flames of passion won't*



*be the only ones the couple will have to face.*

## Excerpt from *His Salvation*

*Jayden is the guy everyone wants. Until they have him, that is. Now he's done with love.*

*For months, Jayden tried winning back his ex while being chased by Darrel. It seemed like the minute he gave in to Darrel and*

*the man won his heart, Darrel was done. That seems to be Jayden's lot in life. Men want him until they have him. He's the thrill of the chase. Now he's done with men. With his broken heart held tight to his chest, Jayden intends to head to California and start over. Fate has other plans. One last day on the job is all that stands between Jayden and a new life. That, and the man holding him hostage at the bank.*

*Darrel has loved no one other than Jayden. It's not Jayden's fault Darrel is a screw-up. That's all on Darrel. He's never been good at holding a relationship together. That doesn't mean he intends to let Jayden get away. There's only one problem; he has to keep the man alive if he hopes to win him back. There's no lengths Darrel won't go to for Jayden. Even if it means Darrel has to walk away from Jayden.*

**AdC:** How do you market your authors' books?

**C.P.:** Advertising on Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, Instagram, blogs, and giveaways. The list goes on and on, but I also expect authors to do their part. If you're not willing to sell yourself, then no one else can help you.

**AdC:** Are there any author fees that need to be paid upfront? Or future fees? For example, do you give author discounts for books ordered for book signings, etc. or do they have to pay full price for the books?

**C.P.:** There's a fee to advertise on the homepage of Punk & Sissy Publications. Additionally, if an author wants to join a giveaway, they have to contribute toward the prize, and help spread the word. Otherwise, money should always flow toward the author. If a company asks you for money, run.

**AdC:** Are you taking author sub-

missions and/or are you hiring?

**C.P.:** Not at this time.

## Social media contact information:

Connect with Charity online:

--Join my street team: [facebook.com/TeamCharityParkerson](https://www.facebook.com/TeamCharityParkerson).

--Sign up for my newsletter: <http://bit.ly/CharityNews>.

--Website: [charityparkerson.com](http://charityparkerson.com).

--Facebook: [facebook.com/authorCharityParkerson](https://www.facebook.com/authorCharityParkerson).

[facebook.com/TheMenofSin](https://www.facebook.com/TheMenofSin).

--Twitter: [twitter.com/CharityParkerson](https://twitter.com/CharityParkerson).

-- Publishing site:

[punkandsissypublicaions.com](http://punkandsissypublicaions.com).





# Self-Publishing Doesn't Have to be a Disaster

by Pamela Ackerson

I have been published with a standard/traditional publishing house, a vanity-press, self-published—literally from writing to binding, and self-publishing with Amazon.

I've made mistakes and will most likely continue to make mistakes. Hopefully, I've learned enough and won't make too many more.

We'll start with the fact that you've written a book or even a couple of books.

The book needs to be formatted properly. Now, we're talking about fiction. Non-fiction is handled differently and isn't usually formatted until after the book is edited for multiple reasons. (References, indexing, etc.)

Pick up a book by a large publishing company. Look at some hard copies, some e-books, some trade paperbacks, and some mass market books.

That's what you want to do.

Why? Because they've spent a lot of money researching and re-adjusting to make sure it's formatted to please and entice the reader.

You want to make the reader happy, too. You want to do what is most convenient for them. You want the reader to like your book. You've heard it before. The customer's always right. (Except for the trolls...they don't count.)

If you don't know how to format a manuscript to look like it's been professionally done, you need to pay someone to do it.

Next you want an editor, a good editor. Please don't shake your head and say you don't need one, or don't want one. Even if you're awesome, they'll still find things you've missed.

You want your book to be as professionally published as possible.

Also, even editors aren't perfect and miss mistakes. It happens. When it does and someone has been kind enough to point it out, fix it ASAP.

Obviously, the books that have already been purchased can't be fixed. But, you can make sure any future books don't



have the mistakes in them.

The book is now with the editor and you're doing the promoting and marketing suggested in prior chapters.

The next step is the book cover. Unless you're a professional photographer who makes a living out of taking photographs, please find a professional book cover photographer or book cover designer.

Noticed I said book cover photographer and book cover design-

Why? Because it's a whole different field and the im-

***"You want to make the reader happy, too. You want to do what is most convenient for them. You want the reader to like your book. You've heard it before. The customer's always right."***

er?



## Multi-genre Booksigning

I ♥ Books May 19, 2018

Jacksonville, FL

Authors tables still available [www.floridawriters.net/conferences](http://www.floridawriters.net/conferences)

We want to see you there.

ages need to be done in a specific way and correctly. They understand the differences between placement, pdf images, dpi's, ppi's, overlays, underlays, and opacity.

They understand the importance of and the difference between print and digital photography. They know what's needed to give you a great image.

They know how to increase the size of an image without pixelating it. They know how to reduce the size of an image without causing image corruption.

In other words, they know what they're doing and if they don't do it right, it's on them. They have to fix it.

They also won't use their fancy iPhones for the pictures. They'll use professional cameras, and professional imaging programs.

Rates for covers are all over the place. Do your research. Read the contract. Will the cover be sold to someone else? Is that okay with you? Is the cover exclusive to you?

Remember, your book cover is your first "ad". This is why it's so very important to make sure you have a great cover. Without an enticing, eye-catching cover, you're going to be skipped over by the reader. It has to rock!

Your book cover must stand out. Not stick out, not fade into oblivion, but stand out. Your cover must make the reader want to reach out and grab it.

You're competing against the big guns. You need to use the same tools they do or you'll lose sales. Or worse, not even get someone to "look inside" and read the chapter preview.

You could have the next great, world-renowned novel but if they aren't even going to "look inside" you've dropped the ball. It's not going to do you any good if you can't get them to the next step.

Why? They won't get to step five if the cover isn't awesome.

Yes, step five is very important.

Step one: Write the book.

Step two: Format the book.

Step three: Edit the book.

Step four: Create an awesome book cover. Why? Because readers judge a book by its cover.

Step five: Write an enticing, exciting, interest grabbing description.

Step five is what makes them want to read more of your story.



It must grab their interest. It needs to make them want to buy, or “look inside” and read the chapter preview. This is where so many self-published authors lose their potential readers. You’re awful with writing book descriptions. Do you find it hard to do? I understand. It’s an art form. This is what you need to do. I’ve suggested this to you before, and I’m going to suggest it again.

Go to the first page of the top twenty of the genre you’re publishing at Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Read what and how their descriptions are written. Did you notice the first line is in bold? Or a different color? You need to do that. Read how they’ve written the descriptions and take notes of the wording, adjectives, and adverbs they’re using. You need to do that, just like that.

Do you see the “look inside”?

You need to do that.

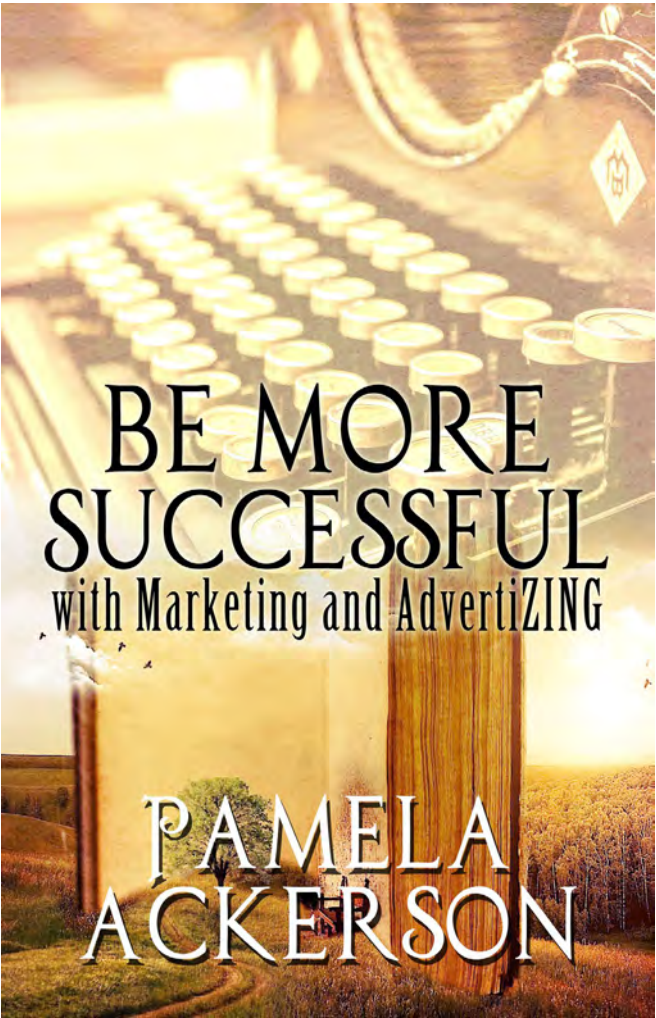
When the book is out, create an author page with Amazon, Goodreads, and anyplace else that will let you. If you publish through Amazon, that author page is free. Goodreads, free.

Now that’s what we like!

Pamela Ackerson works for *Affaire de Coeur* in the marketing and advertising department. She’s an international best-selling author of historical fiction, non-fiction, and time-travel books. Look for her latest non-fiction release, *Be More Successful with Marketing and AdvertiZING* available in print and ebook.

Website: PamelaAckerson.com

Twitter: @PamAckerson



# LIAR, LIAR, PANTS (what pants?) ON FIRE



to same said strangers, that the practice has become practically expected protocol. (Trust me. I know.)

Now comes the second part of the paradox. Despite being more “honest and open” and forthcoming, people online also lie more—or shade the truth. They present themselves as they *want* to be—not as they are. Doctored photos, old photos, “borrowed” from friends photos or photos lifted off Google images are just the tip of the ice berg. But it doesn’t stop with photos. Estimates say 1/3 of online daters claiming to be single, are, in fact, *married*. Other statistics of truth bending: Men shave off 10 years; women shave off 10 pounds. Neither gender skates in the misrepresentation department. Mr. Big and But Fit with a full head of red hair in his photo turns out to be bald and 400lbs, while Tall Slim Brunette shows up in the flesh 5ft tall and 4ft wide. (True stories! B&BF was using a 10-year-old photo. But props for it being *his*! TSB was using a friend’s—who knew nothing about it! I haven’t decided if that’s better or worse than the 50+ year-old woman using her 30-something-year-old daughter’s . . .)

Ladies, forewarned is fore prepared. The adage “honesty is the best policy” is as likely to occur in online dating as a snow day in Hell.

There is a recognized paradox in online dating (Books have been written about it!). Because it is not face to face, there is a sense of disconnect and anonymity. It just doesn’t seem quite as “real” as what is referred to as “organic” dating. This paradox results in two behaviors.

The first is euphemistically referred to as more “honest and open expression.” Pardon me while I gag on the PC interpretation! Ladies, here’s the stripped down truth: Online daters—by virtue of online dating’s anonymity and virtual reality—will engage in behavior they would *never* think to try with a person they have *actually* met. Think cock shots and dick pics to start. (And yes, they are frequent.) A picture may be worth a thousand words, but words, too, have their own power. Online daters often open up and/or type things in a text or email to an absolute stranger (s\ Seriously! *They are strangers!*) they would never consider revealing in person. Members of both genders also so frequently engage in “talk dirty to me” sexting and phone calls

Currently there is a credit card company running a series of ads based upon the tagline: “*Wouldn’t it be great if everyone said what they meant?*” Different spots feature a nosy neighbor, a dishonest contractor and a couple out on a blind date. I’d love to sell them my first face to face online date. I think it would be a perfect addition:

*A man and a woman driving in a car, crossing a bridge. Through the back window of the obviously dirty, dated vehicle the lights of a large city recede in the distance. In the passenger seat she makes polite small talk, to which the driver appropriately responds . . .*

“I can’t get used to how different it is to live here. The traffic, the weather. I really do love the four seasons,” she says.

“I guess it would be pretty different from living in Phoenix.”

“It is,” she agrees.

*Silence descends for several moments. Both appear to be looking for something to say, to fill the awkward quiet.*

She speaks again. “The weather was perfect tonight, such a change from Arizona. It’s been in the 100’s there all week.”

“But it’s a dry heat,” he rejoins. *continued on the next page*



**BEST KEPT Secrets**

One bone-chilling day tragedy struck at the Gunderson's Ranch.

Secretly in love with his best friend's wife, Walker convinces the young widow that with a ranch to run and a young son to raise, she needs a man around the place.

It doesn't take long before the sparks begin to fly!

Available in eBook and Trade Paperback  
[www.BarbaraDan.com](http://www.BarbaraDan.com)

“So they say.”

*Another moment of silence ensues. Then she speaks again.*

“This is my street.” She gestures to the right.

“I can’t believe I missed it earlier.” He laughs. “I need to write things down.”

“Probably.”

*He pulls into the driveway and then heads for the parking spot in the back.*

“What are you doing?” she asks, a tinge of panic in her voice.

“I’m going to walk you to your

door so I can pretend I am a gentleman. When in reality, I am going to grope you in a fake hug and then press my too soft, too wet lips to your overly lipsticked ones.”

“Oh, ok. Just make it quick though. And be sure to tell me what a fabulous first date it was. I’ll then ignore the remark, rather than lie in agreement.”

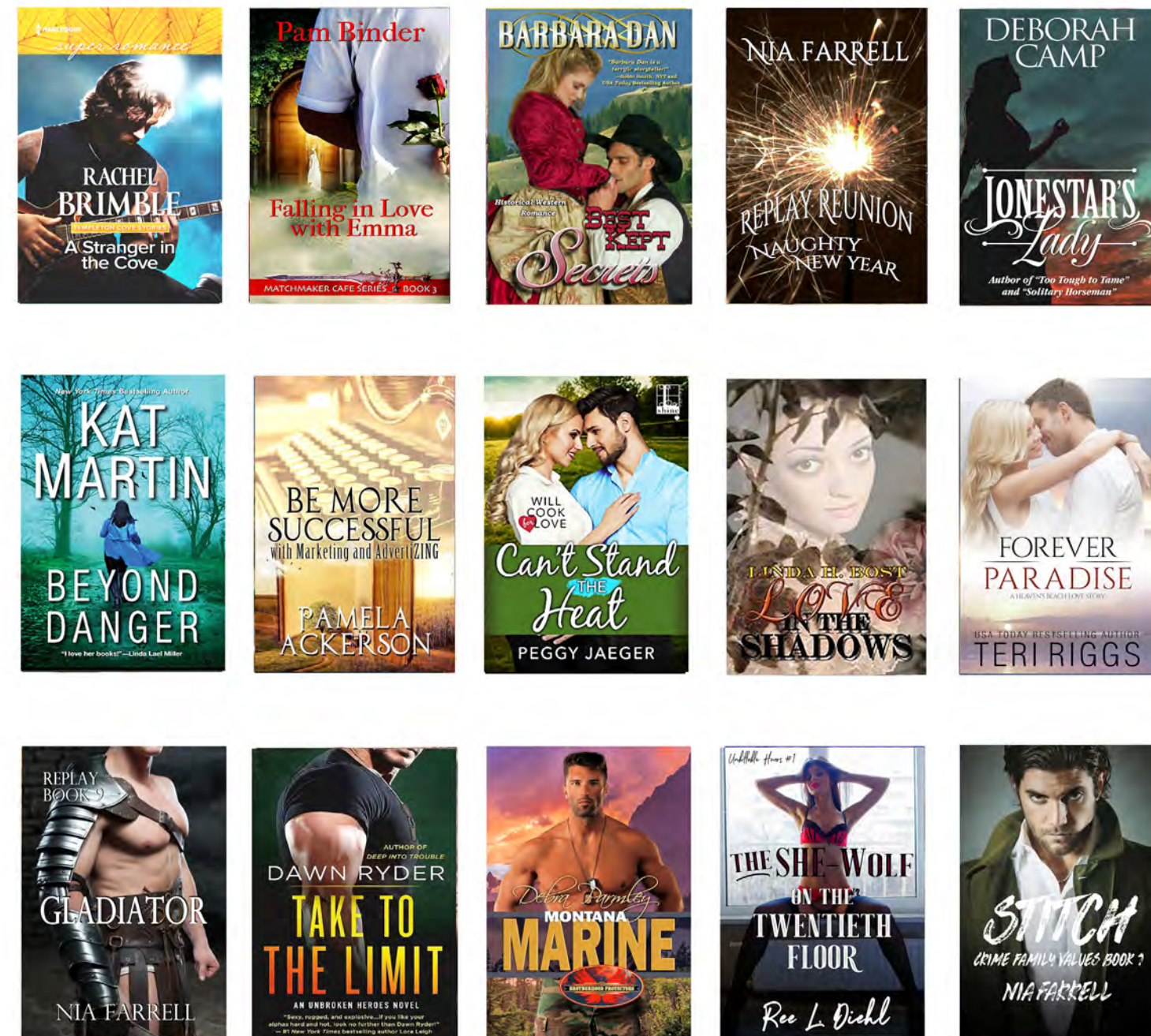
“I will. And don’t forget to thank me for the \$100 dinner I shelled out for nothing, because you’re never going out with me again.”

“Of course. And I’ll also tell you to drive home safely—like I actually give a f\*\*k.”

*Cue narrator:* Yes, wouldn’t it be nice if everyone said what they meant . . .



## Look What You Can Find on AffairedeCoeur.com!



@AffairedeCoeurc

facebook.com/adcmagazine





## Spotlight Interview



### This month the spotlight is on... Peggy Jaeger

*Peggy Jaeger is a contemporary romance writer who writes about strong women, the families who support them, and the men who can't live without them.*

*Family and food play huge roles in Peggy's stories because she believes there is nothing that holds a family structure together like sharing a meal...or two...or ten. Dotted with humor and characters that are as real as they are loving, Peggy brings all topics of daily life into her stories: life, death, sibling rivalry, illness and the desire for everyone to find their own happily ever after.*

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

**P.J.:** I've always been a journal-er, what most people call a diarist, ever since I was a kid. And I wrote stories in my journals all the time about girls who weren't like me, who led amazing lives, and had adventures. I still write in my diary every day, but now I actually get to publish the fiction stories!

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

**P.J.:** That it's my oxygen. My drug of choice. The thing I need to do every day in order to feel total joy and remain happy.

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

**P.J.:** *Can't Stand the Heat* is the third book in my "Will Cook for Love" series from Lyrical Shine. *CSTH* tells Stacy Peter's story. She's a television producer who's developed a show she thinks will be perfect for her network. Before the programming chief will give her the green light for the show though, he asks her to do one more programming favor for him and executive produce an upcoming cooking competition called *Beef Battles* for the network. She'll need to deal with famed director Dominick Stamp who is no fan of producers, or anyone else who interferes with his directing style. Dominick and Stacy are about as opposite as opposite can get in every



way – physically, emotionally, the way they treat the staff, you name it. But you know what they say about opposites and attraction!

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

**P.J.:** Basically, I have the perfect writing day everyday! I write for 3-4 hours in the morning, then go to the gym and do all the adult stuff I need to do like laundry, grocery shop, etc. Then after lunch I write for another 4-5 hours until my hubby comes home from work. I cook dinner, and then we relax for the rest of the evening. Yup, that's my life. Don't hate me!

**AdC:** *How/where do you get your plot ideas?*

**P.J.:** I am a world-class people watcher. And eavesdropper. All my plots start out with the characters. I see a person in a restaurant, or the bank, or even in line at the movies, and I start to imagine their backstory. My first character is usually my heroine, so I give her a life, a career, and a problem. Then I think of a hero who will be integral in either resolving her problem or adding to it. From that, a plot develops.

**AdC:** *What is the most difficult thing about creating and developing characters?*

**P.J.:** Making them real to the reader. I've read books where there is no way on God's green earth the main character could survive in the real world. Either too stupid, too arrogant, or just too plain dumb to be real. I try – and I try hard – to make my characters seem like you'd meet them as neighbors, or at work, or even standing behind you in line at the grocery store. I give them faults, real emotions, issues. See? Real people! When I get it right, and a reader tells me that they could see, hear, and relate to my characters, I do a happy dance, because that's the highest praise you can give me.

**AdC:** *What is your favorite thing about being an author?*



In Peggy Jaeger's delectable series, delicious food is just an appetizer for life's main course: the kind of love that feeds your soul.

PeggyJaeger.com @Peggy\_Jaeger

**P.J.:** Knowing I touched a reader's life or made their day when they read something I wrote.

**AdC:** *How many books do you currently have out on the market and what genres do they fall into?*

**P.J.:** With *Can't Stand the Heat* it'll be eleven and they all fall into the contemporary romance genre. If there was a genre called small town, family oriented, humorous contemporary, that's where my books would fit.

**AdC:** *Will you be attending any book signings or conventions?*

**P.J.:** A couple coming up: April 15, the 2018 Author's Night by the Sea, sponsored by the New England Author's Expo: <http://www.newenglandauthorsexpo.com/2018-authors-night-by-the-sea/>;

April 27, The New England Chapter of RWA LET YOUR IMAGINATION TAKE FLIGHT Book signing: <https://www.eventsinusa.net/event-romance-author-book-signing-necrwa-annual-conference-burlington-13301407>

RWA2018 – Denver Nora Roberts Readers for Life Literacy Book Signing: <https://www.rwa.org/literacy>

I will also be part of a panel of authors (I'm the only romance writer!) at the Toadstool Bookstore in Keene, NH on April 21, 2018.

I will be speaking at the Maine Romance Writers retreat in May 2018: <http://www.maineromancewriters.com/p/retreat.html>

**AdC:** Pass on some word of wisdom.

**P.J.:** Simply don't worry about writing

to trends, or anything else. Today's teen vampire love story will be taken over by tomorrow's billionaire baby series. Just write the story of your heart. That's what I did. I knew my story was a little unusual for a contemporary market, but it only takes one editor to say YES for you to be published. So just write the best story you can and make it the story you would want to read if you weren't the author!

**AdC:** *Please give us the following contact information:*

Personal web page : <https://peggyjaeger.com/>

Twitter [https://twitter.com/peggy\\_jaeger](https://twitter.com/peggy_jaeger)

Facebook:



# Debra Parmley's Cover Model Corner

## In her corner this time is...



world for a cover, where would you most want to go? What sort of shoot would it be?

**K.M.** I would LOVE to do a shoot in Scotland. I love the countryside and historical feel of the little towns in the Highlands. I would want the shoot to be very romantic with a sweet contemporary feel.

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

**K.M.** I am actually a bestselling romance author. I write contemporary, new adult, and erotic romances that span from military, rock star, sports, motorcycle club, romantic comedy and everything in between. That is how I found out about book cover modeling, and I started making friends



**D.P** What was the first cover you appeared on and how did this come about?

**K.M.** The first book cover I was on was actually the back cover of *Letting Love Find Me* ("Damaged Hearts Book 3") by Katharina LeBoeuf. I had just started book cover modeling when I got a message from B.T. Urruela who runs Wicked Warrior Photography. He needed to find a young brunette for a custom shoot for the cover and asked if I would be interested. I was beyond excited and honored to work with BT, Katharina and the other cover model on the cover, Peyton Anthony.

**D. P.** If you could do a photo shoot anywhere in the



with models and photographers along the way at book events. When Christopher John of CJC Photography asked if I would be interested in shooting with him in Tampa, since we were both locals at the time, I jumped on the opportunity and realized that I absolutely love the modeling side of the industry.

**D.P.** What's one question you wish an interviewer would ask you? (Then please answer it.)

**K.M.** How many stories do you have floating around in your head? – the answer is WAY TOO MANY! I am writing three books right now and have 10 more begging to be written this year alone. This actually comes into play in my modeling too... As I write new characters, I get ideas for new shoots. It's a pretty fun process when I get to be creative in my writing and modeling careers simultaneously.

**D.P.** If you wrote a book, what would it be about?

**K.M.** I guess this is kind of a trick question for me, since I have already

published over twenty books in my writing career. But, one type of book that I would love to write that I have not yet is fantasy. I would love to write about a magical realm full of dragons and everything. Hopefully, someday, sooner than later, it'll happen.

**D.P.** 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?

**K.M.** This is an interesting question for me because I am in no way a fitness model. I do stick to a healthier eating routine but with my jam-packed writing schedule I do not get to the gym nearly as often as I would

like to.

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

**K.M.** I always tell people to not put crazy restrictions on themselves. Something that most people do not know about me is that right after college my doctor told me that I needed to get my weight under control. I had been working in restaurants and bars for years (I went to the University of Central Florida for Restaurant and Food Service Management) and fell victim to terrible eating habits and grueling work schedules. I tried crash dieting, and nothing seemed to really work. Once I started shifting to eating healthier but not cutting







my favorites, like pizza and pasta, out of my diet completely and regularly going to the gym, I was able to lose the forty pounds that I needed to. I have kept with that mindset for the last six years or so and it has been working for me.

**D.P. It's your birthday dinner and the calories don't count. What's on the menu and what are you drinking?**

**K.M.** A giant bowl of spaghetti and meatballs with a really good Malbec. It's my favorite meal, hands down.

**D.P. Describe the perfect romantic evening:**

**K.M.** I am such a chill person... So honestly, a perfect romantic evening for me usually consists of good beer, live music, and pizza.

**D.P. Please share one unusual fact about you or your life:**

**K.M.** One unusual fact about my life is that I am actually extremely dyslexic. Most people don't believe me since I am an author, but it's true. I actually couldn't even read on my own until I was in the fifth grade. I remember the day that I

read an entire paragraph on my own for the first time. I was so shocked and burst into tears sitting on the couch with my mother while we were working on my homework together. Also, I have to give my editor a lot of credit because she definitely has her work cut out for her whenever she is working on my manuscripts. But, this is just one example of how you can overcome even the hardest of limitations to follow your dreams and see them turn into reality.

**A. Eight Quickie questions:**

**1.) Watching the sunrise or watching the sunset and the stars?**

Sunset and the stars for sure!

**2.) The beach or the mountains?**

Beach

**3.) Primitive camping or luxury hotel?**

Luxury hotel

**4.) Snow skiing or water skiing?**

Snow skiing

**5.) Favorite movie:**

*Almost Famous*

**6.) Best book you ever read:**

*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

**7.) Fav. Sport to play:**

None (if I am being super honest)

**8.) Fav. Sport to watch:**

It's a toss-up between hockey and football

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?

Website: <http://www.kristenhopenmazzola.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/khmazz.model>

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/khmazz](http://www.twitter.com/khmazz)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/khmazz/>

# Hot Guyz Patrol 2018 Cover Art Contest



Announcing  
the annual  
*Affaire de Coeur*  
Hot Guyz Patrol  
Cover Art Contest

*Hot Guyz*  
*Gorgeous Gals*  
*Almost Kiss*  
*Uniquely Yours*

*Contest begins*  
*May 1, 2018*

Details on  
*AffairededeCoeur.com*







# Spotlight Interview



This issue the second Spotlight Interview is on ...

## Rachel Brimble

*Rachel lives in the famous Georgian city of Bath, England, with her husband of 20 years and their two daughters. She currently has eight books with Harlequin Superromance (Templeton Cove Stories), four Victorian romances with eKensington and has just signed a new four-book contract with Aria. When not working, she likes to read, knit, watch TV or walk the countryside with her chocolate Labrador, Tyler.*



**R.B.** That it's a business! It is no longer enough just to write the best book you can – you have to be a writer, a publicist, an accountant and a relatable human being. Authors are expected to multi-task by publishers and readers alike. Fortunately, I enjoy all aspects of the business...even if I have very little time for anything else

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

**R.B.** *A Stranger in The Cove* is the final book in my popular "Templeton Cove" series (Harlequin). Although this is the last book, this novel and all the others, can be read stand-alone so readers can dip in and out as they please. The series is a mix of mainstream romance and romantic suspense stories set in the fictional UK seaside town of Templeton Cove. The series is very close to my heart.

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

**R.B.** I'm at the computer by 9 am after a half an hour read in bed, then I work on promotion for an hour or so before I dive into the writing. I'd work for another hour or so and then walk the dog. Once back, I'd continue writing until lunch time – short half an hour break and then back to work until 5:30 P.M.

No interruptions, no kids screaming at me, no laundry that needs folding

**AdC:** *How/where do you get your plot ideas?*

**R.B.** Ideas are everywhere! They can be found in newspapers, on TV, people's conversations, history... everywhere. The trick is to find an idea and think 'what if?' or 'how can I make this story brand new?' Obtaining the ideas isn't the challenge with writing. The challenge is making that initial idea stretch to 80,000 words plus!

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

**R.B.** I've written stories since I was around nine or ten, but I started getting down to the serious business of having a novel published in 2005. I haven't looked back since!

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



**AdC:** *What is the most difficult thing about creating and developing characters?*

**R.B.** For me, it's really nailing down their goals, motivations and conflicts – I start every book thinking I have it clear in my mind and dive into the writing. Then, every time, I hit a wall around the 40,000 word mark when I realize something about the character I didn't know and have to go back to make sure I include it and the rest of the story flows seamlessly around the new discovery. Writing is hard work!

**AdC:** *What is your favorite thing about being an author?*

**R.B.** That I get to do what I love every day – I haven't had that Monday morning feeling for over 12 years and I'm eternally grateful.

**AdC:** *How many books do you currently have out on the market and what genres do they fall into?*

**R.B.** I currently have 18 novels and 2 novellas on the market – they are a mix of mainstream romance, romantic comedy, romantic suspense and historical romance.

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

**R.B.** Give yourself permission to write a crappy first draft – this wisdom was given to me about 7 years ago and my output quadrupled overnight. A full page can be edited. A blank page can't. Simple!

Please give us the following contact information:

Personal web page <http://rachelbrimble.com/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/RachelBrimble>

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







# Sneak Peek

# A Stranger in the Cove

Rachel Brimble

Oh, for the love of God. The man’s smile was slow, soft and as sexy as hell. It was like an invisible aphrodisiac on her newly ignited libido. She took another sip of her drink, her heart racing and her body on fire. He looked at her as though he had X-ray vision...or the ability to make her want to strip without the request even passing his lips. Every inch of her body was intensely aware of him and she didn’t like it. Not one tiny bit.

Good looks and even better bodies were not to be trusted. This guy could be just as much of a cheater as her ex. Even more so, if his killer smile was anything to go by. She couldn’t imagine a woman not being affected by it. So why did she want to keep looking at him?

He leaned his elbow on the bar and faced her. “So...” He took a sip of his drink. “Do you live around here?”

Feigning nonchalance, she sat straighter on her stool and drew forth as much of a welcome attitude as she could. It wasn’t this stranger’s fault he’d attracted and intrigued her in one very dangerous blow. “Yes.”

He smiled. “That’s all I get?”

“That’s all you get.” She returned his smile, her body relaxing a little. His voice was rich and deep and had the same warming effect on her as a shot of whiskey on a cold night. “That is, until I know a little more about you.”

“Shoot.” He drank. “Ask me anything you want.”

“Okay...” Her gaze dropped frustratingly to his mouth, most likely quashing her nonchalance in a heartbeat. She shifted on her seat and lifted her gaze to his...although his eyes were by no means a safer option. She cleared her throat. “What brings you to the Cove?”

His gaze locked on hers and the seconds ticked by. His blue eyes darkened as his smile faltered.

Kate raised her eyebrows, curiosity whispering through her. “Was that not a good question to start with?”

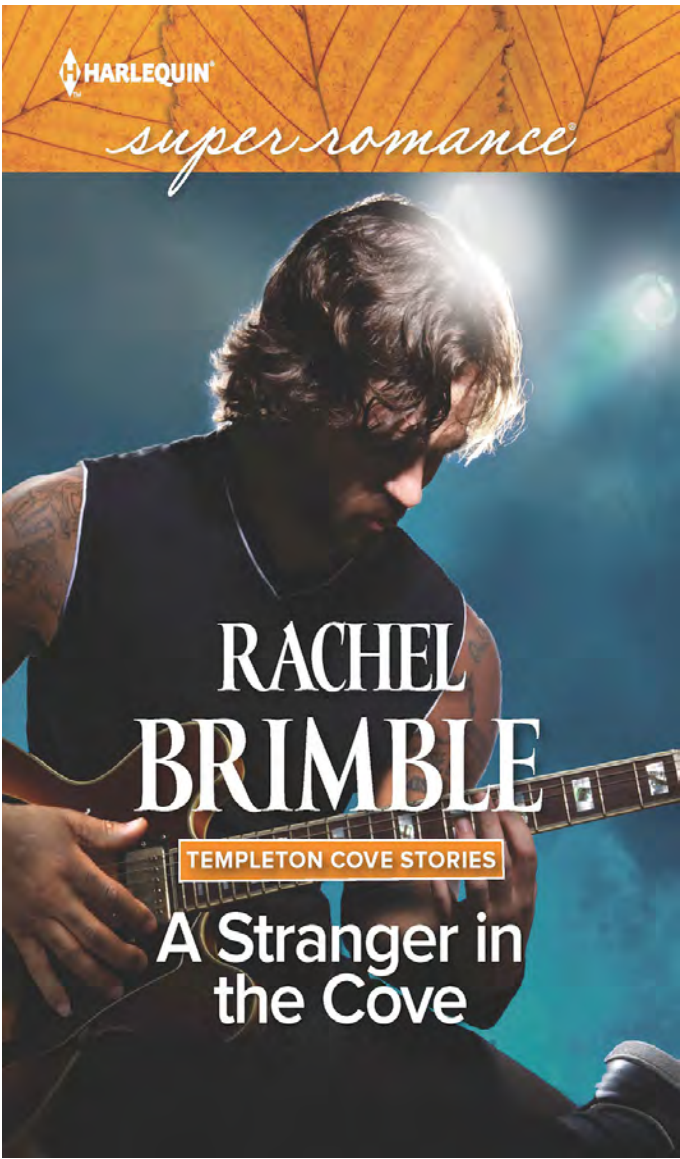
He flitted his focus to the band once more. “I’m looking for work.”

She frowned. “In Templeton?”

“It’s as good a place as any, isn’t it?”

She hazarded a guess that the shift in his tone was meant to induce a throw away question, to make her believe it was no big deal why he was in Templeton. Little did Mr. Bad Boy know, she was blessed—or sometimes cursed—with the innate ability to read between the lines, to sense when something wasn’t quite right with people or situations. Her senses

pinged to high alert with this guy at the sudden stiffness in his body, the way his jaw had set. His easy demeanour of a moment before had been replaced with clear defensiveness.



## She Said WHAT?

All of these quotes were made by women. Can you guess who?

### ACROSS

- 3. Lucy calls him, “Blockhead.”
- 5. Creed actress, ‘Any time women come together with a collective intention, it’s a powerful thing.’
- 7. This astronaut said, “It’s important for little girls growing up and young women to have them.” (sic role models)
- 8. This atty. says, “There are some people who still feel threatened by strong women. That’s their problem, it’s not mine:.”
- 10. “The Latina in me is an ember that blazes forever.” (SC Justice)
- 13. SC Justice, “A gender line ... helps to keep women not on a pedestal, but in a cage.”
- 17. This TV host says, “Think like a queen.”
- 18. “There’s no place like home.”
- 21. Blonde Sex Icon: “It’s better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring.”
- 23. She created a monster but said, “I do not wish women to have power over men; but over themselves,”
- 24. “There’s a special place in hell for women who don’t help each other.” Secretary of State.
- 25. She demands “R-E-S-P-E-C-T”
- 29. Dancer in 30’s movies, “There are a lot of strong women you do not see who are guiding, helping, mothering strong men.”
- 31. “I do not demand equal pay for women save those who do equal work in value.” Susan B. \_\_\_\_\_
- 33. This tennis great says, “A champion is afraid of losing...”
- 34. Designer: A girl should be two things: classy and fabulous.”
- 37. Early first lady: If we mean to have heroes, statesmen and pilosophers, we should have learned women.”
- 38. 1940 Oscar winner: “The entire race is usually judged by the actions of one man or woman.”
- 39. Former P.M.: “If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman.”

### DOWN

- 1. Who’s on that Midnight train to Georgia?
- 2. 60’s activist: “What this country needs is more unemployed politicians.”
- 3. Rainy days and Mondays always got her down.
- 4. “If women want any rights more than they’s got, why don’t they just take them and not be talking about it” Sojourner \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Little Women author, “I am not afraid of storms.”
- 9. Beloved author “In this country American means white. Everybody else has to hyphenate.”
- 11. Latina Oscar winning actress, “All my life, I faced sexism and racism and then, when I hit 40, ageism:”
- 12. First President female candidate “Our

country needs women’s idealism and determination. Perhaps more in politics than anywhere else.”

14. First lady: “People who are really strong lift others up.”

15. Poet: “If you get, give; if you learn, teach.”

16. “If the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul.” \_\_\_\_\_ King.

19. Naughty actress, ‘I used to be Snow White, but I drifted.’

20. Icon of the women’s movement says, “The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn.”

22. This Clinton says, “Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world.”

26. “Women want freedom. They want to be empowered ... .” WI singer and rapper.

27. “We Abolition Women are turning the world upside down”

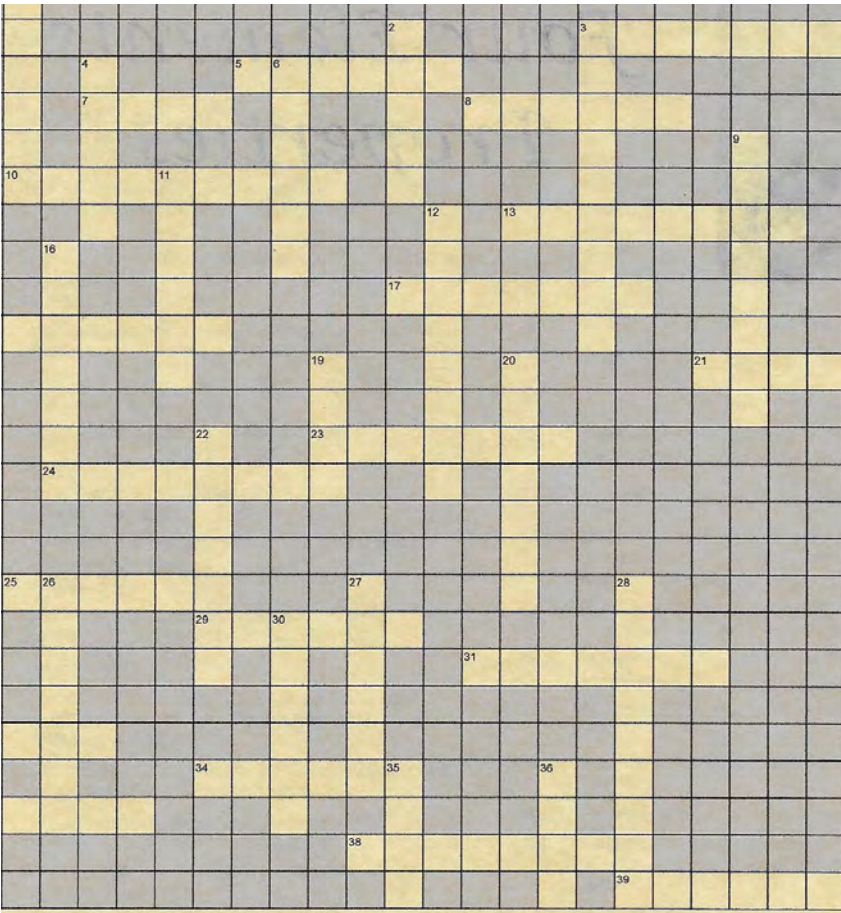
28. “It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.” First Lady of the 40’s.

30. “Power has no sex.” Newspaper icon.

32. “I will bring the understanding of a woman to the Court, but I doubt that alone will affect my decisions.”

35. “Ooooo, Ricky!”

36. “Whether women are better than men I cannot say, but I can say they are certainly no worse.” Former Israeli leader.





# W-O-M-E-N

By Louise B. Snead

“Women are nothing but machines for producing children.” Napoleon Bonaparte.

Is that right, Monsieur Bonaparte? Let us see as we take a look at an experiment conducted by those wise enough to acknowledge the contributions of women....

Amazonia, a distant planet, has been keeping an eye on planet Earth for the past three centuries. They recognize what the citizens of Earth have failed to see—the contributions and value of women. They have watched women, particularly those of color, on planet Earth struggle in the face of disparent applications of the law, opposed on every front and/or marginalized and exploited. With a mixture of pity and disgust, the Amazonians have witnessed the ridicule and degradation and the price women have had to pay just for being female.

They have also seen, women triumph, despite the obstacles thrown in their paths, to invent, lead, educate, and nurture while men took credit for their achievements. Over the years they have observed the various movements started by determined and brave women beginning with the suffragette and fighting for women’s vote to the “Me too” and “Stand Up” movements of today.

Planet Earth, they decided, does not deserve women. After much discussion and negotiations among the powers that be on Planet

Amazonia it was decided to teach the men on planet Earth a lesson. All the women would be spirited to a week at the spa, and all inventions created by women would be removed from the planet. To determine whether this experiment will produce some of the results that were hypothesized, they decided to focus on John Jones, a 32-year-old computer analyst, father of two boys aged 2 and 13 months. He lives in suburbia and makes a six figure salary. His wife Sarah is a 27 year-old third grade teacher.

John has been ap-  
prised of Amazonia’s  
intervention. He,  
like most of his male  
friends, doesn’t like  
it. He feels that their allegations have been overblown and the woman have always been acknowledged properly, if anything, too much for how little they do. He shrugs. Taking over his wife’s role while superfluous, will not even produce a challenge. He hopes the Amazonians will learn a lesson.

Let us see how John is doing:

**Get up, John!** He is accustomed to his wife waking him up and having his breakfast ready when he finally does rise. Today, however, wifey is gone—to a spa-- he has overslept. He will have to run to get his children John Jr. and Jermel to day care and get to work on time. Transporting the children is a job usually performed by his wife, but he can handle this. Anyone can drive a kid to day care and drop him off, right?

Jermel is screaming in his crib, and when dad investigates, he sees his youngest soaked with urine from head to toe. After making a face then giving baby a quick kiss, he reaches for a disposable diaper, but, oops, those were invented by Marion Donovan (1917-1998) and so they have disappeared. John will have to find an alternative. Good luck with



that!

Next, John goes to dress his kids for day care. Junior is having a tantrum. He wants to wear his favorite, an orange cotton shirt with Black Panther on the front and black cotton shorts. But there is a problem. All they find are white clothes. That’s because Sally Fox (1955-) invented Foxfire, the method of adding color to cotton. “There’s nothing wrong with white,” John tries unsuccessfully to convince the two year old. “Your brother doesn’t mind.” He nods toward the baby, sporting a white tee shirt and a white towel secured by tape at the waist in lieu of a diaper, but Junior doesn’t buy it. He wants

## Rockets Above Us, Beaches Beside Us, and A Book In Our Hands!

May 31st to June 3rd, 2018

70 + Authors

Multi-genre Book Event

Play games

Win prizes

Lots of Goodies for you!



Book Signing

Free for Everyone

June 2, 2018

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Dr. Shirle Jackson, inventor of Caller ID and Call Waiting

what he wants.

The phone rings. John doesn’t have time to talk to anyone he deems unimportant. He looks at the phone

to read the Caller ID, but that and Call Waiting were invented by Shirle Jackson (1946-), the first African-American to get her Ph.D. from M.I.T. John doesn’t know who is on the opposite end of that phone so he opts to answer it. To his dismay it’s the busybody-know-it-all dude across the street who is very hard to get off the phone. That’s the last thing he needed. John rudely cuts him off, telling him to call back when Sarah and the rest of the women get over themselves and come home.

The baby is fussy. He would behave so much better if he were in that baby carrier thing that rests against the parent’s chest. John sheepishly recalls he had once ridiculed that, saying it was for women too lazy to carry their children. He would give big money to have one now. Not today. The “Snuggli” carrier was invented by Ann Moore



John doesn’t get to use one of those....too bad.

(1934-), and it disappeared with the women; so John will have to carry the flailing baby in his arms.

Breakfast. The children must



## Sweets Books is hosting two book signings in East Texas in 2018!!

ET Book Bash 08/04/2018 Tyler, TX  
ET Booktacular 10/27/2018 Henderson, TX



eat it, but Wifey takes care of that. But she's not here--she's wasting time at a spa--John will have to come up with something. He sits Junior at the table and Jermel in his high chair while he makes their breakfast. He believes they eat cereal, but he does not see any.

"Eggs, toast and bacon it is, then," he announces to his boys. Twenty minutes later, Jermel has thrown his overcooked eggs on the floor. He doesn't like them. The bacon had been burned to a crispy black, and the toast is soggy from the water he served when he could find neither milk nor juice. Jermel is wailing, and the yogurt cup his dad had set before him is upside down, its contents on the tray of the table. Dad will make up for this fiasco by packing them a lunch to beat all lunches.

All the food must be fresh, or the risk to everyone's health is high because unless food is properly perserved, bacteria will take it over. Amanda

Jones (1835-1914) saw that possibility and invented preservatives for food which delays/interferes with the growth of microorganisms. The only things John sees that are fresh are salad fixin's.

Without being told, he knows the kids will want no part of that; so John grabs an apple and a banana and hopes that he can buy more once he gets to day care. John also knows he will be in trouble if he doesn't put a chocolate chip cookie in Junior's lunch bag. Forget about those delicious cookies. They were invented by Ruth



Wakefield (1903-1977). He might as well forget about the flat bottom paper

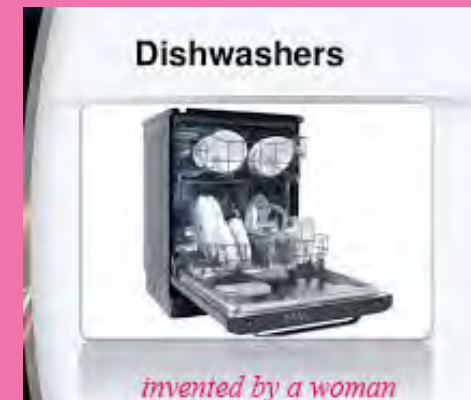
bag for the lunch, too, because Margaret E. Knight (1838-1914) came up with those.



Where the heck is his coffee? Wifey always had a pot ready, and John would have at least two cups before he sauntered off to work. He has no time to drink two

cups, but he had to have one or he would develop caffeine deprivation tremors to go with this rapidly growing headache. He makes the minimum amount a coffee pot will make--four cups. With great haste, he pours a cup and takes a swig--strong man that he is he needs no cream or sugar. Seconds later, he spits it out. That couldn't be coffee. It's gritty and full of grounds. That's because the coffee filter was invented by Mary Bentz (1873-1958), and it is no longer available to him.

Since his coffee is undrinkable, and the kitchen resembles a tornado site, he will just throw everything in the dishwasher and take his children and leave, putting on the home security alarm as he walks out the door. The plan is good, but the dishwasher, invented by Josephine Cochrane (1839-1913) is not there. Nor is the home security system, created by a nurse, Marie Von Brittan Brown (1922-1999).



John's day is quickly going downhill. Things have got to be better at work. With more enthusiasm than usual John heads toward his job. The intermittent raindrops don't bother him. After all, any rain in Silicon Valley is rare and welcomed. Now it's pouring down, and when he looks down, he sees there is no knob on the steering wheel to turn on the windshield wiper, an invention of Mary Anderson (1866-1953).

John finally gets to work and sits before his computer, but the screen is black because Dr. Grace Hopper (1906-1992) invented the COBOL computer language, the first user friend-

ly business computer software. His assistant, Ms. Wright, who knows John's job better than he, who has worked for this company ten years longer than he, who is more educated than he, and who makes about 60% of his salary, has gone to the spa. Who is going to do his work? In the absence of computers, who is going to type? He can't type. He would need bottles of Liquid Paper except it had been invented by Bette Graham (1924-1980). (Does John know what an eraser is?) Who is going to fetch him lunch/snack and run his petty errands all day?



"UNCLE!" rather "AUNTIE! I give!" John cries. "Please send them back!" John has already assumed the fetal position. He has six and one-half days to go, and he has already folded.

Poor, pitiful John. There are so many more tasks he needs to do on his own. Perhaps he had laser eye surgery. It couldn't have been done without the invention of the lasophacophrobe by Dr. Patricia Bath (1942- and the first African-American to complete a residency in ophthalmology). Moreover, I have so many many more inventions I would like to remove from his privileged, pampered milieu. I would have loved to put him in a hospital for a day just to show how many inventions (from prostheses to lab tests) were created by women. Alas, I have run out of space.

Researching this article was a delight, but it could also be depressing when comparing one's own accomplishments with theirs. I was astounded by the sheer numbers of inventions by women. I was also so impressed with the brilliance of some women, the determination and persistence of many. There are several things that, though not acknowledged, were apparent from the beginning:

1. Many of the things women invented were done to make their tasks and ultimately their lives easier. Liquid Paper was a prime example--developed by a typist who was tired of having to re-type because of an error. (I can definitely relate.)

2. Men often took credit for what women did. Disposable diapers were invented by Marion Donovan, a woman, in the 1940's. Discouraged by businessmen in the industry, she sold her disposable diapers herself. Several years later Pampers, Loves, disposable diapers, were introduced via a Proctor and Gamble platform by men in the 60's. It is a multi-billion dollar industry for which she received nothing.

This practice was particularly prevalent for African-American women (and there were scores of them). As slaves, they had no rights and owned nothing. If they created something, their masters not only got the credit, but they got the money as well. Sarah Boone (1832-1904) invented the ironing board to make it easier to press sleeves. Born a slave, she created this invention to make it easier to do her work, but as a slave, she was not entitled to its profits.

3. How young some of these women were when they started their pursuits.

4. While some of these inventions have been around, many of them came about during my life time which surprised me. That means that women are still at it. Let us hope that future women inventors will be acknowledged, praised, rewarded financially and set forth as examples of heroines.





**Beyond Danger (The Texas Trilogy- Book 2)**

*Kat Martin*

**Zebra**

Mass Market

978-1420143171

☆☆☆1/2

The first time Cassidy Jones saw Beau Reese, he and his father were arguing loudly. The next time she saw him, Beau was standing over his dead father holding a bloody letter opener.

Beau wonders if Cassidy is the killer. But the timing of her arrival seems wrong and Cassidy’s shock seems genuine. Likewise, she wonders if Beau could be the killer, but her instinct says no. And Cassidy’s instincts are usually pretty good, given the fact that she’s a private investigator. Beau hires Cassidy to find his father’s killer.

Cassidy and Beau are attracted to each other from day one. They manage to resist temptation, most of the time, until the night of his father’s funeral when comfort quickly turns to passion.

Cassidy and Beau’s affair continues as they search for the person who killed his father. Cassidy begins to feel a longing for something more but Beau isn’t interested. He lost his first love to cancer and won’t risk that pain

again. Cassidy’s fallen for Beau but she won’t play second fiddle to a ghost.

Meanwhile, there are several attempts on Cassidy’s life. She and Beau must find the killer before he succeeds in killing another person Beau cares about.

This is a continuation of a series but can be read alone. For a mystery, this book is surprisingly uninteresting.

*Sheila Griffin*

**Chaser**

*Kylie Scott*

**St. Martin’s Griffin**

Trade Paperback

978-1250178510

☆☆☆☆

Eric Collins personified bad boy sex king from the top of his long silky hair, down his chiseled arms to the tips of his booted feet. He was co-owner and bartender *extraordinaire* of the Dive Bar and “relished” in his worldly reputation. Women always knew that the sex was only “no strings attached,” so there were no hard feelings when he split. Right? Except for his co-partner who, in a moment of extreme weakness for both of them, Eric impregnated, then



*Contemporaries*

disappeared when she miscarried. She hated him. But, since they had been friends forever and Nell always knew how he was with women, they managed to still run a very profitable business together with their third partner (and lifelong friend, also) Lydia. And, everybody knew, Eric and babies didn’t mix.

Jean was tired, but happy she had finally arrived. When her best online friend had offered her a new start in a new town, she jumped at the opportunity. The two of them had had long online conversations for the last several months about their mutual pregnancies and fears, and Nell knew Jean needed to start over, away from her judgmental parents and the small-minded folks of her hometown. She was renting one of the apartments in the building that housed Nell’s business, so she would be surrounded by her friends and co-workers. It sounded perfect and it was. Right down to the hunky bartender/owner that tried to pick her up the first day she arrived.

*Chaser* is one of the most hilarious and well-written romances that I have read in a while. Poor Eric is totally baffled about how he’s supposed to act in a relationship, especially when his particular fantasy is seven months pregnant! But, he’s not a total jerk and really does have a heart of gold, so it’s easy to like him while he goes through his painful “growing up.” The ever-comforting Jean is like a breath of fresh air. She sees right through Eric and doesn’t accept his crap, while fighting hard against the instant attraction. And the fact that he really is sweet is not making it any easier! Ms. Scott’s writing is delightful and downright laugh-out-loud. And the myriad of secondary (read that, charmingly intrusive) characters that round out Eric’s life are all hysterical in their own right. Definitely a keeper for your lighter side of sexy reading.

*Lani Roberts*

**The First Kiss of Spring (Eternity Springs- Book 5)**

*Emily March*

**St. Martin’s Press**

Mass Market

978-1250131706

☆☆☆☆ 1/2

Four times tornadoes have destroyed Josh Tarkington’s world. When one of the twisters killed his fiancée and her child, he realized his love is a death sentence. Josh vowed never to love again. He won’t risk it. Then Josh meets Caitlin.

Caitlin Timberlake is at the top of her field in Manhattan. But recently Caitlin’s realized that she wants more. She decides to return to her hometown, start a business and begin a family. But first, she has bridesmaid duties to attend to. A change in the wedding plans allows Caitlin to meet the sexiest man she’s ever seen. After enjoying the day with him, Caitlin plans on spending an equally enjoyable night. But circumstances intervene. She, and her plans, go unfulfilled.

Imagine Caitlin’s surprise when she arrives in Eternity Spring to find Josh is the local mechanic! Josh makes it clear that he’s not interested in anything more than an affair. Caitlin agrees to his rules, but deep down Caitlin knows Josh is the man that she’ll marry.

Unbeknownst to Caitlin, Josh has other demons in his past that he must face if they are going to have a chance at happily-ever-after.

This is a continuation of a series. It can be read alone. The addition of a serious issue makes this story more interesting than your typical boy-meets-girl romance. It’s a good book.

*Sheila Griffin*

**Maybe This Time (Whiskey and Weddings -Book 2)**

*Nicole McLaughlin*

**St. Martin’s Press**

Mass Market

978-1250140005

☆☆☆

Jen Mackenzie has had a crush on TJ Laughlin since they were in school. But she’ll never act on it. In their senior year, Jen overheard him telling another popular boy that he shouldn’t ask her out. TJ said Jen was weird and wouldn’t fit in with their crowd. She is from the wrong side of the tracks, after all. But the real reason TJ talked him out of asking Jen on a date was that he wanted to go out with her himself.

Twelve years later, TJ is Jen’s boss. They both still have their crushes, but neither of them has a clue about how the other feels. At a company party, Jen is so busy watching TJ’s date try to put her hand on his butt that she forgets to watch what she’s doing. Jen cuts her finger. When TJ sees that Jen’s bleeding, he dumps his date and rushes her to the hospital. And so begins the romance that Jen and TJ have waited more than a decade for. The two still have a lot of baggage to work through if they are to have any chance of a lasting relationship. TJ hopes to convince Jen that he wants more than an affair. He wants forever.

This is a continuation of a series. It can be read alone and is a typical boy-meets-girl story.

*Sheila Griffin*



Say Yes  
L.K Shaw

Amazon  
E-book  
B079KRVRT  
☆☆☆

“Never before had I felt such joy. Every heartbreak in my life had led me to this exact moment. I’d had to go through hell to arrive in heaven. I’d been broken, but Philip and his love had helped heal me.”

Sometimes even those that are the most broken still find the courage to reach out and ask to be loved, and in Casey’s mind, her best friend is the perfect solution...if she can only get him to say “yes.”

Philip can’t even imagine the pain and emotional trauma his beloved Casey had to have endured as a young teen...sold by her father to a man that used and abused her. Philip has loved Casey from afar, and has been content to be her companion and best friend. But, when Casey asks him to teach her how to love and be loved, Philip is torn between finally having his heart’s desire or having his heart broken.

L.K. Shaw’s contemporary romance shows that friends do make the very best lovers. Say Yes to this read!  
*Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*

Undefeated  
Stuart Reardon & Jane Harvey-Berrick  
Stuart Reardon Publishing  
E-book  
978-1999918606  
☆☆☆☆

“It was the connection of people who just fit, for no particular reason. They differed and yet they were alike—changed, altered by events from their past.”

Nick Renshaw’s dream has always been to play rugby for his country in the Premier League World Cup. When an injury puts him on the sidelines, he starts to see his dream transform into a nightmare from which he cannot wake.

Enter Dr. Anna Scott—a psychologist who specializes in sports. She knows how the stress and injuries affect the athletes, both physically as well as mentally. Dr.

## Contemporaries

Scott is dedicated to her job. When she meets Nick Renshaw, she holds firm to not letting past mistakes come back to haunt her. There is just something about this man... With each passing day, they know they cannot step over the boundaries of Doctor/Patient. When you meet your soulmate, how far will you go to claim what is yours?

Nick and Anna are both broken, but in different ways. This romance is filled with second chances at finding love...and always trying to achieve some version of a HEA. Stuart Reardon has co-written a romance filled with heart! Highly recommend!

*Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*

Untying His Not (The Lowells of Honeywell, Texas #1)  
J.M. Madden  
Amazon  
E-Book  
B074CQY51Y  
☆☆☆☆

Brock and Payton have been dancing around the “off limits” because of being friends of the family. Payton has been best friends with Brock’s sister since grade school, and also been crushing on Brock for as long. Now they are grown adults, but still act as if they are in the schoolyard. Both stubborn and set in their ways, this is a formula for heartbreak. But, when Payton has had enough, will Brock wake up and realize he may be losing not only a friend, but also his chance at true love?

Honestly, I was a little torn with this story. It’s different from other friends to lovers’ romances I’ve read, and it will get you wanting to punch the hero a few times as well as shake some sense into the heroine. It’s the realism behind Brock & Payton’s story. There is no perfect romance—no perfect hero/heroine, but there is always a way to fight for a perfect happily ever after.

I would recommend and look forward to reading the rest of this series!  
*Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*



## Historical Romance Reviews

Best Kept Secrets  
Barbara Dan  
CS Publishing  
E-Book  
B0799ZY9PV  
☆☆☆☆

Corruption and tragedy haunt the small western town of Happy Valley. After the brutal murder of Olaf, Mitzi was left without a husband and father to raise her son. If it hadn’t been for her husband’s best friend, Walker Simmons, she would’ve had to fight and survive the harsh lifestyle alone.

Walker was a man of principle and was willing to do anything for Mitzi and her son. When he proposed a union of marriage, a convenient way to take care of the widow, his imagination and expectations hadn’t come close to how good it could be.

A well-written, page turning, happily-ever-after for all historical fiction and western romance lovers.  
*Kitty Lane*





**Lonestar’s Lady**  
*Deborah Camp*  
**Amazon**  
E-book  
B077SWN7PW  
★★★★★



*“Someday you’ll burn for me, Mrs. Lonestar. You’ll want me as much as I want you. You’ll ask me to put out the fires raging through your body and I’ll gladly oblige.”*

OMG, I LOVED THIS BOOK! Now that’s not a very professional review! I’ve got to do better! How about, THIS BOOK IS FREAKING AMAZING, AND I COULD NOT PUT IT DOWN! Uh, nope. Ok, let’s try this again…  
Augusta Horton has lived a rough life, growing up with no mother and a drunkard for a father. When she sees an opportunity to escape via a mail order bride ad, she jumps at the chance at finally achieving the dream of having her own home. But, as luck would have it, her dream is shattered—a drunk and a liar placed the ad. Augusta is not one to jump from the frying pan into the fire, so she is determined to pull on her big girl pants and find a way to make a life in this new town.

Max Lonestar is in desperate need of a wife. If he does not marry ASAP, his dream of owning the neighboring farm will revert to his rival. Seeing the plight Augusta is in, he offers her the chance to make a go at being his wife and helping him farm the land. Lonestar even gives her an out, if after a year she’s not happy, she can leave.  
Lonestar and Augusta have both come from a hard past—life has not been kind to them, but after saying “I do,” they see how well they work together…and perhaps how much they could grow to love one another…

Deborah Camp has weaved a romance as beautiful as the western landscape set as the story’s background. Lonestar is the hero we all dream about… *“This man. This beautiful, kind-hearted man belonged to her. In her wildest dreams, she could not have imagined it. But here she was, and this was not a dream.”*

I’m so in love with these characters, and I highly recommend *Lonestar’s Lady*!  
My fav quote:  
*“Time is a yardstick we can’t see, so you’d better live each day as if it’s your last – your final legacy and how you’ll be remembered.”*  
*Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*



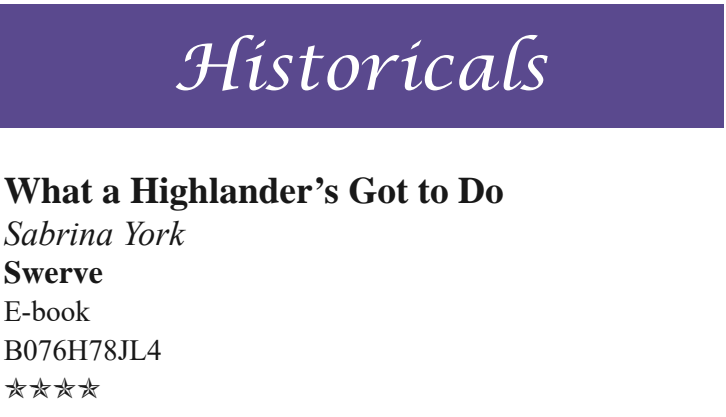
**The Sea Devil**  
*Eliza Knight*  
**Amazon**  
E-book  
B076JJ7W3G  
★★★★★

*“...what I found was that in order for me to be myself, I had to let go of who I wanted everyone else to believe I was.”*

Captain Thor MacLeod has been waiting for years to obtain his vengeance. His chance to achieve it literally lands in his lap in the shape of a beautiful, orphaned Scot by the name of Alesia Baird. Alesia has been fighting her own battles for as long as she can remember and is not easily intimidated by the pirate captain of The Sea Devil. She sees her chance to escape her poverty-filled life and fill her pockets with coin.

The same man drastically changed both lives, and together they seize the opportunity to seek revenge. But, once Thor and Alesia let go of the past, a love like no other heats up and thaws their frozen hearts. *“I love ye my Thornly...there is no one I would rather go to battle with... fight beside...no one I would rather trust, love, cherish. I’ve been searching my whole life to belong. To matter and have purpose, and with ye, I have found it.”*

Never were two people more perfect for each other than Captain Thor and his Alesia. The pages ignite in this pirate romance, and I did not want it to end. I’m so in love with this series! Highly recommend!  
*Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*



**What a Highlander’s Got to Do**  
*Sabrina York*  
**Swerve**  
E-book  
B076H78JL4  
★★★★★

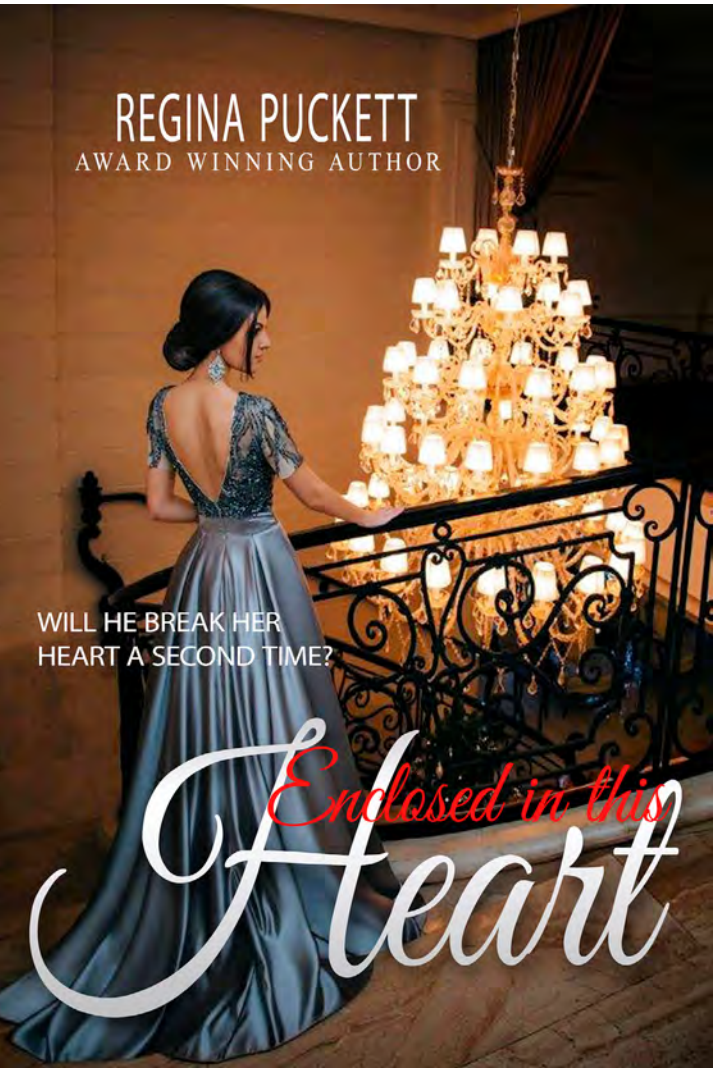
Fiercely independent and sworn to never marry, especially to one of those padded peacock English Lords, Isobel Dounreay Lochlannach takes off on a wild ride only to be swept off her feet by a handsome stranger.  
Nick Wyeth aka Viscount Stirling, is mesmerized by the sight of the beautiful Scottish lass, and while he has sworn himself to bachelorhood, one taste of her sweet lips, and he knows he must have more. Isobel’s fear of losing her independence threatens to destroy the love growing between her and Nick. So what’s a Highlander got to do to win the love of this wild Scottish lass?

For those of us that have been following Sabrina York’s “Untamed Highlanders” series, this installment is exactly what we have been waiting to read! Finally! Isobel gets her own story! (Happy Dance!) As with all of the books in this series, it can be read as a standalone, but I always recommend reading the entire series to fully enjoy the characters!  
*Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*

**Virtue (Son’s of Scotland #1)**  
*Victoria Vane*  
**Dragonblade Publishing**  
E-Book  
B074L7SCK2  
★★★★★

*“Ye could be queen of this entire kingdom.”*  
*“What good is a kingdom if I lose my heart and soul in the bargain? I love ye, Alexander MacMalcolm. There will ne’er be any other for me.”*

Alexander was whisked away in the dead of night when he was a small child to live his days hidden in a monastery. Unbeknownst to him, his lineage is one linked to a powerful family, but one that could cost him his life if his true identity is discovered.



Lady Sibylla lost her heart the day she looked upon the young monk, Alexander. It’s as if their love was meant to be. But, when her family is in danger, she risks all to rescue her uncle from the wrath of the King, and it’s up to Alexander to save her.  
*Virtue* is the first in the “Sons of Scotland” series, and is a well-written historical fiction romance…WITH A CLIFFHANGER!!! This reader was speeding along enjoying this epic tale full of intrigue, suspense, romance and a CLIFFHANGER! I’m amazed my Kindle is still in one piece.  
I recommend this story, but if you are NOT a fan of cliffhangers, you have been warned.  
*Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*





## Stitch (Crime Family Values Book 1)

Nia Farrell

Long Branch Books

Ebook

B079WMSS21

☆☆☆1/2

Bethany Shelton is a physical therapist that is at the wrong place at the wrong time. Overhearing the sales clerk refer to her as “Doc,” mobster Matteo Visconti kidnaps and threatens Beth to “doctor” his gunshot wound, and in return, he would most likely not kill her. During a feverish recovery, Beth and Matteo have a night of passion that has a consequence of making Beth a permanent fixture in the Visconti family...or for however long they wish to keep her alive.

*Stitch* was well written, and an enjoyable naughty story with enough kink to satisfy those with a fetish for the tie me up and spank me hard. The story line moves swiftly and sometimes this reader got a little confused with Matteo’s Jekyll & Hyde personality towards Beth, but he is the heir to a crime lord’s throne, so it is to be expected. Stitch is a tale of a good girl falling for a bad guy and there is a price to be paid by all. This is a standalone story with no cliffhanger, and has somewhat of a happily-ever-after ending, or at least as much of an HEA a murdering drug dealer can have.

I would recommend this to lovers of Mafia/BDSM stories. While the “Godfather” genre isn’t my usual read, I enjoyed the author’s

writing, and will most likely check out her other stories.

*Sharing what I love,*

*Veronica*



## Killer Tied

Lesley A. Diehl

Camel Press

Trade Paperback

978-1603813198

☆☆☆1/2

Fashionista, consignment clothing store entrepreneur, and amateur sleuth Eve Appel Egret has a busy life juggling her family (including husband and three kids) with her business and working on getting her private investigator’s license. A younger woman claims to be her long-lost sister from the same mother, but Eve’s mother has been dead since she was a little girl. The story sounds fishy, and things get downright rotten when her ‘sister’s’ father is murdered, and evidence points to her father-in-law as the murderer. Eve uses sleuthing skills to find the real murderer and uncover why Eleanor believes so strongly they are sisters.

*Killer Tied* is fast moving, with a cast of attention-grabbing characters. Eve loves her family, food, fashion and a good mystery. Her good friend is a benevolent mobster who specializes in solving problems in a non-lethal way. Eve is a light-hearted heroine, but the author also shows the sadness in her past through the troubled family mystery she encounters. The Florida swamps are another prominent

character, deeply meaningful to Eve’s Native American family by marriage. *Killer Tied* has a lot packed into a relatively short format, which makes the conclusion feel chaotic. Cozy mystery fans will enjoy this book.

*Danielle Hill*

## The Purloined Puzzle

Parnell Hall

Minotaur Books

Hardcover

978-1250155207

☆☆☆ 1/2

Cora Felton is famously known as “The Puzzle Lady” because of her reputation as an expert puzzle solver. In actuality, her puzzle skills need work, but she’s a keen amateur sleuth. When a young girl demands her help solving a puzzle and shortly thereafter her brother is arrested for murder, Cora must put her detective hat on. Soon it becomes personal when her ex-husband Melvin becomes the main suspect, and her getting him off becomes imperative to prevent her reputation being ruined in a tell-all story authored by her enterprising, larcenous and scheming ex-husband.





## MYSTERIES

*The Purloined Puzzle* is a fast-moving, dialogue-heavy, modern mystery with a hefty dose of humor. Cora is quite a character, and she's not alone. Her colorful past and relationships make for an interesting sleuth who follows the clues as they relate to her bogus expert reputation. Cora might suck at puzzles, but she knows her way around a mystery and is an expert at reading people. An entertaining read, but the lack of description and the heavy reliance on dialogue feels lopsided.

Well-plotted, with good writing, *The Purloined Puzzle* will appeal to modern mystery fans looking for a novel with a distinctive lead and storyline.

Danielle Hill



## Paranormal Romance Reviews



### Hot and Badgered (The Honey Badgers -Book 1)

Shelly Laurenston

Kensington

Mass Market

978-1496714343

★★★★★



The first time grizzly shifter, Berg Dunn saw Charlie Taylor-MacKilligan, she had fallen onto his hotel balcony... naked. Men were chasing the honey badger/wolf shifter. Berg disarmed the intruders and ran them off. He gave Charlie a tee-shirt and a gun and she took off.

A few days later, Charlie, and her two sisters, Max and Stevie, are settling into a safe house when the door is kicked in by an infuriated honey badger shifter. She attacks Max. Berg steps in and tries to break up the fight. Charlie comes into the room, stops the fight and greets the attacker. She's the sisters' cousin, Livy. It turns out the "safe house" isn't

really a safe house. It belongs to Livy.

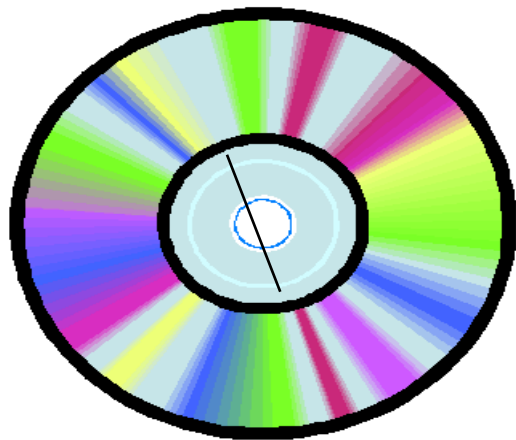
Meanwhile, the girls' father has stolen from a shifter who thinks that if he has Freddy's daughters, Freddy will return the money. He's mistaken.

Berg is a bodyguard by profession but Charlie is quite capable of guarding her own body. Now if he wants to make some body heat that's a different story! For Berg, it's basically love at first sight. For Charlie, it takes a while longer.

This is the beginning of a fun new series but there are also characters from previous series. While not essential to read the previous series before starting this one, it's advisable. This is a great book!

Sheila Griffin





# AUDIO BOOK REVIEW

**180 Seconds**  
*Written by Jessica Park*  
*Narrated by Arielle DeLisle*  
**Brilliance Audio**  
9 CDs  
978-1536627923  
★★★★ ½

For Allison Dennis, her life has been spent bouncing from one foster home to another. She doesn’t let anyone get close for fear of getting hurt. Yet college makes it harder to be a wallflower. In her third year of college, Allison is pushed into performing a social experiment where she has to converse with a total stranger for 180 seconds. The stranger is social media star, Esben Baylor, and those 180 seconds change both of their lives.

Allison is encouraged by her best friend to see what could transpire from her experiment with Esben.

I was intrigued from the synopsis. What a fresh and likeable storyline. The characters are very well developed, so much that I felt I had known Allison and Esben for many years. This Jessica Park novel is not a first and it certainly won’t be the last.

*Lettetia*

**A Dark Lure**  
*Written by Loreth Anne White*  
*Narrated by Emily Sutton--Smith*  
**Brilliance Audio**  
11 CDs  
15-11324236  
★★★★ ½

If you are looking for edge-of-your-seat suspense, *A Dark Lure* is certain to keep you staying up late and guessing until the very end of the story.

Twelve years ago, Sarah Baker was abducted by the Watt Lake Killer and was held and assaulted for months. She lost everything, including her husband and child.

Suffering from PTSD, Sarah is trying to put the past behind her by changing her name and hiding out in the last place anyone would expect, The Broken Bar Ranch. With winter coming in, Olivia is checking on campers and tourists, but someone has a secret that may cost her her life.

An obsessed cop is certain the serial killer didn’t die in prison, as reported, and he arrives with his daughter at the Broken Bar for a getaway. Acting on his “gut,” he continues his investigation, believing a body recently found was killed by the same man.

*Lettetia*

## Audio Book Reviews

**Fat Fridays (Fat Fridays Group 1)**  
*Written by Judith Keim*  
*Narrated by Joyce Bean*  
**Brilliance Audio**  
8 CDs  
978-1531864088  
★★★★

I loved this book about the bonding of women and finding yourself.

Sukie’s husband slept with her Pilates instructor, leaving Sukie a broken woman who is afraid to leave the house for fear of running into anyone she knows and the gossip that comes with them. When her neighbor, Betsy, invites her to join the Fat Friday Group, the women bond over great food and helping each other come to grips with the issues in their lives--domestic violence, abuse, sexual preferences, and more.

These women could be you or me, your friends, or neighbors, or someone in your family. I enjoyed this real-to-life drama and the closeness and bonds these women formed. It is always refreshing to listen to a story that stays with you forever.

*Lettetia*

**Hit and Run**  
*Written by Allison Brennan and Laura Griffin*  
*Narrated by Joyce Bean and Kate Rudd*  
**Brilliance Audio**  
6 CDs  
978-1480587236  
★★★★

The Moreno and Hart mystery series is one of my favorite duos. The writing of Allison Brennan and Laura Griffin is spot-on with well-developed characters and mysteries with plenty of bumps in the night.

The Southern California Detective duo, Moreno and Hart, team up for two new cases.

**Hit...** Scarlet Moreno gets a panicked call from a long-time friend, accused of killing his girlfriend. The LAPD cop can only rely on Scarlet for help. There is a killer out there who wants Jason dead, and the cops all want him behind bars. As the investigation unfolds, Scarlet is afraid that the killer wants her dead as well and may well be the killer who ambushed her and Krista years ago.

**Run...** Krista Hart doesn’t want to work with private detective R.J. Flynn and she doesn’t want to help a crooked lawyer get away with murder. As the two private detectives investigate the death of a Laguna Beach housewife, all is not what it seems. Krista will not stop until she uncovers the truth, even though it may cost her life.

*Lettetia*

**Never a Bridesmaid**  
*Written by Janice Thompson*  
*Narrated by Julie Lyles Carr*  
**Brilliance Audio**  
2 CDs  
B00WY7LWKE  
★★★

Mari’s sister is getting married. Just as Mari expects to be the bridesmaid, her sister, Crystal, chooses the *bridesmaid from hell*, Sienna. Despite being relegated to do most of the work, she wants her sister to have the wedding of her dreams.

When the best man, Derrick Richardson, right fielder for the Houston Astros, shows up to help, Mari and Derrick are thrown together frequently, much to the despair of the other women in the wedding party.

I loved Derrick and Mari, and they saved the story for me. Their chemistry was instant, and though they appeared to be friends, I thought there was romance coming. The rest of the characters didn’t show me much. They were shallow and uninteresting.

*Lettetia*

**The Real Thing (Sugar Creek #1)**  
*Written by Melissa Foster*  
*Narrated by John Lane*  
**Brilliance Audio**  
7 CDs  
978-1536690384  
★★★ ½

*The Real Thing* is a nice break in the day from author Melissa Foster. The fake fiancé storyline is one I have always been intrigued with.

Zane is a famous playboy movie star who desperately needs to clean up his act. Willow, on the other hand, is the fine, upstanding owner of the local bakery who asked Zane to take her virginity when they graduated college.

Zane sees Willow as the perfect person to help him gain a more positive image. Willow thinks it is a very bad



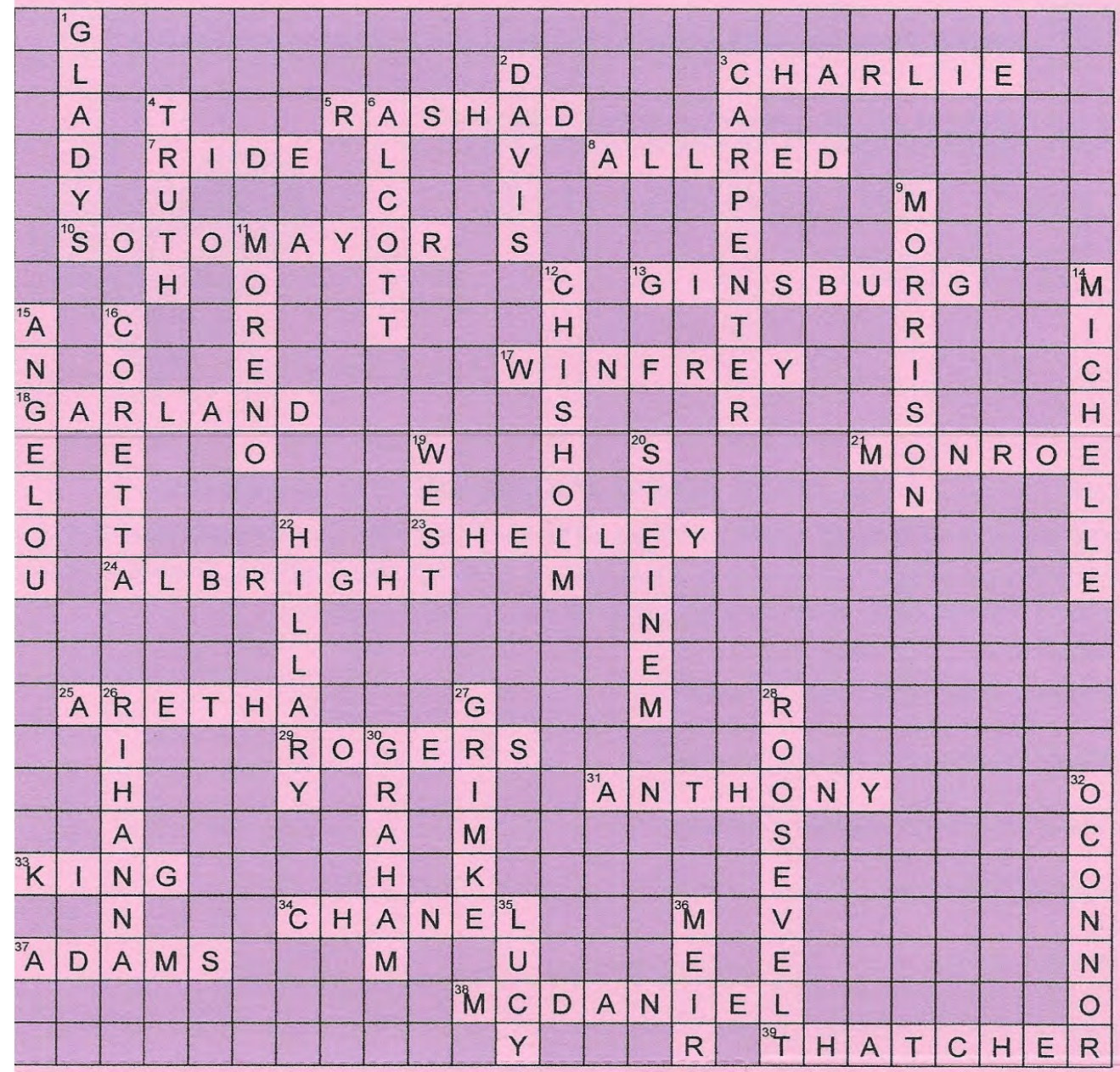
## Audio Book Reviews

What begins as a simple plan soon blows up into something quite different when the town gets involved. *The Real Thing* is a cute and funny novella that I listened to in a few hours. After finishing, I felt like I was covered with sugar and frosting.

*Lettetia*

## She Said WHAT

Louise B. Snead



## Affaire de Coeur

# 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

Sale!  
Big reductions  
Limited time only  
Offer good through May 31st

# Renew Your *Affaire* Today!

12 Issues: ~~\$35~~ Now Only \$19.00!  
24 Issues: ~~\$65~~ Now Only \$34.50!  
12 **ONLINE** issues \$14.00!

**Sale**  
**Take Off**  
**All Prices**

*Limited time only!*  
*Offer good through*  
*May 31st*

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](http://www.adcmagazine.com/subscriptions.html)

## Affaire de Coeur

39



# March May be Women's History Month But their contributions live all year!

## A Few of the Many Things Invented by Woman



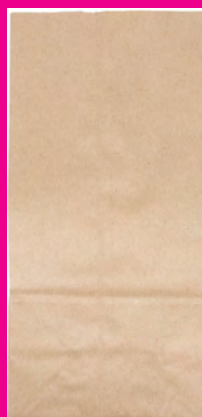
Syringes



Ironing Board



Refrigerators



Flat-bottom  
Paper Bag



Closed circuit TV and  
Security Cameras



Kevlar--used in  
bullet-proof vests



The Landlord's Game, predecessor to  
Monopoly