

May-June 2018

Affaire de Coeur

Bringing You 37 Years of Honest Reviews



Cover Model
John Antorino

Reviews!
Reviews!
Reviews!



Meet author/Screenwriter
Ester Lopez



Hot Guyz Patrol 2018 Cover Art Contest

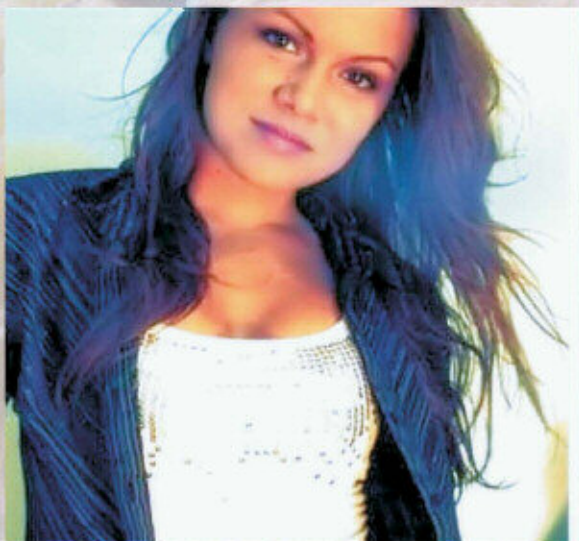


Announcing
the annual
Affaire de Coeur
Hot Guyz Patrol
Cover Art Contest

*Hot Guyz
Gorgeous Gals
Almost Kiss
Uniquely Yours*

*Contest begins
May 1, 2018*

Details on
AffairedesCoeur.com



Affaire de Coeur

May-June, 2018

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Lanelle Brent

President of Advertising and Marketing

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How To Make Your Website Awesome



See what I'm doing wrong. Right now, it's a perfect example of what not to do.

Sooner or later I will get around to fixing it and then, hopefully, it'll be a page that you can look at and say, *"Hey, that looks good. She must've fixed it."*

Now, there are a few things on the page that *are* correct:

The Native American images show the readers that I write about Native Americans. The WW2 images show the readers that I have books about WW2.

My links are functioning properly and go to my Amazon associate's account so I can track my activity.

Notice that the book covers and descriptions don't confuse the reader. The coloring and image blending accent the books and are pleasing to the reader.

There's personal information and a picture. (Readers love that.) Although I don't have an "about" page, there's still contact information available if they want to email me.

Oddly enough, I have a great click-through rate. Honestly, I don't know why, but I do well on sales from my website. Can you imagine how well I'd do if I could just get the time to do it right?

Here's how to make it awesome.

Use a background image that either accents your books, letting the reader know what you write, or keep it a solid color and use a font that is legible to the reader and makes your book covers stand out.

For example, if you write westerns, the background image could be mountains, cattle, or cowboys. You want to use something that goes with the western theme. But you don't want to distract from your books.

If you use an opaque image, use darker, bolder fonts. You can go with reds, black, or dark greens/blues.

If you use a dark background image, use lighter fonts. Use gold, yellow, or reds with thin white strokes.

Use Disney, or Universal images as an example. They tend to use dark backgrounds and bright overlays and fonts.

That's what you want.

That's what I need to do for my pages.

Your website is one big, awesome ad. If you look at it that way, you'll succeed in making it a great page for your readers.

Another major requirement for an awesome web page is to take advantage of excerpts. It doesn't have to be a full chapter. You want to entice the reader into wanting more.

Personal websites cost money, especially if you want www.YourName.com. There are free websites you can use. I did when I first started out as an author.

If I remember correctly, I used AOL's personal page, and then went to another free website in 1998. It wasn't until a handful of years ago that I finally opened the moth-eaten wallet and grabbed www.PamelaAckerson.com.

I will admit that I've dropped the ball many times with my website. I just don't have the time, and I've not bothered to find a webmaster to take care of it for me. So, here, I'm not one to point fingers, especially with websites.

I know I've neglected my website, and I don't want you to make the same mistakes. Websites need to be pleasing to the eye. The reader must be able to associate your books with your page. Please don't have a cluttered page. (Yes, that's one of my mistakes.)

Go ahead and go to my page, and see the mistakes.

This book is a hoot...laugh out loud-able—Long and Short Reviews



Ferris H. Craig and Charlene Keel

Grinders Corner

Saucy, Sassy & Sexy...but not the least bit erotic



Ferris H. Craig
[Facebook.com/thecricketdance](https://www.facebook.com/thecricketdance)

Charlene Keel
[Facebook.com/charlene.keel.1](https://www.facebook.com/charlene.keel.1)

www.RedSkyPresents.com

That way they'll click on the buy button and either purchase or read more on the "look inside" page.

You need interaction with your readers.

There's bribery. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Offer the e-book for free in exchange for a review. They may or may not put the review up. It's a chance you have to take.

Or, if they buy book one and write a review on Amazon or Goodreads, you'll give them your next book for free.

If you are inclined to have a newsletter, collect email addresses from readers who contact you. Ask them if you can mail them once in a while.

Here's the thing. Daily newsletters are becoming outdated. People aren't reading them or they're just deleting them and going on with the next email. Only email your readers if you have something important to say or you

have a new book coming out.

I send out newsletters once a month. But, that's because I also promote other authors in the newsletter.

Blogs: That's up to you. I rarely read blogs. I read articles, but not necessarily blogs. I find it better to offer other authors to be guest bloggers on my page, and once in a while I'll be a guest blogger on another author's page.

It keeps you active. It keeps your name out there. And it helps other authors, which in turn, helps you. Do not be afraid to promote another author. There are plenty of readers to go around.

Last but certainly not least, keep your page fresh and updated. Even if you haven't written a book in six months, go in and move things around.

I know you've seen department stores or your local grocery store do it. How many times have you walked into a store and said, *"Ack, they moved*

things around again."

They're trying to make it look fresh. Big businesses do it and you need to do it too.

You need to keep the website looking fresh and active. Just make sure your readers can find what they want. You don't want them wandering around searching for something and getting frustrated.

Keep it simple and keep it fresh.

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 e-book.

Website: PamelaAckerson.com

Twitter: @PamAckerson

Wise Writers Go to Southern Owl Publications

Southern Owl Publications, LLC is a varying genre publisher. Historically, an Owl is a nocturnal bird of prey with large forward-facing eyes surrounded by facial disks, a hooked beak, and typically a loud call. Like the Owl, we stand sturdy, focused, ready to make an imprint on our readers and the world. Our goal is to publish words that were inspired and put to page by your minds, ones of great diversity and respect for the written word. Point with your mighty eyes to see beyond yourselves, and in doing so, awaken the wise owl within you.



Crystal Gauthier

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

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

In 2014 when I had a bad experience with a publisher and knew that I never wanted another author to have to go through what I did. So, I decided to take a chance and start my own promotional company. Then from there, I educated myself by taking online college courses and reading about other publishing companies. I decided I could do

this and help other authors, so I did... I opened up a publishing company. I love to educate new authors.

What type of books do you publish?

All genre except comic books-Romance, Poetry, Horror, Contemporary, SciFi, Fantasy, Historical, Children's Books, War, Self-Help and more. See our full list on the website.

What do you look for and expect from an author?

We look for dedication. Willingness to help promote and take their book to the top. We expect to be respected for the work we do and the knowledge that we possess.

How do you market your authors' books? Where do you distribute them?

1. All popular social media sites,
2. Online Magazines,
3. Book Events and Conferences,
4. Distribution of ARC'S for reviews, making our own videos, teasers and gifs. Our books are distributed around the world Online at Amazon/KDP, Barnes & Nobles, Draft2Digital, Createspace and international distributors associated with those businesses.

What do you recommend to your authors on how to promote their books?

Educate yourself on today's

Affaire de Coeur

modern promotion and marketing aspects. I recommend they start a fan page on all social media sites and a website. The time you put into your book promotion and marketing, will reflect on your book sales. You can rely on a promotional company, but there is nothing like hands on work for authors. Never give up and don't get lazy. Your book is like a business. You need to take control.

What type of royalties do they receive and do you offer advances to established authors?

All our authors receive the 35%/70% normal royalties Amazon uses. Amazon/Createspace sets the price of a book, so their royalty percentages are what we use. No, we do not yet offer advances.

How much input do you allow your authors? For example, price control, the cover, worldwide distribution, exclusive contracts?

All our authors have input, we are open and honest with them. We are available to talk to them about their editing, formatting, cover design and more. Covers are windows into the book, we ask what you like, and you have full control over what you want to see on it. We do make suggestions, but it is your book, your cover. We are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm M-F by phone, messenger, emails, etc. We do worldwide distribution for them. Price control is up to Amazon/Createspace/Draft2Digital, they are getting stricter on their pricing laws. However, the

Rocket City Author Event

Hosted By:
Author Shelby Reeves &
Shannon LovesBooks

July 21, 2018
Huntsville, AL

An out of this world adventure!

authors do have the freedom to tell us when to change a price or put a book on sale or for free. We do custom contracts for each author if they need or do not need a certain service we provide for publishing.

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?

When signing our contract there is an administrative fee of \$185.00. We do not ask for any other money up front unless there is a retype of the book done by our staff or there has been unusual circumstances that require more work to be done on the manuscript than anticipated (that is rare). You can however, purchase promotional packages from us for a fee. (That is discussed between publisher and author). Our authors can

purchase paperbacks at the wholesale rate through us, in turn we use the pricing KDP or Createspace provides. It is usually 1/2 or 1/3 less than the regular book price. This is just a rough approximation.

Are you taking author submissions and/or are you hiring?

Yes, we are always taking submissions. We are currently not hiring, but... there maybe in the future. Stay in touch.

Southern Owl Publications is owned and operated by Crystal L. Gauthier and Genevieve Scholl. Our offices are in Louisville, KY and New York Mills, NY

Crystal is a disabled and retired paralegal. Mother of 5, Grandmother of 14 and an author

Genevieve is currently a Federal Court Reporter, Fur Mom of Mischief and an

Affaire de Coeur

author.

Our company provides: Editing, Formatting, Cover Design, Helpful Support and Friendly Service. We also own Promouvoir Promotions for anyone needing expert promotional services.

Contact us at lynnvaughn181@yahoo.com



Continued on page 30



Spotlight Interview



Writing on the Edge of Reality

Ester Lopez is a sci-fi/paranormal adventure romance author and screenwriter.

AdC: *When did you start writing?*

EL: I started over 25 years ago. At least, it took me that long to learn the craft and figure out how to publish my first book.

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

EL: It wasn't until I joined RWA (Romance Writers of America) and joined a local group and online groups: Smoky Mountain Romance Writers, FF&P of RWA, and Scriptscene RWA, that I learned a lot about writing. I learned about character development, plot, antagonists, protagonists, self-editing, and so much more. Then I learned about publishing and promoting back in 2013. But one thing I learned the most was that a writer is ALWAYS learning or they can't grow as a writer. So, I will never stop learning because, in this day and age, the publishing world is fluid and ever-changing.

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

EL: The series is "The Vaedra Chronicles," a series that takes place in the Vaedra System. The first book, *The Abduction*, is about an Earthen who is abducted by an alien who happens to be human. "On a lawless moon of Plexus, a resourceful loner struggles to escape his slave-trading father with the help of a beautiful Bounty Hunter who he realizes is worth more than his ticket back to Earth." In book two, *Revenge*, "A reformed criminal struggles with a hidden power and the truth about the murdered brother of the revenge-seeking woman he loves."

I'm currently working on book three, which I hope to have published by the end of this year. Its title is *Betrayed*, "A promotion-seeking lieutenant and a feisty White House employee must find a missing landing party before a war-hungry Admiral and a conniving General unleash an intergalactic war of the worlds."



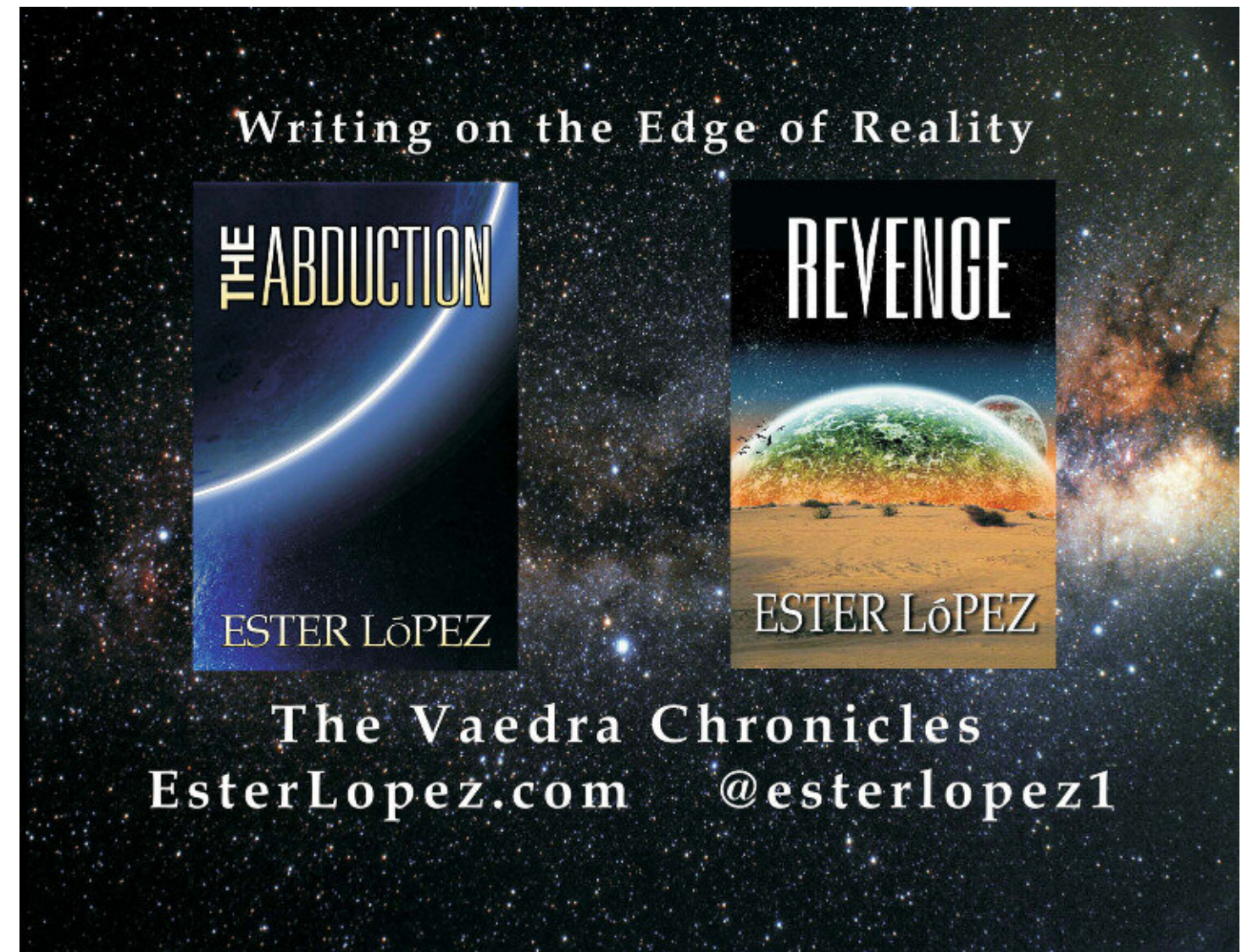
AdC: *What is your idea of a perfect writing day?*

EL: A perfect writing day is when the words start flowing from the characters and I frantically type as I see the scenes in my head and look up at the clock and realize it's been hours since I took my last break.

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

EL: Sometimes from the news, other people's comments about things, articles on space exploration or people's comments on space, UFO stories, dreams, and "what if?" questions.

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



developing characters?

EL: I have met so many people over the years that characters are not hard to come by. It's the motive that is hard to figure out. Once I have a motive (Internal and External goals), then it becomes easier to flesh out the characters with mannerisms of people I've met over the years.

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

EL: Getting to BE someone different in each story-the heroine is always a little bit of ME (or who I wish I could be) like a Bounty Hunter, a Fitness Instructor, a White House Intern, etc.

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

EL: Currently, I have two books in the sci-fi adventure romance genre.

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

EL: Yes, I will be attending RT Booklovers Convention this May, Thunder Road Author Rally in Maynardville, TN this September, and Indie Romance Convention (IRC) in October in Lebanon, TN.

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

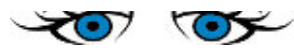
EL: 1. Never Give Up! Even when everyone is telling you you're wasting your time.
2. Believe in Yourself! Even when others don't.
3. Trust in God! For everything else, and especially for the strength to get you through the first two things.

Please give us the following contact information:

Personal web page: www.esterlopez.com

Twitter: @esterlopez1

Facebook: [esterlopez.1](https://www.facebook.com/esterlopez.1) and @EsterLopezAuthor



Sneak Peek Revenge

by Ester Lopez

Living a life of crime to support myself and my baby sister, I took the chance to turn my life around by working for the Interplanetary Space Patrol.

I kept my dark secret and hid my telekinetic powers to fit in. Everything seemed to be working fine until Shey re-entered my life. I fell in love with her the moment I saw her, but when I discovered she wanted revenge for her brother's death, it turns out she's not the only one who wants me dead.

When sabotage and murder shake up the tiny Meta Base Station of the I.S.P., it compromises the mission and changes everything. enoy, Planet Tarsius

Mariposa frowned at Berto. "Did you get in trouble today at the Academy?"

Berto sat by the fire pit, cooking a wild taffit bird on a makeshift spit. He tore off a leg and handed it to his sister. "Don't eat the bones, Mariposa, and no, I didn't get in trouble." He took a bite of taffit. The juices from the succulent bird dripped down his chin. He wiped it off with the back of his hand. He was hungrier than he thought. The sweet aroma of the roasting bird had his stomach growling but the luscious taste made him forget how he had to live.

"I saw you talking to Headmaster Torres." She took a bite of the leg, glancing up at him.

"Headmaster Torres found a job for me. I start tomorrow after classes. I'll learn how to fix wing ships, then maybe cargo ships."

"What about me? Who is going to watch me while you're gone?"

He bowed his head. Seven anos was too young to leave alone, but he had been orphaned at that age with an infant sister to take care of.

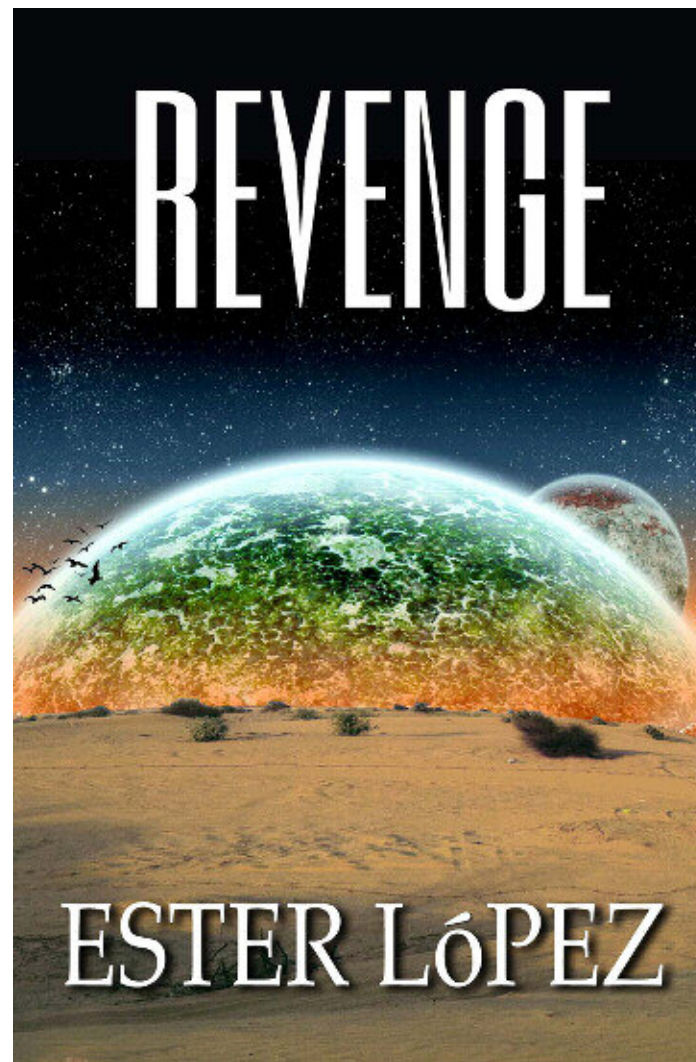
"Promise me you'll stay here in the cave when you get finished with classes."

"Aren't you going to walk me home?" She bit her lower lip and raised her brows.

"Mari, I would, but the job is on the other side of Denoy. I would be late getting to work." Mari pouted, on the verge of tears.

"Look, Mari, it's only for one day. I'll ask my new boss if you can come with me. You can study while I work."

"Can't I go with you tomorrow?"



"No, Mari. I have to speak to the boss first to make sure it's okay. Now, eat your taffit."

Later, he tucked her into the makeshift bed of reeds and palms with a blanket he had stolen years before. He looked forward to the day he could pay for his food. When he couldn't catch anything to eat, he'd stolen it.

He washed up by the small waterfall that trickled into a shallow pool. The coolness of the cave and the smell of wet rock was constant and kept out the heat of the day. The cave had been their home since he was seven. He curled up on the mat beside Mari's and went to sleep.

Biloxi, Mississippi, Rocks!!! and *Affaire de Coeur* was there to rock along with them!

We were there! Booking in Biloxi 2018

Biloxi, Mississippi, was the target for book lovers everywhere. The book signing event, featuring all genres from all authors, was hosted by Amanda Lanclos.

We started with a wonderful meet and greet on Friday evening. With seventy-three authors attending, it was going to be a promising time.

Saturday morning the doors opened to VIP readers who were given a personal treat with an hour to meet and greet new and favored authors. The doors opened at noon to allow all other attendees. The moment the doors opened at 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., authors were kept busy



Hostess Amanda Lanclose

meeting new friends and readers.

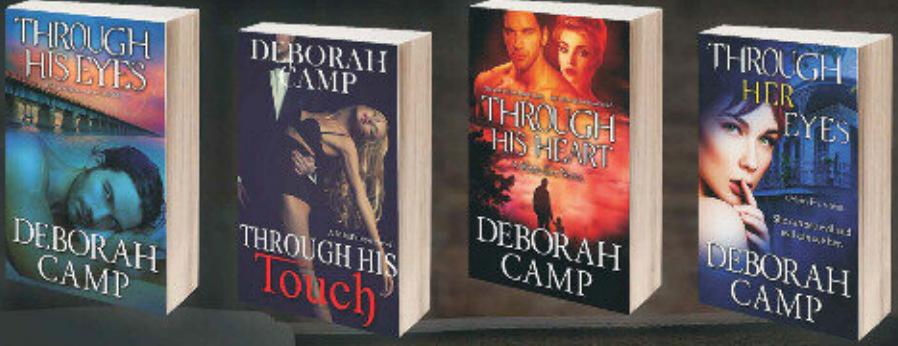
Be ready for next year, a tentative date is set for April 6, 2019. Keep up with Booking in Biloxi on their Facebook page or follow them on Twitter.

www.facebook.com/bookinginbiloxi
@CajunBookAddict
@alancl88

THE MIND'S EYE SERIES

By DEBORAH CAMP

Available on Amazon
https://www.amazon.com/Deborah-Camp/e/B001HOGDMW?ref=sr_tc_2_@qid=1504813649&sr=1-2-ent



#5 "THROUGH HER TOUCH"
 and #6 "THROUGH HER HEART"
 will be released in 2018!

www.deborah-camp.com • <https://www.facebook.com/officialdeborahcamp> • <https://twitter.com/AuthorDebCamp>
<https://www.pinterest.com/debbycamp44/> • https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/198990.Deborah_Camp

THE TEXAS TRILOGY continues with ...

BEYOND CONTROL

MAY 29th

"Martin is synonymous with sexy suspense."





Author, Violet Howe



Anne Welch



Author, Linda Joyce

Spotlight Interview

Jennifer Probst is the New York Times, USA Today, and Wall Street Journal bestselling author of sexy and erotic contemporary romance. Her work has been translated in over a dozen countries, sold over a million copies, and was dubbed a “romance phenom” by Kirkus Reviews. Her family keeps her active, stressed, joyous, and sad her house will never be truly clean. Her passions include horse racing, Scrabble, rescue dogs, Italian food, and wine—not necessarily in that order.



AdC: When did you start writing?

J.P.: I started writing when I was very young, and knew I’d be a writer the moment I learned to read. I wrote my very first young adult romance at twelve years old in longhand, then brought it to school and had everyone read it!

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

J.P.: Writing has changed over the years as a career. Not only do you need to write the stories, you need to be able to be your own CEO – and learn to do social media, marketing, networking, and many other duties. I’ve learned

when there’s too much busyness and chatter, shut down the distractions and concentrate on the writing. Writing always comes first.

AdC: Tell us about your new book or series.

J.P.: I actually have two new books coming out back to back! The first is *The Marriage Arrangement*, which is a brand new installment in my bestselling series, the Marriage to a Billionaire. I’m thrilled to be able to offer readers a peek at their favorite characters from the series, and introduce brand new ones. It comes out May 1st!

The second book is the beginning of a brand new series called *The Start of Something Good*. It comes out June 5th and is full of emotion, humor, enemies to lovers romance, family drama, and of course, rescue dogs, plus a rescue chicken lol!

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

J.B.: Honestly, a perfect writing day is when the words are flowing and have nothing to do with weather, setting, or atmosphere. I’ve learned to write anywhere. Of course, if I get to have perfect, I’ve got a view of a gorgeous beach, it’s sunny, and I’m writing up a storm while I’m sipping a cocktail!

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

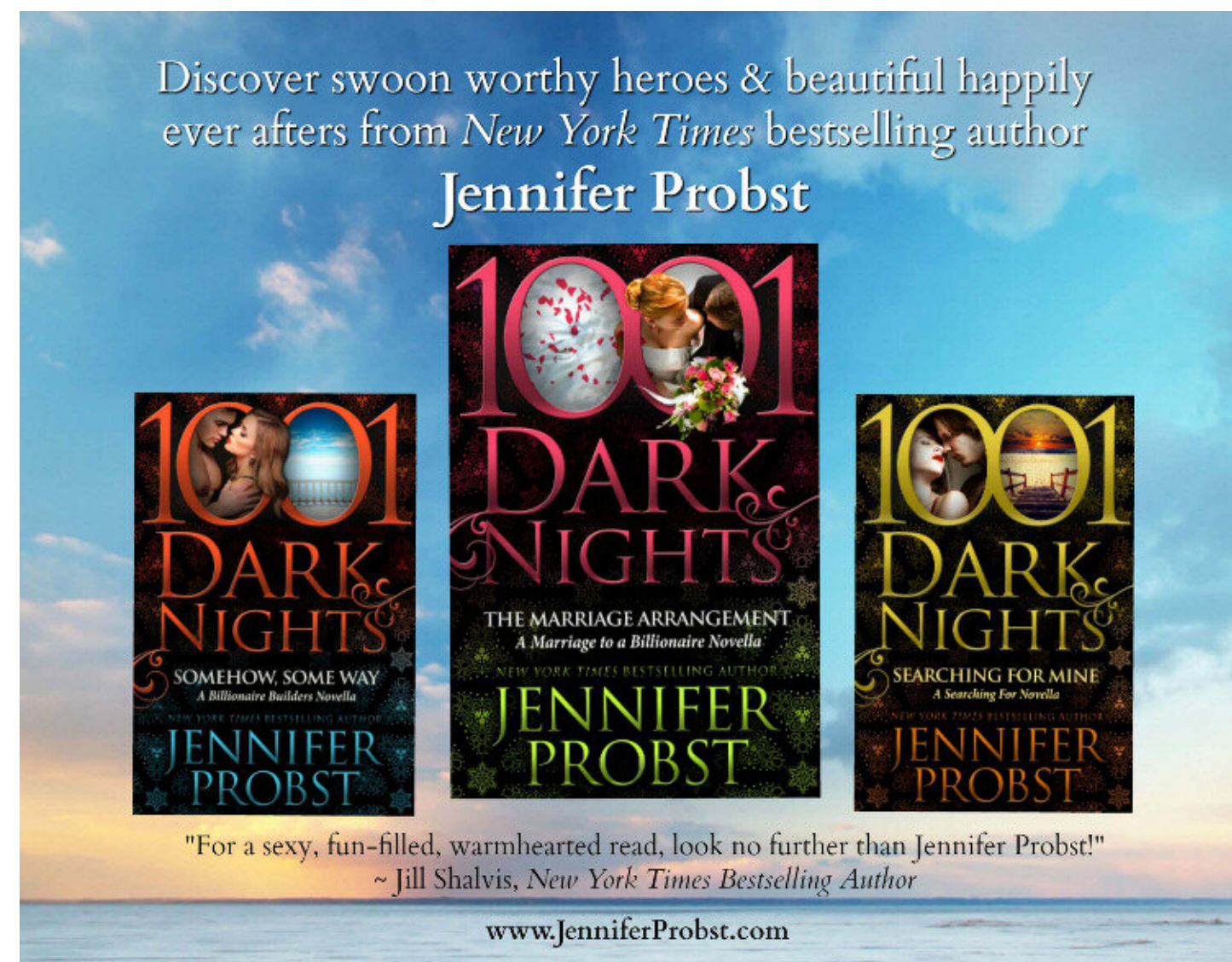
J.B.: They come from everywhere. *The Start of Something Good* happened because I began to do horse back riding on Thursdays. I go to a local farm which rescues horses, and fell in love with the animals and owner. I told them I was going to write a book one day revolving around an upstate bed and breakfast and horse rescue farm. So, two years later, I did! You need to pay attention and let your imagination have fun. Stories are everywhere.

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

J.B.: Making sure you dig deep enough to get to the raw emotion and not just the surface stuff. It takes some time. I’m usually halfway through the book before I realize who these characters truly are, and then I need to go back and layer them more richly. Be open to growth as you write, and keep digging within yourself and your story to rip away all those barriers. Don’t write safe. Get messy – it’s hard but it’s the good stuff.

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

J.B.: Working from home. It’s hard



but I adore it, especially after so many years with demanding day jobs and a two hour commute daily. I love being able to concentrate on the stories now instead of grabbing time here and there – but a writer writes no matter how little time she has. I honestly think my day job was essential to learning how to write in small segments. And of course – the readers. When they let me know they loved my story – it’s the most wonderful high in the world!

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

J.B.: I have about 37 books out. Most are contemporary sexy and erotic romance. But I have one children’s book I coauthored with my niece, and a short story about a rescue dog called

A Life Worth Living that I donate the royalties toward my local pet shelter. I’ve also written a nonfiction book called, *Write Naked*, and a paranormal one called *Dante’s Fire*. I love writing in all genres and hopefully will continue to do so.

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

J.P.: Yes, I’ll be attending RARE in Rome in June, and Book Bonanza in Denver on July 20th and 21st. I’ll also be at Readers on the River in Kentucky with JR Ward in September 29th and Books by the Bridge signing in NYC on September 15th. Wow – I’m travelling a lot this year lol!

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

J.P.: Believe in yourself and your story.

Keep writing even when you want to give up. Your story is important, and has a right to be heard. You are unique and special, and you will need to work very hard, and be open to change, but I truly believe you will get what you need and be published if you keep moving forward and keep writing and learning. Always study craft – it’s the backbone of your career.

AdC: Please give us the following contact information:

Personal web page <http://www.jenniferprobst.com>

Twitter @jenniferprobst

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/jenniferprobst.authorpage/>



Sneak Peek

Excerpt

1001 Dark Nights: The Marriage Arrangement

By Jennifer Probst

“All endings are also beginnings. We just don’t know it at the time.” -Mitch Albom

“You have to marry her.”

Rip Savage stared at the man who’d been like a father to him over the past year. Even now, with worry lines bracketing his eyes and mouth, the older man retained a sense of elegance and grace befitting someone of English descent, even royalty. With his thinning silver hair, thick black framed glasses, and penchant for designer black suits, he cut an intimidating figure, even before one stared into those pale blue eyes that could turn steel grey with stubborn defiance. Of course, Edward Winsor had a reputation to live up to. Within the cliques of vineyards and winery owners in the Hudson Valley, he was well-known for his quality vintage, and a tightly knit family-run business that competed with Brotherhood Winery for the oldest run winery in the state. His estate was small but mighty, and one of the sought-after blue-bloods that many admired.

Rip had been the only one to know Winsor Winery had been almost bankrupt. Beneath the flawless surface, something rotten had flourished. When Rip was hired to pull the business from ruin, he’d been focused on success no matter what the cost. He hadn’t ex-

pected to develop such affection for Edward, or be treated like a son, rather than a hired associate.

Therefore, instead of panic, he regarded the older man from across his cherry wood desk with a frown. “I don’t understand. What does Caterina have to do with the winery?”

Edward gave a long sigh, tapping his elegant finger against the etched crystal high ball glass that contained his usual two fingers of Scotch. He shifted his weight in his chair, causing the leather to squeak slightly. They were in Rip’s favorite room-the library/study-decorated in bold, rich wines with a hint of Tuscan gold. The fabrics were decadent, from the expensive dark leathers, to the Oriental tapestry rugs, and burgundy velvet couches. Bookshelves lined the wall, the scents of old paper and leather bindings with a touch of wood polish drifting in the air. The large bay windows overlooked the acres of rolling property with the view of the spectacular Shawangunk Mountains.

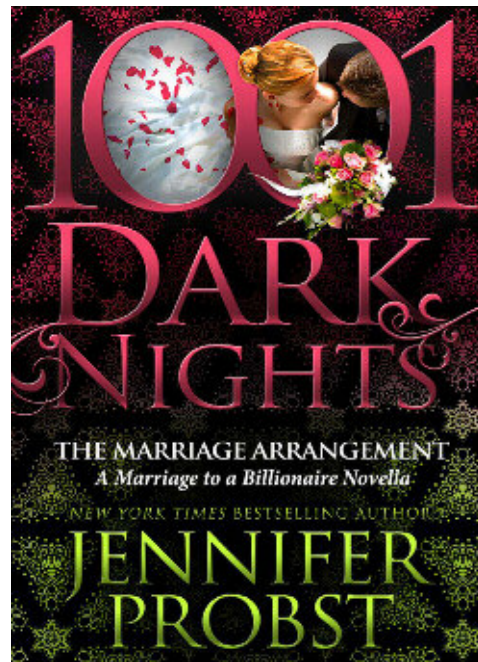
Usually, the view alone soothed him. Reminded him of his success and how far he’d come in a world he’d fought to break into. But his nerves were edged with a fine tension that matched his gut. Something bad was going down, and he had a terrible idea he wouldn’t be able to stop it.

“I’m sorry to be so mysterious, Rip. The bottom line is, I’m ready to retire. My health is deteriorating, and the doctor advised if I don’t get to a warmer climate, I’ll be pushing my odds. I love this life but it’s time to move on.”

Rip nodded. “You warned me about this months ago. I’m ready for the challenge. I’ve proved I can run Winsor Winery successfully. We can sign the contracts immediately and I’ll help settle you wherever you choose.”

Regret flashed in the man’s blue eyes. “You saved my business, and deserve to inherit control. But I can’t do it, Rip. Winsor Winery can only be given to a family member. No matter how much I love you like my son, you’re not blood.” His body numbed. The past reared up-ugly and telling-reminding him once again he’d always be an outsider. There was no such thing as a reward for hard

Affaire de Coeur



work, or fairness. There was only the same lesson he’d learned time and time again.

He belonged to no one.

He was alone.

“You can do anything you want,” Rip said. “You’re choosing to deny me my rights, even after I was promised full control after your daughter ran out on you.”

Edward took off his glasses and rubbed his nose. “I know. I made a mistake. I contacted my lawyer when I realized I’d need to step down, and was reminded that part of the clause from generations ago was that the winery and land stays in the family. It can’t be sold outside the Winsor name.”

“And if you had no children to inherit?” Rip asked.

“Control reverts to a sibling, and the oldest niece or nephew.”

A curse blistered past his lips. He jammed his hands in his pockets and tried to make sense of the mess unfolding. “Your daughter wants nothing to do with the business. She ran away to play in Italy, not caring you were near financial disaster. How can you leave it to her to be destroyed?”

Edward raised his head. Steely resolve glowed in his blue eyes. “I’ve been thinking about this a long time, Rip. You’re like a son to me. You deserve to be part of Winsor Winery. And from the time my daughter was an infant, I’ve

raised her with one goal in mind: to eventually run the family business. But perhaps I pushed too hard.” The older man’s shoulders sagged. “After she lost her fiancée, she swore to carve out a new life for herself. But it’s time for her to stop running. This land is part of her blood. You’re a good man, and Caterina is your perfect match. With you both at the helm, you would make an incredible team.”

A humorless laugh escaped Rip. He shook his head and began pacing. “You’re suggesting an arranged marriage in order to gain a business? I’m either trapped in the middle Middle Ages, or caught in an awful Hollywood chick flick. This is insane. We’ve never even met. She’d never agree.”

“I think this business means more to her than she thinks. If it’s a matter of losing her home and inheritance, she may agree to the terms.”

He narrowed his gaze. “You’d allow your daughter to marry someone she doesn’t love? Force her into an arrangement in order to satisfy some ancient clause that can probably be broken, or challenged?”

“There is no negotiation on the clause-I’ve already checked. I’m not about to force my daughter to do anything. But I think you would be good for Cat,” he added softly. “You’re a man with a rare quality that is integral to her happiness.”

Bitterness tinged his tone.

“What’s that?”

“Loyalty. Honor.”

The words singed him like flames. He got up, pacing the room like a caged, pissed-off tiger. “And me? You have no problem sacrificing my wants or happiness for this end game?” The man’s sigh drifted to his ears. “I knew you’d be pissed off. Feel betrayed. You may not believe me right now, but I love both of you. I’m simply looking for a way where everyone wins. You get the winery, I get to retire, and you both get the opportunity to win something bigger: Love.”

“Love? Forgive me, Edward, but the only thing your daughter and I have in common is this winery. There will be no love between us. Just respon-

sibility. Is that what you want?”

“I want something more for both of you. I’ve watched you this past year, Rip. You’re thirty-five years old with no ties to this world. You deserve more than this type of life you pretend is enough, and Cat may be exactly what you’re missing. She’s spirited, and intelligent, and though she swore she was done with the winery, she still has a deep love for this place. It’s time to bring her home and for a new generation to begin. That’s my hope for all this. And though it may appear ruthless, and you may never forgive me, I’m willing to take that risk.”

He threw out his final challenge. “And if she disagrees? If I fail to convince her marriage to a stranger is the only solution?”

Edward’s jaw clenched. “Then I’ll continue to work here even if my doctor disapproves. When I die, it will be automatically willed to her as in the terms of the agreement.” Silence fell.

Rip spun away. His lungs emptied of air as he struggled to understand the betrayal of a man he’d trusted. The late afternoon sunlight streamed through the oversized bay windows, wrapping the room in golden light. He watched the effect the sunbeams had on the office. Swirling tendrils of pain and emptiness ripped at his insides, fighting to get out, but he forced them back, his many years of discipline winning over his temptation to let the emotions run rampant.

Odd, that as angry as he was, he felt the bitterness more intently; that the past year as Edward’s right-hand man and friend meant nothing. Rip couldn’t take over the family business because he wasn’t family. All his work, care, and sacrifice to bring the winery back from bankruptcy didn’t matter. Blood mattered.

Once again, Rip found himself chasing a prize that danced just out of reach, like the shadow chased the elusive light of the sun.

And once again, he found himself back in the darkness. So be it.

He swiveled on his heel and
Affaire de Coeur

schooled his face to show no emotion. The ending was clear to him, and there was no doubt he’d win. He’d learned the lesson early, trapped in an abusive home, craving a life that was bigger and better and beyond reach. Sometimes, he believed he’d gotten there, only to realize it had only been a mirage-like now.

None of it mattered. He wanted Winsor Winery for himself. If the only way to do it was to marry a rich, spoiled heiress, he’d do it. If he had to make her fall in love with him, he would. If he had to lie, or deceive, he would. And by God, he’d have no blood on his hands because it was her own father who’d forced his hand.

“Where is she?”

“In Milan. I’ll give you her address.”

He gave a curt nod. “Don’t let her know I’m coming. I’d prefer to do this on my own, without any interference.”

Edward looked torn. “She deserves to hear the truth from me.”

“Then give me at least a week. Give me some time to get to know her before you bring up the idea of marriage. I’d like to see if we can even make this work between us.”

Slowly, the older man nodded. “One week. Then I’ll call and explain everything. If you both feel you can’t go through with it, I’ll accept your resignation.”

“Fine. I’ll go make the arrangements.” He swiveled on his heel but the sound of his name made him pause. Yes?”

“I know you don’t believe me now, but I’m doing what I believe is best. For both of you.”

A thousand different responses rose to his lips, but Rip bit them all back, leaving Edward Winsor alone in silence.

It was time to go meet his future wife. ew York Times & USA Today Best-selling Author Jennifer Probst
www.jenniferprobst.com
Sign up for my newsletter for monthly prizes! www.jenniferprobst.com/newsletter

Debra Parmley Presents: The Cover Model's Corner featuring Actor/Model John Antorino



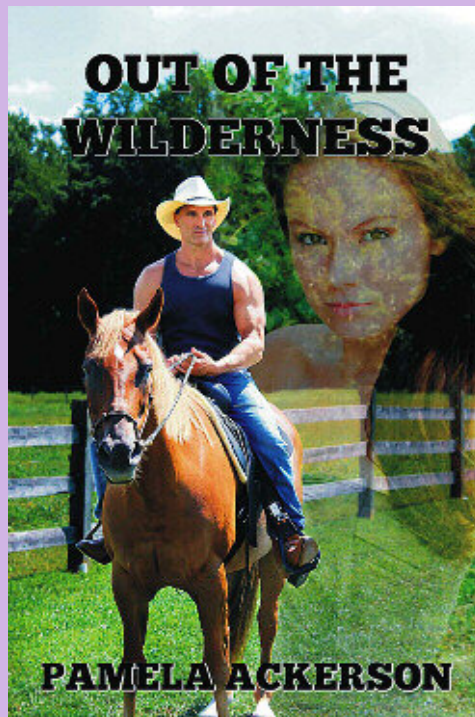
glad you could take the time out to chat with me. I can't wait to share with our readers the latest news and all your new projects. I'm glad you could make time to talk with me in between working and traveling.

John: Thank you Deb!! Always my pleasure to be here and talk with you and the readers and fans. And yes, I've sure been busy, Thank God!!

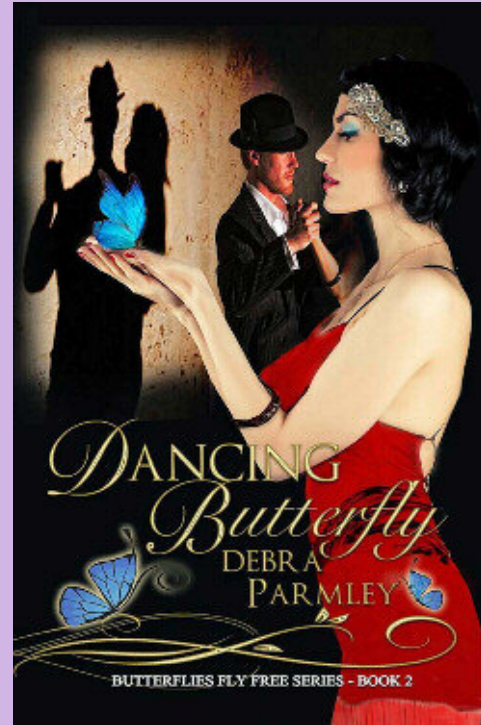
Debra: You've been on several covers since we last did a Cover Model Corner interview together for *Affair de Coeur* magazine. *Out of the Wilderness* and *Jenna's Christmas*

Model/Actor John Antorino was born and raised in the Atlantic City area of New Jersey by his loving single mother along with his twin sister. John now spends most of his time traveling between New Jersey, New York and LA making movies, appearing on covers and promoting Muscle Whiz. John's career has now spanned over 2 decades and is still going. He's been featured in many of the top muscle and fitness magazines and has worked internationally doing fashion, fitness, and underwear ads and campaigns. He's also graced many romance novel covers. John is the face of supplement company "Muscle Wiz." John holds a BA degree in psychology and is now focused and working hard on his acting career.

Debra: John, it's always a pleasure to interview you on Cover Model Corner and I'm looking forward to our chat. You've been very busy since our last interview and I'm so



Wish are two of the books you've appeared on. Do you have any new covers in the works for 2018 or 2019?



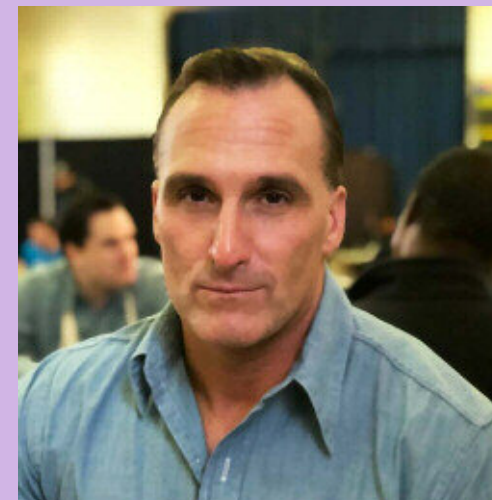
John: Yes, those are 2 of my favorite covers I've done (*Jenna's Christmas Wish* and *Out of the Wilderness*). And 2 of my favorite authors to work with. Wink wink!! I've spoken to several authors and publishers about appearing on some covers coming up. But, haven't committed to anything as of yet. I've honestly been so busy with so many projects and crazy travel. Hopefully I'll soon grace more covers though!!

Debra: Your acting career has continued to really take off and I know you're very busy. Are you still taking on cover modeling jobs for book covers?

John: Yes definitely!! I always enjoy being on the covers and working closely with the authors and publishers. I really get into the character I play on the covers, as well as the promoting and publicity of the books (covers) I'm on.



Debra: I can't wait to hear about all your projects. John, you have so many exciting new movie roles lined



up. *The Irishman*, slated to be out in 2019; *Jasper* slated to be out in 2019;

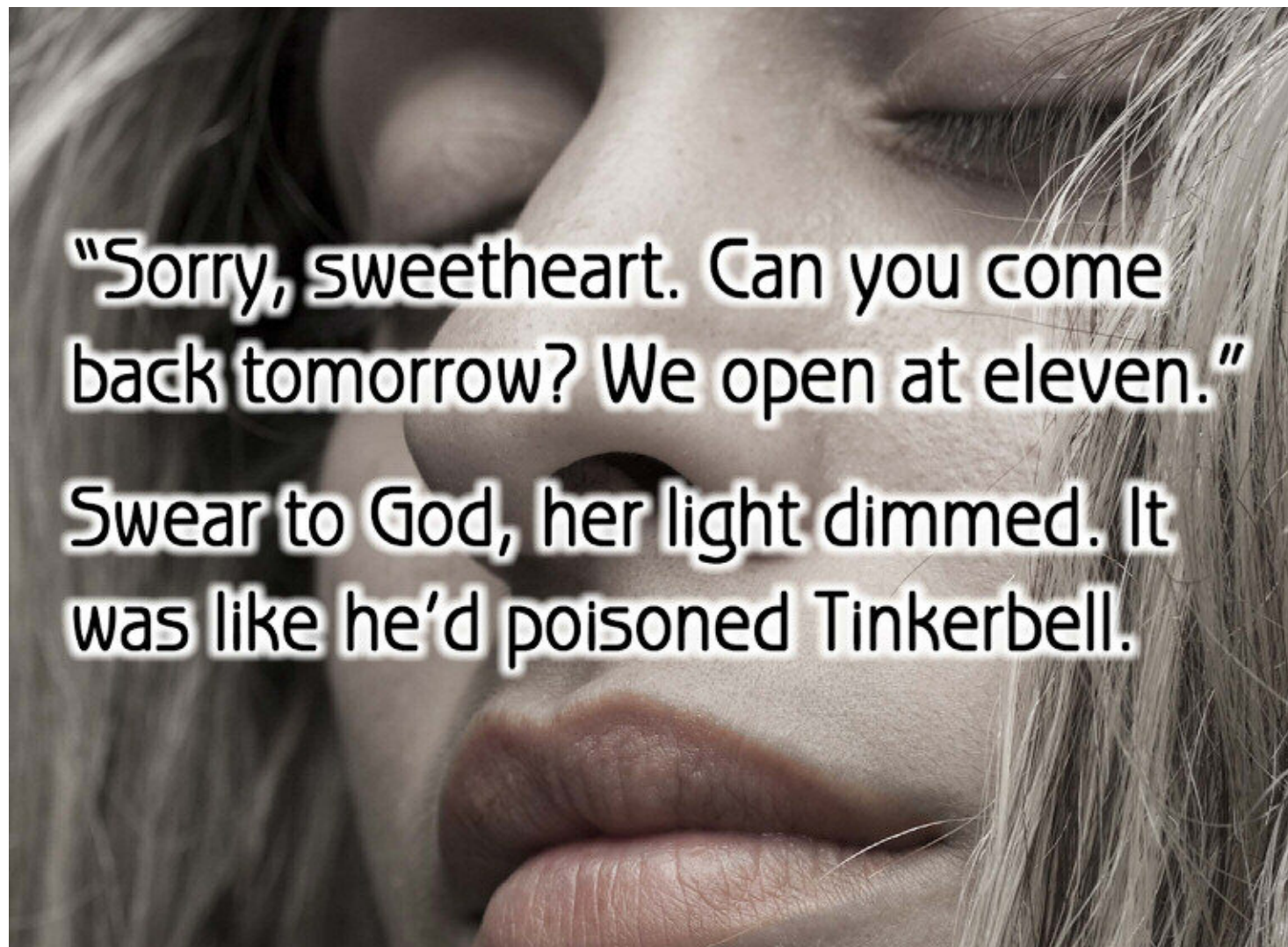
and *Power Play*. The IMDB site shows you'll also be in *A Cup Full of Crazy* in 2018. So many of your upcoming projects are in development and I know with projects still in development, you might be limited in what you can say about them, but what can you tell us about each of these projects? In particular, the roles you play in each?

John: Yes, thank you!! I am surely thrilled with these roles and opportunities. In "*The Irishman*," I'm playing a mob inmate in the jail where Jimmy Hoffa (*Al Pacino*) is in. "*Jasper*" is a true story thriller about a serial killer in Canada that killed many people over a few decades. I'm playing Homicide Detective Robert Booker. "*A Cup Full of Crazy*" is another thriller and I'm playing Detective Mitchell McCord. "*The Fighting Wagner's*" is

a true story about discrimination in NYC in the early 1900's and I'm playing boxing trainer/farm hand Will Arena. "*Bensonhurst*" is a Netflix project. It's about the many historical events that took place in Bensonhurst over the years. Which is a small area in Brooklyn, New York. I'm playing John, the Rookie cop. The Mafia show I've been working on, "*Mob Diaries*," is on hiatus for writing and funding.

Debra: So far this year, you've been to Italy, to Florida and, of course, your home in New Jersey. Will there be more travel for you this year? Where do you spend most of your time now?

John: Yes, add Los Angeles, Savannah, Georgia, New York City,



Baltimore, and Washington, DC. And there is surely more to come. I'll be back in NYC often for work, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, and possibly Italy coming up again. I am between NJ, NYC, and LA. That's where I am most of the time.

Debra: Most romance novel covers would have you portraying the hero and it's easy to see you in that role. With acting, you'd had the chance to portray a larger range of characters. Now I know you as John Antorino, the good guy in real life, who does so much for children who are battling cancer, so I already know you're a good guy through and through. So, I wonder, is it a huge stretch for you to play a character who isn't so good and who might do some pretty rough things? What has been your most

challenging role so far?

John: First, thank you for your compliment and kind words. And it's hard and it's not. Because I am a professional and it's just what I do. I work hard to become that character/role. And at the end of the day I'm always still just ME!! At times it can be challenging. For example, having to portray a nasty evil character that really existed in the world. Such as, the Nazi role I played in "There Is Many Like Us." It was a true story and the tragic events, and my role existed and happened. It was quite brutal.

Debra: Is it more fun playing a good guy, like a cop, or a bad guy, like a mobster? Or do you like to mix it up and play a variety of roles?

John: I actually like both. I really

enjoy playing a bad ass, like a mobster. Growing up with "Goodfellas," "Casino," and "Godfather," how can I not. Ha!!! And on the other hand, I do like playing a good guy, like a cop. The hero role that saves the day and makes a difference is always great!!

Debra: You have a degree in psychology and I'm sure that's been useful knowledge when getting into the roles you play. Is there anything else you do to help get into a role?

John: I read a lot. I study a lot. I study the character I'm playing. I learn the backstory of it. I transform into the role and I become it!! I also study some of the great actors and their mannerisms and movements at times. But ultimately, I make the role my own.

Debra: Are you still the face of and a sponsored athlete for the company "Muscle Wiz"?

John: Yes, I am. I've been with them since 2010. We're growing and evolving right now. Putting a lot back into the company and the future of it. I love their products and the opportunities that go with being the face of the company/brand. www.musclewiz.com.

Debra: I remember you speaking about cooking and loving to cook. Do you still enjoy that and find time to do so? What's your favorite to cook?

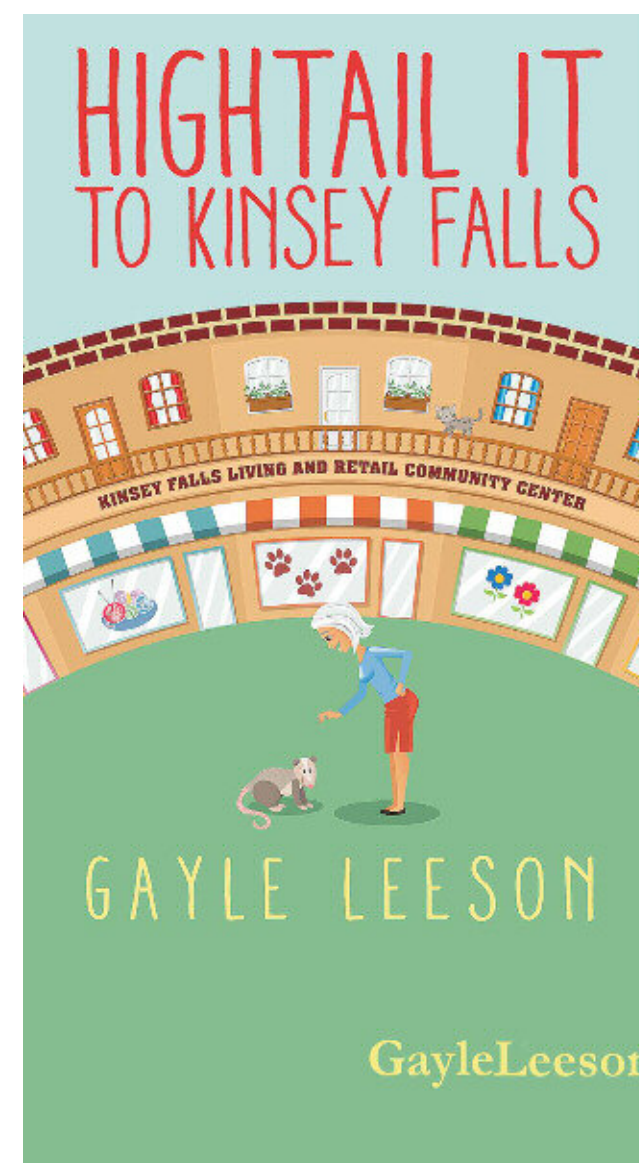
John: Oh yes. I love cooking and still do it often. I make all kinds of things. My specialty is Italian. But

of course!! My famous homemade pizza is my favorite to make and eat. I make the dough and sauce from scratch. Everyone that I've made it for says it's the best ever!! I always like making a huge pot of sauce and homemade meatballs. Yes, it's sauce and NOT gravy!! But I can make everything. Breakfast is another one of my specialties - homemade waffles and pancakes.

Debra: You're an extremely positive person always. And always seem so grateful for everything in your life and all the good fortune that comes your way. Where does that come from? And any good words to us and the readers to keep us going and positive?

John: Yes, I am. Thank you for noticing. I've always been this way and it just grew as I got older and with success. I just have the attitude of we live once and should live to the fullest and work hard for our goals and what we want in life and do as much good as possible. Help as many people and as often as possible. In the end we're only left with the legacy we leave behind and the impact we had on others and the world that lives on. I always believe in remaining humble no matter what success comes your way. I'm always telling people to stay grateful for everything in life, for each day. There are always others much worse off. I see it too often with the very sick kids I visit and help. It really puts things in

Continued on page 25



All work and no play
make Jade a dull girl.

Jade Burt can do without her grandmother's meddling in her love life. But when Millie finds an abandoned baby possum, it leads her to Caleb Young. Caleb would be perfect for Jade! When Jade meets Caleb, it's hard to argue with her grandmother's choice. Still, Jade is determined to push Caleb away, but his friendship with Millie concerns her. What if he's a slick con man trying to take advantage of a sweet old lady? Jade needs to figure Caleb out before he breaks her grandmother's heart...and Jade's too!

GayleLeeson.com @GayleTrent

I Love Books

Sponsored by the Florida Writers Association and run by Shannon Bell, the book signing event held in Jacksonville, FL was an eventful day to remember. On May 19, seventy-five authors from all over the U.S., Canada, and even from Australia joined together to meet for a grand book signing. Prizes, contests, and a play area for kids was available for all.



Graduation Time! *Louise B. Snead*

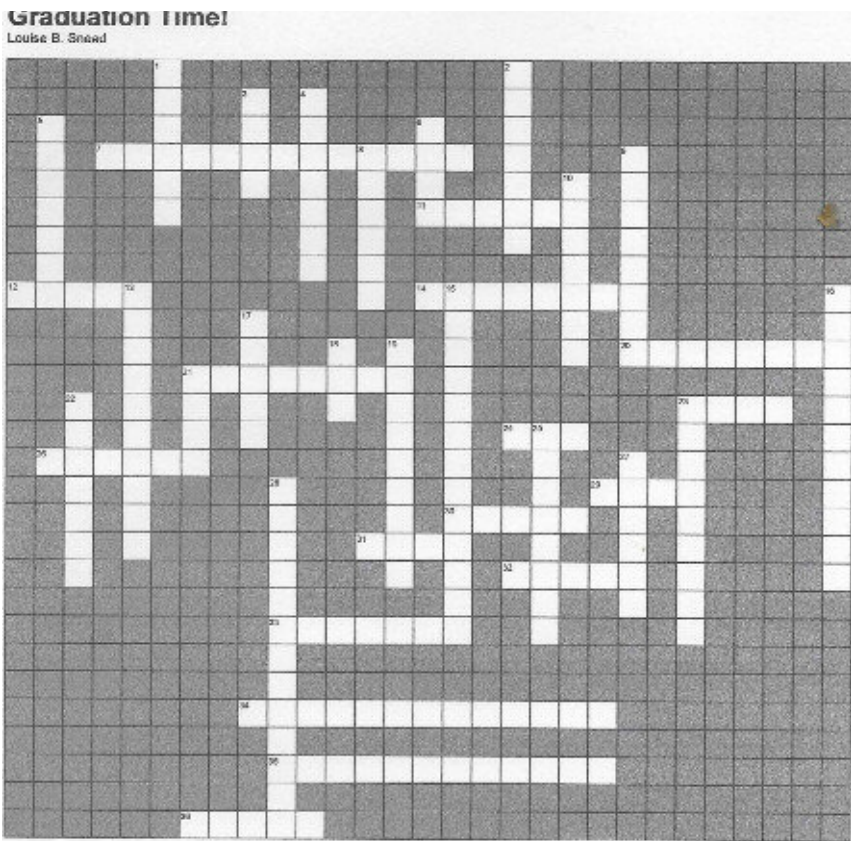
Across

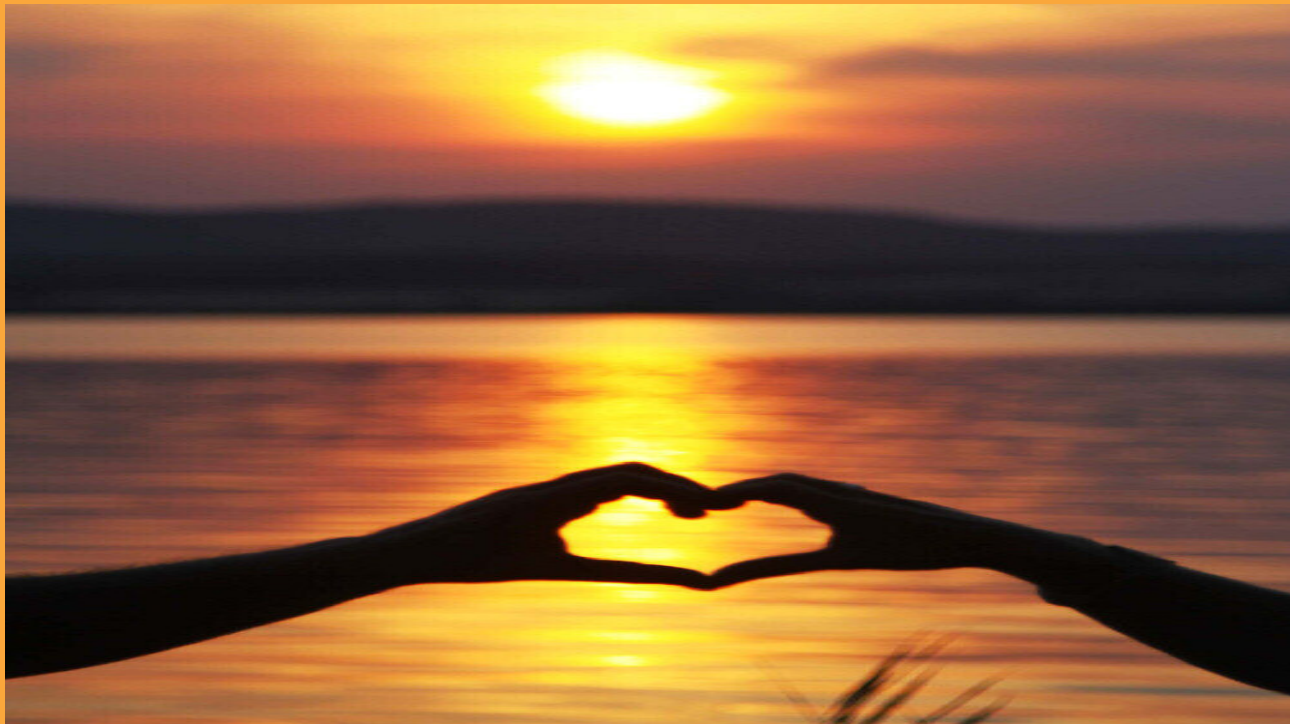
- 7. The process of going through school and graduating.
- 11. Student earns this after completing all requirements.
- 12. One of the most popular college graduation gifts.
- 14. The lowest level of college graduation.
- 20. The Wonder Years sing about the last _____.
- 21. Dustin Hoffman played him with Mrs. Robinson.
- 23. Song plus clue number 28 Down played while graduates march.
- 24. Part of the ceremonial garb, usually black.
- 26. Recently established to preserve graduation dress history
- 29. Side the tassel should end up on.
- 30. Her song “The Climb” is a graduation favorite.
- 31. Another name for the ceremonial gown.
- 32. A trimming worn about the neck that allows self-expression.
- 33. The next second highest college degree.
- 34. The smart student who gives the speech at graduation.
- 35. Another name for graduation ceremony.
- 36. This doctor said to graduates, “Your mountain is waiting for you.”

- these California boys.
- 18. Doctoral candidates oft wear a four side hat like this one.
- 19.. He served on this instiution’s Board of Visitors in 1693.
- 21. Dress worn by graduates.
- 22. Re-gathering of the classmates years later.
- 23. The first African-American woman to graduate in the U.S. (1863)
- 25. Word used at graduation when student is not there.
- 27. This Washington said, “You never see a u-haul behind a hearse.”
- 28. With Clue number 23 Across, is played for graduates to march.

Down

- 1.This Marselis advises the graduates: “Live in the sweet spot.”
- 2. First university in the United States.
- 3. What is the acronym for institutions of higher learning for African Americans?
- 4. Mount _____, one of the seven sisters, is the oldest woman’s college.
- 5. Paper given to graduates, oft put on the wall.
- 6. Worn atop the gown indicates degree or school.
- 8. The stringy thing hanging from the top of the graduation hat.
- 9. This assualted, former congresswoman says to graduates, “You cannot authentically live anyone’s life but your own.”
- 10. Describes entire ensemble worn at graduation.
- 13 This publisher/activist says, “Don’t replay he bad, scary movies.”
- 15. These are mailed out to let others know of their special day.
- 16. Another name for the graduation hat.
- 17. “Graduation Day” is an atypical song from





Contemporary Romance Reviews

All Night with the Cowboy (A River Ranch Novel - Book 2)

Soraya Lane

St. Martin's Paperbacks

Mass Market

978-1250131034

★★★★

Lauren Lewis's parents gave her an ultimatum -- give up bad boy Tanner Ford, or they won't pay for college. She has the summer to decide. Lauren spent that time doing one of two things--spending time with Tanner or trying to find a way to pay for college. At the end of the three months she made the sensible choice. Foolishly, Lauren didn't tell Tanner why she was breaking up. Leaving him may have broken his heart, but it broke hers, too.

Twelve years later, Lauren's a physical therapist for a pro football team. It's the off-season and she has a three-week vacation planned. Lauren gets a call from Mia, Tanner's sister. He needs Lauren's help.

Last year Tanner was the world champion bull rider. But recently he was trampled on and gored by a bull. Tanner needs physical therapy to resume his career. Mia convinces Lauren to work with him during her Fiji vacation.

Tanner is outraged! The last person he wants to see

is the woman who ripped out his heart. But a week of calling around confirms that Lauren's the best in the biz.

Warm nights and beautiful days rekindle Lauren and Tanner's love. But can he allow himself to trust her again? This is a continuation of a series. It can be read alone and is a really good book.

Sheila Griffin

Building Fences (A Cedar Creek Family Book 1)

Violet Howe

Charbar Productions LLC

Kindle Edition

B07BMNG2DC

★★★★



When reading the blurb for Building Fences, I honestly wasn't expecting to enjoy the story as much as I did. I'm stingy with my ratings; so to have this story grab me enough to hand out five stars may require a little explaining. Contemporary romances are not my favs, but I've enjoyed this author's other works, such as her romantic suspense story, A Ghost in the Curve, so thought I'd give this a go. I'm so glad I did! To me, the adoption and seeking out the birth mother was the backstory. What got this reader's attention

Contemporaries

was one kind-hearted cowboy by the name of Levi Parker, and how he took a chance on a divorced mother of two. "I went to sleep with a smile on my face, and I dreamed of the brownhaired, browneyed cowboy who had stolen my heart."

Caroline Miller is a newly divorced mother who's just trying desperately to keep her life from falling completely apart. Married to a man who selfishly controlled her for years, Caroline steps out of her comfort zone when she's asked to take a leap of faith with a complete stranger.

Levi Parker can't quite put his finger on what it is about Caroline, but his heart is telling him she's the one -- if he can only convince her he's ready to give up his bachelor ways. "I want you in my life. Whatever that looks like, however we have to work it out to make it possible. It doesn't matter. I don't want to go back to the life I had without you."

Violet Howe has written a second chance romance that I could not put down nor did I want it to end! Highly recommend!

Sharing what I love,

Veronica

Wanted: Runaway Cowgirl

Brynn Paulin

Kindle Worlds

Kindle Edition

B07CBLT1Z2

★★★★



This reader is a sucker for friends-to-lovers romances. When I started reading Runaway Cowgirl, the pages flew by, and I couldn't stop reading this novella!

Jorie and Nash have been the very best of friends since elementary school. Their friendship blossoms into young love, but it is a love that Jorie wants to keep a secret out of fear of what others might think. Secrets and lies never lead to good, and when Jorie overhears Nash say something out of context about their relationship, her young heart is broken, and she flees into the night without a word as to why.

Skip ahead five years, and our young lovers have matured. Jorie's Gram is wont to say, "Remember that what's meant to be will always find a way." Heartsick over her leaving him without a reason, Nash is itching for a fight. But one look into his Jorie's eyes, he's transported back to the night she gave herself to him, body and soul, and he'd forgive her anything if she will just give him another chance.

So many feels in this beautifully told second chance romance with just enough heat. I highly recommend you take a trip to the Lazy D Ranch. You'll never want to leave!

Fav quote: "He was my rock, my anchor, and I was taken with a tremendous need to be there for him however he'd have me."

Sharing what I love,
Veronica

John Antorino contined

perspective. I hear people complain all the time. And about such trivial things. They don't know how good they actually have it. They should come visit some children's hospitals with me and their eyes will open and attitude will change.

Debra: What do you look for in a woman?

John: *First and foremost, inner beauty. A beautiful personality and soul is a must for me. Probably why I'm not married yet. It's tough out there. Too much selfishness in the world today. Ok, sorry. I look for someone that is caring and giving. Family oriented. She can't be a bar or club girl, party girl. She can't be a big Facebook/social media freak posting all the time and her every move. And can't be on her phone all the time and while she's with me. Obviously, she has to be attractive for me, but doesn't have to be a model. God knows I've been through enough of those!! Lol. One thing I will never do is just settle. Too many people do that today and end up divorced and/or unhappy or both.*

Debra: Where can your fans find you and follow you? And inquire about cover possibilities, appearances, and fan mail?

John: *Right now Facebook- www.facebook.com/johnantorino and www.facebook.com/johnantorinofanpage and my IMDb page: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3016683/?ref_=nv_sr_1 I'll soon add Instagram. I'm a little behind. Just too busy. But I'll get there.*

Email- johnantorino@comcast.net

Debra Parmley is an Amazon best selling romance author whose Cover Model Corner interviews are featured on *Affaire de Coeur* magazine. She writes contemporary romance, western historical romance, 1920's romance, futuristic romance, and fairy tale romance, and military romantic suspense. Follow her on www.debraparmley.com, <https://www.facebook.com/debraparmley.7>, <https://www.facebook.com/authordebraparmley/>, <https://twitter.com/DebraParmley>,



Historical Romance Reviews

The Luck of the Bride

Janna MacGregor

St. Martin's Press

Mass Market

978-1250116161

★★★★

In the third book in “The Cavensham Heiresses” series, March Lawson has strived to raise her orphaned siblings since their parents’ death, left with limited resources due to an indifferent guardian. In desperation, March forges a request to withdraw funds from her own inheritance in the name of her new guardian, Michael McCalpin, the Marquess of Cavensham. When McCalpin investigates, he is instantly captivated by the strongly beautiful, voluptuous, enterprising, and self-sacrificing young woman who dared to forge his name. The vibrant thread of attraction between the couple continues to grow as they spend time together during the Season, but McCalpin’s shameful secret and a relative bent on ruining March may destroy their fledgling courtship.

The heart of *The Luck of the Bride* is its well-

developed leads, both with powerful familial love and loyalty. McCalpin seems to have everything going for him. Yet, he carefully guards a vulnerability that causes turmoil. March's devotion to her family and ingenuity in the face of adversity are endearing. Her struggles have shaped her into a very admirable woman. The story has just the right touch of sensuality and plenty of emotion. *The Luck of the Bride* is a pleasing Cinderella-story Regency historical romance.

Danielle Hill

A Pirate's Bounty: A Devils of the Deep Novella

Eliza Knight

Amazon

Kindle Edition

B078NYH5YQ

★★★★

This naughty short by Eliza Knight is a telling of a reader's darkest fantasy! Oh, to be kidnapped in the dead of

Historicals

night by a verra smexxy pirate intent on pillaging your person
'til ye beg for mercy. Ooops! Did I spoil it for you?

Lady Faryn has been sold by her family to an undesirable man, intent to be her husband in order to gain her dowry. Before he can claim her, she is kidnapped by Captain Wraith and taken to a castle of sensual pleasures ruled by a pirate queen. Lady Faryn is drawn to Captain Wraith, and he to her, like a moth to a flame. Captain Wraith sees her as his chance to seek vengeance on those that took his life from

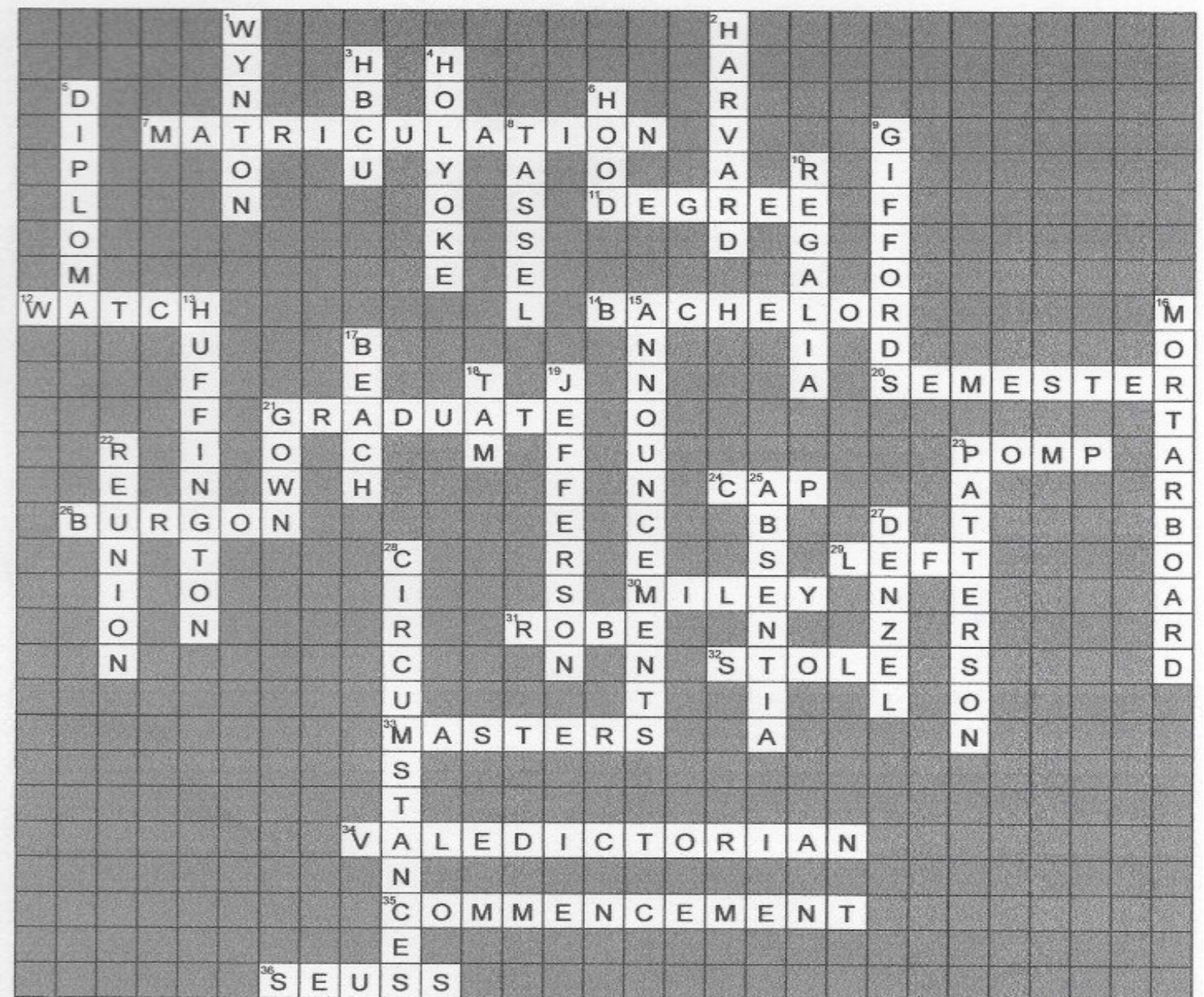
him, and Lady Faryn sees her pirate abductor as a means to escape her family. A price of pleasure must be paid to the pirate queen to ensure their freedom, but the price for vengeance could cost them even more.

Would recommend this sensual read to lovers of historical pirate romances.

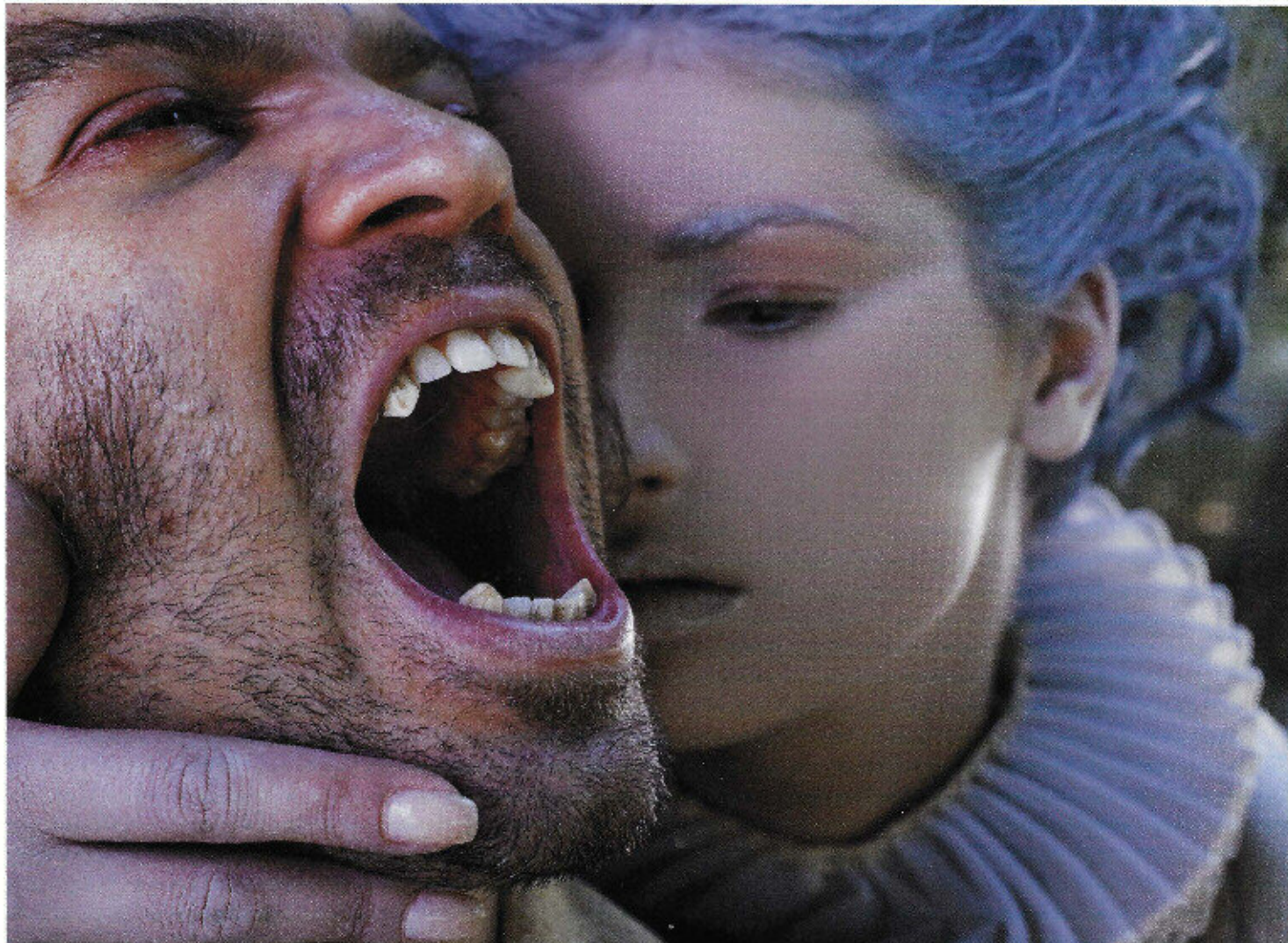
Sharing what I love,
Veronica

Graduation Time!

Louise B. Snead



Paranormal Romance Reviews



Jilted Prince (Hell's Son #2)

Eve Langlais

E-book

978-1988328782

★★★★

“Some secrets are best left untouched.”

When the King of Hell, witchy potential inlaws, and the undead have you by the short and curlies, what's a Jilted Prince to do? Become a Knight in Brimstone armor and go after his girl, of course!

When Lucifer tricks his son into marriage, Chris is pleasantly surprised, more or less, to discover the bride is none other than his wannabe lover, Isobel. But, Isobel is a witch not to settle! She wants to marry for love and has been waiting for her hero to rescue her from an unwanted marriage. When she sees the shock on Chris' face that he has to marry her, she runaway brides his butt, leaving him

surprisingly speechless at the altar! How dare she turn down the Prince of Darkness! After seeing her flee, Chris is determined to prove to Isobel that she is the witch for him. He goes on a quest to help her find her dead (or undead) father. But pesky obstacles in the form of the Four Horseman of the Apocalypse cause Chris and Isobel to realize their powers are stronger together - mayhap stronger than their families would like.

Eve Langlais has once again made this reader highly anticipate the next installment of the “Hell's Son” series! I'll forever be #TeamLucifer, but never has cheering on the Devil's son felt so wrong, yet sooooo right! You won't want to miss this one! Highly recommend!

Sharing what I love,
Veronica

Paranormals

Ocean Light

Nalini Singh

Berkeley Publishing

E-book

978-1101987841

★★★★



Kaia Luna was a changeling of the BlackSea clan. She was the cook for the entire underwater city that housed the various clans of changelings and was loved by all, no matter their form. Only Kaia wasn't just a cook. She had been a highly trained scientist and medical assistant to her cousin, Dr. Atalina Kahananui, at one time before and was trying to work through her fear now to help her very pregnant cousin with the one patient that was in their small clinic. He looked harmless enough, because he was unconscious, but he was human and one of the most dangerous humans around. But she could and would get through this and help out her cousin...even if it killed her.

Bowen Knight, security chief of the Human Alliance, was trying to figure out where he was and exactly what had happened. The last thing he remembered was the bullet piercing his chest and feeling his heart explode. He knew he was a dead man and his last coherent thought was to tell his sister to use his brain. Now, he was waking up to one of the most beautiful faces he had ever seen bending over him asking him if he knew where he was! Bowen wasn't sure what was going on, but he knew he wanted to explore where he was and who was with him a lot more.

Ms. Singh has once again displayed her considerable talent in creating a beautiful, believable world of humans, telepaths, and an impressive array of changeling species all working together to create a better world. Of course, there are always those that don't want that world to succeed and Bowen and Kaia have to work together to make sure that doesn't happen. Along the way, they discover their love for each other, but have a mountain of personal fears to overcome before their love can shine. A wonderful book and a keeper!

Lani Roberts

On Highland Time

Lexi Post

Entangled Publishing, LLC

(Amara)

Trade Paperback

978-1640635487

★★★★



“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

1 Corinthians 13:7

Welcome to Time Weavers, Inc., where the agents have the power to travel in time to fix ripples caused by the Disruptors. Diana Montgomery is a TWI agent with a mission to make sure Laird Torr MacPherson, of the Clan MacPherson, dies in battle. A Disruptor has saved his life and has caused a backlash of epic proportions in the future.

Thinking this will be a routine assignment, Diana isn't prepared for the kind-hearted giant of a man who welcomes her not only into his Clan, but his bed as well. Laird MacPherson has vowed never to love anyone, but when he sets his eyes on the new lass who has requested sanctuary in his clan, he's left wondering if he will be able to keep that vow.

Diana and Torr are faced with hard choices that will forever impact the future of not only their lives, but the lives of future descendants. Will Diana throw caution to the wind and save her gentle giant whom she has grown to love? Or will she allow history to play out as it should and allow him to pass on to the hereafter? “You own my heart, lass. Without you, I am truly dead.”

On Highland Time is the first in a series and, as with all new installments, we, the readers, are hit with a lot of information. But once the rules of time travel and the powers the TWI agents have are put in motion, readers can set back and enjoy the adventure and romance as told On Highland Time. Lexi Post has written a dream come true for this reader! Love overcomes all obstacles in this historical romance, and I already can't wait for the next installment!! Highly recommended!

Sharing what I love,
Veronica

Paranormals

Summer Magic

T.M. Cromer

TM Cromer Books

E-book

B079WGX5GF

★★★★★

“If family lore was to be believed, once a Thorne found his/her one true love, his/her heart would never veer off the path of that love.”

Summer Thorne has been over the moon in love with one Cooper Carlyle until a prom night went horribly wrong, causing Summer’s heart to be broken beyond repair. Cooper has had enough of being followed around by Summer, and when his idea of getting her away from him backfires, he realizes that maybe being cruel to be kind wasn’t his best idea.

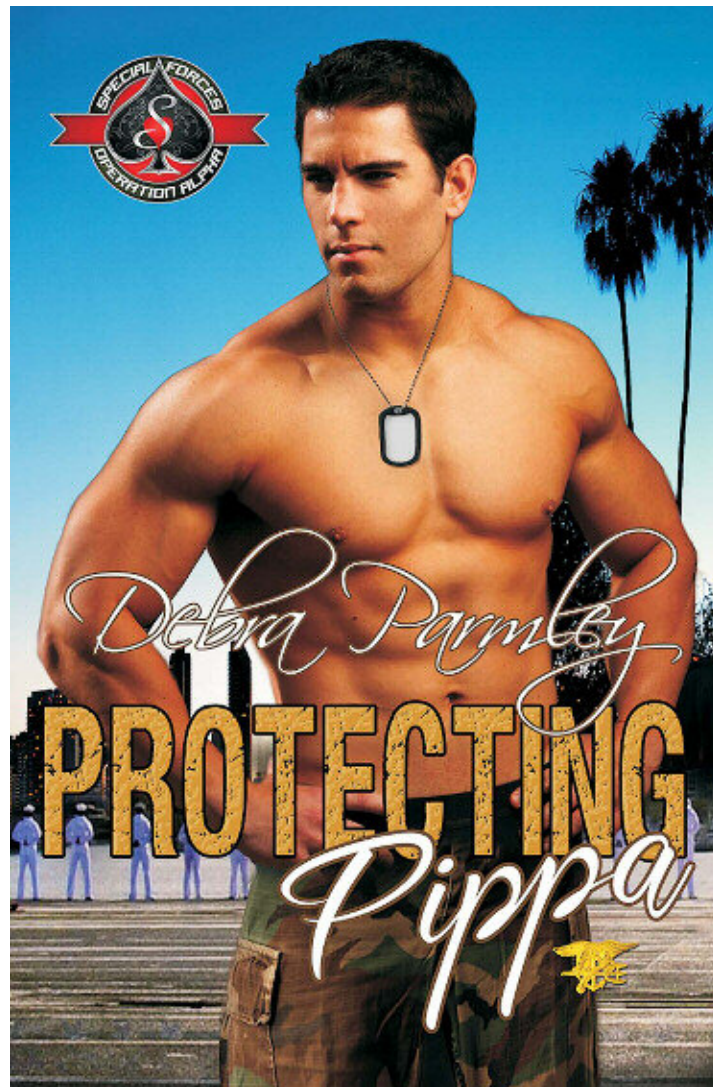
Years go by, but old hurts are still fresh for Summer. When the now Sheriff Cooper Carlyle comes a-knocking with threats of destroying her animal sanctuary, Summer is left with no choice but to join forces with her sisters to stop him. But, dear reader, what the locals don’t realize is that the Thorne sisters are witches, and when you hurt one sister, you end up facing them all.

“If anyone discovered the Thorne women were witches in bum-f**ked rural Tennessee, the Bible belt of America, then gossip would spread, hell would break loose, and residents would line the driveway with pitchforks.”

Summer Magic is a little *Charmed* meets *Practical Magic* meets *Dr. Doolittle*. The banter between Summer and Coop is hilarious, and when they are pushed together to solve an age- old family mystery, well, let’s just say, the sparks fly! Highly recommend this book and look forward to reading the rest of the series!

Sharing what I love,

Veronica



Southern Owl Publications, continued

Social media contact information:

Our Website: www.southernowlpublications.net

Our Emails: crystal@southernowlpublications.net

genscholl@southernowlpublications.net

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/southernowlpublications/>

Twitter Page: <https://twitter.com/SouthernOwl1>

Alignable: <https://www.alignable.com/biz/businesses/189371>

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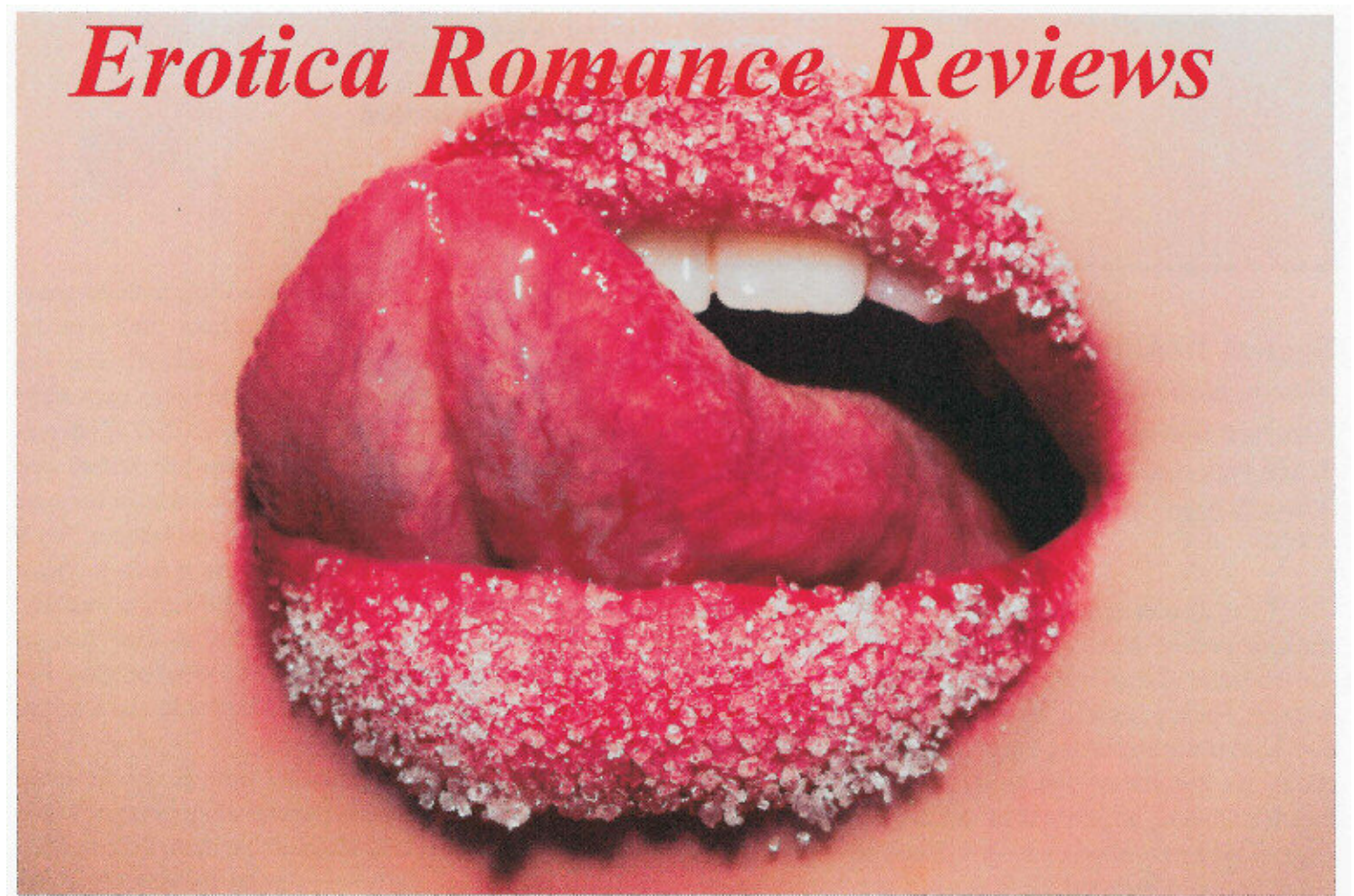
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Erotica Romance Reviews



Avenging Eden (The Eden Series Book 5)

Lexi Post

EBook

B07B17S18F

★★★★

Welcome to Eden!

If you are new to this series, let me do just a quick recap. Eden is a planet of very hawt, very naked men in search of their beloveds. Yes, you read that correctly! A planet full of VERY HAWT NAKED MEN! With women being outnumbered greatly on this planet, the men have begun searching Earth for their soul mates. Our Edenists have noooo problem sharing; so if reading more the merrier romances is your thing, then you will fall in love with this series!

In *Avenging Eden*, Keeva and Haldone are both seeking revenge on wrongs done to their family but for different reasons. Their goals for vengeance were what brought them together and anchored by Mya, a beautiful woman who had lost her family and had been living alone in the jungle for years. Mya has a secret best left guarded, and it is up to our heroes to keep her safe while acclimating her to the wonders of their world as well as the pleasures of the flesh. But, when revenge causes Haldone to lie by omission,

will their love for one another keep them bonded as a family, or will they once again be lost and alone?

Lexi Post has written a dream world for those who enjoy ménage stories. After each installment, I am left eagerly awaiting my return to Eden.

Highly recommend!

Sharing what I love,

Veronica

Confessions of Pain

T. S. McKinney

Painted Hearts Publishing

Kindle Edition

B07BMY1WCB

★★★★

Gabriel Maverick is dirt poor and lives with family that treats him as if he is disposable. When rich kid Kelsey Morganston approaches him wanting to be his friend, Gabe thinks he’s being punked. But what these two lonely teens don’t realize, is that they have so much more in common than being gay. Friendship blossoms into first love, and Gabe and Kelsey are forced to hide their feelings from their

Affaire de Coeur

homophobic families. But one night, terror reaches in and strikes out, leaving Gabriel and Kelsey broken and apart - torn from each other in a way that causes a spiral of hatred and a thirst for revenge.

T.S. McKinney’s *Confessions of Pain* was rightly titled. This story will grip and squeeze your heart till you wonder if there will ever be any peace for our lovers. I enjoyed this heartbreaking romance but would have liked to have had just a wee bit more background with Kelsey. His character was the one I wanted to reach into my book and hold and protect the most.

Highly recommend this story to lovers of m/m romance.
Sharing what I love,
Veronica

His Loss (Shining Armor #2)

Charity Parkerson

Punk & Sissy Publications

Kindle Edition

B079T2YYVK

☆☆☆☆

“I won’t let you make breaking me all about you. If you would’ve come home and let me love you, I would’ve loved you forever.”

The body can heal, but the scars left on the soul take longer, if at all. When Richie returns from a hellish captivity, he’s left broken--maybe beyond repair. In all of Bryce’s training, he has never felt so helpless. No matter how hard he tries to fix Richie, he feels the bond between them slipping away. Then the unthinkable happens - Richie walks out and leaves Bryce to pick up the pieces of his broken heart. How far is one willing to go to spare the one they love from pain?

“Surely no one could hurt this much and live.”
His Loss by Charity Parkerson is another great read that I highly recommend!
Sharing what I love,
Veronica

A Package for Paige

Ree L. Diehl

Long Branch Books

Ebook

B07B3LDSLQ

☆☆☆

“Do you know what happens to women who tease?”
He dropped his voice to a husky rumble. “They get spanked, Paige. Spanked until their ass is on fire, then f**ked so hard, they can’t walk straight for days.”

That got my attention! Yours too? Alrighty then! So, what’s an erotic author to do when she’s researching BDSM and is in need of a little hands-on experience? Why invite the delivery boy in! Duh?!

Paige Turner is just itching to finish her latest story, and when the verra hawt inspiration of her book shows up with a delivery for her, Paige is all in for a little bow-chicka-bow-wow!

A Package for Paige is a smokin’ hawt quickie that will leave you wanting to dish up your own “Ben & Jerry” dessert! Would recommend to lovers of erotica smexxy short stories!

Sharing what I love,
Veronica

Pretty Lies

Kitty Thomas

Burlesque Press

Kindle Edition

B07CHBF9SZ

☆☆☆☆

“And what would you do?”
“I could kidnap you. I could take you away to my castle and make you my pleasure slave. I would take very good care of you. You’d be my pet. Would you like that, kiska?”

Being a phone sex operator, Annette has become accustomed to using her voice and sexy talk to give men what they desire. But when a drunken night of telling her pretty lies to a dominant Russian leads to the kidnapping of her beloved twin, Annette is faced with going down the rabbit hole in order to save her sister and follow through with the lies she told.

Anton’s world is not Wonderland, and Annette discovers there is a darkness that lies within the walls of his domain. But when the darkness threatens to destroy the trust built between Anton and Annette, they are both left questioning their feelings for each other and what the future holds for them.

In Kitty Thomas’ *Pretty Lies*, we revisit the world she created in her books - *Guilty Pleasures*, *Broken Dolls*, and *Surrender*. With this being a prequel to those, you do not need to have read those stories to enjoy this one. Highly recommend this book or any of Kitty’s other stories! If you are a fan of darker erotica, Kitty Thomas should be on your oneclick list!

Sharing what I love,
Veronica



39 Winks

Kathleen Valenti

Henery Press

Hardcover

978-1635113389

☆☆☆☆

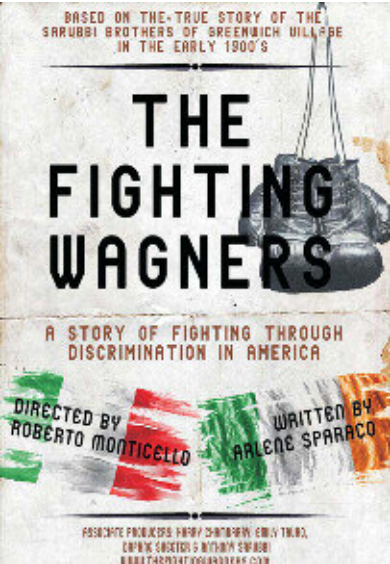
Maggie O’Malley is trading water after leaving her pharmaceutical industry job where she barely survived catching a killer. She’s working a deadend job at a lingerie shop to make ends meet, but standing up for a fellow employee leads to her being fired. Good timing when her boyfriend Constantine (who may be about to pop the question) needs her help with his ailing aunt after her husband is murdered. When Aunt Polly becomes the main suspect, Maggie employs her sleuthing skills to find the killer before more people end up dead.

39 Winks is a contemporary mystery with a heroine who is sympathetic, yet dysfunctional. Maggie is highly analytical with plenty of emotional baggage but not as much emotional intelligence. The detective work she does helps her deal with her problems in her own life.

With a layered, well-plotted mystery and an intriguing cast of characters, *39 Winks* will keep a reader invested as they delve deeper into a story that increasingly

provides revelations. The subject matter is unpredictably gritty, with noncardboard villainous characters who have surprisingly dark motivations. *39 Winks* will assuage the palate of modern mystery readers who like flawed female lead amateur sleuths.

Danielle Hill



MYSTERIES

Isabella’s Painting: A Karina Cardinal Mystery

Ellen Butler
Power to the Pen

Trade Paperback
978-0998419336
★★★★



Ok, show of hands, who here’s guilty pleasure is spending a day watching the mystery movies on the Hallmark channel? Fess up! I know I’m not the only one!

Karina Cardinal, known to her friends as KC, is a lawyer turned lobbyist who has stumbled upon a long lost stolen piece of artwork. Torn between wanting to do the right thing and report it to the authorities or keeping her soon to be inlaws and fiancé safe, she sets out to solve the mystery on her own. But, when the crime escalates from theft to threats to physical attacks, KC realizes she is in way over her head. Can KC’s college friend, now FBI agent, Mike Finnegan help her out of this mess, or will the curse surrounding the painting be unleashed on her and those she loves?

Isabella’s Painting by Ellen Butler has the ease and flow of an oldfashioned mystery novel with some laugh-out-loud snark between the characters that make this an enjoyable and fun read. So put away that TV remote! There is no need to binge watch the next season of NCIS, when you can curl up with your favorite beverage and dive into this “Karina Cardinal” mystery. Highly recommend and hope this will be an ongoing series.

Sharing what I love,
Veronica

Booty from the Other Genre

City of Endless Night (Pendergast #17)

Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child

Head of Zeus

Kindle Edition
B06Y5L2XJJ
★★★

“Some things I wish I could unsee - to be a witness to evil is to be.”

I’ve been putting off writing this review to give myself time to ponder if I actually liked the book or not. You see, I’ve been reading this series since day one when The Relic hit the shelves! I have been like a kid on Christmas Eve. waiting for the next installment of my beloved “Pendergast” series. But, alas, the last few stories have been kinda “meh.” While enjoyable, nothing made them stand out from the thousands of other crime fiction thrillers. I always enjoyed the supernatural element and the heart racing chase to the big twist you didn’t see coming until the very end.

In *City of Endless Night*, Lt. Vincent D’Agosta is put on a case of a spoiled rich girl’s murder. But, it’s not just any murder. She was found beheaded. Now other cases of beheaded riches are taking over the city, and while usually D’Agosta is happy to have Pendergast helping with the case, it takes much prodding to get the special agent to even be bothered using his investigative powers. Once Pendergast sees a link between the murders others don’t, he becomes unstoppable in his quest to bring the killer (killers?) to justice.

Again, this was an enjoyable read, but for fans of the earlier works, you will understand that maybe our Pendergast is losing his shine. I would recommend this book to thriller/crime fiction fans that have not become devoted to Pendergast’s character.

Sharing what I love,
Veronica

anddaughter of Bronwen and the daughter of Morgana and ran the homeopathic (magick) boutique called Abracadabra that they had started. Next door to her shop was the Tea and Empathy shop run by her Aunt Tilly who watched over the wizard Merlin who had transported himself from the Middle Ages to modern times and was now stuck in New Camel. When Kailyn wasn’t running her shop, practicing her magick or getting Merlin and Aunt Tilly out of jams, she was solving mysteries. And this one was personal; her boyfriend’s best friend had gone missing.

Magick Run Amok is a cleverly written mystery with a healthy dose of magick thrown in amongst a myriad of hilarious characters. Dealing with the befuddled Merlin, who wants to run for city councilman,

Booty

even though he’s, technically, an illegal alien, is a brilliant addition to the storyline and will keep the reader laughing out loud as you help Kailyn solve the mystery of the missing man. Ms. Pape has done an outstanding job in combining mystery, magick and humor. This is one you don’t want to miss!

Lani Roberts

The High Tide Club

Mary Kay Andrews

St. Martin’s Press

Hardcover
978-1250126061
★★★★

Many years ago, anytime the moon was full and the tide was high, Josephine Warrick would go skinny-dipping with her best friends. Now she is ninety-nine years old and dying from cancer. Josephine wants to find those girlhood friends before it’s too late.

When Brooke Trappnell’s son was born, she left a promising career at a high-powered law firm to hang her shingle in a small town. Brooke handles the cases that bigger firms can’t be bothered with. She’s puzzled that Josephine would hire her, since Josephine is a longtime client of a prestigious Atlanta law firm. But Brooke needs the money and is intrigued by the chance to meet the reclusive owner of Talisa Island.

Josephine’s father spent his life studying the flora and fauna of the 12,000-acre island that is five miles off the Georgia coast. Josephine and her husband have also devoted their lives to Talisa. They never had children, and she wants the heirs of her best friends to inherit it. But Josephine also wants to protect Talisa and ensure that it will never be sold.

As Brooke tries to track down Josephine’s friends, she discovers some secrets about her own family. Brooke also makes some new friends and might even be starting a new romance. The many mysteries that unfold make this an interesting book.
Sheila Griffin



Wishing Well

Lily White
E book
B07CG7BB1V
★★★★★

“I closed my eyes and realized that I was becoming addicted to the savage beast of a man who had trusted me enough to call me his friend.”

Meadow Graham has just three days to interview death row inmate Vincent Mercier, a powerful and charismatic man responsible for the gruesome death of her sister. Meadow is determined to discover the truth at any cost.

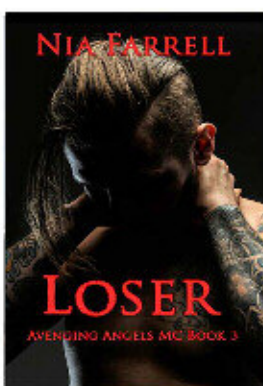
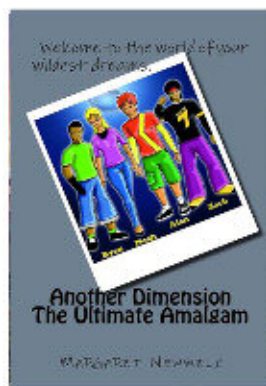
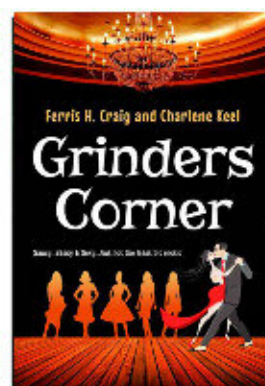
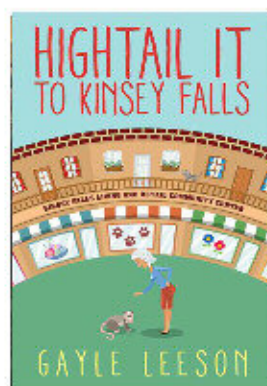
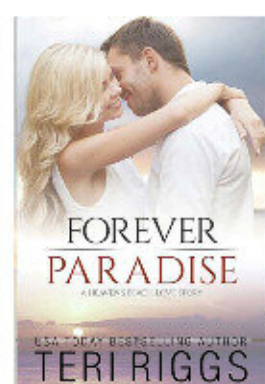
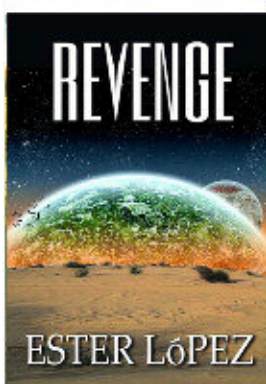
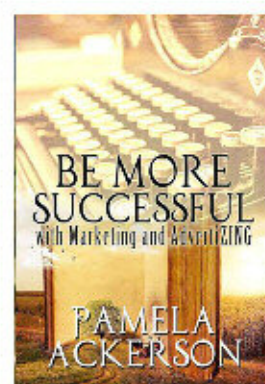
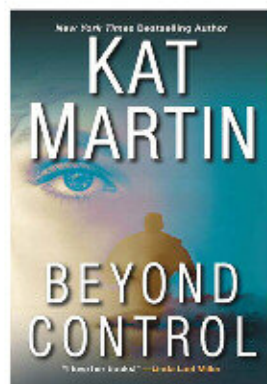
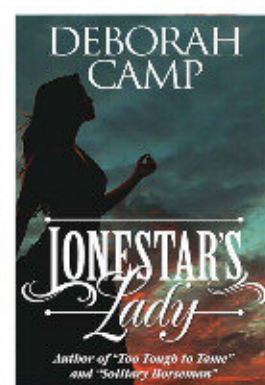
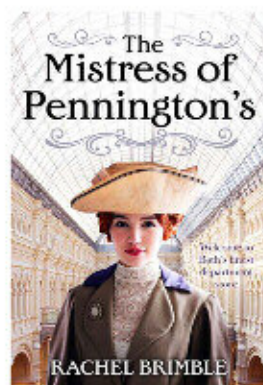
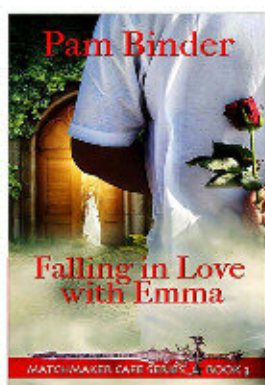
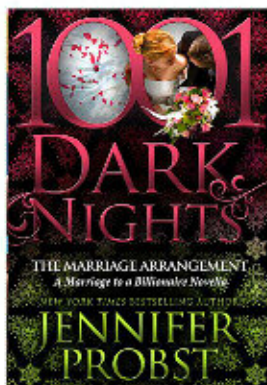
“You should know by now that I am a man that keeps his promises.”

“*Quid pro quo*, Vincent?”
“Yes, Meadow, *quid pro quo*.”

Back and forth the spider and the fly banter, but some questions are best left unanswered, and some truths are better left unknown. As tragic as this story begins, the ending is even so much more. As the pages were turning, I found myself rooting for the monster at the end of this book! Lily White is a new to me author, and I was absolutely blown away by this story! BLOWN AWAY! This story captivated me from page one! Highly recommend!

Sharing what I love,
Veronica

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