

March/April, 2019

# *Affaire de Coeur*

*Bringing You 37 Years of Honest Reviews*



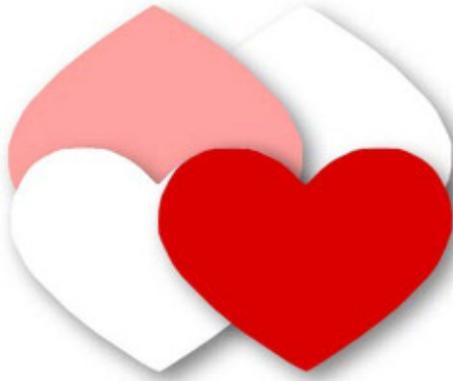
**ESTER LOPEZ IS  
“WRITING ON THE EDGE OF REALITY”**

**Reviews!  
Reviews!  
Reviews!**



**MEET MULTI-TALENTED AUTHOR  
PAM BINDER**





# *Affaire de Coeur*

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Fax (510) 632-8868:

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

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# Hellfire and Handbaskets

When the past comes searching for you,  
there's no escape.

KathrynHills.com @AuthorKathrynH

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# Copyright Laws: Know Them and Use Them

Copyright infringement is running rampant and must be stopped! Copyright laws can get complicated, as in the recent lawsuit concerning the dance step, *The Carlton*. Who owns it, and who has the rights to use it?

Otherwise, copyright laws are quite simple and to the point. If you don't own it, haven't bought it, and don't have written permission to use it, it's NOT yours to use. Unless it specifically states that it's public domain, it's not yours to use. If it states that it's public domain, you may use it.

If you're going to make any kind of money off of it, then you must own the rights to use it.

Simple right?

Then why do so many people steal other people's works? Because they're cheap, dishonest, and think they can get away with it? Because they don't know any better? Because they don't think it's hurting anyone? What harm could it do?

Sorry, but no. That is not acceptable. Here's a quote from the Library of Congress:



Pam Ackerson

“Pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works include two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of fine, graphic, and applied art, photographs, prints and art reproductions, maps, globes, charts, diagrams, models, and technical drawings, including architectural plans. Such works shall include works of artistic craftsmanship insofar as their form but not their mechanical or utilitarian aspects are concerned; the design of a useful article, as defined in this section, shall be considered a pictorial, graphic, or sculptural work only if, and only to the extent that, such design incorporates pictorial, graphic, or sculptural features that can be identified separately from, and are capable of existing independently of, the utilitarian aspects of the article.”

What does that mean to you?

If you haven't purchased or haven't been given the right to use someone's picture, photographs, artwork, cover design, graphics, icons, drawings, paintings, someone's house, building, etc, you do not use it. It doesn't matter that you found it on the internet, or in a folder, or wherever. You don't have the right to use it. If you want to use it, and can't find who owns the rights? Tough turkey. You can't use it. Doing so is stealing. You can get sued, or possibly go to jail. Depending on the monetary value involved, it could be quite damaging to you, and your family.

And another quote from the Library of Congress:

““Literary works”” are works, other than audiovisual works, expressed in words, numbers, or other verbal or numerical symbols or indicia, regardless of the nature of the material objects, such as books, periodicals, manuscripts, phonorecords, film, tapes, disks, or cards, in which they are embodied.”

What does that mean to you?

It means you cannot use any quotes without giving the source or credit to the author. Books, articles, stories, movies, scripts, poems, lyrics, etc. are all inclusive. They cannot be used unless you wrote them or have written permission to use them. If you want to use a source for nonfiction, you must give credit to the source. You cannot quote them without their consent. In other words, you cannot copy

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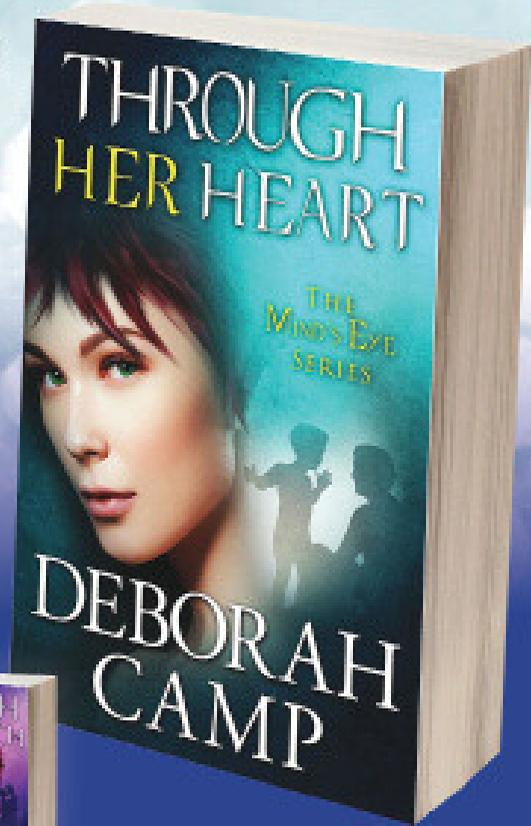
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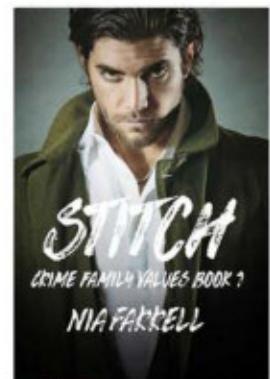
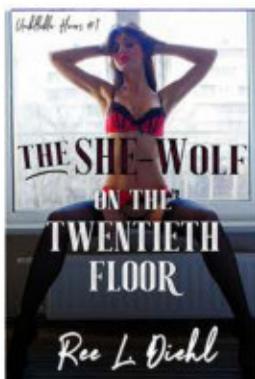
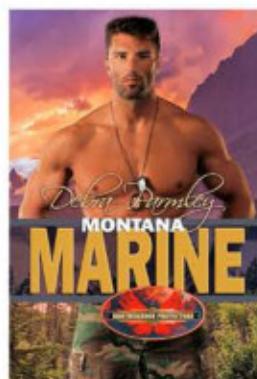
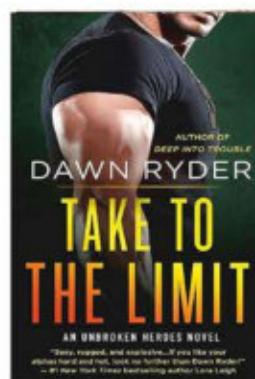
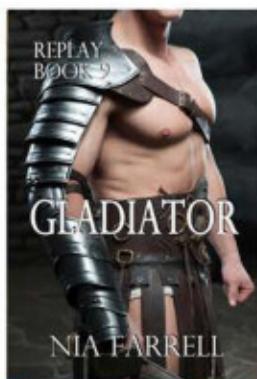
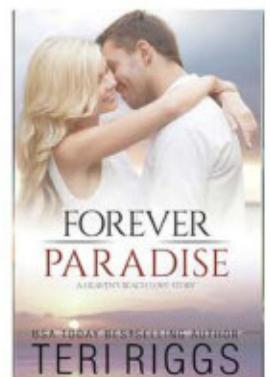
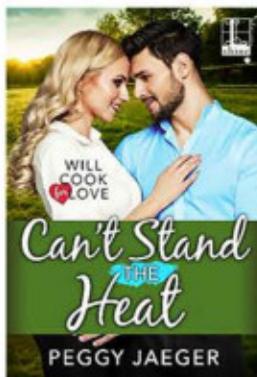
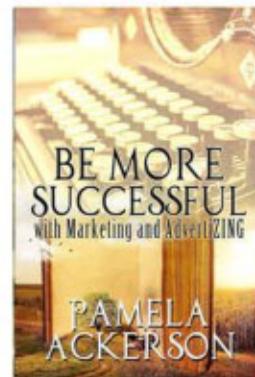
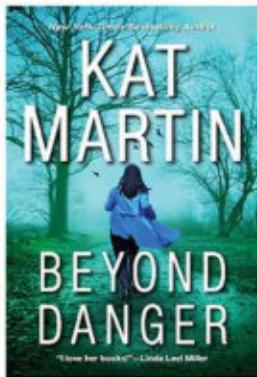
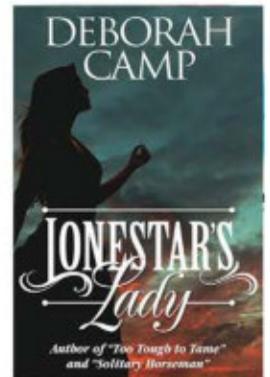
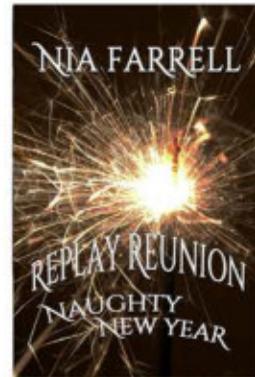
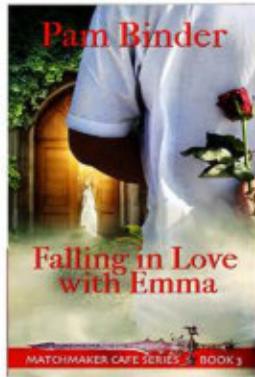
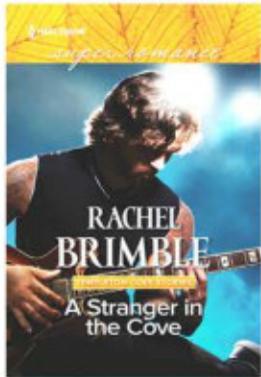
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You must pay for the rights to use any written work or images. If you want to use it, and can't find who owns the rights? Again, tough turkey. You can't use it. It's stealing. You can get sued, or possibly go to jail. If you made

money off of someone else's copyrighted property, you will have to compensate monies earned, pay restitution, fines, and/or pay what the judge deems as a fair and reasonable value to the copyright owner. Depending on the monetary amount involved, it could be quite damaging to you, and your family.

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## Celebrate Women--ALL the Time

**D**id you ever know that you're my Shero? I'm sure I'll be forgiven by Jeff Silbar and Larry Henley, writers of the Grammy Award winning song, *Wind Beneath My Wings*, for taking liberties with their masterpiece. I only added one letter, and it was *apropos*.

Once a year we celebrate women. We assemble and honor the contributions in many areas and the women who made them. Sections of newspapers are dedicated to women during March, and women from all walks are commemorated on public television, some events trickling over to the major networks. We praise the newest female stars on the scene--Pulitzer prize winners, CEO's of major companies, new Congress persons, the five female astronauts.

**I**n last year's March' issue of *Affaire de Coeur* I did a story, "A Day Without Women," whose premise was based on a man trying to take care of his two small children without using the inventions created by women. I got many comments on that story, most sounding like, "I didn't know a woman invented that" or "I didn't know a black woman invented that." To be honest, I didn't know a number of inventions had been created by women until I started doing the research for the article.

I learned a lot about my own sex, but isn't that what Women's History Month is for? But women should be celebrated every day. It's

nice that the "ubiquitous they" set aside March to recognize women, but that doesn't really work, does it? Nor does it work not to mention the unsung sheroes who impact our lives every day, the women we don't praise or honor, or in some cases, don't even thank.

I owe a thousand bows to the following women, and I apologize in advance if I sound like a misandrist. I know men hold many of the jobs listed below and do them well. I'm certainly not saying that these are "women's" jobs. I'm also not saying that acts of kindness or compassion are attributes assigned strictly to women. But this is a salute to women. When men get their month (and you know it's coming), I will be among the first to laud the accomplishments and contributions of men.

Meanwhile, this is a partial list of the women I appreciate. Can you think of women who might fit in this category or one I've missed?

- ◇ Any woman who falls back on her nurturing instincts when your child needs it.
- ◇ The teacher who praised you and told you that you were smart.
- ◇ The store clerk who let you slide when you didn't have quite enough money for a purchase.
- ◇ The mail lady who makes an extra effort to deliver packages and letters to the door when the addressee can't, for whatever reason, walk to the mailbox.
- ◇ A neighbor who checks on you when she hasn't seen you in a while.
- ◇ The teacher who stays late with your child because you got caught in traffic.
- ◇ Teachers, in general.



- ◇ Older women story tellers who keep the herstory going.
- ◇ Nurses, in general.
- ◇ The store clerk who actually helps you find something you're looking for.
- ◇ The women who work in bureaucracy but take the time to listen to what you're saying.
- ◇ Your "partnas," your friends, your gang of women who listen to you, don't judge and offer you advice, money or whatever you need.
- ◇ Women singers whose voices bring peace or joy.
- ◇ Waitresses, God bless them.
- ◇ Flight attendants who try to make yours the best trip possible.
- ◇ Babysitters and child care workers who strive to make your children happy.

These are just a few of the women I admire and honor. There is not a group of women on this list who does not have to deal with an absurd amount of obstacles. Yet, you would never know it by the way they carried out their job.

My personal list can go on and on and would include things like authors who write a good book,

*continued on page 10*

The spotlight is on...

*Ester Lopez*

## Writing on the Edge of Reality

*Ester Lopez has been writing since she first learned how. She's fascinated with the tools of the trade. She learned calligraphy in grade school because her first pen was a fountain pen. She liked the feel of the pen's ink flowing against the paper as it formed words. Ester writes sci-fi/paranormal adventure romance and is also a screen writer.*



*Author, Ester Lopez*

stories before I sit down and do the Snowflake plan. And I learn some things along the way as well. I don't know if that's a pantsier because it doesn't feel like an outline either.

**AdC:** *What type of characters do you like to create?*

**E.L.:** So far, the characters have created themselves and start speaking to me in snippets of conversations. I have to dig deeper (with the Snowflake Method and Characterization sheets) to find out what personality type they are, like Warrior, Chief, etc.

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

**E.L.:** My latest book, *Betrayed*, is book 3 in "The Vaedra Chronicles" series. The series takes place on Earth and in the Vaedra System. The hero, Tremol, is a promotion seeking Lieutenant in the Interplanetary Space Patrol and Keely McGuire is a feisty secret service agent. Together, they must find a missing landing party before a war hungry admiral and a conniving general unleash an intergalactic war of the worlds.

**AdC:** *What motivates you for a perfect writing day?*

**E.L.:** My motivation for a perfect writing day would be to find out what happens next because my characters usually leave me hanging on the cliff from the day before.

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

**E.L.:** I get my plot ideas from the news around me, everyday life situations, sometimes songs, but I'm always asking, "what if this happens instead...?"

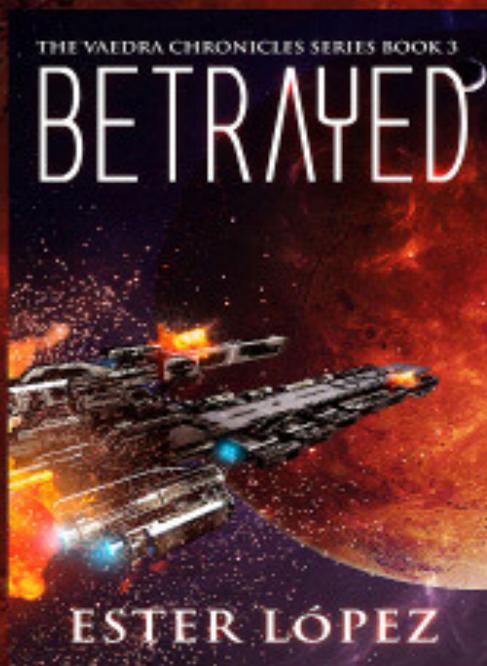
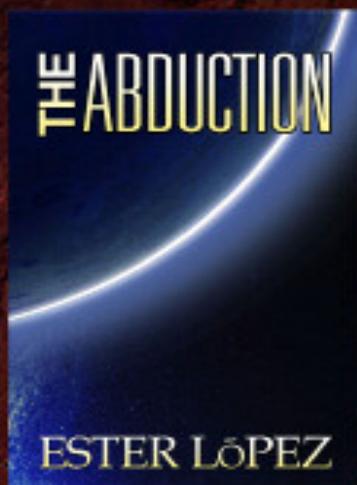
**AdC:** *What is the most difficult thing about creating and developing characters?*

**E.L.:** The most difficult thing about creating and developing characters is when they won't co-operate and tell me about themselves. I either have to dig it out of them or wait for them to reveal something. Most of this

**AdC:** *When you write, do you outline first, or are you a pantsier?*

**E.L.:** When I write, I start with the Snowflake Design (Randy Ingermanson's brilliant plan) and flesh out my characters. When I feel that I know them pretty well, I start writing. Usually, the main characters or villains start telling me their

# Writing on the Edge of Reality



*EsterLopez.com*

*@EsterLopez1*

happens in my head.

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

**E.L.:** My favorite thing about being an author is meeting people who love to read sci-fi or paranormal and the things I write. It's exciting!

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

**E.L.:** Currently, I have two books out and a third one, *Betrayed*, soon to be released. *Betrayed* may be released by the time this is out. All three are in the sci-fi/adventure romance genres and I hope to release at least two in the paranormal genre by the end of the year.

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

**E.L.:** I will be attending several book

events this year:

In March, I'll be at the *Mid-SouthCon37* at the Hilton Memphis, March 15-17, 2019, [www.midsouthcon.org](http://www.midsouthcon.org).

April 5-6, 2019, I'll be at the *Roanoke Author Invasion* in Roanoke, VA.

May 5, 2019, I'll be at the *Authors Invade Myrtle Beach*.

July, I'll be at the *Tampa Indie Author Book Convention*, July 13-14, 2019.

September, I'll be at the Maynardville, TN Public Library's *Thunder Road Author Rally*.

October, I'll be at the *Sweet as A Peach Book Convention* on Oct. 5, 2019.

Oct 9-13, 2019, I'll be at the *IRC Indie Romance Convention* in

Lebanon, TN.

November, I'm hoping to be at the *7 Cities Book Fest* in Virginia Beach, VA.

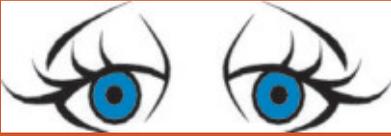
**AdC:** *Pass on some words of wisdom, please, to aspiring authors.*

**E.L.:** My words of wisdom would be to NEVER give up. Believe in yourself and work toward your goal as if you were already successful and the rest will come.

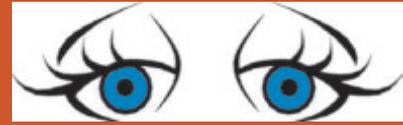
Ester's website is [www.esterlopez.com](http://www.esterlopez.com)

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# Sneak Peek



*It's so good we can't keep it to ourselves. Here's an excerpt from*

## Betrayed

by Ester Lopez

When she got to the big guy, her heart skipped another beat. He was incredibly handsome, with dark brownish-black hair and brown eyes.

Penetrating eyes that wouldn't leave her. He, too, went commando. That was odd for someone wearing white. While she came up the other side (she patted him down), he whispered in her ear.

"If this is a search for weapons, you're not doing it correctly."

The sound of his voice sent a wave of emotions through her. "I'm not doing it correctly? So, you have experience in searching people?"

"Yes, I do, and you're not doing it correctly."

"Do you have contraband we should know about?" she asked.

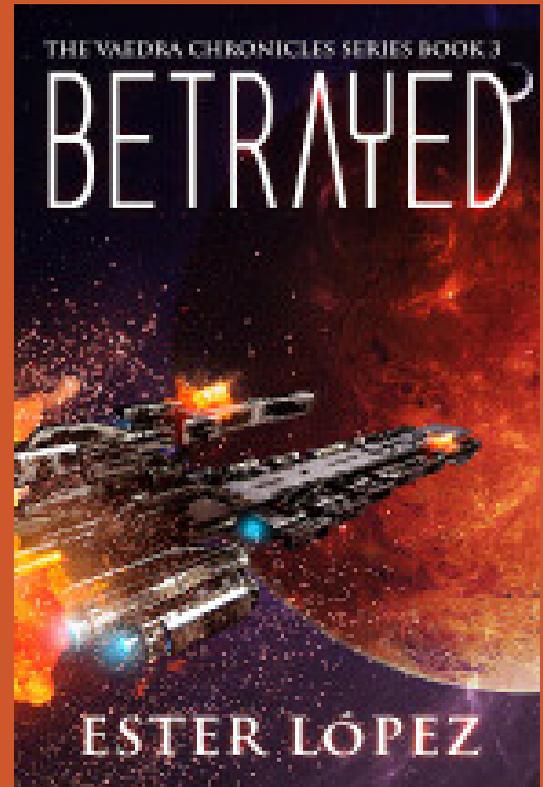
"I don't know what you mean by that?"

"Contraband. Illegal stuff?" She put her hands on her hips.

His stare became intense. "We are here on a diplomatic mission from Vaedra."

She pulled her service revolver out and pointed it at the tall man.

"Move it, big guy.

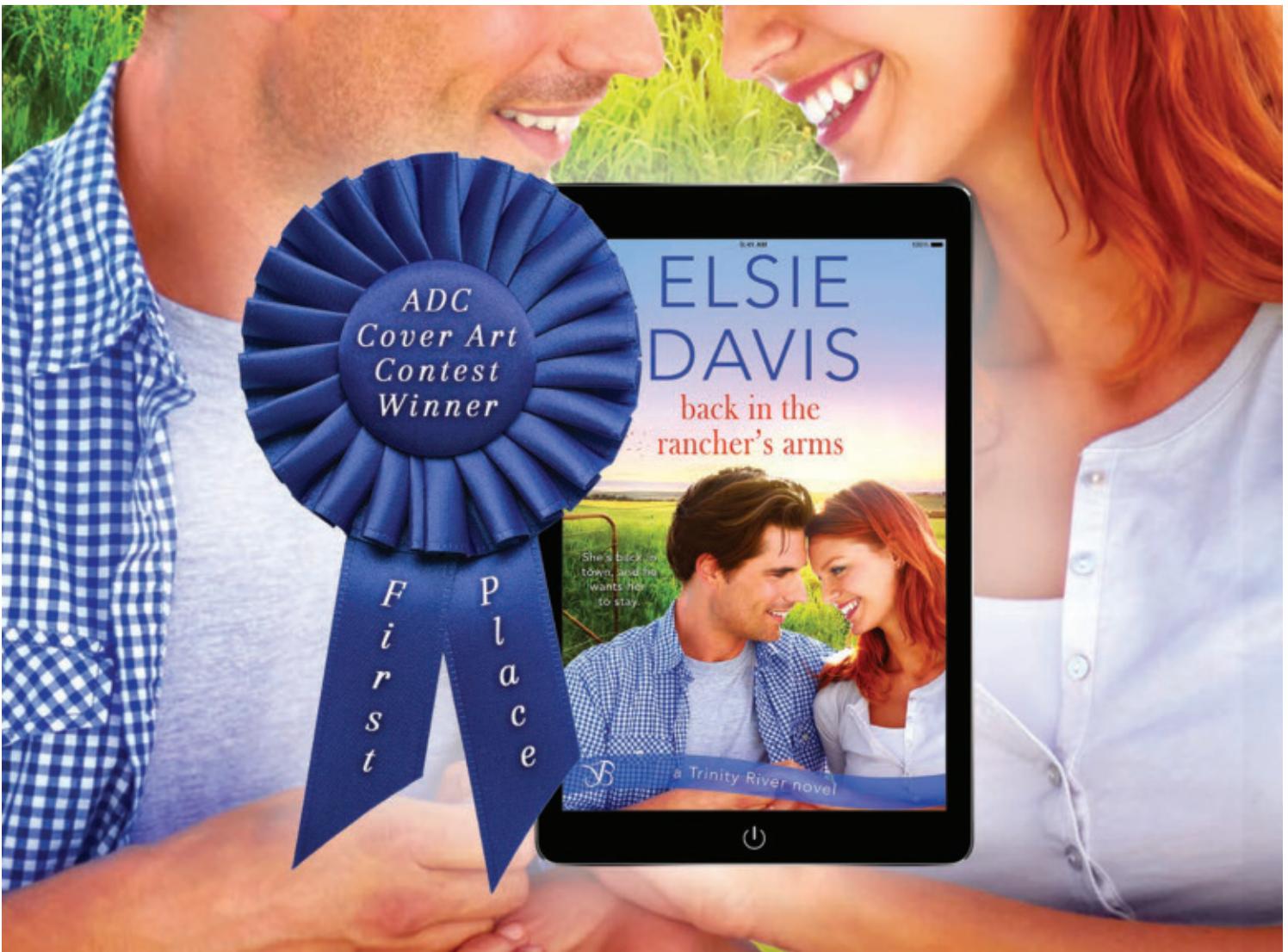


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Women, continued

cooks, housekeepers, particularly "the help." I have a very special thank you for the ladies of *Affaire de Coeur*, without whom we would have ceased to exist.

My point is this: if I dedicated a day to all of the groups of women who deserve it, I would overflow the calendar. In the absence of my ability to do that, I will simply and humbly say thank you



**Copyright, cont.**

You could lose it all: Your house, your job, your lifestyle...

Note: Audiovisual works are under another category, i.e. moving pictures, etc. They are also copyrighted material.

Here's the thing. When you take an image or works that isn't public domain, you're not only stealing, you're taking money from someone who needs the income. This is how many from the publishing, arts, and entertainment industry pay their bills, feed their children, and keep the roof over their heads.

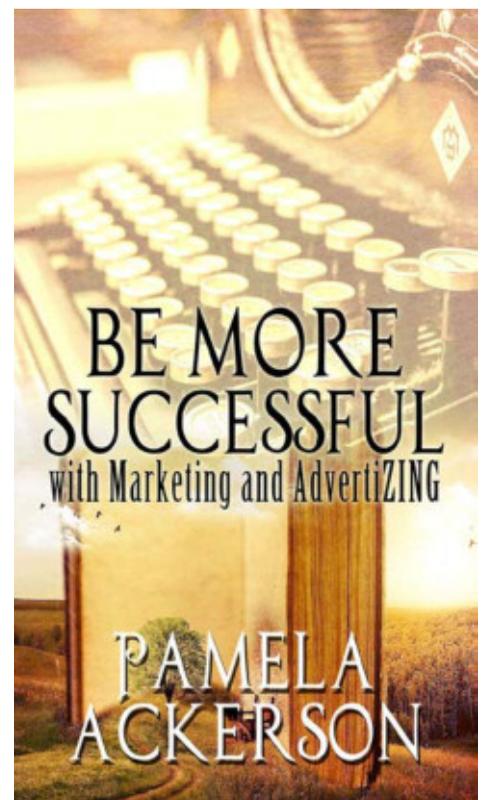
Don't rationalize. I don't care if you think they make hundreds of thousands of dollars or even millions. They worked hard for what they have, and what they do. It's money they deserve, and have the right to receive.

If you don't have a lot of money to create a book cover, or video, there are plenty of low priced stock book cov-

ers and videos you can purchase. There are some book cover artists who are just breaking into the industry and sell their covers for twenty dollars and up. Fiver is another excellent source. Look around. Ask around. Fork out the money.

A few of you may not know about public domain works. Whenever someone refers to public domain, it means no one has sole rights. The copyright may have expired or had been relinquished. It also may never have been applicable, and had never had a copyright enforced. You can find websites with public domain works that can be applicable to your needs. It's certainly much better than stealing and you're not taking any unnecessary chances.

Don't steal from someone. It just isn't right and it certainly isn't worth the risk.



# Book Obsessed Babes Event

Hosted by Taira Wilds

March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

St. Augustine, Florida came true with its promise of beautiful weather and the exquisite welcoming atmosphere of the oldest city in the United States.

We arrived on Friday and attended the Author Welcome Reception at the Colonial Quarter in downtown Olde St. Augustine. We were able to chat with old friends and make new ones. The meet and greet was a Mardi Gras themed dinner buffet, a cash bar, and authors received two free drink tickets. A DJ played our favorite music and we all had fun as he took our requests for songs.



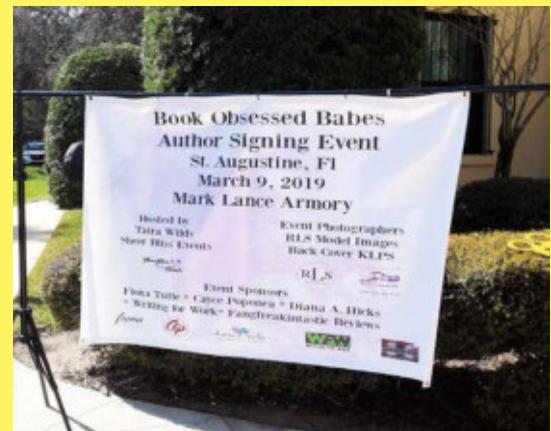
*Socializing time for the Babes*



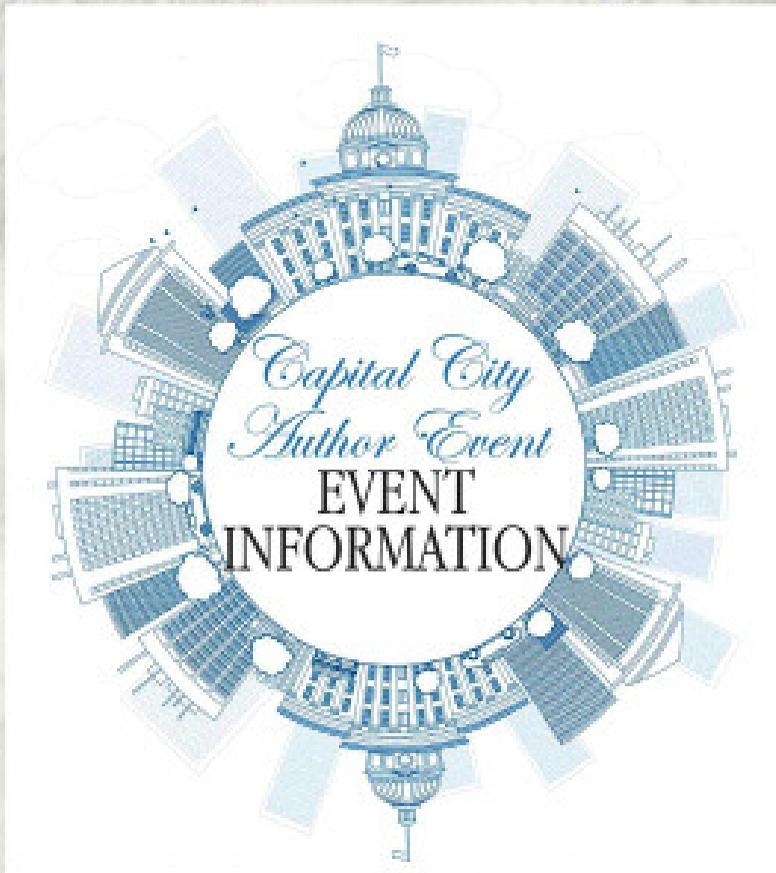
*Babe Banner*

Saturday morning authors arrived at the Mark Lance Armory to set up their tables for the book signing event. A delicious lunch provided by With a Twist was served and everyone was ready to meet and sign books for the wonderful Fangirls and new readers they were sure to meet. Games were also included during the event for a fun filled day.

The evening ended with A Night Among Ghosts Paranormal Walking Tour. For a few of us who didn't participate in the tour, we all met at the hotel bar and relaxed.



# Capital City Author Event



May 18, 2019  
Montgomery, AL

Hosted by  
Tammie Smith,  
Randy and  
Michelle Sewell  
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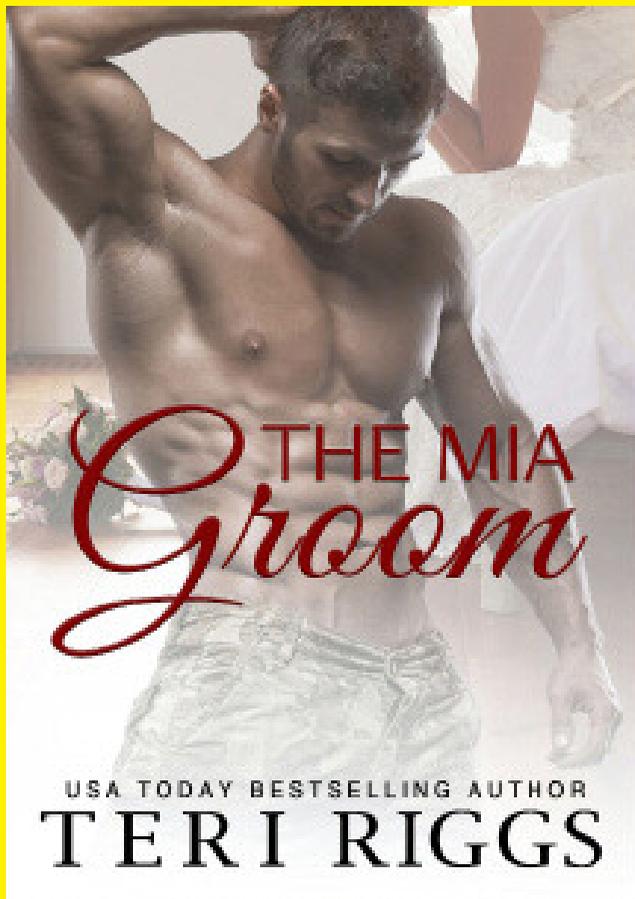
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*Model, actor John Antonio with AdC's own Pam Ackerson*



*Taira Wilds, Hostess*



## *The MIA Groom*

After waiting nine months for the perfect chance to infiltrate the Russian Mafia's sex slave operation, former Navy SEAL, Tucker Abrams, gets his chance. There's one slight problem. At the same time he's going deep undercover, he's supposed to be at the church, marrying the love of his life.

Jillian Gilmore's wedding day has arrived. Unfortunately, her groom has not. After surviving three months of hurt and humiliation as a jilted bride, her missing in action groom returns, wanting to pick up where they left off.

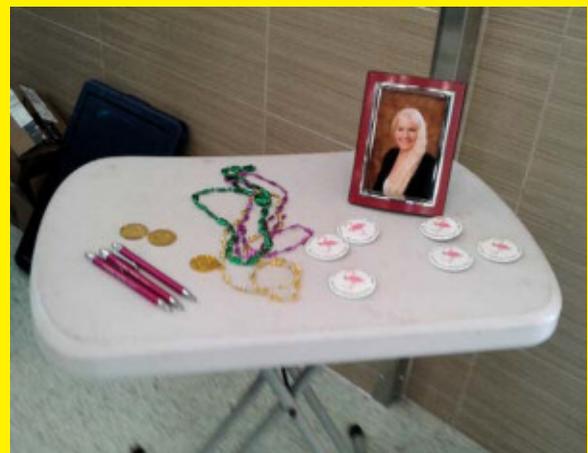
Can Jilly forgive Tuck and move on? Will she ever be able to trust him again?

[Teri-Riggs.com](http://Teri-Riggs.com)

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Author Marie Savage with husband Larry



*Tamara McHatton with us in spirit*



Pam Binder is an award winning, *New York Times* bestselling author. Pam was the recipient of *Romantic Times* 2018, Pioneers in Romance award. Pam loves travel, chocolate, and reruns of the TV series, *Highlander*. A bookseller compared Pam’s time travel novels and the way she wove history into her stories, to books written by Diana Gabaldon. Pam writes the “Matchmaker Café” series, and the “Immortal Highlander” series. Her first fantasy young adult was released in 2018; *Grace Logan and the Goblin Bones*.

**AdC:** *When you write, do you outline first, or are you a pantsier?*

**P.B.:** I am a hybrid writer. I use the main scene beats in Christopher Vogler’s *The Writer’s Journey*, and Blake Snyder’s *Save the Cat*. Then I often write a section at a time. For example, if I’m not sure where I want my story to end, I write the last five chapters of the story even before I’ve written the middle. Each novel for me is different. I like to say, that each story has its own journey

**AdC:** *What type of characters do you like to create?*

**P.B.:** I like to create characters that have secrets.

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

**P.B.:** The “Matchmaker Café” series combines my love of travel, adventure and romance. Each story for my three matchmakers takes them to a new place around the world, where they match couples, and try to find love. I’m also starting a new book series called the “Immortal Highlander.” Book 1 will be out this spring with the second one to be released in the fall.

**AdC:** *What motivates you for a perfect writing day?*

**P.B.:** Snow hit the Pacific Northwest in February, forcing everyone to stay home. I loved every moment. It motivated me to start a new series.

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

**P.B.:** I get my plot ideas from asking the question -- what if. What if the snow never stopped falling? What if your best friend was immortal? What if you had a magic touch and



*Author, Pam Binder*

could turn everything into chocolate?

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

# Time is an Illusion and Love the Only Reality

## The Matchmaker Café Series



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

[@PamBinder183](https://twitter.com/PamBinder183)

**P.B.:** The most difficult thing about creating and developing characters is their name. Once I have their name right, the words flow. I know when I don't have the name right, because their dialogue doesn't flow.

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

**P.B.:** My favorite thing is creating worlds from the ideas in my head. I used to daydream as a child, now I write.

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

**P.B.:** I have a total of eight books that are available. Seven are time travel books, and the eighth is a young adult fantasy that takes place in sixteenth century Ireland.

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

**P.B.:** I will be attending the Booklovers Convention in

New Orleans, May 15 - 18, 2019.

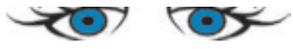
**AdC:** *Pass on some words of wisdom, please, to aspiring authors.*

**P.B.:** Not mentioned in my bio, is that I'm also a writing teacher. I tell my students to never give up. I also tell them the difference between a published author and an unpublished author, is that the unpublished author stopped writing.

Personal web page: [PamBinder.com](http://PamBinder.com)

Twitter: [@PamBinder183](https://twitter.com/PamBinder183)

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



# Sneak Peek

## Thief of Hearts

by Pam Binder

### *An Excerpt*

Hunter Longfellow sprinted down a dark alley in Seattle, Washington's Pioneer Square, in a downpour, a neon bar sign and the occasional patrol car his only light. It was a little after ten o'clock in the evening, early for the night-clubbers, but way past bedtime for the kids he'd been asked to locate. This was old Seattle, a tourist haven by day and something else entirely by night. Pioneer Square had its tall brick buildings that had survived Seattle's earthquakes, alleyways that were something out of a Jekyll and Hyde movie, mangy cats, and people who looked out from behind closed doors. The thirteen- and fourteen-year-old kids couldn't have picked a scarier place to hide.

On the street at the end of the alley, another patrol car eased past, slowed, and then continued on its way. He glanced at the text he'd received from his ex-girlfriend that morning. Mary was a middle school teacher, married now and with a second child on the way. She'd wanted to know if he'd found her students. He texted her that he was closing in, then hoped he was right. He pocketed his cell as the same patrol car swept past again. Coincidence? Or were they following the same lead he had?

Mary and he had remained friends after their break-up, which surprised him, and she invited him to share all the holidays with her family that normal people celebrated. He didn't always attend, but the invitations hadn't stopped.

He reached the address her clues had indicated. It was the last door

on his left before the alley dead-ended into a brick wall.

Time to make his move.

He tried the doorknob. Unlocked, which proved his theory that those inside were amateurs. Agitated voices rose behind the door. He calculated he had two options: enter with guns blazing and scare them out of a year's growth, or pretend he was a lost tourist.

He chose option three—the direct approach.

He slammed the door open. It banged against the wall and sent dust and broken cobwebs flying into the air. The room was lit by a single bulb that dangled from the ceiling on a dirty cord. Three boys, ages twelve to fourteen and still dressed in their school uniforms, surrounded the Native American mask they'd stolen from the Burke Museum.

They looked in his direction and froze. He admired their choice. The wood mask represented the creator-eagle of the Makah tribe and was designed to fit over a dancer's head. He'd promised Mary he would find the mask and return it to its rightful owners. He paused, the words "rightful owners" thundering through his thoughts. His father would have said that the hundred-year-old mask belonged with their people, not in a museum.

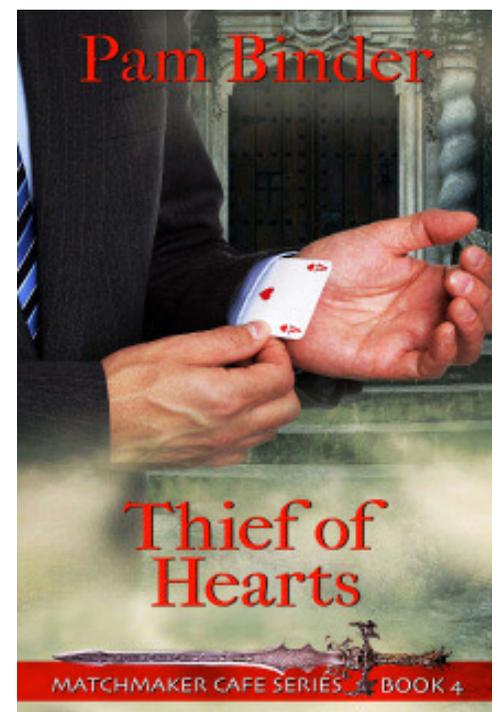
"Hello, boys," Hunter said.

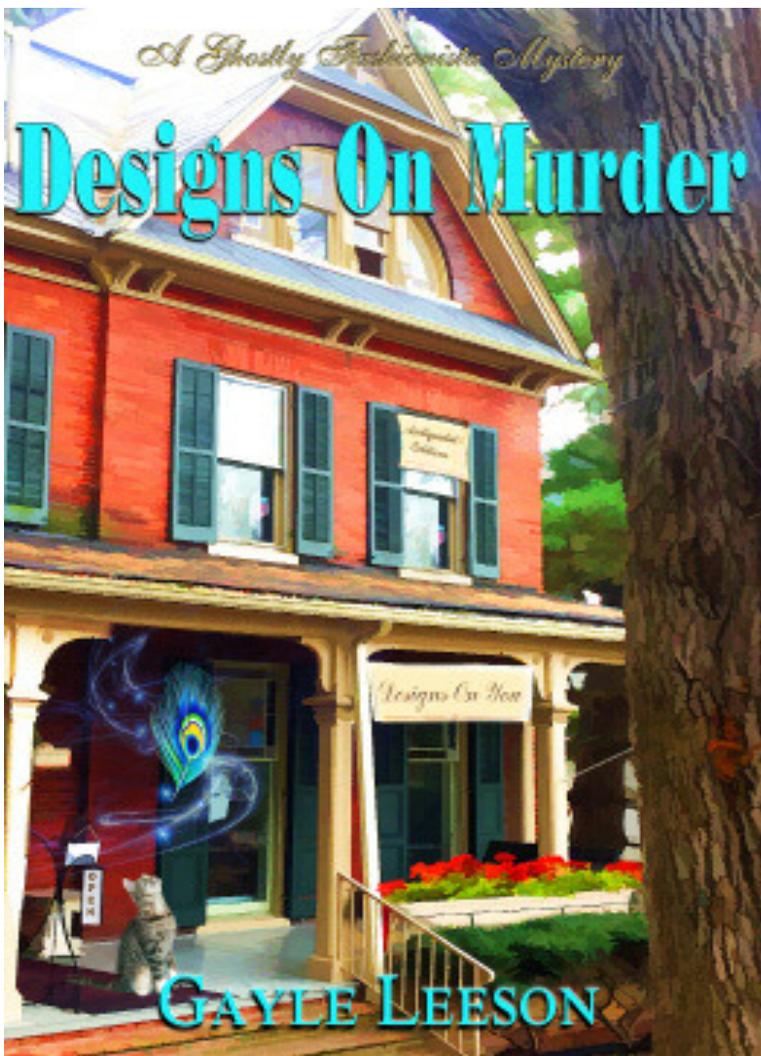
The teenagers' eyes were wide, and their mouths gaped like fish gasping for breath. One boy fainted and a second shook like a Nordic wind had blown into the room. The third held his ground, a tall, beefy-looking kid with broad shoulders and a world-owes-me expression in his gaze.

Hunter didn't need to ask why the boys had stolen the mask. Mary had filled him in on the story, as well as given him pictures of John, Cory, and T.J. One of them had had the good sense to text Mary for help. The why had involved the school bully, T.J., who Hunter guessed was the one acting like a tough guy. T.J.'s specialty was threatening kids with harming their siblings if they didn't do his bidding.

"Get out of here, Indian," T.J. said.

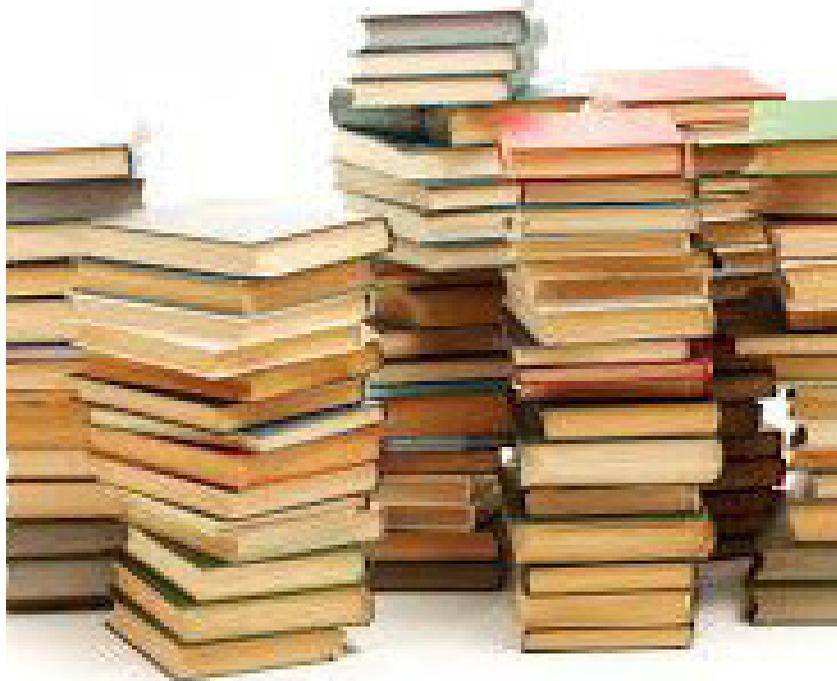
Hunter stifled a laugh. Classic bully tactics, using name-calling to push the enemy off balance. He ignored T.J. and focused on the one he recognized from the picture as John. "You okay?"





*What if  
you discovered  
your lively new  
friend wasn't  
really... alive?*

**GayleLeeson.com  
@GayleTrent**



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review!!**

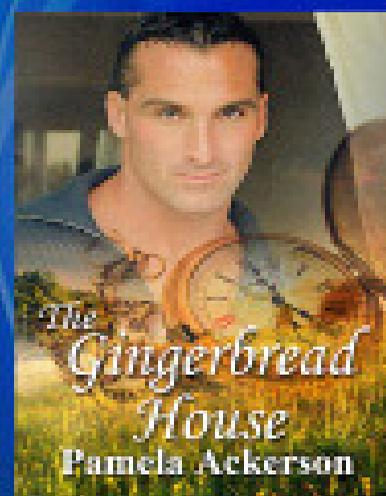
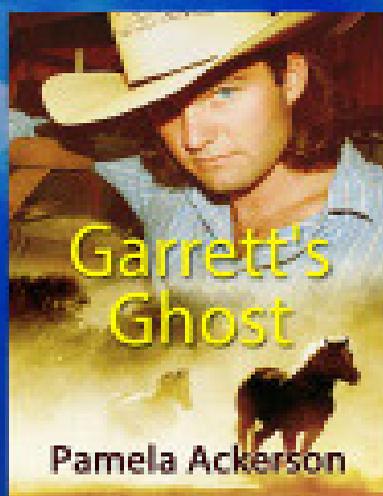
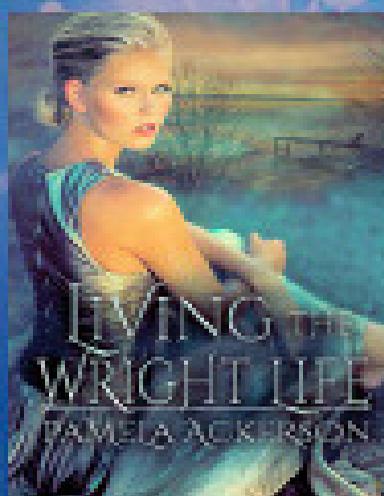
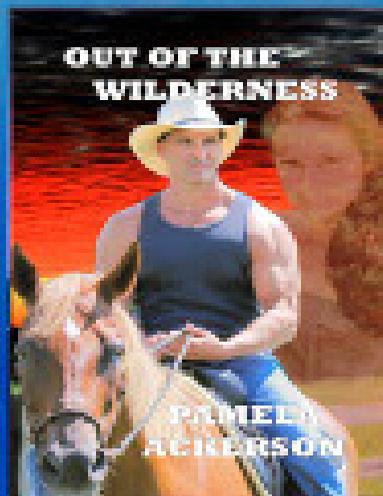
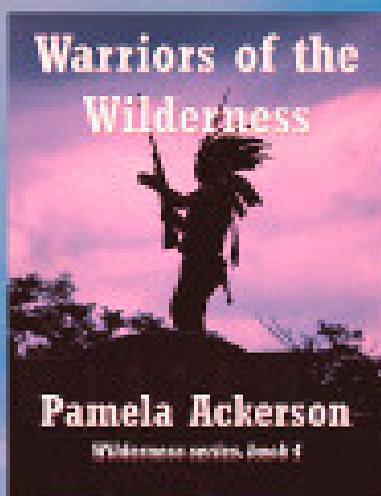
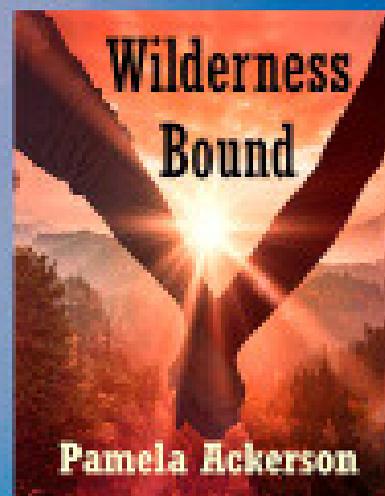
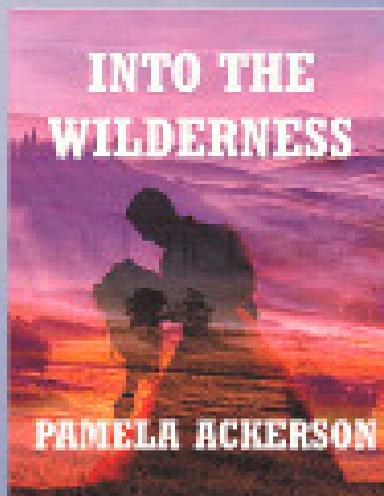
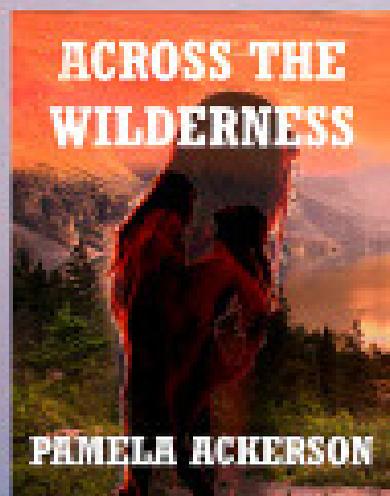
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all formats. Our reviewers  
will read ebooks, hardcovers,  
paperbacks, and listen to au-  
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**Our only criteria is we  
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*Stories that stir within us the unquenchable hope for a better tomorrow.*



**PamelaAckerson.com @PamAckerson**

*Affaire de Coeur*



## Irish Things

### Across

1. The small, mischievous rascal who otherwise works as a shoemaker.
5. This cross is a symbol of Ireland.
7. Musical instrument associated with Ireland.
8. Tuber responsible for the great migration from Ireland to the U.S.
9. These reptiles are not found in Ireland.
11. Irish \_\_\_\_\_ dance.
12. What the mischievous elf puts at the end of the rainbow.
13. Material used in Ireland's sweaters.
15. U.S. place where river is dyed green for St. Pat's day.
18. The most famous female singer of Ireland.
19. First flavored chips from Ireland.
20. Wrote Pygmalion.
21. Famous Irish singer, philanthropist.
23. Sea between Ireland and Great Britain.
24. Original language of the Irish.
27. Capital of Ireland.
29. One of Ireland's most famous poets.
31. Irish ring that symbolizes love, loyalty, and friendship.
32. A nickname for an Irishman.
33. The first Irishmen.
34. Most famous Irish dance.
35. Name of the disease that killed Ireland's main crop.

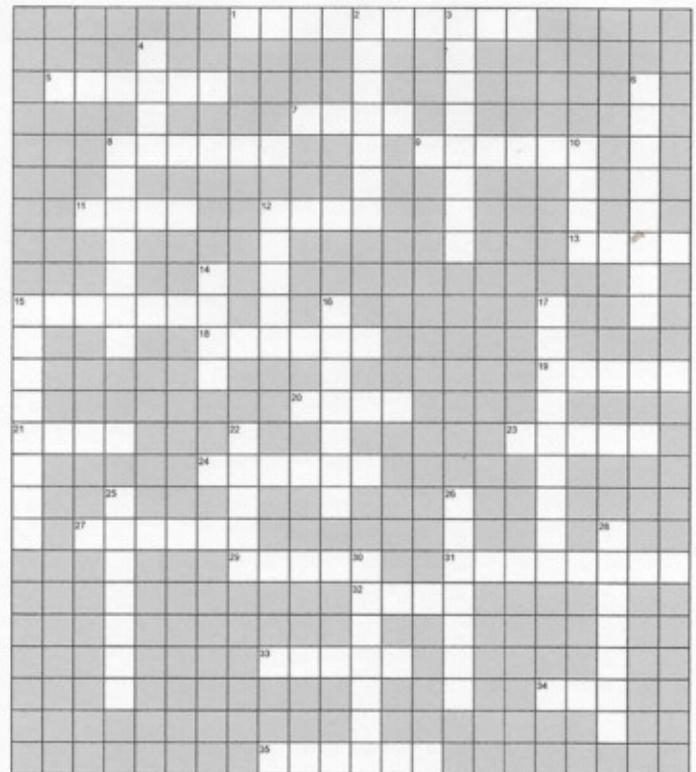
16. The Irish New Year.
17. My favorite Irish item - \_\_\_\_\_ Crystal.
22. Famous Irish song, "Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ Boy."
25. Brand of Ireland's most famous beer.
26. Wrote *Waiting for Godot*.
28. Vegetable served with #15 Down.
30. Song, "When Irish Eyes are \_\_\_\_\_."

### Down

2. Ireland is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_ Isle.
3. The ocean that borders Ireland.
4. Most famous singing group from Ireland.
6. Four leaf clover.
8. Patron saint of Ireland.
10. Classic dish usually contains mutton.
12. The color that comes to mind with thinking of Ireland.
14. Song: "Wild Irish \_\_\_\_\_."
15. Meat served in celebration of March 17th.

### Irish Things

Louise B. Sneed



Answers on page 23



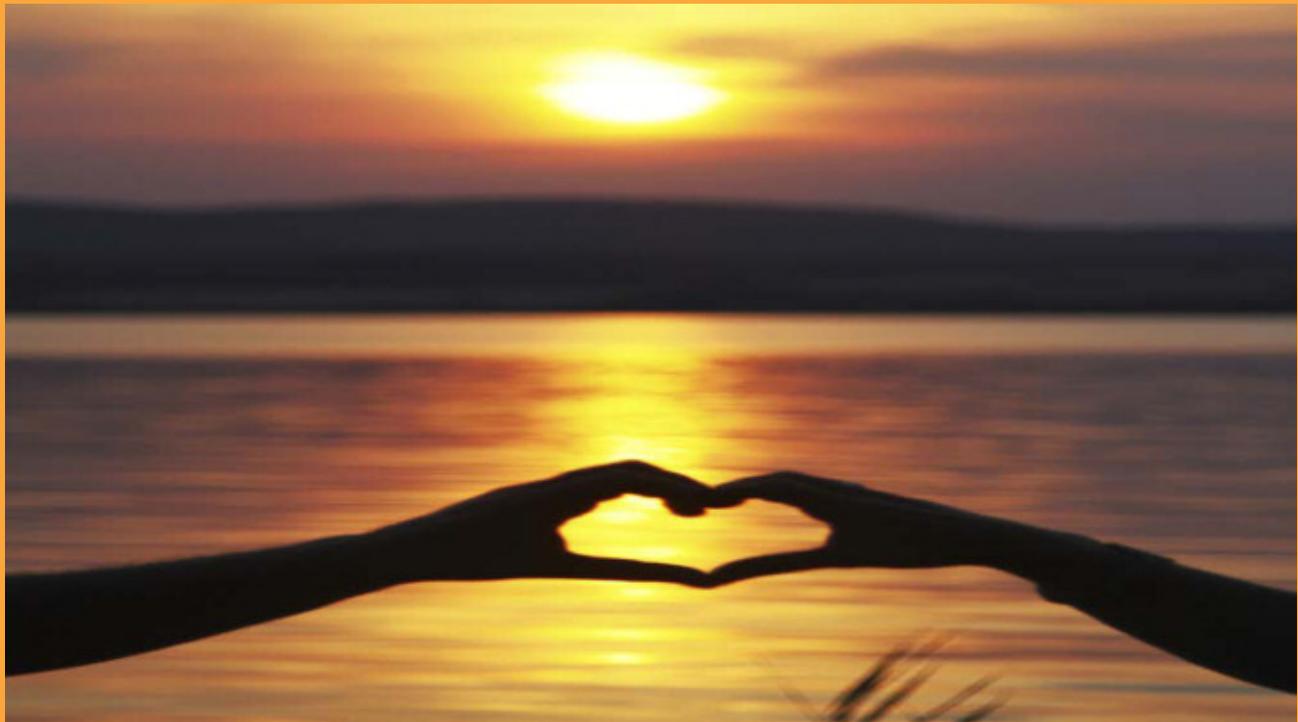
Word Search...can you find these flowers

## Flowers of the Spring

B	P	Z	P	S	E	V	O	L	G	X	O	F
G	M	D	A	N	D	E	L	I	O	N	S	D
S	A	I	L	O	N	G	A	M	S	W	A	R
P	P	L	I	L	A	C	R	E	K	F	W	J
C	I	A	R	K	J	B	I	Z	F	T	D	W
S	R	Q	N	P	P	N	P	O	U	D	D	J
E	I	O	M	S	O	R	D	L	M	D	Y	Y
S	S	V	C	E	Y	I	I	G	N	R	T	L
O	L	K	P	U	L	P	B	B	M	L	D	N
R	D	K	L	S	S	V	Q	K	D	D	V	R

- Tulips
- Iris
- Crocus
- Dandelions
- Daffodils
- Foxgloves
- Peonies
- Magnolias
- Pansy
- Roses
- Lilac

Answers on page 21



## Contemporary Romance Reviews

### **Blackbird**

*Lisa Shelby*

**Lisa Shelby Books, LLC**

Kindle Edition

B07MTZHZBZ

★★★★★



*“I knew you were a game changer the moment I met you.”*

When Delta Force Specialist Huck catches a glimpse of Harper, he knows she’s the one. Their short time together is spent in a tropical paradise, but one that comes to an abrupt halt when Huck is called away on a mission. Harper was warned that Huck may have to leave at a minute’s notice, but when she wakes to find him gone, it’s still a shock. But he promised to always find her...he promised.

When Huck’s mission goes FUBAR, he feels beyond broken and no longer worthy of Harper’s love. But fate steps in and leads these soulmates back to each other...if only Huck had kept his promise...

Lisa Shelby has written a second chance romance not to be missed. I made the mistake of starting it before I went to bed and one-more-chaptered myself up till “The End” in the wee hours of the morning. I loved it that much!

*Blackbird is beautifully written and highly*

*recommended!*

*Sharing what I love,*

*Veronica*

### **Cowboy’s Break (Poker Flat Series #4)**

*Lexi Post*

**SelfPublished**

Kindle Edition

B07MFQD1HF

★★★★★



*“I can be whatever kind of man you need me to be if...” He paused, noticing the sudden intake of breath through her lips. He reached around her and snagged another cookie. “I can have another.”*

Rachel Henderson has always put her family’s ranch and needs before her own. Struggling with the death of her parents and her sister’s drug addiction, she ends a relationship with the love of her life, Vince Gallagher.

Seven years have passed since Rachel Henderson broke his heart. When Vince learns she needs help with finding out who is stealing funds from her ranch, he is determined to use his past police detective skills to apprehend

# Contemporaries

the thief as well as discover the truth as to why Rachel ended their love affair. They say if you love something set it free... Will the time apart keep the wedge between Rachel and Vince, or will their souls recognize that they are two halves of the same whole?

Lexi Post has built a fast-paced romantic mystery within a few short pages! Highly recommend this novella!  
*Sharing what I love,*  
Veronica

strength calls to him. In his eyes she is the most beautiful woman he has ever seen, but convincing Danya will take work. Her ex was a verbally abusive man who cheated on her, a man that just happened to be a musician, and she has sworn off those types. Now Mason is torn between sharing the secret of his identity or keeping the knowledge to himself out of fear that she will reject him before their relationship has a chance.

*Resisting the Rock Star* is an enjoyable, well-written story that I would recommend. I look forward to reading more about Mason's bandmates!  
*Sharing what I love,*  
Veronica

## Resisting the Rock Star

Megan Slayer

Supernova Indie Publishing Services, Inc.

Trade Paperback

978-1623441340

☆☆☆☆

*"You could have anyone..."*

*"You're right. I could have anyone I want, and that person is you."*

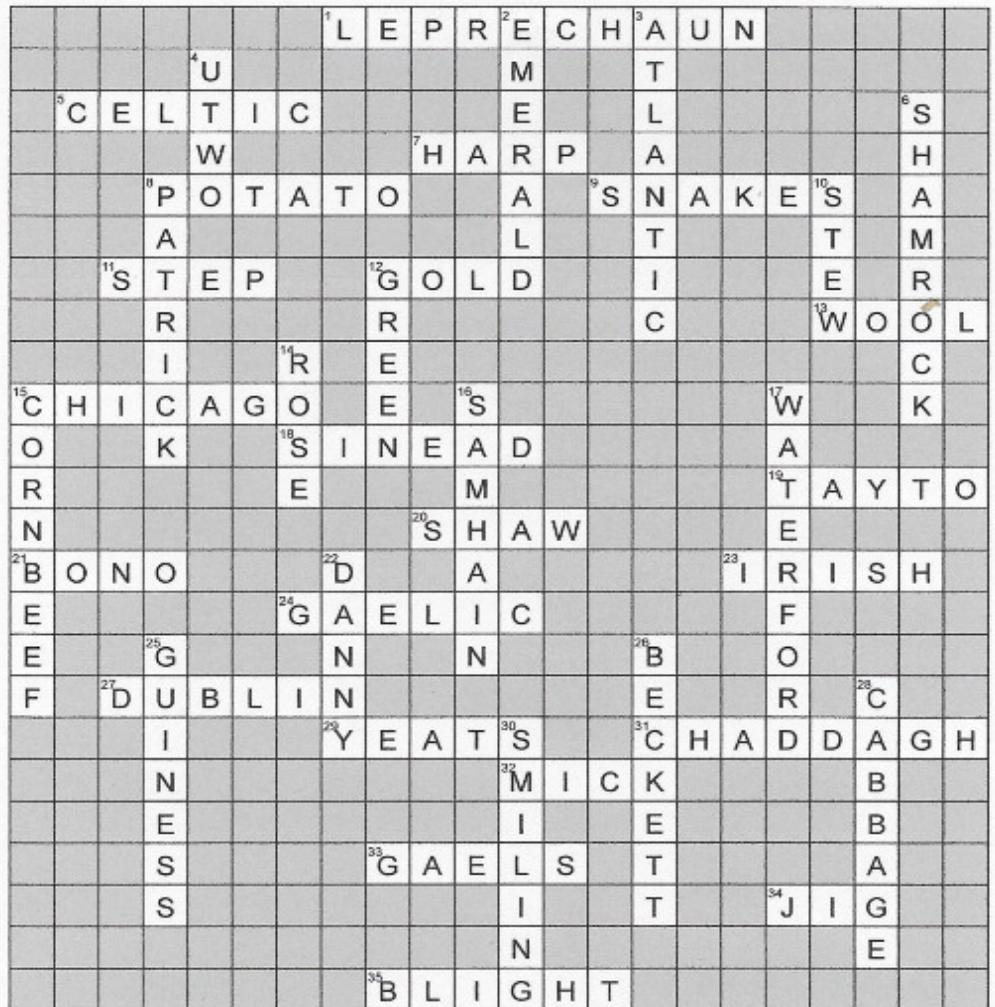
Rock legend Mason "Kross" Khan has been living life in the fast lane. Selling millions of albums, performing before sell-out crowds and being the lead singer and songwriter for his band, suddenly he finds himself the father of a teenager. Circumstances have Mason heading to small town America to meet and care for him. He's determined to take a break from the industry and get to know the son he never knew he had.

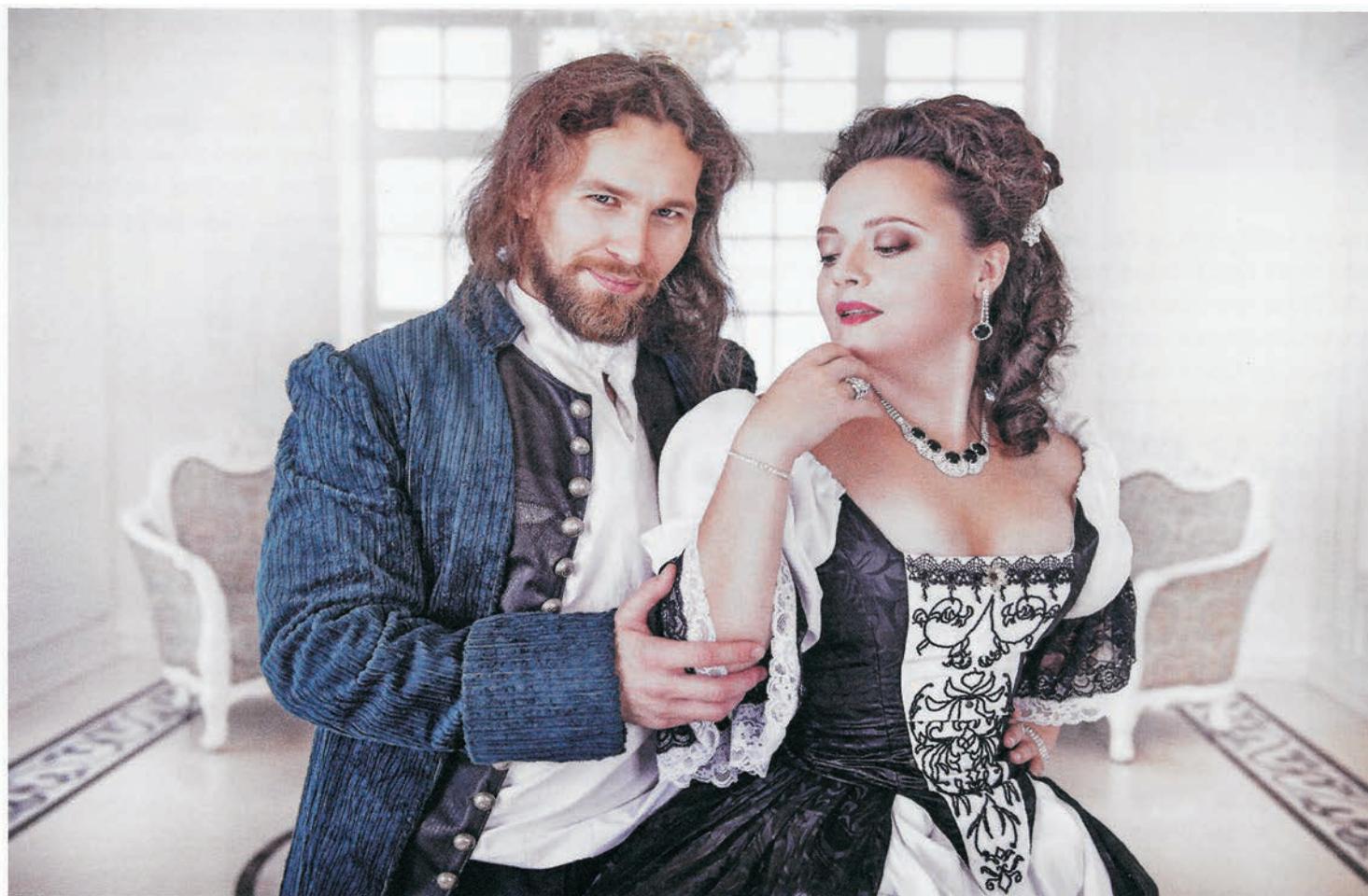
Danya Littrell is the local high school art teacher and, just by chance, meets Mason at a bar. Flustered that he shows an interest in her rather than her friends, she decides to do something daring--she has a one-night stand with the hot stranger. But when parent-teacher conference day arrives, she is shocked to discover that her midnight booty call is none other than the father of one of her students.

Mason isn't sure what it is about Danya, but her kindness and

## Irish Things

Louise B. Snead





# Historical Romances

**By the Unholy Hand (Executioner Knights #1)**

*Kathryn Le Veque*

**Kathryn Le Veque Novels, Inc.**

Kindle Edition

B07JZL6KPQ

☆☆☆☆

*“Let me take care of you...let us find a corner of this world where two sinners can find happiness with each other.”*

There is a plot brewing to assassinate the newly crowned King John. William Marshal takes the word of a trusted knight and hires what is known as “The Unholy Trinity”--The Executioner Knights. These three knights are united in one cause: to do what needs done for King and England without question or conscience.

Sir Maxton of Loxbeare is the leader of this crew. When his path crosses that of a frightened and hungry pledge from a local convent, it’s as if fate has put her in his path.

Lady Andressa du Bose was once an heiress to an impressive estate. When she finds herself orphaned and alone, she is cast aside by her greedy aunt to die within the confines of a convent with a somewhat sinister reputation. Starved beyond reason, Andressa is caught stealing bread but is rescued by a devilishly handsome knight who shows her a kindness she had long forgotten existed. As the plot against the King continues to weave around circumstances associated with Andressa, Maxton finds himself torn between being obedient to his liege and winning the affections of the lady. The years of Maxton’s sins are beginning to weigh heavily upon his heart, and he sees in the eyes of Andressa, a hope of redemption...and perhaps love.

Kathryn Le Veque is a master storyteller when it comes to medieval romance. Highly recommend and look forward to reading more adventures of the Executioner Knights!

*Sharing what I love,  
Veronica*

## How to Marry a Highlander

Michele Sinclair

Kensington Books

Trade Paperback

9781420138849

★★★★

*"I love you with every beat of my heart, every breath of my body. Now and forever."*

Adanel, Laird Mackbaythe's daughter, has grown up in a den of perverse cruelty. Laird Mackbaythe rules his clan under the banner of fear and brutality. Adanel has witnessed firsthand just how far her father will go to see that those that serve him do not question his authority. Longing for peace, she finds a private loch hidden away where she can swim and be alone if only for a short time.

But the one thing she never counted on was to be discovered by a powerful soldier. Grasping for a small chance at happiness, Adanel enters into a love affair with her mysterious soldier, and her heart and body is awakened to what it is like to love and be loved.

Commander Dugan of the Clan McTiernay is fascinated by the fiery temptress he stumbles upon when making his rounds in the outskirts of their highland territory. Dugan has never been one to allow a woman to rule over him, but there is something about this sharp-tongued wench that draws him in and keeps him returning for their weekly trysts. When he discovers she is of the dreaded Clan Mackbaythe, he feels betrayed and ends their affair without a word to Adanel as to why. In the midst of battle, Dugan and Adanel are once again put in each other's paths. Will past hurts and misgivings be too much for them to overcome, or will their hearts reconnect and show them the strength of how true love always has a way of getting what it wants?

*How to Marry a Highlander* is a first read by this author for me, and I really enjoyed it. There were places where the constant bickering between Dugan and Adanel got a little redundant, but overall, the story is one that I would recommend to lovers of Highland romance.

*Sharing what I love,*

Veronica

## Historicals

### It's Getting Scot In Here

Suzanne Enoch

St. Martin's Press

Mass Market

978-1250215765

★★★★ 1/2

Niall MacTaggart and his brothers were true Highlanders. Raised by their rough Highlander father, they were on their way to London to fulfill a promise made by their father to their mother in order to keep their ancestral estate. Francesca Oswald-Taggart, Countess Aldriss, had wed Angus MacTaggart as a young girl. She loved his rough Highlander ways, but found she could not stomach the Highlands, themselves, so returned to London with her infant daughter, leaving her three sons behind with their father... and a promise to continue the upkeep of the ancestral home in return for her three sons marrying English women.

Coll, Lord Glendarril, was the eldest of the brothers and the one slated to marry the young woman that his mother chose for him. The other two could choose who they wanted, as long as they were English. But Coll wanted nothing to do with anybody English, not his mother and definitely not Ms. Amelia-Rose Hyacinth Baxter. So he was always disappearing from their arranged "dates" leaving younger brother Niall, the laid back brother with the infectious grin, to step in.

Amelia-Rose Hyacinth Baxter was not your typical English lass. She believed in speaking her mind and didn't want to sit around in parlors drinking tea with the other ladies. Consequently, she had had four proposals during her Season, but, at the last minute, she would open her mouth and the "gentlemen" would go running. She knew there was something wrong with her, but she just couldn't bring herself to live a lie. Then she met the MacTaggart brothers. Her mother was thrilled that Lady Aldriss had picked Amelia-Rose to wed her eldest son...that would give her a title...and that's all her mother ever wanted for Amelia-Rose. So having Coll constantly leaving her high and dry and Niall stepping into his place did not set well with her mother. But Amelia-Rose found that Niall did not mind her speaking her mind and her "unladylike" ways. But Niall could not give her a title.

*It's Getting Scot In Here* is a rousing Highlander vs. Sassenach romance. With deep-seated resentment instilled in them from their father, the MacTaggarts have a lot of emotions to overcome before they can open their hearts to their mother and the English way of life. This is a story filled with raw emotion, misunderstandings and true love. A wonderful read.

Lani Roberts

# Historicals

## No Other Duke But You

Valerie Bowman

St. Martin's Press

Mass Market

978-1250121677

★★★★1/2

Lady Delilah Montebank has lived under the tyranny of her abusive mother since her father passed away. Now she has been given an ultimatum - she must secure a betrothal by her birthday or be forced into one of her mother's choosing. Desperate to please her mother, she announces that she will make a match with the most eligible bachelor in London, the Duke of Branville. Now she must get her matchmaking friend Lucy to help her plot how to achieve the task set forth before her.

Lord Thomas Hobbs, Duke of Huntley, has secretly been in love with his best friend Lady Delilah since they were teens. Delilah has always been by his side, and they have shared many an adventure. Since the day she offered comfort during the loss of his father, they have formed a loving friendship that has grown stronger over time. But it is the thought of losing their friendship that has kept Thomas from declaring his feelings. When Delilah announces she intends to get the Duke of Branville to offer a proposal of marriage, Thomas sets out on his own matchmaking mission to get Delilah to see him as a lover rather than just a friend.

*No Other Duke But You* is a comedic friends-to-lovers romance that had me laughing and cheering for these two to finally get together! After all, what could possibly go wrong at a country estate with everyone running around attempting to douse love potion on their intended? While this is the 11th installment in the "Playful Bride" series, it may be read as a standalone. Thoroughly enjoyed and would recommend!

*Sharing what I love,*  
Veronica

## An Unwilling Earl

Sharon Cullen

Entangled Publishing LLC

Trade Paperback

978-1640637801

★★★★1/2

*"Strong people are scared all of the time. Facing their fears is what makes them strong."*

Widowed solicitor Jacob Ashland has just recently inherited the title Earl of Ashland. His entire life is being turned upside down. When he is approached by Lady Morris to hunt down her missing niece Charlotte, he suspects there is something more behind her request.

London is being terrorized by a gruesome killer of women. Jacob and his best friend have been meeting to trade theories on who could be the murderer as well as trying to locate Lady Morris' missing niece Charlotte and hoping she has not fallen victim to this slasher.

In the dark of night, orphaned Charlotte flees from her aunt and cousin. Fearful of what is going on under the roof of her tyrant aunt, she finds herself dressed as a lad and literally running right into the Earl of Ashland. Being kind of heart, Jacob takes Charlotte into his home and offers sanctuary. But as their days together pass, they find themselves becoming fast friends-companions-and awaken a love that cannot be denied. Charlotte must find the strength to finally trust Jacob with the secret of why she fled her aunt's home before their love affair comes to a deadly end.

*An Unwilling Earl* is not at all what I was expecting! Do not let the blurb fool you into thinking this is your typical historical romance. Within these pages lies a murder mystery, and while I had guessed the killer's identity, it was quite an adventure to see how Charlotte and Jacob worked together to bring the murderer to justice, as well as heal old wounds and find true love. Very much recommend and look forward to reading more from this author!

*Sharing what I love,*

Veronica



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## Historicals

### **A Wicked Reputation (Once Wicked #3)**

*Liana LeFey*

**Entangled Publishing (Amara)**

Trade Paperback

978-1640637719

\*\*\*1/2

*“Very few people truly know themselves - we all invent ourselves daily.”*

Lady Diana Haversham finds herself an outcast in a time when gossip and perception rule all and a person’s reputation means everything. Never one to back down from a fight, Lady Diana re-brands herself, and with the help of a benefactor, finds herself one of the most wanted courtesans in England.

Lord Lucas Blackthorn has recently returned from his exile imposed by his family. His eyes can’t believe that

the once meek and shy Lady Haversham is now the mistress of Lord Harrow; a man with certain deviances according to stories circulating amongst the *ton*. The gambler in him sees getting her into his bed as a high stakes game he’s eager to play, but when the truth of her wicked reputation comes to light, he finds that his heart is all in and the rules of the *ton* be damned.

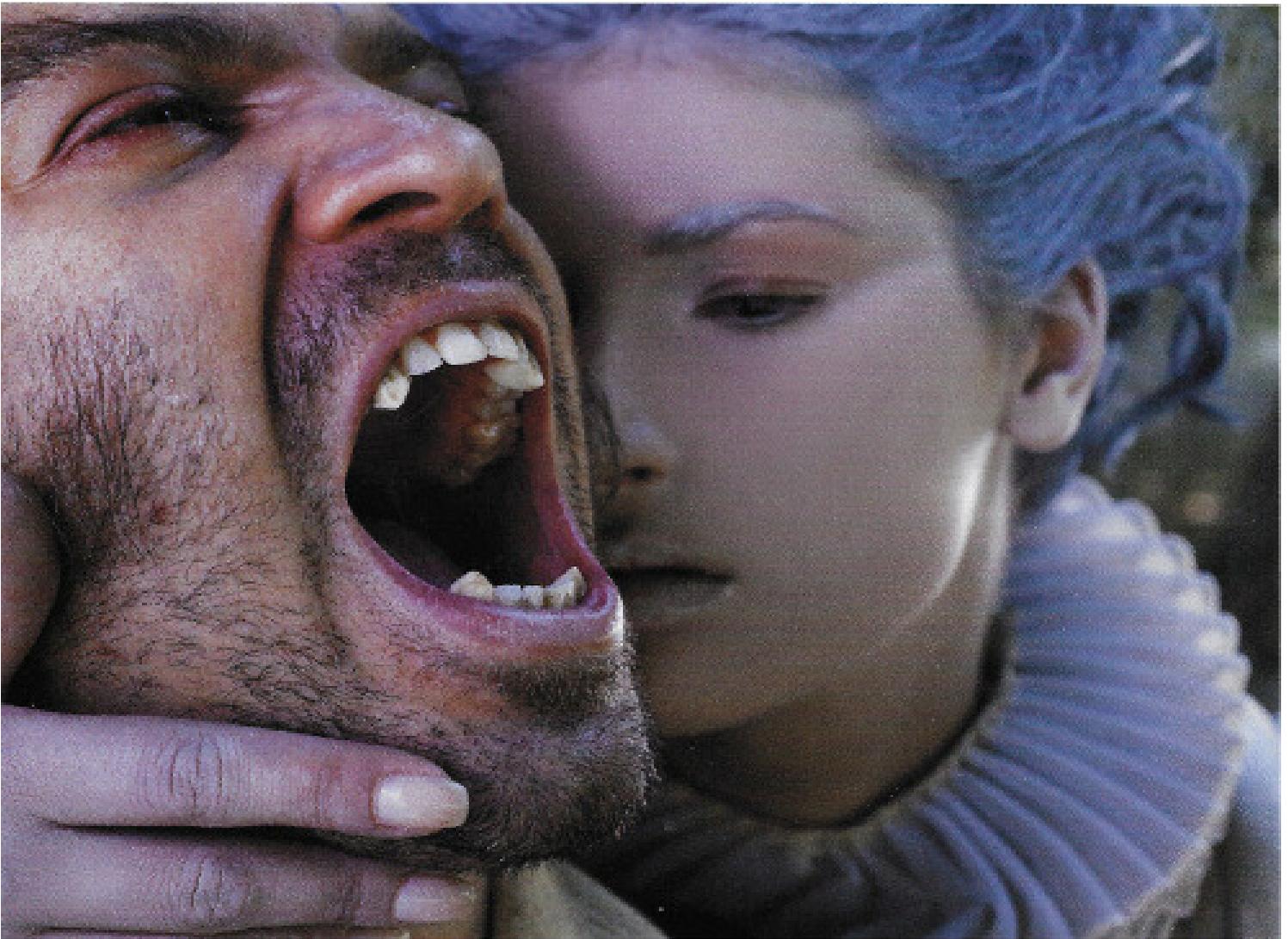
“In truth, life was painful, unfair, and utterly without mercy. Especially when it came to love.”

*A Wicked Reputation* is a delicious historical with a heroine who is no shrinking wallflower. This reviewer loved Diana and her approach to life and not giving a damn what others thought of her but fought fiercely for those she loves. While this is the third installment to the “Once Wicked” series, it may be read as a standalone. Liana LeFey is a new to me author, and I can’t wait to read more! Absolutely loved, and highly recommend!

*Sharing what I love,*

*Veronica*

# Paranormal Romance Reviews



## **Bloodstone**

*Helen C. Johannes*

**The Wild Rose Press**

Kindle Edition

B00G8GTHRC

★★★★

The Shadow Man was once a fierce warrior, but after losing a battle, a powerful mage's spell has forced him into a life of solitude. Forever living in darkness and hiding away... for to look upon the face of the Shadow Man is certain death. But in dreams, a beacon of light in the form of a beautiful woman offers solace...she can gaze into his eyes and love the man behind the horror.

Mirianna travels with her father to seek out the Bloodstone, a rare gem made from petrified dragon's blood. During their quest, Mirianna finds herself dreaming of a mysterious lover...a lover that leaves her desperate to see what is hidden behind the mask of darkness.

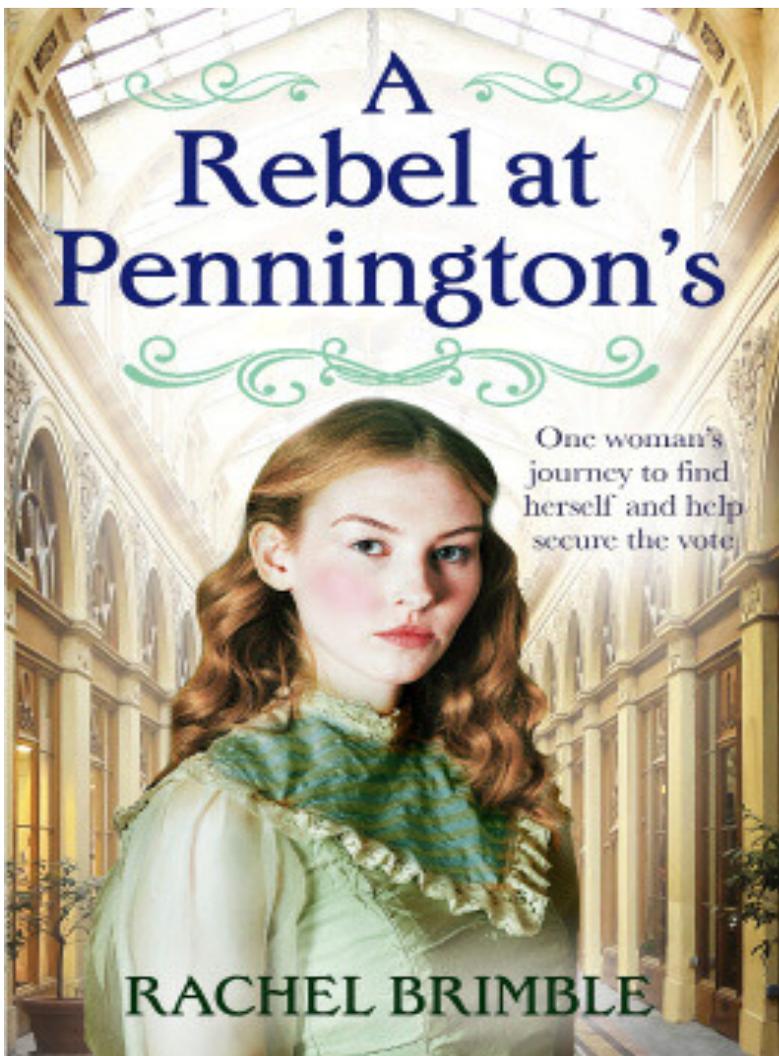
The Wehrland is a haunting mountainous region

full of deadly beastmen known as the Krad, and home to the Shadow Man. Mirianna and her father find themselves at the mercy of the horrors of the Wehrland, and Mirianna bargains with the Shadow Man to spare her father's life and take her instead. The Shadow Man whisks Mirianna off to his ruinous castle, and that is where true love proves to conquer all.

*Bloodstone* by Helen C. Johannes is an enriching fantasy adventure with the romantic theme of *Beauty and the Beast*. Would recommend to lovers of the fantasy genre.

*Sharing what I love,*

*Veronica*



Can two strangers find tranquility in a sea of uncertainty?

Esther Stanbury has hopes and dreams for women's progression and will do anything to help secure the vote.

RachelBrimble.com  
@RachelBrimble

## Paranormals

### Revenge (The Vaedra Chronicles Book 2)

Ester Lopez

Writing & Photographic Services, LLC

E-book

B073TN297Q

★★★★

Berto and his baby sister lived in a cave on the planet Tarsius. Going to the academy while waiting a chance for a better life, he gets a job through his headmaster to learn how to repair various spaceships. Both orphaned, Berto must juggle caring for his sister Mariposa who is going to school and will be alone at home until his work can let them be together, and his job. Coming home from work, he came upon his sister about to be raped by three young men. Enraged, his mind produces psychic energy and dispatched two of the boys as the third runs away. He vows to never leave his sister again.

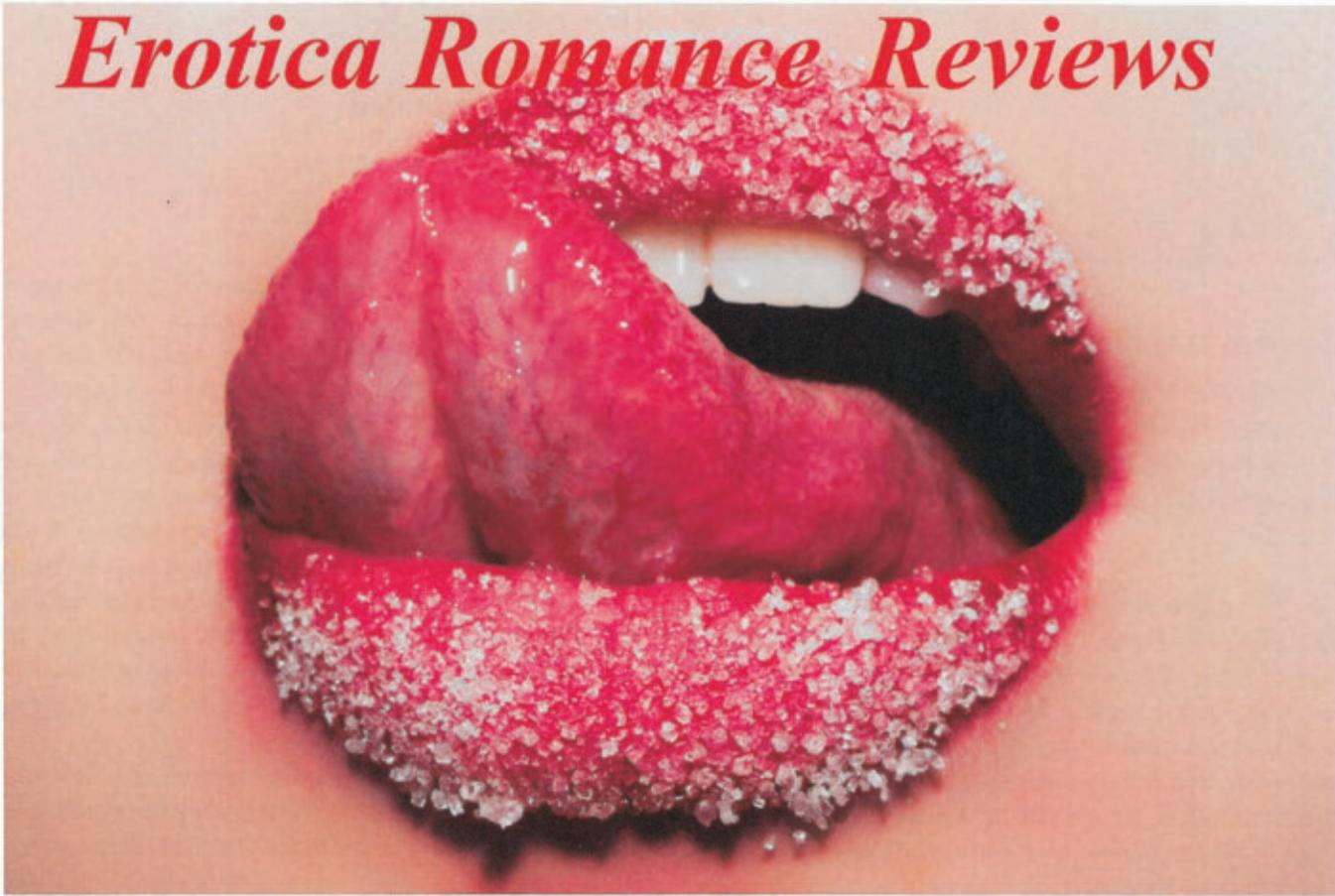
Fourteen years later, Berto's promise does not go as planned. He is forced into being a slave trader and must now make amends as a recruit to fight against the slave traders. He meets Shey, a young instructor who catches his emotions. He doesn't know Shey is seeking vigilante justice not knowing Berto was the one who killed her brother. They grow fond of each other, but due to a lot of bad blood and prejudice, they keep the relationship hidden. It is also forbidden to have a relationship with his kind and Shey is a superior, as well.

Berto is eventually cleared of sabotage of the equipment and rocket ships when it becomes apparent to the commander of the base that he has skills beneficial to hinder the damage along with his dedication to the cause. The recruits train hard, but the friction never seems to stop because they know Berto was a slave trader. Berto's psychic power is put to work in his defense in the middle of training when a confrontation goes too far. None the wiser, he continues to be a leader.

*Revenge* has a steady pace following Berto; he has a lot stacked against him that only his hard-learned experience and untested psychic abilities can pull him through. Saboteurs, love and personal drive give this story the momentum to get to the exciting end.

Lauren Calder

# *Erotica Romance Reviews*



## **Black Light: Possession**

*L.K. Shaw*

**Black Collar Press**

Kindle Edition

B07MTH34JF

☆☆☆☆☆



*"I trust you, Master. With my life. With my heart.  
With my submission."*

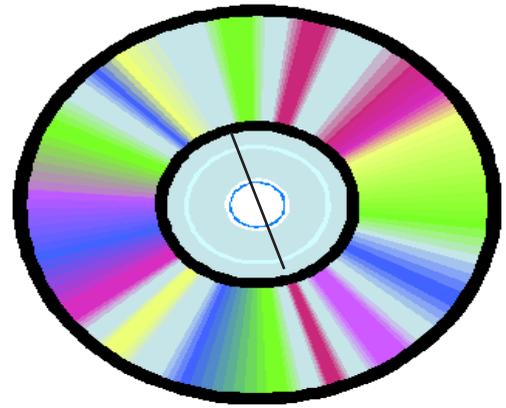
Dr. Madeline Parrish is being stalked by someone leaving her anonymous love letters. What started out as harmless prose turns into threats of violence, and Madeline is offered an opportunity to move to Washington, D.C., to escape not only the stalker, but also to have a fresh start. Looking for something more in her life, Madeline joins friends at an exclusive BDSM club known as Black Light. There she meets Joseph and Nathaniel, two Doms who instantly see in Madeline the submissive they have long sought.

FBI agents and partners Joseph Crocker and Nathaniel Morgan can't believe they have finally found the perfect Sub to love and protect. It's as if Fate has taken a hand to steer Madeline into their lives...or maybe put them in hers. As it turns out, the serial killer "Casanova" they have been tracking is the very one that has been sending Madeline

the love letters. Now they have even more at stake in finding and bringing the killer to justice before their beloved Madeline is Casanova's next victim.

L.K. Shaw has written a deadly intense romantic suspense of cat and mouse between Madeline and a killer of women. I can't recommend enough! *Black Light: Possession* is a verrra smexxy thriller guaranteed to make your heart race! Loved it!

*Sharing what I love,  
Veronica*



# AUDIO BOOK REVIEWS

## **Along Came Trouble**

*Written by Sherryl Woods  
Narrated by Megan Tusing*

**Brilliance Audio**

9 CDs

978-1531866501

☆☆☆

Sheriff Tucker Spencer is any woman's type of hero and I was enamored by his history right away. Not so much Mary Elizabeth, who broke his heart years ago but comes running back when she needs help. When she chose a prominent Virginia politician over Tucker, Mary Elizabeth thought this was what she wanted until her husband is found shot dead and she is blamed. Tucker is not about to let her rush back into his life and upset the balance he has managed, as well as getting the local gossips involved.

He will clear her name but will move on without her, or so he thinks. But what the heart wants is more powerful than anyone could imagine.

I love Sherryl Woods books, but this one left a lot to be desired for me. The narration was great, and the characters were well developed, but to me, the heroine was a spoiled brat who thought she was so much "better" than anyone else. I was interested in the synopsis of the story, but I just couldn't get involved in the storyline like I normally do.  
*Letitia*

## **The Duke's Shotgun Wedding**

*Written by Stacy Reid  
Narrated by Anna Parker-Maples*

**Brilliance Audio**

Mp3--1 CD

978-1536696196

☆☆

Lady Jocelyn Rathbourne has been rejected. The scoundrel who had toyed with her affections was Anthony Thornton. When she saw in the newspapers that Anthony was marrying someone else, what did she do? She went to Anthony's home and pulled a Derringer on Sebastian Thornton, Anthony's brother, the Duke of Calydon, insisting that he fix it by forcing Anthony to marry her. But Anthony and his love had gone to Gretna Green, and they had already married. Jocelyn needed a financial boost. Not to be defeated, Jocelyn, gun still drawn, insisted that he, Sebastian, marry her. Almost before she could think about it, he agreed.

Sebastian knew Jocelyn needed his money. Didn't they all? But she was attractive, cultured, and could perform the fundamentals of a duchy. And, he needed an heir. So, he went along with the most cynical of intentions. Little did he know that his new wife was a force and would give him the run of his life.

*The Duke's Shotgun Wedding* is a throwback to the early 1970's romance and their formulaic structure: rich, overbearing duke and naive, innocent, but poor, female aristocracy. Even the phrases/descriptions are reminiscent of the "blue" prose so prevalent in the early days. Anna Parker-Maples narrates this story with a British accent and does an

# Audio Book Reviews

acceptable job except with the voice of the duke. He comes off as a caricature of what a duke's voice would be like and, at times, sounds silly.

*Mildred Burkett*

## **When Summer Comes**

*Written by Brenda Novak*

*Narrated by Shannon McManus*

**Brilliance Audio**

9 CDs

978-1469230368

☆☆☆☆

Callie's story is an emotional journey that I found I had to reach for the tissues several times. When she is told she needs a liver transplant, which is devastating enough, she is also told the odds of finding a compatible donor are stacked against her. Moving to her late grandparents' farm, she keeps the news to herself and is determined to use the time she has left to focus on her dreams. But can she really accomplish what she wants, or will she run out of time?

When mysterious Levi McCloud knocks on her door and requests to trade work for a few nights' room and board, Callie doesn't figure she has much to lose. He needs a place to stay, and Callie needs the help he offers, until, one day, they discover what began as a temporary solution for both of them becomes much more.

I did not agree with Callie keeping the news to

herself and it bothered me for quite a while, but that was her choice to make. The attraction between Callie and Levi leaped out of the audio and the narration portrayed that well. Brenda Novak has a gift for grabbing the readers' attention and keeping them interested till the very last page. *When Summer Comes* is a book I would recommend to anyone who loves a great love story.

*Letitia*



***Happy Easter!***

# Booty from the Other Genre



## Becoming

Michelle Obama

Crown

978-152476313-8

☆☆☆☆



Michelle Obama's long-awaited autobiography is here, and it's a blockbuster. The former First Lady shares the stages of her life with the readers in a cozy, intimate book while giving commentary on the social and racial tone of the day.

In "Becoming Me," the first section of the book, the reader learns from a first-person point of view that Michelle Robinson is a middle class African-American who was born and grew up on the South side of Chicago. The small, closely-knit Robinson family consisted of her mother Marian, her father Fraser, her brother Craig, and herself. Her extended family included her grandfathers, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Their contributions to her life were many and varied; from providing an apartment for them to piano lessons for her. As was the practice of the time when she grew up, the family extended even more to include neighbors and friends who watched out for her.

As a child, Michelle was smart and excelled in school, and as a result, was able to attend the better schools in Chicago. Very early, the reader can see how well Michelle schmoozed and maintained contacts; tasks that would take her far. They also see what a goal-oriented woman she is, which explains how she achieved so much so early in life. She followed her brother to Princeton, where she thrived. Upon graduation from Princeton, she went to Yale law school

and graduated at the top of her class. Michelle returned to a job in a swanky law firm in Chicago where she met Barack Obama, a young law student who was doing an internship at her firm.

"Becoming Us" is the story of Michelle and Barack. Theirs is a story filled with competitive intellect, respect, humor, and love. Together, they challenged each other and kept each other on track. It was he who asked the questions that led to a career change for her. His proposal to her was unique and funny. Their yearn for a baby and going through IVF was real.

"Becoming More" centers on her role from the time Barack was elected President and her role as the First Lady. She tackled this role as she had done in previous unfamiliar roles in her life: from an analytical aspect; what has to be done to taking care of it. Her goals as FLOTUS included a focus on nutrition and global education for girls. This time, though, her transition was complicated by her other roles as wife, mother, daughter, and role model. She became the object of criticism, racism, sexism and plain meanness and dealt with it without comment.

There are many poignant scenarios in this book. Particularly touching to this reviewer is the story of Dandy, her grandfather from South Carolina, who was perpetually grumpy and mean. The readers learn that the very intelligent Dandy had wanted to go to college, but that idea was gutted because he could not get a job so he could pay for it. Immigrants from other countries were given jobs before African-Americans. So, Dandy downgraded his goals; he would become an electrician, or steel worker or plumber. But for those jobs a union card was required, and those were not issued to blacks.

In *Becoming*, the readers meet her friends and watch

# Booty

right up your alley! Kudos to Betsy Reavley for creating a world that finally reached my “ick” warning.  
*Sharing what I love (even if a wee bit disturbing),  
Veronica*

## **They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South**

*Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers*

**Yale University Press**

Hardcover

978-0300218664

★★★★ 1/2

White women in the Antebellum South neglected? Hard to believe. But the truth is their history in the maintenance and even flourishing of slavery is what was neglected, not them. In the beginning of *They Were Her Property: White Women Slave Owners in the American South*, author Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers presents an article written in 1859 by James Redpath for the *New York Tribune*. In it, he acknowledged the white woman’s participation in all aspects of slavery, then excused it by saying they were insulated from the ugly side of slavery and they didn’t know the atrocities put upon the slaves. His position was subsequently debunked by the wealth of documentation from varied resources, including oral interviews carried on as a result of the FWP (Federal Writer’s Project of the Works Progress Administration, established by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1935). Jones-Rogers focuses on slave owning white women: single, married, and even “mistresses in training” (Children who were taught by both parents and literature of the day, throughout their upbringing, to disregard all of human value in slaves while considering/enhancing the economic ones.).

*They Were Her Property* will anger many readers. Descendants of slaves cringe at the treatment inflicted upon their ancestors though that was neither the focus nor the emphasis of this book. Descendants of white woman will bristle at the tendency some might have to generalize the subjects of this research to include all white women. Indeed, the author goes out of her way to reference articles that assure us that most whites did not own slaves. Finally, some may be offended by the language the author uses in the book. This reviewer has never understood why words that reflect a time period should be eliminated from historic narratives because they are offensive in today’s discourse.

There are so many components that contributed to the success of slavery for such a long time; changes in laws, social practices, and the invention of the cotton gin. Jones-Rogers deftly presents many of them, matter-of-factly showing the raw bones degradation that took place, i.e. slaves not being allowed to name their own children, often seeing them sold off if there were a profit to be had. Having grown up in the South, this reviewer can attest to the fact that some of the practices (i.e. calling white children “Master” and

her go through the awkwardness of socialization and first boyfriends. They get an idea of how she works, what and how things are important to her. We see her going from a reserved child who played with dolls to the exclusion of friends, to the mature mother of two girls who helped her man run the most powerful country in the world.

*Mildred Burkett*

## **Broken**

*Betsy Reavley*

**Bloodhound Books**

Trade Paperback

978-1912986101

★★

*Is all that we see or seem*

*But a dream within a dream? --Edgar Allan Poe*

Reader Warning: This book is full of triggers and not for the weak of heart. I’m not kidding!

Annabel has been fighting a battle with mental illness. Diagnosed as manic depressive, she has recently been released from a mental institution. Needing a fresh start away from the prying eyes of her family, Annabel goes on holiday to the coast of Suffolk. Little did she realize when booking her escape, this seaside village has been plagued with horrific deaths of young women.

Not one easily put off by this news, Annabel opts to stay and meets a mysterious man, Jude, who befriends her and offers a chance to get away from her troubles and live within the confines of his “community.” As the days pass, Annabel is haunted by visions of pain and despair. Annabel must make a choice to either stay locked away within the safety Jude offers or fight off the nightmare her life has become.

After reading the blurb for *Broken*, I was intrigued and requested a copy. Dear Reader, this story is NOTHING like the blurb teases. *Broken* is a hauntingly horrific tale that will reach into the darkest corners of your mind and stay there. Rape, murder and madness abound in this graphic story, and I honestly am at a loss as how to rate it.

My first instinct was I didn’t like it. But the author did such a good job in the depiction of the depravity done to Annabel that I had to stop and rethink how to review the book. Can I recommend it? Not really. I do read a lot of dark erotica and disturbing accounts but *Broken* was a little out of even my comfort zone. However, if you are a fan of torture porn and a story with lots of twists and turns, this may be

# Booty

“Mistress” have survived. One might think that *They Were Her Property* is, by virtue of its era and the practices therein, an historical review of an era. Not so. It is both relevant and educational. Readers who love history, especially U.S.

history, will find this a must read!

*Mildred Burkett*



