

November/December 2019

# *Affaire de Coeur*

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**Meet Actor/Cover Model  
John J. Quinlan**

**It's never too soon to teach  
your kids  
MONEYSKILLS**

**Reviews!**

**Reviews!**

**Reviews!**





*Love is an Illusion and Love, the Only Reality*

# Pam Binder

Madeline Murphy  
needs a date for her  
mother's wedding. A  
chivalrous date.

What's a matchmaker  
to do but send her back  
in time to find her  
knight in shining  
armor?



*Coming November 6, 2019*

*Read an excerpt at [www.PamBinder.com](http://www.PamBinder.com)*





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# Money \$kills for Your Kids

By J.J. Wenrich



*“If today’s youth are tomorrow’s future, we, the village, need to properly equip ourselves in order to equip our youth for success.”*

Someone once told me, if you want to keep kids from drowning, don’t put a lifejacket on them, teach them to swim. Give them the gift of a life skill that will not only prevent tragedy, but perhaps lead to a lifetime of exercise and enjoyment. A lifejacket teaches them to rely on someone to be there for them, whereas if you teach them to swim, they learn to be there for themselves.

The same can be said for financial literacy. Financial literacy is just like swimming – it’s a skill that can be a life-saver for those who have it. You do far more good teaching them financial literacy than you do by sheltering them from the trials and tribulations that come with thinking about money.

Let’s face it – thinking about money isn’t fun a lot of the time, especially if you’re stressed about it yourself. You may not want to pass the stress of thinking about money to your children, and therefore don’t feel equipped to teach financial literacy.

First, you are worthy of doing the job. All you need is the will to get started. Just like you don’t have to be a world-class swimmer to introduce water safety to your kids, you can teach financial literacy to your kids even if you don’t necessarily feel like you are great at it yourself.

Second, you don’t have to go it alone. I’ve found some great resources available in multiple formats to help you give your kids the “financial

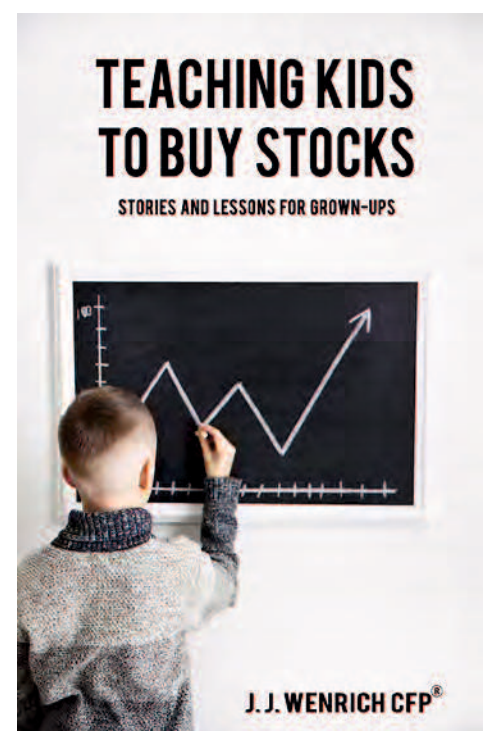
swimming lessons” they need to thrive in the world. You never know, maybe you both will learn something along the way! I will walk you through some of my favorites below.

## BUSY KID

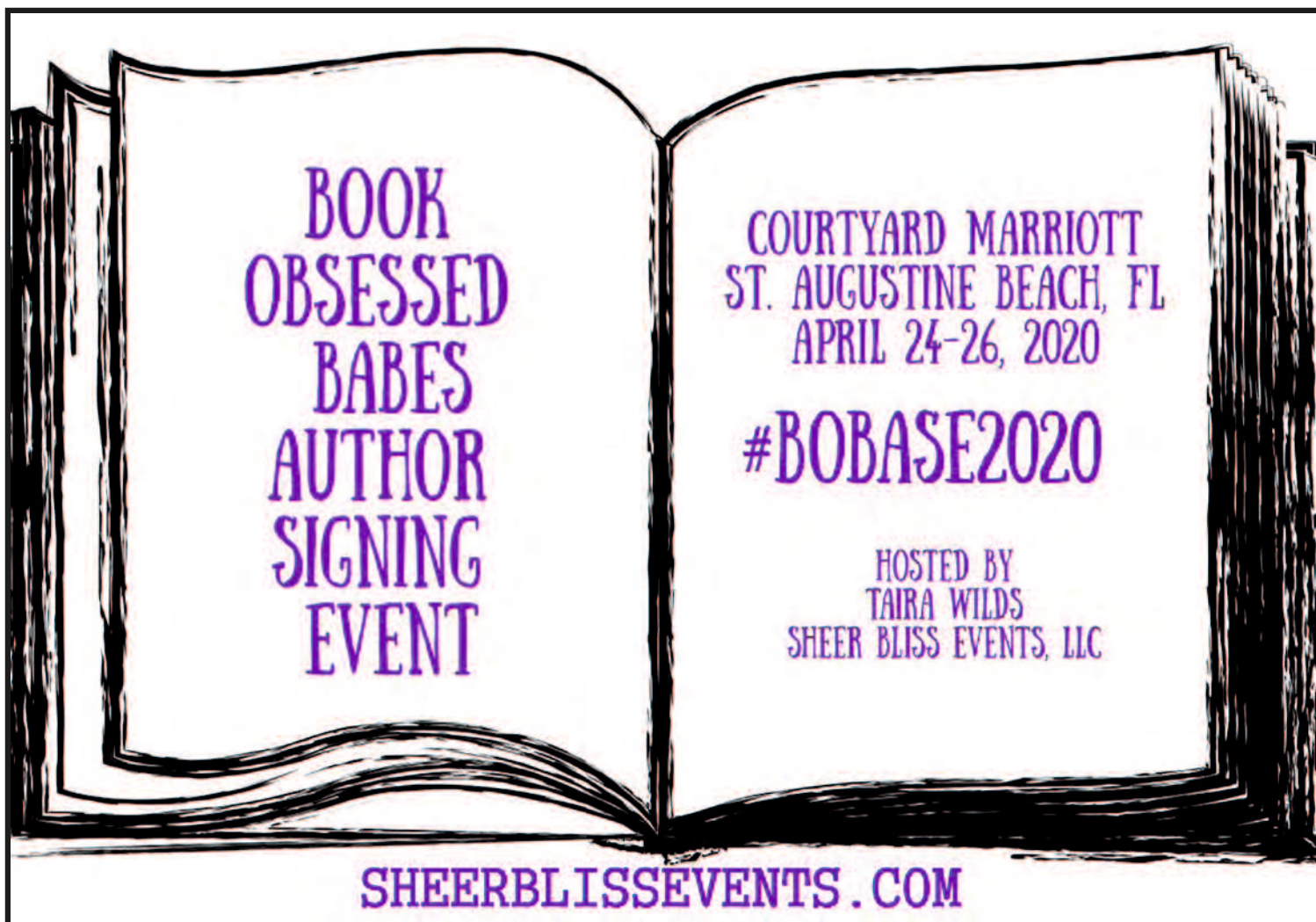
Busy Kid is a “chore and allowance” app and website that allows you to turn their allowance into an electronic chore chart that gives kids access to their own Visa debit card, real stock investments, and charitable donations. [BusyKid.com](http://BusyKid.com)

## MONEY MUNCHKIDS<sup>SM</sup>

Money Munchkids produces grade specific workbooks and curriculum dedicated to teaching kids between K-3rd grade financial literacy and money management. [MoneyMunchkids.com](http://MoneyMunchkids.com)







### **SAMMY RABBIT**

Sammy Rabbit has been bringing financial literacy for young children to the community for 20 years now. They provide story and activity books for ages 3 – 9 as well as musical sing-a-longs and skits on their website. [SammyRabbit.com](http://SammyRabbit.com)

### **THE CENTSABLES**

The Centsables are six fearless superheroes whose greatest power is to help you make smart financial decisions for the rest of your life. You can learn from their adventures via 13 DVD episodes, activity books, comic books and even a video game app for smartphones. [TheCentsables.com](http://TheCentsables.com)

### **RICH KID SMART KID**

Robert Kiyosaki's book *Rich Dad Poor Dad* is the #1 personal finance book of

all time. He shares his wisdom for kids through free games and age appropriate activities. [RichKidSmartKid.com](http://RichKidSmartKid.com)

The most important tool is a will to have conversations about money. Hopefully, these resources help you feel more comfortable dipping your feet into the financial literacy waters with your kids.

Certified Financial Planner and Financial Coach, J.J. Wenrich resides in San Clemente, CA, and is a twenty-year veteran of retail investing and financial planning. He is the author of the financial literacy book *Teaching Kids to Buy Stocks: Stories and Lessons for GrownUps*.

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*Author, J.J. Wenrich*



# Deborah Camp

*Destined to be “almost famous,” Deborah Camp had her first novel published by Silhouette Romances in 1979 while working as a newspaper reporter. She has made her living as a writer since she graduated from college.*

*Writing about people falling in love is endlessly entertaining for her. She has penned all kinds of romances from “sweet” to “super sexy.” She writes both contemporary and historical romances.*

*She lives in Tulsa, OK, which comes in handy when she’s writing books set in the Wild West.*

*Affaire de Coeur is fortunate enough to have Ms. Camp tgrant us this very personal interview filled with her perspectives.*

## On Writing

Writing is an exercise in evolution. With each book, it changes and transforms. What worked for the last book, won’t totally work for the next one. A meticulous outline is just the ticket for one story, but is far too restraining for the next one. I have written novels from a one paragraph idea and from outlines that map out each and every scene. Sometimes my “map” is dictated by an editor’s instructions. For example, an editor at a publishing house might request a one-page synopsis or the first three chapters and an outline of the rest of the book. Often, it depends on where you are in your career.

Presently, I’m at the point where I develop character sketches along with photos of people (actors/models) to give me a visual reference for each character. I use these sketches a lot while I’m writing and jot down extra things on them that come to me as I write the book. For instance, I might jot down what perfume a character wears or that a secondary character owns a parrot. Things I didn’t know about them when they were first born on the page. Accompanying these character studies is a sketchy outline, hitting the high points of the story and leaving a lot to my discretion or the discretion of the characters as they grow and become more real to me.

## A Day in the Life Of...

Back when I was dreaming of writing instead of doing it, I thought

writers traveled the world, met fascinating people, and wrote wherever they happened to be – on a train in Poland, in a café in France, at a villa in Italy, or in their lushly decked out office



situated on their estate. Then I became one of those creatures and those creature comforts did not come with the position.

I wrote my first novel on a manual typewriter at my dining room table. I was a reporter at a newspaper. I came home from work, took a nap, ate something, and then wrote from around nine at night until two in the morning. I wrote all weekend. No partying on the Rivera or hobnobbing at the opera for me. I had a mortgage to pay while I nursed my “dream” job. Even after I began selling my books, I was chained to the dining room table. I spent my first

royalty check, not on a luxury cruise, but on a washer and dryer. And believe me, that was pure luxury for me at that time!

Don’t get me wrong. Since then I have taken several cruises, traveled all over the U.S. in a motorhome, and I jet to New York City a few times a year because the love of my life lives there when he’s not in Tulsa with me. I’ve had my romantic, memorable moments, so I’m not complaining (much). However, the life of most writers is like mine most of the time – mundane. Why? Because it must be that way. Writing is a solitary endeavor and requires you to sit down and create. Day after day, page after page. Some days the only things I talk to are my dogs and my characters. The scary part is that they all talk back to me.

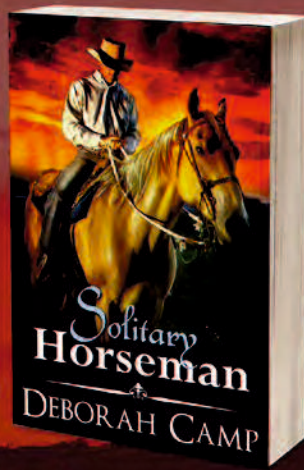
There are “glamorous authors.” I’ve met a couple of them. However, most writers are like me. They dress in food-stained, holey jeans and t-shirts as they sit in front of computers (or, if they really want to suffer for their art, they use a pen and paper) and pound away. Their “getaways” consist of visits to the bathroom and kitchen.

So, the next time you wonder what it’s like to be a novelist, go sit in front of your TV. Don’t turn it on. Just stare at the blank screen. Yeah. That’s how it feels.

Okay, okay. I’ll be nice. The next time you see a falling star or a rainbow or hear the repertoire of a mockingbird and you gasp in delight, that’s how it feels on days when the words fly off your fingertips like



# Stories as Beautiful and Spirited as America's Fabled West



*"Her writing makes you feel like you're right there next to the characters and taking part in their story." (Solitary Horseman)*

*"This story had everything in abundance; heart-warming, funny and definitely sexy moments that kept me thoroughly entertained till the end." (Lonestar's Lady)*

*"It's a terrific story with sensual moments that are written to perfection." (Fallen Angel)*

Subscribe to Deborah's newsletter  
and receive one of her  
historical western romances FREE.  
<http://www.deborah-camp.com>

*Read all of her western romances. Available on Amazon.*

[www.deborah-camp.com](http://www.deborah-camp.com) • <https://www.facebook.com/officialdeborahcamp> • <https://twitter.com/AuthorDebCamp>  
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fireworks and you believe in the magic of it all. Yeah. That's how it feels.

## Current Events

Applying my spreading backside to my office chair recently resulted in my latest western – *Ropin' the Moon* – which deals with a fast-draw marshal. My overall plan is a trilogy of westerns centered on three fast-draw heroes. This is the first one of them. I've read about men who traveled from one lawless town to the next, making them livable for common folk. That's what the Earp boys were doing in Tombstone, AZ, when that dustup at the OK Corral happened. My book takes place in 1869 when memories of the Civil War were still fresh and progress in the form of railroads cut through people's lives and pastures.

Dalton Moon arrives in Far Creek, KS, to weed a bad crop of

troublemakers who are making it difficult for the railroad to survey land for future tracks. His attention is lassoed by Lacy Tyrell, a spirited and opinionated young woman who manages the Holland Hotel. Before he knows it, he's dreaming of her, day and night, and doesn't want to leave her behind. Lacy knows she shouldn't get involved with the rootless lawman, but her heart doesn't listen.

I enjoyed writing the scenes between these two headstrong people. They flirt and tease and taunt each other. Passion simmers between them and bursts into flames every time they're alone. I've outlined the second and third in this stand-alone series, but before I write the next one, I've planned to release a contemporary romance this spring.

*Bedding Mr. Birdsong* is set in New York City and it's a fun, sexy tale about neighbors who become friends  
*Affaire de Coeur*

and try not to become lovers. Matthew Birdsong harbors bitterness and vows never to trust another woman again after his divorce. Zaney Miller lives across the hall from him and is intrigued by the array of females that traipse in and out of his place. Fate intervenes and Zaney challenges Matthew to have a woman friend – namely her. Not a pillow friend. A real friend. He accepts. However, they both discover that keeping it friendly is not the same as keeping it real.

I've had fun frolicking with Matthew and Zaney and, hopefully, you will, too.

## Contact information:

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<https://twitter.com/AuthorDebCamp>

<https://www.facebook.com/officialdeborahcamp/>



# Romantic Traveling

## America the Beautiful Part 1

### Monument Valley

Never has the phrase “America the Beautiful” been more accurate than in Arizona/Utah’s Monument Valley.

Featured in more than 150 movies, Monument Valley is breathtaking. Their advertisements boast, “Where the earth meets the sky.”

natives to the area are the Hopi Nation.

Monument Valley is in the middle of nowhere, but that has not stopped the hordes of visitors from all over the world from seeking out this park. The closest “big cities” to Monument Valley are Flagstaff and Phoenix, Arizona, neither of



*Camels formation*

go on for miles, until you actually reach Monument Valley where they are clustered over miles of territory.

Upon arrival, one

of staying there is expensive, between \$275-500 per night. For those of you who enjoy snuggling up in a camp,



*The left mitt formation*

Monument Valley is a Navajo Tribal park, meaning it is operated by the Navajo people, but the profits go to others. The Navajo people settled this area at the beginning of time or before documented written history and long before the immigration of Europeans. The other

which are very close. The closest city to the valley is Kayenta, Arizona, twenty-four miles away. From the time you leave Kayenta, you start to see different rock formations in orangish/coral colors. Primarily, these formations are made of sandstone rock. These formations



*The Three Sisters formation*

has to pay a couple of fees—\$14.00 just to drive near the area. (Driving inside the park is prohibited—thank goodness—on some of the unpaved dirt roads.) There is only one hotel within miles called The View. It is called that because from there you can see many of the formations from their terrace (or from some of their rooms). As you may expect, the cost

grounds are available where you may stay in a cabin (from \$100+) per night or in your own RV (from \$49+) .

Once you’re in the park, you can see the park on your own, but I do not advise that. Instead, sign up for a tour. They cost about \$75 for four hours plus tips. The Navajo guides who conduct the tours know the names of the formations, other tidbits about the area and the rock,



*The chief on his throne formation*





*The light* in Aiden's eyes was unmistakable. He was attracted to Morgan. Beyond therapy. Beyond these scheduled sessions. The look he gave her was that of a man who wanted MORE.

by **CLAIRE MARTA**  
and **NIA FARRELL**  
Release Date 19 OCT 2019  
<http://mybook.to/GH1Morgan>

**M** GUARDED HEARTS BOOK 1  
**Morgan**



*The door of a Hogan*

and they can get you into places you can't get into on your own, like a man's Hogan and/or a woman's working area. And Roz, our wonderful guide, beautifully played a Navajo musical instrument similar to a flute while hubby and I sat in an ageless cave.

Some of the names of the monuments include:

The East and West Mittens, which look like hands encased in a

mitten with a prominent thumb.

The Three Sisters—the Sisters were not siblings but nuns who took care of the returning wounded WWII vets, the codetalkers, Navajo soldiers who were heroes but for whom no care was rendered.

John Ford's Point—If you're a movie buff, particularly a Western movie fan, you know that movie

producer John Ford loved Monument Valley as a setting for all of his westerns. Specifically, all of John Wayne's westerns, whether in black and



*A Navajo woman making thread*



*A male Hogan*

white or color, are set in Monument Valley. Because of the work he brought to the area (carpenters, service workers, and Navajos who played various types of Native Americans), tourism increased. Consequently, an area was named after Ford. In The View restaurant, several dishes are named for actors who did movies there: The Jimmy Stewart Salad and the John Wayne sandwich, for example. Ford's movies were not the only



# *“Ropin’ the Moon”*

## By DEBORAH CAMP

He had tumbleweed in his blood, moving from one town to the next. Traveling to where there was trouble, he was hired to tame wild places with a fast draw and an iron will. Lacy knew that Dalton wouldn’t be around long and she shouldn’t be tempted by him. But like the moon, his pull on her was a natural, powerful force that she was helpless to resist.

Look for it on Amazon!


[https://www.amazon.com/Deborah-Camp/e/B001HOGDMW/ref=sr\\_tc\\_2\\_0?qid=1504893649&sr=1-2-ent](https://www.amazon.com/Deborah-Camp/e/B001HOGDMW/ref=sr_tc_2_0?qid=1504893649&sr=1-2-ent)

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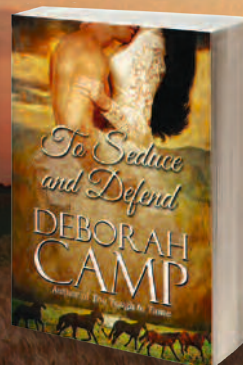
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*“The author does a beautiful job of capturing the readers’ interest, building full characters, while telling an intriguing story.” – Romance Authors That Rock*





# CAPITAL CITY AUTHOR EVENT

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MONTGOMERY, A  
MAY 16, 2020



**L.** *The outside of cave*



**R** *Inside the cave where there is a formation of a bird on the top.*

ones shot there. You know where Thelma and Louise went over the cliff? That was Monument Valley. What about Forrest Gump contemplating his life and he looked over the hill? *Dr. Who* used this setting as well.

Imagination and perspective are the keys to seeing the images purported to be carved out of the formations. For example, there is one formation that, if viewed from the restaurant side, looks like “a Native American chief sitting on a throne.” From the road, that same formation resembles a “turkey with his tail spread wide.” Other formations like these include the “Camel and the Elephant” and the totem pole.

Roz took us to a Hogan (pronounced with the accent on the second syllable) village where there were both male and female Hogans. The woman’s is larger, as it should be, but that’s because the men are more transient and may leave the village before the next season. In the woman’s Hogan, we met a Navajo seamstress who not only made thread from sheep’s wool, she wove it into rugs. She also made jewelry. (Not the Squash blossoms and silver—that’s now done by a silversmith and extremely expensive - \$6K for a set.)

I could say a great deal more about Monument Valley, but I will let the photos speak for me. If you have the opportunity to see it, grab it!

Next issue: “America the Beautiful Part 2--The Grand Canyon”



*Roz, our guide*



# Debra Parmley's Cover Model Corner

## with John J. Quinlan

**Debra** - Today I'm excited to be chatting again with John J. Quinlan. It's been a few years since he did a Cover Model Corner interview with me. John is a former body builder (retired), professional wrestler (retired), fitness model, fashion model, and an art model and romance cover model. But, did you know he is an actor as well? I'm looking forward to hearing about his latest projects. Welcome, John! Thanks for agreeing to another interview!



**John**- Thank you for having me. It's always an honor to sit down with you, Debra, for an interview. You are such a talented writer and friend; so it's my pleasure.

**Debra** – Thank you, John. That's very sweet of you to say. Since this is "Cover Model Corner," let's start with the book covers you've been on. What was the first cover you appeared on and how did this come about?

**John** – The first book cover I appeared on was *Captive Fantasy* by Ann Mayburn. I was in an orange prison jumpsuit with handcuffs on.

**Debra** – What a way to break in! (Pun intended.) You've been called the most

tattooed male romance cover model in the world. How many tattoos do you have? Can you tell me a little bit about them?

**John** – I was the most tattooed cover model in the world from 2013 to 2014. Today, there are many guys on book covers with more tattoos than I had. It was special to me to help open the doors for others with tattoos to grace book covers who before might not have been given the opportunity to do so. I have thirty-six individual tattoos although some are very small and clustered together. They all have their own personal meaning to me. At the top of my list are three nautical stars, which I have inside each forearm and the back of my neck. Each star is a bit bigger than the one next to it, representing my three children: Troy 13, Cole 9, and Mia 7.

**Debra** – You did open doors for so many. With your children as the stars in your heart and on your skin, they are beautiful images. John, if you could do a photo shoot anywhere in the world for a cover, where would you most want to go? What sort of shoot would it be?

**John** – It would be a tropical island. Perfect weather with the sun shining and a beautiful ocean in the back-



ground. The true definition of peace and tranquility.

**Debra** – That sounds lovely. It's been a while since our last interview. How many book covers have you been on so far?

**John** – I would say around 50 book covers. It's always an honor when an author selects me. See some book covers and art in the gallery here: <https://www.johnjquinlan.com/bookcovers>

**Debra** – You have a nickname, Stone-face. Can you tell us what it means and how you got it? Is there a story behind your nickname?

**John**--If I had a dollar over the years for every time someone told me that I never smile, I would be a millionaire right now. This continued for years, periodically, with random people that would see me in public places, on the street and in the gyms. Comments like: staying out of trouble, you look mean and you look like you want to fight somebody. So as I got a bit older and I matured physically, my face became a bit tighter, a bit dented in the cheekbones and I developed veins. Most notably, the vein over my left eyebrow, which is very pronounced. Going back about 20 years, one day I walk into the gym and this guy says to me, "Man, you never smile. I'm not saying you look mean. It's really stone-like with absolutely no expression. Smile man, it ain't



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that bad.” So from that point forward whenever I would see him he would say, “Hey Stoneface, how are you?” His name was Manny Catalano who became one of my best friends. Unfortunately, Manny passed away in 2005, but I can still hear his laugh and the great memories will live on forever. I’m sure he’s up in Heaven now telling God a funny joke. I really miss Manny. Over the course of time the nickname just stuck. It is funny. Because the roles I’ve had in projects, film, or book covers most often are usually a villain. A bad guy type biker, hit man, thug character role, which required that I look the part in photos and promos, which some people didn’t understand and just thought I didn’t smile. There were so many instances of stuff like this; it makes me laugh when I look back on all of them. One occasion I just thought of right now was at the RT Convention Dallas in 2015. I remember sitting next to Len Gunn, great guy by the way, eating breakfast. Len was talking with two girls sitting on the other side of him when one of the girls looks to me and says, “You look so serious. Why don’t you smile?” Before I could answer, Len responds saying, “He never smiles.” I was like, “Thanks, Len!” I mean, can Stoneface simply eat his cereal in peace? Classic memories. Good times.

**Debra** – Thanks for sharing the story behind your nickname. I know you have many projects in the works beyond romance novel cover shots. You’re also an actor. How did you move from being a cover model to acting?

**John** – Director/producer Jillian Bullock discovered me in the fitness world. She thought I had a good look for the main character in the movie she was working on back in 2014, *A Sense of Purpose: Fighting for Our Lives* (2019). I auditioned for the role as United States Army Captain Jake Nixon and landed the lead male actor role.

**Debra** – Do you still do covers or is acting your primary focus today?

**John** - My primary focus is acting, although I am still open to doing covers from time to time upon request.

**Debra** - What’s one question you wish an interviewer would ask you?

**John** - Whom would John J. Quinlan like to see as the next President of the United States? My answer, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson.

**Debra** – He seems like a great guy. If you wrote a book, what would it be about?

**John** - My autobiography, similar to the character Rocky Balboa by Sylvester Stallone. About how this guy without any real God-given talent who just kept fighting, hustling and working to overcome extreme adversity and ultimately achieved his dream.

**Debra** – Sounds like a good one. I would read it! Now, I like





## *Heaven's Beach Love Stories*

### *Teri-Riggs.com*

### *@TeriLRiggs*

#### **Quinlin, cont.**

to ask these next questions in every interview because I think we should do all we can to be healthy. Your fitness level is beyond the average person's. What is your exercise routine and what sort of nutrition plan do you follow to achieve and maintain your level of fitness?

**John** - I've had relatively the same workout routine for many years with an exercise regimen more like a boxer these days. I train now more for stamina and burning calories to keep in top shape. There will be a day or two during the week when I will work out with weights that are bit heavier than normal to switch it up a bit, but boxer training is my thing right now. My nutrition was always pretty basic. When it comes to my diet there was never anything scientific about it. I stick to the basics, and the key is consistency.

To have an effective diet that works, one has to stick with it, as results don't happen overnight. I keep my protein

level up to maintain my muscle mass during intense bouts of training through chicken, fish and some red meat here and there. I also use some quality whey protein as well. My carbohydrates are usually through oatmeal, potatoes and rice. My favorite vegetable is spinach, which is full of iron so this does the job just fine. Good enough for Popeye is good enough for me! I was never a big dairy guy and I love berries, especially blueberries.

**Debra** – Yummy! Blueberries, I could eat them by the handful. If you could share three simple fitness tips the average romance reader could do every day to stay healthy, what would they be?

**John** - 1. Read labels; 2. Be consistent, practice good habits consistently; 3. Forget about everyone else around you, do an exercise regimen at your own pace. You know what feels good for you; it's your body.

**Debra** – Great advice. Now, it's your birthday dinner and the calories don't count. What's on the menu, and what are you drinking?

**John** - Authentic Italian food, the greatest food on the planet. I don't drink. I might have a social drink here and there but because of the special day, it would have to be a drink with a little something in it so I'd say a Long Island Iced Tea. That drink packs a powerful punch and will do the job! Dessert would be a chocolate fudge cake which I would probably eat the entire thing. Amen! It's my birthday, which only comes once a year so live it up. It's all good.

**Debra** - Describe the perfect romantic evening.

**John** - Atmosphere is key. A nice restaurant on the ocean with a great view and candles. The rest of the night will take care of itself.

*continued on page 30*



# Five Degrees of heartwarming to melting stories

## Five stand-alone swoon-worthy heroes

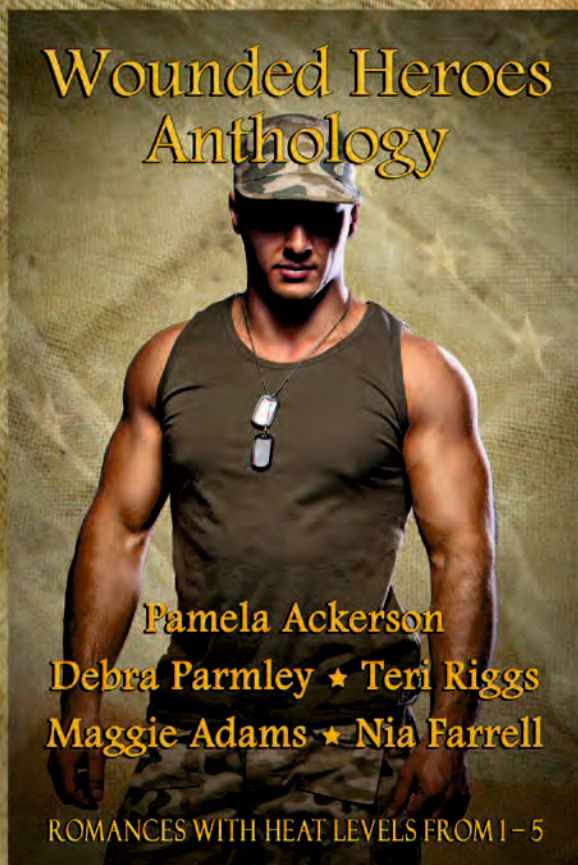
\* A Rosa for Russell ~ Who in their right mind falls in love with the enemy?

\*\* Two Step, New Steps ~ The air force veteran can't help falling for perky Leanne Bobbin who brings out his protective instincts and makes him laugh.

\*\*\* Bringing Her Home ~ Can Thomas Raintree bring home the woman he loves, but had to leave behind?

\*\*\*\* As Time Goes By ~ Blake's determined to find out who killed his best friend, and his widow holds the key ...not only to the murder, but also to Blake's heart.

\*\*\*\*\* Fallen ~ An Army chaplain priest's faith is tested when he falls for his PTSD therapist.



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[www.amazon.com/dp/B07WMW1QVL](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B07WMW1QVL)



This Spotlight Interview is on ...

# Pamela Ackerson

*International and Amazon bestselling author, Pamela Ackerson is a time traveling adventurer. Born and raised in Newport, RI where history is a way of life, Pamela Ackerson now lives on the Space Coast of Florida where everyone is encouraged to reach for the stars! A hop, skip, and jump from Disney World and fun-filled imagination and fantasy. Non-fiction, WW2, self-help, historical fiction, time travel, westerns, Native American, and children's preschool/first reader books.*



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

**P.A.:** I'm a little of both. Much of my writing involves history in some way. Research and historical accuracy are of the utmost important to me. Once that's taken care of, the

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

**P.A.:** Real, believable characters. I want the reader to think, *wow, I'm like that* or *I know someone exactly like that!*

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

**P.A.:** My most recent release is an anthology with Debra Parmley, Teri

Riggs, Maggie Adams, and Nia Farrell. *Wounded Heroes* are short stories that begin with sweet heartwarming love stories and works its way to hot sizzling romance.

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

**P.A.:** I work best during the spring and autumn months. Sitting on the back porch, and enjoying the fresh air just makes my fingers keep moving.

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

**P.A.:** Everywhere! My husband and I have done a lot of traveling. Honest, I think I've got a story in my head from every state we've been to, and Canada. They're all just itching to get onto paper.

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

**P.A.:** I want to create real characters that make the reader have genuine opinions of characters. Some of my characters won't be liked, and some will—just like real life.

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

**P.A.:** Meeting people, authors and readers. They are the best.

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

**P.A.:** Being a multi-genre author, I have over thirty books available for

purchase. I write nonfiction: WW2, inspirational, travel journals, marketing and advertising, along with my fiction books...historical, time travel, cozy, contemporary, military romance, and children's.

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

**P.A.:** In 2020:

- Weekend with the Authors in Nashville, TN, April, 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>
- Book Obsessed Babes in St. Augustine, FL, April, 2 4<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>
- Capital City Author and Reader Event in Montgomery, AL May 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>
- Space Coast Book Lovers in Cape Canaveral, FL, June 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>
- Indie Book Fest/Orlando Reads Books, August 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>

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

**P.A.** To make it in this industry an author must stand out, not stick out. Be kind and considerate, and help other authors. A reader will always remember what you do, what you've said, and how you act toward them and others.

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

Personal web page: PamelaAckerson.com

Twitter: @PamAckerson

Facebook: PamelaAckersonAuthor



**OUT OF THE WILDERNESS**  
PAMELA ACKERSON

**Warriors of the Wilderness**  
Pamela Ackerson  
*Wilderness series, book 4*

**Wilderness Bound**  
Pamela Ackerson

**amazon Top 10 Bestseller**

**ACROSS THE WILDERNESS**  
PAMELA ACKERSON

**INTO THE WILDERNESS**  
PAMELA ACKERSON

**The Wilderness Series**

Discover how exciting it is to travel back in time.

PamelaAckerson.com @PamAckerson

## The Story Behind the *Wounded Heroes Anthology*

Attending author, marketing, and advertising webinars, workshops, and seminars are all part of Pamela Ackerson's continuous endeavors to improve her writing and marketing abilities.

There Pam was sitting in the chair, listening to a gentlemen speak about promotion and marketing. Alas, her mind started to wander. It was a good thing the seminar was being recorded...

She started thinking about *Garrett's Ghost*, a story of a time traveling Texas Ranger, and the ghost who wouldn't leave him alone. In the story, there are a couple of minor characters, Rosa and Russell. There was a story there. She could feel it. Was it enough to write a book about? Or should it be a short story?

If it was a short story, perhaps it could be part of an anthology. Oh! An anthology with different degrees of hotness about wounded heroes! She'd write the sweet...about Rosa and Russell. But, whom could she get?

Pam has known Nia Farrell for several years and has read a handful of her books. Would she be interested? Nia likes to write short stories. She can write some seriously hot stuff. Oh! She could do the really hot stuff. She could do the five star hot stuff.

And, off it went!





## Sights and Sounds of the Season

### Across

1. Drink of the season, frequently spiked.
5. Scrooge's favorite expletive.
9. Bird served on Thanksgiving.
12. These are roasted on an open fire.
13. Apparel that keeps the fingers warm.
15. The desserts are left for the big guy.
16. Celebratory gatherings.
18. Favored precipitation.
20. Handel's masterpiece.
22. Woolen covers for the hand.
23. Horse drawn vehicles used for romantic rides.
26. They brighten up the season.
28. Big squash from which pies, soup, and breads are made.
29. They are endless on TV during the season.
32. Tinsels, ornaments and the like.
34. These are usually walking aides, but during this season are striped and edible.
35. Drink you toast with on December 31st.
36. They are placed on the tree.
37. They sing the songs of the season.
38. It's a \_\_\_\_\_ *Life* marks the true season.

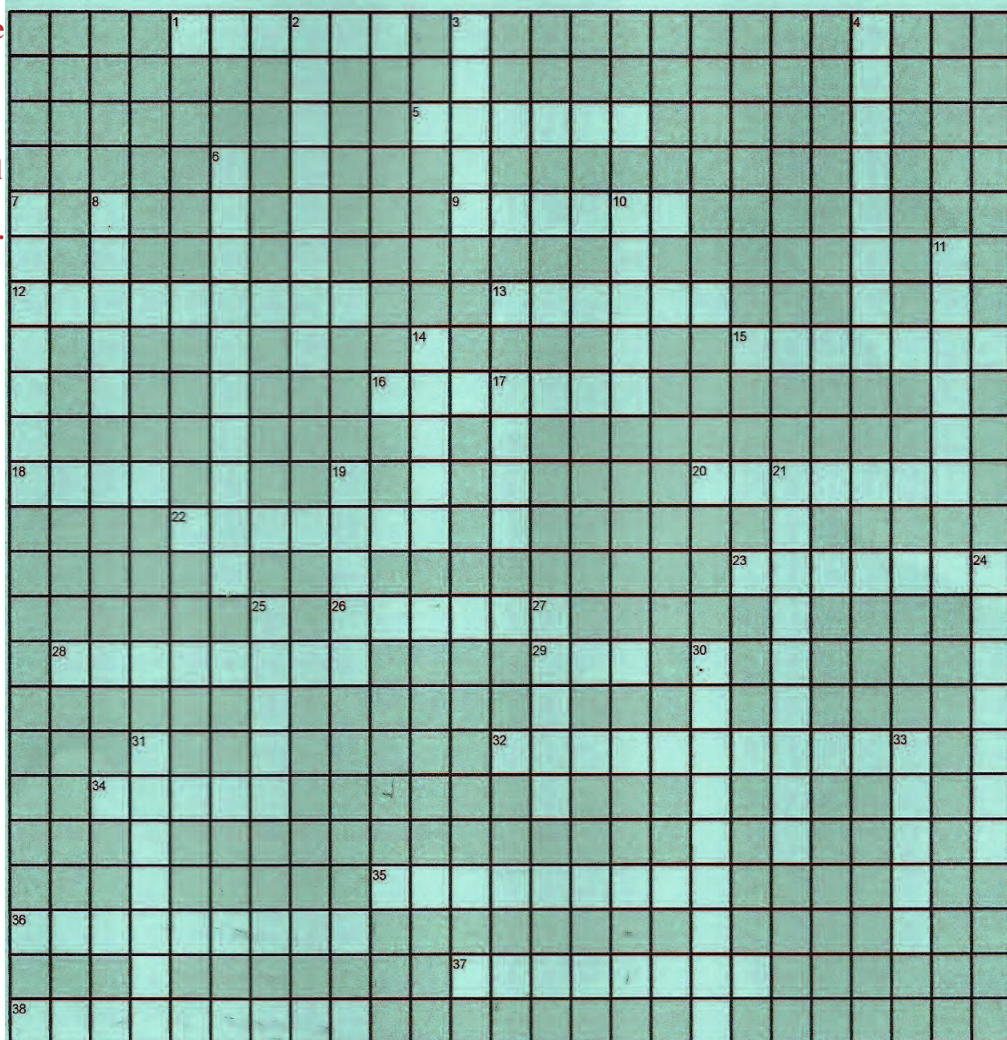
### Down

2. Scene featuring the holy birth.
3. This kind of cake is the least liked during the season.
4. This channel's Christmas movies start in October and end in January.
6. Red, or white, or green, plant symbolic of the season.
7. He wrote *A Christmas Carol*.
8. Conifers that are decorated.
10. They are his helpers.
11. They hang on the door.
14. Carrier and lvs stationery sent during the season
17. \_\_\_\_\_ for tots.
19. Silver and jingle \_\_\_\_\_.
21. This army fights poverty, especially during the season.
24. Done on an ice rink.
25. We wrap them up and give them to others.
27. Price reduction events.
30. This 'sauce' is served with the turkey dinner.
31. These decorations can be on bannisters, mantles, trees.
33. The big guy.

Answers on page 28

## Sights and Sounds of the Season

Louise







## *Contemporary Romance Reviews*

### **Bad Boy Biker Boots (The Bad Boys Book 1)**

*Brynn Paulin*

**Supernova Indie Publishing Services LLC**

Kindle Edition

B07ZK9NBRL

☆☆☆☆☆



*“Hello, Cinderella. It’s nice to meet you, but before you kiss me again, you should know I’m not Prince Charming.”*

Stood up at a dive bar, Louisa is not about to let the “mean girls” think they have beaten her. With all the confidence she can muster, Louisa walks over to the verra hawt biker she’s been watching play pool all evening and kisses him. Beyond shocked at her own boldness, Louisa is even more shocked when “Biker Boots” returns her kiss and offers her a ride home.

Dodge can’t believe his luck. The beautiful blonde he’d thought of as one of the Disney princesses his niece is so fond of just walked over and kissed him. Not one to pass up a challenge, Dodge rescues his damsel and offers to take her home, but she should know in advance, he’s all in, and in his arms, she’ll be loved like no other.

Prepare to meet your next book boyfriend in tattoo artist/bad boy biker Dodge. The author has told a smexxy insta-love story that will keep the pages turning and leave you begging for more! Usually I don’t give novellas five stars because I feel the story is never quite developed enough, but Brynn Paulin manages to pack quite the punch in her erotic short *Bad Boy Biker Boots*, and I absolutely loved every second of the ride! Highly recommend and look forward to the next installment to her “Bad Boys” series!

*Sharing what I love,  
Veronica*



## Contemporaries

### **A Cowboy Like You (Heart of Texas Book 4)**

*Donna Grant*

**St. Martin's Press**

Mass Market

978-1250250049

☆☆☆

Sheriff Danny Oldman sees a woman being dragged out of a broken car window. He arrests the attacker and discovers the woman is Skylar Long. Danny has had a crush on her since grade school, but he never worked up the nerve to ask her out.

A year ago, Skylar met the man of her dreams. Three short months later those dreams turned into nightmares. Matt began to hit Skylar. This is the third time she's left him. Each time Matt has found Skylar and drug her back. But this time she has a witness.

Matt is from an extremely wealthy family. They're the kind of people who have enough money to ensure their family's good name is never sullied. First, they smear Skylar's name in the press. Then they sue her for slander. When neither of these works, they contact her parents. Skylar has twenty-four hours to decide if she'll drop all charges and sign a nondisclosure agreement in exchange for millions. If not, they will destroy Skylar and her parents.

While Danny is protecting Skylar, she falls in love with him. But Matt's a determined man. If he can't have Skylar, no one will.

This is a continuation of a series. It can be read alone. For a book that is about domestic abuse, there's not much action. It's an incredibly average book.

*Sheila Griffin*

### **Free Me**

*Kimberley Ash*

**Tule Publishing**

E-Book

978-1951190286

☆☆☆ 1/2

*Free Me* is a reunion story set in a small East Coast US town. Eight years ago, Matt Van Allen abandoned Raya Piacenza and broke her heart. Now he's returned from military service, back to the hometown he never wanted to see again because his father is ill. Raya has built a life for herself, the captain of the volunteer ambulance squad and

the part-owner of a gym. But she has never recovered from Matt's betrayal. As much as the two try to avoid one another, circumstances continue to force them into each other's company, and they must try to resolve past hurts if they are ever going to live with present day life.

Kimberley Ash explores the effects of ADD and alcoholism in the background of her characters, but she doesn't bog the story down in doom and gloom. Somehow she manages to inject touches of humor into even this most serious subject, while delivering an emotionally satisfying reading experience.

Characters from previous books figure heavily in the story, and though *Free Me* can be read as a stand-alone book, a little more detail about the secondary characters would have been helpful.

*Hannah*

### **Once Upon a Cowboy Christmas (River Ranch - book 3)**

*Soraya Lane*

**St. Martin's Press**

Mass Market

978-1250224286

☆☆☆ 1/2

After high school, Cody Ford left Texas for the big city. He left behind his dying mother and the girl he claimed to love. Fifteen years later, his dad, Walter, is dying and Cody's come home for one last Christmas. He's stunned to find that Walter's caregiver is his old girlfriend Lexi Murphy.

Cody takes Lexi out to eat. But he's hungry for more than just a meal. Only one thing is stopping Cody from coming on to her. Lexi is the kind of girl you marry and he's not that kind of guy. But Cody is in for a shock. Not only is she interested in a no-strings-attached affair, Lexi makes the first move!

After an amazing night, Lexi discovers that Cody is the person who bought her mother's nursing home. He's given the residents ninety days to relocate. Then he's going to level the place and put up high-rise condos. Despite his treachery, Lexi continues to find herself in Cody's arms. Despite knowing he's going to leave, she's falling in love with him again.

Will Cody do the right thing and save Lexi's mother's home? And is Lexi strong enough to survive Cody leaving again?

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

*Sheila Griffin*



## Wounded Heroes Anthology

Pamela Ackerson. Debra Parmley, Teri Riggs,  
Maggie Adams, Nia Farrell

ADS

E-book

B07WMW1QVL

★★★★★

Five heartwarming stories of hope, love and passion fill the *Wounded Heroes Anthology* pages. Fearless characters with wounded bodies and spirits fight for love amidst unthinkable circumstances. *"His hands pulled her to him and her hands roamed over him as they kissed."*

My first-time reading Pamela Ackerson, Debra Parmley, Teri Riggs, Maggie Adams, and Nia Farrell kept me on the edge of my seat. Passion and pulsating desire driving twisting plots turning up the heat to ten. I was particularly intrigued by the writing, adventure, and the passion between unlikely characters.

Included in *The Wounded Heroes Anthology* are lovely vignettes with various insightful perspective on the life of a wounded hero. The stories also have increasing heat levels.\*

"A Rosa for Russell," by Pamela Ackerson--who

## Contemporaries

questions, "Who in their right mind would fall in love with the enemy?" Heat level 1

"Two Step, New Steps" by Debra Parmley. Len Yardly cannot help but fall in love with perky Leanne Bobbin who brings out his protective instincts and makes him laugh. Heat level 2.

"Bringing Her Home" by Teri Riggs who asks, "Can Thomas Raintree bring home the woman he loves?" Heat level 3.

"As Time Goes By" by Maggie Adams. Blake is determined to find out who killed his best friend, and his widow holds the key. Heat level 4.

"Fallen" by Nia Farrell. An Army chaplain's faith is tested when he falls for his PTSD therapist. Heat level 5.  
*Katrina Byrd*

\*Heat level 1 is "sweet."

Heat level 5 is "spicy, erotic."





## Dukes, Actually (12 Dukes of Christmas, Book 5)

Erica Ridley

**WebMotion**

E-book

978-1943794256

★★★★★



*“...the perfect match is two imperfect people who happen to be perfect for each other.”*

The Duke of Azureford is determined to step out of his introverted shell and become a new man, a man who can start the new London season looking for a perfect bride to be his Duchess and provide him an heir. Laying out a plan to create billiards room in his country cottage and practice his socializing skills on the locals, the one thing he didn't plan on was his feisty and beautiful neighbor, Miss Carole Quincy. Miss Quincy is like a ray of sunshine casting light on his dark shadow. With her help, Azureford knows he will be able to succeed in his plan; but as he spends more time in Carole's company, he discovers that he may have found everything he ever wanted in a bride within a few steps from his front door.

Carole Quincy is fascinated by her neighbor, the Duke of Azureford. Though he comes off cold and snobbish, she quickly realizes he's actually shy and socially awkward. Carole agrees to help him learn the art of billiards, and to introduce him to the village residents so he may practice before returning to London to search for a bride. But with each passing day, Carole grows to care more and more for her Duke who does not seem to mind her own personality quirks. If only she had the qualities and resources to be a Duchess; if only she were free to love him wholeheartedly.

Hidden away in the confines of a country cottage, Adam and Carole become the best of friends who don't have to pretend to be something they aren't and grow to love each other just as they are.

Dear Reader, I absolutely loved Erica Ridley's *Dukes, Actually*. This story is a sweet romance that warmed my heart and brought a smile to my face with their HEA. Highly recommend this quick read and look forward to future installments to the series!

*Sharing what I love,*

Veronica

## Forever My Duke (Unlikely Duchesses #2)

Olivia Drake

St. Martin's Press

E-book

978-1250174406

☆☆☆

*"Life is full of what ifs."*

Hadrian Ames, Duke of Clayton, has decided to finally take a bride. Known to be cold and always proper, Clayton needs a wife who will be obedient and know precisely how to handle the running of a household and be a suitable Duchess. What he didn't plan on was falling for the exact opposite; a forward-thinking American who will neither bow nor scrape to any man; even if he is a duke.

Natalie Fanshawe made a deathbed promise to her dearest friend to take her son to England to be raised among his family. Natalie has grown to care for the young orphan and is unsure why her friend wished to see him raised with

## Historicals

a family that had disowned her when she married for love rather than money and a title and moved to America. When she finds herself without transport and stranded at an inn, she begrudgingly accepts the Duke of Clayton's assistance--after all, they are traveling to the same estate, where Hadrian will be meeting his prospective bride. Hadrian, or Mr. Clayton as she refers to him, is not at all like the stuffy British Lords she's imagined, and as they spend more time together, these opposites find out they are better together than apart.

*Forever My Duke* by Olivia Drake is a well-written regency romance with everything you'd expect in the genre. There were times when Natalie came off as being a wee bit unbending and preachy in her views, but overall, I enjoyed the story and would recommend. While this is the second installment to the "Unlikely Duchesses" series, it may be read standalone.

*Sharing what I love,*

*Veronica*

## The Highland Outlaw (The Campbells Series #4)

Heather McCollum

Entangled Publishing, LLC

E-book

978-1640638716

☆☆☆☆☆



*"Not much in this life is fair, lass. What ye have seen and lived through has surely taught ye that. We just make the best decisions we can in the moment and hope that fate falls in our favor. The marks mean that we survived something fierce and lived to carry the scars. They show how strong we are. Tis not something to mourn but a testament to our endurance."*

Shaw Sinclair, Clan Chieftain of the Sinclair is doing whatever it takes to see his clan restored to their lands. Swearing an oath to see a wee babe transported to safety, Shaw discovers his mission may not be so easy to accomplish. Desperate to fulfill his duties to his people, Shaw kidnaps Alana Campbell and makes a bargain with her--if she helps care for the babe until the journey is complete, he will help her rescue her mother in return. But what he doesn't bargain for is how his feelings for the lass change from ally to something much more.

Alana Campbell is no stranger to being trussed up and abused, but after being tossed into a deadly fire, she has vowed that no one will ever cause her harm without a fight. From her teachings at the Highland Rose School, Alana is well versed in defending herself, and Chief Sinclair finds himself at the wrong end of her, again! While putting up a fierce fight, Alana doesn't gain her freedom, but she does earn the respect of The Sinclair. Offering her a tit-for-tat bargain, Alana and Shaw find themselves playing husband and wife to protect the life of an innocent babe--and Alana discovers that under all that rough exterior is a man she could grow to love.

*The Highland Outlaw* is the fourth installment to "The Campbell" series, but it may be read as a stand-alone. Now let's get to the smexxy highlander, Shaw. He's officially been added to my book boyfriend list! I absolutely devoured Heather McCollum's newest, and I don't think I could describe Shaw any better. He tasted of whisky and sin, and she couldn't get enough. Highly recommend this as well as the other books in the series!

*Sharing what I love,*

*Veronica*



# Historicals

## Nordic Moon (The Cambels #2)

K.E. Saxon

Passion Flower Publishing

E-book

978-0990364214

☆☆☆☆

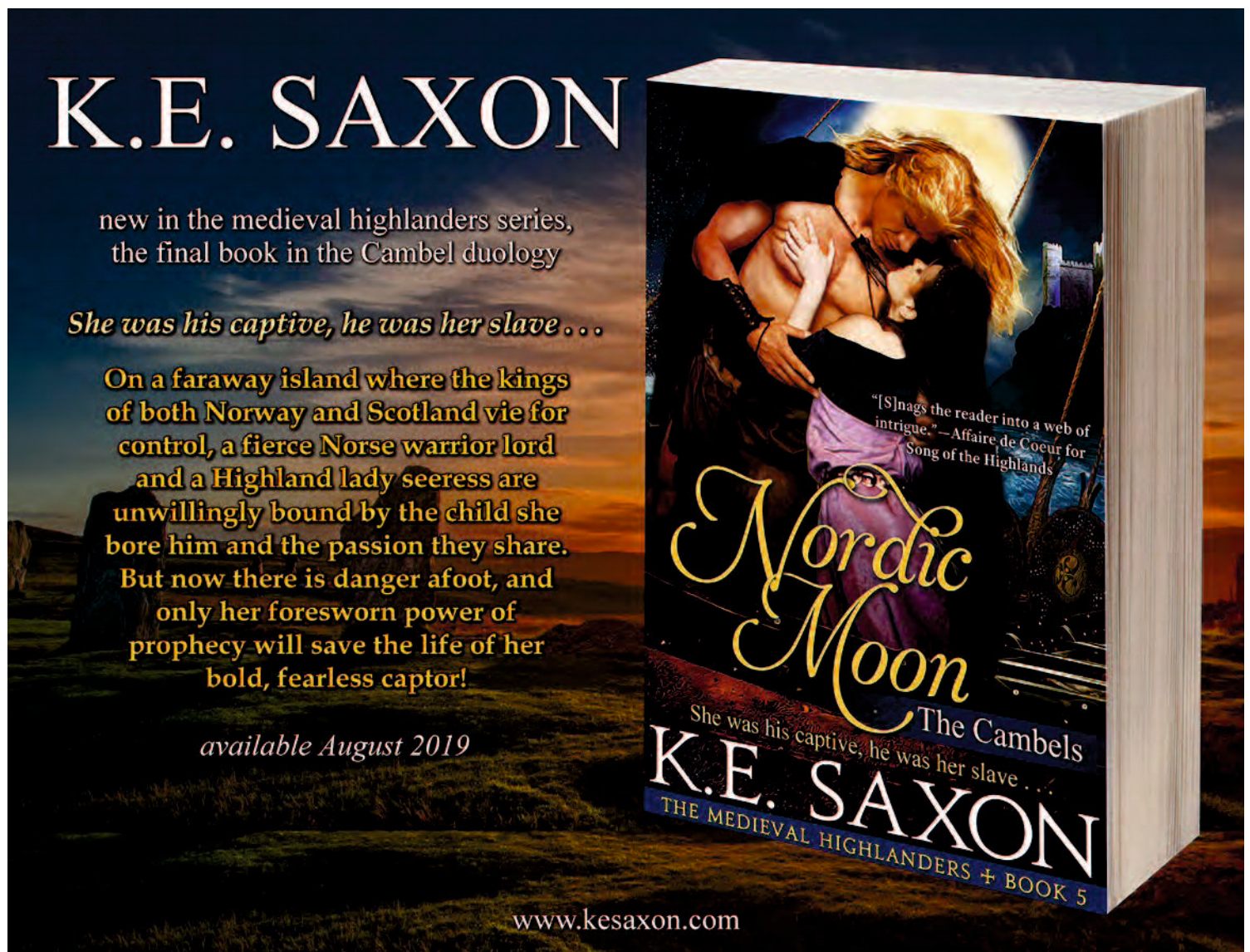
*"Yet and still, I will have her here for as long as I can keep her."*

Grimr Thorfinnson has journeyed to fetch the mother of his child, Vika Cambel. Vowing never to touch her again, Grimr does his best to keep his promise, but there is something about Vika's strength and beauty that calls to him like no other.

Vika Cambel has a gift of premonitions, one she has desperately tried to hide. But when she discovers her daughter shares her gift, Vika wants nothing more than for her to grow up feeling no shame and be proud of her heritage, and Vika will stop at nothing to protect what is hers.

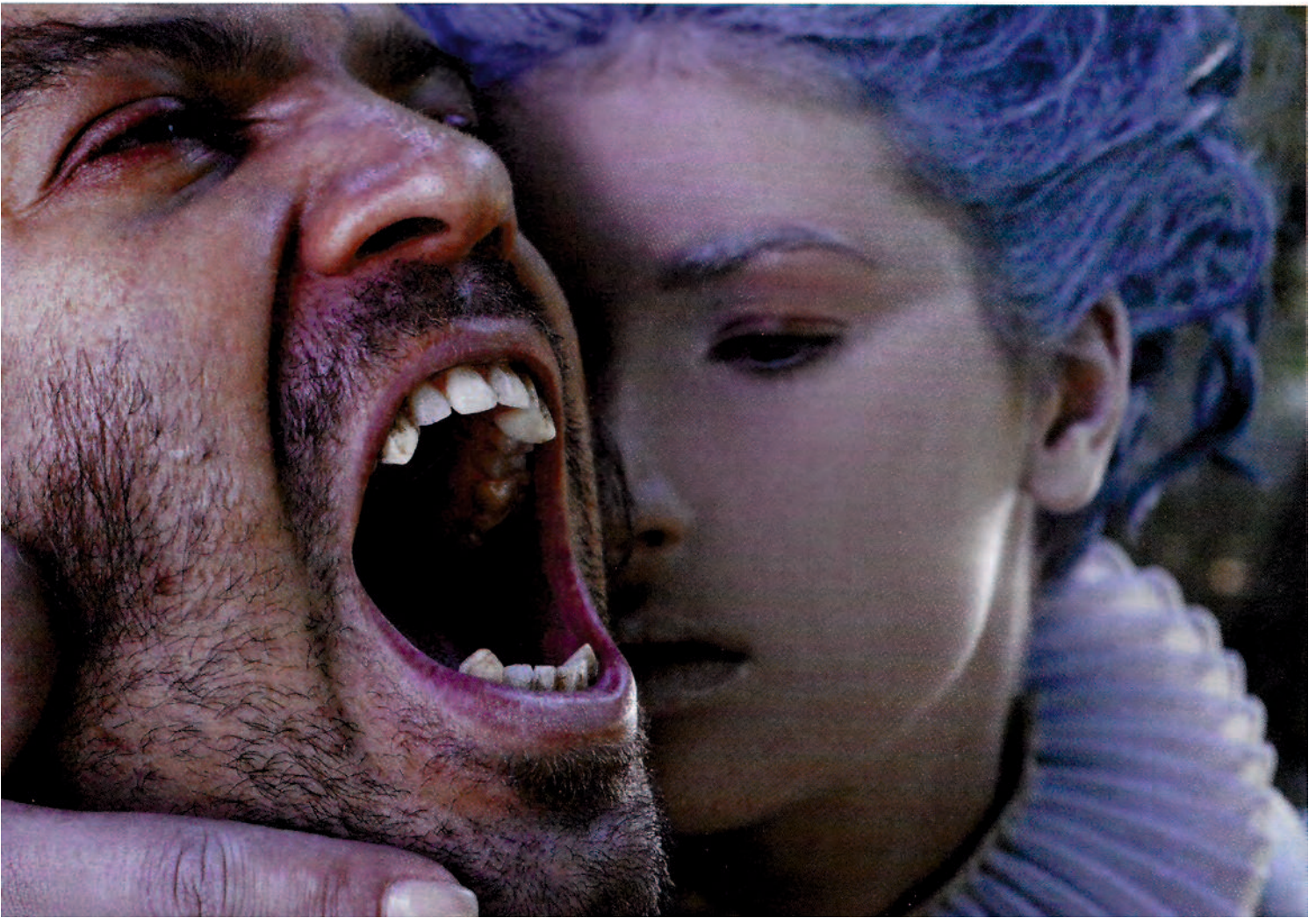
K.E. Saxon has written a complex and intriguing romantic adventure in *Nordic Moon*. It should be noted that this title is the fifth in a family saga series, and, most likely, I would have enjoyed this tale much more had I read the previous novels and been more familiar with the background on the estranged lovers. Grimr's and Vika's rocky romance is both fierce and bold as the landscape around them. Overall, this was an enjoyable story, and I would recommend it to those that take pleasure in reading this genre.

*Sharing what I love,  
Veronica*





# Paranormal Romance Reviews



## **Christmas Knight (Matchmaker Café Series Book #5)**

*Pam Binder*

**The Wild Rose Press, Inc.**

Mass Market

978-15092279-0

☆☆☆☆☆



Modern day divorce lawyer Madeline Murphy has given up on romance. Needing a date to her mother's Christmas Eve wedding, she agrees to have one of the matchmakers from the Matchmaker Café set her up. Never did she dream that a simple wedding date would turn into an adventure of a lifetime, and a love affair that breaks all the rules and maybe, just maybe, a powerful curse.

Fifteenth-century knight Sir Colin Edward Penrose is the last of the Penrose heirs. The family, having been cursed by the powerful wizard Merlin, has Colin willing to give up his inheritance rather than pass the curse onto his bride. The

curse is that the wife of any Penrose dies after giving birth. When Colin meets a matchmaker, who says that she has found a way to break Merlin's curse by finding him a bride out of time, Colin takes a leap of faith and prays that this time the matchmaker is correct.

Colin and Madeline begin their once-upon-a-time on a quest to find the fabled King Arthur's sword Excalibur and prove once and for all that their love out of time will defeat Merlin's curse and allow for a Penrose heir and his love to live happily ever after.

Ever read a book and, at the end, immediately start reading it over? I did that with the *Christmas Knight*. Usually, I'm not a fan of entering into a series without reading them in order. Not the case here. Pam Binder did a wonderful job of making the reader feel as if this was the first rather than the fifth installment to her "Matchmaker Café" series. If you are looking for a holiday read or just a heartwarming sweet romance, I highly recommend you pick up a copy and prepare to fall in love! Honestly wish I could give more than



# Paranormals

five stars!

*Sharing what I love,*  
Veronica

## Craving a Royal

*Makayla Roberts*

**Totally Bound Publishing**

E-book

978-1913186876

★★★★

Salvator Gordano was a Royal and a vampire. His father was the King and one of the most powerful and richest vampires in the land. With his portion of the family wealth, Salvator was the owner of several lavish nightclubs that catered to the underworld. He was gorgeous, fabulously wealthy and a connoisseur of beautiful women. Known for his debauchery and skill in bed, women everywhere, human and demon alike, vied for just one night in his bed. But, with all of that, Sal was lonely. He'd had an encounter with one feisty half-fury, half-succubus assassin that had left him reeling and his heart broken. After their one night of blow-your-mind sex, she had disappeared out of his life, never to be heard from again, until he received the call from his sister-in-law.

Naomi was on a dangerous mission to find out the truth about her mother. Her mother was a fury, and only supposed to mate with a human to keep their species pure. When Naomi was born, she was believed to be pureblood, until she reached maturity and her succubus tendencies manifested. Believing her mother had mated with an incubus, she was executed, but not before she begged the furies to spare her daughter's life. Naomi had been exiled and came under the mentorship of Siovon, another female assassin. After much training, Naomi joined the assassin's guild and had been killing ever since. Now, she was tired, wanted to retire and wanted to spend her time trying to find out the truth about her mother. The fact that Siovon was also now retired and married to one of the vampire king's sons didn't hurt either. Naomi would need all the help she could get. But she didn't need that help to come in the form of Salvator.

*Craving a Royal* is the third book in the "Royal Gordanos" series but can be read as a standalone. I have never read the other books in this series and found it a little difficult, at first, to keep all the names and who was who straight. But, after getting into the story, it became much easier and the skilled writing of Ms. Roberts soon pulled me into the world of the Royal Gordanos. They are an ancient vampire race that refuse to drink human blood. Ms. Roberts

has portrayed them as compassionate beings with the same hang-ups and emotions that plague us humans. This book is funny, warm and filled with lots of supernatural angst that makes it a fun read and enough hints about the other members of the family that make this reader want to read the first two books and look forward to the rest of the series. Well done, Ms. Roberts!

*Lani Roberts (no relation to the author)*

## Hold Back the Dawn

*Amanda Ashley*

**Zebra**

E-book

978-1420147412

★★★ 1/2

Roan is everything you could want in a hero, well almost everything since he's dead. But if you don't mind the pesky vampire business, he's darn near perfect. Dark and mysterious with a kind and tortured soul, he has a power to gift the dying with reliving their most cherished memories. When he finds a beautiful maiden near death after a carriage accident, he looks into her mind searching for her favorite memory and discovers she is just as lost as he is. Unsure if it will cure or curse the beauty in his arms, Roan offers her his vampire blood, and waits.

Kathryn Winterbourne is distraught. Having to leave her home out of fear, she now has no money, nor anywhere to go. Lost in her thoughts and walking the streets trying to find a solution to her problem, Kathryn becomes a victim of a careless carriage driver and is struck down, left to die. When she awakens and finds herself in the arms of a devilishly handsome man, Kathryn knows her life has been changed forever, but for better or worse?

I've been reading Amanda Ashley's vampire stories for years and have an entire shelf filled with her wonderful vampire novels. While reading *Hold Back the Dawn*, I found myself aggravated over Kathryn's inability to make a decision, and what Roan saw in her. Kathryn is one of those heroines that you love to hate, and that, dear reader, is good writing--being able to craft a character to the extent you want to reach in the book and smack them for being so irritating and indecisive! Roan had me hooked from page one and was the main reason I stuck through reading the rest of the book. I just had to know if he got his much deserved happily ever after!

Amanda Ashley is a gifted storyteller when it comes to vampire romance, and I would recommend to those that enjoy reading paranormal.

*Sharing what I love,*  
Veronica



# *Erotica Romance Reviews*



## **Love at Sunset: Forever Safe Romance Series**

*Pixie Chica*

**Self-Pub**

Kindle Edition

B07W6PZMXK

★★★★1/2

*"I'm not leaving until I discover every spot that makes you wet, what touches make you come undone, and you're hoarse from calling out my name."*

Veronica is a powerful CEO in a fast-paced designer industry. Suffering from "burn out," she takes a vacation to the Keys. Never did she dream that two weeks in paradise would take on an entirely different meaning when she sets her eyes on Lacey.

Smexxy bartender, Lacey, has a rule about not hooking up with tourists, but when blonde bombshell Veronica walks into her bar, Lacey realizes rules were made to be broken.

WOWZA!

Pixie Chica is a new to me author, and when I read

the blurb for *Love at Sunset*, I just had to snag it! Loved it and highly recommend this verra hawt F/F insta-love romance, and look forward to reading more from this author! *Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*

## **Twisted Fates**

*Kitty Thomas*

**Burlesque Press**

*E-Book*

978-1938639456

★★★★

*"Because of the nature of the house, the choice was once, and it was forever. Choose wisely."*

Eight years ago, Shannon Foster was given a choice--to be trained in submission and to be owned by a Master who would never discard her. But the choice, once made, could never be reversed--regardless of the circumstances. When Shannon displeases the one trainer feared by all within the House, she pays a price that costs her in more ways than just the scars left on her body. No longer able to continue being



# ***Erotica Romance***

broken, Shannon takes fate into her own hands, only to be awakened and held in the arms of the last person she ever wanted to see again.

Doctor Lindsay Smith has been finding women longing to be submissive and have control taken from them. The recruits he discovers and takes back to the House know it's a one- way ticket, with no optout. When he meets Shannon, it is she he desires and plans to make his own. Unfortunately, he is too late to save her from the monster in the House.

Shannon's and Lindsay's fates are truly twisted together in a romance that is both dark and beautiful. Finding strength to face their fears, Shannon and Lindsay overcome the scars, both physical and emotional, to find their version of a happily-ever-after.

Kitty Thomas continues to weave dark and beautiful stories that are both impossible to put down, as well as forget. While this is a continuation in her "Pleasure House" series, each installment is written in a way to be read standalone.

Highly recommend!

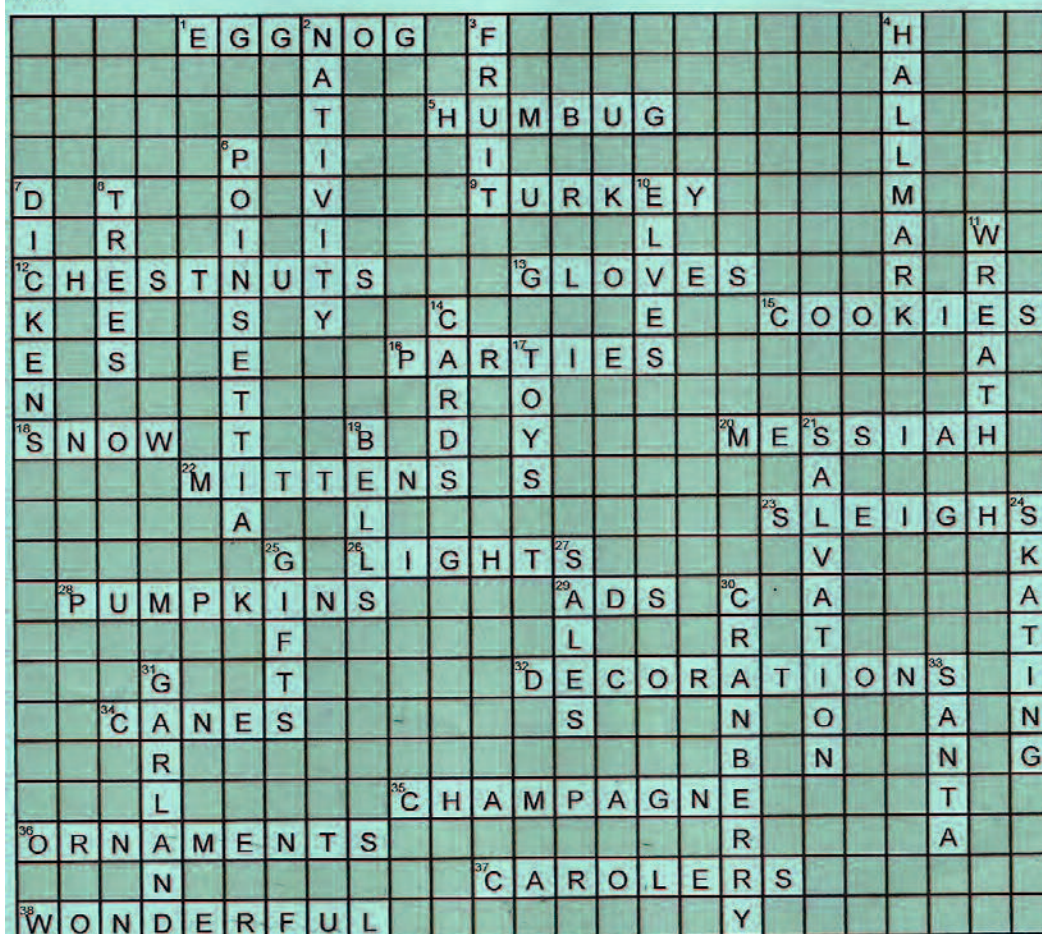
*Sharing what I love,*

*Veronica*



## **Sights and Sounds of the Season**

Louise







## The Business of Blood (In the Business of Blood #1)

Kerrigan Byrne

Self-Pub

Kindle Edition

978-1700310286

★★★★☆



*"Sometimes, what we want and what we fear are one and the same."*

Fiona Mahoney is no stranger to darkness. Making her living via the dead, Fiona has become quite the expert in forensic clean up and disposal, perhaps too good, for she has caught the eye of one of the deadliest villains in London, Jack the Ripper. Following the gruesome murder of her dearest friend, Fiona vows to seek vengeance and uses all her wits and connections, lawful and unlawful, to determine if the killer, that has once again spilt blood on the cobbled streets, is her old nemesis or an obsessive copycat. One thing is for certain, "to beat the Devil, you have to play his game."

Kerrigan Byrne's, *The Business of Blood*, is a dark and sinister mystery I did not want to end! If you are a fan of all things The Ripper, this is a must read! It should be noted this novel is NOT a romance. Don't be picking this up thinking you are going to be reading one of Kerrigan's

historical romances with the smexxy bad boy hero. Nope. In *The Business of Blood*, the author takes her writing skills and weaves a thrilling whodunit with a well-known iconic killer. This reader couldn't get enough and is already desperate for the next installment! Wish I could give more than five stars! Highly recommend!

*Sharing what I love,*  
Veronica

## Hems & Homicide (Apron Shop Series- Book 1)

Elizabeth Penney

St. Martin's Press

Mass Market

978-1250257949

★★★★☆

Iris Buckley has rented an abandoned store. She's taking her successful website into the real world. Her landlord, Elliot Parker, is her grandmother's mean-spirited neighbor. For years he's tried to persuade Grammie to sell her property to him.

The carpenter who is going to renovate Iris' store, Ian Stewart, was also her high school crush. He was good-lookin' then, but he looks even better now! They're inspecting the store when the lights go out. Iris goes down into the basement to check the fuses. She falls down the stairs and into some shelves. The wall crumbles revealing a



## MYSTERIES

human skull.

Hearing the ruckus Grammie comes to investigate. She recognizes the scarf on the skull. It belongs to Star Moonshine, a hippie girl that drifted into town 40 years ago. A few months later she disappeared. Everyone thought she had drifted on to the next town. Apparently, everyone was wrong.

Not long after the grisly discovery, Elliott tries to pressure Grammie to sell him her land. The argument becomes heated. Grammie is overheard saying that she won't sell her land over her dead body or his. Elliott turns up dead and Grammie is the obvious suspect. Iris sets out to clear Grammie's name and find the real killer.

This is the first in a series. It is an entertaining book and fans of cozy mysteries will enjoy it.

*Sheila Griffin*

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*Quinlin, cont.*

**Debra** – So romantic. Please share one unusual fact about you or your life:

**John** - My very first book cover I was on was me, but it wasn't me. Back in 2000, as an art model, illustrator Brian Dow used my physique's likeness in a digital painting and colored pencil illustration as the body of an evil troll for a self-promotion piece inspired by Harry Potter and author J.K. Rowling. The image went on to be used on the cover of the paperback book, *The War of Trolls* ("Scream Shop Series #8") by Tracey West.

**Debra** – Wow, that is fascinating. Eight Quickie questions:

- 1.) Watching the sunrise, or watching the sunset and the stars? **Sunset**
- 2.) The beach, or the mountains? **Beach**
- 3.) Primitive camping, or luxury hotel? **Luxury hotel**
- 4.) Snow skiing, or water skiing? **Water skiing**
- 5.) Favorite movie: **Wedding Crashers**
- 6.) Best book you ever read: **The Bible**
- 7.) Fav. Sport to play: **Basketball**
- 8.) Fav. Sport to watch: **Football**

**Debra** – Where can we see you in the movies?

**John** – *A Sense of Purpose: Fighting for Our Lives* (2019) is currently in the process of securing a distribution deal by the director and producer Jillian Bullock who is eyeing a deal with Netflix.

**Debra** – How exciting! I'm looking forward to seeing it.

**John**--Thank you for visiting with me again.

**Debra**—It's been fun getting caught up with you. Before we say goodbye, how can fans stay up to date on your latest news? Do you have any news or special announcements to share?

**John** - It is always special to me when an author as talented as you, Debra, sits down with me for an interview. I really enjoyed talking with you this afternoon. Keep doing what you are doing; you are a true credit to the world of literature.

**Debra** – You're very kind, John, thank you, and it has been my pleasure. Readers you can learn more about John by visiting:

**Website:** <https://www.johnjquinlan.com>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/johnjosephquinlan>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/#!/JohnJQuinlan>

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm5561507>

[https://www.instagram.com/john\\_joseph\\_quinlan\\_official/](https://www.instagram.com/john_joseph_quinlan_official/)<https://www.youtube.com/c/JohnJQuinlan>

Debra Parmley is a hybrid multi-genre romance author who believes "Every day we are alive is a beautiful day." She likes to give her readers and her story people a story with a happy ending. A world traveler, she has often brought home folk tales and music from countries she has visited.

Debra's Cover Model Corner interviews can also be found in back issues of *Affaire de Coeur* magazine and on <https://covermodelcorner.wordpress.com/> Visit [www.debraparmley.com](http://www.debraparmley.com) for more about Debra.



*Debra Parmley*



# Booty from the Other Genre



## An Irish Country Family (Irish Country Books Book 14)

Patrick Taylor

Forge Books

Hardcover

978-0765396853

☆☆☆☆



Barry Laverty has just finished medical school. After he completes a one-year internship, he will be a fully licensed doctor. Being an intern means he will rotate through each of the hospital's departments and trying the different specialties will help Barry determine what career path he will follow. During Barry's rotation in cardiology, he learns to use the newly invented portable defibrillator. He is part of the first team to take the defibrillator to the person experiencing heart problems rather than waiting for the patient to come to the hospital. This rotation is the most interesting by far.

At the end of the year, Barry finds that he wants to get to know his patients and be involved in their follow up care. So, he decides to go into General Practice. Now he needs to find a doctor who is looking for an assistant. And that's where Dr. O'Reilly comes in.

Fingal O'Reilly is the doctor in the small Irish village of Ballybucklebo. He's been looking for someone to help with the workload. Newly licensed Dr. Laverty fits the bill nicely.

This is a continuation of a series. It switches between Barry's last year of internship in 1963-64 and the "present" day of 1969. It is not necessary to have read the previous

stories before starting this one. It's an enjoyable book.

*Sheila Griffin*

## The Dead Girls Club

Damien Angelica Walters

Crooked Lane Books

E-Book

B07PG9Y48T

☆ 1/2

*"When you made a promise, you had to keep it. No matter what. You had to keep it forever."*

Heather and Becca are the very best of friends. Along with two other classmates, they form the Dead Girls Club. Sneaking away to tell ghostly stories, such as the urban legend the Red Lady, the girls form a bond of shared secrets--and some of those secrets don't stay buried!

The blurb to *The Dead Girls Club* gives too much away as it is, so I'll jump into my review. Sorry to say, this book was just ok. The chapter format of the story is a "Then" and "Now". Too much drama, drama, drama during the "Then" sections between the tweens drove me insane, and after much skimming over the tedious blah blah blah of getting their periods, going to the mall and sneaking away to tell ghost stories, I kinda forgot about the tale of the Red Lady and how it connected to Heather killing her bestie Becca. And honestly, by the end, I didn't care.

Horror stories are subjective to what scares or engages the reader, and *The Dead Girls Club* hooked me into

# Booty

thinking this would be my “It”. If you are a fan of teenage angst with a killer twist, you may enjoy. Sadly, this was a no scare or even thrill for me.

*Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*

## Lock Me In

*Kate Simants*

### One More Chapter

E-Book

B07PDNVJG7

☆☆

With a loving mom and boyfriend, Ellie Power appears to anyone from the outside to be a perfectly normal young woman. But hidden within is a secret so terrifying, Ellie must be locked up to keep everyone safe from “iggy.”

Reviewing mystery/thrillers is tricky. Everyone has an opinion on what glues them to the pages--what terrifies them--and what just didn't make the cut. *Lock Me In* hooked me with the line, “Whatever you do, don't open the door!” The problem is, this story became so wordy and dragged on for what felt like an eternity, I forgot why the door had to be locked. This book could have easily been cut in half and been way more enjoyable for this reader. *Lock Me In* had so much potential, and when I came across this quote in the book, it

totally summed up how I felt after losing hours of my life I'll never get back! “*Mistakes get made, life goes less than perfectly, and you cope. Sh\*t happens, and you move the f\*ck on.*”

If you are a fan of psychological thrillers, you may enjoy

*Lock Me In*. It just didn't make the cut for me.

*Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*

## Shadow City

*Anna Mocikat*

### Black Rose Writing

Mass Market

978-1684333516

☆☆☆

*Shadow City* is a dystopian novel set in a zone of death and destruction that brings together many conflicting species; some form unusual alliances in order to protect themselves from the enemy. Jean and Louis stumble upon an amnesiac male on Colton Street; they bring him home, and he is made welcome by the Sands family. Trust is established between them, but is it enough for them to work together to save humanity?

Anna Mocikat is an experienced game and screenwriter, and this shows in her characters; they are fabulous; well researched, motivated and evolved, as is the plot and pace. This youthful playfulness is evident in the dialogue of her characters, but as a writing style this may prove to be an unhelpful distraction for some readers. The skillful use of images helps build the apocalyptic background,

## Into Bones Like Oil

*Kaaron Warren*

### Meerkat Press

Mass Market

978-1946154439

☆☆☆☆

Dora blames herself for the tragedy that destroyed her family. Unable to deal with her loss, she moves into Roy's rooming house where she finds more broken people struggling to accept the past. United in torment, the living residents of the misspelled Angelsea find solace in the purgatory of each other's suffering, but the dead know their secrets.

In this beautifully crafted deep, dark and atmospheric fantasy novella, Warren's characters are smoothly sculpted giving them a roundness and depth as they are grounded in a grim and gritty reality that seeps into the readers bones like oil. The plot is fabulously unique and intricately woven at a pace that keeps the reader focused whilst adding credible tension. Allround classic elegance makes this book a sensa-tionally excellent read.

*W.F. Richardson*





# Booty

although there is some repetition, e.g. “purple-grey sky”, “titanium skin” and “the Glitch”, and this gives way to a feeling of padding along with language difficulties from the structure of sentences to phrases that are of questionable relevance, e.g. “stinky retard”. You will either love or hate *Shadow City*. There is no in-between.

*W.F. Richards*

## West of Sin

*Wesley S. Lewis*

**Red Granite Press**

Trade Paperback

978-1734015713

★★★★★



Jennifer Williams had run out of her Las Vegas hotel with angry tears running down her face. She was a retail developer and had been coming to their annual real estate conference every year since she began her career. But this year she had hoped to finally get her newly single boss (and her lover for over a year) to commit to their relationship. But, instead, she had stumbled upon him having sex in her hotel room with her roommate. Hence, the angry tears. She had the valet ticket to his car so used it to make her escape. By the time she stopped crying and looked around, she realized that she was hopelessly lost and had no idea where she was headed. Spotting a convenience store by the side of the very deserted road, Jennifer stopped to get directions and something to drink--and ran straight into a robbery! Talk about being in the wrong place at the wrong time! But she had no idea that this was only the tip of a very big iceberg she had stumbled onto and her life would be on the line from some people more dangerous than the three robbing the store!

Matt Crocker was one of the owners of First Shot Shooting Academy and had trained almost every law enforcement officer between the California state line and Las Vegas. He was fast, accurate and deadly. So, when the truck stop convenience store he was in suddenly became the scene of a robbery, he just laid low and cooperated with the robbers, just like he taught his students. Until one of them got the bright idea to have a “little fun” with the young lady in the sexy little black dress which motivated him into action. Within just a few seconds, Matt pulled the gun hidden in his waistband and killed all three. Then promptly fainted.

*West of Sin* is a non-stop thriller from beginning to end. When the two unsuspecting customers get caught up in a robbery gone bad, little did they suspect that they would be running for their lives from the Russian mob! What started out as a “working vacation” for Jennifer and an end-of-the-year-closing-up-shop weekend for Matt, turns into a run-for-your-lives, hiding-from-the-mob escape that includes hiding in a brothel, skydiving from the top of the Stratosphere and shooting it out with the mob in Colorado. For a debut novel, Mr. Lewis has displayed a superb writing talent equal to that of a young James Patterson. And I, personally, can’t wait for his next thriller!

*Lani Roberts*



# Late Reviews

(Those that didn't make the last issue.)

## The Dung Beetles of Liberia

*Daniel V. Meier, Jr.*

**BQB Publishing**

Trade Paperback

978-1945448379

☆☆☆☆

Ken Verrier is young man who hasn't decided what he wants to be when he grows up though he is over 21. It's 1961, and after spending two years at the prestigious Cornell University where he was studying to be a physicist, he decided he wanted to go somewhere warm and be a pilot. He loves flying and is good at it, and with his father's connections, he got a job flying in Liberia, leaving his family and girlfriend Jenny back in the U.S.

Ken is smart and learns quickly, but he was not prepared to meet the numerous challenges of being in Liberia, Africa. The Liberian social structures were different from anything in the U.S. There is a crooked government modeled on the U.S., and there are 14 tribes, i.e. the Mandingo, who have influence and want their place at the table and their practices respected. On top of that, it is post World War II, and there are Nazis who fled Germany all over the place. Everyone is out for himself in Liberia--Ken hears this over and over again--and no one can be trusted. This is proven to him when his boss, and the boss after him, steal his company blind before they sneak off in the middle of the night. Of course, the natives bear the brunt of poverty and medical support is almost non-existent. Smuggling diamonds is a lucrative, but dangerous, business. The price of getting caught

is usually death.

Meier begins *The Dung Beetles of Liberia* by discussing the dung beetle. The description of this disgusting creature almost stopped me from reading the book. But I chanced it, and I'm glad I did. The book, a combination of historical and biographical fiction, is an expose, done in the first person, that tells what life is like in Liberia. Each chapter describes a vignette of something Meier experienced or someone he met. The dialects are often off putting as the reader struggles to decipher what was being said. The reader will soon see that the dung beetle is a metaphor for Liberia—they're always deep in feces. Still, I learned so very much from reading this. I salute Meier for being brave enough (or foolish enough) to have done this. Just being a white boy in a tumultuous black country was exceptional. He made an impact on the people of Liberia (i.e. Sarah). Meier's writing is simplistic; his description could have been better, but he got his point across. I highly recommend this book, especially to someone who is interested in the dark continent.

*Mildred Burkett*

## The Widow of Rose House

*Dianna Biller*

**St. Martin's Griffin**

Kindle edition

B07PBKSKPQ

☆☆☆

*"They were two sides of the same story. That's what he'd been waiting for; the other side of his story. And now he very much thought he might have found her."*



## **If You Tame Me**

*Kathie Giorgio*

**Black Rose Writing**

Kindle Edition

978-1684333479

★★★★★

Audrey had just celebrated her 55th birthday and was taking stock of her life. She had never been married, had a good job that she loved, owned her own home and paid her own bills. She was a strong, independent woman who was doing just fine. She was only missing a few things--good friends to hang out with, somebody or something to wave to as she left for work in the morning and would be waiting for her when she came home, and a man. She hated her empty house. She knew she never wanted to be "an old lady with cats" when she stopped by the local pet store, on a whim, she just wasn't sure what she wanted to be. Then Audrey spotted the little green iguana looking at her with his funny eyes and she was a goner. Who would have thought she'd be a lizard lover, especially at her age!

Frank was a 63-year old widower who lived next door to Audrey, and had been her neighbor for over 3 years, ever since his second wife had passed and he had bought the house. He and Audrey would occasionally wave when they saw each other out on the street, but other than that, never spoke or interacted. Frank was retired, lonely and owned six parakeets that he let fly loose in his house. His house was neat, but noisy, and he liked it that way. He often thought about "getting back out there," but just didn't have the heart or energy. Then his deceased wife started visiting him.

*If You Tame Me* was not what I expected and I'm glad of it! I have never been a fan of "Women's Fiction" so had read very few. Once I got into the heart of this wonderful story, it started resonating with me in a way I never expected. Audrey is a single, never married woman who was a "feminist" in college--complete with the t-shirt! But she is overwhelmingly lonely and hasn't had a boyfriend in several years. But does she need one? As a feminist, she was "taught" that you don't need a man to be complete--or some such rot. But she wants companionship, a little uncomplicated nooky, and just someone who thinks about her once in a while. Is that wrong? Ms. Giorgio has written a heartwarming, poignant novel about an older woman struggling with her pending lonely old age and what to do about it. *If You Tame Me* is funny, sad and so very truthful written by a skilled author. I recommend it for everyone, not just women!

*Lani Roberts*

Fleeing her abusive husband, Alva Webster believes she has finally found safety by returning to New York. Once word of her husband's death and the scandal attached to their marriage reaches the newspapers and gossip columns, Alva perseveres to hold her head high and make a life for herself. Purchasing a mansion in the Hyde Park area, Alva pitches to a publisher on how she could restore and write a book on architecture and design that everyone would benefit from reading. What she didn't count on was the house being tainted of tales of ghostly hauntings--and one very handsome and persistent Professor Samuel Moore.

Absent-minded Professor Samuel Moore is widely known for his engineering brilliance. When he hears that the Liefdehuis mansion has been purchased, he makes it his mission to get the owner to grant him permission to attempt to contact the spirits housed within. But when he discovers that the owner is none other than the infamous Mrs. Webster, Sam becomes fascinated with her strength and will to rise above scandal to make her own way in the world--and Sam is

determined she won't do it alone.

While their romance may have started in an unconventional manner, Alva and Sam work together to unlock the ghostly secrets bound to the house. And little by little, Sam works towards getting Alva to share not only her own secrets, but her heart as well.

Now, rating/reviewing this story is a wee bit difficult for this reader. While I found the beginning and end quite enjoyable, the middle dragged on too much for me. Professor Moore's character was my favorite, and I enjoyed how the author weaved his absentmindedness into a delightfully charming quirk. Diana Biller's debut novel *The Widow of Rose House* is perfect for fans of Victorian/Gothic Romance. Overall, the story was good and well written, and I'd

recommend to fans of this genre!

*Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*





SEASONS GREETINGS

FROM THE STAFF OF

*Affaire de Coeur*