

September/October, 2019

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Darynda Jones
An Author from Beyond!



Rachel Brimble,
Queen of Edwardian Romance

Reviews!
Reviews!
Reviews!



Romantic Traveling
Cuba--Cigars, Cars and All that Jazz

“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

 www.deborah-camp.com

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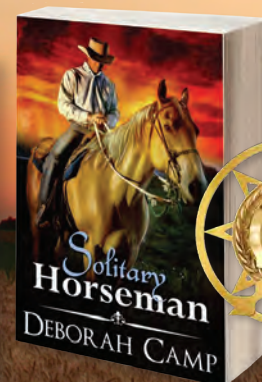
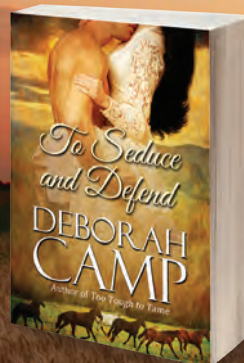
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“The author does a beautiful job of capturing the readers’ interest, building full characters, while telling an intriguing story.” – Romance Authors That Rock



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Louise B. Snead

Copy Editor
Lanelle Brent

Vice-President of Advertising
Pamela Ackerson

ROM-CON Director
Barbara N. Keenan

Literary Reviewers

Mildred Burkett • Lauren Calder • Marcia Caltabiano-Ponce • Martin Chan • Lettetia Elsasser • Sheila Griffin • Danielle Hill • Lacy Hill • Tina Jones • Lani Roberts • Kathye Q • Hannah Rowen W.F. Richardson • Paul Zunino

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

Email address: affairedecoeur@adcmagazine.com
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Subscription rates for the U.S.A. are \$38 for 12 issues First Class. Third class subscriptions are \$24.00 for 12 months. Canadian subscriptions are \$65.00 for one year. Other foreign countries rates are dependent upon the cost of mailing. A single issue is \$5.95.

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\$Marketing and AdvertiZING Plans\$

by Pamela Ackerson



This is going to be as simple and easy to understand as I can get. Otherwise, I'd be writing a 600-page book, or several books. The knowledge is needed in order for you to successfully market yourself, your book, and make sales. Once you decide that you want to sell your book, you're in business and you must consider it a business.

All businesses need a plan in order for them to succeed. By doing many of the suggestions, it'll help you avoid floundering around aimlessly. It'll help you get name recognition, sell books, and, if done correctly, sell books you plan to write in the future.

The easy part's done. You've written the book and you're writing the next book. You've decided to self-publish or query a publisher. Now comes the business part.

I was lucky. For me, it came easy because I had a boss years ago, when I was in college, who introduced me to marketing and advertising. I took that knowledge and ran with it.

Then the Internet came along and everything I learned, everything I knew, went right out the door. It was a whole new world, and I had to learn to adjust to a new-fangled way of promotion and advertising. It's an ever-changing world and if you don't keep your ears and eyes open, you're going to miss prime opportunities.

There's a swing back to print promotion

and advertising. People are realizing that the web shouldn't be the only source of promotion. Utilizing print promotional tools, magazines, books, newsletters, and newspapers are still an excellent way to reach buyers.

Promotional tools are a necessity. These low-cost items can be given away or sold on your website. The strategy of what you choose is very important, otherwise, you'll just be throwing money away.

Bookmarks are wonderful. Readers love them. Pay a designer or create one yourself. Find a good company with quality printing. I've used several and tend to return to Printing Center USA and Vistaprint. Hopefully, they'll be in business for a very, long time.

Bookmarks make great gifts and you can give them away at book signings. Have a stack on your signing table and let readers take them, slip them in the books, or personally hand them out. We'll discuss the importance of how to have a successful book signing in a later chapter.

You want to use and give away promotional items that readers and other authors will want to keep—as in keepsakes. It's a gentle reminder that you gave them a really cool gift. Pens, postcards, stationery, pads, notebooks, coffee mugs, booklets, and business cards are all very affordable and functional ways of keeping your name in front of potential readers.

A common mistake many authors make is neglecting to put the proper information on the items. I've seen authors create awesome, breathtaking business cards, and not have the website address, or email address on the card. You must be readily and easily available to your readers. It helps you and, if they remember you, it saves them time trying to find your page or book.

Suggestions for your business card, or any print promotional tool should include:

Your tagline/blurb/bullet: (Stories that stir within us the unquenchable hope for a better tomorrow);

Your website: (www.PamelaAckerson.com);

Your publisher's website: (I'm no longer with a publishing house and am an Indie author so this would be skipped);

Your email address: (Pam@PamelaAckerson.com);

Your favorite social media page:

[Twitter.com/PamAckerson](https://twitter.com/PamAckerson).

Inscriptions put on pens need to be short and sweet. The book title or series title, your name, and/or your www. Take advantage of anything and everything you can think of that readers and authors will want to keep. It'll be a constant reminder of you and your gift.

The good thing about marketing is that people like free stuff. If you give away a short story, have a chapter preview on your website or offer your book for free in exchange for an honest review. These are all effective marketing tools.

People love coupons! If you can offer coupons for discounted items or books on your website, go for it.

You've been to stores where there's someone there giving away free stuff all the time. That's exactly what your promotional tools are doing. You're the person giving away the free samples. That's why an excerpt or chapter preview on your website is so important.

Never let the reader walk away or leave your website without them receiving a free sample.

Let's work on your advertising goals.

Your goals and how you plan to promote yourself need to be included in your business plan. Advertising can cost you a little or a lot. As an author, understanding what you want it to do is a key point to success.

Starting out as a new author, you want exposure. As much as you can get, without blasting people daily and irritating them to the point where they'll ignore you.

People need to recognize who you are and what you do. Don't expect exorbitant sales until you've achieved a decent, good following of readers. That could take one book, or five books. It depends on how active you stay and what genre you're writing.

Target advertising puts your ads in front of the readers. It does exactly what it sounds like. You want to target readers who'll enjoy your book, who like to read the genre you've written. For example, if you advertise with a western e-zine that promotes books, and you write regency, you've pretty much wasted every dime.

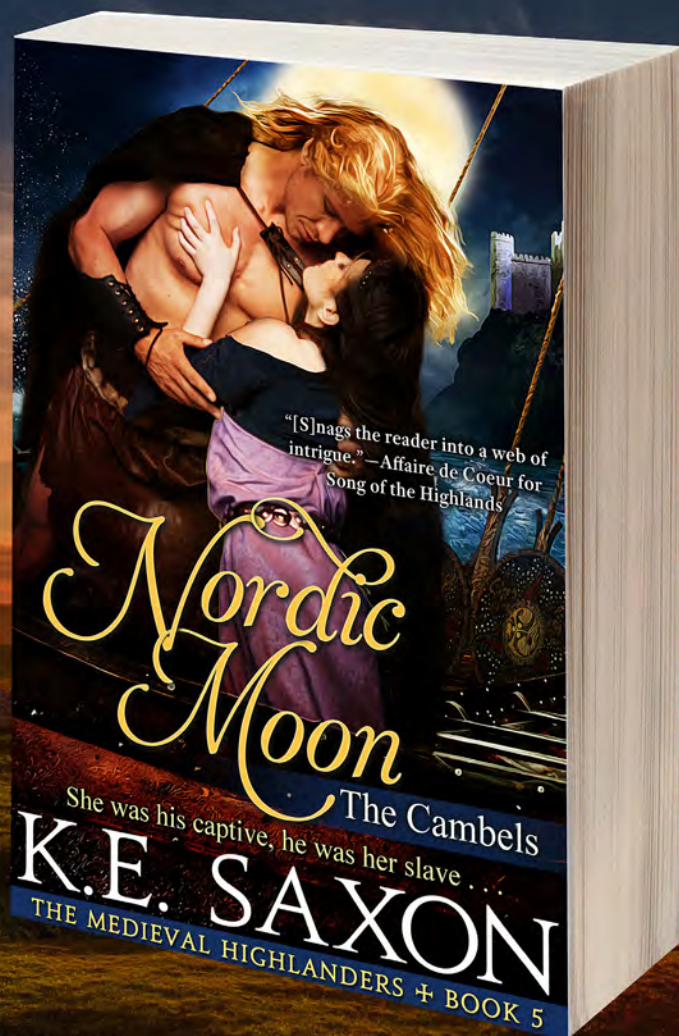
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the final book in the Cambel duology

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of both Norway and Scotland vie for
control, a fierce Norse warrior lord
and a Highland lady seeress are
unwillingly bound by the child she
bore him and the passion they share.
But now there is danger afoot, and
only her foresworn power of
prophecy will save the life of her
bold, fearless captor!

available August 2019



www.kesaxon.com

It'd be ineffective to pay for advertising on the Huffington Post weather pages if you write science fiction. Unfortunately, I've seen authors advertise on pages that have no connection whatsoever to their books.

I cringe whenever I hear someone say that advertising's a waste of money. If that were true, you wouldn't see TV commercials, hear radio commercials, or see ads on the side of web pages. If ads didn't work, you wouldn't know when the next Disney movie was coming out or the next James Patterson book.

All of these people advertise for a reason. It works, when it's done correctly and repeatedly.

Regardless of whether you're with a publisher or are self-publishing, you need to advertise. Most publishers aren't going to pay for advertisement. They're going to put that in your lap, make it your responsibility. Until you get to Stephen King, J. K. Rowling, and Nora Roberts levels of sales, you need to put aside money and budget for advertising.

Where are the best places to advertise? There is an abundance of online book stores, local retail book stores, book industry newsletters, book promotion websites, e-zines, and print magazines that are focused on readers, and publishing outlets.

Did you notice I said places? Yes, *places*. Don't advertise with just one business or website. Advertise with multiple websites.

Ask questions, a lot of questions.

Writing enticing blurbs can be frustrating. Look at the bestselling authors' ads. Pay attention to the types of keywords they're using. Mimic them.

Look for affordable advertising. Determine how much you want to spend and stick with it. If you find a good advertising deal, and you've reached your budget, it's okay to go over it. Just be careful.

Research the sites you want to use. How much experience do they have? What are their hits? What's their reach? A reach is how many people have seen their page, tweets, or posts.

Is there constant activity on their website and how do they get readers to their site?

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Where and how do they promote? If their answer is only on Facebook and Twitter, think twice about using them. Unless they're a tweeting service, with a large following of readers, it's not going to do you any good to advertise with them.

How quickly do they answer your emails? How long have they been in business?

If it's a magazine or newsletter, how many subscribers? Are they an e-zine or do they have print subscriptions available to readers?

If they don't answer these questions, **you need to think twice about handing them your hard-earned dollars.** If they're advertising your book for free, don't worry about their numbers. Just be gracious and thank them for helping you get the word out.

Advertising won't guarantee sales. It can give you excellent exposure. As a new author, that's the cat's meow!

Creating catchy advertising's a must. If

Continued on page 8



The Spotlight is on.... Our Author from Beyond Darynda Jones

New York Times and USA Today Bestselling Author Darynda Jones has won numerous awards for her work, including a prestigious RITA®, a Golden Heart®, and a Daphne du Maurier. As a born storyteller, she grew up spinning tales of dashing damsels and heroes in distress. Darynda lives in the Land of Enchantment, also known as New Mexico, with her husband and two beautiful sons, the Mighty, Mighty Jones Boys.



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

D.J.: While I dream of being one of those morning writers who gets up at 5 am and is super productive, writing until noon, I inevitably find myself up at all hours to meet a deadline. I get my best writing done in the evening until about midnight.

I am a plotter to the extreme. Again, I'd love to be able to just open a new document and start writing, but after 20 books, I have come to accept that my brain simply does not work that way. I will get about 50 pages in and get stuck,

almost irrevocably. Therefore, I plot. I am in love with James Scott Bell's *Write Your Novel from the Middle*. It's pure genius and is what I use now when I begin a new project.

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

D.J.: The questions should be what type don't I like? They are all fun to write, but I do have a very specific type for my protagonists, and that is they must not take themselves too seriously. Life is too short for that. If my heroine can't laugh at herself, she is not the heroine for me.

But to address a more specific characteristic, I try to make all of my characters multi-dimensional. No cardboard cutouts. They must have depth, even the bad guys. They must have a rich backstory and appropriate motivation for everything that they do.

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

D.J.: Well, the last in the "Charley Davidson" series, *Summoned to Thirteenth Grave*, came out earlier this year, so now I am on to a brand-new series with a super savvy heroine who is the new sheriff for a small town in New Mexico. Unfortunately, her first day on the job turns out less than stellar when she is faced with a wanted fugitive holed up in her town, a missing teenaged girl, and an abducted rooster named Puff Daddy. Add to that her childhood crush suspected of murder, and she is ready to hang up her badge before

she even has a chance to break it in. A *Bad Day for Sunshine* releases from St. Martin's Press in April, 2020.

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

D.J.: The characters. Even though I plot like there's no tomorrow, my characters still surprise me and take me off in directions I didn't see coming. I love to see what they will do when I paint them into a corner. And if I know an especially fun scene is coming up, I will write faster just to get to it.

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

D.J.: Absolutely everywhere. I can barely watch a commercial on TV without getting a book/series idea. I look at everything around me and think that all-powerful question, "What if?" I have dozens of projects outlined and hundreds of others scribbled down here and there. It can actually be a hindrance when I'm trying to finish a book and am bombarded with idea after idea. I'm like a squirrel who sees something shiny every day, especially when I'm on deadline.

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

D.J.: Hmmm, I think the most difficult thing is actually waiting to write their story until you know them well enough to do it justice. It's hard. You know the basics—gender, height, hair color—but you need to really know them to be able to write



their stories. What happened in their pasts to bring them to their present situation? Who hurt them? Who supported them and forced them to question their own actions? What would they do in a particular situation, yes, but more importantly, why would they do it? What shaped them? All characters have flaws. The question is, why? We are all products of our pasts. We must understand our characters' pasts to create empathy in a reader for them. Without that empathy, we have cardboard. No one wants to read about cardboard. It's more painful than watching paint dry.

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

D.J.: Writing! Okay, for realies, it's getting to make up stories. Who doesn't want to do that for a living? As cliché as it sounds, it really is a dream come true.

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

D.J.: I have 17 books out now, two

done and ready for the world, and one that is under my bed and will probably stay there forever. I have two series out now, both paranormal, though one, "The Charley Davidson" series, is adult, and the second, "The Darklight Trilogy", is young adult. And the first book in the new "Sunshine Vicram" series will drop early next year. It is a mystery, although I will say that all of my books are comedic as well.

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

D.J.: Always. In 2020 I'll be at RARE in Edinburgh, Scotland, at ARRA in Australia, at RWA and several other conferences and conventions. I'll also have book signings with all of my releases. Though I tend to stick close to my home state of New Mexico, we are planning a bigger tour for *A Bad Day for Sunshine*.

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

D.J.: Firstly, wisdom is a relative term, *Affaire de Coeur*

but I would like to say that I have been writing since I was five. No, I was not a child prodigy. I simply began making up stories at a very young age. But I didn't sell my first book until I was 44 years old. And even though I've hit every list there is, I still take writing classes regularly. Never give up. Never stop learning.

Please give us the following contact information:

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

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<https://twitter.com/Darynda>

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<https://www.facebook.com/darynda.jones.official>

A BAD DAY FOR SUNSHINE

Darynda Jones

New York Times bestselling author Darynda Jones is back with the brand-new snarky, sassy, wickedly fun “Sunshine Vicram” series!

Sheriff Sunshine Vicram finds her cup o’ joe more than half full when the small village of Del Sol, New Mexico, becomes the center of national attention for a kidnapper on the loose.

Del Sol, New Mexico, is known for three things: it’s fry-an-egg-on-the-cement summers, it’s strong cups of coffee—and a nationwide manhunt? Del Sol native Sunshine Vicram has returned to town as the elected sheriff--an election her adorably meddlesome parents entered her in--and she expects her biggest crime wave to involve an elderly flasher named Doug. But a teenage girl is missing, a kidnapper is on the loose, and all of it’s reminding Sunny why she left Del Sol in the first place. Add to that trouble at her daughter’s new school and a kidnapped prized rooster named Puff Daddy, and Sunshine has her hands full.

Enter sexy almost-old-flame Levi Ravinder and a hunky US Marshall, both elevens on a scale of one to blazing inferno, and the normally savvy sheriff is quickly in over her head. Now it’s up to Sunshine to juggle a few good hunky men, a not-so-nice kidnapping miscreant, and Doug the ever-pesky flasher. And they said coming home would be drama-free.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

DARYNDA JONES



A BAD DAY FOR SUNSHINE

A NOVEL

NYTimes/USA Today Bestselling Author
The Charley Davidson Series
The Darklight Trilogy
From St. Martin’s Press



Marketing and Advertising Plans (cont. from page 5)

your ad’s sending a reader to your website or an excerpt on your website, make sure your website’s awesome, professionally built, and pleasing to the reader.

Don’t forget the free sample’s an effective hook. If your confidence is wobbling and you’re unsure of how awesome your website is, send the reader to a purchase page. Send them to Amazon, Books-a-Million, or Barnes and Noble. Learn from these big bookstores and take advantage of their expertise.

They know what they’re doing. That’s why they’re still in business after all these years.

Let me tell you what happens when you don’t advertise.
Nothing, absolutely nothing!

The chance of a reader finding you without promotion and advertising is slim to none. You have to go and find them. You have to put yourself and your book in front of them. They have to see it or they won’t know it even exists.

Everything I’ve written boils down to your marketing and advertising plan. You’ll need to have prepared a website, promotional

tools, social media, scheduling time for interaction, attending conferences if possible, and the most important, advertising budget.

Understanding what marketing and advertising does is very essential. Where, when, how much, and how often you’ll be advertising is a key learning point of not wasting precious money.

Purchase *Be More Successful with Marketing and AdvertiZING* at your favorite bookstore or on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

E-Book \$2.99

Paperback \$7.99

You can find me:

PamelaAckerson.com

Pam@PamelaAckerson.com

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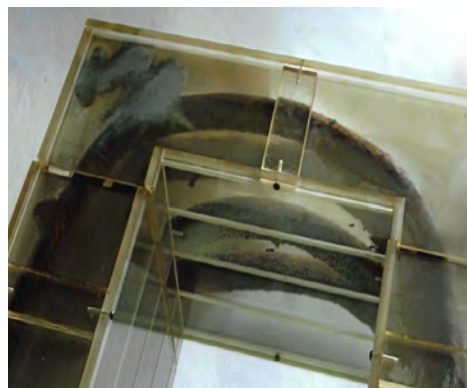


*Celebrity Cigar Roller--handrolling
the world renowned Cuban cigars*



The relationship between the United States and Cuba has been poor since the turbulent 60's. One of the incidents that made the 60's so turbulent was the standoff between President J.F. Kennedy and Fidel Castro over the Bay of Pigs and the missiles pointed at the U.S. Since that time Cuba and the U.S. severed ties, ending travel, trade, economics and culture--a lose-lose for everyone. I don't know if I'm what the Cubans feel they've missed, but I can tell you after visiting Havana, we've missed out on a lot.

There is a great deal to see in Havana. For that reason, I recommend a bus tour. There are many tours available that are not too pricey. (There are some pricey ones that you can work around.



*The arc from the bottom right, around the
top, continuing at the bottom left is a 100
meter cigar*

More on that later.) The particular tour I recommend is a three and ½ hour tour of old and new Havana. The cost is \$135 per

person and well worth it. You can have a more intimate tour with a maximum of nine people in the van for an additional \$15 per person, but those tours fill quickly, and the larger bus tour is totally satisfactory—even great!!!

Though the tour is advertised to be three and one-half hours long, we had the most patient, knowledgeable, humorous and bilingual guide and she was impressive. Realizing some of the passengers were disabled, elderly, or just plain slow, she gave us relative time frames for visiting each with occasional gentle reminders. Additionally, there was not a single question that she didn't answer in English or Spanish. The official language of Cuba is Spanish.

Cuba is known for its cigars.



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and Prizes
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Book Signing Event
and Lots of Fun!!**

**Nashville Airport Marriott
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Nashville, TN 37214**

AWeekendwiththeAuthors.com



They are handmade, rolled by a single person, not on a factory assembly line. Pictured is a “celebrity” cigar roller who was so good they made a statue (the quality of Madame Tussaud’s) that looks exactly like him. The cigars sell for about \$35 each. You can purchase them outside an authorized area, but tourists were warned they might not be the authentic *Cohiba* brand. In the shop where the “celebrity” cigar roller works, if you look up at the ceiling, you will see the longest cigar in the world encased in display cases. It winds around the ceiling and is 100 meters in length.

Other souvenir items are sold including Cuban coffee, the best coffee I have ever tasted! Had I known it was that good, I would have purchased a lot more and given away less. The unit of money in Cuba is the peso. U.S. money and/or

credit cards are not accepted there. Cuban money is difficult to procure in the U.S. (at least in this area). We were told to convert U.S. money to either Canadian money or Euros prior to going to Cuba.

Havana is divided into two parts—Old Havana and New Havana. The guide says, “If you haven’t been to Old Havana, you haven’t seen Havana.” It’s true. Despite its age and poverty, it is a clean city. The heat there is dangerous because with the breezes coming from the Bay of Pigs and the Strait of Florida, it doesn’t seem that hot, but it is. Cuba is one of those islands that were victimized by pirates. Because of that, huge defensive areas were set up with cannons to temper the invasions. Those



The Christ of Havanna



cannons have been left in place. According to our guide, when a building becomes unsafe and has to be demolished, a tree is planted in its place, since the founders/colonizers cut down most of the trees in a mammoth effort to build. Old Havana is near the port with a very busy, very large marketplace in its midst. Horse rides in carts up and down the street are available



for those who like the quaintness of the area. There are also rides with a bicyclist peddling and pulling a coach if you dare.

It is along this area where you can find souvenirs for the most reasonable prices. It is also where, if you can speak Spanish or find someone who speaks English, you can find bargains on transportation and nightclubs. Cuba is also known for its special type of jazz, heavy on trumpets, saxophones and the rhythm section. The Copacabana club offered a tour which included transportation to and from the famous club for about \$400 per person. When we asked the natives, we got a similar tour for \$30 per person and a flat rate on transportation, which was about \$30 one way for the car.

All that Jazz! Cuba has a jazz of its own—a blend of American jazz, African rhythms and horns. The nightclub featured jazz, singers, and pulled people from our group to perform and dance on stage. Drinks made of Cuban's Santiago 11 rum were also part of our admission price.

Great homage is paid to the dead in Cuba. The cemeteries are filled with family mausoleums, one more elegant and elaborate than the previous one. We were told that when the mausoleum was full, they moved the bones of the ones who

had been there the longest to the outer part of the mausoleum to make room for the new arrival.

Politically, Cuba is different in that it is a socialist country under Communist rule. Additionally, the government determines what one's career will be. Every child is tested and, based on their test scores, are sent to a school where they are educated/trained at no cost to them. It doesn't really matter if it's an area the student is not interested in, and everyone goes to school. School is mandatory, and Cuba boasts a literacy rate of 99%. Men go a year longer than the women because they have a mandatory military obligation they must fulfill. Healthcare/hospitals are known for their excellent care that is available to all, despite their positions in life.

Cuba is also known for its art, including statues. The vivid quality of their paintings is what strikes you from the on-



set. Then you see the cultural blend of four continents. Through their native art and revolutionary pieces, you learn of the struggles of the Cuban people. The Christ of Havana, made of white marble, overlooks the city and can be seen from everywhere in the area. It represents the religious component of the Cuban art. It is 167 feet tall and its base is 259 feet and it was sculpted by a woman named Jima Madera.

And then there are the cars! Since the U.S. and Cuba

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The Joys of Getting Pregnant or *Sweet Little Angel from Hell*!

A DCL PUBLICATIONS PRESENTATION

The Spotlight is on.... the Queen of Edwardian Romance Rachel Brimble

Rachel Brimble lives near the beautiful historical city of Bath, England, with her husband, two daughters and beloved chocolate Labrador, Tyler. Her latest series is set in Pennington's, Bath's finest Edwardian department store (Aria Fiction). When she's not writing, she likes to walk the English countryside, knit or watch far too much TV.

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

R.B.: I am lucky enough to write full time, which I appreciate every single day – I'm the ultimate plotter. I start with character sketches, then a chapter plan and synopsis before diving into the first draft which I write from beginning to end without looking back. The hard part comes with the following drafts!

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

R.B.: I am all for female empowerment and love creating strong heroines whose pasts still affect them today. There is nothing better than writing a story where a woman overcomes past hurts and atrocities to live the life of her dreams.

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

R.B.: My latest series is set in an Edwardian department store. Pennington's is a magical place and full of opportunity for every single employee and customer. The series starts in 1911 and sees the characters cope with class changes, women's suffrage, divorce and murder. All the books can be read as single titles and perfect for readers who like drama, intrigue and romance!

The latest book, *Christmas At Pennington's*, released September 19th is my favorite Pennington's book so far.

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

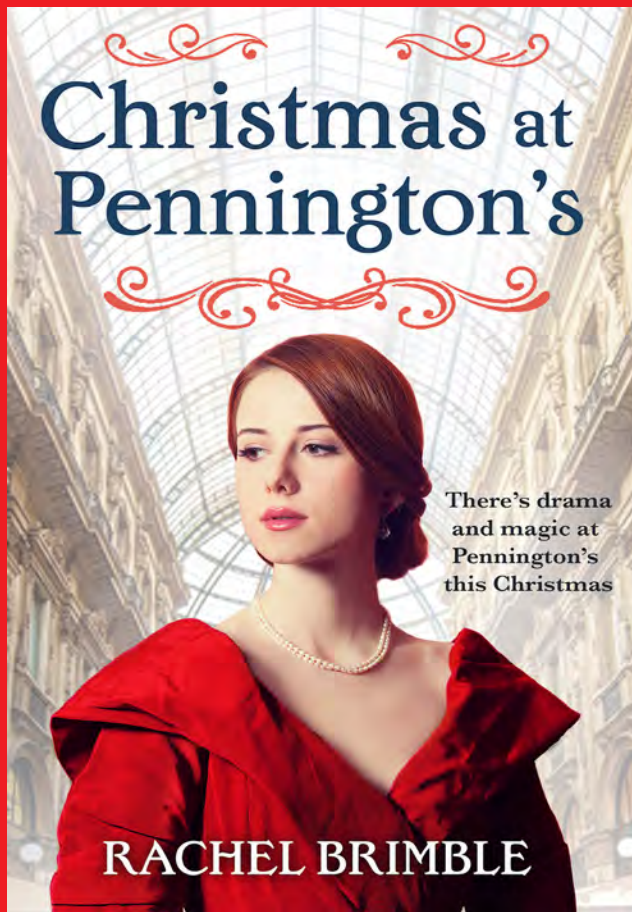
R.B.: I'm not sure there is such a thing as a perfect writing day! When you're under contract, you write, no matter what. In an ideal world, I would start at 8:30 a.m., walk the dog around 10:30 a.m., and have some thinking time before diving back in to around 5:00 P.M. Of course, this day would ideally take place on a sprawling country estate like *Downton Abbey*...

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

R.B.: Plot ideas are everywhere! I get a lot of inspiration from historical documentaries where real life people did extraordinary things, TV shows, and historical places of interest. I have a computer file with three pages of one-line ideas, so have plenty to keep me going. I think looking for story ideas takes practice, but once you start to recognize them, there are too many to cope with!



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



Pennington's -- the perfect refuge for Stephen Gower.

Joseph Carter and Elizabeth Pennington beg him to help solve the murder of Joseph's first wife...

It seems the killer has struck again.

RachelBrimble.com
@RachelBrimble

R.B.: I don't find developing characters too hard – my struggle is always stretching a plot idea from an initial nugget to 100,000 words. My tip for any writers struggling with character development is to make their backstory as eventful (and plausible) as possible before you start writing. Through the backstory, the writer discovers their motivation, internal conflict and goal. This is the backbone of any story and will drive the narrative forward.

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

R.B.: I just love to write! I feel blessed that I get to disappear into a make-believe world every day and write their lives as I want them to be. That certainly isn't the case in the real world, so I relish every minute I'm at the computer.

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

R.B.: I currently have over twenty novels on the market and they fall into contemporary romance, romantic suspense and historical romance. For the last couple of years, I've been concentrating on historical and just signed a new three-book contract for my next Victorian series so it will be awhile before I write any contemporary books again!

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

R.B.: Not this year, but I have a few things in the works for 2020 – watch this space!

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

R.B.: The best piece of writing advice I ever received was... 'Give yourself permission to write a crappy first draft.' I took

this to heart and have written this way for years now – once you allow yourself the freedom to just write, you enjoy the process more and your output will quadruple. Anything on the page can be fixed. A blank page... not so much!

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

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

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

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

Meet Sharon Hamilton

“True Love Heals in the Gardens of the Heart”



Sharon's latest book: *SEAL's Rescue*

Navy SEAL Tucker Hudson has barely recovered from his last difficult deployment in Africa, a near-failed operation, when he learns the American hostage they were unable to free that last time, has been found. His team is tasked with going in a second time to complete what was left undone.

Brandy Hudson's world is changing every day as she devotes herself to their new pregnancy and the purchase of their new home.

But danger from the hostage rescue across the oceans comes home to affect Brandy and Tucker's family in a desperate plot uncovered in California. Will it be in time to save the happily ever after they both desire?

Contact Information:

AuthorSharonHamilton.com

facebook.com/SharonHamiltonAuthor

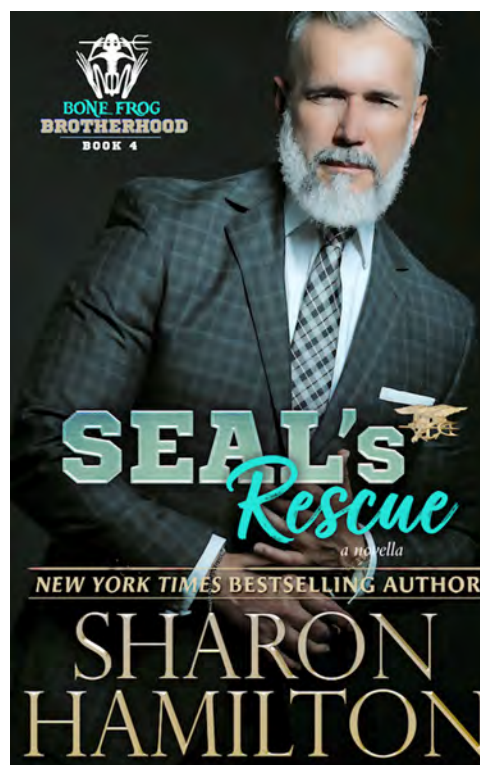
twitter.com/sharonlhamilton

Sharon Hamilton is a *NYT* and *USA/Today* bestselling author most known for her “SEAL Brotherhood” series. Her “Golden Vampires of Tuscany” are not like any vamps you’ve read before, since they don’t have to go to ground, and can walk around in the full light of the sun.

Sharon’s “Guardian Angels” struggle with the human charges they are sent to save, often escaping their vanilla world of Heaven for the brief human one. You won’t find any of these beings in any Sunday school class.

All of Sharon’s books are available on eBooks (most formats), print and Audible.

A lifelong organic gardener, Sharon lives with her husband in the Wine Country of Northern California, where most of her stories take place. When she’s not writing, she’s getting verra verra dirty in the mud, or wandering Farmer’s Markets looking for new Heirloom varieties of vegetables and flowers.





Good-bye to Summer; Hello to Fall

Across

2. Sorority/Fraternity wannabe's.
5. Activity that involves climbing up a mountain trail.
6. Pyrotechnics, usually done on the 4th of July or Labor Day.
7. Big boat journey.
8. Southern summer drink...Mint _____.
10. Outdoor performances featuring singing.
12. A break from work/school, usually away from home.
13. Sleepover on the ground.
15. This activity includes Schwinn's, Mountain's, and BMX's.
16. They start to fall in Autumn.
17. Cruises to this state usually end in September.
18. Hot days in August-- _____ Days.
20. _____ Day, the unofficial end of summer.
21. The U.S. Open event at Arthur Ashe Stadium in September features this sport.
23. State or County events.
28. These parks have attractions and rides.
30. Outdoor cooking.
32. Hot air rides.
33. Gathering of family members.
34. Back to _____.
35. The equinox that occurs in the fall.
36. Dribbling sport that begins in October.

Down

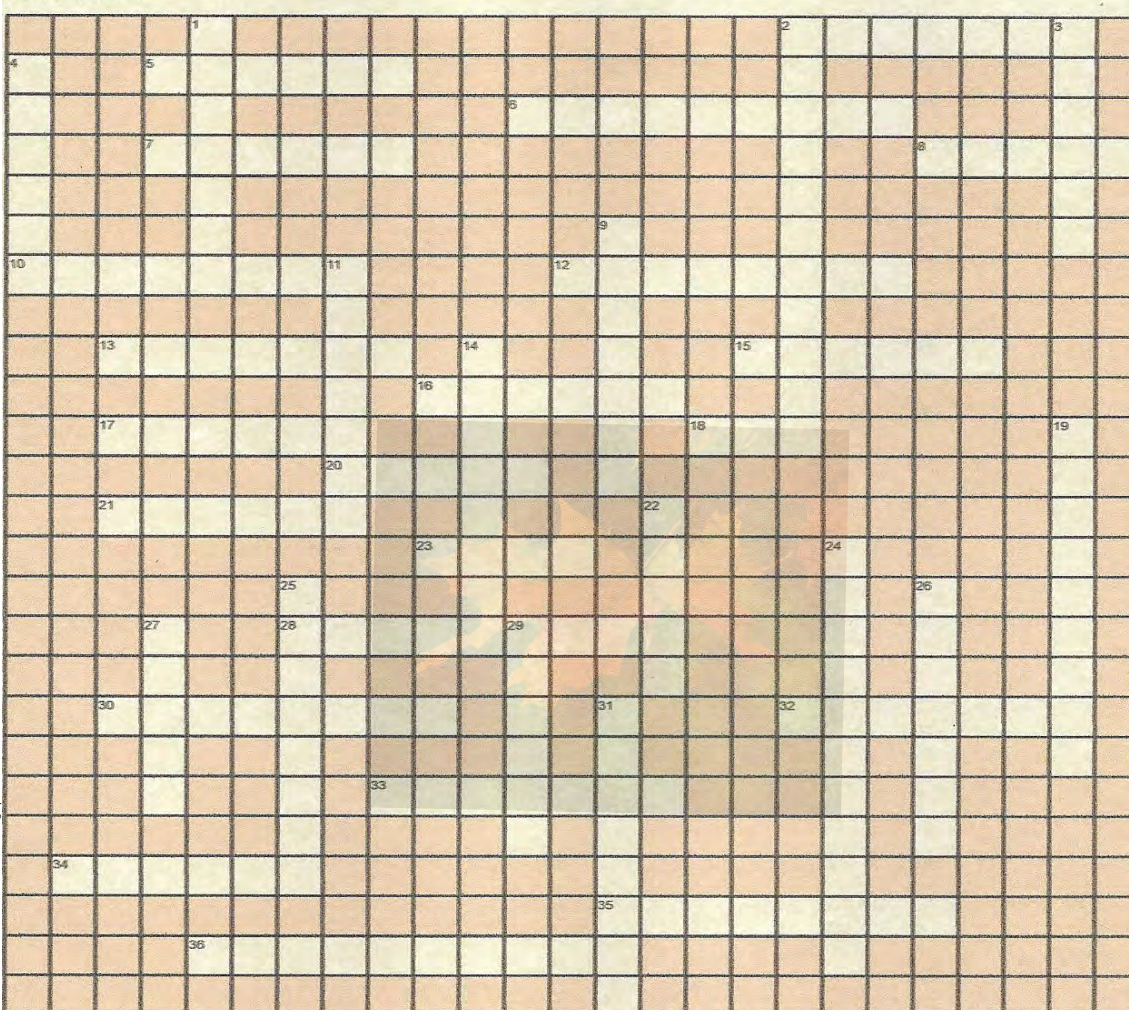
1. Birds do this in the fall.
2. Activity where participant is in the air but attached to a boat.
3. Water activity requiring long appendages attached to the feet.
4. Outing that involves taking a packed meal.
9. Products from your garden.
11. Open toed, no heeled shoes

for the summer.

14. Drink made from citrus fruit.
19. Devastating, windy, storm with eyes or a drink named after it.
22. Fashion *faux pas* after September 15th; _____ shoes.
24. Shows that are played instead of our favorite TV shows.
25. Outgoing summer team sport.
26. This water sport requires a boat.
27. Sandy gathering place in the summer next to water.
29. Weekly lawn care.
31. Oncoming fall sport.

Good-bye to Summer; Hello to Fall

Louise B. Sneed





Contemporary Romance Reviews

The Billionaire Bachelor

Jessica Lemmon

Forever

Mass Market

978-1455566549

★★★★

Reese Crane, CEO of Crane Hotels, appears just as cold as the interior of his hotels. With the retirement of his father, Reese finally sees his future ahead of him...all he ever wanted and worked his entire life towards. But when the Board of Directors for Crane Hotels threatens to strip him of his CEO title because of his womanizing and lack of family stability, Reese is determined not to be thwarted from his dream...even at the cost of giving up his bachelor lifestyle.

Merina Van Heusen has grown up living and working in her parents' quirky and Bohemian-style hotel. The Van Heusen is known for its ambiance, and no one is more shocked than Merina to find out that her parents have sold her beloved hotel to Reese Crane. In a fit of rage, Merina marches over to his lofty office and demands he give her back the Van Heusen...no matter his price.

Instead of a sale, Reese and Merina make a marriage bargain to both gain what they believe is most important to them. But somewhere along the way, they find material things mean nothing...and love is found in the most unlikely of circumstances.

The Billionaire Bachelor is the first book I've read by Jessica Lemmon, and it won't be the last! While not my favorite trope, I found she made the usually arrogant billionaire/CEO likeable from the beginning. The chemistry between Reese and Merina was smokin' hawt, and I especially enjoyed how Merina wasn't afraid to fight for what she wanted. Highly recommend this story to both fans of this genre as well as second chance romances!

Sharing what I love,

Veronica

Christmas Angels

Nancy Naigle

St. Martin's Griffin

Trade Paperback

978-1250312624

★★★ 1/2

Liz Westmoreland assumed she would take over her grandparent's inn when they retired. Instead, they sold the inn and bought an RV. Liz was heartbroken. Less than a year later, cancer took her grandfather. Soon after, her grandmother died as well. Liz's heart broke again. Window shopping on realty websites, Liz daydreams of owning her own inn. One night Liz sees something unexpected. Her grandparent's inn is being auctioned the next day. With no time to research, and against everyone's advice, Liz bids on it

Contemporary

and wins!

Liz arrives to survey her new purchase and her heart falls. The inside's been gutted. It'll take all of Liz's savings to restore it. But she isn't a quitter. Running this inn has been Liz's lifelong dream, and she's not going to give up now!

Liz hires local contractor, Matt Hardy, to restore and remodel the inn. He recognizes her as the cute girl he had a crush on when they were kids. Matt knows Liz is the woman he was meant to marry. Now, all Matt has to do is convince her. Unfortunately, Liz has a strict rule against dating men she works with. No problem. Matt's not a quitter either. He vows to win her love.

This is a sweet story but there's very little excitement. Nevertheless, it's a fairly good book.

Sheila Griffin

Christmas in Vermont

Anita Hughes

St. Martin's Griffin

Trade Paperback

978-1250315915

★★★★

Day 365 is fast approaching. It's time for Emma to end things. Since college, Emma has followed the same pattern. She never lets a relationship continue for more than a year.

Emma is in a pawn shop when a man's watch catches her eye. It's the one that she gave her college boyfriend, Fletcher. Impulsively Emma buys it. She tells her best friend about the watch. Bronwyn declares that it's synchronicity.

Social media reveals that Fletcher is spending Christmas at a Vermont inn. A series of coincidences allow Bronwyn to get Emma a free room at the same inn. More synchronicity. In exchange, Emma will be in charge of the inn's children's program. No problem. She likes kids.

Emma's reconciliation fantasy shatters when she realizes that Fletcher has a fiancé. Emma tries to leave, but a snowstorm stops her. The only kid in the children's program is Lola, Fletcher's daughter. Spending time with her, Emma comes to love Lola. Emma also realizes that she's still in love with Fletcher. Maybe Emma will get a Christmas miracle and Fletcher will realize that he still loves her too!

The title of this book is misleading. The majority of the story occurs after Christmas. And yet the town continues to celebrate with carolers and Santa giving out presents. Other than this one irritating flaw, this is a good book.

Sheila Griffin

Christmas in Winter Valley

Jodi Thomas

HQN

Mass Market

978-1335505019

★★★★

The Holloway brothers, Cooper, Griffin and Elliot, couldn't be more different but have two things in common: the Maverick Ranch and the Winter Valley cabin in the mountains, complete with a herd of wild mustangs. With winter closing in, there is more than enough work to go around, and each brother knows his role. Or so they think.

Griffin, the only one married, and his wife leave to tend to her ailing father and a bad fall after a snowstorm at the cabin leaves Cooper with little means to help. Elliot must run the ranch alone, which shouldn't be a problem except three young, female cousins barnstorm the ranch for an impromptu get-together before going back to college. Toss in one lady vet, a female accountant coming to do the books for tax season, a runaway boy, a cook, her two sons and a ranch hand who has taken a liking to not only the cooking but also the chef, and you have a story that keeps you turning the pages.

While there is a long cast list, the characterization and story lines will keep you interested.

KathyeQ

The Curious Heart of Ailsa Rae

Stephanie Butland

Bonnier

Trade Paperback

978-1785764400

★★★★

A few months ago Ailsa Rae thought she'd be dead by now. But someone else died, and Ailsa got their heart.

The most important decision, whether or not Ailsa gets a new heart, was out of her hands. Knowing that, how could she be expected to make everyday decisions like where to go or what to wear? The only way Ailsa could cope was to give up any semblance of control. She started putting polls on her blog. Ailsa's readers have made many decisions for her. They've voted on everything from what kind of diet Ailsa should try next to whether or not she should search for her father.

Ailsa's blog wins an award. This leads to an interview on a radio show. The other guest is actor Sebastian Morley. Ailsa doesn't watch much TV. She's never even heard of him and isn't the least bit star struck. Sebastian asks

Ailsa out for coffee and they begin an email friendship. It soon becomes flirty. Then Sebastian gets an acting job in the town where Ailsa lives. Will this flirtation bloom into a romance or does absence truly make the heart grow fonder?

This story has some sad parts, as would be expected given the subject matter. But overall it's enjoyable and even funny at times. It's a really good book.

Sheila Griffin

Hard Ride (Powertools: Hot Rides #3)

Jayne Rylon

Happy Endings Publishing

Kindle Edition

978-1947093058

☆☆☆1/2

"The first taste was interesting, the second intoxicating, and after that, he couldn't seem to get enough."

Kyra Kado, drummer for Kason Cox, has been crushing hard for head of the band's security Van Hernandez. Not one to take rejection well, Kyra devotes all her energy into her love of music...until she meets Ollie Dawes. Ollie has a way of calming her and making her feel loved in a way Van never even tried. But when Van starts realizing that he is losing Kyra, he opens his heart to new ideas of what really matters in life...and awakens a piece of his heart he never thought existed...

This story REALLY got my blood pressure up! You see, I'm 100% Team Ollie! Been a fan since the first page he was introduced in the "Hot Rides" series, and there were sections in this book that made me want to reach in and strangle Kyra and Van...Ollie didn't deserve them! But I guess that's a sign of a good story; it makes you FEEL for the characters, even when they don't always get the HEA the reader hopes for them. I've been reading Jayne Rylon's stories for years, and highly recommend them! I've already pre-ordered the next in this series!

*Sharing what I love,
Veronica*

Lethal Nights

Lora Leigh

St. Martin's Press

Trade Paperback

978-1250110367

☆☆☆☆

In the latest installment of the "Brute Force" series, Emma Jane Preston is in danger of losing her home after a bitter divorce. So, she signs an agreement with Brute Force Agency, allowing them to use her home on the East Coast of

Contemporary

the U.S. as a safe house.

Ilya Dragonovich, on the surface a Russian playboy, is the hardcore agent assigned to her case. Both he and Emma Jane have difficulty keeping things on a professional level, even though Ilya, future leader of the mysterious Dragon Clan, doesn't want to draw Emma Jane into his dangerous life. Emma Jane is still struggling with the aftereffects of her disastrous marriage.

Lethal Nights is fast-paced and sexy, as Emma Jane and Ilya try to discover who is putting their lives in jeopardy. There is no shortage of possible suspects. Even if the mystery is solved, will these two wary characters let down their walls to be together? Lora Leigh writes some edgy scenes, and those who are offended with mild spanking might not enjoy this book. Unfortunately, after all the suspenseful build-up, the resolution of the danger seems way too anticlimactic and easily handled.

Hannah Rowan

My Christmas Darling

Vivien Mayfair

Bramble House Books

E-book

B07V5TRRCD

☆☆☆☆

Lucy Carpenter is burdened with misplaced guilt over the freak drunk driving accident one year ago that injured her mother's head, leaving her blind. Desperate to provide the best life she can for her mother to make amends, she works two part-time jobs—cleaning apartments on weekends and reviewing manuscripts for a publishing house—while writing a romance. Her boyfriend, a wealthy, best-selling writer, dumped her, wanting her to give up on her fantasy of writing to support his career. If she agrees, he will support her and her mother.

Lucy's boss, William Harcourt, AKA the Ice-Fish of Fifth Avenue to his subordinates, is determined to prove himself at Big Apple Books, thereby earning his father's respect, acceptance, and love, once and for all. He is driven to find the next great novelist, making the publisher famous. When William rejects all the manuscripts that she has approved for his monthly review, she submits her Christmas romance manuscript under a pen name—Bibi Roquette. The unexpected happens, and William, whom everyone believes hates Christmas, loves the manuscript and wants to meet the author to buy the rights, setting in course a crazy chain of events involving email pen pal relationships, fake and mistaken identities, and love. But who does William love? Lucy, who he has been exchanging emails with as Bibi, or

Contemporary

the person pretending to be her. Lucy realizes too late she is in over her head and falling deeper in love with William and needs to tell him the truth. But how can she put her happiness above her mom's health, well-being, and happiness when selling her book can provide for them and make nearly all her own dreams come true?

William and Lucy, at first glance, are very different but ultimately are similar in momentous ways, balancing each other out. Lucy's love for Christmas is on full display as she urges William to allow the employees to decorate for Christmas and have an office Christmas celebration. William keeps his profound love for Christmas hidden—channeling it into his love for books—but it is just as deep, a reminder tied to his mother whom he lost to illness at a young age and memories of time spent with his father. He's controlled and cold, keeping his emotions in check and hidden, though Lucy makes that hard. Lucy finds it difficult to keep her emotions buried. She's a very expressive, emotional person. Both carry unwarranted guilt/responsibility for things beyond their control—Lucy for her mother's accident/blindness, and William for his mother's death.

Mayfair draws readers in quickly, keeping them invested with wry humor, frequent use of pop culture references, and lively description, character development, pacing, and tone. This sweet, humorous, slightly angsty, and entertaining Christmas romance calls to mind oldie, but goodie, romances of the 30's and 40's like *Bachelor Mother*, *The Gay Divorcee*, etc. Readers looking for clean, sweet, holiday romances who enjoy quirky, old fashioned love stories and romantic comedies will love *My Christmas Darling*.

Lacy Hill

The Problem with Billionaires (Billionaire Club Book 5)

Brynn Paulin

Supernova Indie Publishing Services, LLC

Kindle edition

B07VK22ZGG

★★★★ 1/2

"From now on, you can be anything you want. Anything except separate from me...stay with me..."

Prince Booker wants nothing more than for his royal family to leave him to his own fate. Not being first in line for the crown, Booker has forged his path in America as a world-famous inventor as well as a renowned doctor. With no plans to marry as his mother wishes, no one is more surprised than he when he becomes enthralled by a vision sitting in the rain...a beautiful creature his heart immediately claims as his own. Nothing will stop Booker from making all his precious love's dreams come true...not his family...not even the evil that haunts and preys on his beloved.

Marigold has found herself homeless. Coming home from school, she discovers her stepmother has fled and taken her sister with her with no note as to why or where they are now. Frantic with worry for her sister's well-being, Marigold is awestruck when she finds herself in the arms of a handsome stranger...one who promises to help her in all things...if only she will give him the chance.

Brynn Paulin continues her smexxy billionaires' series with a Prince who is all one could wish for and a would-be princess having all her dreams come true. While the fifth installment to the "Billionaire Club" series, it may be read stand alone. Loved and highly recommend this as well as the other books in the series, especially *The Billionaire & the Beast!*

Sharing what I love,
Veronica



Affaire de Coeur



Historical Romance Reviews

Christmas at Pennington's

Rachel Brimble

Aria Publishing

E-book

B07RC9R3JK

★★★★1/2

Ex-inspector Stephen Cower had to get away from the tragedies that had occurred in London. His decision to return to Bath and work at Pennington's Department store as head of security had been a good one.

Cornelia Culford, going through a nasty divorce, worked for Joseph and Elizabeth Pennington in the jewelry department. When the Pennington's found out that Stephen had worked for Scotland Yard, Joseph wanted to get him to investigate the murder of Joseph's first wife. Elizabeth had wanted him to hold off. But they both knew they'd need to ask him soon. The most recent murder was too similar to Lillian's...

Rachel Brimble gifts her readers with another captivating story involving the Penningtons. A must read for

all historical romance lovers!

Kitty Lane

Highland Jewel

May McGoldrick

St. Martin's Press

Mass Market

978-1250317278

★★★★★



Miss Maisie Murray knew her life was in danger, but she also knew that she couldn't stop; her cause was too important. The people of Scotland had been oppressed by the English pretender to the throne long enough, but the thing that got Maisie going was the oppression of women. So, she and her friend Fiona started the Edinburgh Female Reform Society, but Maisie usually stayed in the background. But, on that fateful day that Fiona's voice had given out and she asked Maisie to speak in her stead, Maisie found her voice and her immersion into the Scottish rebellion was complete.

Lt. Niall Campbell, the brother of Maisie's friend Fiona, recently retired from the 42nd Royal Highlanders

Affaire de Coeur

and just returned home to Edinburgh, had gone to the square to check on his sister. When he saw the mounted militia coming towards the platform, he quickly got Fiona out of there. When she asked him to return for her friend Maisie, he was able to rescue her just before the militia reached her. He understood her politics, in fact, agreed wholeheartedly with them, and was fascinated with her outspoken ways and political involvement. But he was also afraid for her safety. He knew she and his widowed sister were in extreme danger, but neither Maisie nor Fiona seemed to understand to what extent. He vowed that he would do all he could, including giving up his life, to protect them both.

Highland Jewel is the second installment in the “Royal Highlander” series by the talented husband and wife duo known as May McGoldrick. As with all their books in the series, *Highland Jewel* is an in-depth historical look at the struggle of the Scottish people to rid themselves of English oppression through any means necessary and is done with skill and clarity. Niall and Maisie get swept up into the middle of the fight and, after finding love, are brutally separated by all the political machinations abounding. This is a love story wrapped around Scottish/English history and is not to be missed.

Lani Roberts

Ropin' the Moon

Deborah Camp

Amazon

B07XQPJMV8

★★★★

Far Creek, Kansas, has a crime problem that's affecting the lives of the townspeople, prosperity of the town, and the possibility of the railroad coming through town. Junior Pullman and his son act like they own Far Creek and, along with their ranch hands, are out of control with their intimidation of the town council, lawlessness, and behavior—arson, theft, violence, assault, murder.

Lacy Tyrell manages the Holland Hotel in Far Creek, Kansas. Beautiful, young, self-sufficient, strong, and unattainable, she's in high demand among the single men in town. But none of them have captured her interest nor her heart until the handsome brooding stranger rode into town on a beautiful horse, threatening to change her life irrevocably once Lacy realizes he is far from the vigilante she assumed him to be. Dalton Moon, a soldier with a reputation for being the fastest to draw his six-shooter, is brought in by the railroad as the new Marshal to bring safety and law and order into the town. He's intelligent, confident, strong, fair, brave, and kind. It doesn't take long before he earns the respect of the townspeople.

Lacy and Dalton are drawn to each other from the moment they first see each other, but will the attraction that soon becomes something far deeper be strong enough

Historicals

to overcome all that stands between them creating a life together?

Camp's description and dialogue is deftly written, and her language is authentic, creating a world and characters that draw readers into the story with ease and make the pages fly by. Set post-Civil War, *Ropin' the Moon* is an entertaining read that takes readers off to the Wild West with a nice blend of romance, action, humor, suspense and a touch of angst.

Lacy Hill

This Earl of Mine (Bow Street Bachelors #1)

Kate Bateman

St. Martin's Press

E-book

978-1250305954

★★★★ 1/2

“He craved her when he'd never craved anyone or anything before...”

Shipping heiress Georgiana “Georgie” Caversteed was raised by her father to be strong, independent, and to not settle for anything less than marrying for love. After the tragic passing of her father, Georgiana knows that when a suitor looks at her, he sees nothing beyond the wealth she brings but flees the second he sees that her father has a marriage contract clause that allows her the bulk of control of her finances. If that weren't enough, Georgiana has a devious cousin who will stop at nothing to gain control of her fortune. Taking matters into her own hands, Georgiana heads to Newgate prison with a plan to thwart her cousin and any other would-be fortune hunter...marry a man sentenced to hang and become a widow. What could possibly go wrong?

Benedict Wylde, second son of the late Earl of Morcott, is part of the Bow Street investigators and currently undercover as a prisoner at Newgate. When brought before a beautiful woman with an offer he can't refuse, Wylde finds himself newly married to one of the richest women in the *ton*...and her left thinking he is one of the soon-to-be exiled prisoners. When a lie to protect becomes a lie to possess, Georgie and Wylde find themselves partners in a cat and mouse game of seduction...one where the winner gets something far greater than gold.

This Earl of Mine by Kate Bateman is a delightful historical romance I devoured! This reviewer looks forward to reading more of this series and highly recommend!

Sharing what I love,
Veronica

Erotica Romance Reviews



Sugar Hero (Sugar Daddies #15)

Charity Parkerson

Punk & Sissy Publications

Kindle Edition

B07RWQHHRH

☆☆☆ 1/2

"He needs you to love him like he's whole, but you can never forget that he's not."

Sold to the highest bidder when only a child, Adrik has grown up knowing nothing of love or security—only abuse, fear and isolation. Adrik feels beyond broken and wonders if his savior will ever see him as anything but just that...broken.

Leo has committed his life to protecting others, and after rescuing Adrik from a horrific situation of abuse, he vowed never to allow Adrik to feel anything but safe. But as time goes by, Leo's heart sees in Adrik his other half but is too afraid to take the risk of telling him how he feels. For if Adrik knows, would he return Leo's love, or will the past be too much for Adrik to move

forward and cost them both a chance at a happily ever after...

Sugar Hero is a heart wrenching read that I would recommend but would also caution that the abuse Adrik suffered could pose a trigger for some readers. This is the 15th installment the "Sugar Daddies" series. In order to fully enjoy, it is my opinion they should be read in order as each story builds from the previous.

*Sharing what I love,
Veronica*

Paranormal Romance Reviews



Morgan (Guarded Hearts Book 1)

Claire Marta & Nia Farrell

True Lies Publishing

E-book

B07VM8MW5J

☆☆☆ 1/2

“Together, they would create the next best hope for the human race and earn redemption for theirs.”

Grad student Morgan Leviss has chosen sexual surrogacy as her thesis. Little does she know, she’s about to begin her studies literally “hands on” with not one, but two, socially awkward men who desperately need help learning how to interact with women. Morgan is tasked with teaching them social cues to determine if a woman is interested and how to enjoy sex and please their partner. Each teaching session becomes more and more intimate, and Morgan begins to wonder if the teacher is becoming the student.

Centuries old and harboring a secret of their true identities, Zac and Aiden are searching for their fated mate, one who will be theirs for all time and grant them their best chance at earning redemption. After meeting Morgan, Zac

and Aiden are confident they have found their one true fated mate. But when Morgan becomes marked by a vampire, Zac and Aiden bring forth all their powers to protect their beloved from the undead...and pray they do not lose her trust in the process.

Morgan and her men have formed a bond that may very well save all of humankind...or at least give them hope for a loving future of forever and always. After all, “If you can laugh together, you can get through anything, no matter how hard or challenging life is.”

Morgan (Guarded Hearts Book 1) is a paranormal erotica ménage story that was a fun, Kindle-melting, smexxy read, as well as a good beginning to what promises to be an ongoing series. While I found the sexual surrogacy between the three-some a wee bit far-fetched, I reminded myself that this is a work of fiction, and seriously, who could pass up the chance to “play doctor” with two smexxy men described as “Loki & Thor”? Not me! Would recommend to fans of this genre!

*Sharing what I love,
Veronica*

Paranormals

Outsystem: The Intrepid Saga Book 1

MD Cooper

AEON 14

Trade Paperback

978-1477651520

★★★★ 1/2

Major Tanis Richards, aka the Butcher of Toro, from the very beginning of her flight has been fighting insurgents. She and her security force must keep alert. The enemy is trying to destroy the Intrepid, and her job is to stop them. Tanis and her team are in a fight for their lives. Not only do they have a fight against mercenaries and assassins, they need to find the enemy within...

Outsystem grabs the reader from the very first page. Intense, heart-pounding action, and pure sci-fi at its finest. A must read for all!

Lauren Calder

Cuba continued

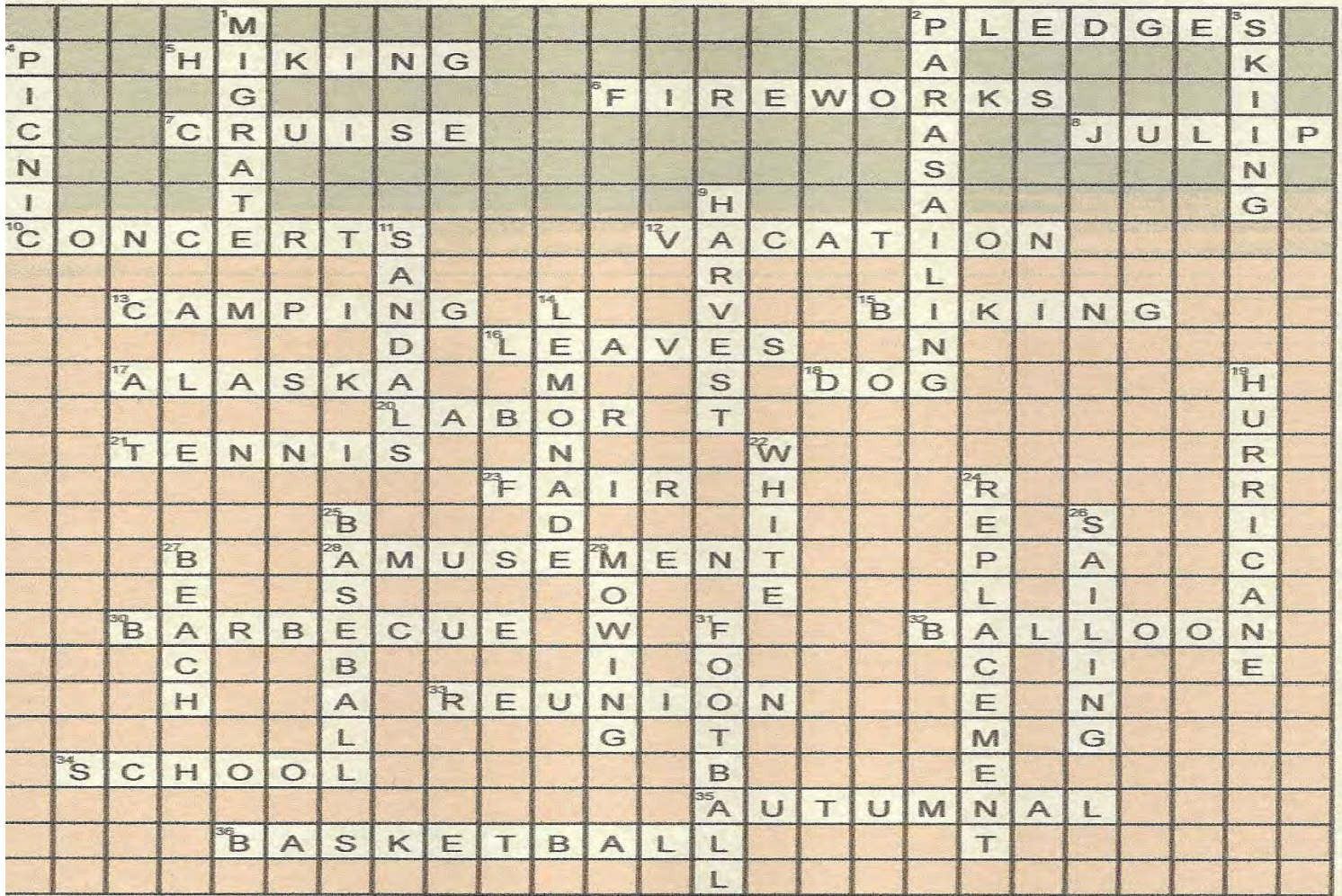
severed ties in the early 60's, no U.S. cars have been imported into Cuba after that time. Consequently, all of their cars are old ones. The Cubans take pride in the old cars. The cars look like new. According to our guide, Cuba has the best mechanics in the world, as they are able to keep those cars running and in tip-top shape without benefit of parts or support from the mother country.

I could add a lot more about Cuba because it was a fascinating place to visit. Unfortunately, travel to Cuba was discontinued by the current administration. In fact, we were the last ones permitted. I hope it resumes soon. If it does, run, don't walk, to take advantage of the trip of a lifetime.



Good-bye to Summer; Hello to Fall

Louise B. Snead





The House on Hallowed Ground

Nancy Cole Silverman

Henery Press

Trade Paperback

978-1635115512

☆☆☆1/2

Misty Dawn, aging medium/psychic to the Hollywood stars, moves into the house of her friend's deceased brother, Winston Thorne, who's still living there as a ghost. Winston isn't going anywhere anytime soon, and he comes in handy with Zoey Chamberlain's problem. She's a young actress from a legendary but troubled family who asks for Misty's help with a child ghost haunting her home, The Pink Mansion. Now Zoey is a suspect in her movie double's murder. If Zoey and the ghost aren't the murderer, then who is?

The House on Hallowed Ground is a charming cozy mystery for fans of ghost stories. It has some very touching, poignant moments as the lonely actress Zoey connects to Alicia, the spirit who died too young. Misty is a capable sleuth with an edge—she's able to use her abilities as a medium to connect to the spirit world. She's believable and charismatic as a lead character. Winston is fun and flamboyant, but underutilized. Other secondary characters are underdeveloped. The book misses the opportunity for

humor, which the character of Winston lends itself very well to. While the character development doesn't have the impact this story calls for, *The House on Hallowed Ground* has good plotting and a strong story that will appeal to paranormal mystery fans.

Danielle Hill

Murder in the Balcony

Margaret Dumas

Henery Press

Trade Paperback

978-1635115383

☆☆☆☆

Amateur sleuth, classic movie buff, and estranged wife of a Hollywood movie star Nora Paige returns in the second "Movie Palace Mystery" novel. She's hard at work managing the aged Palace Movie Theater in San Francisco and adjusting to a friendship with Trixie, the ghost of a former usherette. When her employee's boyfriend is murdered, Nora dons her detective hat to catch a killer from a group of suspects that includes a cutthroat real estate agent using unscrupulous means to buy up the neighborhood.

Murder in the Balcony hits the spot for classic movie and cozy mystery enthusiasts. The movies that Nora shows at the Palace are seamlessly interwoven in the narrative as she

MYSTERIES

The Twisted Ones

T. Kingfisher
Gallery/Saga Press

E-book
978-1534429581

☆☆☆ 1/2

"It's a bit awkward figuring out how to sleep when there might be monsters outside. Do you sleep? Do you stay up all night and risk seeing them? Do you turn the lights on to scare it away or turn the lights off so that it thinks no one's home?"

After the passing of her grandmother, Mouse has been set with the task of cleaning out her house. The house is in the woods of rural North Carolina, and Mouse is shocked to discover her not so-well-liked grandmother was secretly a hoarder. Boxes of rubbish and all sorts of nonsense is stacked floor to ceiling. Rolling up her sleeves, Mouse begins the process of disbanding years of clutter with no help except for her faithful coonhound, Bongo. But while sorting through the soon-to-be landfill fodder, Mouse uncovers her late stepgrandfather's journal, and within the pages is the rambling of a terrified man that had to live with a shrew for a wife, as well as hiding from what he referred to as 'the twisted ones.'

With each new day, Mouse begins to discover that perhaps her grandfather's journal did not contain thoughts randomly written from a man suffering from dementia, but those of a man who had lived in genuine fear of his life. When the scratches on the window pane and the knocking and clicking noises from the woods come closer and closer, Mouse begins to fear that she too may start to twist herself about like the twisted ones and lay down flat on the ground like the dead ones.

The Twisted Ones is an entertaining read that rambles about like an old ghost story told around a campfire. Enjoyed and would recommend to readers that appreciate tales of horror/fantasy with a backstory of folklore.

*Sharing what I love,
Veronica*

uses them to process the events happening around her, seeing the characters' behaviors echoed in the behaviors of those she interacts with. While the list of suspects in this well-plotted movie is short, there's plenty of suspense to keep things interesting as Nora searches for the killer. Nora's emotional struggles are very relevant, including her husband's betrayal and developing feelings for a dashing new suitor. Despite some darker subject matter, *Murder in the Balcony* keeps its light-hearted cozy mystery feel, helped by the profusion of cinephile characters and classic movies anecdotes.

Danielle Hill

The Silent Patient

Alex Michaelides

Celadon Books

Hardcover

978-1250301696

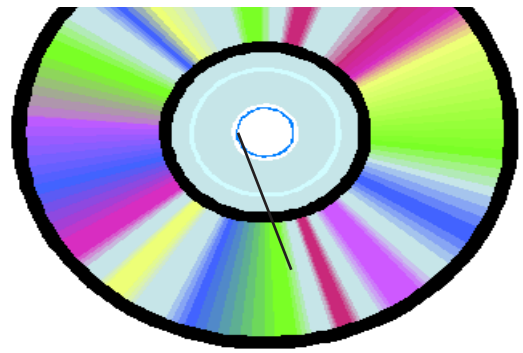
☆☆☆☆☆

"As you will see, it's an incredible story; of that there is no doubt. Whether you believe it or not is up to you."

All that glitters is not gold, and nothing is truer than the story of famous painter Alicia Berenson. To the outside world, she and her fashion photographer husband, Gabriel, live the perfect life. They are perceived by all as a loving couple who live in a beautiful home in one of the most upscale areas of London. But one night, the perfect picture is shattered in the form of five gunshots and the death of Gabriel at the hands of his wife. Refusing to utter a word in her defense, Alicia is sentenced to the Grove, a private mental health care facility. Years pass, and psychotherapist Theo Faber is offered the opportunity to treat Alicia and work towards solving the mystery behind why she so brutally killed her husband and remained silent ever since.

Some stories just grip you from page one, and *The Silent Patient* certainly did that for this reader! With a heart stopping, didn't-see-that-ending-coming conclusion, this mystery/thriller is one of my top reads of the year! Loved and highly recommend!

*Sharing what I love,
Veronica*



AUDIO BOOK REVIEWS

Unstrung

by Laura Spinella

Narrated by Jacquie Floyd

Brilliance Audio

12CD's

Audiobook

978-1522635710

★★★★

Olivia Kline Van Doren is a gifted wild card. She has inherited her father's and grandfather's musical talents and is so good she has a chair in the Boston Symphony Orchestra playing violin. She's married to Robb Van Doren, her second husband, who made a poor financial decision that cost her her ancestral home. She is so pissed, she gets drunk and takes a bat to his Porsche, gets arrested, mouths off at the judge at her arraignment and ends up doing jail time over the weekend. The judge is so pissed at her that he sentences her to 100 hours of community service. Her best friend Sasha is her attorney, and Olivia asks her to find a way for her to serve her time as an assistant to Theo McAdams at the alternative school, an inner-city hellhole, filled with troubled youth.

Olivia's first husband was Sam Nash who was also a talented wild card. He is a hall of fame baseball pitcher who has done well for himself, despite his impoverished, abusive childhood. When he and Olivia married, he was on the brink of success and she got pregnant. He wanted her to have an abortion; she wanted him to choose her. A car wreck ended it all, and they got an annulment. (At the behest of her parents who considered Sam low-life white trash.) She

never thought she would see him again. But he pops up, wanting forgiveness and to rekindle their relationship. She wants...she doesn't know what she wants...her marriage or Sam. Meanwhile, she is working with Theo, an extraordinary young man, whom she has followed since 9/11. (His father had been killed in one of the towers, and Olivia followed the newspaperman who did follow-up articles on the child victims of 9/11.) Their relationship is fragile but becomes complicated.

Unstrung is a moving audiobook that makes the listener feel Olivia's pain. She doesn't realize that she's a victim as much as Sam was. Instead, she blames herself for everything that has gone wrong in her life. Her mother was and still is an opinionated, bossy, mean-spirited woman who seizes every opportunity to demean her daughter. The book, however, is too long with a number of passages that just aren't necessary to the storyline. Jacquie Floyd does an adequate job of reading, but sometimes it's difficult to tell whether we are listening to narrative or quotes. Sometimes, the characters' voices merge so that the listener is uncertain who is talking. Get past that, and it's a good audiobook that this reviewer recommends.

Mildred Burkett

Audio Book Reviews

White Bone

Ridley Pearson

Performed by Todd Haberkorn

Brilliance Audio

8 CD's

978-1480533554

★★★★

John Knox, a military contractor, gets a message from his partner Grace Chu. It shows a picture of a bomb bursting which he believes means her cover is blown. Her last contact indicates she is in Kenya, and he goes to get her. It seems she's been investigating the loss of millions of dollars of AIDS vaccine. There, he finds everyone suspicious and/or corrupt with lies flowing like water. No one has seen her; she probably went on a safari, he was told.

The truth is that Grace was riding to a destination in her investigation, and the driver drugged her and left her in the wilds of Kenya with the intent of her becoming dinner for the lions, jackals, snakes or hyenas. She's thirsty, hungry, tired and afraid. She has no food or water, but she's also smart, and she's had some survival training. The survival tactics she uses and some of the food she eats will make most people sick. But she's not going down without a fight. Or two. (And, thanks to the hole she dug to sleep in, she doesn't have to fight the two lions who came to visit.) And, she has left clues on a thumb drive that only John can figure out.

Meanwhile, John is accused of killing a Kenyan policeman, and the whole country is looking for him. An alcoholic newsman gave him a lot of information about Grace's investigation, but is it trustworthy? John needs help, but who can he trust? Almost no one except; a 14-year-old extremely intelligent Kenya kid named Bishop who speaks and reads three languages, who knows everyone and hears all, an activist lawyer, and a female Kenyan policewoman. But the latter two will only help him so far. After all, they must live there long after he is gone and safe in the U.S.

White Bone is a nerve-racking thriller that gets to the very underbelly of Kenya and the vast amount of corruption. Grace is a bad ass, hands down, and it's delightful to see a woman that tough. At the center of it all is the killing of elephants and rhinos for their tusks. In fact, a dedication is rendered at the beginning of this audio book, thanking those who fight for the animals day in and day out. At the time this audio book was done, elephants were killed at the rate of every 15 minutes, a statistic that breaks my heart. I personally belong to two elephant rescue groups and encourage you to support one if you can. At this rate of killing, in nine years the African elephant will be extinct. Todd Haberkorn does a really good job, especially because he must swing from one

accent to another—Kenyan, English, Chinese, South African, and American English. Nicely done.

In the author's note at the end, a plea is issued to help the fight against poaching and killing these magnificent elephants and rhinos. He urges readers/listeners to look up the non-profits who have dedicated themselves to the preservation of these animals and warns them that all are not created equal, meaning, some allocate more to administration than others with "boots on the ground." Others, he says, are stellar. Any donation, no matter if you think is small, is appreciated and useful.

Mildred Burkett



These pictures were taken by Celsa Snead at an elephant orphanage in Kenya two months ago. There were 16 baby elephants whose parents were killed by poachers, at this site alone. If you can help, please do.

Booty from the Other Genre



Off the Grid

John Hunt

Black Rose Writing

Mass Market

978-1684333332

★★★★★



A lone gunman goes on a shooting spree at his local mall leaving a trail of death and destruction that has far reaching consequences for broken and scarred survivor Graham Richards. Not only must he come to terms with his heartbreaking loss, but then Graham finds he has to learn to cope with an unwanted gain resulting from the shooting in this horror crime thriller. Buckle up for a caffeine-fueled, expletive-laden, high-octane journey that will have you right on the edge of your seat; it is *unlikely* that you will have any fingernails left by the end of the book.

Off the Grid is plot-driven, and this, in turn, dictates the pace. While every character is well fleshed out, protagonists are all wonderful examples of decent human beings bordering on existential heroes; the antagonists are unsophisticated sub-humans; raw, crude and sexually motivated. The kind of people you don't ever want to meet.

W. F. Richardson

Old Bones (Nora Kelly #1)

Preston & Child

Grand Central Publishing

Hardcover

978-1538747227

★★★★★

to none. Live for each day, live for the hours, since nothing is forever yours."

The infamous tragedy of the ill-fated Donner Party is most widely remembered for the families resorting to cannibalism when faced with starvation during a snowstorm in the Sierra Nevada mountains during the 1800's. So, when archaeologist Nora Kelly is offered an opportunity to delve deeper into the mystery surrounding the Lost Camp of the Donner Party and the rumors of buried treasure, she forms a crew and heads out. But what Nora doesn't know is that there is a deadly secret buried among the bones.

Rookie FBI Agent Corrie Swanson has been given her first chance to prove her worth. Provided with limited resources and time, Agent Swanson is determined to piece together clues leading to the Lost Camp dig site and a secret that someone is willing to kill to keep.

Let me start by saying that Preston & Child's "Pendergast" series is one of my all-time favs! *Old Bones* is the promise of a new series starring characters Nora Kelly and Corrie Swanson from the "Pendergast" books. While *Old Bones* is a stand-alone story, I'd highly recommend at least reading Nora's introduction in *Thunderhead* as well as Corrie's in *Still Life With Crows*. Looking forward to future installments and would recommend!

Now if you are like me, you are probably wondering if our beloved Special Agent Pendergast makes an appearance. Well, Dear Reader, you will just have to find out for yourself and read the book.

Sharing what I love,

Veronica

"Fortune makes promises to many, keeps them



Late Reviews

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

The Best Friend Problem

Mariah Ankenman

Entangled Publishing, LLC (Lovestruck)

Mass Market

978-1640638488

★★★★

The Best Friend Problem explores the rocky road two best friends who have, side-by-side, survived middle school, high school, and the journey into adulthood, along with all the life experiences that come with—first love, break ups, loss of loved ones, new experiences, heartbreaks, and disappointments. Now they embark on uncharted territory. Can their friendship survive the journey to the next level of becoming lovers, even for just one night? And beyond that, parents?

Although Prudence Carlson has experienced loss in her life, with the deaths of her parents and later on her great aunt who raised her, she's had her best friend Finn by her side since the tenth grade to help her through it all. She runs a successful wedding-planning business with her girlfriends/roommates handling the accounting/financial matters. She's content with her life, except for one thing—she's always wanted a baby. Since her boyfriend broke up with her to pursue an out-of-state job offer, she lost her faith and trust in men, doubting she will find her soulmate anytime soon. She chooses to have a baby with donor sperm.

Because being a firefighter is such a dangerous job, Finn avoids serious relationships and has no plans for a family. He doesn't believe it would be fair if he were injured

or killed with a family left behind. So he avoids serious relationships. But he's horrible at breaking up with women, so he always calls Pru to come and get him out of sticky situations. Finn has repressed his attraction to Pru to avoid ruining his friendship with the most important person in his life.

Pru's pregnancy is the catalyst that brings them closer and into a more intimate relationship as they prepare for the birth. They are unable to resist exploring the simmering attraction between them that neither had acknowledged in the past, except for that one night.

Although the pregnancy and, of course, the shift in their relationship, is the focal point of the romance, more time could have been devoted to exploring Finn working as a fireman on call since that was arbitrarily used as a big reason for why Finn didn't want a family and why Pru could only see him as a friend and not a potential romantic partner. Some readers may lose patience with their sheer blind determination to remain in denial to what everyone else in their lives has always known—that they are perfect for each other and their feelings for each other are a lot deeper than either is willing to face or accept. Ankenman writes a nuanced exploration of the emotional rollercoaster Finn and Pru experience when they agree to have sex for just one night—after only sharing a life-long deep, close, platonic friendship—and that one night results in Pru's pregnancy.

Lacy Hill

Late

A Capitol Death

Lindsay Davis

Minotaur Books

Hardcover

978-1250152701

★★★★

First century inquiry agent Flavia Alba takes on the investigation of the death of a man who fell from the Capitoline Hill mere days before Emperor Domitian's Imperial Triumph. Nothing can spoil Domitian's moment, which means the unpleasantness must be resolved and quickly. Flavia Alba finds herself in a twisted web, for the dead man was very much despised, and there are quite a few suspects in his death. She wants to finally get to enjoy being a newlywed, but the murderers may put her in their sights next.

A Capitol Death is an historical mystery that feels like time-traveling back over two thousand years. Readers get to experience first-hand what living in Rome, ripe with political intrigue, unlimited imperial power, and arbitrary justice, feels like. "Flavia Alba" is extremely clever and insightful, her point of view featuring sarcastic humor and keen observations of the myriad of interesting people (often suspects) she encounters. At times, the storytelling gets bogged down with multiple characters whose similar-sounding names leave a reader feeling confused. Despite this one flaw, the latest in the Flavia Alba series will satisfy fans, and attract new readers willing to take their time to digest a well-written story with a strong historical foundation.

Danielle Hill

Flashed (Happy Endings #3)

Zoey Castile

Kensington

Trade Paperback

978-1496715289

★★★★

Flashed, book three in Zoey Castile's "Happy Endings" series, focuses on Patrick Halloran and Magdalena Martel. From the start it seems like it's going to be Patrick's story from only his POV. But thematically without Magdalena, we wouldn't get to hear Patrick's story because she brings him back to life incrementally. *Flashed* is a stirring, deeply emotional, and intensely sexual love story that keeps readers turning the pages until the last page, desperate to find out what happens to Patrick and Magdalena.

A soccer player, stripper, highly sought-after model

on the verge of becoming a movie star, Patrick Halloran was on top of the world. Everything and anything he wanted was at his demand. Everything changed in a single moment when a car accident left him viciously scarred and his brother near death. Afterwards, Patrick became a cold, isolated, angry, depressed, shut-in recluse, who has pushed everyone in his life away, and shut himself off as he suffers from PTSD, unable to leave his home without crippling flashbacks to the accident that make him violently ill. The one person Patrick hasn't forced out of his life with his anger and bad attitude is his friend, a romance author. Working on her next book, she can't help him with all the things he needs—cooking, cleaning, doing laundry, unpacking his boxes, and turning his newly renovated, barren Montana Ranch into a home. She puts up a Craigslist ad for a live-in housekeeper. That's where Magdalena of Queens, New York, comes into the story.

Still recovering from her father's illness and death, emotionally and financially, Magdalena left Queens to go to art school. Lena is artistic, independent, and, although she is full of life, she is not truly living her life. She's trying to achieve her dreams and create a life for her sister and herself while burdened by grief, stress, and the pressures of dealing with her father's illness, death, and hospital bills, and bad credit because her stepmother stole her identity.

Castile's writing is beautiful; her words jump off the page, grabbing hold of readers' attention and imagination and sucking them into her story right from the start. Her description is lush and vibrant. Writing this story using alternating first person POVs was an excellent choice because it works for both character development and storytelling purposes to tell the emotional story at the core of *Flashed*, which is an exceptionally emotionally intense and sexually charged novel. As Lena is barred from seeing Patrick or speaking directly with him, she communicates with him initially by leaving him post-it notes in the kitchen on the food she prepares for him. The love scenes between Lena and Patrick are intensely sexual and erotic. However, it seems like from the moment that they first have sex the story's tone shifted suddenly from PG-13 to NC-17 and non-stop sexing. This showed the depth of their hunger for each other and how they brought each other back to life. *Flashed* exceeds readers' expectations with graceful and rich prose, vivid description, diverse and multidimensional characters, and a poignant love story about how sometimes, before we can face life challenges we have to first see ourselves through the eyes of love and be brave enough to take the risk of surrendering to it.

Lacy Hill

Good Guy (Rookie Rebels #1)

Kate Meader

Kate Meader LLC

978-0998517827

☆☆☆1/2

Good Guy, book one in Kate Meader's "Chicago Rebels" spin-off series focuses on rookie hockey players who are a little older than usual because their professional hockey careers have been delayed.

Levi Hunt's and Jordan Cooke's lives are tied by her deceased husband, Levi's Green Berets teammate and best friend. Driven by his mother's abandonment, transient childhood, and other painful scars, Levi chose to enlist in the military before starting his professional hockey career. After discharge, he plans to play in the AHL until he's called up on an emergency basis to the Chicago Rebels after an injury. Fan/media interest in the Special Forces veteran is high, but Levi keeps to himself. Journalist Jordan hosts a successful weekly hockey podcast and covers the regional Midwest AHL. While filling in for a sick hockey reporter for the Chicago Rebels, Jordan gets the opportunity to take her career to the next level, but it all rests on getting Levi to open up to her, breaking his press silence and refusal to grant interviews, for an exclusive profile on his transition from the military to his big break into the NHL. Since she's convinced he has not only never liked her, but actively hates her, her chances of scoring her dream NHL hockey reporting job looks like it will stay a dream.

Levi is grumpy, taciturn, cynical, rarely smiles, extremely guarded about his personal life and privacy while conversely being honest, honorable, kind, and dependable. As Jordan learns, once she begins to spend more time with him, he might just be a true American hero, not just because he was a Green Berets but because beneath all the gruff reserve, he's a genuinely good guy with a good heart. Jordan, on the other hand, is friendly, vivacious, always ready to laugh joyfully, loyal, determined, and maybe a little naïve and too trusting because she tries to see the best in people. They couldn't be more different. As they say opposites attract, and despite their differences, Jordan and Levi are perfect proof of this. The chemistry between them sizzles every moment they are in each other's presence, initiated by an unexpected kiss on the night of her husband Josh's funeral five years ago. Those differences are what Levi believes make him the type of man Jordan would never choose, especially since he feels survivor's guilt because Josh died in Afghanistan while he survived.

Good Guy's colorful cast of secondary characters from Meader's previous series will make readers smile. Unfortunately, readers looking for detailed hockey game play will be disappointed. While the novel's sprinkled with authentic details about the ins-and-outs of hockey and the players, the novel features little actual detailed hockey games. Without this in-game action woven throughout the story, the

Late

novel is missing something, especially since Levi has been away from the game for so long, seeing more of his POV during games would have given his character and the novel more layers. However, the primary focus was Jordan's and Levi's relationship, as well as the societal pressures and issues they face as a military veteran and a woman reporting on men's hockey. Meader's exploration of both was nicely done, a sweet, steamy romance.

Lacy Hill

The Little Teashop on Main

Jodi Thomas

HQN Books

Trade Paperback

978-133550507556

☆☆☆☆

Three little girls meet for a princess tea party on a rainy day in Texas sparking a lifelong friendship and a tea party tradition that links the courses of all their lives and the lives of their families together in the small town of Laurel Springs. The tea party princesses are very different, but they love each other like sisters. Shannon is the serious one, who always must have a logical answer and a plan for everything, especially her life, following in the footsteps of her military father. Zoe is artistic, full of life, and a carefree dreamer with ambitions of becoming a star. Emily is the most fragile of the three, quiet, shy, and imaginative, creating stories and adventures in her head, longing to be free from her domineering and suffocating mother, desperate to find out who she is, and can be, on her own.

Into their orbit are drawn equally intriguing characters: Jack is the dependable, boy-next-door—confidant and best friend who has an unrequited crush on Zoe. He is there for Emily and Shannon through thick and thin. Fuller is a loner, town outcast with secrets, who has appointed himself Emily's guardian angel but hopes for more.

The Little Teashop on Main explores key moments in their lives starting with the first tea party, skipping to their teens, 20's, and finally their 30's. Thomas' description and exposition draws readers into the small town lives and dreams of the characters with ease. While Thomas' characters are well-developed, relatable, and, for the most part, easy to root for, at times it was a frustrating read because there are several interconnected stories and relationships threaded throughout the novel, told from about seven different characters' viewpoints. At times, the viewpoint switching is sudden and affects the pacing. Overall, *The Little Teashop on Main* is a touching, bittersweet chronicle of friendship, family, love, connection, healing, and second chances that

explores how life is full of unexpected surprises both good and bad.

Lacy Hill

Silent Angel

Barbara Dan

978-1475095470

E-book

★★★★★

Jennifer Keating was a normal eighteen-year-old crossing the nation into California with her family until her wagon train suffered a devastating Indian attack. Their wagon had been left behind because of the fever that had struck down her brother and his wife, so when the attack came, there was no one to help. Jenny was the only survivor and never spoke again.

Matthew McCaleb was in town looking for a cook for his cattle drive. He had 4,000 head of cattle to get to Cheyenne and he definitely couldn't go without a good cook for his men. His regular cook had died of food poisoning a few days ago and Matt was desperate. He was ex-Army and a good man, with an empathy toward the Native Americans that populated the land. When he first saw the skittish, young waitress in the town's hotel/restaurant/bar/brothel, then tasted her cooking, he inquired to the kindly bartender about her. After hearing of her ordeal, her rape, torture and brutalization out on the plains, his heart went out to her and he decided to hire her, even if she didn't speak.

Silent Angel was originally published in 2012, but its compassionate and timely look into PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) is so on target that it is worth reviewing again in 2019. Jenny Keating is suffering from PTSD after the brutalization she endured during and after an Indian attack. Because of the climate at the time and Jenny's inability to articulate what happened to her, everyone assumes it was the work of renegades from the local tribe. Ex-Army officer Matt McCaleb is a friend of the local tribes and finds it hard to believe but succumbs to the prevailing thinking of the time. But his understanding and compassion of Jenny's PTSD is the driving point of this poignant romance. It's a beautiful, historical Western romance about the hardships of living on the plains and the devastating effects of living with post-traumatic stress disorder. Ms. Dan has done an outstanding job explaining the effects of PTSD and this romance is worth reading time and time again!

Lani Roberts

Untamed Delights (The Phoenix Pack #8)

Suzanne Wright

Montlake Romance

Trade Paperback

978-1542009683

★★★★

Untamed Delights is the latest/final book in Suzanne Wright's steamy, supernatural "Phoenix Pack" series. The novel focuses on dominant Phoenix pack member Dominic, the flirtatious, charmer who is always ready with a corny, sexual come on, and cat shifter Mila Deveraux from an ally pride. As Dominic and Mila draw closer to each other, dangerous secrets and people from their past and present threaten both their burgeoning relationship and their lives.

Mila works in her family's barber shop during the week and sings at the Mercury Pack's club on weekends. She is independent, self-assured, and content with her life. However, she's heartbroken after discovering her true mate's identity, only for her cousin to introduce him to the pride as her imprinted mate. Nevertheless, he continues to seek out her company and friendship, making her and her cat miserable, especially when they move onto pride territory full-time. To give herself the time and space to heal from his presence, she considers moving to Russia and entering an arranged marriage.

Dominic, a dominant wolf in the Phoenix pack, is lovingly called Lothario because he's a player who only has one-night stands. He's the pack joker, always flirting and throwing out silly come-ons to his pack members' mates. Everybody loves him because he's charming, funny, gorgeous, reliable, and honest. With him what you see is what you get. At least that's what he's led most of the world to believe. When Dominic sees and hears Mila singing at the Velvet Lounge, he's captivated by her and pursues her with a determination and need he's never felt before. But Mila doesn't easily fall for his charm—she not only sees through his façade; she calls him out on it.

In *Untamed Delights* we finally discover whether those brief glimpses hinting that there might be more to Dominic than his goofy teasing of his pack members' mates suggests. It does keep readers guessing who the bad guys are with red herrings all over the place. As usual, Wright's banter and development of the sexual tension and relationship between the characters is first rate.

Filled with the steamy romance, suspense, humor, and action Wright readers expect from her novels, *Untamed Delights* is a satisfying conclusion to the "Phoenix Pack" series. It's a thoroughly entertaining novel about learning to open your heart, soul, and life to the right person and letting yourself be vulnerable enough to trust another person to take a chance on being loved and accepted as you are, imperfections, insecurities, and all.

Lacy Hill

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