

March-April 2020

# *Affaire de Coeur*

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





# *Affaire de Coeur*

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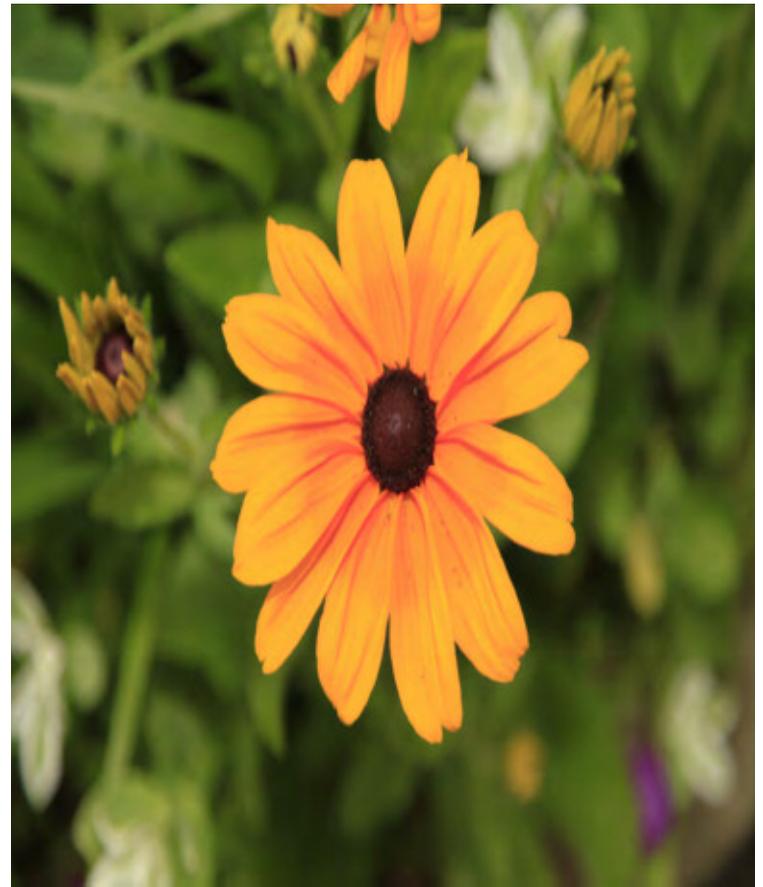
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# Romance Authors—Know Your Genre

**U**nderstanding marketing is much more important than most authors realize. If the author doesn't know how and where to market their books, they've already dropped the ball when it comes to making sales.

An author must categorize his/her books to the proper reading market. Otherwise, there will be very unhappy readers expecting one type of genre and getting another. Concerning sub-genres, don't confuse them with mainstream genres.

A book can be any heat level of romance and still have particular sub-genres: Cozy mysteries, thriller/suspense, paranormal, contemporary, historical, etc.

Another problem with marketing for an author is believing an age category is a genre. It is not. The story/novel is one of the mainstream genres targeted to a specific age group. For example, YA (Young Adult) or NA (New Adult)



*Pam Ackerson*

are not genres. They are age categories for targeting readers of a specific genre.

The best way to understand is to ask "what". What is the book about?

It's about a romance between two people.

Next question would be, who is the book for?

## **YA.**

The book would be marketed as the genre of romance and targeted for young adult readers.

There's wobble room with each publisher. Please make sure when you are querying a publishing house you understand what they want, and follow through with their submission requirements. An author will go into the circular file, and their chance lost, if they don't follow through with what the publisher requests from them.

The following is a guideline for romance authors:

## **Sweet and Wholesome Romance**

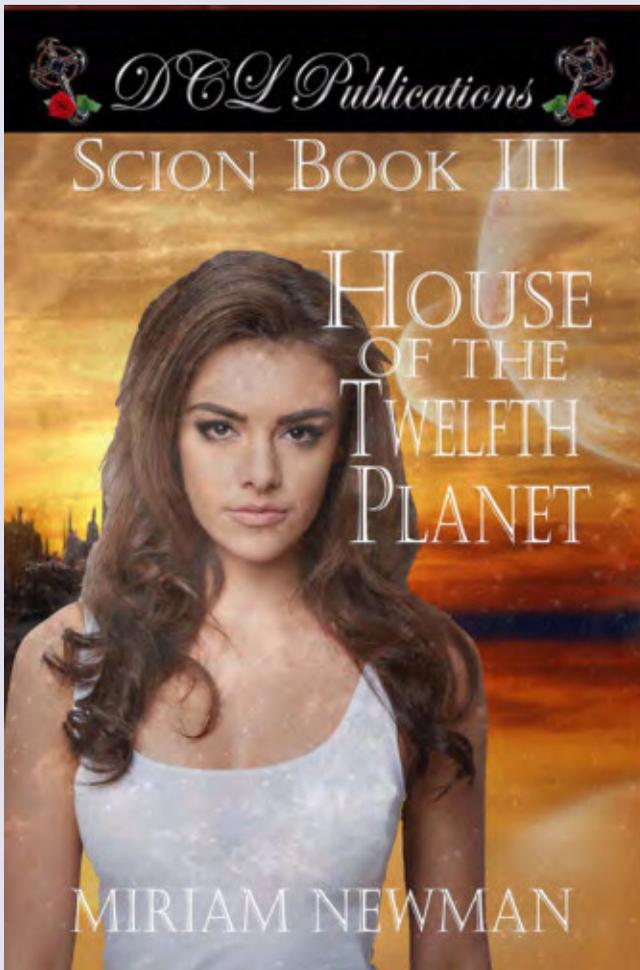
Cozy storylines focusing on relationships and events. Sweet and Wholesome romances are fresh heartwarming love stories that embrace family, community, and traditional values. There may be a kiss or two. The love scenes are not described, or if there is consummation involved, the sex acts are behind closed doors and will have innuendos and references. Details are not given.

## **Romance**

Simmering intimate love scenes with a partner involving a relationship focusing on feelings and the emotions of love. Sexual tension. The love scenes are more sensual than graphic. If sex happens it's usually implied with some intimate details. There is no graphic language.

## **Romance – Mid-level**

It is all of the above with sensual, explicit love scenes. It's a heartwarming romance more along the lines of an R-rated movie. The language may be more graphic depictions of sexual acts and direct emotional reactions.



Running for his life from a despotic ruler, Caius has left his ancestral home on the planet Thelona.

MiriamNewman.com  
@MiriamNewman

### **Erotic Romance**

Boiling hot frequent and sizzling explicit love scenes are described using graphic and direct language. Sexual tension and explosive chemistry involving a relationship as a couple. Sexual interaction is part of the love story, with character and relationship development that is necessary to the storyline.

May include sex toys, same sex, and mild BDSM. There is nothing left to the imagination.

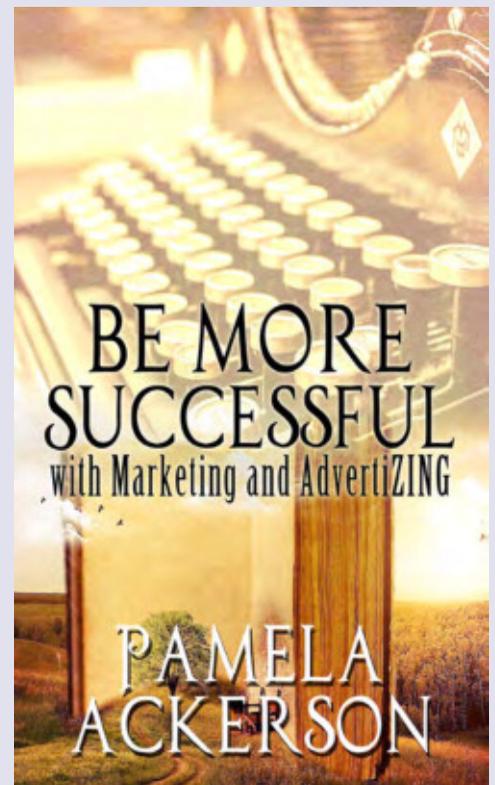
### **Erotica**

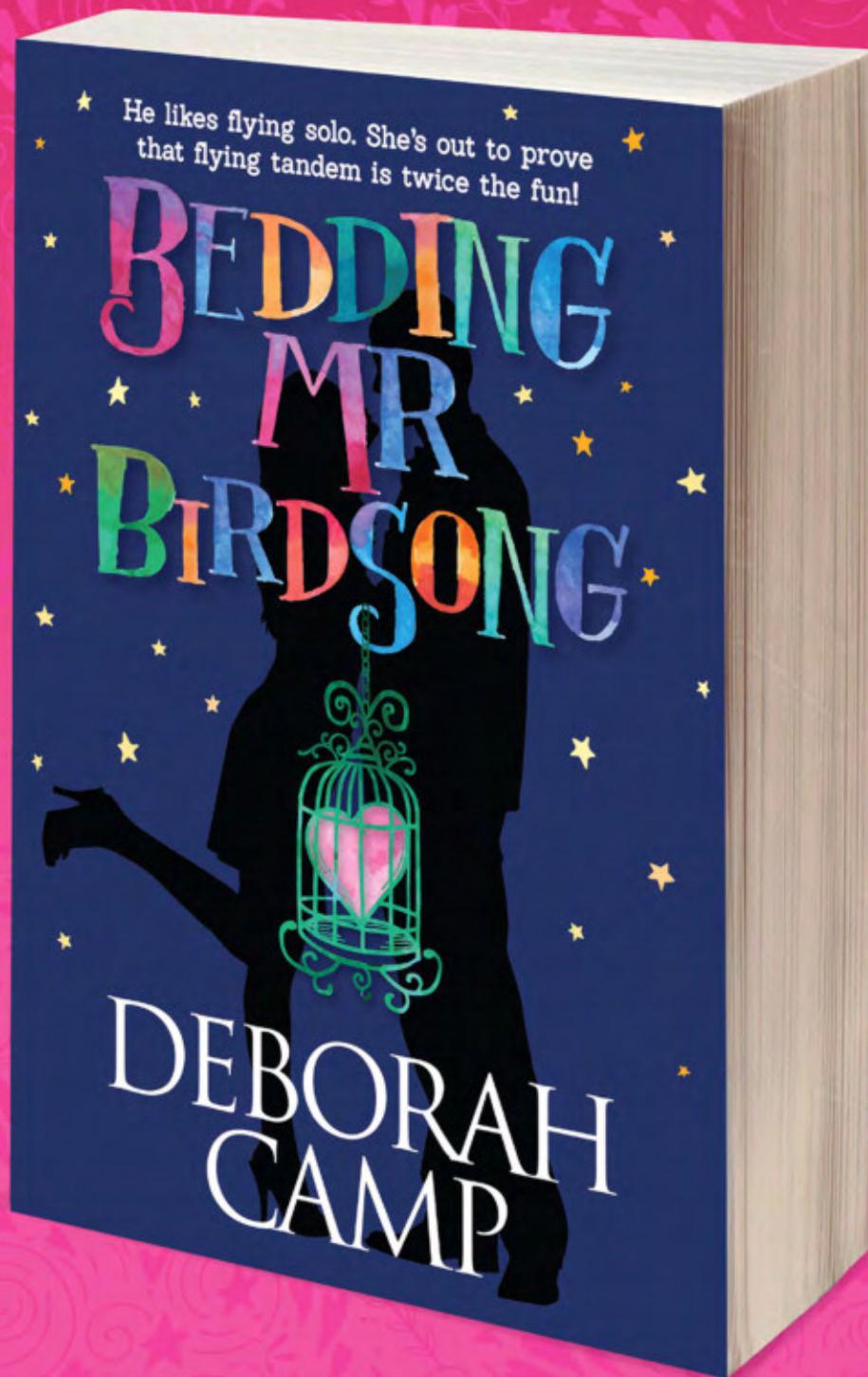
Frequent sex with extremely explicit sex acts described using graphic and direct language. Romantic and/or emotional involvement is not included in erotica novels. The sex scenes are for entertainment only. It is sexual acts with no plot to speak of. Some stories

may contain subject matter which some readers consider objectionable. It has straight up sex with hard core BDSM, kink, sex toys, and multiple partners.

### **Scum/Porn**

Sex, sex, and more sex, and every kind of sex act you can imagine, or perhaps not imagine. Explicit graphic scenes and direct language with no involvement except for the act of sex, with oneself or multiple partners. It doesn't necessarily mean with the same species, either. It's crass, base, and very taboo with direct sexual acts for self-satisfaction only. Scum/porn is usually written in short story form, or for sexual adventure articles, in particular, X-rated magazines. Some authors query rated XXX producers for movie publication.





*"A frolicking, sexy romance  
that will tickle your heart  
(and other places)!"*

Available on Amazon  
[www.deborah-camp.com](http://www.deborah-camp.com)

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# Editorial

Would you have imagined when you made your New Year's Resolutions and set your goals for the year that you would be completely halted by something so small you cannot even see it? I've heard TV announcers describe the CoronaVirus, Covid-9 as a "once in a generation occurrence." Huh? Well, I've seen several generations in my time, but never have I seen anything like this. Covid-19 is a true horror. I speak with some authority because I am an R.N. with experience working through bird flu, swine flu, Ebola, SARS and Zika, not to mention AIDS and other communicable diseases transmitted from one person to another.

Some of these diseases scared the crap out me! Ebola, mainly. It was stubborn, too easily transmitted between people and deadly. But I'm still here--even after the kids coughed in my face every day in the peaks of these epidemics. You can get through this, too. I'm going to keep this short simply because I know you are tired of hearing about it and with the constraints the disease has placed on all of us. However, during my career, I taught nursing students, and I told them as I learned: Never miss an opportunity to teach. So, I will share some of my questionable knowledge with you, and just for fun, take the Corona Quiz on page 18.

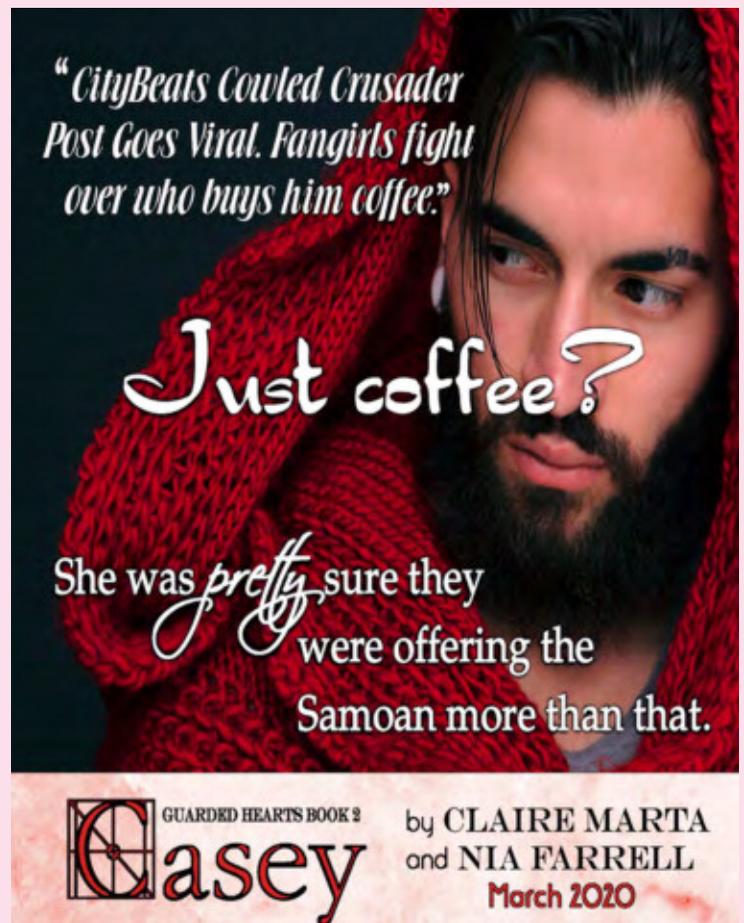
It gets boring, but you have to do as the Infectious Disease docs recommend:

◇ Wash your hands often. Don't worry about how they look and don't even bother with the lotion. You're just wasting it if you're washing as often as you need to. You can try to moisturize them later. Wear gloves when need to. I put them on when I walk my dog (I walk alone and keep my distance) and whenever I get mail/packages, groceries, etc. from outside. I also clean the containers with Clorox Wipes until I get them unpacked. Be careful how you take gloves off: start at the "cuff" or at the wrist, and roll them inside out. Once you have them off, toss them and wash your hands again.

◇ Wear masks when you go out. Masks protect you as well as people who come in contact with you. Even if you're germ free, your mask protects you from a person who may be coughing and sneezing around you.

◇ Maintain social distance. You don't know for sure who has the virus. Until the testing is properly set up, no one does. Assume you're in a contaminated area, and you don't want to get any closer than you have to.

◇ Don't get complacent just because you hav-



en't contracted it yet. We don't know enough about this virus to say you're out of the woods until there is a vaccine.

There are so many psychological and sociological components that Covid-19 brings with it. Jobs are gone for some; people are losing their relatives; people are dying alone; people are scared and hungry. Try to be a little more patient and compassionate. Don't be afraid or too proud to ask for help. There are many agencies that are not going to let you go hungry if you just ask for it. On the other side of that, if you can afford to donate, do. Places are competing for donations. That lady (or gent) who does you hair and nails is not making anything now. They would appreciate

you buying a gift certificate or gift card or just remembering them.

We truly are in this together. So, stay safe, read a lot, contact us via Twitter and/or Facebook and/or on the [adcmagazine.com](http://adcmagazine.com) website, and let us know what you're reading to get you through the boredom.

Louise



# The Spotlight is on *Kat Martin*

New York Times bestselling author Kat Martin is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara where she majored in Anthropology and also studied History. Currently residing in Missoula, Montana, with her Western-author husband, L. J. Martin, Kat has written sixty-five Historical and Contemporary Romantic Suspense novels. More than sixteen million copies of her books are in print and she has been published in twenty foreign countries. Kat is currently at work on her next Romantic Suspense.

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

**K.M.:** I used to write a synopsis of around 20 pages that was like reading a short story of the book. That doesn't work for me anymore. The plots I'm writing are more complex now. I have to figure out how to solve the problems as I go along. So it's sort of a combination of pantser and plotter.

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

**K.M.:** I usually come up with a storyline then figure out what type of people I need to tell it. Sometimes, however, I start with a character, as I did with Hawk Maddox in *The Deception*. He was such a powerful guy he became the focus from the start. Then I just had to find a heroine who could handle him.

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

**K.M.:** Currently, I'm in the middle of my "Maximum Security" series. Three brothers and some of their friends. Maximum Security is a private firm with detectives, bounty hunters and bodyguards. Chase Garrett is the owner. His story begins the series with *The Conspiracy*. Next, Hawk Maddox, a bounty hunter who works at The Max, is the hero of *The Deception*, followed by Brandon Garrett's story, *The Ultimate Betrayal*. *The Deception* is

available in hardcover. The paperback release will be out April 28. *The Ulti-*



*mate Betrayal* will be out July 28.

**AdC:** What is your favorite passage/scene in your current release?

**K.M.:** My newest novel is *The Deception*. Kate Gallagher and Hawk Maddox are two of my favorite characters. They meet at a country western bar called The Sagebrush Saloon. Kate is there to bury her sorrow after she is forced to identify the body of her younger sister, who has been murdered. Seduc-

ing the big cowboy with the incredible body will help her wash the memory away at least for one night, she believes. It doesn't go the way she planned, but the interaction between her and Hawk is a combination of heat and compassion that shows their attraction to each other, and the sort of man Hawk is under his tough façade. It's one of my favorite scenes in the novel.

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

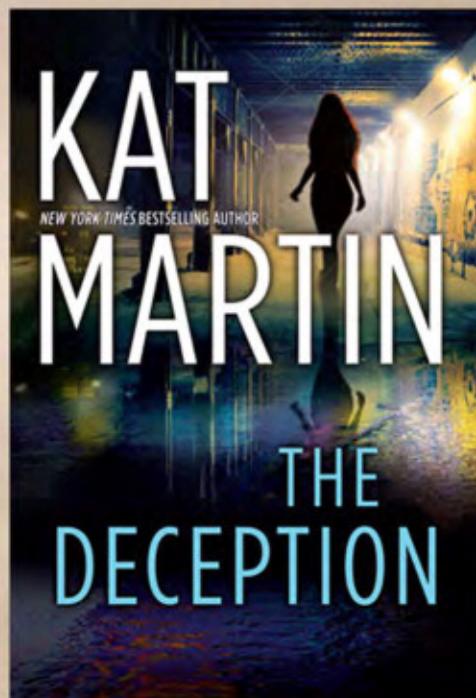
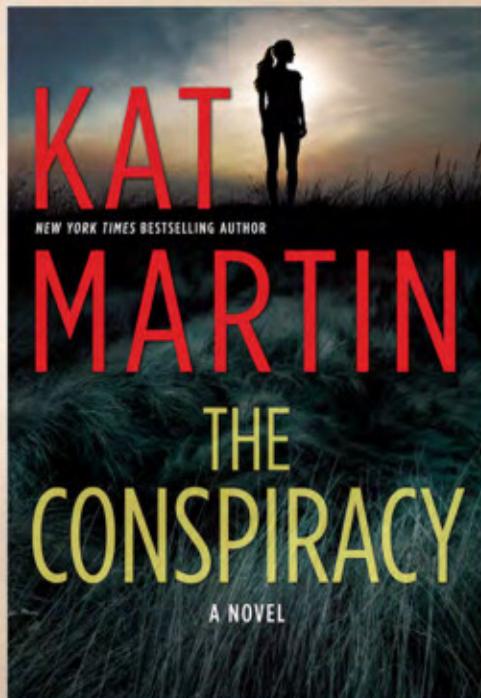
**K.M.:** For a perfect day, everything revolves around the story. If I'm excited about the scene or scenes I'll be writing, if the words begin to flow, it's a perfect day.

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

**K.M.:** I just see things and file them away. I read something in the newspaper, see it on the news, or just get a thought in my head. I've been writing short stories between novels. All of them are connected in some way to the book they are ultimately being printed in. I am looking for plot ideas as I'm writing the novel.

**AdC:** Did you need to do research for the story? And what kind of research did you need to do?

# MAXIMUM SECURITY SERIES



“Fans of romantic suspense won’t be able to put this book down until the final page is turned.”

—Publishers Weekly on *The Deception*

**K.M.:** I heavily research all of my stories. It’s the only way I can be sure I get the information correct. Some of it I do ahead of time. Much of it I do as I go along, looking up things I need to know about a particular scene or situation in the book. Criminal investigation techniques change constantly, which is a big factor. In *The Deception*, I dug up a lot of info on drugs and human trafficking. My next novel, *The Ultimate Betrayal*, revolves around the theft of chemical weapons from an army depot in Colorado. The research was huge, but I think the book came out well because of it.

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

**K.M.:** I like being able to set my own schedule, I like the people I meet, and mostly I like the challenge of finding a way to tell an interesting story

**AdC:** *Is there a genre that you’ve been wanting to try writing?*

**K.M.:** I am happy writing contemporary romantic thrillers. They’re the stories I want to tell.

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

**K.M.:** I have written about 75 novels. I have a lot of Regency historicals out there. I have Western romance novels, a couple of straight contemporaries. Mostly I have romantic suspense and tomantic thrillers.

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

**K.M.:** I’ll be in Rapid City, South Dakota, for Western Writers of America in June. That’s actually my husband’s area of expertise, though as I said, I’ve writ-  
*Affaire de Coeur*

ten a number of Western romances, both historical and contemporary. I’ll also be at Thriller Writers in New York City in July, one of my favorite conferences.

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

**K.M.:** Figure out what you enjoy reading, see if that is what you want to write and if it is, write your book. Don’t let anyone talk you out of it. You can adjust over the years, but you need to please yourself first. Then just stick to it. Persistence is the difference between success and failure. Wish you the best of luck!

*continued on page 11*



*The Deception.*

## Sneak Peek

After her meltdown at the bar, which still embarrassed her, Kate spent the following week hounding the Dallas Police Department.

Chrissy's case had been assigned to a homicide detective named Roger Benson, an older guy with thinning brown hair and a bad attitude. She'd done a little digging, found out he had previously worked in the sex crimes division, an unabashed misogynist who acted as if he believed all women were whores and was completely the wrong person to be handling cases in that department--which was probably why he now worked in homicide.

She tried to give him the benefit of the doubt, figuring the crimes he had worked had changed him into the man he had become. Or maybe he had always been like that. Either way, Kate didn't like him.

"Your sister was using the name Tina Galen," he told her when she appeared in his office demanding answers for the fourth day in a row. "She was a heroin addict and a known prostitute."

Her heart squeezed, though the police had already told her those things. "She was murdered, Detective. Her killer needs to face justice."

"I'm sorry for your loss, Ms. Gallagher. We're doing everything we can to locate the person who killed her, but in circumstances like these, the odds of finding him aren't good."

"The killer must have left evidence. Fingerprints or DNA. Something."

"We're working on it. We believe Tina hooked up with a john who liked rough sex. That night, he got carried away, beat her worse than he meant to, and killed her. If that's the case, he may have assaulted women before."

"So you'll be able to find him."

"Like I said, we're working on it. You need to let us do our job, Ms. Gallagher. Coming down here every day and badgering us isn't going to help. Now if you don't mind, I've got things I need to do. Your sister's case isn't the only one on my desk."

She glanced over at the stack of files on the detective's desk and bit back a sharp retort. "Yes, I can see that." And clearly, arguing with Benson wasn't going to get her anywhere.

As she left the police station, it occurred to her there was a good chance nothing she said or did was going to get the answers she was determined to get in regard to Chrissy's death.

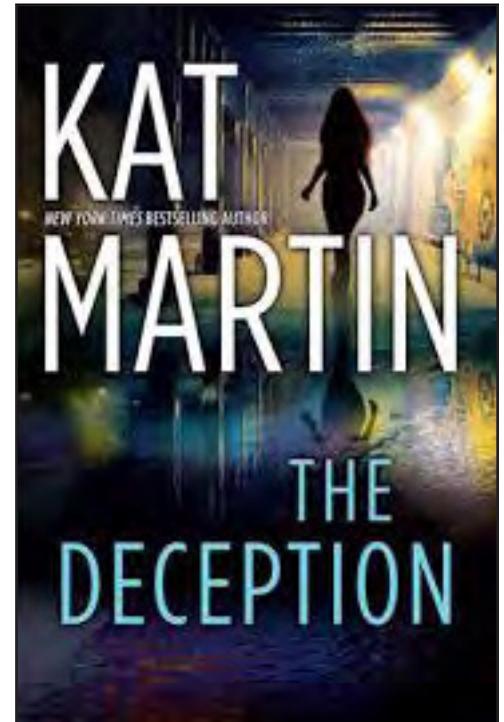
She needed someone to help her. A detective who worked directly for her and strictly on her sister's murder case.

At twenty-nine, she was the owner of Gallagher and Company Consulting, an up-and-coming management consulting firm. And though there were only two other analysts in the office so far, plus a receptionist who acted as her personal assistant, she had built a solid reputation during the time she'd been working in Dallas, and the company was making money.

She could afford to hire a private investigator.

Arriving in the lobby of the five-story building on North Akard near McKinney where the office was located, she waved at one of the security guards, a big guy named Clay, as she passed.

Kate's stomach tightened. Clay didn't have the thick dark hair and gor-



geous blue eyes of the man she had nearly had sex with in the parking lot of the Sagebrush Saloon, but he was almost as tall, with the same rock-solid body. Every time she saw Clay, who was older and not nearly as good-looking, she thought of Jason "Hawk" Maddox and felt a combination of embarrassment and a ridiculous rush of heat.

Dear God, she had never been more turned on in her life. When he'd hauled her out on the dance floor and pulled her into his big, powerful arms, it occurred to her for the first time, she might really go through with the hookup she had only imagined.

Maddox really knew how to dance. And he could kiss. She could have kissed him for hours.

Thank God, she had come to her senses before it was too late. She didn't do hookups, especially with hot, muscle-jocks in jeans and scuffed boots. She didn't have sex with strangers.

But after she'd left the morgue, she had gone a little crazy. Crying hadn't done a lick of good and eventually she had managed to pull herself together, but the terrible feelings of



# Magnolia Blossom

In a land  
torn by war,  
a very forbidden  
love blossoms.

JoannesBooks.com

guilt and failure would not go away.

It didn't matter that she and Chrissy, an accidental baby eleven years younger, had never been close, that by the time Chrissy was in high school, Kate had moved from the small Texas town of Rockdale to Dallas.

She was working full time for Bain Consulting as a junior member of one of their teams when Chrissy began having problems with drugs and alcohol, and behaving promiscuously with boys. Kate had gone back to Rockdale to talk to her but it hadn't done any good. A few months later, her sister had run away from home, and though the police had done everything in their power to find her, Kate had never seen her again.

Not until the police had called with the terrible news of her murder and Kate had gone to the morgue.

How she'd wound up half drunk at the Sagebrush Saloon still wasn't completely clear. She'd just been desperate to get the image of Chrissy's battered and bludgeoned body out of her head, and for a while in the backseat with Jason, it had actually worked.

It was impossible to think of anything but those big hands on her breasts and the thick ridge beneath the fly of his jeans. God, she had never known that kind of want before.

*Spotlight continued*

Please give us the following contact information:

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# Romantic Traveling

## Lake Tahoe

*Louise B. Snead*



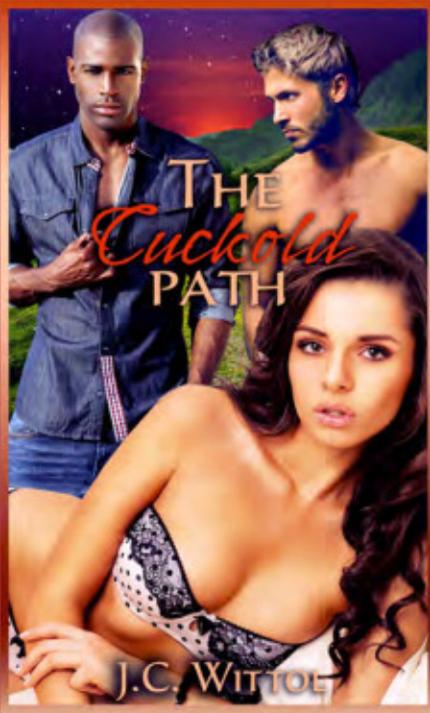
Lake Tahoe is one of the most beautiful places in the world. High in the Sierra Mountains, it is only 199 miles from my home in Oakland and on a good day can be driven in about three hours. Nestled among the pines, Lake Tahoe straddles two states, California and Nevada. It's not far from Nevada's capital, Carson City, or Virginia City, site of the famous TV show *Bonanza*. You may recall the name of the Cartwright ranch was the Ponderosa, named for the pine trees so prevalent in the area.

Its location at six thousand feet above sea level and high in the

mountains gives it heavy snow, equal to amounts in any state. Rather than inches, Tahoe gets feet of snow at a time, averaging 33 feet of snow per year. It can be a dangerous drive when the workers can't get rid of the snow as fast as it's falling. As you climb higher in the area, chains may be required if you don't have four-wheel drive. Coming from San Francisco, you travel past Donner Pass and other historic spots, and you can't help but wonder how people got over those summits one-hundred and fifty years ago.

Lake Tahoe is mentally divided into North Lake Tahoe and South Lake





Nick has it all:  
A beautiful wife  
A great job...  
Clear skies, calm waters,  
and smooth sailing.  
Just over the horizon,  
a wave is building  
that threatens to change his entire life.

JCWittol.com

@JCWittol



*A Skier's dream--Slopes with lifts at Squaw Valley*

Tahoe and winter versus summer. North Lake Tahoe is for serious winter sports people. In fact, Squaw Valley was the site of the Winter Olympics in 1960. The Olympic Village still stands as an invitation to engage in any sport you dare. For children there is snowboarding, skiing - cross country and slalom - with lifts, snowshoe hiking, and tobogganing, snow tubing and ice skating. They do so fearlessly. I don't ski, and I was a tad outdone by numerous children who swirled around me with ease. In addition to Squaw Valley, there are other ski resorts: Alpine Meadows, Sugar Bowl, Boreal, North Star and



*Olympic Quality Skiing at the Tahoe Resorts*

smaller ones. These resorts open with the first heavy snowfall in October or November and may end as late as June if the snowing persists. The highest elevation from which to ski is 9,700 feet at Mount Rose.

Winter sports are expensive. If you don't have your own skis, snowshoes, tubes, etc., you can rent them., but it's better to do it before you get in the mountains. You can even rent winter clothes if you come from a climate where they aren't necessary. Keep in mind that this is the real thing when it comes to winter. Dress accordingly, including long-johns. Ski lift tickets cost a fortune, but you can save money if you can get them before coming to the area at your local Safeway or some drug stores. Many hotels, motels, and cabin rental places offer discount coupons on food, ski and snowboard rentals, lift tickets, and clothing.

That's not all this area has to offer. From where I stay, it is three to four miles to cross the state line into Nevada, the place that pioneered gambling and its casinos. You can continue to drive on Interstate 80 (yes, the same Interstate that ends in New York) and go to Reno. But there is no need to drive the extra 30 miles get the feel of a big casino. As soon as you cross the state line, The Cal-Neva resort, founded by Frank Sinatra, is on the right and on the left is the Biltmore. Both have all



*Casino owed by Frank Sinatra in his heyday*



## In-Genie-Us

Shanaya is a lesbian,  
but her best friend -  
the woman she  
desperately loves -  
definitely isn't.

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

## Michael's new job has one catch:



He has to share his wife with the boss!

Michael convinces Karina to join the hotwife lifestyle.

It doesn't quite go the way he planned.

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

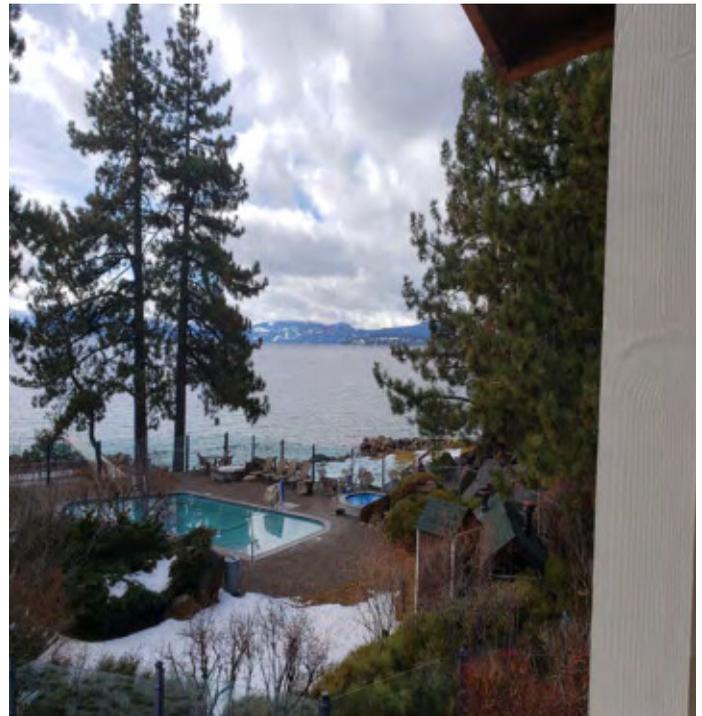
kinds of gambling and entertainment.

If winter sports is not your thing, go South. Not to be left out of the winter sports scene, South Lake Tahoe has Heavenly Valley, Kirkwood and Sierra-at-Tahoe on which to ski. The focus on winter sports, while it exists, is not the same as it is on the North side. They are the flip side of North Lake Tahoe. This area is more commercial, filled with hotels and places to lose your money or enjoy live, well-known entertainment. Big, hotels, i.e. Harrahs and the Marriott, motels and cabin rentals abound; so there is usually no problem finding somewhere to stay, but it is seasonal, easier to find when it's off season. If you rent a cabin, watch out for bears. Humans have invaded their areas, and they're hungry. Heed the warning signs or you may have an invasion of your car or, worse yet, your cabin.

South Lake Tahoe boasts of its hiking trails, horseback riding, beaches and water activities like kayaking, sailing, parasailing, and canoeing. When you're not gambling, these are nice alternatives.

When my children were young, we made a yearly trip to North Lake Tahoe so they could see and play in the snow. Now, I come for the peace, the solitude and sheer beauty of it. If you're in the San Francisco Bay Area, or other large metropolitan region in California, take a bus to Lake Tahoe--there

are gambling buses that run daily, and they're not expensive. Or drive the short distance. It's worth it.



View from my window

This issue the second Spotlight is on ...

# Esther Lopez

*Esther Lopez writes sci-fi and paranormal adventure romance. She lives in the Smokies with her husband, two dogs, Charlie and Ellie, and two mini horses, Pepper and Bucky.*



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

**E.L.:** First, I come up with a character name for my main characters, then I go through my book, *Heroes & Heroines* by Tami D. Cowden, Caro LaFever, and Sue Vidars to get a handle on their personalities. I also work on a characterization sheet which helps me learn more about them. Then, I get out my *GMC* book (*Goal, Motivation, & Conflict*) by Debra Dixon, and find out what they are really after. Once I get a handle on my characters, they start telling me their stories and I write it down as fast as I can.

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

**E.L.:** The characters must need something and someone or something keeping them from getting it. Most of my male

characters have been Alpha males except one. My female characters have been Alphas as well, so there will be clashes in personalities.

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

**E.L.:** My latest book in the “Vaedra Chronicles” series” is *Aftermath*. After the ‘black government’ has been ‘outed’ and we have a chance to share technology with another alien race, the greys aren’t happy with the situation and plan an attack against Earth. Things become chaotic on Earth, but our hero and heroine are on another planet. When they realize what could be happening on Earth, they head back to Earth into an intergalactic war.

**AdC:** *What is your favorite passage/scene in your current release or WIP?*

**E.L.:** I haven’t got a favorite one yet since I’m still writing it.

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

**E.L.:** When no one else is around and I don’t have to cook or run errands, I can sit down and let my imagination run wild.

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

**E.L.:** Sometimes they come from the precious story, sometimes the news, songs, or listening to other people, but mostly from my characters themselves.

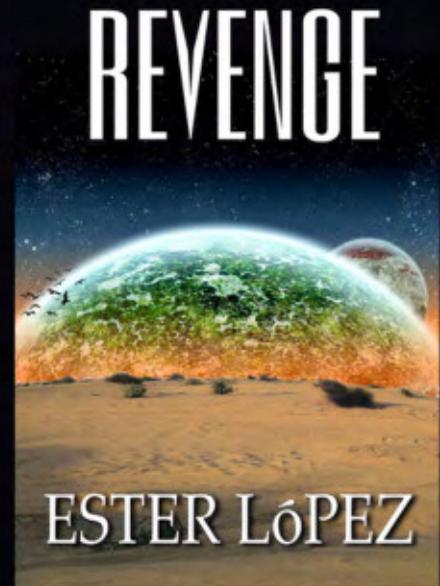
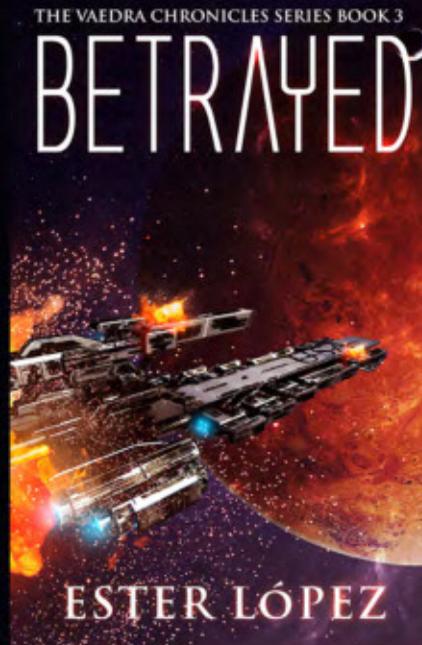
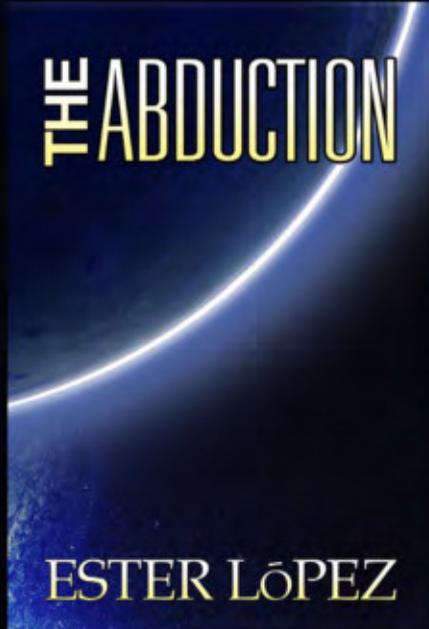
**AdC:** *Did you need to do research for the story? And what kind of research did you need to do?*

**E.L.:** Yes, I’ve done research on space travel, conspiracy theories, NASA, Area 51, and anything else I could get my hands on.

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

**E.L.:** Pretending I’m someone else for a while and get into that person’s head.

# Writing on the Edge of Reality



*EsterLopez.com*

*@EsterLopez1*

**AdC:** *Is there a genre that you want to try writing?*

**E.L.:** I sort of blend my genres. My sci-fi has had some para-military people (like police or law enforcement-type people) and my paranormal has had cops in them. But what I will eventually write is a time travel.

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

**E.L.:** I have six books out. Three are in the sci-fi genre in the “Vaedra Chronicles” series and two are in the “Angel Chronicles” series. The sixth book is a background to the “Vaedra Chronicles” and I’ll be adding to it this year.

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

**E.L.:** Yes. **Due to the Covid 19 virus, these dates have been changed. Please look at my website for updates**  
Book Obsessed Babes on April 24-26<sup>th</sup> in St. Augustine, FL

May - Royal Book Bash in the Carolinas on May 16<sup>th</sup> in Florence, SC

July 31-Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, Romance in the Carolinas in Winston Salem, NC

October - ‘Cruisin the Pages’ on a cruise from the 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. It should be fun.

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

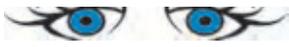
**E.L.:** Never give up! Keep writing, no matter what. Keep a positive attitude and believe that whatever you set your mind to, you can achieve it.

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

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

Twitter [www.twitter.com/esterlopez1](http://www.twitter.com/esterlopez1)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/EsterLopezAuthor](http://www.facebook.com/EsterLopezAuthor)



# Sneak Peek

Here's an excerpt from Ester Lopez's latest release, *Betrayed*.

## Betrayed

By Ester Lopez

When she got to the big guy, her heart skipped another beat. He was incredibly handsome, with dark brownish-black hair and brown eyes. Penetrating eyes that wouldn't leave her. He, too, went commando. That was odd for someone wearing white. While she came up the other side, (she patted him down) he whispered in her ear.

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

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

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

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

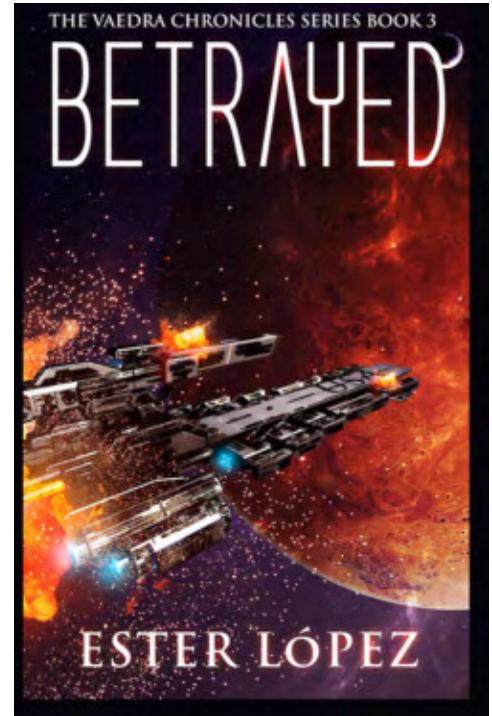
"I don't know what you mean by that?"

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

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

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

"Move it, big guy."



## A Coronavirus Quiz

1. It is believed that the Coronavirus was first reported from what country?
2. What animal typically carries virus like the Coronavirus?
3. Why is it called Covid 19?
4. True or False? Among the first set of symptoms of a Coronavirus infection is loss of smell and taste.
5. The virus primarily attacks which system of the body?
6. True or False? You can have a Coronavirus infection and not show any signs and symptoms.
7. True or False? People under thirty can't get Covid-19.
8. True or False? There is a vaccine for Covid-19 that will prevent people from getting it.
9. Name three things you can do to mitigate spreading of the virus.
10. True or False? Distancing means staying at least three feet from another person.

2. Respiratory

4. True

3. Corona vi for virus and for disease, and 19 for 2019.

5. Bat

1. China

18

10. False. Stay at least six feet away.

side the home, distance yourself from others.

8. Wash hands frequently, wear a mask, wear gloves when out.

8. False

7. False

6. True

A LOST COLONY SHIP  
HOLDS UNIMAGINABLE WONDERS

THEY'LL FIND IT FIRST  
EVEN IF IT STARTS A WAR

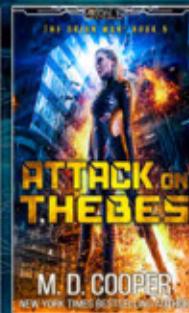


*"The best science fiction military space opera ever"*

*"A great read! I now must go through the entire series"*

*"Great characters, detailed deep storyline,  
lots and lots of exceptional reading."*

# THE ORION WAR



START READING ON AMAZON FOR JUST \$0.99

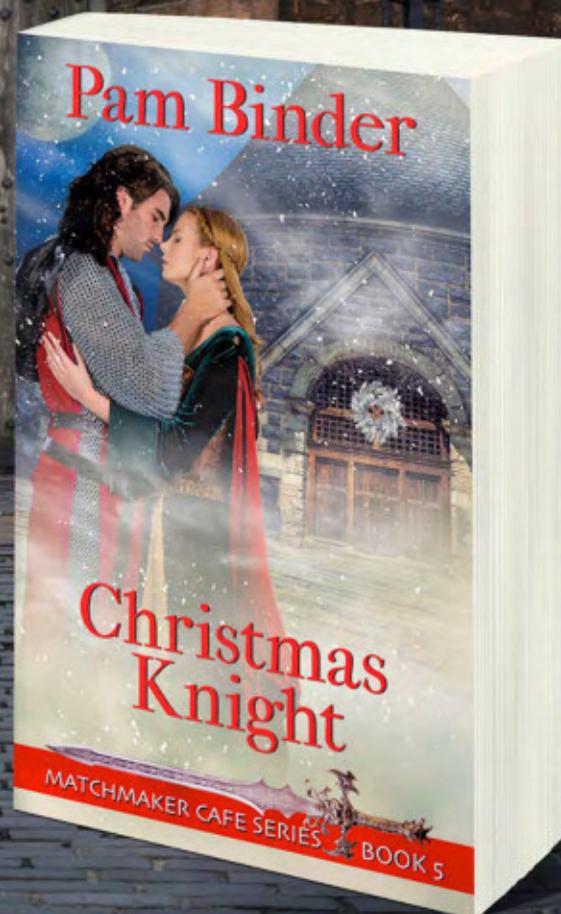
[AEON14.COM/SFDL\\_99C](http://AEON14.COM/SFDL_99C)

*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?



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



## Celebration Days in April

With Corona confining us, let's find something to celebrate!

### Across

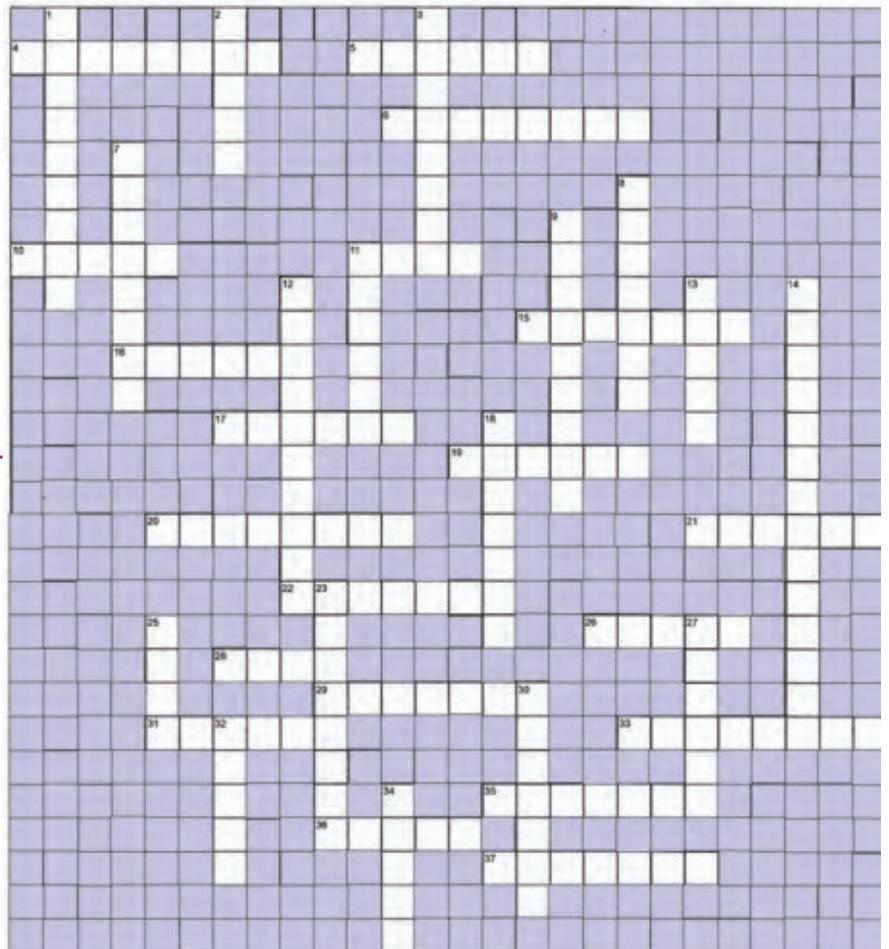
4. Take this offspring to work day.
5. Tax day on April 15th.
6. Day that celebrates Jewish independence from Egypt.
10. Prank day, April 1st.
11. Day for Coors, Budweiser, or Pabst.
15. Get twisted on the day that celebrates this snack.
16. Christian day of resurrection.
17. Celebrates story telling in rhyme.
19. This flavored, tasty bulb has its day.
20. Flipper, et.al., deserve their day.
21. Day to encourage relationships between brothers and sisters.
22. Happy feet for those black and white birds of Antarctica.
26. Day to honor the planet.
28. Ben Franklin studied electricity by flying one of these.
29. Day to honor those in the Revolutionary War.
31. This day celebrates the formation of the WHO.
33. This day focuses on the stars.
35. Muslim fasting time.
36. Day to recognize this Scottish woolen material.
37. Place where books are kept.

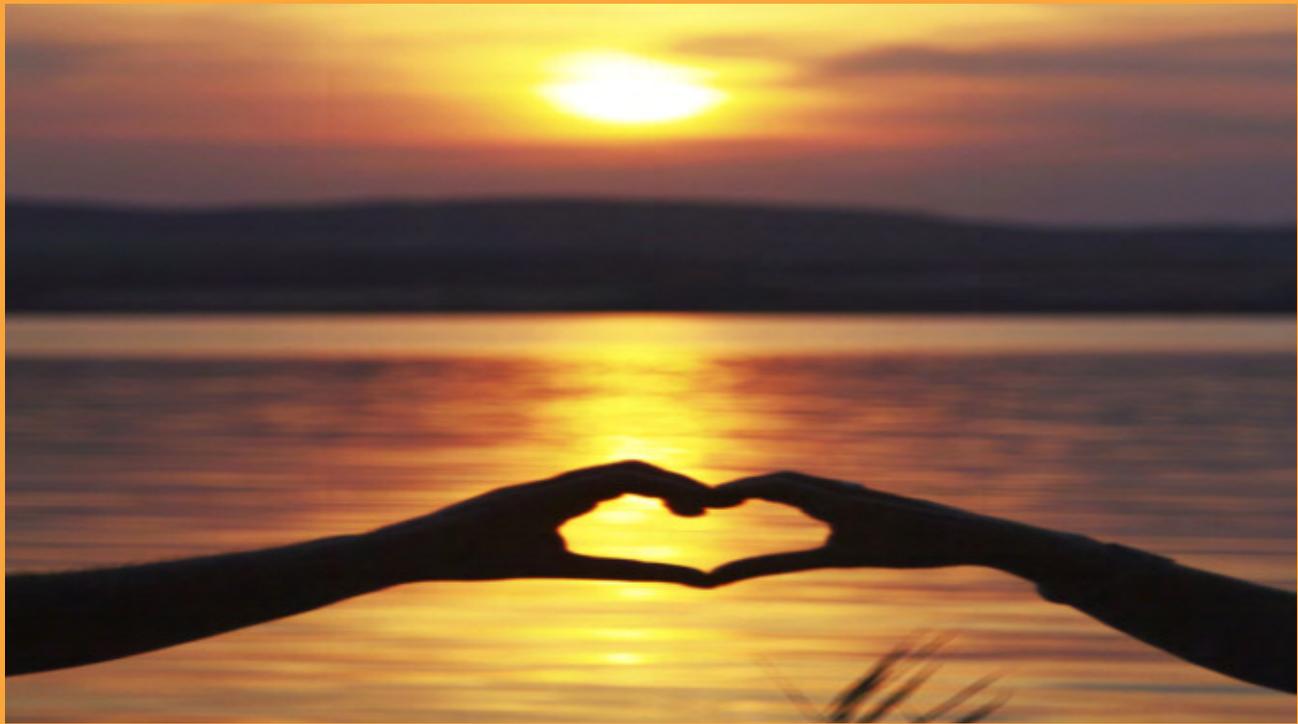
### Down

1. Edible weed that has a yellow flower then spores.
2. This Georgia nut's day.
3. This day is for those who make words out of tiles.
7. Day for this genre of books is for the wee ones.
8. He measured earthquakes and got a day.

9. This British Prime Minister got his own day.
11. Give this animal that builds dams a day.
12. Day to listen to this singing quartet.
13. Day to highlight these sweet and colorful beans.
14. Day to patch relationships and make amends.
18. Day celebrating a Chinese game of strategy.
23. Save the \_\_\_\_\_, a gigantic beast with ivory tusks.
24. Flower associated with veterans.
25. Famous Yankee of old.
27. This day acknowledges Scottish clans' patterns.
30. Day set aside to remember an ill-fated ship.
32. Day to honor trees.
34. Cobbler made from this fuzzy fruit.

\* Answers on page 35





## *Contemporary Romance Reviews*

### **Bedding Mr. Birdsong**

*Deborah Camp*

**Independent Publisher**

9B086KSSXZX

☆☆☆☆

Zaney Miller works in the theater and fashion industries as the lead dresser for a New York fashion designer. She lives with her beloved dog Frito Pie and loves her job, which fulfills her creative nature. Her social life is another story.

Matthew Birdsong is her man whose neighbor across the hall who secretly fascinates her with the drama of his revolving door of one-night stands. He owns a thriving advertising business he started after the well-publicized divorce from his cheating wife who broke his heart and ruined him for women. He became closed off, serious, and cynical, appreciating women, but only for shallow, casual sexual affairs, rarely remembering them afterward.

Zaney and Matthew both believe their lives are humming along perfectly, but unresolved emotional baggage holds them back, keeps them in denial, and leaves them not fully living their lives. Both are never “in love” due to trust issues and cynicism about the opposite sex. After living in the same apartment building for some time, the two finally meet by chance, sparking a sizzling flirtation marked by long conversations, social outings, and intimate moments— that devel-

ops into a profound friendship that changes both of them.

Camp’s description is vibrant, bringing the characters, their interactions, and the story to life and off the page. The dialogue and interactions between Zaney and Matthew sizzle. Camp eloquently captures the inherent frustration and conflict that exists when a person truly cares about someone as a friend but also has intensely sexual feelings about them as well. Sometimes this comes across as mean-spirited, mostly by Zaney as she seems most conflicted.

*Bedding Mr. Birdsong* is an unexpectedly emotional, sexy, witty, amusing contemporary romance that explores the age-old question of whether men and women can be just friends without the complications of sex; and if they can’t, perhaps it’s a happenstance to get the best of both worlds by falling in love for the first time with your best friend. Readers who love sexy, humorous, sophisticated romance with bits of raunchiness will enjoy the ups and downs of the journey to discovering the answer along with Zaney and Matthew.

*Lacy Hill*

## Contemporaries

### Express Pursuit

Caroline Beauregard

#### Self Pub

E-Book

978-1651344989

☆☆☆

New York City air traffic controller Mara Ellington lost her best friend in an accident when Mara was driving. Three weeks later, she decides to go through with the dream trip on the Orient Express they planned together. Before boarding the train in London, Mara is knocked to the floor by a stranger just as something explodes in the station.

FBI counterterrorist Special Agent Drake Steinfield is working with Interpol in pursuit of notorious terrorist Rachid, who was responsible for the loss of Drake's family on 9/11. Evidence seems to point to Mara as a coconspirator, either unknowingly or voluntarily. All along her route the explosions continue, and Drake must convince a succession of officials from London to Paris to Venice to Istanbul to allow him to continue to monitor Mara rather than arrest her, even though they suspect her of being in league with the terrorists.

Drake begins to feel attracted to Mara, but can he trust her? Mara also begins to feel attracted to Drake, but can she overlook his distrust? But more importantly, can they figure out the terrorist plot before it's too late?

*Express Pursuit* offers suspense, romance, and exotic locales that can hold the reader's interest. However, the author has not been careful to check spelling or grammar or the correct use of words, which detracts from the story.

Hannah Rowan

### My One True Cowboy (River Ranch Book 4)

Soraya Lane

St. Martin's Press

Mass Market

978-1250224385

☆☆☆ 1/2

Businesswoman, Angelina Ford has returned to the family ranch to lick her wounds. Angelina tells everyone that she's home for Father's Day. But the truth is that the business Angelina worked tirelessly to build has crashed down around

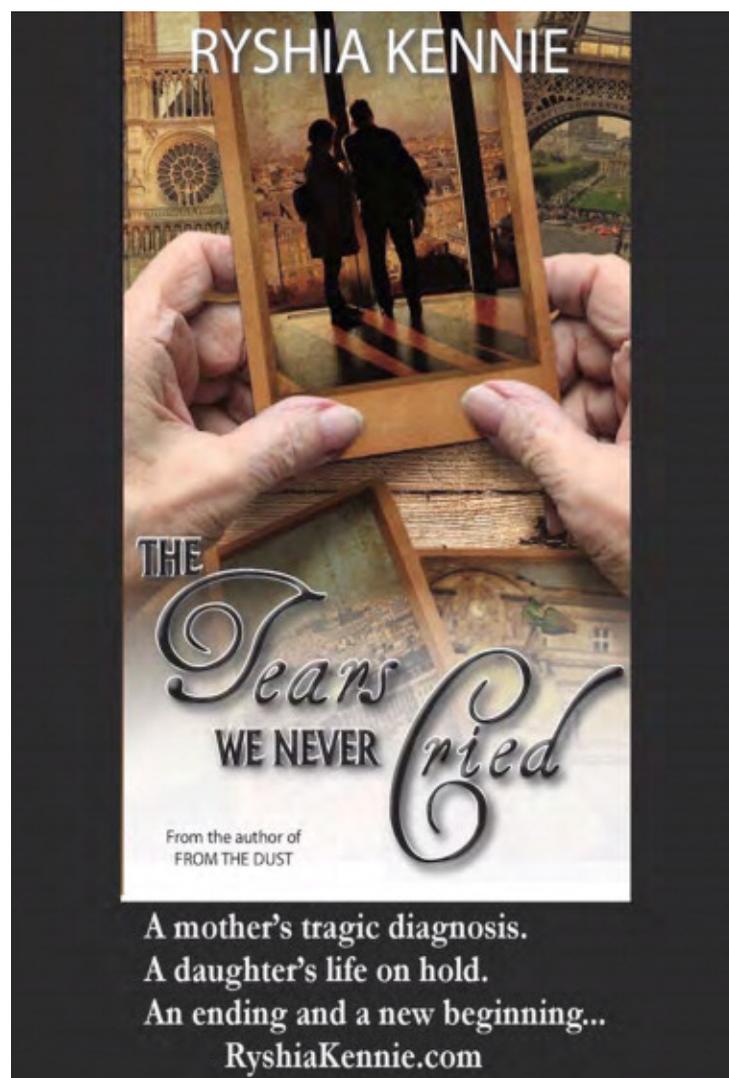
her. The family is used to Angelina only visiting for a few days. When she shows no sign of leaving, everyone wonders what's going on. Angelina insists nothing is wrong, but no one believes, her least of all her childhood best friend, Logan Brody.

Aside from one very awkward kiss when they were teens, there has never been anything romantic between Angelina and Logan. Well, not on her part anyway. As for him? If things had gone differently, Logan could have fallen for Angelina. But life took them in different directions and they lost touch.

Angelina had never noticed how handsome Logan is. She finds herself constantly thinking about being in his arms. Soon those thoughts turn into reality. Logan realizes they are falling in love before Angelina does. But how can this possibly work? She will eventually head back to California, and he is never going to leave the ranch again.

*My One True Cowboy* is a continuation of a series. It can be read alone. It's a typical boy-meets-girl story and is a good book.

Sheila Griffin





## *Historical Romance Reviews*

### **Gone with the Rogue (First Comes Love #2)**

*Amelia Grey*

**St. Martin's Press**

Kindle Edition

B07YRL2N1G

☆☆☆☆

The death of Julia Fairbright's husband left her widowed and pregnant and under his father's ironclad control. She's made attempts to move out on her own, but her father-in-law, a duke, threatened to take her son if she moves out or steps out of line in any way. Four years later, she's chafing at those limitations, desperate to live her life finally on her own terms. She thinks she's found a way to break free. Her life is further complicated when she meets Garrett Stockton and, for the first time, her ability to continue playing the part of the grieving, celibate, widow forever is tested.

Garrett, a self-made man, has built a successful shipping empire from the ship his father won gambling. Society, nonetheless, looks down on him because he works for a living, taking his ships out traveling the world to acquire cargo such as wines, fabrics, spices, and other societal

comforts. Working as a tradesman is viewed unsuitable for a gentleman. He travels to London frequently but doesn't stay for long. Away from the *Ton*, he is free to do what he wants and live on his own terms. A chance encounter in the park with Julia sparks something in him that makes him finally long for a place to call home. Maybe in London with Julia and her son? When she seeks his help breaking free from the Duke, they discover how closely interconnected are their lives and goals for the future.

Julia and Garrett have a powerful attraction sizzling with scorching sexual chemistry that forges an instant connection between them. They have similar personalities. Both are courageous, confident, independent, adventurous. Though many of these characteristics appear restrained in Julia by the Duke's control, they shine through to anyone who's able to get close enough to know her and see who she is behind the necessary façade of self-protection. She believes him to be a pirate and rogue with no connections or reasons to stay in London. That makes him safe for her to choose to give into her attraction to him.

Grey's description is colorful and crisp, and her use of language is elegant, bringing the story and the characters brilliantly to life with rich details and development. The

pages fly by at a steady pace with skillful shifts in tone that don't affect the pacing or storytelling but instead enhance it. Readers who enjoy heartfelt love-at-first-sight romances with a bit of intrigue and mystery should enjoy this romance.

*Lacy Hill*

## The Highland Rogue

*Amy Jarecki*

**Forever (Grand Central Publishing)**

Kindle edition

B07V2Z88FL

☆☆☆☆

*"He had become her heart, her courage--she vowed to be his strength in his hour of need."*

Sir Kennan Cameron has made a name for himself as a Highland privateer working for the crown. He's also made many an enemy. After fighting off a vicious attack and being left for dead, Kennan finds himself washed ashore on a deserted isle. Barely alive, Kennan awakes to the sight of a beautiful yet wild looking lass, who takes him in and nurses him back to health. How she has managed to survive all this time alone is a mystery to him but one he plans to puzzle out as soon as he finds a way off the island and back on his path of vengeance against the man who stole his ship and killed his crew.

Forsaken by her family and clan, Divana Campbell has been alone on her little island for years. Managing to fend for herself, she is shocked to see a lone man washed upon her shore and heading into her hovel of a home. Seeing he is wounded, Divana does everything she can to keep him alive. No one is more surprised than Divana to learn her castaway is none other than the son of the mighty Laird of the Cameron Clan. Never could he see her as anything but a bloody Campbell, or could he?

Kennan and Divana are two strong-willed individuals with an instinct for survival and loyalty. Their journey to their happily-ever-after is as turbulent as the seas they traverse, but so is their love affair. Amy Jarecki has written a high seas romantic adventure with everything I've grown to love in this series. Highly recommend and can't wait for the next installment!

*Sharing what I love,  
Veronica*

## Highland Sword

*May McGoldrick*

**St. Martin's Press**

Mass Market

978-1250314994

☆☆☆☆



Morrigan Drummond was determined to kill the man who called himself "the Sparrow." She wasn't expecting the gentleman to try and stop her from killing the Sparrow. Morrigan's fight training came in handy during the close hand-to-hand combat, with her assailant ending up dazed from a head butt while she escaped. But Morrigan didn't come away unscathed. Her bruises and torn dress were sure to get her in trouble when she returned home to Dalmigavie Castle in the Scottish Highlands.

It was 1820, and the Highlanders were in revolt against English rule. Morrigan's brother-in-law, Cinaed, the son of Scotland, would not be pleased and would probably ban her from traveling to Inverness in the near future. He was presently secretly meeting with his mother, the Queen of England, at the castle and the plan had been to keep everything low-key while she was there. Not get in a knife fight in an alleyway in one of the roughest parts of Inverness. Who was that meddling man who had prevented her from killing the Sparrow?

Aidan Grant was a young lawyer from Edinburgh who was a staunch reformer and abolitionist. He hated the English trying to take over Scotland and fought them in the courts any way he could. He and his brother Sebastian were in Inverness to meet with the English collaborator, Robert Sparrow, who promised to give him all the secrets he had gathered during his informer days, in exchange for hiding him and keeping him alive. Having outlived his usefulness, he was now in fear for his life from both the Scots and the English. Aidan knew any information he had would be vital for the cause and could potentially help get many illegally jailed Scotsmen free. Aidan had mainly traveled to Inverness at the request of Queen Caroline to meet with her son, the son of Scotland.

*Highland Sword*, the last in the "Royal Highlanders" series, neatly wraps up the scintillating tale of Maisie, the revolutionary, Isabella, the physician, and Morrigan, three sisters who play vital roles in Scotland's bid for independence from English rule. The initial meeting of Morrigan and Aidan was definitely memorable, but, once they learned they were on the same side, sparks flew. But will Morrigan's secret from her past jeopardize her love for Aidan? This is exactly the kind of well-written and well-researched novel that a reader can expect from the writing duo that is May McGoldrick. It's historical and factual with just enough sizzle in the romance department to keep this reviewer riveted to the pages until the very end.

*Lani Roberts*

## A Time of End (Executioner Knights #4)

Kathryn LeVeque

Dragonblade Publishing, Inc.

Kindle Edition

B07YL8SC5D

☆☆☆☆



*"I think I have loved you since before I met you."*

Alexander de Sherrington, known by his friends as Sherry, is one of the fiercely infamous Executioner Knights. Deadly to a fault and loyal to William Marshall and England, these knights will follow orders without question. William Marshall has surrounded himself with devoted agents, and on their next assignment, he has added "the Ghost" to aid Sherry and his crew to determine what new threat is plotting against King John. While not favored, King John is still their sovereign, and it is their duty to protect him.

Christin de Lohr is smart, witty, fearless and a spy for William Marshall. Known as "the Ghost," Christin is able to ferret out information in ways a man cannot, and she's quite deadly if the need arises. Asked to travel to Norwich with Sherry and his men, Christin finds herself growing fond of the legendary knight and surprised he, too, is falling in love with her. When King John sets his sights on the beautiful daughter of his long-time enemy, Sherry is prepared to do battle against any man, even the king himself, to save his beloved.

For over 25 years, the powerful Christopher de Lohr and King John have been at odds. To keep peace, William Marshall does his best to keep these two apart, but when King John abducts Christopher's oldest daughter, Christin, to wed his bastard son, there is no power on heaven or earth that will keep vengeance from being sought by Christopher—unless Christin's love beats him to it.

If you are new to Kathryn Le Veque's writing, this is the perfect series to start! Le Veque is a master storyteller when it comes to medieval romance, and I devoured this romance in one setting! Anxiously awaiting the next installment and truly wish I could give more than five stars!

*Sharing what I love,*

*Veronica*

## To Catch an Earl (Bow Street Bachelors #2)

Kate Bateman

St. Martin's Press

Kindle Edition

B07X16XL13

☆☆☆☆

*"I want you again, Emmy Danvers. And I want to take my time."*

*"How on earth was a woman supposed to resist that?"*

26

*Affaire de Coeur*

A kiss from a mysterious stranger at a masquerade ball is what kept Alex Harland, the Earl of Melton, going long after the war was over. After all this time, he still cannot forget the scent and feel of the beautifully bold woman who asked him to dance and stole a kiss in the moonlight.

Now an agent for the Bow Street Runners, Alex has been given a task of apprehending the infamous "Nightjar," a jewel thief who has been stealing the French Crown Jewels. While investigating the latest crime scene, Alex is jolted to awareness by a familiar scent. One that kept him awake many a night dreaming of the woman who got away before he even got her name. Realizing his fantasy is close at hand, Alex is determined to solve not only the case of the stolen crown jewels, but also that of his stolen heart.

Emmy Danvers has helped her father, the "Nightjar," steal back the crown jewels for the French. When her father dies, the Nightjar's thieving ways are laid to rest with him. That is until a blackmailer threatens the Danvers family with bodily harm if they do not finish the job and collect the remaining jewels. Left with no choice, Emmy plots to steal the last of the jewels, but as fate would have it, the one man she both loves and fears has been assigned the job of tracking down the Nightjar. Now she will have to walk a fine line between saving her family as well as her heart.

*To Catch an Earl* is what most would refer to as an enemies to lovers' trope. While I prefer friends to lovers, I did enjoy the cat and mouse games Alex and Emmy played, and found this an enjoyable read. *To Catch an Earl* is the second in Kate Bateman's "Bow Street Bachelors" series, but may be read standalone. Would recommend to fans of this genre.

*Sharing what I love,*

*Veronica*

## What a Highlander's Got to Do

Sabrina York

Swerve

E-book

B076H78JL4

☆☆☆☆

Fiercely independent and sworn to never marry, especially to one of those padded peacock English Lords, Isobel Dounreay Lochlannach takes off on a wild ride only to be swept off her feet by a handsome stranger.

Nick Wyeth aka Viscount Stirling, is mesmerized by the sight of the beautiful Scottish lass. While he has sworn himself to bachelorhood, one taste of her sweet lips and he knows he must have more. Isobel's fear of losing her independence threatens to destroy the love growing between her and Nick. So what's a Highlander got to do to win the love of this wild Scottish lass?

For those of us that have been following Sabrina York's "Untamed Highlanders" series, this installment is exactly what we have been waiting to read! Finally! Isobel

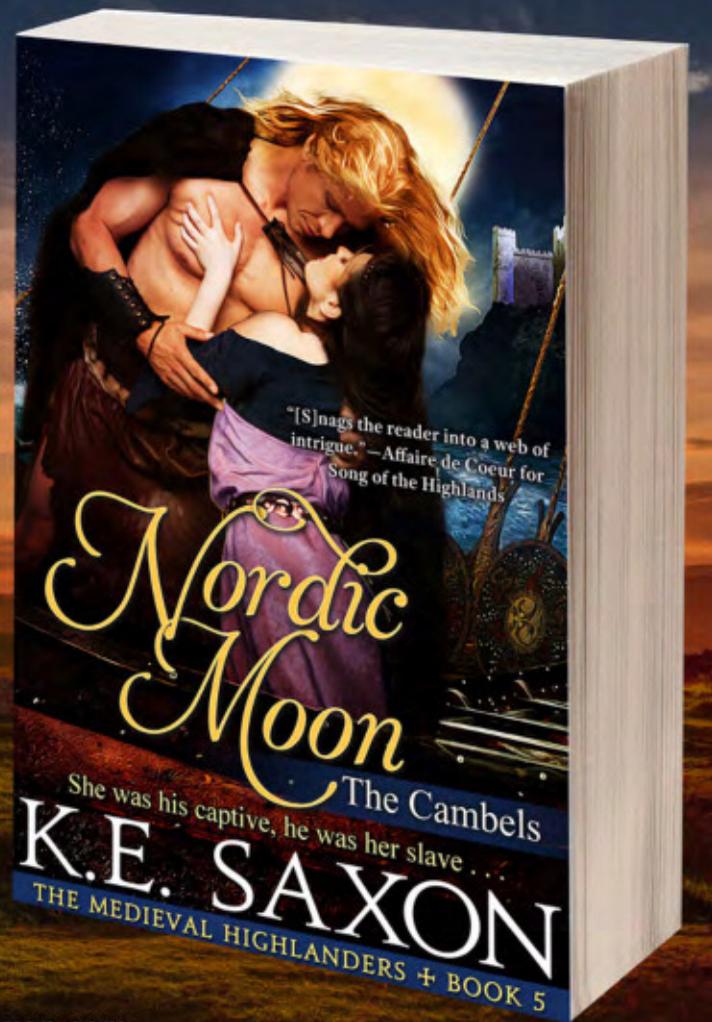
# K.E. SAXON

new in the medieval highlanders series,  
the final book in the Cambel duology

*She was his captive, he was her slave...*

**On a faraway island where the kings 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](http://www.kesaxon.com)

## *Historicals*

gets her own story! (Happy Dance). As with all of the books in this series, it can be read as a standalone, but I always recommend reading the entire series to fully enjoy the characters!

*Sharing what I love,  
Veronica*

# Paranormal Romance Reviews



## **Bloodstone**

*Helen C. Johannes*

**The Wild Rose Press**

Kindle Edition

B00G8GTHRC

☆☆☆☆

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

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

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

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

*Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*

# Paranormals

## The Inscription

Pam Binder

The Wild Rose Press, Inc.

Kindle Edition

978-1509228751

☆☆☆1/2

Set in 1566 and present-day Highlands of Scotland, *The Inscription* explores a plethora of themes including: history, family, honor, loyalty, sacrifice, sexism, magic, time-travel, and more.

Immortal warrior Lachlan MacAlpin struggles with controlling his growing blood lust that is triggered by the heat of battle. His kind, when given the gift of immortality, can unfortunately become cursed with madness. Lachlan's curse, like his father, is to be consumed with killing. He becomes blind to all else whenever he picks up a weapon, and he can feel the madness growing stronger. He tries not to let himself start to hope after rescuing Amber McPhee from drowning in Loch Ness. She's been in his dreams nightly and might be his salvation. Can he open his heart to her, accepting the power of love before the full moon as the legend foretells?

Amber is on her way to a Medieval reenactment when her car crashes into the water. She awakens in the past, believing she is among reenactors, only to discover she has time-traveled into the past.

Amber is brave and always prepared to fight for what she believes is right. As Lachlan's clan accepts her as one of their own, she changes them, Lachlan's family, and herself for the better, Lachlan most of all.

A fierce warrior, Lachlan is a proud Clan leader. Guilt for his role in his enemy's abuse and murder of his family members haunts him, hardening his heart and drawing him away from his surviving siblings and life. Being around Amber brings him back to life and shows him there is more to him than the cold, fearless, clansman and warrior. Amber avoids getting too close to people, becoming involved in their lives, and has no time for relationships. Being trapped in the past with Lachlan, his siblings, and the rest of his clan helps her to see that all her aunt's matchmaking attempts were only to help her live her life more fully by letting down the wall around her heart. Amber sees Lachlan's heart for his family and people and the warmth that is buried under the weight of his duty and curse. From each other, they learn they don't have to fear emotions – love.

The characters, their relationships, interactions, and the story are well developed with precise and descriptive prose. *The Inscription* world has a wealth of stories still to be explored and characters in whom readers become invested. For the most part, *The Inscription* is creative and original,

however, it does call to mind other stories like the *Highlander* movie/TV series and the *Outlander* books/TV series, which isn't necessarily a bad thing for fans who love them. While the novel's pacing and tone are mostly effective, the chapters end abruptly leaving action/subjects unresolved and, picking up with different scenes, which is disorienting. Also, more of the novel is spent talking about the antagonist than is spent in conflict with him. Nevertheless, readers who enjoy time-travel, fantasy, and romances set in the Highlands should enjoy *The Inscription*, which is an emotional, sweet romance with just the right mix of humor, angst, and a bit of action.

Lacy Hill

## Revenge (The Vaedra Chronicles Book 2)

Ester Lopez

Writing & Photographic Services, LLC

E-book

B073TN297Q

☆☆☆☆

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

Fourteen years later, Berto's promise could not go as planned. Berto, forced into being a slave trader, must now make amends as a recruiter in the fight against the slave traders. He reunites with Shey, a young instructor whom he wronged. Berto doesn't know Shey is seeking vigilante justice against the one who killed her brother, not knowing he is the one she seeks. They grow fond of each other, but due to a lot of bad blood and prejudice, they keep the relationship hidden. It is also forbidden to have a relationship with his species.

He is eventually cleared of sabotage when it becomes apparent Berto is dedicated to the cause. The recruits train hard, and the friction never seems to stop because they know Berto was a slave trader. Berto's psychic power is put to work in his defense in the middle of training when a confrontation goes too far.

*Revenge* has a steady pace following Berto. Saboteurs, love and personal drive give this story the momentum to get to the exciting end.

Lauren Calder

# *Erotica Romance Reviews*



## **Casey (Guarded Hearts Book #2)**

*Claire Marta & Nia Farrell*

**True Lies Publishing**

Ebook

B07XH79MWH

☆☆☆ ½

Casey is a special agent for the ATF and on a mission to stop the Russian mafia's ongoing human trafficking. She also wants to discover the identity of her brother's brutal murderer. But Casey is also harboring a secret--one known to very few--she's a member of The Secret Garden Club, an exclusive BDSM club whose membership does not come cheap.

Finding release only Master S has been able to provide, Casey discovers he is none other than the notorious Russian mobster, Ivan Michalov. Ivan shares the secret of his connections and offers to work with her in bringing her brother's killer to justice. But Ivan is hiding his own agenda as to why he wishes to help Casey, one that could very well cost her everything,

Malik and Iosefa are creatures centuries old. Masking their true form, they are in search of their fated mate, and they know Casey is theirs. While frustrated by her dominating independence, they are also intrigued by her sexual proclivities. If they can just get her to see them as her

own, they will cherish and protect her, even from herself.

This paranormal erotica ménage story was an entertaining, Kindle melting, smexxy read, as well as a continuation of the "Guarded Hearts" series. Personally, I would not consider this a standalone story and would suggest reading book one, *Morgan*. If you are a fan of erotica with elements of paranormal and BDSM, I would recommend.

*Sharing what I love,*  
*Veronica*



### Expect Betrayal - Operation Delphi, Volume 3

*JoAnn Smith Ainsworth*

**JoAnn Smith Ainsworth**

Ebook

978-1393579403

☆☆☆ 1/2

The adventures of Lt. Livvy Delacourt continue in this third segment in the series of the top secret Operation Delphi team of talented psychics that search for Nazi spies. Together, with her superior officer and childhood friend, Cmdr. Barrington Drew III, Trey to his friends, Livvy embarks on a top secret mission. Her task is to secure the *Book of Cures*, a family collection of hundreds of years of occult writings of protections against malicious spells, before the Nazis can find it.

The premise of this series is unique and captures the epitome of wartime 1943. Hitler's fascination with the occult and America's answer with the Delphi team is a good mix of believability and imagination. While I find some scenes ramble a bit and am not a fan of two-page chapters, the storyline did keep me reading.

*Expect Betrayal - Operation Delphi, Volume 3* is an interesting read. The twists and turns of the plot will keep fans of soft thrillers drawn in.

*Kathye Quick.*

### The Killing Tide: A Brittany Mystery

*Jean-Luc Bannalec*

**Minotaur Books**

Hardcover

978-1250173386

☆☆ 1/2

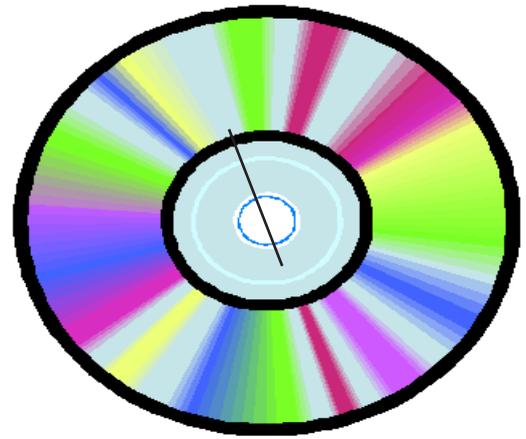
French police commissaire Georges Dupin is called to a fish warehouse where a body has been found. The woman had been packed into a barrel of rotting fish parts. Her throat's been slashed. The harbor chief identifies her as local fisherwoman, Céline Kerkrom.

Georges has just started working on Céline's case when the phone rings. Another body has been found. It's Laetitia Darot, a dolphin researcher. Her throat has also been cut. A few hours later yet another dead body turns up. This one belongs to retired virologist, Philippe Lapointe. There doesn't seem to be any connection between the three victims. But it can't be a coincidence that there have been three murders in one day in the small town. They must be related. But how?

This is a continuation of a series. It can be read alone. This book has several problems. There are way too many French words with no explanation of their meanings. Another is the length of the chapters. The first one is 200 pages long. Additionally, the plot and characters are not interesting. This addition to an internationally bestselling series does not live up to expectations.

*Sheila Griffin*

*Affaire de Coeur*



# AUDIO BOOK REVIEW

## **In Bed With the Earl**

*Written by Christie Caldwell*

*Narrated by Tim Campbell*

**Brilliance Audio**

Audiobook, 9 Cds

978-1799789196

☆☆☆☆☆



Percy North, the Earl of Maxwell, had been orphaned as a young boy. To make matters worse, he was kidnapped and left to fend on his own in the sewers of East London. Life had been hard. He had become a tosher, a scavenger who searched among the rats for items that would bring him income. He had become a hard man, menacing to many, one who had done what he had to do to survive. Though he had friends who had been toshers, he possessed little tolerance for the others, especially his fellow peers of the realm, the *Ton*.

Verity Lovelace was the illegitimate daughter of an Earl who, in the financial absence of her deceased father, was forced to work to support her siblings and maid. She works at *The Londoner*, a “gossip” newspaper that doesn’t like to have women among its team of reporters. If she doesn’t find out the current whereabouts of the Earl of Maxwell and bring in all the information she can exploit, she’s fired. Verity can’t afford to lose her job; so she jumps head-first into her assignment. Down into London’s sewers she goes where she is immediately attacked and ultimately rescued by Mr. North. Drenched in sewer water and bereft of her sister’s shoes which she lost, Verity accompanies North to his home. He doesn’t want her there; she needs a story so much, in fact, that she tells everyone, including her family, that she’s married to him. Now that she has exposed him, peers are doling their daughters out as potential brides to the Earl. To end that nonsense, he agrees with Verity to the marriage lie.

*In Bed With the Earl* is a great book in many ways. The story is good, the performance by Tim Campbell is flawless, flipping seamlessly between the Queen’s English and Cockney. The pacing and characterization are perfect. Percy North is a man to fall in love with, despite his harsh facade. Verity is his match, though this reviewer prefers not to have characters for whom deception is a tool for self preservation. Though there are nine discs, it takes only one day to listen to it. I recommend listeners add it to their repertoire. It’s a treat!

*Mildred Burkett*

## **Defending Everly**

*Written by Susan Stoker*

*Narrated by Stella Bloom*

**Brilliance Audio,**

Audiobook, 8 discs

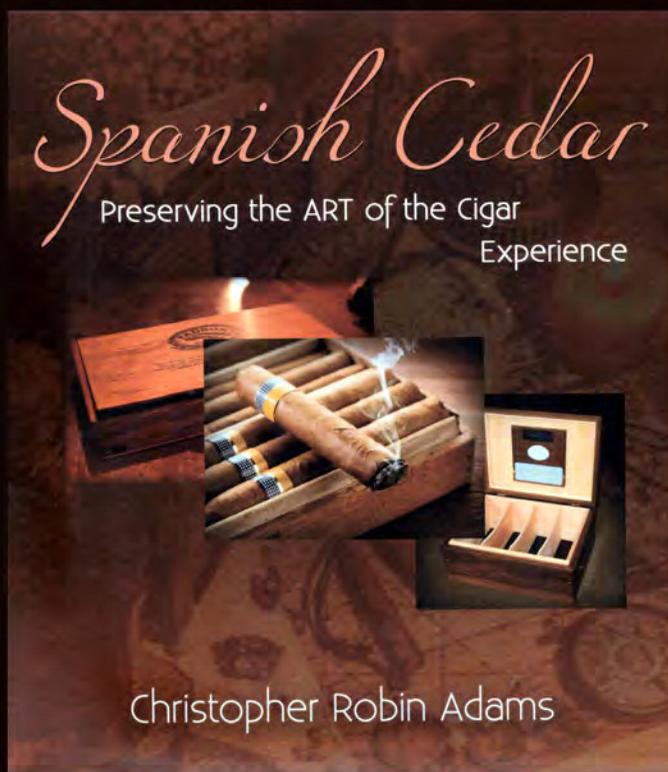
978-1799716709

☆☆

Everly Adams is a Colorado police woman. She is the daughter of a drug addict and the sister of Elise, a fifteen-year-old who is hearing impaired. Elise is the typical teen with all the angst that goes with it. She lives with her grandparents in Los Angeles, but one day she disappears without a trace. Everly must find Elise before it’s too late.

Kannon “Ball” Black belongs to a team who has special training. An experience with his former love Holly has taught him he cannot trust a woman, and he certainly doesn’t want to work with one. But, he answers the call to help find Elise. Unfortunately, he espouses his view on working with women not knowing Everly hears every word he says. Needless to say, their relationship from the onset is rocky, but who has time to think about relationships when

# A Collection of Poetry



Poems about  
specific cigars,  
about the cigar  
world, or written  
while enjoying  
a cigar.

SpanishCedarBook.com  
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the young girl is missing? The attraction between the two is undeniable, and Ball admits that not all women fit the stereotype of his fiancée. Everly more than proves her worth.

The storyline is not new but adequately handled by author Susan Stoker. The tension built up around the helpless Elise is gripping. However, the plotline is resolved by the end of the third disc, and the rest of the audiobook is denouement filled with gratuitous scenes. The sex between Everly and Ball was gratuitous; the second crime, committed by someone heretofore unmentioned, was gratuitous; the final disc was a total mystery to this reviewer. There was nothing special about the narration by Stella Bloom.

Mildred Burkett

## Trouble

Written by Adriana Locke

Narrated by Locke Engle and Lauria West

Brilliance Audio

Audiobook, 8 cd's

978-799725968

★ 1/2

Avery Perry is the 30 year-old daughter of a movie actor and a producer. She's had it with Los Angeles and moves to Dogwood Lane, Tennessee, to live with her aunt

Harper. Her first day on the job in her aunt's salon she meets Penn Etling. She has met him before, actually slept with him, but he gives no indication he has ever laid eyes on her. She wants no part of him.

Penn is the town playboy who happens to be a carpenter. He knows he's good looking and can have any woman he wants. He doesn't quite understand why Avery flatly rejects him. He wants no part of a real relationship--just a sex partner. Though he appears very superficial and shallow, there is more to him than meets the eye. With his abusive father in prison, he's had turmoil in his life that he reluctantly shared with Avery. That really touches her, and she starts to look at him differently.

The trouble with *Trouble* is that it's plotless, and the pace is so slow that it's boring in spots. Done in the first person, each chapter represents a reaction or feeling from the perspective of the narrator. The fact that Avery hasn't reminded him that they slept together is not enough to keep the book moving. Both of the main characters are shallow, and, at times, the hero is obnoxious. This reviewer is not offended by curse words if they seem natural and/or appropriate for the setting or situation. However, sometimes the interactions involving Penn and his best friend and between Avery and Penn are crass and offputting.

Mildred Burkett

# Booty from the Other Genre



## Keep Writing With Fey

*Chrys Fey*

**Freedom Fox Press**

Ebook

978-1939844750

☆☆☆☆

Writers suffer from various maladies by virtue of their career choice. Writer's block, burnout, and dejection are from time-to-time our writing partners whether we want them or not. Fey's "sparks" to help banish these writing cohorts give useful and insightful suggestions on how to break through these roadblocks.

From beginning to selling and marketing, each topic gives guidance to every writing level. Tedious. While informative, many of these suggestions could be and should be combined under the topic in which they were listed for an easier read.

*Kathye Quick*

## The Nemesis Manifesto

*Eric Von Lustbader*

**Forge**

Hard Cover

978-1250751171

☆☆☆☆

*The Nemesis Manifesto* draws on current political situations as the background for this thriller, where Department of Defense black-ops agent Evan Ryder takes on the bad guys like a female James Bond. Intrigue piles upon intrigue as Evan races to prevent the murder of any more of her fellow agents after four have already been hideously killed by a mysterious group known as Nemesis.

With a target on her own back, Evan can never be

absolutely sure who to trust as agents and double-agents, and even her superiors attempt to manipulate her to further their own interests. Ultimately the very future of the American way of life lies in her hands.

*The Nemesis Manifesto* will keep the reader turning pages, following a breath-taking international adventure and wondering if Evan can triumph with so many obstacles in her way.

*Hannah Rowan*

## The Sweeney Sisters

*Lian Dolan*

**William Morrow**

Trade Paperback

978-0062909046

EBook

9780062909060

☆☆☆☆☆

Bestselling author William Sweeney was one of the last of a dying breed--a hard drinking, gambling, womanizing macho man who was, nevertheless, devoted to his wife, Maeve, and was devastated by her death. After his own death several years later, his three grown daughters come together to plan his funeral and settle his estate. At this time they learn of the existence of a fourth Sweeney sister, who discovered the connection through a DNA test.

Liza, Maggie, and Tricia have to deal with legal issues, romances, their own tumultuous relationship, and somehow find a place for their new sister, Serena, in their upscale Southport Connecticut small town where everyone knows everyone else's business.

The secrets they uncover and the life lessons they learn make for an unforgettable read.

*Hannah Rowan*





# Five Degrees of heartwarming to melting stories Five stand-alone swoon-worthy heroes

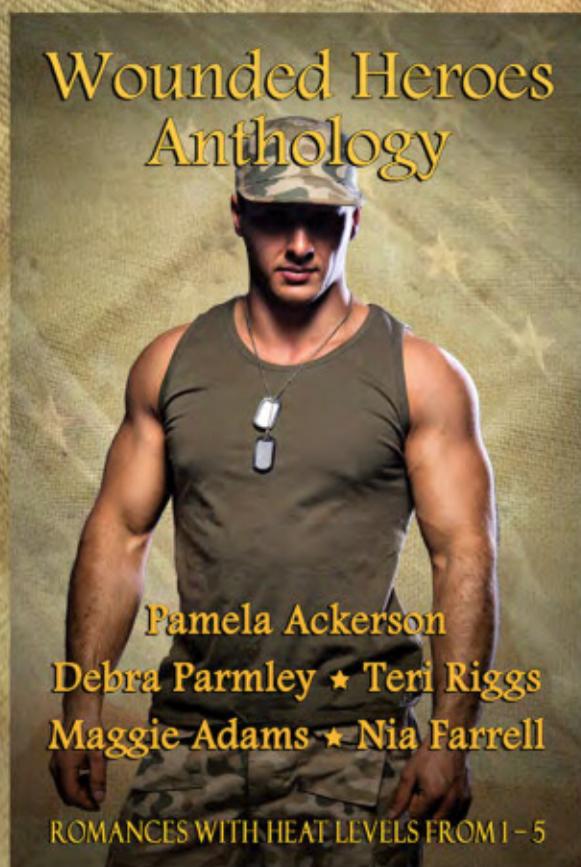
\* A Rosa for Russell ~ Who in their right mind falls in love with the enemy?

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

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

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

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



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