



Affaire de Coeur

The Staff

Editorial Director

Louise B. Snead

Editor in Chief

Lanelle Brent

President of Advertising and Marketing

Pamela Ackerson

Founder and 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 • Rebel • Hannah Rowen • 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

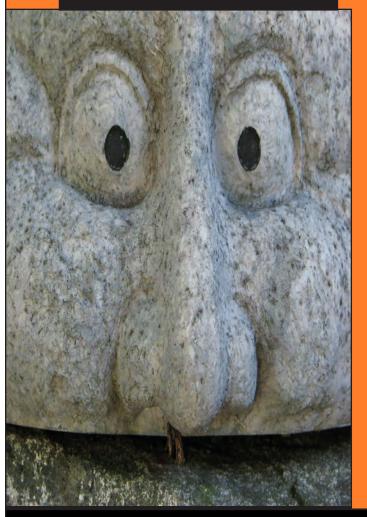
Affaire de Coeur Inc #039-3881. Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without written permission. All books and material reviewed by this publication have been read by the reviewer, and the opinions expressed are those of the reviewer. Release dates and prices are subject to change by the publisher without notice.

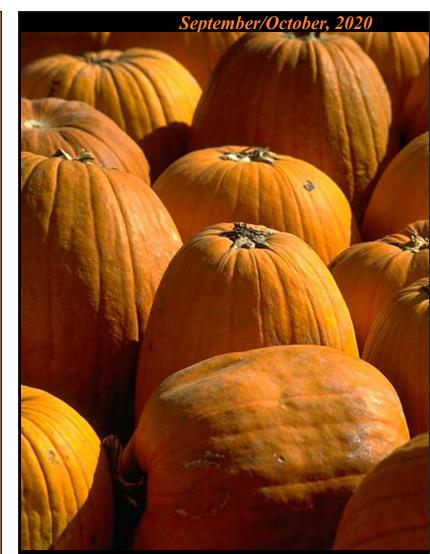
Subscription rates for the U.S.A. are \$36 for 12 issues First Class. Third class subscriptions are \$24.00 for 12 months. Canadian subscriptions are \$65.00 for one year. Other foreign countries rates are dependent upon the cost of mailing. A single issue is \$5.95.

A subcription may be purchased on line at www.adcmagazine.com/subscriptions.

Visit us at www.adcmagazine.com or www.affairedecoeur.com

CONTENTS





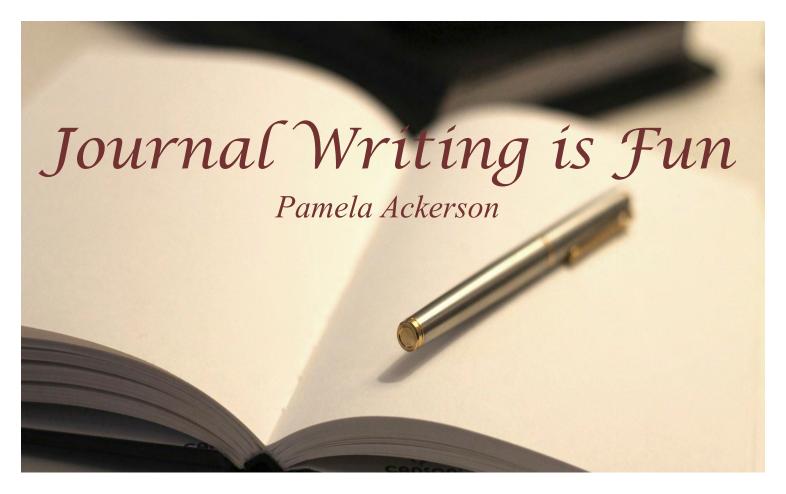
Departments and Columnss

Puzzler	18
Contemporary Romance Reviews	20
Historical Romance Reviews	22
Paranormal Romance Reviews	24
Mystery Reviews	26
Audio Reviews	28
Booty from the Other Genre	30
Late Reviews	32

Children's Reads

Articles

Journal Writing is Fun! by AdC's own Pamela Ackerson	4
Editorial	7
The First Spotlight is on Maria Meier	8
Romantic Traveling—Costa Rica	12
The Second Spotlight is on Pam Binder	16



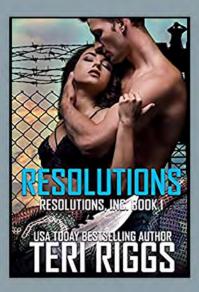
Journal writing is a great way to:

- Organize your thoughts
- List appointments and plans
- Improve your writing skills
- Ancestry information
- Stir up creativity
- Vacation/travel writing
- Engage in self-reflection
- Relieve stress
- Have a collection of sketches or drawings
- Write lyrics
- Poetry
- Ideas
- Mouse plans
- Decorating dreams
- Exercise regime and journal
- Goals
- Weekly growth documentation for your child or yourself

Journal writing can be personal; it's where you put your inner most thoughts and dreams. It can be a place to enjoy favorite quotes from inspirational authors, the Bible, songs, etc. Multiple thoughts ramble around in our heads, and some of us need to put it down on paper. That way those thought don't feel like they keep knocking at the side of our ears as a reminder.



Action-Packed Suspense





Teri-Riggs.com

@TeriLRiggs

Some to-do lists can get pretty long, and having a place to put them, along with the satisfaction of being able to cross them off—sublime!

It's easy, and very effective. It helps cope with anxiety, and writing relieves the feelings of stress. It can help to follow through on recovery and clear the mind.

Of course, having a really cute notebook that shows your personality is a plus. Writing is a great way to express yourself in a personal place.

How do you start a journal? First things first...don't worry about your spelling, or grammar. Who cares? It's for you. If you want to fix it, fix it, if not, bah, don't worry about it!

Just write and let the words flow the way you want it to. No need for perfection. If you need to do it on a schedule, go for it. If you want to write random notes to yourself throughout the day, do it. It's yours to do as you wish.

If you relax better in the morning with coffee, then do it at that time. If you prefer the evenings, then that's

for you. Pick a spot where you are most comfortable.

If you need it to be more scheduled, pick a time of day, and preferred days of the week and that's when you take the time to reflect and write, as you want, at the pace you want. Make it a part of your agenda, something you can look forward to each day or week.

Once you start writing, give yourself up to any distractions and focus on what you want to write. Don't get upset if 'life' interrupts you. Just focus when you need to.

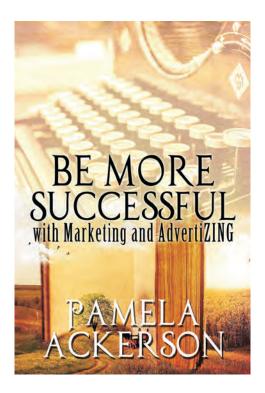
So grab yourself a cute journal and write away! And, they make awe-some gifts, too.

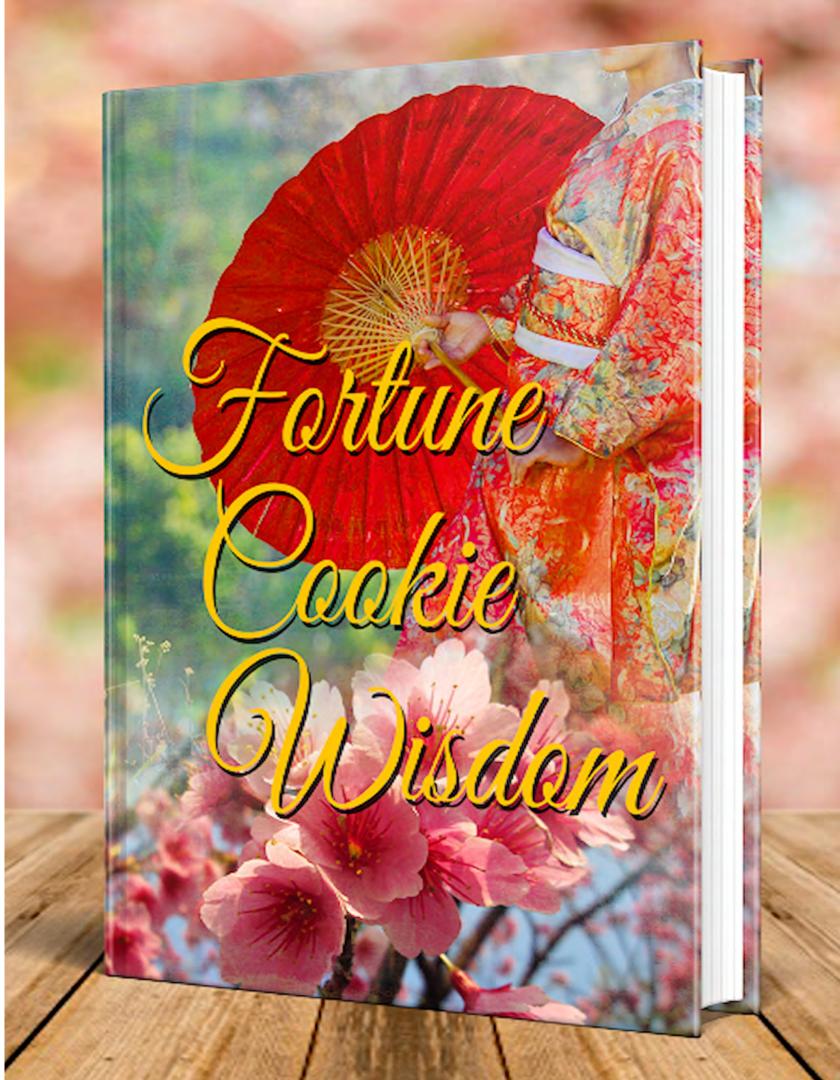
A little bit of *Fortune Cookie Wisdom* and pages for you to fill in the Blanks.

Journaling can help improve mental health and happiness, provide a creative outlet, and give a perfect place to record life's precious events. Write personal notes, thoughts, and reflections. It's perfect for self-guidance to strengthen your faith, and give yourself positive expectations, and encourage positive living.

Fun Fortune Cookie Wisdom sprinkled throughout the journal.

Grab your journal today.





Editorial

by Louise B. Snead

With November rapidly coming toward us, I do not have that much to say.



Plan your vote.





Spotlight Interview The Spotlight is on...Maria Meier

Maria Papalia-Meier is a fighter. She may have been KO'd, and down for the count, but she proved them wrong. I Am a Runner is about surviving sepsis, a coma, and amputation. Maria has a BBA with an emphasis in Human Resources and has worked for Fed-Ex for twenty years. As an athlete, she has many accomplishments. Before her battle with the river of death, she'd competed and ran in multiple 5K's. She was told she'd never run again. She proved the naysayers wrong. Her athletic accomplishments include running in a 5K and two half marathons. I Am a Runner - the Memoirs of a Sepsis Survivor is available in print and e-book.

AdC: When you decided to write this memoir, what was the process you had to go through?

MPM: When I decided I wanted to write my memoir, I started putting notes together. I started gathering facts, going thru old posts to come up with a timeline of events. I had to rely on other individual's information for the time I was in my coma, so I used the letter my husband wrote detailing the daily events, and wrote family and friends asking them for information.

I then put it all in date order and put it in a binder. I took my notes and inserted them where they went so I had a binder of my story but no one to give it to. I was blessed to find Pam; she is the sister of a gentleman I used to work with in Atlanta.

AdC: How long did it take you from start to finish?

MPM: A year.

AdC: Tell us about the ups-and-downs you had to face the first few months after being released from the hospital.

MPM: When I first came home, I was nervous. For the first time in a while, I



didn't have anyone monitoring me to make sure my vitals were ok and my blood work was normal. I was weak, didn't feel like eating and was focused on all that I had lost instead of what I had been blessed with, which was a second chance. I had trouble eating, I couldn't shower because of my feet, and I was dependent on everyone for anything I needed. I had my toes attached still and had to face daily bandage changes, which was not fun. I felt like a lump in the chair whose whole life was different, and, at the time, I didn't think in a good way.

AdC: What would you like to say to people who are struggling right now with their own battles?

MPM: You have to take things day by day. I came up with the saying "celebrate the little victories in life. Those can lead to the biggest changes." Because when I was focused on what I wasn't doing (mainly running) instead of focusing on the little things I was doing-walking, washing my own hair, making my own lunch, dressing myself... Once my mindset changed and I realized I was becoming more and more independent, I began to celebrate those little steps I was making. That is when my life changed and little by little, those little goals helped me reach my larger goal.

AdC: What is a perfect running day?

MPM: 90 degrees and humid. LOL My feet don't like it but I do. I would say they are all good honestly. God has blessed me with a second chance and answered my prayers, which was for me to have the ability to run again. No day is going to be perfect, but any day I can lace up my sneakers and go for a run is a blessing.



AdC: When did you decide to train for a marathon?

MPM: I have wanted to do it for a while. I have done a few 1/2 marathons and really had an itch to do a full. I want to see what I can do; I want a new goal to attain. If I don't try, I have already failed.

AdC: Will you be attending any speaking engagements, book signings, or conventions in 2020 and 2021?

MPM: I don't have anything planned yet. I have done a number of podcast and would love to do more. In person events will all depend on COVID and what things look like.

AdC: Where can people find your book?

MPM: My book is currently for sale on Amazon.

AdC: Do you have any words of wisdom you'd like to pass on?

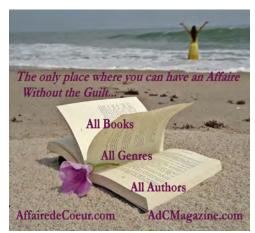
MPM: You can accomplish anything you set your mind to. Sometimes obstacles we place on ourselves are ones that are told to us by others or we place on ourselves. When you remove those obstacles then you can really move forward and reach your goals. Start small and little by little, you will reach your larger goal. Nothing worth working for is ever easy,

AdC: Please give us the following contact information:

Personal web page. <u>www.thetoelessrun-</u>ner.com.

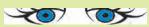
Twitter @PapaliaMeier

Instagram @PapaliaMeier



Facebook thetoelessrunner

An Affaire de Coeur



Sneak Peek

I am a Runner

"You'll never be able to run again."

From running half marathons to being the sickest person in the hospital, Maria Papalia-Meier fought the river of death, and won.

A riveting true story of a young healthy woman who enters the emergency room of the hospital for what she considered a minor infection and was suddenly fighting death from sepsis. *I am a Runner* shows the strong passionate hope she and her family fought in the darkest moments of their lives. After enduring sepsis, heart failure, a coma, multiple surgeries, and a multitude of health issues, she faced the recovery process with strength and faith.

Maria Papalia-Meier rose from the tragedy and transformed the negative into positive action. She fought the misguided doomsayers with a steadfast dynamic vision, allowing a new and better future for herself and her family.

Excerpt:

Tuesday morning I decided I was in no condition to go to work. I received a few calls on my work cell phone and answered a few.

I remember saying I was unwell and telling them to speak with someone else. It was out of character for me.

I stayed in bed, in pain and moaning because I couldn't get comfortable. I decided to take a warm shower.

My legs were stiff. My body shook as I leaned onto the tile wall. I could barely stand. I had piteous visions of paramedics rescuing me as I lay naked in the shower. I managed to sit on the little ledge.

Myatt was at work, but I cried for him, thinking how much having the flu sucked.

When he arrived home, I told him how terrible I was feeling and whimpered about how I was dying. I called the doctor, and he recommended a visit if there wasn't any improvement.

A good night's rest would help.

The symptoms started getting worse. Myatt came home early from work, and we went to the doctor. I was in severe pain and extremely weak. I had a hard time walking and needed to rest a few times before making it to the doctor's office.

I was slightly feverish, and my head was throbbing. My throat burned, and my muscles and bones ached. They were screaming at me. Of course, all of this was topped with exhaustion.

I was groaning and was short of breath. I could tell by the look on his face he thought I was exaggerating. I understand his attitude.

Prior behavior on my part for many years was to embellish my illnesses. I hated being sick, so I was always 'dying'. So when I moaned, he took it as typical me dramatizing my illness.

Myatt helped me walk to the office. My legs were laden with unseen lead, my head felt like a vice was clasped to my temples, and I attempted to sit in the elevator. I was deteriorating with each assisted step, shaking and feeble with each pain-wracking movement.

I remember laying my head on Myatt's lap. I think that's when he knew I was really out of sorts. They took me to a room right away so I could lie down while I was waiting for the doctor.

I figured I was dehydrated. The doctor would hook up an IV and I'd be sent home.

I placed an aberrant effect on my positive attitude. It created an imagined phobia causing anxiety and trepidation. My imagination took over, and I was in trouble.

Unfortunately, this time I wasn't aggrandizing the pain and discomfort.

I have a fear of dying. I don't want to leave my kids, my family, nor my husband. I certainly, as selfish as it sounds, didn't want him finding someone else to love. My insecurities would creep out from their negative abyss, and I



would have heart-wrenching nightmares he'd find a woman nicer than me, who treated him better, and then he'd forget about me, and all the magnificent times we had together.

A statistician will tell you dying is a numbers game. They throw percentages out there for us to see with every medicine commercial and doctor's evaluation.

It couldn't be *my* number hitting the reaper's roulette table.

We had no clue I really was on the brink of death.

They took my temperature and did a strep test.

They had trouble getting my blood pressure.

The doctor ordered an oxygen mask, and an ambulance was called.

Things got a bit foggy from there.

I asked the ambulance paramedic, "Am I going to die? Please don't let me die."

My last memories were being rolled into the ambulance.



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.



DebraParmley.com

@DebraParmley

MaggieAdamsBooks.com @AuthrMaggieAdms

NiaFarrell.Wordpress.com @AuthrNiaFarrell

PamelaAckerson.com @PamAckerson

Teri-Riggs.com @TeriLRiggs

www.amazon.com/dp/B07WMW1QVL

Romantic Traveling Costa Ri ca

picked Costa Rica because three of my children had been there, and I hadn't. My friend, author La Florya Gauthier and her hubby vacation at Jaco Beach every year in January to avoid the cold Montreal winter. They love it there. So I thought it was time for me to check it out and see what was so alluring about this country. With a poor recall of unrelatable geography (places I knew I never would get to), I had only the vaguest idea of where Costa Rica was. Had I known, I would have planned better. Costa Rica is only a few hours' ride to Panama, and I would have loved to see the Panama Canal. But this is a trip you have to plan for. Consequently, I missed it. For the record, Costa Rica is a Central American country with Panama south of it and Nicaragua north of it. Its in the tropical zone and on once side is the Pacific Ocena and the other side the Caribbean Sea.

Liberia

Liberia

Liberia

Caribbean

Sea

Puntarenas Alajuela

Puntarenas Alajuela

Cartago

Carrago

San Isidro

NORTH

PACIFIC

OCEAN

Isla del Coco
is not strown.

post-Christmas, there are still more than enough places to go in downtown San Jose. Restaurants abound and the food is delicious. There are numerous shops here are so many nice things about Costa Rica that it's hard to know where to start. It is a mostly Spanish speaking country, and I would suggest you have some knowledge of their language. Among the five of us who went, none of us were fluent; some of us had studied Spanish, but not nearly enough. There are plenty of natives there who speak English, but it is arrogant for us Americans to assume that everyone does. If you really want trouble trying to communicate, there are still some Costa Ricans who are aboriginal and speak Bribri or one of the other regional languages.

Because Costa Rica is in the Tropical zone, there is a rain forest with all the exotic plants and animals that go with it. It's also a country of tropical climate and constantly warm, no matter where you go. And, it rains.

The capital of Costa Rica is San José. Though many venues are closed



This dude meets you at the beginning of the Jade Museum

and souvenirs places to leave your cash. The currency of Costa Rica is the colon, though in many places the American dollar is accepted. To help with the conversion between colons and dollars, I recommend an app on the cell phone called Currency Converter. Or put everything on your credit card, and let them figure it out.

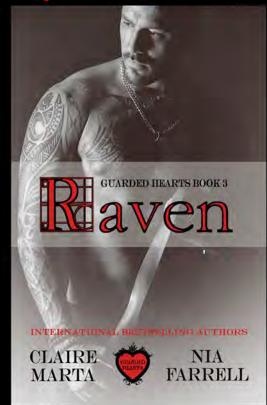




Life-like figures like these show early pre-invasion history

variety of museums are located in downtown San Jose--the Gold, Pre-Columbian, and the Jade museum. We picked the Jade Museum, and we were not sorry we did. It's three-four stories of beauty--artifacts, painting, and displays--which all happen to be educational as well. One can follow the culture of the original occupants of Costa Rica without having

REVIEWS FOR RAVEN (GUARDED HEARTS BOOK 3) by Claire Marta and Nia Farrell http://mybook.to/GH3



Farrell and Marta have done it again! Created a story to sweep you away...

This is one storyline that is nothing like I expected it to be. It was so much better! From the beginning you will be hooked as the words from the characters bleed in your ears with the delectable accents that will have you swooning. I highly recommend this series.

This might be my favorite from this series to date!
There was something magical about Raven and her
connection with Cayden and Killian.
The back and forth? The instant desire?
Holy ignite all those lower bits & hot!!!

"A few twists, lots of drama & a big omg I wasn't expecting that at the end."

I love these two amazing authors when they collaborate... You will be hooked right from the start and unable to stop reading until you're finished.

THIS IS ONE SERIES
THAT IS
LINEOR CETTABLE

This is a fantasy/paranormal erotic romance series So if down and dirty are not your thing? I would skip this

If power exchanges are a bit out of your comfort zone? I would skip this If fated mates, second chances and bratty women and the men who love them are your thing?

If fated mates, second chances and bratty women and the men who love them are your thing. Then this definitely the series for you.





Visitors aboud at the Irazu Volcano

to imagine what it was like because it's all displayed for you. The tour of the museum can take as long or as short as you want it to be. There are so many magnificent things there, I suggest you take your time. The cost of entering the museum was around \$20 per person and worth every bit of it. (If there was a senior discount, I did not know enough Spanish to inquire about it. Besides, I'm much too young to qualify for it.)

f it's volcanoes you want to see, you can certainly find them. We went to the Irazu Volcano. For that, we hired a van, and it took us about three hours to get there. You have to pay the park entrance fee whether you're on foot or in a motor vehicle, and then you must pay to see the volca-



Taken from the road on the way down from the volcano

no. If you're like me and haven't seen a volcano up close, this was grand. At Irazu, there are two very large volcano pits, neither of which was active when we were there. The funny thing is while you can feel yourself going up, you have no idea how high in the mountains you are until the return trip. It is surreal in that you are constantly looking down at the clouds.

he next stop of our agenda was Limon on the Caribbean side of Costa Rica. For that, we had to take a bus trip. I think the round trip was less than \$30 per person, and the ride was great in that you could see a change of the terrain as you rode. I have to admit, the Caribbean side was livelier, but maybe that was because

The Caribbean Side of Costa Rica



Our hostel



Tropical Fruit



Exotic Plants

we were there New Year's Eve. My son made last minute arrangements for us, and it was my first (and last) experience in staying in a hostel. Because there were six of us, we took the entire building and didn't have to worry about strangers. It wasn't bad, but I'm too old for hosteling with cold showers. They did offer us a continental breakfast. This



My ferns don't look like these



Colorful and fragrant

side of Costa Rica was warmer and had beaches of black sand. The flora caught my attention because the variety of flowers and plants were so lovely. Equally notable was the variety of people. The scary part was the unexpected reminder that Costa Rica is a third world country with it's own set of laws. Seemingly out of nowhere, a group of police descended on the bus, stopped it, and made a number of us get off. They had me identify my suitcase and when I did, they put it on the ground, opened and searched it. To this day, I have no

Affaire de Coeur



Black Sands of Limon

idea why any of this happened. here is no way I would go to a rain forest country and not see the animals. At the end of our trip, we went to LaPaz to the Wildlife Refuge. That, too, is an all-day trip. It takes at least two hours to get there and longer if it's in non-stop rain as we were. All of the animals are indigenous to Costa Rica, often visible in their natural habitat. These animals are being rescued from certain death and are kept by the Costa Rican Wildlife Ministry. The animals are separated by sections, beginning with the birds. It was exciting for me to see Toucans, Macaws, and the numbers of hummingbirds. The next area was designated for plants, the likes of which can only be seen there. I scurried through the Reptile house but not before I saw a boa constrictor that had just eaten. The apes were next and, because it was raining so hard, they wouldn't come out into the open. Finally, my favorite, the big cats, particularly the jaguars. One of them didn't like us at all, and I had the feeling if he could have gotten to us, he would have. Nonetheless, he was gorgeous and majestic, and I was awed by his sheer beauty. The price of admission was around \$20. Lunch could be added with the price of admission to the Wildlife Refuge for about \$10. Surprisingly, the food was very good, an all-you-eat can buffet withe even food for a vegetarian. And there was a souvenir shop is attached with everything from raincoats, which we had to buy to coffee. Did I say coffee? They boast of being the second best coffee in the world. They're right.

A bonus I had not expected was a beautiful waterfall that was less

The Animals of Costa Rica and a Waterfall



A trio of Parrots



A Toucan



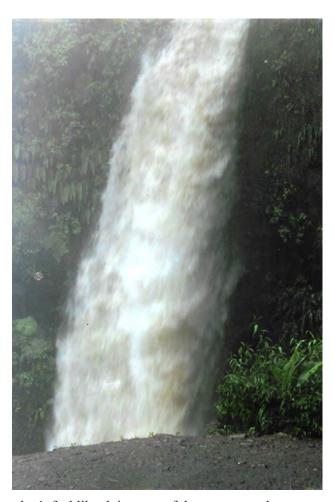
A boa constrictor



My favorite, the Jaguar

than five minutes' drive from the Refuge that our driver knew about.

There are so many things to do in Costa Rica ranging from hiking to zip lining to the numerous tours available. If



you don't feel like doing any of that, you can always go to one of the many beautiful beaches and just take it easy. There are also so many romantic places to stay--on the edge of the forest, next to a waterfall, overlooking a valley. Costa Rica is a great place to go for all ages.



The second Spotlight Interview is on ...

Pam Binder

Pam Binder is an award-winning *New York Times* bestselling author. Pam was the recipient of the Romantic Times 2018 Pioneers in Romance award. Pam loves travel, chocolate, and reruns of the TV series, *The Highlander*.



A bookseller compared Pam's time travel novels and the way she wove history into her stories to books written by Diana Gabaldon. Pam writes the "Matchmaker Cafe" series, and the "Immortal Highlander" series. Her first fantasy young adult released in 2018, *Grace Logan and the Goblin Bones*.

Being a hybrid writer, she likes to use the main scene beats in Christopher Vogler's *The Writer's Journey*, and Blake Snyder's *Save the Cat*. Her favorite thing about writing is creating worlds from the ideas in her head. She was a daydreamer as a child, and now

she gets to write it all for her readers' enjoyment.

She gets her plot ideas from asking the question, what if. What if the snow never stopped falling? What if your best friend was immortal? What if you had a magic touch and could turn everything into chocolate?

She writes her stories a section at a time. For example, if she isn't sure where she wants her story to end, she'll write the last five chapters of the story even before she's written the middle. Each novel is different, and each story has its own journey. She likes to create characters that have secrets.

Finding the right name for her characters has to be on target in order for the words to flow. She knows when she doesn't have the name right, because their dialogue doesn't flow. Creating and developing characters with their perfect name is a necessity for her.

The "Matchmaker Cafe" series combines her love of travel, adventure, and romance. Each story for her matchmakers takes them to a new place around the world, where they match couples, and try to find love.

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

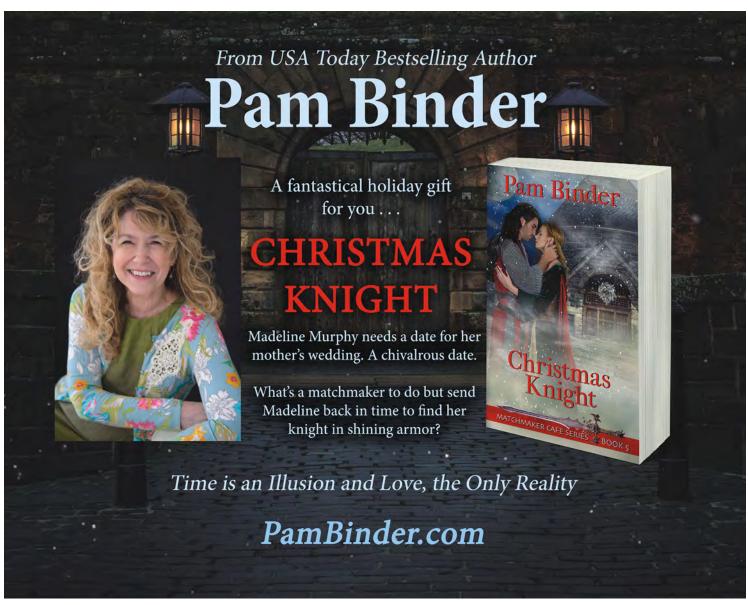
Pam is a writing teacher. One of the things she tell her students, "Never give up. The difference between a published author and an unpublished author is that the unpublished author stopped writing."

Personal web page: PamBinder.com

Twitter: @PamBinder183

Facebook: Facebook.com/Pam-Binder





Christmas Knight Excerpt

Colin Edward Penrose, a knight from fifteenth-century Glastonbury, England, must solve the riddle of his family's curse and marry a woman out of time—or lose his ancestral home. With a matchmaker's help, he meets a woman to whom he feels an instant attraction, but he knows the curse makes falling in love dangerous for her.

Madeline Murphy, defense attorney in a prestigious law firm, needs a date for her family's Christmas Eve party. In desperation, she turns to a matchmaker for her knight in shining armor. The man supplied exceeds her wildest fantasy but vanishes without a trace.

A year later, she needs a date for her mother's wedding, and she asks the same matchmaker. One problem: In order to find her mystery man, she must travel through time.

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

Fifteenth-century knight Sir Colin Edward Penrose is the last of the Penrose heirs. The family being cursed by the powerful wizard Merlin to have the wife of any Penrose die after giving birth, has Colin willing to give up his inheritance rather than pass the curse onto his bride. But. when he meets a matchmaker who says that she has found a way to break Merlin's Curse by finding Colin a bride out of time, Colin takes a leap of faith and prays this time, the matchmaker is correct.

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



Back to School (or not) Louise B. Snead

Across

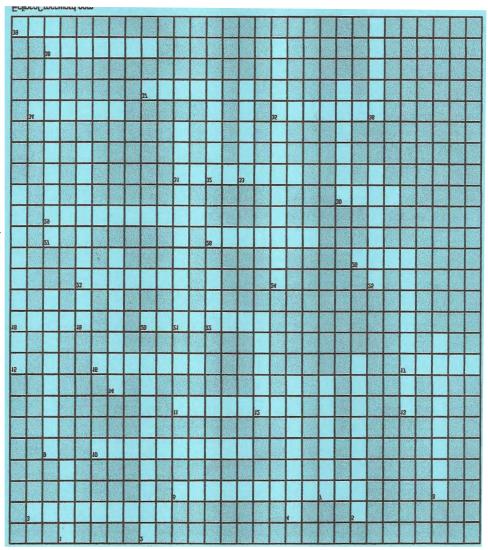
- 3. One will find the Periodic Table in this class.
- 6. Class before 1st grade.
- 10. Large dark surface on which the teacher writes for all to see.
- 11. Class where students exercise or learn sports,_____education class
- 16. Frogs are dissected in this class.
- 17. Not on time.
- 18. Planned adventures with teachers outside of the school, trip.
- 20. Students carry their books in it.
- 23. Person in charge of the classes.
- 26. Furniture upon which a child in school works.
- 28. Classes where students are taught how speak in different countries' language.
- 29. This count tells who is absent.
- 30. or fail.
- 31. What is supposed to take place at school.
- 34. Most schools have these as good luck charms, especially at football games.
- 35. A class to study both grammar and Shakespeare.
- 37. The rating at the end of the semester.
- 38. A style of penmanship that has fallen by the wayside.
- 39. Vehicle that takes students to school.

Down

- 1. Saved by it.
- 2. Bad behavior will end you up in the 's office.
- 4. Students who direct traffic and sometimes other students.
- 5. Same clothing worn by all the students
- 7. Helper (usually paid) when student is having trouble
- 8. Assignments not to be done in the classroom.
- 9. Apple or PC used to do school work.
- 12. What you need to write on #10.
- 13. A three-ring thing you write in. .

- 14. Classes that are conducted online and away from the school building.
- 15. Where students eat lunch.
- 19. After school place for those who have misbehaved.
- 21. List of classes or content of classes.
- 22. Teacher's favorite student.
- 24. A class where angles and degrees are focused on.
- 25. A break in the classes.
- 27. This class is where students study numbers.
- 30. Usually use a #2 of these to write with.
- 32. Fruit for the teacher.
- 33. The person the student sees when he/she hurts himself, school
- 36. Skipping school.

Answers on page 31



Pages for you to fill in the blanks!

Journal writing improves mental health and happiness, provides a creative outlet, and gives a perfect place to record your thoughts and precious events.

Pambling Roads Journals Great for all ages.

Available at your favorite bookstore.

U.S. State Journals with tidbits and trivia! Several states to choose from...

Arizona Tennessee Idaho Rhode Alabama Kentucky Island Mississippi Iowa Georgia ashington, Oklahoma D.C. California South Ohio Carolina Texas Virginia Kansas Florida Colorado Illinois

More US states are on the way...

PamelaAckerson.com



Contemporary Romance Reviews

Going Under (Wildfire Lake #2)

Skye Jordan

Cygnet

Mass Market
978-8666098004

Going Under, the second book in Skye Jordan's 'Wildfire Lake' series, explores KT's first foray into love after years of fun, casual, commitment-free sex. A free-spirit, tomboy, mechanic who has sailed the world working on cruise ships, KT is used to making her own rules and having her pick of attractive men to get her fill of hot sex. But since she has been in Wildfire Lake with her best friends building their new business, it hasn't been as easy for her. Her choices are limited, and she has a reputation to consider/protect, at least until business is stable enough for her to invest in a sailboat and get back out on the seas to her first, and only, love, sailing.

Ben, a doctor, and father of three daughters, moved to town to be closer to his family and provide more support for his daughters and himself. Raising three daughters--two small girls and a preteen who is going through a rough patch, and working a full-time job to provide for them isn't easy. He loves his job, but nothing in the world as much as he loves his girls for whom he'd sacrifice anything.

For KT it's lust at first sight when she sees Ben at the ER; so she pursues him even though he's not her type. Ben, in desperate need of help with his daughter's bunk bed, can't turn down her offer to help put it together. It takes him a little longer to take her up on her other offer because while she is irresistible, he's not sure casual sex with her would be enough. While Ben and KT have legitimate conflicts in lifestyles, responsibilities, and dreams, the instant chemistry and connection between them is genuine and powerful—with the unexpected potential for love, something for which neither is prepared.

Skye's description is vivid and character development is wonderful. Even the love scenes, which are sexy and emotional, contribute to the development of KT and Ben and their relationship. *Going Under* allows the hero and heroine to be human but approach a relationship like grown-ups by finding balance. Neither is treated like the bad guy or victim for their choices and each takes responsibility for their own choices and mistakes and that's refreshing. *Going Under* is a steamy, sweet, charming, and slightly angsty small-town contemporary romance that brilliantly flips the traditional character traits/roles of the heroine and hero while exploring what can happen when we meet that someone with whom we connect with so intensely that he or she throws our whole world into a tailspin.

Lacy Hill

Contemporaries

Looking for a Cowboy (Heart of Texas Book 5)

Donna Grant St. Martin's Press Mass Market 978-1250250063 ********1/2

P. I. Marlee Frampton works exclusively for families whose little one had been kidnapped. Her investigation leads Marlee to Clearview, Texas, where a couple has just adopted a baby. She believes he's been stolen from his family. While in town, Marlee unexpectedly finds herself having dinner with Cooper Owens, the adoptive father's good friend.

Cooper asks Marlee what she's doing in town. As Marlee stares into his gorgeous eyes, she finds herself blurting out a question. Marlee asks if it's possible that Brice and Naomi paid someone to kidnap a baby for them. Cooper is outraged and storms off. Marlee knows that talking to the adoptive parents is a bad idea, but she has no choice. If Cooper gets to the couple before Marlee does, they might disappear with the baby. Surprisingly the couple readily agrees to a DNA test.

While waiting for the DNA results, Cooper discovers that a group based in Clearwater has been stealing children from all over the country. Is it possible these heinous crimes have been committed right under his nose? As Cooper and Marlee work together, they fall in love. But his home's in Texas while hers is in California. And Cooper won't leave his family and friends. Or will he?

Although this is the continuation of a series, it can be read alone. It's a very good book. *Sheila Griffin*

Riley's Rescue (Last Chance #6)

Lexi Post Self Pub E-Book B08BX6Q61F



Under your scars I pray
You're like a shooting star in the rain
You're everything that feels like home to me
Under your scars, I could live inside you time after time
If you'd only let me live inside of mine
-Under Your Scars, Godsmack

Army vet Riley O'Hare has made a pact with herself to not make any long-lasting connections--if you don't stay any place too long, people can't hurt you and you can't hurt them. This has worked well for her up until her stint at Last Chance Ranch. Riley has stayed way beyond usual and has concluded that this ranch is not only a haven for rescue animals, but perhaps for broken humans too

Garrett Walker, former wildfire fighting Hot Shot, is working towards beginning a new life. When his fellow firefighting friend offers him employment at Last Chance Ranch, he decides to give it a go. But he never planned on running into a beautiful feisty redhead nor dream of baring his heart to another.

Riley and Garrett find themselves in a situation most would never overcome, but together, they make each other stronger. Now if only Riley can look beyond what broke her and see that she'd been so caught up in trying to keep her inner scars from showing, she hadn't recognized he might have his own.

Dear Reader, I am 100% in love with this story! Not going to spoil the adventure that brings Riley and Garrett together; so you will just have to snag your own copy! But let me say that these two broken souls discover so much about each other in a short time, and even when we are blinded by what is in front of us, our soul can still feel its mate. Loved and highly recommend! Sharing what I love, Veronica



Historical Romance Reviews

Any Rogue Will Do (Misfits of Mayfair #1)

Bethany Bennett Forever E-book B083SDCSJ15 ******

22



'I love you...I'm so sorry I hurt you...Go ahead and be angry with me. I deserve it...I'll still love you when you're done with the mad.'

Lady Charlotte 'Lottie' Wentworth was dubbed the 'Paper Doll Princess' during her first Season. Fleeing the gossips of London, she finds solace in taking over the running of her father's estate. When circumstances change and Lottie is faced with an ultimatum to keep her independence, she enlists the aid of her godmother to seek a husband who will allow her to keep her freedom. Never would she dream the very man who ruined her all those years ago with the nickname 'Paper Doll Princess' would become the very savior she needed.

Ethan Ridley, Lord Amesbury and known as 'Mac'

to his friends, can't believe his good fortune, or mayhap it is a curse. He finds himself once again in the company of the beautiful Lady Charlotte. Years ago, in a drunken stupor, he unintentionally hurt Lady Charlotte by calling her a 'Paper Doll Princess,' and it was just too good for the gossip rags not to publish and completely ruin her. With hat in hand, Ethan apologizes, and while not overwhelmingly accepted, Lady Charlotte and Ethan come to a truce which blossoms into a budding friendship, and friends do tend to make the best of lovers.

Lottie's and Ethan's story is a wonderfully written second chance romance I could not put down! There is so much happening within these pages, and I don't want to give away too much in a review! Dear Reader, be ready to add this smexxy Scot to your boyfriend list! I highly recommend it and look forward to the next installment to the 'Misfits of Mayfair!'

Sharing what I love, Veronica

The Highland Laird

Amy Jarecki
Forever
E-Book
B084FXMKS3



"I intend to have the memory of this time with you to cherish in my heart for the rest of my days." "Let the rest of our lives be an endless adventure."

Emma Grant has lived in a cocoon of protection since the day she was born. Her brother has done all he can to ensure her safety, but even the all-powerful Robert Grant could never have predicted his sister would run off to risk life and limb to rescue his long-time friend Ciar MacDougall from the gallows for a crime he didn't commit.

Laird Ciar MacDougall finds himself facing certain death at the hands of the English. So, when he's rescued by a wee lass and her pup, he can barely believe it, for the beautiful Emma Grant, whom he's long held in the highest esteem, has been blind since birth. She is the last person he ever dreamed would be outside his prison cell offering him his chance at freedom. Ciar is forced to flee and go into hiding until he can prove his innocence. Emma is thrilled to finally be free and living a grand adventure with the one man who has always treated her as his equal rather than an invalid. Emma is not going to let the opportunity pass her by to tell Ciar how she feels, and offer him her heart, body and soul.

Amy Jarecki's *The Highland Laird* was impossible to put down! Imperfect characters are my favorites, and the author has woven a romance with a hero who isn't necessarily swoon worthy handsome but has a kind heart, and a heroine who 'sees' all the good in the world and has a way of sharing her sight with those she's around. Loved and highly recommend!

Sharing what I love,

Veronica

Shadow Manor (Secrets of Covington Corner #1)

Dani Wade Self-Pub E-Book B08G7DD9C8 ★★★★

Once upon a time, Cara Gatlin was in love with the boy next door until tragedy struck and the loss of his parents became her loss as well. As time passes, Cara still finds herself fantasizing about the tall, dark and mysterious Jacob Montgomery. She has been researching the Montgomery Family history and is desperate for an answer as to why he turned his back on her. As fate would have it, she finds herself invited to a masquerade ball with Jacob in attendance, and a night of passion soon turns into more questions than answers. Will Jacob once again break her heart, or is there something much more sinister behind

his coldness? *Shadow Manor* is a quick read that reminds me of the Gothic romance novels I loved to read with my mom. While I wish the author would have given just a wee bit more story, it appears this will be a series of novellas, and I'm looking forward to the next Covington Corner secret to be revealed! Would recommend to fans of short smexxy romance with just a hint of mystery! *Sharing what I love*,

Veronica



Paranormal Romance Reviews



Arizona Thunder (Vyro Creek Book 2)

Natasza Waters Self-Pub

E-book 978-099525989 *****



"Mate with me or not. Marry me or not, we are eternal. I love you, Ariana Holland, the woman I choose as my mate. The beautiful woman who owns my un-beating heart and my soul."

After making the decision to start a fresh life, Ariana and her two best friends Tess and Lynn have discovered they may have bitten off more than just becoming ranch owners. They are the neighbors of powerful royal vampire brothers who are determined to protect the women as well as make them their own. As if the verra smexxy brothers aren't

enough to get the heart racing, Ariana and her friends find themselves in the middle of a vampire rebellion!

After a stormy start to their love affair, Ariana and Quinn stop fighting the chemistry between them and merge to become a powerful force against those that would rise up against them and those they protect. When the truth of the evil orchestrating the rebellion is brought to life, the smallest of the Connelly clan may quickly become their largest asset.

Dear Reader, like most lovers of paranormal stories, over time, vampire romances tend to start sounding the same. While enjoyable, we already see the ending long before the last page. But not with the "Vyro Creek" series! Natasza Waters has written a paranormal romance with an all new take on the vampire legend like I've never read before, and I loved every minute of it!

Arizona Thunder is one of those stories you devour and don't want to end! Writing a review for this installment was difficult because there is so much action and verra verra hawt vamp lovin' going on that I didn't want to spoil the adventure! So just trust me and READ IT! Honestly, wish I

24

Paranormals

could give it more than 5 stars!

Readers note: Do not read the books out of order. Again, just trust me here! You can thank me later! Sharing what I love, Veronica

Chance of a Lifetime (Providence Falls #1)

Jude Deveraux, Tara Sheets
MIRA
E-book
B0813R9WG

"I'm nothing but a thief, my love."
"So, steal me away."

In 1844 Ireland, Liam O'Conner is a devilishly handsome rogue and thief. He uses his charm and wits to steal in order to feed his extended family, Liam has never had a much of a conscience until his gang of unruly thieves set their sights on robbing the squire's home and burning it to the ground. Determined to spare the man who had been kind to his family when they lost their home, Liam sneaks through a window with a plan to find the squire's hidden jewels to deliver back to his thieving friends. But on the other side of the window was a gem Liam hadn't counted on, one with a soul as kind as her beauty--Cora McLeod, the squire's daughter. Cora and Liam make for unlikely friends, but as they sneak time with each other, their friendship turns towards something much stronger, a love that will carry on from one life to the next. Skip forward to present day Providence Falls, North Carolina. It's just Liam's luck that the woman he loved was fated to be with another, and now the angels are determined he fix his meddling with destiny. So now Liam is forced to play matchmaker or his soul will forever be damned.

Spoiler Alert

Chance of a Lifetime has a major cliffhanger!! So, if you are looking for a complete romance with a HEA, you have been warned, it's not gonna happen! I'm assuming it will be concluded sometime in the next installments (fingers crossed), and I'm seriously hoping for a wee bit more romance between Cora and Liam (there is little to none in this book). Did I enjoy the story? Took me a bit to get over being peeved over the cliffhanger, and still not overly happy with so many loose threads just unraveled with no conclusion. (Pulling hair and using many sentence enhancers.) Ok, I'm over my tantrum, maybe. Yes, I enjoyed the story, and now that I know this series will most likely read like chapter books with no ending till the conclusion of the series, I'll be

better prepared. Do I recommend it? Oh, that's a tough one. Yes, I would recommend because it is an enjoyable story, and I'm so rooting for Liam and Cora to get their HEA!! #Team-Liam

Apologies for a rambling review, but this one was difficult to summarize and put thoughts onto paper without ranting over the cliffhanger. (I guess I'm still not over it.) Read and draw your own conclusions it is a good story!! Sharing what I love, Veronica

The Invisible Life of Addie Larue

V. E. Schwab
Tor Books
Hardcover
978-0765387561

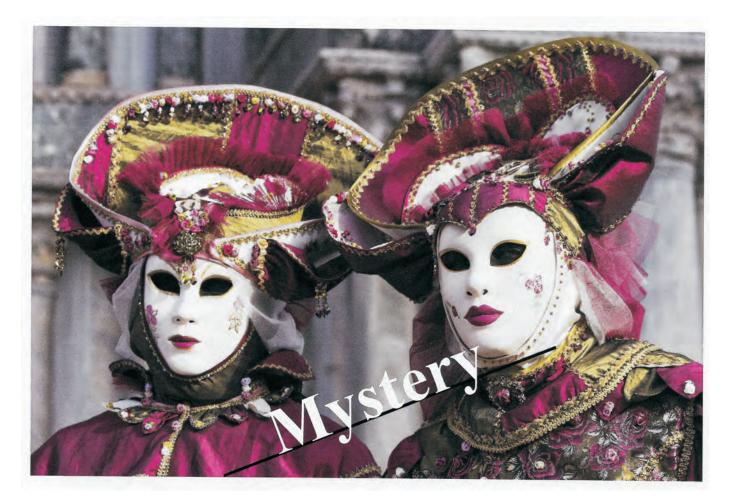
It's 1714, and Addie Larue is a happy twenty-three-year-old spinster. Then a widower offers to marry her. Addie's father accepts. She begs the old gods for help and one of them answers. Addie wants the freedom to make her own choices and time to explore the world. In exchange, Addie agrees to give him her life when she's done with it and her soul when she no longer wants it.

The god makes Addie virtually immortal. She never ages. He also makes her forgettable. It's literally a case of 'out of sight, out of mind.' For example, she pays for a place to sleep, and the next morning the landlady doesn't remember that Addie's already paid. She kicks her out and Addie's homeless again. Addie makes friends only to have them forget her the minute she's out of their sight.

Centuries pass, and Addie is always forgotten. Then she meets Henry Strauss. Henry not only remembers Addie, he falls in love with her. For the first time in 300 years, someone remembers her! Of course, Addie falls for Henry. What makes him different from every other person throughout all of history? The answer could destroy their newly found love.

The Invisible Life of Addie Larue alternates between the past and the present. The flashback style of this narrative makes this book a disjointed muddle. Sorry to say, this reviewer foud it a very disappointing offering from a very talented author.

Sheila Griffin



The Lumbermill Laya V. Smith Black Rose Writing E-Book Trade Paperback 978-1684335282

女女女

Los Angeles private detective Augie Small, a former POW who still suffers from PTSD, finds himself embroiled in a horrific case involving the torture of women and children, sex trafficking, and the complicity of high level police and government officials that makes it difficult for him to trust any authorities. People tend to die around Augie--a woman he might be interested in having a relationship with, reporters who might expose the conspiracies he discovers, and others who help him. Those who don't die often find themselves in extreme danger. He constantly runs into Katya Tyler, who is probably Russian and who turns up at the most crucial times, even though he can't be sure whether she's on his side or not.

They get themselves in many a scrape trying to solve an old case Augie thought he solved many years ago. Their last ditch, nail biting escapades take on almost superhero, comic book qualities.

The Lumbermill contains some explicit descriptions of horrendous acts committed against innocents and is certainly not for the squeamish. Once the story gets going, the suspense becomes gripping, but requires a strong stomach in order to reach the conclusion.

Hannah Rowan

Pharaoh's Forgery (A Karina Cardinal Mystery Book #4)

Ellen Butler
Power to the Pen
Kindle e-book
978-1734365009

A tropical vacation far away from the hustle and bustle of lobbyist life in D.C., is just the break Karina Cardinal is to take. But, when her sister has an accident, her FBI boyfriend is away on a case and her bestie already has plans, KC asks her coworker Rodrigo to tag along. And, when her elderly neighbor asks if KC could deliver a package to her while in Mexico, what could possibly go wrong?

Well, if you've been following the misadventures of KC and her uncanny ability of finding trouble without even looking, you know that what could go wrong is everything! An art heist, a forgery, a kidnapping and a crap weasel of a villain make for a funtastic mystery to solve!

This reviewer loved and devoured Ellen Butler's latest installment and is already greedy for more! Wish I could give more than five stars!

Reader's Note: The author has written these mysteries to be stand alone, and there are no cliffhangers. However, to fully enjoy, I'd recommend reading in order. *Sharing what I love*,

Veronica

The Phantom in the Footlights (Cedar Creek Mysteries Book 3)

Violet Howe Self-Pub E-Book B08BXYYB8D ****



"Life has a strange sense of humor sometimes."

Actress Sloan Reid, best known for her role as the Spectral Slayer, has once again found herself in the middle of a ghostly mystery. In the third installment of the "Cedar Creek" mystery series, Sloan is determined to downplay her celebrity persona and become more community minded. After all, she is secretly engaged to local Deputy Tristian Rogers; so what better way to set up roots in the town he serves and protects than to join the local community theater! Too bad the local spirit that has cursed the building has other plans!

Violet Howe's "Cedar Creek" mystery series makes me wish I had connections at the Hallmark Mystery channel! Seriously! With each story, I find myself devouring the pages faster than my fav bottle of wine! Writing a review for this installment was difficult because there is so much action going on that I didn't want to spoil the mystery! So just trust me and READ IT! Highly recommend and wish I could give more than five stars!!

Sharing what I love,

Veronica

Readers Note: This is the third book in the series, and I would recommend reading in order to thoroughly enjoy!!

The Road from Tenancingo

R. Bruce Logan
Black Rose Writing
E-Book
B08DHW2NM

Based on real life crimes, the story moves from Mexico to Southern California, following the trail of sex traffickers who lure young women into situations where they are forced into a life of prostitution. Juanita Montero, a university student from a small town, is seduced by Geraldo Rojas, whose entire family lives a life of luxury earned by trafficking women. In fact, the town of Tenancincgo, an actual Mexican town, is known as a hub for providing unwilling young women for the sex trade.

Juanita despairs of ever being rescued and has no luck with her efforts to escape as she is moved from a small town to a larger Mexican city and finally across the border to the US. She is ashamed for her family to learn what she has been forced to do. However, government agencies team with nonprofit organizations in a joint effort to save Juanita and capture the villainous family who are using her. Several of the rescuers have their own difficult pasts to contend with.

MYSTERIES

In a novel full of suspense, the characters are well drawn and easy to sympathize with, and the villains are easy to hate. The story does seem to drag a bit and grew a bit repetitious at times. Fortunately, the author doesn't go into specific details about the acts the women are forced to perform, though the subject matter is disturbing enough in itself.

Hannah Rowan







Paranoid

Lisa Jackson Performed by Christa Lewis

Brilliance Audio

Audiobook 11 cd's 978-1491532102

★★★★ 1/2

Rachel Gaston was a highschooler when her brother Luke was accidentally shot and killed in a game the kids were playing. Accused of the murder, she had been acquitted, but she had never been able to get over the guilt. That had been twenty years ago, but it's all being resurrected when one of the witnesses of the murder of her brother was brutally murdered on the anniversary of Luke's death.

Rachael's already spiraling life is taking a nosedive. Now she has divorced her husband Cade, a detective, because he wandered, and she's trying to raise two teens, both of whom are giving her a very hard time. She's lost her job, and a former classmate who is a journalist is doing a series of articles that's bringing Luke's death back into the limelight. Now, strange things are happening that are shaking her foundation. When a second person is killed, another one of Rachel's classmates who was there when Luke died, Cade thinks there is a connection, and he'd like to be there for his family, especially for Rachel.

Lisa Jackson never disappoints when it comes to creating an environment of suspenses. The constant manipulating of Rachel by her children is frustrating. Christa Lewis does a good job of performing all voices. Though the revelation of the killer was not a surprise, I don't hold that againsst her. *Paranoid* is entertaining and suspenseful. *Mildred Burkett*

Rachel

Andrei Gelasimov Performed by Christopher Lane and Kate Rudd Brilliance Audio

Audiobook, MP3

×

Lucia is a cat who pees on Professor Svyaloslav Semyonvich's couch every day. The fifty-three year old professor is almost too steeped in his own nostalgia to notice. He goes to the Institute every day where he gives lectures no one pays heed to, and for which he is not paid. This first segment is told in first person from the point of view of Dina, a pregnant woman who intersperses nursery rhymes and old adages whenever there is a pause.

The next segment is told from the Professor's point of view and begins at a Russian wake that he reluctantly attends with Natasha, a former student now his wife. He learns at the wake that Natasha has been having an affair and that she is leaving the Professor for her current lover. Dina is one of the Professor's wives, the second, Jewish one. Their marriage had lasted one-and one-half years, and it is her father's funeral the Professor is attending. She is pregnant by the Professor's son.

Rachael is, at best, confusing. I listened to it twice

Audio Book Reviews

to try to get the gist of it. I found myself constantly asking, "Where is this going?" Unfortunately, I still don't know. Mildred Burkett

Rules of Surrender

Christina Dodd
Performed by Karen Cass
Brilliance Audio
Audiobook, 8 cd's
978-1713530763

Viscountess Adornis Ruskin goes to the Distinguished Academy of Governesses because she is desperate. The Academy is run by three single women. The Viscountess needs someone to teach the rudiments of civiliity to her grandchildren whom she calls 'savages.' They must be acceptable by the time she hosts a reception--three months. The governess she seeks must be of strong moral fiber and unyielding determination. Charlotte Dalrumple fits that bill to a tee, as she has transformed many, but she insists upon a long-term contract.

Viscount Wynter had been enslaved by pirates and sold to the Bedouins and most recently lived in Al Bahar. It is his children, Robbie and Layla that Charlotte was hired to transform. They are olive-skinned, not the alabaster usually found in England, and they had an accent. The girl Layla is proficient on a horse, and her brother Robbie loves to throw knives. But Wynter, too, is a Barbarian, totally lacking in the social skills and sometimes walks around barefooted. And, he wore an earring. Charlotte's red hair enthralled Wynter. Now, Adornis wants Charlotte to socialize her son. Preposterous! Or is it? Perhaps it's not when Adornis plies the governess with brandy.

Wynter has plans of his own. He intends to marry Lady Miss Charlotte, but that's not in her plans. When Wynter tells her she's in love with him, she is stunned. That was impossible. She can't, however, deny she's infatuated with him.

Rules of Surrender is part of Christina Dodd's "The Governess Brides" series, and it is a doozy! The Viscount Wynter is an underhanded guy who deviously plots to get what he wants. Karen Cass does a supurb job of doing all voices. Very entertaining.

Mildred Burkett

Fun, personal journals Pages for you to fill in the blanks Many US States to choose Tidbits and trivia sprinkled throughout Available on Amazon or order from your favorite bookstore Great gift Perfect for all ages

Booty From the Other Genre



Bitcoin: Just the Facts

Beverley Douglas

Self-Published

E-Book B08DM7ZKRQ

This is a short primer about Bitcoin systems. It gives a quick history and the progression from 2008 until now; then goes into the methods of purchasing and saving it someplace in the digital world for future use.

The booklet also gives some references as to volatility and risks. Originally Bitcoin type currency was supposed to replace real world currencies, but has morphed into a stock gamble for those inclined to take such risks.

The author thoughtfully intimated the issues with countries such as China, who are spending big money to "mine" bitcoin to further their own agendas. Not necessarily a good thing for the small Bitcoin investor.

The author also wisely lets the reader know there are no suggestions of how to invest in this venture. Unlike traditional stocks that have to abide with time restraints and tight regulated protocols, Bitcoin does not. It is still a bit like the Wild West. An immense amount of education is a must before any attempts are made to deal with Bitcoin.

This booklet tells about Bitcoin in the simplest form possible.

Lauren Calder

My Travels with a Dead Man

Steve Searls

Black Rose Writing

E-book

978-1684335121

★★ 1/2

Jane Takako Wolfsheim has a brief encounter with Jorge Luis Borges. Two years later she meets him again. Three months after that Jane travels with Borges to Japan. They have lived there for a month, when Jane wakes up in an unfamiliar room. Borges tells her that they've never been to Japan. It was all a dream. They have been living in Costa Rica for six months.

While hiking in British Columbia, Borges falls off a cliff. Jane leaves him to go for help. She attempts to forge a fast-moving river and is swept away.

The next thing Jane knows, it's twenty years later. Her husband, James Lewis Borgman, III died on their honeymoon hiking in British Columbia. Now she's burying her son. After the funeral, Jane sees Borges, and the memory of her previous life comes flooding back.

Borges tells Jane that she's able to create alternate universes. Instead of traveling there physically, Jane created an alternate Japan. The same thing happened on the deadly hike.

The next world Jane creates includes Borges's mother. She tells Jane that he is a monster. Jane must kill Borges to protect their unborn son and all of humanity. But how can Jane kill the man she loves?

This is one of the most confusing books this reviewer has ever read.

Sheila Griffin

Booty

The Whistleblower's Tune: a Memoir

Hugh Giblin

Black Rose Writing

E-book

B0886GDTBB

女女女女

The Whistleblower's Tune; A Memoir begins with the upbringing of the author in Chicago. His experiences with an imperfect family life and a father with no real interest to give beyond his own interests shape his beginnings. The mafia has an influence even in his young years and he feels fortunate not to be personally mired in it. Although never in one, he didn't escape the lessons of living in a neighborhood with gangs. Developing a strong sense of morality, he completed schooling that would get him jobs in accounting.

Seeking a job with a CPA group that manages union affairs, he lands the job, partly because he was from Chicago and partially because he would be willing to play the part they expected. The author discovers a mountain of impropriety in the loss of the union members' contributions, and it gets worse the longer he looks. This bothers him exceedingly, and he begins the hunt for the paper bullet that would sink the rampant dishonesty that was so deeply entrenched.

During the author's career he traveled as some accountants do, which made him a more private individual through much of his life. His research taught him much of the organized crime and those who would not ask questions about the wealth that came to them for their complicity.

The author takes you on quite a few adventures and gives the reasons for his actions. His advice for whistleblowers will go hand-in-hand with the experiences laid out in this book. People take on this responsibility for different reasons, but none of those reasons lessens the difficulties involved.

It's relatively easy to read the story, with a few characters having a continuous presence. There is a lot of detail to keep track of, understandably, it will take some focus to remember the relationships presented. *Lauren Calder*

			B					P																				
	°C	Н	E	М	-1	S	Т	R	Υ								'P				็บ							
			L					1		°K	1	N	D	E	R	G	Α	R	T	E	N					ВН		
			L					N									Т		U		1					0		
		°C			B	L	Α	C	K	В	0	Α	R	D			R		Т		F					M		
		0						1									0		0		0					Е		
		M						P		"P	Н	Υ	S	1	°C	Α	L		R		R			¹³ N		W		
		P				ľV		Α							Н		S		S		M			0		0		
c		U			В	1	0	L	0	G	Υ				Α						S			¹⁷ T	Α	R	D	Ŀ
A		Т				R									L									E		K		
°F	1	E	L	ď		T		B	Α	² 1C	K	P	Α	C	K									В				L
Е		R		E		U				U		E												0				L
Т				²³ T	E	Α	С	Н	E	R		T				24						R		0				L
Е				E	1	L				R						R					ď	E	S	K				L
R		M		N						1		28F	0	R	E	1	G	N				С						L
1		²⁰ A	Т	T	E	N	D	A	N	C	E					G						E						L
Α		Т		1						U						0				P	Α	S	S					L
		Н		0	183					31 <u>L</u>	E	A	R	Ŋ	1	N	G			E		S						L
		E		N						U		P		U		0				N								L
		M								M		Р		R		M				С		*						L
	M	Α	S	C	0	T						L		S		E	N	G	L	1	S	Ή						L
		Т						G.	R	A	D	E		E		T				L		0		1				L
		1														R						0						1
		S S	U	R	S	1	٧	E								Y						K						L



Late Reviews

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

Ancient Enemy (Ancients Rising #2)

Katie Reus KR Press, LLCE E-book 978-1635561463 ★★★★



Ancient Enemy is Katie Reus' follow up to The Ancient Protector (See review alphabetically after this one) in the new "Ancients Rising" series. Not only is this one filled with Reus' wonderful description and character development, it has even more magic and an adorable baby dragon who steals an angry, vengeful, and closed off dragon's heart. One thing about Reus' books is that they lean toward being dark or deal with intense/dark subject matter. But the author does a great job of writing those scenes yet balancing them with the other elements of the story. In Ancient Enemy, Willow as Dallas' pet baby dragon added sweet and lighter moments to the novel, in contrast to the intense, and disturbing content.

Rhys is an ancient dragon shifter who awakens from hibernation still driven to avenge his sister's murder by a witch practicing dark magic. Following her scent, he finds himself in New Orleans with King, Alpha of New Orleans, and his pack with Aurora working at his side. They are working on ways to increase the food sources around the city and seeks out the help of Dallas Kinley, a witch, because of her reputation and success with her farm. King assigns Rhys to be her bodyguard to keep her safe as vampires and humans are being murdered in the city. Willow agrees to help Rhys find the witch as well as missing humans and vampires, hoping to save them.

Each of the characters and their conflicts are developed. Most of all, readers can't help but love Willow

the baby dragon whose relationship with Dallas is lovely. The villainess who murdered Rhys' sister is a witch. Rhys understandably hates witches and cannot understand why he's so drawn to Dallas. As her bodyguard, Rhys sees her at her most vulnerable and her most powerful moments. The further development of the relationship between King and Aurora was well done.

Ancient Enemy is another exciting, and steamy paranormal romance by Reus that was hard to put down. The biggest takeaway is realizing that if you don't learn how to let go of your anger and hate, it can keep you from healing, moving on, and living the full life you were meant to live and being open to receiving acceptance and love for who we are without hiding the parts we think others may fear or not love. Readers will be so excited for the next book! Lacy Hill

Ancient Protector (Ancients Rising #1)

Katie Reus KR Press, LLC E-book B084KJ8PRF ★★★

Ancient Protector is the first book in Katie Reus' new "Ancients Rising" series, which looks promising. Readers will love the action, suspense, romance, and world building. Like Reus' other books, the novel is full of secrets, twists, and turns that will keep readers glued to the pages.

Ancient Protector starts out low key enough with our heroine Starling (Star), a world renown singer/rock star, preparing for a concert at a powerful Alpha dragon's estate.

But it was more than just another performance for Star and her band. It was the fruition of a year-in-the-making plan to rescue her sister Aurora, who has been kidnapped by Oscar and has been held prisoner at his estate for a year. Lachlan is an alpha dragon recently awakened from hibernation and drawn to Star first by her beautiful voice and more intensely as he learns all he can about her. For reasons he can't explain, he seeks her out at the auction and bids on her. When Aurora's rescue appears it might fail, Lachlan helps them escape by joining them in the ensuing firefight with Star's pursuers. Several weeks later the world changes for supernatural beings, and humans as wicked dragons kill billions of humans and supernaturals and wipe out much of the world while attempting to take it over. Star, Aurora, and her band flee to New Orleans, which was not totally destroyed by the dragon attacks and is being rebuilt by an alpha wolf and his pack. Once he's able to find her, Lachlan follows them there just to be near her.

Lush description brings the devastated world and the characters off the pages and to life. *Ancient Protector* has a diverse cast of characters, who are well-developed. Star's band is a group of misfit shifters who have known each other since childhood. They are "ride-or-die," which is why they are more than willing to sacrifice and put their lives on the line to rescue Aurora. Lachlan went into hibernation after losing his mate. He never expected to have a second chance at having one, but he cannot stay away from Star, especially when someone attacks her. Much to her displeasure, he declares himself her protector and won't leave her side. Star wants to be cold and uninterested in Lachlan, but he excites her. She's also been having strange dreams of herself with a faceless man in the past, that feel real.

The world-building is gradual, as the author adds pieces bit by bit, leaving out information about how the world was faring now. More specific detail about just which parts were totally destroyed and others that escaped that fate would have been nice. Readers won't be able to wait to see where this series takes us.

Lacy Hill

The Mouth of the Mine

Caleb Posten
Black Rose Writing
E-book
978-1684335343

★★ 1/2

Ten-year-old Alastair "Al" Evans and his parents, Wayne and Anita, escape New York's rat race by settling in Jackson, Wyoming. The Evans buy a large house on the outskirts abutting public land near the Grand Teton mountains. Al's curious explorations lead him to a mysterious mine, ruthlessly guarded by an anachronistic, unpleasant, sinister old man. He's willing to cut Al in on his stake as long as Al becomes his obedient protégé. Al falls under his dark spell and that of the miner's hoarded prize with its preternatural, corrupting power. Can Al break free before it's too late?

The Mouth of the Mine is a suspenseful read, leaving the reader guessing what will happen next. The page seethes

Late

with the old man's malevolence, who clearly shouldn't be anywhere near an impressionable young boy. Al's relationship with the old miner is pivotal to the story. Other characters fall short in their development, including Al's parents. Parts of the storyline are awkward and unnecessary, jumble up the narrative, and lead to a messy, unsatisfying conclusion. Despite the young protagonist, this book is for mature readers. Adult language and descriptive violence, along with sensitive content, make it unsuitable for a younger audience. *Danielle Hill*

To Catch an Earl (Bow Street Bachelors #2)

Kate Bateman

St. Martin's Press

Mass Market 978-1250306111 ★★★

Tired of loving Alexander Harland from afar and galvanized by his imminent departure for war, Emmy Danvers takes the chance to get close to him for one night. At a masquerade ball, she boldly asks for a dance, steals a kiss from him, and flees. That's as close as she can ever get to him because she is the Nightjar, an infamous jewel thief. A normal life is not for her because of the secrets she must keep, and, of course, her secret identity. But Emmy doesn't want just any man, she wants only one man, the one she can never have.

Whether he is a Bow Street Agent or Earl of Melton, Alex always gets his man or woman, leaving no case unsolved. But the one mystery he desperately needs answers to is the one he has been unable to solve--the identity of the beautiful, wonderfully scented woman who stole a kiss and his heart from him at the masquerade ball, leaving him longing for her, still, after all these years. Alex is assigned to investigate the Nightjar and jewel thefts in London, which sets his and Emmy's lives into a game of catch me if you can.

Bateman's description is wonderfully vibrant and rich with detail, bringing the characters and their world to life. As Emmy and her brother carry out jewel thefts and Alex figures out how the Nightjar pulled off the thefts, we learn more about the characters and what drives them. Emmy's and Alex's paths keep crossing.

To Catch an Earl is a thrilling historical romance that perfectly balances adventure, suspense, and steamy romance in a Regency caper where the jewel thief is the heroine. As a bonus, the story weaves in history about priceless jewels and the international conflicts between nations battling to possess them.

Lacy Hill



Alphabet of Black Cultures

Jeffrey Daniels

Sleeping Elephant

E-Book

B08CZ7CWVZ

A is for apple--not today; A is for *awale* and it goes on from there. An alphabet of Black culture that introduces the reader to African heritage, each letter represents something specific about the different cultures from Africa.

Fantastic!

This reader was thrilled to open the pages of this book. It may be written for children in mind, but I, a self-admitted adult, loved it!

Lauren Calder

Granny and Danny Aren't Bored Anymore

Emmy Taylor

Home-N-Stars

E-Book

BO8F7W92MR

女女女

Danny was bored and being difficult.

Granny was bored.

Both were complaining a lot. So they complained together. After a while, they started doing things together over the phone. Both learned how much fun it could be.

This is a cute little story that first readers can enjoy, or can be read to younger children who cannot read yet. Lauren Calder



The Little Ouch Katherine Picarde **Mascot Books** Hardcover 978-1645434368 女女女女 1/2

Penelope had to get her annual flu shot and, like most children, she absolutely rebelled against it. Temper tantrums galore! She despised getting the shot, and misbehaved at the doctor's office. Her father was not happy. But, the nurse knew exactly what to do! This was an absolutely cute story and perfect for this time of year. I highly recommended for a children's bookshelf read!

Lauren Calder

Tony and His Mythical Friends

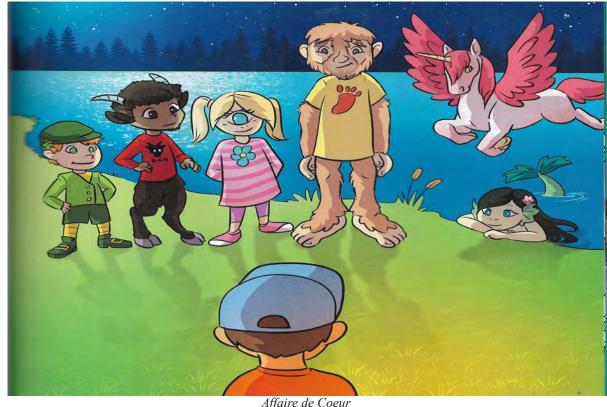
By Jessisca Valentin Illustrated by Stephanie Richoll **Independently Published**

Paperback 979-8657778021 女女女

Tony and his friends return to the camp they went to last year. Nothing has changed much except his friends are bigger. Their first night after everyone falls asleep, he sees a light in the woods and follows it. The light takes him to another camp where the tents are different, and the occupants even more so. There he meets a Bigfoot, an Alicorn, a Cyclops, a Leprechaun, a Faun and a mermaid. They think it's odd because usually no one can see them. Why can Tony?

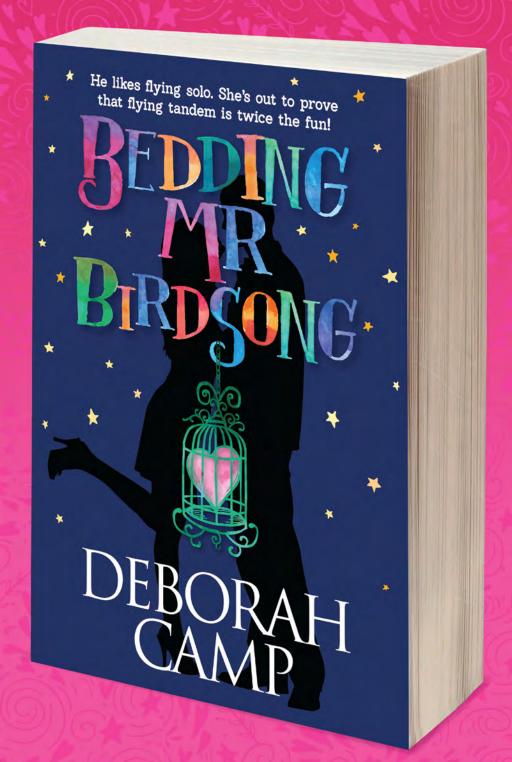
Tony freely interacts with them until he finally falls asleep and they take him home. He wonders how he got back and when he tries to find them again, he can't. Where could they have gone? Or, was it all just a dream?

Tony and His Mythical Friends is a book that preschool and early school-aged children up to about third grade will like. The set-up of the book is such that the words (which could have been larger) were on one page, and on the opposite page was a full-page illustration so they won't get bored as they read. The story itself was okay. The illustations were good. This reviewer cannot image children getting excited over it, but it's not scary and it urges the child to use his/her imagination. The concept of meeting and accepting others who are not like you was a subtle underlying theme. Mildred Snead



Affaire de Coeur

35



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

Available on Amazon www.deborah-camp.com