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September-October, 2022



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Kimberley O’Malley



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in all of her books.**

Reviews
Reviews
Reviews

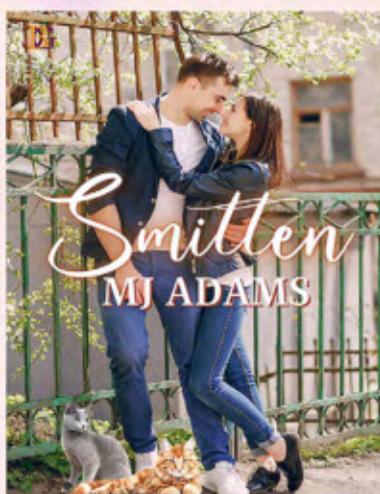
***AdC* loves conferences.
See the highlights of two inside.**





Fun, Flirty and Sweet

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ChampagneBooks.com



September/October, 2022

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Books at the Beach



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See next issue for details

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Rowan • Veronica Westfall

Dear QWERTY

by Pamela Ackerson

Graphic Book Images, Ugh!



some look horribly disfigured? Incorrect formatting.

If a film camera is used, the images from a film negative is around 4000 dpi. Yes, you read that correctly, 4000 dpi. If a magazine, and many still do, use a film camera for their ads they'll have sharp, precise high-quality images that are scanned with very expensive scanning machines. Even after it's compressed to a pdf file for print and adjusting the magazine for a pdf, website ad, a film camera is incredible when it comes to using images for advertising.

Film cameras are not necessarily old school, but many photographers have switched to digital cameras. High-quality digital cameras that offer the best resolution are up and coming. Their prices are also very high for non-professionals.

They are so close to having the same quality as film. The more megapixels the better the image. (50, 60 megapixels and up)

So, here you are, either getting an image from someone or using your own digital camera. The everyday digital camera buff probably has a camera with 20 megapixels. The magic begins with the photo program and the experience of the graphic artist.

There are also programs that will create 3D images for you but you must understand how to use them for print ad purposes.

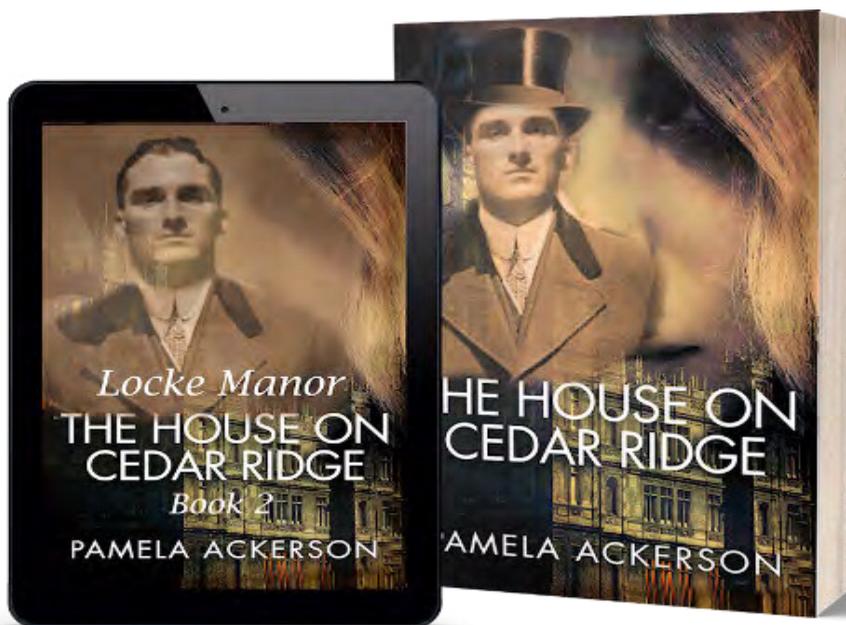
This is a png image after it was downloaded on my computer and adjusted to 150 dpi, 4 x 2.

Hopefully, this article will give you a better understanding of graphics, images, and the need for quality press-ready print ads.

As I stated in the last issue, the language for photo programs are similar. You don't need to have extended knowledge to create an ad. That's what graphic artists are for, that's why you hired them for your cover, and/or ad.

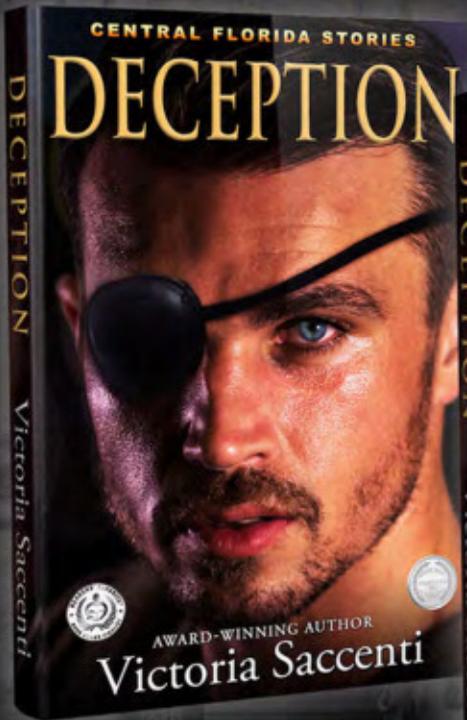
There are multiple formats: jpg, jpeg, jfif, gif, bmp, png, tiff, and pdf to name a few. If you want to know what format your image is, you can hover over the image on your computer and it will tell you what the format is, or item type, and dimension. (300 x 450) It may or may not tell you the bit size, for example, 1mg.

Let's get to print images. Why do some print images look so fantastic and



CENTRAL FLORIDA STORIES

Check out this award winning series.



*A sultry collection,
from the pen of
Victoria Saccenti.*

victoriasaccentiwrites.com

**Victoria
Saccenti**
THE ESSENCE OF ROMANCE

This is the twitter ad created with the png.

Since it's twitter, obs at a lower resolution, 150 dpi, 4 x 2.5, and not created for print.

Print ads and images shouldn't be lower than 300 dpi. If there is text in the ad, it shouldn't be lower than 400 dpi. I prefer 500 dpi for the main reason that once it gets compressed in the pdf file it won't lose its image

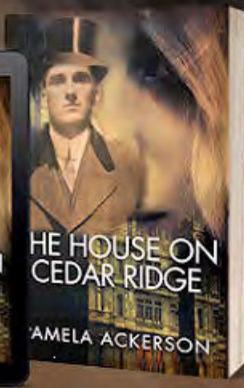
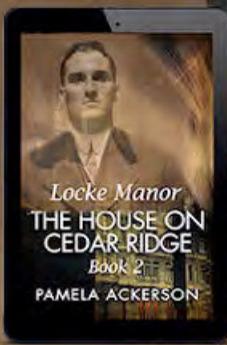
quality.

So how does it look for print? The next image will be created at 500 dpi (because there is text). Then, it is formatted for the print shop compressing the image as quality press ready.

The next image you see is considered press ready.

The way this advertisement was created was with a 3D image png. The background was jpg and saved at 500 dpi. The size was created at 8.5 x 5.5. The "unused" border has no text or needed imaging, allowing for trim and bleed. It's extremely necessary to make sure there is nothing cut off by the print

No peace could be found

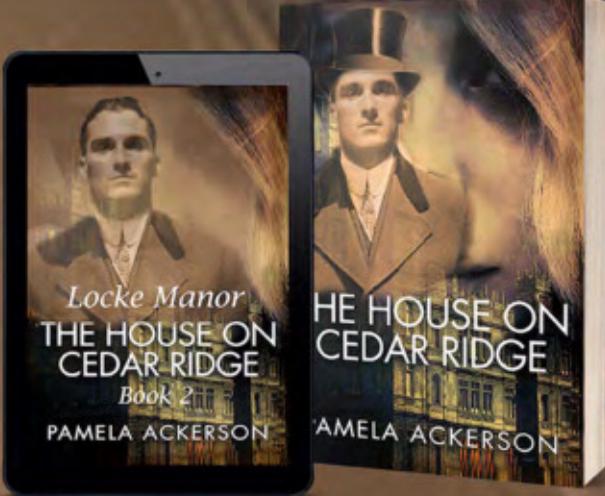


The walls within harbored dangerous and frightening secrets

Book 2 Pre-order Today 99Cents

PamelaAckerson.net @PamAckerson

The Cedar Ridge Hills Museum Series



No peace could be found.

The walls within harbored dangerous and frightening secrets...

PamelaAckerson.net @PamAckerson

What would happen if I saved my image at 1000 dpi before it goes to print? You may see a slight difference. The pdf program I use takes any images over 450 dpi and compresses them for the print shop. It is not the same pdf program we use for the print magazine.

The compression is set by the person who is using the pdf program.

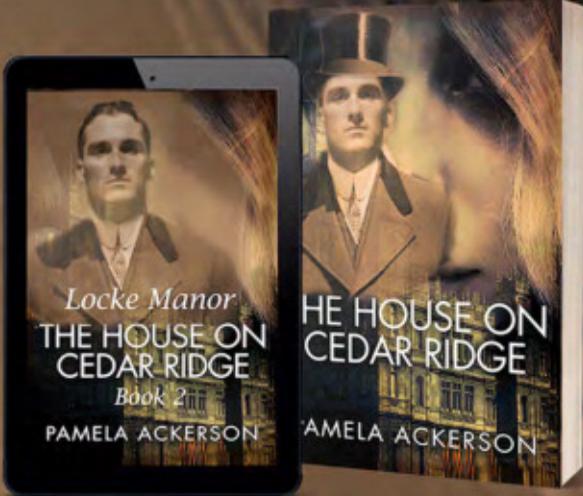
Even you can remember, the bigger the better, you'll be okay.

I hope this helped you understand the use of different images

for digital and print ads. I'm happy to answer any questions. Email me at DearQwerty@adcmagazine.com with any questions you may have.

Is there an article you'd like covered in Dear Qwerty,? Let us know.

The Cedar Ridge Hills Museum Series



No peace could be found.

The walls within harbored dangerous and frightening secrets...

PamelaAckerson.net @PamAckerson



Five short stories full of mystery, intrigue, and romance, offer their own unique slant on the Regency era.



Amazon/BethAndrews

The Spotlight Is Shining On ...

Kimberley O'Malley

Kimberley O'Malley is a transplant to Charlotte, North Carolina, from the frozen North. She is learning to say y'all but draws the line at sweet tea. Sarcasm is an art form in her world. When not writing, she is a full-time nurse and part-time lacrosse Mom, but not necessarily in that order. She shares her life with an amazing husband of more than twenty-five years, two teenagers, and two mischievous Shetland Sheepdogs, Molly & Callie.



Kimberley O'Malley

AdC: *How many different genres do you write?*

K.O.: I write contemporary romance and cozy mysteries currently. I would like to also write romantic suspense and rom-com in the near future.

AdC: *Tell us about the type of characters you love to write about.*

K.O.: I love to write about strong, independent women. I also love 'real' people for my characters, flaws and all. They aren't perfect or necessarily a '10' but they have layers which are much more interesting than that.

AdC: *Do you have a new book or series?*

K.O.: I released *Dancing with You*, the fourth book in my "Palm Harbor" contemporary romance series on August 30th. I plan on two additional books for this series, though I love it so much, who knows?

AdC: *Favorite quote?*

K.O.: "Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger." Friedrich Nietzsche

AdC: *What do you do when you just don't feel like writing?*

K.O.: I do not write, usually, when not in the mood. I've learned to not try to force the issue. It doesn't work for me. The best option is to step away from writing. Sometimes, I'll focus on social media or marketing, but usually I step away altogether and go for a walk or read a book. This helps clear my mind.

AdC: *What do you like to read? Do you have a favorite genre?*

K.O.: I love contemporary romance and romantic suspense the best. I also got hooked on hockey romances in the past year, oddly enough, considering it's not a sport I follow. I love to read series because I get so invested in the side characters, so it makes me happy to read their stories.

AdC: *Do you have any comfort characters or charac-*

The Palm Harbor Series



The One That Almost Got Away — Book One

New Year's resolutions were for suckers. Determined to lose that stubborn twenty (or thirty) pounds and show her high school crush what he was missing, Jamie joins a gym.

Enter Griff, gym owner. Enchanted by the funny and gorgeous Jamie, he regrets his no dating the clients rule. But when she blurts out her desperate plan, Griff finds himself agreeing to be her plus one.

Leaving the Friend Zone — Book Two

Love was for suckers. Every fool knew that, and Sam Hardy was no one's fool. She wasn't going down that road for anyone. Jack Whitaker was the first man in, well, forever, to make her feel anything.

He found in Sam the one woman he hadn't known he'd been waiting for. Could Sam risk her heart just this once? Or would Jack remain forever in the friend zone?



KimberleyOMalley.com
@K_OMalley67



AdC: *What do you do to go beyond your comfort zone when it comes to writing and life?*

K.O.: Excellent question! The ensemble cast is, to me, just as important as the main characters. In my cozy mystery series, there is a snarky, gay BFF and a pair of great aunts (think *Golden Girls*) who show up every time. My readers love them!

AdC: *What do you do to go beyond your comfort zone when it comes to writing and life?*

K.O.: I do try to push myself. It's so easy to stay in our own, safe little world. I think about what the worst possible scenario might be. Then I talk myself back from the edge, knowing that scenario is very unlikely. Mind you, I still am never going to touch a snake...some fears are okay.

AdC: *Will you be attending any*

book signings or conventions?

K.O.: I love attending signings! It's so much fun to catch up with people. I enjoy meeting new readers and fellow authors. Chatting with other authors, sharing ideas about writing and marketing, makes me happy. I will be attending IRC in Lebanon, Tennessee, Nov 3-6. This is a small but intimate conference I have attended for several years.

AdC: *What's something about you -- personality traits, habits, background, etc that has been useful in your writing?*

K.O.: Growing up, my mom, whom I lost in 2018, always told me, "You can be anything you want to be. You can do anything you set your mind to." I didn't set out to be a writer like most do. I sort of fell

into it. And writing isn't for the faint of heart. But I am determined (some might say stubborn), and when things get hard or I get stuck, I can hear my mother's voice in my head, encouraging me.

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

Personal web page-

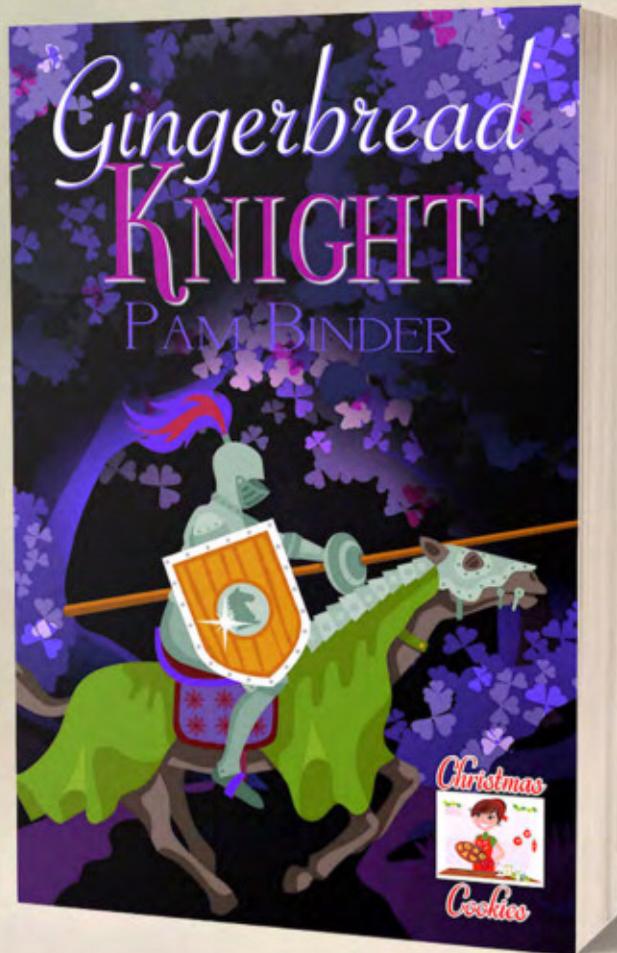
www.kimberleyomalley.com

Twitter- <https://twitter.com/KOMalley67>

Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/KOMalley67/>

Pam Binder

New York Times
USA Today
Bestselling Author



Gingerbread Knight

Together they devise a dangerous plan, knowing failure means they will never see each other again.

PamBinder.com

Christmas Knight

To find her mystery man, she must travel through time.

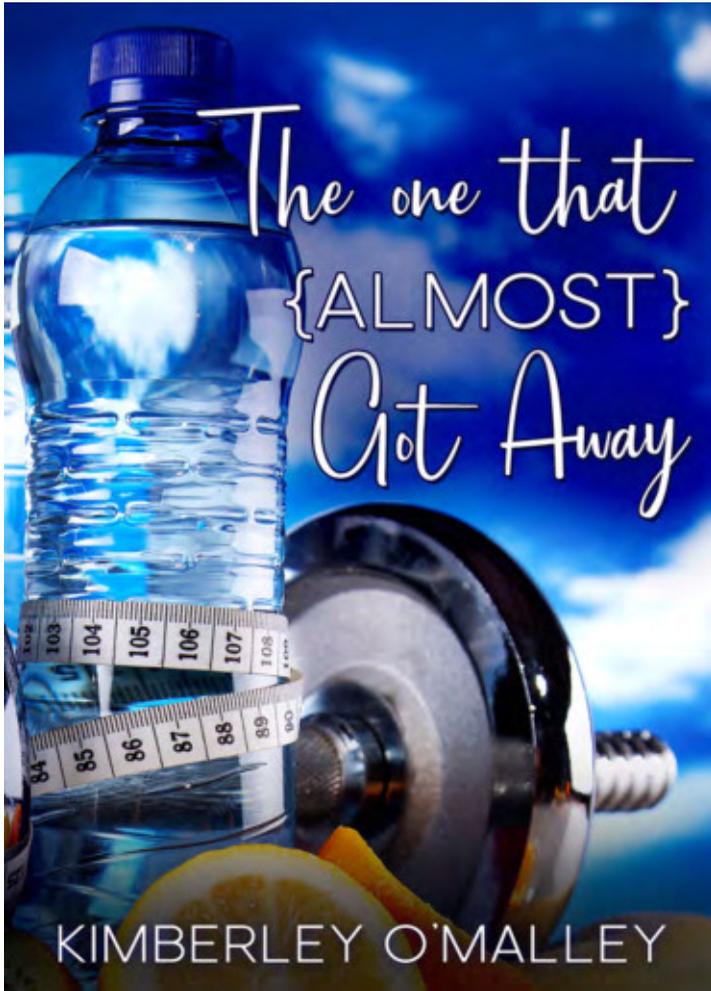
Christmas Deadline

Will Holly and Noel manage to write a happily-ever-after for their fictional couple—and themselves by their Christmas deadline?





Sneak Peek



An Excerpt from Kimberley O'Malley's

The One that (Almost) Got Away

“ “ I didn't eat all the ice cream,” Jamie blurted in his general direction.

Of course, with music blasting in her ears, she had no idea how loudly that had come out. The woman on the other side of her startled before laughing.

“I wanted to, mind you, but I didn't. I consider that a moral victory. Goodness knows you gave me reason to want to eat the whole pint of ice cream.”

The other woman didn't even try to pretend she

hadn't heard, instead glancing at him with one brow raised. Griff swallowed a laugh and waved to Jamie in the mirror. When she glanced his way, he pointed to his own ears, hoping she'd get the message.

Instead she tilted her head, all but shouting, “What?”

Griff chewed the inside of his mouth to keep from laughing. Being a smart man, he didn't think she would appreciate the humor in this. He pointed to his own ears and then to hers. And saw the second she got it.

Jamie took out her earbuds and slowed her treadmill to a fast walk. “What?”

“You spoke a little loudly, since you had your earbuds in.”

“Oh, sorry,” she mumbled at a lower volume.

“No worries. Congratulations on not eating the whole pint. And I am sorry I caused you any stress.”

“I'd love to know what he did to make you want to drown yourself in ice cream,” added the woman on Jamie's other side.

Jamie whirled to face her. “Excuse me?”

Griff noted the exact moment it all dawned on her. Her face grew red, and a hand flew over her mouth.

“I was talking very loudly, wasn't I?”

This time, the laugh burst from him. “Well, if by talking you mean shouting, then yes.”

Jamie glanced at the woman, who nodded.

“He kissed me. That's what he did. You know one of those great movie kisses where the heroine swoons and time stops? That kind of kiss. After telling me he doesn't date clients, mind you.”

“Really? I say eat the damn pint. Was it chocolate?” the blonde asked.

“Ben and Jerry's New York Super Fudge Chunks,” Jamie confirmed.

The other woman, whose name escaped Griff, looked around Jamie to fix him in place with a stare. One of those scorned-woman type of stares. “Next time go for the ice cream, sister,” she advised before turning away.

“Good idea,” Jamie answered before turning back to face him. “For the record, I dumped it down the sink.”

Space Coast Book Lovers

Held June 23rd to June 26th, readers and authors traveled from all over the world to attend one of the best Florida book events. Filled with fun, it was an interactive event for everyone.



Author Feud and Fun with Author and Game Show Host Robbie Cox

Thursday began with a scavenger hunt (ongoing throughout the event), IBVA, and workshops for authors and inspiring writers. Thursday evening had the meet and greet.



Author, Siera London



Authors Teri Riggs, Pamela Ackerson and Mom Bev on the right

Friday was a full day of activity for readers and authors, including fun activities like, book nook, Bookniques, luncheon with the authors, tropes and sips, a book launch, and ending the day with a fantastic reader/author mixer.

Saturday was an even busier day. Several activities were offered in the

morning, a 75+ multi-genre author signing event in the afternoon, and a fun, themed after-party where everyone got to dress up in cosplay costumes, or just come as you are!



L. Grace Miller, R. Pamela Ackerson



SCBL Hostess, Teri Dees Edney



Author, Lexi Post

Come join us next year for the 7th annual Space Coast Book Lovers Event located in Cape Canaveral, FL, June 22 to June 25, 2023.

For more information and to purchase tickets:

Facebook: Space Coast Book Lovers Attendee Group

SpaceCoastBookLovers.com



Author Panels



**Fantastic Authors
 Fantastic Stories
 and Wait for it...
 Fantastic Contests**

**Stop by the AdC Blog
 and join in the fun!**

**TheAdCScratchingPost
 BlogSpot.com**



SCLB Meet and Greet

The Spotlight Is Shining On ...

C.A. Szarek

USA Today Bestselling, award winning author of romantic suspense, epic and historical fantasy romance, C.A. loves to dabble in different genres. If it's a good story, she'll write it, no matter where it seems to fit! She's a hopeless romantic and always will be. Risking it all for Happily Ever After is what she lives by! C.A. is originally from Ohio but got to Texas as soon as she could. She's happily married and has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She's always writing, and helps small business owners by writing their websites, and she loves it!

AdC: How many different genres do you write?

C.A.: I write many, LOL. Whatever interests me at the time. The genres I have published include epic and historical fantasy, and romantic suspense (which is contemporary romance as well, I guess). I also have a few series in the works that aren't published (yet), including paranormal romance and perhaps a YA or two.

AdC: Tell us about the type of characters you love to write about.

C.A.: Strong women and alpha males. Flawed but lovable and sometimes funny and always sarcastic. I want them to feel as real to the reader as they do to me.

AdC: Do you have a new book or series?

C.A.: I do! *Highland Essence (Highland Treasures Book Two)* release Oct 3, 2022, but is available in e-Book and paperback right now! It is a Scottish Highlander time travel, and it's the 2nd book in the spin-off series of my "Highland Secrets" books. Basically I'm writing about the kids of the original couples, which is fun!

AdC: Favorite quote?

C.A.: "Who Wills...Can

Who Tries...Does

Who Loves...Lives"

-Anne McCaffery

AdC: What do you do when you just don't feel like writing?

C.A.: Watch WAY too much TV!



AdC: What do you like to read? Do you have a favorite genre?

C.A.: Paranormal romance is always my go-to, but I always love a good rom-com, too. I also read just about every other sub-genre of romance, too.



AdC: *Do you have any comfort characters or characters that must go into your stories?*

C.A.: I don't think so. Most of my characters introduce themselves to me and I find out more about them when I write about them, so they develop for me organically, and it keeps them (and writing) interesting.

AdC: *What do you do to go beyond your comfort zone when it comes to writing and life?*

C.A.: I really don't. I'm a creature of habit, and not really all that exciting. LOL.

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

C.A.: Yes! I will be in San Diego, CA, for HRR (Historical Romance Retreat) 9/28/22-10/2/22! I am so excited about it.

AdC: *What's something about you -- personality traits, habits, background, etc. that has been useful in your writing?*

C.A.: I am strong, smart, sassy, and sarcastic. So that tends to appear in my heroines (go fig, LOL).

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

Personal web page: www.caszarek.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/caszarek

Facebook: www.facebook.com/caszarek

Are you interested in becoming an AdC reviewer?

We need you, and if you love to read and don't want to buy books all the time, we can help each other, especially if you read from your Kindle or other e-book devices.

If you're interested, please contact either Pam Ackerson @adcmagazine.com or adcreviews@att.net

We would love to have you!

Sneak Peek



Highland Essence

by C.A. Szarek

Chapter One

Act like a grown woman.

Her mother's voice resounded in her head. Their telepathic communication was one of the things she needed to escape. Lexi ignored her mother's urgings in her mind.

Get out of my head, she shouted back.

Fury guided her actions more than the magic flowing over her in waves. She cursed under her breath, using words she'd never had the courage to voice. Things a proper lady would never deign to say. Even at one and twenty, her father would take her to task. Threaten to tan her hide like he would a lad.

She had no care; only continued the rhythmic actions of her flying fingers, the first requirements to open the Faery Stones. She sensed the music greeting her, yet she couldn't smile. Magic usually calmed her, but the rage at her mother—her entire family, really—drove her.

Lexi needed to get away.

Away from their chiding. Away from their smothering. From the constant overprotection, as if she was a lassie instead of a grown woman.

Alana, her mother went on, in full lecture mode, but she whispered a spellword to eject her from her mind.

She wasn't acting like an adult.

She was proving her mother right. Letting impulsivity and anger guide her, but she didn't stop what she was doing.

Lexi couldn't.

As the daughter of a former Fae princess, she was half Fae, and she deserved her legacy. The magic in front of her, in the form of the Faery Stones was a part of her heritage.

She was a much a part of the Fae world as the human one.

Or she should be. Lexi had a right to what was before her.

The Faery Stones were made up of five clustered natural formations, rising from the small cavern's floor, perfectly spaced from each other in a loose circle. One was centered with the other four surrounding it.

When she'd rushed into the dark cave, her eyes hadn't required time to adjust, because the magic before her lit up the caverns, chasing away the shadows.

The crystals glinted, as if some light source was present to reflect off them, but the radiance came from inside the gems. The Stones gave off enough light to illuminate the cave, but they were hidden well enough to prevent unexpected guests.

No one would find this location along the beaches of Skye, unless they knew where to look.

Her mother had charms in place to deter humans from stumbling upon it. Even if they had no magic, there was an overwhelming sense of dread that settled over any person in the vicinity.

Lexi felt it too, but the call of the Stones to her Fae side always overrode it. Like her mother, she had a strong tie to the crystals.

She could feel the melody. She'd always heard the song they played; the



internal tune danced in her thoughts, drawing her closer, as if by instinct, and steered her movements as she repeated the pattern—touching each crystal—that would open the portal.

Each Stone sat atop the five naturally formed pillars, and were from the Realm of the Fae; magic-born. The largest one in the center was the key to making the others work. They had to be in sync as a whole to open the portal.

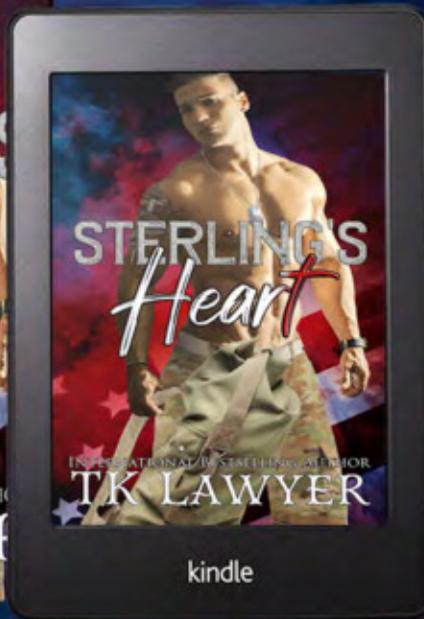
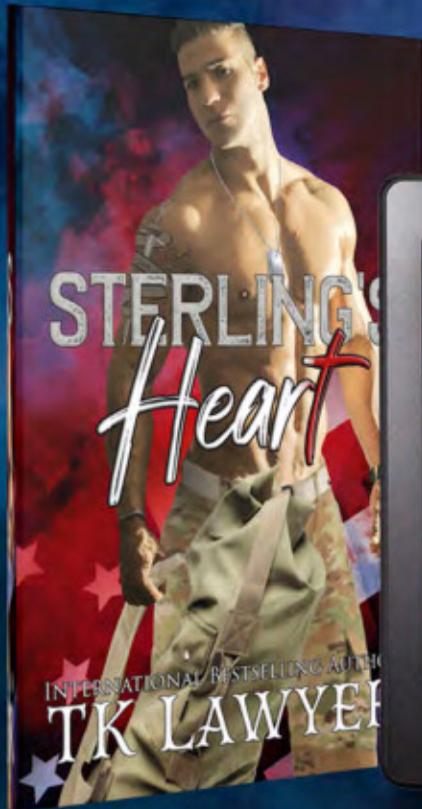
The semi-circle the Faery Stones sat in was perfect, as if it had been placed there, not grown. That was probably the case; they'd been put in the Human Realm a millennia ago by Fae who'd wanted to link their worlds, for unknown reasons; perhaps to explore?

Learning how to open them didn't come naturally to those with Fae lineage, as it did to Lexi. Usually, it took several tries to get it right; but not her. She'd always felt their melody in her blood and had been able to open them the first time she'd tried—much to her mother's chagrin.

The main Stone called to her, brightening and thrumming. Power coursed through her, making her limbs buzz. The pleasure of it fought the negative feelings still filtering through her system.

She bounced on her heels, and her feet slid around in the too-big deerskin boots. They were certainly improper

Duty, Friendship, or Love?



Sterling was honored to serve his country, but his contract is up, and he's ready to come home to her.

He is a damaged man. The scars of war will heal with Abby's help.

And then...there was Phil. The ex Abby can't, or won't let go. Things have changed.

Or have they?



TKLawyerAuthor.com

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

footwear for her, but she hadn't taken time to use the shrinking spellword her cousin had taught her. The boots also belonged to him, but hopefully Liam wouldn't be too upset she'd stolen them.

That tiny bit of magic was handy, given that she had a penchant for borrowing lad's clothes whenever she fled home. Something her mother accused her of doing far too often.

The treads she wore fit like they belonged to her, but they, too, were stolen. The deep purple hue was made of fine material from the Fae Realm. Her mother was fond of them, and would be even more irritated when she realized they were missing.

Lexi hummed to the notes each crystal emitted. The Stones responded by going radiant, and the trill got louder, making her body vibrate.

Warmth shot through her, traveling up her fingers, into her wrists and limbs. A welcome feeling dimming more of her anger.

The first pop sounded, indicating the portal's advent. Then the familiar

sound of tearing parchment.

The following pop-pop-pop was each louder than the last, and a magic-born gale swirled around her, making her hair fly in her face.

The flow of power worked up more heat inside her, and the moving air was like a caress, offering blissful coolness even if her tresses stung her eyes.

White light shot straight up to the cave's ceiling from the center crystal of the Faery Stones, the last occurrence before the portal's birth.

The same had happened when she and Liam had opened the Stones almost two years before.

Anticipation hit her, and she broke physical contact with the final crystal.

Alexandria.

Her given name held warning and alarm. Her mother was attuned to the magic of the Faery Stones, even more so than she or her brother, so it wasn't a surprise that Alana would know what she was doing.

It also wasn't a surprise her mother had obliterated her mental block. The former princess was a powerful empath.

Alexandria Evelyn Claire MacLeod.

Lexi shook her head as her mother's assumed omnipotence hitched up a few notches with her entire Christian name. It contained more than alarm.

There was real fear there.

Tales she'd been told of the ferocious Fae danced through her head.

That should give her pause—

An iridescent orb appeared, distracting her from her own bud of doubt and distress. The whole cavern shimmered and wavered as the glowing bubble grew.

The opening hovered above the stark white sand littering the floor of the cave, and the light reflected off it.

Then the portal floated downward, hovering a few inches in the air.

At first hazy and opaque, it started to clear, like multicolored clouds retreating. It grew larger and larger by the second.

Soon, it would reveal the realm on

Continued on page 34

Books at the Beach

Books at the Beach, hosted by Jennifer Wedmore, Sheri Lyn, Cassidy O'Connor and Patti Spell, was held September 8th to the 10th at the Sirata Hotel in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

It was a truly enchanted weekend with the fae flying freely around the hotel. The unusual persistent rain didn't stop the fantastic readers and authors gathering for one of the best events on the Gulf Coast.



AdC's own Sherrilyn Kenyon



Actor/Model J.D. Hart and Sharon Hamilton

Industry and author panels, workshops, and extremely talented vendors joined in on the fun. An enchanted garden dinner party on Friday night, and a Fae High Tea Brunch was held on Saturday before the book signing event.

Thursday night began with an ice cream social. Who can resist sweets? "Not I," says the fairy godmother from Shrek!

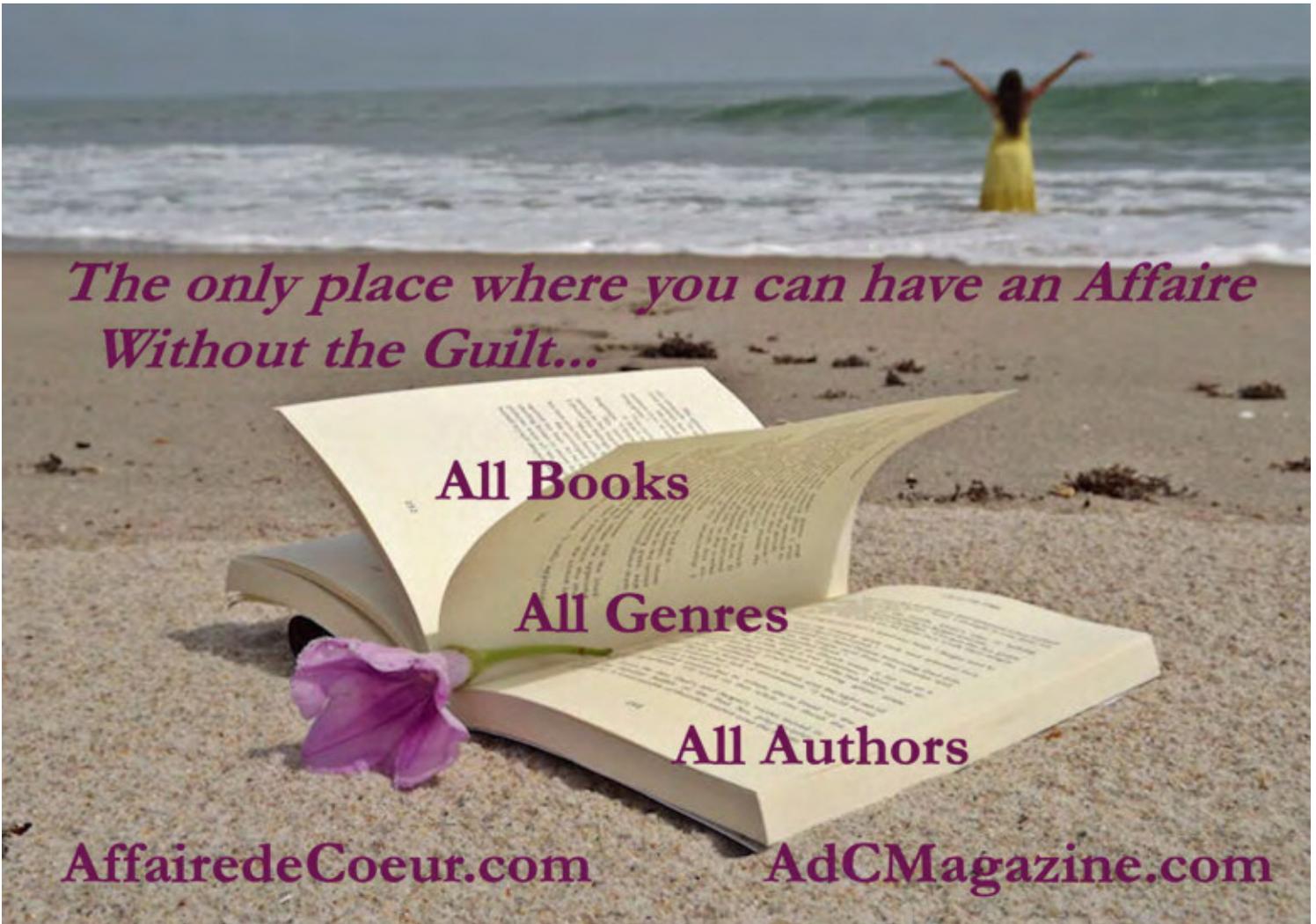


Hostess, Patti Spell



*Author panel Left to Right:
Pamela Ackerson, Ali Lucia Sky, Wynter Daniels
Claire Ashlynn*

Authors ended the event by spending time with friends, family, and readers at the various restaurants in the area.



Join us next year at Books at the Beach tentatively scheduled for September 20th to the 24th 3.
www.BooksattheBeach.com



High Tea at Claire Ashlynn's table



Hostess Jennifer Wedmore (right) and Sheri Lyn left



Enchanted Garden Party Hostess Cassidy O'Connor (left) and Teri Dees Edney



Affaire de Coeur



Kathleen Lopez

REVIEWS

- ★★★★★ Amazing/Excellent
- ★★★★ Good
- ★★★ Average
- ★★ Something's missing
- ★ More than one element missing

Sometimes a book does not quite fit into the description above. That is when the reviewer will use 1/2 to indicate it is better than its description but not quite at the next level.

Books are evaluated on (1) Characterization (2) Plot (3) Pacing, (4) Writing and (5) Originality



Contemporary Romance



Do you think you can write a fair and honest review of a book you've recently read? Here's your chance. We accept guest reviews. If you would like to submit one, pick a book that has just come out, whether you liked it or disliked it, and write a review of it. It's not as easy as you think. Send it to our website at www.adcmagazine.com.

Authors,

We'd love to review your books! Are you brave enough for an honest review? If so, send it in at least three months before the pub date to adcreviews@att.net

About Her

Elizabeth Seckman

Self-Published

E-book

B0B5CFT4JX

★★★★ 1/2

Without thinking twice nor consideration of the consequences, Shelley Ward impulsively returns to West Virginia from Poland. All she knew was that it was time for a major change. Life was too short, and she was tired of the messes that had been her life.

Her argument with the stewardess caused an uproar, and security was called. She was dragged to the security office at LaGuardia where Mark Salvan, a friend from her high school years, managed to diffuse the situation.

Instead of going home and working for her friend Cam, Shelley decides to take a different route. Mark was a Broadway producer. He offered her a job and a place to stay.

Her train wreck of a life could

somehow manage to stay on the tracks, if only...

This is a feel-good, second chance at happiness story. A must read!

Lauren Calder

In the Event of Love (Fern Falls #1)

Courtney Kae

Kensington

Trade Paperback

978-1496738950

★★★★

Event planner Morgan Ross reconnects with her childhood BFF/dream girl, rediscovering herself.

Upon returning to her hometown for Christmas, Morgan jeopardizes her career trajectory as an L.A. event planner with a late-night tabloid scandal. She strategically retreats to the place and people she has avoided, unable to face them or

Contemporary Romance

her past since they broke her heart seven years ago. Rachel Reed, her first love, runs her family's struggling tree farm—the only business standing between Fern Falls and corporate greed destroying the town's livelihood. To save the Reed farm, Morgan will plan her best fundraiser ever. Can Morgan maintain her professional distance, save the farm, and resist Rachel?

A creative, successful event planner, Rachel puts all her energy into her work, ignoring her personal life and badly broken heart. Rachel is aloof, lonely, and afraid to trust or let anyone get too close. She's burdened by profound self-esteem issues, carrying past hurts with her everywhere, unable to view them with mature eyes. Rachel is a relatable yet frustrating character because she wallows in the past and her fears.

Compared to Morgan, she's a bit immature. Somehow, Rachel finds Morgan irresistibly beautiful and even more sexy.

In the Event of Love is a page-turner with quick pacing and Kae's colorful description, characters, and natural-sounding dialogue. The world she created values diversity. It's filled with fascinating characters from different races, religions, ethnicities, sexual genders/identities, and sexualities, reflecting open-minded loving respect for people based on how they treat others, their actions, and their hearts.

Her characters are likable, genuine, quirky, and funny, but not without their share of angst and drama.

Kae captures small-town life/community—how entwined lives are, its fish-bowl nature, and how townspeople love and come together to help each other. *In the Event of*

Vanessa Jared's Got a Man

LaQuette

St. Martin's Press--Griffin

E-book

978-1250773395

★★★★★



Rebuilding her life after divorcing her toxic, emotionally abusive ex-husband, 40-something divorcee Vanessa Jared becomes BFFs with two other amazing Black women recovering from divorces. They form the "Savvy, Sexy, Singles Club." Sheriff Michael Park asks Vanessa to help him stop his sister from marrying her no-good ex. Initially, Vanessa refuses, but after seeing a photo of Michael's sister wearing her grandmother's—Vanessa's—ring, she agrees in exchange for the ring's return. Falling in love with Michael was unexpected.

Brilliant, courageous, beautiful, stronger than she knows, and a bit lost, Vanessa is on the road to rediscovering herself after years of keeping her needs, dreams, and desires hidden. Michael quit his job, gave up his city life, and moved back home to raise/care for his teenage sister after their parents died in a car accident, making her his life's focus.

LaQuette's vibrant writing style, lively dialogue, humor and wit draw readers in instantly, making the pages fly by. Her deftly developed characters are relatable and real. Though there is diversity in race/ethnicity among characters and interracial romantic relationships, races aren't an issue in the story.

LaQuette brilliantly develops Vanessa's and Michael's relationship through conversations and interactions crucial to their evolution. Additionally, she subtly examines the stigma against therapy in the Black community and explores emotionally manipulative/abusive relationships. Vanessa and Michael's relationship is a slow burn. Michael is into Vanessa. He tries to keep his cool and control, but his attraction deepens quickly. Vanessa, on the other hand, hesitates to get involved with anyone. She fights the attraction—though she's deeply attracted to Michael. Spending time together makes Vanessa respect, care for him, and want him more. But Vanessa can only allow herself to enjoy being with him while visiting because she won't risk her heart or independence. Michael's relentless need to protect the people he loves, which tends to get out of control, reinforces her skittishness about romance.

Vanessa Jared's Got a Man is an angsty, sexy book that readers will want to seek out if they prefer a steamy, engaging, sexy romance about diverse characters in their 40's.

Lacy Hill

Love is a sweet, sexy, humorous, steamy, and angsty romance about friendship, letting go of the past, self-discovery, forgiveness, belonging, discovering what makes you happy, and coming home.

Lacy Hill



Historical Romance

Magic and Goldfire

Clare Rushing
Mal Luna Press
YA Fantasy
979-8986819709
☆☆☆☆

Silver was an apprentice to Gareth, the royal physician at Castle Dunbright. Gareth, whom against the norm, didn't believe in magic. She did and also performed magic to help the local farmers and anyone needing assistance.

When she returned, Silver was informed that a special guest would be arriving. The king planned a feast for the knight from Summer Kingdom. Gareth was worried. He wasn't sure why a knight was being sent to visit the king. To their surprise, Vesunna Padsva, the honored guest was a female knight.

Silver entered the temple to find Vesunna within. Within days, the knight offers Silver an opportunity to go on a journey of a lifetime.

Fast-paced and full of twists and turns with heroic characters you'll absolutely love *Magic and Goldfire* is a winner.

Lauren Calder

Never Rescue a Rogue: A Novel (The Merriwell Sisters Book 2)

Virginia Heath
St. Martin's Griffin

Trade Paperback
978-1250787781

☆☆☆☆1/2

Giles Sinclair, the next duke of

Harpenden, has a secret. He's a bastard. Someone has threatened to reveal the truth. In response, Giles's father quickly arranges to marry a young woman to provide a legitimate heir. But before the wedding proceeds, the duke dies. Giles is in a horrible position. If Giles admits he's a bastard, his vicious uncle, Gervais, will take over the estate and destroy it. If the truth comes out, Giles will be disgraced and possibly deported. He needs someone to help ferret out who's discovered the truth. Giles turns to a woman who is as clever as she is irritating.

Diana Merriwell has a secret too. She is the feared investigative journalist, *The Sentinel*. Her family thinks that Diana is merely a gossip columnist. If they knew the truth, they would force her to quit immediately.

Giles asks Diana to use her investigative skills to find out who threat-

Historical

ened his father. To their astonishment as Giles and Diana work together, they fall in love. If Diana gives in to her love for Giles, she will be giving up her independence. If Giles marries Diana, she risks the same ruin he faces. And yet, how can they live without each other?

This is a continuation of a series. It can be read alone. It's a fun and interesting story that leaves the reader excited to read the rest of the books.

Sheila Griffin

Something in the Heir

Suzanne Enoch

St. Martin's Press--Griffin

Trade Paperback

978-1250842527

☆☆☆☆



Winnover Hall was the only home Emmeline Hervey had ever known and she was determined to keep it. But her grandfather, the Duke of Welshire, was adamant about upholding the family rules from 1635, regarding the ownership of Winnover Hall. The "rule" was "the first Ramsey descendant to wed after Winnover is vacated wins the use of it for five years. If said descendant produces a child within those five years, they may keep Winnover for their lifetime. Or until they decide to live elsewhere." Now her mother has just informed her that they have decided to move to the house in Bath, since Emmeline was three weeks into her first Season and should be getting married soon and would be able to keep the house. Then her cousin Penelope announces that she's getting married in three days and Emmeline's situation becomes desperate. She has to do something to keep her beloved Winnover Hall, but what?

Emmeline's childhood best

friend and neighbor, Will Pershing, was two years her senior, an absent-minded, gentle soul with a good heart, a passion for politics and had loved Emmie for years. She successfully convinces him to immediately marry her in order to beat out Penelope and her "claim" to her house. In return, she would do everything in her considerable power as the granddaughter of a duke to ensure his political success. The fact that she had been smitten with him in her younger years, but, over time, that had developed into a deep friendship, made it all that much easier. They would be partners and a successful power couple that would allow her to remain mistress of Winnover Hall. And producing an heir within five years? She would deal with that when the time came.

Eight very successful years later, Emmeline's grandfather is celebrating his 70th birthday and, in true Duke style, has ordered all of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to appear at his home to celebrate. The only problem is that Emmeline has been lying about having children for the last eight years and now needs to produce them. So she and Will make a deal with the local orphanage in London and pick out a brother and sister to "train" on how to be the children of gentry. Which isn't hard because the 8 and 5-year-olds are adept at "performing" from living on the streets of London before being put in the orphanage. They're also expert thieves. What could possibly go wrong and why is the Pershing's perfectly run household suddenly in chaos?

This is one of the most delightful "romances" I have read in a very long time. The children are precocious little thieves that don't trust anybody and aren't quite sure how to take the deal the Pershings are offering. The author's use of London street slang coming out of the mouths of babes is hysterical and endearing, if a little hard to understand. Ms. Enoch effectively shows the massive difference between

the haves and have-nots, without condemning the society that perpetrated it. As Will and Emmie find that their staid lives have been uprooted to deal with the chaos, they also discover that true love does exist and not just between a husband and wife. It just might take some time to re-discover. This is a five-star read at its best!

Lani Roberts

A green-themed poster for a signing event. At the top right, it says "Signaling Event" in white. Below that, it says "It's your lucky weekend! Lots of Fun Lots of Books and Lots of Authors" in white. In the center, there's a wooden signpost with a green hat on top, a tree, and a pot of gold. The signpost says "BOOK OBSESSED BABES AUTHOR SIGNING EVENT JACKSONVILLE, FL MARCH 16-19, 2023". At the bottom, it lists "Parties", "Contests", "Raffles", and "Did we say fun?!" in white. Below that, it says "FacebookGroup" and "Book Obsessed Babes" in white. A large green four-leaf clover is in the bottom right corner.

Signaling Event

It's your lucky weekend!
Lots of Fun
Lots of Books
and Lots of Authors

BOOK OBSESSED BABES
AUTHOR SIGNING EVENT
JACKSONVILLE, FL
MARCH 16-19, 2023

Parties
Contests
Raffles
Did we say fun?!

FacebookGroup

Book Obsessed Babes

Erotica

Some Like It Hot!!!

Same Sex Couples

SM

Multi Couples



Savage: Midnight Raiders MC Book 1

Claire Marta and Nia Farrell

True Lies Publishing

E-book

B0B67VF13J

☆☆☆

Savage took a much needed road trip that brought him to a Rt. 66 festival and car show in Illinois. The sweltering heat wave was enough to make anyone succumb to heat exhaustion. Tired of hiding his sexuality, Savage had just recently come out.

He'd met Dub at the car show when the man passed out from the heat. He let Dub know immediately who was in charge...

Savage helped Dub home. Finding out that Savage knew how to do construction and home repairs, Dub hires Savage to do handyman work around his old Victorian house. Things heat up as they got emotionally closer with each other, and troubles began.

This is an MM, motorcycle club story. It does have BDSM and may cause triggers. It is definitely for 18+.

Kitty Lane



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

Desperation in Death

J. D. Robb

St. Martin's Press

E-Book

Hardcover

978-1250278234

9781250278241

☆☆☆



J. D. Robb jumps right into the action in the latest addition to the “In Death” series set in the latter half of the 21st Century in New York City.

Detective Eve Dallas takes on a case that hits a bit too close to home, bringing up memories of her own difficult youth. A young girl has escaped from a sophisticated sex trafficking ring while her fellow escapee lies murdered. Young people are kidnapped, groomed, and trained to serve the wealthy and corrupt elite who purchase them. Eve must use all the resources at her disposal to put a stop to this well-organized and evil operation.

Though *Desperation in Death* is number 55 in the ongoing “In Death” series, J.D. Robb keeps the story fresh and the mystery just as compelling as the first books in this series.

Hannah Rowan

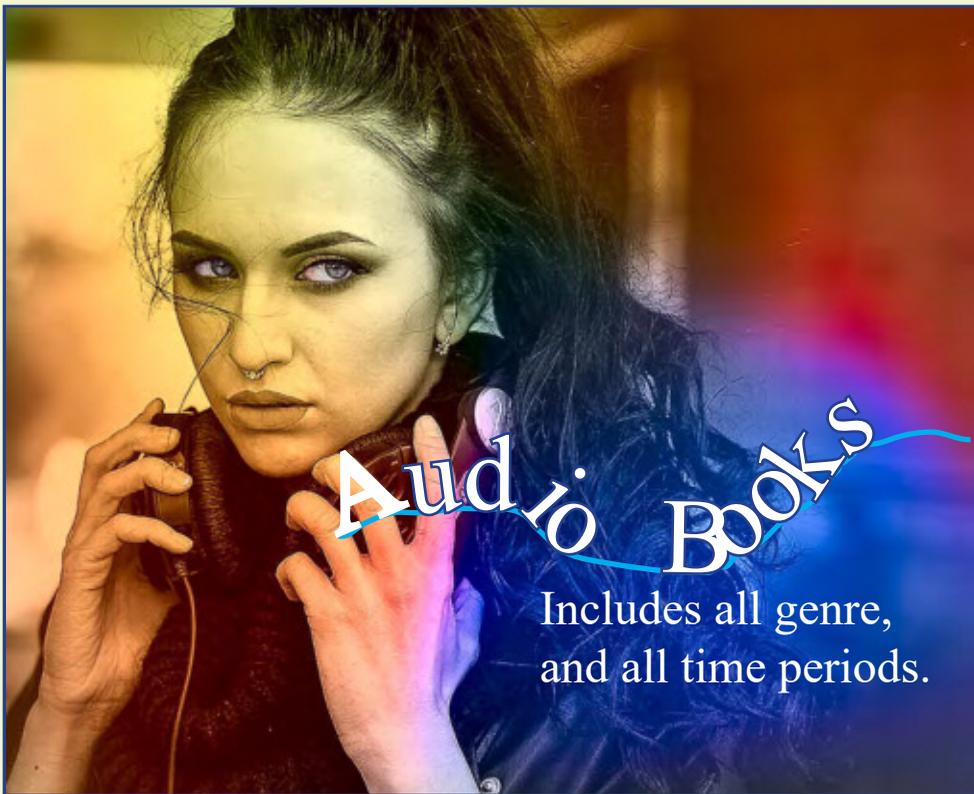
Happy Hauntings from *Affaire de Coeur*



MYSTERIES

Historical and Contemporary Whodunnits?





Audio Books

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and all time periods.

Booked on a Feeling

Jayci Lee

Narrated by Cindy Kay

Dreamscape Media

Audiobook

978-1666580679

☆☆☆☆

Two lifelong best friends—Lizzy Chung, Esq. and Jack Park—surrender to the chemistry simmering between them.

An overachiever with her life all mapped out, Lizzy is a lawyer at a prestigious law firm, working to become partner and make her parents proud. Passing out from a panic attack during trial throws her. She visits Jack to relax from burnout and get clarity.

Jack is surprised to see Lizzy but thrilled to spend time with his dream girl who's oblivious to his decades-long crush. He's afraid of risking their friendship on the off-chance Lizzy might return his feelings. Lizzy can't resist revamping the local bookstore with Jack's help. The more time they spend together, the harder to ignore their sparking chemistry/attraction.

Kay's dynamic and expressive narration complements Lee's perfect balance of humor and intense emotion.

She portrays the characters, male and female, with distinct voices using cadence, dialect, and pacing that captures their personalities, feelings, and moods. Lizzy's overachiever, type-A, romantic dreamer side shines through her inner monologue when trying to resist her desire for Jack! He reveals his boredom, uncertainty about the future and insecurity about fitting into Lizzy's life.

Lee's development of Jack's and Lizzy's characters is top-notch. Jack is reliable and multi-talented. Lizzy is an organized, creative planner and skilled attorney who loves books. Their sexual tension is off the charts with emotional, and steamy love scenes.

Booked on a Feeling is a sweet, funny, friends-to-lovers romance.

Lacy Hill

This May End Badly

Heather Masters

Narrated by Samantha Markum

OrangeSky Audio

Audiobook

978-1667068152

☆☆☆☆

Doe is gifted when it comes to creating pranks with her BFFs/Weston Girls. She's set on winning the century-long war against their rival boy's

Affaire de Coeur

school Winfield Academy before their senior year ends. Unfortunately, plans for Weston to merge with their rival next year cause their longtime feud to go into warp speed, spiraling the school and their lives into chaos.

Doe wants to prove that Weston girls and Winfield boys don't mix, starting with her nemesis Three. She makes a deal with Wells, Three's cousin, that he will fake date Doe to get under Three's skin, and she'll help Wells get his rightful family heirloom back from Three. Once the pranks between their two schools escalate, Doe's feelings for her fake boyfriend, Wells, become genuine and intense. She lies to her family and friends to keep their arrangement secret. Ultimately, Doe must choose between winning the school rivalry or joining forces with their rivals when a teacher the Weston students suspect of inappropriate behavior hurts a younger Weston girl.

Masters' voice perfectly matches Markum's characters, especially—Doe and Wells. She skillfully provides distinct voices for each character. Her voice for Wells sounds so good readers could easily believe there are two narrators.

Markum's vibrant writing style, rich and detailed description, dynamic and colorful dialogue, and deftly developed likable, fascinating, and complex characters draw you, keeping you glued to the pages. Doe's relationship with her BFFs helps reveal, develop, and soften her character. They're diverse in ethnicity, sexuality, and interests.

This May End Badly is funny, angsty, sweet, and entertaining, with a multi-layered story that explores themes of friendship, bullying, dysfunctional families, sexism, sexual predation, sexual harassment, school rivalries, falling in love, self-discovery, and taking risks.

Lacy Hill



Booty

Reviews from other genre

Half In: A Coming-of-Age Memoir of Forbidden Love

Felice Cohen

Dividends Press

Nonfiction Memoir

979-8985701708

☆☆☆

Felice had gotten a counseling job at the college she'd attended where she worked for Sarah Hamilton. Sarah was pleased with her work and hoped she'd apply to work there the next year. After her stint there, she was offered a position as a weekly columnist and editor for the Massachusetts Daily Collegian.

Along with a few unsuccessful relationships with younger men, a woman had attempted to kiss her, bringing up emotions that were confusing to her. Over time, she secretly started a relationship with a woman.

Returning to her position at the college with Sarah, the two became close. Even though there was a huge

age difference, Sarah and Felice had fallen in love. But things weren't as tidy as they'd like and many hurdles had to be tackled.

The "Prologue" was 2002, but the first chapter started in 1991. This reader was extremely disappointed that I knew what was to happen. It was borderline spoiler, and it immediately put me on the, "Nope, don't like this at all." Credit will be given to the author for showing a talented, emotionally moving, unique way of self-realization.

Lauren Calder

The Interviews

Lazarus

Self-published

Trade Paperback

979-8833416051

☆☆☆☆ 1/2

Shawn Thomas was involved in a protest to reform the country. He was brought in for questioning with the Atlanta police department after the

protest went out of control and turned into a riot. Unfortunately, although Shawn was raised to trust and respect the law, he didn't trust the police enough to be honest with them.

Some people felt the anger and violence was justified, and some believed it would all backfire and they'd lose the whole point of the protests. And the story of racial discrimination and brutality begins—and the blood spilled on the grounds of a nation who had prided themselves that all of mankind were equal.

The Interviews makes the reader confront the controversies that have plagued this country. It's not an easy subject, but the author has taken current social issues, and touched the hearts of souls of readers.

Lauren Calder

Booty

Jaded Choyce

Shaynuh Sloane

Self-published

E-book

B0B39NCT2R

☆☆☆

Chloe Choyce is a professional career woman, in Washington, D.C., who wants to start a better life for herself and family. Working there hadn't been the dream job she'd thought it would be. After signing her non-disclosure papers, she was thrilled to be away from the job and the boss who'd made working with him a constant, daily nightmare.

She began her next job with hope of success with her new government career job. As time moved on, she began to realize that this wasn't exactly what she'd hoped for either. It too seemed to have become a traumatic, toxic workplace.

Whether it's her oversensitivity to originally working in a toxic environment or the fact she was naïve enough to think that working in D.C. wasn't a cutthroat environment, it appears the character held onto the trauma and didn't let it go. Even what appeared to the reader to be an innocent action, it was taken as offensive or an insult.

The story was a bit monotonous, and this reader found it difficult to enjoy.

Lauren Calder

The Samaritan, a Tale of Plagued Regret

Robert Atkins

Artist Sinister

E-book

B0BBZ7JPYJ

☆☆☆

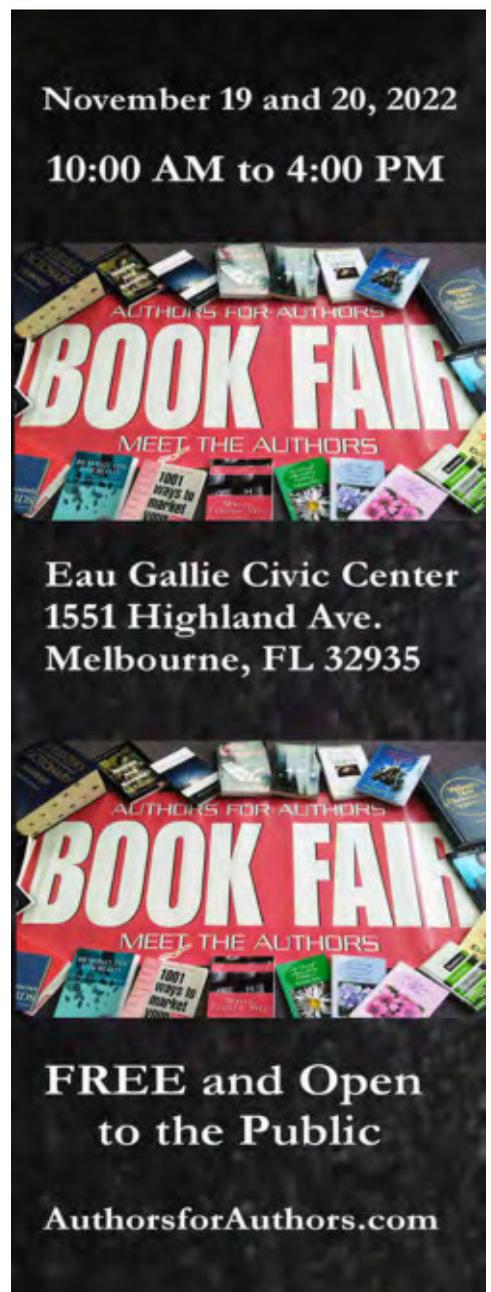
Jonathan Porter is on the run, but he is not alone as he carries in his head an entity known as Brody. Hoping to part from his passenger one day, he is guided by Brody who has a seemingly apparent indifference, though in truth he is Jonathan's faithful guide.

Enemies hunt him and death is part of his reality. He doesn't know whom to trust. Brody is always there to give a second, though, at times, snarky opinion to help lead the way. Jonathan meets individuals as he travels who test his wariness. Many are true allies. Jonathan's journey will be long and test his morals.

The story starts with a death, Jonathan kills a young man, possibly in defense, while on the run from a group of ruffians. In his quest to escape, he meets others who aid him. Magic aids his journey, as well as those he meets along the way.

It is a quest and a journey; there are many interpersonal interactions along the way to fill the story and a lot of dialogue with his passenger. There isn't much of a plot other than the journey; the direction the character is going isn't touched upon in this story.

Lauren Calder



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A Feast for Pleasant Beasts

J.T. Bird

Illustrated by Andy Catling,

Cover by Andrew Davis

Self-Published

Hardcover

978-1838047986

★★★★

Cuthbert Wormhill gives a party every year on the seventh day of the seventh month. To be invited, one must have unimpeachable manners. His guests would not necessarily be your guests, as he entertained beasts and at least one other-worldly creature (the devil). The beasts are introduced one at a time, starting with a troll, a giant, and a yeti and ending with this reviewer's favorite, the dragon. Though each of them has faults such as stinking like rotten spinach or in the case of the overly long dachshund, having a body that was big enough to wrap around people, Cuthbert looked to their positive side.

This is a valuable lesson for ev-

eryone.

This reviewer is not certain which age group this book targets. Pre-school children would probably lose interest before the story was finished, as it is a long story. However, school-aged and even pre-teens might find this just perfect. Regardless of age, they will be fascinated by the illustrations done by Andy Catling. After its introduction, each beast is illustrated, and Andy Catling is gifted, not only with the ability to create an image, but the coloring is wonderful.

A few grammatical and punctuation errors were distracting to this reviewer, children will probably not notice.

Mildred Burkett

Hero Kids in the Making

Wg Williams

Illustrated by Anthony Walls

Self-Published

Paperback

★★★★ 1/2

This is a fantastic rhyming story.

Magical creatures explain medical procedures for children who are in the hospital. Every pediatric hospital needs to have *Hero Kids in the Making* available to parents and their children.

“The next little critters who helped hero kids grow were the fairy-bees in hives where the tree leaves glowed.

They used their pointy tails to find all hero things and to place their superpowers inside you with a small sting.”

Lauren Calder

Late!

Didn't quite make in the last issue



Includes all genre and all time periods

In the Middle of Hickory Lane

Heather Webber

Forge

Hardcover

978-1250774651

★★★★★

The first thing Emme Wynn sees when she arrives in town is a boatload of cop cars. A sinkhole opened in the community garden near her estranged grandmother, Glory Wynn's, house. Human bones were found. Everyone thinks they belong to Glory's sister, Bee. She and her husband disappeared in 1965. Rumor has it that Bee's husband lost his temper and killed her. Glory refuses to consider that the skeleton is Bee until the forensic results are finalized.

Cora Bee Hazelton, Emme's second cousin, catches a runaway dog. She falls and breaks her foot. Alice, the dog's owner, starts coming by Cora

Bee's house offering to help while she is laid up. Cora Bee would rather just be left alone. But Alice is so remorseful that Cora Bee finds herself relenting. As her friendship with Alice grows so does Cora Bee's attraction to Alice's daddy, Jamie.

The last time any of the family saw Emme was when her momma left town when she was a baby. Emme's mom was a con artist. They constantly moved from town to town, one step ahead of the law. But Emme isn't like her mother. More than anything Emme wants to put down roots and be part of a family. Hopefully moving in with Glory is her first step.

In the Middle of Hickory Lane is a really good book by a very talented author.

Sheila Griffin

Mansplainer (Last Man Standing #3)

Avery Flynn

Entangled Publishing, LLC

Trade Paperback

978-1649370167

★★★★★

Nash Beckett thinks he'll win the bet with his cousins to be the last man blissfully not in love by Christmas in Avery Flynn's *Mansplainer, Last Man Standing #3*. A marriage of convenience should seal the deal, and he's found the perfect wife—Chelle Finch, who needs a temporary husband even more than he needs a wife.

Intelligent, independent, 42-year-old Chelle is the Executive Director of her family's Finch Foundation, but her passion is writing fantasy novels. All her life, she's been surrounded by misogynistic, judgmental, controlling men. Because of the archaic terms of her father's will, she must marry to keep control of her foundation. Nash must follow the bet's rules and go on six dates with the same woman to win the bet with his cousins. However, Nash plans to win the bet by marrying—but not for love. So, they agree to a six-month marriage of convenience, followed by divorce. Dating Chelle makes Nash realize he wants her as his forever wife. Can the mansplainer who can talk his way out of anything sweet talk his temporary wife into forever?

Chelle longs to be respected and seen as a capable, worthy equal. She's tired of men controlling her, telling her they know what's best for her and that she's not enough. For Chelle, it's not easy to open up to Nash. Nash cannot resist offering unsolicited advice about anything to everyone. Mansplainer doesn't cover it. As the oldest, Nash grew up quickly, shouldering adult responsibilities because of flighty and absent parents. Nash's way of life is valuing control caring for his family, and helping people. Nash doesn't know his identity without problem solving or helping fix other people's lives. He doesn't know how to turn it off and live his own life.

Late!

Mansplainer is a sexy, funny, angsty, steamy, absorbing read perfect for readers who like seriously steamy, age gap, marriages of convenience, and pretend relationship romances with plus-size heroines and heroes who are not what they seem.

Lacy Hill

The Scoundrel Falls Hard, The Duke Hunt #3

Sophie Jordan

Avon

Mass Market

978-0063035713

☆☆☆ 1/2

Sophie Jordan's *The Scoundrel Falls Hard, The Duke Hunt #3*, focuses on a marriage of convenience between Gwen Cully and fugitive rogue Kellan Fox. As the village blacksmith, Gwen works hard to keep her family's blacksmith legacy intact and business prosperous. However, when a local rival threatens her livelihood and independence, Gwen feels she has nowhere to turn with no family left.

Unfortunately, Kellan's life since childhood has been a dangerous game of deception, leading him to flee, hide, and fight for survival. He takes shelter from his pursuers in Gwen's smithy. No one is more surprised than he when the tall blacksmith protects him from an angry mob of villagers—except for Gwen. Kellan and Gwen agree to a year-long marriage—in name only—to save his life and her family's blacksmith operations.

Gwen is fiery, fearless, beautiful, and passionate about her family's blacksmith forge/operations. A handsome unrepentant rogue, Kellan is a skilled thief raised in the art of the swindle. But he's unafraid of hard work or fulfilling his commitments. He keeps his true self and feelings behind a mask. Being with Gwen allows him to see

possibilities for a life without thieving, lying, and stealing from others—a life he never chose.

Hitting the ground running with an exciting, intriguing, and fast-paced start, *The Scoundrel Falls Hard* slows the pacing to develop Kellan's and Gwen's uneasy alliance and burgeoning romance. Jordan's vibrant description, steamy love scenes, and complex characters make for an entertaining read.

Despite the development of Gwen's and Kellan's relationship, this novel is not as compelling as Book 2, perhaps because of high expectations. The resolution came too quickly, without enough interaction between Kellan and Gwen leading up to the conclusion. It felt like important parts of Kellan's perspective were missing. Overall, *The Scoundrel Falls Hard* is a steamy, historical romance with some nicely written moments of suspense and action.

Lacy Hill

To Catch a Raven, Women Who Dare #3

Beverly Jenkins

Avon

Mass Market

978--0062861740

☆☆☆☆

Raven Moreaux and Braxton Steel go undercover as a married couple in Beverly Jenkins' *To Catch a Raven, Women Who Dare #3*. Lying and cheating are in Raven's blood. She comes from a long line of grifters—The Moreaux—and couldn't be prouder.

Raven poses as the housekeeper of a former Confederate official suspected of stealing the Declaration of Independence to steal it back. Raven's undercover partner Braxton will masquerade as the valet/driver. Their fiery passion and chemistry surprise them, but to protect their families, they'll put their hearts and lives on the line.

Raven is extraordinary, will-

Affaire de Coeur

ing to do anything for her family and to keep them safe. She's confident and comfortable with who she is and knows what she wants from life and her worth. She is unwilling to settle for less or be disrespected, undervalued, or taken advantage of by anyone. Raven loves her job and life because she's committed to her family.

Braxton is surprising. Because of Braxton's initial attitude of the Moreaux, he and Raven don't get off to the best start. They work well as partners, becoming friends and then lovers. It's meant to be temporary, but emotions become involved, and they catch feelings. Initially, he appears judgmental and superior. Former military, Braxton is a handsome, honorable, caring, intelligent, low key, and proud tailor. He's also jaded, cynical, and dealing with war trauma. Raven and the Moreaux open Braxton's mind because Raven challenges his preconceptions about their illegal activities/code. She makes Braxton rethink what he wants for his life. Braxton upends Raven's preconceptions about him and her ideas about men. He sees how Raven puts everyone else first. Braxton's laser-focused on caring for Raven, ensuring she's safe, feels cherished, and comes first, a new experience for her. Braxton makes it sweet and exceptionally sexy.

To Catch a Raven is a steamy, funny, and captivating historical romance exploring family and class conflicts within Black communities, treatment of Black Americans post slavery, and class/wealth disparities. Jenkins' creative story, dynamic writing style, perfectly balanced realistic and creative world building draw readers in from the first scene, keeping them glued to the pages. She brilliantly weaves the US' complicated history following slavery and Reconstruction into her multi-layered, insightful story/plot. Readers will love her fascinating, complex, fallible characters. In addition, Jenkins wonderfully captures the feeling of family.

Lacy Hill



the other side.

The Fae Realm.

The doorway would take her to the people of her mother, and she cared not that it was supposedly dangerous.

Her cousin Liam—the son of a former Fae Warrior—had told her of his adventures when he'd snuck into the other side.

Multiple times.

Like his father Xander, her cousin had wings in the realm of the Fae, unlike here, on the Isle of Skye, in the human world.

As her blasted mother had always explained it, the world of the humans had much less magic, so her cousins—father and son alike—didn't have their wings.

Over there, Liam could fly.

Over there, her powers would come more easily.

Lexi had been cautioned her whole life how dangerous the Fae were. How they could sense human blood and would kill her on sight for being an abomination, for intruding in their world. Her father Alex, the current Laird MacLeod, was human.

Her mother had sadly explained that her grandfather, the King of the Scottish Fae, Fillan,

wouldn't suffer to look at her before he had her killed, regardless of their blood tie.

Alana had forever fled her people to be with Lexi's father, so the same was true for the former princess. She was exiled. Self-banished, since she'd fled imprisonment before Lexi's birth.

Banishment was preferred to being killed by one's own blood, her mother always said. She was also fond of adding, had they not escaped together—since the king had also taken Alex hostage—Lexi would likely have never been born.

Neither Lexi, nor her brother, Angus, had ever been to the Realm of the Fae.

Liam had always managed to get away from the Fae Warriors who supposedly guarded the Faery Stones on the other side. He knew spells they'd played with as wee ones; knew how to turn invisible for a short time.

They both knew some defensive magic forbidden to use at home. Her mother frowned upon most, if not all, magic use.

Lexi wouldn't focus on that now, or what'd happened to cause her flight from Dunvegan.

She could blink, or travel by picturing her destination, and appearing there by will. Her Aunt Claire called it traveling telepathically.

She'd get away, too.

Lexi.

This time, the voice in her head was her brother's.

She swallowed.

With the nickname Aunt Claire had given her, she could feel Angus' censure, but also his compassion and worry. His love for her.

So, he was going to be the one to try to reason with her. A good plan, since she tended to hear her brother out before she would their parents.

Not today.

She spat a word she'd learned from her Aunt Jules, and had been told by Claire never to utter.

It seemed as if all her ladylike sensibilities had fled.

Lexi grinned for the first time since she'd run out of the bailey and down the road, headed to the beach. She'd fled on foot, since she'd been worried her beloved mount, her silver mare, Turadh, would've been lost had she taken time to get her from the stables.

The waiting portal glimmered, as if beckoning her.

She couldn't make out what was on the other side; it was too dark.

No matter.

With a quick prayer and a big calming breath, she stepped into the bubble.



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