

*May/June 2023*

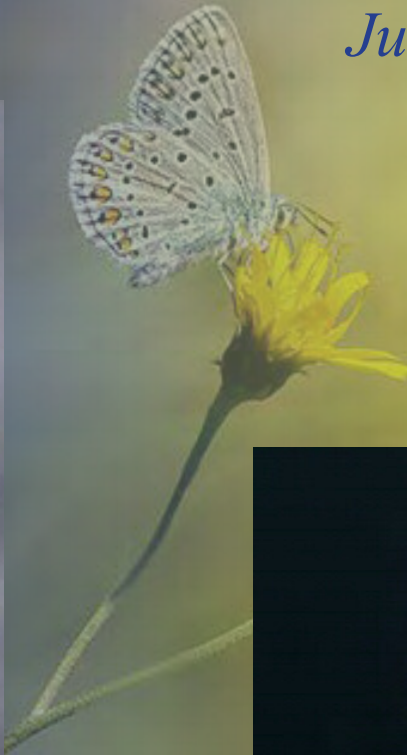
# *Affaire de Coeur*

*Bringing You Honest Reviews Since 1980*

CA Szarek--Multi-genre,  
Bestselling Author is May's  
Calendar Girl

*AdC Remembers Romance Author Great*

*Julie Garwood*



**Reviews!**



**Victoria Saccenti is AdC's Calendar  
Girl for June**

# *Affaire de Coeur*



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May/June, 2023

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# Dear QWERTY

By Pamela Ackerson

## Eeny Meeny Miny Moe

### Which Publishing Direction Should I Go?

Choosing a Publisher can be tricky.



There are many choices available for authors to publish their books, more so than ever. Honestly, it depends on what you want. Gathering information will help make the decision that is best, and it will avoid any blunders or face-palming. There will still be a learning curve but, hopefully, this information will assist anyone interested in publishing their book(s).

Depending on budget, when you want the book out, the target audience, and the genre all depends on which direction you need to go. Let's get into the different types of publishers.

There are four different types of publishing to consider: Self-publishing, Vanity publishing, Hybrid publishing, and Traditional publishing.

#### Self-publishing

Self-Publishing is self-explanatory. The author does it all herself.

They promote, market, write, and pay for professional editing, formatting, promotion, advertising, artwork/cover design, finding legitimate reviewers, beat readers, etc. Then once all that is said and done, they must choose a company where the book will be marketed. For example, Smashwords, D2D, or Amazon will place your book on their website to sell. Rarely will a self-published author be on the shelves in a physical store.

As a self-published author, you're responsible for a professional product from beginning to end. If you're familiar with the industry, self-publishing can be a great way to go. There are advantages, if you know the business. You'll own all the rights to the book. You'll receive a higher profit from the books sold. You've got complete control over the production. You can choose who to hire to do the work needed to present a finished, professional product. You can decide where your advertising dollars will go.

The biggest disadvantage to self-publishing would be for anyone who is unfamiliar with the publishing business. It's a time-consuming endeavor. If you don't know what you're doing, throwing money around, hoping this works, that works, and not getting much of a return on your business investment is tough.

#### Hybrid Publishing

Hybrid publishing is a cross between vanity publishing and self-publishing. The author retains the rights to his/her book and keeps creative control but pays the hybrid publisher to do the heavy lifting. In other words, you pay them to handle the publishing process. They'll find and hire an editor, formatter, cover designer, etc.

Chances are they've been in the industry for a while and know what they're doing. A good hybrid publisher who has developed an honest reputation may be able to get your book into a bookstore. Prices for hybrid publishers can be from \$4,000 to \$50,000.

Some of them expect you to do the marketing and advertising and some have plans for you to choose from at different rates. Most hybrid publisher's rates are lower than vanity, and since they know what they're doing, may save you money in the long run.

Royalty rates differ with each hybrid publisher.

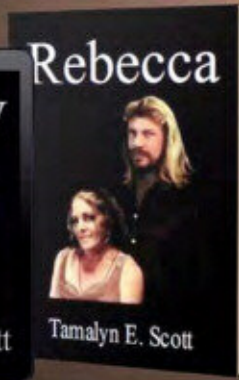
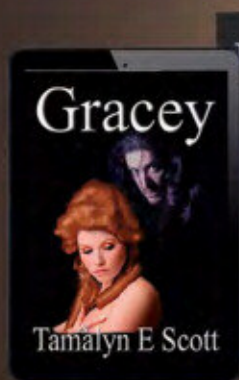
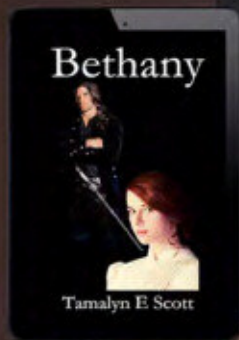
The disadvantage to using hybrid publishers is that many in the industry put them into the same category as a vanity publisher. Retailers prefer going with traditional publishing houses.

Hybrids are less prestigious than traditional publishers. However, your book would have a better chance of getting into a store with a hybrid publisher than if you self-published.

#### Vanity Publishing

Vanity publishers are also known as vanity press, vanity printing, and subsidy publishing. They offer book printing services for authors who pay them to publish their books. Because of too much unscrupulous behavior from vanity publishers, they have received a very negative reputation.

Vanity publishers own the publishing rights. They expect the author to hand them a print/press ready book, or they give you the option to use their services. They charge a nice hefty fee for any and all services they render.



### Sarah

Little did she know that her life wouldn't truly start until the day she found something extraordinary, a hidden letter! Then and there, Sarah knew that one day, she and Beckham would have it's own story to tell.

### Bethany

Colonel McInnis, a widower with two small children, had a temper so hot, he regularly decorated Bethany's day dresses with oatmeal. Even so, something about him called to her. Perhaps, it was the sadness in his eyes...

### Rebecca

They seemed like knights in shining armor, and she laughed out loud. After all, they were only a legend, a fairy tale. Weren't they?

### Gracey

To have all that you thought and all you believed, change... things aren't always what they seemed to be and legends just might be real...

TamalynsBooks.com



Many require a minimum book order, and the author stores them at home and is responsible for selling the books.

Some vanity publishers will place the books they've published on Amazon or other platforms. The royalties go to them first, and then the author waits (sometimes up to six months) for their royalty.

Many vanity publishers have a set rate. The set rate doesn't include marketing, advertising, placement, or the cost to print and ship the mandatory minimum of books to the author.

If you want to utilize their services above and beyond their set rate, you may pay \$5,000 and go up from there. Unfortunately, a predatory reputation is associated with vanity presses because of the many scams preying on authors who desperately want their book in print.

What it boils down to: they own the publishing rights, and you pay them for it.

## Traditional Publishing Houses

Traditionally, published books

come from major publishing houses like, Kensington, Simon & Schuster, McGraw-Hill, and Penguin. There are many small press publishing houses who traditionally publish books for authors. For example, The Wild Rose Press, Champagne Press, Entangled, and Clean Reads.

Traditional publishers pay the author for the rights to publish, distribute, and sell the book. Many require the authors to have an agent. Some publishers will accept submissions without an agent.

The larger publishing houses have an "in" with the bookstores. The chance of getting into a brick-and-mortar are much higher than with a small publishing house or a hybrid publisher. Many of the large publishing houses have imprints that will help new and debut authors break into the industry.

Traditional publishers are the experts. They know exactly what the readers want and which direction the industry is going. Most will pay in advance and once those sales have been reached, the author will begin receiving royalties from sales.

They're able to promote in ad-

vance, pay for all aspects of production, and continue to promote the book after its release.

They're also very strict with whom they choose. They want quality. Their reputation is built on it, and they won't take anything less than fantastic.

As a new author to traditional publishers, depending on the contract, they may expect you to pay for advertising costs. They expect the author to have some kind of platform or following.

Small indie traditional publishers are a fantastic way to get your book published. Some may only pay a small advance; some may not pay an advance at all. Their funds are limited but they still pay for the publishing process. Although promoting and advertising will be the author's responsibility, the author will still have the advantage of their expertise.

With traditional publishers the author has a better chance of getting their book in bookstores, increase their chance of getting on bestseller lists, securing promotional reviews and endorsements.



# The Spotlight is Shining on CA Szarek, Ms. May AdC's Calendar Girl



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:** Tell us about the genre(s) you write. Why did you choose to go in that direction?

**CA.S.:** I always say I write everything. LOL I have series in epic fantasy romance, historical fantasy romance (Scottish Highlander Time Travels) and romantic suspense. But I also have some others I don't have books out for, including paranormal romance and maybe even a YA romance. I just write what I feel. It didn't happen on purpose.

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

**CA.S.:** Strong, sassy, sarcastic heroines and strong males. I like me an alpha male or two.

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

series?

**CA.S.:** I'm still caught up in the "Highland Treasures" series. I currently have two books out. It is a spin-off of my "Highland Secrets" series, and I am working on the 3rd book in the series. It's called *Highland Skies*, and it will be out in November. Instead of time travel, this one takes place in the Fae Realm. I am excited to explore more of that world.

I have *Highland Essence*, which is out, and the cover of the next one. This is a cover reveal, so hopefully, it will be a treat for readers. You're seeing it here first.

**AdC:** Favorite quote:

**CA.S.:** *Who Wills...Can  
Who Tries...Does  
Who Loves...Lives*  
-Anne McCaffery

*Affaire de Coeur*

**AdC:** If you were transported to the setting of the book you're currently reading or writing, where would you be?

**CA.S.:** Ohhh, that would be fun. The romanticized version, anyways. LOL. I would be in 1799 in Scotland, on the Isle of Skye, as well as in the Fae Realm (where the faeries live). It would be loads of fun and danger.

**AdC:** Do you hide any "Easter eggs" secrets/truths in your books that only a few people will find?

**CA.S.:** I do! You might see a character/situation pop up that seems vague but if you read my books, you'll know who I'm talking about. I love doing that!





**AdC:** *If you saw a doorway/portal in the middle of the forest, would you enter it?*

**CA.S.:** For sure! I wouldn't be able to help myself. Hopefully I am well prepared. LOL.

**AdC:** *What scenes do you find hard to write and why?*

**CA.S.:** I think that differs for me per book, and it would probably be if/when I get stuck. Motoring through and figuring out what happens next is my nemesis. I recognize I do it to myself, because I can't (don't) plot, but it's usually a different point for each book, or more than once. LOL.

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

**CA.S.:** Yes! In July, I will be at [Writers On the River](#) in East Peoria, Illinois! In October, I will be in San Diego, California, for [Historical Romance Retreat](#) and I am super excited for them both! Hope to see readers there!

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

**CA.S.:** Writing is just so engrained for me I'm not sure. I have been a writer since I was very little—and before I wrote stories, I constantly told them in my head. I just think it's a part of me. Writing is like breathing.

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

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

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

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





## Sneak Peek



### *Highland Essence*

#### *Excerpt 2*

by CA Szarek

With a few curses for good measure, he kicked at the loamy ground and watched the dirt, sand and pebbles fly forward. The wind assisted, carrying off the lighter particles until he couldn't see them anymore.

The scent of the sea tickled his nose.

He kicked again, this time harder, throwing up more small rocks and sending them off to new homes.

"Ow."

He stilled. A random voice on a deserted beach?

His ears had to be deceiving him.

Graeme scanned the area in front of him. There was a small ridge he couldn't see around unless he descended a yard or so. Was that a foot?

He scrambled down, making more dirt and rocks shift beneath him.

There was definitely movement there, and that foot was bare, as was the shapely calf attached to it.

He kept going until she was in view, then skidded to a halt.

Not only were her feet and legs bare...so was the rest of her. Completely.

Naked.

No doubt, the form was female. A stunning female.

Graeme chided himself for checking out the curve of her ass, but since she was lying on her side, he didn't have much of a choice.

Until she rolled to her back and put her hand to her forehead, revealing almost everything else.

Her breasts were small and high, and she had long dark hair. She had one leg bent, and one straight, obscuring his view of her, well, most private place, but he could barely tear his eyes away.

Because despite the fact that something had obviously happened to her, what he could see was pretty perfect.

He kicked his ass into gear and clambered to her side. "Are you all right?"

When she didn't immediately move, he squatted down. "Miss?"

She moved her arm away from her face and blinked up at him.

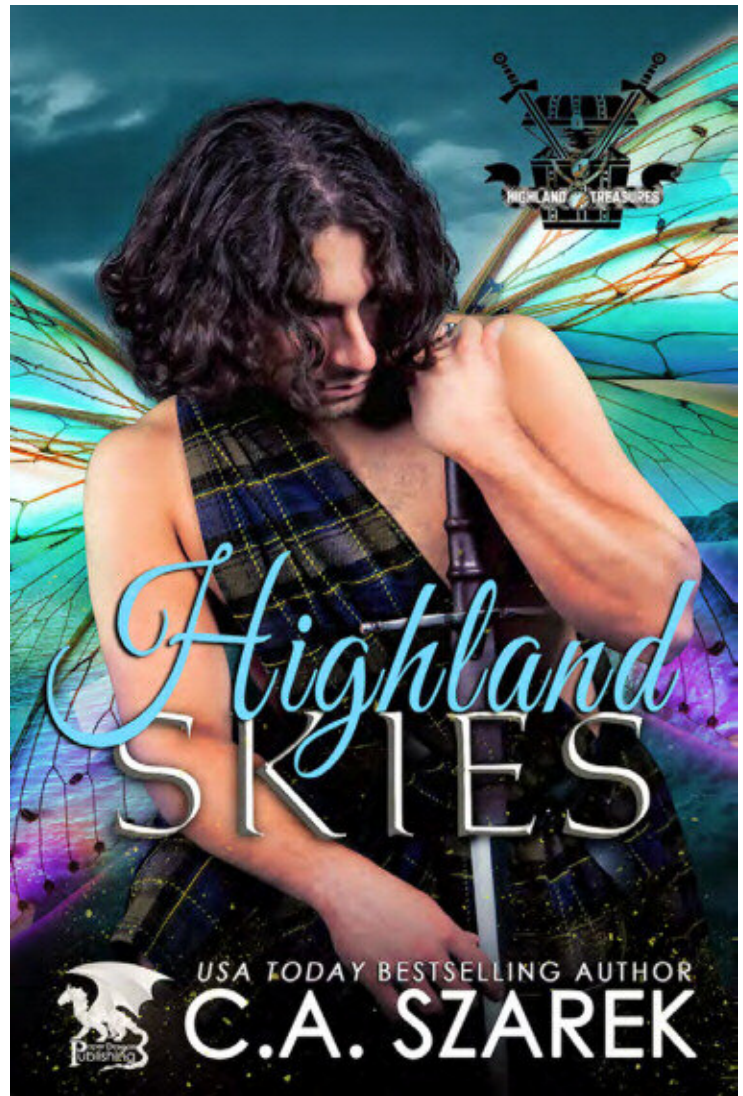
"What?" The question was whispered but revealed a brogue. Funny, he could hear it from one word, and it'd become so...normal.

He'd been in Scotland for almost eight months now, and loved everything about the country, its people, the wonderful accent.

Even his stubborn grandfather.

"Are you okay?" Graeme repeated.

Her gaze seemed to zone in on him for the first time.



Big. Violet. Eyes.

Like practically purple. How weird.

Contacts?

He cleared his throat. "Miss?"

She coughed and tried to sit up, but struggled, as if she couldn't get the job done.

"I'm gonna grab your arm, okay, ma'am? Help you up?"

Her skin was soft beneath his fingertips and a shiver ran up his shoulder and down his spine, almost snapping him to attention.

She must've felt it, too, because those unusual eyes collided with his again. She licked her lips, and he had the odd desire to lean down and taste her mouth.

Graeme shook himself and studied her face.

She was exquisite, and it wasn't just those eyes, or the rest of her body. Her high cheekbones and full lips accentuated her heart-shaped face. This female was the whole package.

He helped her to shaking legs, and grabbed her elbows to steady her. He couldn't tear his eyes from her slender waist or the curve of her delectably rounded hips.

Graeme forbade himself from looking further south.

Her locks were so dark, ebony, skimming her hips in the gentle breeze. Her nipples were pebbled, and oh-so perfect. Her breasts would fit wholly in his hands, and that'd



always been his favorite kind of woman.

*Oh geez, stop being a perv.*

She was cold, from her overly pale and goosebump-covered skin. Graeme needed to help her. Definitely needed to stop looking at her tits, before his dick got ideas. A boner in tight jeans was no friend of his.

He'd already had the desire to press his lips to hers, and he'd never kissed a stranger in his life. He didn't need any other ideas.

"What happened to you?"

Graeme asked. "Did someone hurt you?" He scanned her alabaster skin—for bruises, he insisted to his inner pervert—but there didn't seem to be a mark on her.

"Yer no' Scottish," she blurted. Her brogue was as thick as he'd suspected, and somehow added to her appeal. Of course, being gorgeous and naked didn't hurt a damn thing. Graeme smiled. "I am, actually. But I was born and raised in Texas." He whipped his shirt off and handed it to her.

The girl stood staring at his offering; her cheeks pink. "Yer attire is...odd." She looked him up and down, then glanced at his gray tee. He didn't miss her gaze spending a few seconds too long on his bare torso. The idea that she might like what she saw kicked up his fascination with her.

"Your clothes are absent, so you should put this on."

Those eyes landed on his face again, and went so wide he could see

her whites. "My...my clothes." That pale flawless skin played ghost and she swayed on her feet.

"Whoa. Just breathe." Graeme grabbed her wrist and drew her into his chest. His shirt fell to the sandy ground.

She gasped as her naked flesh hit his, and he had to bite back a groan when those perfect breasts pressed into him.

Her ending up in his arms hadn't been the plan. He'd just wanted to prevent her from falling over, but damn, he wasn't going to complain.

She was fitted to him, and her arms tentatively encircled his waist. She was petite; the top of her head only skimmed the underside of his chin, but he could pull her closer, tuck her into him and she could put her cheek on his pec.

Graeme wanted to hold her. Tighter. As if it was somehow right, and he had the strange notion, he didn't want to let her go.

"Warm," she whispered.

Her breathy exclamation somehow kicked in his manners.

"Oh. Shit, I'm sorry. Let's get my shirt on you." He kept one hand on her forearm so she wouldn't keel over, but really, it was because he couldn't seem to stop touching her now that he'd started.

He swallowed. Twice.

There was definite interest from Mr. Happy, and the dude needed to calm down.

Sure, he hadn't gotten laid in a while, but a reaction like this to a

strange woman just because she was naked was a bit uncalled for.

Especially given she was in some kind of trouble. People didn't just show up naked on the beach, after all.

She stared into his face as Graeme lifted her arm like a toddler and slid his short-sleeved T-shirt up to her slender shoulder. She still hadn't looked away when the soft material was over her head, and he gently lifted her hair and let the length tumble down her back. The oversized material stopped mid-thigh on her, and he was ashamed of himself that he wished it was higher—or gone.

"What happened to you?"

Graeme asked for the second time, needing the distraction. *Be-freaking-have. You're not a teenager.*

The young woman looked at him again, but those fathomless eyes didn't stay put.

He followed her gaze when she whirled from him.

She seemed to study the terrain, the rushing waves, and lastly, his grandfather's blue pickup, parked about fifty feet from the beach.

When she faced him again, her pallor was back, with a touch of fear in her expression.

Graeme's protective instincts flared and he wanted to grab her up, hold her away from the world; keep her safe from whatever obviously scared her. She swallowed, and he wanted to kiss her throat.

"Could ye kindly tell me that year?"



# *The Spotlight is Shining on Victoria Saccenti Ms. June AdC's Calendar Girl*



*Award-winning and bestselling author, Victoria Saccenti, writes contemporary romance, paranormal romance, and romantic women's fiction. Not one for heart and flowers stories, she explores the edgy twists and turns of human interaction, the many facets of love, and all possible happy endings. After thirty years of traveling the world, she's settled in Central Florida where she splits her busy schedule between family and her active muse at Essence Publishing. However, if she could convince her husband to sell their home, she would pack up her computer and move to Scotland, a land she adores.*

**AdC:** *Tell us about the genre(s) you write. Why did you choose to go in that direction?*

**V.S.:** I love reading all Romance sub-genres and tropes, and that has guided my steps toward a multi-genre style. My writing journey began with the "Destiny's Series." A cross-cultural romantic women's fiction series set in the late 1960's to early 1970's. Once that urge was satisfied—my muse and I—moved on to paranormal/fantasy romance and contemporary steamy romance.

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

**V.S.:** The redemption of flawed characters and second chances in life

and love are my favorite tropes. The reader will find quite a bit of angst and conflict in most of my stories.

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

**V.S.:** On January 30th, I released *Titanian Warrior*, the third full-length novel in the "Titanian Chronicles". These books are stand-alones. However, for a more satisfying immersion in the Titanian Universe, I recommend beginning with *Beloved Titanian*, a prequel novelette.

On April 3, I released *The Lovely Danielle* on KU. This is a stand-alone novelette in the "Central Florida Stories" – Club Nexus universe.

By the time this publication goes to press, *Twisted Proposal* book 3 in the "Central Florida" stories will be available. The "Central Florida" stories is a romantic collection of stand-alone books laced with erotic suspense and dark themes. The common thread in the series is Club Nexus.

**AdC:** *Favorite quote:*

**V.S.:** "Just because you can, doesn't mean you should." A quote with multiple applications.

**AdC:** *If you were transported to the setting of the book you're currently reading or writing, where*



# TITANIAN CHRONICLES

THE AWARD-WINNING SERIES

*"The Titanian Universe unfolds... The gods walk among us."*



Victoria  
Saccenti  
THE ESSENCE OF ROMANCE

*"An engaging and cinematic work of fiction."*  
[victoriasaccentiwrites.com](http://victoriasaccentiwrites.com)

*would you be?*

**V.S.:** I'm reading a book set in Washington, D.C.

**AdC:** *Do you hide any "Easter eggs" secrets/truths in your books that only a few people will find?*

**V.S.:** I enjoy surprising the readers with a twist here and an unexpected turn there. I'd never make it so cryptic that not everyone caught on.

**AdC:** *If you saw a doorway/portal in the middle of the forest, would you enter it?*

**V.S.:** Without hesitation. In the Titanian universe, my characters summon portals to travel everywhere.

**AdC:** *What scenes do you find hard to write and why?*

**V.S.:** The hardest scenes to write

are breakups, or when there's physical abuse. I get too involved and feel my characters' pain too closely. Once I wrote a rape scene—which later I deleted. I was depressed for a week.

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

**V.S.:** Yes. Space Coast Book Lovers in June 2023, SaSS in Norfolk in July 2023, and All Shook Up – Memphis in October 2023. I'll be going back to SaSS in 2024.

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

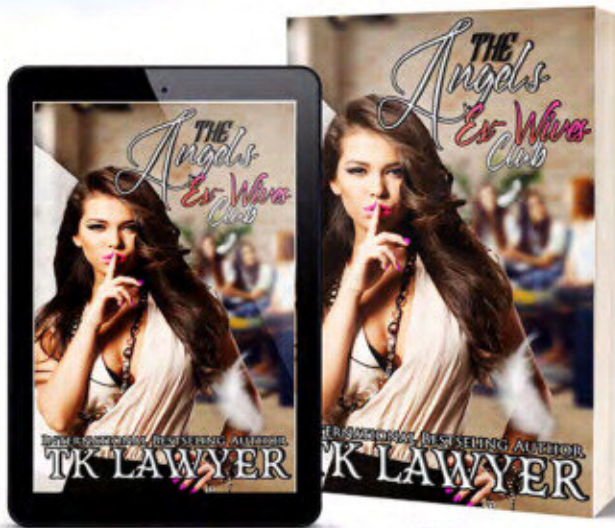
**V.S.:** My mother turned me on to her favorite adventure books at an early age. She opened a world of wonders and the stories fired up my

imagination. I became a voracious reader. I'm also pretty disciplined. Once I begin a project I continue until it's finished.

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

Personal web page [Victoria Saccenti Writes](http://VictoriaSaccentiWrites)  
Twitter [@VictoriaSAuthor](https://twitter.com/VictoriaSAuthor)  
Facebook [Victoria Saccenti Author - Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/VictoriaSaccentiAuthor)





Trapped, Teresa finds her blissful marriage turned into a nightmare.

Michael is never home. When he is, he ignores her concerns. She sets out on a new path.

With a new angel.

With the help of Archangel Rafael, they co-create the Angels' Ex-Wives Club, a safe haven for women like her to tell their stories. Yet, Teresa is not an ex-wife and Rafael is inexplicably drawn to her.

Can Teresa and Michael find their way back to each other or will she find what she needs in the arms of another angel?

**Passionate\* Playful\* Paranormal**

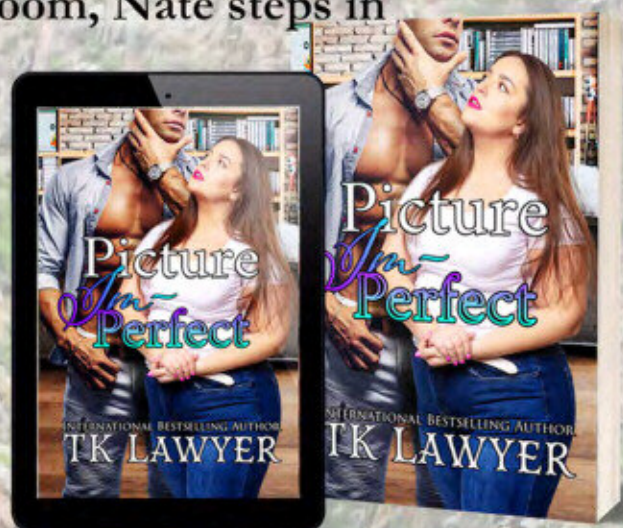
[TKLawyerAuthor.com](http://TKLawyerAuthor.com) @TKLawyerAuthor



A graphic artist that is in the hospital... A brand new book with no cover

When Natalie is faced with inevitable doom, Nate steps in and accepts the job.

Handsome, suave, and genuine, Nate likes Natalie. He is a seductive, hot model, a man never lacking for female companionship. Will meeting Nate fill a void Natalie didn't know exist? Or will Natalie walk away from Nate, a man that seems too perfect?







## Sneak Peek

### *Titanian Warrior*

#### Excerpt

#### *Shivalik Hills, Nepal*

The towering pair of boulders stood as gatekeepers and markers of the way. A steep path snaked between them until farther down the hill, the road disappeared in thick fog. Leaning on the closest rock, Hagen steadied himself to catch his breath, then pushed on.

Bloodlust crippled his Titanian vision. Still, he stumbled, rolled, and crawled over jagged rocks and gnarled roots with single-minded determination to reach his appointed meeting place, the cavern at the base of the Shivaliks, and the sole entrance to Hades's domain on the earthly plane. A perverse satisfaction filled him each time he scraped and sliced his exposed skin, as this was only a precursor to the punishment he deserved. If he could shred his flesh to strips in anticipation as he had done with his clothes, so much the better.

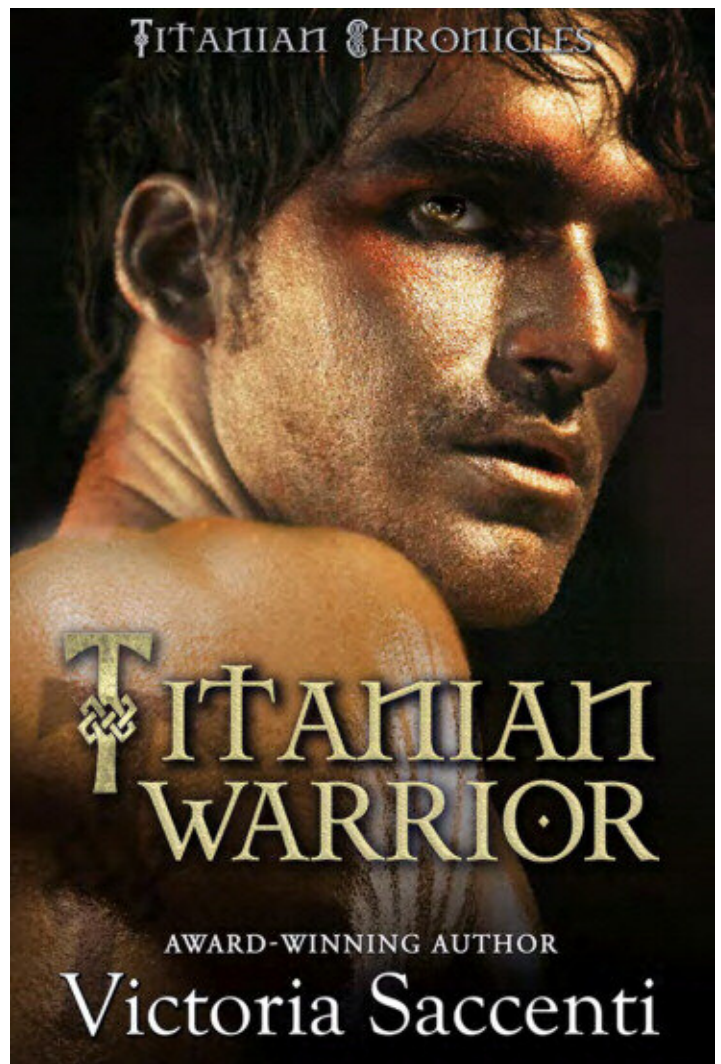
Hagen advanced through the haze, seeking the deity's promised signal. Images of his frenzy during the last skirmish prodded him. He strained past gore-filled images, and the effort paid off. There, deep within the haze, a faint red light marked the spot. Alecto had not forgotten. A hitched breath escaped his lungs as he stood and trod on a more secure step.

As the haze dissipated, the cavern's hungry mouth gaped before him. Healing and deliverance acquired through pain would soon be his. As he inched closer to the wavering light, he removed the last remaining strips of clothing. The offering had to be bare and unadulterated. Nothing but skin would satisfy the Fury, purify his spirit, and postpone the horror of termination for another ten years—a mere blip in the lifespan of a Titanian. And yet, a decade offered hope and an opportunity to continue his search for true salvation: his eternal mate.

His brother Soren had been at the edge of obliteration when the universe revealed Maya's symbol in his scrolls. He'd been given a Simurgh, no less, the most powerful of all phoenix mates. Soren's joy and deliverance had pleased Hagen without reservation or a covetous thought. His brother had earned such a high reward.

But what about him? Was he unworthy of an eternal mate, of love, and companionship? He'd only wished for a small slice of heaven. His cousin Roald had found eternal happiness with Ginny. Staring at an endless existence of service and loneliness was a frightening prospect for a Titanian of any rank.

Hagen could never be the brilliant fighter Soren was, and had, on occasion, not followed every command to the letter. Nevertheless, he'd proven his mettle and unwavering



loyalty to the Titanian cause in and out of combat. Many a night, he'd promised to change his unorthodox ways and toe the line, if only the universe would grant him a phoenix mate.

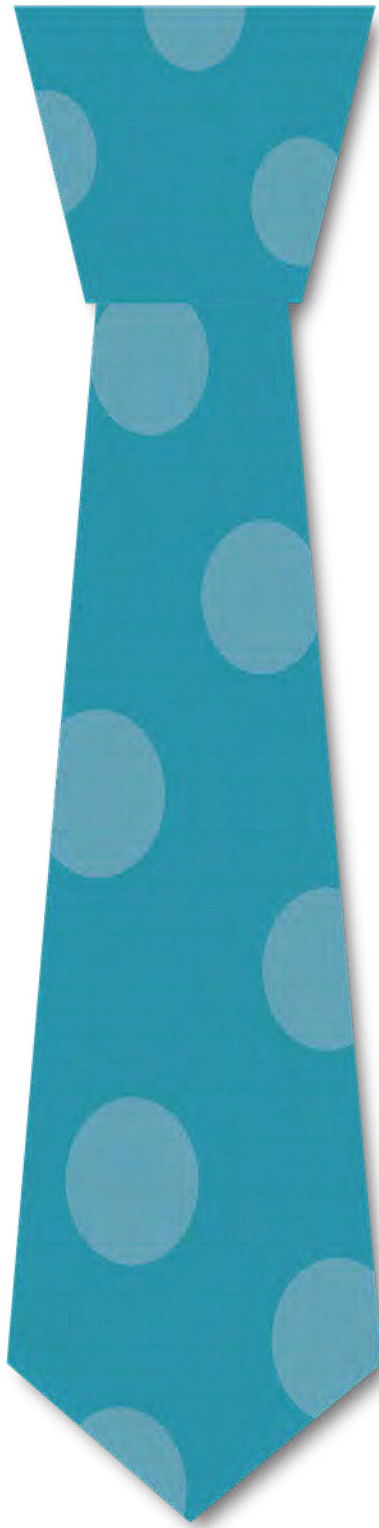
Alas no, he'd been denied time and again. After witnessing from the sidelines the mating ceremony and resulting Titanian bliss, frustration burned a hole in his chest. Before the emotion turned to bitterness, he'd escaped to his old daemon hunting grounds in Asia.

On his flight back, he realized that his cherished airplane and state-of-the-art electronic gadgets no longer satisfied or entertained him. Even that last bit of gratification had been taken from him. Because seeing happiness unfold for Soren and Roald had displayed in real time what mattered: the completion a mate brought to a Titanian's soul. The beaming couples had stepped up onto a new plane of existence. After witnessing their ascendance, no fancy equipment could ever fulfill him.

The hole in his chest turned black and cold.  
Blood hunger, the deadly lust, awoke.

Visions tortured him. Rage drove him to living nightmares. He searched for minion hideouts and sought conflict at every turn. In the heat of these encounters, bloodlust blinded him to allies and friends who'd trusted him with their lives. Asian black bear and clouded leopard shifters had perished under his hands. While his bewildered, dying friends





Happy Father's Day



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BOOKS  READ

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# The Literary World Says Goodbye to a Favorite

## Julie Garwood



contemporary issues such as spousal abuse within the storyline. Many of her books were in series that left the reader clamoring for more—"The Buchannans," "The Crown Spies" series, and the "Highland" series are just a few, each containing at least three independent books.

I met Julie many, many years ago as you can see from our picture together. She wasn't a heavy hitter yet, but she was on her way. Not only was she beautiful, a beauty I realized emanated from within that only grew more profound over the years. She was one of the nicest authors I had ever met. We had been hanging out all day at a book signing and during that time we talked about everything especially nursing and our love for the written word. I knew she was tired because I was, but she was just as pleasant at the end of the day as she was when we started. There was no fan she was too busy to talk with; she made them feel at ease immediately, and they didn't want to leave. At first I attributed that to the fact she was a nurse, but her *persona* went beyond that. She was just plain sweet.

Mrs. Garwood is survived by her three children—Elizabeth, Gerry and Bryan. It is with a very heavy heart that I write this obituary. She will be missed by all of her fans.

Author Julie Elizabeth Murphy Garwood died on June 8, 2023. Born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1944, Mrs. Garwood was a *New York Times* best-selling author with over twenty-four books attaining the list. There are more than thirty-five million of her books in print. She didn't start out to be a writer. Nursing was her ultimate goal, but during her collage career, she fell in love with history, and a different career was born. To hone her writing skills, she began to take classes and attend conferences. When her youngest child started first grade, she devoted herself to a writing career.

A very capable writer, Mrs. Garwood started with *Gentle Warrior*, a historical romance. However, she was versatile, authoring historical romance and contemporary romance, some of which were romantic suspense. Also included in her *repertoire* are a Young Adult book and a children's book called *A Girl Named Summer*.

Writing under the names of Emily Chase and Julie Garwood, she authored over twenty-seven books, two of which were optioned—one to *Cosmopolitan* as a series and the other *For the Roses* was adapted to television as *Rose Hill*. She was daring as well as entertaining and incorporated







## Across

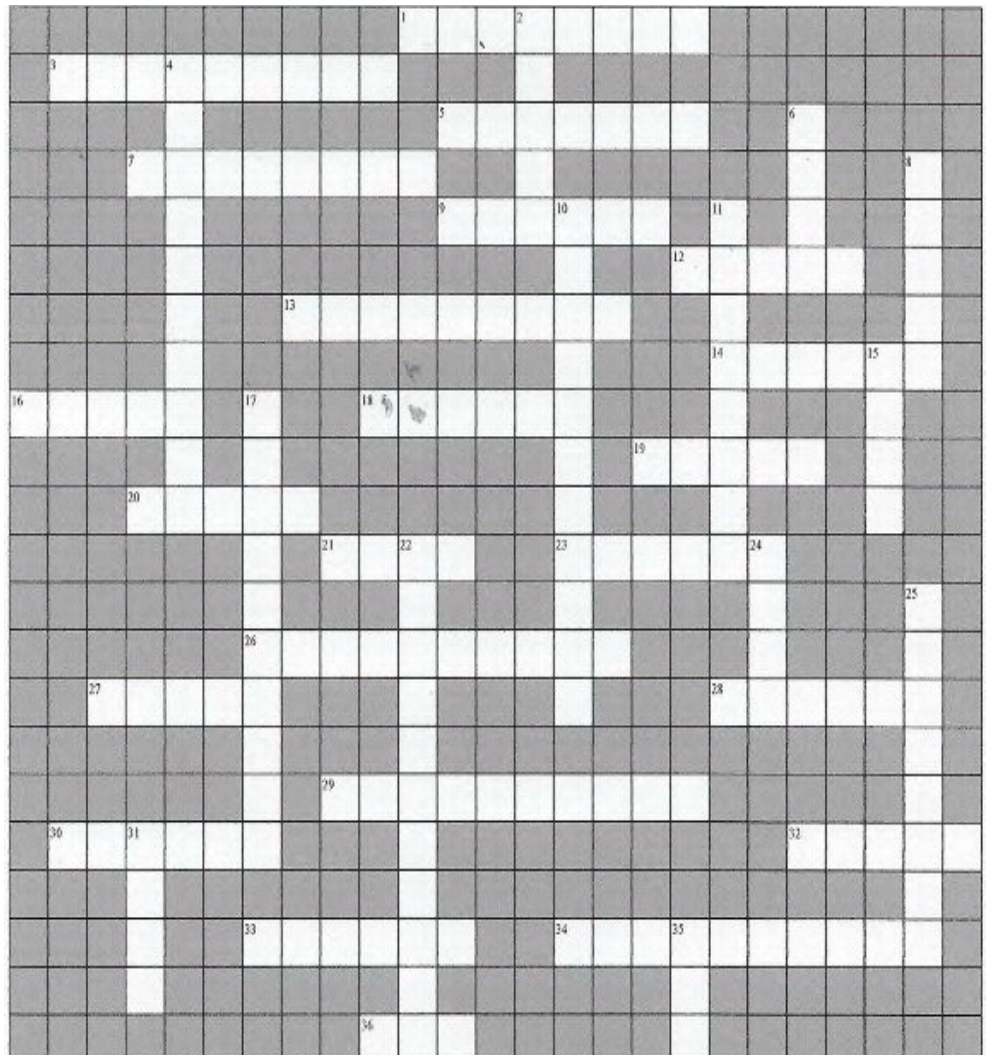
1. June has the most of this ceremony that bind man and woman.
3. German \_\_\_\_\_ Cake has its own day.
5. Global \_\_\_\_\_ day, a day to do a marathon.
7. Schwinn, Mongoose, Huffly are types of \_\_\_\_\_.
9. This third Sunday honors the male matriach.
12. Rocky \_\_\_\_\_, a favorite flavor of ice cream.
13. Illegal alcohol is celebrated in June.
14. First month of this season.
16. Blood \_\_\_\_\_ Day helps thousands.
18. Number of days in the month of June.
19. LGTBQ+’s awaraeness and \_\_\_\_\_ day.
20. International Sexworker’s Day.
21. Day to celebrate the banners from all states.
23. The astrological sign at the end of June.
26. One of the two professional Championships played in June.
27. Bird of America has a day in June.
28. One of the astrological signs of June.
29. This holiday is also called Emancipation Day.
30. This sport has championship playoffs in June, too.
32. One of the June birthstones
33. Kiss a \_\_\_\_\_ (Star War’s big sidekick to Hans) Day.
34. Celebration for the successful matriculation through school.
36. This cold drink has its own day.

## Down

2. The Salvation Army declaure this day for the desert with a hole in the

- center.
4. June was named after the Roman goddess of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. GOT \_\_\_\_? This drink is celebrated this month.
8. This Sesame Street guy has his one on the first of June.
10. The other June flower.
11. Longest day of the year.
15. Sunny side up, boiled, Benedict, and deviled are all types of \_\_\_\_\_.
17. This moon is June’s first full moon and oft named after a fruit.
22. The other June birthstones.
24. One of June’s flowers
25. This day celebrates the offspring.
31. Famous singer whose wife was named June.
35. Take your \_\_\_\_\_ to work may result in barking.

Answers on page 27



# 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

### Be Our Guest



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](http://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](mailto:adcreviews@att.net)

### And Then There Was You

*Nancy Naigle*

St. Martin's  
Griffin

E-pub

978-1250794178

★★★★★



Natalie looked around the small mountain cabin and breathed a sigh of relief. It wasn't nearly as bad as she had feared. After losing her beloved husband suddenly, then falling for a Romeo-con artist who wiped out all her assets, she was reeling and needed someplace to regroup...badly. When she remembered her husband's hunting cabin in his small hometown in the Blue Ridge Mountains, she was hoping it was livable...and it definitely was! Arrangements had been made for the upkeep and upgrade of the little cabin and it was quite comfortable, if off the beaten

path. Just what she needed to regroup, lick her wounds and deal with the very determined detective who was handling her case.

Detective Randy Fellowes had been handed this case as part of the normal rotation, but after meeting Natalie and hearing her heartbreaking story, something in him desperately wanted to help the lady—and get to know her better. She was a tough cookie but suspicious now of everybody and everything. She was completely alone in the world—no family whatsoever, only a best friend (which was probably why she was “targeted” by the con artist in the first place), and he refused to leave her out there in the world alone. He would gain her trust and track down the con artist if it was the last thing he did!

I absolutely LOVED this story! It's a sweet, second chance, small town romance that is not overwhelming in its sweetness. Natalie's had a rough time, but she refuses to give up. She meets some of the nicest people in her husband's hometown in the Blue Ridge



# Contemporary Romance

## Her Good Side

Rebekah Witherspoon

Razorbill

Hardcover

978-0593465301

☆☆☆☆☆



In Rebekah Witherspoon's *Her Good Side*, two inexperienced and socially awkward teenagers fake date each other to gain experience and practice and fall for each other. Confident, self-assured, 16-year-old Bethany Greene is a late bloomer who's never dated, had a boyfriend, or experienced a first kiss. But after her crush turns her down for homecoming, she agrees to be her BFF's boyfriend Jacob Yuen's platonic date.

After being dumped twice in two months, Jacob starts wondering what's wrong with him. Maybe he wasn't quite ready to stop hiding behind the camera—his happy/safe space. He could use some advice on taking his ex's BFF to homecoming.

Since they're hanging out anyway, Jacob and Bethany agree to practice dating and build their confidence in relationships by pretending to date each other. Finally, hot guys at school notice Bethany, and Jacob levels up to boyfriend material. However, research kissing/make-out sessions begin feeling all too real—confusing things—when Bethany and Jacob's hearts inevitably become involved. What if their perfect matches are the ones they're already falling for who've been there all along?

Witherspoon's narrative style is detailed with vibrant descriptions, colorful and natural-sounding dialogue and language. Her world-building is skillful with sweet, funny, and intimate character interactions that develop and explore her diverse characters.

It's wonderful that Bethany loves and accepts herself and has peace about her body. Witherspoon makes her a character with a full and interesting life and personality that isn't affected by her appearance/weight. Her love for cooking is so cool. Jack's an adorable sweetheart. He and Beth are so talented, good-hearted, and genuine.

Witherspoon explores the difficulty of telling your parents that you want something different from what they want/expect for you, especially when they're fully entrenched in that world, in an interesting and fun way. She also thoughtfully examines how the world sees and treats plus-sized/fat people with nuance.

*Her Good Side* is a funny, sweet, romantic, thoughtful, interracial YA/teen romance. It explore friendship, self-confidence, following your dreams and most of all falling in love.

Lacy Hill

Mountains, who hand out unsolicited advice and plenty of love. Her detective is just as determined to win her over, but, at the same time, allowing her to set the pace for any future together. Ms. Naigle has expertly captured that small mountain town feeling where everybody knows everybody's business but

loves all equally. Her characterizations of Natalie and Randy move your heart and make you root for their HEA and new beginnings. A wonderful curl-up-on-the-couch read!

Lani Roberts

## On the Run with His Bodyguard (Sierra's Web #7)

Tara Taylor Quinn

HARLEQUIN – Romance

Mass Market

978-1335738400

☆☆☆ 1/2

Wrongly accused of securities and tax fraud and money laundering, Joe Hamilton hires Sierra's Web to help prove his innocence and protect him from stalkers and people trying to kill him. McKenna Meredith, their best bodyguard and agent, is sent to keep Joe hidden and safe. Joe and McKenna pose as husband and wife on a cross-country camper vacation. But online justice seekers hunting him keep complicating their plans.

McKenna is tough, intelligent and a little judgmental. Because of past trauma, McKenna prejudices Joe, taking an immediate dislike and distrust toward him that makes her reluctant to take his case. McKenna's mother was murdered in a robbery because of her wealth, and her grandparents' lifestyle, beliefs, and treatment of people because of their wealth are distasteful to her.

A good guy with integrity and honesty, Joe builds a wall to protect himself from getting hurt, and he has learned not to trust. Being falsely accused and having everyone turn their backs on him has reinforced his worldview. He wants his life back because he worked hard to attain it.

Quinn deftly develops relatable, likable, and fallible characters for this character-driven novel. Joe and McKenna have fiery chemistry that evolves and steamy interactions that also develop their characters and the story. Her vivid description, skilled world building, and natural-sounding dialogue draw you in from the first scene.

*On the Run with His Bodyguard*

# Contemporary Romance

is a sexy, suspenseful, and fast-paced romance with action that explores themes of trust, family baggage, letting go of the past, following your dreams (even when they change), and making a new fresh start.

*Lacy Hill*

## Rhythm & Muse

*India Hill Brown*

**Quill Tree Books**

Hardcover

978-0063217553

☆☆☆☆

Darren Johnson lives in his head where he pines for his crush Delia Dawson—in peace, without unsolicited advice or opinions from his meddling, spotlight-seeking friends, and gregarious and loving family. However, when Delia needs a new theme song for her podcast and announces a contest, his boys submit a song Darren composed for Delia, fearing he will never make a move. She appreciates the anonymous romantic verse and tries to uncover its mystery singer. Will Darren finally step from the shadows and out of his day-dreams to live his dreams?

A talented, naturally gifted singer and songwriter, Darren day-dreams about Delia, planning conversations and potential dates. He's sweet, and thoughtful but spends too much time in his head and feelings. Delia inspires him to write music again for the first time in a long time, and he composes and sings a song for her. Brown makes readers sympathetic to Darren and his fear of singing in front of an audience. You wonder why he gave up singing/songwriting when it's obvious how much he loves both and how deeply entwined they are with his sense of self—giving him something of his own.

Popular, intelligent, beautiful, and passionate, Delia is compassionate and mentors middle school girls. In her

podcast and live streams, she examines her life, interests, and thought-provoking topics with wit, humor, and perspective. It's easy to see why Darren is crazy about her.

Delia and Darren are cute together. Brown develops their characters' connection and relationship from classmates and church acquaintances to becoming friends to a burgeoning romance through sweet, funny, and emotional scenes/interactions. They talk about their faith and all kinds of things. Reading about fun, loving, and open-minded characters to whom faith is important is wonderful.

Brown's colorful, lively writing appeals to all five senses, drawing readers in with vibrant descriptions, deft worldbuilding, natural-sounding and authentic dialogue, and fascinating, relatable, imperfect characters. The characters and their lifestyles feel familiar, giving readers a comforting sense of nostalgia. Having his back, his boys do the most to get Darren out of his head, out of his own way, and help him get the girl of his dreams—and make his dreams come true too. Through her characters, she explores taking a break from the thing you're passionate about to rediscover your love and reinvigorate your passion.

Funny, entertaining, and sweet, *Rhythm & Muse* is perfect for readers looking for teen/YA romance from a male POV about African American characters of Faith, falling in love, music, and podcasting

*Lacy Hill*

## Seven Rules for Breaking Hearts

*Kristyn J. Miller*

**Griffin**

Trade Paperback

978-1250861825

☆☆☆

Margo Anderson has sworn off commitment. She and her best friend Jo run a viral podcast. *Seven Rules for Breaking Hearts* advises women on how to enjoy dating while avoiding a broken heart. After six seasons, Jo makes a stunning announcement. She's getting married! Unsurprisingly, there is an uproar. Their fans feel cheated. Apparently, Jo has not been #SingleNotSeeking. Margo is thrilled for her friend but worried about the podcast's future.

Jo is offered an all-expenses-paid destination wedding. They'll also pay for the wedding party to spend the week prior to the wedding at the resort. In exchange, the women will cross-promote the resort on all their social media. While Jo is planning the wedding, Margo has an idea for the new season. Until after the wedding, she will ignore the rules. Well all but number seven: Don't catch feelings.

Margo decides that the best man, Declan Walsh, is the perfect guinea pig. They're spending the next two weeks together, and there's no chance she will develop feeling for him, not after the way he treated her in high school. Unexpectedly, Margo finds herself falling for Declan. Amazingly, he feels the same. Then Declan finds out that her interest in him began as a social experiment. Can Declan trust that Margo's feelings are real?

This is a typical boy-meets-girl romance but with a premise that doesn't make sense.

*Sheila Griffin*





# Historical Romance

## Reviews

### **A Dangerous Land**

*Marisa Jones*  
**Self-published**

E-book  
B0C57YPF3C

☆☆☆☆

1941, New Guinea

Much to her mother's dismay, Amelia McKenzie was a nonconformist. She wore pants, flew a small engine plane, and made friends with unsuitable people. She's attracted to Daniel, a mixed-race friend of the family. And even though her family accepted Daniel, there was still prejudice present among them.

Daniel was concerned about

the unrest that had been on a slow boil with the Japanese in the Pacific. He and a group of pilots were discussing signing up with the Militia. He, too, was attracted to Amelia. Unfortunately, his half-brother threatened him if Daniel went anywhere near her.

Their lives changed forever when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. She refused to leave. Her family and the women on the island were sent to Australia, the men went to war. She and Daniel had a battle ahead of them when the Japanese attacked their town. Separated, they had to survive the trails, the tribal warfare, and the Japanese...

Author Marisa Jones, writing from the two points of view, pulled

me out of the story a couple of times. It was a bit disconcerting, especially since it was easy to get lost in the story and then, boom, change points of view. However, this is still a compelling and emotional story that grips your heart.

*Laura Calder*



# Erotica

Some Like It Hot!!!

Same Sex Couples

SM

Multi Couples

## Jake: Cat in a Tree

*Stella Leo*

Self-published

E-book

B0BT8HTPSK

☆☆☆☆

Jake is a firefighter. He had just finished with his shift when a call came in to help a cat get down from a tree. When he approached the owner Sarah, there was immediate sexual desire and tension between the two characters. Once the cat was saved, Sarah invited him in for coffee.

The attraction Jake felt was mutual. Neither one of them could get the other out of their minds. But, a major misunderstanding got in the way, and Jake had a long way to go to regain Sarah's trust.

*Jake: Cat in a Tree* is a fantastic story but a little hard to read with the head-hopping. However, if you can dismiss the confusion, it's definitely a book worth reading.

*Kitty Lane*

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# Paranormal

# Romance

# Reviews

Fantasy

Vampires

Shape Shifters

Time Travel

Werewolves...



## **Titanian Warrior**

*Victoria Saccenti*

**Essence Publishing**

E-book

B0BNZFHM28

☆☆☆☆ 1/2

Faiza and her sister, Lilith, were sold to Master O, a wizard. Faiza and Lilith left the rice fields they were working in to get home before the Master arrived. When they reached the SUV, the Master exited the vehicle. In the rear, the half-conscious injured man was the same one she'd seen in her earlier vision.

The man felt Faiza's gift and mentally grasped onto her. When Faiza started to treat his wounds, Master O stopped her, declaring that her sister Lilith would be the woman to satisfy any of the wounded man's needs—whether it be physical or emotional and ordered Faiza to be his cook.

Ignoring the Master's orders, Faiza and Lilith administered to his wounds. There was an immediate connection with Faiza, infuriating the Master.

Hagan, son of Firiof and Adalheidis, was proud of his heritage. She

had no idea who he was, only that he was a supernatural being. It dawned on Faiza that where they were, what they were doing wasn't a simple strategy. Master O, who couldn't be trusted, had a plan in motion, and she was going to find out what it was.

Chock full of fantasy adventure, if you love mythology, and supernatural romance, *Titanian Warrior* is the book for you.

*Kitty Lane*

## **The Salt Grows Heavy**

*Cassandra Khaw*

**Tor Nightfire**

Ebook

978-1250830913

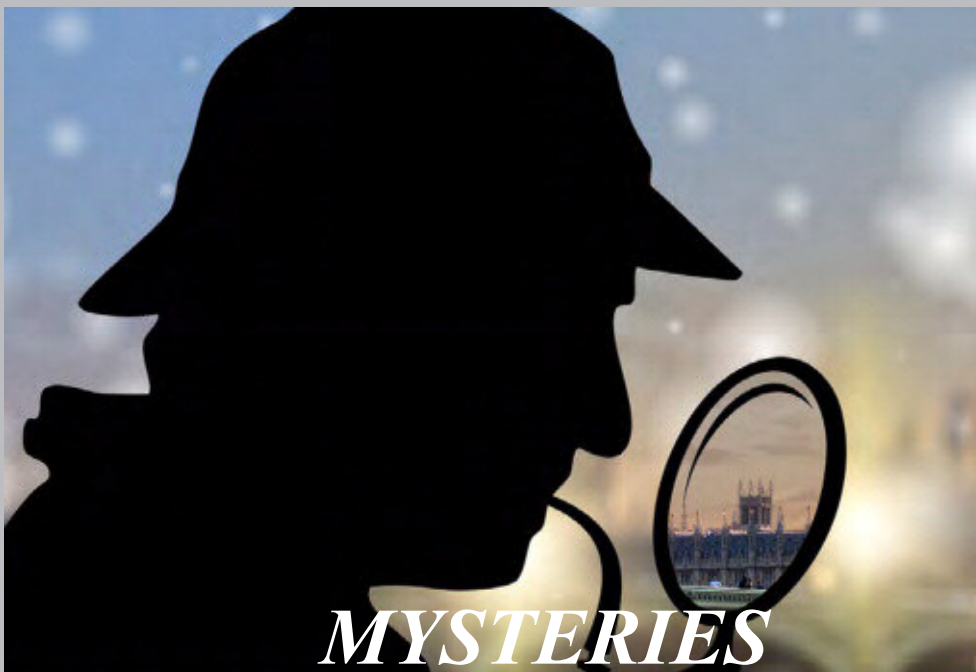
A mermaid with no voice meets a Plague Doctor whose face is hidden from her when the kingdom of her human husband has literally been devoured by her gluttonous children. They journey to a land where feral children are under the sway of a sinister force of self-proclaimed saints with a voracious appetite for their bodies and lifeforces.

The *Salt Grows Heavy* is a lyrical fable with beautiful and disturbing imagery. Khaw is a wordsmith whose

master artistry crafts tableaux that are both luscious and deeply unsettling. Body horror is intrinsic to the narrative and is not for the faint of heart. However, compelling writing and characterization with its leads, the mermaid whose story has been told many times, but not in this particular bloodthirsty and gritty manner, and a non-binary person of mystery whose compassion, composure, and elegance makes them uniquely fascinating and beautiful. The bond that develops between the mermaid and the Plague Doctor is the heart of the story and grounds the reader in a work that reads like visual poetry. The narrative will evoke a myriad of emotions in the reader, yet it will not be easily understood or defined. *The Salt Grows Heavy* is for adventurous readers with a taste for dark fairy tale retellings.

*Danielle Hill*





## Historical and Contemporary Whodunnits?

### Eyes on the Road

*Karen C Whalen*

**The Wild Rose Press**

E-book

978-1509246601

☆☆☆☆ 1/2

Delaney Morran, known as the “high-heeled tow truck driver,” was observing a car accident where the car had driven off the road. Her truck wasn’t able to retrieve the crashed vehicle, but her boyfriend’s tow truck could. So she had the officer call Tanner.

When a brick was found on the floorboard, the police suspected foul play...murder.

Delaney had driven by the corner where the car had gone off the road when she saw a woman kneeling near the edge. The woman wanted to know what happened to her sister. After talking with her for a while, Delaney had agreed to help Maarja. After a few days, she asked Delaney to help her find the answers to her sister’s murder.

It was time to search for clues and start her own investigation into the incident.

This reviewer loves cozy mysteries with all the unexpected twists and turns, and this is one of the best. Highly recommend.

*Lauren Calder*

### Fire With Fire

*Candice Fox*

**Forge**

E-book

125087596X

☆☆☆☆

Whatever happened to young Tilly Delaney? Did she drown in the Pacific, or was she abducted? Her parents are so dissatisfied with the LAPD’s handling of her disappearance that they hold the police forensics lab hostage until they get some answers. Innocent lives are in jeopardy in the hands of the desperate parents.

Faced with losing valuable DNA evidence to the domestic terrorists, Detective Charlie Hoskins and disgraced rookie cop Lynette Lamb form an unlikely alliance in hopes of finding the answer. Their unauthorized affiliation could possibly lead to a resolution of the mystery the case presents.

Hopefully Charlie and Lynn will continue their partnership and go on to solve other cases in future books.

*Hannah Rowan*

### Mirabelle’s Shadow

*Susannah Marren*

**Beaufort Books**

E-book

B0BZWMJ476

☆☆☆☆ 1/2

Mirabelle Walker’s husband, Samuel, was cheating on her again. Maribelle wanted to leave Florida and move to Los Angeles. She believed it would help her marriage. And tragedy struck. Samuel drowned in a boating accident. A few days after the accident, Mirabelle’s mother questioned Samuel’s work ethics and honesty. Whatever Samuel had been doing, the betrayal hurt the Barrow’s business, not just financially but personally.

The accusations caused a rift between Mirabelle’s three sisters and their mother. An investigation into Samuel’s death and hiring an out-of-town forensic accountant to scour the money trails caused even more havoc and distrust.

*Mirabelle’s Shadow* is a gripping, stay up late read that keeps the drama coming. It’s a “can’t put down, page-turner from beginning to end”.

*Lauren Calder*



## **Curled Up With an Earl**

*Amy Rose Bennett*

*Narrated by  
Sasha Hig-  
gins*

**Dreamscape  
Media**

Audiobook

978-1666631890

☆☆☆☆☆



Sasha Higgins narrates Amy Rose Bennett's *Curled Up With an Earl*, The Byronic Book Club #2.

Attending balls doesn't interest Miss Lucy Bertram—unlike reading Gothic romance novels and writing scientific articles. When her father, Sir Oswald, an eccentric botanical poisons expert, tries to force her to marry to save the family from poverty, Lucy takes drastic action to find her disowned brother.

William Lockhart, the Earl of Kyle, is a covert agent for the Crown, hunting for a ruthless killer attempting to destroy the Linnean Society. To discover the evidence Scotland Yard needs, he poses as a groom in their prime suspect Sir Oswald's home. Will's unprepared for how distracting he finds Lucy.

Growing closer, they share confidences and secrets, and an unexpected, intense passion awakens that neither can deny/resist. Will a murderer concealing his identity ruin their happy-ever-after?

Higgins' vibrant, dynamic narration perfectly fits the characters. She creates distinct voices with appropriate accents. Her British accent suits Lucy's personality, eccentricities, and language usage. Higgins' Scottish accent is fantastic, and she seamlessly shifts between Will's British and Scottish accents. Her narration for the male characters is so superb that it could be a male narrator. She wonderfully expresses Lucy and Will's longing, desire, and passion, using her vocal range to express/portray their intimacy, chemistry, moods, and sensations experienced during their intimate scenes.

Complimenting Bennett's light-hearted narrative style and language usage, Higgins brings Bennett's delightful novel and fascinating characters to life. Bennett's colorful description, charming story and deft worldbuilding suck you into the book. Bennett develops Will's and Lucy's relationship through a variety of ways. It's exciting how deeply drawn to each other they are from their initial encounters and how they become friends with an intense underlying at-

traction. Their love scenes are emotional and steamy, contributing to developing their connection and evolving their characters and Bennett's multi-layered story.

A scientist, Lucy's an eccentric, scholarly, romantic, and a analytical heroine yearning for independence and to travel and follow her dreams. However, she believes she must remain unmarried to achieve her goals. As the search intensifies for the murderer, Lucy and Will enter a courtship of convenience to keep her safe. Lucy offers him belonging, accepting him for who he is, while he helps her consider the possibility of a life where she can have love and independence and pursue her dreams.

A fast-paced, captivating read with fine pacing, *Curled Up With an Earl* is a humorous, sexy, steamy, sweet, romantic, and suspenseful audiobook.

*Lacy Hill*

## **The Duke's Secret Cinderella**

*Eva Devon*

*Narrated by Sasha Higgins*

**Dreamscape Media**

Audiobook—Historical Romance, Regency

978-1666631609

☆☆☆☆☆

Sasha Higgins narrates Eva Devon's *The Duke's Secret Cinderella*, Never a Wallflower #3. Since her mother's death, Charlotte Browne has become a housemaid, servant, and prisoner in her once-happy family home. Her stepfather has wasted away her mother's money. Her once prosperous and history-rich home was being sold off piece by piece, and Charlotte tries to care for the only home she's known and protect it from her cruel, abusive stepfather.

Charlotte meets Rafe Dorchester, Duke of Rockford, while masquerading as a lady to free her friend from debtor's prison. Rafe's family pressures him to marry for heirs to continue the family line. But he longs to marry for love and passion. His grandmother blackmails him into marrying within a certain time by threatening to give his



# Audiobooks

family's hospital away unless he marries a suitable candidate for duchess from their list of suitable candidates. Compassionate, generous, kind, and intelligent, Rafe cares for those in need, helping house children who need care, love, help, and protection from abuse and lack. He plans to use the hospital for his endeavors. But, after trying to save Charlotte's life from a thief, he becomes fascinated with her and courts Charlotte—who's not on the list.

Higgins' narration beautifully captures the Regency period and London setting's language, bringing Devon's characters and story to life with her expressive and dynamic narration. She creates distinct voices with accents appropriate to the characters and setting, using tone, pacing, dialects, emotion, language, and inflections that differentiate the characters. Her British accent/voice perfectly suits the characters. Her male character narration is so superb that the novel's narrators could be both male and female. She wonderfully expresses Rafe and Charlotte's longing, desire, passion, intimacy, chemistry, moods, and sensations experienced during their intimate scenes.

Devon deftly develops fascinating, fallible, and relatable characters. She builds her characters' worlds and stories with vivid descriptions and natural-sounding dialogue. Charlotte and Devon's love scenes and interactions are funny, sweet, and steamy, helping develop their connection and evolving their characters. Devon's multi-layered story examines issues relevant during the Regency period—rampant poverty, lack of food, and hunger among the lowborn and poor, and their awful treatment and the corruption in the prison system.

*The Duke's Secret Cinderella* is a funny, sweet, steamy, sexy, and well-written historical romance with an entertaining and surprising take on the Cinderella fairy tale, exploring themes of family, identity, changing the world,

sacrifice, being loved, and belonging.  
*Lacy Hill*

## **NerdCrush**

*Alisha Emrich*

*Narrated by Zoleka Vundla*

**Dreamscape Media**

Audiobook

978-1666624557

☆☆☆☆

Zoleka Vundla narrates Alisha Emrich's audiobook *NerdCrush*.

An artistic and shy sixteen-year-old, Ramona Lambert has loving parents and a childhood best friend who gets her. She loves cosplay and manga and has a crush on her classmate, Caleb Wolfe. Unfortunately, her best friend has moved away; her crush doesn't know she exists; and her parents don't understand her or her cosplay and manga love. Ramona cosplays as her original character, Rel, to escape her troubles. In character as Rel, she sends an email to Caleb from her cosplay account, and the two begin communicating over email.

Caleb shares his love for geeky stuff, insecurities, and hopes with Rel, and Ramona's emotions for Caleb deepen. Complicating the situation, Caleb befriends Ramona but continues growing closer to Rel in their email chats. Ramona knows she can't continue keeping her true identity from Caleb, but she's afraid to tell him she's his secret admirer because she fears losing him. Will she let Caleb see the real Ramona or keep hiding behind her cosplay character?

Vundla brings Emrich's novel about self-identity, self-confidence, and belonging to life with animated narration that perfectly fits the characters. Ramona sounds youthful, and you can picture teens matching Emrich's descriptions for her and Caleb. Vundla differentiates between the characters

through pacing, tone, inflection, language, and dialect. She gives Emrich's characters distinct voices and her dramatic and sparkling narration captures and expresses Ramona's emotions and the butterflies and obsessive thoughts of her crush/first love. Vundla's narration for Caleb and the secondary characters is equally excellent.

Emrich's writing is detailed with vivid descriptions, deft character development, and fine world-building. The cosplay, manga, and the characters' geeky hobbies are fascinating, helping develop/evolve the characters and story. Emrich explores challenges experienced by Black teenagers into geeky things/interests that aren't or shared by their Black family members/peers. *NerdCrush* shows Ramona's strong sense of self and identity despite herself. While most people don't "get her" or take the time to listen and learn about her interests and who she is, she dares to immerse herself fully in cosplay, designing costumes, reading manga, attending cons, etc., because she loves them, and they bring her joy. Emrich's portrayal of Ramona's bullying is notable because, often, Black peers can be critical and cruel about a teen's interests when they are off-beat/different.

*NerdCrush* is a cute, sweet, funny, and angsty YA/teen romance that explores themes of bullying, gatekeeping's effect on cosplayers of color, and representation in cosplay, anime, and manga.

*Lacy Hill*







# Booty

## Reviews from other genre

### **2030: Last Call for Humanity**

*R Scott Reath*

**Self-published**

E-book

★★★★

Keith Molière’s brain chip had dislodged. This was a bad situation for him, as it meant a job, friends, lover, and the government can see a difference. Keith struggled to get his chip corrected and learned the doctors were apprehensive about fixing it. It was illegal to complain about the chips. No longer having his emotions controlled but having an enhanced memory put him in a no-mans-land, an undesirable, and a danger to society.

With his emotions no longer on autopilot, Keith must learn self-control or he may disappear. He found his way while the government was becoming increasingly authoritarian and paranoid. President Trueborn wanted total control; he armed his police with lethal microwave rifles to cook supposed traitors while spreading the message of patriotism. There was resistance with some of the robots whose only duty was

to protect and shut them down.

Keith met a woman lawyer, Karen Howard, and they moved on as one against the regime. The life and death struggle to freely exist took a new twist; a faster than light rocket was available for a select few to escape to a new world and try again. He and Karen parted ways before the launch. She wanted to continue the good fight.

He discovered his new companions on board have little in common and have their own agendas. The struggle seemed to have come aboard ship as they hurtled to a new home.

R. Scott Reath has painted Keith’s world in today’s analogies into a oppressive government that uses propaganda and coercion to control the people who don’t conform to the chips in their heads.

Many of the problems of authoritarian regimes were visited in this dystopian story. The author touched many of the charged issues of our world, maybe a bit too much soapbox for a work of escapism. The story does read well and stays on track.

*Lauren Calder*

*Affaire de Coeur*

### **The Eleventh Grieve**

*Garth Hallberg*

**The Reason for Everything Press**

E-book

978-0991377053

★★★ 1/2

Jake Krimmer makes his living by betting on what he calls “weird weather.” He found an investing niche that bets bad weather will affect large power companies by short selling on their misfortune, tornadoes and other bad weather affecting power transmission has made Jake a tidy bank account. He and his phenomenal partner, Samantha Richards, are a team. Her remarkable skill in weather prediction has made it easy, but she is becoming increasingly uncomfortable with living on others’ misfortunes.

Jared Mortenson, Jake’s lawyer, is always encouraging them to take on more. The money is flowing well. Jake, in what appears to be a random encounter at a cocktail party, meets Rita Ten Grieves. Rita is beautiful and intriguing. They meet again, and that is the beginning of a confounding

# Booty

relationship. He has little romantic intentions toward her because Samantha has his heart.

Rita, through many encounters, takes Jake through a series of enlightenments about his work and of the ecology of the world. He begins to question the morality of his profession and that of others bringing the earth to the brink of disaster.

*The Eleventh Grieve* moves well even when it goes on many tangents to show the inner workings of the power industry and other entities affecting the climate. This is the reader's journey to an enlightenment about ecology and dangerous times ahead. *The Eleventh Grieve* is written to make this point, and there are references after the end of the story to give the reader more to look into it for themselves.

*Lauren Calder*

## Epoch

*Kat Elle*

**Central Park South Publishing**

E-book

978-1956452443

☆☆☆☆ 1/2

Blanca Hernandez has returned from her deployment in Afghanistan and, always being protective of her brother, assisted him on his first day at college. While they, along with a group of people, were in the biology lab, the building started falling apart and exploded. As Blanca started investigating, she quickly learned she wasn't in Texas anymore. They were in the midst of a battle zone, in Poland, occupied by the Nazis in 1943.

This was a fantastic read. Right from the very beginning, the author grips the reader and doesn't let go until the very end. Highly recommend!

*Lauren Calder*

## Full Circle

*Michael Tate*

**Self-published**

E-book

B0BTJ8VPSV

☆☆☆

Doria Pritchit married Lance Henderson under major objections from her parents. Within a couple of years, things started to turn, along with the physical and mental abuse. Yet, she stayed. Over time, love was lost, but Doria wasn't about to leave the cushy lifestyle Lance had given her, even after his behavior started becoming more bizarre and psychotic.

The changes from past memories and present actions were jolting and difficult to follow. The switching took the reader out of the story, and disrupted the flow. That said, the sad truth of reality intertwined in the story was heart-rending.

*Lauren Calder*

## The General's Son

*Charlotte Goodwin*

**Self-published**

E-book

B0BT1RR79P

☆☆☆

Aran was living in Kenya, but he had been born on Gemini where magic was the norm. Here, he had barely any. Sometimes, he felt a twinge of magic but couldn't quite reach it. Discouraged, he returned to the family's lodge he was managing. He'd been so pre-occupied with his personal issues he hadn't realized that China had dropped nuclear bombs on the major cities of Australia.

Aran had a huge quarrel with his mother and left the lodge to sit at his favorite place. He was so furious the adrenaline drew magic from him. He was thrilled he had more magic. Aran

was determined to find the source, and he traveled to Australia.

On Gemini, Garrad Bramston was training at the military academy. Unfortunately, after he won a practice battle against the Corporal he was now on his bad side.

The magic Aran was using alerted the Zargons.

The *General's Son* is a story that was hard to keep up with, a lot of details and jumping around making the characters and story difficult to follow and read.

*Kitty Lane*

## A Good Family

*Matt Goldman*

**Forge**

Trade Paperback

978-1250810175

Hardcover

978-1250810151

☆☆☆☆

Katie Kuhlmann is living the good life in the upscale Country Club neighborhood in Edina, Minnesota, thanks to her husband's invention of a new type of battery. Even though Katie designed a special breakfast nook in their ritzy new home so the family can bond over meals, she begins to realize that something isn't quite right with her husband, Jack. Between an old college buddy showing up after many years and Jack's growing distance and his inexplicable disappearances while he should be in the house, Katie begins to wonder if her life is really as perfect as it seems.

As her life begins to unravel, Katie isn't sure whom in her social-climbing group of friends she can trust, as more and more mysterious and disturbing events happen. Everything she took for granted spirals downward until she realizes just how dangerous her situation has become. The final outcome is unexpected and shocking.

A story full of danger, mystery,



# Booty

and courage, *A Good Family* takes the reader on a roller coaster ride as Katie leaves her perfectly ordered life far behind.

Hannah Rowan

## Happy Bastards

Alex Monaco

Monabooks Publishing

E-book

B0C1RWSVG1

★★★★ 1/2

*“Happiness is here, and it hurts more than you do because you squashed it with your butt!”*

Alex Monaco uses his projected enthusiasm to help those readers who are searching for inner happiness. He helps the reader along with life’s anecdotes to help them get out of that negative mindset and find their happy place.

Monaco speaks to the reader like he’s standing in front of a crowd of students—a little humor, some straight talk, and some snap of the fingers—wake up and smell the coffee attitude.

If you’re searching for change, *Happy Bastards* will be a great help.

Lauren Calder

## Legend of the Solstice

Lauren Evers

Self-published

E-book

B0BTF9X6XS

★★ 1/2

Three young adults—Ethan, Ridley, and Isolde—were from different parts of the world. They celebrated their birthdays on the same day, on the winter solstice. For some reason all three felt as if something was off. People around them were acting quite strange.

All of them began to develop different supernatural powers. Ethan

30

## A House With Good Bones

T. Kingfisher

Tor Nightfire

E-book

978-1250829795

★★★★★



Sam Montgomery goes back to stay with her mother in the house that once belonged to her deceased grandmother, who was a tyrant. Sam was concerned about her brother’s warning that her mom is acting odd. To her surprise, there are vultures watching the house, and the house looks like it did when her grandmother’s iron hand was in control of their lives. The roses are blooming, and there is a presence in the house that seems to say that her grandmother might not be gone at all.

*A House with Good Bones* is a short but thoroughly satisfying book. Kingfisher combines themes of family generational trauma and legacies with Southern Gothic and haunted house to create a fascinating tale that is, in parts, laugh-out-loud funny and in others terrifying. Sam is the heroine this story needs. The clash between her grandmother’s rigid patriarchal and outmoded values and Sam’s millennial outlook playing out through a supernatural lens feels like therapy for a reader facing similar issues. Sam’s family history is like an onion, with layers peeling back to bring revelations for her and the reader. The best part of the book is how Sam processes and interacts with the weirdness. She is such a fun character to follow with her knowledge about bug facts and her self-deprecating humor. Sam is so unflappable, despite the mental trauma she has to revisit being in the house she grew up in with her unbearable, mean grandmother. The supernatural twist was so unique and rather complex, for a short novel.

Readers who would like a different spin on the Southern Gothic, with botany and insects thrown in, and a gutsy heroine, will get a kick out of *A House with Good Bones* to the very last page.

Danielle Hill

met a girl named Haley, and she was also looking for answers. Each of them encountered different people in their search.

At first the story *Legend of the Solstice* was difficult to follow and confusing. The multiple changes in POV were most likely why it was so hard to follow. If you like stories about mythical gods and their powers, this book will be an interesting read for you.

Lauren Calder

## Sustainable Web Design in 20 Lessons

Michael Andersen

Self-published

E-book

B0BS1NRNPF

★★★★

*“The internet is responsible for approximately 3-4% of yearly greenhouse gas emissions...”*

The author flat out tells the reader in the very beginning that he/she has to have some basic knowledge of working on web pages. Within a few

# Booty

pages, the shockers began.

Here are some quotes, including my own, about the value of this book.

*"Since I've been in the business for over 40 years and have worked on building websites, this reader was very curious. Being self-taught since they didn't have classes for anything like this when I first started out, I started reading with an open mind. How much can he teach me? What have I missed all these years that, to him, was common sense?"*

*I used my existing author page and went for it! Some of the stuff, I had right...*

*This will help a lot of new web designers, especially the self-taught. It's definitely a book worth reading."*

Pamela Ackerson

*"If you're a climate-conscious but busy web developer wanting to green your practice, Sustainable Web Design in 20 Lessons by Michael Andersen is your ideal starting point. Your day-to-day web development practice can be an impactful climate action: this book will help you make it so" - Ismael Velasco*

The internet is one of the biggest carbon dioxide polluters in this world. You might not be aware of it, but whenever you open an email, send a chat message, refresh your news feed, watch a movie or load a website, you cause pollution. *Sustainable Web Design In 20 Lessons* is for the web designer and the intermediate website owner. It will teach you what sustainable web design is and give you valuable tools you can use to make your website more sustainable. You will also get introduced to ethical design, which is the art of putting people before business. Together we can make the internet a better place for everyone.

Book content:

- Lesson 1: Sustainable Web Design fundamentals.
- Lesson 2: Understand carbon

footprints.

- Lesson 3: Green web hosting.
- Lesson 4: Content delivery networks.
- Lesson 5: Page-weight budgets.
- Lesson 6: Death of content.
- Lesson 7: Accessibility.
- Lesson 8: Minimalistic & light-weight design.
- Lesson 9: Dark/light mode & colors.
- Lesson 10: Image optimization.
- Lesson 11: Video optimization.
- Lesson 12: Font optimization.
- Lesson 13: HTML optimization.
- Lesson 14: CSS optimization.
- Lesson 15: JavaScript optimization.
- Lesson 16: React & Svelte optimization.
- Lesson 17: Trackers & HTTP requests.
- Lesson 18: Service workers & Caching.
- Lesson 19: APIs.
- Lesson 20: Emails and newsletters.

Pamela Ackerson

## The Tale of the Young Witch

Joseph Minart

Self-published

E-book

BOBXHW2FK3

☆☆☆☆

Amelia Twigg was in her basement when a broom magically started floating. An odd strike of energy caused her to have a vision about the Jewel of Celestria. All was witnessed by her friend, Jack Milton. Both were confused. Witchcraft had been eliminated from the world, or so they thought. The next day as they were going about their usual business, the township's enemies had breached the wall to invade Daimitria.

The people believed they'd

*Affaire de Coeur*

never see magical spells again, but the past had a way of repeating itself. Amelia learns that magic is within her, and that ability has put her in danger.

Fantasy and adventure abounds with every turn of the page. A must read for anyone who loves this genre!

*Lauren Calder*

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**I Love You**

*Bunny  
Russell  
Illustrated  
by Evandro  
D'Hipolito*  
**Dorrance**

Oversized  
Hardcover  
978-8886042979  
☆☆☆☆☆



*I Love You* is a wonderful book that addresses the loss of a pet, in particular a dog. The reader will readily identify with the book's narrator when he/she speaks to the dog, recounting what it has meant to have this dog in their lives. Dogs are not just pets; they are family members who work their way into their owner's hearts with ease—the simply daily activities, i.e. walks, the chasing of squirrels and other animals, and emotional support they offer.

Geared toward the pre-school and younger school-aged child, *I Love You* is a tale of two-way love between a dog and it's family. But it doesn't end there. It speaks to saying good bye to a friend. The story will hold the attention span of the group for which it is recommended and the illustrations ensure that. Evandro O'Hipolito is an artist who knows how to relate to children and does a superb job of it in *I Love You*. The illustrations are colorful and the diversity of the children speak how a dog doesn't see color of the children.

Perhaps this reviewer was not the best person to review this book because I am biased. I am a dog lover, and I lost a dog to cancer one year ago. I also have a 12-year-old that I've had since she was a puppy, and I dread her leaving me. *I Love You* forces readers to face a dog's death and gives them hope that they will meet again. Great read!

Now, go out and adopt a dog!  
Please!  
*Mildred Burkett*



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## Powerless

Jacqueline Pretty

Pandora Books

E-book

B0BXFCQ32G

☆☆☆1/2

Hanna was the only one of her siblings who hadn't gotten paranormal powers. It caused a major lack of confidence, resentment, and mental health issues among them. Their father, Artem Super, discovered the super gene mutation, and Hanna worked in the lab with him. She wanted to find a way to unlock her powers that were hidden in her DNA, and then she'd accidentally found a way. But her father had disposed of all her hard-earned work.

The kids used their powers to help local authorities. They were called to help for an unusual event—a bank robbery was in effect and hostages were being threatened. But there was a problem. Another super they didn't know about had gotten involved, and there was something very strange about them.

Hanna's search for answers put her in danger. She uncovered secrets

that should never have been found.

There's a good story in *Powerless*. This reader found it more along the lines of *The Boys* and *The Umbrella Academy* type stuff. If that's the type of books you like, this one is for you.

Kitty Lane

## When Oceans Rise

Robin Alvarez

Creative James Media

E-book

978-1956183160

☆☆☆☆

For Malaya, the ecstasy of first love has become an agonizing nightmare. Stuck in a toxic relationship with a boy who has steadily manipulated and abused her and damaged her relationship with her family, Malaya feels so much pain, it's hard to see a future. A chance encounter with a sea witch gives her the opportunity to escape the continual anguish of loving the wrong boy. The cost is her voice and swapping places with the Malaya in an alternate world. Additionally, monsters from

her Filipino heritage are being conjured in the world, and she must work with her alternate world, family and friends, and a potential new love interest to save everyone before it's too late.

*When Oceans Rise* is delightfully creative and authentic in emotions. The theme of toxic relationships is realistic and relatable, excellently enmeshed in a fantastic narrative rich in Filipino folklore and culture. Lessons about self-love, family love, and making mature, healthy choices are presented in an organic way. Initially, the writing feels stilted but starts to flow wonderfully, but the action sequences feel flat and need more of an active voice. A strength of this novel is the interpersonal relationships captured between Malaya and the other characters. Overall, this is an enjoyable, unique and worthwhile young adult fantasy read that has a lot to offer to the genre.

Danielle Hill



# Late!

Didn't quite make in the last issue



Includes all genre and all time periods

## The Build Up

Tati Richardson

Carina Press

Mass Market

978-1335621931

☆☆☆☆

In Tati Richardson's *The Build Up*, architects Ari James and Porter Harrison compete for a partnership after they're assigned to work on a project together. Their unlikely alliance leads to love.

Ari arrives disheveled for her first day at her new firm. Then, her hot colleague walks in on her while she's changing. When she's assigned to collaborate with him on a project, she's hoping it gets her career back on top, but staying focused on her big comeback will be a challenge.

Porter can't afford anything getting in his way of excelling on his new project and becoming a partner—including his unpredictable brother, an obnoxious work rival, and especially not his new co-worker Ari. He hasn't

stopped thinking about Ari and her stunning curves. Neither Ari nor Porter is looking for love. But they make a dynamic team, and clearly, the connection developing between them is more than creative. However, making a romantic relationship flourish won't be easy. It may even jeopardize their jobs, Porter's partnership, and Ari's fresh start because they're focused on winning and reaching the top of their field.

Ari with her mult-attributes, is making a fresh start with this job and the home she's renovating. Betrayed by a co-worker who stole her work, lied about her, and ruined her professional reputation, Ari's sole focus is getting her career back on track. Ari's hard-won confidence is inspiring. She counters the stereotypes of fat girls being lonely and needing others to boost their esteem. Being an architect doesn't come naturally to Porter. He's shy, nerdy, insecure, and loves painting more than architecture. It's not the career/life he chose for himself.

Ari and Porter make a fantastic team. Porter falls fast and deeply for

Ari. But because of her past, Ari holds back, trying not to make the same mistakes. Yet, she's drawn to him despite herself because he makes her feel safe and comfortable.

Richardson's exploration of the treatment and stereotypes plus-size women face, particularly when Black, and how being judged by appearance affects their personal/work lives is nuanced. *The Build Up* is a sweet, sexy, and a bit angsty romance about taking risks, following your dreams, letting go of the past, and taking advantage of second chances. It explores themes of grief, appearance-based prejudice, family baggage and emotional trauma, colorism, classism, and sexism.

Lacy Hill

## How to Best a Marquess (The Widow Rules #3)

Janna MacGregor

St. Martin's Press

Mass Market

978-1250761637

☆☆☆☆

Beth Howell is ready to take control of her life and future. Beth's first marriage to a good-for-nothing bigamist left her financially ruined, her reputation in tatters. Now she lives with her selfish brother who wastes all the family money. Beth must discover what her now-deceased husband did with her dowry before her brother can force her marriage to an unappealing, much older man. She seeks her former fiancé's help finding her missing dowry.

Julian Raleah, Marquess of Grayson, avoids society functions. The abrupt ending of his engagement to Beth hardened his heart. He's shocked when Beth asks for assistance in tracing her deceased husband's steps to find her lost dowry. Grayson probably shouldn't go on the road alone with the woman he's vsn't stop thinking about after ten years. But he can't resist helping because she needs him. Can they change the ending to their short-lived love story?

McGregor's vivid description,

# Late!

creative story ideas,, and well-developed characters draw readers in. Though the pacing slows, once you push through, the conclusion satisfies.

The novel's tone is melanchol, and nostalgic because neither stopped loving the other. Their intense attraction and connection still exists—feelings re-emerge stronger.

Every man in Beth's life has disappointed her. Beth's focus is a life free from her brother, without vulnerability or being at the whims of unreliable men. Beth believes herself not the marrying kind because it curtails a woman's freedom—she refuses to give hers up, ever again.

Grayson is honorable and reliable but prideful. He's searching for funding for his invention and an heiress to marry since his father lost all their money. But he only wants Beth.

*How to Best a Marquess* is a sweet, emotional, funny, steamy, and romantic second chance, historical romance.

Lacy Hill

## Play By My Rules

Michelle Karise

Michelle Karise

978-1676309677

☆☆☆☆

Arianna Williams making a fresh start for herself after a disastrous relationship left her life in ruins.

Arianna stops for tea before starting her new job. But a sexy, gorgeous man steals her drink order and then asks her out on a date. As if that weren't enough, she arrives at her office barely on time, only to discover the gorgeous thief is none other than Harrison Cooper, the company's president and her new boss. She's determined to make the best of the situation. However, her attraction to him and resisting his stormy kisses and heated flirtations might be bothersome. he last thing she needs is to get involved in an office ro-

mance. When her past is exposed, shattering her world, how will she pick up the pieces and walk away?

Arianna is a confident, free-spirited young woman given to recklessness before losing herself in her relationship with her first love . When the relationship was over, her entire life was in ruins—her finances, emotions, self-confidence, reputation. She's lost her belief in true love and herself, and fears being lied to and bought, not being a priority in her partner's life. Harrison avoids relationships to protect his heart, but Arianna slips past his barriers, and he falls for her deeply.

Karise's characters are complex, and relatable, and she wonderfully develops them through detailed descriptions and dynamic dialogue. Arianna and Harrison's office interactions are funny. Harrison's aloofness and attempts to make her quit have the opposite effects and the added bonus of bringing back Arianna's spark. She rediscovered her fire and fights fire with fire. It's frustrating that she feels so insecure and ashamed about her past and unable to believe she's worth fighting for. Harrison and Arianna's love scenes are thoroughly entertaining. They support and encourage each other in pursuing their dreams.

*Play by My Rules* is an emotional, steamy, and humorous interracial office romance, exploring themes of self-discovery, self-esteem, forgiveness, family, and fresh starts.

Lacy Hill

## The Scourge Between Stars

Ness Brown

Tor Nightfire

E-Book

978-1250834690

☆☆☆☆ 1/2

In the distant future, human descendants of colonists who fled an Earth devastated by climate change have un-

dertaken a generations' long trek back to their home planet. In the current time, their circumstances are near dire. Their food stores are running out, and their ship has sustained damage that brings into question whether they will be able to make it back to Earth. With dissent in the ranks, First Mate Jacklyn Albright commands a ship poised on a razor edge when it becomes clear that there is a bloodthirsty threat hiding in the walls of the ship, picking off people one by one. It soon becomes clear that getting back to Earth will require surviving what lurks in the dark corners of the ship.

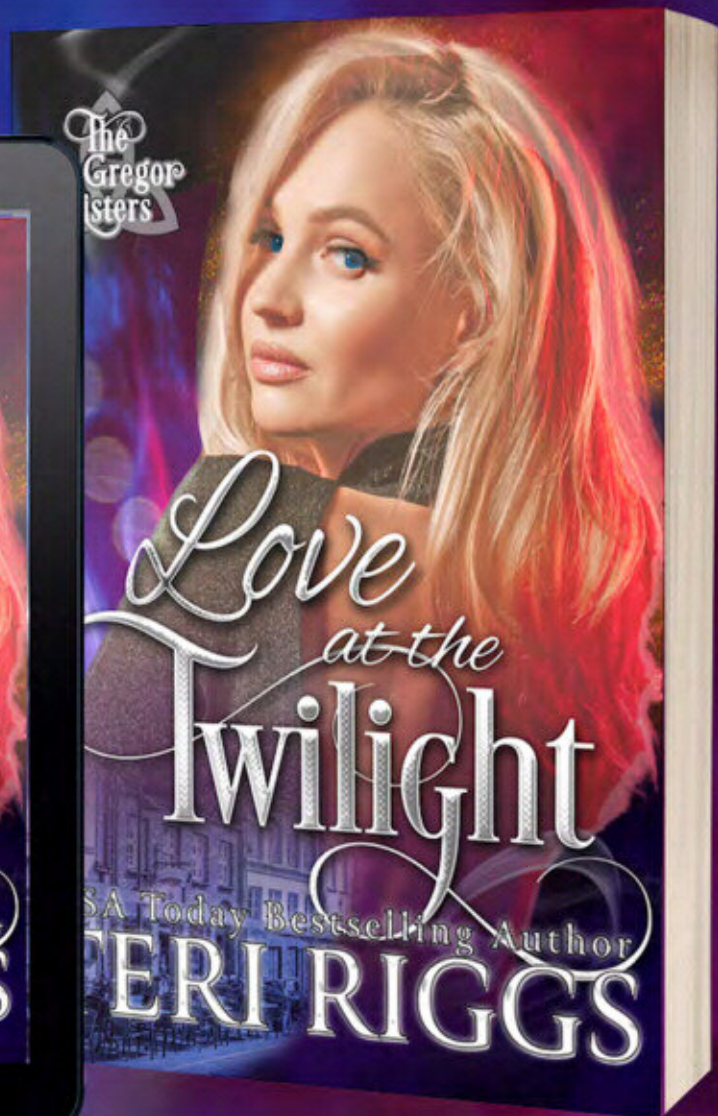
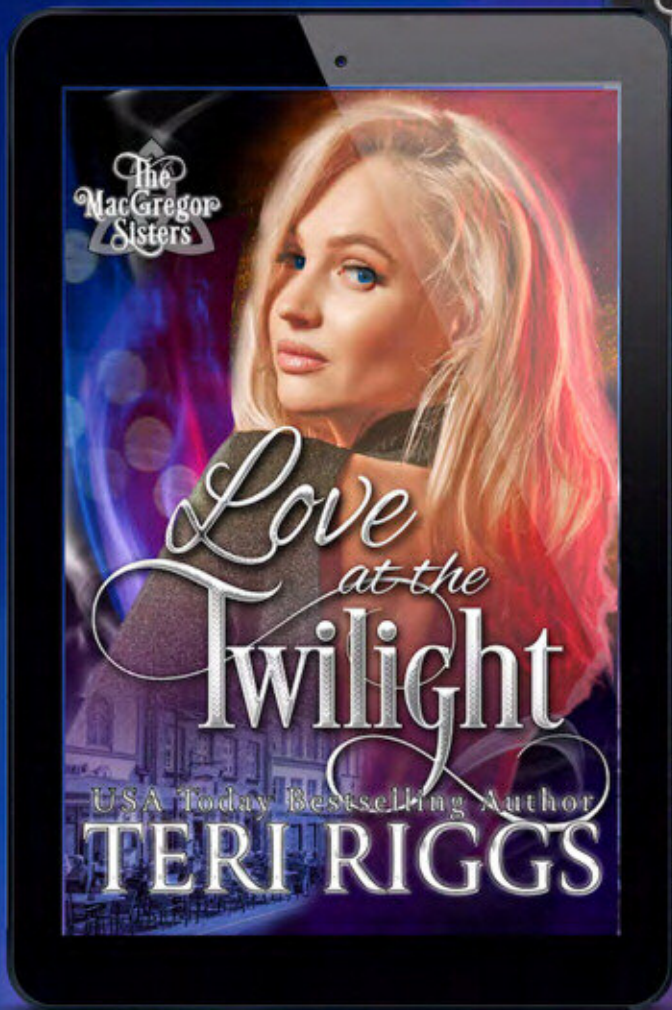
*The Scourge Between Stars* is a tense, exciting, scary space horror that hits on common fears of close spaces, the dark, and the unknown. This short novel packs a punch. Concepts that are growing increasingly relevant, such as the earth dying due to pollution, where its survivors will go if that happens, and having the technology to survive on other planets and in space are explored in the narrative in an organic way. Every consideration that makes space travel scary is hit on in this book. The threat preying on crewmembers is from nightmares, giving readers another reason to avoid space.

For its length, the character development is very good. Jacklyn is an excellent lead character, sympathetic in her flaws, fears and hopes. Secondary characters have standout traits that add to the texture of the book, particularly Jacklyn's dynamic with a sentient robot.

This book reads like a motion picture, the tension high pitch, as the reader asks along with the characters, are they the hunters or the hunted? *The Scourge Between Stars* is tailor made for fans of space horror, both movies and books.

Danielle Hill





Sadie's mother called it a gift.

Sadie calls it a curse.

Can a woman with psychic abilities  
ever find a man who will accept her as she is?

From USA Today Bestselling Author  
Teri Riggs

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