

# *Affaire de Coeur*

Bringing You Honest Reviews Since 1980

September/October 2023

## *Meet Dana Vilandre*

Her heart is almost as big as her talent.

Learn about *Her World*,  
dedicated to uplifting women



**Reviews!**

**Reviews!**

**Reviews!**

The heart and soul of AdC--

**Pamela Ackerson.**

She does it all!





# *Affaire de Coeur*

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*September/October 2023*

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This time it's the Literary Love  
Savannah Book Event**

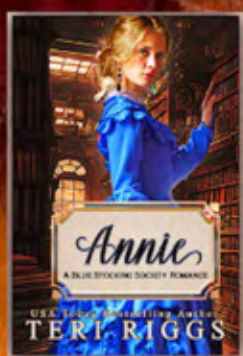
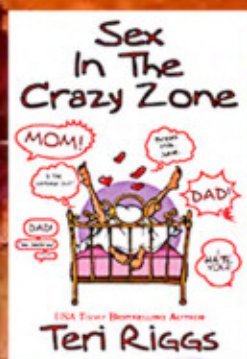


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**Debra Parmley brings  
us another Cover  
Model--Ricardo  
Bland**







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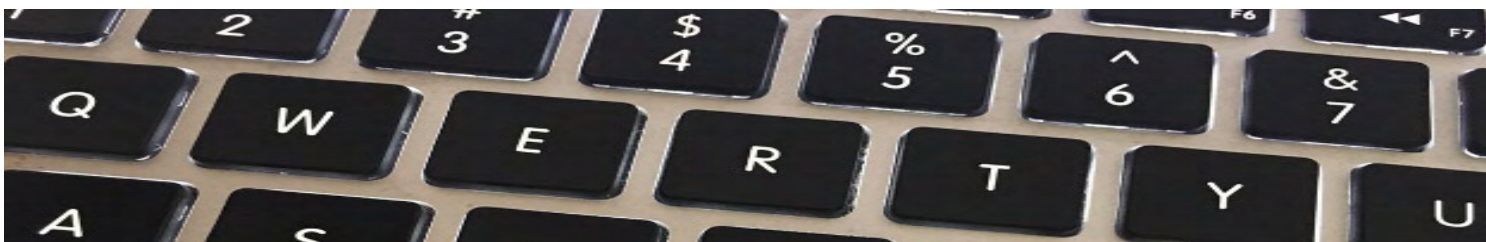


*September/October, 2023*

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# Dear QWERTY

by Pamela Ackerson

## Time Management



**Dear Qwerty, “I just can’t find the time. I’m so disorganized.”**

**Time: The Biggest Challenge to an Author**

There are boatloads of books out there teaching people how to manage their time. It can be a challenge even for the most organized person. I, personally, must stay organized. I wear a lot of “hats” and without a set plan, everything can go out the window.

Let’s use *The House on Cedar Ridge* as an example.

When I first got the story

idea in my head, my husband and I were touring the Ohio State Reformatory. We returned to the hotel and the first thing I did was create a folder titled Ohio Reformatory. We had taken pictures, and those images were uploaded to the folder.

I quickly wrote down the story idea and all the information I could remember about the reformatory. Grabbed the pamphlet and added as much information into the document that could be used for the story.

Returning home, I’d been writing another story, so it had been put on hold.

Once the other story was sent to the editor, I started researching sanatoriums, reformatories, and prisons during the time period I had envisioned.

Here’s where the organization begins.

Hat number One: I’m a mom. Thankfully, at the time, the youngest was in college.

Hat number Two: Wife, hubby’s easy to live with so I really have had it easy there.

Hat number Three: We owned and managed rental properties. When something needed to be repaired, hubby and I took care of anything and everything that needed

to be done.

Hat number Four: At the time, I was the secretary of our community group. I took care of emails to the community group president, calls from the county commissioner’s office, working with the gentleman who was creating the Small Area Study, and Future Land Use Map, etc.

Hat number Five: Marketing and Advertising for *Affaire de Coeur Book Review Magazine*.

Hat number Six: Author

If you sit down and think about it, you probably have just as many “hats”.

Emails became a major force and necessity in my life. I had a folder set aside for everything. Every morning, the first thing I did was read the emails received.

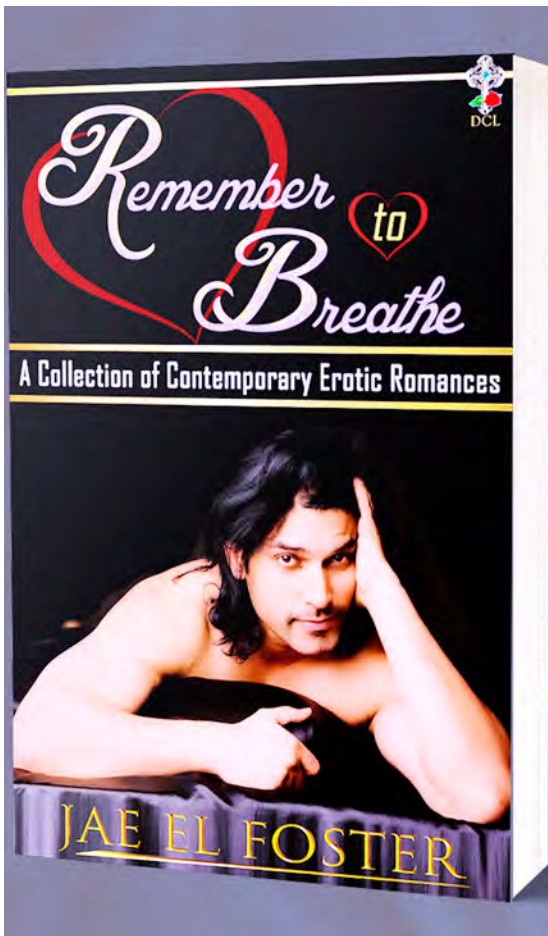
Each particular hat had several folders. All emails were saved to those folders. Luckily, all my “hats” were jobs that could be done at home.

All emails that needed to be taken care of immediately were answered and done right there and then.

The rest went to assigned days and times.

Monday: All emails read and answered. Monday afternoon:





Eleven contemporary romances.

Written for today's empowered modern woman, each story focuses on a strong female protagonist - all in different stages of life and tackling some of life's more challenging moments. From showing strength in the workforce to dedication in marriage to impeccable sensuality in the bedroom, this collection blends equal amounts of true-to-heart romance with beautifully spicy romance and a healthy dose of deliciously romantic comedy.

[Amazon.com/JaeElFoster](http://Amazon.com/JaeElFoster)



*AdC* and creating ads, sending out newsletter, and answering responses ASAP.

Tuesday: All emails read and answered. *AdC* ads that were unfinished or sending to formatting for the print magazine.

Wednesday: Same as the first two days of the week. Wednesday afternoon, preparing and organizing for any book events that were coming in the next few months. (Ordering books, business cards, bookmarks, notebooks, etc.)

Thursday: Emails... *AdC* and Thursday afternoon—writing! Yeah!

Friday: My writing day. It was always a long day! But it was worth it because I was writing. At the end of the day, I double checked everything with *AdC* and took care of it all.

Saturday: My family, and the dreaded domestic chores.

Sunday: Family!

Monday, starting all over again...

Now you know why the hubby makes me run away to St. Augustine or Disney every once in a while. Because I just don't stop. He's even made me leave the computer behind a couple of times. Ugh!

That's okay!

Anyone who has met me knows my biggest passion is books. As long as I can put aside time for writing, even if it's only a day or two a week, I'm good.

Things are slower now. I have more time to relax and write. (Number three is married, I'm no longer working for the county, down to one rental property...) I'm still creating folders, and keeping things organized. Time is set, scheduled, and followed with a few twitches because, well, that's life.

It's all good. Life is good.

### Qwerty Poll

If you see a one or two star book review without information about why the reader gave it such a

*Affaire de Coeur*

low score, do you ignore it because they didn't bother with an explanation or take it seriously?

•	Ignore/Dismiss it
60%	
•	
	Believe it
2.5%	
•	
	Decide for myself
37.5%	

# *The Spotlight is Shining on...*

## *Dana Vilandre*

### *AdC's Ms. September Calendar Girl*



*Dana Vilandre's entire life has brought her to the point where she is now. Always involved in charities, especially those directed toward helping women, she reached immediate success with her book **Gypsy Nomad Hip-pie Chick: Homeless in New Hampshire**. It was described as, "a woman's journey through homeless and heart-break, with comical moments, crazy adventures and a search for self." With the success of that book, she published its sequel **Wine Stained Words: The Sabbatical**.*

*Her gift for writing led to her being the CEO of the Her World Publishing and ultimately founding Her World. Now Ms. Vilandre has released her latest gift, **Her World**. Written by 33 different women from all over the world, this book shares all different backgrounds, cultures, and societies. Despite their diversities, they all share a common belief: sharing their talents to create unified peace and compassion while encouraging and supporting one another throughout the world. Her World demonstrates there are commonalities among women, no matter where they are from.*

*Ms. Vilandre is from Weston, Massachusettes-Middlesex*

## ***Her World***

*"All people should be treated with respect and sincerity."*

With so many charities, welfare systems, hospitals and support groups, what makes Her Place different? While Her Place is a non-profit, and is a charitable entity, our focus is on providing resources with philanthropic focus, understanding the mental and emotional reprieve needed for refocus and healing after circumstantial life altering

devastation. We understand that there are times life spirals and there are not cookie cutter solutions that will set life straight again.

Our organization is not welfare. We know that monetary help may be a temporary solution, and often is not the real need. The women that turn to Her Place do not typically fall into a 'category' traditional support systems can provide for. We are focused on her individual needs, and helping her find her own road path to stability.

Her Place was founded to meet

the increasing needs of an often overlooked population of women. These are women who have fallen on debilitating and overwhelming real-life circumstances, such as homelessness, spousal death, joblessness, and chronic illness. These women are unable to find relief through traditional resource providers. Her Place brings together the combined gifts, talents and resources from a diverse population of women who share the common vision of giving help while receiving help, while bringing focus to building environmental awareness and





stronger community support systems.

### **Their Mission**

Our Mission is to provide resources for personal and professional development where women from all cultural, socio-economical and ethnic backgrounds can benefit by our resource exchange programs during hardship, as well as create strong support systems for women and their families which will enable positive impacts to society as a whole. . Our objective is to let all women know that they are not alone, and we will help them build the road that takes them where they want to be.

Because Dana is the mother to two young girls, she understands that children of challenged women have unique needs just as their mothers do.

Healthy children need healthy experiences. And our minds, our surroundings need to be safe and fun! We believe it is key to teach kids to think outside the box and learn about the

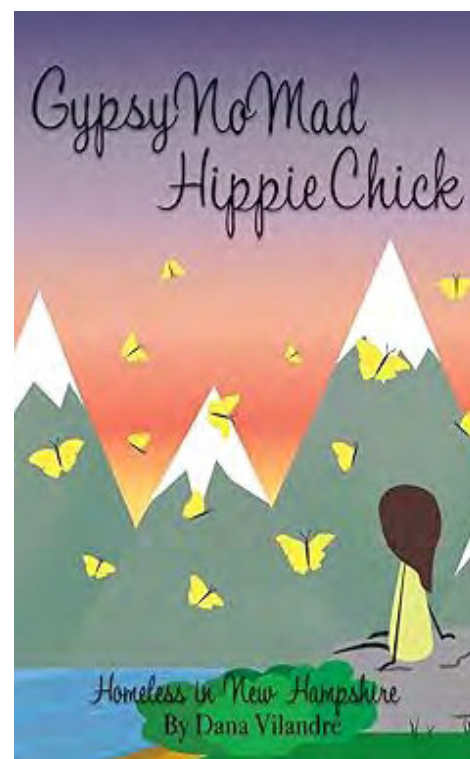
importance of environmental issues, recycling, and self-respect in a way that is engaging, fun without any political motivation. Thus, her program "Create-fam" was born.

The official website for Dana's book, *Her World* is:

Love-Her-World.com

Readers are invited to view life from the eyes of phenomenal female artists and authors from around the world! An eclectic gem featuring 33 amazing women. 33 different perspectives of art in the form of photography, song lyrics, book excerpts, personal life experiences, prose and poetry.

This book is a journey through women's experiences, minds and souls introducing the audience to a form of art that is so desperately needed in society, today more than ever.





# AdC LOVES Conferences

## Literary Love Savannah Book Event



*LLS Hostess, Stella Price*

Hosted by Stella Price, LLS Book event in Savannah, Georgia began on July 20<sup>th</sup> and ended on July 23<sup>rd</sup> with a raffle of the donation baskets. Many of the authors arrived on the 19<sup>th</sup> to have fun with the Bookwear, Writer's Track, and the Patreon Party.

The Meet and Greet began Thursday evening along with a great Carnival of Fun. From the moment the readers and authors arrived, it was a smorgasbord of fun, workshops, panels, sneak peeks, lots of delicious food, and games.

And Lots of Books!

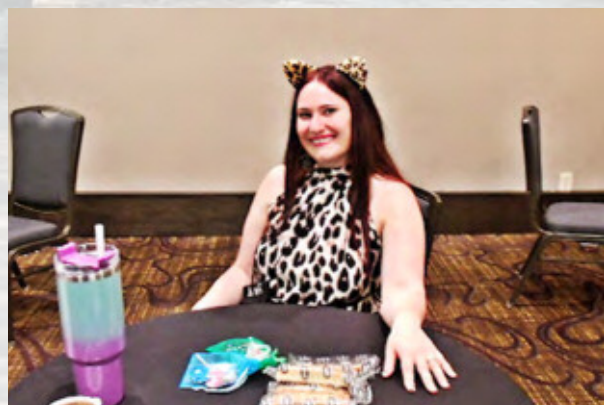


*Author Cara September*



*Author Luncheon*

*Author  
Killian  
Wolf*





# TITANIAN CHRONICLES

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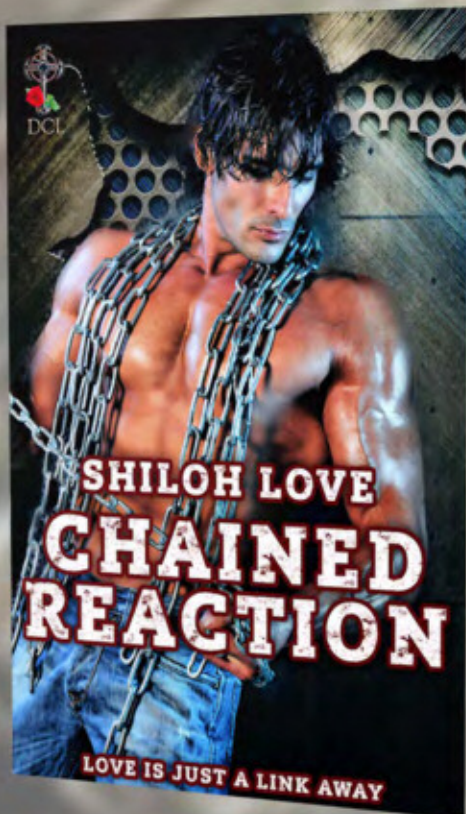


*Carnival*



*Goddess Dinner and Ball*





Love is just a link away.

One bad mistake sparks a chain reaction of terror for two innocent people.

Two victims of evil intent  
A crazed pair of women driven by greed

There are some wounds even the most powerful love cannot heal.

Even if Camille and Shade make it out alive, will the bond formed during captivity lead to a future together?

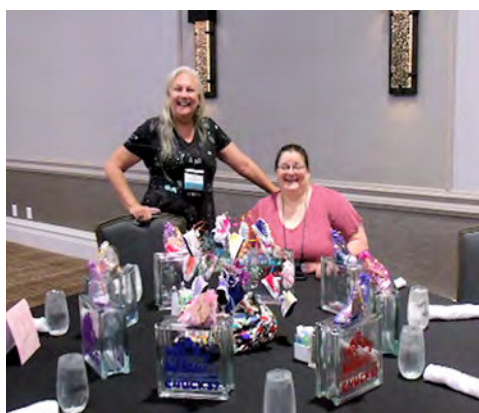


SusanZoeBella.com

@AuthorSusanZoe



Joely Burkhart (l.) and Molly Burkhart (r.)



Authors Pam Ackerson (l.) J.C. Layne (r.)



Landra Graf



Kelly Smith (l)

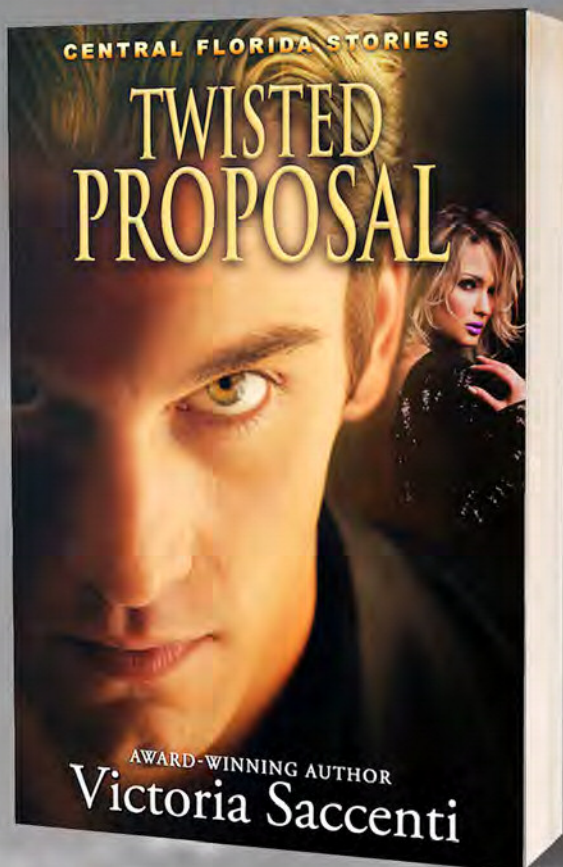
Mindy Howard (r)



Affaire de Coeur

*Invite Us! You may be surprised to find us there covering your all-important event.*





**The sweeter the revenge, the more bitter the cost.**

**Ethan Ashford prefers the private playrooms of his exclusive club to the backstabbing elite society into which he was born.**

**His billionaire, ailing father asks him to attend a gala dinner. Ethan reluctantly agrees; and encounters an eerily familiar face that freezes him in his tracks.**

**Siena Maynard's uncanny resemblance to her cousin Joyce, a conniving social climber, sparks a plan that will satisfy his hunger for revenge—and his craving to have sweet Siena at his mercy.**

**Ethan fully expected to take diabolical pleasure in Siena's body, tears, and flesh. He never imagined she'd sink so deeply under his skin, that losing her would destroy what's left of his soul.**

# Central Florida Stories

A Sultry Collection, from the pen of Victoria Saccenti



## **Deception**

**Conduct unbecoming... When Joe learns Hunter's name, his inner lust turns to black rage—he's convinced it's her fault a teammate committed combat suicide.**

## **Undeniable**

**Their hearts will never forget... But the approaching danger may take away their forever.**

## **The Lovely Danielle**

**In the face of his soft commands, resistance is not possible...**



Victoria Saccenti

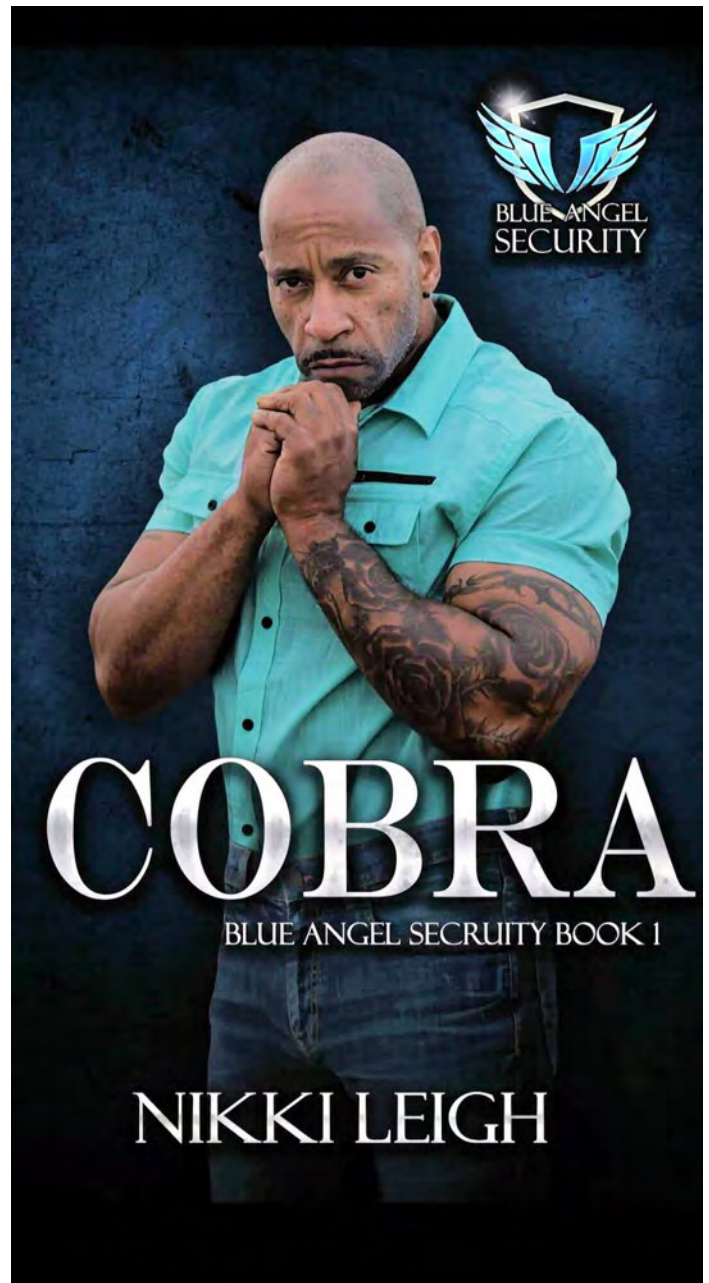
VictoriaSaccentiWrites.com

@VictoriaSAuthor



# An Interview with Cover Model **Ricardo Bland**

*Brought to You by Debra Parmley*







## Debra Parmley Presents... Cover Model Corner

COVER MODEL CORNER WITH DEBRA PARMLEY

INTERVIEW WITH COVER MODEL RICARDO BLAND

**DP:** *Today I'm interviewing cover model Ricardo Bland. Let's jump right in. Ricardo, what was the first cover you appeared on and how did this come about?*

**RB:** The first cover I appeared on was: *Indigo Knights: Forged Under Blue Fire* by AJ Downey, ex-wife.

**DP:** *If you could do a photo shoot anywhere in the world for a cover, where would you most want to go? What sort of shoot would it be?*

**RB:** The place I think would be an awesome photo shoot? Egypt. I chose this place because I'm fascinated with the history and the architecture of it. The type of shoot it would be? UF/Paranormal: Urban Fantasy.

**DP:** *Beyond romance novel cover shots, what other projects or jobs keep you busy?*

**RB:** At this point, I'm working on creating my own brand of clothing for working out or casual wear. Also, I work as a Safety and Security Officer at a middle school.

**DP:** *That's a very important job, keeping the children safe. We'll look forward to seeing your clothing brand in the future. What's one question you wish an interviewer would ask you?*

**RB:** What are my favorite sweets.

**DP:** *Readers, keep reading and keep an eye out for sweets. ;-)* Ricardo, if you wrote a book, what would it be about?

**RB:** Title: *Purple Demon*. A college student in need of money for tuition. He utilized the university science lab to create a new street drug called Purple Demon, etc.

**DP:** *All street drugs are bad news, but that one sounds terrible, and I'll bet the student ends up with bigger problems than how to pay for his tuition.*

**DP:** *Now this question is almost always asked in interviews because your fitness level is beyond the average person's. What is your exercise routine and what sort of nutrition plan do you follow to achieve and maintain your level of fitness?*

**RB:** Here is my workout plan:

DAY 1 - Legs

DAY 2 - Chest/Biceps/ (Shoulders touch up)

DAY 3 - Back thickness/ Hamstring (Glute - touch up)

DAY 4 - Shoulders/Chest - touch up.

DAY 5 - Arms

DAY 6 - Back width - Quad - (Hamstring touch up)

### NUTRITION PLAN:

#### MEAL 1: SHAKE:

##### In a blender:

Water, "desired consistency"

2 scoops of STEEL SUPPS: WHEY ISO

1 level tbsp. almond or peanut butter

50 grams frozen blueberries

handful baby spinach

**BLEND** and pour contents into shaker cup.

**ADD IN** 1 cup 100% liquid egg whites.

**SHAKE UP ...DRINK.**

#### MEAL 2:

8 oz chicken breast OR 99% lean ground turkey OR Albacore



tuna  
4 oz green veggies, (asparagus, green beans, broccoli, etc...)  
Cucumber

**MEAL 3:**

8 to 10 oz white fish (cod, halibut, tilapia, rock fish, etc...)  
4 oz green veggies

**MEAL 4:**

8 oz chicken breast OR 99% lean ground turkey OR Albacore tuna  
4 oz green veggies

**MEAL 5:**

8 oz chicken breast OR 99% lean ground turkey  
150 grams white rice  
50 grams black beans  
4 oz green veggies

**MEAL 6:**

8 oz white fish  
½ cup cauliflower rice  
50 grams black beans  
NO FATS HERE!  
4 oz green veggies

**DP:** *If you could share three simple fitness tips the average romance reader could do every day to stay healthy, what would they be?*

**RB:** I have 4 fitness tips.

- 1.) Exercise daily.
- 2.) Eat the right food.
- 3.) Stay consistent.
- 4.) Trust the process.

**DP:** *It's your birthday dinner and the calories don't count. What's on the menu, what are you drinking, and what's for dessert?*

**RB:** Italian pasta dinner w/ white wine. Dessert: New York Cheesecake

**DP:** *Describe the perfect romantic evening:*

**RB:** Taking a long drive, natural place, music, and candle-light dinner, sitting on the beach, taking a long walk, cuddling, long conversations, ice cream, and chocolates.

**DP:** *Please share one unusual fact about you or your life.*

**RB:** I was in Top Pot Donuts one morning in Seattle around 2018 and President Obama walks in with his detail and secret service. It was an awesome sight to see, and he bought 2 dozen donuts. It was the highlight of my day.

**DP:** *How exciting! It's not every day that the President of the United States visits your local donut shop!*

**DP:** *Now, eight quick questions:*

**1.) Watching the sunrise or watching the sunset and the stars?**

**RB:** Watching the sunset and stars.

**2.) The beach or the mountains?**

Beach, since I just came back from Kauai.

**3.) Primitive camping or luxury hotel?**

Luxury Hotel

**4.) Snow skiing or water skiing?**

Neither. Snowboarding

**5.) Favorite movie?**

Cool Running

**6.) Best book you ever read?**

James Patterson: *The Perfect Assassin*

**7.) Fav. Sport to play?**

Basketball

**8.) Fav. Sport to watch?**

Football

**DP:** *Ricardo thank you for taking the time to do this interview with me.*

*Readers can find Ricardo online at <https://www.facebook.com/ricardo.bland>*

The Holidays are coming!  
Can you cook? Got a favorite dish?  
PLEASE Share  
Send in your recipe no Share! I love  
to cook!  
Send it to [Adcmagazine.com](http://Adcmagazine.com)





## Summer to Fall

### Across

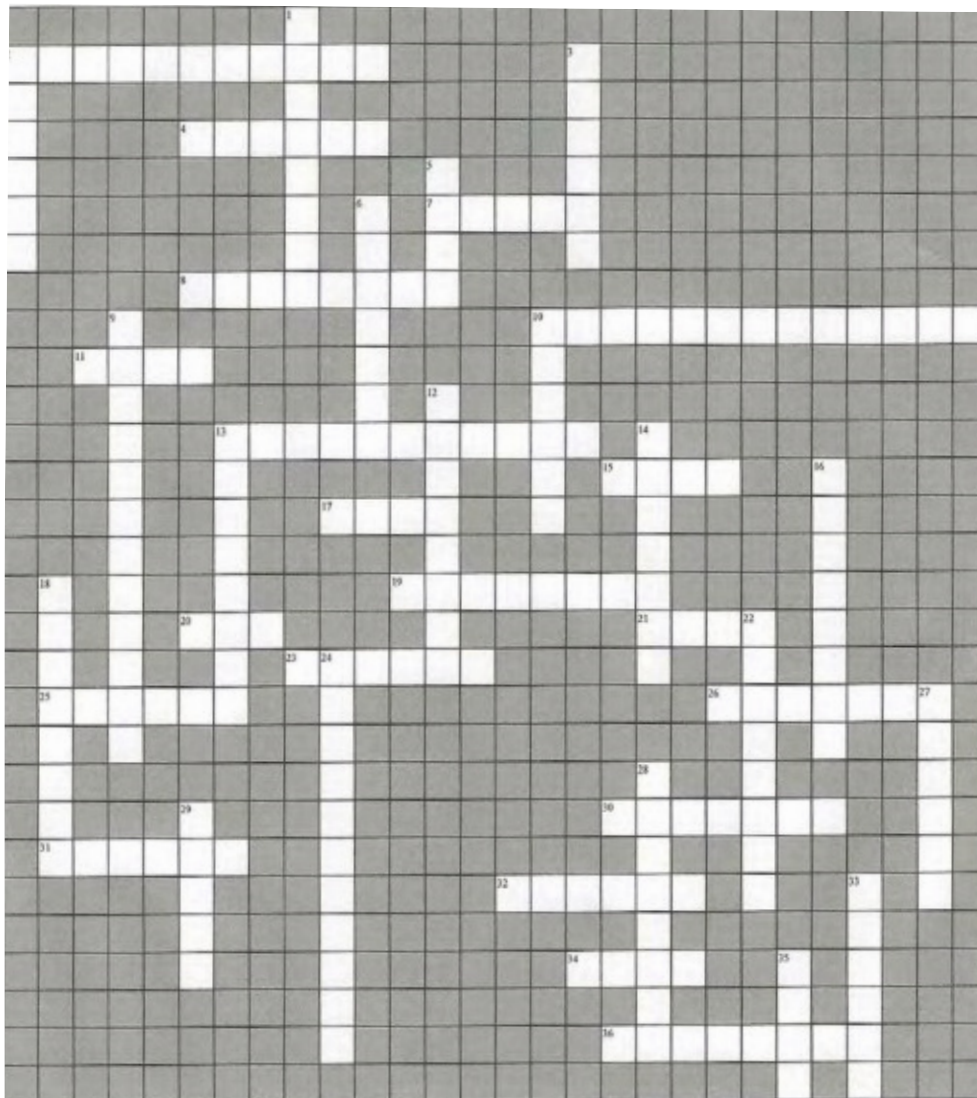
1. The second Tuesday of November is \_\_\_\_\_ day.
4. Shaun White dominated this sport in the Winter Olympics.
6. *Aida, Barber of Seville, Rigoletto*. This season begins in the fall.
8. Equinox that marks the beginning of fall.
9. Game played with large black and white ball.
10. Parties on the lot of a football stadium.
13. Kids are happy because it's out.
17. Putting seeds in the ground.
21. Wet precipitation.
22. Process by which fresh fruit is preserved for the fall.
23. The Bard who is performed in the park.
24. Event where food is cooked in a pit.
25. This "wild catch" season is short but full of these delicious king crustations.
27. Celebration of Bavarian culture with beer, brat, sauerkraut and bustiers.
28. Italian for ice cream.
29. Witch, skeleton and others are these worn on Halloween.
34. Skimpy garb worn on the beach.
35. Individual sport done on wheels on cement hills.
36. Time off from work and school.

### Down

2. The program that helps new students adapt to the new school.
3. The time when all the plants are ripe and brought in.
4. Hearty food for the winter.
5. The boys of summer wind down with the World Series in this sport.
7. The bands and floats going down the street.

11. These are the hot days in August.
12. Opposite of indoors.
13. This individual sport can be done on water or snow.
14. Monterey \_\_\_\_\_ (type of music) Festival.
15. Place to swim in. Can be Olympic sized.
16. Orange gourd at Halloween.
18. The ceremony that celebrates the culmination of school.
19. A shortened top that shows a lot of midriff.
20. White precipitation.
26. "Made for walkin'" especially in the winter.
29. Spice used often in the fall.
30. This sport winds down with the U.S. Open in Queens, New York.
31. The spawning for this fish is over in the summer.
32. Bermuda and Daisy Dukes are three of these garments.
33. This is the full one nearest to the fall equinox.

Answers on page 29





# *Our Other Spotlight is on...*

## *Pamela Ackerson*

### *AdC's October Calendar Girl*



Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Wall Street Journal bestselling, award-winning author, Pamela Ackerson is a time traveling adventurer. She was born and raised in Newport, RI, where history is a way of life, and now lives on the Space Coast of Florida where everyone is encouraged to reach for the stars! When it's time to run away, she's a hop, skip, and jump from Disney World and fun-filled imagination and fantasy.

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

**P.A.:** I originally started with science fiction short stories. I have a passion for history and that led me to time travel, westerns, Native American, historical fiction, nonfiction, self-help marketing, personal and travel journals, and children's first reader/preschool books.

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

**P.A.:** It's simple and complicated. They have to be real, and they have to have that inner strength to make it through anything that's thrown at them. I love taking real life stories and twisting them into fiction. Whether they've had it rough, or had life served on a silver platter, my characters all have hope. It's got to be about a better tomorrow.

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

**P.A.:** My most recent series is "The House on Cedar Ridge". It's about a museum curator who travels back to the past when the museum was a sanatorium, founding home, and hospital. She manages to get on the bad side of a very powerful witch...

**AdC:** Favorite quote?

**P.A.:** "To multiply your happiness, divide it with others."

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

**P.A.:** Genoa City, Wisconsin. The character (an undercover FBI agent) travels through an anomaly and ends up

in the mid-1930s fighting against the mob.

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

**P.A.:** Absolutely. Every single one of my books has something special. I always try to find a real event that few people know about and include it in the story.

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

**P.A.:** Yes, yes, yes!

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



Stories that stir within us the unquenchable hope for a better tomorrow...



PamelaAckerson.net

@PamAckerson

**P.A.:** Sex scenes. They've been over-written, and there's only so many ways you can express the act.

**Readers**  
Douglasville, GA, February 24,  
2024

**Flirty in Tampa**  
Tampa, FL, October 4-5, 2024

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

**P.A.:** I have a very full schedule in the next year and am looking forward to meeting everyone.

**Capital City Author Event**  
Montgomery, AL, May 17-18,  
2024

**Space Coast Book Lovers**  
Cape Canaveral, FL, June 19-  
22, 2024

**Literary Love Savannah**  
Savannah, GA, July 18-21,  
2024

**Tampa Bay Comicon (Tentative)**  
Tampa, FL, August 23-25, 2024

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

**P.A.:** I've worn a lot of different hats in my life, and I tend to use those experiences when developing my characters. When it comes to personality traits, I'm basically a happy person. I'm also very stubborn and I find it hard to give up on anything or anyone. You know, that unquenchable hope for a better tomorrow. Even though reality keeps its check on me, deep down, I'm still that little girl holding those balloons and looking at the wonderful world.

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

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Facebook.com/Pam.Ackerson.7  
PamblingRoads.blogspot.com

## The 2024 Events:

Romance Atlanta Writers and

**Hot in Biloxi**  
Biloxi, MS, September 13-14,  
2024



# 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)

### Down to the Wire (The Touré Security Group Book 1)

*Patricia Sargeant*

**HARLEQUIN - Romance**

Mass Market

978-1335593771

★★★★

A dangerous hacker's theft of a potentially deadly formula unexpectedly unites two former lovers. Dr. Grace Blackwell's diabetes research is interrupted when her computer is hacked, and her research documents and formula are stolen. Her attempts to discover the thief's identity lead her to IT security expert Malachi Touré who's tracking the hacker with his family-owned firm. Malachi, Grace, and his brothers reluctantly agree to work together in a race against time to track down the hacker who endangers Grace's life.

Malachi has yet to get over Grace, even though it's been years. He can't trust , but she is a medical researcher, not a hacker. Mal discovers

their attraction is as deep as ever, making it difficult to be around her. Despite doubts, he will do whatever it takes to keep her safe when a killer sets his sights on her. But can Grace balance her valuable work and living a full life with love and Mal?

Sargeant's descriptive writing draws readers into her compelling novel. She deftly develops her complex, likable, and fallible characters with emotional, funny, and snarky interactions. She balances the romance well with the mystery in this fast-paced novel. *Down to the Wire* is a thrilling second-chance romance.

*Lacy Hill*

### Thank You for Sharing

*Rachel Runya Katz*

**Publisher:**

Trade Paperback

978-1250888297

★★★★

*Thank You for Sharing* by Rachel Runya Katz is an interracial



# Contemporary Romance

romance focused on Chicago Museum junior curator Leah Cohen-Jackson and marketing executive Daniel Rosenberg, childhood summer camp BFFs whose friendship abruptly and bitterly ended 14 years ago but gets a second chance through a work project. Their lives reconnect when they are seated next to each other on a flight home to Chicago. They don't expect to see each other again after the tense, turbulent flight of pushing each other's buttons. Unexpectedly, Leah's employer hires Daniel's marketing firm to help improve their museum subscriptions and attendance. Leah and Daniel are forced to work together on a project that could potentially land career-changing promotions.

The lingering tension from their broken friendship and the unexpectedly intense chemistry and connection that still exists between them grow stronger as they work together on the project and attend post-work social gatherings with colleagues. Leah and Daniel must resolve their issues and face why their relationship broke up all those years ago. Daniel and Leah are each biracial with a Jewish parent, which gives them a shared experience as Jews of color and a foundation upon which to rebuild their friendship. Can they ignore their growing feelings and passion for one another, or will they surrender and take a chance at love?

Katz deftly develops Leah's and Daniel's relationship with sexy, and emotional banter and love scenes that contribute to their character development and evolution. Daniel is sweet, kind, funny, gentle, thoughtful, patient and still harbors feelings for Leah. However, he's clueless about what led to the end of their friendship. Leah is still bitter about events that occurred during the last summer camp she attended with Daniel. She has strong, negative feelings about love and relationships.

Katz's vivid description, dry wit and humor, active writing style, and

## Fly with Me

Andie Burke

St. Martin's Griffin

Trade Paperback

978-1250886378

★★★★★



Flying phobic E.R. nurse Olive Murphy and type-a copilot Stella Soriano's lives collide mid-flight in Andie Burke's LGBTQ romance *Fly with Me*. Olive isn't coping well with takeoff during her first flight when an in-flight emergency is announced. Despite her terror, she rises to the challenge and saves another passenger's life without thinking twice. To Olive's surprise, her rescue is recorded and a video of her saving the passenger's life goes viral. Unfortunately, when the flight's diverted, she ends up stuck in an airport hours away from the marathon she's signed up to run in her brother's honor. Stella drives her, so she doesn't miss it. Olive and Stella spend an incredible, magical day together at Disneyland then go back to their regular lives not expecting to see each other ever again.

When Stella sees how positively the video affects her airline's sales, she believes Olive can help her get in with the airline's boys club executives who overlook her and denied her long overdue promotion. Stella asks Olive to pretend they're in a relationship, and Olive agrees despite her misgivings. Olive dives headlong into memorizing Stella's out-of-control binder guide to fake dating. Olive and Stella spend time together and put their fake dating scheme into motion. Before they know it, their fake relationship begins to feel all too real. Is this an exciting opportunity for a genuine romance or are they destined to become nothing more than two people playing at being in love?

Burke's vivid description, dynamic and colorful dialogue, and world-building draws readers into her multi-layered, original story, keeping them turning the pages until the novel's ending comes before they know it. She deftly develops her complex and diverse characters through hilarious and emotional interactions and dialogue. Olive's friends are fascinating and their entertaining interactions with her contribute to her development and the story's progression.

Burke excellently develops Stella and Olive's relationship from strangers to friends to lovers through emotional love scenes and interactions—combined with their snarky and sexy banter. Her writing is genuinely funny and entertaining. However, the novel's a lot more angsty than expected and triggering as well—probably more enjoyable if you read it prepared. *Fly with Me* is highly recommended for fans of lesbian/queer opposites attract romances. It explores multiple themes while keeping the reader wanting more.

Lacy Hill

dynamic and natural-sounding dialogue draw readers in at once. Her emotional story, colorful storytelling, and skillful worldbuilding keep readers engrossed. Katz's diverse cast of well-developed and fascinating characters are fallible, likable, and easy to care about and become invested in their lives.

Fast-paced, emotional, sexy,

funny, and angsty, *Thank You for Sharing* is a childhood friends-to-foes, enemies-to-lovers, interracial romance that explores themes of dating, romance, falling in love, biracial identity, sexual trauma, grief, and emotional healing and recovery.

Lacy Hill





# Historical Romance Reviews

## Every Duke Has His Day

Suzanne Enoch

St. Martin's

Trade Paperback

978-1250842541

★★★★★



Michael Bromley, the Duke of Woriton, was a scientist and had no time or inclination to indulge in the frivolous politeness of Society. His passion lay in his scientific experiments, so he was rarely even seen in public. Oh, he could navigate a ballroom, knew the required dances, and could hold a decent conversation, if necessary. He just never thought it was necessary. Consequently, rumors swirled throughout the ton that he was old, a hermit with no social skills, and had a bad temper. But, when his aunt asked him to dog sit her large, precious, well-trained black poodle Lancelot while she was away

visiting a friend, Michael didn't hesitate to say that he would. He would even take Lancelot on his daily walks while perusing through his meticulous notes.

Elizabeth "Bitsy" Dockering had her hands full trying to rein in her unruly, very spoiled dog Galahad as they "strolled" through the park. Bitsy was a Diamond in her second Season and had many young men clamoring for her hand, but she deftly kept them all at bay. Suddenly, Galahad broke loose from her hold and raced over to the only other large black poodle in the park and immediately got their leashes tangled. As she laughingly untangled their leashes, with the help of the surly owner who had been knocked into the lake by the dogs and was not happy about it, she didn't realize that they had inadvertently switched dogs.

Later that night, Galahad was kidnapped. But the wrong dog has

been taken and Michael feels obligated to recover his aunt's dog and help Bitsy get her dog back, too. Michael can't stand the ridiculousness of polite society and Bitsy should be everything he hates but discovers that she is nothing like the persona she must wear during the Season. And Bitsy discovers, to her delight, that Michael is absolutely nothing like the rumors that have been swirling around him for years.

*Every Duke Has His Day* is a delightful Regency romance with an interesting twist. Ms. Enoch has cleverly made an "opposites attract" romance into a dog-napping mystery with an unlikely pairing into a can't-put-it-down read that will keep you up helping the sleuths solve their mystery well into the night, with secondary characters that will make you fall in love with love. A must read!

Lani Roberts



# Paranormal Romance Reviews

Fantasy  
Vampires  
Shape Shifters  
Time Travel  
Werewolves...

## All the Dead Shall Weep (Gunnie Rose #5)

Charlaine Harris

Gallery Saga  
Press

E-book  
B0BTZWCF25  
★★★★★



Following the murderous events of the “gripping...thrill-ride” (Karin Slaughter) *Serpent of Heaven*, Lizbeth Rose is awaiting the arrival of her sister Felicia and her husband’s younger brother Eli in Texoma. Both needed to leave the seat of the Holy Russian Empire in San Diego after Felicia’s burgeoning wizardly power in death magic became the reason for kidnapping and assassination attempts from her mother’s family of high-powered wizards in Mexico.

Yet, bad news has traveled ahead of them, as Eli is called back to San Diego, taking Peter along with him, splitting them apart in more ways than one as their enemies’ plans for revenge come to fruition..

*All the Dead Shall Weep*



has half-sisters Lizbeth and Felicia teaming up against bad guys of all stripes while dealing with personal and political problems. Felicia is apparently a hot commodity as she is young, pretty and has very strong magic. Lizbeth is learning that not all problems can be solved with a gun.

I enjoyed this fast-paced installment and anxiously await the next installment. I heartily recommend reading this series in order.

*D. Antonio*

## Wild as a Wolf

Paige Tyler

Source Books  
Casablanca

E-book  
B0BKTDZCYX  
★★★★★



*Nothing is more powerful than a werewolf—except perhaps a mighty warrior.*

Nothing surprises SWAT alpha Hale Delaney—he’s seen almost everything since he became a werewolf. But when he goes head-to-head with Dallas’s newest supernatural villain and is saved by the woman he loved and lost

a decade ago, his world is turned upside down.

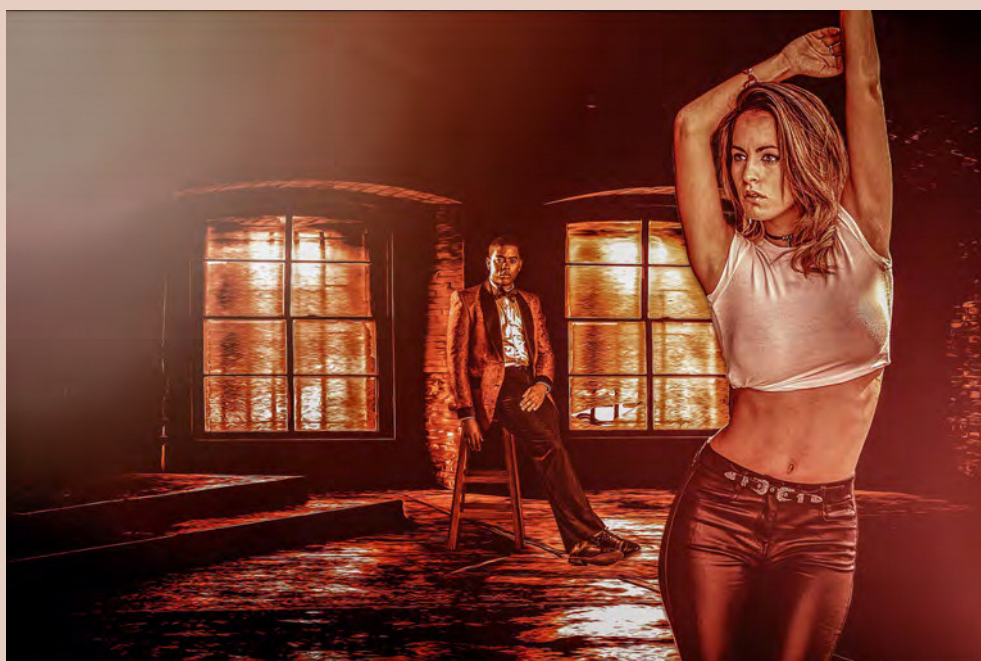
Karissa Bonifay has always been fierce and capable, but now she’s a sword-wielding warrior in her own right.

The more time Hale and Karissa spend together hunting the dangerous supernaturals terrorizing the city, the closer they come to the truth about what really came between them all those years ago...

WOW! *Wild as a Wolf* is a fast-paced second chance romance with a bite. Hale and Karissa have survived dysfunctional families, turning supernatural and 10 years apart, but they have never stopped loving one another. Now once again they are in the same place and have resolved unanswered questions about their separation. All they have to do is survive the big bad that is determined to kill them. This book kept me flipping pages and praying for them. I LOVED IT!

*D Antonio*





# Erotica

Some Like It Hot!!!

Same Sex Couples

SM

Multi Couples

## Nia Farrell Excerpt

### Just One Night Anthology

Seven authors share their erotic thoughts and dreams, guaranteed to heat you up—mind, body, and soul.

The collection includes “Duke” by USA Today best-selling author Nia Farrell writing as Ree L. Diehl.

A tattooed biker mistakes an interior designer for a call girl, Jenna Kennedy.

On St. Patrick’s Day at a pub owned by the Midnight Rovers MC, a tattooed biker, mistook me for a call girl, pinned me against the beer garden wall, and kissed me senseless. When he offered to buy me, I quickly put him in his place, but I can’t get him out of my mind.

Duke, aka John Connor

I’ve never paid for pleasure, but I wanted this woman—only to learn she

wasn’t for sale. With her cousin and my brother in the same Irish band, it’s only a matter of time before I see Jenna again. When I do, I plan to pick up where we left off and make her forget every man who’s gone before, including her mobster boyfriend.

#### Excerpt:

Jesus, he was big. He stood at least six feet, three inches in biker boots, towering above her five-foot, five-inch frame. Across the room, he’d looked imposing. Up close, he was intimidating. Taller, stronger, faster. There was no way she’d outrun him in the four-inch heels she’d worn.

Unlike her sister, she had no intention of joining the band on stage for an impromptu dance or two.

Jenna inhaled a shaky breath. The light evening breeze carried a scent of male musk, leather,

and whiskey. Combined with an arrestingly handsome face, sculpted physique, and intricate tattoos, he exuded a potent blend of pure, raw machismo.

The biker lowered his chin to look at her from his superior height. Leaning close enough to smell her hair, he dragged in a breath and held it for a long, laden moment.

“Move, please,” she stammered, praying that he would.

He did, but not in the way she expected. The biker stepped closer, forcing her to retreat until he’d backed her against the wall. A ghost of a smile played over his lips, but the molten look in his eyes held heat, not humor.

“How much?” he rumbled.

The deep baritone of his voice sent a lightning bolt of sexual energy straight to her core. Jenna stared at him, trying to discern his meaning. “For what?”

He caught his lower lip between his teeth and slowly pulled it free. Planting his hands on either side of her head, he pinned her hips against the wall, letting her feel his growing arousal. Dipping his head, he nudged her ear with his nose and whispered, “Everything.”

This story includes adult situations, mistaken identity, secret identity, and elements of BDSM. Written for Ages 18+.

Author’s Note: Duke and Jenna’s story began as a short, fictitious excerpt written by Paige Turner, the lead character in *A Package for Paige (Unbillable Hours #2)* by Ree L. Diehl.

Universal Buy Link

<https://books2read.com/u/3Jo6WX>

The “Guarded Hearts” series features gargoyle shifters with a sci-fi twist and a vampire villain you’ll love to hate. Books 1-6 are ménages (MFM, MMF, MMFM). Book 7,



# Erotic Romance

the epic series finale, is an age gap MF BDSM romance. Book 1 can be read as a standalone, but books 2-7 should be read in order.

Awards: *Casey* (Guarded Hearts Book 2) was voted in the top 10 of The 50 Best Indie Books of 2020. *Ash* (Guarded Hearts Book 7) was voted one of The 50 Best Indie Books of 2021.

Genres: Paranormal, Sci-Fi/Genetic Engineering, RomCom, Shifter, Angel, Fairy, Vampire, BDSM, Ménage, Interracial, LGBTQIA, DD/lg, age gap.

## Wrench

*Candace Blevins*

**Kaleidowords Publishing**

E-book

B0CBH3Q22V

★★★★★

*A motorcycle club kinky daddy paranormal romance...*

*Wrench* recently moved to the Birmingham RTMC chapter from Mobile after his sister went through a nasty breakup and needed him. He's good friends with Khan, who has more house than he need and who welcomed both Wrench and his sister to live with him.

The nearest neighbor is two hundred yards away, but with the help of his werewolf hearing, Wrench hears a ruckus, goes to investigate, and finds an all-girls party happening with an unwelcome male guest. He runs the asshole off, and his neighbor invites him to hang out for the rest of the party.

Tori, short for Victoria, long ago stopped using her trust fund, and eschewed society and all forms of materialism. She has lived without electricity for so long after the battle. Now that it's finally restored, she still doesn't

have it. Her small house is paid for, and she makes enough money finishing sheetrock a few weeks a year to pay for the food she can't grow or kill. No attachments, no outside responsibilities, and that's the way she likes it.

Until the biker from next door comes into her life and throws everything upside down. How does he know she's always wanted a daddy but is too scared to let one all the way into her life? And how does he manage to do just that before she even realizes he has?

This is not your fluffy, sweet occasional OTK spanking DD/lg age play romance.

Once again Candace

**Readers, send those recipes in. Everybody LOVED them.**

Blevins takes a trope and sets it on its ear.

*Wrench* is not your typical DD. Besides being a bitten werewolf he has a bit of a sadist in him that I wasn't prepared for. It hit me harder than the brutality of Khan and Tempe. I loved Tori who is learning who she is and who she wants to be. Watching her on her journey made this book worth the read.

*D Antonio*





## Historical and Contemporary Whodunnits?

### **The Bell in the Fog**

*Lev AC Rosen*

**Forge/Tor Publishing Group**

928-1250834252

E-Book

☆☆☆☆

In San Francisco in 1952, and probably in most of the United States, being gay was not only socially unacceptable, but often a crime. It could get a person discharged from the military or court martialled. Police didn't take kindly to discovering that their fellow officers were gay. The knowledge often resulted in violence and authorities turned a blind eye.

Former police detective Evander (Andy) Mills had been caught in a raid of a gay club and was fired from the force. After recovering from the resulting beating, he took up residence in the storage room above a gay bar where he conducted his own private detective business. It was slow going because he had to earn the trust of the community who were wary of a former cop.

A former lover from his Navy days when they were stationed on the same ship suddenly disappeared but reappeared in Andy's office one evening several years later, hoping to hire Andy to retrieve incriminating photos used in a blackmail attempt that could derail his

rise in the Navy ranks. Though Andy was hurt and resentful over the sudden disappearance of his lover, he took the case because he needed the money.

Searching for the damning photos led Andy on a dangerous chase and a race against time, facing down mobsters and encountering an alarming number of dead bodies. Bruised, bloody, yet determined, he called in favors from a colorful cast of characters to help him in his quest, often coming up with information that wasn't at all

what he expected.

*The Bell in the Fog* gives a glimpse into a little-known era in a small segment of American life, while also offering a fast-paced and compelling mystery.

*Hannah Rowan*

### **Suicide Bridge**

*Daniel Kowolski*

**Self-published**

E-book

B0CGMJL8GR

☆☆☆☆

Michelle Rhoades was a manager of a struggling restaurant. Sarah, one of the employees, came in to work late, apologizing and explaining she'd had another disagreement with her father. Once dinner rush was over, Michelle went home, leaving Sarah in charge.

Waking her late that night, Michelle's boyfriend Cory called for a ride home because he couldn't get a cab. Suicide Bridge was closed. Someone had jumped. The next day, Sarah's boyfriend Tom told her they suspected the jumper was Sarah—only there was no body to be found. Until the body was found, it was a missing person's case.

The investigating officer was Frank, her ex. Michelle knew Sarah

### **Naked Came the Detective**

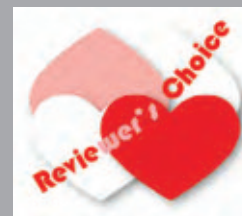
*Glendall C Jackson III*

**G CJ3 Enterprises**

E-Book

B0C6YQGTZM

☆☆☆☆



A high-end courtesan was shaken by the murder of "Ben", one of her regular clients. She loved puzzles and solving mysteries, and Ben's death became one of those challenges. Many of her clients, male and female, were connected in some way.

As she continued to work, some of her clients spoke about the murder. The information started filling the puzzle pieces together. She was in a position to ask the right questions, at the right time.

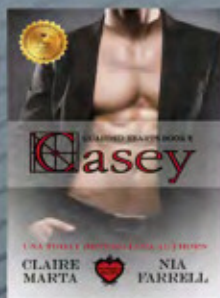
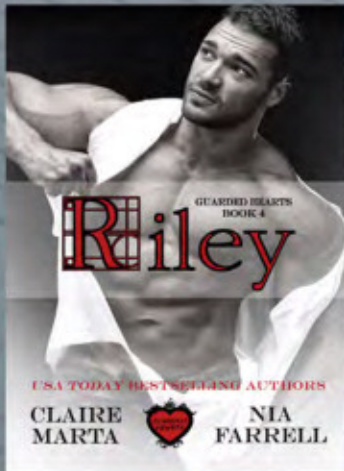
This reviewer couldn't stop reading; seriously didn't move one inch until the very last page. Fantastic! *Naked Came the Detective* is one of the best stories I've read this year.

*Lauren Calder*



# GUARDED HEARTS

USA Today Best-Selling Authors  
CLAIRE MARTA AND NIA FARRELL



**Casey (Book 2)  
was voted one of  
The 50 Best Indie  
Books of 2020.**

**Ash (Book 7)  
was voted one of  
The 50 Best Indie  
Books of 2021.**



*Reviewer: "I have thoroughly enjoyed this series from start to finish. It's a different type of PNR / Sci Fi / Erotic read that has drawn me in from the start."*

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## Mysteries

would never have jumped.

Looking for her grandmother's watch, Sarah searched the room. She decided to check Cory's bureau. She found something, but it wasn't the watch. It was Sarah's necklace, the necklace Sarah was wearing the night before...

Daniel Kowolski keeps the reader engaged with this steady-paced who-done-it.

*Kitty Lane*



Got a good recipe for Crab? Send it in. I don't know what to do with that thing on the top. Help!





## Play to Win

Jodie Slaughter

Narrated by Lacy Laurel

**Macmillan Audio**

Stream audiobooks and digital

978-1250903518

★★★★★

Lacy Laurel narrates Jodie Slaughter's second chance romance, *Play to Win*, focusing on how Miriam Butler's life changes and becomes unexpectedly complicated after winning the Mega Millions Lottery Jackpot. Miriam feels trapped, living with her mom in her childhood home and working the same low-wage job since her teens. When she buys her mom's lottery ticket at the corner store, Miriam impulsively buys one for herself and hits the winning numbers. Unfortunately, her estranged husband is entitled to a share of her millions.

Leo Vaughn hasn't spoken to his wife in years. But when Miriam unexpectedly calls, asking him to return to Greenbelt, he comes right away. He's astonished Miriam's won the lottery and is offering him millions to sign divorce papers, walk away, and never contact her again. Leo doesn't want her winnings. Unable to imagine forever without her, Leo's yearned for one thing

since walking out on her eight years ago—Miriam back in his life. He makes Miriam a counteroffer. He needs time to make up for the biggest mistake of his life.

Miriam's and Leo's fiery chemistry and sexy, emotional love scenes—combined with their banter and intimacy—further the plot and the evolution of their characters and relationship. Miriam is stubborn, and she loves with all her heart and soul. She lost her heart to Leo as a young woman. And a life of poverty has given her a bleak outlook. Rooting for Miriam to find her way, get her happily ever after, and give herself all the love and care she so big heartedly offers to the people she loves is so easy. Slaughter takes Leo, whom you expect to hate, and makes the reader change his/her mind about him, and makes you hope he can resolve his issues and win Miriam back. She's the only one for him. Leo's a sensitive, sweet, and honorable man who takes his responsibilities seriously, maybe too seriously. Leo's martyr complex leads him to make poor choices.

Laurel's vibrant and expressive narration, honeyed speech patterns and inflections, and rich southern accent will draw readers in from the first scene. Her narration perfectly fits Miriam, Leo, and the novel's secondary characters.

Skilled and offering distinct voices for many characters, Laurel changes her voice to reflect their moods and reveal their personalities. Her narration places readers with the characters in each moment.

Complementing Slaughter's intensely emotional, colorful, lively, and down-to-earth narrative style, Laurel's narration beautifully brings Slaughter's charming story and characters to life. Slaughter's use of the language use, vivid and detailed description, dialogue, and deft worldbuilding combined with Laurel's narration keep you listening to *Play to Win*.

Slaughter explores the impact of winning the lottery on Miriam's life and her loved ones, thoughtfully examining how having money won't heal internal pains and scars, make you happy, or make everything in your life change for the better on its own.

The novel's captivating story and intriguing characters make it a page-turner with excellent pacing. *Play to Win* is a beautifully written audiobook about second chances. Fans of second-chance romances with heroes who fall fast and hard for the heroine will love this book.

Lacy Hill

## The Summer Girl (Avalon Bay #3)

Elle Kennedy

Narrated by Caitlin Elizabeth and Teddy Hamilton

**Macmillan Audio**

Streamed audio books

978-1250899484

★★★★★

Small-town secrets threaten a summer fling that unexpectedly evolves into first love in Elle Kennedy's *The Summer Girl* (Avalon Bay #3), narrated by Caitlin Elizabeth and Teddy Hamilton. College student Cassie Soul returns to Avalon Bay for her first summer since her parents' divorce to visit her grandmother, who plans to sell their family's boardwalk hotel. Cassie is turning twenty-one and hoping for a summer fling. She thinks she's found



# Audiobooks

the perfect guy when she meets Tate Bartlett.

Despite being a player and no stranger to flings, Tate is a surprisingly sweet guy and not a heart breaker. Cassie isn't a girl you can have a casual fling with. So, Tate puts her in the 'friend' zone. The more he gets to know her, the harder it is for him to fight his attraction. 'Friends-zoning' Cassie might've been a mistake because all Tate can think about is how he longs to have a fling with Cassie.

They surrender their intense attraction and stretch the boundaries of their friendship, keeping their fling a secret. But Avalon Bay has secrets that could devastate Tate and Cassie's relationship and lives once revealed.

Elizabeth and Hamilton's vibrant, expressive narration draws readers into Kennedy's steamy, captivating romance. They breathe life into every emotional beat while capturing the characters' personalities and the novel's shifting moods. Elizabeth's exceptional narration allows her to become each of the characters. Her Southern and French accents are lovely. Her voice for Tate is closer to how I think he might sound. Hamilton's narration/voice captures Tate's friends and parents better than he does Cassie. Elizabeth's and Hamilton's distinct narration differentiates between characters using their distinct voices and all the vocal tricks of the trade.

Kennedy develops Cassie and Tate's relationship through humorous, sexy, and sweet banter and sweet, steamy and sexy love scenes. Cassie is the down-to-earth optimistic girlfriend material. Tate's an honest man who genuinely respects women. Being friends before lovers helps Cassie and Tate grow and encourage each other to face their fears, follow their dreams, and be honest with their parents about what they want from their lives.

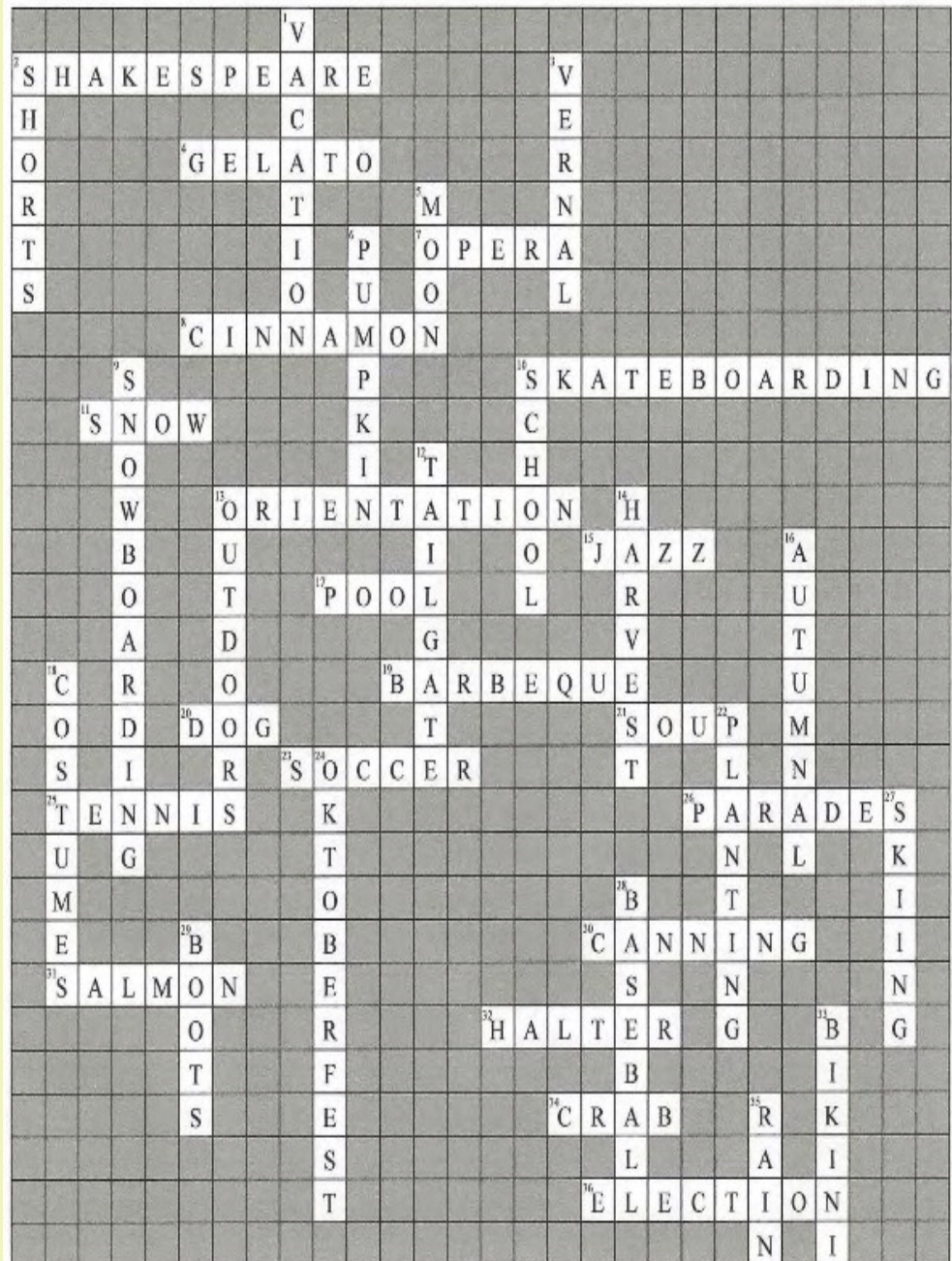
*The Summer Girl* explores themes of first love, taking risks, small-town/family secrets, self-esteem, toxic parents, second chances, and belonging.

It's highly recommended to fans of steamy new adult romances focused on friends-to-lovers, summer flings, and timed relationship tropes.

*Lacy Hill*

## Summer to Fall

Louise B. Sneed







## For What it's Worth

*Nathan Pettigrew*

**Cordurouy Books**

E-book

979-8988742418

★★★★

Consumed by conspiracy theories, Earl Derkatch broke into the Sockolosky Estate to find incriminating evidence about Bob Sockoloshy. Instead of taking the documents he found in the safe, he stole the four blue diamonds.

But Bob came home early, and Earl had been caught red-handed.

It was the end of their senior year and a group of young, soon to graduate, boys were having fun and partying. They decided to pull a prank on one person per night during the last week of school.

They had no idea they trouble they'd be in...

*For What It's Worth* started out slow and I almost gave it a lower rating, but once the actual story kicked in, it was worth every single moment.

*Lauren Calder*

## The Legend of Rachel Petersen

*J. T. Baroni*

**Sky Publishing**

E-book

B0C7YBD9JR

★★★★<sup>1/2</sup>

Sports writer Christian Kane was waiting on his wife to finish primping and getting ready for an important event they were attending. After rushing her along, he gave her a gift, which she loved and they headed out to the event. Christian was under the impression he was going to get the promotion, but when one of his co-workers, (equally surprised) had been announced, Christian was furious.

After quitting his job at the paper, he and his wife moved to the country and he decided to write that book he'd always wanted to write. After dealing with the 'handyman special' they purchased, Christian was able to pursue his dream of writing. He'd had a few failed attempts, and then one day walking in the woods he came upon a grave, the grave of a young girl named Rachel Petersen. However, the book

was a huge success, and then, strange things began to happen.

Whoa! Fantastic Story! A must read for anyone who loves paranormal thrillers.

*Kitty Lane*

## The Madrinega Missiles (Book 1: Infiltration)

*Damien Hunter*

**iUniverse**

978-1663247186

★★★★<sup>1/2</sup>

As his plane set down at San Francisco airport, Jeigh Leighton was not a happy man. He had been promised a two-week vacation in paradise. He had barely had 36 hours on Oahu before he was called back to headquarters. His latest CIA assignment? Infiltrate the guerilla faction in Madrinega and recover the four cruise missiles that had been stolen. His cover as a newspaper journalist was firmly established, complete with a specialized laptop that he could report back to his superiors on his progress without being discovered. In this war-torn Latin American country,



# Booty

being a Black American journalist was definitely a dangerous job assignment, and Brian Palmer (Leighton) was “requested” to come to police headquarters as soon as he landed and checked into his hotel. The present government was a CIA-backed regime that America helped get in power to get the previous leftist government out of power. The leader of the coup, General Vidar, once in power, established himself as president-for-life and almost immediately became an abusive dictator. He had Parliament outlaw both unions and the opposition party, then abolished Parliament. The guerrillas revolted against these atrocities against human rights and were still fighting for their rights four years later. Leighton was sent in to replace the agent who was killed by the guerrillas and to recover the missiles or destroy them.

Zorrita, the charismatic guerrilla leader, was not only beautiful, but deeply intelligent with a force of will and sense of history that made her a formidable foe. She struck a psychological blow to General Vilar by launching the first missile at his prize possession (a statue of himself), destroying it completely without any loss of life. That infuriated Vilar and he retaliates with reprisal killings, angering the local population into joining the small guerrilla band. When Zorrita hears that an American journalist has been taken and tortured by the Secret Police, she arranges for him to be spirited away to her camp in hopes he will be sympathetic to their cause and write about it in the American papers. When Leighton meets Zorrita, she is nothing like he imagined, and her cause is not what he was told. Suddenly, he finds his loyalties divided as he finds himself deeply attracted to her.

Damien Hunter’s world-building skills make this political thriller a must-read for fans of this genre. His political insight into the machinations of the world’s governments brings a ring of truth to the world and fight for right in Madrinega. As a first-time novelist,

his skills at putting the reader in the middle of the rebellion is outstanding and made this reviewer understand the complexities of the governments of the world and the fight by their countries to self-govern in a whole new light. An excellent read!

*Lani Roberts*

## Pocketful of Poseys

*Thomas Reed*

**Beaufort Books**

E-book

978-0825309014

☆☆☆

Grace was taking care of her widowed aging mother. Her mother, Cinny, was ready to go and had decided to stop eating. She’d had the discussion with Grace, who was not particularly pleased with her mother’s decision. In compliance with her wishes, Grace placed Ginny in hospice so she could pursue her desire to move onto the next life.

Brian, Grace’s twin brother, had mixed feelings about their mother’s plan. Cinny’s last request was for the Posey families to take excursions to all their favorite places.

*Pocketful of Poseys* is a wonderful story, a bit difficult to read, especially if you’ve lost a loved one. Absolutely a book worth reading.

*Lauren Calder*

## Two for the Money

*Steve Zettler*

**Vine Leaves Press**

E-book

B0CC69VC6K

☆☆☆ 1/2

Government agent, Sam Christie was a man of routine, but on this Christmas Day he decided to change it up a bit. Every year he visits the grave of his friend and partner, Pete Macaluso, takes some time to be with Pete’s

*Affaire de Coeur*

mother, put flowers on his grave, and heads back home.

Sam met a friend of the family. He and Tess returned to the grave site and saw an abandoned wheelchair. On closer inspection, they found the man who’d fallen from the chair. Almost dead, the stranger was resuscitated by Sam who rushed him to the hospital.

Things get a bit spicy after that. And it all begins when he meets mobster, Lou Banachi.

Steve Zattler snags the reader right from the very beginning. Thrilling to the end!

*Kitty Lane*

## The Unwanted

*T K Lawyer*

**Self-published**

E-book

B0C97C8RLW

☆☆☆

*Six stories, all about the ignored and/or rejected shifters no one talked about.*

“The Cleaner” Not just because it was against company policy, but having an attraction for a coworker was something Rose avoided. But, Drew was an exception and had spent platonic time together outside of work. Drew was attracted to Rose from the very moment they met. Drew had a secret...

“Wrapping her Love” Androvi knew Daphne was the one for him, and it all begins with one incredible night of sex.

“Raw Scentsation” Pietro, a shifter that no one accepted, claimed Gamorra as his, but Darius had other plans...

“Opposites Attract” Harry had been hunting for food when his attacker pulled away in the nick of time. She brought him home to help him heal. As they continued to get acquainted, he soon learned that Ali was a friend from

# Booty

his past.

“The Trouble with Rogues” Cameron had a thing for Damaris, a human, but she wasn’t going to tie herself down to just one shifter.

“Flutters of the Heart” Parker was an escort and was pleasuring Jaela who knew he was a shifter. He thoroughly enjoyed being with her, and since she had just lost her job, he wanted to give her one hell of a night. And then, she requested he pleasure her in human form.

At times, the author couldn’t pull off the abrupt changing of POVs, creating a difficult and confusing read, especially with each POV as first person. As a whole, however, the stories in *The Unwanted*s were fantastic, and original.

*Kitty Lane*

## What Became of Magic

*Paige Crutcher*

**St. Martin’s Griffin**

Trade Paperback

978-1250905529

☆☆☆<sup>1/2</sup>

Aline Weir was in middle school when she met a ghost named Dragon. With her help, Aline begins to cross between planes. Dragon introduces her to another ghost. Dragon says that the ballerina charm that Aline recently found is the key that the ghost needs to move on. Aline begins finding keys and helping ghosts to cross over.

In high school, Aline stumbles across a bookstore owned by three sisters. The women begin teaching Aline about magic. Aline finds a book about a lonely witch who founded the town of Matchstick. It was a safe haven for Witches, ghosts and otherworldly beings. Aline begins to dream of Matchstick and a handsome man who lives there.

Ten years pass. The sisters

leave town and don’t return. Dragon disappears. Aline becomes worried.

Crossing planes to search for her friends, she finds the town of Matchstick. It turns out that Matchstick is real and Magic is a sentient being. In fact, Magic is the man she’s been dreaming of for years. There are lots of things in Matchstick that are sentient—Day, Night, the Sun and Moon to name a few. They all desperately need Aline’s help.

This is an interesting book until the heroine travels to the city that she thought was fictional. Like many of the author’s book, it’s great for the first half and then it gets confusing.  
*Sheila Griffin*

## The Witches of Bone Hill

*Ava Morgyn*

**St. Martin’s Griffin**

Trade Paperback

978-1250835437

☆☆☆☆<sup>1/2</sup>

Cordelia Bone and her sister, Eustace, haven’t spoken in years. She warned her about marrying John. Cordelia should have listened. John cleaned out their bank accounts and borrowed money from a loan shark. Cordelia has thirty-one days to repay fifty thousand dollars. Or else...

Cordelia gets a call that seems to solve all her problems. She and Eustace have inherited a mansion from an aunt they’ve never met. Cordelia plans to put the house on the market as-is. A quick sale will get the loan shark off her back. Unfortunately, the house is part of a trust. It cannot be sold. In fact, the sisters must live in the house or they will forfeit the inheritance.

The house appears to be sentient and is not happy that the women want to leave. It does not hesitate to make its feelings known. Cordelia begins seeing ghosts again, and her head-

aches return. They are more frequent and more painful than previously. They are just like the ones her mother had right before she died. Could something (or someone) in the family home be killing Cordelia?

This book is spooky and unput-downable. Reader be warned. There are instances of graphic animal abuse. The occurrences are used to further the plot, but they may be too upsetting for some people  
*Sheila Griffin*



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# CHILDREN'S



## **The First Unicorn**

*Kathleen J Shields*

*Illustrated by Aashay Utkarsh*

Self-published

Paperback

978-1956581249

☆☆☆☆

Kathleen Shields explains her beliefs about unicorns, the entertainment's industry on how they're perceived, and her belief that unicorns represent Jesus' love.

Thousands of years ago a herd of wild horses didn't like to play, all of them with the exception of Aden. Aden had lot of energy. He was kind, considerate, loved to play, and enjoyed his life.

When Aden saved some baby birds, an angel came to visit him and gave him a gift, a golden horn. He ran to show the herd his wonderful gift. The other horses were not happy and chased him away.

This is an interesting story about love, acceptance, and faith.

*Lauren Calder*



# Late!

Didn't quite make in the last issue



Includes all genre and all time periods

## **Deception at Dixon Pass (Eagle Mountain: Critical Response #1)**

*Cindi Myers*

**HARLEQUIN - Romance**

Mass Market

978-1335591098

☆☆☆☆

Search-and-Rescue volunteer Grace Wilcox finds an injured man left for dead in a Colorado snowstorm. He can't remember who he is or why he's on Eagle Mountain in the first place. She guides him through the snow to help him retrace his steps, and they discover bloody footprints near a crime scene that triggers his memory of deception and his pursuit of a murderer. He regains some of his memory overnight.

The injured stranger is Deputy U.S. Marshal Declan Owens, who's been on the trail of a dangerous serial killer for some time. Grace helps Declan discover what happened at

the Dixon Pass crime scene and who he's pursuing. Grace and Declan must rely on each other to survive before a calculating, ruthless, and desperate killer tries to murder again, starting with Grace.

Grace is a scientist who collects data on weather patterns and lives in her grandfather's cabin. She has a five-month gap in her memory from an accident in her childhood that haunts her because she doesn't remember anything from the crash or the time surrounding it.

Though struggling to regain his memory, Declan is determined to catch the serial killer who left him for dead before he can kill anyone else. Declan believes the murderer is still in Eagle Mountain planning his next kill—even if no one else does. He struggles with a fear of failure and constantly having to prove himself because of his father's constant criticism of Declan's inability to live up to his expectations.

Cindi Meyers dives right into the action with vivid description, well-constructed action sequences, fast

pacing, and deftly developed, characters who draw readers into her intriguing and multi-layered story and keep them glued to the pages. Grace and Declan share an intense attraction and deep connection that Myers develops from strangers to friends to lovers through intensely emotional, intimate, steamy, and sexy interactions and love scenes.

*Deception at Dixon Pass* is a suspenseful, mysterious, emotional, steamy read that explores themes of amnesia, toxic parents, grief and second chances.

*Lacy Hill*

## **Silver Nitrate**

*Silvia Moreno-Garcia*

**Del Rey**

E-Book

978-1529418071

☆☆☆☆ <sup>1/2</sup>

Montserrat is an avid horror movie buff and an experienced sound editor who is steadily being pushed to the side at her job for younger, male colleagues. Her best friend is Tristan, an actor whose career is going into decline as a result of a scandalous car crash ten years ago. By chance, they meet retired film director Abel Urueta, whose last film shoot shut down under mysterious circumstances. Urueta spins yarns about a German occultist who was involved with the film and may have endowed his magic into the very fabric of the silver nitrate. When Montserrat and Tristan help him fulfil his life's work and finish the film, they awaken magic and draw the attention of sorcerers who are bent on owning the film for themselves.

*Silver Nitrate* has a beautiful sense of time and place, set in 1993 in Mexico, but having a feel of the golden age of film. It's a book for film lovers, especially horror aficionados, with exciting Easter eggs for those who appreciate the genre. Moreno-Garcia makes sorcery highly plausible, and the Nazi occultism spin makes for an atmospheric read full of stunning supernatural imagery. The complicated but devoted relationship between Montserrat and Tristan whose inception was



# Late!

when they were both children is the heart of this novel. Both characters are flawed and troubled. Tristan is vain and mercurial, but also deeply devoted and kind. Although both characters were in their late 30s, he is considered past his prime and is getting less roles due to his scandal-ridden past and the facial scars from the car accident that killed his girlfriend. He has not recovered from the emotional trauma of his girlfriend's death, and carries it like a heavy weight on his shoulders. Montserrat is in the difficult position of dealing with blatant sexism at her job due to being the only woman sound editor. For good reason, she carries some degree of bitterness that adds to her already incisive personality. While she keeps others at a distance, she is always there for Tristan. Yet, even at their worst, the reader is deeply invested in their wellbeing. The horror of this book is more subtle and fitting to the theme of classic horror. Scenes play out as though they are in black and white and sepia. The uncanny happenings evoke a gothic feel with an emphasis on the unknown versus the obvious. *Silver Nitrate* is deeply character driven, some time while for things to escalate, with quite a bit of exposition. But the payoff makes the investment by the reader more than worth it. As always, Moreno-Garcia delivers an engrossing read that delivers an emotional wallop due to her excellent character work.

Danielle Hill

## Thornhedge

T. Kingfisher

Tor Books

E-book

978-1250900944

☆☆☆

Toadling has spent hundreds of years on an important mission—to guard the tower surrounded by a hedge of impenetrable thorns. She left behind her beloved family and home in Faerieland

to do so without complaint, driven to correct a mistake she tortures herself for making. One day a wandering, down on his luck knight shows up, his mission to break the curse. But Toadling knows that which lies sleeping in the tower must never be allowed to awaken.

*Thornhedge* is a splendid retelling of *Sleeping Beauty*, featuring a completely innovative spin on the fairy tale with the most unlikely of lead characters. Despite the seeming unsuitability of Toadling as the main character, she is completely lovable and complex. Toadling's story is so interesting that it steals the show and the reader's focus away from the traditional narrative.

When the narrative comes back around to the classic princess in the tower storyline, the sense of dread and danger is like a gut punch to readers entranced by Toadling's coming of age tale.

T. Kingfisher is incredible at crafting marvelously descriptive word pictures that draw the reader deep into the world she has created in her narrative. While short in length, *Thornhedge* takes the reader on an expansive and immersive journey, leagues away from their everyday environment and deep into a fairy tale setting with unlikely heroines, sleeping princesses, and downtrodden knights looking for a quest to fulfill.

Danielle Hill

