

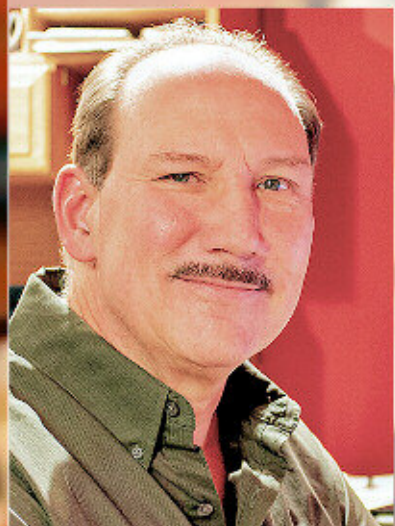
Spring 2026

AdC Magazine

**Spotlight On
Zoe Dawson**



**Sneak Peek
Breakneck**



**Spotlight On
J. J. Eckhardt**

**Sneak Peek
A Journey
Toward Tomorrow**

Spotlight On AdC Magazine's Ms March Zoe Dawson



Zoe Dawson writes emotionally charged romance featuring fierce heroes, resilient heroines, and love stories that are hard won and deeply earned. From Navy SEAL teams and law enforcement operatives to romantic suspense and myth-threaded fantasy, her books explore loyalty, sacrifice, healing, and the power of connection.

Known for layered character arcs and high-stakes emotion, Zoe blends action with intimacy, weaving stories where strength and vulnerability collide. Her heroes may be warriors, but their greatest battles are often of the heart.

When she's not writing, Zoe enjoys spending time with her daughters and grandson, creating art, diving into story craft, and dreaming up her next unforgettable couple.

Do you have a new book or series?

Yes! My latest release is *Breakneck*, the final book in my SEAL Team Tier 1 series. It's an emotionally intense romance featuring a sniper who believes emotional detachment is strength and a heroine who challenges that belief in ways he never expected. The story also plants seeds for my next series, where new characters step into the spotlight.

Where did the idea for this story come from?

The idea grew out of character. Breakneck appeared in earlier books as confident, controlled, and slightly untouchable. I wanted to explore what would happen if the one area he thinks he's mastered — emotional distance — becomes his greatest weakness. Once I understood his internal conflict, the story unfolded naturally.

Who's your favorite character in your new book or series? Why?

Blair, the heroine. She's fierce without being loud. She has strength wrapped in grace. Watching her hold her ground with a man who has built walls around himself was incredibly satisfying. She doesn't try to overpower him — she simply refuses to disappear.

Are there specific people or events that helped shape the story?

While the characters are fictional, the emotional themes are rooted in real human experience — grief, identity, trust, and the fear of vulnerability. I'm always inspired by people who rebuild after loss and choose courage in relationships.

Do you get inspiration from personal experience or just plain imagination?

Both. The emotional truths come from lived experience and observation. The action, high-stakes missions, and larger-than-life elements come from imagination layered onto research. It's that blend that makes the stories feel grounded but cinematic.

Have you ever driven down a road or gone on vacation and thought, “Wow, this would make an awesome story?”

Absolutely. Settings speak to me. A remote coastline, a quiet mountain town, a foreign city at night — I’m constantly thinking, who would fall in love here? What danger would find them?

Do you need silence or background noise when writing?

Silence when I’m drafting emotional scenes. Music when I’m brainstorming or plotting. Each book usually ends up with its own unofficial soundtrack.

How do you stay motivated?

The characters motivate me. Once they start talking, I want to do justice to their story. I also outline using strong story structure, which helps me see the roadmap and keeps me moving forward.

Do you take time off once a book is sent to the editor, or do you move on to the next story?

I usually move on. I love the forward momentum of storytelling. Finishing one book feels less like an ending and more like opening a new door.

It’s time to sit back and relax. What’s your go-to?

Time with family, art, a good walk, and occasionally a cold Snapple to celebrate a finished manuscript.

Will you be attending any book signings or conventions?

I announce appearances through my newsletter and social media. Readers can follow me there for updates on signings, events, and new releases.

Webpage: www.zoedawson.com

Facebook: : <https://www.facebook.com/zoedawsonauthor/>

Amazon Author Page: <https://www.amazon.com/stores/Zoe-Dawson/author/B009OFFW0K>

Where Warriors Fall in Love
Zoe Dawson's interconnected world of SEAL Team Alpha, Tier 1 & East.
CURRENT RELEASE!



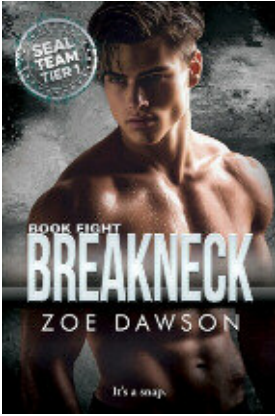
He should have kept her at bay. Should have told her this wasn't the time, wasn't the place. Instead, every muscle locked onto her. Finally, inevitably, he lost his ever-loving mind. His mouth crashed into hers, and when she kissed him back, it wasn't like anything he'd ever known.

RECENT RELEASES!



WWW.ZOEDAWSON.COM

Breakneck by Zoe Dawson



The scream ripped out of Kelly “Breakneck” Gatlin before he felt his lungs drag in the air, raw, animal, torn straight from someplace he didn’t let himself acknowledge. It knifed through the trees, scattering birds into the fading light, leaving the forest trembling with the echo of something that wasn’t supposed to come from him. Breakneck dropped to his knees in the dirt, breath punching out in violent bursts, the photo

clenched in his fist like a live round.

He stared at it again. At the face that wasn’t his but might as well have been. Same eyes. Same jaw. Same goddamn bone structure.

A seventeen-year-old kid frozen in time in Derrick’s backyard. His mother’s voice still rang in his head, trembling around the truth she’d buried his whole life.

That photo’s from when he was seventeen.

His stomach twisted, vision narrowing as if the world were closing in around him. He’d spent twenty-five years believing he’d inherited the best of his father, discipline, honor, restraint. A good man’s blood in his veins.

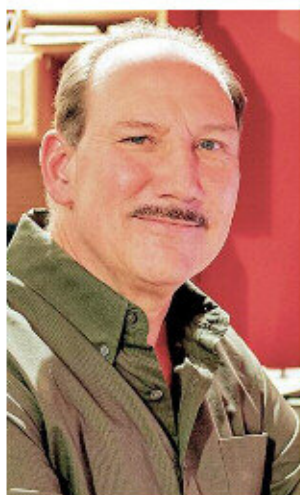
But the man he’d loved, the man who had been the center of his world, wasn’t in him at all. The realization gutted him in a way grief never had. It felt like losing his father all over again.

Now every time he looked in the mirror, he would see Derrick’s face staring back.

The man who’d terrorized his mother. The man Breakneck had stepped between at thirteen, fists clenched, ready to break laws and bones. The man he’d sworn he’d never become.

Check out ZoeDawson.com

Interview with Author J. J. Eckhardt



J. J. Eckhardt was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the setting for his *Psychic Storm* stories, and now lives in New Jersey.

J. J. has a background in Direct Mail Marketing and a Degree in Art and Advertising Production. He's been a fan of Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror since his early high school years and has attended Sci-Fi conventions in Philadelphia and Northern New Jersey. He started writing over fifteen years ago after a strengths analysis suggested it would develop one of his skills. Thus, a new writer was born.

He started slowly with a journal-style short story and discovered he liked writing fiction. J. J. further developed the story into a novella-length piece, still in journal style—it was time to try dialogue. His first full-length novel with dialogue was *The Journey Toward Tomorrow – The Beginning*. He found writing dialogue wasn't something to be feared.

To date, he's released six novels and a short story collection inspired by his dreams and nightmares.

If you'd like to know more about J. J.'s journey becoming an author, check out his blog. jjeckhardt.com/?page_id=25

Do you have a new book or series?

I am working on a novella that will further tie the *Surviving Zeptulgar* Novel to the *Journey* series.

Where did the idea for this story come from?

I realized as I was writing the second *Journey* novel (my fourth book) that *Surviving Zeptulgar* (my third book) should be part of that universe,

so I referenced some of its events and civilizations in the second Journey novel.

Who's your favorite character in your new book or series? Why?

I haven't yet decided. I have a couple of characters who will be pivotal to the story, one of whom may turn out to be the hero.

Are there specific people or events that helped shape the story?

In this particular book, no. However, the original Zeptulgar story was inspired by a news article I recalled from about ten years earlier.

Do you get inspiration from personal experience or just plain imagination?

My novels are pure imagination, but my short stories have all been inspired by my dreams, some of which I recall from childhood.

Have you ever driven down a road or gone on vacation and thought, wow, this would make an awesome story?

Once, but that's on the back burner.

Do you need silence or background noise when writing?

I prefer silence or, on occasion, some light classical music.

How do you stay motivated?

It can be difficult, but I like writing. It's an enjoyable hobby.

Do you take time off once a book is sent to the editor, or do you move on to the next story?

I always have something in the works. I have two other stories with just some notes and an intro paragraph or two. I have worked on two stories at the same time.

It's time to sit back and relax. What's your go-to?

I play pickleball and enjoy going to wineries with my wife and family. I also like trains and have a model layout in my basement.

Will you be attending any book signings or conventions?

I hope to be accepted to the Montco Book Festival (June 13th Skippack PA).

I plan to attend the Collingswood Book Festival in the fall (October 3rd, Collingswood, NJ), the Central Jersey Book Festival (November 14th, Woodbridge, NJ), and a few local street festivals.

Please give us the following contact information:

Personal web page – jjeckhardt.com

Facebook- [Facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077965960148](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077965960148)

APRIL SHOWERS BRING...
... The purple weed; your only defense against the powers of the Overlord and Sisters.

PSYCHIC STORM
JJ Eckhardt

PURPLE STORM
JJ Eckhardt

Dark dystopian adventures in a future where humanity has gained psychic powers through an undetermined event that killed the majority of the population and altered forever those who survived.
After the breakdown of society, Jonathan Bartram rises from the ashes to take control of Philadelphia with an iron will few can resist.
Upriver from Philadelphia, the Sisters of Aphrodite, have taken over the town of Conshohocken and turned it into a new Hell for the young men and boys they have enslaved, using them to fulfill their sexual desires and depravities.
Adult Content

... THE PERFECT TIME TO BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY.
The Earth is devoid of life—a dead rock.
The galactic community, aware of the Earth's impending destruction, has rescued the remnants of Humanity and resealed them on a planet more than five thousand lightyears from the world of their birth.
Experience the journey of Warren Estelze as he regains his suppressed memories and starts a family destined to change Humanity and the entire galaxy as the truth begins to be revealed to all willing to understand.
Has Earth been wiped of all life, or is the end merely a new beginning?
Discover the ultimate fate of the universe and be not afraid.

A JOURNEY TOWARD TOMORROW III
JJ Eckhardt

A JOURNEY TOWARD TOMORROW II
JJ Eckhardt

A JOURNEY TOWARD TOMORROW I
JJ Eckhardt

... Dark and stormy nights to delve into Dreams and Nightmares.
My dreams have, in some fashion, inspired the short stories in this collection. Dreams can inspire many strange ideas, and you never know where they may lead.

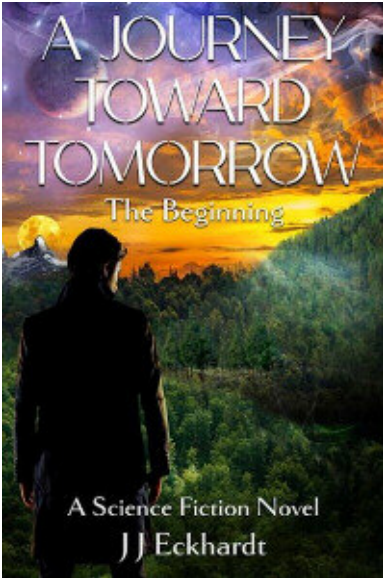
... A story of Survival that could be the future of Earth.
Surviving Zeptulgar, is the personal journal of Johniz Dezford Zavix. The journal is a first-hand account of life after comet Zeptulgar nearly destroyed the planet.

Dreams & Little Nightmares
JJ Eckhardt

Surviving Zeptulgar
JJ Eckhardt

JJ ECKHARDT
Wine-Drinker - Designer of Plots - Creator of Worlds

J. J. Eckhardt's **A Journey Toward Tomorrow** **The Beginning**



Warren's hair stood on end, and his heart rate accelerated as he sensed danger.

Laura felt heat behind her, so she turned around to see an open mouth crammed with razor-sharp teeth and pieces of what looked like raw meat hanging from the huge opening. She let out the loudest scream of her life, ran to Warren, and threw her arms around him. As Laura squeezed him, many thoughts ran through Warren's mind, including how familiar it felt to have Laura holding him tight. He enjoyed the situation immensely, even if it was their

end.

Then the smell hit him, a stench like death itself—something between spoiled meat and sewage.

“What is that God-awful smell?” he commented.

“The odor is the trextasons' breath. When we set the shields to allow in weather, we get the unwanted benefit of this guy's breath. We are about as close to this beast as you could ever get and still live. We call them trextasons because they look and act a lot like a T-Rex would have when they existed on Earth. This guy is a killing machine.”

As if to prove the point, the creature lunged at Warren and Laura, only to bump into the force shield. It tried again, then let out a tremendous roar, realizing it couldn't reach its prey. Laura held Warren tighter. The trextasons turned and headed for the pramtener, who was focused on eating his lunch—not realizing he was about to be lunch.

Dear Qwerty,

Ask and we shall answer. With over forty years of experience in the publishing industry, we've seen a lot. If we don't know the answer, we will find it.

Send Dear Qwerty questions to:

PamAckerson@AdCMagazine.com



We asked Grok to Roast Pamela Ackerson and this is what we got. Please keep in mind that "Roasting is humorous and all in good fun".

Pamela Ackerson, an author with a knack for jumping through time like it's a trampoline at Disney World, has penned over 70 books, which is impressive until you consider she's probably time-traveled

to write them all at once. Born in Newport, Rhode Island, where history supposedly seeps into your DNA, she's now on Florida's Space Coast, perhaps hoping to be the first author to launch a book into orbit.

Her career trajectory is like a Choose Your Own Adventure book - from child psychology to real estate, with stops at owning a dance studio and editing content. It's as if she's collecting careers like some collect stamps. But let's talk about her writing - she's a jack-of-all-genres, master of... well, let's say she's very versatile. Time travel, Native American history, WWII, and children's books - if there's a genre, she's probably tried to squeeze her pen into it.

Her personal life reads like a Hallmark movie with three daughters, three grandchildren, and a husband so wonderful she hasn't plotted his demise yet. But let's roast her literary output: with so many books, you'd think at least one would have won something substantial, but it's like she's the queen of her own little award ceremony in her imagination.

Her online presence is commendable - giving away books like they're Halloween candy. But let's be real, Pamela, with that many titles, you're not just an author; you're a clearance rack at a bookstore. And while living near Disney might fuel her imagination, one wonders if she might confuse her writing process with a ride at Epcot - all futuristic and hopeful, but you're just going in circles.

In summary, Pamela Ackerson is the Swiss Army knife of literature - handy, multifunctional, but let's hope she sharpens her focus before she attempts to write in yet another genre. Here's to hoping her next book isn't just another stop on her wild, genre-jumping rollercoaster.

Dear QWERTY,

I'm Planning on Getting Rid of My Website. Why do I Need a Website?

Getting rid of your website is a big decision. Is it really cost effective? Do you send your readers to your website to purchase books directly through your website? Or, do you have links to purchase landing pages on your website?

Do you pay someone to keep up the website for you?

Did you pay someone to create the website and then, when you have the time, you keep it up?

Did you create the website yourself?

Do you have your merchandise/books on other websites like Author's Den, Goodreads, All Author, etc.?

How much is the total cost for all of this and are you getting the positive benefits of having a business website?

Authors are getting rid of their personal websites and I'm considering being one of them. My books are all over the place, on countless websites, and of course Amazon. I don't have direct purchase through my website. If you don't have direct purchasing through your website, it may not be cost effective to keep it.

I have seen many curves and side roads when it comes to the publishing industry.

According to ExplodingTopics.com:

Today, there are approximately **1,119,023,272** websites on the internet.

Of the **1.1 billion** websites, only **193,890,945** are currently active, or 17.32%.

Every day. **177,372** new websites are created on the internet.

52.1% of all websites on the internet publish web content in English.

The United States has the most websites, with more than **144,680,000** registered domains.

Mind-blowing right? Several websites state that the average person stays on a page for approximately **two minutes**. That's quite critical to keep an average reader for more than two minutes per page.

According to OptinMonster.com:

In 2025, there were over **600,000,000** blogs worldwide and more than **7,500,000** posts published

daily. The average post takes about four hours to write and runs 1,416 words, yet readers only spend **fifty-two seconds** on it. Despite the competition, blogs remain a powerful tool — businesses that blog see **two times more email traffic**, marketers who prioritize blogging are **thirteen times more likely to get positive ROI**, and **seventy-one percent** of B2B buyer rely on blog content during their journey.

That's another wow. The next questions is, how many words does an average person read in sixty seconds?

The conclusion is, website or blog, it must be fast and interesting to grab the reader/buyer to entice them to click the buy button.

Back to the original question, Do I Need a Website.

In my humble opinion, yes, a website or a blog is a necessity. Especially if you don't have your books available on other websites. It also depends on what landing page you use when advertising.

Obviously, the landing page should be where the buyer can purchase right away. If your website doesn't have a "Cart" or Direct Purchase Button then, you probably don't need an elaborate website with multiple pages.

After studying the recent statistics, I'll most likely concentrate on the blog, and reduce my author website pages to make them quick and easy to read.

How long this algorithm of website vs blog will last? Who knows? But, we'll keep our eyes and ears to the ground and let you know as the industry keeps changing.

Welcome to the world of publishing. It's kind of like Florida weather. Just wait a few minutes and it'll change.

Interview with Cover Model Jose Barreiro

Today I'm pleased to be interviewing cover model Jose Barreiro in Cover Model Corner.



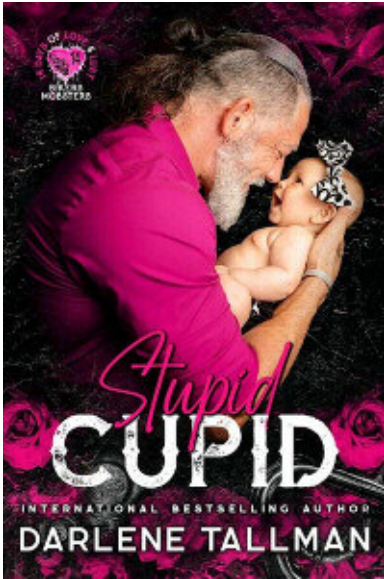
Debra: Jose, What was the first book cover you appeared on and how did it come about?

Jose: The first book cover that I ever appeared on was called Prime Ripped by Ms. Siera London. It was part of a multi-author series called The Lunchtime Chronicles.

Prior to that I had done a couple of highly successful shoots with famed photographer Michael Stokes that had stirred up quite a bit of attention within my wife's military spouse community. One of her friends was friends with Ms. Siera. She told Ms. Siera that she knew a guy that she should put on a cover and sent her one of my images from the shoots with Michael. The rest is history.

Debra: 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?

Jose: I love my home state of Florida and there is such diversity in the state as far as scenery. Beaches, boats, wetlands, farms and ranches, architecture... I really want to do more right here at home. However, Bali, Iceland, and New Zealand are on my bucket list. I love wetlands, swamps, hot springs, and jungles. So, anything like that. Any recommendations? Reach out and let me hear them. 😊



Debra: You are right, there is much more diversity in Florida than most people realize. I've heard the Jungles on the island of Borneo in Malaysia are one of the best. What other types of modeling have you done?

Jose: I did a promotional shoot for a mixed martial arts (MMA) apparel company that sponsored me as an MMA fighter back around 2011, but I would not have called that "modeling." They sponsored me and it just made

sense for them to use the athletes that they sponsored.

I would say that my first shoot with Michael Stokes would be, what I would consider my first actual modeling gig. Though, it was still a good while before I would embrace the title. Since then, I have done some ad and commercial campaigns for a couple of clothing brands, like Wornstar (a rock themed apparel company), some skin care brands, a national Regal Cinemas commercial for the live action Little Mermaid that I did with our youngest daughter, a regional Land Rover commercial, and a variety of other things. I would really like to do some fitness and/or lifestyle magazine stuff.

Debra: What was your most memorable photo shoot and why?

Jose: I have really enjoyed working with everyone that I have worked with. I learn something new at every shoot. However, my two very first shoots with Michael Stokes are still my most memorable ones. He is such an amazing photographer, but also the sweetest guy too. He was so patient working with me as a new

“model” with absolutely no experience. He talked me up the entire time and helped build such confidence in me. I was extremely uncomfortable at first because I didn’t feel like I had any business doing what I was doing; especially working with him. I learned so much from him and I credit him and my wife (“Mama”) for all of this.

If it wasn’t for him taking a chance on me, and my wife forcing me to venture out of my comfort zone, none of this would have happened.

Debra: I’m so glad they did. Beyond modeling, what other projects keep you busy?

Jose: I keep myself extremely busy. I have done some acting. I have been in a number of true crime TV series such as Snapped, Fatal Attraction, Sins of the City, and Storm of Suspicion. I have been an extra in a couple of made for TV movies as well, and most recently had a one-line role and a few appearances in the recent Oscar winning best picture, One Battle After Another starring Leonardo DeCaprio, Sean Penn, Regina Hall, Benicio Del Toro, and Chase Infinity.

I also still work with some companies that facilitate training of Special Operations units and work within the defense industry as a consultant, as well as with the personal protection world.

I have a number of hobbies as well. I am a gear head and love working on cars and motorcycles. I love to cook, and my wife and I do as much charity work as our schedules will possibly allow.

Debra: What's one question you wish an interviewer would ask?

Jose: Who is my greatest influence and what do I credit most for the successes that I have had?

The answer to both is my wife and our amazing daughters. They have been my “why,” my motivation, my cheerleaders, my support, my rock, and my grounding force. They are my absolute EVERYTHING.

Debra: If you wrote a book, what would it be about?

Jose: Funny you should ask. LOL. I am actually currently doing this. I have had a ton of people over the years tell me that I need to do this. We have kicked around a few ideas on what it should be; everything from a “how to,” to a memoir/ autobiography, and even fiction based on true events of my life. Someone even mentioned writing it as a screenplay.

My life has been a crazy one. I was in a really bad accident when I was six weeks old involving an 18-wheeler that nearly killed my mother and me. My father was not around growing up. I lost mother to a long battle with breast cancer when I was 13 years old (she was only 36). I bounced around a lot after that until I joined the Army at 17 years old. I jumped directly into the Special Operations community joining the Army’s storied Ranger Regiment, where I served for the majority of my Army career and was one of the unit’s primary combatives, marksmanship, and demolitions experts. I then became an Army Ranger Instructor, while also starting a very active MMA career. I retired as a young Sergeant Major, then became a model and actor. It has been a ride. So, the book just seems like the thing to do now.

Debra: I would read that book. Now your fitness level is beyond the average persons. What is your exercise routine and what sort of nutrition plan do you follow to achieve and maintain your level of fitness?

Jose: So, my fitness and my health are two different things. LOL. I have now had almost two dozen surgeries trying to keep myself going. I had to have a 4” x 8” section of my skull removed due to

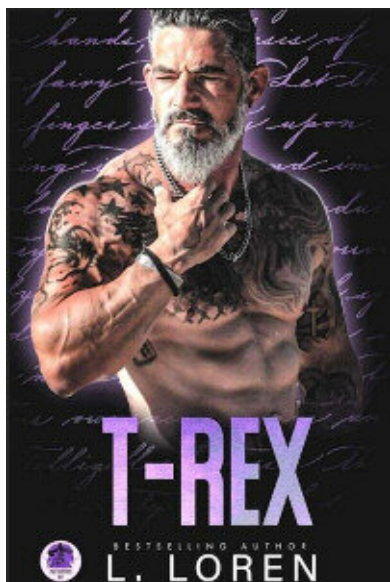
the accident I was in as a baby, I have had five surgeries on my left knee (including two complete ACL replacements), my right elbow has had to be almost rebuilt, I had six total spine surgeries, as well as a breast cancer scare of my own.

This has kind of made maintaining a level of activity and fitness and requirement for me to simply be able to function as normally as possible. However, through my career choices it has also become a complete lifestyle. Since my teen years I have routinely gone to the gym five to six days a week (with exceptions being post surgeries) and I believe in ensuring that my body is properly fueled for recovery and performance.

I am close to having my degree in kinesiology (the study of human movement, integrating anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, psychology, and neuroscience to enhance physical performance, rehabilitation, and overall well-being.) This gives me a greater understanding of health and fitness that most do not have. I chose this study due to all the injuries that I have accrued over the years, in order to help me figure out how to maneuver around them. The key is to just keep moving and listen to your body. However, we have to understand that there is a fine line between being sore and being in pain. If I chose not to do anything on days that I was sore, I would never accomplish anything. But, if something genuinely hurts, I figure out what I can do to work around it to achieve the same goal. Consistency is paramount though. Keep moving, do something even when you don't feel like it, and make it your lifestyle (not just a "for right now to achieve a short-term goal) because life is short, but our health/fitness goals should be focused on longevity. Focusing on that early and throughout will make our later years significantly easier to navigate.

Nutrition wise, I focus on high protein, moderate carbs, LOTS of fresh fruits and veggies. I take a good natural multivitamin everyday and I drink LOTS of water.

Debra: Great advice! When traveling, it can be a challenge to maintain a fitness routine and a nutrition plan. How do you meet that challenge?



Jose: I travel with a protein supplement, but that can be challenging sometimes. When on the road I try to go to the healthiest food option I can find, even if that means fast food. I will try to get online and figure out what is going to be the best option. Many times, I will end up at a grocery store to just buy fresh stuff. Believe it or not, it really doesn't cost much more. Plus, the money it saves in the long run on medical issues is worth it.

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

Jose: Drink plenty of water and get as much fresh air and sunshine as possible. You would be surprised how healing fresh air and sunlight can be, especially for mental health. All health and fitness starts with being in a good mental state. I will tell you, no matter how I feel physically, if I am in a bad headspace my workout is not going to be optimal.

Next, I would say focus on everyday movements. Things as simple as paying attention to how you lower yourself into a chair (or even

the toilet) can pay major dividends over time. We, as people, tend to just plop down into seated positions because we have that seat back there to prevent us from hitting the floor. Doing this, over time, weakens stabilizer muscles that we rely on for balance. Try to focus on actually controlling your descent into your seated positions. This is especially true for us as we get into our later years. This is the number one thing I advise elderly people on. You do not have to live in the gym to live a healthy lifestyle. Put on your headphones or earbuds, start your favorite audiobook and go for a walk in the fresh air and sunlight. Trade your sodas for real juice and/or water. Eat fresh fruits and veggies rather than canned. Control how you sit down and stand up. Take the stairs, if you actually can, rather than opting to the elevator to go up only one or two levels (again, if you physically can). These small things add up over time. And, if you have any other questions or want more specific guidance, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. I usually offer advice for free. Yes, that is a real offer to help.

Debra: Great advice and thank you for offering to help. Now it's your birthday dinner and calories don't count. What's on the menu and what are you drinking?

As crazy as it may sound, I still go for healthy options on my birthday for dinner. I love a good LARGER lean steak, like a 32 – 36 oz sirloin from Texas Roadhouse. I do LOVE ham and mushroom pizza and I'm a sucker for mac n cheese. Hotdogs are a vice of mine as well. LOL.

Deserts are different though. I LOVE cheesecake and oatmeal cream pies. Oh, and Extreme Moose Tracks Ice Cream.

Debra: Describe the perfect romantic evening:

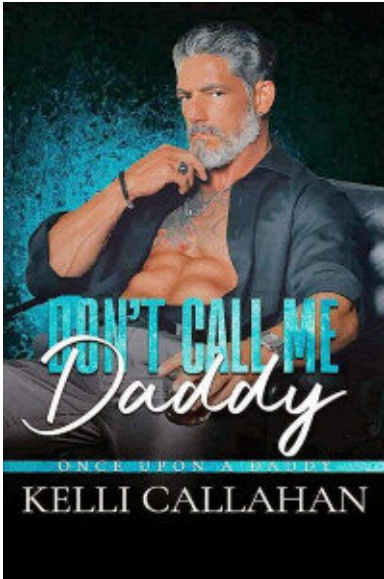
Jose: Any quiet night with “Mama.” We like to stay in these days. We missed out on so many nights together while I was in the Army for nearly 21 years that we enjoy just being at home with each

other. I will pour us both a drink, cook us a home cooked meal, and just chill on the couch watching a movie. When we are done watching TV we both go to bed together, even if one of us is not tired. We try to always go to bed together. We both fall asleep easier knowing we are next to each other.

We have been married for over 25 years and these years since retiring from the Army and reading romance books together have been the best years yet. I have learned and taken away so much from these books about the kind of man I should be for her that I can not believe that we made it so long before then. I'm just grateful that she stuck around and was the woman she was for me until I figured out how to be the man she deserved.

Debra: Please share one unusual fact about you or your life:

Jose: I am a much softer and compassionate man than I look like I am. I grew up a Mama's boy, have three sisters, and four daughters. I also grew up with two brothers and we fought like nothing you've ever seen. I was bullied and picked on growing up. I was a relatively quiet kid that did really well in school and got little to no positive attention from girls. So, I have a very tough side when provoked and am HIGHLY protective of loved ones and those around me. However, I am primarily a big softy. I get told all the time that my personality does not match my look within the first few moments of talking to me. It is a double-edged sword though. I love that the way I look can be a deterrent from people doing stuff they shouldn't around me, but I hate that people initially find me intimidating. On the flip, though, I would rather people not trying stupid stuff around me and the people that take the time to interact with me figure out that they can be comfortable around me.



Debra: Eight Quickie questions:

Watching the sunrise, or the sunset and the stars?

Jose: Why choose? For me it really depends. I love starting the day quietly with my coffee, watching the sun come up, and knowing that I made it to another day.

I prefer the sunset if Mama and/or our daughters are with me. If they are with me, it usually means that I have had an amazing day, and I get to finish it in such a beautiful way.

So, alone, sunrise. With My Love, sunset.

The beach, or the mountains?

Jose: I do love the mountains, we still own 40 acres in the Smoky Mountains, but I am a tropical boy. So, beach.

Primitive camping, or luxury hotel?

Jose: Unfortunately, the Army stole the fun of camping from me. So, luxury hotel with Mama.

Snow skiing, or water skiing?

Jose: I grew up on Islamorada in the Florida Keys and south/central Florida. So, I love water skiing. If you had asked me this question over a month ago it would have been water skiing. However, last month Mama and I got taken on a retreat to Snow Mass, Colorado (just outside of Aspen). I did not think I was going

to enjoy it as much as I did. I think I am going to go with snow skiing on this one now. LOL

Favorite movie:

Jose: This is a tough one. There are a couple of them. There was one that my mom loved that is still on my list called With Honors starring Brendan Fraser and Joe Pesci (look it up if you've never heard of it). Good Will Hunting has some amazing insight on life and love as well.

However, one that always just to the front of my mind is called What Dreams May Come starring Robin Williams, Annabella Sciorra, and Cuba Gooding Jr. It is an incredible movie about unconditional love that does not end at death. It is such an incredible movie from all aspects; script, cast, directing, visual affects...

Best book you ever read:

Jose: Romance wise, I'm going to have to go with Ms. Sylvia Day's Crossfire Series. It was my big intro to the romance world and it totally delivered.

Fav. Sport to play:

Jose: I played baseball in high school and was offered a few scholarships to play in college. I loved playing, but MMA is still my sport.

Fav. Sport to watch:

Jose: It is both my favorite and least favorite to watch, MMA. I still love watching it, but every time I watch it, I want to get back in the cage.

Is there any message for the New Year that you'd like to share?

Jose: Stay active, build relationships, and enjoy every second of this life that you can. Try not to let things that you have no control of bother you too much. And I know it sounds SO cliché, but please, let's all try to be the change we'd like to see. Be an example of kindness that we would like to see everyone exhibit. There is so much negativity out there. Be the light.

Debra: Jose, thank you for chatting with me. It's been fun getting to know you. How can fans stay up to date on your latest news? Do you have anything else to share?

Jose: I try to stay active on my social media platforms. That is always the best place to contact me and follow what all I have going on.

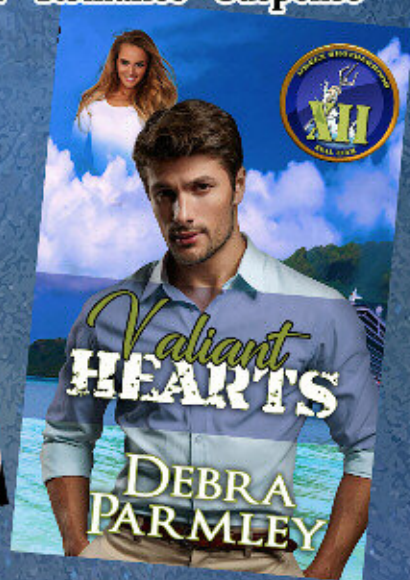
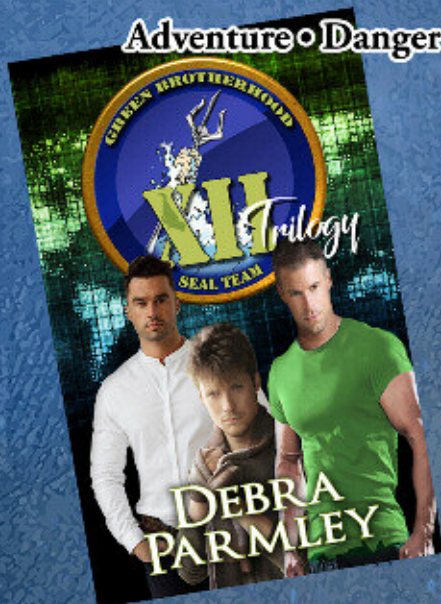
Facebook: www.facebook.com/jose.barreiro.mma

Instagram: www.instagram.com/jbarreiro217

Debra Parmley writes military romantic suspense, romantasy, historical and contemporary romance. She lives in a motorhome fulltime with her husband as they travel the U.S. Since 2011 she has interviewed cover models on Cover Model Corner and enjoys sharing her interviews with readers of Affaire de Coeur Magazine. Contact debra@debraparmley.com

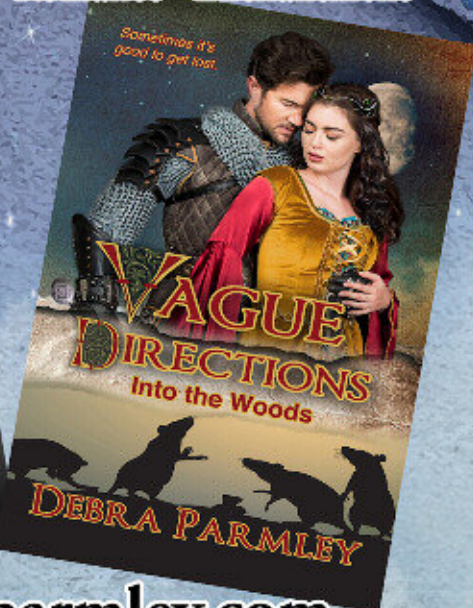
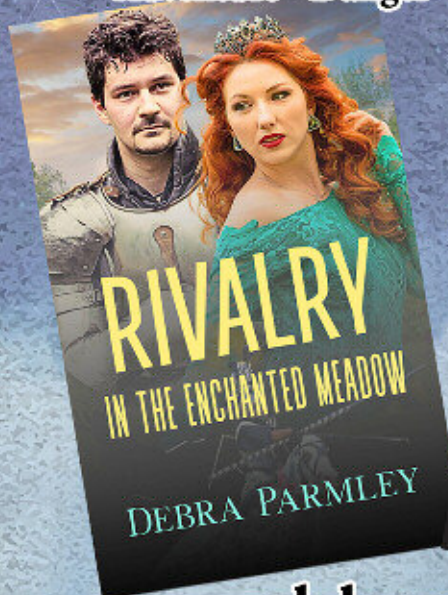
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A Chilling Warning: Trust No One

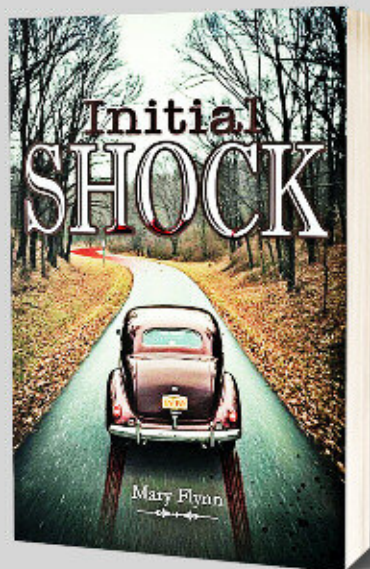
A catastrophic crash left her limousine driver dead and Claire Fournaris clinging to life. In her dim hospital room, a shadowy figure emerged silent, deliberate, and menacing.

Claire knew without a doubt someone wanted her dead.

Her fears dismissed as a woman shaken by tragedy, no one believed her, until someone else was found dead.

A spell binding cozy mystery of deception and murder, with unexpected twists and a riveting cast of characters that will keep you guessing until the heart-pounding end.

One devastating crash, one lifeless driver, and one terrified survivor...

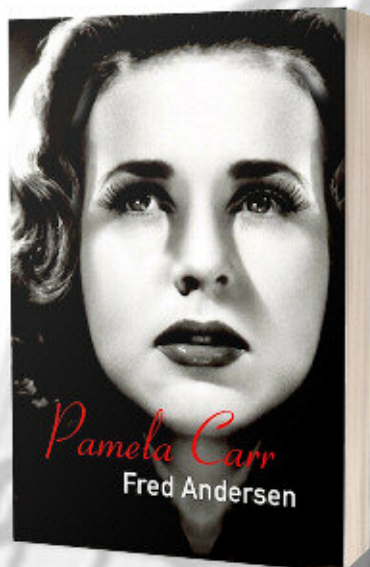


"...a great book. Lots of twists, keeps you guessing all the way... Highly recommend!"

"...guessing until the final pages... lingers long after you've finished reading."



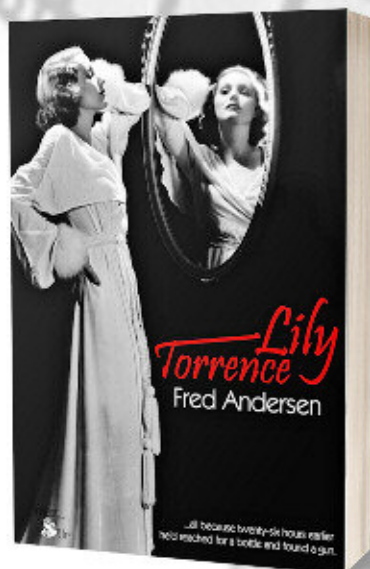
Their destinies collide in a city where dreams are currency—and innocence is the first thing spent.



In the aftermath of WW II, two young women arrive in Hollywood dreaming of becoming a star. One will rise to stardom, her fame a sacrifice for everything she loves with every piece of her heart. The other ensnared into the deep shadows by a powerful and untouchable predator.

“I could almost hear the click-clack of a manual typewriter as I enjoyed the light cynical touch to the characters in this book.” Jennie Reads Review

He knows better than to get involved.



A young girl is dead.

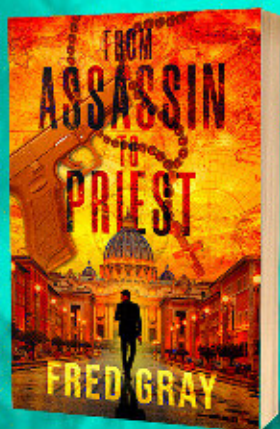
He's just a studio screenwriter, a man paid to polish other people's dreams. The town is already burying the truth, and he can't shake the feeling that he's the last person willing to drag the real story into the light—no matter who tries to stop him.

“Filled with mystery, intrigue and a touch of humor . . . 4 out of 4 stars.”
J.S. Overmyer, Online Book Club

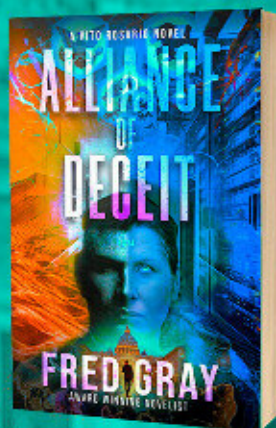
FXAndersen.com



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Orphaned and taken in by the Benetti family, raised in the shadows, and the most sought-after assassin, Vito was the perfect weapon. Until new technology allowed electronics to invade every aspect of human life. A wave of mild-altering tech seduced humanity and Vito has been called to fight for the soul of mankind... as the Pope's chosen champion.



Trust is a luxury and betrayal, a weapon. Vito investigates the kidnappings of priests and the hostile takeover of churches in Latin America, Vito uncovered a dark, chilling conspiracy to forge an unholy alliance and plunge the world into chaos. A truth that could topple the governments of China, Russia, and the United States.



Bullied by the neighborhood gang, Christopher uses his imagination to escape. His alter ego is a fearless pirate who could face any danger. The impossible becomes reality. Captain Christopher embarks on a heart-pounding adventure that takes him and his sister, Leah, deep into Cloud Kingdom where strange and mysterious creatures await.



He sees reality, makes it bleed, then baptizes it in fire.

FredGrayAuthor.us

Not every dish should be served.



Karmen Artos, a sous chef at Feline Fine Retirement Home, is horrified when two of the residents hijack her kitchen. Worse yet, they've created an Internet cooking show that has gone viral. The recipes are revolting, but viewers are wild for 'Grandma's Witchin' Kitchen!'

Devon Winger, a down-on-his-luck showrunner, arrives in Cat's Paw Cove to convince the eccentric elderly Internet stars to take the show to the next level -- a ShowFlix series. The magical stars are tickled at the idea, but Karmen is dead set against revealing the sanctuary for supernaturals to the world.

Can Karmen convince the sexy Devon that the show will be a dud? Or will Devon realize there's more to the quirky retirement home than meets the camera's eye?

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Staying out of the lusty-eyed Macon's view proves to be challenging. Macon is a temptation. A part of her wants to bed him and bring him to his knees.

She knows his kind. Nina is not into anything permanent with anyone, anymore...



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set on her.

No matter how
long it takes.



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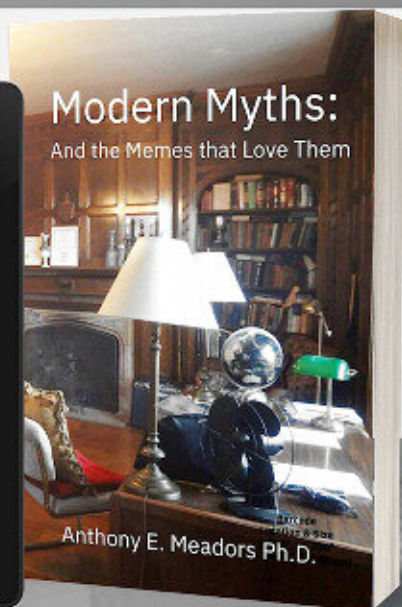
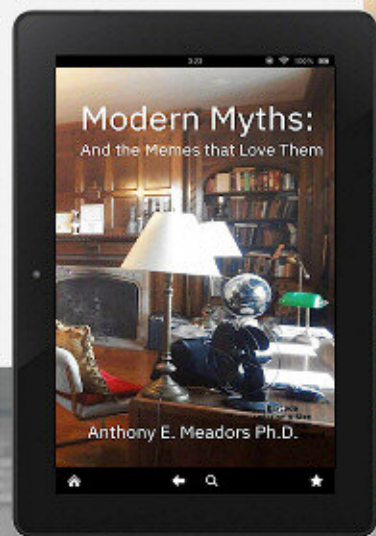


DCL PUBLICATIONS

Where dreams and fantasies begin.

www.thedarkcastlelords.net

What leads people to do crazy things?



**Why do we believe unsupported ideas contrary
to all common sense?**

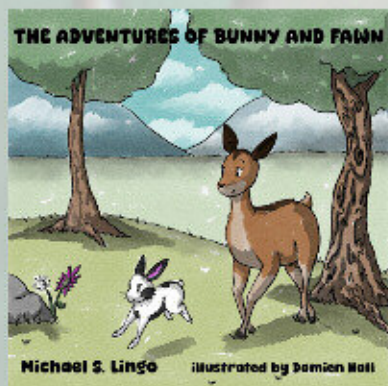
Answer: We don't directly experience our world. We interpret and twist every encounter according to our own worldview. (Thus we believe what we prefer.)

How worldviews so often become distorted — bringing delusions, depression, and crazy beliefs — is an extremely important new area of psychology.

If you constantly find yourself asking, "How in the world can people really believe that?!" then this book is for you.

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Anthony E. Meadors Ph. D.**





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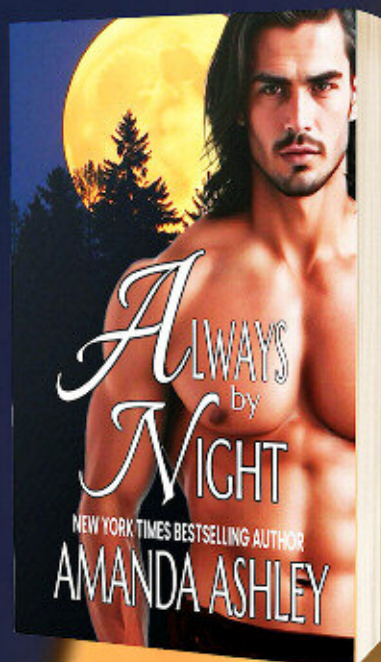


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Unwilling to marry Lord Bloodworth, Bryony flees her home in the middle of a storm and takes refuge in an abandoned stone house. Her refuge becomes her prison when she discovers the doors nor the windows open.

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AmandaAshley.net



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Where dreams and fantasies begin.

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AdC REVIEWS

Booty

Don't Never Give Up

Rich Simms

Self-published

B0G2SVLDQ1

Traveling with his father to his Aunt Mary's house, ten-year-old Bonkie, Ezekiel Harrison, woke up in a hotel room with no sign of his father. The longer he waited for his father to return the more he was worried that something happened to him. He decided he'd better search for his father. On his way to the next town, he was robbed.

With no money, tired, and scared he swiped some vegetables out of a garden and settle in to sleep at an abandoned house. With a few adults helping him along, Bonkie manages to get settled. Only, his father's disappearance has left him anxious.

Living with Rufus, a freeman, Bonkie learned how to be self-sufficient. Life continued. He met and married a beautiful young girl, bought some land, and followed his dream.

The nagging feeling of his father's disappearance and why he deserted him didn't stop his need to search for him. From loss to new beginnings, this is a story of courage, strength, and hope. He rises above the tribulations and builds the future he's always wanted.

A good read for any young adult looking for a bit of adventure.

Kitty Lane

Fantasy Romance

The Cupid Dilemma

April Asher

St. Martin's Press

ISBN: 978-1250357885 Trade Paperback

ISBN: 987-1250357902 #-Book

How is it possible that Adalyn Love Witlock, daughter of goddess Aphrodite, doesn't believe in love? Especially since she is a partner in Happily Ever Forever, a service that not only matches couples but offers complete wedding planning services.

Addie's job involves sometimes literally putting out fires like the one that occurred when the bride insisted on decorating with pillar candles. When the wedding cake went up in flames, Addie was aided by a sexy stranger who inadvertently sprayed, not just the cake, but Addie with the fire extinguisher. The fire is just one thing in a string of mishaps that threaten to derail the business. The irate bride begins a social media smear campaign resulting in Addie being labeled the "Anti-Aphrodite."

Finally home in her tiny New York City studio apartment, enjoying the company of her three-headed dog Do Re Mi, Addie finally relaxes in a soothing bath and actually falls asleep in the tub. But she is jolted awake by the loud music coming from her neighbor's apartment. Confronting him on the issue hasn't worked in the past, but she storms next door anyway, only to be greeted by the sexy stranger from the wedding, now shirtless and displaying a ripped chest festooned with nipple rings and colorful tattoos.

Phoenix Cross, AKA Naughty Nix, is the drummer in the up-and-coming Stone Talon Band. He's hit a dry spell in his music writing while his manager and record executives clamor for new

songs. But he decides Addie will be his muse since he can't stop thinking about her, and he finds himself writing new music that doesn't fit the image of the Stone Talons.

Addie discovers Nix's identity, and they make a pact. She will serve as his Muse, and he will serve as her *faux* romantic interest to prove to detractors that she really does believe in love. They put on a good show for paparazzi and fans, but maybe it's not really fake.

The Cupid Dilemma is peppered with paranormal elements that form a subtle background, not overwhelming the story, Visits to Olympus, parents who are gods and goddesses, consorting with creatures such as a gargoyle, shape-shifters, and even a pet who is a descendent of the three-headed Cerberus, are all mentioned. However, the focus remains on the romance. It is a delightful story full of both humor and deep emotions.

Hannah Rowan

Thriller

The Final Target

Nora Roberts

St. Martin's Press

ISBN: 978-1250413581 Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1250413598 E-book

Author Arden Bowie faces the first book signing of her debut novel with excitement and trepidation. The moment has been a long time coming and is made even more special by taking place in Next Chapter bookstore, where she works part time. The attendance of her proud friends and family is icing on the cake.

Also in attendance is Dustin Dubecki, an avid fan who claims he wants writing advice from Arden to help with his own project. As Arden makes the rounds of book signings, Dustin is constantly in the audience. Though something about him makes her uneasy, Arden finally agrees to coffee with him but turns down his invitation for dinner. She's very busy preparing for her cousin Zoey's upcoming wedding and for a trip into New York City to meet with her editor and agent. While in the city, Arden thinks she sees him lurking near her but decides it's just her imagination.

When her downstairs neighbors Monica and John question why she returned to her apartment moments after leaving and tease her about uncharacteristically forgetting something, Arden is alarmed to discover someone has been in her home and has taken a very odd assortment of items, more personal than valuable.

Dustin has convinced himself he and Arden are fated to be together. He plans to take her to a remote cabin to teach her to love him and obey him the way he believes a woman should behave around a man. When she refuses to succumb to his advances, he forces his way into her apartment and brutally attacks her. She is saved only because Monica and John hear the noise of the attack and rush to her aid. Still, she is injured and traumatized, certain Dustin would have killed her had her neighbors not intervened.

Dustin's overprotective and wealthy mother manages to have him committed to a mental institution rather than prison. He uses his five-year sentence to convince his therapists that he understands the dysfunction of his obsession with Arden and that he has changed. Meanwhile Arden never feels safe and moves from the apartment to a house and finally all the way to the west coast. She begins a new life and with the help of therapy and family begins to feel safe again. A dog, a place in her new community with new friends, and a chance to be close to her family slowly help her recover. She makes her new house into a home with the help of ex-LAPD detective Gideon Riley who now works in his grandfather's hardware store and does exquisite woodworking as a hobby.

Gideon is adamant that he's not interested in a relationship with anyone, and Arden is still too skittish to consider it, but sparks fly between the two in spite of it. When Dustin is released early, Arden's hard-won sense of safety is in danger of shattering. even though she is convinced he can't find her all the way out west. And it becomes clear that Dustin is even more dangerous than anyone realized.

The Final Target combines suspense, romance, and a look at the inner workings of an author's mind. A crazed stalker is no match for the courage Arden must find in herself, and the family interactions and budding romance present a sweet counterpart to the evil danger following Arden.

Hannah Rowan

Hidden Nature

Nora Roberts

St. Martin's Press

978-1250370853 Hardcover

978-1250370860 E-Book

As a corporal in the Maryland Natural Resources police force, Sloan Cooper doesn't routinely have to handle complicated cases. But after a long day at work where she dealt with violent men, Slone visits a convenience store where a robbery is in progress. She is shot, dies, and is revived. During her long convalescence, she returns to her hometown in Maryland where her family runs a resort in Heron's Rest.

Nash Littlefield is a former Wall Street worker who breaks away from family expectations and opens a contracting business along with his brother, Theo. He quickly finds plenty of work, including renovations at the Cooper family resort.

While recuperating, Sloan takes an interest in a missing person's case and soon becomes embroiled in investigating what turns out to be a series of seemingly unrelated murders. As the attraction between Sloan and Nash evolves, they team up to work on the case. In the meantime, a romance develops between Theo and Sloan's sister, Drea.

What Sloan and Nash uncover is a couple who have a bizarre system of choosing their victims using their own twisted religious excuses for their crimes. Sloan herself could be in danger by meeting the couple's criteria for choosing their victims.

Hidden Nature is a mixture of romance and danger, peppered with Nora Roberts' attention to detail and a homey touch as she describes renovation projects. We're treated with not one, but two romances as both sets of siblings fall for one another.

The mystery is clever and original with a totally unexpected and evil set of "bad guys" and is certainly a satisfying read.

Hannah Rowan

Non-Fiction

Modern Myths: And the Memes That Love Them.

Anthony E. Meadors Ph.D.

Self-published

E-book

B0DNYPBTC5

If you want to know all the ins and outs of the myths of our time and the nuances about them, then this is a book for you. The authors work is a treatise, examining all aspects of what creates and sustains myths and about the people that keep them alive.

Modern Myths: And the Meme That Love Them begins with the author's clarifications on his view of the subject. It moves on to cover the wide range of myths, giving many an anecdotal situation and quite a few quotes by others to bolster his views.

Delve into the past and present to help build an understanding of myths. With many anecdotes, it will be seen that there are many social complexities about the subject. There are quite a few modern myths presented as you turn the pages, though the focus is why they persist and why they begin at all.

There are many fascinating aspects and psychological perspectives to ponder. The author covers how memes contribute to the myths of today, to their creation and to their longevity.

Lauren Calder

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Drakine is rising.

To survive, they must fight the ancient powers and unite the fractured kingdoms. The Island of Mu is burning... and only she can turn the tide. Grab your copy today.

She thinks the danger is what I do for a living. She has no idea it's what I feel when she says my name.

THE ONLY EASY DAY WAS YESTERDAY

She complicated the hell out of all my tomorrows...

BREAKNECK

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I was trained to end threats, not want something I can't walk away from. She was the first mission I couldn't abort. I survived by building walls. She made me want to tear them down. When it came to her, I knew nothing at all. And God, I wanted to be taught.

—Kelly "Breakneck" Gatlin

SEAL Team Tier 1

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