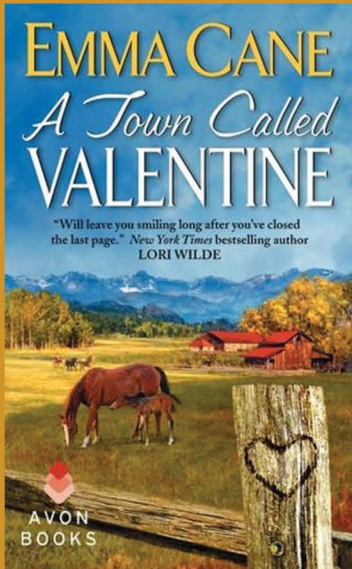


NIGHT OWL REVIEWS



Staying On Top
Bestselling
Authors

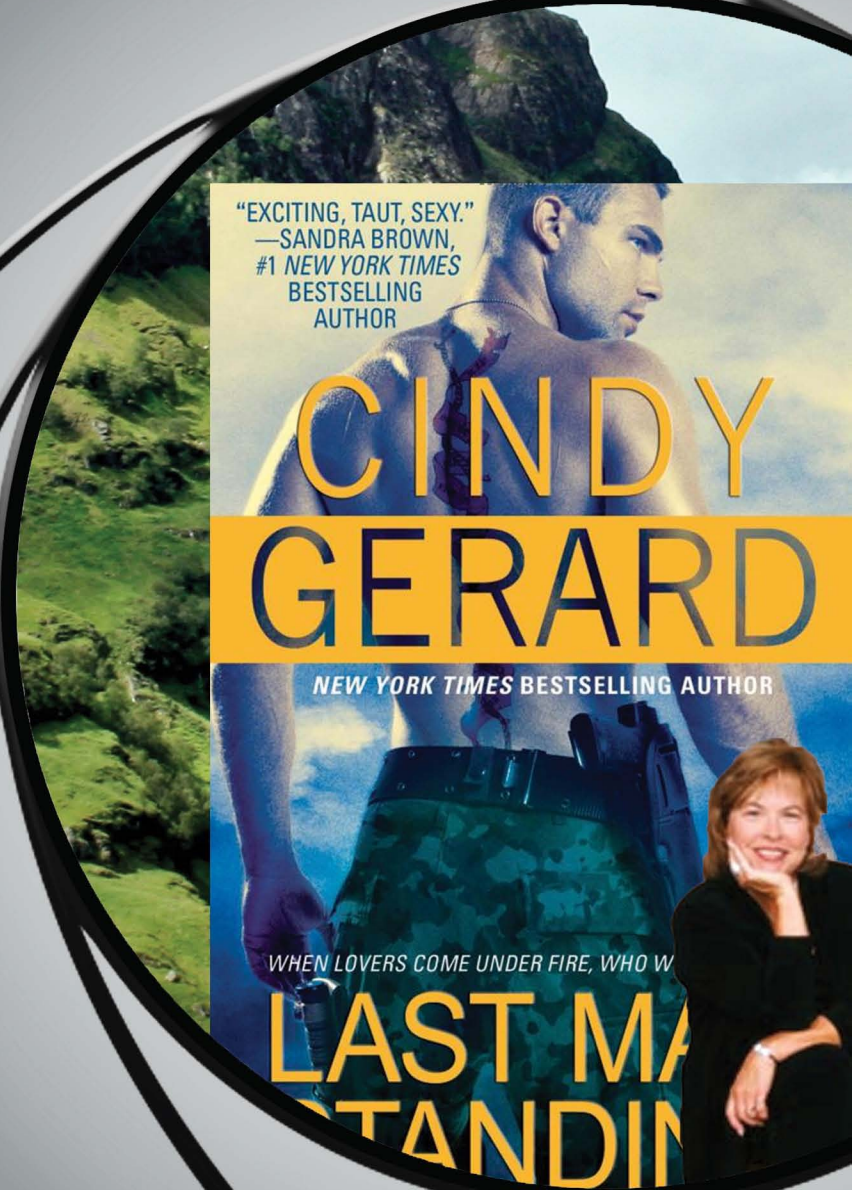
Teen Reads

Interview With
Cindy Gerard

Love and
Romance in
Color

Urban Fantasy
Author
Interviews

SCI-FI FANTASY | SUSPENSE | TEEN
PARANORMAL | ROMANCE | MAINSTREAM



- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 3 | Q & A with an Author Look into the Lives of Authors | 15 | Staying On Top Bestselling Authors Share |
| 4 | Fabulous Fiction An Inside Look | 19 | Inside the Cookbook Find Some Awesome Cookbooks |
| 6 | Urban Fantasy and the Paranormal Hot UF / PN Releases Every Month | 20 | Love and Romance in Color Diversity in Romance |
| 10 | Science Fiction & Fantasy A Look Inside the Books | 22 | A Piece Of My Mind Insights for Writers |
| 11 | Leaf's Legends A Look Inside Legends | 23 | Romance Stories To Make You Fall In Love |
| 12 | Teen Reads Young Adult Reads For All | 25 | Novel Technology The Low Down on Tech for Readers |
| 13 | Dark Streets Suspense at Its Best | | |

Night Owl Reviews™
WEtap Media, LLC
2459 SE TV HWY, #153,
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123
Reviews@NightOwlReviews.com
Editor-In-Chief: Tammie King
Director of Marketing: Tammie King
Tammie.King@NightOwlReviews.com
© Night Owl Reviews 2012



EMMA CANE

Current Release: A Town Called Valentine

What main genre do you write in?

Romance

Describe your current release in two sentences?

After her marriage falls apart, leaving Emily penniless and heartsick, she returns to Valentine Valley to find a new direction for her life, and instead has a steamy encounter with handsome rancher Nate, not the fresh start she intended. But as they begin working side-by-side to restore her time-worn building, and old family secrets change Emily's perception of herself, both are about to learn how difficult it is to hide from love in a place known far and wide for romance, family ties, and happily-ever-afters: a town called Valentine.

Where do you want to travel?

I love Europe. Writing as Gayle Callen, I set all my historical romances in England. I've traveled there several times, but I'm dying to return, rent a car, and just drive all over the country, stopping wherever I want. (driving on the left side of the road isn't as hard as I thought it would be!)

What is the best thing about being an author?

I love knowing that at the end of a long day, a reader can pick up my book and get away from the stresses of real life. I really enjoying entertaining

people. Also, there are benefits to being self-employed--the ability to set my own schedule being the best part. And we can't forget the freedom to wear comfy, casual clothes. ;)

What has been the best way for you to engage readers?

Social media has opened up a whole new way to communicate between authors and readers. I love the interaction, the ability to gauge reaction to every story. You can find me on both Facebook and Twitter, where I love to answer questions, tell you about my day, or discuss fun topics!

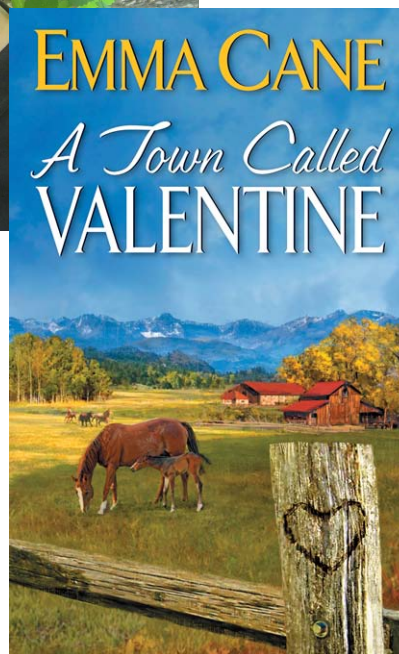
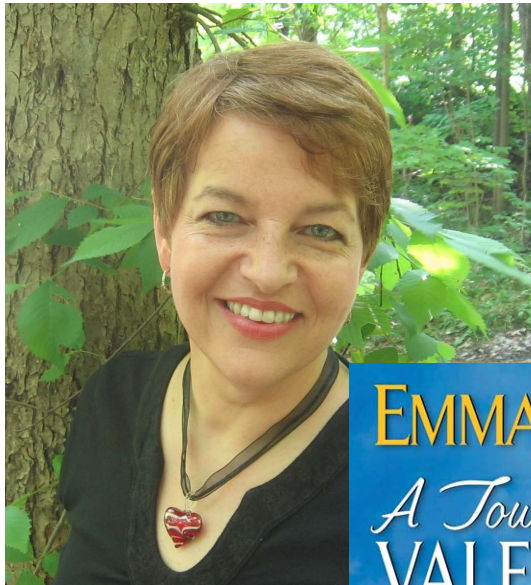
If you could live in a world created by an author, which book / world would you jump into?

I think I'd live in Susan Elizabeth Phillips' world. I love her romances with professional football players: strong alpha men and women who are more than their match. My favorite is *Nobody's Baby But Mine*, where a lady scientist desperately wants a dumb jock to father her child and make the kid normal. Wonderful!

What was your childhood ambition?

I read a lot of science fiction as a kid, so I always wanted to be an astronaut! I started writing at a young age, but in high school, I was torn between writing and being an aerospace engineer. I majored in engineering for a few years in college, but it wasn't for me. Writing still had a hold on me.

Full Interview at: <http://romance.nightowlreviews.com/nor/Interviews/Tamazon-interviews-Emma-Cane-on-Jan-31-2012.aspx>



FABULOUS FICTION

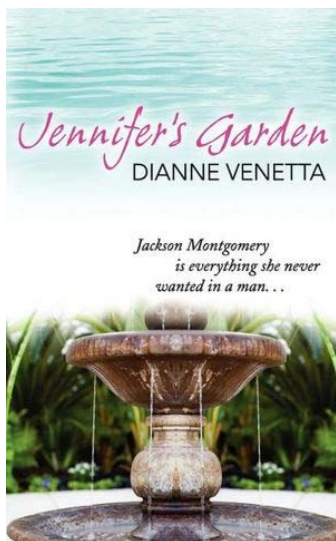
BY TIFFANY SCHLARMAN

An Inside Look!

VALENTINE'S DAY FOR THE BOOK LOVER

I'm about to admit something shocking, I've never cared for Valentine's Day. It's one of the reasons I'm a fabulous wife. I don't dislike the day, I just simply don't care. To me, Valentine's Day is just another day. However, if I had to create the perfect Valentine's Day it would be spent, in part, with books! See, for the book lover, Valentine's isn't a mushy holiday that requires flowers, chocolate and a sweet card to make it perfect. No, for the book lover the perfect Valentine's Day involves indulgence of fabulous reads. My perfect Valentine's Day would be spent at a spa! While being pampered, I would relax with my favorite beverage and a pile of romance novels! After all, it is Valentine's Day and I do love romance. In celebration of this fabulous genre and in effort to spread the love, I decided to share some of the latest and greatest romances I have read.

You won't want to miss these! There is something for everyone and they are so decadent!



Jennifer's Garden by Dianne Venetta

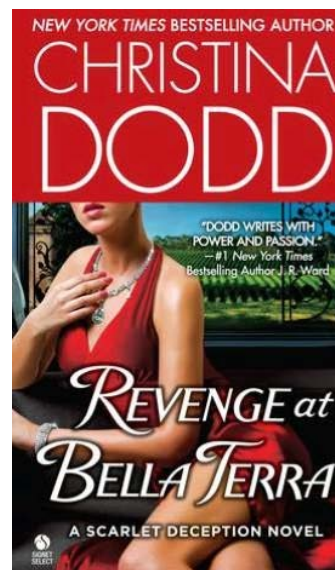
Jennifer's Garden is a contemporary romance that offers far more than a relationship. In fact, Jennifer's Garden has some deep topics that connect the reader with the characters. This book was sweet and sad while being realistic. The main

character, Jennifer, is a cardiologist whose wedding is being planned quickly. Jennifer's mom has a terminal illness and Jennifer wants to marry before her mom isn't

around to see the wedding. There's only one problem, Jennifer isn't sure she wants her groom. While doubt floods her mind, Jennifer is given a second choice. Meet Jackson, one fine male lead that will keep you dreaming day and night. Jackson is the landscaper hired to make Jennifer's lawn ready for her upcoming wedding. Gardener by day, by night....well, you'll have to read it! This book is more than a romance and offers plenty of entertainment. You won't want to put it down.

Revenge at Bella Terra by Christina Dodd

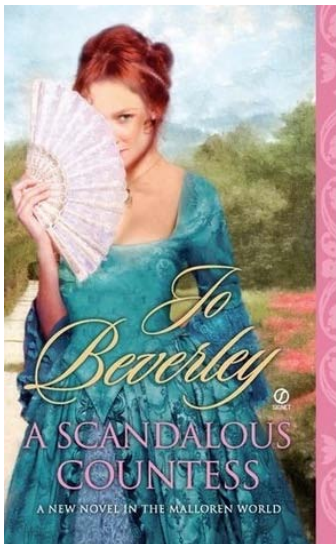
Attention all suspense lovers! Christina Dodd's newest series, Scarlet Deception, is set at Bella Terra, a vineyard resort owned by the Di Luca family. The Di Luca brothers are oh so sexy, but trouble seems to follow them everywhere. Revenge at Bella Terra is the second book in this series. It picks up where Secrets of Bella Terra leaves off. This time around, Eli Di Luca, who's sworn to never marry, is given a one word reason to change his mind, blackmail.



Meanwhile, Chloe, a mystery author struggling to write her newest book, takes refuge in the isolation of a Bella Terra cottage. When she starts to fall for Eli, a man she barely knows, the truth starts to find its way out, bringing heartbreak and danger along with it. With the danger of Eli's hidden secrets threatening their lives,

Chloe's only choice is to trust the one person who's betrayed her in order to survive. Unfortunately for Chloe stubbornness is not a trait that bodes well.

This series is amazing, hands down! I didn't read suspense prior to Christina Dodd. I loved Secrets of Bella Terra so much, that I pre-ordered Revenge at



Bella Terra as soon as it was available! I was very happy to discover the second romance of this series is every bit as great as the first! I can't wait for more!

A Scandalous Countess by Jo Beverly

If you love historical romance, this one is for you! It's original, entertaining, sexy, and mysterious with a little bit of suspense.

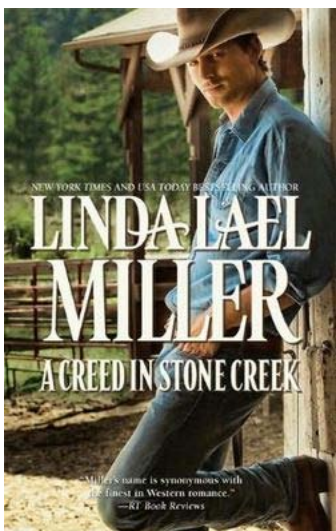
When Countess Georgia

Maybury's husband is killed in a duel, scandalous rumors erupt about her involvement with his death. Forced to retire to the country in order to serve out her year of mourning, Georgia is heartbroken and dreadfully bored. As a young countess, Georgia longs to return to the life Town has to offer. Unfortunately, when her year ends, the world of glamour and riches is not quite ready to forgive and forget, even if Georgia's innocence is true.

Lord Dracy is a scarred man. A former naval officer who inherited his families ruin, Lord Dracy sets out with only one goal; restore his family's estate and finances to its former glory. However, when his plans to trick the Earl of Hernescroft takes a sudden

detour, Dracy finds himself spending lots of time with Georgia, a woman he's quickly falling for. Unfortunately, Dracy has nothing to offer Lady May, who's used to a vast and abundant lifestyle and aims to get it back. Little do they know the sinister events taking place that threaten to put them both in grave danger.

A Creed in Stone Creek by Linda Lael Miller

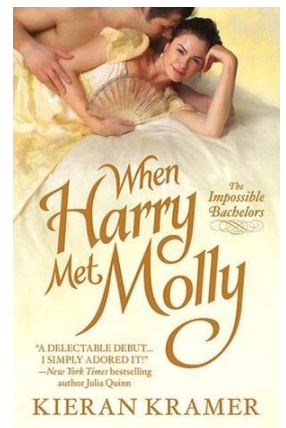


Anyone for a hot cowboy? This book will have you saying "Yes, please!" Miller introduces the Creed cousins by starting with Steven Creed, a big city lawyer who gives up his firm in order to fulfill the last wishes of his best friend. For Steven life in Stone Creek is much different, especially when he sets up a small law office and discovers he has eyes for his opposing counselor.

Melissa O'Ballivan is a beautiful county prosecutor who lives by the book. That is until Steven Creed, an adorable little boy and the happiest dog move into town. Soon Melissa finds herself breaking her own rules and enjoying it. This simple contemporary romance is fun, spirited, sexy and quite entertaining to read. Mixed within the pages is a story of deep inner hurt, the struggle to forgive and love and the longing to be in the arms of the one you love. It was a pleasure to read, as is the rest of this wonderful series. Readers will soon find themselves wishing for a Creed of their own.

When Harry Met Molly by Kieran Kramer

If you haven't read anything by Kieran Kramer, what are you waiting for? Kramer's delightful laugh out loud humor starts with her titles! This book is the first of the impossible bachelor's series, which is a wonderfully humorous series to read! In this book, Lord Harry Traemore is content to live out his days in pursuit of pleasure. Unfortunately for Harry, he soon finds himself designated as one of the "Impossible Bachelors" of society. In pursuit of pleasure, the new title launches Harry into a wager with his fellow bachelors. The prize is to remain unmarried, but to do so Traemore must have the mistress who wins the title of "Most Delectable Companion." This game is sure to keep you rolling and ready for more of Kramer. It's beautifully written with well-developed characters and enough laughter to shed a few pounds. What could make Valentine's Day better?



Tiffany is an avid reader, reviewer and marketing specialist. You can connect with her via the following outlets. Website- <http://www.acozyreaderscorner.com> - Twitter - @cozyreadersnook – Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/groups/#!/pages/A-Cozy-Readers-Corner/152514161454295>



URBAN FANTASY AND THE PARANORMAL BY ROXANNE RHOADS

ROXANNE RHOADS IS A STORY STUMPET, TOME LOVING TART, AND LOVER OF ALL THINGS PARANORMAL. SHE IS ALSO A FREELANCE WRITER AND THE AUTHOR OF EROTIC PARANORMAL ROMANCES.

There are several new books this month that are the first book in a new series, not that I need a larger to read pile but these books look too good to pass up: **Firelight** (Darkest London, #1) by Kristen Callihan, **Kiss of the Vampire** (Warriors of the Rift, #1) by Cynthia Garner, **Alpha Instinct** (Moon Shifter, #1) by Katie Reus, **King of Darkness** (Chronicles of Yavn #1) by Elisabeth Staab, **Something About Witches** (Arcane Shot, #1) by Joey W. Hill, and a new book by Anne Rice-**The Wolf Gift**.

Wow- all of these have been added to my wishlist.

And of course there are new editions to popular series including the one at the top of my must have list: **A Perfect Blood** (The Hollows, #10) by Kim Harrison (who will start touring the week of February 20 starting with signings in Lansing and Ann Arbor, MI- I'll be at the one in Lansing to get my copy signed :-).

Entangled publishing has a couple new series releases this month including **Tundra 37** (A New Dawn, #2) and **A Hero Rising** (A New Dawn, #3) by Aubrie Dionne, and **The Last Beginning** (Curse of the Phoenix, #3) by Rachel Firasek.

Other series releases include **The Half-Breed Vampire** by Theresa Meyers which is book 3 in the Sons of Midnight series (Theresa will be touring virtually through March with Bewitching Book Tours), **Tempted by Blood** (Sweetblood, #3) by Laurie London, **A Sliver Of Shadow** (Abby Sinclair, #2) by Allison Pang (Allison will also be touring virtually throughout March with Bewitching Book Tours), **Black Howl** (Madeline Black #3) by Christina Henry, **By a Thread** (Elemental Assassin, #6) by Jennifer Estep, **How to be Death** (Calliope Reaper-Jones, #4) by Amber Benson, **Nice Girls Don't Bite Their Neighbors** (Jane Jameson, #4) by Molly Harper, **The Darkest Seduction** (Lords of the Underworld, #9) by Gena Showalter, and **Almost Everything** (Vampire Princess of St. Paul, #3) by Tate Hallaway.

I see a lot of new vampire books- so much for vampires being over. The critics have no idea what they're talking about. Vampires are eternal. They'll always have a loyal fan base even if the trend does eventually wear off.

I see a nice mix of witches and werewolves too. Vampires, witches and werewolves- my three favorite otherworldly creatures.

What are your favorite paranormal creatures to read about?

Now it's time for a few SQAI's. This month's authors who so graciously agreed to take part in the Super Quick Author Interviews are LJ DeLeon, P.R. Mason and Chris Karlsen

LET'S GET STARTED WITH LJ DELEON

RR: What is the name of your newest release and genre/category it falls into?

LJD: All my Warriors for Light books, including **ABSOLUTION** (Warriors for Light, Book 3), are cross genre, action adventure/urban fantasy/paranormal.

RR: Can you describe your main character in 3 words?

LJD: Haunted, Driven, Heroic

RR: Can you describe your heroine in one sentence?

LJD: Allana is a Fae healer obsessed with finding her lost daughters, but open to love from Lucan.

RR: Can you describe your hero in one sentence?

LJD: The Druid Lucan is tormented by the death of his mentor and feels unworthy of Allana's love.

RR: What kind of paranormals or paranormal elements are in your book?

LJD: The series Warriors for Light, which so far include **WARRIOR'S RISE**, **DRAGON CHILD**, and **ABSOLUTION**, is populated with the full gamut of supernatural and magical creatures—witches, demons, the Fae, gargoyles, werewolves, wereleopards, dragons, angels, and Harpies to name a few.

RR: Without giving away details, can you describe one interesting scene in your book in less than two sentences?

LJD: The confrontation between the hero and a daemon versus two villains with able assistance of Fritz, The Gargoyle, disguised as a statue in a fountain. Can we say, algae dripping avenging angel?

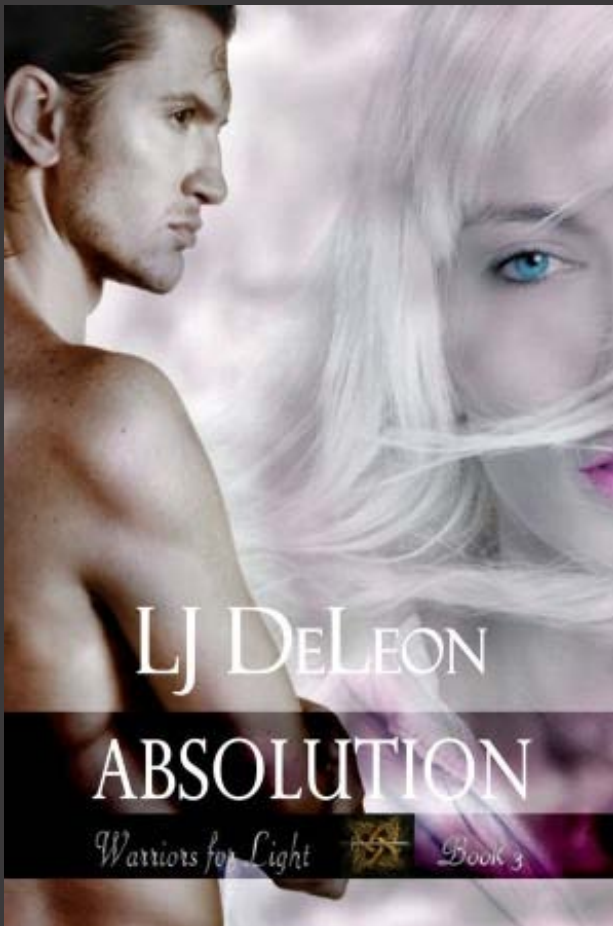
RR: In two sentences or less can you tell readers something unique about your book?

LJD: There is a balance between the romance and the magical elements and the hero's journey that leaves the reader satisfied but wanting more of the series.

RR: Can you list three adjectives that describe your book as a whole?

LJD: Redemptive, tender, and triumphant.

RR: What's the heat level of your book?



ABSOLUTION

by LJ DeLeon

He did the unforgivable. Druid Lucan Woods killed his surrogate father and best friend for the greater good. Wracked with guilt, he infiltrates a brotherhood of evil, hoping the mission is one way. Absolution may come from a missing Fae Princess, if he will accept it. Or will he reject her love and use her as a pawn in his drive to destroy the leader of the brotherhood?

Fae Princess Alanna has just learned her twin daughters are alive. She leaves hlfreann to search Earth for them. Only she can touch Luc's heart. But will he let her? Will he open his stained soul and allow her to enter in time to save them both?



ENTANGLEMENTS

by P.R. Mason

Accidentally opening a vortex sucks! Fifteen-year-old KIZZY TAYLOR is just hoping for an evening of fun when she joins her friends in a spelunking expedition through an under-city tunnel. But fun turns bizarre when Kizzy accidentally opens a vortex and her stepsister is swept through to an evil alternate dimension. The only way to rescue her stepsister is to reopen the vortex and go in after her...unless her new boyfriend, Rom, kills her first. And even if she can get past him, will Kizzy be able to return home?

LJD: Absolution is sizzling.

RR: And last but not least, where can a reader purchase your book?

LJD: While the URLs provided are for ABSOLUTION, all my Warriors for Light books are available at:
Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Absolution-Warriors-For-Light-ebook/dp/B0050D80PU/>
ARe: <http://www.allromancebooks.com/product-absolution-547230-143.html>
B&N: <http://search.barnesandnoble.com/books/e/2940012411082/>
Smashwords: <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/58695>

NEXT UP WE HAVE P.R. MASON

RR: Tell us P.R. what is the name of your newest release and genre/category it falls into?

PRM: Entanglements is a YA Urban Fantasy/Paranormal Romance.

RR: Can you describe your main character in 3 words?

PRM: For the heroine, Kizzy, the three words would be feisty, brave and reckless.

RR: Can you describe your heroine in one sentence?

PRM: Kizzy Taylor doesn't trust herself or others, but she's also compassionate and can't stand to see others get hurt.

RR: Can you describe your hero in one sentence?

PRM: Rom Calixto was raised to believe duty is paramount, so when his duty conflicts with the strong feelings he has for Kizzy, he's torn apart.

RR: What kind of paranormals or paranormal elements are in your book?

PRM: Entanglements features an alternate world ruled by a vampire monarch. It includes vampires, ghouls, an inter-dimensional vortex, a warlock, ghosts, ogres, griffins, and trolls.

RR: Without giving away details, Can you describe one interesting scene in your book in less than two sentences?

PRM: Kizzy Taylor is urban spelunking with her friends when she accidentally opens a vortex to an evil alternate dimension.

RR: Can you give us three adjectives that describe your book as a whole?

PRM: Fast-paced. Adventure-filled. Romantic.

RR: What's the heat level of your book?

PRM: Sweet and romantic.

RR: And last but not least, where can a reader purchase your book?

PRM: Buy Links for Entanglements: <http://amzn.com/B005R0RP->

PG

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/entanglements-pr-mason/1106038862?ean=2940013363403&itm=11&usri=entanglements>
<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/90979>
<http://www.prmason.net>

NNOW WE HAVE CHRIS KARLSEN

RR: Chris, tell us the name of your newest release and genre/category it falls into.

CK: "Journey in Time," is a time-travel romance.

RR: Can you describe your main character in 3 words?

CK: Warm, creative, intelligent.

RR: Can you describe your heroine in one sentence?

CK: She's resilient, resourceful, talented, articulate and when necessary, a fighter.

RR: Can you describe your hero in one sentence?

CK: He's brave, witty, honorable, clever, and someone you want on your side.

RR: What kind of paranormals or paranormal elements are in your book?

CK: Time-travel, reincarnation and ghosts.

RR: Without giving away details, Can you describe one interesting scene in your book in less than two sentences?

CK: Unaware she's been transported back to the medieval world Shakira rides into the castle courtyard. She's mystified by the smells, the sights all around her and the lack of anything modern.

RR: In two sentences or less can you tell readers something unique about your book?

CK: It reveals how a woman who is initially terrified by the alien world she's been sent to can adapt. It also reveals the different sides of a man with one foot in the modern world and one in the medieval.

RR: Can you list three adjectives that describe your book as a whole?

CK: Transporting. Sensuous. Emotional.

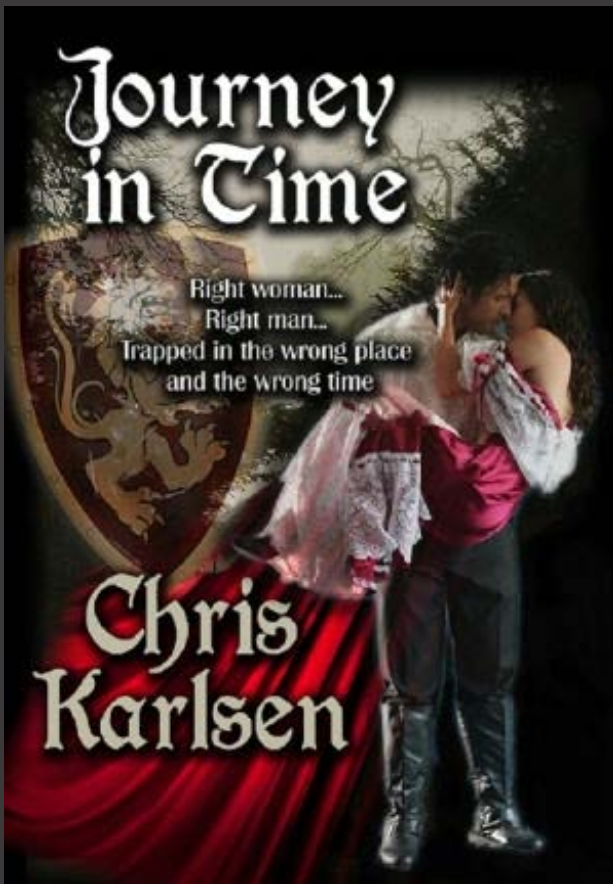
RR: What's the heat level of your book?

CK: Hot & spicy.

RR: And last but not least, where can a reader purchase your book?

CK: Amazon for Kindle, Barnes and Noble for Nook, digital download or paperback from www.bookstogonow.com.

Thank you to LJ, PR and Chris for joining us this month.



JOURNEY IN TIME

by Chris Karlsen

London attorney, Shakira Constantine finally agrees to spend the day with her handsome client, Alex Lancaster. While riding in the countryside, the couple finds themselves caught in a time warp and transported back to the 14th century- and an England preparing for war. Everyone believes Alex is the Baron Guy Guisard, a baron who died in the upcoming battle.

If they can't find a way to return to the 21st Century, Alex will have to sail with the army to certain death. Shakira will be left alone to survive in the alien and terrifying medieval world.



SILENT VOWS

by Catherine Bybee

Myra, a medieval virgin druidess, flees five hundred years into the future to escape death at the hands of a cursed witch and lands in the arms of a handsome but cynical twenty-first century cop. Officer Todd Blakely knows Myra is hiding something, but can't resist her innocent charms. Destiny throws them both into a world of intrigue and mysticism. Can Todd be the true white knight she needs? Or will magic and the winds of time tear them apart?

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

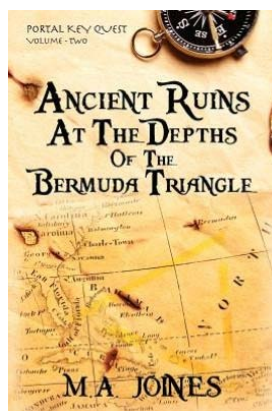
REVIEWS



The Ritual
by Adam Nevill
Score: 5 /5 Top Pick
Reviewed by: Pamela Robinson

The Ritual drew me in before opening the first page. I read the synopsis and thought, Oh, horror, I want it! The cover of this book intrigued me and set the tone for the story to come. Adam Nevill captured my

attention in chapter one and kept it until I finished the last page. The action started out with a rush and never slowed down. I found myself cursing my job because it took me away from reading when otherwise I would certainly have finished in one sitting. Every time I thought the suspenseful feeling would let up, it didn't. This is more than a scary book, it's a journey that leads to a place everyone should visit to appreciate 'life'.

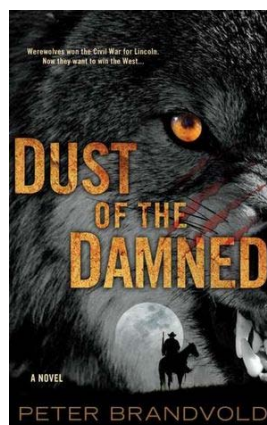


Ancient Ruins At The Depths Of The Bermuda Triangle
by M.A. Joines
Score: 5 /5 Top Pick
Reviewed by: Diana Coyle

Ms. Joines has outdone herself with this sequel to her Portal Key Quest series. I enjoyed seeing Lauren and her family go on another exciting adventure and this time it even included her twin sister, Lainey, who

was recently rescued by her family. The storyline was thoroughly entertaining and I felt as if I was another member of their team travelling with them to the Bermuda Triangle. I feel that this is a great story to buy for your child. I know he or she will get lost in this

magnificent tale and beg you to buy the next book in the series when it becomes available for purchase. It's well worth adding it to your child's permanent library!



Dust of the Damned
by Peter Brandvold
Score: 4.5 /5 Top Pick
Reviewed by: Kittybooboo13

This is a great book, if you're into Westerns (think Louis L'Amour style) and into the Supernatural (shifters and vampires). It has gritty, fast-paced action with tough women characters like Annie Oakley or sensual like Mae West. The plot started with hints of the Civil

War, but told during Grant's presidency. Very grizzly outcomes for characters matched the pace of the story. It was a quick read, but I do not recommend reading this novel prior to eating or sleeping. I enjoyed it most of the time, but I had moments when I needed a break. Very realistic in terms of how a Gatling gun would work, when it was designed, and the after-effects of the Civil War. Be careful as this book will intrigue any who enjoy the Supernatural, the West, or Civil War weaponry.

What I did not like, I suspect for Western readers will just be a day in the park: the violence as there were lots of killing and mayhem throughout the book. Peppery language is used very casually which could offend some readers. I recommend flipping through the book and checking out the various scenarios for language usage prior to reading this book to see if it fits your comfort zone. I admit the pairing of gritty Westerns with the Supernatural is unusual, but the results (in this case) are spectacular. I want more!

LEAF'S LEGENDS

BY LIZZIE T LEAF

EXPLORING THE WORLDS OF FANTASY,
MYTHS AND THE PARANORMAL

EXORCISM

"The Devil made me do it!" How many times have you heard someone say that, and did it cause you to pause and think?

It seems the devil or his minions have been making people do things since the beginning of time. No matter what name you have for him, he's believed in many religions and cultures to be a powerful, supernatural entity that is the personification of evil.

In the Catholic Church, formal exorcisms are performed by priests and can be done at Baptism or when special permission has been given by a Bishop. A formal rite of exorcism is known as a Major Exorcism and has guidelines that have to be followed. At the top of the list, the priest must determine if the person is suffering a medical illness that makes them behave in such a manner or psychological issues creating the behavior. The rite is performed in the name of Jesus Christ.

The exorcist in Christian practice is a church member or someone considered graced with special powers. They can use prayers and religious materials like amulets, make signs and wave icons. Their words invoke God, Jesus and various saints or angels to help drive out the evil from the individual and cure them of the possession.

In Hinduism, the mantra and the yajna are used in the Vedic and Tantric traditions in basic exorcism. The Hindus holy book, the Athava Veda contains the secrets related to the magic and alchemy.

Islam refers to exorcism as ryqya and is used to repair damage caused by witchcraft. Reciting verses is done and in some cases, the call to daily prayer is needed.

The Dead Sea Scrolls mention exorcism in Judaism and conducted by the Essene branch, so it goes back a long way in the Jewish religion. Exorcism in Judaism is focused on not only driving out the force, but also healing the possessor and the possessed. The Jewish rite is performed by a rabbi with a mastery of Kabbalah. He also has a group of minyan (10 adult males) gathered in a circle around the possessed reciting the 91st Psalm three times before the rabbi blows a ram's horn.

Then there's the voodoo exorcism and some of those can go to a really dark place. Voodoo priests sometimes use beatings, cuttings and any extreme they deem necessary to drive the demons out, even if the possessed victim is a child.

The scientific view on the subject is, demonic possession is not a valid medical or psychiatric diagnosis. Those with the

scientific/medical bent prefer to class it as mental illness. In other words, here's a prescription. Pop a few pills and you'll feel better.

There you have a brief overview of some views and stands on exorcism. Some notable purported exorcisms include Mother Teresa, Salvador Dali, Anneliese Michel and Robbie Mannheim.

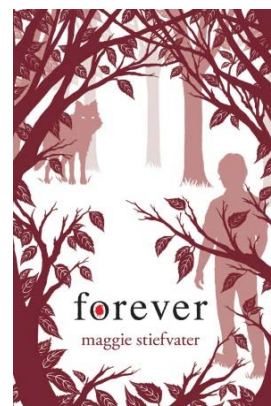
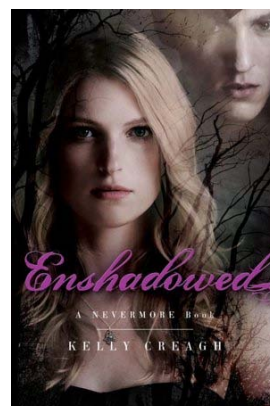
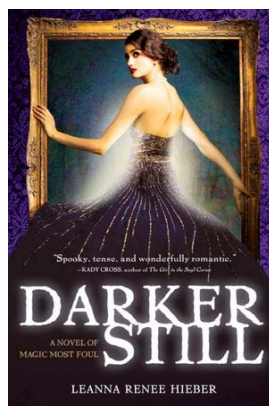
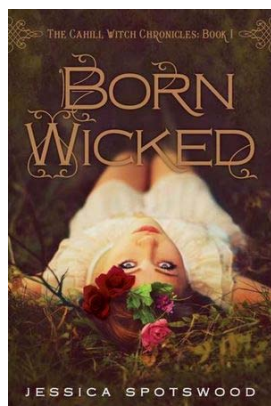
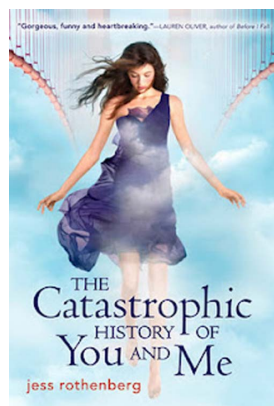
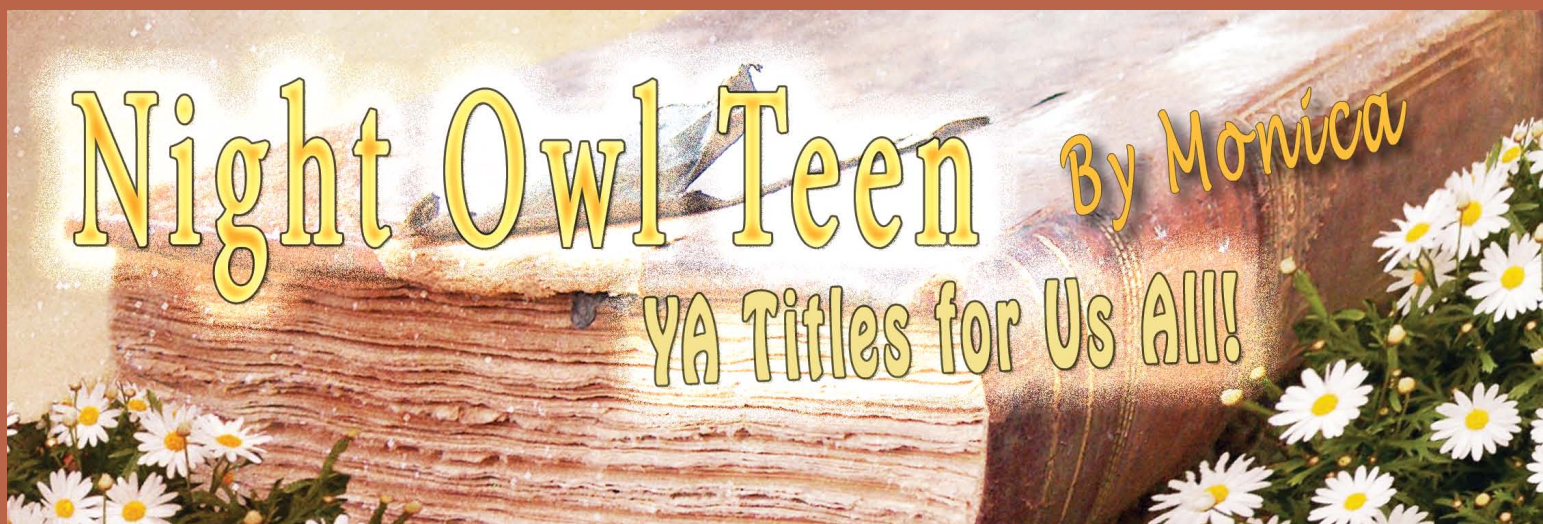
Mother Teresa supposedly had an exorcism performed on her in Calcutta when the Archbishop observed her agitated sleep and decided she could be under attack from the evil one. It's said that Dali's took place in France in 1947. The artist was so grateful, he created a sculpture for the priest who performed it of Christ on the cross and gave to the man.

Anneliese Michel's name may not ring a bell, but two movies are loosely based on her story...The Exorcism of Emily Rose and Requiem. A documentary, Exorcism of Anneliese contained audio tapes of her exorcism. The tapes were used by the defense in the trial against the two priests involved and her parents on charges of negligent manslaughter for failure to call a doctor. The court decided it was an eating disorder...after all, she weighed only 68 pounds when she died...and found the parties guilty. It was determined the parents had suffered enough and the priests received six months in jail.

And Bobbie Mannheim may not set off alarms either, but how about the novel and later a movie based on him...The Exorcist. Sure, he was turned into a girl, but how can you forget the head turning scene with Linda Blair yelling not so nice things at the poor priest who was trying to rid her of demon possession.

As you see, exorcism can span across all cultures. So the next time someone you know is acting a little possessed... maybe they are. Then you need to ask yourself—is it time to call in an exorcist?

Award winning Author, Lizzie T. Leaf enjoys writing Paranormal/Fantasy with a twist of humor. Her second book in the Magical Love series has been rescheduled for January 2012, but she has two Christmas stories available. Making Christmas re-released at Musa Publishing and releasing December 17th, Howling Under the Mistletoe, a short with Passion in Print Press.



The young adult world has many talents and shining stars. There are many authors trickling into publishing due to the rise of this genre. I think that these authors should be celebrated for their genius and praised for their ability to persevere and chase their dreams. In this article I am going to share with you some authors who are my absolute favorites and then I am going throw in a few Valentine's reads as well.

Maggie Stiefvater: Author of The Wolves of Mercy Fall Series, The Books of Faery Series, The Scorpio Races and the newly announce Raven Boys. She has a unique and powerful voice, half vision, half poetry and if you haven't read her novels you are missing out on a beautiful writer and wonderful books.

Kelly Creagh: This budding novelist caught my attention when she wrote Nevermore, a celebration of the new and the old. She mixed young adult novels with the macabre of Edgar Allan Poe and she did it beautifully. I carried this book around with me for an entire day. I ate with it, I brushed my teeth with it, and you will too.

Leanna Renee Hieber: I have had the pleasure of meeting all the authors I have mentioned on this list but I spent almost an entire day with Leanna Renee Hieber, picked her brain and shared a meal. She is utterly

amazing and her voice is strong, sure, and completely her own. Her Persephone Parker novels are adult fare but her recently released novel Darker Still has the same ethereal feel as Percy with a PG rating.

I can only express my love for these visionary authors every day and hope that one day you will take my advice and fall in love with them too.

Speaking of love, now I am going to share with you some books that you or your Valentine will love!

The Catastrophic History of You and Me by: Jess Rothenberg: It's not necessarily THE book to read on Valentine's Day but it will keep your head out of the clouds during the month of love.

Born Wicked by: Jessica Spotswood: This is an interesting novel in the witches sub genre of YA.

These are just a couple of the fabulous books being released this month! Spend the day of love with your favorite book if not your favorite person!

Monica is a lover of books and is currently serving her country abroad! Find her online at The Bibliophilic Book Blog: <http://www.bibliophilicbookblog.com>



DARK STREETS

BY TONI LOTEMPIO

ADMIN BY DAY, WRITER BY NIGHT, TONI IS THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL PAPERBACK AND E-BOOKS OF ROMANTIC AND PARANORMAL SUSPENSE

NANCY BILYEAU

Besides a love of the Tudors, Nancy Bilyeau and I have something else in common – we both share the same agent, Josh Getzler of Hannigan Salky Getzler Agency in New York! A magazine editor and writer whose work has appeared in magazines such as Rolling Stone, Entertainment Weekly and Good Housekeeping, she is also an aspiring screenwriter and her screenplays have placed in several prominent industry competitions, including the Nicholl Fellowship and Francis Ford Coppola's American Zoetrope competition.

Nancy loved historical fiction ever since she was a child, the 16th century in particular. Marrying her inexhaustible interest in the Tudors with her love of intricately plotted thrillers seemed a natural choice for her! The story is set in Tudor England and the main character is a novice in a Dominican priory who is trying to find a mysterious relic of great power to protect her imprisoned father and to save a way of life from Cromwell's advancing army of destruction.

For Nancy, the writing of "The Crown" was the fulfillment of a lifelong obsession with the Tudors and their history. As a child she saw the BBC dramas "The Six Wives of Henry VIII" and Elizabeth R" and after that devoured everything she could about that era. She attributes her fascination to the fact that "the dynasty has everything – love, death, war, betrayal, greed, sacrifice and beauty....the Tudors are less obscured by bureaucracy and industrial democracy than later European dynasties. They are, first and foremost, a family."

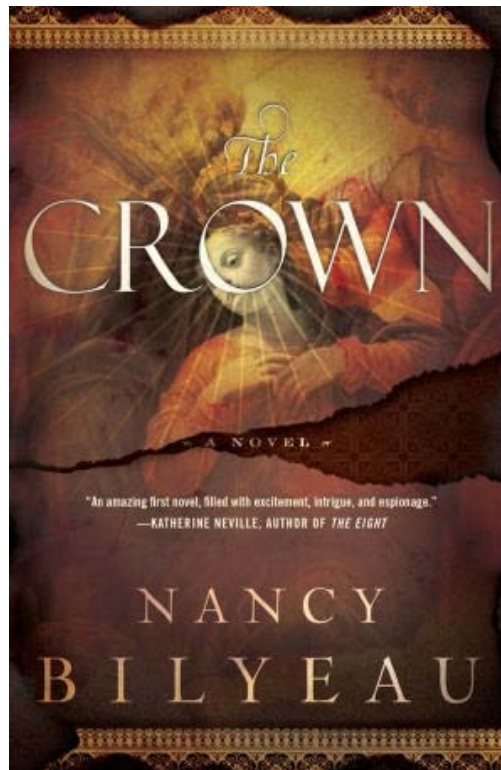
"The Crown" is a historical thriller set in 1537 amid the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Here is a brief synopsis:

Joanna Stafford wants to take her final vows and become a nun at Dartford in Kent. She breaks the sacred rule of

enclosure and runs away from Dartford Priory. But when Joanna and her father are arrested and sent to the Tower of London, she finds herself a pawn in a deadly power struggle. Charged with a mission to find a hidden relic believed to possess a mystical power that has slain three Englishmen of royal blood in the last 300 years, Joanna and a troubled young friar, Brother Edmund, must seek answers across England. Once she learns the true secret of her quest, Joanna

must finally determine who to trust, and how far she's willing to go to protect her life, her family and everything she holds dear.

Nancy wrote the novel while working full time and raising two small children. She finished in July 2010 and immediately started querying agents – one of them, Josh Getzler, signed her on and sold the book! Here Josh speaks about his feelings the first time he read Nancy's query, and subsequently, her novel:



"I received Nancy Bilyeau's manuscript for the book that became The Crown right before July 4 weekend in 2010. It hit pretty much all of my spots—a relic thriller, wrapped in a cozy (set in a PRIORY!), during Tudor times, with cameos (or more) by Bishop Gardiner and Anne (and, chillingly, George) Boleyn. I took it home and read 100 pages, emailed Nancy, and told her that I was loving it

and wanted to speak to her on Sunday. Our conversation was wide-ranging and exciting, and I knew that we could work well together. Once we did a pretty short revision, we submitted the book, and were fortunate that a number of strong publishers were interested. We had an auction and sold it to Touchstone, and the Orion in the UK, and several other publishers around

the world.

I love working with Nancy Bilyeau, and will be so proud when I see her books climb and climb to great success."

As true devotees know, historical fiction in itself isn't easy to write, let alone a historical thriller. When I queried Nancy on writing "The Crown" from a suspense POV, she replied:

"I set out to do something rather difficult with *The Crown*. Most thrillers are NOT set in the first person. It closes off too many options for generating suspense. And historical thrillers often have multiple timelines: A plot in the middle ages or some other period interweaves with a modern plot, and the two of them run parallel until meeting at the end. But I also decided that I did not want to have time jumping. Everything in my book would be set in the 16th century and the story would be told through the eyes of one person, a female protagonist. And just to make it even harder, I made my protagonist a Catholic novice in an enclosed order, meaning the members are forbidden to leave by the rules they've chosen to follow! People have written priory mysteries before--the excellent Brother Cadfael series jumps to mind--but I also worked to get my character outside of the priory. In one stretch of the book she is on the run with another character, in true thriller fashion. Because I wrote a thriller and not only a mystery. So I guess I made this as challenging as possible for some masochistic reason--and this is my first book, my first piece of published fiction of any kind!!

I tried to fuse three genres in this book: (1) the Tudor-fiction novel telling the stories of people who really lived. (2) The priory murder mystery. (3) The religious thriller a la *The Name of the Rose* and *Da Vinci Code*. Some of the characters in my book are "real" and some aren't. (Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn, Katherine of Aragon, Mary Tudor--the gang's all here) Some of the places I set the book in existed, such as the Dartford Priory. But I also created a mystical relic and made my own connections between history and faith and politics. But finally I tried to create characters who people will care about. I tried to build a page turner and inhabit it with relatable human beings going through one a harrowing and tumultuous period in English history: the Reformation and Dissolution of the Monasteries. Let's hope I succeeded:)"

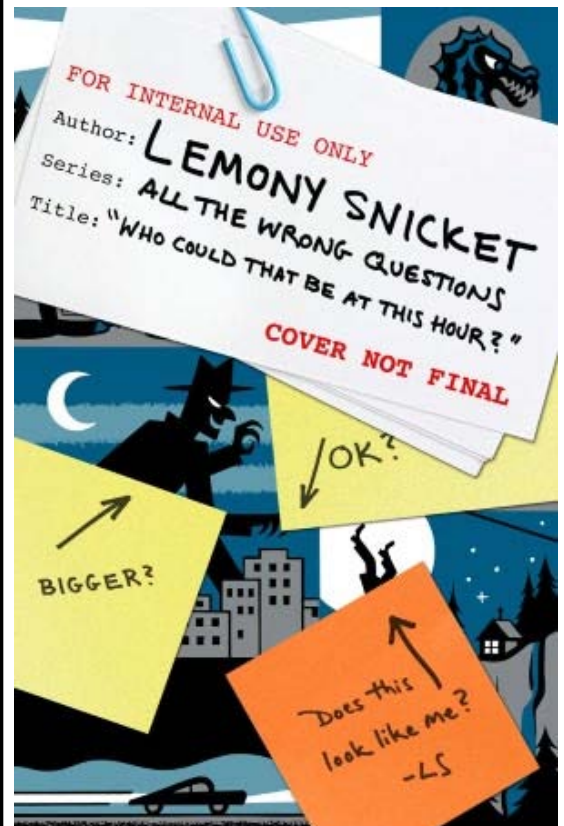
I'm sure you did, Nancy :o)

So, has this article whetted your appetite for a good historical thriller? If so, you can pick up *THE CROWN* at Barnes and Noble, Amazon, or your local bookstore. Nancy is currently working on her second novel, a continuation of the story of Joanna Stafford, due out in 2013.

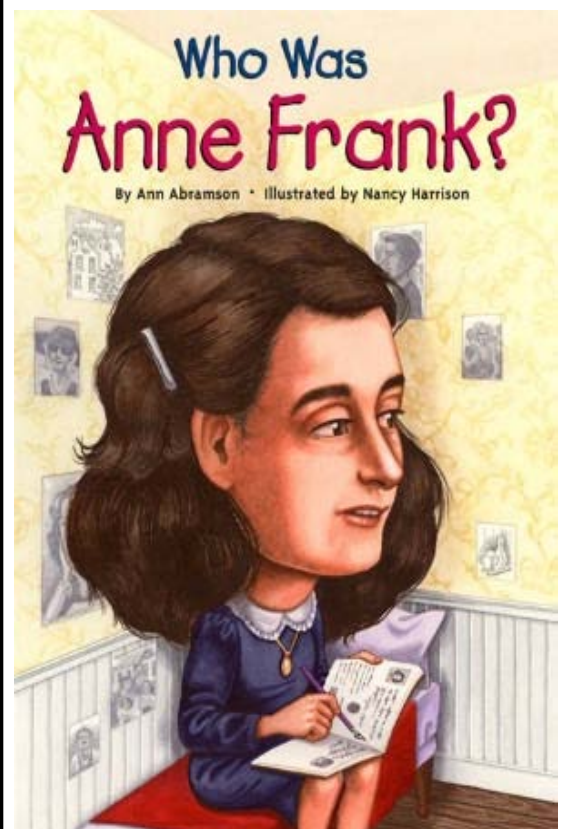
To find out more about Nancy and future works, visit her website at: <http://www.nancybilyeau.com>

By Toni LoTempio – admin by day, writer by night, Toni is the author of several paperback and e-books of romantic and paranormal suspense – check out her website at www.tonilotempio.webs.com and her cat's blog! www.catsbooksmorecats.blogspot.com Check out her YA fantasy, *MY SUPERHERO SISTER* and her paranormal romances, *NO REST FOR THE WICCA* and *RAVEN'S KISS*. She is also featured in the paranormal romance anthology, *KISS ME KILL ME*, available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

KIDS



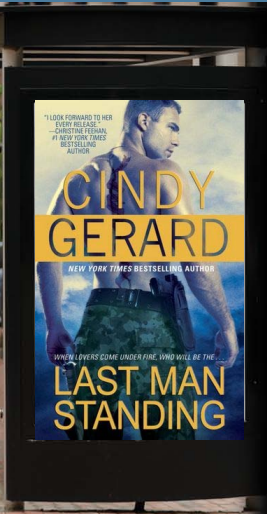
KIDS



STAYING ON TOP

BY SARA TRIMBLE

WHEN AN AUTHORS DREAM COMES TRUE...WHAT'S NEXT?



CINDY GERARD

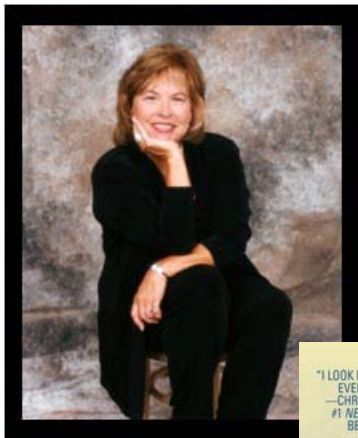
This month, I got to enjoy a wonderful military romance from bestselling author Cindy Gerard. The story follows Joe Green as he travels to a foreign country on a self-appointed mission. He plans to prove who is responsible for the death of one of his fellow soldiers. In the process, he must lie to the one woman he's felt normal around.

Stephanie can't understand his decision to leave her and battles with the loss of him in her life. When a co-worker reveals top secret information that shows Joe's in danger and without anyone to rescue him, Stephanie doesn't hesitate to become a heroine.

This story was a great romance. I loved watching a woman save a man's hide, without fear of what could happen to her. Cindy does a great job of allowing the reader to see Stephanie grow as a person and discover an inner strength, while watching Joe battle and conquer his inner demands.

How did you get into writing?

Ever since I was a little girl, I've been a big reader. I guess I was a bit of a writer too as a kid. I was always writing plays for the neighborhood kids to act out – if I remember right, they always involved a princess – played by me LOL. But it was reading LaVryle Spencer's books that actually made me want to write. She brought so much to the table ... her books were so evocative, intense, multi layered and the characters were so real they felt like friends. I finally decided I wanted to write like that and the journey began. That doesn't mean to say I think I



mastered her genius LOL. But I do try and she really was the inspiration for that first book.

How do you get into the writing mood? Music, movies, food, drinks, scents, specific place.

My ideal writing atmosphere is in my office, the dog curled up on the loveseat beside me, the 2 cats sleeping either by her or on my desk, a vanilla candle burning and music playing softly in the background so I can just barely hear it. Since 'ideal' isn't always the norm, however, I write

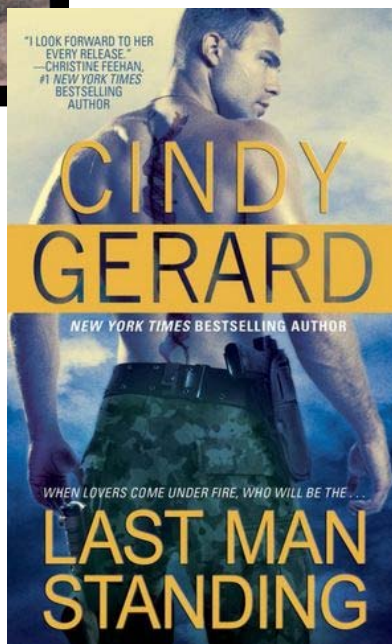
best when I can simply void the distractions of the internet. Oh – and a hard deadline works great to get me in a productive mood :o)

How long does it take you to finish a book?

It all depends on the book and the amount of time I have to finish it. That old adage – the more time you have the more you take – is really true. I write to deadline. If I have 6 months, I'll take 6 months. If I have less, I'll take less but 6 months is about the minimum time for me. I'm not a fast writer and even that is a stretch sometimes.

Tell us about your new book.

In Last Man Standing, special operative, Joe Green, has gone vigilante. His mission: avenge his Black Ops, Inc. brother's death during a bloody ambush years ago in Sierra Leone. He refuses to drag his BOI team or his lover, Stephanie, into what promises to be a deadly mission. So when he finds himself beaten and falsely imprisoned for the murder of



a Freetown priest, he knows he's as good as dead ... only Stephanie isn't about to let that happen. Breaking him out of prison is the easy part ... proving his explosive theory about who was behind not only his teammate's death but derailing a traitor's conspiracy will ultimately decide who is the last man standing.

I love this story for a lot of reasons. First – Joe and Stephanie have been popular secondary characters in the prior BOI books and readers have been eager to have me write their story. So, it's always fun writing when there is a high level of anticipation for a particular character – in this case, two characters. Second, Stephanie is one of the most transformative heroines I've ever written. She's always had this unmet expectation of herself and has felt trapped in a mundane, humdrum existence by both circumstances and her own sense of shortcoming. In *Last Man Standing*, she is forced to rise to her very best self and overcome situations she had never anticipated she could cope with – let alone triumph over.

Stephanie became one of my strongest heroines yet and it was interesting and satisfying seeing her growth. And third – while Joe Green has been a part of this series from the beginning, he had remained an enigma to me until I finally had the opportunity to delve into his history and motivations. I love surprises and this guy gave me plenty :o)

How did you come up with the idea for this story?

Last Man Standing was the natural progression for the end of the series. From book 1 of the Black Ops series, *SHOW NO MERCY*, there has been a question about the circumstances of the death of the heroine's, Stephanie Tompkins, brother. The hero, Joe Green, has always taken his friend's death very hard. I knew that before I wrapped up the series, I had to address that issue ... or I wouldn't be giving my readers everything they deserved. It's really a wonder how it all came to pass ... I had no idea when I wrote that first book, 7 books ago, that plot elements set in play would affect the outcome of this final book. It was very satisfying for me to clear up the mystery.

What's next for you?

I've heard from a lot of fans who don't want the Black Ops

series to end and I'm so grateful for that kind of enthusiasm. But, neither my publisher or I want to run this horse until it drops of exhaustion. That wouldn't be a service to anyone. So, in keeping with the BOI series and the BOI type of heroes, I've developed a spin-off series called: *One-Eyed Jacks* – and so far I'm loving it. Book one stars Mike – Primetime – Brown who we met in *With No Remorse* and will see more of in *Last Man Standing*. I LOVE this guy – he's a combo of the irreverent Johnny Reed (*Whisper No Lies*) and the sweet and funny Luke Colter (*With No Remorse*)

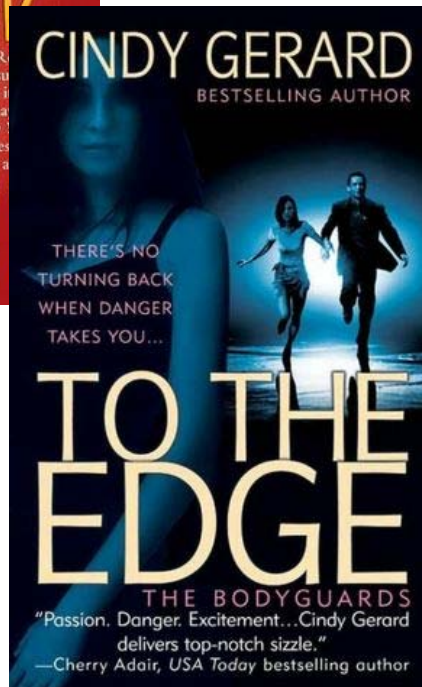
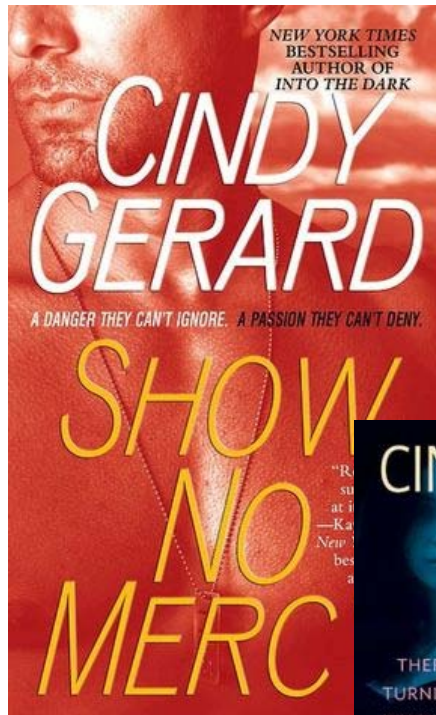
The *One Eyed Jacks* (a multi-branch military task force formed in 2002 and disbanded in 2005) got their nick name because of the uniqueness of their experimental unit, their tight camaraderie, their slightly reckless reputation, their favorite downtime/pastime of high stakes poker and because each of them made a pact to always carry a *One Eyed Jack* playing card (either a Jack of hearts or a Jack of spades) as their lucky charm and a sign of unity.

Today, only three men of the original detail are still alive – Mike Brown, Bobby Taggart, and Jamie Cooper. On their last mission in Afghanistan, all three were dealt a losing hand and now share one common bond: The military that they proudly served had cut them loose eight years ago with a 'less than honorable' discharge when their team led a covert operation that went south and the powers that be laid the blame squarely on their shoulders. To the dismay of the prosecutors of the Navy, Army, and Marines military tribunals, the most serious of charges could not be proven, which negated the

possibility of court martial and prison but still ended in their separation from the service.

Now Brown, Taggart and Cooper lead separate lives in separate countries, have all dropped out of 'normal society' and not only live with the lie that led to their military separation but with the weight of the deaths of both their task force team members and several innocent civilians haunting them.

For these three men, life is now all about getting by, about forgetting the past, dealing with the anger and coping with the hand they've been dealt. None of them intend to break the status quo – until a mysterious woman confronts and forces Brown to ask questions about what really happened in Afghanistan and how those events played into a current



national security threat. She dangles bait Brown can't resist – the means to clear his name, deliver justice and expose the master mind behind the death of his teammates and his own downfall.

Only nothing is ever as simple as it seems. It's going to take the help of Taggart and Cooper (who, like Brown, arrive back in the States kicking and screaming) to track down the man who set them up and has led a terrorism campaign against the United States ever since. The three wronged men with three strong-willed women by their sides, set out on their quests that lead them to foil a gun running network based in a remote survivalist compound in Idaho (Book 1), thwart a terrorist attack on New York City (Book 2) and finally infiltrate a Mexican drug cartel and take down its operation in the Florida Keys and expose and bring down their nemesis (Book 3) before each man finally finds peace, justice and the woman who can complete his life.



Where do you see yourself in five years?

Fans willing, I'll still be writing!

What's your favorite hobby?

I love to read and I love to spend time with family and friends. I also love music.

If you could be one thing besides a writer, what would it be?

Don't laugh. I'd have been a country singer. Seriously :o)

What's one thing most people don't know about you?

That I love to fish and I even bait my own hook :o)

Where is one place you've always wanted to visit? Or if you've already been there, your favorite place to visit.

Last year, I had the honor of being invited to Australia to be a keynote speaker at the Australian Romance Readers Conference. Australia had always been on my list of places I wanted to see but I never figured I would get to go there. Well, I not only went, I also visited New Zealand while I was in the area and made the trip with 6 of my friends. We had the most amazing time!

What made you pick your genre?

This will sound overly dramatic but it was my admiration for the men and women of our military. No, I'm not from a military family, although my father was in the army and my brother-in-laws were all active duty Navy. After 9/11 happened, I watched, as the entire world did, the events that unfolded on an international arena – specifically Iraq and Afghanistan. I found myself in awe of the sacrifices our military personnel and their families made and wondering what they did when they separated from the service. Many had very specialized skills, had faced combat and had (still have) much adjusting to do to get back into the groove of 'normal life'. These are the men I write about. Specifically the ones who continue to serve their country even after separating from the military.

Do you ever combine or switch from this selection?

I used to write category romance for both Bantam's old Loveswept line and for Silhouette Desire. I loved writing straight romance but once I made the transition to Romantic suspense, I've never looked back.

Where can readers find you on the web? Social media sites, blogging, website, etc.

My website: www.cindygerard.com

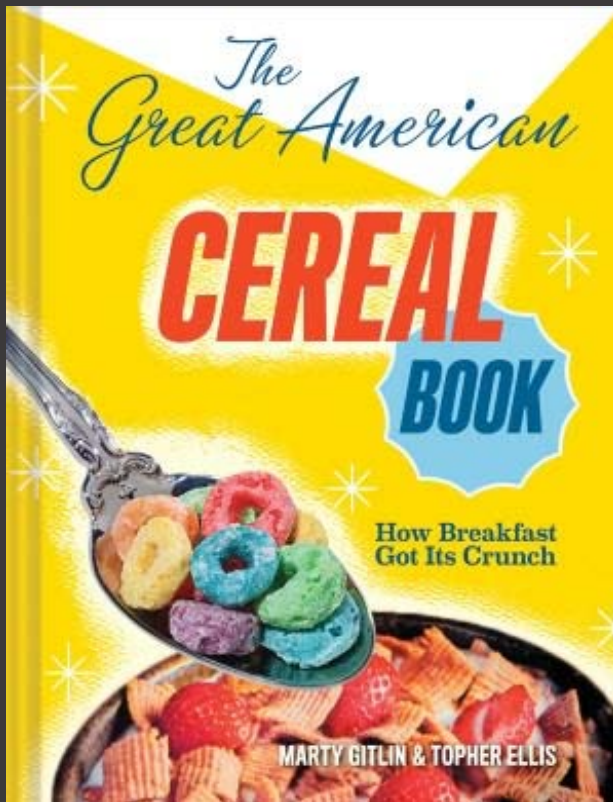
Blog: www.ridingwiththetopdown.wordpress.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cindy-Gerard-New-York-Times-Best-selling-author/167877057439>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/cindygerard>

Do you participate in book signings? If so, do you have a list available to readers?

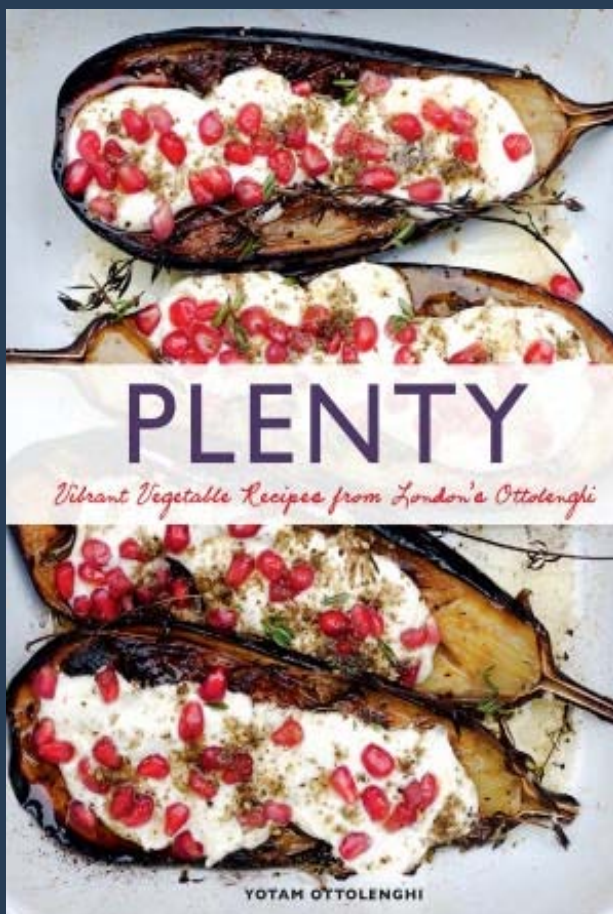
Because I am one of those writers who needs to stay at my desk to keep up with my writing schedule, I do very few books signings. I HOPE to make it to the RT conference in April and RWA national in Anaheim in July but other than that, I'm not on the road signing too much. Sorry :o) Fans can always write to me: Cindy Gerard, PO Box 51, Marengo, Iowa 52301 and I'll happily sign some bookplates and send them to place in their books.



THE GREAT AMERICAN CEREAL BOOK: HOW BREAKFAST GOT ITS CRUNCH

by Martin Gitlin and Topher Ellis

Americans love their breakfast cereal, which is second only to milk and soda in supermarket spending. Cereals and their cartoon spokescharacters are some of the most enduring pop-culture icons of the 20th century. The Great American Cereal Book is the definitive compendium of breakfast cereal history and lore, celebrating the most recognizable brands and packaging, such as Cheerios, Cocoa Puffs, Frosted Flakes, Grape-Nuts, and Trix. Award-winning writer Marty Gitlin and co-author Topher Ellis provide behind-the-scenes stories about the creation of these iconic kitchen-table companions.



PLENTY: VIBRANT RECIPES FROM LONDON'S OTTOLENGHI

by Yotam Ottolenghi

Yotam Ottolenghi is one of the most exciting new talents in the cooking world, with four fabulous, eponymous London restaurants and a weekly newspaper column that's read by foodies all over the world. Plenty is a must-have collection of 120 vegetarian recipes featuring exciting flavors and fresh combinations that will delight readers and eaters looking for a sparkling new take on vegetables. Yotam's food inspiration comes from his Mediterranean background and his unapologetic love of ingredients.



INSIDE THE COOKBOOK WITH PAMELA ROBINSON



QUICK-FIX SOUTHERN

This cookbook begins with a table of contents grouping like foods together. Great start. The acknowledgement and introduction give some insight to how southern women view family and food. I totally agree with this section and I'm so glad the author included it. The next part of the cookbook explains how to care for cast iron and the difference between regular flour and southern flour; I like this cookbook. Practical tips are always welcome to the cookbook reader.

Familiar anecdotes from the author add to the overall southern feel and are a welcome addition. I really like the way the author explains how the recipes may be made different or why they are made the way they are in the south. As I continued to read through this book I found more and more I enjoyed reading. All things southern would have been another great title because everything really is all about the south in this cookbook.

From appetizers to baked goods and everything in between you'll find a great recipe for an old favorite in here. If you haven't tried to make your own cheese grits, do it this month and use this recipe.

One slight downfall of this book is the lack of pictures. Usually I would really slam a cookbook for not having pictures of the finished product, but this one is different. While pictures would have been a good addition, the recipes are so simple that I think all of them can be successfully prepared without a model. The ingredients are all highlighted to find quick and easy. All of the directions to prepare those ingredients are directly below the listed materials. I'm sure the lack of pictures brought down the price of this book and whoever made that decision I applaud you for making this a quality yet affordable cookbook.

The back of this book includes a list of 'sources' where you can

buy some things that may not be readily available, especially if you don't live in the south. I would think this beneficial to some transplants or northerners who are southern cooks at heart!

FEATURED RECIPE - SLOW COOKER BOILED PEANUTS

(this is a road side favorite of mine and I was so glad to get this recipe!)

Makes 18 cups

2 pounds of raw peanuts in the shell
15 cups of warm water
vegetable oil

$\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup of salt
1 tablespoon of

Rinse the peanuts in cold water and discard the dirty water. Transfer peanuts to a 6-quart slow cooker. In a large mixing bowl combine 15 cups of warm water, the salt and the oil. Pour over the peanuts. Put the lid on and cook for 20 hours. You may need to check halfway through to add more water if the lid doesn't fit tightly. Drain peanuts to serve.

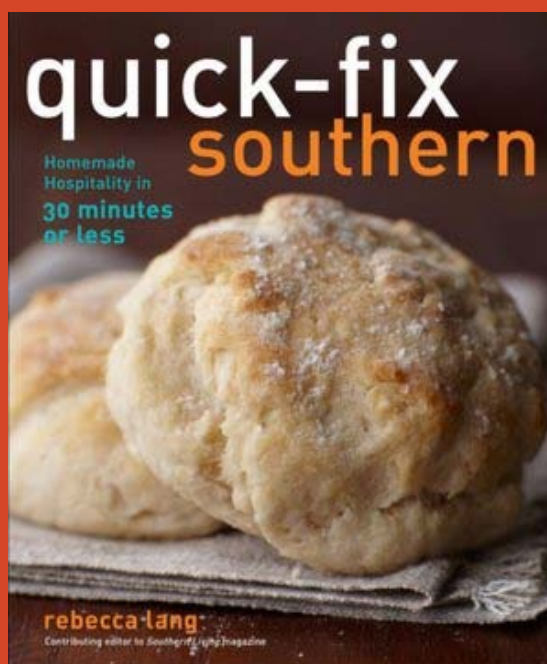
Quick-Fix Southern is a practical, useful cookbook that shows the relationship between southern families and the food they prepare. I would recommend it to any new or seasoned cook looking for fun recipes that aren't so time consuming.

Looking forward: Next month I'll be reviewing a special Martha Stewart cookbook. Get your spatulas ready and let the baking commence...

Amazon Buy Link: <http://www.amazon.com/Quick-Fix-Southern-Homemade-Hospitality-Minutes/dp/1449401104?SubscriptionId=0AV>

WMJKW0VXGA7SW24R2&tag=norbr-20&linkCode=sp1&camp=2025&creative=165953&creativeASIN=1449401104

Pamela
Reviewer/Freelance Writer
www.thefantasticfoodie.wordpress.com



LOVE · AND · ROMANCE IN · COLOR

BY DELANEY DIAMOND

IF LOVING YOU IS WRONG, I DON'T WANT TO BE RIGHT

Chances are you've been thinking about Valentine's Day from at least the first of February. But Valentine's Day became important for a very different reason this year. For couples in interracial relationships, it's the day *The Loving Story* documentary was aired on HBO. It tells the story of Richard and Mildred Loving (what an appropriate last name!), a black woman and a white man, living in Virginia who dared to get married and live together as husband and wife during the 1950's.

At the time, it was illegal for people of different races to marry. They took their fight to the Supreme Court and won, and many today celebrate their achievement

as paving the way for other mixed-race couples to have the right to marry.

The documentary isn't just about the fight, but it gives an intimate look into their lives, exploring their relationship with each other, their children, and those around them. Here's a summary of what happened:

Arrest: June 1958
Charge: Felony
Crime: Interracial Marriage
Case: *Loving v. Virginia*, 1967

Aren't we lucky we no longer live in a society that makes

it a criminal act to marry the person you love, no matter their ethnicity? Today's column is dedicated to romance novel couples made up of black women and white men, just like the Lovings.

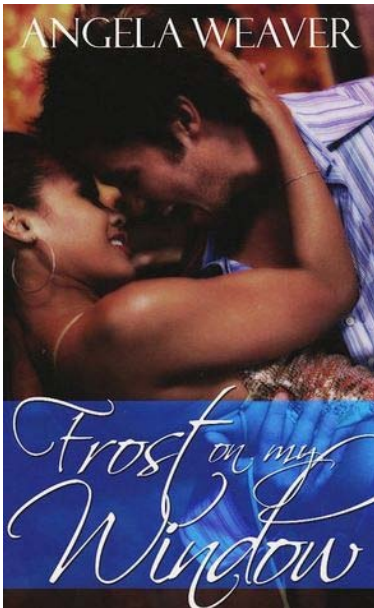
Funny Valentine by Sienna Mynx



Sometimes the sweetest love comes in the most unexpected of packages. That's how it is for Tia Jackson. A successful marketing executive with a large family and overbearing sisters, Tia has always hated the game of courtship. to be valued for

She wants her accomplishments, not her ability to find true love. To keep her sisters from meddling in her personal life, she's invented Mr. Right, several times. But now, her baby sister is poised to get married in a big Valentine's Day wedding, which leaves Tia desperately in need of Mr. Right-Now. So a plan forms: based on lies and deception, she enlists the help of a man she could never find herself attracted to, the opposite of anyone she'd consider dating. But Tia quickly learns what happens when you judge a book by its cover... or when you try to dodge Cupid's arrow.

Special Forces by Erosa Knowles



Maj. Tyson Bradford needed help fast. He enters into a contract marriage with Lynay Grant. The interracial couple is soon targeted by an unknown enemy. In their hatred, they forgot one thing. They messed with his family. And nobody messed with his family, for long.

A Little Less Conversation by Nona Wesley

When her company hosts a Hollywood-themed party, Viola

Howard dresses as her favorite actress. Problem is, nobody seems to know who that is. Just as she's about to give up on a good time, along comes Elvis -- actually Vi's secret crush Jim Byers - who guesses correctly, and shows her exactly who is King. Once the party's over, however, can Vi and Jim go back to a working relationship, or will Jim ask Vi to love him tender?

Forever Came Today by Jayci Kyler

Tabitha Johnson is an outstanding rehabilitation counselor. She conducts seminars all over the United States. Of course she has everything under control,



including her love life. Wrong! While attending a boring seminar, Tabitha meets Christian Corbett, an English gentleman. When Christian reveals he's been following Tabitha she's horrified. Because Christian is smitten, Tabitha wonders if he realizes she's black. Is Christian blind, or simply crazy?

Frost on My Window by Angela Weaver

After graduating from college, Leah Russell picked up and moved across three time zones to avoid her best friend Lance's wedding.

When a promotion has the West Coast sister relocating to New York City, she packs all her belongings and brings along memories of all the shoulda, woulda, coulda her Momma always told her not to think about. Years ago, she should have gone to the wedding, would have shot at the bride, and could have gotten arrested.

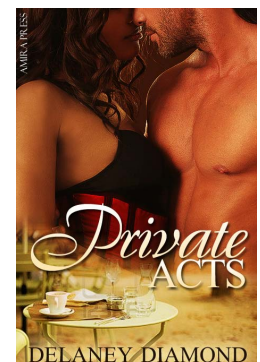
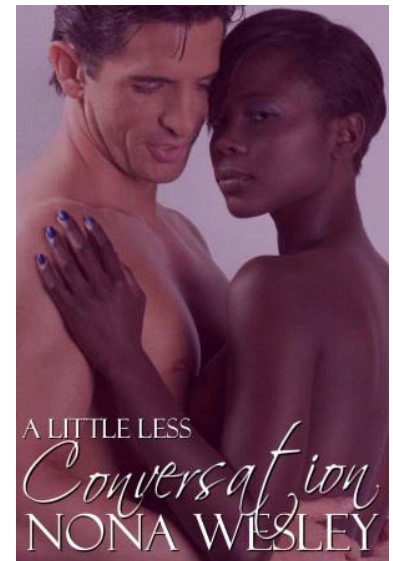
Now as she settles into her new position, the advertising professional is learning that stress isn't just a five-letter word when it comes to career and family. And as her romantic prospects go from zero to sixty, Leah's putting on her running shoes. This time it's not just her first love at her heels; Scottish rock star Sean Andrews isn't far behind in the race for her heart.

The Rancher's Ultimatum by Nikia Foxx

Years after leaving her step-family's ranch to pursue a new life and career, Lynn James is called back to save the property from the crafty yet handsome Jake Ragnall. The feud between the families has yet to die, and Lynn is trapped in the middle, torn between her loyalty to the men who raised her and the man who ignites her desire. Jake Ragnall has loved Lynn for years and uses the opportunity to win her heart. To win her family's ranch, she must spend the week with him. Will his plans to dominate her help to win her love, or push her away for good?

I hope you found something you enjoy, and if you can, take a look at the documentary. For more information about The Loving Story, visit <http://lovingfilm.com>.

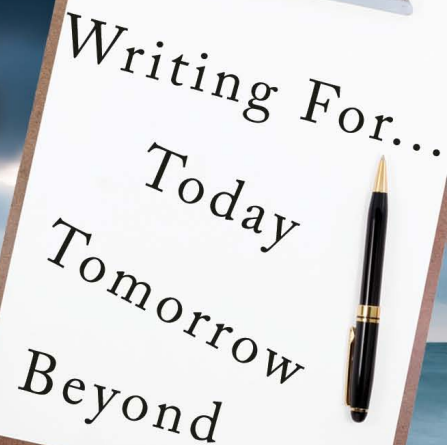
Delaney Diamond is the best-selling author of African-American and interracial romance. Her first release in the Hawthorne Family series, The Temptation of a Good Man, and her first sweet interracial romance, Worth Waiting For, are now available. Enjoy free reads on her website at www.delaneydiamond.com.



A PIECE OF MY MIND

BY BENNET POMERANTZ

ADVICE FOR PEOPLE WHO
WANT TO WRITE!



Writing For...
Today
Tomorrow
Beyond

The Passing of a Friend and Mentor

A man dies . . . only a few circles in the water prove that he was ever there. And even they quickly disappear. And when they're gone, he's forgotten, without a trace, as if he'd never even existed. And that's all. -----WOLFGANG BORCHERT, The Outsider

Death is a natural part of life. Rejoice for those around you who transform into the Force.----YODA, Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith

I hate writing obits. As a writer, I have done a few of them over the years. It's always hard to put into words a friend's final goodbye. I get amazed how those special people can write them in newspapers and make it seem interesting. When you write it, you don't want to seem so morbid that no one wants to read it . . . and yet, you do not want to seem disrespectful towards a person's memory . . . so the tome needs to be respectful to that person and his or her memory.

My friend and mentor Yuri Rasovsky passed away on January 18th, after a long battle with cancer. He worked up to a week before he passed away and on his last audio recording he did DIE, SNOW WHITE! DIE, DAMN YOU! That is his version of Snow White for Blackstone Audio. The production will be released later this year.

His nickname was El Fiendo. When you were his friend (as I was), he would tell you exactly what was right and wrong . . . and he would not pull any punches on how he felt wrong. I had done an AUDIOWORLD Golden Headset column where one of his audios had won. He said "Pomerantz, the grammar sucks! But thanks for the win."

He was a writer, an author (The Well-tempered Audio Dramatist (National Audio Theatre Festivals, 2006), an audio producer and an audiobook director. This year

he was nominated for another Grammy award with Blackstone audio's Mark of Zorro. Note...this column was written before this year's Grammys, so I do not know if he won. However this man won nine Audies. The Audies are the audio industries awards for the best of the year. In his more than 35 year career he also won two George Foster Peabody Awards, five Ohio State awards, four Major Armstrong awards, four Publisher's Weekly Listen Up awards, two Corporations for Public Broadcasting awards, the Independent Publishers' Audio Award, the Gabriel Award, the NFCB Golden Reel, Mark Time Lifetime

Achievement Award, Booklist Editor's Pick and the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America Bradbury Award. His award cabinet must have been large.

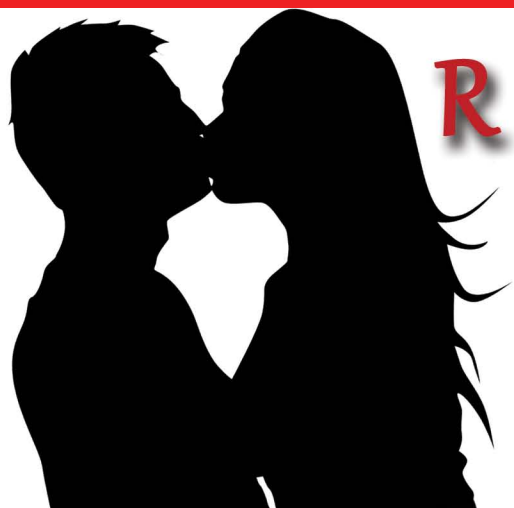
I can say this . . . I have had the opportunity to learn from him, ask him countless questions, get his advice and counsel about my work and

my career path. He once said to me on the radio show High Visibility, which I was co-hosting, "You know you need to find your niche in life and never let it go. It is always good to be a square peg in a round hole. Be glad you don't fit in . . . make it your life's calling." It is the wisest advice on writing anyone had ever given to me. If that is all I remember from this man, this is would be good enough!

Well I hope I have done Mr. Rasovsky's memory justice. He was a great man with a great sense of wit. I loved him as a friend. I enjoyed him as a talent. I respected his wisdom as sagely. Gawd I wish he was still here now! Good night, my friend. You are a talent that will be missed by many.

If you will excuse me for being short this month, I am going to listen to a few of Yuri's audio productions tonight Until next time, keep reaching for the stars

"You know you need to find your niche in life and never let it go. It is always good to be a square peg in a round hole." Yuri Rasovsky



ROMANCE WITH LOUISA BACIO

It's getting hot in here...

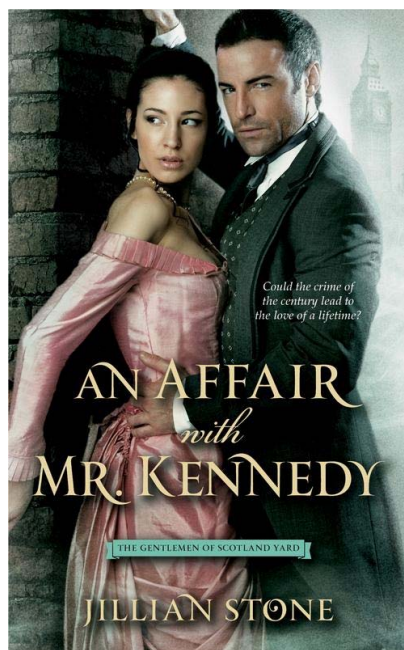
What's Love Got to Do With It?

February marks a year that I've been writing this column, and what a year it's been. Do you ever pass the time reflecting upon the books you've read? Many associate a special event or moment with song. Our wedding song was "I Will Love You By Fisher." With books, I often read by the season, or vacation. Over the winter holidays, I stored upon books like I was hibernating. During busy times, the spare time to read grows dry and I grow even more selective.

Shockingly, I sidestepped the new Stephen King novel – albeit not romance – for the latest Harry Bosch mystery *The Drop* by Michael Connelly. (This book does contain a romantic secondary storyline.) One must also choose wisely with some electronic releases of best-selling writers now reaching levels of \$14.99.

This month features a writer who's just breaking out – in style. If you haven't heard the name Jillian Stone yet, you will. The crafty author of *An Affair with Mr. Kennedy* won the RWA Golden Heart in 2010, and quickly signed two three-book contracts. I met Jill a few weeks before her win, and it's fabulous to see this first release come out.

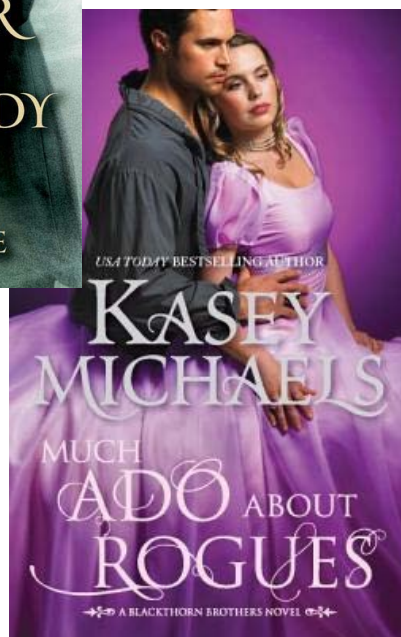
Jillian Stone: *An Affair with Mr. Kennedy*
The Gentlemen of Scotland Yard
Pocket Books



Stone infuses a Steampunk flair in this frolicking romantic suspense. While the lead detective, Zeno Kennedy possesses a keen mind, and tight tush, Cassandra St. Cloud is anything but a weeping widow. Cassie stands on the edge of the women's suffrage movement, with some "distressing" ideas about a woman living on her own, being allowed to wear pants while horseback riding and—gasp—smoking! She's a relatable and likeable modern heroine, and Stone's unique writing voice catapults the reader into another world of mystery, history and more than a bit of mayhem.

London, 1887. Part stoic gentleman, part fearless Yard man, Zeno "Zak" Kennedy is an enigma of the

first order. For years, the memory of a deadly bombing at King's Cross has haunted the brilliant Scotland Yard detective. His investigation has zeroed in on a ring of aristocratic rebels whose bloody campaign for Irish revolution is terrorizing the city. When he discovers one of the treacherous lords is acquainted with his free-spirited new tenant, Cassandra St. Cloud, his inquiry pulls him unexpectedly close to the heart of the conspiracy—and into the arms of a most



intriguing lady.

Cassie is no Victorian prude. An impressionist painter with very modern ideas about life and love, she is eager for a romantic escapade that is daring and discreet. She

sets her sights on her dour but handsome landlord, but after she learns their meeting was not purely accidental, she hardly has a chance to forgive her lover before their passionate affair catapults them both into a perilous adventure.

Kasey Michaels: Much Ado About Rogues
HQN Books

The final book in the Blackthorn Brothers series, *Much Ado About Rogues* wraps up with Don John "Black Jack" Blackthorn. Jack believes he knows everything about his illicit life. The "dark sheep" in a family of bastards, the man who raised him treats Jack as a true son, but Jack carries a heavy heart of the undeserving. As a utensil of a secret government agency, Jack and his partners carry out missions that go without notice. When his mentor goes missing, Jack must face and join forces with his one true love, Lady Tess Fonteneau.

Unlike the play on her name, Tess has lived a life anything but fortunate. With her father AWOL and the household coffer run dry, Tess doesn't have many options. She's another forward-thinking heroine for her time, who spent her life proving that she could do anything as well and better than her twin brother. While his skills leaned toward writing poetry, she favored the art of espionage.

In order to unravel the mysteries of their own histories, though, Tess and Jack will need to forgive the transgressions of their past, face some darkness that they'd rather remain buried and learn to truly trust one another ... again.

Much Ado About Rogues takes many a twist with the storyline, and keeps the reader engaged. Now I'd like to read the first two books in the series.

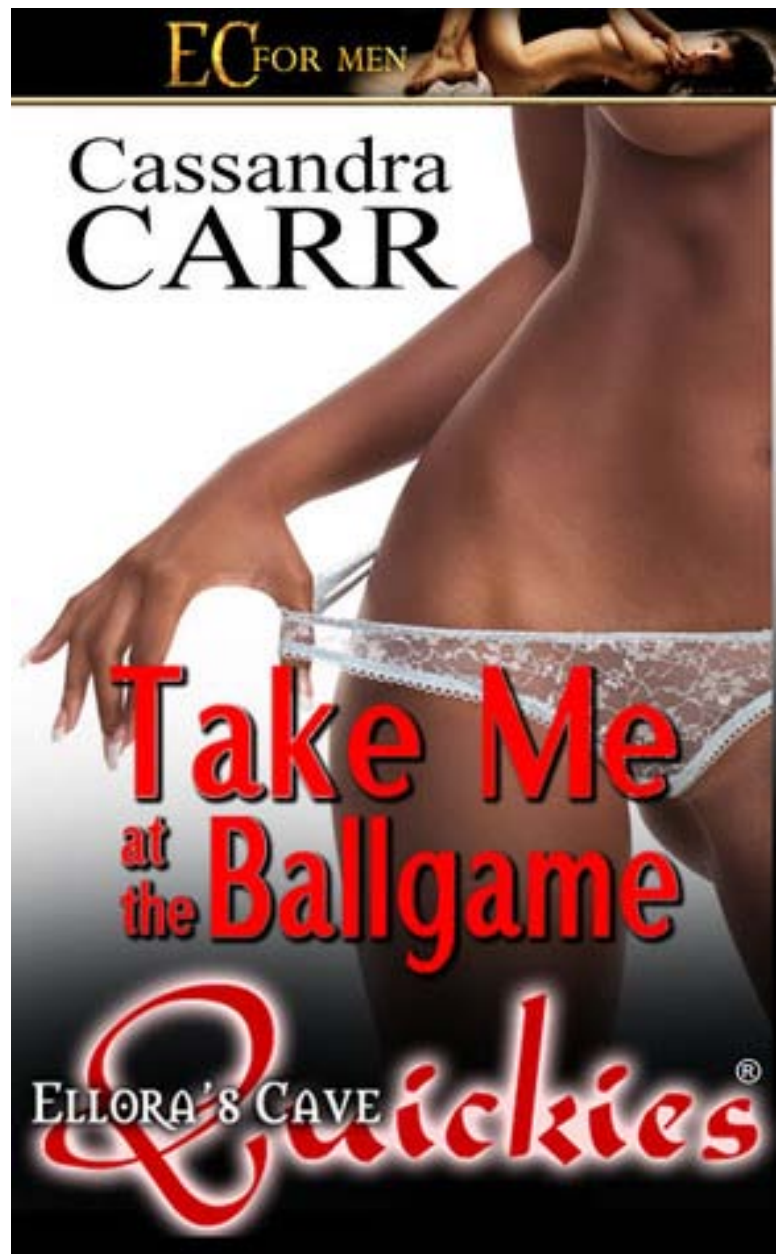
Cassandra Carr: Take Me at the Ballgame
EC for Men

Saucy. Spicy. Sexy. Cassandra Carr helps kick off the new erotic line from Ellora's Cave, EC for Men. One may wonder what a man would want in his erotic romance, and if *Take Me at the Ballgame* is any indication, well, a woman willing to go down on a man simply for the pure pleasure of the act, and absolute no-strings-attached sex.

JT Lovejoy is stuck in a rut. Divorced, he's a sports reporter who hasn't hit the big time, and he seems to have lost his passion for most everything. When the hot intern who's half his age starts flirting with him, JT can hardly believe his luck. When she unzips his pants, and offers a little free action, he discovers a new sense of vigor.

Does the storyline seem a bit over-the-top? It's not a reflection of Carr's superb writing style. She captures the fantasy quite well, and keeps upping the action, while

wrapping JT in a web of real-life insecurities. For a man who supposedly would only want a quick release in the press box, JT becomes wrapped up into wanting more.



While EC for Men is definitely targeted toward the non-traditional romance sex, this first fare sampled also offers a "quickie" treat for women. The novella runs \$1.99.

Louisa Bacio
Love Knows No Bounds

Bacio recently released the m/m erotic paranormal *The Vampire & The Werewolf: A New Orleans Christmas*, which is available via Amazon, Ravenous Romance, and other e-retailers. For more information, visit www.louisabacio.com.



Free Books | Paid Books | Borrowed Books

So, you have a shiny new tablet or e-reader and now it's time to load it up with all you favorite authors. One of the fantastic features about an e-book is just how small the actual e-book file is. Because an e-book file on average is less than 1mb, a user can fit a ton of content on a device and carry virtually their entire library in the palm of their hand. Personally I own over 2000 e-books that sit pleasantly on my iPod touch and iPad, just waiting for my reading pleasure.

So you are probably wondering how I amassed such a huge library. Some of my books are free books found on the web, some are a bargain hunters treasures and the rest are a combination of review copies and prior purchased books from various e-retailers prior to the pricing change that happened in April of 2011. What has been dubbed and referred to as the "Agency Five Pricing", by some on the Net, has put a slight damper on finding e-books at a discount. Prior to the change, e-book pricing was very competitive and sales incentives were a thing of the norm. Since e-book prices are now set by the publisher, instead of the retailer, finding bargains is a little chancier.

We all know we like a bargain and free are even better. So where can a reader get their hands on some choice e-books at a bargain or free retailer? There are a number of sites dedicated to feeding your reading cravings.

Among the sites dedicated to informing readers of free books on the web is inkmesh.com. Inkmesh provides a feed of free e-books available for the top branded e-readers and e-reading apps, including the nook, the Kindle and the Sony Reader. The site offers search features by category, device, title, and author. It also allows a user to compare prices. The site features a blog and twitter/ Facebook social networking access.

For those that like the flavor offered by the independent publisher, www.tor.com has some get selections of Science Fiction and Fantasy. While the publications are not free, they are considerable lower than other print houses. Project

Gutenberg is another excellent source for free e-books on the web. Note some of their selections are also available at the public library.

If you love Google, then Google Books may be your source for free e-books on the web. Not to be outdone, there are even free selections available at Amazon's Kindle Store as well as at Barnes and Noble (www.BN.com).

Although you may have to refine your search by price, there are some worthwhile selections to be found.

If you are looking to just read free books from the web, but not outright own them then another great site is your local public library. Most of the larger public library networks use the Overdrive e-book Content Management System to deliver downloadable e-books to their patrons. Recently Kindle formatted e-books have been arriving at the library as well. Unlike in the past, the library is coming of age and is now offering bestsellers in e-book format as well as the classics.

There are also a number of e-book rental e-retailers available that offer unlimited e-book rentals for a monthly rental fee or free of charge. Some of them include www.ebookfling.com. While I have not used this site, it states that you can "fling an e-book to others and catch the eBook of your choice - all for free." I might have to check that out! Capitalizing on the ever growing popularity of portable devices, Amazon also

offers its own version of e-book rentals through its Kindle Owners' Lending Library. The lending library lets Amazon Prime subscribers check out one book at a time in one month increments. Note that the 6 largest U. S. Publishers do not participate in Amazon's Kindle Lending Library.

The last sources that I would like to showcase are the e-book retailers and review sites that you may have already visited or heard mentioned; www.BooksonBoard.com, www.fictionwisse.com, www.allRomnce.com, www.ellorascave.com to name a few. These e-Retailers periodically offer free full length novels as well as novellas, sponsor contests and blog giveaways. Review sites like www.nightowlreviews.com and

Inkmesh

TOR.COM



OverDrive

fictionwise

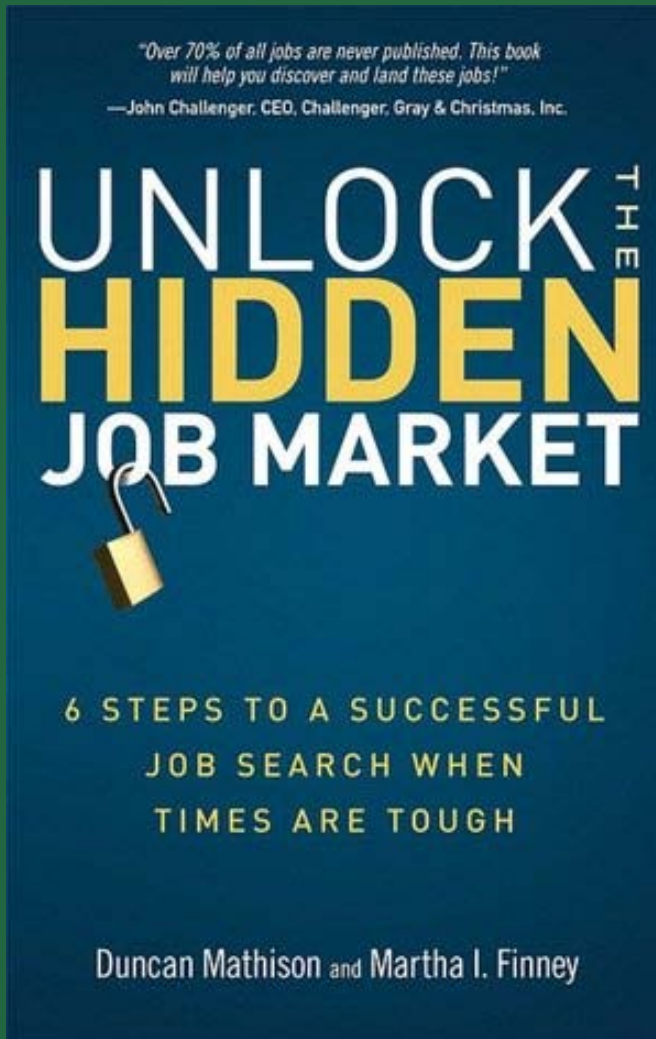
www.dearAuthor.com also sponsor contests and giveaways and provide a wealth of information about upcoming new releases. Stay abreast of what is happening within the publishing industry by subscribing to their newsletters and follow them on Twitter/Facebook.

Well, I know I have probably left out a few other great sources for free e-books on the web, but the list above will most certainly get you revved and ready to find your next great read.

I currently own a classic nook wifi-3G, an iPod Touch 4th Gen and an iPad wifi-3G. You would probably ask why so many,

the nook is more for indoor reading for me, while the iPod touch is that on the go reading in line at the bank, waiting for a movie to start etc and the iPad is used for long term review reading and annotating. I still purchase my favorite authors in Imprint books, but my library has grown exponentially since I have embraced the eBook technology.

Novel Technology "E-books and Technology Made Simple"
next month's article
"Getting the 411 on New Releases"



Unlock the Hidden Job Market: 6 Steps to a Successful Job Search When Times Are Tough

by Duncan Mathison and Martha I. Finney

More than 70% of today's job opportunities come through the "hidden job market": they're never advertised, assigned to search firms or internal recruiters, or displayed at job fairs. What's more, as employers cut recruiting costs, the proportion of "hidden" job opportunities is actually growing. And, since most jobseekers know practically nothing about it, those who do understand it have a powerful inside advantage. Now,

two career experts reveal the hidden job market, and show how to use it to dramatically improve your chances of landing a job that fits your passions and skills perfectly. Duncan Mathison and best-selling author Martha Finney help you launch a custom, personal job search that avoids competing with thousands of desperate, laid-off job seekers.