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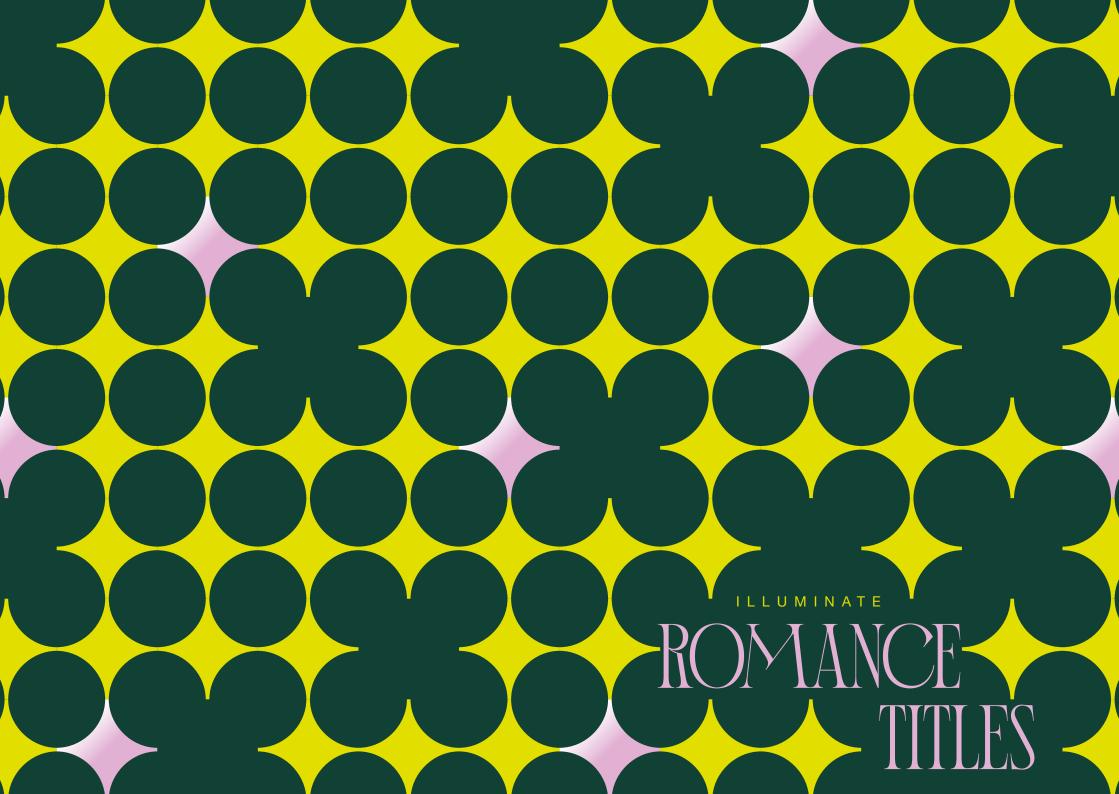
CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE
HISTORICAL ROMANCE
DIGITAL FIRST

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

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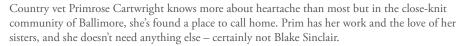
SUNSHINE THROUGH THE RAIN

PENELOPE JANU

For readers of Karly Lane, Fleur McDonald, Maya Linnell and Rachael Johns - a heartfelt and fresh rural romance about trust, hope and finding your place in life from an award winning and much loved author.

Manuscript available

December 2023 | 368pp | 234 x 153 mm Paperback | ISBN: 9781867270928



The new vet in town, Scotsman Blake has a love-them-and-leave-them reputation. He is curiously protective of Prim, but his privileged upbringing and jet-set life are nothing like her own. Prim has tried – and failed – at the dating game. Even if there's a burning attraction between them, the last man she could ever trust is Blake.

Blake finds Prim fiercely independent, vulnerable, and unlike any other woman he has ever known. But Prim won't tell him her secrets unless he tells her his own, and Blake's pain is buried deep.

Will Prim's determination to unravel the mystery that threatens her career bring Prim and Blake together or tear them apart? As the storm clouds gather, can Prim and Blake confront their painful pasts and create a future together? Will they find the sunshine through the rain?

ALSO BY PENELOPE JANU









Penelope Janu lives on the coast in northern Sydney with six wonderful children and a distracting husband. A lawyer for many years, she has a passion for social justice, and the natural environment.

Rights Held: World English and translation

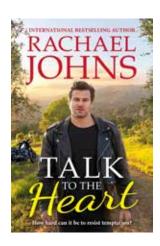
CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

TALK TO THE HEART RACHAEL JOHNS

How hard can it be to resist temptation?

Manuscript available

November 2023 | 432pp | 234 x 153 mm Paperback | ISBN: 9781867220251



Adeline Walsh never thought she would give up her worldly possessions – her iPhone, her make-up and even her successful life as a dog breeder – to join a convent on the other side of the country. But after the discovery of a shocking family secret she feels called to a life of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Life at the Smallton convent is nothing like Adeline expected. The other sisters quickly become like family and Adeline feels like she's found her place in the world. Until she meets Holden Campbell, a man as tempting as the devil himself.

Due to a devastating accident in his past, Holden is not interested in any relationship or even a friendship with Adeline, but when their dogs keep bringing them together, he reluctantly accepts her help to organise a charity event. An accidental kiss tests both their resolves, but they are determined to fight the attraction raging between them.

Holden doesn't believe in love and Adeline isn't going to risk everything she's just found. Can they resist each other while continuing to work on a cause they both passionately believe in?

An emotional and uplifting story about overcoming your past from bestselling author Rachael Johns.

ALSO IN THE SERIES











Rachael Johns, an English teacher by trade and a mum 24/7, is the bestselling ABIA-winning author of The Patterson Girls and a number of other romance and women's fiction books including The Art of Keeping Secrets, The Greatest Gift and Lost Without You. She is currently Australia's leading writer of contemporary relationship stories around women's issues, a genre she has coined 'life-lit'. Rachael lives in the Perth hills with her hyperactive husband, three mostly gorgeous heroes-in-training and a very badly behaved dog. She rarely sleeps and never irons.

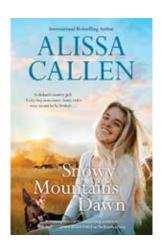
SNOWY MOUNTAINS DAWN

ALISSA CALLEN

A diehard country girl. A city-boy newcomer. Some rules were meant to be broken ... Opposites attract in this delightful rural romance, set in charming small-town Bundilla.

Manuscript available November 2023

February 2024 | 432pp | 234 x 153 mm Paperback | ISBN: 9781867215875



Horsewoman Brenna Lancaster has no time for relationships. Unless a man looks good on a horse and lets her call the shots, she isn't interested. She'd rather wear a dress and heels than give someone else power over her life.

Finance guru Wyatt Killian is a self-made man who has left the train wreck of his childhood behind. There is zero room in his workaholic world for downtime and distractions, let alone emotions or country girls.

When Wyatt's corporate horse-riding retreat is led by a woman determined to unplug him from his urban life, it isn't just his laser focus that becomes compromised. Being in a saddle unlocks a part of himself that he'd long ago discarded. In a rare moment of nostalgia, he prolongs his stay in the high country.

After Brenna becomes mired in a family secret that involves a historic feud and bushrangers, she has no choice but to involve Wyatt in the search for answers. But as Wyatt's past collides with his future, and the only home Brenna has known comes under threat, both must decide what they need to let go of and what is worth fighting for.

PRAISE FOR ALISSA CALLEN:

'Snowy Mountains Promise is a delightfully charming rural story about love and healing. If you love rural romance, electrifying chemistry and page-turning prose, this is the book for you.' – Better Reading

ALSO BY ALISSA CALLEN







Alissa Callen is a country girl happiest living far from the city fringe. She draws inspiration from the countryside around her and from the resilience of local bush communities. Once a teacher and a counsellor, she remains interested in the life journeys that people take. Alissa lives with her family on a small slice of rural Australia in NSW.

Rights Held: World English and translation

CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

THE LAWSON LEGACY JANET GOVER

Beloved key characters from *The Lawson Sisters* return in a standalone rural romance about motherhood, family traditions and having the courage to chart a new future. A new novel from an internationally award-winning romance author.

Manuscript available

January 2024 | 400pp | 234 x 153 mm Paperback | ISBN: 9781867230069



Kayla Lawson believes nothing is good unless it's perfect. This search for perfection has made her a successful high-end wedding planner. But all that comes crashing down when Kayla discovers she is pregnant. She retreats to the sanctuary of Willowbrook Stud to consider this imperfect future as a single mother.

Connor Knight has never known perfection. A kid from the wrong side of the tracks and a motorcycle gang member, he's no stranger to trouble with the law. But he's trying to leave that past behind. By giving a run-down pub in Scone a new lease on life, he's hoping to rebuild his own.

At Willowbrook, Kayla is reunited with her childhood best friend. Jen and her two kids have come to stay while her husband is awaiting trial for a crime he didn't commit. While struggling to decide her future, Kayla is suddenly exposed to what motherhood really looks like.

When she meets Connor there's instant chemistry between them that can't be denied. But with her plans in tatters around her, is there any way to make the pieces fit? Or are the obstacles in front of them insurmountable?

ALSO BY JANET GOVER:



Janet Gover grew up in outback Australia, surrounded by wide open spaces, horses ... and many, many books. When her cat lets her actually sit in her chair, she writes stories of strong women, rural communities and falling in love. Her novel *Little Girl Lost* won the Epic Romantic Novel of the Year Award presented by the Romantic Novelists' Association in the UK, and she has won or been shortlisted for awards in Australia and the USA. The author of 15 published novels, Janet divides her time between West London and Australia.

OSPREY REEF

ANNIE SEATON

Love. Greed. Revenge. And a desperate search for answers ... Against the stunning backdrop of the Great Barrier Reef, two women in different eras discover how their hearts and fortunes are swayed by the secrets of the sea.

Manuscript available

352pp | 234x153mm Paperback | ISBN 9781489277800



2019: Bethany Kristensen faces her toughest challenge to date, skippering the family charter business. With rivals doing their utmost to undercut her prices and reputation, the Kristensens' operation hangs by a thread. Winning the tender for a new scientific research program headed out to the farthest edge of the reef is her last chance to keep the business going. But when rumour and vandalism turn to outright sabotage, things take a drastic turn...

1934: Stella Booth flees a future of domestic drudgery in small-town outback Queensland, heading for employment and an independent life in Mackay. But fate has other plans and an accident en route sends her life spinning in a most unexpected direction...

Linked by a family mystery, decades apart, Bethany and Stella will both need to dig deeper than ever before to forge their place among the turbulent seas of the reef.

PRAISE FOR ANNIE SEATON:

'Timely, well paced and beautifully written' - Starts at 60

"The author seamlessly weaves an intriguing and suspenseful mystery" - Good Reads and Tea leaves

Annie Seaton lives near the beach on the mid-north coast of New South Wales. Her career and studies have spanned the education sector for most of her working life, including a Masters Degree in Education, and working as an academic research librarian, a high school principal and a university tutor until she took early retirement and fulfilled a lifelong dream of a full-time writing career. Since 2014 Annie has been voted Author of the Year (2014) and Best Established Author (2015 and 2017) in the AusRom Today.com Reader's Choice Awards. In 2018 Whitsunday Dawn was voted Book of the Year by AusRom readers, and also finalled in the ARRA Romantic Suspense book of the year awards.

Rights Held: World English and translation

GUM TREE GULLY

MANDY MAGRO

Bestselling Australian romance author Mandy Magro tells a heartwarming story of homecoming and love against all the odds ...

Manuscript available

October 2023 | 320pp | 234 x 153 mm Paperback | ISBN: 9781867264613



Would you give up everything for love?

Samantha Evans may have been born and bred in the country, but over the years she has adapted to, and loves, her big-city life in London. She's reached heights of success in her business that she'd never dreamed of achieving back in Australia. When her best friend's wedding forces her to return to her beautiful Queensland hometown of Gum Tree Gully, fate reminds Sammie about everything, and everyone, she left behind, including her childhood sweetheart, Connor Stone. Now a handsome and kind cattle farmer, he harbours a tragic secret he can't share with anyone. That is, until Sammie comes back to town.

Samantha soon learns her country blood runs much deeper than she allowed herself to believe, so too do the intense feelings she's carried for Connor all these years. But her life is overseas now, while his is in Gum Tree Gully. Living on opposite sides of the world, with oceans and long-held secrets standing between them, is there any hope for their love to prevail?

PRAISE FOR MANDY MAGRO:

'A deliciously blissful romance that will have you hooked from beginning to end.' – *Better Reading* 'Mandy Magro is a novelist who continues to go from strength to strength and *Home Sweet Home* is another earnest story from this big-hearted storyteller.' – *Mrs B's Book Reviews*

ALSO BY MANDY MAGRO













Mandy Magro lives in Cairns, Far North Queensland, with her daughter, Chloe Rose, and their adorable toy poodle, Sophie. With pristine aqua-blue coastline in one direction and sweeping rural landscapes in the other, she describes her home as heaven on earth. A passionate woman and a romantic at heart, Mandy loves writing about soul-deep love, the Australian rural way of life, and the wonderful characters who call the country home.

MYSTIC RIDGE

LUCY LEVER

Sparkling rural romance meets quirky rom-com in this delightful debut story of love, magic and fighting for home.

Manuscript available

July 2023 | 452pp | 234x153mm Paperback | 9781867254140



Is love on the cards?

Reading the tarot is in Claire's blood. It's a gift she inherited from her late mother. But her genius in helping others discover their path fails her when it comes to finding her own, especially once she learns of plans to bulldoze her carefully regenerated rainforest home and build a high-end wellness centre. She vows to rally her small community and save Mystic Ridge, although she has no idea where to start ...

Perhaps her first port of call should be the local newspaper, but after a fake-dating misadventure with the new editor, Leo, rising tensions – and chemistry – get in the way. Meanwhile, her old love, soapie actor Jake, promises to help protect her home. Yet Claire suspects his loyalties lie elsewhere, and she doesn't know who to trust anymore.

Will Claire find the courage to fight for the rainforest, her family and her chance at love?

With a colourful ensemble of small-town characters, and a dash of ghostly intervention, Mystic Ridge offers surprises at every turn.

PRAISE:

'A funny and fascinating community, a quirky love story and a landscape I didn't want to leave...'
Penelope Janu, author of *Shelter from the Storm*

'Playful and cliche-busting. It rips along.' Jo Riccioni, author of *The Branded*

Lucy Lever is a former social worker who lives in the bush on Sydney's coastal fringe with her husband. Lucy makes frequent visits to family on the NSW north coast, where she found the inspiration for her first novel, a rural rom com set in an alternative small community. Lucy has published a short story in *Tracks* surfing magazine and has been included in several literary anthologies, such as the *Art and Words* project on Sydney's northern beaches. She has written features for magazines *Sydney's Child, Mother* and *Baby* and industry publication *The Professional*. She has also contributed to online daily news service Workplace Express.

Rights Held: World English and translation

CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

HOME TO ECHIDNA LANE EVA SCOTT

With Eva Scott's trademark warmth and wit comes a rural rom-com about friendship, family, failure and finding the place you truly belong.

Manuscript available

August 2023 | 384pp | 234x153mm Paperback | 9781867271161



It's been thirteen years since Lacey Kane escaped the small town of Whitton for the big city, and life couldn't be better. Or so she thought. When her seemingly perfect life is exposed in the worst way, on live television no less, she suddenly finds herself facing her worst nightmare: returning to her parent's home on Echidna Lane in the small Tasmanian town of her childhood.

It's a decision she's willing to make for the sake of her two young sons, but there's a reason she hasn't been back for the last decade. Except that the longer she spends on Echidna Lane, the less clear those reasons are becoming. Is small town life really as bad as her teenage-self thought? Or is she merely being swayed by the handsome owner of the neighbouring walnut farm and his gorgeous daughter?

Shane Morrisey has had a crush on Lacey Kane for as long as he can remember. After the death of his wife, it became a way of protecting his heart from ever getting hurt like that again. After all, who could be more unattainable than the beautiful, charismatic woman who hasn't stepped foot in Whitton since university. Except now she is back, as beautiful as ever, and suddenly not so out of reach. But Shane's place is on Echidna Lane, and he has no plans on uprooting himself or his daughter. And Lacey doesn't seem to have any plans to stay ...

Eva Scott is the bestselling author of rural romcoms such as *Lonely in Longreach* and *Meet Me in Bendigo*. A lifelong storyteller, she lived in Britain and Papua New Guinea before coming home to Australia to train as a cultural anthropologist. She now lives in rural Tasmania, amongst vineyards and orchards, with her husband and son, two cats and a cocker spaniel.

If you'd like to know more about Eva, her books, or to connect with her online, you can visit her website: evascottwriter.com

A HOME AMONG THE SNOW GUMS

STELLA QUINN

The road to love is a rutted dirt track for the other vet from Snowy River ... An unmissable, funny, feel-good romance.

Manuscript available

May 2023 | 400pp | 234x153mm Paperback | 9781867255697



Hannah Cody grew up sunny, carefree and loved in the Snowy Mountains town of Hanrahan, but a vicious prank at university in Sydney changed that. Instead of studying medicine, she moved to a small regional centre, switched to veterinary science and swore off romance for life. Ten quiet years later, she's settled. She's safe. And yeah, she hasn't left Hanrahan in years, but that's not agoraphobia, is it? It's not hiding if you're happy.

After many years abroad as a naval analyst, Tom Krauss is drawn home by his estranged father's deteriorating health and his own secret injury. But as soon as he sets eyes on Hannah again, he realises that he's never forgotten the engaging little sister of his best friend. He loved her when he was a teenager, and now he knows he never stopped. Problem: romance is a no-go. There's a piece of shrapnel wedged against his spine, and the countdown is on for him to make a surgical decision that could free him from pain ... or paralyse him.

But the Hanrahan townsfolk have other ideas: it's time for Hannah to work out that living with your heart wide open is worth the risk, and it's time for Tom to learn that love is messy and wonderful and necessary. Change is afoot in this small town, and these two will have to work out if they can be brave enough to make changes too ...

PRAISE FOR STELLA QUINN:

'A Town Like Clarence captivated me completely with its easy charm, true-blue Aussie setting and delightful cast ... a book that filled my heart with immense happiness.' – Mrs B's Book Reviews

ALSO BY STELLA QUINN





Stella Quinn has had a love affair with books since she first discovered the alphabet. She lives in sunny Queensland now, but has lived in England, Hong Kong and Papua New Guinea. Boarding school in a Queensland country town left Stella with a love of small towns and heritage buildings (and a fear of chenille bedspreads and meatloaf!) and that is why she loves writing rural romance. An active member of Romance Writers of Australia, Stella has won their Emerald, Sapphire and Valerie Parv Awards, and finaled in their R*BY Romantic Book of the Year award.

Rights Held: World English and translation

THE PROMISE OF HOME NICOLA MARSH

This dyed-in-the-wool country girl will do anything to protect the home she loves ... A fast-paced, heartwarming rural romance from a *USA Today* bestselling author.

Manuscript available

September 2022 | 400pp | 234x153mm Paperback | ISBN 9781867225416



Entrusted to run her grandfather's real estate business, Karlana Vogel's determined to make it thrive. Pop raised her in small-town Acacia Haven after her parents died, so the family legacy is her pride and joy. When the competition, a cocky city mogul, breezes into town with a deal to take over, she's incensed.

Hudson Grenville came from less than nothing and has worked nonstop to turn it all around. But he's only a hard-nosed salesman on the outside-buying the Vogels' agency is the lynchpin he needs to make his housing project for homeless kids work. Unless he's willing to let down all those counting on him, he has no choice but to stick around town and try to persuade Karly to sell.

Despite being on opposite sides of the boardroom, the deal is complicated by the chemistry that keeps bringing them back to the table. Both parties will have to assess what they want out of life. And what they're willing to give up ...

ALSO BY NICOLA MARSH







USA Today bestselling and multi-award winning author Nicola Marsh writes feel-good fiction ... with a twist. She has published seventy books and sold over eight million copies worldwide. She currently writes rural romance for HarperCollins Australia, emotional domestic suspense for Bookouture and contemporary romance for Harlequin Dare. A physiotherapist for thirteen years, she now writes full time, raises two dashing young heroes, and shares fine food with family and friends.

THE VET'S COUNTRY HOLIDAY

LILY MALONE

One irrepressible city girl plus a by-thenumbers accountant = a tricky equation ...

Manuscript available

April 2022 | 352pp | 234x153mm Paperback | ISBN 9781867223931



For city vet Isabella Passmore, the opportunity to pet-sit in the country knocks at the perfect time. Bring on that fresh air! But after three days of holiday bliss, Izzy is bored silly. If the air gets any cleaner, she'll start slinging mud. Then she gets offered work in the second-hand shop. Saved! Maybe.

It's been years since Elliot Field's parents rolled out the red carpet, but Elliot only needs one day to learn that this welcome mat comes with strings. His parents' new business is sinking, and they expect him to fix their financial problems.

To prepare for the week from hell, he'll need a mug that's not steeped in bad memories, but nothing could prepare him for the employee he encounters at the second-hand shop.

For Izzy, pursuing Elliot is a most welcome diversion from walking another lap of town with the dog. For Elliot, their random encounters add up to the sum of much bigger things.

He's always been a numbers man and he's kept his heart locked away, but in irrepressible Izzy, is Elliot's number finally up?

ALSO BY LILY MALONE







Lily Malone trained as a journalist and worked in newspapers before becoming editor of Australia's largest wine industry trade publisher. After the birth of her two boys, she discovered writing romantic stories set in Australia's vineyards was much more fun than writing about diseases of grapevines or the latest French clone. Lily is based in Cowaramup, Western Australia.

Rights Held: World English and translation

CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

SINCE WE LAST MET BRONWYN SELL

Five years ago, Carmen and Bruno spent the night together. Their daughter, Mika, was born nine months later ... but Bruno doesn't know she exists. Can the couple find each other, and the truth, in a tropical island paradise? A sparkling romance for readers of Alissa Callen and Penelope Janu.

Manuscript available

January 2022 | 352pp | 234x153mm Paperback | ISBN 9781489284181



Single mum Carmen Lowery's life might be annoyingly imperfect, but at least it's orderly and predictable. Until a tall, dark, handsome stranger mysteriously arrives at her family's Whitsundays resort island – and turns out to be not quite a stranger after all.

American special ops pilot Bruno Michel fell off Carmen's radar five years ago after they shared the wildest night of her otherwise strait-laced life. The self-confessed fly-by-nighter when it comes to love is delighted to be temporarily reunited with his uninhibited dream woman, but there's something he doesn't know. Their liaison came with a consequence – a little girl who has his eyes.

Carmen and Bruno pick up where they left off, but the legacy of their liaison runs deep – and Bruno is hiding his own not-so-white lie about that night.

Before he ships out, and Carmen's happy-family fantasy drifts away on the tradewinds, they must decide whether their unexpected bond can survive life-changing secrets, meddlesome relatives, and a heartbreaking vow made decades before.

PRAISE FOR BRONWYN SELL

'Bronwyn Sell takes readers on a roller-coaster of emotions. You'll laugh, you'll cry, then laugh again.' – bestselling Australian author Rachael Johns

ALSO BY BRONWYN SELL



Bronwyn Sell is many things – bestselling author, award-winning journalist, yogi, theatre nerd, karaoke hustler, soccer mum, lover of wines in the sun, perpetually terrified taker of creative risks – but at heart she's an eternal romantic and optimist who is happiest playing with words and imaginary friends. She is proud to share her study with a coveted RITA statuette, the world's premier award for romance fiction.

HISTORICAL ROMANCE

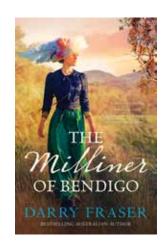
THE MILLINER OF BENDIGO

DARRY FRASER

Trouble with the law, a missing sister, and a growing attachment to the wrong man – Evie Emerson has a dangerous path ahead of her ... An exciting and twisty historical mystery and adventure from a bestselling author.

Manuscript available

December 2023 | 400pp | 234 x 153 mm Paperback | ISBN: 9781867237617



1898: Bendigo, Victoria

Evie Emerson has worked hard to build a fashionable clientele for her hats. But when an exparamour employs underhanded tactics after his attempt to coerce an engagement fails, Evie's reputation is in tatters. On the heels of having to put a case together to defend herself in court, Evie's life is thrown into further turmoil when the disappearance of her sister takes her to Cobram.

Roving reporter Fitzmorgan O'Shea has troubles of his own: his involvement in uncovering police corruption has placed a target on his back. And while hunting a new story in Cobram his problems collide with Evie's when his research exposes malicious intimidation and threats designed to make local landholders give up their properties.

For Raffety Dolan, he accepted long ago it's Fitz Evie loves – and his feelings will remain unrequited. But when a disgraced ex-policeman comes searching for revenge, he's ready to go save his friends.

There, on the banks of the mighty Murray, with so much misunderstood history and secrets between the three friends – plus the legitimate threat of being shot at – will they survive long enough to discover the truth?

PRAISE FOR DARRY FRASER:

'Fraser's excellent research makes the reader feel like they are actually back in 1898 with her richly detailed settings: bustling train stations and port docks, flies and dust ...' – *GLAM Adelaide*

'A fabulous storyteller who underlies this compelling plot with strong female characters who challenge the status quo ... an authentic, seamless and riveting tale.' – *Better Reading*

ALSO BY DARRY FRASER







Darry Fraser fell in love with the great Murray River when her family moved to her childhood town of Swan Hill in Victoria. Stories of the river have been with her ever since and it's where a number of her novels are set. Her stories are of ordinary people in nineteenth century Australia who are drawn into difficult circumstances – adventure, mystery and mayhem, love and life, and against the backdrop of historical events. Darry is now the author of nine novels, and currently lives on Kangaroo Island, SA.

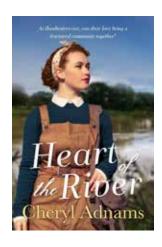
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HEART OF THE RIVER CHERYL ADNAMS

As floodwaters rise, can a forbidden love bring a fractured community together?

Manuscript available

January 2024 | 400pp | 234 x 153 mm Paperback | ISBN: 9781867242000



Mildura, Northern Victoria - 1956

Isabel Hayward has ambitions of being a great chef. But cooking for the locals at the country pub she and her mother run doesn't really allow for experimenting with haute cuisine.

When she meets local Italian farmer Matteo Sorrenti, their connection is instant and intense – much to the displeasure of Ross Burrows, one of the region's wealthiest sons, who has been keen on Isabel since they were kids.

Isabel and Matteo's blossoming relationship has challenges to overcome: their cultural differences, prejudice, Ross' jealousy, and the worst flood in Australia's history.

As the Murray River rises to its peak, threatening the Sorrentis' farm and the Haywards' pub, secrets are revealed that show Matteo, Isabel and Ross are inextricably linked by their fathers' wartime experiences. Will the secrets their fathers kept threaten Isabel and Matteo's relationship? Or can their love break down the remnants of prejudice left behind by the war?

'A Romeo and Juliet story, set against the background of old secrets, deep resentments and the unstoppable forces of nature. A fabulous insight into the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. An unputdownable read from Cheryl Adnams.' - Alison Stuart, author of *The Postmistress*

ALSO BY CHERYL ADNAMS



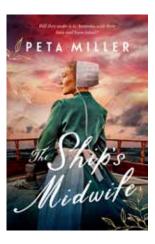


Cheryl Adnams is the author of four Australian rural romance novels and two Australian historical novels. She has a Diploma in Freelance Travel Writing and Photography and has lived and worked in the United States, Canada and spent two years with a tour company in Switzerland and Austria, and now lives in Adelaide, SA. When she's not writing, Cheryl is still creating in her busy full-time job as a trainer and learning designer.

Lives are about to be irrevocably changed following a typhus outbreak on a cramped emigrant ship bound for Australia.

Manuscript available

June 2023 | 400pp | 234x153mm Paperback | 9781867252931



1850 For Sarah Hallow, orphaned, penniless and alone, with only the skills learned from her midwife mother to guide her, passage on a ship bound for the new colony of Brisbane, Australia, is her last option. Though her skills are quickly dismissed by the ship's doctor, Sarah is pleased to find instant friendship with her cabin mate, Bridie, a fiery Irish girl with a sharp tongue and midwifery skills of her own.

When the two women come to the aid of a labouring woman onboard, Sarah's dreams of opening her own midwifery practice in the colony don't seem so impossible. Certainly not as impossible as her daydreams about a certain doctor's son, who only seems to have eyes for her friend.

But something else is lurking on the ship: a disease that has the power to take down even the strongest man and is about to rip through the ship like wildfire, leaving only devastation in its path. As caring for patients stretch Sarah and Bridie to their absolute limit, thoughts of the future are rapidly eclipsed by their determination to survive. If only they can make it to Australia with their lives and loves intact ...

Inspired by true events, this is a meticulously researched, eye-opening, heart-breaking, soulwarming story of survival, love and grit for readers of Darry Fraser, Alison Stuart and Tea Cooper.

'A poignant story of love and loss and the triumph of the human spirit over adversity that will tug at your heart and have you reaching for the tissues ...' – Alison Stuart, author of *The Goldminer's Sister*.

Peta Miller has been in the book trade for over twenty years, in both publishing and retail. When not writing, she works part-time at Berkelouw Books in Eumundi on the Sunshine Coast. In November 2018, Peta received the Charlotte Waring Barton Award for her unpublished manuscript, *Sing Us Home*, the prize being a mentorship with a HarperCollins author. After development, this manuscript has become *The Ship's Midwife*.

Rights Held: World English and translation

HISTORICAL ROMANCE

THE HOMECOMING ALISON STUART

They might be able to solve a crime – but can they build a life together? A compelling historical romance with a murder mystery at its core, for readers of Darry Fraser and Tea Cooper.

Manuscript available

January 2023 | 400pp | 234x153mm Paperback | ISBN 9781867222972



1892. It has been almost 20 years since Charlie O'Reilly left Maiden's Creek, the town where she once knew only injustice and fear. Now she returns as acting matron of the local hospital, determined to prove her worth – and to escape the attentions of a man she would rather forget.

Despite his wealth and busy practice as a criminal lawyer, Danny Hunt has never found contentment. He is still haunted by memories of his childhood in Maiden's Creek and the strange and desperate man who was his father.

When a court case goes wrong and Danny's life is threatened, he seizes the opportunity to visit Maiden's Creek with his friend Robert, whose sister, a nurse at the hospital, is the only woman Danny has ever proposed to.

But danger follows Danny and Charlie and when a nurse is violently murdered, they are thrown together in a desperate bid to prove the innocence of a friend. When a devastating storm hits, threatening the hospital, old hurts and secrets come to the surface.

Both can see that they make the perfect team, but Charlie is committed to her work and has one secret she plans never to reveal ...

PRAISE

'Betrayal, secrets and dastardly deeds abound in this page-turning story of ambition, revenge, and love. Another thrilling book from Alison Stuart' - Mary-Lou Stephens, author of *The Last of the Apple Blossom*

Australian author Alison Stuart began her writing journey halfway up a tree in the school playground with a notebook and a dream. Her father's passion for history and her husband's love of adventure and the Australian bush led to a desire to tell stories of Australia's past.

She has travelled extensively and lived in Africa and Singapore. Before turning to writing full time, she enjoyed a long and varied career as a lawyer, both in private practice and in a range of different organisations, including the military and the emergency services.

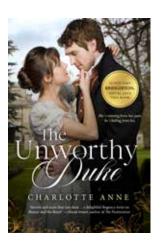
Alison lives in a historic town in Victoria

THE UNWORTHY DUKE CHARLOTTE ANNE

Witty, passionate and fast-paced, this sparkling debut Regency romance is a must-read for any fan of Georgette Heyer, Julia Quinn and all things *Bridgetton*.

Manuscript available

352pp | 234x153mm Paperback | ISBN 9781867234722



She's running from her past; he's hiding from his.

Miss Ellen Burney doesn't have a penny to her name. Determined to escape scandal, she flees to London and becomes Miss Smith: spinster and lady's companion. London offers security in anonymity. So long as Ellen can rein in her overactive imagination and become the perfect picture of propriety.

Calum Callaghan spent ten years in the Royal Navy fighting Napoleon and has the scars to prove it. Now he's a duke, but all of London thinks he murdered his brother. Heartbroken and battle weary, he's locked himself away for four long years, a prisoner in his own townhouse.

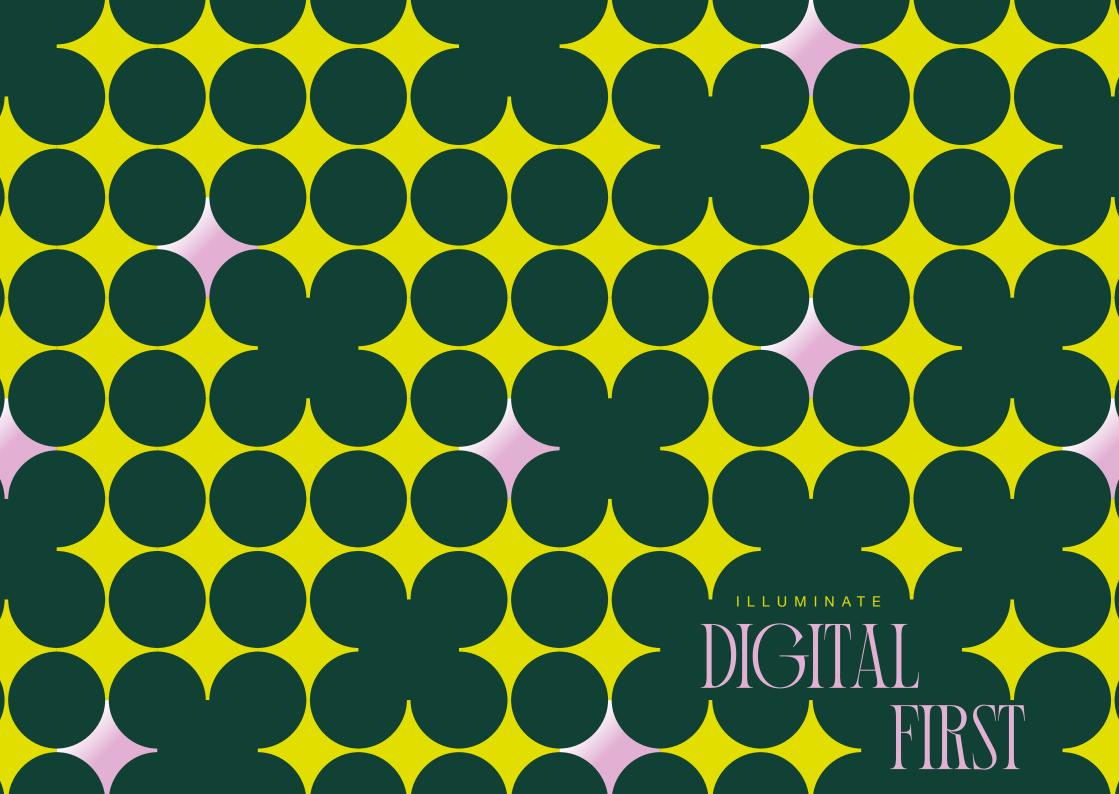
That is, until Cal's grandmother comes to stay with him for the London Season, her new lady's companion in tow. A lady's companion with a passion for life and love that can hardly be contained by even the most spinsterish of lace caps. She's fooling nobody, especially not this grumpy duke.

PRAISE

'Secrets and scars that run deep ... a delightful Regency twist on Beauty and the Beast!' – Alison Stuart, author of *The Postmistress*

'Charming characters, witty banter, a delightful romp from a sparkling new voice in historical romance.' – Allison Butler, author of the Borderland Brides series

With a degree in archaeology, Charlotte Anne now pens steamy historical romances. She's been writing for as long as she can remember, and in her spare time she's climbed to Mt Everest Base Camp and has earned her black belt in taekwondo. She's even a pretty good shot with a bow.



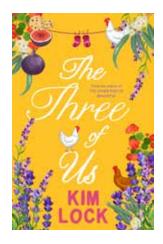
THE THREE OF US

KIM LOCK

Spanning fifty years, this is a sweeping tale of heartbreak and forbidden love from the author of *The Other Side of Beautiful*.

Manuscript available

October 2023 | 250pp | Ebook SBN: 9781867273813



When seventy-five-year-old Thomas Mullet reluctantly sits on his psychologist's couch, he discloses three things:

- He is dying.
- His wife doesn't know.
- Nor does his other wife.

1960 Gawler, South Australia. Church Street: a quiet street in a respectable country town, where wives keep neat houses and neighbours keep neat yards. A place where gossip stirs behind closed doors and privacy is elusive. Where newly married couple Thomas and Elsie Mullet are excited to start their lives together.

After being forced to resign her typing job, Elsie tries hard to adjust to becoming the perfect housewife, but despite her best attempts, grows lonely and bored. Until she meets the mysterious woman next door.

Aida Glasson is eighteen years old, unmarried, and hiding a shameful secret. Through failed biscuits, euthanised chickens and shared loneliness, Elsie and Aida's friendship is cemented. But when that friendship takes a surprising turn, where does that leave Thomas?

Tender, moving and titillating, this is a love story like no other: an unforgettable portrayal of a complex family hidden in conservative suburbia.

Kim Lock is an internationally published author of five novels, including the reader-acclaimed *The Other Side of Beautiful*. Her essays and opinion pieces have been published widely and her fiction appears in translation. She lives in regional South Australia with her family.

Rights Held: World English and translation

DIGITAL FIRST

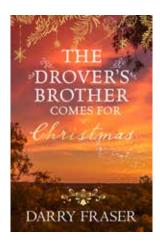
THE DROVER'S BROTHER COMES FOR CHRISTMAS

DARRY FRASER

A woman longing for freedom, a man longing for a home. Can the magic of Christmas bring them together?

Manuscript available

October 2023 | 112pp | Ebook ISBN: 9781867290629



It's 1890. Lizzie Naylor's life is working in her grumpy father's store in Munyup, trying to bring up her six-year-old daughter, Alice, who's hellbent on finding herself a father. Christmas is nearing, and tempers are fraught, especially when mysterious Mr Nicholas is back with his pesky sidekick, Alf. Or Elf, as Alice calls him. And Elf is just about to make another big mistake.

Mack Miller has returned to the district to make peace with his brother, Shep. He's weary of the life he's led, the loss he's experienced. He's longed for home for a while, but the family farm had been a contentious issue between the brothers, and Shep and he have not spoken for years.

When Alice is quite taken with Mack, she tells him he's a suitable contender for the role of being her father. But then someone from her mother, Lizzie's past appears, and terrible trouble erupts. Alice is snatched away.

Lizzie will do anything to have her back, Mack will do anything to find her, and Elf must redeem himself.

Can Christmas, new to the town and its folk, work its special magic?

Darry Fraser fell in love with the great Murray River when her family moved to her childhood town of Swan Hill in Victoria. Stories of the river have been with her ever since and it's where a number of her novels are set. Her stories are of ordinary people in nineteenth century Australia who are drawn into difficult circumstances – adventure, mystery and mayhem, love and life, and against the backdrop of historical events. Darry is now the author of nine novels, and currently lives on Kangaroo Island, SA.

DIGITAL FIRST

THE DEVIL INSIDE LEISL LEIGHTON

Dark secrets. A mysterious past. And an unforgettable passion

Manuscript available

November 2023 | 336pp | Ebook ISBN: 9781867293927



After months in a coma, music promoter Melissa Linklater wakes up to a world she doesn't remember. She's shocked to discover she's married – to Phil Paris, the intensely handsome drummer of world-famous band The Sidhe – and has a baby daughter. She has lost the memory of the last eight years of her life. Phil, their baby and his bandmates are all strangers.

Phil is devastated that Mel can't remember her years with him. He needs her to remember – because he is nothing without his wife. Fame and wealth, even his music, no longer bring him joy. The only things that matter are Mel and their baby. He throws all he is into helping Mel remember, but instead of recovering memories of them, she starts to remember a secret past and a web of lies that threatens to destroy everything she knew about herself.

Someone else is also after those secrets. As her mysterious stalker escalates from anonymous phone calls to break-ins and physical threats, the police and her doctors don't believe her – but Phil does. While she still can't remember anything about her life with him, she does feel things for him – passionate, needful things that make her want to trust him with her darkest secrets. Will sharing those secrets make them closer or bring more danger to their door?

Leisl is a tall red head with an overly large imagination. As a child, she identified strongly with Anne of Green Gables. A voracious reader and a born performer, it came as no surprise to anyone when she did a double major in English Literature and Drama for her BA, then went on to a career as an actor, singer and dancer, as well as script writer, stage manager and musical director for cabaret and theatre restaurants (one of which she co-owned and ran for six years).

After starting a family, Leisl stopped performing and instead, began writing the stories that had been plaguing her dreams. Leisl's stories have won and placed in many competitions in Australia and the US, including the STALI, Golden Opportunities, Heart of the West, Linda Howard Award of Excellence, Touch of Magic and many others.

Leisl lives in the leafy suburbs of Melbourne with her two beautiful boys, lovely hubby, overly spunky dogs, Buffy and Skye, and likes to spend time with family and friends. She is addicted to the Syfy channel, and her shelves are full of fantasy and paranormal books and scifi DVDs. She sometimes sings in a choir, has worked as a swim teacher, loves to ski, can talk the hind leg off a donkey and has been President of Romance Writers of Australia from 2014-2017

Rights Held: World English and translation

NEED YOU TONIGHT LEISL LEIGHTON

Not even fame will protect him from her violent past.

Manuscript available

April 2023 | 336pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867281665



Reclusive music producer, Lexi Deningham, has worked hard to escape a violent past, building her reputation so world famous rock stars come to her at her isolated recording studio in the Victorian High Country. That includes the wildly talented Daemon Flagherty who has just arrived to discuss his band's next album. After a messy divorce, all Daemon wants is to focus on his music, even if that means going to the end of the world to work with the best, albeit mysterious, music producer there is.

When Lexi gets a call from her twin sister's secure mental health hospital telling her Cat has been attacked, Lexi has no choice but to bring her twin home. Lexi isn't ready to deal with both Cat and Daemon at the same time but if she wants to work with Daemon – and she does, desperately – she has no choice.

Romance should be the last thing on their minds, but it seems that neither Lexi nor Daemon can ignore the passion between them. Until the threat from Lexi's past comes crashing into the present, determined to make her pay and with no care for who might get in the way. Lexi is used to going it alone, but will she realise she needs help before it's too late?

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The wounds you can't see are the hardest to heal ...

Manuscript available

August 2023 | 288pp | Ebook ISBN: 9781867288947



Iraq war veteran Dan Mitchell once disobeyed an order — and it nearly destroyed him. Now a national park ranger at Coorah Creek, he's faced with another order that he cannot obey.

Professional photographer Quinn finds beauty in unlikely places. Quinn's work comforted Dan in his darkest days, and she can help him again. But she knows darkness too — and Dan soon realises that she needs his help just as much as he needs hers.

Carrie Bryant was a talented jockey before a shocking race fall broke her nerve. Horse breeder Justin Fraser is fighting to save his heritage, but would gladly lose it all to heal Carrie.

Four wounded souls fight for the life of a magnificent wild stallion. Could saving him save them all?

DIGITAL FIRST

LITTLE LOST GIRL JANET GOVER

There's more than one way to be lost.

Manuscript available

December 2023 | 288pp | Ebook ISBN: 9781867288954



A runaway at fifteen, Tia Walsh lost herself amid the squats and the gangs in the inner city. Years later she's come to Coorah Creek seeking a new start. Sergeant Max Delaney senses that everything about Tia spells trouble. But that trouble is not all of her own making, and the dangerous past she tried to leave behind is hot on her heels.

Sarah Travers has returned home after three years of studying to find that her parents have been keeping a devastating secret. Her teenage crush, Pete Rankin, is facing his own struggle with a harsh reality that will take him away from the girl and the life that he loves.

But when a little girl goes missing in the harsh outback, all that matters is finding her safe.

Winner of the Romantic Novelists' Association Epic Romantic Novel of the Year Award

Janet Gover grew up in outback Australia, surrounded by wide open spaces, horses ... and many, many books. When her cat lets her actually sit in her chair, she writes stories of strong women, rural communities and falling in love. Her novel *Little Girl Lost* won the Epic Romantic Novel of the Year Award presented by the Romantic Novelists' Association in the UK, and she has won or been shortlisted for awards in Australia and the USA. The author of 15 published novels, Janet divides her time between West London and Australia.

Rights Held: World English and translation

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CHRISTMAS AT COORAH CREEK JANET GOVER

It might take some Christmas magic to make this outback town feel like home ...

Manuscript available

October 2022 | 144pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867261582



Eager to make a real difference, English nurse Katie Brooks has travelled halfway around the world to work on an air ambulance in outback Queensland. She was prepared to be a fish out of water, but she hadn't anticipated how challenging the isolation would be. And she'd certainly never expected to be rescued on day one by Scott Collins: Coorah Creek's prodigal son, who might just be the best thing about the town.

Meeting Katie is the one bright spot in Scott's reluctant return to his childhood home. He has nothing but bad memories of growing up. He once vowed never to return, but now he needs to put old ghosts to rest, before beginning a new life as far away as he can get.

Katie is determined to stay. Scott is just as determined to leave. Can a small-town Christmas change their minds?

ALSO BY JANET GOVER



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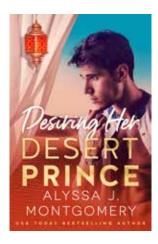
Rights Held: World English and translation

DESIRING HER DESERT PRINCE

ALYSSA J. MONTGOMERY

Manuscript available

July 2023 | 208pp | Ebook ISBN: 9781867289562



Dr Lauren Stephens is volunteering in Karesh when she uncovers a crime and is forced to flee for her life. When a huge sandstorm leaves her stranded in the middle of the desert, a handsome stranger comes to her rescue, taking her to his luxurious camp. As they shelter there, the attraction between career-focused Lauren and the man she assumes is a simple Bedouin herder becomes undeniable.

Crown Prince Sharif has come to this remote camp to escape from the pressure to find a suitable wife before his 30th birthday – a prerequisite for inheriting the throne. He rescues Lauren out of traditional Kareshian hospitality, but is soon captivated by her beauty and intelligence – and the fact that she is falling for him rather than his title.

As they give in to their passion, they know that their affair will be brief. But when a threat against his father's rule reunites them, will they find a way to make a future together?

USA Today bestselling author Alyssa J. Montgomery lives with her husband and three children on a five-acre property nestled into a mountain range south of Sydney, Australia, and enjoys having the space for gardens, a dog, horses, goats and chickens. Visits from the native wildlife (echidnas, wallabies and a variety of native birds) are particularly welcome ... although visits from native wildlife with scales and fangs aren't met with quite as much enthusiasm!

She continues to work in her private practice as a Speech-Language Pathologist. Previously she's done a stint with Qantas Airways as an international flight attendant, completed her Master of Science degree, and has also been a professional pianist.

SECOND CHANCE LOVE IN POINT PERRY

JOANNE SPEIRS

Two broken hearts learning how to live – and love – again

Manuscript available

September 2023 | 288pp | Ebook ISBN: 9781867288930



After a devastating tragedy shakes Erin's world, she returns to her hometown of Point Perry seeking solace and a fresh start. But just as she begins to find her footing, an unexpected visitor and an old enemy threaten to upend her life once again.

Tom, a devoted single father and beloved teacher, is no stranger to turmoil. His ex-wife, now a Hollywood starlet, has descended upon Point Perry for her movie premiere, stirring up trouble and putting Tom's priorities to the test. As the town buzzes with excitement over the event, Tom must also navigate a strained relationship with his father and protect his son from his ex's manipulations.

Despite their emotional scars and obstacles, Erin and Tom can't ignore their growing connection. As they begin to explore the chance for a future together, they must confront their past traumas and find a way to move forward. Will their love be enough to overcome the challenges they face, or will their emotional baggage prove too heavy to bear?

PRAISE:

'A heart-warming and uplifting debut brimming with small town charm. Point Perry is a close-knit community that will instantly feel like home.' International bestselling author Alissa Callen

'Heartfelt and warm – just how I like my romance!' Australian author Tess Woods

Joanne Speirs grew on a farm in a small rural community on the Eyre Peninsula of South Australia. Scouring the school library shelves for Sweet Valley High novels and sneaking a read of her mum's Mills & Boon books became a favourite pastime in her teens and fuelled her passion for reading and writing romance.

She lives in Adelaide with her two grown sons, husband and border collie named Zeb. When not writing, she works as an editor, specialising in editing manuscripts for other romance authors.

Her debut, *Second Chance Love in Point Perry*, was runner-up in the prestigious Romance Writers of Australia Valerie Parv Award in 2019 and was longlisted for the Romance Writers of Australia Emerald Award in 2020.

Rights Held: World English and translation

DIGITAL FIRST

IN THE DELUGE NANCY CUNNINGHAM

Can two wounded hearts find peace in a time of war?

Manuscript available

September 2023 | 288pp | Ebook ISBN: 9781867299738



1944. Widow Poppy Guilford is fighting to save her farm, the one thing tethering her to her husband – and the legacy promised for their young son. But a devastating secret from her husband's past threatens to derail her struggle to save the property and keep her son by her side.

Former soldier JB Beaton's wartime injuries and personal losses have left him with scars, both inside and out. Believing he's too damaged to be the father his son deserves, he leaves him with his sister and takes on a job as a farmhand, far away from the city and his failures.

Poppy, battling the elements and the heartache of her husband's secret, finds the new farmhand is never far from her thoughts, and JB's world is thrown into disarray by one of the most beautiful and capable women he has ever met. Neither can battle the surge of attraction they both feel.

In a small town where gossip reigns, will they surrender to duty or follow their hearts?

Nancy is a historical romance writer from Adelaide, South Australia where she lives with her partner, her book obsessed, gorgeous, curly-haired daughter, and a retired greyhound named Molly. When not writing fiction, Nancy works as a research scientist in entomology.

When not obsessing over historical romance in books and on screen, or being the family chief spider wrangler, her creative heart beats loudest when writing stories involving stoic heroines of the past overcoming adversity.

Her debut novel, *In the Deluge* (previously *The Bridge*), has been a winner and finalist in several awards, including the prestigious Valerie Parv Award and the Romance Writers of America West Houston 'Emilys', and was longlisted for the Romance Writers of Australia Emerald Award in 2020 and the Sapphire in 2021. In 2020 it won the CYA All-Stars Conference Unpublished Adult Manuscript prize.

DIGITAL FIRST

A CHANCE TO BELIEVE FIONA MARSDEN

Can a fling turn into a family?

Manuscript available November 2023

February 2024 | 250pp | Ebook ISBN: 9781038903594



After a chance meeting in Brisbane, Shayne Smith and Cassie Long had a perfect fortnight together. But when Shayne returned to his historic sheep property, they both assumed there was no future in a relationship between a city girl and a grazier.

Six months later, Cassie arrives at Maiden's Landing to let Shayne know they made more than memories in their brief idyll. She has no expectations, only a duty to let him know.

Shayne's life is already complicated with a property to run and a sixteen-year-old daughter growing up fast. He never expected the woman he can't forget to turn up on his doorstep bringing news that is all too familiar.

Fiercely independent Cassie isn't asking anything of him, but he persuades her to stay at his homestead until the babies are born. Cassie's difficult pregnancy means that any possibility of romance must be put on hold – despite the intense attraction they feel for each other. How long can they resist? And will each of them overcome their own baggage so they can build a future together?

Fiona Marsden has lived most of her life in rural Australia, sharing her five-acre block with kangaroos, wallabies and the odd koala and possum. Born and bred in Queensland, Australia, Fiona grew up in the far west of the state, lived for several years in Brisbane and is now settled on the Granite Belt in the rural south east. Fiona has worked as a governess, a clerk, a teacher aide, an enrolled nurse, a disability support worker and financial manager. She has also glued thousands of plant samples on card for storage. Married with seven children and two grandchildren, Fiona spent the last thirty-two years working and advocating in the disability sector serving on a local committee for thirty years and as project manager for the purchase and construction of buildings for the service. Writing has always been a passion, from poetry published in the *Courier Mail* and school annuals to fanfiction in the seventies, before we had the internet. She honed her craft writing grant applications that require a vivid imagination, to finally finding her place writing happy endings. She is an avid reader and has read most genres over the years. Fiona has been fortunate in winning and placing in a number of writing awards both here and overseas. Several stories have been published in anthologies and she has self-published several novellas and two 60k word romances.

Rights Held: World English and translation

ON THE SAME PAGE PENELOPE JANU

For readers of Mhairi McFarlane, Beth O'Leary, Lindsay Kelk and Sally Thorne comes this utterly charming and delightfully funny love story where opposites attract – or do they?

Manuscript available

April 2022 | 304pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867244486



By day Miles Franklin, named after the famous author, is a successful lawyer. By night, in secret, she writes historical romance novels under the pen name Emma Browning. When 'Emma's' novels win one of Australia's biggest literary awards, Miles's perfectly ordered life begins to unthread at the bindings. Especially when Lars Kristensen, CEO of the publishing company contracted to publish the prize-winning books, insists on meeting the author.

Besides mutual antipathy and sexual attraction, socially anxious Miles and supremely confident Lars have nothing in common. Nothing. But the more time they spend together, the more blurred the lines between fact and fiction and love and hate become.

Miles is determined to both protect her privacy and to keep writing-even if it means mastering pole dancing, choreographing a love scene in the back of a horse-drawn carriage, and confronting the prejudices of her parents and publishers.

Like the heroines in her books, Miles has the grit to stand her ground. But Lars has the smouldering looks, arrogance and pride of all her romantic heroes rolled into one. And he is good at reading between the lines. Who is going win this battle of wills? Can Miles and Lars ever be on the same page?

'Endearingly quirky and utterly charming. Funny and sweet and wonderful.' – Amy Andrews, *USA Today* bestselling author

Penelope Janu lives on the coast in northern Sydney with a distracting husband, a very large dog and, now they're fully grown, six delightful children who come and go. Penelope has a passion for creating stories that explore social and environmental issues, but her novels are fundamentally a celebration of Australian characters and communities. Her first novel, *In at the Deep End*, came out in 2017, followed by *On the Right Track*, *On the Same Page*, *Up on Horseshoe Hill, Starting from Scratch* and *Clouds on the Horizon* as well as a novella, *The Six Rules of Christmas*. Penelope enjoys riding horses, exploring the Australian countryside and dreaming up challenging hiking adventures. Nothing makes her happier as a writer than readers falling in love with her clever, complex and adventurous heroines and heroes. She loves to hear from readers, and can be contacted at www.penelopejanu.com.

DIGITAL FIRST

ON THE DOWN LOW RENAE BLACK

'Warm-hearted and authentic...this debut will take you to the heart of the outback' – bestselling Australian author Alissa Callen

Manuscript available

February 2023 | 320pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867272533



It's hard to hide love in the outback ...

Hallie Harris has gone as far away as possible to escape the city and the humiliating revelations of her last relationship. Love is the last thing on her mind when she arrives at Karilga, a remote cattle station in outback Queensland, to take on the post of teacher to eight lively children. That is, until she locks eyes on aerial mustering pilot Ryan Walker. But how could a highly skilled pilot who lives and breathes the land ever fall for this hot-mess city girl?

Quiet and reserved, Ryan's used to chasing down wayward cattle and flying his helicopter in the dangerous dead man's zone. But when it comes to the beautiful girl from the city, he's out of his element. When country larrikin and Ryan's best mate, Jackson, pursues the new teacher first, Ryan buries his head...and his feelings...in the red dirt. What's the point when Jackson always gets the girl?

But the spark between Hallie and Ryan can't be ignored. In the small tightknit community of Karilga Station, can they keep their feelings on the down low? Or will everything the outback has to throw at them destroy any chance of building a home together?

Renae Black lives in Queensland with her husband and two young bookworms. By day she works as a social worker within the child protection industry. By night, she escapes to the romantic fictional realms of rural Australia that transport her back to her childhood home, a large property that bred cattle and hosted the odd ostrich sale. *On the Down Low* is Renae's debut novel with Escape Publishing.

Rights Held: World English and translation

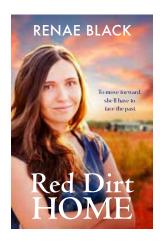
RED DIRT HOME

RENAE BLACK

To move forward, she'll have to face the past.

Manuscript available November 2023

March 2024 | 300pp | Ebook SBN: 9781867299745



Paige Bennett is fulfilling her childhood dream of working and living on the land as a station hand on Whitetail Ridge. Getting her hands dirty, riding horses, working with cattle and kicking up red dust. Life can't get much better. Or so she thinks, until a devastating act of violent betrayal leaves her unemployed, homeless and broken.

A fight with his father drove Jackson Brady off Karilga, his family's cattle station in the Queensland outback. Now he's made a life for himself away from the land, joining a band and settling into the city. When the girl he's always had his eye on shows up with news from back home, he's faced with a difficult choice: go home where he's needed or stay where he's wanted.

Winding up on Karilga Station, Paige is a shadow of the person she once was. Desperate to forget what happened to her, she considers leaving her beloved channel country. But things aren't so easily forgotten in the outback. When fate gives her no option but to trust again, will she find love as well? Or at least a safe place to land?

Jackson knows he's never been more to Paige than a country larrikin who only takes the beer at the end of the day seriously – a sentiment closely echoed by his father. Can Jackson prove himself to his father and become the man Paige needs him to be? Or will it all crumble in the red dirt of the outback?

A heartfelt, deeply emotional story about finding home, facing the past and falling in love, from a captivating new voice in rural romance.

Renae Black lives in Queensland with her husband and two young bookworms. By day she works as a social worker within the child protection industry. By night, she escapes to the romantic fictional realms of rural Australia that transport her back to her childhood home, a large property that bred cattle and hosted the odd ostrich sale. *On the Down Low* is Renae's debut novel with Escape Publishing.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

KARINA MAY

Will dislike at first sight turn into the trip of a lifetime? A sparkling enemies-to-lovers rom com from a talented new voice.

Manuscript available

September 2022 | 272pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867258155



From Peru with love, (wander)lust & loathing ...

Blake Goldfield is 'the guy who broke Tinder' while raising funds for his overseas charity. High-flying banker, Louise Lane, isn't buying his hot, eligible philanthropist act. In fact, it's dislike at first sight when she encounters Blake working the bar at her office Christmas party.

Both are at a life crossroads: Blake has begrudgingly left his not-for-profit to deal with Goldies, his family's embattled restaurant; Louise has just split from her perfect-on-paper fiancé.

Blake may be in control of the drinks, but Louise has the power to reject the loan necessary to keep Goldies open ...

As Blake and Louise watch their lives unravel, their paths seem to be inextricably tangled. Torn between the weight of expectation and her heart's desire, Louise searches for a fresh perspective in Peru. First stop: Machu Picchu. Final destination: Love?

A sparkling enemies-to-lovers rom com about the things we want, the things we think we want and the things that really count.

DIGITAL FIRST

ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND TEQUILA

GABRIELLA MARGO

Salty air. Flowing margaritas. Beach sunsets ... and one annoying holiday crasher.

Manuscript available

December 2022 | 250pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867264675



Luisa Edmonds doesn't have time for bad dates and guys who don't take life seriously. And she certainly has no time for men like Ed Garcia, a womanising divorcé who parties too hard.

When Luisa is sent to a lavish, all-inclusive resort in Mexico on a marketing project, she's ecstatic – until she finds out that Ed is the award-winning photographer who has been hand-picked to go with her.

But when she leaves the icy Melbourne winter behind, it's not just her extremities that begin to thaw. Here, among the golden sands, tropical waters and salty air of Playa del Carmen, Luisa starts to get to know the real Ed – a sweet, animal-loving environmentalist who's kept his crush on her a secret for years.

And in all honesty, he is damn sexy without a shirt on.

Unfortunately, their relationship would be bad news back in Australia, and Ed is a no-go for Luisa. But as his secrets are slowly uncovered, Luisa finds it harder and harder to ignore her feelings, and she is faced with an ultimatum. Will she jeopardise her future for a steamy, beach holiday fling?

Sydney-based Karina May is a former magazine journalist turned digital marketer, avid romance reader and writer of lively love stories that span the globe.

When she's not dreaming up her next shirtless love interest, you'll likely find her rescuing her kindle from the bath, or out guzzling espresso martinis in the name of research (someone's gotta do it!).

Rights Held: World English and translation

Gabriella Margo is a Sydney-based author who adores a good romance story with a happily ever after. She believes that love is love, no matter what that may look like.

FALLING FOR THE KING

CLARE MILES

When love and duty compete, which will win?

Manuscript available

May 2023 | 208pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867285021



King Xavier of Maynet doesn't believe in love: he's had enough experience to know it can't be trusted. But he does believe in duty and knows he'll choose a wife as tradition dictates. However, when his late brother's widow joins him on a month-long royal tour of Maynet he develops feelings for her deeper than anything he's ever known or believed possible, and he finds himself spending more time thinking about her than any prospective bride.

Princess Katerina won't ever risk her heart again after the humiliation of her marriage. Instead, she's dedicating her life to the betterment of her beloved adopted country, Maynet. Yet she finds herself attracted to Xavier in a way that threatens all her careful plans, and the more time they spend together the stronger their connection gets.

As time runs out for Xavier to choose a wife, will he realise what he feels for Katerina is love and that she's more important than any tradition? Can Katerina trust herself and her feelings for Xavier and demand what she truly deserves, someone who loves her?

After years of inner-city Sydney living, Clare Miles moved to the stunning Illawarra Coast into a retro apartment that has enough original features to give her a new appreciation for the colour orange.

A life-long lover of history, cats and Elvis, it's no surprise she a degree in history, a rescue cat who's definitely boss of the household, and an endless supply of memories from attending the Elvis Parkes Festival (numerous times). And she'd recommend all three!

Career-wise, from her very first job delivering papers with her brothers, through working at Macca's with her bestie, to the countless jobs she held in the corporate world ... she always dreamt of being a published author and is beyond thrilled that this dream has come true.

Rights Held: World English and translation

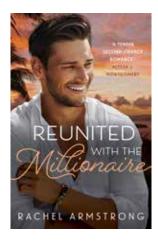
DIGITAL FIRST

REUNITED WITH THE MILLIONAIRE RACHEL ARMSTRONG

'A tender second-chance romance. Rachel Armstrong has a fresh, unique voice.' – *USA Today* bestselling author Alyssa J. Montgomery

Manuscript available

March 2022 | 160pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867251224



Amidst pristine beaches, gorgeous hikes and breathtaking sunsets in the Whitsundays, can Mirabella convince the man she's always loved to open his heart to her and her child?

All Mirabella Goldring wants is a family. So when she falls pregnant to her boyfriend of six months, it's not the end of the world. Until she arrives in Sydney to surprise him and is met by his wife. Pregnant, alone, and facing her biggest fear-becoming a single mother-Mirabella heads back to the airport to return home to Melbourne. The last person she expects to encounter is her high school sweetheart, now millionaire CEO, Lincoln Crawford.

Lincoln is also down on his luck. Recently separated from his wife, he has given up his dreams of a family and is ready to live a life of solo adventure; starting with a trip to the Whitsundays originally planned for two. But when he runs into the girl he let get away ten years ago, he impulsively invites her to come with him. A tropical vacation with an old friend who looks like she needs cheering up sounds perfect.

When sparks start to fly, both Mirabella and Lincoln wonder if this might be something more. But there's one problem: After his own cold childhood living with a stepfather who didn't love him, Lincoln swore he would never adopt another man's child ... and Mirabella is now a package deal.

Rachel Armstrong is a writer of contemporary romantic fiction ranging from rural to suspense. She creates epic feel-good stories and has a weakness for an adventurous holiday escape.

Rachel lives in Townsville, Queensland, with her border collie Jacob where she rehabilitates hearts as an exercise physiologist. In her spare time, she is either reading on the treadmill or plotting her next novel at yoga. Rachel's a keen traveller and has enjoyed many holidays exploring historic London, flying through the Grand Canyon, and hiking volcanos in Bali.

LONG MEG AND THE WICKED BARON

PAMELA HART

From award-winning author Pamela Hart, a warm and witty Regency tale of second chance love.

Manuscript available

March 2022 | 96pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867247166



Little Foxbury, Norfolk, 1818

Meg is in her mid-twenties, grief-stricken and all but on the shelf after the death of her beloved fiance, John. The last thing she expects is an immediate attraction to Nicholas, Lord Ashham, newly arrived in their Norfolk area to take up the title of his departed father – who was indeed a wicked Baron. Artistic Nicholas is cut from a different cloth – can Meg help him escape the stain of the past without damaging her own, spotless reputation, and become a bride at last?

Pamela Hart is an award-winning, bestselling author of more than 40 books. She writes the Poppy McGowan mystery series as well as historical novels; *The Charleston Scandal* is her most recent historical story, set in 1920s London. As Pamela Freeman, she is well-known as a beloved children's author and fantasy writer. Her most recent children's book is a non-fiction picture book, *Dry to Dry: The Seasons of Kakadu*. Her adult fantasy series, the Castings Trilogy, ended with the award-winning *Ember and Ash.* To be kept up to date about the next Poppy McGowan story, you can subscribe to her newsletter at pamela-hart.com/newsletter; you even get a free story!

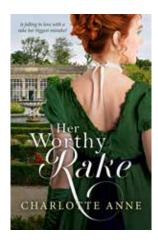
Rights Held: World English and translation

HER WORTHY RAKE CHARLOTTE ANNE

Sparkling Regency romance full of wit, warmth and mystery from a fabulous new voice. If you like Georgette Heyer or all things *Bridgerton*, you'll love this.

Manuscript available

January 2023 | 288pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867261445



Is falling for this rake a mistake?

Owen Tattershall might not have a title or immeasurable wealth like other gentlemen of his ilk, but he does have rather excellent taste in the waistcoat department-and taste counts for a lot amongst the ton. It also doesn't hurt that his adopted mother is the dowager Marchioness of Faye and his kind-of-cousin is the Duke of Woodhal. Unfortunately, prestige didn't save his family from the ravages of war, and now what's left is held together by nothing more than heartbreak, hope and bravado. To keep his memories of the war at bay, Owen immerses himself in his work ... until the day Sophy Calder comes colliding into his life.

Sophy has been fending for herself ever since her twin brother was press ganged to fight against Napoleon's forces. But the war ended almost two years ago, and still he hasn't returned. Knowing something dreadful has happened, Sophy is determined to find her missing brother, even if it means infiltrating the world that snatched him from her. But when she encounters Owen, she quickly finds her growing attraction for the only man who's taken her seriously threatening her long-mastered control.

An addictive romp from start to finish, this delightful Regency romance is set in the world of *The Unworthy Duke*, but is a standalone read.

PRAISE FOR CHARLOTTE ANNE:

'Secrets and scars that run deep ... a delightful Regency twist on Beauty and the Beast!' – Alison Stuart, author of *The Postmistress*

'Charming characters, witty banter, a delightful romp from a sparkling new voice in historical romance.' – Allison Butler, author of the Borderland Brides series

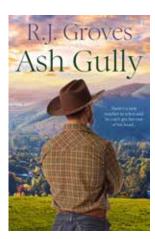
With a degree in archaeology, Charlotte Anne now pens steamy historical romances. She's been writing for as long as she can remember, and in her spare time she's climbed to Mt Everest Base Camp and has earned her black belt in taekwondo. She's even a pretty good shot with a bow.

R.J. GROVES

A teacher. A goat farmer. A rebellious daughter.

Manuscript available

November 2022 | 192pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867261452



School teacher Sophie Bamford is ready for a sea change, and the small town of Ash Gully seems the perfect place to be left alone. She needs time to heal and rediscover herself, but she never anticipated what she would find as she did. Certainly not the handsome farmer the town loves so much.

Goat farmer William Copely is struggling to make ends meet while trying to be the best dad he can be to his teenage daughter. He doesn't have time for a relationship, but he just can't get his daughter's new school teacher out of his head.

There's an attraction there that neither of them can deny. But when William's daughter starts acting out and seems determined to hate her teacher, Sophie feels compelled to get to the bottom of it.

But will the town's secrets be revealed a little too late?

And is their relationship strong enough to withstand it?

Australian author R.J. Groves has been passionate about writing since she could put pen to paper and can usually be found jotting plots and stories down on anything she can get her hands on. Describing herself as a mum, wife, author, and coffee lover, her other passions include music, cooking, books, adventures, and searching for plot bunnies in even the most mundane activities.

Rights Held: World English and translation

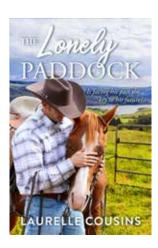
DIGITAL FIRST

THE LONELY PADDOCK LAURELLE COUSINS

For readers of Karly Lane and Rachael Johns comes a compelling romance that proves forgiveness is possible and fighting for love is worth the heartache.

Manuscript available

June 2022 | 288pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867255734



Country vet Ross Harrington would rather throw himself into his work than face the memories of a tragic childhood accident. But the protective animal-lover cannot forgive himself, tied by the belief he is unworthy of love. So, when the adorable Flick Parker bounds into his clinic with her unruly dog and a smile that threatens to dissolve his protective walls, he's torn between his fascination with her zest for life and the overwhelming desire to turn-tail for the hills.

Meanwhile, Flick is falling for the handsome vet but doesn't know if her heartfelt desire to care for terminally ill children can be in her future or if it's the very thing that will keep her and Ross apart. Finding the balance between offering too much heart or guarding it like an open wound feels like an impossible task, but can Flick show Ross it's worth taking the risk of opening up to find love?

PRAISE

'Written by someone who knows the land and the seasons, *The Lonely Paddock* shows the ebb and flow of country life, and the good baking of a farm kitchen.' Goodreads review

'The Lonely Paddock is a delightful Australian rural romance set in and around the Victorian town of Ballarat.' Goodreads review

Laurelle is a country girl through and through, having owned and bred animals all her life, including pedigree rabbits, working kelpies and now superfine merino sheep. Three months of the year she is a wool classer, classing superfine clips. The rest of the time she is either writing, catching up with friends over coffee and cake (a definite pre-requisite), attempting to become a green thumb in a world of endless weeds (grrr) and baking when a hankering overtakes her.

LYING IN WAIT DIANE HESTER

No one else believes there's a murderer out there ...

Manuscript available

May 2022 | 256pp | Ebook ISBN 9781867251262



Grieving widow Andy Vaughn has struggled to get back to the real world after her husband's sudden death. But her son needs her, and when a terrifying encounter with a snake reveals unknown skills, the American expat feels alive for the first time in years. She's going to leave behind her career as a science teacher and instead start training as a national park ranger with a specialty in snake handling. There have been a high number of brown snake incidents in their small community over the last few months, and Port Matthews desperately needs an experienced snake handler on the Parks and Wildlife team.

But with two deaths and several close calls in only a matter of weeks, is the increased snake activity just an unusual spike? Or is something more sinister going on? New cop in town Dev certainly thinks something isn't quite right, but nobody is going to believe the city cop with a chequered past. With growing suspicions that a serial killer might be out there using snakes as a weapon, Dev is going to need to find proof – and fast. Because the serial killer has a new victim in his sights, and she might just be the beautiful snake handler Dev is fast falling in love with.

PRAISE

'Filled with tension as well as venomous snakes, *Lying in Wait* by Aussie author Diane Hester would have to be her best yet! Unbelievable tension – my heart is still pounding – I can't think of any book I've ever read like this one! I'd advise anyone with an aversion to snakes not to read this one at night – you'll have nightmares! An incredible thriller, *Lying in Wait* is one I recommend highly.' – Goodreads Review

Born in New York, Diane Hester is a former violinist with the Rochester Philharmonic and the Adelaide Symphony. Her debut thriller, *Run To Me*, short-listed in the 2014 U.S. Daphne du Maurier Awards. She lives with her family and numerous pets in Port Lincoln, South Australia.

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