

The background features a close-up of two people's faces in profile, facing each other. They are holding a dried, light-colored hydrangea flower between their lips. The image is overlaid with a large, semi-transparent blue circle that frames the title text.

LOVE & LUST

A TLR Romance & Erotic Spotlight

www.thelesbianreview.com

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LOVE & LUST

We are so pleased to bring you our 2023 Sapphic Romance and Erotic Fiction Zine.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the incredible advertisers who have made this zine possible. Their support has enabled us to put together a zine that is over 40 pages long.

One of the reasons that sapphic romance and erotic fiction are so important to the community is that it gives us a representation of our love and passion in a way that we rarely find in any other media. It's written for us as the audience which means that each story is a reflection of a love that is not only possible for us but beautiful to behold.

I am also excited to bring you exclusive interviews with talented authors who have poured their creativity and passion into the stories gracing the pages of this zine. These authors have graciously shared insights into their inspiration, their writing process, and the significance of sapphic representation in literature.

As you delve into the pages of this zine I can only hope that you find excitement in these stories, and feel that flutter of anticipation of the great narratives that you are about to explore.

Love is boundless, love is diverse, and love is celebrated here in all its magnificent forms.

With utmost excitement and heartfelt gratitude, we bring you TLR's Love and Lust 2023.

Sheena and Tamara

A HEART TO CALL HOME BY JEANNIE LEVIG

Dakota Scott has spent her entire adult life trying to outrun her past, but even the privilege and reputation her family name affords her haven't helped her forget. Her mother's mental illness and the memory of the night that haunts her from so long ago won't release her. When the one woman with the power to set her free shows up, Dakota is drawn to her, but she is a painful reminder of everything Dakota has been trying desperately to escape.

When Jessie Weldon returns to her hometown after thirty years of avoiding it, she knows she has demons to face and a conflicted past to resolve, but she has no idea love awaits her. Can she give her heart to Dakota with the tragic past that lies between them?

Release Date: 13 February 2018

Publisher: Bold Strokes Books

Genre & Tropes: Romance, Small Town, Return to Hometown

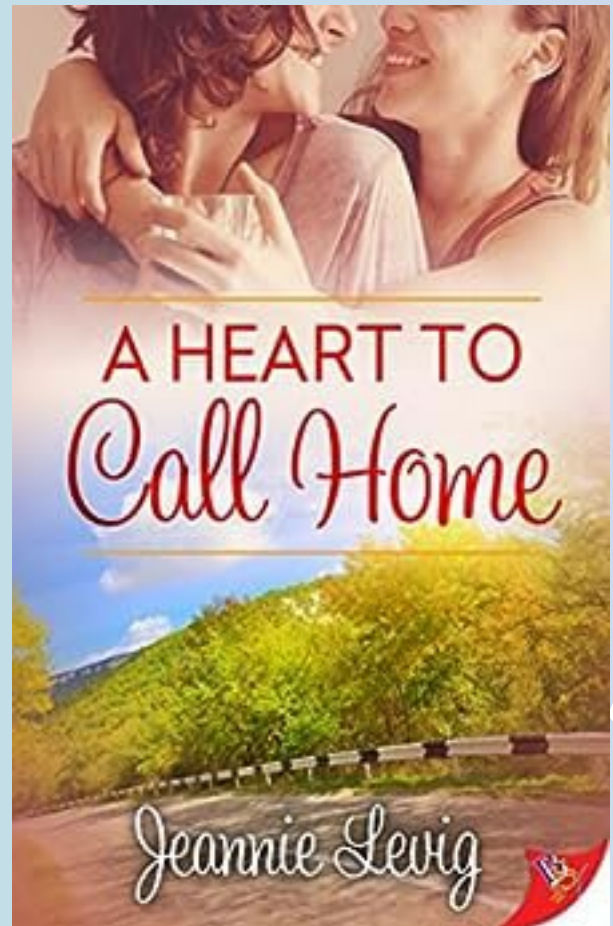
Audiobook Narrator: Lori Prince

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“If you like excellent, angsty romance with complex character work, you must read A Heart to Call Home - from TLR Review”

A PERFECT PLACE TO CRY

BY S-JAY HART

Rowan isn't sure she believes in love. Not the romantic type, anyway. She's been hiding from the prospect of it for years now, an easy thing to do when you live in the middle of an eighty acre campground. She likes her quiet existence, greeting campers, pitching tents, and kayaking on the little river that leads to Lover's Lake. Besides, her best friend Amber fills her life with enough love related drama for the two of them.

Indie knows a thing or two about secrets. She's good at keeping them and exceptional at being one. When her three year love affair comes to an abrupt end, heartbroken, she begins to question everything she thought she knew about life and love. But it's not as easy as simply moving on. Not when her ex can't seem to let her go. When an accidental invite forces her into close proximity with her secret lover, Indie decides to accept.

Release Date: 23 June 2023

Publisher: S-Jay Hart

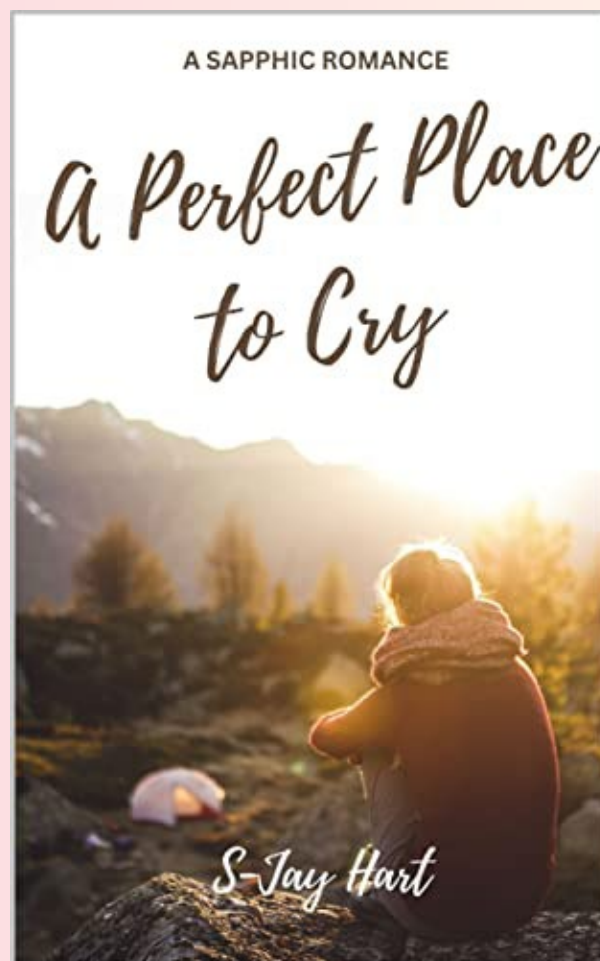
Genre & Tropes: Small town, Insta-Love, Campground setting

Available on KU: Yes

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“Sometimes
the answers we
seek aren’t as
important as the
answers we find.
Hearts Can Heal.”

STEPHANIE SHEA

Balancing realism and idealism can be challenging. How do you handle this balance when portraying sapphic relationships?

Genre plays a big role in where my portrayal needs to land when the reader gets to that last page. Realistically, not every relationship works out, certainly not with the person someone's with on the first page of their story.

There's an escapism to romance that relies more on the idealism of sapphic relationships. But I think it's more than that. Being anything on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum in a world that sometimes feels like it's doing everything to prevent your very existence is difficult as it is. We're made to feel othered and wrong and simply that there is no happy ending for us unless it follows an almost fundamentalist, heteronormative path. Which is far from true, of course.

There's a significance in portraying happy endings for LGBTQIA+ relationships not just as ideal, but also as a real, everyday possibility. For that reason, I think it's also important to depict these relationships with authentic challenges, whether that may be distance, job or age-related obstacles, jealousy, miscommunication.

Whatever it may be, I think the key to that balance between realism and idealism is an earned happy ending, or happy for now. No couple, sapphic or otherwise, forms a lasting relationship without challenges.



Are there recurring motifs or symbols in your sapphic romance stories that hold special significance for you?

It's a little hard to answer this one because I don't write with themes or symbols in mind. At least, I don't set out to do it. But I guess a recurring motif in my romances is multi-dimensional, maybe even introspective characters. One of my favorite things a reviewer has said about my writing is: "Something Stephanie Shea is particularly good at is creating characters with understandable flaws, and having those characters own them."

I love a flawed character—I love writing them almost as much as I love reading them. There's so much room for growth there, and I really enjoy that. So I guess one thing you will find in my romances is not just a love story, but a personal journey for at least one person in that main pairing. I also tend to write successful queer women of

color, women who are either at the peak of their careers or captivatingly driven about getting there. I think it's important to showcase BIPOC characters in those roles too, as more than the sidekick or funny best friend, or someone's assistant, not because there's anything inherently wrong with those roles, but because that neither represents reality nor the ideal.

Could you share a paragraph or line from one of your sapphic romance novels that you believe encapsulates your writing style?

Of course! This is an excerpt from my latest release, *Take Two*:

"You can't take credit for my decisions, Andy. Good or bad." Whitney stepped closer. "Last night was my decision. I wanted..." Her muscles tensed in a physical warning for her to reconsider her words. Really, she didn't know what she'd wanted. To shut Andy up so she didn't have to rehash how dark everything had been those first weeks after Andy had left?

The worst part had never been the tears. It hadn't even been questioning if shards of glass were actually stuck in her chest, or if the piercing tightness was just her brain's way of saying her heart was still beating. It was wondering what she'd done, why everything they'd shared wasn't enough anymore. Or maybe she just wanted Andy. It's not like her body had ever craved anyone with the same untamed fervor. It's not like anyone else had ever made her dizzy with a single swipe of their tongue across her lips.

How do you approach crafting diverse and relatable sapphic characters while keeping their individuality intact?

In the last few years, there has been a lot of emphasis on the word diverse, especially in

association with BIPOC creators. But I think part of the reason—there are lots of reasons, really—there's such an imbalance in the consumption of "diverse" books is because of a preconceived idea of who the characters or their story will be, or maybe even how it will be told.

A writer I like a lot, Chimamanda Adichie, refers to this as "The Danger of a Single Story," which generally speaks to stereotypes.

A common assumption or explanation that I've heard, particularly from white readers, is that they can't relate to BIPOC characters, which is interesting because some of these same readers are avid consumers of books that center witches and vampires.

For my part, I don't think I've ever set out to write with relatability in mind. My novels feature protagonists of color because, from a racial standpoint, BIPOC readers deserve to see themselves represented in the books they like to read too. But that in itself doesn't make a character relatable. Relatability is something that readers identify in a character's personality, arc, their background and experiences, sometimes because of race, but also regardless of it. On that basis, every diverse character is an individual in their own right. There's no monolith to Black or Latinx or Asian characters. They don't all talk the same, or have the same background or musical tastes, because likes and interests go beyond race.

I write about individuals, who happen to be "diverse". I think all writers hope on some level that readers will connect with their characters and the story they've crafted, but not everyone will. ♥

A TROUBLEMAKER MAY SURPRISE BY GENTA SEBASTIAN

Meet Traf and the Troublemakers, young lesbians caught in the middle of the 20th century and the Atlantic Ocean, making their way through shockingly decadent waves of a European sexual revolution.

Capt. Traf Mendes, a VIP driver for the USAF, craves sexual fulfillment almost as much as she wants to give her girl everything her heart desires. Unhappily, her sweet prude Ana, faithful to a fault but a lukewarm lover at best, wants something Traf can't provide - a child to raise together like a respectable married couple.

A prostitute's unwanted newborn might be the answer. If Traf adopts the child in secret to present to Ana as a surprise, perhaps this ultimate act of love will solve all their problems.

But will it cure Traf's fascination with seductive Carmen, an exotic Spanish flamenco dancer whose bedroom eyes promise so much...and her hips even more?

Release Date: 22 August 2023

Publisher: Indie Author

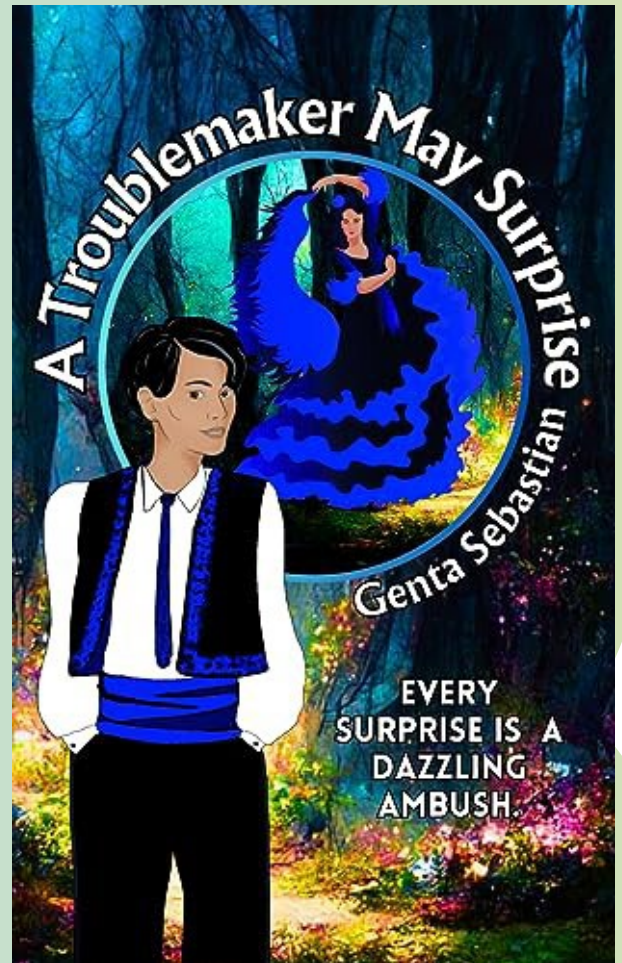
Genre & Tropes: Historical Romance, Butch/ Femme, Sexual Awakening

Series: The Troublemaker Series

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“Every surprise is a
dazzling ambush.”

BABY BANK

BY SARAH ROBINSON

In a comedic story of LGBTQIA+ romance and millennial specific drama, Mila finds that motherhood and dating are not compatible when you keep it all in the family and that the modern elder millennial maybe can't have it all.

Release Date: 19 September 2023

Publisher: Indie Author

Genre & Tropes: Romantic Comedy, Lesbian Romance, Single Parent

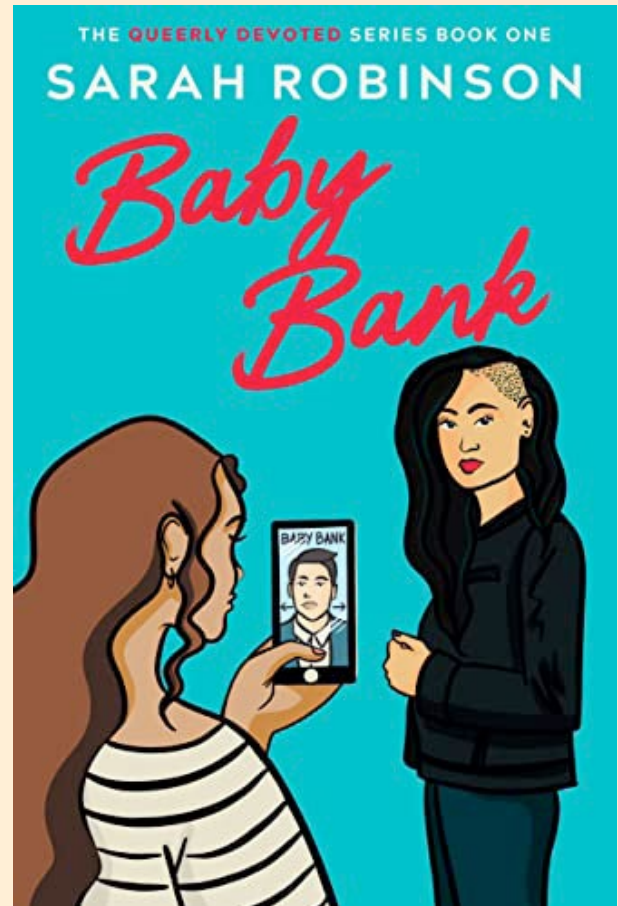
Series: Queerly Devoted

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“Motherhood and dating are not compatible when you keep it all in the family...”

KA MOLL

In what ways do you think the sapphic romance genre has evolved, and where do you see it headed in the future?

Over the years, the sapphic romance genre has undergone significant transformations, mirroring the evolution of society. Once considered taboo, authors often resorted to pseudonyms to navigate the societal restrictions imposed on LGBTQ+ literature. However, as society progressed, the genre gained recognition and acceptance. Today, we witness a vibrant and diverse landscape where many authors, including myself, openly share their experiences and preferences, hopefully helping others navigate issues of identity.

Not only does the genre encompass captivating historical fiction that transports readers to different eras, imaginative science fiction tales set in distant galaxies, and enchanting fantasies that bring magical worlds to life, but it also resonates with a global audience hungry for stories featuring characters who share their experiences, fears, hopes, and dreams. At the heart of this expanding community lies the quest for validation of identities and recognition of worth as human beings deserving of love and happiness.

As societal attitudes continue to shift towards inclusivity and acceptance, authors will be emboldened to explore uncharted territories, delving into themes and topics that have yet to be fully explored. With each passing day, the genre evolves and adapts, reflecting the changing attitudes and beliefs of its readers, becoming a reflection of our ever-expanding understanding and appreciation of love, identity, and the diverse experiences that shape our lives.



Inclusivity and diversity are important in all genres. How do you ensure your sapphic romance narratives reflect a range of experiences?

As a sapphic romance writer, I want to make sure that I represent diverse experiences. In my work, I draw from my own life and that of friends, family, and colleagues, as well as seek input from those whose perspectives are underrepresented in the genre. I'm constantly searching for ways to amplify unheard voices and portray nuanced characters who resist traditional tropes. It's an ongoing process that requires time, effort, and patience, but ultimately allows me to create stories that demonstrate the beauty and complexity of our shared humanity.

What inspired you to focus on writing butch/femme romances and how does your personal connection to that influence your work?

As a writer who identifies strongly with the butch identity, I am naturally drawn to stories that delve into the intricacies of butch/femme relationships. These stories have an intimate place in my heart, as they offer a unique window into the complex dynamics that exist within these partnerships. From how they communicate to the ways in which butch/femme

love is expressed physically and emotionally, it all contributes to the way these couples interact and relate. The varied ways in which the characters navigate their own identities while simultaneously building connections with one another inspires me to tell their stories. As a writer, I strive to bring an authentic and nuanced portrayal of butch/femme relationships to my readers through storytelling that resonates on a personal level.

Can you share a notable fan interaction related to your writing, showcasing the impact your stories have on readers?

As a writer who delves into intricate and sensitive subjects in my stories, I've been privileged to receive profoundly touching feedback from my readers over the years. One interaction, in particular, lingers in my memory: an older woman confiding in me about her decades-long marriage, sharing the awakening she experienced while immersed in my novels. Another reader deeply connected with one of my earlier works, a novel that explores the profound impact of childhood sexual abuse. It's the highest form of praise for a writer to discover that her stories have helped someone navigate personal experiences and emotions. That's the bar I reach for with each and every one of my novels. ♥

BROKEN NOT SHATTERED

BY RITA POTTER

Jill Bishop has one goal in life – to survive. Jill is trapped in an abusive marriage, while raising two young girls. Her husband has isolated her from the world and filled her days with fear. The last thing on her mind is love, but she sure could use a friend.

When Alex McCoy lends a helping hand to Jill at the local grocery store, they are surprised by their immediate connection and an unlikely friendship develops. As their friendship deepens, so too do their fears.

In order to protect herself and the girls, Jill can't let her husband know about her friendship with Alex, and Alex can't discover what goes on behind closed doors. What would Alex do if she finds out the truth? At the same time, Alex must fight her attraction and be the friend she suspects Jill needs. Besides, Alex knows what every lesbian knows – don't fall for a straight woman, especially one that's married...but will her heart listen?

Release Date: 15 April 2021

Publisher: Sapphire Books

Genre & Tropes: Friends to Lovers, Slow Burn, Against All Odds

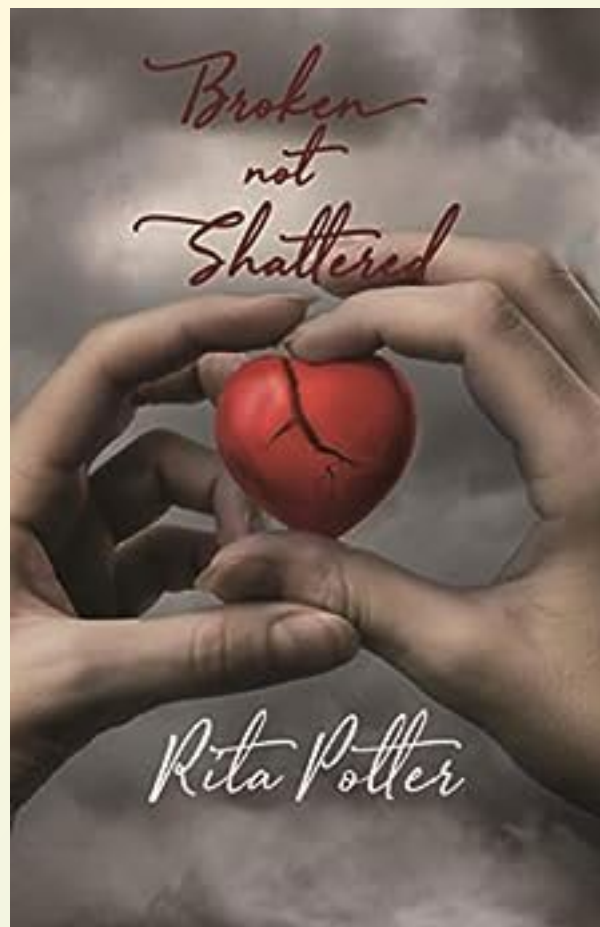
Audiobook Narrator: Heidi Bindhammer

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“Even when it seems hopeless, there can always be a better tomorrow.”

CAUGHT INSIDE

BY LYNNETTE BEERS

Maddie Fong is painfully aware of being the outsider at her new Southern California high school. Teased for being different, she does her best to adapt to her new life. Raised by a single mom, Maddie retreats by burying herself in books and dreaming of a different life. But one day she and her mother meet an intriguing man from Hawaii who introduces Maddie to surfing—which ignites in her the sense of new and exciting possibilities.

But can Maddie overcome her intense fear of water to ride the waves? And if she summons up the courage to learn to surf, will it help her win the attention of a sweet girl from school named Ally Flores? But once Maddie adjusts to life in a beachside town and starts college, she learns that love and bravery might not be enough for her to reach her dreams and find happiness. However, she'll do everything she can in her quest to find happiness.

Release Date: 1 July 2022

Publisher: Flashpoint Publications

Genre & Tropes: Coming of age, friends to lovers, Asian/biracial character

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“When a teen surf champ encounters obstacles that could change the course of her life forever, she’ll do whatever it takes to make it.”

FIONA ZEDDE

What inspired you to start writing sapphic fiction, and how does your personal connection to the genre influence your work?

I've always loved fiction but rarely saw people like me - Black and queer - in early books I read. Once I started writing, it felt natural to start by telling stories I knew, stories with people like me as the main characters, whether they were meeting the love of their lives, traveling to interesting places, or turning into vampires.

How do you infuse your unique creative perspective into sapphic fiction while acknowledging established themes and tropes?

My fiction style has always been to try and "write pretty" about sexy situations and unforgettable characters. It took me a while to get around to troping it up. Even when I used tropes in the past, it was completely accidental. My character Agnes Noble in *House of Agnes* was an "ice queen" because I couldn't see her being any other way given her background. The "enemies to lovers" situation in *Every Dark Desire* was the natural response of a strong-willed woman (who was turned into a vampire without her permission) to an uber-dominant top who literally had the power to boss her around. Right now, I'm consciously writing a "friends to lovers" story that's also a "slow burn." For a writer who usually gets to the sexy stuff pretty early on, this has been an interesting change for me. Fun though.



Sapphic erotic fiction serves as both entertainment and arousal. How do you strike a balance between these dual aspects in your stories?

Telling an entertaining and engaging story has always been the most important thing to me. Erotic play between my characters is usually a given. I try to find balance in the space where sensuality complements the plot while stimulating the readers' investment in the story. Sometimes it's as simple as having a certain number of sex scenes. Other times, it's making sure the reader knows these characters well enough to believe in what's happening on the page.

Are there sub-genres or specific fantasies within sapphic fiction that you're eager to explore in your upcoming work?

I'm actually thinking about tackling F/F monster f*cker romance next. Maybe a short piece about a non-vampire type creature to dip my toes into the subgenre. Already, I have scheduled another romantic thriller, a contemporary romance, plus a romantic suspense so I don't have room for another full-length work on my plate. ♥

CECE SLOAN IS SWOONING BY JAMEY MOODY

CeCe Sloan always wanted to own her own salon and today was the day. It was a dream come true to have her salon nestled between her sisters as they opened their own stores. The Sloan Sisters had arrived.

When CeCe's favorite client comes to the open house a fun little banter of sexy flirting begins between them. It's harmless because CeCe doesn't date her clients. But what happens in the back room doesn't count, right?

Alexis Reed, was a premiere, sought after surgeon so far out of CeCe's league, but flirting with her was so much fun. When Alexis changes stylists so CeCe will go on a date with her, she begins to wonder.

Could CeCe be enough for this amazing woman? Can Alexis convince CeCe this isn't a backroom fling?

Come along on this sexy, romantic adventure and find out why CeCe Sloan is swooning.

Release Date: 24 July 2023

Publisher: Indie Author

Genre & Tropes: Rich girl/poor girl with a little friends to lovers sprinkled in, flirty

Series: Sloan Sisters Romance

Available on KU: Yes

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“Can not-so-innocent
flirting lead to
forever?”

DOMINION

BY RAVEN J. SPENCER

Penny and Carter return with a new mission...

Carter has plans to expand her and Penny's empire with passion projects, one of them investing in women in art, including lesbian rock star Emmy Whittaker. She must postpone those plans when an old nemesis returns and puts Penny and one of their closest friends in danger.

Simply getting even won't be enough this time...

Release Date: 31 August 2023

Publisher: Raven J. Spencer

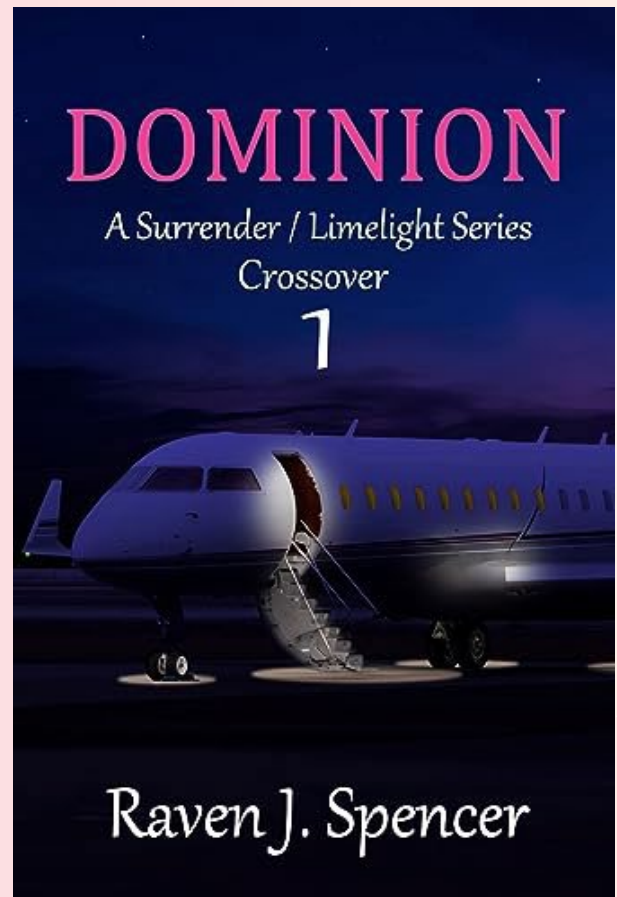
Genre & Tropes: Billionaire, established couple, suspense

Series: A Surrender Series/Love In The Limelight Crossover

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“No one will stand in their way.”

A.L. Brooks

Can you describe your typical writing process when creating sapphic erotic scenes, from conceptualisation to final polishing?

Each scene depends on the characters, to begin with, and specifically what their sexual journey has been to that point. The journey is for each of them as individuals and as a potential couple. Every person who experiences sexual attraction has come from a different starting point to be their current sexual self. No two of us are exactly the same. And that's true for fictional characters too. I've already fleshed out my characters before beginning the book, and part of that is understanding for each of them what sexual attraction means, how they've acted on that in the past, how they want to act on that in the future. I may have a particular setting in mind for each erotic scene in the story, or some will come to me as I write. Partly the characters will 'tell' me when/how/where they want to enjoy each other. But sometimes, even before I write a story, a particularly hot idea will come to me and I'll jot it down and then when I start a story I'll look at all these stored notes and be like, "Ah, that would work for those two!" and weave that idea in at the right time.

For each scene there are three things I'm always thinking about: consent, communication, and the words I want to use to describe their bodies and their actions. Consent is sexy, and is paramount to every scene I write that involves two people getting intimate with each other. Communication is something not everyone is comfortable with during sex, and again that's determined by the characters themselves. But I'll always try to make sure that how they talk to each other, if at all, during their intimacy, is in keeping with their character and is believable. In terms of the language I use to write the scene, that again depends so much on the characters and the tone of the book. The language in *The Club*, for example, is considerably more graphic and earthy than the language in the multiple erotic scenes between Tamsyn and Maggie in *Write Your Own Script*, which again is different from the more gentle, euphemistic language describing what Carmen and Ash do to each other in *Dare to Love*.

Sapphic relationships offer a range of dynamics. What draws you to exploring the intimate connections between women in your writing?

I think many women, like me, were (and unfortunately



still are) brought up to believe that we are not allowed to be sexual beings. We are there to please our man, we should just (in the words of a famous catchphrase I heard throughout my growing up in the UK in the 70s and 80s) "lie back and think of England" when our man uses us for his pleasure. As a result, we have a lot of shame, guilt and fear over the act of sex and our response to it. So many women still think it's wrong to actually want sex. And even today, the sexism is rife when talking about women with a sexual appetite – if a woman has sex with multiple men in her life she's a slut, but if a man does the same with women he's a hero.

I went through quite the journey to rid myself of my own internal shame for being sexually aroused and actively wanting to do something about that with the person I was attracted to. So when I started writing sapphic books, it was very important to me that my characters were sexual. That they wanted to have sex – and in some cases, lots of it, e.g. the characters in *The Club*. I wanted to write sex in a way that showed women whatever they were feeling, however they were aroused, whoever they wanted to have sex with, it was ok. Totally ok. That physical attraction is not something to be ashamed of but celebrated, something to be proud of.

But I also wanted to show the range of that, i.e. from those

who are completely comfortable with being sexual to those who are just learning this about themselves. Those who thought being with men was the only way but suddenly are overwhelmed by their response to another woman. Those who have been hurt, emotionally, by a woman they thought they'd spend the rest of their days with and suddenly find themselves alone and feeling unloved and unwanted. For all these types of characters, sex can play such a role in their journey to themselves, and I love unlocking that as the story unfolds. Sex isn't everything, of course – the emotional connection needs to be there between the characters first and foremost. But sexual intimacy can add so much to that connection, and that's what I love bringing through in the erotic scenes I write.

Do you see your sapphic romance novels as a form of representation, escapism, or a blend of both? Why?

Definitely both! When I first sat down to write *The Club*, that one was first and foremost all about escapism. Women being utterly free to indulge their every sexual whim in an imaginary club offering a completely safe space to do just that. However, on a deeper level, it was also about representation. It was about showing that women are sexual (which ties into my answer above) and don't have to be ashamed of it.

My romances are also a blend. Yes, I'm inventing fictional characters, settings, and circumstances. And in a lot of cases offering a scenario which allows the reader to escape into a different world. But I've always written my romances with a heavy dose of realism, something that I've been commended for. Because I want to show what it's like for my characters in a situation that others can perhaps relate to. So they can see themselves, and read something that truly speaks to them, that understands them, perhaps gives them a different way of thinking about their own situation. Or simply gives them some hope that things could be different, that their path in life is not necessarily set in stone. I would love to think that someone, somewhere, read Carmen's journey in *Dare to Love* and thought, "ok, so maybe I can act on this attraction I have for women, maybe I can find someone who will give me what I truly desire, even this late in my life."

I know as a reader I want my sapphic romances to be all sorts of things, depending on my mood. Some of them I want fluffy and cute, not necessarily realistic but who cares because the love story is just so adorable it makes me feel all squishy inside. Some I want to be more hard-hitting than that, where the MCs face some serious life situations that I can either relate to because I've been through something similar, or which will make me think about something I've never thought of before. When I wrote *Dark Horse*, I was exploring the scenario of trying to reconnect with a birth family that had rejected someone. I know of so many queer

people who have experienced that, and I wanted to explore the nuances of that. For some readers this is not something they want to read, it hits far too close to home. So in other books, like *A Heart to Trust*, I wanted to show what found family is all about, how powerful that is for our community.

I'm not an author who is ever going to write the same thing over and over, I'm always going to explore that rich blend and enjoy what satisfaction that brings to me, and hopefully to my readers too.

What recurring themes or messages do you find yourself weaving into your sapphic romance stories?

As I've touched on above, found family is a theme that's very special to me and will often find its way into my books. My upbringing was not the best; I'm estranged from my father and although close to my mum, my relationship with my three sisters is brittle, shall we say. So my whole life it's been the friends who've stuck by me who have mattered more. Of course, losing them can hurt just as much as rejection from birth family, if not more so, and I've experienced that too. So I'm always going to write stories that explore all the aspects of family, drawing on my own experience and that of friends. It's a rich well to draw from – I wish it wasn't so, I wish we all just had a great birth family and long-lasting friendships we could rely on, but as I said earlier, I'm always going to be realistic in my stories, and so broken families and friendships are going to keep popping up.

Similarly, I've often written feisty older characters into my stories, be they grandparents, aunts, or neighbours (or chickens – see *Chasing Dreams* for details). My maternal grandmother, Nellie, was a take-no-prisoners kind of woman who I loved dearly. It took me about three books to realise that I was channelling her into all my elderly characters! But I've heard so many stories from friends and colleagues over the years about their cranky old grandad or whatever, and although they can be rude and set in their ways, they can also provide endless stories of fabulously over-the-top behaviour that just has to go into my books.

Finally, love is my most recurring theme. That could be romantic love, because I am a total, soppy, teary romantic who gets all the feels when two people get their HEA. Or it could be the love and deep respect two friends have for each other over the years. Or the love someone has for their career, or their pet, or the place where they live. As human beings we have such a huge capacity for love. It astonishes me on a regular basis how far people will go, both physically and emotionally, to show their love for someone or something, and trying to capture the essence of that is something that will keep me writing love stories for many years to come. ♥

ENSNARED IN HER SYMPHONY

BY JOLIE DVORAK

Maestro Virve Vintinen is at the very top of her game. She's the principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra: the music world is hers to rule and she does so in style. She is regarded as one of the finest musicians of the age, and she likes to be in control – on the podium and in the bedroom.

Sabina Harper is the acting concertmaster of the London Symphony Orchestra but previous rivalries and jealousies have made her wary of the limelight.

When an accident leaves the London orchestra without a conductor days before their European tour, Virve steps in. Sitting in the first chair looking up at her is the delectable Sabina Harper. Sabina is hot, talented and she plays music that fuels Virve's soul.

As the tour begins, Sabina proves to be eager for exactly the pleasures Virve likes and they arrange to enjoy each other on the tour. But will Sabi's music, her luscious body and her searching brown eyes crumple Virve's icy resolve?

Release Date: 6 March 2023

Publisher: Indie Author

Genre & Tropes: Ice queen, Musicians, BDSM

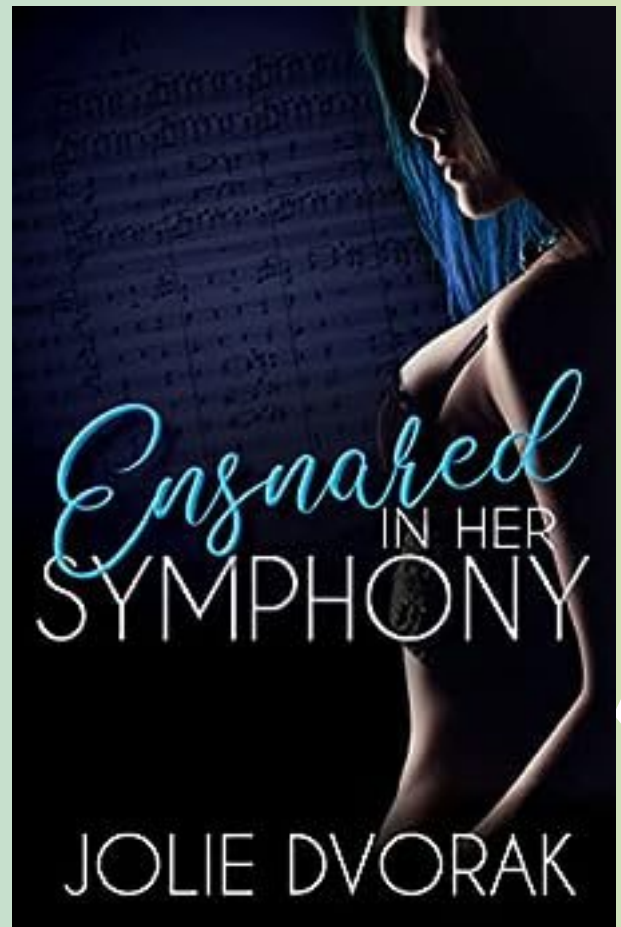
Series: She Demands Perfection

Available on KU: Yes

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“The Maestro might control the music, but who controls her heart?”

FOLLOW SPOT BY BRENDA MURPHY

Celebrity lookalike escort Astrid Lepler is tired of running. When an old friend invites her to apply for a role at Rowan House, she travels to Scotland to show off her skills as a purveyor of fantasy and in-demand Mistress in hopes of securing a position.

Tessa has worked hard to put her past behind her and make a place for herself at Rowan House. Respected by her peers, desired by clients, surrounded by friends with all the benefits, she has everything she has ever wanted.

It all comes crashing down when Astrid arrives at Rowan House. Faced with their undeniable attraction to each other, Tessa and Astrid rekindle their past romance. When the Widow threatens to end Astrid and Rowan House for good, it will take everything Tessa and Astrid have to save Rowan House and keep their love alive, but will it be enough?

Release Date: 8 August 2023

Publisher: Ninestar Press

Genre & Tropes: Second Chance romance, First Love, Polyamorous (FFF)

Series: Rowan House

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“Sometimes being yourself is the hardest role.”

ANNE SHADE

How do you approach research when writing sapphic romance, especially when incorporating cultural elements?

Research is vital when I'm incorporating cultural elements that I'm not familiar with. I will do online research, purchase books on the subject and reach out to experts to interview and collect information from. For example, *Three Wishes* is based on Jinn legends which come from Middle Eastern and Muslim religion and culture and features a real island located off the coast of Madagascar. I bought a book on Jinn (*Legends of the Fire Spirits* – Robert Lebling) and Madagascar (*Madagascar-The Eighth Continent* – Peter Tyson) to ensure I had the appropriate information for the story.

What drew you to writing sapphic romance, and how do you strive to capture the essence of these relationships in your stories?

I was drawn to writing sapphic romance, particularly featuring POC characters, because I didn't see enough representation. What I did find were mostly tragic or shame-filled stories that didn't represent the life of the queer woman I am or the ones I personally know.



What's your strategy for incorporating unique conflict into your narratives without falling into common romance tropes?

I try to write realistic stories, even the fantasy-based ones, that show realistic life issues. Since real people have their own unique issues and ways to deal with them, I try to make sure my characters and story do the same.

What's the most unexpected or unconventional setting you've used to enhance the atmosphere in your sapphic romance stories?

The most unconventional setting I've used will be featured in my upcoming April 2024 release *Leather, Lace and Locs* which takes place in a fetish club. Most people would imagine a fetish club as a great sexy setting but not see a romance forming there. I decided to try it and see if it worked. We'll know in April if I was successful. ♥

GREEN FOR LOVE

BY E.V. BANCROFT

Dr Jay Tanner has meticulously crafted her career trajectory from a humble working-class background to a top executive position at Magenta Oil, positioning herself for the coveted CEO role. She indulges in flings with unattainable women at an exclusive club, content with her current lifestyle.

Cordelia Armstrong-Forde comes from a privileged lineage but has dedicated her life to advocating for charitable causes and fighting against big oil corporations. While she isn't actively seeking romance, she trusts the universe to guide her towards it.

When Jay and Cordelia meet at the members-only club, sparks fly, but their contrasting ideologies on saving the planet present a significant obstacle. Despite their undeniable chemistry, they seem incompatible. As they're forced to work together, will their opinions soften, or will their staunch beliefs prohibit their love from blossoming?

Release Date: 1 June 2023

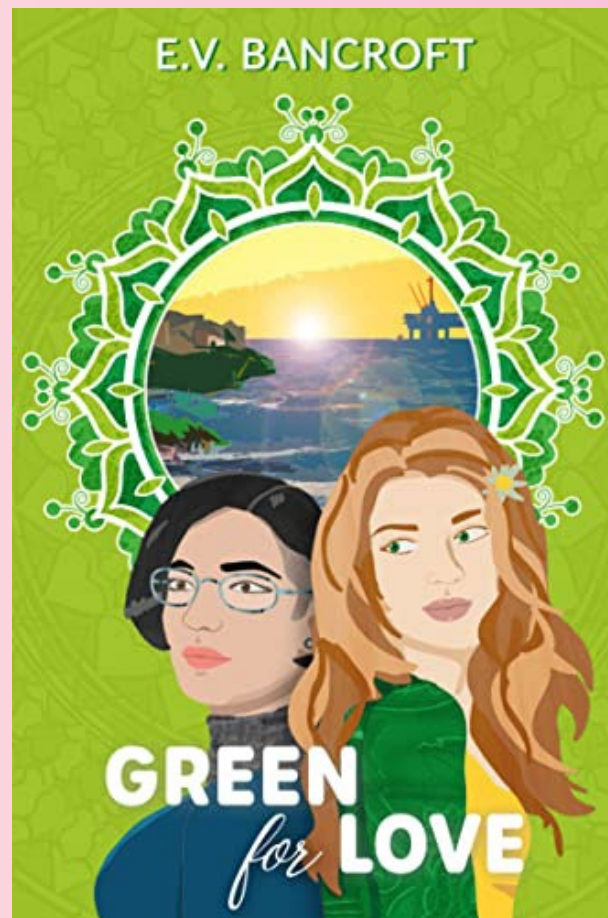
Publisher: Butterworth Books

Genre & Tropes: Enemies to lovers, opposites attract, rich girl, poor girl

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“All's fair in love
and eco war.”

I DO

BY CHEYENNE BLUE

A fabulous twin-swap lesbian romance where the toaster oven could double as a wedding gift.

Accountant Allie Lane would do anything for her injured twin sister, including pretend to be her to save Sophie's fledgling event-planning business. All Allie has to do is fake being a lesbian for a few weeks and co-ordinate a rural gay wedding festival. Simple. Except she's nothing like her outgoing sister and, last Allie checked, she was straight.

Tarryn Harris cannot stand weddings. Now her small Australian town of Quandong is being overrun by matrimonial madness for its first gay wedding festival. The other hitch is she's been roped into being the assistant to the cute lesbian event planner. Frankly, she'd rather be left alone with her alpacas and metal art.

The finale of the festival is a fake wedding. Surely no one will vote for a wedding hater and an undercover straight woman to play the fake couple? Right?

Release Date: 23 August 2023

Publisher: Ylva Publishing

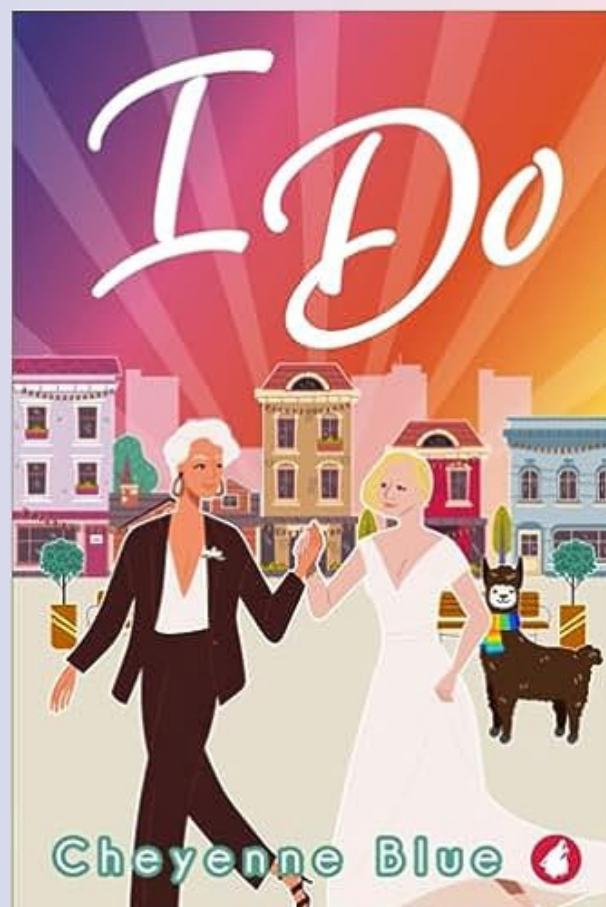
Genre & Tropes: twin swap, small town, toaster oven

Available on KU: Yes

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“A fabulous twin-swap lesbian romance where the toaster oven could double as a wedding gift.”

JUST LIKE HER

BY FIONA ZEDDE

Delphine's life is made up of secrets. About her job, her sexual identity, and even her past. She coasts along on a tide of half-truths until a familiar "straight" woman splashes deeper into her world, threatening her tenuous peace of mind.

This woman wants to be everything Delphine has never had before – a confidant, a seductress, a trusted lover. By giving in to this siren, is Delphine setting herself up for heartbreak?

Release Date: 23 Desember 2023

Publisher: Red Hills Publishing

Genre & Tropes: Romance, Intrigue, Black Lead

Series: Like Her

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“As secrets and hearts collide, will they risk it all for love?”

LIVES INTERTWINED: LOVE ON SEQUIM BAY BY DOROTHY RICE BENNETT

Brittany Forrest, animal lover and vet tech, needs a better place to rent in Sequim, on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Noticing a for-rent sign, she calls the owner of the large house. Brit, guessing she isn't the only woman needing a better/cheaper place to live, finds three other lesbians to rent with her. Since Brit needs one more, Aggie Hollister, the straight older woman who owns the big house, asks to remain as the fifth woman. How will this work out for the five women--a vet tech, a lawn-maintenance worker, a college student with a secret friend, a retired pianist, and a widowed woman who has built a life caring for other people, all of different ages--sharing space and lives?

Release Date: 14 July 2020

Publisher: Indie Author

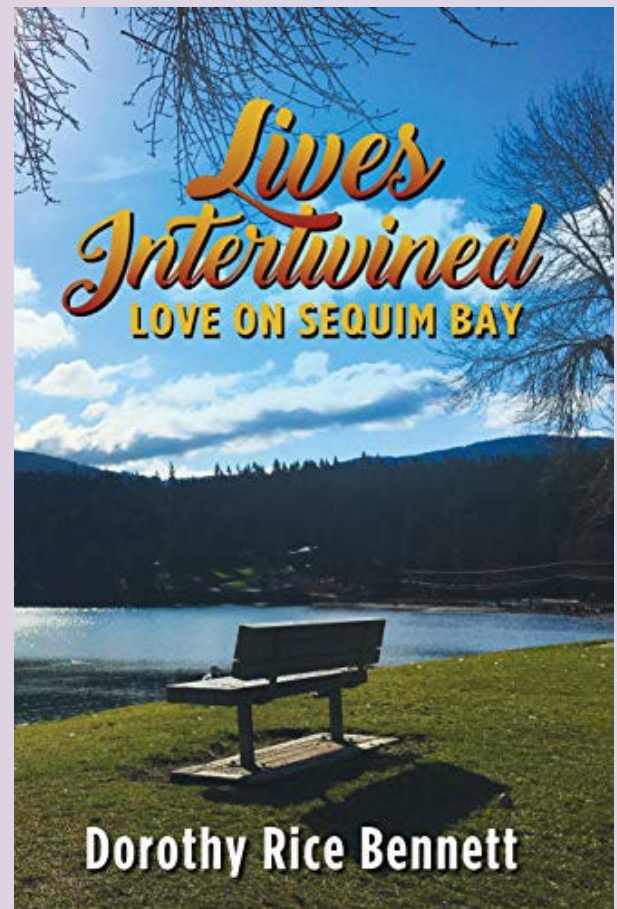
Genre & Tropes: Small Town, Age Gap, Coming Out

Series: Lives Intertwined

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“Can five women living together get more than just saving rent money?”

MELISSA TEREZE

Maintaining strong, independent sapphic characters while highlighting vulnerability—how do you strike that balance?

All of my novels highlight vulnerability. That's my jam. Everyone is vulnerable in one way or another, as human beings it's nigh on impossible to NOT feel vulnerable. Whether that is because of your past, your present, or simply who you are as a person, nobody gets away with it. Unfortunately. Sometimes I have naturally strong characters who try to hide those vulnerabilities, and sometimes I have vulnerable characters who become stronger by dealing with their vulnerabilities. It's important that my characters build one another up. That's also where character development comes in. Having a vulnerable character in the beginning of the book is going to be one of the main focuses as it moves on. If that character is still hugely vulnerable by the end of the book, then I have to question what the point of their story was.

Sapphic romance can span various age groups. How do you address different life stages and experiences within your stories?

I write my novels with the knowledge that anything can happen to anyone at any point in their lives. What may naturally occur at a younger age or older age doesn't mean it cannot happen the other way around. One example would be *The Arrangement*. Sam loses her wife when they're in their early thirties. Yes, that is something that happens, but it's less predictable than someone losing their wife in their seventies. Then there is *The Hideout*. Juliet is almost fifty but has never been in love



or even a relationship. Again, something you wouldn't expect by the time you reach that age. I try not to put people in a particular category based on their age or where they should be at by a certain point. I prefer my characters to dictate the life stage they're at. Everyone has different life experiences. Some have none, while others have far more than some.

While focusing on eroticism, how do you ensure that your characters remain multidimensional and emotionally authentic?

This is one of the most vital things to me in novels. Anyone can write a sex scene, but it's how it's written that makes it what it is. Even in erotica when it's not necessarily something emotional, there still has to be some kind of connection. As someone who is known for writing many spicy scenes in books, I have to feel the pull of the characters, or it doesn't translate well on the page. I think it's hugely important that writers are in tune with their characters, especially in erotic scenes. That way, the authenticity tends to come through naturally. If it doesn't come through naturally, then I have to ask myself if I really know them well enough to write an erotic scene yet. If I don't feel connected and in my characters head, it's difficult for me to put those words into action on the page. Knowing each and every quirk and being in tune with their backstory and/or current issues helps to advance erotic scenes. For example, in a book that has a coercive control backstory, both characters must be on the same

page. My characters MUST understand that it's a slow and steady process. Therefore, I'm not likely to write their first scene as something raw and heavy if one character is still processing the very fact that another woman is attracted to them in the first place. It's about showing trust for one another on the page, which again, if you're writing the scene in the correct way, will show the emotional authenticity without really trying.

Building chemistry and desire between characters is paramount. How do you create believable and enticing connections in your sapphic erotic stories?

From page one. That's the short answer.

My characters always meet in the first chapter. I like to ensure they have as long as possible to know one another. Before I write a single word on a new story, I sit and have those conversations in my head. I picture how they meet, what that feeling is when they shake hands, or when they smile at one another. If I don't feel the connection as that happens, then it's scrapped, and we go again. I have been known to cry into my keyboard during various scenes when I'm writing them. That's how you know you've got your connection. And I think writing those scenes is similar to real life. You know how you feel when you meet a particular person, and it's often those experiences I draw upon. We all remember our first kiss or the first time we met our partners, so when in doubt, sit back and remind yourself of that. ♥

LORNA

BY ERIKA HAV

Denise is a precociously intelligent young woman who divides her time between medical school and her friends.

Lorna is an ER doctor focused on her work and immersed in the daily routine of her life.

One cold, winter morning their lives collide by accident. From that moment on, the foundations of Lorna's life are shaken by Denise's relentless attraction to her.

Lorna is conditioned by her age and believes it is unacceptable to let herself be carried away by her emotions. She struggles through conflicting feelings to chip away at her long-established convictions. Denise, on the other hand, who is much younger and spontaneous, does not see their age difference as a hurdle whatsoever.

They embark on a journey that challenges social and moral conventions, and tests the depth of their feelings.

Release Date: 20 November 2021

Publisher: Indie Author

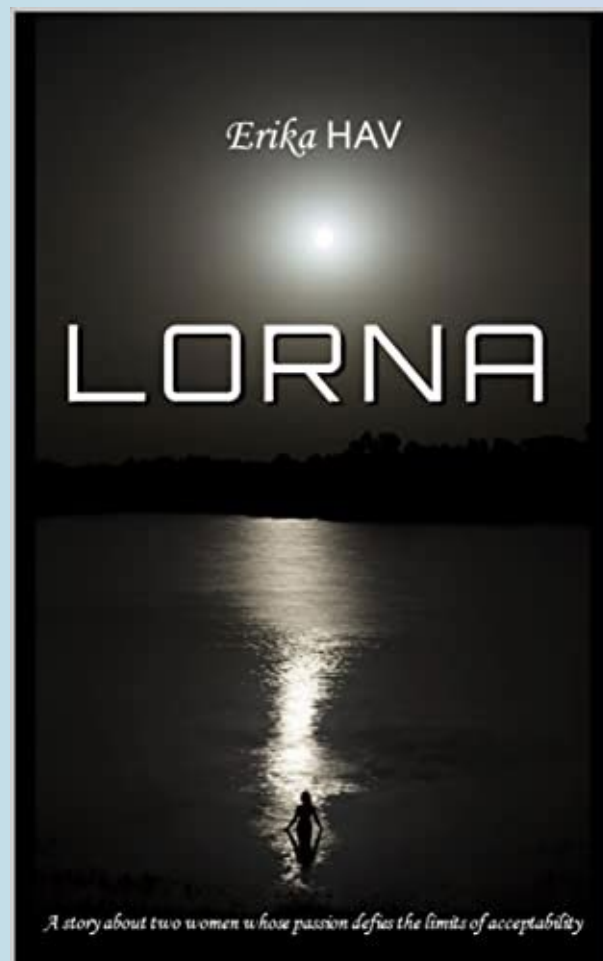
Genre & Tropes: Erotic Romance, Age Gap, Lesbian Emotional and Sexual Tension, Lesbian Slow Burn Romance, Secret love between women, Explicit lesbian sex scenes, Forbidden Love

Available on KU: Yes

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“A story about
two women whose
passion defies
the limits of
acceptability”

LOUDER THAN WORDS

BY LISA ELLIOT

Kelly is the CEO of an internationally renowned whisky distillery in her hometown in the Scottish Highlands. But she's unsettled and has let her adventurous side take a back seat. When she meets a younger woman at a gig, she can't help but be drawn to her.

Myla wanted to be a musician but has settled for working in a café. Expressive and introverted, she longs for something more but doesn't believe she will ever get it. She's on her own and has no family, so when she inherits a Scottish estate and whisky distillery from a great-aunt she knew nothing about, her world is turned upside down.

When Myla travels to the Highlands to explore her roots and come to terms with her past, she meets the hot older woman from the gig who set her pulse racing. Myla wants to continue what they started. But Kelly is more concerned about the future of the distillery and Myla's role in it and just wants to be friends.

Release Date: 11 August 2022

Publisher: Indie Author

Genre & Tropes: Age Gap, Loss/Grieving, Mental Illness

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“Whisky and
belonging in the
Scottish Highlands”

RITA POTTER

What strategies do you employ to ensure that LGBTQ+ readers connect with your sapphic romance narratives on a personal level?

My characters are flawed, like we all are. Even my most heroic characters are facing situations they aren't sure how to navigate, but they're trying their hardest. I believe we are all doing our best, but sometimes we stumble and even fall. My characters are no different.

My ninth book will be out in November, and each character is a distinct fully fleshed out person. I know them all intimately and no two are alike, and my hope is that I write them well enough that the reader feels the same.

What's your approach to creating tension and resolving conflicts within sapphic romance narratives?

Two complaints I hear often are that readers are fed up with angst and miscommunication. Done well angst makes for a deeply satisfying story. Note the key is that it must be done well.

First, let's talk about angst, and why I write it. My favorite quote about writing is, "the writer's job is to put their main character up a tree, and then throw rocks at them." When my characters get their HEA, which they will, they've earned it. As a social worker, I believe we all have fears, insecurities, and pasts that often leave us guarded in relationships. I call these demons. Unchecked and unhealed these demons often ruin relationships. Love is the catalyst that makes my characters want to overcome these barriers, but it will take grit, determination, and



moments of angst to get them there. Anyone who has battled their own demons knows that it's not easy, so it won't be easy for my characters either.

Second, let's talk about miscommunication. Of course, nobody likes gratuitous or unbelievable miscommunication, such as, the character saw their love interest talking to another woman, so they overreact and breakup without explanation. This type of miscommunication is problematic in books.

But there are more subtle ways and reasons humans miscommunicate. Most people hide a part of themselves, some a small part and others a large part. It's the shield they put up to guard themselves against pain and their demons. It takes great courage and vulnerability to communicate openly, and the majority of people never get to that level.

How many times does someone say they're alright when they aren't? How many times do people hide parts of themselves for fear of being judged or shamed? How many times have they went along with something just to keep the peace? How many times does someone believe if their past was revealed others would find them unlovable?

Being human isn't easy, so I want my stories to reflect that reality.

Are there sub-genres or specific storylines within sapphic romance that you're eager to explore in your future work?

My tagline is: Hopeful, Eclectic, Authentic (HEA), so I embrace eclectic topics in my writing. I have so many story ideas that I'll never be able to write them all in this lifetime. I've found that my favorite books to write are the ones that require research.

Currently, I'm working on a story about Stockholm Syndrome, so I read everything I could about Patty Hearst. I've tackled the eruption of Mount St. Helens, homelessness, storm-chasing, whitewater rafting, among others.

I tend to read non-fiction books for this inspiration. My bookshelves are full of so many subjects; Hurricane Katrina, UFO's, Enron, DNA and genomes, the Manhattan Project, the

1920's just to name a few. I have half-jokingly said I will likely write in every genre before my writing career is over.

Writing intimate scenes can be sensitive. How do you approach these moments to ensure they're genuine and respectful?

This is an interesting and timely question. I just spent the weekend with several other authors at a Pride event, and we were talking about this subject. I make no secret that I don't enjoy writing sex scenes, and as I have written more books, I've moved toward fade to black.

I'm aware that some readers expect a sex scene or two, so they might not purchase my books for this reason. After much soul searching, I decided that's alright. In the end, I must be authentic and true to myself. My hope is that my stories will be compelling enough to draw in readers.

But just because I don't write sex scenes, doesn't mean the chemistry and heat is lacking. The reader will always be there for the first kiss and the building sexual tension, but once the clothes start coming off, I allow my characters privacy. Since I'm generally a slow burn writer, my hope is the reader knows my characters so well that they can use their imagination to fill in what happens next. ♥

LOVE BY DESIGN BY S.W. ANDERSEN

Life has a funny way of revealing harsh truths.

Cassie Carl believes she has it all. On the cusp of achieving her professional goals and soon to marry the man of her dreams.

What else could a girl want?

Peyton Kingston is a beautiful, talented interior designer on the rise, whose sole focus is building her business. She loves what she does and has little time or patience for relationships. She's happy with her life.

What else could a girl need?

When Cassie's wealthy fiancé brings Peyton in to do a renovation on their home before the big engagement party, sparks fly, leaving both Cassie and Peyton to question everything they thought they already had.

What happens when the thin veil of perfection becomes riddled with holes?

S.W. Andersen's best selling modern day romance takes you on a journey of self-discovery for two women who thought they had it all.

Release Date: 16 August 2016

Publisher: Indie Author

Genre & Tropes: love at first sight, love triangle, bisexual

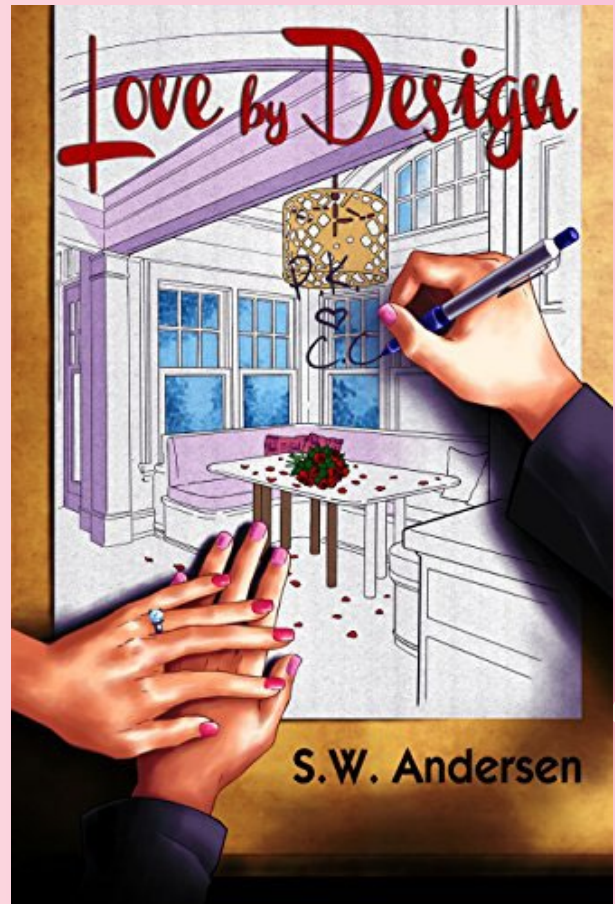
Audiobook Narrator: Alexandra Shawnee, Gabra Zackman

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“What happens
when the thin veil of
perfection becomes
riddled with holes?”

OFF THE MENU

BY ALAINA ERDELL

In less than 48 hours, reality TV sensation Restaurant Redo and its gorgeous host will arrive to film in chef Taylor Mobley's kitchen... and she just found out.

Fixer Erin Rasmussen has a reputation for saving failing restaurants with her take-no-crap attitude. She gets the job done on time, under budget, and millions of viewers tune in to watch her do it.

The fine dining restaurant Taylor works for has some serious problems and management doesn't want her input. It's time to leave. But how is she supposed to find a new position when a TV host with delusions of grandeur keeps painting her as a problem chef? Taylor refuses to play nice with Erin, especially on camera. They make each other's blood boil, which is why it's even more annoying that they can't manage to keep their hands off each other.

Release Date: 1 March 2023

Publisher: Bold Strokes Books

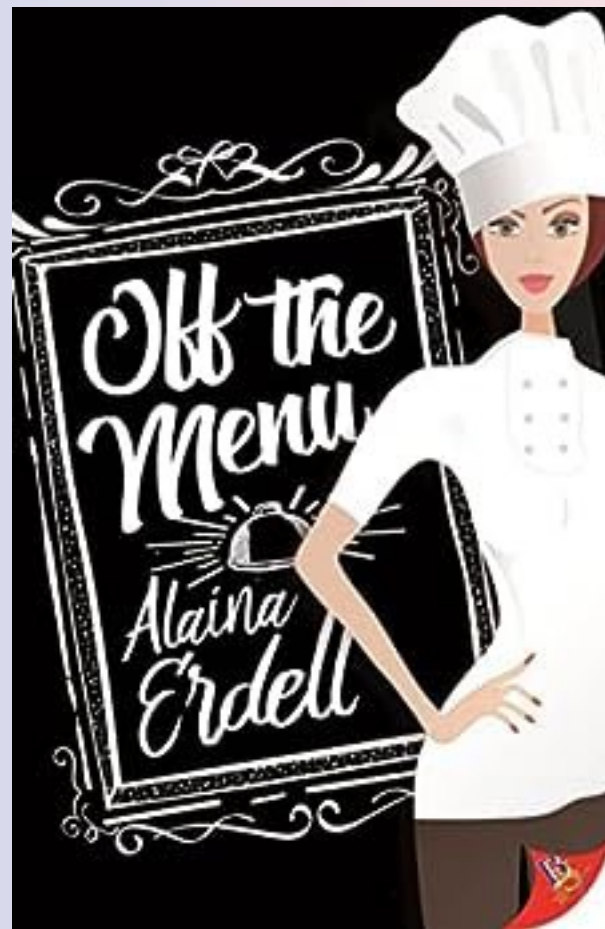
Genre & Tropes: Enemies to lovers, age gap, celebrity

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“In less than 48 hours, reality TV sensation Restaurant Redo and its gorgeous host will film in Taylor's kitchen...and she just found out.”

FRANKIE FYRE

Sapphic romance often explores emotional depth. How do you ensure your characters' feelings are conveyed authentically?

I approach authentic characterization by doing my best at providing relatable internal wounds that drive the story forward. The emotional depth on the page occurs when the gap closes between what my characters think they want versus what they need. Conveying this comes in a variety of ways such as crafting backstory, flashbacks, and internal monologue and one of my favorites: the moment they realize they are “Kenough” and wholeheartedly deserving of love. Throughout the books, I try to display feelings by how each character moves through life based on their own cultural lens.

Is there a sapphic romance sub-genre or theme that you feel particularly passionate about exploring in future works?

Some subgenres I’d consider exploring in future works include anything with high stakes because I love writing conflict and with a flare of mystique layered in—action, more angsty romance themes, psychological thrillers.

As always, I aim to provide page turning sapphic fiction for my readers and will continue to let my curiosity and skills expand if my heart calls to. That’s a special part about being a writer. I will say, I do believe romance and making people laugh will always be a part of my storytelling. As well as each story including my unique flavor—sweet heat with sweltering kink, happily ever afters and memorable diverse characters. The more Fyre the better ;)



As sapphic romance evolves, what themes or aspects do you think will become more prominent in the genre?

There are more readers than writers in the world. Many days, writers wish they could finish stories faster because the world needs more quality sapphic entertainment. Books, movies, tv shows etc. As sapphic romance evolves, I suspect we will see an increase of a variety of themes across the board. The genre is growing which means there are more readers who want different experiences. Regarding what's becoming more prominent, darker themes are popular. Note: authors haven't only recently begun to write in that niche. These books have been around for years. As the world turns, trends usually come and go, but overall, I believe most romance subgenres and niches have a readership. When writers love the stories we tell (while keeping reader expectations and market in mind), readers will enjoy them too. Those are the books that are prominent.

I couldn't help myself to a mini, slightly random food analogy! Books are like eating tacos. Lots of people love tacos. Sometimes you have a craving for your go-to order and other times you want to mix it up because it's a new menu item or because your friends have been raving about it or it's on sale. Sometimes you have a mini obsession with a specific type of food for weeks and next thing you know, BAM you've eaten that item prepared twenty different ways.

Let's not talk about my two month salmon obsession...

People will always want more satisfying and joyful experiences. Ultimately, people's tummies are full and happy because of the joy of... delicious tacos—err sapphic books.

Can you discuss the significance of diverse representation within the sapphic romance genre and how it enriches storytelling?

Why is sapphic romance significant? To feel joy, to help ourselves and others be seen, heard, understood and more. When it comes to diverse representation, it's important to question the purpose and intentionality. Does it come off as checking a box for "diversity and inclusivity" pennies or is it about helping expand truth and creating joy? Our world is diverse. Ignoring that reality does more harm than good. Readers want to see themselves in sapphic literature. It matters.

For me, diverse representation comes from a place of genuine curiosity—knowledge seeking, responsibility (doing my best to get it right), compassion, listening and helping people see themselves. Authentically lift up voices and celebrate. Being willing to genuinely listen when someone shows bravery to have hard conversations about their experiences. That's community.

What enriches sapphic romance is the experiences, themes and emotions that are relatable to us humans, which encompasses diverse representation. ♥

ON MY WAY THERE

BY JAYCIE MORRISON

Maxine Terrell lurches into adulthood madly in love with a woman and her child. Unfortunately, Daphne Polk is someone else's wife, and her daughter Lena is someone else's child. But Daphne's been there for her ever since Max and her father weathered a terrible tragedy, one that's still whispered about in their small Texas town.

Emotionally adrift, Max decides to take to the road and signs up to become a truck driver. During her training in Lubbock, she meets Trillian—"Thrill"—and manages to screw things up from the start. After another chance encounter and a sweet kiss she can't forget, Max begins to rethink not only what, but who she really wants.

As Max traverses the open road, her journey of impossible love, loss, and courage mirrors her voyage of self-discovery. But before she can look to the future, she must come to terms with the history she'd rather forget.

Release Date: 1 June 2023

Publisher: Bold Strokes Books

Genre & Tropes: Second Chance at Love, Blue Collar, Transgender, Children / Families, Small Town Romances

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“If Maxine Terrell
can't have the
woman of her
dreams, will the
woman of real life be
enough?”

SECRET KEEPERS

BY K. A. MOLL

Get ready for a rollercoaster ride of love, secrets, and surprises in *Secret Keepers*, the fourth book in the captivating Dallin series. When famous actress Melanie Dyson arrives in the small town of Dallin seeking medical treatment from her old friend, she never expects to find love with the shy and handsome waitress Margaret Miller at Dinah's Bistro. Despite their differences, they share undeniable chemistry, and romantic sparks sizzle. But when a nosy reporter exposes Melanie's health condition and sexual orientation to the world, their lives are thrown into chaos. Can they find their way back to one another? Their journey is a heartwarming tale.

Release Date: 11 August 2023

Publisher: KAM Books, LLC

Genre & Tropes: romance, celebrity, small town

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“A rollercoaster ride
of love, secrets, and
surprises”

STUNTED HEART

BY HELENA HARTE

Taryn Taylor is a stunt rider always looking for the next adrenaline fix and the next scorching encounter. Settling down isn't her style, and she's sworn never to stay in one place long enough to grow roots. But when her team is asked to do a longer running show in Vegas, she gives in. It's temporary, after all.

Dr. Cassandra Kennedy doesn't understand why people engage in risky behavior when life is so precious and death so final. She sees the devastation wrought by recklessness, and she's felt the pain of loss herself. She couldn't get involved with someone who didn't take the road more cautious.

When they meet, passions ignite with off-the-charts chemistry. They both know it's only temporary—Taryn will soon be back on the road chasing the ultimate rush, and Cassandra will go back to her orderly life where she's the one in control. Will they decide that love is worth betting on, or will caution keep them apart forever?

Release Date: 1 August 2023

Publisher: Indie Author (Butterworth Books)

Genre & Tropes: One night to forever, opposites attract, celebrity, butch/femme,

Series: Available on KU: Yes

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“A stunt rider who lives in the fast lane. An ER doctor who can't take chances. A passion that could turn their worlds upside down”

TAKE TWO

BY STEPHANIE SHEA

Love just doesn't make sense to Whitney Dimaano. Not anymore. When Andy Vahn—the one that got away—waltzes back into town for a film project, embers from their past begin to reignite. But can Whitney ever truly trust Andy again, or are second chances just a myth?

Release Date: 28 October 2022

Publisher: Stephanie Shea

Genre & Tropes: Second Chance, Friends to Lovers, Demisexual lead

Series: A Gia, San Francisco Romance

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“A second-chance romance bursting with new sparks and old flames.”

JAMEY MOODY

Can you share a bit about your journey to becoming a published sapphic romance author?

I have a day job and I'd like to say I'm very good at it which gives me down time, but I have to stay at the office. There is only so much you can read on the internet, so I began to read books at the office. I live in a small town with an even smaller gay population. When I found sapphic fiction I felt like I'd found a whole new group of friends. As time went on I started to listen to TB Markinson and Clare Lydon's podcast Lesbians Who Write. They gave such good information and it made me wonder if I could do that. It's crazy how ideas will pop in your head as a writer, but the more I listened and read the ideas for my own book kept coming. I can't tell you how daunting opening that first document was, but off I went and haven't looked back. When I'm coming to the end of a book and don't have plans on what I want to write next I wonder if I'm done. But then something will inspire me or an idea will come into my head and here we go. This adventure in sapphic literature and romance has given me such joy and I plan to keep exploring as long as the ideas keep coming.

Balancing originality with established sapphic romance tropes can be tricky. How do you put your own spin on these tropes?

When I did the TLR's age gap vs fake relationship event I hadn't realized how many age gap books I've written. I must like that particular trope. During that battle we discussed all kinds of ways an age gap



can come into a romance. I think that's the same with most tropes. For me, I look at them as a challenge. There are some tropes I haven't attempted and may not, but I think you can keep the trope fresh because of the characters. Yes, you may have an age gap, or an enemies to lovers, or a fake relationship, or toaster oven, but the characters and their surroundings keep it fresh. You never know how people are going to react to a given situation. That goes the same for characters. The reader might expect them to act one way, but then when they act another that keeps the trope fresh.

Can you share a memorable fan interaction related to your sapphic romance stories?

Readers are the best! I love meeting and hearing from readers. There are several readers who email me regularly and I always enjoy it. I have been fortunate to meet several readers in person who have read my books. It amazes me how invested they are in the characters and how much they like some of them. I can't quite believe how much they like my books sometimes. It's incredible. I did a GCLS one day event in New Jersey. A longtime reader emailed me to let me know they were coming. We were both excited to meet in person. She got there right before my panel and I was able to say a quick hello. After the panel we visited for a few minutes and I signed a couple of books for her and her sister.

When I asked if she was staying for the rest of the panels she said no. She had driven over an hour and a half one way to come meet me, listen to the panel and then turn around and go back. I couldn't believe it! Still can't! Readers are the best!

Crafting unforgettable sapphic romantic moments requires finesse. How do you approach writing these scenes?

Ah, the first time their hands brush, a heated glance, the first kiss, sex for the first time. These are all so much fun to write, but it's thinking them through that's the hard part. I don't always know when the moments will happen in the story when I begin to write it. I know they will happen, but I have to get the characters there first. Sometimes the first kiss will come when I wasn't even expecting it (Yes, characters do often have a mind of their own). Once I get to those points in the story I stop and figure out what this part of the scene is trying to say. Are they both ready for this first kiss? Have they been waiting? Is it a surprise? Once I know what the characters are feeling then it makes it easier to write the scene. Some authors don't like writing sex scenes, but what I like about writing them is I get to show the readers the emotions the characters are feeling. I love a good romance and the feelings are the icing on the cake. ♥

SHAY'S GAMBLE

BY AMBER PEREZ

They say what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas. But when those happenings make you question everything, all bets are off!

In Sin City to celebrate her best friend's upcoming nuptials, Shay, dealing with her failed marriage, is not in a party mood. But when she locks eyes with a mysterious woman across a crowded room, her strict, traditional upbringing wars against her long-hidden desires.

Allie, a student struggling to provide for her younger sister, heads to Vegas to celebrate her engagement. She thought she hit the big time when she landed the ridiculously wealthy and handsome Jackson Pemberton IV, but as his true colors are shown, it leaves her questioning everything.

When the two bridal parties repeatedly collide, sparks fly, and they team up to make the most out of their Vegas experience.

Can they find happiness betting on the unknown? Or will Shay's Gamble leave her heartbroken and begging to fold?

Release Date: 2 February 2022

Publisher: Indie Author

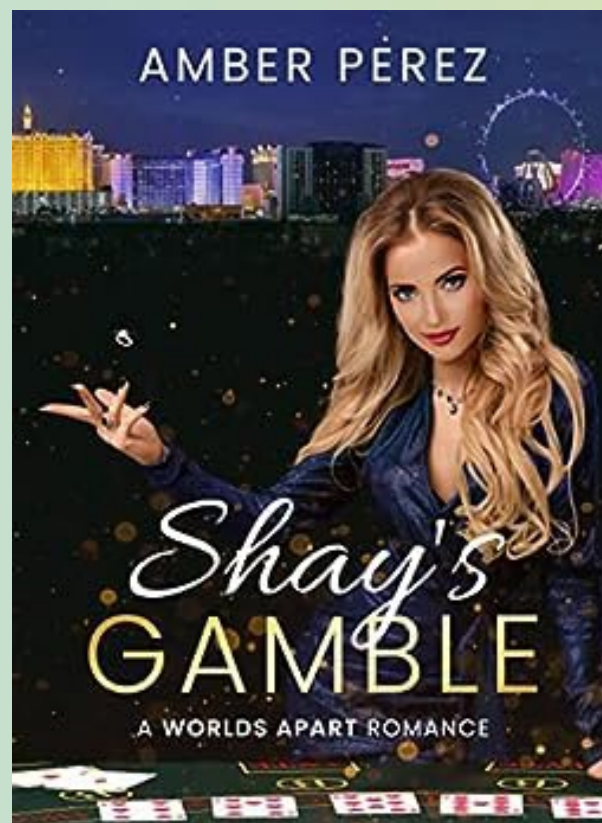
Genre & Tropes: Age Gap, One Night to Forever, Toaster Oven

Series: Worlds Apart Romance Series

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“Sometimes you gotta roll the dice and see how they land!”

SIGRID & ELYN

BY EDALE LANE

Attracted by passion, repelled by war. Can two shieldmaidens navigate battlegrounds of the sword and the heart?

Sigrid the Valiant is legendary throughout the kingdoms of Norvegr for her heroic deeds, but her love has yet to find a home. Now, racing on the heels of her father's murder, a neighboring kingdom's raids signal an all-out conflict.

Elyn is a young shieldmaiden with a score to settle, fighting her own insecurities along with enemies who threaten her homeland. However, she suspects a more menacing danger lurks in the shadows.

When the two clash on opposite sides of their shield walls, sparks fly from both their swords and passions. But when they talk, the fierce women discover an antagonist's plot has pitted their kingdoms against each other.

Can Sigrid and Elyn move past their suspicions and differences to forge a binding love and foil the villain's scheme, or will the enemy's assassins end their search for the truth?

Release Date: 23 September 2022

Publisher: Indie Author

Genre & Tropes: enemies-to-lovers, nobility/commoner, Viking historical romance

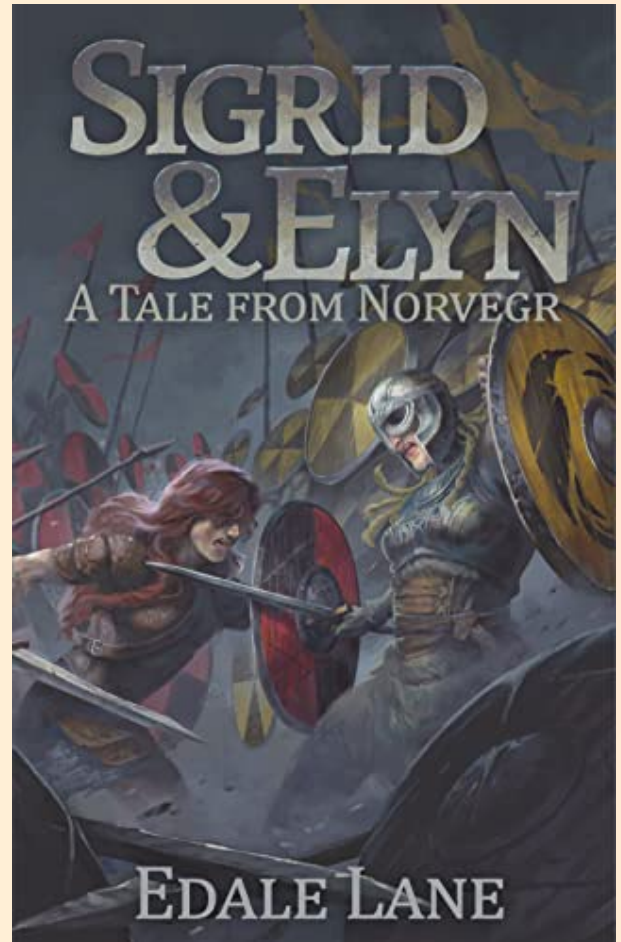
Series: Tales from Norvegr

Available on KU: Yes

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“Attracted by passion,
repelled by war. Can
two shieldmaidens
navigate
battlegrounds of the
sword and the heart?”

ALAINA ERDELL



Do you see your sapphic romance novels as a form of representation, escapism, or a blend of both? Why?

I try to represent the people in my story based on the demographics of where my story is located. If by representation you mean representing real life, I strive to make my stories as believable as possible in all aspects.

That said, my stories probably include a little escapism, too. I want them to be fun, even though they might touch on serious topics like divorce, addiction, grief, domestic abuse, and homophobia. I'd never call them high angst, but they're also probably not your typical beach read where there's zero angst.

As for why, I suppose it aligns with my desire to emulate real life. I think readers connect more with characters and situations in which they can identify. We don't always have sunshine and lollipops, nor constant trauma. Our lives tend to fall somewhere in the middle on any given day, with hopefully more instances of the former than the latter.

Can you share a unique source of inspiration that sparked one of your sapphic romance narratives?

I don't often use much real life inspiration when I write. It's fiction, after all. However, I set my first book in a beautiful place where I used to camp often. The area is unique, a dry waterfall that was once greater than Niagara Falls. That inspired the setting.

Another source of inspiration came when my partner attended two weddings in one day a handful of years ago. Her best friend, a Christian white woman, married a Hindu Indian man, and they had two ceremonies. The details recounted were fascinating. I found the prospect intriguing, and I wondered, how difficult would it be to pull off two weddings in one day like that? And what if the wedding planner was the sister, a wannabe wedding planner with little experience, and a cardiologist by day? And her caterer broke her foot at the last minute? So, that's what prompted my

upcoming novella, *Two Women, Two Weddings*, which will be out next summer in a compilation titled *Hot Hires* by Bold Strokes Books.

Building chemistry between characters is vital. How do you create palpable connections in your sapphic romances?

This might be one of the most difficult aspects in writing a romance. I've read great books by talented authors that contained interesting characters, a descriptive setting, and a compelling plot, but I didn't feel a spark between the women.

Creating those connections and that feeling of chemistry is a monumental task. It's not something that can be done once in the story and marked off. It's something that has to be built brick-by-brick considering each character's history, motivations, and fears. I try to make little things they might do for each other congruent with their personalities and to the situation. Another crutch I lean on is finding them common ground, be it affinities or activities where they can connect.

I try to picture myself in a character's shoes. If I were her, why would I be attracted to the other character? What about her would draw me to her? What could she do that I might find romantic? What about her do I find different from any other woman? Is there something in my (the character's) background that might make her drawn to a certain type of person? The

answers won't be the same for every character. Mostly, I find vulnerability to be one of the most powerful ways of creating chemistry between characters. When one character is willing to give something of herself that she's offered to no one or few in the past, it can create a unique bond between them, especially when the other character is aware of the importance of the rare gift.

I wrote that answer sounding like I know what I'm doing, but I really don't. I try my best, make sure I feel chemistry between the characters I've written, and when the book sails off into the world, I hope I succeeded. I have no delusions. I know that some readers have loved the chemistry between my characters, and others didn't feel it. So much of it comes down to our personal preferences. Just as some authors have my number when it comes to feeling chemistry between their characters and with others I'm left wanting, I'd never judge a reader for feeling the same.

I wish How to Write a Spark Between Characters for Dummies or an equation into which we could simply plug our variables existed. I'd be the first in line! To the readers who have felt the chemistry between my characters, I'll never be able to convey how happy that makes me, so thank you.

What challenges do you face when navigating the complexities of sapphic relationships while ensuring a compelling plot?

Like many of you, I first started reading sapphic fiction when it was called lesbian fiction or lesfic. Relationships were fairly straightforward, a lesbian and a lesbian, or often a lesbian and a woman who believed herself to be straight who was about to have an awakening, or later, a lesbian and a bisexual woman.

As society has progressed (yes, I'm aware that's difficult to say in this current political climate), gender and sexuality, or at least how people are talking about it, has become more nuanced. For instance, it's not like nonbinary people suddenly started feeling nonbinary. Or trans people suddenly decided to be trans, as medications and surgeries became more realized and available. There are plenty of instances of people experiencing such feelings and living such lives in literature and life going back centuries, if not more. We simply didn't have the openness and structure to discuss these things like we do now. I hope that with this new vocabulary in our lexicon, more acceptance will follow the more educated and acclimated society becomes as a whole.

Even if a story features a lesbian and a lesbian, queers rarely exist in a bubble, but often have other queer, diverse people around them. Making sure these relationships are represented, that all these women and women-loving-nonbinary people are seen and included, that their characters are fully developed, nuanced, and inclusive language is used can create complexities for authors.

Of course, there are many other important things that must be kept in mind when writing a love story between two women. For instance, I haven't touched on race or disabilities, which need the same type of attention as does gender and sexuality. In addition, the characters' relationship will also include complex issues, but often those fall under plot. And really, isn't that what we're doing in a story, navigating complexities? We just strive to do it in a new or different way and in an entertaining manner.

While I may have the best of intentions, do hours of research, and even use paid or unpaid sensitivity readers, I know I still have a fear of writing something that might be offensive to someone or even to a group. Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying I view complexities as negative. They're just something we, as authors, need to pay attention to, research, and represent in realistic, complex, and non-stereotypical ways. There is no shortcut, and it takes work, but our stories should reflect the world around us and the people in it.

Six paragraphs in, and I have yet to address the second part of the question. How do I ensure a compelling plot? Well, my plot will fail every time if I don't have compelling characters. So, half my work is done if I've spent time creating fully-developed, intriguing, unique characters with interesting backstories.

Plots, at least in sapphic romance, are often driven by tropes. While I don't start off with tropes in mind, when I write a story, I've found it's very difficult to write a book that doesn't include one, if not many. Personally, I don't have a problem with them. My only issue is when an author doesn't make the trope theirs, twist it slightly, or make it intriguing in some new way. I don't want to read the same thing over and over, so I'm always looking for something unexpected to happen when I'm reading, and certainly attempt to do so while I'm writing. Again, my characters make my plot compelling. Each character acts and reacts based on their personality, history, motivations, and fears. How they navigate through the story drives the plot. Therefore, the greatest challenge for me is to create a wonderful, dynamic, complex character. Once I've done that, everything flows from there. ♥

TEN DRY YEARS

BY KD RYE

Keeping a tight grasp on feelings that refuse to wither, *The Lover* documents her journey whilst living in the countryside. She reflects on actions, desires, and the past with wet lips and a steady hand, until the one she's been writing to appears in the flesh.

Spring blooms in *The Lover's* heart as she attempts to reside in the familiar, but insecurity and fear hold her back. In a show of utter vulnerability, the Lover bares it all. The dark, weird, and beautiful fantasies she's been too afraid to share leak onto the page as her letters descend into the disturbing and taboo, leaving her wondering what words—if any—will be returned.

Release Date: 1 July 2023

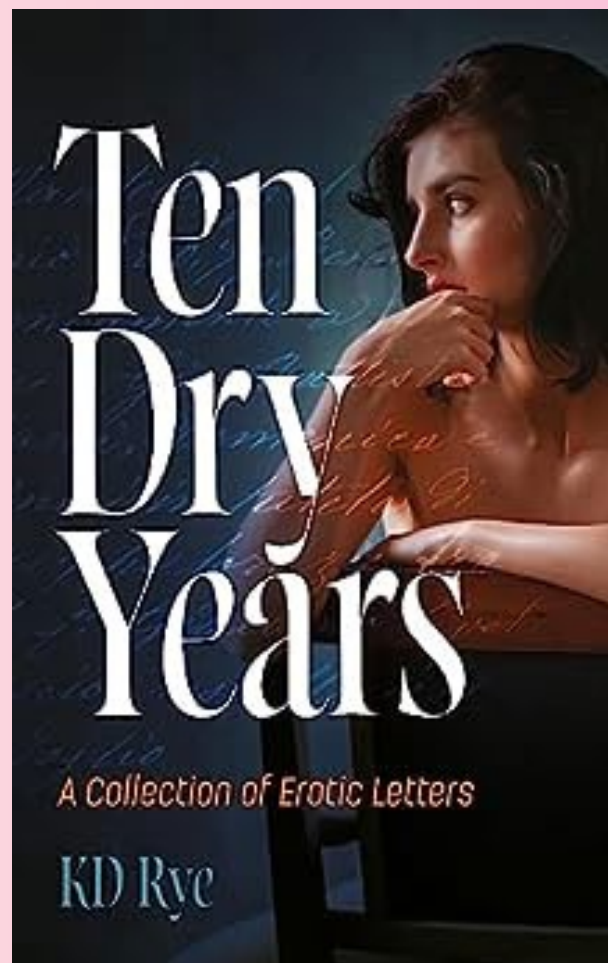
Publisher: Woodlawn Press

Genre & Tropes: Dark, literary erotica

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“A collection of letters intent on exploring the ethics of fantasy, the complexity of vulnerability, and the curiosity of sexual stimuli.”

THE CHASE

BY SABRINA BLAUM

Gabriella Worrington, who has just moved with her family to a new San Francisco neighborhood, clashes with Seren Doyle, president of the local homeowner association. Their meeting is interrupted, leading to a fast-paced, eventful race across the country, with both the mob and the FBI nipping at their heels.

The Chase, the first book in the Constellation series, is a stand-alone romance novel featuring two women confronted with a past they'd rather forget and secrets they'd prefer to bury, as they navigate the closeness that grows between them and the uncertain future that lies ahead.

Release Date: 13 June 2022

Publisher: Indie Author

Genre & Tropes: Forced Proximity / Stranded Together, Mature Lead 40+, Opposites Attract, Road Trip, Single Parent, Steamy, Adventure, Mob/Mafia, On the run, Against all odds

Three most relevant: forced proximity, mature leads, road trip

Series: Constellation

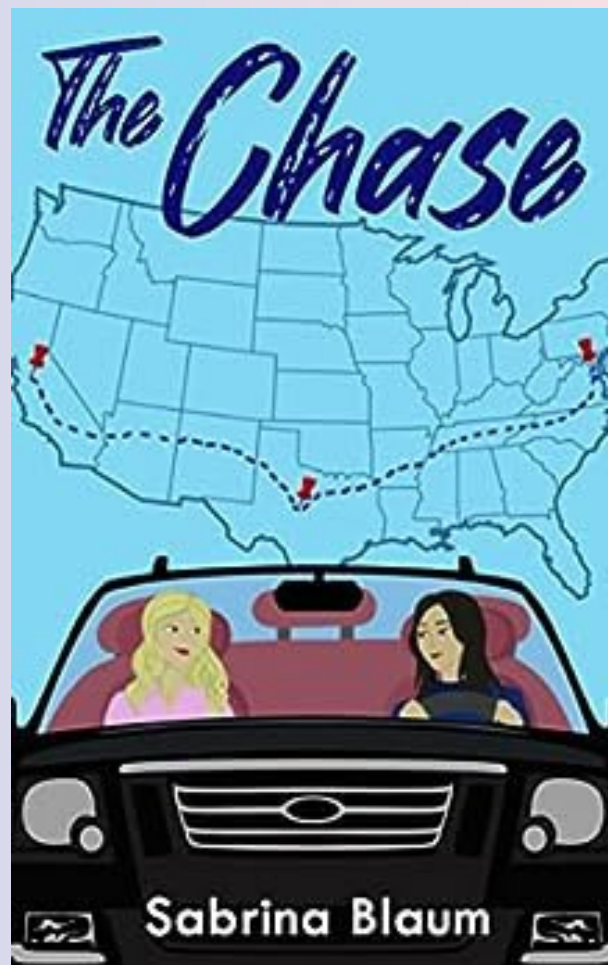
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“Can you find answers you’ve been searching for on the run?”

BRENDA MURPHY

Could you share a glimpse into your journey of becoming a published author in sapphic erotic fiction?

I started writing sapphic erotic fiction because I like reading it and couldn't find what I wanted. I suppose that is why many folks starting writing any kind of book but I was particularly disappointed in the way Power Play and BDSM were represented. I started submitting my short stories to various anthology calls for erotic stories. My very first story to be accepted was included in the erotic short story collection, *First: Sensual Lesbian Stories of New Beginnings* published in 2015. It was edited by the amazing and delightful to work with Cheyenne Blue.

After that acceptance I just kept writing, submitting to various calls for short stories. In 2015, I submitted a collection of sapphic erotic short stories to NineStar Press, and my first book length release was *Dominique and other Stories*, published in 2016. My first full length erotic romance was the result of a long short story being rejected and my friend Megan Hart insisting that it needed to be a novel. I listened and *Sum of the Whole* published in 2017 by NineStar Press. Since 2015, all told I've written eleven full length books and nine novellas. I've experimented with other genres and enjoyed writing them but the work I most enjoy is writing is sapphic erotic romance, it owns me heart and soul.

Balancing sensuality and narrative depth are crucial. How do you maintain both aspects while crafting sapphic erotic stories?

The sensual scenes of an erotic romance have to work to move the story/plot along, just like



any other scene in a well written work. Each scene it has to do its part in showing character development, relationship growth, and moving the narrative along.

When I lay out my scene list for a book, I take time to make sure that the sexy times are placed in the narrative in a way that makes sense for plot structure, their relationship development, and character arcs. Erotic romance storylines revolve around the changes characters experience during intimate scenes. The sensual/erotic scenes are a necessary part of the plot for it to be an erotic romance. If you can take those scenes out of your manuscript and the story still makes sense you have not done your job as an erotic romance writer.

The most difficult part in writing any novel is making sure that your narrative pulls the reader along, that it makes them want to turn the page to find out what happens next. In erotic romance, each sensual/erotic scene is essential. Each sexy scene should leave the reader anxious to see what happens next in your story because the scene revealed something about the characters or their situation, ideally both things, and the intertwining of sensuality and narrative keeps people reading long after their bedtime.

Can you describe your typical writing process when creating sapphic erotic scenes, from conceptualization to final polishing?

I am somewhere between a pantsier and a plotter. I work from a scene list and often my erotic scenes are listed simply as sexy times. My scene list outline is a trellis that my story grows out of organically. I'm never sure where my characters are going to be in the story, so the I don't know the intimacy level of a scene until I get there in my draft.

As part of my prewriting, I do a character work. Before I write the first word of a scene, I know my character's goals, motivations, conflicts, why they can't have what they want, and what they would do to get what they want, lie they tell themselves and the lie they tell others. While writing if I ever hit a snag, I return to my character work, letting what I know about my characters guide me.

While drafting each erotic scene, and every other the scene in the novel, before I start writing, what am I trying to show here? What is most important for the characters to feel?

What do they want? What do they need to know about the other person? What do they want the other person to know? What do they want to keep secret from the other person? How can I make the scene sensual as possible? Where are they physically? How can I use the setting to make the scene more sensuous?

Because I take the time to know and understand my characters and because I enjoy writing erotic scenes it is easy to come up with erotic/sensual situations for them. The final polishing of scenes happens during revisions where make sure that each scene does what it is supposed to do as far as moving the narrative along, showing character/relationship development, the dialogue makes sense and that the scene is as hot as I can make it.

Themes and emotions play a vital role in enhancing the reader's experience. What elements do you often incorporate into your sapphic erotic narratives?

The themes and emotions I like writing the most are power imbalances, trust, second chances, starting over, unexpected love, friends to lovers, enemies to lovers, fighting against the odds, saving each other from either external threats or internal demons. I enjoy working out the dynamics of polyamorous romances. An adore writing about unchecked passion those bang first, worry about the consequences later stories, because I love the dynamic where they fall in love after they fall in lust. In my fantasy stories I have enjoyed writing stories of fated mates, immortality, justice, and revenge. ♥

THE CLUB REVISITED

BY A. L. BROOKS

Anonymity, sweetness, and sexiness abound in this lesbian erotica return to the The Club. Mandy's women-only club has sex between clients on the menu. Guests include late-in-life lesbians, those learning to be intimate again after confidence, loss, and body-image issues, women who adore taboos, and many who are just there to have a lot of fun.

Release Date: 6 December 2022

Publisher: Ylva Publishing

Genre & Tropes: Erotica, Second Chance Romance, Friends to Lovers

Audiobook Narrator: Sophie Hunter Scott

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“Welcome back to the UK’s sexiest women-only club. The rules are the same but the players have changed.”

THE HIDEOUT

BY MELISSA TEREZE

Juliet Saunders quit her soul-killing law career while she still had her sanity, but she's not sure yet if buying a private bar qualifies as sane. Determined to make it work, she decides to shake things up with a new menu of signature cocktails.

Juliet never mixes emotions with business or pleasure, but there's an irresistible spark with her new mixologist, a stunning, flirty blonde who ignites Juliet's body in a way she hasn't felt in years.

Paige Harrison Googled her new boss pre-interview, but nothing prepared her for Juliet's sultry looks and slow, sensual smile. Maybe, after hopscotching through a succession of short-term bar jobs, she's found a safe place—because in a members-only bar like The Hideout, her past isn't likely to follow her through the door.

But in the glow of a surprising new relationship, it's too easy to forget that safety can be an illusion...and the past is never more than a step or two behind.

Release Date: 28 March 2023

Publisher: GPC Publishing

Genre & Tropes: Age gap. Coming out. Self Discovery.

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“A dangerous past
doesn't need a
membership card
to get a foot in the
door.”

SABRINA BLAUM

How do you use settings to enhance the atmosphere and emotions in your sapphic romance novels?

I'm honestly not big on descriptions. I dislike them as a reader and often skim them, so as an author, I do not add a lot of setting descriptions. I sometimes make note of the weather or add weather to sort of combine that outer reality with emotional states my characters experience. I think I am more descriptive when it comes to the emotions of my characters, their contemplations on their lives and current situations/relationships. I mean, we all know how a living room, or a couch looks like, so knowing they are sitting on a couch in a living room seems enough to me. I tend to focus more on dialogue and their emotions. But if a setting is important or contains something that is relevant to what is going on, then I describe it in detail and try to use the impressions of different senses to enhance that scene.

What's your perspective on the portrayal of gender roles and dynamics in modern sapphic romance fiction?

I never contemplated that much. I write characters I find interesting. I honestly don't spend much time pondering gender roles in modern sapphic romance fiction. My characters generally would fit more into the femme/femme category, but even that is limiting because different people have different ideas of that concept. My characters are not super feminine, but they are not androgynous or butch either. I don't know. Again, this isn't something I



think about when writing. In the end, they are people trying to make sense of life and finding a way to live the happiest life they can. As for gender roles, I am big on equality and believe that people should support each other. In relationships, things won't ever be 50/50, but everyone should do their part to make the whole thing run smoothly. That is my goal for my characters, too.

Maintaining strong, independent sapphic characters while highlighting vulnerability—how do you strike that balance?

Another thing I don't actively contemplate. I write characters I can relate to, and they have all different kinds of strength and vulnerabilities. I am not trying to make them anything specific. They often also take on a life of their own. What I do avoid is making a character too perfect as that is boring to a reader (well, I hate such characters). Most of my characters are either driven more by either emotions or by their reason, and often I end up putting two such people together. So each character definitely has one issue or hang-up that causes problems, but I don't decide that from the start. This is something that usually shows itself while writing.

I like complex characters who seem real and not cookie cutter figurines—the woman with low self-esteem who thinks she is plain and boring and doesn't realize she is gorgeous until the self-assured, outgoing, popular LI shows her that, or the MC whose most tragic flaw is that she is clumsy. People like different things, and

I'm not saying what I dislike is wrong or flawed. I just don't enjoy it, so I don't write it. But again, tastes are different and I'm not judging there. It's just when I write, I cater to my own taste as I cannot make it right for anyone else. So, I suppose the balance I always strike is writing something I'd enjoy reading.

Sapphic romance can span various age groups. How do you address different life stages and experiences within your stories?

I generally stay away (if possible) from characters who are college age or younger. I cannot read romance novels with them as leads, and in other genres I often avoid them as well. Again, not a criticism, but it's an age group I am tired of, and I honestly can't be bothered with their struggles, angst, and problems. I am more interested in middle aged and older characters. Mind you, I also like age gap, so I often still end up with some characters that are younger (in their 20s or early 30s), but that's still a different enough focus that it works for me.

Again, I try to create characters that read and feel real, and as such I try not to gloss over stuff but acknowledge what it means to be in various life stages. But I am sure that I've messed up there as well, but I do my best. In the end, I go by my own experiences and the ones of my family and friends. I observe people and talk to them about all kinds of stuff. All of that influences how I create and write characters. ♥

THE HONEYMOON MIX-UP

BY FRANKIE FYRE

When her fiancée leaves her at the altar, Basil Jones's picture perfect life turns upside down, but nothing can stop her from enjoying her honeymoon—not even the luxurious island resort's strict "couples-only" policy. Basil's vacation and her six-figure wine deal with the resort's owners are riding on her finding a fake wife ASAP, and her sights are soon set on tall, dark, and gorgeous Caroline.

If only she knew Caroline had eyes on her first...

Caroline King never stays in one place—or in a woman's bed—for too long. After risking her career in the past, the emotionally detached private investigator created two rules: always finish a job and never mix business with pleasure.

But when she gets roped into a false marriage with her breathtakingly beautiful target, she finds herself teetering the line of not just one but both rules.

Basil always gets what she wants—but Caroline's professional reputation is on the line.

As Basil and Caroline's attraction blazes like the island sun, both women struggle to fight delicious temptation while protecting their secrets—as well as their hearts—on the most romantic honeymoon island in the world.

Release Date: 21 June 2023

Publisher: Indie Author

Genre & Tropes: Fake Relationship, Age Gap, Kink, Interracial / Multicultural Relationship, Butch / Femme, Forced Proximity

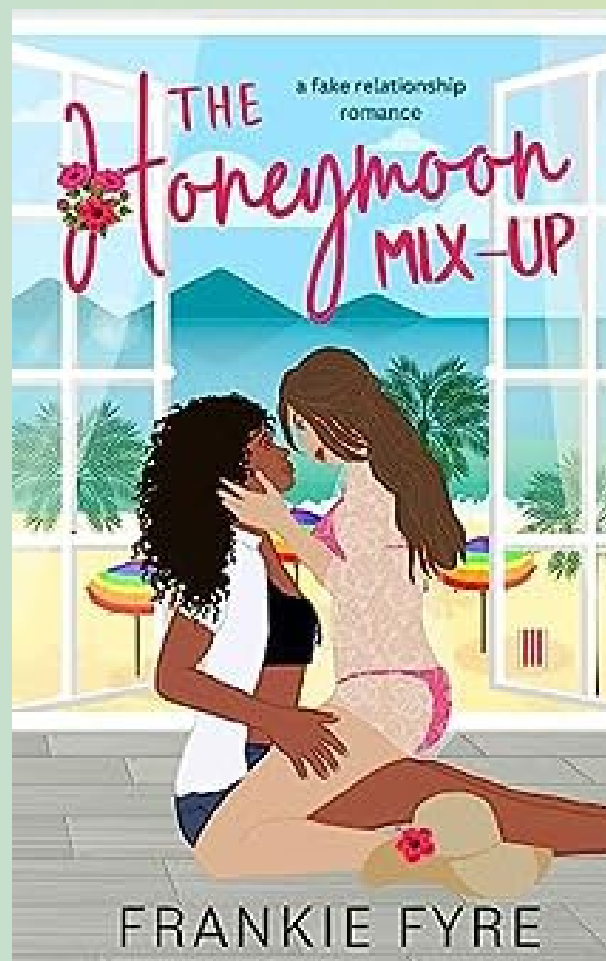
Series: Sapphire Isle (Standalone)

Available on KU: Yes

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“The perfect storm. A fake marriage weathered to last.”

THREE WISHES

BY ANNE SHADE

Since she took her first trip to the little island of Nosy Bé off the coast of Madagascar, Elise Porter has been drawn back to it time and again. When a mysterious vendor sells her an antique, jewel-encrusted oil lamp, Elsie is thoroughly surprised by the mystical appearance of a beautiful and scantily clad woman offering to grant her three wishes. Naima is a Jinni, and she has a wish of her own. A cursed princess's spirit, who also happens to be the Jinni's wife Aliya, has taken residence within Elise and needs to be brought forth to free them from their curse.

When Naima is summoned by a human who not only possesses her lamp but also the spirit of her long-lost wife, she can't believe her luck. After centuries dreaming of the moment when she and Aliya would be reunited, the reality of what freeing her could mean for Elise has Naima wondering if the price of freedom is worth the sacrifice.

Elise and Naima must fight their growing feelings for each other as Elise wages an internal battle with Aliya, and they receive assistance from a very unlikely source.

Release Date: 15 May 2023

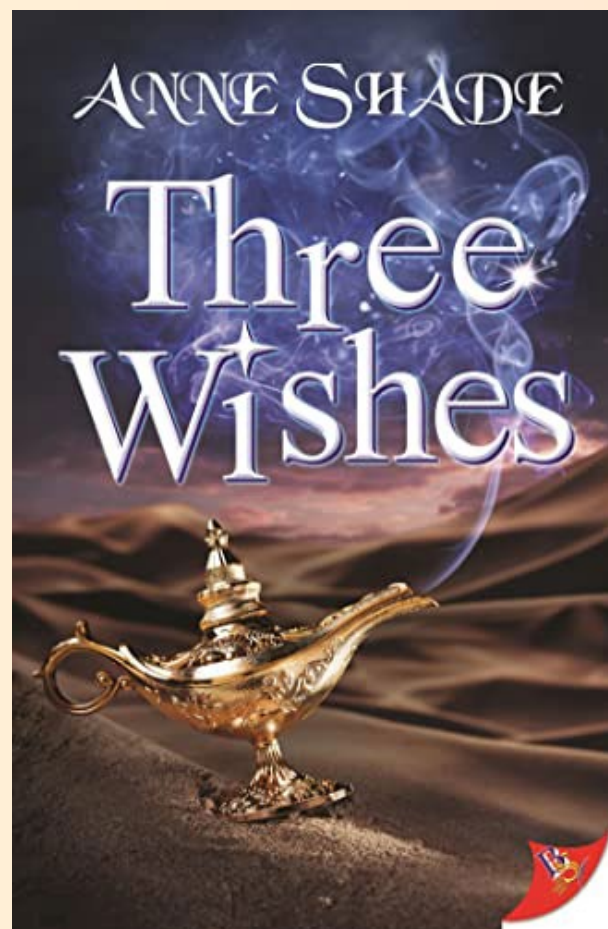
Publisher: Bold Strokes Books

Genre & Tropes: Fantasy/paranormal romance

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“What happens when a woman who has her life all together finds a magic lamp and a personal connection to a mysterious princess?”

TIPPING THE BARREL BY BA TORTUGA

Cowgirl Evie Martin has her ranch, her horses, a bunch of goats, and a million side hustles to make ends meet. So if she misses the one who got away, well, who has time for romance and relationships? At least that's what she tells herself until that one special woman comes back into her life, needing her help.

Barrel racer Cheyenne DeLongh was rodeo royalty until an accident took her best horse and left her with scars that are both visible and deep-hidden. The only place she can think to go is to the woman she still loves. Evie. If her mother could stop meddling and Evie can believe that Cheyenne wants to stay and be a small town rancher, she might just get her stuff together. But as much as Evie loves Cheyenne, can she ever believe she'll be enough to make Cheyenne stay?

Release Date: 27 September 2022

Publisher: Indie Author

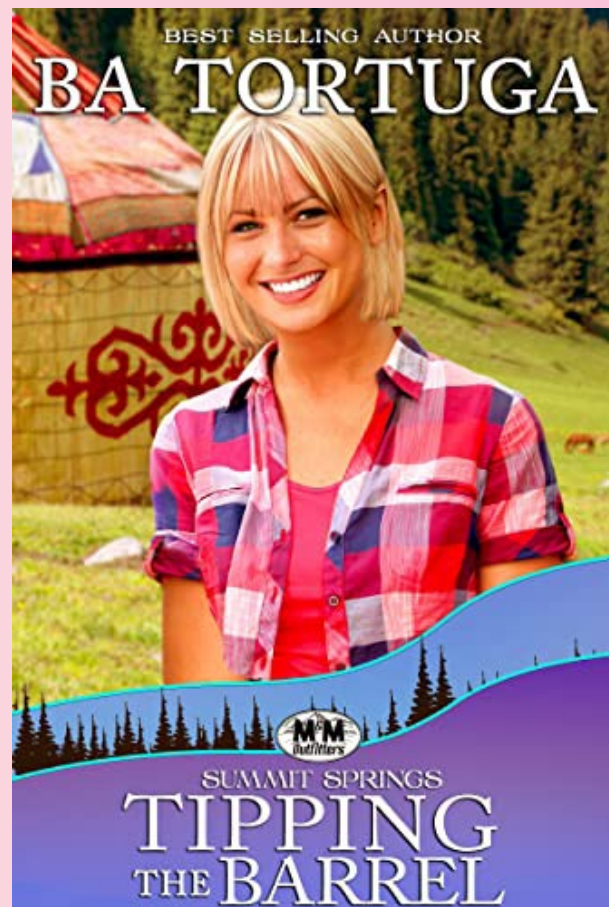
Genre & Tropes: cowboy, former lovers, small town

Series: Summit Springs

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“She lost everything. Now she’s heading back to the one woman that can make her whole.”

WHERE THE HEART LEADS BY ALLY MCGUIRE

A stunt car driver, an MI5 agent, a gigolo... Finn Montoya tells everyone she meets she has a different profession. It's all part of keeping people at a distance while still being a part of the world around her. Really, she's an accomplished writer who has taken being a mystery to heart. At least that way, she can stay safe and her past can't catch up with her.

Angie Davis needs some simple time with her daughter. But when the paparazzi swarm the café she and Luna are at, she accepts the help of a handsome stranger who's watching the chaos play out. When Luna develops a friendship with that stranger, Angie's unsure how to handle it. But the more time Angie spends with her, the more she wants to be in Finn's arms.

Finn reluctantly allows herself to be drawn to the promise of something real with Angie, but when the celebrity spotlight threatens to expose her secrets, it isn't only their hearts in danger. Is love worth the risk?

Release Date: 1 April 2023

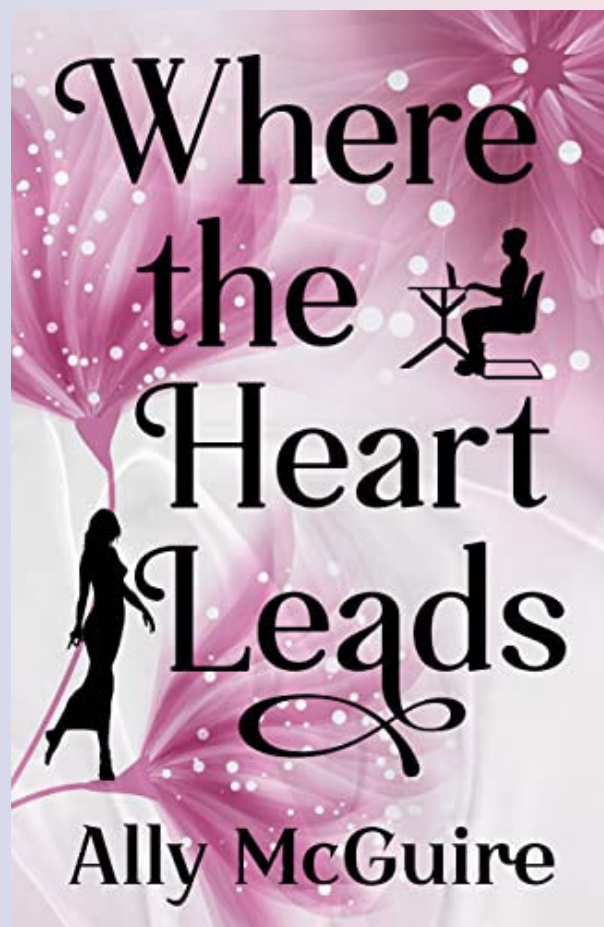
Publisher: Indie (Butterworth Books)

Genre & Tropes: butch/femme; celebrity romance; actress; author/writer; single mother; Latinx lead; American lead; cute kid

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“As secrets and hearts collide, will they risk it all for love?”

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