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KEY=GUIDES - MATHEWS CORTEZ

THE COMPANY DAUGHTERS

A HEART-WRENCHING COLONIAL LOVE STORY

Bookouture 'Blew my mind... so magically written and most of all that it is based on true events... a hard-hitting, soul-crushing book... I loved every moment of it... immersive, heart-wrenching, I feel emotional writing this review.' Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars *Wanted: Company Daughters. Virtuous young ladies to become the brides of industrious settlers in a foreign land. The Company will pay the cost of the lady's dowry and travel. Returns not permitted, orphans preferred. Amsterdam, 1620. Jana Beil has learned that life rarely provides moments of joy. Having run away from a violent father, her days are spent searching for work in an effort to stay out of the city brothels, where desperate women trade their bodies for a mouthful of bread. But when Jana is hired as a servant for the wealthy and kind Master Reynst and his beautiful daughter Sontje, Jana's future begins to look brighter. Then Master Reynst loses his fortune on a bad investment, and everything changes. The house is sold to creditors, leaving Jana back on the street and Sontje without a future. With no other choice, Jana and Sontje are forced to sign with the East India Company as Company Daughters: sailing to a colonial Dutch outpost to become the brides of male settlers*

they know nothing about. With fear in their hearts, the girls begin their journey – but what awaits them on the other side of the world is nothing like what they’ve been promised... Based on true history, this is a gripping and unputdownable historical novel, perfect for fans of *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, *The Miniaturist* and *The Indigo Girl*. WINNER OF THE 2021 GOLDEN CROWN LITERARY SOCIETY AWARD FOR DEBUT FICTION. FINALIST FOR THE 2021 BISEXUAL BOOK AWARDS. LONGLISTED FOR THE 2021 HWA DEBUT CROWN AWARD. What readers are saying about *The Company Daughters*: ‘Blew my mind... a book I've told so many people about purely because I'm still in disbelief that it exists, that it's so magically written and most of all that it is based on true events... a hard-hitting, soul-crushing book of a woman's struggle to survive... I loved every moment of it. Breathlessly, and in a way that took up my entire brain... immersive, heart-wrenching, and I feel emotional writing this review.’ Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars ‘From the moment I started reading *The Company Daughters*, I was captivated by this historical tale. Although it does contain a love story, it's not a romance...This was a gripping read.’ Goodreads reviewer ‘This book is so stunningly tender and beautiful, all mixed in with some seriously tragic and heart-wrenching events... Rajaram is an extremely skilled writer, and I love her writing style... The themes of sisterhood and female love were so present in this book and I found it very moving.’ Goodreads reviewer ‘I was enchanted by this book! It's a delightful read that will have your emotions all over the place.’ Goodreads reviewer ‘I love historical fiction, and this book touched on a topic and time I knew nearly nothing about...There's love, there's loss, there's surviving, there's thriving... It was a very beautiful book.’ Goodreads reviewer ‘*The Company Daughters* is a beautifully written love story... a perfect example of the power of human will and the endurance and hope that love can give a person.’ Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars ‘This book has a beauty and grace to it. The author's writing just flows off the page, and although there are struggles and upsets by the time you close the book over you are filled with a warm glow.’ Goodreads reviewer ‘A powerful and insightful read. I look forward to reading more historical work by Samantha Rajaram!’ Goodreads reviewer ‘Heartbreaking... a moving book... vivid, with amazing characters... This is a great read.’ Goodreads reviewer

DEATH WAITS IN THE DARK

Blackstone Publishing It took all of thirty seconds for two shots to bring the world of Margaret Tabaaha crashing down around her. After losing her husband in Afghanistan during the first year of Operation Enduring Freedom, her two sons were all she had left. Now they had been taken from her violently, deliberately, plunging her into a whiskey bottle and stripping away her reason for living. When Arthur Nakai receives a call from his first love, Margaret, her voice pleading for his help, it comes as he is attending a wake for one of the men he considered a brother from his days in the Marines 6th LAR Wolf Pack Battalion. Feeling a deep and responsible obligation to help her, Arthur soon finds himself involved in the multi-billion-dollar world of the oil and gas industry and coming face-to-face with an old adversary, Elias Dayton. Their paths had crossed when Arthur was a member of the Shadow Wolves, an elite tactical unit within US Customs and Border Protection. Now Dayton runs Patriot

Security, a Blackwater-type firm that keeps the oil rigs, gas wells, and man camps secure from the Water Protectors, protesters pushing to stop the fracking and poisoning of Native lands. As Arthur works through the case from his end, Navajo police chief Jake Bilagody tackles it from another angle, looking into the strained relationship between the oil company and the Navajo people, all while searching for a missing Navajo man that may have become an unwilling piece on the reservation checkerboard. But when Arthur learns the identity of the boys' killer, he struggles to make sense of it. Because if the clues are right, he will be forced to make a decision that will haunt him for the rest of his life.

TEACHING ABBY

Becca Jameson Publishing It's a summer internship. Never mind that the owners are hot. Never mind that there are three of them. Never mind that they are twice her age. Never mind that they have a secret "play" room in the basement. Never mind that she's never been more intrigued in her life. She only has three months. No matter how deeply she gets involved, she can't stay...

TO MY ARROGANT BOSS

J.S. Cooper To Mr. Tate Howard, You are quite possibly the most infuriating, annoying and grumpy man I've ever met in my life. I know you think that you're God's gift to women, but I have a secret to let you in on: you're not. You're God's gift to yourself. Get over your wanna-be cool surfer self and grow up. I thought it was time that someone addressed your big head and told you straight to your face that you're not all that. Just because you have an Ivy league education doesn't mean you're the smartest man in the world. In fact, I'm not even sure if you would have gotten in if you didn't have rich parents. Yes, I went there. Every woman doesn't want to sleep with you and I'm sure you're not even good in bed. And I'm someone that would know. From, Your Secret Not Admirer

THE AUSSIE NEXT DOOR

Entangled: Amara "A sweet, sexy read, featuring a couple that feels both true-to-life and aspirational." Kirkus Review, Starred Review American Angie Donovan has never wanted much. When you grow up getting bounced from foster home to foster home, you learn not to become attached to anything, anyone, or any place. But it only took her two days to fall in love with Australia. With her visa clock ticking, surely she can fall in love with an Australian—and get hitched—in two months. Especially if he's as hot and funny as her next-door neighbor... Jace Walters has never wanted much—except a bathroom he didn't have to share. The last cookie all to himself. And solitude. But when you grow up in a family of seven, you can kiss those things goodbye. He's finally living alone and working on his syndicated comic strip in privacy. Sure, his American neighbor is distractingly sexy and annoyingly nosy, but she'll be gone in a few months... Except now she's determined to find her perfect match by checking out every eligible male in the town, and her choices are even more distracting. So why does it suddenly feel like he—and his obnoxious tight-knit family, and even these two wayward dogs—could be exactly what she needs? Each

book in the Patterson's Bluff series is **STANDALONE**: * The Aussie Next Door * Her Aussie Holiday

MISS JULIA DELIVERS THE GOODS

Penguin Learning that Hazel Marie is pregnant with twins and that the father, private investigator J. D. Pickens, has left town, Miss Julia summons the wayward man to solve a local theft in the hopes of reuniting the couple. By the author of *Miss Julia Paints the Town*.

THE WIDOW WALTZ

A NOVEL

Penguin "This heartfelt, witty addition to women's fiction will appeal to fans of Elizabeth Berg and Anna Quindlen." (Booklist) Georgia Waltz has things many people only dream of: a plush Manhattan apartment overlooking Central Park, a Hamptons beach house, valuable jewels and art, two bright daughters, and a husband she adores, even after decades of marriage. It's only when Ben suddenly drops dead from a massive coronary while training for the New York City Marathon that Georgia discovers her husband—a successful lawyer—has left them nearly penniless. Their wonderland was built on lies. As the family attorney scours emptied bank accounts, Georgia must not only look for a way to support her family, she needs to face the revelation that Ben was not the perfect husband he appeared to be, just as her daughters—now ensconced back at home with secrets of their own—have to accept that they may not be returning to their lives in Paris and at Stanford subsidized by the Bank of Mom and Dad. As she uncovers hidden resilience, Georgia's sudden midlife shift forces her to consider who she is and what she truly values. That Georgia may also find new love in the land of Spanx and stretch marks surprises everyone—most of all, her. Sally Koslow's fourth novel is deftly told through the alternating viewpoints of her remarkable female protagonists as they plumb for the grit required to reinvent their lives. Inspiring, funny, and deeply satisfying, *The Widow Waltz* explores in a profound way the bonds between mothers and daughters, belligerent siblings, skittish lovers, and bitter rivals as they discover the power of forgiveness, and healing, all while asking, "What is family, really?"

THE DESCENDANTS COMPLETE SERIES (BOOKS 1, 1.5, 2, 3)

L.D. Hall *A Discovery of Witches* meets *Twilight* in this mesmerizing paranormal romance... Naomi Feldman has never understood the strange energy that hums beneath her senses. But when she comes across an ancient artifact that seems to beckon to her, she may finally find the answers she's been seeking. Alaric, a centuries-old vampire, lives a solitary life by choice. When he's assigned to protect Naomi, long dormant emotions stir to life. Pursued by a dangerous enemy and battling their growing attraction, Naomi and Alaric follow the mystery of the artifact from the museums of Athens, the streets of London, toward a confrontation that will decide the fate of two worlds... Fans of Charlaine Harris, Deborah Harkness, and Karen Marie Moning will love the *Descendants* series, where urban fantasy and

paranormal romance collide. For a limited time, grab your copy of this series bundle deal at a discount compared to purchasing the individual books.

HONKY TONK CHRISTMAS

Sourcebooks, Inc. *One cowboy, one bar, one hell of a holiday! Praise for Carolyn Brown's country music romances: "You won't want to miss this boot scootin' contemporary full of sexy cowboys and sassy women."-The Romance Studio (My Give a Damn's Busted) She means business... Sharlene Waverly is determined to have the "new and improved" Honky Tonk up and running before the holiday. For that, she'll need Holt Jackson, the best darn carpenter in the state. But his warm, whisky-colored eyes make her insides melt, and before she knows it, she's sharing her darkest secrets and talking about the nightmares... He's determined to keep things professional... Holt Jackson needs the job at the Honky Tonk, but is completely unprepared to handle the beautiful new bar owner he's working for. Sharlene and Holt try like crazy to deny the sparks flying between them, but their love may just be the best Christmas present either one of them ever got. Praise for I Love This Bar: "Heart...sass...a lot of sparks and romance...country music. What more can I say? I really had fun with this book."-Red-Headed Book Child "Guaranteed to leave you countrified and satisfied!"-Love Romance Passion*

CASTLE ON THE RISE

Thomas Nelson *Spanning more than two centuries in Ireland, Castle on the Rise unites the legacy of three women who must risk mending their broken places for life, love, and the belief that even through the depths of our pain, a masterpiece of a story can emerge. When Laine Forrester travels overseas to attend her best friend's vineyard wedding, she expects to find the bride on the brink of a fairy-tale life. But after a series of unforeseen setbacks, it seems the storybook lives they'd imagined are suddenly ripping apart. With hopes of resurrecting a happy ending, Laine agrees to accompany the newlyweds to the groom's home in Ireland—never expecting she'd be the one drawn in by its wide-open moors, backroads bordering the Irish Sea, and a mysterious castle that dares to keep its secrets hidden. From the storied streets of Dublin to the shores of the Emerald Isle, Laine is drawn in to the land and its rich history. The castle ruins whisper stories of Issy—a photojournalist battling through the 1916 Easter Rising, and Maeve—the castle's lady of legend, fighting for survival through the 1798 rebellion that started it all. Praise for Castle on the Rise: "Enchanting and mesmerizing!" —PATTI CALLAHAN, New York Times bestselling author of Becoming Mrs. Lewis "Castle on the Rise perfectly showcases rising star Kristy Cambron's amazing talent! Perfect pacing, lovely prose, and an intricate plot blend together in a delightful novel I couldn't put down. Highly recommended!" —Colleen Coble, USA TODAY bestselling author of Secrets at Cedar Cabin and the Rock Harbor series "Cambron's latest is one of her best. Gripping and epic, this intricately woven tale of three generations seeking truth and justice will stay with you long after the last page." —Rachel Hauck, New York Times bestselling author Second in the Lost Castle series (The Lost Castle, Castle on the Rise, The Painted Castle) Can be read as a stand-alone, but best if read in order Sweet romance set in*

three time periods: present day, World War I/Easter Rising, and late 1700s Full-length novel (over 110,000 words)

THE BAD BOY SERIES COLLECTION

BOOKS 1 - 4

Acadian Publishing Limited *The Bad Boy Series Collection* I've been in love with Hunter Saint my entire life. He was my first love and the one I could never forget. Then Fate intervened and we became enemies. Now, I must go to Hunter on my hands and knees to beg him to save my brother's life. I'll pay any price to save him. I'll do anything Hunter wants. Anything... *The Bad Boy Series* by S. E. Lund's is a sexy new novella series, featuring a bad boy with a heart of gold and a heroine who can't get him out of her life or her heart. When Fate forces them back together again, can they deny what has long simmered between them?

BEAUTY IN THE BROKEN - DIE SCHÖNHEIT IM ZERBROCHENEN

EIN DIAMANTMAGNATEN-ROMAN

Grey Eagle Publications **ÜBER 700 SEITEN „ABSOLUT FESSELNDE“ UND „UNGLAUBLICH BERÜHRENDE“ DARK ROMANCE - ABGESCHLOSSENER ROMAN** »Eine epische Dark Romance mit herzerreißender Tiefe und knisternder Sinnlichkeit!« - Anna Zaires, Bestsellerautorin der New York Times Vor sechs Jahren hat Harold Dalton mich mit einem fingierten Diebstahl reingelegt und mich ins Gefängnis gebracht, um meinen Diamantenfund zu stehlen. Im Austausch für die Grabungsrechte gab er seine Tochter Jack Clarke. Heute bin ich ein freier Mann, und will meine Rache. Sechs Jahre voller Grausamkeiten machen aus Menschen Bestien. Ich werde mir das zurückholen, was er mir gestohlen hat, und noch mehr. Ich bin nicht an seinen Immobilien oder Aktien interessiert. Ich will sein Kleingeld nicht. Ich will seinen größten Schatz, die schöne, mental instabile Angelina Dalton-Clarke. Mit ihren Milliarden ist sie die reichste Witwe des Landes, und auch die verrückteste. Ihre selbstverletzenden Tendenzen hatten Jack dazu veranlasst, sie für unzurechnungsfähig erklären zu lassen, bevor er sich eine Waffe an den Kopf hielt und sich das Gehirn rausblies. Lina darf keinen Cent ihres Reichtums anfassen. Ihr Vater verwaltet ihre Finanzen und hat alle Unterschriftsvollmachten. Als ihr Mann werden mir diese Aufgaben zufallen, aber wenn sie denkt, dass ich sie nur wegen ihres Geldes will, irrt sie sich gewaltig.

A MEASURE OF MERCY (HOME TO BLESSING BOOK #1)

Bethany House Eighteen-year-old Astrid Bjorklund has always dreamed of becoming a doctor. She had intended to study medicine in Chicago or Grand Forks, but when a disaster wiped out a major portion of her family's income, Astrid stayed home instead, receiving hands-on training from Dr. Elizabeth. Joshua Landsverk left Blessing two years ago, but he's never forgotten Astrid. Returning to town, he seeks to court her. Astrid is attracted to him, and when the opportunity unexpectedly opens for her to go to Chicago for medical training, she finds it difficult to leave. Love blossoms through their letters, but upon arriving back home, she makes a

heartbreaking discovery. Will she have to give up love to pursue her dream?

SHAKEUP

Penguin Stone Barrington must track down an enemy intent on disturbing law and order in the latest action-packed thriller from the #1 New York Times bestselling author. Upon returning from a dangerous coastal adventure, Stone Barrington is looking forward to some normalcy with the leading lady in his life. But when a grisly crime arrives on his doorstep, along with some suspicious new clients eager for his help, Stone realizes peace and quiet are no longer an option. As it turns out, the mastermind behind the malfeasance rocking New York City and the nation's capital wields a heavy hand of influence. And when Stone is unable to recruit those closest to the case to his side, he is left with few leads and a handful of dead-ends. But with the help of important people in high places--and the expertise of alluring new friends--Stone is more than ready to rise to the occasion.

TO THE RUDE GUY IN APARTMENT FIVE

J.S. Cooper To The Rude Guy in Apartment Five, I'm glad you're happy to have moved into a new apartment, but no: I do not want to have a beer with you. I do not want to have a nude sleepover. I do not want to make you breakfast, lunch or dinner, no matter how many lap dances you promise to give me. I do not need you to serenade me through the walls at 1am. And no, I have no interest in letting you take me on a date. Sincerely, Magnolia Allen P.S. And no, I do not want to know how many accents you can growl in during intimate moments. How is that even a thing? P. P. S. Also, you will never find me standing naked in your living room ever again, so please stop leaving lingerie packages on my welcome mat.

RETURN BILLIONAIRE TO SENDER

A GRUMPY HERO-OPPOSITES ATTRACT STANDALONE ROMANTIC COMEDY

*Cinnamon Crane I may be a shy, lowly letter carrier, but when my beloved apartment building is threatened by a mysterious and reclusive billionaire, I'm willing to push the envelope. I'm going to march right up to Malcolm Blackberg's fortress of fierceness and deliver a cease-and-desist notice he can't refuse. Except as soon as I get inside his gilded doors, things go sideways—I'm mistaken for Malcolm's court-ordered emotional intelligence coach—they think I'm acting out a wacky postal carrier cosplay. They drag me in, a sacrificial lamb for the big bad. Make that big, smolderingly sexy bad. So I make up a lesson involving a story about our building. He doesn't seem happy. Can he tell that I have no idea what I'm doing? Before I know it I'm flying around the country, up close and personality testing the most devilishly exasperating man I've ever met. He's scary for sure...but the way he sometimes looks at me turns my knees to jelly, and has me writing love letters to his gorgeous eyes, his mouthwatering smile, his impressive...package. Our coaching sessions are getting hot-hot-hot, but I can't let my guard down. If he ever finds out I'm a first-class fake, I'll lose everything I've ever loved in this world! *** **The*

stand-alone romcoms in this series can be read in any order!** Book 1. Most Eligible Billionaire (Henry & Vicky) Book 2. The Billionaire's Wake-up Call Girl (Lizzie & Theo) Book 3. Breaking the Billionaire's Rules (Max & Mia) Book 4. The Billionaire's Fake Fiancée (Rex and Tabitha) Book 5. Return Billionaire to Sender (Noelle & Malcolm)

enemies to lovers romantic comedy, laugh out loud romcom, humorous romance, funny sexy book, funny books, funny romance novels, hilarious romance, laugh-out-loud, romantic comedy bestsellers, best romantic comedy, top romcom, bestselling romantic comedy, top romantic comedy, top romcom, bestselling romcom 2020, best romantic comedy 2020, highest rated romantic comedy, funny books, funny romance novel, light reads, fun reads, funny reads, funny romance books.

YOU CAN TRUST ME

Pinnacle Books *YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HER. BUT SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.* A gripping psychological thriller about a ghostwriter tasked with writing the autobiography of a woman who is trying to bury the secrets of her past - from the author of *WHERE THE MISSING GO*. Olivia is the domestic goddess-turned-internet sensation who has won millions of followers by sharing her picture-perfect life online. And now she's releasing her tell-all autobiography. Nicky is the ghostwriter tasked with coaxing out the full story - including details of the tragic accident that blighted Olivia's golden childhood. But, as she delves into Olivia's life, Nicky discovers cracks appearing in the glamorous façade. From money worries to Olivia's strained relationship with her handsome husband, the truth belies her perfect image. As Olivia becomes increasingly hostile to the woman she's let into her life, Nicky becomes ever more relentless in her hunt for the truth. Has Olivia really escaped the ghosts of her past - or will Nicky find there are more sinister reasons she wants to leave an old tragedy well alone?

TELL ME TO STAY

Byrd Book Llc *I am not a liar or a thief or a criminal. At least, not anymore. But here I am doing the things that I promised myself I would never do again. Nicholas Crawford made me an offer I couldn't refuse. He is dangerous and damaged but so am I. Our relationship is an addiction that we have to feed. Now, things are about to get even more complicated. Allegiances will be tested. Lies will be told. Truths will be revealed. We have both made promises that we can't keep. The secrets we have uncovered only scratch the surface, and I'm afraid to find out what lies below. All is not what it seems but I have to figure out the truth before it's too late. Dive into the decadent and delicious 3rd book of the new and addictive Tell Me series by bestselling author Charlotte Byrd.*

What readers are saying about Charlotte Byrd: "Extremely captivating, sexy, steamy, intriguing, and intense!" ★★★★★ "Addictive and impossible to put down." ★★★★★ "I can't get enough of the turmoil, lust, love, drama and secrets!" ★★★★★ "Fast-paced romantic suspense filled twists and turns, danger, betrayal and so much more." ★★★★★ "Decadent, delicious, & dangerously addictive!" ★★★★★

below that are without spoiler alerts.*
*Beware of spoilers in the reviews

THEN HE HAPPENED

Claudia Burgoa Jason is a cynical rich playboy. He doesn't take life seriously, He doesn't believe in settling down. Eileen's thirtieth birthday is almost here. But as always she's her parent's afterthought. Her family is too busy planning a shotgun wedding for her older sister—and she has to help. It's just another year where she's overlooked. But the best man is smoking hot and actually notices her and makes her feel special. Jason doesn't believe in commitment, but Eileen intrigues him. She's not the kind of girl he usually hooks up with. She doesn't even fall for his charm. He's made it his task to convince her that he's not the shallow man she thinks he is. But can Jason give up his playboy lifestyle to become what Eileen needs?

A BRAMBLE HOUSE CHRISTMAS

Tule Publishing Finn Knightly a.k.a. Finn Conrad wants to know why his recently deceased father left his nurse fifty thousand dollars after knowing her a mere six weeks. So he travels to Bramble House B&B in Marietta, Montana to find answers. But Willa Knightly is not the conniving woman he expects to find. Before he knows it, Willa and her six-year-old son Scout are stealing his heart. And that's before he finds out Scout's secret and the real reason this Christmas is so important.

SHADES OF LOVERS

Central Avenue Publishing love comes in many colors. this is a story of breaking and healing, of forgiving but not forgetting, of understanding and balance. it is not only something to enjoy, but something to learn from. here are the things i did right, and the many things i did wrong. i give them to you, so that when love comes knocking, you will have a sense of what to do when you open the door. Explore the experience of six different relationships in this moving collection that dives into the highs and lows of love.

MAN IN LOVE

Paige Press, LLC Scott Sebastian is a liar. Fitting, since I'm a liar too. Yet there's no place for me in his glittering world of half-truths. With all our secrets in the open, I should stop trying. What I've learned should send me running far away. I can't keep pining for a man in love if I'm not the woman he's in love with. But it's not that easy to escape the Sebastians. I already knew they owned this city. Now I'll find out if they also own their son.

CAUGHT IN THE STORM

Storm Love can be blinding and by the time the truth shines through, it's too late to escape. Fame.Fortune.Success.Is that too much to ask?All I need is to catch a break. To snag the attention of someone important. Someone who can help make my career everything I want it to be.Joseph was that man. Until the night the lights went out and I left with someone else. Someone who stole my breath and made me want for things I'd never considered before. I should have known better than to trust a stranger. Especially one of his stature and class. Money means power and power

means control. Over my heart. My career. My entire life. My dreams died the moment I agreed to his terms and a new chapter in my life began. I was blinded by my love for him and thought nothing would ever change the way I felt. Then I uncovered the truth about him. About the kind of man he really was and the secrets he paid good money to keep hidden from everyone. Now I'm trapped, with no way out. Book 1 of 2 in the Storm Series.

THE WINTER GARDEN

Simon and Schuster ***The sparkling Christmas novel from the Sunday Times bestselling author Heidi Swain!*** Will love bloom this winter? Freya Fuller is living her dream, working as a live-in gardener on a beautiful Suffolk estate. But when the owner dies, Freya finds herself forced out of her job and her home with nowhere to go. However, with luck on her side, she's soon moving to Nightingale Square and helping to create a beautiful winter garden that will be open to the public in time for Christmas. There's a warm welcome from all in Nightingale Square, except from local artist Finn. No matter how hard the pair try, they just can't get along, and working together to bring the winter garden to life quickly becomes a struggle for them both. Will Freya and Finn be able to put their differences aside in time for Christmas? Or will the arrival of a face from Freya's past send them all spiralling? The Winter Garden is the perfect read this Christmas, promising snowfall, warm fires and breathtaking seasonal romance. Perfect for fans of Carole Matthews, Cathy Bramley and Sarah Morgan. Praise for HEIDI SWAIN: 'The queen of feel-good' Woman & Home 'Full of Heidi's trademark gentle charm. Lock the door, pour some mulled wine and settle into this wonderful Christmas treat!' Milly Johnson 'More Christmassy than a week in Lapland - we loved it!' heat 'Sprinkled with Christmas sparkle' Trisha Ashley 'Give yourself a Christmas treat and curl up with this magical book!' Sue Moorcroft, author of The Little Village Christmas 'A real Christmas cracker of a read!' Penny Parkes, author of Practice Makes Perfect 'Cosy, Christmassy and deeply satisfying! Another wonderful read!' Mandy Baggot, author of One Christmas Kiss in Notting Hill

THE COTTAGE OF CURIOSITIES (PENGELEY SERIES, BOOK 2)

HarperCollins Come home to 59 Memory Lane with a new novel from the top Kindle and USA Today bestselling author Celia Anderson!

THE GOLDEN CUP

A CORNWALL FAMILY SAGA

Random House 'Riveting, moving and utterly feel-good' Daily Mail _____ Paradise has been home to generations of Trevannions: Paradise, the house at the head of a sheltered Cornish valley where Mrs Trevannion lives, surrounded by her family. Frail and elderly Honor Trevannion, bedridden following a nasty fall, is inexplicably anxious and distressed by the arrival of a young American bearing an old black and white photograph of a double wedding and looking for a long-lost relation. Her children Bruno and Emma, granddaughter Joss and faithful cousin Mousie try to nurse Honor back to health, unaware of the secrets which she keeps

from those closest to her. Increasingly troubled and confused, she begs Joss to find a cache of letters which have been hidden for fifty years. Too late to hear the story from Honor herself, the family are faced with revelations which could destroy the tranquillity of life in their beloved valley. Will they be torn apart or can they unite in admiration for one woman's courage in standing by the life-changing decision she made so many years ago? _____ Praise for Marcia Willett: 'A genuine voice of our time' *The Times* 'Riveting, moving and utterly feel-good' *Daily Mail*

ONE HOT HOLIDAY

Hocus Pocus Publishing, Inc. She's running for her life. He's the safe haven she never expected to find. The holiday season is about to get HOT. Hiding out for the holiday season in the heart of the South? Not something that Haley Quick ever expected to have on her to-do list but then...she never expected her ex to want her dead, either. Turns out, life is full of surprises. Time to deal. Haley has ditched New York for a crazy little dot on the map known as Point Hope, Alabama. It's a town gone extra crazy for the holidays, and Haley is sticking out like a sore thumb with her very much Grinch-self. But enter sexy sheriff Spencer Lane...Tall, muscled, and made with an extra dose of sex appeal, he is exactly the kind of man that Haley should be avoiding. He's charming, he looks way too good in a Santa hat, and, oh, yes, he's her new landlord. The hits just keep coming. She can't afford to let Spencer learn all of her secrets, a tough job since she is living with the man. No sex, though. It's purely a business relationship. Except...the holidays in the South sure do get HOT. Or maybe that's just sexy Spencer. Usually, Haley falls for the bad guy. It's the whole reason she's running for her life. She can't help but wonder...What would it be like to fall for a man like Spencer? He just got his Christmas wish. Sheriff Spencer Lane can't believe his luck. The most beautiful, fascinating woman he's ever seen has just dropped into his life like a gift from, well, the big guy in red. Only the problem is that Haley seems to think Spencer is some by-the-book, nice guy. Probably because of the badge. And if she wants him to be the hero, that's a role that he's happy to play for her. But the truth is, Spencer has plenty of darkness inside, too. An ex Navy SEAL, he knows how to get sh—um, stuff done. He also knows how to be very, very naughty. When danger threatens his Haley, all bets are off. No one is going to hurt her. No one is going to threaten her. Not in his town. Not on his watch. The nice guy will show Haley just how bad he can be. Fake snow, a parade of wild elves, and a stalker ex don't make for the merriest of times, but in Point Hope, anything can happen—and it usually does. Ready for a steamy story that will get you in the ho-ho-ho spirit? Settle back, curl up with Spencer, and have yourself a jolly old time.

LOCAL SOULS

W. W. Norton & Company "This book underscores what we have long known—Gurganus stands among the best writers of our time." —Ann Patchett
Through memorable language and bawdy humor, Gurganus returns to his mythological Falls, North Carolina, home of Widow. This first work in a decade offers three novellas mirroring today's face-lifted South, a zone revolutionized around freer sexuality, looser family ties, and superior telecommunications, yet it celebrates

those locals who have chosen to stay local. In doing so, *Local Souls* uncovers certain old habits—adultery, incest, obsession—still very much alive in our New South, a "Winesburg, Ohio" with high-speed Internet. Wells Tower says of Gurganus, "No living writer knows more about how humans matter to each other." Such ties of love produce hilarious, if wrenching, complications: "Fear Not" gives us a banker's daughter seeking the child she was forced to surrender when barely fifteen, only to find an adult rescuer she might have invented. In "Saints Have Mothers," a beloved high school valedictorian disappears during a trip to Africa, granting her ambitious mother a postponed fame that turns against her. And in a dramatic "Decoy," the doctor-patient friendship between two married men breaks toward desire just as a biblical flood shatters their neighborhood and rearranges their fates. Gurganus finds fresh pathos in ancient tensions: between marriage and Eros, parenthood and personal fulfillment. He writes about erotic hunger and social embarrassment with Twain's knife-edged glee. By loving Falls, Gurganus dramatizes the passing of Hawthorne's small-town nation into those Twitter-nourished lives we now expect and relish. Four decades ago, John Cheever pronounced Allan Gurganus "the most technically gifted and morally responsive writer of his generation." *Local Souls* confirms Cheever's prescient faith. It deepens the luster of Gurganus's reputation for compassion and laughter. His black comedy leaves us with lasting affection for his characters and the aching aftermath of human consequences. Here is a universal work about a village.

MY BESTIE'S DAD

A FORBIDDEN ROMANCE

Cassandra Dee Romance I went to a depraved club and came out pregnant by my best friend's dad. Some girls have all the luck. They meet their man, get married, and start cranking out babies. But I'm not like that. I like things a little different, so I go to the place that satisfies those dark desires: The Cube. What we do in the club is off-limits and taboo to normal society, but it scratches an itch I have deep inside. Unfortunately, one night I meet a man at the Cube who takes my breath away. He's just as dark, dangerous and twisted as me, but then his mask falls away ... AND IT'S MY BEST FRIEND'S DAD! Omg, I've had a crush on Brent Marshall for years. And now he's being naughty with me, his daughter's childhood buddy. What do we do? Or more accurately, what happens when I get pregnant from our illicit encounter? Hold onto your horses because Jane Cuesta is a bad girl. She's got an innocent exterior, but the curvy girl likes things a certain way and Brent Marshall is just the man to give her what she needs. Sure, he's known her since she was practically a baby, but that's why it's so forbidden ... and so mind-blowingly yummy! No cheating, no cliffhangers, and always a HEA for my readers. This book features characters that initially appeared in *My Dad's Business Partner*, but both books are standalones and can be read on their own. You'll love them, I promise! Xoxo, Cassandra

PARIS BY STARLIGHT

Random House A magical new novel from the acclaimed author of *THE TOYMAKERS*,

perfect for fans of Neil Gaiman and Erin Morgenstern. 'A spellbinding tale of nocturnal life and magic in the streets of Paris tells of the courage it takes to be different and follow your dreams.' WATERSTONES *'Beautifully captures the hazy dissonance of storytelling and invention.'* GUARDIAN

Every city has its own magic... Every night on their long journey to Paris from their troubled homeland, Levon's grandmother has read to them from a very special book. Called *The Nocturne*, it is a book full of fairy stories and the heroic adventures of their people who generations before chose to live by starlight. And with every story that Levon's grandmother tells them in their new home, the desire to live as their ancestors did grows. And that is when the magic begins... But not everyone in Paris is won over by the spectacle of Paris-by-Starlight. There are always those that fear the other, the unexplained, the strangers in our midst. How long can the magic of night rub up against the ordinariness of day? How long can two worlds occupy the same streets and squares before there is an outright war? Readers love *Paris by Starlight!* 'Robert Dinsdale, I salute you! A smorgasbord of delights. It's a wondrous thing to be able to visit Paris by Starlight and I'd recommend a trip to you all!' 'Beautifully written and its observations on human nature are spot on. Exceptionally cleverly done. Exceptionally written piece of fabulism with gorgeous, evocative imagery.' 'A real treat and just as enchanting as Dinsdale's *The Toymakers*. Full of magic as well as being a moving tale of displacement, longing and love.' 'Lovely cover and beautiful prose. I'm about half way through and enjoying every page' 'A truly magical tale that couldn't be more relevant for our times.' 'A gorgeously written tale of love and acceptance'

THE SECRETS HE KEPT

Hera books Ltd 'will have you gripped from start to finish, so much so that you really don't want to stop reading!' (5 stars) Reader review 'I was hooked straight in from the first chapter and it really didn't let up. Fast paced and thrilling.' (5 stars) Reader review You know everything about your husband. Don't you? He loves you. He loves your children. He'd never put his family in danger. One of these is a lie. It started like any other day at the hairdressers where Sally works as a stylist... until her first client innocently shows her a family photograph; a photograph that causes Sally to collapse in shock. In one moment, Sally discovers that Tom has been hiding an explosive secret - one that could tear apart the life they've built together. Faced with an impossible dilemma - search for the truth, or keep her contented life? - Sally is about to discover that even those closest to us have secrets... and that sometimes the truth is the last thing we want to hear. A completely gripping, suspenseful psychological thriller that fans of T.M. Logan, *My Lovely Wife* and K.L. Slater won't be able to put down. Readers can't get enough of *The Secrets He Kept*: 'I read this in one sitting, loved it!! Quickly paced, great story!! Kept me guessing to the very end!!' (5 stars) Reader review 'I loved, loved this book. It was engaging from the first page and kept me up half the night.' Reader review 'Every few chapters provide a new twist in this story, all ending with a very satisfying conclusion...I could not recommend this book more!' (5 stars) 'Wow, this was one gripping read!...A roller coaster of a read that thrills and excites.' (5 stars) Reader review 'a fast paced and

twisty ride that kept me gripped from start to finish...kept me addicted till the very last page.' Reader review 'A fast paced, twisty domestic thriller...an engrossing read with a likable character and a host of thrilling twists and turns, enjoy!' Reader review 'I was intrigued by this book from the start... A highly recommended and enjoyable read' Reader review 'a very compelling thriller...I would definitely recommend this book to those who enjoy psychological thrillers.' Reader review 'The moment the first jaw-dropping bombshell landed in the first chapter, I was hooked... Clever cliff-hangers...and a twist you couldn't guess even if you tried. A gripping, hard-hitting read' (5 stars) Reader review 'a splendid thriller that will leave you guessing until the end...I would recommend this book to anyone who loves psychological thrillers.' (5 stars) Reader review 'What a brilliant fast paced book. I was guessing all the way through.' (5 stars) Reader review 'Fantastic read! Great plot that grabs you from the very beginning. A masterful story that keeps you endlessly intrigued...HIGHLY RECOMMEND!' (5 stars) Reader review 'A brilliant roller coaster of a read...full of twists and turns and I was gripped from the very first page' Reader review 'The characters were well drawn and the story flowed seamlessly. Highly recommended.' (5 stars) Reader review 'kept me fully engaged from beginning to end...a riveting and twisty tale that will have you racing to get to the bottom of it all.' Reader review 'The story is full of twists and turns and kept me hooked throughout...will have you flying through the chapters to see how it will all unravel.' Reader review 'loved all the twists and turns; kept me guessing! I really enjoyed this, read it in one sitting!' (5 stars) Reader review

HOPEFUL HEARTS AT GLENDALE HALL

THE COSIEST, MOST UPLIFTING READ TO WARM YOUR HEART THIS WINTER!

Hera books Ltd 'Emotional, moving, funny, heartwarming - this novel has got it all. Highly recommended!' Samantha Tonge, author of The Winter We Met What happens when love takes you to unexpected places? Heather Douglas appears to have it all. But living on a farm in the Scottish Highlands with her partner, Rory Fraser, all while bringing up their adorable toddler, Harry, isn't easy. As a former librarian, Heather is worried that she'll never fully fit into life on Fraser Farm. And after the death of her beloved mum eight years ago, Heather feels lost, as well as guilty for holding back accepting Rory's marriage proposal because she can't imagine her wedding without her mother. So when ex-boyfriend, Stewart, appears in the village of Glendale, it's a shock to the system. The man who broke her heart years ago now has big plans for the neighbouring farm and wants Heather to be part of the development. Knowing that she's living a very different life to the one they had planned at university leaves Heather wondering if she has made the right choices since she and Stewart broke up. Especially when things start to go very wrong on the farm ... This Christmas, Heather will need to face her fears and let go of the past or risk losing everything. She will need love, faith, and a whole lot of hope! Return to the beautiful Highlands village of Glendale with the latest book in the bestselling Glendale series - the perfect cosy, uplifting, romantic read for fans of Heidi Swain, Milly Johnson and Holly Martin. Praise for Hopeful Hearts at Glendale

Hall: 'A delightful and heartwarming read. I really enjoyed escaping to Glendale, and getting to know the warm and varied characters.' Caroline Roberts, author of *The Cosy Teashop in the Castle* series and *Rachel's Pudding Pantry* 'a gorgeous feel-good story...I'm already looking forward to the next one!' Jessica Redland, author of *Finding Love at Hedgehog Hollow* 'A festive farmland treat with deep snow and even deeper heart!' Isla Gordon, author of *A Season in the Snow* 'a magical setting, characters that feel like family, and plenty of drama...the best one yet in this enchanting series' Books of All Kinds 'I absolutely loved this book... beautifully written and a really easy, feel good read and a perfect escape.' A Girl Who Loves to Read 'A brilliantly written, deliciously witty and highly moving tale... sheer perfection from beginning to end!' ☆☆☆☆☆ Bookish Jottings 'a truly magical and enchanting read. I absolutely loved it' ☆☆☆☆☆ Little Miss Book Lover 'read at any time when you need something comforting and cosy and want to escape from the world for a while.' Book Lover Worm 'If you're looking for a feelgood story to make you smile, then look no further!' Roberta Reads 'I've fallen in love with this uplifting story and with the entire town of Glendale...I wish the characters were real!' ☆☆☆☆☆ ReadwithAbi 'I'd love to move to Glendale... I truly hope there will be more books in the series because this is a triumph!!! An easy ☆☆☆☆☆ from me!' Head in a Book 'This was a fun, heartfelt read which I really enjoyed and would highly recommend it.' Cheryl's Bookworm Reads 'totally captured my heart and left me with a feeling of loss as I reached the end.' Love the Smell of a Book

THE GIRL IN THE MOON

Simon and Schuster The #1 New York Times–bestselling author “writes suspense with a slight fantastic edge, and the result is a fresh, compelling thriller” (Dean Koontz). Angela Constantine is a girl born broken. When Angela was young, before she came to realize she had a rare ability, she was a rather ordinary girl. At least, that was what everyone said. But Angela is anything but ordinary. The daughter of a meth addict, she is convinced she was born a freak. Haunted by an abusive childhood, she was forced to become a woman far too soon. And in the process, she became more. Angela Constantine has a secret life. Angela juggles multiple jobs to live a secluded life in a cabin in the mountains. Because her family's bloodline carries the ability to recognize killers, she adopts a solitary, violent existence in service of her own, personal mission in life. When Angela unexpectedly finds herself the prey of a group of international terrorists, she is the only one who knows the truth of what they are about to do. She might look like an unlikely hero. She might also be our only hope. Angela Constantine is . . . *The Girl in the Moon*.

DEMON DISGRACE

Shattered Glass Publishing

ANCORA NON MI FIDO DI TE

Byrd Book Llc *Una volta eri l'uomo che odiavo, ma ti ho perdonato per quello che hai fatto. Ora tocca a te perdonarmi. No, non ti ho tradito, nemmeno lontanamente. Ma ho commesso un errore enorme, di quelli che fanno sopravvivere poche relazioni. E*

adesso? Dove andremo? È stata la cosa più stupida che abbia mai fatto, e ha cambiato tutto. Troverai nel tuo cuore la forza per perdonarmi? O è la nostra fine? **
 ANCORA NON MI FIDO DI TE è il secondo libro della COPPIA dei nemici - amanti dell'autrice bestseller Charlotte Byrd che ti farà girare la testa. Cosa dicono i lettori di Charlotte Byrd: "Questo libro / serie crea dipendenza! Estremamente scottante e infuocato, intenso con colpi di scena che proprio non ti aspetterai... "★★★★★ "Lo inizi e non lo posi più!" ★★★★★ "Come diavolo ho fatto a sopravvivere? La mia mente è sconvolta, il cuore mi esplose nel petto e sono sul baratro, tremando come una foglia in una tempesta, in attesa di rifare tutto da capo, con la conclusione che sia uno dei migliori motivi per uscire dal lavoro e perdersi per un po'. "★★★★★ "Questa serie è così intensa e deliziosa. I colpi di scena mozzafiato, le emozioni selvagge e la tensione snervante continuano ad aumentare man mano che si prosegue ogni libro di questa affascinante serie. Sono così coinvolto nella storia di Nicholas e Olivia. Questi personaggi si insinuano davvero nel tuo cuore, consumando totalmente anche la tua mente. La avvincente storia ti cattura rapidamente e ti immerge nel mondo di questa coppia. Cerca di essere preparato per il colpo di scena e per l'attesa per il sesto e ultimo libro di questa fantastica serie. " ★★★★★

COLD AS ICE

Minotaur Books In New York Times bestseller Allison Brennan's *Cold as Ice*, FBI Agent Lucy Kincaid must get into the head of a psychopath to save her family, and herself
 Two years ago, FBI Agent Lucy Kincaid put psychopath Elise Hansen Hunt in juvenile detention for her role in an organized crime syndicate. Now eighteen, Elise has been released with a clean slate, and plans to take her revenge by making Lucy's life hell. The plot begins with Lucy's husband Sean Rogan, who has been arrested for a murder he most certainly did not commit. Lucy is determined to prove Sean's innocence, but is warned off the case by her boss. As she calls in reinforcements, she learns that Sean's brother Kane is missing in Mexico, her partner Nate Dunning has been arrested for possession of cocaine, and her friend Brad Donnelly has been kidnapped outside DEA headquarters. Lucy realizes that Elise doesn't have the resources or patience to execute such a devious plan. Did Elise's father orchestrate everything from prison? Or is there someone even more calculating seeking revenge on Lucy by hurting the people she loves? One thing is certain: if Lucy doesn't find the answers fast, Sean will die.

THE GIRL WHO NEVER CAME HOME

A COMPLETELY HEARTBREAKING AND UTTERLY GRIPPING PAGE-TURNER

Bookouture 'I loved, loved, loved this so much!!!!' Blue Moon Blogger, □□□□
 'Stunning! Impossible to put down!' Goodreads Reviewer, □□□□ 'Oh my!... Just Wow!' Red Headed Book Lady, □□□□ 'UNPUTDOWNABLE.' Book Reviews by Shalini, □□□□
 They find her just as the sun is beginning to rise in the early morning mist. They had begun at dawn, the group of searchers keen to get going. A missing child spurred everyone on. In the end, it was a flash of colour, a bright neon pink that

caught her eye. They had been looking for pink. Nothing tests your faith like being a mother. The first time your children walk to school alone, their first sleepover, when they finally fly the nest. As a parent, you have to believe that everything will be OK. It's why, when Lydia's sixteen-year-old daughter Zoe goes on a school camping trip, she has no idea of the horrors that will unfold. It's why, when Lydia gets a call saying that her daughter has disappeared, she refuses to give up. As she searches the mountains, her voice hoarse from calling Zoe's name, she imagines finding her. She envisions being flooded with relief as she throws her arms around her child, saying, 'you gave us such a scare'. She pictures her precious girl safely tucked in bed that evening. It's why, when they find Zoe's body, Lydia can barely believe it. It is unthinkable. Her little girl has gone. Something terrible happened, she is sure of it. Something made Zoe get out of her sleeping bag in the middle of the night, walk out of the warmth and safety of the cabin, into the darkness of the mountains. Driven by the memory of her youngest child, Lydia needs to find out the truth. What kind of mother would she be if she didn't? A heartbreaking, redemptive and beautifully crafted novel which brings to life a mother's worst nightmare, questioning how well we ever really know the people we love the most. Fans of Jodi Picoult, Kerry Fisher and Liane Moriarty will be blown away by this stirring, unforgettable tale. Readers absolutely love *The Girl Who Never Come Home*: 'Just like wow! So powerful and sad! I have never read a story quite like this one... I am truly blown away... Lots of twists and turns that I never saw coming... So very emotional that I had to have a box of tissues by my side. I stayed up until 5am so that I could finish this book.' Red Headed Book Lady, ★★★★★ 'Wow, what a heartbreaking book... A real page-turner.' NetGalley Reviewer, ★★★★★ 'Brilliant... UNPUTDOWNABLE... So powerful that I had to take a few breaths to calm my heart down... A heart-wrenching tale... to read in one go. How could I stop myself? Like the mother Lydia, I needed to know what happened to Zoé. I had to take a few minutes hugging myself before I could write this review... Left me awed. And the emotions... Oh the feelings, they left me overwhelmed. My heart just overflowed.' Book Reviews by Shalini, ★★★★★ 'I've read many of Nicole Trope's books and this one was by far the best. I'm telling you this woman does not disappoint... I'm a big fan of Nicole Trope and all her books. I don't eat or sleep until it is finished. This one was no exception. I couldn't put this down for the life of me. I had to find out what happened to poor Zoe and why. I can't say enough good things... Definitely going to be in my top reads of the year.' Blue Moon Blogger, ★★★★★ 'Will shock you to your very core! 5+ stars! Another stunning MUST-READ from the mastermind... Masterpiece! It is an emotionally charged, thrilling, and suspenseful rollercoaster read that is impossible to put down!... An unforgettable, mind-blowing experience! Keep the tissues nearby, but every tear shed will be well worth it!... Will fill you with a ferocious and intense need to hug your loved ones and never let go!' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★ 'Her heartbreak is shattering. I have lost a son and I can honestly say that the writer hits the emotions perfectly.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★ 'Shockingly good!... You just don't know when it is going to hit you.' Goodreads Reviewer, ★★★★★ 'Make sure to clear some time in your schedule when you start this. I had to read it all at once.' Book Worm Down Under, ★★★★★ 'Breathtaking. Your worst nightmare come to life and I could not put it down... Full of suspense and begged to be read in one sitting. You cannot put this down until you

read the final chapter.' Goodreads Reviewer, □□□□

CHASING ZERO (AN AGENT ZERO SPY THRILLER—BOOK #9)

Jack Mars "You will not sleep until you are finished with AGENT ZERO. A superb job creating a set of characters who are fully developed and very much enjoyable. The description of the action scenes transport us into a reality that is almost like sitting in a movie theater with surround sound and 3D (it would make an incredible Hollywood movie). I can hardly wait for the sequel." --Roberto Mattos, Books and Movie Reviews

CHASING ZERO is book #9 in the #1 bestselling AGENT ZERO series, which begins with AGENT ZERO (Book #1), a free download with nearly 300 five-star reviews. The Palestinians decide they want to make peace with Israel—and they want the U.S. President to broker the historic treaty on their territory. Agent Zero advises the President against the dangerous trip, but he insists on going. After a series of dramatic and shocking twists, the most dangerous 48 hours of Zero's life ensue, forcing him into an impossible mission: save the President at all costs. CHASING ZERO (Book #9) is an un-putdownable espionage thriller that will keep you turning pages late into the night. Books #10-#11 are also available! "Thriller writing at its best." --Midwest Book Review (re Any Means Necessary) "One of the best thrillers I have read this year." --Books and Movie Reviews (re Any Means Necessary) Also available is Jack Mars' #1 bestselling LUKE STONE THRILLER series (7 books), which begins with Any Means Necessary (Book #1), a free download with over 800 five star reviews!

THE VOWS HE MUST KEEP

Harlequin A pledge to protect... That will be tested at the altar! After tragedy strikes, Daniela Avelar steps up as CEO to her brother's global yacht empire. But to prevent corporate mutiny, she needs the help of his business partner, Valerio Marchesi. Little does Daniela know that Valerio has already sworn to keep her safe. And when the tycoon discovers she's in grave danger, he insists she become his bride! He'll risk the unavoidable chemistry that sparks every time they lock eyes. Because this engagement of convenience is anything but... It's a red-hot fire burning out of control!

THIS IS WAR

Travis King is the worst kind of asshole. He taunts me for being a good girl and mocks my high standards. He's cruel, crass, and has enough confidence to last two lifetimes. And I hate him. It wouldn't matter so much if he were avoidable. But considering he's my older brother's best friend and roommate, I see him more than I'd ever want to. His sculpted abs and gorgeous eyes are wasted on such an arrogant man, which makes me hate him even more. Even though I've had a crush on him since I was ten, the feelings weren't mutual and he's always made that very clear. He's always loved getting under my skin and one night against my better judgment, I let him in my bed. I've succumbed to his manwhore ways, but that doesn't change a thing. Because the King is about to get played at his own game—and lose. Checkmate.