

LOVE'S GREAT ADVENTURE

The exclusive magazine from Elizabeth Ellen Carter

A CENTURY OF STYLE

100 YEARS OF FASHION
ON THE CATWALK AT
COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

PICTURE THIS...

ARTISTS AND MODELS

Interview

The Soldier's RENOVATION

CELEBRATED BEAUTY PROVES A DISTRACTION
FOR THE MARQUESS OF MERRICK

MAKING AN IMPRESSION

THE SPONTANEITY OF
JON PAUL FERARRA

PRE-RAPHAELITE OBSESSION

HERO WORSHIP WITH
DAR ALBERT

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THE FABULOUS
MICHAEL FOSTER

SPREADING THE LOVE

VIKKAS BHARDWAJ AND
THE JOY OF GIVING BACK

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- FOOD: THE QUEEN'S HEAD ON A PLATTER
- THE LADY'S MAID'S SECRET FINAL

LOVE'S GREAT
ADVENTURE

Issue 7 June 2019

AUTHOR'S DESK

JUDGING A BOOK BY ITS COVER

I know we're all told to never judge a book by its cover but we all do. In the case of romance novels, the cover sells the book. It's a promise, a hint, a tease of what is between the covers.

I'm thrilled to have the two best cover artists in the business, Jon-Paul Ferrara and Dar Albert, in this edition. They share an incredible talent and skill that we all can enjoy.

And on top of that, we have two of the loveliest cover models in the business, Michael Foster and Vikkas Bhardwaj who share some insights into how they bring a heroic vision to life.

Best-selling author Alexa Aston is our guest interviewer in this edition.

We also have a fabulous fashion spread from Victoria Vane who organised a Century of Style fashion show at a Colonial Williamsburg reader-author event.

And Peggy Pascoe, the Queen's Head cook from Spyfall shares some of the traditional Cornish recipes featured in my upcoming novel!

Also this time, we bid a fond farewell to Rose Reed who has shared The Lady's Maid's Secret since our very first edition. I hope you like the final instalment.

Elizabeth Ellen Carter



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LOVE'S GREAT ADVENTURE

The exclusive magazine
from Elizabeth Ellen Carter

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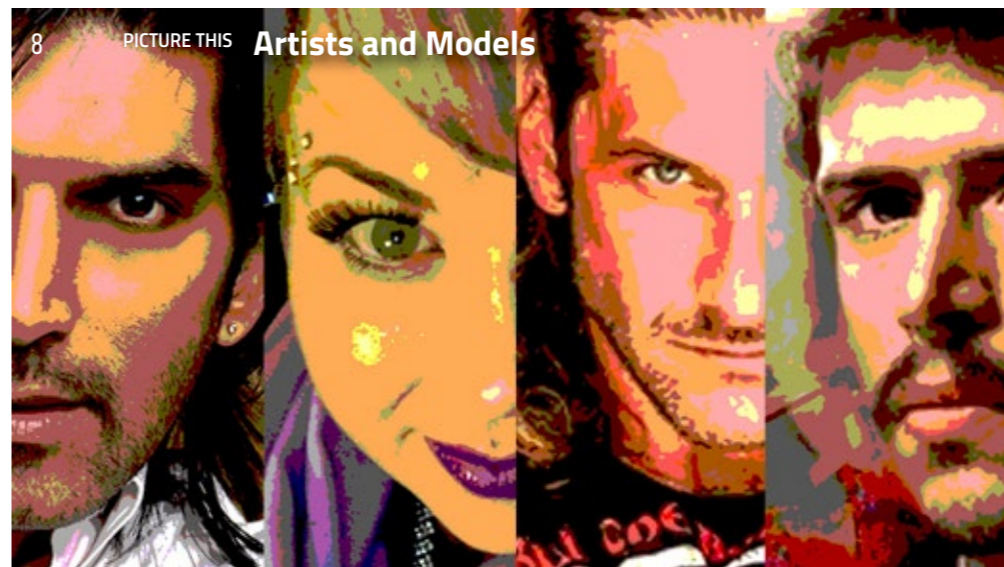
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LOVE'S GREAT ADVENTURE

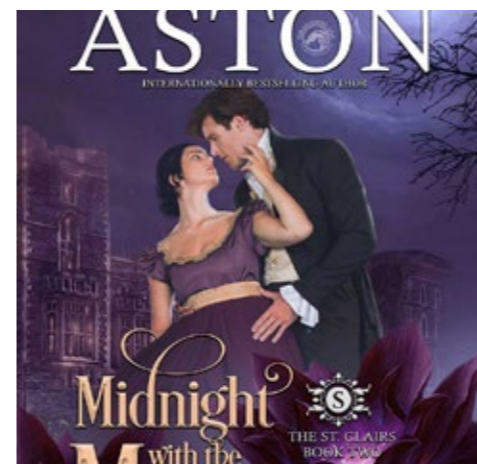
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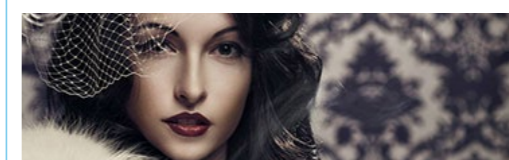


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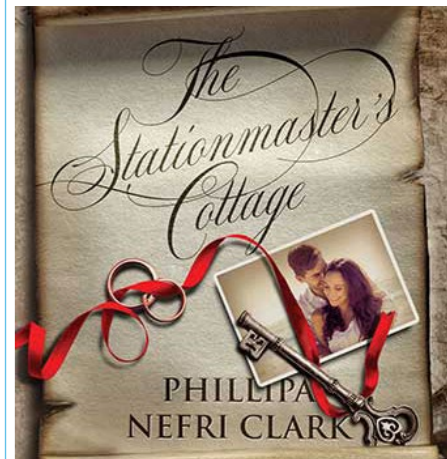
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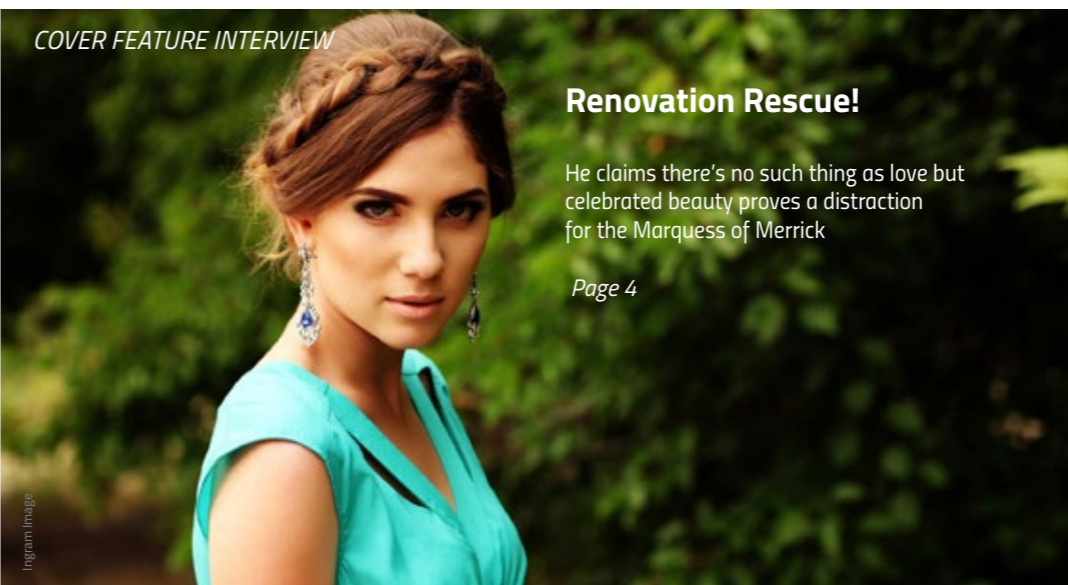
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He claims there's no such thing as love but celebrated beauty proves a distraction for the Marquess of Merrick

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INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE

CAN LADY RACHEL ST. CLAIR REFURBISH THE MARQUESS OF MERRICK'S LOVE LIFE AS WELL AS HIS RUNDOWN ESTATE?

COVER STORY

“LADY ST CLAIR HAS QUITE THE EYE FOR DETAIL

I RECENTLY returned to the country and learned my neighbor, Lord Alton, is hosting a summer house party filled with young people of marriageable age. While I've been married a good forty years, I am a secret correspondent for Love's Great Adventure and am always looking to share with Polite Society some of the more interesting tidbits I pick up.

I drop in as the guests are playing croquet on the south lawn, warmly greeted by Lord Alton, who introduces me to his precious fiancée, Lady Leah Crawford. As I mingle and do a bit of gossiping, I notice a tall man with ramrod posture and mesmerizing blue eyes who stands apart from the others. I learn he is Evan Drake, the Marquess of Merrick, recently returned from the Peninsular Wars.

Naturally, I need to meet him, so I have Lord Alton introduce us. After the earl returns to his guests, I'm ready to learn what I can about this aloof marquess.

by
A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

*I've been told you're staying with Lord Alton?
(Merrick eyes me warily but answers politely in deference to my age and position.)*

Yes. I've sold my commission and Alton, who is my closest friend, insisted I stay with him while Edgemere, my estate, is readied. I haven't lived there in years, due to university and my years in service in His Majesty's Army.

There must be so much to be done to make it inhabitable again.

More than I imagined, I'll admit. Fortunately, Lady Rachel St. Clair is helping me refurbish it and hire servants. She's also designing new gardens for me. She has quite the eye for detail.

(Now it's getting interesting! Lady Rachel is a celebrated beauty who made her come-out last Season. She accepted no marriage offers—which surprised me—but then again, I've heard the rumors that she has declared she will only wed for love. I notice Merrick scan the crowd and see he's found her. She's laughing, having knocked her opponent's ball far from the wicket, and I notice Merrick's features soften as he gazes at her.)

Is Edgemere far from here?

Just a few miles north. The tenants remained and my steward managed the estate during my long absence.

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RENOVATION RESCUE!

MIDNIGHT WITH THE MARQUESS

Can love heal a wounded army officer who doesn't believe it exists?

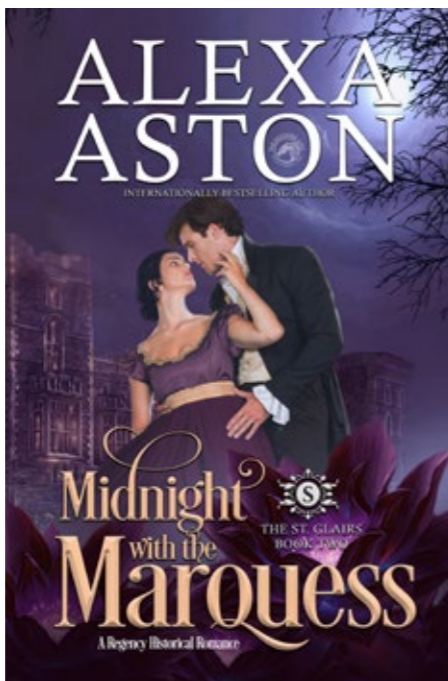
Lady Rachel St. Clair has witnessed how powerful love can be, thanks to the example her brother and wife set, and she won't settle for anything less. At a house party, Rachel meets an officer returning from the Peninsular War and believes she may have found love, thanks to their clandestine midnight lessons in kissing.

Major Evan Drake, Marquess of Merrick, witnessed his father murder his mother and believes love doesn't exist. He's returned from combat wounded in both body and soul. When he meets Rachel he changes his mind about love, drawn to the raven-haired beauty's spirit. Yet Rachel devastates him by rejecting him before he can declare his feelings for her, sending Evan into a downward spiral that almost ends in death.

Nursing her broken heart, Rachel continues her search for love the next Season, though her thoughts linger on those midnights with her marquess.

Will Evan be able to regain Rachel's trust—and open his heart to love?

Find the answer in bestselling author Alexa Aston's second book of The St. Clairs, *Midnight with the Marquess*.



Each book in The St. Clairs Trilogy is a standalone story that can be enjoyed out of order.

Book #1
Devoted to the Duke

Book #2
Midnight with the Marquess

Book #3
Embracing the Earl

View on Amazon:
Tap or Click
<https://amzn.to/2ZKs7Yf>

“THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS LOVE.”

THE SOLDIER'S RENOVATION

(Continued from page 5)

Now that you've returned and your army days are behind you, I'm sure you're eager to settle down and take your place among the ton

(Merrick scowls at my inquiry.)

I have no desire to become active in Polite Society. I most certainly have no plans to ever wed.

(But once more, I see his gaze has returned to Lady Rachel...)

Your friend Alton is engaged to be married. Surely, you see how happy he is? It's said that he and Lady Leah are a love match.

There is no such thing as love.

(The harshness of his response startles me. I am about to ask if it is his intention to frighten the countess away when I turn and see Lady Rachel has joined us. We greet one another. The marquess bows and makes a strategic withdrawal.)

I will let you two ladies visit. Good day.

(He retreats to the house as Lady Rachel apologises.)

I hope Merrick wasn't rude to you, my lady. He's a bit rough around the edges, thanks to his army days. Major Drake is

adjusting to being the Marquess of Merrick and it's giving him fits.

(She laughs and I see how any man would be taken with her.)

I hear you have taken the reins and are redecorating Lord Merrick's house and planning new gardens. You must be very close friends in order to take on such responsibility.

(A blush touches her porcelain cheeks, only adding to her beauty. Her famous St. Clair green eyes glow.)

Someone had to take domestic matters in hand. If left to Merrick, he'd live like a monk with no luxuries to speak of.

He is quite handsome...

(Her blush deepens and she cracks her knuckles in a very unladylike manner. Catching herself, she clasps her hands in front of her.)

Merrick is handsome. I'll give you that.

The marquess told me he doesn't believe in love.

(She frowns, worrying her bottom lip, lost in thought for a moment. Finally, she realizes I'm still standing in front of her.)

Merrick has many layers to him. I fear his home life was harsh and his time at war did nothing to soften him. But I'll confide to you, my lady, that Merrick has much to offer a woman.

If he finds the right one, he'll fall in love deeply and be utterly loyal to her.

Could you be that woman, Lady Rachel? Have you kissed our handsome marquess?

I'll have an answer to your question after my midnight lesson tonight with Merrick.

With an enigmatic smile, the young woman bids me a good day and returns to her companions. I watch her for several minutes, approving of her vivacious manner—and honesty with me.

Something in my old bones tells me these two are meant to be together. I won't write about Lord Merrick and Lady Rachel.

Yet...

“SOMEONE HAD TO TAKE DOMESTIC MATTERS IN HAND.”

ARTISTS AND MODELS

The central theme of this edition of Love's Great Adventure Magazine is one I've wanted to do for a long time.

Artists and Models are the people who can literally make or break an author's work in the marketplace.

A good cover - wrapped around a good story well told - will sell a book to potential readers in the split second they first look at it.

But a poorly executed cover can kill the chance to attract a reader no matter how good the words within.

I was delighted to interview some of the best Artists and Models in the romance world today.

Here are their stories...

Interviews by
ELIZABETH ELLEN CARTER

THE SPONTANEOUS SENSUOUS WORLD OF

JON PAUL FERRARA



THE ORIGINAL ART FOR
AUTHOR MAIRE CLAREMONT'S
LADY IN RED
(2013)
© JON PAUL FERRARA



THE ORIGINAL ART FOR
AUTHOR MARY WINE'S
HIGHLAND SPITFIRE (2016)
© JON PAUL FERRARA



AS THE PAINTINGS
FINALLY APPEARED ON
THE COVERS OF THE MASS
MARKET PAPERBACKS.

IN THE CASE OF
HIGHLAND SPITFIRE,
THE IMAGE APPEARS
REVERSED TO BETTER
SUIT THE COVER LAYOUT.

LADY IN RED
© BERKLEY
HIGHLAND SPITFIRE
© SOURCEBOOKS CASABLANCA



Jon Paul Ferrara is one of the world's finest romance cover artists. He studied in New York at the American Academy of Fine Arts and then at the American Academy of Design. After meeting with illustrator Pino Daeni in the 1980s, Jon Paul decided romance cover art was his future.

And the rest is history...

EEC: What is your favorite style of art to practice?

JPF: I love the 19th century movements in art. I'm especially drawn to the Impressionists for their spontaneity in trying to capture the moment which I try to do also. And I hope that comes across in my work.

How did you come to designing romance covers?

I was actually in my early 20's when I had a one man show in a gallery and a young man came along and asked me if I would like to do book covers. I was against it at first until he took me over to the house of a friend who was one of the greatest romance artists of his day. This was back in the early '80s.

After I saw the artist work (Pino), I was completely sold on this being what I wanted to do. I was so in love with his work that I couldn't believe someone could paint so beautifully. This was in the day when all covers were painted by hand in oil, tempera, etc. And that was my start.

Is there a genre of romance cover you like designing for?

No question about it, I would have to say historical. Ninety percent of my covers I've done in my career have been historical.

The reason I love it so much is I love history. And when I create these covers, it's like time traveling through my own work to a different day and age.

One of my favorite periods is Victorian. I guess it is close to my heart for my Grandparents lived then and it makes it more tangible to me.

What are the most challenging aspects of designing covers?

I don't feel there are any challenges at this point of my life doing the

covers. I've been doing them for so long (36 years +!). So it's really like second nature for me to execute what needs to be done.

And I have to say it is still very enjoyable doing the covers as when I first started. It makes my work very pleasurable when I get to hear how the public react to it. In this day and age with social media, I know exactly how the public who follow my work feel about it. And that is a high in itself – touching people's lives through ones work.

Could you walk us through the anatomy of a good cover design? Typography? Lighting? Colouring?

The way it works is I get a fact sheet from my art director with a synopsis of the storyline, the descriptions of the characters, and where the story takes place, like location. Once that is all settled on, I start to creatively imagine the scene in my mind.

I tell people I usually see my paintings in my mind before I even do them. Most of my art directors give me creative freedom and let me run with it which I like to do for it makes it more spontaneous. I feel when things become too thought out, you lose part of that. That is just my artistic opinion.

They will tell me the overall color tone if they have one in mind, but most of the time they leave the coloring up to me. Most of my lighting and compositions are based on things I learned and studied from the artists of the Golden Era of Illustration which was the latter part of the 19th century and early part of the 20th century.

I have so many books from that era that I love studying and just looking at and admiring these great artists.

What is the Number One thing you would like readers to know about creating the art which makes up a cover?

That the art I create for the covers comes from a passion and love just as the story does from the author who writes the book. And I feel I owe to them and the people who follow my work to give them my best.

Believe me when I say this... my art is my passion in my life and always has been. And I still love doing Romance Novels as much as the first day I started 36 years ago.

[www.instagram.com/
jonpaulstudios/](http://www.instagram.com/jonpaulstudios/)

www.jonpaulstudios.com

DAR ALBERT'S ARTISTIC OBSESSION

Dar Albert sold her first painting at the age of 14. She has dedicated her life to her passion for design, color theory, art history, and the challenging and ever changing world of typography. Her book covers have won national and international awards, and have helped to catapult many titles into Amazon and USA Today best seller lists.

EEC: *What is your favorite style of art to practice?*

DA: I work in acrylics, both slow and fast dry, on canvas, and I love to paint figural pieces--especially dancers. I am illustrative in style, so my art tends to be dramatic and slightly more stylized versus hyper-realistic. I am obsessed with the Pre-Raphaelites, so anything I can do to get even one inch closer to my art heroes makes me ecstatic!

How did you come to designing romance covers?

I was in the public library when I was 9 years old, and picked up a copy of *Defy Not The Heart* by Joanna Lindsey. I fell in *LOVE* with the Fabio cover, and decided then and there to be a romance novel cover artist.

Fast forward to 2008, still in design school, my boyfriend at the time was in a World of Warcraft raid with the head of the erotic romance company Ellora's Cave. My boyfriend jokingly asked how his girlfriend could get a job there. The guy laughed, but agreed to send me an audition cover request- and the rest is history! I got the job, which led to freelancing.

Is there a genre of romance cover you like designing for?

While I am happy to do all genres, my favorite is historical. I have lived in history via books, studies, and documentaries for most of my life, so it's become my art happy place.

Bodice rippers...I wish I could design covers like in the 1980s, with lush figures in dramatic poses and just tons of gooev sensuality. If not for so many online pearl clutchers...

What are the most challenging aspects of designing covers?

Getting authors to trust that I have their best interest at heart!

I know it would be great to have every detail from the scene included on the cover, but less is sometimes more in a thumbnail world, and I like to think of the front of the book as the trailer of the movie. You don't want to spoil the plot by revealing everything in the preview!

Could you walk us through the anatomy of a good cover design? Typography? Lighting? Colouring?

It all starts with the cover request and paying attention to what the author is asking for--not so much every detail, but the overarching idea. If its historical, am I matching the costumes and colors to the correct era? Does the font read in thumbnail and in print equally well?

I know there are some schools of thoughts that green or yellow covers don't sell as well, but I honestly don't believe that to be true. So for a good cover, it would be period correct, not too dark, with thicker fonts that don't get lost in the fabric of the costumes.

I also have pet peeves with images that aren't lit to match the background, so paying attention to where my light source is coming from and matching it to the subjects is key. I also want to be original with the cover, but still have it fit well in the genre



it's intended, so not using modern text on a Victorian cover or vice versa.

What is the number one thing you would like readers to know about creating the art which makes up a cover?

That I am actually painting with a digital brush in Photoshop for most of the art, and that it's actual creation and not just a program making it appear on screen.

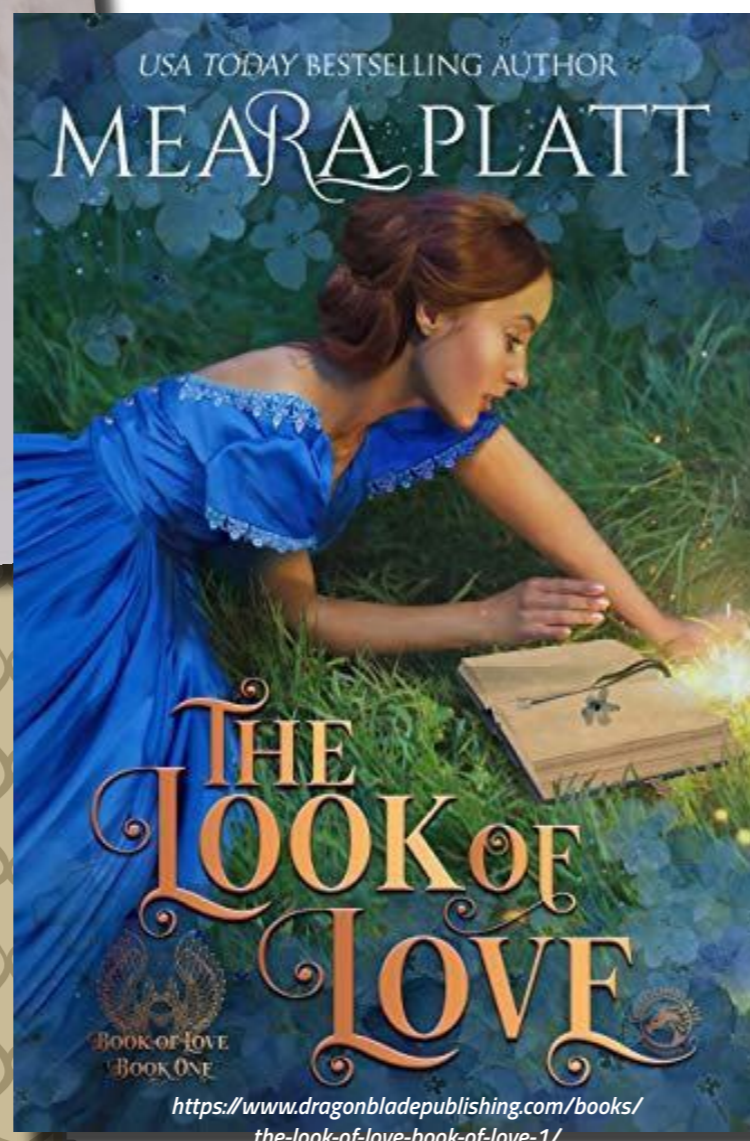
There is a weird myth that the computer does most of the work for me, and while I wish that were true at times when I am super busy, it's just not the case. Every cover I touch has some custom element, period.

What are two of your favorite covers?

This is literally the hardest question! Ack! I don't want any author to not think that I love their cover too! But Meara Platt's *The Look of Love* (Book of Love #1) is the book cover I have set as my screensaver right now. It just turned out so well with the colors and the conveying of the story that I can't not have it as one of my favorites!

And Suzan Tisdale's *The Edge of Forever* was just...I don't know, so lush. Suzan had it made into hardcover novels, one of which I have as a wonderful gift from her! I love hard cover books and I always wanted to be able to have one of my designs turned into one! Again...this was like torture! How do you pick just two?

LGA



THE EDGE
OF
FOREVER

A FORBIDDEN LOVE. A FOREVER LOVE.
USA TODAY BESTSELLING AUTHOR
SUZAN
TISDALE

<https://www.suzantisdale.com/the-edge-of-forever>

<https://www.facebook.com/dar.albert>

<https://www.wickedsmartdesigns.com/>

<https://www.dragonbladepublishing.com/books/the-look-of-love-book-of-love-1/>

THE MANY FACES OF VIKKAS BHARDWAJ

Vikkas Bhardwaj got his break as a fashion model and Bollywood actor, and now lives in Los Angeles. A highly popular romance cover model, he believes that you must have a kind heart in order to be successful. He is an enthusiastic supporter of charitable causes in India.

EEC: How did you get into modelling?

VB: Some ears ago I took off to Bombay where the biggest film industry exists and I started doing modelling there. I got my first break with Hemant Trevedi as a fashion model doing shows all across the globe.

What preparation do you do before a shoot in terms of character?

I definitely study the character I'm modelling and learn the poses and gestures of that character which helps a lot, along with working with the female models. To me, expressions matter a lot.

What is your daily health and fitness routine like?

I do intermittent fasting every day and I eat 2 meals a day. I am at the gym at 8am, playing racquetball for about an hour, and then I work out. I keep a healthy diet but have one day of 'cheat meals' on Sundays.

How did you come to model for romance covers?

I was chosen three years ago for a Grace Burrowes cover and, after that, all I can say is it became huge! I was on several covers within a few months, after which I started my website www.vikkaszone.com to make it easier for authors to get stock images. They have been so kind to me all the way!

Is there a genre you enjoy shooting for?

I enjoy all genres, but I love posing for cowboy and highlander-style shoots. I love all the characters but these are my most fave!

One of the things I've noticed is how generous you are with your time with authors and readers. What is it about the romance community that you enjoy?

I enjoy meeting people and going to conventions and actually meeting fans. They have a lot to say about how much they like seeing me on the covers and I am always thankful – after all, my cover career exists because of them.

Their love and dedication has gotten me this far and I will continue to do the best I can for them. If I can make them smile with my work, I am happy :)

What is your reaction when you see a new cover – especially considering the work a cover artist does in tone, setting, characterisation to reflect the author's vision?

I must say I love all my covers. The amount of hard work that goes into creating a cover is phenomenal and so time consuming. I admire all the artists who do this so creatively and pay such attention detail.

Are there any major projects you're working on at the moment that you'd like to share with my readers?

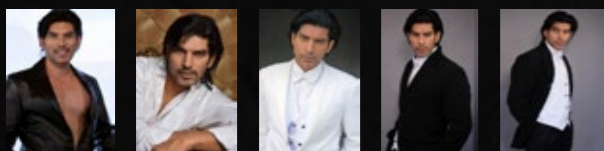
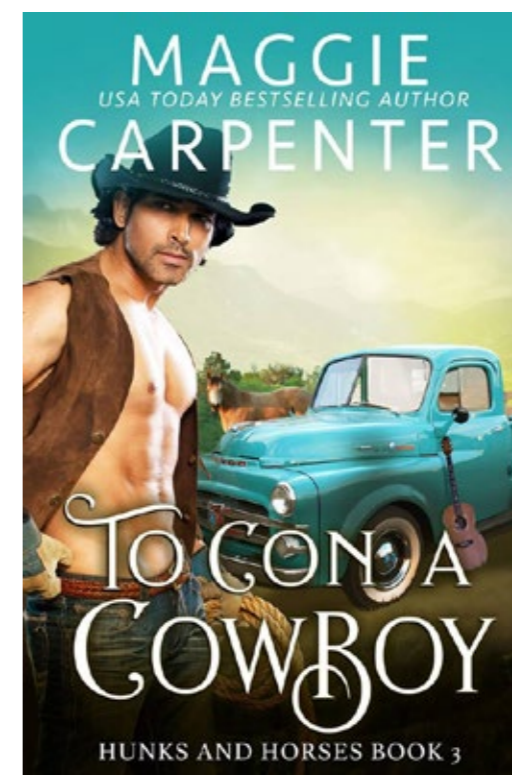
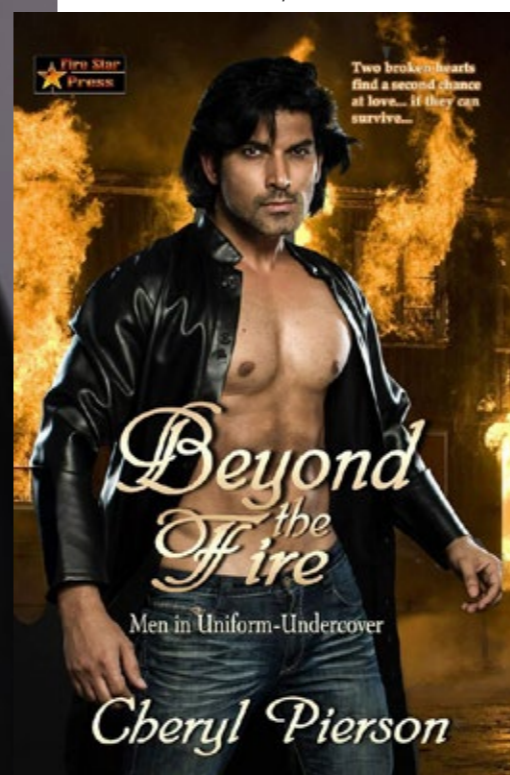
Just a few books coming out, and my dad and I like to help and donate to the blind children's school every year personally. This year I plan to donate with the help of my authors and anyone who wants to to an aged care home in Mumbai, rape victims in Mumbai, and to foster kids along with a blind school in Delhi.

www.vikkaszone.com

https://www.instagram.com/vikkas_bhardwaj/

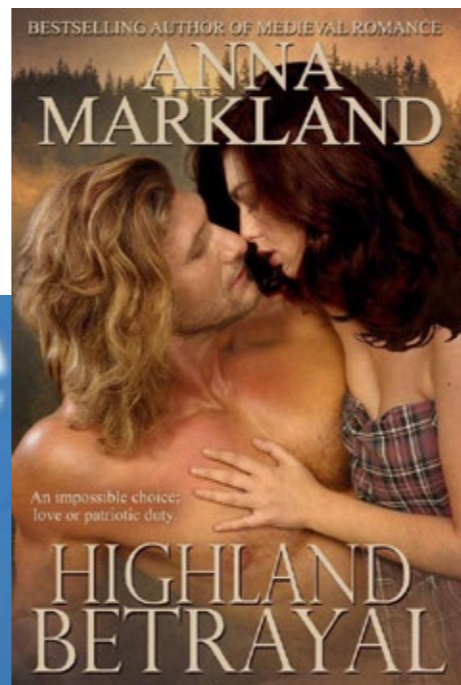
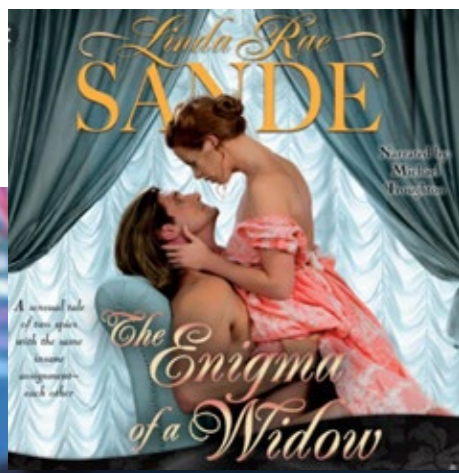
To Con A Cowboy

Beyond The Fire



ARTISTS AND MODELS

www.instagram.com/michaelwaynefooster/
michaelwaynefooster.com
Michael on the Internet Movie Database



ARTISTS AND MODELS



I have to confess I have a huge soft spot for Michael Foster. He appears on the cover of my novel Moonstone Conspiracy in a beautiful piece of art by Dar Albert. I also met Michael at last year's RT Booklover's Convention in Reno, Nevada, and will catch up with him again at Riverside, California, for the Historical Romance Retreat later this year.

EEC: How did you get into modelling?

MF: I am an actor so I always look over the casting breakdowns (the daily list of available jobs for actors). I saw a listing for models that were big guys and had long hair. I had a chuckle (I never thought of myself as a model) and decided to send them a picture.

The picture was from a Virgin America Airlines commercial shoot and I was dressed like a pro-wrestler (The Ultimate Warrior). I was all pumped up, oiled up and screaming my head off. I looked insane. I had a feeling none of the other guys would send a pic like that. I figured it would be a smorgasbord of pouty "duck lips" they'd have to look at all day.

The company Period Images enjoyed my humor and then asked for a real pic. I sent it in, got booked for a shoot, got my foot in the door and 800 novels later, I call my "duck lips" the "IRON GAZE."

What preparation do you do before a shoot in terms of character?

I always ask VJ, the photographer, what the situation is in the scene and what is my character's motivation. Example: I am usually a heroic, chivalrous protagonist, so my process is figuring out what the person I am defending means to me and what it would mean to lose them. Would I defend them at all costs? What would I do to those that would take them from me? I let my eyes do the talking.

My favorite shoots are when I play the mysterious, morally ambiguous anti-hero type. I love the conflict in those characters and they are a lot of fun to play with.

What is your daily health and fitness routine like?

I built my body using heavy weights and eating more protein per day than everyone reading this article combined. We Midwestern guys all thought one had to look like Arnold to achieve acting success. That couldn't be further from the truth. I got to Hollywood and realized action hero-types were not very big at all. They are lean and flexible. I have totally changed from heavy weights to yoga, pilates and conditioning.

How did you come to model for romance covers?

I work exclusively for Period Images and historical romance fiction is their genre. It is so much fun to work with them and their quality of work is second to none. I'm not kidding. The wardrobe department is literally on par with any studio I have been costumed for. I love working in this industry because I get to play the good

guy and so many of my roles in Hollywood are as the antagonist.

Is there a genre you enjoy shooting for?

I like doing medieval knights but I love HIGHLANDERS!!

I cannot think of another community with such nice people. Everyone is so kind, smart, sweet and respectful to me. It makes me happy to connect with the fans and see how happy they are to meet "the guy on the cover." I like them knowing I am a real person and not just Ian, Trevor, or The Commander. When I see a smile on someone's face, it always puts a smile on mine.

What is your reaction when you see a new cover – especially considering the work a cover artist does in tone, setting, characterisation to reflect the author's vision?

It always surprises me when I see the cover art for the new covers I am on. Remember, I am in a room with a green/grey screen. To see me on a pirate ship or some amazing area of the highlands always brings a big smile to my face. It's like *Total Recall* - I've got pictures of being there but have no memory of what happened. Ha!!

Are there any major projects you're working on at the moment that you'd like to share with my readers?

I just finished a shoot in New York for Slomin's Shield security systems. They did the ad campaign Game of Thrones style and I was their heroic Lord Slomin. I will be traveling back to Michigan in June to finish filming the WW2 epic Wolf Hound where I play a character that's not so heroic. I am so excited to finish this film because it's truly a movie I want to see. I love WW2 movies and to work on one that looks this amazing (just wait for the trailer) is a dream come true. In the meantime, I'm here at Book Lovers Con and preparing to accompany Linda Rae Sande to Wild Deadwood Reads.

I've also got a movie that should be released soon (it's in post production) filmed in Birmingham, Alabama, called *Embattled* and it's going to be great. I got to work with fantastic actors like Stephen Dorff and Said Taghmaoui. So I'll be doing a lot of traveling in the next few months!



MICHAEL FOSTER - MAN OF MOTIVATION



A CENTURY OF STYLE

BY VICTORIA VANE



Photo: Dreamlight Studios



While knee deep in dressmaking for the author-reader retreat and historical fashion show Romancing Williamsburg in March (featured in the last edition of Love's Great Adventure), I heard about another event that set my little history-loving heart fluttering.

As a historical romance author, I have always had a particular fascination with the clothing of the past, but, over the last three years, my fascination has developed into a true passion for recreating these beautiful clothes. So, you can only imagine my excitement when I recently teamed up with a group of authors to host an 18th century tea and fashion show as part of an author reader retreat in Colonial Williamsburg!

I worked for five solid months to create authentic dresses, undergarments, and hats to accompany some of the most popular styles of dress from the years 1700 to 1800. I made 16 authentic dresses to include 13 corsets and nine hats!

It was truly exhausting but also an absolute labor of love!

The event was a HUGE hit and we are already planning to do it again next year. More details at www.romancingwilliamsburg.com

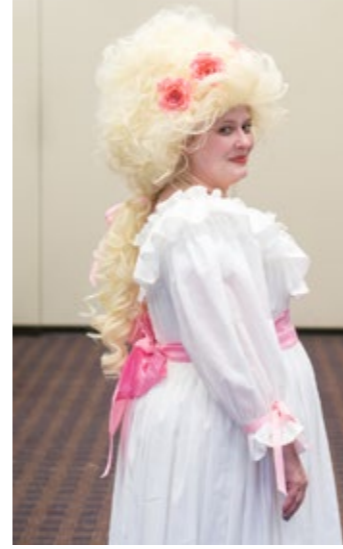
KATHERINE BONE IN A HUNTER GREEN RIDING HABIT



AMY JARECKI IN A BLUE AND GOLD FLORAL PET-EN-LAIR



AVA STONE IN A WHITE AND PINK CHEMISE A LA REINE



1740s: LAURA KAMOIE IN A SAGE AND CREAM SILK ROBE A LA FRANCAISE



1700 - HEATHER MCCOLLUM IN A LATE 17TH CENTURY MANTUA OF MAGENTA EMBROIDERED SILK



MYRA PLATT IN CREAM SILK REGENCY ENSEMBLE



JANE CHARLES IN A BROWN BROCADE ENGLISH GOWN



A Century of Style (continued)

EARLY 1790S: MALISSA GOY IN SKY BLUE EMBROIDERED ROBE A LA TURQUE



KAREN SIMPSON CANNA ST. CLAIRES IN A BLUE SILK JACKET AND SKIRT



1770S: COLLETTE CAMERON IN A BLUE AND WHITE FLORAL ITALIAN GOWN



JENNA JAXON IN AN EARLY 18TH CENTURY BLUE BROCADE ROBE A VOLANTE



ZINNA LYNCH IN AN EMBROIDERE FLORAL AND BLUE LINEN JACKET AND PETTICOAT ENSEMBLE



1790S: JERRICA KNIGHT-CATANIA IN A SKY BLUE SILK PORTRAIT GOWN AND BELLA CATANIA IN A PINK SILK PORTRAIT GOWN



Continued on page 24



LEFT: LATE 1780s - ALANNA LUCAS IN A NAVY VELVET TRIMMED REDINGOTE WITH WHITE SILK PETTICOAT

RIGHT: CORSETS, DRESSES, HATS, AND WIGS WAITING IN THE DRESSING ROOM.



A Century of Style *(continued)*

RIGHT: FINISHING TOUCHES FOR ALANNA LUCAS IN THE DRESSING ROOM.



BELOW: 1760s - VICTORIA VANE IN A PUCE AND GOLD SILK ENGLISH GOWN WITH LAURA KAMOIE



BELOW: SIDE AND BACK DETAILS OF LAURA KAMOIE'S 1740s SILK ROBE A LA FRANCAISE

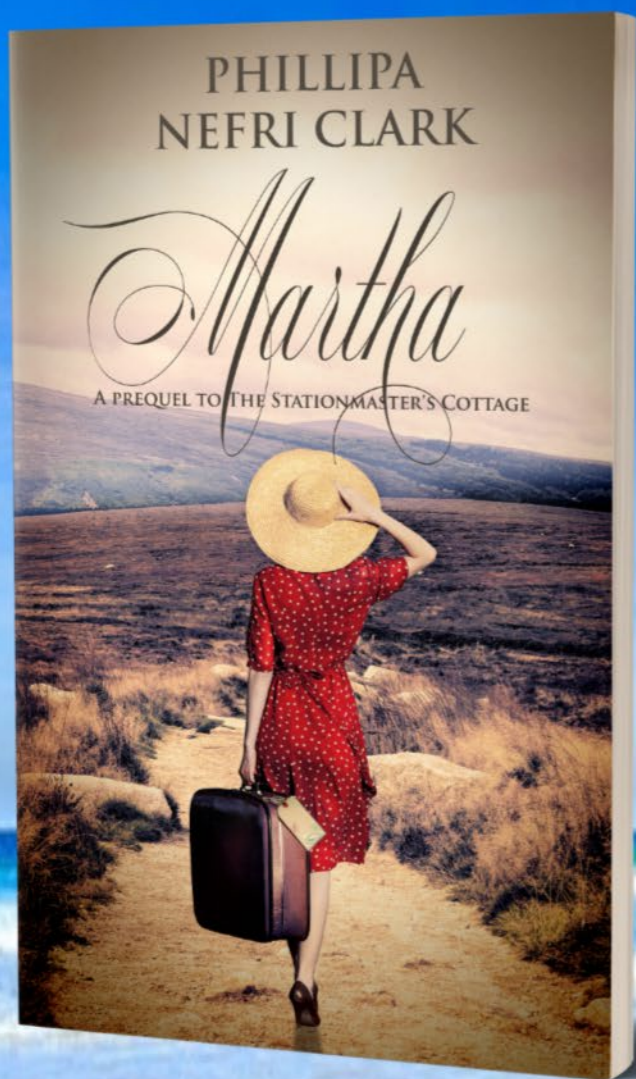


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LGA

“There are secrets in that cottage.
Questions needing answers.”



Those words kept Christie Ryan in the tiny seaside town of River's End, instead of going home to her city life after Gran's funeral.

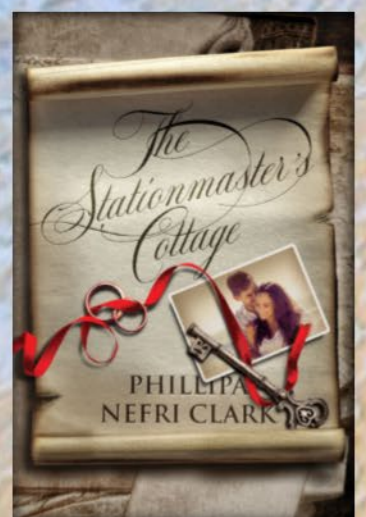
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The Lady's Maid's Secret



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CLEVER AND PRECOCIOUS ROSE REED, THE NEW LADY'S MAID TO THE IMPOVERISHED LADY PENDRICK, HAS DISCOVERED A TROVE OF TITILLATING TIDBITS IN THE DIARIES OF HER LATE PREDECESSOR ABOUT HER MISTRESS' SO-CALLED FRIENDS. ROSE, WITH THE HELP OF LADY PENDRICK'S LOYAL SERVANTS, HAS COME UP WITH AN ELABORATE SCHEME TO SEE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE AND THE PENDRICK FORTUNE IS RESTORED.

IN THE LAST INSTALMENT, LADY PENDRICK GOES TO WAR WITH A CERTAIN COLONEL, AND ROSE AND EVAN ARE AMBUSHED!

Dear Reader,

Alas, all good things must come to an end, but for Lady Pendrick's household this is the only the end of the beginning.

As we had determined last time, the faithful servants of Frigo House were going on a well-deserved holiday to Brighton while Lady Pendrick charged the accomplished Evan and myself with a special task to perform on her behalf.

"There is a certain Colonel Aldred who my late husband, God rest his soul, called The Smiling Assassin. I used to think he was all bark and no bite, but "all-dread" is not to be underestimated"

Evan and I leaned forward. He placed a hand high on my knee and gave it a squeeze – have I mentioned how considerate he is of my delicate, feminine feelings?

"The man is a duplicitous, cheating, two-faced, double-dealing, two-timing, dishonest snake in the grass."

Oh my! So many pejoratives in one sentence! Clearly this man had wronged my Lady and since we now 'have form', as the bookmakers are wont to say, for helping to write wrongs we were greatly

obligated to come to Lady Pendrick's assistance once more.

"There is something that my former lady's maid did not know," she said. "It is that the man who arranged for my financial ruin was Colonel Niall Aldred.

"He was a subordinate of my husband's who embezzelled a fortune from a particular syndicate. My late husband was forced to replace the funds at his own expense and that led to our ruin."

Now, speaking of bookmakers, Dear Reader, it emerges that Colonel Aldred has made a fortune backing the most unlikely of winners at the race track.

My dear Evan has discovered that not more than a few 'bookies' are thousands of pounds lighter in the tote bag as a result of the Colonel's extraordinary luck – and no one seems to know how he does it.

Magic? The Dark Arts? Nothing so whimsical as we soon discovered.

Evan and I decided to attend a race meeting that the Colonel was known to frequent and we made our way to a hay loft overlooking

(continued on next page)

The Lady's Maid's Secret *(continued)*

Perhaps it was some kind of conjuring trick – after all I do recall seeing a man who could pull a rabbit out of his hat. Could it really be so different?

the stables. I have to say our position in the observatory brought us to intimate close quarters as we watched out for Colonel Aldred. Indeed, such was our distraction that we almost missed him walking into a stall with one bay horse, then walking out of the very same stall an hour later with a black one!

How could such a thing be possible?

Perhaps it was some kind of conjuring trick – after all I do recall seeing a man who could pull a rabbit out of his hat. Could it really be so different? Or was it a horse of a different colour, so to speak?

When Evan and I had managed to remove the straw from our clothing, we headed over to the stall. The smell of success was unmistakable. So too was the odour of the pots of shoe blacking.

In goes one horse and out comes another! We checked the form guide and discovered two horses that matched the description of the one (and were convinced it was one) we had seen being led by Colonel Aldred.

We took our findings back to a friend of Lady Pendrick's, a friendly bookmaker who confirmed our suspicions. Bold Character is the favourite and it's a bay horse; Fine Linen is a black horse with long odds. Not surprisingly the Colonel has laid a hefty wager on the unfancied equine.

And, sure enough, Fine Linen was the upset of the day.

Well, five-to-one is good odds, according to Lady Pendrick, especially since there were five of us against the one Colonel.

The next event was at Ascot where the Prince of Wales himself would be in attendance. How amusing would it be if the Colonel made a complete horse's arse of himself? (Please

do excuse such a crude expression, it seemed so rather apt!)

Lady Pendrick had arranged with a friend to have the Colonel join them in the Royal enclosure as her guest. Evan and two other men were to find out which two horses were to be switched. I found myself in a rather fetching black and white gown with a matching hat, and it wasn't too long before the Colonel wished to make my acquaintance.

It is amusing how foolish pompous men can be when a female begins flirting with them. He 'advanced' me the princely sum of twenty pounds and laughed indulgently when I placed it on unfancied gray mare.

You see Aldred had placed a substantial sum on a horse with middling odds.

Well, Dear Reader, I am most anxious to expand my knowledge, so I gleaned all I could from him and, of course, such sage advice just had to be shared with Lady Pendrick – who she shared it with, I'll leave to your imagination...

After many, many glasses of champagne, our race was to begin.

My little grey mare didn't do so well at the start and Colonel laughed at my foolishness. He made a most improper suggestion as how I could repay him when I lost my bet.

I wasn't worried. I have faith in Evan and our new chums.

Aldred's horse started strong but had fallen back on the final straight.

"Move your bloomin' arse!" I yelled as the pack passed our position.

My little grey mare was gaining and gaining until it crossed the finish line first by a nose.

Naturally, the stewards intervened and they

too learned what a duplicitous, cheating, two-faced, double-dealing, two-timing, dishonest snake in the grass the Colonel was, now we had furnished them with the evidence.

Colonel Aldred was not only shamed before the Prince himself, but he was completely and utterly ruined.

It could not happen to a more deserving soul.

But there was one more surprise yet to come, Dear Reader. Lady Pendrick had an excellent day at the races and came back with more than a tidy sum.

"My dear Rose," she said, handing me a large bundle of pound notes. "You've given me back so much that I want to reward you and Evan for your diligent service."

However, she turned to Evan with such a stern look.

"Now you've made your fortune, I expect you to make an honest woman out of Rose Reed."

Evan took my hand and gave it a squeeze. "My Lady, I shall do so with the greatest of pleasure."

I don't know about being an honest woman, but I am a cunning one and I do know when to cash in my winning hand.

"Then I accept," I said with alacrity.

THE END

The Lady's Maid's Secret © 2019 Elizabeth Ellen Carter



AN EXCERPT FROM THE STATIONMASTER'S COTTAGE

The air filled with tension. Then Martin half smiled. "The T-shirt suits you."

Christie blushed. She never blushed, but this man who set so many alarms bells ringing in her head from their first encounter was under her skin tonight.

"Um, thanks. I like the wine. It's the same one I had the first night I stayed at the cottage. I'm going to take some home with me."

"When?"

"When what? When am I going home?"

Martin nodded.

"Derek flies back on Monday."

"From Lizard Island?"

"Yes. I'll get home just before him."

"He went without you?"

A chill shot through Christie, evaporating the warmth of the night. Her eyes filled with tears.

"You came to your grandmother's funeral and he went on holiday. You've had to deal with it all on your own?" Martin spoke with such gentleness that it was all Christie could do not to shed those tears in front of him.

She raised her chin and forced her emotions

down, just as she always did. "I'm okay with it."

Martin took her left hand, as he had done at the lookout. Holding her fingers, he studied the engagement ring. "You shouldn't be okay with it."

His touch was electric. She had to leave. Her back was against the railing. Martin moved closer and Christie caught her breath. She had nowhere to go and nowhere else she wanted to be. Her hand was on fire and it was radiating through her. She had to stop this.

"He never knew Gran. He wanted this holiday so much. What would you have done?"

"It's irrelevant he didn't know your grandmother. He knows you." Martin let the words sit between them, released her fingers and turned back to the ocean. "It doesn't matter what I'd have done."

Christie rested her now empty wine glass on the railing.

Martin glanced at it. "I'm happy to refill that, but you're not driving home tonight."

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THE QUEEN'S HEAD ON A PLATTER

FOOD FEATURE BY
ELIZABETH ELLEN CARTER



Rich in Vitamin C, rosehip cordial is just the tonic for the cold and flu season, so it makes sense to create use nature's bounty once the flowers have finished for the season. Make some and store for summer to add to soda water or lemonade for a refreshing summer drink.

Rosehip Cordial

INGREDIENTS

- 1kg wild rosehips, washed and roughly chopped
- 350g caster sugar

METHOD

Put the rosehips in a big pan and pour on 2 litres of boiling water. Bring the water back to the boil, then turn off the heat and allow the rosehips to infuse for 15 mins. Strain the mixture through a double layer of muslin, squeezing out as much liquid as you can, then set aside to cool.

Continue this process three times.

Pour all the strained rosehip liquid into a clean pan and boil rapidly until reduced to about 1 litre. Skim off any scum that comes to the surface, then stir in the sugar until dissolved. Pour the syrup into sterilised bottles, ready to serve. The cordial will keep for up to three months, stored in the fridge.



Mother Eve's Pudding

INGREDIENTS

- 6 large apples.
- 200g unsalted butter
- 140g raisins
- 100g soft brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 200g self-raising flour

METHOD

Pre-heat oven to 180-degrees Celsius. While the oven is heating, peel, core and slice the apples. Use a table spoon of butter to grease a large serving dish. Put in the apple and raisins.

In another dish, beat the butter and sugar together until well whipped, then add the eggs, stirring until mixed. Sift the flour into the mixture and softly fold in until the batter is a smooth consistency. Spread over the apples and bake for 45-minutes until golden.

Best served with vanilla ice cream or custard.



A traditional English desert, this one is commonly served in the autumn, around the end of October when the freshest crop of apples are in plentiful supply. It's just the delicious dish for when the leaves begin to turn and there is a nip in the air. It's a one dish treat!

There have been many secrets at The Queen's Head in St. Sennen, Cornwall, over the centuries. If only the walls could talk! They'd share tales of smugglers and pirates, of secret assignations and of traitors and conspirators.

But the most tightly-held secrets of all are the recipes that have made this little, out-of-the-way tavern, a favourite stop for those in the know.

The cook at The Queen's Head is Peggy Pascoe (nee Smith), who is willing to share some of her secret recipes from this remarkable place.

She says it's all down to the fresh ingredients she uses - but Peggy's husband says it's all down to love.

Read more about The Queen's Head in Spyfall, Book 2 in The King's Rogues series.

Crab and Lobster Bisque

Crabs and Lobsters are found in the top restaurants all over the world today but until the end of the 19th century, such seafood was considered poor man's fare.

That was mainly because the quality of the ingredients couldn't be guaranteed.

Unfortunately food poisoning was common - but that never happens at The Queen's Head!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup onion, finely chopped
- 1 cup carrot, finely chopped
- 600ml chicken stock
- 4 tablespoons flour
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup thickened cream
- 1/2 cup cooking sherry (or white wine)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- fresh chives, minced
- salt
- 200g raw lobsters, chopped or 200g lump crabmeat

METHOD

Fry onion and carrot in 2 tablespoons butter until soft. Set aside.

In a large saucepan, melt 4 tablespoons butter and add flour, whisking constantly over medium heat. Slowly add chicken broth, whisking constantly to ensure mixture stays smooth.

Add onions and carrots, cover, and simmer for 1/2 hour.

Add cream, sherry, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, cayenne pepper, salt, and lobster or crab and simmer an additional 5 to 10 minutes.

Garnish with fresh minced chives if desired.



Blackberry Jam

Go rambling among the brambles and find the wild blackberries to make this all-time favourite jam. English folklore says blackberries should not be picked after Old Michaelmas Day (11 October) as the devil has made them unfit to eat. The origin to the legend is likely a result of observations that autumn's wetter and cooler weather can result in mold infecting the fruit making it toxic.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 kg blackberries
- 1 kg caster sugar
- 2 lemons

METHOD

Combine the blackberries and sugar in a large heavy-based saucepan. Juice both lemons and finely grate the zest of only 1 lemon and add to the pan (save the lemon for another use).

Bring the mixture to the boil over high heat, then reduce to a simmer and cook for 30 minutes. Use a metal ladle to skim any scum off as it rises.

To test if the jam has reached setting point, spoon a small amount onto one of the chilled saucers. Draw a line through the cooled jam using your finger; if the line remains, the jam is ready. If not, continue simmering the jam for another 5 minutes and test again.

Transfer the hot jam into sterilised jars and seal.



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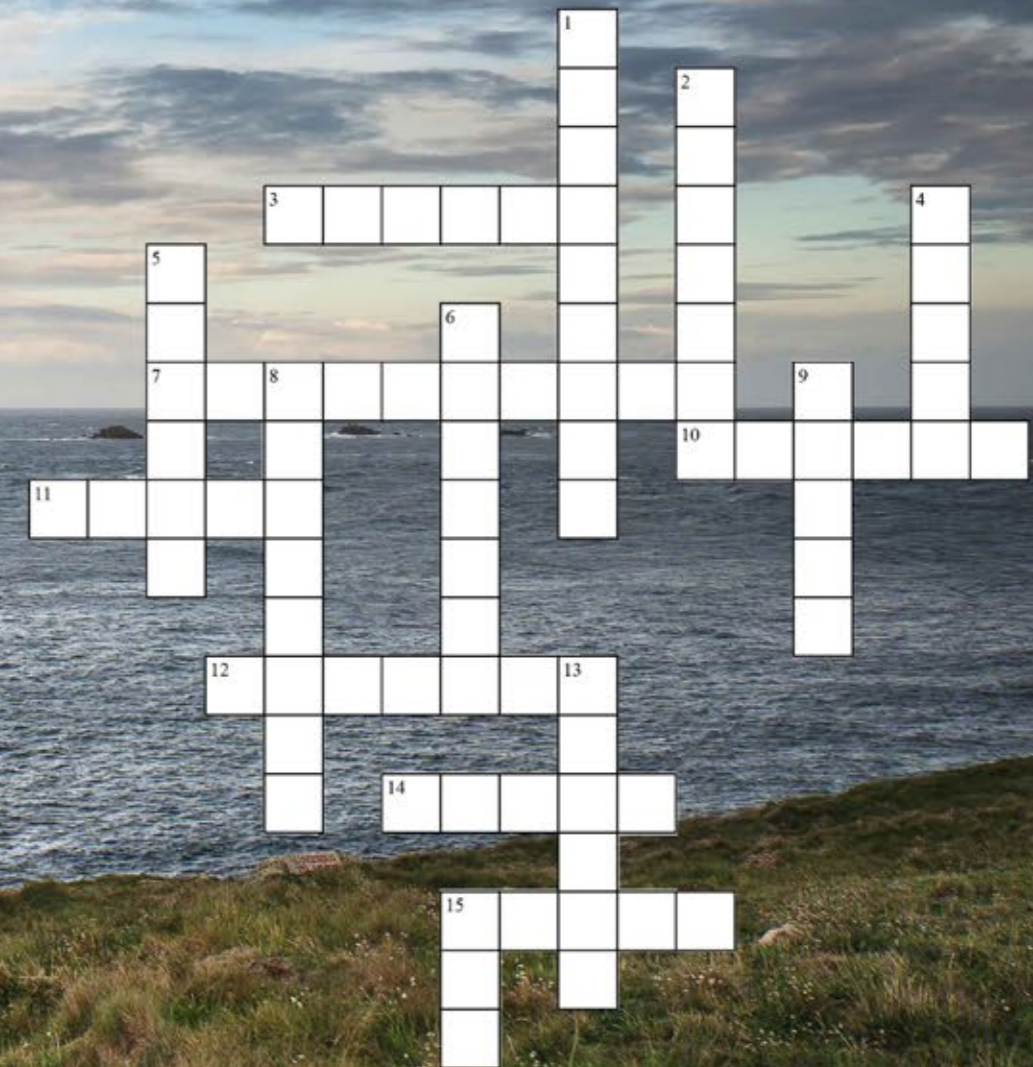
GAME PLAY

G	K	F	E	F	H	S	H	T	C	E	X	G	N	F	L	S	Y	Z	T
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- WRECK
- FOUNDER
- STORM
- BRANDY
- SHIP
- BARREL
- FLOTSAM
- JETSAM
- COVE
- CAVE
- CUSTOM
- SILVER
- GOLD
- ILLEGAL
- DANGEROUS
- EXCHSE
- TRADE
- WAR
- ROCKS
- PIRATE

Crossword Clues

- ACROSS**
- The TV show Doc Martin set in Cornwall stars Martin _____
 - The _____ of Cornwall is less than 600,000!
 - The Poldark author was Winston _____
 - A Cornish word meaning 'work' often given to the name of mines in the region.
 - Daphne du Maurier set her Cornish smuggling story in _____ Inn.
 - The Cornish are related to this people group that includes the Scots and Irish.
 - The only designated city in Cornwall.
- DOWN**
- Cornwall has the longest _____ in England at 697 kilometres
 - This unexpected watersport is very popular in Newquay
 - After many of the mines petered out high quality _____ clay was discovered for porcelain making
 - An ore mined alongside tin in Cornwall
 - The wife of Prince Charles is styled The Duchess of Cornwall
 - A popular species of small fish which is a popular catch in Cornwall
 - A miner's dinner most closely associated with Cornwall
 - A legendary English King is said to hail from these parts
 - St Peran is the patron saint of which type of miner?



COMING SOON
IN 2019

THE
KING'S ROGUES
BOOK TWO

Spyfall

ELIZABETH ELLEN
CARTER



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