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KEY=DIANE - VAUGHAN PATRICK

Courtesan A Novel *Broadway Books* **Widow Diane de Poitiers, the mistress to King Henri II of France, is smitten by her royal lover, but she can never publicly acknowledge her feelings, especially after his marriage to Catherine de Medici, in a fictional account of a real-life sixteenth-century romance. Reader's Guide included. Reprint. 10,000 first printing. I, Jane In the Court of Henry VIII** *Penguin* Though her path to the throne was long and paved with treachery, Jane Seymour would win the heart of her king—and heal her own. Jane Seymour of Wiltshire is not meant to go to Court. Not a child like her, with her lack of beauty and no title. But family connections are enough to have her named to the bridal retinue of Mary Tudor. At the French Court, the plain and docile Jane meets the girl who will grow into her rival in years to come: the already charismatic and conniving Anne Boleyn. Soon back home in the English countryside, Jane wants nothing more than peace and quiet—and the devotion of her childhood protector, William Dormer. But his family vows to keep them apart, and Jane is called back to Court to serve Katherine of Aragon, who is fighting for her life as Queen in the face of Anne Boleyn's open seduction of King Henry VIII. In those turbulent years, Jane will learn the value of loyalty and honesty, while holding fast to her convictions. And it is her unblemished soul that will slowly rise above the chaos—and turn a king's head. **READERS GUIDE INCLUDED** **The Ruby Ring A Novel** *Crown* From critically acclaimed historical novelist Diane Haeger comes *The Ruby Ring*, an unforgettable story of love, loss, and immortal genius . . . Rome, 1520. The Eternal City is in mourning. Raphael Sanzio, beloved painter and national hero, has died suddenly at the height of his fame. His body lies in state at the splendid marble Pantheon. At the nearby convent of Sant'Apollonia, a young woman comes to the Mother Superior, seeking refuge. She is Margherita Luti, a baker's daughter from a humble neighborhood on the Tiber, now an outcast from Roman society, persecuted by powerful enemies within the Vatican. Margherita was Raphael's beloved and appeared as the Madonna in many of his paintings. Theirs was a love for the ages. But now that Raphael is gone, the convent is her only hope of finding an honest and peaceful life. The Mother Superior agrees to admit Margherita to their order. But first, she must give up the ruby ring she wears on her left hand, the ring she had worn in Raphael's scandalous nude "engagement portrait." The ring has a storied past, and it must be returned to the Church or Margherita will be cast out into the streets. Behind the quiet walls of the convent, Margherita makes her decision . . . and remembers her life with Raphael—and the love and torment—embodied in that one precious jewel. In *The Ruby Ring*, Diane Haeger brings to life a love affair so passionate that it remains undimmed by time. Set in the sumptuous world of the Italian Renaissance, it's the story of the clergymen, artists, rakes, and noblemen who made Raphael and Margherita's world the most dynamic and decadent era in European history. **The Perfect Royal Mistress A Novel** *Broadway Books* A fictional portrait of the legendary actress and mistress to King Charles II details her poverty-stricken youth, her rise to the heights of the theatrical world, and the talent, beauty, and vivacity that brought her to the attention of the king, in a historical novel set against the backdrop of Restoration England. Reader's Guide included. Original. 30,000 first printing. **The Queen's Mistake In the Court of Henry VIII** *Penguin* From the author of *The Secret Bride*, the tragic tale of the fifth wife of Henry VIII. When the young and beautiful Catherine Howard becomes the fifth wife of the fifty-year-old King Henry VIII, she seems to be on top of the world. Yet her reign is destined to be brief and heartbreaking, as she is forced to do battle with enemies far more powerful and calculating than she could have ever anticipated in a court where one wrong move could mean her undoing. Wanting only love, Catherine is compelled to deny her heart's desire in favor of her family's ambition. But in so doing, she unwittingly gives those who sought to bring her down a most effective weapon—her own romantic past. **The Queen's Mistake** is the tragic tale of one passionate and idealistic woman who struggles to negotiate the intrigue of the court and the yearnings of her heart. **The Secret Bride In the Court of Henry VIII** *Penguin* For fans of *The Tudors* comes a captivating drama about the only woman who could defy Henry VIII -and keep her life. Mary Tudor, the headstrong younger sister of the ruthless King Henry VII, has always been her brother's favorite-but now she is also an important political bargaining chip. When she is promised to the elderly, ailing King Louis of France, a heartbroken Mary accepts her fate, but not before extracting a promise from her brother: When the old king dies, her next marriage shall be solely of her choosing. For Mary has a forbidden passion, and is determined, through her own cunning, courage, and boldness, to forge her own destiny. **The Secret Bride** is the triumphant tale of one extraordinary woman who meant to stay true to her heart and live her life just as her royal brother did- by her own rules... **A Portrait in Black and White Diane de Poitiers in Her Own Words** *iUniverse* Diane de Poitiers could have—and should have—been Queen of France. King Henri II was devoted to her throughout his life. His childhood attachment turned into an adolescent attraction, and eventually into a passionate and consuming love. His greatest wish was to make her his wife and to have her rule France at his side. However, theirs was a time when royal marriages were arranged for political gain, and Henri's first duty was to France; he was forced to marry a woman he could never love. Diane de Poitiers was beautiful, wealthy, and well educated. Nineteen years his senior, she was Henri's ideal woman. Diane and Henri loved each other with a love that was not only romantic and physical, but which also existed on a pure and spiritual level. Henri lavished gifts upon the woman he loved, and Diane guided and inspired him like no other—until they were separated for eternity by a cruel twist of fate. Over five hundred years later, historians credit Diane with the success of Henri's reign. But who was this woman who won the heart of the King of France? Let her tell you, in her own words... **The Queen's Rival In the Court of Henry VIII** *Penguin* From the author of *The Queen's Mistake* comes the untold story of King Henry VIII's first well-known mistress. As the beautiful daughter of courtiers, Elizabeth "Bessie" Blount is overjoyed when she secures a position as maid of honor to Katherine of Aragon. But when she captures the attention of the king himself, there are whispers that the queen ought to be worried for her throne. When Bess gives birth to a healthy son the whispers become a roar. But soon the infamous Boleyn girls come to court and Henry's love for her begins to fade. Now, Bess must turn to her trusted friend, the illegitimate son of Cardinal Wolsey, to help her move beyond life as the queen's rival... **Platinum Doll** *Harlequin* Set against the dazzling backdrop of Golden Age Hollywood, novelist Girard tells the story of Jean Harlow, an iconic star in the history of film. **Pieces of April** *HarperTorch* **Doctor Glenna McDowell**, who had grown up in a convent and then with a cruel foster family, delves into her parents' past to find out why their love had been forbidden, and what she finds transforms her life and her identity. Original. **The Mistress of Paris The 19th-Century Courtesan Who Built an Empire on a Secret** *Macmillan* "Comtesse Valtresse de la Bigne was a celebrated nineteenth-century Parisian courtesan. She was painted by Manet and inspired Emile Zola, who immortalized her in his scandalous novel *Nana*. Her rumored affairs with Napoleon III and the future Edward VII kept gossip columns full. But her glamorous existence hid a dark secret: she was no Comtesse. She was born into abject poverty, raised on a squalid Paris backstreet; the lowest of the low. Yet she transformed herself into an enchantress who possessed a small fortune, three mansions, fabulous carriages, and art that drew the envy of connoisseurs across France and Europe. A consummate show-woman, she ensured that her life--and even her death--remained shrouded in just enough mystery to keep her audience hungry for more. Catherine Hewitt's biography, *The Mistress of Paris*, tells the forgotten story of a remarkable French woman who, though her roots were lowly, never stopped aiming high."--Provided by publisher. **The Murder in the Tower The Story of Frances, Countess of Essex** *Crown* The dashing Robert Carr is a well-known favorite of King James I. After attracting his attention by falling from a horse in the tiltyard, Robert rises quickly through the ranks. But when the cunning and beautiful Frances Howard comes to court, a very dangerous liaison changes everything. Married against her will while still a child, Frances emerges from that experience a headstrong force of nature—determined to have her own way, no matter what the consequences. Her attempts to rid herself of an unwanted husband, and later to ensnare a lukewarm lover, have led her deep into the world of spell-makers and poisoners. This is a woman to underestimate at great peril. But not until Robert finds himself ensnared in one of Frances's plots—imprisoned in the Tower of London and accused of murder—does he learn at last what she is truly capable of. **The Confessions of Catherine de Medici A Novel** *Ballantine Books* "The Confessions of Catherine de Medici is a dramatic, epic novel of an all-too-human woman whose strength and passion propelled her into the center of grand events. Meticulously-researched, this engrossing novel offers a fresh portrait of a queen who has too often been portrayed as a villain. Bravo Mr. Gortner!"—Sandra Gulland, author of *The Josephine B Trilogy* and *Mistress of the Sun* The truth is, not one of us is innocent. We all have sins to confess. So reveals Catherine de Medici, the last legitimate descendant of her family's illustrious line. Expelled from her native Florence, Catherine is betrothed to Henri, son of François I of France. In an unfamiliar realm, Catherine strives to create a role for herself through her patronage of the famous clairvoyant Nostradamus and her own innate gift as a seer. But in her fortieth year, Catherine is widowed, left alone with six young children in a kingdom torn apart by the ambitions of a treacherous nobility. Relying on her tenacity, wit, and uncanny gift for compromise, Catherine seizes power, intent on securing the throne for her sons, unaware that if she is to save France, she may have to sacrifice her ideals, her reputation, and the secret of her embattled heart. **BONUS:** This edition contains a *The Confessions of Catherine de Medici* discussion guide and an excerpt from C.W. Gortner's *The Queen's Vow*. Praise for *The Confessions of Catherine de Medici* "Alison Weir and Philippa Gregory fans will devour this."—Booklist "Highly recommended . . . a compelling and fascinating view of Catherine's life and world."—Historical Novels Review "Remarkably thoughtful in its insight into an unapologetically ruthless queen."—Publishers Weekly "A fresh, well-researched and powerful portrait."—RT Book Reviews **Madame Picasso** *MIRA* While working as a costumer at the famous Moulin Rouge, Eva Gouel catches the attention of Pablo Picasso and, drawn into this brilliant but eccentric artist's world, has a torrid affair that evolves into what will become the first great love of his life. Original. **The Merry Monarch's Wife The Story of Catherine of Braganza** *Crown* Charles II is restored to the English throne, and his court is lively and even scandalous. The country is eager for succession to be clear and certain: The next king will be the son of Charles II and his queen, Catherine of Braganza. Yet Catherine, daughter of the king of Portugal and a Catholic, has never been popular with the English people. She is also having great difficulty conceiving an heir, even as many of Charles's well-known mistresses are bearing his children with ease. Catherine is aware that courtiers close to Charles are asking him to divorce her and take another wife—yet she is determined to hold her title in the face of all odds. The ninth novel in the beloved *Queens of England* series, *The Merry Monarch's Wife* brings Catherine of Braganza to life and plunges readers into the tumultuous world of Restoration England. **Death and the Courtesan** *Kensington Books* Pamela Christie's sparkling historical mystery goes beyond the modest drawing rooms of Regency London in the company of the city's most esteemed and scandalous courtesan. . . Since the age of sixteen, Arabella Beaumont has been happily employed as a highly paid woman of pleasure. True, respectable ladies of the ton would never deign to call at Lustings, her delightful home. Then again, Arabella has no desire to make dreary small talk and sip tea when she could be enjoying the company of amusing, intelligent, and extremely generous gentlemen. But while Arabella's admirers are legion, she also has enemies. A paper knife stolen during one of her salons was discovered near the body of a former rival. Arabella was entertaining her wealthy benefactor on the night of the murder, but the engaged duke can't provide the alibi she desperately needs. It falls to Arabella and her resourceful sister, Belinda, to clear her good--or at least innocent--name. Utilizing all the talents in her arsenal, the irrepressible Miss Beaumont will endeavor to catch the real culprit, before the hangman catches up to her. . . Praise For Pamela Christie **And Death Of A Courtesan** "What a delicious and delightful tale! The Regency world is turned upside down--and much refreshed--by a decidedly unorthodox heroine. Pamela Christie writes with wit and verve, gifting readers with a vision of the period at once marvelously scandalous and oh-so tempting. I adore clever, spunky Arabella and look forward to her future adventures." --Sara Poole, author of *The Borgia Mistress* "A clever, funny, engaging read reminiscent of Fidelis Morgan's *Unnatural Fire*. Pamela Christie deftly combines the conventions of the Regency-era novel with the fast pace and careful attention to characterization found in the best modern historical mysteries." --Kate Emerson, author of *The*

King's Damsel "With cleverness and humor, Pamela Christie brings to life a colorful world that would've been at the same time familiar and scandalous to Jane Austen and her readers." --Anna Loan-Wilsey, author of *A Lack of Temperance* "A smart, witty and thoroughly entertaining read! It reminds me of some of my favorite series on Masterpiece Theater." --Diane Haeger, author of *I, Jane* "A delectable treat for the historical mystery lover to savor. You will be left eager for Arabella's next adventure!" --Teresa Grant, author of *The Paris Affair My Dearest Cecelia A Novel of the Southern Belle Who Stole General Sherman's Heart* *St. Martin's Press* As she enters the Commencement Ball at West Point Military Academy on a spring evening in 1837, in her pink gown with white silk roses and ropes of pearls, Cecelia Stovall looks---and feels---like the perfect, innocent Southern belle. Little does she know that at that dance she will meet the man who will change her life---and the lives of all her fellow Southerners---forever. Cecelia falls instantly in love with the dashing young Northern cadet, William Tecumseh Sherman, and they embark on a fiery, secret rendezvous despite their broad cultural differences and the expectation that they will marry others. Their love remains poignantly aflame and survives the worst obstacles over years of separation and longing. And then the long-threatened Civil War starts, and both Cecelia and William assume prominent positions on opposite sides of their country's deepest and fiercest rift, as William becomes the very same General Sherman who will be feared and hated throughout the South. Legend has it that Sherman's love for Cecelia was the reason he spared her hometown of Augusta during his infamous march to the sea, in which his troops cut a swath through nearly every other town in Georgia and burned Atlanta to the ground. Now Diane Haeger, the author of the acclaimed *The Secret Wife of King George IV*, has re-created this lost romance in a sweeping and lyrical novel that will be treasured by the history enthusiast---and hopeless romantic---in everyone. A multilayered historical saga spanning a quarter-century, Diane Haeger's *My Dearest Cecelia* is an epic novel of star-crossed lovers Cecelia Stovall and General William T. Sherman---a romance for the history books. *The Secret Wife of King George IV* *St. Martin's Press* Although it was illegal, secret, and against the express commands of his famously mad father, King George IV of England married twice--once for duty and once for love. While Caroline of Brunswick eventually became his lawful queen, it was the beautiful Maria Fitzherbert, recognized as his wife by the Catholic Church but not by the laws of England, who claimed his heart. In the hands of author Diane Haeger, their relationship becomes a mesmerizing love story, filled with intrigue and passion. The characters and drawing rooms of 18th Century England come alive to create a portrait of the age that is colorful and resonant with historical detail. *Book of Days Diane de Poitiers' Author House* The seeds of *BOOK OF DAYS* were planted during the author's student days at Northwestern by a visiting French professor of intellectual European history. Adroitly he indelibly impressed the capacities of individuals who could and did change the predestinated course of History. Ms. Todd's interest in Diane de Poitiers was at first solely feminine curiosity. How could she, Diane, have so bewitched her lover nearly twenty years younger for so many years? Henri II (58th King of France) was forty years old when felled on the tournament field wearing his mistress's colors! Writing historical fiction, particularly when so heavily biographical as is the *BOOK OF DAYS*, the author performs a unique relationship with the subject, oneness, or perhaps, better said, it becomes like a good marriage. Respect and understanding are reached. Even though agreement of opinion is not always found, it is fairly expressed in the light of the times in which it occurred. Ms. Todd's pursuit of the 16th century through the aid of the British Museum Library, the Encyclopedia Britannica Research Center, French libraries was painstakingly methodical. Walking side-by-side with a myriad of brilliant and cunning personalities encountered during the twelve year reign of Henri II (1547-1559) divulges sweeping revelations - but, most importantly the author has stumbled upon a well-kept historical secret! History has maligned Diane de Poitiers. Characterized to the world as beauteous, yes, but cold, greedy, manipulative, Diane de Poitiers was but a creature of her age. She was born to rule! With her Bourbon blood she had been educated from infancy onward in the French Court. At fifteen she married one of the most powerful and richest men in France; she became La Grande Sénéchal of Normandy. The question asked - and answered - why did she, Diane de Poitiers not become Queen of France. *Unconventional Warfare (Special Forces, Book 1) Scholastic Inc.* Discover the secret missions behind America's greatest conflicts. Danny Manion has been fighting his entire life. Sometimes with his fists. Sometimes with his words. But when his actions finally land him in real trouble, he can't fight the judge who offers him a choice: jail... or the army. Turns out there's a perfect place for him in the US military: the Studies and Observation Group (SOG), an elite volunteer-only task force comprised of US Air Force Commandos, Army Green Berets, Navy SEALs, and even a CIA agent or two. With the SOG's focus on covert action and psychological warfare, Danny is guaranteed an unusual tour of duty, and a hugely dangerous one. Fortunately, the very same qualities that got him in trouble at home make him a natural-born commando in a secret war. Even if almost nobody knows he's there. National Book Award finalist Chris Lynch begins a new, explosive fiction series based on the real-life, top-secret history of US black ops. *Sacred Hearts Random House Incorporated* Condemned by sixteenth-century demands for lucrative dowries in order to marry, young Serafina is ripped from an illicit love affair and confined in a Renaissance Italy convent, a situation against which she passionately rebels and reminds the convent's doctor of her own unhappy early years. 200,000 first printing. *The Lost Diary of Venice A Novel In the wake of her father's death, Rose Newlin finds solace in her work as a book restorer. Then, one rainy Connecticut afternoon, a struggling painter appears at her door. William Lomazzo brings with him a sixteenth-century treatise on art, which Rose quickly identifies as a palimpsest: a document written over a hidden diary that had purposely been scraped away. Yet the restoration sparks an unforeseen challenge when William--a married man--and Rose experience an instant, unspoken attraction. Five centuries earlier, Renaissance-era Venetians find themselves at the mercy of an encroaching Ottoman fleet preparing for a bloody war. Giovanni Lomazzo, a portrait artist grappling with tragedy, discovers that his vision is fading with each passing day. Facing the possibility of a completely dark world, Gio begins to document his every encounter, including what may be his final artistic feat: a commission to paint the enchanting courtesan of one of Venice's most powerful military commanders. Soon, however, Gio finds himself enraptured by a magnificent forbidden love. Spellbound by Gio's revelations, Rose and William are soon forced to confront the reality of their own mystifying connection. *The Memoirs of Mary Queen of Scots A Novel St. Martin's Press* In this dramatic, compelling fictional memoir Carolly Erickson lets the courageous, spirited Mary Queen of Scots tell her own story--and the result is a novel readers will long remember. Born Queen of Scotland, married as a young girl to the invalid young King of France, Mary took the reins of the unruly kingdom of Scotland as a young widow and fought to keep her throne. A second marriage to her handsome but dissolute cousin Lord Darnley ended in murder and scandal, while a third marriage to the dashing, commanding Lord Bothwell, the love of her life, gave her joy but widened the scandal and surrounded her with enduring ill repute. Unable to rise above the violence and disorder that swirled around her, Mary plucked up her courage and escaped to England--only to find herself a prisoner of her ruthless, merciless cousin Queen Elizabeth. Here, in her own riveting account, is the enchanting woman whose name still evokes excitement and compassion--and whose death under the headsman's axe still draws forth our sorrow. In *The Memoirs of Mary Queen of Scots*, Carolly Erickson provides another in her series of mesmerizing historical entertainments, and takes readers deep into the life and heart of the sixteenth century's most fascinating woman. In *The Company of the Courtesan A Novel Random House* My lady, Fiammetta Bianchini, was plucking her eyebrows and biting color into her lips when the unthinkable happened and the Holy Roman Emperor's army blew a hole in the wall of God's eternal city, letting in a flood of half-starved, half-crazed troops bent on pillage and punishment. Thus begins *In the Company of the Courtesan*, Sarah Dunant's epic novel of life in Renaissance Italy. Escaping the sack of Rome in 1527, with their stomachs churning on the jewels they have swallowed, the courtesan Fiammetta and her dwarf companion, Bucino, head for Venice, the shimmering city born out of water to become a miracle of east-west trade: rich and rancid, pious and profitable, beautiful and squalid. With a mix of courage and cunning they infiltrate Venetian society. Together they make the perfect partnership: the sharp-tongued, sharp-witted dwarf, and his vibrant mistress, trained from birth to charm, entertain, and satisfy men who have the money to support her. Yet as their fortunes rise, this perfect partnership comes under threat, from the searing passion of a lover who wants more than his allotted nights to the attentions of an admiring Turk in search of human novelties for his sultan's court. But Fiammetta and Bucino's greatest challenge comes from a young crippled woman, a blind healer who insinuates herself into their lives and hearts with devastating consequences for them all. A story of desire and deception, sin and religion, loyalty and friendship, *In the Company of the Courtesan* paints a portrait of one of the world's greatest cities at its most potent moment in history: It is a picture that remains vivid long after the final page. *The Second Empress A Novel of Napoleon's Court Crown* Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte will stop at nothing to marry the Hapsburg princess he hopes will bear him a royal heir, in this compelling novel from bestselling author Michelle Moran. After the bloody French Revolution, Emperor Napoleon's power is absolute. When eighteen year old Marie-Louise is told that the Emperor has demanded her hand in marriage, her father presents her with a terrible choice: marry the cruel, capricious Napoleon or refuse and plunge her country into war. To save her father's throne, Marie-Louise is determined to be a good wife. But at the extravagant French court, she finds many rivals for her new husband's affection, including Napoleon's sister Pauline, who is fiercely jealous, utterly uncontrollable, and the only woman as ambitious as the emperor himself. When war once again sweeps the Continent and bloodshed threatens Marie-Louise's family, the second empress is forced to make choices that will determine her place in history--and change the course of her life. *The Second Empress* will transport you back to Napoleon's empire where royals and servants alike live at the whim of one man, and two women vie to change their destinies. *The Alchemist's Daughter A Novel Crown* Secrets abound in this gripping tale of a young woman cloistered since birth who discovers that knowledge is no substitute for experience when she chooses to follow her heart over science. Raised by her father in near isolation in the English countryside, Emilie Selden is trained as a brilliant natural philosopher and alchemist. In the spring of 1725, during the English Age of Reason, father and daughter embark upon their most daring alchemical experiment to date--attempting to breathe life into dead matter. But when Emilie--against her father's wishes--experiences the passion of first love, she decides to listen to her heart over her head. Banished to London and plunged headlong into a society that is both glamorous and ruthless, Emilie discovers that for all her extraordinary education she has no insight into the workings of the human heart. When she tries to return to the world of books and study, she instead unravels a shocking secret that sets her on her true journey to enlightenment. *I, Elizabeth A Novel Crown* A spellbinding novel about Elizabeth I from the internationally bestselling author of the *Guenevere* and *Tristan and Isolde* trilogies. Publicly declared a bastard at the age of three, daughter of a disgraced and executed mother, last in the line of succession to the throne of England, Elizabeth I inherited an England ravaged by bloody religious conflict, at war with Spain and France, and badly in debt. When she died in 1603, after a forty-five year reign, her empire spanned two continents and was united under one church, victorious in war, and blessed with an overflowing treasury. What's more, her favorites--William Shakespeare, Sir Francis Drake, and Sir Walter Raleigh--had made the Elizabethan era a cultural Golden Age still remembered today. But for Elizabeth the woman, tragedy went hand in hand with triumph. Politics and scandal forced the passionate queen to reject her true love, Robert Dudley, and to execute his stepson, her much-adored Lord Essex. Now in this spellbinding novel, Rosalind Miles brings to life the woman behind the myth. By turns imperious, brilliant, calculating, vain, and witty, this is the Elizabeth the world never knew. From the days of her brutal father, Henry VIII, to her final dying moments, Elizabeth tells her story in her own words. *Carnegie's Maid A Novel Sourcebooks, Inc.* The USA Today Bestseller From the author of *The Other Einstein* comes the mesmerizing tale of what kind of woman could have inspired an American dynasty. Clara Kelley is not who they think she is. She's not the experienced Irish maid who was hired to work in one of Pittsburgh's grandest households. She's a poor farmer's daughter with nowhere to go and nothing in her pockets. But the other woman with the same name has vanished, and pretending to be her just might get Clara some money to send back home. If she can keep up the ruse, that is. Serving as a lady's maid in the household of Andrew Carnegie requires skills she doesn't have, answering to an icy mistress who rules her sons and her domain with an iron fist. What Clara does have is a resolve as strong as the steel Pittsburgh is becoming famous for, coupled with an uncanny understanding of business, and Andrew begins to rely on her. But Clara can't let her guard down, not even when Andrew becomes something more than an employer. Revealing her past might ruin her future -- and her family's. With captivating insight and heart, Carnegie's Maid tells the story of one brilliant woman who may have spurred Andrew Carnegie's transformation from ruthless industrialist into the world's first true philanthropist. *Keeper of the Dream A Novel Dell* A spellbinding tale of magic, passion, and destiny • "One of the most beautiful love stories I've ever read." --Julie Greenwood Blessed with the Welsh gift of "sight," Lady Arianna saw the vision in a golden bowl: a knight with eyes gray as the English sea that had captured her, his sword about to pierce her heart. And she trembled, not with fear, but with a desire that engulfed her very soul. On the treacherous border of Wales, Raine, the Black Dragon, rode his charger toward Castle Rhuddlan and the lady within. Illegitimate son of a Norman nobleman, his past was scarred by denial and mistrust, and now his future lay in the conquest of a fiefdom . . . and a woman's love. As the battle trumpet sounded, Arianna, her Celtic pride unyielding, saw her dream take flesh: Raine, the enemy who inflamed her blood with desire; Raine, the lover she must gentle*

and tame, and then, as ancient hatreds threatened their lives, either cherish . . . or betray. "A wonderful read . . . I was hooked from the first page and the magic continues throughout."—Johanna Lindsey *The Serpent and the Moon Two Rivals for the Love of a Renaissance King* *Simon and Schuster* An intriguing study of a royal love triangle captures the complex relationships that existed between King Henri II of France, his wife Catherine de Medici, and his mistress, Diane de Poitiers, examining the impact of the love story on the history of Renaissance France. Reprint. 60,000 first printing. *The Abstinence Teacher* *Vintage Canada* "Some people enjoy it." That was all Ruth had said. Even now, when she'd had months to come to terms with the fallout from this remark, she still marveled at the power of those four words, which she'd uttered without premeditation and without any sense of treading on forbidden ground. (p. 11) Thanks to an off-hand remark made during a class discussion of oral sex, sex-ed teacher Ruth Ramsey finds herself a target of the Christian evangelicals who are increasingly influencing the schoolboard of suburban Stonewood Heights. Forced to attend remedial sessions with a smug "Virgin Consultant," Ruth is isolated and alone, caught in the polarized red-versus-blue landscape of present-day American suburbia. It's like "living in a horror movie," she thinks, "The Invasion of the Body Snatchers, or something. You never knew who they were going to get to next." Divorced and sharing custody of her daughters with her ex, and sometimes attempting a futile date, Ruth spends many a lonely weekend wondering how her bleak existence came to be. Then one morning at her daughter's soccer game, Ruth meets Tim Mason, a cute forty-something volunteer coach. Ruth feels an instant attraction to Tim, but when he draws the girls together for a spontaneous prayer circle after the game, she angrily yanks her daughter away from the proceedings, placing herself once again in the sights of the evangelicals. But Ruth has another unexpected problem: she can't seem to get a handle on Tim, her supposed adversary, who keeps appearing at her front door. A recovering addict whose bottoming-out cost him his home and his marriage, Tim found his way to the Tabernacle of the Gospel Truth through the intervention of Pastor Dennis, the charismatic preacher who put Tim's shattered life back together in an approximation of happiness. Thanks to Pastor Dennis, Tim is now married to Carrie, a fellow Tabernacler who is attractive and attentive, if robotic. He plays guitar at the weekly prayer sessions in a sanitized reenactment of his days in a Grateful Dead cover band. He holds a respectable if unfulfilling job as a loan officer, well aware of the irony of the post for a man with his history. He is grateful for the help he has received from his church community and Pastor Dennis. But he can't shake the yearning for something more, and a nagging attraction to that troublesome sex-ed teacher.... With *The Abstinence Teacher*, Tom Perrotta wades into the murky waters of contemporary American suburbia, fully deploying his proven gift for describing the panic lurking beneath its seemingly placid surface. Already widely known to book and movie audiences for his scathing satire mixed with remarkable compassion in works including *Election* and *Little Children* (both adapted for film, *Little Children* garnering Perrotta an Oscar nomination), this novel once again proves, as declared by the *Los Angeles Times*, "Perrotta's balance of humor and pathos has no equal." *The Book of Secrets A Novel* *Picador* In 1988, a retired schoolteacher named Pius Fernandes receives an old diary found in the back room of an East African shop. Written in 1913 by a British colonial administrator, the diary captivates Fernandes, who begins to research the coded history he encounters in its terse, laconic entries. What he uncovers is a story of forbidden liaisons and simmering vengeance, family secrets and cultural exiles--a story that leads him on an investigative journey through his own past and Africa's. *The Secret History A Novel of Empress Theodora* *Penguin* Where Theodora went, trouble followed.... In sixth-century Constantinople, one woman, Theodora, defied every convention and all the odds and rose from common theater tart to empress of a great kingdom, the most powerful woman the Roman Empire would ever know. The woman whose image was later immortalized in glittering mosaic was a scrappy, clever, conniving, flesh-and-blood woman full of sensuality and spirit whose real story is as surprising as any ever told.... After her father dies suddenly, Theodora and her sisters face starvation and a life on the streets. Determined to survive, Theodora makes a living any way she can—first on her back with every man who will have her, then on the stage in a scandalous dramatization of her own invention. When her daring performance grants her a backdoor entry into the halls of power, she seizes the chance to win a wealthy protector—only to face heartbreak and betrayal. Ever resilient, Theodora rises above such trials and, by a twist of fate, meets her most passionate admirer yet: the emperor's nephew. She thrives as his confidant and courtesan, but many challenges lie ahead. For one day this man will hand her a crown. And all the empire will wonder—is she bold enough, shrewd enough, and strong enough to keep it? **READERS GUIDE INCLUDED** *The Portrait* *Megan Chance* Historical Romance: the reigning master of the New York art world, Jonas Whitaker was brilliant and compelling. When Imogene Carter pushed her way into his life, he discounted her on sight. But Imogene came to learn from a master, and learn she would--until she saw the terrible price he paid for his talent. And realized it was impossible to catch a shooting star without being burned. *Seduced A Novel* *Island Books* Shorn of her glorious raven tresses and dressed as a man, Lady Antonia Lamb became Lord Anthony Lamb, desperate to keep the property entailed to her twin brother, who is missing at sea. Trapped—and liberated—by her masquerade, Tony meets her new guardian, the devastatingly dangerous Adam Savage, who has returned from his plantation in Ceylon, determined to turn the innocent "boy" into a worldly man. A rake whose scarred face and ice-blue eyes made strong women weak, Adam Savage, legendary adventurer, vowed to take young Tony to the fleshpots of London; to teach him everything a young heir should know. But not even Savage guesses Tony's deepest secret, a masquerade destined to erupt in passionate abandon on one scorching, unforgettable night. *Madame Serpent A Catherine De' Medici Novel* *Simon and Schuster* A fictional account of Catherine de' Medici, the fourteen-year-old reluctant Italian bride to the second son of the King of France, Henry, during the sixteenth-century. *Milk in My Coffee* *Penguin* From Eric Jerome Dickey comes the New York Times bestselling book that stirred up controversy with its bold portrayal of racial identity and subtle understanding of sexual intimacy. Jordan Greene is in culture shock when he arrives in Manhattan from his Tennessee hometown. Still, he manages to keep the pace and stay in the race, with a Wall Street job, a Queens apartment, and a very sexy girlfriend named J'nette. But when Jordan meets Kimberly Chavers, what starts as a shared cab ride turns into something more. This girl is funny, fiesty, fine...and white. And for a man with Malcolm X's picture hanging on his office wall, that's a definite problem.... This brightly entertaining and emotionally complex novel demonstrates why Eric Jerome Dickey was "one of the most successful Black authors of the last quarter-century" (*The New York Times*). *Touch Not the Cat* *Tracy Fobes* An ancient curse that only love can conquer...Catherine MacClelland, as strong-minded as she is beautiful, is hiding a terrible secret. Predestined to carry on an ancient curse, Catherine knows she must live isolated from the world and resigns herself to a life devoted to her clan. But powerful forces are gathering around her, and she alone will have the chance to break the curse that has plagued the MacClelland clan for centuries. Nicholas Efignton, the Dark Duke, has abandoned his wicked life in an attempt to heal the physical and emotional wounds he'd suffered in the past. Now he has only one task on his mind: find a wife and beget an heir. But when Catherine MacClelland's father blackmails him into marrying her, he's drawn into a dark mystery where ancient myths come alive, while finding a lass who brands his very soul with passion. As Nicolas and Catherine come closer to understanding the secret that could destroy them forever, betrayals and ominous forces threaten their only chance at happiness. Will they overcome the curse of the grimalkin or surrender to it as so many before them? *Lady Gallant* *Fanfare* Heartstoppingly romantic, dangerously sensual, and filled with the vivid details that bring an era to life, Suzanne Robinson's captivating novels have made her one of the reigning stars of historical romance. In this spellbinding love story Suzanne Robinson offers one of her most unforgettable heroes ever . . . The ladies of the palace called Nora Becket "mouse." But beneath her shy, artless ways hid the heart of a lioness. A daring spy in Queen Mary's court, she risked her life to rescue the innocent from a terrible fate. Yet it was Nora who needed rescuing when cutthroats attacked her—and when Christian de Rivers, a lusty, sword-wielding rogue, swept her out of harm's way . . . and into his arms. As magnificent and mesmerizing as a hawk, Christian both frightened and excited Nora, even as he pursued her with a single-minded passion that left her longing to be caught. Yet soon she would discover that she had reason to be frightened. For the dashing nobleman had his own secrets to keep, his own enemies to rout—and his own brand of vengeance for a wide-eyed beauty whom he loved only too well. . . . *Raney* *Algonquin Books* "This book is too good to keep to yourself. Read it aloud with someone you love, then send it to a friend. But be sure to keep a copy for yourself, because you'll want to read it again and again."-- Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey *Raney* is a small-town Baptist. Charles is a liberal from Atlanta. And *Raney* is the story of their marriage. Charming, wise, funny, and truthful, it is a novel for everyone to love. "A real jewel."--Richmond Times-Dispatch