



Red Hearts Newsletter

Welcome!

The Red Hearts newsletter is a semi-monthly publication that reaches your inbox mid-month and end of the month.

If you would like back issues of the newsletter to get caught up on things you may have missed, drop me a line with your email address and I'll see that you get them.

From my house to yours, I wish you a very safe and prosperous New Year!

Women of Worthy Series...

A series of novels about single, divorced, and widowed women living in the small town of Worthy, Ohio, located about 50 miles southeast of Columbus, Ohio. Each woman must battle life's curveballs at the expense of their families, friends, and the men who adore them to fulfill their greatest desires and destinies. Their faith is tested in ways they hadn't imagined.



This series has become a labor of love for me! What's happening with the series right now?

Both Cassie's Secrets and Mia's Irishman are available on Amazon's Kindle, Kindle Unlimited, and paperback.

The first draft for Book 3 of the Women of Worthy series is at the editors. It ties in nicely with the two previous titles but is a stand-alone novel.

I'd like to hear from my readers! If you have read the book, which characters from either book would you like to see in future books. Drop me a line at my email below and let's see if we can work together to create new books!

Cassie's Secrets Insider Information...



Mia Nardelli

Mia Nardelli is the main character in Mia's Irishman, but she appears in a supporting role in Cassie's Secrets.

From the time Mia leaves her hometown of Worthy, Ohio to conquer the photography world in New York City, she comes of age through hardship and trials only to be thrust into them again when she returns to her hometown. Below are the top ten things in her background that didn't come out in either [Cassie's Secrets](#) or

[Mia's Irishman](#).

1. She was married to a male model when she lived in New York.
2. Her husband died tragically in a boating accident.
3. She would like to control other people's lives, but learns she cannot.
4. She sold her New York photography business and let go her most trusted employee, Gwen Masters.
5. She sometimes wishes she weren't a twin.
6. She's always wanted to live in the woods.
7. She walked away from her faith when she married her first husband.
8. She's five foot nine inches tall and wishes she weren't quite so tall.
9. She likes fashionable, trendy clothes, but she also likes comfortable clothing for knocking around town.
10. Her biggest fear is that she'll be alone when she gets older.

If you've read Mia's Irishman and would like to read Mia and Sean's future story, [click here](#).

And please, leave a review. Either on Amazon or Goodreads, or both if you feel particularly generous. It truly helps new authors like myself.

Writing and Publishing...

Creating a captivating cover...

Today's focus will be on the cover art. At some point, I may design my own covers, but for now, this function is outsourced. Developing a process for planning, writing, and marketing the stories is about all I can handle right now.

Thinking about and creating a cover was like walking blind into a dark room and bumping into walls and stubbing my toes.

My cover artist lives in the middle east so all our conversations are via email. There's not only a lag time (at least nine hours), but my cover artist also has a waitlist - sometimes months so I make sure I'm on the schedule for future books. For example, the cover for book #4 is already 90% completed. And yes, I know what the story will be, but it hasn't been fully outlined or written... yet! I only need to give her the back cover copy and barcode.

Here's what the process looked like at the start of the Women of Worthy series: I researched similar covers for my genre and I got a feel for what I liked, then we brainstormed ideas.

Then she sent me an inordinate number of sample images of:

- *different skies*
- *the background or landscape*
- *the model or models*
- *the title font and color*
- *the author font and color*
- *the positioning of all the elements on the cover*
- *other text to appear on the cover*
- *and finally, the size of the physical book.*

For the Women of Worthy series, once the title and author fonts were selected for the first book, the only thing to think about would be the colors in all the subsequent books. Usually, I tell the cover artist to select a color from the background to make the image cohesive.

All the decisions gave me a headache! Since it was my first book, the cover artist took pity on me and we worked on it until I felt comfortable. She gave me various options to choose from and then we'd tweak one cover until we both were satisfied. She'd also show me what it looked like as a thumbnail because that's important, too.

After seven or eight iterations when I was happy with the cover, then I showed it to my inner circle of trusted friends and authors. They weighed in and we'd make necessary changes as I saw fit.

The last items to worry about are the cover copy and the bar code. These are handled about one to two weeks prior to publication because they are simply cut and paste for the cover artist and they go quickly.

And we're done!



Of the three covers above, which one is your favorite and why? Drop me a line and let me know!

Website Blog Excerpt



An Adventure Blog

Candlelight Christmas at the Biltmore

Christmas 2020 is like no other we've ever encountered. There's an overarching sadness and we all know why. Rather than lamenting on what we can and cannot do, I choose to think about the reason for the season and past Christmases where happiness abounded. Unlike Ebenezer Scrooge, we'll take a trip to a Christmas past and relive a fond memory.



Every year, my husband and I travel to Northeast Ohio where my entire family gathers for Christmas and we return to North Carolina before New Year's. My two children and grandchildren fly or drive to visit my mother, my sibling's family, and of course, us. Three years ago, it was no different.

[Read the entire adventure blog post](#)

Christmas Book Spotlight...

Available on...

Kindle Unlimited and Paperback.

I've personally read this story and enjoyed it even though some of the themes may be hurtful to some readers. But in the end, Emily does an excellent job of making it a story of hope and love.

One kiss, two wounded hearts, and the Christmas that rekindled their vows.



Marcy Delaney might not think she's the sharpest set of shears in the salon, but she makes up for it with her people skills. As her town's chatty hairstylist, she doesn't consider anyone a stranger—except her university-educated husband who's rarely home. Her conclusion? He's bored with her lack of wit, and she can't blame him.

Colt Delaney has never fit in. Not in the big city where he grew up. And certainly not in the tiny town his wife won't leave. Now he's stuck there, too, unless he's traveling for work. And when he *is* home, Marcy doesn't seem to want anything to do with him. It's no surprise, though. Rejection has been his closest friend since childhood.

This Christmas the secrets they hold may break the final thread of their marriage and the faith they once held dear—until one simple kiss beneath the mistletoe reminds them of all the reasons they fell in love in the first place.

Content warning: contains flashback scenes of child abuse and emotional trauma.

Each story in the Hometown Holiday Heartstrings series can be enjoyed as a standalone, although characters are introduced in earlier books and may reappear in subsequent novels.

Click here for the [Miracle of Mistletoe](#)

In the next issue...



- ***Mia's Irishman: Sean McDermott's character profile***
- ***Women of Worthy series book #3 release date***
- ***A Women's Heart scripture blog excerpt***
- ***Reader's Spotlight: Sweet Romance & Women's Fiction***



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