

SORMAG: Please give the readers a brief bio on you the person and the writer?

Loure Bussey: God has blessed me with a wonderful family and great friends. I'm an author of ten books, a singer/songwriter, and business owner. Writing books and creating music are my passions, and I'm so grateful that people have allowed me to entertain them through my novels.



SORMAG: Tell us about your current book?

BUSSEY: My current book is my first mainstream novel, *A Feeling Like No Other*. It's the story of Sierra Harper, a young woman who wants to be a singer and who also desperately wants to be loved. Lots of twists and surprises whisk Sierra into drama and into love with three very different men. Also, a family secret unfolds throughout the story. I'm so happy that people are enjoying the story, and I'm releasing a music CD based on it that I wrote and performed. A movie script is also being written for it.

SORMAG: What would you like readers to take away from this book?

BUSSEY: I tried to show that everyone wants to be loved. However, we shouldn't want it so much that we ignore when a person has many things wrong with his character. I also tried to show that dreams may not happen the way you planned; they may happen better than you planned. And also, I love to show in all my books that our soul mate is out there in the world. Overall, there are many other lessons that I attempted to portray in this story.

SORMAG: Our theme for this issue is Family Literacy. If you have children, what type of reading activities do you do together?

BUSSEY: I work with my son on reading, writing, english, and speech everyday. He also loves books and being read to, so I do that often. I enjoy many

of the stories as much as he does, because often they are new books that I didn't read as a child. We enjoy reading and learning together.

SORMAG: What do you do to promote literacy?

BUSSEY: One of my future goals is to be a literacy volunteer and help someone have the magnificent experience of reading a book. Presently, I give children books and encourage them to read. I encourage everyone to read.

SORMAG: What was your favorite book as a child, and as a teenager?

BUSSEY: As a child, I had many favorites such as, the Dr. Seuss books. I also enjoyed *Daddy Was A Number Runner* and *The Street*.

SORMAG: What advice do you have for the aspiring writer?

BUSSEY: If you feel a desire to get your book published, pursue it, and don't let anything or anyone stop you. Write the best book that you can, edit it, and then seek publishers, agents, or self publish. Your book may be one that inspires someone and changes their life for the better. Also, read books on the craft of writing. Read good books by other authors. Stay focused and disciplined. Set aside time to write as often as you can. Your dream can come true if you go after it and never give up.

SORMAG: What is something readers would be surprised you do?

BUSSEY: They would be surprised to know that when I'm reading a good book, I have to have a big bowl of rum raisin Haagen Daas. Umm yummy. I'm also in love with shrimp scampi, my mama's fried chicken, and her peach cobbler, too. And my hips and thighs are paying for it, too. (smile)

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CONTINUE FROM PAGE 29

SORMAG: What do you do to keep motivated?

BUSSEY: I love to watch movies. It's one of my favorite things to do and stirs my creative juices. I also love to read all types of good books. When I read a great book, it makes me want to write. I always have an abundance of ideas for stories and wish I could do all of them at once.

SORMAG: How can readers get in contact with you?

BUSSEY: I love hearing from readers. They can email me at: LoureBus@aol.com, or write me at P.O.Box 020648, Brooklyn, New York 11202-0648. .

SORMAG: Can you give us a sneak peek at your next book?

BUSSEY: I'm working on several books. One of the books I'm writing is a romance, featuring Randall Larimore from my novel If Loving You Is Wrong. I received so many letters about him.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me over the years by reading my books. Your allowing me to entertain you has meant so much to me. And thank you to those who took time to read this interview. If you read one of my books, I hope you thoroughly enjoy it. Happy reading.

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February 2004

First Touch Collector's Series
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Serenade by Sandra Kitt
Forever Yours by Francis Ray
Beguiled by Eboni Snoe

May 2004

Hideaway Saga Collector's Series – Rochelle Alers
Hideaway
Vows
Hidden Agenda

August 2004

Falcon Saga Collector's Series – Francis Ray
Only Hers
Heart of the Falcon
Break Every Rule

November 2004

Madaris Saga Collector's Series – Brenda Jackson
Tonight and Forever
Whispering Promises
Eternally Yours

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Mississippi Blues: A novel
Cassandra Darden Bell
 Sepia/BET Books
 Mainstream
 ISBN: 1-58314-481-1
 January 2004
 Rating: 5 stars – SUPREME
 Mainstream Fiction
 Reviewer: Flashette Shirer

Nothing is going right in the life of Beverly Lamark. Her seventeen-year marriage to a high-powered, workaholic attorney is hanging by a thread.

She is a published author but can't seem to find the right words for her next novel although she has no trouble finding the way to her next drink.

Then she receives a letter from her estranged siblings requesting she return "down south" to clear up some unfinished family business. Beverly dreads the trip but agrees to take her 2 teenage children along for the drive from Massachusetts to Mississippi. What follows is a life-changing journey for Beverly and her family.

Ms. Bell's novel is outstanding. The characters are multi-dimensional, the writing is superior and the story is captivating. I look forward to reading more from this author and hope that a sequel is in the future.

COUNTING RAINDROPS through a STAINED GLASS WINDOW
Cherlyn Michaels
 Archland Books
 Mainstream
 ISBN# 0-9729500-1-X
 Published 2003
 Rating: 5 Stars - SUPREME
 Reviewer: Shelia M. Goss

Cherlyn Michaels is an exciting new author who's debut novel, COUNTING RAINDROPS through a STAINED GLASS WINDOW will have readers across the nation talking. The novel immediately captures your attention during the prologue and holds it until the very last page.

Vanella Morris is a single successful woman, who's afraid of commitment. She's in a long term relationship with Alton Goode, who would be considered by most women as their idea man, successful, good looking, family oriented and the list goes on. Vanella has to decide on whether her fear of commitment is worth her losing the love of her life.

The novel has several scenes with Vanella and some of her girlfriends. The interactions between the friends will have you laughing and thinking at the same time. As you read the novel, be prepared for some twists and turns.

Her family is far from perfect, but she loves them and ends up making a special trip back home, St. Louis, Missouri to deal with their family issues.

Michaels has written a winner and I'm eager to read her next one. Counting Raindrops is a must read don't be left out. Read it for yourself.

Rating For Books: (1-5 STAR SYSTEM)

1 Star — POOR 1 + Star — FAIR 2 Stars — OK 2+ Stars — GOOD
 3 Stars — VERY GOOD 3+ Stars — GREAT 4 Stars — EXCELLENT
 4+ Stars — EXCEPTIONAL 5 — Stars -SUPREME

Hitts & Mrs**Lori Bryant-Woolridge****Harper Collins****January 2004****ISBN: 0-06-054059-1****Rating: 4 Stars - EXCELLENT****Reviewer: Helen Banks**

Melanie Hitts and Will Freedman had a whirlwind romance, that is, until Melanie decides to stall and end their planned marriage at their lavish engagement party. Melanie got cold feet and questioned her betrothal to Will, but why? Melanie left town and cut off all ties with Will. Will was devastated, but continued to pursue the woman of his dreams through e-mails and phone calls. Meanwhile Melanie used this time to move back to New York and pursue her career in Interior Design. John Carlson a highly respected and famous architect chose Melanie to work on his new hotel. John was well known and an icon in the architecture world, but there was one small problem and that was the stagnation of his creative juices. Can Melanie be the spark that lights the flame of a flickering creative light? Can Will win Melanie back?

The story has an interesting plot and the characters were well developed. One of the main questions of the story was can a man and woman be emotionally intimate and physically celibate? Lori Bryant - Woolridge has done an excellent job of placing the reader in the minds of the two main characters. If you are looking for an unusual storyline then this is the romance novel for you.

Thorn's Challenge**Brenda Jackson****Silhouette Books****Romance****ISBN: 0-373-76552-5****December 2003****Rating: 4 Stars - EXCELLENT****Reviewer: Connie Quarles**

I must confess I am slightly bias, since Brenda Jackson is one of my favorite authors. However the reason I liked this book so well, is one of the reasons why she remains one of my favorites. Jackson has the ability to write about these great families that you become so involved in you want to know all about them. But each book can stand alone.

"Thorn's Challenge" is the romance of Thorn and Tara who was introduced in "Delaney's Desert Sheikh". It was at the end of this book that the challenged was issued. Can Thorn and Tara get over their mistrust of the opposite sex to find true love or will their fiery personalities cause them to burst into flames?

Tara has her career as a doctor and there is a reason for her aversion to weddings. However since meeting the Westmoreland's there seems to be a wedding to attend every year. Although she loves Delaney and four of her brothers like family, sparks fly whenever her and Thorn are in the same room.

Motorcycle rider Thorn Westmoreland spends his time building or racing motorcycles. However due to his self-imposed rules prior to racing, Thorn has become as prickly as his name. He admits his attraction to Tara but he only sees it as lust.

His brothers try to help their brother see his true feelings. But will their kidding and interfering cost Thorn his one chance at true love.

ONLINE WRITER'S CONFERENCE**Did you miss it?****Check it out****sormag.com/conference.html**

Though The Vision Tarry
Waiting for my promised mate
Aleathea Dupree
Dathea
Christian Non-Fiction
ISBN: 0971224005
Published: 2002
Rating: 4 Stars - EXCELLENT
Reviewer: Camellia M. Johnson

Habakkuk 2:3 KJV " For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." What an awesome scripture Aleathea Dupree stood on to write this book. Any single Christian with a desire to be married will benefit from this book. After reading this book waiting won't be such a chore because it prevents the detour relationships we get into because we don't wait.

The author takes you step by step in her "red flag" relationship when she didn't wait for the clearance from God. Even in this dangerous and deceptive relationship she shows the lessons of choices and the extreme goodness of God. I love each time that God showed that he was in control and how God orchestrated her deliverance. After the deliverance of a bad relationship she shows while your waiting for your God ordained husband to get busy on God's work. It's a message single people need to hear. The book shows the process of breaking free of bad decisions and soul ties. After getting free, the author shows the ordained friendship turned into her ordained husband when she was busy pursuing God.

What an awesome testimony of while a person chases God he will give you the desires of your heart in abundance. "Though the vision tarry, waiting for my promised mate"; Aleathea Dupree shows that those that diligently seek the Lord will be rewarded.

The One Who Holds My Heart
Tracee Lydia Garner
BET/Arabesque Books
Romance
ISBN: 1-58314-393-9
February 2004
Rating: 3+ Stars - GREAT
Reviewer: LaShaunda C. Hoffman

I've always enjoyed next door love stories, Ms. Garner's version is not disappointing. She introduces us to Chyna Lockhart, the girl next door, who fell in love with Dean Jamison when she was eight years old. Believing he would never return her love, Chyna leaves town after graduation.

The story picks up years later. Chyna returns home after a bad marriage to help her sick neighbors. As a caregiver she able to return the love these kind people gave to her when she was younger.

Dean decides its time for some answers to some misunderstandings they have between them. Chyna isn't ready to talk. She's been hurt too many times. She wants to go on with out Dean in her life. Dean has other plans. He loves Chyna and thinks its about time she realizes this.

Unfortunately insecurities on both their part, continue to drive them a part. It doesn't help matters, that Chyna ex-husband and a friend of her husband have their own agenda that broadens the rip between Dean and Chyna.

Can this couple over come their insecurities and trust in the love that's been between them for many years?

Ms. Garner has a way with words that keep you laughing and reading. The family's love for Chyna was evident, making you want her to be a part of this family just as much as she wanted to be a part of this family.

This is Ms. Garner third romance. She is definitely making a name for herself in the romance arena. I look forward to reading her next book.

Fresh Thoughts**Douglas Moore Jr.****1stBooks Library****Poetry****November 2003****ISBN: 1410790789****Rating 3+ Stars - GREAT****Reviewer: LaShaunda C. Hoffman**

Who says a man doesn't know how to express his feelings hasn't read Douglas Moore's poetry. After reading Fresh Thoughts you feel as if you have stepped into the heart of man. One who has experienced wanting love, finding love and heartbreak.

Mr. Moore's poetry is sensual and real. It was intimate, as if I was reading love letters or his diary.

Like a voyeur peeking, I wanted to continue reading.

Mr. Moore introduces you to the strong women in his life. Women who introduced him to love, women who broke his heart. Each verse lets you know how he felt about these women.

Mr. Moore isn't afraid to say how he feels or how he wants to make his woman feel. His words conveyed emotions most women pray they will hear from their man.

Fresh Thoughts is a refreshing read, that is a perfect gift for a love one.

Anonymity: A Tale of Suspense, Seduction & Revenge**Margie Gosa Rivers****MGS Publishing****October 2003****ISBN: 0-974406619****Ratings: 4 stars - EXCELLENT****Reviewer: Ty Moody**

Someone anonymously calls Cara Fleming's husband with details of an alleged affair between Cara and an unidentified man. Why would someone set up and destroy the marriage of a perfectly decent woman? Determined to go on with her life, while it spins out of her control, Cara concentrate on what she loves to do best... help people. While using the internet to help an online buddy, she unknowingly uncovers a family secret that affects her soon to be ex-husband, Mario, his family and a well-known individual.

With the help of Mario's best friend, Detective Lester Miller, Cara works to prove her innocence. In the midst of her "detective" work she starts to fall for the handsome detective, which does not seem to be too bad. What does turn out to be bad, is when her search for justice, results in placing her life in grave danger.

Margie Gosa Shivers does a great job bringing all the details together. Unlike some suspense novels that tend to be predictable halfway through the storyline, readers will truly have no clue who is out to get Cara. It is always a treat to read a really GOOD debut novel, especially a suspense novel! Anonymity will grab readers from the beginning and let them close the book with a warm sense of satisfaction.

SORMAG - The guide for readers and writers of multi-cultural literature

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Tell a friend

Relative Interest**Anita Bunkley****Kensington Books****ISBN: 0-7582-0079-X****Mainstream****December 2003****Rating: 4 stars – EXCELLENT****Romance****Reviewer: Flashette Shirer**

When Kira Forester receives notification that a family is planning to adopt the daughter of her deceased sister, she is thrown for a loop. Knowing that she is not ready to have a child in her life, Kira works with the adoption agency to form a relationship with her niece. However, she is not prepared for the web of deceit, small-town politics and racial tension that develops. *Relative Interest* is an excellent novel full of suspense, mixed with romance. As Kira bonds with her niece, she learns to value character over skin color.

Kira's story of determination is an enjoyable read. Ms. Bunkley does get bogged down in details at times but for the most part the story is very entertaining.

Sister Wit**Jacqueline Jakes****Warner Faith****January 2004****Christian Non-Fiction****ISBN: 0446690481****Rating: 4 Stars - EXCELLENT****Reviewer: LaShaunda C. Hoffman**

Jacqueline Jakes is a strong woman who survived brain surgery. Twenty years later, her well-known brother, Bishop T.D. Jakes asks her to share her testimony. **Sister Wit** is the results. A beautiful book of devotions to comfort, encourage and support.

This is an excellent book to help you with your Christian journey. Ms. Jakes gives you a scripture, a quote and her personal devotion. She shares her deep fears and let you know that you too can overcome yours.

This book is a true testimony that God brings you through your trials and tribulations for a reason. He wants you to share them so others can know how good he is and that you too can make it.

Even though the title makes you think this is a book for women, this book is for everyone. Jacqueline is sharing her sister wit, to encourage everyone, man, woman and child.

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FIRST SALE:

CONGRATULATIONS goes out to **MARYILYNN GRIFFITH**. Baker Revell has purchased her Garments of Praise series and Steeple Hill has bought the first two books in her Last Sistah Standing series! The first book in each series will release in 2005.

AUTHOR NEWS

L.A. Banks Hits The Big Screen!!!-Minion and The Awakening will be turned into a major motion picture film

Banks' first vampire huntress novel Minion and her second novel, The Awakening, have been picked up and a film will be made based on the two novels. That is all the details we are permitted to give at this point. The Awakening hits stores nationwide January 2004.

The success of L.A. Banks Minion is worldwide. Due to popular demand and a huge fan base in Russia. Minion will be translated into Russian.
www.vampirehuntress.com

Dear Friends:

First, I want to thank you again for your faithful readership and your lovely notes to me! Many of you have asked about a website and about my next novel. I am pleased to unveil www.selenamontgomery.com for your viewing pleasure.

I am also pleased announce the publication of my 4th novel, Never Tell, by St. Martin's Press. Come and join me in New Orleans where a serial killer threatens the lives and love of psychologist Erin Abbott and journalist Gabriel Moss! A mix of romance and suspense, Never Tell is due on shelves in June 2004.

I look forward to hearing your feedback on the website!

Your fan,

Selena

Selena Montgomery
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Atlanta, GA 30357-1771
www.selenamontgomery.com

There are some things a lady should never do.

Murder is one of them...

Just in time for Christmas,

A little holly, a little homicide

A little mistletoe, a little murder

And a chance to meet Layla Kennedy

A woman scorned, a lesson to be learned – simple circumstances. Until a woman with both the ways and the means sets out to teach the lesson. She'll make you think twice about your next "Happy Hour".

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