

**BSB News Bites**

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**Bold Strokes Books** authors enjoyed reading, signing, and chatting with readers in Provincetown during Women's Week in October. Even with the sometimes less than pleasant weather we appreciated all those who attended! Thank you to all our readers and to those venues who helped make this a great time.

YLAF just ended this past weekend in York, England. Jane Fletcher, Justine Saracen, and Kim Baldwin represented Bold Strokes and enjoyed seeing/meeting everyone there. Thanks to all our European

readers for making their stay an enjoyable experience!

The next big Bold Strokes Books event is the 2008 2nd Annual Lesbian Book Festival in Palm Springs, California. Daily activities will start on February 14th and continue through the 17th. Pool parties, readings, mix & mingles, signings, and even some live music entertainment are just a few things that will occur. A complete schedule will be coming out in the December newsletter, so be sure to check details then.

Currently the BSB authors who plan to attend are

Andrews & Austin, Diane & Jacob Anderson-Minshall, Ronica Black, Kim Baldwin & Xenia Alexiou, Julie Cannon, Erin Dutton, Jane Fletcher, Catherine Friend, Jennifer Fulton, Lisa Girolami, Gabrielle Goldsby, Lee Lynch, JLee Meyer, Radclyffe, Justine Saracen, and KI Thompson.

We hope to see many of our readers there and while one of the sponsors, Casitas Laquita, is all booked, another sponsor, Queen of Hearts, still has rooms available. (Click on the links or go to the Events page on the BSB Web site.) Don't miss out, reserve a room today!

**Forthcoming Bold Strokes Books for December 2007**

Fully Involved, **Erin Dutton**, ISBN: 978-1-933110-99-8, Price: \$15.95 (pg 3)

Place of Exile, **Rose Beecham**, ISBN: 978-1-933110-98-1, Price: \$15.95 (pg 3)

Heart 2 Heart, **Julie Cannon**, ISBN: 978-1-60282-000-5, Price: \$15.95

**Mending Their Hearts...**

In the aftermath of a shattering personal loss, Detective Kyle Bain buries her pain. When she meets Lane Connor, the owner of a popular restaurant, the chance for happiness suddenly seems possible. As Lane and Kyle take the first tentative steps toward exploring the attraction between them, Kyle makes a shocking discovery. Can Kyle and Lane find a way to heal the fragile ties that bind them, heart to heart?

-Excerpt-  
"Hello stranger."  
Lane almost dropped the plate of muffins she was carrying. She turned to face the tall, lean woman with dark brown hair, eyes as green as a summer field. "Detective Bain, hello."

Kyle stood up so fast she had to steady her chair.

"Do you have a minute to join me?"

"Of course, you're one of my favorite customers." Lane's eyes quickly swept over the woman.

Kyle laughed. "You really should raise your standards." She held Lane's chair as she sat down.

"How are you? I heard you were ill."

"Just a pesky virus that took a little more out of me than I expected, but I'm better than ever now."

"You look great." Kyle couldn't help but move her eyes over the slim body in front of her as if to verify her first impression.

"Thanks, I'm feeling better everyday."

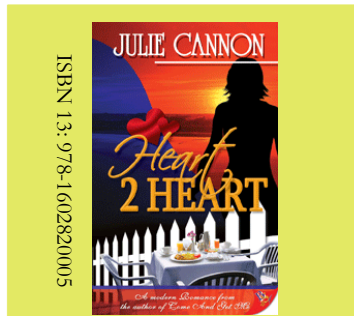
"The body's resilience is amazing." Kyle wanted to kick herself as soon as she delivered this benign pronouncement.

"You're right about the resilience," Lane said with a hint of irony. "I got sick, almost died, and my girlfriend left me, all in the same week. And here I am, I think the better for it."

Kyle felt as if her world had tilted. Lane could have died? "Makes my broken water pipe seem a little trivial," she replied flippantly.

"You certainly know how to put things in perspective, Detective."

"Occupational hazard." Kyle was relieved when Lane laughed.



Lane watched the pulse in Kyle's neck quicken. She waited a minute before she stood.

Kyle stood as well. Lane stepped the closest she had ever been to the woman and said quietly as she walked away, "Keep the streets safe, Detective."

Kyle had to lean forward to hear the parting words, and when she did, she smelled a combination of perfume, sun, and sea air. The odor was intoxicating. Head spinning, she sat down and stared at the crashing waves. *What in the heck just happened?*



**NEW RELEASES**

Mine, **Georgia Beers**, ISBN: 978-1-933110-95-0

The Crown of Valencia, **Catherine Friend**, ISBN: 978-1-933110-96-7

Queens of Tristaine, **Cate Culpepper**, ISBN: 978-1-933110-97-4

See more at

[www.BoldStrokesBooks.com](http://www.BoldStrokesBooks.com)



## Behind the Covers: Sheri

Sheri's graphic arts career may have started many years ago but her work is still fresh, eye-catching, and simply fantastic. She has been creating BSB covers from the very beginning. We hope you enjoy getting to know a little bit more about our own "cover girl."

**"A picture is really worth a thousand words."**

\*\*\*\*\*

**How long have you been involved in graphic arts, and how did you first get into the field?**

I have been doing this for over twenty years. Oops, my age is showing. I have been doing this for some years. I started doing layout at a newspaper when I was eighteen, and I discovered that I have ink in my blood. I have been in the publishing business since.

**Where do you get your ideas for a book cover ?**

Mostly from the story, if I get to read it. Otherwise from the

authors or from master... Oops. I mean Rad...the boss.

When I read a book, images flash in my head. The mood of the story gives me the color and texture of the book cover. Then I have to decide on the best image for the story. Images and fonts are the most important elements of a good cover. The rest is icing.

**Do you work with the author and/or publisher to get help with your ideas and how do you decide whether to use a photograph, clip art, or other avenues? Are there certain things you have to worry about using?**

BSB makes a considerable effort to include the authors in the cover-design process. This is their work and their creation, so it's VERY important to consult them and get their input. They don't always get exactly what they want on the cover, but we make every effort to try to get it as close as possible.

It's great getting input from the writers because sometimes it pushes me in directions I may not have gone before, and I like that. Rad actually is very good in that area. Because of her direction I am able to achieve results I did not think possible...for me anyway.

We have to always ensure that we have the rights to any image or graphic we use. So we use photos I shoot or graphics I create...or photos we buy from photo-stock companies. Sometimes we also use photos provided by the authors. But we are very careful about copyright material.

Because we print at 300 DPI (dots per square inch), the quality of our images and graphics has to be of a very high standard. It's one of the reasons our covers look so clean.

**To see the rest of Sheri's interview, go to her bio at the following link:**

[www.BoldStrokesBooks.com/about.html](http://www.BoldStrokesBooks.com/about.html)

"...IMAGES AND  
FONTS ARE THE  
MOST IMPORTANT  
ELEMENTS OF A  
GOOD COVER—THE  
REST IS ICING..."

## Women, Books, & P-Town by KI Thompson

Women's Week in Provincetown, MA, is the most special occasion to have one's first novel debut. More than any other event, Women's Week brings together a large group of like-minded women, whose interests are eclectic, but which contain one common ingredient: the love of women.

My first reading of *House of Clouds* was Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Vixen. Radclyffe graciously agreed to be a part of it, and of course was the draw that brought over sixty women to the event. I thought that two hours would be too long for just Rad and me, but before long, I got the signal that our

time was over. We made our way to Now Voyager Bookstore and it was a thrill to be asked to sign my name on my own book. I have been a part of signings before, autographing anthologies where I had a short story published. But when it's your own book, it has a completely different feel and meaning.

Three days of rest, exploring the shops in P-Town, and meeting new and old acquaintances prepared me for the Thursday and Friday readings at the Vixen and the Fairbanks Inn with all the other BSB authors who attended. What an honor to be a part of this group of

talented women.

The week was capped off by the dinner at Michael Shay's Restaurant where our group has become so large that we take up nearly half the restaurant. The food and conversation was fantastic, and the trivia game were a lot of fun. I can't believe how much people know about BSB books. Saturday's bonfire was a bittersweet ending to a week I will never forget. While I'll be back again, it will never have the same meaning as it did with my first book.

All I can say is, here's to seeing you all next year and doing it all over again!



Now Voyager—where  
WW book events all  
started.

Thanks Mark!



## Tragedy and Hope...

An early morning hotel fire turns out to be anything but routine, as firefighter Reid Webb's partner, Jimmy Grant, dies. Guilt-ridden and grieving, Reid feels responsible for her partner's young son, Chase. Isabel Grant doesn't know anything about raising children. But when she returns to her hometown to assume custody of her orphaned nephew, she gets a crash course. Isabel's struggle to keep her footing in the midst of chaos is further complicated by her growing attraction to Reid, a woman whom Isabel blames for her brother's death.

-Excerpt-

The waiting room had been full of firefighters, some still half dressed in turnout gear, others in navy blue T-shirts and BDU pants. The acrid smell of stale smoke hung heavily in the air. Isabel had noticed the distinctive

odor before, clinging to Jimmy's clothes after his shifts, but in the congested room it seemed more pungent.

Isabel had searched the crowd for a familiar figure and finally found her sitting flanked by two silent men. She barely registered them as the other two members of Jimmy's crew. Her attention was focused on Reid, who sat bent over with her head cradled in her hands.

As if sensing Isabel's gaze, Reid looked up. Her short, dark hair was damp and plastered to her forehead. The pale, wet tracks of her tears stood out against the black soot that streaked her face. Isabel knew in that moment, as she saw the agony in Reid's expression, that her world had once more been turned upside down.

"No," Isabel rasped, feeling the blackness close in.

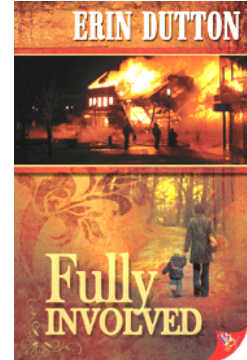
All she could see was Reid,

who stood quickly. The crowd parted as she strode across the room and, without hesitation, took Isabel in her arms. The offered comfort pierced the grief already swamping Isabel's heart. What seemed like a lifetime of tension between them faded for an instant, eclipsed by shared pain.

Reid brushed a hand over the back of Isabel's head and cupped her neck. Isabel, her arms around Reid's chest, tightened her embrace and felt Reid flinch slightly. Though they were nearly the same height, Isabel tucked her head against Reid's shoulder. They held each other for several long moments, sealed together by their love for Jimmy.

"I'm so sorry," Reid whispered against Isabel's ear.

Isabel heard the guilt that saturated Reid's voice.



ISBN: 978-1933110998  
Price: \$15.95

“...THEY HELD  
EACH OTHER FOR  
SEVERAL LONG  
MOMENTS...”

## ...Terror and Mystery.

A place like the Four Corners is the perfect exile for people escaping from something or someone. Sandy “Lonewolf” Lane, a former paratrooper Sheriff's detective Jude Devine suspects of being a domestic terrorist, has called the Four Corners home since the suicide of her lover, whose son was killed in Iraq. She's planning to kill the Vice-President, and her determination to carry out her mission, and Jude's to stop her, draws the two women into a lethal game of cat and mouse.

-Excerpt-

Sandy Lane was smart, highly skilled, and a competent killer. Jude had guessed all of those things the first time they met.

"I think it makes her depressed, talking about Iraq and Afghanistan," Debbie said. "So she keeps things to herself."

"Did something happen there, a particular incident that both-

ers her?"

Debbie hesitated. "Has she told you about Madeline and Brandon?"

"No."

"Well, I didn't want to say anything. It's not my place. But her partner committed suicide after her son was killed in Iraq. Lone still has nightmares about it."

Holy shit. Jude's gut reacted.

The new information brought Sandy's profile into focus for the first time. The deaths could be precipitating stressors. Combined with her personality, military background, and social isolation, the personal losses could trigger a volatile response. Sandy, whatever her status, was a walking time bomb.

"I'm sorry I didn't say anything before," Debbie continued. "I thought she might tell you about Madeline once she got to know you better."

"How would you describe her

mental state?"

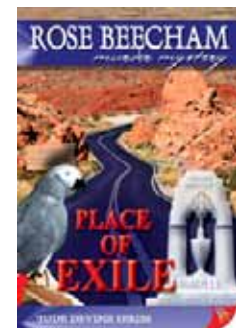
Debbie paled and her mouth shook. "What do you mean?"

"Listen to me." Jude took Debbie's hands. "I care about you and I care about her. I think Sandy could be...unwell. With all she's been through personally, and her experiences in battle, she might have PTSD or at the very least, she needs counseling. Do you know if she's seeing anyone?"

Debbie blinked in alarm. "Do you mean a psychiatrist? I don't think she'd ever go for that."

"She won't accept help?"

"She thinks it's weak." Forlornly, Debbie said, "She gets in these moods. It's hard to explain. I can tell she's angry. Not at me, but there's something deep down inside." A shrill laugh died as quickly as she released it. Tears sprang to her eyes. "I know, it sounds silly. But I know something's wrong. I just know it."



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(for submission guidelines go to [www.BoldStrokesBooks.com](http://www.BoldStrokesBooks.com))

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**Bold Strokes Books**

...WRITING OUTSIDE THE BOX



**Bold Strokes Books** offers LGBT fiction and non-fiction that is entertaining, informative, provocative, at times transgressive, and always positive and affirming. We publish a full-spectrum of **BSB category genre**

fiction including romance, action, adventure, mystery, speculative fiction, and erotica. Our goal is to bring the best of yesterday into the future—preserving the traditional elements of genre fiction while infusing our stories with a modern sensibility and focus. Our general fiction line, **Bold Strokes Victory Editions**, presents works that explore the gay, lesbian, and queer experience in its many forms, while telling strong, human stories with universal themes. At the heart of these works are empowering, meaningful stories that offer the reader both entertainment and affirmation of our queer identity. Our newest line, **Matinee Books**, are sharp, satisfying, quality reads for busy women who want to take some time out for pure entertainment. The focus is on excitement, sexual attraction, drama, and fun in a tightly written, engaging package.

We welcome first-time as well as previously published authors. Our focus at **Bold Strokes Books** is to provide authors with the professional expertise, individualized editorial attention, and wide-scale marketing and distribution necessary to showcase their work.

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4 KI Thompson	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Diane & Jacob Anderson-Minshall	12 <b>Book Releases:</b> <i>Mine</i> , Georgia Beers <i>The Crown of Valencia</i> , Catherine Friend <i>Queens of Tristaine</i> , Cate Culpepper	13	14 KI Thompson reading/ signing 12-1pm, Library of Congress, Washington DC	15	16 Reading / signing Catherine Friend, 7pm, Amazon Bookstore Cooperative, Minneapolis, MN	17
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