

# Bold Strokes Books

## NEWSLETTER

◆ VOL. 5, ISSUE 6 ◆ JANUARY 2010

### BSB News Bites

No matter who we are, where we live, or what we do for a living, 2009 has been a challenge on many levels. Bold Strokes Books has remained on course in large part due to the loyalty of our readers. We have added new authors and new imprints and forged new alliances with multimedia associates to bring "voices" to our books with audiobooks. Our commitment remains the same as we enter a new year - to bring you the books you want to read in the all the ways you want

to "read" them.

\*\*\*\*\*

For news about what will be going on in 2010, be sure to look for future newsletters or go the BSB Web site Event page.

The first BSB event in 2010 will be in Palm Springs, CA. The Fourth Annual BSB Lesbian Book Festival will start on March 4th. To see a promo of this fun event go to this [link](#) (from DogEar Audio). An initial schedule for this exciting

festival will be coming shortly.

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All of us at Bold Strokes Books want to say thank you for the support you've given us over the past year. We couldn't do this without our readers!



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### Bold Strokes February 2010 Forthcoming

[Bold Strokes Books Online Bookstore](#)

#### Genre Fiction:

***High Risk*, JLee Meyer,**

ISBN: 978-1-60282-136-1, Price: \$16.95 (pg 3)

***Missing Lynx*, Kim Baldwin & Xenia Alexiou,**

ISBN: 978-1-60282-137-8, Price: \$16.95 (pg 2)

#### Genre Fiction:

***Fever*, VK Powell,**

ISBN: 978-1-60282-135-4, Price: \$16.95 (pg 3)

#### Victory Edition:

***Spanking New*, Clifford Henderson,**

ISBN: 978-1-60282-138-5, Price: \$16.95

### GETTING BORN IS TRICKY...

ISBN: 978-1-60282-138-5  
Price: \$16.95; ePrice: \$12.95  
General Lesbian Fiction



Yearning for life, Spanky chooses Nina, a flighty actress just out of college, and Rick, a sax player who changes tires to get by, to be his parents. Will Nina and Rick get it together in time to conceive Spanky before he evaporates? There's not much Spanky can do but watch from above while his fate plays out—and if that's not scary enough—an unexpected twist of fate makes Spanky have to completely reevaluate his expectations. He's a girl!

-Excerpt-

My first thought is Why Me?

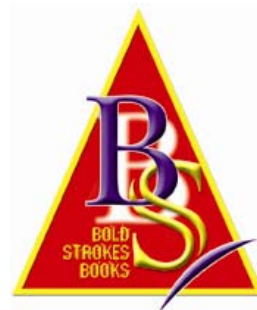
Nobody asked me if I wanted to become a Floating Soul, to be yanked from my cozy blanket of absolute awareness. Maybe I didn't want to become a Me. Maybe I was happy as I was: blended into the wonderful, chaotic, alphabet soup of The Known.

The fact that I'm whining indicates there's no going back. I'm already stuck with a personality—and my first assignment: choosing parents. They'll provide me the body I need to negotiate my way through the Land of Forgetting. When it comes time for me to evaporate back, The Known will absorb everything I've learned and use it to evolve. This is how The Known recreates itself. It drips you out like a saturated rain cloud, then, after It's satisfied you've done everything you're going to do, It evaporates you back. Only Floating Souls have a bit more to do between dripping out and evaporating than loll around making puddles. We have destinies to fulfill.

I comb the paltry information I've been sent down with, and believe me, there's not much. Compared to the massive archives of The Known, it's like a small suitcase a frenzied mother might throw together for a departing child. But what's in it can make or break my chances at happiness. And what's left out...well, the future, for one thing. Besides that, don't even get me started.

I flip through something I can only describe as a traveler's pamphlet of current fads and social faux pas while simultaneously riffling through the personality traits I've been assigned—patience not being one of them—when I'm suddenly hijacked by The Yearn. It's programmed into us Floating Souls so we don't just waft around interminably trying to make up our minds. Once The Yearn takes control, all lofty thoughts about destiny disintegrate.

I've got to find a way to start splitting some cells!



### NEW RELEASES

eBooks & Print

*Ambereye*, Gill McKnight

*Mephisto Aria*, Justine Saracen

*Collision Course*, C.P. Rowlands

*Magic of the Heart*, C.J. Harte

Buy all at the  
[BSB Online Bookstore](#)





## BEHIND THE WRITING: D. JACKSON LEIGH



A Georgia peach transplanted to North Carolina, **D. Jackson Leigh** has worked the past thirty years as a print journalist and played an endless parade of sports. Although she works long hours commanding reporters and editing on deadline, the first thing she wants to do when she gets home is dive into a good book...or write one for herself.

D. Jackson's first Bold Strokes Books novel was *Bareback* and coming out this March will be *Long Shot*.

\*\*\*\*\*

### What made you decide to become a fiction writer?

The long story is that I won a \$2.50 prize in the eleventh grade for a class assignment to pen a story that evoked emotion in the reader. I wrote a story based on a childhood friend who was vacationing with his family and died when he fell off a mountain at one of those lookout points. I

remembered that small prize and my teacher's encouragement when chemistry class began cutting into my social time at college. So, I switched from a pharmacy major to journalism and began a writing/editing career that has lasted—well, so that I don't give my age away—a long time.

The short story is that I had just finished reading LJ Maas' *Meridio's Daughter* in September 2001 and hadn't yet discovered the wonderful world of free lesbian fiction online. I was lounging around Duke University for the month as part of a media fellowship and decided that since I couldn't immediately find another lesbian tale to read, I'd just write my own. While the rest of the world was glued to every news report about the terrible attack on U.S. soil, I escaped from it all by writing the first draft of *Bareback* that month.

### What type of stories do you

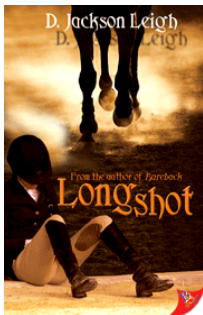
### write? And why?

I write romances because I am a hopeless romantic. The reporters I terrorize every day in the newsroom would be shocked to know that. But any of my friends outside of work would confirm it. I have had a great example. After fifty-seven years of marriage, my parents still hold hands and kiss in front of other people.

Also, I work full-time as a newspaper editor and get a daily overdose of real-life crime and politics. So, I rarely voluntarily read non-fiction outside of work. I hate reality shows on television.

**To see the rest of D. Jackson's interview go to the By Author page under Paperback Books/Lesbian Fiction and choose her name to find the interview link:**

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



ISBN: 978-1602821415

Price: \$16.95

e-Price: \$12.95

Release: March 2010

Romance

## NOWHERE TO HIDE ...

When a sadistic serial killer known as the Headhunter resurfaces, a government blunder forces the Elite Operatives Organization into action. Operation Mask falls to Lynx. She has the determination, skills, and most importantly, the right profile, but her youth and lack of experience in the field could put more than the mission in jeopardy.

Her search takes her deep into the jungles of Asia, where she must battle not only the ruthless purveyors of the international skin trade, but also her growing feelings for a mysterious mercenary with her own agenda for the Headhunter.

-Excerpt-

When she reawakened, there it was again—the humming, a tune she vaguely recognized. She was lying on something hard and cold. Panic tried to reassert it-

self, so she took a deep, calming breath and immediately wished she hadn't. Her lungs burned from a horrible smell she identified as chemicals and mold.

A strong, harsh light blinded her when she forced her eyes open in the direction of the humming. The rest of the room was dark, but when her pupils eventually adjusted, she saw him and it all came roaring back. He was turned away from her, his focus on the syringe in his upraised hand. The humming stopped.

"You're going to be my best work yet," he said without turning around.

His words and the certain knowledge of his intentions energized her. She struggled to sit up, but soon realized her legs and hands were bound and she was tied to a smooth steel table.

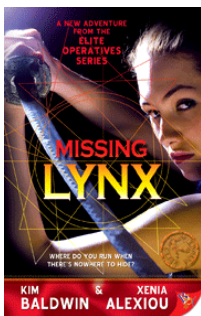
"I promise you, this won't hurt," her captor calmly contin-

ued. "Not if you cooperate."

She wanted to scream for help but knew it would be futile. From the looks of this place, it was unlikely anyone would hear. They had to be underground, for the walls, ceiling, and floor were made of dirt and there were no windows. One entrance lay straight ahead. It wasn't a door, just a mere hole carved into one of the walls, not large enough to stand upright. To her left was another, similar hole, though smaller, and next to it, a sink and counter. A round table with a single wooden chair occupied one corner.

Then she saw them. Hanging on the wall to the right of the main entrance were faces. Two of them. Grotesque masks of once beautiful young women.

Women like her. She stared at them in horror.



ISBN: 978-1602821378

Price: \$16.95

e-Price: \$12.95

Release: February 2010

Romantic Intrigue

**...AND RISKING IT ALL.**

Kate Hoffman has worked hard achieving fame and fortune in Hollywood and is now one of its highest paid actresses. The last person she expects to run into when taking time off to help her sister Laurel and her partner launch their new hotel venture is Dasher Pate. Kate walked away from her attraction to the enticing A-List agent years before because she didn't want to complicate her career.

Can destiny bring two women together no matter how much they resist?

-Excerpt-

Just as Kate was about to hug Laurel she heard a familiar commotion on the street. She winked at Laurel and composed her face into her star persona, then turned to see another famous figure emerge from a limousine that had just arrived. She was assisted by Dasher Pate.

Greta Sarnoff was an up-and-coming and quite gorgeous young

actress whose career was currently skyrocketing. She'd signed with Dasher Pate as her agent.

Whirling to meet Laurel's gaze, Kate demanded, "Is she staying here?"

"She who?"

"Dasher Pate, of course." Who else would she be talking about?

Laurel frowned slightly and quickly checked a screen. "Yes. And Greta is the guest of Dasher Pate."

Kate felt her face heat. "Dasher Pate is staying here? How did she get an invitation? And what is she doing with that child?"

"Well, I—"

"She got here by invitation and that child is twenty-three, not that it's any of your business." The husky alto behind her could belong to none other than Dasher Pate.

Whirling to meet the warm gray eyes that accompanied it, the ones with the flashes of blue in them, Kate forced a smile. "Dasher, what a surprise. I had no idea you

knew my sister. What a coincidence."

Dasher studied Kate in a way that made her skin prickle. She fought not to blush and cursed her fair complexion when her cheeks warmed.

"Your sister? I haven't had that pleasure, but I've known Stefanie Beresford from the days when we worked together."

Laurel came to Kate's rescue by offering her hand to Dasher, introducing herself. "Kate is my sister. Do you two know each other?"

"Not well," Kate quickly said.

Dasher stood back and slowly took in the two of them. "You two definitely look like sisters. Both lovely." She was staring directly at Kate when she said "lovely," and her gaze lingered there for a moment before a noise toward the entrance of the hotel seemed to refocus her.

Sighing, she said, "Well, I've got to get back to Greta. Good to meet you, Laurel. Good to see you, too, Kate."



ISBN: 978-1602821361  
 Price: \$16.95  
 e-Price: \$12.95  
 Release: February 2010  
*Romance*

**LOVE & THE HIRED GUN...**

Zak Chambers is a disillusioned hired gun whose boss lines her up for a cushy escort job to Africa to give her time to refo-

cus. But the country she loved as a child holds memories she isn't ready to face. Adding to her ambivalence about returning is the immensely attractive Sara Ambrosini who sees everything through the rose-colored glasses of wealth and privilege. Zak's task is to provide security for Sara in the bush country. But Zak soon discovers that Sara's stubbornness and independence aren't the only obstacles to the success of her assignment.

-Excerpt-

Sara Ambrosini regarded her as she might a well-intended but misinformed serf. "Zak, I've been to Africa many times. I don't need a bodyguard. I have to be able to talk freely with people about their issues. How will it

look if I show up flanked by GI Jane commandos? No disrespect intended."

"But you've—"

"I've never been in the bush country. How uncivilized can it be?"

"Very. You need to consider the wild animals, food and water issues, security, and the political climate." Zak ticked the items off on her fingers. Sara's look was one of inquisitive amusement.

"You mean you can protect me from all those things? Perhaps I was mistaken about your services being necessary." She grinned and mischief sparked in her eyes.

Zak processed what she'd said and found it only mildly amusing. She had to relay the seriousness and immediacy of life in Africa and prepare Sara for what could happen. "Perhaps most of those things are your own responsibility, but you need to be briefed and prepped. Even an inadver-

tent mistake could be expensive or dangerous."

Sara unbuckled her seat belt and moved to the seat beside Zak. "I'm sorry if this is uncomfortable for you, but I don't communicate well long distance."

"I see." Having Sara so near was distracting. Her voice was like a rich liqueur flowing through Zak's system. And the perfume that wafted from her as she moved hinted of warm vanilla and sugar.

The fact that she was likening her new client to an alcoholic elixir and delicious treats was testament to Zak that she was more tired than she realized. The mission was to keep Sara safe in spite of herself and to remain objective. However, like most rich people, Sara Ambrosini seemed to think the only rules that applied to her were the ones she made. "We're off track." *And you're entirely too close.*



ISBN: 978-1602821354  
 Price: \$16.95  
 e-Price: \$12.95  
 Release: February 2010  
*Romantic Intrigue*



## ***BOLD STROKES 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW***



### **Media & New Authors**

This is the age of instant gratification with things like Twitter, YouTube, I-Phones, and eBooks, to name a few. BSB jumped into media like these before other publishers even thought of the possibility. Yet, we never forgot our main purpose—to produce quality books!

New media presences by BSB and associates this year include Twitter, Facebook, YouTube (book and event promos), audio books, and podcasts.

Bold Strokes signed seventeen new authors and their works this year: Clara Nipper, Anne Laughlin, John Caruso, Elizabeth Ridley, Lindsey Stone, Greg Herren, Shea Godfrey, Yolanda Wallace, Lynda Sandoval, Lea Santos, Rebecca S. Buck, Kristin Marra, PJ Trebelhorn, Sophia Kell Hagin, Curtis Christopher Comer, David-Matthew Barnes, & Winter Pennington. Many of their works were published this year, with many others coming out in 2010.



### **Awards**

Bold Strokes authors and their books were recipients of many honors and awards in 2009. Of the many exceptional Bold Strokes novels published in 2008 the following were award winners (with others being finalists).

Lammy Lesbian Erotica Winner:  
*In Deep Waters 2: Cruising the Strip* by Radclyffe & Karin Kallmaker

IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award for Popular Fiction: *The Pirate's Heart* by Catherine Friend

ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Gay/Lesbian Fiction Silver Medal: *Night Call* by Radclyffe



2009 Alice B. Reader's award recipients: Gun Brooke, Jane Fletcher, and Lesléa Newman and the Debut Author/Novel Lavender Certificate winner, Gill McKnight.

2009 Saints & Sinners Hall of Fame Inductee: Radclyffe

Other special interest awards received by BSB authors came from these groups:

GCLS, Electronically Published Internet Connection Awards, Lesbian Fiction Reader's Choice Awards, and a Sapphic Reader's Award.

### **BSB Gatherings**



Even with the economic climate in 2009 and the unfortunate closings of many independent bookstores, Bold Strokes authors were able to meet many wonderful readers at readings.

Also in 2009, several BSB sponsored events were expanded on and again provided opportunities for the authors to meet readers. The first event of the year was the BSB Lesbian Book Festival in Palm Springs. This gathering included four days of readings, pool parties, a dance, and almost triple the number of authors from past years.

The next event was Saints & Sinners in New Orleans, where everyone enjoyed readings and panels. The final major event of the year was Women's Week in Provincetown, MA.



This was the largest BSB gathering in Provincetown history. We look forward to these events and more in 2010.



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

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**Bold Strokes Books** offers a diverse collection of LesbianGayBiTransQueer general and genre fiction. **BSB genre fiction** includes romance, action, adventure, mystery/intrigue, speculative fiction (sci-fi/fantasy/horror), and erotica. **BSB Victory (Lesbian) and Liberty (GBT) Editions** include literary and popular fiction as well as non-fiction that explore the LGBT experience in its many forms (contemporary, historical, saga) while telling strong human stories with universal themes. **BSB Matinee Books** are sharp, satisfying, quality reads focusing on passion, sexual attraction, and compelling attractions in a tightly written, engaging package. Our Young Adult line, **BSB Soliloquy**, features a protagonist aged 13-17 years in stories within all fiction genres that delve into questions of identity, gender, sexuality, self-esteem, peer relationships, ethics, and life issues. With the addition of our **BSB Aeros eBook** division we are now able to introduce exciting new authors and expand the range of titles available to our readers in electronic and print form. Our entire back list is available in eBook form.

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.

**JANUARY 2010 BOLD STROKES EVENTS CALENDAR**

BR	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Go to Events at <a href="http://www.BoldStrokesBooks.com">www.BoldStrokesBooks.com</a> for more info.						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 <b>Book Releases:</b> <i>Ambereye</i> , Gill McKnight <i>Mephisto Aria</i> , Justine Saracen <i>Collision Course</i> , C.P. Rowlands <i>Magic of the Heart</i> , C.J. Harte	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Nell Stark & Anne Laughlin 5pm reading at True Colors Bookstore, Minneapolis, MN
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**FEBRUARY 2010 BOLD STROKES EVENTS CALENDAR**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	F	SAT
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14	15 <b>Book Releases:</b> <i>Fever</i> , VK Powell <i>High Risk</i> , JLee Meyer <i>Missing Lynx</i> , Kim Baldwin & Xenia Alexiou <i>Spanking New</i> , Clifford Henderson (Victory Edition)	16	17	18	19	20
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