

Bold Strokes Books

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 5, ISSUE 5 DECEMBER 2009

BSB News Bites

The next exciting Bold Strokes Books event is "Fun in the Sun" at the 4th Annual BSB Palm Springs Lesbian Book Festival, scheduled for March 4-7. Activities include book readings by the pool, author chats, open house meet and greets, and other entertainment. Save a place on your calendar to join your favorite authors for a celebration of the books we love to read and write! More details

about the event schedule will be available in future newsletters or go to the BSB Web site from this [link](#) or see a promo at this [link](#) (from DogEar Audio).

All of us at Bold Strokes Books want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!



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Bold Strokes January 2010 Forthcoming

Bold Strokes Books Online Bookstore

Genre Fiction:

Ambereye, Gill McKnight,
ISBN: 978-1-60282-132-3, Price: \$16.95 (pg 3)

Mephisto Aria, Justine Saracen,
ISBN: 978-1-60282-139-2, Price: \$16.95

Genre Fiction:

Collision Course, C.P. Rowlands,
ISBN: 978-1-60282-133-0, Price: \$16.95 (pg 3)

Magic of the Heart, C.J. Harte,
ISBN: 978-1-60282-131-6, Price: \$16.95 (pg 2)

RESCUING HER HEART...

ISBN: 978-1-60282-139-2
Price: \$16.95; ePrice: \$12.95
Romance



At the height of her career, opera singer Katherina Marow is brought crashing down by her father's suicide. Among his effects, she finds his wartime journal and reads the heart-wrenching entries of a soldier in Russia and in war-torn Berlin. She learns the crimes and secrets her father harbored, but cannot condemn him, for while she discovers his demons, she is facing her own. The stage-world she lives in draws her into a lawless ecstatic realm, and she is tempted, as he was, by forces which could destroy her. Has she too made a devil's pact? And if so, will she pay for it, as her father did, with her life?

-Excerpt-
Katherina Marow staggered toward the parapet, hearing the men behind her, in close pursuit. Her knees ached from kneeling by the body, and her palms were perspiring where she clutched handfuls of her bulky skirt. She focused on the steps, the speckled gray-green of weathered stone, and watched each foot landing, fearing to stumble. Finally, she reached the crenellated wall. She stepped up on it, pausing a second to gather her courage, and turned her face to the light.

"Avanti à Dio!" she cried, and threw herself off the wall.

❖

She landed smartly on the perfectly placed cushion and two stagehands helped her to her feet. She thanked them with a nod, and stepped carefully around the set to join the singers for the curtain call. Finally it was her turn.

Katherina stepped out into the light and the Berlin audience erupted into ovation. Detached and enthralled, she gazed dreamily into the interior of the theater,

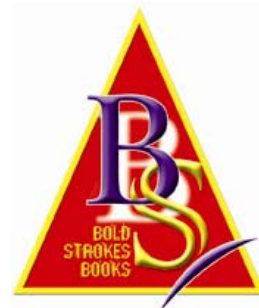
then glanced toward the patrons' box. One figure stood out. Gray-haired and debonair, he had an air of cold authority. Even his clapping was reserved. Exuberant applause from the dark mass above and below her drew her attention away from him. Flowers landed at her feet and she gathered them up, holding them overhead in both hands. Finally, euphoric, she bowed deeply and exited the stage.

To her surprise, the general manager waited in her dressing room, his expression somber.

"Is something wrong?"

"I'm sorry, Katherina." He handed her a folded telephone message and stepped back silently, his eyes averted. She read the brief message, understanding the words but not the meaning and she forced her eyes over the senseless paragraph a second time.

"The staff will of course keep the utmost discretion," the manager said gently. "I knew your father. Suicide was the last thing I would have expected."



NEW RELEASES eBooks & Print

Battle Scars, Meghan O'Brien

Chaps, Jove Belle

The Seeker, Ronica Black

Lightbearer, John Caruso

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





BEHIND THE WRITING: JOHN CARUSO



ISBN: 978-1602821309
 Price: \$17.95
 e-Price: \$12.95
 Release: December 2009
Liberty Edition

John Caruso is a writer and artist living in Vermont.

Lightbearer is his debut and is to be published this month.

What made you decide to become a fiction writer?

Reading stories as a child. It happened rather suddenly in the second half of fourth grade. It seemed like the material took a leap forward from somewhat childish, silly stories to more complex and satisfying ones. That year I'd also moved up to the top-level reading class and I had a homeroom teacher who read to us after recess in the afternoons—books that stayed with me, like *Charlotte's Web*. Things just came together that year and reading became important to me. The first author I read voraciously was William Penn Dubois. I became enthralled with *The Alligator Case* (which was in our fourth-grade reader), then I read everything of his my library had. After reading

The Three Policemen, I wrote my first short story. Of course, I didn't know the first thing about telling a story, but I knew that one day I would.

What type of stories do you write? And why?

I gravitate toward mythological subjects and magical worlds that are strongly grounded in realism. The author that most influenced me in this was Natalie Babbitt. *Goody Hall* recasts the Hercules legend at a small town manor (something I didn't realize until many years later), while most of her middle-grade novels involve more or less original myths and legends, all with deeper meanings embedded in the stories. *Tuck Everlasting* may be the greatest children's book ever written. I have been just as moved re-reading it as an adult as I was when I first read it at age thirteen. Her stories contain several elements that embody the whole joy of the reading experience for me: they are atmospheric and magical, inhabited by original and

memorable characters, suspenseful and emotionally cathartic, full of human wisdom, and each combines the unraveling of a mystery with that of a profound philosophical question. For me, myth is a powerful medium because it allows me to create metaphoric parallels between vastly different worlds of human experience. So instead of trying to make a novel externally complex through a multiplicity of plots, or including vast catalogs of esoteric knowledge that try to mimic the complexity of the modern world, I create internal complexity by finding a single fictional world that suggests by analogy a whole cluster of parallel experiences. It's kind of like finding a really rich motif in music out of which an entire symphony may grow.

To see the rest of John's interview and read an excerpt of his novel, go to his [bio page](#) from the following link:

www.BoldStrokesBooks.com/authors.html

OPPOSITE ATTRACTION...

Rock star Maggie "MJ" Carson has heard a thousand I-Love-You's. People always want something for nothing from her, and she long ago decided it was better to use than be used. On a plane trip from hell, she's seated next to an attractive woman and turns on her irresistible charm, expecting the usual weak-kneed compliance.

But financial executive Susan Hettinger doesn't know who her sexy fellow traveler is and loses all interest once she finds out. Still, there's heat between them that won't be easy to deny but can they resist the magic of the heart?

-Excerpt-

"I'm sorry if my children are bothering you."

When the mother spoke, Susan heard the tingling notes of a warm springtime melody. Sit-

ting across the aisle was an attractive brunette near her own age. It was when the woman looked up and smiled that Susan felt a rush of unexpected heat.

"They're not a problem," Susan said. "I think he just wants to play." Seeing the disappointed look on DJ's face, Susan said, "Look, why don't we trade seats for a while? It would be a lot more fun if they could play the game."

"Are you sure? That's very generous of you."

Once they were settled next to each other, the mother said, "My name is Margaret Carson-Baxter, but my friends call me Maggie."

Susan accepted the outstretched hand. Maggie's hand was surprisingly large and strong. Susan found her concentration slipping as her blood warmed turning into liquid honey. She stared up into beautiful, laughing

eyes. Suddenly she was having trouble remembering anything, much less what was being said. She stumbled over her own name. "Susan, uh, Susan, uh, Hettinger." She chastised herself for this sudden inability to start a conversation. *I must be tired.*

Maggie didn't seem to notice any awkwardness. "I usually get nonstop flights," she said, "but the next flight wasn't until ten. I wouldn't mind, but my kids would probably sleep part of the way and then be wound up once we landed." Maggie smiled. "Two kids going at a hundred twenty miles per hour at five in the morning is not healthy for mom or kids."

Susan laughed. "My office did the same thing, scheduling me on this flight." Susan found herself relaxing. "Your children are beautiful, like their mother." She sat back abruptly. "Oh, my God, I can't believe I said that."



ISBN: 978-1602821316
 Price: \$16.95
 e-Price: \$12.95
 Release: January 2010
Romance

A SECOND CHANCE...

Brie O'Malley, successful author and college professor, isn't sure if she believes in destiny in a universe where a random act of violence extinguished her happy-ever-after. The life she had, the woman she loved, the future she was planning for, were stolen from her the day she and her lover were shot. The only survivor, Brie has "recovered" two years later, at least that's how it seems to others. Yet she hasn't laughed since the tragedy. Until the day she meets...her.

-Excerpt-

Niki slowed the car and turned off the pavement onto the sandy beach. She navigated the red BMW convertible carefully around several dunes and rolled to a stop near the water. Brie adjusted the volume of the music while Niki stretched for the small bucket in the backseat.

Their laughter and the music drifted out over Lake Michigan.

"To us and life. Our life," Niki said and stood on the driver's seat. She held the steering wheel and handed Brie a glass. "This is the best day of my life. Happy Anniversary, Brie."

Brie looked up at Niki's small, lithe frame, backlit by the sun. Curly black hair almost touched the white T-shirt. Brie stood on the car seat as well and grabbed the windshield for balance. She held her glass to Niki's. The sound of crystal clinking blended into the music and they each drank, then leaned in for a long kiss.

Brie took a quick breath as Niki's fingers slipped inside her braless dress. Her breasts hardened against the touch. It had been like this from the first. "Niki! God, yes."

"Thirteen years, Brie. I've loved you from the moment I

first saw you." Niki moved her fingers lower.

Brie gasped. "Put the top up and the seats down, now."

Niki handed her the glass and jumped over the car door onto the sand. They grinned at each other in anticipation.

Brie eased back into the car seat and placed the glasses in the cup holders. "That noise? Is that the waves?" She said over her shoulder.

A dirt bike roared from behind a dune. The smell of hot exhaust flooded the air. Niki turned as a gunshot rang out and she fell. The next shots hit Brie. The sharp crack of the shattered windshield and her screams echoed together across the water. Seagulls, startled into flight, wheeled between Brie's eyes and the sun.



ISBN: 978-1602821330

Price: \$16.95

e-Price: \$12.95

Release: January 2010

Romance

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS HERE— ARE YOU READY?

BSB BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

...TO WOO A HUMAN.

The thing with the Garouls is you never get quite what you think you will. They really are something else.

Hope Glassy loves her job at Ambereye, Inc., despite having Jolie Garoul as her new boss.

An important meeting brings them to the valley where it's assumed Jolie has brought her chosen mate to meet her pack. Much to her consternation Jolie finds she likes this idea, but Hope has no time for romance. She is eager to get her life, health, and career back on track, nothing more. Jolie is determined to change her mind, but how does a lycanthrope woo a human? A small and super-efficient, bossy-boots human at that?

-Excerpt-

Jolie Garoul sat behind her desk, slashing open mail with the vicious enthusiasm of a cut-throat.

"Good morning, Ms. Garoul."

Eyes as black as midnight, and as soulless as a shark, looked back at her. With a quick flick they took her in from head to toe, assessed, judged, and rudely dismissed her, all in one uncomfortable instant. Hope flushed and struggled to hide her discomfort and annoyance.

Clearing her throat Hope said, "Is there anything I can do for you?"

"Huh?"

"Is there anything I can help you with?"

"Yeah. Who the hell are you?"

The question was cold and snipped, and came at her with all the personality of a bullet.

Hope stood frozen for a moment. *Never mind who I am, why am I even here talking to this Class A bitch?*

"I'm Hope Glassy. Your new PA?" *I've been with the company over seven years. Don't pretend you don't know me.*

"What?"

"Your new personal assistant—"

"I know what a PA is," Jolie snapped.

"Do you know what manners are?" Hope came back at her coldly. "If so, I suggest you use them."

She swung majestically on her heel to leave the office. Momentarily, she lost her depth perception and staggered, grabbing at the door frame. Steadied, she rose to her full five foot three inches, and as confidently as possible, considering she'd almost landed on her face, stalked to her desk. She slid into the uncomfortable seat and rested her head in her hands until her heart rate settled.

This is impossible. I can't do this. I can't blow my top every time she acts like an ass. She'd be in cardiac arrest before lunch.

She's drunk. Jolie sprang to her feet. *A drunk has just wandered into my office. Wonderful.*



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Paranormal Romance

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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.

DECEMBER 2009 BOLD STROKES EVENTS CALENDAR

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Go to www.BoldStrokesBooks.com/events.html for more info.						
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14 Book Releases: <i>Chaps</i> , Jove Belle <i>Battle Scars</i> , Meghan O'Brien <i>The Seeker</i> , Ronica Black <i>Lightbearer</i> , John Caruso (<i>Liberty Edition</i>)	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY 2010 BOLD STROKES EVENTS CALENDAR

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Book Releases: <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
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