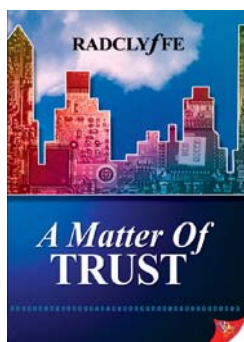


## Book Review: March 2006

by Cheri Rosenberg (reviewer at [MBR](#))



### **A Matter of Trust, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.**

**Radclyffe**

**ISBN: 1-933110-33-3**

**Trade paper, 216 pp, \$15.95**

**February, 2006**

**Lesbian Romance/Action**

**Bold Strokes Books, Inc.**

**[www.boldstrokesbooks.com](http://www.boldstrokesbooks.com)**

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*Editor-in-Chief*

The newly released second edition by Bold Strokes Books, *A Matter of Trust* is the prequel to Radclyffe's popular, award-winning "Justice" series. Vastly satisfying and totally engrossing, this intriguing novel explores the worldwind courtships of J. T. Sloan and Michael Lassiter and Jason McBride and Sarah Martin amidst an intricate plot.

Reputed as top in her field, J. T. Sloan is an extremely efficient, resourceful, and highly capable, competitive, and ruthless internet security specialist with a colorful past. "Rumors abounded, with speculation that she had been everything from a CIA agent deep undercover to a criminal engaged in nefarious underworld dealings" [p. 21]. Michael Lassiter, the founder of Innova Designs, hires the head of Sloan Security, along with her business partner and friend Jason McBride. Michael is about to divorce her husband and dissolve their business association. She hopes to secure her position, protect her vision, and needs someone like Sloan to help her do it. Sloan is an expert in corporate cases where security breaches are bound to happen.

Nothing excites the cyber sleuth more than to dig her teeth into corporate sabotage and get lost in her job - except for the lovely, charismatic woman behind Innova Designs. After suffering heartbreak and developing lack of trust issues, Sloan vows never to allow love into her life, preferring casual flings, until she meets Michael. Sloan fights hard to ignore her feelings but she falls in love with Michael, mind, body, and soul. There is no denying that the straight woman has strong feelings for her too, but as hard as Sloan tries, she cannot get Michael off her mind.

Who wouldn't fall in love with Sloan? When she says things like, "Now I am going to take you inside and let everyone wonder how I have somehow managed to get the most beautiful woman in the room to sit at my table" [p. 89], there isn't a woman on earth who doesn't long to hear someone feel that way about them. On the other hand, Michael has a company to save and a husband to divorce. "The last thing she needed was a sexual identity crisis and an involvement with a woman who obviously didn't care to be involved with anyone" [p. 107].

From explaining the first kiss, "...every cell in her body tingling..." [p. 116], the first embrace, "...when that first brief flash of golden heat suddenly makes you feel alive...and you realize that until that moment, you had merely existed" [p. 116], to the ultimate surrender of love, Radclyffe has written the perfect romance. With fascinating, loveable characters, you just want to be with them, feel what they feel, and have what they have because Radclyffe is adroit at fleshing out her characters yet leaving just enough to the readers imagination. The depth of Michael and Sloan's characters is what makes *A Matter of Trust* so powerful, absorbing, intimate, and vital that I find myself feeling every emotion with them. You can't help but root for Michael to beat her husband at his own game and keep what is rightfully hers. Will Sloan be able to help her save her company? And more importantly, will Sloan and Michael be able to give each other what they are both sorely lacking in their lives namely love?

*A Matter of Trust* is one of those books that you will want to read many times and won't be able to put down. It can be read at any point since it is the "back story" of one of the couples of the ongoing "Justice series," or as a stand-alone novel. Trust me when I say that you will want to read all five books in the series and at the same time hope that Radclyffe continues to delight her fans with this series for many years to come. Uplifting, romantic, sexy, inspiring, and enjoyable are just some of the adjectives I would use to describe this five star novel. You are in for a treat when you read *A Matter of Trust*. Don't miss it.

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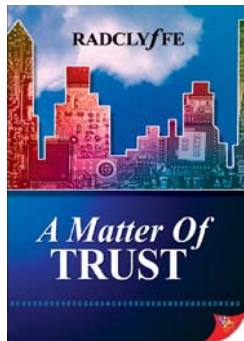


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**Book Review: April 2006**  
by Kathi Isserman (reviewer at JAW)



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**Just About Write**

Web site:  
[www.justaboutwrite.com](http://www.justaboutwrite.com)

**Nann Dunne**  
*Editor-in-Chief  
& Publisher*

*A Matter of Trust* by Radclyffe has been re-released as a 2nd edition, and it was just as much fun reading it the second time as it was the first. True to her style, Radclyffe has written a sexy, powerful love story filled with angst, discovery and passion. Quite simply, she seduces the reader with her prose, only freeing us after we have read the final pages.

*A Matter of Trust*, now the prequel to the Justice Series, was originally written as a stand alone romance. The story's main characters eventually become critical players in the series, but in this book, we are first introduced to Michael Lassiter and JT Sloan. Michael hires Sloan, an expert cyber sleuth, to protect her company from her ruthless husband, but their relationship, which is tentative at first, develops into something much more than a business affair.

While both Michael and Sloan have been involved with others before, they are empty inside and in their own way, feel unworthy of a deep all-encompassing love. Their journey to get to this new kind of love is what makes Radclyffe's romances so rewarding to her readers. She is the master at spinning romances where the characters discover a truly passionate and fulfilling love for the first time. Along the way, we experience everything that the characters feel. Radclyffe's words build anticipation and give us release. She captures the uncertainty of first love and its discovery as the plot deftly differentiates between love and sex.

Even if you have read *A Matter of Trust* before, it is well worth a reread. And if you have not, this book is a must for all those who enjoy getting swept away with a tender and sizzling romance.

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