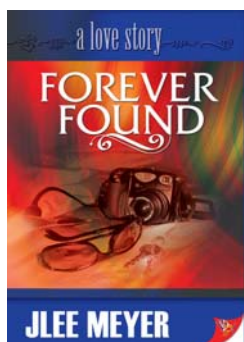


Book Review: June 2006

by Kathi Isserman (reviewer at [JAW](#))



Forever Found

Jlee Meyer

ISBN: 1-933110-37-6

Trade paper, 264 pp, \$15.95

April, 2006

Lesbian Fiction/Romance

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

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Nann Dunne

Editor-in-Chief

& Publisher

JLee Meyer is a first time author with a first rate romance. *Forever Found* is thoughtful, heartfelt and outstanding.

Dana Ryan and Keri Flemons are best friends as children until Dana's father picks up the family and moves without warning. Neither child knows why they cannot see each other anymore, leaving unresolved feelings for them. Twenty years later Dana's career is abruptly ended after a tragic car accident kills her father and leaves her with a damaged and scarred leg. The driver is the very wealthy Keri Flemons who believes that money can resolve the situation. Dana, thoroughly disgusted at her former friend, storms out of the settlement talks. Fast forward to three years later when Keri needs an expert photographer, and Dana wants the opportunity to advance her new career. They reluctantly forge a business alliance, agreeing to an uneasy truce.

What impressed me most from this new author was the timing in *Forever Found*. Everything falls into place at just the right pace. She does not drop in subplots as after thoughts. Meyer introduces the reader to the past connection, then describes the defining event, and then takes us to the present day. The path is clear, concise and draws the reader completely into the plot. We immediately want to know what is going to happen next, and we are thoroughly invested in these characters.

Forever Found builds on strong characterization and explores the dynamics of all of the characters' interactions. Through past actions and the exposing of deeply rooted emotions, we learn why Keri and Dana are at odds. Their lost childhood love is laid out succinctly for the reader. When Dana and Keri see each other for the first time in 20 years at the settlement talks, Dana remembers a very different Keri than the one sitting next to her. Now Keri is an unlikable woman who is spoiled, rich and self-centered. As the story moves forward, we are treated to subtle changes. After Keri's father dies suddenly, she takes over the family business where she is forced to deal with some difficult employees. She slowly grows into a more mature woman because of this. With the day to day working relationship, Dana and Keri's buried past emerges with pent up feelings of regret, anger and sadness. The discovery of these feelings happens at different times for the two women, which causes some strife and angst and keeps the tension flowing for the reader.

Meyer adds depth to Keri and Dana's story by developing solid secondary characters. With the unsavory Thomas Concannon, Keri's inherited right hand man, Meyer includes another dimension to the story that provides us with some powerful action scenes. The reader ascertains that he is evil and underhanded, but the author plays out his role brilliantly, building the suspense through most of the book. Meyer deftly peels back the layers of scars between Keri and her estranged mother, Carolyn, thus carrying the theme of physical and emotional scarring throughout the book.

Forever Found succeeds in giving the reader a thoroughly enjoyable romance filled with tension and longing from the first pages. I highly recommend this first effort from this talented new author.

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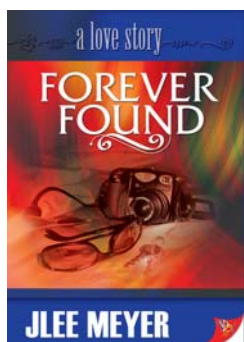
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by R. Lynne Watson (reviewer at MegaScene Magazine)



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Forever Found is JLee Meyer's first novel, and is a complex love story and mystery. Set in San Francisco, it brings together two childhood friends, Dana Ryan and Keri Flemons. Separated from each other at an early age, Dana and Keri have lived very different lives. Dana grew up to become a professional soccer player and photographer. Keri lived the life of a rich, spoiled princess until the sudden death of her father. She then, as a major stockholder, took control of a professional football team.

Keri has been changed by her father's death. The spoiled princess died with him, and a grown, mature woman took her place. Keri learned many management skills from her father, but she still faced sexism from men involved with professional football. Hoping that another woman in the room would help, Keri hired Dana to photograph her meetings. She explained Dana's presence by telling people Dana was going to write a book about her first year managing the team.

As Dana and Keri try to find their footing with each other, ominous events happen in the office building. Dana's office is trashed and her cameras stolen. Keri is attacked in the parking garage. The west coast branch of the Mob seems to be involved. As Dana and Keri try to solve the mystery surrounding the team, their long dormant love for each other emerges.

Forever Found is an enjoyable read. It neatly combines hot sex scenes, humor, engaging characters, and an exciting story. Look for this good novel at your favorite gay and lesbian bookstore.

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