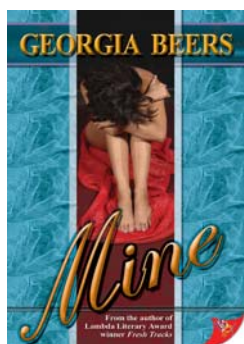


## Book Review: December 2007

by Cheri Rosenberg (reviewer at JAW)



### **Mine**

**Georgia Beers**

**ISBN: 978-1-933110-95-0**

**Trade paper, 232, \$15.95**

**November 2007**

**Lesbian Romance**

**Bold Strokes Books, Inc.**

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

### **Just About Write**

Web site:

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

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

From the eye-catching cover, appropriately named title, to the last word, Georgia Beers' *Mine* is captivating, thought-provoking, and satisfying. Like a deep red, smooth-tasting, and expensive merlot, *Mine* goes down easy even though Beers explores tough topics. There's no question that losing the love of your life is a difficult journey...

...Beers weaves her romance around these issues [bereavement] by creating the character Courtney McAllister, who learns firsthand that widowhood is hard and unfair and that grieving goes through many phases. Initially she is trapped in the past and paralyzed with her dead wife's memory, but she struggles toward healing. *Mine* explores Courtney's hopes and fears in rich detail. It is cathartic to go through the process with her because, even if you have never experienced it, you can empathize with the pain and suffering of those left behind.

Beers balances this rather untraditional subject matter for a romance with the more familiar theme that life does go on. While selling her dream home, Courtney meets the ice queen realtor Rachel Hart, "Million Dollar Producer." Rachel is a control freak and a savvy businesswoman. In order to sustain her perfectly ordered life, she is meticulous in every way. Keeping up appearances and maintaining her distance let her avoid dealing with raw emotions or hurt feelings about her past. Both women have a lot of baggage, and it is instructive to watch as they empty their suitcases one item at a time.

The novel ends happily, as all romances do, but Beers' exploration of the grieving process adds a depth that is unusual in this genre. I enjoyed the witty dialogue...

...The strong supporting cast and spot-on characterizations further enhance the story. Courtney's best friend, Amelia, is smart and sassy and essentially helps her friend to live again. Mark, Theresa's brother, is Courtney's rock and vice versa because they share the loss but gain strength from each other. Even Lisa from the bereavement group has a place in this novel where secondary and tertiary characters count but don't overshadow the main characters. Rachel has Jeff to help her discover what she already knows. Beers throws in a couple of surprises to keep you on your toes and is clever at exploring more than one type of healing.

This is more than simply a feel-good romance; it's a romance with substance. Georgia Beers won the 2006 Lambda Literary Foundation Award for Lesbian Romance and the 2007 Golden Crown Literary Society Award for *Fresh Tracks*. In this novel, you will make *Mine* yours and achieve a better understanding of the issues, emotional turmoil, and inner conflicts that a young widow faces. You will also be enriched because you did.

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## Book Review: February 2008

by R Lynne (reviewer at JAW)



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*Mine* delicately and beautifully explores the emotional trauma which occurs when a widow or widower begins a new relationship. Courtney McAllister, a teacher in her mid-thirties, lost her partner in a car accident. Lisa Whitney is also in her mid-thirties, and has lost her fiancé. The two women meet and bond in a bereavement group. Although they are, by far, the youngest members in the group, Courtney and Lisa soon discover that everyone is going through the same feelings of loss, guilt, and hope.

For Courtney, hope comes in the form of Rachel Hart, "Million Dollar Producer." Rachel is the realtor Courtney hires to sell her house. For Lisa, hope comes in the form of Mark, Courtney's good friend and the brother of her dead partner. The couples begin dating and the delicate beginnings of trust are formed. For both Rachel and Mark, the beginnings are filled with quicksand as they try to avoid inadvertently making a blunder. Courtney and Lisa each tiptoe toward intimacy while trying to not feel unfaithful to their dead partners.

Beers handles the emotions beautifully, with humor and a light hand. Rachel has a wonderfully grounded straight guy-friend, who is an outstanding cook and listener. Courtney has her long-time friend, Amelia, who can hang wallpaper as easily as she can give Courtney a needed push. Courtney, a high school teacher, manages to balance teenage hormones and cell phones with equal ease. With her setting in upstate New York, Beers includes the seasons and how they affect her characters, as well as giving her readers a feel for her home. *Mine* is a novel that will stay with its readers long after the final chapter is read.

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