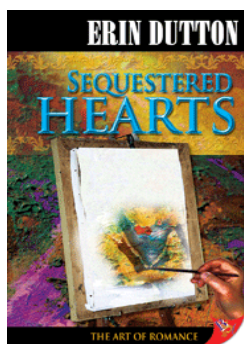


## Book Review: August 2007

by RLYnne (reviewer at JAW)



### **Sequestered Hearts**

**Erin Dutton**  
**ISBN: 978-1-933110-78-3**  
**Trade paper, 216, \$15.95**  
**May 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*

*Sequestered Hearts* is the story of artist Cori Saxton and journalist Bennett McClain. Bennett has been given the assignment of interviewing Cori Saxton at her home in upstate New York. Her goal is to find out why the very public socialite artist has gone into seclusion. Bennett expects her assignment to be a piece of fluff about a spoiled heiress. What she find instead is an extremely attractive and charming subject. Bennett, who is quite down to earth, is shaken by how appealing Cori is.

Cori is trying to find a way to live with a difficult diagnosis. She has agreed to be interviewed by Bennett as a way to quiet the gossip columnists. She has no idea how much she's going to enjoy Bennett's company.

*Sequestered Hearts* tells of two very private women dealing with the magnetic attraction between them. It is the story of the difficult dance between them, and how each is able to resolve her individual issues and find happiness. Cori and Bennett are likeable, well developed characters and their story will keep the reader turning the pages to see how it all works out.

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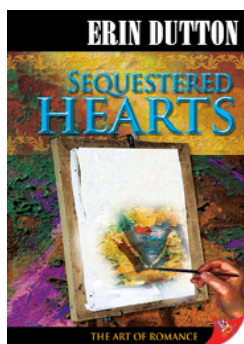
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## Book Review: August 2007

by Kathi Isserman (reviewer at [JAW](#) & [L-Word.com Literature](#))



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& Publisher*

*Sequestered Hearts* by first time novelist, Erin Dutton, is everything a romance should be. It is teeming with longing, heartbreak, and of course, love. I have reread this book twice, and as pure romances go, it is one of the best in print today.

With rich and lush descriptions of upstate New York, Dutton takes the reader on the journey of successful artist Cori Saxton and journalist Bennett McClain. Cori has become a recluse in her beautiful “hideaway” far from the city she calls her playground. Ben reluctantly agrees to conduct an exclusive interview which may save her employer’s magazine. Her task is to find out why Cori suddenly dropped out of the social scene in Manhattan. It is evident, as we become drawn into the story, that Cori is hiding something from Ben as well as the reader.

Dutton immediately captures our attention by giving Cori a secret that she does not want to share. She drops clues in the first pages, but smartly divulges the truth early in the book that Cori has Multiple Sclerosis. This progressive disease turns into a major subplot thus giving more power to the love story.

*Sequestered Hearts* is packed with raw emotion, but filled with tender moments too. The author writes with sophistication that one would expect from a veteran author. She builds anticipation and demonstrates Ben’s and Cori’s obvious attraction at the beginning of the novel, but we also see the antagonism and frustration these two characters experience with each other. Ben leaves Cori after she gets the interview with every intention of walking away from this enigmatic woman, and that is what Cori wants, too, or so we are led to believe.

To this reviewer, a romance is about more than just plot and character development. It’s about passion, physical intimacy, and connection between the characters. The reader should have a visceral reaction to what is going on within the pages for the novel to succeed. Dutton’s words match perfectly with the emotion she has created. Every encounter oozes with Ben’s and Cori’s hunger for each other. *Sequestered Hearts* is one book that cannot be overlooked. It is romance at its finest.

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