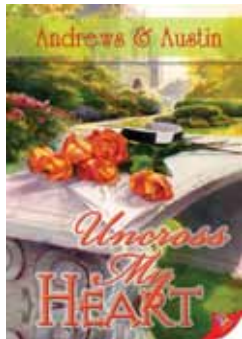


Book Review: March 2009

by Richard Labonte (reviewer at [BookMarks](#))



Uncross My Heart

Andrews & Austin

ISBN: 978-1-60282-045-5

Trade paper, 240 pp, \$15.95

January, 2009

Lesbian Romance

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

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Richard Labonte

The timely topic of contemporary scriptural strictures against the reality of same-sex love gets an informed airing in this engaging story about the passion between two women, one leery of falling in love because of her faith, the other wary of that very same faith. Alexandra Westbrooke is one-time radical who has opted for a more sedate life as a seminarian. But her apparent serenity is unsettled when she's asked by her college chancellor to use both her sharp intellect and her calm demeanor to deal with media attacks from hardnosed agnostic journalist Vivienne Wilde, who has an ax to grind with the religious world. Spirited philosophical and theological spats over dinner are soon followed by equally spirited sexual encounters in bed, as the two women reconcile abstract belief and antagonistic attitude with their long-suppressed physical and emotional needs. Andrews & Austin weave religion and romance together in a story that tackles a serious issue with bracing humor, and that balances provocative thought with sensual entertainment.

Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-'70s.

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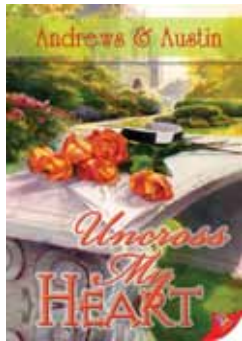
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Nann Dunne

Editor-in-Chief

& Publisher

Austin & Andrews never, never disappoint their fans. Their wit and intelligence sing from the pages, while they tell a story which grips their readers. *Uncross My Heart* is a far cry from a typical "formula" romance.

Alexandra Westbrooke is an Episcopalian priest who teaches at Claridge Seminary. A graduate of U. C. Berkeley, and former campus radical, Alex has come to an uneasy truce with the chancellor of the seminary and her own inner voices.

Vivienne Wilde is a radio talk show host, columnist and author who has written and said scathing comments about the seminary. They meet when Alex is ordered by her chancellor to persuade Vivienne to "cease and desist."

Austin & Andrews's novel is extremely timely as our nation grapples with the role of religion in politics and in the voting booth. Alex must confront her own beliefs while she tries to explain them to her students, her father, and the chancellor. While religion plays a major role in this story, the plot is driven by two bright, attractive, and successful women. The dialogue between these women is delightful. *Uncross My Heart* is a wonderful read.

As an added gift, Andrews & Austin have provided a "Postscript" which shows how the characters in the Richfield & Rivers series, the *Mistress of the Runes*, and *Uncross My Heart* are connected through the archetypes and issues presented. Their explanation is fascinating and adds to the depths of the stories.

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