



Writer's Block

A CINDY BAUER BOOKS NEWSLETTER



Author Cindy Bauer

www.cindybauerbooks.com

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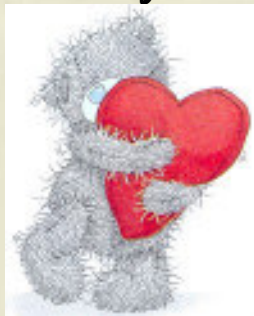
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**Happy Valentine's
Day**



January 2008 In Review

January has been an exciting month for me. It's been chilly here in Missouri, but so far I seem to have surpassed the odds of catching a cold, the flu or shoveling snow. Notice I said so far!

My nephew is still winding his way on foot through the sometimes relentless terrain of Patagonia. Sis is on her way there now though, so he'll get a slight reprieve; a warm bed, food and company. She deserved a vacation and thought "South America? Okay, why not?" Interesting travel adventure for sure. I can't wait to see more pictures! Except for a few minor incidents and sore feet, nephew seems to be doing great. Ah, to be young again, eh?

I have another contest running again this year. This time I will be giving away one book every 3 months beginning on March 25th, so don't forget to stop by my website and enter.

I received another wonderful review of my second novel, *Shades of Blue*, from new children's author, Alice

Grant. Mission accomplished. Though not mentioned in the synopsis, *Shades of Blue* focuses on domestic violence. It was released on October 22, 2007 and since October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month, the timing was perfect.

I've also had the opportunity to review a new children's book while still in manuscript format. See both of these reviews on pages 3 & 5.

I was also invited and accepted the invitation to review for *Bookpleasures.com*. I'm happy to be on board! So if you have a new book out and would like an unbiased review, visit *Bookpleasures* and request one today!

I'm steadily working on the final installment in my *Inspirational Trilogy*, *Crystal Clear*, and hope to have it completed and ready for my published by early spring this year. Wish me luck! Then it's on with the mysteries!

God bless!
Cindy

AUTHOR SHOWCASE SPOTLIGHT



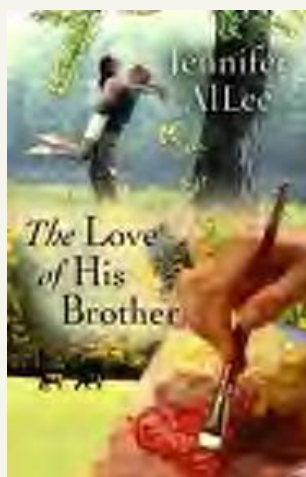
Jennifer AlLee

www.jenniferallee.com

*Romantic Fiction for
the Heart and Soul*

In college, I had a creative writing professor that gave me a lot of encouragement. On one of my papers, he wrote, "There is no reason why you should not publish, and publish often."

Wow, coming from him, a published author himself, this was high praise. Over the years, I've sold a few short stories, and have contributed to lots of projects for Concordia Publishing House (devotions, Sunday School curriculum, and skits). With the release of my first book, I'm moving a little closer to his prediction that I will publish "often."



The Love of His Brother
Five Star
November '07

ISBN 13: 978-1-59414-609-1
ISBN 10: 1-59414-609-8

After the devastating loss of her husband, Cliff, in a small plane accident, Whitney Poulten faces the future head-on. Rather than curl up in a corner, she decides to focus on what's still good in her life. She knows that her family and her faith will get her through any trials that might come her way. But she never expected *him* to come back... After leaving home years earlier without even a proper goodbye to his family, Doug Poulten was considered something of a black sheep. But now he's returned, determined to make

things right with his family. When he learns that his brother is dead, his attention turns to taking care of his sister-in-law, Whitney. The last thing he expects is for brotherly love to turn into something much more intense.

The Love of His Brother is a modern-day romance full of humor and real emotions. Readers will be inspired by the deep faith of the characters and how, even though life isn't always perfect, love almost always conquers all.

Available from:

[Amazon](#)

[Barnes & Noble](#)

Excerpt

"You're right," she agreed. "The end of love is the hardest thing imaginable."

A kind of pall came over Doug and he passed his hand quickly across his face. "I'm so sorry, Whit. I can be so incredibly stupid sometimes."

Whitney shook her

head in confusion. “What are you talking about?”

“Here I am going on and on, talking about first loves and love ending, and it didn’t even hit me until just now. The last thing in the world I want to do is hurt you, but it seems like I keep on doing it.”

And then she realized why he was so upset. He thought Cliff had been her first love. Whitney could feel the heat rushing to her cheeks and knew she must be turning an unbecoming shade of red. She wanted to reassure him, but how could she tell him the truth; that he had been her first love?

Doug, it’s okay. Really.”

“No,” he insisted. “I’ve got to learn to think before I open my big mouth. I—”

“Doug!” She reached out to grab his hand as it fiddled self-consciously with the silverware. “Doug, it’s really okay. Cliff wasn’t my first love.”

The silence that fell at their table seemed to extend to the entire restaurant. Doug dropped the fork and looked sheepishly at Whitney.

“He wasn’t?”

“No,” she answered with a gentle smile. “He was my true love, but he wasn’t the first.”

“Oh.”

Their eyes locked for one uncomfortable moment and then they looked away, glancing down and realizing simultaneously that what Whitney had meant as a gesture to silence Doug had digressed from its original purpose. Somehow, their fingers had intertwined and locked into something more intimate.

Next month’s Author Showcase Spotlight will be author Jayne Dough

.....
• Children’s Author, Sami
• Cowsert, is having a
• contest right now. All
• you have to do is visit
• her website & sign her
• guestbook to be eligible
• to win a copy of
• both her books!
• tammiandherdragon.com
•

**Review of
House
Incorporated by
Jessie L. Best**

House Incorporated by J.L. Best was one of the most delightful children’s books I’ve ever had the opportunity to read. Written well with animated storylines, a house and its contents actually come to life for the reader.

Ms. Best has demonstrated her ability of storytelling and the unique storyline in this book will capture the children’s attention, holding them in suspense, as House rids itself of unwanted guests until an artist named Sal comes along.

Sure to entertain young children of all ages, I could envision everything as it took place, bringing the story to life for me as well. You won’t want to miss this one!

I give it 4 1/2 stars!

Cindy Bauer, author of *Chasing Memories & Shades of Blue*

AUTHOR INTERVIEW SPOTLIGHT

Meloni Cassidy

www.myspace.com/melonicassidy



YOU DESERVE A STAND-UP OVATION!

CB: On your website, you say you were chosen as “Sensual Romance Author.....2006 Paranormal Romance Pearl Award BEST DEBUT (NEW) AUTHOR Nominee”. Tell us about that nomination and how it came about.

MC: I was online one day and an author friend told me we were both nominated in this category. There were an awful lot of names to vote on. I didn't win, of course, but it was a pleasant surprise nonetheless.

CB: You're a history buff. So how is it you wrote a paranormal romance novel?

MC: It is a time travel romance partly born of a wish to travel back in time and see how people lived over a hundred years ago. Life may have been more difficult back then, but it was also simpler. I think people cared more about one another than they do now. Writing a story about such an adventure is about the closest way actually to experience it. Finding the man of your dreams while time traveling? An added bonus.

CB: What authors or books have inspired you?

MC: There are so many. I have had my nose stuck in a book for as long as I remember. I'd say Laura Ingalls Wilder inspired me the most. She had such a vivid imagination for detail even after many years had passed. She brought the pioneer era to life for millions of little girls worldwide. I also enjoy John Jakes, Julie Ellis, Karen Michelle Nutt, Thea Devine, Ron Kruger (a must read for anyone needing some spiritual guidance), and many more.

CB: Is writing a hobby or a career move for you?

MC: Right now, unfortunately, it is more of a hobby. I am a full time mom and I want to be there for my children all I can before they grow to adulthood and move on. So this time is special to me to do for them and put my things on hold for just a little while. I do have hopes later on of my hobby evolving into something more. I do enjoy writing stories of true love.

CB: Do you plan to ever follow-up on your dream of becoming a historian?

MC: It would be nice to say yes to this question, but I doubt if this will happen. The death of my historian mentor/friend in 1989 and life in general has taken me in a different direction. But it is nice to think about sometimes. Researching and touching things that have been handled by people now long dead in some dusty museum would be a dream come true.

You did it again! Yet another heart rocking story.

I wept for Susan. I wept for her accepting Tom's abuse because she was dependent upon him for her basic living. I wept for her because she was initially blinded by the strong love she carried for him. I wept for her for not making any of the household's financial decisions/being unaware of what was going on. I wept for her for covering up for him. I wept for her for choosing not to confide in her busy traveling parents. And, sadly of all, I wept for Susan because she lost herself in him. In a matter of years, she transformed from a strong, independent, goal-oriented young woman into a reduced form of what he was more comfortable with — someone he could control, manipulate and dangle like a Muppet and always be there at his every beck and call.

I feel like God gives us whispers. But, it is up to us to adhere to them. The beginning chapters provided hints to Tom's "true colors." By the seventh chapter, it was apparent that he would have
(continued on page five)

CB: What steps are you taking in promoting your book?

MC: When my book was first released, I was gung ho about trying to get the word out there, but I'm just one person. I have encountered many obstacles in my promoting efforts. Currently my only promotion includes business cards, word of mouth, and online networking. Ironically, Sales are somewhat better now than they were when I was trying to promote.

CB: What obstacles have you encountered while promoting your book and how did you overcome them?

MC: Due to the publisher's low discounts and non-return policies, I found myself unable to use bookstores as an outlet for sales, unless I bought them myself and placed them on consignment. This is death to mass marketing my book. It will not happen without a publisher who wants to do these things for its authors. This obstacle in itself woke me to reality fairly quick, and I feel it is not one I will overcome. I have neither the money nor the resources to mass market a book alone. I will carefully research for another publisher when my next submission is ready.

CB: Did you submit to more than one publisher before your work was accepted, if so, how many times was it rejected, and why?

MC: I submitted to a few publishers, not too many. One publisher had it two years before rejecting it. That rejection was a pretty difficult pill to swallow. The reason for my manuscript rejection was because I did not take the time to edit and polish it adequately before submission. Live and learn!

CB: Who is Andre and why do you want him on your next cover?

MC: Andre Birleanu is the Russian hunk from the reality series "America's Most Smartest Model". He cast his Soviet spell on my daughter and I as we tuned into the show each week. He was rather rude and vocal, but he was the only one who stood up for what was right when another contestant lowered himself to devious schemes to go on and win the competition. Andre isn't as handsome as others you may see on various romance covers. There is, however, a certain charm and sex appeal he exudes which made me plaster him on my Myspace page and keep in mind for a future cover. Andre is the type that you just hate to love.

CB: Which do you prefer to read, Romance or History?

MC: I love both genres. I mostly read historical romance, but every once in awhile I just like a good historical family saga. I have just ordered the "Swan" series by Celeste De Blasis. It was published more than twenty years ago and I am just now running across it. I look forward to reading it. I love romance and history. I can't choose just one.

CB: What are your plans for your next novel, i.e.: genre, plot, characters, storyline, etc. and why?

MC: I have already begun my next novel. It is another time travel romance. It involves Allyanna Beaumont, a high and mighty lawyer who finds herself lost

(continued on page six)

✓ **Review of Shades of Blue.....**

(continued from page four)

"hidden secrets." Susan heard the whispers - she saw the signs. But, she loved him. She refused to believe he was capable of the things he was doing. Initially, she wanted so desperately a perfect marriage at whatever the cost. And that cost could have cost her, her life. The statistics are overwhelming with women in this exact situation. Many do not have a friend like Susan had in Laura. Many have absolutely no place to go with their children. Domestic abuse is never acceptable whether the man hit the woman once or hundreds of times. It's never to be tolerated.

Any woman that picks up Shades of Blue to read, will perhaps find something in it she can relate to, whether she's in an abusive relationship/marriage or not. For the woman who IS being verbally, physically or emotionally abused, create a "mental slideshow" viewing your marriage in its entirety, survey the pros and cons, and use this book as a guide to inspire you to make what's best for you and your children. Susan did it.

This was not your typical, PREDICTABLE kind of story. I can't wait for the last in the trilogy, Crystal Clear. Bravo, Bravo!! (You deserve a stand-up ovation.) This could very well convince that woman who has been thinking about leaving, to leave.

(continued on page six)

✓**Meloni Cassidy**.....
(continued from page five)

and stranded in 1880 Kentucky. Cord Layton raises fine horseflesh, but is a little slower than the average Alpha hero. He struggles to realize the strength and love he carries within when he tries to tame the alluring twenty first century attorney who, when she speaks, makes no sense at all.

I am also working on a few new short stories that will be historical erotica. I am somewhat shy about writing the latter, but found I enjoyed writing the steamy scenes in Everlasting Journey, so I thought I might try out this genre.

CB: As a mother, have you considered writing for children? And if not, why?

MC: People have asked me this before, but I don't think writing children's stories is my thing. My mind is so wrapped up in love and romance that it would be very difficult for me to get my muse down to that level for children. It really doesn't interest me to write children's fiction, although I have heard there is some great money in it.

CB: Any tips you would like to recommend to aspiring authors who are yet unpublished?

MC: Write what you like and write what you feel. Write something that you are familiar with and have read a lot. Don't listen to the little niggling voices in your mind trying to take you down. Just write! Don't be afraid to put a part of yourself in the story and let your emotions flow onto the screen. Now is not the time to be shy and hold yourself back. I fix minor flaws as I go through, but don't worry about the big things as I write. It will stunt your muse. There will be plenty of time later for edits. Do not ignore basic grammar rules and sentence construction. Just because you think your story is the next bestseller, without good writing, no publisher worth its salt will accept it. I do not mean to sound harsh, but if I can save you some grief down the road, I will.

When the story has been written and edited until you are sick of it, here are some further words of advice: RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH, and more research!

Visit author websites, message boards, publisher websites and see how their books are selling and for how much. Don't be afraid to ask other authors how their experiences with those pubs have worked out. Some say get an agent and some do not. I believe most novels sell better with agent representation. Joining a writer's group is also a great idea for support, critiques, and encouragement.

Stay away, I repeat, stay away from places (online and in the real world) that do not let you speak honestly about your writing and/or publishing experiences. There are good and bad aspects to this whole writing deal and you should not have to put up with rudeness or bad behavior directed toward you for asking honest and legitimate questions. If you experience this, get away as fast as you can.

I have found myspace.com and Absolute Write.com to be invaluable resources for my writing.

✓**Review of Shades of Blue**.....
(continued from page five)

Alice Grant - Author of "Dear Mr. President, Please Send My Daddy Home"

Shades of Blue is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble, ISBN # 1-60441-359-X

Signed copies also available from the author by emailing cindybauerbooks@yahoo.com.

AUTHOR RESOURCES

I've run across a few new sites this past month that you might be interested in if you haven't already found them yourself.

The first would be Goodreads. It's a networking community where you can not only promote your books, but can also communicate with readers, join groups and more.

It's a bit tricky at first getting set up though. You complete a profile page, but can also set up an author page and be promoted within the site. Once you complete the author profile, it takes them a few days to confirm you are an author and make that information accessible to the general public.

Once you've joined, don't forget to install a widget on your website or blog.

The next site would be Shelfari.com. It's also a networking community where you can display your books and communicate with readers.
(continued on page seven)

Be prepared to face much rejection and hardship. Knowing now what I didn't know at the beginning of my writing journey, I might have made different choices. Your research and query letters are of the utmost importance when submitting your work. Be sure to submit to those who accept the genre you have written. Research your publishers carefully. Don't overlook smaller presses to get you started. Stay away from those who do nothing whatsoever to market and promote your book if accepted. Most publishers do depend on an author somewhat to help, but they shouldn't expect you to do it all. You, as a writer, should be writing. When submitting your clean copy, be sure to follow submission guidelines to the letter.

And finally, I'd like to thank Cindy for giving me this opportunity to share my book, my thoughts, and my learned lessons. If it can help enrich another's life in some small way, then I am glad for it. =)

Meloni Cassidy~ Author of "Everlasting Journey"

A time travel romance

Myspace?

Friend me @<http://www.myspace.com/meloniccassidy>

You can also find me at Paranormal Romance. org

<http://www.paranormalromance.org/reviews/review.php?id=23038>

<http://www.freewebs.com/afinerosesheis>



Everlasting Journey
Time Travel Romance

Surrounding the destiny of the RMS *Titanic*, and the terror of September 11th. One man has forgotten how to love. Only one woman can help him remember...

As quiet as a hummingbird's breath, a special miracle has taken place. Only a chosen few are fortunate enough to experience such an extraordinary phenomenon.

One of them is Layna Bennett, a woman facing the difficulties of modern day society, divorce, and despair

embarks on the journey of a lifetime.

Another is Trey Margeaut, a Southern gentleman who was wounded in the Civil War. He is a man who loves unconditionally and completely, and sees no barriers - color or otherwise - in those he loves.

Except for Layna Bennett...

Trey harbors a true and well-deserved hatred for the woman who destroyed his life and devastated his soul. The war may have crippled him physically, but Layna crippled him spiritually.

Or did she??

As events unfold and spiral entirely out of control, the fine line that divides love and hatred begins to unravel beyond redemption.

If time truly heals all wounds, can their shattered

hearts be mended by breaking the very barriers of time.

✓**Author Resources**.....

(continued from page six)

ers. This site will not have an authors only page design but it does have an easy to install widget you can use on your website and/or blog.

If you haven't yet, check out google alert. This is a free service from google. Just enter google alert into your browser and read the information about this service from google.

Another one you may be interested in is a free thesaurus software, a must in every writer's world. It gives definitions, synonyms and antonyms at the click of an icon. You can find it by googling WordWeb. There is a free edition and one you pay for. It's a downloadable software but also available to use online. The software costs \$39.95. The link to it is <http://www.visualthesaurus.com/>

Also, I've added some new features to my site recently. Click on "For My Friends" and you will find a link to an electronic bible and some recipes! So those of you who need to reference the bible or who love to cook, check it out!

For those of you with children, be on the lookout for a new book coming out soon, by Children's author, Alice Grant. Visit <http://www.freewebs.com/alicegrant/> today to read all about it!

Delia Latham's Upcoming Blog Tour Schedule (subject to changes & updates!)

1. Feb. 1 – Cecelia Dowdy - www.ceceliadowdy.blogspot.com
2. Feb. 2 – Diane Wylie - www.dianewylie.blogspot.com
3. Feb. 4 – Tyora Moody – <http://www.faithwebbin.net/share/authors>
4. Feb. 5 – Jill Elizabeth Nelson - www.jillelizabethnelson.com/artisticblogger.shtml
5. Feb. 7 – Toni V. Lee - www.tonivlee.blogspot.com
6. Feb. 11 – Joe Prentis – www.PrentisAtPickwick.blogspot.com
7. Feb. 13 – Grace Bridges – www.gracebridges.blogspot.com
8. Feb. 14 – Teresa Slack - www.teresaslack.blogspot.com
9. Feb. 15 – Angela Wilson - www.WickedWordsmith.com
10. Feb. 18 – Suzanne Woods Fisher – www.suzannewoodsfisher.blogspot.com
11. Feb. 20 – Cindy Bauer – www.cindybauer.blogspot.com
12. Feb. 21 – Cindy Bauer – www.cindybauer.blogspot.com
13. Feb. 24 – Shelagh Watkins –
http://uk.blog.360.yahoo.com/blog-YBhTm88ic6MDORhJ2w7ss1P4kF_DWA-?cq=1
<http://shelaghs.blogspot.com/>
14. Feb. 25 – Rhonda Clark – www.shoutlife.com/rhondaclark
15. Feb. 26 – Cindy Bauer – www.cindybauer.blogspot.com (Guest Blog)
16. Feb. 28 – Julie Kornhausl – www.simplyromancereviews.com
17. Mar. 2 – Mary Connealy – www.mconnealy.blogspot.com
18. Mar. 4 – Dee Owen – www.marjo-mumswritings.blogspot.com
19. Mar. 5 – Tabitha Robin – www.tabitha-robin.com
20. Mar. 7 – Tori Close – www.toriclose.com
21. Mar. 10 – Jennifer Hudson Taylor – www.jenniferswriting.blogspot.com
22. Mar. 17 – Miralee Ferrell – www.miraleesdesk.blogspot.com
23. Mar. 19 – Bonnie Winters - <http://360.yahoo.com/indianabon>
24. Mar. 24 – Pamela James - www.pammer.blogspot.com
25. Mar. 24 – 28 – Tracy Ruckman – www.pixnpens.blogspot.com
26. Mar. 25 – Christa Allen - <http://cballan.wordpress.com/>
27. April 20 – Marian Merritt – <http://www.marianmerritt.com>
28. April 27 – Margaret Daley – www.margaretdaley.blogspot.com
29. Throughout February and March – David G. Boggs – <http://www.freewebs.com/davidgboggs/delialathamsnewbook.htm>
www.davidgboggs.blogspot.com

Openings still left in future issues!

I still have several openings yet for either the ***Author Showcase Spotlight*** or ***Author Interview Spotlight*** in future editions of *Writer's Block* if anyone is interested. You can be featured in both, just not in the same month's issue. This is a good promotional avenue for you and it's free!

Also, if you would like your book's review featured, I have openings there as well. Contact me if you are interested in any of these positions and specify which month(s) you would prefer and I'll see what we can work out!

Remember these are to help promote your work, not to promote my own, as I enjoy helping others and I know how difficult it is to get your name out there to the public. Some methods will work for you, some will not, but you should try every way imaginable to find out what might work best for you!

Author Showcase Spotlight

March: Jayne Dough
July: Bonnie Leon
the remaining months
are still open for those
who are interested

Author Interview Spotlight

March: Lucy A. Cain
April: Jennifer ALee
May: Jayne Dough
August: Bonnie Leon
the remaining months are
still open for those
who are interested