



May News & Musings

A warm welcome back for May. And if you're new here, I hope you'll stick around. I can promise I won't bombard you with emails. Bookish people like us can find it overwhelming if all their authors overshare. So expect a monthly update like this one. I'll only send an extra if there's a new release or special promotion.

In This Newsletter:

1. Wanted: A BFF for Layla (and a chance for you to win!)
2. Tangled Threads - new blurb revealed
3. Coming soon - a little taste of Tangled Paths
4. May Promos - books to keep you busy
5. Caroline's Bookshelf - a mixed bag this month
6. Caroline's Corner - Personal update



Every girl needs a best friend!

In Tangled Threads, Kate has the flamboyant Ellie, with her boho style and a magnetic personality that draws everyone to her. Her loyalty helps Kate navigate the toughest of times.

When Tangled Paths launches in October you'll meet Sarah's best friend Melanie, quiet and sweet, and proof that when it comes to friends sometimes opposites attract.

Now it's time for Layla's story to be told. The third book in the Tangled In Time series introduces a very different woman. She's come from a tough family and raised to stand up for herself. But she's your typical rough diamond. For those who take the time to know her, there's a special woman inside.

So, help an author out! I need a BFF for Layla. **Help me name her and be in to win a US\$25 Amazon gift card for yourself.** It's really simple:

1. Hop over to my [Facebook page](#).
2. Like and follow my page.
3. Find my BFF post and comment with the name of a friend for Layla. If you want to add other ideas about her, that's ok too!

I'll ask my author friends to help me choose one from your suggestions. And every comment with a character name gets you in the draw for the gift card even if I don't choose your suggestion for my character. You have one month-go!



Click Here To Buy!

What if her future lies in a past she can't even remember?

Kate's had some tough lessons in life: parents aren't always the ones who love you most, and family ties offer no guarantees. But her grandparents have taught her it is possible to find your happily ever after, so she's heading to the bright lights of London in search of it. By day she's a teacher, but out of school it's Kate who is learning, discovering the true meaning of friendship, family and love from the new people in her life.

James is a hot-shot film producer on the road to the top. The brash confidence that's taken him there is not a star quality Kate would ever seek in her ideal man. Not to mention the complication that he's her best friend's brother. But is there a hidden talent for love underneath his cool exterior that might make her reconsider?

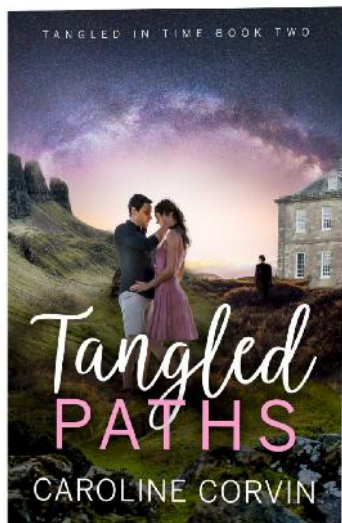
Alex is a Scottish film star heartthrob who struggles with the glare of celebrity. Burnt before, he's erased love from the script of his life. When his path crosses that of a sweet Kiwi girl who is unaware of his fame, perhaps there are other possibilities in their friendship.

But time is a trickster offering Kate the gift of two men, two loves and two lives within its tangled threads, while threatening to steal them both away. She'll need to summon every drop of mental strength she wielded in her competitive sailing days to ride out the storm that's coming her way, and find a second chance at happiness in a safe port.

Echoes of The Time Traveler's Wife and The Two Lives Of Lydia Bird with a touch of Outlander

Tangled Threads is a first in series but can be read as a satisfying standalone.

[Read the first 3 chapters of Tangled Threads](#)



And the next story begins...

Tangled Paths - Coming Soon

It's her time to choose the path she wants. Or is time going to choose a path for her?

My newest book in the Tangled In Time series is coming your way in October. Meet Sarah, another woman just looking for love and happiness, unaware that time has other plans for her...

As Sarah waited, she felt a prickling sensation on her neck and the feeling of being watched. She turned and met the intense stare of a man who was casually leaning against the door to the deck. He was in conversation with another man, but appeared to be paying little attention, his sharp blue eyes fixed firmly on her. He was the epitome of casual elegance: a tan sports coat, white linen shirt, and dark tailored pants. Although conservative, his attire suggested a streak of non-conformity, standing out as he did from the other black-suited bowtie wearing males in the room.

"Oh god, Richard Norton," Mel hissed in her ear. "Don't make eye contact. You don't want him coming over here."

But it was too late. She had made eye contact and she could see the attractive, dark-haired man brushing off the person he'd been conversing with as he prepared to thread his way through the throng of people.

"Why?"

"Let's just say he's someone you'd rather not know. I'll fill you in later. Oh my god, he's coming our way." There was a note of panic in Mel's voice, disproportionate to the seemingly amiable expression of the approaching man. The crowd parted before him, like fawning minor nobility making way at the approach of the king.

Tangled Paths, Chapter 2

Enjoy a romantic month in May

Click on links in images or headings to check them out!



Spring Love

Check out the love stories flourishing in Spring, with this collection of romance reads, all free for you during May.

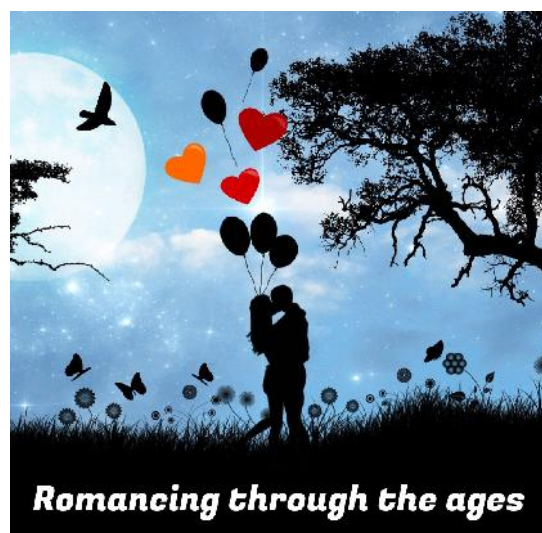


Romance Books For Adults

Do you like a bit of spice? Want to read books for grown-ups? Then you might find what you're looking for right here.



Slow-Burn Romance Sale

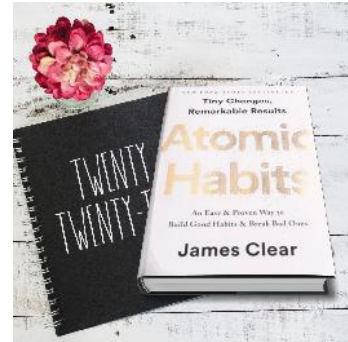
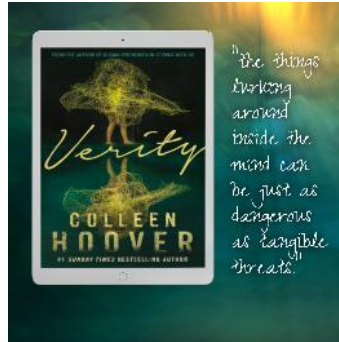


So Much Choice!

If you feel like you need a break from insta-love, indulge yourself in one of these slow-burn romances. This curated collection of books to buy all guarantee to give you that wonderful slow-burn feeling.

Wherever in time you like to find yourself, there's bound to be a romance book here for you! Including my novella *Tangled In Time* if you don't have it yet, a love story across time.

Caroline's Bookshelf



The Duke And I (Bridgerton Book 1) by Julia Quinn

One of the best things about our 2020 lockdown was Bridgerton on Netflix. It certainly brightened up long dull days of working from home. We actually encountered the team filming the series while on holiday in Bath. I now regret not sneaking past the barriers to catch a glimpse of the particularly handsome male cast!

This is one of the few times I've watched a series before reading the book. And it's taken me till now to grab the book and see how I felt about it as a reader. Regency romance is not a genre I've ever read, but I was pleasantly surprised. Perhaps it's because I can't help but visualise the quirky characters in my head, or hear Julie Andrews voicing Lady Whistledown. Personally I can live with dialogue tags other than 'said' and I didn't mind the kaleidoscope of them in the print book, but I found them a little jarring in the audiobook version. So if you find muttered, grumbled, retorted etc., etc., a distraction then maybe stick to the television. However, I think most people would appreciate Julia Quinn's skill in developing the characters, in particular Simon, the very complex man that is the Duke of the title. Now series two is out, it might be time for me to read the second book.

Verity by Colleen Hoover

The hype is well-deserved! When I read outside my own romance genre, the first go to books are thrillers—and I loved this one!

Lowen is a young writer asked to finish a series of books by bestselling author Verity Crawford. Verity has suffered a tragic accident and is unable to do so herself. But while researching in Verity's study, Lowen uncovers a manuscript that reveals horrific information about Verity. Does she keep it a secret from Verity's husband, Jeremy? Or, with her growing attraction to Jeremy, could showing him what she's found convince him to leave his wife and let her into his life?

This book is reminiscent of *The Gone Girl* and *The Girl On The Train*, so I recommend *Verity* if you enjoyed those. And as for me, I'm now motivated to have another try at Colleen Hoover's romance books.

Atomic Habits by James Clear

Apart from writing related books, such as those I use to help me hone my craft or learn about book marketing, I'm not a big nonfiction reader these days. However, there are some books that are worth squeezing into my reading list.

Atomic Habits was a free book on Audible last year, and I started listening to it as a break from one of the lengthy *Outlander* books. From chapter one I was hooked. I loved this book so much that I went and bought the hardback, and have reread it recently. Now I'm one of those annoying people who recommends it to everyone. Maybe you're a reader, trying to work out how you can fit more books into your life? Or like me, a writer, trying to maintain good writing habits? Trying to get an exercise routine going? Looking to replace those bad eating habits with some good ones? Whatever goals you have, this book has a simple system to help you achieve them. I also subscribed to the author's weekly emails and enjoy the useful quotes that arrive in my inbox.

Caroline's Corner



What's on in my world in May

May seems to be a month of working hard towards things still ahead of me.

With my writing I'm doing last edits on *Tangled Paths* before sending my precious words off to my editor for a 1st of June deadline. In between, the new characters from Book 3 are pushing their way into my headspace. This lot are

clambering to have their story told and I am really looking forward to bringing it to you early next year.

I'm also getting ready to nab my place in our Romance Writers of New Zealand conference, happening in Wellington in August. Nominated as the coolest little capital on the planet, it's a wonderful place to spend some time (and the setting for parts of *Tangled Paths*). Flights and hotel are booked, just registration to pay (gulp, that's a lot of \$\$\$, but well worth it). My first conference last year was where I found my tribe. The romance author community worldwide is a beautiful supportive place to spend time.

But the best thing of all is...evenings are busy with research and bookings for our holiday in July. So excited to leave New Zealand for the first time in almost THREE YEARS! I can't believe that I've managed to survive only travelling vicariously for so long. We are meeting Aussie friends in Melbourne, then heading off together to stunning Airlie Beach in tropical Queensland. It will be the middle of winter in New Zealand, but there we'll be swimming, snorkelling and drinking cocktails by the beach. The only downside is trying to keep a bikini-ready body when all you want to do is eat winter comfort food.

Wishing you all a happy month of May, whatever the season in your part of the world. What things are you looking ahead to in the rest of 2022?

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