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Happy New Year Romance Readers

Hi everyone,

Here we are in 2026, and I want to wish you all a wonderful next chapter filled with great reads, characters you fall in love with and stories that stay with you long past the final page.

A special welcome to all the new people. There's a lot of you this past couple of months. I'm so pleased you've joined me, and I look forward to talking with you each month. I love to hear from people too, so don't be afraid to email me back.

To start the year, here's a little gift for you...
Romance Book Bingo!



BINGO

ROMANCE BOOK EDITION



Last week, I made a little Bingo card for myself with some personal goals, like join a Pilates class, read a why choose romance, get a tattoo. Not sure if I'll go through with the last one! You can see mine on my Instagram tomorrow.

I also saw another author make a romance book one and thought it might be fun to do that too. You'll find it as a secret file on my website. Just click on the link below. There are two pages. One looks like the

thumbnail above. The second has the headings faded out so you can write in the book and author. The centre logo is a free space.

If you have any great book recs for a square, email them to me, and I'll include them in my newsletters.

When you finish the card, send me a screenshot. because with Bingo, there's always prizes, right?

ROMANCE BOOK BINGO

Caroline's Story Nook

Reading: I carried on in the Christmas spirit by reading **Good Spirits** by B.K. Borison. I love her books and this one with it's magical realism and holiday theme was perfection. Bonus points for the audiobook—ghost Nolan has a gorgeous Irish accent. And if that appeals, I suggest also **Scythe and Sparrow** by Brynne Weaver, with the Kane brothers' beautiful voices. The language in her books is beautiful too, so well crafted.

Watching: I've gone down the **Heated Rivalry** rabbit-hole, and I'm not coming up anytime soon. Sometimes a fandom just grabs you like a cult! I haven't made any reels featuring soft toys and lines for the "Will you come to my cottage scene" but I've watched them! Yes it's hockey, yes it's romance—so I was a perfect target from the start, but the superb acting by these two young men, and the nuanced messages embedded in each scene is the reason I binged it, and why I'll rewatch. I'm currently listening to the audiobook and enjoying it, especially how faithfully the tv series follows the story. If you want to talk HR, my email and DMs are open!

Listening: I've been loving the soundtrack to Heated Rivalry with new to me artists, like favourites **Wolf Parade** and **Cailin Russo**

Author Update



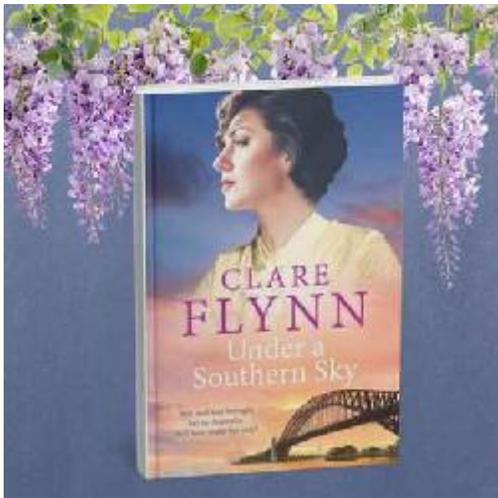
Each year, I choose a word of the year for myself as a writer. This year it's Bloom. I feel like I've done a lot of work creating fertile soil to plant my books in, and this last two years grown in a few new directions. This year, I'd like to focus on the things that can take me that little bit further—and bloom.

My first focus is spending more time on learning about craft. My number 2 Clifton Strength is Learner, so I'm naturally drawn to learning. So to start with, I spent some time revisiting story structure, particularly romance beats. As a result, this avowed discovery writer, who never knew what might happen next when she sat in front of the computer, has become a little bit of a planner. Not in the sense that some people are, with 20k outlines, but just enough to give me a bit of structure to hang my ideas on. I don't see it like a cage I have to stay inside, more like a trellis that I can allow my ideas to ramble over.

All my writing at the moment is centred on the Heartlands rugby series. I'm spending a bit of time with *Blindsided By You* before I continue with side character Kyle's book *Sidelined By You* which will come out in September. I've also outlined (yes, actually wrote it down) a novella which I'll offer for free. It's going to be about a player who won't get his own book, burly hooker Malcolm Lewis and his wife Keira. The main trope is marriage in trouble which will be fun to write as I haven't visited that territory since *Tangled Past*.

Indie Author Spotlight

Our first indie author to step into the spotlight this year is Clare Flynn, with her book **Under A Southern Sky**. I have a great love for historical romance especially those set in WWII, and even better, this one takes place in Australia, offering a different perspective on the wartime experience. Check out the description and even pick up a copy for yourself below. I will be!



After a German fighter sinks her husband's ship in the icy Atlantic, grief-stricken Hannah Kidd flees the rubble and ration queues of wartime Liverpool for a new life on the other side of the world. In sun-soaked Sydney, she discovers more than just refuge from nightly bombing raids—she finds unexpected family connections,

meaningful work, and the handsome Eddie Greenbank. As Hannah explores the golden beaches of Sydney's eastern shores, the misty valleys of the Blue Mountains, and the rolling scenery of the Hunter Valley, she begins to believe that happiness isn't lost forever. But even in Australia, the war's long shadow threatens everything she's begun to rebuild. Hannah must decide: will she let grief define her, or will she fight for the future she never thought she'd have?

A sweeping story of resilience and renewal set against the dramatic backdrop of wartime Australia, *Under a Southern Sky* explores how far we must sometimes travel—both in miles and in spirit—to find our way home.

[Get it here!](#)

Books To Take A Look At



Love Loss & What If

Some books entertain you. These ones *stay with you*. Welcome to a hand-picked collection of emotional, character-driven stories for readers who crave something deeper. These novels explore connection, timing, heartbreak, healing, and the moments that change a life forever.

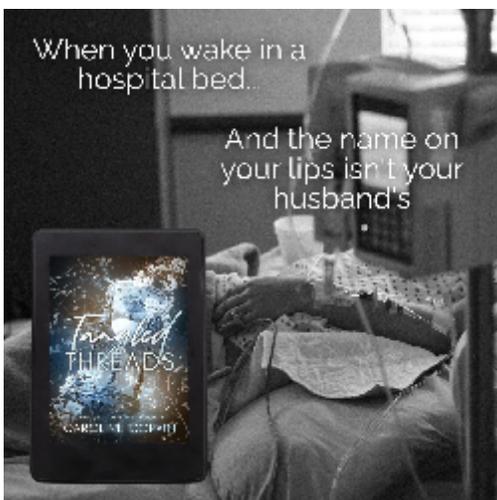
[Find them here!](#)



Starting Over

New year—what better time to enjoy a new book about a new start. Each of these has someone starting over, a new town, a new job, a new home, and a new love. There's something for everyone here, from angst to rom-com, but all with a main character on a new path.

[Check them out!](#)



Book Spotlight: Tangled Threads

I love it when readers of my more recent books discover my backlist and fall for those stories. I've had a few lately and it's nice to chat to them about this series. If you're curious about my backlist, pick up Tangled Threads.

It's available now for only \$0.99c.
A chance to try out this series for a very small amount.

Get Tangled Threads - 99c

Caroline's Corner of the World



Check out my reading, writing and walking buddies! Those of you who've known me for a while will understand how happy this makes me: self-confessed dog obsessed girl currently without one of her own gets to borrow other people's for a while. We went to house-sit the little guy at the top. Bonus was it was a beautiful home near the beach so we went walking there very day, grabbed a coffee at the surf club shop and then spent the rest of the day around the house, enjoying reading outside and working on my book.

The second one, a little girl, came to stay with us. She was the perfect companion while I wrote. Also, it meant we had our 'own' dog to take to our local dog-friendly bar for a Sunday afternoon session. It was so lovely to spend time with these sweeties, and although we're big dog people at heart, it's not hard to fall for little ones like these two.

It's summer here, and very hot! Great for an early morning walk, then writing with the air con on (like I'm doing right now). The sunny weather has helped kick off the new year very nicely. I hope yours has started well too!

Caroline



Caroline Corvin Author

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