



SCORCHER — Borders on erotic. Very graphic sex. **HOT** — Most romance novels fall into this category. Ranges from conventional lovemaking to explicit sex. **MILD** — May or may not include lovemaking. No explicit sex. ★★★★★½ **GOLD PHENOMENAL** — In a Class by Itself. ★★★★★½ **FANTASTIC** — Keeper. ★★★★★ **COMPELLING** — Page-Turner. ★★★★★ **ENJOYABLE** — Pleasant Read. ★★ **PROBLEMATIC** — May Struggle to Finish. ★ **SEVERELY FLAWED** — Pass on This One.

What begins as an adolescent attraction turns into a forbidden, life-long love affair. The young lovers are separated after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the Japanese internment. Even though circumstances keep them apart, they reunite whenever they can. Now, widowed Alma lives at Lark House, an assisted living facility, when fate brings Irina Bazili into Alma's life as a caretaker. While trying to put her painful past aside, Irina befriends Alma's grandson, Seth. Irina and Seth join forces in trying to uncover the identity of Alma's secret admirer who sends flowers and letters. Delving into Alma's past, they begin to find a love of their own. (ATRIA, Nov., 336 pp., \$28.00)

Kathe Robin

Historical Fiction

WHEREVER THERE IS LIGHT

Peter Golden

★★★★ HOT

SETTING: 1920s – 1965 America & Paris

Using clear, clean prose, Golden brings emotional depth and passion to this story of forbidden love. A large cast of strong and well-defined characters, along with a colorful backdrop, allow Golden to create a clear portrait of the time and an epic story of love.

SUMMARY: At 15, Julian Rose left Germany for America, and during the '20s, found his place among the bootleggers and Jewish gangsters. Once Prohibition ended, he moved on to become a real estate magnate. But his wealth could not get his parents out of Europe as Hitler rose to power. It is only with the help of the founder of Lovewood College, an African American school, that his family escapes. When Julian goes to Miami to see his parents, he meets Kendall Wakefield, granddaughter of the college's founder, and falls in love. Kendall is a talented artist who dreams of studying in New York and Paris. What begins as friendship ends as a 30-year affair. Theirs is a love that will survive time, history and hatred, as they defy the Jim Crow laws and lynchings in the South and the prejudice in the North to continually reclaim their love. (ATRIA, Nov., 368 pp., \$25.00)

Kathe Robin

Historical Fiction

BLOODLINE

Warren Murphy

★★★ HOT

SETTING: 1920s New York

Murphy's novel illustrates, in detail, a decade where violence is as common as

breathing, killing is an honored profession, corruption is rampant, women are objects to be abused and no one has a happy ending. Certainly not a pretty tale, but it's this harsh realism that will keep readers interested. What might be riveting to some may be distasteful to others, so gentle readers, be warned.

SUMMARY: Life is good for the Falcone family until their cousin Nilo arrives from Italy. While Tommy joins the police force, Nilo begins working for Mafia boss Don Maranzano. At first he runs errands, but when Maranzano discovers his skill for killing, he becomes a mob assassin. The Falcones leave Nilo alone until one murder goes too far. No one can protect Nilo from prison until his name is cleared by a gangster's deathbed confession. But Nilo has become dangerous, obsessed with making the Falcones pay. As war between rival mobs begins, and gangsters from around the country converge on New York City, the Falcones find there is no way out of the spiral of violence that traps them. (FORGE, Nov., 448 pp., \$27.99)

Kathe Robin

Genre Spotlight

History Repeats Itself

LISA KLEYPAS may have been busy writing charming contemporary romance the past few years, but the chance to start a new series has sent her back in time. With **Cold-Hearted Rake** (Avon, Nov.), she returns to her historical romance roots.

What made you want to go back in time for your new series? For me, the key to staying excited and interested in writing for so many years is to switch things up every now and then. Historical romance will probably always be my favorite genre to

write. I love the elegant speech patterns and larger-than-life plots, and I especially enjoy the challenge of trying to imagine and convey what life would have been like back then.

There are a lot of historical law and business tidbits in this book. How much research went into getting those right? It was nothing short of grueling! For weeks I was poring over notes of Parliament legislation, antique farming manuals, economic and agricultural history — not my favorite kind of research,

and certainly not my area of expertise! But I felt that I had to make it clear about what Devon was facing, otherwise it wouldn't make sense that he would be so unhappy about inheriting an earldom. Being a responsible landowning peer was not a piece of cake, let me tell you!

The epilogue gives us a nice little taste of what's to come in the next book. Do you have the rest of the series mapped out already? I have some really big surprises



planned for the Ravenels, including a connection to one of my past historical series. Also, one of the characters mentioned often but not seen in *Cold-Hearted Rake*, an enigmatic railroad magnate named Tom Severin, will play a much bigger role in future books.

— Jennifer Peters

For more about Lisa, visit LisaKleypas.com.