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APRIL 2016 SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

Thu, 04/28/2016 - 3:00pm — RT Book Reviews

Each month the *RT* editors select one book that is not only compelling, but pushes the boundaries of genre fiction. This book stands out from all the others reviewed that month, in the magazine issue and on the website. April 2016's *RT* Seal of Excellence — the editors' pick for best book of the month — is awarded to

Annabeth Albert's novella *Knit Tight*.

While Albert's latest Portland Heat novel is short, it packs a heck of a lot of emotion in those scant 132 digital pages. The men at the center of the story, Brady and Evren, are so delightfully charming, you'll

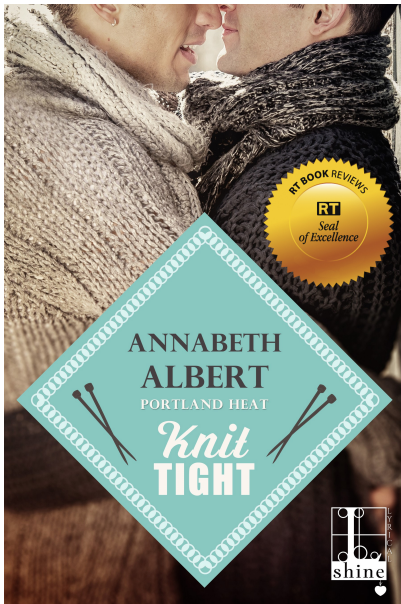
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April 2016 Seal of Excellence



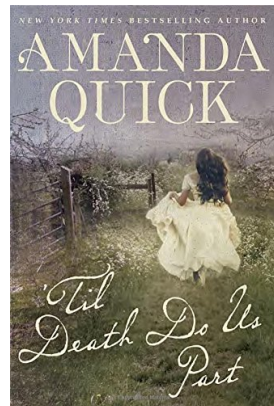
want to peel them off the screen of your e-reader and take them home with you. From the way they treat the people around them and how they tackle their issues in their own lives to the way they slowly open up to each other and start to let love in, there's not a single moment in this story that doesn't feel honest and real — and so worth experiencing yourself. Whether you're a fan of male/male romances already or this is your first LGBTQ love story, you'll find yourself looking for more once you close the book, because this is what love is supposed to look like. — *Jennifer Peters*

There's no sweater curse here! Apologies for the knitter's humor, but Albert artfully combines several cult-ish worlds (that of knitting/crafting, coffee houses and Portland) into a really lovely romance. Evren and Brady's relationship develops at a slow burn — an impressive feat for a novella. There's a great supporting cast, and you'll really root for these two men to find love, as Albert makes them so deserving. Albert's

descriptive prose is just perfect, I can just see the coffee house and the lattes Brady so lovingly crafts. Now to vacation in Portland so I can enter the cozy contest too ... — *Elissa Petruzzi*

Knit Tight is so adorable it's going to make you want to move to Portland and buy some yarn. I really love stories where siblings are roped into a parental role, and watching Brady learn he doesn't have to shoulder everything on his own was wonderful. You can get through this read in a few hours at a coffee shop — and, trust me, once you start you won't want to put it down. — *Sarah McDaniel Dyer*

And the nominees for April 2016 Seal of Excellence are ...



Historical romances have quickly become my favorites under the romance umbrella, and Amanda Quick's delightful romance/mystery *Til Death Do Us Part* is one of many reasons why. While the whodunit is a big part of the story — and a brilliantly fun and dangerous romp through 19th-century London — the romance is what really hooked me. Calista is the perfect everywoman: smart, kind, successful and a pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps heroine whom you'll be rooting for from the start. Trent, on the other hand, is the kind of hero who takes a few extra pages to fall for; he's gruff and a bit surly, but when Calista catches his eye, he becomes a lovable curmudgeon — to say the least. Seeing their romance unfold so carefully and realistically was everything I look for in a romance, and I honest-to-god swooned a few times while reading. Future boyfriends: Beware! It will take work to top Trent. — *Jennifer Peters*

Romance fans know that Quick/Castle/Krentz can pretty much wow us in any genre. Her latest is a great

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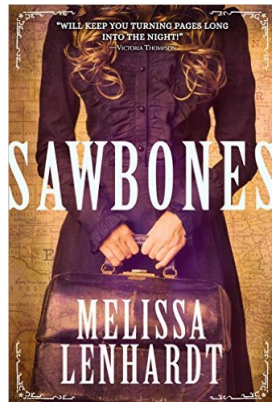


THE GOOD FATHER
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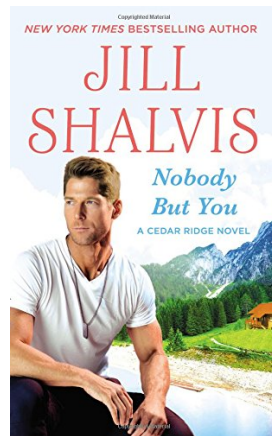


SEEK AND FIND
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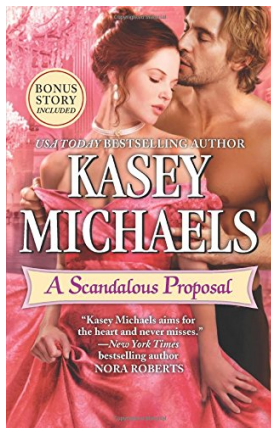
example, as this is a killer (pun intended, basically always) historical mystery and romance. You'll also get to learn lots of fun factoids about Victorian attitudes and customs surrounding funerals and death, which I found to be incredibly interesting. Just more proof that Quick is a master. And as a true mystery buff, this plot took me a while to unravel. All in all, very good fun! — *Elissa Petruzzi*



I love books about the Wild West, but I find most of them skimp on just how bloody the west was. That's not the case with *Melissa Lendhardt's Sawbones*. I also love stories about women who refuse to let anything stand in their way, and this story of a female doctor who won't let anything stop her from practicing medicine on the frontier really fit the bill. This book is full of historical detail but definitely not for the faint of heart. — *Sarah McDaniel Dyer*



Nobody But You by Jill Shalvis follows two wildly independent people as they forge a path to love. Sophie is newly divorced and determined to prove that she can make it on her own, even if that means that the only thing she takes from her wealthy ex is the boat he loved more than her. Meanwhile, Army Special Forces officer Jacob just spent nine years trying to make it without family and he's accepted that it's no way to live (clearly these two could learn from one another). The two meet after Sophie sneakily tries to dock her boat in his slip for free each night (tee hee, that's an actual plot point, not a euphemism) and sparks fly immediately. Of course, Sophie is a bit gunshy after her divorce (the random women who keep tracking down her boat for the purpose of sleeping with her ex-husband aren't helping) and she tries desperately to push Jacob away, disappearing for nights at a time without a safe place to dock. Their chemistry is undeniable (making for plenty of steamy, sexy pages), but it definitely takes them a while to realize that they need to be together forever. — *Kristin Wise*



Like all good historical romances, *A Scandalous Proposal* by Kasey Michaels describes a lush era — an appropriate atmosphere for romance, while also schooling its readers on history (in this case, the Battle of Quatre Bras). This story delivers with a delicious sham betrothal as our leads, Cooper and Dani, work together to find the blackmailer who risks upending both of their families. Their banter is delightful and Dani is a terrific and fresh heroine! — *Emily Walton*

Congratulations to the winner and all of the nominees! You can find all of our Seal of Excellence winners [here](#).

GENRE: Romance, Contemporary Romance

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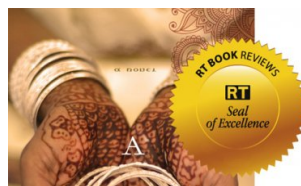
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Wendy • 13 minutes ago

So excited - I loved this book!

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ALSO ON RT BOOK REVIEWS

Shadowhunters Recap: S1, E 13: Spring Awakening

1 comment • 22 days ago



Tania Stanwood — I think this is not a bad show. I like the fantasy genre so I like this series. Although I don't watch much TV I prefer to read. I am reading Ben ...

Audiobook Giveaway: Audible's April Picks!

46 comments • a month ago



K Davis — I just finished, Love in the Light by Laura Kaye. It was great!

Profiling Love Interests: Cynthia Ruchti's Song Of Silence

1 comment • 21 days ago



Cynthia Ruchti — In case anyone is looking for my impossible last name, it's R-u-c-h-t-i, and is pronounced as if the first syllable rhymes with ...

HOME TO CHAPEL SPRINGS

1 comment • 17 days ago



Ane Mulligan — Thank you, Patsy!

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ROMANCE



April 2016 Seal of Excellence

Exclusive Excerpt: Scarlett Cole's The Purest Hook

Exclusive Excerpt: Serial Box's Whitehall

The Truth about Victorian Sex with Melissa Lenhardt

Hump Day Excerpt: Temptations of a Wallflower

Exclusive Excerpt: Laura Kaye's Ride Hard

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MYSTERY



Exclusive Excerpt: Heather Graham's One-Eyed Jack From Romantic Times: Vegas

Behind The Scenes: T.M. Causey's The Saints Of The Lost And Found Cover

March 2016 Seal of Excellence

Cover Reveal: Lynn Cahoon's A Story To Kill

February 2016 Seal of Excellence

Exclusive Excerpt: Ann A. McDonald's The Oxford Inheritance

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PARANORMAL



Cover Breakdown: Yasmine Galenorn's Flight From Mayhem

We're back, rested and better than ever, ready to wow you with our analytical skills in this week's cover breakdown! Today we're taking a...

Cover Breakdown: Jayne Castle's Illusion Town

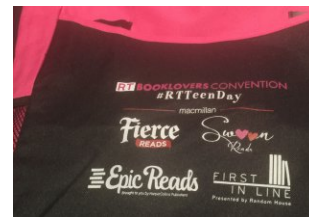
Cover Breakdown: Magic Binds by Ilona Andrews

Cover Breakdown: Molly Harper's Big Vamp On Campus

Exclusive Excerpt: Runaway Vampire by Lynsay Sands

Dear Romanswer: The Seasons of Love

YOUNG ADULT



RT 2016 Convention Recap: Teen Day FTW!

Teen Day at the RT Convention is always a sight to behold. The teen arrive early, bleary-eyed parents tow, some stretching their legs...

RT Exclusive Excerpt: A Totally Awkward Love Story

Life and Death with Lurlene McD:

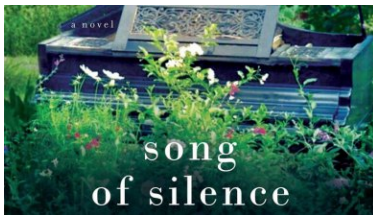
RT 2016 Convention: YA Spooky Slumber Party

Shadowhunters Recap: S1, E 13: Morning Star

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INSPIRATIONAL



Profiling Love Interests: Cynthia Ruchti's *Song Of Silence*

We romance fans live fo

Fun Facts: Siri Mitchell's *Flirtation Walk*

Cover Breakdown: Wanda & Jean Brunstetter's *The Missing Will*

December 2015 Seal of Excellence

Love and Fiction Collide in James L. Rubart's *The Five Times I Met Myself*

2015 RT Reviewers' Choice Award Nominees — Inspirational, Young Adult, New Adult and Multicultural

[More Inspirational »](#)

MAINSTREAM



Cover Breakdown: Amy E. Reichert's *Luck, Love & Lemon Pie*

It's Tuesday and we're getting ready to kick off the first official day here at the RT Booklover's Convention in Las Vegas!

Debut Author Spotlight: Catherine Lowell's *The Madwoman Upstairs*

January 2016 Seal of Excellence

Exclusive Excerpt: Jacqueline Sheehan's *The Center Of The World*

Cover Reveal: Someone Else's Love Letter by Deborah Blumenthal

Cover Reveal: Lauren Baratz-Logsted's *Falling for Prince Charles*

[More Mainstream »](#)

SCIENCE FICTION



Cover Reveal and Giveaway: J.A. Rock's *The Silvers*

Feel like a cover reveal, or winning an e-advanced copy? Who wouldn't?! Today we're taking a peek at J.A.

Author Q&A: Helen Lowe on *Earthquakes, Prussian Generals and Rocking on the Porch*

Cover Breakdown: Taylor Anderson's *Blood In The Water*

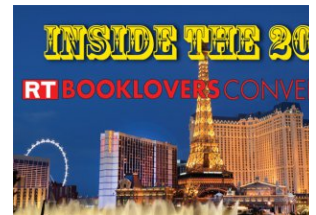
2015 RT Reviewers' Choice Award Nominees — Science Fiction/Fantasy/Paranormal

Cover Breakdown: *Ring of Fire IV* by Eric Flint

July Seal of Excellence

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EROTICA



RT 2016 Convention: Beyond BDSM: Top Five Tips For Writers

The RT Booklovers' Convention is swing and besides having an abs amazing time at all the fabulous parties, we are l

Exclusive Excerpt: Maya Banks's *Dominated*

Exclusive Excerpt: Kylie Scott's *Dilemma*

Sneak Peek: Sylvia Day's *One with a View* Book Trailer

Exclusive Excerpt: Monica Murphy's *Never Let You Go*

Exclusive Excerpt: Violetta Rand's *Possession*

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