

# Mean Season Red Dress Ink Novels

*He proposed. She had her doubts. She said yes. Now what? Everyone tells Sarah Giles how lucky she is to be engaged to Paul O'Brian—a handsome hotshot who's financially secure, knows how to throw the perfect dinner party...and taught Sarah how to, uh, take care of herself. Everyone thinks he's great. Except for Sarah. But she has too much on her plate trying to become career woman of the year and hiding the fact that her seemingly blissful relationship is all but celibate (those lessons he gave her should come in handy) to figure out what's wrong with Mr. Right, let alone*

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*qualify for the role of perfect fiancée. Meanwhile, what started as an innocent office flirtation with a man named John Wayne (really), has now moved beyond illicit lunches and harmless text messaging, and is fast turning into erotic obsession. Sarah can't get John out of her head and she's plunging deeper into a double life. But which life is the lie? Torn between two men, and trying not to lose sight of her own dreams, Sarah writes a scandalously honest diary of one life-changing year, and faces the challenge of writing her own happy ending....*

*Romance novels have attracted considerable attention since their mass market debut in 1939, yet seldom has the industry itself been analyzed.*

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*Founded in 1949, Harlequin quickly gained market domination with their contemporary romances. Other publishers countered with historical romances, leading to the rise of “bodice-ripper” romances in the 1970s. The liberation of the romance novel’s content during the 1980s brought a vitality to the market that was dubbed a revolution, but the real romance revolution began in the 1990s with developments in the mainstream publishing industry and continues today. This book traces the history and evolution of the romance industry, covering successful (and not so successful) trends and describing changes in romance publishing that paved the way for the many popular subgenres flooding the market in the*

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*21st century.*

*After getting rid of her commitment-phobic fiancé, Sarah Walker decides to start a new life in Los Angeles, and, with the help of her new roommate Martika, plunges headfirst into the fast-paced world of day jobs, dating, and nightclubs.*

*P.J. is faced with the loss of her simple, carefree, peripatetic lifestyle crashing on the couches of friends as she saves her money to create a music demo, when a reporter threatens to infiltrate and then take over her life.*

*Original. 60,000 first printing.*

*Unraveled, Revealed-- Bared*

*The Sex Was Great But...*

*What I Really Want to Do Is Direct*

*Marrying Up*

*Mafia Chic*

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Goombah to Gucci As the only granddaughter among seventeen grandsons of one of New York's reputed Mafia dons, Teddi Gallo has been surrounded by overprotective men all her life...not to mention those FBI agents tailing her family. But now, determined to live her own life, she has decamped to Manhattan with dreams of making it in the brutal restaurant business. Soon, however, she is finding her dinner plate is more than full as she juggles an old-money, news-anchor boyfriend, a devastatingly handsome FBI agent trailing her 24/7, a nervous accountant concerned her

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business is failing and her cousin Tony acting as her bodyguard. Toss in bringing her new beau home for Sunday dinner and trying to explain the hundred pairs of stolen Jimmy Choos in her Uncle Vito's living room...and Teddi Gallo's already-chaotic life is made all the more messy. Maybe a few well-hatched plans, a bit of matchmaking and a dose of Mafia Chic will get her out of this jam.

Presents a comprehensive guide for librarians and readers' advisors, provides a brief history of the romance novel, and offers reading lists and subgenre definitions.

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What would you do if a movie star was living under your roof? Prepping for his new movie in the tiny town of Pinecob, West Virginia, up-and-coming actor Joshua Reed lands himself another drunk-driving conviction, this time involving a stolen limo, a dark country road and a cow. Rather than let him rot in jail for the summer, twenty-five-year-old Leanne Gitlin, his fan club president, agrees to vouch for him so he can serve out his sentence under house arrest. In her home. But playing the gracious guest isn't in Joshua Reed's repertoire. And while everyone in town is thinking up

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excuses to drop by the Gitlin house, Leanne quickly finds herself counting the days until her famous visitor leaves.

Leanne, the youngest of five, watched her family fall apart and dutifully stayed put to help her mother pick up the pieces. Stuck in Pinecob, she was itching for something new, but Joshua Reed's media circus isn't quite what she had in mind. In a debut novel as endearing as it is wise, Heather Cochran has whipped up one season the town of Pinecob won't soon forget. When she discovers that she has inherited a plot of land in North Carolina from her late mother,



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Tallulah West, who refuses to follow in the footsteps of her father, a famous furniture designer, embarks on a journey of self-discovery to the South where she unexpectedly discovers her true path in life. Original.

Live from New York, It's Lena Sharpe

L.A. Woman

Girl Boy Etc

Romance Fiction

The Hunt

Providing women with a male perspective on life, romance, and relationships, a delightful collection of stories follows men who make the wrong choices in love for all the

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right reasons, time and time again.

75,000 first printing.

While attending college in Indiana, Doris and Ronnie, two grad students who feel out of place, find solace in their newfound friendship as they try to overcome such challenges as prejudice, the pursuit of higher education, and the ups and downs of love. Original.

Dinah Nichols, PR chick for Green World International, knows how to spin a story. She has to, otherwise how else would rescuing loons get the media attention it deserves? But a visit from Higher Management guru Ian Trutch means she'll have to put some spin on the "fabulous work" she and the staff have been

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doing. Sure, her latest hobby of haranguing a cocky colleague is worthwhile, but it isn't part of GWI's mission statement or anything. So, how to convince the higher-ups she and the others are working hard for their higher purpose? Hmm. Dating Trutch seemed the obvious move, but now she's not so sure he is what he says he is, and the office is turned upside down as acts of local ecoterrorism are suddenly on the rise, and Dinah's famed mother—a bona fide well-known Jacques Cousteau type—makes an unforgettable appearance, putting Dinah's entire career in jeopardy. Will Dinah navigate her eclectic crew to safety, or will they have to

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swim for it?

After an argument with her boyfriend, Eve Crenshaw abandons Manhattan for life on an island off the coast of Maine, where she, along with her friends, Natasha and Kim, desperate for some type of entertainment, form a club called the Wednesday Night Witches, but when all of their wishes begin to come true, life on the island gets worse and worse. Original. 100,000 first printing.

A Girl's Guide to Writing Chick Lit  
Fat Chance

The History of an Industry, 1940s to  
the Present

A Guide to the Genre

Wednesday Night Witches

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***Looking for love in all the highend places... After writing her own obituary as an experiment, Holly Hastings realizes that her life isn't exactly blazing a trail of glory. The twenty-eight-year-old is broke, bored at work and perpetually single. But after watching an old Marilyn Monroe movie she realizes what she can do about it: Marry a millionaire—and write about how to do it! This had to be the answer to the prayers of an obituary writer who's spent more time lauding other people's lives than living her own.... Taking leave from her job (if not her senses), Holly decides to better her chances of mingling with the moneyed by getting the heck out of Dodge (aka, Buffalo, New***

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***York) and heading to millionaire-rich towns on both coasts. Her honesty and common decency make it hard to fully embrace the shallow life, but Holly finally lands herself an eligible millionaire in San Francisco and an all-expenses-paid trip to Easy Street. Too bad about that inconvenient crush she's developed on her neighbor. Will Holly stick to her plan for marrying up or will she choose marrying right?***

***Formerly commitment phobic, Rachel Benjamin, deciding to take the plunge, spends the weekend with her fiance Peter and his parents in San Francisco where she, while trying to prove that she is normal, discovers that her best friend Hilary is missing***

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*and that Peter is hiding some dark secrets. Original.*

*Doris Gig: newly minted lit prof transplanted to Atlanta.*

*Currently: butting heads with Southern-fried brownshirts, resisting the faculty's sonnet-writing Mick Jagger figure and—God help her—braving the shark-infested waters of online dating. Ronnie Gig: aspiring novelist returned to L.A.*

*Currently: back home, but not at home; tutoring an obnoxious Beverly Hills "homeboy" and hating the bartending bimbo hitting on her good-ol'-boy boyfriend (who's fitting in better than she is). Turns out that coasting through life after grad school can feel a lot like just spinning your wheels—but Doris*

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***and Ronnie are determined to find their true paths. It's going to take heavy doses of IM, Chardonnay and one mantra: true friends can head in opposite directions and still see eye to eye. My Life Uncovered by Lynn Isenberg released on Nov 24, 2003 is available now for purchase.***

***Tallulahland***

***21 Steps to Happiness***

***Publishing Romance***

***Baby Needs a New Pair of Shoes***

***Couch World***

**All is fair in fashion and war--but who knew controversy and scheming would be all the rage this season when a fashion writer schemes to take down the editor-in-chief of "Fashionista."**



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**Presents twenty-one short stories by American and British women writers, including Jessica Adams, Emily Giffin, Marian Keyes, Anna Maxted, and Lauren Henderson.**

**Q: How does a thirty-five-year-old newspaper reporter with a vanilla-sounding name like Jenny George know so much about men? A: She doesn't. When her live-in boyfriend made a relationship trade-in (for the lingerie model starring in the ad campaign Jenny created) she realized she knew nothing about men. But Jenny is about to be clued in. Assigned to the Caribbean to write an exposé on a womanizing Hollywood movie tycoon, she's pitted against**

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**the tough-talking journalist and bane of her existence, Slaid Warren. Slaid takes issue with Jenny's quest to be the best and sets out to show her 1) There's more to life than just work; 2) They're stronger when they work as a team and not at cross-purposes and 3) He really does live up to all his hype. Armed with these new insights—and a killer tan—Jenny suddenly couldn't care less about what men want. Instead, she's launching her own plan that's guaranteed to give her exactly what she needs.... Is her chance to have it all shrinking along with her waistline? All Evelyn Mays wants**

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**is to be the perfect bride in a size 8 Vera Wang wedding dress. Call her superficial, but when your boyfriend has turned up at your office and dramatically proposed—your green-with-venvy colleagues watching in astonishment—there's a certain image to live up to! Evie senses that her supposedly fast-track career is spiraling away from her, but at least there's something she can control: her Big Day. She just has to transform herself from a cuddly brunette into a svelte blonde.... But changing her appearance proves addictive; Evie develops a taste for experimenting: new friends...new**

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**men? Her best friend, convinced that Mr. Right is just an urban legend anyway, eggs her on to have one last fling. Only, is Evie discovering her true self, or playing a game of chance that will end in trouble?**

**Flyover States**

**Engaging Men**

**Dating Without Novocaine**

**Hardly Working**

**The Key**

*With chick lit novels popping up on every bestseller list, millions of readers are all thinking the same thing: I could write this stuff. I could write a bestseller and never go back to the office again! And here's the guide that*

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*will show you how. Bestselling novelist Sarah Mlynowski and veteran chick lit editor Farrin Jacobs cover every stage of developing and selling your soon-to-be bestselling novel, with information on • developing an idea • learning the basics of plotting • deciding on a point of view • pacing, and conflict • making your characters likable • finding an agent —and much more, including humorous tips and advice from scores of established writers (from Meg Cabot and Marian Keyes to Emily Giffin and Sophie Kinsella). If you've got stories to tell, See Jane Write will take care*

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*of the rest!*

*Lynn Blanchett's Steps to*

*Happiness: Step 1: Find a job.*

*(Done! I'm doing PR for hotshot young designer Muriel B.—which I'm totally unqualified for.) Step*

*2: Find a man. (Check! There's a rich, gorgeous man chasing*

*me...so what if I find him infinitely less appealing than my*

*charming, possibly gay, French coworker?) Step 3: Find a*

*translator. (Hmm? I do have that French-English dictionary...but it so doesn't help with the*

*language of love.) Step 4: Find a shower. (I did just fly in from New*

*York.... I can't be fabulous all the time!) Dropped into a ridiculously*

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*cushy job in Paris by her distant fashion-icon mother, all Lynn has to do to prove she's not a fraud (which she is!) is figure out what exactly her job entails, how she got involved in something that can only be described as fashion treason and how to untangle her love life in time to make Muriel B.'s next runway show the event of the season. With time running short and expertise running low, Lynn has little to guide her but a self-help manual that promises twenty steps to happiness.*

*Top Two Don'ts for the Office Party Don't dress in a revealing manner. (Translation: Don't wear the sexy scarlet, size-eight dress*

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*you couldn't fit into three months ago. The one that flaunts your firmed-up cleavage and newly discovered collarbones.) Don't make a spectacle of yourself. (Translation: Don't get drunk and make out with a really cute stranger for the whole company to see; he could turn out to be your boss's roommate.) I didn't follow those tips, and here I am with a hot new man in my life, Jack. But my friends are asking if I really want to bump into my boss in his boxers in the hallway of their apartment. After all, I am aiming for a promotion. And now, not only does my ex want me back, but the guy I used to think*



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*was Mr. Right just kissed me!  
Three months ago I couldn't hold  
on to one guy. Now three want  
me. When did my life become so  
complicated?*

*Holly Klein is an A-list celebrity  
with an army of assistants. Leo  
Monroe is a smart-talking DJ  
from the streets. She lives on  
Mulholland Drive; he lives  
on...someone else's sofa. But  
when Leo rescues Holly from a  
mugger, their two worlds collide,  
literally. Such a heroic act  
deserves a reward, and Holly's  
producer comes up with a  
brilliant suggestion: feature Leo  
on Holly's hit makeover show.  
New image, new life—in just a few*

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*weeks! Leo accepts only so he can stay in Holly's pool house. Meanwhile, Holly is stunned to realize she prefers rough-and-ready Leo to her usual slick, Armani-clad companions. Sleeping with him once is an accident; soon, however, it becomes a secret habit she can't seem to break. Great sex is one thing, but could a Hollywood star and a busking Brit ever seriously work as a couple? Holly starts to question whether the meaning of life really is a Hermés Birkin handbag and an invite to the hottest showbiz parties. Leo might be having the makeover, but is it Holly who really needs to*

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*change?*

*The Last Year of Being Single*

*Mean Season*

*Slim Chance*

*Eye to Eye*

*Notes from the Backseat*

*Can a Lawyer who*

*Specializes in Breaking Up*

*Couples Find Her Own Happy*

*Ending? Hazel Chamberlayne*

*can. She's turning forty.*

*And do you know what?*

*She's excited about it.*

*Successful by her own*

*standards, flanked by a*

*group of magnetic friends,*

*she feels as if life is*

*genuinely beginning for*

*her. Okay. Hazel would*

*like a man. Though seeing*

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*the dregs of relationships every day as a divorce lawyer means she doesn't have much hope in men, much luck with men nor much time to look for them, period. However, when fellow divorce lawyer Joe Ryan appears—a man ten years her junior, with a long-standing live-in girlfriend—he challenges Hazel's beliefs about who men are and what they want. And what will make her happy in life. Because this man may be different. May be.*

*Best friends Stella, a prim and proper*

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*schoolteacher, and Emily, a glamorous New York fashion designer, find their friendship put to the test when Stella is forced to reveal a dark secret to stop Emily from making the biggest mistake of her life. Original. 60,000 first printing. Rachel Benjamin soon discovers that her jokes about killing her obnoxious, slave-driving boss are no laughing matter when he is murdered and she becomes the prime suspect in the investigation. Original. Plus-size Maggie O'Leary*

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*is America's Anti-Diet Sweetheart. Her informed column about the pitfalls of dieting is the one sane voice crying out against the dietocracy. She is perfectly happy with who she is and the life she leads. Until she gets the chance to spend some quality time with Hollywood's hottest star. Maggie knows she can't exactly show up looking like...well, herself. So she swallows her words and vows to become the skinniest fat advocate Tinseltown has ever seen. Swearing her trusted*

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*assistant to silence, Maggie embarks on a "secret" makeover. From showdowns with her boss, who is convinced his star columnist is losing her edge—er, girth—to run-ins with her closest male friend, the trip through the famed red door of beauty is anything but graceful. But despite her doubts about abandoning the comfortable life she's known—not to mention deceiving legions of loyal readers who still think of her as their champion, L.A.-bound Maggie is hell-bent on getting her just*

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*"desserts"! Bursting with wit, insight and humor, Deborah Blumenthal's Fat Chance is a guilt-free pleasure that is good to the last page!*

*See Jane Write*

*Loose Screws*

*Fashionistas*

*My Fake Wedding*

*My Life Uncovered*

Katie's given up on love...so she'll be the perfect bride

When Katie Simpson

discovers her boyfriend

boffing "Fishpants Fraser,"

she vows to eat toenail

clippings before getting

involved again. Life as "the



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ginger spinster of Pelham Parish" will be lonely, but bearable as long as she shags lots of strangers and hangs tight with her friends. Unfortunately, Katie has the unerring ability to hit on the only gay man at the party (not again!). And her pals are somewhat preoccupied. Mover-and-shaker Janice has started scoping funerals for doddering sugar daddies. George, Katie's gorgeous, flamingly gay best friend (yes, she's tried it), is madly in love with an Aussie heartbreaker (struck out there, too) who needs some

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speedy nuptials to stay in the country. What better opportunity to plan a fake wedding more elaborate than a ten-tier cake?

However, love hasn't given up on Kate Just when the girl who eats like a cow, wears clompy shoes and is unacquainted with her own hairbrush starts trying on white dresses, romance comes from the unlikeliest—and straight and male—source. Will Katie let the man she loves ruin her wedding day?

In the space of a few hours, thirty-year-old Ginger

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Petrocelli had gone from bride-to-be to bride-who-never-was. So here she sat, alone in her cramped apartment, wedding crinolines askew, drowning her sorrows in a hundred-dollar bottle of Veuve Cliquot, when her doorbell rang. And her trip to hell in a handbasket was about to escalate. At the door: Nick, Ginger's "first." Only, he's a police officer now, and he wants to find out what she knows about her M.I.A. congressman fiancé. When was the last time she'd seen him? She'd better not leave

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town.... And the spiral continues: her cozy little sublet (really, she liked having her shower in the kitchen) is about to be yanked away, and the prestigious little design firm where she works is about to go belly-up. So what's a girl to do? Her answer, born of desperation: move in with her crazy, widowed mother—who Ginger claims sucks the life force out of every creature within one city block of her—and her grandmother, who spends much of her day engaged in heated arguments with her

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dead husband. Well, it's a plan. But bizarrely, as the summer progresses, her eccentric but lovable relatives give her the courage to make choices based on what she wants, not what she wants to avoid. When one ex-boyfriend gets married, a girl can laugh it off. With two, she begins to get nervous. But three? Three? Angie DiFranco is starting to take it personally. What is it about her that doesn't incite men to plunk down large sums of money in the name of eternal love? According to her one

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successfully married friend, men are like tight lids. One woman comes along, loosens him up, leaving him for the next woman to pop off the lid, no problem. After all, would Jennifer have landed Brad so easily without the Gwyneth factor? Suddenly Angie looks at Kirk, her current boyfriend, with new eyes. Kirk, whose last girlfriend loosened his lid by giving him The Ultimatum. Kirk, who suddenly seems primed to be popped right open. If the tight-lid theory is true, Angie could be married within a year—with

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a little effort. And a little help from her friends.... I thought I knew everything about Gwen Matson. We've been best friends since sophomore year at Analy High. I know her to be smart and confident with a retro style that would give Jackie O a run for her money—albeit a graceful, sweat-free run in kitten heels. Not once did she ever display a rabid need to record every detail of her existence. But never before had she gone on a weekend road trip with her amazing boyfriend, Coop...and his

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evil, yoga-toned best friend,  
Devil Blonde Dannika. Now  
she's writing to me like mad.  
Not that I'm complaining.  
I'm in gay Paris (good),  
meeting my future in-laws  
(bad), so her tireless  
scribbling is keeping us both  
sane. Usually, a well-thought-  
out What Would Jackie Do?  
helps Gwen pull it together.  
But this crisis is beyond  
help. I know Gwen and Coop  
are meant to be, but can  
their love withstand Gwen's  
psycho jealousy and  
Dannika's twisted sabotage?  
What Men Want  
The Younger Man



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Joyride

SLIGHTLY SINGLE

Inappropriate Men

A heat wave in Manhattan is enough to drive a girl crazy, and for Tracey Spadolini, a 24-year-old New York transplant who's been "left behind" for the summer, there's even more to sweat about. Her Slightly Significant Other, Will, will be returning from summer stock in September, to pick up where they left off. (Or will he?) But, in the days after Will's departure, Tracey decides it's time for a reality check. Her un-air-conditioned East Village apartment is a dump, her entry-level ad job sucks, her thighs don't seem to be getting any thinner, and Will seems to have dropped off the face of the earth. So, Tracey, with the help of her friends and one very attentive guy, decides to spend her summer reinventing herself...and

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taking a chance on liking the new woman she becomes.

For twenty-nine-year-old Hannah O'Dowd, finding a decent man in Portland, Oregon, is like pulling teeth! Luckily, the self-employed clothing designer has a job she loves and friends to help ease the pain: oversexed Cassie (always good to have the opposite perspective, Hannah notes), analytical Louise (too much perspective not always good) and an in-the-flesh tooth puller, dentist Scott (could prove useful). But as she nears the big 3-0, she begins to realize that dating frantically may truly be the only solution to finding Mr. Maybe. So, pumped up on nothing but drive and determination, Hannah cuts loose on her romantic quest. In fact, she kisses so many frogs she fears she'll turn green. (Note: While paling in comparison to her paralyzing fear of anything dental related,

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acquiring froglike qualities from hanging around losers—still not good.) And she's only just begun!

Unhappily married, Sidney Stein finds herself drifting into an illicit affair with Geoffrey Fahl, an older man, and then leaving Geoffrey to plunge into the dating scene, until a series of disastrous dates and unexpected romance turn her life upside down. A first novel. Original. 100,000 first printing.

When opportunity knocks--twice--cinematographer/aspiring director Roxanne Hastings, while dealing with a wayward romance and neglected friendships, is plunged into a world of Hollywood madness as she tries to juggle two projects that could make or break her career. Original. 30,000 first printing.

Slightly Settled  
Girls' Night Out

***For herein Fortune shows***

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***herself to be more kind Than  
is her custom. That's  
Shakespeare. In case you're  
wondering. If you were  
Delilah "Baby" Sampson,  
you'd already know that.  
Delilah got hooked on the  
Bard back in college. Then  
she briefly got hooked on  
Singapore Sling cocktails. And  
then she got tossed out of  
school. Yes, when Delilah  
discovers something she  
likes, she really sticks with it.  
These days, her addictions  
include sudoku, lime diet cola  
and now...Jimmy Choos. Oh,  
Baby's gotta have those  
shoes! But on her window-  
washer salary, \$700 for one  
pair is a stretch. Which leads  
us to her latest***

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***obsession...gambling. With an impromptu posse, including an elderly movie star, two Brazilian lesbians and Hillary Clinton (no, not that one!), Delilah hits the casinos and discovers that she's a natural-born high-roller. Every win puts her closer to those beloved Choos. And as the "21s" keep dropping, so do the men...right at her feet. But for a girl who never knows when to fold 'em, gambling and casino guys are not healthy habits. She could end up losing her shirt, her head...and a whole lot more. Lena Sharpe, determined to become a star, always pretends to be someone she is not in order to impress***

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***members of the opposite sex, until she meets her ideal mate in Colin who encourages her to follow her dreams and to be herself. Original. 60,000 first printing.***