



romantic suspense ratings & reviews

NEW BOOKS FOR JUNE

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.

AGAINST THE SUN

Kat Martin

★★★★½ **HOT**



It doesn't matter what Martin's characters are up against — she dishes up romantic suspense, sizzling sex and international intrigue in healthy doses, and fans are going to be the winners. Readers better set aside a block of time to finish this unputdownable tale of adventure and romance.

SUMMARY: Bodyguard Jake Cantrell's assignment to keep an eye on executive S.E. Dumont during a deal with visiting Saudis doesn't sound too bad — until he finds out that S.E. Dumont, AKA Sage, is gorgeous, sexy and very engaged. A former Special Forces Marine, Jake trusts the feeling in his gut that tells him there's something more going on than a business deal for Marine Drilling International — and his suspicions may blow the lid off a terrorist pipeline. As Sage struggles to wrap up the business deal, she is drawn into a web of intrigue, lies and a sizzling lust for the one man she should never even look at. (MIRA, May, 400 pp., \$7.99)

Pat Cooper

NO ONE LEFT TO TELL

Karen Rose

★★★★½ **MILD**



Baltimore is once again a hot spot for suspense as Rose provides a truly Byzantine tale of murder, blackmail and misdirec-

tion. This second book in Rose's series turns the focus on State's Attorney Grayson Smith and budding P.I. Paige Holden. The compact timeline of this tale makes the pace fast and furious, but Rose's rich cast of characters and intricate plot layers give the story real punch. Hang on tight and remember to breathe!

SUMMARY: Paige Holden has moved to Baltimore to try and rebuild her life and get a P.I. license, but her life takes another dramatic turn when pro bono client Elena Munoz is assassinated in front of her — after giving Paige a flash drive. Elena maintains that her husband Ramon, who was convicted of murdering Crystal Jones on the McCloud estate, is innocent. Grayson Smith successfully prosecuted the case against Ramon, but after recent events he starts to have questions. As Paige and Grayson begin investigating, they find a troubling mix of blackmail, secrets and politics — leading to a decade-long string of murders. (SIGNET, Jun., 544 pp., \$7.99)

Jill M. Smith

VORTEX

Cherry Adair

★★★★½ **HOT**

Danger is on the horizon in the third installment of Adair's thrilling series featuring sexy treasure-hunting brothers. Excitement abounds in this rapid-paced tale that combines high-seas adventure and chilling menace with a touch of humor. Adair aces another one!

SUMMARY: Logan Cutter and the crew of the Sea Wolf, his treasure hunting ship, discover an injured woman in the water, but getting her aboard is challenging when she instinctively fights back. Daniela Rosado is both scared and furious at her idiot cousins who knocked her out and tossed her overboard to attract Logan's attention. They want Daniela, an art gallery owner, to help Logan translate a map that could lead to a sunken treasure claimed by their family. Logan suspects something is up with "Annie," and his first thought is that she works for Cutter nemesis Rydell Case. However Daniela's story is much more complex and could threaten all their lives. (ST. MARTIN'S, Jun., 352 pp., \$7.99)

Jill M. Smith

E-book

GUARDING SUZANNAH

Norah Wilson

★★★★ **HOT**

The first entry in the Serve and Protect series packs a lot of romance as Quigg slowly gains Suzannah's trust, and the suspense offers a bit of a twist in this exciting tale. It's a pleasure watching the protagonists grow as a couple.

SUMMARY: Suzannah Phelps is a criminal defense attorney with a reputation for getting the bad guys off scot-free. She's earned the nicknames "The Ice Princess" and "She-Rex" for her demeanor, both in the courtroom and out. Detective John Quigley is just one of the victims of her decisive attacks, but he's admired her

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4½	Cherry Adair	VORTEX	9780312371951	St. Martin's
4	Pamela Callow	TATTOOED	9780778313021	Mira
3	Janet Dailey	BANNON BROTHERS: HONOR	9780758255778	Kensington*
3	Virna DePaul	SHADES OF DESIRE	9780373776351	HQN
4½	Kat Martin	AGAINST THE SUN	9780778313502	Mira
4	Marta Perry	DANGER IN PLAIN SIGHT	9780373776689	HQN
3	Gina Robinson	DIAMONDS ARE TRULY FOREVER	9780312542405	St. Martin's
4½	Karen Rose	NO ONE LEFT TO TELL	9780451236166	Signet
4	Jaime Rush	DARKNESS BECOMES HER	9780062018922	Avon
4	Norah Wilson	GUARDING SUZANNAH	9780986705526	Norah Wilson**
3	Anthology	THRILLER 3: LOVE IS MURDER	9780778313441	Mira*

* Hardcover ** E-book