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In this issue, on the cover is acclaimed Author Holly Brandon who is an engineer-turned fiction writer. With a lifetime of adventurous love stories, Brandon began her series of books based on real-life experiences. Brandon holds a Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. in Civil Engineering from UCLA and USC. Prior to her fiction novels, she was best known for her published works in the Journal of Earthquakes, Earthquake Engineering, and Engineering Vibrations and Earthquake Science.



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EDITOR'S LETTER

The Reader's House continues to connect writers, authors, artists, and coaches who share their story and passion. We bring them longform writings on different topics and unique interview subjects.

In this issue, on the cover is acclaimed Author Holly Brandon who is an engineer-turned fiction writer. With a lifetime of adventurous love stories, Brandon began her series of books based on real-life experiences. Brandon holds a Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. in Civil Engineering from UCLA and USC. Prior to her fiction novels, she was best known for her published works in the Journal of Earthquakes, Earthquake Engineering, and Engineering Vibrations and Earthquake Science.

In this issue;

An Interview Gold with Author of Women of Color in Tech, Azure Infrastructure Specialist SUSANNE TEDRICK, on page 14 offers her experts and hacks on tech for companies.

On following pages we have tips for women about beauty and make ups.

Editor's Choice, What to Read and New Releases, on page 20, offers new titles in novel, story and literature. I have selected four new titles to read this season on editor's choice section. I also selected for new title on what to read section.

We offer new titles on this issue.

Arthurian legend makes a comeback in epic new historical novel, on page 26 we talk about Parker J. Cole's novel, The Once and Future Queen.

On page 27 and 28, We have two new novels from Indian's Acclaimed Author's Keerthana Venkatesh and Sahana Sundar, and an audio book on the following page.

Good Girl Complex by Elle Kennedy, House of Sky and Breath by Sarah J. Maas, Book Lovers by Emily Henry, on page 32, 34, 36, are the new titles from acclaimed and New York Times Best Authors.

Enjoy Reading.

Harlowe

Published by
Newyox Limited
Company number: 13604960

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Due to the Corona-19 affect in England, we are working remotely until further notice. Currently, we are still producing publications; should this change, we will contact any customers this affects. This means our phones have been turned off and we're currently only available by email (editor@newyox.com). We will be answering emails as quickly as possible and we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. We'll keep our website updated as and when things change.

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Acclaimed Author HOLLY BRANDON

From Structural Engineer to Chick Lit Writer

“A series you need to read; Chastity Morgan’s life has all the perfections and flaws known in life, and her journey is one of pure enjoyment!”

—*Feathered Quill Book Reviews*

BY DAN PETERS
Jan 8, 2022


Holly Brandon breaks free from her analytical side to produce *Life in the Chastity Zone* and *Nothing’s as it Seems*, the first two books in the Chastity series. Brandon holds a Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. in Civil Engineering from UCLA and USC. Before her published works in the *Journal of Earthquakes*,

Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Vibrations, and Earthquake Sciences. Brandon enjoys tennis, golf, reading, and spending time with family and friends when she isn’t writing. The engineer-turned-fiction-writer began her series with a lifetime of adventurous love stories based on real-life experiences. Unbelievable as it may appear, many of the scenes in

Life in the Chastity Zone and *Nothing’s as it Seems* are based on true-life experiences. Holly invites readers to follow Chastity on her crazy and hilarious adventures in her search for love and happiness.



“Lovers of romance will find Chastity amusing and realistic.”
—**BlueInk Review**

Continued on page 11 



“

*“Holly Brandon makes a spectacular launch into the literary world with her debut novel *Life in the Chastity Zone*. As the first book in the author’s Chastity series, the story sets a high bar for what will no doubt be an exciting romantic comedy series. It is a must-read for romance fans, women’s fiction, and contemporary fiction.”*
Readers Views Book Review

PHOTOGRAPHY: Bill Youngblood
HAIR/MAKEUP: Jetty Stutzman
WHITE DRESS: Vera Wang
SHORTS/JACKET: Chanel
SHOES: Jimmy Choo
JEWELRY: Barry Peterson Jewelers

Dive Into a Great Journey

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STAR INTERVIEW

From a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering to a Ph.D. in Adventure, Nothing's "Truly" As It Seems

← Continued from page 8

What are you most proud of with your first book?

The awards because every English teacher in high school told me that I would never become a writer. It feels satisfying that people value my work. Among a plethora of accolades, my top three awards include: IAN Book of the Year Awards, Pinnacle Book Achievement Award, Feathered Quill Book Awards.

There is so much emotion in *Life in the Chastity Zone* and told with profound wit and humor imaginable. How challenging is it to write irony/sarcasm and still keep your characters so personable?

Challenging? Yes. Yet, I see my characters as if they were sitting in the room with me. Since they've become a part of my life, I enjoy dreaming up and writing what I think they would say. I try to visualize what would come out of their mouths with their quirky behavior and then work those elements into my story. It also helps to have gone through crazy situations and lived to tell the tale, which I pulled to create my narratives. While it may be fiction, there are many



true-to-life situations and characters in both novels!

The men in this book are so unique. Are these characters based on men you've met along the way in your own life's journey?

Surprisingly, I've met them all. A few of the characters are a merger of two or more men I've met in my past. I must say that I've encountered unique men who left an unforgettable impression on me, for

better or for worse. I was a senior in high school when I experienced my first adventure with a man I secretly labeled Montana Man. He was tall, dark, and handsome, and I was terrified of flying. It didn't help that I was leaving on a Delta flight from one of the most dangerous airports because of its topography and weather conditions. I was scared to death. I can still picture him coming up to me in the airport, his scent, his aura, everything, and then

those few little words that took me off guard, "I want to sit next to you on the plane." He was, I'd say, "what dreams are made of," except that he was a facade—the cover was beautiful, but the inside was a seedy, tainted nightmare. So began my adventures, which later got put on the paper.

Along those same lines, is *Chastity* based on you or someone you know? And the lessons she learns throughout, do you hope that readers in this day and age will understand and perhaps learn to "stick to their guns" and take time to make decisions instead of rushing into things?

Chastity is definitely based on my life. I learned a long time ago that it's worth waiting and fighting for all good things. I wanted readers to see a character who has everything thrown at her—lack of success, inability to have children, loss of the things

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“Full of lively adventures; these escapades will compel you to read through the night.”

—Reader Views

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most cherished—but then decides to stick to her truth and fights. She may come out bruised in the process, but she has toughened up because of her experiences, a true survivor.

What is the one lesson you hope readers will take from this?

The one lesson I hope everyone will take from *Nothing's as It Seems* is that if you fight hard enough, you can overcome any obstacle thrown your way. And never, ever let anyone tell you that your ideas and beliefs are crazy and ridiculous because that's what makes us all so unique and special. Mar-

“I would want Ayn Rand to write my life story”

riage is special and worth waiting for when the right man comes along.

What should readers expect in Book 2, *Nothing's as It Seems*?

This book is a continuation of *Life in the Chastity Zone*, a great stand-alone novel. Fans of my first book know it left off with a cliffhanger. Readers will learn more about many familiar characters while introduced to new ones. They should also expect to see Chastity dive into the working force and the struggles of being a woman in a man's world. If you're new to the series, plan for many unexpected twists and turns, all of which are a part of the story's excellent groundwork.

What do you read when you're working on a book? And what kind of reading do you avoid while writing?

I love to pick up and read other humorous Women's fiction authors and notes I've taken about my own dating journey to get my creative juices flowing. I

“If you want to be my friend,” she continues, “don't ask me any questions. Anyway, it's not the answers that will set you free.”

tend to laugh aloud with that genre, which takes the edge off writer's block. At the same time, it makes me want to create and develop my characters like the ones I encounter in those books. As far as what not to read, I avoid my finance books—those are a headache, and while helpful, they aren't exactly what I need to help with my genre. Fiscally, they help, but creatively, a giant no.

What moves you most in a work of literature?

At the root of all literature is love. I am a

hopeless romantic to the core, and I also love a good love story because I dream of someday finding my own happily-ever-after. So, for now, I want to live vicariously through beautiful stories full of adventures, hopes, and dreams.

What's the last great book you read?

The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides. If you like a good thriller, this is it. You'll never guess “whodunnit.”

What's your favorite book no one else has heard of?

A Healer Among Us: The Story of Douglas Johnson by Jon Steven's. It's about America's foremost psychic healers. I was blessed to have known him and experienced his gifts. He was like an adopted grandfather who would weekly come over to our house for dinner and play *Candyland* with me when I was a child.

Which writer would you want to write your life story?

Ayn Rand. Just as she was able to capture Roark's struggle, she would have done the same for me. Good and bad, I've been through hard times, but it has shaped me into who I am today.

You're organizing a party. Which two authors, dead or alive,

do you invite?

Ayn Rand and Richard Heart. Ayn Rand because she's created iconic books like *The Fountain Head* and *Atlas Shrugged*, and I would want to ask her where her inspiration came from—she had such a gift for foreword thinking. Richard Heart because he's a maverick. He spends his time making people's lives better. He produces free self-help books, not to mention he's the cryptic genius that created the HEX coin. Here's a guy who writes only to give it away for free.

Which writers working today do you admire most, and why?

Stephenie Meyer, Sophie Kinsella, Alex Michaelides, and Cassandra Clare. These authors and their varied styles and genres are all very different, but have one thing in common—they know how to tell a great story.

What genres do you especially enjoy reading?

Fantasy fiction and humor because I can get lost in the book and envision this entirely different world, or I end up laughing my way through the novel; either one is a win in my book.

Who is your favorite fictional hero or heroine?

Howard Roark from *The Fountainhead*. He battles against conventional standards and shows us how important it is to be an individual and not conform to society.

What book are you planning to read next?

The Maiden by Alex Michaelides.

What kind of reader were you as a child?

I wasn't much of a reader, to be honest. I loved listening to stories my mother would read to me, such as *Where the Red Fern Grows*. I loved nature and being among nature. As silly as it sounds, I spent my free time dressing up my chickens, giving them wheelbarrow rides. I would also line up the garden snails in races to see who would win.

What is your biggest takeaway from making the leap from engineer to an author?

To follow your dreams. Never let anyone tell you that you can't do something. If you love something, do it; never give up. I'm fortunate that I loved engineering and still love it, but writing was calling to me. When I started to write, I knew this was what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. ●



INTERVIEW
GOLD

Author of Women of Color in Tech

I love getting to pour it onto the page. To look back, re-read, and say, “Yes. That’s it!” And I love hearing from readers. I seriously have the best readers in the world.”

My clients are located all across the United States

for Microsoft, one of the largest and influential technology companies in the world. My work specifically focuses on Azure, Microsoft’s cloud computing platform. Depending on where my clients are in their cloud journey, I help them to work through the business and technical challenges that come with migrating their IT operations in the cloud, or help them innovate their existing cloud computing estate to be more competitive.

I’m also an advocate for increased diversity, equity and inclusion within the technology industry. In 2020, John Wiley & Son’s published my book “Women of Color In Tech: A Blueprint for Inspiring and Mentoring the Next Generation of Technology Innovators”. The book seeks to inform and inspire women of color to pursue technology careers despite the known challenges they face in the industry. I am also the Vice Chair for the Advancing Tech Talent and Diversity Executive Council for CompTIA, a global information technology professional organization. Lastly, I am a producer and host for Wiley’s Diversity in Tech webinar series, which launched in May 2021.

How and why did you get started in this line of work?

I’ve loved computers and technology since I was a child, but due to many personal circumstances (and to some extent, lack of confidence in myself), I did not pursue a career in technology until much later in life. My pivot into my line of work began with pursuing a degree in communications and information technology, while also pursuing as many professional development, mentoring and volunteering opportunities as I could

to further refine my skills. This led me to land a technical sales internship, then a full time job, at IBM and several years later, Microsoft.

How do you deal with the stress of Covid-19?

I try to first engage in many of my hobbies to keep my mind off of stress, including reading, video games and fairly recently, teaching myself to play electric guitar. I also try to remain connected with my close friends and family – talking through the small victories in our lives helps get through some of the more stressful times.

What is most important to you in a company?

Culture, culture, culture. I believe that you can make money and be successful in almost any company. But companies that really invest in your personal and professional development, that invest in their communities, and embrace their workers for everything that they bring to the table – those are the companies I truly admire.

What was the worst part of business since the covid-19 started?

My profession is very customer centric, and not being able to meet with my clients in person has been both challenging and a little sad for me.

What was the best part ?

Getting to spend more time with my husband one on one. My job, prior to the pandemic, required me to travel a lot for client meetings, trade-shows, etc. But with travel restricted, it gave me more of an opportunity to spend more time with my wonderful husband.

How covid-19 affected the way of doing business?

Because the nature of my work was

already remote/work from home, my day to day business activities didn’t change much. The only significant change was that I had lots more virtual meetings!

What service(s) or product(s) do you offer/manufacture?

I concentrate on infrastructure offerings on the Azure platform, so anything that concentrates on things like virtual machines, cloud data storage and cloud networking. I also give a number of talks and presentations on general cloud computing topics, growing professional development skills, and diversity and inclusion.

To what do you attribute your success?

While I make plenty of mistakes and missteps, I do not let them define me. Rather I take the opportunity to understand the lessons learned from each experience and keep moving.

Do you work locally or nationally?

My clients are located all across the United States.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I see myself continuing to fight for more DEI in the tech industry and hopefully becoming a two time author!

If you had one piece of advice to someone just starting out, what would it be?

To paraphrase the former CEO of IBM, growth and comfort do not co-exist. This is to say you should try to seek our professional development and academic opportunities that are stretch, even if you struggle a bit or fail. I’ve learned more from my failures and stumbling blocks than my successes.

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Azure Infrastructure Specialist
SUSANNE TEDRICK

Susanne performs community service work for several non-profits, including serving as Vice Chair of the Advancing Tech Talent and Diversity Executive Council for CompTIA, and a coalition member for the Command Shift initiative for the non-profit, NPower. Susanne is the author of the critically acclaimed book, “Women of Color in Tech”.

by Fatih Oncu

Susanne Tedrick is a cloud infrastructure specialist for Azure, Microsoft’s cloud computing platform. In her work, Susanne helps her client address their needs and challenges when migrating and modernize their existing infrastructure and applications to the cloud.

Fiercely committed to increasing the participation of women and people of color in STEM professional opportunities, Susanne performs community service work for several non-profits, including serving as Vice Chair of the Advancing Tech Talent and Diversity Executive Council for CompTIA, and a coalition member for the Command Shift initiative for the non-profit, NPower. Susanne is the author of the critically acclaimed book, “Women of Color in Tech”.

Tell us about yourself and your company, What kind of Corporation is your business?

I currently work as a cloud infrastructure specialist