

TESSA DARE

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www.TessaDare.com

BIO

Tessa Dare is the award-winning author of seven historical romance novels and one novella. She has twice been awarded the *RT Book Reviews* Reviewer's Choice Award, and has twice been a finalist for Romance Writers of America's prestigious RITA® award. Her books have been contracted for translation in nine languages. Recently, *Booklist* magazine named her one of the "new stars of historical romance."

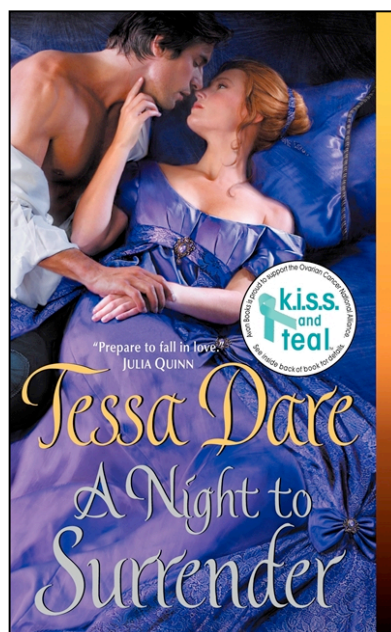
Mixing wit, sensuality, and emotion, Tessa strives to write Regency-set romance novels that feel relatable to modern readers. With her new "Spindle Cove" series, she's had great fun creating a fictional seaside community populated by women who defy the conventions of their time—engaging in such unladylike pursuits as medicine, geology, and artillery. And she's had even more fun dreaming up the strong-willed, unsuspecting men who'll find their hearts ensnared by these "spinster" heroines. The first Spindle Cove book, *A Night to Surrender*, will be available August 30, 2011 from Avon Books.

A librarian by training and a booklover at heart, Tessa takes great pride and pleasure in continuing to work part-part-time at her local public library. She makes her home in Southern California, where she shares a cozy, cluttered bungalow with her husband, their two children, and a big brown dog.

To learn more about Tessa and her books, please visit her website: www.TessaDare.com

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FROM *A NIGHT TO SURRENDER*:

“The question is, Miss Finch . . . what are *you* doing in this village?”

“I’ve been trying to explain it to you. We have a community of ladies here in Spindle Cove, and we support one another with friendship, intellectual stimulation, and healthful living.”

“No, no. I can see how this might appeal to a mousy, awkward chit with no prospects for something better. But what are *you* doing here?”

Perplexed, she turned her gloved hands palms-up. “Living happily.”

“Really,” he said, giving her a skeptical look. Even his horse snorted in seeming disbelief. “A woman like you.”

She bristled. Just what kind of woman did he think she was?

“If you think yourself content with no man in your life, Miss Finch, that only proves one thing.” In a swift motion, he pulled himself into the saddle. His next words were spoken down at her, making her feel small and patronized.

“You’ve been meeting all the wrong men.”

ADVANCE PRAISE

Starred Review from *Publishers Weekly*:

“Delightful... Enticing romantic encounters are matched by witty conversations that slowly and seamlessly reveal deep truths about Dare's endearing one-of-a-kind characters.”

Top Pick! from *RT Book Reviews* magazine:

“Since her 2009 debut, Dare has struck just the right chord with readers. Her light yet fascinating plots, disarming characters, sense of humor and sensuality enthrall. Dare dares to create memorable and unique stories that are sure to remain reader favorites for years.”

BACK COVER COPY

*Welcome to Spindle Cove, where ladies with delicate constitutions
come for the sea air, and men in their prime are...nowhere to be found.*

Or are they?

Spindle Cove is the destination of choice for certain types of well-bred young ladies: the painfully shy, young wives disenchanted with matrimony, and young girls too enchanted with the wrong men. It is a haven for those who live there.

Victor Bramwell, the new Earl of Rycliff, knows he doesn't belong here. So far as he can tell, there's nothing in this place but spinsters...and sheep. But he has no choice, he has orders to gather a militia. It's a simple mission, made complicated by the spirited, exquisite Susanna Finch—a woman who is determined to save her personal utopia from the invasion of Bram's makeshift army.

Susanna has no use for aggravating men; Bram has sworn off interfering women. The scene is set for an epic battle...but who can be named the winner when both have so much to lose?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

about the Spindle Cove series and *A Night to Surrender*:

Is Spindle Cove a real place?

Spindle Cove is a fictional village, but I envision it situated on the East Sussex coast, somewhere between Rye and Eastbourne. In 2010, I spent a week or so exploring that area, wandering through crumbling Norman castles, smugglers' caves, Tudor-era taverns, stately manor houses, medieval cathedrals, and pastures full of sheep. I took all my favorite snippets from reality and squashed them into one tiny fictional village, Spindle Cove.

Spindle Cove is also my “dream village” for a different reason. Like so many of us, I went through a rather painful phase in adolescence. I was hopeless at sports, occasionally outspoken, awkward around boys, and always reading a novel tucked behind my science textbook. In creating Spindle Cove, my idea was to create a haven for my younger self—a charming, sunny seaside village where a bookish, unconventional young lady could live in peace, and no one would look at her funny for walking and reading at the same time. And of course, the unsuspecting men who stumble into that village soon discover these seemingly “hopeless” spinsters are enchanting, enticing, and utterly irresistible!

Can you talk a little about Bram and Susanna, the hero and heroine of A Night to Surrender?

As the only daughter of the local gentleman, Miss Susanna Finch is the unofficial patroness of Spindle Cove. She's worked hard to nurture their peaceful community of unconventional

women, and she's none too pleased when Bram, the new Earl of Rycliff, arrives with plans to raise a local militia. Susanna is a self-taught apothecary and the daughter of a weaponry inventor, so she knows how to hold her own with a wounded warrior. But the explosive chemistry that sparks between them catches them both off-guard. Susanna's determined to keep the peace, but raising a fighting force is Bram's last chance at redemption. It's a classic battle of the sexes, as only one can emerge as the leader of Spindle Cove.

Tell me about the round "KISS and Teal" burst on the cover of A Night to Surrender.

The "K.I.S.S. and Teal" campaign is a wonderful partnership between Avon Books and the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance. September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. All of Avon's September books will feature this seal on the cover and will include important information about ovarian cancer in the back. The "K.I.S.S." stands for "Know the Important Signs and Symptoms", and teal is the designated color for ovarian cancer awareness. Avon has donated \$25,000 to the OCNA and will donate up to \$25,000 more, based on sales of these books (\$0.25 per book sold). The other important part of the campaign is raising awareness. There's no routine test for detecting ovarian cancer, and the symptoms are all-too-easy to miss. That's why Avon and OCNA want to encourage all women to know the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer (K.I.S.S.) and discuss them with their friends and family ("teal"/tell). I'm honored that *A Night to Surrender* is part of this important effort.

Can you describe your writing routine?

I've often said the only routine we have in the Dare household resembles a circus routine! The darelings are swinging from the trapeze or doing their best impressions of wild animals. Over in the other ring, we have the strong man, Mr. Dare. And I'm walking the tightrope, trying to balance a laptop in one hand and a laundry basket in the other. Basically, I squeeze in the writing whenever, wherever I can.

What's next in the Spindle Cove series?

Spindle Cove book two, *A Week to be Wicked*, will be available next Spring. I had so much fun writing this book. It's a zany, sexy road-trip romance between two people who couldn't be more dissimilar—a bespectacled bluestocking passionate about fossil-hunting, and a devil-may-care viscount who spends his life in search of a good party. The two embark on an epic journey together, and of course everything that can go wrong, does. I like to joke that the high concept was "Jane Austen meets *Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle*."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Spindle Cove Series

A Night to Surrender

Coming August 30, 2011, from Avon Books

ISBN-10: 0062049836 ♦ ISBN-13: 978-0062049834

A Week to be Wicked

Coming Spring 2012, from Avon Books

ISBN-10: 0062049879 ♦ ISBN-13: 978-0062049872

Spindle Cove Book Three, Title TBA

Coming Fall 2012, from Avon Books

The Stud Club Trilogy

One Dance with a Duke

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ISBN-10: 0345518853 ♦ ISBN-13: 978-0345518859

Twice Tempted by a Rogue

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ISBN-10: 034551887X ♦ ISBN-13: 978-0345518873

Three Nights with a Scoundrel

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ISBN-10: 0345518896 ♦ ISBN-13: 978-0345518897

The Wanton Dairymaid Trilogy

Goddess of the Hunt

©2009, Ballantine Books

ISBN-10: 0345506863 ♦ ISBN-13: 978-0345506863

Surrender of a Siren

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ISBN-10: 0345506871 ♦ ISBN-13: 978-0345506870

A Lady of Persuasion

©2009, Ballantine Books

ISBN-10: 034550688X ♦ ISBN-13: 978-0345506887

E-book Only

The Legend of the Werestag (novella)

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ISBN-13: 978-1-60504-528-3