

Book Club Erotic Romance Box Set Murder Crime Love Lust Amp Sex Seduction

[#Erotic Romance Box Set](#) [#Dark Romance Thriller](#) [#Murder Mystery Seduction](#) [#Adult Crime Novels](#) [#Love Lust Sex Books](#)

Dive into a captivating collection where passion collides with peril in this enthralling erotic romance box set. Explore tales of intense love, forbidden lust, and dangerous seduction, all intricately woven with thrilling elements of murder and crime. Prepare for a gripping journey where dark desires lead to shocking secrets, perfect for readers who crave suspenseful adult romance with a sinister edge.

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Enjoy the full version Dark Seduction Crime Thriller, available at no cost.

Riding Dirty

He's her weapon of choice Psychologist Mia Richards wants revenge. Her new client, tattooed Cole "Shank" Shepherd, provides the perfect means. She just has to manipulate the felon-turned-informant into eliminating her husband's killers—members of Cole's rival motorcycle club. The first step, seducing Cole, is simple. As for walking away before she falls hard—it's already too late... Dirty Eleven practically raised Cole, and he plans to double-cross the cops rather than sell the club out. But smart, sexy Mia is an irresistible distraction. While she's evaluating his mind, all he can think about is her body...until he discovers her true intentions. Walking a fine line between desire and betrayal, they'll have to outrun her past, his enemies and the law for a love that's dangerously real. Book one of the Dirty Eleven MC series 79,020 words

Succubus Blues

Being a succubus sounds pretty glamorous. Shape-shifting, killer wardrobe, what's not to like? But Georgina Kincaid's life gets complicated when an unknown entity "helpfully" begins killing her immortal adversaries.

Chasing the Red Queen

Donja Bellanger, suffering after the death of her father, finds herself in dire straits when her mom takes a new husband. Forced not only to move to a strange city, but to share a room with her glamorous, new stepsister, Makayla Hampton, her life spirals out of control. Makayla lures her from goth to glam straight into an exclusive club, not only for wealthy elites but Immortal Descendants. Donja crosses paths with Torin Mancini and he's too damn handsome to be real. Torin, who has concealed his identity as a powerful ancient sprit for eight hundred years, sets his eyes on Donja; there's something about her blood, something he can't walk away from. He's not alone. A deadly predator has picked up her scent. Stalked, she reaches out to Torin, but the lure of her blood has him on edge. As Torin battles his heart desires and feelings he thought buried and gone, one thing is clear: they have as much, if not more to fear of each other, than the predator who would have her life. Is love enough? Can she accept him for what he is and better yet, can he control his hungry, hungry eyes? A beautiful love story with relentless action, elite battles and steamy moments...unforgettable!

Dare to Lie

The third thrill-a-minute novel in the gritty contemporary Sons of Steel Row romance series from the author of Dare to Run and Dare to Stay. As an undercover DEA agent in the most powerful gang in Boston, Scott Donahue accepts the risks of living a double life. But when Tate Donovan, leader of the Sons of Steel Row, assigns Scotty to take his place in a bachelor's auction sponsored by his sister's sorority, he's exposed to a whole new level of danger. Even though Tate makes it very clear—Skyler is off limits—the second Scotty sees her, he's a goner. But how does he tell Sky she's falling for a man who doesn't exist? Sky can't resist Scotty's cool confidence or the raw, edgy power oozing from his perfect body. She's always been the good girl, but he brings out the bad in her. And even though she knows so little about who he really is, Sky's willing to take the biggest risk of all. But putting her heart on the line is no guarantee that Scotty won't slip through her fingers...

Pride and Pleasure

Thief-taker Jasper Bond is entirely too large, too handsome and too dangerous. Who would believe that an intellectual like Eliza would be seduced by a man of action?

Young Love Murder

First love's a killer, but so is seventeen-year-old Annabelle Blanc. The teenager was raised to be an assassin and taught to never fall in love. She lives for the job until she meets Gabriel Sanchez, the son of her latest target. Wealthy, spoiled and self-indulgent, Gabriel Sanchez is a teenage playboy. Setting his sights on the beautiful Annabelle, he's drawn to the mysterious new girl who's playing hard to get. Gabriel also finds himself pulled into a world of deception, violence and murder. Off-centered for the first time in her life, Annabelle struggles to fight her doomed attraction for the handsome Gabriel. In this gritty, mature YA novel, you'll follow Annabelle and Gabriel in an intense, funny, angry, crazy, rocky and passionate romance. As two worlds collide and they're repeatedly thrown together and pulled apart by fate, will Annabelle and Gabriel overcome betrayals, revenge and heartbreak to find a lasting love?

The Virgin Who Ruined Lord Gray

Behind the doors of the Clifford Charity School for Wayward Girls there lies a secret society of brilliant, fearless women who are bringing justice to London's most corrupt aristocrats, one nobleman at a time . . . Other young ladies might occupy their spare time with drawing or needlework, but Sophia Monmouth spends hers scaling rooftops and shadowing suspicious characters. Her objective: to gain information that will free a friend wrongly accused of murder. She hasn't bargained on being spotted and followed back to the Clifford School by a mysterious earl who holds almost as many secrets as she does. Tristan Stratford, Lord Gray, earned the nickname the Ghost of Bow Street because no man has ever escaped him. Sophia—all soft curves beneath her disguise—is a unique challenge. Determined to learn the truth about the Clifford School, he joins Sophia in a scheme that leads from Newgate's cells to the pinnacle of power. But when desire is at odds with justice, succumbing to temptation may lead them both into the heart of danger . . . "Bradley expertly balances excitement, humor, and heat to create a rollicking romance headlined by a pair of irresistible protagonists. Readers will be eager to see what comes next." —Publishers Weekly **STARRED REVIEW**

Cruel Poetry

A novel. Erotic, drug-ridden and violent, the story of Renata and her male and female lovers takes the reader into the heart of South Beach, Miami, where no one is surprised to find a friendly python or a "torture box" in the line of work for a hooker. Her search for love is strewn with body parts, but not through evil intent. Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award Finalist, 2008, published by Serpent's Tail, U.K. 2007.

Mr. Match

Paxton Vance isn't as cryptic as he thinks. That broody nature and tough-guy exterior aren't fooling me one bit. I know everything about him. I listen in on his most personal phone calls. I read his mail before he does. I even know what his mother got him for Christmas last year. You're the man of my dreams, Paxton Vance. You just don't know it yet. But don't worry, I'll remind you. I'm here to give you everything you need, before you know you need it. So don't get defensive because I take a challenge seriously.

You have to open up to someone, and that someone is me. Besides, you can't stay Mr. Mysterious forever. Why play the game if you never want to win?

Fingersmith

A BBC TWO BETWEEN THE COVERS BOOK CLUB PICK (BOOKER PRIZE GEMS) The book that inspired Park Chan-wook's astonishing film *The Handmaiden*. Shortlisted for the Orange Prize and the Booker Prize London 1992. Sue Trinder, orphaned at birth, grows up among petty thieves - fingersmiths - under the rough but loving care of Mrs Sucksby and her 'family'. But from the moment she draws breath, Sue's fate is linked to that of another orphan growing up in a gloomy mansion not too many miles away.

The Castle

FINAL BOOK IN THE TRILOGY! Safe in the ivory tower... Gabriel Miller swears he'll keep me safe. Enemies lurk outside, waiting to strike. An army held back by these walls. Except some animal instinct warns me the danger is much closer. It's already here. Is Gabriel my protector or my enemy? Is this house a castle or a cage? There's nowhere for me to go, no one left for me to trust. No escape from a past determined to capture its prize. *THE CASTLE* is book three in the Endgame series from New York Times bestselling author Skye Warren about revenge and seduction in the game of love. This is the final novel in the story of Gabriel and Avery. "Positively sinful, and outrageously sexy!" - Lisa Renee Jones, New York Times bestselling author

Dark Soul

"A killer's moral compass rarely points true, and among made men, being gay is a capital crime. But Silvio Spadaro, deadly prodigy and heir to a Family fortune, is determined to find his own way -- at the feet of the man he loves or by the barrel of a gun -- no matter the dangers or costs."--P. [4] of cover.

Shadow and Bone

Orphaned by the Border Wars, Alina Starkov is taken to become the protégée of the mysterious Darkling, who trains her to join the magical elite in the belief that she is the Sun Summoner, who can destroy the monsters of the Fold.

Jake

Forget the Hatfields and McCoys, in a small Southern town, the Whitfields and Tallys are the real family feud. So for some unholy reason, Jake Whitfield's old man and Angel Tally's grandfather wrote codicils to their wills the night before they died in a suspicious fire. The codicils require Jake and Angel to marry or lose their inheritances. Jake feels like a man with two faces. One he presents to his brothers and the public: the criminal willing to step on anyone for a buck while mercilessly protecting the business. The other: the lonely man wanting a better life for himself and his family and working with an FBI agent to make it happen. To Jake, marrying Angel makes sense. With her family's help, he can fight the new criminal organization that's moving into his town. Immersed in the criminal world, there is no hope for Angel, but her brother is still young. She will do anything to protect him from that way of life and whoever killed their grandfather, even marry a despised Whitfield. And Angel never forgot about the sexy incident with Jake in high school ten years earlier. And if she has to go along with a Whitfield-Tally marriage, she wants a replay. An Adult Novel

Lord of Temptation

Three young heirs, imprisoned by an unscrupulous uncle, escaped--to the sea, to the streets, to faraway battle--awaiting the day when they would return to reclaim their birthright. Once upon a time, he was Lord Tristan Easton--now he is Crimson Jack, a notorious privateer beholden to none, whose only mistress is the sea. But all that will change when exquisite Lady Anne Hayworth hires his protection on a trip into danger and seduction... Desperation brought Anne to the bronzed, blue-eyed buccaneer. But after the Captain demands a kiss as his payment, desire will keep her at his side. She has never known temptation like this--but to protect her heart, she knows she must leave him behind. Yet Tristan cannot easily forget the beauty--and when they meet again in a London ballroom, he vows he won't lose her a second time, as fiery passion reignited takes them into uncharted waters that could lead the second lost lord home...

The Girl in the Mirror

An edge-of-your-seat debut thriller with identical twins, a crazy inheritance and a boat full of secrets. Who can you trust? Absolutely nobody!

Hard Compromise

Laurie Peterson assumes her impulsive one-night stand with sinfully sexy Sheriff Ethan Booker is the biggest surprise of the year...until her bakery burns down while she's basking in the afterglow. It looks like her dreams are up in smoke, but then Ethan proposes a deal too tempting to resist. Ethan has no intention of settling for a one-night stand with Laurie. Nor does he want anything to do with the women his wealthy family wants him to meet. Not when he's waited ten years for his chance to make his move. His deal might have strings—and Laurie may not know the stakes—but nothing will stop this sexy cop from staking a real claim on her body and her heart. Each book in the Compromise Me series is STANDALONE: * Compromising Her Position * Hard Compromise * Compromised in Paradise

Cat Person

She thought, brightly, This is the worst life decision I have ever made! And she marvelled at herself for a while, at the mystery of this person who'd just done this bizarre, inexplicable thing. Margot meets Robert. They exchange numbers. They text, flirt and eventually have sex – the type of sex you attempt to forget. How could one date go so wrong? Everything that takes place in Cat Person happens to countless people every day. But Cat Person is not an everyday story. In less than a week, Kristen Roupenian's New Yorker debut became the most read and shared short story in their website's history. This is the bad date that went viral. This is the conversation we're all having. This gift edition contains photographs by celebrated photographer Elinor Carucci, who was commissioned by the New Yorker to capture the image that accompanied Kristen Roupenian's Cat Person when it appeared in the magazine. You Know You Want This, Kristen Roupenian's debut collection, will be published in February 2019.

Ruled

In the latest novel in the series with the "sexiest, baddest, hottest" outlaws around, one woman must choose between the two men who want to claim her... Or does she? Despite his magnetic personality, Rylan can't seem to seduce Reese, the deadly leader of their town of outlaws. Winning her over is a welcome challenge, but her indifference isn't the only thing standing in his way. If he wants Reese, Rylan must also win over Sloan, her stoic protector... Sloan has always loved Reese, but their painful past has stolen his chances of a future with her. Rylan's interest in Reese only intensifies the tension - until Sloan begins to wonder if the reckless man might be the one person who can bridge the distance... The last time Reese fell for the wrong man, she had no choice but to kill him. Now, she desperately wants to take what both Rylan and Sloan are offering. But if she makes the wrong call again, she risks losing them both.

The Moonstone and Miss Jones

When he is hired by Professor Lovecraft to find the fabled Moonstone, Phaeton Black brings Miss America Jones, the daughter of a Cajun witch, along on an adventure that leads them to the Orient and puts them both in a compromising position.

Wild Cat

In the new Leopard novel by the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Cat's Lair* and *Leopard's Prey*, passions explode like wildfire when a young woman's feral instincts are ignited by a man who's too dangerous not to desire . . . A simple request for Siena Arnotto: deliver a gift to her grandfather's friend. One look at Elijah Lospostos, hard-bodied and stripped to the waist, and Siena succumbs to a feline stirring she never felt before, and to Elijah's reckless and pleasurable demands. But when that pulse-throbbing moment ends in the murder of an unexpected intruder, Elijah accuses the shaken and confused Siena of setting him up. Then Siena discovers the truth of her Leopard heritage, of the secrets in her grandfather's inner circle, and the sinister plot of revenge that has put her in jeopardy. When Siena's grandfather is assassinated, she realizes the only man she can trust is Elijah. Now as her Leopard rises from within, Siena and Elijah share not only an animal instinct for survival—but a desire so raw and wild it may be the only thing that can save them.

Dark Soul

Love lights even the darkest soul. Stefano Marino is a made man, a happily married West Coast Mafia boss who travels east to await the death of a family patriarch. All the old hands have gathered—of course sharks will circle when there's blood in the water—but it's a new hand that draws Stefano's eye. Silvio "the Barracuda" Spadaro is protetto and heir to retired consigliere Gianbattista Falchi, and a made man in his own right. Among his underworld family, being gay is a capital crime, but the young killer has never much cared for rules. The only orders he follows are Battista's, whether on the killing field or in his bed. But Silvio has needs Battista can't fill, and he's cast his black-eyed gaze on Stefano, as he drives the older mafioso toward urges he's spent his whole life repressing. As much as Stefano resists, when the Russian mob invades his territory and forces him to seek aid, Gianbattista's price brings Stefano face to face once more with Silvio—and his darkest desires.

A Touch of Crimson (A Renegade Angels Novel)

From the No. 1 international bestselling author of the *Crossfire* series, *A Touch of Crimson* is the first novel in Sylvia Day's sensationally sexy *Renegade Angels* series. If you fell for Gideon Cross, wait until you meet the men who really are out of this world... Adrian Mitchell is an angel of immense power and an insatiable desire for the one woman he can't have. The head of an elite unit of the Seraphim, his task is to punish the Fallen - angels who have become vampires - and command a restless pack of indentured lycans. Now, nearly two hundred years after losing the love of his life, Adrian has found his beloved Shadoe, her soul inhabiting a new body with no memory of him. Lindsay Gibson can't resist her fierce attraction to the seductive male who crosses her path. Swept into a dangerous world of tumultuous passion and preternatural conflict, Lindsay realises there's more at stake than her love and her life - both she and Adrian could lose their very souls... The thrilling *Renegade Angels* series continues with *A Hunger So Wild*...

Autumn Bones

New York Times bestselling author Jacqueline Carey returns to the curious Midwest tourist community where normal and paranormal worlds co-exist—however tenuously—under the watchful eye of a female hellspawn... Fathered by an incubus, raised by a mortal mother, and liaison to the Pemkowet Police Department, Daisy Johanssen pulled the community together after a summer tragedy befell the resort town she calls home. Things are back to normal—as normal as it gets for a town famous for its supernatural tourism, and presided over by the reclusive Norse goddess Hel. Not only has Daisy now gained respect as Hel's enforcer, she's dating Sinclair Palmer, a nice, seemingly normal human guy. Not too shabby for the daughter of a demon. Unfortunately, Sinclair has a secret. And it's a big one. He's descended from Obeah sorcerers and they want him back. If he doesn't return to Jamaica to take up his rightful role in the family, they'll unleash spirit magic that could have dire consequences for the town. It's Daisy's job to stop it, and she's going to need a lot of help. But time is running out, the dead are growing restless, and one mistake could cost Daisy everything...

Muse in Lingerie

"My brother got mixed up with a crime lord and lost everything he had, including his life. And now I have to pay his debt. All I have is twenty bucks in my pocket and the clothes on my back. The bank took the house, and my last living relative was murdered. Knuckles threatened to torture me if I ran.

He's counting down the days until he'll claim me, making me treasure my final days of freedom ... The greatest lingerie designer in the world is looking for new talent for Barsetti Lingerie. I'm not exactly model material, but maybe I can get a job doing something--and get paid under the table"--Back cover.

The Brain That Changes Itself

An introduction to the science of neuroplasticity recounts the case stories of patients with mental limitations or brain damage whose seemingly unalterable conditions were improved through treatments that involved the thought re-alteration of brain structure.

Ulysses

Sexus is the first volume of the scandalous trilogy *The Rosy Crucifixion*, Henry Miller's major life work. Henry Miller called the end of his life in America and the start of a new, bohemian existence in 1930s Paris his 'rosy crucifixion'. His searing fictionalized autobiography of this time of liberation was banned for nearly twenty years. *Sexus*, the first volume in *The Rosy Crucifixion* trilogy, looks back to his early sexual escapades in Brooklyn, and his growing infatuation with the playful, teasing dance hall hostess who will become the great obsession of his life.

Sexus

He killed himself, Lieutenant. He was hanging there, just hanging there from the ceiling light in the living room. And his face . . . Oh God.' Death follows New York City cop Eve Dallas everywhere - even on her honeymoon with Irish lover Roarke. When one of Roarke's employees is found dead, the post-mortem confirms suicide. An isolated case, or so Eve thinks. But more suicides follow - strangers with nothing in common. The pathologist's report states each victim has an unexplained mark on their brain. Is this a genetic abnormality or a high-tech method of murder? With the body count rising, Eve must delve into the world of virtual reality to hunt down a twisted killer. A killer who preys on the minds of the innocent.

Rapture In Death

Ella Webber has spent years uncomfortable around the opposite sex... But as soon as she meets handsome Declan Stone, she is smitten. Quickly they become friends, finding frequent reasons to see each other around the office, and Ella longs for even more. So—with a little help from her friends—Ella resorts to performing a little seduction. One that Declan will never be able to resist. Burdened by emotional baggage from his time in the Marine Corps, Declan refuses to believe he's the right man for sweet Ella. Even if she makes him long for normal things, like marriage and family....But in his attempts to close off his heart from her love, could he have underestimated Ella's powers of persuasion?

Fighting for You

"This book walks each of us through the reality checks we need in order to have the marriage we want!" —Shaunti Feldhahn, social researcher and best-selling author of *For Women Only* In today's workplace, women are often rewarded for having type A personalities: driven, demanding, ambitious, and strong. Yet when it comes to their marriages, those same traits can backfire. After all, no one goes into marriage hoping for a promotion. What is a wife to do? April Cassidy knows this struggle firsthand. She thought she was a great Christian wife and begged God to make her passive husband into a more loving, involved, godly leader. Instead, God opened her eyes to changes that she needed to make, such as laying down her desire for control and offering genuine, unconditional respect—not just love—to her husband. Cassidy's conclusions may be as startling to readers as they were to her, but *The Peaceful Wife* shares how she and many others have learned to reorient their lives to biblical commands—resulting in healthier, happier marriages. In the end, you'll find *The Peaceful Wife* a powerful path to God's design for women to live in full submission to Christ as Lord.

The Peaceful Wife

'Richly documented and convincingly presented' -- *New Society* Mods and Rockers, skinheads, video nasties, designer drugs, bogus asylum seekers and hoodies. Every era has its own moral panics. It was Stanley Cohen's classic account, first published in the early 1970s and regularly revised, that brought the term 'moral panic' into widespread discussion. It is an outstanding investigation of the way in which the media and often those in a position of political power define a condition, or group, as a threat to societal values and interests. Fanned by screaming media headlines, Cohen brilliantly demonstrates

how this leads to such groups being marginalised and vilified in the popular imagination, inhibiting rational debate about solutions to the social problems such groups represent. Furthermore, he argues that moral panics go even further by identifying the very fault lines of power in society. Full of sharp insight and analysis, *Folk Devils and Moral Panics* is essential reading for anyone wanting to understand this powerful and enduring phenomenon. Professor Stanley Cohen is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics. He received the Sellin-Glueck Award of the American Society of Criminology (1985) and is on the Board of the International Council on Human Rights. He is a member of the British Academy.

Folk Devils and Moral Panics

Lord Philippe Lavay once took to the high seas armed with charm as lethal as his sword, and a stone-cold conviction: he'll restore his family's fortune and honor, no matter the cost. Victory is at last within reach—when a brutal attack snatches it from his grasp and lands him in Pennyroyal Green. An afternoon of bliss brings a cascade of consequences for Elise Fountain. She is shunned by her family and ousted from a job she loves, and her survival means a plummet down the social ladder to a position no woman has yet been able to keep: housekeeper to a frighteningly formidable prince. The bold and gentle Elise sees past his battered body into Philippe's barricaded heart . . . and her innate sensuality ignites his blood. Now a man who thought he could never love and a woman who thought she would never again trust must fight an incendiary passion that could be the ruin of them both.

It Started with a Scandal

Discusses the differences between "open" and "closed" texts, or, texts that actively involve the reader and texts that evoke a limited, predetermined response from the reader. -- Back cover.

The Role of the Reader

A step-by-step guide for women to transforming your love life practically overnight.

Have the Relationship You Want

"Based on original ideas by Johanna Allitt, Simin Curtis, Michael Fidler and Charlotte Mann."

Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens

Responsible, disciplined William Fox channeled his love for art and his faith in the rules into being an FBI Art Crimes agent. Right and wrong, justice and injustice—the differences are clear, and Will has spent his career drawing a line between them. Maybe his convictions have cost him relationships, but he's not willing to compromise what he knows is right. Until the night he meets Amory Vaughn. As the head of his family's philanthropic foundation, Vaughn knows very well that being rich and powerful can get him almost anything he wants. And when he meets endearingly grumpy and slightly awkward William Fox, he wants him more than he's wanted anything. Vaughn is used to being desired for his name and his money, but Will doesn't care about either. When Vaughn falls back on old habits and attempts to impress Will by stealing a painting Will admires, their nascent bond blows up in his face. But Vaughn isn't willing to give up on the glimpse of passion he saw the night he took Will apart. Before Will knows it, he's falling for the man he should have arrested, and Vaughn has to realize that some things can't be bought or stolen. Love has to be given freely. But can a man who lives by the rules, and a man who thinks the rules don't apply to him, ever see eye to eye?

Heart of the Steal

Gear Acquisition Syndrome, also known as GAS, is commonly understood as the musicians' unrelenting urge to buy and own instruments and equipment as an anticipated catalyst of creative energy and bringer of happiness. For many musicians, it involves the unavoidable compulsion to spend money one does not have on gear perhaps not even needed. The urge is directed by the belief that acquiring another instrument will make one a better player. This book pioneers research into the complex phenomenon named GAS from a variety of disciplines, including popular music studies and music technology, cultural and leisure studies, consumption research, sociology, psychology and psychiatry. The newly created theoretical framework and empirical studies of online communities and offline music stores allow the study to consider musical, social and personal motives, which influence the way musicians think about and deal with equipment. As is shown, GAS encompasses a variety of practices

and psychological processes. In an often life-long endeavour, upgrading the rig is accompanied by musical learning processes in popular music.

Gear Acquisition Syndrome

Just because she's going down doesn't mean he's having all the fun. "Sexpert" author Yvonne K. Fulbright gets real with women in this bold book on giving and getting oral sex. This guide tackles the dirty taboos and awkward assumptions that keep fellatio from being seductive and satisfying. You will enjoy giving oral sex as much as men enjoy getting it when you learn: Breathing techniques to last longer Positions he'll love, like "The Starfish" and "Deep-Throating" How to give (and receive) multiple orgasms from oral sex How to talk about what they feel is right and wrong Armed with sexy self-confidence and an arsenal of tongue-twisting tips, you will discover exactly how delightful the plunder down-under can be.

The Best Oral Sex Ever - Her Guide to Going Down

The first time it happened, it seemed like an impossible miracle. Bills were piling up, adding up to more money than I could ever make. Mom's hospital bills. My baby brother's tuition. My tuition. Rent. Electricity. All of it on my shoulders. And I had just lost my job. There was no hope, no money in my account, no work to be found. And then, just when I thought all hope was lost, I found an envelope in the mail. No return address. My name on the front, my address. Inside was a check, made out to me, in the amount of ten thousand dollars. Enough to pay the bills and leave me some left over to live on until I found a job. Enough to let me focus on classes. There was no name on the check, just "VRI Inc.," and a post office box address for somewhere in the city. No hint of identity or reason for the check or anything. No mention of repayment, interest, nothing... except a single word, on the notes line: "You." Just those three letters. If you receive a mysterious check, for enough money to erase all your worries, would you cash it? I did. The next month, I received another check, again from VRI Incorporated. It too contained a single word: "belong." A third check, the next month. This time, two words. Four letters. "To me." The checks kept coming. The notes stopped. Ten thousand dollars, every month. A girl gets used to that, real quick. It let me pay the bills without going into debt. Let me keep my baby brother in school and Mom's hospice care paid for. How do you turn down what seems like free money, when you're desperate? You don't. I didn't. And then, after a year, there was a knock on my door. A sleek black limousine sat on the curb in front of my house. A driver stood in front of me, and he spoke six words: "It's time to pay your debt." Would you have gotten in? I did. It turns out \$120,000 doesn't come free.

Alpha