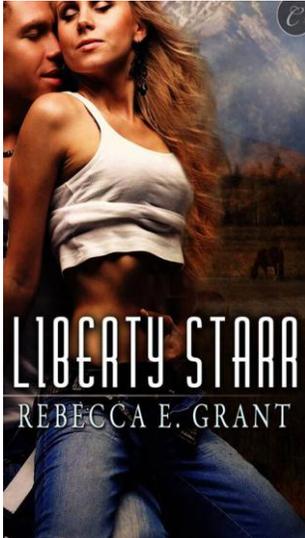


Love is Unstoppable!

Rebecca Grant | May 17th, 2010 (third posting)



When I was scouting out places to send LIBERTY STARR, Romance Writers of America emailed an update announcing Harlequin’s newest imprint, Carina Press. So, I submitted the manuscript to Carina. I typically mark my calendar with the timeframe each publisher indicates for a response so that I know when to expect a response. It helps me to just trust the process and write the next book instead of obsessing over when I’m going to hear from the publisher.



One day a reminder popped up indicating I should be hearing from Carina Press any day. I remember so clearly that it was a Wednesday. The next day my phone rang. I was on a conference call, saw the number pop up, didn’t recognize it, and clicked ‘ignore’. My conference call ran about another 15-20 minutes and during that time I was

distracted by little buzzers and strobe lights were going off in my head—what if that was a call from Carina Press?

Sure enough, I dialed into my voice mail and heard a woman’s voice say, “Rebecca, this is Angela James from Carina Press. I’m sorry I’m not getting you by phone. Instead, I’ll send you an email. I’d like to talk with you about LIBERTY STARR.”

I leaped out of my chair shrieking and then wondered... wait... she didn’t actually say she wanted to offer me a contract... she just said she wanted to talk about it.

As an unpublished writer in the romance genre, I wasn’t sure what the protocol was. Do I call her back or wait for her email? I checked my email. Nothing. I clicked the ‘check mail’ so many times over the next 10 minutes, I practically wore it out. Finally I couldn’t stand it and I hit the redial... and suddenly I was talking with Angela James.

When she said she was interested in publishing LIBERTY STARR, I lost all my verbal skills. I babbled incoherently, tried to stop, babbled some more, and was supremely relieved that after making me feel wonderful about my book, and very special as an author, Angela said she’d follow up with a detailed email. No talking necessary.

The celebrating began, and it’s still going on. I’m so thrilled to be a part of the Carina Press launch—to transition from romance writer (in secret) to romance author in the company of Carina Press and their impressive cadre of accomplished, focused, professional authors who love to create wonderful worlds for their readers. And to Jessica Schulte, my infinitely patient editor... the word “longboat” will forever have a new meaning for us, won’t it!

**We each have something extraordinary to contribute to this world—something no one else can do—and if we don't do it, the world will never have it.
It will be lost forever.**

Before I leave you I want to say a little more about why I write romance novels. It's my personal belief that every human being is authentically unique. I also believe that we each have something extraordinary to contribute to this world—something no one else can do—and that if we don't do it, the world will never have it. It will be lost forever. I've had any number of philosophical discussions with people about this and know many believe that if one person doesn't do X, someone else will.

Very likely so. But it will be someone else who does it... and so *it* will be different.

For so much of my life, I've thought one of the most important things—perhaps the most important thing—is to be taken seriously—and that no matter how called I felt to write romances, it was not a serious undertaking.

I thought that, right up until one of my test readers sent me an email. In it she wrote:

“Your writing opened my mind and heart to new possibilities and opportunities. Your story delivered personal life messages to me. It reminded me to stop being so stubborn, to allow myself to be loved, to live with passion, and that it's ok to open up my heart. You never know where it might take you.”

I burst into tears because in that moment, I knew that not only did I want to write romances, it was a *very* serious undertaking, and I was finally able to say out loud to others, **“I. Write. Romances. They're intimate, hot, tender, and where appropriate, not so tender. They're filled with intrigue, laughter, hope and provide an opportunity to disappear into the sheer fantasy of the moment. To marvel at the miracle of love, and the way one human body folds into another.”**

Every day I write about the human body and the human heart—how they respond to love, to desire, to joy, to pleasure, to sadness, to hope. It's my belief that in today's world where fear and obligation so often define our priorities, we ache to remember love—to remember what it felt like the first time the object of our desire reached out to brush the hair from our face—what it feels like to be so wholly in the moment, nothing else matters except the transcendental, extrasensory experience romance evokes. There's nothing like it.

That's what I try to give my readers. And each day I believe more firmly that ***love is unstoppable!***

Love, love, love,
Rebecca E. Grant

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reminder: Commenting on an author's blog entry/entries for the day will enter you to win a digital copy of their Carina Press title. One winner daily. Commenting on any of the Countdown entries will enter you into the big giveaway for a Carina Press promo prize pack. One winner at end of Countdown.

Tags: [Carina Press](#), [contemporary cowboy romance](#), [contemporary erotic romance](#), [contemporary romances](#), [Liberty Starr](#)

This entry was posted on Monday, May 17th, 2010 at 4:00 pm and is filed under [Authors](#), [Books](#), [Carina Press](#), [Countdown](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

26 Responses to “Love is Unstoppable!”

1. *Fedora*

[May 17, 2010 at 4:13 pm](#)

Thank you for sharing your call story and your motivation with us, Rebecca! Congrats on Liberty Starr, and may we readers be blessed to enjoy many MANY more stories from you!

2. *Kristin*

[May 17, 2010 at 4:38 pm](#)

Rebecca:

Your telling tale of Liberty Starr and how you have liberated yourself from the bonds of “secrecy” are so encouraging to those of us who are still mustering up the courage to break free of our own fears. I look forward to delving into your book, meeting the characters imbued with your fierce spirit! Can’t wait!

3. *Pearl*

[May 17, 2010 at 5:00 pm](#)

Thank you for sharing all this! I hope that Liberty Starr is just the beginning and that we get to enjoy much more of your work!

4. *J. Sealine*

[May 17, 2010 at 5:07 pm](#)

Thank you thank you thank you for caring enough about the readers to publish something that has meaning and depth. I want to be swept away with a story – but I also want to be on a constant journey to bring joy & love & happiness into my life. Liberty will bring a smile to my world. You are so correct when you say — hey, if I don’t bring this into the

world – the next author will contribute but it will never be exactly the gift I am sending.
Wow!

Thank you for sharing the Carina site – so impressive what they are doing. This will be my first e-book purchase but it sounds as easy as click and download right?

J. Sealine

5. *Janni Nell*

[May 17, 2010 at 5:19 pm](#)

I got a little bit teary at your test reader's comment! How wonderful to connect with someone so deeply. I love your philosophy on contributing to the world and your thoughts about writing romance. I'm smiling as I write this.

6. *Estella*

[May 17, 2010 at 5:21 pm](#)

Thank you for sharing your call story. I'm looking forward to reading Liberty Starr.

7. *MJ*

[May 17, 2010 at 5:28 pm](#)

I LOVE your call story! Gorgeous cover–can't wait to read!

8. *Rebecca E. Grant*

[May 17, 2010 at 5:34 pm](#)

Thanks Janni. Sometimes it's hard to know where to draw the line between too much information and friendly sharing. The email story is so personal to me. I'm so glad if it touched you. I honestly think that romance authors are some of the most serious, hard-working people in the business and I'm so grateful that Carina has provide this platform to be able to express my appreciation for romance authors everywhere!

9. *Rebecca E. Grant*

[May 17, 2010 at 5:39 pm](#)

MJ-thanks! I love the cover, too. Quick story... I'm not fond of the color orange. Maybe it was all those Holiday Inns I stayed in during the 70s... because there are only 3 places I believe orange should ever be:

- 1) orange juice
- 2) sunrise
- 3) sunset

I kept saying to myself... “This will be my first romance cover. Please-oh-please don’t let it be orange. Forever after, they can all be orange, but please-oh-please don’t let this first one be orange.

And then I saw the beautiful blues (because we’re all looking at the blues, not the smokin’ hot M/F embrace 😊)

I think all the Carina Press covers are fabulous! Way to go, Carina!

10. *Joyce*

[May 17, 2010 at 6:15 pm](#)

Rebecca & Corina Press — Love, love, love the cover! I did a double take the minute I saw this on pre-release email. A cover can really entice me as a reader to look inside & it did the trick.

Fun, fun, fun.

Joyce

11. *Phyllis Smith*

[May 17, 2010 at 7:56 pm](#)

Layers upon layers of stories in stories. How well you entertain, Rebecca. Thank you for setting free the unstoppable love in this story. My right hand whomps over my heart each time I think or speak those words Liberty Starr!

12. *Leanne Dyck*

[May 17, 2010 at 9:21 pm](#)

What you wrote is so beautiful and you should be very proud. I grew up in a house full of men. The lessons I learnt from them were good — suck it up, tote your own load.

However, I paid more heed to their voices than my mother’s. I think what romance authors do is celebrate what it is like to be female. They (You) give voice to our passion.

Long may you write.

13. *Ann*

[May 17, 2010 at 9:30 pm](#)

Hey Rebecca, What does M/F embrace stand for (earlier posting)?

If I don’t have a Kindle will I be able to read this book?

I read your first chapter on your website, I always have loved waterfalls!!!

Ann

14. *Nora Weston*

[May 17, 2010 at 9:35 pm](#)

Rebecca:

Hi! Congrats on Liberty Starr. 😊 Your enthusiasm for your work and for Carina Press shows. Best of luck to you!

15. *Jennifer M*

[May 17, 2010 at 9:53 pm](#)

I absolutely love your description of romances. I'm always a bit ashamed to admit that I read them because so many people have teased me about it, but this helps me be proud of what I choose to read. You have a great way with words and I'm looking forward to reading your book.

16. *Rebecca E. Grant*

[May 17, 2010 at 9:57 pm](#)

Hi Joyce: When I wrote M/F I was talking about a Male/Female embrace. Thanks for asking for clarification!

More information will be posted on the Carina site later, but you can be assured, you don't need anything more than your computer to download eBooks from Carina's website.

About waterfalls, I hope that now you love them even more 😊

17. *Rebecca E. Grant*

[May 17, 2010 at 10:38 pm](#)

Hi Jennifer—yes, I know what you mean. So glad if anything I wrote today helps all the wonderful readers out there who love to to love romance. I would be PROUD to have you read Liberty Starr!

18. *Rebecca E. Grant*

[May 17, 2010 at 10:40 pm](#)

Leanne, OMG but you make my eyes sting with tears. Bless you!

19. *Rebecca E. Grant*

[May 17, 2010 at 10:41 pm](#)

WHOMPS! I love the visual. Can't wait to use it in one of my stories! Thank you thank you thank you for your kind, loving words!

20. *Rebecca E. Grant*

[May 17, 2010 at 10:42 pm](#)

Thank you so much, Nora!

21. *Mary G*

[May 17, 2010 at 10:59 pm](#)

What a wonderful post. You gave me goosebumps. Best of luck to you.

22. *Sarah G.*

[May 17, 2010 at 11:23 pm](#)

Thank you for sharing the story of the call from Carina! I love especially this: "I leaped out of my chair shrieking and then wondered... wait... she didn't actually say she wanted to offer me a contract... she just said she wanted to talk about it." Totally made my giggle out loud... I can't imagine my dear Rebecca ever second guessing her instincts... so silly! OF COURSE they would want to publish! I can't wait to get my hands on it... sizzlin'. I know you're not SUPPOSED to judge a book by its cover, but I am... and I'm excited about it! 😊

23. *Bethanne*

[May 18, 2010 at 12:46 pm](#)

Aw. reading your post made me teary-eyed. Wonderful story. THanks for sharing it. Lovely COVER, too!!!

24. *ms bookjunkie*

[May 18, 2010 at 2:03 pm](#)

I'll ditto Mary G on the goosebumps. Is it June yet?

25. *Diane M.*

[May 19, 2010 at 9:09 pm](#)

I love hearing how a author got the call for a book.

26. *MaryK*

[May 22, 2010 at 1:12 am](#)

Now I have tears in my eyes. I don't understand how people can justify looking down on Romance. What would real life be without relationships?

