

PETTICOATS & PISTOLS PRESENTS

Pink Pistol MAGAZINE

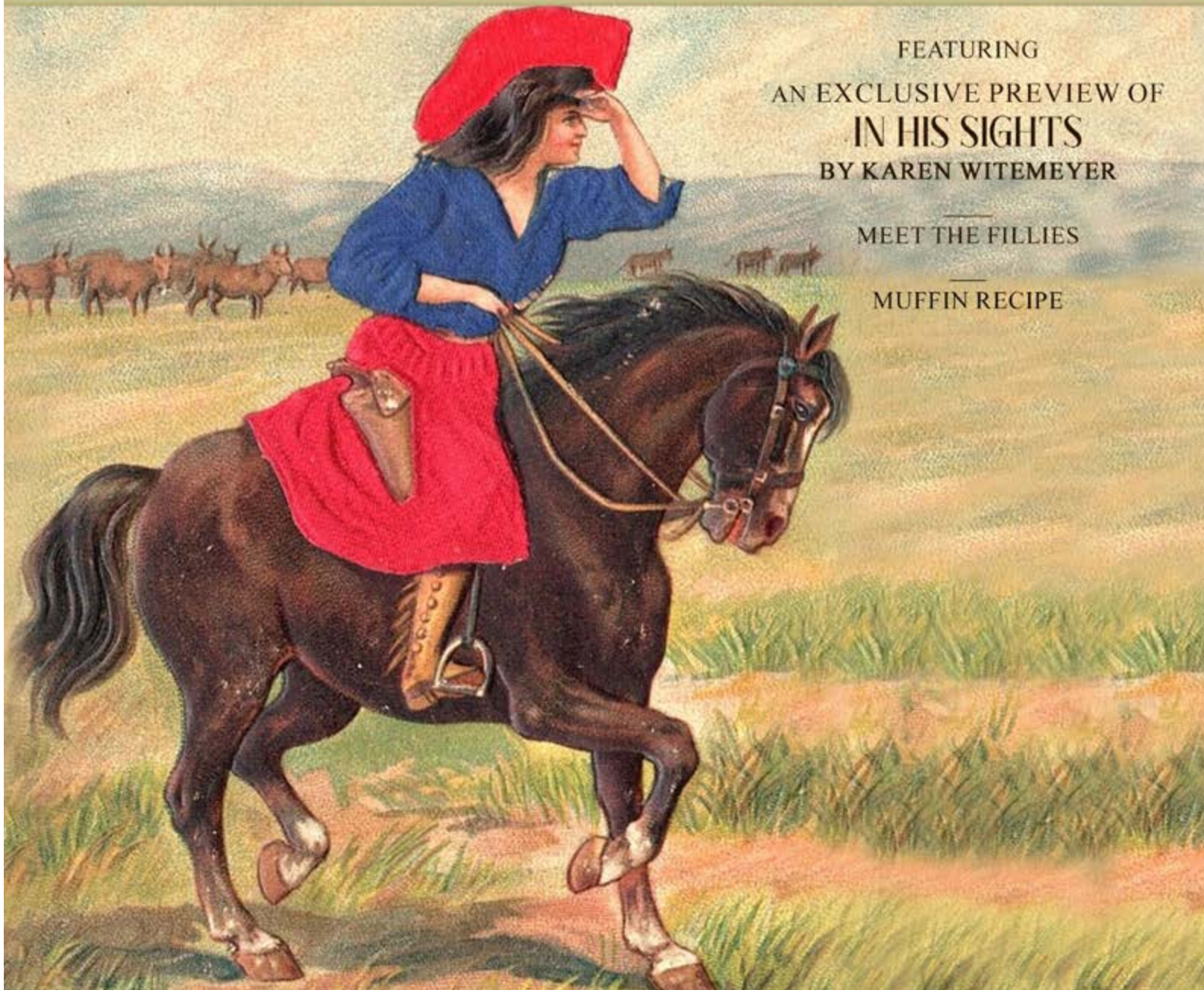


VOLUME 1 - MARCH 2023

FEATURING
AN EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW OF
IN HIS SIGHTS
BY KAREN WITEMEYER

MEET THE FILLIES

MUFFIN RECIPE



HE'S SWORN OFF LOVE,
BUT SHE HAS HIS HEART IN HER SIGHTS
AND DOESN'T INTEND TO MISS.

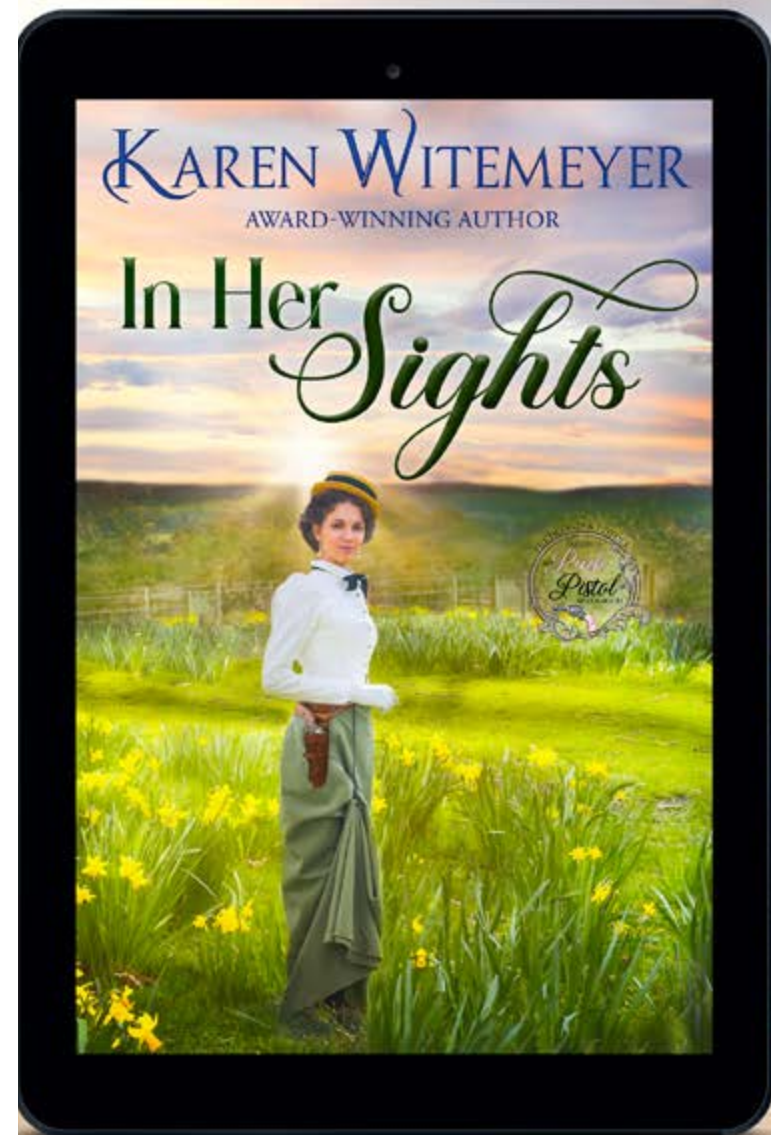
In Her Sights

A SWEET WESTERN ROMANCE BY
KAREN WITEMEYER

COMING MARCH 30, 2023



amazon & kindleunlimited



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PETTICOATS & PISTOLS PRESENTS

Pink Pistol MAGAZINE



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We can't present the Pink Pistol Magazine without first acknowledging the incredible effort that went into it. Our deepest thanks to:

Pam Crooks for her tireless efforts behind the scenes and the time she so graciously gives to make our endeavors a success.

Shanna Hatfield, for the generous giving of her time, vision, and expertise to make this magazine happen.

Jessie Gussman, for kindly providing us with the means to distribute the magazine.

And, of course, the fillies at Petticoats & Pistols for their books and sisterhood.



Welcome to the premier issue of The Pink Pistol Sisterhood Magazine!

Within these pages, the whimsical journey of a matchmaking pistol and the women linked by more than a century of its possession begins. We're calling it the Pink Pistol Sisterhood, and with every book, romance flourishes, marriage is won, and the legend begins anew . . .

Each sweet western romance will be written by one of the authors of Petticoats & Pistols where we have our own sisterhood, dating back to 2007. Each book will be connected by the pistol's legend and, of course, love and happy endings.

Be sure to collect every free issue. We'll highlight upcoming releases in the Pink Pistol Sisterhood series, plus short stories, recipes, and more. Upcoming magazine release dates will be March 10th, April 10th, and May 10th.

Now, sit back and settle in while Karen Witemeyer begins the Pink Pistol's journey with the opening chapter of her poignant and heartwarming novella, [IN HER SIGHTS](#).

Don't miss the next issue,
coming March 10, 2023,
featuring Shanna Hatfield, Cheryl Pierson, and Kit Morgan!



Excerpt from

In Her Sights

by Karen Witemeyer

Chapter 1

Chicago
November 1, 1893

Every legacy started from a single act of courage. Holding tight to what little bravery he possessed, Josiah Hartman strode through the trampled fairgrounds of Buffalo Bill's western extravaganza the morning after the show's closing night, determined that his daughter's legacy would start today.

The air hung heavy with the aroma of manure, so he kept a close eye on where he stepped as he wound his way through throngs of horses, wagons, and a handful of buffalo, not wanting to carry an odoriferous souvenir home on the bottom of his shoe. Men of all sizes and sorts shouted orders and organized the packing of tents and trunks. Mexicans,

Arabs, Germans, Frenchmen. Men from the Sioux tribe with long black braids and feathers worked alongside cowboys with boots and Stetsons. Different languages and accents blended in an odd harmony, but Josiah didn't pause to appreciate the phenomenon. Tucking the small mahogany box a little tighter under his arm, he carved a path through the chaos to the area reserved for the sharpshooters.

A dog's bark echoed to Josiah's left, followed quickly by a woman's call for the animal to come. Josiah turned, the knot in his stomach loosening just a tad. Thank the Lord. He'd found her.

Careful not to startle the small woman, he approached slowly. He halted several yards away, removed his hat, and waved it in greeting. "Mrs. Butler?"

Her head came around, though she was slow to rise. She remained hunkered down, rubbing the ears of the dog who'd obediently returned to his mistress.

His chest tightened, and his throat threatened to close in on itself as he beheld the most famous markswoman in the world. He had no right to be here, no right to presume upon her time, yet he couldn't turn back without trying. For Pauline's sake.

"Mrs. Butler, might I have a word? Please?"

A man tossed back the flap of the nearest tent and sauntered out, his gaze zeroing in on Josiah as if he wore a bullseye around his neck. "Can I help you, sir?"

"My name's Josiah Hartman. I'm a gunmaker from here in Chicago." He dropped his hat back onto his head and pulled the mahogany case out from under his arm. "I'd like to offer a gift—"

"No thanks." Frank Butler, Annie's husband and manager, took one look at the gun case and shook his head. "My wife's got all the guns she needs. You'll have to seek someone else to endorse your craftsmanship." He brushed Josiah off with a wave of his hand.

"Please. I'm not seeking an endorsement or any financial recompense. I want only to offer a gift to Mrs. Butler in appreciation for the work she does with women. Teaching them how to shoot, not only to defend themselves but empowering them to believe in their own capabilities."

Frank's gaze sharpened. "That's a new spin," he muttered. He turned to his wife. "What do you think, Annie? You willin' to give him a listen?"

Annie Oakley gave her dog a last pat then pushed to her feet. She looked Josiah over, pondered a moment, then rendered her verdict. "I'll hear him out."

"Thank you, ma'am." Josiah's heart pounded with new life. "I promise not to take up too much of your time."

"Come on in and have a sit down." Annie welcomed him into her tent and gestured for him to take a seat across from her at a small camp table.

Frank followed them in but busied himself at the back of the tent, organizing the Butler family armory. Nothing like having a renowned sharpshooter with dozens of weapons at the ready to keep a guest on his best behavior.

"May I see it?" Annie pointed to the case Josiah had yet to relinquish.

"Yes. Of course." He set the case on the table and scooted it towards her.

He held his breath as she opened the lid and beheld his work. He was here for Pauline, but the professional side of him couldn't help feeling a twinge of satisfaction when Annie let out a low whistle.

"I never seen the like." She glanced up at him, eyes wide. "How'd you make the grip such a pretty pale pink?"

"Mother-of-pearl."

She grinned. "I seen plenty of pearl-handled pistols, but none like this one."

"I wanted it to be a woman's weapon," Josiah explained. "Feminine."

Annie removed it from the green velvet lined case and ex-

amined the craftsmanship. "Looks like a Smith and Wesson, .32 caliber." She opened the revolver's cylinder and counted the chambers. "Five shot." She stood, twirled the pistol around her finger, then fit it to her hand and took aim at an imaginary target outside the tent. "Nice and light. Fits well in a lady's hand." She twirled it again then laid it back in the case. "I'd have to shoot it to know it's accuracy, but the custom work you did on the piece is beautiful. I'd be honored to add it to my collection."



"Thank you." Josiah smiled even as his gut tightened. "However, I was hoping you might consider using it in a different capacity."

Annie's brow furrowed. "I thought you said this was a gift." "It is. And if you choose simply to keep it in your collection, I will be greatly honored." Josiah held out his hands, praying she'd see his vision and not think him an old man with an unstable mind. "Instead of keeping it for yourself, though, I had hoped you might pass the gun along to one of the women you teach. One in need of the special hope this particular pistol can provide."

The grooves on her forehead deepened. "I don't understand."

"Let me explain by telling you about my daughter, Pauline. My only child." Josiah's heart twisted, and his voice cracked. "My greatest joy." He paused a moment to collect himself, locking the grief away long enough to say what must be said. "She fell in love with a young man but was too shy to make her feelings known. She admired him from afar for many months, waiting for him to notice her, to return her affections. Sadly, he failed to do either. He married another and broke my little girl's heart."

Josiah hung his head and blinked away the film of tears coating his eyes. "Pauline had always been a quiet, sensitive girl, and this heartbreak ravaged her soul. My wife and I tried to console her, to assure her that the pain would pass and that

the Lord would bless her in a way she couldn't yet imagine. But she lost faith. Lost hope. She withdrew into herself to the point that I knew if something didn't change, I would lose her. I pleaded with her to tell me what I could do to restore her hope. She looked at me with dull eyes and assigned me an impossible task. Present her with Cupid's bow. Only then would she believe love could be hers."

Josiah forced his chin up and met Annie's compassion-filled gaze. "If I could have stormed Mount Olympus and retrieved that mythological weapon for my Pauline, I would have done so, Mrs. Butler. But one can't retrieve an item that doesn't exist. So, I set out to do the next best thing. Pauline needed something tangible. Something she could see and touch. Something to act as a guarantee that hope would not disappoint."

He reached into the pocket his wife had sewn into the lining of the gun case lid and pulled out the note secreted inside. He handed it to Annie and waited to gauge her reaction. Everything hinged on her cooperation.

She unfolded the parchment, and her eyes moved back and forth as she read the inscription he knew by heart.

She who possesses this pistol, possesses an opportunity that must not be squandered. Cast in the tender dreams of maidens from ages past, the steel of this weapon is steadfast and true and will lead an unmarried woman to a man forged from the same virtuous elements. One need only fit her hand to the grip and open her heart to activate the promise for which this pistol was fashioned—the promise of true love. Patience and courage will illuminate her path. Hope and faith will guide her steps until her heart finds its home.

Once the promise is fulfilled, the bearer must release the pistol and pass it to another or risk losing what she has found.

Accept the gift . . . or not.

Believe its promise . . . or not.

But hoard the pistol for personal gain . . . and lose what you hold most dear.

Annie shook her head and looked at him as if she doubted his mental stability—not a good sign.

"I don't mind passin' on the pistol to a gal in need, but this note . . . it sounds like it's promising some kind of hocus-pocus. I'm a Godfearing woman, sir. I won't promote no falsehoods. This is just a piece of metal. It ain't gonna magically lead a girl to her special fella."

"Of course it won't." Josiah agreed, even as he shifted uneasily in his chair. "The note is not to be taken literally. Look at it again. The pistol isn't supposed to be used like some kind of divining rod where the young lady waves it at every man she meets until it flies from her hand to stick to a man's chest like iron to a magnet. No, the young woman is supposed to open her heart, to believe that true love is possible. She's instructed to exhibit patience and courage. To cling to hope and let herself be guided by faith. Isn't that how we all find love? The power is not found in the pistol. The power is found in hope."

"Then why doesn't the note just say so in plain language?"

An image of Pauline sitting in her favorite chair, engrossed in one of her stories made itself at home in Josiah's mind and brought a nostalgic smile to his lips. "Because this note wasn't written for you or me, Mrs. Butler. It was written to appeal to young women like my daughter. Women of a fanciful nature, with romantic leanings. My Pauline would have read this and been reminded of stories where true love conquered all. She would have been inspired to open her heart instead of closing herself off. And maybe . . . just maybe . . . she would still be alive."

A tear rolled down his cheek, and Josiah brushed it away with an impatient swipe of his hand.

Annie reached across the table and gently clasped his arm. "I'm so sorry you lost your daughter, Mr. Hartman."

"Thank you." Josiah nodded, touched—and encouraged—by her sympathy. Clinging to the tattered remnant of his own hope, he straightened his posture and cleared the residual emotion from his throat. "My greatest regret is not finishing this pistol in time to make a difference in my daughter's life, but it can still make a difference in the lives of other young women." He took the note from Annie and slipped it back into the lining pocket. Then he closed the case lid with a quiet click. "A pistol might seem an odd item to encourage courtship, but I thought with your history, you might see its potential."

Annie's gaze slid over to her husband, and Josiah held his breath. He'd heard the tale of how she'd won Frank Butler's interest and affection when she bested him in a shooting contest nearly two decades ago. A gun had brought her true love. Surely, she'd be willing to offer the same chance to others.

A long moment passed while Josiah's heart throbbed in his chest.

Finally, she glanced down at the polished mahogany case, traced the mother-of-pearl inlay at its center, then flattened her palm over the top and dragged it over to her side of the table.

"All right, Mr. Hartman. I accept your gift and the commission that comes with it."

Tears pooled in Josiah's eyes again, but instead of the salty sting of grief and loss, they dampened with the sweet joy of gratitude.

Pauline's legacy had begun.



IN HER SIGHTS

will be released on March 30, 2023,
but it's available now for preorder!

[Order on Amazon](#)

Author SPOTLIGHT



Bestselling author Karen Witemeyer joined *Petticoats & Pistols* as a regular contributor in 2011. A new author at the time with only two books under her belt, Karen accepted the invitation to join the P&P corral as a regular Filly with great enthusiasm. Working as the site's Guest Wrangler, she constantly looks for ways to give back to the readers who have made *Petticoats & Pistols* great.

Karen offers warmhearted historical romance with a flair for humor, feisty heroines, and swoon-worthy Texas heroes. Voted the #1 Readers' Favorite Christian Romance Author in 2019 by *Family Fiction Magazine*, Karen is a multiple award-winning author and a firm believer in the power of happy endings. She is an avid cross-stitcher, tea drinker, and board game player who makes her home in Abilene, TX with her heroic husband who vanquishes laundry dragons and dirty dish villains whenever she's on deadline.

Preorder *In Her Sights* by Karen Witemeyer on Amazon:

Visit Karen's Website: www.karenwitemeyer.com



Cordelia's Apple Muffins

Tessa James first appeared in Karen's debut novel *A Tailor-Made Bride*. Tessa goes to work as a young apprentice to dress-maker Hannah Richards and grows into a skilled seamstress. Hannah's sister-in-law, Cordelia, was famous for her delectable apple muffins and often brought a basket of the treats to the dress shop where Hannah and Tessa worked.

INGREDIENTS

Muffins

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup packed brown sugar
- ¼ cup oil
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup applesauce
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ¾ cup buttermilk
- 1 Golden Delicious apple, peeled, cored, finely diced

Topping

- 2 tablespoon brown sugar
- ¼ cup chopped pecans
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Pre-heat oven to 400 degrees F. Coat a 12-capacity muffin pan with cooking spray. Mix the topping ingredients together in a small bowl. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt.

In a large bowl, whisk the ¾ cup brown sugar and oil until combined. Add the eggs, one at a time, whisking well after each addition. Add applesauce and vanilla.

Whisk in the flour mixture in two batches, alternating with the buttermilk, until combined. Gently stir in the apple chunks.

Pour the batter into the prepared muffin pan, filling the cups nearly to the top. Sprinkle with the topping mixture. Tap the pan on the counter a few times to remove any air bubbles.

Bake for 20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in muffin comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack for 15 minutes. Remove them from the pan to finish cooling.

Find this recipe and more at [Petticoats & Pistols](#)
The recipe can also be found on [Karen's website](#).

IN HER SIGHTS WORD SCRAMBLE



Can you discover the mystery word that describes Jackson Spivey, the hero of *In Her Sights*?

Unscramble each word below (one is a famous name) to discover which letter goes in each circle. Once all words are unscrambled correctly, the circled letters will spell the mystery word from top to bottom.

1. ASRESESTMS

____○_____

2. RATHE

____○____

3. VELREVOR

_____○_____

4. KEAYOL

____○____

5. HOCEUSOLOHS

_____○_____

6. CERMONA

____○_____

7. WOLTUA

____○____

8. JIRNYU

____○____



Mystery Word = ○○○○○○○○

Look for the answers on page 16!

Join the Pink Pistol Sisterhood Reader Group on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2143576775865837>

THE JOURNEY OF *the Pink Pistol*



Chicago
Nov 1893

Austin Nov 1893

Caldwell Nov 1893

Watch the pistol's progress in each upcoming magazine as it travels from one story and location to the next!

Get to Know the Author KAREN WITEMEYER

1. What has been your proudest achievement as a writer?

Last November, I was honored to win the prestigious Christy Award for my novella, *A Texas Christmas Carol*. The Christy Award is the pinnacle award for Christian fiction, so I was thrilled to be named a recipient. The award is named for the novel *Christy*, written by Catherine Marshall, a book I remember reading as a teenaged girl. I fell in love with a story that combined history, romance, and faith, elements I now seek to incorporate into each of my own books. Receiving an award named for a book that shaped my writing, was incredibly humbling and inspiring.

2. Are you an introvert or an extrovert?

I am definitely an introvert. I love spending time alone where I can refresh my spirit with activities like reading, cross-stitching, and watching movies. I can act the part of an extrovert when necessary, such as during speaking engagements, conferences, or other book events, but as much as I enjoy interacting with fellow story lovers, I'm always eager to hide away in my room afterwards to recharge.

3. What food or vegetable do you hate?

Peas. From the time I was a baby, I've despised this squishy, green legume. My mother tells stories of trying to feed me pea-flavored baby food only to have me spit it right back in her face. Like the princess in the fairy tale, I find peas quite villainous and go out of my way to avoid any unpleasant interactions.

4. What are you wearing on your feet right now?

Whenever I am at home, sitting down to write, one of the first things I prepare is my feet. My feet, you ask? What do they have to do with writing? They are essential for setting the proper atmosphere. You see, I collect bookish and cowboy-related socks. In all colors and styles. Today, I happen to be wearing a pair of dark salmon socks decorated with books and bookworms. They keep my toes warm and my mind on track.

5. Do you like to keep background noise on or do you work in silence?

When it comes to writing, I prefer working in silence. It helps me concentrate and reduces distractions. I distract myself enough as it is with email, social media, and playing Yahtzee with Buddies on my phone. I don't need anything else pulling me away from my manuscript.

6. If you had unlimited storage for one thing, what would it be?

Books! Isn't that what we all dream of . . . rooms lined with book shelves to fill with all our favorite stories. If I could find a way to fit the library from Beauty and the Beast in my front room, I would do it in a heartbeat.

7. Do you prefer scary movies or happy endings?

I need my happy endings. Why do you think I chose to write romance novels? Ha! I enjoy a little suspense or danger in the movies I watch and the stories I read, but I steer clear of anything related to horror.

8. Do you collect anything?

I adore Willow Tree figurines. I've been collecting them for more than a decade. They are inspired by love and family and make the romantic in me happy. I have figurines to represent me and my husband as well as me and each of my children. I have a nativity set that appears on my mantle every Christmas. Some of my favorite individual figurines include ones of girls holding books, one with an angel holding a teapot, and one with an angel holding a butterfly. They never fail to make me smile.

9. What is your phone's home screen background?

Over a year ago, we took a family vacation to Disney World. Now that my children are grown, our opportunities to take large family trips is dwindling, so the photos from that trip are precious. I live with a family of Star Wars nerds, so the picture on my lock screen is a shot of our family in front of the Millennium Falcon at Hollywood Studios.

10. Name three things that make you happy.

- Playing board games with my family.
- Belting out 80's love songs while driving in my car.
- Eating blackberry cobbler with a big scoop of vanilla ice cream and pretending the calories will never find me.



Meet the Fillies!

www.petticoatsandpistols.com



Julie Benson - 2017



Linda Broday - 2007
Founder



Mary Connealy - 2007



Pam Crooks - 2007
Founder



Jessie Gussman - 2021



Winnie Griggs - 2011



Shanna Hatfield - 2017



Kari Trumbo - 2021



Kit Morgan - 2018



Cathy McDavid - 2021



Karen Kay - 2007
Founder



Cheryl Pierson - 2010



Jeannie Watt - 2016



Karen Witemeyer - 2011

the Pink Pistol

SISTERHOOD

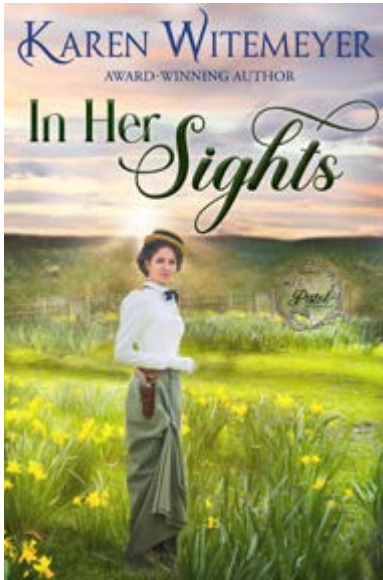


Love Under Fire

1899 – Indian Territory

Drawn to Indian Territory because of her father's reckless promise, eastern sharpshooter Krissy Donovan is forced to accept the protection of a cynical cavalry captain. With a killer stalking them, Johnny Houston can't afford any distractions, especially an attraction to his stubborn charge that could end up compromising his heart.

Available April 20, 2023



In Her Sights

1893 – Caldwell, Texas

Tessa James secretly loves Jackson Spivey, but trying to gain his favor only pushes him away. Since Jackson's life revolves around guns, Tessa decides to take up shooting. Seeking lessons from famed markswoman Annie Oakley provides more than technique instruction, however. Tessa comes away with a pistol that will change the course of her life forever.

Available March 30, 2023

BULLET PROOF Bride

1900 – Nowhere, Washington

When mail-order bride Goldie Colson gets stuck in Nowhere, Washington, she has no idea danger lurks nearby. All she cares about is finding a job and the love she so desperately needs. Will she find it with Rhys Miller, a local banker, or will danger find her first? When tragedy takes away her one chance at love, will another help her find it?

Available April 30, 2023



Love on Target

1894 – Holiday, Oregon



A pistol, a mule, and a promised mining job lure Rena Burke to Oregon. She might wear trousers and work with men, but Rena secretly longs to be appreciated as a woman. Too bad the man she admires believes her to be a dangerous influence on his young daughter.

Available April 10, 2023



BULLSEYE Bride

1910 – Deadwood, South Dakota

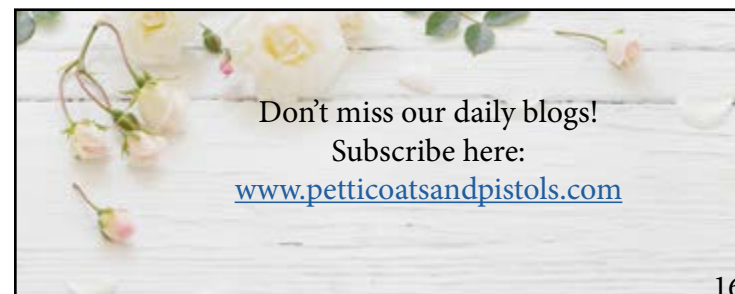
Kitty has one goal--to save her family by winning a shooting contest. Thad can't allow women to compete. He'd be a laughingstock. She must choose between her growing love for Thad and saving her family. Can a special pistol help her choose?

Available May 10, 2023

Word Scramble Answers

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. SEAMSTRESS | 5. SCHOOLHOUSE |
| 2. HEART | 6. ROMANCE |
| 3. REVOLVER | 7. OUTLAW |
| 4. OAKLEY | 8. INJURY |

Mystery Word = MARKSMAN



DISARMING HIS Heart

1911 – Larkin, Missouri

To protect her livelihood after an accident, Violet swaps places with her twin, assuming Lily's role as children's church program director. Struggling to hide her deception, Violet fights her attraction to the local preacher, knowing he's the object of Lily's affection. But Carson is harboring secrets of his own.

Available May 20, 2023

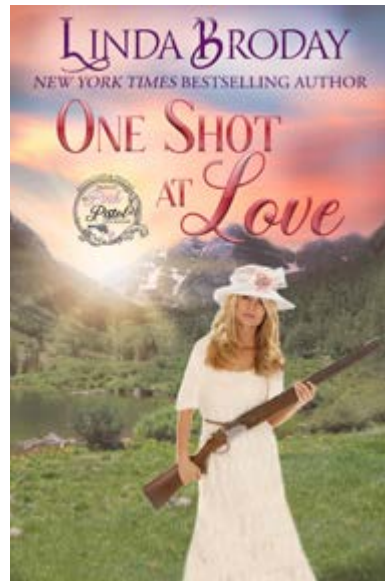


After returning from Vietnam, Scott Garrison retreats to his Idaho farm, only to discover a trespasser. Jenny Willow was scammed into renting the place and she's not leaving. Jenny uses the farm to rescue abandoned animals, and soon realizes that she may have to rescue the stubborn owner as well.

Available June 20, 2023

LUCKY Shot

1970 - Moscow, Idaho



ONE SHOT AT Love

1939 – Panther Creek, Colorado

The struggle to raise her siblings is one Mariah willingly bears. She'll keep them together at all costs. But when a handsome stranger appears on the mountain asking for her help, the stakes are raised. Can she trust him with her life? Her heart is definitely off limits.

Available May 30, 2023

AIMING FOR HIS Heart

Modern Day - Tishomingo, Oklahoma

When Jade Buchanan returns to Oklahoma, she reconnects with her first love, Dalton Kelley. Needing money thanks to cattle rustlers, Dalton hires on to renovate Jade's recently inherited house. Will working together drive this city girl and country boy crazy or into each other's arms?

Available June 30, 2023



ARMED & Marvelous

1955 – Wallace, Kansas

After a terrible tragedy, wild game hunter, Rexanna Brennan, returns to her family's ranch to heal, only to learn a Hollywood cowboy has taken her place, and he has a few troubles of his own.

Available June 10, 2023



PISTOL Perfect

Modern Day – Sweet Water, North Dakota

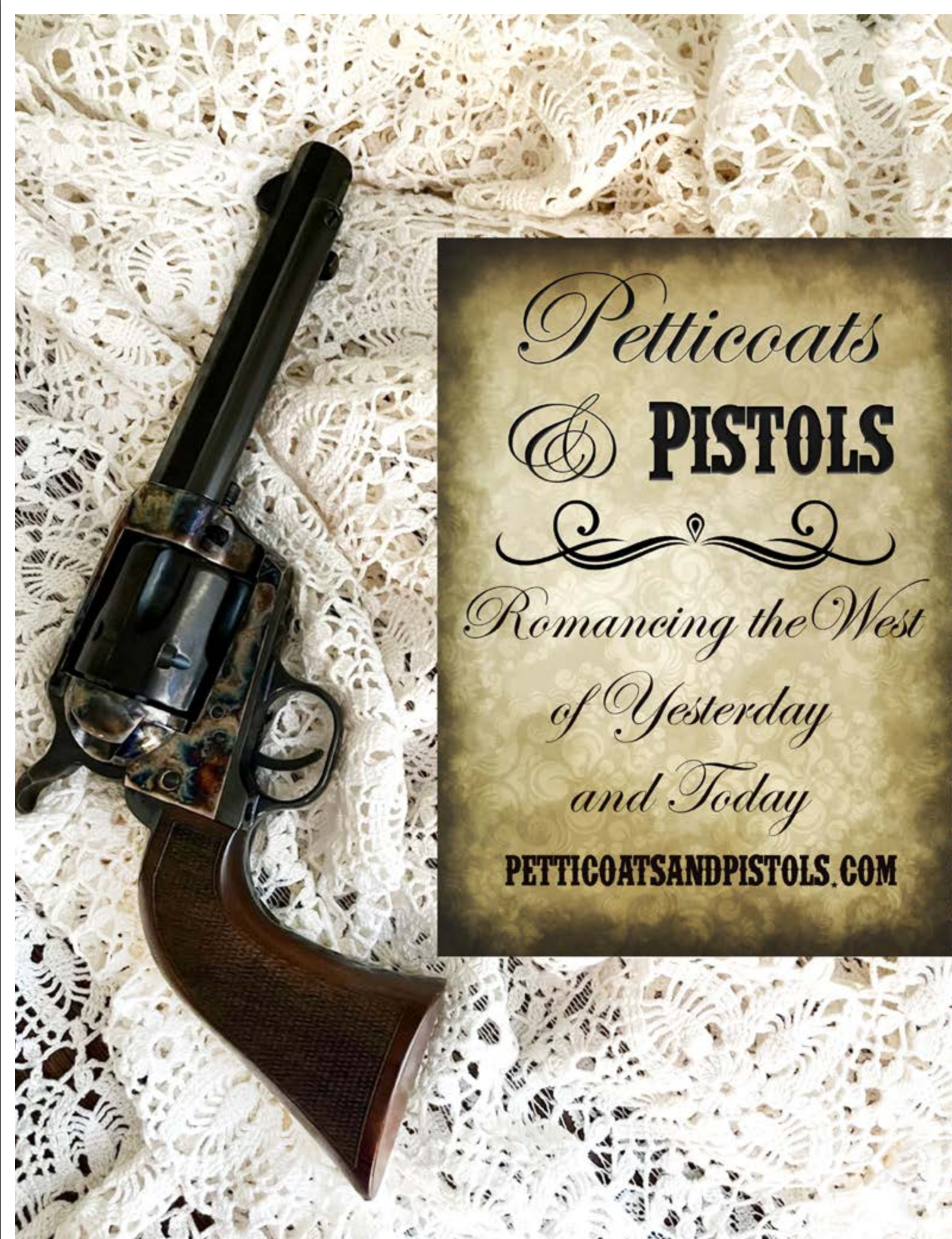
When three young girls need a home, Mabel Lefrak finds the perfect farmhouse - owned by the man she rejected years ago. James isn't looking for houseguests, but he can't refuse Mabel's offer, regardless of their history. Can love create a family, despite kids, chaos and the broken heart between them?

Available July 10, 2023

A SWEET ROMANCE SERIES OF 11 BOOKS
BY THE BESTSELLING AUTHORS OF PETTICOATS & PISTOLS



The whimsical journey
of a legendary pistol
and the women who use it to find love.



Petticoats
& **PISTOLS**
*Romancing the West
of Yesterday
and Today*
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