

www.patriciasimpson.com • ps@patriciasimpson.com • 510-227-5070

Press Release

Romance Sales Strong during Economic Downturn People Seek Escape, Hope and an HEA*



Photo by Craig Merrill

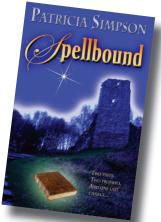
One of the best defenses against the onslaught of bad news is to escape with a good book. Bay Area author Patricia Simpson is making sure her readers can leave the real world behind—and in a big way. Her novels feature otherworldly heroes—time-traveling Scotsmen, spirits, or shape-shifters—who burst into the lives of the heroines, help them see life from a new perspective, and change them forever. The genre Simpson pens is called paranormal suspense, and it's wildly popular because, Simpson claims, people just need to escape.

Simpson's interest in escapism began in her childhood, when she lived in a remote town in Montana and yearned for a different life. Now, she is using every skill she possesses to help others escape the stress of the modern world.

Fans tell her they can't put her books down and stay up all night to get to the ending. Nothing used to be sweeter to Simpson's ears. But in the last few years, her goal as a writer has changed. She wants to bring good news back. She wants to bring hope back, and inspire people to be true to themselves and have faith that there can be happy-ever-afters (*HEAs)--both inside and outside romance novels.

The hero of her latest book, Spellbound, is her favorite paranormal character ever. He's literally a knight in shining armor, full of irrestible faith and indomitable will, who believes he can make a difference. And he ends up changing the heroine in a fundamental way. The heroine was inspired by a television host who came to Simpson's house to film an HGTV segment. From that meeting, Simpson created a young, driven television personality who has programmed her life down to the minutest detail but has failed to factor in heart and soul as part of her master plan. Simpson believes that hearts and souls are falling by the wayside during these troubled times, and she is determined to get them back to their owners. That's what happens in Spellbound. That, plus mystery, danger, a family secret, and the not-to-be-missed HEA.

Simpson is no stranger to paranormal heroes. She's an award-winning author of fourteen books, published by Harper, Silhouette, and TOR. Many of her books feature Scottish heroes, a character-type based on her own larger-than-life Scottish husband.



"Simpson hits one out of the ballpark!"
—RT Book Reviews

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