

homebound, she's frustrated at missing the all-important social engagements intended to secure her future. Bored, she spends her time sparring with Dr. Daniel Merial, her handsome and brilliant physician, who is well below her socially. Problems begin to brew as Daniel and Clare reluctantly yield to their mutual attraction. Clare's carefully scripted brainless, snobby persona begins to crack when her so-called friends begin scheming, family dysfunction is revealed, and "life-altering secrets" become society gossip. As events unfold, Clare discovers that her feelings about love, marriage, and class have changed, completing a coming-of-age transformation. McQuiston capably provides surprises to make sense of the family disorder, but the novel begins to stall with the couple's denials and indecisiveness. *Agent: Kevan Lyon, Marsal Lyon Literary Agency. (Mar.)*



★ **It Must Be Your Love**

Bella Andre. Mira, \$7.99 mass market (400p) ISBN 978-0-7783-1-7319

Andre is in top form in her 11th Sullivan contemporary (after *Kissing Under the Mistletoe*). Seattle realtor Mia Sullivan and budding musician Ford Vincent had an intense, week-long affair that ended when he demanded she drop everything to tour with him without much regard for her life plans. Five years later, Mia, now a successful business owner, is surprised when superstar rock god Ford walks into her life, determined to win her back. This time, it's Ford who's willing to prove he'll give up his lifestyle for her. He immediately starts to integrate himself into her life and family, winning first her friendship and then her love. Andre gives her cleverly drawn characters plenty to love in each other: talent, wit, and genuine affection. Ford and Mia's heated chemistry will seduce new readers, and Andre's fans will cheer when the entire Sullivan tribe gathers for a long-awaited wedding. *Agent: Steve Axelrod, Axelrod Agency. (Feb.)*



Only in My Dreams

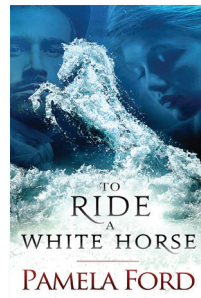
Darcy Burke. Avon Impulse, \$2.99 e-book (384p) ISBN 978-0-06-238930-5

Sara Archer, founder of a successful event planning business, is devastated when her brother Alex ends his lifelong

★ **To Ride a White Horse**

Pamela Ford. Aine Press, \$3.99 e-book (316p) ASIN B000T27108

Contemporary romance novelist Ford (*Her Best Bet*) steps back in time with a sweeping historical love story that hits all the marks. In 1846, Ireland withers under a devastating potato famine while its indifferent English masters stand by. Kathleen Deacey reluctantly sails to Canada to find work to support her family and search for her missing fiancé. But when she's tossed overboard by a storm, it's an Englishman, Capt. Jack Montgomery, who rescues her and provides safe passage as his whaling ship heads home to Boston. Alone and terrified by her family's plight, Kathleen must accept help from a man who symbolizes everything she despises—and with whom she's reluctantly falling in love. Pacing the plot for maximum tension, Ford skillfully conveys the anguish and fury of not only her heroine, but all the struggling Irish both at home and abroad. She delivers genuine heat by teasing out the passion between her protagonists. Ford has made a deeply satisfying foray into new territory. (*BookLife*)



battle with lung disease by committing suicide. She returns home to mourn with her family and receives a second shock: Alex had purchased an abandoned monastery before he died, and his will instructs his six siblings to put their differences aside and reunite in their home town to transform the old structure into a hotel. Despite the painfully obvious setup for a family series and the wholly unrealistic contrivance of the brother's last demands, this sweet romance bounces back from the shallows to find unexpected depths, boldly pairing a heroine with sensory processing disorder (portrayed in an impressively consistent and compassionate way) and a hero with some serious and believable hang-ups about emotional intimacy. This contemporary romance is an easy read even when it stumbles, excellent for an afternoon's mindless pleasure and a quick hit of the warm and fuzzies. *Agent: Jim McCarthy, Dystel & Goderich Literary Management. (Feb.)*



Flirting with Disaster

Victoria Dahl. HQN, \$7.99 mass market (384p) ISBN 978-0-373-77911-6

Dahl's second Jackson: Girls Night out contemporary (after *Looking for Trouble*), set in the mountains of Wyoming, introduces a very strong, slightly flighty heroine who proves that it's possible to thrive, survive, and find love without being dependent on another person.

Artist Isabelle West and her cat share a quiet cabin far removed from the hustle and bustle. Her tranquility is shattered when Deputy U.S. Marshal Tom Duncan knocks on her door while guarding one of her neighbors. Something about Isabelle's tense response triggers alarms for the lawman; little does he know that she's on the run and using an assumed name. As the plot unfolds and their mutual attraction grows, it becomes clear that forgetful Isabelle has steel in her spine. Tom is baffled by her, but when she pulls him into a clinch, he's quite willing to go along. Quirky characters with atypical reactions lend a spark of intrigue and reality to Dahl's trademark merry raunchiness, while the suspense-laden plot takes a backseat. A bonus novella, "Fanning the Flames," starring Isabelle's friend Lauren, will please series fans. *Agent: Amy Moore-Benson, AMB Literary Management. (Feb.)*



Trowchester Blues

Alex Beecroft. Riptide (www.riptidepublishing.com), \$6.99 e-book (290p) ISBN 978-1-62649-198-4

In this contemporary series launch set in the fictional town of Trowchester, England, Beecroft (*Captain's Surrender*) introduces two endearing middle-aged protagonists. Fragile Michael May leaves the London police after witnessing one too many homicides. He returns to Trowchester determined to rid his child-