

KATHLEEN ★ Y'BARBO

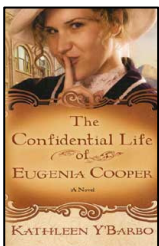


Kathleen Y'Barbo first discovered her love of books when, at the age of four when she stumbled upon her grandmother's encyclopedias. Letters became words, and words became stories of far-away places and interesting people. By the time she entered kindergarten, **Kathleen** had learned to read and found that her love of story could carry her off to places far beyond her small East Texas town. Eventually she hit the road for real, earning a degree in Marketing from Texas A&M before setting off on a path that would take her to such far-flung locales as Jakarta, Tokyo, Bali, Sydney, Hong Kong and Singapore. Finally, though, the road led back to Texas and to writing and publicizing books.

Kathleen is a best-selling author of more than thirty books. In all, over 850,000 copies of her books are currently in print in the US and abroad. She has been named as a finalist in the American Christian Fiction Writers Book of the Year contest every year since its inception in 2003, often for more than one book.

In addition to her skills as an author, **Kathleen** is also a publicist at Books & Such Literary Agency. She is a member of the Romance Writers of America, American Christian Fiction Writers, the Public Relations Society of America, Advanced Writers and Speakers Association, and Authors Guild and is also a degreed paralegal specializing in criminal and family law. A native Texan, **Kathleen** has three grown sons and a teenage daughter. Read more about **Kathleen** at www.kathleenbarbo.com.

SAMPLE REVIEWS:

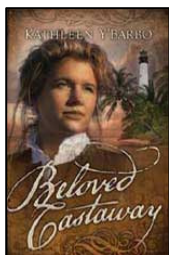
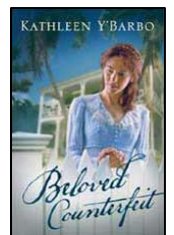


With wit and wisdom the author gives us a solid story with characters who lead the way to laughter and danger. You don't want to miss Eugenia's tale.

--*Romantic Times* 4.5-star review of **CONFIDENTIAL LIFE OF EUGENIA COOPER**

Hearts will ache for Ruby as she holds on to her new faith through adversity. Y'Barbo's story shows the stark difference between God's promises and man's promises, and readers familiar with the series will enjoy catching up with characters, even though this story can stand alone. You'll definitely want more!

--*Romantic Times* 4-star review for **BELOVED COUNTERFEIT**



'Y'Barbo combines high-seas adventures, societal taboos and faith with a tender romance that's satisfying from beginning to end." *Romantic Times* 4-star review for **BELOVED CASTAWAY**

"Trust me, if you love romantic tension and some awesome Christian fiction with sizzle, this novel will definitely rock your boat." *At Home With Christian Fiction*

BOOKS BY KATHLEEN Y'BARBO:

- Bachelor Club, The (Trade Paper)
- Bayou Beginnings (Mass Market)
- Bayou Brides (Trade Paper)
- Bayou Dreams (Mass Market)
- Bayou Fever (Mass Market)
- Bayou Secrets (Mass Market)
- Brothers Of Outlaw Trail (Trade Paper)
- Dwelling Place, The (Mass Market)
- English Garden, The (Trade Paper)
- Fresh Brewed Love (Trade Paper)
- Golden Gate Gazette (Trade Paper)
- Kentucky Keepers (Trade Paper)
- Louisiana Brides (Trade Paper)
- Major League Dad (Mass Market)
- Mountains, Memories, And Mistletoe (Trade Paper)
- Olympic Memories (Trade Paper)
- Texas Christmas Brides (Trade Paper)
- To Catch A Thief (Trade Paper)
- Yellow Roses (Trade Paper)
- You Can't Buy Love (Mass Market)
- Sugar and Grits (Trade Paper)
- Alaska Brides (Trade Paper)
- Cajun Hearts (Trade Paper)
- Wild West Christmas (Trade Paper)
- The House is Quiet, Now What? *Recovering Life & Adventure as an Empty Nester* (Trade Paper)
- Building Dreams (Mass Market)
- Wedded Bliss (Mass Market)
- Turning Points: Divorce (Trade Paper)
- Beloved Castaway, Book 1 of the *Fairweather Key* series (Trade Paper)
- Beloved Captive, Book 2 of the *Fairweather Key* series (Trade Paper)
- Beloved Counterfeit, Book 3 of the *Fairweather Key* series (Trade Paper)
- The Confidential Life of Eugenia Cooper, Book 1 of the *All that Glitters* series (Trade Paper)

WHAT INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS SAY ABOUT KATHLEEN Y'BARBO:

"I've had a working relationship with Kathleen Y'Barbo since 2001 when she submitted to Heartsong Presents. Kathleen has proven herself to be a talented, creative author. Her desire to create quality Christian fiction has proven itself in her willingness to work with her editors. I've been very impressed with the way Kathleen has developed her skills and honed her storytelling ability. I expect more great things from Kathleen. This is definitely an author to watch!" **Tracie Peterson, best-selling author and former managing editor of Heartsong Presents**

As both a novelist and a non-fiction writer, I'm always on the lookout for truly engaging Christian writers...those I can glean from--and aspire to be like. Kathleen Y'Barbo is just such an author. As a result of our six-year relationship as critique partners, my own writing has grown and flourished. I've watched Kathleen in action as she has plotted, written and tweaked her many novels. Her technique is strong, and her ability to work under pressure impressive. Above these things, however, is her heart. Instead of seeking fame or fortune (things she could easily acquire with her talents and abilities leading the way), Kathleen always remains focused on the Lord. She genuinely has a heart after God, and that

shows in every word she writes. She is a professional, in every sense of the word. -- **Janice Thompson, Christian author and speaker**

"Kathleen Y'Barbo creates an unforgettable story with a blend of dynamic characters and incredible wit." -- **DiAnn Mills, best-selling author and speaker**

"Kathleen Y'Barbo makes use of setting in her stories to the point that it become as important as a character. Her rich, flavorful use of words, and interesting characters make her writing sing. She is a talented writer, one who has honed her craft well." -- **Eileen Key, freelance editor and author**

"Kathleen Y'Barbo's characters are true to life and appeal to all ages. She tells her stories with a touch of humor as well as depths of emotion. Kathleen's books are as varied as the flowers in an English garden. Plots do not follow any formula, and whether the story is historical or contemporary, it will take the reader on a journey that will not be soon forgotten." -- **Martha Rogers, author, speaker, and president of Inspirational Writers Alive**

SAMPLE PRESS CLIPPING:

By KIMBERLY STAUFFER
Houston Chronicle

Kathleen Y'Barbo loves a good romance, especially when the Lord offers a stamp of approval. A Christian romance writer, Y'Barbo has sold more than 20 books since she began writing seven years ago. A self-defined writer all her life, she found the courage to take her dream to press at 40, married and a mother of four living in The Woodlands.

"I really didn't know how to go about (writing)," she said. "It didn't occur to me that I could do it. I thought it happened in New York in some ivory tower."

A Texas A&M University graduate, Y'Barbo aspired to a journalism degree, but she could not overcome her shy nature to interview strangers. Instead, she earned a marketing degree, married young and had children.

"I started out like most writers do. I had spiral notebooks and made up stories," she said. "After my kids were born, I started reading everything I could find. I started thinking, 'I could write this better.' So, I bought a word processor and decided to write a book. I still hadn't admitted at that point that I was a writer yet. I wrote until I had written eight novels."

Y'Barbo said she received a wake-up call when her pastor at a Sunday sermon asked the congregation, 'Is there any part of your life you haven't given to God?'

"I'd never checked with the Lord," Y'Barbo said. "He wanted me to write for Him. He had given me a gift. I'm a storyteller, not a preacher. I realized the books I had written weren't what needed to be published."

Religious focus

When offered a three-book deal from Bantam, Y'Barbo turned it down in favor of steering her writing in a religious direction.

Y'Barbo readily admits the Christian romance genre was stagnating a decade ago as stories continually revolved around old western outlaws, covered-wagon-riding cowboys and helpless maidens. Now, she said, writers are penning novels about teenage pregnancy, accidental polygamy and kindhearted harlots.

"Lot of it had to do with churches now speaking to women," Y'Barbo said. "We have women ministers now. The church realized it's missed a whole group of people."

Even when publishing houses were willing to print and sell heftier material, booksellers were not.

"The gatekeepers are not the publishing houses, but the booksellers. For a bookstore, a traditional Christian bookstore, all it takes is one little old lady saying something bothered her," she said. "They won't buy anymore books on that topic. That's been the biggest struggle. Booksellers have realized women can handle that life has bad things."

Basic themes

While the novels keep the same dramatic and romantic twists as secular books, Y'Barbo said the Christian-undertoned stories stray from the oft body-focused romantic tales.

"I think that down deep most women want to believe someone will love them for who they are: warts, wrinkles and the extra 10 pounds," she said. "(Secular) romance does that some. But you see lots of perfect women. As a rule in Christian romance, you don't see an emphasis on physical appearance.

"The bedroom door is closed. People are tired of that. People want to be loved for who they are, not how they look or how good they are in bed."

In 2003, around 117 "inspirational romance" titles were in print. One year later, around 167 were churning off the presses, according to the Romance Writers of America.

Sharon Mignerey, a writer and member of the Northwest Houston Romance Writers Association, said the recent upswing in published novels reflects readers' current situation in life. The romantic novels provide an uplifting feeling with happy endings.

"During this time of war and uncertainty, I believe many readers want stories that have a positive resolution," Mignerey said. "In mystery novels, the crime is solved and justice prevails; in romance novels, the hero and heroine earn their happily-ever-after. And, during uncertain times, many people seem to turn toward faith, so it's only natural they might be looking for fiction that represents those same values and sensibilities."

Building readership

The revamped genre offers more worldly sustenance for its loyal readers and newcomers, Y'Barbo said.

"By definition, in the Christian world view version, there is a higher power," she said. "When things are right with God and we're doing what we're supposed to, life goes well. Christian romance is not your mother's romance."

A stigma still follows the religious-angled books, Y'Barbo said, even within the Christian community. Fictionalized Christian values have long met with disapproval.

"There's lots of misconceptions among Christian romance," she said. "Fiction is not easily accepted. People think serious topics can only be covered in nonfiction. Seeing them dealt with in a story is a whole other thing."

Y'Barbo said the true equalizer between religious and secular novels lies in the most basic elements: plot and writing. If a story has a plot that hooks readers and writing that flows, it could fall into the hands of anyone and prove a good read.

"People are realizing now we're not going to preach to you," she said. "If the plot is well-written, characters fully created and interesting, then the world view becomes secondary to a good story. Good writing is good writing."

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For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Kathleen Y'Barbo at

<http://www.kathleenybarbo.com/contact>