



# LOVE CHAT NEWS

from *Abigail Dane*

History happily ever after™

## THE BARON AND THE BLACK WIDOW Book Two is HERE!

### News of Interest:

- October 2016  
*The Baron and the Black Widow*  
(Book Two in the "Whitleigh" series)  
book launch
- September/October 2016  
"The Battle of Worcester  
and its Aftermath" posted on  
Number One London blog site
- June 2016  
Abigail Dane features two books  
at the Zane Grey's West Society  
Convention/Member Book Fair  
in Islamorada, FL
- November 30, 2016  
"Confessions of a Romance Writer"  
Workshop for FGCU

### Inside this issue:

- The Baron and the Black Widow*  
Book Two is HERE! 1
- The Pirate and the Virgin*—  
The Reviews are In! 2
- The Pirate and the Virgin*  
Debuts at ZGWS 3
- Coming Soon:  
Three New Heroes  
in the Whitleigh Series
- "Confessions of a  
Romance Writer" 4
- Jo Beverley:  
Passing of a Romance Legend

© 2016. Transitions Unlimited.  
AbigailDaneRomance@gmail.com.  
All rights reserved.

The wait is over! The much clamored-for *The Baron and the Black Widow*—Book Two in the "Whitleigh" series—is here at last!

The hero of this sequel is John Tremaine, Baron of Whitleigh, the stoic, duty-bound older brother of Richard from Book One, *The Pirate and the Virgin*. This novel takes the Tremaine family back to England where their challenges include the mysterious death of an earl, the desperate search for his heir, intrigue at a house party and a potentially deadly duel.

### The Story...England, 1651

After two years of exile in Barbados, John Tremaine, Baron of Whitleigh, learns Cromwell is sending troops to lay siege to the rebellious island. Time to return home to England. Well past time for him to marry and produce an heir.

Before he left England in 1649, he proposed to the young and beautiful Lady Miranda. She said no and, instead, married the much-older Earl of Covington. Suddenly widowed, the still young, still beautiful, now wealthy Countess is troubled by an unwelcome suitor.

She needs John's help...

Complications. Soon after returning home, John meets another young widow, Lady Sally, who has inherited the run-down property that adjoins Whitleigh.

She needs John's help, too...

The violet-eyed Sally is nothing like the seductive Miranda. Except that she is equally appealing, equally distracting and equally likely to cause John trouble...

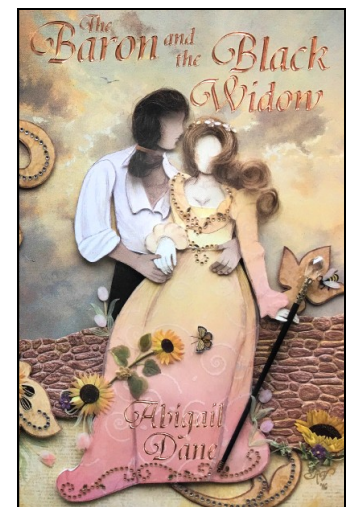
In this story, John resumes his role as baron but soon faces hard choices: between two widows—and between his own needs and those of Whitleigh. Ultimately, he must choose between what is *honorable* and what is *right*.

Richard and Lucy, from *Pirate*, are back in book two also. She is pregnant and he is contemplating a new career. Together their mutual mischief keep the household amused. If you loved them in *Pirate*, prepare to fall in love all over again.

"The Baron  
and the Black  
Widow"

Cover art:  
Mixed-media  
collage

by Abigail Dane



You'll also meet John's boyhood friend, the endearing Viscount Merrivale; and the shadowy Sir Randolph Colby. *The Baron and the Black Widow* is complex, suspenseful, poignant and amusing. Early readers have laughed and cried. In their words: "I became so immersed in these characters." and "Magnificent! I was blown away."

NOW available at [TransitionsUnlimited.biz](http://TransitionsUnlimited.biz) or by email: [AbigailDaneRomance@gmail.com](mailto:AbigailDaneRomance@gmail.com)

## The Pirate and the Virgin—The Reviews are In!

Grasping the reins more tightly, John was ready to knee the horse back into motion when a blur of movement in the distance caught his eye. Twisting about to his right and half-standing in his stirrups, he watched as a gray horse raced across an unplowed field. A child, riding astride and bending low, clung precariously to the animal's neck. The rider appeared to be holding his own with the runaway horse for the moment but John feared injury to horse, rider or both if the beast stumbled or stepped into a hole.

Kneeing Maxim, he called out: "To the rescue. As you are anxious to run, go to it!"

Needing no more encouragement than that, Maxim collected himself and ran at the rock wall, clearing it easily. Man and beast cut across the park, racing at top speed in the direction of the other horse and rider. After seconds that seemed like minutes, Maxim's long stride brought John close enough to grasp the runaway's reins. Bracing his knees against Maxim's sides and half standing in his saddle, John dragged the other animal to a nervous, plunging standstill after a few awkward half-strides.

The gray horse snorted and tried to rear, but John held him firmly in check as he swept his gaze to the rider.

Not a child. A woman. A rather petite woman...

...whose chest heaved with panting breaths, which John took to be fright at having her horse run away with her.

When she lifted the netting on the broad-brimmed hat that obscured the top half of her face, John found himself snared by the most violet eyes he had ever seen.

Expressive, almond-shaped eyes.

Cat's eyes framed by dark lashes.

Eyes that flashed with fury.

—Excerpt from  
*The Baron and the Black Widow*

I suspect most writers are like me: They write, edit, agonize, edit some more, suffer unimaginable fidgets, publish—then WAIT and HOPE their readers will like what they have done. I'm happy to be able to report that the early reviews of *The Pirate and the Virgin* have been very positive. That includes reviews from readers who don't usually read historical romance. Here are a few examples:

Started the book yesterday and am 3/4 finished. Stayed up until 1:00 a.m. reading it. This is not the typical genre I read but was pleasantly surprised. Loved it! Wish I had another of her books to read...  
— Pat M. (Florida)

∞

I LOVE LUCY—and her pirate! Abigail Dane's first novel, *The Pirate and the Virgin*, is so much more than a romance. Yes, there's a delightful romantic storyline, but there's also fascinating history, which adds engaging depth to Dane's tale. Set in 1649, the story begins in London and takes to the high seas on an unpredictable course to Barbados with a ship full of original, well-defined, and believable characters, including the protagonist Lady Lucy (the virgin) and Captain Tremaine (the pirate). Dane delivers on her promise of "history, happily ever after."

— Bonnie P. (Florida)

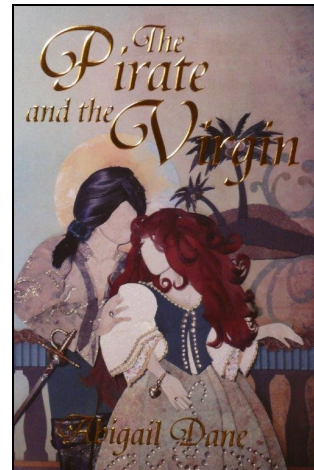
∞

Just finished reading your book. LOVED IT! LOVED IT! LOVED IT! I have never been a romance novel reader but you have won me over! Can't wait for the rest of the series.

— LaJune M. (N. Carolina)

∞

I highly recommend this book. It is very clever, interesting and entertaining! I read it twice and look forward to the sequels.



"The Pirate and the Virgin"

Cover art:  
Mixed-media collage  
by Abigail Dane

I picked up *Pirate* and ate it up in a couple of big chunks... such enormous good fun. I can just imagine you chortling away as you wrote, because it reads that way—born of pleasure.

Any good reader would pick up on the echoes of Shakespearean comedy throughout: the witty thrust and parry of the dialogue; the word plays; the confused identity; above all, the forthright, immoderate heroine. (But I must say, your sex scenes are much better than Shakespeare's!)

It all plays like a movie...a tribute to your story-telling ability. Lucy and Richard have so much life and energy in them you'd have to think their adventures won't end with their marriage but have just begun. I'm sure I'm not the only one lining up for the sequel.

— Vicki H. (New South Wales)

∞

ALL: Your enjoyment lights, warms and humbles me. I hope you enjoy the Baron's romance as much as you did the Pirate's!

As I wrote on the "Acknowledgments" page of *The Baron and the Black Widow*:

*Writing makes me so happy that I'd keep doing it, even if I knew no one would ever read my books. The fact that you enjoyed the last one enough to prod me to write the next one is joy heaped on joy.*

WORDS FAIL ME. And for those who know me, that alone should tell you just how staggered I am...

## The Pirate and the Virgin Debuts at ZGWS

In June 2016, Zane Grey's West Society held its 34th annual convention in beautiful Islamorada, Florida. One evening of the convention is always an ice cream social and member book fair. This year, Abigail Dane was there with her artwork and two books:

*Betty Zane: Contemporary Edition*, an edited version of Grey's first book, and Dane's own first novel, *The Pirate and the Virgin*. Both books are now available at Hooked on Books in Islamorada, as well as at: [TransitionsUnlimited.biz](http://TransitionsUnlimited.biz).

**Did You Know?** Zane Grey (1872-1939) is best known as the author of Western romances like *Riders of the Purple Sage* and *Light of Western Stars*. But he was also a world-renowned fisherman and Southwest Florida—especially Long Key—was one of his favorite fishing haunts.



*THE PIRATE AND THE VIRGIN* debuts at the Zane Grey's West Society, Member Book Fair in Islamorada, FL (June 2016). Photo courtesy of Kathleen Raffoul.

"You knew her?" Lucy asked. Idly, Richard sipped his coffee, now cold. "We were introduced once, though I would not say I knew her."

"And what was she like, this *Miranda* something?"

"Blonde. Bountiful. Beautiful," he responded quickly.

*Much too quickly*—before catching Lucy's sharp look and arched brows.

Arched brows, Always a bad sign. "Ugly," he amended. "Very ugly. Flat-chested. Snaggle-toothed. Cross-eyed. Hairy wart on the end of her nose. A true horror." He looked at Lucy with a mock-pitiful expression. "She frightened me."

"More than I frighten you?" she asked, leaning toward him as far as her child-swollen body would allow.

"Nothing frightens me more than that," he assured her, taking her lips in a kiss that made his claim a lie.

—Excerpt from

*The Baron and the Black Widow*

### Coming Soon...

### Three New Heroes in the Whitleigh Series

#### George Merrick, Viscount Merrivale...

Something or *someone* is disturbing his horses. Pistol drawn, Merrivale creeps into his stable to surprise the culprit, but what he finds hiding there in the dark is not what he expected *at all*. He has no idea what to do with his discovery, but he has the uneasy sense that his simple, orderly, masculine world is about to be turned upside-down and inside-out.

*What is a hapless magistrate to do with a hungry, wretched, but genteel captive who is wanted for crimes that carry a "death without mercy" sentence?*

∫

These heroes will be appearing in the next three books.

Email me at [AbigailDaneRomance@gmail.com](mailto:AbigailDaneRomance@gmail.com) and tell me:

#### WHICH OF THESE STORIES ARE YOU MOST ANXIOUS TO READ? WHY?

#### Philip Bligh, 7th Earl of Covington...

His Lordship thought he had left his shadowy adventures behind when he settled into his new role as the Seventh Earl of Covington. When an unexpected threat forces him to revive the abandoned talents that had served him so well in the past, he discovers they may no longer be enough. This time he's going to need help from an unlikely source—one with soft grey eyes and kissable lips.

*Troubled earls shouldn't have to deal with beautiful but defiant females who have no reverence for earls and no patience with their troubles.*

∫

#### Arthur Kendall, Lieutenant...

No longer a tall, thin, awkward adolescent but a tall, handsome, disciplined officer with his first command, Arthur is confident he can handle any seagoing challenge. Until his command includes a willful young woman determined to sink him. When she jumps ship, he has no choice but to go after her—though doing so may mean his post and career are over before they've begun.

*Really. No female is worth all this fuss. Not even one with sapphire eyes and hair as shiny and blue-black as a raven's wing...*

∫





## Transitions Unlimited

Website: <http://TransitionsUnlimited.biz>

Facebook: Abigail Dane Romance

Email: [AbigailDaneRomance@gmail.com](mailto:AbigailDaneRomance@gmail.com)

LinkedIn profile at:

<http://tinyurl.com/VrugtmanLinkedIn>

### History happily ever after™

This newsletter is a publication of Transitions Unlimited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of THE BRIDGE Business Services, Inc.

Contents of this newsletter, including images, are copyrighted and owned by the author, unless specified. However, readers are encouraged to share this publication and the information herein with other interested individuals.

*Jo Beverley*



(1947-2016)

Photo used with permission.

## “Confessions of a Romance Writer”

Want to learn more about the complex and exciting world of ROMANCE WRITING—a \$1.6 billion-dollar/year industry driven almost exclusively by women? Abigail would love to do a program for your group!

Using presentation, discussion, brief readings, show-and-tell, handouts and Q&A, this engaging session will provide insights and practical advice about what it takes to launch a romance writing career. Something for traditional, self-published and pre-published authors—as well as readers who are simply curious about the profession of romance writing.

For more info, contact Abigail directly at: [AbigailDaneRomance@gmail.com](mailto:AbigailDaneRomance@gmail.com)



## Jo Beverley: Passing of a Romance Legend

One of eighteen members of the  
Romance Writers of America  
Hall of Fame

"...today's most skillful writer  
of intelligent historical romance."  
—*Publishers Weekly*

"One of the great names of the genre."  
—*Romantic Times*

These accolades grace the website of the late Jo Beverley ([jobev.com](http://jobev.com)), who had been honored with five RWA Rita awards for her exceptional romance stories. Jo died on May 23, 2016, at the age of 68. Her family, friends, readers and rabid admirers (like me) will miss her terribly.

Though I never met Jo, I own and have read and reread her entire canon. She and I had also communicated via email a number of times over the past three years. In fact, her last email to me, mere weeks before her death, offered advice and support to me as a newly-published romance writer.

I acknowledged her influence on me in *The Pirate and the Virgin*:

*I also want to give a nod to someone I've never met, romance author Jo Beverley, the best of the best, in my opinion. Sad but true: I had never read any of her stories until 2013, when I picked up a copy of Three Heroes while browsing at my favorite secondhand bookshop. I would have bought the book for the cover alone, but the story had me hooked from page one. I feel I've earned an honorary degree in romance writing after reading and re-reading her marvelous tales of Mallorens, Rogues and Medieval knights and maidens. JO: You've inspired me and confirmed my belief that romance writers are the world's most intriguing and generous people.*

With her passing, I feel as if I have lost a friend and mentor. I dedicate this book to her, with the hope that it is worthy of her.

Rest well, Jo. You will not be forgotten...