



Vol. 4, No. 2, FEBRUARY 2022

- New Releases: *The Queen in the Mound*, *Dragon Curse*
- Author Spotlight: Pamela Nowak chats about her new release, *Necessary Deceptions*

From the Editor

Happy February! I hope you're all staying warm in whatever part of the world you're in. I'm a winter wuss myself, already whining for my summer flip-flops.



The bright part is – there are *lots* of new releases! And more on the way. This month we're sharing about two – *The Queen in the Mound*, and *Dragon Curse*. And best of all...we're chatting with Pamela Nowak about her newest release – *Necessary Deceptions*. Keep reading for some fascinating tidbits that she discovered in her research for this newest book.

After this issue, I'm going to be taking a hiatus for a few months. The cancer journey that we're on with my better half is requiring more and more of my time daily. We're far from the end of this rocky road, but in order to keep my sanity as caregiver, chauffer, and in charge of doing everything right now, I'm trying to trim back on some of my commitments, so I'm temporarily setting this newsletter aside for a short time.

Thank you for your understanding!

Wishing you all a wonderful February, filled with family, love, friends and all the blessings of life.

Trisha

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New Releases

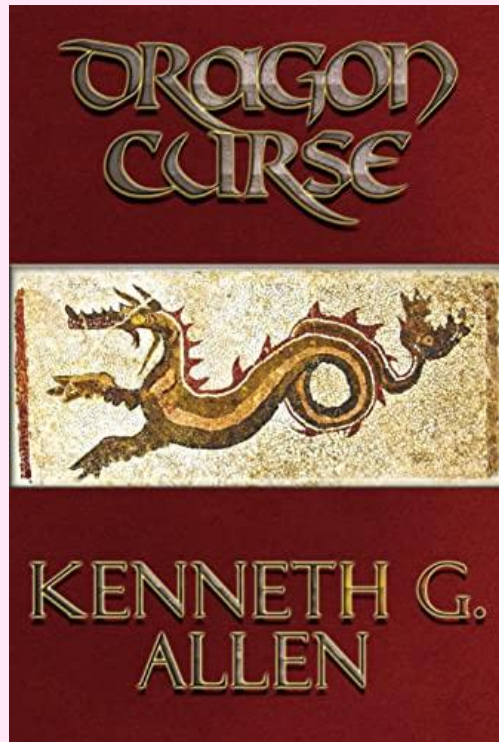


[The Queen in the Mound](#)

Johanna Wittenberg

Releasing February 20th – available now as pre-order

Raider Bride is headed to Tromøy, where Ragnhild hopes to gain Åsa's aid in taking Gausel. But the voyage takes them through perilous waters where enemies lie in wait, and Ragnhild carries a secret that could ruin everything. On Tromøy, an ancient evil wakes and a forgotten enemy gains strength, threatening to destroy all those Åsa loves.

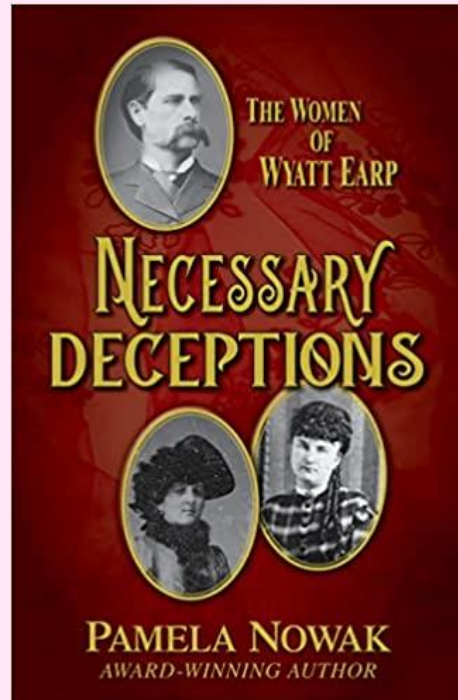


Dragon Curse

Kenneth Allen

Dragon Curse, is set in the first century Roman World at the end of the reign of Nero. Patrician, Gaius Petronicus is a prosperous and leading citizen in the town of Alerios on the island of Corsica. When Simon Magus, a self-proclaimed healer and, spiritual leader from Samaria, comes to town, Gaius takes his blind daughter Portia to get healed. Instead of healing her, the holy man molests her. In return, Gaius attacks and mutilates Simon Magus. In revenge, Simon's three wives cast a horrendous magic curse upon his house and business. Gaius has to search for ways to break this curse from over his house. This spell causes great anxiety and wreaks havoc on Gaius and especially with his wife Ginea's mind and those of his slaves. Only Justa, Gaius's slave, and Agnes the Good, who leads a tiny early Christian assembly, can make sense of what is going on. There are sword fights, sea crossings, and a visit to Rome to find Portia a husband. While in Rome a great fire breaks out. Along with this fire, Gaius experiences, pagan sacrifices, dreams, omens, a ghost that climbs out of a wall, dragon creatures and a final tsunami in this line of adventures. Join in the superstitious world where Gaius discovers that curses of the mind cannot be easily overcome.

Author Spotlight: Pamela Nowak



Hello Pamela Nowak! We're excited to chat with you today about new release, NECESSARY DECEPTIONS. Can you tell us a little bit about it?

The novel centers on the role of deception in the lives of Mattie Blaylock and Josephine Marcus, the second and third wives of Wyatt Earp. Josephine spent much of her life pretending to be someone she wasn't and carefully controlled which part of Wyatt's past was revealed in his early biographies, shaping him into the legend we all recognize today. Mattie spent years lying to herself in order to survive. Both women endured hard lives and possessed a great deal of strength and spirit. The book brings their untold stories to life.

What inspired the idea for NECESSARY DECEPTIONS?

*I actually owe a debt to historian Sherry Monahan. Her well-researched book on all the Earp brothers' wives, **MRS. EARP**, intrigued me and I began to explore more. Ted Meyers' biography, **MATTIE**, cinched it. Josie and Mattie had complex untold stories that begged to be explored in fictional form and Wyatt...well, the man behind the legend was not at all the hero. I wanted so much to dive into what formed these women, what attracted them to Wyatt, and what made them stick with him.*

On your author page, you've been sharing a lot of fun facts about the Earp's. What stands out as one of the most fascinating things you discovered in your research?

I think what I found most fascinating was how often the Earp brothers walked on the wrong side of the law and the degree of their less-than-legal activities. Wyatt is always portrayed in movies as such a moral man. In reality, he was arrested as a horse thief, managed brothels, and had next to no loyalty to his

women. Along with that was that Mattie and Josie both loved him despite his illicit activities and despite his willingness to allow them (perhaps even his encouragement) to continue practice prostitution while married to him.

Can you tell us about your favorite character from this book?

I think I grew to have a soft spot for Mattie. So little is known about her, and most movies portray her as a laudanum addict. Yet, there was so much more to her, and I felt she'd never truly been understood. I enjoyed exploring the "what-ifs" of her past and shaping her into a woman with more dimensions than she is usually provided.

From reading your Facebook posts, I've learned that the term 'cowboys' that I think of, is not what the term originally meant in this part of the world. Can you tell the readers a little about what the first term 'cowboys' meant?

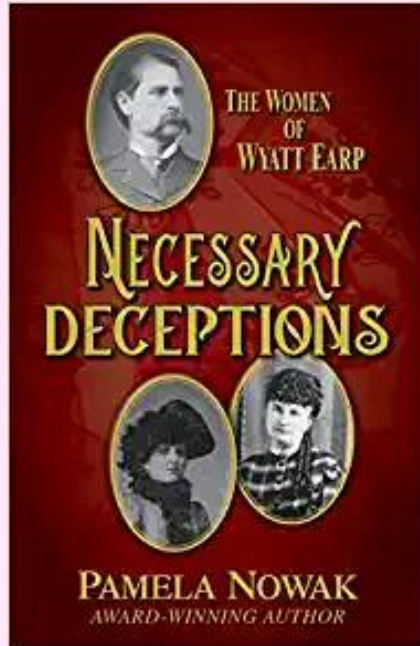
The term "cow boy" was relatively new in the late 1870s. Most often, those who drove cattle were known as drovers or cowhands. Though "cow boy" was used in a Dodge City newspaper in 1878 as a synonym for cowhand, some sources indicate it was more often used to refer to a cattle rustler. This was especially true in the border areas where cattle thieves crossed into Mexico and drove herds north for resale in the United States. Eventually, the meaning slipped away, and it became the accepted term for a drover.

Was researching NECESSARY DECEPTIONS different in any way from researching your prior books?

There were very few known facts about Mattie Blaylock and the few facts that did exist were found in arrest records and court documents—which revealed a lot about Wyatt, too. But those records did much in helping to track the real story of Wyatt and separate it from the myth creating in the early biographies that Josie so carefully screened. I had to dig hard for details about Mattie and craft the rest of her from possibility. Josie, on the other hand, left so many convoluted stories about herself that I had to search for the discrepancies with the historical record and reshape around known facts. Her story may never truly be known but I pulled what I thought to be the most plausible version and built around that.

Is there anything you'd like to share with us that I didn't ask you about?

Neither Mattie nor Josie led traditional lives. Both resorted to prostitution. Between their trade and their association with the Earp's, they lived hard lives. I'm hopeful that I treated them fairly, shaping them as multi-dimensional women. The book is gritty...they led gritty lives...and most certainly not a romantic tale. I enjoyed the experience of walking on the wild side with them and taking a deeper dive into how very hard life was for women in that era.



You can find Pamela Nowak's books here:

<https://www.amazon.com/author/pamela.nowak>

You can find Pamela Nowak here:

www.pamelanowak.com

www.facebook.com/PamelaNowakAuthor

[Pamela Nowak \(Author of Never Let Go\) | Goodreads](#)

BIO: Pamela Nowak was born and raised in southwest Minnesota and currently resides in Albuquerque. She has a B.A. in history and her novels reflect a deep dedication to research as well as a love for deeply drawn characters. Her historical romance novels have won numerous national awards and garnered critical acclaim for her ability to weave actual people, events, and places into her plotting. Now writing women's historical fiction with a heavy basis in fact, she's returned to her roots. Nowak was a teacher, preservationist, project manager for the Fort Yuma National Historic Site, and administrator of a homeless shelter prior to her writing career. She has been honored as the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers' Writer of the Year and was awarded a Colorado Book Award, multiple HOLT Medallion Awards, and a WILLA Finalist Award.

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