

Courage of the Heart
by Chelle Cordero

About Courage of the Heart by Chelle Cordero

The love story between Davie Prescott and Adam Sherman shows us that sometimes love is the only cure for the very deepest of emotional wounds. Adam Sherman has remained quiet about his scandalous past and is comfortable with his reputation as a womanizing and dedicated bachelor. He is an expert in the field of computers including programming, networking and hacking. At twenty-five years old, he is content with his management job at a local Internet Provider.

Davie Prescott is twenty years old and a college student who is working part-time at the same Internet Provider where Adam is employed. She was raised in a very close knit family of aunts, uncles and cousins. She and her widowed father are very close. Adam is attracted to Davie, but he shies away from her innocence because he feels his shameful past is too harsh for her existence. Adam finally shares his darkest secret with Davie and is amazed to find that she doesn't turn away from him.

But when Adam's past catches up to him, he soon learns that there's a lot more at stake than just his nightmares. Adam is prepared to give Davie up if need be in order to protect her until he learns that she's got a secret of her own. With Davie's help, Adam learns a courage that is born of love, courage of the heart.

The story of the two lovers takes a series of unexpected and fast paced turns where lives, sanity and love are put in jeopardy. Their commitment to one another results in a spirit that binds them together and helps them to overcome physical and emotional dangers.

Book Club Discussion Starters
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1.) Adam Sherman was wrongly imprisoned for a crime he did not commit. Although the prosecutor's office didn't consider DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) testing to be high priority prior to Adam's conviction, a subsequent confession from the real perpetrator did open the door for testing and he was exonerated. Forensic science has come a long way in recent years in using evidence such as DNA and fingerprints towards proving guilt and innocence. Identical twins do share the same DNA markers and sloppy or careless lab work can contaminate samples. If you were suspected of a crime, how secure would you feel relying on forensic science to find the truth?

2.) As per Meghan's Law (also known as the Sexual Offender Jacob Wetterling Act of 1994) convicted sexual offenders are required to register with local law enforcement authorities so that communities are aware that an offender might be residing nearby. The registry was named in memory of the murder and rape of 7-year old Megan Kanka in 1994. Allegedly parents will be better able to protect their children by having the knowledge of possible "threats". Each state has the right to impose limits of registration and how the information is disseminated to the public. Do you know how you can obtain this information for your local community? Do you know if your local schools send notifications home?

3.) There are mixed reactions about community notification about sexual offenders. Most registries rate the level of the offense but do not include specific details. There have been a few cases where neighbors have enacted a form of vigilante justice and offenders have been beaten or even murdered. One man had a complaint against him from an adult woman and a local father killed him after hearing he was a registered sex offender in order to "protect his underage son". Do you feel that registered offenders are sometimes put at risk and do you feel this risk is worth it? What suggestions would you make to keep our children protected and still prevent vigilantes from taking matters into their own hands?

4.) Internet security hacking incidents have been all over the news lately. Even companies with supposedly secure databases have been invaded. Do you use online banking or make online purchases with your credit cards or bank checks? How secure do you feel using online resources? Do you believe you are safe if you do not use the internet? Have you ever searched your name to see if it comes up anywhere? What safeguards can you take to protect your sensitive information from crooked hackers?

5.) Davie is attending school with the help of a work-study program. College tuition is very expensive. How important is a college education to you if it means working long hours or taking loans in order to achieve it? It's estimated that college costs have nearly tripled since the 1980s and some studies are indicating that job opportunities for "middle school" workers are opening up. In 2010 the Bureau of Labor Statistics said that about 17 million people Americans with college degrees are working jobs that require skills below bachelor degrees. Do you believe that college is necessary for everyone? Are there some professions where you can earn a reasonable living without a college degree?

6.) While Adam was incarcerated, he became the victim of male prison rape. He suffered the stigma associated with male on male rape and was made to feel ashamed of what happened to

him. Even Adam's father turned on him because he "must have allowed it to happen". Today's society has varying and controversial opinions about the subject of rape, and opinions about male rape is even more divisive. Male rape is rarely reported to the authorities and as a group male rape victims receive less services than females. Have you heard any discussions about male rape and were the comments compassionate or accusatory?

7.) Adam is forced to commit a crime to protect Davie. White collar crimes are considered non-violent and "victimless", but crimes are still illegal. Do you believe that law enforcement needs to take into account when a crime is committed under duress? How far do you think you would go to protect someone that you loved?

8.) It's the responsibility of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate and approve new drugs in this country. Before a drug is submitted to the FDA for approval, it's the responsibility of the manufacturer to run tests and certify its effectiveness and safety. After a few years of clinical testing by the manufacturer, the FDA runs controlled trials on humans. It takes about an average of a dozen years from initial development before the drug can be sold to the consumer. When you are prescribed a new medication, how much information do you ask for? How much trust do you have in the approval process? Have you ever, or would you ever, volunteer to be a human test subject for a drug's approval?

Additional Suggested Reading

Male On Male Rape: The Hidden Toll Of Stigma And Shame by Michael Scarce

The Strength of a Man & A Man's Guide to Survivorhood by Namid

Bartlett's Rule by Chelle Cordero

Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It by Richard A. Clarke and Robert Knake

White-Collar Crime: The Essentials by Brian K. Payne

Cobert's Manual of Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance by Barton Cobert



Photo by Mark Engelman

Chelle Cordero writes stories of Passion and Suspense. Vanilla Heart Publishing has published nine Cordero novels: *Bartlett's Rule*; *His Lucky Charm*; *Within the Law*; *Courage of the Heart*; *Final Sin*; *Hostage Heart*; *A Chaunce of Riches*; *Common Bond*, *Tangled Hearts*; and *Hyphema*. She is currently working on her tenth novel and promises another action packed adventure and heartwarming love story. Chelle has been writing both fiction and non-fiction for the bulk of her adult life and has been with Vanilla Heart Publishing since early 2008.

Her books have earned many plaudits which includes: *Bartlett's Rule* was named one of Carolyn Howard-Johnson's Top Ten Reads for 2009; *Final Sin* was an Honorable Mention in the Fiction Category of the 2010 NY Book Festival and a 2009 Pushcart Prize nominee.; *Hyphema* won the Dec 9, 2011 Friday Book Cover Vote on the Shades of Love website; *A Chaunce of Riches* was Winner of D. Renee Bagby's readers' choice for The Best Overall First Chapter, April 2010; and *Hostage Heart*, *Final Sin* and *A Chaunce of Riches* had top ten finishes in the 2009 Preditors' and Readers' poll. Chelle was also featured in "50 Great Writers You Should Be Reading" published by The Author's Show in 2010.

Chelle Cordero maintains an author's blog at <http://chellecordero.blogspot.com/>, a promotional blog at <http://ccepotourri.wordpress.com/>, and offers a weekly writing workshop for Kindle Blog subscribers at <http://bit.ly/pILcG>. Her website <http://ChelleCordero.com> offers information on all of her books and her appearances. Bloggers and the media are welcome to visit Chelle's media room at <http://chellecordero.com/media/> with downloadable photos and other information.

Be sure to LIKE Chelle's FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AuthorChelleCordero> and follow her on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ChelleCordero>. You can email Chelle at [ChelleCordero\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:ChelleCordero(at)gmail.com).

Chelle lives in the northeast with her husband, Mark, and family. They have two adult offspring. Jenni (& Jason) and Marc (& Trish); they also live with three mischievous and spoiled pussycats, one of whom has taken up permanent residence on Chelle's desk. Chelle is a full-time freelance journalist for multiple publications; her articles appear regularly throughout North America and she writes a monthly column on NYS Emergency Medical Services issues as a NYS Emergency Medical Technician (First Responder News).

Contact Information for the Author

If your book club or group would like to arrange a visit with the author of *Courage of the Heart*, Chelle Cordero, please contact her at [ChelleCordero\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:ChelleCordero(at)gmail.com). Chelle makes personal appearances (locally) and is also available by SKYPE.



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Their commitment to one another results in a spirit that binds them together and helps them to overcome physical and emotional dangers.



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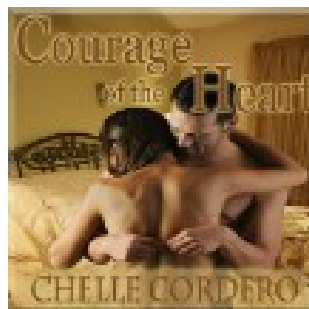
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Chelle's Audiobooks... More Coming Soon!



Final Sin

[AUDIOBOOK LINK](#)

Deputy Sheriff Commander Jake Carson has his hands full with the investigation of a brutal multiple homicide, a troubled son and a vindictive ex-wife when he meets young, free-spirited paramedic Julie Jennings. He is immediately drawn to her and finds himself unexpectedly falling in love. Julie finds herself just as drawn to him.

When Julie becomes the subject of an obsession, it puts both of their lives in extreme danger...

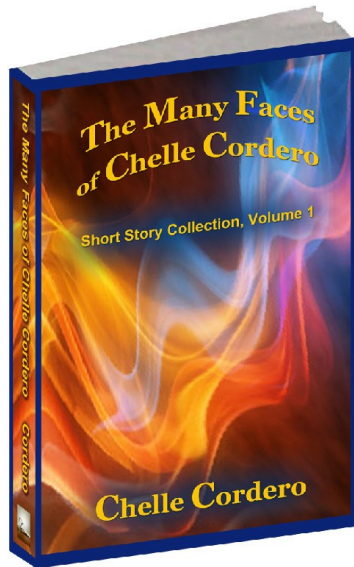
Romance...danger...adventure...suspense...another great Chelle Cordero novel sure to grab readers from many genre!

Courage of the Heart

[AUDIOBOOK LINK](#)

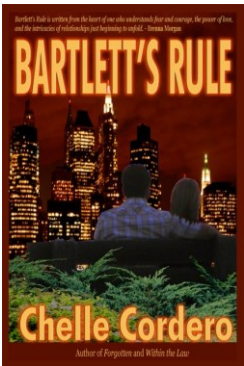
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New Release!



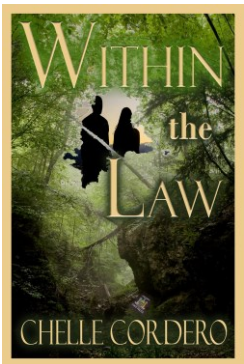
The Many Faces of Chelle Cordero is a single author collection of short stories featuring Introduction, Pussycat Tails, Holiday Happiness, Not Alone, I Swear That Raccoon Just Knocked on the Door, Stormy Weather, A Mother's Love, More Than a Friend, The Meeting, The Vacation and a special bonus section.

More by **Chelle Cordero**



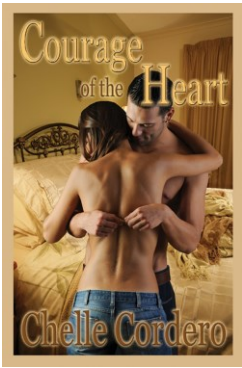
Bartlett's Rule

Bartlett's Rule shares the story of Lon and Paige's love affair; a romance filled with hardship, emotion, danger and triumph. Falling in love was never the challenge; being there for each other, knowing just what to say and making it work is the real test. Paige and Lon are real; they are human, they cry and they laugh. Paige has to learn to trust. Lon has to learn to be patient.



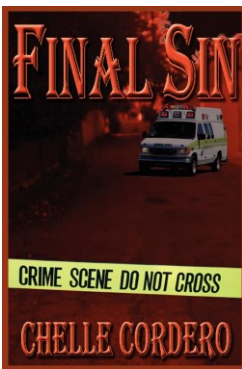
Within the Law

Tom gave up on ever falling in love again the day that he buried his high school sweetheart and fiancé. He started a career in law enforcement just so that he could find her murderer and rapist. Just when he is about to see justice done, he meets Alli Davis-the defense attorney for the murdering rapist who took his love from him.



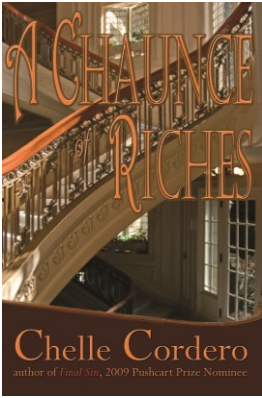
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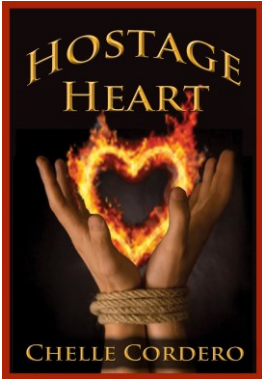
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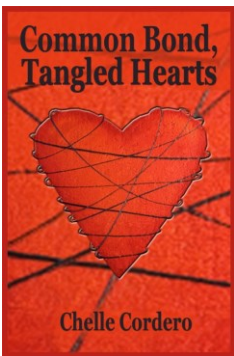
[A Chaunce of Riches](#)

Ben Johnson was hired as a bodyguard for a rich widow and her kid, but he never expected to be working for the woman who had abandoned him just when he had needed her the most. Damn it all, he still wanted her. Samantha Chaunce never thought she would have to explain why she married the rich man instead of Ben. Or that her husband had been murdered...and Ben was the prime suspect.



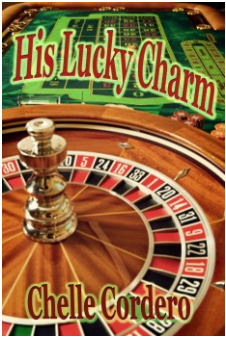
[Hostage Heart](#)

Life was hard after the hurricanes swept through, destroying her parents' home and livelihood... An errand for her boss - a chance encounter with a crew of bank robbers - a kind man who tried to help her ... a man who isn't all he seems...no, he is so much more



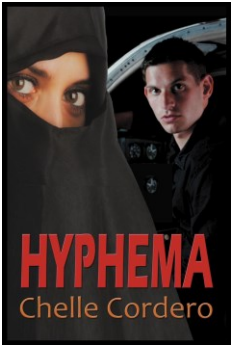
[Common Bond, Tangled Hearts](#)

Layne Gillette's world is turned upside down when a man she has never met shows up to lay claim as the father of her 6-year old son. When Layne's abusive "ex-husband" shows up, they are torn apart by danger, kidnapping and lies.



[His Lucky Charm](#)

What happens in Vegas doesn't always stay in Vegas... this time it follows Brandon and Caitlyn across the country and into a world of espionage and danger. The one thing that Brandon knows for sure is that he can't afford to lose his lucky charm, Caitlyn.



[Hyphema](#)

Hyphema: Bleeding in the eye caused by trauma... Matt Garratti, a paramedic from New York, moves his wife and son to North Carolina to work at his dream job as a flight medic. Pakistani born Sudah, his wife, receives frosty stares and insensitive comments from their new neighbors... Matt wonders if he is pursuing his dream or bringing his family into a nightmare from which they may never wake.