

Bartlett's Rule
By Chelle Cordero

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.

From the introduction:

"He is a pompous ass!"

When Paige Andrews is given the assignment of courting a famous writer for the publishing company she works for, she meets and entices the sexy, charming and thoroughly dangerous womanizer, Lon Bartlett.

Lon immediately takes a not-so-professional, personal interest in the young woman and pursues her. Lon is thrilled when Paige finally succumbs to his charms only to find that her haunting past sets off a terrifying reaction. Lon learns a heartbreaking reality - Paige is a rape survivor.

Will Lon be able to change his womanizing ways? Will he want to? Will Paige ever learn to trust again? Can they learn to love and live, together?

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Book Club Discussion Starters

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- How does *Bartlett's Rule* explore the two distinct personalities of the main characters?
- Discuss how the different personalities emerge in the beginning of the novel. Do these personalities stay constant?
- How much do you think society's expectations influenced Lon towards building his reputation as a player?
- What pressures does society place on men in relationships? How different are those pressures now in 2008 as opposed to, let's say, the 1950's?
- Lon admits he has to rethink his view of rape when he learns that Paige was raped by an ex-lover and not a stranger with a weapon. Discuss different concepts of what is rape, what is sexual abuse?
- Have a discussion about Paige's emotional scars and the trust she felt was betrayed. Should Paige "just get over it"? How realistic are some of her reactions? Was Paige allowing herself to move ahead? Discuss Lon's support of her.
- Hal attempts to blame people like Lon for the way he treated Paige. How does TV/music/movies/novels affect actions and at what point is the individual responsible for his/her own actions? For example, courtroom dramas like to blame the influence of TV, etc. for today's violence.
- Some TV/radio/print personalities enjoy an almost cult following and are considered "experts" in their various fields. Discuss some of these self-proclaimed "experts": Dr. Ruth, Oprah, Dr. Phil, Geraldo, etc. Do these 'stars' sensationalize rape? How so?
- How do you think you would feel if your private life, particularly romance, was scrutinized by the paparazzi? How much does a public figure owe to the public and fans in terms of privacy? How much does the media have the right to report?

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Photo by Mark Engelman

Chelle has come a long way since first joining the Vanilla Heart Publishing queue of authors nearly two years ago with her first novel, *Bartlett's Rule*. Now with eight novels on the market, she has solidified her standing as a Romantic Suspense author (7 romantic suspense & 1 mystery.) She also has short stories in the VHP anthology *With Arms Wide Open*, Mandimam's Press anthology *Forever Friends*, the VHP anthology *Nature's Gifts*, VHP anthology *Passionate Hearts* and Mandimam Press anthology *Forever Travels*. She is currently working on her next murder mystery.

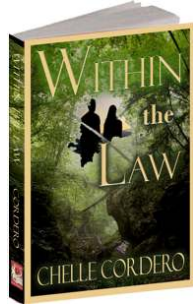
Bartlett's Rule was named one of Carolyn Howard-Johnson's Top Ten Reads for 2009; *Final Sin* was a 2009 Pushcart Nominee; and *Hostage Heart*, *Final Sin* and *A Chaunce of Riches* were nominated in the 2009 Preditors' and Readers' poll and had top-ten finishes. Chelle Cordero was recently featured as one of the authors in "50 Great Writers You Should Be Reading" published by The Author's Show in 2010.

Chelle Cordero belongs to the VHP Authors Group and the Arts Alliance of Haverstraw Rockland Author's Series. Along with fellow VHP authors Charmaine Gordon and Janet Lane Walters, Chelle is part of TLC: Three Local Characters With Stories To Tell, an author book discussion and workshop seminar program. She maintains an author's blog at <http://chellecordero.blogspot.com/>, a promotional blog at <http://cce613.xanga.com/>, blogs frequently at Lindsay's Romantics <http://bit.ly/3rGJ7l>, and offers a weekly writing workshop for Kindle Blog subscribers at <http://bit.ly/pILcG>.

Chelle lives in the suburbs of Rockland County, NY with her husband, Mark, of 35-years and family. They have two adult offspring, Jenni (& Jason) and Marc (& Trish); they also have 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 (she is also a volunteer EMT and the current President of her local ambulance corps).

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More Books by Chelle Cordero

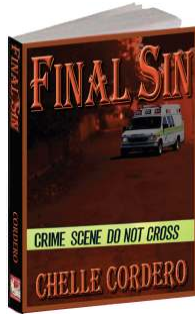


Within the Law Tom gave up on ever falling in love again the day that he buried his high school sweetheart and fiancé. He started a career in law enforcement just so that he could find her murderer and rapist. Just when he is about to see justice done, he meets Alli Davis-the defense attorney for the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

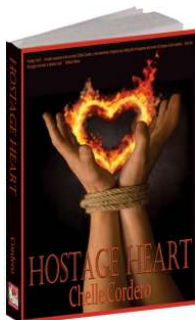


Courage of the Heart Courage of The Heart shows us that sometimes love is the only cure for the very deepest of emotional wounds. The story of the two lovers takes a series of unexpected and fast paced turns where lives, sanity and love are put in jeopardy. Their commitment to one another results in a spirit that binds them together and helps them to overcome physical and emotional dangers.

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Final Sin Deputy Sherriff Commander Jake Carson has his hands full... investigation of a brutal multiple homicide, a troubled son and a vindictive ex-wife. He meets young, free-spirited paramedic Julie Jennings. When Julie becomes the subject of an obsession, it puts both of them in danger...

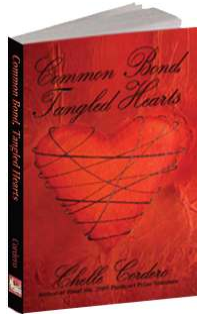


Hostage Heart Life was hard after the hurricanes swept through, destroying her parents' home and livelihood... An errand for her boss - a chance encounter with a crew of bank robbers - a kind man who tried to help her ... a man who isn't all he seems...no, he is so much more.



A Chance of Riches The day that Ben Johnson was hired as a bodyguard for some rich widow and her kid, he never expected to be working for the woman who had abandoned him just when he had needed her the most so many years before. Damn it all, he still wanted her. Samantha Chaunce never thought she would see him again. She never thought she would have to explain why she married the rich man over the man she had sworn she once loved. And she certainly never expected to find out that her rich husband had been murdered and fingers were pointing to her former lover.

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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. Justin, the victim of a fraternity prank, and Layne, the subject of a forced insemination, have produced a beautiful child that they are both willing to protect at all costs. The two parents realize they can love each other, but when Layne’s abusive “ex-husband” shows up, they are torn apart by danger, kidnapping and lies. Justin won’t give up until Layne is returned to him. Layne uses her newfound strength, courage and knowledge to defy Charlie’s ugliest demands.



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. Will their romance survive a foreign threat to national security, kidnapping, personal tragedy and a murder attempt?

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