

G'day,!

Wow! We're halfway through February already, time seems to fly by at an unreasonable rate the older I get. I hope the first six/seven weeks of 2022 have been treating you well.

I spent the first two weeks of February supporting a bunch of four-year-olds as they settled into kindergarten. Oh my gosh, they're just so cute when they're that age! It was so great meeting them all and getting to know their unique personalities. There were tears (not just theirs \Box) and wonder and confusion, but we all made it through (just) \Box ! It's taken me this past week at home to recover. As you can imagine, there was no time or energy left for writing.

But I have good news ... I'm back at it (writing that is ③). Max's story is coming along nicely. I actually shared a snippet in my reader's group the other day, so scroll down to read the opening scene! ↓ ↓ ↓

In other news, I'm excited to announce that I'll be getting back the rights for my novella, *Forever Kisses*, in March. *Forever Kisses* is Roman's story; you may remember him, he's the carer of the kids in the group home where Kate Summer volunteers in *Loving Summer*. So keep a look out for that on Goodreads and Amazon (once I work out how to number my novellas between my full-length novels).

I'm also excited to announce that I'm bringing **Loving Summer** and **Second Chance Summer** together into one book! You guys are the first to see the paperback cover for **The Summer Twins**!

♥ I'm so in love with it! ♥

The shoe on the front cover is similar to the one Kate wore to the fundraising event with Oliver, while the poppies on the back cover represent Cassia (the florist) and her daughter, Poppy.

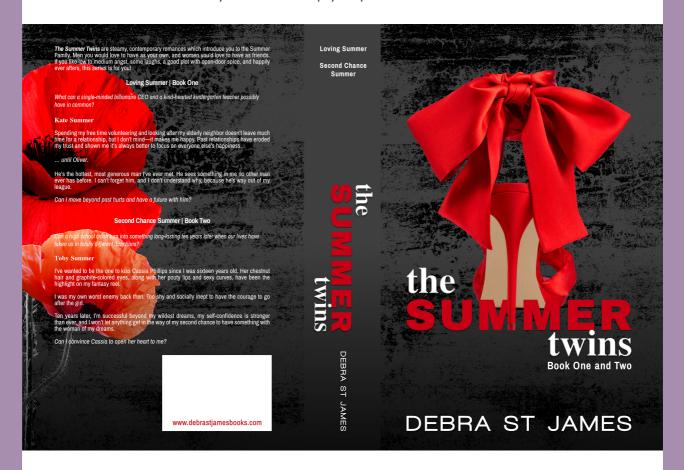
I've always had it in the back of my mind that I would bring sister and brother together, I just haven't been sure when. As the anniversary of publishing my first book, *Loving Summer* loomed closer, I realized that any time within the next couple of months would be the perfect time to do it.

The Summer Twins includes:

• Loving Summer,

- the Loving Summer bonus epilogue,
- Second Chance Summer, and
- the Second Chance Summer bonus epilogue.

It's gonna be a thick one (that's what she said []). I also have plans to write an additional bonus epilogue where we visit both couples at a major family event! I don't have a date as yet, but I'll keep you posted.



I'd love to know what you think!

You can let me know at: debrastjamesbooks@gmail.com

HERE'S THAT SNIPPET I PROMISED YOU!

Title to be decided!

This snippet is raw and unedited. Please do not share.

I'm currently 36K into this story and I'm loving Molly and Max.
I think you'll love them too.

FIVE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

1. A woman starting over.

- 2. A family lost and a family found.
- 3. A mechanic ready to settle down.

4. Age gap.

5. Workplace romance.

-molly-

The gray sky matches my current mood as I stand over the matching coffins being lowered into the icy ground side by side by side, the clay soil a stark contrast to the dirty snow. I can't believe they're all gone—just like that. Wrapping my arms tightly around my middle, I give myself the only comfort I can at this point. I have to be strong. I'm all I have left in this world.

As the service concludes, the few family friends we have—or is it had?—file past me, hugging me, giving me their condolences. It's okay for them, they'll go home and their life will continue as normal. Sure, they'll miss Mom, Dad, and Ethan at social events, but my loss will affect me every single moment of every single day.

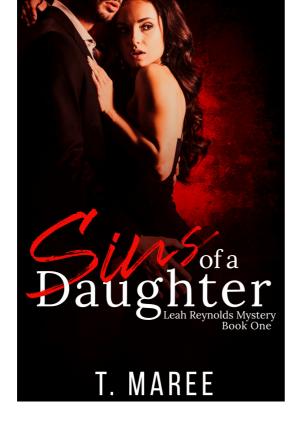
At twenty-six years of age, I'm an orphan.

Mom won't see her forty-fifth birthday. Jack won't ever share the crazy advertisements he finds in the newspaper or online with me, and Ethan will forever be thirteen years old.

I draw in a deep breath and then release a heavy sigh as yet more tears track down my face. I didn't think I'd have any more tears left at this point. All I've done is cry since the police knocked on my door late at night, fourteen days ago. They said Jack had a heart attack at the wheel and their car veered into the path of an oncoming truck on the way home from checking out the Christmas lights. It was the first year I hadn't gone with them because I was volunteering at the shelter. I don't understand, the guy was a fitness freak. He couldn't afford a gym membership so he was always running and using stuff around their trailer to keep in shape.

Trudging away from my family's ultimate resting place, I look over my shoulder one last time. Everyone left as soon as the service was over, leaving me to my solitary grief. 'Solitary'. Now there's a word for me, one I guess I'll have to get used to. I shiver, looking around the empty graveyard. I'm not sure how long I was standing on my own, lost in my head. I'm going to need to clear out their trailer, but I just can't go there today. I'm too raw, too exposed, too shattered.





Sins of a Daughter

"My name is Leah Reynolds, and I am the daughter of a serial killer..."

After being forced to learn at the side of her serial-killer father, Leah has developed a sixth sense about the truly evil people in the world.

Fifteen years after her father's incarceration, Leah's best friend, Detective Jake Normanton, has asked for her help on a case. Five teenage girls have been kidnapped – two of them found murdered and mutilated. What Leah doesn't know is that Jake has another reason for wanting to keep her close – to finally make her see that he is the perfect man for her.

With no evidence to prove the guilt of their only suspect, Leah finds herself at a crossroads. Play it safe and endanger the lives of the remaining kidnapped girls, or risk becoming the monster her father tried to turn her into and possibly save innocent lives.

In a desperate race to catch the killer, the two will face an evil they may not survive...

One Click!

The Groomsman

He doesn't have room in his life for romance or relationships, but he can't seem to stay away from her.

She wants him so badly, she's willing to risk her heart.

One night.

No promises.

No one was supposed to fall in love.

No one was supposed to get their heart broken.

Least of all me.



READ & REVIEW

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Are you a keen reviewer?

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I'm interested!

Story Origin Collections

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FEBRUARY KINDLE UNLIMITED READS



Fall In Love With Kindle

A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic.

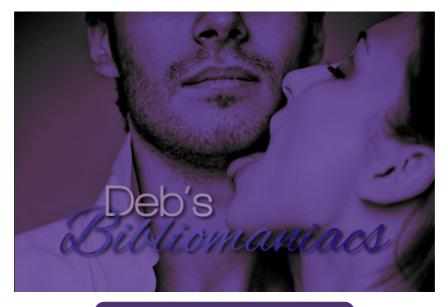




You may like to join my Facebook group for regular updates, snippets, and teasers.

Oh, and to have a safe space to talk about our favourite book boyfriends and latest reads.

I look forward to seeing you in the group.



Yes! I want to join!

Much Love and Happy Reading ...























Remember, you can **UNSUBSCIRBE** at any time.

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Debra St James

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