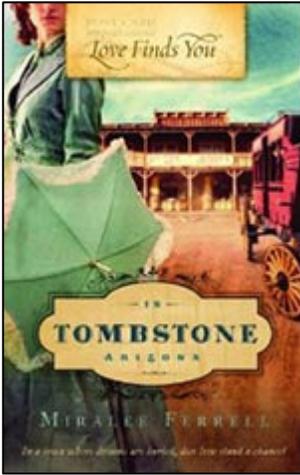


## Readin' & Writin' with Lauraine- April 2011



Tombstone, Arizona has a rather violent history... could it ever make a good setting for an historical romance? Miralee Ferrell thought so, which is why she wrote *Love Finds You in Tombstone, Arizona*.

I didn't realize that Miralee's book is somewhat of a sequel to *Love Finds You in Last Chance, California* until I was half way through the book. But you can definitely read it as a stand alone novel.

Christy Grey is happy with her life in California until she receives an urgent call from her brother, to say that her mother is dying. When the stagecoach she rides home is held up, one of the bandits assists her and then later shows up in Tombstone.

Nevada King is a man on the run, who wants nothing more than to settle down, if only the outlaws who want to kill him would just leave him alone. When he finds a job in the Tombstone area, he sees the woman from the stagecoach again. Will she turn him in?

As the friendship grows between these two, I was never sure if they were going to manage to work out their difficulties or not. Which kept me flipping the pages. I really enjoyed both characters, they were the kind of people I would want to be friends with. And I cheered for them as the author kept throwing them into one unpalatable situation after another.

That is the author's job, you know. Not enough conflict is an issue not only for beginning authors but many seasoned writers also. I've heard it myself more than once and had to go back in to the story and up the ante, dig the trouble deeper and think of new ways to be cruel to my characters. Some days it's easier to do... like when I'm feeling feisty after I've had to pay the IRS more taxes.

I love romances mainly because I want happy endings. I don't care for books that are too dark, gruesome or have a downer ending. You might have gotten that idea by reading my previous columns. And I don't review or even finish books I don't like. There are too many books to read to waste time on something I don't care for.

Same with movies, I don't have to watch until the end if it's too violent or too boring for me. There is no law against leaving the theater or turning the channel, or stopping the DVD player. I know this might sound a bit trivial, but learning this was a big step for me.

Luckily, reviewing *Love Finds You in Tombstone, Arizona* was a pleasure and I think you'll enjoy reading it. If you like this one, you can find more Love Finds You stories at your local bookstore. They are a separate line of romances published by a new company called Summerside Press. The novels are engaging, the covers are beautiful and the editing is very well done.

With all the cutbacks from the big publishing houses, these independent publishers are a pleasure to have in our industry. Summerside Press came up with a great hook, using unusual names of towns across the country in the titles, especially those with a romantic angle like Bridal Veil, OR, Hershey, PA and Romeo, CO. They are running out of unusual names now so are using more prosaic ones.

A tip for the aspiring writer: If you want to write romances, the best training is to read lots of books from that genre and the Love Finds You line is a good place to start.

Now that spring has finally come to California, the flowers and trees are trying to lure me away from writing and into the garden to paint. I hope to see some of you at the next First Friday evening at [Crossroads Gallery in Tehachapi](#). Where you can find my art, and artwork from many other artists.

Until next time,

*Happy readin' & writin' from Lauraine*