



More Than Words: Stories of Strength

FIRST-TIME PAPERBACK INSPIRED BY REAL-LIFE HEROINES

Toronto, February 2, 2009 – To honor the tireless dedication and compassion of their More Than Words award winners, Harlequin Enterprises is proud to release *More Than Words: Stories of Strength*, a collection of three stories together for the first time in paperback.

Each year Harlequin asks readers to nominate real-life heroines—women who dedicate their lives to helping others and making their community a better place in which to live—for the Harlequin More Than Words award. Each selected woman is presented with \$10,000 to advance the work of her chosen charity, and some of Harlequin’s most acclaimed authors donate their time and creativity to writing a novella inspired by her life and work.

Featured in the first-time paperback *More Than Words: Stories of Strength* are three fictional stories inspired by previous winners of the Harlequin More Than Words award:

- In ***Close Call***, by **Carla Neggers**, a brush with death changes the life of homicide detective Brendan O’Malley and his girlfriend attorney Jessica Stuart. Deciding that he needs a little R & R—alone—Brendan heads off to Canada. Undeterred, Jess follows him up north, where the two lovers encounter a B&B owner who has undergone an experience every bit as life-changing as Brendan’s.

Carla’s story is inspired by **Jan Richardson and Kathryn Babcock** who introduced a dynamic new service to abused woman. Shelternet (www.shelternet.ca) offers a safe online environment via which Canadian women can connect with the shelters closest to them, develop safety plans and read inspirational stories.

- In **Susan Mallery’s *Built to Last***, librarian and volunteer Marissa Spencer is a woman who never takes “no” for an answer. When she approaches local recluse Aaron Cross to donate one of his furniture creations to raise money for a literacy program, Marissa never expected him to be drawn into the program himself. And she certainly never expects the fetching loner to be as attracted to her as she is to him!

Providing inspiration for Susan is **Dena Wortzel**, the director of Wisconsin's Motherread/Fatheread family literacy program, whose participants seek to improve their own lives and the lives of their children through literacy. Dena works closely with incarcerated parents, for whom improved reading skills can truly make the difference between a better future and a bleak one.

- In ***Find the Way*** by **Karen Harper**, an attack by a stalker leaves Alexis Michaels blind and groping to put her life back together. As she adjusts to her new life a crucial decision to acquire a guide dog raised by Puppies Behind Bars not only saves her from another attack but leads her to Blair Ryan, concerned cop and perfect match.

Karen's story is inspired by **Gloria Gilbert Stoga**, the president and founder of Puppies Behind Bars, a nonprofit organization that uses prison inmates to train puppies to become service dogs for the physically disabled or explosive-detection dogs for law enforcement.

By bringing these stories to a new audience in a new book format Harlequin hopes to increase awareness of these worthy causes and encourage readers to get involved in volunteer activities in their communities. Look for *More Than Words: Stories of Strength* in March at your favorite bookstore or online at www.eHarlequin.com.

For all new stories inspired by real women who've changed lives, pick up a copy of *More Than Words, Volume 5* in April, also available at bookstores or www.eHarlequin.com.

To find out more about Harlequin More Than Words, or to nominate a woman you know, please visit www.HarlequinMoreThanWords.com.

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For more information, please contact the Community Relations Office at Harlequin Enterprises Ltd. at MoreThanWords@Harlequin.ca.