

## ALEXIS HARRINGTON

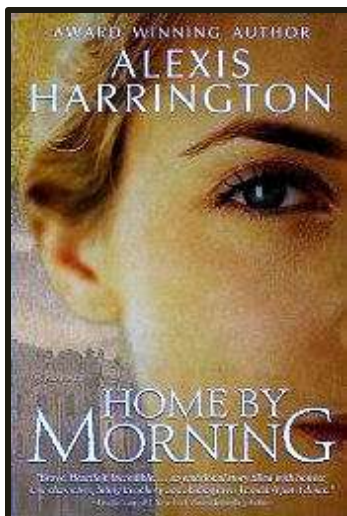
Historical romance novelist Alexis Harrington didn't realize she was at the forefront of a sea change within publishing and among traditionally published novelists when she first requested rights back and self-published her backlist titles as e-books. While she was far from alone in doing so, at the time there was very little in the way of track records regarding sales and, more importantly, very little specific to the romance genre to support her decision. In a short while Alexis re-released all nine of her popular, northwest-set novels electronically, including her first novel Homeward Hearts. Then, in December 2010, she published a brand new electronic book, **HOME BY MORNING**.



The response has been gratifying and Alexis has embraced e-publishing, specifically the freedom to write in time periods and in the genre she prefers, regardless of trends. "Not having specific earnings expectations, high overhead and other constraints facing large publishers, I can profit from my writing past and present as I work toward my creative goals. Interestingly, I did better in 2011 than I made in ten busy years of print publishing."

Alexis is currently working on her new book, **HOME BY NIGHTFALL**, to be published in July 2012. It has the same fictional setting, Powell Springs, Oregon, as **HOME BY MORNING**, and shares many of the same characters. Each touches upon the Great War, now more commonly known as World War I. The first is set in 1918, just before the end of the war and at the start of the world wide influenza pandemic. **HOME BY NIGHTFALL** occurs just a few years after that. Regarding **HOME BY MORNING**, Alexis says that "the war and the pandemic are the most vivid backdrops I've ever used, with the possible exception of my novel, Harper's Blood." That story was set amid the avarice, cruelty and hardships of the Yukon Gold Rush.

As with e-publishing, her December 2010 publication of **HOME BY MORNING**, again placed Alexis in the forefront of a cultural trend. This time she was part of a shift in the arts to a focus on World War I. 2011 brought with it the Lincoln Center production of Sean O'Casey's play *The Silver Tassel*, the premiere of *Warhorse* on Broadway, the film *Warhorse*, directed by Steven Spielberg, the debut of the acclaimed novel Bright's Passage by singer and songwriter John Ritter, a Museum of Modern Art exhibit featuring the war-themed works of Otto Dix and Max Beckmann and, in Meaux, France, the opening of the Museum of the Great War.



"The song *The Band Played Waltzing Matilda* is one of my favorites," says Alexis. "It's about the blood bath on Gallipoli and the pointlessness of the war. Thank God people are finally taking notice. So much has been made of WWII—The Greatest Generation—yet I learned very little about WWI in high school. I have very strong opinions about this war after devoting almost ten years to ongoing research. There were so many lives lost to that meat grinder war of attrition." Alexis has planted a bed of red poppies in her yard honoring those lost in that war and placed an angel statue there to watch over it. "On Veterans Day, I go out there with a glass of whiskey and raise one to the lads, 'the forgotten heroes of a forgotten war.'"

Alexis began writing in 1980 and has entertained readers since **Homeward Hearts** was published in 1994. Her love of the genre comes naturally. “I like the escapism of historicals, both books and films” she says. “I miss LaVryle Spencer’s novels. She was my inspiration to start writing.” She adds, “Diana Gabaldon probably has one of the best historical voices and I love her work, as well.”

Alexis has spun tales of characters and situations that include mail order brides, the Yukon Gold Rush, seafaring, ranching, and protagonists heading west. Most of her historical romance novels are set in her home state, Oregon, though she has ventured to other parts of the northwest and has followed some characters as they emigrated to America from places such as Cork County, Ireland. It’s unlikely she’ll suddenly make a drastic change in venues for her stories as she truly enjoys writing about the place she knows best, her home in Oregon near the Columbia River. “I still live within ten miles of my old high school,” she says.

A self-employed novelist for just over twenty years, Alexis has followed her muse and her instincts regarding her own and readers’ interests, and managed to maintain her career as a full time writer. An animal lover, she lives with a cat, a finch, two dogs (Great Pyrenees!), and three chickens—all of which like to gather in her small home office. Only the chickens are not allowed. She keeps crazy hours. “I’m just not a morning person. I like to be up late while the rest of the world is sleeping and quiet. No phones, faxes or other distractions. Just ‘the kids’ and me, candles burning and elevator music coming out of my CD player.” She makes jewelry and, thanks to the tutelage of her grandmother, is a fine needlepoint artist specializing in embroidery, thread crochet and sewing. She enjoys cooking—another gift from her grandmother—reading, entertaining friends, and decorating, and is a lover of all things Victorian. Animal welfare is very important to her and she belongs to the Oregon Humane Society and the ASPCA.

Alexis is currently finishing work on **HOME BY NIGHTFALL**. Originally scheduled to be self-published, her vision for that book and the success of **HOME BY MORNING** caught the attention of editors at Amazon’s new Montlake Romance imprint, who acquired both for their fledgling line. Now, Alexis stands in the forefront again as she embarks on yet another publishing adventure, this one exploring the potential of expanding the audience for her fiction through this established e-retailer and the company’s commitment to expanding and shaping the ebook market.

**HOME BY MORNING**

Alexis Harrington

Montlake Romance/ Fiction/Simultaneous eBook and Paperback/Republication

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