

# Black Velvet Seductions

Black Velvet Seductions Free Writers Newsletter

Winter — 2007

Visit us at <http://www.blackvelvetseductions.com>

## Black Velvet Seductions Announces New Promotional Opportunities Open to All Romance Authors

At Black Velvet Seductions we have always prided ourselves on being a community minded company and giving back to the romance writing and romance reading communities.

Plans have been underway for sometime to expand our site to offer the romance reading community a one stop spot for information on romance novels and the authors who write them. As part of our commitment to readers we will be building new informational pages into our website. These new pages will offer authors a wide range of free promotional opportunities. **All the promotional opportunities listed below are open to all authors of romance, even if they are published with publishers other than Black Velvet Seductions.**

The only thing we request from authors is a reciprocal link to our site. If the author doesn't have a website we would appreciate an occasional positive mention on a newsgroup or in the author's newsletter.

Authors who have websites, blogs, and newsletters are invited to send the titles of their currently published books and a brief description of and links to the author's website, blog, and newsletter. We will include them on a new page devoted to bringing authors and readers together through these media. The promotional opportunity is free and is open to all authors of romance, even those published by publishers other than Black Velvet Seductions.

Authors are encouraged to send us information about their currently available titles. Send the title, publisher, ISBN, available formats, price, and a link to purchase. Provide the sub-genre, and a two or three sentence blurb for the book. We will compile this information in newly forming pages that will allow readers to find all the books by a given author even if the author has

books published by many different publishers, and even if their works are published under different names. Authors do not need to be published by Black Velvet Seductions to participate in this promotional opportunity. However, authors rather than publishers must submit information.

Authors and publishers are encouraged to send us information on new releases. Please provide the same information requested above. We will list new titles monthly by sub-genre. Titles will be moved to the general listing pages (organized by author name) 1 month after their listed Release date.

We will be scheduling regular live chats in the chat room at the Black Velvet Seductions website. Please email [BlackVelvetSeductions@gmail.com](mailto:BlackVelvetSeductions@gmail.com) to schedule a live chat. This opportunity is open to all authors of romance whether they are published by Black Velvet Seductions or another publisher.

Authors who are hosting contests on their sites or through their newsletters are invited to send us details of their current contests with a link to a website or email where readers can gain additional information. We will be creating a contest corner to provide readers with one place they can go to find links to the contests of many authors and publishers.

We will begin hosting a cover contest on our site. Authors and publishers may nominate their covers up to 1 month before scheduled release to 1 month after actual release. Reader vote will determine monthly winners. Monthly winners will compete in January for the year's Black Velvet Seductions best cover art award.

Black Velvet Seductions authors and cover artists may participate as reader poll rather than the opinions of those partnered with Black Velvet Seductions will

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determine the winners.

Authors often have bookmarks, magnets, pens, and other promotional items to distribute to readers but lack a good way to distribute them outside their regions. Black Velvet Seductions will help by creating a freebies area.

Authors may send the items they wish to distribute and Black Velvet Seductions will combine the items of many authors and distribute them to readers who send a SASE. This promotion is just getting underway. Please email BlackVelvetSeductions@gmail.com for information on how to participate.

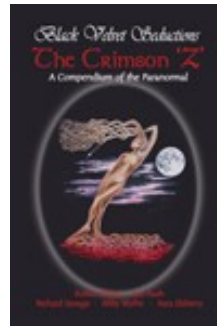
RWA chapters, critique groups, writing organizations and authors who are conducting live or online workshops and classes on fiction writing are invited to send us news of upcoming workshops and classes for inclusion on newly developing pages devoted to making it easy to find educational opportunities of interest to authors.

Black Velvet Seductions welcomes writing related news and information for our free writers' newsletter. We cannot guarantee that we will use every submission but if we do use an article we will include a brief bio and links to the author's website or to the website of the author's choice.

To participate in any of the promotional opportunities

listed above send email to:  
BlackVelvetSeductions@gmail.com

**Just Released**  
**The Crimson Z**  
**A Compendium of the Paranormal**



**By:**  
**Robert Cloud**  
**Lee Rush**  
**Richard Savage**  
**Abby Blythe**  
**Kara Elsberry**  
**ISBN 0-9774682-8-3**

*Several pieces of jewelry...each bearing the mark of the maker, a stylized "Z"*

*Each piece imbued with a special quality that could enhance or curse the wearer's life.*

*An unspeakable evil striving to be unleashed through the creation of a new piece of jewelry*

*Five stories of paranormal romance, each written by a different Black Velvet Seductions author.*

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## Name Our New Lines Contest

We are planning the launch of two new lines in 2007 and have decided to ask our readers to help us name them.

The first line will be a suspense line. Though stories will contain elements of romance the stories for this line will be more focused on the suspense elements. Stories in the new line may or may not have happily ever after endings.

The second line will be a new romance line. The stories in this line will focus on established relationships and the sometimes difficult task of making an existing relationship work in spite of overwhelming differences. These stories will be erotic in nature and will often focus on the complexities of heroes and heroines who want different things both in and out of the bedroom. Authors will be encouraged to create realistic characters with realistic prob-

lems and to reunite them with heart-warming happily ever after endings.

To enter watch our website for entry forms and information. The two winners who suggest the names chosen will receive 5 Black Velvet Seductions paperback titles of their choosing. All name suggestions shall become the property of Black Velvet Seductions.

Each suggestion must be sent through the entry form that will appear on the Black Velvet Seductions website soon.

All entries must be received by June 15, 2007  
Judging will be completed and winners announced by August 1, 2007.

## Summary and Detail — A New Look at Showing vs. Telling

One of the top reasons editors reject manuscripts is because the author relates the story in a flat and unexciting way. One of the key things that can make even an exciting plot seem dull is telling the story rather than showing it.

Though as writers we've had the words "show don't tell" engraved on our collective and individual consciousnesses, knowing the words themselves and being able to put the advice into practical application are two different things.

To begin with the terms "showing" and "telling" are themselves confusing. For the purposes of this article we will look at the concepts of showing and telling differently than we normally do.

The crucial difference between showing and telling is that telling summarizes information into processed bites in which the author has already communicated a conclusion. For example, "He was a worried looking man of about 50" summarizes EVERYTHING. As readers we know he looks worried. We know he is about 50. We don't know what facial expressions or what actions make him look worried. We've been fed a processed bite. We've been told.

By contrast, showing provides the details and allows the reader to draw conclusions. In the example, "He looked over his shoulder, his brows drawing low as he darted into the dark alley. He pressed against the brick building running a gloved hand through thick waves of silver, hoping he'd made the slip." In the second example the author has conveyed worry and has conveyed an older man but they have left it up to the reader to process the information.

By remembering that telling summarizes details into processed bites and showing provides the raw unprocessed details authors have a clearer vision of what to look for when looking for the pesky sections of telling that often result in hasty rejections.

There are some places where it is acceptable to tell things, however that is something that needs to be weighed and measured and fitted to the particular story in question.

Some good rules of thumb for when telling might be appropriate are:

- When summarizing a span of time or distance in which nothing important to the story occurs. As in, "it was three days before..." In this context the telling serves as a transition.
- When a story element has already been covered in detail in an earlier portion of the story. For example, "Ron remembered the accident in vivid detail." If the author has already described the events of the accident in detail and without summarization in an earlier part of the story the reader will remember the important details with only minimal reminder.
- When an element is not central to the story but provides motivation for a minor character. For example, "Ron knew what he was asking would be difficult for Kelly given her abusive childhood."

Some places where it is not a good idea to tell are:

- When hero and heroine meet for the first time. In the romance genre first meetings are very important and they need to be shown with a high degree of detail.
- Important story elements which are being covered for the first time.
- Incidents which show the conflict between hero and heroine.
- Memories and backstories which provide motivation for primary characters. These work well done in a flashback written with rich detail.
- Important events within the story. Rather than summarizing a whole event try honing in on the specific part of the event that is important to the story and describing that part in deep detail.

Writers should get into the habit of looking for areas of summarization within their work and should then give careful consideration to the areas they find. Making wise choices about where to summarize and where to provide rich detail will help authors to snare the positive attention of readers and editors alike.

# The Top Five Reasons Editors Reject Manuscripts and how to Rejection Proof Yours

By Laurie Sanders, Editor — Black Velvet Seductions

**The number 1 reason editors reject manuscripts is because the manuscript is not appropriate for the line that the editor acquires for.**

*Rejection proof your manuscript by assuring that your manuscript is appropriate for a particular publisher. Visit the publisher's website. Study the titles they have published recently. Buy and read several titles. Know what the company publishes and send only items that are appropriate to that market. Know which lines and imprints the publisher publishes and mention the lines and imprints pertinent to your manuscript in your cover letter. This alerts the editor to the fact that you've done your homework.*

**The number 2 reason editors reject manuscripts is that the story starts in the wrong place and doesn't draw the editor into the story quickly enough to avoid the hasty rejection.**

*Make sure that your story starts with a good hook. Dump the reader in at the deep end where things are taking a drastic turn. Manuscripts that begin with long passages of backstory where nothing is happening are rarely accepted. Most editors have more manuscripts to read than time to read them. They do not have time to read a chapter of backstory before getting to the meat of the story. When possible weave backstory into the manuscript where it is needed rather than clumping it all at the beginning of the manuscript..*

**The number 3 reason editors reject manuscripts is that the author has told the story rather than showing it in rich detail. This can make even the most exciting and well crafted plot seem dull and boring.**

*Make sure you understand the difference between showing and telling and make sure that you show the story unfolding. Create the scene with as much sensory detail as you can and dump your character into the middle of the milieu. Beware of summarizing. Instead show the story as it unfolds. Weave in bits of character thought and backstory as you need them to provide motivation for character action.*

**The number 4 reason editors reject manuscript is that viewpoint problems abound.**

*When I mention viewpoint problems as one of the main reasons editors reject manuscripts I do not mean that we reject manuscripts because the viewpoint shifts. What I mean is that we reject manuscripts because the viewpoint drifts. Viewpoint shift and viewpoint drift are two very different things. Viewpoint shift is purposeful; planned, and in most cases signaled to the reader. Viewpoint drift on the other hand starts out with shallow viewpoint which never deepens...and it drifts about much like a drunk driver weaving around making un-signalized lane changes. Make sure that you have a good understanding of viewpoint and that you show your story from within the viewpoints of your viewpoint characters.*

**The number 5 reason editors reject manuscripts is that character motivation is not clear and characters seem to act and react without any clear reason.**

*Make sure that the reasons why your characters do things is based within them rather than the outside forces dictated by the line or by the publisher. If you know that the line requires a love scene on or about page 122 start laying the groundwork for it at the beginning so that by the time it occurs the reader understands the character's motivations and the scene doesn't feel as if it has been choreographed.*

*Motivation and viewpoint go hand in hand. Consider character motivation when you consider which viewpoint to use for crucial scenes.*

*Authors who cure the five manuscript Maladies named above will raise their manuscripts above a great deal of the competition and will be well poised to turn rejection letters into publishing contracts.*

## Black Velvet Updates Submission Database

Black Velvet Seductions recently began the arduous task of updating our submission database to better manage the flow of manuscripts through our system.

Manuscripts previously entered in the old system are being moved to our new filing system and are being entered into a new database which allows more tracking and searching parameters.

Manuscripts arriving are being entered directly into the new system and those authors are receiving emails acknowledging the submission and informing them of the review procedures. Not all submissions are acknowledged the day they arrive. It can sometimes be several weeks before a submission is acknowledged if it happens to arrive at a time when we are all working to meet a deadline.

The biggest change that authors need to be aware of is that we are now emailing authors approximately two weeks before a manuscript is reviewed to inform them of the impending change in status. Once the author responds to our email and confirms that the manuscript is available for publication the manuscript will be added to the queue for immediate consideration. It will then be read, and a publishing decision made.

We still offer feedback on every manuscript we receive, however we do review manuscripts based on our needs at a given time, rather than in the order in which they are received. Manuscripts which seem less likely to fit our criteria are reviewed more slowly than those that look as if they will fill an immediate need.

Our response time is currently much slower than we would like it to be and we are hopeful that the changes to our database and filing system will bring response times back on track by eliminating some time intensive tasks from the process.

## The Black Velvet Seductions Wish List — January 2007

### Traditional Romance With an Erotic Twist

Top on our wish list this January are romances with a traditional flavor and an erotic twist.

We are seeking stories with familiar set ups. Think marriage of convenience, forced marriage, secret babies, revenge, childhood sweethearts who reunite after years of misunderstanding, the damsel in distress and the hero who rescues her. When you have those traditional set ups firmly in mind, think erotic. In fact, think over the top erotic. Then think a touch of the forbidden. At that point you will have a good idea of one type of story we are seeking for our Forbidden Experiences line.

In these stories we would like to see traditional styled romances in which one or both of the characters are interested in dominance and submission, BDSM, domestic discipline, multiple partners, or other “forbidden” elements. We want to see these interests woven into the characters and the story so that they are part of the fabric of the story.

Readers have consistently expressed interest in these types of stories. Unfortunately we do not get many submissions of this type so a well written submission along this line has an excellent chance of receiving a contract from us.

In our Forbidden Experiences line we also publish erotic romance that breaks the mold of erotic material. Read *Toy's Story: Acquisition of a Sex Toy* by Robert Cloud for an example of an erotic romance that quite simply wowed us with a level of intensity not often found in erotica or erotic romance.

## Mark Your Calendars

In this section we welcome news from authors on upcoming or ongoing events of interest to writers.

Authors do not have to be published by Black Velvet Seductions to submit information on upcoming events.

Submit items to:  
[BlackVelvetSeductions@gmail.com](mailto:BlackVelvetSeductions@gmail.com)

### Hunt's Corner

Black Velvet Seductions author Ayn Amorelli who writes Gothics under the name Ayn Hunt will be hosting Hunt's Corner where she will cover topics of interest to writers.

Hunts Corner is every Sunday at 8 pm in AOL's Chapter One Chatroom.

## Black Velvet Seductions Authors Chatting at RoRR Chatters

February 23, 2007 — RoRR Chatters  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/RoRRChatters/>

Black Velvet Seductions authors, cover artists, and editing staff will participate in an all day email chat. It is necessary to join the email list by visiting the above website to participate in the chat.

March 14, 2007 — Romance Lives Forever  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/romancelivesforever/>

Black Velvet Seductions authors, cover artists, and editing staff will participate in an all day email chat. It is necessary to join the email list by visiting the above website to participate in the chat.

March 30, 2007 — RoRR Chatters  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/RoRRChatters/>

Black Velvet Seductions authors, cover artists, and editing staff will participate in an all day email chat. It is necessary to join the email list by visiting the above website to participate in the chat.

## Books in the Spotlight

### Forbidden Experiences



**Toy's Story:  
Acquisition of a Sex Toy  
By Robert Cloud**

Available at  
**Black Velvet Seductions**

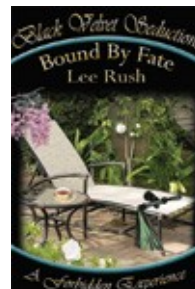
[www.blackvelvetseductions.com](http://www.blackvelvetseductions.com)

*"Compelling and emotional, Robert Cloud has written a story that will dig into the depths of the emotions and settle deep into the heart. No punches are pulled in this gritty tough story and the characters are bared on each and every level of existence." — Valerie a reviewer for Love Romances*

Even over the internet passions can ignite but when Doreen finds the fires within her burning she also finds that fear of the consequences of those fires terrifies her so she tries to flee from them. However there are some things you cannot run from and a fantasy that is part of your very soul is one of them. Soon she finds it impossible to keep from contacting the man she had fled.

David thinks she was playing him for a fool, but when the new emails begin he finds he is transfixed by her every word. Slowly the emails convince him that she is sincere and that what she truly wants is a life that most people only find in their deepest and darkest fantasies.

He decides to fulfill her dreams completely and to do so even beyond her wildest expectations. But when fantasy and reality collide both get lost in a tangled web.



**Bound By Fate  
By Lee Rush**

Available at:  
**Black Velvet Seductions**

[www.blackvelvetseductions.com](http://www.blackvelvetseductions.com)

A rich and poignant tale about loss and love.

When Annie and James found each other on the internet neither was seeking love. When they found it neither were prepared and both would need a second chance to grasp what they'd found.