

ALEXIS HARRINGTON TALKS ABOUT POWELL SPRINGS, THE BRADDOCKS, LOYALTY AND LOVE, AND HER NEW BOOK, HOME BY NIGHTFALL...

Hi, Alexis! Thanks for joining us today.

I have to ask you about both **HOME BY MORNING** and **HOME BY NIGHTFALL**. **HOME BY MORNING** first came out in December 2010. Then it became a hugely popular title for Montlake Romance when it was republished last December. Now, you're continuing the story of the Braddock family and the people of Powell Springs, Oregon. How have things changed there since the first book?



The entire nation, in fact much of the world, had been through devastating as well as remarkable changes. People endured the horror of World War I, fighting or holding down the home front while fearing for the lives of their loved ones. Outside of America, homes and families were wiped out, food not simply rationed, but scarce, and their livelihoods destroyed. Internationally, the flu pandemic of 1918 claimed an enormous number of lives. In **HOME BY NIGHTFALL**, the war has been over for two years and the pandemic is a ghastly memory. In the United States, at least, the mourning isn't over but people's wounds are no longer fresh. Lives, jobs and families have regained a sense of normalcy and even a sense of hope. Then, the war which claimed so much, once again reaches into the lives of the Braddocks, testing their love and honesty.



Are you continuing Jess and Cole's story?

Jess and Cole are both in **HOME BY NIGHTFALL**, but it's not "their" book. This one really belongs to Susannah, Riley and Tanner. Riley, reportedly killed, suddenly returns after the Red Cross discovers him living in a partially destroyed farmhouse in the French countryside. He has no memory of his past. His abrupt reappearance is a source of joy and, for Susannah, pain. After mourning his death and the loss of the life they'd planned to build, Susannah moved on. Falling in love with the farm's hired hand, Tanner, she married him, and they're making a home with his two nephews, Susannah's irascible former father-in-law, and now Riley. Shell-shocked, partly crippled, and showing no signs of regaining his memory, Riley is lost, unable to connect with his family, his former friends and the life he left behind.

How much of an issue was shell shock in World War I?

It was very much a problem for returning soldiers—so much so that many considered it the signature injury of that war. The majority of deaths were, if I remember my research correctly, caused by shrapnel. Victims of shell shock, like Riley, suffered from symptoms that included amnesia, extreme sensitivity to noise, and tremors. There were lots of doctors and researchers experimenting with ways to treat it and trying to build on what seemed to work.

I remember Shaw and Tanner and his nephews from HOME BY MORNING. Who else is in the new book?

Well, Granny Mae Rumsteadt is there, still running her café and still challenging Jess's diagnoses and treatments. Sheriff Whit Gannon continues to keep the peace. Mayor Cookson still brings fresh cream from his dairy every day to Jess to thank her for taking care of his son. Emmaline is struggling to support her boys. Tilly's hasn't stopped serving alcohol, despite Prohibition. They all play their part. It's still very much Powell Springs the way it was in **HOME BY MORNING** in terms of places and people we got to know well. Its citizens look out for each other, don't mind their own business, and share their joys and sorrows.



Are there any new faces?

Indeed there are, but I'm afraid I'll give away parts of the story if I talk about them. So I'll just share that you'll meet the new minister in Powell Springs, a French woman named Veronique, and another WWI soldier, Édouard, and they all influence the plot.

What are you working on now?

Right now, I'm neck deep in sharing news of **HOME BY NIGHTFALL**, which just came out July 3. I'm doing some guest posts and interviews at online book sites. And I'm looking forward to hearing from readers with their thoughts about not just what I've written, but also what else they're reading and liking. I'm available via e-mail at Alexis@alexisharrington.com. However, there is a new book in the works—I've just put it aside for a bit. And, yes, I can't help myself. I'm going back to Powell Springs. It just keeps pulling at me with new stories to tell. Please keep an eye on www.alexisharrington.com for more on that.

Thank you, Alexis, for joining us.

Thank **you** for letting me talk about my writing—it's almost as much fun as getting the story itself down on paper, something I hope to be doing for another twenty years.

www.alexisharrington.com

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