

Book Review: April 2008

by Cheri Rosenberg (associate reviewer at [Story Circle Book Reviews](http://www.storycirclebookreviews.org))



To Protect and Serve

VK Powell

ISBN: 978-1-60282-007-4

Trade paper, 240, \$15.95

March 2008

Lesbian Romantic Intrigue

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Story Circle Book Reviews

*-reviewing books by, for, and
about women*

www.storycirclebookreviews.org

...Drama and attractive women is what VK Powell shows in *To Protect and Serve*. The play between the main characters is enough to make this a fine read, but going undercover, chasing hardened criminals and bringing them to justice adds just the right amount of action to make this a well-plotted page turner. The book drew me in from the beginning with characters that captivate in their complexity. Powell writes with authority, using the lingo and capturing the thoughts of the law enforcers. The images are vivid, the action is believable, and the police procedurals are authentic. After Keri makes a dangerous bust, Alex wants to know if Keri always gets into this much trouble. When Keri asks Alex if she did something wrong, Alex replies, "You saved the victim from further injury, got the bad guy, and no cops got hurt. I'd say that's a pretty good day. We can talk about the rest another time."

Powell had me invested in the story of these admirable women, who put their heart, mind, body, and soul into their chosen profession. The riveting scenes between Alex and Keri had me rooting for Keri to overcome Alex's barriers and for Keri to stay safe for Alex's sake. A satisfying conclusion with ample room for a sequel, *To Protect and Serve* will hit the spot.

Excerpt Reprinted with permission at <http://www.storycirclebookreviews.org/reviews/protectserve.shtml>

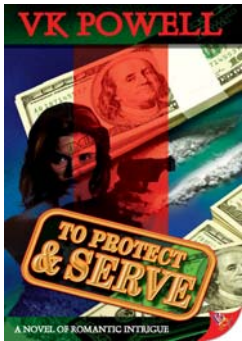


Order from these Distributors:

Perseus.....800 343-4499 Baker & Taylor.....800 775-1100
Ingram.....800 937-8000 Bookazine....800 548-3855

Direct from BellaDistribution
800 533-1973

Book Review: May 2008
by Kathi Isserman (reviewer at JAW)



To Protect and Serve

VK Powell
ISBN: 978-1-60282-007-4
Trade paper, 240, \$15.95
March 2008
Lesbian Romantic Intrigue
Bold Strokes Books, Inc.
www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Just About Write

Web site:
www.justaboutwrite.com

Nann Dunne
Editor-in-Chief
& Publisher

VK Powell has a surefire winner with her first novel, *To Protect and Serve*. It is well-written, balancing an enchanting romance with a stimulating police procedural.

Main character, Lt. Alex Troy faces sexism in the police department every day. Her personal life is not much better. She's been burned by women one too many times and has become emotionally aloof and untrusting. Because of her professional connections to a drug overdose victim, she is assigned to lead a Drug Task Force with an undercover operation and must choose her team. Young, hot shot Detective Keri Morgan is the perfect candidate, according to Alex's boss the Chief of Police, but their past encounters make the choice difficult. For Keri, this is the case of a lifetime. For Alex, it's the chance to be promoted. Each cannot trust the other, but they must in order to bring down the elusive drug lord that is poisoning their community.

Powell does a convincing job of blending the sexual tension between Morgan and Troy within the action of the police investigation. Because Morgan is a subordinate, that unequal status creates a delicious mix of forbidden desires and conflicts. This is what fuels the passion in the book. *To Protect and Serve* is foremost a romance. Lust and love fill the novel, and the story touches us viscerally. We feel the characters' emotions, and are exposed to the intimacy that they crave.

The author is a 30-year veteran of the police force. Her insider's view of that world permeates the pages, and the reader experiences an in-depth look at a covert operation with all of the ensuing dangers. Powell shares with us the issues of professional integrity, the real risks of law enforcement, and the pitfalls of falling for a co-worker who depends on you with their very life.

Powell has a wonderful future ahead of her as an author if *To Protect and Serve* is any indication.

Reprinted with permission.



Order from these Distributors:

Perseus.....800 343-4499 Baker & Taylor.....800 775-1100
Ingram.....800 937-8000 Bookazine....800 548-3855

Direct from BellaDistribution
800 533-1973

Book Review: May 2008

by RLYnne (reviewer at JAW)



To Protect and Serve

VK Powell

ISBN: 978-1-60282-007-4

Trade paper, 240, \$15.95

March 2008

Lesbian Romantic Intrigue

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Just About Write

Web site:

www.justaboutwrite.com

Nann Dunne
Editor-in-Chief
& Publisher

VK Powell has given her readers an exciting police novel combined with a wonderful romance. She has done this with an exquisite use of the English language. Her descriptions are almost poetic, as in this example: "Her body ached with physical fatigue, and a deep sadness clung to her like a wet woolen pea coat." Her characters are quite believable as well, with emotionally wounded Lieutenant Alex Troy and gutsy Keri Morgan chasing after the notorious drug lord, Sonny Davis. Powell uses her personal knowledge of the workings of a police department to show how departments work together gathering the evidence needed to arrest a criminal.

Throughout the book, emotional and sexual tension builds between Keri and Alex with enough intensity that the reader can feel the heat. Both are torn, knowing that an affair between them could cost Alex her job. Luckily, Keri and Alex are surrounded by a team of pros, and the case is led by a good friend of Alex's who helps to keep things on track. To Protect and Serve is a great read that is difficult to put down until the last page is turned.

Reprinted with permission.



Order from these Distributors:

Perseus.....800 343-4499 Baker & Taylor.....800 775-1100
Ingram.....800 937-8000 Bookazine....800 548-3855

Direct from BellaDistribution
800 533-1973

Book Review: Summer 2008

by Teresa DeCrescenzo (columnist at [Lesbian News](#))



To Protect and Serve

VK Powell

ISBN: 978-1-60282-007-4

Trade paper, 240, \$15.95

March 2008

Lesbian Romantic Intrigue

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Lesbian News

www.theInmag.com

Ella Matthes

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Columnist: Teresa DeCrescenzo
"A Look at Books"

If you like cop novels, or even television cop shows with women as full partners with male officers...this is the book for you. It's got drama, excitement, conflict, and even some fairly hot lesbian sex. The writer is a retired cop, so she really writes from a place of authenticity. As a result, you have a realistic quality to the writing that puts me in mind of early Joseph Wambaugh, before his writing became formulaic.

Alex is a hottie, who even has sex with her captain in a police station. I'm sure V K Powell never did that. Alex also has a coterie of young women officers who want to have at her sexually...Their precinct seems an unlikely place for such a concentration of lesbians, but hey, what's a little literary license within the "thin blue line"...

It's a story that has been told endlessly... Bad things happen to good people whose lives are ruined by drugs. The dedicated officers of the whatever squad set out to bring the evil drug dealer kingpin to justice. In real police life, that seldom happens...But in a serious and at the same time rollicking and frolicking sexually novel, the good guys - or gals in this case - win out and good triumphs over evil.

And the right girl ends up with the right girl. You'll have to buy the book to find out who ends up with whom...

Excerpt of Lesbian News: Teresa DeCrescenzo's column "A Look at Books"



Order from these Distributors:

Perseus.....800 343-4499 Baker & Taylor.....800 775-1100
Ingram.....800 937-8000 Bookazine....800 548-3855

Direct from BellaDistribution
800 533-1973