

Amanda Cabot

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Dear Friends,

It's been an exciting spring, although if we're being precise, the fun started before spring with *Scattered Petals'* launch party on March 13. I felt like Queen for a Day at the Cheyenne Barnes & Noble. Not only did they plan every detail, including choosing tablecloths, napkins, cups and plates that coordinated with my book cover, but they also gave me a corsage. And, as if that weren't enough, when Linda, the Community Relations Manager, learned that my hero's favorite dessert was gingerbread, she baked two pans of it for the party. I had suggested a box of gingersnaps, but Linda wanted everything to be perfect, and so she took the extra time and effort to make sure that it was. Thank you, Linda!

Since then, I've been busy doing book signings, writers' workshops and speeches at local churches. (The picture was taken at a signing at the Loveland, CO B&N.) It's been fun – most of the time. One of the writers' workshops was at the Colorado Christian Writers Conference in Estes Park, CO. Remember all the problems I had with snow last fall? It happened again. Even though the conference was in the middle of May, which ought to have been past snow season, there was a major storm the night before. Fortunately, the roads were opened by the time I had to travel, but it was definitely a day for boots and down coats.



What's Next?

Even before *Scattered Petals* was released, my publisher was hard at work on the third of the Texas Dreams books. I now have a definite publication date of April 2011, and the committee confirmed my original title of *Tomorrow's Garden*. I was delighted that they liked all three of my titles well enough to keep them. I've also seen preliminary cover art, and once again the Art Department has outdone themselves. I think *Tomorrow's Garden's* cover is even more beautiful than the ones for *Paper Roses* and *Scattered Petals*, and that's saying a lot.

While my publisher is working on the last of the Texas Dreams books, I'm busy writing the first of the

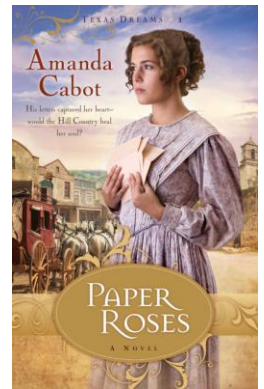
Wyoming Winds series. Unlike Texas Dreams, where I created the town, these books will take place in real locations, starting with Fort Laramie, and that means that research is a bit different. For the current book, research included a third trip to the fort so that I could see what it looks like in early June, which is when the story begins. I had a very productive day there and, thanks to the park's librarian, discovered a couple inaccuracies in my manuscript. You can be sure that I'm fixing those.

Facebook

A number of you have asked why you couldn't find me on Facebook. The answer is, you now can. I have a fan page, and in addition to occasional postings about my writing, I have what I'm calling "Wednesday in Wyoming" posts. Since many people know very little about Wyoming and since it's going to be the setting for at least four of my stories, I thought I'd share tidbits with you. I hope you'll stop by.

Good News

I've saved the best news for last. *Paper Roses* is a finalist for the Booksellers Best Award. I was going to put that all in capital letters so you could tell that I'm excited, but I'm sure you can imagine how pleased I was when I got the call, notifying me. This contest is sponsored by the Greater Detroit chapter of Romance Writers of America, and – as you might guess from the name – the judges are all booksellers or librarians. I'm thrilled that people whose careers revolve around books enjoyed my story enough to make it a finalist. Now comes the hard part, waiting until late July to learn which of the six books wins. But in the meantime, I have a manuscript to finish and then another one to begin.



I hope you have a wonderful summer, filled with family, friends and many good books.

Amanda