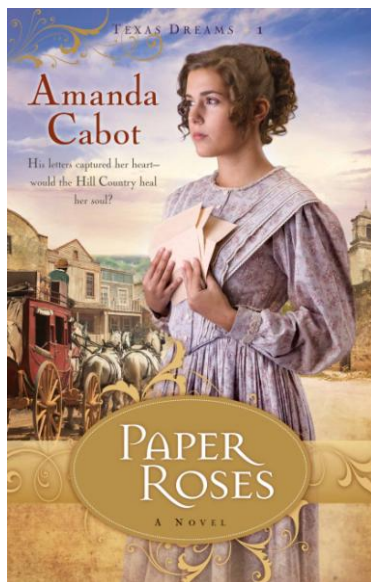


Dear Friends,

Although spring is my favorite season, winter was special this year, since it marked the publication of *Paper Roses*, the first of my Texas Dreams books. The official release date was January 2, but the books were actually available in mid-December – just in time for Christmas shopping, and soon after that, reviews started popping up, both in print and online.

Well-known reviewer Harriet Klausner gave the book a five-star rating and said, “The first Texas Dreams tale is an excellent western historical romance with an amateur sleuth whodunit investigation serving as a minor but powerful support.” *RTBookReviews* said, “The characters are loveable and believable,” while *A Romance Review* gave it their highest rating, five roses. (I had to smile at that!)



Launches and Signings

I was definitely smiling on January 15 when the Laramie County Library here in Cheyenne sponsored a book launch party. With refreshments and door prizes, it was a fun evening for everyone. I had a wonderful time, talking about the life of a writer. I suspect, though, that many in the audience were surprised that it's not as glamorous as they thought – not glamorous at all.

But, if there isn't a lot of glamour, there is a lot of pleasure involved in being a writer. One of my pleasures is meeting readers, which is the reason I've done a series of book signings and presentations in places as far apart as Colorado and western New York and why I'm busy scheduling a trip to Texas this fall.

Book Clubs

I was delighted to learn that *Paper Roses* was selected by the Crossings and the Rhapsody book clubs, both of which produced a beautiful hard cover edition. As if that weren't enough, they also offer their readers a large print version.

For those of you who are members of local book clubs and discussion groups, I've posted discussion

questions on my web site. And if you have a speaker phone available, I'd be happy to participate in your meeting when you discuss *Paper Roses*. Although there's nothing like being there in person, teleconferences are the next best thing. I may sound like a commercial for a phone company, but several book clubs and I have had spirited discussions over the phone.

Coming Next

Even before *Paper Roses* arrived in the book stores, Revell and I were hard at work on the next book. Did you know that although authors may suggest titles, the final title is often decided by a committee? (They want to make sure it will sell and that it's not too similar to other titles.) I was thrilled when the committee allowed me to keep my working title of *Scattered Petals*.

This book, which features Zach Webster, the foreman from *Paper Roses*, and Clay's sister-in-law Priscilla, will be available next March.

The marketing department asked me to provide a two-sentence description. As you may have guessed from the fact that *Paper Roses* is a long book, writing a brief description is difficult for me. You'll note that there may only be two sentences, but they're *very* long.

All her life, Priscilla Morton has longed for adventure, and so she heads for Texas, never dreaming that the adventure will leave her alone, badly injured and dependent on a handsome rancher who reminds her of her worst nightmare. Zachary Webster knows he'll never marry, for that would involve admitting the biggest mistake of his life, but how can he refuse to help Priscilla, even if she's a reminder of his sin?

I hope I've intrigued you and that you're as eager as I am to see *Scattered Petals* in print. In the meantime, I wish you happy reading and look forward to hearing from you. Notes from readers are the highlights of my days!

Amanda