

## Simpsonville-based novel is re-released in electronic version

Put together American saddlebred horses, a barn fire and a Shelby County farm and you have all of the essential elements of Jan Scarbrough's latest romantic suspense novel, Kentucky Flame.

Scarbrough began writing the novel in 1989, and it was published in 1998 as Reunited. Ten years later, Scarbrough decided to rework the novel, adding

By Teena Hammond Gomez  
Contributing Writer

back 35,000 words and a suspense element that she cut out of the 50,000-word published version, and titled it Kentucky

Flame. The book was released in June with an e-publisher, which offers books in an electronic format that can be purchased and downloaded online. For those who prefer a more traditional format, Kentucky Flame will be published in a print version in September.

The setting is a fictitious horse farm outside of Simpsonville. Scarbrough said that ironically, when she wrote the book, she had one of the characters complaining about subdivisions moving into Shelby County as Louisville expanded east. She said little did she know that she was foretelling the future 20 years ago.



Jan Scarbrough

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Scarborough said she wanted to set the novel in Shelby County because of her love for American saddlebred horses. Although she was born in Tennessee and has spent most of her adult life living in Louisville, she said she spends quite a bit of time in Shelby County. She takes riding lessons each week at Premier Stables in Simpsonville, and she volunteers every Thursday at The Luci Center in Shelbyville.

In her day job, Scarborough is a technical writer for Humana Inc., but by night, she's busy writing romance novels. The combo obviously works, with Scarborough having written 10 novels to date and reaping plenty of awards for her work.

"For most of the time that I did this, I was a single mom raising my two children. So I stop and look at my career and think that maybe I should be farther along. But I realize that what I was supposed to do was raise those children," she said.

Scarborough said that now, with her children grown, she still does her best writing in the evenings.

"You have to make yourself do it at night," she said. "On weekends there's always the laundry or the grocery shopping. There is always something to do. Fortunately I don't have children at home anymore. I have two adult children and two stepchildren, with four grandchildren and one on the way, due in November."

A former English teacher, Scarborough said it took a life-threatening illness to get her writing career off the ground in 1988.


"I was in intensive care and lost four days of my life," she said. "After I recovered, I said, 'well, you always said you wanted to write a novel,' so I figured it was now or never."

A romance writing class pushed her to write her first novel.

"At the time, Karen Robards, who is a multi-published author from Louisville, had a class on how to write romance novels. All I knew is that I loved horses so I wanted to put horses in there, whatever I wrote. So she said to start a book, you need to start with a life-threatening situation. You need to start with a sense of urgency to draw the reader into a story. All I could think about was a barn fire. So that's how my story starts," she said.

Scarborough said that Kentucky Flame, along with other novels she's written, can be downloaded from [www.fictionwise.com](http://www.fictionwise.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), or at the publisher's Web site, [www.resplendencepublishing.com](http://www.resplendencepublishing.com). The author's own Web site is [www.janscarborough.com](http://www.janscarborough.com).

Electronic publishing is a viable option for an author, she said, because, "People are more mobile in their communication now. For instance, my husband has downloaded some of my e-books to his iPhone and when he goes to a doctor's appointment or something, he pulls out his iPhone and reads my books."

Make sure to keep an eye out for her next book, a holiday novella titled *A Groovy Christmas*. "It's set in 1968 and the heroine is a sweet little girl from the fictitious town of Legend, Tenn., and (the hero is) a hippie and their cultures kind of clash." 

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