

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Taras A. Ford 404-514-9479

<http://thedivaspen.com>

ZOÉ

June 2008

T. A. Ford's debut novella, [Zoé](#), shares the tale of a young black woman of a mixed heritage blossoming in 17th Century Napoleonic France, under the protective eye of her wealthy and well respected French aristocratic father. Zoé is the product of *une petite liaison* between her wealthy and well-respected father and his African mistress. Unlike her legitimate sister Marianne, Zoé is relegated to the background. That is, until they are both presented to the mysterious and sensual Comte Julien La Roque de Toulouse. The count's desires won't be denied, and later he is willing to risk it all to have her—even at her own peril. [Zoé](#) (Book Surge, June 2008 \$17.99 US / \$19.99 CAN) is a historical romance that takes the reader beyond color and shares the true nature of humanity and passion in a page-turning tale that will keep you reading—and believing that true love knows no bounds.

STORY SYNOPSIS

DIVA@THEDIVASPEN.COM

Beautiful Zoé Bouchard, born into a life of privilege, knows little of the world outside of her small village of Narbonne, France. The product of *une petite liaison* between her father and his African mistress, Zoé wants only one thing: to maintain the love and adoration showered upon her by her father, adoration that is shared by her half-sister also. However, Zoé's stepmother, jealous of those affections, has long resented having to raise a mulatto alongside her own daughter, Marianne, in French society.

Marianne at sixteen, the younger by two years, has reached the age to marry, and must be wed first. Thus the girls are ushered from their village and presented to the mysterious, philandering Comte Julien La Roque de Toulouse. Though Zoé fears life under her stepmother's tyranny without Marianne, she embarks, supportively, on what she believes to be a new beginning in their lives.

The Count immediately takes a shine to the tawny brown *demoiselle* who stands in her fair sister's shadow. Discovering her love for poetry and preying upon her naïveté, he lures Zoé to his chamber with the promise of friendship and the exchange of poems. Soon Zoé is seduced by a surprising glimpse of the man behind the title. She finds herself deep in a passionate liaison, one that is well beyond her youthful understanding.

Desperate to cover her foolish lapse in judgment, Zoé races against time to keep the affair a secret. But when the truth is discovered by her cruel stepmother, Zoé's hopes of rescue by her father cannot be realized, and she is forced into a bitter bargain. She must secure her sister's betrothal by offering herself to the Count as a consolation prize.

Zoé's attempts to return the attentions of the Count to her sister Marianne are thwarted by a visiting American slave owner, who also discovers the illicit affair. And worse, his interference brings about the sudden death of her father, who suffers a heart attack over his daughter's betrayal.

Despite everything, Zoé believes in the Count's feelings for her and begs him to legitimize their union. But fear, prejudice and cowardice prevent him from doing so. The day her beloved father is buried, she is sold to the American slave trader and forced into a life of certain misfortune.

Her only salvation is to trust the one person who has created the labyrinth of betrayal and tragedy that had become her fate.

ZOÉ

T. A. Ford

(\$17.99 US / \$19.99 CAN)

ISBN: 1-4196-9147-3

ISBN-13: 9781419691478

T. A. Ford

T.A. Ford was born in the beautiful city of Miami, Florida and began writing at the early age of eight. The older of two children with a schoolteacher for a mother, she was taught by a firm yet loving hand the power of words, and the countless adventures that could be found between the pages of a book. While other children her age shared an interest in music, sports, or even Girl Scouts, Ms. Ford's interests never varied. Many times when her mother was asked where she was, she'd simply say, "At home, somewhere with a pen or book in her hand."

By the age of 13, she had a private collection of drawings and short stories based on heroines she could identify with, but who lived in imaginative worlds far removed from her suburban upbringing. She'd share them with anyone who cared to read. When she left home to venture to college she continued to write privately never fully realizing her talent.

In college, she pledged the sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc, and in 1994 she won the South East Atlantic prestigious award *Leadership Fellow*, for a short essay she wrote on 'Sisterhood'. It was then that Ms. Ford understood the power of her pen. Her professional goals were forever shaped by the new found confidence in her skills, and would take her down many roads. Choosing to use her writing skills would be used in more technical ways, in her heart she had greater stories to be told.

But what to write, and when, would be a question plagued her for many years. That is until her technical savvy and countless hours in front of a computer screen introduced her into the world of online blogging.

An avid reader of romantic fiction and lover of television soap operas, Ms. Ford began blogging in 2005, under the persona 'The Diva'. Inspired by the inadequate portrayal of women of color

in daytime TV, she created an online community known as Divasnluv, where new and published authors shared their stories. Within a year her blogging and popularity grew, and so did the demand for her work.

Forever in search of unique untold stories, her favorite pass-time of ‘people watching’, provided her a wealth of material to use. Strapped with her laptop and vivid imagination writing spots included: any open park, coffee shop, or book store cafe. Every thing and one was an opportunity to create. From the unruly child, dragged by the weary mother through the store to the lover’s quarrel that ends with the young man in tears, a story could be found anywhere. The dialogue and conflict be it public or blasting from a television screen, is a constant backdrop in her creative writing process.

So Ms. Ford went on to write over 40 Chick Lit stories centered on multi-cultural romance. Now, she enters the world of publishing with the release of her first novel, Zoé. This historical romance captures Ms. Ford’s ability to transform an unlikely heroine into every woman’s inspiration.

Ms. Ford is currently working on two projects: a contemporary romance and a murder mystery, both to be released in 2008. Plans are currently underway to transform her most popular online work, an eight-segment series about the unlikely romance between an African American fashion designer and an Irish-Italian Mafia kingpin, into print in 2009.

T.A. Ford holds a Bachelor in Journalism and a Masters in Computer Science. Currently she lives in southern Georgia and is the proud aunt of three.

THE DIVAS PEN LLC

DIVA@THEDIVASPEN.COM