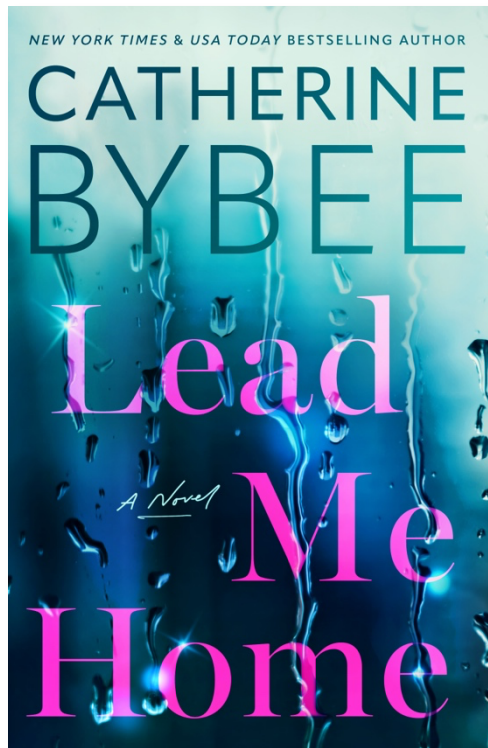




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Behind the Happily Ever After: Catherine Bybee’s Mission to Empower Her Readers to Raise the Bar and Move Past Trauma



As a happily divorced woman who chooses singleness as a therapeutic and empowered decision, Catherine Bybee embraces the irony of her success as a romance novelist. In fact, Bybee would argue that the genre’s persistent popularity is reflective of the need to learn how to have healthy relationships, romantic or otherwise.

“People often roll their eyes when they hear ‘romance novels,’ but what these books are really about is empowerment, about taking control of your story. The heroine’s journey to overcome challenges and past traumas makes it possible for her to connect with a partner, whether that’s for a happily ever after (HEA) or a happily for now (HFN).”

Bybee doesn’t stop there. “I think that romance novels should set the standard for what kind of partner we’re looking for. If more men read romance novels, I think the bar would go up.”

Many of Bybee’s 45 published novels to date explore toxic relationships and the importance of found family, frequently tapping into her own childhood experiences and her former career as an ER nurse.

With LEAD ME HOME (Montlake, June 9, 2026), book one in her new Queen Anne Hill series, Bybee delivers her most personal, emotionally charged, and compulsively readable novel yet. Through relatable characters, a riveting storyline, and a satisfyingly swoon-worthy romance. Bybee sensitively portrays the importance of breaking free from toxic family situations in order to embrace a love founded on mutual respect and kindness. Says Bybee, “I have written this story

about being a child of a narcissistic and abusive parent with my past woven in, not in search of sympathy, but in hopes that others can read between the lines and find hope.”

Forensic accountant Luna Canning trusts numbers more than people. When she finally considers letting someone past her guard, her manipulative mother and decades of unresolved trauma threaten everything Luna has built. Now she must confront the ghosts of her past—both metaphorical and possibly literal—as strange occurrences in her historic, family home suggest she’s not alone. With a violent threat looming and her heart on the line, Luna discovers that sometimes the hardest person to trust is yourself.

The secret to Bybee’s success lies in her innate ability to write relatable, independent young women who persevere through life’s obstacles with determination and a healthy dose of snark. And her protagonists fall in love with secure, sensitive—and yes, dreamy—men who are truly worthy of their trust.

In her author’s note for *LEAD ME HOME*, Bybee shares, “I create worlds where others like me can escape and envision as their own. Where they are respected, loved, safe...and know that when the last page is turned there is a cloud lined in silver on which they can land.”

Bybee goes on to assert her need to speak her truth. “The only voice I will silence is the one that lives in my head that others have put there.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Catherine Bybee is a #1 Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and USA Today bestselling author whose compelling stories have captivated readers worldwide. With more than 11 million books sold, and her work translated into multiple languages, she has firmly established herself as a powerhouse in contemporary romance and women's fiction.

Catherine's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and self-belief. Notably, her career took a remarkable turn with her self-published breakout novel, "Wife by Wednesday." This initial indie success not only propelled her onto bestseller lists but also showcased her ability to connect directly with readers, a skill that continues to define her career.

Beyond her literary achievements, Catherine is deeply committed to empowering women through her stories. Her novels feature strong, independent female characters who navigate life's challenges

with resilience and grace. She crafts narratives that explore themes of self-discovery, personal strength, and the importance of supportive relationships.

Prior to her writing career, Catherine spent many years as a registered nurse in busy urban emergency rooms. This experience provided her with a unique perspective on the challenges and complexities of life, which she skillfully weaves into her storytelling.

Whether discussing her inspiring journey as an independent author, the importance of female narratives, or the art of crafting compelling stories, Catherine Bybee's engaging presence and heartfelt message resonate with audiences of all backgrounds. For more information, visit www.catherinebybee.com.

LEAD ME HOME by Catherine Bybee

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