

## A fiery depiction of entertainment and an unforgettable era

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. (APRIL 15, 2011)—Amidst popular culture rests an ideal image of the Rat Pack era, a picturesque Vegas, and the seductive sound of 1950s entertainment. In Pamela Cory's debut novel, *Hassie Calhoun: A Las Vegas Novel of Innocence* (JUNE 1, 2011, \$15.95, ISBN 978-0-9824584-7-1 TR | 978-0-9824584-8-8 EBOOK), a new portrait is painted—one that is both surprising and enlightening.

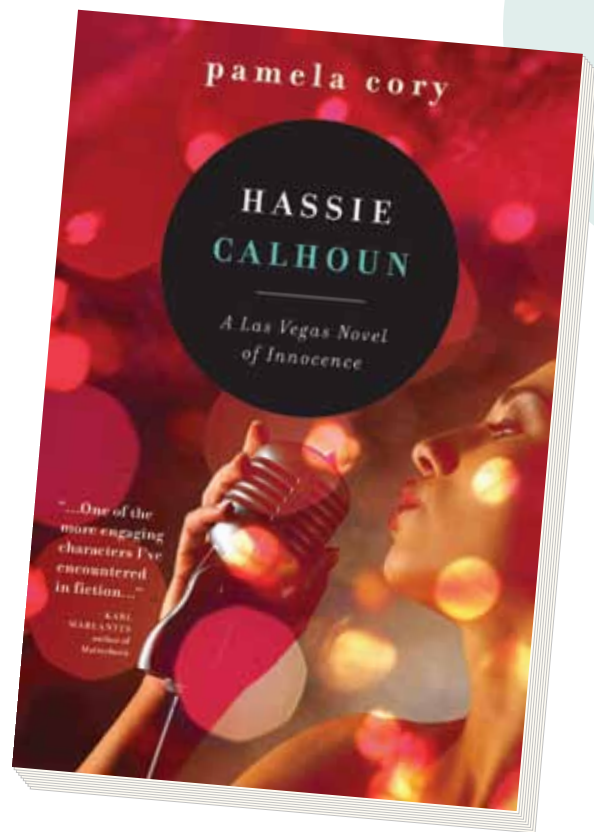
Hassie Calhoun, a lovely and talented teenager from rural Texas, flees home and intends to make it as an entertainer in Las Vegas. Her beauty opens doors immediately at the Sands Hotel, but leads only to a sybaritic lifestyle controlled by her brooding and dangerous lover, Jake. Drawing the attention of the powerful Frank Sinatra, Hassie's dreams could come true. Torn between compromising situations and her own morals, Hassie's road to stardom is not easy, and she will have to make some the toughest decisions of her life. With traces of romance and mystery, this literary fiction transports readers to the 1950s world of entertainment in Vegas, Reno, and New York City.

Pamela Cory's own experiences in the entertainment industry led her to create this telling and nostalgic fiction of a young, lovely, and talented teenager who puts her own innocence and identity on the line to someday make it big. The novel is the first in a trilogy that follows a beautifully written character through every heartwarming, sad, and even gritty moment of life.

Great for book clubs, readers of the entertainment industry, and for men and women alike, Hassie Calhoun has been called "atmospherically pleasing" by *Publisher's Weekly* and "deceptively plucky and resourceful" by Adam Langer, author of *The Thieves of Manhattan*.

To learn more about Pamela Cory, please visit her website at [www.pamelacory.com](http://www.pamelacory.com) or Scarletta Press at [www.scarlettapress.com](http://www.scarlettapress.com).

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### *Includes Discussion Questions*

Publication Date	June 1, 2011
Title	Hassie Calhoun: A Las Vegas Novel of Innocence
Author	Pamela Cory
ISBN	978-0-9824584-7-1 (tr) 978-0-9824584-8-8 (e-book)
Specs	\$15.95, Trade paper, 6 x 9 inches, 396 pages
Trade Distributor	PGW/Perseus: 800.788.3123 <a href="mailto:orderentry@perseusbooks.com">orderentry@perseusbooks.com</a>
Wholesalers	Baker & Taylor, Ingram, & others

## WHAT THE CRITICS ARE SAYING

**“From the book’s opening pages, I felt worried for Hassie Calhoun. Her story, though individual in era and tone, is recognizable. She does things in her youthful naiveté that many of us have done—and regret. This page-turning, in-your-face story explores how a good woman must reach depths before she can understand herself.”**

Masha Hamilton, author of *31 Hours*

**“Like its eponymous heroine, *Hassie Calhoun* proves to be deceptively plucky and resourceful. What could have easily devolved into an all-too-familiar cautionary tale of Las Vegas instead becomes a redemptive portrait of an era ...”**

Adam Langer, author of *The Thieves of Manhattan*

**“Creating a protagonist who makes such self-destructive choices that you want to just get inside the book and slap some sense into her, yet at the same time making the reader love this character and want to keep reading to find out what she’ll do next, always fervently hoping that she’ll get it right, is one of the most difficult tasks a novelist can undertake. Pamela Cory has succeeded brilliantly. Read this book and be transported to Las Vegas, circa 1959, along with one of the more engaging characters I’ve encountered in fiction.”**

Karl Marlantes, author of *Matterhorn*

**“Forget the glass slipper and Prince Charming! Hassie Calhoun is a small-town Cinderella fueled by vodka and Lucky Strikes. Determined to trade her Texas roots for Las Vegas neon, young Hassie endures plenty of hard knocks, hard men, broken dreams, and a broken heart in search of fame and fortune.”**

Susan McBride, author of *The Cougar Club* and *Little Black Dress*

**“Nostalgia takes it on the chin in Cory’s overdramatic but atmospherically pleasing debut, the beginning of a projected trilogy about Hassie Calhoun, a 17-year-old Texas rose who arrives in 1960’s Las Vegas with a big dream of becoming the next Peggy Lee ... Cory’s alternately gritty and sudsy depiction of early ’60s Sin City transports the reader back to a time when the Rat Pack ethos ruled.”**

*Publishers Weekly* (8 Feb 2011)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



PAMELA CORY, born in Charlotte, NC, graduated college with a Bachelor of Music degree, and spent 15 years as a cabaret

singer, model and voice coach in the Southeastern U.S. ‘Hassie’ is deeply rooted in the author’s own struggles and ultimately reflects her love of music and her strong ties to the entertainment industry. She is married to architect Steven Miller and divides her time between New York City and Dubai, UAE.

## BOOK LAUNCH EVENTS

Book Expo America, May 24–26, New York City

Bookcase of Wayzata, Tuesday, June 7, 7:00 PM, Wayzata, MN

Common Good Books, Wednesday, June 8, 7:30 PM, St. Paul

Sundance Bookstore, Thursday, June 9, 6:30 PM, Reno

Vroman’s Bookstore, Friday, June 10, 7:00 PM, Pasadena

Park Road Books, Wednesday, June 15, 6:00 PM, Charlotte, NC

\$25,000 advertising campaign in *New York Times*, *NY Review of Books*, *LA Times*, & *Publishers Weekly*

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