



“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 in doing just that with her simultaneously maddening and you-just-can’t-help-but-like-her character, Hassie Calhoun. 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 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.”

— **Publisher’s Weekly**, 8 FEB 2011