



BARBARA AVON

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New Novel "Sultry, Is the Night" by Barbara Avon Captivates Readers with a Gritty 1980s Tale of Love, Loss, and Hidden Secrets

Readers looking for a dark, atmospheric story set in the early 1980s are discovering **Sultry, Is the Night**, the first installment in a gripping series by acclaimed author Barbara Avon. The novel is now available in Kindle format through Amazon and major online bookstores.

Set in 1982, **Sultry, Is the Night** explores the stark divide within a town where prosperity and poverty exist side by side. On one side live the privileged; on the other, residents struggle daily, even battling rats for scraps of food. The story follows Mario, a young man who once lived comfortably among the wealthy but now finds himself trapped on the wrong side of the tracks after his father abandoned him.

Haunted by grief over his mother's death and convinced he has lost his lifelong dream of becoming a chef, Mario's life appears to have stalled—until he meets Dito, the owner of Dean's Pizzeria, who offers him a chance to start over. Just as Mario begins to regain hope, a mysterious woman named Tess enters his life. Beautiful and enigmatic, she lives in a luxury high-rise far removed from Mario's world. Yet something about Tess doesn't add up, and Mario soon senses she may be hiding a dark secret.

Blending suspense, emotional depth, and the raw atmosphere of a divided town, **Sultry, Is the Night** delves into themes of belonging, ambition, and the invisible borders that shape people's lives. The novel has already earned strong reader praise, currently holding a 4.8-star rating from early reviewers.

As the first book in the **Sultry, Is the Night** series, Avon's story promises readers an immersive journey filled with tension, romance, and the haunting question: some borders exist for a reason—what happens when someone crosses them?

Sultry, Is the Night by Barbara Avon is available now on Amazon Kindle and other major online book retailers.

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CANADA



About the Author

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I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where.
- Pablo Neruda.

Barbara Avon grew up Italian in the Niagara Falls Region and attended Notre Dame High School, and then Brock University. In 1999, she moved to Ottawa to pursue work and has worked for two major Ottawa area magazines. Being a shy kid in school, she created stories in her head, and when her Grade 9 English teacher awarded one of her short stories an A +, she knew that she would one day write a novel.

Avon is a multi-genre author. She's written Romance, Romantic Thrillers, Time Travel, Mystery, Horror, and Paranormal Romance. Her work appears in various anthologies including Steering 23 Publications, Storytime for Grownups, and Beyond the Levee. In October of 2022, "Revived" was chosen as "Horror Book of the Year" by the "Feed My Reads" community, and in February of 2025, "Sultry Is the Night", received the Literary Titan Gold Medal Award for Fiction.

When she's not writing, she's experimenting in the kitchen, reading, watching 1980s movies, and working on her next novel. Avon has quoted: I believe in magic. Books are magic. Love is the most remarkable magic.

PRAISE

" Barbara Avon enchants readers with her versatile storytelling, masterful genre exploration, and heartfelt narratives that leave lasting emotional impressions."

- Novelist Post

" Barbara Avon crafts hauntingly beautiful stories where romance and darkness entwine, proving her voice fearless, imaginative, unforgettable in modern fiction."

- Reader's House

"Barbara Avon possesses an extraordinary capacity to craft deeply emotional narratives that resonate universally, beautifully balancing horror and love with masterful storytelling prowess."

- Mosaic Digest

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How did your Italian heritage influence the themes and characters in your novels, particularly in your early works?

One may never have the same ground beneath their feet, but the soil will forever be trapped within them. I immigrated to Canada in 1974, but I will forever be Italian. My first female protagonist is Italian. (All of my primary protagonists are male, save for my latest horror story featuring Coralie.) One of my characters states, "Italians don't bleed blood. They bleed wine." He is referring to the Italian culture that revolves around food, drink, and family. My heritage is extremely important to me, and I fictitiously immortalize my own memories in my novels.

What inspired you to transition from writing romance with suspense elements to exploring genres like horror and paranormal romance?

I have always considered myself a storyteller. Picture a grandmother figure in a rocking chair with children encircling her as they sit on the floor, and she asks them, "What type of story would you like to hear today?" I wish to explore every aspect of life – whether romantic, disturbing, or hauntingly beautiful.

Can you discuss the creative process behind your time travel stories and how you ensure historical accuracy within fictional narratives?

Google is a writer's best friend. One of my time travel stories, "Timepiece", opens in 1932, and it did take a lot of research to ensure historical accuracy regarding language, fashion, and way of life. The rest was inspired by all the classic movies I love that star iconic actors like Cary Grant, and Katharine Hepburn. Everything else came from my imagination. Science doesn't play a role in my time travel stories. The reader must suspend belief and simply enjoy being whisked away to a different era.

In your horror novels, such as “Revived,” how do you balance psychological depth with supernatural elements to create compelling narratives?

Reality can often be scarier than fiction. I delve into the human psyche to dig out that which most scares us and has scarred us. Throw in a few ghosts, some ghastly scenes, and a deep sense of foreboding, and I end up with psychological horror such as “The Sixth Sense” rather than a bloody story like “Friday the 13th.” Horror is one of my favourite genres to write and I always include a sub-love story. Love is a part of life, and therefore, it’s also a part of death.

Your readers often describe your books as cinematic. How do you craft your stories to evoke vivid, movie-like imagery?

Words. It’s a simple answer, but the most accurate one. A writer doesn’t require a million words to paint a scene. A writer only needs the right words. It’s the same reason my stories are typically short. With the perfect alphabetical palette, you can fill a page like a painter would a small canvas and still pack an emotional punch.

With “The Gift,” you delve into the mystery genre. What challenges did you face in blending romance with suspenseful storytelling?

A budding, romantic relationship is suspenseful. It wasn’t difficult to marry a romantic storyline with the mystery/thriller aspect. Michael Rossi, our male protagonist in “The Gift” and its sequel “Michael’s Choice”, is a stubborn, passionate, Italian who loves deeply. When the woman he loves puts herself in a dangerous, precarious situation, the reader finds themselves sharing his angst. One reader honoured me by reaching out to me to share their

enthusiasm about the story. They stated that they were “unable to rest until Michael did”. We are all flawed, and I think that readers appreciate characters that aren’t cardboard cut-outs, but someone they can relate to, cheer for, or even mourn with.

What advice would you offer to aspiring authors aiming to successfully transition between different genres while maintaining a unique voice?

I’ve been told many times that my books are easily recognizable as Barbara Avon novels. That statement made me think, because I don’t only write various genres, I write in various styles. Then I remember that little old grandma in the rocking chair who is holding her audience captive with her funny character voices, hand gestures, and charming intonation. Every author has a unique voice, just like grandma. I’d tell aspiring authors: Write without fear, write from your heart, and readers will remember you. However, just like a painter discards an uninspired canvas, don’t be afraid to begin again. I, for one, am not adept at slaying dragons... then again, I have yet to try.

AWARD WINNING



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To arrange an interview or request a copy of the book, please reach out,
and my team will respond within 1 to 2 business days.

