

**PUBLISHING PROPOSAL**

**An Introduction**

**by**

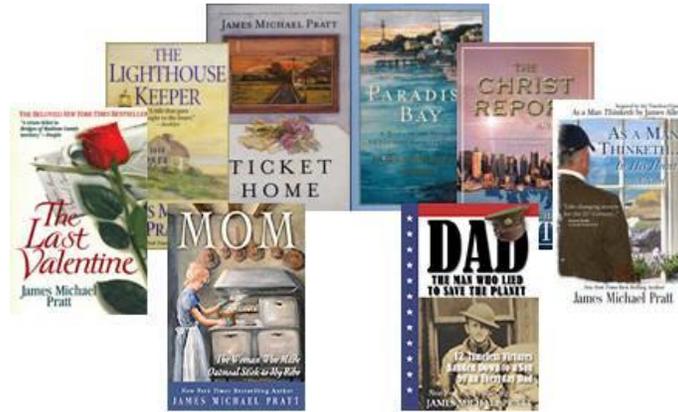
**JAMES MICHAEL PRATT**

*New York Times* and *USA TODAY* Bestselling Author



JAMES MICHAEL PRATT

Reprint and New Works Proposal



ORIGINAL PUBLISHING RIGHTS and NEW TITLES

For twenty-five years *THE LAST VALENTINE* has been selling worldwide to readers of historical romance. Now titled *The Lost Valentine*, since 2011 for the HALLMARK HALL of FAME and CBS *Movie of the Week* by the same name, millions of new story lovers have come to know of the author and his work.

When *The Lost Valentine* first premiered in 2011, HALLMARK hit a record of 14.5 million viewers. With regular replays many times each year since, millions more worldwide have come to adopt the Betty White main character and her story of love, loss, and final redemption as their favorite Valentine's Day love-story of all time.

In the spirit of Pratt's *New York Times* and *USA TODAY's* bestselling novel, three additional historical romance novels in hard, soft, book club, international, audio and other rights followed *THE LAST VALENTINE* 1998 debut. They are:

- THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER 2000
- TICKET HOME 2001
- PARADISE BAY 2002

With one mass-market printing of *The Lost Valentine* by the publisher in December 2010 to anticipate the HALLMARK and CBS movie event of January 2011, passive interest in title printing, promotion, and sales followed.

After years of requests by the author and former agent to make *The Lost Valentine* easily available, all rights to the four original SMP novels finally reverted to Pratt in late 2021.

#### RIGHTS POTENTIAL

Because of the regular replay and ongoing future exposure to millions worldwide by the HALLMARK CHANNEL, *The Lost Valentine* may yet experience hundreds of thousands in book sales through collaborative marketing and promotion.

Pratt regularly answers inquiries from *The Lost Valentine* movie fans from around the globe on how they can get an autographed copy of the book. "Coming soon," has been his answer. A publisher may wish to fulfill that promise and grow

the audience to the other works following *The Lost Valentine* success.

Called "A master of moral fiction," by *Booklist*, Pratt's audience is worldwide. His fans have reached out from Australia, the Philippines, Asia, India, Pakistan, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, and of course from all over North America.

The primary audience is the female reader ages 18-65+. Each book, written in evergreen style, has appealed to a wide readership, including male and young adult readers as evidenced by thousands of fan letters and emails sent to the author over the past 25 years. Reader's comments, found in the full proposal and at <https://www.jamesmichaelpratt.com/reader-comments-reviews> attest to the wide audience demographics in age and gender.

Many veterans with wartime experience have praised Pratt's works for authenticity and thoroughness, while female readers have commented on understanding their husband, father, brother, and grandfather's military experiences for the first time.

Along with collaborative reprint sales of his bestsellers, incentives to get to know the other James Michael Pratt works could be considered by the rights buyer. New author works can synergistically be marketed to those fans of *The Lost Valentine* and Pratt's other bestsellers.

In a short period of time the publisher may be able to cross promote his four backlist works with two titles currently available.

Pratt contemplates special collector editions with notes and commentary for each work. As his website will show, he has been busy creating new historical romance, inspirational fiction, and non-fiction manuscripts for present and future publishing consideration.

Summaries of two new romantic/inspiration genre titles are provided in this introduction with both manuscripts immediately available for publishing.

#### NEW MANUSCRIPTS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

Titled *IN LOVE*, a present-day romance is set at Christmas in an obscure ranch at a highway crossroad known by the locals as Love, Wyoming.

Jake Monson, a returning Army veteran, seeks answers and peace for his empty life after 20 years of warfare. Nagging him are ghosts of the many men he loved as brothers, but one in particular, his best friend from youth and Army comrade since they were both 18-year-old recruits. He is now on his way to make the long overdue visit to his friend's grave and family in Star Valley, Wyoming; their hometown.

Jake knows that events outside of his control are pushing him into unchartered territory, as war and the business of it have been all he has known since leaving Wyoming as a teenage Army recruit. He also senses that the healing he requires comes in the form of a new injury that leaves him stranded in stranger's hands on a Christmas Eve like no other he has experienced since his hometown youth twenty years before. He can't explain it, but unseen ethereal hands seem to be guiding him; just as real as a friend's hand reaching out to save him in combat once did.

What he discovers on a stormy Christmas Eve when blinding snow and an unforeseen accident stops him on a lonely stretch of rural highway, is Rachel Love, a beautiful young woman inheriting the Love ranch who has no intention of rescuing anyone.

And there is an aged ranch manager, Daniel Echohawk, with a terminal illness, who holds the secrets to Love's real history and the key to Jake's future happiness.

Rachel, a successful Los Angeles catering company owner, thinks she is home for Christmas to settle a ranch sale and final family affairs after her mother's death. Instead, she finds the real purpose of her companionless and unsatisfied life in Love, Wyoming as she rediscovers values she had tried to run from for years.

Now Daniel Echohawk must keep a promise made to Rachel's deceased mother to share the Love ranch truths and long-held secrets with Rachel. With mere days to live, little does Dan know that his helping to rescue Jake from freezing temperatures in an over-turned vehicle near the ranch entrance, will not only help both Rachel and Jake find the one thing missing from their lives, but also help him to settle the traumas of war both men experienced.

And, while building the fires of love in his heart for Rachel's mother "Missy" even more than he ever could have imagined, Daniel Echohawk reveals Rachel's life history in a surprising way she never could have known without this converging event of Jake's arrival.

As Daniel wraps up his own final business of life, Rachel and Jake find the meaning for their lives in what can only be described as a Christmas Day story of unexpected miracles, magic, and healing *IN LOVE*.

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Just as those of us from the seventy-five million "baby boom" generation may recount our parent's war histories, a son narrates the heartwarming story of loss, rebirth, and second chances in *WHEN THE LAST LEAF FALLS*.

In a chance meeting with a veteran of World War Two at Normandy, France on June 6, 2004, James Michael Pratt became fast friends with the late Howie Beach, veteran of D-Day, and in 1944 an unexperienced eighteen-year-old soldier in the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Pratt soon found himself editing the veteran's war memoirs, *The Secret War of Howie Beach*. From it was born the idea for the fiction work – a final "Hoorah" for a beloved generation.

The reader follows an American father and son, and a French mother and daughter, on an unlikely journey when Shenandoah Valley, Virginia farmer, Howie Anderson comes to final grips with his World War Two losses and a secret he had been ashamed to reveal before and after the recent death of his wife Alice. Trauma that are both real and are of the mind, are visited as his widower son Steven takes him back to the places he knew as a teenage infantryman.

An aged French woman Marie Alderette – once married to a young American soldier who had saved her during the war – kept the marriage secret from her children until now by order of her recently deceased and abusive husband, Pierre.

Pierre had created an elaborate ruse during the war to win Marie's hand by concocting a telegram announcing her American husband's death during the December 1944 "Battle of the Bulge."

She now seeks to bury her love for the American with a visit to his grave, taking the token they once gave to each other, to leave upon it. Her daughter Jeannette discovers the love story and is determined to help her mother become the young woman from 1944 again, if only for a day.

What happens when the American and French lover's present and past lives collide unexpectedly, becomes a magical story of second chances. As Howie Anderson's son narrates his reluctant father's hero journey, we discover that healing and love never come too late, and may blossom once again in the most mysterious ways *WHEN THE LAST LEAF FALLS*.

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In addition to these two new manuscripts immediately available, the author is developing and revising additional titles, in anticipation of future publishing between 2022 and 2032.

**These Introductory Pages Have Been Provided by  
James Michael Pratt**

For a full PDF copy of the actual Rights Proposal with new works contact the author at [jamesmpratt@gmail.com](mailto:jamesmpratt@gmail.com).