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Atoning for Ashes

A NOVEL

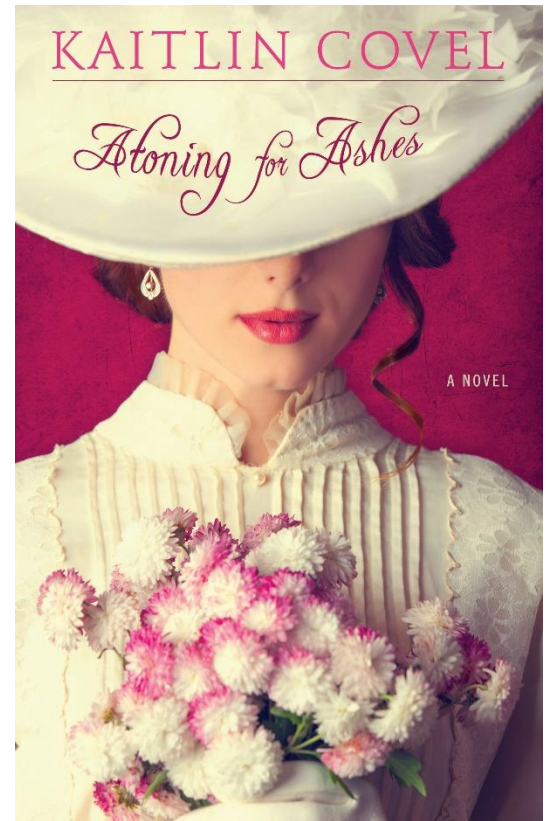
KAITLIN COVEL

Josie Chadwick dreams of marrying for love in Cornwall, England, but with her father's debt threatening to destroy all she holds dear, her romantic options are dwindling.

When her elder sister Delia is disowned, Josie finds herself heiress of Chadwick Park, torn between dreams and duty. After sacrificing her heart to atone for Delia's sin, Josie clings to the hope she will learn to love a distant husband, whom she fears is incapable of requiting her affection.

Charles Radcliffe's heart has been scarred and hardened by rejection. He fears hurting his new bride, but his fears of betrayal and rejection are stronger, making it impossible for him to trust her love—let alone the love of her God.

As Josie and Charles face their new life together, ominous events warn of dark family secrets that could shatter them both. More than a loveless marriage is at stake if they cannot stand as one. Will they learn to trust God and each other before it's too late?



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Deep River
B O O K S

About the Author

KAITLIN COVEL



Kaitlin Covell has a thirst for adventure much like the heroines of her stories. She is an old-fashioned romantic, and if she could time travel to any historical period, it would be the Regency Era. Here in the 21st century, she is a certified Nutritional Therapy Technician, but writing is her passion, whether it's fiction or non-fiction. She has honed her craft since childhood, benefiting from the insights of other writers through professional writing associations such as the Jerry Jenkins Writer's Guild and Hope*writers.

She lives with her family in Maine, where she enjoys teaching the teen Sunday school class at her church. Her favorite things are family, books, history, chocolate, music, the ocean, and strong cups of tea.

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What Others Are Saying About

Atoning for Ashes

Atoning for Ashes has it all—sweet romance, brow-raising suspense, and enduring spiritual truths crafted into a multi-faceted gem of a story. A welcome new historical fiction voice sure to win reading hearts!

—Laura Frantz, author of *The Lacemaker*

Navigating the shoals of marriage to a volatile stranger tests Josie's love, identity, and even her life. Fans of Victoria Holt will revel in the Cornwall setting, complete with smuggler's tunnels, legendary ghosts, deaths, and disappearances. *Atoning for Ashes* had me shivering in delight!

—Catherine Richmond, author of *Spring for Susannah*

A gem of a novel, *Atoning for Ashes* is historical fiction at its best. The detailed setting is richly written, and the relatable characters draw you right into a story full of heart, drama, and redemption. Kaitlin Covel is one to watch.

—Rachelle Rea Cobb, author of *The Steadfast Love* series

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Suggested Interview Questions

For: Kaitlin Covel, author of *Atoning for Ashes*

Q: When did you first know your writing was more than just a hobby?

A: The library was my favorite place as a child. I would haul my overflowing bookbags out of the library each month and devour as many titles as I could after school every day. That was the beginning of my publishing dream when I started to envision my own novel on the library's bookshelf. It wasn't until I was 12 though that the dream began to take shape. My creative writing assignment developed into my first efforts at a novel. I realized then that writing was a part of me, and I haven't stopped writing novels since. Writing is my biggest source of expression, and if I did not write often part of me would wither away.

Q: I understand this is your debut novel. Tell us more about your publishing journey.

A: One of the greatest pieces of writing advice I ever received was to write until I was confident enough of my writing skills to share them with the world. I wrote short stories and several novels to practice my skills. I engaged in writing memberships and contests to polish my craft until I knew I was ready to attempt publication. This journey has taken me almost ten years, but I have loved every moment of it. I look forward to the next chapter of my publishing journey and all the new experiences that await me. I know I am doing what I was born to do!

Q: Your novel is based in Cornwall, England. What inspired you to choose this setting?

A: I love the sea, and I've always dreamed of having a house on the coast. I've grown up in Maine, and some of my favorite memories include ocean trips. After I read Julie Klassen's novel, *The Tutor's Daughter*, I knew the Regency novel I was plotting had to be based in Cornwall, England. Winston Graham's *Poldark* series was set only several decades prior to my novel, and it was one of my favorite research resources to familiarize myself with Cornish culture and history.

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Q: A consistent theme in *Atoning for Ashes* is unconditional love. Why did you choose this theme?

A: God's identity is love, but I think we tend to see His love through the lens with which we have been loved by other human beings. It is only when we break free from this warped perception that we can begin to fully comprehend the unconditional nature of His love for us. His love is not contingent upon our successes and failures. Both my hero and heroine are freed by the knowledge that our identity in His sight is Beloved.

Q: Does *Atoning for Ashes* have a theme verse?

A: Yes, it is Romans 8:38-39: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Q: What inspired the characters of Josie and Charles?

A: One of my favorite novels of all time is *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. I'll never fail to be touched by the ending after Percy's and Marguerite's history of unrequited love. I freely admit that my tall, handsome blonde hero is inspired in part by Sir Percy Blakeney. My heroine Josie, however, I would say is the culmination of every woman, both fictional and real, that I have ever admired.

Q: If your readers only could gain one thing from reading *Atoning for Ashes*, what would you want it to be?

A: That everyone has ashes in their life...the ashes of broken dreams and scarred pasts. We serve a God whose love has redemptive power. He calls all of his children Beloved. He wants to atone for our ashes, even if they are the result of our mistakes, and redeem our future. Our God pursues the broken with arms of healing. All we have to do is stop running away. If we seek His face, He is faithful to heal our brokenness.

Q: What is your ultimate goal to achieve in your career as an author?

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A: The ultimate goal in all of my writing is to glorify my Savior. My heart's desire is that my writing would serve as a channel for His love to flow through and reach many hearts. Jesus Christ desires to have a personal relationship with each and every one of us. If just one person was inspired to have this personal relationship with Him or walk closer with Him because of my writing, I would be eternally grateful.

Q: Do you have any closing thoughts?

A: My heroine Josie is a female prototype of Joseph. Her sacrifices only result in further suffering at first, but she chooses to trust God's heart even when she can't see His hand. Throughout her journey, she seeks God's face, and God rewards her faithfulness because He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. I think the sweetest love stories are refined by fire because it takes more than a fairytale to equal happily ever after. It takes commitment and a love stronger than the flame. I want to encourage my readers that when it looks the darkest, Jesus is still there reaching through the storm even when you can't see His hand.

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