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VIRTUAL
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PRESS GUIDE

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REVIEWS
*Author
Interviews*

THE WAR STORIES CHRONICLES
NICOLE D'SETTEM **One
woman's
Story**

*A Journey to
Salvation*

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VOYAGE

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VOYAGE REVIEWS

CHECK OUT OUR NEWEST REVIEWS
AND SPOTLIGHTS FOR
MEMOIRISTS!

SWEET MELISSA

AN ADDICT RECOUNTS HER
STRUGGLE WITH ADDICTION IN
THIS SIX BOOK, AMAZING SERIES!

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

SA AUTHOR OF THE MONTH
MICHELLE NOLD; SEE HER MEMOIR
ABOUT OVERCOMING TRAUMA!



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TOUR GUIDE

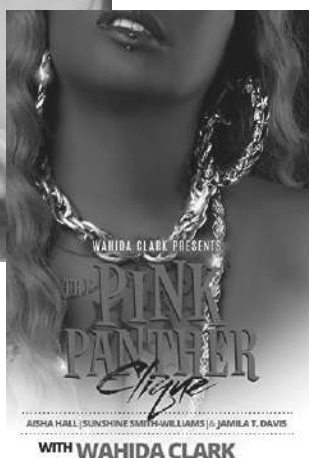
We list the important dates of the author & editor, Nicole D., as she continues down her path to enlightenment!

BOOK OF THE MONTH IN MEMOIRS

Books 1-6 of "Sweet Melissa" receives a full, 6-page editorial review!

BOOK SPOTLIGHT

See our spotlight on fictional-memoirists 'The Pink Panther Clique' who share their real-life experiences in urban literature, this month!



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IN REVIEW

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SWEET MELISSA

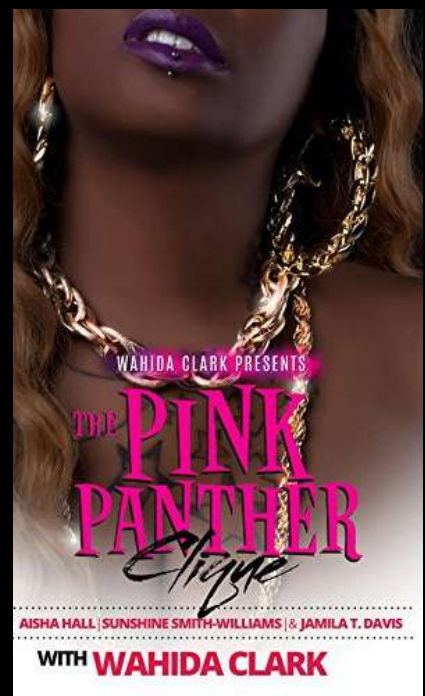
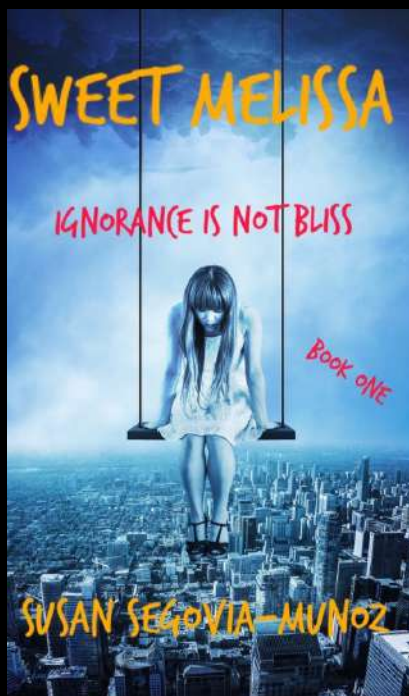
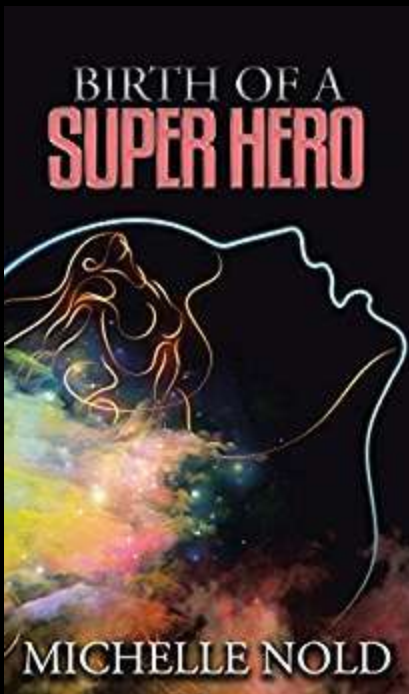
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MICHELLE NOLD

MEMOIRS

CHECK OUT THESE NEW + CLASSIC RELEASES

All of these new releases can be found on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)!





SWEET MELISSA

6-PART MEMOIR SERIES

I N R E V I E W

HEROIN ADDICTION; THE LIFESTYLE, THE RECOVERY!

"I'm not a celebrity or a model. I'm not rich or famous. I'm a hooker, a hustler, and a junkie. It's not like I chose this lifestyle, but something inside of me took over my entire being. I wanted to party. I wanted to have fun. I wanted to fit in and most of all I wanted someone to love me. Little did I know, that what I left behind would be the one thing that I longed for the most.

Homeless and struggling on the streets of Los Angeles, I submitted to a lifestyle of addiction and crime. Would I ever find my way out of this self-produced nightmare?

Was I destined to live my life in hell? Only time would tell..."



Ignorance is Not Bliss is the first, in a six part series, by Susan Segovia Munoz.

The first part sheds light on how Melissa plunged into addiction, initially. Melissa is only 18, and the book opens with her forging an unhealthy relationship romantically, with an older manipulative man. "John," as she cleverly titles him (whether or not it's his name, it's ironic--as her tie to him plummets her into the world of prostitution), has bad intentions from the start. Melissa comes from a large, and what she dubs; "loving and decent family," with good parents, and supportive siblings.

Still, slightly overweight at one time, she suffers from self-esteem issues, and in any large family, a middle sibling's identity is often at stake. It's clear she didn't understand who she was, as she gets entangled with John further. He quickly convinces bunk with him in his own parents' home, though he is in his forties. He camouflages the truth of his lack of success by driving an expensive car and attending all the hottest spots in the area, at the time. Good-looking and naturally charming, Sweet Shy Melissa doesn't foresee the future, and believes him when he pitches her a dream of managing her career--he claims he will provide to her. She is quickly submerged into the world of prostitution as John pimps her out shortly after the move, one weekend in Las Vegas. He morphs from charming, kind and loving, into a regular pimp; by working on her self-esteem, making her feel unworthy, throwing the money in her face which, sort of, seduces her too, and reminding her she is unlovable and should be grateful he is with her. He abuses her emotionally, and she continues to prostitute, funding their lavish lifestyle. She is ashamed to run back to her family for help, through pride, but can't bear a life with John, eventually. Sadly, she decides to run away and prostitute herself.

With John, she drank and drugged in moderation, hanging out at trendy hotspots and getting trashed. On her own, she starts a vicious addiction to cocaine. Whoring for a madame, she moves in with her temporarily, but when she is raped by the boyfriend, abruptly moves out and on her own with another roommate.

IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS

SWEET MELISSA

BOOK ONE

So the tale goes, we watch her dig deeper into the ugly world of addiction, sex, booze, coke... until she starts using heroin, while living with the female roommate, and experiences her first sexual encounter with another female (a friend of both women).

The rest of the book is designed to show her cycle through her addiction in its first stages, up until she decides to check into a methadone clinic. The very day she is approved, and takes her first dose of methadone, she is walking home and stopped by police. At the time (this is 20 or so years prior), police were allowed to detain and arrest anybody with track marks. Even without heroin or needles, Melissa is arrested and processed! The book is left on a cliff-hanger note, and we must await book two to find out what happens with Melissa.





WHAT'S SO SWEET ABOUT MELISSA?

SWEET MELISSA

BOOK TWO

Book 2; *What's so Sweet About Melissa* plunges deeper into the ugly world of chaos and disaster, she has developed for herself.

She has finally enrolled in a methadone program, but is arrested the very first day while walking home. When she is released, she ends up in the hands of one of her *Johns*, who desperately wants to help her. She moves in with him, and begins to love him in a tender way, while HE is *romantically* in love with her, and begs for her hand in marriage. Reluctantly, she agrees because it will help him obtain residency in the U.S., and she feels she owes him a favor for all the things he's done for her, and the truth that at that time, he was the only person who seemed concerned for her well-being.

As with all relationships, things begin to change. Her husband works throughout the day and then, spends most evenings outside drinking beer with his friends. He wants her to stay home, and inside constantly. She is trapped in a lonely world, as she attends her methadone clinic, works on helping him get his card, and staying in the house most days, otherwise. Eventually, she obtains benzodiazepines--which create a very mellow, but potent high when mixed with methadone. She starts buying the pills

every day, and spends her days nodding, and cooking him the same dish nightly; macaroni and cheese.

Melissa knows the relationship must end if she really wants to heal and move forward. Still, she has no where to turn. She is too proud to tell her family of her issues, so she stays away, living in her own little miserable bubble, until finally, the relationship expires - she runs away.

Melissa's hopes are lifted when she gets a good job with a doctor, as an assistant. It pays well, and she is provided *real* benefits. For a while, this fills the gap for her-of whatever it is missing. She is proud of herself, and becomes productive, and seemingly, happy. She is still getting high though as she is physically addicted, and nodding out brings attention to her at work, until she is forced to confess her addiction. Luckily, her boss likes her enough to allow her to check in to a lavish rehab. She enters a 30-day detox; and is fortunate that her insurance will cover the fees.

Unfortunately though, she is detoxing from methadone, which takes many months to fully heal from physically and mentally. Much to her horror, she leaves the rehab *still ill*, and eventually goes back to shooting heroin. Melissa is finally arrested, charged, and convicted, and has to do real time in jail, causing her to question; *what ever did they think was so sweet about Melissa?*

BEHIND BARS

SWEET MELISSA

BOOK THREE

Melissa has overdosed in prison, as the story goes. She is laying limp on the dirty prison floors, as we are taken even further into her dark, twisted world.

In *Behind Bars*, Melissa is serving a jail sentence. She has met the tortured love of her life Johnny; in detox, and they have developed an unhealthy tie to love and heroin collectively. His charm and big smile seduce her, and she enters into a co-dependent relationship; that dictates many of the rest of her years spent on drugs. They often reside in her grandparents guest home, but when Melissa is arrested it puts a predictable strain on their already fractured relationship.

This is by far one of the lowest points in her life, as she details her horrific time in jail, including a vicious withdrawal, violence and atrocities committed against her, and the sad truth--she is *still* able to obtain heroin and gets high, despite all she has already lost.

She finds covert tactics to smuggle heroin into the prison, and ends up in a relationship friend-wise with several other users and dealers. A woman she is enamoured by, because of her charisma and mystery--*Whispers*, forms a union with Melissa. They jointly find ways to smuggle dope, and get themselves high, and sling it throughout the prison. Several years pass, until Melissa starts working towards leaving the prison, instead of acclimating. Finally, she is released.

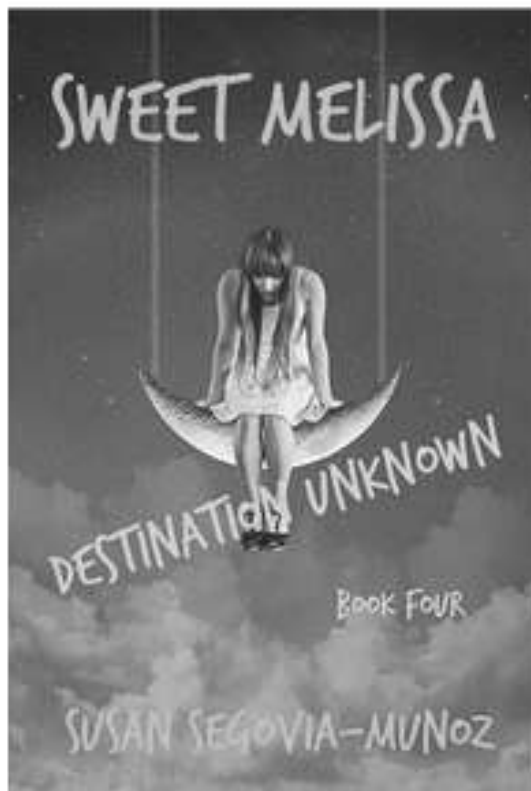
Upon release, she becomes privy to the fact that Johnny has a new girlfriend. As he pits both women against the other, to gain control of both, she starts a legitimate job at a bar, in hopes to correct her mistakes and start a new life.

Unfortunately, Melissa chooses Johnny, dope, and dealing, and starts down an even more dangerous path towards total and complete destruction!

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DESTINATION UNKNOWN

SWEET MELISSA

BOOK FOUR

Book four leads us down a newer path, as Melissa becomes a full-time drug dealer!

In this book, Melissa is dealing because Johnny decides to *'teach her'* how to sling dope. He conveniently leaves her with the dangerous leg work, while she supports their drug-induced comatose states--daily.

Johnny's second girlfriend is now out of his life, and he and Melissa move in together, and start a destructive addiction to dealing drugs; on top of abusing them.

She is very close with an older sickly man, whom she proclaims *more like her husband*. They spend a lot of time together, and he decides to let her take his checks, if she will care for him. Upon her agreement, they all move in together, and Melissa ends up with an endless supply of narcotics. The older man is supplied *anything* he wants from his doctor, due to his numerous illnesses. Melissa is his guardian of sorts, and

caretaker by law, and receives checks from the government, being his live-in nurse, in addition to the money she makes from his pills, and monthly check.

The older man reveals a closet full of pills he's been collecting for years. Melissa stops using dope, because she has an endless supply of methadone and other narcotics! She attends his visits with the doctor, and writes out a huge list of pills for the doctor to prescribe him. To her amazement *all* of them are approved. They now have thousands of dollars worth of drugs, and she becomes a full time hustler.

Still craving the high, she starts to abuse crystal meth. Her and Johnny end up in a huge fight when he allegedly, *kills somebody!* Despite his charges, he finds a way to weasel his way out of jail, and back into their home. He physically assaults her one night during Christmas Eve, so bad she is forced to leave him for good, as she goes to her own family; and they tell her *they will only talk to her if she leaves him...*



CAGED BUT FREE

SWEET MELISSA

BOOK FIVE

Melissa is now a full-time drug hustler, making thousands of dealers on narcotics, heroin, and crystal meth!

Melissa and her sickly, elderly companion have lived together for a long time, in this novel. As the newest part unfolds; they have been hustling tons of pills, and she is able to put a way a HEFTY amount of money, while maintaining her high, and getting many of her associates high, as well.

She becomes so wrapped up in meth, and being spun, she forgets to tend to the elderly, disabled man. One night she and her new, young boyfriend come home to a horror; the old man, who she hasn't been tending to, comes out of his room disassociated, permeating an unbearable odor. She forces him to turn around, revealing that he has been bathing with his back brace for days, and it has caused a mold that is so severe, he has a terrible infection. He is virtually, filled with maggots chewing off his skin!

She takes him to the ER, who determine a state aid needs to interject, all of them declaring this neglect. He is put into a senior home, without permission to speak with her. Melissa recognizes she was in the wrong, and finds a way to track him so they can visit. When she does, he forgives her and they leave one another on a tender, loving note.

Melissa's life seems to be on a pretty steady plateau. The hustling has afforded her to take out a mortgage on a lovely little home, and she has an impressive knot of money and jewelry saved up in lock boxes, from slinging for years. She still has mountains of pills that they'd been hoarding, and continues to smoke meth, and sling dope.

Upon moving into her new home, Melissa is forced to 'return a favor' to a gang member, who demands she smuggle dope into his prison. but to Melissa's dismay, she is arrested on the spot, with thousands of dollars worth of narcotics.

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The cliffhanger leaves us wondering--what will become of Melissa now?

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SHINE ON YOU CRAZY JUNKIE

SWEET MELISSA

BOOK SIX

Book six takes us down a shocking road, as Melissa is imprisoned for hustling thousands of dollars worth of narcotics, and is arrested for smuggling drugs!

This book is vastly different from books 1-5. In book 6 she is in jail but, she is NOT using. She refuses to abuse drugs; as she is serving a 7 year sentence and doesn't want *anything* to effect that. She is very strong-willed at this particular, critical juncture.

She humorously takes on the persona of a man, due to her boyish new cut, and her face without make-up, which resembles a *pretty dude*, as she describes it. Everyone has a crush on her, which is the only thing that keeps her afloat. They provide her with cigarettes and other things, and is lucky enough, to pull this off for a very long time.

Still, her first few years are hell. A reckless, bossy, abrasive girl takes over their unit and causes them all set backs, due to drinking and other activities that are forbidden. This reprobate and her friends, also violently assault Melissa at one point, accusing her of being a "snitch."

Melissa's biggest issue, though, is a cyst on her ovaries, that may or may not be cancerous. They refuse to tell her inform of the medical details they have obtained from exams. Nurses continue to tell her she is fine, but can't seem to stop bleeding. She begs for help *every day*, for a year. This literally, had me screaming. They declare her a *liar*, and ignore the symptoms. Melissa becomes so ill from the neglect, that eventually, she can't move, let alone work or function. They transfer her to the infirmary, but it's too late. They, incredibly callously deliver her the terrible and horrific news; that she is *going to die*. A tender doctor of the lot, feels very guilty apparently, and tells her there is *one possible way to live*. She accepts the surgery he details, and *by some stroke of a higher force*, lives. At this point, grateful for her life, Melissa begins to take her sentence seriously. As a reader, I could not fathom the abuse and neglect. It was the most gripping part of the book, and perhaps, series.

Melissa serves many years following, and becomes creative and productive working in the art department of the jail, and finally, she is released.

All of these books are compelling, and this is a highly recommended series for addicts, those in recovery, and family of those who wish to understand the devastating disease better. Sweet Melissa Books 1-6 receives OUR recommendation. Great read(s).

**GET THE SWEET MELISSA SERIES
ON AMAZON.COM TODAY!**



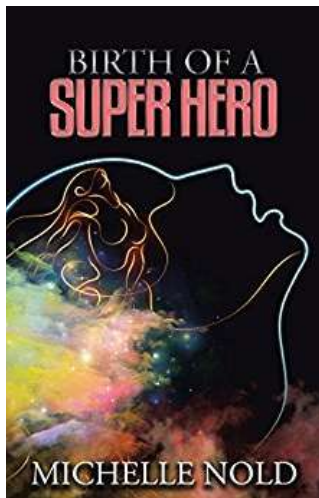
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Get digital solutions through our creative firm, today!

“ DECEPTION COMES IN MANY FORMS, BUT NOT ALL DECEPTION IS BORN OUT OF MALICE. ”



**Author
Michelle
Nold
is our
author
of the
month
for 2018!**

Deception comes in many forms, but not all deception is born out of malice.

In my life, it came in the form of seemingly harmless tales told to me when I was young and impressionable. In my later years, deception reared its seductive head each time I tried to fulfill a goal or satisfy a personal ambition. I became a storyteller. I told myself stories like It isn't meant to be. I bought into the philosophy of You can't do that until I hit an emotional rock bottom and had an epiphany. Now I tell myself a different story. My life has taught me that I have the power to craft my life how I want, to fulfill my hopes and dreams once I realized the key. How you think affects you emotionally, psychologically, and physically. Your words show the world who you are. They determine the relationships you have and express how you feel. Words

define the world around you and your perception of it. King Solomon of Old Testament fame wrote often about the power of words. He said, Death and life are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21, NASB). Words are unimaginably powerful. If you want to climb the Everest of personal excellence and create success in life, put this power into play. Words have impact. How do your words impact those around you? Do you treat yourself and others with respect, gratitude, and acceptance? Do you lift up others with a positive attitude or tear them down with negative words? You may not be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound or bend steel bars with your bare hands or fly faster than a speeding bullet, but you have power like no other being in this world. You are a superhero!

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VOY AGE