

New on the romance shelf, Atacama fire and Patagonian ice

The release of *Between Fire & Ice* (ISBN 978-1-61235-455-2) by Mélange Books in August, brings to romance shelves the second novel by South African author, Charmaine Pauls. Her debut novel, *Between Yesterday & Tomorrow*, was published a year earlier.

Between Fire & Ice is a sensual romance with a fantasy twist. Ciro Augusto Dominguez is heir to his parents' Chilean Atacama copper mine enterprise, but to ensure the survival of his empire, he has to produce an heir. In itself a daunting task, as fertility is being wiped from earth, Cy is not left short of a candidate. His scientist mother, Francisca, had artificially inseminated, adopted and raised his future wife since Cy was only ten years of age. Now thirty, Cy is to marry the fertile woman, who had been hidden in an icy Patagonian cloister, with one purpose only – to conceive a child. Whilst Elena, regarded as no more than the successful result of a cold-hearted experiment, does not question her life purpose, she is thrown into a maelstrom of secrets, deceit, abductions and threats as she is brought to Cy's Atacama Desert estate for their wedding. Coming to terms with the emotions brought on by their unwanted marriage, both Cy and Elena are faced not with their prophesized destiny, but with a whole new fate. Can Elena take Cy's freedom to save herself; and can Cy deny her true freedom, when sacrificing exactly that, is the only thing that can save him?

Between Fire & Ice is a story of love, desire and unrivalled passion.

“I enjoy putting my personal experiences of geographical places to work in my stories,” says Pauls. “Whereas my debut novel is set in France, where I once lived, this one was inspired by the magnificence of the volatile Chilean nature.” The novel plays off between various parts of the South American country. “I used places that held a special meaning to me as the backdrop for the book, from the magical Elqui Valley claimed to oyster the earth’s magnetic center; mysterious Easter Island framed by its moai; the majestic, snow-capped Andes mountains; haloed volcanoes; the all-consuming heat of the Atacama Desert; to the frozen, eerie glaciers of Patagonia.” Pauls is currently working on her next novel, as well as on a collection of essays.

Between Fire & Ice is available for sale in paperback and eBook format from Mélange Books (www.melange-books.com).

Pauls followed a career path in the fields of her communications degree, including public relations, advertising and brand marketing. The author resides in Santiago, Chile with her husband and children.

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