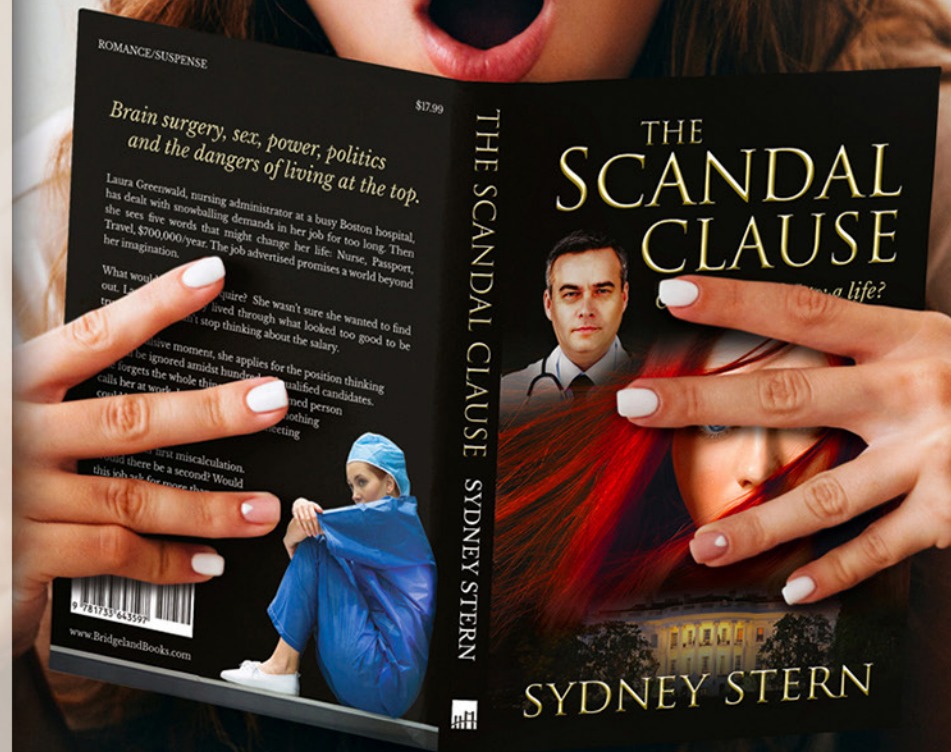


**SYDNEY
STERN**

THE SCANDAL CLAUSE

Can \$700,000 buy a life?

MEDIA KIT



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**For further information, a PDF, or to request an interview, please contact
Bridgeland Books at SydneySternBooks@gmail.com or Contact Us at
SydneySternBooks.com.**

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ROMANCE/SUSPENSE

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*Brain surgery, sex, power, politics
and the dangers of living at the top.*

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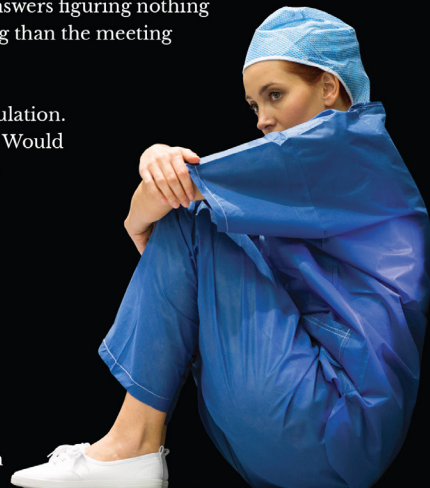
What would such a job require? She wasn't sure she wanted to find out. Laura had already lived through what looked too good to be true. But she couldn't stop thinking about the salary.

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THE SCANDAL CLAUSE SYDNEY STERN



THE SCANDAL CLAUSE

Can \$700,000 buy a life?



SYDNEY STERN



Author Bio

BIO BOX:

With a 35-year background in psychology, family therapy, special education, and sexual abuse treatment, Sydney Stern has turned her professional writing skills and ex-periences to fiction.

BIOGRAPHY

Sydney Stern, psychologist and educator for over 35 years, has doctoral level expertise in family and multicultural therapies, assessment, sexual abuse treatment, and special education. Working in Spanish and English, in homes, clinics, schools, and col-leges, she peels away the layers of what creates, or destroys, human relationships. Known for her analysis and treatment of behavioral and psychological difficulties, Sydney weaves professional training and life experiences into a story full of unprecedented possibilities.

What does she say about writing this particular story?

“I wrote *The Scandal Clause* as a platform to talk about tricky issues—power, sex, work, and money.

“Have you ever noticed the list of sex scandals by prominent men keeps growing? Bill Clinton, Harvey Weinstein, Jeffrey Epstein, the Catholic priests (not the nuns), and hundreds more. Sex scandals are more alive today than 20 years ago.

“If such prominent men continue destroying their lives and the lives of others, even after years of watching colleagues do the same thing, wouldn’t you want to know why—and how to stop it?

“I sure did—and still do.

“Believe me—you’ll have something to discuss when you finish this story.”



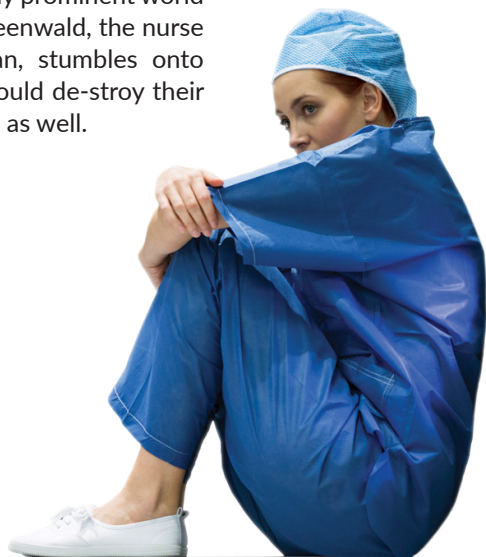
Book Synopses

LOGLINE:

A contract designed to prevent scandal.
A doctor trying to avoid it.
A \$700,000 job as the bait.

SHORT (47 words):

John Russell, globally prominent neurosurgeon, designs a unique contract to avoid the devastating sexual scandals bringing down so many prominent world leaders. But Laura Greenwald, the nurse implementing his plan, stumbles onto the one flaw which could de-destroy their careers and their lives as well.



BOOK SYNOPSIS (280 words):

Laura Greenwald, forced by rape to relocate from her first job as a nurse in New York City, is again browsing for job offers.

A \$700,000-a-year nursing job shows up online.

For weeks in a row.

She's sure as shit it's a hoax.

Even so, she'd be a fool not to apply.

The application process is crazy, secretive, and demanding.

But in the end, she's rewarded with an outrageous interview lasting three days.

In the middle of the three days, Dr. John Russell, world renowned neurosurgeon, offers her the coveted \$700,000 position as his executive nurse.

With one big contingency.

She must protect him from any and all sex scandals.

"I will not lose my freedom and ability to heal people because I was thinking with my dick."

How could she possibly do that?

By signing a contract—to become his only sexual partner.

What? Is that even legal?

But Laura, unable to resist the lure of 'life at the top' and tired to death of her current life, pushes aside her fears. She has no inkling the job would eventually consume every hour of her life, thrust her into high stakes medicine, political intrigue, and crises of sexual and professional integrity.

Her conflicts develop against exotic backgrounds—Saudi Arabia, Buckingham Palace, Costa Rica, Washington, DC, the hallways of the White House.

She experiences the enormous pressures of dangerous medical work, and how to find relief through intense sexual pleasure.

And how this same pleasure holds the seeds of the devastation John Russell is so desperate to avoid.

In the end, Laura must decide if she can her safeguard her own future from a profound threat to life as she knows it.

Excerpts

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EXCERPT: CHAPTER 1

The computer screen lit.

Damn. That ad again.

\$700,000.

Black bordered numbers bold and real.

Not one comma had been shifted, not one number removed.

Shit.

She read it again.

\$700,000/year.

Nurse with Master's Degree. Surgical skills. Prominent neurosurgeon practice.

Passport. Ability to travel at a moment's notice and work under pressure.

Psychological testing required at interview.

Two-year commitment. \$50,000 bonus at completion.

Cover letter, resume, recommendations. Apply to address below.

The "below" was a New York City P.O. Box. The \$700,000 too enormous to ignore.

A typo. She was positive.

Except they would have fixed that mistake.

The "below" was a New York City P.O. Box. The \$700,000 too enormous to ignore.

Laura stretched out on the couch. These past three years, work at the hospital had exploded into spirals of too many pills, too few nurses, too much documentation, and too many days filled with grief.

EXCERPT: CHAPTER 36

The pocket door slid open. Carlyle Janett, a senator from Wyoming and protege of the Vice President, stood in front of her. She'd been talking to him right before the accident. Several dresses hung draped over his arm.

"What are you...?"

"I brought these down for Anika. Thought it would save her some time." Without pause, Janett dropped them on the toilet seat, pulled the towel loose from her hair, the cord loose from her robe and lifted her face towards his lips.

"What...?"

His left arm circled her back, pelvis arching forward, hard lips covered her mouth. She struggled but he was rock hard with weight-trained muscle, phallus stiff and bulging against her thigh.

Panic deluged her. "No, Stop it. Get off of me!"

Her frantic body wiggled, tensed, struggled. Pictures of the first rape flooded her and she collapsed back in time—screaming, ineffectual. Janett's right arm clamped her shoulder in place while his mouth and tongue closed on her nostrils, seeking a way in and up. She gagged.

For an instant he stopped and rasped words into her ear.

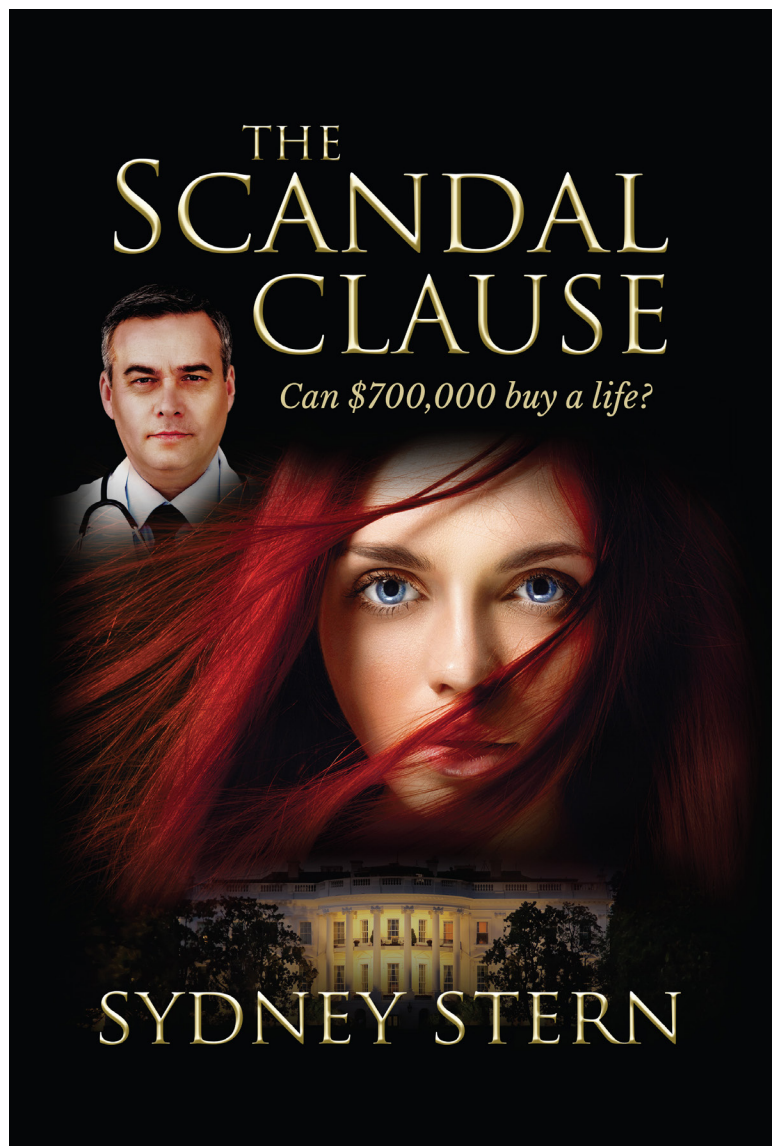
"You wanted this. I could see it. I could feel it."

His words shoved Laura through an inner explosion to a vortex of white-hot rage. Her panic stopped. Her vision sharpened and her mind turned a razor edge to the problem at hand. Carlyle Janett's ridiculous, arrogant, self-serving excuse for a rape got her so pissed to shit that a raging fire exploded in every cell of her body.

She dropped like a rock, throwing him off balance, his two arms holding her dead weight between his legs. He bent for a better grip. Laura stood and slammed her bare knee into his turgid cock. His testicles, held in perfect target shot by jockey shorts, were rammed by her powerful knee stroke.

The scream was piercing. He doubled over. She broke his nose with a well-placed elbow. He collapsed onto the tiled floor, bright red blood dripping onto his blue Van Heusen shirt. She stepped over him, picked up the dresses, grabbed comb and brush and closed the door behind her.

Laura saw a vague outline of herself reflected in the sliding doors to the patio. Wild, wet hair, open robe, two garments clutched in one hand. She pulled the wrap closed, brushed her hair, then stepped panty-less into a teal blue dress with belted waist.



Press Releases

VERSION 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Are you kidding—a contract that could end the
'Me Too' Movement?

The dangers of volatile sexuality in high stakes workplaces explodes into action in Sydney Stern's soon new novel, *The Scandal Clause*.

John Russell, international neurosurgeon, determines to keep himself free from the devastating sexual scandals that bring world leaders and colleagues to their knees. Living at the cutting edge of what's acceptable, he designs a unique contract to keep himself out of trouble. This tightly kept secret works for him and his global practice. What is it? Could it possibly start a revolution in how to deal with the complications of sex in the work-place?

Begin with a \$700,000 nursing job and Laura, nurse administrator, who applies for it. At 30, she has had her fill of what looks too good to be true. But unable to resist such an enormous salary, she answers the hard-to-forget advertisement.

This fast-paced novel brings Laura to crucial decisions at every step—decisions that challenge her values, integrity, and very sense of self. *The Scandal Clause* follows Laura through issues of sex, power, money, secret contracts, and the upheavals of life changing decisions.

The author, Sydney Stern, has been a psychologist, lecturer, supervisor, educator and consultant for over 35 years. Family systems and multicultural therapies, sexual abuse treatment, and psychological assessment are her specialties. She lived in different cultures, spoke different languages, and worked with people ages 5 to 85. Her experiences live on in the stories she tells.

cont'd »

Press Releases

VERSION 2 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Which is worse?
Quit your \$700,000-a-year-job—or
work next to the guy who insisted you get the abortion?

The Scandal Clause, a novel by author/speaker Sydney Stern, is a rip-roaring chase through the secret byways of sexuality in the highest of places. Sex always has its consequences—and Sydney leads us on a modern-day journey through its twists and turns from the complex world of neurosurgical medicine to the far reaches of Saudi Arabia.

Begin with a \$700,000 ad for a surgical nurse and Laura, the woman from Boston, who applies for job. She's gotten burned out by two things—the unrelenting demands at work and sexual advances from the men around her (Oh, yes, and not getting a raise). When she interviews for the advertised position, she realizes there are far more aspects to the possible new job than she ever imagined—including handing over management of her birth control to the people she'll work for and with whom she'll have sex.

The Scandal Clause explores cutting-edge issues on sexuality and scandal-risky behaviors in the workplace, describes old pitfalls, suggests bold new ideas, and highlights the emotional decisions required to survive each day 'at the top.' Readers will find themselves reviewing their own values while judging the integrity and behaviors of people growing to life in the novel.

The author, Sydney Stern, has been a psychologist, lecturer, supervisor, educator, and consultant for over 35 years. Family systems and multicultural therapies, sexual abuse treatment, and psychological assessment are her specialties. She has lived in different cultures, spoken different languages, and worked with people ages 5 to 85. Her professional writing skills and experiences live on in the stories she tells.

For more media releases please visit SydneySternBooks.com.

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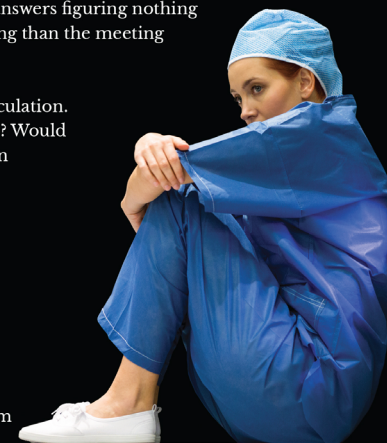
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What Readers Think

James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief, Midwest Book Review

Deftly laced throughout with elements of romance, suspense, and the unexpected, "The Scandal Clause: Can \$700,000 Buy a Life?" showcases author Sydney Stern's genuine flair for originality and the kind of entertaining narrative storytelling style that will keep the reader's rapt and compulsive page turning attention from beginning to end. I look forward to your next title

Rik Feeney, Author/Speaker: *Editing Basics for Authors and Self-Publishers*

Sydney Stern's new book *The Scandal Clause* is an exciting and sometimes blood boiling account of the issues women face in business dealing with men of power. I can't wait until the movie version comes out!

J. Minear, Retired Nurse

Some books come with sticky covers; you can't put them down! This first offering from author, Stern makes the reader feel the net tighten systematically on the nurse at the center of this whirlwind tale. So much contemporary angst as well as just the right amount of glamour, so easy to identify with her dilemma. Well-developed cast of characters as well as a heaping serving of masculine arrogance. Highly recommended.

P. Rubenstein, Former Editor

A Compelling Read. Well-written, fast-moving book that explores the timely subject of sex in the workplace from a very original perspective. The plot is imaginative and the characters believable and interesting. *The Scandal Clause* is thought-provoking while it entertains—a rare combination. Definitely a good read! And it's perfect for a book club because so many issues come up.

S. S-O'Connor BSN, RN

This is a great book! It drew me in from the beginning and kept me thinking about the characters even when I wasn't reading. As a nurse, I found that not only did the author portray the main character accurately in her profession, but as a woman in my 30's the content felt very relevant to experiences I've had professionally and personally. The ending was great and kind of unexpected. I can't wait to find out what happens in the sequel.

M. Benoit, Counselor/Life Coach

Right from the submit button, I couldn't take a breath. The action kept me riveted to the page. All along the way I kept wondering how I'd react if this were my life. Before I could think about it, I was off to the next action-packed adventure!

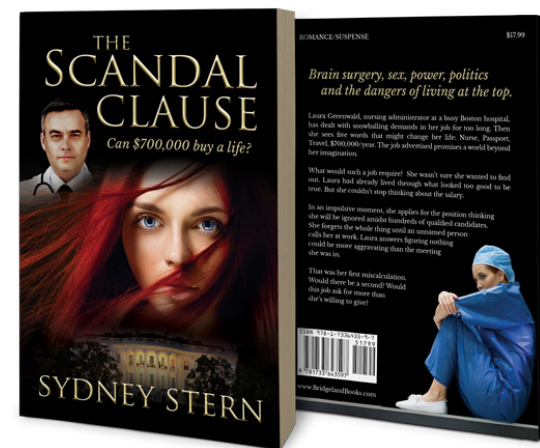
B. E. Turner Delisle, Physical Therapist/Minister

I Loved this book!! What an enjoyable and engaging read. Not only was it entertaining but the topics that formed the story line were well researched giving me an inside peek into the unique challenges of providing medical services to high powered, influential people around the world, including how politics affects the decisions made. The author used such enjoyably descriptive language that I often felt I was on location or right in the room with the characters. The characters were so believable and accessible that I felt I knew them. And the sexual tension and exploits—varied, abundant, relatable and stimulating! Each chapter ended cleverly, always leaving me with the desire to know what the next moves were going to be, making it hard to put the book down. And the ending.... I wanted more!!! I can't wait for a sequel so I can find out what happens next!!!

A. Headlam, Writer, Educator

A job that fills the fantasy is offered and accepted, but it comes with a huge price to pay. In this work of fiction by Stern, she piques our interest with realistic characters and a plot so dramatic that the reader won't want to put the book down. Who wouldn't want to explore the possibility of an adventurous relationship with power and prestige? The reader is pulled chapter by chapter through events that build into a finish both surprising and unpredictable. Anyone who has ever dreamed of what life could be like, if they were given opportunity and money, will find this story compelling.

For more reviews
please visit
SydneySternBooks.com.



FAQ

1. What made you think of writing a book like this?

Haven't you noticed how prominent men keep getting involved in awful sex scandals? Regardless of punishments and ruination, the list keeps growing. Why? How do they make those decisions and what lets them continue? I wrote *The Scandal* to talk about these tricky issues—sex, power, work, and money. I wanted to find answers. Wouldn't you?

Tell me more about that:

My questions began in the 1970's—what I call 'The Wild Decade.' Hugely expanded sexual freedom, women's rights exploding onto the scene, easy access to the Pill, *Roe vs Wade*, AIDS nowhere on the horizon, Title IX passed (equal access to education/sports), and women flooding into work force as never before. All of this started me questioning how women were dealt with in and out of the workplace.

"A peeping Tom?" the police asked me. "What were you doing to make him watch?"

"A radio announcer's position?" I was told when I applied. "We don't hire women" "You're not married?" the hospital nurse asked me. "We can't prescribe birth control pills to single women."

"He got the supervisor's job," the administrator explained to me, "because he has a family to support."

By the 1990's, when I got the initial idea for this book, people had become much more sophisticated in responses to women. Even so, from the 1990's onward, the media started splashing sex scandal headlines everywhere. And this behavior is even more prevalent than it was 30 years ago.

Bill Clinton, Prince Charles and Camilla, Harvey Weinstein, Jeffrey Epstein, Bill Cosby, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and hundreds more. Unbelievable.

What made these men decide to devastate their lives with sex scandals when they had so much to lose? How did they ignore the examples of so many ruined in the same way before them? And this behavior even more alive than it was 20 years ago.



2. Do sexual contracts exist in real life?

Yes, sexual contracts between non-marital partners do exist. Whether these contracts have legal binding power in court is debatable. And don't forget marriage. The marriage contract includes a very strong sexual component and holds immense legal power.

Tell me more about that:

We are all familiar with marriage contracts. The contract is a sexuality regulator, legalizing the sexual rights of the partners and providing recognized social structures for how people/families relate under the law. Sex, pregnancy, childbirth, adultery, etc.

Templates for sex contracts are available on the internet. They are designed for legally consenting adults but may not be enforceable. An unenforceable contract may be 'valid,' but the court will not make the parties in the contract comply.

No contract can sign away a person's civil rights or allow illegal activity. Whoever signs such a contract has the right to withdraw permission at any moment—at which point the act becomes one of rape and sexual battery.

For dating situations, having a signed pre-sex agreement suggests consent was asked and given—unless duress is determined. Drawing up a sex contract can clarify health related issues, birth control, types of sex activity desired, and so on, regardless of 'legality.'

cont'd ➤

FAQ

3. Isn't your book like *50 Shades of Grey*?

When I wrote *The Scandal Clause*, I hadn't read *50 Shades of Grey* or seen the movie. The ideas in my novel are entirely my own, not prompted or taken from any of those written by author E.L.James.

Tell me more about that:

Once my novel was finished, my book coach suggested I read the *50 Shades* trilogy in order to answer these kinds of questions. I did not watch the movie.

Although I do not think the novels are alike, certain details have similar elements—having a contract, birth control discussions, sex scenes (although no sex scenes in my book involve sadomasochism, bondage, sex toys, etc.), money, powerful men.

In *50 Shades*, the contract is on sexuality. In *The Scandal Clause*, Dr. Russell's contract requires much more. Laura's professional skills are key to her position—medical training, nursing licenses, travel, passports, the work schedule. Only after Laura passes all these requirements is the sexual aspect of the contract introduced.

From the outset, Dr. Russell's focus is on work above all else. He runs a demanding, global neurosurgical practice and needs Laura to do this. Her skills are critical to the balance between life and death for his patients. Dr. Russell requires sex as a replenishing tool—with it he can maintain intense, 14-hour work days for months.

Also, unlike *50 Shades*, Laura is not in love with John Russell, nor he with her. They may respect each other's skills but he assumes she will have other male friend/lovers and a specific limit to their time together. She accepts the sexual nature of the job with effort, but neither wants nor desires an ongoing love relationship.

In contrast, the story of Anastasia Steele and Christian Grey is a highly erotic, titillating romance of unrelenting attraction. He's incredibly rich; they overcome looming challenges, and have hot, steamy, orgasmic sex that makes us all wish we had that type of relationship—without the pain. He overcomes his issues; they fall in love and marry. This is definitely not the same plot as *The Scandal Clause*.

For 20 more FAQs please visit SydneySternBooks.com.



For further information, a PDF, or to request an interview, please contact Bridgeland Books at SydneySternBooks@gmail.com or Contact Us at SydneySternBooks.com.