

*Love
Amongst
the
Fear*

Kim Pavy



HEMBURY
— BOOKS —

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kim Pavy has worked across medical, surgical, midwifery, neonatal intensive care and now geriatric nursing. Her writing reflects the care she displays and the human strength she has witnessed as a nurse. She is particularly interested in creating strong, independent female characters who are complex and capable of leading a fulfilling, multi-faceted life.

Since semi-retiring from nursing, Kim has delved into writing as a way to feed her vivid imagination. Starting out with short stories and poems, Kim is now publishing her first novel, *Love Amongst the Fear*. A romance thriller partially inspired by personal experience, her book follows a young woman as she welcomes love into her life only to find herself entangled with a stalker.

Despite being a recent convert to writing, Kim has been longlisted in the 2025 Newcastle Short Story Competition and has a short story coming out in the EM Fletcher Writing Competition Anthology. She regularly enters short story and poetry competitions and is currently planning her second novel.

As well as writing, Kim also loves Tai Chi and artmaking. She hopes to become a Tai Chi instructor so that she too can foster a welcoming, warm sense of community.

Kim lives on the North coast of NSW with her loveable old dog Ruby.

CHAPTER 1



Belinda's lower legs were starting to cramp in the small, confined space of the built-in wardrobe she found herself in. Her body shook with fear as a cold sweat engulfed her. With tears in her eyes, she knew it was only a matter of time before he found her. Her mouth dry, her eyes wide open, her will to survive kicked in. Belinda's full concentration was firmly aimed at the wardrobe door, her sense of hearing locked onto every step he took.

While moving her toes to relieve her discomfort, she thought, *how could I have been so stupid?* Belinda realised her idea to stalk her stalker was about to backfire. She'd followed him home and now had his address – she even knew where the house key was hidden. She could have called the police. She *should* have called the police. But they'd missed catching him so many times. She was sure he was the one who'd been stalking her for the past three weeks. She'd finally found him.

His stalking had almost driven Belinda out of her mind with worry. Her anger at him, which had created this false sense of bravery, now melted away and turned to fear. She hadn't thought her plan through at all. In just a moment, she would be face to face with him.

Her body was pulsing in a state of high anxiety. She could hear her heart pounding out of her chest and covered her mouth with her hands so as not to scream – he was now in the same room as her. With the realisation she'd have to defend herself, she lowered her hands in preparation to fight for her life.

Her new love was the one who'd taught her self-defence. They'd had many training sessions in the garage with a boxing bag, which often ended abruptly as their passion took over as they enjoyed each other's bodies. Belinda had never known such a passionate love. She'd finally found her soul mate.

The stalker was now walking towards the wardrobe, naked. His heart was racing in anticipation, crying out her name, 'Belinda, Belinda.' In his own twisted, monstrous way, he thought he loved her. He could hardly wait to show her what she meant to him.

Belinda looked intently ahead. She knew she had nowhere to run, nowhere to hide. He would find her. With a deep breath she stood her ground, willing her legs to keep her standing up. Her eyes opened even wider, her fists clenched tighter, ready to punch out, desperately hoping she was brave enough to defend herself. *Fight, Belinda. Stay alive*, she said to herself, gathering her courage from deep inside her soul.

Her new love couldn't save her now. As Belinda waited for the inevitable showdown with this sadistic monster, the last few weeks of her life with her new love flashed before her – their first passionate kiss, their first night of passion, his commitment to save her from

her stalker and their plans to marry and start a family were about to become distant memories.

Belinda jolted herself back to reality. She had no intentions of leaving her new love behind – she couldn't bear to hurt him with her untimely death and couldn't imagine life without him. She wanted to live for him – for their future together. Belinda desperately wanted that future. She wanted to live.

As the stalker reached for the doorknob of the wardrobe, it was time for Belinda to fight for her life.