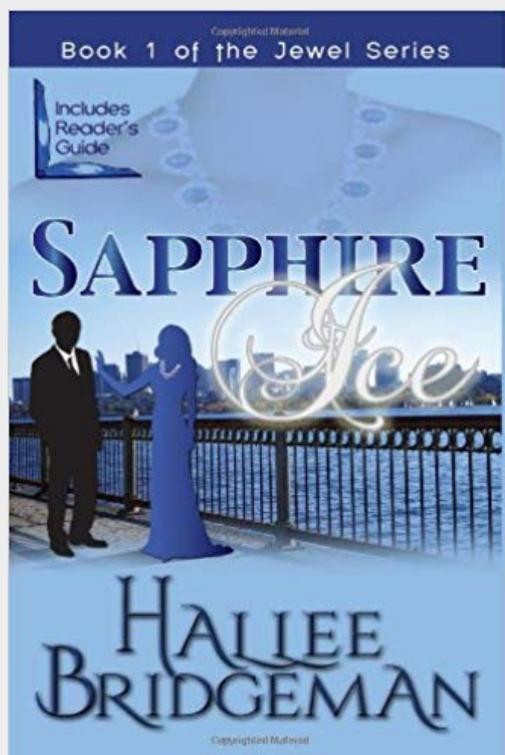


Sapphire Ice: The Jewel Series (Volume 1) by Debi Warford, Hallee Bridgeman



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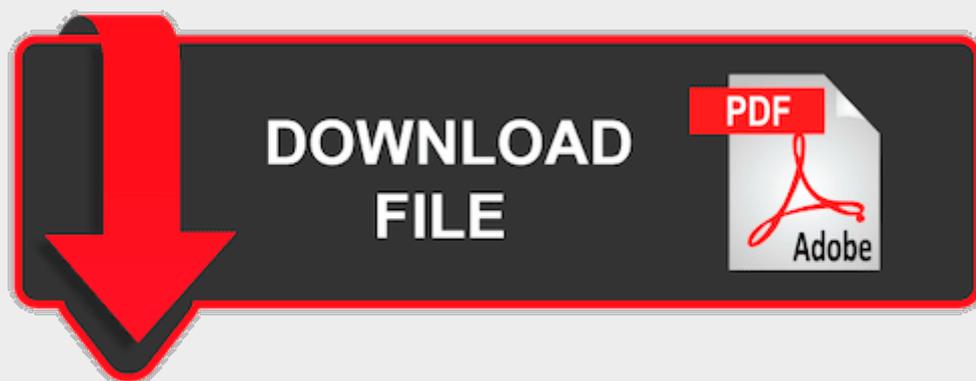
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The men in Robin's life have never been anything but pushers and users. Tony's intrusion into her exhausted world both infuriates and intrigues her. Does Tony have a chance to break through the wall of ice Robin built around her heart? Antonio "Tony" Viscolli had grown up on the streets, homeless. At seventeen, he entered a downtown church with the intent of casing it, but found himself on his knees at the altar. Lovingly fostered by the youth minister, Tony learned about God. Striking out on his own, he let God lead him to eventually become a very successful businessman. In a fallen world, Tony was a gem. When he bought the restaurant where Robin bartended, she immediately resented his intrusion into her well ordered, but exhausting, life. She suspected his special attention and constant kindness came with expectations of something from her in return, something she wasn't willing to give. Tony knew God had led him to Robin. Would she ever allow herself to trust him? Could she ever allow herself to trust God? Or would the winter of their tragic youths rise from the shadows of the past and freeze any chance at happiness?



Reviews of the **Sapphire Ice: The Jewel Series (Volume 1)** by Debi Warford, Hallee Bridgeman

1. Dead Samurai

I've read this series twice before. I recently came across references to Viscolli while reading another Hallee Bridgeman series and felt like going back and revisiting old friends. I was surprised to see that I must have last read it before I started writing reviews when I finish reading a book. So, now that this one is fresh in my mind here goes my 337th review.

I assume you have read the general description of the storyline and I'll try not to rehash what you already know. You'll find strongly written characters that drive the story. Some have come from harsh backgrounds and have overcome the poverty and cruelty of their beginning. Others are still struggling. The story is so much more than rich man falls in love with poor woman. There are spiritual lessons throughout. At first it may look as if the message is "trust God and He will make you rich and your life trouble free". Keep reading and look deeper and you will see that much is required in God's eyes of those he has entrusted with wealth. You will also see that God is no respecter of persons. Those who love and serve Him live in the joy and peace of a relationship in Him no matter their status in the world. The Christian thread is strong with heartfelt prayer, life decisions, struggles and consequences, scripture, repentance, and a salvation message. It is well done and flows naturally within the story. The romance "...sigh" factor is high with desire restrained within integrity and respect. There are very few editing errors and no obvious logistical fallacies. The story is complete, without unfinished side stories, hooks or cliffhangers. It has stuck with me for years to be reread like visiting old friends. I have over two thousand books in my library. That's enough to read a different book every day for over five and a half years. Yet, this is the third time I'm reading this series. I'm not going to tell you that this is the best of the best. I'm just saying there is something special here that is well worth my time and yours. I believe a book should earn its stars. This one has. I give it four and a half stars only because of the editing errors.

2. Zolorn

An avid reader, it is not uncommon for me to read at least 20 books in a month. Very rarely am I prompted by one to leave a review, however. But this time I am. I want to welcome new author Hallee Bridgeman to my collection of books and say with total honesty that I cannot wait to read the next two books in the series.

Often a romance story is sweet and leaves you feeling sentimental or at the very least not on the edge of your seat. Reading romance is a simple pastime, meant to be enjoyable and yet not too taxing. It's not usually hard to put a bookmark in and go back to life.

Not so this time. This book goes well beyond that. Yes, I enjoyed relaxing while reading "Sapphire Ice." But I have to admit, I read it through in a day. I found myself picking it up every time I had 5 minutes to spare and staying up well past my normal bed time hour to complete it. Why? Not to see who is falling in love with whom, but to find out more about the richly developed characters. The author uncovers human longing, doesn't gloss over human response to create an unbelievable hero, and openly covers issues few romance authors would dare to bring into a plot. In truth, that is a good thing; very few authors have the gift to bring real life into a book and weave its elements into a tale that captivates both the mind and the heart. I like reading a book with people I can relate to, situations that I can understand. I also like reading a book and leaving it feeling as though I've discovered more about myself.

Bridgeman's gift with words pulls you into the story and into the lives of those she is describing. The prologue to the book is gripping and gritty and you find yourself needing to see how those three precious girls turn out. The sneak peek at book two has me waiting (impatiently) for its release.

3. Felolv

I got this book a few months ago and I just couldn't engage with it the first time I tried to read it. Whether it was the state of my life then vs now or as simple as timing, I found it difficult to put it down this time. The characters are flawed but very like-able, the Christian message is strong but didn't feel "preachy", and the story felt honest. So many romances have the characters lying to each other or hiding things to protect the other person or themselves. I love that Robin leaned on Tony when she was in a crisis situation instead of trying to shut him out and handle it on

her own. I also love the fact that Tony felt temptation in this book and that the author acknowledged it and addressed the steps Tony literally had to take to resist it. One huge sign of the Christian maturity displayed in this book is the fact that Tony realized and accepted that he may have to walk away from Robin because she isn't a believer. I respect that this author didn't sacrifice Christian teaching and sincerity for romance. She kept the romance and some passion, but interwove it with Biblical teachings. Very well done!

4. Swift Summer

Sapphire Ice was a good read. I initially purchased it because it was free. However, I was surprised that I enjoyed it so much. The writer spun a great fairy tale with a few turns and twists. I would love to read about the rest of the family. This is a clean read with no sexual innuendos or curse words.

5. Thozius

This book will wrench your heart especially if you have female loved ones you'd do anything to protect. It will reveal fierce protectiveness and a hard line personally in this heroine's life due to a childhood of unspeakable injustices. It's a story of a 27 year old woman who has literally given her life for that of caring for her two younger sisters. In order to do so she has worked two jobs for seven years. She thinks she will only have to keep up this breakneck pace two more years until the youngest sister graduates college. She will not even consider having anything to do with a man. Then everything gets upset with the advent of a certain man who buys one of the business's she works for and turns her life upside down! This is a Christian story with redemptive qualities that I would give 5 stars but it needs quite a bit of editing. It is still a most enjoyable read.

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