



August 15-29, 2019

Dear Reader,

I am beyond thrilled to have my debut novel, *Steeped in Love*, selected for Together We Read! I've always had a profound love of reading. In fact, I still have a bookmark that was given to me by my third grade teacher, signed: 'To Julie – may your love of reading forever flourish.'

As I matured, so too did my taste in reading material, and I developed a particular fondness for romance novels. My mother enjoyed reading books about people falling in love, too. She and I would spend hours bonding over our favourite couples, giggling when our talks turned to tiffs over our mutual book boyfriends.

The more I read, the more I longed to weave romantic tales of my own. Creative writing quickly became an outlet of expression for me. I wrote short stories, novelettes, and novellas, until the day I set out to write *Steeped in Love*...and it became so much bigger than all the rest. A full-length romance novel. Something I could share with my mother, just like old times.

Except, this time, Mom didn't get to share it with me. She passed away unexpectedly a few short months after I started writing my first book. Though she never saw it published, I know deep down in my heart that she'd be so proud.

*Steeped in Love* is a story about finding one's place in life. Being unafraid of the unknown. Letting go. Taking chances. Suspending disbelief. Following your heart. And finding love where, and when, you least expect it.

In reading this letter, perhaps you've realized that it's so much more than a book to me. It's a celebration of love, laughter, and life. I truly hope it helps you be-leaf in love, too.

Happy reading,

Julie Evelyn Joyce