

## CONTACT

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## **The Rebels of Romance: Minding the Gap** *Making romance relevant for the next generation*

### *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Move over Nora Roberts. The Rebels of Romance are coming to a bookstore near you. They're young, hip, urban professionals who aren't ashamed to tell the world that they write romance and love their happily ever afters -- with a 21<sup>st</sup> century twist, of course.

"When I first started telling people that I was a romance author, I got the weirdest looks," says Marianne Mancusi, a Manhattan television producer who writes both young adult and adult romances. "It was as if they expected me to be ashamed of it or something."

"There's a total misconception that romance can't be cool," says Liz Maverick, a Los Angeles based author/world-traveler responsible for last year's USA Today Bestselling *Crimson City* series. "And we want to change that."

With Young Adult romance sales at an all time high and paranormal adult romance flying off shelves, The Rebels realized there was a need to bridge the gap—for those too old for *Gossip Girls*, but not about to be seen on the subway reading a book with a half-naked hunk on the cover.

So Mancusi and Maverick decided to launch "The Rebels of Romance" – a national bookseller and media campaign designed to prove that the right romance can be relevant for today's twenty-somethings. They joined forces with Dorchester Publishing, the country's oldest independent publisher of mass market books, to help launch SHOMI, a line of progressive, speculative fiction romances with manga-inspired covers designed to appeal to a college and twenty-something crowd.

"We see our audience as smart, independent women who know what they want and aren't afraid to go after it," says Maverick. "They still want their Happily Ever After, but don't want to be reading the same stuff as Mom or Grandma. SHOMI is the type of line that will appeal even to those who thought they would never enjoy a romance novel."

SHOMI will launch in July with Maverick's time-tripping tale *WIRED*, followed in August with Mancusi's post-apocalyptic romp *MOONGAZER*. You can find out more about the SHOMI line at [www.shomifiction.com](http://www.shomifiction.com) or [www.dorchesterpub.com](http://www.dorchesterpub.com).

For more information on The Rebels of Romance or to request a press kit and advanced reading copies of Mancusi and Maverick's SHOMI books, please visit [www.rebelsofromance.com](http://www.rebelsofromance.com).