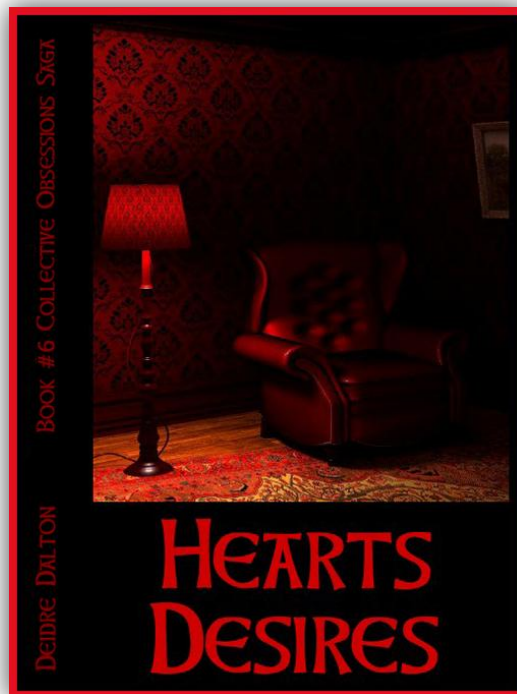


"HEARTS DESIRES" COVER HISTORY

By Deborah O'Toole writing as Deidre Dalton

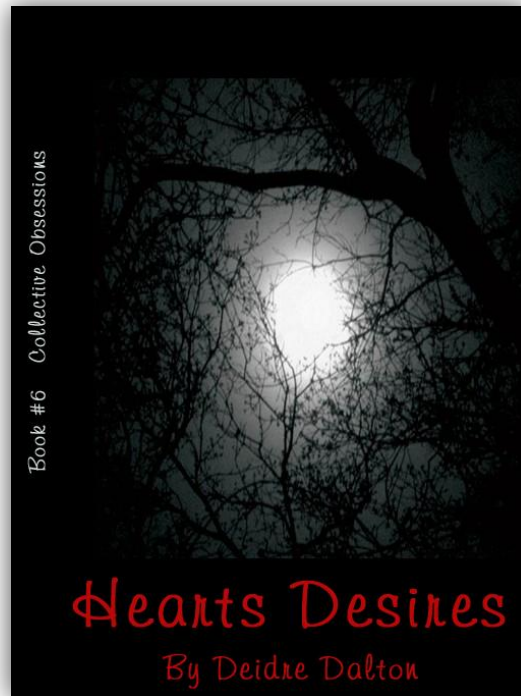
Hearts Desires was released in 2017, the sixth book in the Collective Obsessions Saga by yours truly writing as Deidre Dalton. The eight novels in the saga chronicle the extraordinary loves and intricate obsessions between two families sweeping a span of more than 140 years, all set against the backdrop of a Gothic seaside mansion in Maine.

The following was the "working" cover for *Hearts Desires* for a long time, pre-book release:

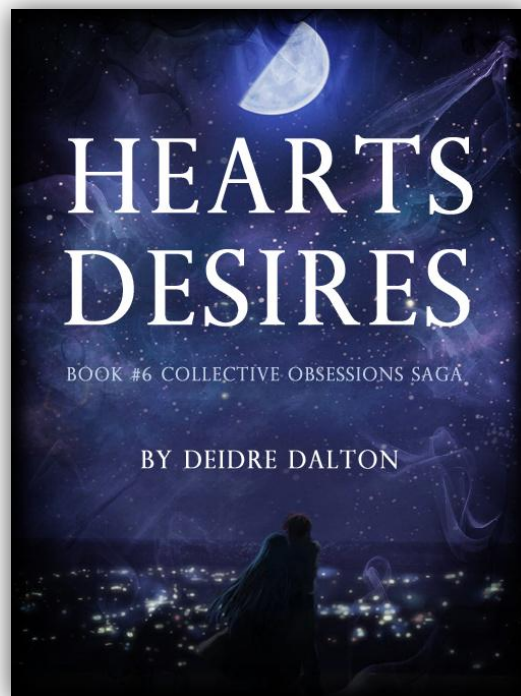


The red room was indicative of a bloody scene where Jack Sansovino rapes Jamie Page and then beats him to a near-pulp. The incident takes place in the bedroom of Jamie's cottage, a short distance from the Larkin mansion.

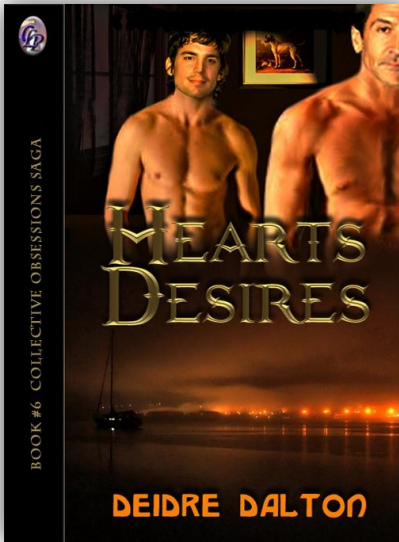
The second cover for *Hearts Desires* was rather vague, but I liked the design anyway:



The third cover was a rendition of semi-main characters Brose Larkin and Bridget Gallagher in an embrace as they look out over Larkin City under a starry sky:

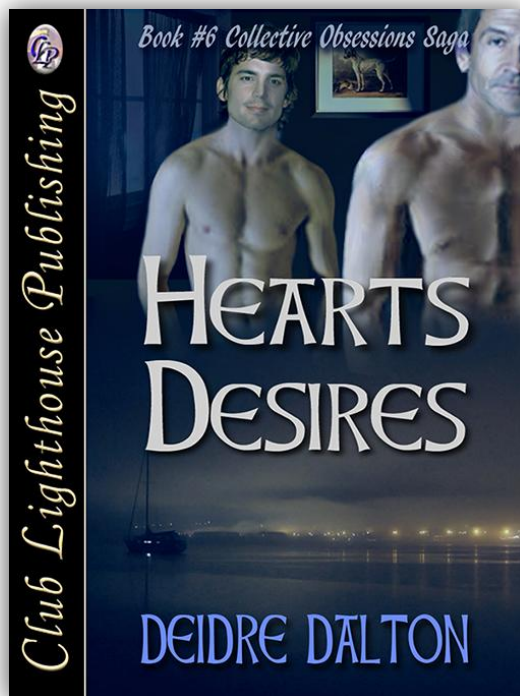


The fourth - and official e-book cover - for *Hearts Desires* was rendered by T.L. Davison, which features Jamie, Jack and Jamie's dog in frame:



I was uneasy about having two bare-chested men on the cover at first. Not because the men happen to be gay, but rather suggestive nudity – even with women – is just not my cup of tea.

And the cover for the paperback edition of *Hearts Desires*:

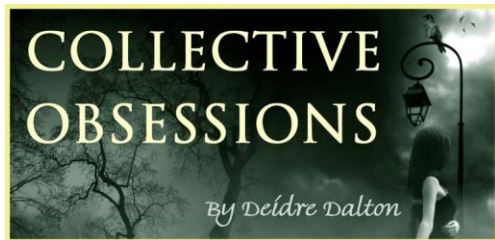


None of the books in the Collective Obsessions Saga are particularly heavy on sex scenes, apart from a few detailed events. Yet, how many ways can one write various romantic interludes for a connecting series of books that span 140 years? I tried to be creative as the storyline progressed, which sometimes resulted in violence or mild kinkiness, but the scenes are a backdrop rather than the focus.

However, I've come to appreciate the cover for *Hearts Desires*. Not so much for the men depicted, but for the inclusion of the dog in a framed picture behind them. The image threads into the final part of the saga (*Megan's Legacy*) in subtle fashion, which will only be realized by readers when they finish the last book.

Deborah O'Toole/aka Deidre Dalton

<https://deborahotoole.com/>



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