



# TANSY HOLLOW TATTLEER

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

A twice-monthly  
journal of the  
Tansy Hollow Gay  
Romance  
Series of Books

## In this issue:

Headbangers' Ball Book Debuts

Column: Ask Ms. Bea Haven

Dann Hazel: Interview with Our New Historian

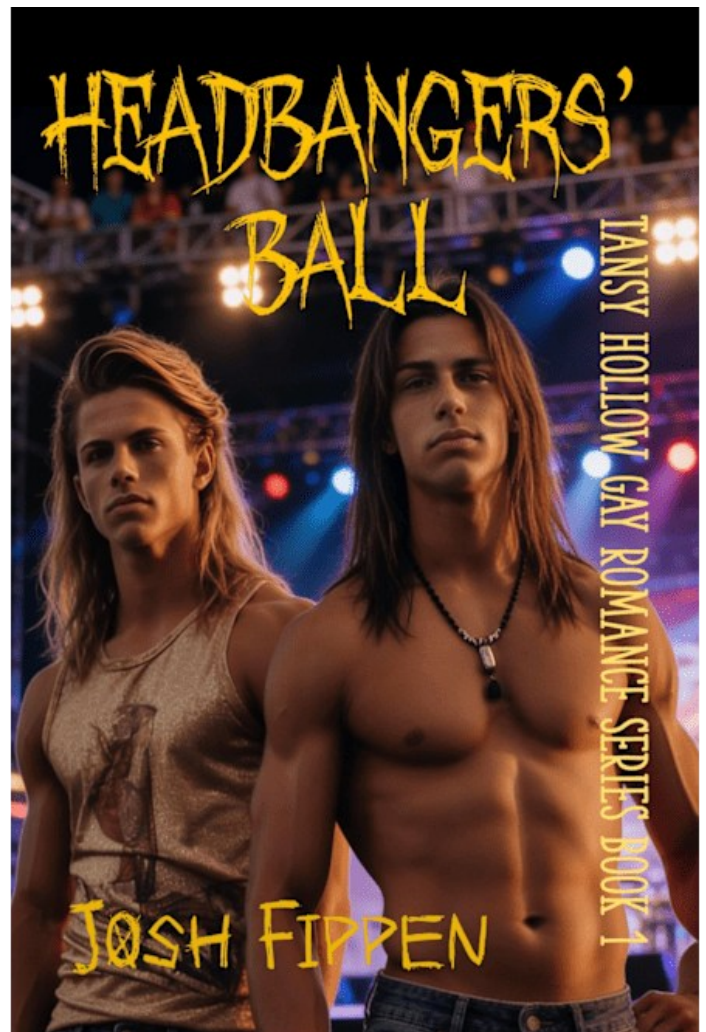
## *Headbangers' Ball*, Book One in the Tansy Hollow Gay Romance Series, Drops Valentine's Day 2026

TANSY HOLLOW —The Tansy Hollow Gay Romance Series officially launched this Valentine's Day with the release of *Headbangers' Ball* by Josh Fippen, the first novel set in the vibrant, music-driven world of Tansy Hollow, now available through major online booksellers.

The novel introduces readers to Seth—a restless young man fueled by strong opinions, reckless impulses, and a self-imposed rule: no attachments, no emotions, no exceptions. Content to chase pleasure without commitment, Seth believes he has love entirely figured out.

That certainty begins to unravel when he attends the legendary *Headbangers' Ball*, a notorious gathering where desire, danger, and possibility collide. Pushed beyond both his emotional and physical comfort zones, Seth meets someone who challenges everything he thought he wanted—and everything he's tried to avoid.

*continued*



But attraction comes with complications. Circumstances threaten to tear apart any future the two men might build together, forcing Seth to confront whether he's willing to risk vulnerability for something real.

Headbangers' Ball celebrates the cultural heartbeat of Tansy Hollow, a town

where heavy metal music shapes community identity and personal expression. Through Seth's journey, the novel explores passion, impulsivity, self-discovery, and the unexpected power of connection.

Torn between exuberant freedom and an undercurrent of loneliness he struggles to acknowledge, Seth discovers what

many learn too late: life can change in an instant—and love rarely follows the rules we set for ourselves.

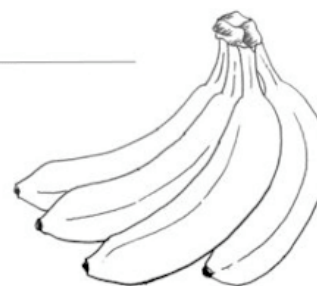
A 60,000-word, happily-ever-after MM romance filled with heat, emotion, and redemption, *Headbangers' Ball* is available now in digital and paperback editions wherever books are sold online.

NOW POURING...



The  
**FILTHY  
MONKEY**

Open 5 PM till 3 AM Sunday thru Saturday



EVERYONE WELCOME  
WE'RE A MIXED CLUB

Located in the old Chadwick Dry Goods & Novelties Building, Chadwick Street Downtown

## Interview with Dann Hazel, Tansy Hollow's New Historian

TANSY HOLLOW—In an era when gay romance readers crave stories that feel both intensely personal and unapologetically hopeful, Dann Hazel has built a loyal following writing love

stories where vulnerability and desire collide. Known for emotionally rich characters and unforgettable chemistry, the author sits down with us to talk about love, queer representation, and the art of writing happily-ever-

after.

**What first inspired you to write gay romance?** My first writing gigs were nonfiction works, but gay-themed, like *Moving On* which dealt with “successful” separations when gay couples

*continued*

find their relationships no longer work. Also, *Witness* was a book of interviews with queer ministers about their experiences in the church and the ways in which they reconciled their religious beliefs with their sexual orientation. The irony of writing this book was that, although I entered college intending to be a Lutheran minister, my belief system now has deviated far away from institutionalized religion.

**Do you remember the moment you realized this genre was where you belonged?**

Since high school, I have always wanted to write fiction. The nonfiction “deals” made by my agent were a deviation from my more creative goals. My husband, an avid reader of gay romance, suggested I give that genre a try. I did and loved doing it. To make money in indie publishing, a writer must find their niche. I’m happy to say that I think I’ve finally found mine.

**Who were your earliest writing influences?**

Having majored in English as an undergraduate, there were a lot of them, really. Aside from writers like F. Scott Fitzgerald,

Joyce Carol Oates, Joseph Heller, J.D. Salinger, Stephen King, Ursula Le Guin—and many, many others—my favorite gay romance authors include Daryl Banner, DJ Jamison, Lucy Lennox, Casey Cox, and Devon McCormack. However, even with this list, I’ve



left many others whose work I admire and enjoy out.

**Your characters feel deeply lived-in. Where do they come from?**

The Tansy Hollow Series concept has allowed Josh and me to devise an immersive, gay romance “universe.” As someone who has always been fascinated with theme parks and theme park design—I love both Universal and Disney

resorts—I attempt to take their approaches and apply them to romance-building. That includes compelling characters, stick-to-your-craw conflicts, emotional story arcs and lots more. With romance, there’s also the carnal element, which allows an author to tap into the “laws” of sexual attraction and desire.

**What emotional experience do you hope readers have while reading your books?**

First of all, I hope my readers find characters with whom they can identify or, at the very least, relate to. Often, I write my main characters to reflect personality traits that would attract me to become their friend. Secondly, the love scenes in my romances are meant to titillate, so I hope that’s happening with my reading audience. Third, I always begin a story with a situation that I hope many readers can relate to, whether they’re gay or not. I think human connection, desire, lust, family, friendship and the overall pressures of life and work are common themes among all groups of individuals. As a beloved professor of mine once said, “We all have more similarities than differences.”

**How do you balance emotional intimacy with physical chemistry on the page?** I'm bigger on emotional intimacy than physical chemistry, so I start with emotional intimacy first. From there, I like to segue into the physical realm as an expression of love, affection and desire. It can be a difficult balance to achieve on the page, but it's important and I strive to do my best at it.

**Is writing a vulnerable emotional scene harder than writing a steamy one?** Surprisingly, no. I find both kinds of scenes equally difficult, primarily because I always want to capture the complexity of human emotions. After all, an author wants their love-making scenes to resonate realistically. However, despite the difficulty of their execution, these are the scenes I enjoy writing most of all.

**What makes a romance scene memorable rather than just explicit?** In addition to focusing on the "mechanics" of sex, I also like to spend as much time as possible inside the heads of the men making love. That's the kind of thing I enjoy reading, and I think including these components elevates the gay romance novel to a level that

transcends merely creating arousal and going for the biggest orgasm possible.

**What does writing LGBTQ+ love stories mean to you personally?** As a gay man, writing these stories allows me to explore my own attitudes and values, not only in past relationships, but also in my marriage. On the negative side, writing romance forces me to confront the big mistakes—and I've made some huge ones—I've been guilty of in my past relationships.

**Do you feel a sense of responsibility when portraying queer relationships?** Definitely. While I wish to be realistic about gay romance and experience, I am also sensitive to some of the lingering stereotypes that exist in social attitudes. I try not to whitewash the diversity of gay experiences, whether positive, negative or morally neutral, but I would never disparage queer individuals or relationships. Just like any other relationships, gay romances are messy, exciting, frustrating and emotionally tumultuous. I like to be all in with those characteristics from the moment I open a Word document to begin the next project.

What are you reading right now? I like to balance my reading between romance and other genres, as well as fiction and nonfiction. Nonfiction, I've found, allows me to integrate some of what I learn from my reading into the lives of the characters I portray in my romance novels. Right now, I'm reading a recent book about existentialism called *Start Making Sense* by Steven J. Heine. The central "theme" behind existentialism is that life is fundamentally meaningless, but as human beings, it is up to us individually to "put meaning" into our lives. Certainly, I think meaning-making is the basis of all relationships, whether romantic or platonic.

**What can readers expect from your latest release?** My next release is Book Two in the Tansy Hollow Gay Romance Series called *Works Like a Purple Charm*. This is my first foray into gay romance with a generous sprinkling of the supernatural, with ghosts and haunted houses in the mix. It was great fun to work on, especially because not only do I love gay romance, I also love books about the occult.

**What's coming next?** After *Purple Charm*, I'll briefly return to the *Some Like It Haute Short Orders*

Gay Romance series with Wine Quest, a gay romance focusing on the relationship between the owner of a winery and an electrician, both of whom have had turbulent re-

lationships in the past. How they move into a love affair considers the problems faced and lessons learned from their pasts.

Whether exploring second chances, unexpected desire, or the cour-

age it takes to love openly, Dann Hazel continues to remind readers why romance matters. In their stories, happily-ever-after isn't just an ending—it's an act of hope.

# The Law Offices of WRIGHT & WONG

At the Corner of Comfrey and Elderberry, Tansy Hollow

**Personal Injury Attorneys**



## ADVICE CORNER Ask Ms. Bea Haven



Dear Ms. Bea Haven:

I'm in a real dilemma here. In the past few weeks, I've gone on first dates with three guys. Each time, we met at a restaurant. Because each one of these guys asked me out, I didn't offer to pay for the meal. I allowed them to pay. On two of the three, we went back to either my place or his for a meaningful one night stand. :-}

None of these guys ever called me back. Now I'm wondering, what exactly is the etiquette regarding meals on first dates? Is the guy who does the inviting supposed to pay for the meal, or should we go "Dutch," or should we argue over the check?

It's not like these are expensive meals, either. Last date was at the Clucker Barn. So, no, I'm not talking about anything expensive here.

Should I have paid?  
Could this be why no one's  
calling me back? These were  
all blind dates. We'd never  
met.

Help!

--CheckShy

Dear CheckShy:

I hear you on all of  
this. It's not so clear as to  
who should pay in these cas-  
es. To pay for someone's meal  
can imply a certain expecta-  
tion—a certain transactional  
matter that is neither roman-  
tic nor emotionally healthy.  
You said that you put out on  
two of these dates, so that's a  
possible clue. Maybe your  
dates in those cases felt that  
they were getting into some-  
thing that might become a  
“high-maintenance” situa-  
tion. It's hard to second guess  
someone's intentions in a sit-  
uation like this.

As an aside, my sug-

gestion is to avoid dating anyone  
who thinks a romantic meal can  
be found at the Clucker Barn! Set  
your standards higher, my dear. If  
a future date suggests Clucker  
Barn or a similar dining establish-  
ment, you should counter with a  
better suggestion—and then vol-  
unteer to pay for the meal.

Perhaps, going forward,  
you can negotiate the terms of the  
date before you even go out.

Make it low pressure, like “Shall  
we go Dutch?” or something  
equally disarming. This allows the  
guy to decide how he wants to  
handle things. You might end up  
paying your own way more often,  
but at least you'll both know the  
parameters of the date.

I would not recommend  
offering to pay at the table next  
time. Again, that sets a precedent  
which you might not like going  
forward, and it may have the  
same effect if your theory about  
future dates is accurate—for the  
same reasons.

I don't know what your  
end game is with these men, but  
if you're looking for a boy-  
friend, you two can switch up  
the terms whenever you feel  
comfortable doing so. I'd rec-  
ommend approaching any im-  
balance in financial (or emo-  
tional, or relational, or sexual)  
expectations with caution, else  
you or your guy may feel “put  
upon,” and that's never healthy.

As to these guys not call-  
ing you back? I hate to bring  
this up, but what if it has noth-  
ing to do with meals. Perhaps  
now's a good time to do a self-  
check. Are you being friendly  
enough, yet not too friendly?  
Are you holding up your end of  
the conversation? Are you at  
your best in bed? I know I tell  
everyone this, but that's because  
it's important.

The best of luck to you  
on your next date!

X-X-O-O

Miss Bea Haven

---

Next Issue hits the newsstands on Tuesday, March 9, 2026.

\*\*\*\*\*

Do you know someone who would enjoy the Tattler? Please direct them to sign up at this link:

Tansy Hollow Tattler Newspaper Subscription Order Form

Since you, as a citizen of Tansy Hollow, are referring your friends to the Tattler, their subscription is complimentary.

With citizenship comes certain privileges!

\*\*\*\*\*

Contact us! Do you have comments, questions, news tips, or a contribution to the Tattler? Please message us  
at [tansy\\_hollow@yahoo.com](mailto:tansy_hollow@yahoo.com). We want to hear from you!