BEAUTIFUL LIE, TWISTED TRUTH

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DEDICATION

For the undefeated broken,

The lotus that rises from the mud,

The phoenix reborn from the ashes,

The Fullmetal Alchemist who keeps moving forward,

And

The intrepid hiker who believed a café press was more important when he trekked the West Highland Way than a pair of walking sticks. Until he realized it wasn't.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

No book is ever the work of only the author. Anyone who suggests otherwise is kidding themselves. There are people in our lives that keep us going when we can't seem to do it ourselves, those we bounce ideas off of, someone to go behind us and edit our work, the trusted few who lay eyes on our manuscript when it is unpolished, cover artists, graphics creators, tech support for those who have no idea how to work the publishing platforms (*cough cough* me), and trailer creators. Then there are those that make it all worthwhile when the process is complete, the readers (from beta readers to ARC readers to the ones who get it after it's officially published).

Since I completely forgot this page in All Vice, No Virtue I intend to give everyone their props from that first one and this one. Buckle up, peeps!

All Vice, No Virtue Acknowledgements

Zoey aka Bird and Summer Lee kept me going when I couldn't hold on to faith in myself. They kept me going through the querying process for All Vice, No Virtue back in the summer of 2025 and throughout preparing it for the process of self-publication.

Summer had to talk me down more than once when I sent myself into a spiral of anxiety over how my work would be received and when I was absolutely certain everyone would find nothing but fault with my efforts. Bird had the delightful task of looking at me

with judgy eyes when I would start to diminish my accomplishment. When I compared my work to the outstanding works other authors produce and insisted I didn't belong with them Bird threw a stern 'Mom' into the mix when I needed it most.

Summer Lee is the one I bounced ideas off of from beginning to end. She is the one who told me when something was 'too messed up' and asked me 'How does that work exactly?' Just so I could work through the half-formed ideas. Seriously, she gets the story when it's just a jumble of incoherent thoughts and when something occurred to me during the outlining process. She's the one who reminded me that it was okay to tell the amazing team at Markee Books (they get their shout out soon) if I didn't like something because 'they want you to love the cover/graphics/trailer' and 'they don't expect to get it right the first time around.' When I was unsure of something concerning the cover art and trailer it was to her and Bird that I went to since they have an artist's eyes.

The trusted few who belong in the category of 'beta readers' are Summer Lee and Kayla S. It was Kayla who finished the unedited version of All Vice, No Virtue in a matter of hours. She was the first person to give me an outsider's perspective on my work since high school.

Now it's time for me to sing the praises of the amazing team of Markee Books. You may remember me talking about them via social media during the days getting All Vice, No Virtue ready for publication and afterwards when I revealed the cover, released the trailer, and shared the graphics they created. I came across their page by accident one day after talking to Summer Lee about looking for a company to do All Vice, No Virtue's cover art for me. In all honesty the main reason I reached out to them was because they offered a reasonable price range, unlimited revisions on the cover art and I'm a chick on a budget. While scrolling through their page I realized that they were so much more than just cover artists. They offered editing, formatting, and social media packages as well. Let me tell you, that was a real lifesaver for me. When Gail reached out to me to discuss my needs she also informed me that they offered tech support for getting my work on the various publishing platforms. Y'all!! I nearly