



I am  
proof positive  
that sex sells...

...and persistence pays off. After fifteen years learning the craft of writing, I am now officially an overnight success. And it's been a long road to get here...

Deborah Coonts' mother tells her she was born a very long time ago, but Deb isn't so sure—her mother can't be trusted. These are the things she does know: She was raised in Texas on barbeque, Mexican food and beer. She's lived in every time zone in the U.S.—the most memorable being the time she now spends in Las Vegas, where family and friends tell her she can't get into too much trouble. **Silly people.**

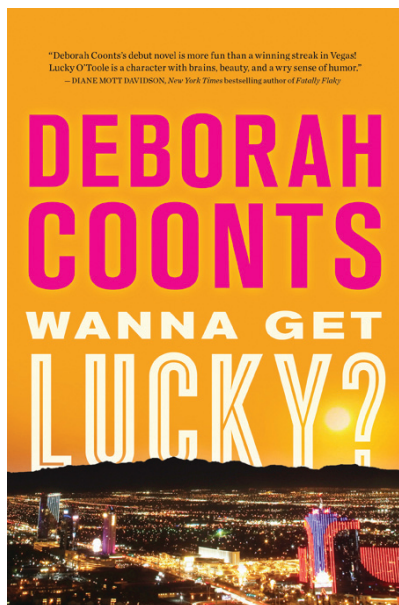
Deborah has spent more time in school than any sane person should, acquiring along the way a bachelor's and master's degree in business, a law degree and a master's of laws in taxation (can you say 'geek?'). She has built her own business, practiced law, flown airplanes, written a humor column for a national magazine and survived a teenager.

## WANNA GET LUCKY?

The First Lucky O'Toole Vegas Adventure

By Deborah Coonts

Release Date: May 11, 2010



When a young woman plunges from her Las Vegas hotel's helicopter into the pirate's lagoon in front of the Treasure Island Hotel during the 8:30 Pirate Show, Lucky O'Toole realizes it's going to be another one of those weeks. As if the Adult Film Industry's awards banquet, the Trendmakers' annual spouse-swapping convention, and other myriad problems thirty-five hundred hotel guests can create weren't enough. Now Lucky, the wisecracking Head of Customer Relations for the Babylon, has a suspicious death to further complicate her life.

The police are a bit disinterested, and Lucky finds herself babysitting a newly minted detective. She soon realizes she is in over her head. When she asks her boss, Albert Rothstein (the Big Boss), a Vegas legend, for help, he not only stonewalls her, but he intimates that the new hire in Security, Paxton Dane—a long, tall drink of Texas charm—is not what he appears to be, and the Big Boss asks Lucky's help to determine what game the Texan is playing. Lucky already has more than enough problems with Dane. Whenever she is in his presence, her libido threatens to override good sense and rational thought.

With her plate full to overflowing, Lucky finds herself incapable of dealing with her mother, Mona, the owner and madam of the best brothel in Nevada. Cryptic warnings in Mona's usual criticisms foreshadow a secret that will alter the axis of Lucky's world.

When she needs her the most, Lucky's assistant, Miss Patterson, turns into a cougar, mooning after the Beautiful Jeremy Whitlock, Las Vegas' ace private investigator, and a man fifteen years her junior.

An old flame, Irv Gittings, offers Lucky obscene amounts of money to come work for him and Lucky knows this means only one thing—Gittings is up to no good. She must face past mistakes to discover what high-stakes game Gittings is playing this time.

On top of everything else, her best friend, The Great Teddie Divine, Las Vegas' premier female impersonator, wants their relationship to be more than friendship. Leave it to Lucky to attract a guy who looks better in her clothes than she does.

Dealing with this rapid-fire onslaught of events, Lucky struggles to keep her libido and her life from spinning out of control.

## TESTIMONIALS

### So They Say...

a selection of blurbs from those who really should know better...

*"Watch out, Janet Evanovich.  
The new hot number is Deborah Coonts!"*

*~Gayle Lynds,  
New York Times bestselling  
author of *The Book of Spies**

*"Deborah Coonts deals a fast, sexy,  
winning hand of suspense."*

*~Carole Nelson Douglas,  
author of the *Midnight Louie*  
and *Elijah Street Mysteries**

*"Deb Coonts' debut novel is more fun than a winning  
streak in Vegas! Lucky O'Toole is a character with brains,  
beauty and a wry sense of humor. Readers will want to  
meet her again—and soon."*

*~Diane Mott Davidson,  
New York Times bestselling author of *Fatally Flakey**

*"Wanna Get Lucky? is a winner on every level. Deborah  
Coonts has crafted a first-class murder mystery coupled with  
a touching and unexpected love story. Against a flawlessly-  
rendered Las Vegas backdrop, Lucky's story is funny, fast-  
paced, exuberant and brilliantly realized."*

*~Susan Wiggs,  
#1 New York Times bestselling author of *Just Breathe**

*"...a novel that will keep you glued to the pages all the way  
to the end. Wanna Get Lucky? is as entertaining as the city  
in which it's set."*

*~Brenda Novak,  
New York Times bestselling author of  
*Trust me, Stop Me, and Watch Me**

*"Wanna Get Lucky? by Deborah Coonts paints  
a dead-on portrait of Las Vegas that is somehow  
dark, outrageous, and hilarious at the same time.  
She is a true Vegas insider and her fabulous  
fictional character, Lucky O'Toole, 'chief problem  
solver' at a Vegas mega casino, is wise, witty, and  
brimming with cheery cynicism. Wanna Get  
Lucky? goes down faster than an ice-cold Bombay  
martini—very dry, of course, and with a twist."*

*~Douglas Preston,  
New York Times bestselling author  
of *Blasphemy**

*"If you've never been to Vegas, get ready to go. If  
you've been there a hundred times, get ready for  
some surprises. Wanna Get Lucky? is a murder  
mystery, as fresh, fast, and funny as they come, but  
it's a lot more than just a whodunnit. Deborah  
Coonts takes you on an insider's tour of Vegas  
and introduces you to a fabulous cast of Vegas  
characters, from the highest to the lowest, from  
the brightest to the dumbest, from the classiest  
to the sleaziest creeps in town. You'll love it, and  
when it's over, you'll want to go to Vegas with  
Deborah Coonts, because she's a writer who knows  
how to come up sevens on the first roll."*

*~William Martin,  
New York Times Best Selling Author of  
*The Lost Constitution**

*"Deborah Coonts hits it out of the park with her debut  
novel, Wanna Get Lucky? Peppered with delightfully witty  
characters and 'only in Vegas' hijinks, it's definitely on my  
This Year's Best Read list."*

*~Stephen J. Cannell,  
New York Times bestselling author  
of the *Shane Scully* novels*

*"Wanna get entertained? Then read Wanna Get Lucky?  
Deborah Coonts has written a Las Vegas novel as  
beguiling and bedazzling as the city's neon lights.  
Funny, sassy, and savvy."*

*~Lucia St. Clair Robson,  
New York Times bestselling author of  
*Ride the Wind**

*"Deborah Coonts has hit it out  
of the park with her debut novel  
Wanna Get Lucky? Good read!  
Lots of action and humor."*

*~David Hagberg,  
New York Times bestselling  
author of *The Expediter**

## LUCKY Q&A WITH DEB

**Q** What inspired the character of Lucky O'Toole, professional problem solver?

**A** Vegas, of course! One of my favorite cities. The story of Vegas is the story of those who come from far and wide to sample from this quintessentially American smorgasbord of semi-sinful but rarely life-altering delights.

So how best to tell their story? Pretty early on, it dawned on me that to have a character who personally sampled all that Vegas offered would be impossible—she would either develop a serious liver condition, become a candidate for *The Biggest Loser*, or grow weary of handsome men—God forbid!

But what about a person who crossed paths on a daily basis with people busy availing themselves of Vegas'...opportunities? A customer relations person at a major casino would fit the bill—preferably one with a big heart, a messy love life and an unerring desire to personally deliver Vegas magic to all she meets.

One Lucky girl, I would say....

**Q** You've lived an incredibly interesting and varied life. How did your past experiences help your writing?

**A** I guess you're not asking about all the kinky sex, right? That shouldn't need any elaboration. Oh, that's not listed by my publisher as part of my "accomplishments"?

Forget I mentioned it.

But seriously, as they say, variety is the spice of life. And I consider a life lived to the max essential for a storyteller.

Through my various adventures, I've rubbed shoulders with all manner of interesting folks from Supreme Court Justices to airplane mechanics, aerobatic pilots to skanky lawyers, embezzlers to IRS agents, professional gamblers to strippers and others I don't think I'll admit to.

I've made more than my share of poor choices and watched others make the few I avoided. All of them are water in my creative well—teachers orchestrating my personal course in the vast expanse of the human condition.



[www.deborahcoonts.com](http://www.deborahcoonts.com)

**Q** Why did you choose a Las Vegas casino as the setting for your novel?

**A** What writer could resist the city that hosts the porn industry awards show, a sex toy convention, an electronics convention and a spouse-swapper party—all in the same week? Call me shallow, but being able to enjoy first-name familiarity with the Chippendales and call it research was an added bonus.

Novels analyze the human condition, the good novels anyway, and what better place than Vegas to analyze, enjoy or commiserate with those who make interesting choices. Stand in the lobby of a Las Vegas casino long enough, and you'll see the whole world walk by. Listen carefully and you'll hear every story in every language imaginable, see every desire, experience (vicariously, of course) every possible choice.

Sort of like voyeuristic sinning.

Yes, my research is fun.

**Q** What can you tell us about Lucky's future adventures?

**A** Book Two, *Lucky Stiff*, finds Lucky handling a semi-tractor trailer full of honeybees that jackknives in front of the Babylon, and the death of a rather unsavory oddsmaker, Numbers Neidermeyer, who became fish food for the sharks in Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay. The District Attorney rushes to indict The Beautiful Jeremy Whitlock, Lucky's friend and the main squeeze of her assistant and resident cougar, Miss P.

Lucky's mother, Mona, complicates life when she announces she is going to auction a young woman's virginity at her brothel in Pahrump. Lucky thinks life couldn't get any worse when Teddie, the man in her life, starts making noises about touring the world with a young pop-starlet on his quest to become a rock star, and Jordan Marsh, Hollywood's reigning hunk and a long time friend, drops a secret in Lucky's lap that could end his career.

Book Three, *So Damn Lucky*, has the UFO crowd in town, Teddie on tour and Lucky's life complicated by a très magnifique French chef. In addition, there is a magician who has disappeared from right under Lucky's nose, a former astronaut with an agenda, a mentalist who appears to be losing his mind, and a late-night talk show host, all who seem to have a connection to a murder at Area 51, the Air Force's spook palace north of Vegas and the harmonic convergence for all UFO aficionados. Worse, a friend of Lucky's, Crazy Carl Colson, a current resident of the maze of storm drains under Las Vegas, appears to hold the key.

**Deborah COONTS**  
A Sinful Escape Lucky in Vegas

## WANNA GET LUCKY?

### Are you kidding?

When my then fifteen-year-old son suggested a family relocation to Las Vegas, my then husband and I started packing. Okay, maybe we didn't think it through, but after five years in suburban Maryland we had yet to find our niche, so we were ready for a change. Little did I know, the story I had been looking for was lurking in Sin City. In retrospect, perhaps it should've been obvious, but back then I was pretty naive.

With bags packed and good wishes ringing in our ears (The one I remember the best was: You're going to finish raising a hormonal teenage male in Las Vegas? Are you on drugs? I'm still thankful those 'friends' didn't call Social Services), we packed two cars and a moving van and headed toward the bright lights.

A lot of people say Vegas is an acquired taste—not for me.

Where else outside of maybe New York City can you watch an ever-changing cross-section of the world parade past and still go home and sleep in your own bed? Absolute heaven for a storyteller.

However, it is true that everyone sees something different in Vegas.

I see magic.

And this is the Vegas I wanted to write about. The fun stuff. Not bodies buried in the desert. Not mobsters. Not fools losing everything. But the real Vegas. The forty-five million visitors a year—each of whom are on a mission of mischief, the celebrities, the singers, the shows, the amazing shopping—that Vegas.

My Vegas.

Wanna Get Lucky? is the beginning of the story. Of course, the story had to be set in a huge strip casino/resort, and since I'm a storyteller, not a reporter, I created my own—The Babylon. And who better to tell the story than a woman in her early thirties (old enough to know better, but young enough to ignore it) who is the Head of Customer Relations?

On a roll, I wrote the first sentence of the story—I'm big on beginnings—then came to a screeching halt.

Great, forty-three words into the next Great American Novel and I had writer's block. This was going to be harder than I thought.

That's when I started hearing voices.

At first, I thought maybe this ought to worry me, but then I remembered an interview with P. D. James. When asked how she came up with her stories, she said something to the effect that she sat in a room with her characters, listened to what they had to say, then

wrote it down. I was so there. And, by all accounts, Ms. James did all right. So, if it was good enough for her, it was fine for little ol' me.

Lucky, my protagonist, was the first character to speak to me. Apparently fed-up with my waffling, she spoke up loud and clear—she told me her name—while I was minding my own business sitting on the porch at the Grand Lake Lodge in Colorado. Vacation interrupts. Two women and one man (my then husband) do not make a great vacation. Of course, if we'd been in Vegas, that would've been just an interesting evening...or so I've been told.

But I digress. Being given my protagonist's name was a good start, but I was hoping for more. Lucky didn't disappoint—she introduced me to her friends: The Great Teddie Divine (Las Vegas' premier female impersonator who is straight and, understandably, has a tough time picking up women), Miss Patterson (Lucky's plucky assistant and a cougar), the Beautiful Jeremy Whitlock (a private investigator and prime cougar bait), The Big Boss, and Mona (Lucky's bordello-owning mother).

The whole female impersonator thing sort of opened the door for me. I mean, some of the impersonators in this town are amazing. And then I started wondering...well, anyway, I finally ended-up wondering what would a straight guy do if he spent his professional life sheathed in Oscar de la Renta? How would he do with women? Of course, this being my fantasy, I decided he might do all right. Think about it. A man who can speak Jimmy Choo? A man who can help me with make-up (I'm not a girly-girly.) A man who would not only know who Rodgers and Hammerstein were, but who could even hum a few bars of I'm Gonna Wash that Man Right Outta My Hair. All this and sex too? Hey, a girl can dream, can't she? So, Teddie was born.

The cougar thing...well, I'm of a certain age—old enough to find that concept interesting. Enough said.

And who wouldn't wonder what it would be like to have a mother in 'the business'? This is Vegas after all.

The cast set, I actually had to come up with a story. Porn stars and spouse swappers?

The genesis for the porn star angle was a chapter of a book, Skin City by Jack Sheehan. Jack is a Vegas author and quite wonderful. The vignette he wrote that inspired me was a recitation of his attendance at the real adult film awards held in Vegas each January. I laughed so hard I had tears rolling down my face. So, of course, I had to have porn stars—of my own creation, of course.

And the spouse swappers—that idea came right out of Sixty Minutes.

Put the two together, along with a young woman who falls out of a tour helicopter, landing in the middle of the Pirate Show in front of Treasure Island, add some Vegas magic, and romance....

So, do you Wanna Get Lucky?

## LUCKY STIFF

The Second Lucky O'Toole Vegas Adventure

By Deborah Coonts

Release Date: February 2011

*Lucky is hanging by her fingernails when a compromising photograph of her lover, Teddie, and a young singer, runs in the morning paper—just after Teddie has announced he has been offered the job as the singer's*

As Chief Problem Solver for The Babylon Resort, the newest addition to the excesses of the Las Vegas Strip, Lucky O'Toole is used to handling problems, but tonight is taxing even her formidable skills. A tractor-trailer filled with millions of honeybees jackknives in front of the Babylon, spewing swarms of enraged insects. The very naked District Attorney, Daniel "Lovie" Lovato, apparently involved in a threesome on the twelfth floor, locks himself out of his room and takes refuge in a laundry closet. And Lucky spies her assistant's live-in lover, The Beautiful Jeremy Whitlock, in a heated spat with pretty, poisonous Numbers Neidermeyer, one of the less-than-savory odds makers in town.

When someone tosses Ms. Neidermeyer into the shark tank at the Mandalay Bay Resort/Casino as a late night snack, and DA Lovato pushes for a quick indictment against the Beautiful Jeremy Whitlock, Lucky is drawn into the murder investigation.

None of this would be so bad except that it's fight weekend in Vegas. Tiny Tortilla Padilla, former middleweight Champion of the Universe, has been lured out of retirement for one last fight. He, his wife and their sixteen children descend on the Babylon, along with various Hollywood luminaries, hookers from the far corners of the country, and hordes of really big gamblers.

To further complicate matters, Jordan Marsh, the current Hollywood hunk and one of Lucky's longtime friends, shows up unexpectedly, imploring Lucky for help with a very personal matter, one that could implode his career. Lucky's mother, Mona, the owner and Madam of the self-styled "Best Whorehouse in Nevada," has gotten the world's attention by auctioning off a young woman's virginity, and, naturally, she expects Lucky to save her from the fire. A handsome new French chef proves to be a handful while both he and Paxton Dane, the Gaming Control Board's representative keep Lucky's libido jumping.

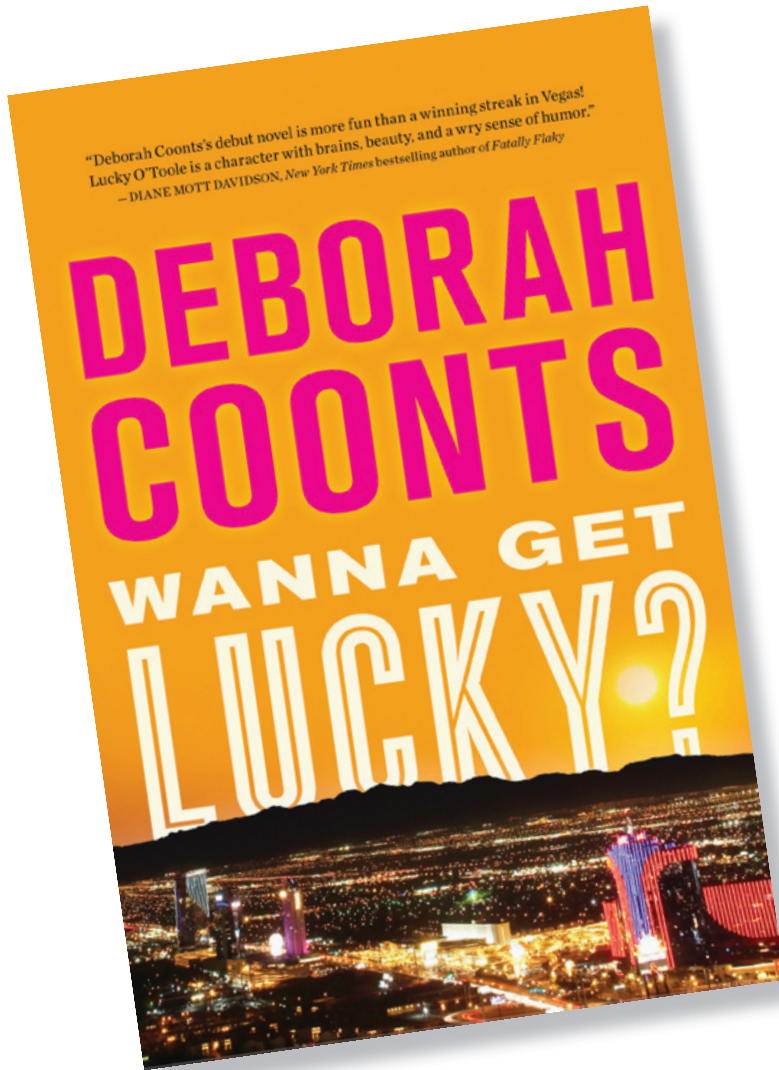
Lucky is hanging by her fingernails when a compromising photograph of her lover, Teddie, and a young singer, runs in the morning paper—just after Teddie has announced he has been offered the job as the singer's opening act on her upcoming world tour.

LUCKY STIFF is another of Deborah Coonts' wonderfully funny, irreverent visits to Vegas, a book that will appeal directly to mainstream female readers.

**LUCKY** in Vegas...  
...the series continues.

So Damn Lucky • Lucky the Hard Way (both coming soon)

**Deborah Coonts' WANNA GET LUCKY?  
is a May 2010 Indie Next List pick,  
and gets a great Kirkus review!**



WANNA GET LUCKY?, the debut novel by Deborah Coonts, is one of the Indie Next's May 2010 "Great Reads from Booksellers You Trust."

Also, Kirkus reviewed WANNA GET LUCKY? in the March 15th issue: *"Deliciously raunchy, with humorous takes on sexual proclivities, Vegas glitz, and love, though Agatha Christie is probably spinning in her grave."* Doesn't get much better than that!

WANNA GET LUCKY?  
Deborah Coonts  
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352 Pages / \$24.99  
On Sale: May 11, 2010