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ROMANTIC MYSTERY AUTHOR
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Dear Readers,

It's summer and time to break out the warm-weather wardrobe. Like many women, I adore shoes, especially classics like espadrilles. I was intrigued to learn about the history of these popular sandals and discovered some interesting facts about them.

The original braided hemp or jute and fabric shoes were worn by Spanish peasants and infantrymen. The term "espadrille" comes from "esparto", a plant that was burned then braided to make the soles. Castaner, a Spanish company first made espadrilles for soldiers fighting in the Spanish Civil War. In the 1970s, the company revamped their footwear for a more fashionable look. When designer Yves Saint Laurent came looking for someone to create a wedge espadrille, Lorenzo Castaner fulfilled his request and Castaner has been making espadrilles for top fashion houses ever since.

As a writer, it's great fun to incorporate research into my stories. Grayce, the intuitive animal acupuncturist heroine in the Grayce Walters series, struts her stuff in a pair of Castaners in my upcoming release, ***Women Under Fire***.

Here's wishing you a fashionable summer!



Contest News

Don't you love these Castaner espadrilles? These are the sandals Grayce's pal James encourages her to wear on a date with Davis in ***Women Under Fire***. (You can enjoy Grayce and James's exchange in the exclusive excerpt below.)

If you're a shoe fiend like Grayce, you're going to love my June contest! The Grayce Walters Best Dressed Heels contest will run throughout June, and whoever posts the best high heels will win a \$50 DSW gift card.

Watch for details on my [Facebook](#) page and good luck!

NEWSLETTER EXCLUSIVE ~ *Women Under Fire* Excerpt

As a special thank you for subscribing to my e-newsletter, please enjoy this exclusive excerpt from ***Women Under Fire (Book 2, The Grayce Walters Series)***, coming Summer 2014.

"Since I've never been to a baseball game what should I wear?" Grayce asked James.

"You haven't fooled me by switching to my favorite topic. Although your relationship with the hot fire investigator is in my top picks of juicy discussions."

James sat back and inspected her blue jeans, t-shirt and pony tail. "Wear your usual..." He coughed into his hand as if it was difficult for him to speak. "Style." Grayce's disinterest in fashion was an ongoing debate between the friends.

"I don't always wear blue jeans," Grayce said.

"Really?"

"Okay. I do. They don't take any thought."

"Why don't you let Uncle Jamesie help you shop?"

"What do you have in mind?"

James rubbed his chin back and forth as if contemplating a serious crime. "You won't have to worry about getting cold in Safeco field since my idea will definitely warm things up between you and Davis. He'll be in a great mood to hear about your next rescue mission."

"I'm not going to wear anything outrageous."

"Outrageous? When have you seen me wear outrageous?"

This from the man dressing as Grace Kelly for Gay Bingo. James had sophisticated taste and always looked as if he stepped out of GQ magazine. He read both men and women's fashion magazines. Vogue, Elle. French Vogue. The list went on.

"You have fabulous taste," she said.

"Since I'm in a Grace Kelly kind of mood. I think we should start with Castaner espadrilles. Grace Kelly made his

espadrilles into icons. Do you remember the great 50's black and white shot with Grace and Castaner? Oh, God, I'll have to buy a pair too."

"I'd love to have new sandals."

"You can't call Castaner's espadrilles--sandals. They are much more than sandals. I predict it's going to get blazing hot at Safeco field when Davis sees you in the sexy Castaners."

Everyone seemed to be in the mood to make predictions about Grayce's life this week. She agreed with James that it was going to get hot in Safeco Field but not from her sexy espadrilles but from Davis' blistering reaction to her involvement in a dangerous case.

Exclusive Offer for Newsletter Subscribers

Enjoy an audio excerpt in the July newsletter, and *hear* your favorite Jacki Delecki characters come to life.

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