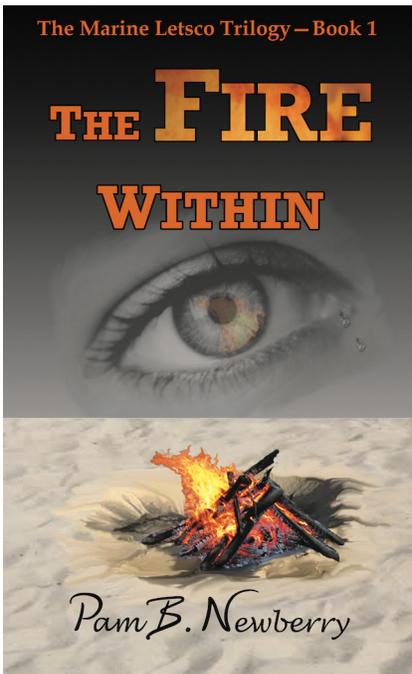


# The Fire Within

Pam B. Newberry



ISBN: 978-1-941061-01-5

[Available on Amazon](#)

If you enjoy the stories of Sue Grafton or Patricia Cornwell, you will find *The Marine Letsco Trilogy* an intriguing read.

In Book One, on a cruise to the Caribbean, Marine Letsco is on her first vacation in ten years from her job with Transcontinental Solutions (TRANS) where she works as an assassin. She finds herself entangled in a murder-for-hire, a murder conspiracy, and a fall that results in her losing her memory. Aided by Dr. Chester Henegar, a neuropsychiatrist, Marine begins a danger-filled quest to regain her memory. The deeper she searches, the more she becomes convinced she may not want to know who she was.

*The Fire Within* is the first book in the Marine Letsco Trilogy, a series full of intrigue, romance, and a little murder mixed with thrills to keep you turning the page.

## Author Bio:

Pam B. Newberry based this novel on her experiences while on a two-week cruise in the Caribbean. The author of *The Letter: A Page of My Life* and coauthor of *Through the Gateway: Readings to accompany Gateway to Engineering*, lives in Virginia with her husband, Albert, on their hobby farm, Hobbit's Bend.

Plan to return and visit with Marine in book 2, *The Fire of Revenge*, of The Marine Letsco Trilogy [available on Amazon](#). Visit Pam at her website: <https://pambnewberry.com> to read excerpts from her books and to learn more about her writing journey.

## **The Fire Within** Discussion Questions

Pam B. Newberry

1. Why do you think the author titled the book “The Fire Within”?
2. Based on what is revealed in Book One – *The Fire Within*, why do you think Marine hates her job?
3. Why do you believe Marine is cold to other people?
4. How does living the life of an assassin after being a “throw away” child (an orphan) affect Marine’s personality?
5. Marine’s relationship with her family was almost non-existent. She was very young when her parents were killed. Yet, she remembered her mother and father with fondness. Describe some of the ways Marine worked through her pain of being given up and how and where she was raised. What is your opinion of Marine and how she handled her upbringing when she became an adult?
6. Why do you believe Marine became an assassin?
7. Beautiful word pictures that involve all the senses, a trademark of Pam B. Newberry’s writing, fill this novel. What are some of your favorite descriptions found in *The Fire Within*? How do these descriptions help link you in the reality and at the same time create a sense of suspense and thrills?
8. What is your opinion of the setting being on a cruise ship? Does it help or hinder the story? In what ways did the confinement on a cruise ship help or hinder Marine’s choices and growth with the fire growing within her?
9. Do you have a loved one or someone in your life that suffers from dementia or Alzheimer’s? Describe how Marine seemed to be handled with her amnesia by Dr. Chet and his nurse, Joan. How do you think Marine would act the same or differently if she had dementia or Alzheimer’s as compared to how the author describes Marine when she develops amnesia?
10. Dr. Chet is a character that works hard at keeping his secrets, takes pride in his work, and tends to be tolerant. He is fond of Marine and struggles with how he might help her best within the confines of the cruise ship. What drives people to abandon their principles? Discuss how people, who make the choice to do what is right for a

person, even if it means breaking rules, can make a choice and have positive feelings about their choices.

11. What about Marine would you like to know more?

12. What kind of story would you like to see Marine tackle in a future book?

If your book club would like to send a group response of the questions to Pam, please send via email to [info@pambnewberry.com](mailto:info@pambnewberry.com) or send to Pam's publisher via snail mail at the following address:

J. K. Brooks Publishing, LLC  
Attn: Pam B. Newberry  
177 Stone Meadow Lane  
Wytheville, VA 24382

# Main Characters of *The Fire Within*

Pam B. Newberry

**Marine Letsco** – the narrator and protagonist of the novel. Marine was abandoned (thrown away) as a child after the untimely death of her parents. She is characterized in the book as being a strong, independent female with the composite looks and brains of the following three women:

## 🚩 Hedy Lamarr

- Actress/Scientist, an inventor of Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum, a technology still used for Bluetooth & wifi. At the beginning of World War II, she and composer George Antheil developed a radio guidance system for Allied torpedoes that used spread spectrum and frequency hopping technology to defeat the threat of jamming by the Axis powers. Although the US Navy did not adopt the technology until the 1960s, the principles of their work are incorporated into Bluetooth technology and are similar to methods used in legacy versions Wi-Fi. This work led to their induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014.
- Known for her many roles as a film star with her performance in *Algiers* (1938). Her MGM films include *Lady of the Tropics* (1939), *Boom Town* (1940), *H.M. Pulham, Esq.* (1941), and *White Cargo* (1942). Her greatest success was as Delilah in Cecil B. DeMille's *Samson and Delilah* (1949). She also acted on television before the release of her final film, *The Female Animal* (1958). She was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1960.

## 🚩 Natalie Portman

- Actress/Scientist, an inventor of a simple method to demonstrate the enzymatic production of hydrogen from sugar. From 1999 to 2003, Portman attended Harvard University for a bachelor's degree in psychology.
- Known for her many roles as a film actress, producer, writer, and director. She is the recipient of various accolades, including an Academy Award and two Golden Globe Awards. Portman made her feature film debut as Mathilda, the young protégée of a hitman, in *Léon: The Professional* (1994). While still in high school, she gained international recognition for starring as Padmé Amidala in *Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace* (1999). Portman's directorial ventures include the short film *Eve* (2008) and the biographical drama *A Tale of Love and Darkness* (2015).

## 🚩 Mayim Bialik

- Actress/Scientist, a Ph.D Neuroscientist specializing in Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) in adolescents with Prader-Willi syndrome
- Known for her roles in the NBC sitcom *Blossom*. Since 2010, she has played Amy Farrah Fowler – like the actress, a neuroscientist – on the CBS sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*, a role for which she has been nominated four times for

the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series, and won the Critics' Choice Television Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series in 2015 and 2016.

**Dr. Chet Hennegar**, a neuropsychiatrist who becomes a key person in the safe recovery of Marine after her head injury. In future books, Dr. Chet plays various roles as Marine continues to deal with her memory loss. He is based on a composite of family members from Pam's life—her husband, Albert; her brother, Archie; and her father, James.

**Ana-Geliza**, the antagonist of the novel is a highly competitive assassin wanting to climb in the ranks of the TRANS Company. Her lust for advancement, her need to be better, and her desire to show how useless Marine is proves to be a fatal flaw. Marine reacts in defending herself using her skill to overpower Ana-Geliza.

# ***The Fire Within***

## **Amnesia and its Effects**

In the novel, *The Fire Within*, Marine suffers a specific type of amnesia. Dr. Chet is charged with determining her care and to give her the best environment to facilitate her recovery. The following information along with interviews with practicing specialist who work with amnesiac patients provided the background material to write about Marine's injury and how her amnesia affected her choices while on the cruise.

Amnesia (from Greek *Ἀμνησία* "a" meaning "without", "μνησία" memory) is a deficit in memory caused by brain damage, disease, or psychological trauma. Amnesia can also be caused temporarily by the use of various sedatives and hypnotic drugs. Essentially, amnesia is loss of memory.

The memory can be either wholly or partially lost due to the extent of damage that was caused. There are two main types of amnesia: retrograde amnesia and anterograde amnesia. Retrograde amnesia is the inability to retrieve information that was acquired before a particular date, usually the date of an accident or operation. In some cases the memory loss can extend back decades, while in others the person may lose only a few months of memory. Anterograde amnesia is the inability to transfer new information from the short-term store into the long-term store. People with this type of amnesia cannot remember things for long periods of time.

These two types are not mutually exclusive. Both can occur within a patient at one time. Case studies also show that amnesia is typically associated with damage to the medial temporal lobe. In addition, specific areas of the hippocampus (the CA1 region) are involved with memory. Research has also shown that when areas of the diencephalon are damaged, amnesia can occur.

Patients can learn new procedural knowledge. In addition, priming (both perceptual and conceptual) can assist amnesiacs in the learning of fresh non-declarative knowledge. Amnesic patients also retain substantial intellectual, linguistic, and social skill despite profound impairments in the ability to recall specific information encountered in prior learning episodes.