

ISSUE #11

10 APRIL 2017

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT
INTRODUCING
L.M. VITT



INDIE
PUBLISHING
NEWS

PLAISTED PUBLISHING HOUSE, LTD.

Happy Easter from the Editor's Desk



If you celebrate Easter, I hope you all have a wonderful time. If not then have a great weekend. Also to all the poets in the group- **Happy Poetry Month.**

If anyone knows of a special occasion like **Poetry Month**, please mention it to me so we can make the most with marketing. This way everyone who participate could have the focus put on them. Don't forget the **Charity Pages** at the back of the magazine, after all – **Sharing is Caring**

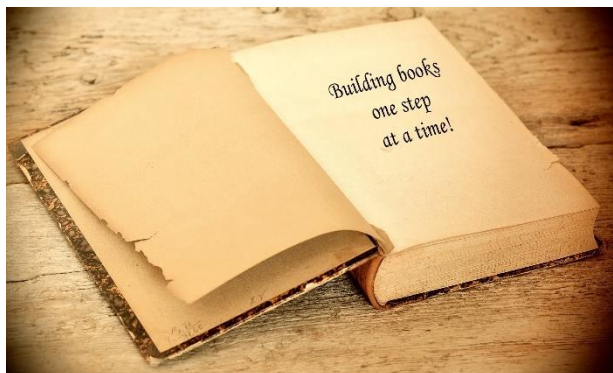
Next month we are starting a new page for **Editors and Cover Artists**. On this page you will find a **one off advert** – It might even be a special, who knows. The following month those featured will have an **interview**.

Go Indie Now is another important step for all Indie Authors to take. Joe is amazing and we will have a special interview from him soon about what he does for everyone.

Do you have an educational articles to share? Please email me. You can find my email in the heading photo of the group. We have lots happening in this months magazine. I do hope you will all enjoy it and **share** it with your fans, friends and family.

PLEASE SHARE THIS MAGAZINE AS FAR AS YOU CAN! THE MORE WHO GET TO READ WILL HELP GET MORE INDIE AUTHORS INVOLVED, INCREASING HOW MANY PARTICIPATE IN THE MAGAZINE. GROWING IT AND RAISING YOUR POTENTIAL OF FINDING NEW READERS AND AUDIENCES.

**DON'T FORGET OUR SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM FOR FANTASY AUTHORS.
THIS CLOSES ON 31ST May 2017**



Helping Indie Authors get their books published professionally

Favourite Blog Interviews with Tom Fallwell

Marinda Brock – Indie Author

My guest this week is author Miranda Brock. From an early age she has always loved fantasy and adventure everything. Since she doesn't live in a world of enchanting powers, mythical beasts, and things unbelievable she has decided to write about them (although, if you happen to see a dragon flying around, do tell her).

Born in southern Illinois, where she still resides with her husband and two children, she grew up running through the woods, playing in creeks, and riding horses. What started out as writing poetry grew into short stories and eventually led to her first novel, *Souls Discovered*. Miranda lives in the country where she finds inspiration in the simplicity and beauty around her. With the help of a ridiculous amount of coffee and some good music she writes whenever she gets a chance.



MARINDA BROCK
ON AMAZON

Miranda has a published book, *Souls Discovered*, and I encourage you to check it out.

THE INTERVIEW - I was able to catch up with Miranda and ask a few questions.

1. Does writing energize or exhaust you?

I would have to say both. Nothing is more energizing than starting on a new scene or chapter, especially if I'm working on a battle scene. Writing a fight scene can really get me amped up and I can hardly get my pencil across the paper fast enough. Afterwards is when I will feel mentally exhausted and wrung out. It's a good feeling though, especially when I see what I've accomplished.

2. Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I tend to lean towards being more original. I didn't start out writing with the potential readers in mind. I started writing because creating stories was something I loved doing. Of course, now I want to write books that readers will enjoy but not at the sacrifice of being original and true to myself. I would much rather gain readers that enjoy what I write than to write something I do not feel drawn to just to gain readers.

3. What is one thing you wished you had known when you first started writing?

This one is easy. I wish I would have started building a platform sooner. I did not start promoting myself or my work until after I had released my first book. Oh well! Lesson learned, right? I'm catching up now and I've been having great fun meeting so many wonderful fellow authors and spending countless hours on social media.

4. What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

I spent a lot of time doing research for my debut novel, *Souls Discovered*. A great deal of my research went towards researching culture, accents, and weaponry. I have characters from Ireland, Scotland, Russia, and Japan in my novel. I knew doing accents could be tricky and annoying if done incorrectly. The last thing I wanted was for my Irish character to sound like a pirate with an addiction to Lucky Charms cereal. I believe I've found a good balance so the characters sound authentic without sounding, well, hokey. Researching weapons was a lot of fun. I even got hands on! My heroine, Autumn, has to learn how to throw knives, so I bought throwing knives to practice with. It was fun to learn the technique, how to stand, and which muscles became sore. I still throw them from time to time. I might even be able to kill a Dehmon three feet away, now!

MEANWHILE – YOU CAN FIND OUR INTERVIEWER - TOM FALLWELL:

Web Site: <http://tomfallwell.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TomFallwellAuthor>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Tom-Fallwell/e/BooIV2JSJI>

Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/11303749.Tom_Fallwell

Author Spotlight – L M Vitt

Tell us a bit about yourself.

Hello, my name is Larissa Shively-Vitt, L.M. Vitt is my pseudonym. I am from Kansas City Ks, USA, a veteran of the US army, artist and I am a transgender woman. I am proud of who I am. I put my experiences and wisdom into my stories.



What brought you to the world of writing?

The artist that I am needed a creative release that would provide some extra income to help me afford my medical transition. Once I had the first chapter of Dragon Squadron down, I was hooked. I knew that I wanted to paint with the English language, not just a picture but an entire universe.

What is your first book and what do you think of it now?

I still love Dragon Squadron. This book started it all for me. I was amazed when I stopped to re-read. I fell in love with my own characters.

What type of books do you write and do they fulfill your reader's needs?

I write contemporary fantasy. Altho I would love it if my books were enjoyed by everyone, I am focusing on the ever growing transgender youth so they may find heroes, magic, and dragons to escape to when they need a break from reality. It is my hope that transgender youth may find enough strength in my books to just hold out a little longer.

Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it?

Dragon Squadron is the only book I have available. It takes place in a not so distant future when magic has been released back into the world of mankind. As it devastates humanity, a small group of elves, dwarfs, and 3 young women using a small force of vintage WWII aircraft, are left to save humanity.

How long does it take you to write your first draft?

I worked on Dragon Squadron, off and on, for several years. I am finally at a point where I am happy with the finished product enough to leave it be and move on to the next.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

I do not plot. I like to write intuitively. The story unfolds all by itself as I write. It's like un-reading a book. You don't know what is going to happen next until you write it. After the first couple of chapters, I have an idea of where I want to go with the story. At that point, I write the last chapter and take the story in that direction.

Do you write in 1st or 3rd person, or have you do both?

I have written in both but I prefer 3rd person.

How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write?

When I am writing I use online editing software to catch the spelling and grammar issues. When I am finished with the draft I re-read it 3 times out loud. This way I can pay attention to the flow and adjust when I feel I need too.

What type of people/readers do you market your books to?

My books, as I mentioned before, are marketed for teens and young adults with the focus on transgender youth.

Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Published?

I have self-published Dragon Squadron under my own label Pixie Press. Eventually, all my books will be under that label.

How do you promote your writing?

That is a darned good question. I am using social media as well as book signings to promote Dragon Squadron. It is a challenge for me because I honestly don't quite know what I am doing, but I am learning as I go. I am determined!

Where can we buy your books?

You can find me on amazon, my author/artist page, and my website.

Who are your favorite authors?

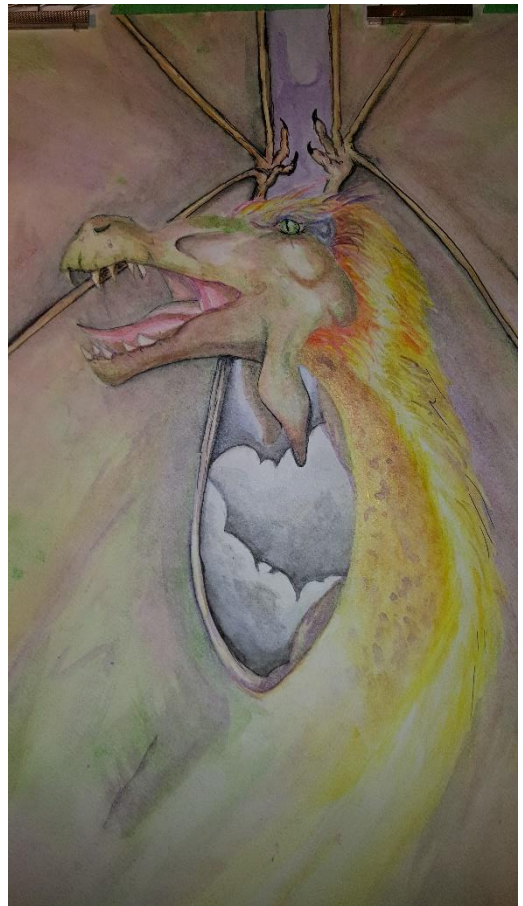
I have a few. I like to read Neville Shute, Timothy Zaun, Kim Harrison and of course Tolkien, and George Lucas. Did you know that even Jimmy Buffet is quite the author? I really love his work!

Links

[Dragon Squadron](#)

[My website](#)

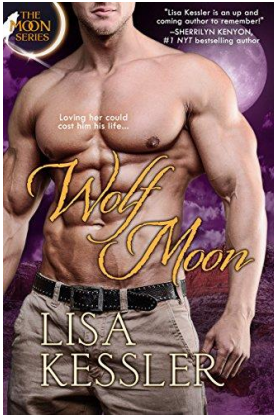
[find my author/artist page](#)



ART BY L M VITT

Indie Author Reviews

Wolf Moon by Lisa Kessler



This is not the last Wolf Pack book, but it is the last book about a member of the pack itself and knowing that saddens me. In this book we get to know Luke, a loner compared with the rest of his Pack who moves away to Arizona to get a change of scenery, which is where he meets Raven, an unwillingly turned werewolf escaping an abusive pack, trying to also rescue her werewolf sister, Isabelle.

Raven is now my second favorite female member of the pack (first always being Lana). She's got fire in her heart and steel in her guts to go through what she has and still have the will to fight. She is a perfect addition to the series and I couldn't have imagined a better mate for Luke.

Luke is not my favorite wolf, but he's a great, solid character whose story was worth waiting for. He's got a very unique voice and his story reinforces the sense of family and camaraderie that I felt was missing since book two.

The plot was the most fast-paced yet, filled with action and information. With a few quick plot twists and a wonderful ending, this book will make you pull an all-nighter (I did!) and this series will enrapture you. Kessler has a gift for creating unique and likable characters that will stay in your heart forever. Now...that being said, I can't WAIT for Isabelle's story (because I know it's coming and can't freakin' WAIT!!!)

Reviewed by Kelly Smith

On the Way to Simple by Jennifer Acres

This book. I can't say enough good things about it. Ms. Acres wrote a beautiful story of friendship, love, family and loss.

The main character, college senior and wannabe professional party planner Dakota, can't function without a plan. When she decides to tell her best friend since forever, Alex, that she loves him, she ends up backing out, afraid of the consequences. Dakota also hates "uniforms," because of something that happened with her father, a former fireman. When Alex enlists in the Navy, becoming a "uniform" himself, she has a freak out. Her plans are falling apart at the seams.

Then she meets Alex's fellow Navy recruit, Will.

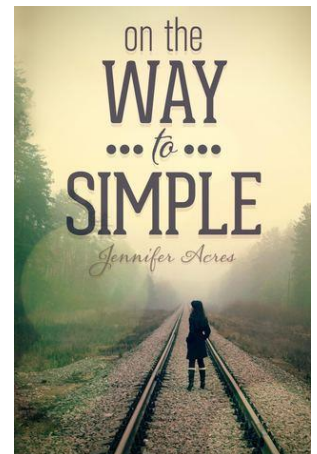
Dakota starts to fall for Will (you will too). But... uniforms! But... Alex! But...plans! Do you see where this is going? Because this book will take you on a ride through every emotion under the sun in the best way possible.

The relationships between Dakota and Will, Dakota and Alex, and even Will and Alex are all distinct and developed perfectly. One of my favorite relationships in the book is Dakota's relationship with her best girlfriend and roommate, Kaylee. Kaylee is pretty much the polar opposite of Dakota, but the connection they share is evident--you always feel the love between these two, even when they're fighting.

Beware: This book will make you cry. I'll admit I hid in the bathroom and ugly cried, even the second time I read it. But it will also fill you with warmth, love, and most of all hope.

Such a good read. A story that will stick with me forever. Highly recommended.

Reviewed by Jessica Calla



Broken Roots by Michelle Diane Lowe

Wow! This is quite a story. Had this been a movie, it would have been an elaborate crime drama.

I have read the first book by this author, which I enjoyed, but I have to say, with *Broken Roots*, the author is clearly raising the bar for herself. This story is much darker and has a more elaborate plot. Indeed, something unexpected unfolds consistently in this story, and I was surprised many times.

One thing that is consistent about this author is her clever use of analogies and symbolism. It is everywhere and very intelligently used, and the reader could miss them if they don't slow down and take the time to absorb her words. I would note some here but it is much more fun to stumble across these passages yourself.

Speaking of words, this author has a unique way of arranging them. It is quite apparent that each word is carefully considered and chosen. It shows.

Now for my personal feelings about the plot.

SPOILER I couldn't believe the things that befell Teisha. One of her lowest points, in my opinion, was when she was left in the house alone and was literally starving to death, with no utilities and nobody to help her. My heart broke when she thought her mother returned for her and she crawled – CRAWLED – downstairs to see her.

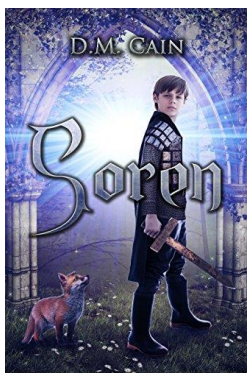
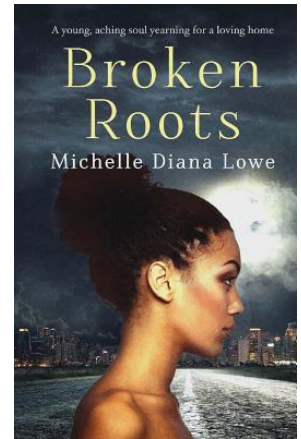
I hated her mother. I wanted to slap her many times.

SPOILER When Rachel came into the picture, I had mixed feelings. I was glad she found someone who would love her but at the same, I was worried she was secretly an awful person or that she would get taken as well. In this manner, the author had me feeling Teisha's emotions while reading!

As far as the truth told at the end: I was blown away. It makes me want to read the story again, knowing what I know. The story definitely leaves room for a sequel; I would absolutely love to read more about Teisha. What is really admirable about this character, that she kept her morals intact during some awful trials that no child should ever have to endure. That is really quite inspirational.

Excellent job by Michelle Diana Lowe. I highly recommend this book.

Reviewed by Chrissy Moon



SOREN by D. M. Cain

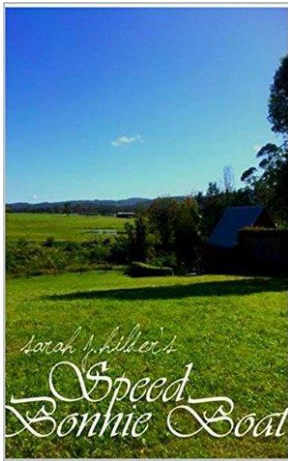
Soren is a children's fantasy book for the preteen and teen generation, although I have to admit I read it in two sittings. Being a fan of fantasy myself, and working with students of all ages, I know this book will appeal to many.

The characters are well-set, my favourites being Dash and Callista, and there are plenty of magical events and creatures to satisfy a teen fantasy fan (even some honouring the author's commendable writing influences, I dare say). The descriptions are clearly laid out but not burdening the story, the suspense really written with feeling, rhythm and even a tease; ending chapters on a cliffhanger gets you moving immediately to "just one more chapter". Having also read this author's

Phoenix Project, it is obvious that D. M. Cain has a natural knack of vividly describing action scenes, especially hand-to-hand duels. The language is excellent, not over-simplified for children but just enough of a challenge.

My favourite part of the book (except for Dash:) is how the author depicts the (royal) family – with past trauma behind them, and the fears of the oncoming prophecy, they are still that imperfectly perfect family of different kids, a moody dad and a slightly controlling mother.

Reviewed by ANITA KOVACEVIC



Speed Bonnie Boat by Sarah J Hilder

I was drawn to this book by the title. I learned that song at Girl Scout camp many moons ago and still remember it. I was really captured by her statement that it was for those who did not know there was a second verse to the song. Great tagline!

I am happy to say I was not disappointed in my choice at all. This book is great! Dom has had lots of tragedy in her life and the latest development left her homeless and without any possessions. The loss of her parents years ago hit her hard and she lost focus but this new issue has her unnerved. Lois, her best friend, convinces her to use some of her money and take a trip to Scotland, where her parents came from.

They never spoke of anyone there but, perhaps she could find a relative. And so off she goes. Loved the confusion with the accents, her frustration when she found her parents had changed their names. Everything flowed and yet there were lots of twists and turns. I was captivated through the entire story. Great Write!

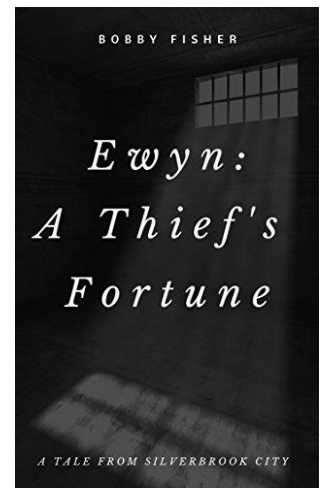
Reviewed by Cindy Smith

Ewyn: A Thief's Fortune by Bobby Fisher

Ewyn: A Thief's Fortune: A Tale From Silverbrook City follows the story of Ewyn, a young boy who has been left with nothing after his parents passed away. He had made a reputation for himself in Silverbrook City as being clever and sneaky.

When he discovers his sister Isobel is ailing and desperate in need of healing, Ewyn becomes foolish and attempts to steal from Lord Ravensworth, sending him with a one-way ticket into Ravensworth's tower. Inside his cell he meets Brennan, a man who once constructed portions of the city for Lord Ravensworth. This is when the real adventure begins.

This was a delightful, fast paced read though the story contained several missed opportunities where I felt the story could have been expanded upon.



I found the character of Brennan intriguing and wished to have known more of his backstory. Ewyn was a fun character, however, I would have liked to have known more about his sister's sickness – how long she had been sick and how she got sick to fully understand Ewyn's desperation to steal money to help her. It would have been helpful to have known a bit more of the politics, the specific time period, and possibly even had a map of Silverbrook City to understand the author's world.

Things worked out a bit too conveniently, leaving the story predictable, which was a missed opportunity to build on the suspense. I found it hard to believe if Brennan was supposed to be in this tower for so many years that his once very good friend was still able to recognize him and the area hadn't changed much. My own hometown within 10 years has changed so much I can hardly recognize it being the same place anymore!

Overall I enjoyed the story and look forward to reading the future tales about Silverbrook City.

Reviewed by Ami Lutkus-Phillips



Spotlight Reviews for L M Vitt

“5.0 out of 5 stars: L.M. Vitt is a dazzling storyteller.

Reviewed by Sarah N. Dolan on August 6, 2015

The imagery that the author uses in this book is so vibrant and really brings the story to life. I fell in love with the characters and the plot twists and turns kept me on the edge of my seat! I'm actually rereading the book now and still discovering wonderful little tidbits that I didn't notice the first time around. LOVE THIS BOOK!!!”

“5.0 out of 5 stars: I absolutely loved this book

Reviewed by Heather Rohner on March 18, 2015

I absolutely loved this book. L.M. Vitt has given us a wonderful story that grabs you and doesn't let go. The characters stay with you long after you have finished reading. There is not a story out there quite like this. You owe it to yourself to read this book.”

“5.0 out of 5 stars: First Time Author Knocks It Out of The Park!

Reviewed by Trip C Habitation May 10, 2015

First time I've read a fantasy book. I usually have trouble keeping track of characters and places. This was a pleasant surprise.

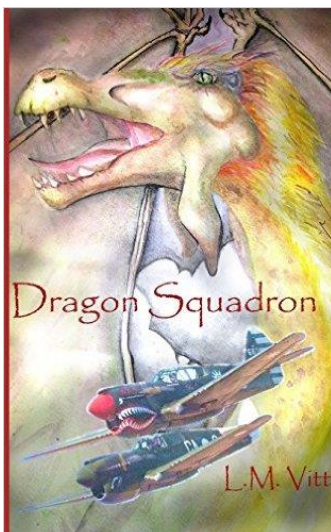
“5.0 out of 5 stars: Fantastic read!!

Reviewed by TM Leeson June 26, 2014

Dragon Squadron is a great sci/fi, fantasy that brings to life the mythical fantasies that we hear about as children. With the collaboration of real-life science and the mythical findings that bring about a force of magic, the story led to the unfolding of life as we (humanity) know it.

The author has a way of vividly expressing the actions and feelings of the characters that permit you to envision and watch the book through your very own eyes. The story line was well written while letting your mind jump to possibilities and wonders of what will happen next.

I was very intrigued by the story and was unable to put it down as the action scenes were intense and emotional with an abrupt, but cliff hanging ending. This first book was a great read and I look forward to the second to come.



Dragon Squadron by L M Vitt

Since the times of magic, Bob Conner's WWII fighter plane was as close as he could get to dancing among the clouds and nestling in the shoulders of his mighty emerald dragon. It had been thousands of years since the magic was buried deep within the Earth to protect it from mankind. Now the world has changed forever as it has been rediscovered, and once again brought to the Earth's surface. Now that the magic has been released, it is up to those few elves and dwarfs that have stayed behind to put things back. With the help of three special women and a small air force of vintage aircraft, this courageous group battles the darkness and it is the light that ushers in a whole new age of enchantment.

[**BUY LINK**](#)

Tuscan Festival of Books with Ilana Maltez

I attended the **Tucson Festival of Books** this past weekend. The Festival took place under an incredibly blue sky and a hot, desert sun that brilliantly lit up the Sonoran landscape and surrounding mountains. Every year for the past nine years, the Festival has overtaken the center mall of the University of Arizona campus for a weekend during the University's spring break. It is a huge celebration of literature, whose primary purpose is to improve literacy rates among children and adults. All of the events are offered to the public are free of charge, including a wide array of really amazing lectures and workshops by well-known authors and well-placed people in the book industry. The vast majority of the Festival's revenues come from citizens who choose to pay a yearly fee to become friends of the Festival, and all proceeds from the Festival go to supporting local literacy programs.

This was my first time attending the Tucson Festival of books, and my very first book fair as a published author. I bought a two hour stint in the adult fiction tent on Saturday for \$35.00. I also entered the **Festival's Masters Literary Awards Competition**. My book, *Cha'risa's Gift*, ended up placing as a semi-finalist. There had been hundreds of submissions to the competition, and the judges had been drawn from a pool of this year's big name authors/presenters. Needless to say, it was a very exciting way to start off my first experience with the **Tucson Festival of Books**.

I only sold one book during my two hour slot, but I was having such a good time, the lack of sales wasn't enough to dim my spirits. Then, to my delight and surprise, I discovered that over the course of the day I had sold an additional 8 books on-line and the following day another two. I sold enough books to break even on my investment in the Festival. But honestly, book sales can't even begin to describe the value of this weekend. All around me, there was an air of excitement and fun. Books were changing hands by the thousands; children's events were successfully inspiring a love of books in a new generation of readers. And for those of us older bibliophiles, we were offered, for free, literally hundreds of quality lectures, seminars, and workshops on a wide range of topics.

I had a chance to attend two of the workshops on Sunday. One was a workshop entitled **"How to Build an Indie Readership,"** by author Lindsay McKenna. The other was called "Getting Your Book Reviewed," by Claiborne Smith, Editor-in-Chief of Kirkus Media.

You might know Lindsay McKenna as Eileen Nauman. She's an award winning author of more than 100 books, and a pioneer in using electronic media to further her publishing goals. When you first meet Lindsay, you are struck by two things. One is that she is just a powerhouse of energy, and the second is that she is a risk taker. She started her career with traditional publishers; however, the nature of her contracts resulted in her being responsible for much of her own marketing. She began to wonder if she might be better off striking out as an indie author. She decided to take the risk, using \$40,000 of her family savings to make the switch. That first year was a slow start, and she had a lot of sleepless nights wondering if she was going to be able to earn enough to re-fund the family savings. But she kept a level head and continued looking for those things that would bring her a good return on her investments. Eventually, she cobbled together a plan of action that enabled her to reliably bring in about \$100,000 a year.

One of the key elements of Lindsay's plan involved reaching traditional readers through blog tours. But, she made it clear that it has to be with a company that really knows what they're doing. After trying out several, Lindsay now highly recommends Tasty Blog tour. They offer a five day tour for \$120 with between 60 and 80 stops. Her plan also involved making sure that a book was up on Amazon, Kobo, Apple and ibooks before booking a tour and that strong analytics were in place before a tour. Lindsay recommended subscribing to Booktracker, which she said is the best way to keep track of sales and rankings across a variety of platforms.

Another element of her plan involved contests to generate interest, and she recommended Freshfiction.com. For \$1,500, this service helps an author to run/promote a contest every month for a year. She said that this investment resulted in 10,000 new followers. In fact, three-fourths of her indie readership came from this investment. Lindsay indicated that the ultimate goal is for writers to run contests from their own websites, but said that it's good to start with the wider exposure that a site like Freshfiction can offer.

Claiborne Smith has been **Editor-in-Chief of Kirkus Media** since 2013. Kirkus Media is an expansion of Kirkus Reviews and was formed to help Kirkus respond to the many changes and challenges currently facing the publishing industry. Claiborne is a quiet but very well-spoken and thoughtful man who possesses such a keen intellect, that you can't help but be inspired by his words.

In listening to **Claiborne** talk, it was clear that **Kirkus reviews** is still much more focused on traditional authors than indie ones. However, Kirkus is attempting to respond to the changes indie authors are driving within the industry, and has recently begun accepting galleys from indie authors. Claiborne made it clear that it is important to send galleys with plenty of lead time; about four months before publishing. There is also a service Kirkus offers where indie authors can pay for a review. The cost is \$425.00, and if the author doesn't like the review, the author can ask that it not be published. But, the honest truth is that for the indie author, Kirkus is not the right starting point. Claiborne made a strong argument for the importance of becoming involved at the local level; adding your voice to your community. He made the suggestion to try to get your local papers to review your book, but not to stop there. He encouraged us to consider writing reviews for our local papers. He suggested we could offer to help out with book events within our communities. He also mentioned reaching out to local book store owners, to find out not only what they can do for us, but what we might be able to do to support them. In short, the message was to become an active, positive, literary influence within our communities.

He also wanted us to go beyond our physical communities, taking this principal and applying it to social media. He wanted us to consider writing posts that went beyond news about our work and our writing goals. He encouraged us to share some of the interesting research we uncover in our journeys as authors, or to talk about writers we admire. The key part of Claiborne's message was for us to find ways to take our social media interaction to a deeper level, one where we share what we were passionate about, hopefully igniting that passion and excitement in others

Claiborne got me thinking about the ways in which I could have a greater impact on the people whose lives are most directly influenced by me every single day. This was a message that resonated deeply with me; a perfect takeaway from a weekend that was meant to inspire literacy in our communities. In these unsettled times, when a thoughtless tweet could start a war, Claiborne reminded us that the best defense we have is our capacity for intellectually engaging with others. Our words matter, it is how we share the best of ourselves with others.

[TUSCAN FESTIVAL OF BOOKS](#)

**Thursday 27th April 3 – 5 pm PDT Online. With your hostess
Lily Luchesi**

A Bloody Legacy

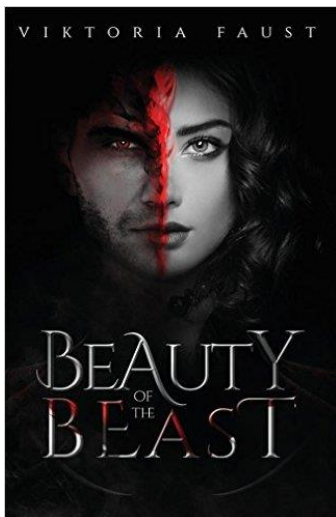
*A femdom novelette from
bestselling author Lily Luchesi.*

4.27.17

Hot Ink Press



Grandma Peachy's Reviews



Beauty of the Beast by Viktoria Faust

I'm not quite sure how I found this book, but, I'm glad I did. I've only read a few vampire books. This one is unlike any other vampire story I've read before. Written in first person narrative, it is like a memoir. Beauty of the Beast by Viktoria Faust cover. The author even used her pen name for her protagonist, making it more authentic as a memoir. The internal war raging within the main character makes this such a cerebral tale. The life and death of the human, the resurrection to an immortal vampire, all the pros and cons are contemplated, analyzed and few answers to questions are found by Viktoria.

I first thought that the translation from Croatian to English needed some first language editing. There were many grammatical errors for English and some misspelled or misused words. However, those did not keep me from finding myself totally engrossed in the story.

Upon reflection I think I would not change it. The way it is translated give it an authenticity that proper grammar and usage never could. The story is told by someone who's first and maybe even second language is not English. I can imagine an actual verbal telling of the story where the speaker strives to find the right words to express their thoughts and can only come very close sometimes. Speaking as best they can struggling with sentence structure unfamiliar to them and getting close though not exactly correct. I think that made the telling of the story interesting and believable. The main character related her experiences and feelings in such a way that I could feel what she felt and see what she saw. The author expertly showed me all that happened to her in this fictional memoir. Excellent story! Written for adults, I think it is also acceptable for older teens 17 and above.

Enjoy!

Grandma Peachy

Rainne's Reviews

The Yellow Hoods Boxset by Adam Dreece

This clever mix of fairytales and steampunk is a wonderful and original, fast-paced series. Delightful for young(ish) readers and adults, albeit on different levels.

I spent the best part of two weeks in the company of Tee, her friends and family, and their rivals, and enjoyed every minute of it.

The plot and the sub-plots weave back and forth seamlessly, making an entertaining and riveting read that's hard to put down. (How the author kept everything straight while writing the series is beyond me, but he did it well.)

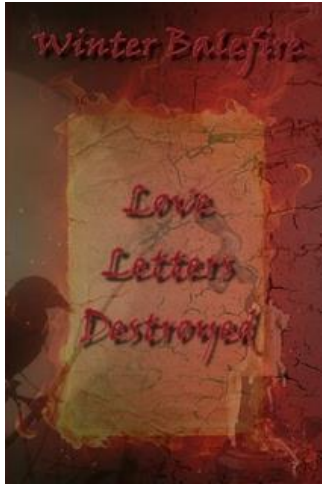
There are more twists and turns than a roller-coaster ride, some danger and tragedy, plenty of wit and humour, and lots of action and adventure. A general theme of growing up.. family, friendship, confidence, loyalty and more, runs smoothly within the story.

The author brings the large and diverse cast of characters to life, and as they continue to develop and change throughout the series, we learn more of their hidden depths... and flaws. At the same time, he paints a detailed picture of the world they inhabit, starting with the small village in book one to a much larger expanse by book five, as our heroes (and villains) travel further away from their homes.

I liked the names of the characters, many of them plucked from fairytales and myths and given a twist... my favourite, being Ron-Paul Silskin!



POETS CORNER



Love Letters Destroyed

By Winter Balefire

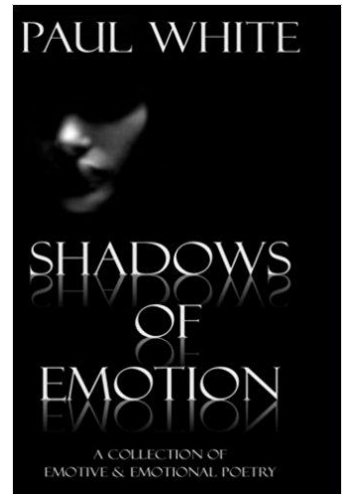
Love Letters Destroyed is a collection of poetry representing all that is written and left unsaid. Sleepless nights, dark thoughts, and broken bits of sanity fill these pages. Each piece tells a story and each story will reveal every part of your psyche you've hidden from. Here you will find everything you've ever felt but have never said aloud.

[BUY LINK](#)

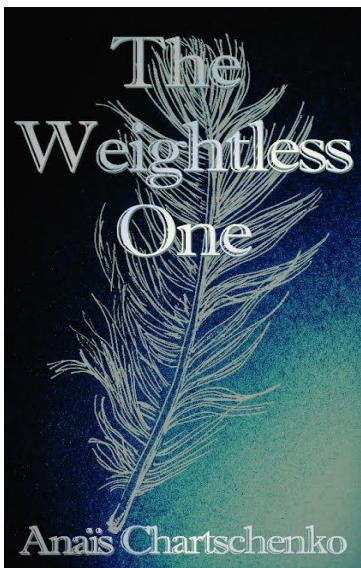
Shadows of Emotions

By Paul White

Shadows of Emotion is a collection of poetry which touches on subjects that are emotive, poignant and often challenging, possibly controversial, as many poets and writers seldom venture into these realms. My hope is that some of my words will resonate within your mind, stir the passions that lie within your soul and, at the very least, make you feel the depth of emotions that inspired the creation of each line and verse. I have entitled this book Shadows of Emotion because I believe that our shadows are always with us. Sometimes they are right in front of us, dark and prominent in their presence. At other times they are by our side or behind us, faded or shortened, or cast out at length over grey pavement by the evening sun. As our shadows, so are our emotions; constant companions who's presence waxes and wanes as time and life pass. We have no command over either, both being influenced by effects beyond our control.



[BUY LINK](#)



The Weightless One

By Anaïs Chartschenko

Every bit of food I eat
Is turning into more thoughts
And what do I do with the thoughts
I am too afraid to say?

After a party changed everything, Miranda loses her appetite. She is placed in an eating disorder treatment program, where she must be brave enough to face the truth she was trying to bury.

A novel told in verse

[BUY LINK](#)

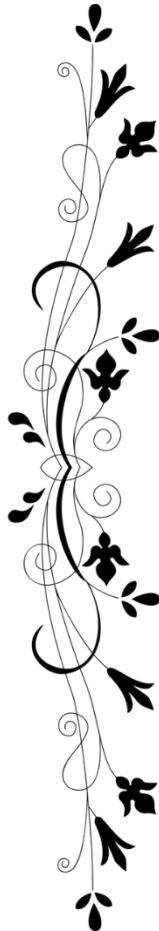
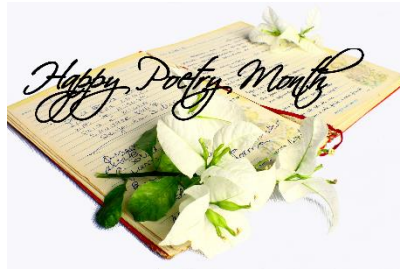
POETRY MONTH 2017

Sirens Wail **By Lily Luchesi**

As the sirens wail
The city pretends they cannot
hear
As the bombs burst
The world pretends it is well
As people rebel
The leaders turn a blind eye
In a world where liars are revered
And hate is acceptable
Where children are gunned down
in schoolyards
And people are killed because
they are brave enough to love
No one acts
No one sees
Where families live on Skid Row
in LA
Where kids kill each other on the
South Side of Chicago
Violence is their answer to their
problems
When did we give up on peace?
When did we give up on
camaraderie?
Who out there is left
To pick up the pieces of a world
we broke
After chipping away at it for
decades now?
You broke the economy
You killed thousands of innocents
All for the love of oil
You segregated us into Blue and
Red
You all ruined us
And now we are left to suffer
Your consequences
They are yours, not ours
Why don't you fuckers stand up
And reap what you have sown?
Because I'm sick of suffering
While you're flying private jets
And drinking champagne
It's time you all learned
We are not your stepping stones
We are not your garbage bins
We are not inferior to you
We are all human
We all bleed red
And we have spilled enough
blood
You have hurt enough people
It's time for a regime change

One Day at a Time **By Michelle Murray**

Take one day at a time
one step forward don't look behind
look for the suns orange rays
peeking out through the clouds
when it rains remember dark
is always followed by light
just remember to look
and head towards it



Back to Humanity **By Cindy J Smith**

We don't need more reasons
To keep us separate
Nor should we use a god
As a political delegate
What the world really needs
Are love and understanding
Appreciation for life
And some mutual respecting
It is not how much you have
Nor the color of your skin
Not how much you have in the bank
Nor what religion you believe in
Accept that we're all different
All have strengths and faults
And opinions both good and bad
So let's put hate to a halt
Everyone's life is important
No one is more deserving
Bring back humanity
With compassion and giving

Along The Guided Path **By Joanne Ruth 2009**

I chose to walk along the guided path with you
Followed as you lead through valleys
along the shores and up to mountain peaks
that soared above the clouds
We talked . . . You taught
I listened and heard the wisdom of the ages
fascinated by the knowledge that you shared
There was no turning back
no matter where the journey led
Though there were times I rested for a while
Dark times in densest bush or caverns
In the underground where I could only crawl
There were sections that I had to walk again
and learn the things I missed the first time round
But You were there through those as well
Your whispered words and guiding hand
A comfort to my heart
Oh . . . and there was so much beauty
to be seen along the way
The vibrant colours and the living waters
Joy that lifted me to fly where eagles glide on given
winds
Where I could see an Angel's view of where we'd been
And ahead our destination clear
I chose to walk along this guided path with you
And I tell you now and all who want to know
That even though the journey has been hard
I wouldn't miss a single step I've trod.

She still loved him!

By C A Keith

The sun shined brightly
She could still smell him,
She could still taste him.
She loved the way he touched her
so gently.
She loved his gentle
kisses,
the passionate times
they spent together.
She knew that he wasn't
right for her...
She was there
for all the wrong reasons...
but
she still loved
everything about him.

Reasons I Should Get To Leave

By Anais Chartschenko

I don't count calories.
I don't weigh myself.
I don't obsess over models.
I don't exercise.
I don't take laxatives or
Diuretics.
I don't make myself
Throw up.
I don't care what you think.
I think for myself.
I'm not this, I still have
My period.
Okay?

Hell on Earth

By Karina Lynch

Rivers running red with blood
Civilians causing havoc
A time of war descends on us
Shadows causing panic

Freedom is restricted now
Houses burned to the ground
Women kept in a petting zoo
Flames lighting the streets

Above the cities, birds of prey do call
And lightning strikes the ground
Thunder makes a booming clap
As rain begins to fall

The world is ruined, people shout
Wondering how to survive this hell
Babies cry and animals die
None are at fault but you.

Raging Death

By Tania Giguere

The rain poured causing a flood of mud
Slipping down into a world of love killing off the
dove

A path of brown death gradually reaches out
stealing our hope
Tearing apart any ray of light that grows from a
soul

Closing roads that lead to worlds of passion
Now only time can clear away our dreaded fear
However, rust-colored terror dries upon the eyes
of our dead

Carrying their vision of light into a realm of terror
Moments sunk deep inside the core of the earth
Melting away whatever life lived within their
hearts

A thick essence of the dark reddish evil covers the
mind

Losing the memory and the shelter of our spirit
Forcing it down into a mound of clay
Never for us to behold the light of day
Thunderbolts speak of rain which drains into the
valleys

Leaving nothing to follow for lightning makes
them hollow
Also, the power of will crushed beneath its grave
of mud

Watching it slide across a field of enchantment
Burying whatever life its green grass bloomed
Now holding tight for the wind blew in like a
mighty gale

Causing us to sink into its ocean of dirt
Carrying away the salt that held our bodies high
Listen well for it speaks of death for living, not for
the dying

Their fate now sealed with a kiss grants pain more
time

So rain pouring out its wet lust upon a world of
peace
Catches the tears that help to fuel its wrath

Creation of Nature

By Ian Lahey

How fitfully do
breeze and trees
sound alike.

As twins begot from
a Maker's single breath.

How fine of them
to touch and weave
as Mind and Psyche

The whisp'ring plants
Do muse of life and death.



Untamed
By Anita Kovacevic

Wish I could be like
An untamed stallion...
Losing my breath from running free,
Glowing skin in the sun,
Fearlessly pushing through the branches
Of the treetops in the forest
And breaking into the clearing,
Proudly and sturdily,
With the wind tossing my mane
And me jumping for sheer joy of life.

Wish I could be like that...
But I'm not.

I have this brake inside me
Which stops my race...
I have this strange fence
I seem to have built for myself,
by myself, and with years
it hasn't dwindled or got damaged,
but stands fast as strong or
even stronger than before,
and seemingly invisible
it flashes my conscience
every time my heart races faster,
my soul's wings flutter, my legs try to gallop
or my mind to travel...

I don't know why.
Sometimes my fence is my friend.
But deep down – I hate it.

Wish I could be like
An inquisitive child again...
Losing my breath from running free,
losing my breath from running free,
Glowing skin in the sun,
Fearlessly pushing through the grass
In a meadow or a hill
And breaking into the clearing,
Proudly and with a smile,
With the wind in my hair
And me jumping for sheer joy of life.

Wish I could be like that.
But I'm not.

I have this naughty kid inside me
Who starts my race...
This beautiful inner child
I seem to have preserved myself,
for myself, but with years it has hidden,
it gets silenced but isn't lost.
Just as mischievous,
or maybe more so than before,
and seemingly invisible,
it flashes my conscience
every time my heart would slow down,
my soul would give up
and my mind might cave in...



Footsteps
By Cindy J Smith

Walking, running, skipping
Footsteps mark our way
They're silent evidence
Of where we go each day
They offer no perspective
Nor reason for our direction
But when we choose to observe them
We find they do offer us reflection
Were we coming from or going to?
Entering or are we leaving?
If we look close enough we can find
Whether we're following or leading

'The Ancient Temple'
By Joanne Ruth

*Impressions gained from visiting the
The Kaimanawa Wall - Taupo, New Zealand*

I am a temple built in ancient times
Now lost here deep in forest glade
And overcome with ash, with moss and vines
Yet still beats my heart, my soul, my life
Who will hear me, who will come.

So buried 'neath the silt of time
Now a dusty hill that people climb
Long forgotten by those who knew
Covered, hidden far from view.

Once glorious and full of light
Where laughter rang and joy took flight
Where angels danced on sunlit beams
And smiling faces lived their dreams

I was a place of healing
A place where souls gave up the dark within
Where love triumphed and life revived
And no-one counted any mortal sin

I was a place of joy
My stones a strong foundation
On which the people stood
No trouble touched the souls that dwelt
All here was sweet and good.

I am still a temple, built in ancient times
And my life though hidden, waits
For those who seek my truth, to find
To clear away the debris
And discover the Divine.

Joanne Ruth

Andrew Fairchild – Children's Author



Tell us a bit about yourself.

My name is Andrew Fairchild and I am a children's author who resides in Houston, Texas. I currently have two books published; *Bali and Blu: Friends of a Different Color* and *Rose and Her Amazing Nose* which won two Purple Dragonfly Book Awards. This coming April, I will be publishing my third children's book, *Have You Seen My Egg?* which is already getting rave reviews. In addition to writing, I spend a lot of time painting and with my fulltime job as an office accounts manager. I hope to someday be able to quit my job and spend my time writing full-time.

What bought you to the world of writing?

It was my 7th grade teacher who turned me on to writing. We used to read a lot of poetry in her class and write papers on what she assigned to us. It was then that I started writing poetry, I believe I was fifteen. I enjoy the style and the cryptic meaning that is embedded between the words. Till this day, it is my first love. It was much later, 2007 to be exact when I read David Kirk's *Mrs. Spider's Tea Party* and just feel in love with the story and illustrations. It was shortly after, that I started writing children's books.

What is your first book and what do you think of it now?

My first book I published was *Bali and Blu: Friends of a Different Color*, which was published in 2014. Looking back, I can see growth, not only in my writing style but in my choice of illustrators that I choose to work with and the content I write. I still love the book, as it is my first baby and the life lesson I chose to explore in that book was one which was very close to home.

What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your reader's needs?

When I begin a manuscript, I try to tackle issues that children face today. It may not always be from a child's perspective because I like to sometimes write from an adult's point of view. I think that the switch is healthy for children or parents who read my stories, it allows that insight. I am not afraid to tackle any issue because it is all in the way in which you portray that life lesson to the readers that makes or breaks the story.

Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it?

Yes, I would love to feature my new book which is to be released April 24th. It is titled, *Have You Seen My Egg?* and illustrated by the talented Melissa Shultz-Jones. It is an adorable story for children that will encourage them to listen to their hearts and not to give up on following their dreams. Red the rooster always has the same dream and he feels it is real. He knows no one believes him and the hens think laying eggs is a hen's job and not that of a rooster. No matter. Red decides to go in search of his missing egg. He searches everywhere and runs into many farm animals that are also eager to help him find his egg. Will Red the rooster find his egg and see his dream becoming real? The story conveys a very strong message to readers; that of following their hearts and never to give up in life, no matter what obstacles they face. Red's character has been portrayed well; he is strong and his refusal to give up in life, despite the problems he faces, is indeed an encouraging lesson for readers. The illustrations are bold, colorful, and endearing, like the story, and they breathe life into the scenes and characters, giving a good pace and movement to the story. The story also touches on the topic of single parenting in a subtle way. It is a good book for bedtime story-telling and to read out in classrooms to motivate children to never give up on their dreams and to meet all the hurdles in life head on.

How long does it take you to write your first draft?

First drafts usually take me a while, that is why I always work on multiple stories or ideas. That way if I am working on one and some of the subject matter doesn't necessarily fit into the one I am working on, I use it for another story. It is a lot of bouncing back and forth, but I think it works for me creatively.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

Definitely plot, I have a list of issues or lessons that I plan to write about. I work to develop a particular idea and use my characters to work through that issue. I believe that a story that centres around an idea allows for a story to have more depth.

How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write?

When writing, I always give myself a stopping point. It is then that I usually leave it for a couple of hours and come back to it. I will either continue where I left off or edit what I just wrote. It is extremely rare where I can sit down and write an entire story or chapter. I have ADHD and OCD and there are times when my mind is everywhere but where it needs to be. I also, always hire an editor at the completion of a manuscript. An editor that polishes grammar and content will be your best friend and asset.

What type of people/readers do you market your books to?

My general audience are children, parents, educators, grandparents and libraries.

Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Published?

I have my own publishing company called 4Kidz Publishing. We currently just publish my books, but we do have some other potential authors that we would like the chance to work with.

Where can we buy your books?

Amazon.com

Barnesandnoble.com

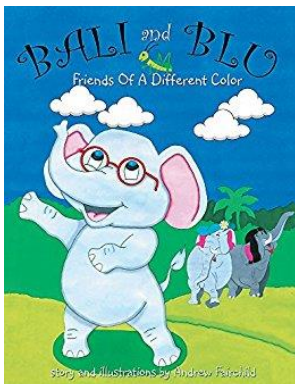
Or any other online book retailer.

Links

www.author-andrewfairchild.com

Do you have any more information you'd like to share with us?

I am currently working on two manuscripts for my next picture book, but I am hoping to publish a YA chapter book just in time for Christmas.

**Bali and Blu
By Andres Fairchild**

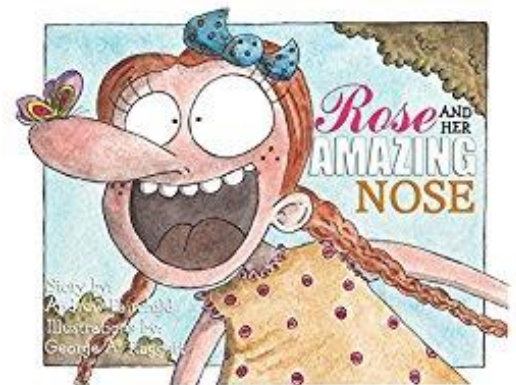
Bali and Blu: Friends of a Different Color celebrates a unique friendship between two unlikely creatures, a loveable elephant named (Bali) and a wise grasshopper named (Blu). The story educates children on the age-old lesson about being true to yourself despite the pressures of others by teaching all readers that it's ok to be friends with someone different from yourself, just be open to all possibilities and build a long lasting friendship.

[**BUY LINK**](#)

**Rose and her Amazing Nose
By Andrew Fairchild**

ROSE AND HER AMAZING NOSE is a witty and brilliantly illustrated children's picture book that tells the story of a unique little girl named Rose who encourages children to embrace their quirky side and that being different can truly be amazing!

[**BUY LINK**](#)



A Short Story from A E Lowan

"Recompense" - A Books of Binding Flash Fiction by A. E. Lowan

The room in the latest house his father had commandeered was little more than a closet and dominated by an exhausted looking bedstead that appeared to be held together by dust. Alerich eyed the room from the hall and pushed his way inside, his feet stirring eddies as he moved. He glanced around for a place to set down his backpack but trusted neither the battered coverlet, nor the dust entombed nightstand. Finally, he hung the bag from the doorknob and draped his black leather jacket over it. He gave the room another dispassionate flicker, and headed back the way he had come.

He found the items he was looking for in a neglected closet off the kitchen - a broom with most of the corn missing and a bucket that might hold water. Some digging under the chipped and discolored sink produced a bottle of separated pink soap. He gave up trying to read the faded label and decided that he really didn't care if it was intended for anything other than dishes.

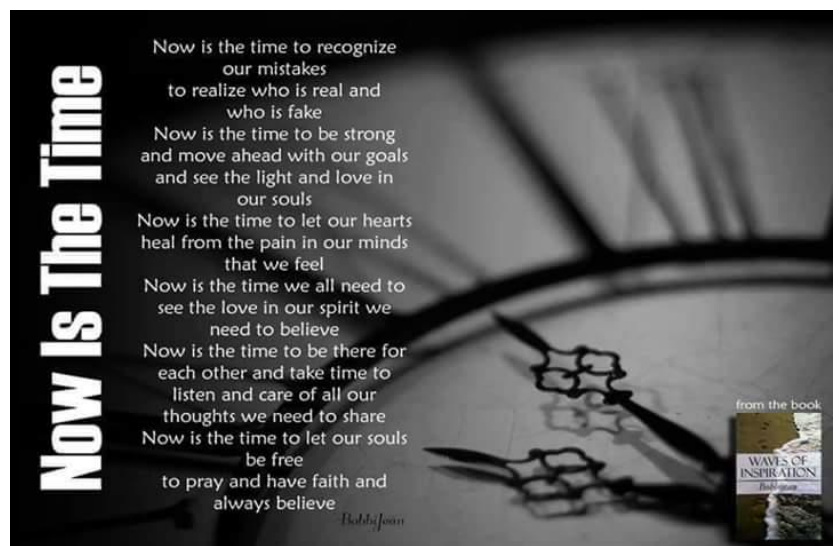
Carrying his dubious finds back up the stairs, he found the bathroom at the end of the hall. He shook the detergent bottle hoping that the layers might become reacquainted and squeezed some into the grimy bucket, filling it with water from the ancient claw-foot tub. Thoroughly disgusted, he went in search of a cloth or a sponge.

His father's sycophant was lounging in the hallway, amusement tugging at one corner of his mouth. "Cleaning, are we? When you're done in there could you just touch up my room? There's a big tip in it for you." He laughed and sauntered down the stairs, undoubtedly to pass on Alerich's charming new hobby to his father.

Alerich glared at his back for a moment and then his own lips twitched into a smirk. He found Bastion's room at the end of the hall. The man's bag was sitting on a chair, the zipper left open. Alerich fished in the bag for a moment and found what he was looking for.

He walked back to the bathroom, the wadded cloth in his hand. When the bucket was clean enough to touch, Alerich dumped the greasy water into the tub. He poured a liberal dash of the detergent, refilled the bucket with water, and left the tap running.

Returning to his room, he set the bucket and broom on the floor, tossed the cloth into the water, and reached under his collar to touch his focus object, the small silver seashell on its chain. His voice resonated with Command. "Lavā." The implements leapt into the air and began their work, scrubbing and sweeping the years of detritus from the room. Alerich opened the window, and pulled the linens off the bed, humming a piece of music from a cartoon he once saw about a mischievous little fosterling. At the threshold he glanced back at the industrious tools and dodged out of the way of the cloth zooming into the bathroom to rinse at the faucet. As the t-shirt zipped back out of the bathroom he could just make out the lettering, "Never have a battle of wits with an unarmed person" before it dove back into the bucket and resumed its scrubbing. "Don't forget Bastion's room," he told the things before, smiling, he trotted down the stairs to do something with the linens.



May Panayi – Indie Author

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I started writing with a funny poem at age five that got into the local newspaper, then a newsletter to the neighbourhood age ten. I hobby wrote poems and short stories throughout my teens and early twenties, then various magazine submissions- articles, fillers, letters, and a lot of activity in the underground fanzine scene of the eighties; contributing to others as well as producing my own. I started writing books around 2000, and currently have fourteen titles published. I moved onto just writing fiction novels with the occasional short story collection.



What bought you to the world of writing?

My first book, apart from a book of seasonal photography, was A 21st Century Coven. I'm still proud of it today, as it covers an interesting period of my life and is, I believe a useful teaching tool. I would still recommend it to Witches and Covens; it still has a lot to offer.

What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your reader's needs?

Some of my friends took to calling me the eclectic indie, because I write across so many different genres. Hopefully that just means I write something to suit everyone's taste.

My most popular books are the Sun series, a trilogy that currently includes Sun Sea and Secrets, and Return to Aegos. The third and final in the series will be out this year. I'd call it travel romance with a hint of mystery, set in Greece, though the final book will wander a bit further.

My next most popular genre is horror, and I warn you it's a bit graphic in the explicit violence and strong sex scenes. That's Malbed Mews; though some say The Difficult Journey is horror too, I call it social commentary in the refugee situation and Brexit, in the form of a novel with strong characters.

Four to Dawn is drama, psychology, life, women's story; impossible to slot into a category. But again, I warn you, a bit sexually graphic in places.

I have written a variety of non fiction, from travel and cookery to an insight into a coven, and poetry. There are also short stories, kids stories, and essays.

Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it?

My Sun series are my most popular novels. They stand alone or can be read as a series. So far there are two books in the series, I'm working on the third and final one now.

They are in the category holiday fiction, but I'd call them travel romance/mystery. They are set in Greece on the fictitious island of Aegos, which is an amalgam of Greek islands.

The first book is Sun Sea and Secrets

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sun-Sea-Secrets-novel-Greece-ebook/dp/BooJZ5EVN8>

<https://www.amazon.com/Sun-Sea-Secrets-novel-Greece-ebook/dp/BooJZ5EVN8>

The second in the series is Return to Aegos

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Return-To-Aegos-Sun-Book-ebook/dp/Bo1DRA4I70>

<https://www.amazon.com/Return-To-Aegos-Sun-Book-ebook/dp/Bo1DRA4I70>

Or you can buy them both together as a duo book

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sun-Secrets-plus-Return-Aegos-ebook/dp/BooK8935Ao>

<https://www.amazon.com/Sun-Secrets-plus-Return-Aegos-ebook/dp/BooK8935Ao>

There is a trailer video for Sun Sea and Secrets on You tube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMeRtMNuH2E>

How long does it take you to write your first draft?

About three to six months depending on whether or not I get stuck, or the plot decides to go off on its own direction. Usually I'm in full control though and it floods

Do you plot or not, if so why?

I tend to draft the outline in a notebook, then draft more fully into chapters, still in the notebook. Then I write on my computer, referring to the notebook, and occasionally going off piste.

Do you write in 1st or 3rd person, or have you done both?

Usually third person is my preference, but I occasionally drift into first in short stories. Sometimes I use Omni third, flipping to and fro between different characters, as in The Difficult Journey and Malbed Mews.

How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write?

Firstly I spell check. Then my husband does a complete read through edit. Then I do a final read through edit. Despite all of that, one or two words seem to manage to slip through the net. I also edit as I write, checking through at the end of each day's writing.

What type of people/readers do you market your books to?

If I knew my audience and what marketing they respond to, I would be much more successful! I never know which promotions hit the spot. Being eclectic means I don't have one target audience either. I do find that sales go up when I chat to people about my books and give them a card. So my main audience is people I meet I suppose. Luckily I talk to anyone and everyone; strangers, no problem.

Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Published?

I am a proud self published Indie Author.

How do you promote your writing?

Talking to people. Social Media. Blogs. Various sites. Occasional promotion campaigns with companies like Book Hippo or Book Bub. Magazine interviews. Anywhere and everywhere really; I've even been known to pop website cards in library books as free bookmarks!

Where can we buy your books?

Amazon.

Who are your favourite authors?

Stephen King. Clive Barker. James Herbert. Neil Gaiman. Peter James. John Grisham. Kathy Reichs. Joanne Harris. Terry Pratchett. Michael Kelly. Too many Indies to mention. My favourite genre is post apocalyptic dystopian zombie.

Links

See all my books, trailers, other interviews at my website www.mayjpanayi.wix.com/books

Do you have any more information you'd like to share with us?

Being a Writer is my life long ambition and dream. I'm living the dream. I always get a buzz when I see even one new sale. When I get positive reader feedback; even better. When sales spike I am ecstatic. I love that people are reading and enjoying what I write. I love all my readers. xXx.

FREE Books from Plaisted Publishing House

**The Ghostly Writes Valentines
Anthology 2017
By Ghostly Writers**

From the minds of writers from around the globe, Plaisted Publishing presents a collection of ghost stories that will chill you, haunt your heart, and steal your soul from eternal devotion to undying love.

International authors include: C.A. Keith, Audrina Lane, Karen J. Mossman, Adele Marie Park, Jane Risdon, Jennifer Deese, Lynn Mullican, and a poem from Kyrena Lynch

[**FREE DOWNLOAD**](#)

**Awethology Light
An Anthology 2016
From the Awethors**

Because one voice in your head isn't enough, here are so many more, as the Awethors chime together with our vast collection of stories and poetry to make you laugh, make you cry and make you feel alive.

We are the Awethors and these are our words to you.

[**BUY LINK**](#)



Ashley Uzzell - Indie Author



What brought you to the world of writing?

I have always loved to read and when I was a child I was constantly making up my own stories. I decided to take my craft seriously about ten years ago and began to write in earnest. There is something about creating your own worlds and characters that, for me, is vital to my existence. I need to write like I need to breathe, even if the finished product is never seen by anyone other than myself. It's a large part of who I am.

What is your first book and what do you think of it now?

My first published book is *I Laughed, I Cried, I Crapped Myself*, a book of poetry by myself and my late grandmother. It was my very first time self-publishing under my own name. Though I regret not being able to show my grandmother the book, since it was published after her death, I am still grateful for the opportunity to share her poetry with the world. I look back on the experience fondly, though I still had much to learn about self-publishing at that time.

What type of books do you write?

I write poetry, clean romance, and YA romance. My daughter and I are writing a children's book series and she does the illustrations and cover art. I like to dabble in fantasy and am currently working on a YA fantasy featuring some friends who discover that they can sprout wings from their backs.

Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it.

I would like to talk about *Once Upon a Pastry*, a romance that takes place in a fairy-tale-like world. Gertrude needs a spell to bring the bakery her late grandmother left her back to life. She seeks out a witch, Mona, and they make a bargain: one spell in exchange for Gertrude's first-born child. Gertrude has no gold and readily agrees. The problem is, Gertrude has no husband or boyfriend to speak of. As time passes, her shop becomes popular and Gertrude is now the best baker and pastry chef in the city. Mona visits her regularly, to check on her progress in the man department, but Gertrude is awkward when it comes to dating. Unexpectedly, the two women form and bond and soon a mutual attraction. But when tragedy strikes, Mona is forced to choose between turning tail and running as she usually does, or stepping up to help prevent an all-out war between humans and centaurs.

The first book in a series of stand-alones titled *Fluffy Folktales*, *Once Upon a Pastry* is a fun, humorous romance sure to brighten your day. And probably leave you hungry for cupcakes.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

Sometimes I will sit down and plot out the entire book. Sometimes I wing it and write as I go. Even if I do have a plot planned out, the story may take me in a completely different direction. Characters tend to have minds of their own and may let me know that things are not going to happen the way I want them to. You just never know! I do, however, keep pages of notes on the setting, characters, and plot.

Do you write in 1st or 3rd person, or have you do both?

I have done both before and it honestly depends on the story and the characters themselves which I will choose.

How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write?

I edit as I write, then leave it alone for a week or two. I come back and try to sweep over it at least once more after edits from beta reads are done. The more eyes on it, the better, and the more the writer looks at it over a period of time, the more likely they are to find any small mistakes.

What type of people/readers do you market your books to?

My books are for children, teens, and adults. The stories are usually fun or feature some life lessons for the reader. I like to think that anyone could pick up one of my books and be entertained by it.

Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Publisher?

I have worked with a small publishing company under a pen name but I choose to self-publish my works now. I like the freedom of choosing my covers, sales sites, and prices.

How do you promote your writing?

I spend a lot of time on social media sites promoting my work. I enjoy making teasers for my books and giving away swag like bookmarks. The best way to get the word out, in my experience, is word of mouth. If someone enjoys a book, they tell their friends. I certainly promote the indie books I enjoy!

Where can we buy your books?

At this time, my e-books are only available at Amazon, though I will be expanding to other venues soon. Paperbacks are available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, BAM!, Createspace, and Book Depository. One of our children's books is even available at Walmart.com.

Who are your favourite authors?

This is a difficult question because there are so many amazing authors out there. I love Stephen King, J.R. Ward, Kresley Cole and Hideyuki Kikuchi. As far as indie authors, my faves are K.L. Cottrell, Lu Whitley, C.E. Wilson, and Julie Nicholls. Really, there are too many talented authors that I am sure I am forgetting many!

Links

Website/blog – <https://authorauzzell.wordpress.com/>

Amazon author page - www.amazon.com/-/e/Bo1OHEJ1DK

Goodreads – www.goodreads.com/author/show/14107354.Ashley_Uzzell

Twitter – www.twitter.com/UzzellBooks

Google + - <https://plus.google.com/u/0/113046498396251826836>

Pinterest - www.pinterest.com/uzzellbooks/

FB Street Team - www.facebook.com/groups/184608515281010/



ArtistFirst Radio's "Author Assist Host: Karina Kantas" is a LIVE one-hour prime-time worldwide promotional radio show on the **ArtistFirst Radio Network**, broadcast about independent authors, their books, their life and their struggles as an indie author. It's a comfortable fun chat with some music thrown in for good measures. There is also a Q&A session where Karina will be answering promotion and marketing problems.

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Over 410 million listeners have enjoyed **ArtistFirst Radio** in just the past 64 months!

<https://www.facebook.com/AuthorAssistRadio>

Up and Coming Events, Competitions & Blog Tours

Traci Sanders

My new series, *'Write It Right'* is finally ready and I'm so excited to share it. In case some of you didn't follow it, last year I offered a segment on my blog called Write It Right, where I presented various tips on writing, editing, publishing, and marketing.

I compiled all those tips into a three-part book series which focuses on separate aspects of the business.

Volume I - Before You Publish - Tips on grammar, writing, and editing

Volume II - Beyond The Book - Tips on publishing, marketing, and networking to build your brand

Volume III - Living The Write Life - Tips on making the most of your writing skills

(basically, all other aspects of the biz, not covered in the first two volumes)

I'm setting up a tour for the entire month of April, so I'd be honored if any of you would help me out by featuring these books on your blogs. Most of you know, I spend a great deal of time promoting other authors with my blog and the Readers Review Room, so I don't have much opportunity for my own work.

If you'd like to participate, please respond to this email and let me know which day you'd like. Each blog stop will feature a tip on various aspects of the business. You're welcome to let me know which topic you'd like me to present, and I'll try to work it in, though I do want to provide a nice variety.

This will be a simple copy-and-paste process to make it as effortless as possible on you.

If you're unable to offer a blog feature, I'd be honored if you'd simply be able to follow me on Twitter - @tmsanders, or my Facebook page - A Word With Traci, to help me get the word out through shares and Retweets.

Thanks so much for your consideration and support! I'm attaching a promo image so you guys can see the books.

COMPETITION LINK - ENTER ON BELOW LINK

[**Dan Alatorre's WORD WEAVER Writing Contest – let the games begin!**](#)

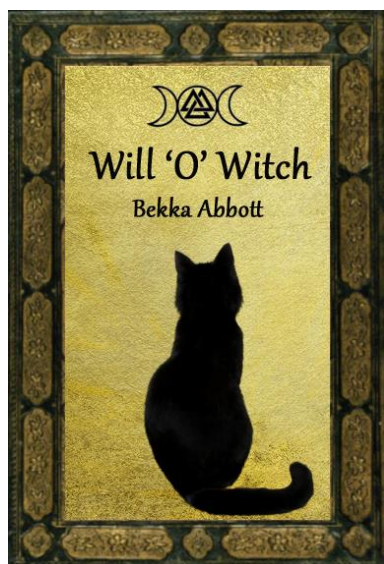
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**Cover Artist,
Graphic Designers,
Editors**

Starting In May 2017

Will 'O' Wisp by Bekka Abbott



CHAPTER THREE

"No no, Socrates wasn't my cat. He belonged to someone else, but every day he'd come to visit me for afternoon hugs. Then one day he turned up and was see through."

Dana frowned. "So he's been with you since then as a ghost?"

Mina shrugged. "Yeah."

She chewed on her bottom lip. "Will I collect ghosts?"

Mina laughed and stood up from the table. "No more than you collect living friends." She paced to the kitchenette and brought the kettle back to the table. She refilled her own mug with hot water and lifted it over Dana's, asking wordlessly she'd like a top-up.

Dana shook her head. "No more for me, thanks."

A fire-bug of light hovered in front of her and she watched it float like a dust particle in sunlight. It was beautiful, but really quite freaky.

She sighed. "Can I turn it off again?"

Mina put the kettle down and shrugged. "It depends. It's a little like a fire hydrant. Once that water's coming out, you need special tools and a couple of strong folks to close the valve again. Hydrants are made so their default setting is on, which makes it better for fighting fires. Most people have to work hard with regular practise and effort to keep the Sight on, because they're not wired to See that much all the time. But I suspect you're a bit like me, wired with the valve on."

"So," Dana sighed. "It might take regular practise to keep it off?"

"Yeah, I guess, but even then it may not stay off. Did you used to get migraines a lot? Weird dreams? Have a constant pain in your head or eyes?"

Dana lifted her thumb knuckle to the bridge of her nose. "Yeah, always have a headache right there."

"I'm guessing it's gone now?"

Dana blinked and nodded.

"The flow has to go somewhere. You might have gotten it earlier than intended today, but I'd bet a week's profit in the shop that it would have turned on eventually. The tendency for folks like us seems to be that if you're not born with it on, something frightening or traumatic or life threatening will happen and it'll trigger. It seems to be the natural way of things. Congrats, you're a witch."

She snorted. "I thought I was a spirit medium?"

Both of Mina's faces smirked at her. "They're basically the same thing. I just like using the word witch. Technically, witch would mean that you're naturally good at moving and changing energy. But generally those that can see energy can manipulate it."

"You're talking about magic and witchcraft aren't you?"

Mina nodded. "Yes, it's what the laymen call magic. But it's not what they think it is."

Dana lifted her mug and drained the last of the hot chocolate. "So what is it, then?"

"Flow," she said simply. "Energy is flow. Everything is made of flow, even the things we think are solid. What people call magic, is the ability to change the flow. Look around you, you're seeing the flow, it's everywhere and everything."

The room did indeed seem to flow and flicker. There was nothing that wasn't moving, even the table they sat at pulsed with a deep vibration as if it was singing. Dana put her hand to the wood. Her touch lit up the surface around her hand in an orangey-blue cloud, and she could physically feel the vibration in the wood, like it was humming.

She closed her eyes and the almost-song flickered through her mind. It sang of plant fibre, and years lived in the sun and rain before that life force was cut off. In the pit of her stomach colours and feelings exploded into her awareness; she didn't understand what it meant, but it felt like a lot of information. She could almost taste the flickers of events around that table. Different locations, different owners, happiness, pain, all orbiting the wood over time.

All of a sudden the images and emotional fireworks turned off like a television. She felt love and calm. Affection.

She smiled and opened her eyes again. A little black kitty face, partially see-through, sat on her hand and stared up at her with vivid green eyes. Socrates purred at her.

She laughed. "Nice to meet you too, Socrates."

"He likes you. That's amazing! He hardly likes anyone!"

"I like him too." She looked at him. "I wish I could pet you."

The little black blur let out an odd meow-purr, he moved, flowing up from her hand, and around her face. The touch was like static electricity, all tingly and oddly pleasant.

She laughed. "That tickles!"

"Wow, I've never seen him like anyone this much, other than me." Mina grinned at her. "I'm a little jealous!"

Dana blushed. "I'm sorry."

Mina got to her feet again. "You've nothing to be sorry about. Come on, Dana. I think I have an idea of how to get this Leech off you."

"Oh?" She put her empty mug on the table and followed Mina back out into her store. "What's the plan?"

"Chess," Mina said over one shoulder.

"Chess?"

They moved around the counter and into the middle of the shop. "Yeah, in chess, sometimes you have to make a move to distract your opponent or force them to move in a particular way. We've got to make this Leech get off your trail long enough so we've got time to figure out how to banish it."

"So what do I need to do?"

"Sit," said Mina, pointing to a three legged stool in the nearest corner.

She did as she was told and watched her new witchy friend move around the room collecting objects from shelves and tables.

Dana was handed a fist sized clear quartz crystal. She sensed a cold sort of spark jump from the crystal to her fingers and she flinched. "What was that?"

"It's charged with good vibes, and you're currently not, so it grounded into you. Same kind of deal as static electricity zapping you when you get out of a car without a grounding rod. You ever done meditation?"

She shook her head. "Not really. Some yoga."

"Good. OK, I want you to feel the vibe in that crystal, focus on it. Use Yoga breathing to breathe that vibe in, and breathe the fear and worry out. Imagine filling your whole body with that nice vibe. Close your eyes if it helps, just focus entirely on breathing in that good feeling and breathing out the bad vibes. I'll do the rest."

Dana closed her eyes and focused on the crystal in her left hand. It was cold but at the same time emotionally warm. Like a hug from a friend after they've been swimming.

In her mind's eye she could almost see a blue and white blob. It felt good. Calm. Like an autumn sunset, or lying in a field of long grass and looking at a clear blue sky. The blob vibrated and moved in her hand like a cold flame. She imagined that blob to be incense, and breathed it into her lungs. The blob of colour and calm expanded in her mind's eye, glowing up her arm into her chest, filling that lung space in her body with the same calm blue coolness.

When her lungs were full, she collected the parts of her that were afraid and confused. A darker, almost thick blob accumulated in her heart region. Holding onto the nice blue vibe she pushed the heavy stuff out of her body with her breath.

"That's very good, Dana. You're a natural. Keep doing that."

After what felt like several minutes, Dana was unusually calm. All of her fear and confusion was gone, and there was just this really wonderful sense of peace.

She smiled and opened her eyes.

Mina's double face smiled back at her twice. "Better now?"

"Yes. Please, can you tell me why you have two different faces?"

Mina sighed, looking away for a moment as if it was an annoying subject. She pulled another three-legged stool close so she could sit down in front of Dana.

"What you're seeing is my physical face and my true face. When you go out, you'll find that most people have just the one face. A lot of witches and psychics have two faces, but they're usually the same face doubled up. I have two different faces because my inside self and my outside self don't match."

"So." She frowned, trying to wrap her head around it all. "I met this person once and I thought he was a girl, but as I got to know him, he told me he was male on the inside. Would that mean if I saw him again that I'd see a male face over top of his physical body with this thing?"

Mina nodded. "Yeah, you would because his true self is different to his body. There are also folks who don't feel human on the inside, they're called Otherkin, and a lot of them have a different spiritual face too. I've even seen a massive dragon covering a human body before. It's pretty amazing."

Dana grinned at her new friend. "Wow, that is so cool! Do I have a second face?"

Mina's smile was very gentle. "Yes, but your second face matches your physical one. No body dysphoria for you." She paused, looking down at the ground for a moment before resuming eye contact again with the two sets of eyes, one pair dark brown, the other vivid green. Combined, her two faces were actually really rather lovely. "Now, we need to go to this house to have a look. If it's what I think it is, I should be able to banish it. I would leave you here but I might need your help to hold this thing down. You have a shield over you with the pendant, and that crystal has the vibe of my mate Will in it, so as long as you keep breathing in that feeling and keeping as calm as humanly possible, it should give us enough time. Do you think you can keep doing that while we go to this house?"

Dana deliberately breathed in the nice calm blue vibe and nodded. "I'll do my best."

"OK, come on, where's your car?"

MORE NEXT MONTH...



Flash Fiction



The Man with a Flask

by Karen J Mossman

I like people watching. I like seeing them interacting as I silently observe. He saw me sitting on a bench in the market square one cold Friday afternoon. He sat next to me and I kept my eyes averted. Then he reached into a carrier bag and produced a flask.

"Tea?" He unscrewed the top and poured steaming liquid into the cup. I was tempted. "Go on," he coaxed with a warm smile. So I took the cup and sipped the hot sweet liquid.

"Nice spot here, isn't it?" he said. "I come often and saw you people watching too."

I nodded, sipped some more before handing it back. I let him talk, not offering any conversation. It had been a long time since anyone paid attention to me.

His woolly hat was pulled down to his eyes and he blinked a lot staring intently at me. I tried not to look, as I didn't want to be drawn in. Soon he spoke like he knew me, like I'd committed to be part of his day, as if we were friends. I sensed something about him. He was too friendly and even I'm not that gullible. So I said I had to go, climbed off the bench and walked away.

Snatches of conversation weave stories of people's lives. I catch them, juggle them and string them together. I write articles and stories out of the words that tell of happy, normal lives. I sell to magazines and newspapers. It makes me shine. Not bad for a girl no body wanted.

In the children's home they called me The Slug, and I was picked on every day. One day a lady like me gave me back my self worth and a home.

My article on bullying was rewritten five times and sold to three newspapers and two magazines. I'm still proud that good can come out of bad.

I saw the man with the flask again over the next few weeks. He wore different coloured hats and offered tea to other girls. They smiled and chatted to him; sucked in by his easy charm. Some even went off with him.

He didn't see me any more, but I kept watching, knowing something was wrong. I had a living to make and rarely watched television or read newspapers. It was Rachel Quimby that made realise. She was sitting on a bench talking on her phone. I dropped my book and she rushed over, picked it up and handed it me.

"There you go," she said with a smile. The next time I saw her, she was drinking tea from his flask.

It shook me up, because not only was she nice but, it could easily have been me. You see, I tend to keep to my own company, so going into a police station was as daunting as it got.

Someone came out enabling me to slip inside. I walked unseen to the desk. "Excuse me." I saw him do a double take, I'm used to that. The second look is when they realise I'm not a child.

"Can I help you?"

I swallowed knowing I would have to mix with a more people when I told him what I knew. "I know who murdered Rachel Quimby."

Amtrak Resident: Maxwell Ivey



Amtrak's Writer's Residency program is meant to assist writers in breaking up their usual routine, exposing them to great scenery, and new people. Some have asked, and many have wondered, how does this opportunity help a blind author with his writing when he can't appreciate it the same way? As my friend Ryan Biddulph reminded me, you don't have to have sight to be in the moment.

Leaving Home

My trip began in Houston on the Sunset Limited a little after noon. I was greeted by a friendly attendant who familiarized me with the car and its amenities. He also gave me bottles of water and offered me coffee or hot water for tea. I settled back to enjoy a leisurely ride to New York.

During my trip, I had some great conversations with the staff and patrons both in my car, as well as the dining and observation cars. I found people were willing to have a conversation, which is something you don't always find when traveling by plane. One of the best things about traveling by train is the lack of high-speed internet. Most of the trains have Wi-Fi, but in the middle of nowhere it doesn't always work or always run at the speeds we are accustomed to. For me, this was a good thing; it gave me an excuse not to worry about how quickly I was responding to emails. I could take a break from Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and other social media. While on my trip, I got so much work done. I wrote over 6,000 words on the train to New York and another 4,000 or more on the way home. Thanks to the swaying of the train and a wonderfully comfortable pull-out bed, I also got some great sleep.

Big Adventures in NYC

When I arrived in New York City, the real adventure began, and I quickly crossed several things off of my bucket list. I rode my first subway train, and experienced the Staten Island Ferry. I went skating at Rockefeller Center, ate at Katz's Delicatessen, and saw Wicked on Broadway. I also took a ride in a pedal taxi, had dinner at an Irish bar and grill, and visited Trump Tower and Tiffany flagship store on Fifth Avenue. I even got to experience my first broadcast interview. There was one experience I missed, though. After visiting much of New York on my own, I was surprised that I was denied access to the observation deck of the Empire State Building because I lacked an escort. I ultimately decided against visiting the 9/11 Memorial or the Statue of Liberty, fearing a similar result. This experience reminded me that people with disabilities should be able to access the same experiences as everyone else—something I'll always advocate for.

Author Maxwell Ivey

Despite that experience, I want to say a few words about New York City and New Yorkers in general. I was warned that New York was a busy, loud, dangerous place. The truth is, New York was a wonderful place to visit. The people were friendly, helpful, and supportive. During the course of twelve days, I man bought my breakfast in a restaurant, a cabbie tried to give me his umbrella, two fellows from England put me in a pedal cab and pay the driver, and another taxi driver refused to charge me when my credit card wouldn't work. So many people offered me information, directions, and a shoulder to follow to wherever I was going next. All too soon it was time to leave, so I boarded the Lake Shore Limited to Chicago, and ultimately, home.

A Trip That Freed Me

I have decided that Amtrak is a blessing for people like me. Before this trip, I thought of myself as isolated and trapped; I felt like I needed to get out and meet more people face-to-face, but didn't know how. Living in a suburb of Houston with limited mass transportation, I envied my friends who lived in cities like New York, Chicago, or even Atlanta, but what I learned is that if you can get to the train station you can get just about anywhere in the country. You won't always get there in a hurry, but sometimes that's a good thing. Just imagine how much better our lives would be if we could learn to slow down and enjoy getting there. Is there somewhere you've always dreamed about going? Why haven't you? Take that first step and book your trip.

I look forward to many more travels and meeting many more wonderful people. I hope to run into you out there.

<http://blog.amtrak.com/2017/03/amtrak-resident-maxwell-ivey/>

Donna Walo-Clancy - Indie Author



Tell us a bit about yourself.

Cape Cod in Massachusetts is where I call home (for now anyways). I am a single Mom of three grown children and one spoiled Papillion dog named Zumiez. I work 70 hours a week at The Wellfleet Drive-In during the summer and part of the fall so I can take the winter off to write. I love crafting of all kinds.

What bought you to the world of writing?

I have always been writing in some form or another. I wrote a book in 3rd grade (1968) called "A Day in the Life of Mr. Quarter". My Mom kept the book and gave it back to me when I published my first book in 2011.

What is your first book and what do you think of it now?

My first book was "The Baby Factory" self-published back in 2011. I absolutely love the story. Back then I was so excited to publish my first book I didn't know about editing and formatting. I have learned so much in the last six years. I took the book down off Amazon and will be rewriting and having the story edited in the fall. It will find its way back out to the public but in much better condition that it was when it was first published.

What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your reader's needs?

I love writing mysteries and paranormal stories. I have two cozy series out right now that readers keep asking, "When is the next one coming out?" I don't stick to those genres. I have also written a YA story called "The Big Mistake Club" and a Christmas story called "Keep the Faith, Ellen McGuire". I like to mix it up!

Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it?

My new book just released March 24th is called "Death by Chowdah". It is the first book in my new Shipwreck Café Mysteries Series. It is set on Cape Cod. It is a cozy mystery, but I have two hunky brothers as the main characters instead of the usual women. Throw in ghosts, a treasure worth millions of dollars, and cute dogs and you have a typical cozy.

How long does it take you to write your first draft?

It takes me longer than most to write a first draft. It drives me crazy to just put words down on paper. I can't just write and not have the sentence right to go back and fix it later. I am very slow and methodical writer.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

I never use a plot. I am a pantzer and proud of it.

Do you write in 1st or 3rd person, or have you do both?

I do not pick one way to write. Whatever fits the story is how it is written.

How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write?

I edit as I write, that's why it takes me so long to finish the first draft. I edit it a second time when the manuscript is complete and then send it off to the "REAL" editor, Debra Wagner.

What type of people/readers do you market your books to?

My mysteries are cozies and can be read by anyone. I do think more women read my books than men.

Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Published?

I self-publish. I like to have control over my covers and my royalties.

How do you promote your writing?

I mostly use social media to promote my books. During the summer, I have a table at the Wellfleet Flea Market which plays host to people from all over the country who vacation on the Cape. I am in local bookstores and go to local conventions.

Where can we buy your books?

For now, I chose to sell my books exclusively on Amazon. People can get in touch with me if they want a signed print copy.

Who are your favourite authors?

I love Kathi Daley's cozy mysteries. I liked the earlier writings of Stephen King. I read so, so much that it is hard to name all the authors I like.

Links

https://www.amazon.com/Donna-Walo-Clancy/e/B00C401RS8/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_2?qid=1490036147&sr=8-2

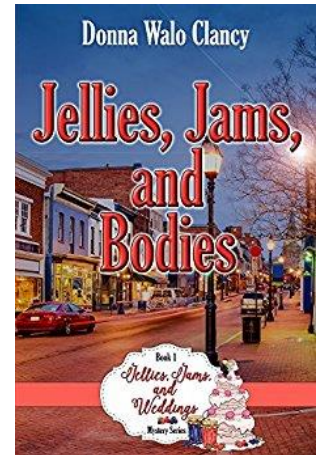
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<https://twitter.com/dwaloclancy>

www.dwaloclancy@yahoo.com

<https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/20379439-donna-walo-clancy>



Do you have any more information you'd like to share with us?

I have quite a listing of books coming out in 2017.

FREE UNTIL
11/04/17

Death by Chowdah March 2017

Until Jam Do Us Part, #2 in the Jellies, Jams, and Weddings Series May 2017

Jam Up and Jelly Fright #3 in the Jellies Series September 2017

A (so far) Untitled Anthology of paranormal stories with other participating authors in October 2017.

Scallop Shells and Christmas Bells, #2 in The Shipwreck Café Mysteries Series end of November 2017

The Wishing Cradle December 2017

I will be republishing The Baby Factory sometime in the autumn months.

2017 is going to be a very busy year for me!



HOT OFF THE PRESS

DO YOU WRITE EROTIC OR EROTIC...ALL LEVELS OF HEAT? THEN THIS MAY BE JUST WHAT YOU NEED!

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EroticAuthorMagazine/>

Author Recipes

Lily's Aglio E Olio

Ingredients

1 pound of cavatappi pasta.

Salt your water, bring to a boil, and cook the pasta to al dente texture.

Drain, leaving a little bit of water at the bottom.

In a separate sauce pan, mix one whole bottle of giardinera, half a stick of unsalted butter, two cloves of chopped garlic, oregano, red pepper flakes, basil (dried or fresh), black pepper, and half a teaspoon of your favorite hot sauce. Stir till perfectly mixed.

Pour over pasta.

Stir. Add in parmesan reggiano cheese.

Stir. Add cooked chicken breast, steak strips, or shrimp if desired.

The photo is from: www.magodaspanelas.com



Easter Tart – from T E Hodden

Ingredients

Sweet Pastry

Smooth Peanut Butter

Milk Chocolate

Mini Chocolate Eggs

Method

Roll out sweet pastry and grease baking tin.

Place sweat pastry in baking tin.

Melt the chocolate in a dish over boiling water.

Once melted remove from the heat and turn off stove.

Add an equal amount of peanut butter and stir together.

Pour over the sweet pasty and allow to cool.

It should set to a cheesecake like consistency.

Cover with mini chocolate eggs.



Photo from: <https://www.nestlechoosewellness.co.nz/recipes/easter-chocolate-brownie-caramel-tart/>

(this was the closest photo to an Easter tart I found which I could use. So you get another recipe too.)



Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life.

~S.D. Gordon~

<http://www.quote花园.com/easter.html>

Brenda Kuchinsky – Indie Author



I'm a clinical psychologist, practicing in South Florida. I was born in Jever, Germany to parents who survived the Holocaust. We lived in a refurbished concentration camp for three years. We ended up in Boston. I majored in English and Classical Literature as an undergraduate. I have a Masters' in Classical Literature and one in Library Science. I worked as an academic librarian for many years, then moved to Florida, earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. I semi-retired in 2013 and the writing began in 2015.

I always wanted to write. Life and insecurity got in the way. I've come full circle back to the place where I began. I began practicing Transcendental Meditation in 2014 and think that led to access to my creativity. I self-published my first book, *Time's Hostage*, in 2015 through CreateSpace. I'm proud of it. I'm in the process of playing around with adding a subtitle, back matter, etc. I took a marketing course and am trying to apply some of what I learned.

I write Women's Fiction. It also falls under Psychological Suspense. I'm still struggling to attract readers to my work because marketing does not come easily to me.

I'd like to feature *Time's Hostage*, Book I in the Time series. The protagonist, Sophia, finds herself tumbling into a dangerous affair when she discovers her seemingly steadfast husband in flagrante in the garden. She has epilepsy and develops Holocaust hallucinations under the stress of her present life. Her cocoon has cracked wide open. When she finds information about her deceased, elusive mother, she fears her discovery will overwhelm her. Her parents' legacy of silence about the World War Two years has affected her behavior, her motivation, and her choices. Will her transformative journey harm or help her?

I just finished writing my second book, *Time's Harlot*, and it took less than six months. That was much faster than my first one, which took over a year.

I plot roughly and then fill in as I go along. A lot of it is an intuitive and unconscious process. Right now I'm beginning to think of my third book, *Time's Haunted*. It will be about the homeless and sex addiction with a bit of second sight thrown into the mix. I like to start with two disparate notions, which I intertwine. Sex addiction and homelessness. The kernels are there. Then, it takes off on its own to some degree.

I write in the third person. That feels comfortable.

I edit after I finish. Some editing occurs as I write, but mostly I wait until afterwards. Of course, I'm always thinking about bits of it. Sometimes, I find I want to add something and it's already there. How's that for the unconscious process? It's gratifying when that happens.

I self-publish. I'm on Amazon. I submitted to about half a dozen publishers before I decided I was too old for that and just went ahead with CreateSpace.

Marketing. Aah, there's the rub. I'm learning slowly, but I'm not into it. My categories are Women's Fiction and Psychological Suspense. Jewish Fiction is also a category as well as South Beach, which assumes a character quality. I need bloggers and reviewers and am just starting with Mail Chimp and Instafreebie.

I'm on Amazon. <http://www.amazon.com/dp/0997732601> and <http://www.amazon.ca/dp/0997732601>
Website: <http://www.brendakuchinsky.com>
FB and Twitter

There are so many favorite authors. Ruth Rendell writing as Barbara Vine, John Banville writing as Benjamin Black, Nicci French, Paul Theroux, Ian Rankin, Elizabeth George, Mo Hayder, Elizabeth Hand....

Q & A with Jennifer Deese

Hi, one and all. The past month has been a myriad of mixed emotions and a wee bit of Winter depression... But alas, in my part of the world, Spring has certainly sprung, and my insurance coverage has okayed a bi-weekly vitamin B12 shot! Can I get a Woot woot? I cannot convey to you how very important that is to me! The winter blues set in hard for me, but, there is fresh blooms sprouting, warmer weather coming and creatures of every sort are starting to stir in their dens. So without further ado let's get to answering some of our readers questions. What say you? Yes?

Last month Kelly Marsden shot us a two part question. You can find the answer to part one in last month's publication of The Indie Publishing News. So, now on to part two of her query.

Question One. What do I/we think of the recent Smashwords expansion?

Well, I have to honestly admit I knew nothing of it up until Marsden asked it. I have yet to publish through them. So let us explore and learn this together...shall we?

From what I have read and researched I can confidently say that this new distribution expansion can be nothing but positive, as far as exposure goes. It seems to me that since they have collaborated with other distribution- ebook distribution- that our ebooks are now being made readily available to a global market of libraries and other outlets. Your books are being made available to an exponential amount of readers, thus expanding your readership. Well now, Imo, that can be nothing but good, right?

Recently Smashwords announced a new distribution avenue through Bibliotheca. This is a windfall, great news for SmashWords users/publishers. The amount of platforms and libraries that your ebooks will now be available has expanded exponentially.

"Smashwords has begun shipping nearly 300,000 titles to bibliotheca. The Smashwords catalogue represents more than 120,000 indie authors and small independent publishers, including many of today's bestselling indies.

All currently published Smashwords Premium Catalogue titles - excluding erotica - will receive automatic distribution to cloud Library unless the author/publisher has proactively opted out of all new channels from their Dashboard's Channel Manager. "

*The above/below information was garnered from Smashwords
The official blog for Smashwords, a distributor of indie ebooks
And you can read more of what they have to say on this subject at: Smashwords
The official blog for Smashwords, a distributor of indie ebooks.

"Once bibliotheca completes their ingestion of Smashwords titles, Smashwords will support bibliotheca merchandising efforts by providing regular "Smashwords Hotlists" of top performing preorders and other recommended bestsellers"

To read more about the SmashWords expansion from the above quoted site click this link:
<http://blog.smashwords.com/2017/02/smashwords-bibliotheca-cloud-library.html>

If you're an author or publisher and you're not yet working with Smashwords, click here to learn more about Smashwords ebook distribution services.

I have yet to publish an ebook with SmashWords but after looking into it I can honestly say that it seems to me that this newest expansion of distribution is a big win for indie authors across the globe.

Question 2 for this month hits on the aged old question of how to rid yourself of writer's block?

Well, as a sufferer of a darn near three year period of writer's block and muse abandonment on a WIP of mine I can honestly say that sometimes the best thing to do is, just simply walk away. It hurts, it rubs you the wrong way and it also makes you feel as if you have let down any readers/fans you had gained up until that point. Once I realized and accepted the fact that my muses had run out on me I went ahead and started to work on other projects. In the interim i have written many short stories for my future anthology and three

of those have been published in some pretty awesome collections. One of them has even been featured on several blogs and read aloud on a podcast series called 600 second Saga. So while I may have lost the story flow on one project, I have still found the time to forge forward on others.

Here's a few tips and tricks to fight the block that I have used:

Walk away from it.

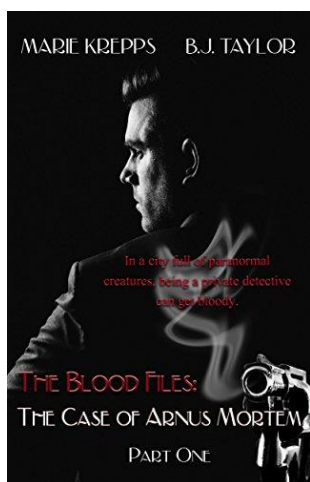
Read other books in the genre. Believe it or not it can spark your creative juices.

Work on other projects. I have found that if you start working on another project when you encounter writer's block or muse abandonment that sooner or later the muses will get jealous and once again start whispering storylines, plot lines and character lines in your ear.

Above all Never let doubt steer you the wrong. You are a writer, you are talented and above all, we all have encountered this strange phenomenon called writer's block. You are not alone. Reach out in your groups, talk about it and let your fan base know what's going on. They are actually more forgiving than you think. So, that's it for this months Q & A. Thank you to our readers and subscribers for your continued interest. Have a great month everyone and I look eagerly forward to answering some more of your questions in next month's publication.

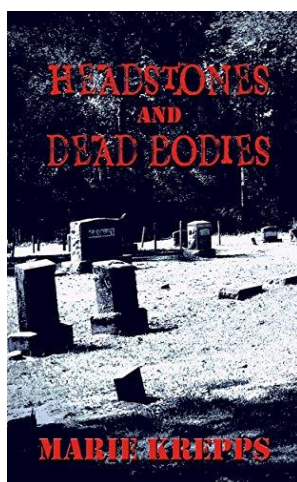
Jennifer Deese

Books on Sale



Vampires running loose in San Francisco? Who better to investigate than a pair of P.I.'s? When Randall and Penny are given a missing person's case, they don't realize the true monsters behind what's going on are no mere mortals. Soon, they find out just how far the vampires and their minions will go to wreak havoc and destruction on the city. Can two humans save the day or will America be overrun with the undead?

The first in a trilogy of erotic thrillers set in the 1930s.



Two short stories to make your skin crawl.

A teen takes a dare that soon becomes a nightmare.

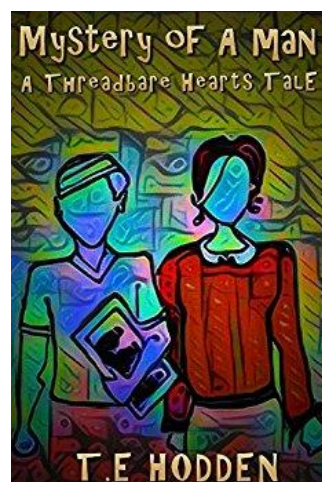
An innocent young boy traveling with two coffins is more than meets the eye.

Sure to make you squirm!

[BLOOD FILES](#)

[HEADSTONES](#)

[MYSTERY OF A MAN](#)



Billy's life is one of mysteries and the uncanny. His father vanished, he encountered a UFO, and his luck has always had a cruel sense of humour.

When a late night mission to help an ailing aunt means that Billy stumbles upon a mugging in progress, he soon learns there are far more mysteries in his past, echoing in his present, than he ever believed. Has he stumbled upon his chance at a date, or something a lot more sinister?

I have Heard of Sales – Part Three with Rose Montague

Looking at my Kindle library I see many books I have started and not finished. Most of those fall in the less than twenty percent complete category. These books outnumber the ones I have finished, unfortunately. Many years ago when I became an avid reader this would have been rare for me. The book would have to be pretty bad for me not to keep reading to the end. Things have changed.

Today's reader, even on short novels, wants to be entertained from the very beginning. As a general rule, they lack the patience necessary to keep reading a book that develops slowly. If a book doesn't grab them in the first couple of chapters, odds are they will set that book to the side and read something else.

I don't know much about history:

Okay, maybe a little. If I read fiction, I don't want a history lesson. I want something fun and exciting, a book that gives me pleasure from the very beginning. I don't want a lot of mind numbing history and factoids right off the bat in the first few chapters. World building is important but needs to be given out slowly as part of the story. Some authors try and avoid this by giving readers a prologue to read. If a prologue is more than a few paragraphs, I generally skip it. I want to get into the story itself.

The hook:

As a writer it is now more important than ever to grab that reader early. If you don't, they probably won't finish your book. There are many ways you can do this. If you write romance, you can give a hint of the romance to come, a teaser that makes the reader want to find out what happens. You can introduce conflict from your very first chapter, a situation that needs to be handled, a problem that needs to be overcome. If you have a lot of action in your book, don't save all of that until the middle or end, give a reader a taste of what is to come. I there will be elements of mystery, introduce one of those immediately. If your book requires a lot of world building, let the reader discover the secrets of your world gradually, as part of the story.

Here are two ways I attempt to grab a reader early. With my first book in my Norma Jean's School of Witchery series, I start with a little action.



This gives a reader something to look forward to, in this case a lot of action. With the second book in the same series, I decided a little teaser with some mystery might grab a reader's interest.

Want to find out what that little charm does and how it is important to the story? You won't discover that until near the end, so you will have to read the book. That's the point.

The end:

How you write the ending of the book plays a big part in determining if your reader is going to buy another one of your books. I'm a big fan of the HEA. I want my heroine to win and I want to read a book that finishes on a positive note. I believe that even in a series you should wrap up the main conflict in the story line. If you don't, your readers may feel cheated. I like the cliffhanger in a series, but only after the main conflict in the book has been resolved. A hint at the new conflict to come will keep your reader going on to the next book in your series. For obvious reasons, I'm not going to give you examples of some of my endings. I hope you will read my books to find out.

Trying New Things:

If what your doing now isn't working and hasn't worked for awhile, it's time to try something else. At the very least you should make adjustments to your promotions, change things up a bit, try new venues and strategies, target a different set of readers.

This year my to do list of the new things to try is a challenging one. I'm pleased to report that the first thing on that list has been completed. I selected Pronoun as my publisher to expand my distribution of eBooks to other marketplaces. A couple of weeks ago all my eBooks became available not just on Amazon, but

also on Kobo, Apple iBooks, Google Play, and B&N (Nook). Most of my sales will probably still come from Amazon but even if I only get a few sales per month from these other distribution channels, that's a few sales more than I would have had. My first sale came from Google and I got this nice note from Pronoun letting me know.

The next thing on my list is audio. By the end of the year, my goal is to have all my novels available on audio. I selected ACX for this, they have a revenue share program where you split royalties with your narrator that doesn't require money up front. That's important to me as I don't have a lot of money to invest in this. Jade, my first book, is already in production and I am very happy with the narrator I selected. I hope to have the audio book of Jade released in April.

Chapter One

A Dark and Stormy Summer

Whack! Clack! Crack! The sounds of our wooden practice swords, one long and one short, broke the silence of the night. We were in the clear area behind the house. Jane had set up some lights so I could see to practice. Ann Le slept during the day. She wasn't a day-walking vamp like Jane. We had been fencing for several minutes and I had entered what Ann Le called 'the Zone' - that place where every move seemed natural, where no fear existed, and where I became a worthy opponent for her.

She moved with all her speed now. The longer sword sweeping down and across from her right towards my neck, while at the same time, her shorter one came up in an arc and became a lunge aimed for my gut. I anticipated both moves and was there before she had practically begun the strikes, blocking her long sword with my short one and continuing my motion to score a hit on her forearm as it passed my midsection without contact.

"First blood to Jewel," Jade called from where she was standing on the sidelines. "Break time," she continued.

I want to develop a mailing list and do a monthly newsletter. That should come over the next few weeks. I have decided on providing some deleted scenes from my books to fans that sign up for my newsletter. I will continue to update you on my progress on this project.

Finally I want to try a few different ads this year. I have decided to start with an Amazon key word promotion and will probably run this when my new book releases, hopefully by the end of April as well.

I ran a 99 cents sale for the first time. I had a nice spike in sales for the three days I ran this promotion. I don't know if that will result in more sales of the next book or more reviews but I will keep you updated on this as well.

That night I dreamed of Thor again. The Stay Puft Marshmallow Man was striding down the streets of a big city, stepping on and crushing anything in his path. Thor was up above, shooting bolts of lightning at him, melting parts of him and the driving rain was washing him away. He got smaller and smaller until the very end where he had stopped moving, and was just about the size of a small charm laying in the street. I reached down and picked him up.

When I woke up, the charm was on my necklace, the one the Winter Queen of Faerie had made me. I had used all the charms recently, but something had told me to keep the necklace on. It was pretty cute, actually. I wondered what the future had in store for me.

Sponsorship Program – Closing 31st May 2017



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Editor, Publishing Consultant

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Email: RedPenn@hotmail.com

Mobile: 027 3 196 374

Web: RedPennReviews.com



Before you send your draft manuscript (MS) off to an editor, communicate exactly what you need carried out.

Editorial Tasks

Your contract (an informal agreement) should be clear in defining the editorial tasks your editor is to perform. The following list is taken from a contract under which I edited for a publishing house.

Use this list to define for your editor what tasks you need him/her to carry out. Include the applicable tasks in your initial email/letter to your editor. An ethical editor will advise you of what s/he cannot carry out.

Substantive / Structural Editing.

Clarifying and/or reorganizing a manuscript for content and structure. Changes may be suggested to or drafted for the author. This may include negotiating changes with author.

Stylistic Editing.

Clarifying meaning, eliminating jargon, smoothing language and other non-mechanical line-by-line editing. This may include checking or correcting reading level; creating or recasting tables and/or figures; negotiating changes with author.

Copy Editing.

Editing for grammar, spelling, punctuation and other mechanics of Style; checking for consistency of mechanics and internal consistency of facts; marking head levels and approximate placement of art; notifying designer of any unusual production requirements. This may include negotiating changes with author, involving Tracking Changes within the document and including the final proof copy, and the back matter and cover copy.

Fact Checking/ Citation Checking/ Reference Checking.

Checking accuracy of facts and/or quotes by reference to original sources used by author and/or from other sources.

Rewriting.

Creating a new manuscript or parts of a manuscript on the basis of content and research supplied by an author. This may include some research and writing of original material.

Picture Research. Locating suitable photos and/or artwork. May include obtaining camera-ready reproductions; preparing descriptions, working sketches and/or artist's references or co-ordinates for illustrations, maps and diagrams; supervising production of final artwork; obtaining releases from and/or conducting financial negotiations with picture sources and artists; preparing labels, captions and sources for typesetting.

Permission Seeking.

Seeking permission from the various rights holder for the publication of the manuscript.

List provided by Lynne McAnulty-Street, of Red Penn Services



Ghostly Writes Anthology 2017
Opening for Submissions in June

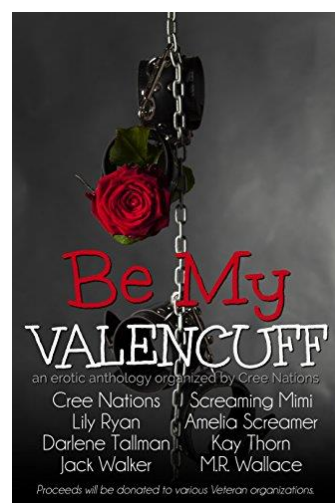
Recently Released Books

Be My Valencuff **with Melissa Robitille and 7 other Authors**

My contribution is Siren's Call. For those of you who've read some of my other Mill City Stories, like A Witch in Mill City, Love & Magic, or Wolf at the Door, it's Madeleine's story...

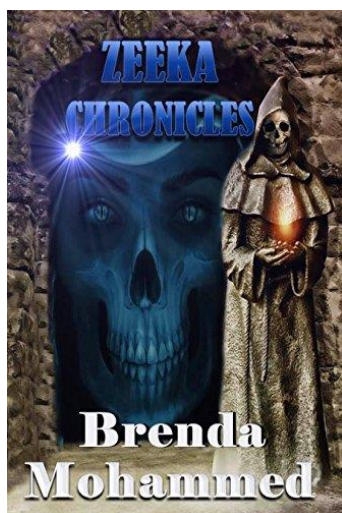
There's a superstition that there's a curse to go with the Happily Forever After blessing of a Siren singing at your wedding. The Siren either finds her true love at the wedding, or she'll die. Madeleine Kouloheras doesn't believe in the curse, but she's beginning to feel like she's living in interesting times when her crazy ex won't stop stalking her. It's enough to make a girl swear off men - and Lion-shifters! - for good.

Salvatore Romano is more than sick of cleaning up his cousin Gianni's messes, everything from the new Assistant DA using his behavior as an excuse to accuse the family of having Mob ties to dragging Dragon-shifters into the Pride's business. He tries to keep his temper, but all bets are off when Gianni messes with the Siren Salvatore would like to get to know.



[BUY LINK](#)

Zeeka Chronicles by Brenda Mohammad



[BUY LINK](#)

Zeeka Chronicles is a series of five spine - chilling stories about Revenge of Zeeka.

How can one man misuse Medical science for Revenge?

The book is about betrayal, kidnapping, revenge, secrets, lies, killer zombies, murder, and evil.

To what end is Zeeka willing to go to unleash terror on the small exotic island of Gosh?

Will he and his zombies escape the law?

Is he angry because his former lover jilted him?

Or is it because his child was born deformed and his wife died in childbirth?

Why did this vengeful man kidnap the son of his former lover?

One man knows his secrets.

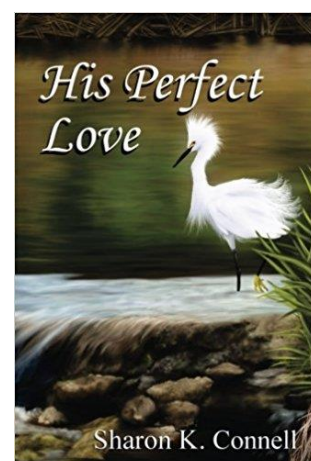
Can he stop him before more blood is shed and save the islanders?

Find out the answers to these provocative questions.

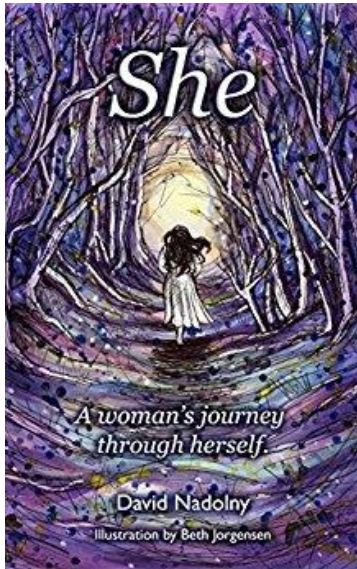
Get the book.

His Perfect Love **By Sharon K Connell**

No one crosses Jerry Windham and gets away with it. Not even a woman as shrewd as Patricia Campbell. After uncovering this man's dreadful secrets about women reported missing, she ran. Even two years later, she can't get rid of the thought that he'll never stop looking for her. He'd do anything to see her dead, or worse. Unaware of the FBI's search for her to learn what information she might hold, she continues to hide. A new look, a new city and job, fearful thoughts suppressed, Patricia moves on. Three new men enter this beautiful woman's life. A persistent computer technician, a charming philanthropist, and a handsome, wealthy businessman who wants to marry her. But her fears resurface, and she wonders if she can trust any of them. Having rejected God in her college days, Patricia believes He would not listen to her now. All she wants is to change and have a normal life. Will she put her trust in God? Can she survive long enough to find peace...and perfect love?



[BUY LINK](#)



[BUY LINK](#)

She: A woman's journey through herself **By David Nadolny**

100 works of prose, honoring a Woman's journey through ups, downs and the eventual finding of herself, her strength and her power. Each piece reflects moments of her life, her memories and things that have made her who she is today, while seeking to resonate with the reader. A collection of works dedicated to Fearless Females all over the World, and the strength, determination and endurance they display every day.

A sacred project, undertaken by the author with great respect, honor and recognition of the Feminine Energy all across the globe, with a hope and desire to see that Energy thrive once again. Traveling through the rough times, the author honors those, as well as the times that bring growth, happiness and a sense of community and inclusiveness for the reader.

The pieces touch on sensitive subjects such as abuse, neglect, self-harm and addiction, as well as positive examples of joy, healing, strength and a determination to grow and thrive.

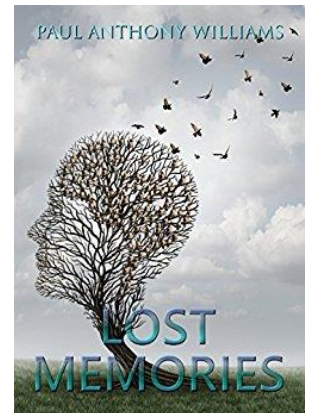
A book that is meant to be dog eared and highlighted, for reading again and again when life requires inspiration, hope or just a gentle reminder that you are not alone...

Lost Memories by Paul Williams

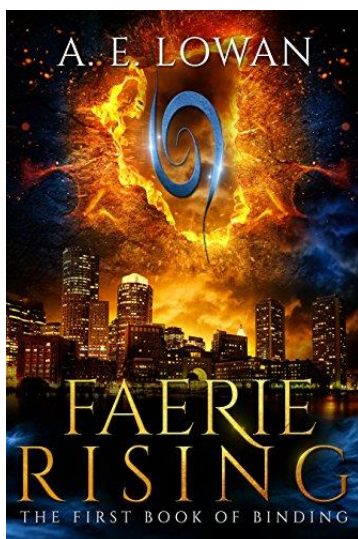
Lost Memories is a collection of poems from fantasy horror author and poet Paul Anthony Williams. This is his fourth book of poems following Unfinished Business, A Clown's Journey, and A Playboy's Playground.

Lost Memories revolves around the darker moments in Paul's life tackling addiction, drinking, heartache and death. There are also lighter elements as well, especially to the ladies that have touched his heart and left their marks upon it forever.

Paul Anthony Williams is an English Author who was born in Norwich, Norfolk UK and currently resides in Rugeley, Staffordshire.



[BUY LINK](#)



Faerie Rising by A E Lowen

Winter Mulcahy is the last wizard in the city of Seahaven, WA and all that stands between the fractious preternatural population and total chaos.

Holding the city together by the skin of her teeth, the blood of her friends, and an addiction to stimulants that is slowly killing her, the young wizard is approached by a pair of Sidhe lords. They claim that her city is harboring a fugitive who has kidnapped a Sidhe prince, and that they are on a mission to rescue the boy. Winter must investigate this fugitive to get to the truth of the kidnapping, discover the cause of the surges of wild magic tearing open rifts between realms across her city, and navigate the deadly waters of preternatural politics before Seahaven both figuratively and literally rips itself apart.

[BUY LINK](#)



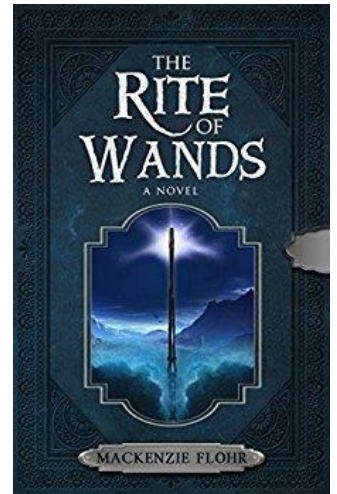
The Rite of Wands by Mackenzie Flohr

One boy...one Rite... And a world of deadly secrets that could change the course of history—forever

And so begins the tale of Mierta McKinnon. When a horrible fate reveals itself during his Rite of Wands ceremony, he must find a way to change not only his destiny but also the land of Iverna's.

Forbidden from revealing the future he foresees to anyone, he is granted a wand and his magical powers, but still must master the realm of magic in order to save himself and those he loves.

But Mierta is not the only one with secrets...especially when it's impossible to know who to trust



[BUY LINK](#)

Severance by Haven Cage

In Severance, a dark, adult urban fantasy novel from the Faltering Souls series, Nevaeh has to face the overpowering gravity of her choice to save those she loves while striving for strength to fight her greatest threat—herself.

Nevaeh Richards makes her declaration. Living a life in which she has few possessions, she sacrifices the only thing of worth she has to offer—what the Dark One wants the most—all for the slim chance of redeeming the souls of George, the man who raised her, and Gavyn, the Light Celata who holds a piece of her heart.

Warning: *This novel contains sexual content and adult language. Readers 18 years and older only. It also contains material that may be a trigger for those affected by physical, sexual, or mental abuse, or the tragic loss of a loved one. Though most readers will not likely be affected, if you suffer from PTSD or are highly sensitive in regards to these types of situations, please do not read.*



[BUY LINK](#)

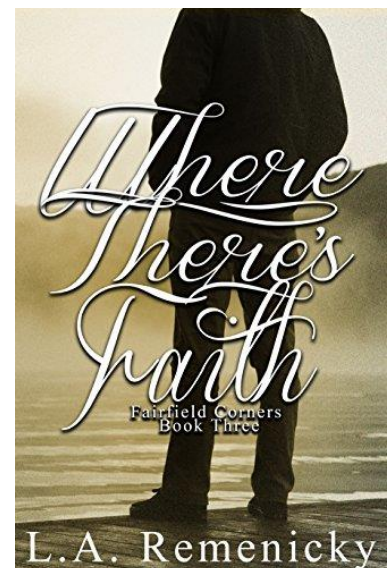
Where There's Faith by L A Remenicky

A past she can't remember. A love he can't forget.

After hitting rock bottom, Robert Newlin embraced sobriety and tried to live his life quietly and alone at his family's lake cottage. Blaming himself for the accident that claimed his wife and unborn baby, he spent most of his time alone and grieving until Faith moved into the cottage next door.

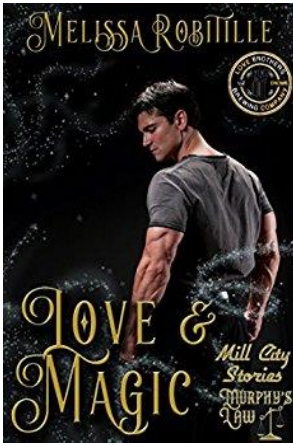
Faith McMillan had no memory of her life before that day three years ago. The physical scars had faded but the emotional ones were still fresh and raw. Living rent-free seemed like a great way to finish her second book and would give her the time to figure out her next move. But then she met the reclusive guy next door.

Robbie and Faith – can two broken people who vowed to live their lives alone find happiness together?



[BUY LINK](#)

Love and Magic by Melissa Robitille



[BUY LINK](#)

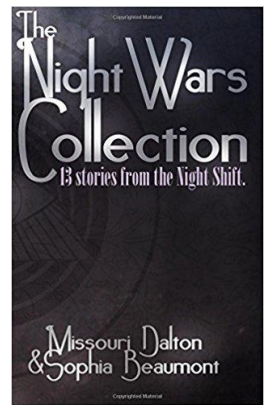
Detective Andrew “Andy” Munroe staked his reputation and career on love, and not even magic was going to soothe the burn if he stayed in Mill City. In an effort to keep his best friend and his sanity, he transfers to little Lucasville. His luck’s less than magical, though, and he put his foot in it big time with the one girl in Lucasville to catch his eye.

Tricia Fitzgerald nee Shelton had enough to cope with already with an abusive ex-husband stalking her, she did not need the sinfully sexy new cop butting his nose into her problems and making them that much worse. She definitely didn’t need her best friend, the busybody cow, telling the cops and the whole rest of the town all her problems!

Between best friend problems, a crazy ex, the holiday whirl, and Mr. Puddytwinkle the Siamese cat, can a pair with the Murphy’s Own Luck find a bit of love’s magic?

The Night Wars Collection With Missouri Dalton & Sophia Beaumont

A collection of thirteen Night Wars short stories from Missouri Dalton and Sophia Beaumont. Devilry Done by Missouri Dalton An Eye for Trouble by Missouri Dalton Poisoned Spirits by Missouri Dalton In Defense of Mushrooms by Sophia Beaumont Happy Halloween by Missouri Dalton Foxtrot by Missouri Dalton Ame by Missouri Dalton This Time of Year by Missouri Dalton Feumaidh Mi Ruith by Missouri Dalton The Ten of Cups by Sophia Beaumont Fiends in Low Places by Missouri Dalton The Raven and the Wolf by Missouri Dalton L’Ilse des Soeurs by Sophia Beaumont



[BUY LINK](#)



Breaking Free by Claire Plaisted

Fiona Gough is controlled by her father for her own good. He is demanding and overly protective. Fiona needs to be flawless in every way imaginable.

Two men enter her life. One works for her father as Head of Accounting, the other is just starting a career as an Architect. Which one will win the day? Who does she truly love?

There is darkness on the horizon and only Fiona can work her way through these days to find life as it should be.

[BUY LINK](#)



Reflective Writing with Mal Dowie

McStruggle Sandwich



My niece shared this and the first thing I spotted was the word "McStruggle". The reason why she shared it is because she felt hungry for a noodle sandwich.

I looked at this from both angles but I will focus on the word "McStruggle".

The word McStruggle is clearly an amalgamated word from **McDonalds** and **Struggle**. What this says to me is that noodles in a sandwich is a food which only people who are in hardship live on. I understand this reality clearly because it once belonged to me and my family....noodles was always at the forefront of our shopping list and we regarded it as luxury food. Pak n save



being a preferred spot and budget noodles being the choice. Our cupboard was full of noodles.

Our children simply adapted because I became creative with them and in the end, they lived by our version of luxury foods.

When I look back on these moments, its hard to believe that noodles was our staple food, but it was. In my mind I knew we were broke, but in my children's hearts we were fed. Thanks to the 99c bread and \$1.29 butter, we had a meal fit for a king.

Migrating forward today to where money is plenty, I am quickly reminded that although noodles are a rare substitute in our home, they will always be known as our reason for surviving 4 years of financial hardship. I could now eat what I would call, a plain noodle sandwich.

So now when hearing the testimonies of those who are genuinely struggling, I am more empowered to pinpoint ways to encourage them to see beyond circumstance. It aint easy and I will only refer to my experience as a reminder for myself to stay humble and not place my journey in their shoes.

Everyone adapts differently but it certainly builds us stronger and forms resilience. Elevation is key to seeing beyond.

Society sees depending on the shape of our paradigm.

The McStruggle sandwich can easily be transformed into a meal fit for a king.

Mauri ora

Like the rest of the world, New Zealand is getting expensive. Food is now 50% more expensive than it was no more than six year ago. Wages might go up 2.5% and it doesn't make any different when big business increase costs by 12% . Recently the local council in Wellington decided to pay their staff what they called 'A living wage'

\$40k a year for a family of five...though liveable in some areas in others it would leave you in debit. The main reason my own family haven't struggled is because our family don't have summer holidays, we never joined sports clubs, scouts or guides. Instead we ate and had a roof over our head. YES WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL.

Authors Supporting Charities

LOOKING INTO THE ABYSS WITH PAUL WHITE

Now here is a story and a half. Paul White is an author extraordinaire and also a man who is involved with Saving the Black Rhino – 'Boots on the Ground' Charity. With this in mind Paul decided to compile an Anthology from authors around the world who would donate a short story.

[BOOTS ON THE GROUND](#)

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THESE CHARITIES!



I'm excited to help reveal the cover for the Where Words Fail, Music Speaks Anthology, which is scheduled for release April 21, 2017.

Where Words Fail, Music Speaks is a collection of short stories and poetry by writers from all walks of life.

Each story is based on the titles of 90s Britpop songs, including Come Back To What You Know, Bittersweet Symphony, Animal Nitrate, Disco 2000, and more.

Our list of authors is: **Kyra Lennon, Clare Dugmore, Annalisa Crawford, Wesley Copeland, Robb Turburville, Dawn H Sidebottom, Audrina Lane, Mich Feeney, Karen Frances, SJ Warner, Scout Dawson, Kim Morgan, Maddie Wade Author, Rebeccalou Heronpontin, and Andrea Coventry.** AND we've just added the awesome Ker Dukey to the lineup too! Woot!

BUY LINK

All proceeds from the sales of this anthology will go to **Clusterbusters**.

Demons, Vampires, Dark Readers of the Mind, Unspeakable Horrors and Ghosts that lurk in the night. When the sun fades behind the horizon and darkness falls, these are the things that chill your bones. Every bump, every whistle of the wind, every distant cry a nightmare waiting to unfold. Frightening. Terrible. Beautiful.

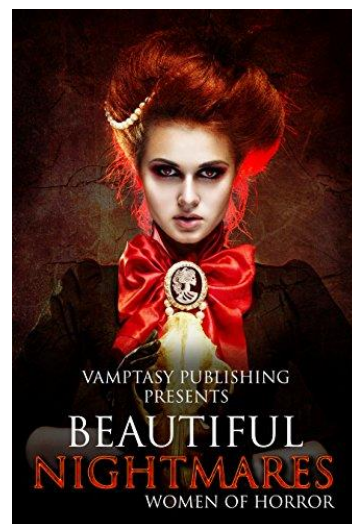
Beneath this cover you will find twisted tales of the macabre from some of the best in modern Horror, including: Skye Knizley, Sarah Davis Brandon, A. Giacomi, Lily Luchesi, Laurencia Hoffman, October Weeks, Kindra Sowder, Faith Marlow, Petronela Ungureanu, P. Mattern, T.M. Scott. Nicolajayne Taylor

Cover design from Rebecca Poole of Dreams2Media

Read them, if you so dare, but leave the lights on. You never know who, or what, is lurking at the edge of darkness.

Beautiful Nightmares, a Horror Anthology from Vamptasy Publishing, the leader in Indie Horror.

All proceeds to be donated to the [Los Angeles LGBT Center](#).



[BUY LINK](#)



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Patty L. Fletcher

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'*The Neighborhood News*'.

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See below for what she can provide, visit her websites
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