

ISSUE #13

10 JUNE 2017

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT
INTRODUCING
**ADELE MARIE
PARK**

**INDIE
PUBLISHING
NEWS**

PLAISTED PUBLISHING HOUSE, LTD.

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Issue One May 2017
**FROM YOUR
FAVOURITE
EROTIC INDIE
AUTHORS**

From the Editor's Desk

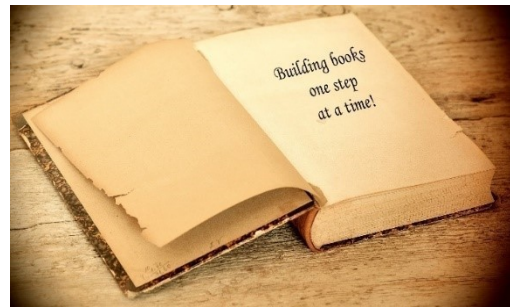


Thank you to all those who filled in the Survey about the Magazine and answering the questions. It is an interesting read. Some of the ideas are already available or have been utilised, others I will look into and see if they are feasible. Remembering the Magazine is FREE and though I spend quite a bit of time pulling it together, I don't wish to add any further hours.

What I need from you all is more MARKETING ideas. What works, what doesn't and where to go to get the help you need. I'd like to share this information with those of us who are struggling. Our next Marketing Article will be in the July issue (fingers crossed).

PLEASE NOTE THE FANTASY AUTHOR SPONSORSHIP IS NOW CLOSED!!

Our sponsors will now go through the applications and decide on a winner for 2017. You will be notified by email and also in the next magazine. Good luck to those who entered.



Ghostly Writes Submissions 2017

Any Genre with Ghostly overtones (no erotic)
Word count no more than 6,000
15 top submission will be in the anthology
Two books are do able if high submissions
Stories that don't make it will be placed in 'The Indie Publishing News' and on blogs.

Needed:
Editors
Proofreaders
Graphics for Marketing - Teasers & Trailers
Ideas for Book Covers

**THIS IS A FREE ANTHOLOGY. YOU OWN
COPYRIGHT OF STORY. ALL HELP OFFERED
NEED TO BE FREE. YOU WILL ALL BE
ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE BOOKS**

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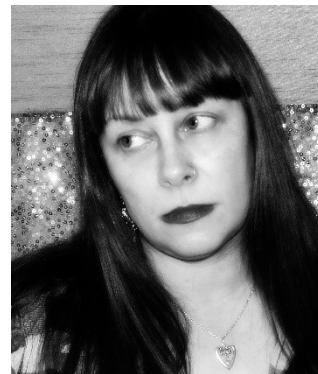
***Helping Indie Authors get
their books published
professionally***

If you are interested in Ghostly Writes you can find the group here:
www.facebook.com/groups/ghostlywrites

Author Spotlight – Adele Marie Park

Tell us a bit about yourself.

My name is Adele Marie Park. Throughout my life I've been called, a dreamer, has her head in the clouds and on school reports, "could do better if she would stop day dreaming." It's only now that I've been diagnosed with dyspraxia. That will explain the clumsiness, the dyslexia and the difficulty in telling left from right. However, my psychotherapist told me that I see things in patterns which, makes writing ideal. Luckily it is one of my passions the others being my wife, daughter and our dog. Oh, and I love art. I did three years art and design in order to gain the entrance qualifications for art school. However, life always has its own agenda and before I could say let's try the second choice, I was pregnant with my daughter. I became a Mum which is a life time commitment. When she became old enough to attend kindergarten, for the hour she was there, I wrote. Then my Mum bought me an old typewriter and I joined a creative writing class once a week. Through all that has happened, some very bad and equally some wonderful times, I've never stopped writing.



What brought you to the world of writing?

I grew up on an island called Rousay. One of several which are called the Orkney Islands. The culture is very much enriched by ancient tales of magic and myth. From the Norse and earlier. Those stories fuelled my over worked imagination and still do. Preserving these stories and wanting to have my own endings brought me to the writing world.

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

The first book I ever wrote and completed is called Suleskerry. It's about selkies (grey seals) who can become human on the land. I tried to get it published before the self-publishing world took off and thankfully it was declined. I love the story and the characters it just needs a lot of re writes and editing. Which I will do.

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

I write what I like to call dark horror/fantasy but a lot of my books feature magical realism. My readers love the characters and the themes that run through them. I think they can relate to the characters and what they go through, or what I put them through.

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

My featured book is Wisp. It is a dark fantasy set in a land called Edra. Wisp is the main character and he is a Law Upholder, (a policeman) who has secrets of his own. He finds a murdered elf in a lawless place in the city. It is weird enough to find an elf down there let alone one who is from a high-ranking family. The investigation leads him to discover treachery, secrets about himself, love, friendship and political plots which hides a dark evil.

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

That depends, sometimes it can take three months or more, if there are other things going on.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

I have to admit that plotting goes on in my head. When I get an idea, it plays out in my head first like a movie, the whole movie. It stays in my head always, even when the book is long finished and polished. I do however keep folders for every character. Their back story, their likes and dislikes and sometimes family trees.

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

Usually a character speaks to me in my head and their voice is strongest, other times the characters will sound better in third person. I get very paranoid, usually half way through a book and think I've got tenses and pov mixed up all the way through.

How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write? Once I've finished a book I leave well alone for at least a week. Then I pick up the editing tool, the re write tool and copious amounts of coffee.

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

I try to market my books to readers who like the same things I do but, I also market to people who love to read a good character filled story that will stay with them.

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

I have only self-published at the moment as before that I had no luck with finding an agent or a publisher, this was before amazon.

How do you promote your writing?

I love blogging and have made several great friends through this medium and I promote my work on the blog. Facebook is another avenue I use as most of my friends and relatives are on there and they in turn promote it to their friends. I use twitter, a lot and again I find it good for promotion.

Where can we buy your books?

You can buy Wisp and the three other anthologies I've been lucky to be included in at:
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B01MXYQ2E4>

Who are your favourite authors?

This could be a long answer. Stephen King, James Herbert, Storm Constantine, Poppy Z Brite, Anne Rice, Robin Hobb, and so many more.

Links

<https://firefly465.wordpress.com/> <https://twitter.com/Binky567>
<https://www.facebook.com/firefly.fly.14>

Wisp 2 The Spells of Sea Dragons is currently being written as is a horror novel called Wolfe Manor. I hope both of these will be ready to publish before Christmas this year. Thank you everyone who reads this and thank you Indie Publishing magazine for asking me.

Cartoon Description

An impish grin as if I've been doing mischief, a caring heart for those I love and animals. Long wild black hair, as I'm always running my fingers through it in frustration, and usually a leaf or something stuck in it. An old teddy bear gripped in my hand, I still sleep with my teddy bear and I'm not ashamed. A goth dress above the knee with one sock up and one sock down. Always.

Spotlight Author bought to you



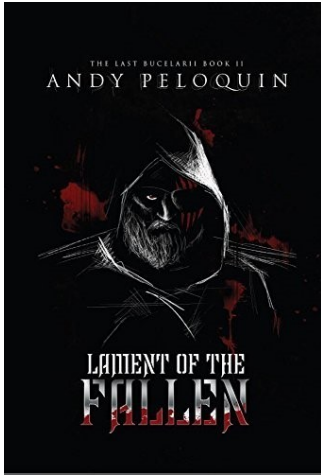
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Indie Author Reviews

Lament of the Fallen by Andy Peloquin



Who here likes fantasy but also loves blood and violence? *raises hand* Well, if you raised your hand, too, look no further. Featuring magic, mischief, and general mayhem, Lament of the Fallen (and its predecessor Blade of the Destroyer) is the book for you. Following a bloodthirsty and possibly insane MC, the nameless Hunter, we see him brought low, a mere outcast.

Like most good fantasy, there is a majestic quest for something, riddled with potholes and a large cast of supporting characters and adversaries (mostly adversaries). The Hunter is not exactly a good guy, yet he's still the hero/antihero of the story, the one you root for as he meets dark magicians and fights against his own bloodthirsty desires.

I can't say much without giving too much away, but this series is quickly becoming a favorite of mine. Perfect for horror fans and fantasy lovers alike!

Reviewed by Kelly Smith

Central City Tales by Adam C Mitchell

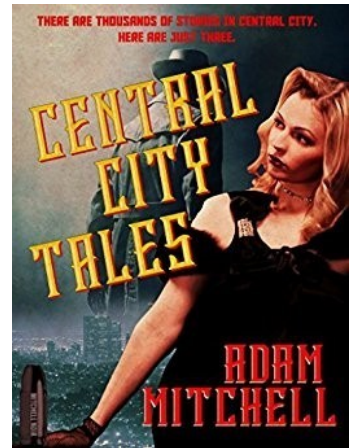
This is the second written work I've read by this author. His writing style is decisive to say the least. Gritty, realistic and completely submerged in the time era!

These stories, while at first I struggled to see a connection, in the end tied together sensationally. I'm never one to give away a storyline or plot when reviewing, but I will say that crime noir is certainly Adam Mitchell's forte.

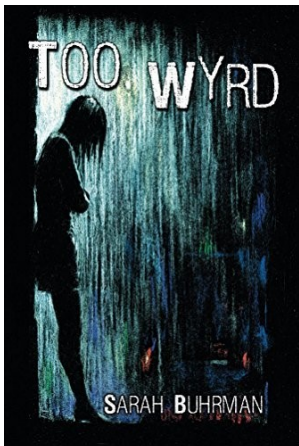
I love the characters, just as I loved the ones in his other Book. The manner in which the characters speak and think is so dead on in this genre that I'm left to wonder if the author himself is resurrected from this particular time in history himself.

If you like engaging characters, genuine dialogue, a twisted and turning kind of storyline then Mitchell is an author whose books you dare not miss..

Reviewed by Jennifer Deese



Too Wyrd by Sarah Buhrman



This book was so well-written that I forgot that I was reading at all. I became Nicola. Her experiences became my own. Every sight, sound, taste was a vivid rendering within my mind.

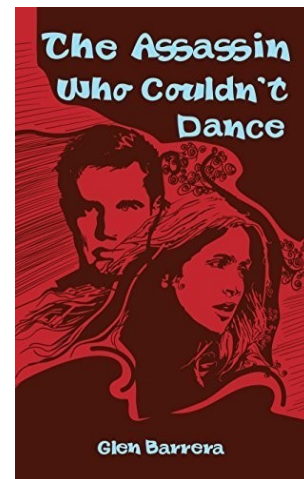
The astral scene was exquisitely done. I found myself falling in love with these characters and this word. The banter is witty and entertaining. The relationships are believable and raw. This is easily the best book I have read this year. I cannot wait to continue the journey for the runespells.

Reviewed by Courtney Cannon

The Assassin who couldn't Dance by Glen Barrera

Can you resist the title – The Assassin Who Couldn't Dance? I couldn't, which is why I added the book to my TBR pile even before I had the time to read it. My only regret now is not having read it sooner. Let me try to be brief so you can go and get this thriller and enjoy it the way I have.

Hector is a young, well-trained assassin with a shady past and partial lack of ordinary social skills who encounters an unlikely group of ex-military pals and their families, only to find himself questioning his own mission. Not only will the author sail you successfully through the numerous plots and subplots, twists and turns, concerning the good old money scams of enormous proportions, where any means is supposed to justify the end, but he will make you care about the characters, just as he makes Hector care. I hated my own eyes when they got tired of reading and having to go to work in the midst of the action scenes, and I am still trying to decide on my favourite character (Morgan and Lucy take the lead, but only by an inch).

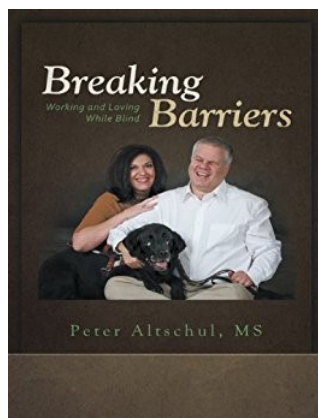


This thriller has it all – all shades of good and bad, tough and likeable heroes (both female and male), a rich variety of gruesome villains, cliffhanger moments, actions with guns blazing and foreheads sweating (great writing overall), intelligent romance where you hope for it, skillfully crafted dialogues... And one thing I truly admire – attention to detail in the midst of chaos. Lana's lipstick on the glass Parks uses, Annie's Christmas decorations... The author has a way with words that suits me just like when you find good rock tunes which fit your taste. I am not one to hang on first lines, but this one had me reading well past my bedtime...

"Nazar ran his tongue over cracked lips as he considered, for intellectual exercise, the varied forms of torture yet to be discovered."

Movie-like and better, with all the suspenseful feel of a movie and the great quality of the written word, this is a treat for any thriller fan with a taste for intense, intelligent action mysteries. Looking forward to more. **Reviewed by Anita Kovacevic**

Breaking Barriers by Peter Altschul - Reviewed by Patty Fletcher



Happy didn't quite qualify me. I downloaded, and read the entire thing in a day and half. It was wonderfully spectacular!

Reading about Peter, and learning all about his life, was a treasure.

When you read someone's book, especially if it is one they've written of themselves, you really get a look inside, and get to see what makes them tick. Turned out, some of what I thought of Peter, wasn't quite on the mark, and once I read him, I understood him some better.

As I finished his work, and filed it away, I wondered, "So, when he read my book, Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life, did he understand me any better?"

I like to think that is the case. Here, in the case of Peter's book, I have to say, I understood him way lots, and to the good.

I enjoyed learning of his hit and miss romance, job search etc. It made me feel better to see that someone who seemed to always have it together, and was so very smart, could have troubles and trials, like the rest. I loved also, reading of his attending a convention, and how he dealt with things.

I enjoyed the descriptions of his Guide Dog experience. I enjoyed learning the similarities, and differences we have as Guide Dog handlers. That's just how I am. Some people like to compare cars, I like to compare dogs. Why not? That's what I drive... 4-On-the-Floor, and slick for sure!

Favourite Blog Interviews with Tom Fallwell

Anita Kovacevic

This weeks author interview features author Anita Kovacevic. She is an author of adult and children's fiction. She has been teaching English for over twenty years, thus learning all about the power of storytelling.

Her stories sometimes develop as teaching materials, which are successfully implemented in her teacher workshops and English lessons, and sometimes surprise even herself. She is currently working on several children's books, a fantasy YA novel, and having her adult novel read by her beta-readers.

As a member of an international teaching community, she has also participated in a worldwide charity anti-bullying e-book Inner Giant, which, among others, features her short stories, essays, illustrations and poems.



[ANITA KOVACEVIC](#)
[ON LULU](#)

Anita's greatest inspiration and critics are her children and students, who mercilessly let her know if 'stuff is boring' or not. She enjoys stories which come to her on her dreamstep, with just enough reality and magic as life requires. She writes poetry, children's plays (often performed by students), stories, fantasy novels, horrors, and has a special fondness for writing limerick stories.

You can also read her book reviews and interviews with authors on her Wordpress blog Anita's Haven, as well as some free stories, poetry and essays.

She lives with her husband and children in Croatia, and doesn't know the meaning of 'free time'.

INTERVIEW

What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Painfully many. To list only a few, there are the traditional traps of the writing trade itself (telling instead of showing, lack of objective editing); in publishing attempts a huge mistake is trusting vanity publishers, or believing traditional publishers will do all the work.

Another demotivating trap is most people are oblivious that if you self-publish, it is actually an investment, just as with any other enterprise – you have to invest to be able to have a quality product which will sell. We are all artists at heart (at least we like to think so), and the beauty and passion of the writing process make us believe miracles happen, anything is possible, and our magic will naturally transpire and have instant success with the readers. It is difficult, even revolting at first, to even think of your book as a product for sale. But one adapts:). Or suffers. (Y) our choice.

However, giving up too soon is the most dangerous trap. You must know that you can never satisfy all readers' tastes. But if you trust in your characters, if you feel them in your gut, then fight to keep them alive and introduce them to people. No story comes to life if it remains untold. Giving up should not be an option.

Have you ever gotten writer's block?

Yep, in high school, having to write a history report on something. Too much fact, no allowances for fantasy. Just kidding.

No time for writer's block actually, because I still don't have enough free time to write whenever I think, feel or dream a story. I have a full-time job and family, and life dictates priorities. There are still too many stories simmering in my head which I haven't put on paper to worry about writer's block.

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

It's not about trying anything at all. There is no premeditation to it. I'm an old-fashioned romantic. I write what my characters dictate. Period. If I tried writing on demand, it would probably be awful and make me feel like a fake. I am not much of a liar. I once tried desperately to save a character's life, until she saved herself in such a way that left me speechless. I never thought she had it in her. I have no idea if readers will approve when they read it. But we'll see. She doesn't care. She did what she was meant to do.

How has your writing progressed or changed as you write more books?

The actual writing is much the same, perhaps with a touch more of self-criticism than before. But the editing process has changed a lot. I now welcome it. Knowing what it will allow gives me more freedom during writing. I am constantly learning what my strengths and my weaknesses in writing are. I have recently picked up an old YA fantasy novel of mine to finally

revise, and realized it will need a major reconstruction. Talk about a self-inflicted ego wound:))! The storyline is OK, I still love the characters, but the verbiage and the telling-showing ratio made me appreciate what I have learned meanwhile.

One of the most useful things I have learned is not to feel guilty when I let a story rest after its first version is finished. If I pick it up to revise and feel 'the wound is too fresh', I let it be.

What makes me happy... well, it's a curious thing. There are scenes which wake me up in the middle of night and I completely zone out to write them, oblivious of the time and sounds around me. I feel I am there, with my characters, seeing what they see, smelling what they smell... Once the scene is written, I feel liberated, energized, light. I simply know what I wrote is good. (Not all scenes are like this, much to my regret.) These special scenes, when they go through revision, usually need the least editing and contain the fewest typos. They are little miracles. Like diamonds in the rough. Just a tiny polish and... yes. I have learned to be grateful for them.

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

No rules; it depends on what I write. For now, I mostly write what I know, but that's just life sparing me the extra stress of finding time for research. I have started writing a thriller last year, but only left it as notes because I realized it would require tons of research. I have the basic storyline and characters laid out. For now, they are being patient with me, biding their time. When the time is right, I am sure they will start haunting me, and the research will begin.

What's the most difficult thing about writing characters from the opposite sex?

I have to admit I have never thought about that. Interesting. Let me get back to you on that one in a few years' time, after I've written a few more books. The ones waiting to be revised and published might shed some light.

Do you read your book reviews? How do you deal with bad or good ones?

Yes, I do, because I appreciate them all. I don't like the stars or any numerated system; it's misleading. Sometimes the actual content of a 3* review is more flattering than a 5* review. Even when I read reviews for other people's books, I read both the good and bad reviews. But they don't make me pick up a book or leave it. Mean reviews are what I thoroughly dislike. Well, I dislike people being mean in general. Lashing out online simply because you can, hiding under a username... well, if someone gives that sort of a review any credit, they should rethink their priorities.

What is your favorite childhood book?

So many of them. When I was 7, my librarian told me I didn't have to return books the same day. I said I had to because I'd read the books and wanted new ones. Once she realized I wasn't kidding, she started recommending me books and lending me 1 or 2 more than usual. Heaven!

From The Wizard of Oz and Koko i duhovi (a children's detective book by Croatian author Ivan Kušan), to The Clan of the Cave Bear later on, books have always been my haven.

My godmother and an old neighbour lady who used to take care of me fostered this by always giving me books for my birthday. Books, stationery and drawing utensils were always the perfect gift for this girl. Come to think of it, they still are.

You can find out more about Anita on her LULU link above by her photo.

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

Readers Using Comic Con to find New Authors By Markie Madden

If you're an avid reader, you're likely always on the lookout for new books and new authors. But, have you ever attended comic conventions? If your answer is no, then you might be missing out on an excellent opportunity to encounter new-to-you authors and fabulous books.

Comic Cons are, of course, dedicated to comic books, but they've expanded in recent years to include vendors from all walks of life, from jewelry to blankets, and independent authors. I attended a Comic Con in a relatively small town in 2016, and there were hundreds of vendors present. I also met more than a handful of new, local authors. This year, I plan to attend a con even closer to home. [Going to a Comic Convention](#)

As a reader, you can attend a Comic Con and find new books to read. The entry fee is usually minimal. Many authors, especially those who are new to the world of authoring, may not have elaborate setups or gorgeous displays. I remember what it was like; I was new to the game myself not long ago.

We've been taught all our lives not to judge a book by its cover, and that includes the author who is selling that book, and the display they use. Attending a con and finding authors gives you the opportunity to talk to the people who devote their lives to writing. You can learn more about their writing and this will let you know if their book interests you.

You'll have the opportunity to put the book in your hand, to flip through the pages, and get an autograph if you purchase one. If you prefer e-books, the author will gladly direct you to where you can get his or her book(s) online.

As an author myself, I try to have lots of business cards available, but I also print out lists of my books so I can give those to potential buyers. That makes it easier for them to find my books online later. [Reader Benefits of Attending a Con](#)

Many authors will run giveaways during convention days. Maybe if you sign up for their newsletter (which also keeps you informed of new releases), you'll be entered to win a free book. Or, they might raffle off a gift basket filled with goodies.

Authors who attend Comic conventions often offer payment with Visa, MasterCard, or other credit cards through Square, and some even accept direct PayPal payments. So, you won't have to write a check (most out-of-town authors won't accept one anyway) and you don't have to worry if you don't have a lot of cash on hand.

By talking with an author, you can determine what the driving force behind their work is. They'll give you inside details about their books, probably more information than you could glean by reading the back cover.

Why Choose Independent Authors?

You might be wondering why you should bother with books written by independent authors, or indies, instead of traditionally published books. Yes, there are some indies who have books riddled with spelling errors or bad grammar. Yet most of them work hard to make sure their books are free from errors.

Indies aren't confined to the rules of a traditional publisher. Often, the editor of a traditional author's book will make major changes to the book, sometimes even changing main parts of the story to make it 'match' what is currently popular.



Because indies aren't trying to match current hot genres, you can often find books with more intriguing storylines. You might remember the recent movie titled 50 Shades of Gray (and its follow-up, 50 Shades Darker). English author E.L. James is an independent author. The third book of the trilogy, 50 Shades Freed, is also a movie.

So, you see now that you might be missing out on some phenomenal books by indies!

About a Comic Con

If you're concerned about visiting a convention full of people in costume (and you won't be), don't worry! The costume part of a con is just for fun, not a requirement. On the other hand, if you'd like to dress up as a favorite character from a movie or video game, feel free to do so!

Conventions may be held all year long. If you want to find one near you, simply Google 'comic con near me' and see what kind of results you find.

Check out this photograph from the Montreal Comic Con. I think my favorite is the storm trooper in the upper left! To learn more about the history of comic conventions, visit this Wikipedia page.

My company, small press publisher Metamorph Publishing, will be attending a Comic Con in September in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. We will have three authors with us, and we look forward to meeting new members.

INDIE AUTHOR WEBSITES

Linda Bennett Stern <https://www.facebook.com/BossesandBlackjacks>
Lori Remenicky <Http://www.Facebook.com/laremenicky>
Paul White <https://www.facebook.com/paulwhitewriter/>
Jenn L Deese Neall www.facebook.com/JennTerra
Tania Giguere <https://www.facebook.com/TaniaGiguereAuthor/>
Nuala Geoghegan <https://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/nualasherry>
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Lost C. A. Keith

The poison went deep into her veins
Like a sinister drug and she would
Collapse into the sticky web.
She left dizzy, lighter, giddier, warmer
And then each day that passed
She would grow colder, weaker..
She could almost smell him and taste him near her.
She was collapsing
The venom was wearing off...
She would have to get more.
She couldn't wait to be tied to that web again.
She could feel the pain, the anguish, in her soul
She then realized she was addicted to the spider
Even though she was lost in her own
Web!



Spotlight Reviews for Adele Marie Park

Enter the land of Edra where magic is a way of life. Reviewed By Colleen M. Chesebrook

Meet Wisp, a law enforcer in the land of Edra, where magic is encouraged to flourish and is often needed for sheer survival. A mages council rules Edra compared to the neighboring area of Finah, who prefers humans to control their resources. After a bloody civil war, many years ago, the two lands exist beside each other in a fragile peace.

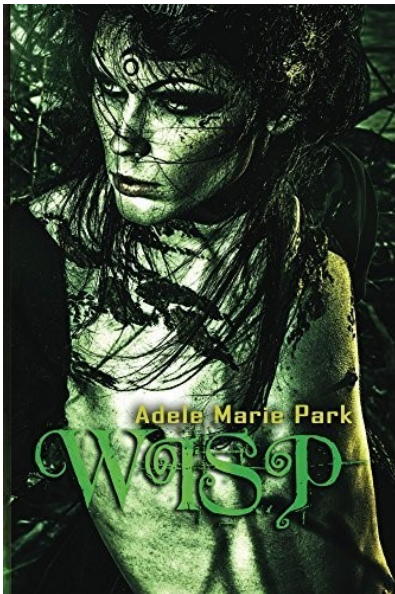
Wisp is a marsh fairy with raven hair and pointy ears pierced with silver earrings. Marsh fairies are rare and possess special powers. Wisp keeps his real identity under wraps, known only to his superiors. Abandoned as a child, the “Senior” Law enforcement officer raised him ensuring his survival.

In a desolate area filled with putrefying rubbish, Wisp comes across the body of a High Elf, a member of the Thorns, who was a high-ranking council member found murdered in the circle. The elf’s throat had been brutally cut. Wisp sets out to solve the murder not realizing he is to play an integral part in solving the mystery.

Wisp meets Finn Redhaven, the lover of the murdered elf, Sammiel Thorn, and feels an immediate attraction to him. Wisp and Finn fall in love and discover a wealth of magical abilities enabled by their relationship. And, they are going to need all the help they can get to battle the evil that has descended on Edra.

As fantasy novels go, Wisp stands out to me in its originality and political intrigue. Ms. Park creates a world where love is considered to be one of the greatest powers of all. I enjoyed that the two main characters were male and embraced their love and desire for each other, which was a refreshing approach to solving a mystery in a magical land. The reader discovers along with Wisp the extent of his abilities which I anticipate will increase over time.

I’ve added Wisp to my list of favorite fantasy novels. I loved the story and the characters. The ending is a cliffhanger, and I can’t wait for the next volume to find out what happens to Wisp and Finn. Hopefully, Ms. Park won’t keep us in suspense for long.



WISP by Adele Marie Park

Edra; a world where magic flourishes and where dark secrets are concealed by those who rule. Secrets which can get the innocent killed without a thought.

When the body of an elf is discovered in a treacherous area of the city, Wisp a young Law Enforcer is assigned the case. He soon realises the case is far from simple. As soon as he finds one thread another one leads him to unravel a tapestry woven from lies, secrets, corruption and evil. When friendship turns to love, Wisp’s life, as he knew it will completely change.

What started out as a murder case ends in a grisly battle which Wisp and his companions seem to have no chance of winning.

[BUY LINK](#)

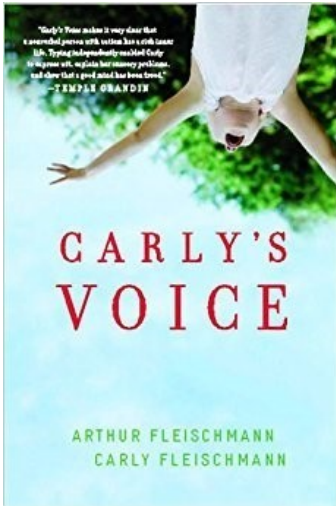
The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting

Sun Tzu

https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/s/sun_tzu.html

Grandma Peachy's Reviews

Carly's Voice by Arthur and Carly Fleischmann



Carly's Voice by Arthur Fleischmann with Carly Fleischmann is another traditionally published book that I had wanted to read for some time. My interest in autism was initially sparked by my sister-in-law whose sister has autism. I've encountered autism several times in my life and currently the community in which I reside has an unusually high incidence of autism among children. Carly's Voice has been on my reading wish list for some time.

This story of the impact of autism on the family of Carly Fleischmann was heart breaking from the beginning. The battle the parents, especially the mother, went through pulled at my heart strings. I experienced deep empathy for her parents while going through the trials of first getting a diagnosis, then fighting to get the best education for their nonverbal autistic child.

The author did an excellent job of imparting the emotional feelings of knowing that his child would never have the same kind of life as her siblings and knowing that he would not be able to get to know his daughter and do things with his daughter that a father looks forward to doing.

When the people who worked with Carly daily discovered her ability to communicate through the typed word her whole world opened up. Carly contributed her insights and point of view in the final chapter. She has become an advocate for people with autism and is living proof that autism doesn't have to keep one from accomplishing their goals and dreams.

I recommend this book to anyone who has been touched by autism even as remotely as the relative of a relative or friend. Carly's Voice gives us a much better insight into the mind of a person living with autism and just how misunderstood they are even by those who are closest to them and love them the most. We can learn to be more accepting and compassionate of those with autism. They are not the autism, they are people with hopes and dreams just like the rest of us. An excellent read, well written and totally engaging.

Rainne's Reviews

Fly by Night by Cris & Clare Meyers

The 'gang' from book 1, *Playing with Fire*, are back. They've moved on from the events in Seattle, but they haven't forgotten, or forgiven.

This, the second book in the series is told from Rooks point of view and is a superb sequel.

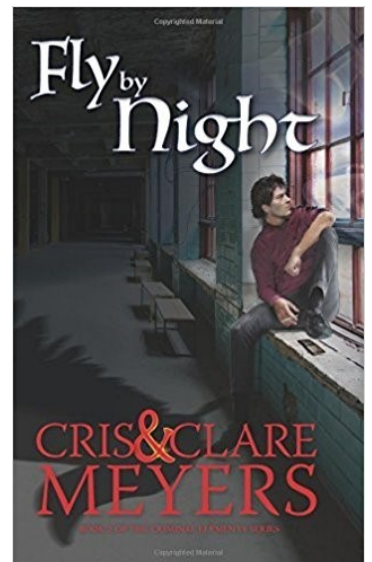
Rook never knows when to keep his mouth shut and his thoughts to himself, which makes for some great moments. Half the time I wanted to gag him, the rest of the time I wanted to hug him!

The characters all evolve and grow in their own ways, during the story, and we learn more about them, their past and their relationships.

The plot is well thought out, and this book has more action and suspense than the previous one.

I enjoyed *Playing with Fire*... I loved *Fly by Night*!

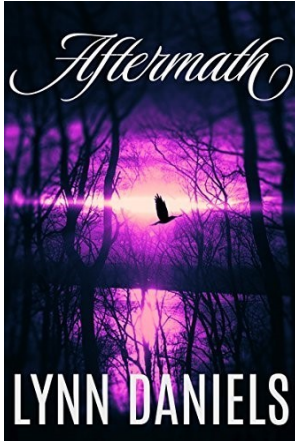
Once again, thanks go to Clare Meyers for sending me an ecopy of this book.



POETS CORNER

Aftermath

By Lynn Daniels



Choice is a guiding principle of life. One where the end result is not always limited to the fortunes of one individual. In modern society, choice has become a source of conflict. It has divided families, friends and even nations. It has even led some to adopt causes designed to deny other groups the option of choice. Aftermath is a poetic rendition of the consequence of choice. The poems in this book are designed to take readers on personal, social, emotional and political journey through the fallout of life-changing events and decisions.

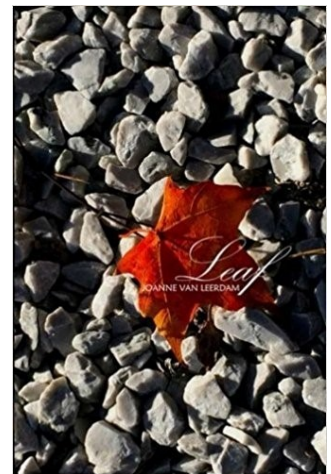
[BUY LINK](#)

Leaf

By Joanne Van Leerdam

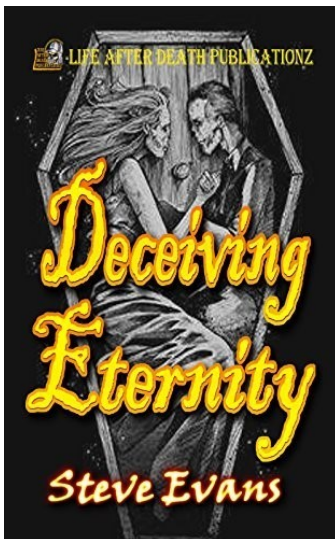
'Leaf' is the first collection of poetry published by Joanne Van Leerdam. Lyrical, often metaphorical and always unashamedly honest, these poems are expressions of the poet's own experiences and observations about life, love and human nature.

[BUY LINK](#)



Deceiving Eternity

By Steve Evans



Hidden in the darkness, is a special place. A place where a painted on smile is meant to cover internal agony. A place where pain and heartache drown out the sparkle of a once vibrant soul. It's a place reserved for those attempting to disguise their fears with fake emotions and timid dreams... A place designated for those lost souls who believe they are Deceiving Eternity!

[BUY LINK](#)

Poetry comes from the highest happiness or the deepest sorrow

A P J Abdul Kalam

https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/a/a_p_j_abdul_kalam.html

Haven Cage – Indie Author



Tell us a bit about yourself.

Hello everyone! I'm Haven Cage. I write dark fiction that focuses on strong women with flaws and the men who fall in love with them. My first series, The Faltering Souls Series, is an adult Urban Fantasy story focused on a young woman, Nevaeh, who grows up on the streets not knowing her past. She is thrown into a world of angels, demons, loss, and love while learning who she really is on the inside. Currently, I'm working on a dark romance set in 1952 Charleston, SC called Craving Love & Death. Vivienne is a night club singer and waitress who uses men's lust for her to lure them to their deaths. She meets a sailor who just might be the one to turn her life upside down, but he has his own secrets to face.

When I'm not writing, I enjoy watching movies, reading, and spending time with my husband and son.

What brought you to the world of writing?

I wasn't one of those authors that spent their childhood striving to become a writer. I found my love for reading and writing much later in life. A friend from work gave me Twilight for a birthday present, and I loved the cover so much, I decided to give it a try. Before then, I hadn't realized what kind of books that were out there, or where my interests lived. After reading Twilight, I began diving into fantasies and romances and quickly developed a fondness for literature.

As far as getting the writing bug, I read that Stephanie Meyer based her books off of a dream she had. Having some strange dreams, myself, I gave writing a try. I had always been of a creative mind, but usually more art based. Writing became a new way for me to unleash my inner struggles and let the woman I truly was inside grow.

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

My first book was Falter. I published it on May 6, 2016, so it's still considered new to a lot of people. Today, I see it as a milestone for something that took years in the making, and taught me a new way to share my views with the world and release stress. Publishing Falter introduced me to a whole new community of readers, supporters, and friends. I will always have a special place for those characters and settings because they are where I began this journey as an author. They are so dear to me, and their struggles portray my own on a much larger scale.

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

My books tend to be very emotionally and character driven. I think I offer material that readers might not realize they want, but later find they enjoy. I leave them having experienced a slew of feelings, wound up in mystery and fantasy, and questioning their own beliefs toward situations they may not have been comfortable thinking about before. I don't usually cater to what I think the reader needs, but focus on giving them a ride they won't soon forget.

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

Severance is the second instalment of my Faltering Souls Series. In this book, Nevaeh has to deal with the consequences of choosing to save the ones she loves while holding on to what dwindling humanity she has left in her heart. Her dark side unfurls, threatening to destroy everything good in the world.

Synopsis:

Tag line: *What doesn't make you evil, makes you stronger*

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.

Her gifts are unfurling now, but so is a fierce, unpredictable beast inside her. While she struggles to keep herself—and the beast—in check, she has to play the part of a Dark Celata and fulfill every wickedly tempting task the evil beings command of her. Each mission she goes on, each time she uses her gifts, the line she toes between the woman she used to be and the monster she reluctantly yearns to become grows thinner.

As Nevaeh deals with her own turmoil, Archard watches the world he's accepted as his own begin to suffer for the mistakes he's made. The sacred laws which segregate the realms and hinder demons from freely moving among humans are less and less effective with each passing day. He's failed to keep Nevaeh out of Evil's clutches, and so the shadows of Hell are creeping through. In an attempt to right his wrongs—and heal the hole in his heart—Archard chases his elusive

woman, but every lead that should bring him closer to Nevaeh only ends with more questions about who she is, where she comes from, and how to save her—if he can save her at all.

Will Nevaeh survive the soul-severing decision she's made? Will those who love Nevaeh survive her?

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.

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

This is a hard question for me to answer. It took me five years to finish the first draft of *Falter*, but it was a hobby at the time. It took me two more years to get it in publishing form. *Severance's* first draft took me around ten months. *Craving Love & Death* is scheduled to take roughly six or seven months, so I'm getting faster and more diligent with my deadlines as I go.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

I usually write by the seat of my pants and set up a vague plot outline when I run into sticky spots. About halfway through a manuscript, I start chapter outlines so I can more easily keep track of details for the end. I also keep character and setting bibles that list traits and physical attributes. Otherwise, I let the story flow on its own as much as possible because I feel the characters' decisions can change the entire path in a blink of an eye, which is often times better.

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

So far, I write in first person. I feel it keeps some mystery reader regarding the plot, since the character is blinded by their inner emotions and thinking. Also, because my characters are so emotional and they are the driving force of the plot most of the time, I think the reader can build a closer relationship to the book in first person.

How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write? Though my OCD doesn't always let me, I try to leave editing for the end product. I learned this with my first book. I went over and over and over the draft, driving myself insane, until it was a completely different book. I wasted so much time trying to do this as I wrote. Breaking down and hiring an editor was the best thing I ever did. She helped me focus and learn what I was doing wrong, so I didn't do it as much when I wrote *Severance*. Knowing we'd catch it in the end helped me concentrate on getting the story down first. That cut way back on editing book two.

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

My books are geared more toward twenty to thirty somethings. Though my writing carries a darker tone, I've had many people who don't normally read dark, or fantasy for that matter, love my books. I normally try to market to fantasy lovers, but I don't limit myself to just that genre either. I love knowing someone has stepped outside their normal genre to try me and enjoyed it. To me, that's a huge honor.

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

In the beginning, I approached agents and gave it a solid year to see if I fell onto anyone's wish list. I didn't get bad feedback, but most of those who responded said the market was too saturated for what I'd written. You fall prey to their opinions and estimations of what is selling at that point in time, which is not encouraging for a new author trying to get their foot in the door. I decided to stop submitting to agents and self-publish then.

Watching other author-friends who've published via a publishing company makes me thankful that I released my books on my own. They give over their rights to change their manuscript, covers, and anything else regarding the book, yet the author still has to bust their rumps to sell it. Of course, everyone's experience is different, and there are those that get picked up by a big publishing house and do well, but this doesn't happen often.

How do you promote your writing?

I try to promote via social media as much as possible, without making people sick of seeing me. I also do interviews, spotlights, and giveaways to get my name in front of new readers. My favorite thing, though, are author signing events. They are so much fun.

Where can we buy your books?

My books are sold on most major online retailers like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Smashwords, and Kobo. You can also buy signed paperbacks through my website.

Who are your favourite authors?

I love Karen Marie Moning, Jamie McGuire, Leigh Bardugo, Renea Mason, and Meghan March.

Links www.authorhavencage.com

www.facebook.com/havencage/

www.twitter.com/havencage

www.instagram.com/havencage

<http://www.amazon.com/Falter-Faltering-Souls-Book-1-ebook/dp/Bo1DDQVCJK>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/29617606-falter?from_new_nav=true&ac=1&from_search=true

<https://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/HavenCage>

<https://www.bookbub.com/authors/haven-cage>

Falter Links: <http://www.amazon.com/Falter-Faltering-Souls-Book-1-ebook/dp/Bo1DDQVCJK>

<https://store.kobobooks.com/en-us/ebook/falter-1> <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/625043>

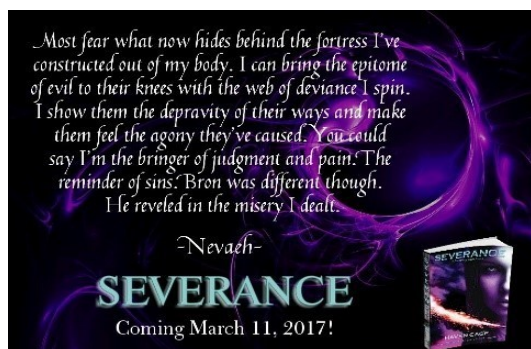
Severance Links

<https://www.amazon.com/Severance-Faltering-Souls-Book-2-ebook/dp/Bo1N6LHKWI>

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/692650>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/mobile/w/severance-haven-cage/1125410827?ean=2940153935829>

<https://www.kobo.com/us/en/ebook/severance-6>



Character Job Interviews – Past meets Present!

Interview with an Ancient Egyptian by J Lynn Else

Despite her odd appearance, reminding the man of Cleopatra (makeup and all), the hiring manager stood to greet his next interview candidate.

Hiring Manager: Hello! Welcome to the interview for the HR position, Mery-ta-ten. Ahem, could you please share with us why you're interested in this position?

Merytaten: Dua Netjer en ek!

Hiring Manager: Oops, excuse me. I forgot to turn on the universal translator. Okay, there. Could you repeat that?

Merytaten: Thank God for you! Blessings on your family for inviting me into your home...though your customs are strange. Food is usually served to guests of the house. Will we not be eating?

Hiring Manager: Oh, no. This isn't my house. This is where I work. You're here to apply for a job, right? Was that not communicated to you?

Merytaten: You are seeking my council! That is wise. Still, negotiations typically run smoother when served with food. You must speak to your king in this.

Hiring Manager: <rubs his forehead> Could you please state your name?

Merytaten: I am Merytaten, First Daughter to Pharaoh Akhenaten and heir to the Golden Throne. Have you been to the City of Light? Most of the construction has been completed now. The Temple of Aten is truly grand to behold.

Hiring Manager: Errrr...Would that be in California?

Merytaten: The City of Light is the capital of the world.

Hiring Manager: I'm afraid I do not know where the city of light is then.

Merytaten: Do you mock me?

Hiring Manager: Oh no. Apologies for my...forgetfulness. Of course! The *city of light*! Yes, surely, I know where *that* is...because that's where *you're* from! *ahem* But we're here about your application for a job.

Hiring Manager pulls up application. His jaw drops as he scans over it.

Hiring Manager: Are these pictures? Is that a duck?

Merytaten: You do not read the Words of the Gods? I assumed that you were of noble birth. Were you not trained in the House of Life?

Hiring Manager: The *house of life*? I graduated from the University of Minnesota with honors, Miss Meryta-ten, if you're implying I am uneducated.

Merytaten: And yet you cannot read the sacred script?

Hiring Manager: The Bible?

Merytaten: (sighs) The seed cannot sprout upwards without simultaneously sending roots into the ground **Hiring Manager:** Excuse me?

Merytaten: I try not to judge others. After all, the nut doesn't reveal the tree it contains. But you seem to be rather ill-equipped to be holding negotiations with a princess of Kemet. You do not follow the most basic customs in etiquette, you cannot read--granted, I did use the cursive script--and you do not even know the City of Light. Where is your king? I must speak with him about the men who represent his court.

Hiring Manager: Miss Mery, I'm afraid there's been--

Merytaten: It is Merytaten, First Daughter to Pharaoh Akhenaten, *She who is beloved of Aten*, NOT Mery.

Hiring Manager: Miss Merytaten, I'm not sure if there was a communications breakdown or what. However, this is a job interview for an HR rep. Thus far, you have not even answered me why you are interested in the position. To save everyone's time, if you're not here to apply--

Merytaten: (standing) I am here at your behest. Your servant informed me that my presence was requested at this appointed time, in this appointed place. Have you led me here under false pretenses? **Hiring Manager:** Heavens no, please do not misunderstand me. (To himself) My assistant may have misdialled...by like one-thousand years!

Merytaten: Is it the Hittites you serve? The Greeks, who think themselves enlightened above all others? My country had pyramids scratching the floor of the God's realm while those fair-skinned people lived in caves and feared the shadows on the walls!

Hiring Manager: I think I know that story. Socrates?

Merytaten: So you *are* with the Greeks. I will tell you again, we do not need your wine and pottery. Our civilization can make our own! My father's second wife even has a vineyard of her own.

Hiring Manager: Your father's second...(coughs uncomfortably). You know, I believe the position we were interviewing for has just filled. I'm sorry to have wasted your time, Miss Merytaten.

Hiring Manager stands and extends a hand to Merytaten. She looks at it with disgust.

Merytaten: Are you asking for compensation? Gifts of food and gold are only given to those loyal to the Horus Throne.

Hiring Manager: Don't you shake hands in your city?

Merytaten: No. Do you always lay your hands on royalty?

Hiring Manager: <drops his hand> So. This has certainly been an awkward experience. Did you need my assistant to see you out?

Hiring Manager walks to the door and opens it. It takes him a moment to realize there are two very tall, muscled guards standing outside the door, arms crossed, and dressed in a similar style to Merytaten. The manager takes a step back.

Hiring Manager: Are...are they with you?

Merytaten stands up gracefully and glides over to the doorway.

Merytaten: They are my personal guards. I wish I could say that our time has been pleasurable, but I'm afraid there has been some unfortunate breeches in etiquette. I hope your king will be merciful after I send my correspondence. I've known some kings to execute their messengers if they do not deliver good news. Surely your king can read the Words of the Gods?

Hiring Manager: I think you've got us both at a disadvantage there.

Merytaten: Well, this has certainly been an *enlightening* experience. Guards!

Merytaten strides out the door. One guard takes position in front and the second behind her. They begin to depart, but Merytaten stops after a couple steps and looks back through the door.

Merytaten: I hope the next time you host a princess, you learn a bit more about our customs. And at least put on some proper attire. That dull dray housecoat, red noose around your neck, and gray pants are quite ridiculous-looking.

With that, Merytaten and her entourage make a swift exit.

Hiring Manager: <loosening his tie> Noose is right.

The Flash Fiction Challenge 2017

This challenge kicks off next month and the early entry deadline is Thursday!

The 9th annual competition challenges writers around the world to create short stories **(1,000 words maximum)** based on genre, location, and object assignments in just **48 hours**.

Each writer will participate in at least **2 writing challenges** and as many as **4** depending on how well they place in each challenge.

Feedback from the judges is provided for every submission and there are **thousands in cash and prizes** for the winners. Sound like fun? Learn more, register, and read past winning stories at <http://bit.ly/1jCxm3x>.

The competition kicks off on July 14th and space is limited, so make sure to register soon. Good luck writers!

Register here: <http://www.nycmidnight.com/Competitions/FFC/Challenge.htm>

Bobbi Lonkoski – Indie Author

Tell Us about yourself?

My name is Bobbijeane Lonkoski, I write by the name Bobbijeane. I am 43 years young, I have been writing since I was 9. I have a wonderful fiancé and 2 dachshunds. I am originally from Racine WI but currently reside in Rhinelander WI. I like to write, sing, disc-golf, play darts, and spoil my dogs, Belle and Cruz.



What brought you to the world of writing?

Writing has always been therapy for me, probably because I can express myself better in my writing. It has helped me to express not repress my emotions. I believe everyone should have an outlet. Writing is definitely something I love to do. It is a wonderful outlet for me.

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

My book is "Waves of Inspiration", I am very proud of my poetry as I put my heart and soul in all of my words. The images and poetry go together well. I feel my words will inspire others to keep their spirits strong.

What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your readers needs?

My book is an inspirational poetry book, I feel it fulfills my readers needs because it helps them to understand their emotions and express them not repress them. My poetry is very uplifting and inspiring. What inspires your poetry? My experiences in life. I have always repressed my emotions deep down until I started writing my emotions through my poems. This has given me the outlet to open my heart through my words.

Which style of writing is our favorite?

I love to compose sonnets. Sonnets help me to express my emotions in a sentimental way.

Do you plot or not? if so why?

No, I do not. My book is a collection of poems that have helped keep my heart and spirit strong.

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

I write in the first person as my poetry is a guideway to my emotions.

How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for awhile or edit as you write? I edit my poems during my writing and after I read them.

What type of people/readers do you market your books to? I believe my poetry book will relate to all readers young and old.

Do you self-publish or have you worked with an agent/published? I have worked with a publishing company and have also self-published.

How do you promote your writing?

I promote thru social media, book signings, and open poetry mics.

Where can we buy your books? You buy my book on Amazon.com.

Who are your favorite Author's?

My favorite authors are John Keats, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman and Robert Frost.

Weddings are important because they celebrate possibility

life and



Anne Hathaway



https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/a/anne_hathaway.html

What Does a Book Launch Look Like?

This was an article I found on facebook which I thought I'd share with you. Bill Peschel wrote this article after watching a Podcast by four NEW ZEALAND romance authors who interviewed Jami Albright from the USA

You can find out more about Bill Peschel [HERE](#)

I am at present in discussions with Jami Albright (Thanks Jami) about a more in-depth perspective of the Podcast which you can find [HERE](#).

Today's post consists of my notes from an episode of the SPA Girls podcast. The girls – Cheryl Phipps, Shar Barratt, Trudi Jaye, and Wendy Vella – are four New Zealand writers of romance and urban fantasy who are using podcasting to reach the wider world. It's a brilliant idea, enabling them to cross time zones and oceans to bring their message to readers.

I started listening to them recently and came across this SPA girls interview with Jami Albright, a writer with a pronounced Texas twang who launched her first book successfully. How successful? Here were the results in the first three weeks her book, "Running From a Rock Star" debuted:

* 500 books sold

* 200,000 pages read on Kindle Unlimited.

* An Amazon book rank that ranged mostly between 3,000 and 5,000, the lowest at 2,100

* More than 150 reviews.

(Now, eight weeks after its debut, the book is at #5,106. It has 192 reviews, 89% of them 5-star. That's an excellent performance.)

There's a lot in the interview that's worth listening to, but here are the high points I think are important to consider:

1. Subject, genre, and price: Romance is probably the most popular genre. The title tells you everything you need to know about it, and Albright added a series title – "Brides on the Run" – that tell you exactly what the rest of the books will give you.

The ebook also sells for \$2.99, which is a price point that gets you 75% of the revenue as well as costing less than a cup of coffee.

2. Write a damn good book and get it edited: She hired [Serena Clarke](#) to edit and format her book.

3. Book description: This is one of the best I've ever seen, and it started with characters whose needs are described, whose limitations explain how they got to that point in their lives, and why they need to stay together.

4. Lucky media: She didn't mention this in the interview, but I came across this great review at [USAToday's "Happy Ever After" romance blog](#). I don't know how much influence it had on sales, but it sure didn't hurt!

5. Set up an Instafreebie account to build her mailing list: Albright did something here I hadn't encountered before. She offered sign-ups the first three chapters "Rock Star." This attracted people who were truly interested in her book, and

probably disappointed anyone who hoped for a free copy. (Albright mentioned that she was against giving away her work, and she set the price at \$2.99 so if she felt it necessary to drop it to .99 cents she could.

6. Kept in touch with readers through her newsletter: During this time, she tried to get the first three books in the series done. She sent short newsletters telling funny stories about herself and her family. This gave them an idea of the sense of humor they would find in her books, and keep them primed to buy when the first book came out.
7. Put the book on a two-week preorder at Amazon: She networked with writers in her genre to get the word out that the book was available for ordering. Getting their fans to buy helped populate the book's "also boughts" on the Amazon page with the right authors. ("Also boughts" are the list of books under the headline "Customers who bought this item also bought." As of today, I see "Rory vs. Rockstar" by Jess Bentley, "Rock Star Romance" by Crystal Lynn Archer, and "Dangerous Hearts (A Stolen Melody Duet Book)" and "Cocky Rockstar: Gabriel Cocker (Cocker Brothers of Atlanta Book 10)" which is about as on target as you can get.

Interesting tweak: She did not announce the preorder to her newsletter, presumably to keep those sales for when the book appears.

8. Arrange a daily newsletter swap for eight days after publication: Amazon's promotion algorithms favor books with steady sales. It's better to have 100 sales for 8 days than 800 sales in one day. A daily newsletter swap exposed the book to new audiences and tried to build sales over time.

She also made sure that she swapped only with authors who had books with similar "heat levels." Her book was humorous romance, not "50 Shades of Grey." Staying with similar books reduced the chance of disappointing readers.

The results were varied. Some swaps didn't do much for sales, but one from author Cheryl Phipps resulted in a spike.

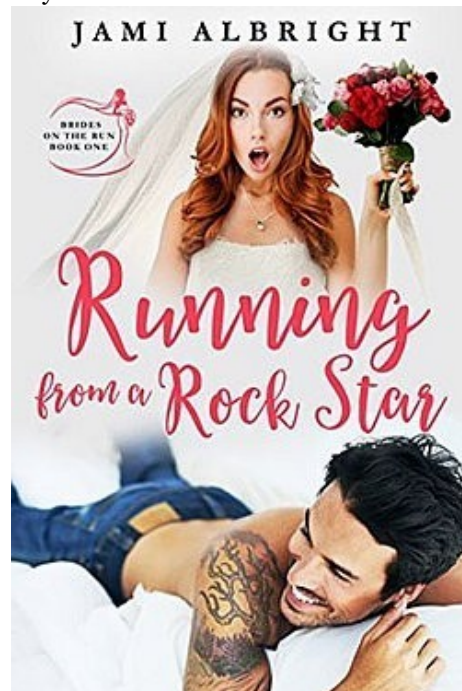
9. Make the book available for reviews: She got authors to ask their newsletter members if they wanted to read the book and write a review for Amazon. She also created "street teams" to supply reviews to Amazon and Goodreads, and contracted with "Shifted Sheets" on Fiverr to offer review copies to its members. Result: about a hundred reviews.

That's most of what she did, and as a result, Albright did no writing for the month that she took to arrange all this.

There's a lot more advice that she offered, so again I recommend listening to the podcast.

Can this work for you? Maybe, but it depends on your online connections, the work you're able to put into it, your budget, and the genre and quality of your book.

But this does give you an idea of the options available to market your book online.



Jami Albright and her romantic comedy book. Jami will be talking about her podcast interview with a more in-depth perspective

Joanne Ruth - Indie Author



Tell us about yourself.

I live quietly in a place of volcanic beauty and gain inspiration from the scenery around me and the people I meet. I have come to the world of published writing later in life and do wish I had done so much, much earlier. I had a lot of stories in me to write but not all will be now. After a lifetime of children and grandchildren and a varied array of life experiences I get a wonderful sense of accomplishment seeing my work in print and hearing that people are enjoying and appreciating the books.

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

I still read my first book and still enjoy the story which at times surprised me while I was writing it. It was first published by a traditional publishing

company which unfortunately folded and was dissolved before the sequel was printed. Both my first book and its sequel are now re-published as 'The Unexpected One' and 'Waking Fire'.

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

I think my books fulfil a need for those looking for some of the answers to Life's questions as well as those simply looking for pure escapism. They are written as fiction – sci-fi, adventure, action, romance and an aspect of the paranormal – all in one. They also point those who seek to know towards some of the hidden, 'behind the scene' things happening in this world now. I hope people will keep looking for themselves.

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

I would like to feature my second book – Waking Fire by Joanne Ruth – this is the first sequel to 'The Unexpected One' which features the young heroine Tamsin, her beginning and her search for the truth of who she is and freedom from the controlling power of those who created her. 'Waking Fire' journeys with her as she fights for her freedom and the freedom of those who have befriended her. It speaks of the true meaning of 'family' the right to life and the importance of fighting for freedom from control and deceit. It speaks of taking a stand and not being afraid of who you are, but taking your place in confidence and strength.

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

It depends on my circumstances at the time. Sometimes I have a lot of time to write- sometimes not and sometimes I battle with the dreaded 'writers block'. I am not a fast and prolific author. Maybe if I had started younger I would have been but now it can take me up to a year to finish a book.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

I have a general plot line in my head but I really enjoy seeing where the journey of the characters takes them.

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

Editing is something I do as I go and redo when the manuscript is finished. I am a bit of a perfectionist and want to make sure all is as well written and expressive as it can be.

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

Non-specific at the moment and I need to get some hard marketing done to reach my intended audience. The books written for young adults and up and have been enjoyed by readers from 11 years old to over 70 – both male and female.

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

The books are now published through Indie publisher – Plaisted Publishing House.

How do you promote your writing?

At present it is by social media only. I wish I could import the books in bulk and sell them here in NZ but have not been able to afford that yet.

Where can we buy your books?

The Unexpected One - <https://www.createpace.com/6788027>

Waking Fire - <https://www.createpace.com/6792485>

Both are also available in print form at Amazon Books.

<https://www.amazon.com/Joanne-Ruth/e/Bo1MQXICDV/>

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

I am currently working on book 3 in the Tamsin series and another unrelated novel. Aiming at finishing both works by the end of this year and trusting I can accomplish that while enjoying my children, grandchildren and my daughter's upcoming wedding. It's a good year!

Competition Time with BHC Press and Mackenzie Flohr

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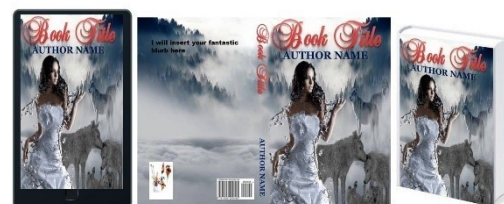
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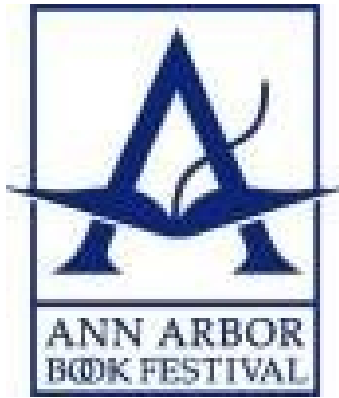
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Up and Coming Events, Competitions & Blog Tours



[Magic after Dark.](#)
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24th at 4pm EDT

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[Ann Arbor Book Festival](#)
15th – 17th June 2017

Mackenzie Flohr will be signing books on 17th June

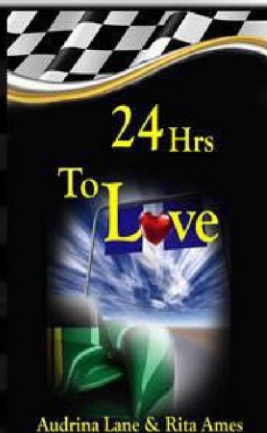


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Qualifying FB Live sessions: Thurs 15th & Fri 16th June
The 24 FB page pit stop comp: Thurs 15th to Sun 18th June
FB party during the race: Sat 17th & Sun 18th June

Podium – Winners announced: Mon 19th June

Will 'O' Wisp by Bekka Abbott



CHAPTER FIVE

“Two men did it,” said the ghost girl, as she pointed down at the circle of sand. “One of them was mean and ordered the other one around. They had the black thing with teeth in a funny sort of jar.”

Dana stood in the corner as far away from the circle as she could get while still being in the room. Just looking at it made her stomach churn. Mina had moved to the edge of the circle. Crouching, she frowned at the sand. “How strange, usually sand doesn’t hold enough charge to be good containment medium.”

“What does that mean?” Dana frowned, very confused.

“Um,” Mina looked back over her shoulder. “Well, it looks like someone put this circle here to contain the leech spirit until someone disturbed the sand and let it out.”

Her mouth dropped open. “Someone did this deliberately? This could have happened to anyone at my office! Why would someone do that?” Mina got to her feet and smiled at her. “You are so blessed, Dana.”

“Blessed? Why do you say that?”

“Humanity has a very ugly underbelly, and you can’t have seen it first hand, because you would know that some people just like to hurt others. And that is a blessing.”

She frowned at the vaguely sad expression on Mina’s face. “But you have experienced it?” “Yes, I have, but that’s a long conversation for later. Right now we need to focus.” “I want to go home,” the girl’s voice was very quiet.

Mina sighed and moved in close to the ghost girl. “Alright, thank you for telling us what you know.” She closed her eyes, and took a long deep breath.

Dana sensed a rumbling. The vibration got louder and became a tone, not unlike “om” but it seemed to vibrate every atom in the room. The sound intensified and she felt it deep in her bones, it wasn’t an unpleasant sensation, just alien to her. A column of swirling white cloud came down from the ceiling and she stepped back, afraid that this was a bad thing, but before she could cry out in fear, she felt an overwhelming sense of peace and safety. The cloud solidified and for a moment she was staring at the bottom half of some sort of person, but stretched to be taller than the room. The vibrating tone eased away and the top part of the person dropped down.

They weren’t like the girl, they weren’t just human-looking and transparent. This figure was only an approximate shape of a human. It was made of flowing energy, like liquid feathers that blurred at the edges. The outline of shoulders and an almost face was cloudy, and shifted at the edges. She could almost see a face, but not quite. Cobalt blue dots sat where eyes should be and moved from looking at each of them.

Dana stared at it with her mouth open, trying to understand what she was seeing.

The undefined figure lifted an arm out as if offering to hold someone’s hand and the little girl-ghost skittered from Mina towards them. The figure wrapped broad arms around the girl, who giggled, and faded out of sight.

Cobalt blue eye-blobs looked up and seemed to stare at Mina. “Thank you, Wilhelmina.” Its eyes flickered to look at Dana. “Danu.” The voice was very calm, not male or female, and again she had a very deep sense that it was no threat to her at all.

The top part of the figure stretched up into the ceiling and the almost pillar shape, dissipated like fog. Dana blinked the at corner where it had been standing, unsure what had happened or if it had even been real.

Mina cleared her throat. “That was a Tower God,” said Mina. “He helps people pass over.”

She let out a confused squeak. “That’s what Death looks like?”

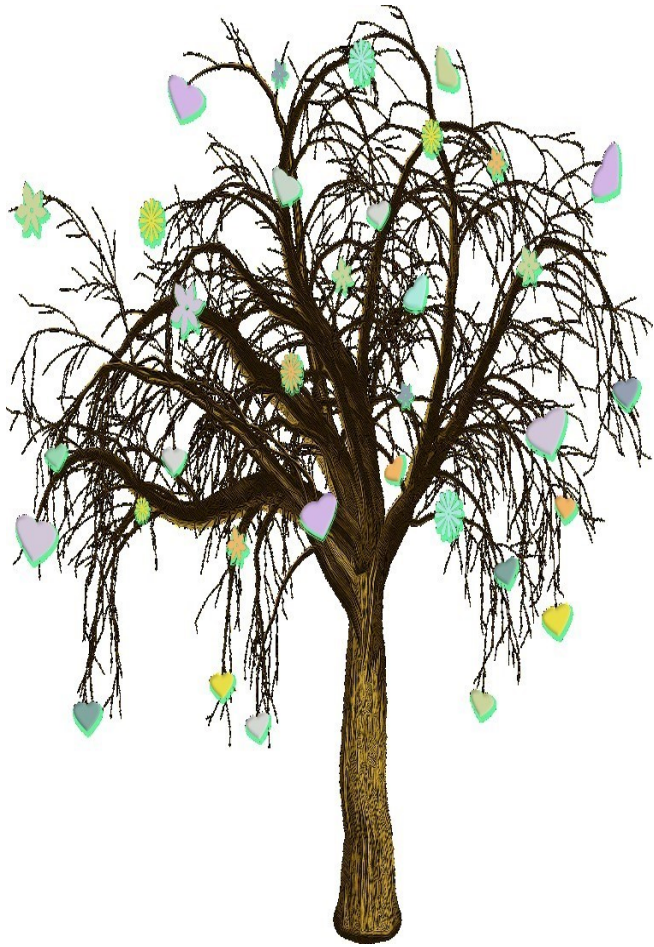
“No, hun. As far as I know Death isn’t an entity, it’s just what happens as a consequence of life. The Tower Gods are powerful helper entities, like the Christian concept of archangels. Some of them help by searching for and bringing people to the Other side when they get lost.”

Dana blinked at her new friend, not really comprehending any meaning in what Mina was saying. “I think I have information overload.”

“You’re doing well.” Mina moved towards her. “Most people just scream and run away when this stuff is revealed to them. I promise we can have a proper sit down later to answer your questions and help you process all of this. For now, can you sit and do the crystal thing? I need some time to look at this circle and figure things out.”

Dana sighed and lifted the quartz crystal out of her pocket. “OK.”

A Page of Poetry



The cycle of love and trees.

*Emerging in the spring of life from a random seed,
It's frequently mistaken for an intrusive weed,
But it grows in stature shape and size
And gradually we recognize The identity of that wonderful thing
That grows on us, and makes us sing.
With youth and beauty it makes us whole A majestic wonder that
fills the soul.*

*The blossoms bloom and the leaves sprout strong
The branches stretch out firm and long,
We climb among those welcoming arms
Of healthy blooms and natural charms
And bless our luck for that strength which grows In a world alive
where sunshine flows.*

*But when the summer sun grows cold
And the leaves of autumn turn yellow and old
The tree seems somber, with wilting grace
And time brings to us another face,
Upon which we see the flowers lost
And winter creeps in with snow and frost.*

*In time our vision of that old tree, is just an ugly stump
Short-sighted thoughts of indifference, make it easy just to dump
Standing in the same place
We take for granted the beauty and grace
Of the leaves and blooms that have been swept away
From those good strong branches that continually sway*

*But with the spring, and the summer breeze,
You and I and everyone, are like those aging trees,
We come to realize that love and life has unexpected length
And though not always noticed, it possesses an inner strength*

Ian Mackenzie 2003

A Poem C.A. Keith

*An eagle soared in the morning sky as
The clouds rolled by gently.
The sun peeped through
A lonely tuft of a cloud that drifted by.
A sweet scent of lavender,
His taste lingered,
His smell lingered,
She wouldn't return for days.
She wished she could bottle
That taste, that scent, his touch.
But that would be*

*Impossible!
Nite is dim and too long...
Hope morning comes quickly.
A knife stabs in my heart
But feel no pain Because it's empty.
I must be soulless...
I must be heartless...
I feel...
Nothing,
But a deep ache.*



Spotlight Author Recipe

Gluten Free Pancakes

Ingredients

4 tablespoons of gluten free flour
1 rounded teaspoon of baking powder
1 Tablespoon of caster sugar
2 Organic free range eggs
Soya Milk- enough to make a medium thickness batter.

Method

Sieve flour, sugar and baking powder into bowl.
Make a well in the centre and crack the eggs in.
Mix into a stiff paste then add the milk slowly until you have the correct consistency.



Cooking

Heat a pan on medium.

Rub the pan before that with a little butter, real butter please. (it doesn't burst into chemical nasties when heated.)

Take a spoonful of mixture and drop in the pan to form a round.
Wait until you see the bubbles then flip over and do the other side.

Makes around 8 pancakes.

Serve with butter and jam of your choice.

Vanilla Custard (GF) by Claudia Plaisted

Ingredients

1 Egg
1 c Milk
2 tbsp White Sugar
1 tsp Vanilla Essence
3 drops Yellow Food Colouring (this is optional...it just adds a little bit of colour, most recipes for homemade custard don't include food colouring)
1/4 c Cornflour (just a couple tsp mixed with water)

Method

1. Turn on the stove-top to a medium heat.
2. Beat egg in a small pan and slowly add milk while whisking.
3. Add sugar, vanilla essence and food colouring. Mix well.
4. Place the pan onto the stove-top and quickly add the cornflour.
5. Continuously whisk until thick and there's no lumps. Don't let it boil.
6. Serve with preferred dessert and enjoy.



The image shows one of the items you can make with custard. A favourite in our house is custard slice. This is thick cold custard spread between layers of flaky pastry with icing on the top layer.

Dear Jenn

What in the world is going on with Amazon book reviews?????

Hello one and All. In this Indie world of ours there are some things we come up against that really send us reeling in confusion or, in the case of this month's subject, frustration and stress. Most of us have either been touched by or know someone that the Amazon review cull has touched in some way. It is frustrating, bothersome and downright maddening. We work hard for the reviews we have! To have them ripped down is comparable to building a house only to have a tornado come through and destroy it mere minutes after you lay down the welcome mat. It has caused some to wonder why we even try if a huge monopolizing company such as Amazon is only going to thwart us at every corner. I feel much the same way, however on the other side of this it has to be said that very same company has made many avenues available to us independent authors... how very bittersweet it all is.

Now with my little rant over I would be in the wrong if I did not mention the Amazon review policies have always been in place. There has always been a certain set of rules on reviewing that existed, however until recently Amazon has been pretty relaxed on enforcing them. I have read much about all of this and there's lots to digest. One blogger's article in particular has seemed to stand out to not only myself but several others as well. Titled Things to Remember When Seeking Reviews. <https://thepbsblog.com/2017/06/02/things-to-remember-when-seeking-book-reviews/> This article sheds light on this touchy subject while also giving us some very useful Dos and Don'ts.

In an article in the New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/23/technology/amazon-bookreviews-deleted-in-a-purge-aimed-at-manipulation.html> by David Streitfeld it is noted that "After several well-publicized cases involving writers buying or manipulating their reviews, Amazon is cracking down. Writers say thousands of reviews have been deleted from the shopping site in recent months. Amazon has not said how many reviews it has killed, nor has it offered any public explanation. So its sweeping but hazy purge has generated an uproar about what it means to review in an era when everyone is an author and everyone is a reviewer.."

Now I know I have not manipulated nor bought any of the very few reviews I have gotten - and I am sure this truth holds true for you all as well - however, I have lost some. I think this is mainly due to the fact they were unverified purchases or the reviewer was/has friended me on my personal versus public FB profile. I am to understand, I think, that these 'friends' on FB reviews are considered not valid and many have been culled from hundreds of indie authors reviews. While I do find this aggravating, I guess if you read the fine print in the review policies they do fall under the unacceptable umbrella. I still find it to be a bit perplexing, but hey I am not the Amazon Review policies keeper either. But, in what world, IMO, is it wrong for a friend on social media to offer their honest review of what I have written? Half the people on my friends list are not family or close friends...they are indeed folks I have met via the Indie social media world. This has prompted me to rethink my social media connections with potential reviewers. Also, I am going to be making it a point to ask reviewers to please review on more than just the Amazon platform. (GoodReads, for example).

The very same New York Times article goes on to say that , " In explaining its purge of reviews, Amazon has told some writers that *'we do not allow reviews on behalf of a person or company with a financial interest in the product or a directly competing product. This includes authors.'* But writers say this rule is not applied consistently. In some cases, the ax fell on those with a direct relationship with the author."

In closing, I would like to say I sincerely hope this cull has not discouraged our beloved indie authors to give up. We are a strong and growing community and our works are very worthy. I know many of my new favorites are indies and I hate to think *'The Great Cull'* would discourage those awesome writers to turn away. As Indies we face many adversities in the literary world but we have one another to lean on and learn from. We shall, together, make our way through this. I do strongly suggest you check out the links to the articles included in this column. I found them to be extremely helpful.

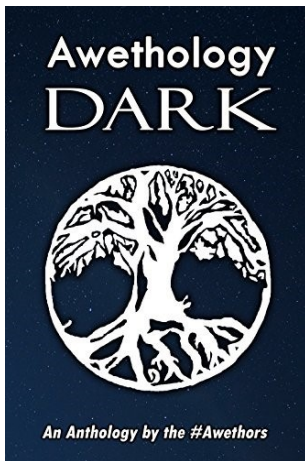
Keep writing and keep striving!

A good review from the critics is just another stay of execution

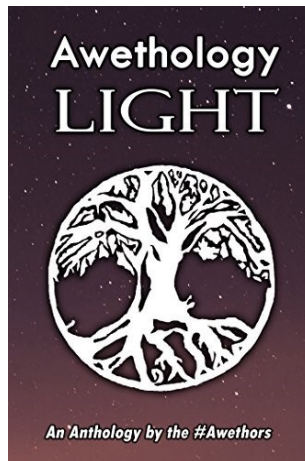
Dustin Hoffman

https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/d/dustin_hoffman.html

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Book Trailers

<https://youtu.be/ZnEszSPwZc> The Rite of Wands by Mackenzie Flohr

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzZ5XHY4D14> (Music by Pluuto –Alice in Wonderland) by Lily Luchesi

<https://youtu.be/NHUCzVWDSXU> by Mara Reitsma

<https://youtu.be/LEtjPPJ2WrI> - Empath by Lisa Veldkamp

https://youtu.be/z_BTfa4sCqE - 24hrs to Love by Audria Lane

<https://youtu.be/nWLz4PSJowA> - By Billy McLaughlin

https://youtu.be/6xy_pcT_Tmg - Nova by Joanne Van Leerdam

<https://youtu.be/pv5i4WjH9dQ> - Judgements by Mara Reitsma & Mark McQuillen

<https://youtu.be/o7i8bxQiix4> - The White Pearl – Starring John Parker

Flash Fiction - A Winter's Journey

The air was freezing. Mid-winter was not the usual time to travel, though the master ordered it. Shuddering in the icy winds the coachman muttered and mumbled beneath his breath as he made his way to the stables, harnessing the horses. The carriage was being warmed by maids carrying hot stones, placing them on the wooden floor so their mistress's feet would be warm. They ran fast, flakes of snow falling like feathers on their mop caps as they went to and fro between the kitchen and carriage.

The horses stamped their hooves, snorting in protest, not wanting to go out into this harsh icy weather. "Come now, don't be troublesome," the coachman muttered as he slung the reins and harnesses over their back. "Hush now, you'll get warm with the work you'll do."

Leading them out of the stable, motioning them backwards into the carriage where he could attach the reins and suchlike. They shook their manes, glaring at him one last time before obeying.

"Joe, hold their heads while I finish getting them organised."

The young stable lad grinned, taking up the reins and stood proud, holding their heads steady. The horse closest snorted again, making Joe laugh as its breath clouded over him. Joe stroked the horses' neck, whispering. The coachman smiled. He'd always known the boy would be a treasure with animals. They always enjoyed his presence.

The coachman climbed up the steps, taking the reins off Joe, a nod to him, a check to see the carriage was ready; the luggage loaded. He jerked the reins, and they clattered out of the courtyard around to the front of the house. His master was escorting his wife down the front steps as he pulled to a stop. A footman, hurried forward, opening the carriage door letting his master lift his wife into the carriage. Climbing inside, the master shut the door, a knock on the roof of the carriage and the coachman jerked the horses, moving along the driveway. The winter's journey began.

The night was settling in the sky, an orange blaze as the sun began to dip into the horizon. The crisp hard snow crunched and crackled as the carriage moved over it, out through the gates and onto the main road. Trees in their winter coats stood either side of the road, like a white avenue with all the snow covering them. Enormous oak trees, along with sycamore trees, stood majestically as the carriage moved beneath them. The tree branches touched and entwined with each other over the road. It was much like a tunnel, a long straight road. The coachman had been told it was an old Roman road, whatever that meant.

Taking the whip, he slashed it through the cold air, encouraging the horses on, his head down low over his face, he prayed for no highwaymen, he wished his master had managed to talk his wife out of this stupidity, sadly he hadn't.

The snow started to fall heavier, making it hard to see, though on they travelled, bouncing over the road, barely missing potholes and managing not to slide into the embankments. "Stupid idiots," he muttered.

Inside the lovely warm coach, Albert Pendleton had his arms crossed over his chest, glaring at his wife.

Wishing he was anywhere but on the road.

"This is totally foolhardy, Arabella," he snapped.

"Husband, you must understand; I have to go when I am needed," she replied with a light smile.

"Tis my needs you should be looking after."

"Come, Albert, you will enjoy the time away as much as I."

"I dislike travelling in winter, and you know it, tis nothing but troublesome."

The carriage hit a rut, making Arabella squeal as she nearly bounced out of her seat.

"Gosh, that was rather violent."

"It'll get worse, especially in this weather." "Stop been so pessimistic," she scolded.

"Show me the letter again," he replied huffily.

Opening her purse, Arabella pulled out the letter from her best friend, handing it over to her husband. He took it with a scowl. Opening it, he started to peruse it as much as possible in a swaying carriage.

My dearest Arabella, I have urgent need of your assistance. My life is at risk as we speak, though I am hopeful you will arrive before any further strange occurrences happen. I pray to you; no I implore you to come to me.

Yours desperately Hester.

"She doesn't say much. I'm sure it is nothing worse than nerves; she was always a jumpy young lady, as meek as you could get."

"She does not write like that in an emergency, her writing is dreadful; something has scared her Albert," she glared.

"Well, we're on the way. I pray we get there in one piece."

"I didn't understand your concern Albert, tis winter; the roads will be less travelled."

"There could still be highwaymen."

"Albert, really," she sighed. "We've had nothing around here for years." "They have plenty where we're going," he replied handing the letter back to her.

"Until then..." she smiled.

"Fine, I'll try not to worry you with my concerns."

The carriage slid wildly. Arabella fell to the side, hitting her head on the wall, moaning she looked up and over at Albert, finding him on the floor, still for but a moment. Pushing up with his hands, she screamed at his bloody nose, backing into the corner.

“Oh do be quiet,” he muttered, wiping the blood from his face.

He sat back on his seat, after assisting Arabella to sit up. Closing his eyes, he relaxed and fell asleep. “Charming,” she sighed and closed her eyes.

The fallow fields lay dormant and crisp with snow, little footprints of rabbits and birds looking for food could be seen, if anyone had cared to stop and look. Many animals brought their heads up as the carriage sped past like a ghost in the night. They shuddered, quickly making their way to their burrows and nests. A lone fox stood watching, sniffing the ground before it howled for its mate. Food was the order of the night.

A sudden movement by a tree startled the foxes. They jumped back when the shadow stood tall, their terror making them scream, running quickly over the fields as fast as they could. The shadow smiled slowly, stretching and yawning. An owl screeched descending down for a mouse it espied, talons out it grabbed it, flying back to the barn to feed it's young. The shadow moved over the hedge along the road, smiling widely. It began to walk after the carriage, knowing he couldn't lose it. Not this time.

Copyright 2015 Claire Plaisted writing as Kayleigh Broughton

My Annoying Barmate

Nuclear Armageddon was about to happen. An anonymous person had somehow obtained nuclear codes and no country in the world could change them. All I wanted in the wake of the Apocalypse was to get a drink at the bar. After all, what else was there to do?

I wound up sitting next to an insufferably chatty patron. You know the type. He wouldn't shut up even when I turned my back to him. I looked to the bartender for relief, and she walked by, commenting on the world's current situation. She asked us what we'd do if we were in charge of the weapons.

The guy next to me went on a short monologue about how terrified he was and how everyone should live in peace, while all I said was, “I'd let it rip.” I admit, being slightly drunk and very frustrated did have a little to do with my blasé response. I didn't want to spend what might be my last day alive stuck next to Chatty Charlie all night! Maybe I could make him not want to talk to me by saying something so callous.

He didn't, instead beginning a lecture on the evils of war. I had to wonder how much he'd already had to drink.

The bartender smirked at my response, her blue eyes bright with barely concealed mirth. Huh. Nice to know my suffering was so amusing.

“Have a good night,” she called cheekily to me as I got up to leave. “No need to leave a tip if I'm not gonna be around to spend the cash.”

The next day, nuclear missiles had been launched, and I received a package with a torn out tongue and a note written in blood, “Thanks for the advice. Here's a souvenir from your barmate last night.”

Copy right 2017 – Lily Luchesi

It's no wonder that truth is stranger than fiction. Fiction has to make sense

Mark Twain

https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/mark_twain.html

RECENTLY RELEASED BOOKS

Clouds in the Wind By Ian Mackenzie

In politically turbulent Southern Africa of the 1970's, the winds of change are fanning the flames of racial tension and revolutionary rhetoric.

Andrew Mason, a confident and ambitious young banking executive, is seemingly unphased by politics and the undercurrent of racial animosity in his native South Africa.. Handsome, Scholar Cum Laude, gifted sportsman and the son of an affluent family, his swift rise up the corporate ladder seems a foregone conclusion. Until, as if having conspired with destiny, two events, unrelated in nature, intersect to change the course of his future and within days his well balanced life is brutally and irreversibly transformed

Andy is falsely accused of a breach of confidence and unethical conduct within his working environment and is suspended. Simultaneously he is called upon by a distraught girl friend needing to reach her parents in her homeland of war torn Rhodesia. Mason is wholly unprepared for the tragedy that follows and he is left bewildered and traumatized in a country ripped apart by the affects of political intransigence and civil war.

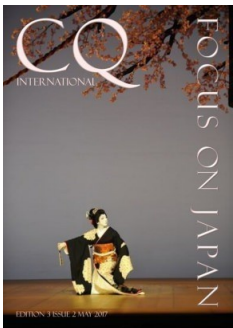
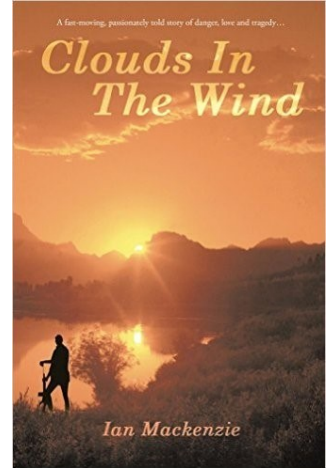
His corporate ambitions in disarray and his emotions in a state of confusion, Andrew enrolls in the Rhodesian military where he evolves to become a hardened and ruthless combatant with the elite SAS.

By force of circumstance, through the horrors and tragedies of war, Andy finds himself living two separate lives; one amid the acrid stench of burnt cordite, danger, brutality, sudden death and survival alongside his comrades in "The Squadron" and the other in the overpoweringly intoxicating arms of Alyson Carstens, the spoilt and protected daughter of wealthy parents.

Returning wounded from an ill-fated mission, Andy learns that Alyson is pregnant and they decide to marry. However, on their wedding night, a devastating incident has a dramatic impact on their union, which ultimately exposes an underlying secret liaison of deceit and betrayal with far reaching and catastrophic consequences.

The tragedy of the times is symbolized in Andy's prosperity, his courage in the face of adversity and the progressive downward spiral as everything he fought for and believes in gradually crumbles.

As one heartbreak follows another, Andrew's emotional strength is sapped and his decline into alcoholism and despair leaves him vulnerable and reckless. [BUY LINK](#)



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Dedicated to promoting the arts; writers, poets, painters, model makers, sculptures, dance, music, digital creatives, multi-medium, artists and artisans to a global audience. Published in English, CQ Magazine often carries articles and features in other languages.

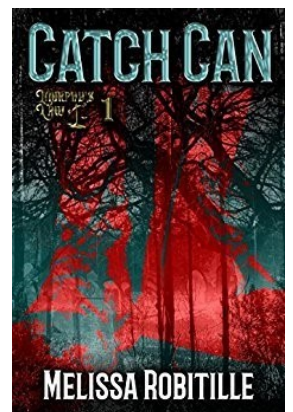
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Catch Can by Melissa Robitille

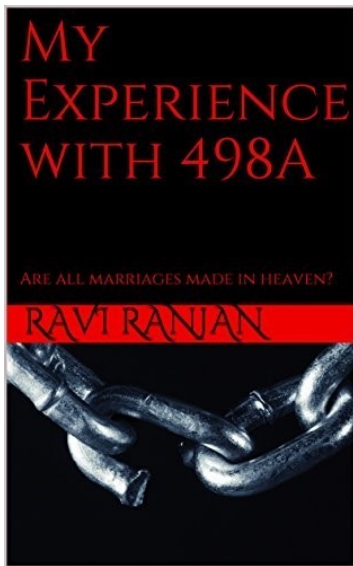
Hanako Flanagan, PI, has the Murphy's Own Luck - magic can't hurt her, but it can't help either, and her luck? All of it is bad, and she's pretty sure the Universe is out to get her. Not even five times her daily rate can wash the stink off having to work for Amelie Bathory, "Queen" of Mill City's vampires. Someone has been sending Fog Kids into her tenants' businesses to steal and each is losing something different - enchanted, cheap, expensive, even green.

As the plot unfolds, every answer brings nothing but more questions, more danger, and more lousy luck. Double-cross, double-dealing, dominion, and death - and more than a few desperate escapes!

Can Hanako survive long enough to see the conspirators put away?



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My Experience with 498A Are Marriages Made in Heaven By Ravi Ranjan

Karan, a seasoned software professional, gets the shock of a lifetime when he gets the news that his brother Samar is in prison for dowry and harassment charges reported by his wife. He rushes back to India to help his brother in his quest for justice only to discover that it's not going to be a fair ride. What looked like an easy trail transforms into a complex never-ending ordeal. He discovers that the laws made to secure females are being used against the innocent females itself, leave aside the ailing men. Their entire family is in deep anguish, the mother being an emotional wreck praying day and night; the close family friends doing everything from following the code to grappling with bribing just to secure bail.

Karan is rational but is his ability to analyze good enough to handle the forces that he encounters in this journey? Will Samar be able to handle what Karan discovers? Will the guilty be punished? Are all marriages

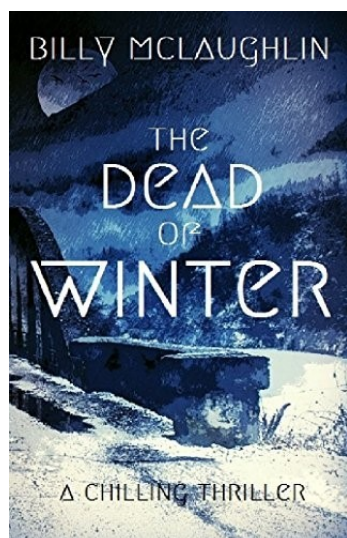
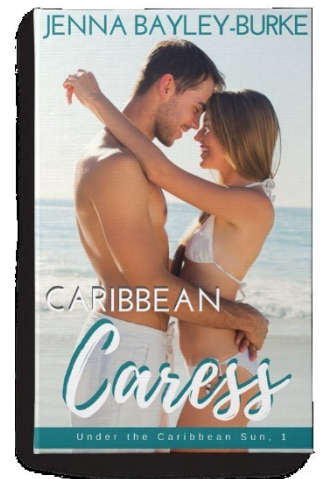
[BUY LINK](#) made in heaven?

Caribbean Caress By Jenna Bayley-Burke

Overwhelmed by her sudden success, Saskia Vandroegenberg decides to shore up her confidence with a surprise visit to her father on the Caribbean island she grew up on, Anguilla. But her impulsive plan has unexpected results. Her father is away on business and his partner turns out to be none other than her first crush.

Joe Prinsen knows the only reason Saskia has returned after eight years away is to ask for money. After all, Dutch had to refuse her mother just two weeks ago. Joe thinks of the man as a father-figure, and he knows Dutch seeing his daughter would mean the world to him. But if she's only after cash, Joe can't have her finding out that her father lost everything after the last hurricane devastated the island.

Joe has the most noble of intentions, but Sassy undoes every one until there is nothing between them but water. No matter how steamy the sex or how deep their connection, she's leaving on Christmas Day. He asks her to return, but when she find out the truth, will she be willing to forgive all he's hidden? [BUY LINK](#)



The Dead of Winter By Billy McLaughlin

A kidnapped baby! A runaway teenager! A neighbourhood on the brink of being unmasked!

When a six month old baby disappears from his cot, a community is thrown into turmoil. The finger of blame is cast so easily, but one house on Golf Road conceals a secret that is about to blow the truth wide open.

Gripping, suspenseful and chilling to the bone, the families in this small community are about to find their lives changed forever.

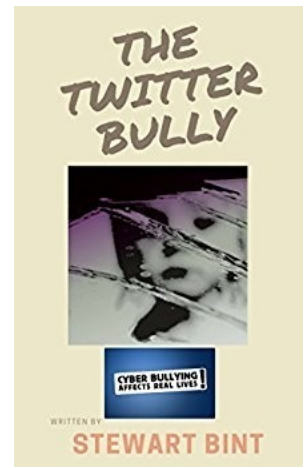
[BUY LINK](#)

The Twitter Bully By Stewart Bint

Originally appearing in Awethology Dark, a short story anthology published by Plaisted Publishing House Ltd., New Zealand, Stewart Bint's acclaimed horror novella The Twitter Bully is now available as this standalone edition.

The 7,300-word fantasy tale ruthlessly explores the devastating consequences that sustained harassment on Twitter have for a young girl, Annie Galway, and how karma exacts a terrifying and horrific revenge on the teenager responsible.

[BUY LINK](#)



Who's that in the Cat Pyjamas By Sojourner McConnell

When the wind brings the cries of children to her pointed ears, Dolcey is spurred into action. Comforting and aiding children in need are her main focus. Welcome to Dolcey's world. Welcome to a world of magic and endless possibilities. When Emily has a big problem, her family tries to help, but some problems need something special to make things right. Just when it seemed she was destined to be doomed, she discovers an unexpected savior- a magical cat that will lead her on a spectacular spectacle of an adventure like no other! After all, no one can handle a problem like a loving fairy named Dolcey.

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Judgements By Mara Reitsma & Mark McQuillen

“Malice had made the ultimate sacrifice, in hopes of gaining insight into the whereabouts of Pathen. For years she had searched for the truth, and a way to rid her Verse of the evil that plagued it; and now she stood one step closer to her goal. Trapped in a world much darker than The Null itself, she will have to fight her way to freedom, she'll have to be smarter, stronger and faster. She would have to lay everything on the line, if she was to come out victorious; but could she? Nyx was lost without his female. His Euphamia. The world crumbled around him, forced to wait for word from within the prison. It wasn't supposed to happen this way. Malice and Euphamia weren't meant to be imprisoned; so what had gone wrong? And how, was he going to get them out? Time was ticking, and the longer they waited, the faster the threat from the Eno'tai grew. What was it going to take, to make the Verse safe once more? What secrets awaited them? And what would peace, really cost?

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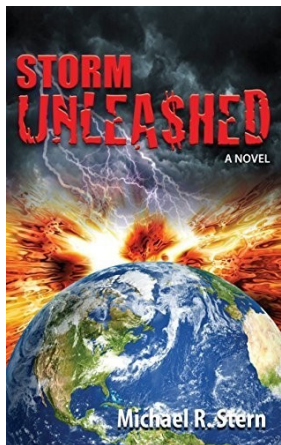


The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life.

Richard Bach

https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/r/richard_bach.html

Time's Harlot By Brenda Kuchinsky



When Sophia finds herself up to her neck in trouble with a surfeit of illegal money, a hasty entanglement with a perplexing masculine woman, and a stable of Mamma's Boys, yearning to have sex with Mommy, she decides it's time for transformation. As Sophia's divorced parents, consorting with strange bedfellows while living in the same building, further complicate her life, she becomes embroiled in messy connections.

Will Sophia cut all ties with the past without jeopardizing her security and stability? When Sophia meets a man, who offers her a new life, she jumps over a chasm of uncertainty to extricate herself from insufferable complexities for a new beginning. Has she left it too late to save herself?

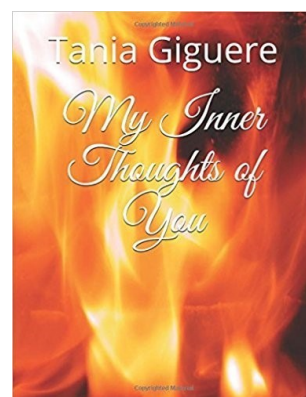
Time's Harlot, the second installment in a series of psychological suspense novels, is a sexy, unpredictable white-knuckle tale about the perils of attraction, seduction, and desire. If you like

Nicci French and Barbara Vine, you'll love the second book in the Time Series.

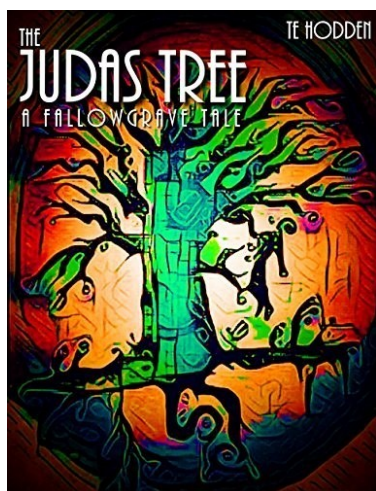
Rediscover Sophia's complex, dangerous world, when you dig into this multi-layered, tasty tale. Its allure is irresistible. [BUY LINK](#)

My Inner Thoughts of You by Tania Giguere

An exciting glimpse into the reality of one's being a place that few have ever traveled. Its greatness gives way to the beat of your heart the sound of your soul feeding the mind. Taking away the shame and placing the worth of you into a world of madness. Giving hope to the wayward and passing a gift of life to another brings joyous pleasure. It is a place that will lead your spirit into a realm of everlasting love closing the void that haunts your dreams leaving its uselessness in your wake. Closing this darkness opens the eyes sending the darkness back into its pit of worthlessness. My Inner Thoughts of You is a gift of hope and peace a pathway to take charge of your destiny. It is a guide for your journey through a maze of fear set before you. Like the wind, it will cling to your every step. Life is a challenge that only a few will share in, but those few will be the giver of strength for the lost. Become the faith for those that wish to travel alongside the stream of morality. A trickle of water splashes in a pond A wave shimmers through its weight A masterpiece forms within a sea [BUY LINK](#)



Judas Tree by T E Hodden



For years since the war John Barley has dragged himself from a bed full of nightmares, squared his shoulders, straightened his back and hidden his true self away behind the starched manner and formal etiquette of a butler.

Found guilty of a murder he did not commit he thinks his life will be snatched from him at the end of a hangman's rope. But as the trapdoor opens he finds himself swept away to Morrow, a gothic mansion at the heart of a fog shrouded plantation, where a masquerade ball never ends, and newcomers must prove themselves in strange rituals.

Offered a chance of the romance he never found in life, John is drawn into high stakes games, and pushed to prove how far he will go, and what he will do, for love

[BUY LINK](#) He will learn there are far worse fates than death.

Reflective Writing with Mal Dowie

Self-care

Every so often we experience moments when the world gets the best of us. Sometimes I am okay and sometimes I am not. But when this happens I can usually recognise what is going on, so I address the issue and basically give it the chop. I always feel on top of my game where nothing can penetrate me and it helps that I have strong support at all times, so I am always covered.

So the thought of sitting in front of a counsellor was a bit concerning. A lovely woman with multiple years of experience in helping the lost, to find their way back again. She listened to me as I poured my heart out, exposing the very core of what was brewing inside me. I had only attended a counselling session once and I admit that it was possibly a way of getting away from my studies. I was apparently having dark thoughts, so I agreed with everything thanked her and never returned again.

But here I was sitting in a chair directly opposite the counsellor watching her watching me. I wondered what she thought of me. I wondered what she would ask next and I wondered what in heck I was doing here. Well it turns out that I needed to blurt my feelings to someone because I had found myself in a vulnerable position without even knowing it. Earlier on in the day I had discovered that a good friend of mine attempted suicide and she was now in hospital. I tried to call her but she refused to answer, messaging back that she was trying to stop her partner from leaving her. It was after this revelation that I found myself affected by that message, and the support which I normally could access was not available at that particular time. As me and a mutual friend tried to console one another, I realised that I had been pushing my own feelings aside to spare hers. She is experiencing a similar situation regarding her daughter and a suicidal boyfriend, so the incident with our friend was too close for comfort.

After encouraging my friend to not worry about it and giving her positive reinforcement we parted ways with the assurance that we would contact one another if news about our friend came about. It was then that I realised I was becoming a bit overwhelmed with the whole scenario. I tried to message the very person I knew I needed to talk to, but she was not in town. I tried another friend without success and began dropping little subtle hints to colleagues that I was not feeling the best, which was not my usual behaviour. I voluntarily made an appointment with the counsellor who kindly slotted me in at short notice. It meant waiting for a few hours, but I couldn't care less because I was filled with an overbearing amount of weight, which I needed to let go.

I cried silently as I opened up my soul and in doing so I began to regain my sense of reality. I knew I was having a moment and I realised I was not meant to be sitting in front of this gracious woman, but I was absolutely beside myself with a large mountain of grief. I had just lost my Nan two weeks prior who I regarded as a pillar in my life, which affected me very much. But here I was in front of this woman who knew nothing about me, with multiple years of experience and qualified to deal with the problems of the world. She helped me to realise that grief can sneak in at any time and we wouldn't even realise until we are breaking down.

It becomes a tough road trying to be the shoulders for everyone, which is why we must do a stock take on ourselves daily. It is critical that we prevent ourselves from getting too caught up in the woes of others, especially when we are in no position to do so. A great example is emergency services who on a daily basis, work hard to save lives. Every time they attend an accident you can guarantee they check for their own safety first. Anyone who has participated in a first aid course will know that your safety is paramount.

Today as I reflect back on the movements of the other day, I understand that I simply cannot help everyone. My own well-being comes first and it is necessary to ensure my own sanity. I do pray that my friend is okay.

<https://www.amazon.com/Darkspire-Reaches/dp/Bo71YPC9S8/ref>

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<https://mobile.audible.com/.../Cobalt-Audiobook/Bo1CTD8QWO>

Be Proud of Who you are by Tania Giguere

https://www.amazon.com/.../Bo1FG.../ref=sr_1_1_tw_i_audd_1

Good Night Love by Tania Giguere

https://www.amazon.com/.../Bo12R.../ref=sr_1_1_tw_i_audd_3

**GET YOUR AUDIO
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Authors Supporting Charities

Girlie's Circus Adventure **Claire Plaisted**

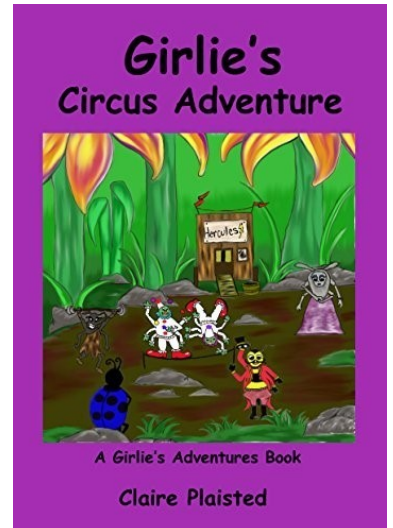
This is the third book in a charity book series about Girlie the blue ladybug who likes to help others and learns many new things along the way.

In this story she goes to the Circus and helps rescue a Black Rhino Beetle. This story can also be found in an anthology called 'Looking into the Abyss'. Both books are raising funds for the Black Rhino cause.

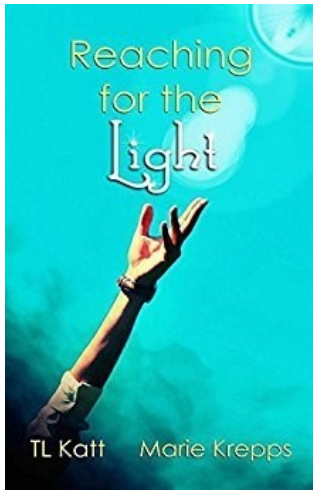
[BOOTS ON THE GROUND](#)

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Mental Illness affects people in all walks of life, all countries and all nationalities. It does not discriminate. Those affected are friends, family members and you. The proceeds of this book will be donated to NAMI. If you'd like to know more about NAMI please visit their website. Authors Marie Krepps and TL Katt have opened their minds and imaginations to assist in mental health awareness, something they both feel passionately about. Follow their characters as they reach for their light.



High Heels & Ice Cream by Marie Krepps

Brianna suffers from depression and anxiety, but she won't let it stop her from moving in with the chatty and attractive Carla. When her attraction to her roommate becomes something more, Brianna has to decide if she will let her inner demons win and run away as usual, or face her fears and admit her true feelings.

Bloom by TL Katt

At the hands of Jen's husband, the man who should love her unconditionally, she suffers one nightmare after another. His bombardment of mental abuse leaves her a shell of a human and her mind unable to let go of the terror, she

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relives it again and again. Jen's actions become more impulsive and dangerous. Can she reach the light and find solace to begin her coping journey from PTSD?

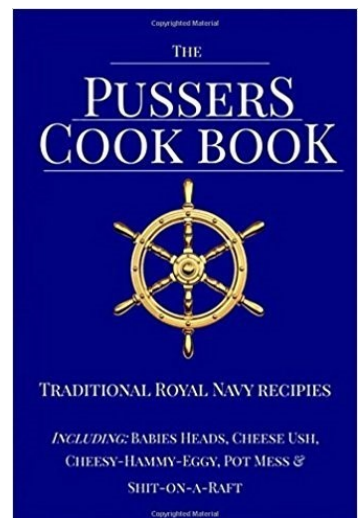
The Pussers Cookbook

By Paul White

The Pussers Cook Book contains the most popular and loved traditional dishes from the Royal Navy's Galleys. Woven between the recipes are facts and tid-bits about the food, the cooks and general life aboard ship. Along with the recipes, this book aims to preserve a segment of British history that is fading, all too quickly, into the grey sea-mists of oblivion.

<http://rnrnmchildrensfund.org.uk/>

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Write On with Tom Fallwell will premiere on **April 15th**, and a new episode will be released each Saturday after. There will be book reviews, readings, author & character interviews, new release news, and much, much more. There are also advertising spots available in each episode for ridiculously low cost.

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Patty L. Fletcher

Published Author of the book '*Campbell's Rambles:
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'*The Neighborhood News*'.

Non-Profit and Small Business Consultant.

See below for what she can provide, visit her websites
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