



ISSUE #12

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT
INTRODUCING
**PATRICK
ELLIOTT**

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**INDIE
PUBLISHING
NEWS**

PLAISTED PUBLISHING HOUSE, LTD.

Favourite Blog Interviews with Tom Fallwell

Bailey Ziehmer – Indie Author

Meet Bailey Ziehmer, an 18 year old published author who loves Marvel, dreaming, and tacos. She loves writing vampire books and likes to go out of her comfort zone at times. She's trying to write other supernatural books. If your looking for books full of twists, turns, and cliff hanging endings then check out what she has to offer.

Two books she has written are The Unforgettable Vampire and The Unforgettable Relationship. Both are available in eBook, Paperback an Hardback formats. Here is a bit of what The Unforgettable Vampire is about.



[BAILEY ZIEHMER
ON AMAZON](#)

THE INTERVIEW

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

When I wrote The Unforgettable Vampire Book 1 I had just turned 17, had a disability in writing, and had no help. Now I'm 18 and in just the 1 year I've learned the difference between words, found out how you're supposed to write as an author, and learned that less is sometimes more.

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

Trying to figure out what they think or would do in certain situations.

Have you ever gotten writer's block?

Yes, many times, but usually if I work, nap, or watch some TV. I get out of it and start writing again.

As a writer, what would you choose as your mascot/avatar/spirit animal?

Defiantly a Butterfly because like a butterfly my writing as evolved and changed shape to become something beautiful.

Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Both, when I first start I'm energized but at the end of the day or when I'm done writing a very emotional scene then I'm exhausted.

How have other authors helped you become a better writer?

Since I'm only 18 they have helped guide me through the author world, told me what was good and what was bad, helped with promoting, and gave some great advice.

If you wish to learn more about this Author you can find her interview [HERE](#)

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



**Ghostly Writes Anthology
2017
Opening for Submissions
in June**

From the Editor's Desk



The ideas keep on coming in. You are all brilliant. This month I will be introducing you to two more new headings. Well make it three really, though one you'll see in this magazine. The first is for **BOOK TRAILERS**. The two new ones starting next month are: **AUDIO BOOKS** and **CHARACTER JOB INTERVIEWS**.

The idea for the Character Job Interviews is to choose a character from your books from the distant past or distant future. Imagine being **Dr Who** going back and forth as he does and **Interviewing** people as his side kick. Needless to say any job will do though make sure it's in the **present day**.

Which character would you choose. One of your own or a character from a book you have enjoyed reading. JUST SO YOU CAN SEE HOW THIS WORKS THERE WILL BE AN INTERVIEW IN THIS MONTHS AND NEWS MONTHS MAGAZINE TO GIVE YOU IDEAS.

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

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

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

DON'T FORGET OUR SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM FOR FANTASY AUTHORS.



Helping Indie Authors get their books published professionally

Author Spotlight – Patrick Elliott

Tell us a bit about yourself.

Whenever I see this I want to quote Steve Martin's opening line from "The Jerk" but in today's politically correct climate I know that would get me nothing but hate. Especially since very few people reading something like this are likely to remember that movie. With that said, until recently, I would have told you that I was nothing special, but I guess that's not true. You have to have a mind that is twisted in some way to want to get into writing. Or so I've been told. Anyway, I like to think I'm not really different than anyone else, but I've come to realize that that's not true. I like to talk, and to share my opinions. I like to hear the same from others, and I hate to be bored. I love politics, religion and so many other subjects that can start fights when you discuss them in polite company. I love people, and I have faith in them. I have spent years in customer service and management, because of that desire to help and connect with people.



It always feels hollow though, because my first love, the thing that has drawn me since I was young was writing. Some of this answer belongs in the next section, but that's me. I want to touch you. I want to teach and inspire. Each and every one of us wants to form a connection with our fellow man. I want to do it in a way you can't forget, by digging into your brain and leaving something there that inspires you to wonderful things. Outside of writing? I love cooking and food, you don't get to be my size unless you do. I love all things classically Irish, and it makes me cringe that they have become trendy. I adore children, which is why I don't write for them, though I might change that in the near future. I'm also becoming a bit of an old hippie in my old age, getting into saving the planet, helping each other, and living the revolution, whichever revolution the young people have right now. Other than that? I spent two years unemployed recently, and thanks to that I have no fear. I'm blunt, honest, and too outspoken, because once you're lost everything you realize how freeing it is to live without fear. I recommend everyone try it. Without the losing everything if you can help it.

What brought you to the world of writing?

I think the world of writing sneaks up on you, like a brass band, clubs you over the head, and drags you off to the realm of You Will Write Now! I'm sure there are other ways to get there, but I have yet to find them. I was very young when I started writing, and younger still when I started telling stories. Every person on this planet has an art that they are drawn to, mine is the story. It filled me, it connected me to other people. I stopped, and then I picked it up again when I was a teen, but mostly as a hobby. It is my drug. People use addiction to fill something that is missing inside themselves. For years, I tried to use other things. I get strange looks because of the things I have done, that many want to. I started life in Seattle, WA and I am back there now. I have been to Burning Man, I have been to Mardi Gras. I lived in New York, and in California. I have travelled to fill the void. I learned to cook in a way that amazed most people. I am an Eagle Scout because I wanted to be outdoors. I filled my time running table top games, and building up groups of friends, becoming a manager at many different companies that delivered amazing customer service. I still love all of those things, but eventually I realized, they were my drug. They were the thing I was using to fill that void. My writing was missing, and I had to get back into it. I get busy, and I stop, and when I do, I feel empty and angry. I need to do it. I want to do it, and I want to share it. Sadly, I finished my first novel after the publishing world had changed. It was insular, and unless you had a book deal it was hard to get another one. So, I jumped into self-publishing, because I want to share what I right. I honestly believe that everyone who writes wants to touch, teach, and inspire. I know I do. That's the long way around. The short answer? Everyone who enters this world does so for two reasons. One is to hold up a picture of a shiny world, and say this is what we need, and here is how we get there. The second is to show a mirror, one that reflects this world, but with more scars, chaos, disease, and decay; to show us, this is where we are headed, and this is how we avoid it. I'm one of the second. I was drawn into the world of writing to be a warning sign, to tell people to be nicer to each other, before it's too late.

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

My first book, and I assume you mean the first I wrote, is Old Odd Ends. It is the closest I have to a classical horror novel. I like it, I think it might need some more editing but it was a leap for me. I had to push through, to finish something and get it edited. Then I needed to put it out there.

I think it is probably my weakest novel, but still good, still worth the investment, both in money and time to read. For me, it was an experiment in facing my fears. Everyone told me I should get publishing. So, I did, and even greater things have followed because of it.

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

I cannot be restricted to genre! I have a Horror novel, two collections of varied shorts, a soft Sci-Fi Dystopian in an Orwellian style, and a Satire novella. In my list that I'm working on is a Post-Apocalyptic epic, an Alternative recent History serial novel, and Urban Fantasy about a monster hunter who hates how people romanticize monsters, and many other things, including a possible middle age horror novel. I write what comes to me, because I am the conduit of these worlds, and I do as they insist. They fulfil the needs of my readers, as all books do. Some people read everything, some people read only what they need to, either way, when you read you are always fulfilled, because that is what books do, they fill your mind and open your soul to other worlds, new ideas, and different possibilities. That's why I read.

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

Well, I think the one with the broadest appeal would be A Brief and Literal History of the World. I guess if I was going to feature a book that would be the one. It is satire, which means, to me at least, that it touches on the religious and political topics of the day. So, if you are going to read it, you should do so with an open mind and a sense of humor. If you can't do that you should read something else on my list. I consider it an homage to the works that came before it. There is a very serious message, and one of hope, but you have to dig deep, down below the comedy, to find that. Nothing is sacred (I know, that's a pun, since the story is Jesus telling Mohammed and some other gods about his youth) but that's the point. A friend of mine described the book well, by saying... "I'm pretty sure there is a group you haven't offended with this, but I can't think of who they are." It's my favorite, because it's the one where I don't pull any punches.

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

It depends on the story. I've been working on my most recent stuff for years. Greycoat Blueback took less than that from start to finish. I wrote that one while writing was my only job. So, given that, I would say six months, plus distractions.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

No. I understand that this is a method that works for some people, and I respect them. However, I believe the world of writing is divided into two groups. Those who plot, and those who write freeform. Both forms can, and do, create good stories. However, when a plotter tries to write freeform they create a disjointed mess. When a freeform writer plots they end up with a dry, boring novel that should have been born a tech manual. I don't want to bore my readers.

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

I write in whichever is appropriate for the story. Here's the thing. People will argue over which tense stories should be in, which person it should be in, and whether or not you should head hop. There is no universal rule. A good author listens to his story, and does what he or she is being told by the work. I am technique agnostic, and the gods of each story guide my hand as I genuflect before them, at my computer each night. I mean, look at the idea that you shouldn't head hop, but one of the most popular book/TV series right now is based on doing exactly that. There are no rules, and anyone that tells you there are only knows what works for them.

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

I finish the draft, then I set it aside and I write another book. While I'm working on another book (second one after the one we're talking about, usually) I pull the book back out. I do one edit for content and corrections. Once I'm done I give it a week to a month and I do a second edit for some content, mostly for errors at this point. Then I immediately do a third edit for errors only. Occasionally I will have someone else read and suggest edits during that first round.

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

I, like everyone, like to believe that I have universal appeal. However, I also know that I most strongly appeal to adult men, because I am one, and I market to them. There are tons of books out there for kids, and leave that writing to those who are better at it, though I did mention I might do a middle grade book soon. There are fabulous writers in the chick lit, and relate genres. I love to think that literature, good writing in any and all genres, shatters those boundaries. I strongly believe my works fall into that group. So why do I still market to adult males? Because I'm tired of seeing how we don't read.

Whenever you look at publishers, or agents, they are looking for women's fiction, and young adult. Their reason? Grown men don't read. They insist this is true. Men don't read, so we don't publish for men. I cry lies! Everyone reads, and if men don't read it is because publishers and agents have forgotten us. Women and young people spend more money on books than men for the same reason that people from fifteen to thirty-five spend more money on movies than other age groups. Because that is who is being targeted. If a movie was produced for senior citizens, that appealed to them, they would go see it. If a book was published that appealed to adult males, they might read it. So I market to them, because I'm tired or my demographic being the least well read. It makes me feel sad for our lost culture, and terrified that people like me spend so much time in "reality television" that we have forgotten our right to the printed word.

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

I tried the traditional route, and at some point I will try it again. For now, I self publish.

How do you promote your writing?

Mostly through methods like this. I will do social media. I have done interviews, online and radio. I've done takeovers and the like. Mostly I am organic. I rely on other people in the independent circuit, and I try to pay it forward. One of these days I'll spend some money on advertising, but for now, it's word of mouth. So help me out, read me up and tell your friends and family how awesome I am.

Where can we buy your books?

Well, there are the links I am including. However, you can find me on Amazon and Create Space of course. Additionally, I am on Kindle, Nook, Kobo, and GooglePlay. Of course that means you can special order me at that one big book store, but they might give you funny looks, so I'd just get it in the mail if you want a physical copy. Once you buy the books you can go to Authograph and get my signature too.

Who are your favourite authors?

George Orwell – This is a man who inspired me to write to change the world.

Ray Bradbury – This is the king. I don't care who you are. If you are an author after him you were inspired by Bradbury, or someone who was inspired by him.

Stephen King – A man who proves you can keep it intelligent while still hacking it up enough to sell, and he said he does that, not me. King inspired me to actually try, because he breaks all the rules he tells you to follow.

Mark Twain – For all of the same reasons as King, except he never wrote to a lower common denominator. He showed me that words can really be art.

Jim Butcher – Inspiration to all modern authors, a long shot who made it. A man who started off writing less than he was capable of and is slowly making his work so intelligent that we have to learn as we read.

George RR Martin – He's a giant. I don't know how he manages to keep his threads straight. And to keep things interesting while he does. No one else writes like him, and I wish others would say that about me some day.

Edgar Allan Poe – My original inspiration. His works still give me the chills.

Links

Old Odd Ends – www.hyperurl.co/9a1fe9

Greycoat Blueback – www.hyperurl.co/rq1um2

A Brief and Literal History of the World – www.hyperurl.co/duudrb

Others, general author page – www.hyperurl.co/hcq5cq

Social Media –

Ello – www.ello.com/patrick_elliott

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/patrickelliottauthor>

Blog - <http://patrickelliottwrites.blogspot.com/>

Twitter – www.twitter.com/patrickewrites



Indie Author Reviews



Murder in Absentia by Assaph Mehr

I enjoyed Murder in Absentia all the way through. The fantasy blended well into historical antidotes about day to day life. Several times I found myself setting the book down to research different things Felix was experiencing. Fish sauce production- fascinating! Bath house scrapings- seriously, imagine getting all the grime literally scraped off your body with a metal device! It reminded me of an ancient, sly Sherlock Holmes. I can't wait for the next book in the series! Just excellent.

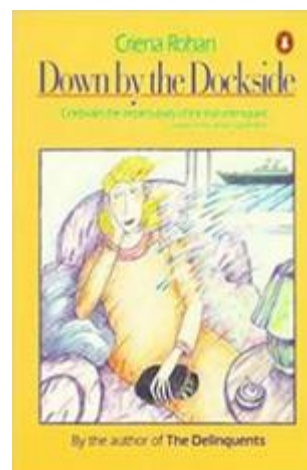
Reviewed by Anais Chartschenko

Down by the Dockside by Criena Rohan

Sometimes and for some unknown reason a book resonates within your soul, this is one such book that had, and still does resonate within me.

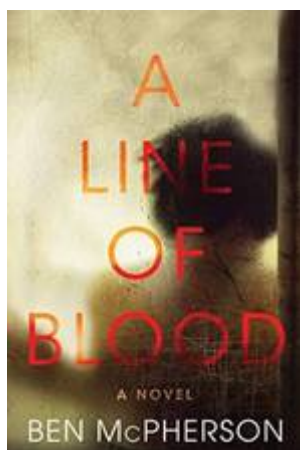
Down by the Dockside is a too long unrecognised Australian urban classic. Compassionate and sympathetic to the working class in post war Australia.

I first read this years ago, (circa 1975). It is about a plucky, literate girl who grows up in poverty in Port Melbourne during the Depression, marries a sailor during the war and loses him in a fight at Christmas in 1946, teaches dance and consorts with the criminals her childhood pals have become, it's a lively and endearing tale of Australia in the 1930s and 1940s.



This is not a literary masterpiece in the common sense, even being rejected by several Australian publishers whom she subsequently scorned as jingoistic. But it is haunting and touching and should be on every ones 'Must Read' list.

Reviewed by Paul White



A Line of Blood by Ben McPherson

Wow what can I say...Twisted psychological thriller based on a truly unlikable trio.

McPherson Develops his characters with finesse.

Alex, the father, is a truly jumbled up mess. There are times I wanted to bash him on his head , and a few times I liked him for a minute.

Millicent, whose actions have taken this family down a dark and twisted path, is the perfect example of a 'hot mess' .

Max, the disrespectful, manipulating sociopathic child makes one despise him while simultaneously feeling sorry for the little bundle of hatred and confusion.

I have said it in another review and I will say it here, Ben McPherson wrote and developed his characters in such a way that it evoked strong emotions in me toward each character in turn.

The ending left me asking myself the question 'What would I do as a wife and mother in this situation that one of my actions created?' I found myself hard put to answer that question.

I look forward to more from this first time author. And I have truly appreciated the chance I was given to read and review it.



Reviewed by Jennifer Deese

Broken Roots by Michelle Diane Lowe

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.

It's no secret that I am a huge fan of Romarin Demetri by now, having been able to review her series as it was released for the past three books. In the third Supernatural London Underground book, the action takes a dark twist, especially as we see a showdown between Katrina and Kat (my favorite character is Katrina, by the by), and a lot more about Talia is discovered. Row is still the main character, of course, but this book is about much more than her.

I can't gush enough on how great this was to read, to be sucked even deeper into this crazy world in London with such a disparate cast of characters. This book was one I couldn't put down, and can't describe much more for then I would risk giving one of the feared spoilers. If you like your paranormal with a twist, you'll fall madly in love with this book.



Reviewed by Kelly Smith

The Wielders of Arantha by Patrick Hodges



This a series that I plan to follow very closely. Book #1, Pawns, is one of the best books I've read in the past few years. It was an engaging and exciting read, and I enjoyed it immensely. The author knows how to pull the reader in with truly wonderful characters that come alive and grab your attention. This is the author's strongest achievement, characters that I, as a reader, actually cared about.

The action is done extremely well. Not too much, not too little. It is intermixed with the story progression in a very balanced way, and when the action appears, it carries a well-written air of excitement and anticipation for what happens next. In fact, the entire story pulls the reader along for a magnificent and thrilling ride. I found it difficult to put down, and if I did, I was anticipating picking it back up again to read more.

All in all, this is a really great book, full of all the things that make reading fun. A perfect blend of science and fantastical elements that puts it squarely in the Science-Fantasy genre. I very much look forward to more of this series. The author has a fan, and I'm happy to say I've found a new favorite. If you love sci-fi, fantasy, or both, this is a book I believe you will enjoy tremendously.

Reviewed by Tom Fallwell

From Ghostly Writes Anthology – CABINS by J B Taylor

Well, this story? It caught me a bit off guard. When I read it the first time, it bugged me that there seemed to be no ending the horrifying spirit and monster that had possessed the cabin, and woods surrounding it. It made me a bit annoyed, that there seemed to be no way there would ever be peace for anyone who dared step foot onto the property. Let alone, live within, but upon second reading of this terrifying tale, it came to me that I understood the way the spirit felt, and the monster? Well, who could blame him, I mean he was left to die, but you really should read for yourself. Is it scary? You ask. Good Goddess! **Morrigan** Yes! Scary doesn't quite do that justice. If you want to find yourself sitting up in bed at 2 AM going, "Oh! Gods! What was that noise?" Just take a look at this Magnificently Monstrous Madness. You shan't be disappointed.



I'll be sure and let you know when I've read more, but do, please give this book a look. Until next time, this is Patty, and her Faithful King Campbell who is never scared of Ghostly Books saying... Make sure your night-light is working, and BOO! ! !

Reviewed by Patty Fletcher

Why Would Anyone Settle For Being An Indie-Author? By Mark Wilson

Why Would Anyone Settle For Being An Indie-Author?

The first question I'm asked when people discover that I'm an Indie-Author is whether I've approached or considered approaching agents or publishers.

'Your books are good, Mark. You should submit to publishers.'

It doesn't seem to occur to some that being independent is a choice, not a necessity. I never considered the traditional publishing route, although I have had offers from several Independent publishing houses and one large agency over the years which I chose not to accept for a variety of reasons.

I was very lucky to benefit early in my writing career from the advice of several authors who've spent some years in the publishing industry. In particular, I had a long chat with Gavin Bain, a friend of mine who has had long-term experience in the music and literary business. We chatted about agents, contracts, advances, small publishers versus large ones and I spent months doing my own research on the business. With a push from Gavin I followed my gut instinct to go Indie. I've never regretted this.

So...Self- Publishing or Traditional?

Asked by every writer to spurt ink.

When I started writing my debut novel, I stood firmly in the self-publish camp. As I progressed with the book, I wanted to be thorough, so I researched the industry more and more. Royalties, advances, agents, services performed by the publishing house and or the agent, big or small publisher? Did I want to write for and market to a specific genre? How could I set about building a readership?

There was and is a lot to learn. I did weeks of research, seeking out those agents and publishers (mostly independent) who I thought would like me and my book, and whom I thought I'd like to work with. After ten completed projects, that list remains unused at present.

More and more, as I immersed myself in the snaking and shaded corridors of the literary industry, the same nagging questions came back to me.

Is it worth giving away control of my work for the miniscule chance at the potential exposure a big publisher might bring?

It seemed to me that if these guys deigned to take you, they'd in all probability change your work endlessly, until it fit their formulaic idea of what a commercial novel should be, which is fine for some writers, but not for me. It seemed that most of the promo and marketing would be done by me rather than them anyway, so why should I give them such a huge chunk of my potential earnings (ha!) and, more importantly, complete control over the words that I had spent so many hours writing? What was more important? Potential earnings or creative control?

Advances: For many authors, it seems that an advance, especially a huge one, is the holy-grail. I don't understand this mentality at all. Sure an advance is a nice pat on the back, and an indication that your book is commercial enough (or at least can be made to be, in the payer's opinion) to perhaps recoup the investment. It also seems like a good way of allowing the author the privilege and means to write full-time. For me, it's a scary prospect.

An advance simply means that you're in debt to the issuer until your sales repay the money. If the sales take years to do so? Well, you're in hock to them for years, and quite probably on a deadline for at least one more book. No thanks. Add this to the fact that a large portion of publishers give their newly-published books only a very short time to hit serious sales before shifting their enthusiasm and attention elsewhere, it added to my unease.

I know several authors who exist by paying one advance off with the next to recover the rights to their books.

Agents: Whilst there are of course many good quality agents, who work hard for their clients, let's remember two key things about them.

Firstly, they do try to get the best deal for their authors, but that may mean something different to them than it does to the author, in terms of cash, advances or the prestige of a particular publishing house over creative control or effective care from the publisher. Your agent represents a business; the more money (debt) they get for you, the more money they themselves make, and that is their primary objective.

Secondly, agents will take around 15% of your money, which is already a very small percentage (somewhere between 7 -15% for traditionally published writers) when considering the fact that you worked so hard on your book and will continue to work your arse off promoting the book, publisher or no publisher (unless of course you're very high on the publishers' radar). Whilst the services of agents can be very valuable, if you take the traditional publisher out of the picture, there's really no place for an agent until you're selling enough books on your own to gather interest from publishers and have deals to negotiate.

Smaller publishing houses offer a more personal service and are generally more engaged with and passionate about the work they've chosen to represent. They are also significantly more pro-active in reacting to the market and in developing their authors than their traditional counterparts. Whilst working with small publishers can be rewarding, particularly if think you haven't the skills or contacts to produce a decent standard of book for yourself, in my view there's not always a need to hand your work over to a small publisher, unless they can add value that you cannot on your own. Indie publishers like Bloodhound Books have made great strides in the market and appear to put their authors first.

If you choose to go it alone, given the time and will you can learn do it yourself with the right assistance and a commitment to pay professionals for the services you can't do for yourself, i.e., editing and proofing. Many of the industry professionals I hire do the exact same work but at higher rates to small publishers. Good freelancers are easy to come by and needn't be expensive.

This is where the effective Indie-Author exists. In the centre of a web of professionals; editors, proof-readers, formatters and cover designers (if needed), hired by the author to polish his/her work and free the author up to do what he/she does best...Write.

Are the potential benefits and rewards of being a writer great enough for me to expect to earn a living from writing?

For me the decision to go Indie was a no-brainer. However, a small part of me, the one that's low on self-esteem, told me that I needed the recognition from an agent or publisher that my book was "good".

I ignored that needy version of myself and ploughed on, buoyed by the research I'd done into the standard of eBooks out there. As far as I could see, my first book was as good as many self-published eBooks, and better than most (there's the tiny little bit of ego/confidence I do possess asserting itself).

In hindsight, my first work was of a good standard but just good. I was judging the quality of my work against other independents, when I should have been planning ahead in my development and thinking bigger in terms of the standard I wanted to reach and surpass.

As a writer, I've developed a massive amount and learned many more writing devices and techniques during the process of writing nine more books. This kind of development time, I wouldn't be allowed with such a public analysis and feedback in traditional publishing. Like the music industry, the days when a publisher will take a punt on a new talent and invest in developing them are long gone for the most part. "Bring us the next copy of a copy of 'a girl who kicked a hornet in the nuts on a train'."

As things stand; using several industry professionals who are competitively priced, and more importantly better at editing etc than me, I've published my stories across a range of genre, exactly as I intend them to be.

The financial rewards?

Here's the thing few writers will tell you, mostly because you don't want to hear it. **You will most likely not make money as a writer.**

You will devote thousands of hours of your time to writing the very best books you can. Time to develop your skills and broaden your writing palette. Hours and hours to learn what you can about marketing and promoting your book effectively. Building an audience. Writing some more.

None of this will guarantee you readers or an income. If you make more than £500 a month from writing novels, you deserve a pat on the back. I regularly outsell much higher profile authors who are tied to restrictive contracts and huge advances. How the hell they pay their creditors back, I have no idea. Living from one advance to the next doesn't appeal to me.

The truth is, that for all the professionalism you will have to employ; all of the dedication and sacrifice of your time to write and to present your writing as well as it can be, writing will be nothing more than a very time-consuming hobby that you love. If you build a small readership who enjoy your books and earn enough for a little holiday once a year, give yourself well-deserved handshake. Focus instead on being proud of a back catalogue of books you poured yourself into writing.

So, why 'settle' for being an Indie- Author?

That's the key, you're not settling, you're making a determined and smart choice to control your own literary destiny and produce your work the way you desire. No changing characters ages or sex or motivations to appeal to this demographic or that genre. No committees making a product of your labour. No debt to a corporate master which for most writers you haven't a hope of recouping form advances.

The beauty?

If you're one of the lucky writers who have a breakthrough hit of a book, your work is entirely in your own hands. You can make that deal when the big boys/girls come calling, but you can make it on your own terms. Use their distribution. Use their contacts to get a TV deal or international translations or Movie deals. Use them. Not the other way round.

As an independent, you can still choose to publish with an indie-publisher, or a larger one if that's your bag, but have the choice to work with people who truly feel passionate about and can add value to your novel, rather than jumping at the first publisher or agent who shows an interest at all cost.

Do not settle for being an Indie-Author. Fucking aspire to be an Indie-Author.

Mark is the proudly-independent author of nine works of fiction and one non-fiction

You can find Mark Wilsons Blog here!

<https://markwilsonbooks.com/2016/03/21/why-would-anyone-settle-for-being-an-indie-author/>



***Issue One - 21th
May 2017
FROM YOUR
FAVOURITE
EROTIC INDIE
AUTHORS***

Spotlight Reviews for Patrick Elliott

Old Odd Ends will keep you on the edge of your seat until you reach the unexpected end.

The story is about good vs. evil with all the ingredients that goes along with it. It is a captivating story. I enjoyed this book very much. This book was a great distraction when I needed some better to think about and enjoy

Walk down the darker side...

Each of us likes to explore the darker places our mind can take us. Patrick Elliot has created a story that captures the darkness each of us carries and expressed it in such a way to make it both familiar and uncomfortable. Each character is believable including one of the most sympathetic villains I have encountered in a long time. Reading this I felt like this book is something a character from a Stephen King novel would read to find something darker than life.

If you are a fan of older Stephen King or Dean Koontz this book will tickle your fancy.

You've never read anything like it...

Old Odd Ends is like nothing I've read before with a diverse, quirky, often malevolent cast of characters who become part of your life, even during non-reading times. This is such a unique read, such an unusual setting that I find myself marveling at how Patrick comes up with this stuff. He has a way of bringing you to the brink of insanity before revealing the source of your angst just at the right time. I highly recommend this book and I'm glad I got the chance to read it.

Very Engrossing!

Old Odd Ends is a dark tale that delves into many issues, including the power of creativity and the human spirit. What I enjoyed was that the lines of good and bad were more grey, which can happen in the creative world. This made it that more terrifying in that one must be careful or any creative venture can take you down a dark path. Great read Patrick!

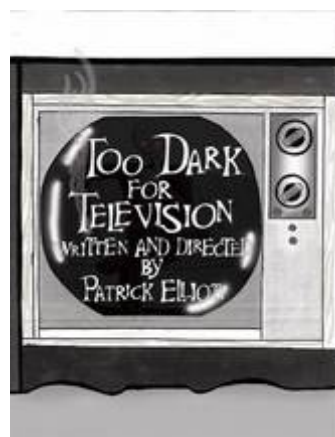
Old Odd Ends by Patrick Elliott



In empty places darkness lives; hidden in small towns citizens find themselves traversing tales that others know to be safely confined in storybooks. Mr. Edward opens bookstores in these hamlets, selling rare works and indoctrinating children into "The Program" for lessons in the art of writing. Despite his oddness there is something about the gentleman that demands enough respect and admiration from the locals and his protégés for him to quietly go about his business.

Thomas, one of Mr. Edward's most promising pupils, admires and perhaps even loves the old man who nurtures his burgeoning talent for writing and introduces him to Samantha, who will grow to be the love of his life. Sensing something wrong Thomas begins to wonder if the darkness is in him and not his mentor. Between the old shop owner and the love of his life, Thomas's story takes many twists that his loving mother does not approve of.

[BUY LINK](#)



Grandma Peachy's Reviews

Defying Darkness by Thanna Setliff



I did enjoy the story. Because of other activities it took me two days to read Defying Darkness and when I was not reading I found myself thinking about the story.

The protagonists are, Maire, a vampire who has retained her soul, and Dorian, a vahmpyr who are born not turned and fight against soulless vampires. Maire has never killed so has retained her soul for many hundreds of years but by doing so has starved herself. Dorian in finding her discovers she still has her soul. As a Ranger it is his job to protect and free innocents and newly turned vampires who have not killed.

Much of the first few chapters were devoted to keeping both the Maire and Dorian alive through vampiric feeding. Once they were both in good health the quest to free her from the bonds of her vampire sire began in earnest.

Dialog in the book is heavy on dialect with conversations written with a heavy brogue. Some people may not find this writing style easy to read. After awhile I just found myself interpreting in my head. Many Gaelic words were used and the meaning was given in the narrative.

Toward the latter part of the book there was an encounter with another kind of character that was a bit slow because so much had to be explained. Once past that part the plot wrapped up in an exciting action packed conclusion.

I liked the plot and characters and give this one four stars.

Grandma Peachy

Rainne's Reviews

Nite Fire by C L Schneider

An amazing start to a new series by C.L. Schneider.

I loved the multi-dimensional characters, the humans, the dragons and the half human/half dragon like Dahlia. Dahlia is a strong and complex female character, and completely believable.

The plot was original and well thought out. The story is fast-paced, easy to read and kept me on the edge of my seat from start to finish. I'm looking forward to reading the next book in this outstanding series.

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

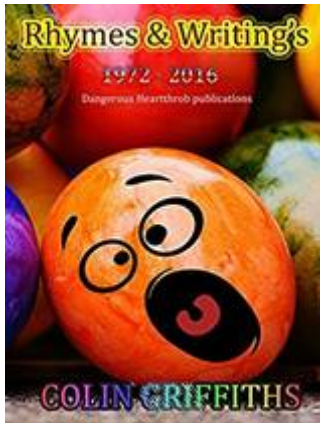


***Review your goals twice every day
in order to be focused on achieving them.***

Les Brown

Read more at: <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/review.html>

POETS CORNER



Rhymes & Writings

By Colin Griffiths

A short selection of poems and ramblings. some written in the 1970's. some written in 2016 almost 45 years later.

a selection of 40 ramblings spread over 45 years.

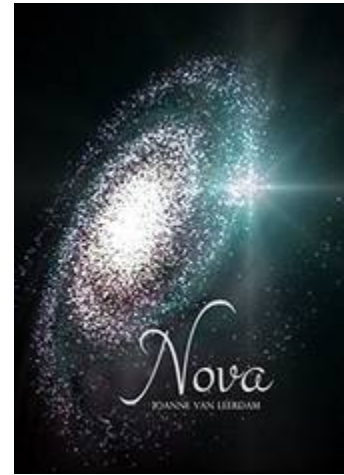
[BUY LINK](#)

Nova

By Joanne Van Leerdam

Explore with the poet what it is to be human: to love, to celebrate, to grieve, to feel pain, and to overcome, through powerful images of fallenness, hope and redemption

[BUY LINK](#)

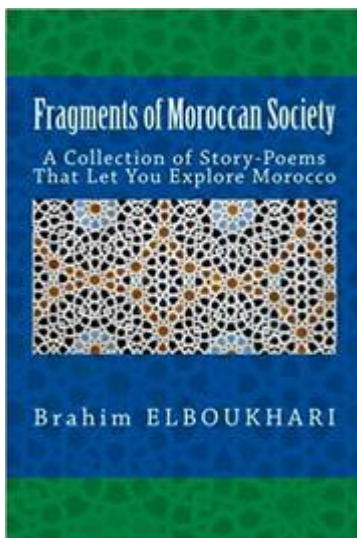


Fragments of Moroccan Society

By Brahim Elboukhari

Poetry used to be not only emotions of the poet but also a medium through which stories can be told. This collection of poems are stories of people; those who live in silence. They are stories that represent some of the major types of people in Morocco, it's a new way to bring back the old habits of people and how they used poetry in the past. These poems will make you have a clear insight about Morocco and Moroccan people, in a poetic way.

[BUY LINK](#)



**Poetry is when and emotion has found its thought
And the thought has found words**

Robert Frost

Anna Claire Everward – Indie Author



Tell us a bit about yourself.

Well, that's never simple to do, is it? Let's see. My full name is Anna Claire Everward, and I go by Claire. I'm a writer, about to publish my second book. I love reading, although I haven't had much time to read lately, other than books about grammar and editing or whatever research I do for my writing. I like following the news and knowing what goes on in the world, so I usually have the news on in the room where I write, and I tend to take the news, the world, and pretty much everything else very seriously. What else? I have two writing companions, my cats Henry VIII and Mary Boleyn. Henry prefers to sleep, but Mary usually likes to be pet while I work, so I'm getting used to typing with one hand. Like now—while I'm writing this, she jumped on my desk and is planning a takeover. She will, of course, succeed.

What brought you to the world of writing?

I've been writing for the past few years, on weekends and in the evenings and whenever the job I had then allowed it, until my sister and I made the decision last year to quit our jobs and start Author & Sister.

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

That would be *The First*. When it was published I looked at it with disbelief and apprehension, not knowing how it would be accepted. It was a test for me, I suppose. It taught me a lot, and I will always look back at it with pride—because I dared to write it, because I dared to publish it, and because it was the beginning of Author & Sister, the publishing venture my sister Kate and I started.

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

I write suspense novels with a touch of romance, and I want my readers to lose themselves in my books, to have a respite of sorts from life, even if for a short while.

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

How about the one that was just published, *Oracle's Hunt*? It's my second book, and the first book in a new suspense series that takes place some years from now and runs between the US and other countries, depending on the plot of each book.

In Oracle's Hunt, a secure multinational data center located in the US is destroyed, and the federal investigator assigned to find who perpetrated the deadly attack discovers that the only thing stolen was data about something called Oracle. But when he tries to find out what Oracle is, he is warned to stop looking for it.

And no one wants him kept away from the secret that is Oracle more than Lara Holsworth, even though the organization she works for has a stake in the investigation—and so does she.

But with Oracle in danger like never before, these two just might have no choice but to cooperate, and even that might not be enough to keep it safe.

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

I think I need several more books to answer that definitively. I will say this, though: the first draft is, for me, the heart. The making of the story. And so I give it the time it needs.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

I don't prepare a blueprint for my stories in advance, for me it would be like creating a box I would lock my mind in, limiting myself. I prefer to let the story live in my mind, allow it to develop freely, see where I can take it.

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

So far, always 3rd person. I like the flexibility in it, and the ability to give each character her or his due place from her or his own point of view.

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

My draft is edited by a professional editor. Going through an experienced editor's comments is, for me, another way to learn, to improve my writing. As I finalize my manuscript later, adding to it or making changes, I edit myself as necessary.

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

Anyone who likes to lose her- or himself in a suspense novel with some action, a bit of romance, an added element of something—or somethings—new, and a strong female protagonist.

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

My sister and I self-publish the books under our Author & Sister brand, you will see the logo on the print books and in the ebooks.

How do you promote your writing?

I'm very lucky that my sister, the other half of this publishing venture, has a decade of experience as a media consultant. She also has a natural inclination toward it, which constantly leaves me at awe. While I've been writing, she's been learning the self-publishing world and charting our way through it. She's the publicist and ManaSis (you guessed it, manager-sister) in this venture.

Where can we buy your books?

You can buy my books on Amazon and here are my links:

www.amazon.com/author/a.claire.everward

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/A.-Claire-Everward/e/Bo1DZID47O/>

<http://www.amazon.ca/dp/Bo1DYF7I6G>

<https://www.amazon.de/dp/Bo1DYF7I6G/>

<https://www.amazon.com.au/d/ebook/First-Claire-Everward/Bo1DYF7I6G/>

Who are your favourite authors?

I love to read, and it's not easy to remember all the good books by good fiction writers that I've read. I can tell you I've read Stephen King for years, *The Stand* and *The Dead Zone* are my favorites. Michael Crichton, what a great loss, I would have loved to continue reading his books. Harlan Coben, I've read almost every standalone novel of his, there's one here right now that I've recently bought and am waiting for a chance to read. I've discovered John Verdon not that long ago, read two of his Dave Gurney novels and another is waiting here for me to read. Oh and I do not miss a book in the Pendergast series by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child—they publish, I read.

Links

www.authorandsister.net

www.twitter.com/claireeverward

www.facebook.com/annacliare.everward

www.goodreads.com/AClaire_Everward

www.instagram.com/authorandsister

www.pinterest.com/authorandsister

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

Well, I'd like to tell you that I'm now working on the second book in the Oracle series, and then I'll be moving on to the first book in another romantic suspense series. And later on, my sister and I have in mind some non-fiction books—we want to bring our own experiences to readers who we hope would find them helpful.

***My first book, 'Contest,' had a guy fighting aliens in the
New York Public Library.***

***The second book, 'Ice Station,' and 'Temple'
were present day military thrillers***

Matthew Reilly

Character Job Interviews – Past meets Present!

The More Things Change by Ilana Maletz

The intercom squawked. “Mr. Fox, your 2:00 appointment is here.”

Lamar hit the intercom button. “Send her in, Ms. Whittier.” He sat back then smiling. He’d been hounding his associates for months to find the perfect spokeswoman, and from what he’d read in this woman’s file, she could be the answer to all of his PR problems.

As the woman entered the room, Lamar stood and walked over to her. He towered over the tiny woman, who was dressed simply in a flowered, calico dress. On her small feet was a pair of well-worn cowboy boots. While the dress was modest, the tie around her waist accentuated a still comely figure for a woman in her mid-sixties. Not a woman of much wealth, Lamar observed; that would help him with his pitch.

“Welcome,” he said, giving the woman his brightest smile.

She nodded back, not smiling, but meeting his gaze with self-assurance. She had beautiful eyes, a warm brown, that held both an innate kindness and curiosity.

“Sit,” he encouraged her, and pointed to one of his leather arm chairs. He watched as she sat. Her hair was so long, she had to move it over her shoulder to avoid sitting on it. It was perhaps her best feature, dark with dramatic gray streaks. She looked every bit the wise woman. Lamar silently congratulated his team. They may have finally gotten it right this time.

“Would you like some tea, coffee, water?” Lamar offered.

“Tea would be nice,” she said.

He smiled again and walked over to the intercom. “Ms. Whittier, can you bring some coffee for me and a cup of tea for my guest.”

“Certainly,” Ms. Whittier said over the intercom. “What kind of tea does she like?”

“Herbal,” the woman answered.

Lamar parroted that back over the intercom, and then took the seat beside her.

“So, Mrs. Connor,” he began “Shall I tell you a bit about us here, at Confluence Escalade?”

“You may call me Cha’risa,” she said.

“Well, if I’m to call you Cha’risa, you must call me Lamar.”

She nodded and then asked, “If I may, Lamar, can I ask you a question before you tell me more about your company?”

“Certainly,” Lamar smiled.

“How did your people find me?”

“Ah. Well as best I understand it, my associates just put it out there, hoping for the Universe to answer, and apparently the Universe has offered up you.” He had meant to be charming, even a little funny, but she took him quite literally.

“That does explain some things,” she said.

He raised an eyebrow, and then offered, “I think what I find most intriguing about you is that you seem to have a gift for straddling two worlds. It says here you gained the trust of the citizens of Flagstaff, while at the same time maintaining a strong connection to your Native American roots.

“Well,” Cha’risa said, “All that was a long time ago now.”

Lamar brushed off her concern. “The more things change the more they stay the same, right?”

“No, not in my experience,” she replied. “People are meant to grow, to evolve. It is actually an illusion that we all keep circling around the same old issues. It isn’t a circle at all, it’s a spiral.”

“Really?” Lamar pretended to be interested, but in truth what she said made no sense to him. “So,” he continued, “shall I tell you some about Grand Canyon Escalade?”

“Yes, please do,” she encouraged.

Rubbing his hands together in anticipation, he started in. “I’ve been working for a while now on a project to make the most spectacular part of the Grand Canyon a tourist destination.”

“Really?”

“Yes, let me show you.” He grabbed some plans from his desk and carried them over to the coffee table, just as Ms. Whittier entered with the tea and coffee. “Set them right there, will you?” He nodded his head toward the end table sitting between the two chairs.

“Thank you,” Cha’risa said as the secretary set a steaming cup of peppermint tea down beside her.

The secretary smiled back at her as she placed the coffee near her boss, and then left the room. Lamar never noticed as he unfurled the plans and smoothed them out on the table before them.

“So the proposed development is located here,” Lamar pointed to a spot on the map on the eastern rim of the canyon, clearly within the Navajo reservation.

Cha’risa leaned forward studying the area intently. “That is right above the confluence.” She looked up at him questioningly.

Excited, Lamar continued to tell her more about his vision. "That's right! The heart of the Grand Canyon, right where the Colorado and the Little Colorado meet, that's where we'll build a tourist attraction to rival all the others! I have big plans, Cha'risa, big plans!"

She waited for him to continue, so he jumped right back in. "Up on the rim we'll have a hotel, a restaurant, an RV center, a cultural center, all kinds of attractions. But that's not the best part! Right here, at the rim, we'll build a tramway that will shuttle as many as 10,000 visitors a day down into the canyon. We'll build an elevated walkway along the cliffs for easy access in and around the canyon floor, and we'll also build this!" He pointed to a large amphitheater also below the rim. "Can you just picture what concerts would be like inside those canyon walls, under the stars?"

When Cha'risa looked at him next, her eyes were somber.

"You do realize," she said, "that the confluence is sacred ground for many tribes, mine included."

"Yes, but just think of it," Lamar insisted, "once only the most determined souls could access this place, now anyone can go see it!"

Cha'risa was quiet a moment considering her next words. Finally she spoke. "When my first husband went to this sacred site, to Sipapu and the salt caves, he ran all the way from the Hopi Pueblos. It was a journey of many miles and great hardship. When my son went, it was along a different path, but it also required a long and difficult journey both physically and spiritually."

"So you get what I'm envisioning!" Lamar enthused. "Once this project is approved, people will be able to make the journey in comfort, in a glass tram, in just ten minutes." He sat back beaming. It was only after an awkward silence that it began to occur to him that Cha'risa might not be seeing things quite the same way. When she broke the silence, her words were again carefully chosen. "What makes the experience to Sipapu sacred is as much about the journey as much as it is about the place. You are putting at risk spiritual practices that have been in place for thousands of years."

Lamar was still trying to think of a way to bring the conversation back on solid footing when Cha'risa asked, "Lamar, why do you think I would make a good representative for this project?"

Lamar gave a silent thanks that the conversation was now moving away from the all this spiritual mumbo jumbo. "Well," he began, "we are looking for someone who can be reassuring, someone who can speak to the tribes of the region and be a voice they would respect and trust." He looked at her then. "I think you could have a steadying influence on a lot of these loud nay sayers."

"Are a lot of people are fighting this?"

"There are some environmental groups, some indigenous groups, and the one I personally find the most frustrating, the Grand Canyon Trust.

Tell me," she asked. "Do you think your project can benefit the Navajo, the Hopi, the Havasupai, the Zuni?"

"Oh, it will definitely benefit the Navajo. We're going to need a lot of service workers for all these facilities we're building. The Navajo are in desperate need of jobs, and we'll bring those along with us in spades."

"So, you're talking about maids, waitresses, handymen, landscapers, that kind of work?"

"Precisely! And you better believe it could make a big difference in addressing the levels of poverty on the reservation. Of course the Navajo have to do their part too, to make this all happen."

"So what is it you need for them to do?" Cha'risa's face was carefully blank.

"Well, the Navajo nation will need to pay about \$65 million for the initial infrastructure, and they will be responsible for its maintenance. They'd have to sign a non-compete for any business activity along 40 thousand miles of access roads into the development. They'd also need to claw back about 420 acres of grazing rights belonging to their people."

"That seems like a lot to me. Is that all you're asking?"

Lamar studied her closely, and for the first time since the interview started he began to feel unnerved. He had the strong sense that if he held anything back, she would know. "There are a few more small details," he admitted.

"Such as?"

"We would need the Navajo to pre-approve business site leases without prior review by Navajo offices of historic preservation, environmental protection, parks and recreation, and a few other key agencies. We'd also need them to override some pesky resolutions against Escalade."

Cha'risa raised an eyebrow. "Who has resolutions against you?"

"Hmmm, well there's the Bodaway-Gap resolution, and there are others as well by the Lechee, Cameron, Coal Mine and Tuba City chapters. There's also one by the Dine Medicine Men's Association and the Western Agency Grazing Committee. Oh, and there is also a pesky Inter-tribal Compact with the Hopi that we'd need the Navajo to get around..."

"Enough, Lamar. I've heard enough."

His face fell. "You're not interested, are you?"

Cha'risa shook her head.

"It pays well." Lamar felt it had to be said.

"Look, Lamar, no matter how much you paid me, you'd never get what you needed from me."

"Why not?"

"You do realize I'm Hopi, right? It says that in your file there?"

Lamar looked more carefully at the file then shook his head. "It just says Native American."

"I don't suppose you are aware that there is a long history of distrust between the Hopi and the Navajo?"

Again he shook his head.

"I thought not," she said. "I bet it also doesn't say anything in that file of yours about the fact that I have a checkered history."

Lamar took a closer look at the small woman in the flowered calico dress. "You do? What on earth could you have done that would raise eyebrows?"

Cha'risa shifted uncomfortably in her chair. "I have dedicated my life to healing people, but there was a time when I crossed the line between a medicine woman and a witch."

Lamar leaned in closer. "What exactly did you do?"

She regarded him with an unblinking stare. "I killed some men with a single thought."

Lamar gaped at her wanting to disbelieve it, but what he saw in her eyes made him gulp and sit back, putting some distance between them.

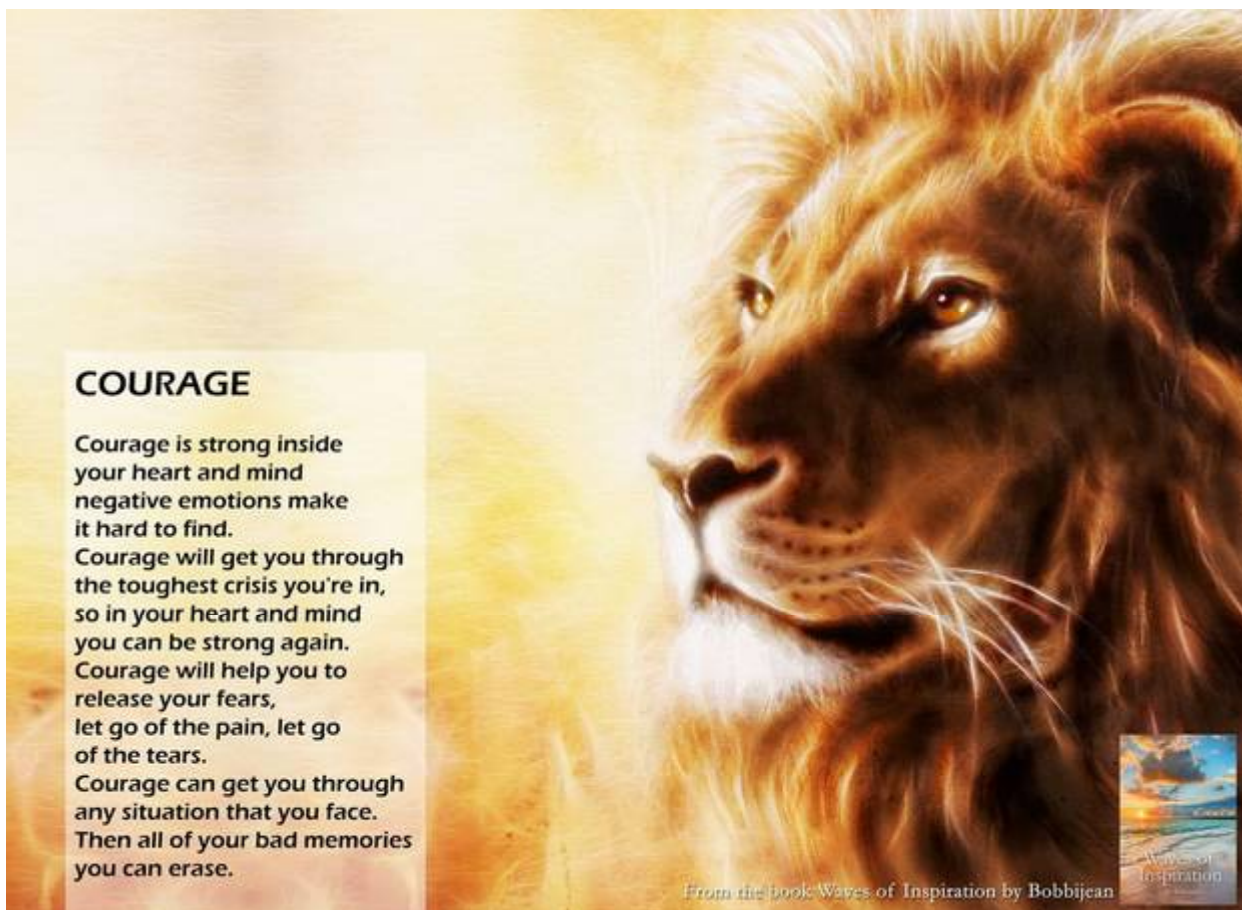
Cha'risa got up, leaving her tea untouched. "Mr. Fox, If you send 10,000 people a day into the heart of the oldest spiritual center in all of the United States, you will destroy something irreplaceable. How many places are left on this earth where we can be at one with the harmony and serenity of a sacred place? If the universe raised me from the dead and sent me to you, it is for one reason only. The Great Spirit needs me to fight against this plan that serves no one's best interest but your own."

She held his eyes with hers for several moments longer than was comfortable. When she left the room, an uncanny chill stayed behind. Lamar took a deep breath and then picked up his now cold cup of coffee. It was only when he tried to raise the cup to his lips that he noticed how badly his hands were shaking. He couldn't take even a single sip.

<http://www.grandcanyontrust.org/stopping-grand-canyon-escalade>

<https://www.americanrivers.org/2016/08/grand-canyon-escalade-happen/>

<https://indiancountrymedianetwork.com/news/native-news/grand-canyon-escalade-theres-a-lot-of-unknowns/>



McKenzie Flohr – Indie Author

Tell us a bit about yourself.

My name is Mackenzie Flohr. I am originally from Strongsville, OH and now reside in Hartland, MI. I am a slave to 12 mischievous cats. When not writing, you will find me either at my full-time call center job, watching baseball or playing video games on my PlayStation 4.



What brought you to the world of writing?

My parents nurtured my love for the creative world. Growing up, my best friend and I would create our own stories and critique each other's work. Later, I attended the Beck Center for the Cultural Arts in Lakewood, OH. There, I began to learn about the entire process behind a production including the writing, casting, building, lighting, directing, etc.

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

My debut novel I'm actually going to be talking about a bit further down. However, I am really proud of it. I have been able to accomplish something that so many dream of doing and never get to do.

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

I have written young adult fantasy. As for if they fulfil my reader's needs? I honestly write more for myself, but I have been told by multiple readers that they love my writing, so I would believe so!

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

The book I'd like to feature is my debut novel called *The Rite of Wands*. *The Rite of Wands* is the first in a young adult fantasy series taking place in the nation of Iverna. It begins with the tale of Mierta McKinnon, a 12-year-old boy who is yearning to become a full member of the magical community. However, in order to do that, he must endure a harrowing ceremony called *The Rite of Wands* where he goes on a journey of his past, present, and future. He is shown a future that he cannot accept, and become obsessed with changing it.

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

I honestly don't know because I wrote my first draft thirteen years ago!

Do you plot or not, if so why?

I do, but I do not always follow my timelines. Some of my characters are discovery characters so even though I may have something plotted out, the character may take me in a totally different direction therefore I have to be flexible.

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

The Rite of Wands is written in 3rd person omniscient, however, there is another series I'm starting to work on, which will be in the sci-fi genre and will be written in 1st person.

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

I definitely edit as I write, and honestly have done it pretty obsessively for a long time. I had to learn how to stop doing that. NY Bestselling author Rachel Caine introduced me to *Write or Die* and it's tremendous in helping to stop obsessing over the same paragraph over and over again!

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

The Rite of Wands is being marketed to the young adult and fantasy genres in the age range of 13 – 35.

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

I am an indie author published with BHC Press.

How do you promote your writing?

I promote my writing using a variety of different strategies. I use HeadTalker, Co-Promote, and Thunderclap. I regularly participate in author takeovers, author interviews, and podcasts. I am active on twitter, facebook and Instagram. I also am starting to do book signings.

Where can we buy your books?

The Rite of Wands can be purchased through all major retailers including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million, IndieBound, Waterstones, Kobo, iTunes, etc.

Who are your favourite authors?

J.K. Rowling, J.R.R. Tolkien, Michael Ende, Brad Meltzer, Tim O'Brien

Links

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MackenzieFlohrAuthor>

Twitter: <http://www.facebook.com/MackenzieFlohr>

Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/16247559.Mackenzie_Flohr

Website: <http://www.mackenzieflohr.com>

Publisher's Page: http://www.bhpress.com/Author_Mackenzie_Flohr.html

Amazon: www.amazon.com/author/mackenzieflohr

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

I am currently working on my book's audiobook, which will be released late this summer. It is being narrated by Doctor Who impersonator, Jake Dudman.

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Girlie's Circus Adventure – Charity Book

By Claire Plaisted

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By Claire Plaisted

Will true love save the day?

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

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

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

[BUY LINK](#)

Shawn Downey - Indie Author



Tell us a bit about yourself.

My real name is Aaron Klassen but I write under the name Shawn Downey, I was born March 1983 in a small farming community of Southern Alberta Canada, I am the oldest of 4 kids two sisters and two brothers, I love to camp and fish and when I am not doing that, I love to work in my garden and hang with my wife and our 4 cats and one dog and 3 birds, we live in the northern part of Alberta where the temperature in the winter can reach minus 50 with the wind chill and sometimes 2 feet of snow depends on the winter.

What brought you to the world of writing?

I have always like writing, as a kid I had a very active imagination and still do today as I am older now my, imagination has changed a lot but I still like to write, and when I get going I can't stop.

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

Well I didn't really do my first book until now, I have always written stories, and I will say that I have one story that I, gave to my school library and it still hanging in the library. What I think about it now, I like it I think it really speaks to me, the story does.

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

I write books that I like to read, I like to read thriller mostly but I do dabble in romance and Americana, I like to write in the genre's that sell, and I think they do appeal to my readers

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

Absolutely I would love to feature my book, the book Is series 6 books in the series, is what is planned, the story talks about a young girl who is bullied and, find loves, at the hands of a young boy who steals her heart. The book is called Alone and I have three books released already

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

I will write my first draft in a little under a month or two then I take, my time, edit, and revise the draft to make it better.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

Yes I do plot, why you ask well I think plotting a story, is important because it gives the reader something to, look forward to when they start reading the book

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

I have an editor and I also edit while I write it's just who I am as a writer

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

I market to adults mainly this series I am working on now would be more for a teenager but I have had some adults read it as well.

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

I publish my own work I like to be in control of what I do, with my work I do not want someone else telling me what, I should do.

Where can we buy your books?

Amazon mostly and create space

Who are your favourite authors?

Michael Connelly, and the Bosh Series and Stephen King

Links

To check out my work go to www.facebook.com/shawndowney

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

Yes I also run a small publishing house as well, this is where I do my own work, as well as support other authors in there's

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for Spunky 2**

ON THE

**28
MAY**

**Hosted by
Ashley Marie
Uzzell**

Spunky 2 Release Party Spunky and the Dolphin Palace



**Last Rites (PDS
#5) Release Day
Party &
Takeover**

ON THE

14th JUN

**Hosted by Lily
Luchesi, Author**

**Gloria and the
Unicorn by
Wanda
Luthman
Release**

**ON THE
13th MAY**

**Hosted by
SILBLS
Book
Promotions**



Will 'O' Wisp by Bekka Abbott



CHAPTER FOUR

It was strange driving a car through a city that had suddenly become alive. The sky was purple and flowing above her like she was looking up at waves from underneath. Tall loping figures and tiny flickering shadows the size of cats moved invisibly between physical people down the street, sometimes even in the middle of the road.

Ahead of her, one of the tall figures draped in black ink walked in their direction. Dana let out a whimper of stress.

“Just drive, it’s not really there and the car won’t hurt it,” said Mina next to her.

She sighed and forced herself to keep her foot on the accelerator pedal. “What is it?”

“People have lots of names for them. I call them Walkers. They’re basically either lost souls that are too far gone to go to the other side, or they’re chunks of energy and emotion that have gathered together enough to gain some sentience.”

“I don’t understand, how does energy become even a little sentient?”

Mina sighed. “I don’t know the physics, but it just happens, I’ve watched it happen. Buildings and places collect some of the energy that humans give off just by living. It gets stuck in places, usually walls. And the accumulation of that energy just gets past a saturation point, and it... becomes self aware, but that awareness is limited by the emotion that created it. Most of the Walkers only know pain or loneliness or confusion.”

The figure blew right through the middle of the car, Dana felt a terrible shiver of helplessness brush through her heart and it was gone again. Her bottom lip lifted. “Can’t you help them?”

“Not really. Even if there was an easy answer there’s too many of them and humans keep making more every day just by living.”

“That’s awful.” Dana sighed, trying to concentrate on driving and listening. She pressed the indicator and drove the car into a narrower street that curved up. The house sat on the flat at the top of the hill. “We’re almost at the house,” she said quietly. “What are going to do when we get there?”

“Um, it depends on what kind of circle you found and how friendly the house is.”

Dana glanced sideways at Mina. “Houses can be friendly?”

Mina smirked at her. “Well, they accumulate energy too. And for a witch like me and you, your house being friendly is important.”

“Well, that’s just great, another thing to complicate my life.” The car got to the top of the hill, and she pulled over to the side of the road and parked in front of the house. She grabbed the crystal with the blue energy from her lap and got out of the car. The passenger door opened and closed, and they both looked up at the house.

It somehow seemed much less creepy to Dana now. The outside of it was covered in a flowing, watery cloud. The energy seemed to be uneven, sometimes leaving big holes in the blur as if it was a storm. She moved around the car to stand next to Mina who smiled at her for a moment.

“Nice house. Obviously been lived in by another witch at some point.”

Dana’s eye’s widened. “Obviously?”

Mina pointed up. “The white energy, that’s the remains of some protection wards. The holes show that it hasn’t been maintained, but much of the ground floor is still shielded. Do you know anything about the seller?”

Dana shook her head. “I’m just the assessor, but it’s been empty for a while.”

“OK. Well, we should get inside. If the leech has got a hold of your energy signature the longer you’re out in the open the nearer it will be to finding you again.” Mina indicated the house with one hand. “After you.”

Up on the deck, the front door was unlocked but thankfully closed, which was a good thing for the future of her job as long as no one got in while she was freaking out. She moved in through the door and the line of white fog parted to let her in.

Dana expected to feel that creepy sensation again, but when she moved inside it was incredibly peaceful. In fact, she almost felt as if she was coming home. She stood in the entrance, looking around with a frown on her face.

“What’s wrong?” asked Mina.

“It’s not creepy here. It feels like a hug.”

Mina chuckled and closed the door behind her. “That’s because it’s a friendly house. Last time you were here there was a big leech and your own expectations influencing your feelings.”

Someone giggled, and it sounded like a small someone. Dana glanced up at the balcony above her and a little figure fell towards them. She let out a cry of surprise and stepped back.

A little girl, quite transparent, stood in the middle of the entrance, her hands up around her face like claws.

She giggled again. “Rawr! Rar-rar-rawr!”

Dana stared at her, blinking as she tried to understand what she was seeing.

The girl dropped her hands and stared back at her. “You can see me?”

Mina laughed. “Yes, both of us can see you. What’s your name, kid?”

The girl straightened. “Wilhelmina.”

“Me too!” Mina grinned. “How long have you lived here?”

Ghost girl shook her head. “I don’t know, but I can’t leave. Do you know how I can leave? I’m sure my mama’s waiting for me.

“I might be able to help, but could you help us first before you go?”

She nodded. “I can try, but I can’t touch anything.”

“Did you see what happened to Dana last time she came here?”

“In the Drawing Room?” She moved towards the wall. “Yes! This way!” The girl moved right through the wall into the next room.

Mina snorted. “Well, that’s not helpful!”

“There’s a door just there.” Dana moved back towards the entrance and an alcove, which partially hid the doorway from view.

Down to the Creek

By Ashley Uzzell

Sunlight peeps through the branches and leaves
To shine down upon my face
The sand is cool beneath my bare feet
As I keep a steady pace
The smells of summer surround me
The whisper of the wind in my ear
The feel of the worn fishing pole
Is a familiar comfort that I hold near
I have walked this path a million summers
I hope to walk it a million more
The trip as pleasant as the destination
Always welcome, never a bore
With my trusty old dog beside me
As relaxed and content as I
We make our way down to the creek
With no cares of how time will fly
We are often gone for the entire day
Every weekend, just him and me
This is the place where I can be myself
This is where I am truly free



Stained Glass

By Joanne Van Leerdam

'Stained Glass' is poetry that reflects the light and shade of life, and all the colours in between.

The poet celebrates the strength and extraordinary resilience of women through the exploration of diverse issues, including love, loss, social expectations, self-awareness and integrity.

In rare moments the glass is rose-coloured; elsewhere, the window is astonishingly clear.

Spotlight Author Cartoon

Claire asks us to describe ourselves as a cartoon character, and that's really difficult. This is normally the part where I would be a smart ass and say, imagine the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man from the old Ghostbusters cartoons, because they already animated me. Otherwise I would see myself as a caricature of the Irish in America, but as this magazine is put out by someone outside of the US I have to remember that not everyone will get that reference. So how do I take this seriously, and do justice to the request of a person who has done me a huge service by putting me forth in this venue?

If I were a cartoon character it would be one of those older style cartoons, where the lines still run through it, an animated short before a movie on reels. Not something on television, and not something on the computer. When my image starts you can hear the distinctive hiss of the theatre, the old school noise of antiquated surround sound. The colors don't burn your eyes. They are vibrant, but in the muted way that the seventies and eighties had. Not classic, but not modern. This cartoon is... vintage, you think about calling your parents, because it is something they might remember, and you can enjoy it together.

The camera pans back and there he is, the star. He's not funny, no, this is a cartoon with a message, as soon as you see him you know it. He is drawn with a set mouth, and eyebrows that mean anger and judgement. He is larger than life, which is animator code for could stand to lose some weight. His hair has that muted glow of a dying fire that seems to define so much of him. Pale skin with muddy brown dots, that part at least can draw a smile. It's good that he has the long, reddish hair, because he dresses in black. Why would a cartoon wear a suit, and a fedora? Because his face is stern, and so is his posture.

He leans over a map, but he is standing on the map. He holds a book in his left hand, the side that faces the screen. He is bent at the waist, the book held by his hip. It should be a bible, he has that kind of look, like a missionary, but instead we know that it is one of the ones he wrote, the lesson he is imparting in it, that is what he preaches. In this map, he leans over the US and he is shaking the index finger of his right hand at his own country. It should be scolding, but now we look deeper and we see a twinkle in his eyes, that joviality men of his girth are known for battles with rage and depression in those orbs. The stern set lips are twisting up in a knowing smirk. He hopes that this time they'll listen, but why would they? He's just a cartoon.



C L Cannon - Indie Author



Tell us a bit about yourself.

My name is Courtney Cannon, writing under the name C.L. Cannon. I'm thirty years old going on five. I love to read and believe that nothing in this world is stronger than the imagination. Movies will never be books, and beauty is only skin deep. I love music, and I frequently sing in my car, much to the dismay of the other cars surrounding me, I'm sure! 😊 I have an overwhelming love for anything and everything British! I am the mother of two precious and rotten little boys aged six and two. I am married to an amazing guy that for some reason puts up with me and has done for nearly eleven years now. I am a book editor, cover designer, formatter, trailer maker, voice actress, promoter, and general all around one-stop shop for anything and everything that goes into publishing.

I will be opening my own publishing house later this year and begin picking up authors soon thereafter. In my free time, which is few and far between, I write. I prefer to write and read in the fantasy and sci-fi genres, but I do have some contemporary romance shorts written, and one of them has been published in an anthology. I hope to release my first full-length Paranormal Fantasy novel "Forget Me Not" in late July.'

What brought you to the world of writing?

I have been writing since I was about eight years old. I started with an alternate ending to Little Women. I was not happy with that ending, so I made sure that Jo ended up with Laurie. It was terribly melodramatic!

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

I have a short story I released last November, and I am still pretty happy with it, but I do want to expand on it because I still have the characters thumping around in my head!

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

I write both Paranormal Fantasy and Contemporary Romance books. However, I do like to focus more on building relationships and making sure that nothing is too instant. I don't think my writing is quite as black and white as those two categories paint it. My stories are character driven, and I am hoping that my readers will enjoy that. I have gotten positive feedback for my short story, and I will be sending my novel out in the next few months to betas to get their opinions.

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

My first full-length novel Forget Me Not is coming in late July or August of this year. I would love to share some information about it.

Blurb: *Life is about choices. Every choice sets us down dividing paths. Three years ago, Bree Nolan and Finn Hadley were found bleeding and broken in the middle of London's Epping Forest with no clue as to who they were or where they came from. With past and purpose all but forgotten, they must cling to the one thing they know, friendship. When remnants of their past come back to haunt them, they realize that they are not as powerless as they once believed. The fight for their future has just begun, and only their past can save them. Sometimes we'll do anything to make up for our wrong choices.*

Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34385527-forget-me-not>

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

It really depends on what my target length is for the story, but it also depends on the complexity of the world I'm building. I can write a contemporary romance fairly quickly while a fantasy story is going to take me months and months and months because of the amount of world building that goes into a fantasy novel.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

I have been working on this a lot lately because I was a pantsier and now I'm trying to get a more structured outline done before I write. I definitely go in with it least a bare bones skeleton of what I know I want to happen and work from that.

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

I have written both. I tend to like first person to get into the character's head, but I find that third person is easier for me to use in stories where vast amounts of world building is required.

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

I write a lot by hand and then edit as I type, but I also find myself constantly rereading sentences and editing while I write as well.

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

I market to people who are into fantasy and sci-fi. I also target people who have read books that I feel are similar to mine.

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

I have one short story that is published in an anthology, and that is with a publisher. For my full-length novels and most of my future projects, I intend to self-publish so that I have a greater amount of control and greater profit.

How do you promote your writing?

I have a social media page on about every site. I market there daily. I also use co-promote, and I do many author takeovers each week. I do marketing vlogs on YouTube every Wednesday and author interviews every Friday.

Where can we buy your books?

My website has all the buying links for my short story. Forget Me Not will also be listed there when it is released.

<http://clcannon.net/my-books>

<https://www.amazon.com/C.L.-Cannon/e/B01N92E59A>

Who are your favourite authors?

I very much enjoy J.K. Rowling, J.R.R. Tolkien, Cassandra Clare, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Louisa May Alcott, Thomas Hardy, Terry Goodkind, Jim Butcher, George R.R. Martin, K.K. Allen, Rebekah Dodson, and Nick Hornby.

Links

<http://clcannon.net/>

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

<https://twitter.com/CLCannonAuthor>

https://www.instagram.com/cl_cannon

<http://amazon.com/author/clcannon>

<https://www.goodreads.com/CLCannon>

<http://youtube.com/c/clcannonauthor>

Changing the Guard – FLASH FICTION**By Jane Risdon - © 2013**

Sam 'the stiletto' Musso waited until the noise died down before clearing his throat and looking up from his notes.

'We are agreed. No more discussion, no more voting. Sonny Versace is toast.' Hands and cutlery thudded on the white clothed tables as the various Families showed their approval.

'Don Giacanni, 'The South-side Chapter,' has elected to make the arrangements. He has given the honour of 'retiring' Sonny to his trusty foot-soldier, 'Arturo, 'I invoke the Fifth,' Giovanni.' Cheering and more table banging followed as Sam smiled at the white-haired Don sitting at the table opposite.

The only female Don watched carefully as her fellow Dons made their way out of the dining room. They suspected nothing. Those sitting with her began discussing who would have the largest slice of Sonny's part of the city. She waited, silent, amused.

Without warning Sam fell forward onto the table, as dead as he could be. Before the others could react, they too fell forward; dead.

Sophia, 'the nurse,' sat quietly, listening to the sounds of gun fire and screams coming from outside. Her foot-soldiers had succeeded, and she was now undisputed Don of Dons.

Spotlight Author Recipe - Satire

*So, I was asked for a recipe. Being that the biggest part of my heritage is Irish, and I've never been rich, and my most **recent book is a satire**, well, I have to give you a recipe about how to cook a baby, and feed it to the rich. So, without further ado...*

Patrick Elliott presents Irish Peasant Children for Feeding to the One Percent

Gather your ingredients. Remember, children tend to run off. The nice thing about peasant children is they tend to be malnourished, so they don't move fast and can't run very far. That's one of the reasons we use them, that and their general uselessness in all other ways.

Ingredients List –

Consumables –

Irish peasant children 1 to 2 per person being served*. If they are small, as peasants tend to be, use 2.

Garlic cloves, 1 per ever 2 to 3 peasant children (to taste).

Butter (we recommend using Irish Butter, but heathens can substitute) 2 to 3 TBS per 1 to 2 peasant children.

Heavy whipping cream 1 TBS per 1 to 2 peasant children, but in truth you just pour it in to taste.

Sharp cheddar cheese**

One to six cans of dark beer.

Running water – You may need to steal from your neighbour, you impoverished freak.

Hardware-

One big pot, probably the one you bathe your children in.

A strainer

A potato masher

A wooden spoon

A source of heat, we suggest a stove, but wood or tire fire will work in a pinch

Begin consuming the beer. No, seriously, that is the sole purpose of the beer. Being a bit blotto helps with the next step., Start drinking the beer, and keep going until you don't want any more booze.

Chop up the peasant children (if you are going to peel them do it just before this step and know that I am laughing at you). Ignore their screams and cries and cube them into as equal parts as you manager.

Peel the garlic, but keep the cloves whole. Set aside.

Grate the cheese if necessary and set it, the butter and the whipping cream aside.

Fill your giant pot with water, and put it over high heat. Add in the peasant children bits and garlic cloves and bring to a boil.

Stir occasionally, until the peasant bits are soft and mushy. Be happy you chopped them up in an earlier step so they cannot scream now. This takes about half an hour.

Drain the mixture, then add back into the pot and mash until smooth, the only lumps should be your peels. Add butter and cream, return to heat.

Reduce heat to medium high, and stir until the butter is melted and all ingredients are combined.

Add cheese, stir until the cheese melts and all ingredients combine to a deliciously gooey consistency.

Serve with some sort of meet, preferably one based on the suffering of an animal, and have a delightful conversation about the oppression of the lower classes and how they don't know their place. If dining alone please read one of Patrick Elliott's books whilst enjoying this treat. If entertaining, make sure you have purchased one of his books for each of your guests as a gift and encourage them to leave reviews when done.

*We suggest leaving the dirt and filth on, you might run them under water. However, if you prefer, you may peel off the health, nutritious layer of Erin Sod that adds to the deliciousness. Further note. If your morals, religion, or dietary restrictions prohibit the consumption of meat, humans, or specifically children (you big wimp) you can substitute potatoes for peasant children.

**If you buy pre-grated use half a bag for every one to two people dining. If you buy in brick form, gate a quarter to half a pound per one to two diners, and set the cheese aside.

INDIE AUTHOR WEBSITES – to be continued next month

Ani Manjikian <http://lonehorsespirit.com>
Maureen Larter <https://www.amazon.com/Maureen-Larter/e/BooISCNZ4U>
May Jackie Panayi <https://www.facebook.com/mayj.panayi/>
Brenda Mohammed <http://Author.to/BCM786>
Karen J Mossman <https://m.facebook.com/karenjmossmanauthor/>
Paul Williams <https://www.facebook.com/pawilliamsauthor/>
Kelly S. Marsden <http://kellymarsden.wix.com/home>
Tom Fallwell <https://www.facebook.com/AuthorTomFallwell>
Michelle Murray <www.facebook.com/dreamwalkerseries>
Wanda Mital Luthman <www.facebook.com/wluthman>
Ashley Marie Uzzell <www.authorauzell.wordpress.com>
Audrina Lane <https://m.facebook.com/AudrinasPlace/>
Sharon Lipman <www.facebook.com/sharonlipmanauthor>
Cindy J. Smith <https://www.facebook.com/CindysVoices/>
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Lily Luchesi <http://facebook.com/lilyluchesi>
Bryan Tann <https://m.facebook.com/AuthorBryanTann/>
Bobbi Lonkoski <http://www.facebook.com/BobbiJean>
R James Stevens <https://facebook.com/rjamesstevensauthor>
TP Keane <https://www.facebook.com/tpkeane/>
Ian Lahey <www.facebook.com/lovewritingstuff>
Larry Yoakum III <www.larryyoakum3.webs.com>
Les Lynam <https://www.facebook.com/LynamTimeWillTell/>
Dawn Thorp Yurkas <https://www.facebook.com/dryurkas>
Jeanne Gioia <https://www.facebook.com/Author-Jeanne-Gioia.../>
Melody Thorp <https://www.facebook.com/MELODYBLACKTHORP/>
Susan Tarr <https://www.amazon.com/Susan-Tarr/e/BooIoI3M9U>
Joanne Ruth <https://www.amazon.com/Joan.../e/Bo1MQXICDV/>
Bobbi Lonkoski <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1543086241/>
Author David Nadolny <https://www.amazon.com/David-Nadolny/e/Bo6XHF1H4K>
Jennifer Vinck A. E. Lowan <www.aelowan.com>
Brahim ELboukhari <http://brahimelboukhari.com>
Courtney Cannon <http://facebook.com/clcannonauthor>
Ami Lutkus-Phillips <http://facebook.com/MackenzieFlohrAuthor>
Patty Fletcher <http://dvorkin.com/pattyfletcher/>
Bryan Tann <https://m.facebook.com/AuthorBryanTann/>
Larissa Shively-Vitt <https://m.facebook.com/LMVitt/>
Ilana Maletz <https://www.facebook.com/ilanamaletz.author/>
Jenna Burke <https://www.facebook.com/jenna.bayleyburke/>
Haven Cage <www.authorhavencage.com>
Rose Montague <http://www.amazon.com/Rose-Montague/e/BooGL9UPH2>
Judith Mehl <https://www.facebook.com/JudithMehlAuthor>
Anais Chartschenko <https://www.facebook.com/anaischartschenko/>

Q & A with Jennifer Deese

Hello one, and all. Thank you for dropping in to see what queries this month's issue of Q & A with Jenn will be addressing. In previous issues, we have addressed such things as formatting, publishing platforms, good places to get images to use for teasers, covers, trailers and more. Most questions have been geared more toward the technical side of writing and publishing so this time around I thought it would be refreshing to take a look at some other aspects of writing. For instance, what inspires an author's idea for a storyline?

Inspiration comes in many ways. It can strike you out of the blue, sparked by an object, event, music, conversation, scenery and a myriad of other things. There's truly no rules of engagement when it comes to the birthing of an idea or storyline. I have a story called Jingle Jars, and its inspiration came in the form of a necklace pendant. I was at an arts and craft type of festival and came across these necklaces that caught my eye. Each necklace had a tiny little jar/bottle with a corked top. Inside were the tiniest little pieces of what looked like parchment paper with one word on them. The words varied but, the one I picked up to look more closely at had the word 'TIME' printed on it. That combined with a conversation I had with my boyfriend earlier that week started the creative juices flowing for the story. Another of my written works, Haunted House Arrest, was inspired by an occurrence in my own life. Which just goes to prove that ideas are sometimes grown from some very unusual and surprising gardens. Never forget that even the weeds and pests, in said gardens, can bring forth wondrous things.

Yes indeed, inspiration, in my opinion, is unique to each individual. What inspires and motivates one person can mean nothing or little to another. I often say that life and everything it entails is inspiration enough for a library full of books. The definition of inspiration is the process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially something creative.

Before I go on to the next subject, I would like to invite each of you to share with me/us what, who etc inspires you. Please share your inspirations for writing your stories/book, artwork, craft or what have you in the FaceBook group associated with this publication. Simply go to the Q & A post heading in the pages feed and put your thoughts and experiences with inspiration in the comments. Go Here to post
I look forward to reading your posts.

Ok, so on to another query. Do you autograph your books with a simple signature or do you add a small passage or sentence as well? And, if you do add a passage or sentence is it the same for everyone or do you change it up? I tend to add a passage to my signatures. I find it more personable and I hold the opinion that it makes us more approachable/likable in the eyes of our readers and fans. I know that when I have received signed copies and the author has just simply signed their name I am a wee bit disappointed, but when the writer has added a sentence or two it makes the book even that more special. Now of course, I know that in all reality an author may not always have the time or inclination to do more than just sign a name and that is ok...the book will still either be good or bad despite what an author has included, or not included, with their John Hancock. I tend to change up what I include with my signature, it all depends on who the person I am signing for is. If it's a friend, family member, or something along those lines, I try to make what I write relatable to them in some manner (and if you knew me and my family/friends you would instantly understand how a signature could turn into a story in and of its own-self. Wink wink and ha ha ha). I have two phrases that I switch back and forth between for folks I do not know, and in the case of my book that is going to be part of a series those phrases tend to relate to the actual book in some way or another. For example - May your world and experiences be as magical as the words you read or I hope your life and times be as magical as Osipia. I am currently seeking out an ink stamp that is an orchid so that I may add the stamp to my autographs as well. Things like that add personality. Please feel free, as with the question above, to share with us, on the Facebook group page The Indie Publishing News, your thoughts on this. Do you have a unique kind of way to autograph, such as calligraphy, stamps, quotes, phrases etc? I look forward to reading your comments.



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The Letter – Flash Fiction

By Jane Risdon

(c) 2013

Haunted by the neat sloping writing on the blue Basildon Bond paper which lay accusingly on her writing desk, the old woman sat locked inside her thoughts. She couldn't bear to pick the letter up to read it again, but there was no need really. The contents were not unexpected after-all. She'd been waiting nearly forty years for something like this to happen. And now it had.

Every knock at the door, every strange hand's address on an envelope had filled her with such fear the like of which she could never share. She had never told. The only reason she had an answering machine on her phone was so that she could screen her calls. Just in case. Now, there on the desk along with all her bills and other correspondence, the letter laid, the words terrorising her silently across the darkening room. She didn't ask herself how or why. She knew the answers and had known this moment would come eventually, either in the form of a visit, a phone call or a letter. Forty birthdays had come and gone and with each passing one she had agitated in case this time it would be the one; the day when she would have to face her past.

Long ago she had put away the photo, the little sepia image now faded with age and fingering. There was nothing she could have done even if she had wanted to, and she wasn't even sure any longer if she had ever wanted to do anything. At first it was not a matter of choice but necessity, but there had come a time, many years later when she supposed she could have, possibly should have, tried.

Soon it would be over. Of course she could ignore the letter but that might force a visit, in person, without warning. She could pretend it had never arrived and feign ignorance if anyone queried its receipt. Her stricken mind tried to battle with her emotions. Part of her needed this to happen, craved it and dreaded it, fought against it and longed for it.

Her tired faded eyes moved across the room to stare at the blue ghost beckoning her. A date and a time had been suggested and if she didn't respond the writer would understand, after all it must be an awful shock after so many years, but hoped that she would consent to a meeting, without strings of course. Without strings, the old woman mused. There were always strings, and there would always be strings. She sighed heavily, tears brimming as she stood and made her way over to the letter. She picked it up, reached for the telephone and dialled.

Flash Fiction 1k Words

A Chance Encounter By Jennifer Deese

The day started bright and sunny, her coffee was smooth, just the way she loved it. The outside beckoned. Her need to submerge herself in Mother Nature's earthly embrace was poignant and urgent. Roxie quickly finished her morning routine, and donned the active wear she preferred for hikes along the mountain trails surrounding her property. She felt she was on the edge of something monumental but, for the life of her, she couldn't figure out what. Shaking off the feeling, she stepped off the veranda...reveling in the soft, spongy feel of rich earth beneath her sneakers. Taking a deep breath of the refreshing air, Roxie headed for the trail head. Again, she had to push away the feeling that something was looming above her head. Instead, she allowed nature to soothe away life's hectic worries, and chaotic events. After a few stretches she was off for the needed exertion of a long hike.

Twenty minutes into her journey, as she was rounding a bend in the trail, she noticed an elderly woman walking towards her. The woman locked eyes with her, and in an instant, she liked this stranger - immediately she felt a deep connection. As the two women walked towards one another, the woman flashed a welcoming smile, waving as if they were old friends. Roxie smiled in reply. "Hello" said the woman "I was looking to have a seat, and enjoy a bite to eat. I've got plenty, would you care to join me?" Before she knew it, and without knowing why, Roxie said yes - something she would normally never have done. She followed the lady to a patch of flat grass, in a clearing, on the side of the trail. Her brain was having trouble grasping the fact that she had so readily agreed to a picnic with a total stranger. Usually cautious, over cautious actually, impulsive behaviors were a stranger to Roxie. From childhood, she had always been hesitant to open up, or to be impulsive and carefree, to the point of causing others to steer away from her company. She tended to come off as closed, and unwelcoming. That trait had carried over into her adulthood, and if she were to be completely honest with herself she would even say it was the very reason she was still alone in her mid-thirties. She had never been in a relationship, in fact, it was rare for any of her first dates to ask for a second. She was well aware that this particular quirk in her personality was handicapping her, it was robbing her of living a full, and satisfying life. To counter that she submerged herself in her work, filling every little void with work, work and... more work in a feeble attempt to chase away the moments of loneliness.

The sandwiches the woman offered were delicious. The lemonade was refreshing. After thanking the woman, Roxie lay back to look up at the sky - wondering what had made her so easily agree to join a stranger for lunch, out in the middle of nowhere. The woman cleared her throat, and asked Roxie if she would be willing to listen to her talk a bit. "I so rarely get to chat with others. "My life has been lived mostly alone. I never married, never did much outside of my comfort zone", the old lady said with a sigh. "And I would so love to just talk to another person for a bit. Would that be okay with you?", she asked, peering intently at Roxie. Again, Roxie was compelled to comply, something in the aged eyes, and wrinkled face of this stranger rang the bell of familiarity.

"I've gained a lot of hindsight wisdom in my years," the woman stated, "And I have found that when you second guess yourself you make unchangeable changes in your fate. The failure to move beyond what is comfortable to you, and hesitations to make a bold move will cost you a lifetime of happiness...and companionship. Caution is good in small doses but, if all you ever do, such as I have done, is stress and worry about the myriad of what ifs, then that is all you do...stress and worry. These things can turn a journey with a soulmate into a walk of loneliness. You meet your soul mate once, and if you let that meeting slip by without grasping it to your heart, and soul, it will be a loss felt forever. I once had a chance, on this very trail, to meet my soulmate. I let my own over cautious hesitation take him away. I've wondered every day, if indeed, that man I failed to speak to was who the Fates had truly intended for me to be with. Caution and hesitation have been my bane, young lady. Please, do not let them be yours..." As the old lady finished talking Roxie felt something deep in her soul quiver for a moment, it was as if this strange, perplexing little old lady was talking about her. How could that ever be? Roxie thought to herself.

A few minutes later she was helping the woman pack up the leftovers and utensils. Thanking the kind stranger for the pleasant lunch and conversation Roxie stuck out her hand, and instead of shaking her hand the woman grasped her by the shoulders pulling her in for a tight hug. Right before she released Roxie she whispered, "Let your life happen, Live!"

As the woman turned back toward where she had come from, Roxie turned toward home, the words of wisdom still with her. To her absolute surprise, she noticed a tall, and rather handsome, man standing on the cliff side of the trail. He was staring intently at the vista of the valley below. Not sure how long he had been there, she was going to ignore him, but something inside her found the strength to push aside her hesitation...maybe it was the words of the old lady. Clearing her throat and, swallowing her nervousness, she

called out a hesitant greeting. Fear almost made her scurry away down the path but, the wise words of the old lady made her throw caution to the wind. He turned toward her, waved and gestured for her to join him on the precipice, a warm smile on his face...a smile that immediately felt like a warm fire on an icy cold night. Before she joined him, she gave one last glance in the direction of the old lady.

The kind woman was just about out of view, around the bend, when Roxie called out, "I didn't get your name!"

"My dear, you know who I am... My name is Roxie"

THE END

Sponsorship Program – Closing 31st May 2017



Under Cover – Flash Fiction By Jane Risdon (c) 2014

For the last three years she had lived another life, had buried her real self, taking on the mantle of a hardened Madam, a trafficker of girls, the worst kind of criminal and, for the umpteenth time, she had fought nausea as she negotiated with the Eastern European.

Her control back at the command centre had shown concern the last time they'd met. He could see the physical and mental toll this assignment was having on her, but they were committed now; there was no going back. The team had spent too long infiltrating the organisation and she was their only hope. During the time she had been under cover she had alerted them to more shipments of girls than he cared to recall, and the risk had grown with her every betrayal.

She knew it was only a matter of time before they rumbled her and her life wouldn't be worth a fig if the team were unable to protect her and extradite her at exactly the right moment. The latest shipment had arrived at Heathrow only hours before and were already on their way to a secret location in London where there would be an auction of the girls, some as young as eight, and where the special unit of police would be waiting to raid them. Her message had been received and the team was ready for any trouble which might ensue.

Marko eyed her from the bed as she gathered her clothes and prepared to shower and dress. He didn't trust her any more, she seemed nervous and remote these days and his gut didn't feel right; she didn't feel right. For a long time he'd had suspicions, she seemed to be softening towards the girls under her control and he was debating whether to remove her from her role as Madam of the main whore house which she'd run so successfully. Too many things had been going wrong lately. Too many shipments had been discovered and although he had managed to remain more or less anonymous and untouchable, he knew his luck would run out unless he acted soon. Was it her? He hoped it wasn't but he would soon know; the trap was set. If the latest consignment of girls was discovered, and raided, he would know.

She lingered in the bathroom, fully dressed, senses heightened. Marko had been a bit distant and had appeared suspicious of her movements all week. He seemed to make a point of repeating the instructions for the latest intake of girls - where they would be, even giving her more detail than usual about on-line bidders. Something wasn't right. She needed to contact control. Marko's kiss goodbye seemed final somehow.

As she pulled to door gently towards her, the phone rang. She hesitated, listening to the conversation, her ear against the door; terror gripped her as she heard his words. As she turned a strong pair of arms grabbed her, and she screamed.

Recently Released Books

The Whisper Collector

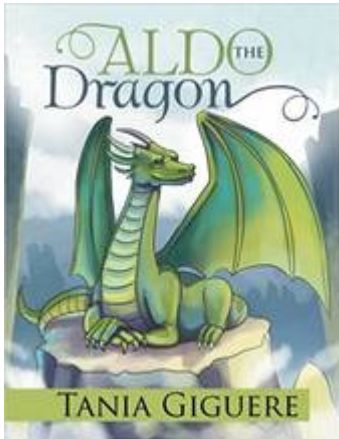
By Anais Chartschenko

The Whisper Collector is a dark and intensely honest book of poetry. There are five distinct collections of poems within-Provincial Lies, The Lacerations of Longing, A Tethered Ghost, Mother Tongue, and Munin. Each invite the reader to listen to the whispers of love, despair, doubt, and trust.

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Aldo the Dragon By Tania Giguere



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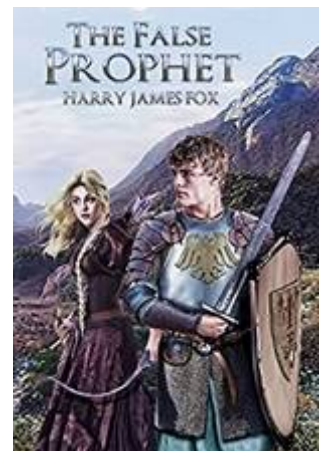
Aldo is an old and wise dragon that came to nest upon a rock overlooking a small village. Aldo being of great kindness sees the need of the villagers and their children. So Aldo begins caring for them and teaching the men how to become more excellent hunters. For when the cold wind sets in food will be plenty and their families will not go hungry. Aldo also teaches the women of the village how to grow their gardens in all types of weather and how to love the seed and mother earth.

The children also enjoyed Aldo and became more productive in their way of life. They loved gathering around him when their chores were finished listening to Aldo tell stories about the old ways and of the old code which the knights lived by. Aldo wanted the children to learn how, to be honest, and fair with all people, and he became their close friend and protector all living together in harmony.

The False Prophet By Harry James Fox

The Stonegate series continues its epic tale of romance and adventure, set in future North America. Romance, adventure, courage, and sacrifice as an unlikely hero joins a desperate struggle against a vast army bent on conquest.

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The Pharaoh's Destiny **By Markie Madden**

The year is 1477 B.C.E. and history is about to change...

Hatshepsut, the Great King's Wife, is thrust into a world of intrigue and politics when her husband, Pharaoh Thutmose, dies suddenly, leaving Egypt with an heir who is barely two years old. The Queen must step into the role of leader, and there are few whom she can trust.

When Hatshepsut is crowned as Pharaoh, she grooms her daughter, Neferure, to take the place of heir, rather than Thutmose's infant son from another woman. Neferure, though young, is still older than the boy who should by all rights be king.

The future of Egypt rests in the hands of a single woman, the most powerful woman in the ancient world. Can Pharaoh Hatshepsut's people accept her unorthodox reign, and her plans to usurp the men's place as rulers of a Kingdom, decreeing that only women are suitable leaders?

Gloria and the Unicorn **By Wanda Luthman**

Gloria and the Unicorn is a story that will delight you as well as pull on your heart strings as Gloria struggles with her facial disfigurement and wanting to fit in. Gloria's mother died at birth and her father gave her to Miss Libby, the owner of a children's home. Miss Libby loves the little girl and feels protective of her. But, it's not until Sir Louie, the unicorn, shows up that Gloria starts to believe in herself.

She has a conflict at school and never wants to go back and then she finds herself in an even worse situation; she encounters the evil Wizards of Malcadore who want to kill her. She must decide if she will face her fear of certain death to save her friend, Sir Louie, or lose him forever. Come along on Gloria's marvelous journey with Sir Louie.



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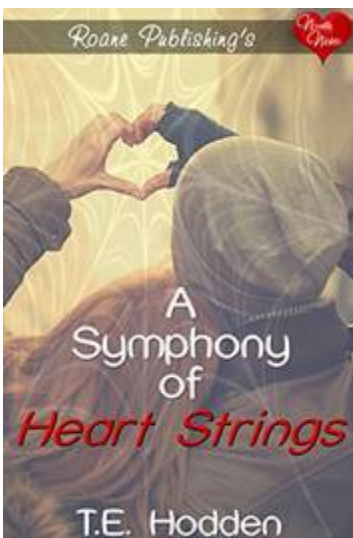
A Symphony of Heart Strings **By T E Hodden**

Meet Bob. Bob is the guy between the lines of every love story you ever met. The lucky chance, the twist of fate, the astounding coincidence that sets sparks flying. Never seen, but always there.

Today Bob is assigned to help Jenny find love. But there is something more than bad luck working against the quirky librarian. Bob might have to save her life, before he can help her find love.

And he can't do that from the shadows...

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Invincible Heart By Bryan Tann & Kindra Sowder

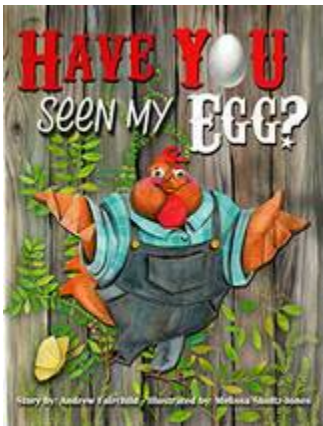
In the wake of rebel terrorist Mila Hunter's insurrection, President Emerson King needs a new weapon, a powerful weapon to combat this threat to his ultimate power; he needed The Invincible Heart project to create the perfect killer.

That perfect killer is John Baker. He is now tasked with the capture of Mila Hunter, dead or alive. Unfortunately for the President, John's HEART has other plans.

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Have You Seen My Egg By Andrew Fairchild



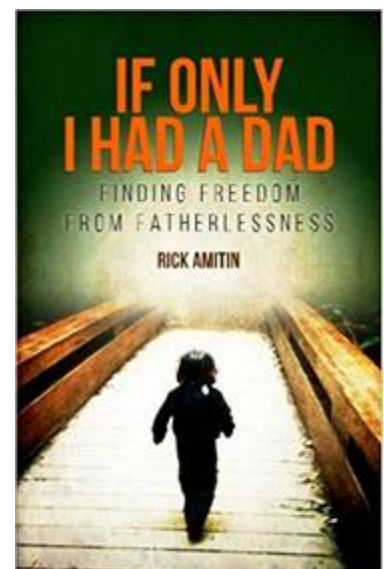
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"Have You Seen My Egg?" is an endearing story written by multi-award winning author Andrew Fairchild. This is a children's fiction about following your heart and allowing true love to be your guide. "Have You Seen My Egg?" is beautifully illustrated by Melissa Shultz-Jones.

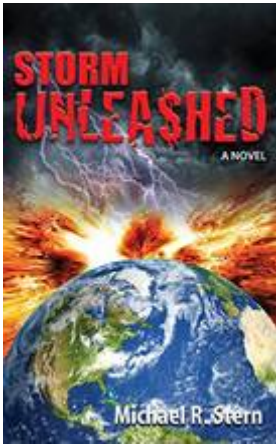
The story opens with the main character, Red the rooster, awakening from a dream. It is a dream that he has often and believes to be true, but roosters don't have eggs. Convinced that he does, Red goes on a quest that emerges from his dream to his heart to find his egg. On his farm a group of hens try to discourage Red by explaining that having eggs is simply a hen's job. Refusing to believe the news, Red goes on a journey. During his adventure, He runs into fellow farm friends who are eager to help him find his missing egg. Red encounters many challenging obstacles along the way, but refuses to give up despite life's unforeseen hurdles.

If Only I Had A Dad By Rick Amitin

"If only I had a dad..." Abandoned by his father as a small child, Rick Amitin survived a heartbreaking relationship with his mom and endured three stepfathers before he was nine years old. At fifteen, he set out on his own, traveling the world, searching for his dad, and finding it impossible to live happily without one. One misguided decision and painful consequence after another, Rick made his way through the military and answered the calling to ministry. He lifted people across the country and around the world while the wound of fatherlessness wreaked havoc on his relationships and pursuits, making him grapple with his lack of identity and sense of worth at every turn...that is, until his grand boy dropped out of heaven and into his arms and catalyzed his journey of healing. In If Only I Had a Dad, Rick's raw-polish approach to sharing his story and hard-earned wisdom will help other fatherless men and women to: · Identify the True Cause of All the Messy Dysfunction · Discover the Power on the Other Side of the Pain · Become the Whole Person They Never Thought Possible If you have been searching for an answer to your father hunger, wanting the pain to stop, this book is for you. Turn your Wandering into Wonder and Your Longing into Love.



[BUY LINK](#)



Storm Unleashed By Michael R Stern

A North Korean missile launch. A naval base attacked. Does the nation face a new menace? Or is an old one taking a treacherous turn? A plot to destroy any possibility for peace moves into high gear just as the president negotiates an end to war in the Middle East.

When Fritz returns from a trip through the portal, the world around him seems to have changed. His portal through space and time has proved a powerful tool. But entering it risks undeniable dangers. Even successful missions leave a trail of death. But despite the peril, he is resolved to use it to end the threat and capture the conspirators. But who are they? What do they want? Does a traitor stalk the president? Once again, Fritz Russell finds his life upended.

Bombs slam the White House and wreck the Oval Office. Suspicious killings continue. Information about a secretive cabal emerges. The portal might provide the only means of stopping resurgent violence in Manhattan, Washington, and around the world. Fritz, his wife Linda, and friends Ashley Gilbert and Major Jane Barclay confront great danger as a new storm of evil imperils the globe.

Determined to end the disruption to order, the men and women of Riverboro courageously use the portal to help the president bring light to the darkness of world politics.

But at what price?

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The Empath By Lisa Veldkamp

Battersea Park Station. Home of the company. The kind we all need, but nobody likes to talk about. Tristan Visconti works for the company and his clearance level has just been upgraded. Why? Simple, because he and his team have exactly one week to save our planet from impending doom.

When Tristan arrives in London, he needs to convince his client, Catherine van Dyk, of her own powers to help save our world. Problem is, Tristan believes he is on a suicide mission and so does his team. His former lover, Eve, is behaving out of character and then there is Alan, Catherine's ex. Like Tristan, Alan's an empath, but he's also a master of death and the company can't locate his whereabouts.

As Tristan, Catherine, Alan and Eve take center stage, the company is fulfilling its own agenda. Question is, are they working to save the world or to help destroy it?



[BUY LINK](#)



Oracle's Hunt By A Claire Everward

A security-critical facility is destroyed to get to it and it is called Oracle. That's all USFID investigator Donovan Pierce knows. And while he is told to find whoever perpetrated the deadly attack, and find them fast, he is also warned not to look for Oracle itself.

Lara Holsworth never expected Oracle to be in any danger. She would like nothing more than to keep it secret and Pierce away from it—and from her, but hiding is no longer an option.

With those who now know too much more determined than ever to destroy Oracle, will its protectors' cooperation be enough to keep it safe?

[BUY LINK](#)

Reflective Writing with Mal Dowie

Holistic Wellbeing – The Bike Frame

The bike frame is a representation of my holistic wellbeing. My overall function heavily relies on my mind, body, spirit and family as these pillars enable me to function with a clear conscience. I have adopted this attitude from my life experiences which have shaped the way I perceive life and people, and because of this I am more aware of my own positioning.

Having a solid foundation is available for everyone but what I believe is that we all have a choice to acknowledge and own our conscience. I chose to ignore a lot of values because they were not normal for me. I was comfortable in treating others with complete disrespect where their feelings did not concern me, but that was because through my childhood years I was heavily bullied and no one cared for my feelings.

From experiencing both sides of the fence I discovered the balance was "you give what you get, you get what you are given." and it helped to develop my understanding of how to treat people. "Treat people the way you want to be treated," works the way we want it to work. It does not necessarily mean it is a good thing or bad thing but it is definitely necessary to understand.

So now when engaging with people I listen for understanding and therefore my reactional response is a lot slower than it used to be. I am more interested in getting to know the heart so I can then understand the surface. People are humans with real feelings and it is these feelings which must be recognised. If anyone asked what a bully looked like to me back then, I would have easily described all the undesirable traits. Ask me today what a bully looks like and I could build a picture of the broken child that I once was where she was trying to find her escape.

Having a solid foundation creates belonging, wellness and strength. It is engrained deep within and is a permanent resident of our hearts. Just like the bike frame if our foundation is strong, then the components which are added will operate efficiently and effectively. We are the navigators of our own bike ride and our compass sets us up for our journey.

Mauri ora

Book Trailers

"Perfect mesh of Doctor Who and Harry Potter"

DoctorWhoOnline

<https://youtu.be/ZnEsyzSPwZc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzZ5XHY4D14> –
Music by Pluuto

<https://youtu.be/NHUCzVWDSXU>

<https://youtu.be/LEtjPPJ2WrI> - The Empath

https://youtu.be/z_BTfa4sCqE - 24 Hours to Love

<https://youtu.be/nWLz4PSJowA>

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THEM WITH
EVERYONE**

***Having your book turned into a movie is
Like seeing your oxen turned into bouillon cubes***

John le Carre

Authors Supporting Charities

LOOKING INTO THE ABYSS WITH PAUL WHITE

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

[BOOTS ON THE GROUND](#)

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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 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?

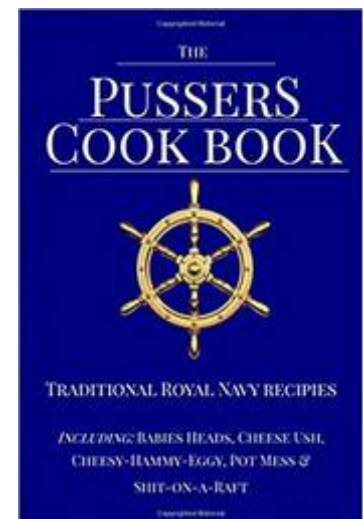
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The Pussers Cookbook

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://rnmchildrensfund.org.uk/>



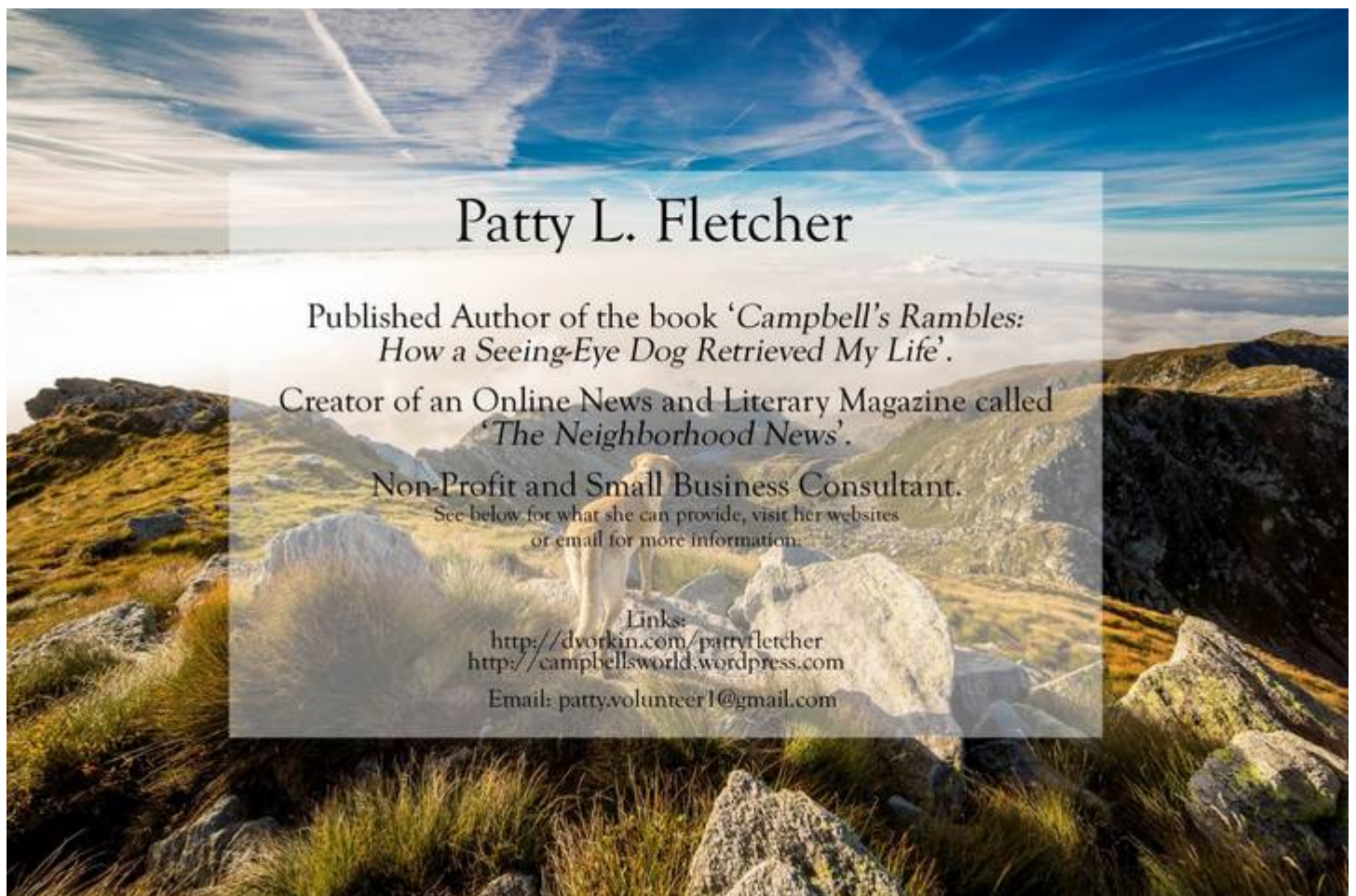
[BUY LINK](#)



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.

Find out more on my **Write On with Tom Fallwell** page on Facebook.
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