

ISSUE # 14

10 JULY 2017

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT
INTRODUCING

MARK
MCQUILLEN

FROM PARATROOPER TO INDIE AUTHOR

INDIE
PUBLISHING
NEWS

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

From the Editor's Desk



ATTENTION FOLKS:

PLEASE READ THE **PINNED POST** IN THE GROUP. **ALL INDIVIDUAL PROMO POSTS WILL BE DELETED.** YOU WANT FREE MARKETING THEN POST UNDER POST HEADING – ALL LINKS ARE IN PINNED POST. THERE IS NO EXCUSE.

IF YOU HAVE HAD AN INTERVIEW AS AN AUTHOR OR BUSINESS DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME DOWN AGAIN FOR **TWELVE MONTHS** IT WILL BE **DELETED.** IF YOU ARE BOTH AN AUTHOR AND HAVE A BUSINESS THEN PLEASE LEAVE AT LEAST **SIX MONTHS BETWEEN THE TWO.** THERE ARE 400 FOLKS IN THE GROUP!!

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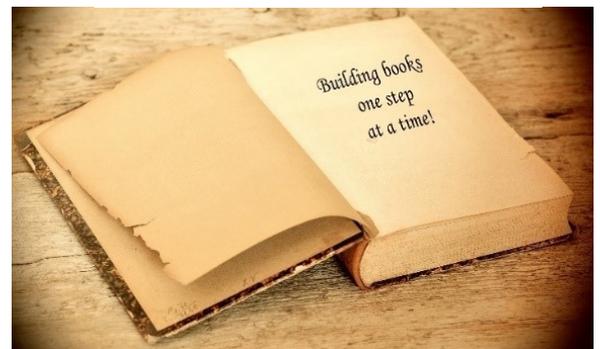
THANK YOU ALL FOR PARTICIPATING

Ghostly Writes
Submissions 2017

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

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

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If you are interested in Children's Fairy Tale Anthology you can find the group here: www.facebook.com/groups/ChildrensFairyTaleAnthology

Author Spotlight – Mark McQuillen

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I was born on Maelstrom AFB in Great Falls Montana. I have lived all over the world being a military brat and also with my own twenty years of service in the Air Force. I was in the air and sea rescue with 179 jumps. I have lived in most of Europe and Japan and spent a year in the USSR. Most of my family lives in Webster City, Iowa. I currently live with my wife and the puppies in Pueblo Colorado.

After retiring from the Air Force as a Tech Sargent. I went to work in customer service for AOL and other service providers in tech support. I was a computer geek before it was the cool thing to do. I really enjoyed my job. I liked being on the phone in customer service.

I began my journey in writing as a way to relieve stress. I was diagnosed with Degenerative Disc Disease and had to be fused from my waist to my tailbone. It took eight pounds of titanium to do this with. Unable to work a regular job I started writing Tolkien fan fiction on a site called the One Ring. As soon as I wrote the first few sentences I was hooked. I did this for four years before I started Darkness Awaits.



My inspiration for Darkness Awaits is a picture I have of a cloaked figure of a woman with a sword. I had been playing around with the idea when I saw this picture. 45,270 words later Darkness Awaits was finished. Two of my Valkyrie characters Mist and Malice came from Advanced Dungeons and Dragons. I based my main male character Gil after my father and myself as well as guys I served with. PTSD is a very real very horrible thing for anyone to go through writing Gil and Jack Swanson as your typical GI's that suffer from PTSD was a way for me to cope with my own battle with it.

As of now I have ideas for five maybe six books in the Valkyrie Darkness Series. I have another series in the works with Jessica Wren and Mara Reitsma called the Queen of Winter. It is being written solely in character over Facebook messenger. It has been a pretty crazy experience we have had times where we have written twenty-six pages in forty-eight hours then have a lull then off we go again. It is all about coordinating the right times to be able to work. I also have a book called Judgements that was released on June 3rd written with Mara Reitsma.

How do you develop your plots and characters?

I have taken things from movies, TV, movies etc, Malice the villainess and now heroine was started as a AD&D Character

Tell us about your latest book?

Legends III: Judgements is the climax of Malice's quest for her vengeance. After 15000 years she finally gets her man.

What inspired you to write it?

Mara Reitsma, we have so much fun writing them why stop now.

A good Hero/Villain can hard to write. How do you get in touch with your inner Heroes/Villains, to write your books?

Well Malice is not really hard to write for, she's always been as Steven King said my darker half. She does what people would like to do if they dared.

Which Genres have you written for?

Paranormal Fantasy is the only one I've written so far though the Legends series has turned into a space opera.

Do you spend hours doing your 'book research' or do you fly by the seat of your pants and wing it?

Depends on what I'm writing. For Legends I've done research into historical elements of my stories and the Welsh language. Most of the writing with Mara is the seat of the pants variety.

What was the hardest part of writing a book?

Getting started. The way I work I try to write something everyday.

What was your favorite scenes to write, and why? (Bloody Battles / Romantic Getaways / Erotic Rendezvous, etc...)

I like writing battle scenes. Figuring out the choreography of the battle is quite challenging.

When you write, where do you like to be? What is your ideal Author's Nook?

I have an old comfy recliner that I write in. I have a bad back so I need to be comfy. As long as my back is supported I can write everywhere.

Who encourages you to write?

My wife Alecia and Mara, its kind of hard not to.

Do you have any future projects?

Well Legends IV is being written as we speak, Valkyrie III Song of Darkness will be out by late summer I hope.

If you couldn't be an Author, what would your ideal career be?

I'd go back to working with computers, loved it.

What is your preferred method to have readers get in touch with or follow you (Website / Personal Blog / Facebook Page, Twitter, etc.) And link(s)?

Fans can contact me anywhere.

Links

<https://twitter.com/mmcquillen44>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/14240604.Mark_McQuillen

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1042538899090816/>

<http://amzn.to/2cs5see>

<http://mmcquillen44.wixsite.com/themadhouse>

Who are your Favourite Authors

JRR Tolkien of course. Along with Robert Jordan and Marion Zimmer Bradley

Cartoon Description

A Paratrooper – Namely Mark McQuillen, approaching the earth with his books to sell to everyone.



**Spotlight Author
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FLASH FICTION

This is Going to Hurt by Lily Luchesi

With one look in his eyes, she told herself, This is going to hurt when it's over.

However, it still needed to be done. The nest needed it, and she was in no position to starve the fledglings.

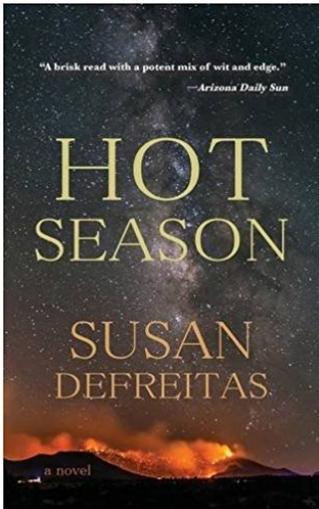
Her nails elongated into claws as she stood over the sleeping form of her boyfriend. You knew it was temporary, she thought. He's mortal: whether you kill him now or watch him die in fifty years, it's still going to be painful. This way, at least, his death had meaning.

She sliced her claws into his neck, opening veins and arteries as blood pumped into the bucket she'd placed before him. He didn't even have time to scream as his lifeblood poured out of him from the claws of the woman he loved.

"Huh," she muttered, licking his warm blood from her claws. "I guess it didn't hurt that much after all."

Indie Author Reviews

Hot Season by Susan Defreitas



I loved this book, it is so beautifully crafted. The author's words weave through the plot and setting with such lyricism, that the story truly casts a spell around the reader. The story is told from the viewpoint of four young women, whose lives intertwine not only through proximity in a small university town in Northern Arizona, but also through similar political and love interests. The plot heats up just like a hot desert day, each degree adding to the risk of wildfire, both in the inner and outer landscapes of these women.

The book leaves the reader pondering some big questions. How far are we willing to go for our beliefs? Can we ever truly know the full impact of our actions? In the face of uncertainty is it better to risk everything or stay on the sidelines? DeFreitas takes us on that journey, showing us characters who struggle to save a river, even as they struggle to find themselves. The very different paths taken by these women all come together in an intensely dramatic climax that leaves the reader reeling, both heartsick and hopeful all at the same time.

Set against a very vivid southwest backdrop, Hot Season is based in part on real events, making the story just that much more compelling. I highly recommend this book, and am giving it five stars.

Reviewed by Ilana Maletz

The Little Book of Big Wishes

What a lovely idea for an inspirational book. The wish sentiments for each day of the year are great. Some big, some small but all genuine wishes from genuine folks. Read straight through or one a day through the year, your choice because there are no set rules for this whimsical and lively illustrated book of wishes.

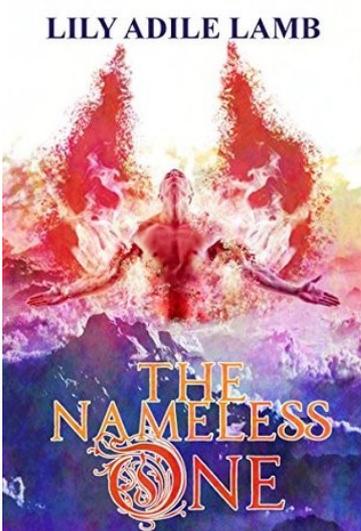
I plan on going back through each day, now that I've read them all, And enjoying one heartfelt wish a day for the year.

Great job to the ones that thought of it. A truly inspirational and unique book

Reviewed by Jennifer Deese-Author



The Nameless One by Lily Adile Lamb



One of the elders, and yet an outcast from birth. His mother was "punished" immediately and he was left motherless and would remain nameless because of his difference. Abused and teased for his whole life by his kind, Nameless was an outcast. It was not only his blue eyes but also his yearning to be with a man and not a woman. When a human came to ask for help from the elders, Nameless felt attracted. Their mutual desire led to their undoing. Both were punished by the elders. Nameless was sent to live in a bottle at the beck and call of any who found it. Forced to grant their wishes until someone set him free. Centuries pass and Nameless is found by an old man. Somehow this time felt different, the man did not ask for anything. Faine was a human who also desired males. An outcast because of his physical issues he lived with the guardian of the forest. Will these two meet? Is destiny at work? Who is the old man who will not ask for a wish?

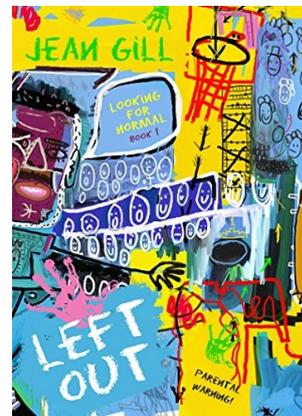
Intriguing story.

Reviewed by Cindy Smith



Left Out by Jean Gill

The story touches on numerous important issues about growing up, without preaching, judging, laying blame or displaying any prejudice. Introducing the theme of prejudice through the seemingly simple problems of a left-hander in the right-handed world lures us into seeing our world as it is – filled with prejudice all around. We realize how many times all of us show it, unaware, yet effectively hurting each other. The witty and humorous parts of the story and the wonderful characters will feed your soul, and basically inspire you to be a better person, not a mere conformist. A special treasure are the various kinds of parents in the story – they made me angry and smile at the same time, as I recognized myself in their attempts at doing what's best for their kids and loved them for it. Jamie and Ryan will, no doubt, resonate with teenagers – there is so much to relate to with those bright kids growing into great people.



The author shows admirable understanding of the teenage mind, led primarily by their emotional world, as they try to tug themselves out into reasonable adulthood. She displays the depth of their conviction, which sometimes may be misguided, but is deeply felt nonetheless, and we should therefore respect it in all its seriousness. For instance, when the main character Jamie observes her mother and never wants to be like her – we've all been there, right? Or when Ryan (mis)judges his mother's intentions – that scene made me rethink my own relationship with my son. Reading about Kelly's misplaced trust and about Ryan's new school, opened my eyes to the fact that it is no wonder how many teenagers enjoy gaming and fantasy so much – it is easier to bear than their own reality. But life has its twists and turns, and when we try to do better, we can, as Jean Gill proves. The story is permeated with author's expressive style gems, such as comparing Jamie's family to a bus terminal, informative texts about left-handers (with charming comments by the main characters) and the realistic family conversations.

As a parent and a teacher, I felt this book in my gut. It hits so close to home on more levels than I can count. I felt for all those kids, all those teachers and parents trying, failing and succeeding at doing the best they can. It is amazing to see how similar parenthood is all around the world, how many things can go wrong, how many times misunderstandings stem from brief, implied (mis)communication instead of good old-fashioned listening. This may well be the best writing by Jean Gill I've read yet, and I am so happy to know there are so many books I still haven't read by this author.

Reviewed by Anita Kovacevic

Pigeon Blood Red by Ed Duncan



I love crime novels, but I always have an issue with many of them being too similar to each other, not having a unique voice because the protagonists are too much alike. Pigeon-Blood Red differs from that because, while Rico is fairly run of the mill, Ed Duncan's voice is not. He writes beautifully weaved sentences that make you see the book in a different light than most others in the genre. Duncan did a great job taking common characters and making them sound even more exciting.

The plot is straightforward, lots of action with a hint of romance. Morals and values do come into it later on, making it nail-biting in a different manner than it already has been.

It's set partially in Chicago, which I love. Give me a book set in my home and I will be a very happy reader. The descriptions of the city and of Honolulu are well-written, adding some visuals to the story.

The book is dark, suspenseful, and heartfelt. A must read for crime lovers.

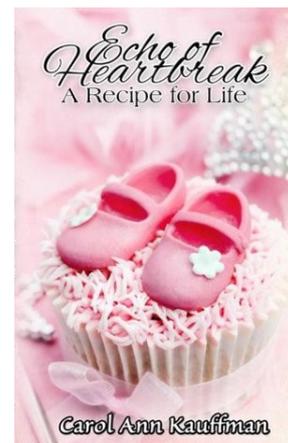
Reviewed by Kelly Smith

Echo of Heartbreak by Carol Ann Kauffman

Wow! What an wonderful, thoughtful book. It has inspired me to do a similar creation solely for my granddaughter so she can know what a wonderful person her mother was.

Melina has a life-threatening heart condition and is pregnant. The doctor has told her to continue the pregnancy will probably kill her. Melina chooses to give the baby life. She knows her unborn daughter and will never give up the hope of having her. Being realistic, she also knows she may never know the sweet girl she is carrying. Therefore she writes a journal to her. Family recipes are interspersed with facts of life. She makes sure her love will be known by her daughter. Great read, tears flow freely in many places. Wonderful family dynamics! Well written, thank you for this touching book.

Reviewed by Cindy Smith



ATTACK OF THE KILLER TENTS

AN ANN ARBOUR BOOK FESTIVAL REPORT

BY MACKENZIE FLOHR

Since 2003, Washington Street located between 4th Ave. and 5th Ave. in Ann Arbor, Michigan has hosted the community's annual book festival, featuring local authors, libraries, literacy groups, poets, publishers, etc. According to the festival's website - <http://aabookfestival.org/about-us/>, "their mission is to promote reading, heighten awareness of literacy challenges, and showcase the rich culture of the written word in the state of Michigan and beyond." Each year readers are encouraged to explore each attendee's booth to find their next favorite author. This year the Ann Arbor Book Festival marked my first book signing event.



For those not acquainted with me yet, I am a young adult fantasy author. My first book, *The Rite of Wands*, perfect for Harry Potter and Doctor Who fans, was released this past March. **BHC Press**, an alternative hybrid publisher, which brings in a mix of the best of traditional and independent publishing, published my work. I was one of eight Michigan authors they invited to attend the event with them on June 17th.



Before the event, it looked like it was going to rain. I had convinced myself if we got a thunderstorm I would take my wand and dance in it. (Did I mention I LOVE thunderstorms?) But by the time the event started, the sun came out and remained that way the rest of the day. However, it was accompanied by 50+ mph winds. We all knew we were faced with an additional challenge when Trader Joe's tent, which was at least three tents down, all of a sudden lifted into the air and was tossed all the way down towards our tent. I ran out of the way thinking it would somehow hit me, or at the very least break my wand. For the remainder of the day, between interacting with readers, networking with other authors, we struggled with the wind. Even with added weights, the wind remained victorious.

By the time the event was over, just as we were getting ready to tear down, I watched a neighbor's tent two down from ours lift out of its weights, and was tossed five feet into the air, before being thrown against the building behind us, landing just right behind our tent. It positioned itself directly for me. I reached my left arm towards it while still holding down our tent. As I watched the wind pick up again, I prepared myself knowing that tent was about to barrel down on me at any second. With nowhere to go, I hoped that it wouldn't hurt as much as I thought it would, and somehow I would still be standing instead of being tangled on the cement. At the last second, one of the volunteers working the event grabbed the runaway tent.

Overall, the Ann Arbor Book Festival was a great learning experience and success. It honestly doesn't matter how many books you sell at the time, but rather, how you get your name out there. I want to thank the Ann Arbor Book Festival for being a fantastic host and personally thank BHC Press for the opportunity! I hope I may get to see you at my next book signing or that you'll check out my book. You can find *The Rite of Wands* available at all the key retailers in paperback and e-book, with a special edition hardbound edition and an audio book coming later this year.



Authors Using Comic Con to find New Readers

By Markie Madden

If you're an independent author, especially one new to this world, you may have never considered Comic Conventions to find and meet new readers. This can be an excellent opportunity to get your face, and more importantly, your books, into an audience you may never have expected.

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

Setting Up at a Convention

If you're lucky enough to have a Comic Con near your area, contact the venue or the people in charge of the convention. They have vendor rates that will vary depending on the location, the size booth or table you want, etc. You can find out the specifics of the con, set up and take down times, and so on.

If you're new to this, it might feel a little overwhelming. All our lives, we've been taught not to judge a book by its cover, but face it, we all do it! If you have enough prep time, you can set up an interesting table. Even if you're in a rush, as I was when I went to my first con, you can easily use some things you might already have at home. My first tablecloth was a pale green bed sheet that didn't fit any of the beds at the house anymore, and I had no idea why I'd kept it. But, it worked out well as a 6-foot table cloth, with the addition of a runner of brown and lace canvas I picked up at Wal-mart. You can find lots of neat stuff to decorate your table with. I've had a little more practice now, and attended a few cons to see what other authors have done. You can have banners made if you're comfortable with design (or hire someone to do it for you), order business cards or bookmarks with your information and book covers, even offer pens and keychains and other types of "swag" to entice people to your table. A bowl of candy is an excellent way to get people to stop at your table!

Benefits for Authors Attending a Con

One of the greatest benefits for an author setting up at a comic convention is the people with 'disposable income'. Yes, people who attend cons generally have money to spend, even if they must save money all year long to do so. These are potential customers who intend to spend money on their weekend out.

Comic conventions are generally for comic books, but people who love comic books tend to enjoy reading. Granted, some genres might not do well at a convention, but even if you think you won't fit in, it's worth giving a try. Besides the sales, you will meet other authors, some of them even living near you, not to mention digital designers and artists. Sometimes, I have more fun networking than making sales. And you never know where the business cards you pass out to people at a convention will end up. I have a client right now who's sister's niece's roommate (not technically, but you get the point) picked up one of my cards at a convention. Now, I'm currently working to edit and publish his novel. Even if you don't have a lot of physical book stock, print up sheets with links to your e-books and pass them out.

Dressing the Part

I didn't dress in cosplay (costume play) for my first convention, but seeing all the fantastic costumes encouraged me to find one of my own. If you can, find a costume that suits a character or motif from your book. At my next convention, I plan to go as an Egyptian queen one day, going hand-in-hand with my historical romance novel, and as a character from Doctor Who on the second day. This, too, goes along with my writing; I've recently published a fan fiction on BBC's own website.

Dressing in costume will get more people to spend time at your table, and it gives you a chance to connect with con-goers who will likely also be in costume. Many people who visit cons like to collect pictures of themselves with others in costume, so be prepared to pose for lots of pics! And you get bonus points if you happen to have one of your books in hand. These photos will often get posted to social media sites like Facebook, and often the person posting it will ask people to tag themselves in their photos. This is a perfect opportunity for you to get your name out there and reach people you might not be able to otherwise. And their friends will share the photos as well, extending your reach even more. But if you're not comfortable donning a costume, no big deal! There will be plenty of vendors there in regular clothing, so you don't have to worry about being the only one. But, dressing up could add fun to your convention experience!

I couldn't find a good creative commons image to use here, so here's a photo of myself and fellow author Rachel Stiber at the Cape Comic Con in 2016. This was our first time attending a con as vendors.

Comic Conventions can be loads of fun, but they also offer unique opportunities to authors, especially those who are just starting their journey. Word of mouth is paramount in our business, so anything we can do to increase our visibility is a plus. And who said increasing your reach had to be dull?

If you'd like to read more about the history of comic conventions, check out this [Wikipedia article](#).



Cape Comic Con 2016 Cape Girardeau, Missouri with author Rachel Stiber

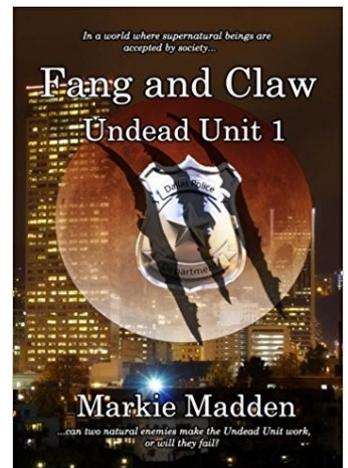
Free & 99c eBooks

Fang and Claw by Markie Madden

Lieutenant Lacey Anderson of the Dallas Police Department heads up a elite new squad dedicated to solving crimes involving Immortals like herself. Lacey, a Vampire left for dead when her family was slaughtered by Werewolves, still has nightmares about the attack.

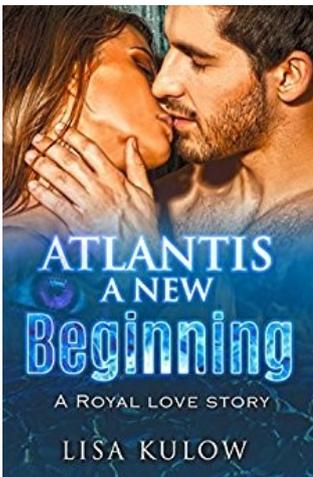
Detective Colton Scarber is her unwilling partner and second-in-command. He's a Werewolf, a descendant of those who killed Lacey's coven. She's unaware of this, but she doesn't trust him from the start. When the fragile beginning of the team is threatened by the truth, can they learn to trust one another as partners must, or will the Undead Unit be doomed to failure?

A mysterious suspect and strange physical evidence leads them to solve a case spanning decades, and leaves Lacey with no other choice but to rely on her enemy when her very life is at stake!



[FREE LINK](#)

Atlantis – New Beginning by Lisa Kurlow



[BUY LINK](#)

Prince of Atlantis, Kyrian, has moved to his new kingdom in the Amazon with his soon to be queen, Yew'll. He wants to begin his new life with his lady love and live happily ever after, but evil forces have other plans for Kyrian and Yew'll and their new friends, Shea and Leode. Their happily ever after is interrupted by heart-wrenching threats to their love and their new home that will leave you shaken.

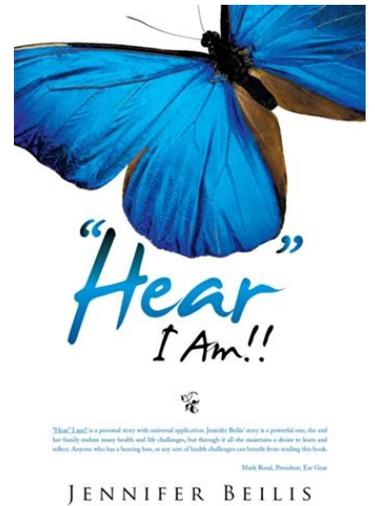
Many Atlanteans are gifted with impressive powers of the mind and the ability to create, conjure, shape shift, and heal; yet some choose to serve the Darkness by using their gifts to increase their own power. As a result, terror and sickness return to reign over the land.

Shea, Kyrian's servant, and friend, uses his final gift to save the world as they know it. In that process, the whereabouts of some of the Atlanteans is realized. Can they come together to keep their race alive, or will the once great empire be doomed to fall yet again?

Hear I Am by Jennifer Bellis

I have my Associate's degree in Social Sciences from Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, New Jersey, my Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey and my Master's degree in Education and Deafness Rehabilitation, SCPI (Sign Language Proficiency Interview) from New York University in New York.

"She has weathered more storms than most people have that I have ever known. Yet, she still perseveres and conquers her fears, never letting an ounce of weakness tell her that she cannot do something... Because she knows that she can. Most of the struggles that I have seen, suffering alongside with her frequently as she has fallen down only to pick herself up. "Hear" I am!! Is like poetry to the poet as medicine is to the patient. Every reader will relate to something somewhere in the book. Each time it is read, it will even relate to the same person differently as they progress through various challenges in their life. I wish Jen many years of continued success in her relationships, employment, overcoming obstacles with her health and wellness, financial security, and in her continuation to showing others that there is always hope."



[BUY LINK](#)



The Last Vestal Virgin by Lorraine Carey

The stars were aligned, the portals were ready and the chaos had begun.

History meets mystery here, in this spine tingling tale of the Supernatural. Christina Ciccone will uncover a dark secret about herself that had been hidden for many years and embarks on an unbelievable journey she never signed up for. However, she was not ready to leave this lifetime.

Raised in a strict Italian - American home, she was surrounded by love and pampered like a princess. So why had she experienced nightmares and panic attacks for so many years? What she didn't know was that she had another family waiting for her from another lifetime. Christina recently graduated from high school and had big plans for college.

While enjoying a trip to Rome with her history club, the nightmares return and she is faced with bizarre encounters while touring many of the ancient ruins, causing her to become ill. She is now faced with powerful supernatural forces when one Roman goddess and her priestesses have decided this would be Christina's last trip. They would take her to a realm where she would never return. She was never aware that these mysterious events had been planned since her birth.

History has its own karma, and all will unfold here for Christina with an obsessive lover and Rome's ancient cult of the Vestal Virgins vying to control her destiny. The story holds many true interesting facts on Rome's Vestal Virgins, climaxing with a most shocking Paranormal twist.

[BUY LINK](#)

A Promise Once Made by T E Hodden

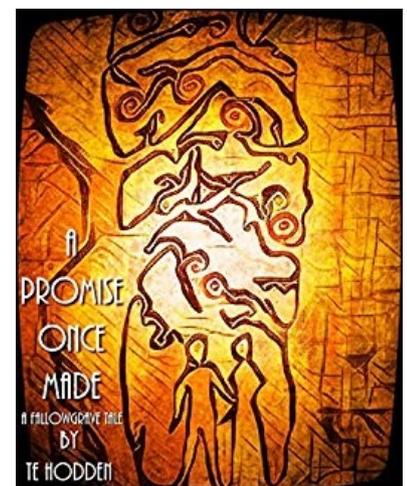
The day of her father's funeral was the loneliest Blossom had ever known. A stranger visits the wake to give Blossom a gift, photographs from a family holiday when she was a child.

A holiday she is sure she spent somewhere else.

Soon Blossom is travelling to England, for a drizzle soaked summer, as she tries to unlock the secrets of a lost summer, and the tragedy lurking in her father's past.

The truth will cost her far more than she knows.

[BUY LINK](#)



Spotlight Reviews for Mark McQuillen

You Had Me at Valkyrie

Reviewed by Lisa MJ Milleron

When I ran across Valkyrie during a book promo event, I was instantly intrigued just by the title. Mark also left just enough of the story for us to read, that pushed me on over to buying the book. And oh my, I was pleasantly surprised. From page one the action starts. Many mythical persons and creature are here in one story. Magic, evil, blood shed, battles, love, family reunions, m/f/f sex...you name it, it's all here. Gil is truly a wonder. His struggles with PTSD hits home for me as my son battles it every single day. I can feel Gil's emotions. When he's happy it's a wonderful high and when he is nearly broken into from the flash backs, & memories which get triggered with the present battles, you can feel his endless feeling of hopelessness of the darkness closing in and how helpless He feels. PTSD IS a very lonely world, thankfully He has Most & Did to help him. He truly is the hero and super star of the story. I can't wait to get on book two. I only have one critique and that's the editing. Just needs some minor touches. BUT for me that did not in any way shape or form distract from the story. I know how hard it is for these Indi authors to do everything themselves, so I will not fault them for that.

So for me I'll just say give it a read. Definitely worth every cent.

Fantastic, a must read!

Reviewed by Anibet Castro-McEvoyon

Valkyrie: Darkness Awaits follows the story of Gil and Mist along with friends and comrades in their quest to defeat Malice, who's threatening to destroy the world. Characters are developed and story line is coherent. Once you get immersed into the book you feel like you have to keep reading to find out what is Malice doing next and how Gil will counteract. Great book, excellent reading. Highly recommended.

Amazing read!

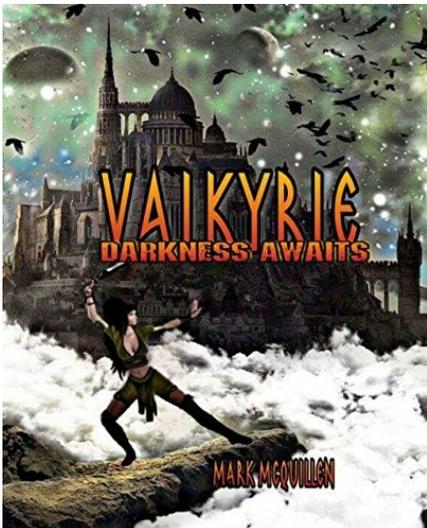
Reviewed by Richard F.

This book is amazing. It keeps you on the edge of your seat and you don't want the story to end. I have read parts of book 2 and will be purchasing it on it's release. Don't miss out on this great book.

For anyone who has ever been a fan of Norse mythology

Reviewed by Arlin Akinson

The author's story builds and builds with love, life, death, and the real struggle of PTSD. Fact and fantasy blend beautifully into a rich tapestry of story telling.



Valkyrie – Darkness Awaits by Mark McQuillen

Gil Swanson has been struggling with PTSD for years after the death of his comrades.

When a mysterious woman from his past appears pleading for his help he jumps to her aid. Suddenly he finds himself in an epic battle between light and darkness..

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS BOOK THEN YOU MAY LIKE TO READ...

Valkyrie – Darkness Rising by Mark McQuillen

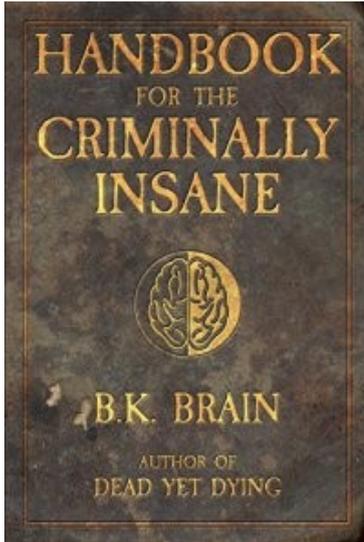
Now that Gil Swanson has joined the elite ranks of the Valkyries the mystery of Malice deepens. He finds that this conflict has been raging for centuries and their enemy Malice is an evil from the ancient world.

A malignant force who will stop at nothing to have her revenge. Now Gil stands on the threshold of Ghost Mountain with the fate of two worlds hanging in the balance...

[BUY LINK](#)

Grandma Peachy's Reviews

Handbook for the Criminally Insane by B K Brain



What a fun Halloween thriller! A haunted house, a serial killer, zombies, mist Demons and a demon King, a character I'll not reveal the nature of, and lots of action. Written in a lighthearted way that isn't intended for the reader to suspend disbelief, only to be entertained.

I'm not normally a horror fan and zombies aren't among my favorite things to read about, but this book kept my attention and I read it in a day – even with a lot of out of town family at my house for the holiday weekend. Strong female characters that were a little over the top and as entertaining as they get, a recently deceased zombie who just doesn't quite fit in with the whole Halloween ritual crowd, a political figure with a lust for ultimate power, a demon chihuahua, and an angry ghost child in a town full of oddball people all combined for a truly enjoyable read.

Monica moves to a small town to recover from her divorce and to get some peace and quiet. What she finds is anything but peace and quiet. The people she meets when she first moves in are all just a little odd.

A serial killer is on the loose, the mayor has the sheriff cowed, a crazy homeless man seems to be a prophet of sorts, and the little old lady in the store warns Monica to leave town. It all seems so strange to the young woman who just wants to start her life over. The first person she finds for a friend, Betty, is a fun loving, easily distracted woman; but she too has her secrets.

I'd let any intelligent youth who has attained abstract thought read this one. Adults who like horror and those who like satire both will enjoy this one. A great cotton candy for the brain read. I've already gotten the sequel "Handbook for the Festive Sociopath" by this author.

Rainne's Reviews

Last Rites by Lily Luchesi

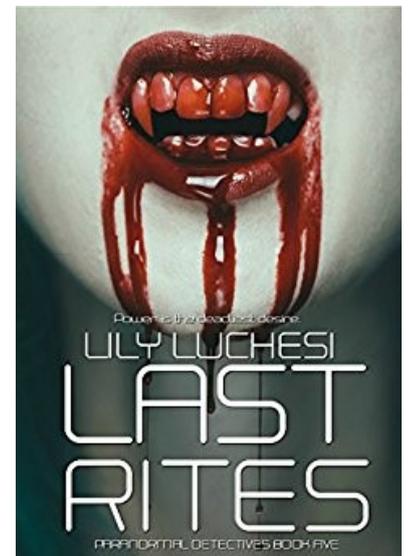
Lily Luchesi took me on an emotional roller-coaster ride with this book. Books don't often make me cry, but I'll admit to shedding a tear or two while reading this one.

Lily has outdone herself again, with this 'end of an era' story, and I am sorry to see the last of Angelica and Danny's story.

The book is full of action and unexpected twists, that make it impossible to put down until you've turned the last page.

I've been side by side with the wonderful people I've met within the covers of the first five books of the series and I miss them when they go.

I am, however, looking forward to getting to know the new characters introduced in Last Rites and finding out where their stories are headed.



***A good day is one where I can not just read a book, but write a review of it.
Maybe today I'll be able to do that.***

***I get for some reason somewhat stronger when the sun starts to do down.
Dust is a good time for me.
I'm crepuscular***

Christopher Hitchens

https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/c/christopher_hitchens.html

Tania Giguere – Indie Author



Tell us a bit about yourself.

I am a true Sagittarius. I love the outdoors and I love new adventures. You never know when I am going to change my mind or start a new topic in the middle of one already going. Just the way I write my books.

I go with the flow and the feelings that overwhelm me. When that starts my fingers go from one page to another. I would love to travel all over the world and write about everything that I have seen everything that happened along the way. Life is very short and we all need to leave as much love and caring behind as we can.

What brought you to the world of writing?

People did. I was seeing too much of it's all about me and no one caring about anything else. So I sat down and started writing about love and peace. About how children are so important and how much they are loved. They are our future.

The world has taken a lot of that away from the kids. Their parents have become so wrapped up in themselves and their work that the kids have to learn on their own. Usually, the children learn the wrong way. I saw a lot of books on lust and sex, bondage and so forth it sells well too. Life is not always about sex and thrills. Teenagers need to learn love first sex last. I hope my words can tell a story for everybody.

I have been writing since I can remember but never put anything in a book until a few years ago. I want to tell the world that life is good and that there is a God who loves them. If I can touch just one child or adult with my wisdom then I did what I needed to before I die.

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

Like I was saying, I write about everything. Children's, Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry and even a Thriller. Where ever the mighty pen takes me.

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

I would love to feature The White Pearl it is a story about a hero. His name is John Parker and he is a detective fighting the crime and drugs on Chicago's streets. The dark side I call it. John is a man that works alone a lone wolf on the streets because he does whatever needs to be done to control the gangs.

John Parker carries a big gun a .45 in order to do this. He is a detective with heart and soul. A hero that every city needs. John also drives his boss Sam crazy because Sam can not cage John and make him do the job his way. John Parker has earned the respect of all his co-workers and some of the gangs in Chicago.

This book was started because I was tired of listening to the people run our police force in the ground. I was upset by how the people called our law enforcement trash and that they were killers looking to kill only blacks and Hispanics Which is not true it is not a race war out on our streets.

But if they were in trouble these people would call the Police to safe them and die for them. This shows me they are liars. If they believe our police officers are killers then why call on them for help. So, John Parker is the man. The lone wolf out battling for the safety of his people. A hero of the police department.

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

Everybody. There is not only just one set of people for my writing. I write for everyone and anyone. My books tell a story even for you.

How do you promote your writing?

I sell my books on my own and I use social sites plus I advertise when I can.

Where can we buy your books?

Amazon, BN, Kobo, Google Books, Online everywhere. I am working on getting them into book stores on the shelves.

Who are your favorite authors?

All authors are my favorite. If you can train yourself to sit down and tell the world a beautiful story you are awesome. You are the best.

Links

www.taniagiguere.blogspot.com

<http://www.twitter.com/taniagiguere>

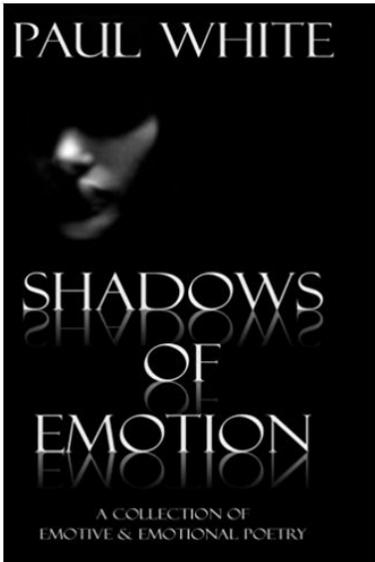
www.authorcentral.com/taniagiguere

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

POETS CORNER

Shadows of Emotion

By Paul White



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

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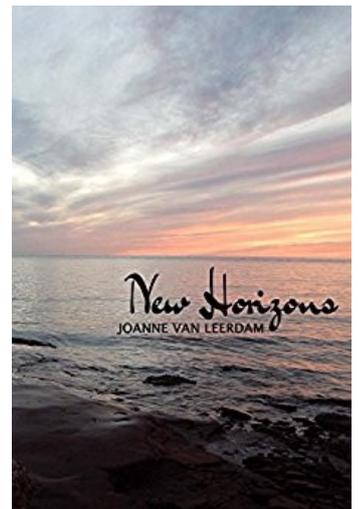
New Horizons

By Joanne Van Leerdam

A change of scenery. A new direction. A break in the weather.
Who hasn't hoped for something different at some point in their life?

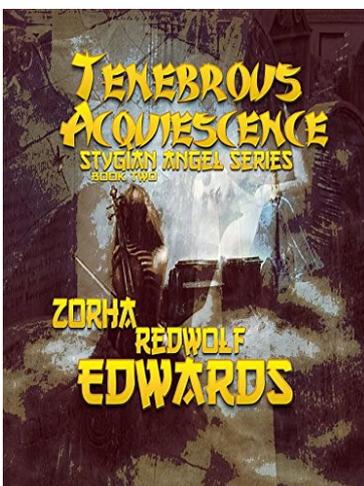
These sixteen short stories offer insights into how people respond when they encounter experiences and events they have not foreseen, or when they discover new horizons in their lives.

[BUY LINK](#)



Tenebrous Acquiescence Stygian Angel Series Book Two

By Zorha Redwolf Edwards



Tenebrous; Obscure, dark or in the shadows
Acquiescence; the reluctant acceptance of something without protest.

Angels don't fall? Or are they ...
pushed?

Why does Humanity Insist on destruction all the Beauty,
given to us by the Goddess... This Collection is that of
On Fallen Angel, and the tears she cries
Look to your own soul.. see what the fallen
have to say!

[BUY LINK](#)

Sojourner McConnell – Indie Author

Tell Us about yourself?

I am a mother and a grandmother. I have thirteen grandchildren and they influence my life in so many ways. They encourage me to write books for them. They make me hop on planes and visit them, and they just genuinely make me very happy.



What bought you to the world of writing?

In some ways, I was born to write, I made a small book when I was in school and shared it with the readers in my class. They enjoyed it so I was encouraged to try out for the school of fine arts in the city I lived. I made it into the class, but my parents didn't provide the funds to attend. I never left the writing world. It did take a long while to get enough nerve to share more of my writing.

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

My first book was *The Path of the Child*. I believe it is a worthy book that has been appreciated for the spirit and the heart that shines through. I loved the characters so much, I continued their story in a rewrite and am writing their next phase of life now.

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

I write books that have happiness as a goal, a struggle real or imagined in their journey and characters that possess strong emotion and stories. I am writing children's books now to share how no matter what the problem, there is a solution. Children need to know there are ways of resolving problems and situations that seem too large.

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

I would love to feature *Who's That in the Cat Pajamas?* It is the story of Dolcey the fairy that helps children in need. She responds to their cries and helps them find their own answers to life's problems. She disguises herself as a cat in this first book and helps Emily accept the news that she must move away from family and friends.

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

I can usually have a first draft within a month of starting. Sometimes research slows me down, but as a rule, I typically get the first draft down rather easily.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

I plot sometimes, most of the time, I do not. With this second book in the Dolcey series, I knew what I wanted to write about as far as which animals to bring to life. The story and the problem, I researched to find what suited me. After writing the first line, it all came to life and I knew who I was writing about, what the problem was. Next comes Dolcey's interaction with the child. That is where I use a plot.

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

On occasion, I have written in first person. I am most comfortable with writing in third person. I also enjoy writing in alternating character voices. I write so that everyone's emotions are brought to the surface. It is the way I believe people get the most from my books is if they can see what is happening internally on all sides.

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

I write the first draft of a chapter, then before I move on to the next chapter, I read what I have written and flesh out anything that seems as if I skimmed over the facts, emotions, or occurrences. There is something so wonderful about a character plumping up right in front of your eyes. It makes me feel so satisfied when the chapter goes from one dimensional to three dimensional. If there is a continued activity in the following chapter I will first draft until the end of the scene. Then I edit and fill in the blanks. Once I finish the fleshed out first draft I re-read and edit again. Then comes the cooling off period, where I sit on it as I work on either another book or the marketing process. There are always steps to take while letting a draft sit.

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

When I first wrote *The Path of the Child*, it seemed to appeal to older adults. It had some intense scenes and I believed that young people would not want to read this. Only after my grandchildren read the book, did I see that there was value in the story for young people. I have been marketing it as YA since I was told it is mainly written for that age range. I still appreciate the adults that read and review positively on that story. This new book and new series is for children. I am approaching parents of children because it is a children's chapter book. I have created a new Facebook group for parents and children's authors to meet and discuss books. It is new, but I have great plans in mind for this group.

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

I am self-published. I have never contacted an agent.

How do you promote your writing?

I promote through so many outlets. I promote on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, I have been promoting on children's book sites and am taking steps to have it placed in several book stores. Soon I will be able to say I am an international author. That is an exciting prospect.

Where can we buy your books?

Right now, it is available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and CreateSpace.

Who are your favourite authors?

I love everything Dickens. I also love Jude Devereaux. She was the time travel romance writer I read, and she hooked me on them. I also love Jack Finney and his time travel books. I love the new authors too. Jennifer Alderson is a favorite mystery writer and J. Schlenker is a favorite women's literature writer.

Links

Here is where you can find, follow and read more about me and my books.

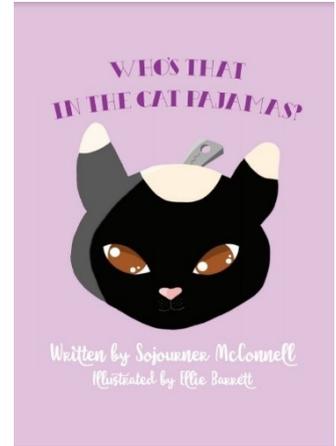
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1653953491378698>

Book is available at

<https://www.amazon.com/Whos-That-Pajamas-Dolcey-Book-ebook/dp/B07118C3NZ>
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/whos-that-in-the-cat-pajamas-sojourner-mcconnell/1126456642>

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

I love to hear from readers, letting me know what you enjoyed and where you see characters going from here. So please contact me at vickitgoodwin@gmail.com



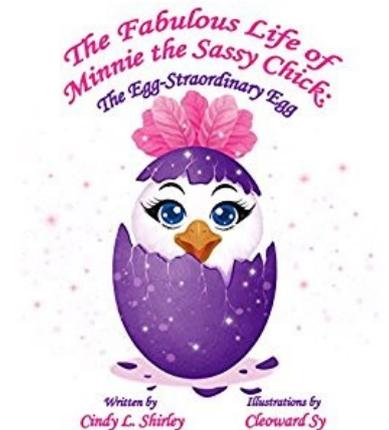
Children's Books

The Fabulous Life of Minnie the Sassy Chick by Cindy L Shirley

When two silly sisters, Carly and Riley are busy playing in their tree house, they stumble upon a strange object on the window sill.

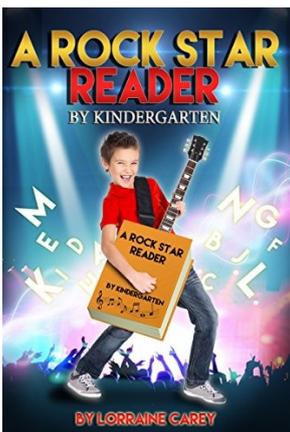
It is a purple egg with pink fuzz.! What in the world will hatch from this thing? Can you guess?

When the egg cracks, the creature inside is unlike anything they have ever seen. The adventures begin as the girls come up with fun ideas on how to take care of this adorable new pet.



[BUY LINK](#)

A Rock Star Reader by Kindergarten By Lorraine Carey



What if you had the knowledge to some of the best tips and tricks from a veteran children's reading specialist that will enable you to turn your child into a superstar reader?

Make kindergarten a successful experience for your child! Inside 'A Rock star Reader by Kindergarten' you will find easy, DIY tips and secrets to teach your preschooler how to be a successful reader and a lifelong lover of literacy. Yes, I am revealing tried and tested techniques that have transformed nonreaders into proud readers with the methods revealed in this book. You will receive easy scripted lessons, games, recommended reading lists, links to reading resources and links to the author's demonstration videos. They are fun for child and parent. Get ready to have bragging rights when your child goes to the head of the class!

[BUY LINK](#)

Book Launch with Jami Albright

Podcast which you can find [HERE](#).



Push!
Push!
Push!
Slap!
Waaa!

Congratulations! It's a book!

Do you feel like that? Like you've just pushed out an 80-100k word manuscript? You're sweaty, worn out, and all you want to do is cuddle, admire, and love on your new baby.

Well, stop it!

The minute you decide to sell your book it stops being your baby and becomes a product. A product that needs to be launched into the world. Which, frankly, is a dubious task when you consider that there are millions of books on Amazon alone, not to mention the other platforms such as, Kobo, Apple iBooks, Google Play, and Barnes & Noble's Nook.

Did you hear me, people? Millions!

So how do you launch your book so it will sell, but also stay sticky in the Amazon rankings and therefore, continue to sell?

We have to have a plan. A launch plan.

On April 11, 2017, I released the first book in my Brides on the Run series into the top 3000 in the Amazon paid store and had 50 reviews within the first three days. Eleven weeks later (as of this writing) my book is still ranked in the top 5000 and has over 200 reviews. It's sold 1100 copies, and has 700K pages read in Kindle Select/Kindle Unlimited.

My little book has made over \$5000, y'all! (I'm a Texan. We're excitable.)

When I was asked to write this series of articles about my book launch, my first thought was, Surely, there's someone more qualified than me to talk about this subject? Because, while I've done well, other indie authors are knocking it out of the park with their numbers. But like most of you, I'm a part-time writer with family responsibilities, and a day job, who's doing everything I can to figure out this indie publishing thing.

What I'm trying to say: If I can do it, you can do it.

My launch plan began months before I put my book on Amazon. I started by understanding my genre and making sure my book met the expectations and conventions of that category. How did I do that? I read books like the ones I wanted to write. I familiarized myself with the tried and true tropes that readers want, and then worked very hard to make sure I delivered on those expectations.

You can choose to write outside of the parameters of a genre, but know that you are going out on a limb to do it. And you might find yourself alone on that limb with your determination to be unique and no audience.

Readers come to a genre knowing what they want. If you disappoint them because you decide to break convention, they will not be happy. They'll then share their displeasure by leaving a nasty review.

The same is true of covers. When choosing a cover for your book, check out the top one-hundred best sellers in your genre. Are there themes, colors, and fonts that are used to signal that the book is a YA fantasy or a cozy mystery? I'm not telling you to copy those covers, but you should use them as guidelines for your own design.

I write romantic comedy. In the rom-com sub-genre there are three camps as far as covers go. One camp is full of sexy, shirtless guys. The second is illustrated covers with quirky characters, and third features women in flirty skirts, that only show their legs.

My book didn't fall neatly into any of those styles. It's kind of a combination of all of them. It took several iterations, but I came up with a compromise that I think works. It's flirty, quirky and sexy, just like my book.

A reader should be able to look at your cover and tell immediately what kind of book it is.

If your cover and your content don't match, then you've confused the reader. And a confused reader is one that moves on to the next book by another author.

In addition to a great cover, you also want a blurb or book description that hooks the reader. If you don't know how to write good copy, learn, or pay someone to do that task for you. Bryan Cohen's *How to Write a Sizzling Synopsis* is an excellent resource on the subject. If done well your cover and blurb can sell your book for you.

Before we move on, one more quick word about covers.

Put down the mouse and step away from Photoshop. Now!

You should not be making your own covers unless you have an extensive background in graphic design. There, I said it. Someone had to.

Hire a professional cover artist. A good cover can cost as little as \$25 for a pre-made all the way up to \$3000 for an artist commissioned cover. Mine cost me \$200, it would've been less, but much to my designer's annoyance, I kept changing my mind.

The two most important things you will spend money on are the cover and editing.

You should have someone other than your mother or your high school English teacher edit your books. You need a professional editor. Period.



[BUY LINK](#)

I know these things cost a lot of money, and if you're like me, that money isn't in your budget. But it's important, so important that I worked odd jobs to make extra cash and, ultimately, sold plasma to pay for it all.

Was it hard to travel thirty minutes to an unfamiliar part of town, sit for hours in a small room filled with people I didn't know, and get stuck with a needle twice a week? Yes. Would I do it again? In a heartbeat. I have a book I'm proud of. A book that looks professional on the inside and out. A book I paid for with actual blood, sweat, and tears. Damn right, I'd do it again.

Now that I'm off my do whatever you have to do soapbox, I should say that you can sometimes barter with an editor to get the services you need. Or find a graphic design student that has experience and wants to build their portfolio. Or just wait and save up until you have the money.

I know you want your book out yesterday, but we're playing the long game. Smart, professional authors don't rush something to market that isn't ready because it will hurt them in the long run. To re-cap, we need to know our genre expectations, have a fantastic cover that we don't make ourselves, a well-written blurb that hooks readers, and professional editing and formatting.

Finally, I can't encourage you enough to get involved with the indie community. Once I realized that indie publishing was the route I wanted to take, I immersed myself in learning everything I could about the business of self-publishing. I listened to podcasts, I got involved with Facebook groups geared toward publishing and marketing, I went to the Smarter Artists Summit, and I tried my best to be a good community member and make meaningful connections with other indie authors. Little did I know how those connections would be a driving forces behind my successful launch. In the beginning, I had very little to offer other writers other than encouragement. I could share posts, give moral support and be a friend. So can you. It requires a little effort, imagination, and courage, all things you have because you're a writer. How do you feel? Do you think you're ready to release your baby... um... product into the world? Not yet? That's okay, we're not done.

Over the next two months I'll share my book launch strategies. I'll tell you what worked, what didn't work, and what I could've done better. I'll also give you practical steps you can take to have the best book launch ever.

Jami Albright
Running From A Rock Star
www.jamialbright.com
jamialbright1@gmail.com

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☆☆☆

FREE TICKETS, OPEN BAR + GIVEAWAY!!!! Join the fun at the Booker Author Event 2017 in Orlando FL on July 22!!!!

*** VIP TICKETS ARE LIMITED ***

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Enter the Girls Getaway Giveaway and you could win general admission/after party tickets for 4 and a one night stay at #BAE2017 ⇒ <http://bit.ly/2rX9QrM>



Jennifer Acres - Indie Author



Tell us about yourself.

I am a YA/NA multi-genre author with a slightly more than slight Dr. Pepper addiction. When I'm not writing, I'm usually reading or hanging out on twitter like the good little introvert that I am. After stints in both music and film, I'm happy to call novel writing my home.

What brought you to the world of writing?

I came the long way round into writing novels. As a socially anxious introvert, I spent a lot of time in my own head as a kid (still do). A lot of the stories and poems and ideas all ended up on pages that eventually disappeared over the years. My first real pursuit into writing was actually in music composition, which is what I studied in college. From there, a class in college inspired me to write screenplays, which I got some awards for in the Houston International Film Festival. In the end, though, I learned that novel writing gave me a much better medium through which I could tell the kind of stories I wanted.

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

On the Way to Simple is my first published book, and I learned so much from it. There are always things you find later that you would go back and change as you progress as a writer and this book is no different for me. However, I still love it. I gave it my all and I think it shows in the story.

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

I write both NA Contemporary Romance and am currently writing a YA Contemporary Fantasy series. And I certainly hope they do! I've had some really good feedback so far, so that's a good sign.

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

Yes, On the Way to Simple is my Contemporary Romance novel which I just released in December 2016. It's about a college girl who over-plans her whole life in order to cope with something traumatic from her past. However, what she didn't see coming was her best friend, and secret love, Alex enlisted in the Navy. She sets out to prove he's wrong to go, but when she meets Will, his fellow recruit, she learns that this may not be so simple.

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

It depends on the story. On the Way to Simple was a NaNoWriMo project, so that first draft took thirty days. If I'm solely focused on one project, it usually takes one-two months. If I'm working on multiple projects, it can take a lot longer.

Do you plot or not, if so why?

I do a hybrid plotting method. I like to let the story unfold organically, but I always start with a beat-sheet detailing the major plot points of the story. For the first draft, I use this as a guide, allowing for changes as they come up. Then, before I start the second draft, I recreate the outline with the new diversions. This helps act as a guide for editing.

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

I have done both, but I prefer first person. I love crawling inside the character's head and taking the reader with me. I feel like there's a lot more opportunity for empathy when you're literally seeing the world through someone else's eyes.

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

I try to get the first draft down without editing, though sometimes, I'll skim the last couple paragraphs I wrote the day before when I start a writing session and make minor corrections. As I go into the next drafts, I like to focus on one thing at a time (structure, characters, etc.) and take a little break between each element revision.

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

I have a couple different markets right now: New Adult Romance and Young Adult Fantasy. I tend to write for readers who want all the feels! I love reading in both of these genres so it felt only natural for me to write in both as well.

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

I'm a proud indie author, though I wouldn't turn down a traditional offer if the right one came along. I actually did a full blog post on my website about why I chose to self-publish. It's been incredibly freeing for me.

How do you promote your writing?

I do the standard posts on social media, though I try to avoid posting salesy things too much there. I like those spaces to be more personal connections and behind the scenes looks at the process. I'm experimenting more with online ads and giveaways, though, and have had a good response from those.

Where can we buy your books?

Currently, On the Way to Simple is only available on Amazon, but it will be available in more stores soon.

Who are your favourite authors?

Oh, I have too many! But my current favorites are J.K. Rowling, Sarah J. Mass, and Colleen Hoover.

Links

Website: www.JenniferAcres.com

Newsletter: www.JenniferAcres.com/Newsletter

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JenniferAcres>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/jenniferacres/>

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

Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/15893597.Jennifer_Acres

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01LYWWN3I/>

BELOVED

*You, my love, are beautiful:
Although form and face may change,
The light of your soul
Burns with inexorable passion,
Tempered with undying love:
In that, my darling, you are
Unequaled by any other.
You are without blemish
Not for any god-like failure to err,
But that in my eyes there is no flaw
That could cause me to love you less.
My beloved, you alone
Are the desire of my heart,
My now, my forever, my destiny.*

*Dearest heart, do not believe
The world or your own insecurities:
They lie.
Instead, I beg of you, believe me,
For I understand your worth
In a way that you may never do.*

(c) 2016 Joanne Van Leerdam

HER DIVINITY

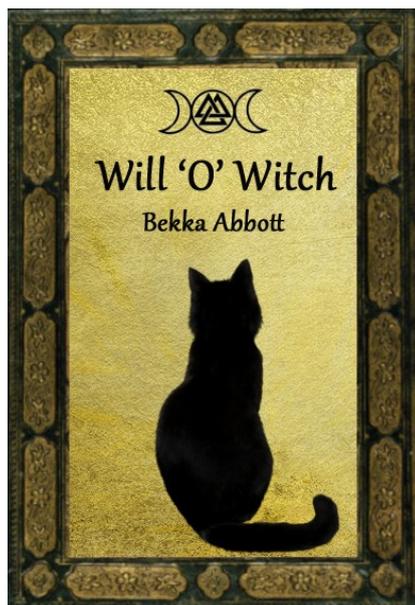
*Entirely without her knowing
Anything of her divinity,
She is a living, breathing goddess:
Daughter of Beauty and Strength,
Desired muse of her lover's dreams;
Her eyes, wells of thought and memory,
Speak truths unconfined by words
To those who listen and understand
Her heart, her mind, her soul;
There, grace, wisdom and faith reside,
Infusing her words and deeds with love
As deep and strong as the ocean.
Her form, lovingly crafted by nature,
Softened and smoothed by essences
Of love, of life and life-giving,
Invites fingertips and lips to trace
Those delectable lines, like a
Sensuous, mysterious map
That guides the faithful seeker to
Her divine treasure, buried within
The sacred depths of secret places.*

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Will 'O' Wisp by Bekka Abbott

CHAPTER SIX



Wilhelmina liked the old house. It felt like a big hug in building form. Who ever had lived here previously was loving and kind, and had adored their home. She glanced sideways at her new friend. Dana sat on the wood floor, her back up against the far corner of the room. She held Will's crystal in her left hand, as if instinctively knowing that energy had a tendency in most people to flow in through the left hand and out through the right. The blue of Will's crystal expanded like a light in fog and then flowed into the woman's body as she inhaled, and she pushed the lines and colours of stress out with her breath.

Dana was impossibly skinny and wore a very tidy suit of dark gray, with flecks of purple colour in the small details of buttons, lapel and a line of silk on one breast pocket. Her bright red hair seemed perfectly shaped to Mina's eyes and if it weren't for the new second face, she would have pegged the woman to be the worst sort of materially focused Unsighted person. Although, Mina realised this could be her own bias. She'd never been accepted by anyone "normal" in her entire life, so of course she held a bias against those that fit into the mainstream.

She smirked at Dana. For a previously Unsighted person, she was surprisingly nice, and Mina looked forward to the possibility of a friendship with her. Well, that was assuming Dana could deal with her and Will's situation as well as she had been dealing with the discovery of a whole new aspect of reality.

Sighing, Mina closed her eyes. She aligned her energy and senses with the vibration of the house and called out in her mind. "Hello, beautiful house. I am Wilhelmina, are you awake enough to speak to me?"

There were no words, but she felt an overwhelming sense that she was utterly welcome in that place.

"I want to help my friend, Dana. Can you show me anything of what happened to her here with the sand circle and the leech spirit with teeth?"

With her mind open to any communication from the house, she expertly allowed the house to communicate in the manner it chose, which was mostly emotion, intention and flickers of blurry images. Her mind translated and made sense of it.

There were two men. One had a cold heart, the other was very afraid. There was a broken window in the back. They brought with them into the house the feeling of danger and fear, brushing away the contented peace that had been there before. The man made of fear drew a circle, but the energy he used wasn't familiar to the house, it was icy and the threads of it were ordered too perfectly.

The other man, who seemed to be the boss, put a container with the leech spirit inside, into the circle. Then they were gone.

She sensed a progressing of time, not a lot but enough, as if a day or so had gone through before Dana's energy moved inside through the front door. Mina felt the house's affection for Dana, as if she had grown up in the house. She was somehow its family. It tried to warn Dana not to continue, to run and get away from the danger. But although Dana felt the message, she didn't understand the reason and continued on through the house.

Something changed, Mina couldn't see the details, but only feel the rising tension coming from Dana and then terror as the room filled with a feeling of starvation that wanted to eat her. Mina flinched out of the visions with gasp: the leech spirit was close.



A Page of Poetry

THE FUTURE WORLD DESCRIBED BY DANIEL [Daniel Chapter 2]



*Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which he was unable to cipher,
A statue with a head made of fine gold, with chest and arms of
silver.*

*Belly and thighs of bronze and legs of iron displayed,
Its feet combined of iron and clay had Nebuchadnezzar amazed.*

*A mighty rock smashed the statue's feet causing it to sway
And after shattering it to bits the wind blew the bits away.
The rock covered the earth and Nebuchadnezzar awoke
He pondered on this dream and his thoughts were provoked.*

*Magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers were consulted.
But all scratched their heads and Nebuchadnezzar felt insulted.
Because the meaning of this dream was beyond their imagination
And Nebuchadnezzar felt mad and ordered their execution.*

*But Daniel a captive from Judah offered an explanation,
That brought Nebuchadnezzar great jubilation.
Daniel said that Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold
His kingdom was strong and he would be bold.*

*But after his kingdom had reached its end.
An inferior one would rule again.
And yet another would rise after the second had fallen.
A kingdom of bronze would be the third to have risen.*

*Following that kingdom, there would be a fourth, strong as iron,
That kingdom would crush previous empires.
It would be divided however as clay and iron cannot mix,
But the kingdom of God would rise in its midst.*

*The kingdom of God will be as solid as a rock.
No one can crush it, whoever tries will be out of luck.
The dream was true and its meaning was certain.
The kingdom of God would stand forever unending"*

– **Brenda Mohammed**

His Poison

C.A. Keith

*The caterpillar had more than her fill.
She kept getting lured
into the spider's web.
She knew once his
poisonous gaze was locked,
she would inch closer,
as if in a trance
and walk right into his lair.
He would wrap her up.
She would drink his poison,
looking up at him eagerly.
She wanted him,
she needed him but he didn't need her.
After all a spider
catches lots of prey in his nest.
He weaves them all in
and lets them drop
when the poison wears off.
The caterpillar could still
smell his intoxicating scent on her.
She felt she was still
wearing his sticky poison all over her.
Once the poison was on her
there was no going back,
she would wear him forever.
She now clings to the web,
hoping not to plunge
into a deep abyss
that she was sure to fall in.
She wondered who else could see
she was hanging by a thread
and needed more poison
to keep alive!*



Spotlight Author Recipe

One Pot Chicken and Broccoli Pasta

Ingredients

- 12 ounces (3/4 pound) boneless, skinless chicken breast, sliced very thin across the grain
- 1 pound broccoli, washed and cut into small florets
- 8 ounces penne whole grain (or plain) penne
- 6 large cloves garlic, minced, about 1 tablespoon
- 1 small onion, diced small (about 1 cup)
- 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour, divided
- 1 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon black pepper, finely ground
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 1/2 cups chicken broth or stock
- 2 ounces Parmesan cheese, grated plus more to serve with the pasta
- 1/4 cup fresh chopped parsley



Method

Spread chicken pieces out on a towel or several layers of paper towels. Pat dry then season with 1/2 teaspoon of salt and 1/4 teaspoon of black pepper. Sprinkle the chicken pieces with 1 1/2 tablespoons of the flour and toss to coat. Heat over medium-high heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a large deep skillet or Dutch oven. When the oil starts to shimmer add the chicken pieces. Cook until light golden brown on both sides, about five minutes. Remove the chicken pieces to a covered dish to keep warm.

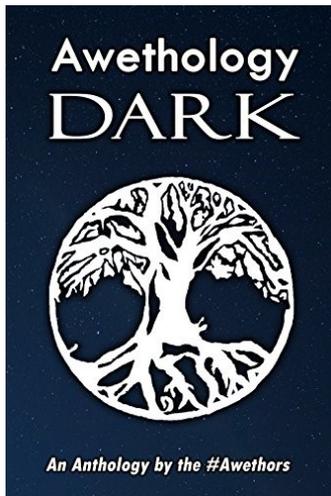
Add the remaining 1/2 tablespoon of olive oil and the onion. Cook the onion stirring frequently until light brown and translucent, about five minutes. Add the garlic and the remaining 1/2 tablespoon (1 1/2 teaspoon) of flour and cook until fragrant, about one minute longer. Add the chicken broth, milk and remaining salt and pepper and bring just to a simmer. Add the pasta and cook for 8 minutes and then test the pasta. It should be bite-able, but still with a little crunch. Arrange the broccoli on top of the pasta and cover the pan. Cook until the broccoli is crisp tender, about 6 minutes. Return the chicken and grated Parmesan cheese to the pot and toss until creamy and combined. Top with parsley and serve with more grated cheese. Serve immediately.

Heavily adapted from a recipe for Skillet Chicken with Broccoli, Ziti and Asiago Cheese in Cook's Illustrated Magazine, October 2006.

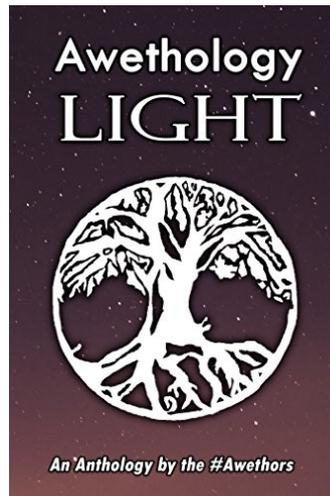
<http://www.itsnoteasyteatinggreen.com/2014/01/03/one-pot-chicken-and-broccoli-pasta/>



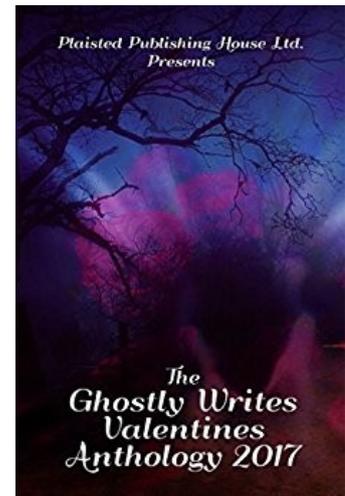
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fb3ZTQDr3mM&t=12s> Last Rites by Lily Luchesi. Featuring – “I Don’t Drink, I Don’t Smoke, But I Lie by Peter Blast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOGCidBs4aI> When on Door Closes, Another Opens by Brenda Mohammed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URMkSa2if4o> Sex, Blood, Rock ‘N’ Roll Vampyr by K K McFarland

<https://www.facebook.com/TEHodden/videos/1268999689884530/> Video by T E Hodden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCoQFks1irA> Hero’s Never Fade by Rick Haynes

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

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOs-20AJDMn_vwCQ1IWiyqA Free Online Children’s Books by Nadine Johnson



Flash Fiction - The Janitor by Dan Lahey

Ever heard of the proverbial 'last straw'? The one that broke the camel's back? Well, it's bullshit. A straw can't break a camel's back; all the straws break it. They're equally responsible. All of them.

I see your sorrow for the loss of those you loved and admired. I see your anger. Before you decide my punishment let me explain why I did what I did:

I was thirty when it started, and was looking for a job. The Superhero University had just opened and was recruiting tutors and assistants, so I thought I could use my powers there. I didn't expect the interview with the director to go the way it did:

"So, what can you do?" Multi asked me. One of his arms, three at the moment, extended to a drawer across the room and pulled out a check-list.

"Er, I think—"

"Agility? Astral projection? Body control, you know, flexibility, extension, number of limbs..." Multi waved his three arms at me and briefly protruded a fourth from his shoulder.

"No, can't do that," I replied, "I think. That's what I do."

He looked at me for a few seconds and then checked the list. "Mental powers then. Telepathy? Moving objects? Hypnosis?"

"Sorry, none of that. I'm just very intelligent. I can plan and stuff like that. I'm also exceptional at maths. Try me."

"Stuff like that..." Multi repeated, ignoring my challenge.

I could tell he wasn't very impressed, as a matter of fact I could tell a lot more; after looking at him and his office I had deduced his age, food and sex tastes, last dental check and dentist with whom he had an affair, car type and current mood: pissed for a fine he'd got for speeding home to his wife after taking too long with the dentist. I also guessed he would not react positively if I proudly told him all this.

"Are you sure you are a mutant? Did at least one of your parents receive the Gift?" Multi asked.

"Both. They were in the welcome party when the Cygnians came." I replied. That seemed to impress him a little.

"The moment our history changed forever. What did they tell you about the event?"

"They thought it was kind of funny.

"Funny? The DNA upgrade the Cygnians brought to us instantly wiped out cancer, Down's syndrome, all forms of dementia, and every other ailment which afflicted the human race, and your parents thought it was funny?" he asked.

"Well, yes, a little, you see it was a blow to all Hollywood alien invasion movies: No surprise attack, no horrific insectoid predators. When the Cygnians arrived, they made sure their single, beautiful ship was visible by all telescopes, and then politely asked, in perfect English, for permission to land and have a chat."

"So your parents took the Gift thinking it was funny." Multi said.

"No, I didn't say—"

"And because your parents passed the new DNA on to you, you believe to be a mutant."

"Well, yes, I am. I think—"

"Thinking' does not qualify you as a superhero," he was on a roll now and my chances of ending any sentences were near zero, "although I'm sure you have upgraded DNA in you, that doesn't automatically grant superpowers you know. Mutations are more frequent but still, I fear, quite rare. I'm sure you really believe you are special, but believing just isn't enough. All University staff members must have at least one superhuman trait. Except..." one of his arms was already reaching for a largish bundle of paper, bound by what seemed to be fluorescent plastic, "Doris made this," he smiled, "my secretary can synthesize any kind of polymeric adhesive from her skin."

I nodded, silently noting how excited he seemed to be about a power which was, basically, sweating glue.

"Yes, I was right." he said, "There is an opening for plain humans. You can be a janitor."

I grit my teeth, such a closed mind meant insisting would only lead to me telling him how well he qualified for an unintelligent mutant and him kicking me out. I needed money, so I thanked him and accepted, shut my pride in a jar at home and did my job. In fact none of you noticed how well I could do it.

After a few weeks I had timed every single class and optimized my route so as to clean and tidy the most rooms in the least time. I also developed a special detergent to clean up after classes of slime people like Doris. I was hoping other university staff would have a more open mind, but being a lowly janitor nobody noticed me, and when they did, it usually wasn't a nice experience.

I had a crush on Touché, the fencing teacher. I saw her training once and was blown away. She could fence blindfolded with an arm tied behind her back. Heck, she could fence with both arms behind her back and hold the sword in her mouth. When I finally gathered enough courage I waited for her to finish class and asked her out for dinner. She laughed all the way to the showers.

Professor Blink, who taught teleportation, looked like a nice guy, the easy-going and friendly type. But every time I tried to have an amiable chat he'd simply poof away.

I was even less lucky with the students themselves. On good days they ignored me, on bad ones they used me to test their powers. I was singed, frozen, slimed and fifty other things, every week, every year.

I finally went back to Multi's office and told him how badly I was being treated. That's when I discovered the truth. It had been him telling everybody I was a misfit non-mutant. I tried once more to convince him my intelligence was superhuman, and once more he showed me the list of superpowers, where puny 'intelligence' was not contemplated. Then he apologized, saying he'd meant no harm when he informed others about my condition and superhuman delusions, so that they would show pity.

That was, if you will, the last straw.

I left his office, steaming with anger, then I suddenly realized Multi was, unwittingly, perfectly correct when he said thinking was not a superhero thing.

Year after year I had seen it happening under our noses: At first the mutants were just a couple hundred, then they came in thousands, new students came and each wave was stronger, had more powers and was dumber than the one before. The University grew to accommodate all, and I now saw the beauty of the Cygnians' plan:

Thanks to their gift humanity was evolving into a race of specialized slaves. Weight-lifters, soldiers, gluers... beasts of burden. Mine was the only real, unplanned mutation. Intelligence was not supposed to be included in the superpowers.

Do you see now? Do you understand why I undertook this horrible but necessary task? And why do you think I have succeeded so far?

Because I am the one and only real mutant, superior to all of you, as the Cygnians will be when they come to enslave you. I know how prevent this and save humanity, and thus it was my destiny to become your leader. But first I had to take out the professors, the ones who were falsely leading you towards slavery. It was easier than I thought.

Take Touché, the fencing teacher. With a sword she could stop bullets, she could dice a living pig in a split second. But all I had to do was catch her unarmed in her home. I shot her, silently noting that this time she didn't laugh while on her way to the cold, hard floor.

How about Professor Blink? He could teleport himself anywhere as long as he was able to see his destination or he'd been there before. I simply rearranged his office one evening. When he teleported to work the next morning he neatly embedded his brain in the table lamp. I assume it was a relatively painless yet enlightening experience.

One by one every professor was dealt with swiftly. Unsurprisingly, at this point nobody had the brains to realize who the mysterious serial killer was.

Multi almost did. My dear Multi. I had fun with him.

I called him one night, saying I had his daughter and wanted money. We arranged a meeting on the bridge. I had lied of course. I didn't want money and I didn't have his daughter. I had all five of his children, and his wife too; a surprisingly intelligent woman, for a plain human, it didn't take her long to piece her suspicions together when I told her about the dentist.

When he arrived I dropped his loved ones one by one. And one by one he caught them, heroically, extending an arm and holding on to them. I told him I would shoot them if he pulled them back up. Oh how he swore and shouted, and then pleaded and cried. With six arms extended and straining for all that weight his heart was supposed to give up. But somehow he kept on holding on to them. I was annoyed by his tenaciousness which was spoiling an otherwise perfect plan.

Then his wife did the unexpected and turned it into a masterpiece of pathos and drama: she forgave him for being unfaithful.

Oh, a full round of bullets from my gun wouldn't have stopped his heart more effectively. His red face suddenly went deathly pale, and his head, ever so slowly, bent forward as he toppled over the rail. They all fell together into the cold waters. What a splendid family, I knew I'd done the right thing not to separate them.

So, my dear students, do you see now why I am not guilty? I acted solely for your safety and for the future of this planet. I see you dumbly nod your heads, I thank you and I thank young Hypno here for helping me out with my explanation.

Now all of you please lock yourselves up in your dorms. Make sure you destroy the keys so the evil Cygnians can't reach you. Don't worry if you smell kerosene around the buildings, it repels the aliens. I will stay outside and defend you. Off you go.

Pyroman, come with me. I have a little more work for you tonight.

***I'm not a 'long writer' and have never wanted to write a novel or even a novella.
Poetry, like flash fiction, provides a readily accessible canvas to play with.
Whether to express an emotion or share a vignette, these forms are often
interchangeable.***

Marge Simon

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

RECENTLY RELEASED BOOKS

Zane The Inferno by Elaine Barris

The Flames of Vampire Passion Are Blazing Hot

London:

After *The Decrees*, I poured all my fears and anxieties about the entire ordeal into a novel. To my dismay, that book garnered more sales and accolades than any other I'd written. I decided to put my pen away, while I worked through my recovery.

After my sabbatical, I think I'm ready, and I want to return to my writing. I'll be honest. I'm nervous, but Zane's sure I can pick it back up with no problems. I wish I had as much confidence in me as he does. He still loves me with the same fire and passion as the night we met, and I wouldn't give him up for anything. But if someone gets their way, I may not have a choice, because I've been placed on list of vampires to be killed! I have no idea who they are or why they want me dead! What did I ever do but write romance and love my husband? I've never hurt anyone except to try to save Zane during that horrific event years ago.

Zane's determined to find whoever is behind this and eradicate them or anyone else attempting to end our love.

On top of all that, Chris, my ex, has partnered with my mother in trying to get us back together, which is bringing all my emotions over the way he treated me in the past to the surface. Don't I have enough to deal with already, without them trying to break up my marriage?

Zane:

London doesn't have anything to worry about, as far as her writing. She's talented, and she needs get back to what she loves most... other than me, of course. I've given her enough inspiration to fill at least a dozen books. What concerns me is blatant violence at my very doorstep. I could not believe someone dared come to my home and attack my wife! After *The Decrees*, there should be no question as to how I would deal with any potential or real threat. But either ignoring all that, or thinking they could best me in battle, they attempted to murder London right in front of me!

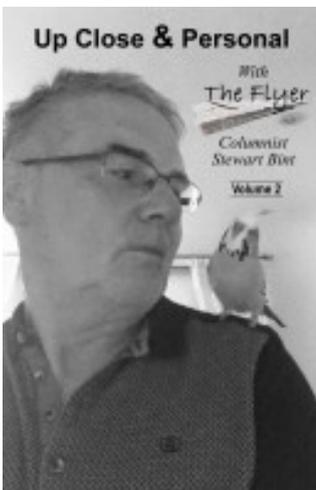
Was someone trying to take vengeance on me for a sentence I'd dealt during *The Decrees*? If so, why wait years to attack? Could someone in my inner circle of trusted friends have been the culprit? If they thought I was going to consider the threat brought to my door as anything other than a declaration of war, they were mistaken. I was determined to return the fight... and win!

Zane, *Flames of Vampire Passion Series, Book Three*, contains steaming, wickedly hot scenes of vivid intimacy, laugh out loud humor, and depth of heartfelt connection and real emotion between Zane and London.

This is a work of fiction and is meant for an adult audience.

M/F, language, violence, third in the series, HEA, paranormal, vampires

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Up Close and Personal – Volume Two by Stewart Bint

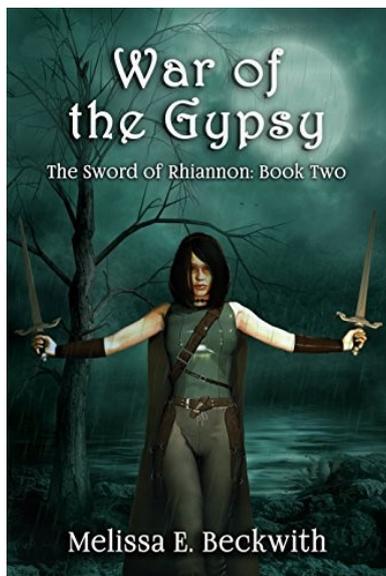
Novelist Stewart Bint writes a regular column in a fortnightly magazine, *The Flyer*, ranging from the intensely personal, humorous and hard hitting controversy, to sheer whimsy. This is the second compilation book of those columns., taking us from October 2014 to May 2017, and is published to coincide with the author's 100th column.

Topics include cold calling, smoking, dreams, the supernatural, going barefoot, retirement, why we should abolish the letter 'e' in the English language, manners, children flying the nest, the author's involvement in charities, and supporting what you love instead of bashing what you hate.

An extremely diverse range of subjects. Something for everyone.

[BUY LINK](#)

War of the Gypsy by Melissa E Beckwith



[BUY LINK](#)

Can Rhiannon give up everything she's always wanted for a destiny she never asked for?

Rhiannon is facing insurmountable challenges. In addition to gaining the trust of her mighty nation to accept her as their new empress, she must also convince them to get involved in a civil war they care nothing about.

Baobh will not be dissuaded from seeking Rhiannon's blood. Rhiannon might be cloistered within the marble walls of Màrrach, but that won't stop her. She will end the new empress's life and prove the prophecy false. The throne of Beaynid is hers by right and no one will take it from her!

Flath is besieged with self-doubt. The rebellion is all but wiped out and he cannot count on the Archigos aid in their war. When a long-kept family secret is finally revealed, it changes everything!

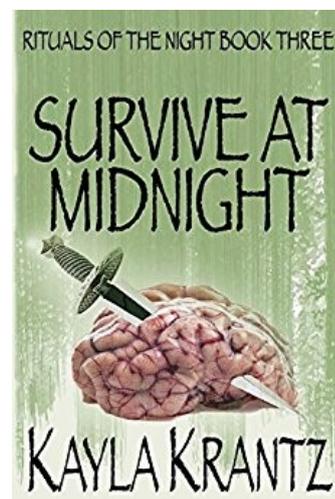
In book two of The Sword of Rhiannon Series Rhiannon and Flath are forced to make decisions that will change their destinies forever. Baobh must be stopped, but is the cost too high?

Survive at Midnight by Kayla Krantz

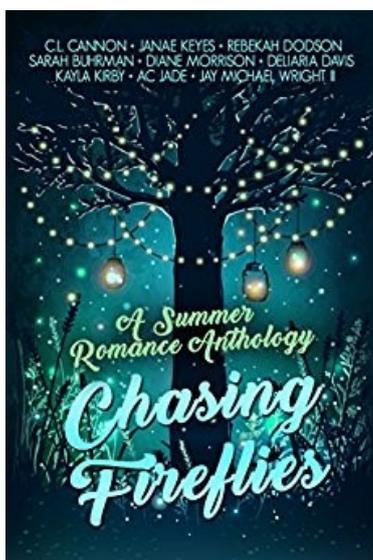
Death doesn't always bring peace. With memories of her dead family and friends haunting her, Luna Ketz tries to untangle her life from the hold Chance has had on her over the past four years, but it's harder than she thought. In death his secrets are revealed, plunging Luna into the mind of the man who ruined her life. Thoughts of her soon-to-be-born baby only bring to mind its monstrous father. Haunted by a new set of dreams, Luna fears her baby will grow up to be a carbon copy of him.

She battles to keep hold of her sanity as she loses a grip on the world around her. The dead begin to speak, and she can't possibly ignore them. With Chance whispering evil deeds in her ear, she treads a trail she never thought she would venture and must rely on her worst enemy to help her conquer her biggest trial yet—herself.

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Chasing Fireflies Anthology



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A collection of 9 summer romance stories from all genres including contemporary, sci-fi, fantasy, and speculative fiction.

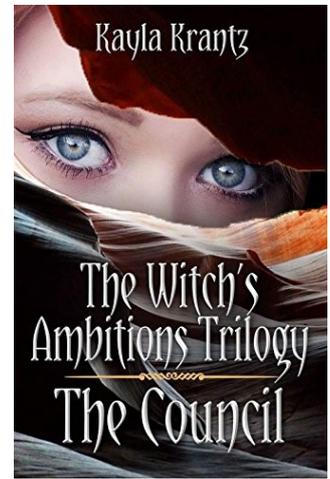
From Janae Keyes: It was supposed to be an escape, falling in love was never part of the plan. **From Rebekah Dodson:** A respectable woman left behind in war finds fulfillment in a forbidden man. **From Sarah Buhrman:** Magic, mystery, and deceit surround a medieval woman's search for her lost love. **From Diane Morrison:** A deep cover Elven soldier discovers that when you learn to think like your enemy, you might also learn to love them. **From Deliaría Davis:** In real life, love is complicated and messy, but sometimes you just know it's meant to be, and this Alaskan teenager intends to prove it, despite the odds. **From A.C Jade:** Two strangers discover that a one-night summer affair isn't all they have in common. **From Jay Michael Wright II:** Can a cursed doctor find love with a gorgeous Demon before those hunting her find them out? **From Kayla Kirby:** Home before he deploys, David runs into an old friend from high school. David quickly learns that Riley is harboring a dark secret and, in order to attempt to help her, he presents to her a challenge. **From C.L. Cannon:** It's the eleventh hour, and he has to decide. Remain her friend, or take the chance at something more?

The Council **By Kayla Krantz**

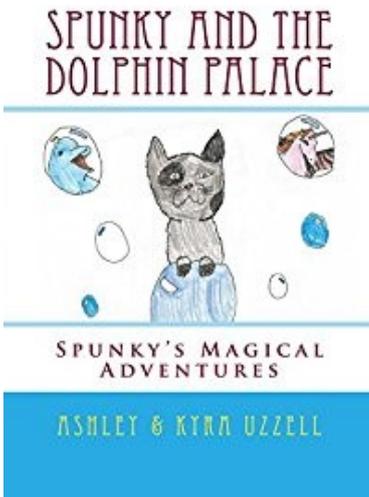
The Council is the governing Coven over the Land of Five, a region entirely inhabited—and split apart—by witches with varying powers. Lilith Lace, a witch thought to be born powerless, happily resides in Ignis, the Coven of Fire, until she suddenly develops telekinesis, an ability only seen in some witches born in Mentis, the Coven of the Mind.

When The Council finds out about her odd development, she's taken under their wing and is finally told the truth—everything she's learned about the Land of Five, herself included, have been nothing but lies..

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Spunky and the Dolphin Palace **By Ashley and Kyra Uzzell**



When Spunky the cat jumps on the magical chair after his adventure in Cat World, he expects to go back to his own world.

Instead, he finds himself in another strange place where everything, including the animals and plants, is made of candy!

Will Spunky ever find the way home to his loving owner?
What kind of adventure will he find?
waiting for him in a land of candy?

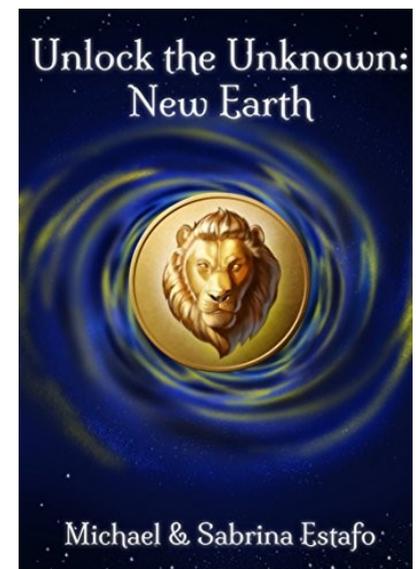
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Unlock the Unknown **By Michael & Sabrina Estafo**

Turning back the clock of youth might seem like a gift to some, but to Soren Cutrone it's a nightmare. In year 2045, New Earth—just one of the eight extraordinary worlds in the Unison galaxy—welcomes him. Just when the “sixteen-year-old” and survivor of Earth's demise thought he lost everything, his life gets tangled even further.

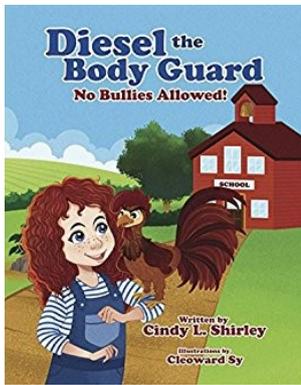
After an ethereal card reading, Soren is informed about an approaching journey of four. Unknowingly, three others received the same message: princess of planet Okulis Orbitorium, Asuka Akioto, Damonico Damirror, superior and heir to the throne of planet Wretched Hollows, and lady of planet Kandy Kingdom, Amelia Vossler.

The four leave their real lives behind, attending the first galaxy-wide, live-in school on New Earth. They soon realize their connection is irrevocable and their destiny holds greater purpose than fathomable.



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Rousing journeys and lavish parties are only the beginning to the road of power, excitement, love, and pain. Just when uniting seems unbearable, the malicious Vigore Alliance introduces itself. So, the real question is, what will happen when a true forty-five-year-old genius, a reckless, high-spirited princess, a barbaric, love-struck heir, and a shy outcast are forced together?



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Diesel the Body Guard By Cindy L Shirley

Delilah Dillard is a young girl with red hair who is being bullied at school by two brothers, Richard and Jimmy. She has tried everything possible to avoid the boys which includes walking to school each day instead of riding the bus. One day, a new student named Lilly Ann is introduced to the class. She has red hair, braces, and wears glasses. Delilah happily agrees to befriend the new student and offers to take her under her wing for the day. It is during lunch time when Richard and Jimmy made their move, and began to bully both girls. Delilah had grown used to being called names but when Lilly began to cry, Delilah decided it was time to get even with the bullies. "Lilly, don't you worry about those boys. Just wait until you meet Diesel, my best friend and Body Guard," said Delilah. Knowing how protective her pet rooster, Diesel was, she set out to give the boys a taste of their own medicine. This would be the only way to end the bullying, and teach the brothers a lesson.

Spikes for Hank by Anita Kovacevic

What can you do when you are a tiny hedgehog, and your parents keep telling you to roll into a ball and defend your life with your spikes? So much worry and constantly having to hide from danger leaves you with no fun, no play and no friends. Or does it? Hank Hedgehog lives in a beautiful forest surrounded with all sorts of animals, both dangerous and friendly. His parents love him so much that they try, perhaps a little too much, to protect him from harm. Eventually, Hank starts hating his spikes and becomes very lonely. However, all good families have problems – once they talk them out, and with a little bit of help from their friends, the world can be a wonderful, fun and exciting place again!

(The book contains simple illustrations and questions to help both children and adults enjoy themselves but also to use the story to talk more, develop empathy and problem solving skills.)



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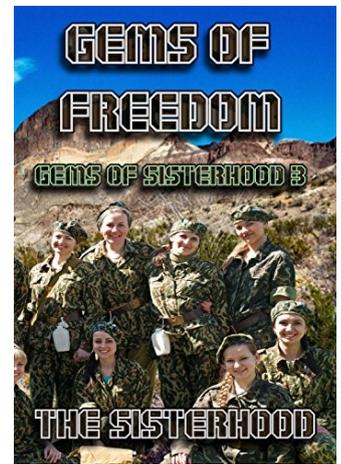
Gems of Freedom by Gems of Sisterhood

As a tribute to soldiers fighting for freedom all over the world, The Sisterhood brings you a special edition of the Gems of Sisterhood Series. Dedicated to those serving their countries in a military capacity, this book is chock full of stories about soldiers fighting for freedom!

Meet Neferure, a true-life historical figure who struggles with inequality in ancient Egypt. Meet a Native American CodeTalker in World War II, who brings her fighting skills to the foreground.

Step into a world of intrigue as Lurlei battles against stringent social expectations of her elven society. Read the story of an unnamed soldier fighting against an alien race: can they put aside their differences?

These stories and much, much more, await the reader inside the pages of Gems of Freedom



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The Steel Canyon Legacy by Wanda Dehaven Pyle

Something was terribly wrong in the 1970's. In some ways the decade was a continuation of the 1960's. In other ways, however, it was a repudiation of all that gone before. The American character had changed. For Tessa Kingsley and her family it was a decade of tears and triumph.

Finding herself alone and responsible for her two sons and an aging mother, Tessa must navigate her way through a world filled with fragmentation and skepticism. As a woman re-entering the workforce, she finds herself facing the same kind of discrimination and lower wages that she and Simon had previously fought so hard against. The way of life she had always dreamed of now seems outdated and out of reach.

Tessa's children also reflect the dilemma of the decade. Each views the world from a different perspective. Aaron, the youngest, sees the promise and excitement of a world on the brink of change. Christopher, however, manifests his adolescent rebelliousness in a reflexive cynicism toward authority, blaming adults for all the world's ills. Tessa's journey takes her through the glittering nightlife of Miami, Chicago, and Las Vegas. But, ultimately, she is unable to escape the demons from the past that follow her.

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She soon finds herself drawn into a world of drugs, gambling and mob vengeance before she finally finds the strength to break free. In the process she also discovers her own sensuality and individuality. It's a legacy she will pass on to her children in the years to come.

The Steel Canyon Legacy is a gritty and poignant reminder of a lost decade. It is filled with passion and intrigue, and the divergent story lines will keep the reader guessing until the very end.

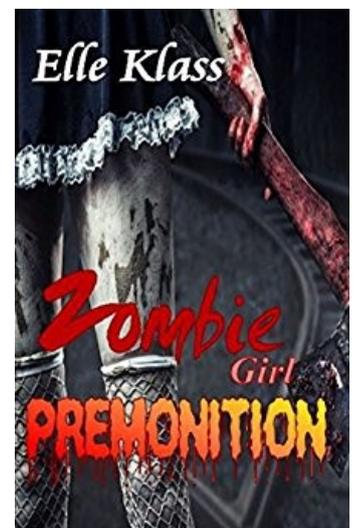
Premonition – Zombie Girl Book One by Elle Klass

The first book in a trilogy.

Maddie's parents flip when they find out she's failing science. That's her worst problem until she wakes up and finds they're zombies. Now she must escape them and her house. With nowhere else to go, and the keys to her parents' sailboat, she makes her getaway. Finding Bryce was a fortunate circumstance and the two take on zombies and set sail for parts unknown.

This story was originally published as a short story in the Once Upon a Zombietale Anthology. A few changes have been made and chapters added.

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Authors Supporting Charities

Girlie's Circus Adventure Claire Plaisted

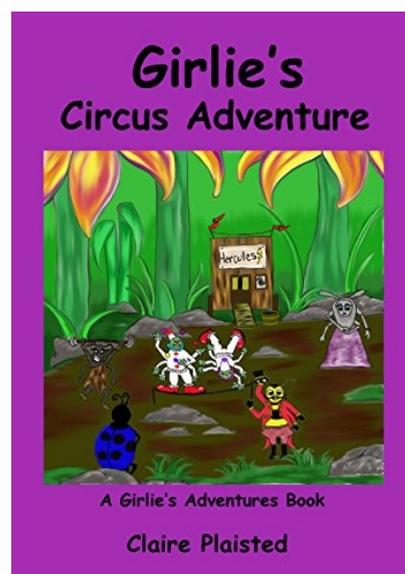
This is the third book in a charity book series about Girlie the blue ladybug who likes to help others and learns many new things along the way.

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

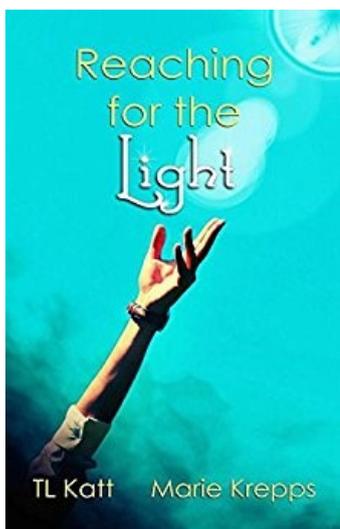
[BOOTS ON THE GROUND](#)

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



High Heels & Ice Cream by Marie Krepps

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

Bloom by TL Katt

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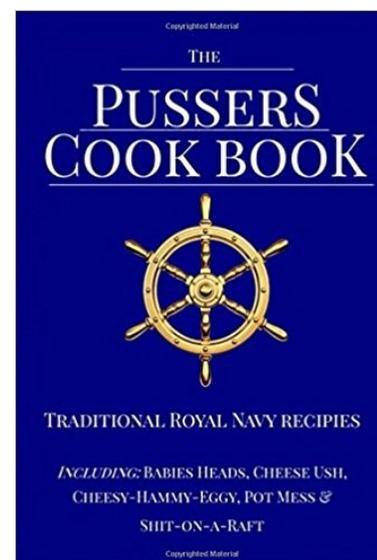
The Pussers Cookbook

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/>

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