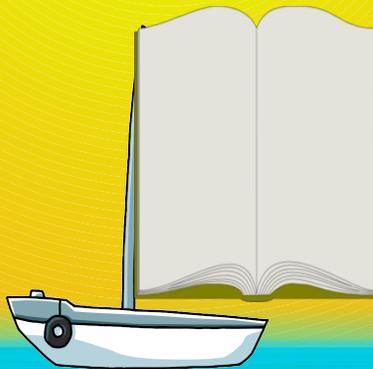


All Authors Magazine

Issue 10

Blooming Sunrays



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Blooming Sunrays

Introduction

It has been a long, hard Winter. Spring, even. Just when we thought that the sun was going to shine, snow threatened to postpone our weekend barbeques.



Nevertheless, we made it. We always do. It's human nature. No matter how grueling things are, we push forward and finally see the sun shine.



There are so many things that the Summer brings us; sun, heat, nature at its finest, friends and family. How can we complain when beauty is all around us? We must learn that as Seasons change, so does life. Yet, if we take a moment to stop and savor what surrounds us then it makes every fleeting moment mean that much more.



In the celebration of Blooming Sunrays, let's take a second to consider the things that encircle us, then stop and smell the roses. As we all know, they won't last long.

Love,

Y. Correa



<http://ycorrea.net>

Thank you!



We would like to take a moment to thank the participants of this issue of All Authors Magazine, who are as follows:

Richard Cotton
Coffee Time with Y.

Casey Harvell
Author Interview

Chane Ak Wau Jones
Poetry Unleashed

Rebecca Mills
Reader's Perspective Guest Article

J. Bean Palmer and Chris Palmer
Awesome Covers

Soccer Tommies, Baseball Mommies
Featured Book

Doing a bit of columnists' "Double Duty" this issue:

Queen of Spades
The Art of the Short Story (honoring May as National Poetry Month)
Bonus Article #1

Y. Correa
Conversational English vs. Written English
Bonus Article #2

And of course the rest of our beloved columnists for this issue:

A. Lopez, Jr.

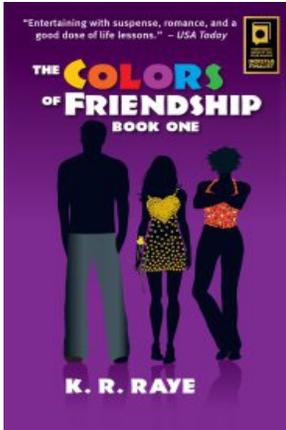
Andrea Houtsch

Harmony Kent

Beem Weeks



Let's Celebrate! Let's Read!



Title: *The Colors of Friendship (Colors Trilogy, #1)*

Author: *K.R. Raye*

Genre: *Urban Fiction*

Available: *Amazon*

Blurb: True friendship endures all obstacles...right?

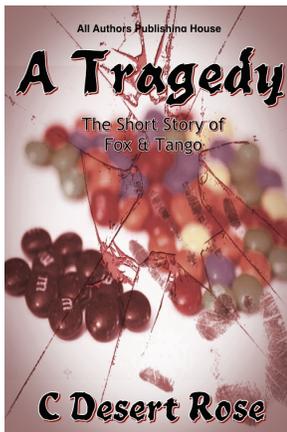
Three college friends search for true love, NFL fame, and a successful engineering career. Will one friend's quest for happiness endanger all three of their lives?

Naïve, romantic Melody Wilkins aims to find true love at college just like her parents. But will she sacrifice her soul to obtain it?

No-nonsense Imani Jordan strives for good grades and a chemical engineering degree. When a friendship offers more, will she follow her head or her heart?

Lance Dunn is only serious about two things: football and protecting his girls, Melody and Imani. When a threat enters their lives and tests their friendship, can he stop it before it kills them?

After the torrents of jealousy, sex, and abuse subside, will their friendship survive...The Colors of Friendship?



Title: *A Tragedy (The Short Story of Fox & Tango)*

Author: *C. Desert Rose*

Genre: *Short Story*

Available: *Smashwords*

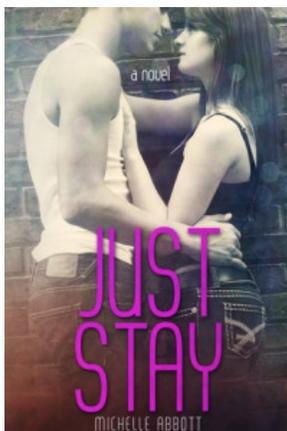
Blurb: Hot and heavy declarations of love. Color coded separation of M&M's. Sprinkles of sarcasm here and there. A typical day in the romance of Fox and Tango. When disaster rips Tango from her arms will she survive the ocean of her emotional torment or will Fox drown in the waves of tragedy?

Title: *Just Stay*

Author: *Michelle Abbott*

Genre: *Romance*

Available: *Amazon*



Blurb: The last place Pia wants to be is on a family vacation in a sleepy Cornish village. She's anticipating two weeks of mind-numbing boredom. Then she meets Trey, a local boy. He's absolutely gorgeous. The trouble is — he knows it. He's arrogant and egotistical, and Pia intends to avoid him at all costs.

But Trey is not the kind of guy who gives up easily. When he sets his sights on Pia, her resistance is futile.

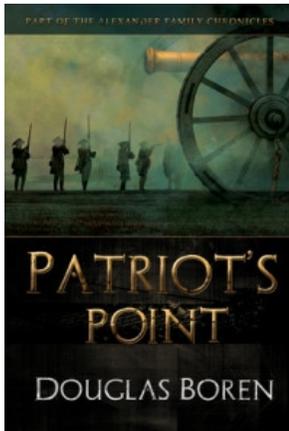
It's just a holiday romance, some light-hearted fun, right? But one of them is about to discover that still waters do, indeed, run deep. When what lurks beneath the surface finally erupts, the consequences may prove to be catastrophic.

For age 17+ due to sexual content and strong language.



Title: *Saving Gracie*
Author: *Nancy DeMarco*
Genre: *Paranormal Comedy*
Available: *Amazon*

Blurb: When Gracie is accosted by a redheaded ghost, Officer Marcel Trudeau assumes the old gal is hallucinating. Again. But to Gracie the dead girl is real, and her message is urgent-someone will die tonight. Sure enough, a body surfaces in Echo Pond, and the town of Coyne Falls plunges into chaos. In the furor that follows, the victim's widow jumps out a window, a dead man sends text messages, a missing person is duct taped to a toilet, and a beagle runs howling into the night. Meanwhile, the ghost sends Gracie on a mission: "follow the beagle" to save a woman's life.



Title: *Patriot's Point*
Author: *Douglas Boren*
Genre: *Historical Fiction*
Available: *Amazon*

Blurb: 1790: At the Battle of Waxhaw, NC, the British Legion massacres the unresisting soldiers of the Virginia Regiment instead of accepting their surrender. In the aftermath, colonists-ordinary men and women, farmers, shopkeepers, and back woodsmen-come together in secret at an abandoned Spanish mission, renaming it Patriot's Point. There they organize themselves into a fighting force, vowing to contain the British advance at all cost until the Continental Army can retaliate. Fewer than two hundred men stand in defiance of over five thousand British soldiers: two hundred patriots, who understand that freedom is not free.

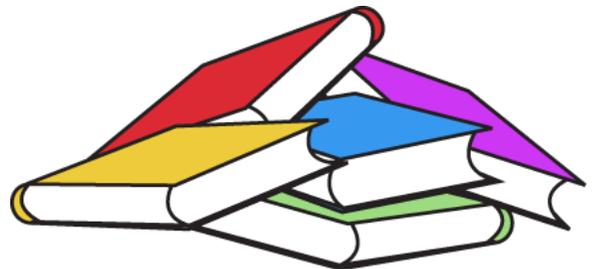
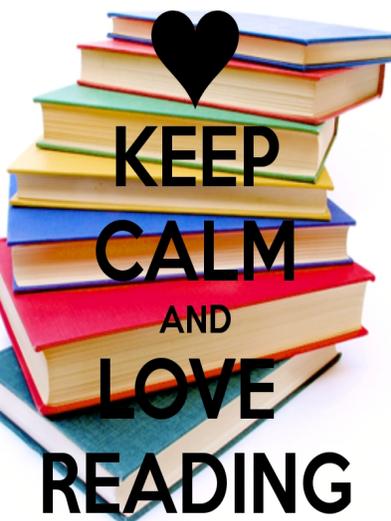


Title: *Minuteman Merlin*
Author: *Frederick H. Crook*
Genre: *Sci-Fi*
Available: *Amazon*

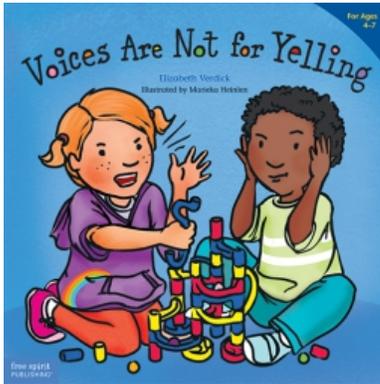
Blurb: Nebraska, 2121. A widower by the name of Merlin lives in his converted Minuteman-3 missile silo with his Black Lab, Chief. Suffering from stomach cancer, Minuteman Merlin is under the care of Doctor Larry Hammonds. On this post-Great Exodus Earth, the cure has left for the stars along with the vast majority of Mankind, so the doctor must treat him with the long-outdated methods of chemotherapy and radiation.

In the small town where he receives this medical treatment and trades goods, Merlin confronts a child abuser. The situation goes horribly wrong, resulting in the death of the victim's father and the destruction of Doctor Hammond's office. To make amends, he opens his home, giving the physician a place to practice medicine and the boy a place to live.

A man with nothing left to lose has everything left to give.

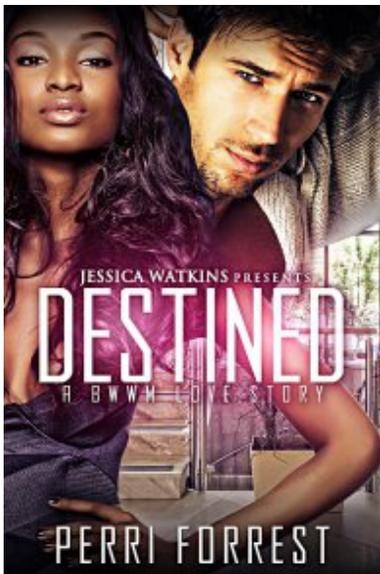


Hot Off The Press



Title: *Voices Are Not For Yelling*
Author: Elizabeth Verdick
Genre: Parenting/Self-Help
Release Date: March 24, 2015
Available: Amazon (paperback)

Blurb: As parents and teachers know, yelling comes naturally to children. This friendly, encouraging book, geared to preschool and primary children, introduces and reinforces where and when to use an “indoor voice” or an “outdoor voice.” In classic Best Behavior style the author tells young readers, “Your voice is a powerful tool. How you use it is up to you.” Vivid illustrations show the times and places for an indoor voice, the ways people ask us to quiet our voices, and times when yelling might occur. “What happens if you’re mad or frustrated or really, really excited? Your voice gets louder and LOUDER.” But yelling hurts people’s ears and feelings. Children learn that they can quiet their voice and use their words to talk about a problem. “Think before you yell, and use your words well!” Includes a special section for parents and caregivers with activities and discussion starters.



Title: *Destined (a BWWM love story)*
Author: Perri Forrest
Genre: Interracial Romance
Release Date: March 27, 2015
Available: Amazon

Blurb: This is a standalone BWWM love story

Tessa DeCarlo is a career woman, and a devoted wife. Her work life is good-fulfilling, even. However, she can’t say the same about her marriage. But Tessa loves her husband, and she is determined to make their union work. She overlooks their lackluster sex life, as well as his disinterest in doing ‘couple stuff’. It’s what she signed on for, after all. For better or worse, right? But, when Tessa is hit with the ultimate betrayal just days before her class reunion, maintaining loyalty inside of a failing marriage is the last thing on her mind.

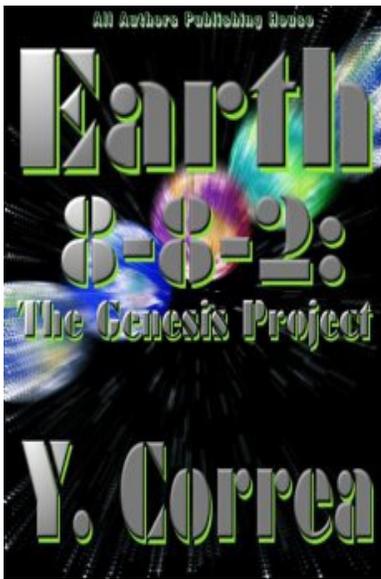
Despite what she has gone through, and rather than wallow in self-pity, Tessa decides to attend the event. She has no idea what to expect from the evening, its sole purpose is meant to serve as a getaway. But, when she encounters August, a former college classmate, sparks fly. But not for long . . . There will be twists, turns, and added cast members to bring this story to life. Will Tessa return to her marriage and try to make it work? Will she decide on a road untraveled? Or, will she choose to be alone?



Title: *Dreams of the Forgotten (Sumeria's Sons Book 3)*
Author: Lexi Ander
Genre: LGBTQIA Fantasy
Release Date: April 15, 2015
Available: Amazon

Blurb: For Tristan and Ushna, nothing comes easy and with each passing day the challenges grow and the dangers multiply. The safe home they are building for their family and tribe is threatened from all sides, and the peace they seek is being torn apart by enemies and internal strife. Tristan dares not reveal his condition to any but those closest to him, all the while he’s plagued by dreams he cannot remember upon waking...

And over all of it hangs the knowledge that his time with Ushna is running out. Because Ushna already has a Flame awaiting rebirth, and though Tristan would die to protect that bond, he constantly struggles against his beast who demands they bind Ushna to their side.

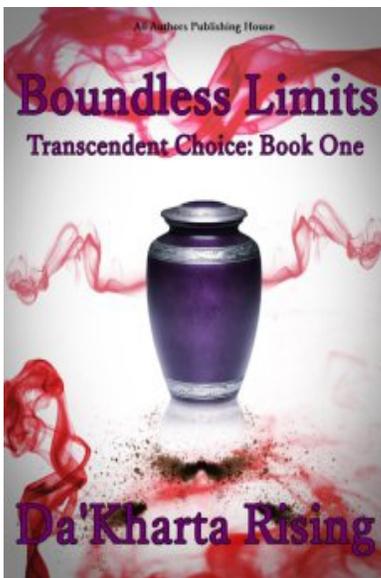


Title: Earth 8-8-2: The Genesis Project
Author: Y. Correa
Genre: Sci-Fi Mashup
Release Date: April 20, 2015
Available: Amazon

Blurb: Could Science Serve as Salvation?

One-fourth Human.
One-fourth God.
One-fourth Superhuman.
One-fourth Vampire.

For Dr. Scott, the combined strengths of each life form represent the answer to the onslaught of malice and tyranny plaguing his Earth. When his creation—Genesis—begins developing, the lines between scientist and father become blurred. Soon the time approaches where Genesis is expected to fulfill her purpose. Does she go along willingly, or will her rapid evolution obliterate everyone's best laid plans?

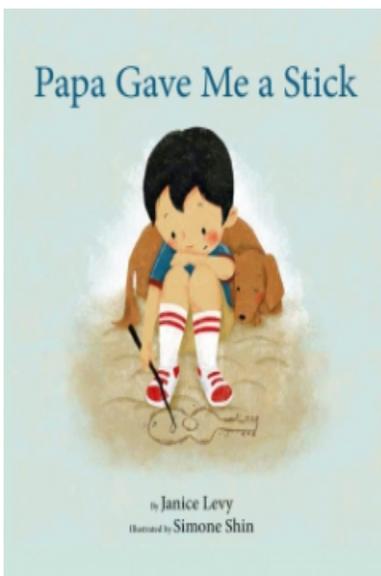


Title: Boundless Limits: Transcendent Choice (Book One)
Author: Da'Kharta Rising
Genre: Paranormal/Dark Romantic Drama
Release Date: April 20, 2015
Available: Amazon

Blurb: There's Love ... and then there's Love Beyond Limits.

Felipe and Therice had a love that knew of no boundaries. When Therice and "Mama" lose their lives in a tragic car accident, Felipe has a gaping hole that just refuses to heal and Therice has a determination to see him again that just refuses to die.

Heaven feels anything but, when Therice discovers that spirits are prohibited from visiting loved ones after they have died. Sensing that her angelic guide Amare possesses empathetic traits, Therice develops a plan of appeal in the hopes she will see Felipe near the anniversary of her death.



Title: Papa Gave Me a Stick
Author(s): Janice Levy and Simone Shin
Genre: Children's
Release Date: April 30, 2015
Available: Amazon (Hardcover)

Blurb: When Antonio first hears the members of the Mariachi band play, he wants nothing more than a guitar of his own. But guitars cost money, explains his father, who hands Antonio a stick instead. Confused and upset, Antonio resentfully accepts his father's gift. He heads off, unknowingly starting a chain of exchanges that may, miraculously, earn him what he wants most. Filled with plenty of Spanish vocabulary for young readers, Papa Gave Me a Stick is a vibrant story about the virtues and rewards of kindness.



What NOT to Read

Featuring Mini Truth



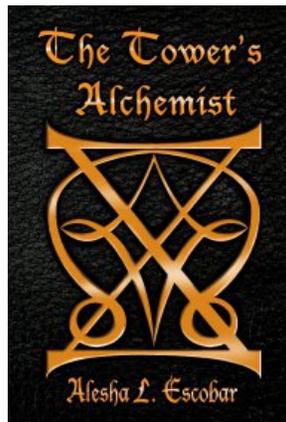
Hi there esteemed Followers! Mini Truth here. Welcoming you to this special edition of What NOT to Read.

On this issue of What NOT to Read, I will be sharing my thoughts on the first book in a Trilogy. The rest of the books will be showcased in Issues 11 & 12. Why am I doing this, you ask? Basically, it's because you can't talk about one book in the Trilogy without talking about the other 2 as they are all connected.

In this Issue, we'll be covering Book One.



Part One The Gray Tower Trilogy



The Tower Alchemist (Book One) by Alesha Escobar Amazon

Blurb:

Wizard Vs. Nazi Warlock Vampires.

It's a very different World War II.

The Nazis have unleashed occult forces throughout Europe and the Allies are forced to recruit and employ wizards to counter their attacks. Among them is the battle weary spy, Isabella George, a Gray Tower dropout trained in Alchemy. Longing for retirement and a life of peace, she accepts one final job-extract a deadly warlock from Nazi occupied France and prevent him from unleashing an alchemical weapon that will devour the continent.

But France is crawling with the Cruenti, vampiric warlocks who feed off other wizards. When things don't go according to plan, one Cruenti sets his deadly eyes on her.

Betrayal is everywhere. Even some of her closest allies cannot be fully trusted. Worse still, she finds, she can't even trust herself. She becomes a woman torn between her charismatic spy lover who offers her what she desires most, and one of her closest confidants, whose soft seductive eyes hold deadly secrets about her past, and the Gray Tower itself.

Plans within plans. Plots versus counter plots. Heists gone wrong, sword-wielding Catholic priests, and the greatest manipulation of history that has ever been seen, is just a taste of what Isabella George is in for, in her final mission.



Here is the premise, in a nutshell ...



Imagine, if you will, an alternate earth where magic exists, along with many other mystical creatures: vampires, wizards, alchemists. Now, try to envision a different time. World War 2, to be exact. In a time when a war is raging, and nothing is as it seems Isabella George finds herself in a tough situation. She'd grown tired of fighting, surviving and doing things that she's been told were necessary for the well-being of many. Isabella George is a double agent (triple even) with the power of alchemy, which she needs to keep concealed. She realizes that she needs to go on one last mission and that her "particular set of skills" would be beneficial in order to accomplish it. This world is jam-packed with magic, mayhem and the unknown—this includes Isabella's past, for she longs to know what happened to her father, whom also honed her same talents. The only problem is that there is much more that Isabella doesn't know, than what she does.



All right, with all of the above out of the way, I'll have to share with you exactly what I thought. So, here goes ...

I had some real problems with this story—too many, to be honest. I truly dislike it when there is a book which lures me in with its idea (potential premise) then lets me down completely.

This, unfortunately is one of those sort of books for me.

At one point it got so bad, that I began to nitpick. I don't typically nitpick.

Suffice it to say, that I had a hard time getting through this book and I am going to give you a list of reasons why.

However, before I go there, I'll start with the things that I liked about the read.



Pros:

1. I really liked the cover. There is something about abstract, simplistic art that always captures my attention. This book really nailed it in that aspect.

2. The idea. I am always attracted to "Out of the Box" literature. I love new ideas and original thoughts. So I found the premise to be intriguing and alluring. What nerd (like me) doesn't love a good "alternate world and history" bit?

3. Stella (the best friend/officemate), I think was my favorite character. Out of all of the many characters that were introduced, she seemed like the most genuine.

That was about all I can present to you in the form of positives. I'm sorry. Now, before I get into the negatives, I feel the need to explain a few things about myself as I'll be presenting you with the negatives from that perspective.

If you are anything like me, you enjoy a complex read, however said "complex read", must be easy to follow.

This is what I mean:

In an abstruse read, there must be a steady rhythm and flow; a comprehensive “time line”, if you will. Something that while subtly unraveling an enigmatic story line will help the read not lose track of the happenings.

Think of it in a ‘Alfred Hitchcock’ sort of way. Our beloved Mr. Hitchcock had a knack for presenting a complicated story in a very comprehensive way. Then at the end, he’d hit us with a twist and left our mouths wide open and our minds blown. That is the sign of a truly genius way of writing a story which entails many facets.

It must be easy to follow, period. So, once again, if you’re anything like me, if a story is too difficult from the very start, then you find yourself undeniably frustrated and ultimately angered.

That being said, let me get into my thoughts as it pertains to the Cons.



Cons:

1. There were way too many characters introduced too quickly.
2. There were way too many different “groups” introduced too quickly.
3. The writing feels displaced. I’ll explain. While it’s based in the past, the writing is significantly modern.
4. The main character is supposed to be American, residing in England, yet her personality is too unstable. One minute she seems more English than American, the next minute it’s the other way round.
5. There were too many instances in which there was modern language/slang introduced into the story that did not exist in that day and time.
6. In the first few chapters, you are tossed directly into the middle of the action without even knowing how you got there. Basically, it was all over the place. I couldn’t, for the life of me, establish one main time line.
7. Then the story stagnates and basically loses all liveliness. Yet, still we are continually introduced to more and more characters without knowing who anyone really is, or what their actual purpose in the story is.
8. Way too many “code names” for the characters. You may need a pen and paper to keep track of who everyone is, what their code name is, and what role they play.
9. After a while the main character began to tick me off. It was one of those situations where she constantly did stupid things to the point where, by the middle of the book, she just came across as blatantly annoying.
10. This book has several instances of “odd grammar” throughout. Little things, like not putting a space after an ellipsis. As well as too many ellipsis used.
11. Some awkward sentence structure as well. For example: (PDF Page 8) “I knew that if I kept pushing myself, that I’d faint.” It just sounds weird. It should be “I knew that if I kept pushing myself, I’d faint.”
12. Another example of odd grammar is whenever the main character, or any characters for that matter quoted what another character said it was written incorrectly. Here is what I’m referring to; “Hmph...well enough. At least acknowledge all the hell I went through to get this formula here.” It should have been, “Hmph...‘well enough’. At least acknowledge all the hell I went through to get this formula here.”
13. There was more odd terminology used, such as “high school girl”. In England it’s known as “Secondary Education or Secondary School”.
14. Oddly enough, I found a few hidden references to Sherlock Holmes. Like Baker Street, and Office #221B. Just weird. It made me wonder if it was intentional or not.
15. Most of the organizations named throughout the story weren’t even really explained. So the reader had no way of knowing what they really were.
16. Much of the characters seemed unoriginal. Like, a lot of the “bad guys” all sounded the same to me.
17. Even up until the very last chapter we are STILL being introduced to MORE new characters. This should be the point where things are being resolved. Yet, they are not.
18. There is absolutely NO resolution in this story. None of the problems were truly solved, things were still left in the air, there is a whole new level of conflict that is introduced—it’s an utter cliffhanger.

To make a long review, as short as I can without getting into anything else, I was very let down by this read for many reasons. Trust me when I tell you that the other two books in the series are no better. Brace yourselves, they’re gonna be interesting.

My truthful verdict was **2 Stars**. It would have gotten a 1 had it not been for the Spelling.



To Sum it all up, I was highly unimpressed with this story.

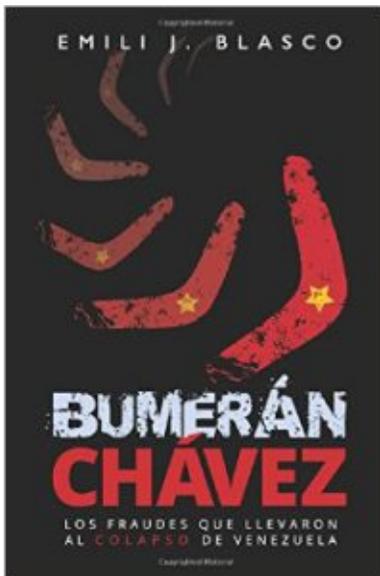
That's all for THIS issue of What NOT to Read with Me ... Mini Truth.

Stay tuned for next Issue when I'll talk about Book Two of the Grey Tower Series.

Toodles!



International Corner



Title: *Bumerán Chávez: Los fraudes que llevaron al colapso de Venezuela*
Language: Spanish
Genre: Social Political
Available: Amazon

Blurb: El colapso institucional, económico y social de Venezuela no es fruto de la dilapidación del legado de Hugo Chávez, sino consecuencia misma de sus políticas. Es el bumerán que, al volver en su vuelo, rompe el espejo en el que se veía al padre de la revolución bolivariana: de benefactor de los pobres a responsable de la gran escasez, inflación y violencia que sufre el país, especialmente sus clases populares: falta de productos básicos, colas en las tiendas, delincuencia desbordada... Y es que el chavismo tuvo mucho de fraude –un conjunto de ellos– casi desde el principio. Este libro revela detalles de los principales capítulos de ese fraude: entrega de soberanía a Cuba, engaño electoral, corrupción económica sin precedentes, narcoestado, dilapidación del petróleo, vinculaciones con el radicalismo islámico... El libro también incluye las curiosas relaciones del chavismo con Estados Unidos, la España de Podemos y el conjunto de Latinoamérica. Testimonios de individuos clave en el entramado chavista, varios de ellos en contacto con las autoridades estadounidenses como testigos protegidos, dan forma a este relato periodístico.



Title: *I and the World You're Just One*
Language: Chinese
Genre: General Fiction
Available: Amazon

Blurb: 人气冠军张皓宸全新个人故事集，温馨治愈的情感故事，让你在面对爱时无惧，怀疑爱时坚定。你的感情可能正在感冒，你的生活可能一团糟，你的世界可能只差一个最好的人.....可不去经历，如何成长？不去受伤，如何坚强？不去相信，如何相遇？12个温馨治愈的情感故事，给年轻人爱的正能量和信心，让你在面对爱时无惧，怀疑爱时坚定。

这些故事也许你生活中永远不会碰触，亦或许曾经经历、正在经历并且将会经历，张皓宸以电影化的手



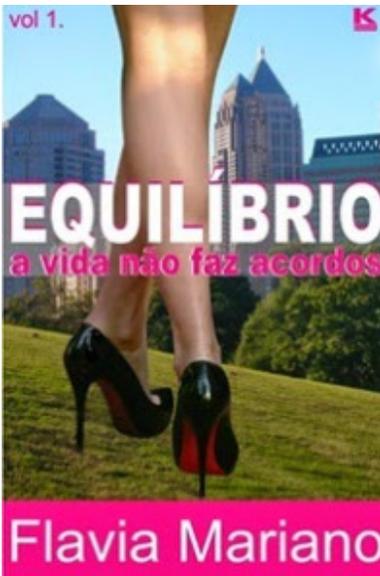
Title: *What Is Not Taught In High School, But Without Which You Cannot Get A Good Job*

Language: *Russian*

Genre: *Self Help*

Available: *Kindle*

Blurb: Прочитав эту небольшую книгу вы узнаете: • Как думает работодатель • Что отличает зрелого специалиста от «зеленого» • За что сотрудник получает зарплату • Сколько вы стоите • Где ваше место в компании • И многое другое, что даст вам преимущество в карьере.



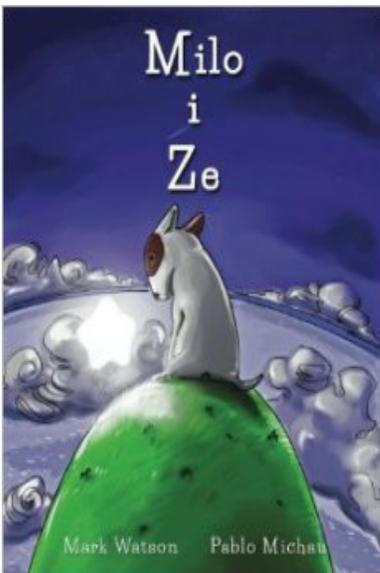
Title: *Balance: Life Does Not Make Agreements*

Language: *Portuguese*

Genre: *Contemporary Romance*

Available: *Amazon*

Blurb: Com seu estilo fluente e uma linguagem leve, bem próxima das conversas cotidianas, "Equilíbrio" trata de temas delicados, como a sensação de falta de tempo para a vida pessoal, as dificuldades de relacionamento e a frustração de nos distanciarmos dos nossos reais desejos. Marília, uma jovem executiva em conflito com sua agenda atarefada, mergulha nas principais questões femininas do mundo de hoje. Com habilidade, a autora constrói uma história que mistura a rotina urbana à busca do equilíbrio pessoal, à aventura e à literatura de viagem. O resultado é um romance envolvente, capaz de levar o leitor a se imaginar como protagonista do livro e a refletir sobre a própria vida.



Title: *Milo & Ze: A Story of Friendship*

Language: *Catalan*

Genre: *Childrens*

Available: *Amazon*

Blurb: Milo i Ze: Catalan En un brut pati, congelant-se i tot mullat, viu el pobre Milo, el gos oblidat. Quelcom meravellós passà una nit plena d'estels. Directa cap a la seva caseta ve una llum creuant el cel... A prop, a prop, més a prop, el soroll augmenta. En Milo salta! Just a temps! La seva caseta rebenta!



Title: *Dr. Horrible Section 1-6 More sex, More blood*
Language: *Turkish*
Genre: *Horror*
Available: *Amazon*

Blurb: Bölüm 1 – Seks, kan ve Agir Metal Bölüm 2 – Seks, kan ve (esek) agir metal
Bölüm 3 – Anal, Oral, ne olursa olsun ana kanli seks Bölüm 4 – dudaklar Anal kanama,
Oral seksten ve jizz yakmak icin Bölüm 5 – Seks, kan ve Agir Metal 2 Bölüm 6 – Anal,
Oral, ne olursa olsun ana kanli Sex 2



Review Rendezvous

In this issue, Mini Truth is the guest reviewer on Review Rendezvous, which will make its final appearance in All Authors Magazine

Disclaimer: *Due to space limitations, most of these reviews have be abbreviated. For those which have been abbreviated, a link will be provided to the full review.*

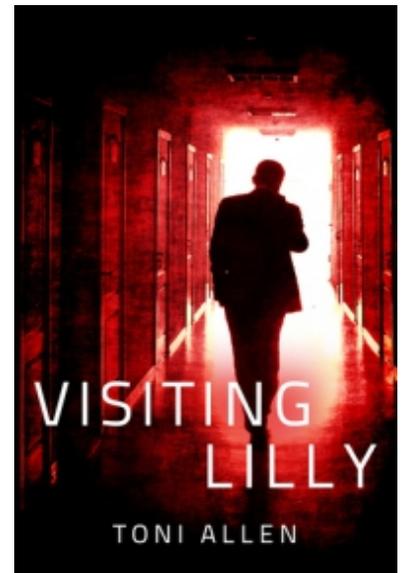


Visiting Lilly by Toni Allen
Genre: *Mystery/Paranormal*
Available: *Amazon*

Blurb: Why should a man at a Surrey police station go ballistic because someone tries to visit Lilly, his elderly grandmother?

Detective Inspector Jake Talbot is intrigued, and this little puzzle might serve to distract him from sorrows of a Christmas past. Soon he is entangled with Frankie, an odd young man who claims to have met Lilly in her youth. Talbot dismisses the notion of time travel, but then discovers the Ministry of Defence has been monitoring Frankie since his friend disappeared ten years previously. Forced to work with the MOD, Talbot unearths family secrets and betrayals. The families act ruthlessly to prevent him from discovering the facts, colluding to ruin him.

If Frankie is innocent, Talbot won't let him be victimised. An uneasy understanding grows between them as they follow the evidence, for only the truth will allow Frankie to visit Lilly.



Abbreviated Review (for Full Review, visit Goodreads):

Visiting Lilly is the story of Detective Inspector Jake Talbot and Francis “Frankie” Hayward—a man that claims he’s traveled through time, but more than that, during his time travel he met and fell in love with a woman by the name of Lilly.

The dilemma is that in current time, whenever Frankie attempts to visit Lilly who is an elderly woman in an Old Folks Home, her grandson goes insane, accusing Frankie of being a pervert.

Things eventually get super interesting when D.I. Talbot decides that he want to know more about this case and what is really going on. While Talbot is battling with his own inner demons, he can’t seem to lose interest in the goings on of this case.

I’ll try not to ruin the story too much for you all—I don’t want to give any spoilers.

So I will give you my thoughts of the overall presentation of this story in the form of Pros and Cons.

Cons:

There aren’t any!

I can’t even begin to tell you how wonderful it is to read a book and say with all certainty that there are NO CONS WHATSOEVER. It’s a beautiful thing indeed!

Pros:

1. The story has a certain edge of the genres Hard-boiled and Noir Fiction. When reading it, I felt as though I was being taken to the time of Dick Tracy, with a modern twist.
2. All of the characters were extraordinarily written and highly believable.
3. The dialogue was believable. Never cliché, never questionable.
4. The chapters were of even-ish length, not too long, and divided in all the right places.
5. The story keeps the reader invested. There isn’t a moment when you think to yourself, “Hmm. I’m not that interested in what’s going on next.” As the matter of fact, it’s quite the opposite. You WANT to know.
6. Being that I am a Special Needs parent, I ALWAYS ADMIRE when a story interweave the reality of struggling with Special Needs in a way that truly bring that struggle to the forefront. Visiting Lilly does that marvelously. More than that, it give the readers a real look into the life of a Special Needs person.

All in all, Visiting Lilly is a phenomenal read and I recommend it highly.



***Luz* by Luis Gonzalez**

Genre: Christian Fantasy

Available: Amazon



Blurb: Heaven, August of 1994, where a divine plot is currently hatching. The Creator of the Universe, anxious that his Son’s second coming should have already taken place by now—for according to scripture it was supposed to occur no later than 1988 but still seems nowhere on the horizon—is tired of waiting for the Son of Man to take action and fulfill his prophecy. Cuba, August of 1994, where a shocking event is currently unfolding. For the first time in 35 years, Cubans are openly revolting against Castro’s regime and, furthermore, the government is not stopping anyone from leaving the island. Those who want to flee are free to do so, as long as they take to the sea in their inner tubes and contraptions and homemade rafts. Clara, an idealistic and feisty 19 year-old Cuban girl, has decided that, despite the risks involved, she’s leaving her homeland and convinces husband, Rigo, that they must both join the exodus. It seems all systems are go. Everything is set for the following morning. But that night, as Rigo is breaking the news to his family about their impending departure, another shocking event is about to unfold. As Clara awaits her husband’s return, an unexpected visitor appears with news that will drastically impact their plans. Stunned and in disbelief, Clara refuses to accept what is being revealed. She figures that the surreal visitation is only the result of fear and uncertainty over the decision to leave Cuba. But Clara will soon change her mind. She will soon accept the news this stranger brings and thus begin an odyssey that will forever alter her life, in these, the first two testaments of her story.

Abbreviated Review (For full review, visit Goodreads):

Before I get into the mass of my review, I have to say one very important thing: Luz is a fantastic story, which could have been made better by just a few adjustments. And even with that, it is still a fabulous read.

Following I am going to give a quick break down of my thoughts in the form of pros and cons, and later sum it up with my final thoughts/conclusions.

Let's start with the cons as there are not many:

- I felt as a whole, the chapters were too long. On the average, chapters ranged at about 30 pages in length, on full sized pages. Possibly, rethinking the chapter length would have been a good step.
- While VERY FEW, and very far between, I did spot some typos. But, that's exactly what they were; typos. You see there wasn't anything wrong with syntax per say. It was just little errors here and there.
- There were some intervals of repetitious phrases. It was as if the author did not particularly know how else to phrase something, so whatever was repeated was his mental default. THIS, I promise you did not deter from the enjoyment of the story.
- Now, the following is very much a personal preference. The story is a very big cliff hanger. Now, I do realize that it's only one book (the first book) in a series, but I think that any book—even in a series—can have a certain degree of closure by its end.
- While the story is about Luz, Father God's soon to be daughter, the focus was mostly on Clara and her venture—from trying to obtain freedom, to realizing she is going to be the mother of God's next child, and the enterprise therein.

So, that's it with the cons.

On to the pros.

- I have got to give Mr. Gonzalez total and complete props on his breathtaking use of words. I am the first to say that he is a definite sui generis when it comes to his application of diction. He has a certain eloquence that takes the reader to another place altogether. It's spellbinding, to say the least.
- The story takes unexpected twists and turns that keeps the reader invested. This is something that I truly appreciate in a work.
- There were some, for a lack of a better description, comical bits, where the author portrays God the Father and God the Son in such a humanistic way that the reader can connect with them. They are not illustrated as the transcendent and abstruse beings that most make them out to be. It's a refreshing take on the usual approach.
- The characters were fantastically rendered and were believable as a whole.
- The scene descriptions and the like were depicted in such a way that not only did the image become clear, but the reader felt as though they were there. The author did an amazing job of chronicling everything so well—the scents, the sounds, the ambiance. Just enormously well written.

Overall, I find that Luz is a book well worth reading for not just the faith driven reader, but for the fiction and fantasy seeker. Mr. Gonzalez is an amazingly talented writer, and his talent makes me proud to be a Latino-Caribbean female. I truly believe that with a tad bit of tweaking, Luz will be a New York Times best seller in no time.



Mind Me, Milady by Anne Rothman-Hicks and Kenneth Hicks

Genre: Mystery

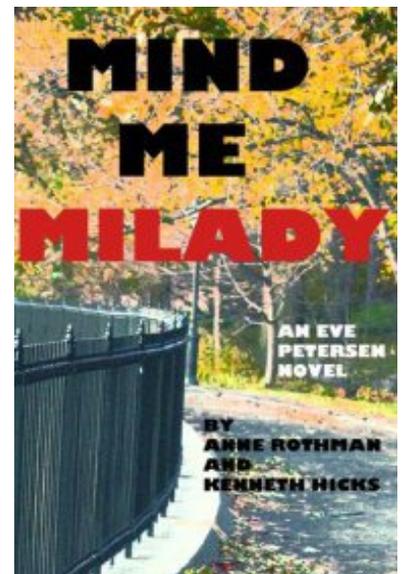
Available: Amazon

Abbreviated Blurb (For Full Blurb, visit Amazon): Every time the phone rings, Eve Anderson fears that the Gentleman Rapist will taunt her with the plight of a new victim awaiting rescue. Eve must listen as he recounts details in his phony British accent and promises that one day he will choose her.

Eve is an attorney, not a cop, but the serial rapist terrorizing women on New York's Upper East Side is obsessed with her. She is a determined, strong woman. But she has enough to deal with in her personal and professional life. She does not have the time or experience to solve a mystery in New York.

Now the Gentleman Rapist has escalated to murder. Now he stalks Eve's latest client, a sweet innocent girl with amnesia. Is this monster a part of the girl's mysterious past? Or did Eve herself endanger her client by handing him a target for revenge?

Now Eve must catch the Gentleman Rapist and stop his deadly game before yet another woman feels a wire tighten around her throat, and hears him whisper, "Mind me, Milady. Mind your master."



Abbreviated Review (for Full Review, visit Goodreads):

I have a whole slew of thoughts as it pertains to this read. But before I dip into them, I just want to say something that's very important.

This is a very good story with the potential to be great. Yet, I find myself on the fence, and throughout this review you will see why. I am going to try my best to convey my thoughts in a clear and concise manner, that will (I hope) not confuse you.

I am of several different minds when it comes to this book. They are:

- The mind of a reader
- The mind of a writer
- The mind of a reviewer
- The mind of an advocate
- The mind of an editor

Whilst I was reading this book many things went through my mind.

Things like:

~ Wow. This is actually a fantastic story line.

~ It's obviously written as a collaboration—as I could tell from chapter to chapter that it was different authors writing. Their styles were different.

~ If only the technical bits could measure up to the premise.

So, in all of that, what kept me on the fence was the fact that the presentation diminished the potential in the book as the story by itself is fantastic.

This book interweaves so many intriguing elements. You've got mystery, crime, thrill, as well as tidbits of paranormal elements, although it's not obvious to the untrained eye. These are expressed during Susan's dreams for the most part.

Suffice it to say that I loved the story line. Yet, the editorial bits made me angry, because had the authors taken a little more care and done a more attentive job of editing the book it would have been a definite 5 star read for me.

Now, here is where it gets tricky.

I need to start with my thoughts on a collaborative work.

Here is the definition: Collaborative writing refers to two or more persons working together to produce a written document.

When a work is collaborative it's imperative that the story flow coherently—smoothly. Basically, the reader shouldn't be able to tell who was Author A and who was Author B, but read the story as if it were one person.

Even before looking at the blurb and author(s) of this book, I KNEW it was 2 different people.

While it's not practiced widely in the writing world, I sometimes dip into a book without looking at who wrote it or the blurb. THIS was one of those occasions.

Yet, I'd gotten about 6 chapters in and knew that it was written by 2 different people, and I'll tell you why ...

Let's refer to the authors as Author A and Author B.

Author A had a practically flawless delivery in his/her prose, whereas Author B, not so much.

Now, in the book as a whole—both on the sides of Author A and B—there were some punctuation mishaps. Like a quotation mark inside of a quotation mark.

There were also some instances of missing punctuation or improperly used punctuation and things of the sort.

Overall, I think that Mind Me Milady is a great story that needs plenty of polishing, once that is done I would openly recommend it to anyone that likes this genre.





My Anniversary by Cora West

Genre: Erotica, Short Stories

Available: Amazon

Blurb: Victoria is celebrating her tenth wedding anniversary in Maui when her husband proposes they explore their hidden fantasies. She's shocked when he tells her he wants to see her with another man. She admits that she sometimes fantasizes about being an exhibitionist. Add in one sexy, skimpy white dress and a few Mai Tais, and who knows what will happen...

My Anniversary is a standalone story in the My Hot Vacation series, which features women traveling to steamy locales. These exciting getaways bring surprises, new experiences, and unexpected awakenings. Take a quick break with these short, fun, super-sexy reads.

This erotic short is approximately 6,400 words long, 22 print pages. It contains content suitable only for adults.

Abbreviated Review (For Full Review, visit Goodreads):

"My Anniversary" by Cora West is a short story of about 22 pages in length (give or take a few pages depending on what format you're reading it in). The short story is written in first person, present tense, via the view of the main character, Victoria. It's a very quick read that can be read in about a half hour.

I really don't have anything good to say about this story. I truly mean no disrespect, but I'm just being honest.

While this is supposed to be Erotica Work, it was more like a 12 year old boy's wet dream.

I don't mean to be vulgar, but am trying to state the obvious. When a person turns to Erotica, the focus is to become sexually aroused.

One phrase I like to use when referring to good Erotica is, "a panty wetter". Is the story a panty wetter, or not?

Simply put, this one is not.

Allow me to share some of my reasons why this book was not as arousing as it could have been as well as some other things, apart from the story line that made this read, not so good.

On with the Pros and Cons:

This book did have a few Pros.

- 1) The Cover wasn't half bad, albeit stereotypical.
- 2) The plot has potential.
- 3) The spelling is good, even though the grammar is not completely correct.
- 4) The premise can be considered "real life" or "based on real events".

Unfortunately, the Cons outweigh the Pros.

- 1) The story starts off with a series of cut off scenes that don't do much to add to the story line, yet mostly leave the reader confused as they are incomplete.
- 2) The main character's name is only mentioned once, throughout the entire story. Which works against the story as a whole, because by the end of the book I'd forgotten her name and had to go back and look it up.
- 3) The writing style is very unemotional and mollified. It just doesn't do anything to pull the reader in and keep him/her invested in the story.
- 4) In regards to grammar, it could have been better. This writer seems to have a thing for ellipses. However, this seems to be the new norm among the writing community. The "new fad" is throwing ellipses just any old where. My view? When in doubt, Google it. If you're not sure how to use a punctuation, Google it. Easy peasy.
- 5) I didn't care much about the main character. She just seemed boring to tell you the truth. The husband came off as a pervert, as did Julian. Yet, all of this can easily be contributed to the writing style. When the writing is mediocre, the characters are unlovable.

6) Another downfall was the while the book was supposedly written in present tense, it kept shifting back and forth between present and past tense. This made the writing inconsistent.

7) There was also NOTHING original about this story. This story was the epitome of the same old drab "fantasy" story. Wife and husband are bored with each other, they go on a vacation, and the fantasy comes true. Just SOOOO unoriginal that it drives me crazy.

I say that to say this; if you're looking for a short story that will truly "wet your panties" this is not it. Sorry. I just can't do blasé Erotica.





Coffee Time



Hello Richard, thank you for being here with me during Coffee Time with Y. Correa. How about we order something to sip on while we chat? I'll have a Café con Leche. What are you having? My treat.

Richard: I will have a coffee with two sugars.

So, Coffee Time is all about me getting to know my author friends on a one to one basis. You and I have been Facebook buddies for some time now, yet we don't know much about it each other. How's about we change that now? ;)

I am Richard Cotton; 54 years old. I have been writing since I was 14. I write Science Fiction and Fantasy. I have one book out called "The Black Knight" which is about seven evil knights—this one is fantasy. Then, I have "The Rescue Team" which is ready to go, but not in print yet. "Wohlpaye" which is about a half evil wizard come wolf. "Kestrel Petrol" which is about a strike force in space. I might even put all my short stories into a book soon but that is not ready yet. I will have others soon.

I find that every author's journey varies from person to person, however 2 things always remain the same; they either knew from a very young age that they wanted to write, or it happened suddenly. Which is your story? Did you always know or did it just happen?

I started to write when I was 14 due to my handwriting which went when I fractured my left wrist, and chose to write stories as it was better than just writing words. I am left handed and writing with my right hand wasn't easy.

Where are you from originally and where are you now? What is life like where you currently live?

I am from Kettering, Northamptonshire, UK and I am now in Northampton, Northamptonshire, UK. Life where I live is kind of like being in an area where no one is alive as it is so quiet every day. I am moving soon, but that will be much of the same as far as I can see.

Who/what inspired you in your writing venture, or was it similar to me and it was many people/things and not just one in particular?

I wasn't inspired by any writers. I wrote for my self and it was great to do stories. My first book was called "The Dragons" which is about seven people going out on adventures. It came close to been published but as it was in the form of a dairy, I was told to sort it out into one story.
It's still in writing.

Here is a question that always intrigues me; have people around you been supportive of your writing venture, or have you had to search for support elsewhere?



My family never really supported me in my writing and as for others helping, it's mainly writing friends on Facebook which help in their own way.

*Now this is the part where I ask a series of random questions. Brace yourself! Most of all have fun with this. *giggling**

Planes, trains or automobiles, and why?

Mainly automobiles as I feel safer on the ground, but I have been in a plane and a helicopter and found them fun.

If you had 5 dollars left in your pocket and knew that you'd never have another cent for the rest of your life, what would you spend it on?

I would most likely spend it on a book to read as I like reading books as much as writing them.

Finish this sentence. Yellow is to mustard, as _____ is to Richard; and why?

Black. It's a colour I think that I would say suits me. "The man in black."

What is your favorite food, and what would you do if you could never have it again?

My choice of food would be Chocolate. If I could never have it again, I would probably find some way of eating something else.

You are Marty Mcfly, your Delorean broke down during one of your travels in time and you can never leave that time. What time (past, present or future) would you chose to live the rest of your life in and why?

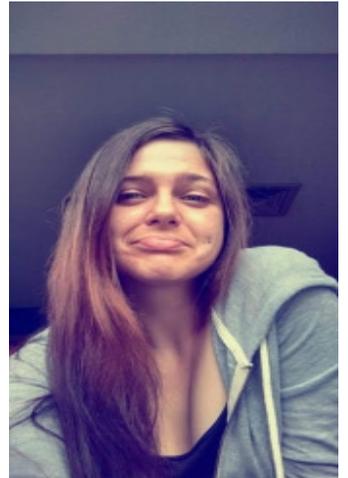
If I chose, it would be either 1987. This was when I married and I would tell myself that I shouldn't go live with my family as they will split me up from my wife.

Or some time in the future when we hopefully have built spacecraft like the Enterprise, just to see if those predictions came true.

Thanks for stopping by Coffee Time, Richard. To keep track of Richard's past, present, and future endeavors check out his Facebook or his store on Lulu.



Author Interview



For Issue 10: Blooming Sunrays, our Featured Author is Casey Harvell.

Casey, thank you for joining us here today at All Authors Magazine. We're very happy to have you. Whenever we pick an author to interview, we try to pick authors whose work we find interesting. Suffice it to say that your work (and the many titles under your belt) have peaked our interest. * giggling *

All Authors Magazine is a magazine created by authors, for authors and our motto is "Advocating all authors, reaching all readers". So, today we are going to pick your brain in the hopes that our readers/followers learn more about the person behind the books.



1. Could you please share a short bio with us? Tell us a bit about Casey Harvell, her works and who she is.

I'm actually a huge dork, lol. I'm also a mother, wife, Amazon Bestselling & USA Today Recommended Author, business owner, gamer and zombie enthusiast. I write romance, but my sub-genres are across the board. They range from Dystopian to New Adult. You can always find more at www.caseyharvell.com <3

Dystopian YA Romance:

USA Today Recommended "Must Read" Romance

The Electric Series

Charged

Shocked

Wired

New Adult:

*The Wrong Way
Doesn't Play Well With Others*

*Thriller:
Lingering...*

Paranormal Romance:

*The Decisions Series
Righteous Decisions
Harsh Decisions*

Coming soon!

*War on Myself (New Adult)
Soul Decisions (Decisions Series Book Three~ Final Installment)*

2. Often times, as authors, people believe that we lose a grip on reality. People often think that because we write that our minds are stuck in this alternate world that we created and don't know what's going on around us. Do you find that that's true, why or why not?

In a sense I'd say that it is true. Not that I don't know what's going on, haha—although I certainly have moments where I'm lost in thought. The creative process is a tricky thing—for me at least. I have no control over when inspiration hits so when it does I grab on and hold tight. My mind is never “stuck” in anything. Rather it doesn't shut up. I have to determine what I set free. If I seem preoccupied it's because I'm sifting through everything, not lost in another dimension. C'mon people. Although—it'd be a damn good book! ;)

3. They say that everything in this world is made of energy. If energy is implemented into something, it becomes real. That said, how 'real' are your characters to you?

We're going deep today! This is a trick question—to me my characters are very real. I hope they are to my readers, too. I will say if I could “Weird Science” them into creation from sheer force of will, energy expended and blood, sweat and tears—they'd be here. I think all authors pour their energy into their characters. At least, I hope they do. 0_o

4. If you could choose from just one of your books being made into a movie, which would it be and why?

That's hard. Two of my books are my favorites (#DPWWO & The Electric Series)...I could see Selene's story told, she's real and gritty...

BUT—

I have to say the Electric Series. My motives are supremely superficial. I just want to watch the nanobot apocalypse.

5. As artists, we are all inspired by something. Who/what is your inspiration and why?

*Everything.
Seriously—I have a problem.*

6. This issue of All Authors Magazine, the theme is “Blooming Sunrays”, what does that mean to you?

For the love of things that are, I hope it means no more snow!! Not kidding about that, either. It also inspires the idea of hope. Isn't that what spring's all about? It's like a fresh slate, a new start.

7. If you could be a Superhero, which would it be and why?

I'd want to be the Black Widow. She doesn't have any actual super powers, she's just badass. That's what I would want. Not to be special, just to be badass.

8. If roses are red and violets are blue, why does the sun shine on you?

*Cuz it was all yellow?? Sorry—90's moment.
I sure hope it melts the rest of this white stuff on the ground.*

9. Okay, New York is a melting pot of cultures, due to that every New Yorker has his/her favorite takeout food. What is yours and why?

Sushi. I love that stuff. I also can't eat gluten so a lot of yummy stuff is off limits already—but sushi? I can totally eat sushi, haha.

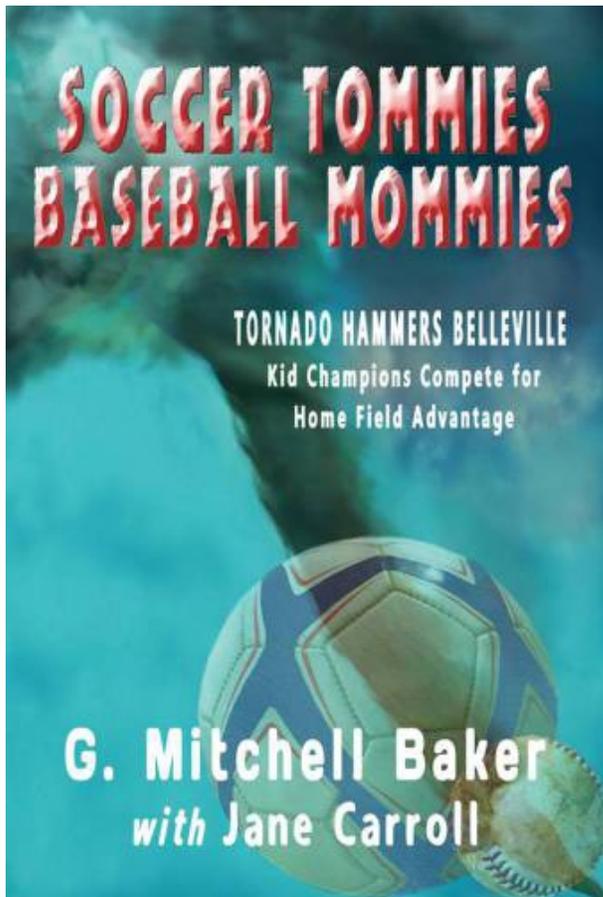
10. What is ONE THING (not person or entity) that you simply CANNOT live without?

My laptop. I couldn't do a thing without it. I couldn't write, format, edit, make covers, trailers, teasers—you get the idea. Without it I couldn't do what I do! ;)

Casey, thanks again for being with us today as the Featured Author of All Authors Magazine, Issue 10.



Feature Book



Soccer Tommies, Baseball Mommies
By
G. Mitchell Baker

Genre: Childrens and Preteens
Available: Amazon Kindle & Paperback
Length: 132 Pages

Blurb:

Emotions are at a high point after 'Old Luke' hits the town of Belleville. Building's and lives are destroyed and the Fabiano twins, Teddy and Terri, find themselves in a fight to the finish to see what team (Soccer Tommies or Baseball Mommies) will win the right to the only ball field left within a hundred miles.

What the kids, and everyone around them learns, is that the 'home field advantage' is not something you win. It's more about working together to become a real team.

Soccer Tommies, Baseball Mommies is a clever little book about kids and the true meaning of winning.

Excerpt:

Chapter 2

The Skunksters Invade

Unaware of the danger at hand, Terri showed off her best soccer moves as the last of the baby skunks made the turn and disappeared into the family room. Tape and Teddy went back to the window. Then Kinny dropped her Frisbee and short-stepped toward the skunks.

"You are about to witness the single most devastating event in Fabiano Family history." Teddy patted his belly, often referred to as the "Bobo." The sense of satisfaction was huge.

"And Kinny," demanded Tape. "What kind of pet guy are you?"

"Oh yeah," Teddy thought for a moment. "Kinny...."

"You gotta' care about her man," Tape pleaded. "I mean even if you gotta' be a Pirate who doesn't care about your soccer sister and all."

"Alas, poor Kinny," Teddy's head lowered. "Unfortunately, that's what she gets for hanging around the Soccer Tommies instead of going to baseball practice with us."

Engrossed in her soccer practice, Terri noticed Kinny had abandoned her Frisbee. Then Terri saw what had Kinny's attention, and she let out a great scream.

"Here we go!" Teddy enjoyed the drama as Terri faked a boot of her soccer ball at the Mama skunk. Instead of scaring the skunk, Terri looked on in horror as the skunk instinctively turned and locked her tail in place, prepared to defend against the threat of the soccer ball.

Kinny yipped as the first skunk perfume hit her nose.

Terri watched as the four baby skunks followed Mama's example and one by one flipped around and snapped their tiny tails into place. Terri freaked as the line of locked and loaded skunksters wiggled in the direction of her and Kinny. It was now the epic Soccer Tommies versus the Skunksters showdown.

"The very nerve," Terri kicked the soccer ball with all her might and blasted Mama Skunk square in the butt. Fortunately, the ball arrived fast enough to catch most of the noxious skunk's spray.

Teddy announced into a pretend microphone, "And oh my! What a classic shot-on-skunk by the young lass from the USA. Unfortunately it was not enough to settle the attack of all the Skunksters."

The smelly ball rolled back towards Terri and Kinny; the thought of retreat was automatic.

"Did you know a skunk's spray is flammable?" Teddy pretended to interview Tape.

"Really?"

"Yes sir with lots to ignite around here too."

Tape nodded. "Wait! What if this all catches on fire and-?"

"Enough already." Teddy's nod was calm. "Nothing is going to explode."

"Okay then." Tape settled as Teddy continued in his best announcer voice. "Soccer Tommies 1 and the Skunksters Nil."

"Look," Tape exclaimed as Terri's second soccer ball blast knocked the squealing Mama skunk butt-over-tea-kettle and clear back into the kitchen. Surprisingly, the babies stood their ground and remained ready to fire again. With head down, and tail between her legs, Kinny started toward the front line of determined baby skunks.

"Kinny. No!" Teddy shouted, as Terri grabbed Kinny's fluorescent green Frisbee with one hand and Kinny with the other. With the disc held in front of them like a shield, Terri attempted to jump out of the way just as the four baby skunks let go with their tiny shakes and smelly sprays. The close range showers of putrid perfume hit the Frisbee and caught Kinny's tail flush.

Teddy slumped to the deck in laughter as Kinny yowled and tried to crawl under the coffee table.

“What you laughing at?” Tape demanded.

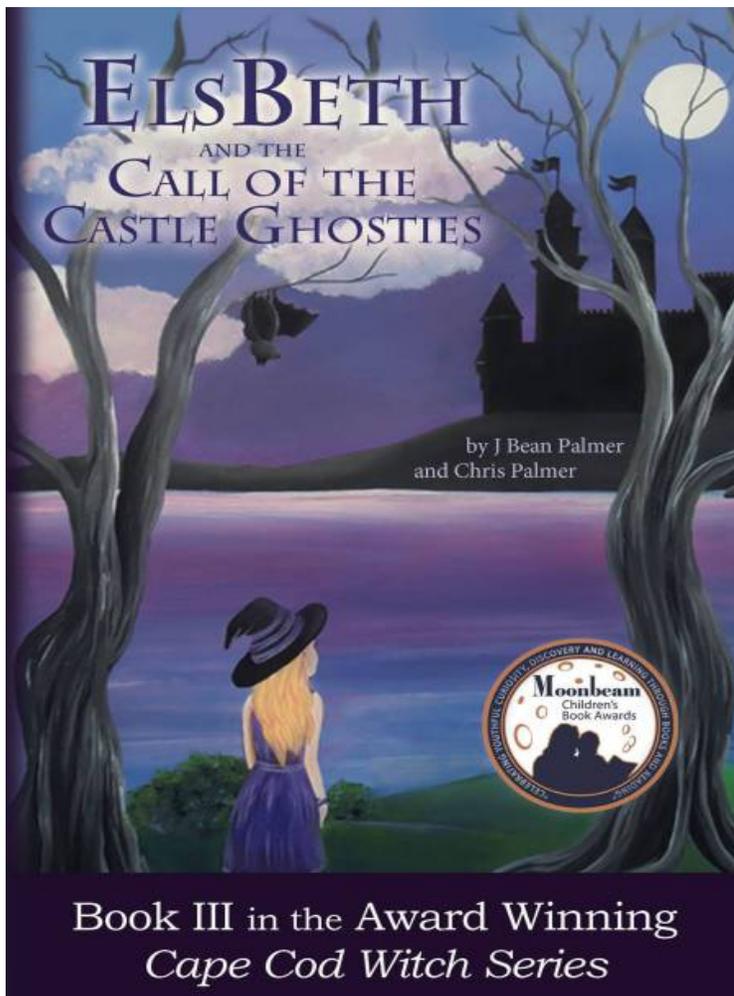
“Didn’t you see those baby skunksters?” Teddy bawled. “There were those little twitches, and then Boosh Ka-Pow, el Stinko Rama-Jama!”

“But you have to live in this house,” Tape reminded him. “Everything you own is going to smell like skunk!”



Covers

For this issue’s Awesome Covers, we are proud to feature *ElsBeth and the Call of the Castle Ghosties* by J. Bean Palmer and Chris Palmer.



Genre: *Children’s*

Website: www.CapeCodWitch.com

Brief Summary:

When their ancestral home and lands are threatened, three ancient ghosts need one of their clan from the living world. They call the young Cape Cod witch across the sea to the old country.

Not yet proven or highly skilled, but with a personal calling to protect the natural world — and her own need to find out more about the family mysteries — *ElsBeth* is in well above her magic level.

Available: Amazon and Barnes and Noble

Where did the inspiration for the cover come from?

From ElsBeth herself, really. We did our best to see how the young witch might see herself at an early crisis in the story.

Do you feel that it reflects the story well?

Yes. A dark castle framed in clouds backlit by a full moon, with the young witch facing the mystery of her ancestral home in the old country. These reflect the mystery and suspense of this far-ranging magical adventure of Cape Cod's youngest witch, ElsBeth Amelia Thistle.

The only thing missing is the humor, but that is a bonus for the reader to enjoy along the way.

Did you design it yourself or was it designed by another party?

We co-designed the cover image with artist Melanie Therrien, with whom we've worked the last several years on all The Cape Cod Witch Series books. Readers and bookstore staff and owners tell us continually they love the illustrations. Melanie is a rare talent, and designing a cover with her that evokes the spirit of the tale is a great joy.

Given the choice, would you change anything about it?

No. The illustration design phase with the illustrator was fun but extensive, and once painted we worked with her on a few revisions. The full cover design with titles was then created; we surveyed it, and modified it some more. The final change was to add the Moonbeam Award medal artwork.



So, we made a lot of changes before publication! But we are proud of the final result and wouldn't change anything about it now. Kind of like kids. They're always perfect in your own eyes.

Was this the original cover to this book, or was there one prior (like a first edition)?

We received a Moonbeam Award after the book came out so the cover is slightly modified to include the award seal.

Does this cover reflect your artistic preference?

Yes. In all the revisions we refined the image to better reflect our artistic preferences, and we feel it does.

Not to say there aren't other great styles to explore! We have a "boy book" series in the works, The Space Adventures of Siddhartha Blue, and expect it will have quite a different look.



J. Bean and Chris, thank you so much for sharing your Awesome Cover with us!



Guest Article

***Reader's Perspective:
Through the Eyes of a Reader and Reviewer***

By

Rebecca Mills, Avid Reader



I was asked to write this article to help Authors out and to give them a view from a reader's eye.
The age "old don't judge a book by the cover" saying...



To me the cover of one's book is very, very important. If the cover is eye catching it will draw a reader's eye to it. Without a nice cover your work might get passed by. I think the cover catches one's eye and triggers something in the brain, something that says "Oh I must try this." Now with that said, to me as a reader the cover is very important. For instance, when you go shopping (for most anything) if it does not look good you won't buy it, or if it does not peak your interest you will put it down and walk away.



Take hamburger meat for instance. In the meat department sitting side by side is a package of fresh red hamburger and next to it is a brown package of meat; which one will you grab. Me? I would go for the red one as it is appealing and tells my eyes it is the fresher meat.

A Superb Description

The synopsis/blurb is also a very important part of the book. If it is intriguing, one will pick it up and read it. I know it is a small place to sum up your book, so it must be powerful.

For instance; I am a paranormal reader so that small part of the book tells me if the book is paranormal. Now, as a reviewer, I must read many things but paranormal is my first love.



**I Love
the
Paranormal**

Knowing the Author (Social Media and Its Importance)

Then, also very important to me is that I like to know my Author. So a Bio is very important and an added touch that is breathtaking.

Social Media is a way we readers can get to know our Authors. Places like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TSU and other sites are very helpful tools. As are groups where you can drop links to your books and a free book to entice the reader to give your work a shot. And please tweet three times a day at least. Twitter does sell books.

Also to see an Author in action on social media is great.

Many of the books I have found to read I have seen either the Author share the link, or the street team share a link or at online parties and blogs. I have bought many books that way.



What is a street team you ask? They are like cheerleaders on social media for an Author, and for the reader they are someone to tag in contest and play games as well as get information on an Author. So if you don't have one you truly need to get one.

I have also bought many a book at online parties. At a party you get to interact with an Author. You can ask questions and just chat and hang out. That is a place you can see some of what the Author likes and some of their life.

I run several street teams for Authors and so I get to see the added touches a lot. One street team I run is for Thomas Duder. He has done videos of him reading his books and singing. He always interacts with his readers. The videos help us to see the Author is real, alive and is an added touch to selling books.

Videos on your book content are also very important. Yes, I do watch those and have also bought books after watching a video.

Book-Trailers1



A giveaway is also important. You can tag people and share to get more eyes on your work. And it also shows that you are an active Author and care for your fans. As well as getting that swag out and having your street team to drop off book markers at book stores, libraries and so on. A book marker is after all, a smaller version of your book cover and is very important to selling books.

Final Presentation and Book Clubs

A good editor is a number one thing. If the book has a lot of mess ups in it, then it is hard to follow along. Those mess ups can discourage a reader and they may not buy and read another one of your books. I have heard that a lot on Facebook. "Well, the Author did not care enough to spend the time to correct the book and make it easier to follow." Thing like, "The Author was in such a hurry to sell the book and make the money that he didn't spend the time to correct it before it went to print or went live." Now, I do not think that way, as we are all human and mistakes are made. But some readers are harder to please than I am.

If you have not joined an online book club please do. I have a book club called TURN THE PAGE BOOK CLUB FOR BROWNWOOD AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES, on Facebook. We are a little different as we encourage the readers and Authors to interact with one another—not to just drop links and go about their way. We also post reviews in the club and talk about books we have read or are about to read. You can post a party link and tell the group about your work. We do have rules, so if you join please read them.

We as a species are using our planet up with reckless abandon, and the fact that too few of us seem to be willing to pay attention to that and focus on plausible solutions bothers me. As an outlet for this frustration and disgust, I write about it.

Reviews and Reaching Out



Reviews are very important. Yes, I read the reviews as well. You can get more information on the book you want to read as every review is different and every reviewer covers a different part of the book.

I have read many books on new Authors and reviewed them as well as put together street teams and try to help them get the word out about their work. To me, a new Author needs your help more than an established Author. I have read many a great book by new Authors. So if you are new, please reach out to reviewers, blogs and book clubs. There are a ton of people willing to help you. Have a party on Facebook that gets a lot of eyes on your work. Have swag made— it really helps to get your book seen, and get on a few blogs and play a few games as well.

I hope I have covered everything and that this is helpful for you and gives you the insight of a reader and reviewer. You can always catch me on Facebook by way of a PM and I do not mind answering questions if I know the answer to it.

Thank You.



Thank you Rebecca for this great insight.

If YOU are a Reader (not a writer) and would like to give YOUR perspective on what you look for out of a book/author and/or reading experience, then reach out to us. We'd love to hear from you!

Email us at: admin@allauthorspp.net



All About Indie

How to Convert Your Raw Manuscript Into An E-book Part Two: How to Make an e-book File



Hello, and welcome to issue 10 of All Authors Magazine. In issue 9, we talked about how to format and fine-tune your raw MS ready for print and/or e-book. As promised, in this issue we will look at how to turn your nicely formatted document into an e-book file.

As mentioned in issue 9, there are many programs available that you can use to make this conversion. Some are expensive, others only a minor cost, and even free. Each of these pieces of software varies in how easy or difficult it is to navigate and use. Also, the flexibility you have in setting parameters will vary, as will the quality of the finished conversion. In this issue, we will look at the options you have, and how to work with the most popular free option.

The most expensive and complicated program I have come across is Adobe's In Design. My feeling is that this is more relevant for a publisher, than for an indie author. Unless you are also a graphic artist/designer and can get full use out of this product. Also, Adobe has moved onto a monthly licence fee, so you cannot buy the program outright, but have to pay a monthly fee for as long as you want to use the program. If you use this software, you would build your book within it and then export to the particular media you need (epub, PDF, etc.).

A much cheaper and more writer-friendly application is Scrivener. I purchased this recently, and have used it to write and publish my latest book, and all I can say is: "Wow." I still have a lot to learn with this versatile program, as it has so many features that I just haven't had the time to get to grips with them all yet. It is relatively inexpensive, and you only pay a onetime fee at the point of purchase. As well as many tools that are awesomely helpful while you are writing, it also exports to just about any media you could wish for, including epub, mobi, PDF, MS Word, and more. As I say, it will take time for you to get to know your way around and find out all of its facilities. They do provide good tutorials to get you going, including an in-program interactive guide.

Free software programs are available online, and some of these are better than others. Personally, I don't trust the online converters that ask you to upload your whole book to them. First and foremost, please ensure that you can trust that website fully before you upload to them. A lot of scams exist out there, so do be careful. Much more preferable in my book, is a program that you can download to your computer, without having to give your book file to anyone.

By far and away the best free converter I have found is Calibre, which actually started out life as an e-book library (and still does a sterling job at that, too). This piece of kit is completely free of charge, although you can make a donation to the developers if you wish. They give you regular free updates, and the program will let you convert to many formats. While it does convert from PDF, these often result in problematic e-book layouts, and I have found it is always easier and gives best results if you can convert from an MS Word document. Calibre will convert to any e-book format you want. It doesn't convert from Pages, so you would need to convert from Pages to another format first before using Calibre.

There are other platforms and programs that you can find by doing a quick web search, but the ones I have mentioned here are the ones I have tried and tested and can vouch for. And really, if I can convert my MS for free (or very little cost), I'm all about that. Although the likes of Smashwords and Amazon will convert your MS for you, I like to be able to tweak certain aspects of my book (including text justification, among others) and so find that doing my own conversion then uploading, works best for me. It has proved to be the case, time and again, that my finished e-book is much smoother when I make my own and then upload to my chosen publishing platform, than when I rely solely upon the online converter. This is especially true if your book contains any images or tables. Not all publishing platforms will accept a mobi file from you, however. So it's worth checking.

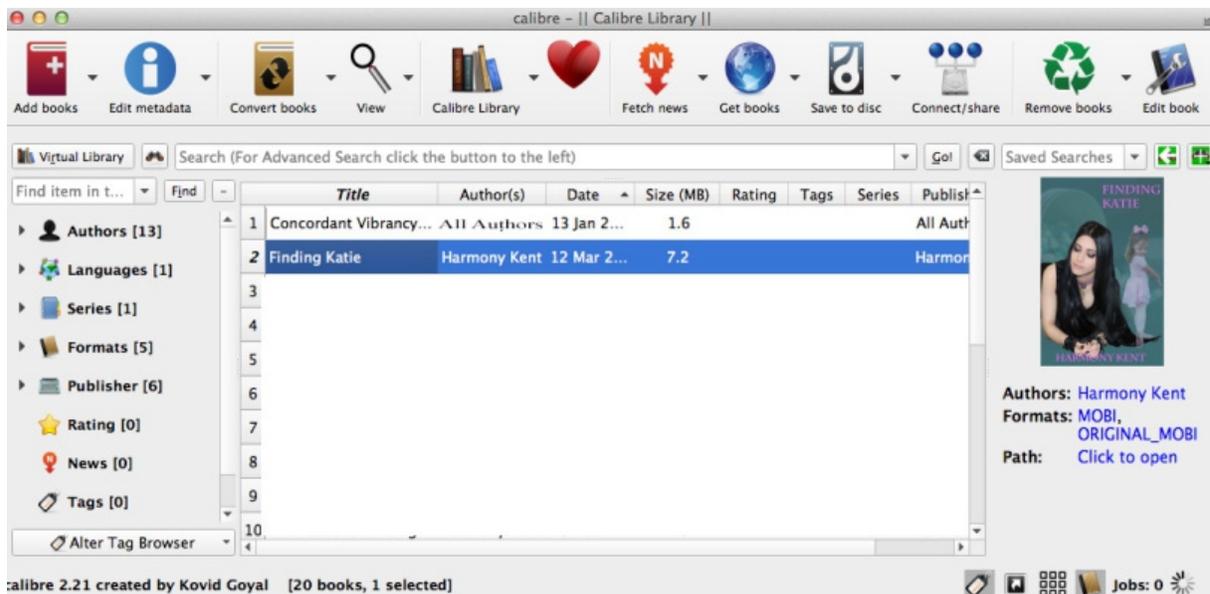
Making my own e-books gives me the ability to offer Advanced Review Copies of my book, as well as to gift a copy (because authors in the UK cannot gift digital products on Amazon like customers in America can). I can also offer my books for sale direct from my website if I want to. In short, having the ability to make my own e-book gives me much more flexibility all round.

Right now, I use Scrivener for everything. Sometimes (and this is probably me still needing to learn some finer points), my e-book conversion isn't exactly how I want it, so I use Calibre to fine-tune and tweak it. Together, these two applications give me every tool I could ever need for making my own e-books. Before I discovered Scrivener, I used Calibre for all of my conversions.

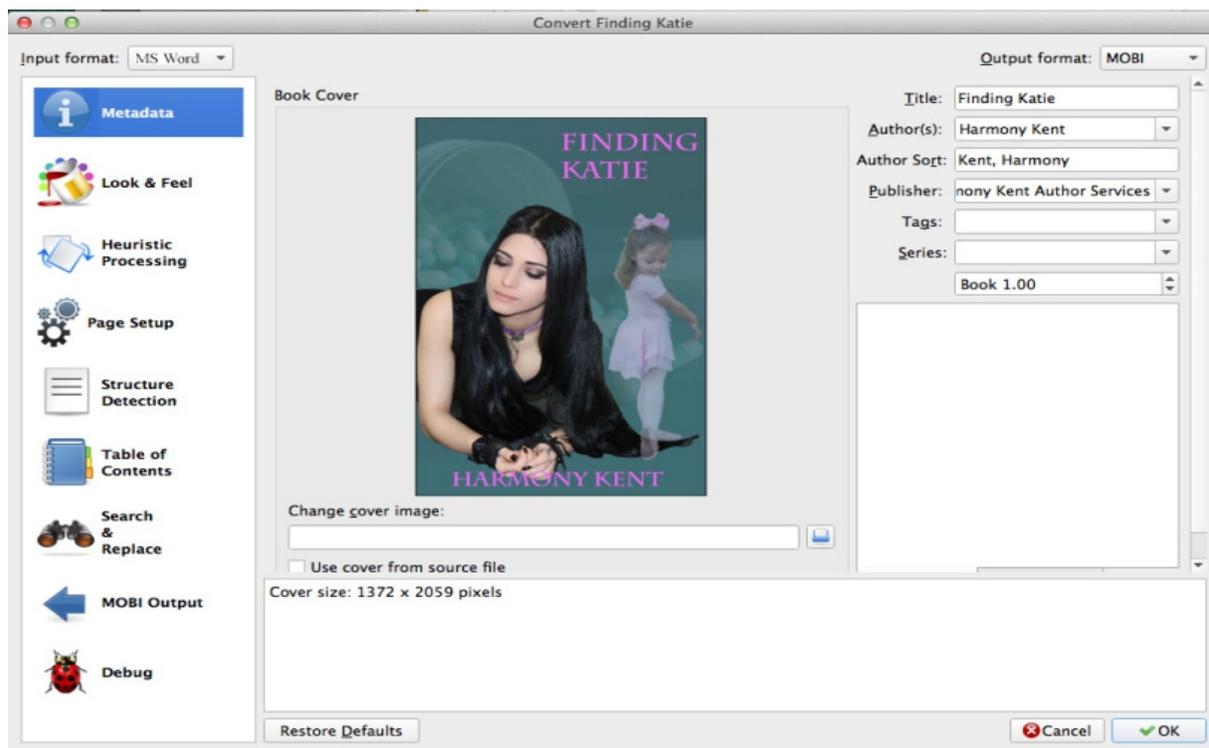
Here, we will look at how to work with Calibre in making a conversion between MS Word and mobi. I choose this program for this example, as it is free, as well as easy to learn and use. I would recommend that you find a program that works for you and your situation/finances, and that you spend the time to get to know it as thoroughly as you can.



So, to get started, you need a formatted and finished manuscript, preferably in MS Word. You will have Calibre all downloaded and set up on your computer (whether this be Mac or PC), and your interface will look something like this ...



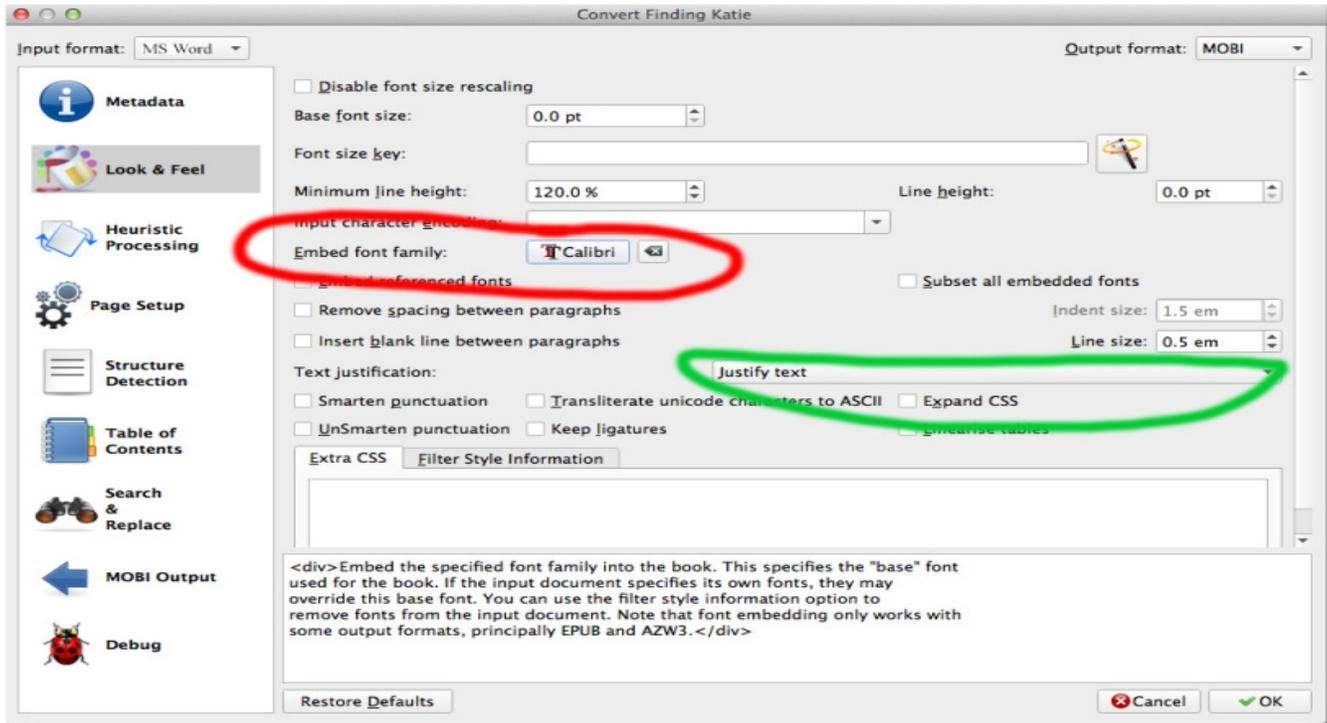
You need to make sure the document you wish to convert is selected (see the blue bar above, which shows the book is selected), then you will click on “Convert Books” (the brown book picture third in from the left on the menu bar). The following dialogue box will open ...



On the right hand side of the dialogue box, at the very top, you need to select “mobi”. In the box on the far top-left, you will see that Calibre recognises that you are converting from MS Word. Next you want to input your book title, as it will appear on your e-reader.

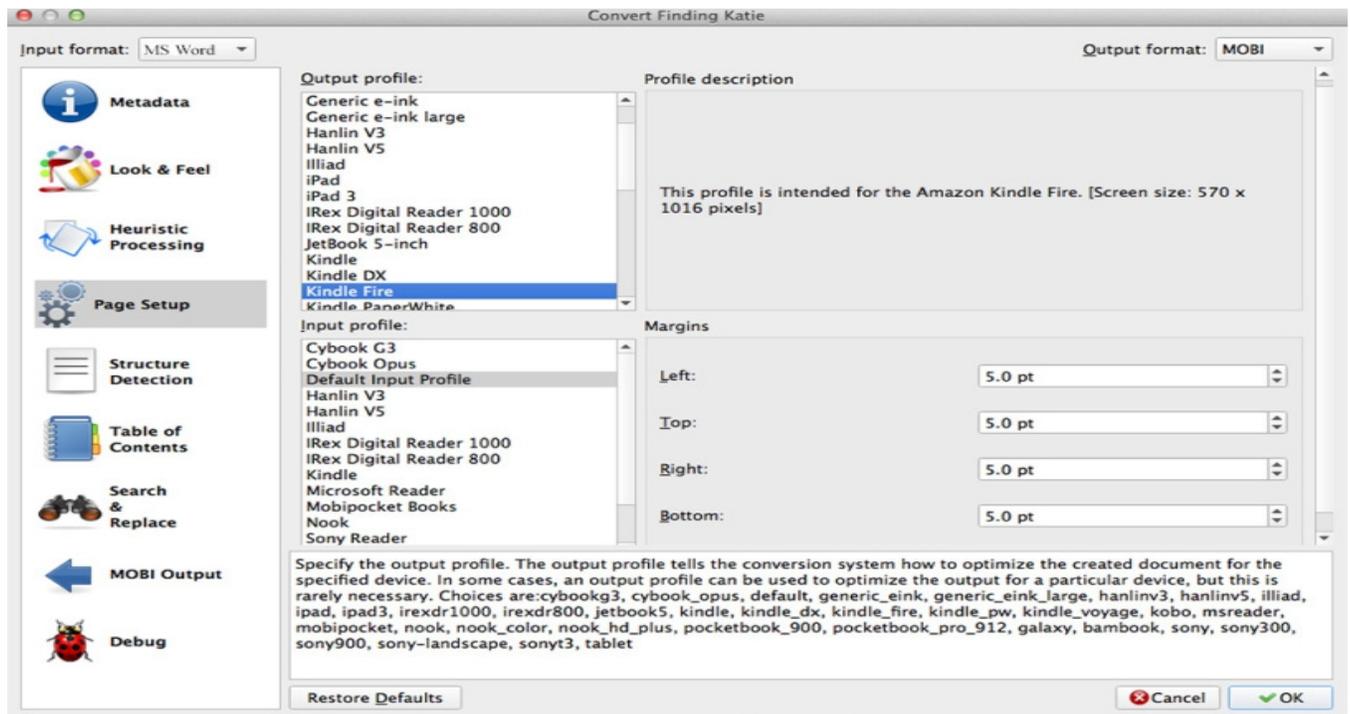
Then next up is your author name, the publisher, and if it is a series, then the book number in the series, and series name (otherwise leave this blank).

In the middle is where you can browse for, and select, the image you wish to use as your book cover. You will want a jpeg format for this. Once all of these boxes are filled in and you have your cover showing in the big box in the middle, as above, you are ready to move on to the next set of options. Select "Look and Feel", and the following will display ...



As you can see, you have many options here. The important ones right now are the text justification and the font family. The red circle shows you where you can choose your font family. Here you have the option to leave it set to "None", and the e-reader will use a default font. The green circle shows you where you can choose the text justification: either, "original", "left", or "justified".

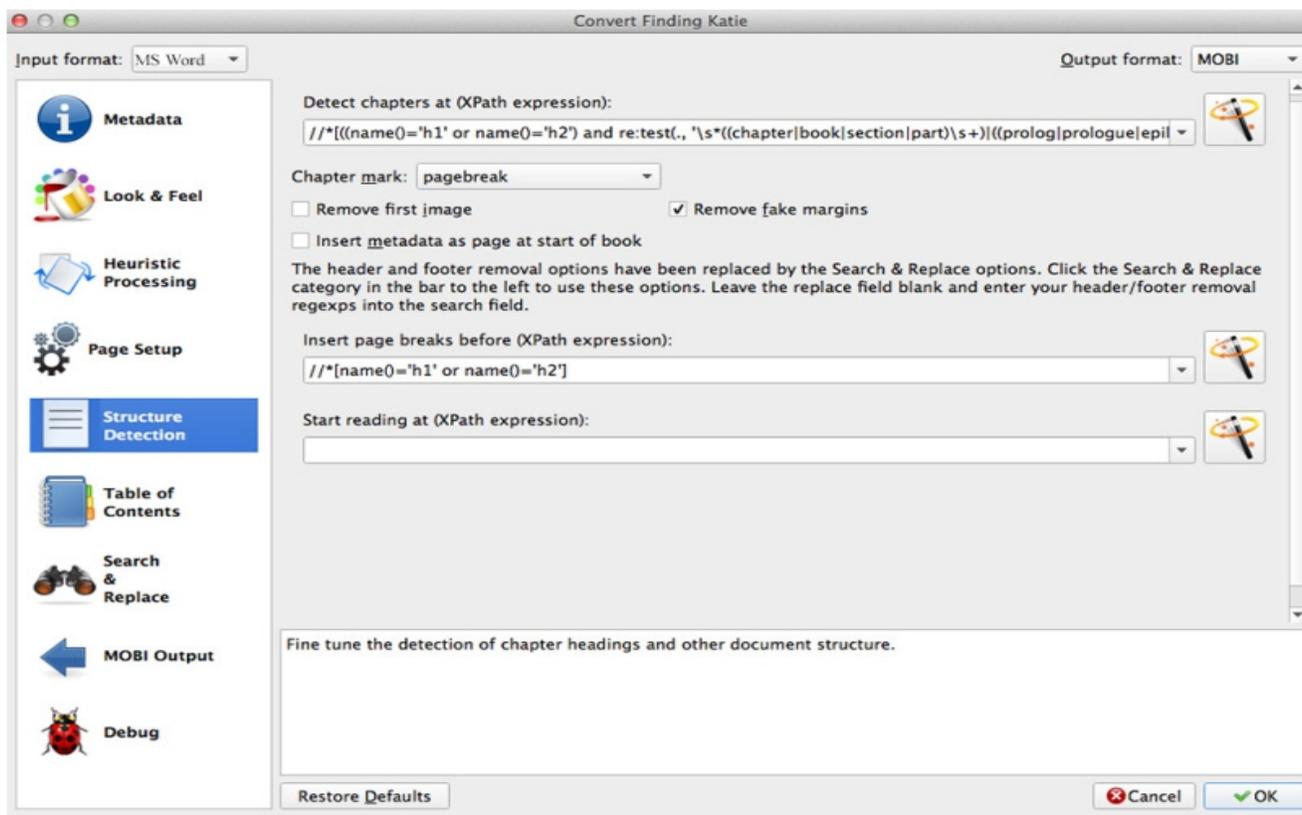
For the purposes of this example, I have set it to "Calibri" font and "justified" text (equal at left and right margins). Once you have set these, you can move on to the "Page Setup" button. You don't need to worry about the "Heuristic Processing" button, as you don't want to activate this. The next screen will open up for you ...



Some care is needed on this section, as even if you have a format selected as above, if you hover your mouse over one of the other selections by mistake, the program will show those parameters instead. This is one of the very few quirks I have found with this program, and it is easily overcome.

In this instance, I have selected “Kindle Fire” by hovering over it and left-clicking the mouse. I chose this version of Kindle because it is the most versatile, and will work on the newest model and the oldest Paperwhite. Once you have selected the output format you want, carefully slide your mouse sideways and to the left, until you are over the “Page Setup” menu option again. The “Profile Description” box should stay as it is above. If you have accidentally hovered over one of the other choices, the information in this box will change, and you will need to select again.

Your next choice is “Structure Detection”. The screen will look like this ...

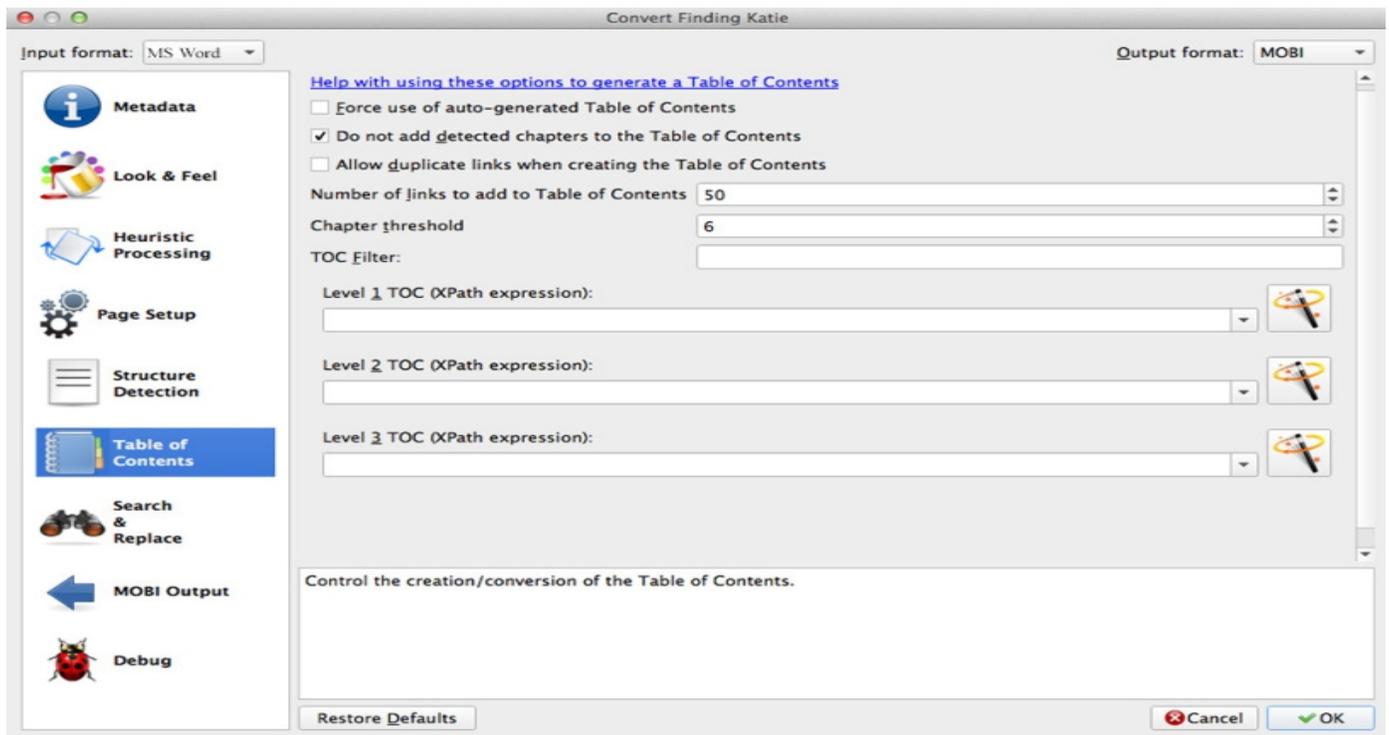


Only the “remove fake margins” wants to be checked at this stage. As you get used to the program, and what you want for your books, please feel free to experiment by changing the settings in each dialogue box one at a time, and see what happens. You won’t break anything, and it will give you a good idea of what each option does.

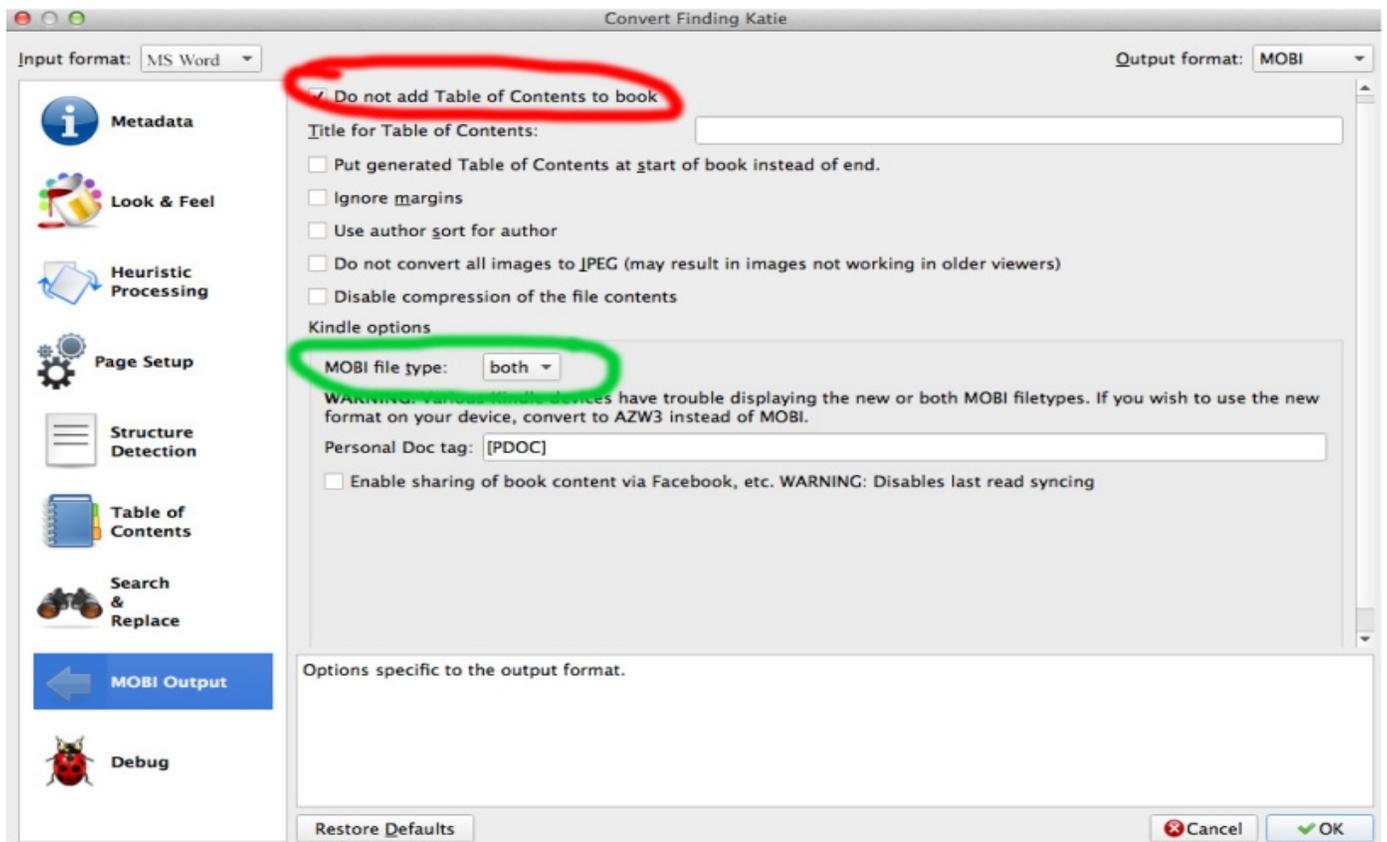
If you want to break for a coffee at this point, I fully understand ... I’m sneaking off for one myself right about now! :)



Okay, all ready to carry on? Great. The next thing you want to select is the “Table of Contents” button, on the left menu bar. Now you will see the following options ...

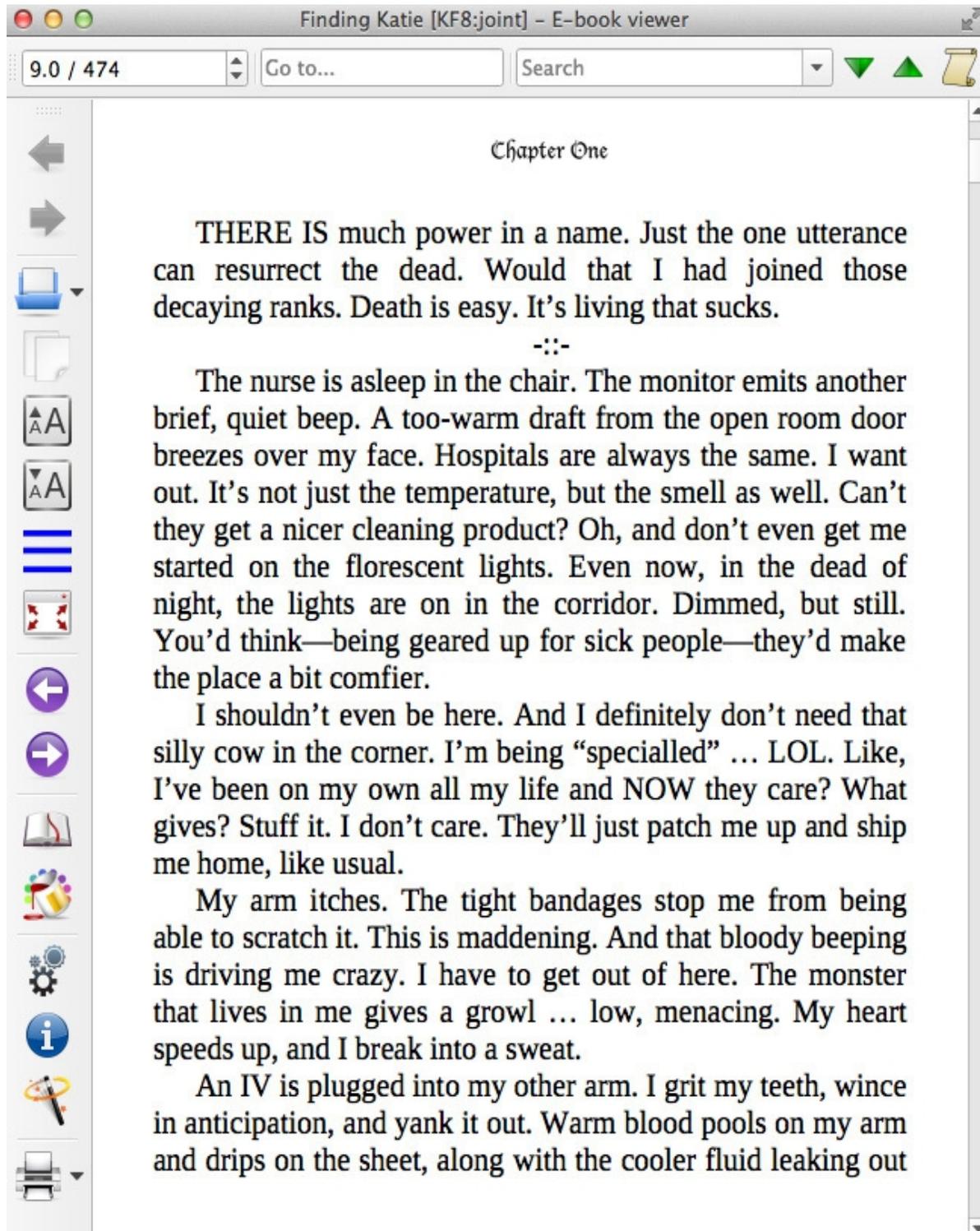


Here is where you can tell Calibre what to do with your table of contents. As we already created our own TOC when we formatted our MS (see issue 9), we don't need to generate another TOC here. So, we need to select the "Do not add" box. Everything else we can leave alone for the time being. See how easy all of this is? Honestly, you'll get used to this in no time. And you may have noticed how many prompts the program gives you as you go along. Okay, so the next option you need to choose is the "Mobi Output" button. We can ignore the "Search and Replace" button just now.



Here there are two options that you are interested in just now. The first one is at the very top (circled in red here), and is where you once again check the box to ask Calibre to not add a table of contents. The second box you want to look at is circled in green above, and pertains to the type of mobi file you want to create. Your options are: "Old", "New", or "Both". Here I have selected "Both", as this is most flexible on a wider range of Kindle models. You will note the warning that Calibre gives you, but I have found no issues at all as long as I select "Both". All the other boxes want to be un-ticked.

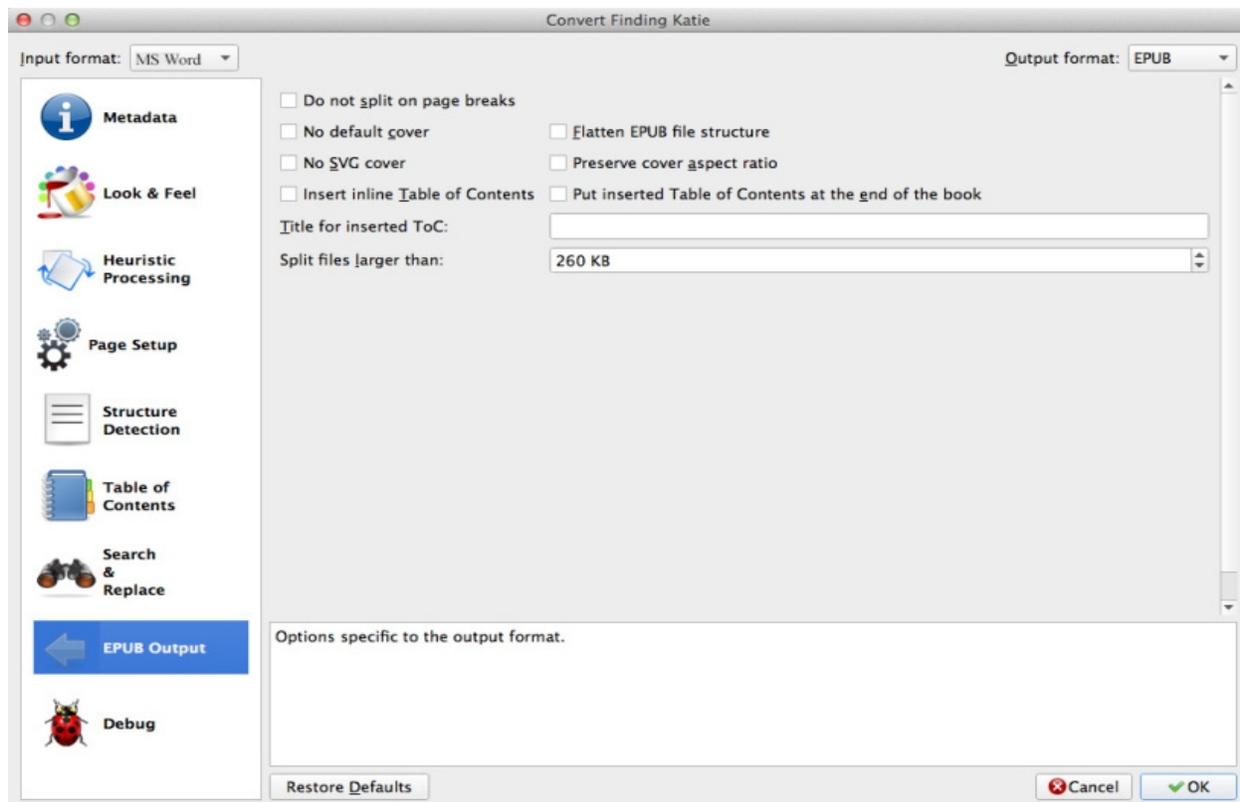
We can ignore the final "debug" button here, and click on "Okay" in the bottom right corner. Calibre will now begin the e-book conversion for you. When it is finished, it will display in your library (as in the first image). You can now view your book in Calibre if you wish. Click on the blue "mobi" format link beneath your book cover picture on the right hand side of your Calibre interface (see the first image again). Your book will now display in reader view ...



The e-reader view will open to your cover, and you can read each page from here, as well as check that your TOC links go to the correct place. No matter how thoroughly you check your e-book within this e-reader viewer, you also need to check your book on your e-reader. Also, once you upload to your chosen publishing platform, do check it carefully again on their “Previewer” to ensure no last-minute errors or issues have crept in.

One tip for being able to have fancy headings in your e-books is to make them into images first, as not all of your fancy fonts will translate into your e-book file format, and some e-readers are more limited in what they can display than others. In the above book example, I used an image program to type in my Chapter/Section headings, and then saved each one as a jpeg picture file. I then added these images to my MS where I wanted them, and they have converted nicely into an e-book and a paperback.

To make an epub using Calibre, many of the steps are similar, although you will see some differences in some of the options. As suggested earlier, have a play with the different settings, and you will soon get to know what works and what doesn't, as well as getting to know the program better. The main difference is that instead of a “Mobi Output” button, you will see an “Epub Output” button instead. The screen looks like this ...



You've just made your very own e-book! I don't know about you, but the first time I had my very own homemade book on my e-reader, the rays bloomed large from the sunshine of my smile. It felt so awesome. Not only was it my book on there, looking so good, but I had made it all by myself.

“As the sun shines I will make hay
To keep failure at bay
For there remaineth a pay
For my honest toil each day.”

Ogwo David Emenike

As an indie author we have to develop skills in all areas of publishing and promoting. The writing is only one part of the whole process. In this issue, and issue 9, we looked at how to format your raw MS and make it into an e-book. In issue 11, we will take a look at what makes a good book cover, and where you can find some great resources for images, etc.



I have found sunshine in places I never could have dreamed since I began on the Indie journey. We never know what new skills we are going to discover, and even enjoy. At first, the sheer amount of stuff we need to learn can feel daunting, and as though thunderclouds have gathered overhead. So that we feel weighted down under the pressure. But, I promise you it is worth the toil. As each milestone is met, and passed, you will get to enjoy those blooming rays of joyful sunshine.



Ask AJ

Talking Genre and Release Dates

The question for this issue of ASK AJ is a good one and involves the concept of thinking outside the box.



The question:

I'm wondering, if October is the best time to release Horror, and December is the best time to release Holiday Stories; what's the best genre to release during the Summer?

I like this question for its depth, a depth not necessarily visible on the surface. The multi-genre aspect of it jumps out the most, as it is something that is part of my writing and opens the door for many different concepts and ideas.

Genre and Seasons

Each genre has its own specific readers – there are plenty of crossover readers – but for the most part, a reader finds what they like and enjoy wrapping themselves up in their favorite genre or author.

In this sense, the release date of a book may not matter, if these are loyal fans and ready to consume their favorite author's new work as soon as it's available. But, there is something to be said for building momentum for a specific release date with preorders and social marketing.

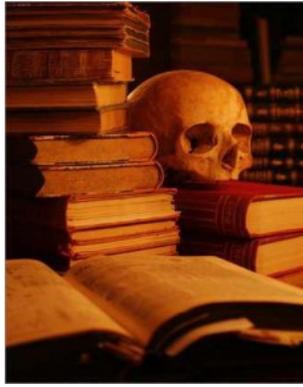
Setting or finding the perfect date for those releases, based on how that particular genre fits in with a particular time of year (Christmas, Spring, Summer, Halloween), can help in getting momentum and with more awareness because there will be a natural, almost automatic, focus during said time of year.

365 Days in a Year

For writers, each day we write is one day on that twelve-month calendar we all know well. That's the place where we get out our different colored pens and mark, and write, and sometimes scratch out one deadline, only to add another.

For readers, each day is a opportunity to read or find a new book. The book seekers can be relentless in looking for that next best seller, or that new independent author. For the voracious reader, the calendar may not apply – it's just another great day to read!

When I look at the calendar, I see opportunities, all year round, for both readers and writers. We just see it in different ways.



Halloween and Horror

A time of year and genre I am much in tune with. As I write, the calendar goes away. I'm writing to get the story and ideas out of my head and into a format the reader will enjoy. Once done, it's time to think of when it will be released.

If you write horror, it's hard not to notice October 31 on the calendar and the build up to Halloween prior. This issue's question asks if Halloween is a good time to release a horror book? Absolutely! Yes!

For this specific genre, it is an opportunity not to be missed, and I feel everyone writing in horror, or even suspense/thriller should plan a October release. The marketing and advertising on TV alone sets the mood for the dark, scary genres, making it a great time for promotion. In this case, releasing a horror book during the Halloween season is a must, in my opinion.



Holidays and Seasons

The above thinking can be applied to books about the holidays. December brings a different vibe but similar to the Halloween season in the sense that readers, shoppers, and buyers are engulfed the the spirit of the holidays. Again, it's a perfect time to release a book, especially one with a holiday theme.

I mean, who doesn't like to hunker down next to a warm lamp on a cold night, with a good book?

Back to the Calendar

Taking another look at the calendar from a distance, it's easy to see the many possibilities (365 days) for a book's release. The time from October to December, specifically, is a great time for this, but we shouldn't focus on just that time of year.

I try to release books/stories all through the year, but I make sure I put something out during the holidays to take advantage of the hype of the spending season.

In my own experience, I have found interest in my stories (purchases, downloads, and reviews) pretty much equal throughout the entire year, with a spike during the last quarter of the year. But I am willing to bet that most author's sales spike during that time as well.

Lightning in a Bottle

It's hard to say which books might do well during different times of year. I feel that every day is an opportunity to release, sell, or in the very least, gain more readers. While there is no magic formula to selling books, if you plan, market, and do a good pre-launch – combined with the hype of the holiday season – catching the proverbial, lightning in a bottle, is absolutely possible.

So get in touch with your inner-PR-monster, and work towards the date that will work best for you.

But, the LIAB theory won't work if we don't write those short stories, novellas, and novels. Let's write those stories without thinking of a certain release date in mind (we don't need those extra thoughts clouding our creativeness).

Think, create, and when it's time to publish, and you can trust me on this, the calendar will be open and waiting for any date you choose to release and publish your book!



Use your imagination.”

~ALJ~

Do you have a question for AJ? Send to admin@allauthorspp.net. Your question could be used in an upcoming issue!



A Queen's Ramblings

Blooming of the Soul

By

Queen of Spades

A few months ago, in honor of Women's History Month, there was a showing of a documentary at my workplace entitled "Living Thinkers: An Autobiography of Black Women in the Ivory Tower." The whole documentary was fascinating and eye opening, but one quote was said towards the end of the movie which still resonates:

Your work is what your soul aspires to do.

Most people think of work as the place where they have to fight traffic on a daily basis. Then, they have to deal with a number of assignments that are either mundane or endless.

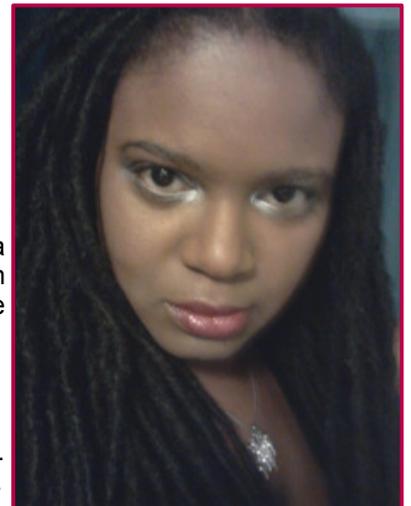
Don't even factor in a lazy co-worker, whose work it was to do in the first place, or an over demanding boss who rarely gives you a glimpse or remembers to give a customary greeting.

If you, the reader, have never experienced this, then my hat is off to you. I cannot say that I am immune to the above scenario, nor can I claim to have not lived it.



Let's go back to the quote from before:

Your work is what your soul aspires to do.





Is what I'm currently doing fitting this premise? Is this what my soul really had in mind?

Putting words on paper always felt natural to me. It was never something I really had to excessively ponder. It felt as natural to me as blinking my eyes, inhaling and exhaling, feeling my heart beating inside of my chest. Even if those thoughts had no coherence, just the whole art of a word being on a page and knowing I put it there gave me a sense of joy, a sense of release.

Even when my external circumstances became challenging, whenever I wanted to go to a happy place, all I needed was a writing instrument and a writing surface, and I was saved.



The late great Detroit writer, author, performance poet and activist, Chantay Legacy Leonard, said that a pen and a paper were “her salvation”. No one knew how true her words were more than I. Pen, paper, and words have saved me from many storms, including my own demons.

Huge chinks surfaced in the armor of my romantic relationship. Although poetry and prose served as the foundation that ignited our union, our interaction began ranging from silence during detention to screaming matches equivalent to a confrontation on Love and Hip Hop Atlanta. At one point, I was the sole breadwinner when the other person decided to sometimes work, to not working at all.



However, in my life, so many individuals did not see the importance in my writing. My immediate family was on the top of the list of those who frowned upon this “hobby”. In their minds, if it wasn't a way to consistently make money, then why even invest the energy to do it? In layman's terms, if it doesn't make dollars, then it doesn't make sense. So, I spent many years just keeping this “hobby” to myself, although a part of my soul was ripped from me if I went too long without doing that very thing.

The “author” profession got buried by other, more sensible occupations. At first, I wanted to be a doctor but decided I didn't have the love for science required to see it to fruition. I substituted that aspiration for being an accountant, which I pursued and received a degree. Unfortunately, during the time I graduated, there was not a huge call in my particular area for that type of expertise. I would have to move away, and there were circumstances in my family that prevented my departure right away. With my chosen profession not quite panning out like I anticipated, I switched gears and went into business administration. This resulted in my having a few standing jobs in management. My ability to catch on quickly, my strong work ethic, and my ease in making new things understandable to new workers were things all of my employers considered my greatest strengths.

Then, the recession hit and due to restructuring in the organization, it was “out with the old and in with the new”. Needless to say, no matter what my strengths were, I was considered part of the old. I became part of a new organization: the organization of the newly unemployed.



What I currently do to generate a pay check is a far cry from the accounting and management services I used to provide. Should that count as the “work my soul aspires to do”?

I can't say that it does.

What my soul aspired to do was what I have been doing since I was nine years old, putting pen to paper. Why else would these many years later—despite abuse, near homelessness, and unemployment—it was a fire that was never extinguished?

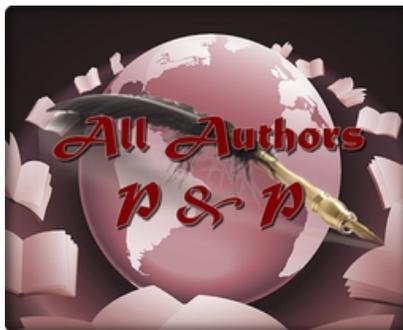
Do not get me wrong. I am grateful to play an active role in generating my own income. For someone who has worked since the age of sixteen, it's a shock to a workaholic's system to have to go through the process (read: governmental red tape) and have someone else determine how much you are getting a month, and praying those peanuts cover all the bills.

However, what I do for pay is not my soul's work.

The books I have written and the anthologies I have been a part of represent my soul's work.



Providing insight and feedback to my fellow authors as a reviewer on The Review Board represents my soul's work.



Providing insight and feedback to my fellow authors as a reviewer on The Review Board represents my soul's work.

Being a part of this magazine, from coming up with the slogan “Advocating All Authors, Reaching All Readers” to incorporating Poetry Unleashed as part of the publication, represents my soul's work.

Being a mentor to authors in the All Authors Publishing House represents my soul's work.

Recognizing publications that may not have been seen otherwise via the All Authors Certificate of Excellence award represent my soul's work.



The pay off for my soul's work cannot be measured in dollar and cents but with abundant passion and the knowledge that all of this is for a greater cause and a higher purpose. That is why each day—even as I punch in and out for a paycheck, my disposition remains bright because I did not permit my soul's work to ever stop blooming.



Beloved RWPP's:

Are you doing the work your soul aspires to do? Send your stories to queenofspades@allauthorspp.net. Your response may be used in a future issue.



Short Story Station

Bigfoot was My Father
By
Beem Weeks



The word had spread like locusts in Moses's neighborhood. It even made the local news. A few seemingly normal individuals made claims of having actually glimpsed the mythical, the strange, the other-worldly. A farmer stood before television cameras telling the community that he'd seen it with his own two eyes, wandering a worn path near his cornfield. A school teacher followed a week later, assuring all who'd listen that she, too, had a run-in with this forgotten relic of evolution. Others came forward as well; respectable people, each and every one, claiming their own encounter with the beast of many names. Sasquatch. Yeti. The Abominable Snowman. But back in the summer of 1977, we all took to calling the legend Bigfoot.



Some witnesses even carried plaster castings to show an important news conference. These plaster castings of massive footprints put a fear in those of us who were young enough to believe such a creature could—and probably did—exist in the woods near our homes. And there was little doubt these beasts had a taste for human flesh and blood.

A walk through the back forty now promised carnage to those too slow to outrun an almost-certain encounter. Dares were issued. Goosebumps mingled with adrenaline as the brave ones took up the challenge.

Finally, the day came; I saw the beastly devil with my own two eyes. It hid among the tall grass, crouching low to the ground, doing its absolute best to go undetected, expecting a quick and easy snack.

What I actually saw, though, turned out to be nothing more than a tree stump. But in my ten-year-old mind, that tree stump had long hairy arms and legs, black soulless eyes filled with hunger and hatred, and a notion for tasting blood.

My blood!

I bolted toward the house, every so often tossing glances over my shoulder, certain I'd see the tell-tale loping gait of a monster in fast pursuit.



I saw nothing, though—nothing but trees and weeds and clear blue sky.

Breathless and filled with the rush of having just cheated death, I told my tale of facing the Devil himself to my sister, my brothers, and to a few friends. Eventually the story made its way to my father's ears.

"No such thing, son," Dad assured me, certain in his pronouncement.

We wandered back to the scene of my epic showdown with the hairy vision from hell, discovering in its place the aforementioned tree stump. The lack of footprints or any other form of irrefutable evidence gave weight to my father's assumption that Bigfoot does not exist—at least not in our woods.

Then it showed itself, that sparkle of mischief in Dad's eyes.

"Come on," he said. "Let's have a little fun with this."

We wandered back to the house, excited at the possibilities of what dad had in mind.

A quick search of the closet produced a fur coat; a brown, long-haired thing that ran the length of a person's body.

Dad slipped into the coat, hunched beneath it, his head hidden. "This will work," he announced.

Work for what? we kids all wondered.

Dad grabbed his Polaroid camera and the fur coat, and made for the back forty again with us kids in tow.



Just around the bend, near where I swore I'd seen the real monster, my dad donned the coat, drifted into the tall grass and brush, and crouched low to the ground. Two pictures were produced that day; pictures illustrating a large brown hairy thing hiding in the grass.

“Oh my gosh!” my sister’s friend Susan exclaimed upon viewing the evidence. “I am never going out there again.”

We let her believe the lie for a day or two—if I remember correctly.

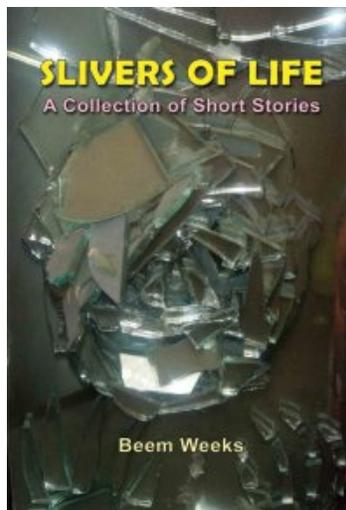
Others saw the pictures, too, and were given varying versions of how Bigfoot happened to be captured on film.

We always revealed the truth of the matter; we never left a soul to believe the hoax. It was Candid Camera or MTV’s Punk’d on a smaller scale. To us kids, it smacked of pure genius!

The story faded over the years, recalled from time to time with a laugh, a shake of the head, and a fond smile.

My father passed away in May 2012 after suffering a massive heart attack. Since his passing, I find myself pondering those long-forgotten memories with greater frequency. I guess there’s some truth to the idea that a person never truly dies as long as there’s somebody around to remember the little things.

Thanks for the memories, Dad.



***Check out this story and more in
“Slivers of Life: A Collection of Short Stories”
available on Amazon.***



Poetry Unleashed Featured Poet



Chane Ak Wau Jones
P. Samurai Productions

In Issue 10, Blooming Sunrays, All Authors gives special spotlight to Chane Ak Wau Jones. As we await his collection of poetry, Chane decided to share some work with the right amount of simmer suited for lovers.

Will we be treated to “SugahTongue” or Mr.”P. Samurai”? His signature at the end will tell the tale.



My words are my contributions to wet spots on the floor. Hurt feelings for attention that became mine without my knowledge.

But don't worry, she feel so deep long ago and you were just a conversation filler in between moments when her thoughts were not on me but seconds don't last long in the ether and her frustrations are on instant replay because put simply ...

You are not me ...

Singing herself to sleep with Splash waterfall hooks and dreaming she don't fall in her fantasies yet the pain comes anew. She appreciates the touch that's not hers. Secret Santa wish lists in 365, speak my name like late night moans that are disguised as nightmares but the truth is not far away to see ...

You want to disappear in it ... Lost in a Nexus where pleasure runs free and you indulge on your command. And you have to understand there will be a sequel to flipping that mattress. A river that runs thru it will follow you whether on bed springs or at your desk. No more talk need, we just need to let muscle memory speak for itself. My touch follows its own path, my lips the “perfectionist”, going from Head to Toe. My passion, to consume what was once thought as pleasure yet as we birth the brand new, we act as old lovas ...

Then we forget ...

As we are the rebirth once again, shaming anyone calling themselves lovers ...

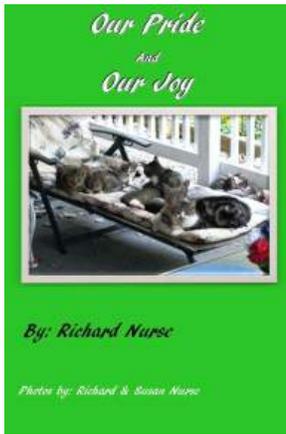
Signed, P.S.



Thanks Chane for gracing with your presence for the Poetry Unleashed segment of All Authors Magazine, Issue 10.

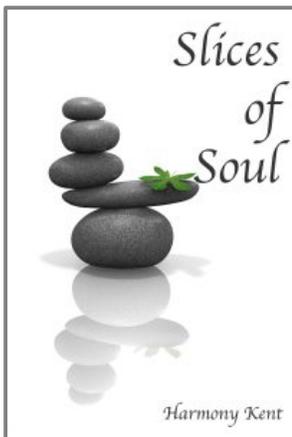


Current Flows



Title: *Our Pride and Joy*
Author: *Richard Nurse*
Type of Poetry: *Animals and Nature*
Release Date: *April 6, 2015*
Available: *Smashwords*

Blurb: Our Pride and Our Joy is a true story told with photographs and verse. The story is about our feral community, that had totally adopted us, and we them. The amazing alpha male and female of the Pride, along with the antics of the kittens are both portrayed. Last year was enlightening for us, as we watched the Pride grow. It was as if we had our own episode of "The Wild Kingdom" being played out before us each day. Both the text and the accompanying photography were produced by myself. This book was a pure pleasure to write, a story that I just had to tell, and I know you will find it to be equally enjoyable to read.



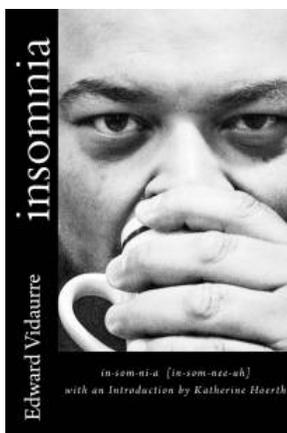
Title: *Slices of Soul*
Author: *Harmony Kent*
Type of Poetry: *Inspirational*
Release Date: *April 9, 2015*
Available: *Amazon*

Blurb: Slices of Soul is a collection of contemporary poetry from author Harmony Kent that will both delight and call for deeper reflection. 'Phantoms' gives a gritty account of pain that you can never catch. 'Enough' expresses the contentment of Zen. 'Diamonds' shows the beauty to be found on a drab and rainy day. While 'The Alchemist' shows you how a guitar can turn lead into gold. This wonderful arrangement of fifty poems takes you from the abstract of Zen to the melody of music, and will reach into your mind, your heart, and your soul.



Title: *Madness (An Odd Collection of Poetry)*
Author: *Sir Chase Hooper*
Type of Poetry: *Satire*
Release Date: *April 12, 2015*
Available: *Smashwords*

Blurb: Madness (An Odd Collection Of Poetry) is a volume of irreverent poetic chaos written by Sir Chase Hooper. Explore titillating topics such as boogers, bullies, and O.J. Simpson as you are taken on a journey through the depths of eccentric satire.



Title: *Insomnia (Love Poems)*
Author: *Edward Vidaurre*
Type of Poetry: *Romance*
Release Date: *April 19, 2015*
Available: *Smashwords*

Blurb: Poems written under the influence of insomnia: that dreamlike state of lust, love, and loss, anger and abandon, with playfulness and academic tones. Insomnia, rouses us with a twitch and spilt coffee jerk and lulls us with knowing nods to those moments of clarity and opaqueness, of sweetness and acrimony, of haunting realism that can't help but keep us awake for just one more poem.

What's the Word?
with
Wordsmith Andi



CURFEW

CURFEW

Remember when you were sixteen and had a curfew – that oh so dreaded time of the evening by which you were required to return home each night? Most of us chafed to have this restriction placed upon us. After all, the teenage years are when we are most searching for our identities and desperate to be away from our parents' watchful eyes as we go about that search. We bristled and balked, testing our limits, often staying out long past said curfew had passed and paying the inevitable price when at last we crossed the threshold. However, I don't think many of us stopped to wonder why that specific time limit was called a curfew. I know I didn't. I cursed it, rebelled over it, but never once stopped to ponder the source of the word.

I can't even say for sure now why this word chose to be the topic of this article. The word has been bouncing around in my head over the last few weeks, probably because the arrival of spring heralds the oncoming summer. My pre-teen son is becoming more socially active which means potentially needing to set a curfew for him for those nights he does venture out of the house (we're a family of introverts). So, to sate my curiosity and yours let's take a look at the word curfew.

Google's etymology engine tells us that curfew is a Middle English (14th century) word meaning "evening signal, ringing of a bell at a fixed hour," stemming from the Old French (or Anglo-French) word *cuevrefeu* (late 13th century), a combination of two other French words, *ceuvre*, imperative of *covrir* which means 'to cover', and *feu* or 'fire'.

In the traditional sense, the ringing of the evening bell was a call to extinguish your hearth fires for the evening and to begin preparing for sleep. The Wikipedia entry for the word curfew cites the original law issued by William the Conqueror that all lights and fires should be extinguished by the eight o'clock bell. Any untended fires were a risk for burning down villages full of homes made of dry wood and peat roofs, all highly flammable materials. The *cuevrefeu* was intended as a safety precaution for everyone involved. This ringing of the bells served to guide travelers toward the security of a nearby town as darkness fell.

We have long since advanced in ways to heat our homes and cook our meals that don't involve open flames indoors. We've also invented electricity so darkness no longer presents the same dangers it once did. With all the technological advances and cultural development in the hundreds of years since the word's inception you might think that the traditional sense doesn't quite apply anymore. However, there are several modern senses of the word that pull strongly at the original roots. Whether we are parents worried for our children or governments concerned for their citizens, safety is still the core intention.



By instituting a curfew we are still, in effect, covering fires. Rules may not be fun. Restrictions may chafe but, when adhered to, are generally meant to guarantee the greater safety of the community. The night time is still dark where the electric lights don't reach, where the mystique ends. Shadows are made even deeper and darker, and the creatures that lurk in them have grown longer fangs and sharper claws but are better at hiding them behind the facades of normal, everyday people. Fires aren't just made of wood and flame anymore. There are conflagrations of temper, of social and religious justice or dispute that if left untended and ungoverned could and would destroy entire countries.

- Riots
- Cyclone
- Earthquake
- Military Curfews
- Minor Surgery
- Alien Invasion

We want our children and families to be safe from harm, whatever the threat. A curfew is one of the ways by which we strive to safeguard what matters most to us. The threats may have changed over time but the word's meaning and application remains as true today as it did all those hundreds of years ago.



True or False?

1. When you find it difficult to categorize your work, it is best to create a genre.

False.

It is not best to create a genre. If you find it difficult to categorize your work, think about what genres it might fit in, deduce from that the most fitting and select that. HOWEVER, if your work is truly a mixture of genres, then there IS a genre known as "Mashup".

Here is the math to know what Mashup division your book fits in:

Take the main element of the work and put it in front of the word Mashup.

Example:

Sci-Fi Mashup

Paranormal Mashup



2. In a blurb, it is a good idea to specify whether a serial work can function as a stand alone novel.

True.

Many times when a Writer creates a series, the reader often wonders if they would have to read all of the books in order, or if they could read one without the other. In some cases, they would have to read the entire collection (in which case it is not a series, but a saga). Yet, if the book can indeed stand alone, it would be best to indicate that in the blurb. This will help the reader significantly.

3. The average reader tends to stick with one genre, as opposed to experimenting with reading different genres.

True.

The unfortunate truth is that a very high percentage of readers find a genre they like and stick to it. It is sort of disheartening, that many times readers do not like to read outside of their comfort zone.

Thankfully, there is a short percentage of readers that can and will read all genres.

4. It's better to use extra spacing to mark a separation in scenes.

False.

It is better to use a scene separating marker. There are many reasons for this. Contrary to popular belief, extra spacing alone is not enough to mark where one scene ends and the other begins. Typically, in the readers' minds the scenes will blend together, ultimately confusing them. The best method to indicate the division of scenes is to implement a visible marker. This can be done in the form of any symbol, or if you prefer to get fancy, then you can use the image of a divider.

5. Spelling mistakes aren't a big distraction to the reader, just as long as they are few and far between.

AHA! Trick statement!

True AND False.

This is a matter of preference. If the reader is not picky then this spelling mistakes may not bother him/her. However, if the reader is particular about what he/she reads then this can be a very big hindering factor to his/her enjoyability of the work.

