

# All Authors Magazine

Issue 16: Blazing Ink





### *Intro Blazing Ink*

Passion.

Passion defines the writing industry. Most writes don't write as a hobby; it is indeed a passion. A blazing heat which drives the ink at the tip of their fingers. An inferno of fervor that is the vehicle of their heart's endeavor.

What happens when that propelling force is intercepted by the desire to fit in? What are the ramifications when the mentality of passion morphs into the aspiration to belong? There's but one outcome; calamity.

This issue of All Authors Magazine yearns to advocate for originality, to campaign for unity, and support all those who crave to make a mark in this industry.

Fire.

What is fire but an inferno that blazes, consuming all that stands in its wake? What does fire feed on, but the oxygen that surrounds its flames?

We, as artists, are the flames that consume every corner of this earth. The likes of us stretch the farthest reaches of time and space, descending from such talents as Mozart, Van Gogh, and Shakespeare.

The fire that devoured their being—that spoke to their hearts, telling them that it was necessary to produce beauty—is the the same burning desire that calls our names.

Ink is a weapon.

An instrument of power, is ink as black as night. It gives us the ability to create anything, to tell any store, to reach any realm, to touch the stars and glide upon the planes. Ink is the conduit of the passion and fire. It ticks to the beat of their song, and forges a path that all can embark on, whether in its creation or enjoyment.



May marks the beginning of National Short Story Month, a month where writers and readers celebrate the beauty of shorter works and the entertainment and messages they deliver. Being a writer of short stories myself, I see the beauty in the craft and feel that it isn't often when people appreciate their loveliness.



In June, summer begins. My favorite thing to do is remember my childhood, playing on the concrete roads with the fire hydrant on, barefoot yet content to alleviate the heat with the cool sprinkles raining upon us all.

The thought of it makes me want to recant every memory in a story that can be told forward and enjoyed by everyone who opts to pick it up.



It is my wish that you take May and June to cherish each moment, as they quickly slip through our fingers and fade away. Remember that passion, fire and ink, are the tools of our most ardent venture. It keeps the soul ignited and the heart elevated, it purifies through heat, the toils of our enterprise.

***Use these two months to keep the ardor of your blazing ink ignited, for ...***



Happy Reading,

*Y. Correa*

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

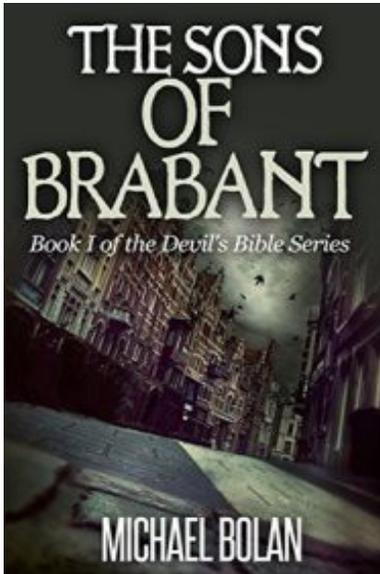
S. Cu'Anam Policar  
Coffee Time Author Interviews  
Willa Wicked by AM Hudson  
Awesome Covers  
The Honorless Honor by The Royal Truth  
Guest Article  
Earth 8-8-2: The Genesis Project  
Featured Book  
Strumming My Pain (in Honor of Mental Health Awareness)  
Unleashed Feature  
ckz8\_divider2

And of course, our beloved columnists for this issue:

Harmony Kent  
A. Lopez, Jr.  
Beem Weeks  
C. Desert Rose  
Adonis Mann  
Queen of Spades  
Y. Correa

# Recommended Reads

Title: The Sons of Brabant: Book one of The Devil's Bible Series  
Author: Micheal Bolan  
Genre: Historical Fiction  
Available: Amazon



Europe is on fire. Fuelled by religion, politics and power, war rages across the continent, pitting father against son, and brother against brother. In the wake of such conflict come horrific famine and deadly plagues. Rumours begin to surface of the End of Days, of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse and the violent Renaissance of Mankind.

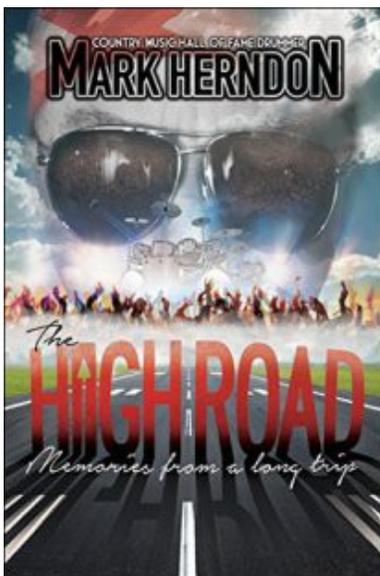
As Europe burns, betrayal and feuding rages in the Brabant family. Why does Reinald, the powerful yet dishonest Duke fear his younger siblings so? How will headstrong Leo and noble Willem outsmart their older brother, and take back what is rightfully theirs? And what of Isabella, their troublesome younger sister, whose fiery temper lands her in love and in trouble...

Vowing to put right the wrongs of their family and bring an end to their brother's deadly plans, Willem, Leo and Isabella must chart a course through war, famine and pestilence.

Meanwhile Reinald forms an unlikely and deadly alliance with a megalomaniac, a warmonger, and a deranged yet brilliant scientist, hell-bent on seeing their holy mission through to its grisly conclusion.

Can the Sons of the King of Brabant survive? Help appears from the most unlikely of places...

Title: The High Road: Memories from a Long Trip  
Author: Mark Herndon  
Genre: Musical/Country  
Available: Amazon



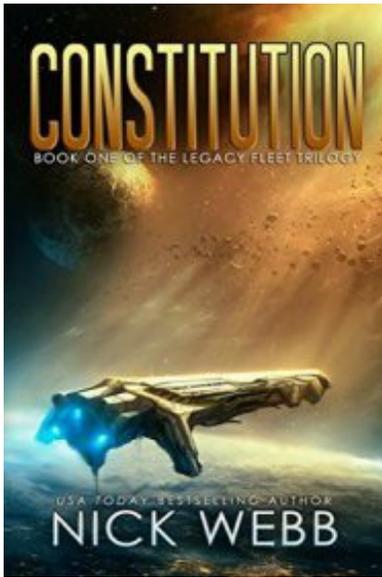
What drives a man to spend 26 years performing night after night? To persevere through a stifling tour bus, bad food, strange women, flared tempers, a plane nearly blown from the sky? Just how did that troubled military brat with a dream claw his way from dirt-floor dive-bar shows to the world's biggest stages?

Aviator, author, and Country Music Hall of Fame drummer Mark Herndon lived that dream with one of the most popular and celebrated bands of all time. He learned some hard lessons about people and life, the music industry, the accolades and awards, how easy it is to lose it all . . . and how hard it is to survive, to embrace sobriety, to live even one more day.

Herndon's poignant memoir offers a tale at once cautionary and inspirational, delightful and heartbreaking, funny yet deeply personal. From innocence to rebellion to acceptance, can a man still flourish when the spotlight dims? Are true forgiveness, redemption, and serenity even possible when the powerful say everything you achieved somehow doesn't even count? That you're not who you and everyone who matters thought you were?

Mark Herndon refuses to slow down. So look back, look ahead, and join him on the trip.

He's taking The High Road.

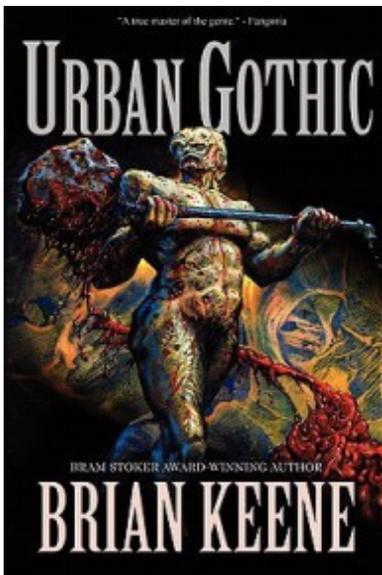


Title: Constitution (Legacy Fleet Trilogy)  
Author: Nick Webb  
Genre: Science Fiction  
Available: Amazon

The year is 2650  
75 years ago, an alien fleet attacked Earth.  
Without warning. Without mercy.  
We were not prepared.  
Hundreds of millions perished. Dozens of cities burned.  
We nearly lost everything.  
Then, the aliens abruptly left.  
We rebuilt. We armed ourselves. We swore: never again.  
But the aliens never came back.

Until now.

With overwhelming force the aliens have returned, striking deep into our territory, sending Earth into a panic. Our new technology is useless. Our new ships burn like straw. All our careful preparations are wasted. Now, only one man, one crew, and the oldest starship in the fleet stand between the Earth and certain destruction:  
ISS CONSTITUTION

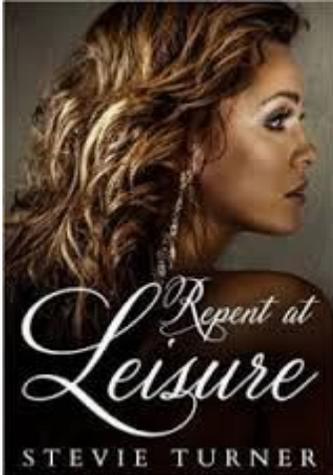


Title: Urban Gothic  
Author: Brian Keene  
Genre: Gothic Horror  
Available: Amazon

No one gets out alive! When their car broke down in a dangerous inner-city neighborhood, Kerri and her friends thought they would find shelter inside an old, dark row home. They thought it was abandoned. They thought they would be safe there until help arrived. They were wrong. The residents who live down in the cellar and the tunnels beneath the city are far more dangerous than the streets outside, and they have a very special way of dealing with trespassers. Trapped in a world of darkness, populated by obscene abominations, they will have to fight back if they ever want to see the sun again. Every city has its secrets and urban legends. But nothing can prepare them for when they find out the truth about this horrible house. Urban Gothic is Brian Keene's blood and body fluid splattered tribute to horror icon Edward Lee.



# Hot Off the Press



Title: Repent at Leisure  
Author: Stevie Turner  
Genre: Mystery/Suspense  
Release Date: March 24, 2016  
Available: Amazon

Blurb:

Paul McAdam wakes up with a strange girl in his bed, with no idea who she is or where she came from.

Cat Taylor worms her way into Paul's life, eventually moving into his flat. The arrangement suits Paul quite well until he meets Anita Fairfax, the love of his life and the girl he wishes to marry. Cat has to go, but Paul finds that she is not interested in moving out.

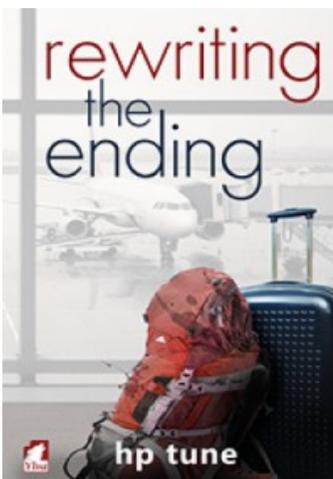
When Cat is found dead in Paul's flat, he's the #1 suspect, even though there's not a shred of evidence. Anita and Paul are happily married, but she soon begins to wonder whether her new husband could have been Cat's killer all along ...



Title: The Flash Story Collection Volume 1  
Author: Josh Hilden  
Genre: Flash Fiction Anthology-Horror  
Release Date: March 29, 2016  
Available: Smashwords, Amazon

Blurb:

Flash Fiction stories are tales of a thousand words or less. In this collection you, the reader, are offered 10 short tales of horror and creeping terror.



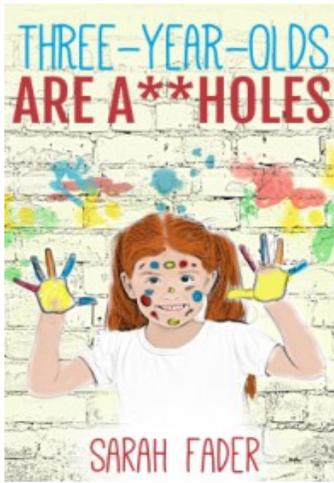
Title: Rewriting the Ending  
Author: HP Tune  
Genre: LGBTQIA Romance  
Release Date: April 1, 2016  
Available: Ylva Publishing, Amazon

Blurb:

Juliet is an author with a deadline. A big deadline...and a ratty old backpack, and she's on her way to Belgium.

Mia has a one-way, first class ticket to anywhere. Today anywhere happens to be Scotland. The one thing she knows is that money can't buy happiness, and she has no idea what does.

A chance meeting in an airport lounge and a shared flight itinerary leaves Juliet and Mia connected. They've known each other for only twenty-four hours and they are destined for separate countries. How do you forge a future when the past keeps pulling you back?

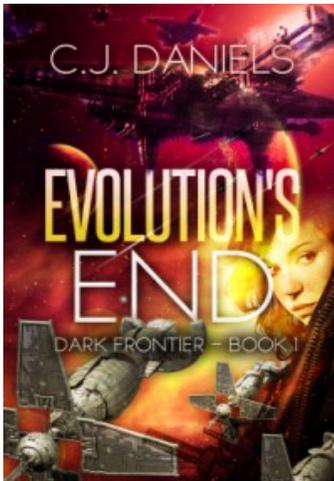


Title: Three-Year-Olds Are A\*\*holes  
Author: Sarah Fader  
Genre: Humor, Parenting & Families  
Release Date: April 6, 2016  
Available: Website, Amazon

Blurb:

Once upon a time Sarah Fader wrote a blog post called 3-Year-Olds Are Assholes. It went viral on HuffPost Parents with over 400,000 shares on Facebook. This book tells the story of three-year-old Samantha, who is determined to make a rainbow. It features illustrations by Shari Ryan.

Title: Evolution's End  
Author: C.J. Daniels  
Genre: Sci-Fi  
Release Date: April 18, 2016  
Available: Amazon



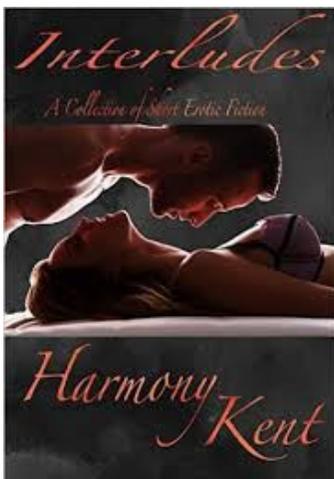
Blurb:

Branded a traitor, and now undercover on Mars for the Earth Alliance, Captain Kate Dante attempts to put the pieces together tying the disappearances of Alliance shipping, with the rash of unexplained deaths and missing persons throughout the system. The Corporate criminals she pursued controlled Mars, and welcomed "Earth's traitor" into their hornets' nest, but she knew time was short – if they doubted her loyalty, she was as good as dead.

Unbeknownst to Kate, her father and brother have begun their own investigation on Mars looking for connections between the disappearances and Earth corporate giant Striker Industries – an act Kate knows could have deadly consequences. Now, Kate's hope is to survive long enough to clear her name, complete the mission, and save her brother, as events turn darker than she could have imagined.

No one is more aware of that darkness than Kristin Dante, first officer of Earth's prototype starship, the Bonaventure. Responding to a distress call, Kristin and her crew face an alien horror which threatens to consume them, body and soul – a malevolence that will soon be on the Alliance's doorstep.

The Dantes find themselves at the forefront of a life or death battle against an ancient evil from the stars that has perverted the destiny of the human race for a thousand years. But will their years of dysfunctional family history be the end of us all?



Title: Interludes  
Author: Harmony Kent  
Genre: Erotic Fiction  
Release Date: May 1, 2016  
Available: Amazon

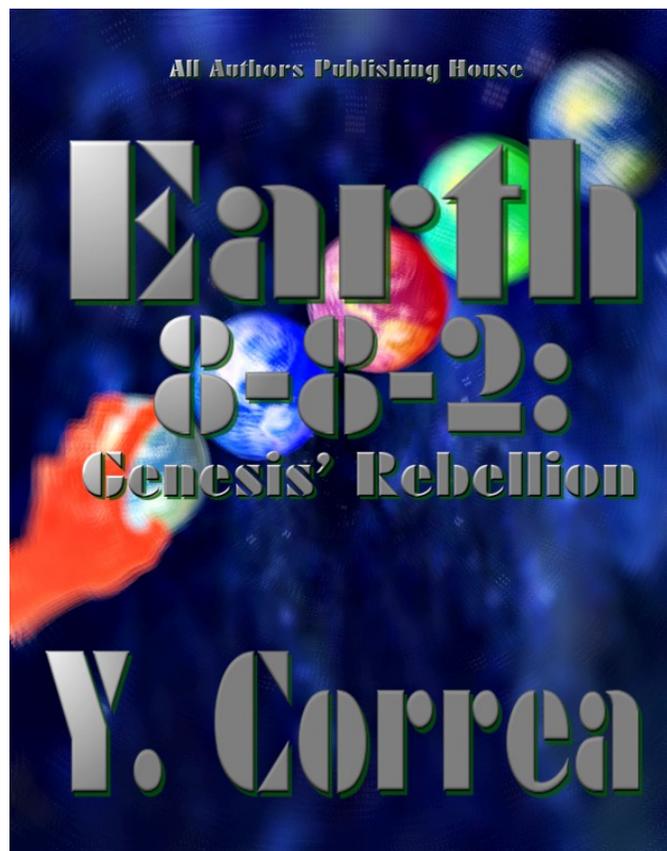
Abbreviated Blurb (find extended blurb on Amazon):

A collection of short erotic fiction that will tickle more than your taste buds and wet more than your appetite.

With a range of genres and styles, this book has enough steam for everyone.

# Future Reads

*Genesis' Rebellion*  
*Book 2 in the Earth 8-8-2 saga*  
by  
Y. Correa



## **BLURB:**

What happens when Science's Instrument of Salvation blazes her own path?

In the second installment of the Earth 8-8-2 saga, Genesis is heartbroken, disillusioned, but most of all ... angry: angry that she has no say-so in the narrative of her own purpose. In the absence of choice, the only response that makes sense is rebellion.

As Genesis elicits the intensity of her powers, General Townsend must act quickly to develop a counterbalance to this previous experiment gone askew. Will the General's army rise effectively against this unlikely nemesis, or will all see the literal overtures of what occurs when powers that be attempt to regulate true evolution?

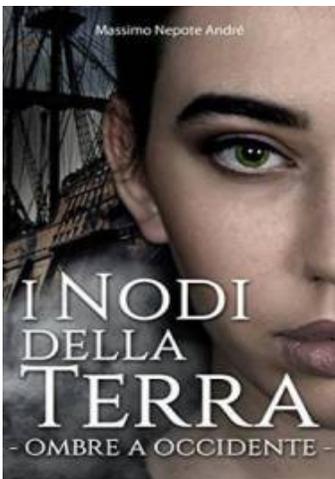
# International Corner



Title: Outra Cor para o Amor  
Author: Mateus Melo  
Language: Portuguese  
Genre: Youth Fiction  
Available: Amazon

Blurb:

Jovens e com muitos prováveis futuros, Felipe e Pedro se envolvem e descobrem que o amor pode levá-los por um caminho de muitos conflitos. Enquanto conhecem um ao outro, conhecem muito mais a si próprios e se veem indecisos entre liberdade e cautela. Muito mais que uma história de amor, Outra Cor para o Amor é um convite a pensá-lo

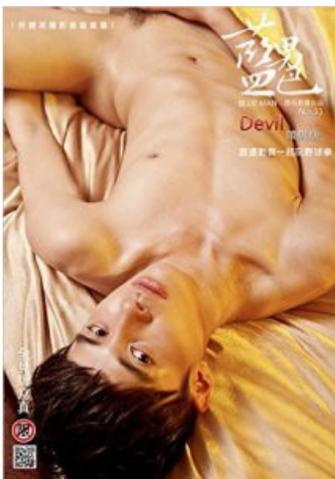


Title: I Nodi Della Terra vol.2: Ombre a occidente  
Author: Massimo Nepote André  
Language: Italian  
Genre: Fantasy Fiction  
Available: Amazon

Blurb:

Cosa nascondono i Nodi? Di cosa sono capaci? Quali possibilità ha il singolo individuo nei confronti del potere che li alimenta?

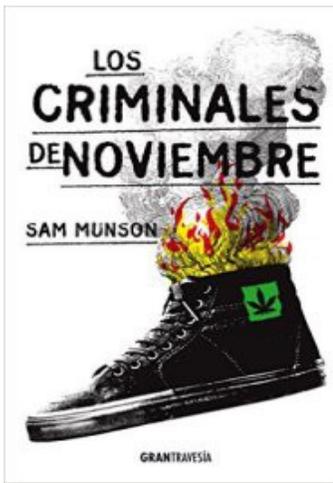
A otto anni di distanza dalla crisi nella quale avevano sconfitto il Male in terra Turkana, Alexandra Daugherty e Sebastian d'Alonso si confrontano con una realtà diversa dalle aspettative. Le due società segrete che per settecento anni erano state rivali si sono fuse nella Fondazione, che si trova a gestire la più grande scoperta dell'umanità, ma che deve anche affrontare i problemi che il mondo occidentale evoca su se stesso. Le amicizie, gli affetti, e gli stessi protagonisti, sembrano aver subito l'influenza di una vicenda che pare non avere fine e che ha avuto origine secoli prima. Una strega percorre l'Europa del 1600 con un unico obiettivo. Implacabile, cinica, essenziale nella sua determinazione. Antichi disegni, fatti drammatici e conoscenze dimenticate producono conseguenze nel mondo del 2018. Intanto lo spettro dell'undici settembre si annida in coloro che tutto farebbero pur di vedere vendicati gli affetti perduti. I piani di diverse menti si incrociano in un crescendo che esplose trascinando il lettore in una dimensione imprevedibile, dove necessità di sopravvivenza e paradossi temporali si sovrappongono e si intrecciano per raggiungere un finale sorprendente.



Title: 藍男色 -31-Devil- 全見版：競技系運動員 - 全見噴射版（藍男色：31）  
Author: 原色影像  
Language: Chinese  
Genre: Gay/Lesbian  
Available: Amazon

Blurb:

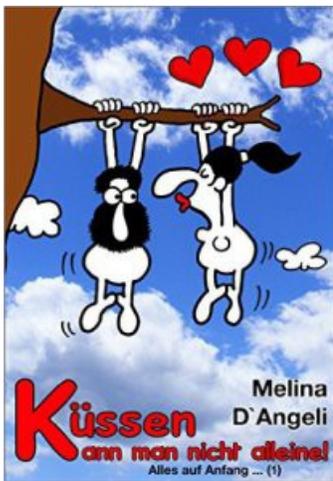
小惡魔 Devil 回台灣囉～外型長大了不少，更誘惑的體態勾引你的視覺神經！



Title: Los Criminales de Noviembre  
Author: Sam Munson  
Language: Spanish  
Genre: Mystery Thriller  
Available: Amazon

Blurb:

Addison Schacht tiene mucho de qué preocuparse en su último año de preparatoria. Cosas del día a día, tales como ir a la escuela, menudear droga a sus compañeros de clase y entender qué diablos quiere en la vida Phoebe, su mejor amiga (ojo, sólo es su amiga). El verano está próximo y la fecha de entrega para el ensayo de aptitudes que debe remitir a la Universidad de Chicago está ya próxima. Pero ¿cómo poner atención a tan irrelevante tarea cuando uno de sus compañeros, Kevin Broadus, ha muerto víctima de un aparentemente absurdo tiroteo? Addison utiliza entonces el pretexto del ensayo para regalarnos el presente libro, una obsesiva búsqueda del culpable y de justicia que es, a la vez, un entrañable chapuzón directo a la psique del postadolescente moderno.



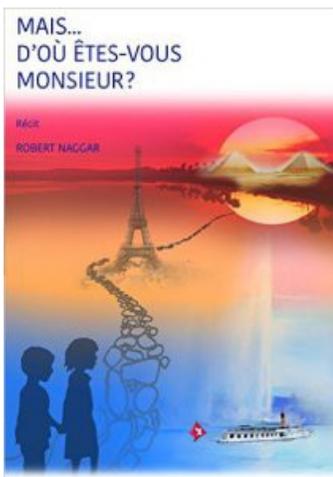
Title: Alles auf Anfang .... Küssen kann man nicht alleine (1)  
Author: Melina D'Angeli  
Language: German  
Genre: Romance  
Available: Amazon

Abbreviated Blurb (Visit Amazon for full blurb):

Was ist, wenn man plötzlich feststellt, dass der Ofen aus ist? Ich rede von richtig aus! Nach über fünfzehn Jahren Ehe, zugegeben, auch einigen guten – insbesondere den ersten, als wir noch froh waren, wenn die Heizung lief und im Kühlschrank etwas Essbares zu finden war. Nach beschwerlichen, arbeitsreichen Jahren, die zwar der finanziellen, aber dafür umso weniger der persönlichen Situation gutgetan haben. Also der Beziehung, die doch eigentlich die Basis von allem sein sollte.

Wie fühlt man sich, wenn plötzlich alles in Scherben vor einem liegt? Wenn all die Dinge, die man eben noch als so sicher und unerschütterlich währte, von einem Moment zum anderen von der Inflation des Lebens aufgefressen wurden.

Und wie soll es weitergehen? Wie sieht der neue Weg aus, den man künftig wohl wieder ganz allein gehen muss? Was wird aus unserer gemeinsamen Tochter ... aus dem Haus? Wer behält den Hund? Ups ... wir haben ja gar keinen Hund. Und ist überhaupt genug Geld auf dem Konto, damit einer von uns halbwegs stressfrei ausziehen kann?



Title: Mais...d'où êtes-vous Monsieur?: Récit  
Author: Robert Naggar  
Language: French  
Genre: Self-Help  
Available: Amazon

Abbreviated Blurb:

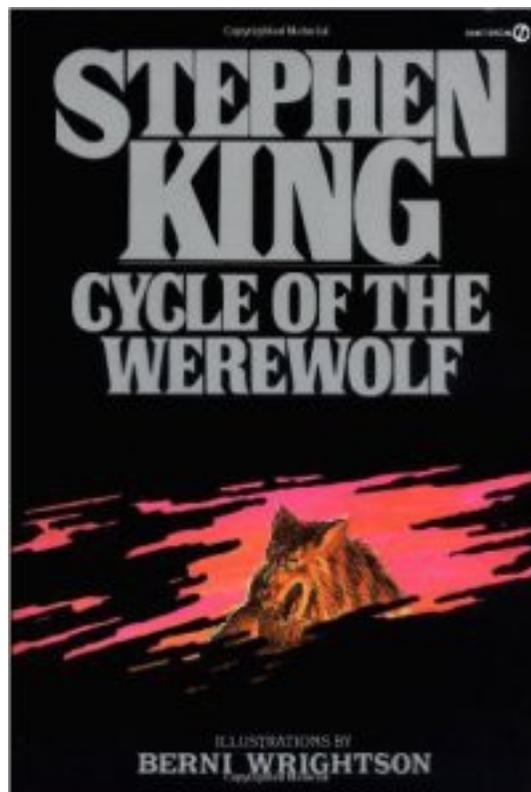
MAIS... D'OÙ ÊTES-VOUS MONSIEUR ?

Située dans un cadre historique, cette aventure humaine a lieu dans six pays. Elle est faite de drôlerie, de tendresse, d'amour et de suspense entre deux êtres que tout divise, origine, caractère, environnement et religion. Ils finiront par se marier à trois reprises, en des cir-constances rocambolesques.

# Drive By Reviews



Title: Cycle of the Werewolf  
Author: Stephen King  
Genre: Horror  
Available: Amazon



Blurb:

The first scream came from the snowbound railwayman who felt the fangs ripping at his throat. The next month there was a scream of ecstatic agony from the woman attacked in her snug bedroom.

Now scenes of unbelieving horror come each time the full moon shines on the isolated Maine town of Tarker Mills. No one knows who will be attacked next. But one thing is sure.

When the moon grows fat, a paralyzing fear sweeps through Tarker Mills. For snarls that sound like human words can be heard whining through the wind. And all around are the footprints of a monster whose hunger cannot be sated...  
"Cycle of the Werewolf"



My Thoughts:

Some months ago I promised myself as well as some fellow authors that I would start to read books outside of my comfort zone so as to expand my literary horizon, if you will. In that attempt I had a friend choose a book for me, and what she chose made me flinch at first, leery that perhaps it was going a bit overboard. "Ease me into it ..." was my predominant thought.

Nevertheless, intent on going "all in" as my publisher says, I dove into "Cycle of the Werewolf" by Stephen King hoping that I'd be able to sleep when I was done with it. I am pleased to announce that I was able to sleep perfectly fine and enjoyed the book thoroughly.

There were so many things that I loved about "Cycle of the Werewolf" but before I go into that I will expand a bit on the premise.

Tarker Mills is a sleepy town of very few residents; everyone knows everyone and life is as easy going as any small American town. During the laps of a year Tarker Mills is shaken up by the various murders committed on the full moon of every month. Rumors spread—some think that it's a madman, others believe the killer is something entirely not human. Shushed voiced or insane hearsay spreads like wildfire throughout the town. Until, slowly but surely, people start to believe them.

"Cycle of the Werewolf" ends in an interesting twist that some might not expect, unless you can read between the lines.

Here are the things I applauded:

First and foremost, I was an enormous fan of the imagery. It was a delightful thing to see the story through the eyes of the author. The images made the story all the more real and enjoyable.

The writing. The writing style is 3rd person, present tense, omniscient, and yet you can hardly tell. It runs so smoothly that only a keen eye for said things can decipher the writing style. This particular style is one of my least favorites, yet it is done so well that I cannot complain in the least.

The characters came to vivid life; so real and believable that I did not question once whether or not they could be real. This INCLUDED the werewolf.

The ending. Although, I was able to figure out the mystery prior to the end—as I am a bit more adept at reading between the lines—I enjoyed the ending nonetheless.

Once you pick up this book it might be impossible to let it go—it absorbs the reader instantly. I know that was true for me. Had it not been for "life happening" I might have finished this book in one sitting. Wonderful, wonderful read.

I am giving it 4.5 stars because I was able to figure out the mystery before the book ended, but that is the only reason why. I highly recommend "Cycle of the Werewolf" to anyone who likes murder mysteries with a paranormal spin.



# What NOT to Read

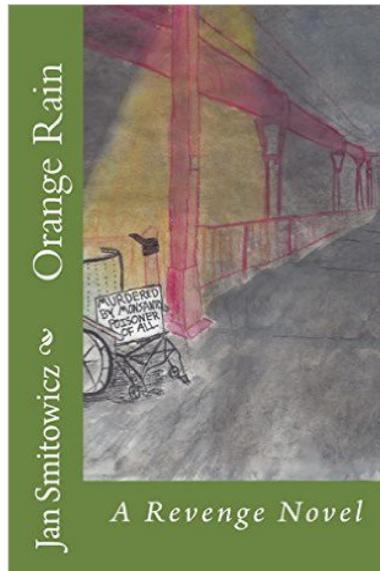


Hello all!

Today, on "What NOT to Read" I would like to bring you "Orange Rain" by Jan Smitowicz.



Title: Orange Rain  
Author: Jan Smitowicz  
Available on: Amazon



"Orange Rain" is, without a doubt, a story that is hard to judge. Time and time again, the story left me at a proverbial crossroads, and none too many times, literally speechless. While the blurb claims that "Orange Rain" is rife with dark humor, I can't say that I picked up on it. In my humble opinion the entire story was dismal, dark and all out depressing at time. So, perhaps I was slow to catch onto the quoted humor.

My review today will be short (or as short as I can make it) and to the point. First, I'll start off with the premise.



“Orange Rain” revolves around Max, his love interest Mia and his best friend, Andre. Max is a Vietnam veteran with a terrible case of PTSD. Max lost his legs in the war and from it he garners a personal vendetta against the Military/Government. Max traverse the United States like contemporary vigilantes and his companions serve as both his support and voice of reason. Although, in many occasions the “reason” they provided was not so “reasonable”, if you will. A large portion of the story is also about the voyage to get Max prosthetic legs, which he calls “robot legs”, this is also the backbone that drives the story.

The story takes place over several years and demonstrates infinite mental-emotional repercussions as a result of war. The three characters find themselves, many times over, in very rough spots—from theft, and gun handling, to rape and drugs—and have to see themselves through the quandaries. This, in the end, forms an unbreakable bond between them.

Now on to my thoughts of “Orange Rain” in the form of bullets.

## **CLEARLY** **NOT FOR EVERYONE**

Not for everyone!

Indubitably, “Orange Rain” is not a book that anyone can read. The content can be downright offensive at times. Particularly, to those whom may be sensitive to graphic pseudo-erotica, socio-political aggression, quasi-violent undertones, and explicit language. Said readers, will unquestionably cringe with contempt at much of the story, and probably spit on it too.

Dark humor gone askew.

While the blurb claims that the story is full of dark humor I didn’t laugh once. This is saying something because I’m a person that has a great sense of humor, and know when things are meant to be funny and when they are not.

The writing style; not a fan.

If I’ve said it once, I’ve said it a thousand times, I’m not a fan of present tense writing. It innately has too many blunders. Yet, setting that aside, there were many things I did not like about the writing style of this book.

(1) It was very staccato and not in a good way. Too many times over, the sentences felt incomplete and/or nonuniform. It was like one was being narrated to by an illiterate person with little to no swagger. The abundance of typos and syntax errors were ridiculous as well. The story is drained in vast amounts of incomplete sentences, punctuation errors and the like. Truthfully, it wasn’t the worst I’ve even seen in that regard, but it could definitely have been better. Particularly, with a book such as this.

(2) It was hard to tell the difference between recollections and current events. There were many flashbacks, as well as some increments of foretellings, which washed together with the prevailing progression and made for a very confusing sequence.

(3) Most of the story is told in Third Person Omniscient, then at the very end, suddenly changes to First Person Omniscient, being told via the perspective of Andre. Which left me confused because I couldn’t tell how or why that happened.



A non-ending.

I was furious at the ending! Irate, I tell you.

While the story ended with a “happily ever after” undertone, there were many questions that remained unanswered. Yet, Andre endeavors to tell the reader that he’s not going to answer them “because he’s an a-hole”. His words, not mine.

Truth is, I went into “Orange Rain” objectively, hoping that it would be something worth gushing over. It wasn’t. I do give props on this; if I gained anything from the story, it was a bit of insight into the times and lives of veterans after Vietnam, as well as those affected by said war. I also learned what Agent Orange was.

With all of that being said, I bestow “Orange Rain” 2 Stars, and THAT’S the best I can do.

**2 SAD STARS**



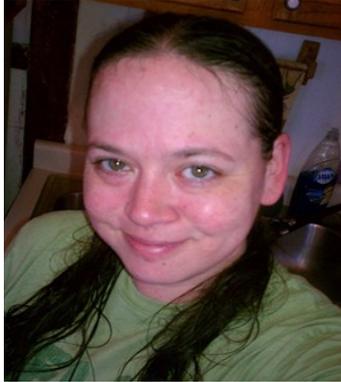
# Features Segment



Check It Out

# Coffee Time Author Interview

Hello Readers, Writers and Precious Patrons. In this issue of All Authors Magazine, entitled "Blazing Ink", we bring you S.Cu'Anam Policar. Before we start the interview, here is more about the author.



S. Cu'Anam Policar

## **Author Bio**

S.Cu'Anam Policar was born in Brooklyn, NY, but now lives in Nebraska. The Mother of three, she makes time to write, whenever she possibly can.

An avid reader, she not only writes, but helps promote other authors with reviews of their books and sharing their special offers, as well as edits and does cover work for those who need affordable author services.

She is Pagan but respects all religions and believes everyone should celebrate their similarities and not worry about their differences.

She enjoys the SCA, and is a proud member of the kingdom of Calontir. She enjoys entering the competitions for Archery and Live Weapons, as well as the chance to sew her own garb for the events.

When she has the time, she enjoys playing video games, horseback riding, singing, and writing short stories.

As the founder of Wolf Paw Publications, she believes quality work shouldn't cost an author an arm and leg. And while her prices are competitive, the quality of her work shines through.

She absolutely loves to make new friends so don't be afraid to come by and say hi anywhere you may find her!

## **The Interview**

Which was your first book and what was it like when it finally got published?

The first one that actually got published was The Rise of Xosha. It's been published now three times since its original publication in 2013. There were mixed feelings. On the one hand, I was finally published! I was an author! Then, there was disappointment as it was brought to my attention that my, then, publisher had uploaded the draft and not the edited version. Neither re-release of that book held the same feeling. Even after publishing so many of my own books, and all the ones I've helped publish for Wolf Paw Publications, I still get excited when it comes to the releases. There's just something magical about seeing your book out there for other people to read that elicits a mixed feeling of joy because you're published and fear because all authors go through the "No one's going like it or buy it" phases.

It was a huge deal for me when The Rise of Xosha was finally published the way I wanted it through my own publishing house. There's a story behind that book. I was seven when I first wrote it. It started out as just part of my dream journal. After about a month, I'd realized my dreams were following a pattern when I'd read through my journal. I combined it all and it ended up being a short story. It was handwritten on college ruled notebook paper and was 40 pages front and back.

I tweaked the story through the years, changing the words I wrote when I was seven to more mature words I'd learned by the time I was twelve. Then I took a step, I tried to have it published through Wizards of the Coast. That's the publishing house R. A. Salvatore publishes his Legend of Drizzt series through. I wanted Xosha added to Dungeons and Dragons.

They didn't even look at the story. They sent me a reply stating that I was too young to know anything about writing books and that was that. It didn't stop me though. I continued to work on it through the years until I couldn't fix it and make it more "adult" anymore. It was finally ready. But, WoC had put a fear in me about contacting another house. Then, I discovered the indie world and the rest is history!

If you could be doing anything else besides writing, what would that be, why and would you love it as much as writing?

Act. I used to act in all the school and camp plays as kid. Was in the chorus, the whole nine. I wanted to be on Broadway as a kid. Most kids want to be doctors and astronauts; I wanted to be an author or an actress in Broadway musicals. It almost happened too when they were doing the casting for the Rent movie. I had gotten a call back for the part of Mimi Marquez, but my mother failed to give me the message and if you've seen the movie, you know Rosario Dawson ended up with the part. I think it would have been cool if I'd made the call back. Can you imagine if I'd beaten out Rosario Dawson for that part! It would have been pretty epic, but, alas, the gods had other plans for me apparently.

Could you please tell us a little bit about your interesting pen name?

The S stands for Sheryl, which is my first name. Pagans are given names. They are the name used during rituals and ceremonies and everything else magic and witch related. Cu'Anam is my Pagan name. It is Gaelic. The word wolf in Gaelic is just impossible, besides, of my five spirit guides, two of them are canine, the wolf and the fox, so Cu, which means Dog or canine, just seemed to fit better anyway. Anam is Gaelic for spirit. Combine them, Cu'Anam and you have "spirit of the dog" or in my case, "spirit of the wolf". Policar is just my last name. I wanted a way for both the Pagan community and those who've known me forever by my actual name to know my books are me, so I merged my name with my Pagan name.

Random Question #1: What is your favorite color and how many things do you own in that color?

Purple. I love the color purple and what it stands for lol. I don't own many things in purple, unfortunately. My kindle case is purple and a few shirts, my toothbrush too lol! That's pretty much it though.

Could you tell us about where you grew up and what your childhood was like?

I grew up in Sheepshead/Nostrand Projects in Brooklyn, New York. Life was definitely not easy growing up. People who know firsthand things that happened to me insist I should write a book about it all and swear it would be my best seller and become a lifetime movie. I'm just not ready to open that door and relive those times yet. Someday I may not be so afraid to take that trip, but right now, I just don't have it in me. Occasionally, I'll make a note on my Facebook talking about something that happened as an explanation as to why I do what I do or act how I act. I figure, I didn't have anyone to talk to as a kid aside from a string of therapists who had no idea how the things I've been through really are, at least kids and teens, even adults, will know they aren't alone in their stuff if they see my notes, you know..

If you could only choose 1 of your books to be turned into a movie, which would it be and why?

If it's out of the already published stuff, I'd say The Diamond Isles. It's the very beginning of Xosha and movies based off the others would be lame without the very beginning. Besides, if The Diamond Isles became a movie, they'd have to finish the trilogy, so I'd at the very least get three movies out of it lol.

Random Question #2: Favorite food, and what would you do if you had to live without it for the rest of your life?

Man, this is a tough question! I like food! Hmm, I love mushrooms. It sounds silly, I know, but I do. I love them raw, on pizza, in any pasta, in salads. I love them sautéed in walnut oil, and omg fried and stuffed mushrooms!!! I think life would suck I couldn't have them, I'm not sure I'd be able to go on lol.

If you could only write one more story in your life time, what would be about?

It would be called Mer, which is a title I plan to write in the near future once I get caught up enough with the Xosha books. Mer will be dedicated to my best friend David who was murdered when we were twelve and will tell the story of a little boy who loved to wear dresses, and the girl that loved him with everything she was.

Who was your literary hero and why?

Hands down my hero is Ayn Rand. I didn't even know who she was until I was fifteen and the owner of the sleepaway camp I went to every summer handed me a book called Atlas Shrugged. It was signed, first edition that he'd gotten from Ayn herself.

The camp I went to had cabins with names like Henry Reardon, Eddie Willards, Tagart's Terminal, etc. One day, I'd asked Mike, the man who owned the camp, about the names and he handed me this worn, old signed first edition of Atlas Shrugged. I'll never forget what he said, "When you finish this, you'll understand." If you've ever seen a copy of Atlas Shrugged, it gives an unabridged dictionary a run for its money, sort of. It's almost two thousand pages long. With all the activities we had to do, I didn't even get through a quarter of the book before the summer was out, but Mike wouldn't take it back. He told me to make sure I brought it next summer. Next summer came, but Mike I didn't go to camp that year because it was closed, the camp was sold the following year and Mike passed away. I finally did finish the book once I could bring myself to open it and relive my years at camp, which I missed. And he was right. I totally understood everything when I finished it. So I read The Fountainhead and Anthem. Everything Ayn Rand wrote spoke to me and showed me how twisted our world really is.

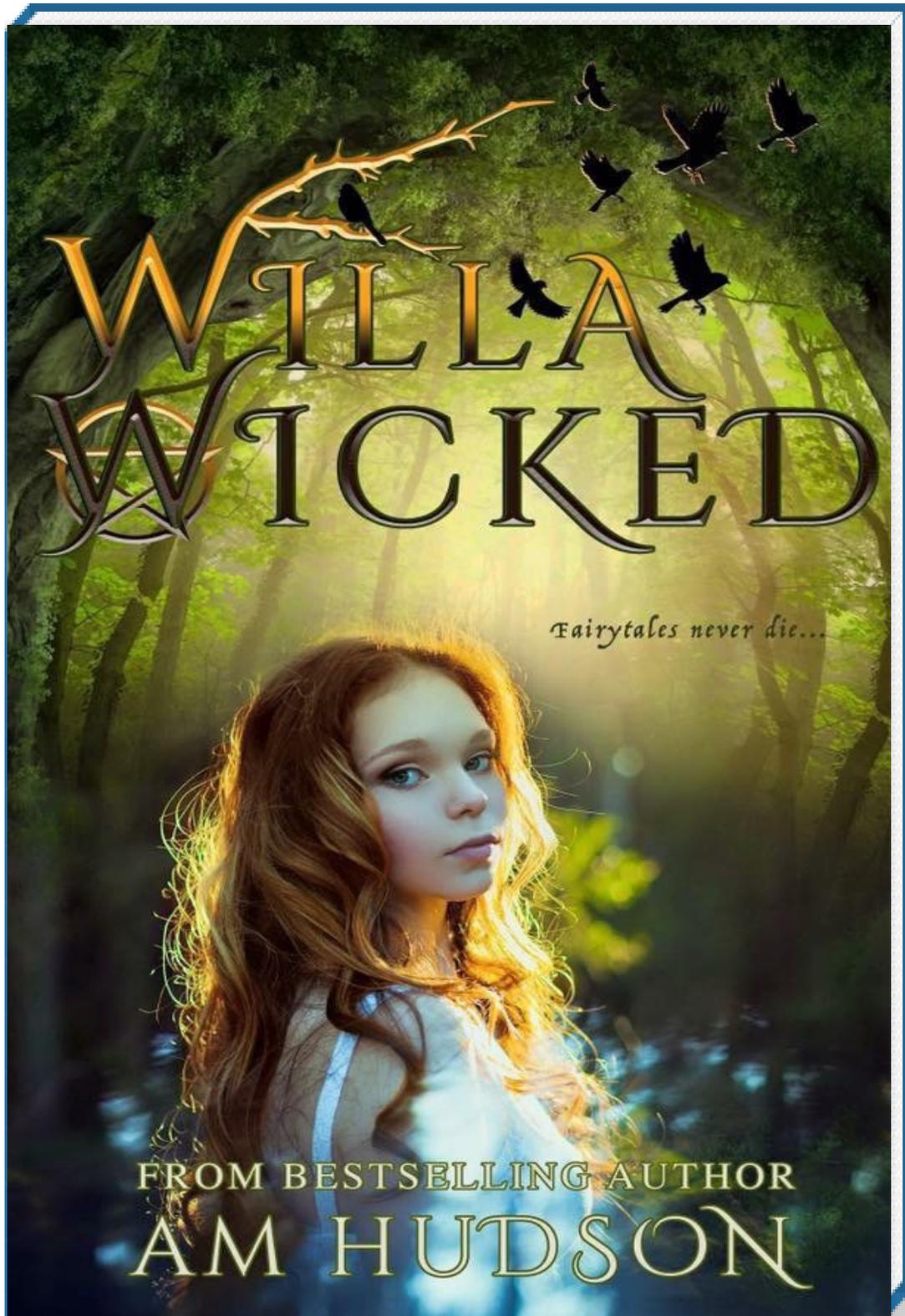
Random Question #3: If you could be ANYONE for just one day, who would it be, what would you do and why?

I don't know. I really don't idolize anyone enough to want to be them. But if I could be anyone, it would have to be someone rich. I like to help people by nature and money would make that a lot to do.



Thanks S.Cu'Anam Policar for taking part of Issue 16 of All Authors Magazine!

# Awesome Covers



## Willa Wicked by AM Hudson

### Blurb

All Henry thinks about is death. But he doesn't want to die.  
All Willa wants is to make sure he's okay, but the secrets he holds keep him distant from everybody.

When she befriends Henry after his return from near-death, things Willa thought were real suddenly take on a new shape, teaching her that sometimes there's more to dying than death, and that life in a magic-less realm doesn't have to be a life without magic.

From the award-winning author AM Hudson comes this dark and enchanting spin on a fairytale that will hold you hostage until the last page.



Hello Readers, Writers and Precious Patrons. Usually, for our Awesome Covers segments, we reach out to the author and ask questions related to how he (or she) came up with the cover. However, there are moments when this interaction doesn't come into fruition. When those events arise, the founder and the Editor-In-Chief come together to dish on why they deem a visual an Awesome Cover.

For this issue, the selection is "Willa Wicked" by AM Hudson.

### Royal Thoughts

Although I'm more of an abstract fan on cover concepts, there are many things that I like. For one, the lighting behind the female's head—gives off an element of mystery. It was great how the elements of the woods and the symbol are intertwined in the font. The green of the forest also plays into setting the stage for the contents.

### Truthful Takes

There are many things I enjoy about this cover. While it is true that I also prefer a more abstract cover concept, I find that this one is the best of both worlds. It strikes a beautiful balance between an abstract theme and a whimsical realism that I enjoy.

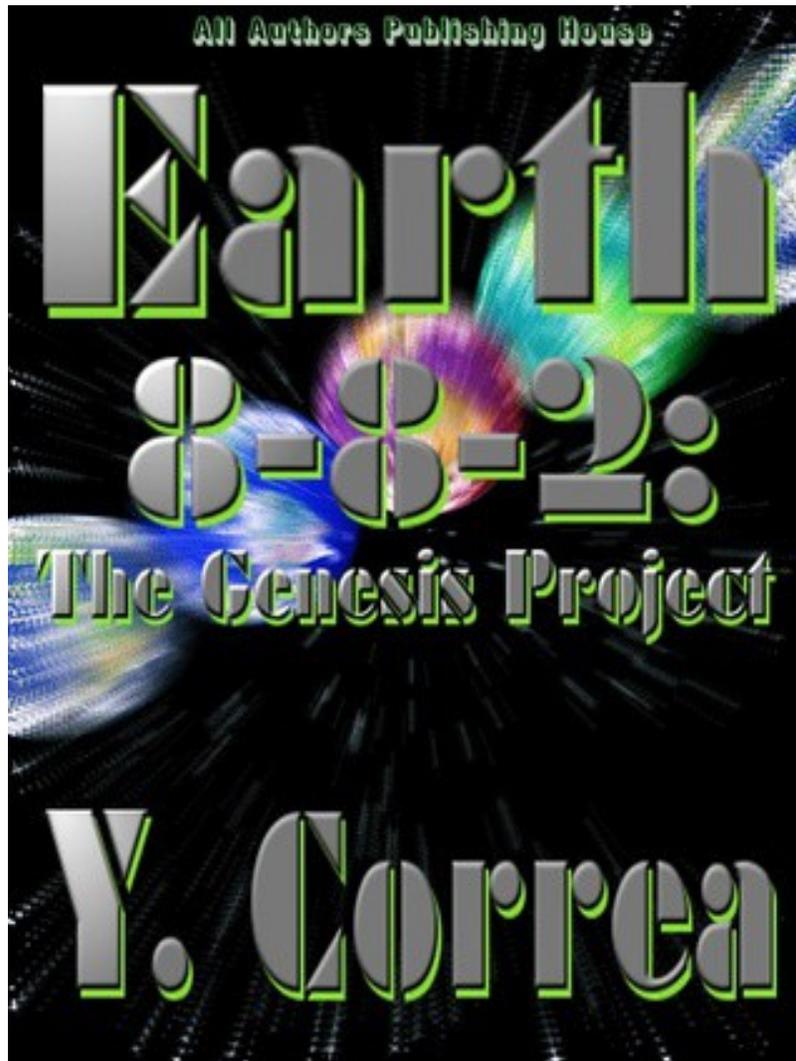
I find that the forest is very dreamy and fanciful. The way that the font is woven in, adds to its splendor. Then the light behind the girl does (as my Comrade indicated) give the cover a very magical feel with a hint of mystery. And finally, the girl and the look at her face speaks loads to the adventure that one might find within the story.

The Designer of this particular cover has a keen eye for what "calls out to people" and I'm certain that this cover will attract many a reader.



# Featured Book

Earth 8-8-2: The Genesis Project  
By  
Y. Correa



**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?



For this issue of All Authors Magazine, it was important to find a featured book that went along with the theme “Blazing Ink”. One publication that came to mind was “Earth 8-8-2: The Genesis Project” by none other than founder Y. Correa. Her motto is, “If a way isn’t in existence, make one”, she tends to wield a sledgehammer or a bulldozer to get the job done.

Although Y. Correa considers herself multi-genre, where her talent blazes most is in the realm of science fiction, a field that is dominated by male authors, along with the seamless ability to incorporate specks of other genres—what one would deem “mashups”.



“The Genesis Project”, the first book in the Earth 8-8-2 saga is a combination of science fiction and contemporary drama. Here is an excerpt for your enjoyment.

### EXCERPT

An anomalous claret of life churned. Like looking through an enlarged microscope, comatose plasma ignited with rage lurked within. Subdued by love, quelled by understanding, yet dormant wrath, it was. Of that, there was no denying.

Under the surface which was growing with expediency, there was something more. Something beyond words. Something truly incredible. “The next level of human evolution” was an understatement. This was, in all of its glory, a transcendent step into a new Godlike race. Yet, good battled against bad, right against wrong, and which would prevail was something incredibly hard to tell.

While superficially, Genesis was the ideal child and quintessential disciple, lying within her was a commodity whose value was beyond measure.



Two Months Later

Something had happened in Genesis’ heart since the death of her beloved Mrs. Roswell Tucker. Something she did not understand, and didn’t quite know how to handle. She was distraught, and felt empty inside. Not even the fact that she was so ‘special’ made her as happy as it once did. All she was at this very moment was a motherless orphan that needed someone to talk to. Mrs. Roswell, as she called her, was the only person that she could talk to—the only person that knew and understood that beneath it all Genesis was a human being, a person. Mrs. Tucker was the only person that truly treated her as such.

Due to her loss, Genesis felt lost and alone. She needed her beloved Mrs. Roswell. She really, truly needed her.

“Genesis, I know that I’m not her, but I’m here if you want to talk.” offered Captain Thomas, gulping hard at the reference to Mrs. Tucker. Genesis nodded, her demeanor downcast. “I mean, I know that I can’t give you the things that she did. After all, I’m not a woman. As the matter of fact, I’m far from it. I know I have this whole ‘G.I.’ thing going on, but I am human. I have feelings. I just hope that they can help you.”

“Thanks Jiles.” replied Genesis cordially, albeit sadly.

“K.” responded Captain Thomas, then reached over to put his arm around her.

He mused, It’s amazing how human she is despite the fact that she’s anything but.



“Jiles, I don’t know what to do anymore. I have sincerely tried everything to make her happy, but she just isn’t the same. What do I do? How do I make things better?” Dr. Scott hurt for his daughter, for no matter how one spun it, metahuman or not, that was exactly what she was; his daughter.

Yes, she’d been a test-tube baby, if you will. True, she was also known as—as General Townsen so eloquently put it—Experiment Eight-eight-two-dash-five-point-o, but she was so, so much more. She was his child. Furthermore, as any father would want, more than anything, he wanted her happiness.

“I’m so sorry Dr. Scott,” replied the Captain. “Mrs. Tucker’s loss has hurt her quite a bit. The good thing is that she’s taken to talking to me much more than she used to. Of course, I don’t understand half of what she is saying. But, I guess, in the long run, that’s a good thing. Hey, maybe you should hire another female caretaker ...?”

The idea struck the Doctor like a bolt of genius—inspired! Why hadn’t he thought of that? Of course! That was exactly what she needed! Another woman in her life, someone that she could talk to and that could relate to her. Dr. Scott felt like an unadulterated imbecile for not having thought of that before.



# Guest Article

The Honorless Honor

by

The Royal Truth

Hello Readers, Writers and Precious Patrons! In this Issue of All Authors Magazine, The Royal Truth explores the term “Best Seller”. Is it still a title of distinction, or has it become “The Honorless Honor”?



When I was a kid the biggest praise one could receive in school was to be put on the Principal's Honor Roll. There was no bigger sense of pride than that of hearing your name called and getting up to receive your certificate. The few times that I actually made it to the “regular” Honor Roll—one step below the Principal's Honor Roll—I felt like a million bucks. I thought to myself, “If I work just a little bit harder, next time, I'll make it to the Principal's Honor Roll!” You see, that's what it was all about. Working hard enough to get your excellent work recognized.



Wow, you decided to go there ... looks like we will definitely show our age on this one. Hello, everyone, Queen, by the way.

Mini Truth thinks I am bad about the whole “perfection” thing now—she would not have been able to stand me in the days of old. You see, I put a lot of pressure on myself to be the best. Yes, on myself. My grandparents' wish was for me to care about an education and to do well in school. My wish for myself was to excel.

“Honor Roll” was an insult to me. “Principal’s Honor Roll” was just okay. For the majority of my time in school, I was on the Superintendent’s Honor Roll. That is straight A’s, if you were lost. I was proud, and my grandparents were exceptionally proud. No one in the immediate family ever had grades as high as mine, and I was the first one to not only go to college but to go on an academic scholarship. For me, hard work did pay off and all of the honors served as proof that I was the best.

But, oh how things have changed! While many still want to believe that hard work pays off, day after day we realize that cheating pays off much more. What a sad world we live in when the very premise which was instilled in many of us now holds no value.

Allow me to rewind just a bit in order to share a story with you. Queen, feel free to chime in whenever you’d like.

Once upon a time I was browsing my favorite Social Media Network and in the process came across a book that was being pushed as a “Amazon Best Seller”.

“Queen,” I said, “Check this book out! It has an awesome blurb, some great reviews, and is an Amazon Best Seller. We should totally check it out.”

Nodding, she replied, “Yeah, you should totally give it a shot. It sounds like something you’d enjoy.”

Excited, I got myself a copy of the book and dived right into reading it.

Soon I was questioning whether or not I’d gotten the right book. Confused, I went back to the purchase link of the book, looked at the blurb once more, the reviews, and the label which said “Amazon Best Seller”. I was shocked to see that I was not reading the wrong book. Immediately, I went into Investigator Mode, and started doing some research. I went to places like Goodreads, and independent blogs, and wouldn’t you know it, there were some reviewers who didn’t have such nice things to say about said book. As a matter of fact, they saw all of the same things I saw. A big part of me was relieved to know that I wasn’t the only person to think lowly of said book.

Some time passed, and soon I saw the same incident with a different book.

Something funky is going on here, I thought.

Fool me once, shame on me. Fool me twice, shame on you.

So I reached out to Queen, and before we knew it, we were both in Investigator Mode. And, what we found vastly changed our opinion of “Best Sellers” and the realm of “merit” in the literary world.

There are quite a few things that changed our outlook.



## The ability to manipulate Amazon's algorithm to generate a Best Seller distinction

Amazon works off an algorithm system based on the amount of times something is "searched" for or "purchased". The more your work is scouted, the higher up on the totem pole it will go. And, if your work is consequently purchased, then even higher it goes. The exact logistics of how this algorithm works is a bit complicated, but there are people that have learned the "math", if you will, and have found a way to tricking the Amazon algorithm into believing their manipulation.

Anyone can Google a tutorial and find a way around the Amazon Jungle.



## Services one can use to generate "rave reviews"

I pride myself on being an honest, ethical reviewer and expect others to give my writings the same respect. Multiple times, I get spammed by people, even organizations, offering to do "rave reviews" on my work. For a special price, they will use their unique skills to give glowing reviews, regardless of whether they have actually read my work or even think my work is good. Some of these skilled individuals even gloat that they can make their reviews appear as "Verified Purchases" on Amazon and they won't be detected as bogus in any way.

Apparently, these charlatans are winning. I say this, because I have noticed that not only are my honest reviews getting pulled from Amazon, but people who have reviewed my work have gotten their thoughts taken down. Amazon's favorite catchphrase is "It appears from your activity that the two of you know each other." Is Amazon stalking our computers and taking time out of their busy schedules to spy on us? In my opinion, they are doing too much.

In the meantime, the real crooks are getting away with murder, which often times results in:

- People purchasing books that are very crappy (my nice way of putting it)
- Rave reviews that people perceive as gospel but are actually wolves in sheep's clothing due to lack of substance and only possessing "key words" to garner attention
- Discouraged authors that can't get exposure and looks from actual reviewers because posers are polluting the space

## The fact that "Everyone can do it"

There used to be huge distinction to call one's self a published author. The achievement was a big deal because there were hurdles you would have to face in order to make the dream a reality. Hundreds, even thousands of rejections, before you got accepted. Or, if you didn't get accepted by a major publisher, just putting the work out independently. Word of mouth and getting your work seen by the masses was no easy feat either.

The ease of publication has taken out not only the element of struggle but also the glow of accomplishment. These independent outlets assume that the person submitting the work has a great understanding of English and the elements that make a fantastic publication. This results in all types of literary works being released replete with spelling errors, poor sentence structure, and stories so abhorrent that it makes terrific authors want to crawl into a hole, and avid readers gnash their teeth because they are anorexic for lack of mental sustenance.

Instead of people swarming you with "Congratulations", you get "Oh, that's nice" or even worse, "Hey, I got a book out too". That wouldn't be so bad, except you know that cousin Billy repeated English three times and bribed his Creative Writing teacher with apples in order to get a D.



Mini Truth, stepping in here for just a moment.

You know, they say that 9 out of 10 people you meet have an idea for a story. That everyone wants to write a book. But you see, that's not the problem. The problem is that not everyone has the necessary talent to write a book, and that's perfectly okay. I mean, after all, you don't expect everyone to be a Varsity Champion, or a Opera Singer. You don't expect just anyone to be the President of the United States, so why is it that everyone thinks they have the talent to write a story. How can we entrust cousin Billy with the writing of a marvelous story when we know he had trouble "Seeing Spot Run"? It isn't a realistic expectation. Yet, this is something we are seeing of more and more in the realm of books.

Okay ... I'm done with my 2 cents. Queen, carry on.

Apparently, people expect a certain individual with the letters "DJT" to be the President of the United States—I think that counts as "just anyone" ... lol.

Moving on.

The point I'm trying to make is that since being a published author is perceived as being less of an honor, like a downgrade from a trophy to a certificate, the Best Seller distinction is headed in the same direction.

Don't get me wrong. I am very proud that my book *Private Pain: Amidst These Ashes* made the Amazon Best Seller List in multiple categories, along with quite a few anthologies where my works were featured. Unfortunately, the more slush pile publications that are getting Best Seller swag, the more my emotions range from being disappointed to being angry.

It is a sad thing when the very thing that we all strive for as authors has become a mediocre Cracker Jack Box prize that anyone can get as long as they invest the money. This makes it twice as hard for those legitimate authors out there that are working themselves to the bone just to provide a quality work for the general public to enjoy.

And, wouldn't you know it, this also affects our commissions. Do you know why? Because nowadays readers don't want to pay for Indie Authors works, due to being leery about the quality therein. So the only time we can get our books in the hands of the general public is when we put them up on free promotions. We make no money out of that. It is an unfair situation for us all due to a group of individuals that believe in "by any means necessary", even when those means are scandalous and unbecoming to the rest of us.

If younger me would have known that the Honor Roll no longer had any value, she'd be a very sad little girl. Probably, she would have said "screw it" and thrown her hands up in the air, giving up on her long time dream.

Usually, in this segment, we could come up with some type of summary like spiel. This time, let's try a little something different.



### Special note to Authors:

It is frustrating because Amazon is monopolizing the market. It is unfair that their preconceived notions of who knows each other (aka "social activity") has prevented reviews from being posted and/or even worse, reviews that were up before, vanishing. Although a petition has been sent to Amazon addressing this suspect practice, their response to this targeting has been silence. Until they see the flaw in their algorithms, we have to be responsible for providing a platform where readers can place their thoughts on our works without censorship or deletion. Set up a spot on your own blog or website, or find an alternate location that won't have the ridiculous restrictions of Amazon.

### Special note to Readers:

If you have experienced your review getting deleted by Amazon, please alert the author of this so the author won't think you simply didn't read the book. If you are able, see if the author has the work available at different outlets that aren't advocating the practices of Amazon. Your thoughts, whether glowing with praise or constructive criticism, are an author's life blood.

### To Best Sell or Not to Best Sell?

Are we saying that one shouldn't strive to be a Best Seller? No, definitely not. However, I think that one should strive for a bigger goal. Have works that become classics on someone's bookshelf or ereader. Produce content that can connect people from all parts of the world or incite people to debate. Even when I'm no longer around, it would be nice for someone in an English or Creative Writing class to talk about what a stanza means in "Butterfly" from Reflections of Soul or in Psychology, how the works from Private Pain: Amidst These Ashes reflect components that keep people in dysfunctional relationships.

Go beyond being a Best Seller. Be a timeless classic that affects not just this generation, but many generations beyond.

Ooh, ooh, Queen, can I? Can I say the punchline now?

The only one stopping you ... is you.

Woot!

And THAT'S the Royal Truth!:)



# Informative Articles





## All About Indie Issue 16 Blazing Ink

### How did we get here?

Many folks see Indie Publishing as a new 'thing', and some even look down upon it. While others recognise the freedoms it offers artists, as opposed to being limited to what the 'big 5' decide is trending and what the public wants.

In recent years, indie publishing has exploded, and the potential is mind-blowing. Indie authors have it good compared to their predecessors.

However, with a certain massive kindle book seller becoming ever more powerful, us indies need to start sitting up and taking notice, lest we become more enslaved than we ever were.

Right now, more and more indie authors are having legitimate book reviews deleted with no grounds for appeal. The most recent post I saw on this issue, cited that any reviews containing the words, 'I received a free copy of this book ...' are being deleted across the board.

This is grave news for indie authors, who struggle to obtain reviews in the first place. And, it would appear that an attempt at transparency on the reviewers' behalf is being used against them. It seems that, while these kinds of platforms have made it so easy for writers to publish, one of them is now turning and biting the hand that feeds it.

This comes on the heels of this same company deleting reviews from people it decides are an author's friends, and it decides this by seeing who they are communicating with on social media. Which means, of course, that even people you don't really know can end up being banned from reviewing any and all of your books.

All very concerning.

Is this history repeating itself?

Let's take a look at how we got here in the first place.

### **Johannes Gutenberg introduced the first moveable type in 1440.**

This printing press brought European book publishing into the industrial age, and made it much easier for people to publish their own stuff. Yes—as far back as 1440!

### **In 1811, Jane Austen—unable to find a publisher—paid a small press to print her novel for her.**

As we all know, *Sense and Sensibility* is still going strong even today, more than two hundred years later. Recently, it's even been made into a major film, not to mention earlier adaptations. Jane Austen isn't the only notable author who ended up self-publishing because the big houses said no, only to enjoy unparalleled success.

Did you know that J K Rowling received twelve rejections from agents before Bloomsbury picked up the first Harry Potter novel, with an advance of just £1500? Not to mention E L James, author of *Fifty Shades of Grey*, who got rejected out of hand and ended up self-publishing. Only after her massive success did she secure a publishing contract.

### **The 1880s saw artists pushing back against industrialisation.**

During this period, an emphasis was placed upon indie produced goods while items made within the industrial machine were shunned. The personal, indie, touch was seen as a good thing.

### **In 1917, Virginia Wolfe and her husband created the Hogarth Press.**

This allowed Virginia to publish according to her own vision, and she brought works by other well-known authors to new audiences (a bit like modern-day small presses and indie publishers).

## **In 1996, the IPPY awards began.**

Yes, despite the decades of indie publishing, it took until 1996 for any official awards within indie publishing to be born. These Independent Publisher Book Awards brought recognition to the hard work and talent of indie publishers.

Nowadays, of course, we see an absolute glut of folks offering various awards ... some more prominent and meaningful than others.

## **Just a year later, in 1997, the first POD platform opened.**

Print on Demand (POD) revolutionised indie publishing still further. No longer did an author wishing to see their work in print need to have huge cash reserves to pay up front for a large print run. Now, they could pay per print, and the book would only print when there was a sale. Awesome sauce!

## **2007 & 2008 saw Amazon and Smashwords opening up e-book publishing to all indie authors.**

With these platforms, authors could publish their own e-books directly, which paved the way for a democratisation of publishing through self-publishing.

Or, did it?

While Smashwords continues to be one of the biggest advocates for indie authors, large platforms like Amazon are pushing more and more for exclusivity, where authors are locked in to only selling their e-books with them, and are penalised on royalties if they choose otherwise. Also, you can't use their promotional tools unless you're opted in for exclusivity.

When I first published, back in 2013, I made my book available on numerous platforms, including Smashwords, Amazon (non-kdp exclusive—which cut my royalties in half), and Google books. Living in the UK meant that some platforms automatically excluded me, and still do, such as Barnes and Noble e-books. Currently, only authors in the USA can use this platform.

The major reason I chose to go exclusive at the time was actually two-fold. One, that most of my sales came via Amazon, and so opting in and getting 70% royalties instead of 35% made financial sense. They also paid me each month instead of every quarter, and I didn't have to earn a certain amount first.

Secondly, I'd experienced issues with the Smashwords converter chewing up my book and garbling whole paragraphs, where no other platform did. No matter what I tried, I didn't seem able to resolve this. To make the issue worse, their platform remained limited in what documents it would allow the author to upload, which included not supporting the upload of an already-formatted kindle e-book file.

From a reviewing perspective, the Smashwords versus Amazon question, wasn't so much a question—not back then. Amazon allowed reviews from folks who hadn't purchased my book via their platform, whereas Smashwords required that all reviews were based on verified purchases from the Smashwords' site.

Not so anymore, it seems. More and more, these 'big 2' are drawing closer together on reviewing requirements. So, while us indie authors still have massive publishing freedom compared to just two decades ago, some restrictions are creeping in.

Is this the beginning of the end?

Are we witnessing the advent of one or two 'big houses' taking control of the indie publishing world? Much like the 'big 5' have done in traditional publishing?

So far, I have remained sitting on the fence and watching events unfold from my safe, dark corner. However, the decisions I make next, and all indie authors along with me, will largely dictate how the future unfolds. Will dictate how we go from where we are now, to wherever we'll end up.

Recently, Amazon have begun a program called Kindle Scout, where they will publish an author's book, and pay them up-front royalties while holding onto the book rights like a traditional publisher—if enough readers vote for the book. While I initially applauded this move, and welcomed it as yet another boost for indie authors, I now have questions about where it might be leading.

Anything further I say on that would be pure speculation, and my opinion, so I won't say another thing on it. But, please, do give it some thought. What might it mean for one of the biggest self-publishing platforms to be moving into offering contracts more reminiscent of traditional publishing? And how many more of the bigger platforms will follow suit?

In going back and looking at how we got here, I saw an age-old cycle within the change and progress. One that dictates that whoever has the money, has the power. One or two out of the many will end up with the monopoly. Until someone comes along with a completely new idea, and the money and technology to run with it.

I confess to giving in to a certain level of laziness in the past when it comes to publishing. It's so much easier being exclusive to one publishing site. I only have one platform to manage and promote. Its ease of use makes it even more attractive. Not to mention its generous remuneration terms in comparison to many other platforms out there.

What are those decisions doing to the indie world? More and more, I find myself asking this question. And it makes me uncomfortable. If history has taught me one thing, it's that we have to fight for and defend our freedom. It isn't something we can take for granted.

At the moment, the indie world is in flux, especially as laws haven't caught up with technology yet. Soon, though, things will settle down. New laws will be born that deal with the digital age in its entirety. Protocols will become locked down. How will that picture look? Even now, e-books have sparked a debate about ownership, and this is true whether it is indie or traditionally published. Does a purchaser have ownership like they would a paperback? Or have they only purchased the right to 'read' it? Where will an author's rights end up laying?

Modern writers enjoy many more freedoms and privileges than of old. And our ever-developing technology promises more of the same. However, it is so important in these times of rapid and exponential change to keep an eye on our social and moral compass. It might be that, in order to enjoy these rights and privileges, we may have to accept limitations and restrictions in some areas. Until something new comes along.

History has well shown how much influence artists wield in leading change and affecting the social conscience. That's why past dictatorships always attacked the so-called intelligentsia first—because they were the ones who could've put a spanner in the works the most easily.

Writers are artists, and do influence a reader's thoughts and opinions, whether they intend to or no. So many social issues are entangled within the whole indie publishing arena. The whole indie world, for that matter. As with anything, the microcosm reflects the macrocosm. What happens within one, will impact the other in some way.

It seems to me that while technology has blown my potential as an author wide open, it is also giving me plenty of food for thought. Indeed, the only constant we can be sure of is change. Nothing stays the same. Ever.

Much of the time, we have no control over it at all. The only thing we can do is to embrace it. We always have a choice, though. We might not like our options, and it might feel like 'between the devil and the deep blue sea' or 'the frying pan and fire', but we still have choices.

So far, I have talked about the 'big 2' in the indie publishing arena. This is because I know the most about them, but also because much of what happens seems to be driven by one or the other of them. And the perception in the indie arena is that these two are the ones that go head-to-head most often. However, there are many other platforms out there. Some gaining prominence and others sinking back into the vast ocean.

In the three years since I published my first book, the indie landscape has changed a lot. No matter the platform, change has happened. Not a single one of them remains exactly the same as it was. Some initiatives I like, while others not so much.

What I take away from these developments, though, is that I need to be aware of the repercussions. While most of the legal and scientific implications are beyond me, the social ones are not. First and foremost, I opted to be indie because I valued my freedom to choose. How much I'm willing to trade for that freedom is down to me.

Trouble is, it's impossible to know what's around the corner. Could Johannes Gutenberg, in 1440, ever have foreseen the social impact his invention would have wrought? I doubt it. Who could have foreseen how MP3 files, giving us greater data for a fraction of the space, would have changed what we do digitally? Not to mention wireless signals able to transmit images and data, not just radio waves. Recently, I read an article on the research being done into teleporting—as in the Star Trek 'Beam me up, Scotty' kind of ilk. Quantum physicists are actually researching the possibilities. At the moment, it's limited to non-organic matter, but who knows?

In this day and age, the sky is no longer the limit. The opportunities offered to indie artists are to be celebrated, and innovation welcomed. However, one eye needs to be kept on the direction we're headed. In looking behind, I can lament how much simpler life seemed, but then it also came with a lot more limitations. So, all in all, I'm delighted with the state of the indie union. What I'm not doing, is taking it for granted. Every indie, whether they be artist, musician, or writer, needs to ask what is driving each change, and how important the freedom to express their art is to them.

To close on an upbeat note, I have to comment on the indie community and its cohesiveness. We all (for the majority) look out for one another, and it truly does feel like one big family. This is, perhaps, the single biggest gift I've received since entering the indie arena. This feels so important in these modern, diverse, and rapidly changing times.

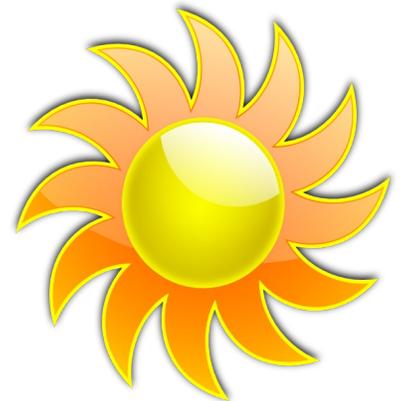
Like all indies, what's important to me is being able to create and share. The bottom line is that I'm a writer, and all I want to do is keep on being able to write and publish. That, and interact with my fellow authors. So, while this article might have raised some questions about where our indie world is headed, it also (I hope) highlights our successes.

To me, Spring is a time of change and growth and potential, so what better topic to bring to you in this issue of All Authors Magazine than taking a look at the buds and new growth in the indie yard? As with any garden, we've got weeds, and some plants are more aggressive than others, but oh my, what a wonderful playground it is.

So, we know how we got here (and what a fascinating journey that's been!), and where we're at (sort of), but the only way we can have any inkling of what might be coming is to take notice of the buds as they emerge. The only way we can have any input on what grows most prolifically is to take care about what we water and where we put the weed killer.

Thank you for joining me at All Authors today, and may the flowers in your garden blossom gloriously.

***Mary, Mary, quite literary, how does your garden grow?***





Hello. AJ here. Before proceeding to the “Ask AJ” questions, I'd like to express this sentiment.

We find ourselves at Issue #16 and it made me think of how fast time moves on. It seems like just yesterday the All Authors Magazine was just getting started. So I say, CONGRATULATIONS to all involved and for their 'behind-the-scenes' hard work, but especially to our founder, Y. Correa.



### **The Question**

Dear AJ,

I am an aspiring author. Because of this I've joined many writers groups online and have read many samples of writing available on said platforms. I've noticed that most writers use writing trends that I'm not used to, nor do I use. Things like, overuse of conjunctions and run-on sentence. I suppose my question is the following: Do I submit to the peer-pressure of writing like them, or should I stick to my guns and be an original?



This issue's question is interesting because of the questions it poses for a writer. The main question: “To be original or not to be?”

But really, it goes deeper than that.

**OUR WRITING WORLD**

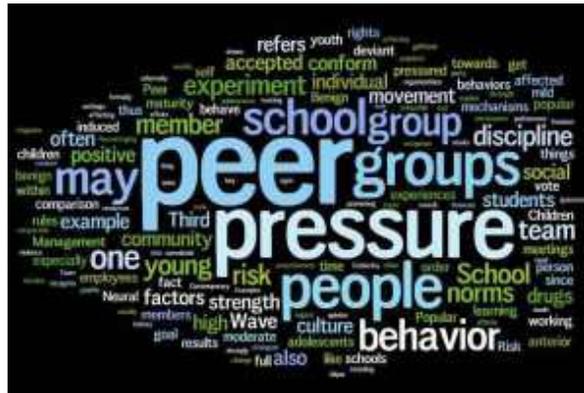
Being a writer is a lonely game, no matter how you look at it. Any given project, especially a novel, calls for many hours of solitude. That time is needed to get our thoughts together and move our writing project along. There really is no way to avoid that. Now, many say they love writing in a public setting such as a cafe or library – I find myself there on many days – but ultimately we will block out the noise around us with headphones and our favorite music or other means, so when it comes down to writing, we are truly flying solo.

**FELLOWSHIP OF WRITERS**

As much as we are alone in our writing, at some point we like to get feedback on our work. This can be done in a couple of different ways, through a beta reader(s) or by getting involved in a writers group where critiques, ideas, or brainstorming can help get through a tough writing moment.

Either way, we as writers get insight and a different pair of eyes on our words.

This can be valuable information and always gives us a different perspective or way to step back and look at our work from a new vantage point. With every writer being different in our writing styles, a lot of different trends can be projected, some we may not have considered before (examples: overuse of conjunctions and run-on sentences).



Seeing these new ideas and trends come into play and hearing of others using these techniques can bring about a certain amount of peer-pressure to try the newest waves in writing. That can stymie our creativeness and flow.  
TO BE OR NOT TO BE ...

This is where the main question for this issue comes from. Should we conform and adjust our writing to the trendy styles and ideas? Of course, that is a personal choice and one each individual must make on their own.

I feel we must always keep an open eye to new ideas, trends, and feedback, and take good advice and use it to propel our writing. Our writing is an every-evolving thing and we are constantly learning what works for us and makes us better writers. But in the end, we are who we are, in that, we all have our own originality that must be employed in our work.



If we have anything in this writing world, it is our originality. After all, that has propelled our writing projects from the beginning. So, to answer the question at heart, I would ALWAYS STAY ORIGINAL, but like I said with open eyes and ears, and if you can find something that enhances your writing within its originality...let it flow.

We can't let things like peer-pressure get in the way of our creativity. Trends will come and go, because that's just what they are...trends. But our creative process and our original ideas are unique to us, each individual writer, and those things are where we should lay our foundation for our writing.



Stay original,

AJ

## Blazing ... of a Different Kind

By

Queen of Spades



Greetings Readers, Writers and Precious Patrons. Welcome to A Queen's Ramblings. Usually, when you read an article from me, it's the one that was drafted on the first take. However, this will be a change of pace, because this is actually idea number three from my rampant mind.

Well, it wasn't quite an idea.

You see, my first attempt was a bit on the dry side ... like a wine connoisseur wrinkling his nose when he wants Moscato (very sweet) but gets Chardonnay (dry). The attempt after that had a strong start but started losing steam halfway in. I don't like that pattern in things I read, so I don't want to deliver that in things I write.

I scratched my head. I even said out loud, "What's wrong with this picture?"—receiving a few befuddled glances from passing coworkers.

Finally, I concluded that the only way I could get pass this quagmire was to share with the reading audience. At the least, getting it out might do some good. At best, I could get some really great feedback from all of you about what to do about this situation.

Before I lay out my angst, it would be helpful to share some truths about me.



Truth One: Having something to call my own is a big deal for me.

Everything I have received in life I treasure to the fullest. It has loads to do with my upbringing but even more to do with my circumstances. I learned over time that my family was considered on the poor spectrum. However, my guardians tried to provide for me so that it wouldn't be obvious, oftentimes doing without their own wants and necessities.



Truth Two: Anyone taking or harming something that is owned is a show of disrespect—whether intentional or unintentional.

When I was a little girl, it was not unusual for kids in the neighborhood to stop by my grandparents' house and even play with each other's toys. One particular day, I had received a new toy and one of the girls stopped by to play with me. However, after everyone went home, I searched for the new toy but couldn't find it anywhere. Once my grandma asked who else had been in the house, it didn't take long for me to name that particular girl.

When my grandma went over there to confront the girl, her mom answered the door. My grandma and I spotted my new toy in the girl's toy chest. Instead of the mother reprimanding the girl, she accused us of lying and said that she'd bought her daughter that very same toy two weeks ago. Even when my grandma pointed out that an identifying mark on the toy was tampered with (the label I placed on it had been torn off), the girl's mom got upset and ordered us to leave. From that point on, my grandparents decided the neighborhood kids could not come inside the house anymore. Eventually, they were not permitted on our yard.

This second truth was solidified the first time harm came to something I wrote: intentionally and by someone else's hand.

After that, extreme caution was my modus operandi when it came to trusting other people with something I treasured. In my mind, as well as my experiences, people took less care of possessions which did not belong to them. They did not share my act of care—being more attentive because of the fact that I was not the original owner. It also made me skeptical of not having my own, particularly as I started to compose more written material.

Before I owned a computer, I would handwrite the material first. Then, an additional copy was duplicated via typewriter. This is not to be confused with a word processor—I never owned a processor. I didn't own my first computer until college, and I didn't allow anyone on the machine. I never worried that my grandparents would touch my machine, since they did not understand the ins and outs of technology. However, at the time, one of my sisters was living with us. She and I not only clashed on her requesting usage but also her excessive compulsion to have phone conversations with different guys. In these current times, it would not be a kerfuffle, but remember ... high speed back in those days was dial up.

Soon, I got accustomed to using a computer and retired my typewriter. As technological demands grew more sophisticated, I got with the times to embrace more functionality. Every new discovery filled me with excitement, especially because items were becoming more affordable. At one point, I possessed a desktop and a laptop. I mainly preferred to use a laptop during travel, or when I didn't feel up to going to the other room to get on the desktop. When my desktop started having issues, there was no choice but to rely solely on my laptop.

Changes took place in my household last year—the addition of two people. Both of these individuals are heavily dependent on computers—one to do work functions and the other because of necessity (and it's no picnic for anyone if said device is available). After a few mishaps with machinery, along with being at my job during the morning hours, I made an exception to my rule and permitted usage of my laptop.

When I wrote, I still used my typical ritual—only this time, I used my laptop similar to the way I use pen and paper, prior to duplicating and transferring the work to another source. I adopted this method when working on a particular project ... one I thought was just going to be a short story. As I continued to work, many layers began unfolding ... to the point where it incorporated the makings of an actual novel—an unachieved feat by me thus far.

It was almost at the 10,000 word mark but then other ideas arrived—plots for short stories, poetry, collaborations, and the like. Rather than try to add more to that project, I decided to complete the other ideas and set aside time for the potential novel afterward. That way, my sole focus would be on my potential achievement—with no interruptions.

The other ventures were completed but the road to the finish line was rocky.



In layman's terms, it wasn't easy.

The screen had gotten cracked on my laptop due to someone's clumsiness but the replacement for that machine did not match up to the comfort I experienced. It wasn't long before that model bit the dust. Then, there was a machine swap-a-roo but it was no use. I had gotten used to my old machine and things just weren't the same.

About a month back, the surge hit to work on the potential novel again. I searched my storage spaces but then remembered it was still on my laptop—the one with the cracked screen. All I would have to do is transfer it to storage and get started. Yet, when I searched, the device was nowhere to be found and along with it, 10,000 words of what could have been the "Blazing Ink".

Despite knowing that the series of events was unintentional, I am experiencing a high level of anxiety.

Granted, there are more things I could have done, like outlined. However, I free write ... it's a habit I have when writing my poetry and my inspiration comes at the spur of the moment. Many say that novel writing is more disciplined but when I'm in the thick of the write, I'm not focused on the discipline aspect. Unfortunately, the initial flame for all of my writing endeavors begins the same, even if the final products are different.

The anxiety comes from a number of things. One, in seventy five percent of my experiences, my first write is the strongest one. What if my second attempt is watered down, doesn't have that same emotional engagement as the first? Two, what if my zest to compose this work doesn't come back? Since knowing that it's gone, my heart aches to even think about the story—I don't even look at the book where the initial idea is written. I'm crushed because my goal was to take this year to see if I could complete the project but now, there's nothing to complete and I'm at a loss on what to do.

Can I weave together enough elements to recreate my "Blazing Ink", or will the blaze result in ashes that regurgitate the hurts and trepidations of my possessions being disrespected and destroyed?

Stay tuned. I will provide updates, either via my blog or here in the magazine about this journey.



Dear RWPP's, what do you think? Should I recreate or chalk this up as a loss? Send your thoughts to [submissions@allauthorspp.net](mailto:submissions@allauthorspp.net) with "Blazing Ink: Novel Loss" as the subject line. Also, if you are an author and this has happened to you, feel free to share your story as well. The response could be used as a future issue.



Short Story Station  
***"Everybody Has a Story"***

By

Beem Weeks

Merrien Josephine Cushman-Vail. It's not a name most people would easily recognize. She lived not too far from my hometown of Lansing, Michigan, USA. Merrien passed away on July 18, 2013 at the age of 100. That, in itself, ought to be somewhat newsworthy. To reach the century mark is quite an accomplishment. But Merrien's story went way beyond triple-digit birthdays.

In any good story there is that jumping-off point, that one big moment that sets the stage for what's to come. For Merrien Josephine Cushman, that big moment came a few weeks before her 14th birthday way back in 1927. The young girl had achieved such good grades, she didn't need to attend class on a fateful May day. She offered to walk her 7-year-old brother, Ralph, to school that morning, the way she normally did. But the boy declined his big sister's gesture, not wanting the other kids to tease him.



Merrien had busied herself picking flowers when she heard the explosion that ended her little brother's life.

On May 18, 1927, a disgruntled 55-year-old school board treasurer, angry over his defeat in the spring 1926 election for township clerk, rained mayhem upon the tiny community of Bath, Michigan. Andrew Kehoe had spent the better part of a year quietly hiding dynamite and incendiary pyrotol in the basement of the Bath Consolidated School. A timing device ignited the horror that quiet May morning, killing 45 people, 38 of which were children, and injuring 58.



Merrien wondered afterward what would have happened had she gone to school that day with her little brother.



In today's world, such acts of inhumanity seem almost commonplace. Grief counselors are often on call to help children deal with the unimaginable. But way back in 1927, there existed no such occupation as grief counselor. Survivors like Merrien were left to deal with the wounds and scars on their own. But deal with it, Merrien did. She went on to enjoy a full and happy life, marrying Clare Vail and raising a family of five daughters and two sons.

"You just have to make up your mind to get through it, if you want to go on," she told her children whenever they'd experienced tough times. "There's no other choice."



Her obituary came first, mentioning the fact that she had survived this devastating horror that is well-known in my home state—even after 86 years. The newspaper article appeared a couple of weeks later, when somebody decided it merited mention.

Merrien truly was a survivor, having overcome tragedy and loss, to see her 100th birthday.

I read the obituaries every day, often looking to see if somebody I know has passed. And I read them all, too. Why? Because everybody has a story. You'll find some extraordinary lives lived in those few final words some family member or friend thought important enough to share with those who still read their local newspaper.

A hundred years is an awful long time to be present on planet Earth. The advances Merrien Josephine Cushman witnessed would make for amazing stories. But even 7-year-old Ralph had a story to tell. What was he doing just before his life ended? Who were his pals? Did he have a favorite teacher? It seems so unfair to read of one soul making it to a hundred while another soul, a baby, had yet to take those first steps parents are always so eager to record with home video. But nobody can say life is fair. We do the best with what we're given. Just as Merrien Josephine Cushman-Vail has done.



If you'd like to learn more about the Bath School bombing, visit: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bath_School_disaster)

# Poetry Unleashed



## Strumming My Pain Poetry Unleashed Feature Piece



Initially, I did an open call to see if writers would take advantage of the opportunity for this spotlight in All Authors Magazine. The deadline for interest came and went. Life can sometimes happens, but it just goes to show that doing things the original way is the best way.

However, the show must go on.

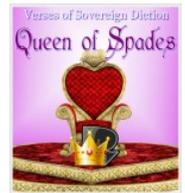
I decided, in lieu of this, to use this platform to speak on a subject that is near and dear to my heart and how I used the art of poetry to address said subject. May is Mental Health Awareness month, and I'm passionate about it for a number of reasons.

1. Mental Health, despite the advancements in treatment, still carries a huge stigma in association with the diagnosis.
2. I know people who have symptoms but have not been diagnosed, not sure of where to turn to get help.
3. I know people who have a diagnosis but have been put through hoops in the system.

But, most importantly ...

I have a mental illness ... actually, two mental illnesses.

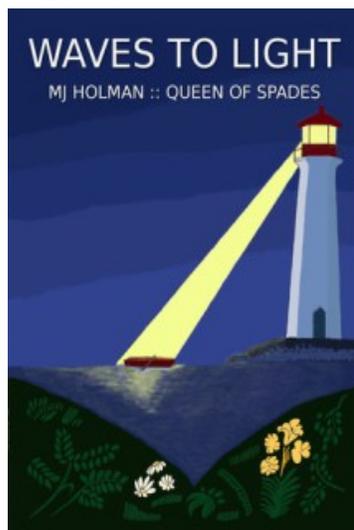
I'm going to permit a pause for silence, shock, confusion, or anticipation of further explanation.



For those who like technical terminology, the diagnosis back then was clinical depression. Since then, it's been called by another name—perhaps the term “clinical” wasn't seen as politically correct.

Now, my diagnosis is referred to as major depressive disorder (MDD), combined with generalized anxiety disorder (GAD). On top of that, I'm considered high functioning. In other words, there are moments where I can still do my normal tasks without any indicator that I'm going through a depressive episode.

One of the things I did when my thoughts were at their darkest was to write. Journaling was my primary catharsis for many years prior to any doctor seeing me. To many people, it was written off as a case of the blues.



Fast forward to 2015. A fellow author also battling mental illness MJ Holman, invited me to participate in a follow up to The Sea of Conscience. I had worked with her before but my contribution in The Sea of Conscience was a minuscule one—a poem here and there. This time, she wanted me to adopt a more active role: to talk about our own individual journeys with our illnesses—from awareness to the path to treatment. The end result of our poetry and prose combination was Waves to Light. This collaboration was released in September 2015.

These lines from “Whispering Forgiveness” by MJ Holman outline the emotional turmoil of someone who is going through a tough episode.

From “Whispering Forgiveness”

*Why do I feel the guilt of ages  
Instead of the forgiveness of time?  
When emotions were as they should have been.  
Memories are grief  
And bring about unguarded dreams  
Where dark swirling waters  
Swallow hearts.  
Standing on the bank  
I try to be kind to myself  
To forgive my anger  
But I cannot let go of guilt.*

Then, one gets a glimpse of moments when counsel fails in MJ Holman’s “I am Legion”.

From “I Am Legion”

*We are Legion  
The face of many  
Who all stand the same  
Our actions can be predicted  
And our thoughts  
Prophesied  
But we stand alone  
Unhealed  
For we are Legion.*

In addition, there is a bit of anxiety where daring to share your struggle with others, as I depicted in my write “Group?”

From “Group?”

*It all started with hair and ended with tears:  
Tears that were wrenched out of my soul.*

*I cried all types of tears:*

*Tears of anger  
Tears of sadness  
Tears of insecurity  
Tears of inadequacy  
Tears of shame  
Tears of denial  
Tears of stupidity*

*I felt dumb for crying so much.*

*I felt dumb for not crying before.*



I contacted others to see which passages in “Waves to Light” spoke to them. Here is how a few of them responded.



**From Author C. Desert Rose:**

The piece that truly speaks to me is one by MJ Holman called “The Black Train”. It’s such a powerful piece and gives me goosebumps whenever I read it. Mostly, because I too suffer from depression and this piece speaks to the feelings I have when I’m deep in my own personal dark place.

*In my bold heart  
I feel pain.  
I see the trickle of luminosity  
So rarely  
It surely exists.  
I cannot see beyond  
All that is ugly to me  
And that is me  
The hideous failure  
Now so bitter  
So pent up with thirty-two years of this,  
The black train.  
In the distance I hear it,  
It grows louder as it gets closer  
The rumble upon the steel tracks  
Until it is upon me  
Over me  
And I am nothing  
But a mess of limbs.  
My brain still thrives  
It still feels the pain  
It pulses with every beat of my heart  
To the tune of hatefulness  
Maybe this is why I am so alone?*

**From Author Adonis Mann:**

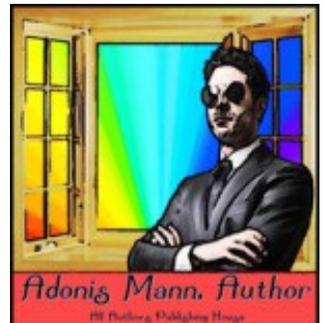
I am utterly moved by a poem written by Queen of Spades called “Analysis”. I find that not only is it relevant to people with mental illness, but also to those of us who suffer of deep seeded anger. It reads as follows:

*Do you ever say goodbye  
To the things that haunt you  
Or do you deposit them  
In your own hidden chest?*

*Do you really forgive  
The people that have hurt you  
Or do they sink to the bottom  
Of your own unrest?*

*I guess that means  
That perception is an illusion  
And performances are as transparent  
As sparkling glass.*

*And today is only yesterday’s regret  
Or personifies that tomorrows  
Were never built to last.*





**From Author Y. Correa, Founder of All Authors Publications and Promotions:**

Being a person whom has my own personal bouts with Clinic Anxiety Disorder and Depression, the piece that speaks to me on a very intimate level is "Where Just Fine Gets Us". Mostly, because I'm the first person to internalize my disdain and torment. So when people ask me how I'm doing, my immediate response is "I'm okay." It reads ...

You remember each day  
When you asked how I was feeling,  
And each and every time  
I answered the same  
"I'm doing fine"?

How would you react  
If I were to tell you  
That in every one of those instances,  
All of those "just fine's"  
Were simply lies?

I lied, not to hurt you  
But to keep from hurting you:  
To try and shield you  
From what this internal damnation  
Is putting me through!

At this stage, you must choose your greater hate:  
Despise me for my flimsy veil of protection or  
Abhor me for my intentional exclusion.

Whether you choose to inhale and maintain  
Or exhale and just go,  
For the record, truth be told: I just don't care anymore.



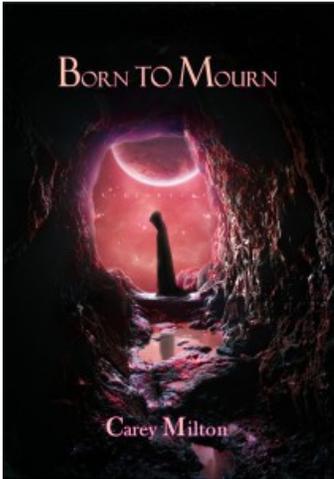
The moral of this is that when it comes to mental health awareness, be aware that you are not alone. Thanks for taking the time to read this special Poetry Unleashed segment for Issue 16.



Are you interested in being part of a future Poetry Unleashed Feature or discussion? Send all inquiries to [submissions@allauthorspp.net](mailto:submissions@allauthorspp.net) with "PU Round Table" as the subject title.



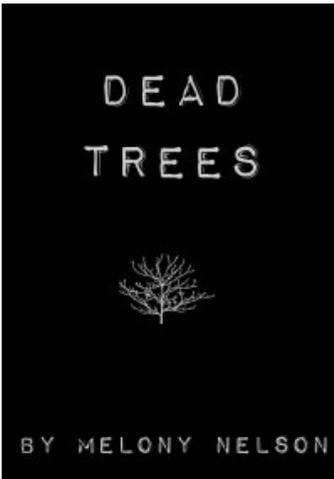
# Current Flows



Title: Born to Mourn  
Author: Carey Milton  
Type of Poetry: Epic  
Release Date: March 16, 2016  
Available: Smashwords

Blurb:

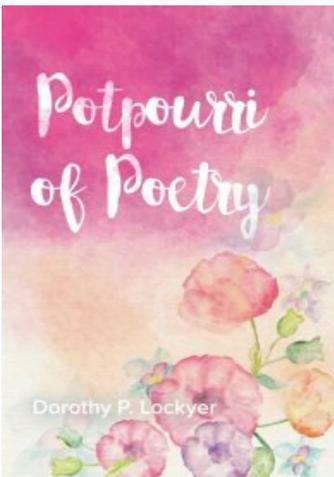
'Born to Mourn' is part one of my many dark and enigmatic, epic fantasy poetry books. Mystical maidens reside in a metaphorical maze alongside demons and damsels, dwelling in distress by the putrid pools of pity.



Title: Dead Trees  
Author: Melony Nelson  
Type of Poetry: Photographic  
Release Date: March 26, 2016  
Available: Smashwords, Barnes & Noble

Blurb:

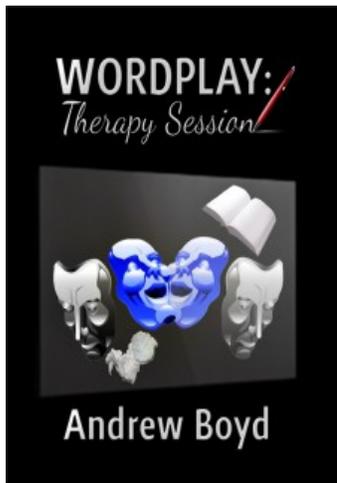
A publication of dark prose with black and white photographs.



Title: Potpourri of Poetry  
Author: Dorothy P. Lockyer  
Type of Poetry: General  
Release Date: March 31, 2016  
Available: Smashwords, Amazon

Blurb:

There are secrets within this book,  
I invite you to take a look!  
Poems I hope will make you smile,  
others to cause you to think a while.  
Some written to provoke maybe  
a long forgotten memory!  
But most of all I hope you find  
some words to cheer your heart and mind!

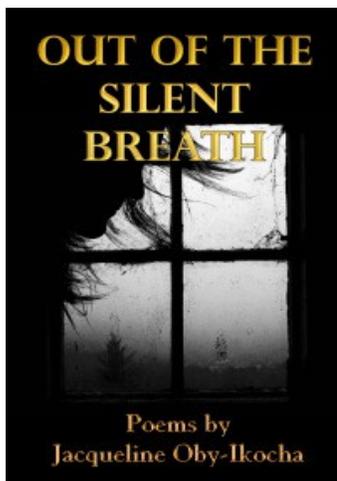


Title: WORDPLAY: Therapy Session  
Author: Andrew Boyd  
Type of Poetry: African-American  
Release Date: April 15, 2016  
Available: Amazon

Blurb:

When the world needs your light, the supply is unlimited. When you need the world's light, the service is disconnected. Shrouded in darkness, with not even a candle's flicker to show the way, how does one heal?

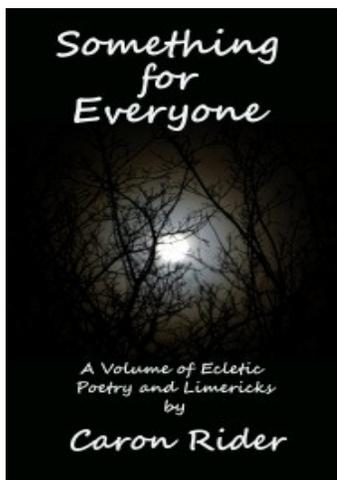
Andrew Boyd's result is to conduct his own Therapy Session. This fifth book in the WORDPLAY poetry series is a chronicle of crepuscules that Andrew has faced throughout his life, some unbeknownst to those who believed knew him best. What he hopes to accomplish through this psychoanalysis is the prescription to understanding, development and sustainable peace.



Title: Out of the Silent Breath  
Author: Jacqueline Oby-Ikocha  
Type of Poetry: Contemporary  
Release Date: April 25, 2016  
Available: Smashwords

Blurb:

Jacqueline Oby-Ikocha's poems portray images that stare us right in the face. Images of love, joy, death, pain, challenges, violation, and freedom. She writes in a language that's rich in imagery, earthy, honest, vulnerable, yet full of the promise of hope, of loving and of Grace. A collection of light and dark soulful prose.



Title: Something for Everyone  
Author: Caron Rider  
Type of Poetry: Eclectic, Limericks  
Release Date: April 26, 2016  
Available: Smashwords, Amazon

Blurb:

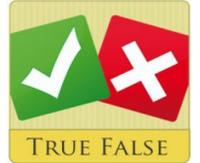
This volume is a short collection of eclectic poems and limericks for the young at heart. Inspiration was a wild wind that blew the author hither and yon to write about love, cats, parents, pirates, magic, and much, much more (often with tongue in cheek).



# Just for Fun!



# True or False?



**If a nonfiction book fails to educate its reader, then it is an indicator that the content is lousy.**

***False.***

Not all nonfiction books are meant to educate. There are various genres and sub-genres within the nonfiction spectrum, and not all of them are aimed to teach something. Some are actually simply meant to share a story or a testimony (these are usually in the form of biographies and autobiographies).

This being said, the author has not failed if their nonfiction book does not serve an educational purpose.

**The art of erasure (also deemed blackout) is not classified as a type of poetry.**

***False.***

Erasure is a form of “found poetry” or “found art” created by erasing words from an existing text in prose or verse and framing the result on the page as a poem. The results can be allowed to stand in situ or they can be arranged into lines and/or stanzas.

With that said, “erasure poetry” is indeed a classification of poetry.

**Performing one’s poetry increases the potency of the written words.**

***False.***

Performing poetry is quite nice indeed, however, it is not a needed factor in order to prove to effectiveness of the prose. A written piece can be just as influential as a recited piece.

**The growing trend for Alpha Male literature advocates behaviors that mimic forms of abuse.**

***True.***

The unfortunate truth is that, yes, lots of “Alpha Male” literature does advocate certain forms of abuse.

There is a fine line between strong male leads and abusive male leads. The sad part is that many authors seem to (whether on purpose or inadvertently) blur those line, so for some readers it is hard to determine when “strong” end and “abuse” begins.

**There are some instances where it is better to have a series than a novel with a huge word count.**

***True.***

Some people love epic novels. Some much prefer serial novels. However, the truth of the matter is that sometimes, in some rare occasions, if your epic novel has gotten to a point where it is pushing on being as long as an encyclopedia then the author might consider breaking it up a bit.

Do the reader a favor, please.



# What's the Word

with  
C. Desert Rose

The word is ...

## Writing Trends

This issue of All Authors Magazine focuses on Blazing Ink. One thing that said theme represents is "Writing Trends" and speaking of writing trends, I'd like to indulge in a bit of a sound off.

If you're not in the mood to hear it, please change the channel. ☐ ☐



Ready? Set ... And, awaaaay we go!

Whether it is a regional thing or a "everyone is doing it" thing, I couldn't tell you. But, I have to say something before I explode.



I've only been in the writing world for a short time. But in these 5 years I've seen way too many trends that don't make any sense to me.

Things that vary from “what writers do” to “how writers write” and even “how writers act”. However, the latter isn’t today’s focus. Today’s focus is more on how writers write. Of course, that’s not to say that Author Etiquette isn’t important, but polished prose are like ... SUPER, MEGA, UBER important.

I can’t even begin to mention the many writing trends that I’ve seen that are just nonsensical, to say the least. To say the most; completely horrific.



The worst of it, was that for a time I thought that maybe I was wrong for not practicing the same writing trends as others. I questioned my own “style” due to the many books I encountered that seemed written in exactly the same way.

For such a long while I wasn’t sure if I should just be me, or be like everyone else. After all, most of these people were “bestselling authors” and “Amazon best sellers”. Why wouldn’t I want to write like them, right? I mean, if I wanted to actually sell books, or at least get read by someone, it would make sense to submit to the status quo and re-write my stories to be more like theirs.

Or ... did it?

You see, the battle for newbies (like me during that time) is the inability to determine what is the right move. Much like Shakespeare said, “To be or not to be, that is the question”. Unlike Shakespeare, it has nothing to do with Hamlet, but everything to do with loss of self-confidence.

## #WhatsTrendingNow

For better or for worse, writing trends are a fact—an absolute reality in this market, just like in all markets. People try to compete, and in the end, they are all the same.

So, what’s trending, you might be asking?

Well, let’s see ...!

- Overall, bad writing.
- Terrible Grammar.
- Stories that are all the same. No originality.
- Overall, bad writing.
- Run on sentences.
- Excessive use of conjunctions.
- Overall, bad writing.
- Misspellings.
- Excessive wordiness.
- Did I say, overall bad writing?

What’s a good writer to do when they are being drowned out by the vast amount of badly written books? How are we supposed to get see, read even? It’s frustrating. Why? Well, because readers are reading less, because books are progressively getting worse. So, the one diamond lost inside a trove of stones is unnoticed in the shuffle.

This begs the question: What the heck are we supposed to do?

“To be, or not to be” THAT is the question.

As for me, I rather not be.

*That's What's The Word with C. Desert Rose.*



Did you enjoy this issue of All Authors Magazine? Then tell us about it! You can email us at [admin@allauthorspp.net](mailto:admin@allauthorspp.net) with your questions, concerns or comments.

Also, would you like to be part of Poetry Unleashed, have an upcoming book, a newly released book, or a story you'd like to recommend?

Have you recently seen an Awesome Cover that deserves some recognition?

Do you have a question for AJ?

Do you have any suggestions of things you'd like to see featured in All Authors Magazine?

An idea for a Guest Article?

Then what are you waiting for? Email us!

[admin@allauthorspp.net](mailto:admin@allauthorspp.net)

