

All Authors Magazine

Issue 7



Whirlwind of Humanity

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PDF Version



A Whirlwind and Its Meaning

What is a whirlwind but a rapid gust of air that moves with all of the force of nature itself? What is humanity but the collection of mankind and of the human condition—that is imperfect, but rooted, insecure, but tenacious.

What does the Whirlwind of Humanity mean to me?

Oh my, what a complex question. It means so much. Especially during a season such as this.

We are a strong wind, blowing the earth with the strength of a thousand drums.

We are relentless in conquering all those things which we desire. While not all of us use that steadfastness in the proper way, I believe that good always prevails.

We are flawed, yet because of this, our virtues shine through.

We are sometimes afraid, yet our love for one another binds us together in such a way that fear is overcome.

I remember as a child spending holidays with my family. We were far from the perfect families displayed in contemporary paintings—we were absolutely impaired, of that there was no doubt. But at that time of the year something changed, something profound happened. We set aside all of our differences and band together, and we basked in joy and love. Why? Because together we were stronger.

I remember as the entire street block could hear the music that exuded the single apartment of the 5th floor building, which was my Titi Maro's house. Do you want to know what was the biggest impact? It was the unity. The entire neighborhood came together and celebrated. They... we... indeed became of whirlwind. A strong wind of love, joy, unity and peace.



We're a whirlwind of humanity.



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

Malika Gandhi
Coffee Time with Y

Lisa "Lee Lee" N. Wiley
Poetry Unleashed

Stevie Turner
Author Interview

Debbie Boswell
Guest Article

Synful Desire
Awesome Covers

MarcoAntonio & Amaryllis by Y. Correa
Featured Book

Ramsey Isler
AACE Recipient

And of course our beloved columnists:

Y. Correa
Queen of Spades
A. Lopez, Jr.
D. John Watson
Andrea Houtsch
Harmony Kent

What NOT to Read

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

In celebration of this most joyous event, I'm bringing you the quintessence of bad reads of the year. Guys, I'd be fibbing if I told you all that I had an incredible year as far as books are concerned. As the matter of fact, I'm obliged to say that this last year my reading list has let me down profusely. It's a sad, sad thing when an avid reader tremors at the thought of opening a book out of fear that the content will take her sleep away, and not in a good way.

Nonetheless, let's deck the halls with a one of a kind reading experience.

This is "What you BETTER NOT read" featuring Mini Truth! Trust me when I tell you that I'm doing this for your own sanity and well being.

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As many of you might already know (and for those of you who don't) I work hand in hand with The Review Board doing professional grade reviews. While we don't always do book reviews, book reviews makes up the majority of our traffic.

Most of the books that I feature on this column come from that books that I've read as part of being a member of such a fantastic review team.

However, before we get into it, let me offer you up some holiday goodies. I'm certain that you're going to need the break. (\*giggling\*) Here is a goodie that I grew up eating during the holidays, Turrón de Almendras (Almond Brittle).

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All right, now that that's out of the way, here we go...

Benvenuto to Phantasy by Marlowe Sr.

I suppose it's important to start this review with a few notes and disclaimers. They are as follows:

1) This book was submitted to The Review Board, the organization to which I belong, for an honest review. I offered to read it along with a group of colleagues and provide an honest review.

2) In all of my years, I've done LOTS of reading. I've read books of ALL kinds, both good and not so good. And while I've disliked some (mostly in recent years), I've never LOATHED a book like I have this one.

3) Among the genres and concepts that attract me the most are the 'out of the box' concepts; the different, obscure and seemingly crazy. Most books in that realm are simply misunderstood. A vast majority of them, something akin to the inner workings of the human mind—outrageous desires which remain unspoken until pen is put to paper.

Said things always draw my attention.

What I'm saying is that the main reason why I opted to give this book a try was because I gravitate more towards the unconventional.

4) There will be several instances of bad punctuation and grammar in the review as it serves the "show and tell" purpose.

All of the capitalized words, are my way of giving emphasis to the things you really need to understand.

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All right, with those out of the way, I shall get to the bulk of my review now. Bear in mind, it will not be as long as my colleagues, as they have done a fantastic job in pointing out the ridiculously vast amount of downfalls of this read.

Truth be told, if I were to do what I usually do and give examples, you'll be reading this review all day. Why? Because I'd have to copy and paste the entire book.

Although I intend on being short, fast and to the point, I cannot promise that I will be quick.

I must say this; it is FAR BEYOND my understanding WHY people would write rave reviews on this BLATANT P.O.S (for those of you who do not know this acronym, it means Piece Of Shite)! Never IN MY LIFE, have I EVER seen such horrendous work, and I've read some doozies!

Now it is BAD when you read a book, and think to yourself, "Wow! I rather be reading that 1 star book that I read last month which was a train wreck."

Prior to reading Phantasy I did some research, took a look at some reviews and such, and thought that while some people didn't care for it much, another group seemed to fully enjoy it. So, I came to the conclusion that those people that didn't like it might not have a full understanding of the premise, which is something that tends to happen with books such as this.

THEN I DIVED IN.

In no time at all—pages in to be exact—I knew this would be a read like no other, and NOT in a good way.

Without getting too in depth with the LONG LINE OF PITFALLS in this story as my partners have done that already, I'll summarize what's wrong with it in bullet form, as I usually do. I might even introduce some Side Notes if necessary.

Let's start with the not-so-bad, bad things.

Side Note: This book is so bad that I could not so much as give it 1 Pro.

\* THE WORST grammar and syntax I've EVER, EVER seen! People, I seriously mean it was heinous... lousy... ghastly... offensive even!!!!!!

Side Note: The several ellipses and exclamation points are on purpose. They are a demonstration of the writing in this book. EVERY freaking sentence looked JUST LIKE THAT!

Good God All Mighty, save me from the punctuation!

This book- just- loves- it's- dashes;... and unnecessary... punctuation/ (although-) they are... never used... properly!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

\* Although this may not necessary be an all out truth, I can only tell you how I FELT. I in no which way or form am trying to insult the author. My reason for pointing the following out is to indicate how a female—particularly a woman of color—would feel after reading this book.

I kept thinking to myself, "This author is a misogynistic, sexist, cynical, pig!" There were way too many instances in which he referred to woman as nothing more than a bitch, as well as implied time after time that all women are good for is cooking, cleaning (due to main characters interactions with his mother) bitching and sex (due to his constant desire to have sex with every woman).

Side Note: Which begs the question, "Why had a woman of color done the book trailer?" Because obviously all we are good for is laying on our backs—per the story of course.

I WAS INSULTED! CONTINUOUSLY!

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* The MAIN CHARACTER remained nameless. Not once did I see the name for the main character. There are two problems with this.

There's absolutely no way the reader can bond with a character that has no name.

What happens instead is that the reader will automatically put the authors name in its place, therefore assimilating the main character with the author. Which in this occasion IS NOT A GOOD IDEA as the main character is not likable at all.

Really bad Cons:

* There is NO RHYME OF REASON to the happenings in this story. NOTHING makes sense. Often times the author starts one thought and cuts it off completely—unfinished—and starts an entirely new thought.

* I still do not understand why minimal characters have names yet important characters did not.

* Make up your mind! Is it a novel or a screen play? Yet, no matter what style of writing it is, it was executed in a excruciatingly poor manner! I mean, just really, really, really bad.

* Can someone please tell me what the fudge and chocolate is a pregnant ghost, or powerless Archangel? I mean really?

Now, something has to be said about this pregnant ghost. Personally I am a huge mythology, paranormal/supernatural buff. I know almost all there is to know about these subjects, and let me tell you something; this book is WAY off on both accounts in reference to the pregnant ghost and the weak Archangel.

1) Per paranormal myth, ghost can only BE pregnant, if they die pregnant, but the baby will never be born! What it really is, is that since the woman died pregnant, in the afterlife they still believe that they are, although, the child too has passed over and is its own ghost.

2) Per angel and demon mythology, Archangels are THE MOST POWERFUL angels in existence and can do just about anything that God can do. Each one has his/her own gift and on top of that they are beings of light. In said mythology the word “light” stands for enlightenment, which means that they KNOW everything.

In both instances—with the ghost and the angel—the author had it all wrong! If you’re going to write about something like that, do your research!

*Oh wait, how about a test-tube baby, monster that shoots fire balls for no apparent reason...? (insert side eyes and appalled look here)

Don’t even get me started on this one! The basic idea is that this “monster” was created by two men, and is something like a dragon, but isn’t—it has some fire ball breathing abilities, and god knows what the hell else. However, it’s a monster, but isn’t. It’s a crystal ball... a lab experiment... a human... a... shite, I don’t know!

WHAAAAAT? (*shaking my head*)

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Okay. I said that I was going to make this review short if at all possible.

Three pages later...

Well, you get the drift.

I’m very sorry but this book is abhorrent, vile, and generally an ALL OUT LOATHSOME display of writing!

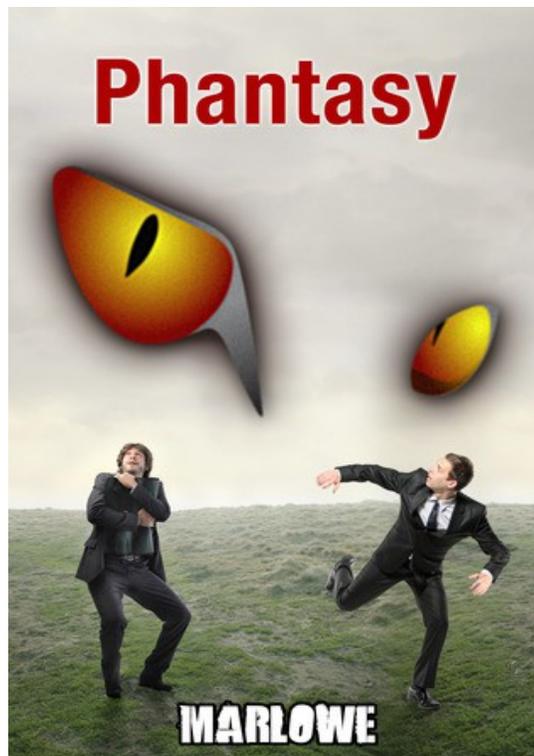
I wouldn’t recommend this book to my worst enemy.

It (1) puts the integrity of the author in question. I really don’t want to give a spoiler, but I have to say that it is mentioned in the book that the “main character” would have to write “fake reviews” for his own works. That begs that question “Did the author?” sorry to be blunt, but I wouldn’t be Mini Truth if I weren’t. It also (2) makes for an anomalous challenge to read (3) has absolutely no soul or foundation and (4) is the WORST representation, to date, which I’ve witnessed, of today’s writing industry as a whole.

NEVER—NOT EVER—would I EVER pick up another book by this author again!

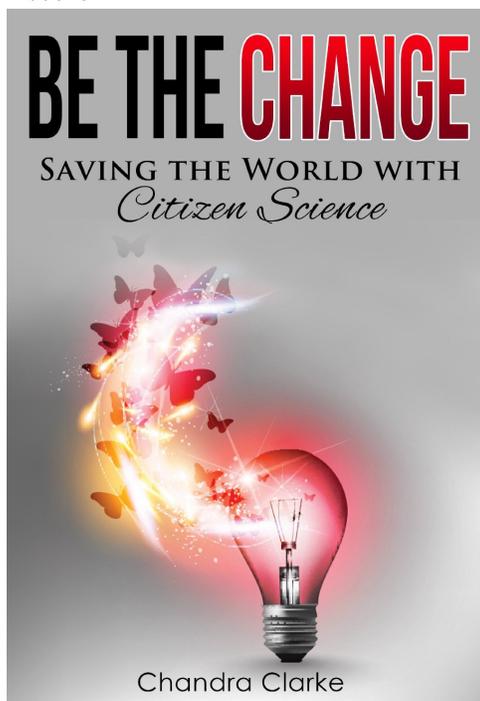
VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: The ONLY reason this book is receiving one star from me is because I am obligated to rate it.

Available at [Goodreads](#)



## **Review Rendezvous**

To celebrate our one year anniversary at All Authors Magazine, we have invited members from an organization which has supported us since Day One. Various members of The Review Board will weigh in on the good, the okay, and the what did I just read in the world of books.



***Be the Change by Chandra Clarke***  
***Review by No Labels Unleashed***

***Genre: Nonfiction***  
***Available: Amazon***

I really do like the cover of the book. The pink and golden tones of the butterflies and the light bulb are really eye catching and look great against the light grey background. The font also jumped out at you, with the word change being in red, indicating a state of urgency as well as emergency.

The delivery of the material in *Be the Change* is very simple. The definition of citizen science was presented in a very detailed way but not overwhelmed with excessive jargon. I think the balance between theory and action was very appropriate, since the main goal of this book was to provide the public with the tools they needed to take part in saving the world. It didn't get bogged down in excessive history and it was appreciated in this call to action book.

The links automatically being hyper linked was a definite plus. To some it may be a small thing, but when one accesses this work through electronic means, it marks the difference between getting to these links immediately and going through the spiel of copying and pasting.

Also, there are ways to help for all walks of life—to the person who has little time to the person who has nothing but time. There are also methods included that involve little to no monetary investment, just access to a computer and interest. The further breakdown of each resource into categories made this very easy to read, understand and gravitate towards.

Verdict: I applaud this author's enthusiasm and her crusade. Easy to follow, just the right length and not overly pushy. This gets 5 stars from me, and I am inspired to *Be the Change*.



***The Daily Thanks by Zen Thai***  
***Review by Harmony Kent***

***Genre: Motivational, Daily Reflections***  
***Available: Amazon***

This is a short (46 PDF pages) book of daily reflections. The idea is to find something to be grateful for, every day, instead of complaining about this, that and the other. Each daily reflection is accompanied with a photograph, and the whole thing is very nicely put together. There are 365 'daily thanks', and the suggestion is to read one per day.

The proofreading is done to a high standard, and it is obvious that care and attention has been given to the presentation and formatting. Some of the reflections are very specific, whilst others are broader and more universal.

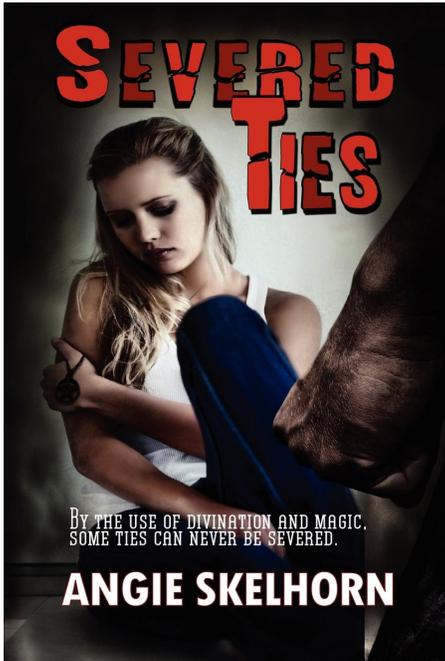
When reading some of these snippets I felt that an American living in a big city would be a more relevant audience than I. Living in rural England, many of these are things I already do without. Some of them, things I wouldn't want in my life. Also, some of them struck me as quite shallow. Like being thankful for having all my limbs. Well, first of all, I don't have all my limbs. Is this a reason to not be thankful? I think not. I actually feel incredibly grateful for the opportunity this whole experience has given me. The writer did redeem himself somewhat, when he stated that even those in a wheelchair can be thankful for having the wheelchair. I could take this deeper still: just be thankful. Even if we are unfortunate enough to be disabled with no access to mobility aids we can still find plenty to be thankful for.

I highly commend the idea behind the book: to be thankful. However, the examples given tend to the shallower interpretation of this sentiment. Even those of us on the planet without, can find plenty to be thankful for. Even those of us dying can find something to be thankful for. Even those of us suffering from oppression can be thankful. Everything is an opportunity, and it is what we do with it that matters. We create our own suffering by how we respond. Or not. Even our suffering can teach us, so yes: we can be thankful for even that.



I wholeheartedly applaud the message: be thankful. However, it goes much deeper than this book. I suppose that here is the time where I ought to confess that I spent 13 years living a Buddhist monastic life in a Buddhist temple! So, I would naturally be inclined to look at this from quite a spiritual perspective.

The Daily Thanks is a great place to start from, and could make a useful springboard into deeper thought, if the reader were so inclined. This is a well-presented book with a valuable message: Stop Complaining! Great for a gentle daily reminder in a busy and modern world. I offer 4 out of 5 stars for this little gem.



**Severed Ties by Angie Skelhorn**  
**Review by Wordsmith Andi**

**Genre: Paranormal/Coming of age**  
**Available: Amazon**

\* This is the abbreviated review. For the full review, please visit The Review Board. \*

Severed Ties was a short read and mercifully so. While definitely well-written (the author knows her craft) this story missed some key aspects that are what kept it from achieving full stars, ranking in at 3 for this reader.

The synopsis is spot on as to describing the plot but what I immediately noticed is that the “inner city” that Sandra and Frankie move to is never identified by name, location, geographic area. Specific streets are named when crying for Candice produces results indicating to me that this was set in some actual city somewhere but the author never gives us that answer. I found it hard to connect with the story fully from the beginning due to this lack of information. Correspondingly it takes the entire story to explain exactly how Sandra, Frankie and Candice know each other.

It is clear the author knows her magic and there are two sides to this coin for me. The story moves very quickly into discussion of magic and magical abilities through such practices as tarot reading, scrying, spell-casting, and communing with spirits. This is an area of study that appeals to this reader for a variety of reasons all going to the point of making me a fan of this subject and genre but there was very little easing a “newbie” into what a few things meant. The characters rely a great deal on their tarot decks but the author doesn’t spend much time at all in explaining what some of the cards meant when they came up, providing only the character’s automatic knowledge and response.

I am unfamiliar with tarot and found this assumption that the reader should have that same intimate familiarity to be a disappointment. However if you are someone who does have that intimate familiarity this aspect wouldn’t be a turn off. In fact it’s something you probably wouldn’t even notice.

It may have been advertent to make Frankie an intensely naïve and potentially sheltered character but I found this to have a “preachy” element, hence my agreement with some of Calvin’s observations regarding Frankie’s opinions of Candice’s life choices. At times it read as though the author was writing from a stereotyping viewpoint rather than having experienced any of the darker elements Candice’s life revolved around.

There just wasn’t enough connective, familiarizing detail to make this a story that I could easily relate to. Therefore it was difficult to embrace the characters, their backgrounds, relationships or their motivations beyond something that felt formulaic – a series of ill applied elements woven around a proficient knowledge of Wicca (I’m guessing this is as close as I can get to describing some of the girls’ beliefs but again this is one more detail never specified) in order to showcase the author’s knowledge.

**Valentine’s Day by Jason Patrick Perry**  
**Review by Mr. Controversy**

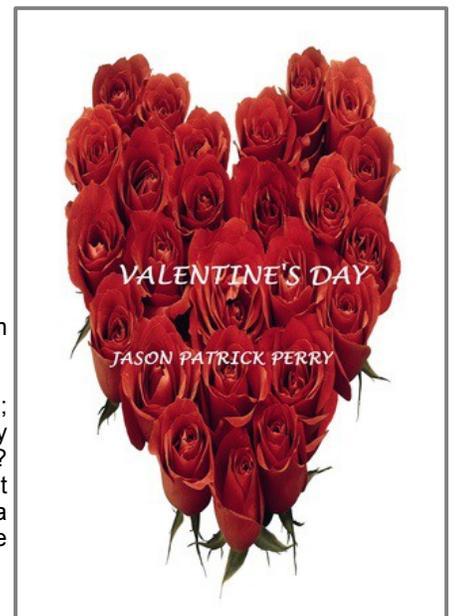
**Genre: Horror**  
**Available: Smashwords**

\*\*This review has been abbreviated from the original.\*\*

“Fatal Attraction” meets “Romeo and Juliet” meets “Holy Crap on a Cracker!!”

Those that know me KNOW that I will be Brutally Honest whenever I read anything that I Am presented or find. And “Valentine’s Day will be NO Different.

I agree with fellow reviewer No Labels when she compared the start of the story with “Carrie”; similar to the Classic Horror minus the Bucket of Porky’s blood and mass murder. Poor guy WAS putting on his Big Boy undies as he did what he did. What did he get for his troubles? Thorns in his eyes, rejection, humiliation, and utter embarrassment. From there, due to the fast forward, we go into “Fatal Attraction”. The roses are indeed Overkill, and the stalking was a nice thing to see. I was expecting someone to Get Got. Sadly, I was heartbroken to not see anyone die at that point. Damn...



As the story progressed, it hit me: WHAT IN THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE!!!!

Then The Story started going into some wildly mind blowing tangents that left me Dazed and EXTREMELY Confused. The inconsistencies in the flow of the story are apparent, the grammar is in Desperate Need of TLC, and LORD KNOWS where the descriptive details are located because THERE ISN'T ANY!!! The way it read (with all of the holes and nothing plugging them up, for clarity would have been FANTASTIC), I swear that I was reading a Story that was written on and made of Swiss Cheese.

“Valentine’s Day” is classed as a Horror: I was scared out of My Mind reading such a badly constructed and rushed story. It was rushed because there were not enough eyes on this story to point out the grammatical errors that would have made H.S. teachers and College Professors cringe, and then give it a D (There would have been points for creativity, not causing an F as an end result).

Overall, “Valentine’s Day” is a Pass for me, earning 1 star. Reading it once was more than enough to tell me that more work IS necessary before I read anything else from this writer. I received this copy for free: I WILL catch flak for saying what I am about to say, but Free is still pricey when it comes to this story.



***The Review Board***



## Hot Off The Press

Title: White Hot Christmas (a novella)  
Author: Rene Webb  
Genre: Erotic Romance  
Release Date: September 9, 2014  
Available: Amazon

Blurb: It's Christmas morning, and June Evans is wondering how a vacation in search of a white Christmas led her to having a hot and hard man moving between her trembling thighs.

Tom Allen was meant to be spending a quiet holiday with his family, but a freak snowstorm traps him with what he wanted most this year, a chance at love.

Intended for Mature Audiences 18+

Title: Vampire in Conflict  
Author: Dale Mayer  
Genre: Paranormal  
Release Date: September 24, 2014  
Available: Amazon

Blurb: The blood farm is gone. Those behind it have either died, been caught, or are on the run. Time to return to the real world.

Only normal life isn't quite what Tessa expected. Good thing, because there is no 'normal' anymore. She's different. Her family is different. Her friends are different. The world around her is different. Trying to find her place is not easy. She wants nothing more than to be a normal teenager and join Cody and his friends on a Friday night out. Cody wants the trouble to be over so he can get back to living the life he used to with one major addition – Tessa.

Only Ian and Jewel aren't healing well, Rhia is acting out of character, and Jared keeps tripping over dead bodies. Then there's David, who'll do anything to help Jewel... even something he knows he shouldn't do.

Something is wrong, and once again it's up to Tessa to figure out what is happening under the surface of this 'normal' life.

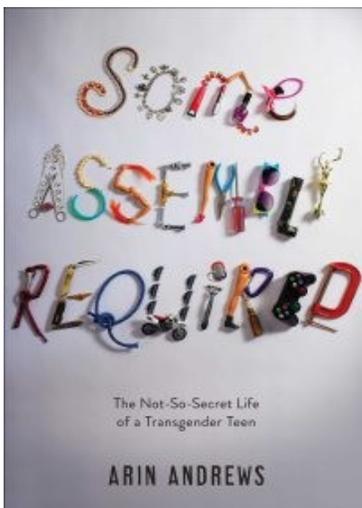
Title: Some Assembly Required  
Author: Arin Andrews  
Genre: Transgender Memoir  
Release Date: September 30, 2014  
Available: Amazon

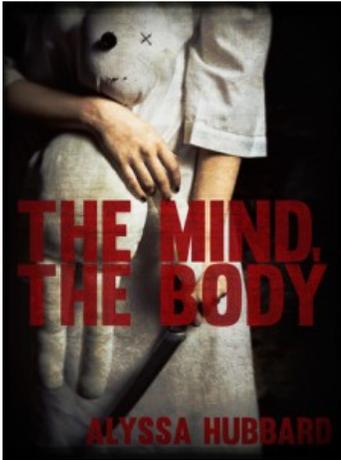
Blurb: Seventeen-year-old Arin Andrews shares all the hilarious, painful, and poignant details of undergoing gender reassignment as a high school student in this winning memoir.

We've all felt uncomfortable in our own skin at some point, and we've all been told that "it's just a part of growing up." But for Arin Andrews, it wasn't a phase that would pass. He had been born in the body of a girl and there seemed to be no relief in sight...

In this revolutionary memoir, Arin details the journey that led him to make the life-transforming decision to undergo gender reassignment as a high school junior. In his captivatingly witty, honest voice, Arin reveals the challenges he faced as a girl, the humiliation and anger he felt after getting kicked out of his private school, and all the changes—both mental and physical—he experienced once his transition began. Arin also writes about the thrill of meeting and dating a young transgender woman named Katie Hill...and the heartache that followed after they broke up.

Some Assembly Required is a true coming-of-age story about knocking down obstacles and embracing family, friendship, and first love. But more than that, it is a reminder that self-acceptance does not come ready-made with a manual and spare parts. Rather, some assembly is always required.

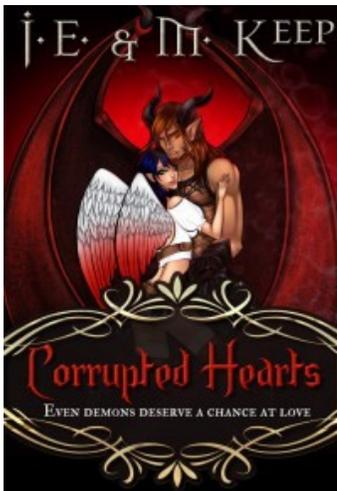




Title: The Mind, The Body  
Author: Alyssa Hubbard  
Genre: Horror/Short Stories  
Release Date: October 1, 2014  
Available: Amazon

Blurb: Perhaps what people fear isn't hiding in the shadows, but standing in the light.

The Mind, the Body is a collection of short stories, featuring a rusty spoon, a crown-nosed piano player, a starving wolf, two sets of fingernails, a pair of best friends, and a man made of ash. A bit of blood and folklore tied together to make a little book of horror. Fear is more than monsters and ghost stories. What we fear most is often times what lurks within us.



Title: Corrupted Hearts  
Authors: J.E. & M. Keep  
Genre: Paranormal Romance  
Release Date: October 15, 2014  
Available: Amazon

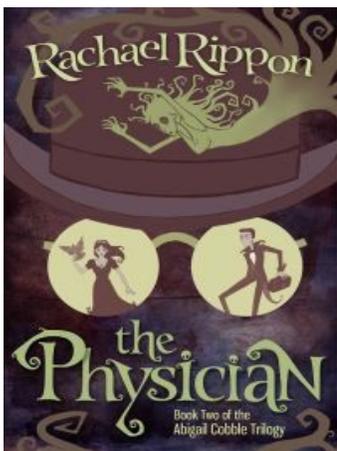
Blurb: After all, even demons deserve a chance at love.

With her angelic wings and his demonic horns they were never meant to come together. But his red eyes trap her and her seductive wings lure him. Their hot demon blood crashes. What starts as one night of carnal pleasure turns into an adventure of epic portions.

Shades of Dungeons and Dragons twisted in wicked ways.

Within days of meeting Lilah and Glaurakos fall across the path of an evil sorceress who traps them in a strange and dangerous "other world". The threats in the new world are perilous, yet their lust for each other is far more frightening. Will their bond be strong enough to make it out alive?

Against all odds of the damned, can love grow between two half demons?



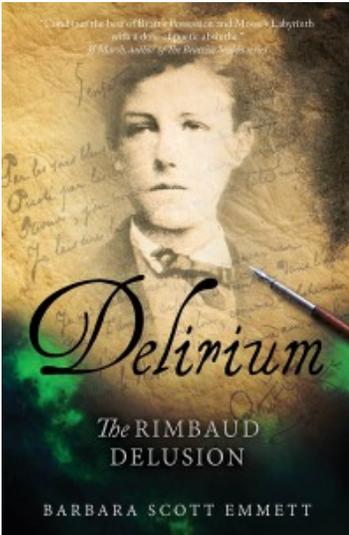
Title: The Physician (Abigail Cobble Trilogy, Book Two)  
Author: Rachael Rippon  
Genre: YA Fantasy  
Release Date: October 17, 2014  
Available: Amazon

Blurb: Abigail thought she'd saved Leon from the Bagman curse, but the Games are not yet over. The Oldest has forced Leon into a new Game and he must once again hold a Bagman's bag.

In an attempt to save his slipping humanity, Abigail, Tabitha, and Leon traverse a war-weary England, in search of allies and answers. But Nightmares are trailing their every step, and a Bag is a dark burden indeed...

Meanwhile, Xanthe is separated from Boyle, and will do anything to find him, including allying herself with trickster and con-man, Jasper Leonard. But he is full of secrets and leads Xanthe to discover one about herself that she never thought possible.

And drawing them all into her web is... the Physician.



Title: Delirium (The Rimbaud Delusion)  
Author: Barbara Scott Emmett  
Genre: Historical Romance/Adventure  
Release Date (paperback): October 20, 2014  
Available: CreateSpace

Blurb: How many times had I dreamt of coming across the yellowing manuscript of *La Chasse Spirituelle*? Inside an old book on a stall in Paris, perhaps. Or in the attic of some befriended ancient. How many daydreams had I enjoyed over the possibility that one day...?

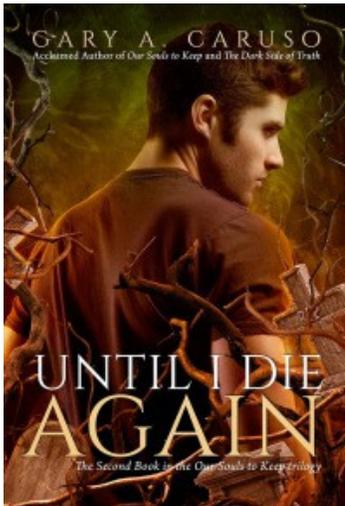
I shook myself. It couldn't possibly be true.

1872: The explosive love affair between flamboyant French poets Arthur Rimbaud and Paul Verlaine rocks French society. They flee to London, abandoning the manuscript of *La Chasse Spirituelle* to Verlaine's scorned young wife. When a lawyer's clerk salvages it from a dusty deed box, the manuscript begins its journey down the decades, revealing the secrets and betrayals of its various keepers.

2004: Andrea Mann, disenchanted with life and love, travels to France. Driven by her obsession with Rimbaud, she's chasing her dream – the missing manuscript.

Beside the poet's grave at Charleville-Mézières, she meets a beautiful young man who shows her a single page – from *La Chasse Spirituelle*.

Andrea embarks on a desperate quest. Drawn into a manipulative relationship with the youth and his Svengali-like mentor, the mysterious Albert, she faces unwelcome truths. The closer she gets to the manuscript, the further she veers from reality. But is Albert's copy genuine? And can *La Chasse Spirituelle* fill the void in Andrea's soul?

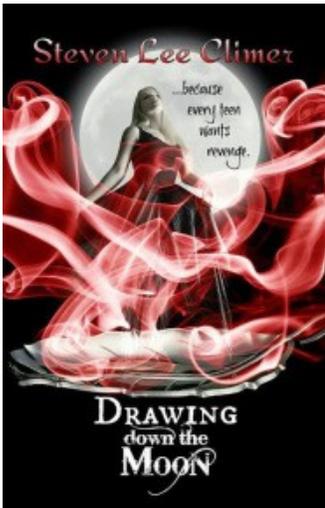


Title: Until I Die Again  
Author: Gary A. Caruso  
Genre: YA Dark Fiction  
Release Date: October 25, 2014  
Available: Amazon

Blurb: In *Until I Die Again*, the highly anticipated sequel to *Our Souls to Keep*, Wake is alone in Hell, comforted and tormented by the memory of Annemarie. As session after session of torture on Bethany's table moves Wake closer to surrendering the last remaining fragments of his humanity, he receives information from an unlikely source. Nevin tells him that Annemarie's son Jacob is still in danger.

After discovering the true nature of Lucifer's plan for Jacob, Wake is determined to do the impossible—escape the Gates of Hell! He soon finds out that this unlikely task isn't his greatest challenge. Wake learns the true meaning of self-sacrifice and the ultimate consequence of death as he searches for a way to break his contract with Satan. With an all-out war between Heaven and Hell in the near future, and the destiny of humanity at stake, Wake must decide who to trust as he battles to save a young boy from the powerful forces of Hell.

## Future Releases



Title: Drawing Down the Moon  
Author: Steven Lee Climer  
Genre: YA Horror/Dark Fantasy  
Release Date: November 4, 2014

Blurb: A group of misfits learn how to conjure an ancient dark evil that gives them the power to be judge, jury, and executioner.

Ronan and her friends unlock the secrets of delivering vengeance on their tormentors with an ancient artifact found in Ronan's mom's mail. However, it goes beyond petty high school teasing and the trio begins doling out horrific punishments.

When it goes too far and Ronan wants out, Lyda, the charming new student, gets in her way. Ronan must break Lyda's hold on her friends before they become the monsters hunting each other.

Tag Line: Because Every Teen Wants Revenge



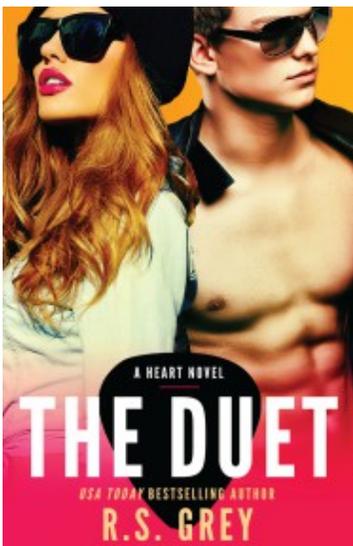
Title: Midnight Eclipse (Bonded by Blood, Vampire Chronicle #4)  
Author: Ariel Burnz  
Genre: Paranormal Vampire and Shifters (Historical)  
Release Date: November 7, 2014

Blurb: This paranormal adventure contains a sexy vampire and a kick-ass wolf-shapeshifting heroine. It also contains lots of other sexy shape shifters, has strong romantic elements with HOT love scenes, and swashbuckling pirate action.

Broderick MacDougal follows the familiar yearning of his soul to a fierce warrior who is as seductive as a siren at sea – and she is just as deadly. The world of the supernatural opens to Broderick as he not only finds himself in the midst of an ancient war of shape shifters, the devious Cordelia Harley has re-entered his life and has a few of her own surprises.

Born into a hated race of Norse werewolves, Celina Hunter knows all too well the dangers of trusting anyone other than her two brothers. And yet the survival of her family hinges on trusting the strangely familiar Broderick MacDougal, a natural enemy of her kind...yet one her tribe's Shaman advisors confirm is her soul mate. Enemy or not, Celina slips into the spell of this vampire's promises of eternal love, gambling with all she holds dear.

Broderick and Celina are bound by a curse, but having come this far through the centuries, Broderick is not about to risk his chance at having his soul mate for eternity. The price, however, may be more than Celina is willing to pay as there is more at stake than just her immortal soul.



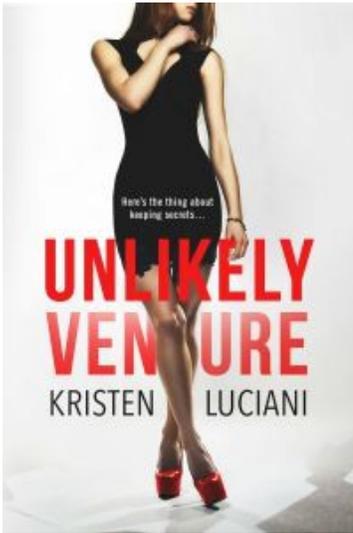
Title: The Duet  
Author: R.S. Grey  
Genre: Romantic Comedy  
Release Date: Nov. 10, 2014

Blurb: When 27-year-old pop sensation Brooklyn Heart steps in front of a microphone, her love songs enchant audiences worldwide. But when it comes to her own love life, the only spell she's under is a dry one.

So when her label slots her for a Grammy performance with the sexy and soulful Jason Monroe, she can't help but entertain certain fantasies... those in which her G-string gets more play than her guitars'.

Only one problem. Jason is a lyrical lone wolf that isn't happy about sharing the stage—nor his ranch — with the sassy singer. But while it may seem like a song entitled 'Jason Monroe Is an Arrogant Ho' basically writes itself, their label and their millions of fans are expecting recording gold...

They're expecting The Duet.



Title: Unlikely Venture  
Author: Kristen Luciani  
Genre: Contemporary Romance  
Release Date: November 14, 2014

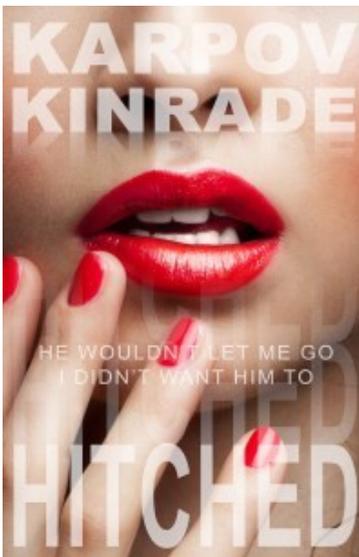
Blurb: After learning Jessica's been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, her fiancé bolted out of her life as if he was on fire. She finds solace in her career—no distractions or romantic entanglements there!

But the universe has its own agenda.

Three thousand miles away from home and in the most unlikely of circumstances, Jessica meets Silicon Valley rising star James Callahan and her world is instantly turned upside down. Things go further awry when she encounters a ghost from the past. That one night of reckless abandon is back to haunt her and the control she fought so hard to regain is now in the hands of another.

Plagued by betrayal and guilt over his dad's untimely death, James left Cambridge in search of a new beginning. With laser-focus, he built a cutting edge technology company now on the brink of financial success. Romance is the last thing on his mind...until he meets Jessica.

Fate brought them together, awakening their dormant emotions. But Jessica's scandalous secret consumes her and threatens the very happiness she feared she'd never find with another man. Can James handle the truth about her past? Or did she pick the wrong guy yet again?



Title: Hitched  
Author: Karpov Kinrade  
Genre: Contemporary  
Release Date: November 23, 2014  
Pre-Order: Amazon, iBooks

Blurb: What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas...

Or it changes your life forever.

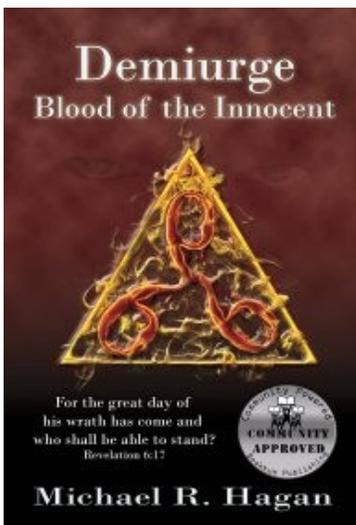
He called me "wife." This man standing naked in front of me. Tall. Dark. Sexy as sin... He's my husband?

Disjointed images from the night before, the night I can't entirely remember, float into my mind. Meeting him in the bar. Sharing tidbits of our lives. I own a company that plans bachelor parties. He's a pediatric heart surgeon. We both live in Las Vegas, but we come from very different worlds.

And then I remember that kiss. The way his lips brushed against mine, gentle at first, then harder, deeper, with more urgency. Sex in the elevator. Hot, forbidden, delicious.

I remember the way he made me feel. The way our bodies fit perfectly together. But I don't remember marrying him. And now, he won't let me go. Dr. Sexy who saves children for a living. He wants the summer to prove we are meant to be.

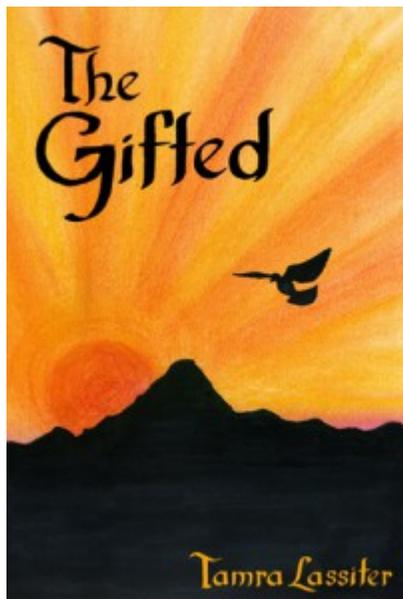
I can give him a summer. But can I give him a lifetime?



Title: Demiurge-Blood of the Innocent  
Author: Michael R. Hagan  
Genre: Thriller  
Release Date: December 1, 2014 (ebook)  
Pre-Order: Amazon

Blurb: The renowned archaeologist, James McKenzie, has uncovered many prophecies, each with a mysterious symbol accompanying their inscription. Now, edifices of this symbol are reappearing, not engraved in aged rock, but painted in blood above the victims of a serial killer, and the fanatical cult he serves. Detective Hassom is charged with the task of making sense of this slaughter and capturing the perpetrators.

Corruption, collusion and the discovery that Lucas, a strangely gifted eight year old orphan, is the primary target of the murderous cult force Detective Hassom and Professor McKenzie to work together to solve the murders. In their efforts to protect Lucas and reveal the ultimate goal of the cult leader and how this relates to the final, revelatory prophecy discovered in Iran, they unearth a truth, more terrible than anything they could have feared.

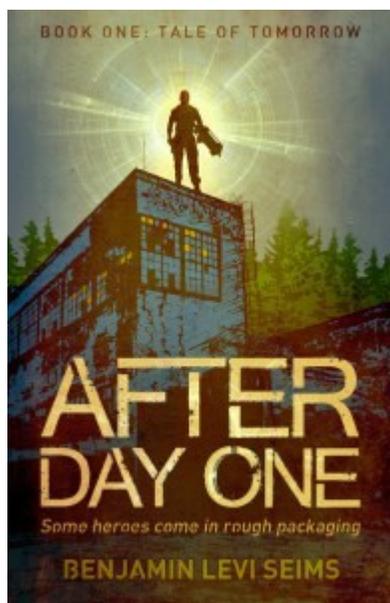


Title: The Gifted  
Author: Tamra Lassiter  
Genre: YA Fantasy  
Release Date: December 1, 2014  
Pre-Order: Amazon

Blurb: No gift is too small.

Sara's gift of flight became known when she was eight years old. It was her gift from God and her secret to keep. Torn between pleasing her overprotective parents and literally soaring through the clouds, Sarah has resigned herself to being the oddball.

Everything changes in one moment. Sarah's gift saves her life, but there are witnesses. Her secret is out. She soon meets the charming Simon and learns exactly why her parents have kept her hidden away all these years.



Title: After Day One  
Author: Benjamin Levi Seims  
Genre: Dystopian, Science-Fiction, Action & Adventure  
Release Date: December 9, 2014

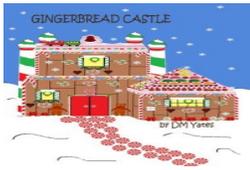
Blurb: 2083, John Howe a genetic, and cybernetic, enhanced cyber operations soldier who came home After Day One only to find the country he fought for broken, and his wife and son murdered. By 2096 he rebuilt his home and was trying to live a comfortable life on the outskirts of the Free Territories, the Pacific North West.

That was before Sierra and Quinn. The twin thirteen year old orphans he was saddled with the minute he saved them from a fat, greasy, gypsy couple holding them. Now he's a man who is just trying to get rid of them before they all end up dead.

As fate would have it, a super soldier and two kids with abilities that could save the country, and maybe earth, are going to be hard to separate.

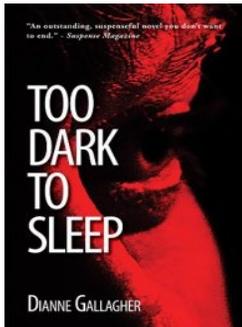
The world is fragmented and looking for a hero. Some heroes come in rough packaging.

# Let's Celebrate! Let's Read!



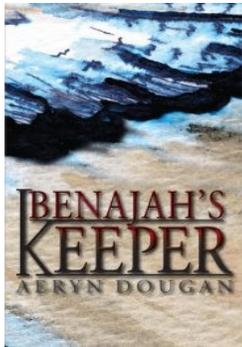
Title: Gingerbread Castle  
Author: D.M. Yates  
Genre: Children's  
Available: Amazon, Barnes & Noble

Blurb: Gingerbread Castle is an illustrated children's holiday rhyme book for ages 6-8 yrs old and is about a visit to a fun castle in Dreamland.



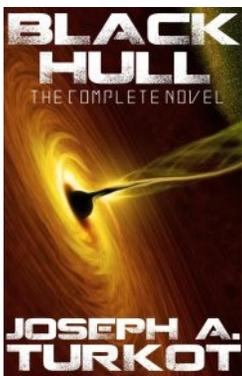
Title: Too Dark to Sleep  
Author: Dianne Gallagher  
Genre: Thriller  
Available: Amazon, Barnes & Noble

Blurb: Maggie Quinn was the top homicide detective in Chicago's Area One before she suffered a devastating loss. Now struggling to face each day, Quinn becomes obsessed with solving her last case for the department that now bars her from wearing a badge. But is she targeting the right person or is Quinn's tormented mind pushing her to ruin the life of an innocent man? Avid readers of crime fiction, noir or psychological thrillers will find Too Dark to Sleep a fresh take on their favorite genre. This is the first book in a gripping new series and not to be missed.



Title: Benajah's Keeper  
Author: Aeryn Dougan  
Genre: Paranormal  
Available: Amazon, Barnes & Noble (paperback)

Blurb: Evanna Amaranthine, a ruthless, 600 year old vampire, has a new assignment: to leave the walls of Benajah, her beloved vampire guild, enter the realm of humans to stalk down her prey, Rian Delmar, and kill him. At first, the prospect of being around humans any longer than the time it takes to drain them repulses Evanna, but after moving in with her new human-loving vampire housemate, she soon becomes hopelessly entangled with Messiah Scarborough, his strikingly good-looking artist friend. When dreams of a past life begin to plague her as she continues her crusade, can she control emotions that threaten to overwhelm her? Filled with fast-paced action and steeped in suspense, Benajah's Keeper by Aeryn Dougan is an urban fantasy that will capture readers' hearts as it addresses the significance of family, fate, and loyalty. Dramatic, gritty, and deeply passionate, this unique take on the vampire legend will definitely leave you wanting more.

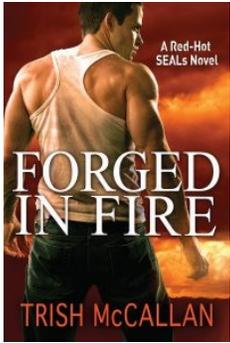


Title: Black Hull: The Complete Novel  
Author: Joseph A. Turknot  
Genre: Dystopian  
Available: Amazon, Barnes & Noble

Abbreviated Blurb (for Full Blurb, visit Amazon): Eight hundred years in the past, Mick Compton is ripped away through a wormhole into the dystopian future of the Messier 82 galaxy. In a place where the only thing that matters is getting into paradise, he wants only to get back home to his proper place and time, to his wife and family, so that he can right the wrongs of his past. But Sera, a battle-hardened smuggler with plans of her own for him, won't make it so easy.

And a darker agenda is at play in M82—the terrorist known as The Force of Darkness has reached a terrifying conclusion: Humanity is a virus, whose chance at equilibrium with its environment long ago failed. The only solution is complete extermination of mankind. After decades of surreptitious construction, FOD is nearly ready to detonate a quantum black hole with the power to consume the entire spread of the human race.

Will Mick succumb to the draw of Utopia and forsake his desire to return to a real family? Will FOD pull off the ultimate terrorist act and destroy humanity once and for all? Find out in Black Hull.

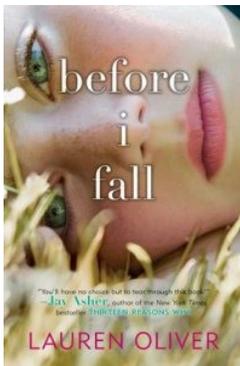


Title: Forged in Fire  
Author: Trish McCallan  
Genre: Military Romance  
Available: Amazon, Barnes & Noble (paperback)

Abbreviated Blurb (for Full Blurb, visit Amazon): Beth Brown doesn't believe in premonitions. But her recent dream feels too real to ignore: a commercial airliner is hijacked, and a handsome passenger is shot dead. Beth hasn't met the mystery man in her dream; she would never forget a gorgeous face like his. But she can't deny the bizarre connection she feels. Now awake, and unable to allow for the violence she's convinced is impending, she races to the airport...and comes face to face with the man of her dreams.

Zane Winters lives for his job, using his uncanny psychic powers to carry out missions for elite SEAL Team 7. Yet the constant adrenaline highs can't drown out the numbness seeping into his life as he yearns to find a woman he can trust. All that changes when he meets a beautiful stranger who sets his soul on fire—and somehow knows he's about to die.

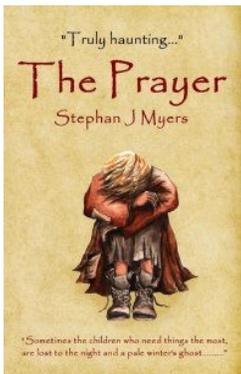
To thwart the global crisis the hijacking will unleash, Beth and Zane join forces. But even amid the danger, they can't deny the powerful force drawing them together. Is it merely attraction...or destiny?



Title: Before I Fall  
Author: Lauren Oliver  
Genre: YA Fiction  
Available: Amazon, Barnes & Noble (Nook & paperback)

Abbreviated Blurb (for Full Blurb, visit Amazon): For popular high school senior Samantha Kingston, February 12—"Cupid Day"—should be one big party, a day of valentines and roses and the privileges that come with being at the top of the social pyramid. And it is...until she dies in a terrible accident that night.

However, she still wakes up the next morning. In fact, Sam lives the last day of her life seven times, until she realizes that by making even the slightest changes, she may hold more power than she ever imagined.

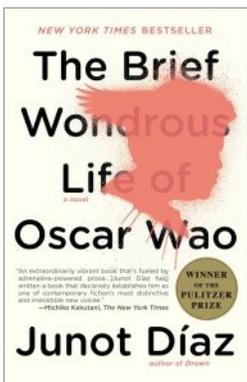


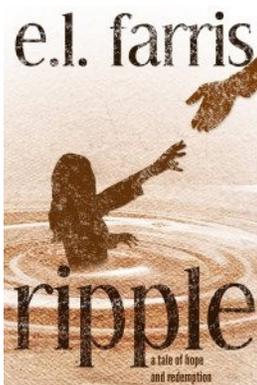
Title: The Prayer  
Author: Stephan J. Myers  
Genre: Children's  
Available: Amazon

Abbreviated Blurb (for Full Blurb, visit Amazon): A haunting children's tale from the imagination of Stephan J. Myers. The Prayer is a rhapsody of images and words that will linger long after the last page is turned. Images and words that touch a special place inside, where the heart and mind know no boundaries. A tale of hope and reflection for readers young and old, for every day of the year.

Title: The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao  
Author: Junot Díaz  
Genre: Cultural Contemporary Fiction  
Available: Amazon, Barnes & Noble (Nook & paperback)

Blurb: Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who—from the New Jersey home he shares with his old world mother and rebellious sister—dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the fukú—a curse that has haunted Oscar's family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA. Encapsulating Dominican-American history, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao opens our eyes to an astonishing vision of the contemporary American experience and explores the endless human capacity to persevere—and risk it all—in the name of love.





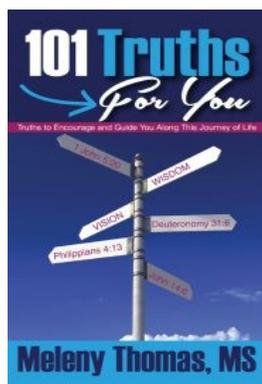
Title: Ripple: A Tale of Hope and Redemption  
Author: E.L. Farris  
Genre: Contemporary Literary Fiction  
Available: Amazon, Barnes & Noble

Abbreviated Blurb (for Full Blurb, visit Amazon): When high-powered attorney Helen Thompson discovers that her husband has abused their fifteen-year-old daughter and plans to use her in a sex ring, she takes a golf club to his head.

And she doesn't stop there. With the last of the perpetrators still at large, Helen escapes with Phoebe to a safe house, where a team of lawyers and therapists help them begin the painful journey to healing. But even surrounded by safe walls and good people, Helen's desperate efforts to save her daughter may not be enough.

A dark, gripping, but uplifting read, Ripple handles sensitive material with compassion and conviction, ultimately weaving a tapestry of healing that celebrates the human spirit.

Title: 101 Truths for You  
Author: Meleny A. Thomas  
Genre: Religion/Inspirational  
Available: Amazon



Blurb: "101 Truths For You" was written to help readers navigate through the journey of life. As you go through life, you will find that there are many things that you may have believed to be true but later found out they are not. Sometimes the truth may be difficult to accept; however, in accepting the truth about yourself, your friends, your family and every other entity in life, you will be able to move on and live a more productive lifestyle. It is the truth that guides us, even if the untruth has been the co-pilot.

Your life is a like a television set....always on display. People talk about what they see, hear, think, believe or even imagine. There may be some negative things said about you; therefore, you should choose wisely what you listen to. Don't allow people's opinions to cause you hurt and shame.

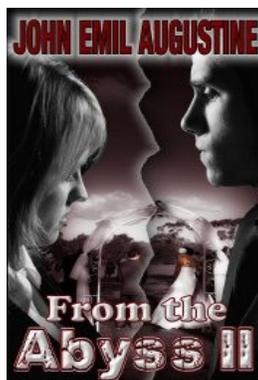
No one is perfect – it is our imperfections that make us unique.

"Sticks and stones may break your bones," but words actually penetrate the soul.

This familiar phrase couldn't be farther from the truth. Words are far more powerful than we think. They stick with you longer than anything you could imagine.

Each person has unique talents and abilities. We all may share similarities, but the truth of the matter is that your differences are what define you. We certainly see this reigning true for multiples, such as twins, triplets, etc. Although many multiples are classified as "identical," there truly are no two people who are exactly alike. Bottom line is....EMBRACE YOUR UNIQUENESS!!!

Title: From the Abyss II  
Author: John Augustine  
Genre: Nonfiction  
Available: Amazon



Blurb: John Augustine, having plummeted into an emotional abyss following an abusive marriage, finds himself picking up the pieces and moving on. However, with a four year old son, John changes strategy and takes his dating online. Though he has reservations, he ends up finding the perfect girl who also has a four-year-old son...and who is willing to travel. During their courtship, John makes other life changes as well, quitting touring to buy a house and begin a Master's program. Unfortunately, time and money become thin, and John takes on a second job and a few loans while his new wife moves in and looks for work. Meanwhile, John's ex-wife hatches a smear campaign against his new family and gives John an ultimatum: his son or his new family. John begins to buckle under the mounting pressure, while his wife ends up feeling alienated and lonely in a strange new town. A complicated life will come crashing down on John, and he will be forced to decide between what is important, and who and what he can forever live without. His children will learn what kind of dad John really is, and his family will be forever redefined when John makes the most difficult choices of his life. Will his choices knock him back down, or will John emerge from the abyss?

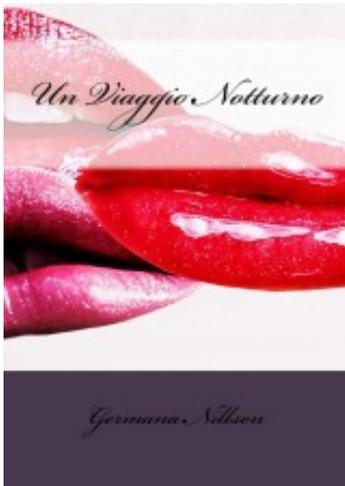
## International Corner



Title: This Reminds Me of July  
Author: Joan Arling  
Genre: Children's  
Language: Norwegian

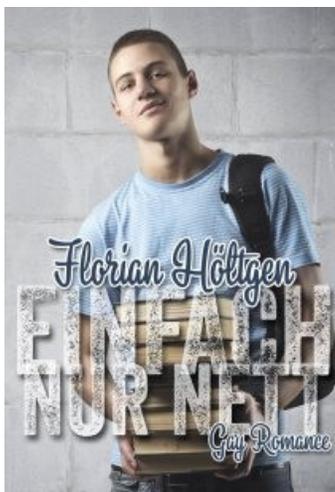
Blurb: I denne vakkert illustrerte barneboken finner du en rekke velkjente juleminner. Boken er skrevet med enkle uttrykk som barna forstår, og den er perfekt å lese sammen med dem.

Dette minner meg om jul ble skrevet med tanke på å veilede barna gjennom det som minner dem om en av årets mest spennende høytider. Selv om boken ikke har en religiøs forankring, gir den foreldre en mulighet til å presentere barna sine for ulike høytidsminner.



Title: A Night Journey  
Author: Germana Linnea Nillson  
Genre: Lesbian Fiction  
Language: Italian

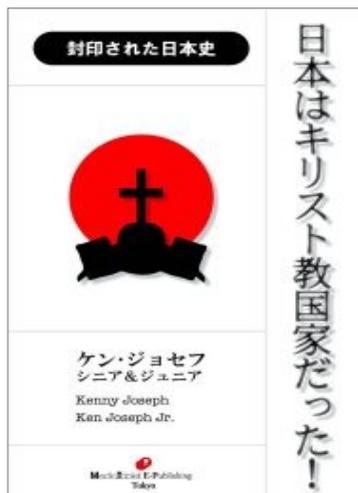
Blurb: Dopo un breve scambio di parole sulla chat, mi hai intrigato in un modo che non credevo possibile. Sottomissione? Francamente non ci avevo mai pensato ma hai messo un seme nella mia mente che comincia a germogliare e crescere. Cosa devo fare? Non lo so ancora ma ho tutto il fine settimana per pensarci e trovare un modo, una soluzione. Un incontro per caso, nato da un commento che non ricordo, ma che ti ha dato coraggio nell'avvicinarmi. È più facile confessare i propri desideri intimi a una sconosciuta, questo è noto. La sicurezza della rete permette di procedere a piccoli passi, uno per volta, e solo quando ci incontreremo le porte saranno aperte. L'idea di poter giocare con te come al gatto col topo mi esalta e mi eccita. Ti aspettavo. Ma adesso è il momento in cui devo essere decisa, prendere il controllo e guidare questa fantasia alla sua realizzazione. Ne sono capace, lo so.



Title: Just Nice  
Author: Florian Höltgen  
Genre: Gay Romance  
Language: German

Blurb: "Das Schicksal ist echt ein fieser Clown, so wie es die Zufälle streut." (Timo) Manchmal können zwei Tage ausreichen, um das Leben für immer zu verändern. Timo ist verwirrt. Neben ihm sitzt ein neuer Schüler: Marke Machokerl mit einem Sprachgefühl wie ein Dosenöffner. Am liebsten würde Timo einfach weiter in seinem Buch schmökern. Doch zu seiner Überraschung interessiert sich der Neue ausgerechnet für ihn. Yannick ist sitzengeblieben, hat die Schule gewechselt und will nun seine zweite Chance nutzen. Er hätte gern Nachhilfe – und zwar überall. Als typischer Außenseiter fragt sich Timo natürlich, ob das nicht vielleicht ein Hinterhalt ist. Allerdings scheint Yannick wirklich nett zu sein. Wäre da nur nicht dieses Gefühl, dass irgendwas nicht stimmt ...

Auch coole Jungs können nett sein – und auch die Netten haben ihre Geheimnisse.



Title: A Hidden Christian History of Japan (Japanese Edition)

Author: Ken Joseph, Jr.

Genre: Religion & Spirituality

Language: Japanese

Abbreviated Blurb (for Full Blurb, visit Amazon): 私たち日本人は最初に日本にキリスト教を伝えたのはフランシスコ・ザビエルだと思っている。

そのように歴史の授業で習ったからだ。

しかし、それは本当だろうか？本書はそうした常識をひっくり返す研究本である。

著者のケン・ジョセフと彼の父親が長年にわたって日本で研究したところによると、ザビエルよりはるか以前から、キリスト教は日本に伝わっていて、日本の文化、国家形成に大きな影響を与えていた。

じつは今でも、その文化的影響が日本に色濃く残っている。

古代シルクロードを経由してキリスト教文化と思想は、景教徒（ネストリウス派キリスト教徒）と共に古代日本に伝わっていたのだ。ケン・ジョセフ親子は、景教の研究者。景教とは、いわゆるネストリウス派のキリスト教で、正統派キリスト教からは異端扱いをされ、東方へ活路を見いだしたグループである。景教は、聖母マリアを崇拜することに異議を唱えた点で、最古の宗教改革であると評価する人もいる。

ケン・ジョセフ親子はアメリカ人だが、そのルーツをアルメニアにもち、戦後の日本にやってきた。そうして、日本各地に残るキリスト教の痕跡を訪ね歩いた。

本書は、そうしたなかから浮かび上がってきた隠された歴史の集大成である。



Title: Changed (Book #1 of The Vampire Records)

Author: Morgan Rice

Genre: Paranormal

Language: Dutch

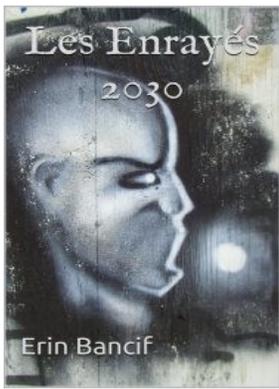
Abbreviated Blurb (for Full Blurb, visit Amazon): VERANDERD is boek #1 in de bestsellerserie DE VAMPIERVERSLAGEN, die bestaat uit elf boeken (en er worden er nog meer geschreven).

In VERANDERD (Boek #1 van De Vampiersverlagen) wordt de 18-jarige Caitlin Paine uit haar leuke buitenwijk gerukt om aan een gevaarlijke high school in New York te gaan studeren, nadat haar moeder weer verhuist. Het enige lichtpunt in haar nieuwe omgeving is Jonah, een nieuwe klasgenoot die haar meteen leuk vindt.

Maar voor hun liefde kan opbloeien, merkt Caitlin dat ze verandert. Ze bezit ineens een bovenmenselijke kracht, is gevoelig voor licht en heeft een verlangen zich te voeden – en wordt overweldigd door gevoelens die ze niet begrijpt. Ze gaat op zoek naar antwoorden van wat er met haar gebeurt, en haar verlangens brengen haar op de verkeerde plek op de verkeerde tijd. Haar ogen worden geopend voor een verborgen wereld, recht onder haar voeten: de bloeiende onderwereld van New York. Ze komt terecht tussen twee gevaarlijke partijen: in het midden van een vampieroorlog.

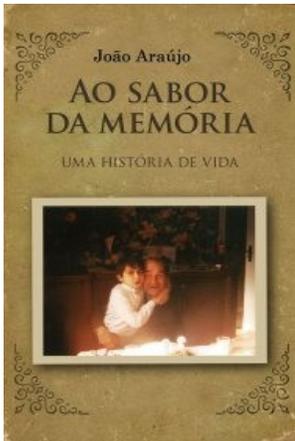
Dit is het moment dat ze Caleb ontmoet, een mysterieuze en krachtige vampier, die haar redt van de duistere krachten. Hij heeft haar hulp nodig om hem naar een legendarisch voorwerp te leiden. En zij heeft hem nodig om antwoorden te vinden, en voor bescherming. Samen zullen ze het antwoord op één cruciale vraag moeten vinden: wie was haar echte vader?

Maar Caitlin zit tussen twee mannen in, terwijl er iets tussen hen groeit: een verboden liefde. Een liefde tussen de rassen die het leven van allebei bedreigt, en die hen zal dwingen om te beslissen of ze alles willen riskeren voor elkaar...



Title: 2030 Enrayés  
Author: Erin Bancif  
Genre: Cyberpunk  
Language: French

Blurb: L'histoire se passe en 2030, le monde est dirigé par la toute puissante Agence Démocratique Universelle. La liberté n'est plus qu'un mot sans saveur et le seul espoir pour les hommes libres se nomme le Réseau Enrayé.  
C'est également le combat d'un homme politique "serial killer" contre un jeune idéaliste, dans une ambiance rock'n'roll et cyberpunk.  
Mais ce récit reste avant tout un roman d'anticipation où se mêlent humour noir et critiques d'une société corrompue par l'argent et le pouvoir.  
Un rêve d'amour et de révolution...

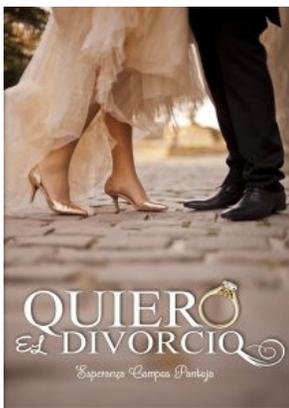


Title: The flavor memory: A life story  
Author: João Araújo  
Genre: Memoir  
Language: Portuguese

Blurb: João Araújo nasceu em Paris, já quase no fim do inverno de 1977, filho de emigrantes oriundos do Alto-Minho.

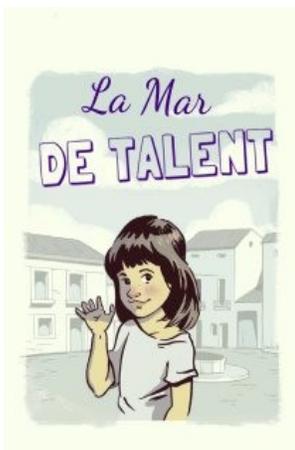
Ainda adolescente, vem viver para Portugal, onde, após a conclusão do ensino secundário, é admitido para a frequência do curso de Português-Francês, via ensino, na Universidade do Minho, licenciatura essa que decide não concluir para ingressar na Polícia de Segurança Pública, em 1999.

Homem de acção por natureza, nunca se distanciou, nem muito, nem demasiado tempo, no entanto, do amor profundo pelas letras e pela escrita.



Title: I Want a Divorce  
Author: Esperanza Campos Pantoja  
Genre: Romantic Comedy  
Language: Spanish

Blurb: Después de dos copas de vino, cuatro cócteles y una bebida loca. Sarah pierde el control de su vida cuando, al despertar al día siguiente, descubre un lindo anillo de casada y al hombre que cualquier mujer querría aferrado a sus piernas. Sólo había un problema... Aquel cuerpo atlético no se parecía en nada al flácido cuerpo de su novio.  
Una divertida novela, con una pizca de romance y drama.



Title: TALENT OF THE SEA: The discovery of the magical door (The Sea of Stories Book 1)  
Author: Núria López Cama  
Genre: Children's (Age 6-8)  
Language: Catalan

Blurb: La Mar descobreix en aquest conte una porta màgica a la seva habitació. Només ella pot veure-la!

En travessar-la anirà a parar a un lloc molt especial on tothom li parla del talent. Sentirà molta curiositat i s'endinsarà en una aventura per trobar el seu.

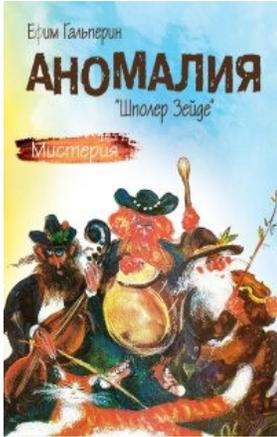
Ho aconseguirà?

Title: Anomaly ("Špoler Zayd"): Mystery (Russian Edition)

Author: Ефим Гальперин (Efim Gal'perin)

Genre: Mystery

Language: Russian



Blurb: Мистерия!

Где? Маленькое село в Украине, Париж, Нью-Йорк и Южная Африка.

Кто? Прекрасная украинская девушка и юный американский компьютерный гений.

Её сельский Дед Грицько и его американский дедушка – миллиардер. Бриллианты – его бизнес. А сам он хасид. И в друзьях у него президенты и премьеры, саудовские принцы, аристократы Европы и бизнесмены Африки.

А, ещё в этой Истории про Любовь участвует Государственная Служба безопасности Украины и украинская мафия!

О! У Вас, кажется, возник вопрос – причем тут СБУ и мафия? Ну, неужели что-либо может происходить без участия таких организаций?!

Важно, что всех их накроет Чудо.

Почему? Потому, что Шполер Зейде.

Кто это? Цадик

Что это? Каббала



# Coffee Time

Hello everyone and Welcome to Y's Coffee time. Today we'll be conversing with Author Malika Gandhi.

Y: Malika, thanks so much for joining me today at Y's Coffee Time. It's great to have you. What's your poison? It's on me. I'm thinking I'll indulge in a Mocha Frappe today.

Wow! It's November. How did it get here so fast? I'm flabbergasted. Are you ready for the Holidays already? I'm certainly not.

So, enough with the small talk. I'm diving in for some real talk now. I'm giving you fair warning, I'm the Queen of Random Questions.



Wow, Malika, we've known each other for some time now and can you believe that I still don't know much about you? Can you please tell us a little bit about yourself, your background and family?



M: I am from an Indian origin, and was born in Mumbai – known before as Bombay. I have a fairly large family, of three sisters and a brother, making us 5 in total. I have counted my uncle's family in this as we are initially from the same family – the Kothari's (my maiden surname). Indian families are generally always large and think of their extended families as their family.

I am a writer, author, and an illustrator. I wouldn't say I am a film buff, but I love the movies! Of course I love reading too!

Y: Now, I know that you have 3 distinct works on the market. Could you please tell us a little bit about them?



M: Of course. My first book is called Freedom of the Monsoon. It is historical romance based in India, pre-independence and tells the story of Pooja's sacrifice in romance and in her personal life. We see the struggle of three people that are the base of her life, and how Mohandas Gandhi's Quit India movement affected everyone's lives.

My second is a continuation of Freedom of the Monsoon, and this one is called Where the Secret Lies. It is a paranormal romance, and the story begins from the time of partition of India and Pakistan. It is a unique tale of a girl from the present (2012) who visits her family in India for a wedding, and comes across strange happenings, leading to spiritual encounters from a lady from 1948.

My third book is completely different, it is called Witch Crystal and is about a young girl of fifteen, a Witch Crystal, and a young boy called Jake. All are witches. The story is told from the viewpoint of Zleus from a planet called Zrotaz, and from Larissa from Earth. Without giving much away, it is a story of power, and a prophecy.

Y: I have got to admit that I am a HUGE fan of the cover of Witch Crystal (mostly because of the color scheme), as well as the title. It's been added to my "to be read" list for sometime in the future. But I must know, how did you come about the title and cover idea?

M: The story was at first called The Empire Stone, which then was changed to Empire Crystal, but it wasn't quite fitting. I lastly changed it to Witch Crystal – this is basically what the story is about in many ways.

The cover also had many variations over the months, but I wasn't feeling it. I wanted something children would be drawn to, and for the image to look like YA Fantasy, but not too children-ish. I finally knew what I wanted, and got my cover designer to create my vision.

Y: I'm a very big fan of how you incorporate your ethnic background into your writing. Is that something that you'd planned all along, or did it just seem to happen that way?

M: I always wanted to write about Indian independence and with it comes Indian culture. I suppose it just came naturally to me.



Y: Alright, first random question; If you could be anywhere in the world right at this very moment, where would it be and why?

M: I would be on a clean, white sandy beach on a hammock, looking out at the calm aqua coloured sea, with a cloudless blue sky. I would have a cool drink with a straw in my hand too! This is a dream I want to acquire soon!

Y: OH? So you'd take my place here in Florida!



Y: So, I know that you do book reviews. What is it that you look for in books? What appeals to you in a book? What elements do you consider make a well rounded book?

M: The book has to appeal to me in the first place; it has to draw me in the first few paragraphs. In a book, I want conflict, and passion, and some romance – but the latter is not necessary. I love to read about adventure, and anything paranormal or different/unique. I love to read stories about Witches and vampires too!

A well-rounded book? I am not an expert, but I believe it should have believable characters. Work should be well-written and read and read again until you think you could do no more.

Y: Random Alter! Your absolute favorite food in the world? What would you do if you could never eat it again?

M: It has to be Pasta! I can't imagine life without it! I must have been Italian in my last life, or have lived there! I would die if I couldn't eat – it is what I do!

Y: Are you a writer and reviewer full time, or are you employed in some other fashion as well?

M: I am a home-maker, and so writing and reviewing and illustrating books, is still classed as part-time for me lol. My kids and husband demand my time when they come home from school/work, so I really get limited time (around 4-5 hours if lucky) to write etc.

Y: Do you have any other hobbies besides writing and reading? If so what are they and how good are you at them?

M: As you know from a previous question, I love the movies. I have to watch a movie on DVD or go the cinema as frequently as I can. Other than that, I love to paint. I have done some in three mediums – oil, acrylic and watercolour. I like to sketch too. I am not great at portraits, and one day I want to do a course on it.

Y: If you could only do one thing for the rest of your days, what would that be and why?

M: Travel the world. I find it inspiring. The world is amazing and I don't want to miss anything!



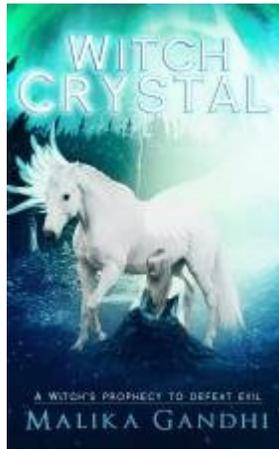
Y: Wow! That was a great interview... and the coffee wasn't half bad either.



How was your drink?

M: It was yummy!

Y: It was so great having you here with me today. We have to do this again some time. Before we go could you please share an excerpt of Witch Crystal with us?



M: Sure thing! Here you go...

Blinding light flashed from the opponents' wand, and Jake bent into a crouch.

"You stay away from her!" Jake released a series of spells towards his opponent, but he was soon beaten.

A spell from the enemy had him sprawled to the ground. The witch stamped his foot on Jake's chest, a sneer on his face.

"Did you believe you could save her, all alone on this mediocre planet?" The witch kicked him hard and Jake turned over, his face in the dirt.

"Get up, Xyth. I don't like to win duels so easily," he snarled.

Jake lay still to buy himself some time. The appearance of Celtiq surprised him. How was it possible? How did he know Larissa was here and how did he find them? All feared Celtiq, the spawn of the evil High Witch. His handsome face could charm any ordinary witch, yet if they went against him, their lives would be something they would fear for.

"Jake!" Larissa's petrified face crumpled as she saw him go quiet and still. "Let me go!" She turned to the witch. "Who are you?"

"Oh, have you not heard of me?" the witch laughed. "Why I am Celtiq, the most powerful sorcerer on Zrotaz. I see you are confused, dear Larissa. Has your mother neglected to tell you about the High Witch and me? Where is she, where is your mother? Shouldn't she be here, protecting you?" He let go of Larissa's arm where a bruise had formed already. She rubbed it with a whispered spell, and the black and blue mark vanished.

"Impressive," remarked Celtiq.

"What have you done to Chantelle?" Larissa shouted. Chantelle lay spread-eagled on the grass. "Is she dead?"

"No, just put to sleep. She will not remember a thing after we all leave Earth. She will not remember you were her friend, or that you existed. I shall make sure of that."

Rage flew through Larissa's body. A mass of power swelled in her core and her eyes turned emerald and her hair, silver, unbeknownst to her.

Celtiq stared. "It is true...!"

White beams shot from Larissa's eyes, hitting Celtiq in the chest. Another powerful spell hit him in the legs and Celtiq fell. Hearing the thud, Jake jumped up.

"What happened?" he asked, looking at Celtiq's unconscious form.

Larissa shook her head, confused and dazed, her appearance already changed back to what it was.

"I don't know," she said. "I feel different..."

"How?" asked Jake.

"I can't say...it doesn't matter. We need to wake Chantelle!"

Jake ignored Celtiq, and zigzagged his way across to Chantelle. He crouched next to her, and let his power flow over her. She awoke in seconds, and looked just as confused as Larissa.

"Questions later," Jake said before she could ask. He glanced at Celtiq. "We need to get home, and quickly." Jake helped her up.

"Both of you get in my car," he said. "Quickly, before Celtiq awakes!"

The small group piled into Jake's car and he sped away.

\* \*

He walked up to Larissa. "I am so glad we finally met." He looked towards Chantelle. "A friend of yours? What's your name girl?"

"Chantelle," she squeaked.

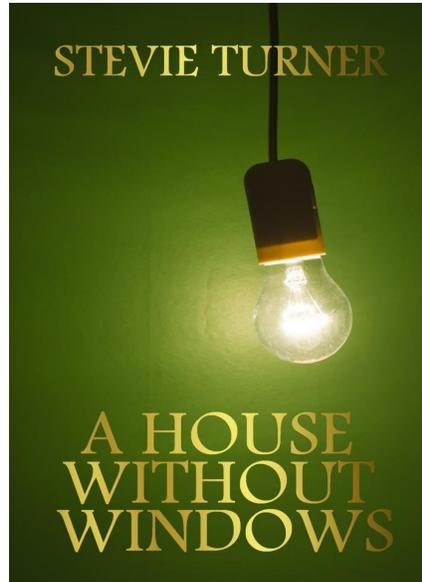
Without hesitation, Celtiq clicked his fingers, and she dropped.

"We can't have her bothering us, can we?" he smirked.

Larissa gasped and backed away, frightened. A spell battle began between Jake and Celtiq. The power flew through the air, hitting trees and woodland shrubbery. The lake reflected the wondrous lights the spells created, rather like fireworks. However, Jake knew this was not any form of entertainment. He didn't know when one of Celtiq's spells hit him.



# Author Interview



In our one year anniversary of All Authors Magazine, we feature Stevie Turner to discuss writing, marketing and all things in between.

Hello Stevie! Thank you so much for joining All Authors Magazine today as the Featured Author. Would you please take a moment to introduce yourself to our audience?

Hi everyone, I'm Stevie Turner, a British author who likes writing 'faction' books about real-life issues and the darker side of relationships. I usually add in quite a bit of humor too though, so the reader isn't left feeling as though they want to slit their wrists when they've finished the book.

Great! Well, here we go!

1. This issues theme is Whirlwind of Humanity. What does this mean to you?

Whirlwind of Humanity? Hmm – let me see. Everyone will have their own take on this of course, but for me I see the reality in every situation. I now have a mental image of thousands of people crammed on the London tube trains; all trying to get somewhere to make a living. How depressing is that?

2. In a world where one has to struggle to make one's work known, how do you cope?

There is another whirlwind of humanity out there who have just got off the train and are all trying to market their books at the same time. I'm one of them, but I'm catching a different train in that I try and write about subjects not normally tackled. I can guarantee that the plot of my seventh novel has never been written about before! That will give me an edge when advertising it (I hope).

3. All Authors has always been about bringing readers and writers together—unity. How do you feel, what are your thoughts about the concept of unity between authors?

Authoring is a lonely business. You sit alone and think your own thoughts until all of the words you wanted to write down are there in front of you on the paper. I'm one of those loners, and enjoy sitting and writing on my own (how sad am !!) However, after I've finished the writing bit it's then usually time for me to connect with other authors, to find out if they like my work or not. I have quite a few author friends now who have reviewed my books and have given me valuable advice and information on editing, self-publishing, and where they think I can improve on my work. Without the ability to network, one tends to remain isolated in one's own little bubble, making the same mistakes over and over again!

4. Who are the most important people in your life and why?



Ha ha, it's got to be the family; my husband, sons and grandchildren are the most important people in my life. Sam and I have been married for 34 years, and have been to hell and back in a handcart in the past, but thankfully the bad times are fading rapidly. We are bound by a myriad of shared memories, and I couldn't think of anyone else that I'd rather spend my declining years with. My sons have grown up to be kind, loving souls, and are providing us with a string of grandchildren to spoil. I've had to wait a long time, but I can genuinely say that I am reaping my rewards at last!

5. In a time where the Internet and social media are of such great importance in getting the word out about ones work, especially for indie authors, what do you think are the keys or tools in developing a great Internet network?

Patience; patience to sit night after night joining new groups, sending out tweets, making new 'virtual' friends, reviewing others' work, interviewing other authors, networking, networking, and networking until you can't network any more for the life of you .....(yawn).

6. Please tell us a little bit about your books and their premises.

All my books deal with real-life issues, and I've experienced (or heard about on the news programmes) much of what I write about. I love to add in some humor though; laughing makes the world go around. At the end of my books I hope that the reader would have laughed as well as cried; I certainly have done both as I've written some of them!

7. I am fully intrigued by the theme of The Porn Detective—which has been added to my TBR list, by the way—can you share with us how this idea came about?

I lived it for years (thanks for adding it to your TBR list). It was my first novel, my baby, and I was Frances, trying to block out as best I could the fact that Sam was in the throes of a porn addiction. After 25 years of denying the problem, it then took two terrible years to free him of it, and I realised that only after those two horrendous years did the man I married in the first place come back to me. As I wrote it I cried at the memories that surfaced. I had to put in quite a bit of humor to stop myself sinking into a morass of despair all over again.....Most people are just not aware of how easily an addiction to pornography can occur.....

8. While I know that you have many works already on the market, I am wondering do you have anything that you're currently working on?

The previously mentioned book that nobody (she says hopefully!) has ever written before! It's a romance with a difference - you'll never guess how my main characters meet!

9. Would you please tell us which one of your stories is your personal favorite and why?

I suppose it's got to be The Porn Detective. My life is in the first half of the book. There could have been a Graham if I'd let it happen, but I stuck at my marriage and Sam came back; a bit battered at the edges, but Sam nonetheless.

10. Given the opportunity to change anything about anyone of your stories, what would that be for which story and why?

Oh not to have been a porn detective! But I was, and the past cannot be altered. However, at least the experience made for a good story, eh?

Thanks again for being part of the All Authors Magazine! We loved having you. Before we conclude our interview, would you please share an excerpt of any one of your works with us?

I'm going to give you all a laugh after reading about all my woes. This 500 word excerpt is from my novel 'No Sex Please, I'm Menopausal!' Enjoy!

Nosex

**NO SEX PLEASE, I'M MENOPAUSAL!**  
**By Stevie Turner**

**Copyright © Stevie Turner 2014**

**Ashton-kutcher-laughing-top-10-vine-videos**

**(PART OF) CHAPTER 1**

"Sorry, but it's still the same as when I told you the last time and the time before that. It's too painful, and I haven't got a vagina anymore!" Lyn Fuller sighed as she removed her husband's wandering hand. "Can't you just accept it?"

From a clear vantage point between his wife's legs, Neil Fuller let out an expletive as he risked a quick second glance:

"Yes you have, I can see one!" His finger pointed directly towards the object of the dispute.

"It's for exit purposes only."

"Shit."

"No, that's the other end."

"Well, can't you stick something up there to help?" He took another glimpse; his erection deflating rapidly as he spoke.

"Wild yam is supposed to do the trick if you can't take HRT."

"Eh? You've got to stick a yam up there?" Neil looked quizzically at the size of the introitus on display, mentally comparing it to the dimensions of the root vegetable.

"Wild yam cream, dickhead." She rolled her eyes.

"What good would that do?" He exhaled forcefully.

"I've no idea, but what else would you suggest?"

"How the fuck do I know? Ask the Quack for some bombers or something?"

"You mean pessaries?"

"Yeah."

Lyn felt the mattress give a little creak of protestation as her husband flopped down onto the pillow:

"What am I supposed to do then? Tie a knot in it?"

"You know I don't want to take HRT. Pessaries are also full of oestrogen, and you chucked away the KY, so if the wild yam cream's no good then we're stuffed."

"Or not, as the case may be." Neil had a sudden enlightening thought. "Marlon Brando used butter in 'Last Tango in Paris.'"

"Well I wouldn't fancy spreading it on my bread after you've dipped your willy in it, and Maria Schneider shot him at the end anyway, so it didn't do him any good in the long run." Lyn closed her eyes and wished his obsession with sex would go away. "And no, you're not sticking it in there either. Yeah, I saw that film too."

She opened up one eye to watch as her husband turned over on his side, lifted himself up on one elbow, and reached over to turn off the lamp:

"We're only in our fifties. Does that mean twenty or thirty years plus with no sex then?"

"There are other ways; you know that. It's all about getting used to the new normal and accepting it." Lyn shuffled over towards him and cuddled up to his warm back.

"I don't want to get used to it."

"Well, I'm afraid you're going to have to. My body is fifty five years old. I'm not the nineteen year old I was when we first met."

"You can say that again. You were as randy as a sack full of rabbits back then." A small smile played on Neil's lips in the darkness, as he enjoyed a brief wave of nostalgia.

Also, please give us the links to any and all of your networking sites.

Amazon Author Page

Website

Blog

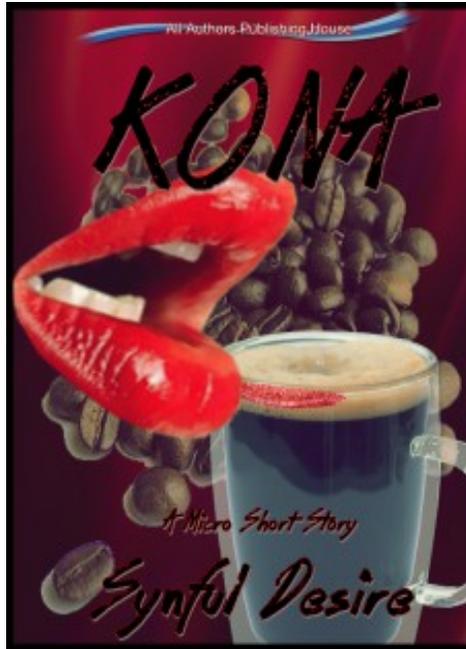
Twitter @StevieTurner6

Facebook Author Page

It was great having you on! Toodles!

Thanks for inviting me!

## Awesome Covers



**For this issue's Awesome Covers, we are proud to feature the microsoft Kona by Synful Desire.**

Genre: Microshort, Light Erotica

Blurb: To jump start the day, nothing beats a great cup of coffee. Yet the eyes aren't the the only body parts that get stimulated. Grab a taste of imagination on espresso while savoring Kona.

Available: Smashwords, Scribd

Where did the inspiration for the cover come from?

I have to give full credit to All Authors Graphic Design for that. Initially I had no idea what I wanted for a cover. I was just uber excited that one was being designed for such a little story.

Do you feel that it reflects the story well?

It does a phenomenal job! To me, Kona is representative of a premium brand of coffee that is very soothing to the senses. The coffee beans add emphasis to the freshness while the clear coffee mug gives a contemporary feel to it.

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

It was fully designed by All Authors Graphic Design. I would not have been able to execute this well at all! If it were up to me, there would probably be two stick figures sitting at a table and a poorly constructed excuse of a coffee cup between them.

Given the choice, would you change anything about it?

I can't say that I would. They got it right on the first shot! That's jaw dropping in itself since I'm a bit picky with what I want.

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

This is the original cover. This story was first showcased in another publication. When I got signed on by my publisher, they expressed interest in marketing Kona for FREE to give readers exposure to my work. The whole "try before you buy", if you get what I mean. Hence where developing the cover came into play.

Does this cover reflect your artistic preference?

Quite honestly, mainstream covers BORE me, especially in the erotica genre. I'm weary of seeing the drop dead gorgeous female, the over-the-top handsome hunk, or two bodies wrapped up in the throes of passion. Therefore, I prefer to rely on colors, abstracts, or one core image to get my point across in my covers. The cover for Kona definitely did that.

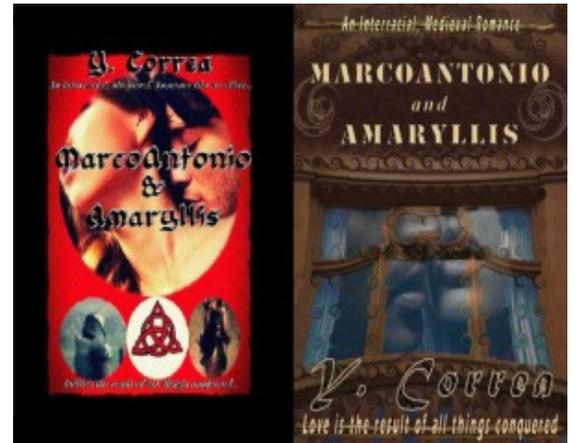
Synful Desire, thank you for taking time to share your Awesome Cover with us this issue!

## Featured Book

### ***MarcoAntonio & Amaryllis***

***By***

***Y. Correa***



#### **Blurb:**

The year 1585. The Anglo-Spanish War. England's greed for Spain's crops, land, and supplies gives birth to the inertia of intolerance on both sides. Yet, even then, Love surges forth.

MarcoAntonio, a Spanish gentleman and knight, defied all boundaries of color and culture, when setting eyes on the English lady Amaryllis. Although to others, he may be a bit reserved, he dares to lower his defenses solely for her.

Amaryllis is an English lady. One with an open heart, gentle spirit, and shining eloquence. She knew that she should not desire MarcoAntonio. Still, a love feeling so right couldn't be so horribly wrong!

Travel with MarcoAntonio and Amaryllis as they duel with internal and external forces threatening to tear their powerful love apart. In the midst of troubles the likes of which have no compare, MarcoAntonio and Amaryllis find themselves having to fight the most unexpected of adversaries, just for the right to love each other.

Discover why their LOVE is the result of ALL things conquered!

#### **Excerpt:**

"You are late," she pointed out.

"Well, that may be true, Ma' Lady."

"'Tis!" she said in a teasing tone and then smiled again.

"You cannot stay long. I'm being watched."

"And?" he replied with mockery lingering in his voice.

Amaryllis giggled a little; covering her mouth she tried her best to keep quiet. His wit always made her laugh. Then she quickly got serious. "MarcoAntonio, 'tis dangerous. You know this to be true. 'Tis always a risk to visit me at these hours, my love."

"And this is precisely why I love her so!" he stated bravely as if he spoke to an audience. "Amidst everything, my beautiful lady is always concerned for the well-being of her knight. Knight, may I remind, ma' lady!"

"A knight that appears to be looking for trouble, should our foes become aware of his scrambling."

"Let them become aware!" He raised his voice, still with lightness and taunting sounding in it. "Should they come, I will slay them!" He pulled his sword from his hip and began a little dance. Bouncing around, sword in hand, he swung it in the air as if he were fencing against the strongest of men. "I will give them a little of this. Then a little of that." He jumped in Altivo's direction. "And my trusted steed shall save me, and whisk me away into the darkness of night." He turned to look up at her. "Of course, never, before first having valiantly saved Ma' Lady?" Then tossing his arm into a whirl in front of him, he bowed at her graciously.

Amaryllis giggled some more, covering her mouth with her hand. "You shall never change, will you?"

"Why should I, Ma' Lady? If I change then I shall lose my most precious treasure. Your love."

"Well, I suppose that is true, noble sir."

"'Tis, Ma' Lady." He smiled at her.

Featured Book  
MarcoAntonio & Amaryllis  
By Y. Correa

What was it about him that made her insides flutter about? She couldn't explain it. She didn't understand it, but she liked it. No. She loved it! The single thought of his visit would cause butterflies to make themselves at home in her belly. And, his smile! So gentlemanly, so lively, in so many ways, that it alone filled her with the desire to live. As if his livelihood, gave her life—no matter how hard the situation between them could be.

She knew, as well as he did, that life was unfair. Their situation was cruel. She could not love him. Yet, she did. He could not love her. Yet, he did. What would they do?

It would be far beyond her family to understand that she, a white English lady, was in love with what they would easily call a worthless, putrid, power thirsty, Spanish man.

They despised him and all others like him. They would never allow her to be with him. They, and all others like them, would be completely opposed to their union—and she knew of many: the town's people, her extended relatives, the witches. The witches! The thought of them alone caused a shiver to rise up and down her spine. She'd been fortunate enough to never have encountered them. She'd heard plenty about the evil coven of witches—a clan that the townspeople called "The Sisterhood." This was truly a group of individuals that no rational minded person would want to encounter. One would have to be mad. Only a mad person would go to such lengths as to summon The Sisterhood.

Yet, he was beautiful to her—her dear and beloved MarcoAntonio. His shoulder length shiny black curls, penetrating long dark lashed, bright brown eyes with dark masculine eyebrows that were the perfect accent to them. Medium tanned, amazingly melded, milk and caramel skin. The ruggedness that his entire aura put off, yet the childish sense of joy and playfulness, which he only displayed to her and no other.

He was amazing to her. He was so handsome with his five o'clock shadow, a day's growth of hair. Rugged and strong. A soldier in every sense of the word.

He was the perfect height for her as well, standing at about five feet, eleven inches: a precise compliment to her five feet, six inches. His stature was so manly—so perfect. She could not ask for more. And his smile? Goodness. His smile made her knees go weak!

Suddenly feeling the need to get to the point of his visit, MarcoAntonio became instantly serious. "Ma' Lady, I wanted to come see you before the sun's rise." Amaryllis nodded her head only once and smiled with the sweetness that filled her soul each time she remembered what her smile did to him. She was more than aware that her smile lit up his day. And this was precisely what she intended. She felt the need to provide him with even the smallest bit of happiness, knowing to what extent he went through in order to see her. His sole endeavor was to see her. A small honest smile and a whispered word of hope—that was all he needed to go on. She knew it, and so did he. "Thank you, my brave and valiant knight. 'Tis a privilege for me to see you."

"Ma' Lady, the pleasure is mine," he said, tilting his head down into a modest bow. "Ma' Lady, beautiful and honorable damsel, I thank you."

"For what, silly?" she pleasantly interrupted.

"For the blessing of allowing me the sight of you. For the privilege of looking upon you. For the simplest gesture of your smile. For the lightness that your presence gives my heart."

"Ah! Well bold sir, 'tis my pleasure indeed," she said with a smile. Then immediately became serious once more. "Now, go! Go, before someone sees you!"

"Aye, Ma' Lady. But, 'tis only because you have asked," MarcoAntonio decided to point out. "'Tis not because they scare me!"

"Yes. Yes. I know, bold sir. Now go! Hurry!"

"Aye," he said. Bending down, he picked the rose closest to him and tossed it up towards her. "A rose, for a rose." Extending his arm out, leg forward, he bent into a noble bow. "Good night, Ma' Lady."

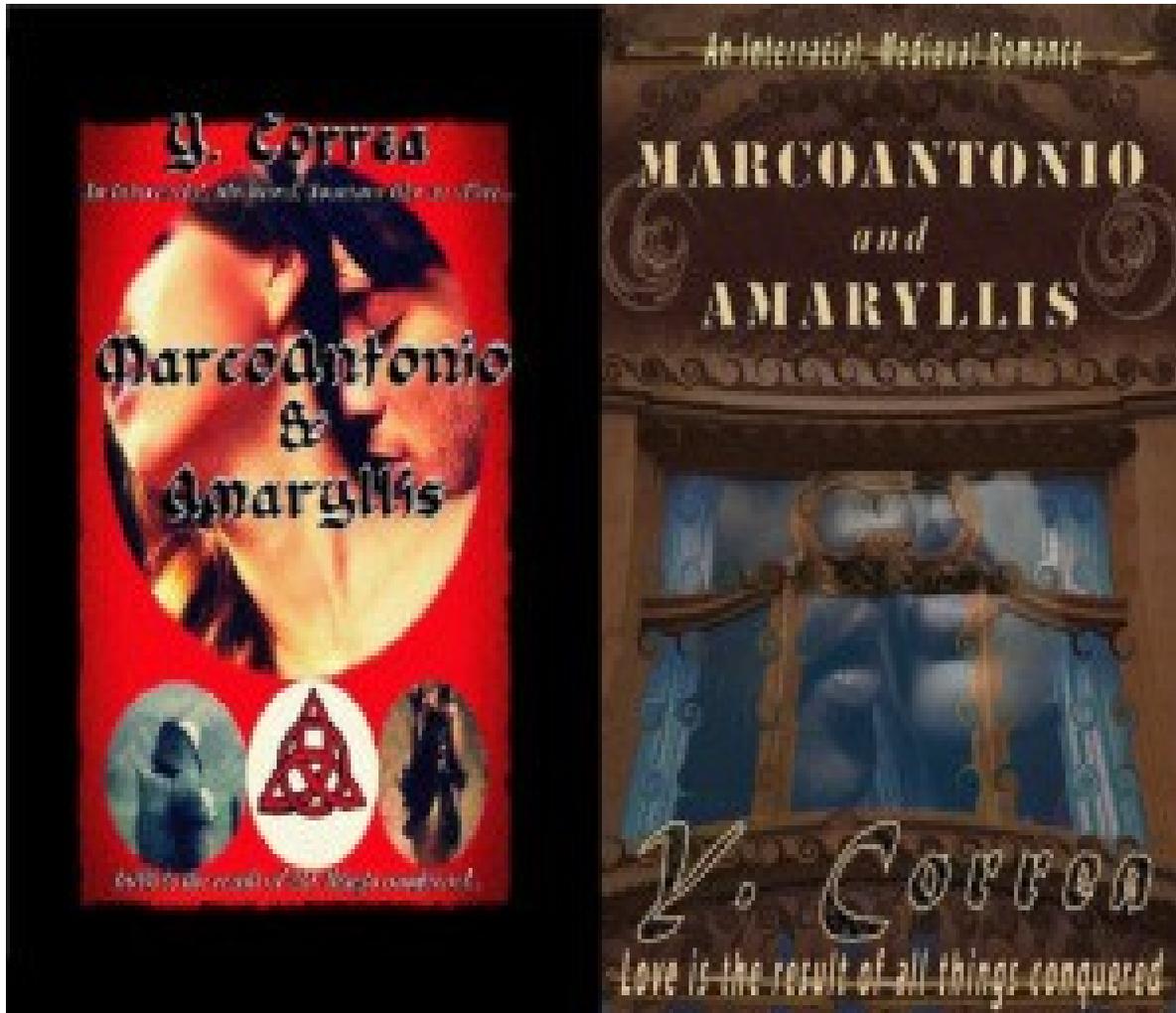
It seemed that every time he said good bye, his heart broke just a little bit more. He could not be sure when his next visit to her would be, but he made it his mission to visit whenever able. This was after all, his only reason for living.

Leaping back on to his horse, MarcoAntonio locked his heels into Altivo's side. "Anda, Altivo!" The horse spun around, and at that very instant, MarcoAntonio looked back and blew a kiss to his lady love. She in turn did the same. Just like that, Altivo took off into the darkness of night.

For more about MarcoAntonio & Amaryllis visit:

[Y. Correa Official Website](#)

[Amazon.com](#)



***LOVE is the result of all things conquered.***

## Guest Article



### *A Man Named Aaron*

*By Debbie Boswell*

If you stay in school and you work hard, then you won't be poor.

Why should my tax dollars go for people who don't work?

Respect the troops.

Today it's fashionable to pass judgment on the destitute. It's clever to point fingers at the downtrodden without knowing that person's story. One of my earliest lessons I received on the importance of understanding a person's history and learning how to treat people occurred in my teens.

Everyone called him "Aaron." He was a fixture in the neighborhood. We could find Aaron at the corner drinking or passed out asleep. As a young teen that's all I knew about him and sometimes he wore a military cap. We always greeted. To myself, however, I felt guarded. Men and women who drank made me uncomfortable. Nonetheless, Aaron was a friendly man when he was sober.

One summer day, when Aaron was sober, he had a carton of books. He said I was welcome to as many books as I wanted. In fact, I could've taken the whole box. He knew how much I loved to read and believed in the importance of reading. I helped myself to this treasure trove of paperbacks and hardcover books. Unlike other teenage girls who became excited about makeup and boys, I was excited about books. I was thrilled. At the same time, a twinge of guilt went through me. This was the same man that repulsed me on his bad days.

Somehow the conversation changed from reading to science. In awe, I listened to Aaron discuss the topic with authority. I noted the marked change in his persona as he used scientific terminology with such eloquence. At that moment, I discovered something significant about Aaron. He was more than just the neighborhood wino; he was once a biology teacher. I was no more than fifteen or sixteen years old, but I was old enough to grasp that something happened in his life that changed him. What made a learned man and ex-soldier turn to alcohol? Perhaps he was one of those former military men who became different when they returned from war.

The following November, I was with my mother when we came upon Aaron. She told him that she'd fix him a plate. He looked at her with gratitude and inclined his head with grace.

In those days, ours was the go-to house for the holidays. After the table was set, a throng of relatives gathered around the dining area table laden with rich holiday food and drinks. My sister said the blessing; my father carved the turkey. As we began to dig in, my mother stopped everybody. She had to fix Aaron's plate. Resounding moans ensued followed by whys and how comes in whiny voices. Someone asked, "Why can't Aaron get his after we finish eating?"

My mother paused then said, "Because I won't feed him scraps from the table like a dog."

I stared at her. My mother's words sounded like a gong at the dinner table. Thus a tradition began that Aaron get the "first fruit" then we eat.

I never knew Aaron's full story however, I know that his was only one of several individuals whose lives suddenly changed. It's easy to grow complacent, even callous, towards others if your life is smooth, but unforeseen circumstances can arise at any time. A person can do all the right things and yet find himself or herself faced with illness, job loss, divorce, or death of a spouse which can lead to economic woes. Mental illness. Substance abuse. Take a second glance at that in the street. Think twice before making a flippant remark about the needy or the oppressed. That "lazy person" may have served our country and is now among the forgotten or maybe he or she once taught science. Perhaps knowing that each person has a story might make one feel better about tax dollars supporting "takers."



# True or False

True or False?

1. There is little to no difference between a beta reader and an ARC reader.

False.

There is a big difference between a Beta Reader and an ARC

Beta Readers are not explicitly proofreaders or editors, but can serve in that context as an amateur when the work has already been edited and proofread by a professional. Elements highlighted by Beta Readers encompass things such as plot holes, problems with continuity, characterisation or believability; in fiction and non-fiction, the Beta might also assist the author with fact-checking.

While an ARC Reader is an Advance Readers Copy recipient, and will read the book prior to its official launch date, but in its completed form--edited and ready for the market. The purpose of an ARC Reader is to hopefully obtain reviews prior to the official launch date of the book.

2. The more exposure one has on the Internet, the higher an author's overall sales will become.

False.

I would love to say that this is true, but it's not. While the internet works as a tool to market your book, that does not necessarily translate into sales. Sales are mostly generated by word of mouth. So one can only hope that someone who saw your book on the internet, read it and then in turn told his neighbor about it who also bought it and read it.

3. Blogging should not only serve as a marketing tool but a way for the reader to get to know the author.

True.

Blogging is to be thought of as Journaling. In a journal you write constantly and express your feelings and thoughts. When blogging, as a marketing tool, we should think of it in the very same way. Readers will get to know the authors via his/her blogging, and sooner or later might be tempted to read the authors book. Of course, I'm not telling you to put out all of your dirty laundry, but make it real and relatable. It'll help.

4. The author should thank any reviewer of his/her work, even if the review is of a critical nature.

False.

As the matter of fact, the best thing ANY author can do is keep their mouth shut! Good, bad or ugly, just shut your flap. I understand that some authors think that it's polite to reach out to reviewers who give them a good review, however, this will come off as stalker type tendencies. Then it will make the reviewer think twice about reading another one of your works and reviewing it. Because... let's be honest here... what if they don't like your next work and think it's worth of a "not so nice" review? Will you chase them down then and have a cow?

I'm not saying that that's what you'll do, but I am saying that that's how the reviewer will think.

5. A holiday themed work should strive to have an uplifting message.

False.

Just because your work is Holiday Themed does not necessarily mean that it has to have an uplifting message. What if it's a tragedy, or a horror? Don't stress out too much if your Holiday Themed book turns out to be a little dark--such is life.



## What's the Word?

with

Wordsmith Andi

# What's The Word



It's a term everyone knows and uses: friend. Most of us can articulate a rough definition of the word and visual recognition of the six letters comprising it automatically engages the limbic system, or the part of the brain that controls with emotions. We see it and immediately associate feelings of affection, amusement, companionship, and a slew of others depending on how and who you make connections with, the specific reasons, and so on.

We probably don't need to refer to them, but just for the sake of providing something "official", Google tells us a friend is:

Noun:

1. A person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection, typically exclusive of sexual or family relations.
2. A person who acts as a supporter of a cause, organization, or country by giving financial or other help.
3. A person who is not an enemy or who is on the same side.
4. A familiar or helpful thing.
5. (Often as a polite form of address or in ironic reference) an acquaintance or a stranger one comes across.
6. A contact associated with a social networking website.

Verb:

1. Add (someone) to a list of contacts associated with a social networking website.
2. Archaic: befriend (someone).

Most of you are probably nodding along as you read this. Some of you may chuckle (like me) that the noun friend has somehow, in the age of connecting to one another over the internet, managed to become a verb. The example above tickles me. I'm even guilty of saying "Friend me on Facebook". I guess this is appropriate considering the internet adds a whole new dimension of what it means to be friends with someone. We're now able to develop kinship and connection with people around the globe that we might never have otherwise occasioned to meet were it not for the internet.

But before we go broad spectrum in exploring the word friend, let's narrow the focus on why we associate such positive emotions with the word.

Like most of our current English language, the word friend began in Germanic Old English as "freond" which means "to love, to favor". The Dutch have their vriend, and the Germans freund, both with the same meaning.

So what drives us to befriend others? We all have a common desire for connection to other human beings. To start, we're born into a family full of people we learn to love out of familial familiarity. These are people we don't necessarily choose as lifelong companions (or, maybe they are, depending on your spiritual perspective and what each of these personalities will teach us in our journey toward enlightenment). Their involvement in our lives is implied and obligatory, in a sense. I mean, who hasn't been forced to share a room with a sibling, and one they might not have particularly enjoyed spending much time with? Having four younger siblings myself, I often envied my cousins, two of whom respectively had no siblings to squabble with. Who hasn't had an argument to beat all arguments with a parent determined to see us safe from harm instead out partying and having reckless fun?

Some of this natural affinity, affection and attachment come from the hormone and neuro-transmitter dopamine. PsychologyToday.com explains dopamine as “a neurotransmitter that helps control the brain's reward and pleasure centers. Dopamine also helps regulate movement and emotional responses, and it enables us not only to see rewards, but to take action to move toward them.... dopamine neurons become activated when something good happens unexpectedly, such as the sudden availability of food.” So imagine (or remember, if you can) that first unexpected encounter with someone outside of your family who shares an interest, thought process or emotional perspective. In that moment our brain is flooded with dopamine, imprinting a pristine moment of delicious pleasure, and makes us want more of the same.

Because human beings also desire meaning and symbolism, we tend to associate the emotional desire for more as love, but the love we feel for these kindred spirits is a different sort than what we feel for our families. And perhaps this is why, as a sentient race speaking in symbolic languages, we needed a word for this unique bond. Friend; someone we would choose to associate with. Not parent, brother, sister, mother, father, aunt, uncle, cousin but friend. Someone we love and favor over others not of familial or sexual relations.

The internet has given us seemingly limitless stretches of fertile ground in which to seek out and plant the seeds of friendship. The boon of social media in the last five years has done more in providing the tools, means, and intention than any other method of connection the world and history has ever seen. These days we can make friends with anyone through Facebook, Twitter and a variety of other outlets. We can “friend” our favorite movie and television stars, Follow our adored musical artists, and even interact with revered artists of the written word. The rush of dopamine is infinitely more accessible with such connections zinging across millions of miles of distance in less time than it takes to take a proper breath. Is it any wonder then that we catch ourselves sitting and staring at our phones or computers waiting for a notification to pop up and tell us that our connections are still there, still valid, still going strong? Each red (or whatever color) digit that appears is confirmation that we are not alone, not forgotten, never disregarded; validated.

So, in this whirlwind of humanity, take stock of the friends you have, both physical and through social media. Each connection is priceless, a relationship born of choice. When you call someone friend you declare your love and favor for them. Make sure they know just how wonky they make your dopamine levels go. And, if your only friends are books, keep them safe and dry and away from wicked flames for the fire is hungry and quick to devour.

Do you have a word that you'd like Wordsmith Andi's expertise on? Then share it with her at [wordsmith.andi@allauthorspp.net](mailto:wordsmith.andi@allauthorspp.net)



# A Queen's Ramblings

*Staying Original in a Creative Sea*

*By:*

*Queen of Spades*



Important Note:

The incident discussed by our special guest is her experience and not affiliated in any way, shape or form with any subsidiary of All Authors Publications and Promotions.

In my upbringing, I was encouraged by my grandparents to be an individual. Once I was integrated with others, it became apparent that individuality made me an outcast. I frowned at the mixed message. Humans come in all different forms and emerge from different cultures, yet we are ostracized for those things which are supposed to deem us unique.

This does not just occur in schools but also in the publishing world.

On one hand, you have people who are tired of the same old thing. All of the covers of hot men and seductive women have melted into a sensual blur. A title that hasn't been used by anyone else is extremely rare. Story lines are repeated—some are done well while others should not have even been written.

Great covers with unique titles and an original plot (even an exciting twist on an old story line) is what they scream, and I am one who tends to scream with that crowd.

Then, there's the other side of the coin. What happens when a writer comes along who has a contemporary yet fitting book cover, a title not recycled by anyone else and a refreshing story line? Sounds like a winner, right?

Well, not exactly.

A special guest has stopped by A Queen's Ramblings to talk about her experience. She has requested not to use her actual name. Druleyna, you may proceed.

Hello everyone. My name is Druleyna. I am a big advocate of individuality. I love dealing with contemporary and abstract imagery, so I design my own covers. My works span over multiple genres and categories. In the beginning, I did the indie route because of the control over my own works. Also, there is nothing quite like the thrill when your hard work is out there for the world to see!

Along the way, the call to be traditionally published began to surface. Don't get me wrong! The creative freedom was making me very happy. Yet my pockets were not feeling the abundance. Plus there was a small part of me that wondered if the complexity of my work was great enough to break into the traditional world.

A fan of my indie writes informed me that a traditional publisher was taking submissions. He was relatively certain that my writing was of the caliber it was seeking. I took his advice and sent everything in the wind

Then, I waited, and waited some more.

Just when I concluded rejection was their answer, I received an email from the publisher. My manuscript had been accepted. They appreciated my originality and were thrilled to represent me. There were not enough words to express my happiness! I could hardly wait to get started.

My work would be getting the backing and exposure necessary to gauge an even greater audience. It was definitely a dream come true in my writing portfolio.

As time advanced, evidence surfaced which slowly morphed this dream into a nightmare.

One of the red flags occurred during the editing process of my work. There was a certain style of dialogue I incorporated that was not modern speak because it was from a different time period. Yet when I got the first set of edits back, the majority of the edits addressed the dialogue.

I made all adjustments except for the ones pertaining to dialogue. If the dialogue was tampered with, it would disturb the whole essence of the book. I let the company know of my concerns. They were very understanding and didn't press the issue.

Now that the editing hiccup had been quelled, I began thinking about the cover. I had a cover for this work because it was previously indie published. However, I wanted to see what this company could do with my story concept. I had viewed covers by other writers in their camp and adored the style.

I alerted my publisher that I wanted them to do a new cover. They told me it was fine but needed a full synopsis from me in order to create the cover. They didn't ask what colors or imagery I wanted, just for the synopsis. I fulfilled their request. I would have to admit though, that I was a little thrown for a loop here, because I was under the impression that my book had been read. If it had been read then they should have already known what the story was about, therefore, they wouldn't need a synopsis in order to provide an applicable cover.

In the meantime, a second round of edits was sent to my email. There were words the editor wanted me to replace, not because the words were inappropriate but because he didn't know what they meant. True, they weren't commonplace words, but it stumped me why the editor would ask me to replace the words rather than use a thesaurus. I decided not to honor those suggestions and emailed the editor with my explanation. Again, they seemed very understanding.

A few weeks later, the cover was ready for my viewing. My reaction sequence—shock, horror, then outrage. The cover was the most ghastly shade of green I had ever seen. It was neon green, reminiscent of the ghost ectoplasm in the Ghostbusters movie series! The font wasn't eye catching at all and disappeared into the goo-like background as opposed to standing out. Certainly this could not be the final product for my book!

I emailed them back and gave them my vision of how I wanted the cover to look. I was under the impression that I could give input, and I could stick with my old cover if this one was to my dissatisfaction. That was when I discovered differently.

I was informed the main owner of the publishing company liked the "Ghostbusters Goo" better and it was going to be the concept applied to the finished product.

My heartbeat raced in my ears. I couldn't hear anything for the sheer anger I felt. I wanted my unique work to get larger exposure. I believed this company understood that and would respect my work's individuality. The fact that my input on my cover art was neither entertained or wanted was a complete insult to me.

Another thing that ripped my heart out was the fact that huge... enormous, chunks of my writing had been abridged from my book without my knowledge, or permission. As a matter of fact, I only noticed it after it was published. No one at the publishing house told me anything. It wasn't until I received a review from someone that mentioned that whilst reading my book they'd noticed that some parts seemed incomplete or cut out, that I realized that my prose had been tampered with, and ultimately altered.

Slowly but surely, the light bulb became bright. The main reason my work had been accepted was because they had plotted all along to change it. My interests were not at the forefront because they surmised those did not translate into sales. Rather than see if it could be marketable in its current state, they took steps to make it mainstream. As a result, the final result available on the market today is not even a semblance of what the work could have achieved.

I do not share this to slight anyone who has a publisher (or other publishers in the market) but there has to be a balance between author and publisher in regards to creative vision.

Granted, if an author wants one hundred percent creative control, the person should stick with being indie. Yet, a publisher should not be so gung ho to generate sales to where the author's work is no longer her own. There has to be respect on both ends.

I am completely frustrated at how so many people frown upon indie publishing--talk crap about it--yet it's okay in their minds for publishers to tamper and mainstream a work that was not supposed to be mainstreamed in the first place. They insult indie authors, yet holler about how they want originality, but publishers do nothing but revoke that right from writers. So there is no winning.



How can individuality stand out when the very avenues that should have a writer's best interest at heart put pressure on the writer to go mainstream? From genre trends based on what's current to putting eye candy on covers to attract readers, more and more works have been uncovered that are just carbon copies of what's already out there. There has also been an increased risk of reading low quality works, one of the reasons due to authors composing books in genres that are unfamiliar to them. This pitfall occurs on both sides of the fence. Everyone loses.

I've always been an avid reader. That zeal has not died with age. Although I am older, the characteristics I want images in a book remain consistent. If they aren't met to my satisfaction, no matter what representation the author may or may not have, the work does not achieve mainstay status in my library—electronic or otherwise.

I have not gone through Druleyna's experience. I applaud her bravery in sharing. Her unfortunate incident serves as a cautionary tale for me. It has taken me many years to become comfortable in my own identity, not only throughout my development as an adult but in the type of writer I aspire to be. Being authentic and connecting with others ranks very high on my scale of importance.

If I were to choose between making pennies for being original or making thousands for being like everyone else, I choose originality—every time.

Beloved RWPP's:

Do you think originality still has a place in the publishing world or is the wave of being like everyone else much too great?

Send your thoughts to [queenofspades@allauthorspp.net](mailto:queenofspades@allauthorspp.net). You could be invited as a special guest on A Queen's Ramblings.

One, I'm an admirer of the writing craft.

Lastly, but most importantly, I am respecting the choice I made—finally accepting my own individuality and never again permitting its pressurization into conformity.



# All About Indie



## **Cyclonic Temperament of Reviews and Support**

**By:**

**Harmony Kent**

We can please some people some of the time, but never everybody all of the time. One of the areas where my attention is forced to notice the differences between folks is in the area of reviews.

When I am thinking of purchasing a book, I take notice of its reviews to help me decide. But that is only one part of my selection process. Far more important to me is reading a sample. Whether this be dipping into a book in a book shop, or making use of Amazon's 'Look Inside' feature. This is really what decides me one way or the other—the reviews add more information to help me make that judgment call.

And that is what it is: a judgment call. It is a highly individual choice, and is all about me. My preferences. What I want out of a book. For some, the editing and writing style isn't so important, while for others it is everything. This is how come the same book can garner many and varied reviews.

It's not about one of them being more accurate or truthful than another, it is simply one individual's opinion. It reflects the glorious diversification of this whirlwind of humanity.

As an author, it would be a mistake to attempt to please everyone even for one moment, never mind all of the time. Not every review will adequately reflect our hard work, but at least the person has taken the time to leave a review. While each of us can learn and grow from our reviewers, there does come a point where we have to be able to let go. We have put our best efforts out there, and now it is time to move on.

We've all heard the saying: 'Don't judge a book by its cover', but most of us do just this. Being a writer, offering our own individuality out to a whole host of different folks demands that we become multifaceted. We not only have to write a book that will appeal to as many minds as possible, but we also have to write an effective book blurb, and design an eye-catching book cover. Even if we employ an artist/cover designer to do this for us, we still have to decide on the final copy and have a good idea of what we want from the person doing it for us.

Sometimes, working with someone else can make things even trickier, as it can be difficult for them to grasp what we envision. One of the reviews on my latest novel likened some of the characters to 'pokemon' ... which couldn't have been further from what was actually in my mind! LOL This simply reflects the multitudinous ways our brains perceive and translate. I don't think I could have asked that person to design my book cover—we really wouldn't have been on the same page.

Is there any wonder, then, that there can be such a plethora of opinions and comments about just one little book? The essential thing to do, is to take away what's important from any reviews we receive, and leave the rest alone. Some reviews are just plain nasty, and actually attack the writer. Those would be the ones to leave alone. Others, while perhaps still giving a low ranking, might be written more sensitively and offer some useful information. These are the ones we can learn best from—as uncomfortable as that may feel.

As well as there being millions of authors with gazillions of books, there are equally as many reviewers with just as many opinions and preferences. When we publish a book, we thrust ourselves into the centre of the cyclone. The only way out is to weather the storm and push on through. Sometimes the storm winds will be kind, at other times, cruel. They are all just the same whirlwind. One we all have to live with. Just that authors tend to have to live with it a bit more publicly than they might like.

I would be the first to confess that I like getting positive reviews, but I have learned not to depend on them. I wouldn't be the writer I am today if not for the lessons I took away from some of the more negative reviews. I am also learning, slowly—with time—that we are all very different creatures and we all have very individual expectations.

For most of us Indie Authors, we aren't dealing with millions of readers, not even thousands, more like hundreds. Still, even fifty readers and reviewers can show us the need for an incredibly thick skin. I have spoken to authors who have been deeply hurt from one single review. That is, the opinion of one single individual, whose barb happened to be sharpened in just the right (or wrong) way to pierce the writer's armour.

While we do all need reviews for our books, and while they can be important in influencing a potential reader to buy our tome or not, they are not the be all and end all. They are also not about us as a person. They are about a book we have produced, yes. But that doesn't mean any of it reflects upon us as an individual. So, good or bad, we need to keep perspective and give them their proper place.

If we get a rip-roaring rave review, that doesn't mean we are a fantabutastic person ... in the same way a devastatingly negative review doesn't mean we are a despicable human being. We are more than other people's opinions.

If we base our lives on what other people think, we are going to end up in an awful mess. We would be taking schizophrenia to extremes! Can you imagine trying to contain that whirlwind within you? Scary thought. What's the best way to handle reviews that might hurt, then? Well, as with other opinions, we don't need to respond. First and foremost, we do NOT want to engage in vitriol of any kind with the person who has taken the trouble to leave us a review. Some authors believe that thanking their reviewers is good practice, but I have mixed feelings on this whole question.

Sometimes a reviewer can feel 'stalked' or pressured in some way when an author makes contact with them. Of course, there are those who might be thrilled (especially the more 'famous' you become). This is one of those places where you need to proceed with extreme caution. Really, stick a 'toxic' sticker on your computer screen!

## Toxic Sign

### Warning:

Reviews may cause unsightly mutation!

I never leave comments on any review I receive. Ever. I do sometimes thank a reviewer, if the situation seems to call for it ... but I am always wary and choose the forum with great care. For instance, usually I would respond if it is a reviewer from a book club I am in, or if I know them, but otherwise I leave it well alone. And I never leave a comment on the actual review.

Again, that old whirlwind is in evidence here, as there are many opinions on this. What I will stress though, is that if you do respond it always has to be humble. I cannot emphasise this enough. You won't win any brownie points by being defensive, or angry, or hurt, or ungrateful. You'll win a lot more by being gracious. Or by not being anything at all. Despite our differences, nobody can be offended if you don't comment. You're not being asked for your opinion, after all.

Going Indie, can mean going it alone. We don't have a big publishing house and its public relations engine to hide behind. We're it. We have to do our own marketing. We have to take care of the whole kit and kaboodle right from the start. Getting the right exposure can be tough, which can make some of those opinions even harder to live with.

There are organisations out there that can help us navigate. Local writer's clubs, for instance. Many online writer's chat forums. There is only one group I have come across so far, sadly, that offers not only reviews and support to fellow members, but also actively promotes those members. It used to be free, but now they charge a very small fee to help cover costs. Also, to help discourage those who only want to get and not give. The ethos of this book club is 'pay it forward' ... that is, to pass on the support you receive. I love this philosophy, and it echoes what I tried to do from the first day I started a blog/website.

I realised very quickly that there was a need to support my fellow indie authors, and that there was a huge, gaping black hole in this area. The Rave Reviews Book Club helps me to support my fellow indies in such a big way. And I've seen the results for myself too.

Those of you who have read my other articles will know already that I don't normally push or promote other organizations I do this for a reason: I can't vet them all. I believe in giving sound advice, tips and tricks, not in giving the hard sell. I make an exception in this case simply because for Indie Authors there is no other club like it. If you are interested, here is the link.

Okay, enough said.

Within all this diversity, there is one need that is common to all of us self-published writers: mutual support. We have enough on our plates without then engaging in some kind of competition with one another. Even if we don't want to actively promote our fellow authors, we can at least make sure we don't get in the way. What do I mean by that? Well, if we happen to read a book that we feel could be improved upon, what we don't do is leave a nasty review. We write it as constructively as we know how. We encourage the author. We also don't go making up bad reviews just to make our book look better. The same on the flip-side actually: we don't make up good reviews just to try and support an author. It usually ends up making both parties look the fool. Another thing that is common within this mix of uncommonalities is spamming. I have yet to come across another human being who actually likes being spammed. No matter how desperate you may feel to promote your new book, please make sure to tweet and post about other things and other people too. If it's all about you all the time, people will just get fed up of you. It is fine to self-promote here and there, but getting the balance right is all important. If you are putting out ten tweets all about your book and only one about someone else's (or worse, none at all), you are going to tip over. The balance on your rocking-horse works a lot better at the head end: you know, the end where ten of your tweets are for others' books and only one for your own.

One bonus of spending a while in the eye of the cyclone is that we gradually learn some perspective. We gain some perspective on perspective. It's all about ratio. About proportion. About what's reasonable. This is true no matter who or where we are. The only thing that does differ is our view on exactly what is reasonable and proportionate. If we watch the winds whipping around us, we'll soon figure out what the common consensus is at any moment. That's probably the best place to start.

While this whirlwind of humanity can be challenging and hard work, it is also something to be celebrated. What if we were all the same? Every book would have to be the same. There would only be so many that could be written. How boring would life be?

The spinning vortex might look like chaos, but really it's not. It's a wondrous pattern and synchronicity that invites and beckons to the artistic soul. It's an opportunity. Surviving the storm requires us to be both strong and flexible. Strong enough to stand up and be our own person. Flexible enough to be able to bend and go with the flow. When we have both of these attributes, we can dance in the Whirlwind and celebrate humanity in all its many and varied guises.



***All About Indie  
With Harmony Kent  
Where Indie Publishing meets practicality***

# Randomness in Writing

By  
D. John Watson



## YOUR MUSE

“To know is nothing, to imagine is everything.” Albert Einstein.

Someone I know once asked me for advice on writing a book. He was stuck and having a hard time getting his story out. His story just wasn't working for him but he knew he wanted to write. I asked what kinds of topics he was interested in, what kinds of books he read and what sorts of movies and television shows he watched. I got some answers and made a few general suggestions but it got me thinking; is it really that easy? I mean, I was offering advice based on a few 'question and answer' messages.

So where am I going with this?

Whether you're an artist, a musician or a writer, there's a voice inside you that urges you to do things. Sometimes it's soft and suggestive, other times it's loud and demanding, but it's there all the same. It wakes us up at night, talks to us while we're driving or mowing the lawn. Now, before anyone suggests I might have missed bed check somewhere, stop and think about all of the times you've suddenly had that spark of an idea, whether it's a few notes of music, a phrase or a mental picture. Maybe you write it down or pick up a guitar and the voice is happy for a time.

But that voice isn't about to be silenced for long and what started out as a bit of tune or a few words on paper has to be finished.

The Greeks had a word for this, 'The Muse'. Originally there were nine of them and they were fathered by the God Zeus and Mnemosyne, the Goddess of memory over nine nights. They were raised by the nymph Eufime and the God Apollo. They were the goddesses of all creative expression and science, each of them had their own areas of influence. That word is still used today and it has a wide range of meanings from speaking thoughtfully to artistic inspiration. In fact, the Greek word for music is mousike, art of the muse, which were governed by the goddesses Terpsichore, Erato and Euterpe, the three muses that influenced music.



As a writer, I owe my influence to Melpomene, Thalia and Calliope for creativity as well as Clio and no science fiction or fantasy writer or artist could do without the influence of Ourania. Editors and teachers wouldn't be able to do what they do without Polymnia.

Their influences overlap, with each of them taking on different aspects. Originally they were the influences for all artistic expression but over time, they became more influential in ancient Greece. History, language, the discovery of instruments, all trace their influence, according to mythology, to the nine goddesses. And their influence was portrayed by artists during the Renaissance. Homer asked Calliope for inspiration when writing his epic poem The Iliad and the Odyssey. William Shakespeare's Sonnet 100 begins with the line "Where art thou, Muse, that thou forget'st so long?"

They have taken on various shapes and personifications. They're depicted in classic statues like the ones that adorn the palace of Empress Sissi in Corfu, they adorned pottery in ancient Greece and great Renaissance paintings as classic and beautiful, ideal in form and figure. They are usually shown wearing laurels and carrying an item that identifies them. Stephen King refers to them in his book Bag of Bones as ".ghosts, and sometimes they come uninvited." Novelist Kerry Greenwood describes hers as "An old woman with a tight bun and spectacles poking me in the middle of the back and growling, "Wake up and write the book!"

So where does that inspiration come from?

I guess the short answer is the world around us. That's also the easy answer, but it's the truth. We're sponges, we take in the things we see, hear and read, and keep them in mental vaults where they wait for us to use them. When they come out, they do so in their own time. They can't be forced out, they arrive unbidden and if we don't do something they might not return. According to Erica Jong, *Seducing the Demon: Writing for My Life*. "But the fact is, she [the muse] won't be summoned. She alights when it damn well pleases her. She falls in love with one artist, then deserts him for another. She's a real bitch!"

Unfortunately, they don't always come out when we're able to act, even if it's just to jot down a few notes. When those hints of inspiration arise, we take them, mix them with our own imaginations and pour all of that into whatever artistic channel we inhabit. At the same time, we are influenced by others, whether it's a favorite author or artist; so in reference to what I said about being sponges. We take our inspiration, combine it with imagination and subliminal influences, then put it down on paper or canvas. Because we're sponges, we can't help filtering our ideas through a strain of things we've read or seen before. In so doing, we make them uniquely ours. None of us exists in a vacuum, our unique voices have a soft whisper of other voices that aren't ours.

So how do we decide what to create?

In the beginning of this, I mentioned a talk I had with someone who wanted advice on what to write. When he told me what he liked to read and watch, I suggested that he start with what he knew. This wasn't a patronization by any means, it was a simple truth. In his case, he was trying to write a book with main characters who were in high school. His trouble was that he was stuck. He had an idea but he didn't know how to turn them into real characters. I told him to talk with his own children, his nieces and nephews who might be in that age who could give him insights into their world. But he didn't have any so that made his choice a little more difficult. He had other interests as well, which would have made finding inspiration easier. That's where I suggested he go.

On another note, not necessarily wanting to veer from the subject entirely...

One of the things that allows us to connect with viewers, listeners or readers is authenticity. We have to be able to make it real for them, and that comes largely from creating within genres we spend time in. I know that sounds simplistic but it's true. I read science fiction, fantasy and action adventure, plus I'm a political junkie, so these are where I write from. Now I might write in either a science fiction or a fantasy genre with political elements I've culled from recent news stories, but I'd have a hard time writing poetry or a book on medieval history. I also have experience in martial arts, and know others with more so, when that is introduced, I hope the reader sees it real. I have a comfort zone. For the moment, I'm happy to work from that. I think that, that makes me more effective because I can write from areas of interest.

Now that's not to suggest that it's a mistake to branch out, explore new genres. After all, if Stephen King wrote a cookbook, I'm sure it would end up a best seller just because his name was on it. It would be as well written as anything else he's done, but it's his name that would draw readers. Again, it helps to write from a place of interest. And if you're lucky and have a large enough following, you can cross genres easily. However, you have to find the right voice, blend it with inspiration and your influences.

Now, back to what I was saying...



Our Muses are fickle creatures, they speak to us when we least expect. They refuse to be forced. They demand our attention whether we can give it to them or not, and offer us gifts whether we're able to take them or not. They will ignore us if we ignore them for too long and come back only when they're satisfied we've learned our lesson. In the end, they are what we need to be who we are. Now after countless millennia, their influence can still be felt and they live on through popular books, movies and even cartoons and onto Broadway in plays like Xanadu in 2007, where Urania, also known as Ourania, the muse of astronomy is depicted along with many of her sisters.. A South Korean all girl band goes by the name the Nine Muses.

Yes, they inspire and compel us and we pay them their due homage, keeping them alive through our culture. And we even see them in people we know, if for a fleeting. A writer or painter might select one person who is their Muse or a musician might see theirs in life around them, whether it's on the street or a small town. However we see it, it provides that spark that And the Muses are satisfied, for a time at least.

All of this brings us back to the quote from above...

Imagination is everything.

## ASK AJ



***Do you think writings that are gruesome horror should be categorized in the same field as psychological thrillers and mysteries?~~Anonymous***



When I got this question, it really made me think about the reader's, or people in general, perception of what horror is. The question above refers to gruesome horror, so with that, I'll assume it means violent, bloody, and maybe even murderous endeavors. And being that the horror genre is my first passion, I could get very analytical with this question.

I'll start with mysteries first.

### Mysteries

Mysteries can also scare a reader, but they challenge a different part of the mind. They are more of a "thinkers game" with the reader dropped into a world full of questions and riddles, with many of the answers right under our noses. I enjoy mysteries and the ride they take me on, and they have their unique place on the genre wheel.

And while mysteries can have murder, chaos, and panic, I think their wheel spins in a different category than horror.

### Horror

Without trying to define gruesome horror or to place it in some sub-category, we will move on to the fact that horror in general, simply put, is something that does, can, and will scare us. Some of us are afraid of the dark, while others fear the dark figure in the corner waiting to leap out and attack or kill us. These two examples of fear create the horror psychologically - meaning the mind fires off with every dreadful possibility based on what they see or think they see. In some, this creates hysteria and can make a person quite mad, if given enough time in those environments.

Going back to the question which asks if psychological thrillers can be based on the same category as horror? I would say, absolutely! Yes!

### Thrillers

Two prime examples in my mind are, the great Alfred Hitchcock shows and the Twilight Zone (the old ones with Rod Serling, not the modern day stuff). These two shows always asked the viewer, whether they knew it or not, to answer questions before they saw the entire story. And in doing so, we as viewers, are taken into another world biased on our own thoughts and fears.

To me, that's the psychological thriller genre at its best. Hitchcock and Serling were not known as true creators of horror, but more so for their mental approach. They knew how to get in our minds and let our imaginations run wild with the possibilities they pose in the questions they ask with each episode. This creates horror. Horrors that only we know and create based on what we are watching.

These are only two examples of how a thriller can work hand-in-hand with horror. Of course, those were television shows, but I feel books offer the best chance for psychological fear. As we all know, books open up our minds, playing a movie in our heads, a movie we create, and sometimes those movies can be filled with fear and horror.

Take the works of author, Thomas Harris, the creator of Hannibal Lecter. His main character, Lecter, used psychology to prepare each of his victims, eventually leading to horrific...let's just say...happenings. Some will say that the *Hannibal* books are in the horror genre, leaning towards gruesome, and others will say right away that they are psychological thrillers. That debate alone gives credence to the gray area between the two genres. Either way, I feel I have given some perspective on how psychology and horror can work together to achieve the same goal.

## Categories

Now that we have established that horror, even gruesome horror, and psychological thrillers can work well together, let's look at how categorizing of books can play into the scheme of things.

When a publisher or author submits a book for sale, there are hundreds of combinations of categories and sub-categories to choose from. In some cases, the combinations can be manipulated to bring different genres together for one book. This is often done to improve ranking within some obscure category that may not technically apply to the book at all.

In the question above, if I can over-analyze and read between the lines, I might get the impression that a reader or two has been fooled or confused by the categories listed for a book. As I mentioned before, this can and has happened and the reader may be left feeling angry or at the very least, duped. A frustrating part of book buying for sure, and one that may not change any time soon. The current setup benefits authors and publishers in getting their books in front of as many different readers as possible, so as a reader, you really have to delve deeper in to the book you're looking to purchase to be sure it's what you want or expect.

I just thought I would get off the subject a bit to give some explanation as to why categories are so important, while at the same time can be misleading. This circles back to the original question and my opinion that mysteries aren't in the same field or category as gruesome horror. On the other hand, *Psychological Thrillers* can definitely have a place next to *Horror* on your bookshelf.

No matter your choice in genre or category, make it a book you really enjoy, and in choosing that book...take in this inspiring quote:

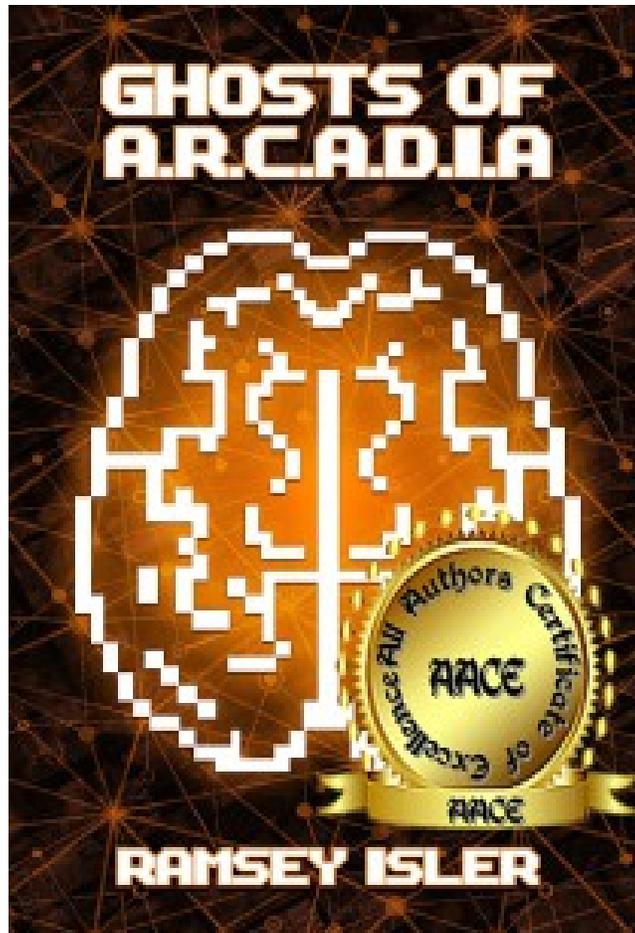
*"Always read something that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it."*

–P.J. O'Rourke

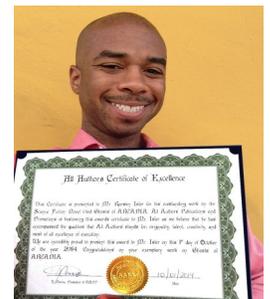


***Do YOU have a question for AJ? Then contact him at [askaj@allauthorspp.net](mailto:askaj@allauthorspp.net)***

**All Authors Certificate of Excellence**  
Is given to ...



**Acceptance Speech by Mr. Isler**



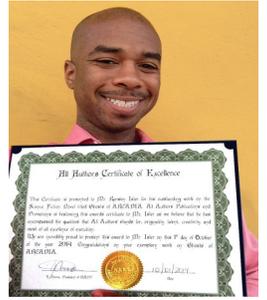
It's an honor and a very pleasant surprise to receive the All Authors Certificate of Excellence for Ghosts of ARCADIA. The novella started out as my very first original story; a proving ground for my writing skills and story ideas. I quickly discovered that this writing thing was indeed just as difficult as everyone said it was, and over a period of several years that original story was edited, rewritten, thrown away, retrieved, hated, loved, and finally turned into a now award-winning story. Funny how things work out.

Over the years that it took to complete this story, Ghosts of ARCADIA became more than just a sci-fi tale; it also became a little window into my thoughts and personality. I'm a huge nerd and a fan of technology, and I wanted to write a futuristic tale that didn't involve dystopia. I'm a firm believer that the future will continue to be far better than the past, and I think sci-fi can be optimistic without being naive. The book also explores mortality, which is a theme that always seems to sneak into my work and even I am surprised when it happens. But what other topic has more power over the human condition than the knowledge that we will one day die? It's the quintessential question of our existence, and I hope this little book of mine has helped people think about that topic a little differently than they did before.

Big thanks go to Queen of Spades and Y. Correa for seeing something special in my work and deeming me worthy of this award. As an indie author it takes much effort to get my work noticed, but every reader I gain is a huge accomplishment and I'm quite pleased to have happy readers at All Authors Publications and Promotions.

# Rave Reviews for

**Ramsey Isler's Ghosts of ARCADIA**  
**Available: Amazon**



The following are review excerpts. To read the reviewers' full thoughts, please click on the hyperlinked name.

Great Short Novel covering a virtual reality/gaming genre. I Recommend It! (Debra Miller)

Ghosts of ARCADIA takes some topics that have been covered (IE: The Matrix) and combines them with personalities and new twists to create an interesting short novel that holds one's attention to the end. Yes, the ending was a bit foreshadowed, but it didn't detract from the ride.

Riveting Read! (NJMcDD)

The first person narrative and engaging voice drew me in right away. Ramsey Isler gets to the point from the start, a big tick from me! Told in retrospect so we know that our hero doesn't come to a sticky end. I thought this book was well written. There was good action and pace; after the initial backstory. The author has created a very believable scenario with a hint of prophecy about it that I liked. It really could happen and not in the far too distant future. It seems that the author is suggesting that our addiction to such escapism can be a dangerous thing, not only for the individual, but society as a whole. Perhaps Ramsey Isler is warning us to relax our dependence on computer technology for work and play.

Techno thriller (Made in DNA-Japan)

A thoroughly enjoyable techno thriller. Carefully written so as not to overwhelm the reader with technical jargon or ideas that could distract, and yet infused with a perfect balance of 'tech' to give it the air of a realistic near-future.

Anyone with a love for post cyberpunk or virtual reality fiction will LOVE this excellent work by a powerful and smart author.

2 Thumbs Up, and more if I had any (dkw)

Every so often, a science fiction book comes along that really grips you. For me, this was The Forever War, Ender's game, and more recently, ATLAS. This type of book is best characterized by thinking about it at work in between reading, and the anticipation of getting back to the story. As an avid science fiction reader, this, sadly, is a rather uncommon experience.

So imagine my surprise when I picked of Ghosts of Arcadia, and another book was added to the list. The prose is wonderful, and at times, even poetic. Descriptions are fully fleshed out and detailed without being too wordy or slow. The protagonist is both indecisive and "ballsy", suave, and a risk taker with a strong work ethic -- in short, he's likable and unpredictable. The story is set in the vague near-future, which we are reminded of subtly by the protagonist's reflections on modern events. This futuristic world was not in your face, but it wasn't subsidiary either -- it was done very convincingly. The story was clearly well-researched, which added volumes to the realism.

Stop reading this review, and read this book -- I highly recommend it.

Video Game Aficionados REJOICE! (Andrew)

I NEVER expected a concept of this level as far as a premise, and I was PLEASANTLY SURPRISED. The narration, description of how the game was presented (textures, interaction, colors, non-repetitive nature, etc.) as well as played was VERY good! There was even some humor as banter was flying about between the characters.

As far as I could tell (for the story flowed beautifully like GOOD Whiskey in a glass), I saw and noticed no flaws. If there were ANY flaws, it was lost in Mr. Isler's rich storytelling and fast pace. When a story moves THIS WELL and catches my attention immediately, I am a VERY HAPPY reader. EXCELLENT JOB!!

However...I was hoping for a few more pages because the story is That Good! In that aspect, I was a bit heartbroken yet satisfied with the end result at the same time.

Video Game Aficionados: REJOICE!!

"Ghosts of ARCADIA" is an outside of the box story that may VERY WELL become a reality in the Right as well as the Most Capable of hands. As a reader and a reviewer, I certainly plan on reading this story again and again, JUST SO I can see the imagery as vividly as it was described between the covers!

Take a Bow, Mr. Ramsay Isler: Inspiration for a New Wave of Futuristic Gaming IS At Hand, and You may have VERY WELL Sparked something within a Genius who is reading your story!

# Poetry Unleashed



I get inspiration from a number of things. Lyrics to a song, a conversation, the weather. The strangest of things can inspire me. My imagination is way out there.

My book, *Untamed Pen*, is a book of poetry, covering a variety of topics and genres. Semi-autobiography of things that occurred in my life. The cover concept I trusted in the hands of Chyna Blue, graphic designer for Edifyin' Graphix. All I did was send her a few of my pieces, and she did the rest. She is amazing!

Truthfully, *Untamed Pen* was the first and only title that I wanted. To me, the title, along with the book cover, lets the reader know that the book is raw, honest, and nothing is held back. I decided to go with William S Peters and Inner Child Press publishing company, because I had friends who published with him and I heard A Lot of great things.

I'm not affiliated with any organizations at this time. I'm a regular at Poetry by the Bay located at The Hub in Vallejo, California. I performed at the historic Nuyorican Poets Cafe in New York, Sweet and Natural in Maryland, Art\_Iz Art gallery in Maryland (featured), Shades of Africa in Long Beach, California (featured), the black book Expo in Los Angeles, California (featured), the Townhouse Vallejo (featured), BPC Poetryfest in Atlanta, Georgia (featured), as well as other poetry venues on the east and west coast.

The day that I discovered that I was nominated for a National Poetry Award, I received an email from Troy Poet Lewis II. A pdf file was attached to it with the word Congratulations. Not knowing who he was at the time or what he sent me, curiosity got the best of me, so I downloaded the file. It was an official letter congratulating me on my nomination for Poetry Author of the Year. I was excited, humbled and truthfully, I thought it was a joke. Little ole me received a NATIONAL Poetry Award nomination for a book, not only was out for six months, but for a book that I had no intention of publishing. Although I didn't win, it was a blessing just to be nominated with other phenomenal artists.

I wasn't able to attend, but during my travels to the east coast and Atlanta, I met a lot of talented and friendly poets. I consider them all family. It was an honor just to learn from them and be in their presence. Those are moments that I will never forget. I can't wait until June 11-14, 2015, when I get to reunite with my poetic family, as well as being a spotlight artist at the 2015 Bpc Poetryfest 10th anniversary in Atlanta.

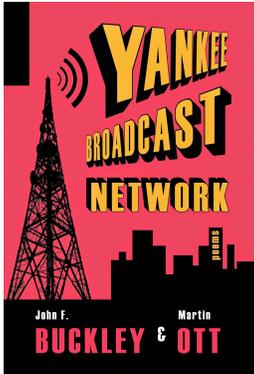


My book cover for *Untamed Pen*, designed by Chyna Blue, my feature at Art\_Iz Art Gallery in Mt Rainier, Maryland, my feature at The Townhouse Lounge in Vallejo, California, one of the venues at the Bpc Poetryfest in Atlanta, Georgia, poets fellowship together at the hotel during Poetryfest #LobbyLife, my performance at the historic Nuyorican Poets Cafe in New York, my official picture on my book, pictures of me and other poets at Poetry by the Bay at The Hub in Vallejo, California.

You can find me on Facebook (Lisa N Wiley), Twitter (@Msbhavin\_Allday), Instagram, SoundCloud and reverbnation, all under LeeLee Aint Msbehavin'.

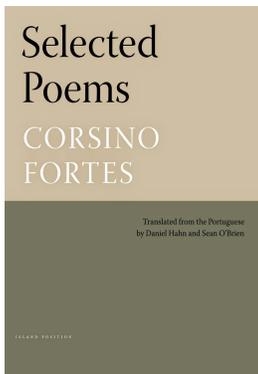
I am about to start working on my first spoken word cd with Walter Pop Matthews IV of POP Productions.

## Current Flows



Title: Yankee Broadcast Network  
Author: John Buckley and Martin Ott  
Genre: Poetry  
Available: Amazon

“Surely there’s never been a better book of poetry about television.” -Campbell McGrath  
“Time and again I laughed, I marveled.” -Eduardo C. Corral  
“These poems are filled with contemporary profundities and ancient mysteries. They spill ever forwards like a movie you can’t quite believe you’re seeing.” -Matthew Rohrer  
In this raucous follow-up to their highly praised debut of collaborative poetry, Poets’ Guide to America, Buckley & Ott set their sights on our relationship with TV. Everything is fair game with this duo, whose work combines humor, irreverence, and speculative flights of fancy to examine a culture enamored with the documentation of its identity.



Title: Selected Poems  
Author: Corsino Fortes  
Genre: Poetry Anthology  
Available: Amazon

Concerned with giving voice to Cape Verdean life, Fortes writes in Cape Verdean Creole - and not just standard Portuguese - a powerful statement reinforcing the islands' distinctive African nature. However, his poems are often written from the perspective of an exile - and themes of exile and redemptive return recur in his work. This collection introduces English readers to Fortes, and the poet's beautiful and unique use of language.



Title: Manger  
Author: Lee Bennett Hopkins  
Genre: Holiday Poetry  
Available: Amazon

There is a legend that describes how, at midnight on Christmas Eve, all creatures are granted the power of speech for one hour. In this rich collection, Lee Bennett Hopkins and a dozen other poets imagine what responses they might offer. The poems represent a diverse group of animals, but all come together with one singular purpose: celebrating the joy of the miraculous event. This collection of graceful poems provides readers with a Nativity story unlike any other -- at times gently humorous, at times profound, but always inviting readers to appreciate the wonder of Christmas. This book is a perfect gift for the holiday season. Includes poems by... Lee Bennett Hopkins Joan Bransfield Graham Amy Ludwig VanDerwater X. J. Kennedy Jude Mandell Marilyn Nelson Jane Yolen Ann Whitford Paul Prince Redcloud Rebecca Kai Dotlich Michele Krueger Alma Flor Ada Alicia Schertle