

# All Authors Magazine

Issue 15:  
Spectrum State of Mind



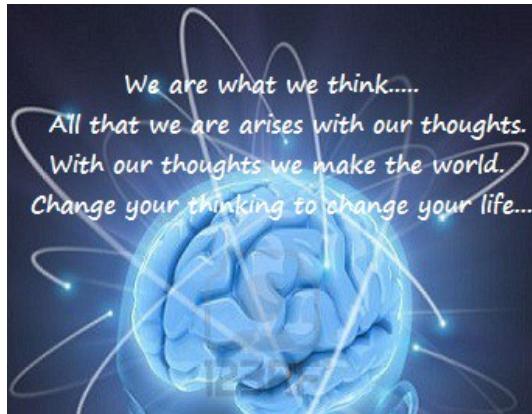


# All Authors Magazine

## Issue 15: Spectrum State of Mind

### Intro

#### ***The Spectrum State of Mind***

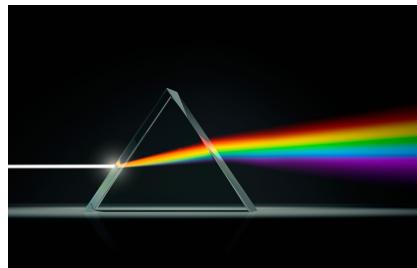


How do we know we exist? How can we say for sure?

Many theories have risen throughout the myriad years of the human age. Some say we know we exist because we have a soul. Others tell us, we know we exist because of human interaction. Others still, say that existence is emotion.

The most famous of lines was said by Rene Descartes, who told us, "I think, therefore I am." There were no five words that were so true or accurate. What good is the body after all if it is a vacant shell, void of thought and empathy? It is of no use. More than that, it is not living.

The spectrum of light is a terrific example of how our minds work.



The thin stream of light that goes into a prism is like existence, our thoughts, as it were. The triangle represents the filter which is our brains, and the lovely array of colors that exudes from the other end is the various accomplishments we achieve daily.



As an autism parent, on a daily basis I see how well the rainbow of colors represented within the prism perfectly explains my son's thought process.

I marvel at him as he never questions his existence. He simply knows that he is ... period. I also stand in awe at the magnificence of his various ideas. So many wonderful concepts all tightly knit into a mind that is an enigma.



On the other hand, I find that it is not just his mind that is a rainbow of reflections. I also, as an artist, find myself continually piecing together conjectures and hypotheses about various things. Some of which I include in my own stories.

So this begs the question:

***What is the spectrum of our state of mind?***

This answer is this, and it is clear ...

The mind is a fortress of notions and powerful concepts. We know we are real because our mind tells us that we are. And, we can do anything we put our minds to.



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

The Lost King by Devorah Fox  
AACE Recipient

Horizon by Tabitha Lord  
Awesome Covers

The Puzzling Puzzle Piece  
Guest Article

Larie Edwards  
Poetry Unleashed

And of course, our beloved columnists for this issue:

Harmony Kent

A. Lopez, Jr.

Beem Weeks

C. Desert Rose

Adonis Mann

Queen of Spades

Y. Correa

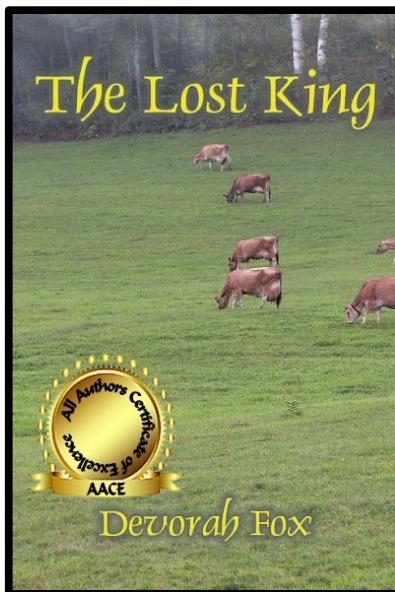


# All Authors Certificate of Excellence

## WHO WON?

### **AACE Recipient**

Every four months, All Authors Publications and Promotions selects a book that is closely in alignment with the characteristics of creativity and excellence. The first All Authors Certificate of Excellence recipient for 2016 is *The Lost King* by Devorah Fox.



It is not uncommon to run across a “rags to riches” story. What if it were the opposite—where you have everything but wake up to it all being snatched away? This is what happens to King Bewilliam in *The Lost King* by Devorah Fox.

The attention to historical detail was magnificent, highly realistic. One could not tell where fantasy began and reality ended. It is a method of storytelling that many attempt but few have executed in the level of mastery as Devorah Fox.

There was a high scale of introspection present as King Bewilliam is forced to live as Robin. One travels through the roller coaster of trials with Robin—from mannerisms, to duties, to emotional angst—as he tries to adjust to this way of life, while dealing with the betrayals of those from his old life who he believed loved and cared for him. It was as if Devorah Fox put all the struggles of a modern day life—in particular, the current landscape of American life—in the pages of *The Lost King*.

All Authors is proud to crown *The Lost King* with the All Authors Certificate of Excellence because of its richly descriptive narrative, engaging storytelling cadence, and meticulous detail to historical accuracy. *The Lost King* is truly reflective of authenticity and creativity exemplified.

To see what Author Devorah Fox has to say upon accepting the award for *The Lost King*, please check out the All Authors Certificate of Excellence (AACE) website for her speech and to check out the past winners.

## Rave Reviews for The Lost King

Note: All rave reviews cited for *The Lost King* are on Amazon.

A Great Read of a Different Type by Mr. Tabasco  
Rating: 5 Stars

This novel has a terrific story and is well developed. It's a story of travel, greed, happiness, trust, distrust, lust, and love. What makes it different is the medieval setting. I read Coben, Sandford, Child, etc. This was a very interesting book I had trouble putting down. I highly recommend it!



Great First Novel by One of the Girls  
Rating: 5 Stars

*The Lost King* is an exciting roman à clef set in the days of queens and dragons. Follow our wandering king as he awakens in a cow pasture and starts his quest. Learn a lot about swords. A fun read. Looking forward to the next book.



An enjoyable trip to a fantasy world by Turtle Helper  
Rating: 5 Stars

This is a delightful read, held my interest and hated to put it down. Enjoyed the twists and turns and couldn't wait to get the next book. I highly recommend this as a light fun fantasy book.



The Lost King-a Fantasy Fiction Favorite by John W. Howell  
Rating: 5 Stars

Being new to the world of Fantasy Fiction I was a little uneasy about buying *The Lost King*. I expected to be forced to wade through baroque dialog and dark scenes of witches, sorcerers, fairies and knight machinations. I was willing to put myself on the edge of literary risk so that I could branch out from thrillers and contemporary fiction to an unknown (to me) genre.

From the first page to the last I was totally engaged in the story crafted by Devorah Fox. All my trepidations were for naught. The story could have taken place today, but was pleasantly set in the country side with a likable king who had mysteriously lost his way while hunting dragons. I enjoyed the detail and scene descriptions which gave me enough information to visualize the action without the over burdensome descriptions that some authors employ to get a story told.

The writing is tightly worded and dialog dead on. The book is a nice engaging read with evidence of extensive research into the period. The beginning of the story immediately involved setting mental pictures of the action and this carried forth throughout. The ending, although not sugar sweet, was in keeping with the characters' personalities. Included in the backstory and evident by other character development are the real themes of; strength of character, the value of hard work, and strong male and female characters that stand on their own and neither give nor take of others outside of expectation.

All in all a totally enjoyable experience. Kudos to Devorah Fox.

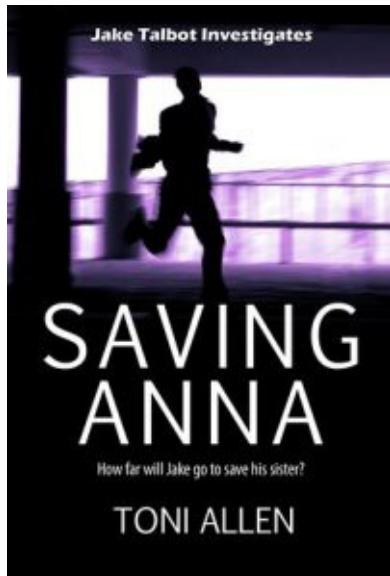


# BOOKS



# Recommended Reads

**Title:** Saving Anna  
**Author:** Toni Allen  
**Genre:** Investigatory Thriller  
**Available:** Amazon



## Blurb:

Detective Inspector Jake Talbot hates working undercover. Yet, when ordered to Dorset to observe a sinister cult for the Ministry of Defence, he accepts, because the group's beliefs pose a direct threat to his disabled sister, Anna. The MOD also need his friend Frankie's exceptional computer skills, skills he's prohibited from using except on the Ministry's behalf. Bitter from previous dealings with them, Frankie refuses to work for the government, but is willing to assist Talbot. Neither man knows what they're meant to be looking for, but observation turns into investigation when they discover a woman's body draped over the gravestone of one of Talbot's ancestors. Soon after, a dangerous piece of evidence slips into Talbot's hands, the plotters' desperation to get it back becoming the catalyst for murder. As they uncover a conspiracy that links psychic manipulation, drugs, and death, the two friends grow from master and apprentice to partners in detection, protecting each other from increasing hazards. The trail leads them into deeper shadows, where Talbot's old enemy waits to wreak a revenge that is as shocking as it is painful. It will take all of Talbot's detective skills, and Frankie's brilliance and imagination, working together, if they are to bring down the criminal conspiracy and defeat his enemy. Set on the beautiful Dorset coast, this gritty psychological thriller races to a chilling conclusion in which Frankie and Talbot must face the cost of saving Anna.

**Title:** Elemental Earth  
**Author:** Harmony Kent  
**Genre:** YA Fantasy  
**Available:** Amazon

## Blurb:

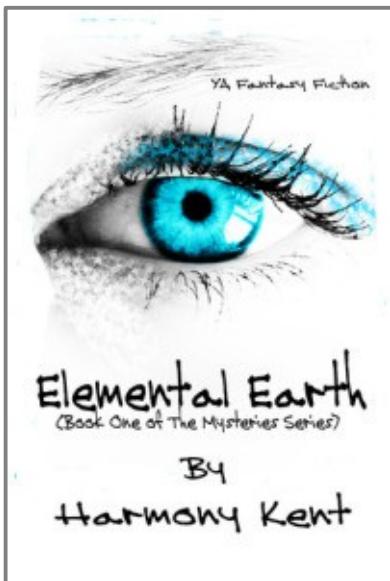
"You turned the god of gnomes into a Garden Ornament?"  
Sarah looked closely, but couldn't tell if her dad was annoyed or amused—perhaps he was both ...

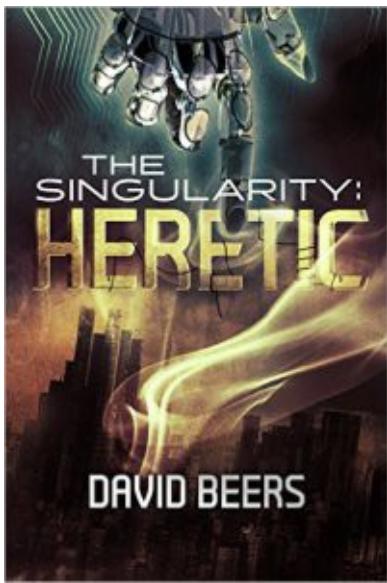
Whilst 15 year old Sarah may be struggling to regain her feet, after being ripped from her everyday mundane life and ending up in a whole new dimension, she still knows how to have a bit of fun along the way. The Earth Elemental isn't the only one whose feathers she manages to ruffle, and it's only been four days. Meanwhile, her best friend is missing, and big trouble is brewing. She soon has a lot more to worry about than what happened to her phone or iPod, or even how much of an idiot Caleb obviously thinks she is.

Elemental Earth is the first book in The Mysteries series, and is aimed at Young Adults. Even if you've already reached an age where the young ones might call you 'old enough', if you're still young at heart then you're bound to enjoy these books just as much as the next—err—Younger adult.

Age aside, perhaps we should be more worried about what further havoc Sarah's antics might be about to wreak on the universe as we know it? We'd probably all be sleeping a lot more soundly if she'd only stuck to applied maths and the odd pillow fight. But no, sadly the lure of the proverbial rabbit hole proved just a tad too much. And now she's taken the plunge, there's no turning back.

You'll have to wait until you're 16 to read Harmony's other two books: The Battle for Brisingamen and The Glade. In the meantime, you can occupy yourself with the second book in this series: Air-Born (The Mysteries: Book 2). Coming soon.





**Title:** *The Singularity: Heretic: A Thriller*

**Author:** David Beers

**Genre:** Sci-Fi Thriller

**Available:** Amazon

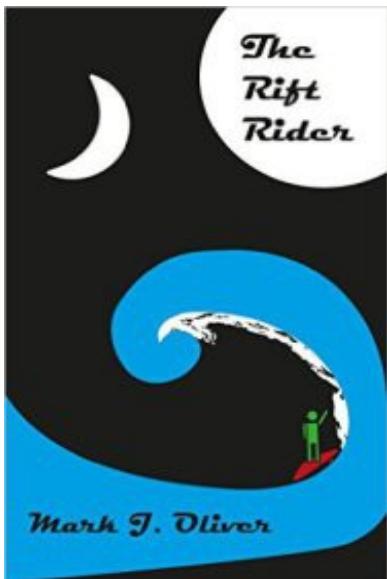
**Blurb:**

Book One in The Singularity Series! One thousand years in the future, humans no longer rule...

In the early twenty-first century, humanity marveled at its greatest creation: Artificial Intelligence. They didn't foresee the consequences of such a creation, however.

Deemed The Genesis, the Intelligence quickly decided humanity couldn't continue in its current form, that if it did, destruction awaited the world. Resorting to drastic measures, entire generations of humans grew from laboratories, and within a thousand years, the threat of destruction evaporated.

Now, in a world where humans must meet specifications to continue living, a man named Caesar emerges. Not meeting specifications, indeed, thinking things no human should, eyes fall on Caesar, eyes that could kill him or lift him up, lead him to tragedy or revolution.



**Title:** *The Rift Rider*

**Author:** Mark J. Oliver

**Genre:** General Fantasy

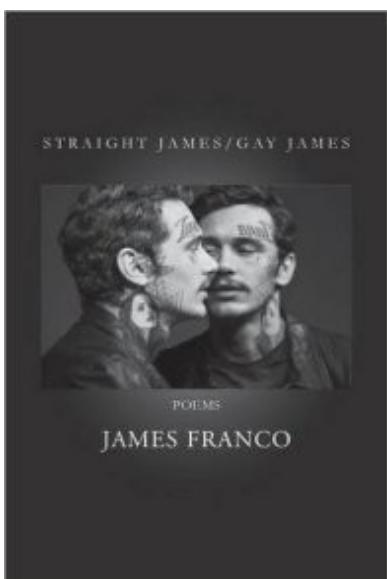
**Available:** Amazon

**Blurb:**

One night surfer, Charlie Scott, catches a wave and is whisked away to a distant galaxy.

He embarks on a quest to find Brother Yojim, the one man who can help him get home. But on his way, Charlie is swept into an adventure involving the planned destruction of an alien race, a mysterious global power called the Corporation, and a cast of extraordinary characters.

Equal parts science fiction thriller, romance and surf adventure, this is a story you'll never forget.



**Title:** *Straight James/Gay James*

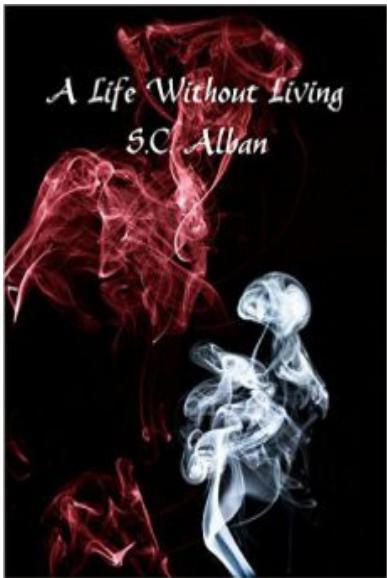
**Author:** James Franco

**Genre:** Poetry

**Available:** Amazon

**Blurb:**

Actor James Franco's chapbook of poems explores the different personas he uses in his writing, art, acting, and filmmaking. The poetry varies from the imagistic to the prosaic. Franco's poems delve into issues of identity, sexuality, private and public life, being a brother, a son, an artist and actor. The chapbook also contains an interview of Gay James conducted by Straight James. Yes, Straight James asks the overwhelming question: Are you gay?

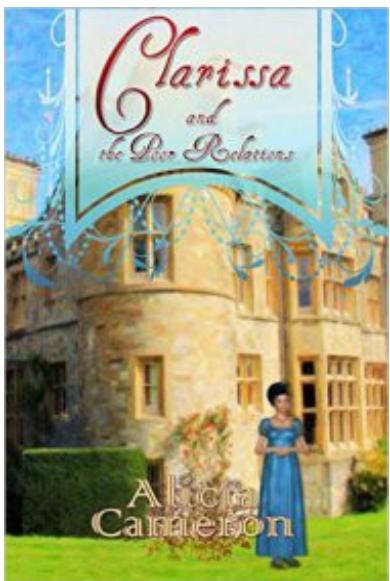


**Title:** *Life Without Living*  
**Author:** S.C. Alban  
**Genre:** Urban Paranormal  
**Available:** Amazon

**Blurb:**

Kate Martins appears to have it all, a good career, a beautiful home, and an amazing husband. What more could a woman ask for? But when Kate's recurring nightmares begin to cross over into her waking hours, she discovers that her perfect life is not at all what it seems. It isn't until she meets a mysterious stranger that Kate begins to truly question who she is and where she comes from.

## Hot Off the Presses



**Title:** *Clarissa and the Poor Relations*  
**Author:** Alicia Cameron  
**Genre:** Historical Fiction  
**Release Date:** January 15th, 2016  
**Available:** Amazon

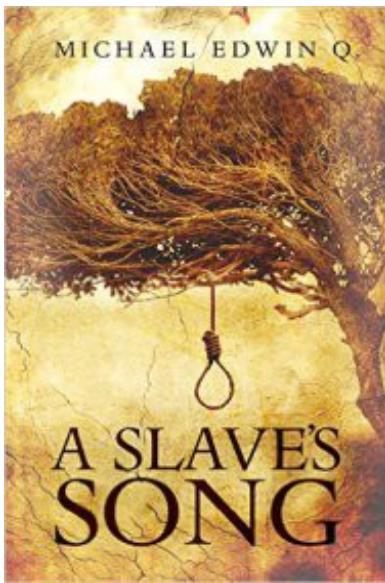
**Blurb:**

In Regency England Mrs Thorne's School for Young Ladies is about to close due to the death of young Clarissa's mother a year ago. This leaves eighteen-year-old Clarissa Thorne and her three school mistress friends no option but to return to the bosom of their families as despised 'poor relations' – at everyone's beck and call for all their lives.

But Clarissa has just inherited Ashcroft , a large crumbling estate, and she offers her companions an escape – run away with her to a life of independence and adventure. They must put the estate to rights with little money and less experience. Can sensible Miss Micklethwaite, aging romantic Miss Appleby and the beautiful Miss Oriana Petersham escape their fate? To keep the vivacious, impulsive Clarissa in check they must at least try.

However, their relatives may have other plans.

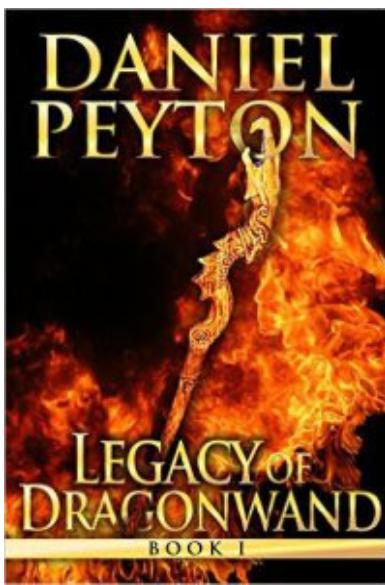
Meeting the Earl of Grandiston and his companion (a devotee of the divine Oriana) on the road sets hilarious events in motion. Perhaps to adventure the ladies must add romance...



**Title:** *A Slave's Song*  
**Author:** Michael Edwin Q.  
**Genre:** War & Military  
**Release Date:** January 30th, 2016  
**Available:** Amazon

**Blurb:**

From the author of PAPPY MOSES' PEANUT PLANTATION  
A Confederate soldier caught behind enemy lines makes for safety disguised as a traveling preacher. Along the way he learns the horrors of war, the evils of slavery, the plight of the slave, and the cost of freedom. By a twist of fate he becomes the pastor of a church of black slaves.



**Title:** *Legacy of Dragonwand: Book 1 (Legacy of Dragonwand Trilogy)*  
**Author:** Daniel Peyton  
**Genre:** Dark Fairy Tales  
**Release:** February 16th, 2016  
**Available:** Amazon

**Blurb:**

A teenage would-be wizard just wants to go to wizard school, but he finds himself on an epic quest instead...all the standard elements of a YA fantasy protagonist's transformation into a hero – KIRKUS REVIEWS  
He Who Seeks Power, Seeks Destruction.

Over 1000 years ago, nearly all the ancient wizards were destroyed after the Wizard Wars. However, the one who started the War still remains, having worked his will in secret. If he can find the last Dragonwand, he will regain his powers as the dark dragon. Unaware of the Dragonwand or the betrayer, sixteen-year-old Markus is looking for a wizard who will give him a letter of recommendation for the College of Wizardry. During his journey, he stumbles upon Tolen the Wise, who sends Markus on a quest to end the darkness and find the Dragonwand before it gets into the wrong hands. As Markus discovers growing powers and makes allies, will he find what he needs to complete Tolen's task, or will the ancient, dark wizard uncover the Dragonwand and forever change the fate of the land of Gallenor?



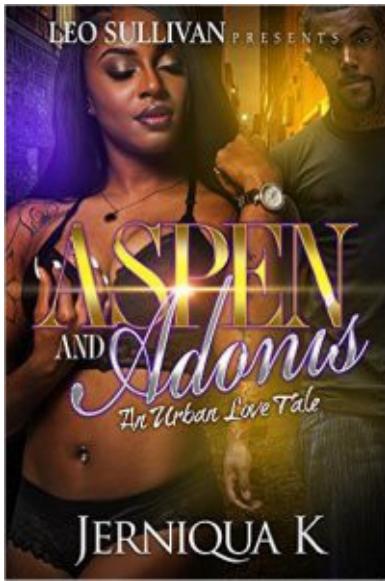
**Title:** *Crunch (The Riley Brothers Book 4)*  
**Author:** E. Davies  
**Genre:** LGBT  
**Release Date:** February 16th, 2016  
**Available:** Amazon

**Abbreviated Blurb:**

Tattoo artist Floyd Turner's faith in justice was destroyed when he was a rookie cop. He struggled for a couple years with drinks and his own anger. He's long past that stage – now, he runs a tattoo shop downtown. But despite his fulfilling career, he's nervous about the upcoming high school reunion. Not having a date to bring there reveals his insecurity: he aches for something more. And then, when he thinks things can't get any more stressful, his former patrol partner walks in.

"These tattoos better make a difference."

After his past caught up with him, cop Greyson Peters became a fitness instructor and moved back home. His old career was hard from the start, and he's always struggled to find a healthy outlet. He's slowly healing, pouring his energy into exercise, but he's still got unsightly scars he wants covered. It's hard to be a playboy when his self-confidence keeps taking hits. Worse yet, his family keeps pressuring him to get back into the force.



**Title:** *Aspen & Adonis: An Urban Love Tale*

**Author:** Jerniqua K

**Genre:** Urban Fiction

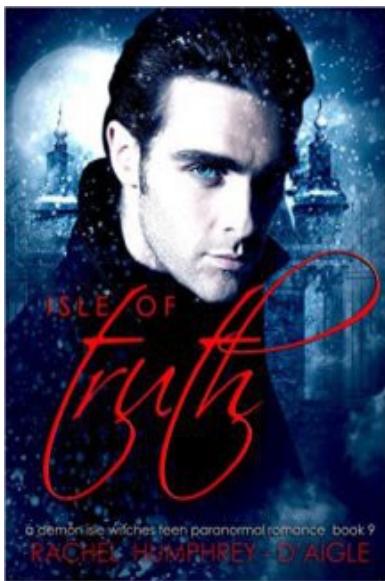
**Release Date:** February 19th, 2016

**Available:** Amazon

**Blurb:**

Aspen is the arm candy to Omere, one of the hottest producers around. Although she loves him deeply, she knows that the fame and money have brought out the absolute worst in Omere. The lying, cheating and mind games grow to be too much for Aspen, and she decides to take charge of the situation by steering her life in a different direction.

After losing the love of his life, Adonis gives up the fast life and focuses on his two-month old son, and opening his dream club. Though females are throwing themselves at the new bachelor from left to right, Adonis doesn't have time for the drama they seem to come with; until he lays eyes on Aspen. Sparks immediately fly between the two, but envy forces them apart, leaving Adonis scrambling to find his mystery woman again.



**Title:** *Isle of Truth (A Demon Isle Witches Teen Paranormal Romance Book 9)*

**Author:** Rachel Humphrey – D'aigle

**Genre:** Youth Paranormal

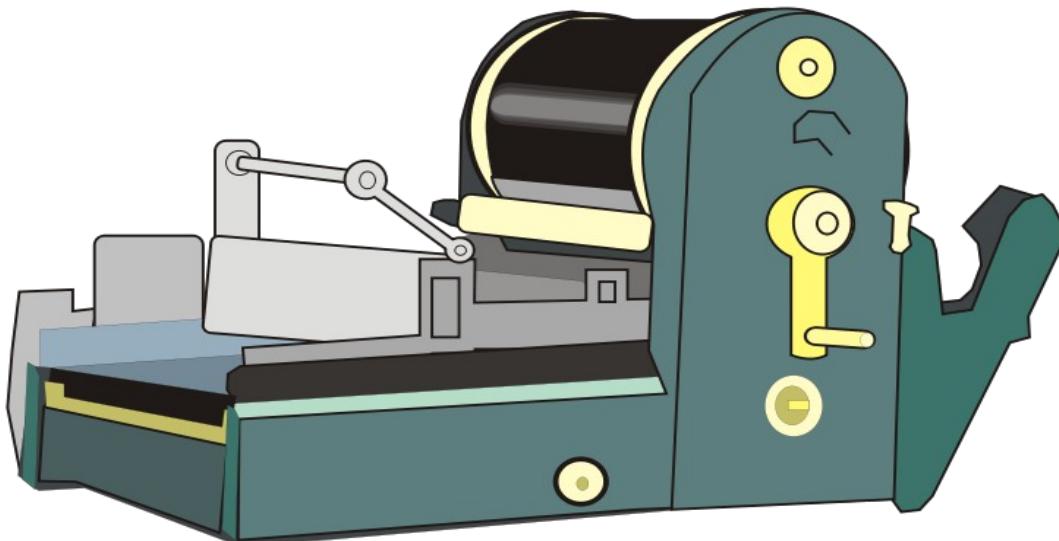
**Release Date:** February 22nd, 2016

**Available:** Amazon

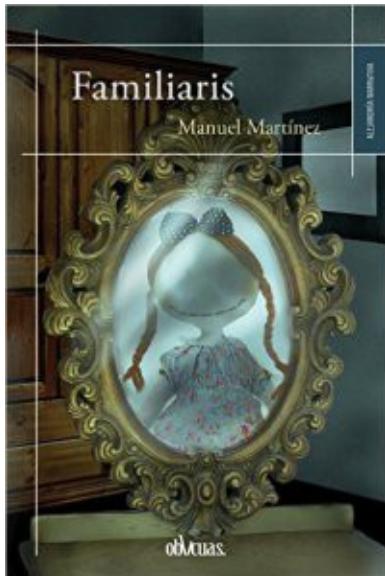
**Blurb:**

A Wicked Good Witches Paranormal Romance, Book 9, Hexed and Dangerous- The Wicked Witch of Future Past. The wickedest witch the Demon Isle never even knew existed put a curse on Grayson Moone and Lizzy Deane. Two lovers not only lost to time, but they believed, by death. Now, the past has caught up to them, throwing the present into supernatural chaos.

The curse must be broken before any more innocent lives are lost! The only problem... no one has any idea how to break it, other than they believe it must be Lizzy who does. However, when tragedy strikes in a most unexpected manner, breaking the curse may no longer be possible. Which means the cursed and bloodthirsty vampire, Grayson Moone, is stuck on The Demon Isle.



# International Corner

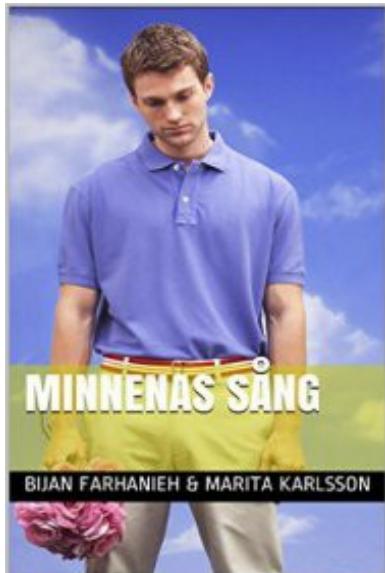


**Title:** *Familiaris*  
**Author:** Manuel Martinez  
**Language:** Spanish  
**Available:** Amazon

**Blurb:**

¿Dónde estoy? No importa. ¿Qué año es? No importa. ¿Quién soy? Una familiaris. ¿Qué he de hacer? Servir a mi magister. Cumplir sus órdenes es mi deber, y también mi felicidad. Eso es lo único que importa. Creo que seré capaz de hacerlo bien: estoy preparada para ello. A fin de cuentas, es la única razón de mi existencia. No debería haber problemas. No, es fácil, estoy segura de que nos llevaremos bien....».

Familiaris es un relato absorbente en la órbita de la ciencia ficción ucrónica, pero con un alto contenido psicológico y emocional. El acertado uso de la primera persona a la hora de relatarnos las vicisitudes de la inusual protagonista nos ofrece una perspectiva novedosa y apasionante, que sitúa al lector en una tesitura insoslayable.



**Title:** *Minnenas Sång*  
**Author:** Bijan Farhaneh & Marita Karlsson  
**Language:** Swedish  
**Available:** Amazon

**Abbreviated Blurb:**

Den här boken handlar om principer, känslor, kärlek och trohet.

Jan, en snygg 40 årig man och Ann-Marie, en mycket vacker 35 årig kvinna, kastas in i en situation som leder till att de omvärvderar sina respektive liv.

Jan har efter 20 års äktenskap fått problem i relationen med sin fru. På sistone har förhållandet mellan han och hans fru Rebecca försämrats och blivit kyligt. Slutligen har de insett att det inte finns någon annan utväg än en tillfällig separation. Rebecca reser till Göteborg på en 3 månaders vidareutbildning.

Ann-Marie har problem med sin sambo och en misslyckat äktenskap från tidigare. Efter ett gräl med sambon blir hon ensam och av en händelse träffar hon Jan. Hon har ingenstans att bo. Jan erbjuder henne att bo tillsammans med honom i hans sommarstuga till dess hon bestämmer vad hon vill göra i framtiden.

Ann-Marie är oerhört vacker men saknar självförtroende, vilket har gjort att hon har misslyckats i sina relationer.

Jan som har varit tillsammans med Rebecca sedan de var studenter, minns deras gemensamma liv med vemo och glädje.

Ann-Maries lockande sexiga utseende får Jan att första dagen känna en stark fysisk attraktion till henne. Senare, när han lär känna henne bättre, hennes vänlighet och omtanke, hennes moraliska kvaliteer, ångrar Jan sina ursprungliga tankar. Snart förändras Jans känslor. Den fysiska åtrån gentemot Ann-Marie, har övergått i kärlek, vilket skrämmmer honom.

Ann-Marie har för första gången i sitt liv träffat någon som förstår henne och tillfredsställer hennes känsломässiga behov och inte bara är ute efter hennes kropp. Hon har träffat en person som hon kan läta sitt hjärta till. Samvaron med Jan har gett henne ett självförtroende som hon aldrig har haft förut..

I några dagar bor de tillsammans som ett par, utbyter åsikter, pratar om kärlek, livet, familj mm. Samvaron uvecklas gradvis från vänskap till kärlek.



**Title:** *Heini Holzer. Meine Spur, mein Leben: Grenzgänge eines Extrembergsteigers*

**Author:** Markus Larcher & Heini Holzer

**Language:** German

**Available:** Amazon

**Blurb:**

Heini Holzer war der Steilwandfahrer der Siebzigerjahre. Als Gratwanderer zwischen Erfolgswang und Todesehnsucht war er einer der ersten und besten seiner Zunft. Am 4. Juli 1977 starb er im Alter von 32 Jahren beim Versuch, die Nordostwand des Piz Roseg in der Berninagruppe zu befahren. Es war seine 104. Steilwandfahrt. Holzer war ein außergewöhnlicher Mensch: Aus einfachsten Verhältnissen stammend, klein von Statur, aber zäh und willensstark, bewältigte er höchste Schwierigkeitsgrade in Eis und Fels. Als Hirte und Kaminkehrer blieb er aus Überzeugung Amateur, spielte aber in den Sechziger- und Siebzigerjahren im Wettbewerb um Erstbesteigungen und -befahrungen der verbliebenen weißen Flecken der Alpen ganz vorne mit. Sein Können als Kletterer stellte er unter anderem als Seilgefährte von Sepp Mayerl, Peter Habeler oder Günther und Reinhold Messner unter Beweis. Seine Welt war jene des VI. Schwierigkeitsgrades (damals der höchste) und der 55°-Wände. Im Steilwandfahren entwickelte er seinen eigenen Stil und befuhr die Wände nur, nachdem er sie im Aufstieg bezwungen hatte. Niemals bediente er sich eines Helikopters.



**Title:** *Biierubungaku*

**Author:** horitatsuo & natsumesouseki

**Language:** Japanese

**Available:** Amazon

**Blurb:**

これは、ボーイズラブ？それとも、芸術？  
「BL 臭」ただよう短編小説アンソロジー。

<収録作品>

堀辰雄「燃ゆる頬」

夏目漱石「京に着ける夕」

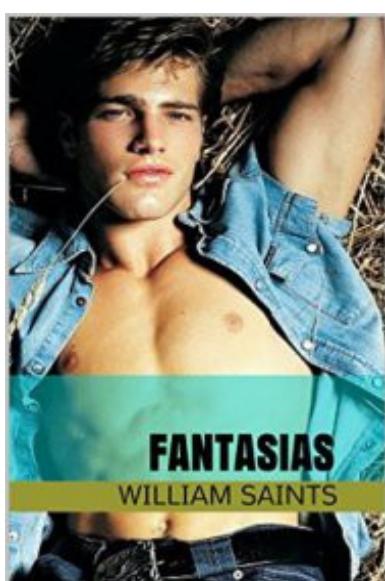
梶井基次郎「Kの昇天—或はKの溺死」

浜尾四郎「悪魔の弟子」

太宰治「駄込み訴え」

芥川龍之介「谷崎潤一郎氏」

森鷗外「キタ・セクスアリス」



**Title:** *Fantasias*

**Author:** William Saints

**Language:** Portuguese

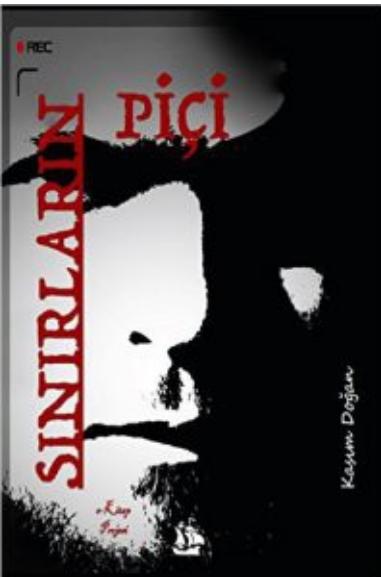
**Available:** Amazon

**Blurb:**

Excitante. Intenso. Proibido.

FANTASIAS é capaz de tirar o fôlego, deixar corações descompassados.

Com uma escrita prazerosa e incrivelmente envolvente suas palavras despertam desejos profundos. Ira te conquistar.



**Title:** *Sinirlarin Pici*  
**Author:** *Kasim Dogan*  
**Language:** *Turkish*  
**Available:** [Amazon](#)

**Blurb:**

Icine dustugun karanliklari, varliginin parçası olan soruları, icini eriten mutlu anları biriyle paylaşmazsan coktan olmussun gibi hissettin mi hic? Dilin ile dinlemeye meraklı bir kulak arasındaki mesafenin, seni hayatı tutacak tek yol olduğunu dusundun mu? Hayatını, hic tanimadığın birine anlatacak olsan, hangi kisimlarini atlar, hangilerini anlatirdin? Kimleri o anligina kenarda bırakır, kimleri hikayenin yoldası yapardın? Tut nefesini ve dusun. Olume ne kadar yakın hissetmen gerek, hayatının film seridi gibi gözlerinin onunden geçmesi için? Kapa bir an gözlerini, don hele cocukluguna, hayat aksin, sen kirlenme buyudukce içindeki çocuk ses versin hikayene, tutsun ellerini, ozun lekesiz kalsın.

## Drive By Reviews

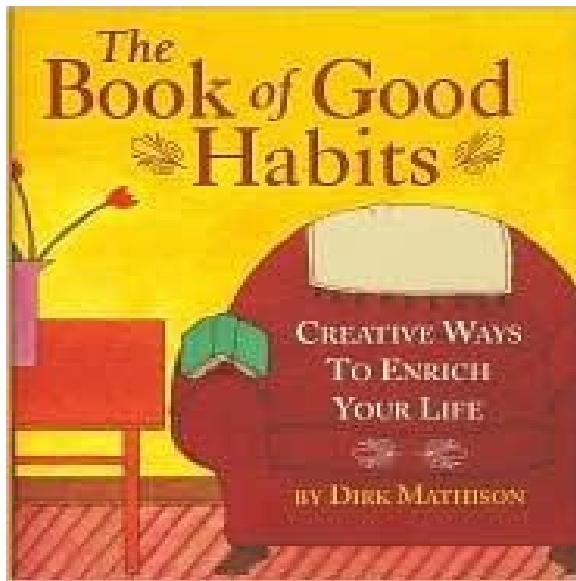
Greetings and welcome to Drive By Reviews with Adonis Mann. Today I will be bringing you a different sort of book, one that I would not normally read. A self-help book.



Long ago the luster of self-help books was lost to me. It transpired during the boom of "Chicken Soup for the Soul". Now, I've no qualms with said piece of literature, I just found that it wasn't necessarily for me. At that time, I also discovered the decline in the quality of self-help books, and thusly, their allure was all but gone.

Notwithstanding, for this issue of Drive By Reviews, I was dared to pick a book from a random bookshelf and the one that happened to catch my eye was the book I am featuring today.

Say hello to ...



***The Book of Good Habits***  
BY  
*Dirk Mathison*  
[Goodreads](#) | [Amazon](#)

**BLURB:**

What is a good habit? It could be something as practical as turning off the TV when there's nothing good on, as sublime as drinking green tea out of a blue cup, or as seemingly frivolous as humming the overture from Evita in a crowded elevator.

No matter how you define it, habits are the ways and means of our lives. As Dirk Mathison points out, it's only through the discipline of daily ritual that we achieve our goals. With wit, humor, satire, and a dash of cynicism, he offers nearly 2,000 smart tips, relaxing measures, and cheeky suggestions about the mind, health, safety, sex, love, friendship, parenting, and more.

At the heart of this entertaining book is the belief that if we change our daily behavior, our lives will change as well—that through our habits we give life to our ideas and our ideals.

Combining his own wit and cynical good sense with those of such philosophers as Confucius, Groucho Marx, and James Brown, Dirk Mathison urges everyone to acquire good habits. What's a good habit? A good habit can be:

Practical: Keep a pair of tennis shoes at the office so you can take a quick run or power walk during breaks.

Sublime: Put a single perfect flower in a perfect vase.

Ridiculous: Slap up. If you must slap, make it a habit to slap someone who makes more money and is more prominent than yourself.



**MY THOUGHTS:**

I've got to be completely honest and say that I expected a humdrum, uneventful, preachy read when picking up this book. I was truly anticipating it to be like the many other self-help books on the market. That is to say, a elongated lecture in book form.

What I did not expect is what I actually got. I was pleasantly surprised to find that I earnestly enjoyed this little book. When the author chose to subtitle this work "Creative Ways to Enrich Your Life", he did not do so in vain.

While the book is relatively small, standing at only 214 4 inch pages, most of which are illustrated, what information we are given is lighthearted and coherent.

The book is broken up into segments. They are:

1. A Few Habits of the Mind
2. On Matters of Health & Safety in a Terribly Treacherous World
3. Putting One's Home in a Semblance of Order
4. On Being in the Good Company of Other People

Within each segment are categories, each one focused on teaching you some good new habits that one can implement in one's daily life so as to better the entirety of existence; mind, body and soul.

Some of the feedback which I treasured were things like:

1. Segment 1; Category 3: Be a Scholar  
It speaks of reading, asking questions and learning all that you can.
2. Segment 2; Category 7: Eat Your Vegetables  
Which gives small tips on how to incorporate vegetables in your daily diet so as to better your health.
3. Segment 3; Category 14: Be Tight with a Buck  
This spoke of a better way to balance your budget and how to use money wisely.
4. Segment 4; Category 18: Raise Cool Kids  
This was a small tutorial on how to instruct your kids to be independent and free thinkers while indoctrinating them correctly.

My favorite thing about this little book was the humor utilized. It helped to maintain the reader's attention and was also helpful in absorbing the lessons learned, for everyone ones knows that "the cool teacher" is the one that makes the biggest impact.

Yet, oddly enough, THAT is what "The Book of Good Habits" reminded me of—the cool teacher in high school that everyone adored. I bid a congratulatory tipping of the hat to the author for the spectacular execution of this book.

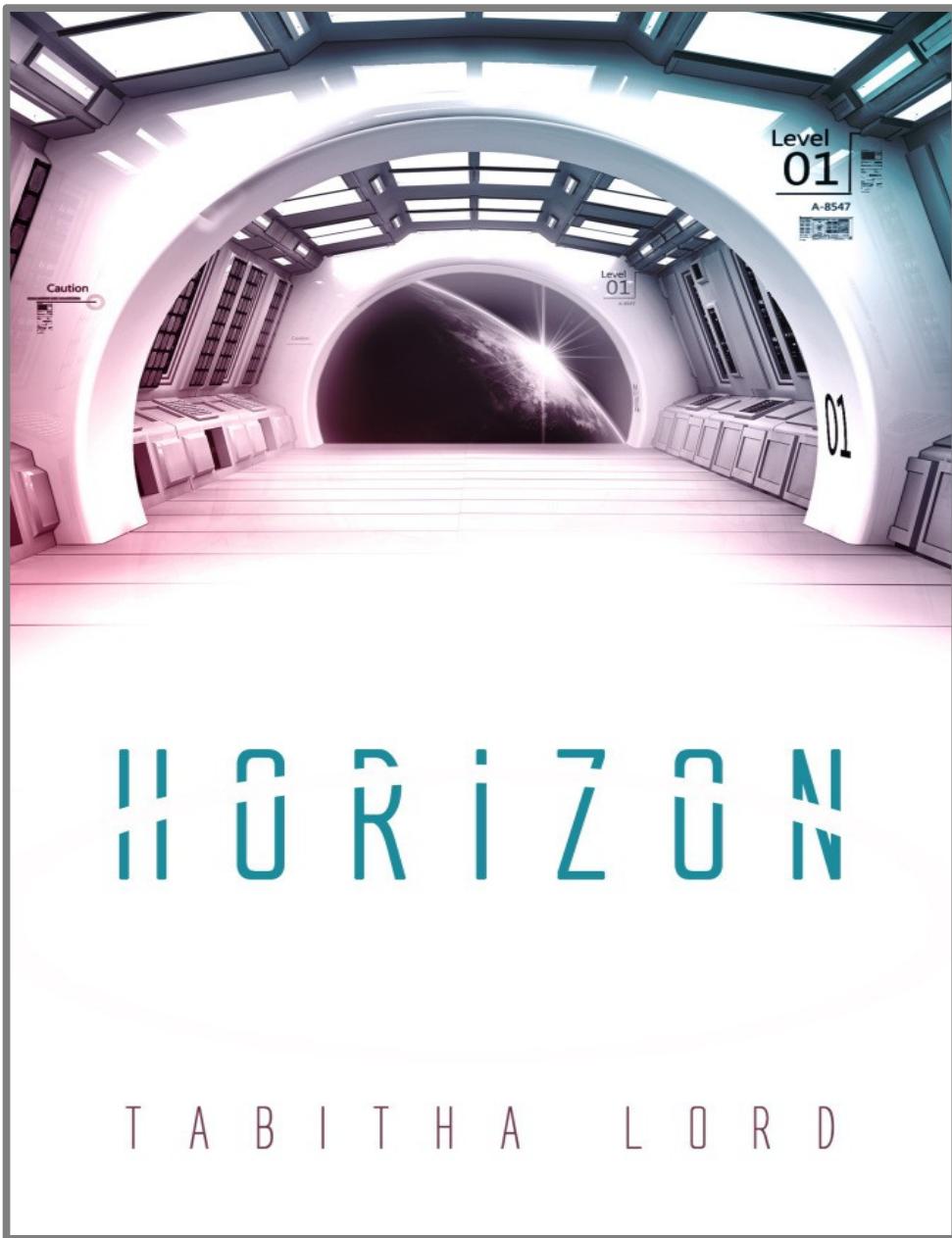
I give "The Book of Good Habits" 5 stars.



# FEATURES



# Awesome Covers



Horizon by Tabitha Lord  
Amazon | Barnes & Noble

## Synopsis

### Log Line

Fleeing a ruthless regime, an empathic healer risks discovery to save an injured pilot, never anticipating how that choice will change her world, and his.

## **From Back Cover**

Caeli Crys isn't living—she's surviving. On the run after the genocide of her empathic people, she witnesses a spaceship crash near her hidden camp. When she feels the injured pilot suffering from miles away, she can't help but risk discovery to save his life.

Commander Derek Markham awakens stranded on an uncharted planet. His co-pilot is dead, his ship is in ruins, and he's only alive because a beautiful young woman is healing him with her mind. As Derek recovers, Caeli shares the horror of her past and her fear for the future.

When Derek's command ship, Horizon, sends rescue, Derek convinces Caeli to leave with him. But his world is as treacherous as hers—full of spies, interplanetary terrorist plots, and political intrigue. Soon the Horizon team is racing to defend an outlying planet from a deadly enemy, and Caeli's unique skills may just give them the edge they need to save it.



### ***Who came up with the cover concept for this work?***

The immensely talented Steven Meyer-Rassow did both the cover art and interior design for *Horizon*. One of the major reasons I chose to use an indie publisher and not sign with a small press was so I could maintain control of the cover art and design. I'm not able to do that type of work myself (no skill in that area!), but I wanted to collaborate with someone whose style and artistry resonated with my own. Every single image of Steven's that I could find was stunning, and when we discussed my project, I knew he really understood my vision.

### ***How pleased were you with the finished product?***

I'm thrilled with the result! It's just beautiful! One of the things Steven and I also talked about initially was the fact that *Horizon* would be a trilogy, and we'd like to "brand" the series somehow. So in addition to amazing cover artwork, Steve created a title treatment that will carry through and give all the future *Horizon* books a cohesive look.

### ***Was it a conscious choice not to use people on the cover?***

Yes. Some of the early concept designs had people on the cover and none of us liked them!

### ***How do you think the cover presentation fits the content of the book? If it doesn't, in what ways does the visual differ and was it intentional or unintentional?***

While *Horizon* firmly belongs on the shelf with other sci-fi novels, it definitely crosses genres. I've been asked to describe my book in ten words and here's what I came up with: science fiction meets romance meets survival fiction meets military thriller! The cover, therefore, needed to have wide appeal. It needed to be intriguing and eye-catching enough for non sci-fi readers to pick it up, yet stylistically still fit in with its main genre.

### ***Is there anything about the cover that you would like to change?***

Not a thing!

If your cover could talk, what would it say to the audience?

Read the book!



For more information about *Horizon* and author Tabitha Lord, contact her via

[Her Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Pinterest](#)

# Guest Article

## The Puzzling Puzzle Piece

Guest Article  
by  
Mini Truth

Question ...



### ***What's wrong with this image?***

Perhaps I am a bit of a traditionalist in some things. No, you know what, I AM a bit of a traditionalist in some things. But only in the things that matter the most to me. For everything else, I tend to break the mold.

In recent years a grand debate has materialized that surrounds the most known symbol of Autism Awareness. And, while the symbol is still widely utilized by most people and organizations, there is a vast group that claim the well known “puzzle piece” is no longer an apt symbol to represent autism.

My question is why?

Please, allow me the privilege to share a small, yet true story with you.

August 2005 my youngest child, Gino, at the time was just 3-years-old. Throughout his early development I could tell, from experience with children, that my son’s developmental state was askew. Off somehow, but I couldn’t quite place it. It was around this time where autism was really becoming a relevant condition and “awareness” was at an all time high.

Gino did not talk and he had certain bizarre behaviors that I could not understand, although I knew that it wasn’t something that he could control. It was obvious to me that much of his behavior seemed innate to him and were not by choice. Things like, walking on his tip-toes, spinning in circles for long periods of time, the need for constant mental stimulation, the fact that he couldn’t talk, his inability to focus or make eye contact. They were just some things I’d noticed off the bat, but then there were the smaller things; poor motor skills, inability to socially interact, seemingly oblivious to things and people around him, and so much more.

Withall, there was one thing ... *one single thing*, that kept Gino’s attention for hours, even days at a time.

### **Puzzles!**

Gino loved puzzles and while he had poor skills in just about everything else, he was a genius at puzzles. While most toddlers could scarcely put together 5 or even 10 piece puzzles together, Gino was already mounting 25 piece puzzles, and well I might add.

Little did I know at the time that his affinity for puzzles was just the beginning of a revelation that would take years.

Soon after this I came to learn that the puzzle piece was the “symbol” for autism. The first thing that ran through my mind was “How fitting! A puzzle piece to betoken my little enigma.”

Some would argue that I was ignorant of the history of the symbol and that is why I accepted it. Others would say that the symbol isn’t a good representation of the condition. All of this is good and fine, but for me, to me, the puzzle piece is exactly right. You see, perplexity that was my son kept me mystified for many years; it still does.

There are so many arguments that I’ve read about the use of said symbol.

In one article which was written by a person with autism, she indicates that she will not be subjected to the stereotype that said symbol represents. That, she is a person, an individual and isn’t all too happy with what the symbol represents. Her article is called “Goodnight Autism Puzzle Piece”.

Another article states that the puzzle piece is synonymous with Autism Speaks, which isn’t truly an advocacy program for people with autism, but a research facility. The article is called “Autism Speaks, But Should You Listen?”.

While I do think that to a certain extent this could be true I also have my reservations on this hypothesis.



### ***My Thoughts?***

Why can’t we just agree to disagree?

Not everything has to be for everyone. This is to say, if you feel that the symbol isn’t your cup of tea, then don’t drink from it.

Perhaps I’m personally intertwined so closely to the idea of the symbol that I’m am looking at it from a biased perspective. That could very well be true.

Yet, let’s look at the facts, shall we?

Throughout the autism spectrum there are various degrees of functionality. These measurements are depicted by a rainbow of colors. What is a rainbow of colors, if not the linear colors that is projected by the extraction and division of light, all who come from a prism.

Let’s look at this even closer, shall we?

#### ***Spectrum Definition:***

An array of entities, as light waves or particles, ordered in accordance with the magnitudes of a common physical property, as wavelength or mass: often the band of colors produced when sunlight is passed through a prism, comprising red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.

#### ***Prism Definition:***

A transparent solid body, often having triangular bases, used for dispersing light into a spectrum or for reflecting rays of light.

#### ***Puzzle Definition:***

A problem, or other contrivance designed to amuse by presenting difficulties to be solved by ingenuity or patient effort.

Arguably, I could say that “Autism Spectrum Disorder” and the Puzzle Piece go hand in hand. Here is why:

Autism is indeed a puzzling condition. Why? Because it is difficult to comprehend how a person can have such an ingenious way to approaching certain things, but lack the developmental capacity to achieve common everyday goals.

Once I was told that having autism is like putting the brain of a genius inside the mind of a developmentally retarded person. I couldn’t say that I’ve ever come across a more accurate description.

The differentiations within the spectrum of autism are so vast that the rainbow is the perfect representation of it. You see, no two autistic people are completely alike, yet in many ways they share similar traits. Colors are a projection of light—that is the only thing that makes them the same. And yet, they too are as different as every person with autism.

You and I; we, are the prism. We are meant to be the mediators that shed light on a condition that is so complex that no one can truly understand it.

So, tell me ...



Other than the fear of being “politically incorrect”, WHAT, pray tell, is the problem with this image?



# INFORMATION



# All About Indie

With Harmony Kent



*I think, therefore I am*

Human beings love to make the imagined concrete, and the random ordered. We love to develop a construct and then live our lives as though it is reality. Take what we do with time, for instance. We started out by finding a way to measure a day, and eventually broke that down into hours, minutes, and seconds. We devised a calendar to expand such linear time further into weeks, months, and years. However, when we look at it with an open mind, we find that time is neither fixed nor linear. A minute isn't always the same length. Usually, when doing an activity we dislike, or if in pain, a minute can feel like an hour. While the opposite is also true. Pleasure will have the effect of making that same minute pass in but the blink of an eye. And what about when we alter the clocks in the spring and autumn? What actually changes?—other than our routine.

So, if time isn't real, and nothing more than a convenient bit of make-believe, what does that do to all our other constructs? What about all those categories we seem to love so? Are they real? Do they have any meaning? Or do we need to take a step back and look with fresh eyes? What if we learn to use these things only as a means to an end, rather than defining our whole lives by them? What then?

It's all a matter of perception.

I used to believe in meticulous planning, which included believing in the illusion of fixed, linear time. Categories were important—they helped me to make sense of the world around me. The trouble is, I took them as being set in stone. It wasn't until I undertook psychiatric nurse training that I first began to suspect that all might not be as it seemed. Imagine my surprise when, after spending months and months learning about disorders and their symptoms, I then found that diagnostic labels (categories) had originally been invented as a budgeting tool. It didn't have anything to do with diagnosis, or sets of symptoms, for quite some time. Which, actually, explains a lot. Like, how come there are so many folks in the world who don't fit into any one particular box. Whose symptoms could fit more than one label.

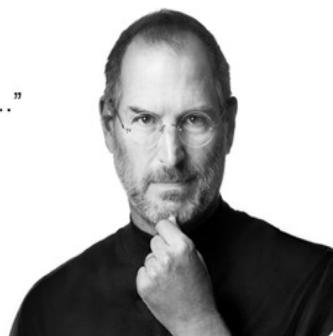
This being Autism Awareness Month, I did a bit of research and came across an interesting quote, in relation to people diagnosed as Autistic:

Today, the notion of an autistic spectrum is no longer defined by any sharp separation from 'normality'.

(Wing, 1997)

"Here's to the crazy ones,  
the misfits, the rebels,  
the troublemakers,  
the round pegs in the square holes..."

Steve Jobs  
(1955-2011)



Which leads me to ask, what the heck is ‘normality’ or ‘abnormality’ anyway? Who decides? That single sentence encompasses a millennia of changed perspective on this so-called disability.

The advent of Indie publishing has had much the same effect on book genres. Recent years have seen an explosion of new ‘categories’ compared to the snail’s-pace of change when the only option was the traditional route. Once again, genres came into being as a budgeting aid. And marketing. Let’s not forget that little nugget. By allocating labels, and the traits that fit into them, we can measure which one sells the most, and to what kind of people. We can then develop a product (write a book) that targets the genre and societal group most likely to purchase it. Such clear delineations can also help us when we are looking for a book to read—we know what kind of things we enjoy, and narrowing our search to a specific genre can be incredibly useful and save us a lot of time.

However, we must take the greatest of care not to allow language to bind us. At the end of the day, these things are no more than tools. They only have as much reality as we give them. The very last thing we want to do is to allow them to curtail our creativity. As writers, we are all aware of the power of words. We all know the importance of a well-chosen phrase. And what havoc bad language can wreak.

To let go of our firmly held views and constructs can be a scary thing, though. One of the hardest things I found about learning to meditate, was the letting go of thought ... because, without my thoughts, who was I? Whenever I managed to drop down far enough below the ‘busy’ mind, my sense of ‘me’ would dissolve. Which was—once I learned not to fear it—quite freeing. I didn’t have to be enslaved by my old habits or ideas about myself, my world, and the things I could or couldn’t do. Just as I no longer had to be bound by the words others might choose to use to describe the person they thought I was. These days, I take pride in being unpredictable. I refuse to be put into a box and stay there. Each time I pull fresh air into my lungs, I pull in a fresh me, too.

Each and every moment is bursting with potential. The less we are encumbered by words, the more we can use them. Creativity flows best without obstructions from the weeds of the mind. If we fill up with too much debris, we’ll dam up the river until downstream becomes nothing more than a barren desert.

You’ve heard of the self-fulfilling prophecy? Where the act of labelling a person will result in them becoming that label? That defined my early life, until I learned a better way to live. Because I believed what the people around me told me, I didn’t have much self-confidence, and felt like an utter failure. Their labels became my reality, until I ended up perpetuating the negative cycle by allocating those labels to myself on a daily basis. Talk about a vicious circle. Only when I saw through this, did I become free of it. The power of these labels was such that I couldn’t write. I couldn’t create. I didn’t own enough self-worth to value anything that I produced.

As authors, we need to be aware of genres. They can be useful in keeping us on the right road ... like road signs, and the safety barriers that prevent us from careening off the highway altogether and crashing and burning. It’s worth noting here, though, that detours are sometimes necessary, and that new roads are being built all the time.

For me, being a multi-genre author has proven to have both pros and cons. While it gives me freedom of expression, and the ability to explore a wide range of things, it also makes it difficult to target a readership market. My fans can’t guarantee that all my books will be to their taste, for the simple reason that though they may love my mystery thriller, they might not be able to stomach an epic fantasy.

If you have found your niche, and know precisely which genre works best for you, then great. Learn all there is to know about that genre. And, don’t be afraid to stretch the boundaries once in a while. If, like yours truly, you find you have lots of ideas for books that cover a broad spectrum, then own that identity just as fully as if you had a specific genre identity. Whichever end of the spectrum you find yourself on, be open to it being somewhat of a sliding scale. Things change. People change. You will change. This time next year, some aspects of your perception and preferences will have altered from what they are right now. Who knows, by the end of this article, you may already be seeing a new smudge on the horizon.

Dare to be different.

Question everything.

Resolve to be the best that you can be.



While routine has its place, sometimes a change is as good as a rest. Every now and again, try a bit of variation. The results can be really rather interesting.

At this point, I have to offer a word of caution. We live in a world that holds tight to those labels. Having said that, while change isn't always easy, it is always possible. In this modern arena of independent artists and writers, it is much easier to do something different. If what you've written doesn't fit into any genre that you can find, no worries: some kind soul has invented a genre called 'Experimental Fiction'—something our author-ancestors didn't have the luxury of.

Some platforms will consider adding a new genre for you if you ask them, but a lot of the bigger players won't budge. When listing your book for sale, it is worth studying what genre options each platform gives you. Just to make your life that bit more interesting, not all of them list them the same way. Sometimes, it can feel like trying to fit the proverbial square peg into the annoyingly round hole. However, the fact that we now have so many more genres listed than ever before is proof in itself that we can incite change.

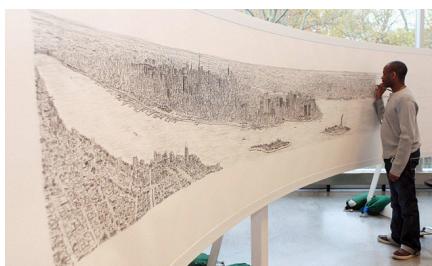
When publishing my books in paperback, I discovered that the listings on Createspace differed widely from those offered on Amazon's KDP e-publishing platform—even though Amazon owns both companies ... go figure. This is changing in some areas, but the two are not yet fully aligned. Then, of course, there is the difference between North American conventions and those found in the UK. Transatlantic publishing can bring its own set of unique hurdles to be overcome. Here is where we find that English is a common uncommon language. We use the same words to mean different things, and different words for the same thing. Writing and editing for both the American and UK markets has taught me a lot. It has shown me even more, the profound fickleness of words and labels.

In seeing this, I discover the joyous elasticity therein. Such stretchiness and malleability is a dream come true. It's playtime. Yep, we have our rules and conventions, and these all have their place, and we have our imaginations, which also have their place.

Life is not black and white. Anything that we think we see, hear, smell, taste, and touch, is in actuality, only the merest fragment of the reality. Our brains are adept at filtering out an astounding amount of information. It's a means of helping us to ignore the irrelevant stuff so that we can focus on the important stuff—the stuff pertinent to our survival. Usually, the first time we encounter an environment, our brain will allow us to perceive a much higher percentage of the information than the next time we encounter that same situation. Then the third and fourth times, it filters out even more. What it gives us instead, is the stored 'story' it retained from our previous exposures. This had never been so clear to me than when the Buddhist temple I was a part of, moved location, and our guests—upon their first visit—were looking for the coat pegs. We hadn't put them up yet, and so we hung their coats on the newel post at the bottom of the stairs instead. This stayed the same long enough for them to visit a second time. By the third visit, however, we had put up coat hooks. In plain sight. Opposite the newel post, in fact. Out of ten people, not one single visitor spotted the change. Their filters were so firmly in place, in fact, that even though we moved their coats from the post to the pegs, they still couldn't see the pegs when it came time to leave. They looked around for their coats, which hung right behind their shoulders, and didn't see them. The explanation for such blindness was simple; their brains were giving them the memories rather than the reality. They were filtering out. The monk in residence used this as a wonderful teaching aid to emphasise the importance of mindfulness—seeing as much 'reality' as possible, instead of simply believing the 'stories' we tell ourselves.

Interestingly enough, the more distracted we are, and the busier our minds, the more black and white and filtered out our perception is. It is when we are quiet and relaxed—most especially in some kind of meditative state, or upon first awakening from deep sleep—that we gain most information from the input of our senses and are more likely to see things in different shades. Instead of being blind in the bright light of day, the shadows reveal themselves to us.

One of my favourite artists, Stephen Wiltshire, is autistic. He specialises in line drawings. The amount of detail is stunning. Most of us are simply incapable of seeing that much detail. Because his brain filters only a fraction of what the rest of our brains keep from us, he struggles to navigate our busy, noisy, modern world. For many years, people gave him unhelpful labels and assumed he was lacking in some fundamental way—that he was 'retarded'. When viewed from a new perspective, however, he has been called a genius.



*This astonishing 18ft drawing of the world's most famous skyline was created by autistic artist Stephen Wiltshire after he spent just 20 minutes in a helicopter gazing at the panorama.*

*The unbelievably intricate picture was drawn at Brooklyn's prestigious Pratt Institute from Stephen's memory, with details of every building sketched in to scale.*

*Landmarks including the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building can be seen towering above smaller buildings after just three days in his spellbinding creation.*

From an article in the Daily Mail, October 2009.

In learning to revel in the grey areas, and refusing to be boxed in, we find ultimate freedom. The freedom of thought. The freedom of mind.

We have our whole spectrum state of mind.



### ***Books About Bullying***



#### **The Question:**

Anonymous Reader Asks:

*Hello, AJ. I am working on a children's book with an underlying message not to bully children who are different. Although I wanted to do just one book, my publisher has suggested making this a series, with each book being about a different type of bullying. If I opt to do this, should I compose them like graphic novels or like picture books? Any guidance would be appreciated.*



## **THE MATTER OF BULLYING**

The subject matter of this issue's question is at the forefront in a lot of communities. Bullying and everything that leads to it, the actual act, and the aftermath is something that should not be tolerated. Besides it being a mean thing to do, it leaves everlasting effects on the victims. Bullying can happen anywhere (parks, playgrounds, public venues, but most popular...in schools). I feel our schools need to take the lead and be proactive within their boundaries and take control of what will and will not be tolerated. Of course, that's my two cents on the subject. Now let's move on to the question.

A reader and author, obviously very close to the subject matter, is writing a book about bullying. The publisher involved with this project has suggested making the book a series with each being based on a different type of bullying. I am a proponent of a book in a series type project. The question now is: How many versions of bullying are there? I would say, to make this work, there needs to be at least five different ways a person/child can be bullied.

The author also asks if the series should be in the format of a graphic novel or picture book. I have not published a book in either format, but have seen many in both formats. Each style has its own structure and appeal and call out to different audiences.

### **PICTURE BOOK**

Picture books allow graphics and or pictures to help tell the story. It gives a great visual insight into the author's written word and into his or her mind as it was penned. Traditionally, picture books lean more towards nonfiction – which would work perfectly in this case – a fact-based series on bullying.

On the other hand, picture books can be used in fictional stories. Strategically placed throughout the story, pictures can tie a story together from one chapter to the next, and in this world of digital publication, the pictures, if desired, can be brought to life in color.

### **GRAPHIC NOVEL**

The basic description of a graphic novel is one that contains a fictional story presented in comic book form.

Its purpose is to tell a tale using more of a graphic illustration rather than printed words. The illustrations deliver the story with short summaries at key points in the plot. Also added are the speech bubbles to show the reader the ongoing dialog and give them a better connection to the characters.

### **THE BEST APPROACH**

First off, I would like to give my opinion about doing a book as a series. I feel there can be much appeal in extending a novel or story this way. Be it as 'Book 1, Book 2... et cetera' or as an episodic series, where one episode leads directly into the next, much like a TV series.

Whichever route you choose, each ending book or episode must lead into the next. Endings this way don't necessarily have to be cliffhangers, but some connection or tease has to be there to keep our readers interested and curious as to what might happen next.

In writing a book(s) with such a controversial and broad stroke as with the subject of bullying, the best way to present this subject is using a picture book.

If I were to write an article or a book based on the issue of bullying, I would want more type space to present the facts and individual stories and struggles of those affected by it. As bullying happens many times with children who are different or have some type of physical or mental ailment, many real life stories can be told. The written word along with pictures, strategically placed, would benefit the purpose and cause the most.

# **CONCLUSION**

## MY CONCLUSION

Of course, these are only my opinions, but after doing some research and knowing how bullying is such a hot-fire topic, I would want the most bang for my buck and use the valuable white space for as much of the written presentation and facts as possible.

While a graphic novel will appeal to the reader's eyes with the great sketches and colorful artwork, and be able to deliver the emotion and body language of any given moment in the story, I recommend using the picture book. It is a better fit and in this format, you are afforded the opportunity to tell the story of each individual case in greater detail. The different types of bullying that are prevalent in our society today are something that cannot and should not be ignored.



ALJ

# A Queen's Ramblings

***Beauty in the Spectrum***  
By  
Queen of Spades



A strange sound emits in proximity of the pillow. My lips twist in confusion until I realize that although I've had my new phone for a week, it is not been acclimated to my specifications. This must be remedied since the phone possesses a name. I only name things which are of great use and rename people via nicknames who are of the most beloved.

I lower my face closer to Angel—the nose hovers just above the screen. Although my body contemplates “Snooze”, the finger taps and slides the red X, ceasing the alarm’s blare. A gentle head butt from Needy the Cat echoes that the time to rise is here.

My feet move from the bedroom to the bathroom. Without looking I reach, then twist the knob to start the shower. Inspiration hits while my bladder empties. I search for my blue Bic Velocity pen but discover it is not at the usual spot.

*Could Richie have moved it last time he was here?*



Luckily, the backup pen—same brand but red—remains. I tear off a few sheets of Charmin tissue and start to write some lines, but the ache of my body renders my flow sluggish.

*Yes, I need some cleansing to regain focus.*

I set my scribe in my hiding spot before flushing the toilet. In no time, steam, water and the scent of Ivory Aloe Vera body wash collaborate—readying me for the day ahead. After adorning my work ensemble, my temperament shifts from calm to urgency. Time sprints on this day when it normally dawdles.

I pay the price for my delay. Honks, shouts, and curses litter the air. I am not far enough to see if the cause stems from an accident. Weary of hearing Drake’s “Hotline Bling” on the radio, I shut it off, turn on Angel’s voice recorder and spit some lines. No, *not quite lines* but ideas that could be parts of a poem—not necessarily the one waiting for me at home. I shut off the app once the traffic moves.

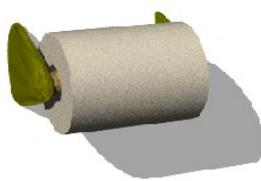
I approach the office parking lot, thankful space is still at the front. The eeriness tickles my skin because the lot is *too empty*. Once I get in my area of operation … also sparse. *Did I forget it was a holiday?*

My co-worker gives a puzzled glance, inquires if I got a text or a phone call from my boss. Apparently, there is construction to take place so only the *essential employees* are to work today.

*Um … guess which category I fall under?*

While traveling back, I listen to what was recorded earlier. It makes not a bit of sense now! That is what I get for swapping extra creamy coffee for Orange Pekoe Tea. Perhaps this tea contained a hallucinogen that transforms barbaric ramblings into psychological masterpieces. Whatever the rationale, deletion is this audio’s final destination.

*All is not lost—there is still the treasure in the bathroom.*



*I burst out laughing when my roommate wields a mop handle at the top of the stairs. “You scared the jalapenos out of me; aren’t you supposed to be at work?”*

*I explain to her how minuscule my place is on the work chain. This gives her a chuckle. T-shirts and pajama bottoms are my new attire. Now dressed for comfort, I am all set for my writing zone just as soon as I pull out my creation …*

There's an empty space where the red Bic Velocity pen and six strips of toilet paper used to be. My contact lens case, multiple plastic bottles of medicine, a couple of eyebrow and eyeliner pencils splay in the sink and around its base. The vessels near my temple throb. No longer able to contain my angst, a piercing scream escapes.

My roommate scrambles to check on me.

"Where.Is.My.POEM? It.Was.Right.HERE."

My roommate is not sure but suspects that her son Richie may have opened the cabinet to grab something. She assures me that he will be in deep doo doo once he gets home from school.

The space of time is torture. Sure, I could have composed more writings, but my heart and mind is stuck on what is taken. Yet, it is only speculation ... the theft. What if Richie mistook it for extra toilet paper and my special words were in Septic Tank City? Oh, the horror!

I brace myself once Richie arrives. Richie does not respond well to agitation so my approach to this situation is crucial. Unfortunately, he senses terror because of the angry look on my roommate's face and the way she is pointing at the empty space while glaring at him.

"I took it to school to finish it," he blurts.

"Where is it? Give it to her NOW," she huffs.

We follow him to his bedroom. He opens the book bag and hands me a sheet of construction paper. Since the topic is puzzles, Richie not only turned my words into well crafted puzzle pieces but added what he thought would be a fitting ending.

My eyes are misty—partly shame for being so angry but mostly touched at the beauty of his added stanza. The world tends to make fun of Richie because of his disorder. I see a spectrum of intelligence that not everyone can understand.

"Don't be mad. I made it better, didn't I Auntie?"

I smiled before kissing him on the forehead. "Yes Richie, you certainly did!"

### *The End*



In this segment of A Queen's Ramblings, I combine two entities that are a part of my life—my love for poetry and a young boy upon whom this free write is based.

# Short Story Station

**"Saint Thomas"**

By  
Beem Weeks



It began with a fever—a hundred five spike—right after the injections. He rode that for two whole days before it finally broke. When the fever left, it washed away his budding personality, that spark which had only just begun to gain form and shape. It's who he'd been meant to be, that early glimpse now gone. They claimed the injections had nothing at all to do with his current condition.

A mother knows better.

He hides in the closet most days, right after the other kids get home from school. He doesn't hide because he's scared of them. Thomas hasn't a grasp on the concept of fear. He hides to avoid playing requests.



"I just wanna play my songs," he says each day he enters the closet, "not theirs."

His songs, the ones he composes while the other kids are away for the day. Thomas doesn't like an audience. The other kids, though, they all want to hear him play pop songs on his piano.

"Play Rihanna," Paige always says.

"No," Billy will argue, "play that one song—the one from that movie."

If caught outside the closet, Thomas will oblige the younger sibling requests—but only grudgingly. He has an ear for song. One listen and he has it down note for note. It's all part of the spectrum his doctors are always going on about.

Autism made my son a musical genius. At least that's what his pediatrician claimed, way back when Thomas turned five and first climbed a piano bench. Beethoven dripped from his tiny fingers as if he'd been playing for a lifetime.

Reincarnation, my husband claimed. "He's one of the greats come back to life."

It's never as simple as that. Quirks accompany his talent. Thomas couldn't go to school with the neighbor kids. He didn't have it in him to connect, to engage with other human beings outside of family. Home schooling gave him incredible grades, though college proved one of those abstract dreams we never really managed to bring to fruition.

"Suppose you just play that Rihanna song once?" I ask, bartering his talent to appease my daughter. "Paige will leave you alone if you play it once."

There's no answer from the closet. He's inside his head again.

"Quit being such a baby, Tommy," Billy argues. "Just play that song we heard yesterday—the one from that cop show."



Billy and Paige are still amazed at Thomas's one-listen knack. So are his doctors—and a host of others who see concert revenue or music-download sales rather than a young man dealing with mental deficiencies.

We never treated Thomas differently from the two younger kids. And believe me when I say the boy has always been different.

"I'll play one of my own songs," he says from inside the closet. "I made a new one today."

But Billy and Paige aren't impressed with songs they've never heard before.

Billy whines, "How are we supposed to know if you're even playing it right?"

Paige stomps her foot, says, "You're so selfish, Tommy." She doesn't mean it, though; she corrects herself the way she does so often with her oldest brother. "No you're not, Tommy. You're not selfish. I'm sorry I said that to you."

Paige is my youngest. She's just eight years old, but her soul is as old and wise as the Dalai Lama's. She used to believe Thomas had abilities beyond the music. She'd tell him things from her heart—sort of like whispered prayers. And Thomas, he'd just tell her, "Okay. I'll do it."

"Make the kitty cat come back home." And then our long-missing cat appeared at the front door.

"Make Grandpa not have cancer anymore." Then some doctor pronounced my father cancer-free.

"Make me autistic," she asked, "so I'll be just like you."

That's the only time Thomas ever refused her prayer.

Of course it's never really Thomas performing these miracles.

I wanted so much more for this firstborn—the way any mother wants for her child: A girl he'd love forever, his own children to dote over, the prestige of some amazing career that would have me telling the neighbors just how brilliant my boy has always been. But girls scare him. And they scare me as well. They'll only damage him further. I've seen those anxious moments where interaction threatens to ignite the air, leaving all involved scarred and lost.

It never breaks out that way, though. It's just easier to extract the boy from the potential.

I never blamed God. God's not the one who brought the child to the pediatrician. But we'd learned from the firstborn what not to do with those that would follow. Paige and Billy have never felt the prick of a needle.

"Mine first," Thomas says, stepping from his place of hiding. "Then I'll play their songs."

Paige takes his hand and leads her big brother to his place of honor. "I love you, Tommy," she says, leaving tiny kisses on his knuckles.

Thomas loves her, too—he just lacks that sort of emotional vocabulary to allow for a verbal response.



At that piano, he's right where he's meant to be. Long fingers hover over the keys for a hushed moment before taking to dance, filling the house with delicate notes strung together like a strand of beautiful pearls. The mournful piece rises from the boy's heart, confesses the sadness in which he drowns.

I'm the one who cries at these moments. But I no longer weep for lost potential. These are tears of thanksgiving for what I have. Thomas is ours; the firstborn of three. The one I love most—though I'd never admit that out loud.

"I love you, Tommy," Paige says again, wrapping her arms around her sturdy idol.

"Okay," Thomas says, his stiff posture relenting, his body taking a lean into his baby sister. "I'll play Rihanna now."

# What NOT to Do!

*With Mini Truth*

POETRY IS  
INDISPENSABLE  
- IF I ONLY  
KNEW WHAT  
FOR.



Jean Cocteau  
French Poet  
1889-1963

QUOTE-HD.COM

I want to share a little story with you today.

Once upon a time, in the not so distant past, I met a person—who I will call Abraham Black—whom was a poet but wanted to traverse into the world of novel writing.

Abraham and I met via Social Media means, and connected because he was looking for support and I was willing to give it. Abraham spoke to me time and time again about the novel that he was working on. He even told me that because I was an established novelist, that he would love for me to take a look at his manuscript when it was complete as my feedback would be invaluable.

Cordially and humbly, I accepted.

Time passed, and while I awaited the much anticipated completed manuscript, I guided Abraham in the world on Indie Publication and the “what and what not to dos”.

Several months elapsed, then the day arrived.

"Y," he said. "It's done. Should I send it to you now?"

"Yes, of course. Please do."

Minutes felt like hours, but before I knew it my phone notifies me of an email. Not wanting to take any chances, I ran, turned on my computer, and opened the manuscript.

One look at the first paragraph of this manuscript, and I knew something was wrong. You see, throughout the months of our fraternization, Abraham had been sharing the premise of the story with me. I knew that it was indubitably something that I would read. Yet, when I received the manuscript and opened it, suffice it to say, that the narrative was not remotely what I'd expected. Not only did the genre seem wrong, but the syntax was mediocre at best.

"Abraham," I asked, "You said you edited the manuscript and it's a thriller, correct?"

"Yeah, absolutely!" He retorted with glee.

"Um, okay. Well, give me a few days and I'll read it then return it to you with me thoughts."

It took a few days, but carefully I thumbed through the pages jotting down my thoughts, and even serving as an editor for Abraham. When I was complete, I reached out to Abraham, emailed him the manuscript with my thoughts and suggested edits, and waited.

At first, he didn't talk to me for a few days. But, once he did he stated that I didn't understand his work but that he'd consider my edits. To that I replied, "Well, why don't you reach out to some other people, professional writers preferably, and see what they think."

Catching me by surprise, I was pleased to see that he did as I suggested.

Sadly, the outcome was the same. The people he reached out to told him the same things I'd said. Abraham responded with animosity, and told them too that they did not understand his writing.

Days turned into weeks and Abraham seemed determined to publish his manuscript just as he'd had it. He'd convinced himself that the poor grammar, punctuation and overall execution was correct and that the readers were wrong.

One day, Abraham approached me and told me that he was going to publish the book and I bid him good luck, but did warn him that if he had not made the corrections I'd suggested that the story would be unprofessional. He shrugged off my advise and published it anyway.

Soon came the reviews. Review after blessed review poured in telling Abraham that his book needed work. That it was replete with inconsistencies and missteps. That the syntax was less than par and as a whole, premise included, the story needed work.

These reviews made Abraham furious! "Haters", he called them. "Haters", because they simply didn't not get his style.

After a long time, I sat to have a one on one with Abraham. "Abraham, sometimes the universe only gifts us with one talent. Don't be ashamed of that, embrace it and fertilize it. Help that one talent grow. Not everyone is meant to do everything and that's okay."

Abraham was irate at my theory and inevitably our ties dissipated. Today, Abraham is still trying to sell a nugget of coal, as though it were a diamond.



You're probably wondering what any of this has to do with this issue of "What NOT to DO". Trust me when I tell you that it has a lot to do.

The world is filled with people that want to make a statement, people that want to be more than they are. And, that's okay. But, everything has a limit.

Within the author/writing community there are a certain set of unspoken rules, etiquette even. One of them is, "Trust the one that is on your side."

If you are new to the game, and desire to connect with the veterans in the field because you want to learn more and such, and you're lucky enough to find a mentor that is willing to help you grow, DO NOT hinder that relationship by convincing yourself that you are right and they are wrong.

Moral of the story?

Take heed in what true professionals that only want the best for you suggest.

Plus, the world is riddled with writers, but only very few are bestowed with the gift of poetry.

***Mini Truth signing off! Toodles!***

# POETRY



# Poetry Unleashed

~~

## Unleashed Feature



**This issue's theme is Spectrum State of Mind. How does your talent embody this theme?**

I feel my talent embodies this because, well I am always in a Spectrum State of Mind. Lol.□□

I'm just all over the place:) , All jokes aside it just means that my creative freedom can expand as far as I take it, especially with my poetry, I like to go where others may not want to go. I like to pick the most awkward topic to write about and run with it!

**What qualities make up a Person of Extraordinary Talent, outside of the talent itself?**

Qualities that make a person of this nature is community involvement, humbleness and letting your light heal other people.

**Your sound and delivery is a throwback to old school soul and R&B. Do you think your style meshes well with what's out there, or is it in competition with modern day trends in performance art and music? Expand on your answer.**

Hmmm, good question, well I think it does in a way, because I do incorporate Hip Hop and the element of Spoken-word in my style, Even though it might come off as and old school, but the mere fact of the element of poetry infused, I think gives it more currency and makes a little more innovative, at least that is what I'm trying to go for. Now as far as does it mesh well or in competition, well it depends on who you ask. If it is played with similar styles of neo soul or R&B, it fits, now if you put it with the sounds say a Chris Brown, Usher, Neo, it does not fit. I just say different styles for different formats. I just do what I do, not worried about whether its competing, you get stuck and frustrated that way. I say just build your audience that love what you do and go and grow from there.

**Describe the moment when you first won the Spoken Word Billboard Awards for Best Male Vocalist.**

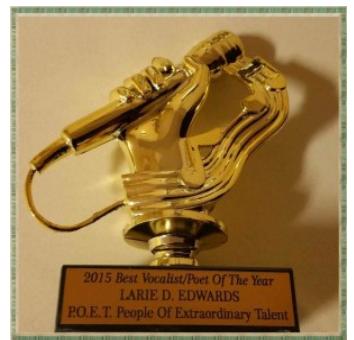
This was conformation of all my hard work as an independent artist, It was really special also performing and receiving the award in the motor city Detroit (Motown). I felt as if I was part of history, achieving that as an Indy artist in a city that was a hotbed for the Motown legends that heavily influenced my craft. Man, can I wish people could see the silent symbolism in that.

**As you've grown in popularity, has it been easier or harder to gauge cooperation and/or true respect from others in the same circles?**

To tell you the truth, I get plenty of respect in my circle, I try to dodge the negative stuff or people that might lit a fuse here and there, I had a couple of folks try to sabotage my shows, but to there dismay, it backfired and I ended up getting a standing ovation from their crowd when I did accapella performance. Lol.□□hot bragging at all, but when folks try things out of jealousy, the God in me laughs and press on.

**Which comes to you first ... the melody to the words, or the words to the melody?  
Depending on which order, does it impact your finished product?**

It just depends, I can hear some already produced music and go for it, it really does not matter, it comes in all phases. I can tell you when I hear a track or composition that takes me somewhere, song will be written in an jiffy. Lol.



**Are there any practices that other performers and/or poets participate in that you would like to see eliminated? If so, list them and elaborate why these mannerisms should come to an end.**

Hell Yes! Number one I will put this on front street, I hate the competition aspect between artist, instead of generalizing, I will have to call out Hip Hop and Spoken-word, and maybe a little bit in the R&B genres, sure there is healthy competition, but at the same time it gets really spiteful and degrading, the nonsense, jealousy and behavior it brings, that needs to come to an end. Another one is the ego trippin', that really needs to stop, who are you really? We are all trying to make it. Lol.:) Just wishful thinking I guess, people are who they are.

**When did you know that performing was your passion?**

I knew this when I actually was in middle school, my father Larie Edwards Sr started me off and instilled it in me, but never forced it, he would play the piano and I would sing church songs with him. He and my Mom always would play Al Green, Donny Hathaway, Marvin Gaye, Teddy P, you name it, so it grew on me. I did not take it seriously until middle school when I was switched to middle school chorus and man was I pissed, but my middle school teacher Alvin Campbell heard a gift in there and pushed me to sing and It felt good, I did not want to stop it really made me feel good and want to aspire. I could name a lot of people who heavily influenced, but the man who really got me in to it without forcing me was my dad Larie Edwards Sr. I also have credit my mother Gloria Taylor Edwards who is an author and poet in her own right and instilled that gift in me.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

I love listening to music, as I type this now I'm listening to music, but other things I enjoy, having great conversations with good friends, taking walks, writing poetry, songs, eating (Lol), and when I get a chance I love reading a good book, I like to study biographies of influential people.

**What words of wisdom would you like to share with our reading audience that has been of benefit to you in your life?**

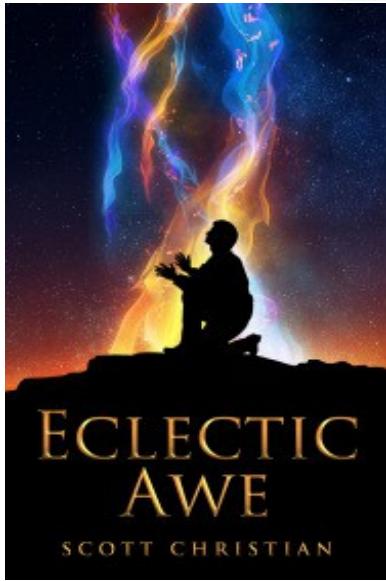
Just enjoy your life, you only live once, whatever you like to do, if it is productive, do it to the max, do not let people who are envious or stuck in a rut dictate your life because they are unhappy.



Are you interested in being part of a future Poetry Unleashed Round Table discussion? Send all inquiries to submissions@allauthorspp.net with "PU Round Table" as the subject title.



# Current Flows



**Title:** Eclectic Awe  
**Author:** Scott Christian  
**Type of Poetry:** American  
**Release Date:** January 12, 2016  
**Available:** Smashwords

**Blurb:**

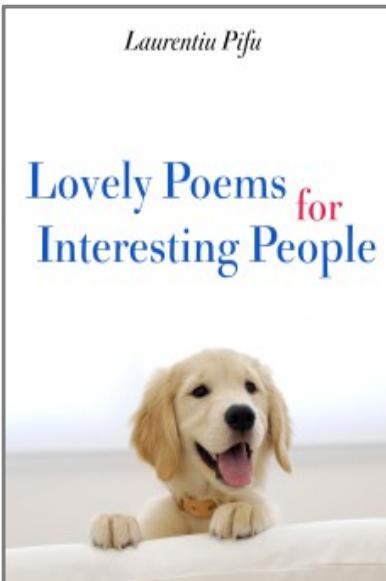
These poems are meant to inspire the soul through an accessible series of evocative experiences. In some instances this includes reflecting on God's participation in infinity, discovering strength in what's especially humbling, and keeping an open, ready mind when engaging life's beauties. A central idea here is that even seemingly mundane life brims with the miraculous.



**Title:** Inner Doors  
**Authors:** Robert Reed Paul Thomas  
**Type of Poetry:** General  
**Release Date:** January 21, 2016  
**Available:** Smashwords | Amazon

**Blurb:**

Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! Step right up! See the wonders and be amazed . . . Well, perhaps 'amazed' may be a bit optimistic, but it worked for P. T. Barnum so I thought I'd give it a shot. In reality, what you will find in 'Inner Doors' are a few poems and stories drawn from my life, dreams, and hopes. I invite you to take a moment and share in my journey.



**Title:** Lovely Poems for Interesting People  
**Author:** Laurentiu Pifu  
**Type of Poetry:** Spiritual  
**Release Date:** February 2, 2016  
**Available:** Smashwords | Amazon

**Blurb:**

Poetry eBook with romantic words coming from my intuition for your heart, mind and soul. It is an eBook about people, life, and important things for humans. Modern poems. Poems about people, life, feelings and love.



**Title:** *For You Who Know Who You Are, and Some of You Who Don't*

**Author:** Koda

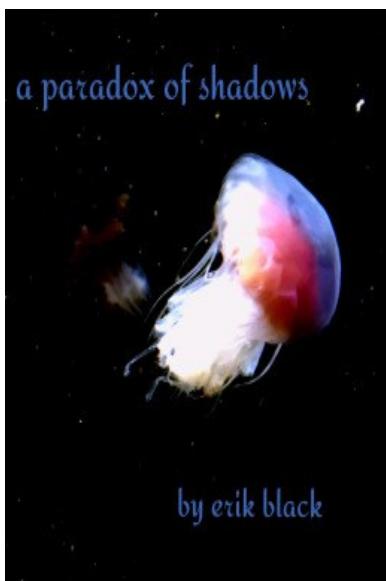
**Type of Poetry:** LGBT

**Release Date:** February 14, 2016

**Available:** Smashwords | Amazon

**Blurb:**

This second collection of poetry by Koda, out just in time for Valentine's Day, pays tribute to the joys and pains that come with loving others. From crushes, to long-term relationships, friendships, and beyond, this collection is both personal, and unconditionally honest.



**Title:** *A Paradox of Shadows*

**Author:** Erik Black

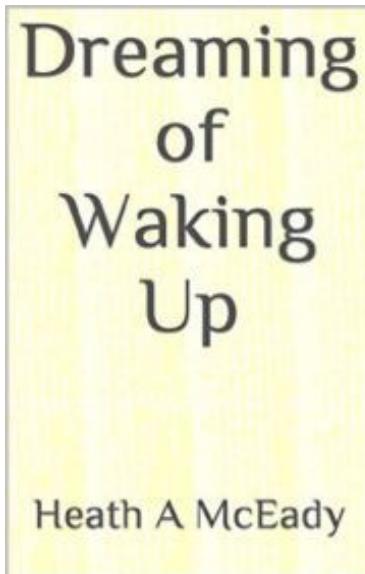
**Type of Poetry:** Contemporary (Nature)

**Release Date:** February 17, 2016

**Available:** Smashwords

**Blurb:**

Here is my 2nd book of poems of nature, dreams and the struggles and hopes of life. Thanks for taking the time to read them!



**Title:** *Dreaming of Waking Up (Smashwords Edition)*

**Author:** Heath A. McEady

**Type of Poetry:** Contemporary

**Release Date:** February 24, 2016

**Available:** Smashwords

**Blurb:**

These 12 poems are imbued with the sense of "Coming Home," be it a place, a time, or a state of mind. Each poem is a homecoming for the heart. Themes include carrying on to honor a beloved; atonement, bringing the heaven of love between two equals; protection of memories too close to yet be touched; the journey and arrival of the heart in various venues.

**FUN**

**YAY!**

# True or False



1. When writing nonfiction reads, it's great to have different perspectives on one topic as opposed to one solid one.

Aha! I don't know why I love these trick questions.

True & False.

There are always exceptions to certain rules so when writing a nonfiction book, contingent on the premise (Autobiography, Biography, Inspirational), it may be a good idea to have several sources but it might not. The true answer to this question lies on genre. If the genre is Biography and/or Inspiration or Self-Help then having several sources is a good idea.

However, if you're writing an autobiography than one source is sufficient. By "source" I mean, the people writing the book.

2. The puzzle piece symbol for the autism spectrum is used internationally.

True.

Most countries use the puzzle piece as an international symbol of autism awareness. While some countries debate whether or not the puzzle piece is a proper symbol for this condition, as it stands, currently the puzzle piece remains the Autism Awareness Symbol.

3. Poetry can take on different rhythms and forms.

True.

Poetry is a very diverse genre. Authors of poetry use various approaches to portray their messages. It doesn't always rhyme, sometimes poems even take the shape objects. There are as many forms of poems as there are poets; Acrostics, Odes, Shape Poems, Sonnets and a wide array of distinct kinds.

4. Using Voice Aloud on your electronic reader provides a better reading experience than the usual method.

False.

Having Voice Aloud or any other text-to-speech program is useful. Nice even. And many readers love to have that sort of gadget. However, while the experience is enjoyable and even useful, some readers still prefer reading books for themselves. Most readers love the practice of creating fictional worlds in their minds. That includes creating voices and things of that nature. So, while text-to-speech programs are great, they aren't always better than reading for oneself.

5. Utilizing reference books in a library has become obsolete because of the Internet.

False.

This is a preference thing therefore it can be true and false simultaneously. While in the early 21st century most people believed that the use of any sort of reference book (even paperback books) was going to become obsolete quickly and in a hurry due to the fast growing internet, time has proven that they are still very relevant. As a matter of fact, many people use them in tangent.

# What's the Word?

with

C. Desert Rose

**Spectrum of Extraordinary Circumstances**

What's the word, you ask?

Why, it is ...

# Extraordinary

1 Compound Word:

Extra + Ordinary

6 Syllables

Ex + tra + or + di + nar + y

Definition

extraordinary 

[ik-strawr-dn-er-ee, ek-struh-awr-]

[Synonyms](#)    [Examples](#)    [Word Origin](#)

adjective

1. beyond what is usual, ordinary, regular, or established:  
*extraordinary costs.*
2. exceptional in character, amount, extent, degree, etc.; noteworthy; remarkable:  
*extraordinary speed; an extraordinary man.*
3. (of an official, employee, etc.) outside of or additional to the ordinary staff; having a special, often temporary task or responsibility:  
*minister extraordinary and plenipotentiary.*

In the past, the word "extraordinary" was used to specify something blatantly out of the norm, encompassing all aspects; positive and negative.

Today, it's used to identify something that is spectacular yet also abnormal. By abnormal, I don't mean anything of poor quality, but outside of status quo.

The history of mankind is awash with many an individual who did not fit into a specific mold due to various reasons.

Yet, it is only in modern times that we know as much as we do about Autism. There are so many famous people within the Autism Spectrum that we know about; Wolfgang Mozart, Albert Einstein, James Durbin, Daryl Hannah, Tim Burton. And the list goes on and on.

Extraordinary people.

Yet, what does the word “extraordinary” truly mean and why do we use it so frequently today to indicate things that we believe are terrific?

In order to understand the aforementioned question, we must first look at the history of this word and many others like it.

**ex·traor·di·nar·y**

Origin

LATIN      LATIN

extra ordinem → extraordinarius → extraordinary  
outside the normal course of events      late Middle English

late Middle English: from Latin *extraordinarius*, from *extra ordinem* 'outside the normal course of events.'

Translations, word origin, and more definitions

First, let's attempt to define what “extra” or “outside of the normal” actually means.

exter, extra	outside of	external, extrinsic, exterior, extraordinary, extrabiblical, extracurricular, extrapolate, extraneous, exterminator, extract, extradite, extraterrestrial, extrasensory, extravagant, extreme
--------------	------------	---

If I were to understand the true interpretation of the word, I could deduce that “extra” implies “all that which is more than”.

So, a person with one talent could be considered normal. But a person with more than one talent could easily be considered extra.

Now, let's look at “ordinary”.

#### ordinary (adj.)

early 15c., "belonging to the usual order or course," from Old French *ordinarie* "ordinary, usual" and directly from Latin *ordinarius* "customary, regular, usual, orderly," from *ordo* (genitive *ordinis*) "order" (see **order** (n.)). Its various noun usages, dating to late 14c. and common until 19c., now largely extinct except in *out of the ordinary* (1893). In British education, *Ordinary level* (abbrev. *O level*), "lowest of the three levels of General Certificate of Education," is attested from 1947. Related: *Ordinarily*.

If I'm getting this correctly, “ordinary” simply means, “an everyday occurrence”.

Here is where it gets tricky. WHAT, pray tell, is ordinary?

“Ordinary” is all a matter of perspective. You see, for what is ordinary for me, might be unusual for someone else.

Let's think about this for a moment, shall we?

To a person that wakes up every morning with a vast amount of ideas floating around in their head which compels them to act or react in a certain way to certain event, his life, to him, is average (another word for ordinary). Yet, to a person that is not this way, the behavior could be considered irregular.

### **Example:**

*Johnny Uncommonly, loves to Astrology. He's made it his mission in life to learn everything there is to learn about the cosmos. And so he does. Therefore, the knowledge that Johnny acquires about the universe seems humdrum to him.*

*Johnny Uncommonly meets Sussy Generally at local library. They hit it off and begin to share things, like personal interests for example. Sussy Generally is taken aback by Johnny Uncommonly's understanding of deep space and finds him remarkable.*

*So, does that mean that (a) Johnny Uncommonly is truly fantastic, or (b) is he solely fantastic in Sussy Generally's perspective?*

*The answer is B. To Sussy, Johnny is astonishing because she does not have his adeptness in said subject matter.*

The same is true for all of us, everywhere. We tend to label that which we cannot fathom, attempting to put them into a perspective that we can.

This is why it is so important to look at words in the viewpoint from where they originated.

Words like "extraordinary, terrific, fantastic, and remarkable" were, at their core, utilized to explain that which could not be explained; be it good or bad. They were used to streamline things that were bizarre, in order to give the onlooker a vantage point from which to understand the rarity.

Nowadays, we predominantly use these words incorrectly—solely as a means to give credence or merit to something incomprehensible. That is to say, we use the words merely to revere.

Not that that's a bad thing, of course. But we do have to take into consideration that anything extraordinary can play on both sides of the fence, if you will. It can be both good AND/OR bad.



Okay, now, we should take a breather here and look at what we learned.

### **WHAT EXACTLY IS EXTRAORDINARY?**

"Extraordinary" is a labelling term we use to identify things that surpass our general understanding.

I thought of this word in commemoration of Autism Awareness Month because what to some people is a negative, to me, it is a positive. Some people look at those whom they cannot understand and immediately brand them as peculiar or unwanted. When I see something or someone I do not comprehend, I tend to look at it as unprecedented and amazing, standing in awe at the wonderment of them.

Why? Because "extraordinary" is in the eyes of the beholder.

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

