

O2

romance,
witchcraft &
warriors

HM HODGSON

WELCOME

Hi, and welcome to newsletter #2!

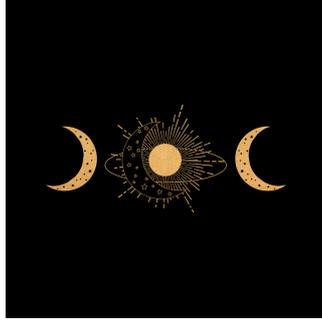
Thanks for joining me for another trip into the world of writing, romance & magic. I've got something very exciting to share, along with writing adventures and some recent reads that I can highly recommend!

Cheers,

HMH



THE CRAFT



The hero in my WIP, let's call him Daniel, has taken up woodwork, but what he doesn't know is that the raw timber he works with has healing properties (and yes, he needs it!!)

According to Murphy-Hiscock's *The Green Witch*, Eucalyptus has a connection with protection and healing. So now Daniel is working with Victorian Ash (also known as Mountain Ash), a beautiful Eucalyptus species local to the region where he lives.

One of the things I'm grateful for as a writer is the opportunity to research topics and interests as far as your imagination can reach. Lately my research has focussed on witchcraft - as you can probably tell - particularly the elemental and natural world.

And now I've got a craving for the tang of eucalyptus... Anyone else?



WRITING ADVENTURES



I recently brought my ticket for the 2021 Romance Writers of Australia annual conference (yay!!) We're hitting the Gold Coast this year, so just imagine hundreds of romance writers running amuck on the Goldie...

A wise woman once told me that as an author, I needed to find my tribe. Well, I can honestly say I found them at my first RWA conference in Melbourne 2019. And from that tribe, a little critique group blossomed... To this day we talk/gif daily via messenger, meet virtually each fortnight and ALWAYS help each other with our writing. Can't wait to see them, and all of the amazing RWA authors in August!

I also can't wait for the Friday night cocktail party. Fancy dress is optional, which basically means a must for me. This year's theme is Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow... and I have no idea what/who to do dress up as yet! Any suggestions?

MY CRAFT

Writing goal 2021: self-publish my first novel.

And now for my verrrrrrrry exciting news... As a special thank you for joining me on this writing-life journey, here is the first reveal of the cover for The Last Keeper, book 1 of The Immortal Keepers.

A massive thank you to Jacqueline Hayley - designer extraordinaire (among other talents) - for the stunning (hot!!) cover.

Drum roll please... (feel free to drum your hands on your thighs for sound effects!)



The Last Keeper

Book 1, The Immortal Keepers

Deadly secrets. Sacred vows. Duty over desire.

When city-witch India Jones' witchcraft turns dangerously unstable, she flees to her family's isolated farm in rural Victoria to learn to control her power.

But the farm and dark forest surrounding it hold dangerous secrets... An unearthly magic that beckons her into the forest, the truth behind her parents' death and a riveting stranger all too at home in her family's property.

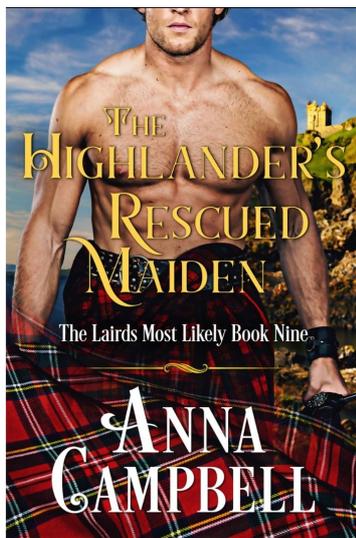
Ruthless and deadly, Thrane is the last Keeper. Eons ago, the Old Gods created the World Tree to connect the three worlds. From its roots to its branches it connects the Underworld, Mortalworld and Higherworld. But a secret war rages as those who would enslave the Mortalworld seek to destroy the Tree. Only the Immortal Keepers stand in their way.

Now, duty and explosive desire compel Thrane to keep close to India. For though she doesn't know it, the stubborn witch is the gravest danger the World Tree, and his heart, have ever faced.

To save the Mortalworld – and herself – India must face the most dangerous secret of all. Hers.

The Last Keeper will be released in late June, with pre-orders up shortly!

BOOK REVIEWS



Loved this gorgeous story!!

The Highlander's Rescued Maiden by Anna Campbell

This beautiful tale was hot hot hot, with a love rich and grand.

And seriously, can I please have my own stone tower... with a hot-blooded hero, a crackling fire and plenty of warm, comfy blankets while a storm rages outside?!



How stunning is this cover?!

The Bone Witch by Ivy Asher

Kick-ass Lennox led me into a world full of dark and beautiful magic. The mystery had me turning page after page...

Warning: Did I read book 2 straight away? Yes. Did I pre-order book 3? Yes, I did!

THANK YOU & GIVEAWAY

Lastly, as a thank you for joining my reading group, someone is about to win a \$10 Amazon e-gift card!

And the winner is.... Susannah H. Your gift card will be in the email, so watch out for it soon!

Thanks again for coming on this journey with me and I hope to see you again next month for more magic & romance.



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