TITERATE TY MAGAZINE

FROM REVIEWS TO LITERARY NEWS FROM HISTORY TO HER-STORY BUILT TO EDUCATE AUTHORS

PART TWO OF A THREE-PART ARTICLE: YES, YOU CAN SELF-NARRATE YOUR AUDIOBOOK BY KEVIN G. CHAPMAN

SHAKESPEARE'S BOOKS BOWDLERIZE BY AMY SHANNON

BOOK REVIEWS

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews
Uncaged Magazine

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About Essence Publishing:

Essence Publishing was created by Amy Shannon, and she is the sole proprietor of Essence Publishing and its parent company Essence Enterprises. Essence Publishing is the publishing company that self-publishes Amy Shannon's books. Essence Publishing also has two imprints, Valkyrie for independent publishing, and Essential Lives for its anthology publishing.

The purpose of Essence Publishing is to educate, entertain and provide literary services.

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This issues contributors:

Kevin G. Chapman <u>www.KevinGChapman.com</u>

Uncaged Magazine Book Reviews uncagedbooks.com

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Parent Company/Sole Proprietor Amy Shannon To utilize different tools to help authors at different levels, and with different parts of the literary publishing process.

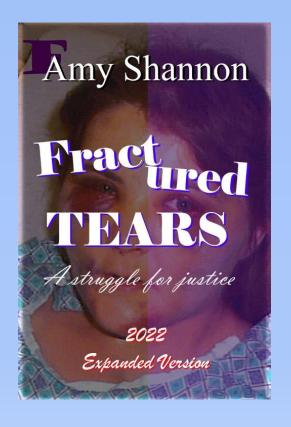
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Fractured Tears: A Struggle for Justice Expanded Version

Anna Coleman gave her husband one more chance for them to work on fixing what was wrong with their marriage. Ted used that chance to try to kill her. Anna didn't give up or give in, she fought to survive, and she fought for justice, as it became a personal struggle. All she wanted was for the justice system to properly punish Ted for what he did to her, and it took a lot of strength, perseverance, and support.

Read how Anna struggles to fight for justice, and deal with her personal issues from having been betrayed and abused by her husband of 13 years.

This is a fictionalized version of the real-life events of the Author.

Warning: This book contains scenes of domestic violence and may trigger PTSD or not be for some readers.

This is an expanded version and Fourth Edition. Names have been deleted or changed for privacy reasons.

This is both a fiction book based on real-life events and a nonfiction book that tells my story.

Purchase Link on Amazon: https://smile.amazon.com/Fractured-Tears-Struggle-Justice-Expanded-ebook/dp/808HL58CG8/

Author Spotlight

Author Spotlight Ed Borowsky

Ed Borowsky is a second-generation American, who grew up in a family-run furniture business. He spent a lifetime in the Home Furnishings Industry, which shaped his perspective on family, values, and life. Entrepreneurial by nature, he's owned and operated a retail furniture business, a national liquidation firm, a Boston-based advertising agency, to name just a few.

When he retired at fifty-three, he began writing full-time. Thinking he had a book about his career, he wrote the first chapter of his first book, titled "It's a Good Day to Liquidate, " a crime drama set in the secret liquidation industry.

"This is all I had ever written when I met a woman at the grocery store who told him about a famous published author who took on a few students to teach the writing craft in his home. After sending him that chapter, he brought me under his wing where I would go to his house weekly for over five years to learn and hone my craft.

His third book, "The Great Mongolian Bowling League of the United States of America", the only book he's published to date, won the 2019 International Book Awards. He also writes a popular column for a weekly newspaper in Orlando, Florida.

Ed currently resides in DeLand, Florida with his wife Michele of 35 years. He has three grown sons and a beautiful grandson.

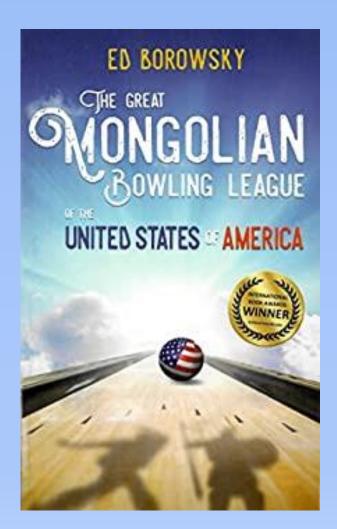
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Essence Publishing: Valkyrie



As of November 1, Essence Publishing will be taking submissions for its new Hybrid Publishing imprint, Valkyrie. There are several packages available, and there will be a limit of 5 authors that Valkyrie will accept each year. (Our year runs from November to November). Valkyrie also reads the submissions, and won't just publish for anyone. There are services, such as editing and promotion that are also available. You can see the pricing on the page:

https://essenceenterpriseus.com/valkyrie

Essence Publishing: Essential Lives



As of December 1, 2022, the Anthology imprint, Essential Lives, will be open for submissions for its first Anthology. The anthologies of Essential Lives, will feature true stories or events based on the subject of each book. Anthology contributions are not paid, but the contributor will receive a free paperback of the book once it has been published. The publisher maintains copyright of the book as a whole, but the contributor will keep all their publishing rights to their contribution. There are NO fees or upfront payments that need to be made by the contributor. The contributor has a right to ask for editing, but the fee is minimal, and contributors do not need to have Essential Lives edit their work. More details on anthologies are on the website at:

https://e8senceenterpriseus.com/essential-lives

Yes, you can self-narrate your audiobook!

(But you'll need to read this first)

Part 2
By Kevin G. Chapman
Attorney & Author
www.KevinGChapman.com



IN PART ONE of this <u>article</u>, we established that you are planning to self-narrate your audiobook. Congratulations! You have studio recording equipment, a home studio set up, a script prepared, and you've been practicing the voices of your characters. You're ready to push the RECORD button.

Wait.

"What the what? But you said I was ready!"

No. You thought you were ready. Before you get too far into your recording, I have a few important tips and one horrific story you need to hear. We'll take things in order.

Test Your Equipment and Settings

OK, this is technical, but it's super-important. Unless you have prior experience recording podcasts, take some time to setup your equipment and test it. Try different placements of your microphone (higher, lower, tilted in, tilted out, farther away, closer to your pop screen, etc.). Try recording with different volume settings. Check the wave patterns in your software to see what the recorded files will look like (bigger is better – smaller wave forms are harder to edit). Listen to the various test recordings and decide which settings are best. Then, when you have settings you like, record 3-4 minutes with those settings and then run the track through the ACX analyzer program in Audible (or a comparable plug-in for your other software) and make sure that the levels are within.

the ACX specs. We'll talk more about this in part 3 of this series, but the point is that, no matter how good the track sounds in your headphones, if the volume level is too low, you'll need to boost it in the post-production mastering process. This will diminish the sound quality. But if you increase the volume in your microphone during the recording process, you won't need to boost the gain later. So, before you settle on your settings, make sure they will translate into good levels after mastering them.

Then – and here's another error you can avoid – make a careful record of the exact settings that you plan to use so that you can duplicate them every day – even after you knock over your boom stand, or your child decides to play with your dials. Take a photo of the position of the mic and the settings on all your physical dials. You'll be glad you did.

Check the software interface settings

Please. I'm begging you. This is the horror story. I found out the hard way that within your software (referred to as a Digital Audio Workstation or "DAW"), there is probably a drop-down setting for both input and output. In Audacity (the DAW I used), the default is for the input to be set for the microphone that's built into your computer. It will say: "Microphone Realtek(R)Audio" or something similar. But, if you use an external microphone (and you should), that's not the setting you

want. You want it to be set to match the hardware you are using to connect your external microphone to your software, in my case FocusRite. If the input is incorrectly configured, you'll end up speaking into your professional microphone, which will sound wonderful in your pro headphones you're using – but the software will pick up your voice through your laptop's built-in microphone! Trust me, it's not pretty. When I got to chapter twenty of my first book, I noticed when editing that the sound quality of that chapter sounded different. It sounded better. I couldn't figure out why. Like the guy in the horror film who ignores the blood oozing from the cracks in the wall, I chalked it up to a variance in the earbuds I was using during the editing process. Nope. I had inadvertently activated the correct settings for my microphone. I got two chapters that sounded great. But I reverted back to the incorrect settings after that. Of the fifty-five chapters in the novel, fifty-three of them were recorded by the built-in laptop microphone. You don't want to experience that realization after spending sixty hours recording your book.

Listen with good headphones and avoid extraneous noise.

As you narrate, you need to listen to what is leaving your mouth and being picked up by your microphone (assuming your settings are correct). It helps immensely to listen through high-quality over-the-ear headphones. You can hear all the pops and clicks your mouth makes that you never noticed. Don't assume that your earbuds are good enough. You'll also hear that hum from your furnace and the rumble from the dishwasher running in the kitchen. All those extraneous sounds contribute to your room noise" - the background noise behind your voice. Too much room noise and your tracks won't pass the ACX quality check. There's very little you can do to fix that problem in the editing or mastering process, so pay attention during the recording process. Run an analysis of your room noise using the tool in your DAW to see whether your quiet background meets the Audible/ACX

requirement of less than -60dB. If your baseline noise floor is too loud, don't even start recording. Fix that problem first.

By the time I was done with Righteous Assassin, I had changed three key elements of my home studio that you should remedy before you start: (1) turn off the furnace/air conditioning system while you're recording. It creates at best a low background hum, and at worst a click and a clang when the system fires up or shuts down in the middle of your sentence. (2) Put your laptop (to which you are recording, and from which you may be reading your script) on a soft surface that won't make any noise if you move it slightly (a cotton blanket works well). Even better, get a stand-alone monitor to read from and put your laptop somewhere outside the walls of your sound-absorbing studio. (3) Get the other residents of your home to avoid any walking around while you're reading. The slightest creak of a floorboard or soft pad of feet above your head will find their way onto your track.

Articulate markers to flag mistakes during recording

No matter how careful you are, you will make mistakes, and you will hear clicks and mouth-sounds that you will immediately need to re-record. Or, you'll just flub a line. Don't just keep reading and expect to go back and fix the errors in a later clean-up session. Fix them right away. I took a great tip from someone (I would give specific credit, but I can't remember which article it was) and clapped my hands two times right after a mistake, which shows up on the visual wave form as two peaks that are easy to find when you're editing. Then, speak into the microphone the location where you are going back to (to help you find the right spot when you're editing), take a breath, and rerecord that segment. Later, in editing, having made a "marker" to identify a place where there was a mistake and a re-record, you'll be able to edit out the flub more easily, and then keep right on going.

Take your time with the narration

You'll hear this a lot from the professionals who write self-help articles, because it's true in two specific ways. First, don't rush through the reading. Give your listeners time to absorb what's happening. They're not in a rush, so why should you be? Your narration will be better if you take it nice and slow. Second, and this is the real "trick" part, take a long pause and a deep breath between sentences any time you feel like you need more air. It's unfortunately true that reading text will often leave you, well, breathless. You will have expended all your available air supply on the last clause of the last sentence, and you need to take a breath before the start of the next sentence. Rather than rush your inhale, resulting in an audible "breath" noise that you'll have to edit out later anyway, take your time. Pause. It's a good time to sip from your cup of tea with lemon and honey. Take a deep breath and then start the next sentence. Leave 30 seconds of dead air on your track. It's actually very easy to edit out dead air, and you'll probably be doing it anyway whether you take 30 seconds or only 4 seconds. So, take your time, take your breath, and then start the next sentence with a full lung..



I can't stress this enough. Don't wait until you have inadvertently deleted 30 minutes of narration during editing before you figure out that you have to back up constantly. As soon as you finish recording a track, save it, then back it up immediately. Use an external hard drive. Now, you have two copies and can edit with the knowledge that you have a spare file if you mess something up. Then, as soon as you finish editing a track, save that, and back it up immediately. Backing up too much is not possible.



Of course, reading your book – no, performing your book – is only half the process. Unless you plan to hire a professional editor, you'll need to edit the tracks that you narrate, and then do the post-production necessary to have a publishable audiobook. In part 3 of this series, we'll cover all the mistakes I made on the technical side and how you can avoid them.

(Part III coming in January)

Kevin G. Chapman Attorney & Author www.KevinGChapman.com



The After Show with McKensie Stewart & Amy Shannon



The After Show with McKensie Stewart and Amy Shannon is a podcast platform created to help authors promote themselves and their work. The mission of the Literary dynamic duo is to educate and assist authors, no matter their experience. The hosts will provide writing tips, and expert advice from the hosts, and other guests. Guests will include authors, writers, editors, publishers, and many more from those within the literary world. The After Show wants to help people share their stories with the world.

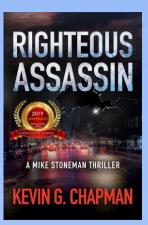


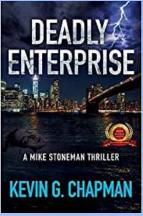


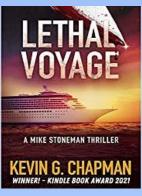
AUTHOR KEVIN G CHAPMAN

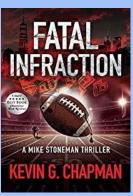
The Mike Stoneman Thriller Series

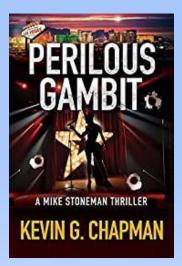
NYPD homicide detective Mike Stoneman and his partner Jason Dickson, are on a bumpy path as partners. They are thrust together to track a diabolical serial killer in Righteous Assassin. They doggedly insist on investigating the murder of a drug-addicted prostitute, over the objections of the top brass, in Deadly Enterprise. Then, after an embarrassing shootout in a Brooklyn hotel at the end of Deadly Enterprise, the Commissioner tells them to get out of town and away from the New York press, so they try to take a vacation. With Mike's love interest, Medical Examiner Michelle McNeill and Jason's recent girlfriend, Rachel Robinson, they board the Colossus of the Ocean for a relaxing cruise Bermuda. Unfortunately, the cruise ends up being a Lethal Voyage. Back from their adventure at sea, Mike and Jason dive into the murder of controversial NFL Quarterback Jimmy Rydell in Fatal Infraction. Is Jimmy the victim of a racist attack? Was he collateral damage in a mob-run point shaving scheme? Or is there another answer? And why was his body dumped on the Central Park Carousel -frozen? Mike and Jason need to solve the case before it tears the team, and the city, apart. Then, when they travel to Las Vegas for Jason and Rachel's wedding, Rachel's kid brother is accused of the murder of a fellow drag performer. Mike and Jason have to prove his innocence in order to save the wedding. Mike decides to take a big gamble. Their very lives depend on a Perilous Gambit!

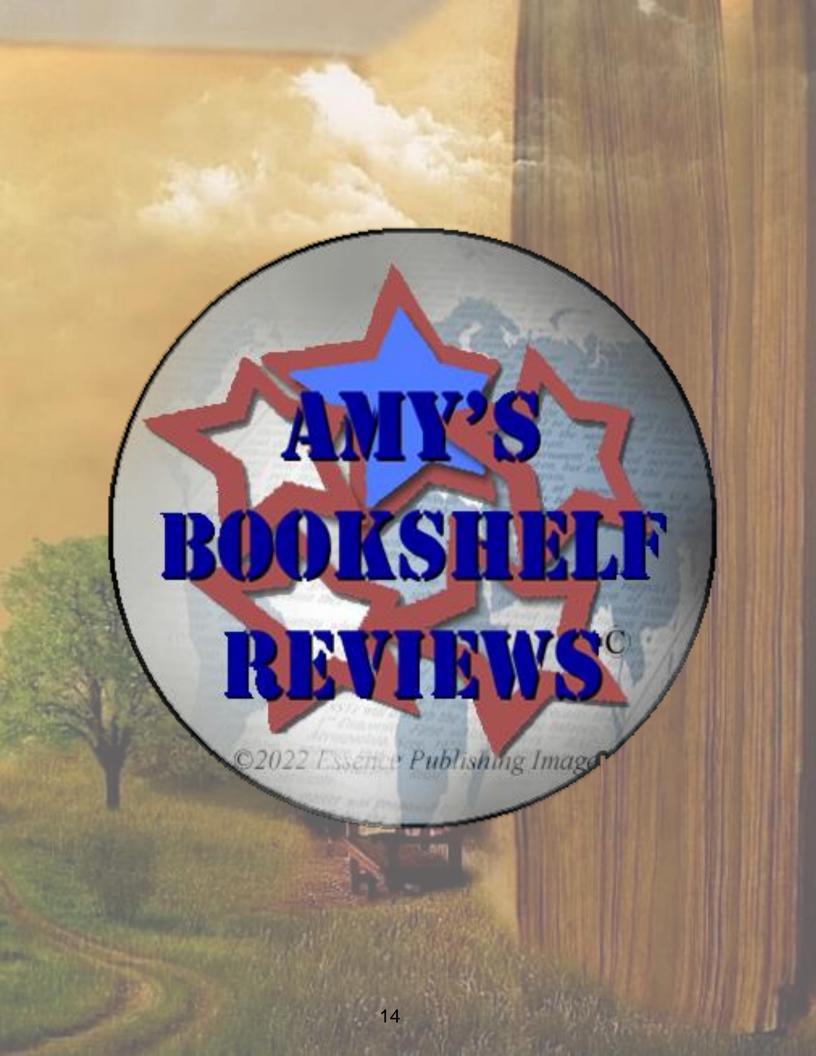


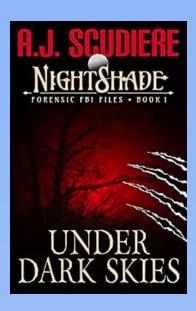










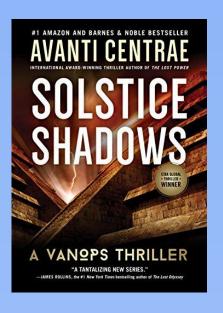


A.J. Scudiere- Under Dark Skies

5 StarsGreat Read

What a great story in Under Dark Skies by A.J. Scudiere. This is the first book in The NightShade Forensic Files. NightShade is an elite division of the FBI, and Agent Eleri Eames and former medical examiner Donovan are now on their first case. The FBI is on this case where they are investigating a cult for kidnapping and other heinous crimes. There are a lot of secrets, realities, and loyalty issues, and this is more than just another case for NightShade, and a very deep investigatory case for Eleri and Donovan. I am a definite fan of this author! Whatever this author writes, I want read. This author brings the story to life. The characters had a lot of depth and were very realistic. The story brings the reader on a superb journey. This is a magnificent story that kept this reader turning the pages

> Suspense, Forensic, Paranormal

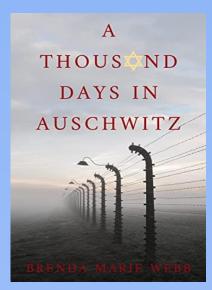


Thriller

Avanti Centrae- Solstice Shadows

5 Stars
Magnificently Thrilling!

What a magnificent story in Solstice Shadows by Avanti Centrae. This is the second book of this series, VanOps, and I now have read all three (book three first). I became a fan of this author, and anything she writes, I want to read. It's a tantalizing tale, that is filled with intrigue and thrilling action. The pace is fast but in this type of story it needs to be, so much action and things going on, but you don't lose sight of the story. Covert Ops, and secret, ancient charts, and the world is on the verge of a war with Russia. It's a grand sequel to book one, and even though, these books can be read stand alone, (I read book three first), I not only read book one, this one, but I reread book three, and it reminded me of how great a writer this author is, and how one small thing can link the stories. It is always an honor to read this author's books. This is a magnificent story that kept this reader turning the pages. A definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. Both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. Action-packed and it takes the reader on a superb adventure. Definitely an unpredictable story, my favorite kind! I will definitely add more of this author's books to my bookshelf...



Brenda Marie Webb- A Thousand Days In Auschwitz

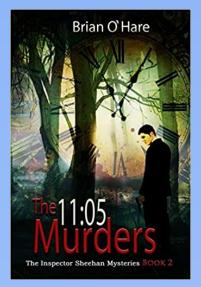
5 Stars

Historical WWII

A very Powerful story!

Holocaust

What a powerful and dramatic story in A Thousand Days In Auschwitz by Brenda Marie Webb. This could be anyone's story, but this is Mattie's story. A fictional depiction of a time that no one should ever forget, especially the despicable nature of brutality, and murder. Inhuman German soldiers and the following of orders, no matter what, of a psychopathic dictator and his generals. Any day in Auschwitz is a day too long. Auschwitz is one of the most infamous concentration and elimination camps. Mattie lost everyone, everything, and still was forced to work for the German soldiers, fifteen hours a day. It was a hard to read, but worth the read. I believe that everyone should read this book, and that people realize the inhumane treatment of others, just because they didn't fit the Nazi's belief. It's definitely un-put-downable! It is always an honor to read this author's books. This is a totally inspirational title. Brilliant writing!



Brian O'Hare - The 1105

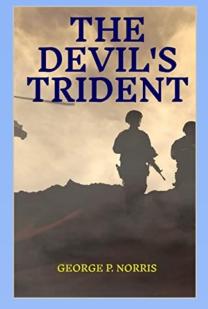
Murders

Mystery,
Thriller

5 Stars

Another Magnificent Sheehan mystery read

What a fantastic story in The 1105 Murders by Brian O'Hare. I am a definite fan of this author! Whatever this author writes, I read. This is the second book in the Inspector Sheehan Mysteries, but I have read them out of order, loving each one. This author brings the story to life. The characters had a lot of depth and were very realistic. Sheehan and his team have another murder to look into, and find the connection, besides the time and day of the murders. I love O'Hare's work, and his storytelling ability. O'Hare's work are hidden gems that everyone who loves a good crime slash mystery slash investigative murder mysteries, and they aren't you're run of the mill mysteries. It's a whodunnit but with flair and the added layers of life, work, and finding killers. A typical day for Sheehan and his team. It's definitely un-put-downable! It is always an honor to read this author's books. This story was very unpredictable. This book captures the reader's attention at chapter 1. The author's technique of raw, magnetic characters and great plotlines is a gift. It's a great story to follow and try to figure out what will happen next. A reader can get lost in the story.



George P. Norris- The Devil's Trident

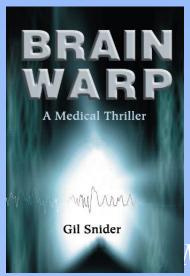
5 Stars

Action-packed!

Action, <u>Adventure</u>

What a remarkably told story in The Devil's Trident by George P. Norris. I've read both nonfiction and fiction by this author, and both genres are written very well. Norris is an author that you want to keep reading the books that he writes, no matter the genre. The Devil's Trident introduces the reader to Michael Keough, a man struggling to not hit the bottom, but the bottle is practically his best friend. He's retired, both from the NYPD as a detective, and he was a Navy Seal. Quite the resume for a man practically falling apart. There is the one turning point that changes his life forever and puts him back on tract. Gunfire. This book was amazing, as we could see the reasons for the falling and failing of Keough, and the fall out on his psyche. However, things change in a very explosive way, as the author brings the reader right into the middle of the action, not wanting to miss a single word.

It's definitely un-put-downable! It is always an honor to read this author's books. This author is a great storyteller. The story brings the reader on a superb journey. This is a magnificent story that kept this reader turning the pages. Both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. The characterizations are engrossing and dynamic. I just love, love, love this story. This story was very unpredictable.



Medical, Thriller

Gil Snider- Brain Warp

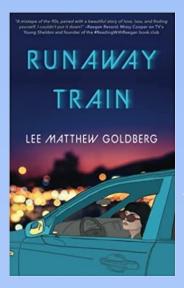
5 Stars

Absolutely Brilliant and Magnetic!

What a brilliantly written thriller in Brain Warp by Gil Snider. I've read work from Snider's wife, Judy, but this is the first book of Gil's that I've read. There is a lot of writing talent in this family, that's for sure. The first thing that caught my eye was the title, Brain Warp. Seriously, that is something, especially for someone like me that has neurological issues, anything involving the brain catches my eye.

Gil Snider- Brain Warp

The characters make up this plot driven story, where someone is killing homeless, but not just killing them, making them sick and then following up. Dr. Branstead is all of a sudden getting an increase in patients, all with the same symptoms, and the common thread being homeless, who can be referred to as the "unmissed." The characters had a lot of depth and were very realistic. It is a very well-written plot, and I enjoyed it. It's one of those embraceable stories. It's definitely un-put-downable! This is a magnificent story that kept this reader turning the pages. Both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. The characterizations are engrossing and dynamic. I just love, love, love this story. This read is more than just words a page. Definitely on unpredictable story, my favorite kind! I hope to read more books by this author.



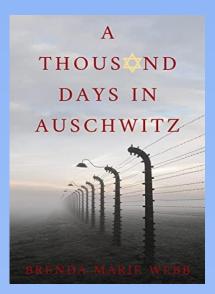
YA, Coming of Age, Dark humor

Lee Matthew Goldberg-Runaway Train

5 Stars

Amazing story

What an amazing story in Runaway Train by Lee Matthew Goldberg. I am a definite fan of Goldberg. I am used to reading his thrillers and this one, just shows how he can write well in multiple genres. It is thrilling, and it brings to light, not only the era of the 1990's, but a teenager and the life within a family. This is a mashup of dark humor, and young adult, while adding in the emotions of a family and survival. A family tragedy almost breaks this, and it takes a toll on a teenage girl, trying to figure out where she fits in life. The story is told from her point of view, and it brings up different emotions, and feelings, and a new perspective, as she "hits the road" and runs away. (By the way, the mix-tape of the 90's was a great add in). The story brings the reader on a superb journey. This is a magnificent story that kept this reader turning the pages. A definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. This book captures the reader's attention at chapter 1.



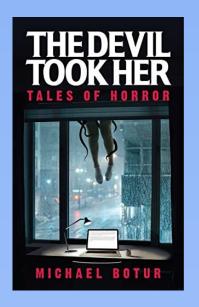
M.G. Crisci- Mrs. Banker

4 Stars

A grandly told story

Nonfiction, Based on Real Life

What a grand title in Mrs. Banker by M.G. Crisci. I am a big fan of this author! Whatever this author writes, I read. In this story, which from this author, is based on real life, we learn of the past, Hannah's past, with how her parents met, and how, eventually they pass. Hannah has always been precocious, and determined, wanting to know everything, and how life works. Her parents taught her the best that they could, but they both had their own flaws. Hannah is a force to be reckoned with, and with her upbringing, she learned a lot, and became her own woman. Hannah's life is not straightforward by any means, and I like the flaws and how she dealt with aspects of her life, showing how strong, but yet, a bit vulnerable, however, not weak in the slightest. A well told story.



Michael Botur- The Devil Took Her: Tales of Horror Horror

4 Stars

Terrifying stories!

What an intriguing collection of horror stories in The Devil Took Her: Tales of Horror by Michael Botur. This is Botur's debut book, and what a debut it is. And, another plus for Botur, is the imagination that goes beyond what is tangible, and makes the darkness come to life. This author brings the words to life. Each story had its own uniqueness, and it works in this compilation of the author's work. Each story was thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. This book captures the reader's attention at the title, and then just continues on. I will definitely add more of this author's books to my bookshelf. Tantalizing and intriguing!





Fire Maiden – Ireland
Anna Lowe
Fantasy
Blurb
Romana

Magic, shifters, and a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Romance

Inheriting a cottage in Ireland seems like a stroke of pure luck to Grace Connolly — as is a chance to meet with her mysterious (and hot) new neighbor. Soon, Boston's most up-and-coming harpist finds herself mixing business with pleasure and getting to know Finn Hurley — intimately.

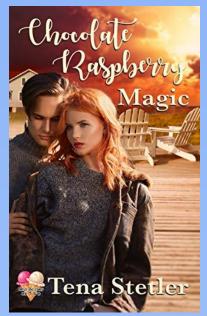
defeat evil and finally find his happy ending?

Uncaged Review:

5 Stars

This is a great addition to this series. I really enjoyed the chemistry between Finn and Grace, and one of the reasons I love this series, besides the couples, is the way that the author describes the characters when they are in their shapeshifter forms. In this book, Grace and Finn met as kids, when Finn saved her from falling off a cliff. Now she's back in Ireland, inheriting a small cottage and not knowing exactly what she's going to do with the cottage, especially after meeting a lot of the local people.

There are more layers to this story than meets the eye, and it's got the right amount of action, romance, danger, and suspense all tied together. You just can't go wrong with this series. If you like shifters and romance, then this series is recommended.



Heart's Insanity Ellie Masters Blurb

Rock Star Romance

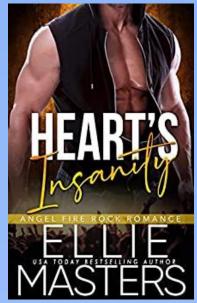
Ash "Blaze" Dean has it all: fame, fortune, and the adoration of screaming fans, but the constant parties and endless string of one-night stands are taking their toll. He wants something real and someone to hold on to. He believes in fate and true love, so when sparks ignite between him and the intelligent and sassy Dr. Summers, Ash is intrigued.

Uncaged Review:

5 Stars

Every once in a while, I need a good rock star romance to rattle the brain fog from reading a lot. And this one, I'm happy I picked up. This story is not just a rock star romance, but it's a layered, emotional but not so overly emotional that it keeps the book in a dark place, the author masterfully weaves a story of the healing power of love. Keep the tissue boxes close, as you will cry along with Skye and Forest, and you might want to smack a couple people around yourself. But beneath it all is a love story, as fate would have it, as Ash would say.

Jump in, but there are some trigger warnings of sexual abuse in the pages. The author manages to bring the light and dark into a good balance for the book, but you may laugh, cry and cheer on these two as they navigate their way to their HEA.



Oracle's Haunt-Shannon Mayer Urban

Fantasy Hope is a four letter word. Yet, I can't help but hope

that the Oracle will be the answer to what I seek.

But getting to the Oracle is no small thing as she resides in the center of the Blasted lands—toxic waste, lava, and monsters. And as the alpha of our Pride, it's up to me to act responsibly and not get my people all killed.

Uncaged Review: 5 Stars

Blurb

The fourth book in this series is one jam packed action novel. Zamira needs to get to the Oracle to get the answers she needs to save her brother, Maks and end the terror of the Emperor getting free. During this book, she will gain new members to her journey, and lose more too. On top of all that, Zam's pride breaks apart because of Steve, and Maks goes into deep sleep so that his body that Marsum has taken over will not be able to sway Zam. Zam still holds out the hope that she can find a way to bring Maks back.

This is a wild ride, and you will need to hang on as Zam gets herself into some very dangerous situations and she learns more about the magic within her. This storyline is so intricately woven that it would be easy to miss stuff, but it's a magical and well written story. I think there are too many "bad guys" in this and too many are after Zam and very little down time for her and her group. So block off some time, because once 22 you start reading this, it's hard to put it down.



Chocolate Raspberry Magic-Tena Stetler Fantasy

Blurb

Prim and proper Trinity Shilo is the assistant manager for Salem's Wildlife Sanctuary. She hasn't had much luck in the boyfriend department, but the new employee Paul is different. Deep and brooding she sees something special hidden below the surface

Romance

Uncaged Review: 5 Stars

Very seldom do I find a shorter novella style story to be such a complete and fun story. This story centers around the animal rescue of Puffin Cove where they reach out after a disastrous fire breaks out and Salem and Lobster Cove answer the call to help. After securing the animals and assessing the damage, the ladies whom we have met in previous books, Hidden Gypsy Magic and A Witch's Journey, decide that a fundraiser is due. And if animal rescue isn't enough, there is a wonderful romance brewing between Trinity and Paul. Paul is a veteran, who has episodes of PTSD, but is making great progress at the Salem Rescue. When they are all called out to help, they find a way to pick up the pieces, and help out while finding their love for each other.

Personally, I am a volunteer member of a rescue, and when you toss in the magic of the cabin, and the people with the animals, with a nice love story, I'm all in. The magic in this book is subtle and although not the focus and overbearing, but nicely tied in to make it believable and it was fun to come back to the characters (and the cabin) from previous books. It felt like a warm familiar blanket on a cold day. And let's not forget Misfit, Ashes and Licorice.



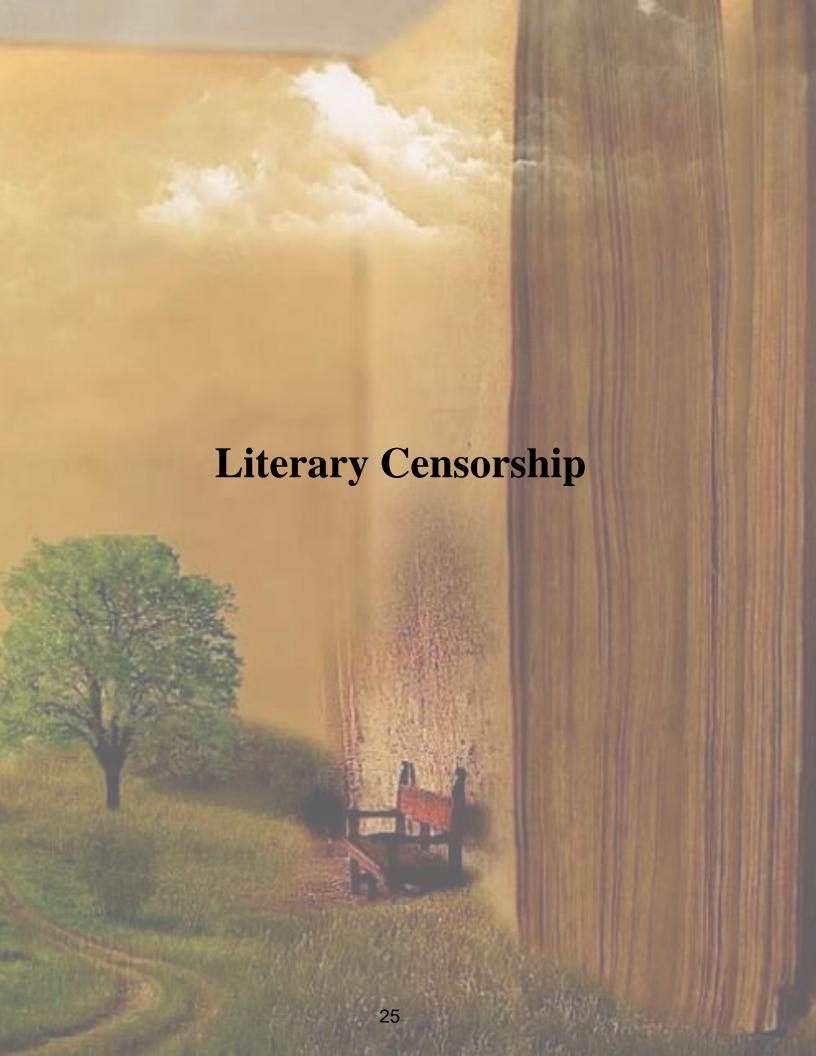




Write to Reel

The After Show with McKensie Stewart & Amy Shannon has a segment called "Write to Reel" where the Literary Dynamic Duo reads and examines a book that has had some form of a "reel" (movie/show/streaming episodic show etc....) created. The Duo reads the book and watches the "reel" and on episode 10 of each chapter (season) discusses it on the segment.

The After Show with McKensie Stewart & Amy Shannon is a podcast that runs every Friday at 6:30 Eastern Time Zone on Blog Talk radio and other podcast streaming sites.



Shakespeare's Books Bowdlerize

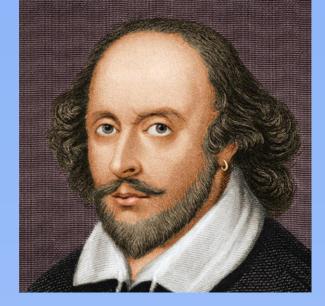
By Amy Shannon

What is Bowdlerize (bowd-ler-ize)? It means to "1: to expurgate (as a book) by omitting or modifying parts considered vulgar or 2: to modify by abridging, simplifying, or distorting in style or content)." The word came to be as it was named after Thomas Bowdle who was an English physician. Bowdle worked with his sister, Henrietta, in order to make Shakespeare's plays into something more "family like." This version of Shakespeare, was entitled The Family Shakespeare. The book was published in 1807. his Bowdle and sister. went through Shakespeare's work and removed anything that was deemed to be sexually explicit. ""Claiming not to add a "single line," Bowdler wrote that he merely "endeavored to removed everything that could give just offence to the religious and virtuous mind."

Bowdle was claimed to have "expurgated" ("to amend by removing words, passages, etc., deemed offensive or objectionable") offensive words from the plays and other works of William Shakespeare.

"All the world's a stage And all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances, And one man in his time plays many parts.

— AS YOU LIKE IT, ACT II SCENE VII



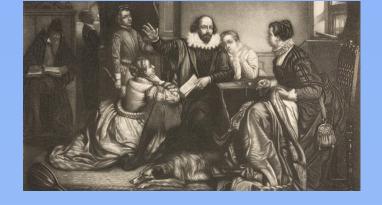
There are a lot of Shakespeare's works that had been banned. The book *Romeo and Juliet*, was banned because it was too mature because it had themes about sex. And this also referred to the book *No Fear Shakespeare*, which is a classic play that was rewritten, so it would be an easy version for middle schoolers to read. Parents challenged that book. *Romeo and Juliet* is commonly banned in schools for promoting teenage sex and suicide.

The play *Twelfth Night* by Shakespeare was banned because of homosexuality. It was claimed that it promoted homosexuality, and some did not like the fact that a woman was dressed like a boy.

One of the books of Shakespeare that has been banned in more classrooms around the globe than any other of his works, *The Merchant of Venice*. *The Merchant of Venice* has been banned highly since World War II because it displayed or was told it displayed antisemitism. Actually, it was a favorite of Nazi Germany during World War II. With this support of Nazi Germany, it landed credence that it was antisemitic. Hitler had it rewritten to fit his agenda and propaganda. He tried to use it to prove his bias, hatred toward Jews.

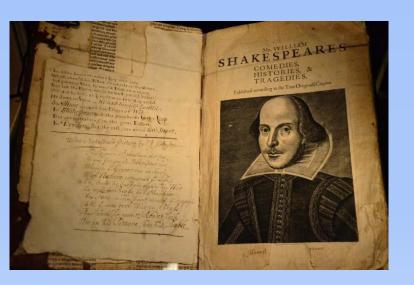
However, the character Shylock, the Jewish character, had one of the grandest speeches in that book.

"Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? Fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the



same winter and summer as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? And if you wrong us, shall we not revenge? If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that."

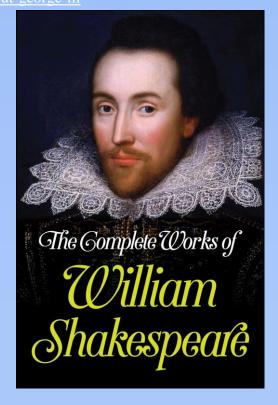
Many of Shakespeare's works are banned or face challenges because they refer to sex, violence, obscene language, and sometimes references to the occult, such as the three witches in *Macbeth*. Shakespeare's *King Lear* was banned from British theaters in 1788 to 1820 because of their leader, King George III alleged insanity. King George III became heir to the throne in 1751, and later, after he married, he bought Buckingham Palace for his wife. "After serious bouts of illness in 1788-89 and again in 1801, George became permanently deranged in 1810. He was mentally unfit to rule in the last decade of his reign; his eldest son - the later George IV - acted as Prince Regent from 1811."



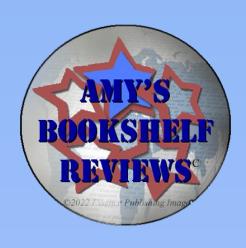
William Shakespeare started his writing career in 1592. He wrote tragic plays, and also sonnets. William Shakespeare was born in 1564 and he died in 1616. His works are still read today, and his plays are still put on in different theaters across the globe. One thing that is interesting, is when Shakespeare's words were created at plays in theaters, all of the parts were played by men.

Resources:

https://sites.oxy.edu/specialcollections/bannedbooks/censoredworks.htm#definition
https://sites.oxy.edu/specialcollections/bannedbooks/censoredworks.htm#definition
n
https://www.dictionary.com/browse/expurgate
https://www.royal.uk/ten-things-you-didnt-knowabout-george-iii



Amy's Bookshelf Reviews



Amy's Bookshelf Reviews has been reading books (forever) and writing reviews for any author of most any genre since 2014, with no apparent end in sight.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews also has a new website. amysbookshelfreviews.com

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews does have other features and options for authors. Amy's Bookshelf Reviews even does Video Reviews.

For "legacy authors" (repeat authors) who want a review, just send an email, and you'll get your title on the VIP Legacy Author shelf, unless you are in a hurry and want another shelf to be on.

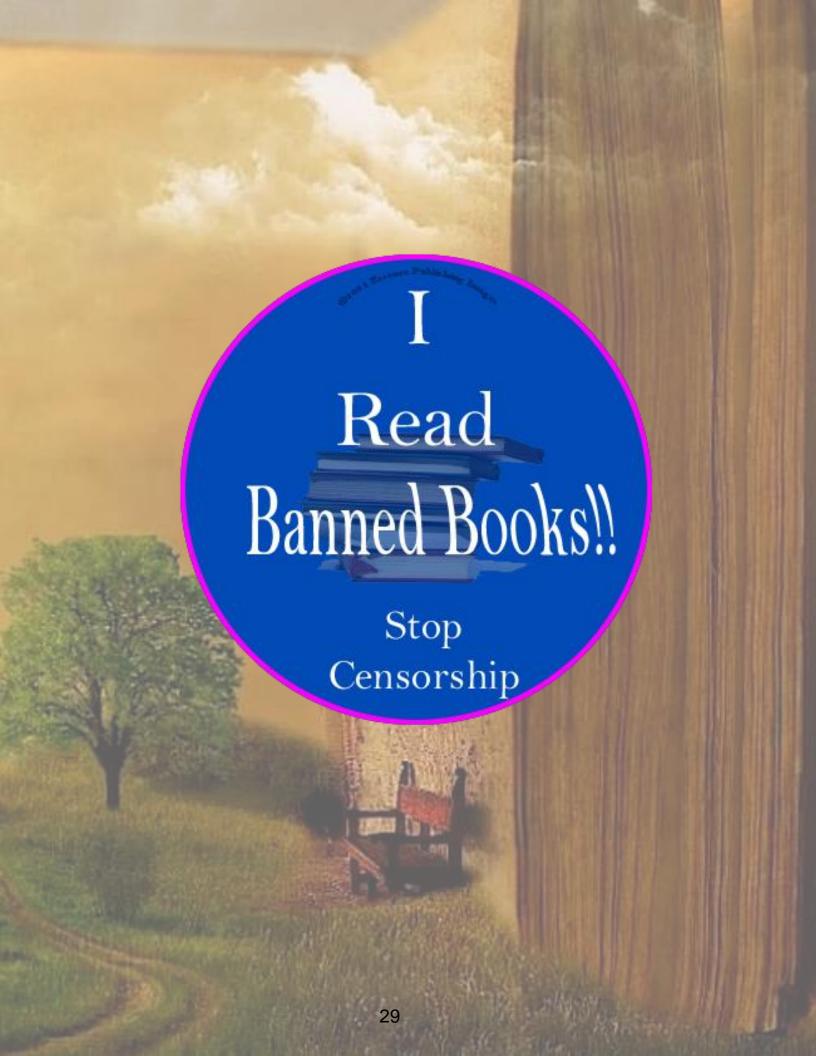
For "legacy friends" (repeat representatives), who want reviews for their clients also have options, and some are already designated as priority or preferred legacy friends.

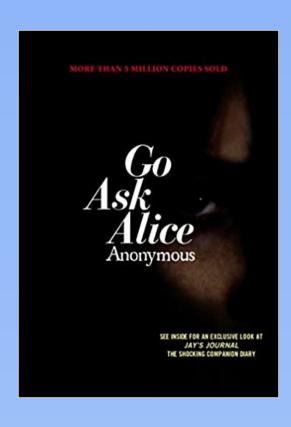
So, check out Amy's Bookshelf Reviews, and if you need assistance, there are how-to videos on navigation and how to request a review if you're a new author to the site.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews is a not-for-profit business and does not charge for reviews, but donations and gratuities are always welcome to keep the site up and running and to allow Amy's Bookshelf Reviews to purchase books to make the review a "verified purchase" on Amazon.com

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews happily reads banned, burned or challenged books. Have you read a banned book? #reviewsmatter #FReadom #Right2Read #ABSRBannedBooks

I read banned books, and then I post reviews about them. I have added the banned books list to the new website, as well as merged with Genesis Book Promotions.





Go Ask Alice By Anonymous-

About the Book:

A teen plunges into a downward spiral of addiction in this classic cautionary tale.

January 24th

After you've had it, there isn't even life without drugs...

It started when she was served a soft drink laced with LSD in a dangerous party game. Within months, she was hooked, trapped in a downward spiral that took her from her comfortable home and loving family to the mean streets of an unforgiving city. It was a journey that

would rob her of her innocence, her youth—and ultimately her life.

Read her diary.

Enter her world.

You will never forget her.

For thirty-five years, the acclaimed, bestselling first-person account of a teenage girl's harrowing decent into the nightmarish world of drugs has left an indelible mark on generations of teen readers. As powerful—and as timely—today as ever, Go Ask Alice remains the definitive book on the horrors of addiction.

The Review:

5 Stars

It's a powerful read, and it should be read by many

Go Ask Alice is a powerful read, as it is the story of a young girl, and the words of her life that she shares through her diary. I remember when I first read this book, I was probably about 13 or 14. It shares the life of "Alice" and comes from a diary of a young girl, who is introduced to LSD when her drink is spiked. Her life is full of ups and downs, including addiction to not just drugs, but also an eating disorder. She is attracted to people that aren't the best influence on her. From the way she talks about her life, I'm guessing it takes place in the sixties, and the fact that the first edition was printed in 1972. To be honest, it is a story that continues to happen to teens (and older and younger) every day. It's a story that should be told, and it should be read by as many as possible, parents and teens a like. When the diary ends, the reader feels like "Alice" is going in one direction, when in fact, she goes in another direction (according to the epilogue). This book is a popularly banned book, and it should not be banned or censored. It is one of those horrors of teen drug addiction, and how misunderstood teens or those who parents don't seem to listen, are more likely to find that high or low to escape their world, whether its an escape from school or just home life.

Amy's True Crime Penned and Portrayed Reviews



Chasing Ghislaine (2021)

About the Show:

Episodes: 3

Cast: Vicky Ward Journalist

Producers: Geno McDermott, Judson Wells, James Patterson,

Network: ID (Investigative Discovery)

Investigative docuseries focusing in the alleged role of Ghislaine Maxwell as accomplice to Jeffrey Epstein..

Episode 1: Vicky Ward profiles the life of media mogul Robert Maxwell; Maxwell's story helps to pull back the veil on his daughter Ghislaine's mysterious past.

Episode 2: Ghislaine Maxwell turns to Jeffrey Epstein for financial security after her father dies, and she introduces him to the rich and powerful; prosecutors say Maxwell provided introductions of a very different nature.

Episode 3: Vicky Ward looks at the web of men around Jeffrey, even after he's a convicted sex offender; Ghislaine tries to escape his orbit, but she's drawn back by a revealing photo.



5 Reels

Shocking Story

In light of the guilty verdict of Ghislaine Maxwell, watching this three part episodes gave a insight to Maxwell's life, and maybe how she ended up being Epstein's accomplice. Journalist Vicky Ward shows the story of Maxell's past, and how she would do anything, absolutely anything to please the powerful men in her life, including her father, and Jeffery Epstein. She was his child gatherer, to suit all of his deviant and perverted (and yes, pedophilia needs). 5 Reels definitely from Amy's Reel Reviews.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14706922/

Audiobook: https://www.audible.com/pd/Chasing-Ghislaine-Podcast/B09887Z858

Unauthorized Autobiography: https://www.amazon.com/Ghislaine-Maxwell-Unauthorized-Biography-Shocking-

ebook/dp/B098T7XGJ6/

/

Chasing Ghislaine (2021)

Website: https://writeramyshannon.wixsite.com/amys-reel-reviews

Genre: Documentary

About the Show:

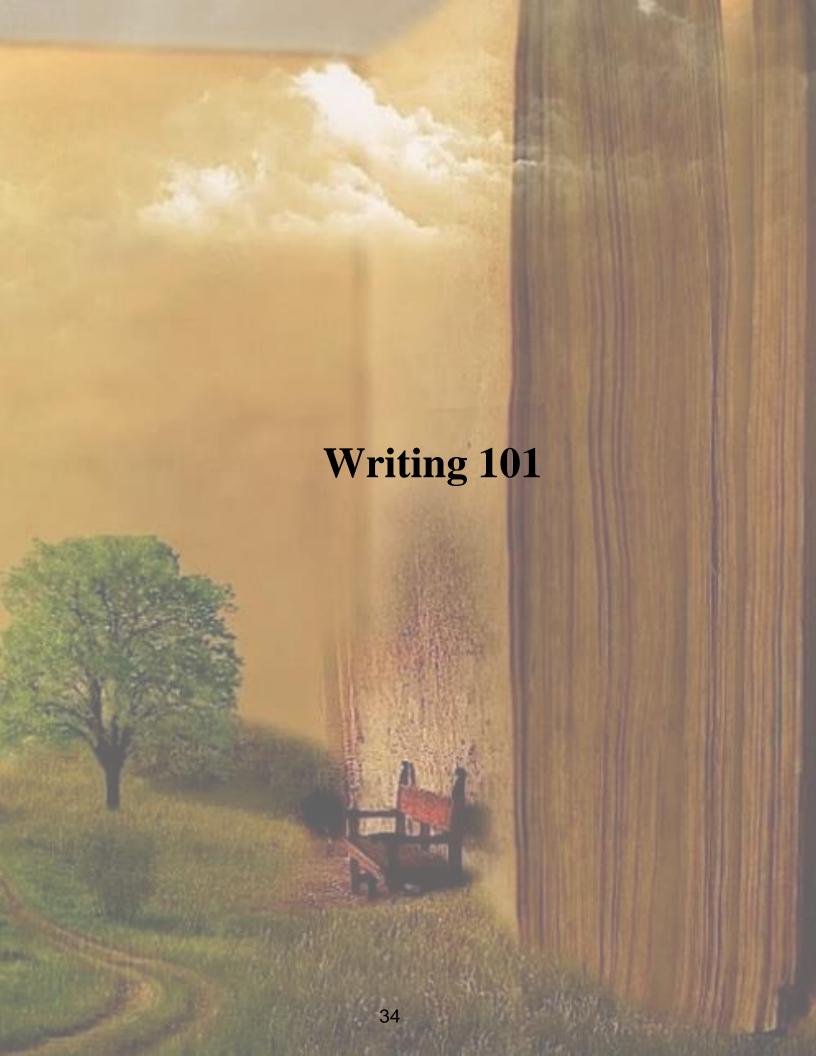
Investigative docuseries focusing in the alleged role of Ghislaine Maxwell as accomplice to Jeffrey Epstein.

Journalist Vicky Ward delves into a story of male power and a woman allegedly willing to do anything to keep her man; Jeffrey Epstein was a comman with a taste for young girls; Ghislaine Maxwell faces charges of finding girls to satisfy him.

Discovery Article:

https://corporate.discovery.com/discovery-newsroom/new-three-part-special-chasing-ghislaine-exposes-chilling-revelations-in-the-dark-partnership-between-ghislaine-maxwell-and-jeffrey-epstein





Writing Tips

Building your brand as an author

By

Amy Shannon

For an author marketing and promotion is an important part of publishing their work. Whether the author is new to the publishing world or they have experience some still do not realize how important their brand is.



What is an author's brand?

An author's brand is who the author is. Whatever name the author writes under, whether it be a pen name or their real name or some version of their real name that is the authors brand. Also, some authors have some type of image or photograph or graphic that depicts their brand however they want the readers to see them. It can be some type of logo for that author.

When authors publish their book, especially their first book, Authors will promote their book which is great, but they will also set up web sites or social media accounts or other formats for marketing and promotion specifically for that book.

Authors should consider that they may write other books. If the author has a passion for writing or telling stories, they most definitely will write another book. Instead of creating specific social media accounts or websites for a specific book they should create one for their brand. Eventually, they will want to promote their new work and keep in touch with their readership or audiences, and they will want to draw in new readers.

Promoting your brand

If even if you have a publisher, the author still needs to do work in marketing and promotion. website, blogs, and social media can help in marketing and promotion. If you create a website have it as an official site of your brand your pen name or real name depending on what is on your book. If you create a blog, do the same thing.

Social media

If you're doing it on social media, especially Facebook, try to have a separate page from your normal profile so that one can be dedicated to your personal life which is your Facebook profile and the page can be dedicated to you as a writer. If you dedicate a Facebook page to just your book, you will end up creating multiple Facebook pages as you write more books.

There are dozens of social media sites and some are more popular than others, but don't be overwhelmed. Think of one or two social media sites that you may be familiar with and use those to promote your book and promote your brand. I'm not saying not to promote your book because that's what you want to do but since you will have more than one book you also have to promote your own brand.

Building your brand as an author By Amy Shannon

Book sites and book shopping sites

The difference between book sites and book shopping sites is that some sites just list books and reviews and don't allow sales from the particular site. An example is the book site Goodreads. This site allows reviews to be posted at any time for any book it also has different categories for users, such as librarian, author, and reader. Now Goodreads does allowed links to where people could buy your book if it is listed on that particular site. If you are listing your books on Goodreads, you may want to create an author profile. In doing an author profile, it's a place where all your books that are published or going to be published can be viewed under 1 area. Goodreads also has a lot of other functions, such as giveaways (user must pay a fee), and they also have a blog so if you wanted A blog that was link to your Goodreads account you could do so.



Book shopping sites are obviously where you can buy a book. Amazon is one of the big ones an Amazon has also international sites, so they have gone global. Amazon is also it plays where authors can self-publish their work. It is called author central and authors can upload their books for both digital and paperback copies. If the author takes this option, these books will only be published on the Amazon site. If your book is listed on Amazon it is important to create an author profile page so that all your books can be listed under your name on a page and the access easily.



Amazon has a feature where you can join KDP, but only if you are only listing your book on Amazon.

There are other self-publishing sites such as Smashwords and Lulu. Smashwords allows the sale of your books in different digital formats. Lulu also allows the sale of your books in different digital formats an also paperback. Lulu and Smashwords are also do-it-yourself books self-publishing sites and they also sell the books that self-published authors create. There are other companies that you can buy packages for and they will publish your book for indie authors.

What the author does or does not do is up to the author. What I recommend is that authors do their research. Look at other authors brands; how they create their websites. How they create their blogs. What their book covers look like.

You do not have to be famous to publish a book. Unfortunately, you don't know what you don't know. Try connecting with other authors especially indie authors if that is where you are going and see what kind of things they are doing. As an author you may not always have the skills to do everything such as, creating covers, promoting your work, and finding people to do reviews of your work. The work does not stop even though he wrote the end at the story.

I am always available to answer questions from new authors and help them whenever I possibly can. I am a huge supporter of the indie author community. I, too, am an indie author.

Effective Communication

The process of communication is both verbal and nonverbal. Communication has a flow that enlists several different components. In all communication, there is a sender, a message and a receiver, and in order to be complete or a two-way communication, there is a response by the sender, which could result in a message being sent to the original sender. There are different verbal and nonverbal components communication. In a flow of communication, there are other elements that come into the process, such as a source, an encoder, a message, a channel, a decoder, and a receiver. There are different sources for communication. such as telephone/cell phone. email/text or other electronic communication, and faceto-face verbal communication.



Law Enforcement

In law enforcement, communication is imperative in the process of the criminal justice system. From the moment an officer interacts with a victim, witness, or suspect, the communication process must



be clear and concise. If there is any miscommunication in the process, there could be cause for evidence or statements to be dropped or not allowed in court or as evidence. Statements made to officers and interrogators play a major part in the process of criminal justice. There is a major difference in just hearing a person speak and actually listening to what the person had to say. Hearing is the process of just hearing the sounds that come out of a another person's mouth, or being inactive, as they are speaking but listening is an active process of paying close to attention to what the other person is saying. Hearing and listening is the difference between being inactive and active.

Communication is verbal or nonverbal, such as using body language or facial expressions to communicate. Sometimes there is an incorrect interpretation of a phrase that a person says or the way that they act. In some cases, the actions of people are studied, and this even includes criminals, as well as the actions or reactions of victims. This process is profiling, but it ends up being more scientific. It is not always cut and dry, but it teaches about people.

An assumption of how a victim, witness, or suspect is supposed to act can impede the judgment and overall process of the case being investigated. Assumptions can impede the complete investigation and cause issues for prosecutors.

Effective Communication (Cont'd)

Retired Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, John E. Douglas wrote many books about the cases that his team worked on during his tenure with the FBI. Douglas is a successful profiler, even after being retired writes about the cases, and even profiles the victims and criminals in order to train other law enforcement officers to do better at their job and with their own observation or profiling.

Douglas writes in his book, "Obsession" in his and the FBI orders to local police that they would be assisting is this, "send us your crime-scene photos, and officer-on-the-scene accounts. witness statements, autopsy photos, protocols and ...anything else that might be relevant to the case ... but don't give us your suspect list, if you have one, or tell us who you think might have done it; we don't want to be influenced by your opinion," (Douglas, 1998, p. 3). This statement goes to the point of assumptions and influences by others, during the course of communication. Any time another person is brought into the case, the previous person or investigator should not just give opinion, only state facts. Assumptions are a large barrier of direct communication.

There are other barriers of communication, such as language or social background. Just because someone speaks the same language, does not mean that they will necessarily understand each other. English is a largely spoken language, probably the top most spoken language, but it does not mean that everyone speaks it the same. Some people speak in English as their second language, and it could be spoken in what some call "broken" English. Others speak it with a strong accent, such as Southern accents, and others may speak with jargon of their culture, in a form that only that culture understands.

If a police officer is questioning a person who lives on the street or is part of a gang, the language may be different and the officer may not understand. The barrier can be influenced and assumptions made but it should be acknowledge by the officer.

The well-trained law enforcement personnel will be able to acknowledge and understand the barriers and make strides to rectify where there would be barriers in communication. If there is a language barrier, then an interpreter should be brought in. If the victim needs to be calmed down or relaxed before making a statement, then the officer should assess the situation. Stressors or trauma can affect not only the way a person communicates, but if they communication or relay any useful information at all. A victim who is traumatized may not be thinking clearly and is upset but maybe the victim is the type of person that can recount every detail of the attack or trauma, or maybe the victim cannot articulate any information. Douglas also writes that "behavior reflects personality," (Douglas, 1998, p. 284) and this little phrase can also be part of communication.



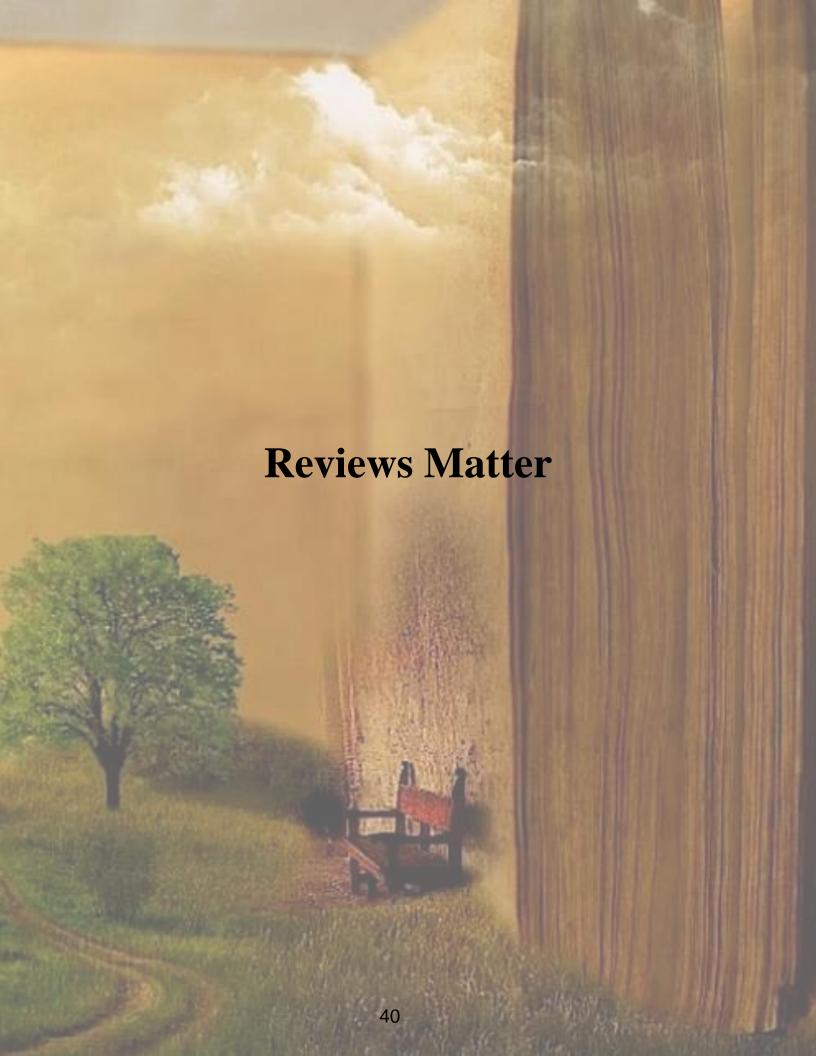
Effective Communication (Cont'd)

Just hearing or listening to what someone is saying is not just communication. Effective communication has several processes and elements, which include not just written and verbal, or body language and facial expression, but observation, and what people observe about others. A law enforcement officer's biggest and great tool is their observation and ability to read people. They cannot always rely on what they see, but what they don't see. Communication, effective communication, is key to any interaction with law enforcement and citizens. Without a strong communication, cases are dropped or lost.



Amy Shannon

The Official Blog of Amy Shannon



Reviews Matter!!

By Amy Shannon

Yes, it's another "cause" of Amy's Bookshelf Reviews. There is still reading banned books, and of course, I want to read and review for as many authors as I can. I'm even making contact with publishers from authors that I've read for to expand my reading list. I know that some of my shelves are full, and I am doing my best not just to read them, but be able to post them. At my current state, there are no funds to buy more books as of yet, so if the book isn't a verified purchase, I am limited of what and when I can post reviews. Sometimes I have to put off posting for someone so a release date review can be posted.

Anyway, that's where I'm at. I can't write as much as I used to, but I am still reading, and when my eyes get tired, I do listen to the book on my computer (that's why I ask for PDFs or convert books to PDFs).

Also, if you are a reader, please leave a review. I know (from experience) how important reviews are, and how it is to only get one or two reviews (I don't have enough time to seek out reviews for myself, but this isn't really about me or my work). I can only review a book once (unless it gets released to another format or added to a boxed set), so if you read, write a review. Reviews are the foundation for authors, and they get to know how others feel about their work, and learn from it. They can also use reviews for promotions and there is some algorithm that amazon does when a book hits 25 reviews, and then 50 and so on, but I'm not sure of the benefits, probably ranking or something. #reviewsmatter #ABSRmatters

If you read on a Kindle, and the book was bought on Amazon, you can leave a review right at the very end of the book. Even if you buy a book somewhere else (even at a second hand store, or book store), you can go on amazon, and write a review, and there are other sites to do so as well.





The Great Mongolian Bowling League of the United States of America

By Ed Borowsky
https://www.edborowsky.com

Fate is a funny thing because how could two old Jewish guys ever come together with two young Mongolian immigrants?

HAROLD KUSHNER and his roommate of thirty years, Murray Schwartz, are average senior citizens facing down their mortality in a trailer park in Land O' Lakes, Florida. Two self-professed "best Jewish bowlers ever" wind up contestants in the first-ever Great Mongolian Bowling League Tournament in the U.S.A. The rivalry becomes a high-stakes roll-off as Harold approaches "perfection" (defined in the bowling world as three 300-score games in a row) despite a fix set by the alley's mobster owners. As the reporters and camera crews swarm to cover his amazing feat, Harold finds himself in a life review spanning back to his Bar Mitzvah and a past incarnation as a Mongolian warrior in the era of Genghis Khan, as he ponders profound questions we all ask as we near the end of our lives: Did my life have meaning? Did I fulfill my potential? Was I a good person?

Can Harold roll perfection to help his new Mongolian friends and live to tell the tale? The uncanny action unfolds in this beautiful comedy illuminating that although we come from worlds far apart, we share a common humanity. The outcome will impact millions... and strike you right in the heart.



