TITERATE TY MAGAZINE

From Reviews to Literary News From History to Her-Story Built to educate authors

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

BOOK REVIEWS:

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews
Uncaged Magazine Reviews

HOW TO WRITE A REVIEW

THE WRITTEN WORD,

SO POWERFUL, SO MUCH TO BE SEIZED AND BURNED!

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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.

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

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Uncaged Magazine Book Reviews uncagedbooks.com

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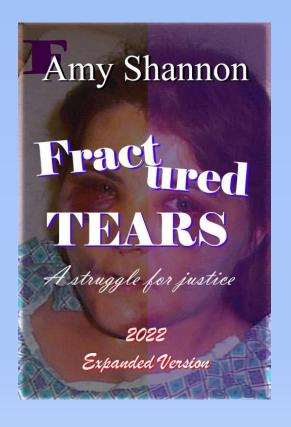
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Fractured Tears: A Struggle for Justice Expanded Version

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 McKensie Stewart

McKensie Stewart is a native of Columbia, South Carolina, where she attended Columbia College. Currently she is an educator, fictional novelist and entrepreneur living in her home town again. McKensie enjoys walking on the beach, living life to the fullest, when she isn't terrifying and romancing her readers. Presently, she is working on her latest novel.

McKensie was also the host of former internet radio show The Writer's Edge with McKensie Stewart on Fishbowl Radio Network's Grey stream. McKensie is now the co-host of The After Show with McKensie Stewart & Amy Shannon on BlogTalk Radio. McKensie is not only the co-host but she handles marketing, business practices, and guest recruitment.

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McKensie's current published books are Shattered: An Emily Graham Novel, Deception: An Emily Graham Novel, and The Lost Letter. All can be purchased on Amazon.com

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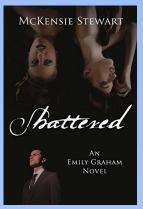
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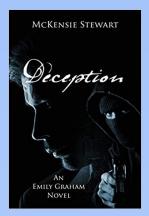
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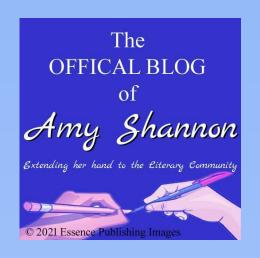








Got a blog Tour?



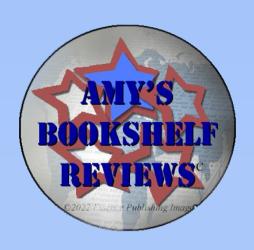
The official Blog of Amy Shannon has moved, but it still participates in blog tours and author promotions.

https://essenceenterpriseus.com/amy-shannons-blog

This blog participates in blog tours by creating blog posts that gives information about the author and the book being promoted.

Some blog tours run simultaneously with Amy's Bookshelf Reviews when the review is posted on the blog tour date selected.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews



Amy's Bookshelf Reviews has a new website at https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/

And it also has new rules and requests information. The new request policies have changed, and the way an author makes a request has changed. These changes are to make it easier and more understandable for the author, and to a more streamlined approach.

https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/requests-and-rules

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews is also to announce that it has become a book influencer and a professional review for authors, and directly for publishers.

Yes, you can self-narrate your audiobook!

(But you'll need to read this first)

Part 3 of 3 Parts

By Kevin G. Chapman

Attorney & Author

www.KevinGChapman.com



IN PART 1 of this article series {insert hyperlink}, we decided to self-narrate an audiobook and set up our home studio. In part 2 {insert hyperlink}, we went over the process for capturing your dulcet tones on digital audio files. Now, you have your audiobook tracks in the can and you're ready to put it up for sale on Audible and/or Findaway Voices (we won't get into the pros and cons of these platforms in this article). Not so fast. Your tracks still need to be edited, proofed, mastered, and uploaded. Let's cover all that in this last installment.

Practice Editing

Yes, there will be editing. If, like me, you are selfnarrating because you don't want to pay a professional, then you won't want to pay a professional engineer/editor any more than you want to pay a professional narrator. So, you will be doing your own editing. Like narrating, you need to practice. You can do this while you are also doing your sound checks and practicing with your equipment before you start narrating. Make a practice recording of the first several pages of your text using the settings you have decided are perfect, then immediately edit it. Editing is the most time-consuming part of the process. The ACX trainers say you should expect to spend three (3) hours editing everyone (1) hour of narration. They're not kidding! But, the more you do it, the easier and faster it gets. However, there is a steep learning curve. As you edit your tracks, you will figure

out things you can do while narrating that will make the editing easier. That synergy is important, and you won't get it unless you do it..

Use your good headphones – especially during the editing and proofing process

I already suggested that you use good over-the-hear headphones while narrating. The same goes double when editing. I had some family obligations that prevented me from barricading myself in my basement for the entire night while I carefully edited in total silence. So, I sat on my couch with and earbud in one ear while carrying on a conversation with my wife through the other ear (and listening to the hockey game). Bad idea. Later, during the QC process, I heard many things on my tracks that I wish I had heard during the initial editing pass. If you can, use your good headphones when editing. You can take them off occasionally to talk to your spouse.

Edit immediately after recording

There are two great reasons why you should edit immediately after recording. First, this will limit the duration of your recording sessions, which is good. Your voice will start to wear down if you try to record more than (in my case) 90 minutes in a stretch. You will also get tired and make more narrating mistakes. If you do a 60-minute recording session, then immediately spend the next three hours editing what you just recorded, you will necessarily limit the strain on your vocal chords.

It's also really nice to have a finished, edited file in the can (that you backed up!) at the end of the day. You will have a great sense of accomplishment and finality that will help you move on to the next day. To the contrary, if you end the day with 3 or 4 hours of narration that still needs to be edited, you'll be looking at a long hard stretch of editing that will seem like a much more monumental task. (At least, that's how it seemed to me.)

Run backwards through each file to remove mistakes

After 20 days of editing, I finally realized that I was spending time each day editing sections of tracks that I later deleted. This happened because, a few second later in the track, there was a hand clap, creating a spike in the wave form, indicating a flub in the narration. Immediately after the marker was the re-recorded text, without the error. So, the segment I just edited had to be trashed! The solution, as I eventually figured out, is to run through the whole track backwards from the end to the beginning, looking for the error markers that you made when you messed up during the narration. (See Part Two of this article series.) You can quickly delete all the flubbed and re-recorded text first. Then, when you start the editing from the beginning, you're only editing the "clean" track.

Backup! Backup!!

Yes, I gave the same tip in Part Two. I'm giving it again. I Can't stress this enough. Always make a back-up before you start manipulating a track. If you mess it up, you can go back to the original and start over. And, yes, you will probably delete something you didn't mean to delete. It happens. Be prepared for it.

Clip a segment of room noise

You will recall that the ambient sound on your tracks when you're not narrating is referred to as "room noise." When you edit your tracks, you'll hear all kinds of stray sounds in between your words. Mouse clicks, breaths, burps, your hand scraping across your table surface, you 10

name it. You'll want to edit out those sounds, and you'll need some "room noise" to put in. Figure out the duration of the pauses you want between sentences (for me it was about 0.8 seconds) and have a clip of pristine room noise ready to cut and paste into those gaps. This will also allow you to normalize your narration by having the same amount of space between sentences. Do not use the "delete" function in your editing software to insert total silence. You want the normal room noise, not a total blank.

Mastering your edited files

When all your tracks are edited, carefully follow the instructions and advice of ACX about how to "master" your files. Start from a backed-up WAV file (the raw file created when you narrated the track) and run it through the equalizer and normalizer applications until it meets all the audio standards to be accepted by ACX. (Findaway Voices uses the same standards.) As you go through the process, take careful notes about each setting you use. When you configure your equalizer in a certain pattern, take a photo of the pattern and label it. When you adjust your limiter settings, write them down. When you finally achieve the final sound quality that you like for the first track, you need to be able to duplicate the exact same settings for every other track. Don't assume that you will remember (oh, you won't remember). Write them down!

Don't neglect the QC review

After you're all done with your mastering, you're supposed to do a Quality Control listen. The QC process means listening to the whole book, front to back, just as a new listener would experience it. My first book, Righteous Assassin, is 13 hours of audiobook. So, that's a lot of QCS listening. There is a temptation to just skip it. You've already edited each track. You are quite sure that there's nothing more that you really need to check. But, you're probably wrong.

In the QC process for Righteous Assassin, I discovered two instances where I spoke in the wrong voice – speaking lines for a female character in a male voice, and vice-versa.

I also found three instances where I spoke the wrong word – just brain-locked and said "seven" when it was supposed to be "seventeen" and "two thousand six" when it was supposed to be "2016." I also noticed several instances where I thought I had successfully edited out a stray sound, only to discover an editing "splice" that was obvious and distracting. And, there were two instances of lengthy spaces of dead air. How did I miss all that when editing each track? I have no idea, but I did, and I was very happy to catch them in the QC process. You're putting in a lot of time on your audiobook project. Don't cut the final corner. And use your good over-the-ear headphones. You don't want to miss something important (like a stray mouse click) because you're not using your good equipment.

If you really don't want to listen to the whole book yourself, enlist a few "beta listeners" who have never heard any of it to listen to the whole thing (and write a review!) while making notes of anything that sounds wrong or any audio blemishes.

Don't skimp on the preparation of your intro and end credits

Don't forget to do as good a job recording of your introduction and your end credits as you did on the rest of the book. Remember, the front credits/intro is the first thing that a new listener/reader will hear. Give them a good impression. Maybe add some appropriate music. Make sure the title and your name are clear and wellrecorded. Do a nice fade-out leading into "Chapter 1." For a professional audiobook, the intro will include the name of the publisher and/or producer. Since you don't have one – make one up. I gave my basement studio the title "First Legacy Productions." (I wrote a serious literary fiction novel titled A Legacy of One, which is where that came from. Later, when I set up an LLC for my self-publishing business, I gave it the name, First Legacy Productions – so the production studio name is retroactively legitimate.) Give listeners the impression that they have purchased a professionally recorded



audiobook, rather than a self-produced product. They may figure it out later but do your best not to make it obvious.

Check your lead-in and post-text room noise

This seems easy. Each track should have between 0.5 and 1 second of "room noise" (quiet space) at the beginning, before you start reading, and between 1 and 5 seconds of room noise at the end. You can't just use your DAW software to delete all sound from the quiet space - that would be too silent. My second audiobook, Deadly Enterprise, was rejected by ACX because one track had an insufficient amount of quiet space at the end (0.5 seconds) and one track had too much (8 seconds). How did that happen? I have no idea. I checked them. I swear. But, somehow I missed these two problems. So, I corrected them, waited another six weeks, and then got another email rejecting my project again – this time because there was noise (a slight scratch and a mouse click) during the space that was supposed to be quiet at the beginning of two tracks. Aarrrrgh!!!! Really?

The solution? Remember that clip of room noise you used during editing? Find it. Make sure it's between 0.8 and 0.9 seconds and paste that onto the beginning of every track. Then take another snippet that is 4.3 seconds long and paste it onto the back of each track – erasing all other blank

space. Each track will have exactly the right amount of room noise at the beginning and end and each one will be exactly the same. If ACX Quality Control wants to reject the project, then it will have to reject every track.

For all my readers who suffered through the original version of Righteous Assassin, which sounded like I was narrating from the bottom of a garbage can, I apologize for my rookie performance - as a narrator and a sound tech. Yes, dear readers, the sound quality issue was so bad that I had to completely re-record the entire book. Please don't be me in that respect. I hope the advice here will help you avoid most of my mistakes and have a more enjoyable time narrating your book. I'm not claiming to be the world's best book narrator, but I know my characters and my books, and I'm confident that my listeners enjoy the stories. In one recent review of the audiobook of Fatal Infraction (book #4 in the Mike Stoneman Thriller series), the reviewer from InD'Tale magazine described the narration quality in terms that made me smile. I'm very satisfied if this is the general consensus about my self-narrating:

"This author narrates his own work. The voice of Stoneman is gritty and speaks of age and wisdom. Dickson is his younger partner, and is portrayed as such, but also seems to have a lot of innate intelligence. There are multiple characters to track, and Chapman does a wonderful job of creating a distinct personality and voice for each one. This narrator is intimately acquainted with these characters, and it shows! The recording quality is good." – InD'Tale Magazine

This article won't go into how to market an audiobook, and I'm definitely no expert there. But, I have realized enough profit on the audiobooks to more than cover my costs — but not enough to have justified hiring a professional narrator and engineer. So, yeah, it was worth it.



If you're considering self-narrating and want to chat about anything I've discussed in these articles, or anything I've left out, please feel free to contact me via my website at https:\\www.kevingchapman.com and I'll be very happy to pay it forward. Good luck!

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Attorney & Author
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The After Show with McKensie Stewart &

Amy Shannon



The After Show with McKensie Stewart & Amy Shannon was established in June 2019. We are now called the "Literary Dynamic Duo."

Our podcast is a platform created to assist authors to market their brand by promoting their work on the show located on BlogTalk Radio.

https://www.blogtalkradio.com/wetheaftershow

Want to be our guest?

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To find out more about how our podcast works, and how we interview and interact with our guests, please listen to a few shows. Our podcast interviews are more conversational. We discuss your book, where authors can find you and your work, and sometimes, we ask for you to read an excerpt of your book, if you're comfortable with it.

https://www.blogtalkradio.com/wetheaftershow/2021/09/1 0/chapter-8-episode-3

Guest Author Annie Percik talks about her book, "Spectrum of Heroes"

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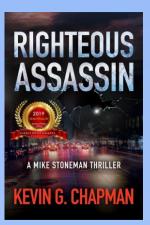
Guest Author Avanti Centrae discusses here book, The Doomsday Medallion

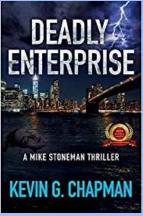


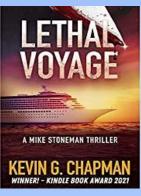
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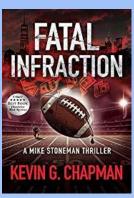
The Mike Stoneman Thriller Series

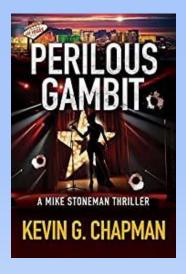
NYPD homicide detective Mike Stoneman and his partner Jason Dickson, are on a bumpy path as partners. They are thrust together to track a diabolical serial killer in Righteous Assassin. They doggedly insist on investigating the murder of a drug-addicted prostitute, over the objections of the top brass, 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!

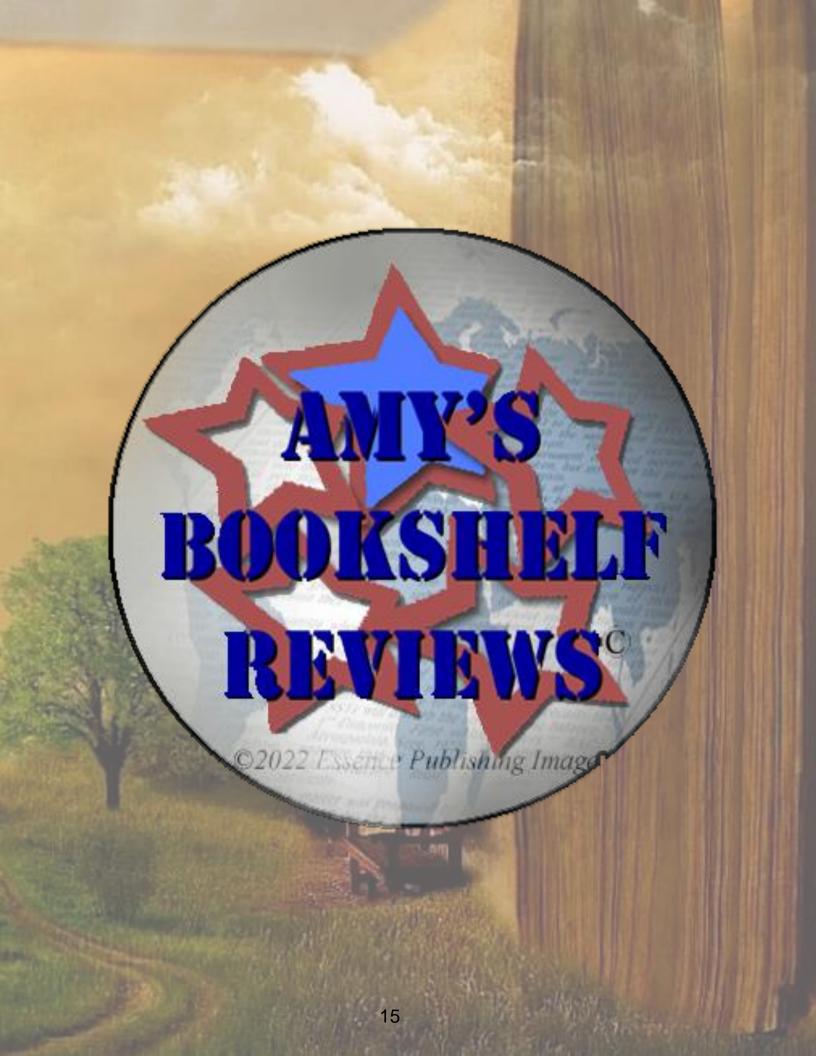


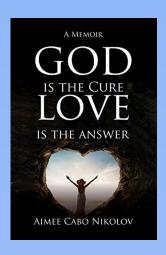










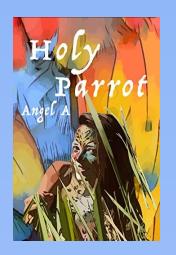


Aimee Cabo Nikolov- God is the Cure, Love is the Answer

5 Stars Inspirational

Memoir

This story by Nikolov is an inspirational memoir about heartbreaking and horrific events in a person's life. What makes it more torturous, yet endearing is that it's a true story, or based on one. The survival of all of what is evil leads this author to put faith in God, and in herself. It's a grand story that had parts were hard to read, and sometimes, put the story down and come back to it. The story, is inspirational. The story in pieces, inspirational and faithful, and survivable. I am a big fan of this author! Whatever this author writes, I want to read. It is a very inspirational story, even with the tragedies and triumphs. It is an emotional read as well. One that I won't soon forget. Something that really stands out for me, is when Aimee says to Bobby, "If you don't know who you love, you can't possibly love either of use. Doesn't a person only love one person at a time?" It's something we all think about, and yes, we can love more than one person, and each type of love is different. I reread this book with its new version, and got a different perspective than the first time I read it.

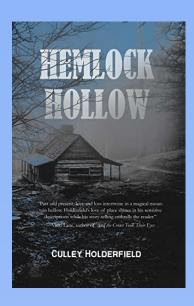


Angel A- Holy Parrot

4 Stars
A Great Read

What a grand story in Holy Parrot by Angel A. I am honored to read another story from Angel A. This story is a unique and intriguing read. The story takes place in Buritaca, Colombia, and the reader meets Mary. Mary swears that this Parrot whose name is, Gabriel, said she would have a child, the new Christ. It's an interesting story that brings in religious beliefs, and faith, and maybe a bit of deception. Not everyone believes Mary, especially when the self-proclaimed virgin is pregnant. The characters had a lot of depth and were very realistic. The story brings in the believable, even if almost impossible. This journey was very unpredictable. This is a totally inspirational title. This author is a great storyteller. Definitely an unpredictable story, my favorite kind! A wonderous trail of words.

Literary Fiction



Culley Holderfield- Hemlock Hollow

4 Stars

Historical Mystery

A Grand Read

What a grand story in Hemlock Hollow by Culley Holderfield. This is the first book that I've read from this author, and I hope that it won't be my last. I really enjoyed this magical and intriguing "hollow" and what stories it brings. The reader meets Caroline, who is one of those people who need to see proof and doesn't really believe in what she can't see. Once her father dies, she gets the family cabin, in Hemlock hollow, bringing her into the middle of not only her own ghost story, but smack-dab in the middle of a murder. She inadvertently becomes an amateur sleuth to find out the truth, and maybe her perspective on life will change. I just became a fan of this author, and was able to embrace the writing style, and storytelling abilities. The story brings in the believable, even if almost impossible. This story was very unpredictable. This author not only tells the story but shows it with words as well.



Diane Merrill Wiggington- A Compromising Position

4 Stars

A sweet and clean romance between enemies!

What a grandly romantic story in Compromising Position by Diane Merrill Wiggington. Do you believe in love at first sight? I don't think that Catherine or Jake believes in it. Total opposites, and what seems like a lifetime loathe, leads to something neither one predicted. It's a fun and interesting romance with good intentions, that grows. I like the story because the characters are really interesting, and polar opposites, and even if you didn't know they'd fall in love, even with their encounters, their unfriendly encounters, the reader can feel the chemistry even if the characters don't admit it. I am a definite fan of this author! It's a fun read, and very intriguing, since it makes you fall in love with Jake and Catherine, and wonder what will happen next between them, and how in the world do they make it to "love." This author has a great imagination and I'm glad it's being shared with marvelous books. It is always an honor to read this author's books. This author is a great storyteller. A wonderous trail of words. Historical

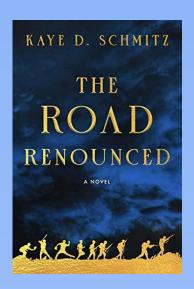
Fiction/Romance



John L. DeBoer- The Girl From Belgrade

5 Stars
Thrilling!
Thriller

What a thrilling story in The Girl From Belgrade by John L. DeBoer. This is the first book of this author's that I've read. and I must say, this is a very powerful story. One that is not too far from things that happen in real life. A young girl, family killed in a bombing, grows up to be a killer, seeking revenge, closing off her heart and emotions, except for hate. Her hate for anything America. Then we are introduced to commander Baker, and he is being dragged into the assassin's world, as it hits too close to home. This author brings the words to life. The characters had a lot of depth and were very realistic. This is a magnificent plot 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 characterizations the end. engrossing and dynamic. This read is more than just words on a page. Definitely an unpredictable story, my favorite kind!



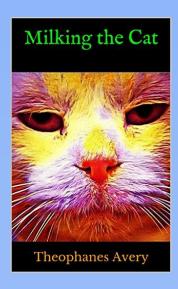
Historical Fiction

Kaye D. Schmitz- The Road Renounced

5 Stars

Another Amazing story from Schmitz!

What an intriguing and amazingly written story in The Road Renounced by Kaye D. Schmitz. I read the book that came before this one, and I really, really enjoyed the read. I like Schmitz's writing style, and how she tells the story of not just one era, but two. The reader is introduced to Suzanne Ryan, who discovers her grandmother's story, her diary. Maude's story comes front and center as the time is rewound back to 1915. The era of WWI and how the war, which started from a shot heard around the world, affects those living around the world, even in Prospect Park. It may seem that because the war is on the other side of the world, it doesn't affect those who are living in the US, but it does, and this is Maude's story. It is a very well-written plot, and I enjoyed it. It's embraceable. It's definitely un-put-downable! It is always an honor to read this author's books. This author is a great storyteller. The author brings the reader on a superb journey. This is a magnificent plot that kept this reader turning the pages. I am a big fan of history, and I love the way Schmitz shares the stories of the past, and in a very unique and personal way.



Theophanes Avery- Milking the Cat

4 Stars

A very unique and interesting read!

What an interesting story in Milking the Cat by Theophanes Avery. When you first read it, you may think, hmm, what is this story really about. It keeps that intrigue and brings you into the world of animals, and not just animals, but situations that aren't usually written about. It has dark humor, and some places, you may need a thick skin, but this is a remarkable read. The title is actually very fitting, but there are more than just fun, furry kitties in this book. The book delves into cats, chickens, dogs, fish, rodents and even crickets and other creepy crawlers, (just to name a few). There is a lot of information that the author shares with the reader about different animals. and different perspectives, like the strangest names people may give their pets. This author is a great storyteller. The author brings the reader on a superb journey. This read is more than just words on a page. I hope to read more books by this author. . Animals.

> Memoir, Dark Humor



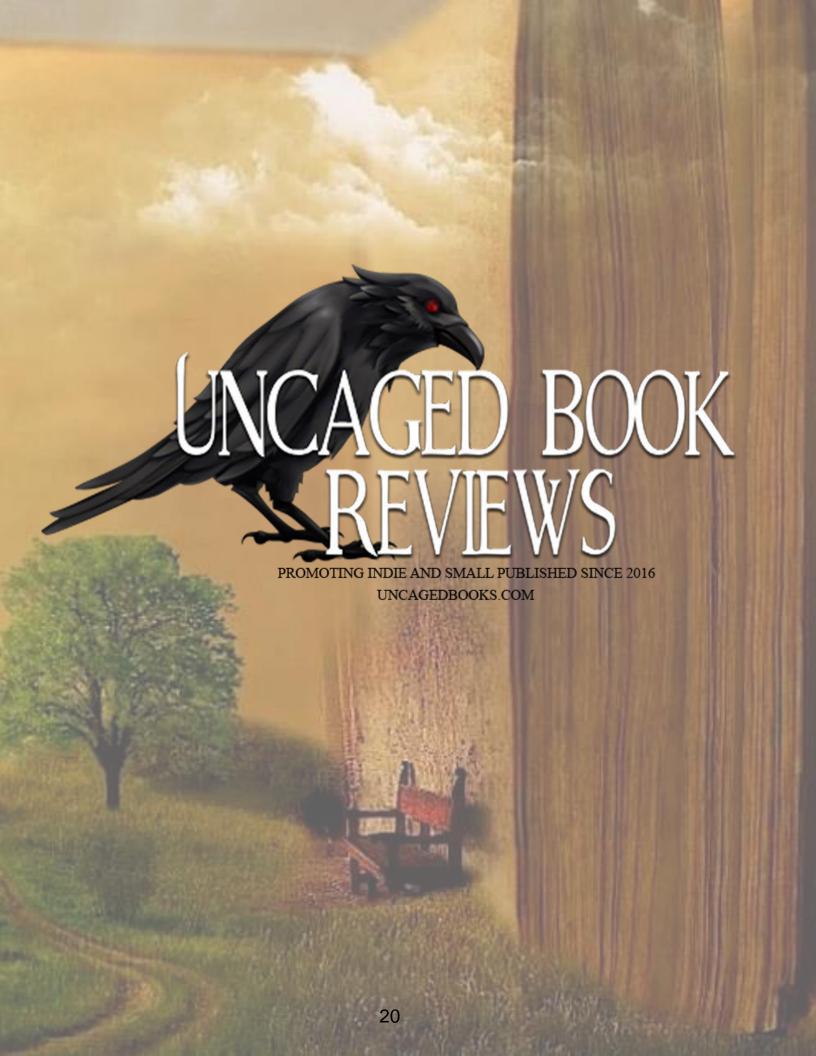
Valeri Stanoevich- Fancy Shop

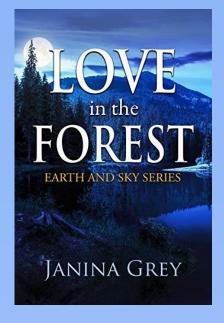
4 Stars

Grand, fantastical short stories

What a grand collection of stories in Fancy Shop by Valeri Stanoevich. This book is the first that I've read from this author, and the collection of stories is very interesting. They fit within the genre of fantasy, but there is also the mix of reality, and perception of one's reality. One of the stories matches the title of the book, Fancy Shop. One of my favorites, was Treatment. There was something about the story that made me read it twice. "They stopped in front of the pavilion and turned back. I was not in a hurry to reach them. Everything was quiet. I could hold the building, the foliage, and the sunset together in the palm of my hand. The smell of damp permeated the hall. The corpse was lying on the dissecting table." This author is a great storyteller and takes the reader on different journeys with each story. I hope to read more books by this author.

Fantasy





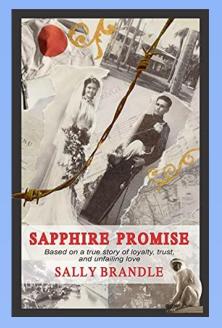
Love in the Forest by Janina Grey

5 Stars

From the first chapter I was drawn in by the wonderful area and scenery that has me wishing for a vacation in New York. When Josh takes a leave to the Earth and Sky Retreats he never would have known what an impact the area and one woman would have on him. Both Brooke and Josh will transform in the pages of the book, and find their way out of their pasts.

These are characters that are easy to like and are real enough that they could be your own friends, and the author draws you in and makes you feel like you are part of the story. This contemporary romance has a slight twist, that only makes it more compelling.

Contemporary Romance



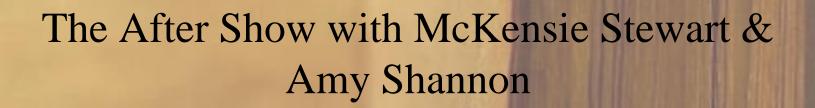
Historical

Sapphire Promise by Sally Brandle

5-Stars

I've actually had this book read for a bit, but I think it took a while for me to digest this book well enough to write a review. This book is not like anything I've read, and mind you, I don't read biographies or even war era books often and I know this is all based on a true story. The amount of research to tell this story correctly is mind blowing to me, but this author has done her due diligence and has told a story so engrossing that once you start reading, you won't put it down. The story of Annika is not only heartbreaking at times, it's also heartwarming. The love she has for the lieutenant and her mother is unwavering and inspiring.

The author is able to take us back in time, with her beautiful descriptions that enhance the reading. There isn't too many books that I can compare this too and what is great about these type of books, is that I learn when I read since it's all based on true events and people. Highly recommended. Too bad 5 stars is the limit.





The After Show with McKensie Stewart & Amy Shannon

Our podcast is a platform created to assist authors to market their brand by promoting their work on the show located on BlogTalk Radio.

https://www.blogtalkradio.com/wetheaftershow

We are currently in our 13th season (chapter) with no end in sight. We invite authors to be our guest, and our fees are very reasonable, so much that you could include it in your marketing or promotion budget, because that is what you're doing when you're a guest. You're promoting your work.

Chapter 13 Schedule for the beginning of 2023. We are scheduling for Chapter 14 and beyond as well. (Guests or topics may be subject to change). We run on Friday evenings at 6:30 PM Eastern Time Zone.

Episode 7 1/6/2023 6:30 PM Author Becky Parket Geist

Episode 8 1/13/2023 6:30 PM Author Richard Martin 7:00 PM Author Rich Hosek

Episode 9 1/20/2023 6:30 PM Author SS Turner

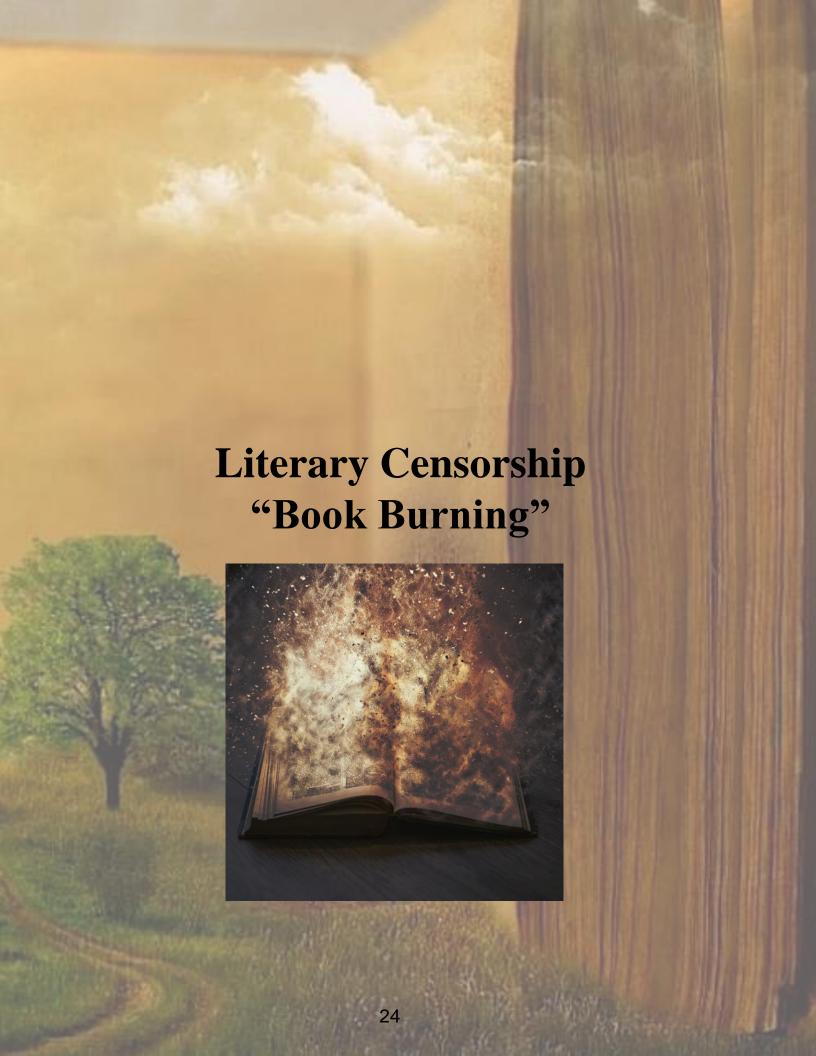
Episode 10 1/27/2023 TBD Episode 11 2/3/2023

Ruth Bader Ginsburg & Writing Contests and Resources

Episode 12 2/10/2023 McKensie's release & Story Drafts purposes

Episode 13 2/17/2023

Banned Books & Indie Authors and Publishing



The written word, so powerful, so much to be seized and burned!

By Amy Shannon

Since the written word was put on pen to paper, or plume to scroll, persons have been reading and sharing their words and thoughts. The writer sharing beliefs, and sometimes what could be called controversial. Since the dawn of the written word, where every story was spoken and then written, there are those who seemed to be single-minded, or rulers who feel threatened at the words of their rivals or enemies, and even past rulers. This is part I of a journey through time, and the burning of books. and unfortunately, some thoughts are lost forever.

Antiquity

A scroll written by the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah (burnt by King Jehoiakim)

About 600 BC, Jeremiah of Anathoth wrote that the King of Babylon would destroy the land of Judah. As recounted in Jeremiah 36, Jeremiah's scroll was read before Jehoiakim, King of Judah, in the presence of important officials; King Jehoiakim destroyed the scroll in a fire, and then sought to have Jeremiah arrested.

Protagoras' "On the Gods" (by Athenian authorities)

The Classical Greek philosopher Protagoras (c. 490 – c. 420 BC) was a



proponent of agnosticism, writing in a now-lost work titled On the Gods: "Concerning the gods, I have no means of knowing whether they exist or not or of what sort they may be, because of the obscurity of the subject, and the brevity of human life. Quotations of his works were embedded in the works of later authors. Protagoras' ideals and perceptions created anger within the Athenian community, where they ostracized him, and collected all copies of his writings, and then burned them. Later information, denies that Protagoras was ostracized.

Democritus' writings (by Plato)

The philosopher Plato had a rivalry with fellow-philosopher. Plato wanted to destroy all copies of his rival's work, but was not in a position to do so. However, Plato's purpose was largely achieved through the choices made by scribes in later Classical times. Plato's own writings were frequently copied, and unlike nearly all of his philosophical contemporaries, Plato's entire work is believed



to have survived intact for over 2,400 years, where none of Democritus' writings have survived, but there may be parts of his writings still in existence.

Chinese philosophy books (by Emperor Qin Shi Huang and anti-Qin rebels)

During the Warring States Period, China was divided into various states. With Emperor Qin Shi Huang conquest of all the others states, on the advice of his minister Li Si, he ordered the burning of all philosophy books and history books from states other than Qin – beginning in 213 BC. This was followed by the live burial of a large number of intelligent persons, who did not comply with the state dogma. So, not only were the books burned, but also those who did not follow Qin's beliefs.

Jewish holy books (by the Seleucid monarch Antiochus IV)

In 168 BC the Seleucid monarch Antiochus IV ordered Jewish 'Books of the Law' found in Jerusalem to be seized and burned, — part of the series of persecutions that precipitated the revolt of the Maccabees.

Torah scroll (by a Roman soldier)

Flavius Josephus [16] relates that about the year 50 a Roman soldier seized a Torah scroll and, with abusive and mocking language, burned it in public. This incident almost brought on a general Jewish revolt against Roman rule, such as broke out two decades later. However, the Roman Procurator Cumanus appeased the Jewish populace by beheading the culprit.

Rabbi Haninah ben Teradion burned with a Torah scroll (under Hadrian)

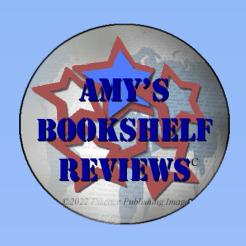
Under Emperor Hadrian, the teaching of the Jewish Scriptures were forbidden, so the Roman authorities regarded such teaching as seditious and tending towards revolt. Haninah ben Teradion, one of the Jewish Ten Martyrs executed for having defied that ban, is reported to have been burned at the stake together with the forbidden Torah scroll which he had been teaching.

It is not the first burning of the The Torah, nor the last. Apostomus who over took the Jews on the Seventeenth of Tammuz, included the burning of the Torah.

Library of Antioch (by Jovian)

In 364, the Roman Catholic Emperor Jovian ordered the entire Library of Antioch to be burnt, with the reasoning that it was stocked by the aid of his non-Christian predecessor, Emperor Julian.

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.

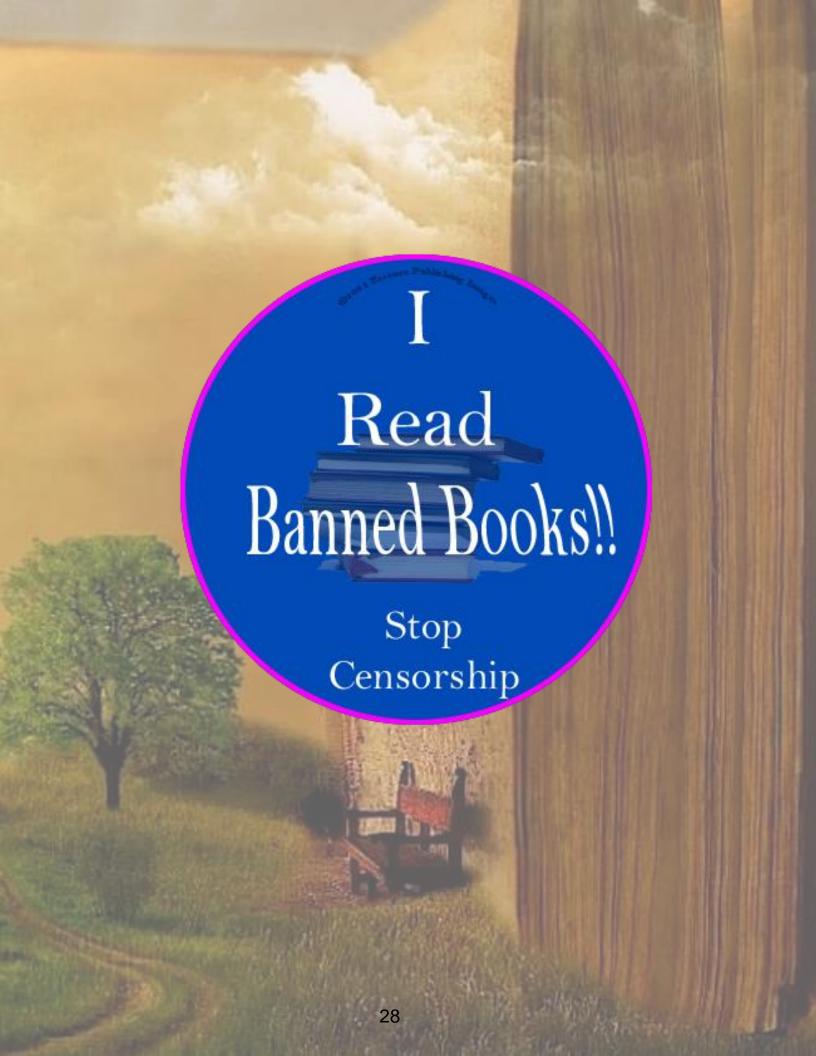
For "legacy friends" (repeat representatives), who want reviews for their clients also have options, and some are already designated as priority or preferred legacy friends.

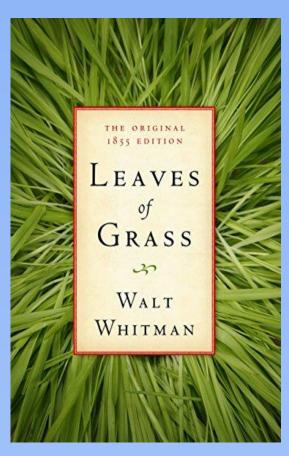
So, check out Amy's Bookshelf Reviews, and if you need assistance, there are how-to videos on navigation and how to request a review if you're a new author to the site.

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.





Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass

About the Book:

When Walt Whitman self-published Leaves of Grass in 1855, he rocked the literary world and forever changed the course of poetry. In subsequent editions, Whitman continued to revise and expand his poems--but none matched the raw power and immediacy of the first edition.

This beautifully-designed volume presents the original edition Leaves of Grass in its entirety, along with Ralph Waldo Emerson's famous letter to Whitman.

The Review: 5 Stars

Whitman is a genius

If you have the chance to read Whitman do it. He was a man well before his time. He was always true to himself. His words painted a beautiful picture of how he saw the world. From love to nature to majesty he wrote about the world. He wasn't afraid to write and write about feelings. Worth the second and third read. Keep this on your reading list indefinitely. Whitman is definitely my favorite, and I love his poetry, and the fact that he wasn't afraid to be himself. His work always inspires me, so if you love reading the classics, this is a great book to start with. Introduce yourself to Walt Whitman, and yes, this book has been on many of the banned, and burned books list. His books have been burned since he first published his works, and just because they were about his feelings, and lovers.

Amy's True Crime Penned and Portrayed Reviews



Jeffrey Epstein: Filthy Rich (2020)

1 season (4 episodes)

S1, Ep1 Hunting Grounds

Survivors recount how Epstein abused, manipulated and silenced them as he ran a so-called molestation "pyramid scheme" out of his Palm Beach mansion.

S1, E2 Follow the Money

Epstein goes on the offensive as police gather mountains of evidence against him. But how did he acquire the fortune that protected him for so long?

S1, E3 The Island

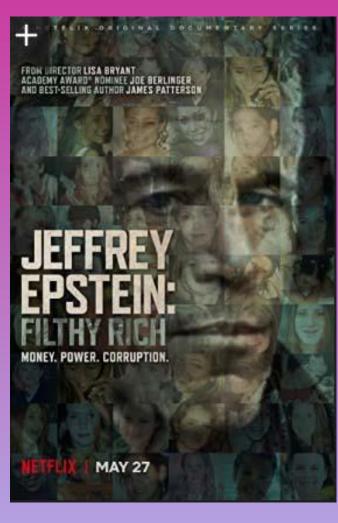
Epstein brokers a plea deal that's unprecedented in its leniency, and a survivor opens up about the horrors she endured on his private island.

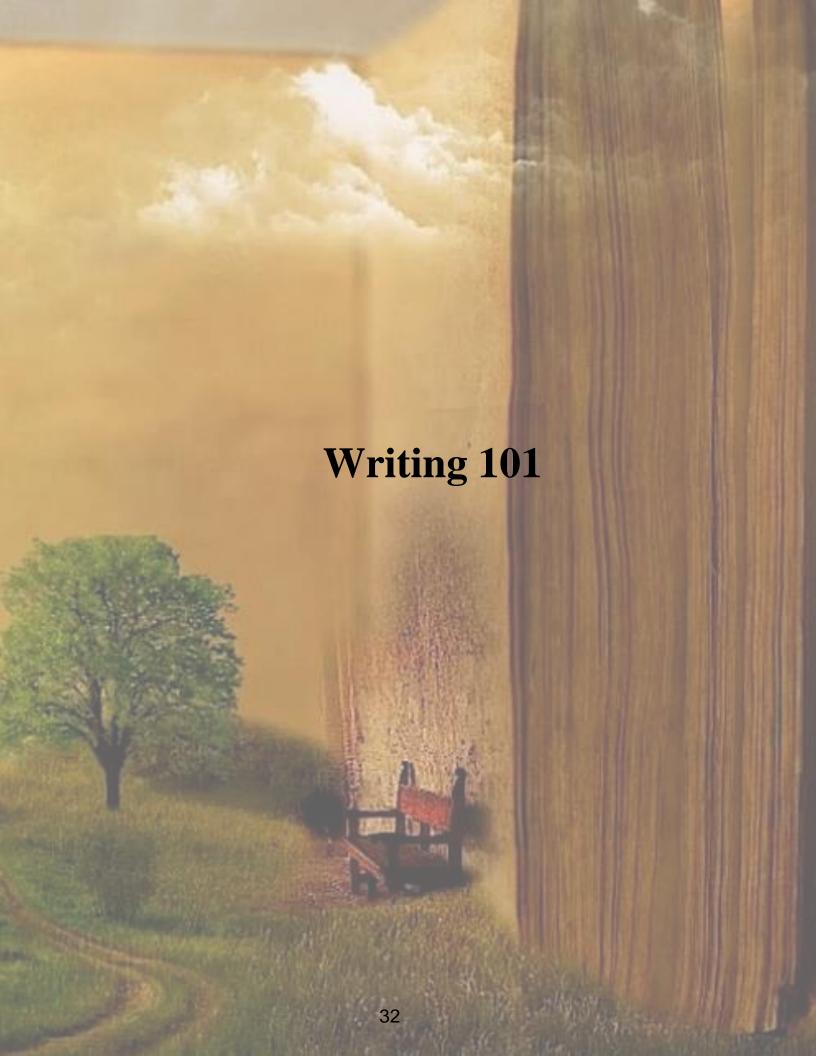
S1 Ep 4 Finding Their Voice

Arrested and charged in 2019 with child sex trafficking, Epstein spends only a short time behind bars, but his accusers still get their day in court.

4 Reels Needed a bit more depth

When I started watching it, I had only heard of the case, and the death of Epstein, and the controversy behind it. After watching the first two episodes, I was absolutely disgusted with the life of Epstein and how he even got away with things, just because he "knew people" or had money. He lied and cheated to get the money, and then did whatever he could to get his pedophilia needs met. He had this power over Ghislaine, an undoing of her own, and even the victims. I did finish the series, and I thought there would be more about what happened when he died or after he died, and how he died, but it pretty much ended there. Even though he got caught, finally, and then died (who knows how), the living survivors are still dealing with guilt. Who knows truly how many young (very young) girls this man abused and threatened, so he had power over them, no matter what. Besides his financial pyramid scheme, he had another pyramid scheme, but of pedophilia and those who engaged in it with him. I do wonder if we'll ever know the absolutes about who was involved and just unnamed as John Does.





Writing Tips

Authors: Consistency is KEY

By

Amy Shannon

When an author markets their brand, a very important thing to do is to be consistent. The author's name (pen name or whatever name is on the book cover) is the author brand. The key to doing this is to be consistent.



Too many times, author's names have been written differently on different areas of online book sites. For example, what may be one way on Goodreads, is different on Amazon.com. There are also times when books are not related to an author's amazon author page, because of inconsistency. Even adding a salutation or a middle initial in one place, but not another, is inconsistent. There is a possibility that another author may have the same name. When actors are starting out, and their name is similar or the same to a famous actor, they give themselves a stage name, or another way to differentiate themselves from the other actor.

As an example, take "Book 1" and the author's name is Mr. John Smith. However, Smith's "Book 2" is listed as John Smith. The two authors are the same person, but because of the honorific, the books are not linked to one author, but it seems there are two. This can also go for authors who may use initials such as J.M. Smith on Amazon.com (or another site) and John Smith on another site, but J.M and John are the same person. The other thing to look for is if using initials, whether or not the author will use the punctuation such as JM as opposed to J.M. or J.M

As an author, the market the brand, and make sure that the name use should be consistent, and how it is written, should be consistent. From social media, to presence on book covers, and online bookstores.

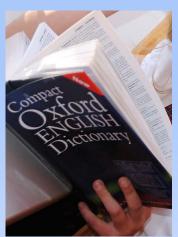
One thing an author may want to check, is to do an online search and add the word "author" or "writer" to their search, to see if another author has the same name. There are times when authors may be confused with others, and some authors use that to their advantage, but the audience will know, once they read the work. Each author has their own writing style, unique to themselves.

Authors should not just market their work but the brand as well. An author will probably write more and the brand will always be there. That is not to say to not promote an author's work, ask for reviews, and write, write, write.

To read to write

I've always been a writer, as I've been writing since I was ten years old. But I've always been a storyteller from the moment I could talk and put words together. Words were always so important to me.

In the beginning of writing, I kept a journal and a diary, but also wrote poetry and short stories. As I got older, I continued to write poetry, but in my teens, I wrote a lot of dark poetry. I guess I was one of those brooding teens that I felt no one understood. I like to think I out grew that but on a given day, I can write out a poem, sometimes sometimes dark. light, sometimes in between. My favorite is free verse poetry as I find when I try to rhyme it feels silly and forced. But also during those teen years, I found comfort in reading, reading all types of especially the but dictionary. I books. remember in high school English or an equivalent course that required student to write essays, my teachers at first thought I was using "big words" to impress them, but then realized that's who I was. It wasn't just using the "big words" but I was using them correctly.





Reading was always there for me, when I need to escape or learn something. Writing deemed to dwindle slightly, except for my journal, as I grew up and grew older. I got married, twice, and had four sons, and worked a full-time job while battling and yet embracing a rocky marriage. After my mother-in-law passed away, and I found out I was finally in remission from cervical cancer, I took a long look at my life and what I was missing. It was a reflection of my own mortality and I wanted something that was just mine. So, in 2004, I sat down at my computer and started writing what I thought was a short-story, but it grew into a full-length novel, something I had never written before. I realize now, that writing a novel is easier, yes, easier than the short stories I used to write. After that first novel, "Unwritten Life" was born, I knew I found that piece that I had been missing and longing for so long.

Yes, it's years later, and I continue to write, and have written over 100 stories, and created two other pen names. I still love to read, and I found with reading, no matter the genre, I learn. I learn about writing, what to do and what not to do, and I learn different writing styles.

To read to write (Cont'd)

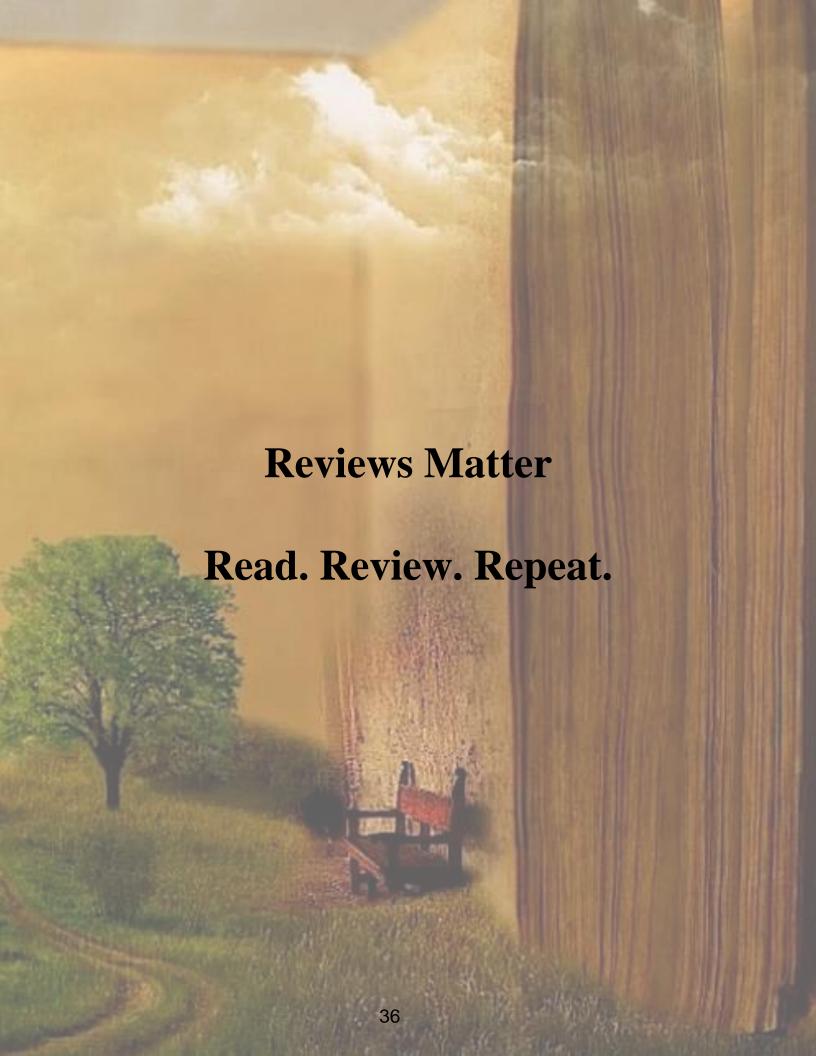
I've learned about character development, and also learned that just because someone can write a book and publish it themselves, doesn't mean they should. Some writers are writers, and some are storytellers, and there is a big difference.

Early in 2014, I met fell author Renee Robinson, who was a children's author. We met through Linked-in and offered to read each other's work. It was an automatic friendship. Out of that friendship, we thought we would start offering to review other author's work, as with the birth of online bookstores, reviews were becoming very important to authors. I started a small blog and would post reviews of what I've read, not even from requests, and unfortunately, Renee's health dwindled, as she battled cancer. So, after she passed, I upped my reviews by transferring to a new blog and adding an official request form. Amy's Bookshelf Reviews was born, and specializes in Indie Authors, but reviews any genre from any author. And, I still write.

Amy Shannon
The Official Blog of Amy Shannon







How to Write a Review!

If you buy a product, or are researching a product, you probably, at some time or another, read reviews to see what other consumers thought about the product before you buy it. If you're an avid reader, you may read reviews about what other people thought about the book, or if you're like me, read the review after posting the review. (Since I'm a professional reviewer, I don't read the reviews until after I read the book and posted my review, and it's because it's more out of curiosity as to what others thought of the book). Sadly, many times when I post a review, I'm the only reader that post a review. Many times, if the book is being released, I may be the first or second review that gets posted because the book was just released.

If you read, write a review. It's not hard. Read. Review. Repeat. The review doesn't have to be long, and it can be what you liked or didn't like about the story, characters, or plot lines. If you write a review, don't write a review for a book you didn't read. Don't read a book that you know you're not going to like and then, because you don't like it, you write a bad review.

Reviews can help authors get sales, and not just on the site like Amazon or Barnes and Noble, but they can also be used for promotions for the book, and if you noticed on any book you read, maybe on the cover, or inside the book, is a partial quote from a review.

If a filmmaker uses reviews for a movie that was created to gain an audience, the author can do the same thing.

So, if you read, write a review. If you read a book and aren't quite sure what to say, just email me, and tell me what you thought of the book, and I'll help you write the review that you just did in the email.

amysbookshelfreviews@gmail.com

The Lost Letter

By McKensie Stewart

www.mckensiestewart.com

How could one Lost Letter answer so many questions, including murder?

investment banker. Samantha Former Walker's world changed with a phone call from Rikers Island. Yes, the prison in New York City called her to claim the personal belongings of her father, Charles Walker. She uses the contents in the box to navigate the life of her father. She even visits (several times) her father's cellmate, Charlie. Later realizing that Charlie told misleading stories to keep her coming back to visit him. Samantha finds this "lost letter" and sets her on a race against time to solve an unsolved murder and the meaning of the lost letter to get the answers she so desperately seeks.

Purchase The Lost Letter on Amazon.com at https://smile.amazon.com/Lost-Letter-McKensie-Stewart-ebook/dp/B09LMTBDDV/

