

MARCH-APRIL 2023
ISSUE 4.0

LITERATE-LY MAGAZINE

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

LIBRAIRIES AND LIBRARIAN SUPPORT

ILLITERACY TODAY

LITERARY PROFESSIONAL REFERRALS

CREATING AN AMAZON CENTRAL AUTHOR PAGE

AUTHORS NEED REVIEWERS

BOOK REVIEWS:

AMY'S BOOKSHELF REVIEWS

NEW! AMY'S PICK OF THE MONTH

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Literate-Ly Magazine

CEO and Chief Editor: Amy Shannon

Email address: literatelymagazine72@gmail.com

Website: <https://essencecenterpriseus.com/literate-ly-magazine>

Essence Publishing:

Main Website: <https://essencecenterpriseus.com/essence-publishing>

Email: essencepublishing72@gmail.com

Amy Shannon's Books: <https://essencecenterpriseus.com/author-amy-shannon>

Email: authoramyshannonbooks@gmail.com

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.

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

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This issues contributors:

Kevin G. Chapman www.KevinGChapman.com

Uncaged Magazine Book Reviews uncagedbooks.com

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Essence Enterprises



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.

Email: essenceenterprises1972@gmail.com

Twitter: twitter.com/essenceENT72

Amy's Portfolio:

<https://essenceenterpriseus.com/portfolio>

Essence Enterprises YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChBA46fk3oGlaiFSaaTuIhQ>

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.

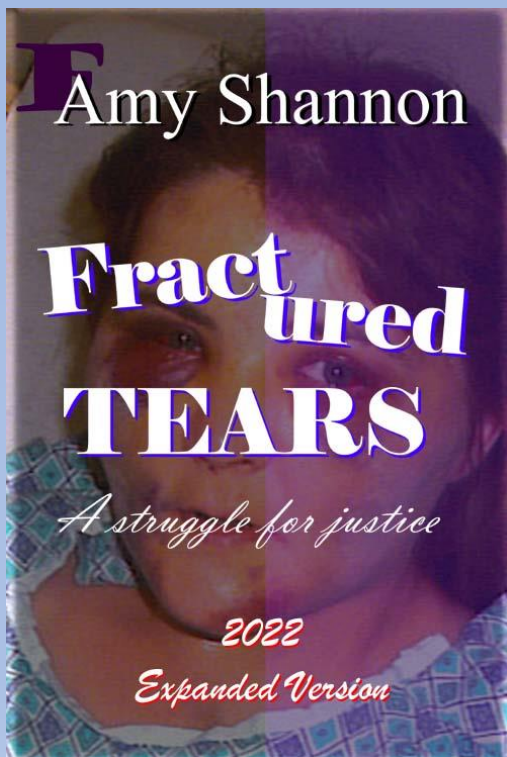
This is a fictionalized version of the real-life events of the Author.

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/B0BHL58CG8/>





Author Spotlight

Author Spotlight

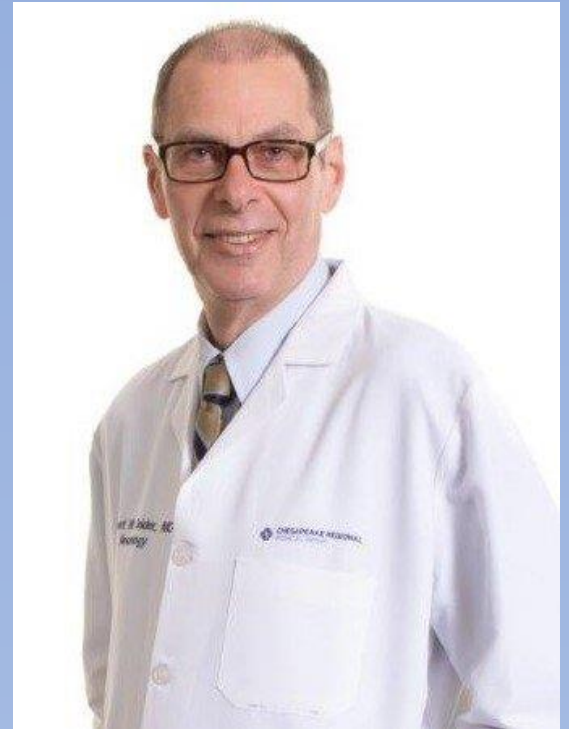
Gil Snider

Dr. Gil Snider is a neurologist practicing in Chesapeake, Virginia. Trained at the University of Michigan and St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City, he lives in Virginia Beach with his wife and has two sons, and has been recognized as one of the Top Docs in Hampton Roads every year since 2012. Brain Warp is his first medical thriller and he has recently completed his second thriller, The Last.

He also collaborates with his wife Judy, also an author, to write song lyrics. Their latest is Best Day, a semi-finalist in the 2020 International Songwriting Contest, and is available for purchase from Amazon or listen here on YouTube. His son Nick has released Three Little Words with Pearl Snap Studios. All songs are available for use in film, television, and commercials.

Website: <https://www.gilsnider.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Gil-Snider-Author-126294092100647/>



Author Spotlight

Judy Snider

Judy was raised in Michigan and currently lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia with her husband Gil and her cat Bailey. She also has two grown sons. She is a retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). After her retirement, Judy had the joyful job of working at the library at Cape Henry Collegiate School for eight years. The award winning Goldy's Baby Socks, published in English and Spanish, is Judy's first children's book that she has published. In writing her children's books, Judy liked ones that are humorous and speak to the heart.

After writing the Mom's Choice Award winning Goldy's Baby Socks, Judy and her sister Joan co-wrote a heartwarming children's gift picture book for grownups called I Love You, Be Careful which also won the Mom's Choice Award. Judy also is one of the authors of a women's book, The Sacred Purse, and is a member of the Hampton Roads Writers Group.



Judy continues to revise her many children's manuscripts, think of new books, and is currently working on her fourth thriller.

Website: <https://www.judysnider.com/>

Facebook:

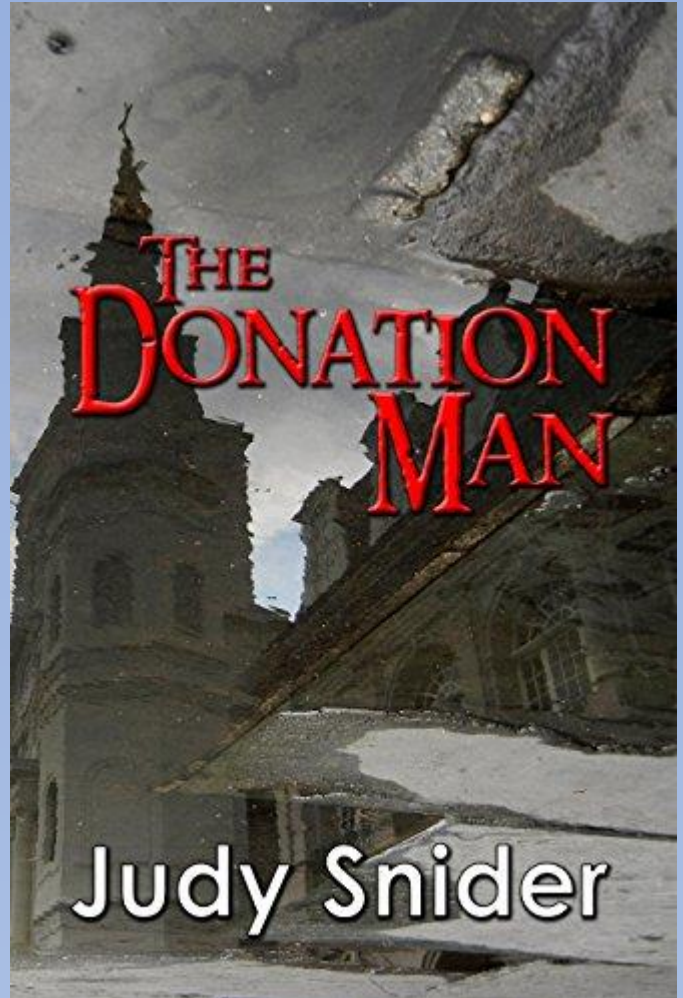
<https://www.facebook.com/Judy-K-Snider-847953252051915>

The Donation Man

by Judy Snider

WHAT IF YOU SAID, "NO", WHEN YOU WERE CALLED TO ASK FOR A DONATION, AND SUDDENLY YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER?

Detective Sam and News-person Reggie, beloved characters from Too Late to Run return to be embroiled in a web of terror when an evil man seeks revenge. On an extended news assignment in New Orleans, Reggie begins to fear she is being stalked after she receives an angry donation call. She thinks she must be imagining that someone is trying to hurt her until she is pushed down. Her love, Sam, is about to visit Reggie, but decides to quickly come after he senses she is in danger. Along with the help of her co-workers, friends, and Sam and his detective friends they try to track down this unknown person, before the Facebook: [https Donation Man](https://www.facebook.com/DonationMan) harms her.



The Donation Man is after Reggie, no one may be able to stop him.

Buy on Amazon at

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0756PN1B6/>

Brain Warp

by Gil Snider

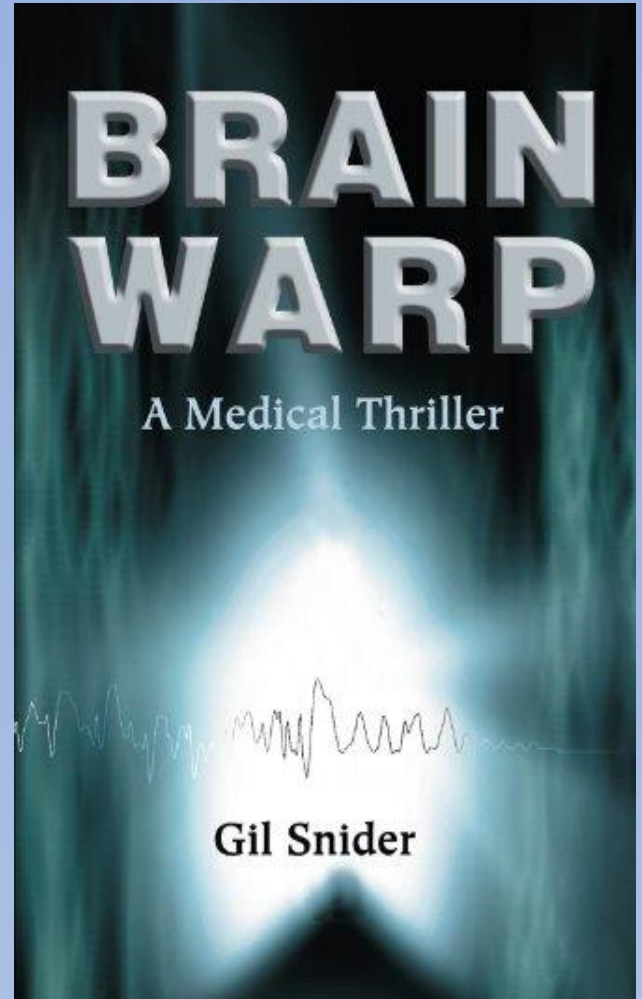
Doctor Peter Branstead's neurology department at St. Mark's Hospital in New York's picturesque Greenwich Village is flooded with a series of critically ill vagrants exhibiting identical symptoms. Confused and agitated upon admission, they rapidly progress into convulsions, cardiac arrest, and death. The deaths are too methodical to be a coincidence, but how—and why—are they being killed?

Peter's investigation leads him into a dark underworld of international intrigue and into the center of a plot to destroy the president of the Ukraine, Anatoly Labrinska. Peter learns that his patients have been given a mysterious drug that is also being administered to President Labrinska. But tracking Peter's every move is a savage Ukrainian Mafia killer—an assassin so ruthless that the most vicious criminals on two continents live in fear of his wrath.

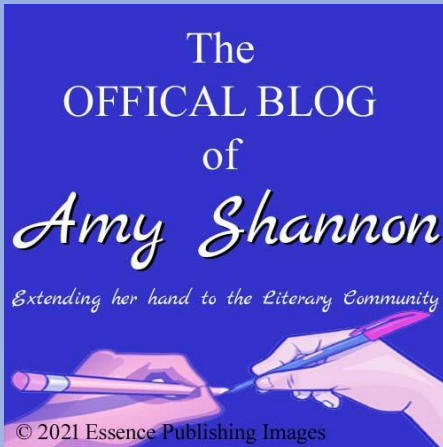
With the political stability of Europe hanging in the balance and the lives of those he loves in jeopardy, Peter desperately works to foil the plot and escape with his life.

Buy on Amazon at

<https://www.amazon.com/Brain-Warp-Thriller-Gil-Snider-ebook/dp/B0791LX8W9>



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.

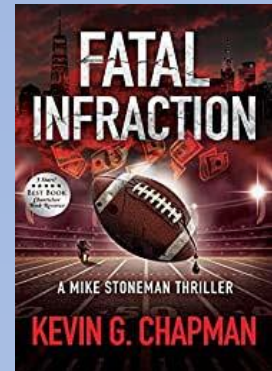
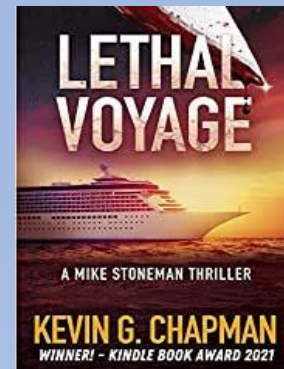
<https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/requests-and-rules>

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.

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 to 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!





**AMY'S
BOOKSHELF
REVIEWS®**

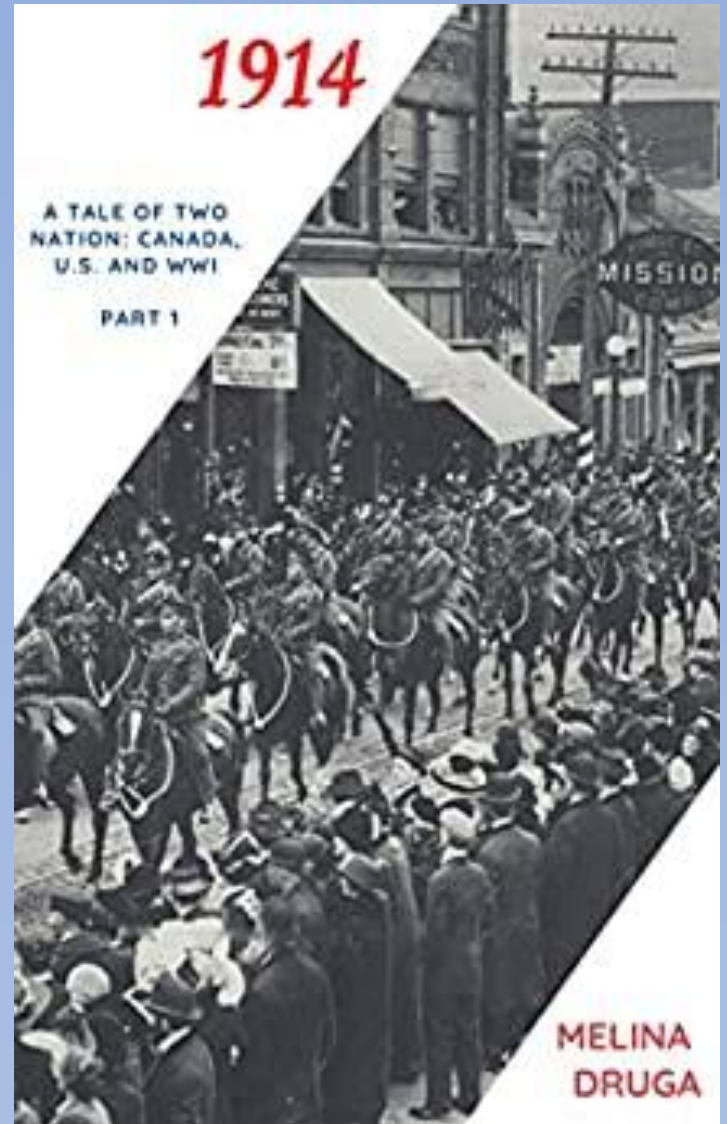
©2022 Essence Publishing Image

Melina Druga- 1914

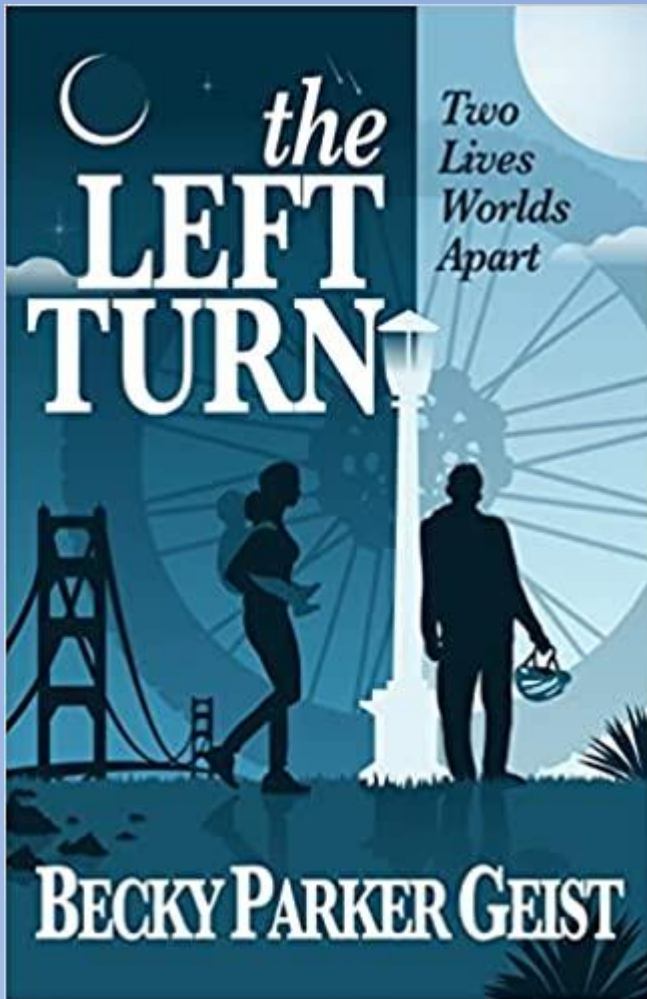
4 Stars

Interesting Chronicle of The shot heard around the world!

What an interesting historical journey in 1914 by Melina Druga. Druga is a freelance journalist and from the details in this book, also a historian. Her research and knowledge tell the story of "The Shot Heard around the world." As any one who is familiar with WWI history and its start of the "war to end all wars" (which we know isn't true, but they thought it was. Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated by Princip, a Slavic Nationalist, and that starts the war, bringing in countries from all over the world, each on different sides. The story is told through journalism, and how the media (mainly newspapers back then) told the story to the public. This is part one of the series. I am a definite fan of this author! Druga is a magnificent author and writer, and tells the story so well. Even when you know how it's going to end, the use of the media format to tell the story, and her writing skills, makes you think, and get the perspective of what the world thought of the War back then, and how they lived. I look forward to reading part 2, 1915. This author not only tells the story but shows it with words as well. Entertaining and educational. Wonderfully told.



Nonfiction/War



Sci-fi; self discovery

Becky Parker Geist - The Left Turn: Two Lives, Worlds Apart

5 Stars

Wonderfully told.

Becky Parker Geist writes a self-discovery tale with *The Left Turn: Two Lives, Worlds Apart*. I haven't read anything by this author before, and what a hidden gem. I enjoyed it so much, that I have now followed the author and look for more books to read. This book is definitely well written, and the characters are very engaging, and very realistic. Imagine if everything you knew and remembered was all of a sudden gone, and you're living a new life. I can't imagine having to rebuild a life into someone you've never been, as our pasts help define us. The reader is introduced to Hannah and James, both plagued with demons of the past, anxiety, and the search for peace. It's a normal day for the duo, but then everything changes, their entire world. I can't imagine, and with this story, the trials and triumphs, and the search for themselves, while dealing with the blur of their past, makes this story so unique, and very intense. This is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. Geist has a great imagination. An emotional rollercoaster. Un-put-downable! It's a great story to follow and try to figure out what will happen next.

E. Denise Billups- Wicked Bleu

Series: Simone Doucet

Volume: 2

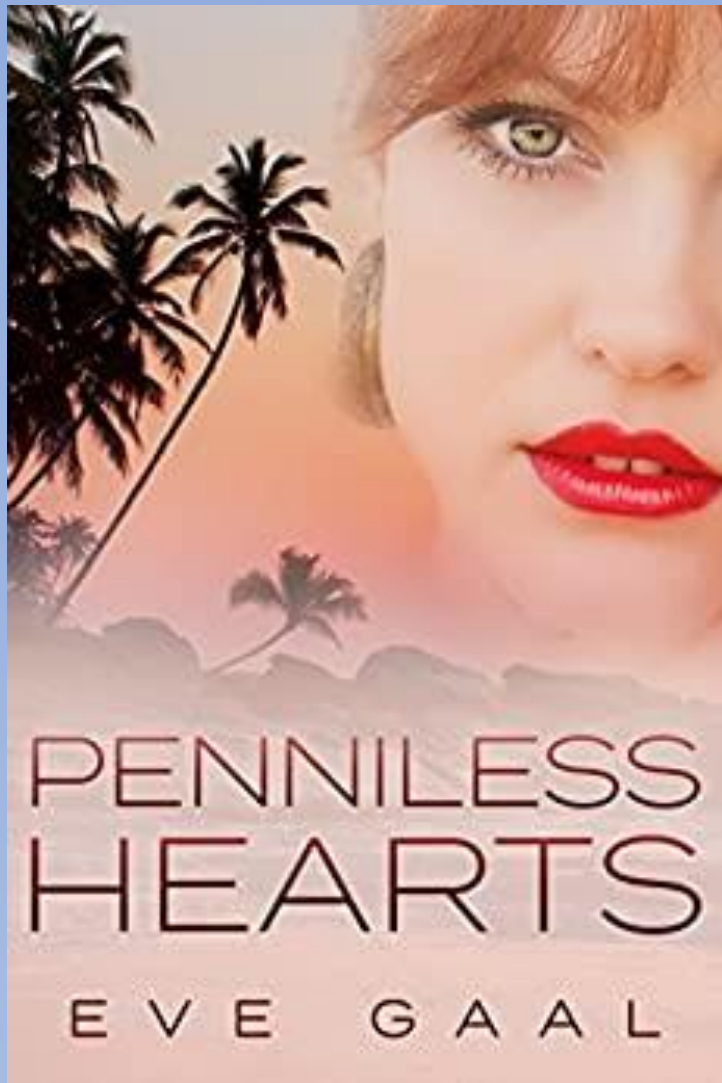
5 Stars

A compelling and brilliant read!

E. Denise Billups writes a suspenseful, ghostly tale with *Wicked Bleu*. This book is part of the Simone Doucet series, and this is volume two. In the first book, *Tainted Harvest*, Simone had her first real encounter with a spirit, and her connection to the afterlife began. Now, still reeling from her experiences, she is trying to find her new place, not just a travel writer anymore, but a problem solver, a detective of sorts. Now, she's in New Orleans, and though she's there in present day, looking to explore the French Quarter, she is now haunted by her own visions, but also the "lady of the night" that is lingering around her. What an emotional rollercoaster. I'm a big fan of this author! Simone, even with her past, still develops throughout the story, and has a bit of ancestry discovery. Sometimes you have to put the book down, just to take a breath. This read is more than just words on a page. A very unpredictable story, my favorite kind! .



paranormal suspense



Eve Gaal- Penniless Hearts

Series: Lost Compass Love Book

Volume: 1

4 Stars

Wonderfully told!

Eve Gaal writes a funny and adventurous tale with Penniless Hearts. This book is part of the Lost Compass Love Book series, and this is volume one. The reader is introduced to Penny, and she is just unhappy in her life, and everyone around her barely notices her until they need something from her. She just drops everything, doesn't tell anyone she's off on a Hawaiian adventure, just that she's on vacation. However, her adventure is not what she expected, but it is a thrilling and humorous journey. In reading it, we also realize how her work situation was and it was no matter that she needed an escape. It seemed like she was the only one in the world that could do a job for someone else. I'm a big fan of this author! Whatever this author writes, I want to read. It's a funny, romantic adventure, and it helps Penny find herself, and discover this is just what she needed, danger and all! An embraceable story. The reader just embarks on a superb journey. I love Penny and can't wait to read the next installment.

*Humor/Women/
Adventure*

Jakob Halskov- Ripples in the Waters by Lake Kawaguchi

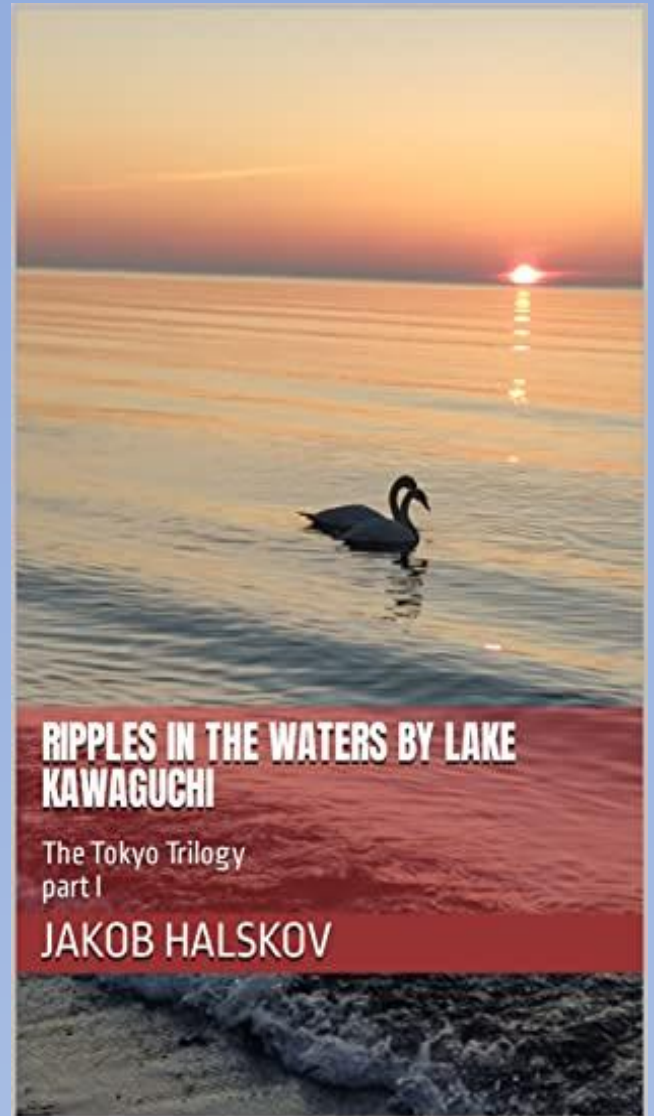
Series: The Tokyo Trilogy

Volume: 1

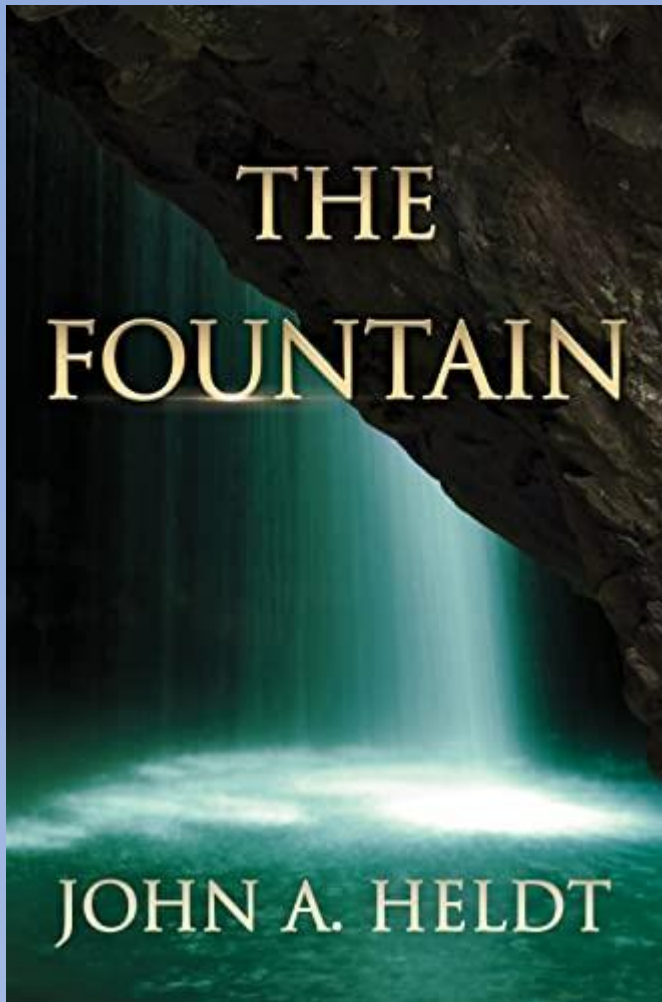
4 Stars

Provocative!

Jakob Halskov writes an enticing romantic tale with a Japanese backdrop in Ripples in the Waters by Lake Kawaguchi. I haven't read anything by this author before, and what a hidden gem. I enjoyed it so much, that I have now followed the author and look for more books to read. This book is part of The Tokyo Trilogy series, and this is volume One. The reader is introduced to Tomoko, Ai, and Takeda. Tomoko is a lonely homemaker, Ai, is the opposite of Tomoko, and then, Takeda, who has lost his way, and his purpose. The book tells of a very intimate journey, both of sexual and self-discovery, but it also has the intensity of the Japanese culture, and the setting of organized crime. This is a well-written story, and the reader goes along this journey. It is an erotic story, and is very detailed and to the point in many of the scenes. It is written in a way that is sensual, discovery, and intimately special. Breathtaking! The author is very familiar with the Japanese culture and writes with passion and knowledge. A very unpredictable story, my favorite kind!



Erotic/Romance



John Heldt- The Fountain

5 Stars

Very impressive story telling!

John Heldt writes a time travelling tale with *The Fountain*. John Heldt is one of my favorite time traveling authors. When he writes, you can tell he has the knowledge of the era that his characters are traveling to. So, no matter what series he writes, it's all about time travel, family and generations, and the part that leaves the reader guessing. This book is part of the *Second Chance* series, and this is volume one. The readers meet the Carpenters, all suffering, from grief, disease or just being old. Bill, Paul and Annie, are siblings, and they don't know what to do next. All they have is each other, and they're at the edge of the end of their lives. It's a wonderful family saga, which has these siblings, searching for the fountain of youth. All of a sudden, during their journey, they're young again, and in 1905, but they have no idea what they are in for, even when they are trying to reinvent their lives. I really like Bill, who seems to be the champion of the family, wanting for them all to get that one second chance. Heldt writes the stories well, and brings their time travelling journey to life. This is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. Compelling! A timeless tale. Some of the pages, you end up reading slower than others, so not to miss anything

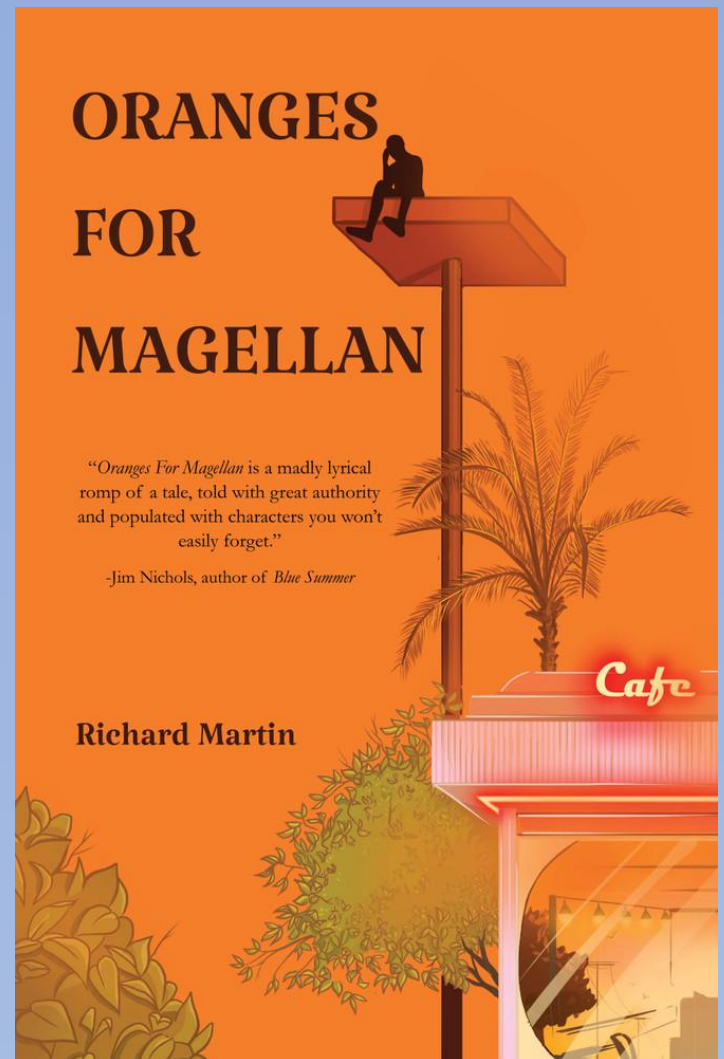
*Time Travel/
Historical/Romance*

Richard Martin- Oranges for Magellan

4 Stars

Very impressive story telling

Richard Martin writes a historical tale with *Oranges for Magellan*. I haven't read anything by this author before, and what a hidden gem. It is a very interesting story and a great one, especially as Martin's debut novel. The reader is introduced to Joe Magellan, who has a very good life, and is happy with it, except he has this overt compulsion. He wants to break a pole sitting record. Basically, he wants to climb up a flagpole, and sit on the small platform and break the world's record. This is a feat he has tried and failed at so many times, and even sought out "help" to no avail. It's part comedy and part drama, and a very intriguing look at Joe's perspective on life, and why this means so much to him. The book is historical because it takes in the early 80's. Yes, the 1980's, which I didn't realize until now that it was historical, having been a kid back then. Anyway, this is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. The reader just embarks on an interesting journey. Joe's compulsion is pretty much an obsession, but one that makes the reader want to learn more.



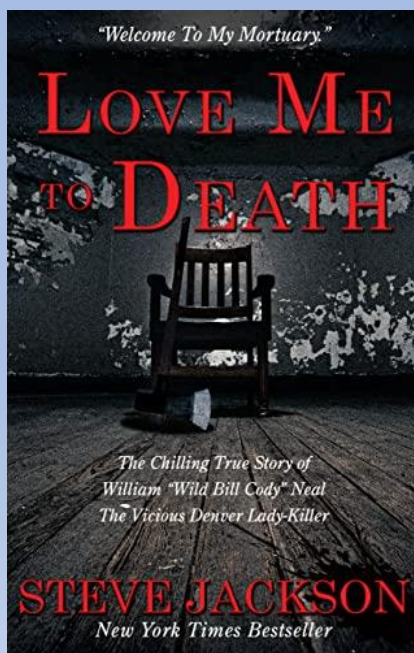
Historical Fiction

Steve Jackson- Love me to Death: The Chilling True Story of William “Wild Bill Cody” Neal—The Vicious Denver Lady-Killer

5 Stars

Captivating and unputdownable!

Steve Jackson writes about serial killer William “Wild Bill Cody” Neal in *Love me to Death: The Chilling True Story of William “Wild Bill Cody” Neal—The Vicious Denver Lady-Killer*. I am a fan of true crime stories. This is the first book written by this author that I've read. One thing I learned from reading the horrifying events that trailed Neal's fury is to beware of the charmer! He doesn't have to be handsome or smart, but a perfect conman is charming, and can fit into any situation. But even with the charming man, there is always a piece that seems "off." Neal graduated from abusing his four wives, lying and stealing their money, to rape, kidnapping, and murder. Something he was very proud of. Reading the accounts of each of the survivors and the victims, that were killed, butchered, is something that is incomprehensible. Yet, there were survivors. They probably never really knew how lucky they were to survive, and get rid Neal out of their lives, until the truth of the brutality of the kills came out. Neal, thought he was better than Bundy. This book was written very well. It was detailed and terrifying, especially because Neal liked the sneak attacks, and his personality was all over the place, so even when everyone knew he was a liar, they didn't realize how much evil lurked inside this wannabe "cowboy."



*True Crime/ Serial
Killer*

TC Marti- Civil War

5 Stars

Enjoyed this story!

TC Marti writes a dystopian fantastical tale with Civil War. I am a big fan of TC Marti. This book is part of the Chronicles of Rondure series, and this is volume one. Imagine you're in prison, shackled in your cell, can't walk, can't lie down, your only refuge is to sit on your toilet. Chapter one just brings you in. A "war crime" criminal tells his story, making you wonder, what exactly is a Smoke Master, and why is that a special "skill." It's an action-packed story that as it unravels, you continue to read it. Narc tells his stories, and sometimes, when he describes being dehumanized by being call "it," is heart breaking. It's a story beyond time and place, and in TC Marti's mind, but it could be on any world. Any country. Any planet. Riveting and Compelling! Absolutely chilling, with seemingly death around every corner. Narc is determined and tenacious, and determined to survive, and become what he needs to be, by doing whatever needs to be done. Narc listens to Bane, and comes to some troubling realizations, when he says "Now, how would it feel, Narc, to become such a scourge of society that you and your descendants, many of whom will die in their early twenties, would be condemned to live their entire lives as deformed ..." .



*dystopian fantasy/
sci-fi*

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?

<https://wetheaftershow.wixsite.com/home/be-our-guest>

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/2021/09/10/chapter-8-episode-3>

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

<https://www.blogtalkradio.com/wetheaftershow/2022/06/10/chapter-11-episode-3>

Guest Author Avanti Centrae discusses here book, The Doomsday Medallion



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Literary Censorship

Libraries and Librarian Support

By Amy Shannon

The American Library Association (ALA) has created a clearing house of resources to assist library workers and advocates, when faced with censorship or book challenges. For more information on this, you can go to <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/fight-censorship>



Libraries face many challenges from censorship to the challenging of materials that are kept put on the bookshelves. Many times someone will try to remove certain books about certain topics that they disagree with from the library shelves.



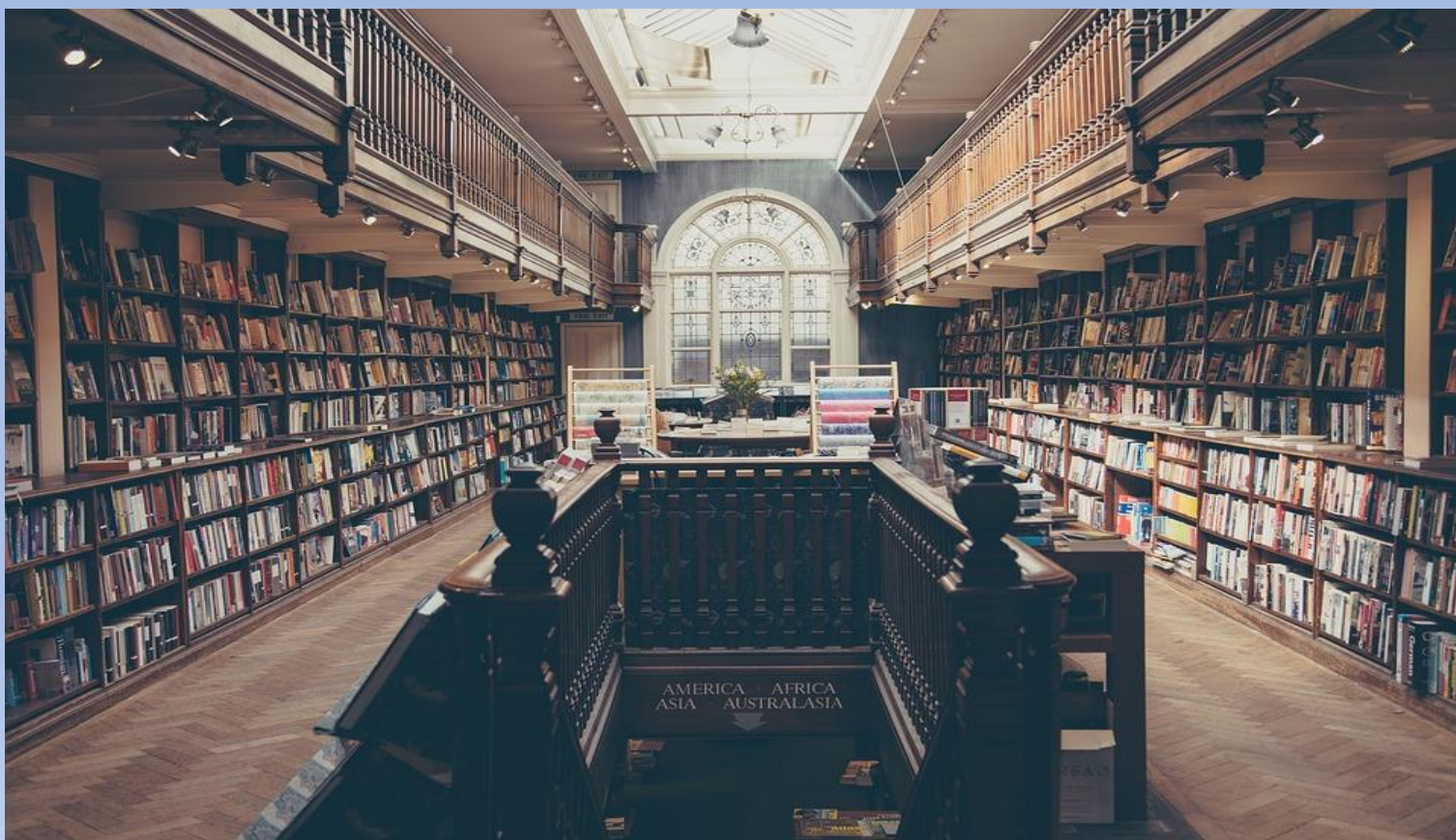
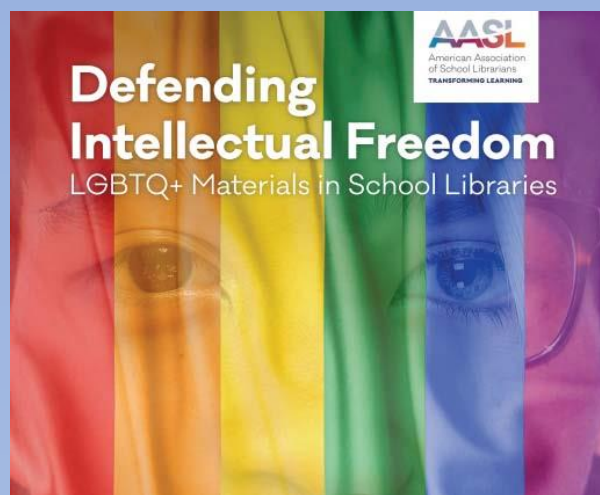
According to the US Constitution, the First Amendment freedoms protect Libraries. The attempt to remove library materials based on its content is in violation of the first amendment, and constitutes censorship.

There is a trend of challenging books, and not just from school libraries, but also public libraries. According the ALA, in 2022, more than 681 challenges to over 1600 book titles. Lately, the main topics of challenges have to do with racism, African-American culture, and LGBTQ+ community. Some titles have always been on the list of banned books, especially classic titles by authors, such as Walt Whitman, George Orwell, William Shakespeare, and J.D Salinger, just to name a few.

Every year the ALA has a Banned book Week, and the next Banned Books Week will be October 1 - 7, 2023. But readers don't have to wait until then to still advocate for Freedom of Speech, and allowing people, especially adults to read what they want to read. It should be up to parents to decide for themselves and their children, what is read. A child who reads, grows up with the thirst of learning, and this should not be confined, which can cause ignorance, or even illiteracy.

Those interested in downloading the booklet *Defending Intellectual Freedom*, can go to

https://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org/aasl/files/content/aaslissues/toolkits/LGBTQ%2BResource%20Guide_FINAL-180709.pdf



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.

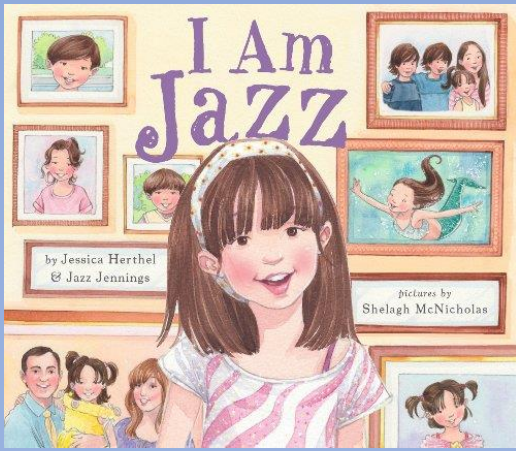
So, check out Amy's Bookshelf Reviews, and if you need assistance, there are how-to videos on navigation and how to request a review if you're a new author to the site.

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

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I
Read
Banned Books!!

Stop
Censorship



Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings - I Am Jazz

Shelagh McNicholas (Illustrator)

About the Book:

Genre: LGBTQA2S

The story of a transgender child based on the real-life experience of Jazz Jennings, who has become a spokesperson for transkids everywhere

From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she had a girl's brain in a boy's body. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. This confused her family, until they took her to a doctor who said that Jazz was transgender and that she was born that way. Jazz's story is based on her real-life experience and she tells it in a simple, clear way that will be appreciated by picture book readers, their parents, and teachers.

Organization: <https://transkidspurplerainbow.org/>

The Review:

5 Stars

A brave and smart young transgender girl

What a remarkably brave story in I Am Jazz by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, and illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas. Jazz was, as she says, "I have a girl brain but a boy body. This is called transgender. I was born this way!" She seemed to know who she was since she was little, correcting people if they called her a boy. Unfortunately, her parents only let her wear

COFFEE & THORN

“Reviewers Wanted”



Read great books – help girls in Africa

<https://coffeeandthorn.com>

Coffee and Thorn is a not-for-profit book tour provider. We charge authors for arranging tours – online events where a group of reviewers all post a review about the same book during a particular week. Every cent that authors pay us goes to fund the education of girls from destitute families in Sierra Leone. Each tour keeps one girl in education for a year, protecting her from abuse and early marriage and massively improving her future. It’s a life changing project. **Our reviewers are our key partners.** We ask them to contribute to at least one tour a year, with an honest review.

We only tour with books we have read and really love. Our tastes are broad, embracing thrillers, historical fiction, young adult fiction, LGBTQ fiction, international fiction, memoir and more... but whatever the genre, we like it to be intelligent and thought provoking. We aim to run two tours a month.

We cannot pay reviewers but we provide free e-books and unrivalled publicity for their posts, helping to drive traffic to their reviews, wherever they are posted.

If you might be interested in joining us, please check out our [website](#), including [our FAQs](#) or contact lilyan@coffeeandthorn.com

Literary Professional Referrals



Essence Enterprises has rebooted the Literary Professional Services Bulletin Board. (If you were on the bulletin board on the old sites of The Official Blog of Amy Shannon, Amy's Bookshelf Reviews, and Genesis Book Promotions, your information has already been added to this new bulletin board).

Private Referral List (Free)

If you would like your services to be listed on my private referral list (which just means that it is NOT listed on the Bulletin board, but still in my list of services to be referred), still needs to be vetted, and the requirements to be on this list are the same for private and public referrals.

Bulletin Board (Public Referral list)
\$50.

If you would like your services to be listed on the (public referral) bulletin board, it must meet some requirements, and requires also a price of \$50 (US).

). This fee covers the bulletin board (you can have an image of your business card, or a list of your website, services, pricing link, etc... and a lifetime advertisement in Literate-Ly Magazine (for the life of the magazine).

Literary professionals include but are not limited to:

Publishers (any type)

Literary Agents

Literary Book Reviewers/Influencers

Literary Publicists

Literary Podcasts

Book Blog Companies

Cover Designers/Illustrators

Editors

Literary magazines

Literary Professional Referrals



Requirements for both lists:

To be on either the public or private referral list, the professional **MUST** meet these requirements:

- Been in business for at least 2 years
- If a new business, have been in the profession for at least 2 years.
- Have a professional website
- Have a portfolio (if illustrator, cover designer, etc.)
- Have a blog or website where reviews are posted (for book reviewers)
- Have at least one current client

If you wish to be on either list, email me at writeramyshannon@gmail.com and put either "private list" or "public list" in the subject line, along with your required information. Do not send any images at this time.

Once approved, you will be notified by email. If you're to be on the public list, you will receive an invoice from Essence Enterprises for the \$50 plus a \$5 billing fee. If you want an image for your advertisement, you can reply to the approval notification with the image.



Literacy

Literary Illiteracy Today

By

Amy Shannon



Illiteracy refers to someone who does not have enough knowledge in a particular subject, reading, finances, and other topics, like information, critical thinking, and even scientific.

Literary illiteracy means that someone cannot read or write. There are some adults that are functional illiterates, where they can read under a six-grade level. Illiteracy happens when someone does not get enough education, including elementary and subsequent schooling. This could be a result of dropping out of school. Also, if reading isn't put as an importance of a person, growing up, and not having exposure to books. There are instances of illiteracy because a person is disabled or has a learning disability, such as dyslexia. If a child is not diagnosed with a learning disability or tested for one, they may shy away from trying to read, or even learning, and give up.

According to the US Department of Education, “nearly 130 million American adults read below a sixth-grade level.” (<https://www.ed.gov/>). Children that have trouble reading, or do not read, can grow up to be adults who can't read or write.

The National education statistics “Report Card” on reading levels and abilities (updated 2020), is located at <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/cnb> . “At grade 4, the average reading score in 2019 (220) was lower than the score in 2017 (222), when the assessment was last administered, but it was higher than the score in 1992 (217). Similarly, at grade 8 the average reading score in 2019 (263) was lower than the score in 2017 (267), but it was higher than the score in 1992 (260).”

The functioning persons who can't read or write at all, or can just read or write a little bit, can learn how to "fake" their ability to not read. Being illiterate, does not mean that someone is not intelligent or is ignorant, just that they may need help learning to read and write. Not everyone who can't read or write, wants to read or write, and thinks they can get by with excuses. Even family members may not realize that someone in their family cannot read or write.

Along with learning to read and write, there is the comprehension of what has been read or written. With (According to Google) over 129,864,880 books been written, published since 1440, reading and books have been a major part of people's lives. There should not be shame in noting being able to read, but be brave to ask for help.

Early learning is imperative. Parents should read to their children, children should learn and read to their parents. If the parent is

embarrassed that they can't read well out loud (and there's a difference from not being able to read at all or very little), they can find other outlets to help read to their children. Even just telling stories, and getting your children excited about reading stories, and learning new things.

I personally believe that everyone, no matter how old you are, how well you do or don't read, should read some children's books. There are a lot of books that teach people how to read, the sounds of the alphabet, and also books that teach lessons that everyone should be reminded of.

If someone you know cannot read, or needs help learning, it's not that hard to lend a helping hand, or point them in a direction where they can get help.

You can find information about literacy programs at your local library or schools, and even the US Department of Education. Reading is fundamental, and it is a right that we all have, if we just had someone to help.

The background of the image is a classic oil painting of a rural landscape. It features a thatched-roof house with a red door, a large green tree on the left, and a dirt path leading towards the house. The scene is set in a grassy field under a bright, hazy sky with a large white cloud. The painting is overlaid on a book cover, with a vertical wooden texture visible on the right side.

Writing 101

Creating an Amazon Central Author Page

Authors, if your books are selling on Amazon.com, one thing you should do is to create an amazon author page. You don't have to be an Indie Author using the Kindle Publishing features of Amazon, you just need to be an author. This page allows you to have all of your books (even if it's just one) in one place for the buyer.

Creating an Author Page (This information is for Amazon US site only. I'll have a separate article for International sites).

If you have an amazon.com account (for buying or selling), and you use the same credentials to create your amazon author account. If you don't have an amazon.com account, you must create one of those first, and then can come back and create the author page. On the home page of Author Central, create an account by clicking on the "Join Now" button. Follow the instructions of creating your account.



(If you are an author with more than one penname, you'll need separate accounts for each penname). I have three, so I have three different author central accounts.

"Welcome to Author Central"

Once you get to the author central page, take the time and read all the information. It also provides links to other features that Amazon offers, and this can be especially helpful for those who use (or want to use) Kindle Publishing or ACX (Audio publishing).

The "Author Page" tab is where an author enters their information. The biography area lets the author tell the world (or buyers) about themselves. I personally write it in third person, but it's up to anyone on what they want to share and how they want to share it.

Creating an Amazon Central Author Page

Author Page:

The URL for your author page has a default setting, but it can be changed to fit an appropriate URL, but this can only be changed once.

Blog: If you have an blog that is related to your writing, you can share it here, but only if you have an RSS feed available from your blog provider. You can add several blogs. I currently linked this blog (my author blog) and Amy's Bookshelf Review Blog.

Photos: The photo is what you want people to see when they visit your amazon central page. You upload it from your computer.

Events allows authors to share information about different events.

The video section allows authors to upload videos from their computer, and the videos should be appropriate, and related to your books or writing. It has to be uploaded, not embedded from video websites.

The "Books" Tab

It's obvious what is added here, the books. The purpose of the page is to add books and link them to the author. If this is a first time creation, the book titles can be added here. The book first **MUST BE PUBLISHED** or available for **PREORDER**. Click on "Add More Books" and then search for the book. The easiest way is by ISBN, since authors or titles may be similar. Once the book is found, click on "This is my book" underneath the title. Kindle Books and Paperback books are listed separately. Once a book is published, if you have separate editions that are not automatically linked together, then you need to contact Amazon via the help features of Amazon for them to combine the editions.

Once the books are listed, the author can see if or how many reviews the title has, update information, such as adding

Creating an Amazon Central Author Page

reviews" or additional information about the book, such as excerpts or other information that is appropriate for the title of each section. If there isn't anything in the section, it does not appear on the book page.

Ranks

The sales info tab gives details about sales and rankings, and Customer reviews allows the author to see all reviews for all titles.

Author Page:

There are many author pages on Amazon for those to get an idea of how to put together an amazon page. Here is the link to mine (<https://www.amazon.com/Amy-Shannon/e/B00EFZD5NU>) use it as a sample page.



Reviews Matter

Read. Review. Repeat.

Authors Need Reviewers

Authors need reviews just as much as anyone who sells their goods and services. Readers look at reviews before reading books, and selecting something, especially if it is from an unknown author. Readers are always looking for their next read, and many like myself, love reading from authors that I've never read before, or someone I've never heard about until I saw their book.

There are not a lot of professional reviewers. Some famous review companies charge for their reviews, and that charge is because they have been in business a long time, and they have a reputation. They don't just read any book, they are selective of what they read. Paying for a review is not necessarily a bad thing, but if you do, you are looking to make it an investment, as many review companies charge over \$200.



As authors, we cannot rely on just readers to read and then review their book. Readers may read, but they don't always think about reviewing. Authors should look for reviewers, but don't just select anyone, research what they are looking for in a book, and also make sure they review your genre.

As a professional reviewer, I do not charge for reviews, but offer promotions and other things that may require a donation. I am one of the reviewers that will tell the author when the review has been posted, and give a copy of the review. There are also many different book blog tour companies, with reasonable rates, that will not just promote your book, but also gather reviewers to read and review your work.

Authors Need Reviewers (Cont'd)

Book blog tour companies also rely on reviewers, and those who commit to reading and review the book, to actually read and review the book, and post it. Most book blog tour companies don't pay their reviewers, unless they are part of that company's staff, but they do provide free books, and of course, the reviewers can gain attention when their reviews are posted on social media.



If you're a reader, do the author a favor and write a review. They can use it for selling and promoting their work. If you're a book blogger, book reviewer, or just someone who likes to read free books, and will be willing to write a review, contact some book blog tour companies, and offer to help.

If you don't know of any book blog tour companies, contact me at writeramyshannon@gmail.com and I'd be happy to connect you.





Jeff Widmer- Distant Early Warning

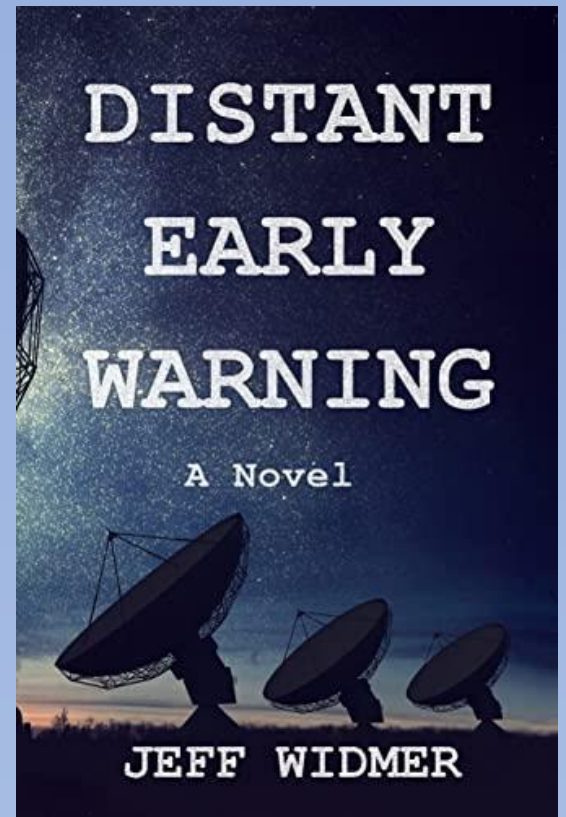
The Coldest War Lies Within

It is the late 1950s, and the Andersen family is at war with itself.

As back-to-back hurricanes ravage the rural town of Pennsboro, the family suffers an irredeemable loss. Georgia becomes mired in a haze of medication and TV. Marsh retreats into work and fantasies of the redhead next door. Wil, a precocious boy with a fondness for a girl with almond eyes, suspects his parents are possessed by the aliens from his favorite movie.

Adding to their private grief is the collision of consumerism and the Cold War, and the rising threat of Soviet missiles that may render obsolete America's last hope for defense, the newly completed Distant Early Warning Line.

Find more about Jeff Widmer at <https://jeffwidmer.com/>



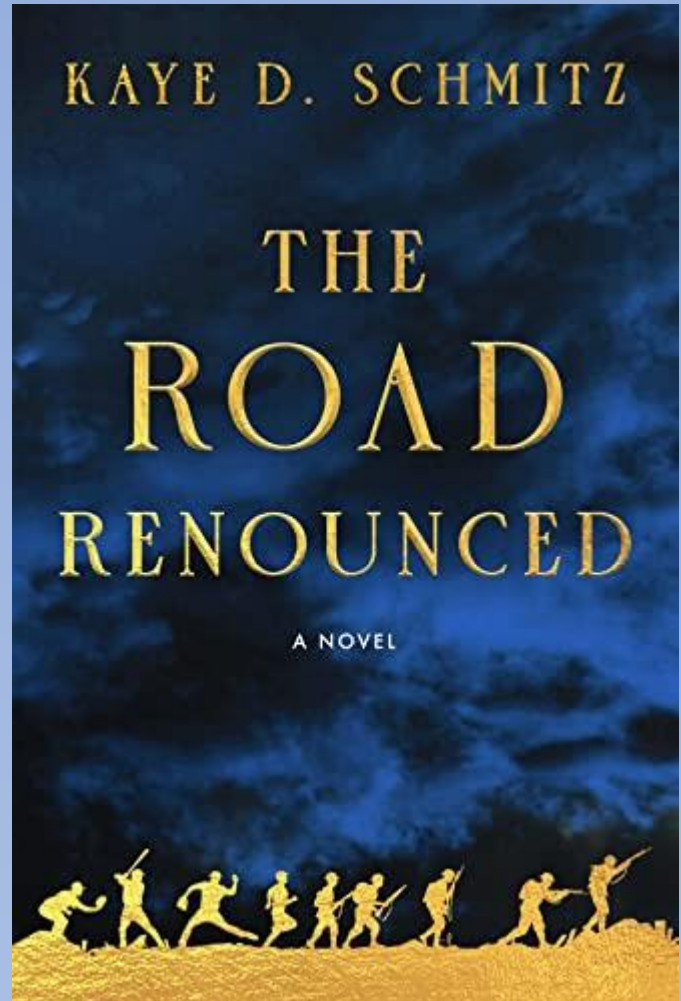
Kaye D. Schmitz- The Road Renounced

In the story telling style of Kristin Hannah and Delia Owens, *The Road Renounced* is a World War I tale of one soldier's triumphs and tragedies as told by the woman who loves him.

2015. Prospect Park, Pennsylvania. Suzanne Ryan uncovers her grandmother's diary hidden in the binding of a century-old photo album. Thrilled to learn about her grandmother, Maude, who died before Suzanne was born, she reads the first entry, written on Maude's tenth birthday.

1915. Prospect Park, Pennsylvania. Maude Brewer, her brother, Henry, and his best friend, Buzz Ryan, live a relatively care-free existence. But the darkening conflict in Europe looms, threatening them all with the fight of their lives.

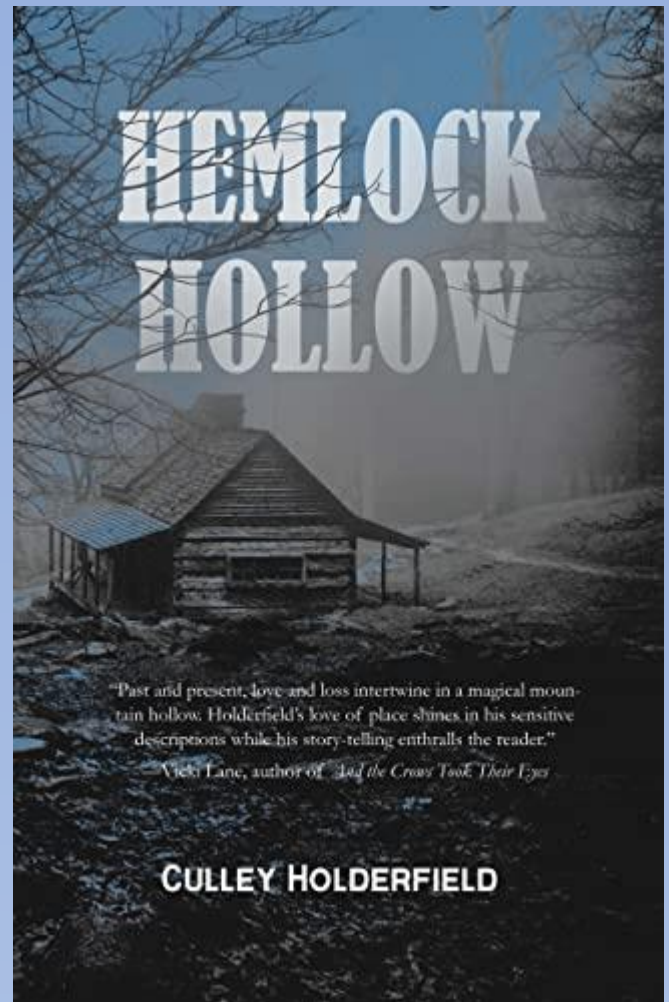
Find more about Kaye D. Schmitz at kayedschmitzauthor.com



Culley Holderfield- Hemlock Hollow

Caroline McAlister, college professor and life-long skeptic, is reeling from the loss of her father and her marriage. Her once promising career has come to a standstill. When her father bequeaths the family cabin to her, it comes with a ghost who haunted her childhood. When she discovers a century-old journal in the attic, she awakens the voice of Carson Quinn.

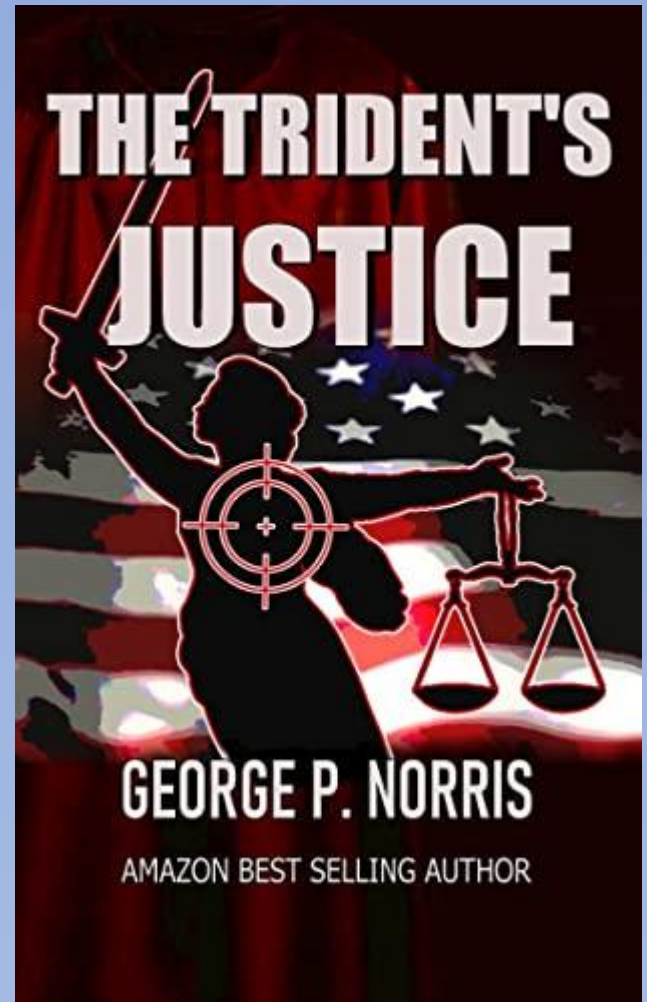
The journal reveals Carson's love for the same hollow that enthralled Caroline growing up. A little sleuthing uncovers rumors that the kind, curious boy in the journal grew up to murder his brother. Caroline plunges into the project of exonerating Carson, only to find herself in the throes of a personal past she's spent her life trying to avoid. Hemlock Hollow is about how we forever haunt the places we love and how they haunt us in return.



George P. Norris- The Trident's Justice

A failed black-ops mission in eastern Europe has retired NYPD detective and Navy SEAL Michael Keough recalled back to Washington. It's there that a random encounter with a gunman leads Keough to uncover a conspiracy targeting the highest levels of the United States government. The case has local law enforcement, the FBI, and the Secret Service on high alert to stop a potential presidential assassination. But Keough is not convinced of the gunman's true intentions—and the deeper he digs, the more disturbing the plot becomes.

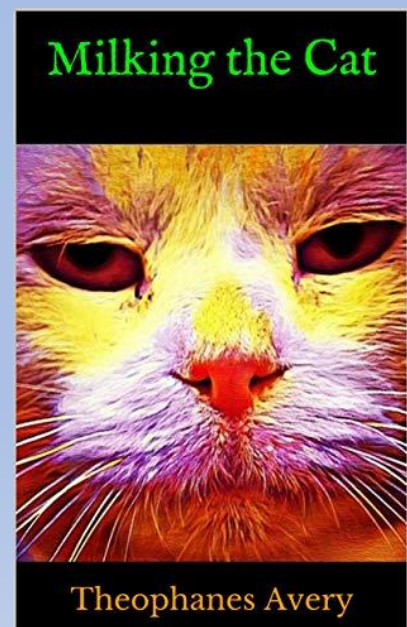
Find more about George P. Norris at <https://www.facebook.com/ExceptionalMerit/>



Theophanes Avery- Milking the Cat

Milking the Cat is a tongue-in-cheek collection of animal related tales as recounted by a pet owner, former breeder, and farmer in New England. Each story revolves around the funny and absurd winding the reader into increasingly ridiculous situations. From naked cats, to psychopathic cockatoos, to love sick horses, and misplaced bats, you'll find it all here.

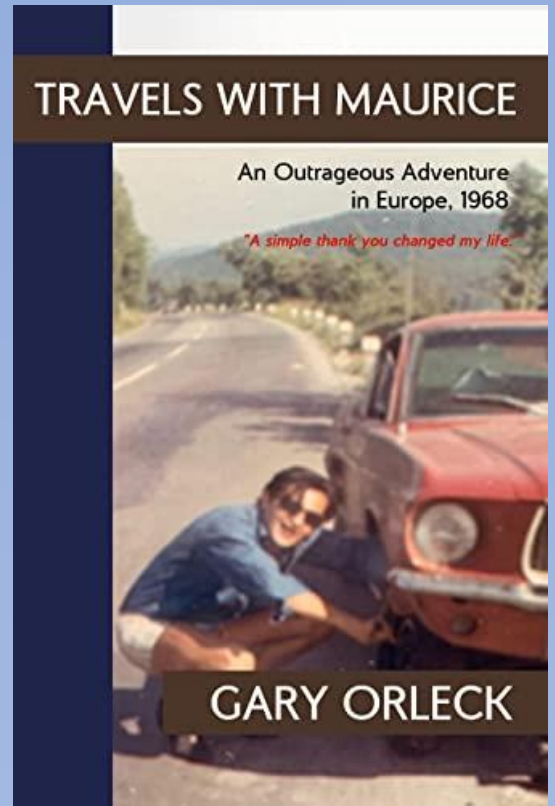
Find more about Theophanes Avery at <https://theophanesavery.com/>



Gary Orleck - Travels With Maurice An Outrageous Adventure In Europe In 1968

A simple “thank you” led to the trip of a lifetime, along with an unbreakable friendship of two opposites. See them come of age while rubbing elbows with the rich and famous like the Shah and Queen of Iran, The Who, Paul McCartney, Brigitte Bardot, and even Shirley Temple Black. An unbelievable story, yet it’s true because nobody could make this story up. Find out things the rich and famous do not want you to know.

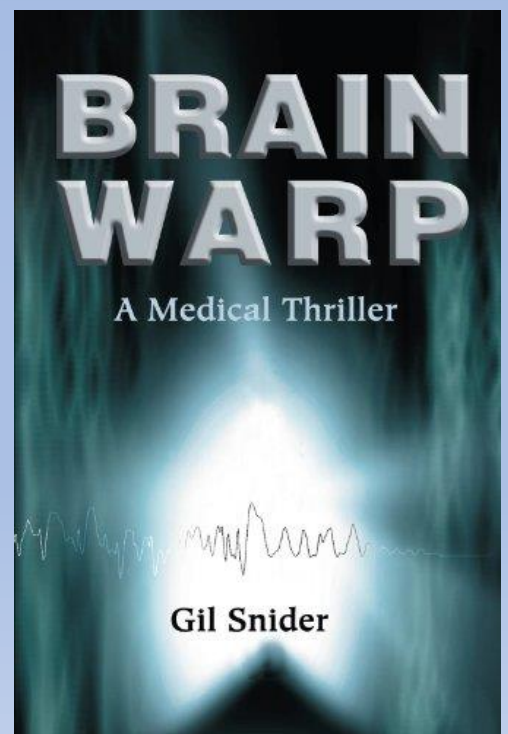
Find more about Gary Orleck at <https://garyorleckauthor.wordpress.com/>



Gil Snider- Brain Warp

Doctor Peter Branstead’s neurology department at St. Mark’s Hospital in New York’s picturesque Greenwich Village is flooded with a series of critically ill vagrants exhibiting identical symptoms. Confused and agitated upon admission, they rapidly progress into convulsions, cardiac arrest, and death. The deaths are too methodical to be a coincidence, but how—and why—are they being killed?

Find more about Gil Snider at <https://www.gilsnider.com/>



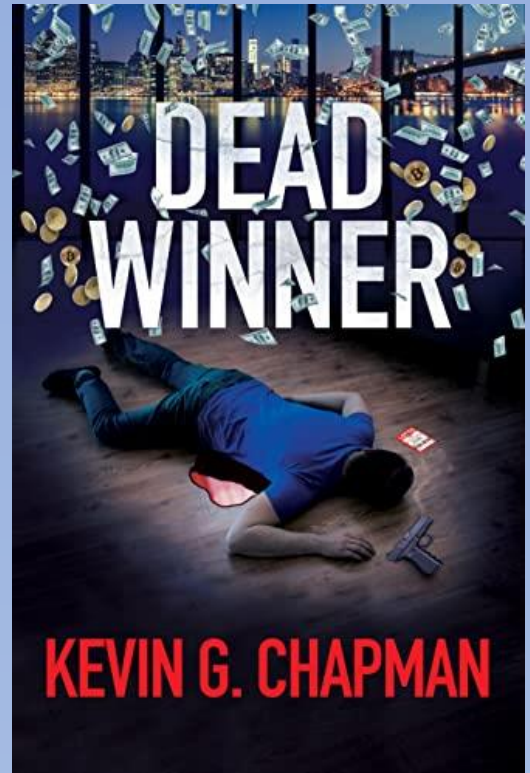
Kevin G. Chapman- Dead Winner

Be careful what you wish for . . .

Rory McEntyre is a lonely trusts & estates attorney who plays the hero inside video games. Then, his old flame, Monica, walks into his office with a \$60 million winning lottery ticket and a world of trouble.

Monica's husband, Tom, is dead, apparently from a self-inflicted gunshot. A homicide detective considers Monica a suspect, so Rory must be her criminal lawyer. Thugs from Tom's shady business think Monica has incriminating evidence Tom stole from the company, so Rory must be her protector. If he's not careful, Rory could end up like Tom - a Dead Winner.

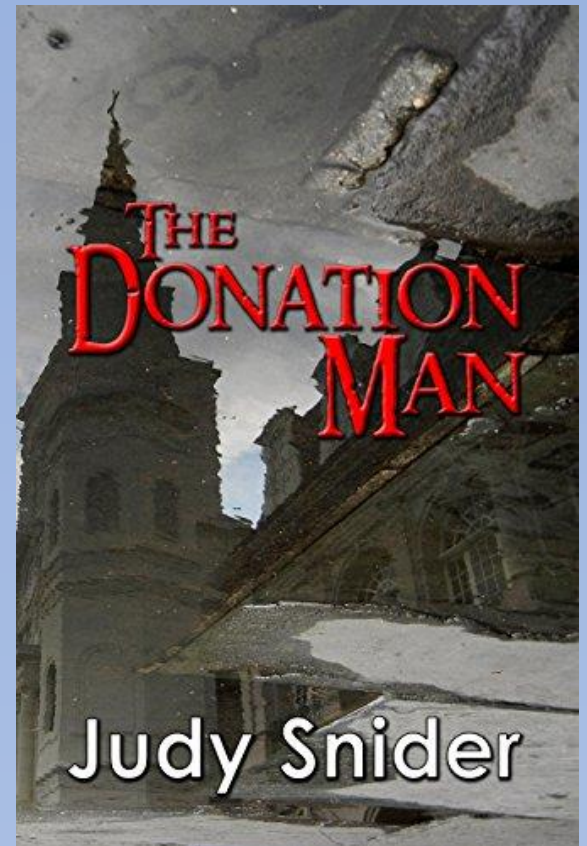
Find more about Kevin G. Chapman at www.kevingchapman.com



The Donation Man by Judy Snider

WHAT IF YOU SAID, "NO", WHEN YOU WERE CALLED TO ASK FOR A DONATION, AND SUDDENLY YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER?

Detective Sam and News-person Reggie, beloved characters from *Too Late to Run* return to be embroiled in a web of terror when an evil man seeks revenge. On an extended news assignment in New Orleans, Reggie begins to fear she is being stalked after she receives an angry donation call. She thinks she must be imagining that someone is trying to hurt her until she is pushed down. Her love, Sam, is about to visit Reggie, but decides to quickly come after he senses she is in danger. Along with the help of her co-workers, friends, and Sam and his detective friends they try to track down this unknown person, before the etc. Donation Man harms her.



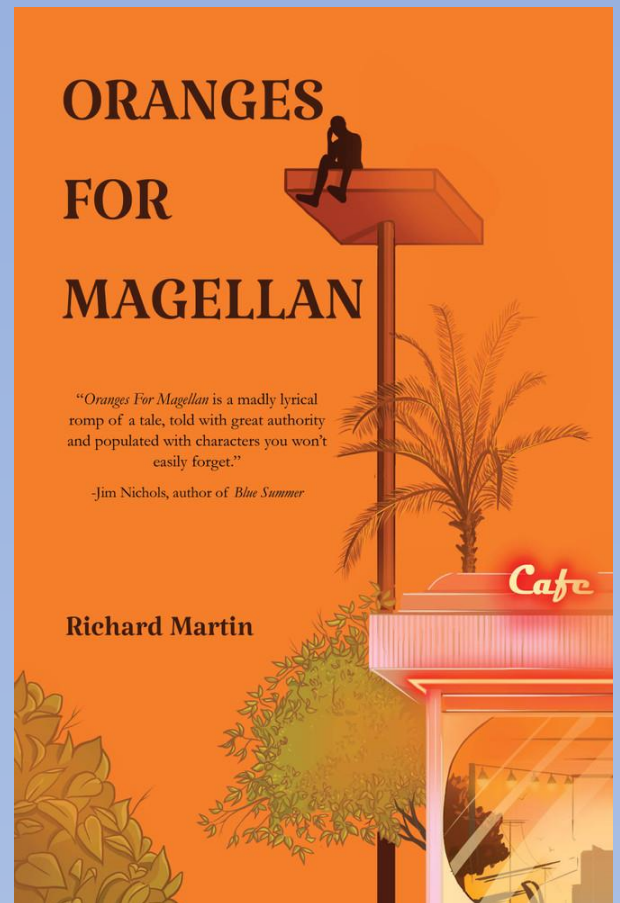
Find more about Judy Snider at <https://www.judysnider.com/>

Richard Martin- Oranges for Magellan

Everything good in Joe Magellan’s life—family, teaching career, sanity—has been undermined by his baffling compulsion: breaking the world record for flagpole-sitting. Through the years Joe has made seven attempts at the record, his best effort a measly eleven days.

Oranges for Magellan begins on January 20, 1981, the day Joe is ‘cured’ of his compulsion at Dr. Malcolm Kerridge’s ‘Out, Damn Obsession!’ seminar. Alas, the charlatan’s cure does not take. Joe immediately stumbles upon the perfect flagpole, sixty feet high, and, before long, to the horror of his wife and son, he climbs up and settles in on a ten-foot-square redwood platform for one final assault on the record.

Find more about Richard Martin at <https://regalhousepublishing.com/richard-martin/>



Shattered: An Emily Graham Novel

By McKensie Stewart

www.mckensiestewart.com

Emily finds herself metaphorically waking up to face a life she no longer recognizes. She loves her husband Brendon Graham, the Senator for the State of Pennsylvania along with their twins Madison and Connor but that isn't enough any longer. The ripple effect of her college professor, Dave Banks, taking a piece of her innocence destroys her marriage every day. Even though Emily only shared part of the secret with Brendon; he is on a destructive spiral choosing escorts, booze and heroine to cope with the pain he feels from their loss. Kyndall, the matriarch of the family, and Emily's mother-in-law will do everything in her power to ensure that her dream of Brendon becoming the President of the United States will come to fruition no matter who she has to kill to make it happen. Emily's true love, Julia, her college roommate has a huge secret of her own that will shatter any reconciliation between the two of them.

<https://smile.amazon.com/Shattered-Emily-Graham-McKensie-Stewart-ebook/dp/B01MRVZR56>

