

MAY-JUNE 2023

ISSUE 5.0

LITERATE-LY MAGAZINE

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

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT:

DONALD FIRESMITH

ARTICLES:

REVIEWS: THE INS AND OUTS OF
GETTING REVIEWED

NEW SECTIONS:

CHARACTER WRITING: 102

CHILDREN'S BOOKS RECOMMENDATIONS

TRUE CRIME BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

BOOK REVIEWS:

AMY'S BOOKSHELF REVIEWS

NEW: FEATURED SHORT STORY

THE BACKYARD BY

AMY SHANNON PART 1

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About Essence Publishing:

Essence Publishing was created by Amy Shannon, and she is the sole proprietor of Essence Publishing and its parent company Essence Enterprises. Essence Publishing is the publishing company that self-publishes Amy Shannon's books.

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

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This issues contributors:

Uncaged Magazine Book Reviews uncagedbooks.com

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Editor's Note: What's New?

This issue of Literate-Ly magazine will add a short story feature (contributors can always participate and send in the short story). Short Stories will be told in three parts, so it will run over the span of three Issues. This issue will also start the new section called Character Writing 102. Each issue will contain information that was published in the 2019 workbook *Depths of Characters: A writer's resource & workbook for character building* by Amy Shannon. Advertisement for the book will appear right before the section. The articles will contain information, but not include the worksheets that are in the book. You can buy the book, and do the worksheets at <https://www.amazon.com/Depths-Characters-resource-workbook-character/dp/1077877722>

Literate-Ly Magazine is always looking for contributors, whether they are reviewers, authors or other literary professionals writing articles about a subject that is within the literary category.

Another new feature of this magazine, is called “Children’s Books Recommendation,” since I believe that all adults should read children’s books. Each issue will feature two –three children’s books.

Advertising is always available. And, if you purchase a bulletin board referral information for Essence Enterprises <https://essenceenterpriseus.com/bulletin-board> for \$50 per business category, you get a free full-page advertisement.

Thank you,

Amy Shannon
writeramyshannon@gmail.com



Essence Enterprises



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To utilize different tools to help authors at different levels, and with different parts of the literary publishing process.

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Fractured Tears: A Struggle for Justice Expanded Version

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

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

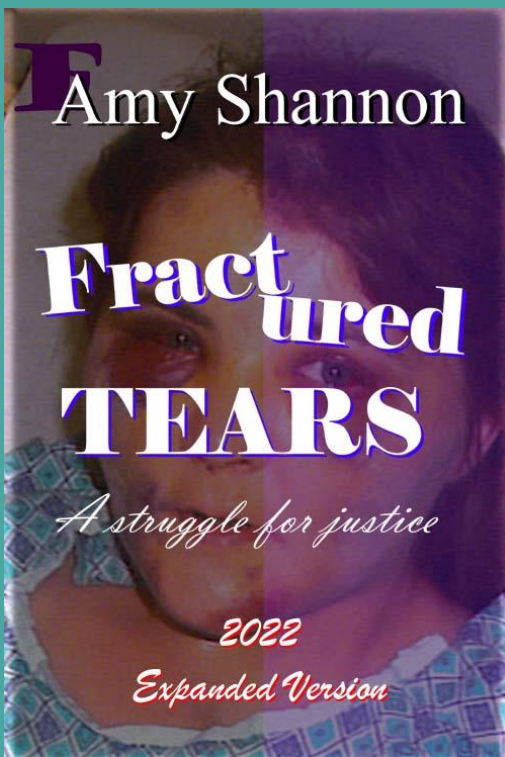
This is a fictionalized version of the real-life events of the Author.

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

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

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

Purchase Link on Amazon: <https://smile.amazon.com/Fractured-Tears-Struggle-Justice-Expanded-ebook/dp/B0BHL58CG8/>





Author Spotlight

Author Spotlight

Donald Firesmith

Donald Firesmith is a multi-award-winning author of speculative fiction, including science fiction (alien invasion), fantasy (magical wands), horror, and modern urban paranormal novels and anthologies of short stories.

Prior to retiring to devote himself full-time to his novels, Donald Firesmith earned an international reputation as a distinguished engineer, authoring seven system/software engineering books based on his 40+ years spent developing large, complex software-intensive systems.

He lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with his wife Becky, his daughter Sera, and varying numbers of dogs and cats.

Author of prize-winning science fiction and paranormal fantasy novels

A Cauldron of Uncanny Dreams

The Secrets of Hawthorne House

Hell Holes 1: What Lurks Below

Hell Holes 2: Demons on the Dalton

Hell Holes 3: To Hell and Back

Hell Holes 4: A Slave's Revenge

Magical Wands: A Cornucopia of Wand Lore

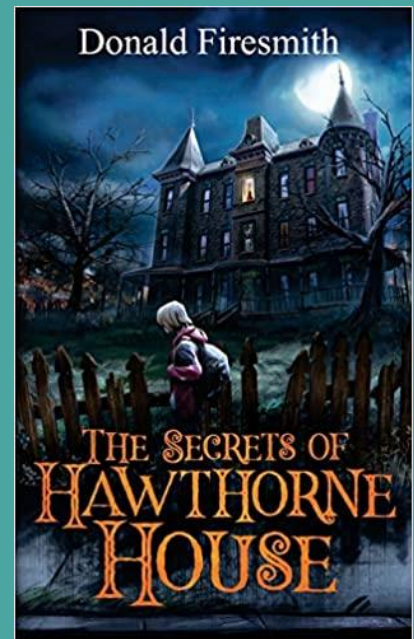
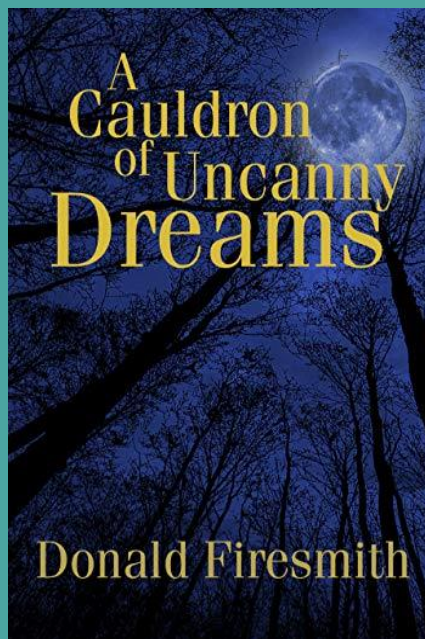
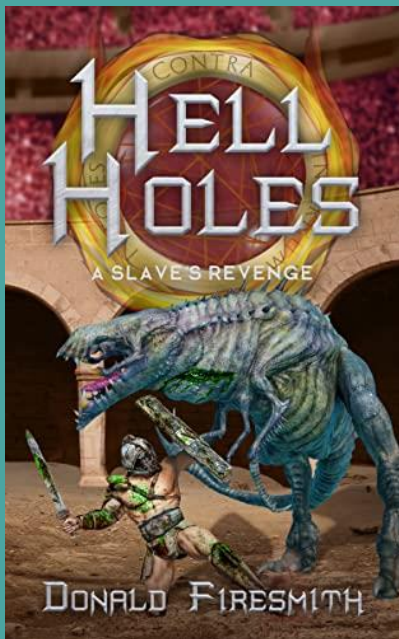
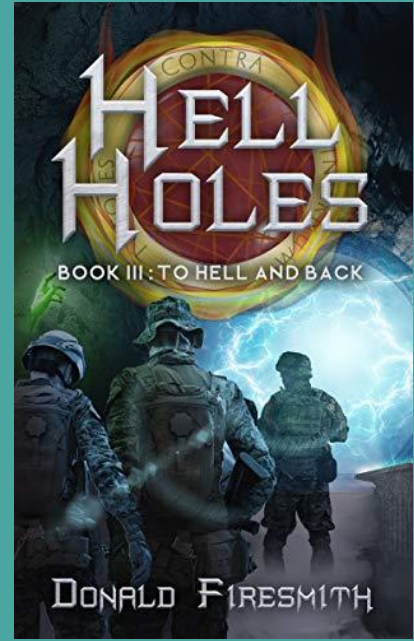
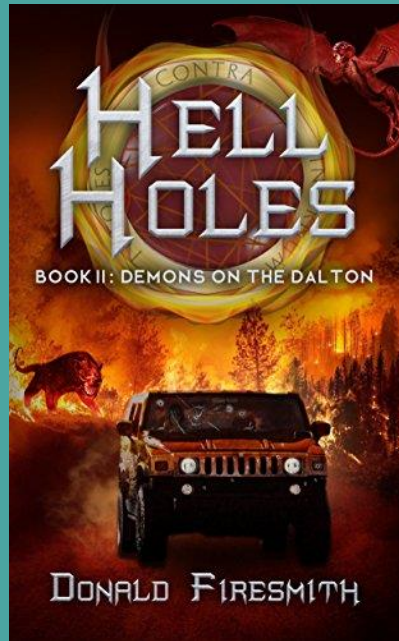
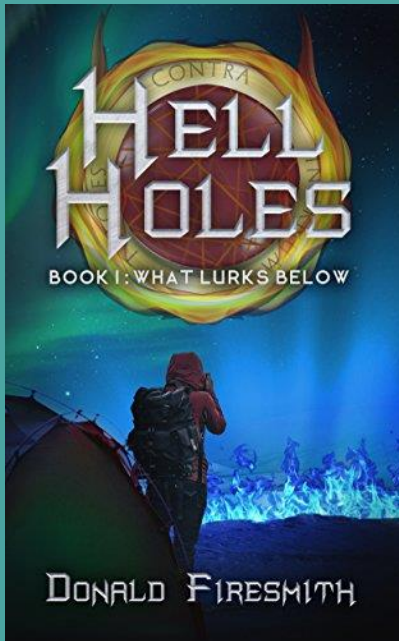


<http://donaldfiresmith.com>

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www.twitter.com/DonFiresmith

Donald Firesmith Award-Winning Author



For more details and to see his other books, go to either his website or Amazon Author Page.

<https://www.amazon.com/stores/Donald-G.-Firesmith/author/B001HQ006A>

Website: <http://donaldfiresmith.com>

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.



ALISON MCBAIN

Editor

Alison McBain

Award-Winning Editor

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- **Ghostwriting**
- **And more**

Let's talk!
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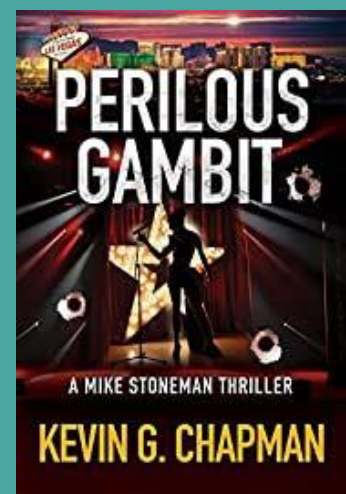
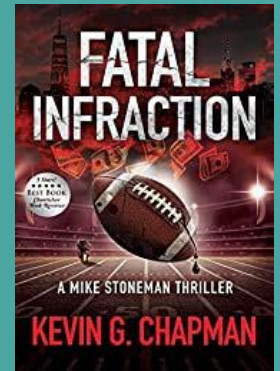
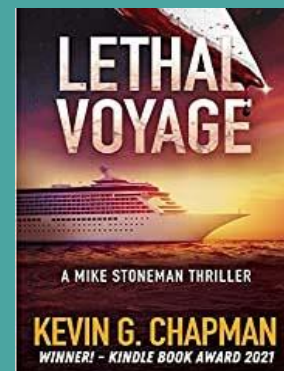
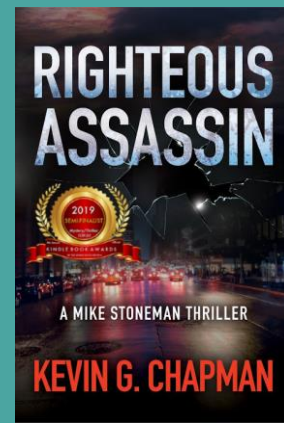
You just finished the initial draft of your manuscript. Congratulations! But if you published it right now, your readers would go screaming into the night. Here are a few websites with tips on how to get your book whipped into shape so as not to burn out the eyes of your future fans.

<https://www.fairfieldscribes.com/editing.html>

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[®]**

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Alison McBain- The New Empire

5 Stars

Brilliant writing, and definitely enticing!

Alison McBain writes an alternate historical coming of age tale with *The New Empire*. 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. Alison was also a guest on our podcast and we were honored with her reading an excerpt to the book. For *The New Empire*, the reader is introduced to Jiangxi, a very interesting and powerfully raw character. I recommend reading the book from the title page all the way to the end. There is important information that the reader should know before diving into the story. May times the Prologue gives insight and some foreshadowing for what is to come. Jiangxi's story shows a tragic and tormented childhood, being a branded slave, only to survive a journey that most of the children around him, did not. One of the things the reader will most see during the reading of the story, is that the story is written in Mutsun Language, which makes some words have spaces, such as Th e. I found this added a realism to the story and shows how much the author took the time for research. He lived as a slave to the Onas, and had interaction with neighbors, but they rarely spoke to him. He was fortunate that sometimes, he had time to himself, which he "would run through the woods as he had on that day when he had seen the kuksui's mask and fled in fear. But instead of fear, he tasted anticipation—his speed had purpose..."

It was a very remarkable and inspiring story, and Jiangxi was one of a Chinese slave, but a slave, nonetheless. This is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. Breathtaking! Compelling! This journey was very unpredictable. What an inspirational title. The title drew me in, but the story made me stay.



*Alternate
History/Coming of Age*

Syntell Smith- Call Numbers: The Not So Quiet Life Of Librarians

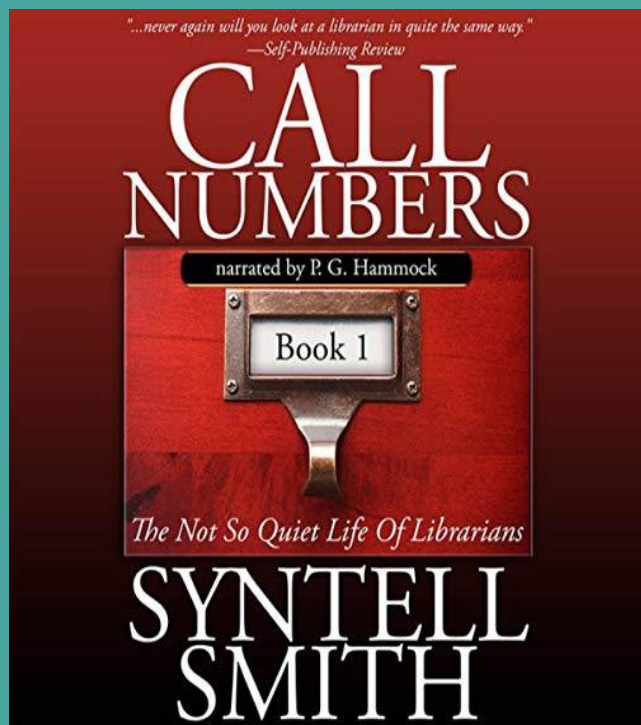
Drama/Audiobook

5 Stars

Action in the Library?

Syntell Smith tells a dramatic tale with Call Numbers: The Not So Quiet Life Of Librarians. I haven't listened to 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. I read the print book and have listened to the audiobook. This book is part of the Call Numbers series, and this is volume one. I enjoyed this book because, one, I'm a writer, and two, I'm an author, but I thought that the library setting would be interesting, and it definitely was. The year is 1994, seems like ages ago, but not really. The title is so

interesting, that it seems like it was a take-off of the Dewey Decimal system's "a call to numbers." I'm a book nerd, so I really loved this story. The listener is introduced to Robin, a man who was just transferred to a new library, in NYC. He's excited for the change, and he believes that he can move up the ladder of the library, and become more successful. He has a bit of trouble fitting in, as this library is not what he expected. I love the drama, and these characters deserve some living it up. It's so realistic, but I love the literary references, and how they fit in with this interesting gang of employees. Shhh! is not the only words coming out of this librarian's mouth. This is one of those story that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. The characters are so real, it's like being with them within the story. I'd love to go to this library and just observe! This author is a great storyteller. The listener just embarks on a superb journey. The narrator really brought this story to life. This book deserves both a read and a listen! A very unpredictable story, my favorite kind!

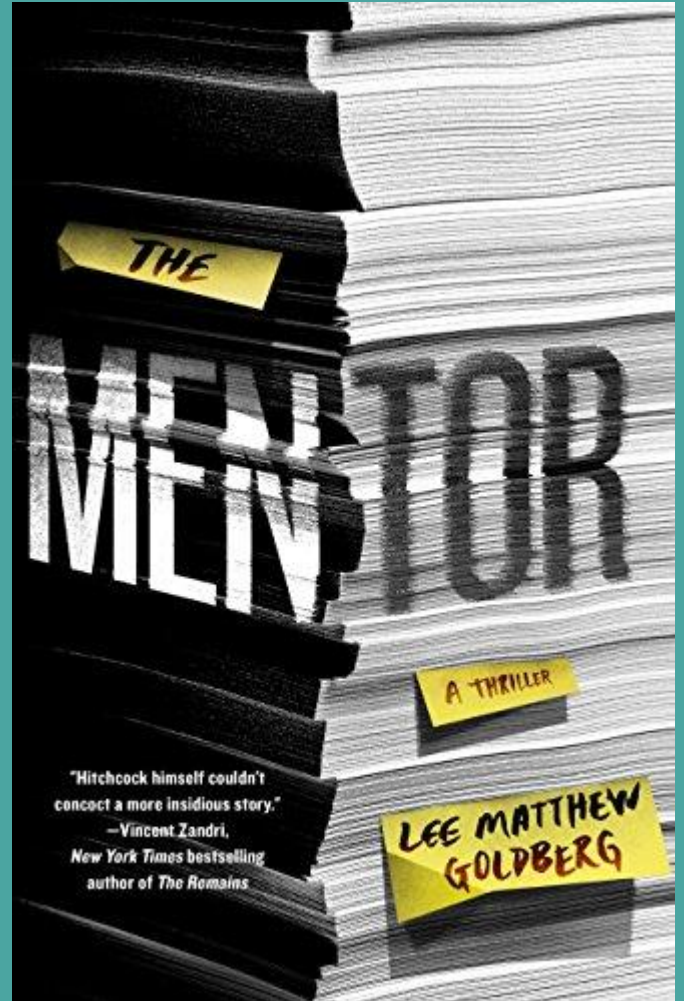


Lee Matthew Goldberg- The Mentor

5 Stars

Provocative!

Lee Matthew Goldberg writes a powerful thrilling tale with *The Mentor*. Once you read one of this author's books, you'll always want to read one of his books. *The Mentor* introduces the reader to Kyle, an editor for a book publisher. All of a sudden, he is contacted by his mentor, William. At first, Kyle is happy that his mentor wants him to read something that he wrote, and hope that it could be published. Nothing is at it seems, and William is bent on destroying Kyle's life and career, just because Kyle rejects it. The novel that William wrote, as horrifying as it was with the content and how it was written, shows the truth behind William's state of mind. It's an interesting obsession, and psychopathic state of mind, where words may have recorded his actions. This is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. I'm a big fan of this author! Absolutely chilling, with death around every corner. Whatever this author writes, I want to read. It's a great story to follow and try to figure out what will happen next. Some of the pages, you end up reading slower than others, so not to miss anything. Sometimes your heart beats so fast, you have to take a breath before reading the next word. The



Thriller

Marlene Potts- Miller's View: The Alley Rat

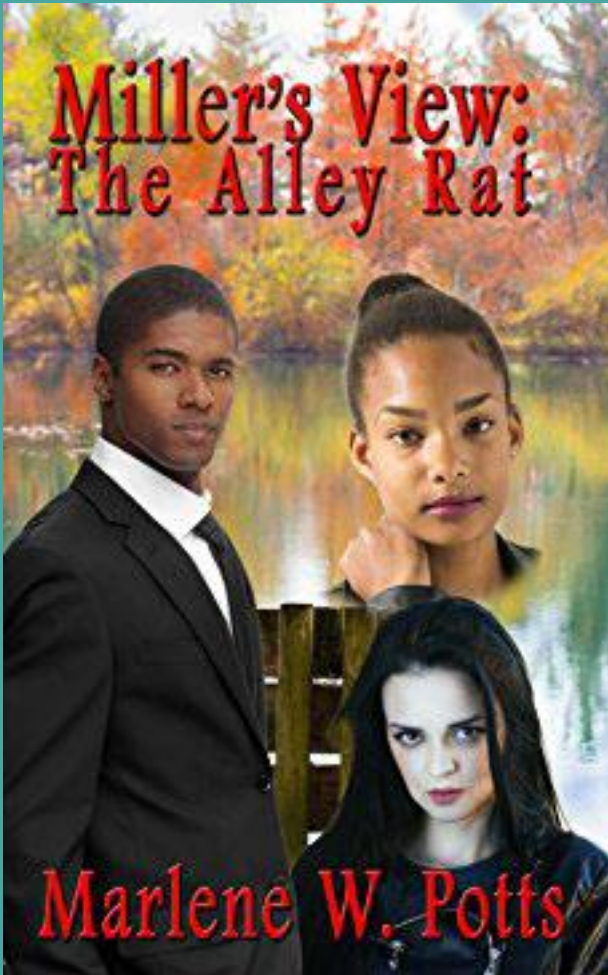
Series: Miller's View

Volume: 5

5 Stars

A new story and more perspectives!

Marlene Potts writes an intriguing tale with Miller's View: The Alley Rat. It's another story for Detective Jonathan Miller, and his informant's rose-colored glasses, that give unique perspectives. This story brings to life and death of a Deacon, and unfortunately for her, Skylar a 17 year old, witnesses the violent beating of him. Little does she know, his death wasn't the beginning, it was following something more detrimental. She knows who did it, and she's a runaway, and isn't quite sure what to do, just that she knows she's in danger herself. Called the Alley rat, because of her homelessness, she needs the help of Daeva Keket and the glasses, so her voice will be heard and not dismissed. I'm a big fan of this author! Absolutely riveting! Absolutely chilling, with death around every corner. It is always an honor to read Marlene Potts books. This author is a great storyteller. The reader just embarks on a superb journey. This is a magnificent plot that kept this reader turning the pages.



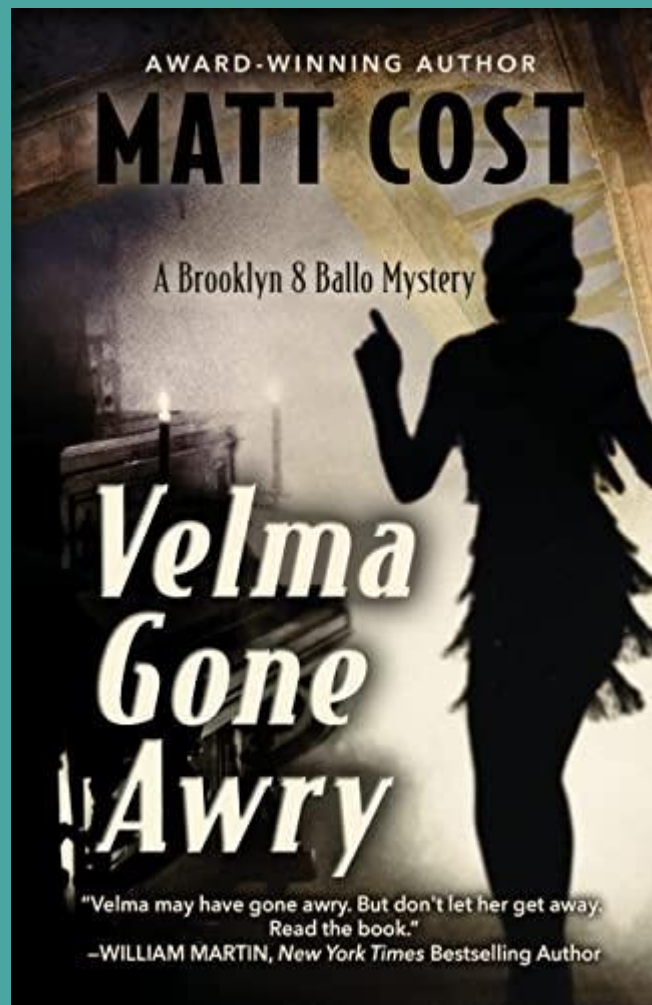
Mystery/Thriller

Matt Cost- Velma Gone Awry

5 Stars

It's the roaring twenties, with emphasis on roaring!

Matt Cost writes a thrilling mysterious tale with Velma Gone Awry. This is a new story from Matt Cost, and one of his most interesting. The reader is introduced to 8 Ballo, yes, his name is 8, as his mother never got around to giving him a real name. That is just the start of this intriguing and intense character. 8 grows up and becomes a private investigator, and I love myself a good PI story, especially with unique and interesting characters. 8 is a complex man, a veteran of WWI, a college graduate, and he just loves life, as simple as possible. Then, he is hired to find a young girl, a flapper of the time, making life a bit more ... well more of organized chaos, and complex. This is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. I'm a big fan of this author! The characters are so real, it's like being with them within the story. The reader just embarks on a superb journey. A definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. Both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. I just love, love, love this story. The author's technique of raw, magnetic characters and great plotlines is a gift. It's a great story to follow and try to figure out what will happen next. 8 develops through out the story, and gives some insight to his past, and who he is and how he is now, with the grand instinct to do his job.!



*Mystery/Historical/
Private Detective*

R Weir- Lethal Blues

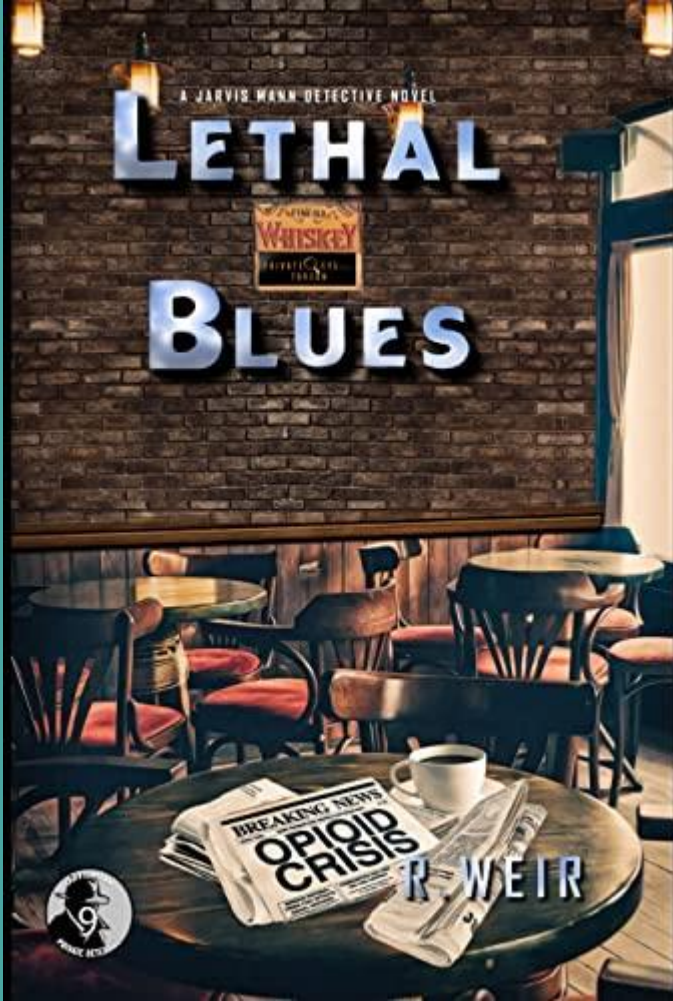
Series: Jarvis Mann Detective Series

Volume: 9

5 Stars

Jarvis Mann is magnetic.

R Weir writes a thrilling crime investigatory tale with *Lethal Blues*. The minute I read the first Jarvis Mann book, I knew I would want to read more of his escapes, wit, and clear-headedness and a mind for solving crimes dropped in his lap. Mann is one hell of an investigator, and this one, all I can say is wow. The fight this time, is drugs. It relates well to the sign of our times, where opioids and fentanyl are killing people, and the addiction rate is rising, almost as high as its death rate. This book is part of the Jarvis Mann series, and this is volume nine. Though each book is its own case, I recommend reading all of them from the beginning. You get to see Mann go through his cases, you learn about his quirks, and intuition, and even some of his private life. Nothing ever goes as planned, and just when I thought Mann's stories couldn't get any better, I read this one. R Weir shows his character's growth, and his own imagination that we are lucky he puts on paper for us to read and enjoy. Weir's passion for his characters leap off the pages, and that is what a true storyteller can do. Sometimes you have to put the book down, just to take a breath.



*Crime/Thriller/Private
Investigator*

Robert Gately- Corporate Policy

4 Stars

A Great Read

Robert Gately writes a dramatic tale with *Corporate Policy*. This book is definitely a hidden gem. The sense of drama and urgency runs through the story. Kit is introduced to the reader as a pediatric cancer patient, with her parents, Rodney and Maria, by her side. Both are praying this second occurrence of leukemia will go in remission as the other one did, but her body was attacking her on the inside by creating unhealthy blood cells. Their family has their ups and downs, and lack of communication. Her brother, Jacob, was a bone marrow match, but was afraid he'd die. Their uncle Darin likes to tell stories, and doesn't always understand the consequences of his actions on his nephew and niece. Rodney is also facing something at work, that he can't deal with. Layoffs. Which not only takes away his salary, but health insurance as well. He decides he's not going to just let it happen to him. This is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. I'm a big fan of this author! The reader just embarks on a superb journey. Rodney is determined to take care of his family no matter what, and fights against his family's suffering. Anyone who has been laid off, especially based on their salary, so a company can save money, they can relate to this story.



Family/Drama

Tommy B. Smith- Oblivion's Child

Series: Black Carmania

Volume: 2

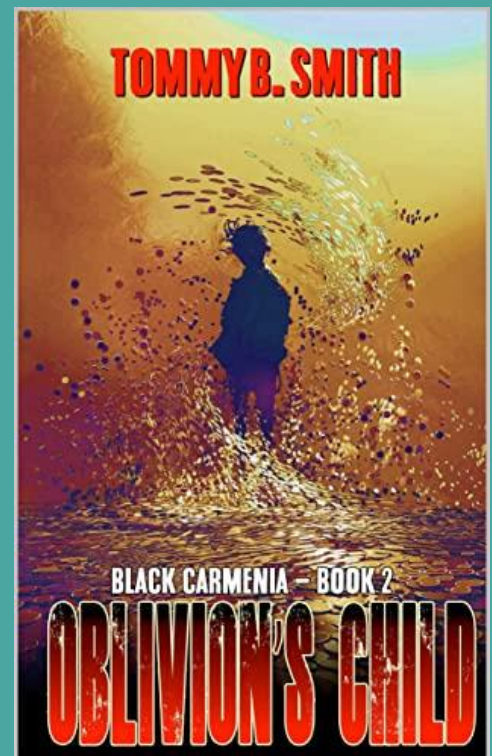
5 Stars

Another great horror story!

Tommy B. Smith writes a horrifying tale with Oblivion's Child. This book is part of the Black Carmania series, and this is volume two. I read the first book in the series, and I always recommend if you read one book, and you like or loved it, read the others in the story, whether they are meant to be standalone, or a continuation. In this book, the reader is introduced to Zander, a product of an abusive mother, who not only tried to drown him, but she promised him to the darkness. At 9 years old, he is still haunted by his mother's torment, and monsters. When a storm hit, affecting his family home that he shares with his grandmother and Aunt Helen, on the

shore of Florida's beach front. Zander can't escape the monsters, the monsters of his past, and the ones he sees in the darkness. The characters in this story are intriguing, and each have their own personality, and they can be very raw and intense. Helen, is catatonic, but lives at home. The dark keeps creeping up on them, and Zander doesn't realize how strong he really is, and his past has made him older than his years. This is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. This story is told by Zander, and he shares the information about the void. I'm a big fan of this author! Absolutely chilling, with monsters and darkness around every corner. This author brings the story to life. A definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. Both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. "The void speaks not in sentences or syllables of humankind's chose languages, but in a vocabulary which unbinds the equations of our essences."

Horror



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 her book, The Doomsday Medallion



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Amy Shannon's Professional Services

Amy Shannon is a writer, professional book reviewer, editor, literary promoter, and Literary consultant. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English, a Master of Arts Degree in Adult Education and Training, and Masters of Business Administration with Accounting Degree. Amy offers editing, proofreading and formatting services. Amy has editing experience in academics, technical writing, fiction and non-fiction work. Amy will edit most any documents. Amy editing services consist of content, copy, and editorial feedback editing.

Amy offers social media management services, which entail a social media consultation, and then other services to help authors create and/or maintain their social media. Amy also offers query writing services as part of being a literary consultant. She will also seek out and research professional services for authors, if she cannot do it herself. Especially authors looking for publishers, literary agents, and publicists that accept their genre.



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- Query Letters
- Literary Consulting Services
- Book Cover Creation

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ALISON MCBAIN

Book Cover Designer



<https://www.alisonmcbain.com/book-covers.html>

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True Crime Book Reviews

Blaine L. Pardoe and Victoria R. Hester - A Special Kind of Evil: The Colonial Parkway Serial Killings

Publisher: WildBlue Press

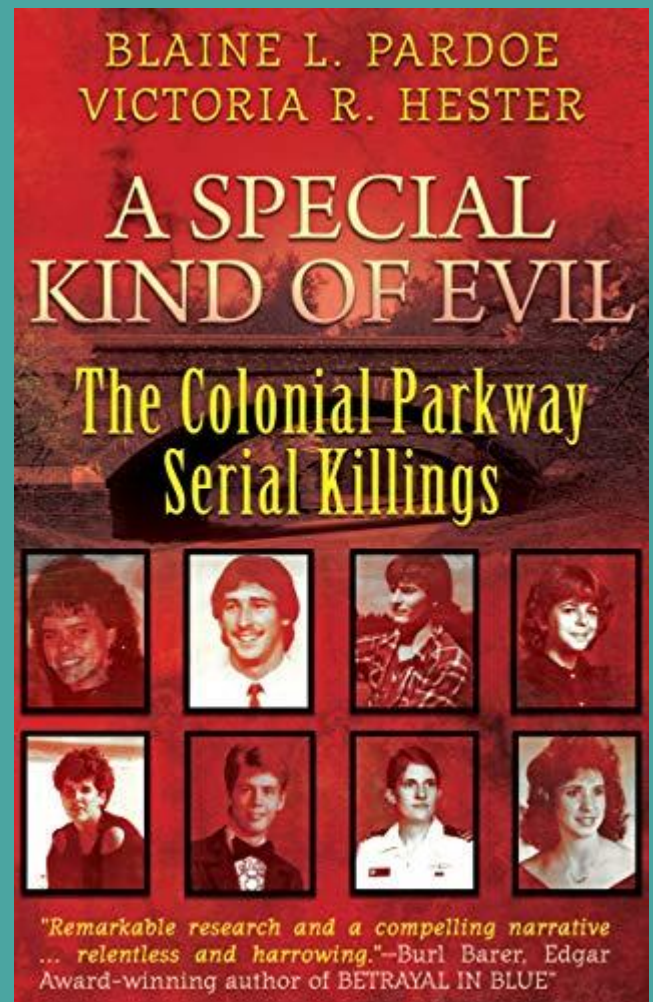
Release Date: July 12, 2017

Genre: True Crime/Serial Killer

About the book:

For four years a killer, or killers, stalked Virginia's Tidewater region, carefully selecting victims and terrorizing the local community. Again and again, young people in the prime of their lives were targeted. But the pattern that stitched these killings together was more like a spider web of theory, intrigue, and mathematics. Then, mysteriously, the killing spree stopped. The unknown predator, or predators, who stalked the Colonial Parkway seemingly disappeared.

Now, father-daughter true crime authors Blaine Pardoe and Victoria Hester blow the dust off of these cases. Interviewing the victims' family and friends, as well as members of law enforcement, they provide the most complete and in-depth look at these horrifying murders and disappearances. The author-investigators peel back the rumors and myths surrounding these crimes and provide new information never before revealed about the investigations.



Blaine L. Pardoe and Victoria R. Hester - A Special Kind of Evil: The Colonial Parkway Serial Killings

The Review:

5 Stars

The trail of evil!

Blaine L. Pardoe and Victoria R. Hester write about the he Colonial Parkway Serial Killings in A Special Kind of Evil. I am a fan of true crime stories. This is the first book written by these authors that I've read. The story of The Colonial Parkway Serial Killings. Colonial Parkway is a historic road, in the Tidewater regions of Virginia's National Park. The authors are a father and daughter team, not just talking about these eight cases of the murder of young persons. There were three couples murdered, and another couple missing and presumed to be dead. The time frame and the locations of the murders are what linked the murders, unofficially. These are still unsolved crimes. The authors not only put a new spotlight on these murders, but also open up files, and investigate on their own, and interview families. This book was written very well. It was detailed and terrifying, especially because of the brutality and that there could still be one or more killers on the loose. The authors are a magnificent crime writing team, and I enjoyed reading this book, and hopefully it will shed some light on these cases again, and maybe someone will read this and know something they didn't realize they know.



David Larson- The Last Jewish Gangster: The Middle Years

Publisher: WildBlue Press

Publication Date: August 16, 2022

Genre: True Crime/Organized Crime/Murder

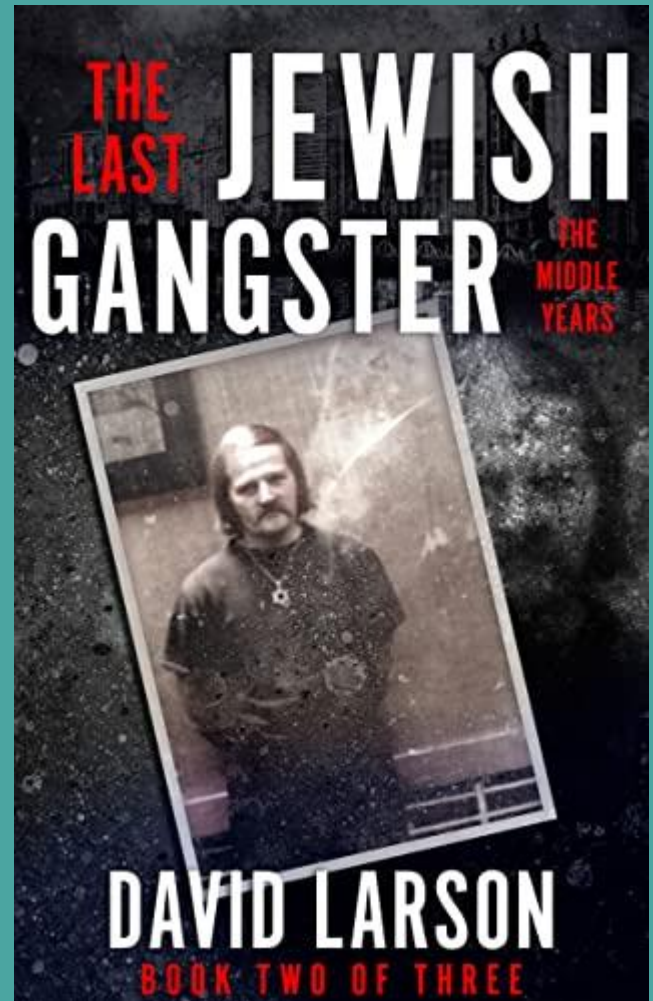
Series: The Last Jewish Gangster

Volume: 2

About the book:

The second installment of this saga of gangland lore follows gregarious gangster, Michael Hardy, further down his twisted criminal path. The Last Jewish Gangster, The Middle Years, starts in 1968 with Hardy sentenced to twelve years in the world's most dangerous prison in Mexico after taking the rap for his mother's counterfeiting scheme, hoping to have finally earned her love and respect.

Once he's released from prison, Hardy returns to Brooklyn and tries to go straight, but drifts back into a world of crime. He gets Sammy "the Bull" Gravano to join his crew to pull major heists like kidnapping drug lords for million-dollar ransoms, and robbing cop bag men. To evade the law, he goes to Europe and ends up in Israel where he works on a Kibbutz, touching the hem of his Jewish heritage.



David Larson- Tithe Last Jewish Gangster: The Middle Years

The Review

4 Stars

A very interesting insight into the life of Michael Hardy

David Larson writes about Michael Hardy, an infamous Jewish Gangster in **THE LAST JEWISH GANGSTER: The Middle Years** I am a fan of true crime stories. This is the first book written by this author that I've read. Michael Hardy was a twisted criminal, in the life of organized crime. This story tells about his life in the late 1960's. He went to prison after confessing to a crime committed by his mother. Some say it hardened him, more, but at the time, all he wanted was some respect and affection from his mother. He served his time and determined to straight. His friends Sammy the Bull Gravano pulled him back into the life of crime, but those he thought were loyal, were not. And, to add to his tormenting, he entered WitSec and said his friends killed the Dunn brothers, something that they didn't do. This book was written very well. It was detailed and terrifying, especially because of the callousness of Hardy, who was a despicable man, but painted in the light of almost human. **THE LAST JEWISH GANGSTER: The Middle Years** is a definite recommendation by Amy's Bookshelf Reviews. I read this book to give my unbiased and honest review. I look forward to reading many more titles by this author. Amy's Bookshelf Reviews recommends that anyone who reads this book, to also write a review.



Michael Morford and Michael Ferguson- The Case of the Zodiac Killer

Publisher: WildBlue Press

Release Date: May 24, 2018

Genre: True Crime/Unsolved/Serial Killer

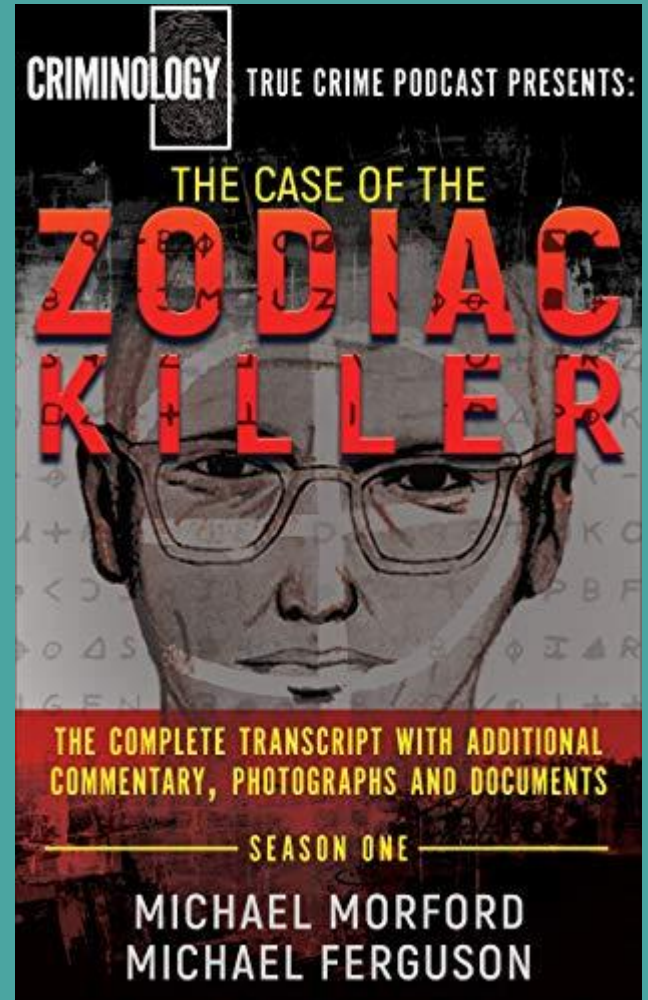
Series: Criminology True Crime Podcast

Volume: 1

About the book:

In the late 60's and early 70's, an enigmatic serial killer terrorized the San Francisco Bay area—and teased the police tasked with stopping him. Through bold letters and cryptic ciphers mailed to local newspapers as well as taunting calls to police, the Zodiac left his mark on the state of California. Without warning he was gone, but not before achieving infamy in the annals of true crime history. Just who was the Zodiac Killer?

In the first season of their popular podcast Criminology, Michael Morford and Mike Ferguson take a deep dive into one of true crime's most notorious cold cases. Using actual case files, documents, and police reports they present a detailed chronicle of this mysterious investigation. In this volume, Morford and Ferguson bring the series to readers with added commentary, photographs, and documents.



Michael Morford and Michael Ferguson- The Case of the Zodiac Killer

The Review

4 Stars

Intriguing information

Michael Morford and Michael Ferguson write about the serial murders in The Case of the Zodiac Killer. I am a fan of true crime stories. This is the first book written by these authors that I've read. I can't even explain why I am interested in True Crime, but the minds of the depraved, and the investigators that work endlessly to solve sometimes the unsolvable, really intrigue me. Gathering clues is like putting together puzzles, and the investigators never forget that the victims of these vicious attacks were human beings, with loved ones. The Zodiac killer is an unidentified man who killed in Northern California, in the late 1960s. Many murders later, two victims survived. He is known for bragging to the police, almost taunting them to find him, as he was called the Zodiac killer because of his cyphers and cryptic notes that indicated he killed his victims to be his slaves in the afterlife. This book was written very well. It was detailed and terrifying, especially because of all the murders, and lives lost. And, though many have claimed to be the actual Zodiac killer, or had become copycats, these murders weren't ever solved. Even with the composite drawing of the killer, it remains unsolved, a famous unsolved serial killer murders. This book contains a lot of information, including transcripts, and photos. It was well-written and put together.



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

THE SCRIBES PRIZE



<https://www.fairfieldscribes.com/the-scribes-prize.html>

PITCH WEEK



WHEN WORDS COUNT
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Compete with other authors
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& book launch!

<https://whenwordscountretreat.com/pitch-week/>

The background of the image is a book cover with a vertical wood-grain texture on the right side. Overlaid on the left is a painting of a rural landscape. It features a thatched-roof house with a red door, a large green tree, and a dirt path winding through a field. The sky is a warm, golden yellow with a large, bright white cloud.

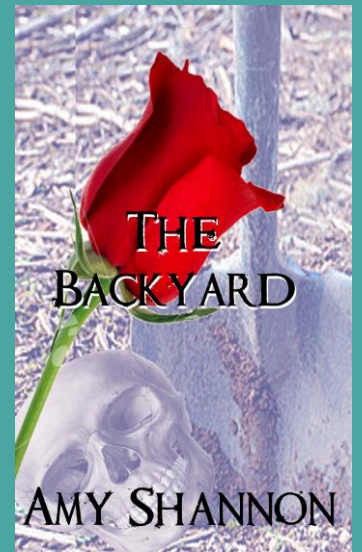
Featured Short Story!

The Backyard

By

Amy Shannon

Part 1



The Backyard can also be read on Kindle Vella at <https://www.amazon.com/kindle-vella/story/B095Z72BGH>

Part 1

George

A sigh of relief. It's over. It's a new beginning. The end to life before, and the start of life beginning. What a bunch of crap! I stared at myself in the mirror. "George, what the hell are you thinking." I ran my hands over my bald head. I loved keeping it this way. Wonderfully smooth, no signs of hair. At all. I also loved my blue eyes, always looking for someone with similar eyes, clear but blue. Piercing almost. I enticed myself, and sometimes others. Oh, well, someday, I'll find another connection. I took a deep breath and turned around. Yes, the mirror was the first thing I put on the wall of my new home. A home, not too big and not too small, and just far enough away from Laura. Yeah, my ex-wife, is now, finally three states away. Just far enough away.

I moved in here four days ago, with only the boxes that would fit in my old Chevy station wagon. I love this car, inherited from my father when he died, and I never let it go. Yes, it's very outdated, and old school, but it's a perfectly rusted maroon tank. It's timeless, to me, at least.

I moved into this small ranch house in a small town in upstate New York, moving away from the large city. I like this house, already. Feels like a home. It's quiet and almost secluded. There are about five houses on this dead-end road, and mine is second to the last. All of the neighbor's homes seem very well-kept, almost as if it's a requirement to live on this street. My direct neighbor's eight-foot fence borders our properties. He must be quite the gardener. His front yard, an extremely vibrant green with perfectly trimmed hedges. I know I have a lot to do in order to keep up with the neighbors, but I've always loved working in the yard. It kept me away from my wife when my marriage was falling apart. Hmm, gotta stop being reminded of that. Looking forward, yes, looking forward. I've found the perfect home, and I have the perfect job.

The Backyard Part 1 Continued

I'm a freelance writer, and I've written for many magazines, but I recently thought I could also challenge myself and my skills by attempting to write a novel. Hell, I ended up writing several ... actually ten. I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge, but the first one was about a man who killed his wife, and got away with it, so much that he turned on everyone who ever made him angry. Yeah, it was more than cathartic for me, and it turned out to be a best seller. *Charlie's Way*. The next two books weren't quite as successful, but they've made a few sales or two. I ended up toning down the violence in the next ones, where they were more about mystery than thrillers. Then I knew, I knew exactly what my stories needed in order to find my niche.

Yes, there it was. I found my niche, violent and mysterious thrillers, revolving around psychopaths and serial killers, and that's where starting again. I've got several books under my new niche, but I bet the next one will be the best yet to come. However, the title is still empty ... *Untitled* ... but the story is pouring out.

I still have a lot of unpacking to do, but the office is first. Right now, my old, but very usable electric typewriter is balancing on a few boxes that is my makeshift desk, but it works. Writing is very important, and so is convincing myself that this is my new life, and I need to embrace it. The bookshelves show my hit and misses, sellers all sellers, but only a few best sellers. *Charlie's Way*, *Incognito*, *By Proxy* all by me, George Straus. Yes, I am George Straus, and it's only a best seller, when there's murder, mayhem, and an interesting psychopath.

Part 2

George

It seems like it was just yesterday when I was starting my life. Oh, wait, maybe it was, no, it was more like three weeks ago. The days seemed to blend together. I've spend my days unpacking and ordering the furniture that I need. I'm lucky that I got an advance for my next, or current book, so I could get what I needed, and handle the costs of the move.

I've taken on some small writing contracts, so I can pay the bills, and continue to work from home, and not in some stuffy office setting. Before I dove into my writing world, I did everything from home health care to sitting in a call center, with a bunch of chatterboxes waiting for the next call to come in, someone complaining about the lightbulbs they bought were too bright. I think it was the customers that weren't so bright.

The Backyard Part 1 Continued

When I chose this place to live, I chose it specifically. I wanted the quiet street, the quiet small town. I did my research, but I guess I didn't look at it in more detail. I should've known. Don't take the research on face value. It gave me the property values, schools nearby, crime stats, but it didn't tell me that my neighbor would blare polka music every four nights at three AM and continue until six AM. I don't know or really want to know why he must do that. I thought, at first, he was going to do it every night, but then, it stopped for three days, and then started up again. It became a pattern. He must only like polka every four days. Me? I still can't get the thumping of the oom-pa-pa out of my head. The days without polka, seem quiet, but there is a muffled sound of either Beethoven or Bach. Can't quite make out which one, could be someone else, but those are the only two classical composers I'm familiar with. I'd prefer that to the polka.

So, with that, my wonderful neighbor, who've I've only seen in passing, has made me realize that my best work will be done at night. I'd never be able to sleep during those long nights, so I did my best to insulate my new office, positioned at the back of the house, facing my yard. Yes, I still have to get motivated to work in my yard. And then, my room, is more toward the front of the house, but I keep it dark, so the light of the morning won't peer through when I've had a long night of writing.

Today, I decided that it's best to do something more than just eat, daydream and watch nonsensical television while I'm waiting for that next inspiration to hit me for my next chapter. I went to the local lawn and garden warehouse. I didn't realize there was so much I needed to know about seed, and plants, before even mowing my lawn. At least that's what "Joe" at Home Depot was trying to tell me. He wanted me to buy everything from lawn seed that didn't allow for weeds, to plants and shrubs. I just want a clean yard, and some shrubs and maybe plants that won't need a lot of maintenance.

When I got home, I unpacked the carload of items into the back yard. As I was unloading my new lawn mower, I felt someone come up behind me. I turned around quick. It was my neighbor, who I only knew as Mr. Schneider. "Oh, you scared me," I gulped, staring at this very tall man, had to be at least six five. His long black hair was pulled back neatly into a ponytail. He rubbed his stubble covered chin.

"What're you doing?" he crossed his arms, as if I were the one that invaded his yard.

"I'm George, George Straus," I extended my hand, but he didn't shake it, so I put it down quickly.

"I know who you are. I asked what you're doing?"

"I thought I'd get my yard in shape. Everyone else's looks great, and I know mine needs work."

The Backyard Part 1 Continued

“Don’t you work?” his expression on his face gave away a slight grin, but his blue eyes seemed to stare right through me. I couldn’t tell anything about his mood.

“I’m a writer.”

“Hmm, I see. Well, your work is disturbing me.”

“I just unloaded my car. How is that disturbing you?”

“My roses need quiet during the day. You ain’t gonna use that mower now, are you?”

“Yes, as soon as I put the damn thing together. I want my yard to look nice. Something like yours,” I pointed to the fence.

“You’ve seen my yard?”

“Uh, no, just the front yard. I’ve never even looked over the fence. I don’t want to disturb you, that’s the last thing I want, but I can’t help it if the mower makes noise.”

“I guess,” he shrugged. “My roses need peace.”

I wasn’t sure what he was trying to say, but he seemed to back down and understand that I was going to mow my lawn, no matter what. “What kind of roses you have?”

“I have a yard full. They bloom beautifully in the spring and summer, and I cover them in the winter. I like quiet during the day.”

“Oh. Well, I work at night, so I have to do my yard work and housework during the day.”

“I guess, don’t keep me up all day.”

“I won’t. I sleep some in the morning, and usually am up in the afternoon. As I said, I work at night. I’m quiet when I work.”

“Work you said you were a writer.”

“I am. I’m an author. I write books and articles for magazines,” I explained.

He shrugged and dug his hands deep into the pocket of his worn denim jeans. “I best be going,” he turned around and then stopped. He turned back and faced me. “What do you write?”

“Crime books, mainly, you know murder mysteries, or books about serial killers.” I looked at his expression and he cocked an eyebrow, like he wanted me to explain more without him asking. “Sometimes I write for those true crime magazines, or short stories. I do research, work with law enforcement, and even interviewed criminals. Since I moved, I haven’t made local connections yet.”

The Backyard Part 1 Continued

“But you ain’t a cop or anything?”

“Nope, just a writer.”

He shrugged again, kind of like he was trying to relax himself. “You ever meet one?”

“One what?”

“A serial killer?”

“Once,” I explained. “I interviewed a man in South Dakota once. He admitted to killing sixteen women.”

“Oh, interesting,” he said. “I best be going. Oh, Mr. Straus.”

“George, you can call me George if you want,” I stepped forward, extending my hand again.

This time he shook it. “I’m Lyle. Lyle Schneider. I also work from home,” he sighed. “I own a computer repair business, but I do it from my office. I get deliveries during the day, but find the best work comes out of me at night. Guess I’m a night owl.”

“Well, I’ll try not to disturb you,” I smiled.

He smiled back, which to me, was very surprising. “Maybe we could get a drink or something some time.”

“I’d like that,” I said, and then, he was gone. *Interesting man*, I thought but then focused on the work I needed to do on my yard. I finished putting together the lawn mower, it seemed to take forever. Then I realized I need gasoline for the tank, luckily, I had an extra can in my car. It doesn’t always tell me when I’m low on gas. I took my shirt off, and tossed it on the back porch, and started up the mower. Hmm, not bad, third try and it started humming and roaring. Perfect. I think I did a couple of rows when I felt someone watching me. I looked around but didn’t see anyone. I’m not sure who would be watching, or even why. I’m a straight man mowing the law. I’m not even as fit as I wish I were. I did my rows and the lawn finally looked neat. I was curious, a few times, about what was so great about Lyle’s roses in his back yard, but I was not curious enough to take a peek. Something about the lingering scent of compost from his yard, that mixed with a generous amount of alluring rose scent. He must have a lot of roses, but he must also keep his compost pile close to the fence that boards my yard.

The Backyard Part 1 Continued

After the yard work got done that day, I went inside and made my lunch, well, for some, it would've been dinner, but it was my lunch. I was curious as to Lyle's roses. He seemed to care more for the roses than anything else, except maybe his appearance. Something about him, made me curious but yet a little uneasy. I think it was just his demeanor. He was soft spoken, obviously educated, but there was something he was keeping hidden, maybe his emotions, if he had any. Even his smile seemed a little forced, no, more like practiced. I hate putting real people in my story, but he would make the perfect creepy guy. Either the guy everyone thinks did it, or the guy who really did. I'm sure he's just not too good at dealing with people face-to-face or he's not used to having a neighbor. I heard this house was empty for years.

Part 2 of The Backyard to be continued in the next issue ...

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.

The background is a composite image. On the left, there's a landscape with a green tree, a dirt path, and a thatched-roof building. On the right, there's a large, vertical, textured element resembling a book spine or a piece of wood. The overall color palette is warm, with yellows, oranges, and greens.

Reviews!

Read. Review. Repeat

Reviews: The ins and outs of getting reviewed

By

Amy Shannon



Reviews can come in different forms, such as from a reader who buys the book, loves it/hates it, needs the world to know whether to buy it or not.

Or from your mother, father, sister, brother, etc. who will write that they love it, whether they do or not.

Or, your best friend, who is always brutally honest and not afraid to tell you what he/she thought!

Or, from a reader, who borrowed the book from one of her/his friends, needs to tell the world they loved it, hated it, or something in between.

Or, from a book reviewer that the author probably seeks out, and they will write a review, honest and unbiased.

Yes, pretty much anyone can write a review, and write what they want to write about it.

Now, as an author, you are sharing "your baby" with someone else other than yourself. It takes a lot of courage to share your work with someone, AND to listen to what they have to say.

If you're going to seek out reviewers, DO YOUR HOMEWORK/RESEARCH or whatever you want to call it. You can find reviewers on Amazon.com (just look at the reviews, click on their names, and see their profile, if they are avid

review writers). If they write reviews a lot, see what kind of genres they read, and how they write their reviews. (It's not easy to say, but some ALWAYS write Negative (2 or 1 star reviews) and some ALWAYS write 5-Star Reviews.

Look for (or search on Google or whatever your favorite search engine is) and look for Review Directories. (I have one on my Bookshelf Review page, which I am still building). Look for reviewers that are (1) still active, (2) read your genre or read ANY genre and then check out their website/blog or wherever they post their review.

Read their review policy, their request policy, and even turnaround time if it's there. (On my blog, I keep a list of the Titles I have to review, so authors can see their status). Also, see if they have a contact policy. Some you leave your request, give them your book, and never hear from them again, so you have to keep looking to see if a review was posted. My blog, I answer every email I get within 72 hours (most of the time it's under 48 hours).

Yes, Yes, Yes, reviews are important. Some readers look to them to see if they would be interested in your book. Personally, I read the reviews after I posted my own, to see what others thought.



Children's Books Recommendations

Recommended Children's Book

I always recommend that adults read children's book, even if they don't have children to read them to. You can learn a lot from a children's book, whether it's a fairy tale, nonfiction, educational or a fictional story. These books can change your perspective, and even bring you back to a time of innocence and remember what it was like to be a child. Maybe it was a good memory or maybe not, but children are getting smarter and smarter, and they learn from other's behavior, not just what is taught to them directly. With that said, here is my recommended children's book for this issue.

Christy Breedlove- **Screamcatcher: Sa'be Most Monstrous**

Publisher: Fire and Ice

Release Date: August 9, 2022

Genre: YA Fantasy/Thriller

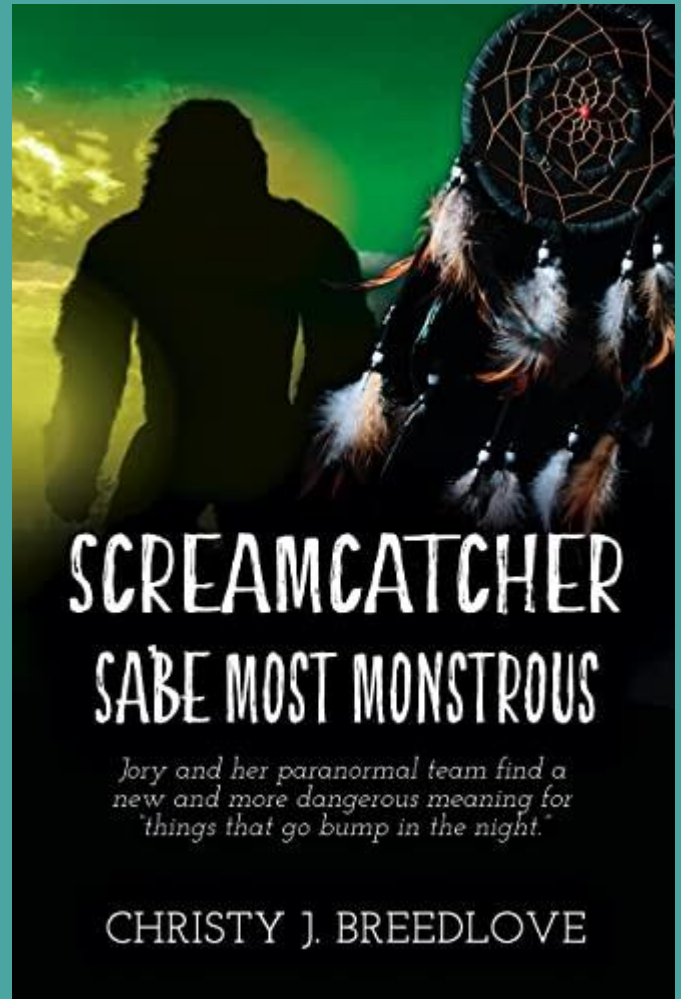
Series: The Shimmering Eye

Volume: 4

About the Story:

Jory Pike and the Badlands Paranormal Society get a strange and frantic call from a woman who claims her property has been invaded by unknown trespassers who have terrorized her and her husband and killed their two dogs. She says her husband has gone hunting for the culprits and disappeared. The Sheriff's office performed a routine investigation and mysteriously quit. The woman also called a first nations tribe tracker to help her, but after a short investigation, he claimed she had something more dangerous than a bear and wanted nothing to do with it.

Jory's 91 year-old grandfather, a full blood Ojibwe, believes he knows what this mystery is all about and demands to go on the hunt.



Christy Breedlove- **Screamcatcher: Sa'be Most Monstrous**

The Review

4 Stars

Enjoyed this story!

Christy Breedlove writes a YA fantastical thrilling tale with *Screamcatcher: Sa'be Most Monstrous*. This book is part of The Shimmering Eye series, and this is volume four. I recommend reading the four books that came before this one, as I do with all series. I enjoyed reading each one in the series, and that brings me to this one. Breedlove is one grand storyteller. It's a very exciting story as Jory and the Badlands Paranormal Society have something new to investigate. Little did they know, Jory's grandfather insists on helping find out what happen to her husband, and what caused the death of her dogs. It's not a typical investigation for these four teens, but it's something that they always try to help figure out and investigate. No one else wants to find out the truth, except Jory and his friends, and grandfather. Especially when everyone involved gives up for no apparent reason. I'm a big fan of this author! It's full of twists and turns, and you never know what will be there, beyond the shadows. The story brings in the believable, even if almost impossible. It is always an honor to read Christy Breedlove's books. The reader just embarks on a interesting journey. Jory is determined and tenacious, and determined to get the job done no matter what.



Karl Beckstrand - Agnes's Rescue: The True Story of an Immigrant Girl

Publisher: Premio Publishing

Release Date: April 20, 2021

Genre: Nonfiction/children

Series: Young American Immigrants

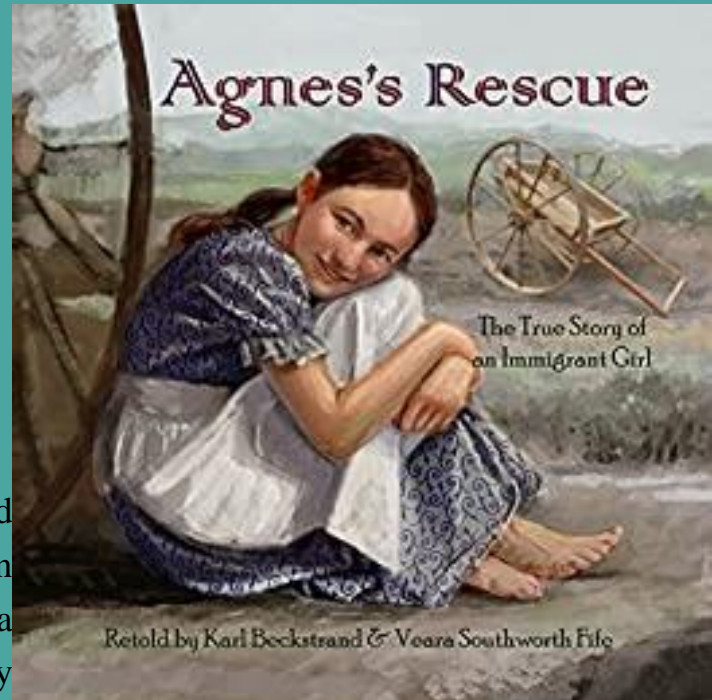
Volume: 1

About the Story:

Embark on a true adventure through the eyes of a child who sailed, rode, and walked it (portrayed in the motion picture, *17 Miracles*). Nine-year-old Agnes hopes for a better life in the USA—but will she survive the journey to her new home?

Leaving her brother in Scotland (her father already lost at sea), Agnes sails with her mother and siblings to New York in 1856. They take a train to the edge of the Western Frontier in Iowa then walk westward 1,200 miles with little food. Somewhere near the Continental Divide, Agnes's shoes wear out. In blizzard conditions, she must now cross the Rocky Mountains—barefoot.

Don't miss this inspiring account of courage and faith for children 6 – 11 years (first – sixth grades); 1,500 read-aloud words from Agnes Caldwell Southworth's autobiography set in an important era of American pioneer history; retold by award-winning author and college media instructor Karl Beckstrand (read all 60 of his multicultural books) and Veara Southworth Fife.



Karl Beckstrand - Agnes's Rescue: The True Story of an Immigrant Girl

The Review

5 Stars

Remarkable journey

What a remarkably powerful story in Agnes's Rescue: The True Story of an Immigrant Girl by Karl Beckstrand. I am a big fan of this author! This story is a true story and told through the eyes of a young immigrant, Agnes. It's 1856, and Agnes and her mother and siblings are in New York, where they landed after taking a ship from Scotland. They decide it's best to move westward, and they all encounter so many obstacles, including little food. It's a remarkable story and it is an impressive, heart-wrenching journey. I've read other titles in this series, and each one is a wonderful story of courage and bravery.



Tonja Drecker-Music Boxes

Publisher: Dancing Lemur Press LLC

Release Date: March 5, 2019

Genre: Children/Middle Grade/Fantasy

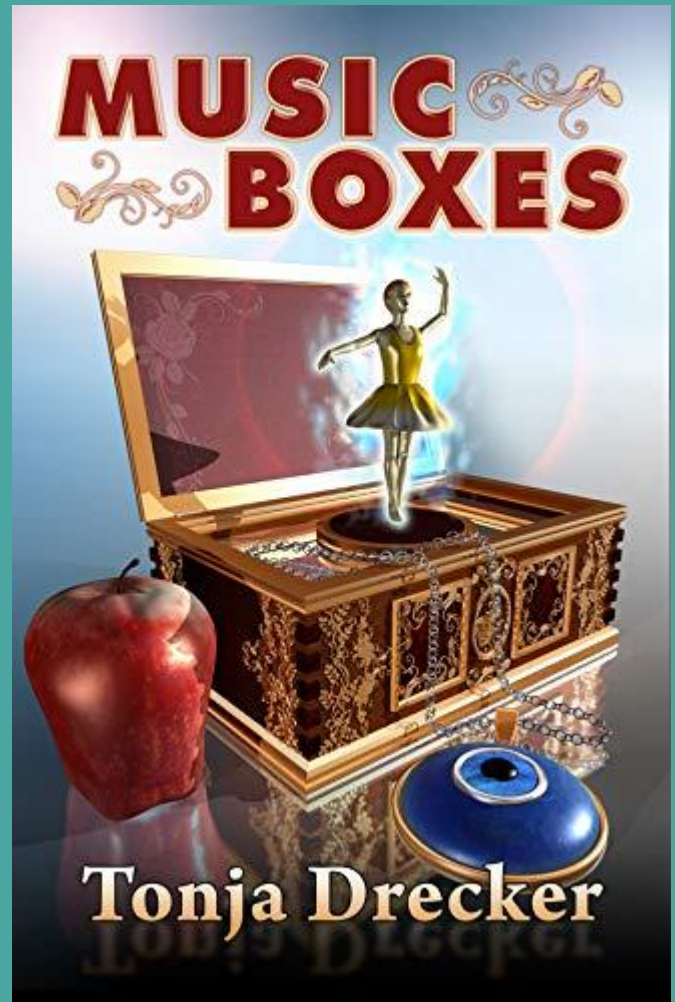
About the Book

“I only desire your talent...”

Twelve-year-old Lindsey McKay's biggest dream is to be a famous ballerina. But after moving to New York, she ends up at the Community Center with a teacher who's a burly bear in tights.

When she meets Madame Destinée, the teacher of a top dance school who offers her classes for free, Lindsey can't believe her luck. In exchange, she must perform in the school's exclusive midnight shows, ones sure to make her a star. But something's not right...

One by one, the other dancers disappear. Each time they do, a music box with a figurine just like the missing ballerina joins Madame Destinée's growing collection. If Lindsey doesn't discover the truth about the dance school, she might end up a tiny figurine herself.



Tonja Drecker-Music Boxes

The Review

4 Stars

Enjoyed this story!

Tonja Drecker writes a young adult fantastical tale with Music Boxes. 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. The reader is introduced to Lindsey, whose dream is to be a famous dancer, ballerina to be exact. However, her new dance teacher is hiding a huge secret, huger than she can ever imagine. Lindsey is 12, and estatic when she meets Madame Destinée, and gets to dance in her class for free. She was unhappy with her previous teacher at the community center. Lindsey is strong and brave, and this is one of those dramatic stories, where you realize what is happening, and you're hoping for Lindsey to discover the truth before it's too late. It's a compelling story, and it is written, even though it's fantasy, and there is sorcery and disappearing dancers, it's written in a way that young adults will enjoy. This author is a great storyteller. Anyone who reads this won't look at their music box the same again!



The background of the image is a painting of a rural landscape. On the left, a large, leafy green tree stands in a field. In the center, a small house with a thatched roof is visible, with a wooden fence in front of it. A dirt path winds through the field. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The entire scene is overlaid on a book cover, with a vertical strip of wood grain texture on the right side.

Writing 101

Creating an Amazon Central International

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.

Amazon has several international selling/buying sites but there are only a few International sites that have Author Central Pages. Note that most of them are written in their native language, so unless you speak that language, you will need to have the page translated. Google Chrome will translate foreign language websites. All sites are set up like each other, so even without a translator, you can pretty much figure out what it says.

GoogleTranslator

(<https://translate.google.com/>) will help if you copy and paste and choose the right language on each side.

Links to the International Amazon Author Central Sites

UK <https://authorcentral.amazon.co.uk>
[English]

FRANCE <https://authorcentral.amazon.fr>
[French]

GERMANY <https://authorcentral.amazon.de>
[German]

JAPAN <https://authorcentral.amazon.co.jp/>
[Japanese]



Creating an Author Page

First, to set up an International Author Page, an amazon international site account needs to be created first.

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).

Author Page:

International sites are slightly different in what features they have compared to the Amazon US site. 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 International Author Page

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.

Some books are listed automatically, but not all of them. So you may want to go through the list, and add as needed.

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

****When clicking on the different tabs in the Author Central area, if you are using Google Chrome, you'll have to click the translator icon for each page, or it won't translate****

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.

My International Author pages

UK <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Amy-Shannon/e/B00EFZD5NU/>

FR <https://www.amazon.fr/Amy-Shannon/e/B00EFZD5NU/>

GERMAN <https://www.amazon.de/Amy-Shannon/e/B00EFZD5NU/>

JAPAN <https://www.amazon.co.jp/Amy-Shannon/e/B00EFZD5NU/>

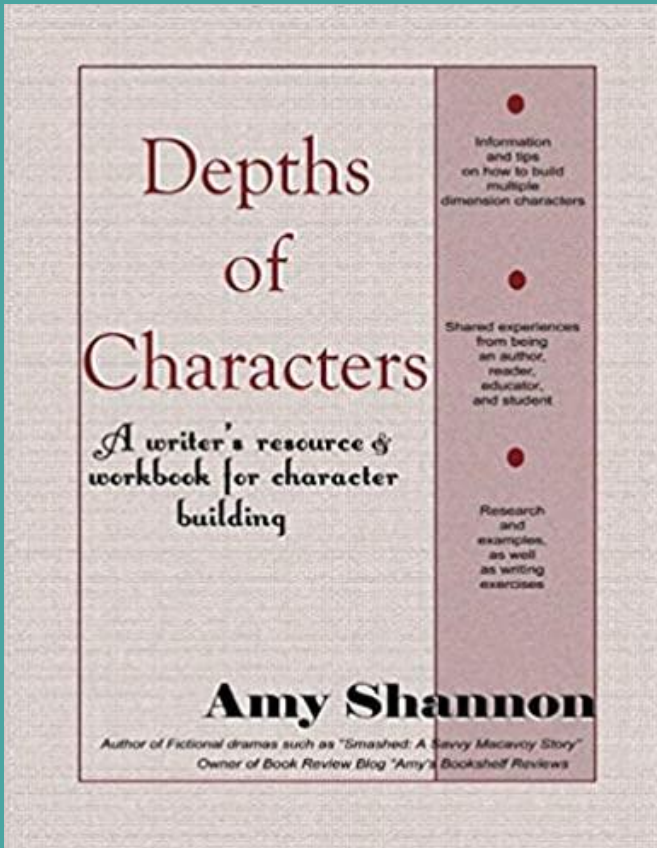


Character Writing: 102

*“Don’t just write what you know, write what you want
to know,”*

-Amy Shannon

Depths of Characters: A writer's resource & workbook for character building



Purchase workbook at
<https://www.amazon.com/Depths-Characters-resource-workbook-character/dp/1077877722>

Amy Shannon is an author, Book Reviewer (Amy's Bookshelf Reviews) and co-host of the podcast "The After Show with McKensie Stewart & Amy Shannon." Amy has written over 108 stories and still has more to come. Most of her stories are fictional dramas featuring strong, female characters, though two of her stories have a male protagonist and main character. Depths of Characters is meant to be a writer's workbook for character development.

Inside, this book provides tips, shares experiences, and gives examples that fit the character categories. Categories include, but are not limited to character names, building character profiles, protagonists and antagonist.

This book also contains pages for note-taking, and exercises after each section for the writer to complete. This book is intended to be a resource, workbook, and writing tool. The end of the book also has a Resource and Reference page. This book also includes examples from authors such as McKensie Stewart, Melanie Nowak, and Abdiel Leroy. There are also excerpts from classic literature authors, such as Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Homer, and Dante Alighieri.

"Don't just write what you know, write what you want to know," -Amy Shannon

Workbook has many uses. New or experienced writers who want to challenge themselves. Part of a creative writing curriculum, or even as part of an English/ELA homeschool program.

Simple “W’s”

Who? What? Where? When? Why?

I remember the five W’s from fourth grade class, when we had to read a newspaper article (back when it was actual paper) and answer those questions about the story. I found that they can lend to a story in a way I didn’t realize until I sat down to write this book.

Some writers use an outline, but me, I just don’t. I like to write “outside of the outline.” When I write my stories, I sit down and write until I must stop. I stop when I literally have to stop and think about the story. When that happens, I know it’s time to walk away for a while. It doesn’t mean that I don’t get ideas and write them down, because I do. I write notes in notebooks, and I keep them by my bed, in my purse and a pile near my desk. Wherever I go, I have something to write on. Sometimes, if I’m driving and I get an idea, I’ll ask my “Google Assistant” to send me a note. Then later, I figure out how to add the ideas to the story. Sometimes ideas are just simply putting together characters that will be added to the story (and there are those that get added as I go along.

The simple W’s can be used to create individual characters, and even an entire story.

Who? Who is the character? This character is more than just a name on a page.

What? What is this character? Occupation, especially if it affects the story. (Such as a doctor in a hospital, detective at a police station, private investigator, etc. Or the character is a killer or even a spirit or ghost.)

Where? Where does the character live, work, travel?

When? When does this character exist? Such as time frame, or era. Is this a character who time travels?

Why? Why does the character act and behave or do things a certain way? Some of the backstory may take place in “why.”



Audiobook: Matt Cost- Wolfe Trap

Genre: Thriller Detective Mystery

Narrated by: Jason Arnold

Series: A Clay Wolfe / Port Essex Mystery Book

Volume: 1

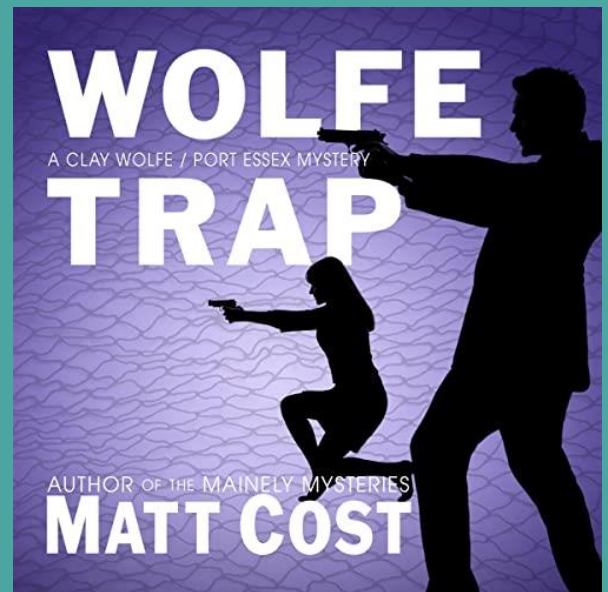
<https://www.audible.com/pd/Wolfe-Trap-Audiobook/B0BQ8J5NQ2>

About Wolfe Trap

Clay Wolfe is a former Boston homicide detective who has left the police department to return home to Maine to care for his elderly grandfather and open a private detective agency. Haunted by being orphaned at an early age, and jaded by the corruption of the big city, Clay is happy to hit pause and investigate minor crimes. When he is hired to find out who sold the drugs that killed a six-month-old baby girl, he has no idea of the evil that he is going to uncover in the underbelly of his hometown.

Wolfe Trap is a thrilling ride set in a small Maine town with rich characters and shocking plot twists that will keep the listener rapt until the final chapter.

Find more about Matt Cost at <https://www.mattcost.net>



Christy Breedlove- **Screamcatcher: Sa'be Most Monstrous**

Genre: YA Fantasy/Thriller

Series: The Shimmering Eye

Volume: 4

Book Link:

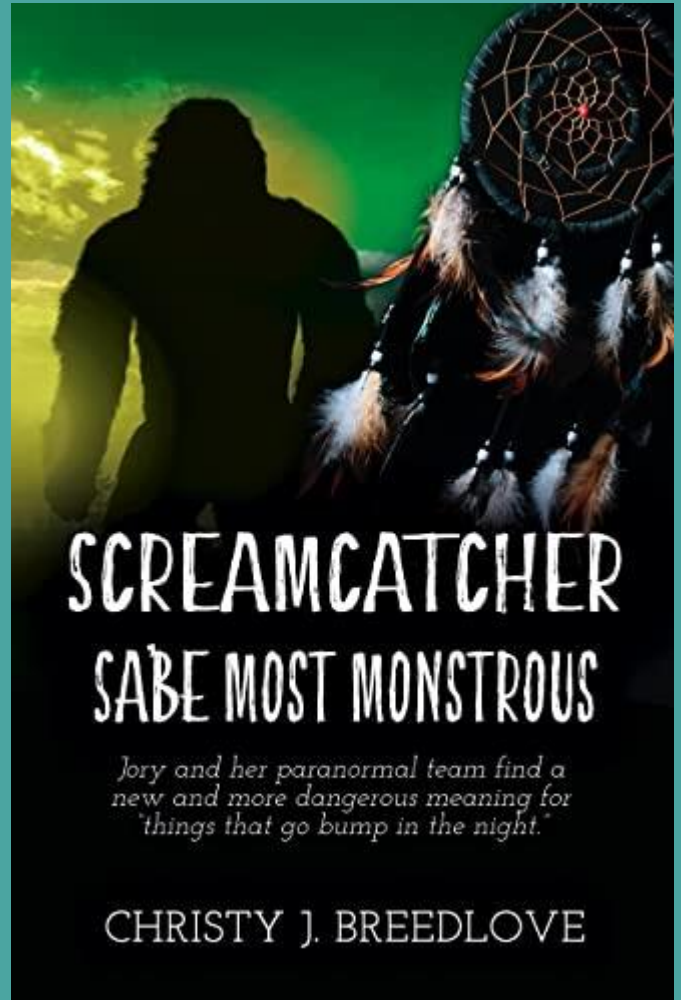
<https://www.amazon.com/Screamcatcher-Monstrous-Christy-J-Breedlove-ebook/dp/B0B7FGT5J8>

About Screamcatcher: Sa'be Most Monstrous
Jory Pike and the Badlands Paranormal Society get a strange and frantic call from a woman who claims her property has been invaded by unknown trespassers who have terrorized her and her husband and killed their two dogs. She says her husband has gone hunting for the culprits and disappeared. The Sheriff's office performed a routine investigation and mysteriously quit. The woman also called a first nations tribe tracker to help her, but after a short investigation, he claimed she had something more dangerous than a bear and wanted nothing to do with it.

Jory's 91-year-old grandfather, a full blood Ojibwe, believes he knows what this mystery is all about and demands to go on the hunt.

Four teenagers and a seemingly fragile old man find out, too late, in the deep Shasta forest, that they are the ones being hunted.

Find more about Christy Breedlove at <https://christysyoungadultfabuliers.com/>



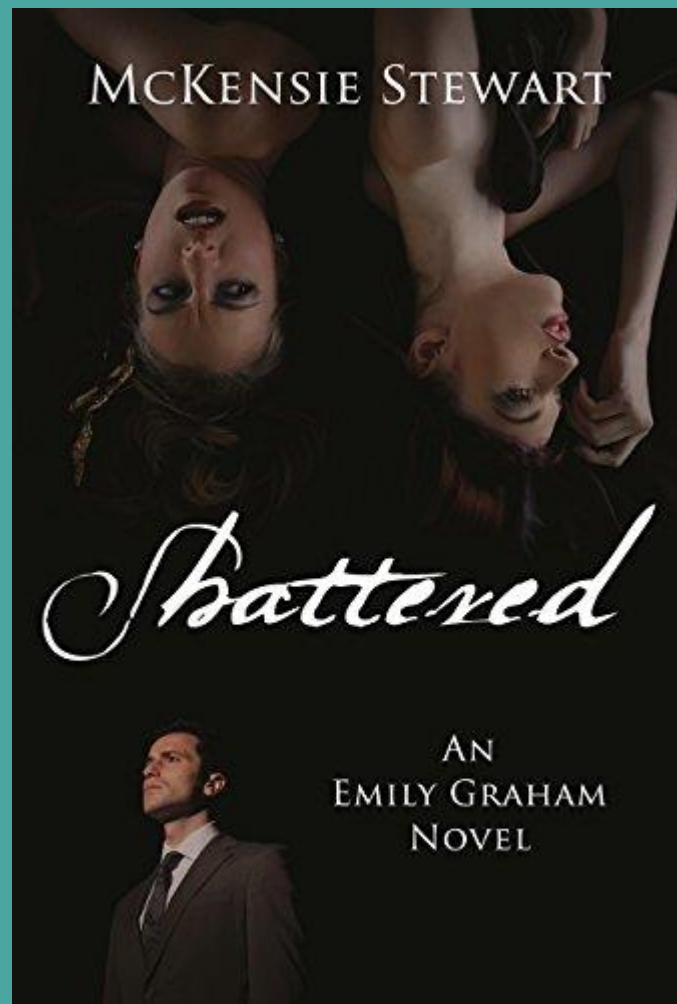
McKensie Stewart's Shattered: An Emily Graham

Genre: LGBTQ/Women/Suspense/Drama

<https://www.amazon.com/Shattered-Emily-Graham-McKensie-Stewart/dp/0578185717>

About Shattered: An Emily Graham
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.

Find more about McKensie Stewart at www.mckensiestewart.com



McKensie Stewart's Deception: An Emily Graham Novel

Genre: LGTBQ/Drama/Thriller

<https://smile.amazon.com/Deception-Emily-Graham-McKensie-Stewart/dp/0578226014>

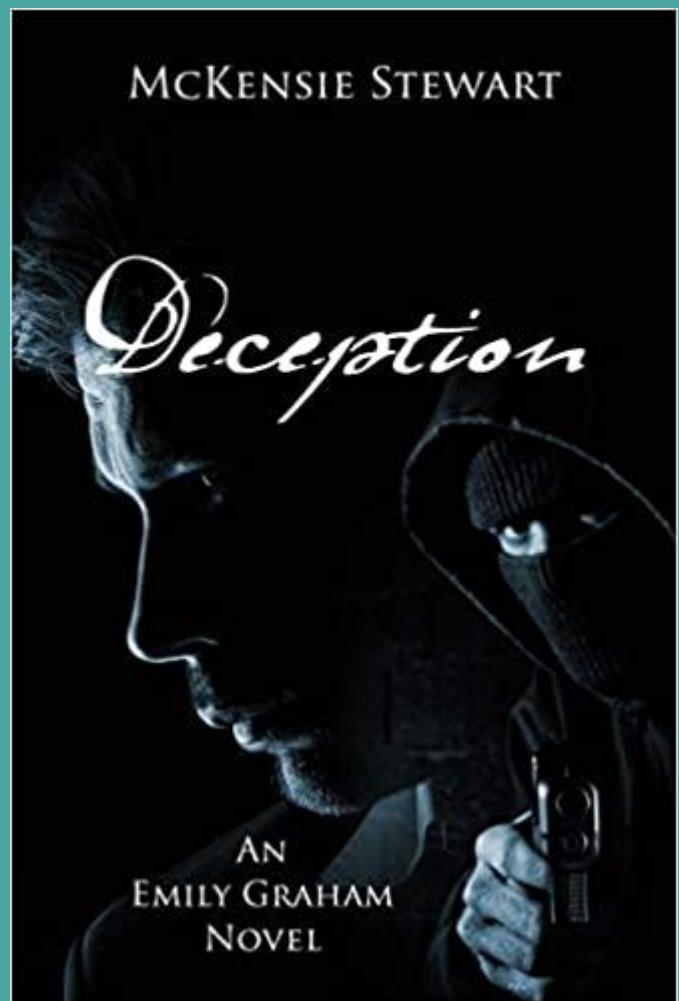
Series: Emily Graham

Volume: 2

Deception: An Emily Graham Novel

Emily's marriage to Brendon Graham, the Senator for the State of Pennsylvania, has always presented challenges of its own, but Emily's world is turned upside down when her mother-in-law, Kyndall offers her to state at a home she owns in Charlotte, North Carolina, within the Sweetbriar Community. While in Charlotte, North Carolina, Emily gets tangled in the deception of the developers in the community, while trying to deal with the demons of her past, she finds herself on the wrong side of the law. Brendon, not sure if he wants to be President, continues on his path of destruction hindering Kyndall's dream of the White House. Kyndall, not above killing to live in the White House, has ordered a hit on her son. Will Gregory, Brendon's ex-college roommate and best friend follow through on her orders?

Find more about McKensie Stewart at www.McKensieStewart.com



Melina Druga - 1915

Genre:

Historical/WWI/Nonfiction/Chronicle

Series: A Tale of Two Nations: Canada, U.S. and WW1

Volume: 2

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07B9PVB9C>

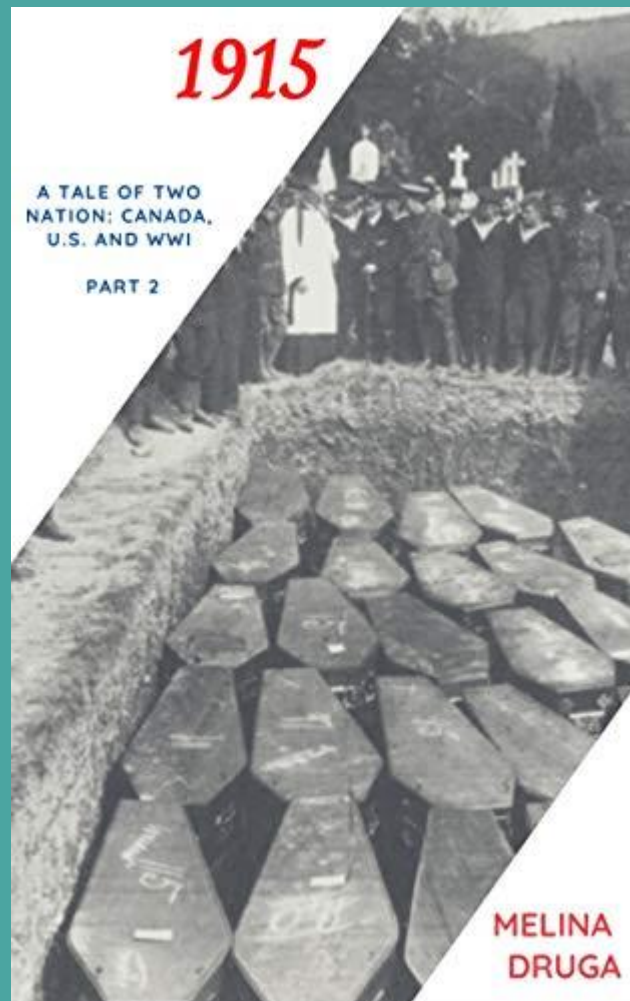
About 1915

Canadian troops endure a trial by fire at the Second Battle of Ypres. While the Canadians are ultimately successful – to the pride of their countrymen – the battle marks the first widespread use of chlorine gas.

Americans are rocked by the torpedoing of the Lusitania, an ocean liner that, like the Titanic, was thought to be unsinkable.

Part two in the A Tale of Two Nations: Canada, U.S. and WW1 series. The series explores journalism history by examining how newspapers reported on the war, painting a picture of the war as our ancestors knew it.

Find more about Melina Druga at <http://www.melinadruga.com/>



V. S Sury- Impossible Tales

Genre: /Unique Tales/Short Stories/

<https://www.amazon.com/IMPOSSIBLE-TALES-V-S-Sury-ebook/dp/B0BKZSNZTZ/>

About Impossible Tales

This is a collection of short stories, and a couple of zip stories, as the author claims. As the title suggests, the stories are not only impossible, but also improbable.

The improbable stories include traditional fiction, but fully warped out of reality. Yet, the stories have an authoritative and convincing ring! “Read it, and you will believe it,” is the new mantra. The impossible stories deal with science, science totally bludgeoned out of shape. Yet, to repeat, they ring true.

Just imagine a universe (as big as the present one), in a long, long bygone past, containing only one atom! And that one-atom-universe lasts as long as the present one!

Find more about V. S Sury at <https://allauthor.com/profile/sury123/>



Bob Freeman's H2LiftShips- Bosons Wave

Genre: Sci-Fi/Hard Science

<https://smile.amazon.com/H2LiftShips-Bosons-Wave-Bob-Freeman-ebook/dp/B0B4R9W8G7>

About H2LiftShips- Bosons Wave

We've tried to make a nice, friendly Space Opera.

Sure, it has passive-aggressive families, gambling, cheating, and double-dealing, but nice. Still, watch your back.

SolarSail Cargo ships travel between the populated asteroids and Goldilocks Core.

And now HiveMother at the Heliopause and the HiveSisters in the Heliotail are fighting.

It may turn into a full-fledged bioGel War.

Find more about Bob Freeman at <https://www.h2liftship.com/>



Karl Beckstrand's Agnes's Rescue: The True Story of an Immigrant Girl

Genre: Nonfiction/children

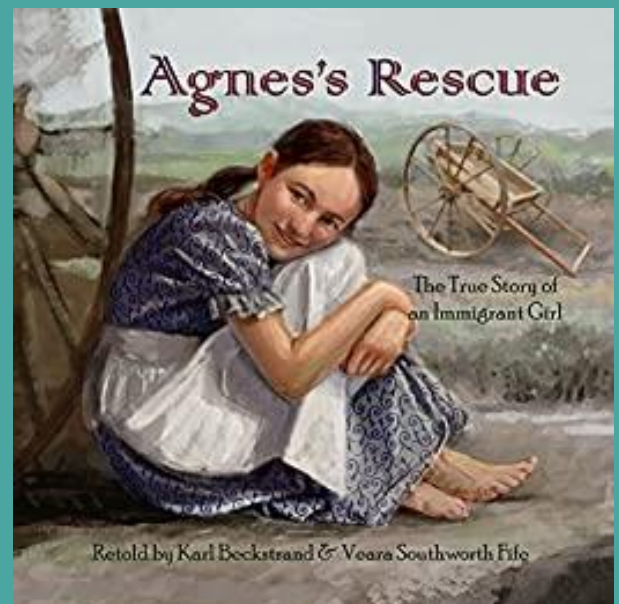
<https://www.amazon.com/Agness-Rescue-Immigrant-American-Immigrants-ebook/dp/B0935CV2DQ>

About Agnes's Rescue: The True Story of an Immigrant Girl

Experience a true adventure through the eyes of a child who walked it (portrayed in the film, 17 Miracles). Nine-year-old Agnes hopes for a better life in the USA—but will she survive the journey to her new home?

Leaving her brother in Scotland (her father already lost at sea), Agnes sails with her mother and siblings to New York in 1856. They take a train to the edge of the Western Frontier in Iowa then walk westward 1,200 miles, with little food. Somewhere near the Continental Divide, Agnes's shoes wear out. In blizzard conditions, she must now cross the Rocky Mountains—barefoot.

Find more about Karl Beckstrand at <http://KarlBeckstrand.com>



Mark Richardson's Malibu Burns

Genre: Dystopian noir

<https://www.amazon.com/Malibu-Burns-Mark-Richardson-ebook/dp/B0BGHFXD5D>

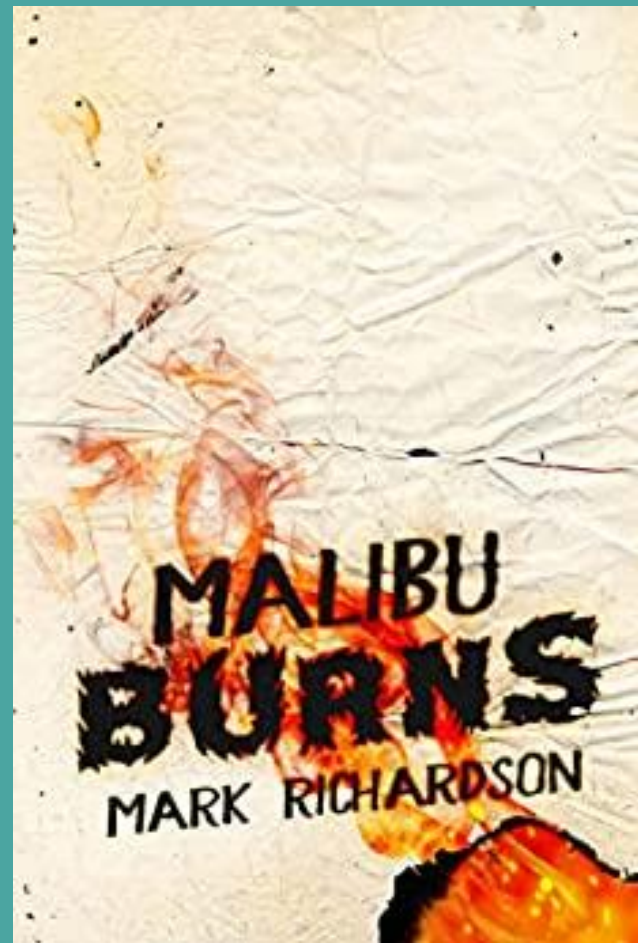
About Malibu Burns

Near-future San Francisco is a dark world where reality is changeable and different dimensions overlap.

Teen Malibu Makimura discovers she can feel people's emotions, and senses an ominous voice growing inside her. She lands a job at a women's nightclub drawing surrealist caricatures. One night while drawing a portrait, she feels a sinister emotion projected by a woman named Luciana, who invites Malibu to her Presidio Heights mansion.

There, she makes a peculiar request - and Malibu agrees. With each following act the evil inside her grows, and Malibu begins to wonder if she will ever be in control again... or if she even wants to be.

Find more about Mark Richardson at www.authormarkrichardson.com



Rich DiSilvio's The Arnolfini Art Mysteries

Genre: Mystery

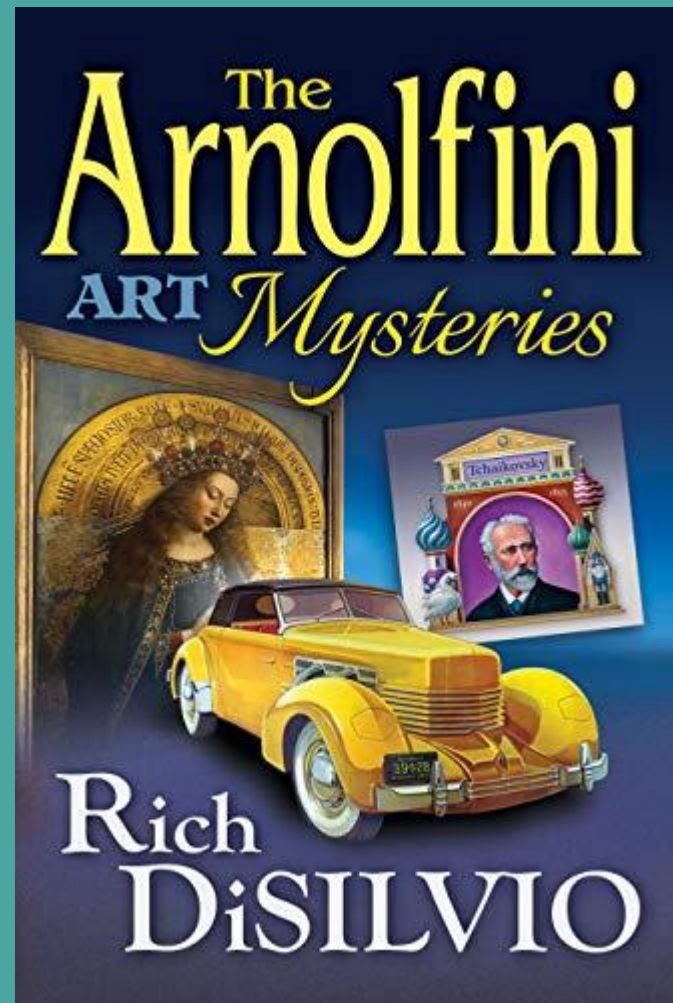
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07TBVH34M>

About The Arnolfini Art Mysteries

DASHING & CLEVER, private eye Armand Arnolfini confronts a dazzling array of wily thieves, brilliant forgers, and ruthless murderers in this riveting series of art crimes.

Arnolfini's manhunts take him from New York to Italy, Belgium, Germany and beyond in his quest to unravel a series of intriguing mysteries, while also seeking to preserve a broad spectrum of great art and artifacts that have made indelible imprints upon Western civilization.

Find more about Rich DiSilvio at <http://richdisilvio.com>



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

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

Book Reviewer intern wanted!



Amy's Bookshelf Reviews is looking for an "intern" book reviewer. This is a non paying internship. Amy's Bookshelf Reviews has a great reputation for producing quality book reviews for many repeat and new authors, of all writing levels. More professional reviewers are needed, and this would be my way to helping to contribute to training professional reviewers while working as an intern.

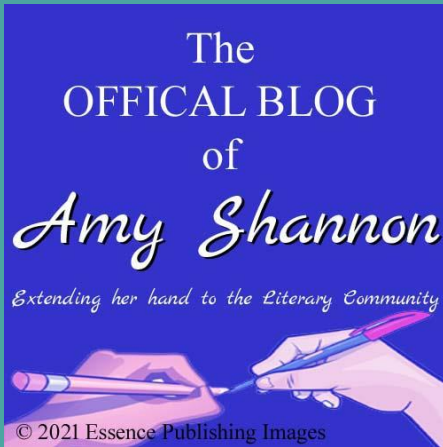
This is in hopes of teaching someone how to be a professional book reviewer, how to write reviews that best help the author, and the would-be readers want to read these books. The information that is provided by the author is always confidential. The intern's review will be read prior to it being posted, so the reviews are of the quality of reviews of Amy's Bookshelf Reviews.

The intern's reviews would be posted on the same sites that Amy's Bookshelf Reviews posts reviews, but will also be allow to create their own blog, and post the book review on their site, as long as it states it is in collaboration with Amy's Bookshelf Reviews. The intern will be required to share the review that is posted on Amy's Bookshelf Reviews website, and share them on their professional (not personal) social media sites, and if they do not have Twitter or Facebook professional sites, they will need to create one.

More than one intern may be accepted for this position, with a probationary period of 1 month. The internship for each reviewer will run between 3 to 6 months, depending on need and amount of requests.

If you are interested in applying for this non-paying position, to learn more about writing reviews, and how to become a professional reviewer, you can apply at <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/welcome> and scroll down to the job application, and upload your resume, or CV. Please upload your resume in PDF format.

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.