

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024

ISSUE 9.0

LITERATE-LY MAGAZINE

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

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHTS:

BOB FREEMAN

GARY ORLECK

AUTHOR INTERVIEWS:

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TRUE CRIME BOOK REVIEWS

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THE UNDERDOG IN AMERICAN POLITICS

AMY'S BANNED BOOK BUZZ

A CHILD CALLED IT

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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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Amy's Bookshelf Reviews "Best Reads" Book Project

A new book from Amy's Bookshelf Reviews called Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Best Reads Recommendations & Review Journal.

The book will be a free download on a few sites, and anyone who contributes to the book, is not only getting a promotion about your book title, but this book will also teach the reader on how to write a review. There will be a book description and a link to where the reader can buy the book. In addition to this information, there will be a template of questions for the reader, to show them how to write a proper review.

It's a book that will recommend books, and teach or inspire a review from the reader.

The book will be available for free downloads on February 1, 2024.

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Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast!

A podcast about book reviews, author interviews, and literary news.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews has a new podcast, starting January 7, 2024.

Authors and/or just their books can be on the show.

Shows drop every Sunday at 6:00 PM EST on Spotify.

To sign up or find out more details, go to <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/podcast>



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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.

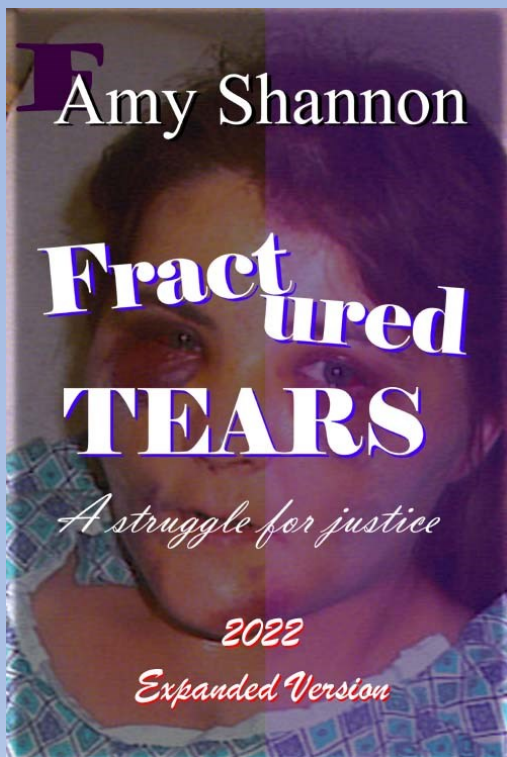
Read how Anna struggles to fight for justice, and deal with her personal issues from having been betrayed and abused by her husband of 13 years.

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.

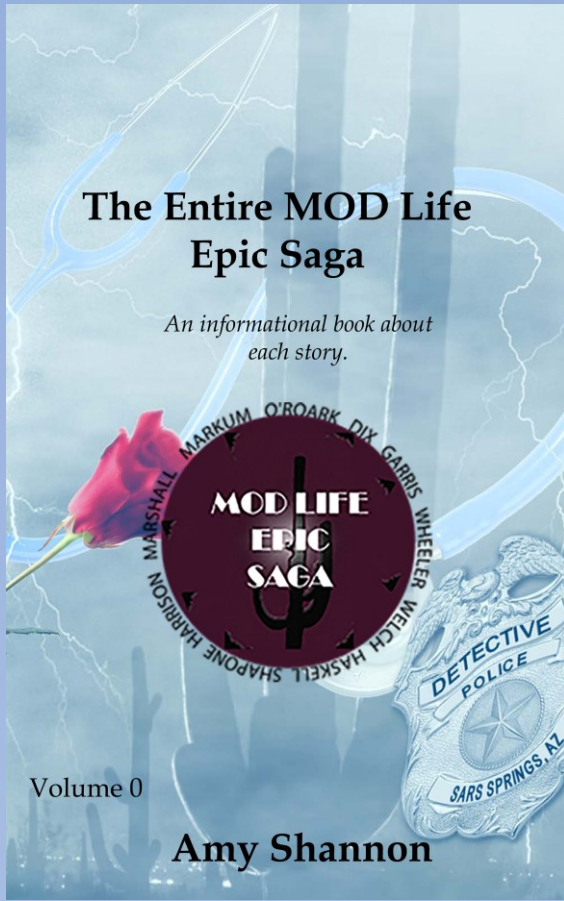
This is an expanded version and Fourth Edition.
Names have been deleted or changed for privacy reasons.

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



Advertisement

Amy Shannon's MOD Life Epic Saga



The MOD Life Epic Saga is a series of books (67 volumes in total, with 9 bonus books), that revolve around characters in a small, fictional Arizona town called Sars Springs. It follows the lives of the residents and their growing families and businesses. Evil also seems to flock there, either in a stalker form, corruption in law enforcement, murder, kidnapping, torture, and human experimentation, just to name a few. Alex Garrison starts the story when she moves to Sars Springs to build a new life, and it grows from there. The first Volume is Unwritten Life, and though the stories are standalone, the author recommends reading them from the beginning. After reading Rewritten Life (volume 2) the reader has a choice to read the prequel (volume 3) (which gives spoilers for the first two books, so read those first), or move on to volume 4.

The MOD Life Epic Saga books are digital only, being published on [Smashwords](#) and [Lulu.com](#).

The informational book about the series, and what order to read the books in can be downloaded for free [HERE](#).

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Author Spotlight

Author Spotlight

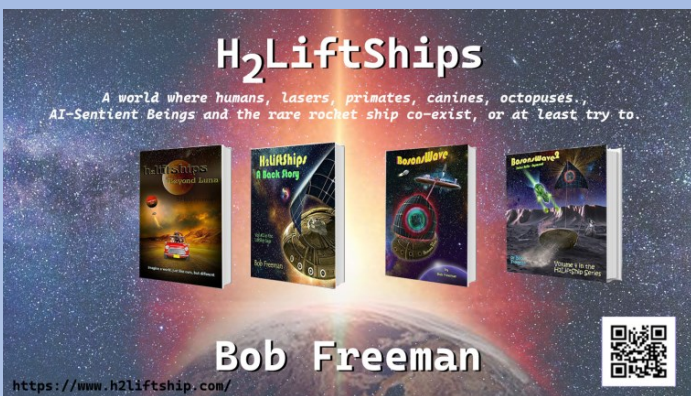
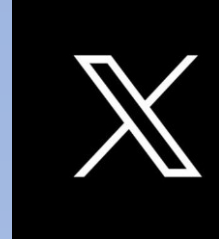
Bob Freeman

The author is a retired Public Health Microbiologist/Lab Director/LIMS Software designer and a confirmed science geek.

With expertise in anaerobic microbiology and writing an exorbitant number of tech manuals and protocols, the only logical path going forward was to write SciFi.

The author builds complex worlds, adds a few interesting characters, and lets them have at it.

The author began writing SciFi in 2021 at the tender age of 70 and has published four short stories to date in various magazines as well as four volumes of the H2LiftShip saga.

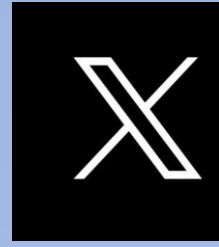


Author Spotlight

Gary Orleck

In 1965, Gary Orleck graduated from Babson College—a small but outstanding business college with students from around the world—in Wellesley, Massachusetts and set out along Route 66 working his way around the US for four months. Most helpful was an agreement he had with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company that he could work in any store during his travels, but he could not be paid locally. Instead, his pay was sent to his home later. Gary was well-versed in the tire business because his father owned the largest Goodyear Tire and Service store in New England. to drive around all of Europe the next year.

For a young boy from Rhode Island, this was a life-changing experience. Gary was present for the Watts Riots and the world premiere of *Fantastic Voyage* with Raquel Welch and Fernando Lamas at Grauman's Chinese Theater. He arrived in San Francisco the day topless was approved. The four-month trip wet Gary's appetite for more traveling. While driving home from California, he made a promise to himself:



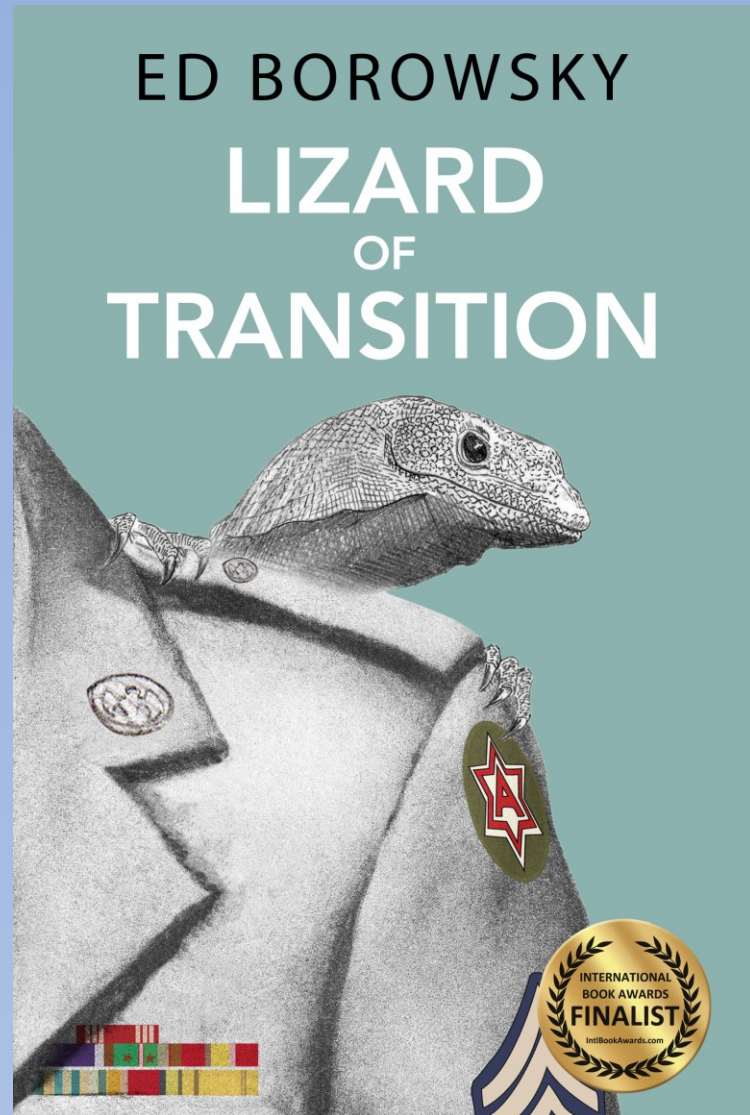
Ed Borowsky's Lizard of Transition

On his deathbed, a World War Two veteran, Joe Rubin, confesses to his son that he murdered a Japanese prisoner in the jungles of New Guinea seventy years ago. In his last hours, Joe enters the world between life and death, known as the world of transition. He tells of his journey, with an odd lizard leading the way, as he recants the tale of the murder prior to his imminent death.

He reveals to his son, Joshua, that he possesses a Good Luck flag - Hinomaru Yosegaki, that he had taken from the Japanese soldier he murdered on the island of New Guinea during the battle of the Druinimor River. The flag has handwritten messages from the prisoner's family and friends, which reveals his identity and the village in Japan he came from.

His son, Joshua, is under tremendous pressure. He's separated from his wife, who comes to visit her father-in-law, bringing the two together to face their problems under the gut-wrenching veil of his father's passing. By attempting to reunite the flag with the son of the soldier his father killed seventy years ago, will the family find their way forward?

From the wisdom of the ages, and from the Jewish perspective on death and redemption, "Lizard of Transition" shines a light on how understanding death and dying will lead us to live rich and fuller lives.



amazon

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Author Interviews

Bob Freeman

Literate-Ly Magazine: In three words, describe yourself.

Bob Freeman: Microbiologist writing SciFi

Literate-Ly Magazine: How many books have you written? How many of those are published?

Bob Freeman: Four books, all Indie published

Literate-Ly Magazine: Tell me about how you come up with your titles for your stories. Do you create the title before or after you write the book, and does it ever change from the initial title?

Bob Freeman: Lisa at Indies United came up with the first title “Beyond Luna” The other three titles (“A Back Story” “BosonsWave” and BosonsWave²) came from the storylines.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What is the title of your last published book? What’s the title and when was it published?

Bob Freeman: BosonsWave² (BosonsWave-Squared) was published Dec 2023

Literate-Ly Magazine: Out of all your characters in all of your books, who/what (sometimes a setting can also be an important “character”) do you think is the most interesting and why?

Bob Freeman: Jack is always interesting with his ability to see everything in his own particular way, although he can get a bit overbearing.

Literate-Ly Magazine: I know your story is fictional, but what inspired writing it?



Bob Freeman: I wanted to write a story using the word dogarrhea and, of course, re-write Einstein’s seminal equation to correct its errors, all stuffed into a fun, scifi story.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What sub-genres do you currently write in?

Bob Freeman: Only SciFi, I don’t follow sub-genres concepts

Literate-Ly Magazine: Without quoting your back cover blurb, tell me about the last book you published.

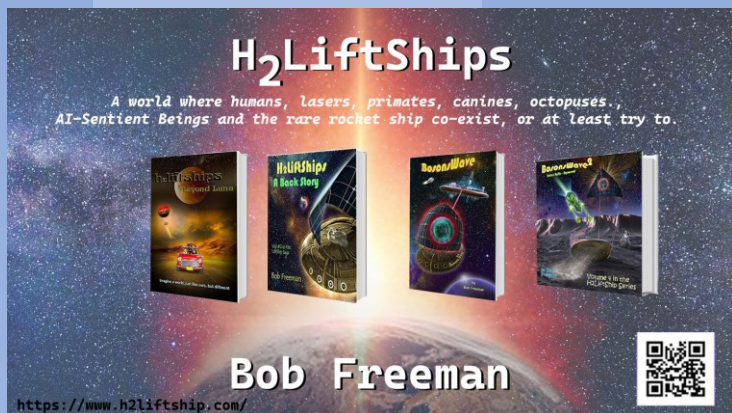
Bob Freeman: The stories continue on the same vein as the previous three books, resolving the HiveWar with humor and algal burritos.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Quote your favorite line from one of your stories. Indicate the line, and then the book title.

Bob Freeman: “The only constate is change and it’s a variable.” In Beyond Luna.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Tell me something about yourself that is separate from writing.

Bob Freeman cont'd



Bob Freeman: Retired Public Health Laboratory Director.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Who are your top THREE favorite authors?

Bob Freeman: Roger Zelazny. Arthur C. Clark, Kurt Vonnegut

Literate-Ly Magazine: What is the last book that you read? (Not counting anything you wrote)

Bob Freeman: Roger Zelazny – “Lord of Light”

Literate-Ly Magazine: When writing, do you have a system or something you plan, or do you just write?

Bob Freeman: No planning, as such, but map out the concepts before writing anything down.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Bob Freeman: I’m old and bored

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you read your own work a lot? If so, what does it do for you?

Bob Freeman: Just for proofreading and editing. Sometimes it surprises me.

Literate-Ly Magazine: I play music when I write, and depending on the setting or mood of the story depends on what I listen to. Do you listen to music when you write? If so, what genre or artist/band do you listen to?

Bob Freeman: Brubreck and other piano jazz

Literate-Ly Magazine: As an author, I find that the hardest thing to write (for me) is the blurb that will be on the back cover or book’s description. When you write, what is the hardest line to write, the first line, the last line or the synopsis for the book?

Bob Freeman: Yes. All of them

Literate-Ly Magazine: What does it mean to be a “successful” writer?

Bob Freeman: Readers who enjoy the series

Literate-Ly Magazine: What do you want to accomplish, so when you look back at your life, you can say “I did that”?

Bob Freeman: Yeah, I’m 74. I’ve done all I can do.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Any final thoughts that you want to give to your fans or even future authors?

Bob Freeman: Don’t listen to advice.



**AMY'S
BOOKSHELF
REVIEWS®**

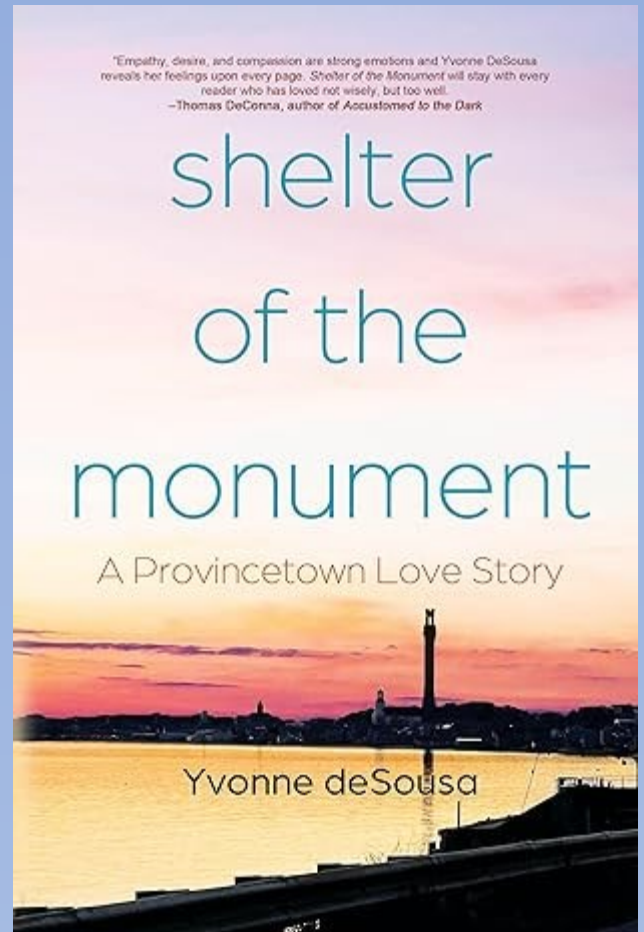
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Yvonne deSousa- Shelter of the Monument: A Provincetown Love Story

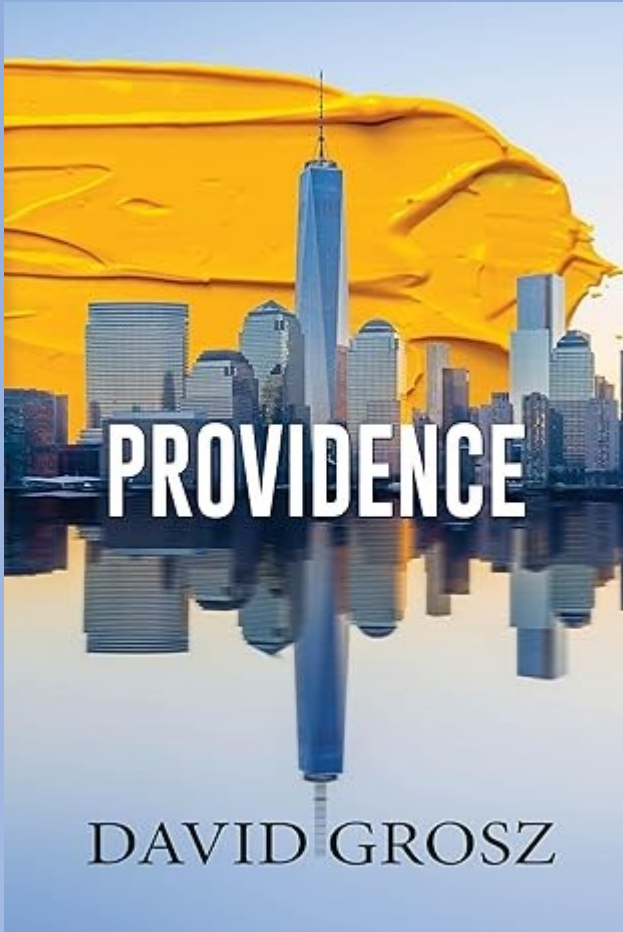
4 Stars

A love story like no other!

Yvonne deSousa writes an interesting book about her life, and falling in love with Richard. It's a very intriguing and endearing memoir, about what the author says is about a couple who weren't supposed to be together, but refused to be apart. It's the authors memoirs, and how life afflicted both Richard and Yvonne. Richard is a complex man, with a lot of baggage, including the taste for cocaine. Yvonne is quiet, unsure of herself, and younger than Richard. When they say that opposites attract, it seems that no one is more opposite than this couple. I like this story because it is real, and how Yvonne tells the story, it brings you along on her real life journey. Not just falling in love, but her life and self-discovery. You have to really love yourself before you can love others. This is a very touching and emotional book, as well as inspirational. The reader is introduced to both Richard and Yvonne, and their stories separate and together. The story is well told, and it brings in the realism of the events of their lives. Thank you for sharing your story with us. This book captures the reader's attention at chapter 1. It is definitely an unforgettable read.



Nonfiction/Memoir



David Grosz- Providence

5 Stars

David Grosz writes a intensely dramatic tale with Providence

In Providence, the reader is introduced to Gabriel and his sister Becca. 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 author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. Gabriel has always been in his sister's shadow, as she is a famous - world famous artist, and also kind of a free spirit. But not everything that is hidden in the mind, is shared. Some memories just haunt you, and Gabriel will never forget the trauma his sister faced. This is a remarkable story about family, love and connections. David Grosz not only tells the story but shows it with words as well. Providence is one you'll want to read again, and again. A definite attention grabber, so much i couldn't put it down. A very unpredictable story, my favorite kind! It was very heartfelt & inspirational.

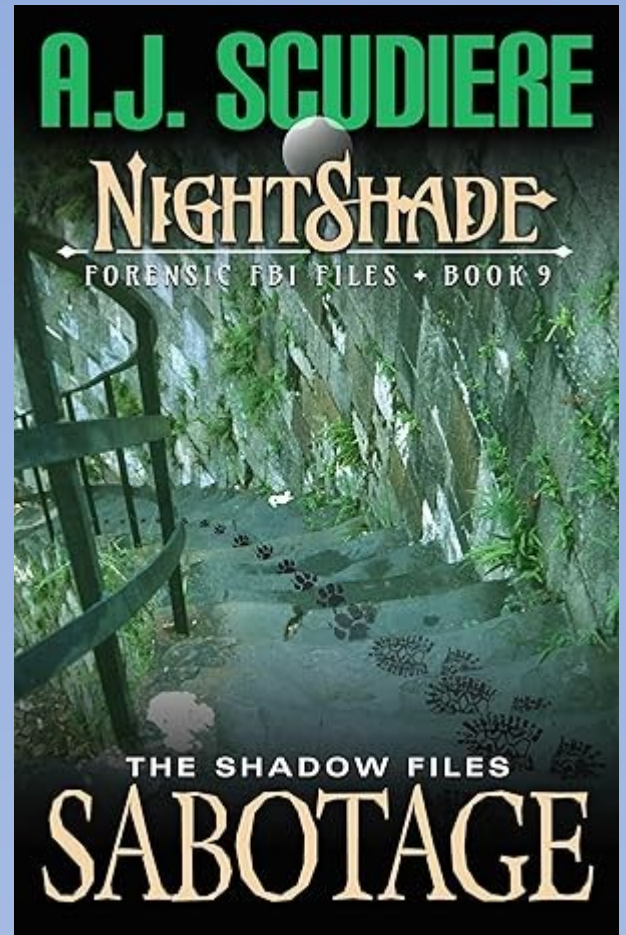
F/Literary/Drama

A.J. Scudiere - Sabotage

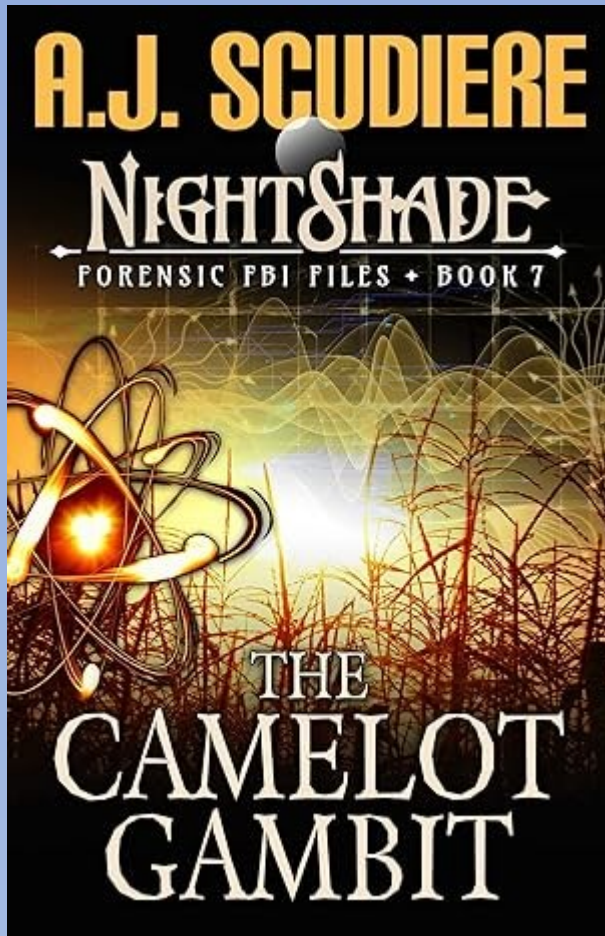
5 Stars

Enjoyed another story in this series.

What a superb story in Sabotage by A.J. Scudiere. This is the ninth book of the NightShade Forensic Files series. Now, it's FBI Agent Christina Pines turn to have a story and case, however, it is not one she expects, as she turns up missing. Secrets, lies, and paranormality of the story, make it extremely incredible. The characters have a lot of depth, and the story leads the way to unpredictability. Masterfully written! Magnetic! A wonderfully told story. Brilliant writing! I will definitely add more of this author's books to my bookshelf.



*F/suspense/forensic/
paranormal*



A.J. Scudiere - The Camelot Gambit

5 Stars

Remarkably Thrilling!

What a thrilling story in The Camelot Gambit by A.J. Scudiere. It's the seventh book in the NightShade Forensic Files series. Agents Eleri and Donovan go undercover, for one of the toughest cases of their life. Well, the undercover identities make it hard when they need to investigate a community of geniuses, and what's been going on. Whatever this author writes, I read. This author brings the story to life. The characters had a lot of depth and were very realistic. It's a great story to follow and try to figure out what will happen next. This author's characters develop and interacts well with the other characters. This author not only tells the story but shows it with words as well.

*F/suspense/forensic/
paranormal*

Morgan St. James- Fatal Encounter

5 Stars

Morgan St. James writes a powerful suspenseful tale with Fatal Encounter

In Fatal Encounter, the reader is introduced to Crystal, who is your regular single woman, hoping that one day, she will find the one. In the story, she learns that she is stronger than she realizes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. This is a powerful story that comes to life, and you wonder is this real or fiction, and it probably is both. There are many out there, probably in a situation just like Crystal. Obsession is strong and dangerous mind. If you've ever been the survivor of a stalker or someone who supposedly loves you is obsessed with you, then you can relate to this story. Also, beware so you aren't triggered. Obsession is not love, it's danger. Love is not dangerous. Crystal meets Mark, and then things take a turn that she feels she can't get out of. She is scared when she discovers his secrets, and betrayal, but she can't seem to figure out how to get out. Which is something that happens all the time. This story was definitely an attention grabber, so much I

couldn't put it down. A wondrous trail of words. It's the kind of story that sends chills down your spine. Bravo to Morgan St. James for showing this story, and bringing it to light, so if you read this recommend it to someone else, and it could be one of the conversation starters that need to be done. Sometimes you have to put the book down, just to take a breath.



*F/Romance/Suspense
/Obsession*



F/YA/Horror/

Megan Lynch- BONE CARNIVAL

4 Stars

Creepy and Intriguing.

Megan Lynch writes a magnificently creepy tale with BONE CARNIVAL. 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 rambunctious Mia, and her strait-laced friend Grace. Mia is in a new city, Rome, and is always on the look out to see what she can get her hands into. She and Grace, her newfound friend, check out a street carnival. To Mia, it doesn't seem like a normal carnival, but she wants to explore it. She wins a prize, that is supposed to give her luck for a day, but things change. She throws it away, but it disappears. The story is a great creepy horror for young adults, and I also enjoyed it. Mia is something special, and is very intelligent, as she knows things are not always what they seem. Mia is brave, and she needs to be so they can get their souls back from this bone. The author weaves a tangled web of story and captures the reader. A genuine character driven story!

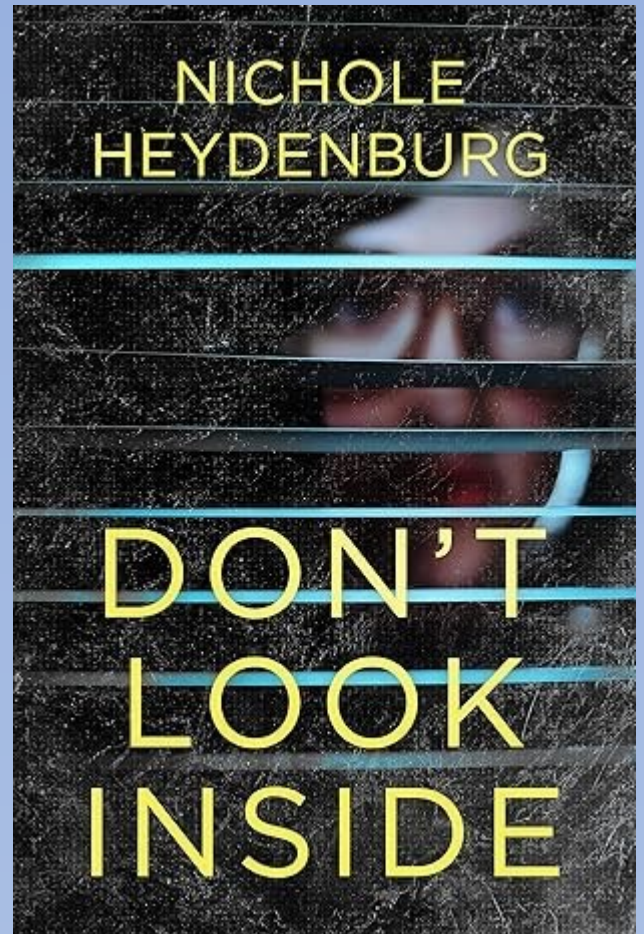
Nichole Heydenburg- Don't Look Inside

5 Stars

Nichole Heydenburg writes a thrilling tale for those 16 and older with Don't Look Inside

In Don't Look Inside, the reader is introduced to Elena, who is sweet but tenacious. She's in her junior year of college, but it is not the college life that she planned. Elena is dealing with more than just regular college and young adult angst. Elena's boyfriend, Dean, seems distant and then, there is her new roommate, Mara. Mara is one of those creepy people that you expect to be the loner after a series of deaths and they are looking at her. I am a big fan of Nichole Heydenburg and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. Elena and her close friends, Joe and Logan, band together to try and figure out why girls are disappearing, and who is behind it before another girl ends up as one of the missing. There is a lot of detail of the lives of the people in the story, and some are stronger than they think they are, and some are just the evil hiding in plain sight. It's an amazing story, and if you are familiar with any stalker-ish movies or books, this is one to compare it to. I've read a lot, and I must say that this is the best of all the stories I have read from Nichole Heydenburg. She is an amazing writer and story-shower. It is absolutely chilling, with

death around every corner. It's definitely thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. If you love a good thriller this book should be next on your list. In the story, you get everything from obsession, mystery, terror, and murder, and that's just for starters. College life will never be the same again.



/ F/ YA (16+)

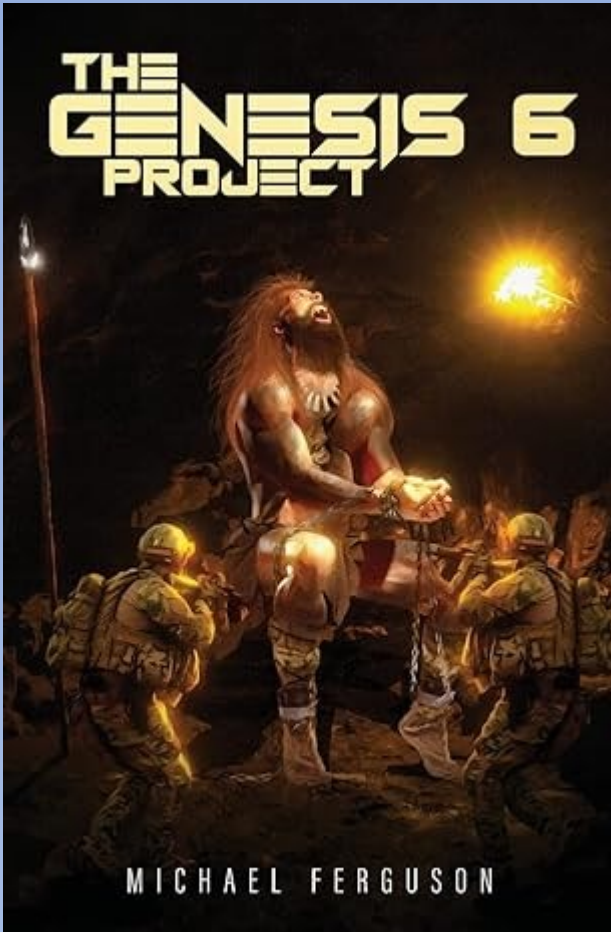
/ Psychological Thriller

Michael Ferguson- The Genesis 6 Project

4 Stars

Michael Ferguson writes a thrilling, intriguing tale with The Genesis 6 Project.

In The Genesis 6 Project the reader is introduced to Subject Alpha and the hostage, Dr. Kathryn Ryan. It's a very intense and action packed story, especially when the military needs to bring in Indian Affairs agent, Frank Ironhorse Whitman to assist. It's a dangerous mission, and there is a connection to an ancient enemy, the Crow people, going back to the book of Genesis. Battles and a war of ancient proportions coming to life in this very detailed and raw story. Subject Alpha has taken the good doctor to the Crow territory, and everyone is determined to get her and Alpha back. Secrets and experiments line this story, and bring it to life. I enjoyed it so much, that I have now followed the author and look for more books to read. Frank Ironhorse Whitman is determined and tenacious, and determined to get the job done no matter what. I have fast become a big fan of Michael Ferguson. This is definitely a remarkable read..



F/ Thriller

About Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

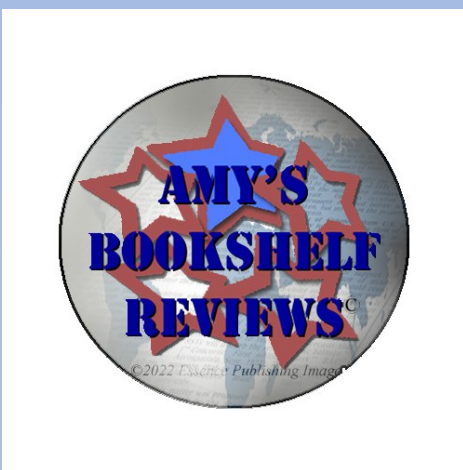
Amy's Bookshelf Reviews is a not-for-profit business, as Amy's Bookshelf Reviews does NOT charge for reviews. Amy's Bookshelf Reviews is a professional book review website, which accepts review requests from any author, and accepts most genres (with a few minor exceptions if the book promotes hatred of any kind). Please, call her Amy, and NOT Shannon (that is her surname).

The mission of Amy's Bookshelf Reviews is to help promote authors and allow them to share their stories using my reviews. #ReviewsMatter and they are very important for authors. Reviews can be the baseline for promoting and selling an author's work.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews reviews examine the characters, story and plotlines, and the author's writing and storytelling abilities.

Amy Shannon owns and operates Amy's Bookshelf Reviews has experience with being an writer with over 30 years experience. Since 2014, while reading and writing reviews, Amy has created a new Podcast, with the Amy's Bookshelf Reviews brand. She discusses books, authors, does interviews, reviews and literary news.

Need Help with any literary process? Amy Shannon is also literary Consultant. Over the years, she has received lot of questions presented by authors, wondering what to do next, or sometimes, they have so much going on at once, they don't know what to do or who to trust. Well, Amy is that person you can trust, even if you don't know it. Amy wants to help authors, do research for authors, and see where they may need to build their brand.



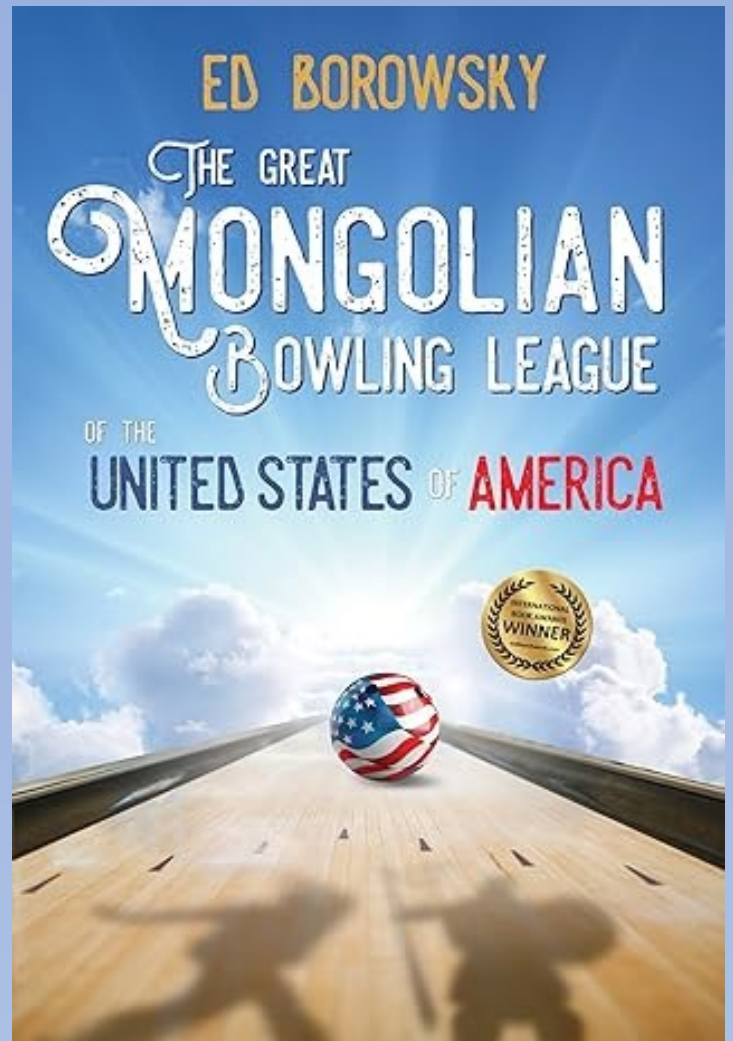
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Advertisement

Ed Borowsky's The Great Mongolian Bowling League of the United States of America

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

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



amazon

Advertisement



Writing Tips

Who do I write for?

Many times I peruse social media, and see many different statuses, some make my eyes roll, some make me laugh, and some just make me move on. However, when I see other authors post about writing, I usually stop and read what they have to say. I find that I have learned from other authors, what to write, what not to write, but also the mind set of other authors.

Today, I'm reading some posts in a Facebook group, and the writer wants to know what others like to read, so this writer can decide what to write.

I have a lot of opinions about how some perceive writing, and it's different from just someone say "I should write a book." If you're a writer and you know, just write. If you want to write a story, do it. See what happens. As a writer, we are taught in English class (I guess now they call it "ELA" for English Language Arts) to write what you know. I go one step further and write about what I want to know. Not only about the subject, but also my own writing skills and challenging myself as a writer and a person.



If you're going to write, write for yourself. Write what you want to write about, and what you would want to read about. I started writing in different genres so I could take a story and write how I would want it go, how I want it read, and took all my "pet peeves" of other writing styles and changed it, within my own story. Chances are if you like it, someone else will. Then you can worry about who your target audience would be and test it out.

Also, just because someone says they will read it, does not mean they will. It's not always easy to get that reader (or buyer) once it's written.

Gary Orleck's Travels With Maurice: An Outrageous European Adventure in 1968

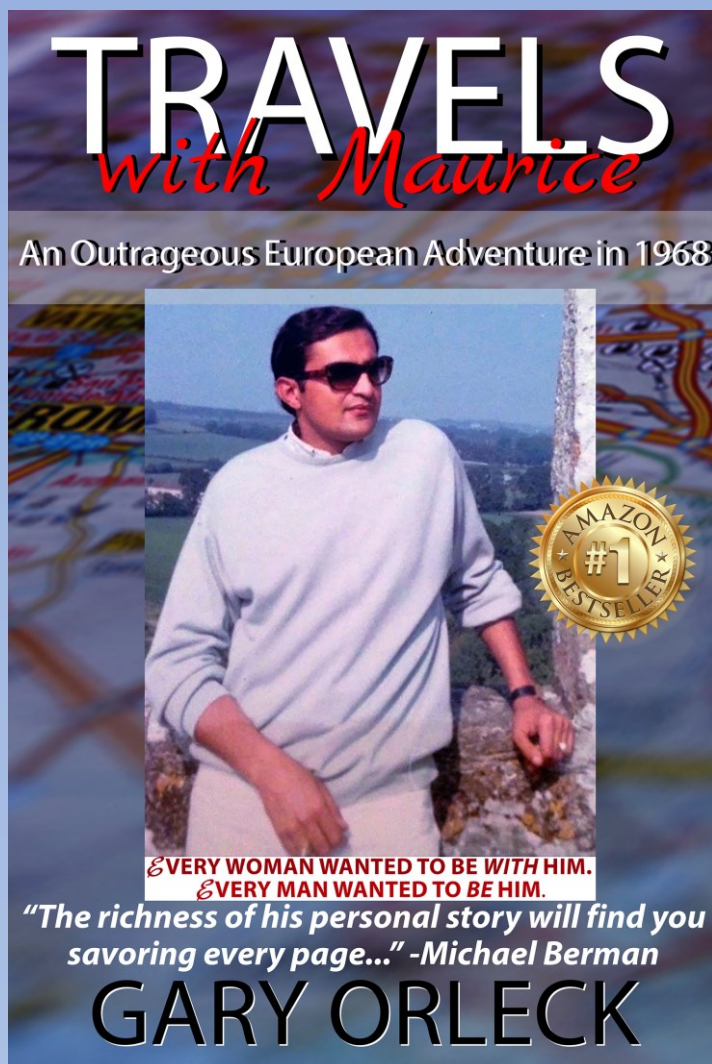
EVERY WOMEN WANTED TO BE WITH HIM. EVERY MEN WANTED TO BE HIM!

An unbelievable story, yet it's true because nobody could make this story up- NOBODY.

The 19,985 miles, 12 country adventure in 1968, Gary and Maurice, formed a formidable friendship, while perusing the London music scene, which included The Who, Elton John, The Rolling Stones and even the Beatles. Maurice, son of the richest Iranian man, shares his life and culture with Gary, as they dined with Kings and Queens, gambled with Shah of Iran and his wife-Her Royal Highness Empress Farah, while also learning the ins and outs of The Iranian government, its corruption, and the reasons the Shah was doomed to fail.

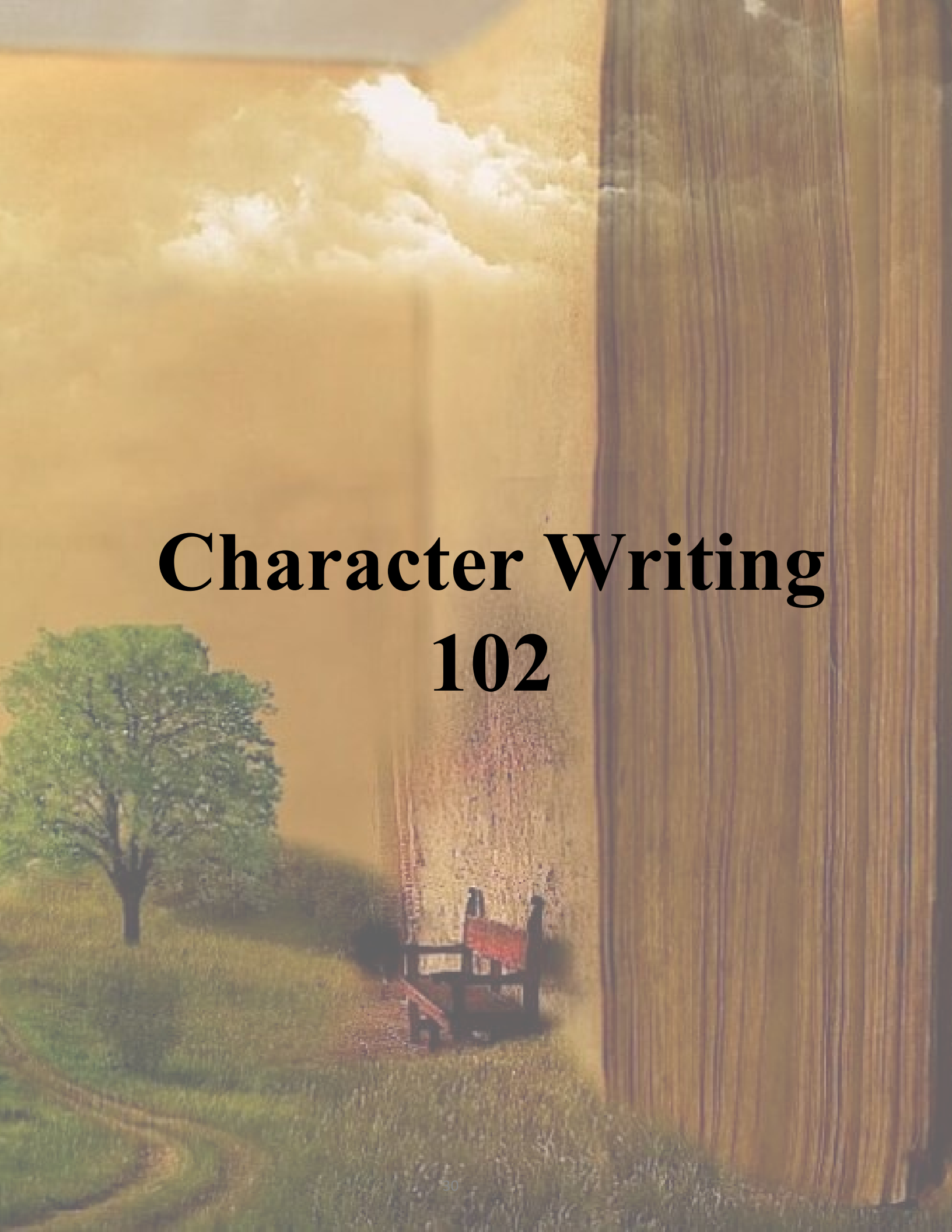
See them come of age while rubbing elbows with other famous persons, asked to dance by Brigitte Bardot, was even rescued out of handcuffs by Shirley Temple Black during the Russian Invasion of Czechoslovakia during the summer of 1968.

A simple "thank you" led to the trip of a lifetime!



amazon

Advertisement



Character Writing

102

Non-human Characters

Non-human characters can be anything from animals to aliens, to robots (or Artificial Intelligence) to even inanimate objects. A character needs to have the audience relate to attributes that show some part of humanity. I once read a story where the writer narrated the story as if it were coming from the perspective of a pet dog. It was a very interesting story, to see how the world looks from a dog's perspective. When a reader can relate to a character, no matter the type of character, and it can evoke some type of emotion, even dislike, then the character has done its job. The character needs to grow even if the character isn't human. Think of that old 80's movie, *Short Circuit*, where a "robot" became a sentient being, or as he said, "Number 5 is alive."

If the non-human character is an animal, make sure that the description is that of the animal, and not a human. Example: a human has feet or hands, where a cat or dog would have paws, or a horse has hooves.

If the non-human character is an Artificial intelligence being (AI) or robot, the technical aspects of the being can be meshed with human like qualities.

For futuristic characters, or aliens (as used in fantasy or science fiction) give the character human-like qualities, along with some made up characteristics, such as the color of their skin, if they have scales or large horns protruding from a body part, or other types of descriptive features of the being.

Magical or fantasy "creatures" that are based on lore or mythology, or some fantasy story, such as unicorns, Pegasus, gryphons, dragons, or something to the like, make the character interesting, and not just the standard creature, such as a fire breathing dragon. I am a big fan of mythology, and though I don't write in that type of genre, I have utilized my knowledge by incorporating it within a story. (I had a serial killer leave cards that depicted mythological creatures or demigods).



Bob Freeman's H2LiftShip series

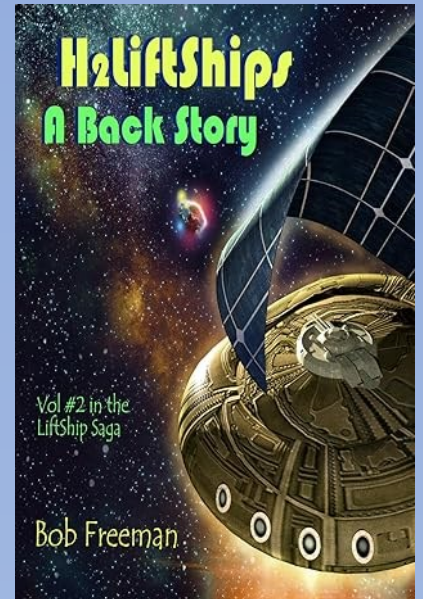
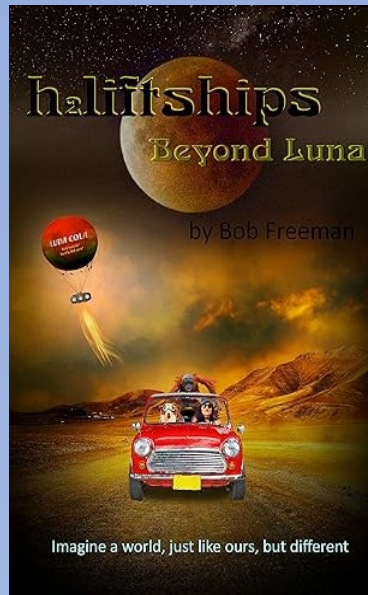
The H2LiftShip series is a unique and refreshing take on the space exploration genre, blending hard science, humor, and creativity.

Beyond Luna is a world that's part Road-Trip, part solar sailing, always with food, gambling, jail, and pirates.

A Back Story where the LunaCola's crew sits down to play cards, celebrate a job well done, and recollect the past but there's still plenty that still has to come to light, as everyone has a back story.

BosonsWave get's prepared for the ultimate showdown between H2LiftShip LunaCola and its enemies.

BosonWaves² pits the symbiotic combination of semi-sentient AI tablets and algal rocket ships against the Heliospheric Navy.



amazon

Advertisement

A painting of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a dirt path winds through a field of tall grass. To the left, a large, leafy green tree stands prominently. In the middle ground, a small house with a thatched roof and a wooden fence is visible. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. On the right side of the image, a large, vertical wooden door or panel is partially visible, suggesting the viewer is looking through an opening. The overall color palette is warm and naturalistic.

Short Story

Meet Lois and Marcus in Turbulence.

Lois turned around and stared at the TSA agents behind her, still searching each passenger. She breathed in deeply and let it out slowly as the PA announcement caught her ear. Flight 798 to Boston has been delayed; please see the monitors for more information.

Dammit, she thought, pulling her cellphone out of her pocket. She placed pressed the two on the screen and placed it by her ear. “Yeah, Ted, it's me. I'm at Reagan, and my flight's been delayed. Don't worry, I have the plans.” She balanced the phone with her shoulder and chin, flinging her carryon bag over her right shoulder. Weaving in and out of the crowd, while still trying to be engrossed in what her boss was *blahing* about over the phone, she tried to grasp the few words that made sense, like new meeting, computer programmer, maybe trip to Houston, and as she caught the last word — Civitello, she turned abruptly, slamming right into a broad chest. “Ted, gotta go,” she dropped the phone in her hand and looked up at the dark-haired man. “Watch where you're goin',” she spat abruptly.

“I apologize,” he tipped his head slightly; his voice exposed a mixed accent, somewhere between Texan and New York City. His smile exposed his single dimple on his left cheek, but it made no impact on Lois' demeanor.

She shrugged and regained her balance, flung her bag once again over her shoulder and headed down toward terminal A.



Marcus quickly turned on his heels and followed the captivating woman. *Something about that woman*, Marcus thought. *I love a challenge and a beautiful woman*. He followed the rugged, yet captivating petite brunette into the Cibo Bistro & Wine Bar, located just before Terminal A.

Lois scanned the monitors, eyeing her flight information. *Three hours?* She sat down at the bar, failing to notice Marcus sitting next to her. Her eyes focused on the bartender, walking over to her.

“What can I get you?” he smiled, setting a napkin and a coaster in front of her.

“White wine, uh, a dry Chardonnay,” she smiled.

He looked at the man sitting next to her, “And you, sir?”

“Merlot, please,” he nodded.

Lois looked at the man sitting next to her, “Oh, it's you.”

He smiled, and this time, she noticed the dimple. “Come here often?” he snickered lightly.

Turbulence (continued)

Lois broke her frown and laughed slightly. “Does that line actually work?”

“Not always, but I got ya' to smile,” he nodded to the bartender, who placed their wine glasses in front of them.

“Use a lot of lines, huh?” She swirled the wine around in her glass and then took a sip.

“I have several that work,” he smiled. “Where ya' from?”

“Bow-ston,” she tightened her lips again. She all of a sudden felt exposed, so she drank down her wine and set the empty glass on the bar.

“Another?” The bartender asked.

“I'll be at a table,” she pointed, hoping this tall, dark, and handsome- yes, definitely handsome, stranger would get the hint.

Marcus watched as she sat down at one of the tall bar tables, and the bartender set the drink in front of her. He walked over to her. “Ma'am,” he sighed, holding his glass of red wine in his hand. “I didn't mean to make you uncomfortable.”

“I don't know you. Please, just let me be,” she said.

“On one condition,” he tilted his head and grinned.

“What's that?”

“Answer me one question,” he licked his bottom lip slightly.

“What's that?”

“Do you believe in love at first sight?”

“No,” she said bluntly. “Why?”

“Should I walk by you again?” he laughed.

“That was worse than the first one,” she smiled.

“Yeah, but you smiled again,” he nodded. “If you ever find ya'self in Texas, look me up, I'm Marcus. Marcus Civitello.”

“Oh,” she said softly, under her breath.

“Ya, heard of me?”

“Yeah,” she sighed, with great disappointment.

“Can't be that bad,” he smiled.

“You're heading to Baw-ston?”

“Yeah, why?”

“To meet with an engineer about a new software program that you created?” she asked, knowing his answer.

“Yeah, wait, is that you?”

“Lois Reeves,” she sighed. “Have a seat.” The last thing she ever wanted to do was mix business with pleasure, or even meet a man. No man would ever be Jack, her late husband.

“I had no idea when ya bumped inta' me,” he smiled. I guess ya hit a little turbulence.” He chuckled.

“And we haven't even got off the ground yet,” she sipped her wine.



CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS



Mary L. Schmidt- Her Alibi

Visions of her Cherokee grandmother, Cordie, flashed through Mary's mind as her mother, Marguerite, informed her that her stepfather shot himself and was in the hospital. Oh no!

No! This can't be! Not after the joking around at my home last night. NO!!!!Did she use me last night? She'd never use her scapegoat child. No, she couldn't! Even Marguerite wouldn't sink that low! Or would she? Marguerite had always been abusive and vile to most people, and especially to her children and husbands, but would she shoot Harold?

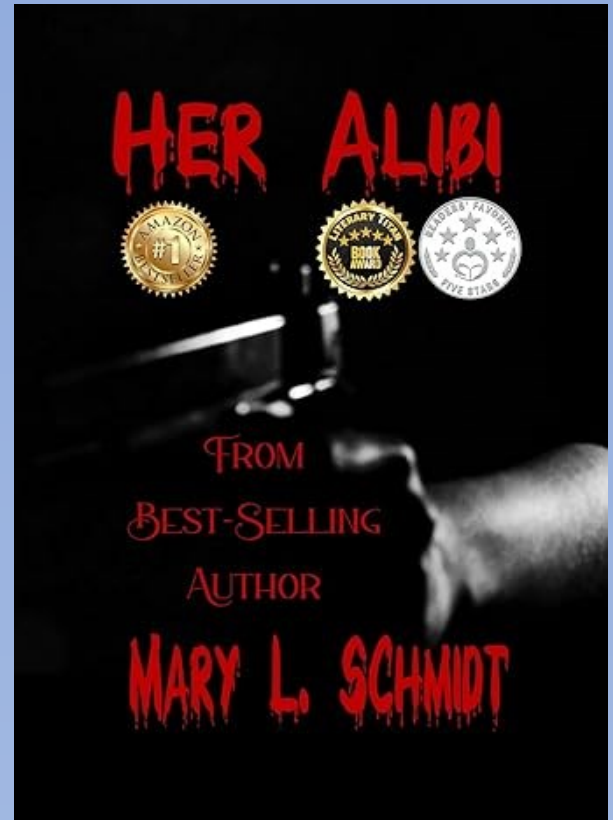
Yet, here I was, and I had to tell the police that, yes, my mother was at my home all evening and into the night. How despicable that my mother connived her way into using me as her alibi.

This book is a true memoir drawing upon the locals and inspiration of the areas in which the author lives and works. Names of towns, places, facilities, and people are real except for three men. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is not coincidental in nature and places where events take place are from her life growing up.

5 Stars

Interestingly disturbing

Mary L. Schmidt writes about an experience of abuse, lies and murder in Her Alibi. This is the first book I've read from this author, and when reading the story, knowing it was true, brought it more emotion and heart-wrenching. This book was written very well. Mary remembered the day that her mother told her that her stepfather, Harold, shot himself and was in the hospital. Mary, still young, and thinking about her grandmother, Cordie, couldn't believe what was happening. Mary was unknowingly used as her alibi during the evening and late night visit by Marguerite at her home. Marguerite was abusive to not only her children, but also her husbands. Unfortunately it is not far-fetched that a wretched person could do something like use her child as her alibi, especially since she is trying to cover up something, maybe the crime itself. It is one of those memoirs, and the author mentions names of siblings and how they reacted to this news, and the story and inspiration is true. It's a long road for Mary, and she is very brave for sharing her story. Especially when it involves such dastardly and incredible actions by her mother.



Richard L. Carrico- MONSTERS ON THE LOOSE: The True Story of Three Unsolved Murders in Prohibition Era San Diego

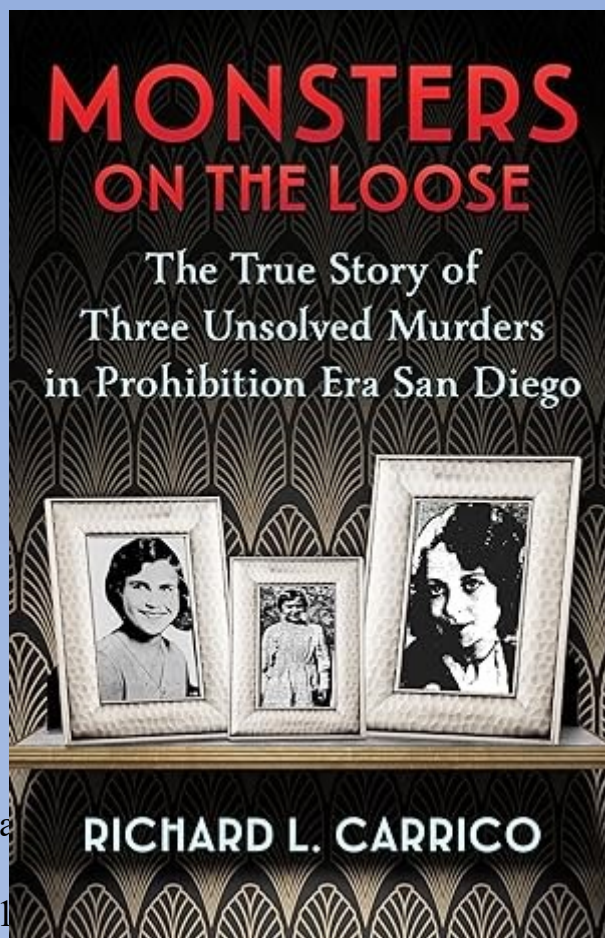
In 1931, San Diego's idyllic image as a beach town with peaceful suburbs concealed a harrowing reality: a series of unsolved crimes targeting women, fueling fear and vulnerability. *MONSTERS ON THE LOOSE* tells the tragic and true stories of three women murdered early that year: Virginia Brooks, Louise Teuber, and Hazel Bradshaw.

Local law enforcement, out-of-town criminologists, and investigators from what would become the FBI pursued hundreds of leads. Statewide, newspapers covered every angle and clue and sometimes played a role in the investigations. Yet, the killer(s) were never identified and brought to justice.

In *MONSTERS ON THE LOOSE*, award-winning author and historian Richard L. Carrico pieces fragments of evidence together for three cold cases, shedding light on a dark chapter in San Diego's history.

More than ninety years after the murders, Carrico emerges as an advocate for the victims, meticulously reconstructing their stories. Immersed in dusty files, long-forgotten oral histories, and newly discovered investigation records, his primary objective remains unwavering: to seek justice for the three young women. With no witnesses to the crimes, the significance of circumstantial evidence and speculation, both then and now, became paramount.

And he may have even solved one of the murders.



Richard L. Carrico writes about murders of women in 1931 in *MONSTERS ON THE LOOSE: The True Story of Three Unsolved Murders in Prohibition Era San Diego*. I am a fan of true crime stories. This is the first book written by this author that I've read. The story of three unsolved murders of women Virginia Brooks, Louise Teuber, and Hazel Bradshaw. When searching for this case, I discovered a newspaper article that talked about more women and their cause of death. They called it the 1931 Spring Killer. Since this is 1931, the police and FBI searched for clues and newspapers covered the stories, and brought in leads as well. The killer or killers were never found. Richard L. Carrico brings evidence

Richard L. Carrico (continued)

5 Stars

1931 San Diego

Richard L. Carrico writes about murders of women in 1931 in **MONSTERS ON THE LOOSE: The True Story of Three Unsolved Murders in Prohibition Era San Diego**. I am a fan of true crime stories. This is the first book written by this author that I've read. The story of three unsolved murders of women Virginia Brooks, Louise Teuber, and Hazel Bradshaw. When searching for this case, I discovered a newspaper article that talked about more women and their cause of death. They called it the 1931 Spring Killer. Since this is 1931, the police and FBI searched for clues and newspapers covered the stories, and brought in leads as well. The killer or killers were never found. Richard L. Carrico brings evidence together, as if he were putting together a puzzle of what happened, and linking the three cases together. There were several murders, but the three remain unsolved. The author is an advocate for the victims, and tries to speak for them, by sharing their stories, and their life, seeking the peace, closure and justice for the victims. This book was written very well. It was detailed and terrifying, especially because of the nature of the crime, and how they may relate to other murders, and sometimes, murders just happen, being unrelated. The case is intriguing, especially as the over 90 year old clues can still be put together.



Recommended Children's Books

Donald Firesmith- Jimmy and the Halloween Candy Monster

Genre: Children's/Picture Book/Halloween

Every Halloween night, the candy monster sneaks into Jimmy's bedroom and steals most of his candy. And no matter where he hides his bag of candy, the candy monster always finds it. But one Halloween morning, Jimmy has a great idea. With the help of his mother and father, Jimmy will teach that mean old candy monster a lesson.

Multi-award-winning author of speculative fiction, Donald Firesmith, tells the story of how the idea of a candy monster enables his parents to make sure he doesn't eat too much candy.

Find out more about Donald Firesmith's award winning books at his website at <http://donaldfiresmith.com>

5 Stars

Donald Firesmith tells and shows a remarkable and fun story in Jimmy and the Halloween Candy Monster

Jimmy and the Halloween Candy Monster is a wonderful story for children, and it is fun to read. Anyone who has been a parent of the too-much-candy on Halloween, when your child brings home a sack of candy. I am a fan of this author! Whatever this author writes, I read. The illustrations were remarkable, and told the story along with the grand script of Donald Firesmith. This book would be perfect to read to a child or have the child read it back. It's very educational and has a great moral to it. It's fun to read, and very enjoyable. Hide your candy well so that you can keep all your candy safe while you are asleep. We are introduced to Jimmy and his parents, and Jimmy knows that every year the candy monster comes and takes a large amount of his candy, so he asks his parents to help keep his candy safe.



Nichole Heydenburg- Don't Look Inside

Genre: F/YA (16+)/Psychological thriller

Don't question the lies. Don't investigate. And most importantly, Don't Look Inside...

Elena Pierce's junior year of college unfolds with a precarious situation—a mysterious new roommate named Mara. Despite her best efforts, Mara remains distant. Elena becomes increasingly wary as a string of unsettling disappearances rocks the campus.

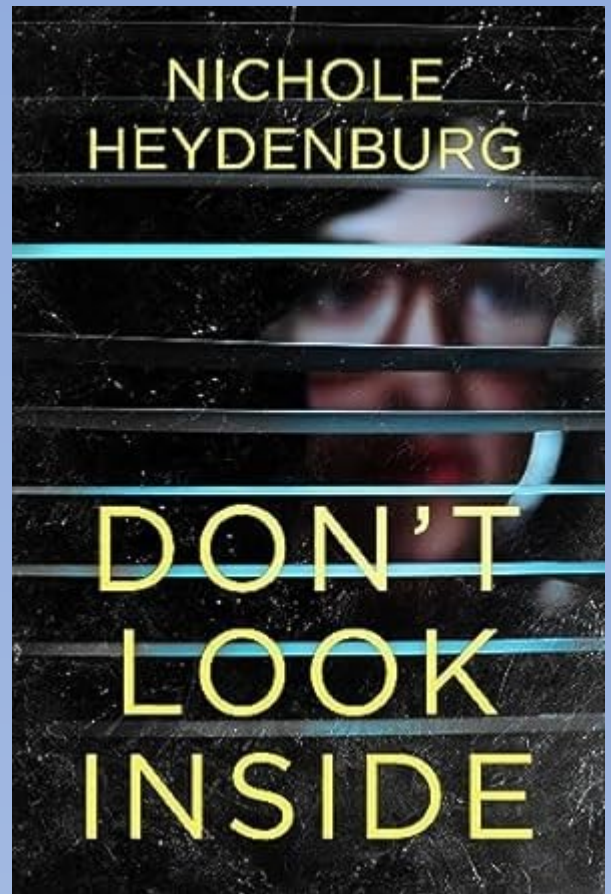
Amid the chaos, Elena's boyfriend exhibits strange behavior. Elena teams up with her friends Joe and Logan to unveil the truth. As they dig deeper, a shocking revelation emerges. Elena is forced to consider the unimaginable: Is someone close to her responsible for the vanishing girls?

Find out more about Nichole Heydenburg at <https://www.nicholeheydenburg.com/>

5 Stars

Nichole Heydenburg writes a thrilling tale for those 16 and older with Don't Look Inside

In Don't Look Inside, the reader is introduced to Elena, who is sweet but tenacious. She's in her junior year of college, but it is not the college life that she planned. Elena is dealing with more than just regular college and young adult angst. Elena's boyfriend, Dean, seems distant and then, there is her new roommate, Mara. Mara is one of those creepy people that you expect to be the loner after a series of deaths and they are looking at her. I am a big fan of Nichole Heydenburg and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. Elena and her close friends, Joe and Logan, band together to try and figure out why girls are disappearing, and who is behind it before another girl ends up as one of the missing. There is a lot of detail of the lives of the people in the story, and some are stronger than they think they are, and some are just the evil hiding in plain sight. It's an amazing story, and if you are familiar with any stalker-ish movies or books, this is one to compare it to. I've read a lot, and I must say that this is the best of all the stories I have read from Nichole Heydenburg. She is an amazing writer and story-shower. It is absolutely chilling, with death around every corner. It's definitely thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. If you love a good thriller this book should be next on your list. In the story, you get everything from obsession, mystery, terror, and murder, and that's just for starters. College life will never be the same again.





Audiobooks

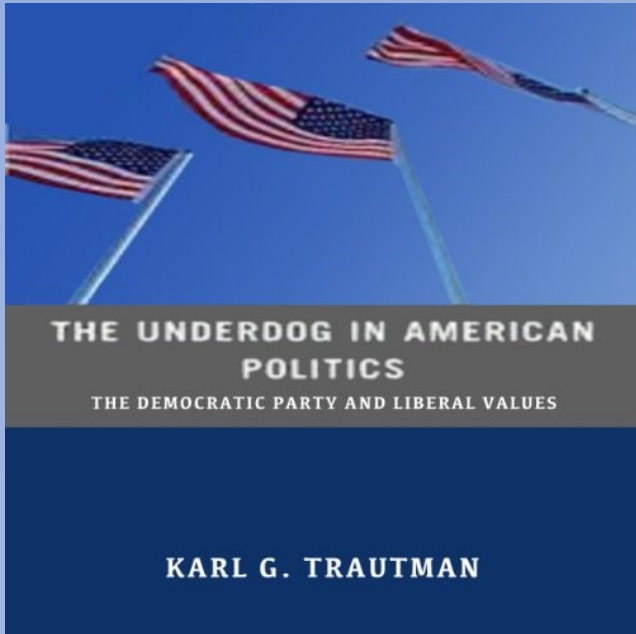
Karl G. Trautman- The Underdog in American Politics

Narrated by: Karl G. Trautman

\$ Stars

Karl G. Trautman tells an interesting opinion of politics in The Underdog in American Politics

In The Underdog in American Politics, the listener is introduced to the narrator, Karl G. Trautman. This is the first of his audiobooks that I've listened to. He gives an analysis of American politics, and shares his opinions backed up by history and statistics, about the underdog concept in politics. He talks about Presidents and their politics being democrats, from Jefferson to Obama. Why do people vote for the underdog? Why don't they vote for the underdog? And what makes someone the underdog? It is interesting if you are into politics and even if you're not you learn a lot from the history of our Presidents. A tidbit that I know was way back when the democrats and republicans were one party, but then it was separated. When they are bipartisan, it works, and then other times they are at each other throats. With the way politics are today, this is a grand listen, and more people should listen to this book. You might just be surprised what you learn from our history and current political arenas.



NF/ Politics

Kathleen MacArthur - Bawdy Madonna

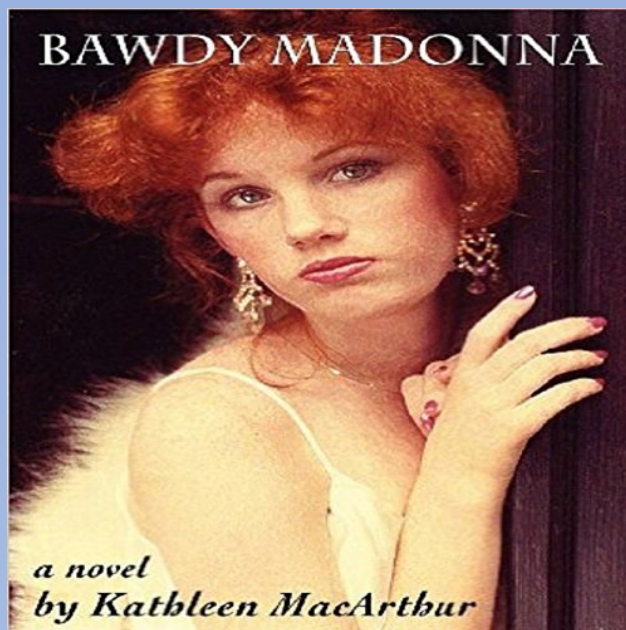
Narrated by: Rebecca Roberts

5 Stars

Kathleen MacArthur tells a woman and family focused story in Bawdy Madonna

The late Kathleen MacArthur's audiobook, Bawdy Madonna was published by her son, Karl G. Trautman. In Bawdy Madonna the reader is introduced to Andie Lanier, who wants to get away from her home in the Midwest and is looking for something. She has a spell cast upon her, a whole world away from where she came from, and she tries to discover the truth about her father. She has so many different experiences, and Kathleen MacArthur brings Angie's life to the forefront. Her experiences, trysts, and challenges, really make the woman who she is determined to be. Some believe that a woman who is a free-spirit and enjoys the intimacies that the flesh need, and enjoy makes her a certain kind of woman, but that is not so. I haven't listened to anything from this author before, and I really enjoyed it. The characters were incredible and very inspiring, and yet, some likeable where others were not. The author's storytelling style is

intense and right on point for this story. This narration really brought this story to life. The author's technique of intense characters and great plotlines is a gift. It's a great story to listen to and try to figure out what will happen next. This author's characters develop and interacts well with the other characters.



F/ Women/Romance

A circular graphic with a light blue background. At the top, the text "AMY'S BOOKSHELF REVIEWS" is written in a black, sans-serif font, following the curve of the top edge. In the center, the text "AMY'S PICKS OF THE MONTH" is written in a large, bold, blue, serif font. The background of the circle features a faint world map and some illegible text. At the bottom of the circle, there is a small copyright notice: "©2022 Essence Publishing Images".

AMY'S BOOKSHELF REVIEWS

**AMY'S
PICKS OF THE
MONTH**

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Mohammed Said Hjiouij- Kafka in Tangier

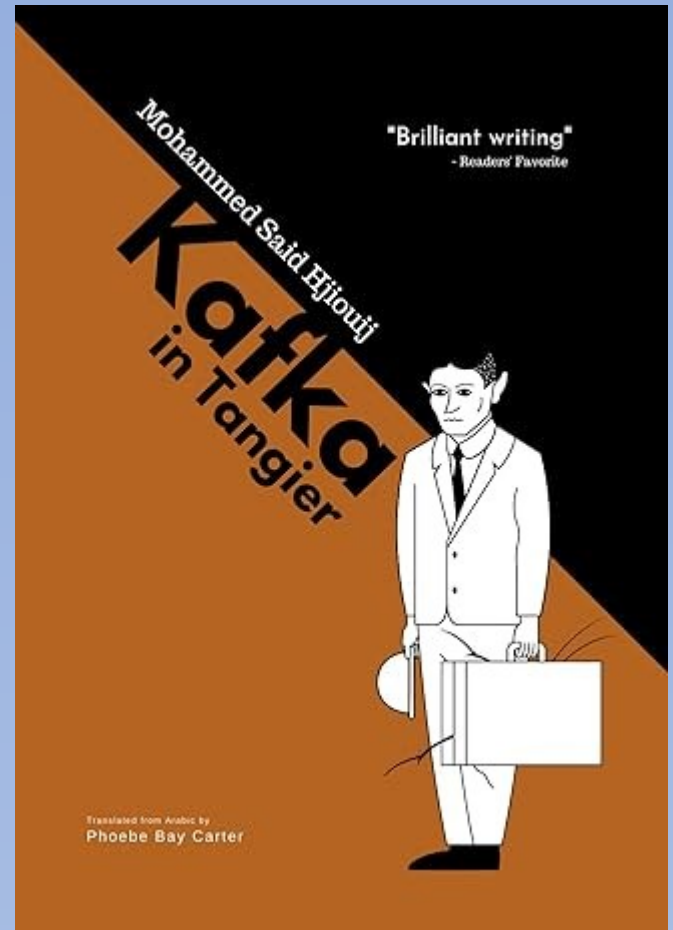
Genre: / Genre: Family

About Kafka in Tangier

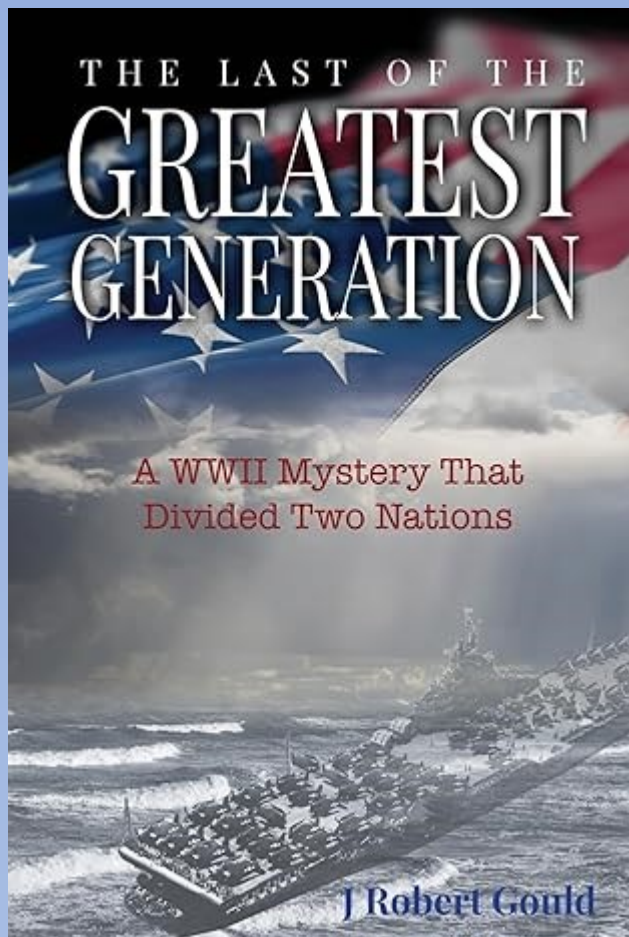
Kafka in Tangier is a contemporary Moroccan novel that masterfully weaves magical realism, absurdity, and postmodernism to provide a fresh take on Kafka's Metamorphosis. Delving into themes of transformation, alienation, and control, this captivating tale follows Jawad Al-Idrisi, a disillusioned teacher whose unrealized dreams of becoming a literary critic take an unexpected turn when he awakens as a monstrous creature. As he grapples with his new reality, Jawad is forced to confront his family's hidden truths and the oppressive structures of modern society.

Jawad Al-Idrisi relinquishes his literary aspirations to become a teacher, burdened by a callous father who shows no remorse for his neglect. Despite Jawad's tireless efforts to support his family, his life takes a surreal twist when he awakens as a grotesque, odorous creature, sparking chaos in their home and community. His transformation leads to his dismissal, plunging the family into hardship. Hind, Jawad's devoted sister, bears the brunt of their misfortune, caring for her brother and their home while being forced by her father to abandon her education and work at a café to make ends meet. Tragically, her resilience begins to wane.

Find more about Mohammed Said Hjiouij at <https://kafkaintangier.com/>



J Robert Gould- The Last of the Greatest Generation



Genre: Mystery

About The Last of the Greatest Generation
Set in modern times, The Last of the Greatest Generation is a mystery wrapped up in a WWII international plot, created in two timelines with parallel love stories and an alcoholic reporter with a nose for a good story.

Nations collide as the last living second world war veteran races against time to share the harrowing secrets he's held for half a century. When fate steps in to disrupt his plans, the story takes on a fast-paced, masterful turn as the truth emerges, secret by secret, that will change history.

Find more about J Robert Gould at <https://thelastofthegreatestgeneration.com/>

Ed Borowsky- The Great Mongolian Bowling League of the United States of America

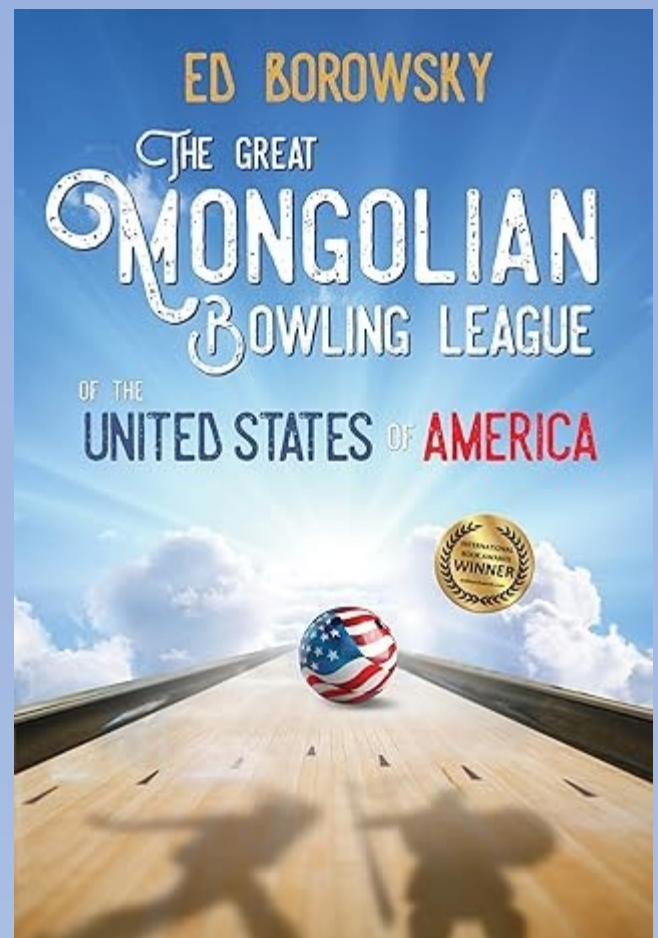
Genre: Comedy/literary fiction/realism

About The Great Mongolian Bowling League of the United States of America

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

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

Find more about Ed Borowsky at <https://edborowsky.com/>



Yvonne deSousa- Shelter of the Monument: A Provincetown Love Story

Genre: Nonfiction/Memoir

About Shelter of the Monument: A Provincetown Love Story

Sometimes the wrong person says the right thing, and it makes all the difference.

In this coming-of-age memoir we meet Richard, a handsome, charming, mischievous, great guy with a fondness for the 1980s party drug of choice, cocaine. Yvonne is 11 years younger, awkward, terrified of her own shadow and even more frightened by the idea of disappointing anyone in her life.

Their attraction makes no sense.

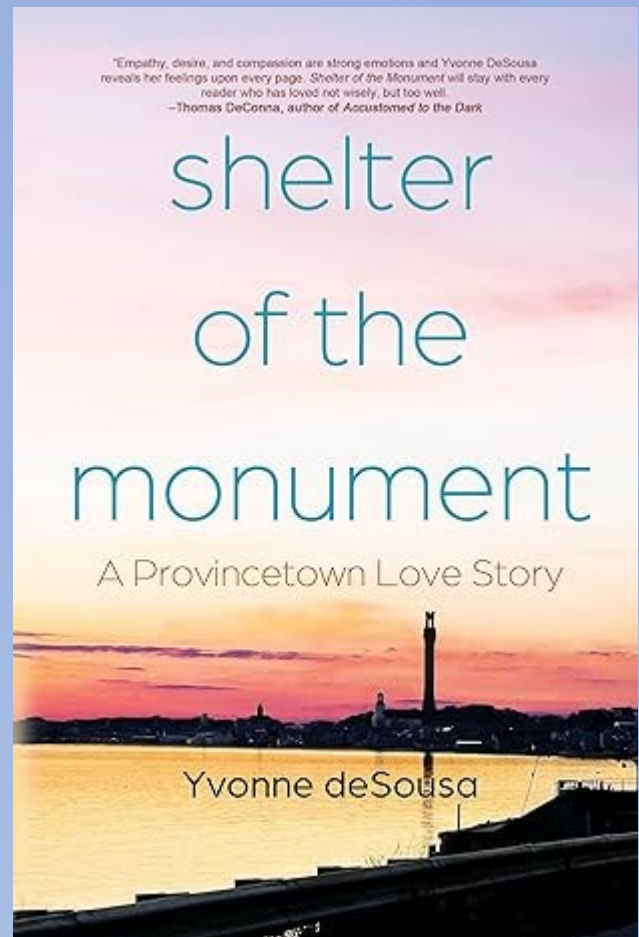
Despite obstacles beyond their control, they are exactly what each other is drawn to as they set about doing the best they can, in all four seasons of their beautiful, one season town, Provincetown, MA. Their connection remains the one thing that can save Yvonne from herself, even while Richard struggles under the weight of his own self-imposed demons.

What they develop is a relationship that unbeknownst to both of them, would last a lifetime and change Yvonne in ways she never thought possible.

They were not supposed to be together.

Yet, they refused to stay apart.

Find more about Yvonne deSousa at <https://yvonnedesousa.com/>



Gary Orleck - Travels With Maurice: An Outrageous European Adventure in 1968

Genre: / NF/Memoirs/Adventure/Friendship/Travel

About Travels With Maurice: An Outrageous European Adventure in 1968

EVERY WOMEN WANTED TO BE WITH HIM.
EVERY MEN WANTED TO BE HIM!

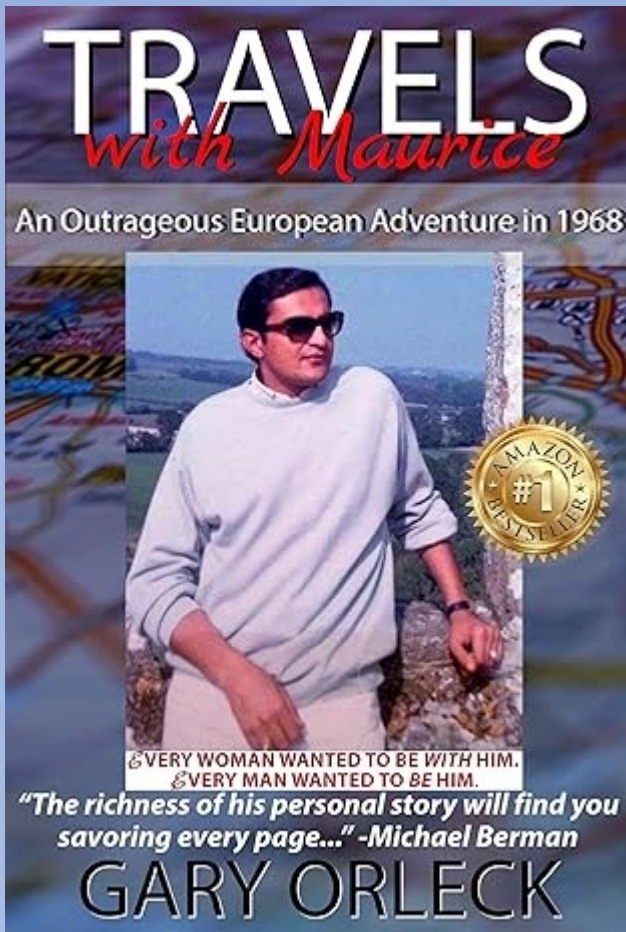
An unbelievable story, yet it's true because nobody could make this story up- NOBODY.

The 19,985 miles, 12 country adventure in 1968, Gary and Maurice, formed a formidable friendship, while perusing the London music scene, which included The Who, Elton John, The Rolling Stones and even the Beatles. Maurice, son of the richest Iranian man, shares his life and culture with Gary, as they dined with Kings and Queens, gambled with Shah of Iran and his wife-Her Royal Highness Empress Farah, while also learning the ins and outs of The Iranian government, its corruption, and the reasons the Shah was doomed to fail.

See them come of age while rubbing elbows with other famous persons, asked to dance by Brigitte Bardot, was even rescued out of handcuffs by Shirley Temple Black during the Russian Invasion of Czechoslovakia during the summer of 1968.

A simple "thank you" led to the trip of a lifetime!

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



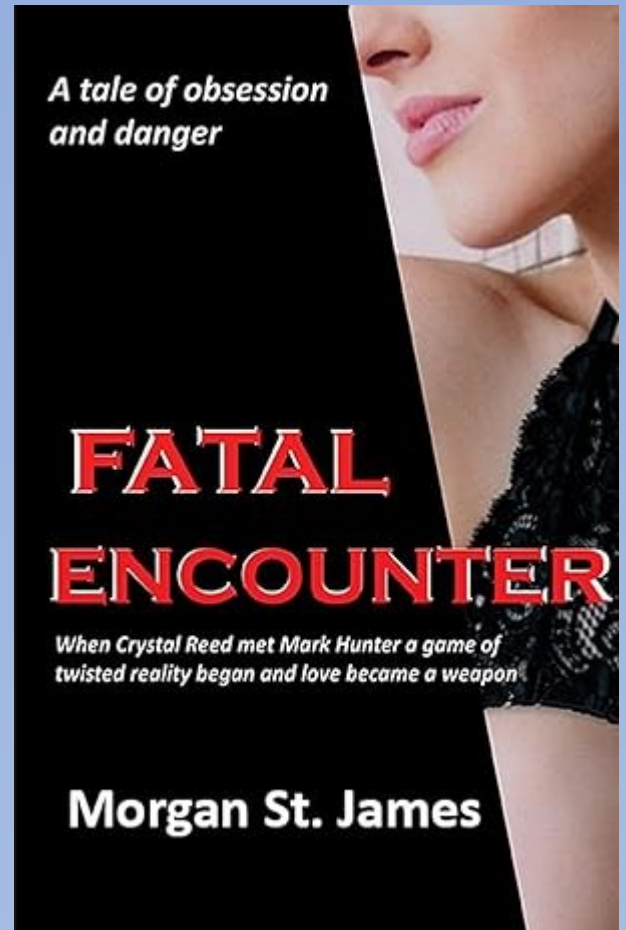
Morgan St. James- Fatal Encounter

Genre: F/Romance/Suspense/Obsession

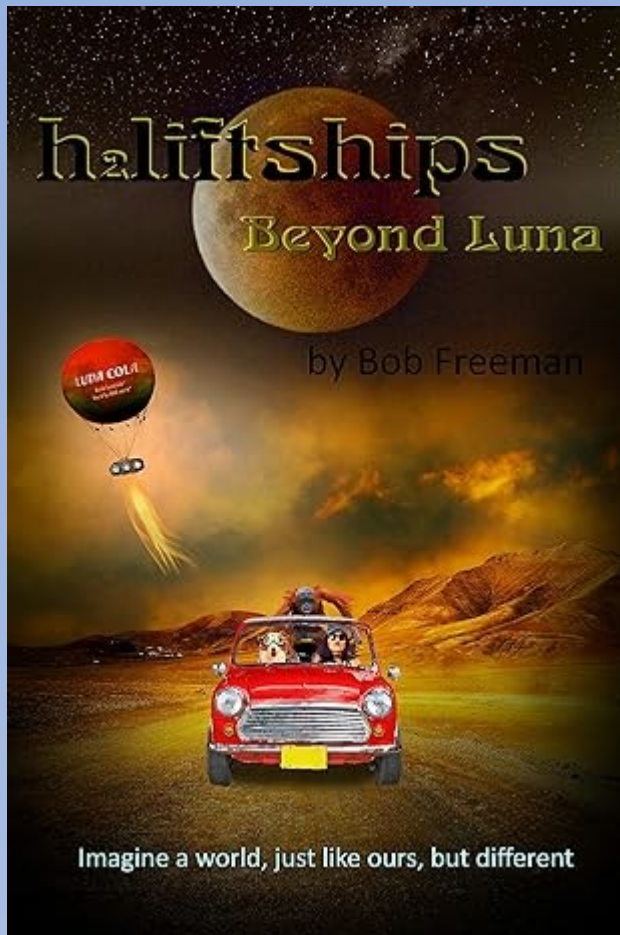
About Fatal Encounter:

After Crystal Reed meets Mark Hunter, she finds herself entangled in a web of dark secrets where her world is tainted by deception and treachery. This chance encounter leads her down a dangerous path of twisted love and betrayal from which there seems to be no escape. Faced with his obsessive idea of love and a burning desire for freedom and redemption, Crystal summons every bit of her strength and the help of friends to unravel the increasing danger. She just wants to reclaim her life and self worth, but will she be able to? This gripping tale questions the boundaries of trust and the depths of the human spirit."

Find more about Morgan St. James at <http://www.morganstjames-author.com>



Bob Freeman- H2LiftShips- Beyond Luna



Genre: F/SciFi/Hard Science

Series: H2Liftships

Volume: 1

About H2LiftShips- Beyond Luna

H2LiftShips, a tech manual for a future. Imagine a world, exactly like ours, but different. Part Road-Trip, part solar sailing, always with food, gambling, jail, and pirates, not necessarily in that order No: Aliens, Monsters, blasters, pyrotechnic computers, or Anti-Grav powered rockets. Yes: Lasers, Primates, Canines, Octopus, Space Travel via Solar Sails, and the rare Rocket Ship.No violence, except for the spinning meat bolas and asteroid pebbles coming to the defense of their home rock.

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

Bob Freeman- H2LiftShips- A Back Story

Genre: F/SciFi/Hard Science

Series: H2Liftships

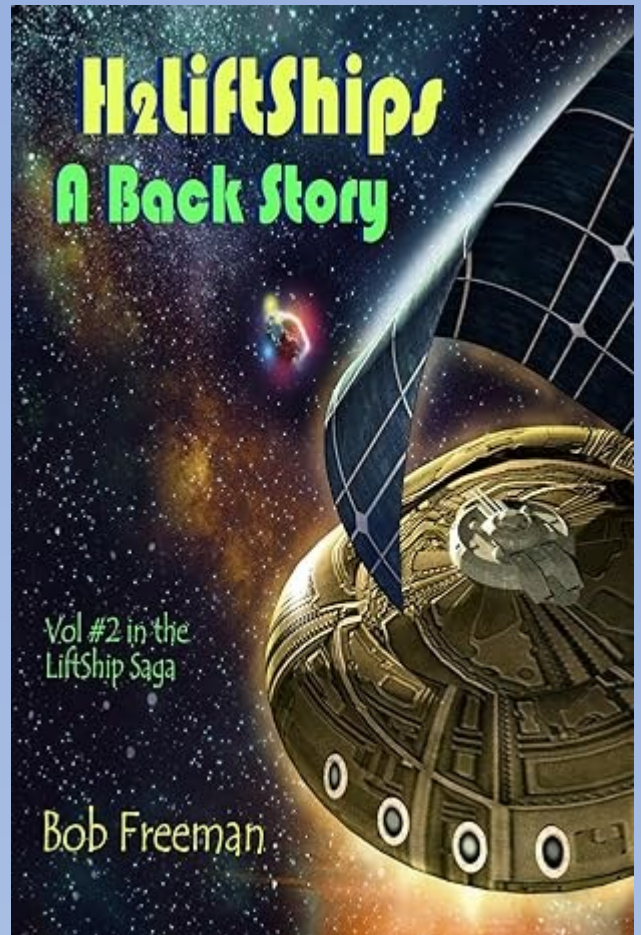
Volume: 2

About H2LiftShips- A Back Story:

Trading and dealing for a living is just what the LunaCola's crew is doing to get by. But everybody (or octopus) has a backstory, and the members of the crew have more than enough to reminisce. There's nothing quite like sitting down to play cards, celebrating a job well done, and recollecting the past but there's still plenty that still has to come to light.

The big questions, such as how in the galaxy did the born-and-bred asteroid citizen learn to drive sports cars on Earth? Are the bioGels Sentient? The even bigger question is, are they plotting against their owners? And what dark secrets is Jack harboring behind his fears of prison? Those answers and more. Plus: Do octopuses really think that they are better than the terrestrials? (spoiler, yes they do, and there's a story there as well.)

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



Bob Freeman- H2LiftShips- BosonsWave

Genre: F/SciFi/Hard Science

Series: H2Liftships

Volume: 3

About H2LiftShips- BosonsWave

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.

The Solar Sail crew of BosonsWave and Captain Herb, an Eastern mountain gorilla in the Heliospheric Navy, are fighting the algae rocket ships for control of the bioGels.

On one side, we have tools and weapons invented by the sentients after eons of development: bioGel laser rifles, HAM radios, ship-to-ship bolas, nuclear bombs, biological weapons, and a tomato surprise.

On the other side, accumulations of brainless algae have joined with angry bioGel computers calling the shots.

Captain Graciela, her crew, and the Heliospheric Navy have a battle on their hands.

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



Bob Freeman- H2LiftShips- BosonsWave^2

Genre: F/SciFi/Hard Science

Series: H2Liftships

Volume: 4

About BosonsWave^2:

The 4th volume in the H2LiftShip Series pits the symbiotic combination of semi-sentient AI tablets and algal rocket ships against the Heliospheric Navy.

The HiveSisters, in response to an unwanted software update, brought the heliosphere's economy to its knees by shutting down the bioGel-controlled ATMs

Sentients are forced back to BeforeTimes techniques of bartering and IOUs as they struggled to keep fed, warm, and alive in outer space.

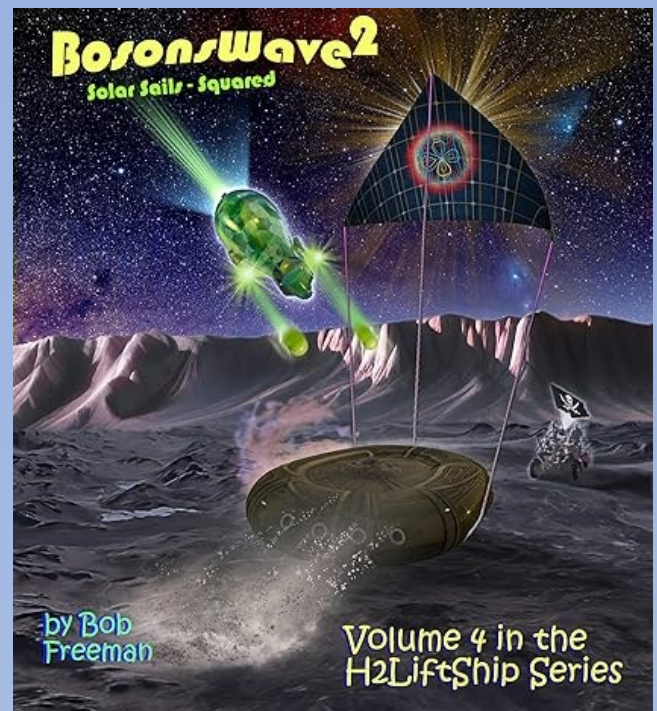
Captain Graciela Lucerne, on her repaired and renamed BosonsWave-Squared, joins forces with Commodore Herb Grauer on his Gorilla Class Fast Cruiser to bring the HiveWar they may have accidentally started to an equitable finish.

We begin at the end of the heliosphere and follow Hans and Jingles scrapping exotic ions born at the intersection of Sol's heliotail and cosmic rays. They were stuck at the tail-end of Sol after being banned by the Asteroid Union for destroying a mining ship.

Graciela's parents escape the algal-slimed HuB asteroid and join their daughter on Luna, where they travel to Earth to purchase cargo for the asteroid miners. She has the pleasure of showing her family the difference between living in ZeroG and on a 1g rock with its oceans, deserts, and tasty carne asada burritos.

The usual assortment of pirates, gamblers, and merchants round out the story as everyone tries to move forward as war disrupts their routines and cash flow.

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

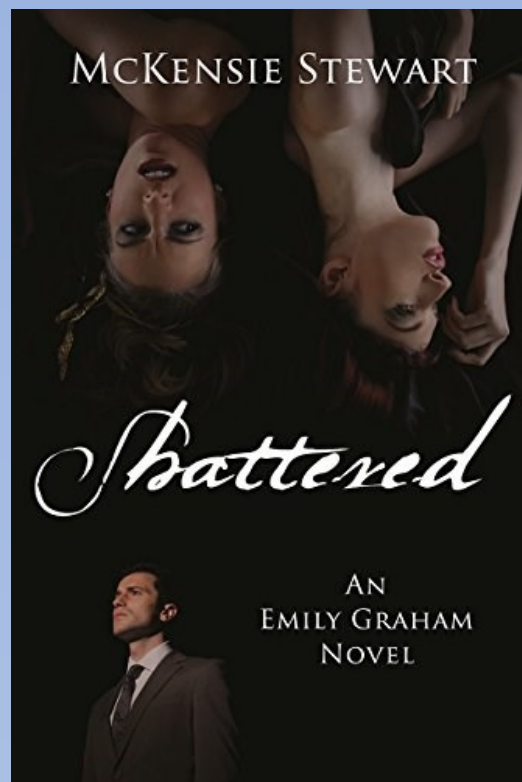


Shattered: An Emily Graham Novel

By McKensie Stewart



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.



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Coming March 21 2024

Amy Shannon's Balls-Town

In celebration of the Village of Ballston Spa's anniversary of 217 years, Amy Shannon is releasing her first historical nonfiction book, *Ball's Town: A community of history, friends, neighbors, and lingering spirits*.

The book covers past and present, and also brings back to life those forgotten books by forgotten authors who dedicated their writing to Saratoga County, and its healing mineral springs. These springs bubbling up with their medicinal value, were the start of getting settlers to Ballston Spa, not just businesses like Taverns, Boarding houses, and hotels, but farmers and industrial business men as well.

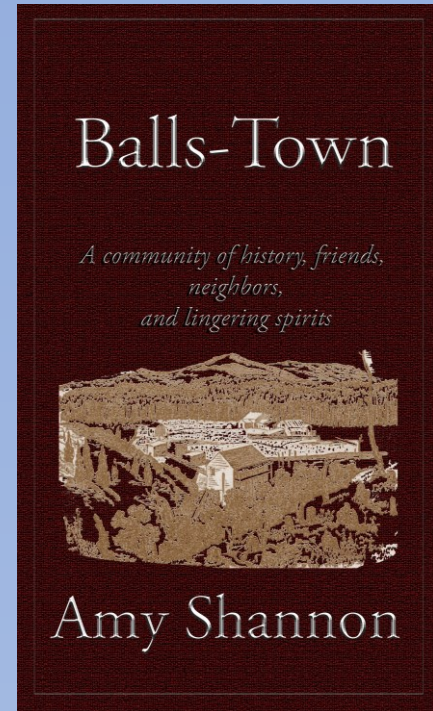
A lot of reading and research went into writing this book.

Books as resources and those that have been found on digital copy, are available for viewing on the website at

<https://essencecenterpriseus.com/the-history-of-balls-town>

Some things that were not included in the book, but have been researched, will also be available for viewing. I offer some of the digital files for downloading, if you want a resource, but only those books that were available free for download.

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Synopsis of Balls-Town

With such lush and savage history, the Towns of Milton and Ballston were one, Balls-Town. The settlers, pioneers may still be recognized for the start of the towns, but there is more to the story. People, not just prominent, and the writings of people, long past, where their work may be long forgotten. It is a shame that some are forgotten, so with this being a history of Balls-Town, the incorporation of the Village of Ballston Spa, it is also an homage to those who wrote about these precious lands of the towns. Some stories, poems, historical writings about these hometowns, may have been once lost, but in this book, some of them are being revived.

I'm Amy Shannon, and this is my hometown, and its community of history, lingering spirits, and neighbors