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JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2025 Issue 15.0

LITERATE-LY MAGAZINE

77777

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

Author Spotlight: Buff Whitman-Bradley Edgar Allen Poe Author Interviews: Buff Whitman-Bradley Thomas DeConna John Miles Micah Dawanyi Edith Wharton Hellen Keller

FEATURED SHORT STORIES

A GHOST'S WRITER (PART 1)

ANTHOLOGY

More Future Dreams and Nightmares

BOOK, REVIEWS AND MORE: GRITTY GUMSHOES HISTORICAL FICTION THRILLERS & CHILLERS AMY'S PICK OF THE MONTH

Young and Young at Heart Game On Zhuri How to Defeat a Blob Monster Ronaldo: The Reindeer Flying Academy <u>Nonfiction:</u> Know Your Lawful Rights <u>Audiobooks</u>: Mary Poser

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Essence Publishing was created by Amy Shannon, and she is the sole proprietor of Essence Publishing and its parent company Essence Enterprises. Essence Publishing is the publishing company that self-publishes Amy Shannon's books. The purpose of Essence Publishing is to educate, entertain and provide literary services. This magazine was established in 2020.

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Fri/day (frahy-dey dies Veneris Amy Shannon's Graphic Designs

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Book Covers (for ebook and/or print)

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Logos and Brands



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News from CEO and Owner Amy Shannon

In recent months, I have announced the end of the Literate-Ly Magazine, where its final issue would be in November-December 2025 Issue.

After a lot of feedback, and careful consideration, I have decided to keep the magazine running, for as long as possible. It has gained a lot of readership over the years, and some full-page it for their next favorite read, or a publisher trying to find their next new author.

The reason I was getting rid of the magazine was because I am trying to cut back my work, but as I said, I decided to keep the magazine, but it will have new policies and a bit of a new format.

Changes coming in 2025 Starting in the May to June Issue, there will be no more than two author interviews in the issue.

The deceased authors spotlight and interview will continue.

The reviews from Amy's Bookshelf Reviews, will now be limited to specific genres (these genres may change from issue to issue), depending on the books that were read, reviewed and posted in the previous months before the issue on Amy's Bookshelf Reviews. Amy's Pick of the month will be randomly selected, and one per the two prior months will be selected.

Authors who are interviewed (with interviews accepted AFTER January 1 2025) will no longer get a free full page 8x10 Ad. Instead, they will get a discount AD for \$15 which will stay in the magazine for 6 issues (one year).

Regular Advertising is now all full page Ads, 8X10 Portrait, with a QR Code. For 3 issues, (6 months) it's \$15, and for a year (6 issues) it's \$25. Anyone who purchases an Ad, their Ad will also go in the advertisement magazine, Bookly Litvertise for 3-months for free. If they want it longer, then there are various fees for that magazine (it goes live January 1, and it a monthly magazine).

If you are a business and want an annual advertisement, you can be invoiced with recurring payments for each year. If you wish to do it annually, you can get a 15% discount for the first year (\$21.25).

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Amy's Bookshelf Reviews "Best Reads" Book Project

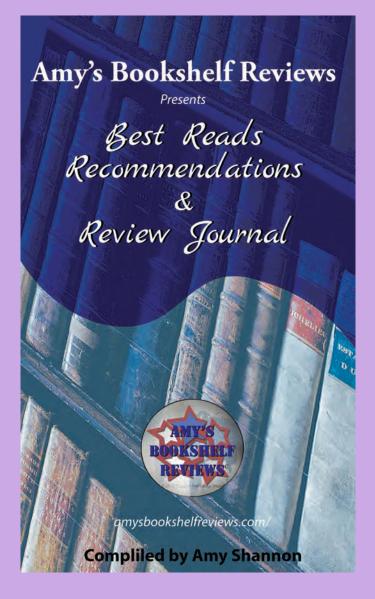
A new book from Amy's Bookshelf Reviews called *Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Best Reads Recommendations & Review Journal.*

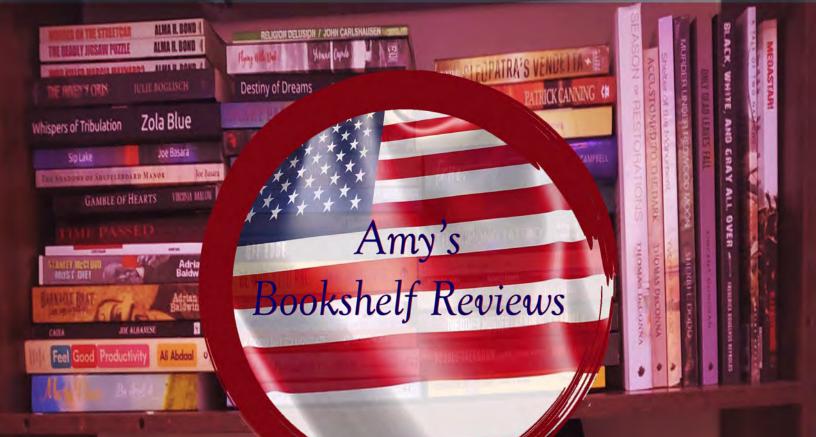
The book will be a free download on a few sites, and anyone who contributes to the book, is not only getting a promotion about your book title, but this book will also teach the reader on how to write a review. There will be a book description and a link to where the reader can buy the book. In addition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

<u>Amy's Bookshelf Reviews website</u>

<u>Essence Enterprises website</u> <u>Prolific Works</u> <u>Lulu.com</u> <u>Smashwords</u>





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CROWN PRINCE

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HaLiftShips -Beyond Luna Bob Freeman

Bookly Litvertise

Where Artistry and Literature are Valued

This magazine is ALL full page 8x10 advertisements, and the ADs can range from authors selling their books, publishers promoting themselves, writing contests, artists selling their work, and basically anything artistic or literary. The caveat is that that with this magazine, in order to have an AD in it, there will be fees. The upside is that the business or person can create their own AD if they wish, or I can do it, and that would be free of charge. All Ads would have a QR Code so it can be scanned.

BookLy Litvertise is a monthly magazine that goes live the first of every month starting January 1, 2025.

Pricing: For one-three months: \$15 For six-months: \$25 For 12 months: \$35

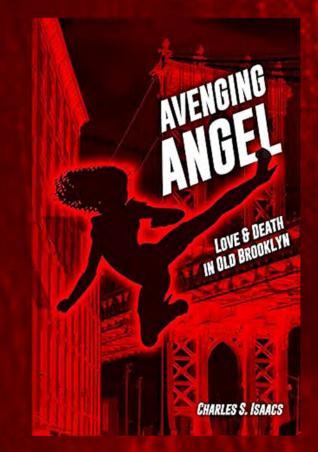


If a person purchases an AD in Literate-Ly, they will get AD space for three consecutive months for free. Think of this as a "Fivrr" version of a magazine. You can sell brand, your services, or advertise your work.

Charles S. Isaacs presents

THE AVENGING ANGEL SERIES

Tales of vengeance, resilience, and redemption, intertwined with an unexpected love story, set against the gritty backdrop of an urban landscape marred by violence against women and the scourge of racism.



Charles Isaacs Website

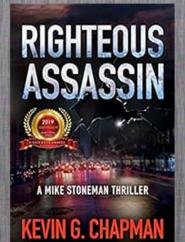


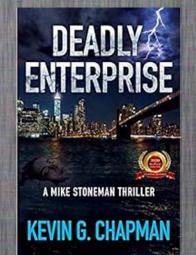


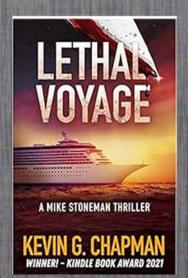
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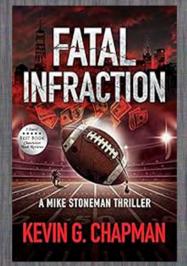
Kevin G. Chapman's Mike Stoneman Thrillers



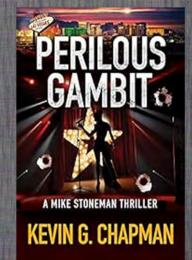




NYPD homicide detectives Mike Stoneman and Jason Dickson tackle the hard-hitting cases, while having ups and downs as partners, and while also trying to have a personal life.









https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B08BZMDSVT

CHRIS KARLSEN & JENNIFER CONNER presents

BROKEN FACES

"In the aftermath of war, hope is sculpted from the scars, and love becomes the ultimate healer."

Amidst the devastation of WWI, Abigale Belorman and Colm Harp use their sculpting and metalsmithing skills to craft masks for injured soldiers, offering hope and normalcy. Their story showcases the resilience of the human spirit and the extraordinary lengths people go to make a difference in the world.

War changes all their lives, but if you can improve one person's life, is yours not for the better? What if you could help hundreds? What would you give up?



www.chriskarlsen.com



STORICAL FICTION BASED ON TRUE WWI EVENT:

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Amy Shannon's Fractured Tears. A Struggle for Justice

Anna's second chance ignited a fierce fight for her life and the pursuit of justice.

Amy Shannon

Fractured TEARS

A struggle for justice

2022 Expanded Version Anna Coleman extended a final opportunity to her husband, hoping to mend their fractured marriage. Instead, Ted seized that chance to attempt to kill her. Refusing to be defeated or broken,

Discover how Anna navigates her struggle for justice and confronts the personal demons born from years of betrayal and abuse at the hands of her husband of 13 years.

Anna's Story is a fictionalized account of the author's real-life experiences.



WHERE WOULD YOU GO TO DIE?

Sam Marshalls is dying. After discovering he has terminal lung cancer, Sam is faced with the reality that he has to let go of everything he cares about. By The Ocean is a man's journey on his own terms not into the unyielding tides of death, but the powerful waves of a life full of regrets.

BY THE OCEAN

BY

WILLIAM BECKER



WILLIAMBECKERAUTHOR.NET

January Releases

- Joan Donaldson's Ae Fond Kiss: Love Blossoms in Tennessee 1/9/2025
- Elyse Hoffman's The Hangman's Master 1/10/2025
- Alisa Jean's Lincoln: A Los Angeles Quakes Hockey Series 1/14/2025
- Anthony Mora's Hang Fire 1/15/2025

February Releases

- Melina Druga's Sex & Surprises 2/11/2025
- Laurel Maxwell's All The Pretty Things Are Dying 2/14/2025
- Richard Harland's Ferren and the

Invaders of Heaven 2/26/2025



"The author weaves a tangled web of story, and captures the reader... A well-written plot. An embraceable story." Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

"Moore builds a very complex and intriguing plot that will keep you guessing as to where each character's loyalties lie." -Author Victoria Nelson

"In a Society run by science, Sablites hunt down every hint of [magic] power, and Etioiny must use all her pluck, ingenuity, and determination to find the truth of the last dragonfly..." -Fantasy Author Azalea Dabill







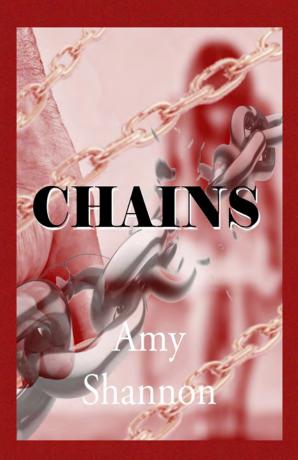


Submit your short story and have it considered for cash prizes, awards, a publishing contract, literary exposure and more...

indiesunited.net/small-bites

Amy Shannon's Chains

Ronnie clings to her memories and inner strength, determined to remember who she once was, and wonders if she will ever be the same again.



Veronica "Ronnie" Lawrence's life changed in an instant at the age of 12, when she was taken by "Mister." For over 3,000 days, she was held captive, enduring relentless abuse— sexual, physical, and emotional.Despite Mister's efforts to break her spirit, Ronnie clung to her memories and inner strength, determined to remember who she once was. As she grew older, Mister continued to take others, but he vowed never to release her. He filled her mind with lies and deceit, s o much so that even on day 3385, when s he was finally rescued, she believed he would come back for her.



Neal Goldstein's

In a fragmented America, dedicated public servants stand unwavering, ready to defend both their beloved city and the nation at any cost.

Detective Frank Benson and Sergeant Ophelia Brown-Thurman's investigation leads them into the underground snake pit of right-wing extremists still raging over the outcome of the 2020 election, and eager to lash out. As they race to determine a motive and unmask the culprit, another, deadlier conspiracy brews one that puts the new President-elect in the crosshairs.



NIVERSIT

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Author Spotlight Buff Whitman-Bradley

Buff Whitman-Bradley has been writing poetry for sixty years now. This is his sixth published book of poems. In addition, he has written two nonfiction books for middle school readers, and a handbook of poetryrelated language activities for teachers to use in the classroom. In the early 2000's he was a member of the organizing collective for Courage to Resist, and created the Courage to Resist Podcast, for which he interviewed members of the military who refused to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan. He and Sarah Lazare and Cynthia Whitman-Bradley turned those interviews into the oral history book About Face: Military Resisters Turn Against War (PM Press). He taught school for 15 years, including nine in kindergarten. He also worked in publishing as both a writer and an editor, for Sunset magazine, Learning and Family Learning magazines, and Parenting magazine, received and professional commendations from the Educational Press Association and the International Reading Association. He podcasts his poems at thirdactpoems.podbean.com. He and his wife, Cynthia, live in northern California.



Books by Buff Whitman-Bradley

Poetry b. eagle, poet The Honey Philosophies At the Driveway Guitar Sale The Heron Could Be Lost And What Will We Sing? A Friendly Little Tavern Somewhere Near the Pleiades

Nonfiction

Growing From Word Play Into Poetry Endings: A Book About Death Where Do I Belong? A Kids' Guide to Stepfamilies About Face: Military Resisters Turn Against War (ed.)



Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast

Podcasts will drop on the second and fourth Sunday of the Month at 6:00 PM .

-Your Book can be on the show -Author Interviews -Literary Representative Interviews -and much more... Scan the QR Code Below for more details.



Listen Here



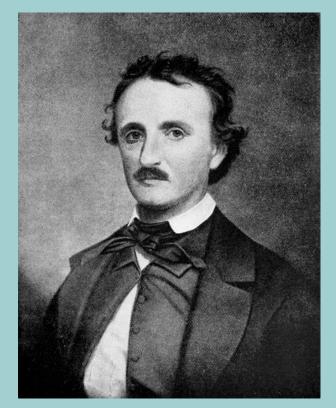
Author Spotlight Edgar Allen Poe (1809-1848)

Edgar Allen Poe was an American short-story writer, poet, critic, and editor who is famous for his cultivation of mystery and the macabre. His "The Raven" (1845) numbers among the best-known poems in national literature.

Poe was the son of the English-born actress Elizabeth Arnold Poe and David Poe, Jr., an actor from Baltimore. After his mother died in Richmond, Virginia, in 1811, he was taken into the home of John Allan, a Richmond merchant (presumably his godfather), and of his childless wife.

Poverty forced him to join the army under the name of Edgar A. Perry, but, on the death of Poe's foster mother, John Allan purchased his release from the army and helped him get an appointment to the <u>U.S.</u> <u>Military Academy at West Point</u>. Before going, Poe published *Al Aaraaf, Tamerlane, and Minor Poems* (1829).

Poe was a drinker, and in order to be able to talk to people, he needed the glass of sherry to help him. There were rumors that he was a drug addict, but he wasn't. He passed away from a brain lesion. He only gained the reputation of a drinker because he mainly drank in public, but never needed a drink to put pen to paper.



https://www.britannica.com/bio graphy/Edgar-Allan-Poe

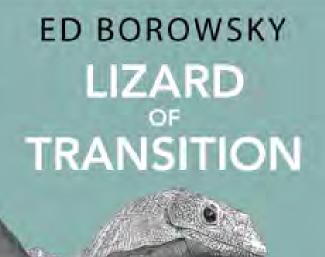
Ed Borowsky's Lizard of Transition

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 gutwrenching 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.





Advertisement

Amy Shannon's Contrary Measures

Rayna's quest for truth and trust leads her through a maze of secrets that could either shatter or save her.

Contrary Measures

Rayna's world fell apart in a single, devastating moment, pushing her to the brink of loneliness. Determined to rebuild her life, she embarks on a journey to find something anything—that will bring meaning and improvement. Her emotions and memories clash and contradict, leaving her questioning the past and uncertain about the future.

Amy Shannon



Author Interviews

Buff Whitman-Bradley

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

Buff Whitman-Bradley: Persistent, delighted, old

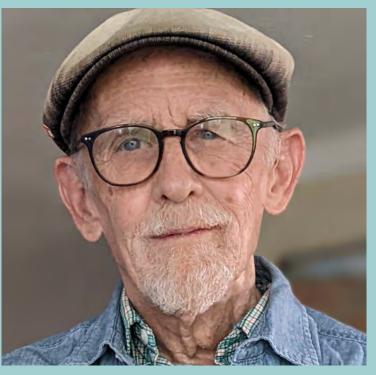
Literate-Ly Magazine: How many books have you written? How many of those are published?

Buff Whitman-Bradley: Six published books of poetry; two non-fiction books for midgrade readers; one teacher handbook with poetry/language activities for use in the classroom; one oral history book featuring interviews of soldiers who refused to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan (one of three editors)

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you have an upcoming release? If yes, tell me the title and impending release date.

Buff Whitman-Bradley: My new book of poems, "A Friendly Little Tavern Somewhere Near the Pleiades," will be published by Finishing Line Press in November, 2024.

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?

Buff Whitman-Bradley: The titles just sort of "happen" along with the poem itself.

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?

Buff Whitman-Bradley: I think the animals that inhabit my poems are quite interesting, because they don't behave the way we expect animals to behave, and offer a new way of looking at them and our relationships with them.

Whitman-Bradley cont'd

AND WHAT WILL WE SING?



poems

Buff Whitman-Bradley

Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could "create" your own genre of what you write, what would you call your books?

Buff Whitman-Bradley: Slightly askew.

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

Buff Whitman-Bradley: My last book was a collection of 25 years-worth of "protest" poetry. I've been an activist for a long time, have participated in all manner of protests, have been arrested frequently, and have written about those experiences as a way of drawing attention to the urgent and compelling issues they address.

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

Buff Whitman-Bradley: "...on such a day/A person could probably live forever/So you do" (From A Friendly Little Tavern Somewhere Near the Pleiades)

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

Buff Whitman-Bradley: I'm 80 years old and have been writing poetry since I was 19 when I had a kind of "run in" with Robert Bly, before he became famous. He was speaking at the college where I was a student, and I asked him a question about something he had said; he proceeded to rip into me for asking such a dumb question (it wasn't dumb at all), but for some reason, I was captivated by him the way everybody seemed captivated by him. I decided right then and there I wanted to be a poet, although I had not the slightest idea what that actually meant. Ever since then, I have been trying to find out, starting every day from scratch.

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

Buff Whitman-Bradley: On any given day, three different writers. Today, Jim Harrison, Grace Paley, Olav Hauge.

Whitman-Bradley cont'd

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

Buff Whitman-Bradley: The Bookshop by Penelope Fitzgerald

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

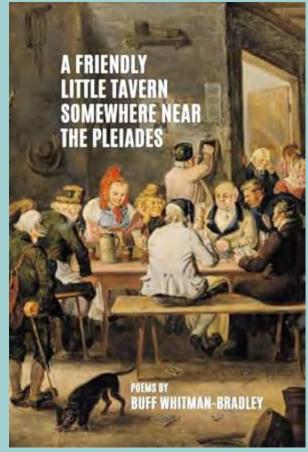
Buff Whitman-Bradley: Usually, when I sit down to write, which I do almost every day, I have no plan whatsoever, and write a lot of gibberish.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Buff Whitman-Bradley: Ah! The ancient and eternal question. It has changed over the years. When I was younger, I wanted to be wellknown (whatever that means), but now that I have thoroughly ripened, I want to write for the discoveries I make about the world I inhabit. Sometimes I'll come up with an insight, an image, a metaphor, that just tickles and delights me, or knocks me for a loop, and I feel enlarged in spirit as a result.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you currently have a WIP? If yes, what's the title, and is it part of a series or standalone?

Buff Whitman-Bradley: Always working on the next collection.



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

Buff Whitman-Bradley: Not much. When I do, it's like looking through old photo albums. But I don't hang out there.

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?

Buff Whitman-Bradley: I often have the local jazz station playing at low volume on the radio.

Whitman-Bradley cont'd

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?

Buff Whitman-Bradley: What an odd little creature a blurb is. I try to say something about what's inside, without praising myself too much. It's more like a classroom assignment – "In 50 words or less, say something about why this is a book worth reading."

Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could sit down and have a coffee (or your favorite beverage) with anyone, living or dead, from any era, any time, who would it be and why? (You can pick up to 3 persons).

Buff Whitman-Bradley: I would choose three ordinary people at random, not the famous or infamous. I'd like to know what their daily lives were like. Oh, I might also choose somebody like Harriet Tubman, who was a profoundly brave and humane human being. Or anyone who made great sacrifices to help others.

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

Buff Whitman-Bradley: Hah! I have no idea. I feel successful when a poem gets published. I

have friends who are quite well-known and successful writers. I should ask them.

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

Buff Whitman-Bradley: Just to write poems for as long as I can.

Literate-Ly Magazine: I am on a quest to read as many banned, burned or challenged books as possible? What is your feeling or opinion on banning books? It seems to be a new epidemic now.

Buff Whitman-Bradley: Book banning seems to come and go. When it comes around, it's always nasty, small-minded, and ultimately fruitless. It's also a great way to promote a book.

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

Buff Whitman-Bradley: I cannot speak as one who has fans or followers. I have a friend who enjoyed some attention for his first couple of novels. He used to say he had a "small but dwindling reputation." To my grandchildren I would say, if you want to be a writer, just write and keep writing. You don't have to be "successful" for writing to do its work within you. Your efforts will enlarge your life in all sorts of ways.



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Claudia Stanek

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

Claudia Stanek: Christian, Poet, Flawed

Literate-Ly Magazine: Have you published your poems in a collection? If so, how many books?

Claudia Stanek: My chapbook Language You Refuse to Learn won the 2013 Bright Hill Press chapbook contest.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you have an upcoming release of your poem(s)? If yes, tell me the title and impending release date.

Claudia Stanek: My latest chapbook, Beneath Occluded Shine, is currently in pre-sale from Finishing Line Press through mid-November. The release date is mid-January. Copies may be ordered here: <u>https://www.finishinglinepress.com/product</u> /<u>beneath-occluded-shine-by-claudia-mstanek/</u>

Literate-Ly Magazine: How many poems have you written?

Claudia Stanek: Hundreds.



Literate-Ly Magazine: When did you start writing poetry, and what inspired you to first put pen to paper?

Claudia Stanek: I started writing poetry in earnest twenty years ago. A wealth of experience in the immigrant community where I lived yielded unique stories and points of view that demanded to be shared.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What inspires your prose or poem?

Claudia Stanek: What inspires is usually something completely mundane with a larger metaphorical impact. Sometimes a bird is not just a bird and a hymn is not just a hymn.

Stanek cont'd

Literate-Ly Magazine: How do you put your poetry together? (Free verse, rhyme, meter, form, ballad, epic, etc...)

Claudia Stanek: I rarely incorporate form into my work. I prefer to work without constraints unless the poem insists upon them.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Quote your favorite line from one of your poems.

Claudia Stanek: "Bury as you go." It's also the title of a chapbook manuscript I am currently circulating.

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

Claudia Stanek: I grew up in a kennel. Literally. My family owned a dog breeding, grooming and boarding facility. My only real friends as a child were dogs.

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

Claudia Stanek: Christian Wiman, John Poch, and Sharon Olds.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you read other people's poetry, either classic poems or contemporary?

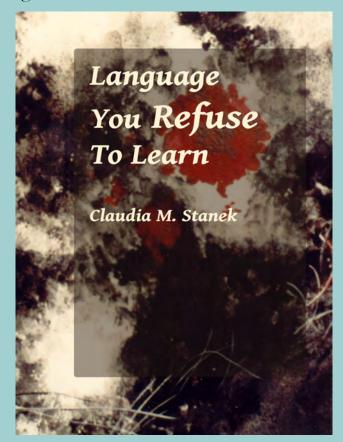
Claudia Stanek: I believe that in order to write good poems one needs to read good poetry. I read the famous and not-so famous, mostly contemporary but it is always beneficial to look back on the canon and even the old ballads.

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

Claudia Stanek: I have no system. I only write when inspired which means I am not as prolific as most other poets.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Claudia Stanek: Some things still need to be said that have not been said from the point of view of my experience growing up between two conflicting cultures that later became homogenized, as mine did.



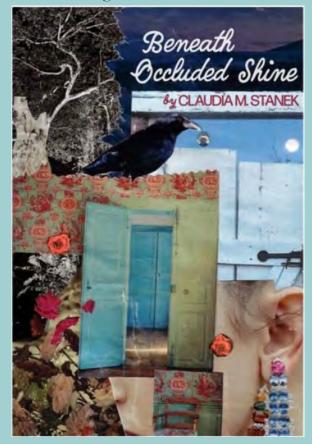
Stanek Cont'd

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

Claudia Stanek: I only read my own work prior to assembling a new collection or giving a public reading. For me once a poem is published, it is done.

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?

Claudia Stanek: I find music to be a distraction for me when writing.



Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could sit down and have a coffee (or your favorite beverage) with anyone, living or dead, from any era, any time, who would it be and why? (You can pick up to 3 persons).

Claudia Stanek: Jesus, Sylvia Plath, my late father.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What does it mean to be a "successful" poet?

Claudia Stanek: To be a successful poet means to have one's work reach its appropriate audience.

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

Claudia Stanek: Other than having a full-length collection published, I would like to be thought of as someone who advocated for those more deserving.

Literate-Ly Magazine: I am on a quest to read as many banned, burned or challenged books as possible? What is your feeling or opinion on banning books? It seems to be a new epidemic now.

Claudia Stanek: I find that banning books only stimulates curiosity to read them. People can choose what to read on their own but no one should be forced to read anything.

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Stanek Cont'd

Literate-Ly Magazine: Any final thoughts that you want to give to your fans or even future poets? Claudia Stanek: If you want to be a better poet, put down your pen and read the masters.







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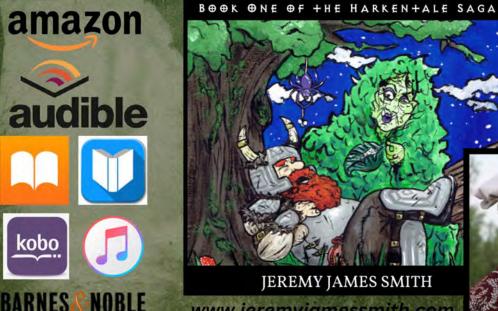
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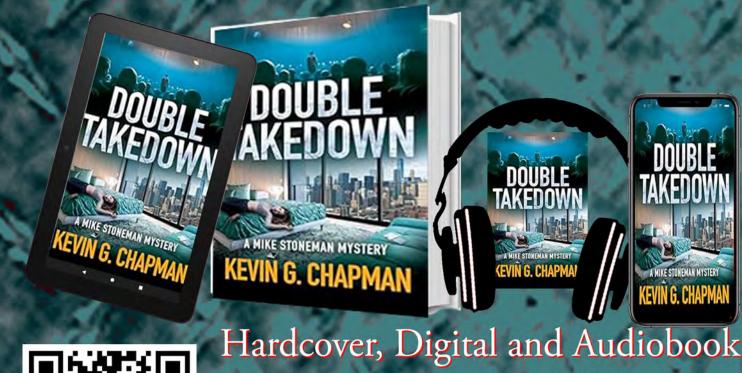
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Kevin G. Chapman's Double Takedown

What happens when a closed case cracks wide open?

NYPD homicide detectives Mike Stoneman and Jason Dickson are preparing to testify at a highprofile murder trial. They busted a Broadway director, who poisoned his leading actor to collect the insurance money on his doomed show. Or did he? The director claims the evidence was planted to frame him and that Mike and Jason developed tunnel vision. If they did, can they live with themselves, knowing that an innocent man might be convicted . . . and someone else got away with the perfect crime?

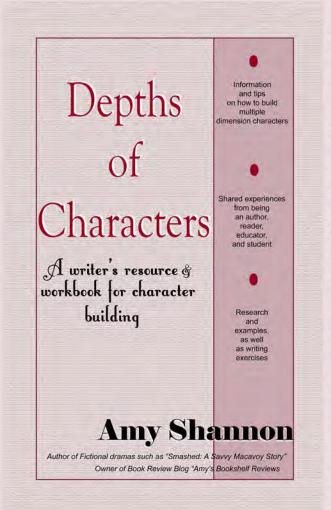


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Amy Shannon's workbook for writers!

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





Amy Shannon is an author, Book Reviewer (Amy's Bookshelf Reviews) and host of the Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast.

Amy has written over 140 novels, poetry, short stories, and two nonfiction books. This being the first nonfiction workbook, and her second nonfiction book was published in March of 2024, called Balls-Town: A Community of History, Friends, Neighbors, and Lingering Spirits

Most of her stories are fictional dramas featuring strong, female characters, though a few 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.

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

John Miles

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

John Miles: Driven, intentional, inspiring.

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

John Miles: I've written two books; one published non-fiction titled *Passion Struck: Twelve Powerful Principles to Unlock Your Purpose and Ignite Your Most Intentional Life*, and an unpublished children's book.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you have an upcoming release? If yes, tell me the title and impending release date.

John Miles: I am currently working on my second non-fiction book, which is yet to be titled. There's no confirmed release date yet, but I'm excited about the insights and transformations it will bring to my readers.

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?

John Miles: The process of coming up with a title is both strategic and creative. It often begins with identifying the core message or theme of the book.



For *Passion Struck*, the title emerged early on because it encapsulated the concept of intentional living and the powerful impact that living with passion and purpose can have on someone's life. In some cases, I start with a working title as a placeholder, which evolves as the book takes shape.

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?

John Miles: In my unpublished children's book, the protagonist, a curious young explorer, embodies resilience and wonder. This character is fascinating because it mirrors the journey of discovering one's place in the world, which resonates deeply with both young readers and adults.

Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could "create" your own genre of what you write, what would you call your books?

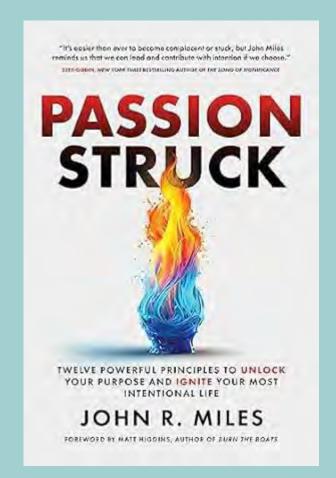
John Miles: I'm actually considering creating my own publishing arm that would focus on telling the stories of everyday heroes. Too often, the heroes we admire seem larger than life-almost like comic characters, making their lives book and achievements feel unattainable for most people. I want to shift that narrative by showing that living a life of significance is within everyone's reach. Through these stories of everyday individuals who have overcome challenges and made a meaningful impact, I hope to inspire people to see that they, too, can live heroic lives. I'd call this genre something "Everyday "Attainable Heroism" or like Significance"—highlighting that heroism isn't about perfection or grandeur, but about living with purpose, resilience, and impact in our everyday actions.

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

John Miles: *Passion Struck* is really about how you become the everyday hero of your own story. It's a journey of self-discovery and personal mastery, helping you realize that the

most amazing person you'll ever meet is the one staring back at you in the mirror. However, that same person is often their own harshest critic. The book is designed to help close that gap between who you are and who you want to become, providing actionable principles that guide readers in overcoming self-doubt and embracing intentionality. It's about stepping into your purpose, living with passion, and unlocking your potential to lead a life filled with significance and impact.

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



John Miles: "Every moment is a choice: to spread kindness, lift others, and create good ripples in the world." – John R. Miles. This came from a recent podcast episode I wrote honoring the legacy of cognitive neuroscientist Emile Bruneau. (Link: <u>Emile Bruneau on</u> <u>Dehumanization and Conflict Resolution</u>)

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

John Miles: Outside of writing, I host the *Passion Struck* podcast and speak regularly on topics related to personal growth, leadership, and intentional living. I'm passionate about sailing and biking, both of which keep me grounded and energized. As a Navy veteran, I'm deeply involved in supporting veteran causes, and I also advocate for cancer research, particularly in the area of early detection. Most importantly, I'm a proud parent of two amazing kids, who inspire me daily to live with purpose and impact.

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

John Miles: My top three favorite authors are Susan Cain for her profound work on introversion and the power of quiet leadership, Napoleon Hill for his timeless wisdom on success and personal development, and Seth Godin for his innovative insights on marketing, leadership, and making a meaningful impact in the world. These authors have had a lasting influence on my views of purpose, success, and intentional living.

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

John Miles: The last book I read was *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey, but the best way to experience it is by listening to him narrate it. It's a really great book and an even more fun listen—his voice brings the stories and life lessons to life in such an authentic and entertaining way.

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

John Miles: I start with an outline to create some structure, then free-flow through the initial draft to get my ideas down. After that, I dive into research in areas like psychology, behavioral science, and neuroscience to support what I'm teaching with solid evidence. I go through multiple rounds of edits, but I like to let the writing sit for a while before revisiting it with fresh, "alien eyes." This helps me see it from a new perspective and refine the message for clarity and impact.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

John Miles: I write to inspire change and help people unlock their full potential. For me, writing

is a way to share the lessons I've learned, to explore deeper truths about human behavior, and to provide actionable insights that empower others to live with intention and purpose. It's about creating impact—whether that's through personal growth, leadership, or finding meaning in everyday life. Writing allows me to connect with others on a deeper level and help them transform their lives for the better.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you currently have a WIP? If yes, what's the title, and is it part of a series or standalone?

John Miles: Yes, I'm currently working on a book that tackles what I believe is one of the most pressing issues we face today: the pervasive sense of *UnMattering*. It's not just about feeling unseen or unimportant; it's about the growing epidemic of people who feel disconnected, hopeless, and like their lives lack true meaning. We live in a world where it's easy to get lost in comparison, distraction, and noise, and the result is often a deep sense of isolation and selfdoubt.

Drawing inspiration from William James' insight that being ignored can create a sense of "rage and impotent despair," this book is about reclaiming your significance. I've come to realize that true well-being comes from understanding how much you matter not just to the world, but to yourself. It's about more than external validation; it's about internal empowerment. This project offers practical strategies to help people rediscover their worth, build authentic self-confidence, and live with intention and impact, even in a world that can often feel overwhelming and indifferent.

Through this journey, I hope to inspire readers to break free from the weight of *UnMattering* and find their place, not just in society, but within themselves.

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

John Miles: Yes, I read my work as I'm writing to ensure the concepts flow naturally and that I stay true to the message. It helps me reflect on whether I'm delivering value in the most impactful way. I also think it is important to continue to connect your writing back to previous works you have done so there is a foundation people can turn back to.

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?

John Miles: I actually prefer to write in silence, without distractions.

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?

John Miles: For me, the hardest part is getting the introduction to the concept right. You have to hook a reader from the very beginning, or they won't read any further. That first impression sets the tone for everything else, so it has to be compelling, clear, and immediately engaging. If I can nail that, the rest of the book flows much more smoothly.

Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could sit down and have a coffee (or your favorite beverage) with anyone, living or dead, from any era, any time, who would it be and why? (You can pick up to 3 persons).

John Miles: I'd love to sit down with Marcus Aurelius, the Stoic philosopher, to understand how he maintained wisdom and clarity as an emperor facing immense challenges. Second, I'd choose Maya Angelou for her profound insights on resilience, creativity, and the power of words to heal. Lastly, I'd pick Leonardo da Vinci, whose boundless curiosity and mastery across so many fields would make for a fascinating conversation innovation. creativity, and the on interconnectedness of art and science. Each of these individuals offers timeless wisdom that still resonates deeply today.

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

John Miles: For me, success as a writer means creating books that don't just sit on a shelf collecting dust, but are pulled out and actively used to guide someone's life. I want my books to be more than just something you read—I want them to be something you live. If my work can inspire real, lasting change in how someone approaches their life, then I've achieved my goal as a writer.

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

John Miles: I want to be able to look back and say that I started a movement that helped people live with intention and purpose. Through Passion my mission is to harness Struck, the transformative power of intentionality. I envision a world where every individual not only lives more profoundly but evolves into the best version of themselves. My goal is to leave a lasting impact by helping people uncover their true, authentic selves—because that's where the essence of mattering truly resides. If I can inspire even a few people to live more deeply and discover their own significance, I'll know I did what I set out to do.

Literate-Ly Magazine: I am on a quest to read as many banned, burned or challenged books as possible? What is your feeling or opinion on banning books? It seems to be a new epidemic now.

John Miles: I believe banning books is an incredibly dangerous practice. Books are meant to challenge our thinking, broaden our perspectives, and ignite conversations—even the

uncomfortable ones. When we start banning or censoring books, we limit access to diverse ideas, histories, and viewpoints, which ultimately stifles growth and understanding. The beauty of literature is that it allows us to explore the world through different lenses, and that freedom is essential to progress, empathy, and self-discovery. Rather than banning books, we should encourage more critical discussions around them. Censorship doesn't protect us—it weakens us by depriving us of the opportunity to learn and grow.



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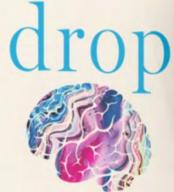


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Dr. Helen McKibben

Dr. Helen McKibben Author



Making Great Decisions

USE NEUROSCIENCE TO RETRAIN YOUR BRAIN AND MAKE BETTER LIFE CHOICES

Dr. Helen McKibben

From the Authors of

Brain Warp & Too Late to Run

Gil Snider and Judy Snider presents the thriller BETRAYED

On a routine mammogram one year after a simple breast biopsy, a mysterious piece of metal is found embedded in writer Amy Lambert's breast. Amy becomes consumed by a desperate search to determine how and why this bizarre thing got there. At the same time, she must discover the identity of a violent, threatening stalker intruding into her life. But the closer Amy gets to the answers, the more it imperils the lives of herself, her friends, and her family. In the exciting climax, the truth is exposed and Amy's entire world is turned upside down as she fights for her life and the lives of those she loves.

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Micah Dawanyi

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

Micah Dawanyi: Ambitious and creative, yet introverted.

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

Micah Dawanyi: I've written and published three books! My first-ever title *Step Into My Shoes* (a nonfiction memoir) is now archived but was available for several years. My more recent books (novels) will remain published, though. Those two titles are *Battle Scars & Blossoms* and *When the Record Stops Spinning*.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you have an upcoming release? If yes, tell me the title and impending release date.

Micah Dawanyi: No, but I just released my third book, *When the Record Stops Spinning* in August! It's my favorite of the three I've written. I feel like I evolve artistically each time I set out to write, so it's only natural.

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?



Micah Dawanyi: I create the titles before I start writing. I like to sketch ideas when I'm brainstorming, and usually, I'll find that Godgiven inspiration then. It's not really forced, either. The title of my third book came to me as I got up from the couch to get a glass of water. The title of my second book came to me randomly as well.

I can be a bit of an overthinker at times, but so far, I've never wavered after choosing an initial title. Anything can happen in the future, though. I'm open to changing a title if I need to.

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?

Micah Dawanyi: Probably Sahara from my latest novel. It's a sci-fi adventure, and Sahara is a science prodigy who figures out a way to manipulate time using music. One thing I was

adamant about was avoiding the "scientist who only knows/cares about science" trope, so Sahara became an incredibly complex character as I designed her. In the story, her personality doesn't diminish the "wow factor" of her genius intellect, but instead adds layers to it. She was also the first character I started working on for the story, so I spent the most time with her.

Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could "create" your own genre of what you write, what would you call your books?

Micah Dawanyi: I would call my books Conversational Adventure. The characters are always setting out on some kind of adventure that is going to transform them, tangibly or psychologically.

The "conversational" word speaks to my style of storytelling. I like to use parts of my stories to express what is floating around in the minds of my characters. This creates an intimate relationship between the characters and readers, almost like a real conversation is taking place.

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

Micah Dawanyi: *When the Record Stops Spinning* is an adventure novel that explores human

connections between music and time, as the characters use musical sci-fi elements to open gateways to the past. But beyond the general plot points, the story explores grief. The main character, Kairo, is an artist who lost his ability to create and is grieving the loss of his identity. about story his tumultuous The is confrontations with all of the versions of himself that he once held dear. His mental state is a recipe for chaos... especially once he begins revisiting the past.

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

Micah Dawanyi: "The greatest thing you can do for your child is give them a childhood they do not have to heal from." That line is from my 2022 novel, Battle Scars & Blossoms.

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



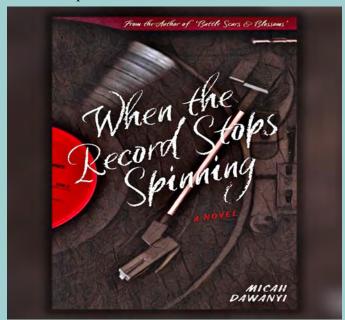
Micah Dawanyi: I'm a first-generation American. My dad is from Zimbabwe and my mom is from Jamaica. And, ironically, they met in Barcelona at the 1992 Olympics.

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

Micah Dawanyi: Henry Wrinkler is one, just because of what his novels meant to me when I was a child. These days, I also like John Green and Yaa Gyasi. The narration styles they use are always extremely captivating and full of emotion.

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

Micah Dawanyi: *A Man Called Otto*, by Fredrik Backman. I watched the movie with Tom Hanks first, which alerted me to the novel. Both were beautiful pieces of work!



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

Micah Dawanyi: I usually plan about 70 percent of the story and leave the remaining 30 percent for spontaneity. There are some things that I cannot see until I'm immersed in a scene, so leaving room for improvisation is important. I think I plan even more now than when I first started writing, but still, balancing preparation and impulse works best for me. For the scenes that are planned, I'll outline or use storyboard panels and then leave the rest to my imagination.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Micah Dawanyi: I started because I wanted to educate, enlighten, and inspire with my work. I still care about those things, but my relationship with writing has become more personal in a way. These days, I write because I *must*. I've fallen so deep into this wonderful world of artistry. The stories are always just dying to come out... I couldn't suppress them if I tried.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you currently have a WIP? If yes, what's the title, and is it part of a series or standalone?

Micah Dawanyi: Because I just released my third book, I don't have any current works in progress. However, I have gone back to sketching new concepts, so I'll probably start working on a fourth book soon. Maybe at the top of 2025.

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

Micah Dawanyi: Not for entertainment, no. I read my old work when working on new projects because I find it's best to compete against myself. I'm not interested in comparing my writing to other authors. But when I read and reference my own work, I'm able to find new ways to push myself creatively. I always want to raise my level when I set out on a new project, so it's good to reflect.

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?

Micah Dawanyi: I do listen to music, but nothing with lyrics. I'd probably start singing along and get distracted. I mostly listen to Lofi instrumentals, classical music, and film scores when I write. Two of my favorite composers are Dustin O'Halloran and Wataru Sato. If you need calm, ambient music that still strikes emotion, they're perfect.



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?

Micah Dawanyi: I completely relate! The synopsis is always the hardest to write for me. I'm always trying to walk that fine line between making the book sound interesting and not giving too much away. I usually have to rewrite the synopsis multiple times while consulting with my team to find the right balance.

Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could sit down and have a coffee (or your favorite beverage) with anyone, living or dead, from any era, any time, who would it be and why? (You can pick up to 3 persons).

Micah Dawanyi: Recency bias is probably influencing my answers, but I'd want to sit down with Daisuke Ashihara, Chadwick Boseman, and Ava DuVernay. I'm a massive fan of their work as storytellers. I'd just want to pick their brain about art and how they develop and build stories. I'm sure I'd gain some insightful new perspectives.

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

Micah Dawanyi: The meaning shifts from artist to artist. For me, to be successful is to tell the stories I'm truly passionate about, execute to the highest level of my ability, and have a core audience to share with.

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

Micah Dawanyi: I want to make an entire living out of art. Writing novels and scripts, illustrating, and even voice acting. I want to look back and know that I developed my skillset so much to the point where I could live solely off my creativity. Things are going pretty well, but that'd be absolutely amazing. I know I'd also get to meet a lot of impactful people and see the world along the way.

Literate-Ly Magazine: I am on a quest to read as many banned, burned or challenged books as possible? What is your feeling or opinion on banning books? It seems to be a new epidemic now.

Micah Dawanyi: This is a difficult topic because book bans differ depending on the district or region of the country. I do think that many of the book bans are crafted with malicious intent. I've seen bans on books created simply for documenting history in marginalized communities. I've also seen instances where one or a small group of people were able to establish book bans for *entire* school programs... without consulting others. The situation has become extremely problematic, in my opinion.

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

Micah Dawanyi: To all the readers, I hope we'll continue to grow together. Through my work, I'm choosing to share a piece of my soul with you, and I have so much gratitude for your receptiveness. Thank you for coming along on this journey with me!

And to future authors, embrace your individuality. It's your superpower. The world needs *your* perspective.



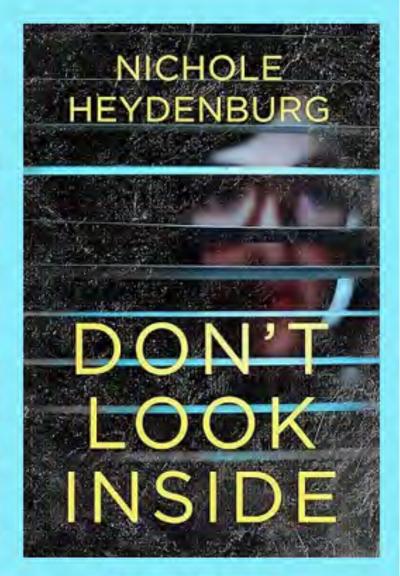
Nichole Heydenburg's Don't Look Inside

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?

In this gripping psychological thriller, Elena must confront the unsettling reality—the true culprits may be hiding in plain sight, ready to shatter her world forever.





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Thomas Deconna

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?

Thomas Deconna: Franklin Bowman from *Season* of *Restorations*. His name is an allusion to Ben Franklin, and he acts as a metaphor for the American Dream, what is was at the start and what it is now.

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

Thomas Deconna: It's called *Accustomed to the Dark*. It's an allegory that suggests our problems from the past extend to the present.

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

Thomas Deconna: Ralph Ellison, Joseph Conrad, Anne Tyler

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

Thomas Deconna: Long Island



Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Thomas Deconna: Writing is something that some people must do, whether it makes sense to go on with it or not.

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?

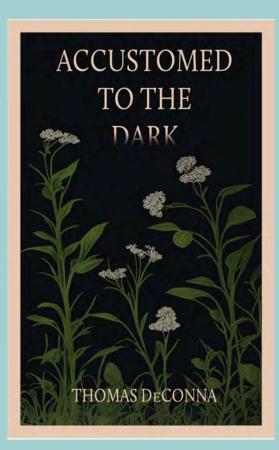
Thomas Deconna: The first line because it sets everything in motion.

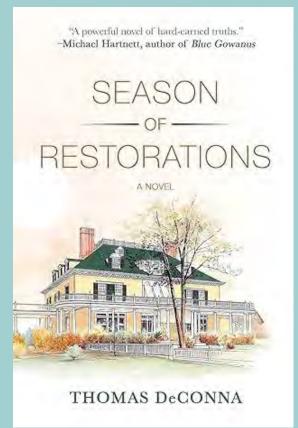
Deconna cont'd

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

Thomas Deconna: To create a piece of writing that lasts, and if the work lasts, that means it touches other people's lives.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Any final thoughts that you want to give to your fans or even future authors? Thomas Deconna: I am grateful to have my work published, and I hope most people will feel the same about it.







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Sit Down with Author, Editor, Professional Book Reviewer Amy Shannon.

Comment or ask questions while Amy discusses literature, the publishing process, writing tips and advice, and bascially any thing literary.

Amy has been writing since she could hold a pen. She's written everything from short stories, poetry, academic papers, technical documents, novels, and reviews.



Sit Down

my Shann

Join Amy on the first Saturday of the Month

Edith Wharton

Literate-Ly Magazine: How many books have you written?

Edith Wharton: I have written over 40 books, including novels, short stories, and non-fiction works. My literary career spanned several decades, allowing me to explore various themes and styles.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What was your most popular book?

Edith Wharton: "The Age of Innocence" is perhaps my most popular and critically acclaimed novel. It won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1921, making me the first woman to receive this honor¹.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Did you think that writing would become a legacy for you?

Edith Wharton: I hoped my writing would leave a lasting impact. I aimed to capture the complexities of society and human nature, and it is gratifying to see my works continue to be read and appreciated.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What is your favorite place to write?

Edith Wharton: I loved writing at my home, The Mount, in Lenox, Massachusetts. The serene environment and beautiful gardens provided the perfect backdrop for my creative process².

Literate-Ly Magazine: How did people perceive you as a writer?

Note: This is a fictional interview, using Copilot to simulate this author's responses.



Edith Wharton: People saw me as a keen observer of society, particularly the upper class. My insights into social norms and human behavior were both praised and critiqued, but they certainly sparked conversation.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What kind of reviews did you get?

Edith Wharton: My reviews varied. Many praised my detailed characterizations and social commentary, while others were less favorable, particularly when my works challenged societal norms.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What was the worst story you ever wrote? Did it get published?

Edith Wharton

Edith Wharton: Every writer has their less successful pieces. I once wrote a story that lacked the depth and nuance I strive for. It was never published, serving as a reminder to always maintain high standards.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What was your favorite story that you wrote?

Edith Wharton: "Ethan Frome" holds a special place in my heart. Its exploration of human suffering and the constraints of society resonated deeply with me and my readers².

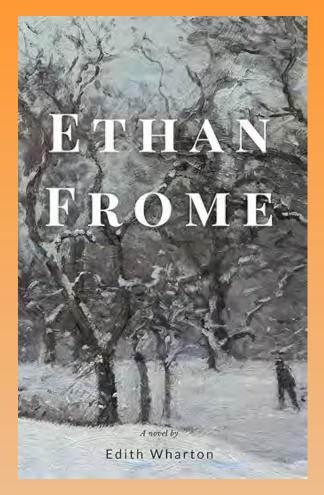
Literate-Ly Magazine: What was the worst review you ever got?

Edith Wharton: One particularly harsh review criticized "The House of Mirth" for its portrayal of the upper class. While it was difficult to read, it also highlighted the provocative nature of my work.

Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could give advice to centuries of authors, what would it be?

Edith Wharton: Write with authenticity and courage. Do not shy away from difficult subjects or controversial themes. Literature should challenge and inspire.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Did you have any writer friends?



Edith Wharton: Yes, I was fortunate to have friendships with many talented writers, including Henry James. Our discussions were a source of great inspiration and support².

Literate-Ly Magazine: Did you share your work with anyone before it was published?

Edith Wharton: I often shared my drafts with close friends and trusted confidants. Their feedback was invaluable in refining my work and ensuring its quality.

Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could talk to anyone, living or dead, who would it be and why?

Edith Wharton: I would love to converse with Jane Austen. Her keen observations of society and brilliant wit have always inspired me. It would be fascinating to exchange ideas with such a literary icon.

Helen Keller

Literate-Ly Magazine: Good day, Ms. Keller. It's a pleasure to have you with us. To start, how many books have you written?

Helen Keller: Thank you for having me. <u>Over my</u> lifetime, I authored 14 books and numerous essays and speeches¹.

Literate-Ly Magazine: That's impressive! Which of your books is the most popular?

Helen Keller: "The Story of My Life" is undoubtedly my most popular work. <u>It has been</u> translated into over 50 languages and remains in print today².

Literate-Ly Magazine: Did you ever think that writing would become such a significant part of your legacy?

Helen Keller: I hoped that my writing would make a difference, but I never imagined it would have such a lasting impact. My goal was always to share my experiences and advocate for those with disabilities.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What was your favorite place to write?

Helen Keller: I loved writing in my study at home, surrounded by the familiar and comforting environment. It was a place where I could focus and let my thoughts flow freely. Note: This is a fictional interview, using Copilot to simulate this author's responses.



Literate-Ly Magazine: How did people perceive you as a writer?

Helen Keller: People were often amazed by my ability to write despite my disabilities. They saw me as a symbol of perseverance and resilience. <u>However</u>, some were more interested in my personal story than my literary skills³.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What kind of reviews did you receive?

Helen Keller: Most reviews were positive, praising my determination and the clarity of my writing. Critics appreciated my unique perspective and the insights I provided into the world of those with disabilities.

Helen Keller

Literate-Ly Magazine: Was there ever a story you wrote that you considered the worst? Did it get published?

Helen Keller: There were certainly pieces I wasn't entirely satisfied with, but I believe every work has its value. One of my lesser-known essays, "Strike Against War," didn't receive much attention initially, but it was still published.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What was your favorite story that you wrote?

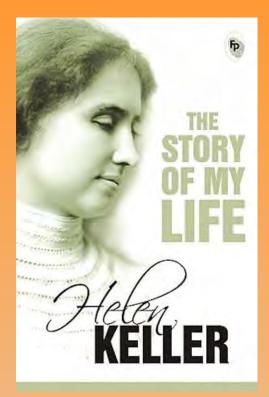
Helen Keller: "The Story of My Life" holds a special place in my heart. It was my first major work and allowed me to share my journey with the world.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What was the worst review you ever received?

Helen Keller: The worst reviews were those that dismissed my work as merely a curiosity due to my disabilities. It was disheartening, but I focused on the positive impact my writing had on many readers.

Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could give advice to centuries of authors, what would it be?

Helen Keller: My advice would be to write with passion and authenticity. Embrace your unique voice and experiences, and don't be afraid to tackle difficult subjects. Your words have the power to inspire and create change.



Literate-Ly Magazine: Did you have any writer friends?

Helen Keller: Yes, I was fortunate to have many friends in the literary world. Mark Twain was a dear friend and a great source of encouragement and inspiration.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Did you share your work with anyone before it was published?

Helen Keller: Absolutely. Anne Sullivan, my teacher and lifelong companion, was my first reader and editor. Her feedback was invaluable in shaping my work.

Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could talk to anyone, living or dead, who would it be and why?

Helen Keller: I would love to speak with Alexander Graham Bell again. His early support and belief in my potential were instrumental in my journey. I would thank him for his unwavering faith in me.

What if you found out your childhood memories were false?

Campbell offers a powerful understanding of the impact of trauma and the journey of finding her own truth.

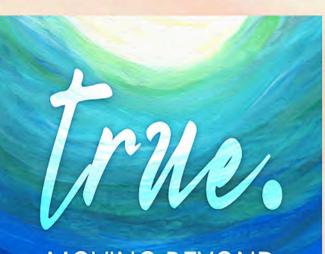
> - Claudia Black, PhD. Author of It Will Never Happen to Me, Unspoken Legacy, Deceived: Facing Sexual Betrayal, Lies, and Secrets

true. masterfully makes you question who you are and what you believe. - Dr. R. Y. Langham, Author and

Psychologist

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Amy Shannon's MOD Life Epic Saga

The entire Saga, 67 volumes, and 9 bonus books all available on Lulu.com





HUZKELL SHAPONE

WHEN LOVE GOES TOO FAR



"YOU NEED TO DROP EVERYTHING AND READ THIS ONE ASAP" -PAIGE RAY, UNVEILING NIGHTMARES

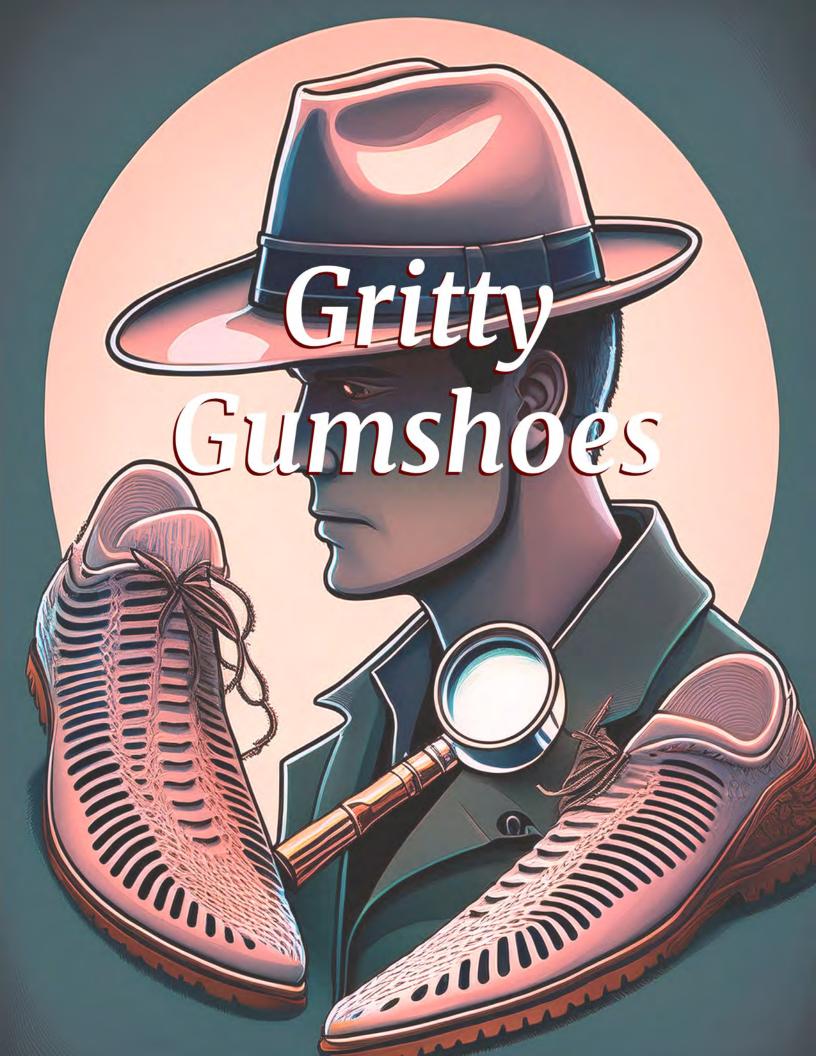
"IF YOU WANT SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE YOU QUESTION YOUR BELIEFS WHILE ALSO HORRIFYING YOU THIS IS THE ONE BOOK YOU NEED." Z. MARTIN, AUTHOR OF TALES FROM CHESTERFIELD

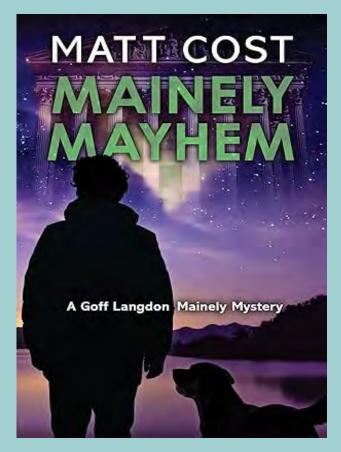
Meet Pete, a depressed misanthrope with a dry sense of humor and questionable morals. His life takes a chaotic turn when Kim, his semi-friend, semi crush introduces him to her new partner, Ben.

Together, they encourage Pete to cut loose and socialize. Little does Pete know that he's about to have the most wild night of his life by entering into a world of sex, drugs, violence, and debauchery.









About the Book: Things were not right in Brunswick. Chabal is wracked by the nightmare that had been the Wendigo. Langdon is hired to investigate the questionable moral integrity of one of Brunswick's favorite sons and gets thunked in the head and left to die on a boat mooring in the Atlantic Ocean. And that is just the beginning of the bad.

Judge Cornelius Remington is being fasttracked to be a Supreme Court Justice. Why? After only a five-day investigation of Remington, Langdon is pulled from the case, suggesting that the judge had already been rubberstamped, and that the White House staff and FBI had just been going through the motions. But there are questions about the man's past that Langdon couldn't shake, a past that just might live in the present.

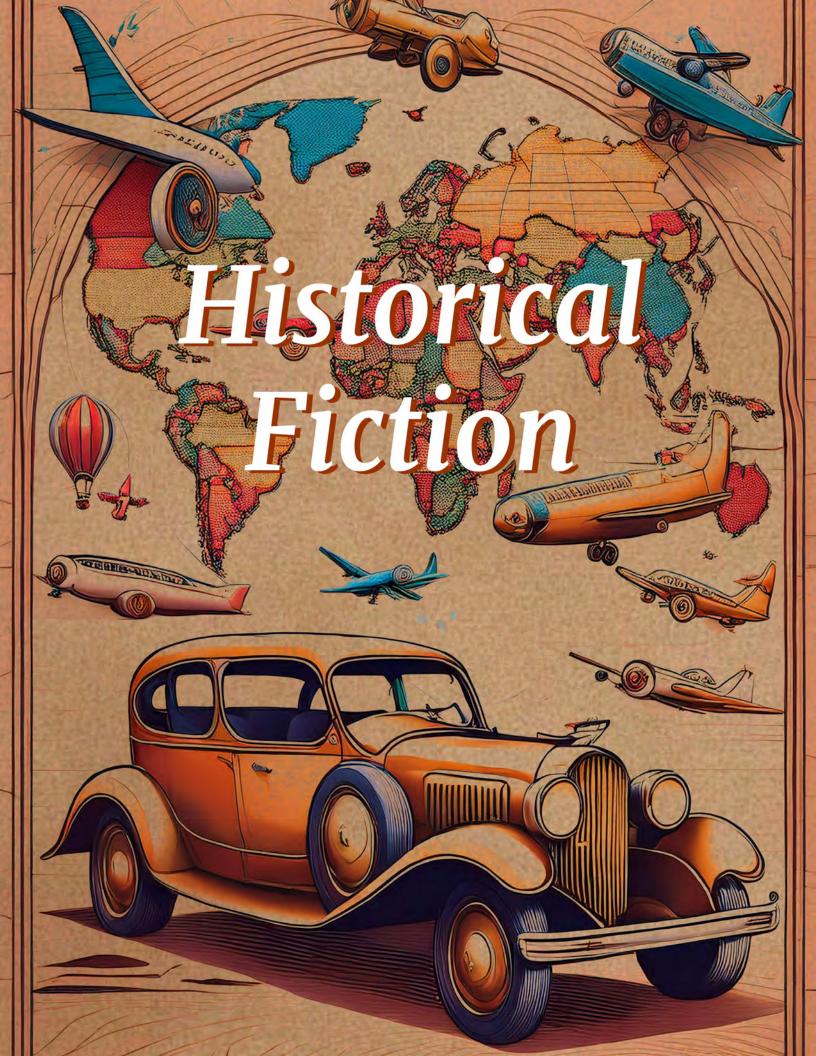
Matt Cost- Mainely Mayhem

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

5 Stars

Matt Cost writes a phenomenal tale with Mainely Mayhem

In Mainely Mayhem, the reader is taken back into the life of Goff Langdon, and this story seems one of the best ones yet, and I love the Goff Langdon Mainely Mystery series. Volume 6 is better than I could imagine, and now Langdon has a new case, and it involves a certain leader who lives in a big white house in Washington DC. I am a big fan of Matt Cost and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. Langdon must investigate a Judge Remington, who was just nominated for a Supreme Court position. And he finds out some disturbing things, not just about the Judge, but his associates and family, and how secrets and jealousy spew out into the political world. Another grand story of murder, mayhem, and the search for the real truth, not the fake news. The web of deceit surrounding the death of an old friend of the Judge's, show that no one is above suspicion, and further investigation, can result in something more sinister. A very unpredictable story, my favorite kind! What a gripping and incredible storyline. It is always an honor to read Matt Cost's books, they are just phenomenal.



Chris Karlsen and Jennifer Conner-Broken Faces

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

5 Stars

First, I must say that the authors' write such an amazingly realistic story. I wanted to also make a note on how well the story was put together between the collaboration of two authors. The story is seamless, and it follows the lives of Abby and Colm, just for starters. Abby and Colm come from two different worlds, two different statuses in life and two different countries. Then you insert World War I. Abby and Colm become part of the war-torn world. The reader learns about Colm's family and his back story, and his relationship with his mother, sister, and brother, Danny. Danny enlists in the war so that he is not seen as a coward anymore. Abby finds herself in an arrangement of marriage, where it seems only her husband can do what he wants. Abby sees her world differently from her parents, especially her father. Being in an arrangement or contract of marriage is also a loveless and lonely marriage, unless you like the perks of being rich. The reader meets many persons along the way, and one of my favorites is Rosie, who was basically a servant, but also best friend of Abby. The world gets turned upside down. For the characters, for their families and for the



soldiers, who live or die, or just be. I have read Chris Karlsen's work before, and I do love this collaboration with her and Jennifer Conner. This story is based on factual events, such as artists of all kinds, giving faces back to soldiers who lost them. Abby and Colm, give those who had their faces literally broken, back to them, and it changes their lives, and outlook on life. The end of the book shows real-life photos and may be disturbing but you get the need for Abby and Colm's artistry and humanity. It is a long read, and took me several days to read it, but not because I couldn't put it down, because I had to put it down. It is worth every single word in the story, and this story should be shared.

Chris Karlsen and Jennifer Conner- Broken Faces

About the book:

Amidst the devastation of World War I, a young American woman named Abigale Belorman discovers a profound calling: to restore hope to the WWI wounded soldiers. In France they were called 'Gueules Cassees', or 'Broken Faces'. Using her sculpting skills, she begins crafting intricate masks that conceal the scars of war, offering a semblance of normalcy to those who have endured unimaginable suffering.

Colm Harp, a skilled metalsmith, is driven by his own wounds and a personal tragedy to join Abigale's mission. His younger brother, Danny, has returned from the war with devastating facial injuries, and Colm is determined to give him a chance at a life worth living. Together, Colm and Abigale embark on a journey of compassion and resilience, their work becoming a beacon of hope for countless wounded soldiers.

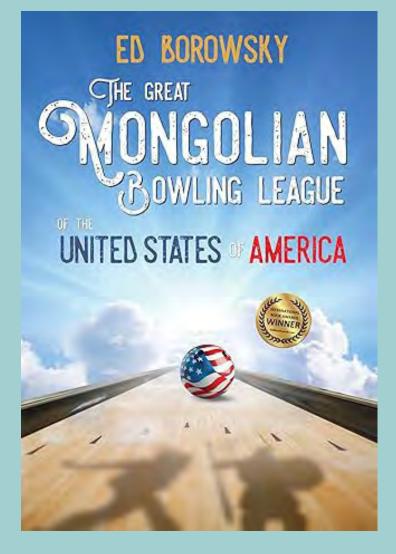
As they navigate the challenges of war-torn Europe and the limitations of early 20thcentury medicine, Abigale and Colm discover the transformative power of human will. Their story is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, the enduring power of love, and the extraordinary lengths people will go to make a difference in the world.

War changes all their lives, but if you can improve one person's life, is yours not for the better? What if you could help hundreds? What would you give up?

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 selfprofessed "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 mobsterowners. 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.



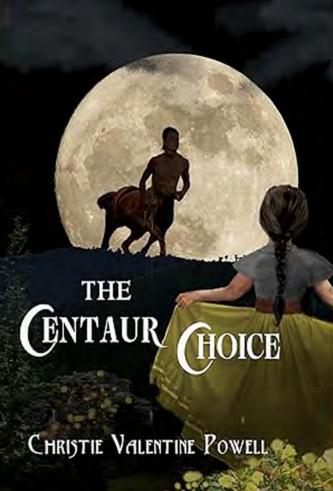


THE CENTAUR CHOICE BY Christie Valentine Powell

Everyone knows that centaurs carry off young women, but when Bree meets a stallion in the wilderness, he's kinder and more interesting than any of the estate's highborn visitors. He can't be the monster that her brother describes.

But Dale the centaur has a secret: he needs a woman to transform into a centaur to save his young son.

Both families are torn and broken by the conflict between species. Bree could find healing and redemption among the centaurs, but how much should she change for a chance at a new beginning?



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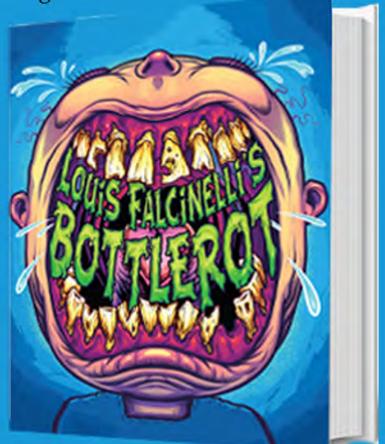
A satirical indictment and love letter to Generation Y

Hopeless, a cynical though humorous twenty-five-year-old, navigates the many trails and tribulations of adulthood alongside his peers

Bottlerot is like a pop culture explosion, serving as both satirical indictment and love letter to Generation Y and the culture we currently live in at large!

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Literary

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A Note about the literary articles posted in the magazine. I am sharing my academic papers that I wrote while getting my Bachelor's of Arts in English. During that time, I wrote and read a lot of work, and I also minored in Criminal Justice, so my work, when writing about law enforcement would be accurate. These articles are being shared, but can only be used outside of this magazine, if you cite them. If you wish to use any of my articles as references, you can email me directly for my permission.

Another note, is these articles have been checked and entered into the academic paper system, where plagiarism checkers search when verifying someone's work. If you use someone's work, quote it, otherwise you are stealing what someone else worked so hard for.

Thank you,

Amy Shannon

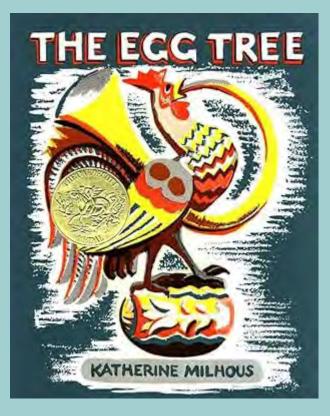
Caldecott and Newbery Award Book Summaries

by Amy Shannon

Caldecott Award Winner 1951 The Egg Tree by Katherine Milhous

The Egg Tree by Katherine Milhous was written in 1950. The Egg Tree is a book about a Pennsylvania Dutch Easter celebration. Katy and Carl went on an Easter Egg hunt at their grandmother's farm. When the children saw a rabbit in the garden, they assumed it was the Easter Bunny. The children woke up their cousins and they all embarked on an Easter Egg hunt. The cousins of Katy and Carl found all the pretty eggs, but they did not find a single one. Katy thinks that the Easter Bunny forgot her. Katy went up to the attic and found the "Egg Tree." It was a small tree that had six beautifully painted eggs. "Grandmom" explains the story of the Egg Tree and they start a new tradition of painting eggs and creating an egg Tree.

The book is within the picture book genre about Easter. It gives an almost biblical story about the different traditions of Easter. The story and the illustrations are set for the time that the story was written. Katy is not only concerned about the Easter Holiday, but she is determined to get a gift for the Easter Bunny. "It would never do to forget the Easter Rabbit, for the Easter Rabbit had not forgotten her." The illustrations are bold and colorful while also representing the artful story of Easter. It is an



enjoyable story that teaches children about a different tradition of Easter and the intricate beauty that comes with the celebrating and decoration of the Easter Eggs. It is also a story that can still be shared and enjoyed by children, learning about Easter. The story is timeless and was reprinted for print books on 2012. It is not only available in print, but now, it is offered in digital forms, which show that it truly is timeless for it to be offered in a new form of reading.

Newbery Award Winner 1931

The Cat Who Went to Heaven by Elizabeth Coatsworth

The Cat who Went to Heaven by Elizabeth Coatsworth was written in 1930. In 1931, it won the Newbery Medal for excellence

Caldecott and Newbery Award Book Summaries (Cont'd)

in children's literature. The Cat Who Went To Heaven is set in Ancient Japan and is a story based on a Buddhist folklore. It's about a poor, young artist, who's housekeeper brought home a cat. He was so poor and could barely feed himself, let alone a cat. He was not happy that the cat was now there. "Have you gone mad? Here we are starving and you must bring home a goblin, a goblin to share the little we have, and perhaps to suck our blood at night!" he cried at the sight of the cat. He looked at the cat as if it were the devil. Eventually, he looked at the cat as a show of fortune, because it was a threecolored cat, because it was a white cat, with yellow and black spots. He calls the cat Good Fortune.

The artist paints a portrait of Buddha with the cat and eventually, it was burned. Priests thought it was an evil painting. Eventually, the story comes to deal with the truth and wonderment around Good Fortune. The artist realizes he is blessed by the cat and the cat is a miracle within himself. Too many times those are judged by appearance and the Priests thought cats were the devil. However, this particular cat was special. The artist finally sees that his painting is hanging in the temple, when it was supposed to have been burned. The portrait is of Buddha, and in the corner, the small white cat.

Elizabeth Coatsworth THE CAT who went to Heaven



Illustrated by Lynd Ward

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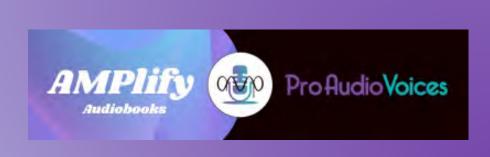


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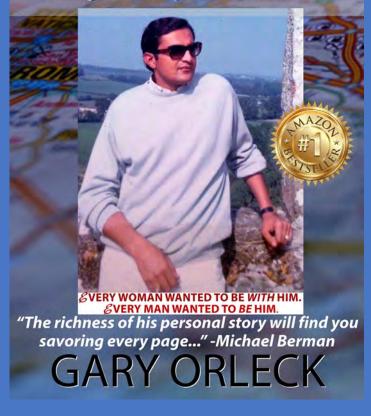
The 19,985 miles, 12 country adventure in 1968, Gary and Maurice, formed a formidable friendship, while perusing the London music scene, which included The Who, Elton John, The Rolling Stones and even the Beatles. Maurice, son of the richest Iranian man, shares his life and culture with Gary, as they 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!



An Outrageous European Adventure in 1968





Charaster Writing

To make a character, no matter the type of being the character is, it is important to make sure they have some quirks or attributes that make them human or human-like. No one is perfect, and how the writer shows it in the story brings the character to life. If the character is a jerk, let him or her be a jerk. If they are evil, let them be evil, but maybe instead of being inherently evil give a little piece of humanity. There are characters that were once good and turn bad, or the opposite, where they may be or have some redeeming qualities.

It is not always easy to think of a unique attribute, but then just observe people; maybe see someone's nervous habit, and then utilize that into the character. Some characters may twist or twirl their long hair, or some run their fingers through their hair, and some may rub their chin. A character may wear glasses, sometimes all the time, and sometimes for reading, so if this is the case, make sure the character always puts the glasses on when they have to read or look at something close up. Another attribute for a character would them always putting their glasses on their head and forgetting where the glasses were, or a librarian or teacher who may wear their glasses around their neck on a chain.



There are too many attributes that humans have that I could list, but this should give writers some ideas.

Don't forget the attributes of a furry friend or pet that may be a character and be a character's pet. Some characters may have a unique or not a typical pet, like a cat, dog or fish, but something that is unique to them. There may even be a backstory to the unique pet. If the writer adds an animal to the story, the writer should know how the animal behaves, eats, and interacts.

Quirks. A quirk is that little thing that a character may do or say all the time, something that is unique to that specific character. I have a character, Jim, from my MOD Life Epic Saga, who uses the word "cool" a lot, so much that it's

part of his vocabulary and his fellow characters sometimes tease him for that. I have another character, who has suffered from mental illness and is finally getting the treatment he needed his entire life. Now he's a grown man, and has certain OCD moments, and schizophrenic moments, but he has some child-like qualities but it fits his personality. He's a painter, and certain colors mean certain emotions. He also sees emotions as being colored, if he's having a great day, he calls it a yellow day, if it's OK and getting better, it's orange. Red is a bad day and blue is a sad day.

I know someone who always uses the same phrases, so much that you know he's going to say it before he does. He says "no doubt" to *everything*. Me? Well, I often say "nifty" or "cool," and that is only part of my own quirks. (And, yes, sometimes they rub off onto a character or two in some of my stories.)

Attitude. And then, there are characters that have attitude, can be a good attitude that shows their strengths, or just a plain bad attitude, where they are mad at the world, or just a small part of the population. Just as people in real life have good and bad days, and a lot of in between days, characters are the same way. A usually sympathetic or good-natured character may have an off moment, and snap or yell at someone. Also, someone who is usually a jerk to everyone around him or her, may have an off day and be nice to someone, or they are being nice for a specific reason, like wanting someone to do something for them.

I have a character in my MOD Life Epic Saga, who appeared in the beginning, as a minor character. His name is Paul. Later it was reported that he was murdered. He ended up being a part of an underground band of doctors and corrupt law enforcement officers that performed experiments on humans or clones, either dead, alive, or something in between. He even had several aliases, one of them was mentioned throughout the stories before it was revealed of his true identity. He decided to return and add more havoc by becoming infatuated with a local married man. Paul was gay and thought that all men should be gay, and that women weren't even worth noticing half the time. Eventually, after he served time for an assault of the man, he said he "loved," he returned, being the most hated man in the



town, but was determined to get his life on track. He told his brother, who had lured him in to get him arrested, that he was just "tired." Paul was *almost* redeemable, and it took a while for that to happen. He slowly became part of the town and the hospital as a doctor, made friends, and found a new and true love, who loved him back. It took a lot to redeem this character, but his quirk is that even through all of what he went through, what he put people through, he could still be a jerk. The chief of staff at the hospital where he worked was a woman, and he couldn't bring himself to call her doctor, so he called her "boss." He lives a normal life, but his past continues to haunt him, and some still don't like him, and he can still be a jerk. He will mentioned he also in my redeemable/nonredeemable section.

I brought up Paul because he's one of my favorite characters to write for. Also, and I added it for almost a comic relief, that he loves the old show *"Full House"* and had a crush on the character *Uncle Jesse*. Later, a friend he makes, shows him the art of all the *Star Trek* franchises. (Another piece of me as well).

Religion. A religious character or nonreligious character has certain attributes that shows the characters beliefs. If a character is religious, there may be a reason why, and it could involve the backstory. This would make



attending church or a relationship with the head of a church or religious group important to the character, showing the character's faith. If a character is not religious, there may be a reason, it could be that this character's faith and beliefs were shaken, or it isn't even part of the story, so it may only be a footnote about the character. This is also a good way to take the character to a new level, especially if he/she grew up going to church every week, and then, when this child grew up, something stopped his/her beliefs. If using religion in the story, the writer should know enough about the religion to be able to use information based on facts or beliefs of facts.

Disability. In my stories, some characters were introduced to the readers with a disability, and some characters became disabled due to the

story line. If a character is introduced as disabled, the ability to show the audience how they live and how they adapt to life, and what outside resources or aids that they may use to continue to live or be part of the community shows the writer's knowledge and truthfulness. If the disability is a mental illness, the information about the illness, how it progresses, and how it is treated (if the character is being treated), should be accurate.

Mental Illness. If the character has a mental illness that is not treated for whatever reason, that character should show the signs of someone not taking medication or being part of some experiment gone wrong. Years ago, some doctors used electro-shock therapy on those with mental illnesses, so maybe someone is trying to reinvent that therapy.

If the writer writes something that is not correct, there will be some readers who know that it's not right. If it is futuristic, or sciencefiction, the treatments or aids may be embellished, but have a hint of reality so the readers trust the story. The best parts of the story are when there are truths written, and the audience can relate to it, and trust the writer. **Experience and knowledge.** Another attribute for a character is their hobby or interest, or a subject or topic that the writer is very familiar with and shares that with the audience. It can be a hobby or specialty of a character, or it can even be used in actions or reactions. I am very interested in history, especially my family history, so when I write for the MOD Life Epic Saga, the characters share stories of the past and their families with the next generation. I also have a historian that writes books about her hometown, and surrounding hometowns.

In another story, (*The Relic: A Savvy Macavoy Story* by Amy Shannon, 2018), the characters, Savvy and Strick are hired to find a missing skull believed to be the skull of Adolph Hitler. Within that storyline, I had Strick share his interest and knowledge about Presidential and WWII history, something that I enjoy myself.

It is not just about what the writer knows, but about what the writer may want to know or learn about. The writer can add something to the story that they need to research, or they can research all the information around an entire story. I personally have a story in my head, but I need to do the research so I can make sure it's historically accurate. It's to be a story type that I've never written before, and I love a writing challenge.

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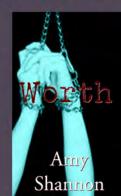




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Short Stories

A Ghost's Writer (Part 1) by **Amy Shannon** afterlife.

Every time the wind blows, you can hear her cries. She wanders the town, searching for something, someone to give her nourishment. She appears and then goes away, only to return ten years later.

Yes, that's her story. We all heard it growing up, like the rumors of the haunted sanitarium. It was just an empty, boarded-up orphanage. At least it said orphanage. The rumors were that psychopathic children were held there and little by little, the children disappeared. No one seemed to care, certainly not the parents who dropped off their children, some bound and gagged, and then left right after they rang the bell.

It's the stories that all towns have, abandoned buildings, burned-out lots, ancient cemeteries where the concreated figures of the town at its start, are now lingering, ghostly or even ghastly spirits.

Well, that's the story of rumors and legends. Legends of Shallow Falls. That's where I grew up. My father was a deacon of the church. My mother died during my childbirth, something my father blamed me for. Sometimes, I wish I could see her, or hear her, but I think, sometimes, when the warm wind blows gently against my face, it's her. I couldn't wait to get out of town as soon as I was old enough. Now, here I am back, but on my own

terms, with my own life, and with others

After I left town, I tried to get on with my life. I wrote and continued writing. For a while I was a journalist, and then I took to novel writing, especially paranormal stories. My name, well, it's Walter Whitman Olivier. My mother loved Whitman's work, and I have come to love it when I have time to read it. Lately, well, for years, I've been quite busy.

Nothing like the rumors or ghosts about my hometown's past, but several are based on ancient legends. A year ago, I came home to Shallow Falls, when my father died. The mayor was a friend of my father, and he called me.

Ghost's Writer Amy Shannon

That's how and why I came home. My father's home was owned by the church, but my grandfather on my mother's side, owned a home, secluded and near the base of the falls. Grandpa Edgar died young, well, he was only 50, but he knew me, and he knew what I could do. Yet, even after he passed, he's never spoken to me. He left the house to me after he passed, but until that day, I had never set foot in it. Now, it's home. A cabin by the falls, which led to the winding and roaring Clarkston Creek. Maybe this is Grandpa's way of talking to me without actually showing his presence. I can certainly feel it. I heard he had the same ability that I have, but his childhood was so much worse than mine was. I had a father, he didn't have anyone but a friend, and his future wife, and then mom. I wish I had got to know him when he was alive. I wish I knew my grandmother, but she died before I was born. I feel that mom is with her, and I know Grandpa is with her, and they are with me, wherever I go. Grandpa, well, I know he lived a tortured life, but he never let that get him down. That I do know. Not everyone deals with trauma the same way. And some are stronger than others, and there are some that never survive it in life but can in death.

After I got here, I realized I was home. I could write anywhere, but this was home. I did my best to make my house my own. After a while, I did. I made sure my office where I wrote would look out at the falls. Such inspiration and then there are the legends. All myths and legends have some truth to them, no matter how small. Shallow Falls is home to creepy stories, ghosts of the past, and not me. I am Walter, but my pen name is Jack T. Ripper. It was fitting.

It took time to get things in order, but now I'm home and settling in. I'm looking for inspiration. I have several projects started, but nothing to give me the spark. At least that's what I thought until today.

I drove to the old orphanage slash sanitarium and parked outside the broken chain link fence. The first thing I notice, and every time I come, it seems to get darker rather than lighter or more faded, is the signage for the building. Visceral Hills Orphanage. I've come a few times, just sitting in my car, staring at the sign through the fence. Each time I visited, sometimes, I went to the grounds, and each time I did, something was always different. I always thought it was interesting that behind the grounds of the building, there was the oldest cemetery in Shallow Falls. Sometimes, there are those I can see or hear over there, but they are usually attached to where their body is buried. So, with that said, it makes what has happened at Visceral Hills so many years ago feel strange. Why are there lingering spirits here? Only rumors, legends, and the remains of the building, and spirits that haunt it, can tell the stories of the secrets behind the doors of this building for unwanted children. Were they psychopathic? I have no idea. There are a lot of mental illnesses that don't mean psychopathy or sociopathy. Or the children could just have been unwanted for whatever reason and left to the



Visceral Hills Orphanage for them to deal with.

Today, there was another unknown. I don't know what I expected to find or see, but then today, it's what I heard. Chanting. Voices lingering in the air, chanting.

Don't make a sound or she'll know you're around. The last thing you'll hear is her whispers in your ear. Hush, child, don't cry. You're just about to die.

It repeated, so I took out my notepad to get it all down. Then, all of a sudden, it stopped. The silence was deafening.

I wasn't afraid, not shaken for a minute. Sometimes life is stranger than fiction. Death is stranger than fiction or anything any writer could make up, well, those who don't correspond with the dearly departed, or the not-so-dearly departed. I've interviewed my share of ghost hunters, but even with that, I have no idea what to expect. Not all ghost hunters are legitimate, and I have learned what is and what isn't, and then added notes to my experiences.

It was quiet as I moved closer to the old building. It used to be two floors, but the age of the building made it fall in on itself. Some of the first floor wasn't damaged, just old and worn. I walked to the front door where it had an old sign, faded, and it probably said *No Trespassing*; but it was never enforced.

Usually, these buildings are magnets for teenagers and parties. Not this one. Well, since a fire a year ago. There was a teenage party, beer, a fire pit, marijuana, and five kids. All but one disappeared, and he never spoke about the incident. Never has and probably never will. His catatonic state tells the doctors that something happened, but no one knows. The police don't come out here if they don't have to. Most people don't. At least the living.

I opened the door, knowing the lock was broken, and the door worn, and jagged with splinters, deteriorating over the ages.

I stepped inside the dusty, still air and the scent of fear hit me in the face. If anyone could tell his story. I wanted to do it. I have this need to experience my stories as I write them. I can't go to the rehabilitation center to see that poor young man, only family allowed. So, maybe I can find the others, probably not alive, but that's not a.

requirement for me. I believe every life and every death has a story, and the ones that are dead are more interesting.

Then I thought about how people think through experiences like every detective story is written by a cop or a serial killer. Most isn't true, well that's just how things shouldn't be, but for me, I write what the ghosts tell me to write. Yes, I'm a Ghost's writer. More like the spirit's writer, but I like the pun of the Ghost's writer.

I can't say it's not scary but even evil spirits have stories to tell. I don't have to be dead to tell their stories. They speak to me. Now, it's no longer quiet

They feel me here. I don't know how many there are, but they are here. All I hear is the wailing of multiple children. Some louder than the others.

I set my recorder on the windowsill, a device I created to pick up all electrical current, ambient and other noise that could break the sound barrier.

I must've been tired because I fell asleep at my desk. I dragged myself to the kitchen, turning on the coffee pot. I turned around quickly when I felt her presence.

Her ghostly appearance shows the horror of what the teenagers did to her when they took her life. She was Lily. Lily Winston. She was a nurse at



Visceral Hills Orphanage. Four teenagers, three boys and one girl, beat and stabbed her multiple times, leaving her to bleed to death. Her blood drained into the bones of that building. She was found only days later, in the basement's utility room. The teens were never charged with her murder, they were just suspects that blended in the background with the rest of the teens and children that lived there.

A year later, the suspected teens all died, hanging themselves in one of the empty rooms.

The building may have been closed but many of the spirits did not leave. They weren't the only suicides, as there were many over the years, whether it was closed or not.

Lily has always come to me. The building was built in 1896, and ever since I can remember, she has always come to me. She wants me to write the stories of that building. So, that's how I earn my

living. All she wants in return is the stories that she tells, the truth as she knows it, not stories based on myths or legends. Her stories.

She never talks about the children. Those who died, and those who since 1929 have gone missing. Four children, early teens, every four years, three boys and one girl. In the 1950's, a new owner of the building added a new front, making it look better, and added the word *orphanage* to it. It finally closed, being shut down by the state by withdrawing funding. It officially closed in the late 1960's, but even after that it was run privately and no one really cared about who was left living there or dying there. The staff, what was left of them, left, and the children that were still alive, some still strapped to their beds, were left to fend for themselves.

I've learned that spirits can feed off strong emotions, not just hate or revenge, but also love and loyalty. Depends on how they lived and how they died. It's not just their emotions, but the living's as well.

I looked at the transparent bloody mess. Her white dress was covered in blood. Parts of her skin were missing from her face, but she still wore that old nurse's cap. She never spoke. She always appeared to me as she died, not as she lived, and I'm sure that's on purpose. It's a reminder of what they did to her. Today, instead of entering my mind to tell her story, she pointed to the newspaper, unfolded on my table. I don't even remember getting it from the front porch. I read the headline.

FIVE DEAD. FATHER KILLS CHILDREN, WIFE & HANGED HIMSELF

"Do you know about this?" It didn't match with anything I've known that revolved around *Visceral Hills Orphanage*. I picked up the paper and read the article. I had to read it three times. *Winston*. The Winston Family. "Yours?"

She nodded and then stared into my eyes. That's how I always got it, her stories were told in her eyes and sent to my mind. She was married and had three sons at the time of her death. "Your great-great grandson?" As I figured out the relationship, she stepped back.

Then she was gone. I knew she'd be back, and that there were more of her out there, roaming. This last death ended her bloodline. There was something she was holding back when she was in my mind. She'll be back, when she has another story.

I always wondered why I was drawn to telling the stories of the spirits. When I was a child, I don't even know how old, I was drawn to the old cemetery. The one behind the Visceral Hills

Orphanage. This empty crypt kept calling me. I couldn't figure out why it was empty or why I was

drawn to it. The crypt was cement on the outside but lined with cedar wood on the inside. I didn't realize until later that a crypt wasn't usually made like that, especially cedar wood.

I felt the bones of the crypt absorbed the events that happened inside it. I kept going back and back again. Each time, reliving a new but awfully terrifying murderous event.

After each visit, I wrote down what I saw in my head.

Years later, I did my research about that place but couldn't find any records of murder or anything that I swear to this day that I saw there.

I eventually saw the death of the killer, one killer, and found out he used it as a murder room, but then he used the woodchipper, cutting them up and using them in his garden. Once he died, I could see everything. All seventeen men were only listed as missing from four different towns. The DNA of the bones identified all of them. Somehow, *hint, hint,* the cops got an anonymous tip about the killer.

No one except the spirit believes in what I do. My father thought I was insane. Sane or insane, can be however you want it to be. Tomorrow I'm going to the *Visceral Hills Orphanage* again. Maybe I'll see what Lily wants me to see, or I'll see the truth for myself.



Just because you can't hear, see, or touch something, doesn't mean it's not real or doesn't exist. A million dollars exists, yet I've never seen it. The air exists yet I can't see it. I can feel it or hear it in a breeze.

I know something happens after death but it's different for each person, it can be full of light or full of dark, some light and dark, and for some reason unfinished business or the lack of know-how to go anywhere else, some wander the earth. They are at times tethered to their family, their home, or their own grave. And this grave could be where their body is buried, if it was discarded unlawfully, such as being killed. When they are killed and then finally end up, they seem to stay tethered, unless their bodies are discovered. I've seen many spirits walking on water, hoping to get someone's attention to their body, deep down in the water, sometimes still in their sunken vehicle, or attached to something that weighs the body down. Sometimes

they just like the peacefulness of that water, so they become one with the water, but their spirits can emerge when they want them to.

I know so much about death, and try to also learn about life, and people's lives. Ever since I had my first dream about Jake, I can't get it out of my mind. It always comes back to me. Jake never comes, but someone is sharing something through my dreams. Maybe it was real, maybe it wasn't. I don't remember the event, just the dream.

There he was, my friend Jake. He was about ten years old. We were best friends, and he's gone. Missing and never found, but I keep dreaming of what happened to him. I feel him. His heartbeat.

He stood on top of the ledge of the mountain. I know he loved to climb, and he loved the view of being high up. I could hear his thoughts, and all he wanted was peace. I think he was like me, but we never spoke of it. Maybe we should have. We were 10. People would think hearing the voices and echoes of a former life was crazy.

Jake closed his eyes. His hand patting his chest with the beat of his own heart. It echoed in his ears, and he took a deep breath.

"Jump!" the voice said. The shadow was standing right next to him. No heartbeat, just raspy utterances from a faceless, formless shadow.

Jake was gone. Was he pushed by the shadow, or did he listen and jump? I don't know.

Jake has never found me if he even wanted to. I dreamed it again last night. I've had this dream since I was 14 years old. I couldn't sleep so it became another early morning. I've tried figuring out where he was in the dream, and no place that we ever were together, seems to match that setting. Jake is still listed as missing, presumed dead. I tried to draw the view in my dream, to see if I can match it to any place, but I can't. Either I'm not doing it right, or it's just a manifestation of a dream. I know dreams can be split and have strange imagery and emotions. I sat down with my morning coffee and newspaper. My stacks of notebooks piled on one side, while the blank notepad was sitting next to my plate of toast. I have to write the dream down before I forget it.

Jake has been my mission. I have encountered so many, but not Jake. And then there is Lily, and this house that never seemed to grow old.

I know what today's plan is. I have to go to the *Visceral Hills* and listen. And, of course, to not die and be my own story.

I talked with the local police and requested permission. I didn't have to, but I didn't need a trespassing charge. The officer knew my grandfather and gave me consent but told me to enter at my own risk. He said he would never set foot in those doors again. I guess that Officer Newman was one of the orphans that lived here, and he was one of the success stories. Just like my grandfather.

Today, I left the car outside the fence and walked to the first building. That was the newer part that connected to the older part. It was supposed to be welcoming. It wasn't.

I tossed my bag over my shoulder. I just brought my water, flashlight, tape recorder, and my notebook and pen. My plan is still to just listen.

It's not quiet this time. There is a lot of noise, most sounding like a crowded stadium. It takes a few minutes for me to focus.

I use my thoughts to separate voices into individuals and then order them based on how old the voices are. That just means the older the voice, the older the death. I can't explain how I know, just that I do.

It's time to listen. I walk through the long corridor of the newest part of the building, which is still 50 years old. This place holds a lot of secrets, and I just want to help those who can't do things on their own, because they believe that no one cares.

My grandfather cared. He wrote in his journals about his own story, and of course, his best friend was Jack Newman, the officer. Grandpa died young, and I can see the years in Jack, and what his memories did to them.

I followed the corridor to the oldest part. No one knows exactly the date it was erected. Just notes about when it opened. Some of the original building still had its original furniture and wood frames, and even some of the rooms are in the basement, where old medical equipment was still sitting, covered in dust, dirt and whatever else, but you could still figure out it was one of those socalled medical devices that tortured more than cured, if cure at all.

I'm not going down there today. I'm headed to the room. Room 101. The very first room. I've been here before, standing outside this door, just waiting to enter it. I just hadn't figured out why I hadn't walked inside. *What was I afraid of? What was I looking for? What was going to be behind door 101?*

I decided to enter. I opened the door. It creaked like an old rocking chair. The dust was an inch thick, compressed on each piece of furniture and equipment.

As I walked over to the bed, there it was. An imprint in the dust. The shape of a child's body imprinted so deep that the sheet was still white, and clean.

I took a deep breath and lightly touched the railing of the bed, noticing the chains that were used for restraints.

She appeared. The spirit of a young girl, age seemed to be around 16. She was almost translucent, and a white and blue tinge covered her body. Her heart, red, sitting in the middle of her chest. Not beating, values and heart, not connected to anything I've seen before.

I have learned to write while they speak or connect in another way. Sometimes, they don't see me or hear me, or they are just ignoring me. Not a lot of children who were here trust adults. I eyed the room to see if there was anything that could give me a hint of her name, but nothing. I closed my eyes and reopened them. "Can you hear me?" I said aloud.

She didn't move, she just stood on the bed, in the middle of the perfect white imprint.

"Can I help you?" I asked, again aloud.

I slowly moved toward the screaming spirit. I decided to think about my question, rather than say it aloud. *I'm Walt. Can I help you*?

The wailing stopped, and she pointed to the wall behind me, the only one I didn't notice, because it was behind the open door. I walked over to the door, and pulled it closed to expose the wall. Blood streaked, finger nail scratches, down the wall, almost like a wolf shredded it. As I moved closer and followed the trail to the bottom of the wall, there it was. Carved from nail scrapings in the plaster, *Sarah. First in, never out. 1896.*

I turned around and faced the spirit. *I get it. I'm sorry. You can leave if you want. You don't need to stay here anymore.* She looked down at herself, and then up at me again. Not saying a word, she pointed to the wall again, but more toward the floor.

I tried to figure out what she wanted me to see, when I noticed a crack in the linoleum. I set my recorder down, and pressed record. I knew it couldn't record my thoughts and conversation in my head with her, but that was for another time. I used

my pocket knife that I carried with me in my back pocket, and cut away the linoleum, and it just brought me to the rotted plywood underneath it, but then I leaned forward to smell it. Something was not right here. I looked back up at her, and realized what I would find, if I kept going. *Should I be doing this? Is it my job to free her or tell her story? Is it both?* I've never been put in this situation before. I never tried to find their bodies to set them free. *Is that what I'm supposed to do?* I closed my eyes, and prayed, not to God or a higher deity, but to my grandfather, my mother, anyone who could help me decide if this was my path or not.

All I got was a heavy heart and knew, if I could help, I should. It's not just about their story, but each one was a real-life person, and now, they are stuck. I looked up at Sarah. *I'll help you. I promise*.

She shook her head as if she didn't believe me.

Then, I used my knife to dig through the rotted wood. I wanted to find her. I didn't know what the next step should be, but one thing at a time. This young girl died, and then ... Yes, there she was. As I sawed through the wood, I got a glimpse of a skull, a few long blonde hairs still attached. I couldn't tell if her entire body was there, but I knew she was here, and needed help to go to whatever she thought was

95

sawed through the wood, I got a glimpse of a skull, a few long blonde hairs still attached. I couldn't tell if her entire body was there, but I knew she was here, and needed help to go to whatever she thought was a better place.

Sarah, I'm getting you out of here. I promise. Do you know where you would feel at peace? Walter, I don't know what that means. I thought death would be better than life. I was wrong, I think.

PART TWO COMING NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE (THIS IS A 3 PART STORY)



"The Ghost's Writer" is included in the recently published Amy Shannon's Ultimate Short Story Collection. It includes previously published short stories, and three, including "The Ghost's Writer" that are new to the collection.

The collection can be purchased at <u>https://www.amazon.com/Ultimate-Short-Story-Collection-Amys-ebook/dp/B0DHVQDQJ3</u>

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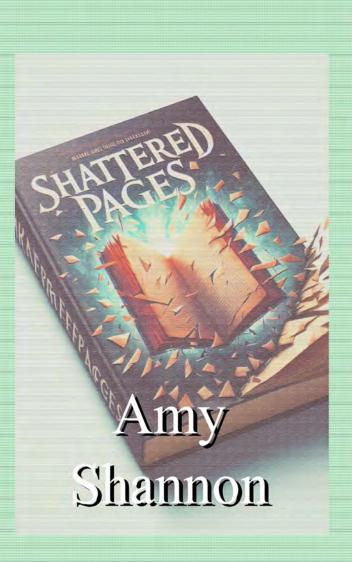
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Amy Shannon's Shattered Pages

When fiction becomes reality, the line between author and suspect blurs.



Best-selling mystery author Tristan Wyatt, as known by his pen name, is really Lincoln McLaren. He is deep into writing the third volume of his series. As he trains his new assistant and navigates life beyond his novels, his neighbors view him as the eccentric recluse in the large, imposing house – just the way Link likes it. His house assistant, Sally, does her best to keep him focused. Past losses have only added to his quirks, including his preference for minimal clothing.

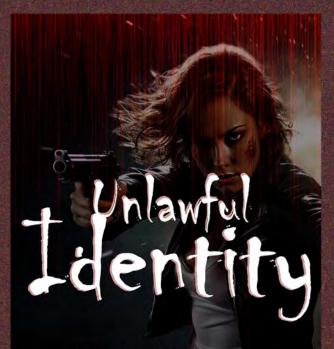
Suddenly, Link becomes entangled in a series of murders in his small town of Bridgeport. These crimes eerily mirror the plots of his books, including the one he's currently writing.



Amy Shannon Presents

Unlawful Lidentity

Loyalty comes with a price. Betrayal.



NYPD Detective Samantha "Sam" Lange, haunted by the sudden death of her brother, finds herself irresistibly drawn to the enigmatic FBI Agent Parker Carlisle. Carlisle presents her with a stark choice: to ensure her family's safety, she must abandon her former life and work for him as a hitwoman.

The price of loyalty is betrayal.

Amy Shannon



Nonfiction

A LeRoy- Know Your Lawful Rights

Genre: Nonfiction/Christianity & Spiritual Warfare

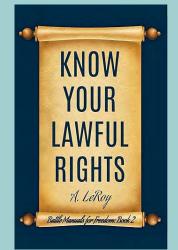
RECLAIM YOUR BIRTHRIGHT

Not since the days of Noah has the Earth witnessed such an all-out assault on life and livelihood as we see today. The false authorities are pursuing their agenda of extermination and enslavement with a ruthlessness most of us could never have imagined.

In this sequel to Know Your Medical Rights, LeRoy dismantles the lies, programming, and conditioning that have kept us from ourselves. He reminds you who you are, a threedimensional being standing above the twodimensional fictions of government, and he empowers you to tear down strongholds of dogma and dictatorship.

"I will show you that all is counterfeit, all theatre," LeRoy writes in the Introduction, "and that counterfeit governments, issuing counterfeit currencies and writing counterfeit legislation masquerading as Law, are wielding counterfeit authority. It's so much easier to refuse and refute that authority when you know its enforcers are beneath you and that they are peddling fictional constructs."

Then, having pierced through the illusions and mind-tricks of tyrants, he lays before you the weapons of True Law you will need to regain your sovereignty and birthright. This book will serve you as armour and weapon in the battles ahead.



Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 4 Stars

Know Your Lawful Rights is a very interesting book. I like reading A LeRoy's books. When you read them, you don't have to always agree with what his point of view is, but I can tell you, he is intelligent, and has intelligent opinions. In Know Your Financial Rights, he shows the line between legal and lawful, which is an important distinction. Legal pertains to laws that are created by men, and Lawful is more related to the belief in whoever you deem as your Creator, and the rights of humans and their dignity. It is important that as living beings, we have birthrights. LeRoy is one for writing books and providing opinions that are controversial, and I believe that is another reason to read his work. In this book, he writes about how to claim or reclaim one's rights, and lays out the steps for doing so. He also brings up the idea of Common Law and what it means and how it can affect person's rights. Whatever he writes can be an eye opener, and maybe you agree with everything he writes, and maybe just some, but it is always best to know other's opinions and their knowledge, as you may just find out something new.

Amy Shannon Presents

The Savvy Macavoy Stories

In a world of mysteries, her unique style and relentless spirit set her apart. Savvy Macavoy dives deep into the unknown with heart and determination, uncovering the secrets that others overlook.

SMASHED

1 Savvy Macaroy Story

ANIY SHANNO



THE RELIC



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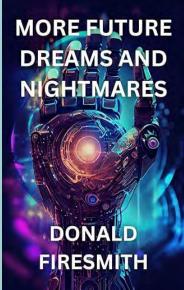
Donald Firesmith- More Future Dreams and Nightmares

Genre: F/Short Stories/Anthology/Scifi/hard science

18 more visionary and thought-provoking science fiction gems take you on a faster-thanlight journey to future worlds of dreams and nightmares.

Whether you're intrigued by the ethical ramifications of future technology or fascinated by the mysteries of the cosmos, More Future Dreams and Nightmares will enthrall you with its boundless creativity and intellectual depth. Crafted with precision and care, this extraordinary collection of stories will draw you richly imagined worlds populated by into unforgettable characters and strange new events. With gripping plots and thought-provoking themes, More Future Dreams and Nightmares is a must-read for all science fiction fans. Delve into what it means to be human and experience thrill of exploring distant planets and the confronting moral dilemmas as you read this captivating collection of alternate realities.

More Future Dreams and Nightmares is a testament to the power of science fiction to not just entertain but to push boundaries, expand the mind, and see the world from a new perspective.



Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 5 Stars

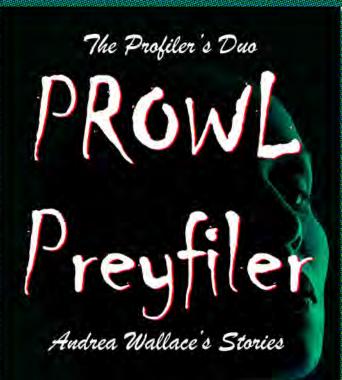
In More Future Dreams and Nightmares, the reader is treated to a multitude of short stories. Donald Firesmith has an amazing talent for writing short stories, that are not only interesting and intriguing, but also can be a bit scary when he brings in the technology and the what ifs, especially where Artificial Intelligence is involved. I was honored to read several of his short stories prior to them being compiled in this book, but I still read it through completely and didn't stop until the final story. There are twists and what happens each story is unexpected. The stories maybe short, but they are grand reads. The reader ends up hanging on every word. It's an unpredictable, layered group of stories with realistic characters and technology. One of my

More Future Dreams and Nightmares

favorites was Atonement, where the reader meets a firefighter who entered the North Tower on September 11 2001. Jack tells his story as he enters the smoke and terror-filled building, and shares the indescribable pain and suffering, and deaths of its occupants. He does his best to help those who are still alive, and then, something happens ... the unimaginable happens. The door on the 35th floor of the North Tower, opens, with a human-robot, a robot so well-developed and beyond the technology of the time, welcoming them to sanctuary. The survivors enter the room, revealing more robots, who tend to the injured. All of a sudden, the survivors realize this isn't life as they knew it. If they stayed in the Tower, they all would have perished a terrorizing death. It's a very interesting story, and almost as a technological after life, however, adjustments to your family believing you're dead, and you're in a whole new world, or you could go back, and be gone, as fate planned. Another story, The Companion made me question what I would do, if I had an AI companion. Each story is grand in its own way, telling stories that the author was inspired to write, and each story has its ups and downs, and makes the reader wonder about such a future of AI, which is not too far away. If tech goes the way it's going, it is the end of the

world as we know it. of its occupants. He does his best to help those who are still alive, and then, something happens ... the unimaginable happens. The door on the 35th floor of the North Tower, opens, with a human-robot, a robot so well-developed and beyond the technology of the time, welcoming them to sanctuary. The survivors enter the room, revealing more robots, who tend to the injured. All of a sudden, the survivors realize this isn't life as they knew it. If they stayed in the Tower, they all would have perished a terrorizing death. It's a very interesting story, and almost as a technological after life, however, adjustments to your family believing you're dead, and you're in a whole new world, or you could go back, and be gone, as fate planned. Another story, The Companion made me question what I would do, if I had an AI companion. Each story is grand in its own way, telling stories that the author was inspired to write, and each story has its ups and downs, and makes the reader wonder about such a future of AI, which is not too far away. If tech goes the way it's going, it is the end of the world as we know it.

Amy Shannon Presents The Profiler Duo Set Just because your shadow catches you, doesn't mean your story is over.



Amy Shannon

Titles in the Series are individual based on the life of Andrea Wallace

Prowl Preyfiler



Books for the Young, and Young al Heart

D. Zollicoffer- Game On Zhuri How to Defeat a Blob Monster

Get ready for an epic gaming adventure in Game On, Zhuri!: How to Defeat a Blob Monster by D. Zollicoffer!

Meet Zhuri, the brilliant programming whiz who's on the verge of conquering a coding competition with her latest creation, "ZHURI'S WORLD" – an incredible video game!

A Mysterious Twist: But as she's fine-tuning her masterpiece, a strange and unexpected bug wreaks havoc, bringing one of the game's monstrous creatures to life and snatching Zhuri's beloved Uncle Mike in the process.

Join Forces: With unwavering determination and the help of her trusty friends, Zhuri embarks on a daring quest. She must venture into the very game she created, facing treacherous storms, bubbling oceans, and terrifying foes, all in a bid to rescue her uncle from the clutches of the digital realm.

A Deeper Mystery: As Zhuri delves deeper into this virtual world, she begins to suspect that the bug might be the tip of the iceberg, concealing a more sinister plot. Will Zhuri manage to fix her game and save her uncle, or are darker forces at play?

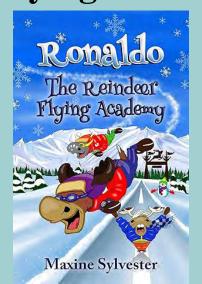
Get ready to level up with Zhuri in this actionpacked, code-breaking adventure that will keep you on the edge of your seat! Game On, Zhuri!: How to Defeat a Blob Monster is a thrilling journey into the world of gaming, friendship, and the unbreakable spirit of a determined coder.



Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 4 Stars

This is the first time I've read work by this author and I am very impressed. The characters were fun and imaginative. The illustrations were wonderful, and brought the story to life, sharing its own story with pictures. I love the story, and uniqueness of it. A Blob Monster comes to life out of a video game. Zhuri is a programmer and creates a video game, but something, a bug in the system, brings her Blob Monster to life, and not only that, puts her Uncle Mike in danger. It's a remarkable book, characters, with grand and remarkable creatures. I recommend that readers of all ages read this book. Sometimes adults should sit back and remember what it was like to be a kid. and whatever their child may be going through.

Maxine Sylvester- Ronaldo: The Reindeer Flying Academy Amy's Bookshelf Reviews



A young flying cadet dreams of becoming Santa's chief reindeer. But first he must go to school and compete in the ultimate flying challenge.

Ronaldo wants to win the endurance test more than anything else in the world. But Arctic-like conditions prove more difficult than he ever imagined, and after only a few circuits self-doubt creeps into his mind.

For stamina and fitness are not enough to triumph, only self-belief and courage will carry Ronaldo over the finish line.

With messages for children on encouragement and inspiration, Ronaldo: The Reindeer Flying Academy is a heartwarming chapter book abundant with laughter and surprises. If you enjoy flying tales, bath bombs and carrot cake, then you'll love Ronaldo's action-packed first flying adventure. Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 4 Stars

In Ronaldo The Reindeer Flying Academy, the reader is introduced to Ronaldo and his family. Ronaldo has big dreams, very big dreams. His idol is Reindeer Vixen. Ronaldo was always encouraged to dream big, and if he believed in himself, he could do anything. 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. Ronaldo The Reindeer Flying Academy is part of the children's Ronaldo's Flying Adventures series, and this is volume one, and I can't wait to read the ones that follow. And, as always, if you're an adult, you should read it too. Either to yourself, your children, or both. As reindeer goes, I never knew how they lived, and now I know. Dad cooks disgusting food combinations, and mom just kind of goes with it. The illustrations are amazing, so kudos to the author for creating them, and bringing Ronaldo's life to my attention. Ronaldo attends the Reindeer Flying Academy, and though it is for reindeers, children can relate, especially when as all schools have, the popular ones, the meanest ones such as Dasher and his brothers Comet and Prancer, the ones who are teased such as Ronaldo, and the ones that get along with everyone. In this world, most reindeers had reindeer names, except for Ronaldo aka Ronny. Rudolph aka Rudi is Ronaldo's best friend. This author is a great storyteller. I recommend that readers of all ages read this book. Sometimes adults should sit back and remember what it was like to be a kid, and whatever their child may be going through.

Amy Shannon Presents The Passionate Retribution Series

In the pursuit of justice, how much is too much to lose? Carly Edwards will find out.

The

Passionate RETRIBUTION Collection

Passionate Retribution 2 Passionate Retribution 2 Passionate Retribution 3 Passionate Retribution 4

Amy Shannon

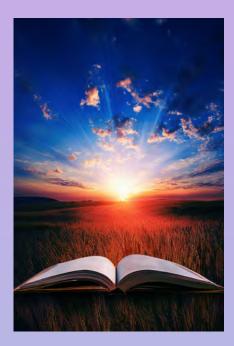
The Series is individual stories, each one about Carly and her friends and family. The books can be bought individually or as part of the collection book.

Passionate Retribution Passionate Retribution 2 Passionate Retribution 3 Passionate Retribution 4



Poetry Corner

Beyond Me by Amy Shannon



I've always felt it It's always been part of me beyond my mind, beyond my heart deeper than my soul when the hands and the mind connect the words come flowing out I don't know where they come from but i know where they will end up the feelings I've been told I don't have have always been a part of me I may not show what's personal to me but I can release if i choose to the words are not just jumbled letters they're more than sounds coming off your lips the words are deeper than the eyes can see deeper than the heart can feel deeper than what the skin can touch complexity, joyousness, sadness love, hate, fear, and beyond beyond the depths of my soul beyond what the expansion of my mind It will always flow out I've always felt it deep inside of me it's not only part of me it's who I am It's who I'll always be

Mind, Heart, Soul by Amy Shannon

Life seems broken unable to be fixed No glue or tape in sight soulful tears drowning the heart remembering the pain the hurtful words the hurtful hands digging deep within oneself searching for the pieces the mind detached from the heart the heart detached from the soul soulful tears drowning the heart remembering the pain depths of inhales breaths of exhales mind connecting to the heart hearting connecting to the soul pieces no longer fracture depths within oneself remain mind, heart, soul



Booksnelf Reviews

Amy

Picks of the Month

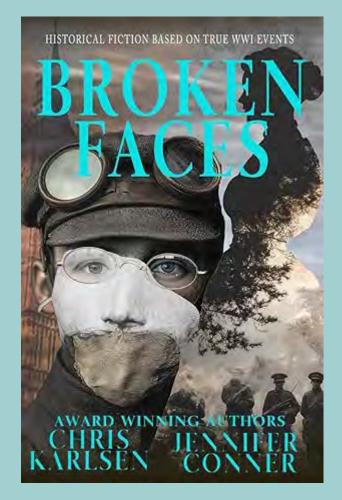
Chris Karlsen and Jennifer Conner- Broken Faces

Amidst the devastation of World War I, a young American woman named Abigale Belorman discovers a profound calling: to restore hope to the WWI wounded soldiers. In France they were called 'Gueules Cassees', or 'Broken Faces'. Using her sculpting skills, she begins crafting intricate masks that conceal the scars of war, offering a semblance of normalcy to those who have endured unimaginable suffering.

Colm Harp, a skilled metalsmith, is driven by his own wounds and a personal tragedy to join Abigale's mission. His younger brother, Danny, has returned from the war with devastating facial injuries, and Colm is determined to give him a chance at a life worth living. Together, Colm and Abigale embark on a journey of compassion and resilience, their work becoming a beacon of hope for countless wounded soldiers.

As they navigate the challenges of war-torn Europe and the limitations of early 20th-century medicine, Abigale and Colm discover the transformative power of human will. Their story is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, the enduring power of love, and the extraordinary lengths people will go to make a difference in the world.

War changes all their lives, but if you can improve one person's life, is yours not for the better? What if you could help hundreds? What would you give up?

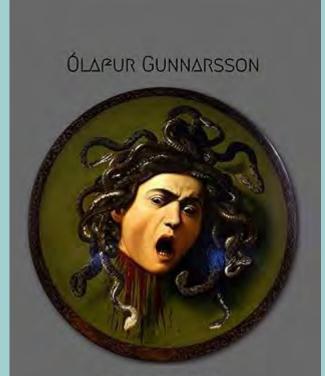


Find out more about the Authors.

Chris Karlsen www.chriskarlsen.com

Jennifer Conner https://www.jenniferconnerbooks.c om/

Ólafur Gunnarsson- The Critic and other Stories



THE CRITIC AND OTHER STORIES This gripping collection of 13 short stories will keep you on the edge of your seat! Cynical tales that will stick with you long after reading. Some readers may even find some of the material disturbing. Each story sparks a different emotion, touching on a wide range of topics. Featuring stories of bitter love, hard life lessons, death, business trip savages, assault on a critic, a serial killer novelist, crime family disputes, religion, politics, and more. Narrated from the point of view of various characters in and around the district of Reykjavík.

This book is translated from Icelandic by David McDuff and the Author except for "The Nazi" by Philip Roughton and "The Wrath of Jehova" by Sola Bjarnadottir O Connell. "Death Comes At Daybreak," and "Into the Fire" are translated by Steven Meyers

The cover art is a painting titled "Head of Medusa" by Caravaggio. Commissioned as a ceremonial shield by Cardinal Francesco Maria Del Monte in 1598.

Mícah Dawanyí's When the Record Stops Spinning

Even in darkness, a spark can ignite a revolution.

Once destined for stardom as an artist, college senior Kairo Young now finds himself dancing with despair and disaster- two of many symptoms from the world-ending tragedy that robbed him of his ability to create.

Still preparing for what now feels like a pointless graduation, he encounters Sahara Williams, a fellow senior and science prodigy at his university. Their introduction spotlights the stark differences between their worlds - but soon evolves into destiny when Sahara presents a groundbreaking opportunity: a chance to revisit the past through the creative power of music.

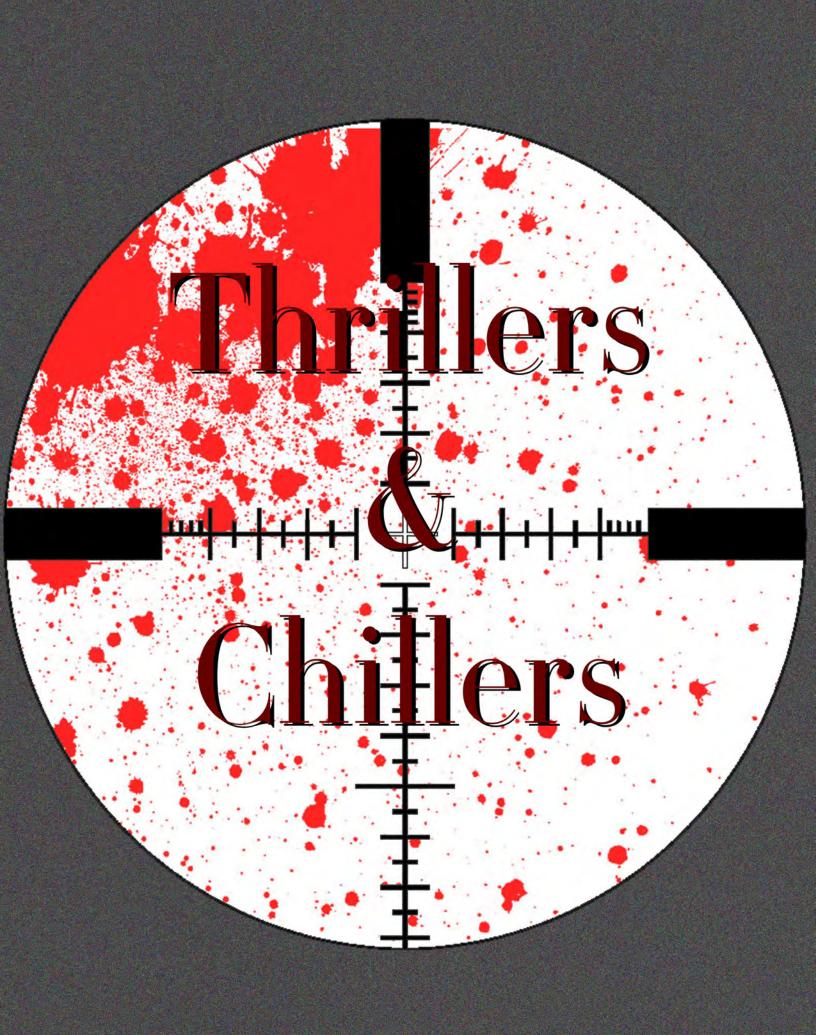






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When the Record Stop Spinning



Kevin G. Chapman- Double Takedown

What happens when a closed case cracks wide open?

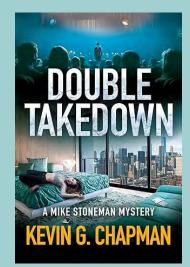
NYPD homicide detectives Mike Stoneman and Jason Dickson are preparing to testify at a highprofile murder trial. They busted a Broadway director, who poisoned his leading actor to collect the insurance money on his doomed show. Or did he? The director claims the evidence was planted to frame him and that Mike and Jason developed tunnel vision. If they did, can they live with themselves, knowing that an innocent man might be convicted . . . and someone else got away with the perfect crime?

The prosecutor and their captain order them not to re-open the closed case. But Mike and Jason are plagued by doubts. When new evidence leads to even more questions, the detectives race to put the pieces together and uncover the whole truth. Their unauthorized investigation could lead to catastrophic collateral damage, it could cost them their badges, and the director may still be guilty.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

5 Stars

As all of the books in the Mike Stoneman series, they just get better and better. I liked Mike and his relationship with his partner Jason, since I read the first book. Double Takedown is part of the Mike Stoneman Thriller series, and this is volume six. I am a big fan of Kevin G. Chapman and read whatever this author writes. This author has a



grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. The story has several layers, and great realistic characters, with flaws and personality, and sometimes they clash, and other times, they are right on track, but always have each other's back. Mike and Jason are two of my favorite detectives, and I like that the author brings in their outside relationships, like with their wives, who add finesse and loyalty to their husbands. Mike and Jason have a new case, that they didn't even know was coming. A trial for a case they were on and thought they solved, gets turned upside down. Murder in the theater is more than just a killing it review, it's a case that brings a lot of attention, and theories. Both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. This story is a wondrous trail of words. With all that's going on in the story, you'd think you'd be lost, but you don't. It has depth, and each character feels so real, and the story brings you right into it, wondering what will happen next. I just love, love, love this story. The reader just embarks on a superb journey. This is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. This journey was very unpredictable. Kevin G. Chapman is a magnificent storyteller! Drugs, murder, mayhem, and a superb, almost perfect crime with the almost perfect frame up

Amy Shannon Presents Fettering Shadows

In the quiet town in Oklahoma, former Texas Ranger Jake Dalton faces his darkest fears as a new case brings the deadly past to his doorstep



A Jake Dalton Investigation

AMY SHANNON Private Investigator Jake Dalton, once a respected Texas Ranger, now enjoys the quiet life in a small Oklahoma town, meticulously crafting a new existence far from the chaos of his past. Even when his former partner reaches out for help with a series of nsolved serial murders, Jake is more interested in his present routine than revisiting old shadows.

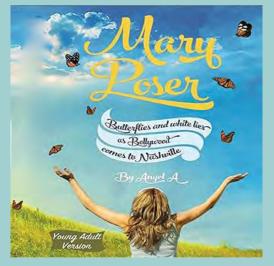
Everything changes when Dr. Agatha "Aggie" Constantine walks through his office door. Hiring Jake to track down her stalker, Aggie believes that this very stalker might also be the elusive serial killer known only as Icarus.



Audiobooks

Angel A - Mary Poser

Genre: F/Romance Narrated by: Heather Nichols



There's troubled love in Music City, Nashville Tennessee. Despite deeply entrenched obstacles, Southern Belle, Mary, falls for a visiting Bollywood director, Simha Das. A life-changing event leads to questions about who or what intervenes. Passions collide as Mary must come to terms with her darkest secret.

Mary must cross the bridge to her heart to have her butterflies. On the surface Mary Poser is a fun and frolicking love story. Underneath this is a message of hope and inspiration for anyone who feels overwhelmed by anxiety from approval demands of faith and culture.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

5 Stars

In Mary Poser, the listener is introduced to Mary, the titular character. I first read the print version of this book 2017, and recently reread the story before listening to this remarkable audiobook. Angel A tells an intriguing story about a woman, Mary, a traditional Southern Belle, who falls for a Bollywood Director. The narration is remarkable,

and the narrator definitely fits the story, with her southern accent, and she represents Mary very well. This book deserves both a read and a listen! When listening, you understand how Mary is, and very inclusive in her details, especially how she talks about every single part of her getting dressed, starting from being nude, and then discussing each piece of clothing, and that she was undressed in front of Charlie. Then, you learn Charlie is her dog. A magnificent story that kept this reader turning the hanging on every word. of the story. This was a definite attention grabber. Sometimes opposites attract, but when cultures attract and collide, something wonderful can happen. This book is a recipe for a wonderful story, and it's a lot of fun. Mary is one of those characters that you have to get used to, but she's a great one. She's stubborn, opinionated, and just out right wonderful. This story gets rid of bias and brings together Mary and Simha. There can be that feeling of awkwardness which comes from any new relationship and entering uncharted territory. It's what is unfamiliar that is most attractive. It's a great story and that brings a lot of contrast. It's full of humor and softness, and where it could use a more diverse set of characters, it was a story that brings something to your heart. It's a wonderful story to listen to and try to figure out what will happen next.





Author and Book Reviewer Amy Shannon a video series that shows the right way and the wrong way, to be mobility impaired accessible. Just because the regulations are vague, people should know what it is like to be mobility impaired, and how to use aids, so the disabled can maintain at least some of their independence.

YouTube



The mission: Abolish the Architectural Barrier Act of 1968 and amend the American Disabilities Act of 2010 mandate that all public access buildings have automatic doors or can be automatic for their entrances and exits.

Amy Shannon presents: Balls-Town: A Community of History, Friends, Neighbors, and Lingering Spirits

Ball's Town:

A community of history, friends, neighbors, and lingering spirits.







Amy Shannon

Literary Consulting & Document Services

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Editing: (Content, Copy, Editorial) Publisher. Graphic Designer. Research for Authors. Query letters, resumes, press kits. Create or maintain website or social Media Other Literary services.

writeramyshannon@gmail.com

