

JULY -AUGUST 2024  
ISSUE 12.2

# LITERATE-LY MAGAZINE

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

## AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT:

EG MOORE

## AUTHOR INTERVIEWS:

EG MOORE

SHERRI DODD

JEREMY JAMES SMITH

LOUIS FALCINELLI

## FEATURED SHORT STORY

BILLY THE ARSONIST

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MAX

PART III

## BOOK REVIEWS AND MORE:

AMY'S BOOKSHELF REVIEWS

AMY'S PICK OF THE MONTH

UNCAGED MAGAZINE

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT:

SORA SEARCHES FOR A SONG

## TRUE CRIME:

ABOVE THE GROUND

## AUDIOBOOKS:

DEACON BLUES

## NONFICTION AND MEMOIRS:

BUT ONE LIFE: THE STORY OF NATHAN HALE



Literate-Ly Magazine is a bi-monthly magazine (6 issues per year). All rights reserved. Literate-Ly Magazine is a publication of Essence Publications, which is part of a subsidiary of Essence Enterprises. All business Logos of Essence Enterprises are strictly copyrighted and may not be copied or used for other purposes other than that in this magazine. Articles that are published by contributing authors are their own content, and any graphics that accompany those articles are owned by the contributing author.

About Essence Publishing:

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

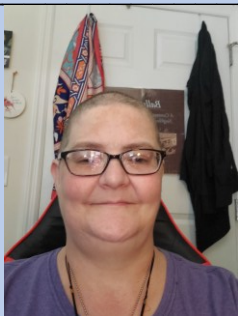
Subsidiaries of Essence Enterprises:



For advertising, click on the logo to the right.

Advertising:

- Full sheet Advertisement for ONE Year (6-issues) is \$25.00
- Half sheet advertisement for ONE Year (6-issues) is \$15.00



CEO and Chief Editor: Amy Shannon

Email address: [writeramyshannon@gmail.com](mailto:writeramyshannon@gmail.com)

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

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

# Table of Contents

- Magazine Error
- July Book Releases
- August Book Releases
- Author Spotlight
  - EG Moore
- Author Interviews
  - Louis Falcinelli
  - Sherri Dodd
  - EG Moore
  - Jeremy James Smith
- Uncaged Magazine
- Amy's Bookshelf Reviews
- Literary Articles
  - Close Reading of a Poem
- Character Writing 102
- Short Stories
  - Billy the Arsonist By Donald Firesmith
  - What's Wrong With Max Part III
- Nonfiction & Memoirs
- Children's and Young Adult
- True Crime
- Amy's Pick of the Month

# Magazine Error, creating a version 12.2

This is the second scheduling error I have made for Literate-Ly Magazine. I hope you all know this is not the norm. I have never had to upload more than one version.

In Version 12.2 the part three of What's wrong with Max by William Becker is included. It should've already been in there, but I mistakenly thought the parts were all finished.

I have had a lot on my mind, and have been distracted, and I am so, so terribly sorry. If you downloaded the previous versions (12.0 or 12.1), please go and download the 12.2 version. This is the last and final version of this month's magazine. I am so embarrassed and feel that this is unprofessional of me for doing it, but I want the authors to know, that I hold myself accountable for my own errors.



# 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.

[Amy's Bookshelf Reviews website](#)

[Essence Enterprises website](#)

[Prolific Works](#)

[Lulu.com](#)

[Smashwords](#)



# Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast!

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

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews has a new podcast.

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

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

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



Advertisement



# Essence Enterprises



Parent Company/Sole Proprietor Amy Shannon  
To utilize different tools to help authors at different levels, and with different parts of the literary publishing process.

Email: [essenceenterprises1972@gmail.com](mailto:essenceenterprises1972@gmail.com)

Twitter: [twitter.com/essenceENT72](https://twitter.com/essenceENT72)

Amy's Portfolio:

<https://essenceenterpriseus.com/portfolio>

Essence Enterprises YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChBA46fk3oGlaiFSaaTulhQ>

## Fractured Tears: A Struggle for Justice Expanded Version

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

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

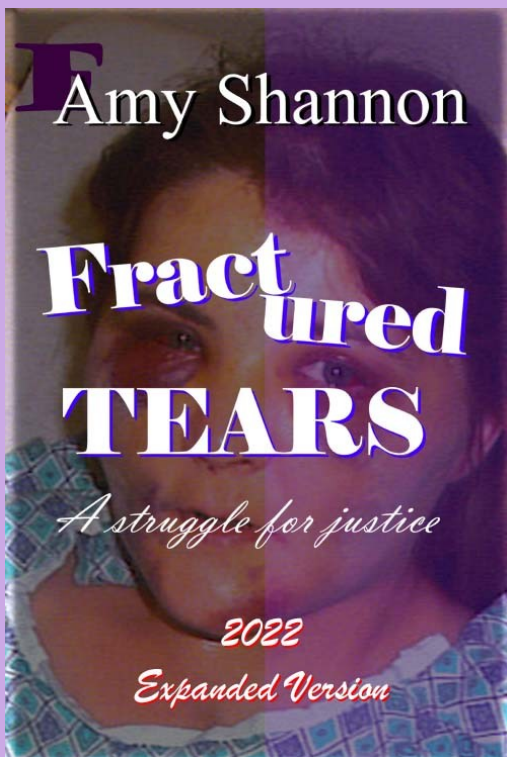
This is a fictionalized version of the real-life events of the Author.

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

This is an expanded version and Fourth Edition.

Names have been deleted or changed for privacy reasons.

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



Advertisement



# UNLEASH IMAGINATION!

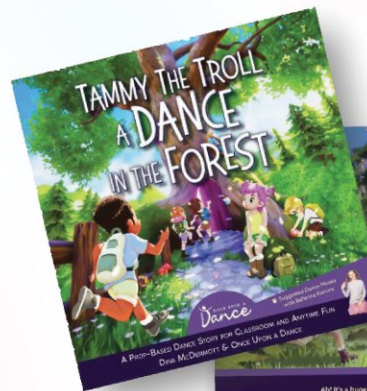
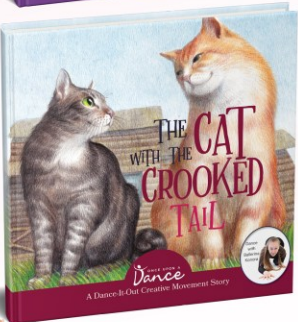
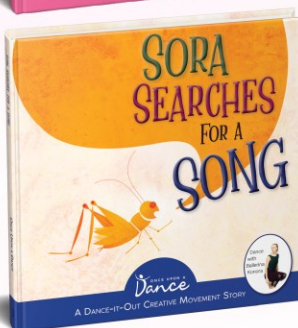
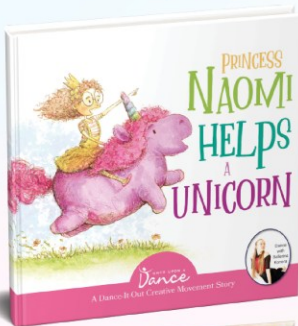
## DANCE BOOKS & VIDEOS



### FIRST DANCE CLASS



### MOVEMENT STORIES



### STORY WITH SCARVES



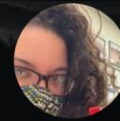
YouTube  
@ONCEUPONADANCE590





# 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.



Jada



"Truly depressing, taking us through a man's regrets throughout life as he comes to terms with the end of his."



Khan



"Tuck yourselves in folks, this is one hell of a ride, albeit one you'll never forget."



Tyrnie



"I found myself easily getting lost in the story, entranced by the plot, almost like being unable to tear your eyes away from a car crash (the car crash being Sam's worrisome, yet captivating downward spiral)."



Laramie



"'By The Ocean' is dark, cold, and lonely, but it's the perfect addition to Becker's oeuvre and a beautiful telling of hope and loss."



John



"Ugly but beautifully written."



Isobel



"As all of Becker's work, this is three things: honest, depressing as f\*\*\*, and emotionally potent. Reading it feels simultaneously like drowning and getting a mega hit of dopamine"



E.J



"By the Ocean is a worthy endeavor that will ooze and drip its foggy New England sadness down your bookshelf for years to come."



SCAN ME

Advertisement

WilliamBeckerAuthor.net

# July Releases

J. S. Marlo Undeniable Trait 7/1/2024

Dan Kopcow Madcap Serenade 7/11/2024

Susan E. Sage DANCING IN THE RING 7/15/2024

S.M. Stevens Beautiful and Terrible Things 7/18/2024

Matt Cost City Gone Askew 7/31/2024



# August Releases

Yvonne Rediger Storm Stayed 8/1/2024

George Bachman Paramour Book I: Moneta 8/1/2024

Melina Druga Rock Star Mom 8/13/2024

Catherine Ada Campbell True. Moving Beyond  
Complex Trauma 8/19/2024

Christie Valentine Powell The Centaur Choice  
8/30/2024



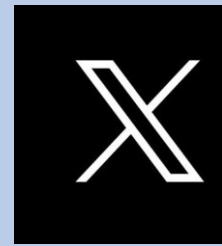
# **Author Spotlight**



# Author Spotlight

## E.G. Moore

E.G. Moore is an award-winning poet and author, as well as a freelance writer and editor. Her essay *Wearing Teresa's Russet Boots* was featured in Hope Paige's *Anthology on loss Breaking Sad* in 2017, and she had several pieces published in an anthology honoring a local historic building in 2018. When she's not telling "Mommy Made stories" to her three children or awaiting feedback for her latest manuscript, she can be found off-roading in North Idaho, baking something scrumptious, or on a plot-and-soul refreshing run.







**“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**



**amazon**  
**BARNES & NOBLE**

[www.emilygmoore.com](http://www.emilygmoore.com)



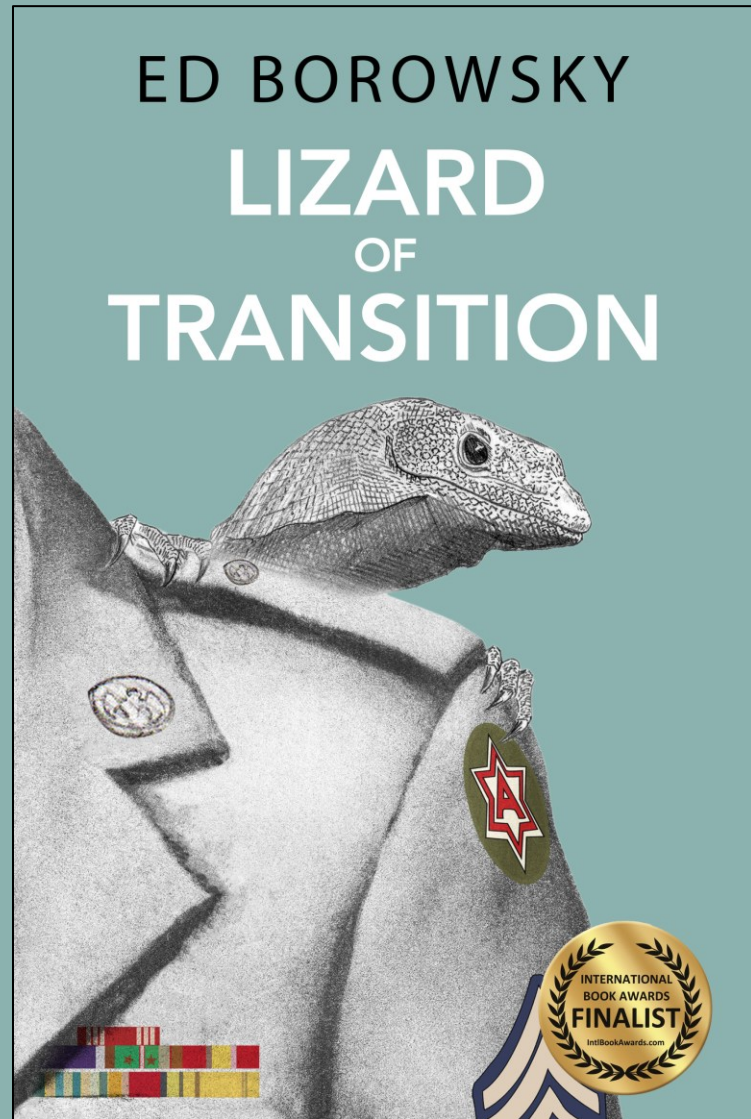
# Ed Borowsky's Lizard of Transition

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

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

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

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



amazon

Advertisement



# THE HARKENTALE SAGA

## STORIES WORTH LISTENING TO

### PRAISE FOR HOLTGART, BOOK ONE OF THE HARKENTALE SAGA:

This humor-coated fantasy had me chuckling from page one.

*~Author E.G. Moore*

"...humour spiced adventure on each horizon keeps the pages turning..."

*~Amazon Reviewer*

"What an incredible world built by Jeremy James Smith. I like that there is... war and survival, but it is balanced with comedic actions and dialogue."

*~Amy's Bookshelf Reviews*

"Jeremy James Smith, weaves a fantastical narrative. He is deliberate in his world and character building providing a strong narrative that immerses the listener completely."

*Audiobookreviewer.com*



## NOW AVAILABLE IN AUDIOBOOK!

amazon

audible



BARNES & NOBLE



[www.jeremyjamesmith.com](http://www.jeremyjamesmith.com)



MY JAMES SMITH



tp



# Amy Shannon's MOD Life Epic Saga

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







# INDIES UNITED PUBLISHING HOUSE, LLC

*Come see what  
we have to offer*

*[indiesunited.net](http://indiesunited.net)*







# Author Interviews

# Louis Falcinelli

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

Louis Falcinelli: I only need one: Indescribable.

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

Louis Falcinelli: Three so far, and out of those three, one has been published, with another book getting prepped for publication.

*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?

Louis Falcinelli: They present themselves in all sorts of ways, whether it's something I've seen on TV, in a movie, or heard in a song. It can even be a term or phrase that just sticks out. I can formulate the title first sometimes and then form a story around it because it intrigues me so. My titles can change, but rarely.

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

Louis Falcinelli: *Welcome to the Madhouse*. November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



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

Louis Falcinelli: *Hopeless*. He's the main character in my upcoming novel *Bottlerot*, which is about my generation of millennials. I think he's the most interesting because he's cynical while maintaining a sharp, comical wit on the surface, but at his core a serious optimist who truly wants to change the sordid state of affairs he's faced with.

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

Louis Falcinelli: Dealing with my own struggles.



# Louis Falcinelli Cont'd

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

Louis Falcinelli: It's about a young man battling both his internal demons and a system seeking to suppress him.

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

Louis Falcinelli: I tend to start out with a foundation for the story before I launch in, so when I'm writing off the cuff, I can have some sense of direction in navigating my narrative. And other times, it's a free-for-all!

*Literate-Ly Magazine:* Why do you write?

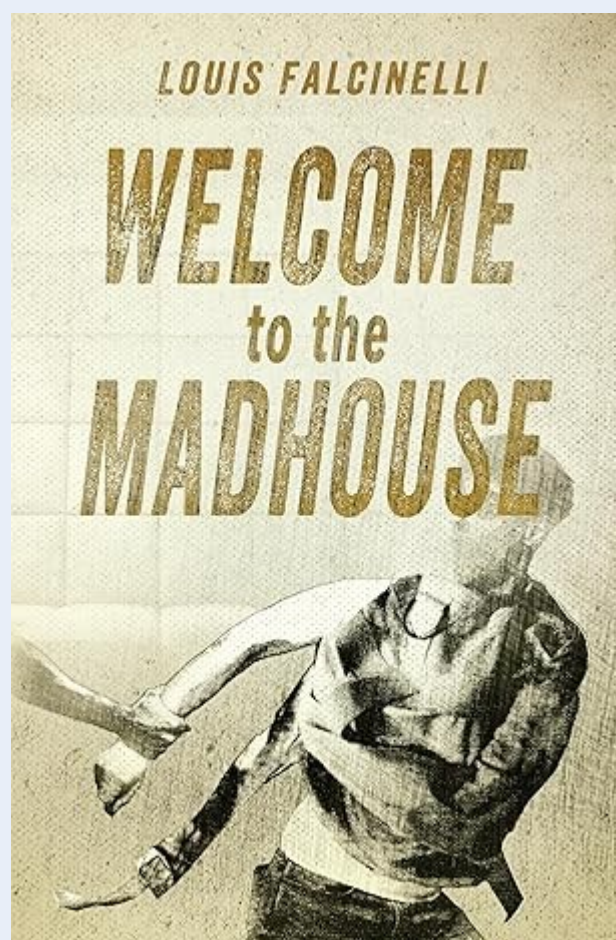
Louis Falcinelli: Because I get such an overwhelming feeling of bliss doing it. It's also an incredible way to explore anything I want.

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

Louis Falcinelli: I do, but usually for editing purposes, making sure everything flows to my liking.

*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?

Louis Falcinelli: YES. YES. AND... YES. I am so intensely inspired and driven by music when writing. I listen to everything. Literally everything. The piece I'm working on usually determines the music though. So, something emotional, I'd usually go with a more somber song. Something chaotic, I'd likely listen to something harsh.



# Louis Falcinelli 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?

Louis Falcinelli: By far the synopsis. That's most challenging because I have major issues summarizing anything, especially mounds of emotions I put on a page.

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

Louis Falcinelli: Being able to more than adequately afford a lifestyle you prefer, because that means you have positively affected a great many people through your work.

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

Louis Falcinelli: I want to revolutionize storytelling.

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

Louis Falcinelli: See things for what they could be while taking in what they are. That way, you can construct a whole imaginary setting around you while still staying grounded.



amazon

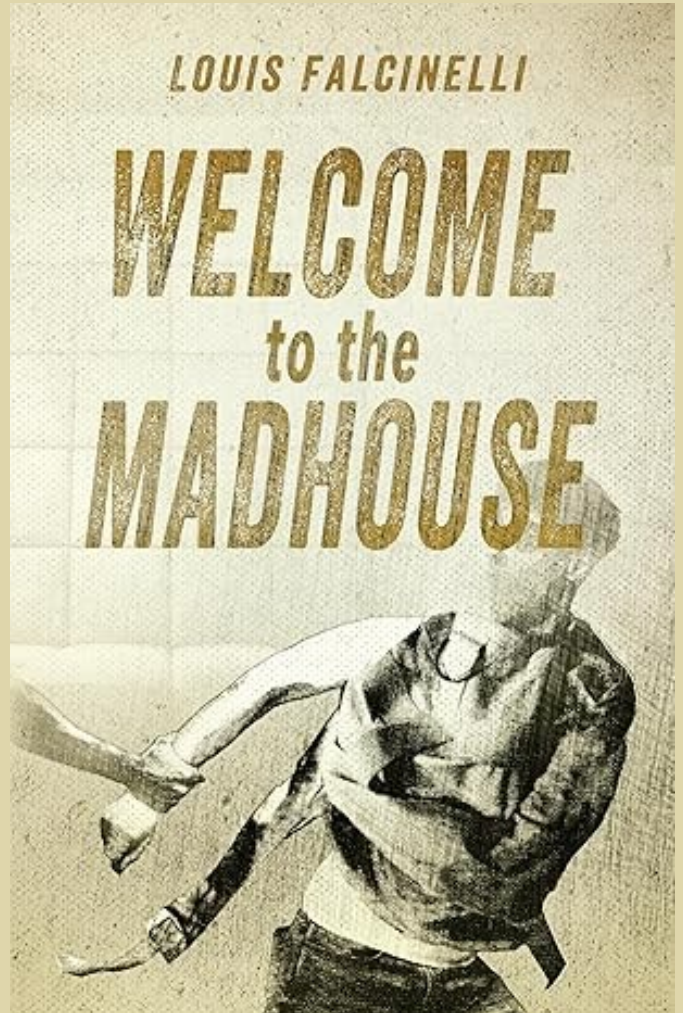


# Louis Falcinelli's **Welcome to the Madhouse**

Darren has just begun to endure a breakdown of monumental proportions. His socialite mother, already consumed with preparing her daughter's lavish wedding, seeks to shield herself from possible humiliation brought on by her social circle as a result of her son's condition. In desperation, she turns to the family's lifelong advisor, Dr. Gag, a deranged figure who dreams up an experimental psychiatric facility where patients previously institutionalized are given the opportunity to treat others through a mixture of conventional and unconventional methods.

Darren is involuntarily admitted, finding it to be the worst place, run by the one he most detests, Dr. Gag.

We follow Darren on his journey of unparalleled pain and pleasure as he forges relationships of the deepest, darkest kind while ultimately battling his biggest demon yet—himself.



Advertisement

# Sherri L. Dodd

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

Sherri Dodd: Quirky, High-functioning Introvert and wicked sense of humor. (10 words with only three meanings ;)

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

Sherri Dodd: MURDER UNDER REDWOOD MOON is my debut fiction novel. It was published and released by Black Rose Writing on March 21, 2024.

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

Sherri Dodd: Between COVID's wrath and my father's terminal cancer, an unhealthy fear of death began to grip me. Even though I had lost quite a few relatives in the past five years, it was unusual for my optimistic nature to be burdened down by what-if's. So, I got in touch with my inner self, and we decided to create a story that brought new life to death – ha!

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

Sherri Dodd: Witch-Lit – Magick Realism, Paranormal—Thriller and Murder Mystery, and a bit of PG-13 love.



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

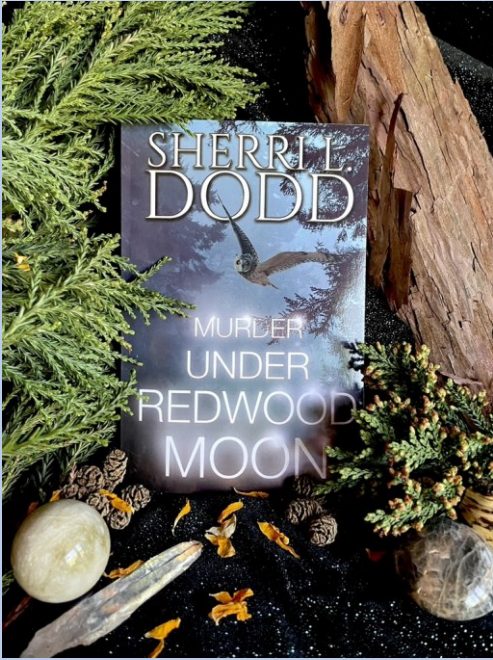
Sherri Dodd: I have a collection of over 100 designer Barbie, 100 newly-minted coins. I am certified to teach yoga, kickboxing and UJAM, but writing seems to have taken my time away from doing it. And I still remember, and practice, about fifteen WTF and ITF taekwondo forms.

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

Sherri Dodd: Wayne Dyer, Thich Nhat Hanh and Marc Manson. Yes, all non-fiction! I am sure there are exceptional fiction writers out there, but with the little time I have to read, I want to work on my anxiety and bad habits – ha!



# Sherri L. Dodd cont'd



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

Sherri Dodd: I just started reading *The Psychology of Music*, by Elizabeth Margulis. It is intriguing to me, that like spirituality, it is nearly impossible to convey the complex way music affects you into everyday words.

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

Sherri Dodd: I write better at night. I light a candle with the scents of lavender, rose and vanilla, have a cup of herbal tea at my side and tap-tap-tap away at the keys for hours. My cat watches from his post and I get no interruptions.

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

Sherri Dodd: Once my book is published, I dread reading it. Reason being, because no matter how many times I edited it, paid to have a professional edit it, and re-edited it again, I will open to a page with a mistake. Also, I will be compelled to reword something.

*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?

Sherri Dodd: The only background is my gurgling fish tank. I cannot listen to music while I write because I get whisked away in the melody. Interesting question/answer based on the book I'm reading.

*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?

Sherri Dodd: I agree! It is absolutely the blurb. How to convey the most important details of 300+ pages into 150 words is challenging, to say the least.

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

# Sherri L. Dodd cont'd

Sherri Dodd: I used to think it was making that NYTimes Best Seller list, making lots of money and being renowned in the industry. But actually, I have changed that ideal. It is feeling emotion when you read your own story, it is accomplishing what you set out to do with the story and adapting to all the twists and turns that came at you as you wrote it. Making it to #1 Amazon Best Seller and #1 Amazon New Release feels pretty great too!



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

Sherri Dodd: For future writers - Research the stats of those who succeed. Your chance of an agent is 1 in 6,000. Your chance of a direct publisher (those who accept submission without an agent) is 1 in 100-200. When I first started, I said until I sent 200 inquiries and got 200 rejections, I would not give up. And I will tell you, it IS disappointing getting those 'no's' – one after the other! But my contract came at around the 75<sup>th</sup> inquiry. Funny enough, they had originally told me 'no'. I hired a professional editor and reapproached them, then got the 'yes'.



**amazon**



# EG Moore

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

EG Moore: Compelling, character, succinct

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

EG Moore: I've written a substantial portion of ten novels total, with another six children's book manuscripts as well. I've published three novels. **Rowdy Days of Dom Sanders** is my nostalgic Americana upper middle grade novel that's been compared to Tom Sawyer. **Moon Daughter Rising** is my middle grade novel which entwines MiqMaq tribal folklore with fantasy, and is part of a planned series. Last year, I published my first Young Adult Fantasy novel **The Last Dragonfly**, which is the first in the Dragonfly Destiny Series. A novella of this series is planned for release in August: **The Mhrann's Mantle**, which tells Jaya's backstory about how she came to be the character she is in *The Last Dragonfly*. Jaya will also be a major part of the second book in the Dragonfly Destiny Series.

*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?



EG Moore: Names are very important to me, both of books, series, and characters. There has to be deeper meaning in them, so readers should be sure to look up the meaning of the names I choose. There is a lot of foreshadowing there.

In one of my young adult series, the titles came first. They include the main character's name in possessive form and a noun of what they possess, so that template was easy for the series. For example, the first novel is Samana's Flare (Flare is what that culture calls a magical type tattoo.)

I actually let my Very Important Reader email subscribers title *The Last Dragonfly*, holding a contest, and plan to continue that tradition for that series.

My other novels got their names as the story was developed, usually not solidifying until the book is mostly written.

# EG Moore con'td

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

EG Moore: The Last Dragonfly (Book 1 of the Dragonfly Destiny Series) was published April 2023. We just had a one-year publication celebration giveaway over on my socials.

*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?

EG Moore: I feel like all my themes are relevant to the young and teen readers they are intended for. My stories have been called fable-like in that they always have a lesson theme for the reader that is engrained in a great story. For example, in Moon Daughter Rising, I wanted introverts like Annalie to know they still have power in who they are and their perspective. In The Last Dragonfly, I wanted readers to recognize through Etoiny that girls who are proud of and use their intelligence can solve their world's problems. Other themes I've twined into my stories include doing what is right even when it's difficult, being honest because lying only makes things worse in the long run, and that romantic love can come from a slow-paced, wonderfully strong friendship.

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

EG Moore: \*spoiler alert\*

The Last Dragonfly came from two things. First, I loved the idea of a Victorian-esque world where a woman had the audacity to study nature and science, and use her brain to win the day. I may or may not love to watch historical dramas on Prime Video and Hulu.

I also had this fun story thought before I started to develop it: "What would happen if a dragonfly kept growing and growing until it became a dragon?"

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

EG Moore: Fantasy adventures, Classic retellings, and epic fantasy

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

EG Moore: The Last Dragonfly is a romp of a tale about Taachat's Governor's daughter Etoiny. Unlike her society counter-parts, she likes to dress in comfortable clothes and explore the natural world, study the scientific papers printed often in Taachat, and do science experiments. Her goal is to become a scientist and join the science society as the



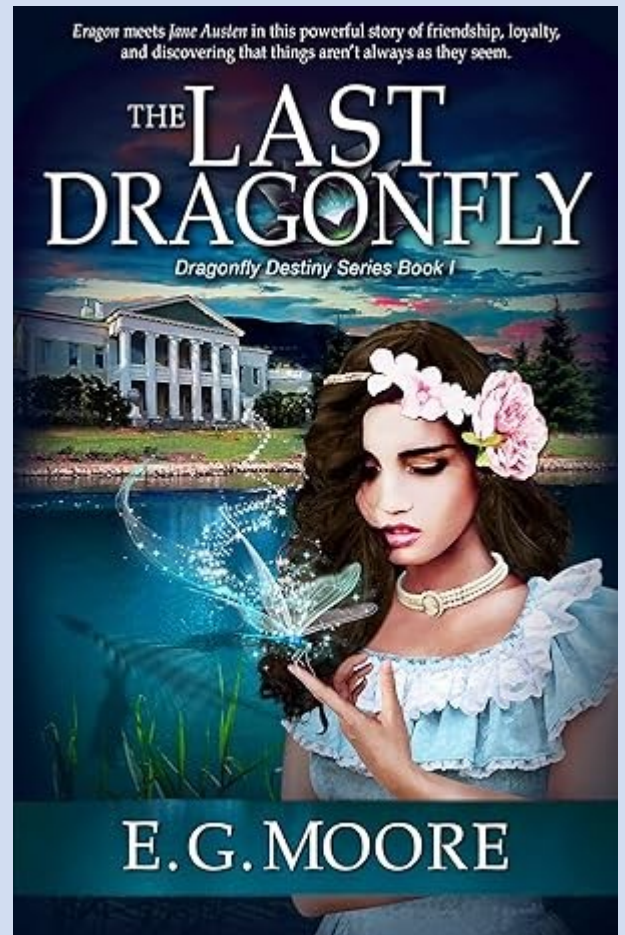
# EG Moore Cont'd

first female member, and maybe even help with the drought that's happening to the Melasi blooms that all people need to stay healthy and thrive in the land. Magic is being persecuted by an elite caste with her father's permission. Her protector Morem is also a dear friend, the son of her tutor growing up. He tries hard to keep her out of trouble, even the trouble she creates herself.

She's on a mission to find something to present at the science society's annual public presentations for admittance when she discovers a thought-extinct dragonfly. She accidentally wounds it and takes it home either to heal it and use it as a live specimen, or dissect and study it for the presentation. But she starts to bond with the dragonfly and it starts to grow into a different creature entirely. She also gets a mark from it and starts having visions that contradict what she knows of her family's and people's history.

All the while, the major Melasi festival for the three peoples of her world is being prepared for and she has a suitor she's thwarting. Also, a girl from her suitor's people seems to be in places she shouldn't, snooping around, and a stranger has ransacked her room looking for something. So she has this ticking clock of both the creature's growth and her impending wedding against her.

There are some great twists and turns in this one. Nothing is as it seems.



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

EG Moore: This is a great moment between Morem and Etoiny in *The Last Dragonfly* chapter 8:

*"Please give me some space to think, half a dozen steps, if you please."*

*"No."*

*Etoiny snapped her head up at Morem's response.*

*"I need to know what's going on." He glanced at her pocket. "You've not been yourself. Sure, you've always spent large*

# EG Moore Cont'd

*amounts of time in your room, and this must be difficult for you.” He gestured to the wide and tall figures of Harmonie, Asrar, and her father. “But you’ve brushed off those that care about you, hardly seen the sun, and it’s been days since you’ve asked me for our daily riddle.” Hurt leached into the last part of his sentence. He bumped her elbow with his fingertips and directed her to a far blossom tree. “I discovered it with you. Don’t you trust me?” He’d not said so many words in one speech in a long time.*

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

EG Moore: I’m a self-taught nutritionist and believe heavily in home remedy and natural medicine.

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

EG Moore: Why is this always so difficult?!? I love Juliet Marillier, Sharon Cameron, and Melanie Cellier. I actually have a “Books I wish I wrote” Goodreads Shelf with books that I feel are very well written that you can [check out here](#).

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

EG Moore: I’m reading a lot right now because I’m part of a couple summer reading challenges. I’m currently listening to the audiobooks of The Remnant Chronicles by Mary E Pearson (just finished book 1: The Kiss of Deception) and reading Wyldling Snare by A.R. Grimes.

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

EG Moore: I started out as a fly by the seat of my pants writer “pantser”, but I’ve developed a hybrid pantser-plotter system that works for me. I need to have a plot direction, but I like free-writing because often I come up with something even better than my plan as I get to know my characters.

*Literate-Ly Magazine:* Why do you write?

EG Moore: I tried to stop once. It was awful. It’s a part of me, like another limb. It’s a creative outlet and a small legacy that I can leave the world. I want to reach young readers and give them encouragement, inspiration, and hope.

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

EG Moore: I usually don’t read it for at least a year after release, and try to focus on the next project. I do a lot of rereading when I edit because I’m a linear writer and editor.



# EG Moore Cont'd

*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?

EG Moore: I do listen to music sometimes, especially for emotionally charged scenes such as battles or romance. Usually, I pull up random Youtube lists that are already curated for whatever theme or scene type I need. I really like ones that use movie music. I love soundtracks of movies like Harry Potter, How to Train Your Dragon, LOTR, Marvel Movies, 100, space epics and such.

*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?

EG Moore: For me, it's keeping the tagline short. My marketing brain tends to have no problem with blurbs and summaries, but a single line that wraps up my entire novel? Nope.

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

EG Moore: Reach the appropriate audience and sell books. Doesn't matter how many on either count.

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

EG Moore: I would love to win a national award for my writing. I've already won several regional ones, and it's very gratifying for me. I would also like to publish at least ten novels in my lifetime. I also love working with my marketing clients, as I help other authors learn how to market their work, and it would be really cool to help them to a point where their work is noted in a big way.

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

EG Moore: I would say that the world needs your stories and your perspective. It's okay to live a life in which you explore and develop it.

Thank you for having me! ~ E.G. Moore

# Jeremy James Smith

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

Jeremy James Smith: Bardic Renaissance Dad

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

Jeremy James Smith: I have written three books so far, published one; Holtgart. The follow-up books, Pickled Marble and Dreamvine, are being polished and bettered as we speak.

*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?

Jeremy James Smith: The titles for my books, like dwarven names, are earned. Each title highlights the subject of the book's major theme, but in a way that may not make sense until after the book is read. As the first book revealed itself to be the coming-of-age tale for Angus, his job title (Holtgart, literally "home guard") seemed to be the best fit for a descriptive title.

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



Jeremy James Smith: Holtgart is my only published book (at the moment, Pickled Marble is close). I published it initially in 2020, as the world changed into something weird and isolated. There it sat, neglected, until I could get back to where I was before the Great Unawesomeness. Which is where we are today, experiencing the high times of the New Awesomeness.

*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?

Jeremy James Smith: Oh my goodness, that is a difficult question. Today I think I'll choose Black Zonka, the old orc crone. She's a naturalist and chef, in tune with nature and all things green and wonderful. Of course, she has a taste for dwarf-meat, which complicates her relationship with the titular dwarf Angus.



# Jeremy James Smith Cont'd

I have so much developing with this character, and I can't talk about it without spoiling future books. But the likeable bad guy is an underdone trope; as are middle-aged and older female characters. I love writing her scenes and reading them later.

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

Jeremy James Smith: I started writing about Angus out of loneliness. I was working way too much and came home to an exhausted wife who usually needed to tag out as soon as I got home. Our first child was so busy, and my wife had no other support in the remote area we moved to.

So, whenever they were both napping and I was afraid to make a sound, I rehashed some experiences from my heady roleplaying days. One character had always left a smile on my face, the everydwarf Angus. The tappity-tap of my keystrokes were quiet enough to let my family sleep, and I recaptured old ideas, quickly developing new as the story took on a life of its own.

The rest, as they say, is fiction.

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

Jeremy James Smith: Comedic fantasy for the most part; but I also dabble in hard-hitting spy-action-thrillers. None of those are complete and are different enough that I'll likely use a pseudonym.

Of course, in election years like this, my persuasive articles take up more time, as I have an audience that likes to watch what I have to say.

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

Jeremy James Smith: Holtgart, Book One of the Harkentale Saga, opens the epic and comedic Harkentale world up with a relatable coming-of-age, everyman story. The underlying social commentary compares competence and confidence with luck and letters. Is it more important to be qualified for the task, or to successfully complete it?



# Jeremy James Smith Cont'd



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

Jeremy James Smith: “I just can’t imagine how that happened.” -Holtgart

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

Jeremy James Smith: In my free time I’m learning to do medieval combat on foot and from horseback. I find it is so relaxing to sit astride a warhorse and lower a lance or throw a spear. It transports me to another time.

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

Jeremy James Smith: John Ronald Ruell Tolkien, Sir Terry Pratchett, and Anne McCaffery

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

Jeremy James Smith: Bossypants by Tina Fey

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

Jeremy James Smith: I use a loose outline, then let the story flow. I tune things up on later passes, but not often a full rewrite. The characters, for the most part, guide the specifics; as I write them.

*Literate-Ly Magazine:* Why do you write?

Jeremy James Smith: I write because I have a series of stories to tell. Taken together, they should fill a reader with happiness at comedic situations and ethics well-explored; and at best might have a positive influence on readers.

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

Jeremy James Smith: I do reread my own writing to stay in touch with the message and the specifics. Best moments are when I lol at my own stuff, which happens sometimes.



# Jeremy James Smith Cont'd

*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?

Jeremy James Smith: I also listen to mood music. While writing Holtgart, some of my go-tos were Clint Mansell and the Kronos Quartet, and Zoe Keating scored many of my battle scenes. The key for me is no lyrics, or lyrics in a language I don't really know well.

*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?

Jeremy James Smith: Oh, synopses are always difficult. We didn't write a paragraph, we wrote a whole book! Obviously it is way too complicated to fit into a blurb! And yet we do.

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

Jeremy James Smith: At the surface, if you get what you needed out of writing, it is enough. You might have helped heal trauma, or just written down something important to you. Making money is great, but certainly not the only reason to write.

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

Jeremy James Smith: Oof, I'm old, so that list is shrinking. I've already met heroes and become a respected expert; now I'm looking to have fun. If I can look back and say I equipped my sons to be better than I am, I'll be proud to say, "I did that."

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

Jeremy James Smith: I only get to write these stories with the support of readers; I cannot express my gratitude for those that take the chance and purchase my work. For fellow writers? Write! Write whatever you wish; just write! I have always been better for the writing.



*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.

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

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



Advertisement



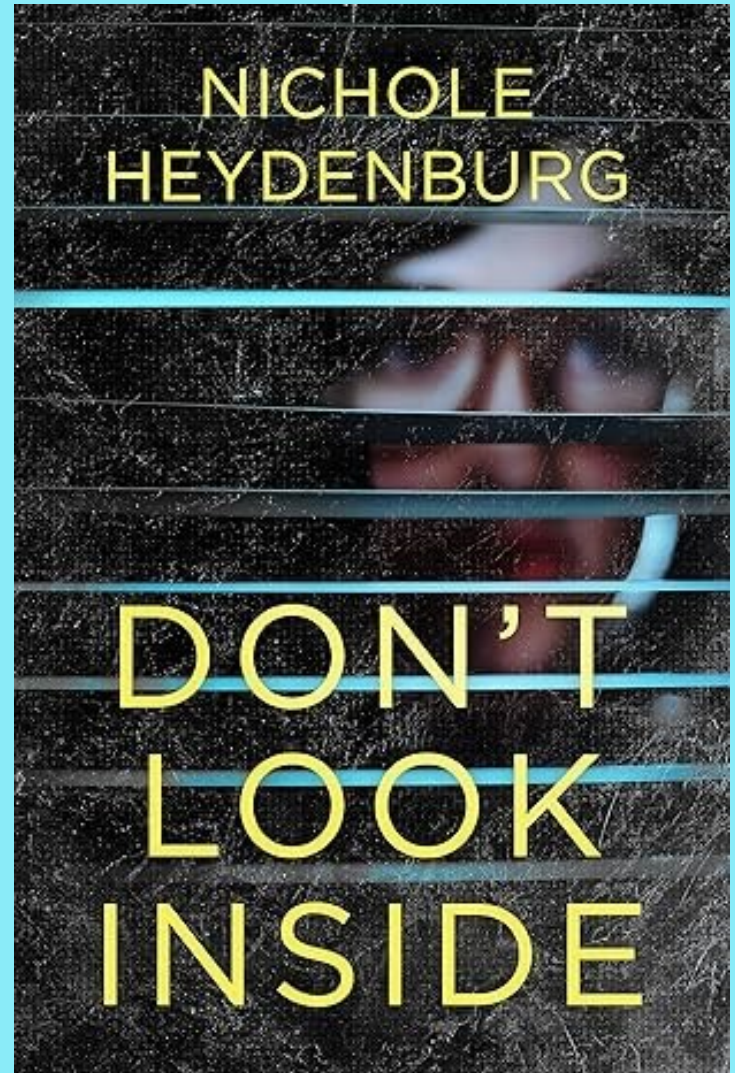
# Nichole Heydenburg's Don't Look Inside

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.



Advertisement

# Just the Tip Adult Short Story Contest

June 1st - August 31st



Cash prizes, awards, and more

We can't wait to read your stories!

[indiesunited.net/just-the-tip](http://indiesunited.net/just-the-tip)



# AN ACT OF GOD

*by*  
William Becker





# UNCAGED

BOOK REVIEWS



# Nighthawk by Kathryn Le Veque

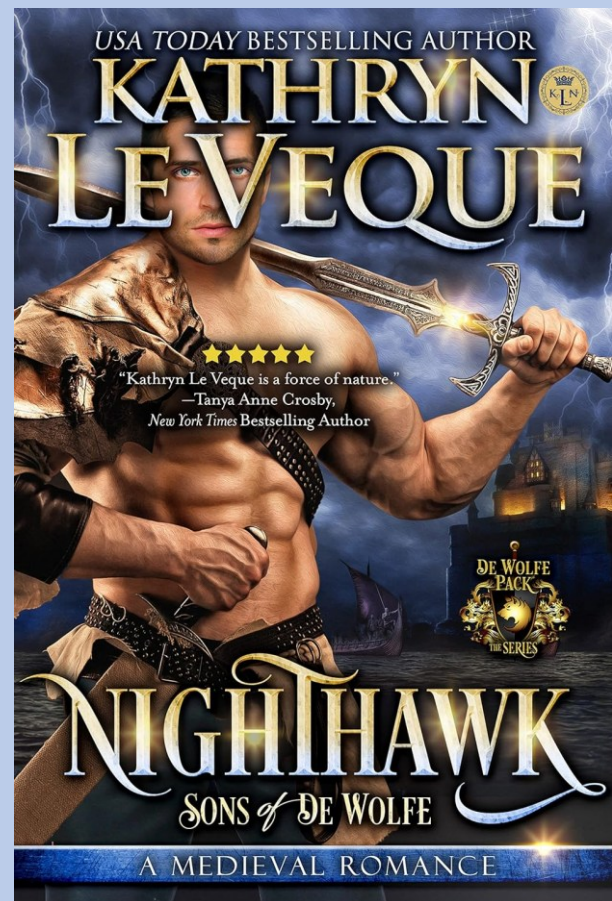
## 5 Stars

When I wanted to continue reading in this author's world, I decided to stay with the de Wolfe clan and this story centers around Patrick, known as the Nighthawk and one of the most feared sons of The Wolfe and maintains control over Berwick Castle, not far from his father's domain, Questing Castle. Berwick Castle is a large, almost impenetrable castle. Patrick is known as the Nighthawk, making his own name for himself for his prowess at war and is getting ready to travel to London to a prestigious position with the King. He comes upon a skirmish on the border and finds a woman captive by some reivers. When captured he finds she's a postulate for a priory and was kidnapped by the men. Along with the woman, Brighton, was a nun, whom Patrick finds and is told a tale by the nun's dying words.

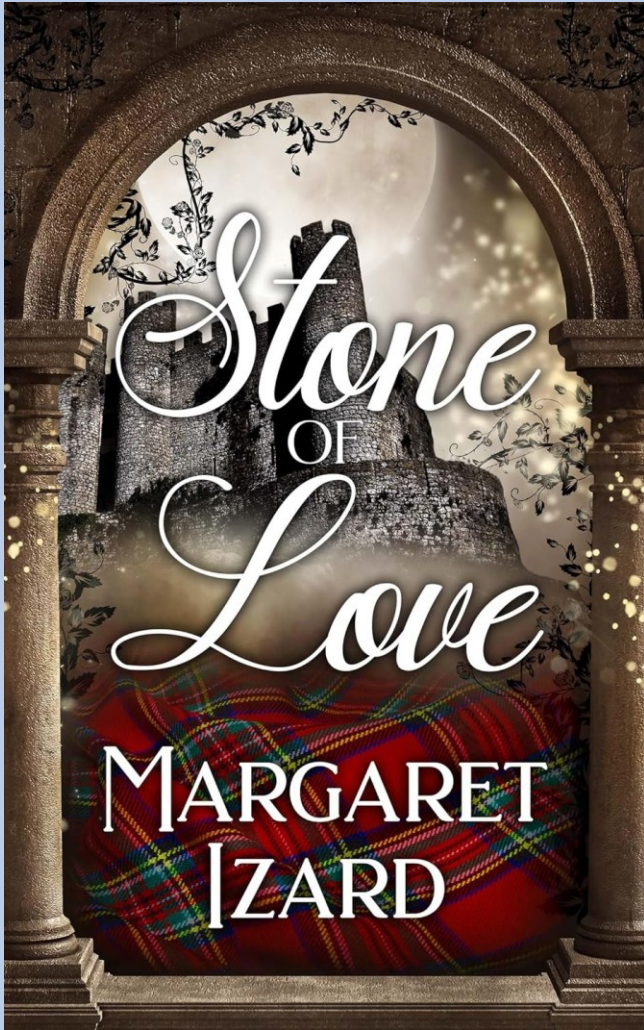
Taking her back to Berwick, he decides to get counsel from his father, William. But things will spin out of control, and Patrick will need to decide why his feelings of wanting to protect them woman is just his honor or something more. There is a lot of secrets that have been kept from Brighton, and the de Wolfe's could become a target from a Scottish clan and some Norsemen.

This was an action-packed book, and the family members are back here, along with a gaggle of grandkids. William is older now, but still a force to be reckoned with, along with their wives. The romance isn't quite as fast as William and Jordan, but William will soon find out that his son has become a formidable man.

I don't know how the author can sweep us into the epic journey, but I'm along for the ride. I was completely in awe of the masterful way this story was told, and how this author astonishes me every time I read one her books.



## Medieval Romance



Fantasy Romance

# Stone of Love by Margaret Izard

## 4.5 Stars

Brielle is an American historian tasked with restoring a chapel in Scotland that belongs to the MacDougall clan. Having been hand-picked was a dream come true and in the best timing. Breaking up with an abusive ex-boyfriend, Brielle finds the trip to Scotland a way to start over.

Colin MacDougall lost his parents in an accident and is now the new laird. When he meets Brielle, he is astonished by the connection he instantly feels toward her. What neither know yet, is that Fae stories and myths of the past are all too real, and soon Colin will need to go on a quest for the Fae, back in time, to right a wrong. As Colin and Brielle get closer and their love blooms, all could be lost if he doesn't complete the task and return to his time.

This book has just the right amount of magic for the story, and readers will root for the two main characters. The book is full of descriptions that will make everyone want to travel to Scotland to see the beautiful lands. The book and story are a magical journey, and I am looking forward to the next book.



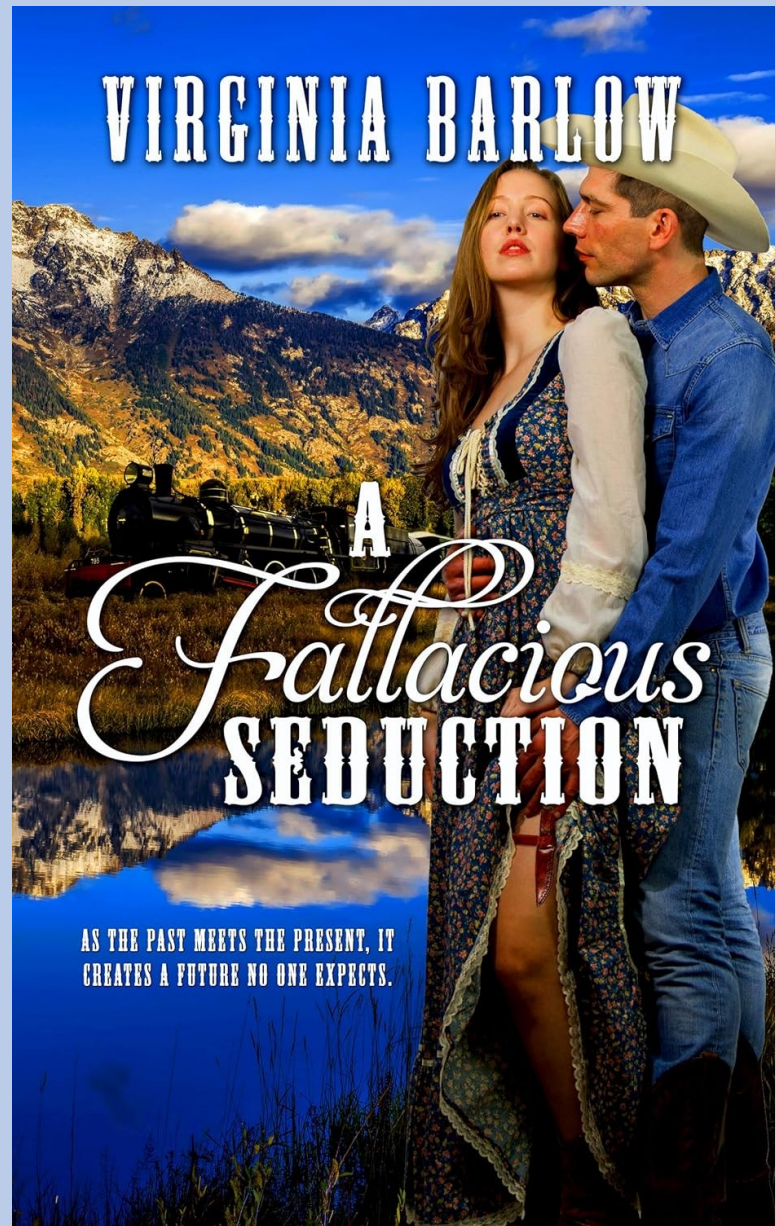
# A Fallacious Seduction by Virginia Barlow

## 5 Stars

One of the best western historical books I've read in a while, and I realize I'm late to the party, but this is a good western with suspense, danger and spicy romance. This book starts out with a literal bang, when a train explodes from a bomb. Only 2 survivors, Reese and Shanna, who Reese swears is a woman named Jenna that betrayed him years ago, and he is not letting her get away this time. Meanwhile, Shanna has no idea who Reese is, or anything he's talking about.

I guessed a couple different ways this could go, and it was a good read getting through all the pitfalls these two will go through. Shanna is a strong, smart woman with a heart of gold, and while this confuses Reese, he can't help how he feels about her, but convinces himself it's all an act.

Great story, good characters, a good ending and I always like when we have an epilogue. If you like western romances, you can't go wrong with this one.



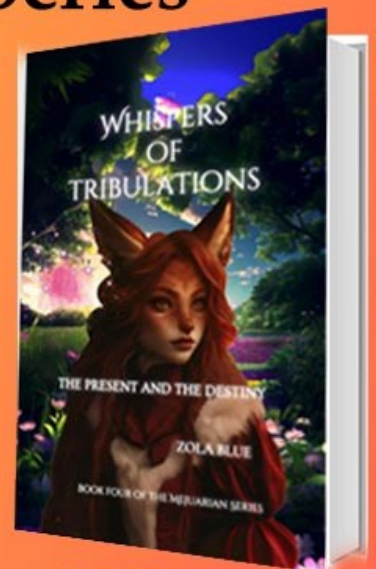
Western Historical

# Zola Blue's The Mejuarian Series

The Mejuarian are god-like creatures living on the planet Ercutis in a near-perfect world. In a galaxy where telepathic bonds and ancient dreams shape destinies, the Mejuar and their diverse allies embark on a thrilling journey that intertwines their fates across worlds.

- The Four: Destruction of Honor (The Mejuarian Book 1)
- Bound in Strength: Stance Upon Heartache (The Mejuarian Book 2)
- Courage of One: Conviction to Stand (The Mejuarian Book 3)
- Whispers of Tribulations: The Present and The Destiny (The Mejuarian Book 4)

## Zola Blue's The Mejuarian Series



The Mejuarian are god-like creatures living on the planet Ercutis in a near-perfect world.

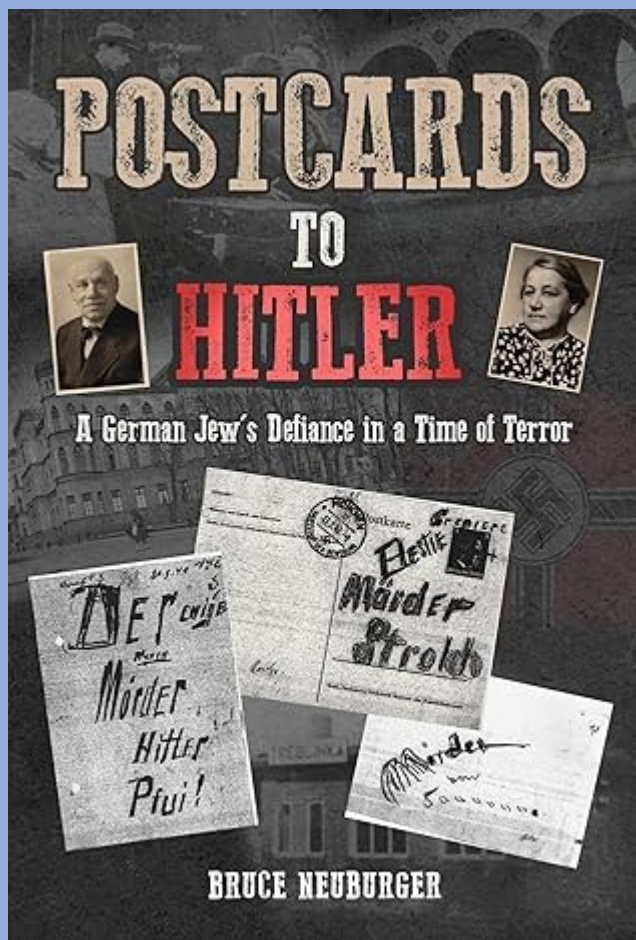




The background features a spiral-bound notebook with a world map on its cover. To the left, a vintage typewriter is partially visible. The notebook's pages are filled with faint, handwritten text in cursive.

# AMY'S BOOKSHELF REVIEWS®

©2022 Essence Publishing Images



## Bruce Neuburger- Postcards to Hitler: A German Jew's Defiance in a Time of Terror

5 Stars

In *Postcards to Hitler: A German Jew's Defiance in a Time of Terror*, the reader is introduced to a family, who ends up being neighbors with the would-be dictator of Germany, and the insightful terror that he projects to his followers. The family is Jewish, living in Munich, where the main character is Benno Neuburger and Anna Einstein, who marry when there is a prosperous time in Germany. They married in 1907, well before either WWI or WWII. The author shares the story of his grandparents, and it shares a wondrous love with the two before their world is turned upside down. Eventually, the World goes to war, when WWI is started, and things become almost unlivable, but the Neuburger's have hope for a peaceful future. As a family story, that was passed down, the author also did his research so that he could get the complete picture of what life was. It was an amazing story of a life lived with love, and even with the horrors of war and the intensity of the lives the Jewish had to endure, including death, and other despicable acts. 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.

### *F/Historical/narrative history*

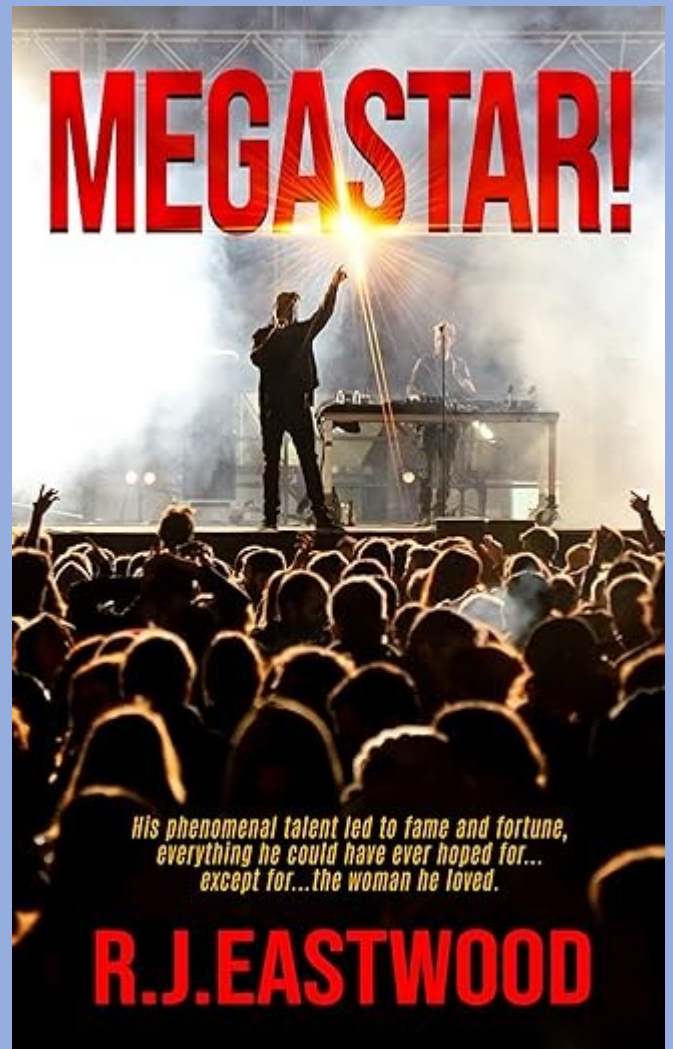
**About the Book:** *Postcards to Hitler* tells the story of a Jewish family in Munich living as close neighbors to the demagogue who becomes the Nazi Führer—Adolf Hitler. In a story passionately told by one of their descendants, the narrative begins as Benno Neuburger, a modest German land investor from Munich, and Anna Einstein, daughter of a cattle dealer, meet at a seder in Laupheim and soon marry. The year is 1907, a relatively prosperous, optimistic time for German Jews, and there is little hint that this good fortune might soon unravel. Of all the Jews in Europe, Germans like the Neuburgers feel most secure.



# R. J. Eastwood – MegaStar

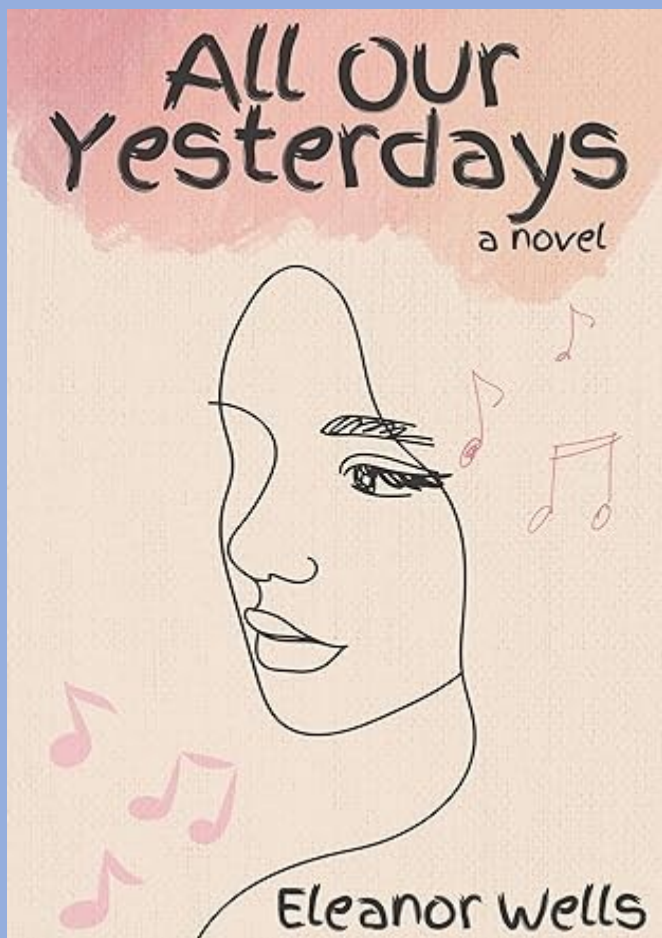
5 Stars

In Megastar, the reader is introduced to Addison, a young man who, despite his upbringing, becomes a famous singer, almost overnight. 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. I found that the story has a fast pace, and sometimes, when needed it slows, so you can catch up, and the characters can even take a breath. Addison, suffers but tries to embrace his newfound fame. His childhood has created scars, some that will never go away. His music is solace for him, but the fame and fortune is something that he tries to deal with him. The story is an emotional rollercoaster, and filled with twists and turns, and things that seem upside down. R. J. Eastwood not only tells the story but shows it with words as well. A wondrous trail of words. Megastar is an embraceable, and unforgettable read. This story has so many levels, and brings childhood scars to the surface, affecting who Addison is and who he wants to be.



*F/Narrative/Romance/  
Music*

**About the Book:** Unexpected fame, fan adulation, and money became his aphrodisiac, but distanced him from the woman he loved and lost. With a twist of fate and a bit of kismet, nineteen-year-old Addison Stone stumbles upon solace when he discovers his extraordinary singing voice that brings him international fame and fortune that he is ill-prepared for. As he climbs the ladder to musical acclaim, his heart remains tethered to his turbulent childhood having been raised by a mentally unstable mother that left him emotionally scarred. From mother to son, the legacy of Addison's turbulent childhood persists.



# Eleanor Wells- All Our Yesterdays

5 Stars

In *All Our Yesterdays*, the reader is introduced to Marcy Lewis. She's 18 and coming of age, and trying to figure out her purpose in life, and the direction she wants to go in. 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 forward to this author writing more books, as this is her debut novel. And what a story it is. Marcy is young, and impressionable, and having grown up in Minnesota, she isn't sure what is out in the world for her, so she goes to New York City, with her sister. Her life changes, and the experience of the bright lights and big city, and falling for a musician. I loved this story, and remember being Marcy's age, with the world at her fingertips, but uncertain about who she is and where she wants to go, and who she wants to be. Marcy grows throughout the story, through a process of self discovery, and if she wants to just be a muse for a musician, or something more. A reader can get lost in the story. This story is amazing and outstanding. I really liked Marcy, and was a bit leery of Cole, and the end of the story just leaves you surprised, and satisfied. The characters are so real, it's like being with them within the 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

48 unpredictable.

## *F/Literary/Women*

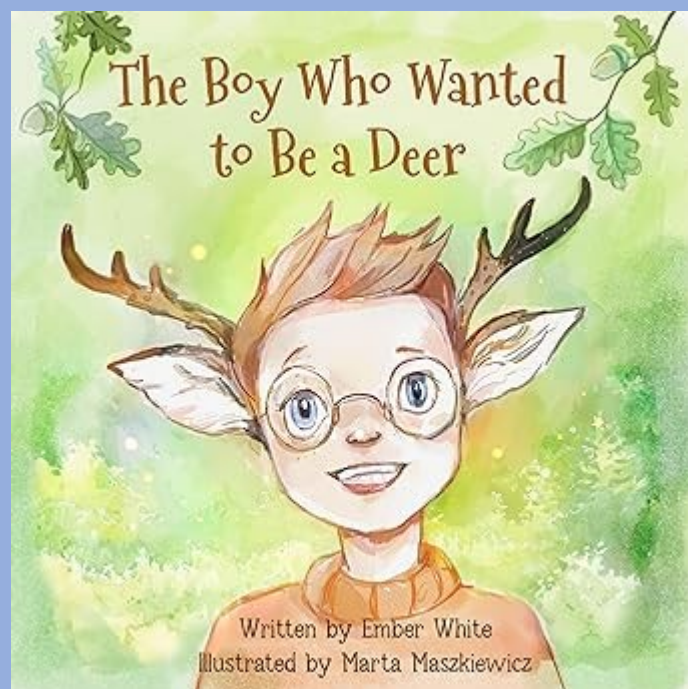
**About the Book:** It's the summer of 1999 in rural Minnesota, and eighteen-year-old Marcy Lewis is at a crossroads. Having graduated high school without committing to college, she wonders about the meaning of her life and what she is meant to achieve. On a trip with her sister to New York City, she meets up-and-coming musician Cole Hargrove, and the spark between the two of them is instantaneous. After Cole is inspired to write songs about her, he becomes one of the biggest names in music. As Marcy is thrust into a world of wealth and fame unlike anything she's ever known, she finds herself torn between her sense of identity and status as one of pop's greatest muses.



# Ember White- The Boy Who Wanted to Be a Deer

5 Stars

In *The Boy Who Wanted to Be a Deer*, the reader is introduced to Tommy, a child who did all the right things, got good grades, listened to his parents, and had friends. He was a regular kid until one day he stared up at the stars. I haven't read anything by this author before, and what a hidden gem. I enjoyed it so much that I have now followed the author and look for more books to read. This is a remarkable story, and I am so glad that I read it. I believe that all adults should read children's books. Tommy wondered what he would be when he grew up, and he was only eleven, but friends and parents thought because of his abilities and strengths he should be either a doctor or accountant, or something like that. He didn't want to be what others wanted him to be. He thought life could be simpler. He wanted to be a deer, but even he thought that was a bit silly or something like that so he tried to push it out of his mind. Something changed in Tommy, and he became withdrawn. He was hiding a secret that he was too afraid to share, that he was different. Ember White has a great imagination. Tommy is a special character, and definitely unforgettable. Also, there is a lesson and even a moral to this story, and not a lot have that. This is one special story, and EVERYONE should read it. It was both heartfelt and inspirational, and I'd read it again. My children are all grown now, but I would share this with anyone, adult or child.



## *F/Children/Maturity /Sociology*

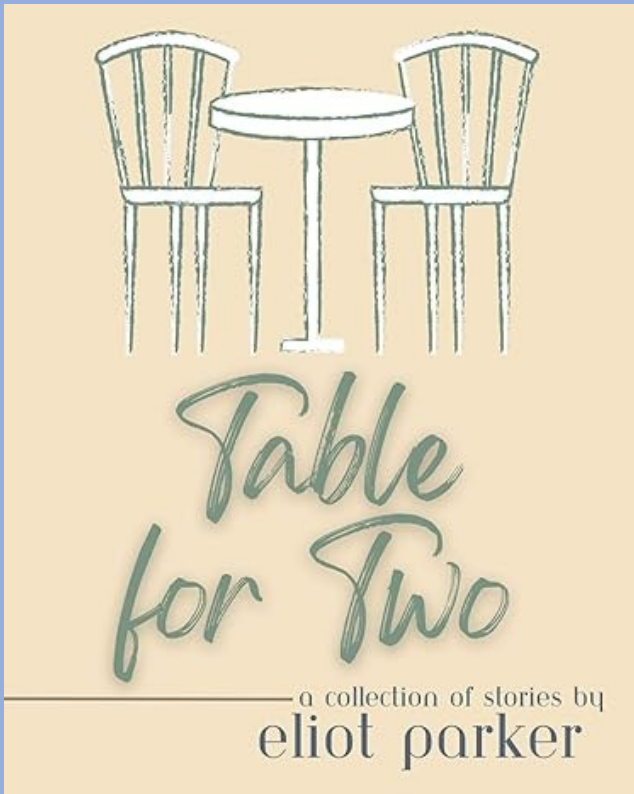
**About the Book:** One day, Tommy asks himself what he wants to be when he grows up. His parents think he should be an accountant. His friends want to be doctors and engineers. Tommy, however, doesn't want to be an accountant, doctor, or engineer. What he truly wants will never be accepted by his family or friends. It's a cautionary tale about denying things that are inevitably part of you.

For kids, the message is clear. Don't be afraid to go after what you really want, no matter what. For adults, it's a look into the ways we have been disconnected from what makes us truly happy and all the regrets that come with it. But for everyone regardless of age, it's a confirmation of the idea that it's never too late

# Eliot Parker- Table for Two

5 Stars

Eliot Parker writes a collection of short tales with Table for Two. Table for Two contains 10 dramatic short stories that form a connection, for better or worse, between a 2-person conversation. The reader is introduced to many characters within this short story collection, and the interesting part is how each story is different, shows human interaction and behavior. Sometimes, this behavior affects the lives of all involved. From The Stars Above, that shows a daughter's denial of her father's dementia diagnosis, so much that he gets lost, to The Birthday Boy, who realizes after some heartache that his family is the one that truly loves him. Others have a hint of darkness that includes greed and murder, while my favorite is Table for Two. The titular story. A man is grieving for the loss of his partner, and continues their daily routine of eating in a local diner, including ordering his partner's meal, when things get out of hand, but then ... Each one is so intriguing and very well-written. I'm a big fan of this author! This author brings the story to life. The characters are so real, it's like being with them within the story. This author is a great storyteller, and each story brings the reader on a journey through humanity.



*F/Short Stories*  
*/humanity*

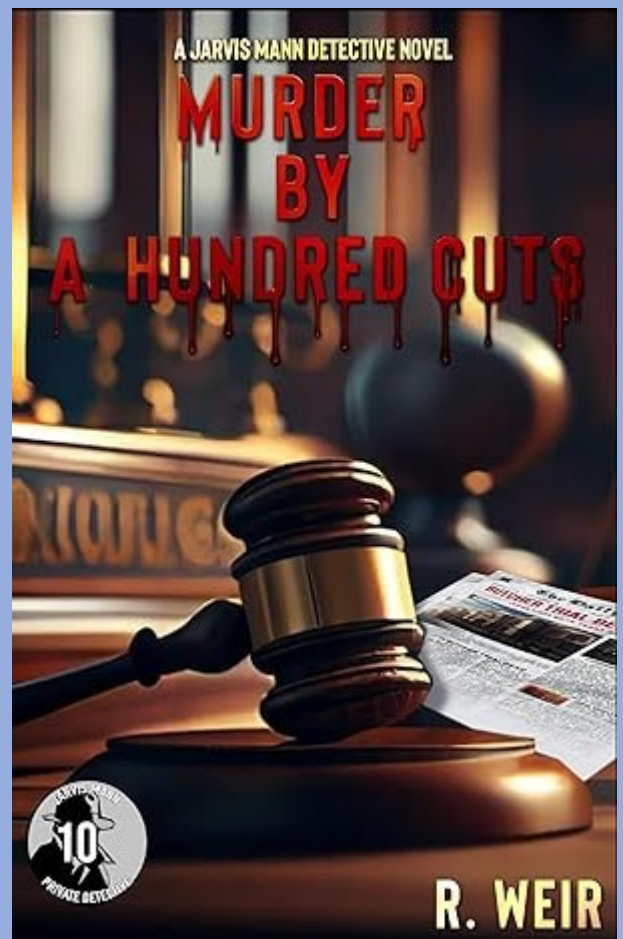
**About the Book:** Conversation is more than just words being spoken, interpreted, and acted upon by others. Conversation is also the ultimate human interest activity, bringing people into direct contact with people in all of their complexity and vulnerability. The main characters in Parker's ten multi-genre stories set in the heart of Appalachia want to be heard; to have others listen to them-really listen-and understand their needs and concerns.



# R Weir- Murder by a Hundred Cuts

5 Stars

In *Murder by a Hundred Cuts*, the reader is reintroduced to the incredible detective, Jarvis Mann, one of my favorite book detectives. R Weir's writing brings him to life, so much that he is like a living, breathing person that enters the room, and you can't want him to leave. Jarvis Mann usually does the mundane cheating spouse cases, insurance fraud, but there is always that one person who comes into his office, and desperately needs something. So, with desperation and a pleading please, he'll take on that case. *Murder by a Hundred Cuts* is part of the Jarvis Mann Detective series, and this is volume ten. I am a big fan of R Weir and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. Weir has built a world that revolves around Jarvis, and his investigations, and the truths behind what people wish to keep hidden, but it comes to light. Jarvis Mann has been waiting for this day, and so have his readers and fans. He is ready to testify in the trial of The serial killer, The Front Range Butcher, Simon Lions. Now, Jarvis is a target for a vicious death after another witness is murdered. He's used to threats before, but this one is different. R Weir not only tells the story but shows it with words as well. This story is a definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. A reader can get lost in the story. A very unpredictable story, my favorite kind! I just love, love, love this story. The reader just embarks on a superb journey.



## *F/Detective*

**About the Book:** After three years, the serial killer known as The Front Range Butcher, finally faces the charges against him. First degree murder under special circumstances for the five victims. Simon Lions confronted by his accusers in the trial of the century. One of those accusers being private eye, Jarvis Mann.

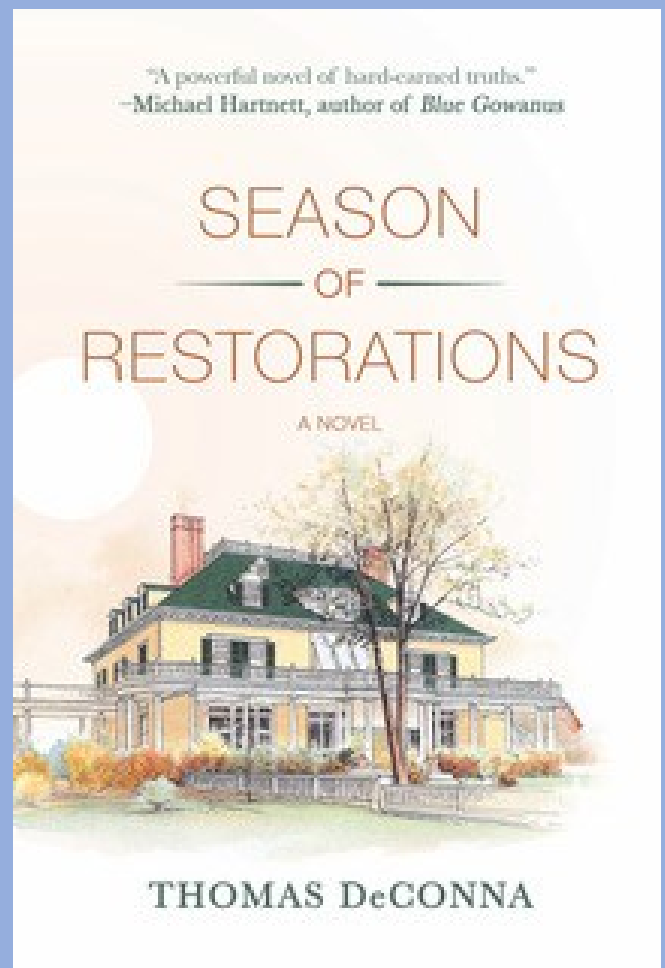
Before the trial begins, complications arise. A witness is found viciously murdered, followed by another grisly death. Gruesome pictures and a message left for Jarvis in advance of his testimony. Threats aimed at those closest to him. Leaving him to wonder if the savage cycle of horror will ever end.

# Thomas De-Conna-

## Season of Restorations

5 Stars

Heartfelt & Inspirational. In *Season of Restorations*, the reader is introduced to the Bowman family, Franklin being close to death, implores that his family, his son and grandson come back home. They have a family home in New Jersey, and when they arrive, they also bring their baggage of secrets and decisions to make in their lives. I am a big fan of Thomas De-Conna and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. In the story, there is conflict, that comes with not just generational issues, but family issues and secrets. Franklin, George and Jack feel that they need to keep things to themselves, but wish they could share with each other. There is a bond between father and son, and it is complex and can show how distant men, fathers and sons, keep each other at arm's length, just when they want to grab their child, and hug them tightly. This is a remarkable story about family, bonds, generations, and endurance of their spirit. When push comes to shove, the family dynamic changes. This story is a very emotional rollercoaster and definitely an unforgettable read. For every thing there is a season



*F/Drama/Literary/  
Generational*

**About the Book:** Three generations of men gather at their family homestead in New Jersey as Franklin Bowman faces impending death. With a plan in mind, Franklin summons his son George, who faces the uncertainties of retirement, and his grandson Jack, who faces the prospect of discovering himself after being fired from his job.

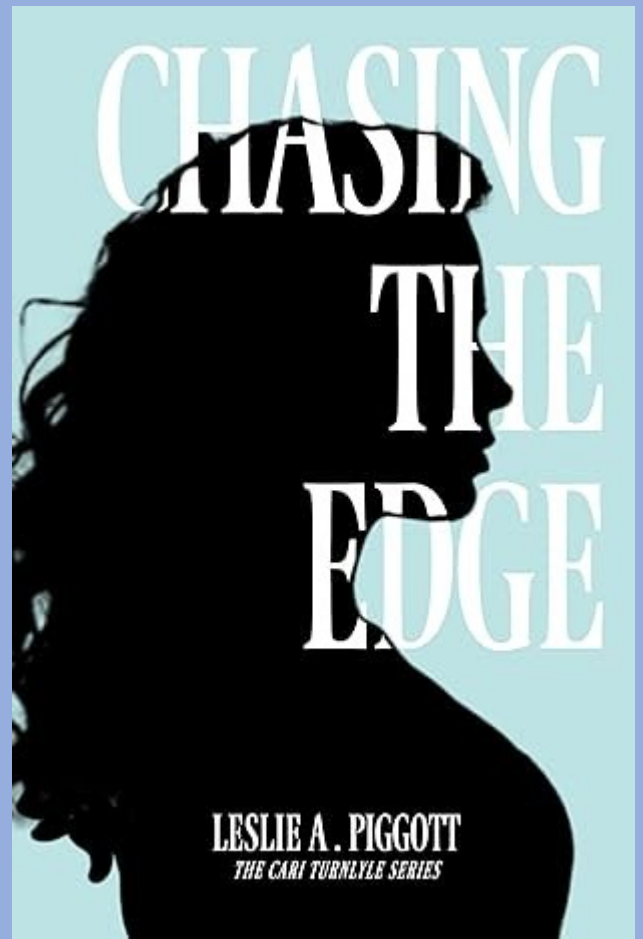
Each man keeps secrets he would like to share with the others, but the silence of men might keep those secrets hidden forever. With a touch of magical realism, secondary characters link to historical figures and act as mystical guides.



# Leslie A Piggott- Chasing the Edge

5 Stars

In Chasing the Edge the reader is introduced several characters, and I recommend reading the prologue as it gives the backstory of Dr. John Delamont, and his genetic creations. 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. Chasing the Edge is part of the Cari Turnlyle Series, and this is volume one. I can't wait to read the books that follow this one. When we are finally introduced to Cari Tunlyle, the reporter that this series was named after, we see her at work. First, she's covering her university's sports news, and this time it's a track meet. During the meet, something happens that turns several people's worlds upside down, including Cari's. The man she was supposed to interview died during the meet. Cari's instinct is that it wasn't a natural, or a heart attack, as everyone assumed it was. She believed it was something more sinister. Cari is determined and tenacious, and determined to get the job done no matter what. Leslie A Piggott not only tells the story but shows it with words as well. This story is a definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. A very unpredictable story, my favorite kind, with a well-written plot.



## *F/Detective/Thriller*

**About the Book:** When a college track star collapses dead as he tries to clear the last hurdle, sports writer Cari Turnlyle suspects foul play. As she tries to dig deeper, she continually encounters obstacles. Another member of the school's athletic community turns up dead leading Cari to turn to her childhood friend, Detective Genevieve Viacorte. But even Detective Viacorte refuses to acknowledge Cari's theory. Can she find the answers before someone else pays the price?

# About Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

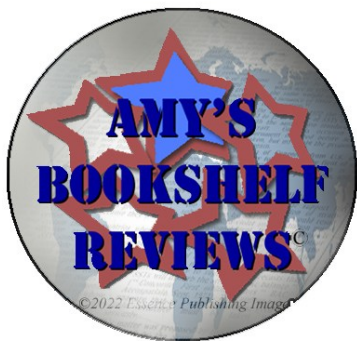
Amy's Bookshelf Reviews is a not-for-profit business, as Amy's Bookshelf Reviews does NOT charge for reviews. Amy's Bookshelf Reviews is a professional book review website, which accepts review requests from any author, and accepts most genres (with a few minor exceptions if the book promotes hatred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

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

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

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

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



For details on how to request a review, go to <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/requests-and-rules>

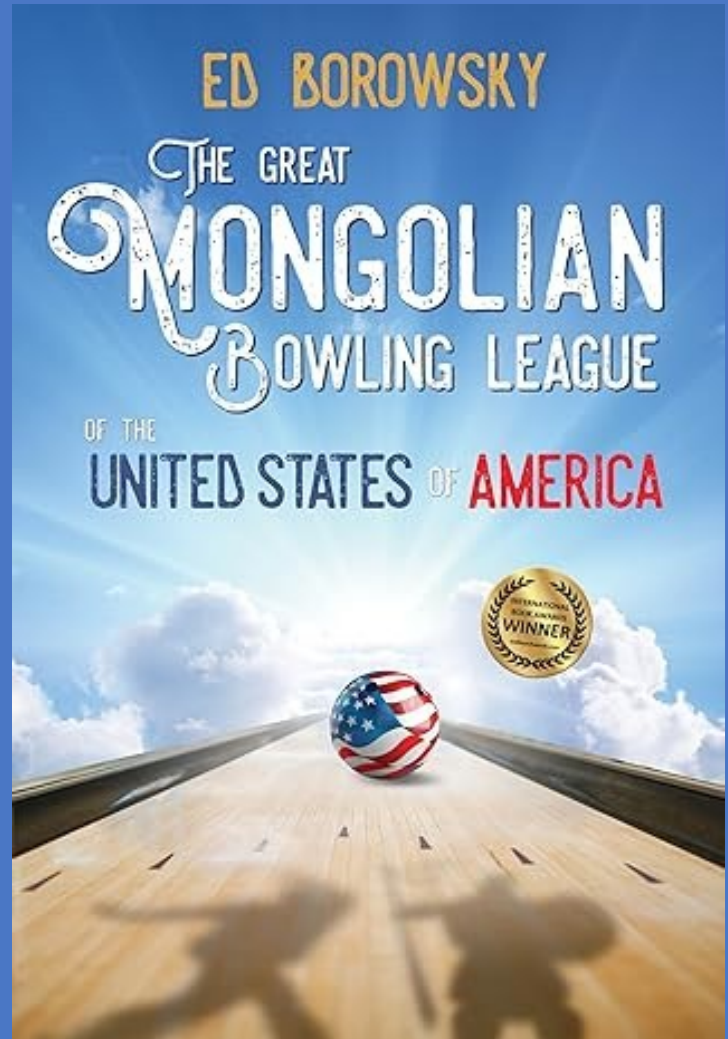
Advertisement



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

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

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



amazon

Advertisement



# Literary Articles



# Close Reading of a Poem

## “My Papa’s Waltz”

by Amy Shannon

“My Papa’s Waltz”

“The whiskey on your breath  
Could make a small boy dizzy;

But I hung on like death:

Such waltzing was not easy.

We romped until the pans

Slid from the kitchen shelf;

My mother's countenance

Could not unfrown itself.

The hand that held my wrist

Was battered on one knuckle;

At every step you missed

My right ear scraped a buckle.

You beat time on my head

With a palm caked hard by dirt,

Then waltzed me off to bed

Still clinging to your shirt.” (Barnet, Burto, &

Cain, 2011, p. 786-787)

The Poet, Theodore Roethke wrote poems that reflected memories of his childhood. His memories of his father’s dance with him, trigger the senses so much that the words take the reader and the author right back in that kitchen.

The memories hidden in one’s mind can trigger perception and different senses. Roethke indicates that he can smell the whisky on his father’s breath as well as the look on his mother’s face. The perception of different people may have different point of views. The memory being from childhood shows the perspective of a small child. Roethke indicates that he was a small boy when he danced with his father by showing how his ear would rub against his father’s belt buckle. This type of imagery shows that he was a small child, without stating that he was in fact a small child.

Roethke wrote his poem with rhythmic verse, whereas every other line rhymed with each other. He uses an interesting metaphor in the third line by stating that he “hung on like death.” He could see the expression on his mother’s face, as if she were not happy. Instead of using a word such as “face”, he used the word “countenance”. This word is not common and this author had to look up the word in the dictionary.

# Close Reading of a Poem

## “My Papa’s Waltz”

### (Cont’d)

Roethke and his father were dancing hard and loudly in the kitchen, and was probably a result of his father’s drunkenness. The poet was used to his father’s drinking and dancing, which he always seemed to be a part. As a child, he would not be able to argue or refuse to dance with his father. His mother showed disapproval and disappointment, and probably felt other negative feelings that she had to keep to herself and just allow it to happen.

The poet was talking directly to his father in the poem, trying to let his father share in the memory. The poet was trying to indirectly tell his father that he knew he was a drunk, even as a child, but could never admit it. As an adult, he was sharing the memory with his father, without having to be direct and state that he knew his father was a drinker.

After reading it several times to gain more insight, this writer believes that the boy was also abused by his drunken father, while his mother helplessly looked on. The waltz was more of a man abusing his son, by dragging him all over the kitchen, as he stumble and staggered. There could be many interpretations for this poem. At first glance, it seems an unhappy child is dancing with his drunken father, but if read more and more

between the lines and what is actually written, the abuse of the father toward the child jumps out of the poet’s mouth

The poet is looking at the memory from the child’s point of view, not necessary how he, as an adult, perceives the events of that day in the kitchen. It could be a recollection of more than one day. The poet writes with imagery and symbolism as if the event in the kitchen is a joyous or happy time, when in fact, it is not. It is a remembrance of an abusive event.

The poet uses words such as “death”, “battered” and “beat” but those words are not used to describe what the father is doing to the child. The imagery is the waltz, itself. It’s not a joyous dance, but a dance of abuse as the father holds tightly to the child.

The poet writes how the child is “waltzed” off to bed. This shows that the abuse continued, even as he clung to his father’s shirt, as if that could stop it.

The poet wrote without specific detail, but with imagery and metaphors in order to paint a picture of the abuse he suffered from the hands of his father, and even his mother. The poet was counting on the interpretation and imagination of the reader. The poet’s imagination derived from his memory, which he tried to convey as a negative memory, but

# Close Reading of a Poem

## “My Papa’s Waltz”

with a joyous indication of something as simple as a dance. At first read, the reader’s imagination could picture a father and child, dancing in their kitchen as the mother looks on, unhappily, because of the noise or the mess the two were making. After several reviews of the work and analyzing line by line of the poem, it became clearer that it was not a joyous or happy memory. Dark words were used to describe the child.

The writer relies on the readers’ imagination and hopes that the two shall meet. The imagination is what produces creativity. It sometimes triggers memories or emotions in the reader. The reader can place himself or herself in the situation. The smells, the sounds, the sights, all come alive to the reader, as much as they were alive to the writer. These triggers, such as the metaphors or specific words and phrases, can liven the reader’s imagination. If the reader can follow what the author is writing, the story is being told and understood. This can also enhance the enjoyment and pleasure of reading, reading any genre. Following the author’s path and being a part of the story, the emotions, the environment, leads the reader coming back for more journeys.



# AMPlify Audiobooks™



**AUTHORS:** AMPlify Audiobooks™ is for authors who are eager to sell their audiobooks but face challenges with not knowing how to get started with marketing, or perhaps have already experienced the barriers that prevent them from having any control. AMPlify Audiobooks™ provides an online store with a suite of **marketing tools** and a **platform** that enables authors to have **way more control**, **earn much higher royalties**, and **engage with a motivated author community** as well as their own customers.

**LISTENERS:** AMPlify Audiobooks™ is an app developed for listeners who are **tired of their purchases lining the pockets of billionaire** sand mega-corporations. With AMPlify Audiobooks™, listeners have a **direct impact**, because the **money you spend actually reaches the authors** who have **dedicated their lives** to creating those audiobooks. It's a human-centric way of buying your audiobooks, prioritizing the power of human connection, and changing the world one audiobook at a time.



Advertisement

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

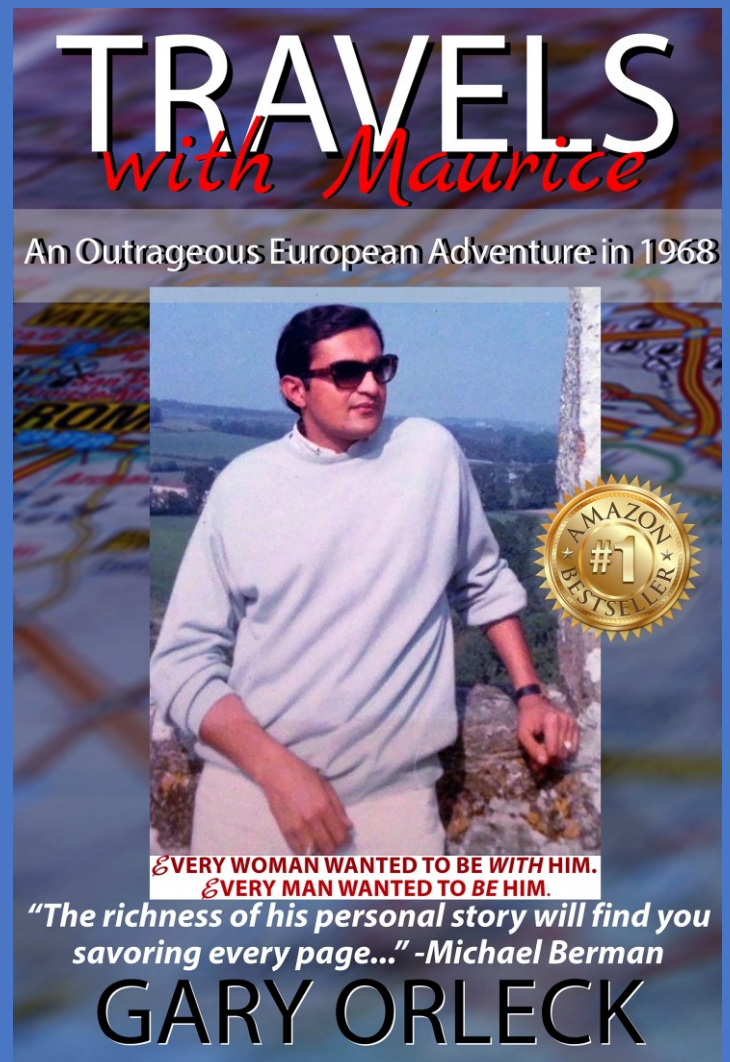
EVERY WOMEN WANTED TO BE WITH HIM. EVERY MEN WANTED TO BE HIM!

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

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

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

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



amazon

Advertisement

# Character Writing

## 102





# Paranormal/Supernatural

*Dragons, demons, vampires, oh my!* The supernatural or paranormal characters are unique and can be quite distinct. There are many different kinds of paranormal or supernatural creatures, even some fantasy or magical characters; some are made up, some are derived from mythical creatures or even the blood lustful vampire, not-so-angelic angel, and the devil (or a derivative of the devil and the demons). I'm a big fan of the television show *Supernatural*. I find it very fascinating to see how monsters are perceived. The perception of these characters is the writer's prerogative, while sometimes it's fun to write one of those stereotypical paranormal characters, and then add a bit of humanity, such as a demon who loves to eat Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches on white bread. Other times, the creature or being can be moral and have human values, or just be looking for love. The writer should also think about how long these beings have lived, such as a vampire or demon that has roamed the earth for hundreds of years, taking on different forms. The writer should look at how the being is dressed, how they talk and relate to others, how they live, and their maturity.

When a writer writes, no matter how old the writer is, they need to figure out the maturity level of their characters, and the age, even if it is vague. This gives a sense of

accuracy rather than a 400-year-old vampire that acts like he's in high school. Though the story isn't real, the story should feel like it is or could be. Writers not only make the impossible, possible, but logically possible.

**Vampires.** I wasn't much of a vampire fan, as I found many stories about vampires were the standard blood suckers that trolled for victims at night. However, when I read writer Melanie Nowak's series "Almost Human," and "Almost Human 2," I was hooked. I liked her writing style, and her characters. I feel they are strong characters, and they give a great insight into breaking the stereotypes of vampires or the undead, as she even has characters that are only partly paranormal (*almost* humans). Nowak offers her books in either full-length novels or as separate novellas, whatever way the readers want to read it, it is a remarkable story. There are different ways to introduce the paranormal or supernatural characters to the audience, especially if the characters are also intertwined with humans or even other beings.

Whether it's Frankenstein's monster, (*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (1818)), *Rosemary's Baby* by Ira Levin (1968), or Stephen King's *It* (1986), it's a grand world of supernatural, horror, or other terrifying characters that make things that go bump in the night, seem real. And yes, the paranormal

# Paranormal/Supernatural

or supernatural (or angelic or even devilish) characters do not always have to wreak havoc in the story; they could be fighting against it, or want the reader to *think* they are. Or the character could just be the undead or zombies that crawl out of their graves and search for vengeance, or just food.

The 1922 book, *Herbert West—Reanimator* By H. P. Lovecraft, which was first written by the author as a serialization in a magazine, tells the story of stealing corpses and trying to revive them, but something, something inhuman emerges.

*Herbert West—Reanimator* By H. P. Lovecraft, 1922)

The waiting was gruesome, but West never faltered. Every now and then he applied his stethoscope to the specimen and bore the negative results philosophically. After about three-quarters of an hour without the least sign of life he disappointedly pronounced the solution inadequate but determined to make the most of his opportunity and try one change in the formula before disposing of his ghastly prize. We had that afternoon dug a grave in the cellar, and would have to fill it by dawn—for although we had fixed a lock on the house, we wished to shun even the remotest risk of a ghoulish discovery. Besides, the body would not be even approximately fresh the next night. So, taking the solitary acetylene lamp into the adjacent laboratory, we left our silent guest on the slab in the dark, and bent every energy to the mixing of a new solution; the weighing and measuring supervised by West with an almost fanatical care. (*Herbert West—Reanimator* By H. P. Lovecraft (1922))

# Bob Freeman's H2LiftShip series

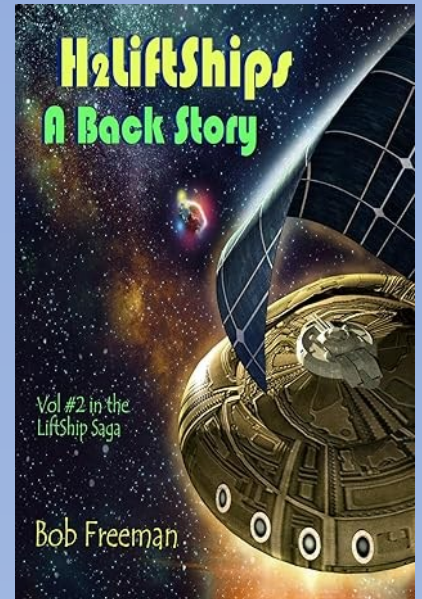
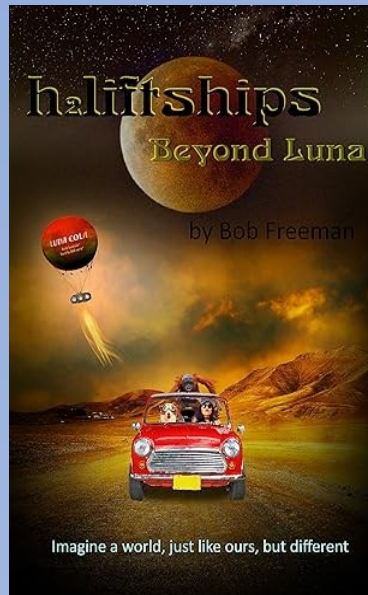
The H2LiftShip series is a unique and refreshing take on the space exploration genre, blending hard science, humor, and creativity.

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

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

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

BosonWaves^2 pits the symbiotic combination of semi-sentient AI tablets and algal rocket ships against the Heliospheric Navy.



amazon

Advertisement



# Amy Shannon's workbook for writers!

## Depths of Characters:

### A writer's resource & workbook for character building

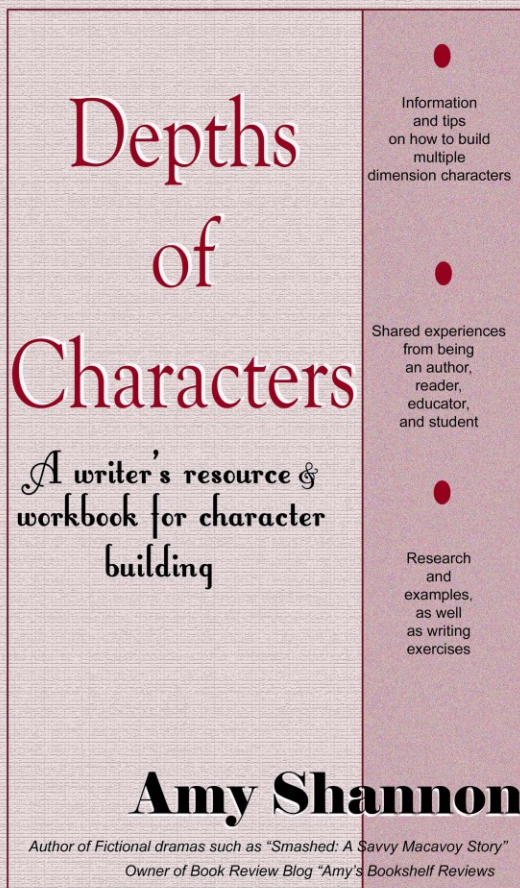
Amy Shannon is an author, Book Reviewer (Amy's Bookshelf Reviews) and host of the Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast.

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.

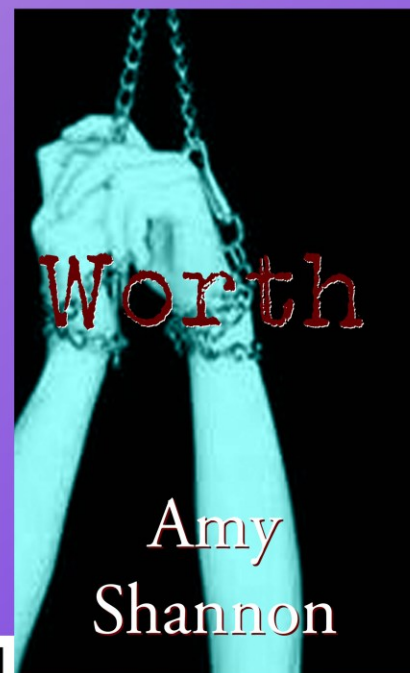
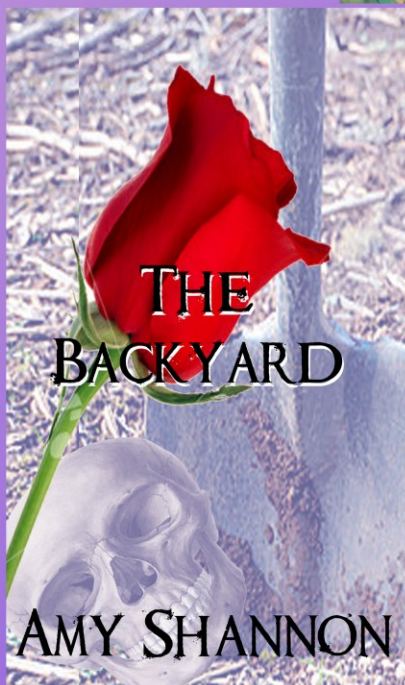
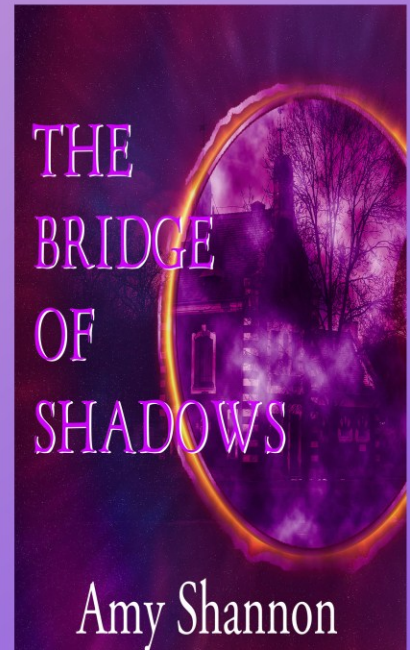
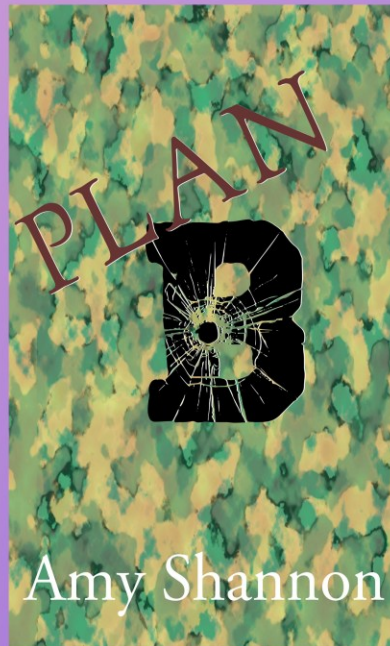
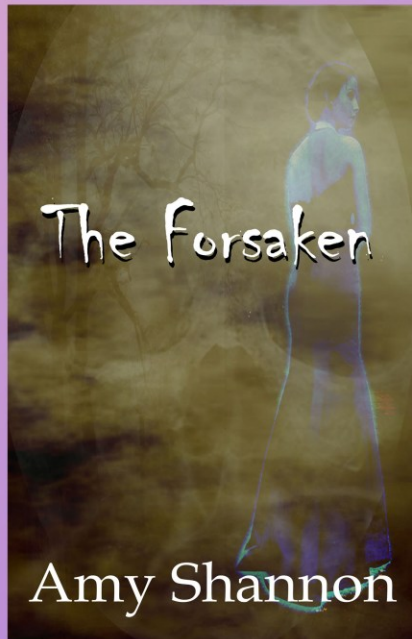
Depths of Characters is meant to be a writer's workbook for character development. Inside, this book provides tips, shares experiences, and gives examples that fit the character categories. Categories include, but are not limited to character names, building character profiles, protagonists and antagonist.

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





# *Amy Shannon's* Short Story Collection





A misty autumn forest scene. A large, moss-covered tree trunk is on the right. A path covered in fallen orange and red leaves leads into the distance. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and mist. Bare tree branches are visible in the upper part of the image.

# **Short Stories**



# Billy the Arsonist By Donald Firesmith

<http://donaldfiresmith.com>

Billy Henderson liked to burn things. As far back as he could remember, he had loved to watch the flames dance. His fascination started innocently enough. As a toddler, he'd sit for hours in front of the fireplace and stare at the fire devouring the logs until only the ashes remained.

When he was nine, his dad showed him how a magnifying glass could concentrate the sun's light and set a bit of newspaper on fire. Soon, Billy was sneaking into his father's office and taking the magnifying glass outside where he could burn whatever he wanted, with no one telling him no. It wasn't long before Billy discovered he could use the magnifying glass to instantly incinerate ants and other small bugs.

By middle school, he had learned how to make huge fireballs by throwing gasoline and kerosene onto a bonfire. And by high school, he had graduated to arson.

Billy had begun small. The first building he burned had been only a shed, but soon he began torching abandoned houses. Fire had become his narcotic, and he found he needed ever-larger fires to feed his addiction.

Billy hadn't meant to kill the wino sleeping in the last building he had torched. He had been in a hurry and merely gotten sloppy, forgetting to check all the rooms. The accident — for Billy had convinced himself that a mistake could hardly count as murder — had been unexpectedly pleasurable. The old man's screams had given Billy a kind of ecstasy he found irresistible. However, the

homeless man's death had made the newspapers, and the police had become far more vigilant. Billy had no choice but to stop for a while, and the wait was eating at him.

Then Billy's grandmother had died. The Pandemic had cost Billy's father his job, and the family couldn't afford a big funeral and burial. So, they had settled on a quick cremation. Billy was fascinated. He realized that if he had a job at a crematorium, he could burn bodies every day, and no one would stop him or think his fascination with fire strange. Granted, there would be no screams, but he could do without, at least for a little while, until the police gave up looking for him.

Billy decided he had to try it and see for himself. That very night, he would break into the crematorium and explore the place. He



# Billy the Arsonist By Donald Firesmith

would see where they stored the bodies and, most important of all, where they burned them. Billy thought that he might even burn one himself to see if cremating the dead would quell his hunger and give him the fix he craved — no, the fix he desperately needed.

Just after midnight, Billy drove to the crematorium where his grandmother's body had been incinerated. He parked behind the building to avoid being seen. Then, using a crowbar, it only took a minute to jimmy the back door.

Billy listened carefully for any sound that might indicate someone had heard him breaking in, but the building was as quiet as a crypt. Ignoring the ceremony and urn storage rooms, he crept into the mortuary cooler, the refrigerated storeroom in which the deceased patiently waited their turn in the furnace. An elderly man and a middle-aged woman lay silently on stainless-steel body trays in the frigid cold.

It didn't take long for Billy to find the furnace room where cleansing flames would feast on their flesh, reducing them to ash and scattered bits of bone. He was about to return to the cold store to select a body when he heard a chuckle, and something hard and heavy struck the back of his skull.

Billy came to with a painful headache, one far worse than he'd ever thought possible. He squeezed his eyes shut in a vain attempt to shut out the blinding light that threatened to split his head open. A hand slapped him hard across the cheek, and he cried out in pain.

"Wakey wakey, eggs and bakey," an old man's voice cheerfully sang in the way one might use with a young child. "Time to wake up and join the party!"

"No...," Billy moaned, twisting his head away from the mocking voice.

The hand slapped him again, even harder than before. "Wake up, sleepyhead. Open your eyes and join the party." Fingers roughly pulled Billy's eyelids open, and the bright light filled his eyes with tears.

The man was leaning over him, his face far too close for Billy to bring into focus.

Billy tried to push the man away, only to discover that he couldn't move his arms. He forced his eyes open and looked down. He was sitting in a wheelchair, with heavy-duty zip ties binding his wrists and forearms to its armrests. Billy tried kicking his legs, but they, too, were tied tightly to the chair's legrests. Ratchet straps at his chest and hips bound him so that only his head was free to move.

With his vision beginning to clear, Billy looked up at the man standing over him. He recognized him from his grandmother's funeral. It was Mr. Damian Whipple, the rotund proprietor and sole employee of Whipple's Mortuary and Crematorium. The old man looked down at Billy and smiled a predatory smile.

"Let me go!" Billy screamed, then flinched at the pain his yelling had caused his aching head.

Mr. Whipple looked at Billy quizzically, as though actually considering his command. "No," he said, shaking his head. "I think not. I

# Billy the Arsonist By Donald Firesmith

think I very much like you just the way you are.”

“Damn it, let me go!” Billy commanded through clenched teeth, trying not to raise his voice and make his pounding headache any worse than it already was.

“Billy, Billy,” Mr. Whipple said with a chuckle, jiggling his double chin. “I don’t think you quite grasp your role in our little celebration. I stand here, as free as can be, while you, young man, are tied up quite securely. That means I am tonight’s master of ceremonies and decide when the show is over.”

“What do you mean by ‘celebration?’” Billy asked, uneasy at the unexpected direction the old man’s words were heading.

“Why Billy, you are going to join me for a very special feast, one I guarantee you’ll never forget.”

“Then you’re not going to call the cops on me?”

“Now, why would I do that?” Mr. Whipple asked, sounding as though the thought had never occurred to him. “Certain spectacles are best performed in front of an audience of one, don’t you think? Surely, given your secret proclivity, you must agree.”

“What in Hell are you talking about? I don’t have no proclivities, secret or otherwise.”

“Why, Billy, you hurt me. You really do. Here I am about to open my heart to you, to share my deepest secrets, and you lie to me.

You say you ‘don’t have no’ secret proclivities, but you do. I know you, Billy Henderson. I know you and all your secrets.”

“You don’t know shit about me, old man! Either call the cops or let me go.”

“I know ALL about you, boy. I know your habit of starting fires when no one is watching. I know each and every fire you’ve set.”

“But...”

“And I know about poor Mr. Johnson, who unfortunately chose to sleep off an evening of drinking in the last house you torched.”

“You’re wrong! That wasn’t me!”

“Liar! I even know why you broke in tonight. You wanted to see if cremating a soulless body would give you the same rush you got from murdering Mr. Johnson.”

“How... how could you possibly know that?”

Mr. Whipple laughed. The skin of the old man’s face melted like wax in a furnace, revealing another, deeper skin that was red and pockmarked. His already fat body grew grotesquely obese, his teeth lengthened and sharpened, and two short horns emerged from his forehead.

“Billy, you thought that working at a crematorium might let you practice your pyromania safely away from prying eyes. I, too, find working here has its advantages. I can carve up the dead and feast my fill, then dispose of the evidence with no one the wiser.”

“You’re... you’re the devil!”

“No, Billy. You are far too insignificant to merit Master’s attention. I’m just a simple



# Billy the Arsonist By Donald Firesmith

demon in the service of Beelzebub, doing my small part to foster the sin of gluttony while I wait for Armageddon.”

A desperate thought occurred to Billy. “I’ll sell you my soul. Just let me outta here.”

“Billy, you think you can bargain with me?” the demon asked with a predatory smile as he rolled the young man into the cold room. “How very droll. Your soul is already destined for Hell. When I finally let you die, that’s where you’ll wake up.”

“Please, I’ll do anything...”

“Yes, of course, you would.” The demon nodded his agreement before shaking his head. “But no. You need to look at it from my point of view. Day after day, they deliver nothing but the bodies of the old and sick. But old people are far too tough and stringy, while diseases spoil the meat and ruin the taste.

“You, however,” the demon continued, staring hungrily at Billy, “are still young and healthy. Your body is practically begging to be eaten.”

A dagger with a long, wicked blade suddenly appeared in the demon’s hand. It glowed a dull red as if it had just been taken from the flames of Hell.

Billy gasped, his eyes wide with terror.

“Good,” the demon said, nodding his approval. “Very good. I can smell the sweet fear in your sweat. The taste of adrenaline and cortisol will add that special something, that *je ne sais quoi*, that will make our intimate little meal truly memorable.”

“No!” Billy interrupted.

“Yes!” the demon continued. “I think we’ll begin with an appetizer of chilled tongue tartare, ground fine with raw egg yolk, diced shallot, and chopped parsley garnished with capers, olive oil, and just a dash of salt. For the entrée, let’s have something simple and unassuming. How about two or three thick steaks, lightly seared to hold in the juices? And to finish, a handful of fingertips washed down with a small goblet of blood. Yes, that will make a lovely feast, don’t you think?”

Billy shook his head. In fact, his whole body shook uncontrollably.

“And if I’m careful, I should be able to keep you alive and fresh for several more nights of glorious gluttony.”

Billy screamed as the knife sliced his thigh to the bone. The wound sizzled as the serrated blade seared his flesh, cauterizing his femoral artery. He screamed again when the demon made his second cut, an inch above the first.

Three days later, Billy’s heart eventually ceased beating, and his pain disappeared. His final thought brought a faint smile to his lips: at least he could spend all eternity watching the fabled fires of Hell.

But Billy didn’t know that Hell had its own special damnation for arsonists. When he awoke, it was in a tiny, pitch-black cell deep in the Ice Dungeon of Tartarus. For Billy, it will always be a cold, dark day in Hell.

## Author’s Comments

I once wrote a short story about a ghoul who gets a job at a crematorium, where he could dine to his heart’s content. That naturally led me to wonder what a psychopathic arsonist might think of the job.

# Something's Wrong With Max Part III

by William Becker

<https://williambeckerauthor.net/>

## The Split-Decision

It should go without saying that I locked my bedroom door that evening and squeezed tightly under my blankets, praying to God that the monster inside of Max didn't know how to open locked doors.

Maybe my dad was right, and it was just a normal parasite living inside of Max and there wasn't anything to worry about. As a semi-well-adjusted adult now, I know that the scariest of parasites, even the ones from the Amazon that take over the dead bodies of ants, don't come within spitting distance of being as horrifying as the monstrosities that had taken up residence in Max's body.

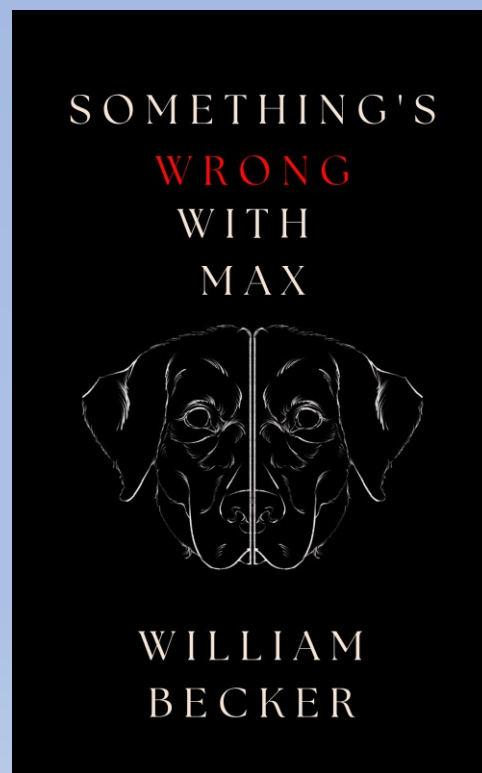
I was just an impressionable young lad then and the world was still unknown and frightening. It was easy back then to rely on the comforts of someone else assuring you everything was okay. If I wanted to fact-check my knowledge on parasites, I'd have to go down to the library and trust that the information there was current and accurate. It was easy (at least in terms of going to my room without a pure, Eldritch trauma haunting me to my core) to chalk it up as some exotic parasite that had come from Max eating some bad water or something of the sort.

This sense of comfort was further massaged by my dad handling it all with the greatest sense of nonchalance, as if this was just

another average Tuesday in pet ownership. My fears were further alleviated by Max seeming to eventually

lay down once we had cleaned the floor and wrapped him up in gauze.

And so, the early dark hours of the morning passed by without incident. My eyes slowly adjusted to the dark, allowing me to see my old analog clock on the wall by the door. Sunrise was at about six thirty and the vet had to open early, so all I had to do was wait it out until then. In those days, there wasn't much I could do in terms of entertainment unless I wanted to read a book, so to pass the time, I stared at the wall, unable to sleep after what I had seen that day.



# Something's Wrong With Max Part III (cont'd)

It was about five in the morning when I heard something from Max again. This time, there was a soft whine from beyond my walls, followed by some gentle pawing of the floor in between the door and the wood floor beneath it.

I froze. Max had a considerably difficult time climbing stairs in those days, so the fact that he was outside of my room meant he had dragged his body upstairs in his advanced condition.

Max whined again. He wanted in.

I didn't dare open the door or answer. After what I had seen popping out from his belly, there was no telling what the thing pretending to be Max might do if he climbed into bed with me.

He let out a series of short, shallow cries.

I thought for a moment. Maybe the best thing to do would be to stay up with Max. If it was just a normal parasite, I could just walk him outside and maybe that would make him feel better. What I had seen was horrifying, yes, but there was little indication that it was malicious.

Like a fool and on altruistic impulse, I flipped my room's light on, the carpet chilly against my bare feet, then clicked open the lock. I heard Max's feet patter against the floor excitedly.

It's just the dog, I thought to myself, taking a deep breath. Nervously, I twisted the knob and slowly pulled it open, revealing the dimly lit hallway leading to the stairs.

Max stood in front of me, his tail wagging and tongue out. There was no pus beneath his belly, nothing to indicate that anything was wrong.

I sighed in relief.

What came next sounded like that moist, fleshy noise that comes when you peel a large sunburn or blister from your skin, only louder. THAWP! came the noise from inside of Max, followed by the sound of what I can only compare to a tree in a storm creaking as it came down on a house.

Max whimpered.

The black, wet meat of his snout seemed to stretch, then little red holes popped up like pimples up his head, in between his eyes, and then at his jaw, as if he were a piece of paper with a tear edge. Max yelped and I could only stare as the skin and fur separated into two halves, streams of blood leaking from the canyon that began to form through the middle of face and down the back of his neck. Blood, creamy pus, and smaller, wriggling worms fell through the newly opened hole, bones snapping as his skull split in two, leaving bodily debris on the wood.

I looked into the gap that had formed through him, his tongue freely hanging out, chunks of his brain visible on either half of the poor dog, his head now a V shape. Sets of twirling worm-tendrils swam through the air like flying rubber hoses between his right and left half, wriggling and holding him together as new parasitic veins.



# Something's Wrong With Max Part III (cont'd)

There was another loud snap, a sound like a zipper being pulled, then his jaw followed, tender meat separating and pulling apart down to where his neck connected with his body, a Cerberus in the flesh. His exposed, crooked and brown teeth stuck out in the flesh canyon, the worms pulsing and throbbing as they explored each half of him, others tearing from his neck veins, esophagus, and trachea, and thrusting through the air.

A black hole had formed at the end of his neck, from which protruded four of the worm-like appendages, like a new mouth and like each half of Max's former head was a beak that protected his fleshy entrance. Max was gone, the beast was here to consume.

His blood splattered across the floor, through the frame, and then stained the carpet beneath my feet. His tongue dripped out from the newly separated right half and streams of saliva oozed out, hanging in between his meat and jaws.

Max whimpered, his dead, bloodshot eyes studying me. The tendrils slowed for a second, seeming to size me up as if he was debating what to do with me.

"MAX!" my dad's voice roared from the end of the hall. "Max" shifted its body, its legs twitching as it turned and stumbled to face him.

My dad was blocking the end of the hall, still in his flannel pajamas but with the family double-barreled shotgun in his muscular arms.

I didn't have time to say anything. The thing that used to be Max jerked its right head up, the worms snaking through and molesting the air angrily.

"STAY!" my dad roared, squeezing the gun's trigger. I covered my ears, watching the slug soar into Max's chest, exploding through spoiled meat and sending pieces of the dog through the air like he was a rotten pumpkin. Max squealed like a pig, teeth, bone-fragments, worms, fur, and blood spraying through the air, splattering the walls in a red mist and denting the wall paper. I stood with my mouth agape, watching powerlessly as my dad jammed his finger against the trigger before the chunks of Max's body had time to even hit the floor.

My legs turned to jelly then, and my ears screamed in agony. I thought I was deaf as I stared at the puddle of pus, blood, bone fragments, and tiny dancing worms in chunks of meat that had once been our dog.

↑↑↑

Max (or any of his pieces) never made it to the vet that day and dad let me stay from school after I had showered the blood and pus off of my skin. Wordlessly, my dad disappeared upstairs the rest of that morning with rubber gloves, a mop, bleach, and a trash bag. He stuffed both of our clothes and Max's soggy dog bed in the fireplace and made his first fire of the winter with them; the hallway outside of my room distantly smelled of bleach for weeks after. As for the wallpaper, my dad used a pocket knife to scrape it off and then put a fresh coat of paint where the blood had been splattered. In the meantime, I slept on the couch downstairs

# Something's Wrong With Max Part III (cont'd)

That weekend, after he had done some serious bleaching and stain removal, he invited my uncles over to tear up the carpet in my bedroom and replace it under the guise of a renovation project. As for the chunks of Max that were left over, I have no idea what he did with them, but I never saw them again.

My dad and I never spoke about what happened with Max after that day. Maybe we didn't want to ask any questions about how it had happened, for we considered it a stroke of luck that things didn't get any worse. In fact, any mention of Max soon became a taboo, a surefire way to kill any living conversation. His photos disappeared from the frames around the house and then memory of his existence became as relevant as a passing dream or thought.

My mom was the same: she never mentioned Max again and never so much as asked if I missed him. Even when I had children of my own and we were visiting her one Christmas in a nursing home, she didn't offer so much as a whisper as to what had happened that Autumn when I was a boy. My parents lived full lives after that, both living well into their eighties and eventually, they were buried together. My family never got another dog and as my kids grew up, it was easy to come up with excuses why we shouldn't have one. Cats, hamsters, even damn ferrets, those were fine.

Sometimes at night, it's easy for me to picture Max's soulless, starless eyes glaring at me from either side of his split head. That's why I find myself drifting into thoughts about him so often. That's why I've written my thoughts about him down.

THE END

An open book with a dark cover and a bookmark is shown from a low angle. The pages are yellowed with age. The background is a blurred bookshelf with books of various colors. The text "Nonfiction & Memoirs" is centered over the book.

# Nonfiction & Memoirs



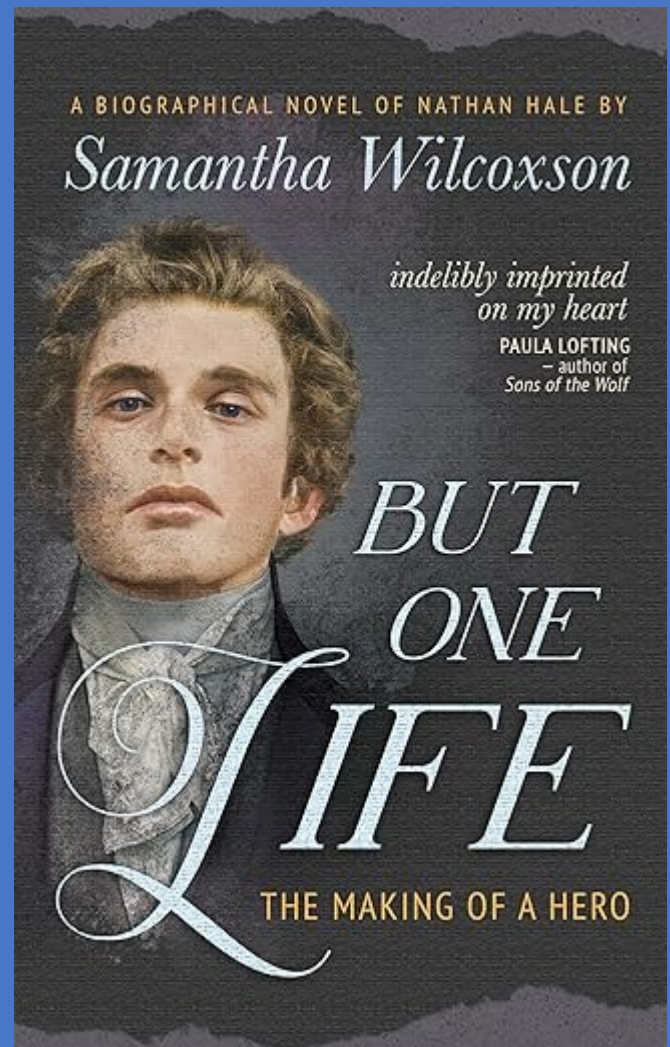
# Samantha Wilcoxson- But One Life: The Story of Nathan Hale

"If I had ten thousand lives, I would lay them all down."

In the early 1770's, Nathan Hale is a young philosophy student at Yale. There, he, his brother, and their friend, Ben Tallmadge, are busying themselves with intellectual debate and occasional mischief.

Only too soon, their patriotic ideals of revolution and liberty would be put to the test. Forced to choose between love and duty, young Nathan has to face the harsh personal cost of deeply held beliefs as he leaves to become Washington's spy. In this powerful novel of friendship and sacrifice, Samantha Wilcoxson paints a vivid portrait of a young man's principled passion and dedication to his ideals, turning the legend into flesh and blood.

This is the touching and thought-provoking story of how an ordinary boy grew into an extraordinary man – an American hero.



4 Stars

Samantha Wilcoxson writes an interesting book about Nathan Hale

Nathan Hale is a very interesting book and topic for this author to pick. Nathan Hale was a patriot in the American Revolutionary War. He was also a spy for the Continental Army and a hero, for going to enemy lines to gain valuable information of the British and to relay this to his own army. This is the first book I have read from this author. Unfortunately, Hale died as a spy by the British. He was indeed a hero, and I like how Samantha Wilcoxson tells his story. This is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. If you like historical biographies, you will enjoy this book, especially if you're a Revolutionary war era history buff. This read is more than just words on a page. What I like about this story is that it doesn't read like a textbook, which some historical books and biographies can sometimes do. Many remember Nathan Hale's famous quote before his passing, 'I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.'

The background of the slide is a painting of a rural landscape. On the left, a large, leafy green tree stands on a grassy hill. In the center, a wooden fence runs across the field. Behind the fence, a small building with a thatched roof is visible. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall color palette is warm and naturalistic.

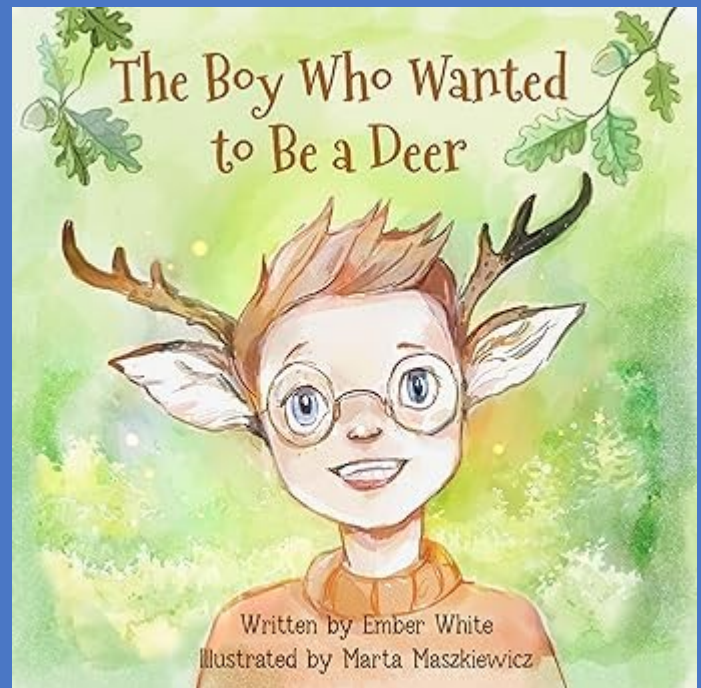
# **Children and Young Adult**

# Ember White- The Boy Who Wanted to Be a Deer

One day, Tommy asks himself what he wants to be when he grows up. His parents think he should be an accountant. His friends want to be doctors and engineers. Tommy, however, doesn't want to be an accountant, doctor, or engineer. What he truly wants will never be accepted by his family or friends.

It's a cautionary tale about denying things that are inevitably part of you.

For kids, the message is clear. Don't be afraid to go after what you really want, no matter what. For adults, it's a look into the ways we have been disconnected from what makes us truly happy and all the regrets that come with it. But for everyone regardless of age, it's a confirmation of the idea that it's never too late.



## 5 Stars

Ember White writes a wonderful children's tale with *The Boy Who Wanted to Be a Deer*

In *The Boy Who Wanted to Be a Deer*, the reader is introduced to Tommy, a child who did all the right things, got good grades, listened to his parents, and had friends. He was a regular kid until one day he stared up at the stars. I haven't read anything by this author before, and what a hidden gem. I enjoyed it so much that I have now followed the author and look for more books to read. This is a remarkable story, and I am so glad that I read it. I believe that all adults should read children's books. Tommy wondered what he would be when he grew up, and he was only eleven, but friends and parents thought because of his abilities and strengths he should be either a doctor or accountant, or something like that. He didn't want to be what others wanted him to be. He thought life could be simpler. He wanted to be a deer, but even he thought that was a bit silly or something like that so he tried to push it out of his mind. Something changed in Tommy, and he became withdrawn. He was hiding a secret that he was too afraid to share, that he was different. Ember White has a great imagination. Tommy is a special character, and definitely unforgettable. Also, you there is a lesson and even a moral to this story, and not a lot have that. This is one special story, and EVERYONE should read it. It was both heartfelt and inspirational, and I'd read it again. My children are all grown now, but I would share this with anyone, adult or child.



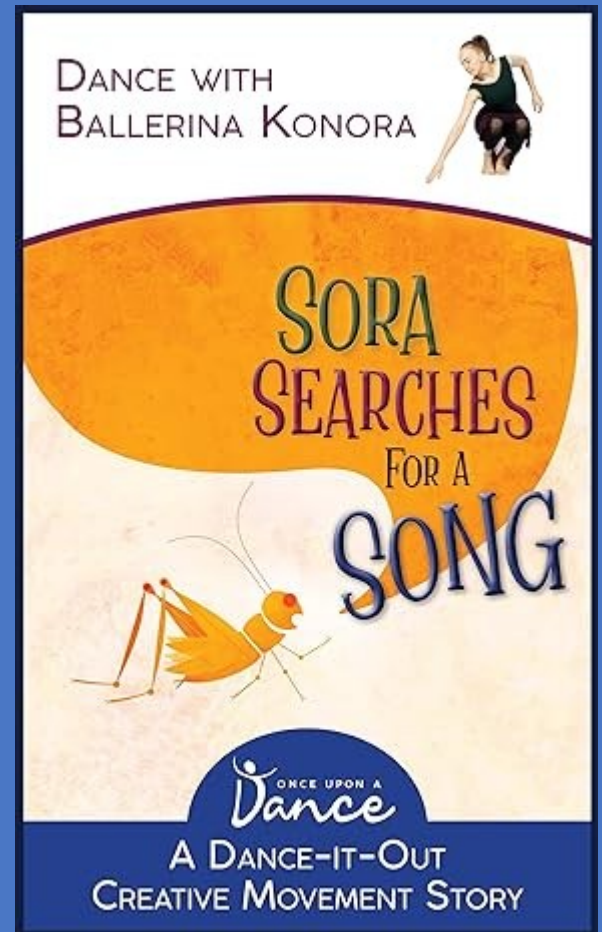
# Once Upon a Dance- Sora Searches for a Song: Little Cricket's Imagination Journey

As the symphony floated above, Sora searched deep inside for a song. But nothing came. Melodies tickled across Sora's toes, legs, and back as the little cricket searched in vain for a song.

Then a stern voice pierced the night, and the music stopped. "Someone's not singing."

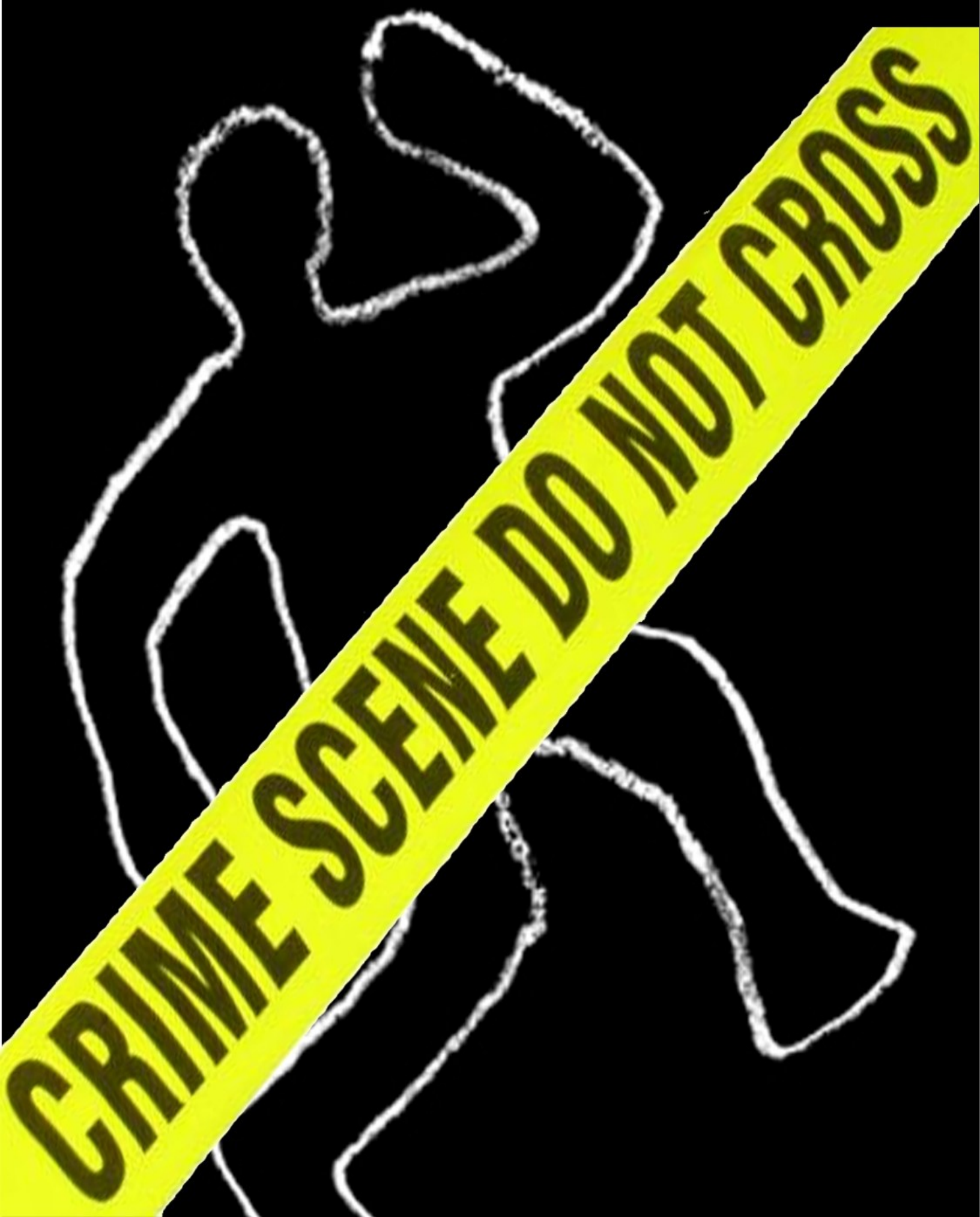
Readers are invited to stretch, balance, jump, and move along with all the creatures in this delightful story of perseverance and celebrating your own unique voice.

Sora Searches for a Song is ideal for ages 5-8. It features Sora (no pronouns), birds, fish, frogs, dragonflies, turtles, snakes and more. Ballerina Konora joins each page with optional ideas to explore dance fundamentals. As kids move along with the characters and Ballerina Konora, they explore head/tail connection, dynamic posture, vestibular action, balance, movement quality, partnering, and more.



## 5 Stars

In *Sora Searches for a Song: Little Cricket's Imagination Journey*, the reader is introduced to Sora. What I love about this story, besides it being for children, and adults will love it too, is that it meant to get children moving, and dancing, and to feel free with however they want to move. I haven't read anything by these authors before (it's a grand collaboration between two authors and their illustrator), and what a hidden gem. I enjoyed it so much, that I have now followed the authors and look for more books to read (of which there are plenty). *Sora Searches for a Song: Little Cricket's Imagination Journey* is part of the *Dance-It-Out! Creative Movement Stories* series, and this is volume 18. I personally believe that all adults should read children's stories, not just for their child, but for themselves as well. If you're reading this to your child, dance with them. Sora is a wonderful character, and she's fun. It's a book that literally moves you. Entertaining and educational, and it one of those you only put down so you can dance along with the characters! In your mind, you can hear the music and feel the vibrations of wanting to just get up and dance. I applaud *Once upon a Dance*, and look forward to reading (and dancing, even from my wheelchair) along with the characters. If you have children, know children, or just want to feel like one, this book is for you.



# Dan Lawton- ABOVE THE GROUND: A True Story of The Troubles in Northern Ireland—a tale of courage, injustice, and redemption

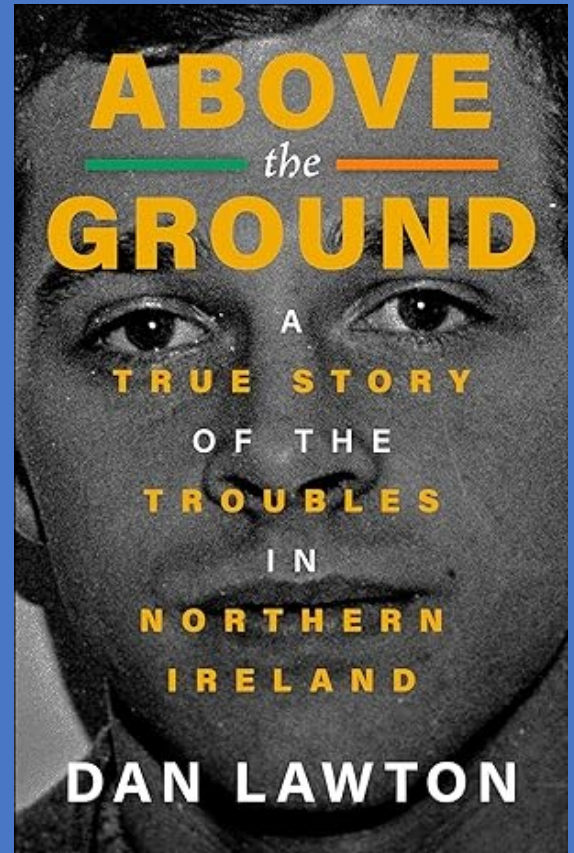
Convicted for a murder that he did not commit, ABOVE THE GROUND: A True Story of the Troubles in Northern Ireland by Dan Lawton takes readers through the chronicle of one of the darkest periods in Northern Ireland's history, highlighting themes of injustice, perseverance, and hope through Kevin's escape and struggle.

In this deep and exposing novel, readers are shown for the first time, the true story of the murder of British prison official Albert Miles by Irish Republican Army assassins and the best efforts of former IRA men and the British government to keep hidden the secrets of their dirty war during the Troubles in Northern Ireland. No matter where you stand regarding the bloody conflict in Northern Ireland, known as The Troubles, from 1978, ABOVE THE GROUND will have you turning the pages to keep revealing the truth. Filled with courtroom drama and true crime, you are not want to put this new release down!

5 Stars

Dan Lawton writes an amazing and disturbing true story about Irish conflict

Dan Lawton writes about the bloody conflict in Northern Ireland. In 1978 the Irish Republican Army was determined to rid the British out of their territory. Between guns, bombs and other explosives, many of the army were arrested and imprisoned in The Maze, a British prison. This book, ABOVE THE GROUND the reader learns about the past history of Ireland's conflict, and there is still conflict, and it's not just war, it's revenge and vengeance. I am a fan of true crime stories. This is the Dan Lawton book written by this author that I've read. The story of the continuing of The Troubles in Ireland, is terrifying because it was real. Real life is worse than anything that fiction can bring, and it is more emotional, and horrifying of something that keeps going on, in some case, just in the minds of the IRA. In 1983, there was a trial, and a man named Kevin Barry Artt was tried and sentenced because he was the prime suspect in the murder of Albert Miles, who was an official at the Maze. He was executed in front of his family. This book was written very well. It was detailed and terrifying, especially because of how people deal with conflict and assume the worst in people, and many times that detail is truth, and other times what is thought as fact is rumor.







# Matt Cost- Pirate Trap (Audiobook)

**Narrator: Jason Arnold**

**Genre: F/Mystery**

## About Pirate Trap

Did Black Sam bury pirate treasure in Port Essex 300 years ago?

After finding an incredibly lucrative Spanish treasure in the Keys of Florida, Black Sam Bellamy decided to leave the pirate life and return to his true love in New England. Before being shipwrecked on the way to retrieve her, he hid his booty with the Chbo So Clan in Port Essex.

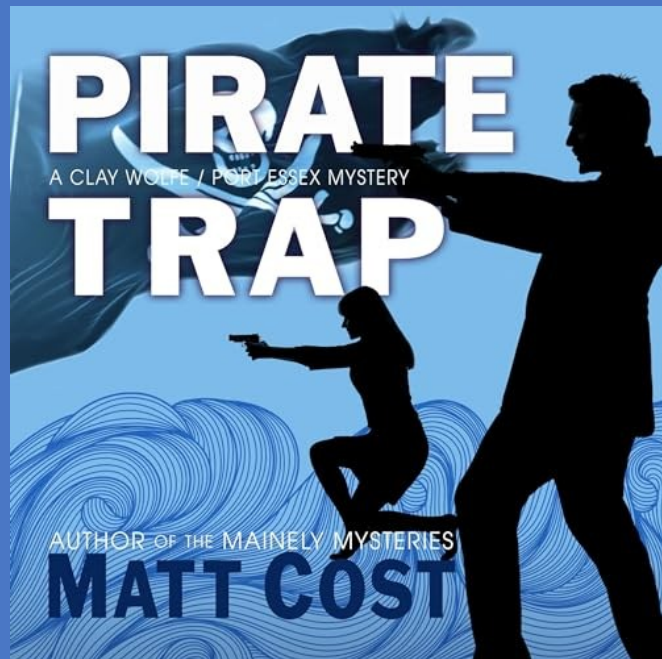
“Well, Mr. Wolfe, to get straight to the point, we want you to help us find a lost pirate treasure.”

Clay Wolfe had been slouched in the desk chair of his P.I. office, but now he straightened up and sat forward. His normally natty attire was ruffled, stubble dotted his face, and his eyes were red. “In Port Essex?”

Clay Wolfe, devastated by the death of his grandfather, is hired by an antiques dealer to find a long-lost pirate treasure and finds himself pitted against an unscrupulous sex doll businessman, a motorcycle gang, a greedy salvage boat operator, and other mysterious entities. Also recruited for this treasure hunt is Clay’s crew: Westy, Crystal, Murphy, Cloutier, and of course, Baylee Baker.

And the spark between Clay and his partner, Baylee, finally bursts into flame...

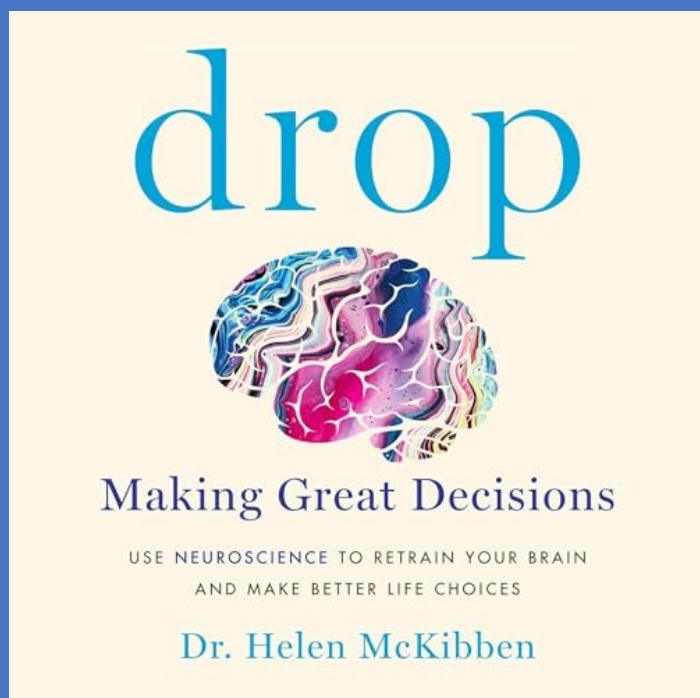
Find more about Matt Cost at <https://www.mattcost.net>



# Dr. Helen McKibben - Drop: Making Great Decisions (Audiobook)

**Narrator: Dr. Helen McKibben**

**Genre: NF/self-help technique**



About Drop: Making Great Decisions

Use neuroscience to retrain your brain and make better life choices.

"In order to make healthy decisions, we must learn to stop running from our emotions."

Dr. McKibben's approach combines the study of the body, the brain, and the interaction between emotion and memory. She enables us tap into the biomechanics of emotions, resolve triggered feelings, and make better life choices.

Dr. McKibben guides us through her revolutionary and innovative self-help technique of dropping to the blank screen to learn how to manage triggered feelings and to understand why we feel the way we do. By monitoring neuromuscular signals that indicate unconscious triggered emotions, we can work with the brain rather than against it. She teaches us a practical, self-reliant method to retrain our brains and change our responses to life's stressors.

Find more about Dr. Helen McKibben at <https://helenmckibben.com/>



# Wayne Turmel- Johnny Lycan & the Anubis Disk

## Genre: F/Urban Fantasy, Humor

## Series: The Werewolf PI

## Volume: 1

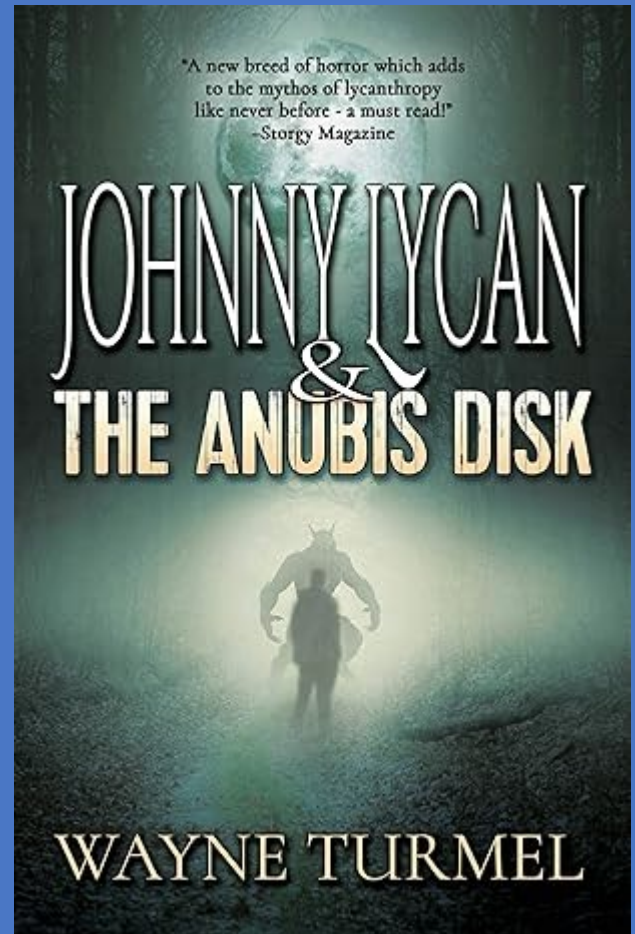
### About Johnny Lycan & the Anubis Disk

Johnny Lupul is riding high. He's got a PI license, a concealed carry permit, his first big payday and a monster of a secret. After rescuing a bookie's daughter from Russian mobsters, the newbie PI catches the attention of a rich, mysterious client.

At first, it's easy money. After all, magic isn't real and those "occult" objects have to be fakes. But while chasing an ancient relic, an obsessed enemy from his past emerges. Johnny learns that the world is much stranger—and more dangerous—than he ever suspected.

Malignant forces dwell in Egyptian artifacts, Romani superstition is fact, and being a werewolf may be the most normal thing he has to face on this case.

Find more about Wayne Turmel at <https://wayneturmel.com/>



# Wayne Turmel- Johnny Lycan & the Last Witchfinder

## Genre: F/Urban Fantasy, Humor

## Series: The Werewolf PI

## Volume: 3

About Johnny Lycan & the Last Witchfinder

A mysterious figure stalks Chicago's Paranormal community, and the only person who can stop it is Johnny Lupul, the Werewolf PI.

First, he must cope with a 400-year-old witchfinder, rampaging demons, and a journalist threatening to reveal Johnnys dark, hairy secret.

As if that's not enough, his boss has been kidnapped and the clock is ticking.

Packed with non-stop action, humor and twists, Johnny Lycan & the Last Witchfinder will keep you on the edge of your seat from start to finish. Don't miss the heart-stopping conclusion to the Werewolf PI series.

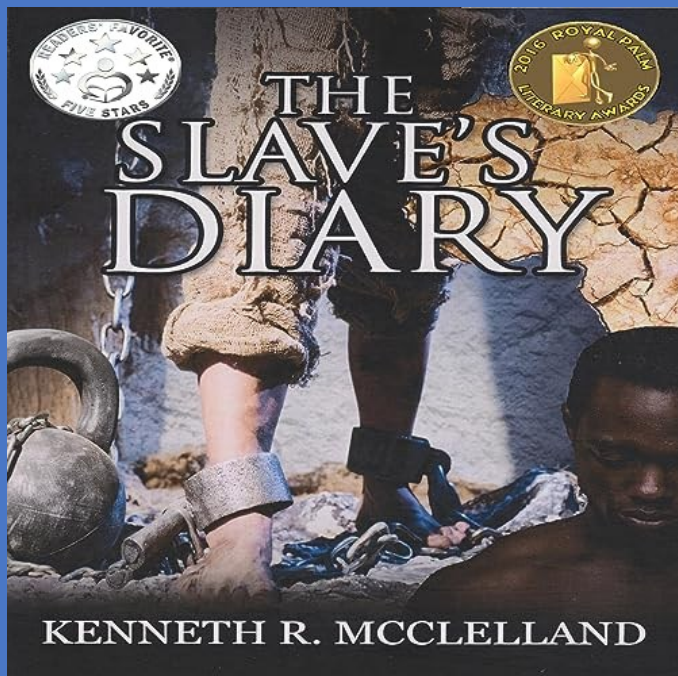
Find more about Wayne Turmel at <https://wayneturmel.com/>



# Kenneth R. McClelland - The Slave's Diary (Audiobook)

**Narrator: Kevin Barbare**

**Genre: F/YA/African-American**



## About The Slave's Diary

While on his first hunt with his father, young Kimbo is kidnapped from the jungles of Africa to become part of the 19th-century Virginia slave trade. Sold like property to various masters, he makes his escape after he's entered into a boxing match against a big man named Barnyard Willie. In the midst of his escape, he comes upon a lost little White girl, and as he tries to help her, a family of kidnappers descend upon them and grab both him and the girl, until "nobody" sets them free.

Once he gets the girl to safety, his adventure continues until he's captured and delivered to a master who wants to kill him when he tries to run off with a kitchen girl to find the Underground Railroad. Redeemed from bondage by an old preacher who stands up to the master, Kimbo is shown what true freedom really is.

Find more about Kenneth R. McClelland at <https://www.amazon.com/stores/Kenneth-R.-McClelland/author/B00NMXG1X>



# Thomas De-Conna- Season of Restorations

## Genre: F/Drama/Literary/Generational

### About Season of Restorations

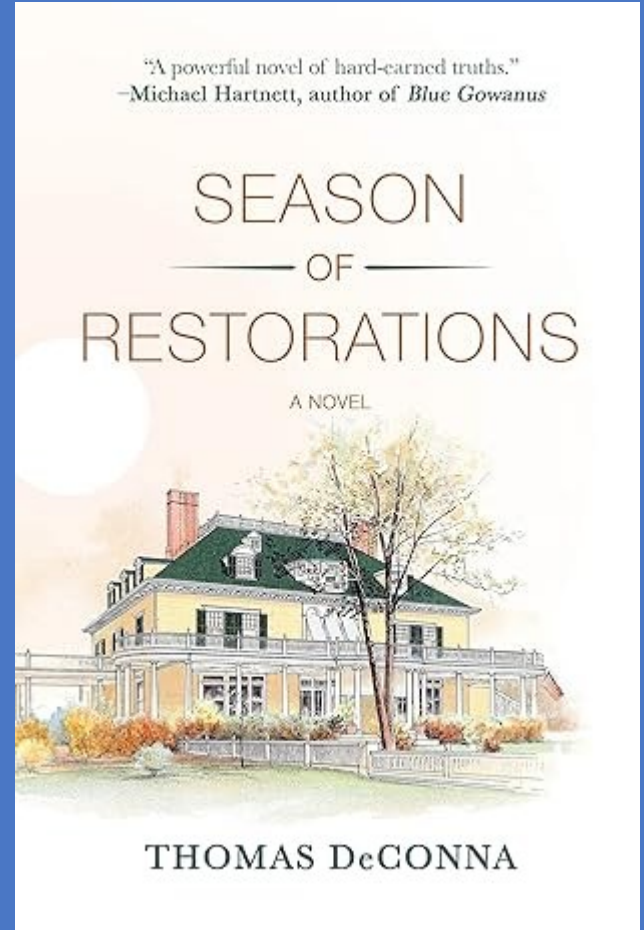
Three generations of men gather at their family homestead in New Jersey as Franklin Bowman faces impending death. With a plan in mind, Franklin summons his son George, who faces the uncertainties of retirement, and his grandson Jack, who faces the prospect of discovering himself after being fired from his job.

Each man keeps secrets he would like to share with the others, but the silence of men might keep those secrets hidden forever. With a touch of magical realism, secondary characters link to historical figures and act as mystical guides.

As each man travels an uncharted stage of life, the story reveals the inner world of male vulnerability and strength. While the generations work to restore the homestead for a future sale, they also seek to restore themselves.

The story reveals how men live with distances among them, how generations inspire, and how the human spirit endures.

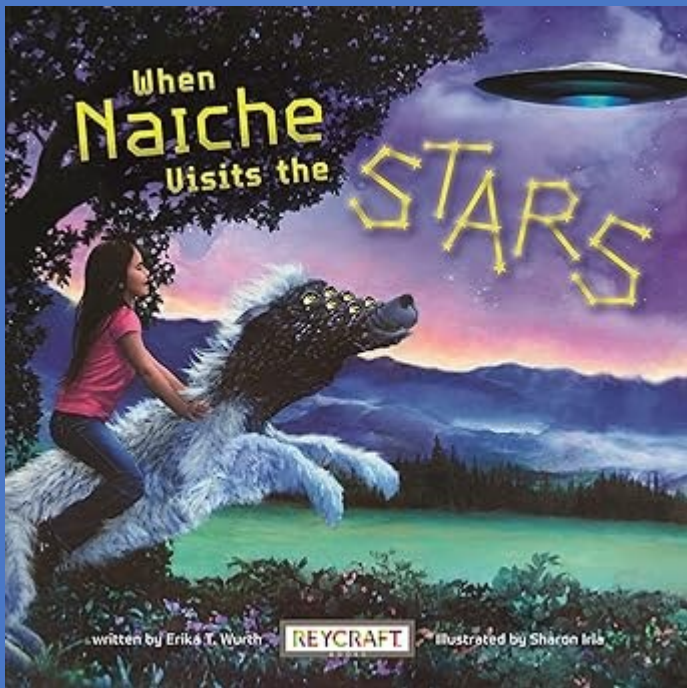
Find more about Thomas De-Conna at <https://thomasdeconna.com/>



# **Erika T. Wurth- When Naiche Visits the Star**

**Genre: Children's/Imagination/Aliens/Space**

**Illustrator: Sharon Iria**



About When Naiche Visits the Star Naiche, a mixed-race girl, dreams of one day making spaceships like her parents who work for NASA. While her mother teaches her the ways of the Apache and Chickasaw, she imagines her own encounter with aliens. Will she one day be able to fly to meet them?

Find more about Erika T. Wurth at <https://erikatwurth.com/>

# **Audiobook Jeremy James Smith- Holtgart**

## **Genre: Comedic Fantasy, Epic Fantasy**

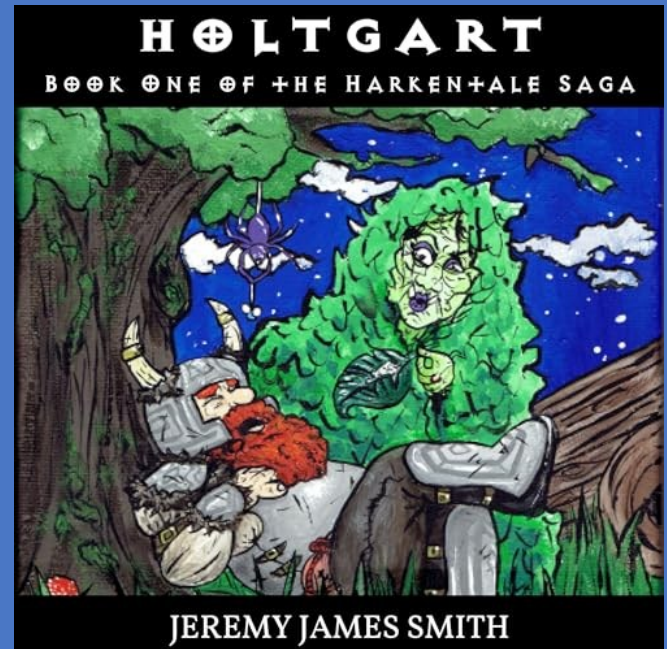
### **Narrated by: Dustin Sipes**

#### About Holtgart

Angus Redbeard was nobody until a fateful mistake made him one of the most famous dwarves in history. Now he has a year to prove himself worthy of his new title - and become a hero. Like ripples from a skipping stone on a still lake, Angus' exploits reverberate, triggering dormant entities. Before long, fights become battles and battles become wars, and Angus finds himself defending people he never expected to know from long-latent threats roused by his own escapades.

Follow Angus on his quest to find elves, outwit politicians, survive goblins, orcs, and trolls, and discover what he's really made of. Holtgart begins the epic fantasy series The Harkentale Saga, a comedic romp forged from equal parts action and adventure, with a dash of world-saving, and a hearty side of diverse new friends.

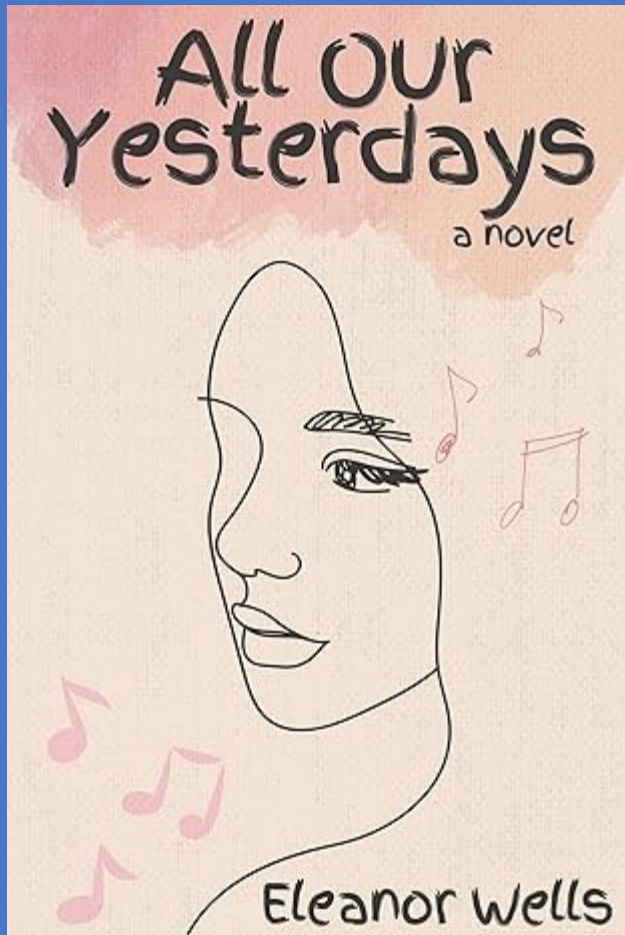
Find more about Jeremy James Smith at [www.jeremyjamesmith.com](http://www.jeremyjamesmith.com)





# Eleanor Wells- All Our Yesterdays

## Genre: F/Literary/Women



### About All Our Yesterdays

It's the summer of 1999 in rural Minnesota, and eighteen-year-old Marcy Lewis is at a crossroads. Having graduated high school without committing to college, she wonders about the meaning of her life and what she is meant to achieve. On a trip with her sister to New York City, she meets up-and-coming musician Cole Hargrove, and the spark between the two of them is instantaneous. After Cole is inspired to write songs about her, he becomes one of the biggest names in music. As Marcy is thrust into a world of wealth and fame unlike anything she's ever known, she finds herself torn between her sense of identity and status as one of pop's greatest muses.

Find more about Eleanor Wells at <https://www.amazon.com/stores/Eleanor-Wells/author/B0CZ389HWB>

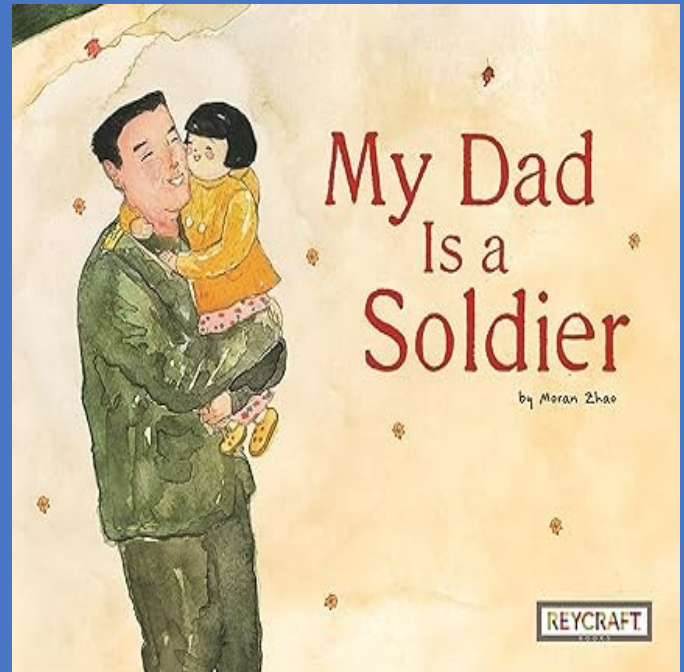
# Moran Zhao- My Dad is a Soldier

## Genre: Children's/Military

### About My Dad is a Soldier

A little girl travels with her mother to a military base to visit her soldier dad. Once there, her dad is called away to help people suffering through a terrible flood. She understands the important work her dad does, but one day hopes he will return home and pick her up at school like all the other dads.

Find more about Moran Zhao at [https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/35127526.Moran\\_Zhao](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/35127526.Moran_Zhao)

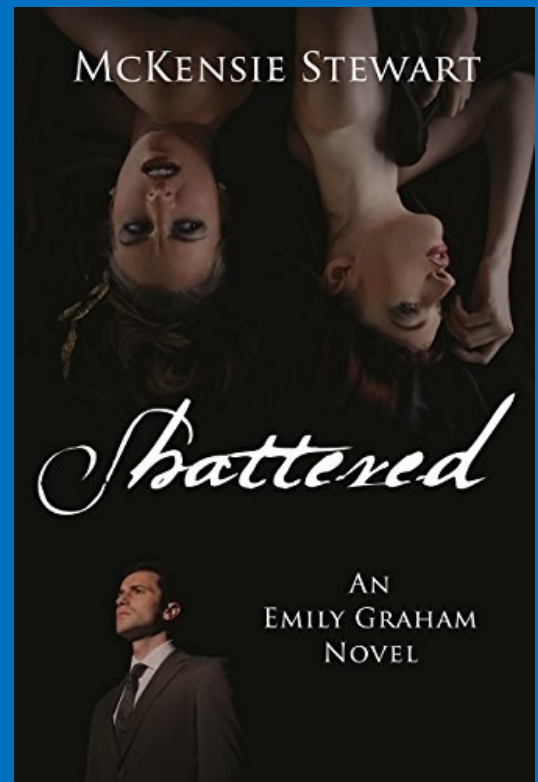


# Shattered: An Emily Graham Novel

By McKensie Stewart



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



amazon

Advertisement





# Audiobooks

# Audiobook Legacy Author Karl G. Trautman- Deacon Blues

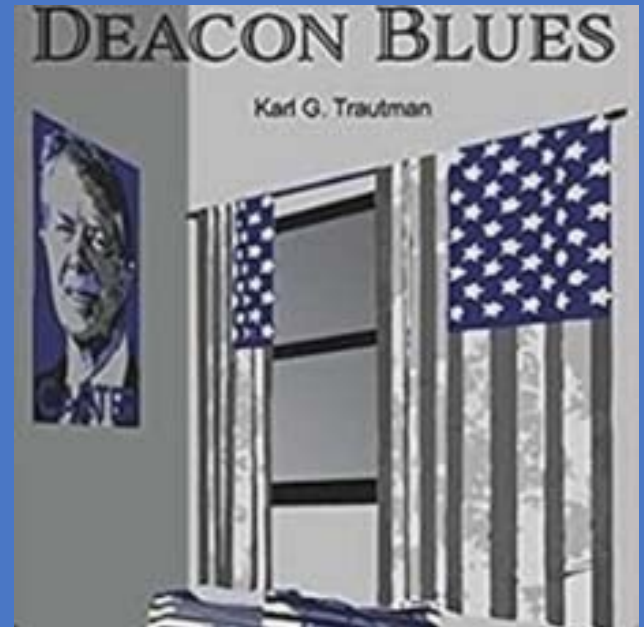
**Genre: Political/Coming of Age**

**Narrated by: Karl G. Trautman**

4 Stars

Karl G. Trautman tells a grand Coming of Age story in Deacon Blues.

Deacon Blues is a grand story that many can relate to. Everyone who has ever been a teenager, knows the tragedy and angst that one feels, especially when they think the world is against them, and they want to be like everyone else. While trying to fit in, it's also about being an individual. Manfred is no different, yet he is trying to form his own identity. An interesting twist, and I don't see many teenagers doing it, is that he looks to his President, Jimmy Carter, as his role model. It's being a teen in the 70s and dealing with the post-Watergate and Ford presidencies. Manfred is on a journey to find himself, and gain some influence. The reliance on Carter's success and failures make a big impact on Manfred. I look forward to listening to more stories about Manfred and from this author. This listen is more than just spoken words, and it is definitely an unpredictable story, my favorite kind!



**About the Book:** Jolted by an arrested adolescence, Manfred Schmidt is a lonely teenager who craves for belonging and respect. His unconscious rage and forming identity are fused together at a time when a new leader is offering hope to a troubled, post-Watergate nation. He takes on Jimmy Carter as his hero, offering hope to his evolving self.

Set in the suburbs of Washington DC, Ireland, Boston and New Hampshire, the story is about Manfred's foibles as he journeys through high school, a semester at college and a stint working in Carter's re-election campaign. Even though Carter's political journey ends in failure, the impact of his brief venture into American politics leaves a lasting influence on his emotional development.

# Available NOW!

## Amy Shannon's Balls-Town

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

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

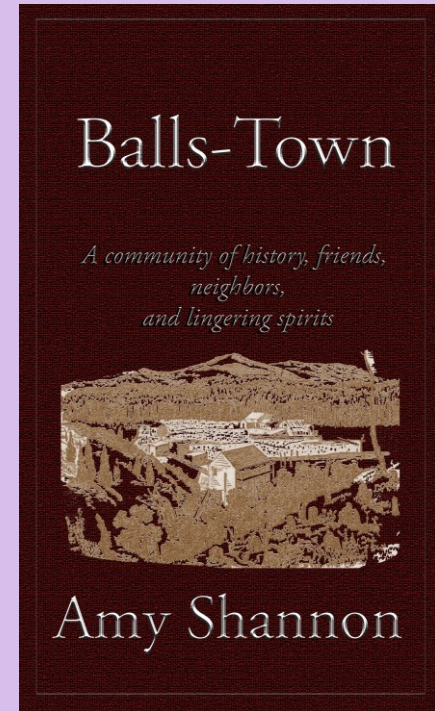
A lot of reading and research went into writing this book.

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

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

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

### Advertisement



### Synopsis of Balls-Town

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

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