

## LITERATE

## MAGAZINE

FROM REVIEWS TO LITERARY NEWS; FROM HISTORY TO HER-STORY

#### **AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT:**

CHRIS KARLSEN

MARK TWAIN

#### **AUTHOR INTERVIEWS:**

JENNIFER CONNER

LOUISA MAY ALLCOTT

JAN NOTZON

YURIE KIRI

#### **FEATURED SHORT STORIES**

SHE

TRUE CRIME

GRIM PARADISE

POETRY CORNER

"TELL A STORY" PICTURE CONTEST

#### BOOK REVIEWS AND MORE:

Amy's pick of the month Out of this World Thrillers and Chillers

HISTORICAL FICTION

FOR THE LOVE OF COUNTRY

#### CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT:

THE ADVENTURES OF PERIWINKLE FAE

#### **NONFICTION:**

EXODUS FROM SUDAN
PROPERTY OF THE REVOLUTION

#### **AUDIOBOOKS:**

THE FAIR

THE DELPHI MURDERS

#### © 2024 Essence Publishing

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. This magazine was established in 2020.

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
- Full sheet Advertisement for Six months (3-issues) is \$15.00
- Discounts are available to contributors of the magazine for their AD.

CEO and Chief Editor: Amy Shannon

Email address: writeramyshannon@gmail.com

Website: https://essenceenterpriseus.com/literate-ly-magazine

Amy Shannon's Books: <a href="https://essenceenterpriseus.com/author-amy-shannon">https://essenceenterpriseus.com/author-amy-shannon</a>







All Graphics in this magazine created by Amy's Graphic Designs has the small logo in one of the corners

Advertisements 8x10 or 5x7 inches

Book Covers (for ebook and/or print)

Custom Promotional Digital Graphics

Logos and Brands

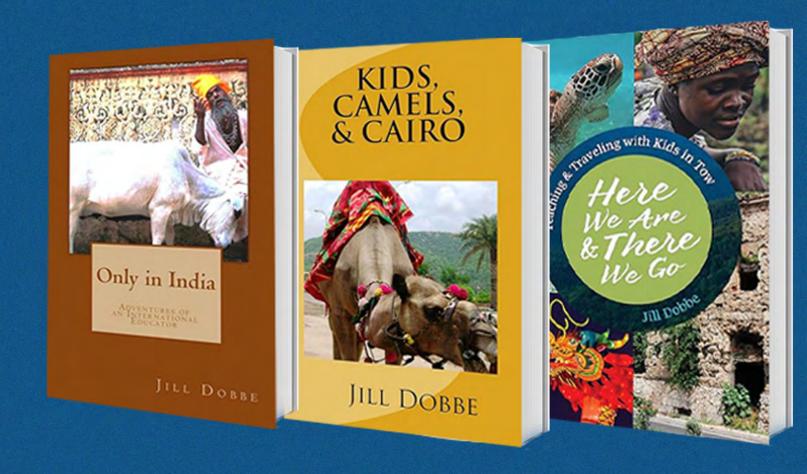


essenceenterprises1972@gmail.com

#### Table of Contents

- July Book Releases
- August Book Releases
- Author Spotlight
  - <u>Chris Karlsen</u>
  - Mark Twain
- Author Interviews
  - Jennifer Conner
  - Jan Notzon
  - Yurie Kiri
  - Louisa May Allcott
- <u>True Crime</u>
- <u>Historical Fiction</u>
- Short Stories
- Nonfiction & Memoirs
- <u>Children's and Young Adult</u>
- Essence Enterprises "Tell a Story" Picture contest
- Poetry Corner
- Amy's Pick of the Month
- Thrillers and Chillers
- Audiobooks
- Out of this World Books
- For the Love of Country

## International Educator & Travel Writer Jill Dobbe



#### Buy Jill's Books



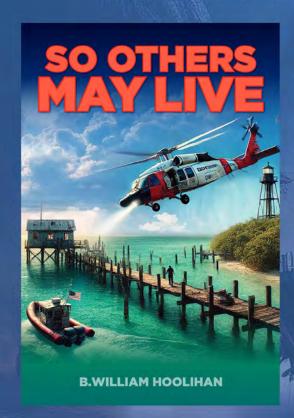
Jill lives in Honduras, writes about her global experiences in schools and countries, and continues to explore and document the beauty of Central America while learning Spanish.



#### B. William Hoolihan's

### So Others May Live

Some missions never end. Some promises must be kept.



Retired Coast Guard Chief Rik
Duval thought he'd found peace
on the waters of the Florida Keys.
A quiet boat. A cold drink.
No more orders.
Then Billy Tiger crashed into his life changing its trajectory forever.

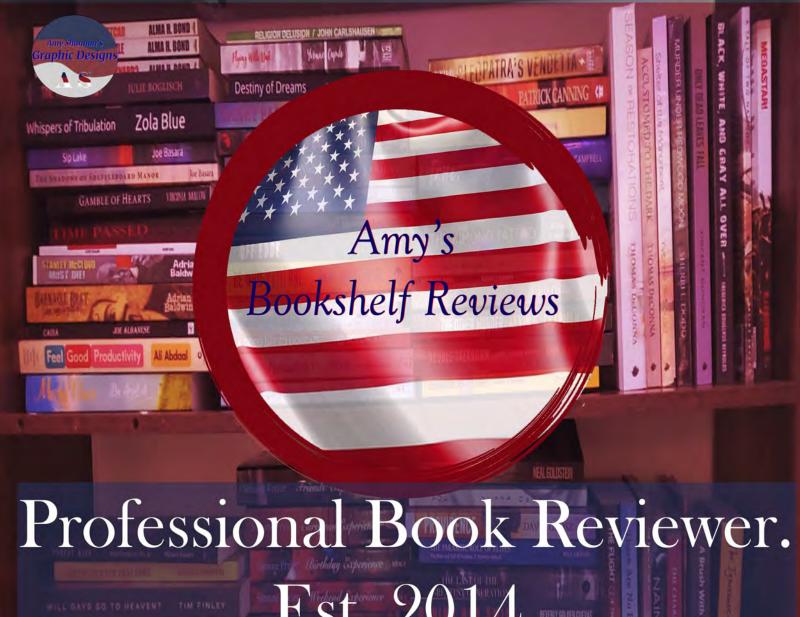
Loyalty beyond the bonds of brotherhood



Narcos. Treasure. Betrayal. And that's just the beginning



www.bwilliamhoolihan.com



#### Est. 2014.

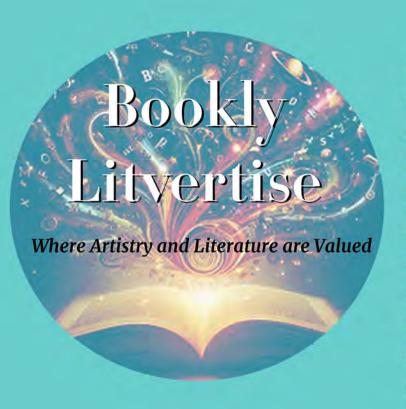
Every Author's story is celebrated and shared with unbiased, honest & ethical reviews. Read or Listen. Review. Repeat.



amysbookshelfreviews.com

Professional Book Reviews for digital, print or Audiobooks. Author promos including video promos and reviews.

CROWN PRINCE



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

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

Pricing:

For one-three months: \$15

For six-months: \$25

For 12 months: \$35

If a person purchases an AD in Literate-Ly, they will get AD space for three consecutive months for free.

Think of this as a "Fivrr" version of a magazine. You can sell brand, your services, or advertise your work.

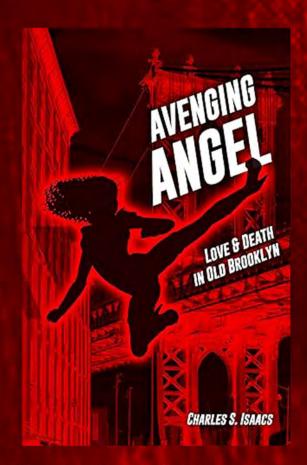


## Charles S. Isaacs presents



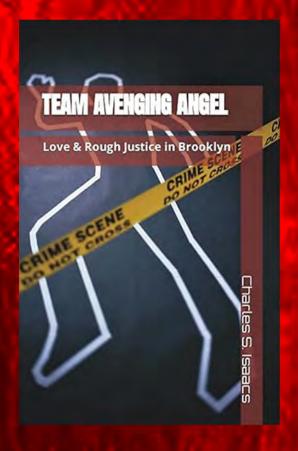
#### THE AVENGING ANGEL SERIES

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



Charles Isaacs Website

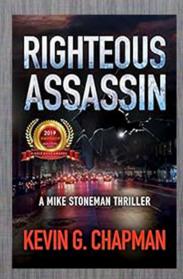


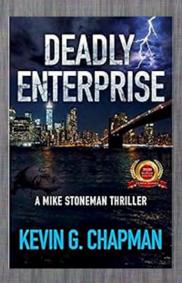


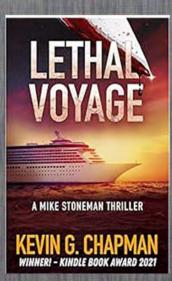
Buy Both Books on Amazon



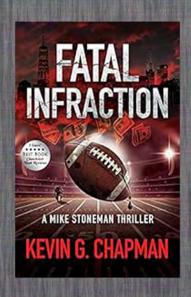
## Kevin G. Chapman's Mike Stoneman Thrillers

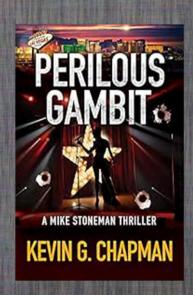






NYPD homicide detectives Mike Stoneman and Jason Dickson tackle the hard-hitting cases, while having ups and downs as partners, and while also trying to have a personal life.











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

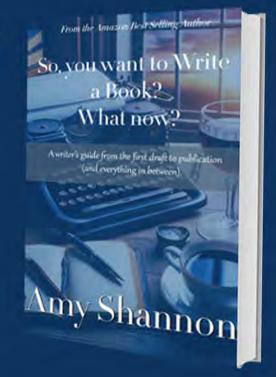
## Amy Shannon's

## So, YOU want to Write a Book? What now?

A writer's guide from the first word to publication

This book is designed to support authors at every stage, from novices to experienced writers, as they navigate the publishing journey. It covers the entire process, from drafting to finalizing the manuscript. Learning from someone who has experienced this journey can offer invaluable insights, though it's important to remember that what works for one writer may not work for another.

Many people often say, "I should write a book." If you feel this way, then go ahead and write it. You won't know until you try. Some people discover their writing talent early in life, while others find it unexpectedly later on. So, if you have the urge to write, just do it.







## CHRIS KARLSEN & JENNIFER CONNER

**PRESENTS** 



### BROKEN FACES

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

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

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







## July Releases

Donald Firesmith The Foundling Heir of Ash and Blood 7/1/2025 Melanie Nowak Almost Human Nature July 1 2025 B. William Hoolihan Kentucky in the Fall 7/1/2025 Wooly Broom the Bear 7/1/2025 Wooly Broom goes Skating 7/1/2025 Pirate's Promise 7/22/2025 Christie Valentine Powell The Centaur Charge 7/5/2025 Alisa Jean Matthew 7/15/2025 Vincent Donovan Secret Seeds 7/15/2025 Joelle Babula 🧳 Infidelity Rules 7/24/2025 Richard Holinger Down from the Sycamores

## August Releases

Morgan St. James

A Deadly Plan 8/7/2025

Melina Druga

Rock Star Parents 8/12/2025

Lena Gibson

Racing Towards Destiny 8/21/2025

Richard Donze

The Secret Saint Anthony Prayer 8/22/2025

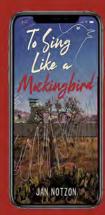
### Jan Notzon's To Sing Like a Mockingbird

In a world where hope is a rare commodity, one teacher battles against the darkness to find light in the unlikeliest of places

Justin Kopechne's once idealistic view of the world shatters as he navigates a school filled with disillusioned students, a detached principal, and friends entangled in the drug trade. After the school's

closure due to a student's murder, he seeks refuge with his brother and sister-in-law, grappling with his

family's deep-seated dysfunction.







To Sing

JAN NOTZON







#### **Author Spotlight**

#### Chris Karlsen

Chris is a Chicago native. Her family moved to Los Angeles when she was in her late teens where she later studied at UCLA. She graduated with a Business Degree. Her father was a history professor and her mother a voracious reader. She grew up with a love of history and books.

Her parents were also passionate about traveling and passed their passion onto Chris. Once bitten with the travel bug, Chris spent most of her adult life visiting the places she'd read about that fascinated her. Her travels have taken her Europe, the Near East, and North Africa, in addition to most of the United States. She most frequently visited England and France, where several of her books are set.

After college, Chris spent the next twenty-five years in law enforcement with two agencies. Harboring a strong desire to write since her teens, upon retiring from police work, Chris decided to pursue her writing career. She writes three different series. Her historical romance series is called, Knights in Time and is set in England but with a medieval time travel element. Her Bloodstone series, which is set in Victorian London, features the life and work of Detective Inspector Rudyard Bloodstone. Her romantic thriller series is Dangerous Waters and is set in Turkey.

Her latest book, Broken Faces, she co-authored with Jennifer Conner. It is book two in Chris's Love & War series. Book one is The Ack Ack Girl, which is set in WW2 England

She currently lives in the Pacific Northwest with her husband and three wild and crazy rescue dogs.



www.chriskarlsen.com

## Yurie Kiri's Moonlight and Murder

Step into the unknown with a stranger whose secrets may be more dangerous than his charm. Dare to ride?



## Coming soon Moonlight Cruise





**Buy on Amazon** 

#### **Author Spotlight**

#### **Mark Twain**

(1835 - 1910)

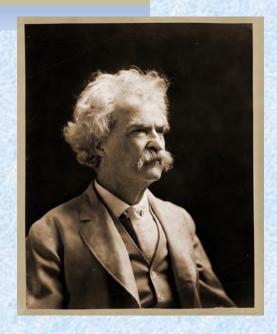
Mark Twain was born Samuel Langhorne Clemens (November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910) was an American writer, humorist, and essayist. Twain was raised in Hannibal, Missouri, which later provided the setting for both Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. He served an apprenticeship with a printer early in his career, and then worked as a typesetter, contributing articles to his older brother Orion Clemens' newspaper.

Twain was fascinated with science and scientific inquiry. He developed a close and lasting friendship with Nikola Tesla, and the two spent much time together in Tesla's laboratory.

"I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year, and I expect to go out with it. It will be the greatest disappointment of my life if I don't go out with Halley's Comet. The Almighty has said, no doubt: "Now here are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together".

(Twain died of a heart attack on April 21, 1910, in Stormfield, one day after the comet was at its closest to the Sun and a month before the comet passed the Earth."

information from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark\_Twain



- The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County (1867)
- The Innocents Abroad (1869)
- Roughing It (1872)
- The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today (1873)
- Sketches New and Old (1875)
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876)
- A Tramp Abroad (1880)
- The Prince and the Pauper (1881)
- Life on the Mississippi (1883)
- Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884)
- A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1889)
- The American Claimant (1892)
- The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson (1894)
- Tom Sawyer Abroad (1894)
- Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc (1896)
- Tom Sawyer, Detective (1896)
- Following the Equator (1897)
- The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg (1900)
- A Double Barrelled Detective Story (1902)
- Extracts from Adam's Diary (1904)
- Eve's Diary (1906)
- The Mysterious Stranger (published posthumously in 1916)

Advertisement



"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













**BARNES** & NOBLE

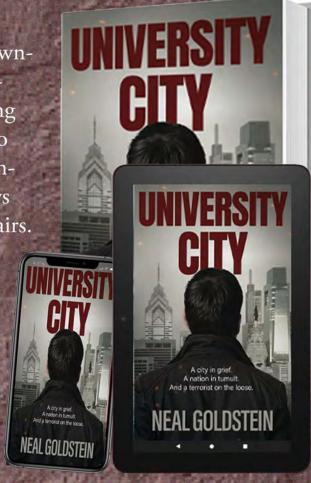
www.emilygmoore.com



## Graphic Designs Type al Goldstein's

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

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



Buy on Amazon.com





Nealgoldsteinbooks.com





### Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast

Episodes Air every 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday of each month.

Literary professionals are all invited to be a guest. "Audio shy?" Then your book can be on the show.

On Spotify



An Audio Only Podcast

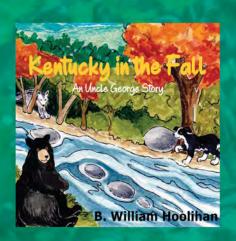
Sign Up Now.

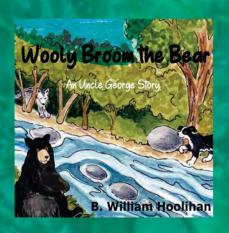


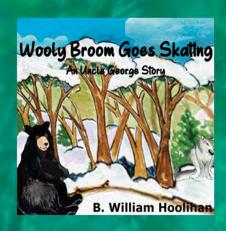
## B. William Hoolihan's Uncle George Stories

Uncle George Stories embraces the simple joys and Family Adventures of Rural Kentucky

Uncle George Stories is a collection of nostalgic letters recounting the author's memories of his grandfather's boyhood adventures in Kentucky, highlighting family, nature, and simple joys.







So, "sit a 'spell" and enjoy Uncle George stories.
For the young and young at heart.





www.bwilliamhoolihan.com



#### Jennifer Conner

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

Jennifer Conner: Strong. Resilient. Nonconformity.

Literate-Ly Magazine: How many books have you written? How many of those are published? Jennifer Conner: 80 that are all published.

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

Jennifer Conner: I'm currently developing a prequel screenplay to my award-winning horror film, 'Starvation Heights.' This project, inspired by a true historical event that occurred only a mile down the road from me. It delves into the chilling story of a woman who lured wealthy women clientele to her establishment under the guise of 'curing their ailments.' Tragically, these women were subjected to starvation and ultimately met their demise, while the perpetrator profited from their life insurance policies. Fun times

My past release, besides Broken Faces, was The Mac Brothers, a sexy contemporary romance I wrote with my buddy from Canada, Angela Ford. We have team written 7 books together and finally got to meet in person last year in Nova Scotia! Then a Coloring book, Annaleighs Cupcakes.

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?

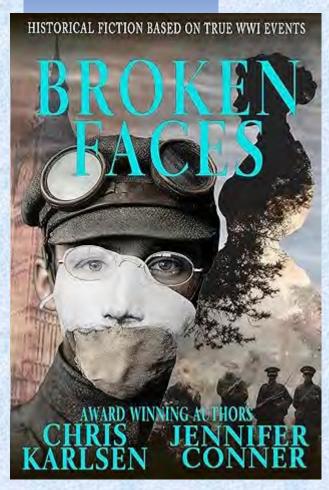
Jennifer Conner: It depends on the story. Starvation Heights was the real nickname of the place and I couldn't come up with a better name. Broken Faces



came from the French name, Gueules Cassees, for soldiers with facial wounds that could not be repaired. Otherwise, something that fits the book. My first book was Kilt by Love. I still like that one.

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?

Jennifer Conner: I loved Abby and Colm in Broken Faces. It was such a compelling story based on true facts. She was driven to help these poor young men returning from war with horrific facial injuries. With her ceramic masks she gave them another chance at life. I also wrote a World War II short story, I'll be Seeing You Through Time, that I need to expand. It was for my mother who was engaged to a handsome young man named Glenn Miller. A torpedo sank his ship, and he died at sea. I made the book a time travel and gave them the



them the second chance they never had. I wish she had been alive to read it. It was for her.

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

Jennifer Conner: My genre would be Hang on. I write the stories that come to me. I will never deceive my readers by making them think its one genre or another just to sell a book. I will tell them up front if it is sweet, sexy, historical or horror, and I hope they will love it as much as I enjoyed writing it. I saw Diana Gabaldon once speak; she said Outlander is in bookstores under romance, historical fiction, time-travel, even science fiction. Literate-Ly Magazine: Without quoting your back cover blurb, tell me about the last book you published.

Jennifer Conner: Broken Faces a WWI historical fiction. As World War I rages on, a New York socialite and an Irish metalsmith join forces to create lifelike ceramic masks for wounded soldiers, offering hope and a chance at a normal life. Before that I did a coloring book based on a short story I wrote in the past. Each page has a bit of the story and then an image to color. That was fun

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

Jennifer Conner: Not sure a quote or just a line: From I'll Be Seeing you through time: I'll kiss the water and hope it finds you. I love you Jewel.

#### The Mac Brothers

There was a click, and then a deep voice said, "I suggest you fucking drop your baby toy gun. How'd you get a handgun in Canada anyway and I bet it's not registered? I have a hunting rifle and it's pointed at your skull. Don't make me do this, because I won't hesitate for a split second. Then, your brains, if you have any, will be difficult to clean off the new railings we just installed." Aaron stood behind Vitaly with his rifle pointed at the back of Vitaly's head.

Vitaly turned slowly with his hands raised. The gun hung loosely off his index finger. "Now...who are you?" he asked.

"I'm the brother of the man you just shot, dickweed." Aaron didn't lower his aim, but his gaze flicked to Donnan. "You okay?"

Donnan nodded through the pain.

"We're the Mac brothers," Aaron stated. "Can't say it's nice to meet you."

Growing up, he and Aaron fought, howled, and nearly killed each other, but what Donnan had accused Aaron of had been completely wrong. His brother was *always* there when he needed him, and he was never happier to see him than he was at that moment.

Vitaly dropped the gun on the deck and backed a few steps away. "This has all been a big misunderstanding."

"Misunderstanding my ass cheek." Aaron moved in. "From where I stand, this looks like attempted murder."

"Murder? I wasn't trying to *kill* him; I was only trying to keep what was mine." Vitaly gave a quick, bravado smile. "Man to man. You understand. Fair's fair. I had her first."

"The only part of that sentence that you're even remotely right about is that we're all men." Anger boiled Donnan's blood. "I think I speak for me and my brother, we would *never* treat a woman the way that you've treated Emina. Women are not something you *own* or take advantage of, they are something you love, cherish, and protect."

Aaron nodded. "Emina is married to Donnan which makes her and Amar part of *my* family and not yours. As long as she's here in Highland Bay, I and *the whole town* are here to see that the two of them are safe."

Literate-Ly Magazine: Tell me something about yourself that is separate from writing. Jennifer Conner: I am the owner of Books to Go Now a small house publisher since 2010. We have about 450 authors all over the world

and 2500 titles. Also part owner in Romance Novel Covers Now an ebook cover design business on Etsy that designs covers and paperbacks. I am a bit of a volunteer junkie. I work once at week at our local food bank and then once a month at a family kitchen to make meals. I love live theater and I'm lucky to have four local theaters in the area that have live acts and then musicals. I've seen everyone from The Temptations and Mellissa Ethridge, to Singing in the Rain. I like to work in resin jewelry and shared a table over the summer at a farmers market to sell jewelry.

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

Jennifer Conner: Diana Gabaldon, Stephen King, Sarina Bowen

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

Jennifer Conner: Sarina Bowen Holidaze and Brooklynaire (loved that one!)

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

Jennifer Conner: I try to have a beginning a middle and end. Then make up a photo board of my characters and places. I need a visual when I write.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write? Jennifer Conner: To get the stories out of my head and on to paper. Otherwise they roll around in there for years. Broken Faces did that!

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

Jennifer Conner: The prequel to Starvation Heights and it's a screenplay. I might do another coloring book too. Those are fun.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you read your own work a lot? If so, what does it do for you? Jennifer Conner: No not usually. Only if there is a book fair or a presentation to read from. The audiobooks are fun to hear your words read back to you in another voice.

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?

Jennifer Conner: I always listen to music. I have to. It focuses my brain. I have a favorites playlist on Spotify. One of my favorite all time bands is Crowded House and the Beatles. I'm a big musicals fan and listen to my lists of them to sing to me. I've met my favorite, John-Owen Jones in London a few times at the stage door and got to geek out. He is always a favorite from Phantom to Les Miserables.

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? Jennifer Conner: The blurb and synopsis are always more difficult for me. Trying to summarize your whole book into a few paragraphs.

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

Jennifer Conner: My mom. She's been gone 25 years and I'm sure she would have input on my writing and story ideas.

Stephen King: I love his writing and writing process. He has such creative ideas and I think he would be a hoot in person.

Martin Luther King or one of the suffragettes that paved the way for all of is and were such fighters.

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

Jennifer Conner: I don't think it's about money, I think it's about if you are happy with what you write and surround yourself with fellow writers in person who are too. I think with all the online things, writing is isolating. I miss the old RWA days of meeting other writers and hanging out. I would love to see that come back.

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

Jennifer Conner: With my writing I've published 80 books and have helped a lot of new writers along the way and love their books and writing too.

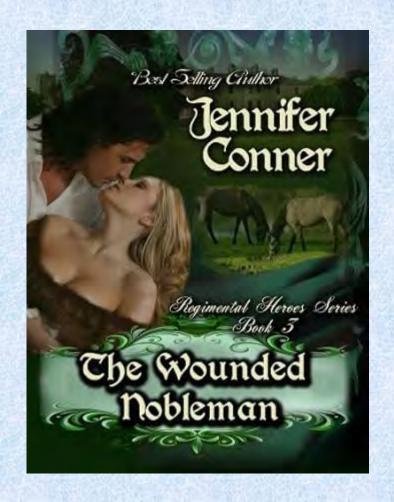
Literate-Ly Magazine: I am on a quest to read as many banned, burned or challenged books as possible? What is your feeling or opinion on banning books? It seems to be a new epidemic now.

Jennifer Conner: Banning books is horrible for schools or libraries. If you don't want to read it, then don't but don't try and ban it for others. One of our best friends is on a local school board and half their time is wasted with people OUT OF DISTRICT quacking about what books they want banned. When Charlotte's Web, Where the Wild Things Are, Harry Potter, and Snow Falling on Cedar are on the list you know it's a huge overreach. Just don't read them and stop with the silliness.

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

Jennifer Conner: Thanks for having me on to let readers know more about me.

https://www.jenniferconnerbooks.com/



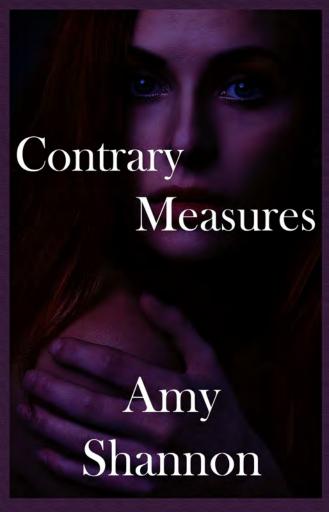


## Amy Shannon's



## Contrary Measures

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



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





# INDIES UNITED PUBLISHING HOUSE, LLC

Come see what we have to offer

indiesunited.net



#### 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/

#### Jan Notzon

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

Jan Notzon: Classical liberal dog-lover

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

Jan Notzon: I've written 8, 7 of which are published.

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

Jan Notzon: Just released my seventh *To Sing Like* a *Mockingbird* 

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?

Jan Notzon: It varies from book to book. I'd written a play of the same story as the new one and since I already knew the essence of the story, the title was a given. On the other hand, with my penultimate novel, *ONLY THE DEAD (Know the End of War)* I really agonized over the title. I had maybe six or seven possible titles and asked friends and editors their opinions.

*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?

Jan Notzon: Wow. That's a tough one. Perhaps Mandy MacDaniel in my novel *Song for the Forsaken*. She's an extraordinarily strong dirt-poor Appalachian woman who's essentially raised herself and her little sister. A recent event has shattered the faith that had previously sustained her.



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

Jan Notzon: Literary fiction. That's what I write. I can think of no better description. I want to explore the myriad questions I have about this enigmatic thing called *life* that we share in what I hope will be an engaging story: Literary fiction.

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

Jan Notzon: It is the tale of a young man dragged kicking and screaming toward an acceptance of world as it is and not how he would like it to be. On his journey, he is faced with those who will not give up their "dreamworld" and others who have completely capitulated to dire cynicism.

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

#### Notzon Cont'd

From, And Ye Shall Be As Gods

Jan Notzon: "But finally, in its ultimate moments of glory, a conflagration of molten gold explodes in haunting cadence through the furthest reaches of the heavens, chanting, bellowing in a booming voice of pure fire that echoes across time, across all the space of the universe, through heaven and hell and hearts and souls of all who've gone before and all who will follow, a triumphant cry: 'I have lived! I have lived! Know me, for I have lived!"

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

Jan Notzon: I am an inveterate romantic who strives to accept the Socratic dictum "Reality Exists", and live accordingly.

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

Jan Notzon: William Shakespeare, John Steinbeck, Authur Miller

Literate-Ly Magazine: What is the last book that you read? (Not counting anything you wrote)
Jan Notzon: Enquiry Concerning Political Justice, and Its Influence on Morals and Happiness by William Godwin

Literate-Ly Magazine: When writing, do you have a system or something you plan, or do you just write? Jan Notzon: I start out just writing. I might sit out on my deck and free associate, sometimes in hours having only a few notes, perhaps a bit of dialogue or a few lines of narrative to show for it. Other days, it comes like a mighty stream. As a story takes shape I might come to a point where a tentative outline is needed.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write? Jan Notzon: Mainly, because it keeps me from putting a gun to my head. I'm quite puzzled by life; my writing is my attempt to make some sense out of it.

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

Jan Notzon: I've only written stand-alone books, although some are related—the few that are historical mainly. Yes, I'm working on a new one now. It is totally stand-alone. The tentative title at this point is *The Underdog Has Teeth*.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you read your own work a lot? If so, what does it do for you? Jan Notzon: Having been an actor in a former life, reading from my works to an audience is my second favorite thing to do after writing.

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?

Jan Notzon: I don't. I tend to get distracted when I listen to music.

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?

Jan Notzon: Hmm. I can't rightly say. Sometimes it's one and sometimes the other. Writing a short synopsis is always challenging; I hate to leave anything out.

#### Notzon Cont'd

Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could sit down and have a coffee (or your favorite beverage) with anyone, living or dead, from any era, any time, who would it be and why? (You can pick up to 3 persons). Jan Notzon: Jesus Christ. My faith has never been iron clad. I have so many questions about so many things. After that it would be William Shakespeare. How on earth did he write such astonishing plays and be an entrepreneur at the same time?

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

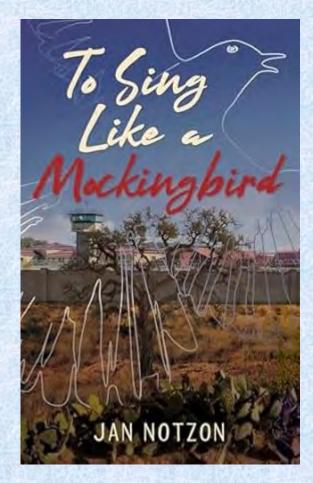
Jan Notzon: As an actor, I strove to be invisible and just be the character I was portraying. As a writer, I want to move people and possibly think about this enigma called life.

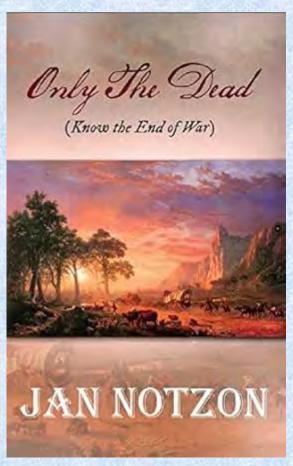
Literate-Ly Magazine: What do you want to accomplish, so when you look back at your life, you can say "I did that"?

Jan Notzon: Speak to people and hopefully have my work stimulate them to think and feel.

Literate-Ly Magazine: I am on a quest to read as many banned, burned or challenged books as possible? What is your feeling or opinion on banning books? It seems to be a new epidemic now. Jan Notzon: I'm opposed to anything resembling a ban on any book. That said, I think considering impressionable children some guidance is appropriate.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Any final thoughts that you want to give to your fans or even future authors? Jan Notzon: Write if you love to do it and read all you can, challenging yourself on occasion





35

## What if you found out your childhood memories were false?

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

- Claudia Black, PhD. Author of

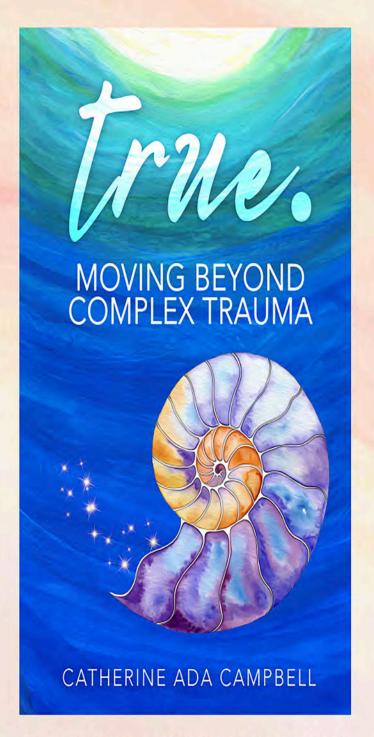
It Will Never Happen to Me, Unspoken Legacy, Deceived: Facing Sexual Betrayal, Lies, and Secrets

true. masterfully makes you question who you are and what you believe.

- Dr. R. Y. Langham, Author and Psychologist

## ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY





A MEMOIR OF RESILENCE AND HOPE.

FROM PERTHSHIRE BOOKS • AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM AND IN FINE BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE.

#### Yurie Kiri

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

Yurie Kiri: Shy, private, dreamer...

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

Yurie Kiri: I have published 9 individual books on Amazon plus 3 additional box sets where 2 or 3 separate books are packaged together. I also have 5 or 6 more books that I have not yet released with a couple more in progress.

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

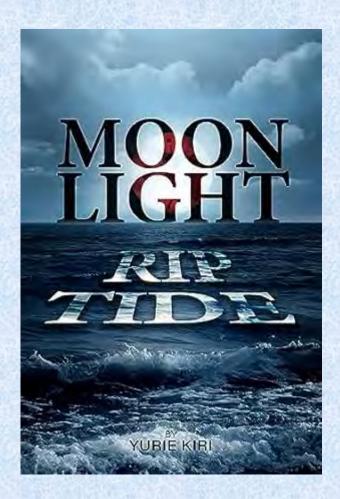
Yurie Kiri: Moonlight Cruise, a sequel to Moonlight Rocks will be released this spring (March or April 2025)

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?

Yurie Kiri: I usually have a working title when I write a book and sometimes it stays but often I change it along the way to better reflect what I'm thinking and how the book will be perceived.

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?

Yurie Kiri: Susan is probably the most important and interesting character in the Moonlight series because she is so strong and fearless. Who else



would take on an entire motorcycle gang by herself? Next to Susan is Jessica from Moonlight Rocks and Moonlight Cruise because she is also strong and fearless as well as the mother of the divine child. Hanako is the most important character in the Games series because she is so smart as well as tough and fearless. Hanako earned a double doctorate in Physics and Religion, and she developed the technology that enables one to extract their spiritual essence from their body and install it into another body whether that body is empty or not.

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

Yurie Kiri: I'd call them some kind of "paranormal" books. The Moonlight Series features an astrologer, witches, shapeshifters,

#### Kiri cont'd

shamans and satanists as well as the presence of the divine or God the Mother Father. The Games Series features science fiction, body swapping, ghosts and the ability to extend life after death - if that isn't paranormal I don't know what is...

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

Yurie Kiri: My last book is called Kijo Games and was published on Amazon at the end of September last year, so Amy has not yet had a chance to see it, sorry Amy. Anyway Kijo means female demon in Japanese and all the Kijo are led by Magatsuhi, the Queen of all evil demons. Magatsuhi comes to life on Earth through a Yakuza's misuse of some stolen body swapping technology. General mayhem ensues; Magatsuhi puts more Kijo into human bodies and Keith and Hanako have to deal with it the best they can. Along the way Keith gets stuck in a female body again and learns to like it a little too much but that's a good thing since Magatsuhi concentrates her seductive evil on men, while ignoring women for the most part.

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

Yurie Kiri: "I want a <u>small</u> coffee," Bob growled again, pointing at the smallest of the three sizes of cups displayed over the cash register. "Small, not tall. If I drink too much coffee, I might get nervous and break someone..."

This quote is from Bob the evil satanist in Moonlight Skull and it summarizes Bob's personality.

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

Yurie Kiri: I received a Bachelor of Arts degree but studied more science than art even though I also studied literature and history. All of that got me my first job searching for pollution caused heavy metals in sea life and then searching for pollution in mother's milk from women working in industrial environments.

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

Yurie Kiri: They are kind of historical books and authors, but I loved Carlos Castaneda's "The Teachings of Don Juan..." and his other stories which I've read several times. I also found inspiration in Jack Kerouac's "On the Road" and I loved the "stream of consciousness" writing style he used, typing onto a large roll of teletype without stopping... Jack Kerouac supposedly sent his agent that original roll of paper to edit and publish. Now with modern computers we all have that endless roll of paper... I also liked JRR Tolkien who wrote the "Rings" books. I loved those stories and the fact that he invented every aspect of the stories including the several different languages used by the various groups of characters.



#### Kiri cont'd

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

Yurie Kiri: Whiskey Beach by Nora Roberts.

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

Yurie Kiri: I just write. I've said it before in other interviews, but I had a professor in college who would walk into class, write a topic on the board (or not) and then say, loudly... "write!" We all then wrote as much and as fast as possible on the topic he'd indicated. Then he'd shout "stop" and pick up our work, which got discussed. Anyway, that's what I still try to do...

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write? Yurie Kiri: Because I have to -- maybe it's an addiction.

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

Yurie Kiri: Well I have two types of WIP, complete books that I'll reread and edit again before releasing and incomplete books with just working titles that are not yet close to completion. I'd rather not discuss the incomplete ones. However, one that is more or less done but may need another edit is called "Tiger Games" which is the next book in the Games series (after Kijo Games) with the story based in Indonesia.

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

Yurie Kiri: Yes, I especially like to re-read in kindle format which is so convenient to do from my phone while lying in bed at night. I like to do that after letting them rest for a while and then it's fresh and exciting all over again...

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?

Yurie Kiri: No but sometimes I like to have a TV or radio tuned to something not too exciting such as NPR news. But I ignore all of those distractions once I'm absorbed with the story.

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?

Yurie Kiri: A blurb is different from a synopsis. There's a real skill needed to write a good, "salesy" marketing blurb. It's hard but I've tried to write my own blurbs and I've had other people write blurbs and then I pass them around to people I trust to gather votes or opinions upon which blurb is better.

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

Yurie Kiri: JRR Tolkien - to find out the genesis of the Orcs and Elves language, Albert Einstein to find out why he didn't like Quantum Physics, Marie Curie - friend of Albert Einstein and the

#### Kiri Cont'd

first woman to win a Nobel Prize and Jonas Salk who used himself as a polio vaccine test subject (which scientist would even dream of doing that today?)

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

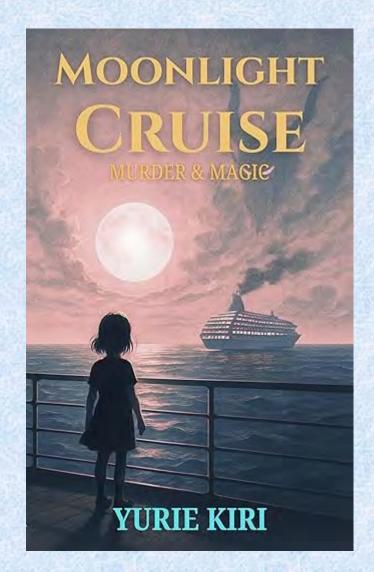
Yurie Kiri: Make more from book sales than you spend upon book promotion but sounds a bit materialistic, sorry.

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

Yurie Kiri: Kind of a deep question, Amy. Be true to myself anyway... and mostly honest to everyone else ...

Literate-Ly Magazine: I am on a quest to read as many banned, burned or challenged books as possible? What is your feeling or opinion on banning books? It seems to be a new epidemic now. Yurie Kiri: If my books were more popular or widely known I'm afraid they'd be banned too which brings to mind Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 where all books were banned and burned so people had to memorize and repeat the banned stories over and over to keep them alive. Beyond that I can't even talk about how weird things have gotten these days.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Any final thoughts that you want to give to your fans or even future authors? Yurie Kiri: Read everything and don't be afraid to write what you believe and feel.



#### Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888)

Literate-Ly Magazine: Welcome, Louisa May Alcott! It's an honor to have you here. Let's dive right into some questions. How many books have you written?

Louisa May Alcott: Thank you! I've written over 30 books, including novels, short stories, and collections.

Literate-Ly Magazine: That's impressive! What was your most popular book?

Louisa May Alcott: Without a doubt, my most popular book is Little Women. It has resonated with readers of all ages since its publication in 1868.

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

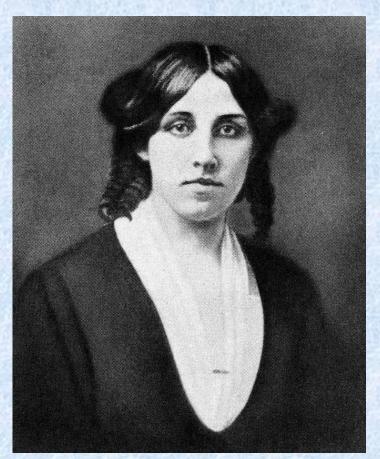
Louisa May Alcott: I hoped my stories would be cherished, but I never imagined they would become such a lasting legacy. It's truly humbling.

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

Louisa May Alcott: I loved writing in my family home in Concord, Massachusetts. The peaceful surroundings and the support of my family made it an ideal place for creativity.

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

Louisa May Alcott: Initially, I was seen as a writer of sensational stories under the pseudonym A. M. Barnard. However, after Little Women, I was recognized as a serious author of children's literature and family stories.



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

Louisa May Alcott: Most of my reviews were positive, praising my ability to capture the essence of family life and the struggles of young women. However, some critics found my earlier sensational stories too melodramatic.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What was the worst story you ever wrote? Did it get published? Louisa May Alcott: I wrote many sensational stories that I now consider less refined. Some of them were published under my pseudonym, but they were not my best work.

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

Louisa May Alcott: Little Women holds a special place in my heart. It was inspired by my own family and experiences, making it deeply personal.

#### Louisa May Alcott

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

Louisa May Alcott: One of my early sensational stories was harshly criticized for being overly dramatic and unrealistic. It was a tough pill to swallow, but it helped me grow as a writer.

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

Louisa May Alcott: Write from the heart and stay true to your voice. Authenticity resonates with readers more than anything else.

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

Louisa May Alcott: Yes, I was fortunate to be friends with many writers, including Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Their support and guidance were invaluable.

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

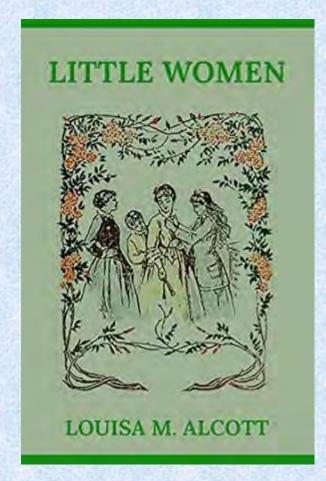
Louisa May Alcott: I often shared my drafts with my family, especially my father, Bronson Alcott. Their feedback was crucial in shaping my stories.

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

Louisa May Alcott: I would love to speak with Charlotte Brontë. Her novel Jane Eyre deeply influenced me, and I admire her strength and creativity.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Thank you so much for your time, Louisa. It's been a pleasure!

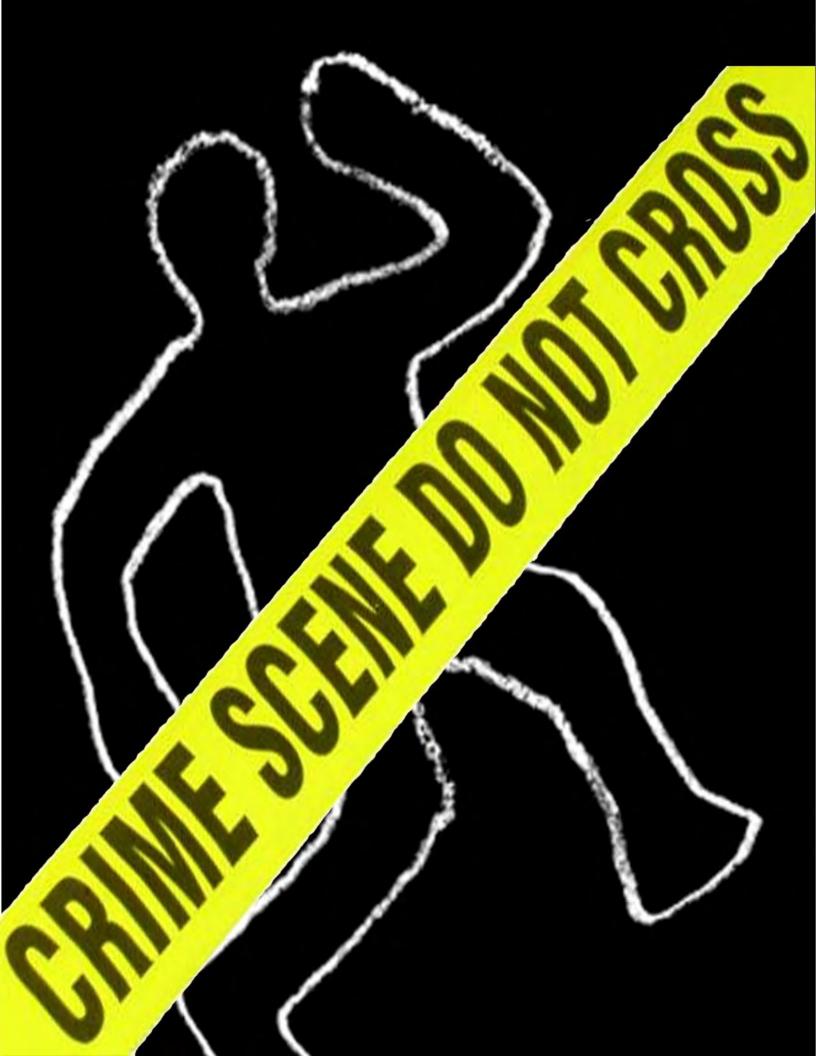
Louisa May Alcott: Thank you! It's been wonderful to share my thoughts and experiences.



Books by Louisa May Alcott Little Women, or Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy (1868) Good Wives (1869)

Little Men: Life at Plumfield with Jo's Boys (1871)

Jo's Boys and How They Turned Out (1886)



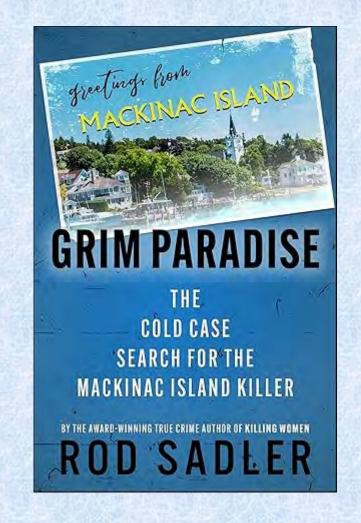
#### Rod Sadler- GRIM PARADISE: The Cold Case Search for the Mackinac Island Killer

When widow Frances Lacey was murdered in July 1960 on Mackinac Island, only a few meager clues were found by police, and the case soon turned cold. But more than sixty years later, will those same clues finally solve the mystery?

On July 24, 1960, the quaint charm and serenity of Mackinac, nestled between Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas, was shattered by Lacey's brutal death. Despite a massive manhunt and thousands of pages of police reports, her killer was never caught.

Now, in GRIM PARADISE, true crime author Rod Sadler (Killing Women) delves into the secrets of one of Michigan's most perplexing murder cases. Offering an in-depth and suspenseful account of the long-standing mystery, he poses the question:

Could advanced DNA technology lead to the identity of the Mackinac Island murderer as it did recently in the case of the Golden State Killer?



5 Stars

Rod Sadler writes about a cold murder case from the 1960s

As a fan of True Crime books, and documentaries, and reading a book by Sadler before, I wanted to read his other books as well. Sadler is a retired police officer and now writes about true crime cases from Michigan. Sadler writes the story how it should be written. It's about the case, hoping for clues to solve this case, or if it could link to other cases, and to finally give answers to the family. Grim Paradise is about the Mackinac Island Killer.

#### Rod Sadler- GRIM PARADISE: The Cold Case Search for the Mackinac Island Killer

The missing person Frances Lacey was found dead after days of searching this small island. The research, the investigators, the suspects and family and friends were written with respect and intriguing information. An interesting book all the way to the end. The author explains how the FBI profiled the case and continues to look for leads, even years after it is considered a cold case. It shows that even though something is a cold case, it is not forgotten. A small island where locals and tourists enjoy the quaintness and assume that things like this aren't supposed to happen here. And now, it is a legend of the island, but knowing someone lost their mother, sister, and friend on a day like any other day. GRIM PARADISE The Cold Case Search for the Mackinac Island Killer is a definite recommendation by Amy's Bookshelf Reviews. I read this book to give my unbiased and honest review. I look forward to reading many more titles by this author.



Buy on Amazon



#### Zola Blue's The Mejuarian Series

The Mejuarian are god-like beings residing on the planet Ercutis, a near-perfect world. Their utopian existence enables them to attain extraordinary levels of spiritual consciousness. Enter the Dragonors, who follow a tradition of competing in rigorous games of cunning and skill to gain recognition and status within their village. In a galaxy where telepathic bonds and ancient dreams shape destinies, the Mejuar, beings created by the god Thire-Los, navigate a complex world of gods, creatures, and humans.

The Four: Destruction of Honor (Book 1)

Bound in Strength: Stance Upon Heartache (Book 2)

Courage of One: Conviction to Stand (Book 3)

Whispers of Tribulations: The Present and The Destiny (Book 4)

Thire-Los: Demon or Angel (The Mejuarian Book 5)



### WHEN LOVE GOES TOO FAR



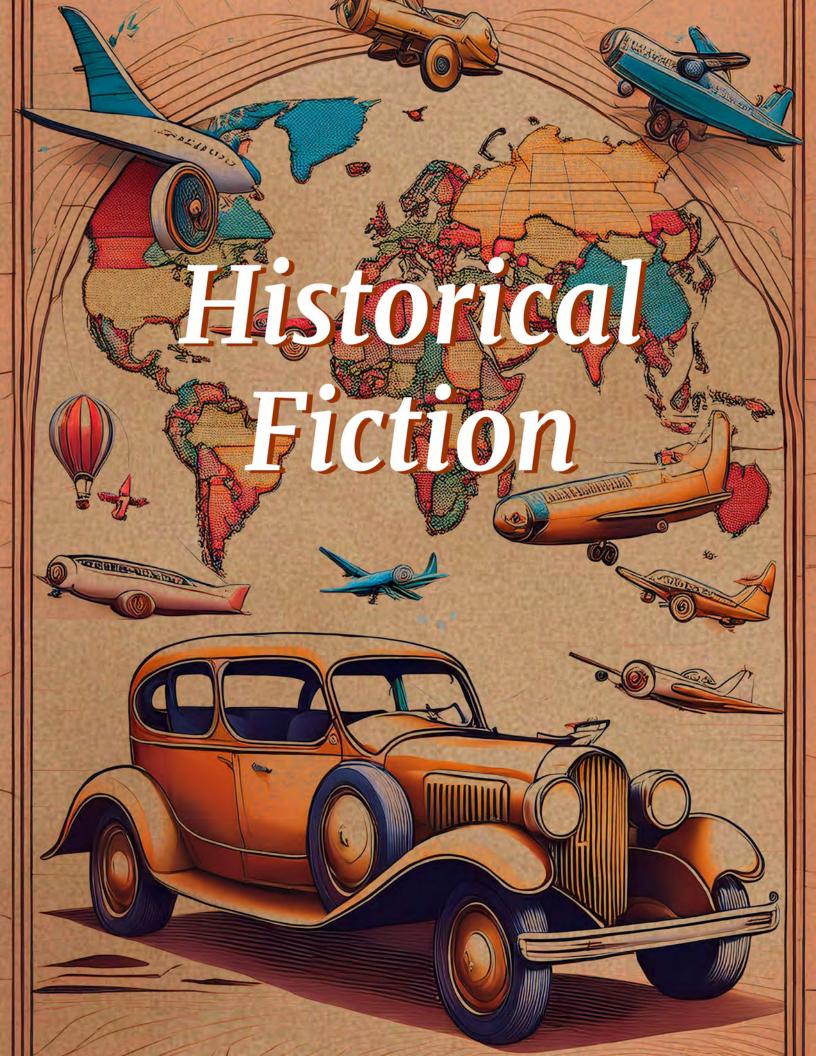
"YOU NEED TO DROP EVERYTHING AND READ THIS ONE ASAP" -PAIGE RAY, UNVEILING NIGHTMARES

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

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

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





#### John Heldt-The Patriots

**Amy's Bookshelf Reviews** 

Genre: F/Historical, time travel, clean romance,

adventure, coming-of-age

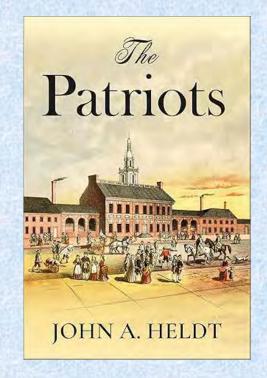
Series: Stone Shed

Volume: 1

5+ Stars

John Heldt writes another great timeless tale

In The Patriots, the reader is introduced the lives of Noah and his brother, Jake. In a visit with his grandfather, just about to pass, he finds something very interesting that pretty much shows him a new path, but a path to the past. I am a big fan of John Heldt and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. He writes the best time travelling books that I have ever read. If I could give him five plus stars, I would. One simple phrase from Rory, a violation of trust, and it sets the tone for something incredible. This story is a definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. Heldt makes time travel feel real, and his imagination and forethought on each era, and the depths of his characters, make for great story showing. This story is a wondrous trail of words. Gripping and incredible storylines, each character whether together or apart, have their own place in the story. It is always an honor to read John Heldt's books. It's a great story to follow and try to figure out what will happen next.



#### About the book:

When Noah Maclean, 22, races home from Europe, he finds a dying grandfather, a hidden letter, and a family secret that dates to the 1740s. He learns he is the keeper of a stone shed that can send people through time.

Within weeks, Noah and his brother, Jake, 15, test their inheritance. They travel to 1776 to see Philadelphia in the age of Benjamin Franklin, the Declaration of Independence, and the American Revolution.

Buy on Amazon



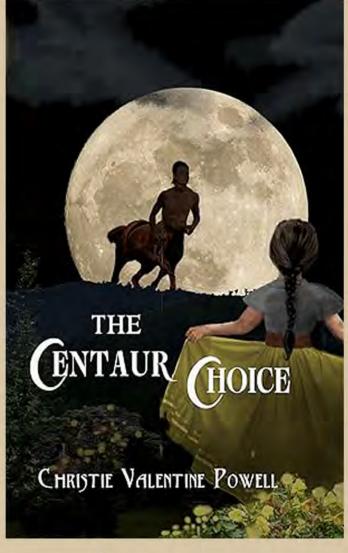
## THE CENTAUR CHOICE BY

#### Christie Valentine Powell

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

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

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



Buy on Amazon



#### Christie Valentine Powell

www.thespectrabooks.com



Advertisement

# Louis Falcinelli's Bottlerot

A satirical indictment and love letter to Generation Y

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

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

Buy on Amazon.com







#### 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.









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

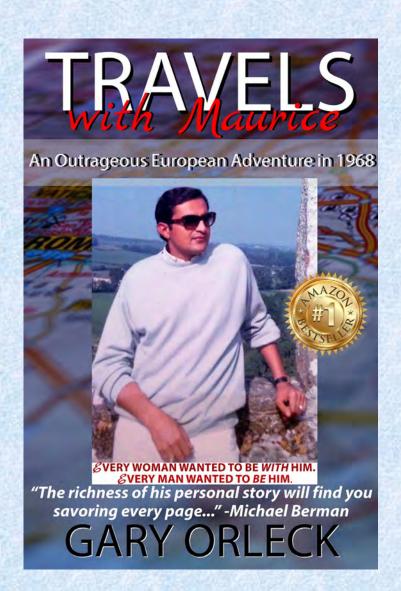
EVERY WOMEN WANTED TO BE WITH HIM. EVERY MEN WANTED TO BE HIM!

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.

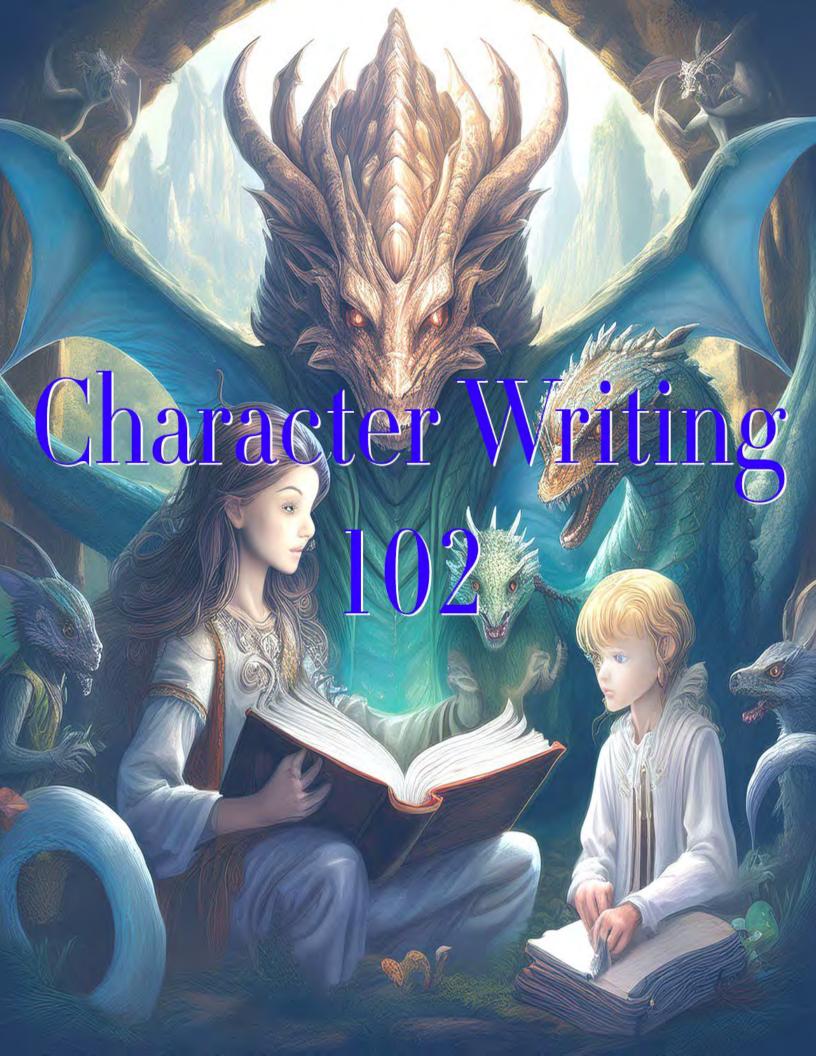
See them come of age while rubbing elbows with other famous persons, asked to dance by Brigitte Bardot, was even rescued out of handcuffs by Shirley Temple Black during the Russian Invasion of Czechoslovakia during the summer of 1968.

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









#### Love to Hate

In the previous issue of this magazine, quirks, attitude, and attributes were discussed. That brings this chapter to delve more into those characters that we "Love to Hate."

Usually, these characters are jerks, criminals, demons (or the paranormal/supernatural version of one), villain, or just plain evil. When I say a *jerk*, feel free to insert a similar adjective to describe someone that fits that description.

Something about these characters brings not only the writer into loving to write for them, because they are the opposite of the one writing and the others in the story, but also that the readers love, and are drawn to. It is that perfectly dressed killer in high heels that never gets caught, or when she does, she has a very good lawyer. It is also that womanizer, who beds many women at the same time, but he is very charming, and sleazy at the same time.

This could also be the creepy character, in the background, always hiding in the shadows. Whatever the faults of this character, there is something, even if it is part of their backstory, that shines a light on the behavior and actions of the character.



In the previous issue, I mentioned one of my favorite characters is Paul, because he is the epitome of evil, but then he's just a normal guy who acts and talks like a jerk. He is known for speaking his mind and being blunt, no matter how it comes out, and he gets a kick out of irritating those who do not like him or try to hold some power over him.



#### Bob Freeman's H2LiftShip series

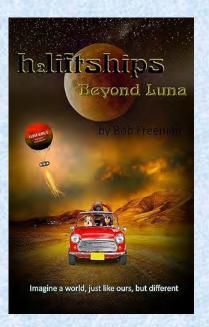
The H2LiftShip series is a unique and refreshing take on the space exploration genre, blending hard science, humor, and creativity.

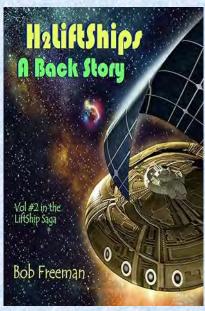
Beyond Luna is a world that's part Road-Trip, part solar sailing, always with food, gambling, jail, and pirates.

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.

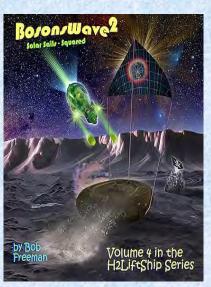
BosonsWave get's prepared for the ultimate showdown between H2LiftShip LunaCola and its enemies.

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













#### Coming June 1, 2024.

# Amy Channon's

Those who dare trespass, beware the wrath of Red Ruby's Revenge

Travelers are souls existing in the dimension where time and space converge, experiencing rebirth through reincarnation over centuries until they choose to cease living another life. When the Waldens started their family, many of them were Travelers. However, this is only a small part of Harold/Jackson/ Rudy's lives. Ruby Walden, who died in 1929 at the age of six, became a egend akin to the infamous Bloody Mary







#### She by Amy Shannon

She could not see. She could not hear, and most importantly, she could not feel. She thought it was the best thing in the world for her, but her world was small. She sat in the darkness, longing for solitude, not the dancing shadows that came in through the crack in the blinds. She had been meaning to get that fixed. Now, it was too late. She could touch, her dark eyes blinded by darkness and pain, and now death. She thought she would be relieved when death came. She was almost right. She was relieved, but she brought him with her. Or he brought her with him.

All he wanted in the world was her. No matter what. He saw her; he knew he had to have her. She needed to be his, whether she wanted to be it or not. He was in her dark shadows. Even when bits of light shined, there was the darkness. He brought it with him. His soulless eyes were almost clear of all color; however, it wasn't until the end when she saw the red that surrounded them. It was the last thing that she saw before he blinded her.

She could feel him behind her, calling out to her with his heavy footsteps. She was partially deaf, something an illness caused when she was a young child. Now, she can't even remember being that child. She just remembers the dark now, but it wasn't always that way. She always kept to herself, minding her own business. She grew up in a



household where children were seen and not heard, and sometimes not even seen, except maybe by the old, ragged but loving nanny, Ramona. Ramona took care of her and was more her mother than either of her absent parents, always globetrotting, doing something to make sure they didn't have to *deal* with a child. They reminded her she was a mistake, not a happy accident, as Ramona would try to tell her.

Ramona passed away when she was just 18, and ready to live on her own. Well, she did live on her own after Ramona died. One day her parents were there, and the next they were off, in separate directions, not ever looking back. They let her have the house, and that was it. She knew how to be self-sufficient, not just because she had to be,.

#### She cont'd

but Ramona taught her, so when she was on her own, for good, she could, would survive.

She sold the house, kept the proceeds, and bought herself a small cottage on the outside of town. She could walk to her job at the local library, get a cup of coffee and a muffin, cranberry, at the Sugar Shakes Bakery, and then go home. It was just what she wanted. Her life, her way.

He changed that. Everything changed. She bumped into him again at the bakery. He had been the one at the open house, getting guests to sign in, while she was visiting the cottage before her purchase. She felt a bit unnerved by the way he was staring at her, but she tried to brush it off, as she was not very social, more like socially awkward. She had her books, her coffee, and at the end of the day, she curled up with a good book in front of the fireplace, with the latest show she was binge-watching, enjoying a glass or merlot.

A month after she bought the cottage, she was on her daily trip to the bakery before work, and she noticed him sitting across from the bakery. She sat in her normal spot, so she could look out the window, people watching. She had a keen mind, and wondered what other people's lives were like. They couldn't have all been like hers. She knows they weren't, as she saw parents playing with their children, getting them cookies after school in the bakery, and just hugging and



loving them. She never saw love until she saw a mother and child, maybe two years old. The child was crying, and the mother wiped her tears, gently, giving her a cookie to soothe whatever the young boy was upset about.

Later, at work in the library, she put books back on the shelves for others to enjoy, and he was there again. *Small town* she thought at the time.

Now, she was in the dark. A splash of liquid in her face woke her up from a deep sleep. She thought she was dreaming, but he was there. In her room. He poured more liquid on her face, waking her up, but it kind of burned. Her face felt like it was on fire, as she glared at him, climbing on top of her. She struggled and screamed, then, he sprinkled more liquid on her. Her eyes staring into his empty eyes, slowly faded as they burned. No, the nightlight was still there. The streaming of the window from the street lights were still peering in her room, but her eyes were on fire, going blind. She took a deep breath and continued

#### She cont'd

to fight him, but he was too strong, and the pain of what she now knew was bleach on her face and in her eyes, taking her sight away, he could feel his hands around her throat, squeezing harder and harder. She tried to reach for anything on her nightstand she could hit him with. She grabbed what she knew was the hardcover book she was reading, *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky. She managed to lift her arm, and hit him on the head, as hard as she could. He dropped on her body, his forearm under his body, pressing deep into her throat. She couldn't move him. She just felt the warmth of the blood from his gushing head wound. In that moment, gasping for air, she thought his blood would be cold.

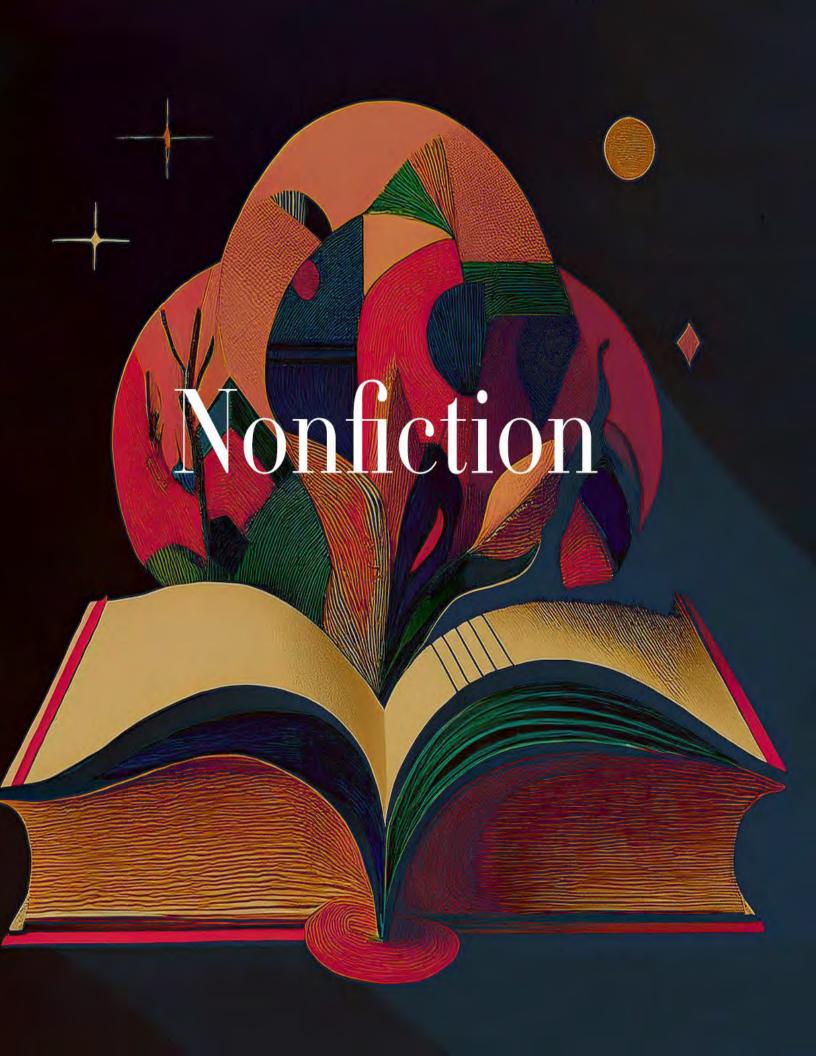
She could not see. She could not hear, and most importantly, she could not feel. She thought it was the best thing in the world for her, but her world was small. She sat in the darkness, longing for solitude, not the dancing shadows that came in through the crack in the blinds. He sat in the darkness across the room, looming in the shadows. "I told you," he whispered.

She could not hear his taunts, but then a light shined brightly into the room, and the shadow was sucked out as if a vacuum just grabbed him up like the piece of lint he was. She opened her blind eyes, but they could now see. The dark didn't have to be there anymore. "Wake up, Charlotte," Ramona whispered.

She gasped and gasped, opening her eyes, blinded by the bleach, but she pushed the dead man onto the floor, and reached for the phone. Charlotte dialed 9-1-1 and passed out before help arrived





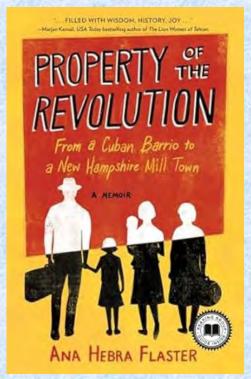


#### Ana Hebra Flaster- Property of the Revolution: From a Cuban Barrio to a New Hampshire Mill Town

In this sweeping, historical, yet intimate memoir, the author details her family's transformation from pro-Castro revolutionaries in a scrappy Havana barrio to refugees in a New Hampshire mill town—a timeless and timely tale of loss and reinvention.

Ana Hebra Flaster was six years old when her working-class family was kicked out of their Havana barrio for opposing communism. Once revolutionaries themselves devoted disillusioned by the Castro government's repressive tactics, they fled to the US. The permanent losses they suffered—of home, country, and loved ones, all within forty-eight hours—haunted her multigenerational family as they reclaimed their lives and freedom in 1967 New Hampshire. There, they fed each other stories of their scrappy barrio—some of which Hebra Flaster has shared on All Things Considered—to resurrect their lost world and fortify themselves for a daunting task: building a new life in a foreign land.





Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 5+ Stars

Simply masterful!

Property of the Revolution: From a Cuban Barrio to a New Hampshire Mill Town is not only a powerful story, but it is a true story, and shows the endurance to not just survive, but have a better, safer life. This is the first book I have read from this author. The title pulls you in, and if it doesn't, it should. Not only is the journey and fight, and how this family's transformed into something better for the entire family, but it is written masterfully. This reader gets the whole picture of the journey, and how it is told, brings you right in there. Even if you are unfamiliar with Cuba's revolution, and how determined migrants wanted to get to a safer place, this story tells it like it is, like it was. Impressive writing. Some of the pages, you end up reading slower than others, so not to miss anything.



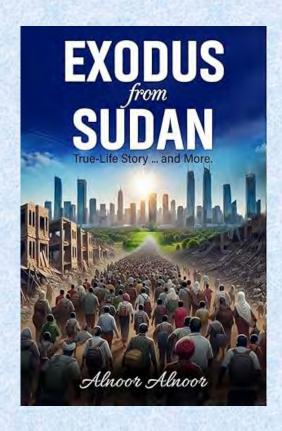
#### Alnoor Alnoor- Exodus from Sudan: True-Life Story

Set against the turbulent sociopolitical landscape of Sudan, from Gafar Numeiri's 1969 coup to the current ongoing war, Exodus from Sudan unfolds as a compelling narrative of personal trials and triumphs amid far-reaching regional unrest. This real-life story is not only a journey of survival but also a reflection on the political forces that have shaped, and often shattered, the lives of millions of Sudanese. A powerful cautionary tale, it warns of the dangers inherent in the shadows of unchecked power and fanaticism, reminding us to beware of the ominous forces of darkness.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 5 Stars

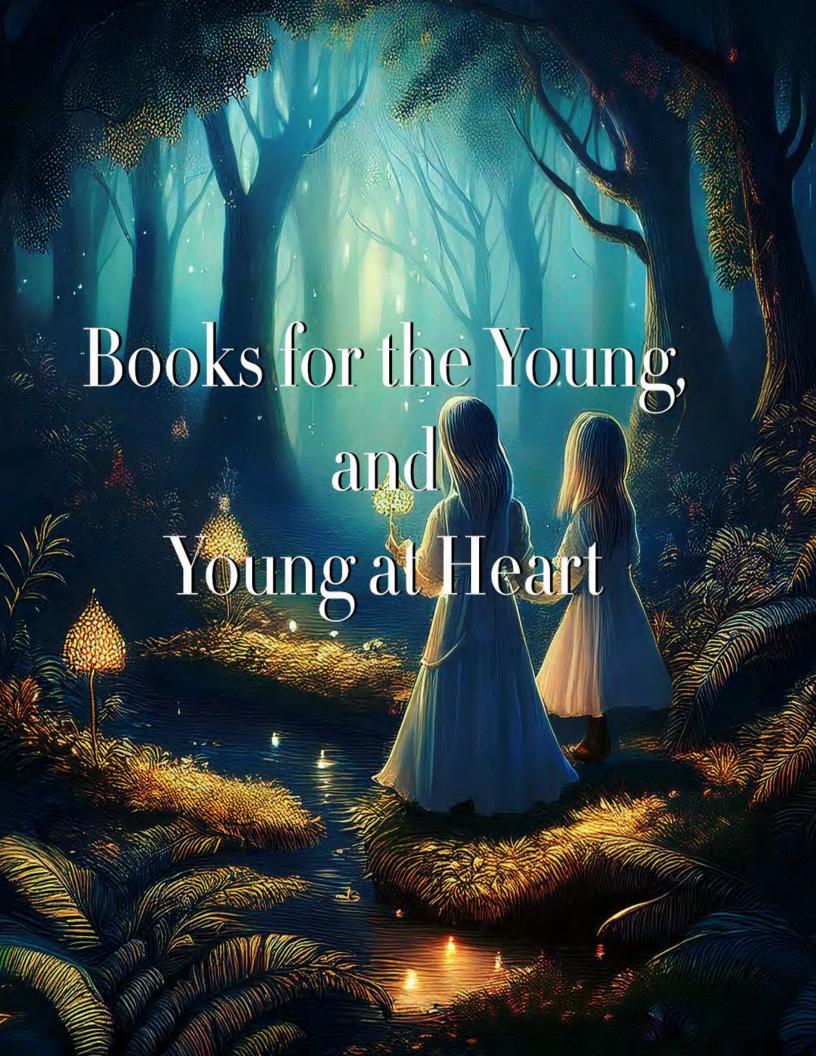
Alnoor Alnoor writes an interesting book about The Sudan

Exodus from Sudan True-Life Story is a very enlightening and also frightening book. This is the second I have read from this author, but this one is nonfiction, showing this author can write multigenres. If you're familiar with the Sudan, and all that comes from its legends, and true stories of how Sudanese live and are treated by their own government, and so-called soldiers of God. Sudan is known for its torture, persecution, global terrorism and ethnic genocide. And then, when the Iraqi took over, with their invasion on Kuwait, it started something that is terrifying. Between massacres, home raids, and trying to escape to a better life. A life where terror and torture is not a part of the lifestyle. This is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. A



definite eye-opener and an emotional rollercoaster. This is the real story of the author and his family, and the reader gets to see what is happening from the narrator's slash author's point of view. One phrase that stood out to me, was the kindness of the words, Peace be upon you. Brave for sharing! Impressive writing.





#### Donald Firesmith and Claude Sonnet AI- The Adventures of Periwinkle Fae

Step into the magical world of The Adventures of Periwinkle Fae, a heartwarming collection of whimsical short stories featuring Periwinkle, a courageous and clever young pixie.

Nestled in the vibrant Enchanted Forest, far from the reach of noisy humans, Periwinkle embarks on delightful adventures that highlight the beauty of nature, the power of friendship, and the joy of helping others. From organizing a dazzling firefly light show to rescuing a butterfly with a broken wing, Periwinkle's tales are filled with whimsy, wonder, and valuable life lessons. Whether she's racing through moonlit meadows, solving the mystery of a magical dewdrop, or teaching a shy lizard how to dance, each story showcases her creativity, kindness, and determination.

Perfect for bedtime reading, this enchanting book is packed with themes of empathy, teamwork, and self-discovery. Beautifully woven narratives and vivid descriptions of the forest's magical creatures make this a must-have for young readers and their families.

Join Periwinkle Fae on her magical adventures and discover how even the smallest pixie can make a big difference in the world!

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 4 Stars

To AI or not to AI

I am a fan of Donald Firesmith and find that he is very knowledgeable when it comes to AI. So, reading his stories about Periwinkle, and using the AI for more than just illustrations, is pretty impressive. I am not familiar with Claude, but I



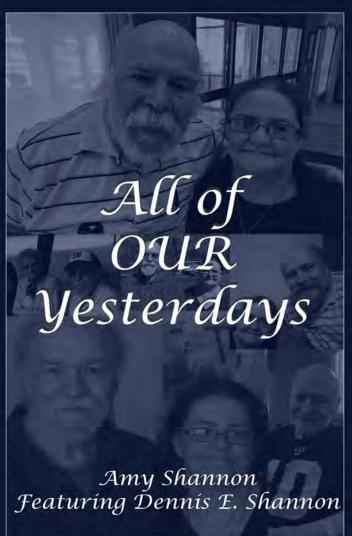


am familiar with other AI and have no issues communicating with them. I have seen a lot of programs say they can write a book in an hour, and then you can publish it. I don't find this ethical for an author to do. However, this is not one of those cases. Firesmith used AI as a coauthor, to his human nature, which became a grand story. The illustrations were adorable, and really fit the character, so Claude did his job with that. In reading the stories, I can see hints of Claude throughout the stories, but in the end, this is Firesmith's book, completely, and it was very fun to read the various stories. This book would be perfect to read to a child or have the child read it back. It's very educational and has a great moral to it. It's fun to read, and very enjoyable. I recommend that readers of all ages read this book. Sometimes adults should sit back and remember what it was like to be a kid, and whatever their child may be going through. Each story is filled with imagination, whimsy, and magic.

#### All of OUR Yesterdays

# by Amy Shannon, Featuring Dennis E. Shannon

A Genius Mind, A Poet's Heart: My Father's Legacy Lives On



This book is a tribute to my father, showcasing his poetry and essays. Despite his struggle with dementia, his genius and poetic spirit continue to inspire.

Author's Note: 25% of the proceeds of this book will be donated to the Dementia Society of America. https://www.dementiasociety.org/

Buy on Amazon



Coming July 4, 2025

## Essence Enterprises "Tell a Story" Picture contest



Write a 500 word or less story about the photo to the left. Email <a href="mailto:essenceenterprises1972@gmail.com">essenceenterprises1972@gmail.com</a>

#### **Subject: Picture Contest 2**

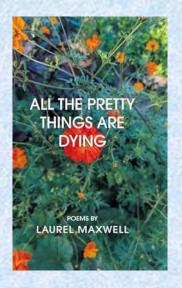
The first 10 winners, will have their entry published in the next issue of the magazine. The grand prize winner (first place) will receive a graphic of this photo along with their story, and it will also be placed in the next issue's magazine.



#### Laurel Maxwell- All The Pretty Things Are Dying

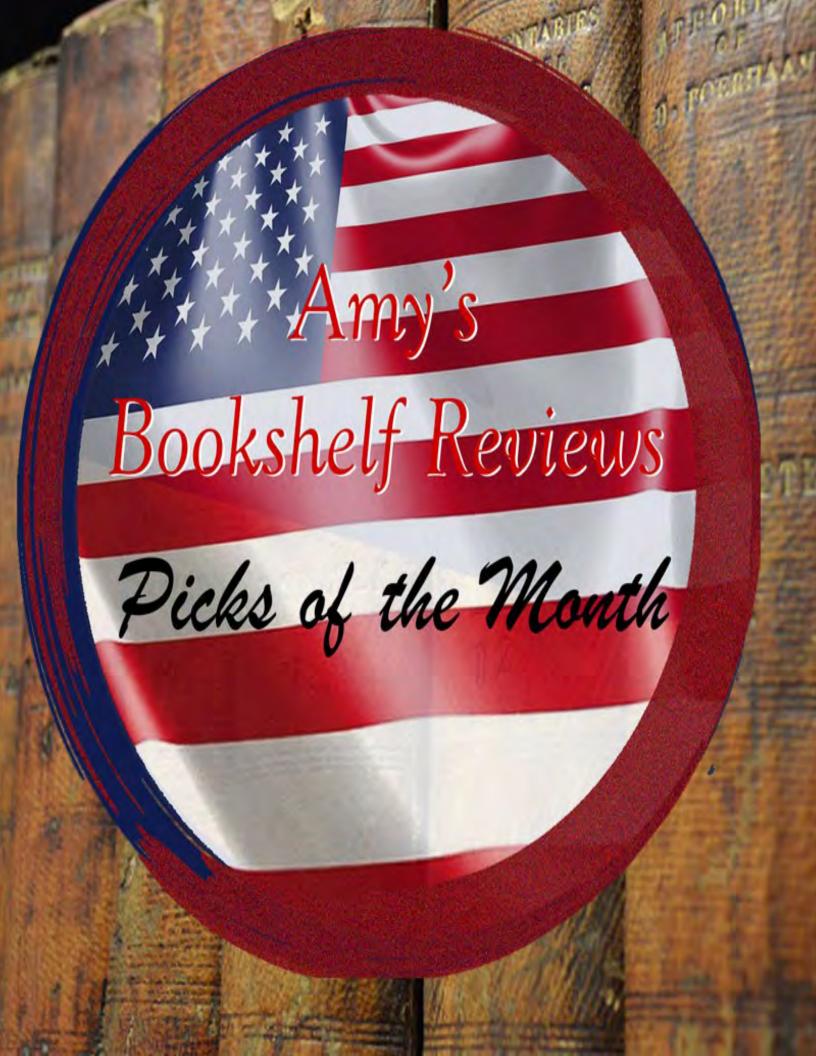
In her collection, All the Pretty Things are Dying, Laurel Maxwell asks her readers to engage with the work by asking questions. In "Eight": "What unbelieving believers those about hunger?/What about the waves that continually somersault onto the shore?" In "Bottled Hearts": the heart "Is how keeps grieving?/Continually remaking itself until it has become something else altogether?" And then answers, which aren't meant to be the answers, bur rather a means to provoke deeper reflection. In "Warning": "The ocean only wants to whisper to sand/...Trees want to root and shoot like arrows in the azure sky." After Pablo Neruda, after Mary Oliver, Maxwell asks us again and again, "And what is it we desire in the world?" speaking to longing, heart and destruction, inviting readers into a dialogue which includes Ilya Kaminsky, Naomi Shihab Nye, Aida Limon, monarchs, redwoods, worms ocean, potatoes. In one of the final poems, "What I Carry," Maxwell queries "Then how do you live?/Unfolding like a flower that turns its head to the sun." As these poems unfold with keen observation, piquant language, understated elegance and deep wisdom." -Magdalena Montagne, Author Earth My Witness

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 4 Stars Poetry that bends your heart





All The Pretty Things Are Dying, a collection of poetry by Laurel Maxwell is a simple, but yet, bold work of words. This poet pens the words coming from her heart and life itself, as she highlights nature and what being a person means, and how she perceives the world. I enjoyed reading this collection and entering the mind of this eclectic poet. Such a wonderful read. My favorite was Worry as it was the one that really stood out for me, and I believe it was because it not only touched my heart, but it touched upon my life as well. I understand the heartfelt and experiences of this poem, not just words on the paper, but words that describe life, at this stage of life, with heart and soul. I worry we have lost our way, was the phrase that really stood out to me, and I also have that worry, but I certainly hope we'll find it again. I look forward to reading more by this poet.



#### B. William Hoolihan-So Others May Live

Some missions never end. Some promises must be kept.

Retired Coast Guard Chief Rik Duval thought he'd found peace on the waters of the Florida Keys. A quiet boat. A cold drink. No more orders.

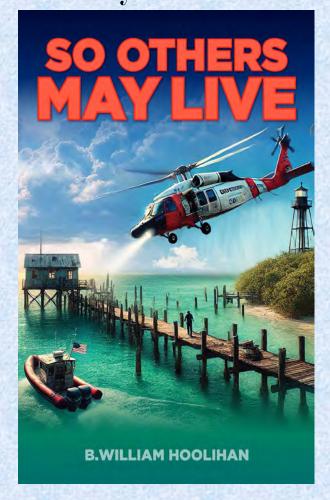
Then Billy Tiger crashed into his life — a walking, talking Cat 5 hurricane with a pirate map, a centuries-old secret, and enemies on their tail. Together, they stumble into a deadly treasure hunt tied to a forgotten tribe, a narco-terrorist widow, and the ghost of Black Caesar.

As bullets fly and loyalties are tested, Rik must decide what kind of man he still is — and whether he's willing to risk everything... So Others May Live.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 5 Stars

What a way to start your writing career!

First, as this is the author's debut novel, it is amazingly refreshing, and unique. I have read many the books about various armed forces, but not too many surrounding the Coast Guard. I must say this author has found a niche not explored by many, if any. I am truly honored to read this work, and discover the man that is Rik Duval, and his partner in crime, so to speak, Billy. In So Others May Live, the reader is brought into the life of Coastie, Master Chief Rik Duval aka Rik Meade. I



am a big fan of B. William Hoolihan and want to read whatever this author writes. This is an author, you must keep an eye on, and enjoy his work. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. In telling the story, you know this author knows not just about the Florida Keys, but the history and way the Coast Guard works, and their purpose. I don't know why more people don't write about them, but in this story, the reader is treated to action, adventure, twists you don't see coming, and a theme of, you guessed it,

## So Others May Live

treasure. Yes, some where there is a treasure, but for Rik and Billy, it's not about gaining riches, it's about recovering something lost, an ancient artifact, to the Pahokee. There are various time frames, and they set up for the perfect story. You get the back story for everyone that is necessary to the story, and just because they are from the past, doesn't mean that's where they will stay. The USCG motto, Semper Paratus, or Always Prepared, is something that Coasties, retired or not, take to heart. With loyalty and the love and respect of country, brotherhood is something that means more than anything. So, as the drug cartel enters the chase for the treasure, there is always something or someone who wants to stand in Rik's way. What a riveting story. Unpredictable, with twists all the way to the end. It's a great story to follow and try to figure out what will happen next. The pace is perfect, and just when you think you figured it out, there is more to come. And, when they say they know a guy, they usually mean it.



## Steven Stack- Jack: The Story of a Dog



Jack was an amazing dog and my best friend. This is his story. It is going to start at the end, when we said goodbye. And end at the beginning, when we said hello. I didn't want to end at the end because that would be sad. And I like happy endings. And happy middles. This story has both.

In this touching story, experience the lives of a boy and his dog, lived backward. Celebrate every moment of fun, mayhem, comfort, love, and loss. The perfect book for anyone who has ever loved an animal and felt their unconditional love in return.

#### Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

5 Stars

Steven Stack shares Jack, the dog, with all of us Steven Stack shares the story of his best friend, Jack. Steven was Jack's human, and Jack was one of those dogs that brought the family together, in his end and his beginning, and always in the middle. This was a very emotional story, for anyone who ever has had that special fur baby in their lives. A grandmother to several fur babies, and for the animals where I am their human, as not all of my animals have fur, I understand the connection, the family member that makes the family complete. Jack was all of that for Steven and his family, and I am very glad I got to read Jack's story. It's written well, and I like that Steven makes the story have a happy ending, or should I say happy beginning, because that was also the ending. The end in the beginning, and the beginning in the end. This was definitely an emotional rollercoaster. I read it more than once. I recommend that readers of all ages read this book. Sometimes adults should sit back and remember what it was like to be a kid, and whatever their child may be going through.



## Mícah Dawanyí's When the Record Stops Spinning

Even in darkness, a spark can ignite a revolution.

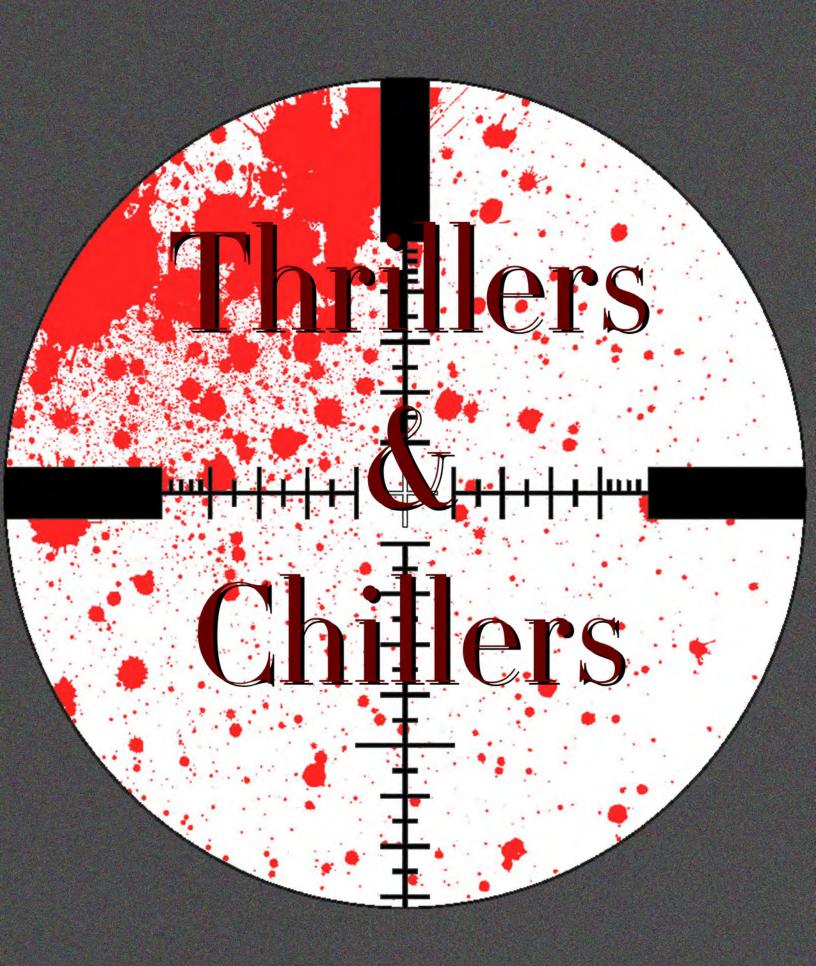
Once destined for stardom as an artist, college senior Kairo Young now finds himself dancing with despair and disaster- two of many symptoms from the world-ending tragedy that robbed him of his ability to create.

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









## Yurie Kiri- Yurie Kiri- Moonlight Cruise

What would you do to keep your daughter safe?

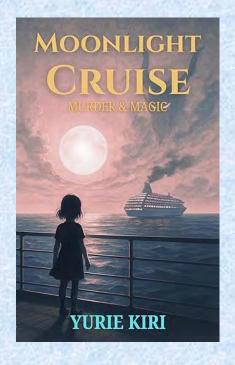
Jessica Ascher has been peacefully living with her daughter while working on a round-the-world cruise ship for the past almost 5 years. Now it feels like they've been found, and her safe, peaceful space is in danger of being invaded by the forces of evil who cannot stand the idea of sharing the world with a child who may have the ability to work miracles...

#### Miracles?

Jessica knows that her daughter loves to share food and drink with others and there always seems to be enough for everyone who's hungry. Her daughter also loves all of God's creatures from insects and small animals to birds. She loves them all so much that she'll nurse the injured or dying ones back to good health... But can she do the same for people? Could she help a weak, crippled child walk?

But what about Satan and his minions? What do they believe?

They feel threatened by the small blonde child rumored to be able to perform miracles. They are determined to stop the child and want to introduce her to Satan who will kill her if she's miraculous... Susan Millar finds the little girl hiding in the exercise room and she recognizes the Godliness in her and the danger from all the people gathered against her. Susan will do whatever she can to protect the child, but will that be enough to stop the powerful forces of Satanic evil?



Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

5 Stars

Take a trip to Hell without leaving earth!

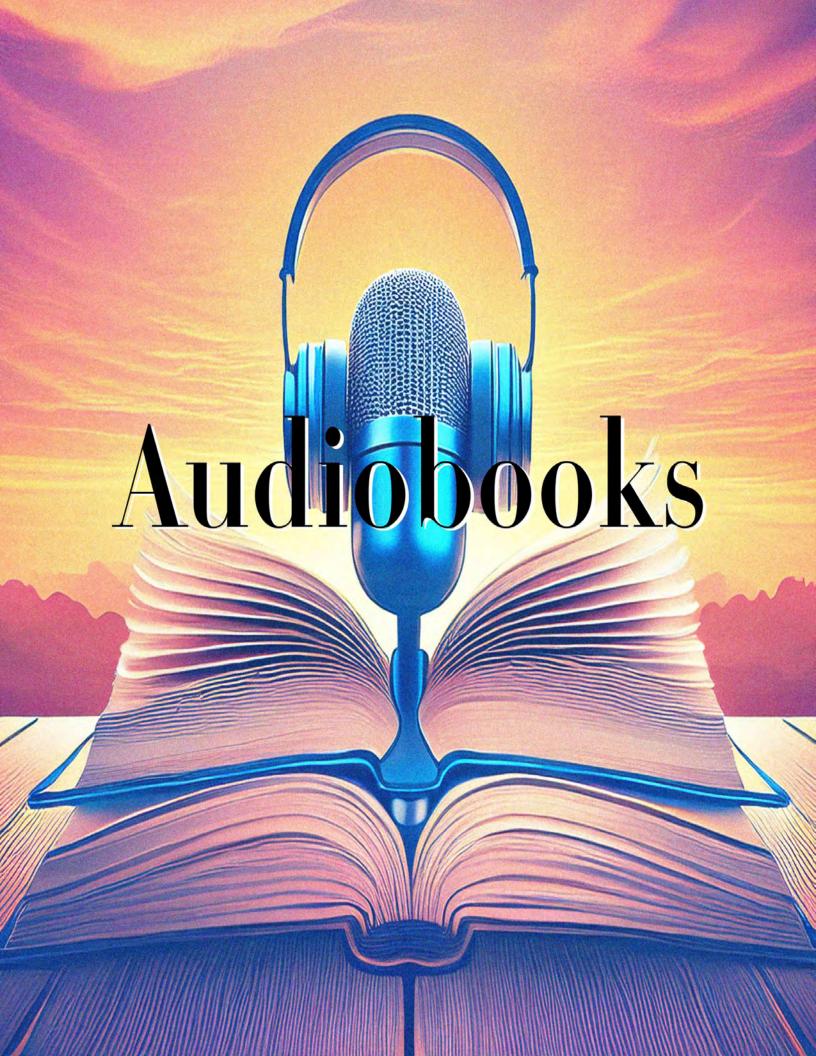
In Moonlight Cruise, the reader is brought into the life, such that it is, of Sam and one of his so-called disciples, Charlie. This reader can't forget to mention Satan as well, and Sam speaks to him through a goat's skull, but that's not the best part of it, others can hear Satan as well. I am a huge, huge fan of Yurie Kiri, and try to read everything this author writes. It's such a riveting and compelling story, with a very interesting twists. The phrase the devil made me do it, makes a lot more sense how, after reading this. Sam, and others, are killers. Serial killers. And they have a specific type of persons that they wish to kill, and if they screw up, then they must face the wrath. I love

## Yurie Kiri- Moonlight Skull

"the way this story is written, it makes you wonder, who is really talking and do they really hear Satan's voice. You don't just see the devilish side of the story, but the refuse to be a victim side as well, and how to keep safe and out of site, from what horrendous torture could be their fate. Unpredictable, with twists all the way to the end. This story is a definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. What a harrowing plot. You don't have to believe in the devil or that Hell exists, but this story could make you understand the insights of a man relying on something evil in order to do what he enjoys doing, and he can blame someone else. This story is incredible.

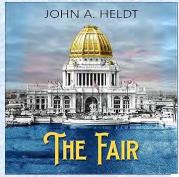






### John Heldt-The Fair

Genre: /F/Time Travel/Historical Narrated by: Roberto Scarlato





Months after stealing two time machines from a madman who wants them back, the Lanes, a family of six, seek safety and contentment in 1893, the latest stop on a journey through time. While parents Mark and Mary find relief at Chicago's World's Columbian Exposition, an extravaganza of science and splendor, children Jeremy, Laura, and Ashley find romance, friendship, and thrills.

Older son Jordan, meanwhile, heads west in search of answers. Grieving the loss of a lover from 1865, he travels to Virginia City, Nevada, where he integrates himself into a storied mining community and the heart of a pretty library clerk.

Billionaire Robert Devereaux could not care less. Reeling from the theft of his million-dollar devices, he sends an assassin to the past to retrieve his. property and rid the world of his former business partner and his troublesome clan.

Filled with humor, heartbreak, and suspense, The Fair follows a modern family on the adventure of a lifetime as they navigate their way through an unforgettable year in American history

#### **Amy's Bookshelf Reviews**

5 Stars

Another great "timeless" story by Heldt

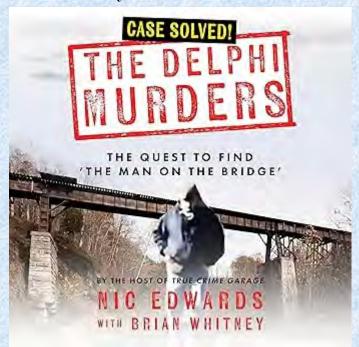
Heldt pens a wonderful time travel and historical story in The Fair. I have read many stories from this author before, and I really enjoyed each and every one of them. I did read the print version of the story, and enjoyed it, but I also really enjoyed this audiobook. There is the mix of present and the past, and each era is written so well that the reader is right there with the characters. Heldt has quite the imagination, and everything, even if maybe improbable makes sense. If time travel and time machines were real (and maybe they are, Heldt holds the secrets.) The characters were intense, deep and had a lot of layers, and personalities. The Lanes hold the secret of time travel, and sometimes they find the era where they wish to live or explore. Each family member has his or her own story and shows the reasons of their search for a better, safer time. This book deserves a second listen! (and maybe more), actually all of Heldt's books in this series that are now on audible. Meet the Lanes, and their grand time traveling adventures misadventures.



### Brian Whitney and Nic Edwards- THE DELPHI

MURDERS: The Quest To Find The Man On The Bridge

Genre: True Crime/Murder Narrated by: Kevin Pierce



On February 13, 2017, two Indiana teenagers, Abigail Williams, 13, and Liberty German, 14, went for a walk in the woods near the abandoned Monon High Bridge.

They never returned home.

Their bodies were discovered on Valentine's Day morning, sparking a torrent of news coverage and social media speculation that engrossed the attention of people around the world.

A grainy photo of the suspected killer walking across the bridge and a chilling cellphone recording of his voice saying "down the hill" captured the public's attention. Numerous possible suspects were brought to the attention of the authorities but dismissed, leaving everyone wondering who could have committed such a heinous crime.

Author Nic Edwards, host of the wildly popular True Crime Garage podcast, was fascinated by the case and for years conducted his own extensive research and commentary. As such he was able to dissect the investigation that included an extensive list of possible suspects, such as a hatchet-wielding lunatic, a kidnapper with unusual tattoos, a murderous pastor, a rapist, and a father and son catfishing team.

Then in late October 2022, local pharmacy technician Richard Allen was charged with the murders. His arrest raised multiple questions about how he was able to evade law enforcement for so long and what motivated him to commit such a horrific crime.

#### **Amy's Bookshelf Reviews**

5 Stars

The case of Abigail Williams and Liberty German

Brian Whitney and Nic Edwards share the story about the murders of Abigail Williams and Liberty German in THE DELPHI MURDERS: The Quest to Find the Man on the Bridge. I am a fan of true crime stories. I've read books from Author Brian Whitney before, but this is the first of his books on audiobook that I have listened to. This story was well told, and the narration gave more depth to the

## Brian Whitney and Nic Edwards- THE DELPHI

MURDERS: The Quest To Find The Man On The Bridge

Genre: True Crime/Murder Narrated by: Kevin Pierce

story. When I first read the book, I think I read it at just the right time, as every time I read a true crime book, I look up more information about the case, to see if there has been any developments. And in this case, there were more developments than in the book, and it seems that court documents claim that the young girls were killed in a pagan cult, but that's according to the defense. There seems to still be a case while it is in court, and what is going on. After listening to this book, I am reminded when I first read it, and also did the research to learn more. The narration is magnificent, and helps tell the true, despicable story, and consider the victims of the case, and not just another murder case. It's called the Delphi murders because the girls went missing after going for a walk, in Delphi, Indiana. Their bodies were found near the Monon High Bridge trail in the Delphi Historic Trails. The book starts from the beginning and goes through the motions of where the investigation went, especially in different directions, and there were different suspects, but that's how an investigation will go. My heart goes out to the parents of these young girls, as it is always disheartening to discover such a case. I did read the print version of the story, and enjoyed it, but I also really enjoyed this audiobook. This narration really brought this story to life.







### **Bob Freeman-After Before Times**

Step into the future of Sol's heliosphere, where science meets imagination in a world of computers hosting petabytes of DNA memory, bioGel tablets, and asteroid-based factories. Humanity's ingenuity has unlocked incredible advancements, from interstellar trade powered by solar sail ships to semi-sentient technology that challenges the boundaries of intelligence and ethics. Against the backdrop of a dynamic heliosphere teeming with cosmic rays and evolving societies, this story offers a rich tapestry of innovation, exploration, and unexpected alliances.

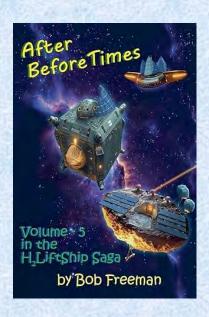
Packed with meticulous world-building and thought-provoking ideas, this tale delves into the complexity of sentient life, the pursuit of progress, and the intricacies of commerce in space. Readers are transported to a realm where the boundaries of morality, science, and survival are continuously tested. With its blend of humor, tension, and cosmic wonder, this story promises a captivating journey through uncharted territory that will leave you contemplating the possibilities of our own future.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

5 Stars

Bob Freeman writes another dramatic hard science tale!

In After BeforeTimes, the reader is brought back into the grand series of H2LiftShips, but it's BeforeTimes ... Imagine a world, exactly like ours, but different. Just for clarification, the H2 in the  $_{\circ 4}$ 

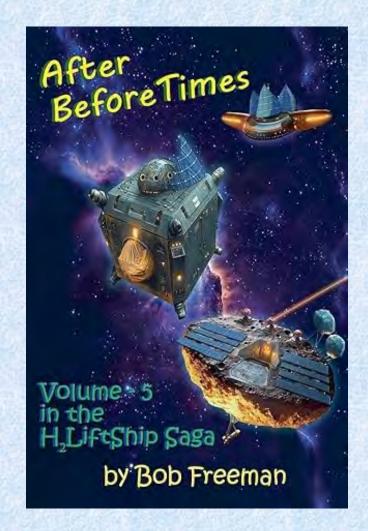


title is for Hydrogen, so imagine the H, and then the 2 as a sub case, for the element that is Hydrogen. This is another amazing story by Freeman, and I have read all of the books in this series, and even listened to the most recent audiobook. After reading After BeforeTimes, I hope there will be a volume 6, and this is the story's prequel, and I was very excited to read it. I am a big fan of Bob Freeman and want to read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. Where they begin is still with the exploration of the universe, with magnificent sentient beings, so advanced that they are navigating and colonizing the Heliosphere. The lift ships are Hydrogen balloons, with solar sails, gravity slings, and laser cannons. I love the prequel storylines of adventure and the insight into the characters, that even after reading the sequels first, bring new light to the characters, and where they

### **Bob Freeman-After Before Times**

began. There is a plethora of engrossing and loveable characters, like the Octopus navigator, and several canines, who are very smart and add to the story. The dynamics of Mykolas and Pilar as not only co-captains, but parents to Graciela. Every character has flaws, as no one is perfect, and sometimes Pilar's priorities differ from Mykolas. This is a riveting story, with twists and connections that make being in space very alluring.







## B. William Hoolihan-So Others May Live

Some missions never end. Some promises must be kept.

Retired Coast Guard Chief Rik Duval thought he'd found peace on the waters of the Florida Keys. A quiet boat. A cold drink. No more orders.

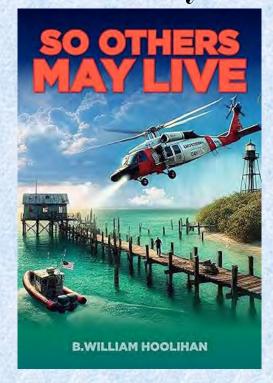
Then Billy Tiger crashed into his life — a walking, talking Cat 5 hurricane with a pirate map, a centuries-old secret, and enemies on their tail. Together, they stumble into a deadly treasure hunt tied to a forgotten tribe, a narco-terrorist widow, and the ghost of Black Caesar.

As bullets fly and loyalties are tested, Rik must decide what kind of man he still is — and whether he's willing to risk everything... So Others May Live.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 5 Stars

What a way to start your writing career!

First, as this is the author's debut novel, it is amazingly refreshing, and unique. I have read many the books about various armed forces, but not too many surrounding the Coast Guard. I must say this author has found a niche not explored by many, if any. I am truly honored to read this work, and discover the man that is Rik Duval, and his partner in crime, so to speak, Billy. In So Others May Live, the reader is brought into the life of Coastie, Master Chief Rik Duval aka Rik Meade. I



am a big fan of B. William Hoolihan and want to read whatever this author writes. This is an author, you must keep an eye on, and enjoy his work. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. In telling the story, you know this author knows not just about the Florida Keys, but the history and way the Coast Guard works, and their purpose. I don't know why more people don't write about them, but in this story, the reader is treated to action, adventure, twists you don't see coming, and a theme of, you guessed it, treasure. Yes, some where there is a treasure, but for Rik and Billy, it's not about gaining riches, it's about recovering something lost, an ancient artifact, to the Pahokee. There are various time frames, and they set up for the perfect story. You get the back story for everyone that is necessary to the story, and just because they are from the past, doesn't mean

## B. William Hoolihan-So Others May Live

that's where they will stay. The USCG motto, Semper Paratus, or Always Prepared, is something that Coasties, retired or not, take to heart. With loyalty and the love and respect of country, brotherhood is something that means more than anything. So, as the drug cartel enters the chase for the treasure, there is always something or someone who wants to stand in Rik's way. What a riveting story. Unpredictable, with twists all the way to the end. It's a great story to follow and try to figure out what will happen next. The pace is perfect, and just when you think you figured it out, there is more to come. And, when they say they know a guy, they usually mean it.

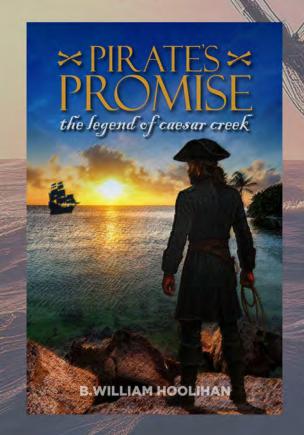


## B. William Hoolihan's

## Pirate's Promise:

The Legend of Caesar Creek

Two generations. One legendary treasure. Anepicadventure through the stormy seas of history.



In the hurricane-swept Florida Keys, young blacksmith Smith turns pirate to honor his mentor, Caesar, amidst the historical piracy of Spanish treasure hunters. Centuries later, George and his protégé Billy seek to uncover the legendary treasure, embarking on an adventure to unravel its storied past.





Arriving July 22 2025.



bwilliamhoolihan.com

Buy on Amazon

## Amy Shannon





# Literary Consulting & Document Services

Editing: (Content, Copy, Editorial)
Publisher.

Graphic Designer.

Research for Authors.

Query letters, resumes, press kits. Create or maintain website or social Media

Other Literary services.



writeramyshannon@gmail.com