

MARCH TO APRIL 2025
ISSUE 16.01

LITERATE-LY MAGAZINE

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

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

NEAL GOLDSTEIN

LAURA INGALLS WILDER

AUTHOR INTERVIEWS

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F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

POETRY

RARE FUEL

FEATURED SHORT STORIES

A GHOST'S WRITER (PART 2)

ANTHOLOGY

THE CRITIC AND OTHER STORIES

BOOK REVIEWS AND MORE

THRILLERS AND CHILLERS

THE GRITTY GUMSHOES

FANTASY AND FAIRYTALES

HISTORICAL FICTION

TRUE CRIME

UNCAGED MAGAZINE

AMY'S PICK OF THE MONTH

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT

THE NECROMANCER'S APPRENTICE

NONFICTION

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TAKE BACK YOUR LIFE

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Amy's Bookshelf Reviews "Best Reads" Book Project

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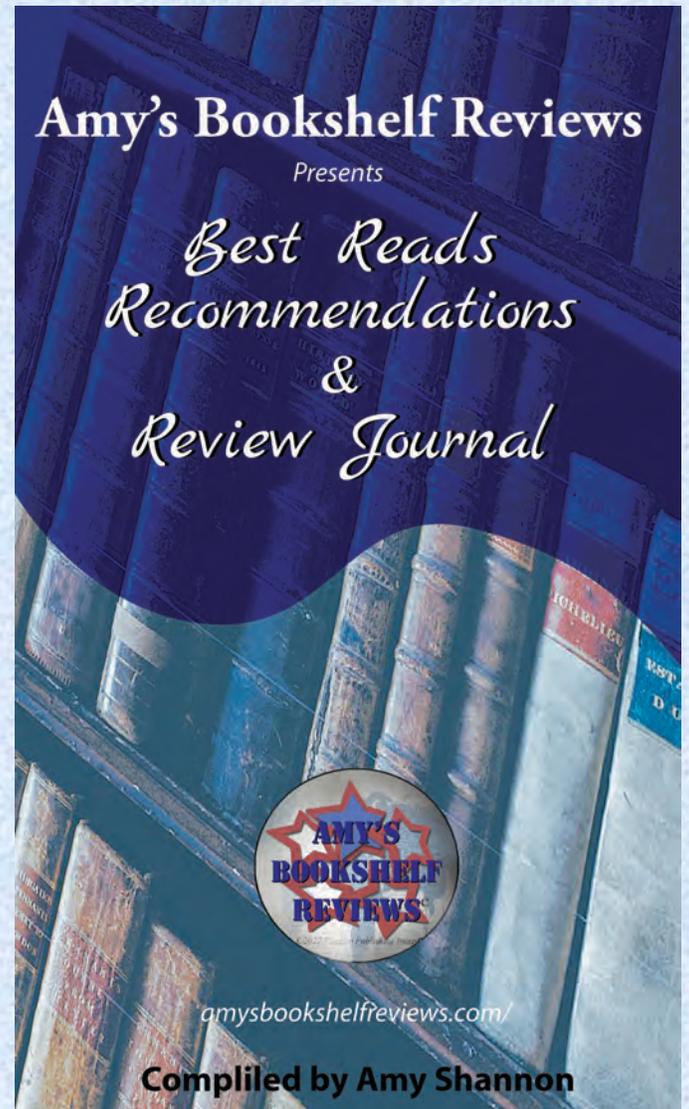
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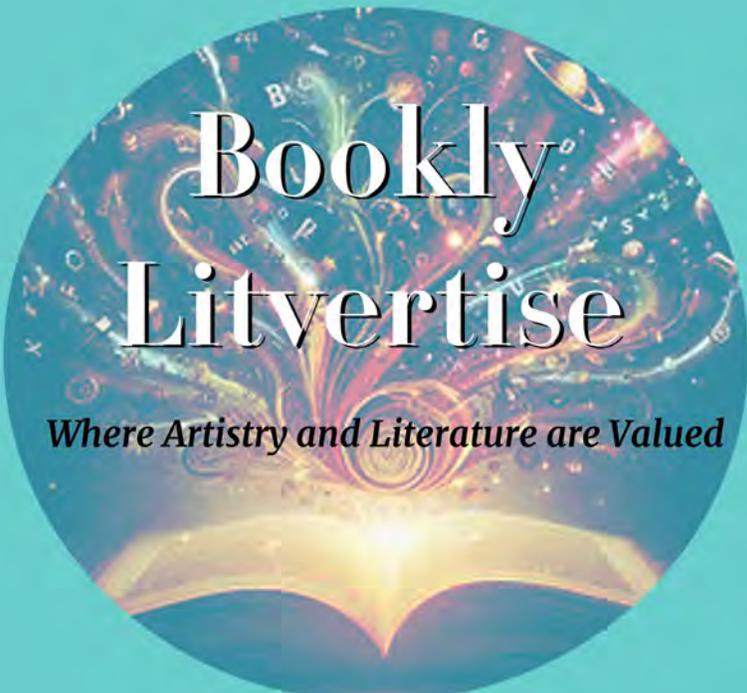
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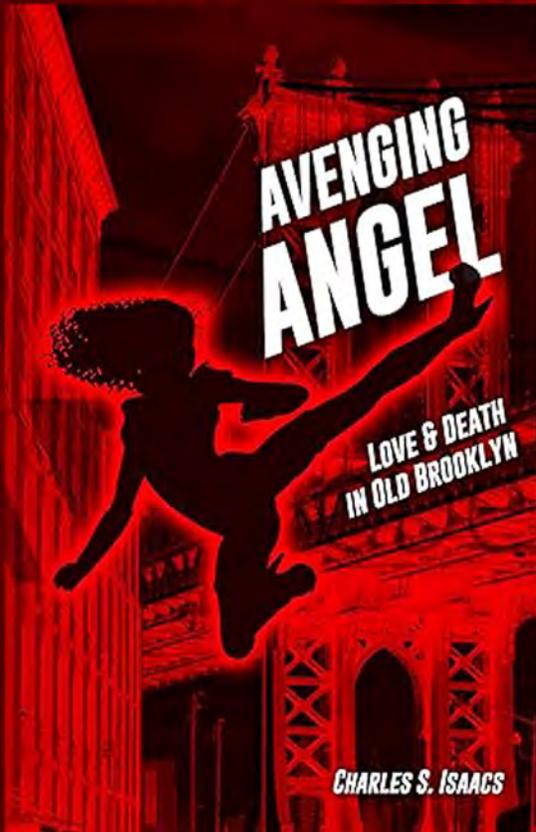
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Tales of vengeance, resilience, and redemption, intertwined with an unexpected love story, set against the gritty backdrop of an urban landscape marred by violence against women and the scourge of racism.



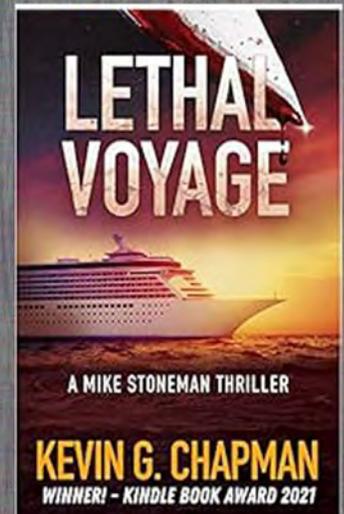
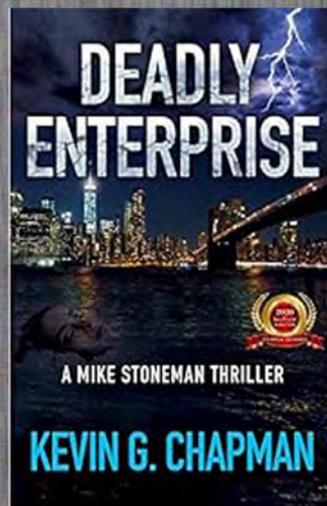
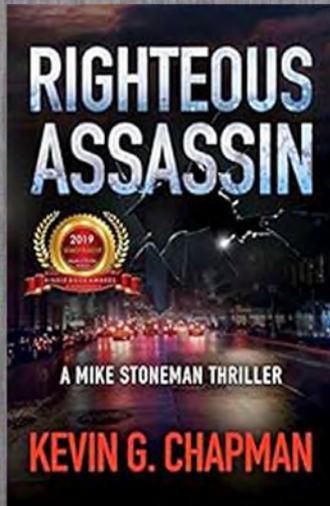
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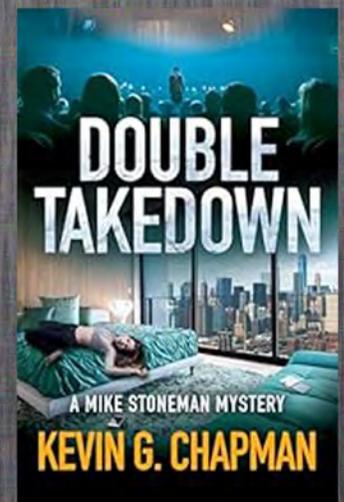
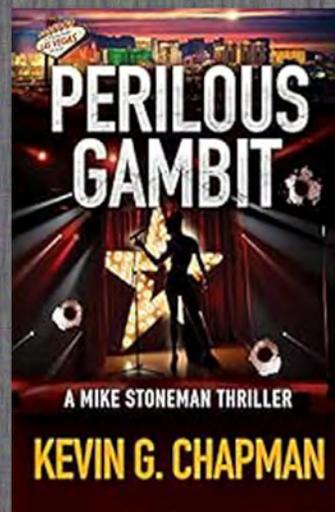
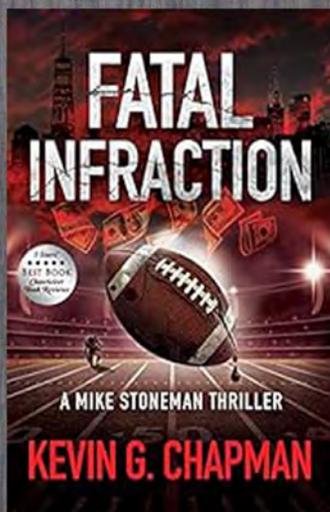
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Kevin G. Chapman's Mike Stoneman Thrillers



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



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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?



Amy Shannon's

Fractured Tears:

A Struggle for Justice

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



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

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

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



WHERE WOULD YOU GO TO DIE?

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

BY THE OCEAN

BY

WILLIAM BECKER



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March Releases

- TC Marti Cursed Mage 3/3/2025
- R Weir Justice for the Forgotten: A Steel Wheels Cold Mystery 3/3/2025
- Kevin G. Chapman Double Takedown
PAPERBACK



March

is

Natioanal Women's History

Month



April Releases

- Melina Druga Family Upheaval 4/8/2025
- Michael C. Bland The Price of Freedom 4/8/2025
- Deven Greene The Organ Broker 4/15/2025
- Alisa Jean Luka: A Los Angeles Quakes Hockey Series 4/17/2025
- Ana Hebra Flaster Property of the Revolution: From a Cuban Barrio to a New Hampshire Mill Town 4/22/2025

A vibrant illustration featuring a stack of seven books in various colors (blue, purple, green, pink, blue, purple, blue) with a quill pen resting on top. The books are set against a glowing yellow sun with rays, all within a circular frame. The background is a dark blue night sky filled with white stars. The text 'Author Spotlight' is written in a large, black, serif font across the center of the image.

Author Spotlight

Author Spotlight

Neal Goldstein

Neal Goldstein was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He lives with his wife in Haverford, a twenty-minute train ride from Center City Philly, where he practiced law for 50 years, representing labor unions and their members. He is a graduate of Central High School, Temple University and Temple University School of Law.

He just published his seventh novel, *University City*. Like all of his previous books, it is set in the City of Brotherly Love. Philadelphia is not only where the stories take place, the city, its history, and the unique neighborhoods and the people who reside in them, are what distinguish his books from other crime/thriller/mystery novels.



Books By Neal Goldstein

Northern Liberties

Fishtown

Murder and Mayhem in

Manayunk

60th & Haverford

The Pa-La-Ti-'Shan

Overbrook Farms



WEBSITE

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Author Spotlight

Laura Elizabeth Ingalls Wilder

(1867 –1957)

Laura Ingalls Wilder was born to Charles and Caroline Ingalls. She had an older sister, Mary, who was blind. She had two younger sisters, Carrie, and Grace, and a brother, Charles, who died as an infant. Before she reached her 16th birthday, she got her first teaching position. Her family moved to De Smet, South Dakota, and that's where she met and married Almanzo "Manly" Wilder. He lovingly called her "Bess."

Laura wrote in her journals and wrote about her life as a young girl. It wasn't until later in her life that she wrote and published what are known as The Little House Books.

Laura had a daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, who grew up to also be a writer. Laura and Almanzo had a son, who died only days after he was born. He was only known as "Baby Son of A. J Wilder."

Laura and Rose would write together, and Rose always encouraged her mother to learn more, and improve her writing. Almanzo died in 1949, Laura died in 1957, and she is buried next to her husband. Rose, before her death in 1968, she put together a nonprofit organization to preserve her parent's home, and use it as a museum, rather than a shrine.



Little House in the Big Woods (1932)

Farmer Boy (1933) – about Almanzo Wilder growing up in New York

Little House on the Prairie (1935)

On the Banks of Plum Creek (1937)

By the Shores of Silver Lake (1939)

The Long Winter (1940)

Little Town on the Prairie (1941)

These Happy Golden Years (1943)



“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

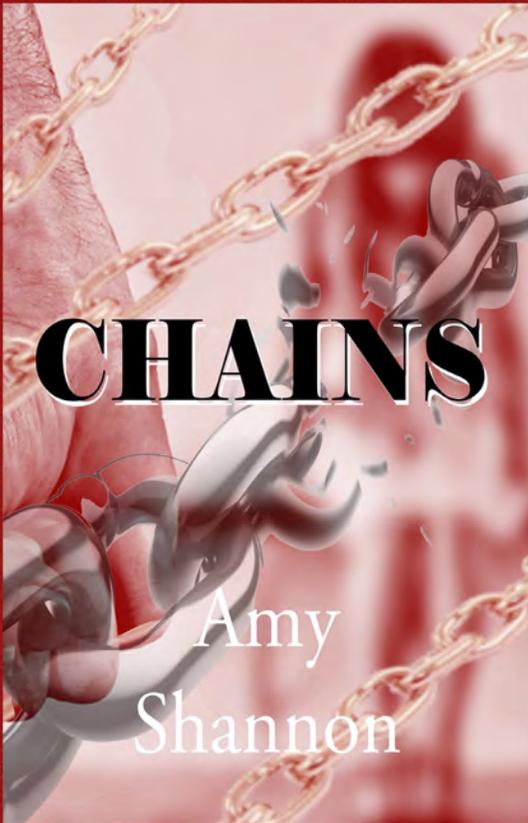
“In a Society run by science, Sablites hunt down every hint of [magic] power, and Etioiny must use all her pluck, ingenuity, and determination to find the truth of the last dragonfly...”
-Fantasy Author Azalea Dabill



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BARNES & NOBLE

Amy Shannon's Chains

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



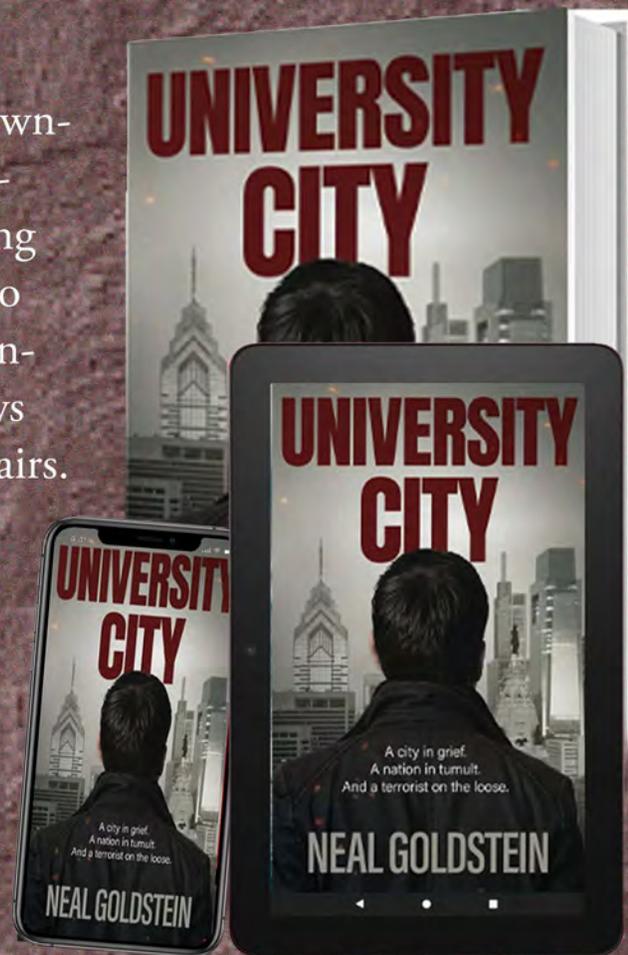
Veronica "Ronnie" Lawrence's life changed in an instant at the age of 12, when she was taken by "Mister." For over 3,000 days, she was held captive, enduring relentless abuse—sexual, physical, and emotional. Despite Mister's efforts to break her spirit, Ronnie clung to her memories and inner strength,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



Neal Goldstein's

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

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



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Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast

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at 6:00 PM .*

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- Author Interviews*
- Literary Representative Interviews*
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A person wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and tie is shown from the chest down. They are holding a silver microphone in their right hand and an open book in their left hand. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The text "Author Interviews" is overlaid in the center in a white serif font.

Author Interviews

Neal Goldstein

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

Neal Goldstein: I'm a lawyer, I was trained never to use 3 words when a hundred or more can more eloquently express your point. Here goes Husband, Father, Author.

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

Neal Goldstein: Six, all are published.

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

Neal Goldstein: Yes. University City. It went live on Amazon, September 28th (?)

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?

Neal Goldstein: Yes and no. All my books are what I call Philadelphia-centric. All but one are titled after a neighborhood in Philly that is integral to the story. Usually, some event that happened in a particular location was the motivation for the book. For

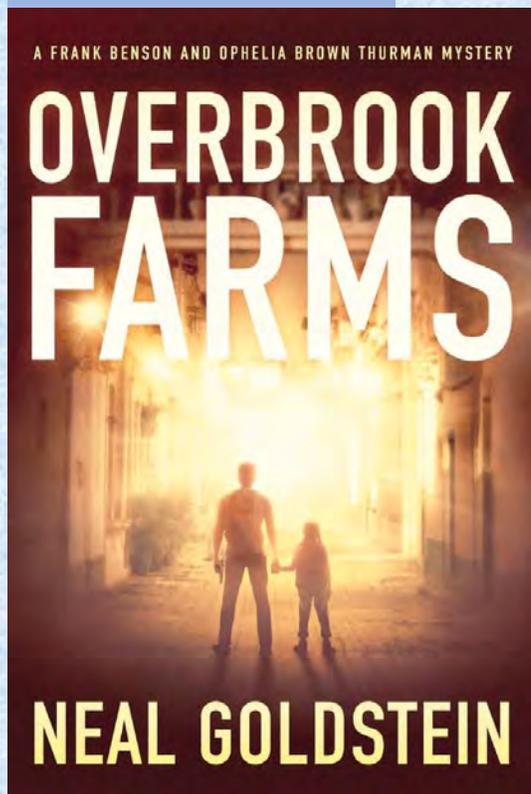


example, 60th & Haverford opened with a real event- a police officer was filling out his paperwork, when a man wearing a thobe walked up to his patrol car and shot him. Of course, the assault did not actually happen there, I was familiar with the setting because I drove by the corner on my way home, but I guess you get the gist.

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?

Neal Goldstein: Philadelphia! Its history, the people who live in the neighborhoods, the food, etc. I could go on and on.

Goldstein cont'd



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

Neal Goldstein: Philadelphia-centric.

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

Neal Goldstein: University City starts with a bang and takes off. Why would anyone deliberately bomb a declining neighborhood in West Philly, kill innocent children in a pre-school, and worshippers in a mosque? How is the bombing connected to a labor racketeering

trial in federal court? And what does it have to do with the January 6th insurrection? I promise it all comes together, but you have to read it to find out!

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

Neal Goldstein: “Word that Benson had been selected to serve on the jury in the Booker trial had spread through the rumor mill faster than shit flows through a goose.” University City.

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

Neal Goldstein: I’m the world’s worst golfer.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Who are your top THREE favorite authors? That’s a hard one.

Neal Goldstein: Currently, Karin Slaughter, Carl Hiaasen, David Balducci.

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

Neal Goldstein: A Death In Cornwell by Daniel Silva

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

Neal Goldstein: I just write and revise.

Goldstein cont'd

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Neal Goldstein: In the beginning it was a diversion from practicing law. Now, besides spending time with my wife, sons and our 3-year-old granddaughter, it's something that gives me great satisfaction.

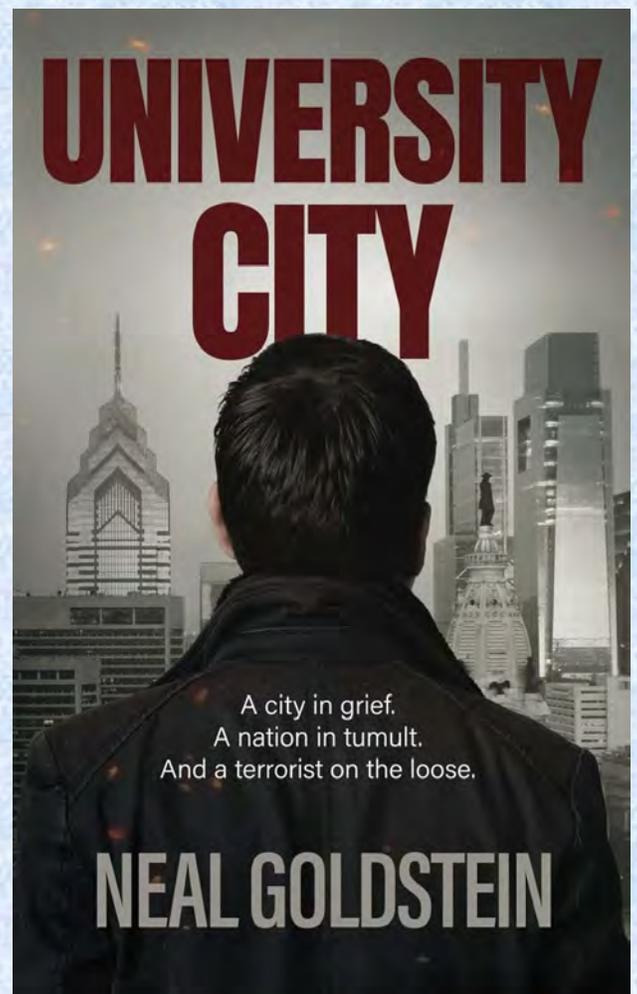
Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you currently have a WIP? If yes, what's the title, and is it part of a series or standalone?

Neal Goldstein: Yes, Rittenhouse Square. It was supposed to be part of the Benson Ophelia Brown Thurman series, but I put it aside to write *University City*. Now, I'm writing it as a standalone novel that does have Frank Benson, but none of the other characters from the series.

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

Neal Goldstein: I do read my books to try to avoid the mistakes I made in the beginning, and also to avoid repeating story lines I used in the past.

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?

Neal Goldstein: No. I find it distracting.

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?

Neal Goldstein: Yes, Yes, and Yes!

Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could sit down and have a coffee (or your favorite beverage)

Goldstein cont'd

with anyone, living or dead, from any era, any time, who would it be and why? (You can pick up to 3 persons).

Neal Goldstein: Harold Robbins, whatever he drinks. The Carpetbaggers. It was the first adult book I read when I was 12 years old. I took it from my mother's bookshelf. Of course, she knew but she told me much later she thought I was mature enough to not reread the sexy parts. A beer with Joseph Heller. Every time I read Catch-22, I laugh out loud! A martini or two with Ernest Hemingway. I wish I could write in such a minimalist and meaningful style.

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

Neal Goldstein: To have readers tell me they enjoyed my book.

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

Neal Goldstein: That I wasn't the pain in the ass I thought I was.

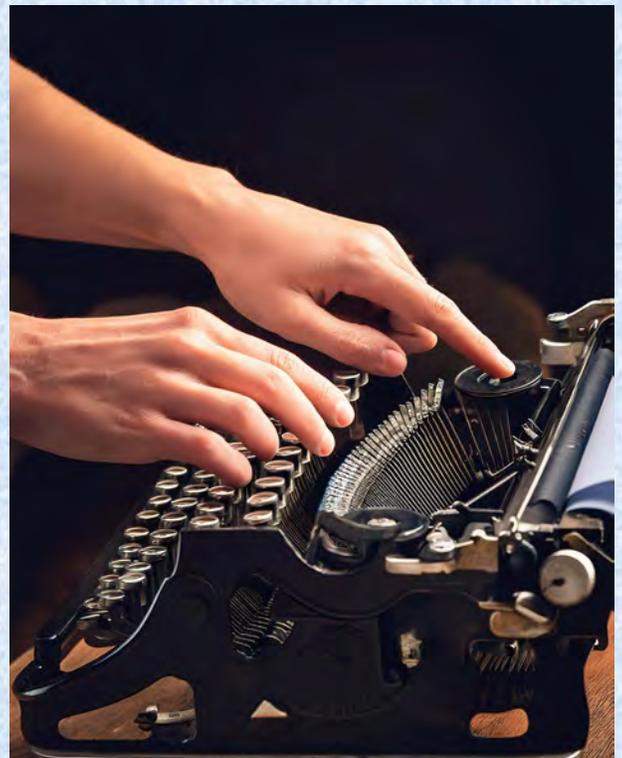
Literate-Ly Magazine: I am on a quest to read as many banned, burned, or challenged books

as possible? What is your feeling or opinion about banning books? It seems to be a new epidemic now.

Neal Goldstein: I cannot believe what is happening in our country today. As, hopefully, the next Vice President says, "Why can't people mind their own damn business!" The Nazis burned books in the 1930s and then killed millions of Jews and others they considered inferior, impure. Sound familiar?

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

Neal Goldstein: Nah! My brains hurt from answering your questions.



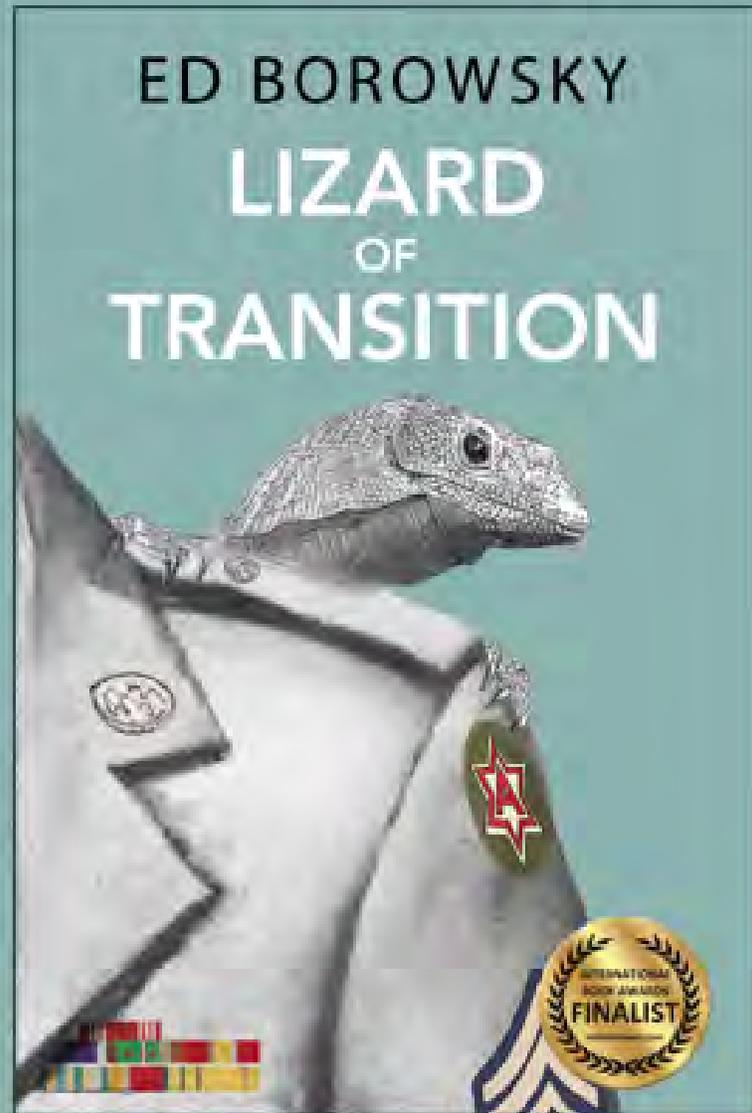
Ed Borowsky's Lizard of Transition

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

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

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

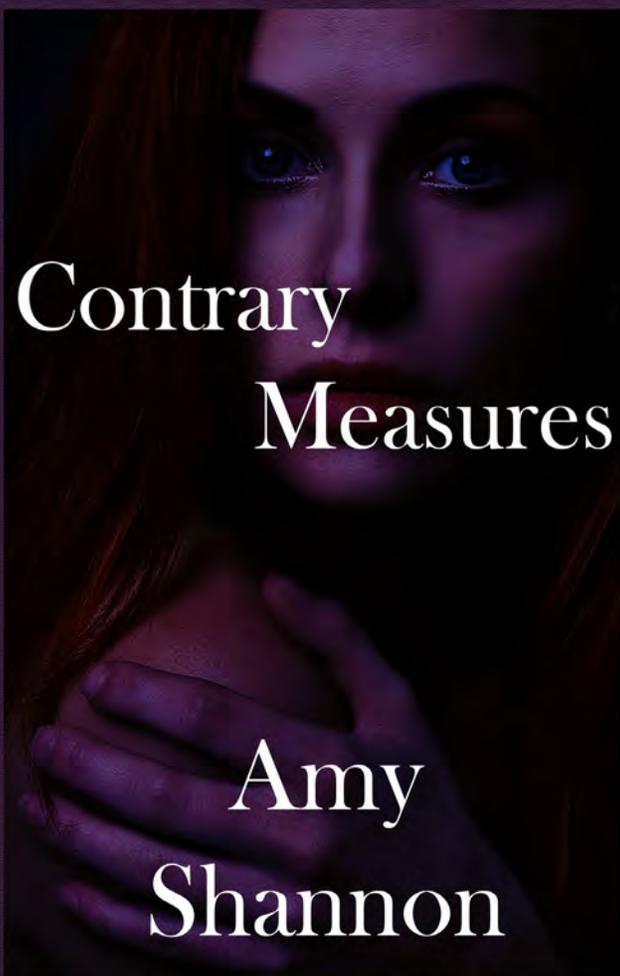
From the wisdom of the ages, and from the Jewish perspective on death and redemption, "Lizard of Transition" shines a light on how understanding death and dying will lead us to live rich and fuller lives.



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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.





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Laurel Maxwell

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

Laurel Maxwell: Patient, Introvert, Calm

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

Laurel Maxwell: Everything Pretty Here Is Dying, February 14, 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?

Laurel Maxwell: I usually come up with titles after I've written the work. It feels like too much pressure to create a title for something I haven't even started. With a poem usually the title comes from a line or word. So it makes sense to title the poem after it is written. Everything Here Is Dying was the initial title I came up with when I started submitting the chapbook for consideration for publication.

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



Laurel Maxwell: It is a small collection of poems centered around themes of environmental loss, longing, and beauty found in everyday moments. It grapples with how to make sense of our place in a universe which is constantly changing and uncertain.

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

Laurel Maxwell: I'm also a runner. I love running in the mornings best because I can watch the sunrise as the day wakes up.

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

Laurel Maxwell: Mary Oliver, Luis Alberto Urrera, Colum McCann

Maxwell cont'd

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

Laurel Maxwell: Horse by Geraldine Brooks

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

Laurel Maxwell: It depends on my motivation and how much time I have. I set aside time each week to write, but what I write varies. Sometimes I'm inspired to write something new, other days I'm going back and editing. I have found it helpful to be part of a writing community (both in person and virtual) to hold me accountable. Some of those spaces are generative so I walk away with something to come back to.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Laurel Maxwell: I write to make sense of the world around me. This can be my internal world (feelings), or the outer world- what is physically happening outside. I'm not the type of person who goes outside and is like "I'm going to write about the flower I saw." I'll put the image in my back pocket and a week, a month, a year later it may find its way into one of my poems. For example, a colleague showed me chicken eggs he had collected after a fire on his property. I couldn't get that image out of my mind and ended up using that image as the final line for one of my poems.

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

Laurel Maxwell: I'm currently working on a full-length book of poems. Some of the poems include ones from Everything Pretty Here Is Dying, while others are ones I've added. It has definitely been a work in progress. It is something I come back to now and again. Adding a poem or taking one out.

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?

Laurel Maxwell: For me, as a poet it is usually the last line which is the hardest to write.



Maxwell Cont'd

Sometimes the poem is too long, and I have to chop a big section. Other times I have a line in place, but it doesn't seem to fit. It is unusual for a poem to have the same last line from the first draft to the last.

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.

Laurel Maxwell: The idea of banning books is outrageous to me. So many stories are being erased just because the book makes some people uncomfortable. I'm lucky enough to live in a place where banned books are displayed on library shelves and stocked at the independent bookstore in the town I live.

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

Laurel Maxwell: Write for yourself first. When I first sit down to write I'm not thinking about an audience, or how my work will be perceived. I just get words on the page. I feel that if I felt I were writing for/to someone else I wouldn't be able to be my authentic self.



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HOLTGART

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MY JAMES SMITH

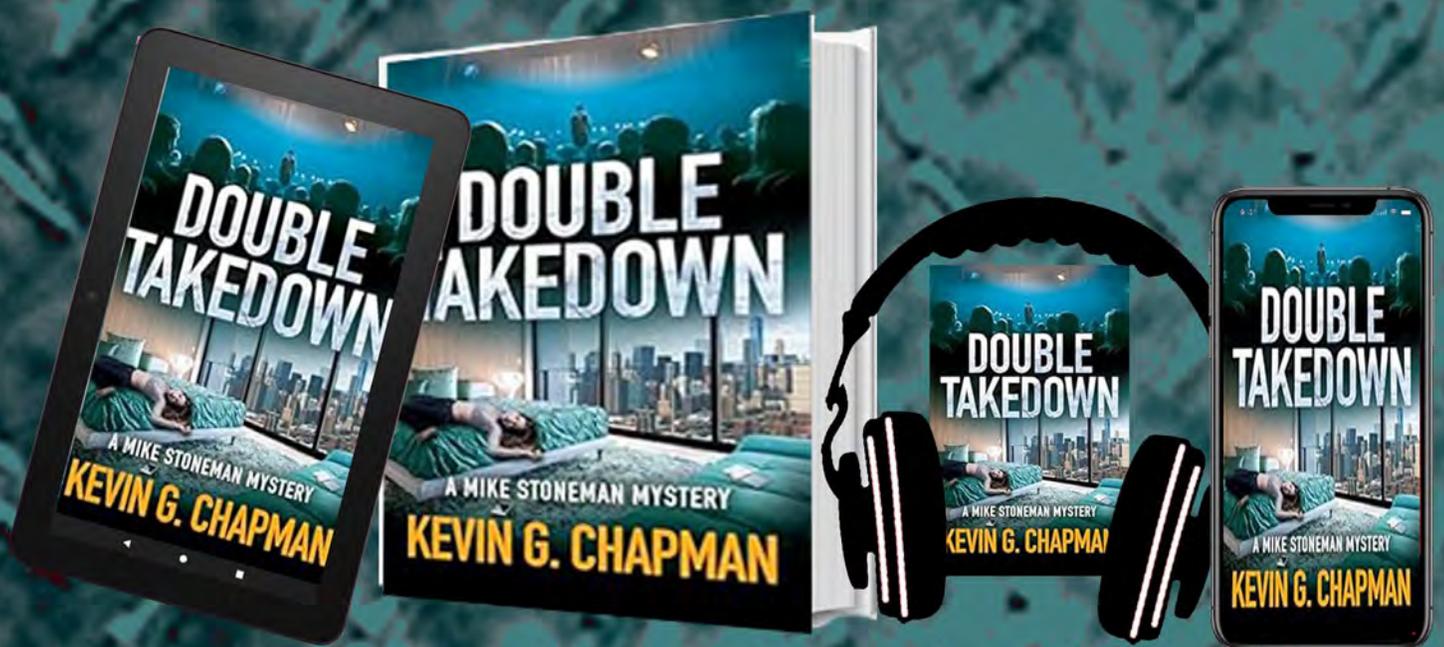


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Angel A

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

ANGEL A: *Amor vincit omnia* (Love conquers all)

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

ANGEL A: 2 for 2. I've also made a short film called 'Le Saut De L'Ange', which is 'Angel's Leap' in French. We filmed on location in Corsica, France.

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

ANGEL A: My current focus is on 'Dreamer', a short film releasing this year through film festivals. My next book project is still in development.

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?

ANGEL A: 'Mary Poser' is a play on words because it sounds like 'mariposa', which is Spanish for butterfly. It also represents her disposition, where she struggles with authenticity for the sake of approval. I started with the title, as the story is a chrysalis experience for Mary. Like an emerging butterfly, she struggles to find her wings.

'Holy Parrot' was always the intended title of this narrative. I started with the expression 'Loro Santo', which means 'Holy Parrot' in Spanish.



The vision of people chanting 'Loro Santo' was a captivating motivation for the story.

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?

ANGEL A: Mary is the most interesting as she helped me understand anxiety and its expression. I rarely experience anxiety, but I have had the emotion projected onto me many times. Originally, I found the projections hurtful, but once I endeavoured to understand the source of the projections, I found the behaviour and its consequences fascinating. In writing Mary Poser, I embraced the understanding that it is possible to create our own suffering through our thoughts and values. Mary had to overcome her people pleasing nature to stand her ground and find her authentic self.

A Cont'd

The risk is rejection, but the prize is authenticity and a heightened sense of self-worth.

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

ANGEL A: I would call my genre ‘personal transformation’.

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

ANGEL A: Set in an idyllic Caribbean paradise, 'Holy Parrot' follows Leo, an Australian scientist, as he encounters Mary, who claims to be the virgin mother of a new christ. Through magical realism, the story explores her mystic revelations via her parrot familiar versus his scientific worldview. The narrative reflects humanity's shift from the Age of Pisces to the Age of Aquarius – a transformation from authoritarian rule to personal freedom and humanitarianism.

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

ANGEL A: ‘from the prison of your own mind, it’s difficult to admit who it is that’s guarding the gate’ from Holy Parrot.

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

ANGEL A: I am a qualified practicing chiropractor. I live and work in Australia.

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

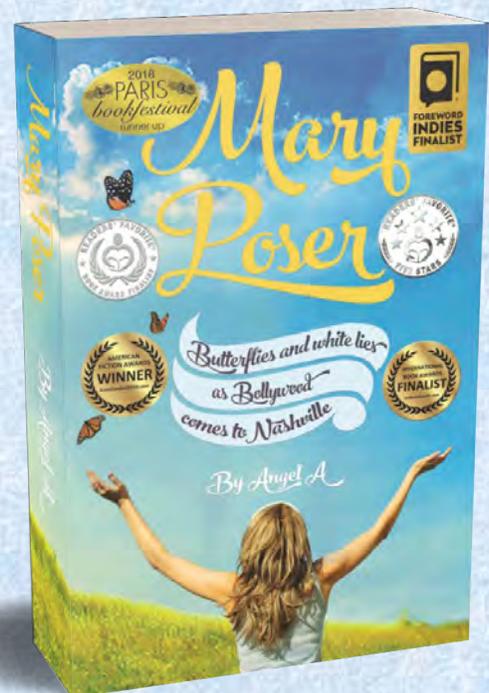
ANGEL A: Isaac Asimov, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Aldous Huxley

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

ANGEL A: Dracula by Bram Stoker

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

ANGEL A: I have a system. I decide what I want to say and then find the furthest point away from this and stretch my story backwards to an unsuspecting beginning. Then I write a treatment of the overall theme and story. I then write a film script of the story. This is an efficient data point adding process for the story. I then restructure the pace and flow and write the novel from the script. The result is both a script and a novel.



A Cont'd

Literate-Ly Magazine: As an author, 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?

ANGEL A: Writing a synopsis is tough for me. I feel the synopsis is a reader's perspective of the story, not the writer's perspective. There are so many elements I want to draw attention to that are important to me. I find reader reviews help me understand themes that are worth including in the synopsis.

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).

ANGEL A: Joseph Campbell - he introduced myth and story to me, revealing the writer's method and perspective.

Elvis Presley - He represented an enigmatic character for me as a child. He represented the determined spirit and the consequence of his dreaming was profound.

Lynda Carter - The original Wonder Woman. I think my understanding of this characterisation of Wonder Woman influenced my writing of Mary Poser. I would

be curious to hear Lynda's perspective regarding her roles in portraying a confident and powerful woman whilst living and working in a demanding people-pleasing environment.

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

ANGEL A: I write to leave a legacy. What I write is my answer to perceived problems and the likely answer (amor vincit omni). I write characters who represent differing aspects of a problem and the resolution reflects my philosophy.

My philosophy is in my answer to question 1. Once I have resolved the problem for myself, achieving the catharsis, I release myself from that narrative's loop as it has served its purpose. The success as a writer is perhaps in offering a truly successful awakening or growth for the protagonist or group of protagonists. When I receive reviews where the reader relates to the awakening or growth in their own life, this is truly rewarding. In *Mary Poser*, Mary discovered how to find her butterflies. In *Holy Parrot*, Leo discovered a spiritual aspect of himself he had never entertained and Maria forged her destiny as a potential catalyst for the conscious evolution of humanity. If a culture dares to strive for transcendent outcomes, I see a successful writer as a stimulus for this change.

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

ANGEL A: There are so many layers to consider in answering this question. I believe discovering and then speaking your truth is a

A Cont'd



profound opportunity. Many people claim to be lost and struggle to grasp their worth or value. The business name is inspired by the French expression *Le Saut de L'Ange*, which means 'The Angel's Leap'. When at the crossroads of your life, where there is no turning back, you must take the angel's leap - over the cliff into defeat, or up and out into a new beginning. I have developed a 'self worth roadmap' that I feel could assist many to find their way when they are at the point or their personal angel's leap moment. This roadmap is structured around truly understanding the phrase *amor vincit omnia*.

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.

ANGEL A: The banning of books and censoring of ideas for ideological purposes paradoxically leads inquisitive minds to seek these ideas as you are questing for yourself. Both *Mary Poser* and *Holy Parrot* follow the path of a protagonist who is exploring life outside the preferred narrative. Mary's mother makes it perfectly clear what Mary should think, do and strive for. In *Holy Parrot*, Leo explores a tropical paradise where mysticism forges with materialism in ways that challenge his perceptions of reality. It is possible that some confused and frightened minds blame the diversity of ideas for their fragile state of mind. I believe it was Joseph

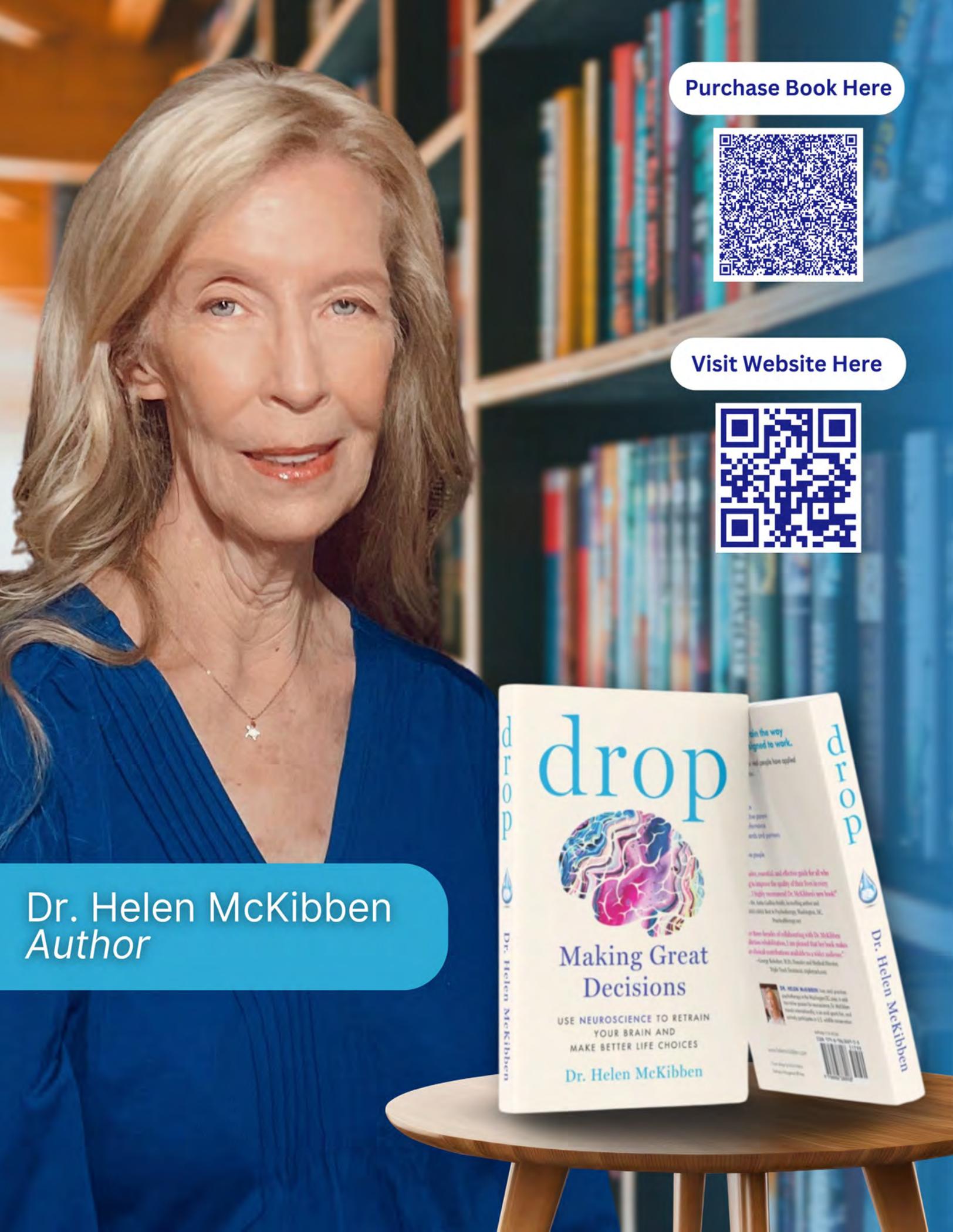
Campbell who said, "Diversity is the rule, not the exception." Debate forges discernment and understanding. I wonder if the frightened minds who seek to ban books are trying to reduce external conflict by insisting on conformity that reduces their own feeling of lack of control. The frightened mind may unlikely consider itself as a suppressive or even oppressive force. Many stories have an antagonist who represents the book banning mentality. They seek complete or ultimate control. They feel entitled to this control of others. They are oblivious to their own wickedness and self-righteous posturing.

For example, I recall Stephen King's 'Misery'. The novelist is tied to a bed by his greatest fan. She smashes his ankles with a sledgehammer while insisting it is for his own good. She then forces him to rewrite his novel to suit her preferred outcomes.

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

ANGEL A: I hope the reader and the aspiring author discover that tiny, often suppressed or oppressed voice inside themselves in response to reading and discovering the story-telling process.





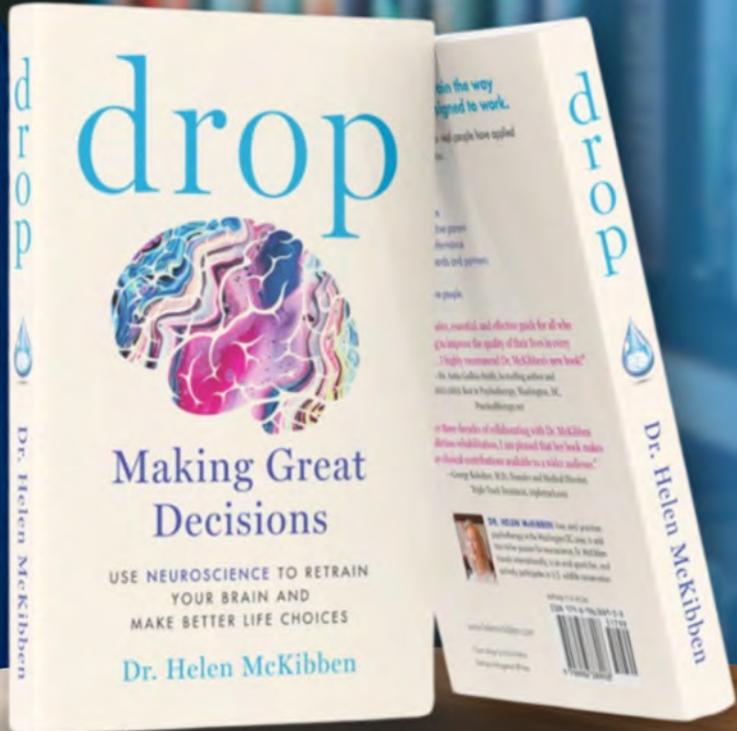
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BETRAYED



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

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F. Scott Fitzgerald

F. Scott Fitzgerald

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

F. Scott Fitzgerald: I have written four novels during my lifetime: “This Side of Paradise,” “The Beautiful and Damned,” “The Great Gatsby,” and “Tender Is the Night.” Additionally, I left an unfinished novel, “The Last Tycoon,” which was published posthumously¹.

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

F. Scott Fitzgerald: “The Great Gatsby” is undoubtedly my most popular and enduring work. Though it was not a commercial success initially, it has since become a cornerstone of American literature .

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

F. Scott Fitzgerald: I always hoped my writing would leave a lasting impact. I sought to capture the essence of the Jazz Age and the complexities of human nature, and it is gratifying to see my works continue to be studied and appreciated .

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



F. Scott Fitzgerald: I enjoyed writing in various places, but my favorite was probably my home in Great Neck, Long Island. The tranquility and inspiration I found there were invaluable to my creative process .

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

F. Scott Fitzgerald: People saw me as a chronicler of the Jazz Age, capturing its glamour and excess. My personal life often overshadowed my work, but those who delved into my writing recognized the depth and poignancy of my observations .

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

F. Scott Fitzgerald: My reviews were mixed. Some praised my lyrical prose and keen insights, while others were critical of my themes and characters. Over time, however, my work has gained widespread acclaim .

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

Fitzgerald Cont'd

F. Scott Fitzgerald: Every writer has their missteps. I wrote a few stories that did not meet my standards, and fortunately, some of them never saw publication. It was a reminder to always strive for excellence.

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

F. Scott Fitzgerald: “The Great Gatsby” holds a special place in my heart. Its exploration of the American Dream and the complexities of love and ambition resonated deeply with me.

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

F. Scott Fitzgerald: One particularly harsh review criticized “Tender Is the Night” for its portrayal of the expatriate lifestyle. While it was difficult to read, it also highlighted the provocative nature of my work.

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

F. Scott Fitzgerald: Write with honesty and passion. Do not be afraid to explore difficult themes or challenge societal norms. Authenticity is the key to creating timeless literature.

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

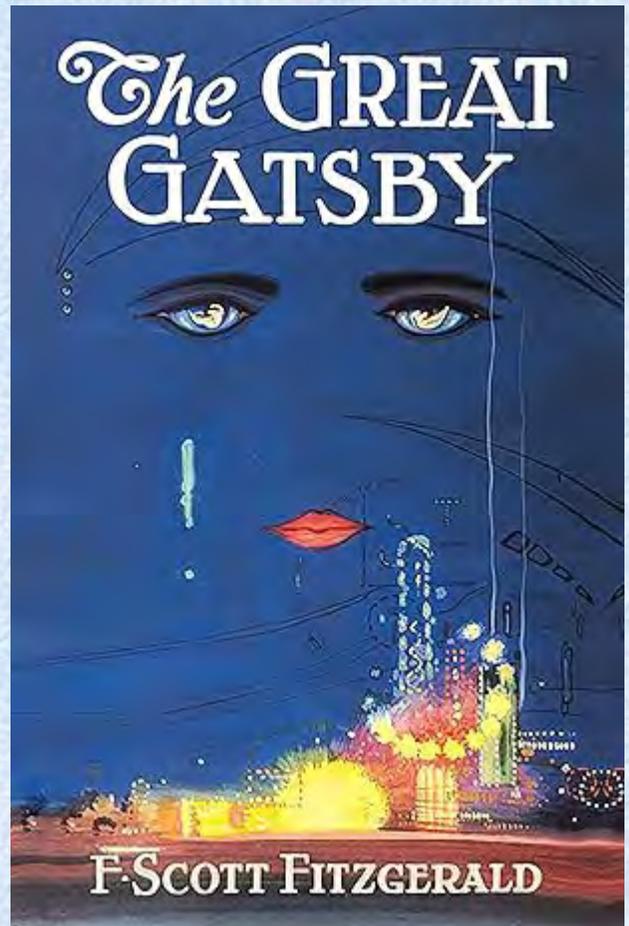
F. Scott Fitzgerald: Yes, I was fortunate to have friendships with many talented writers, including Ernest Hemingway. Our discussions and camaraderie were a source of great inspiration.

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

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

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

F. Scott Fitzgerald: I would love to converse with William Shakespeare. His mastery of language and understanding of the human condition are unparalleled. It would be an honor to exchange ideas with such a literary giant.



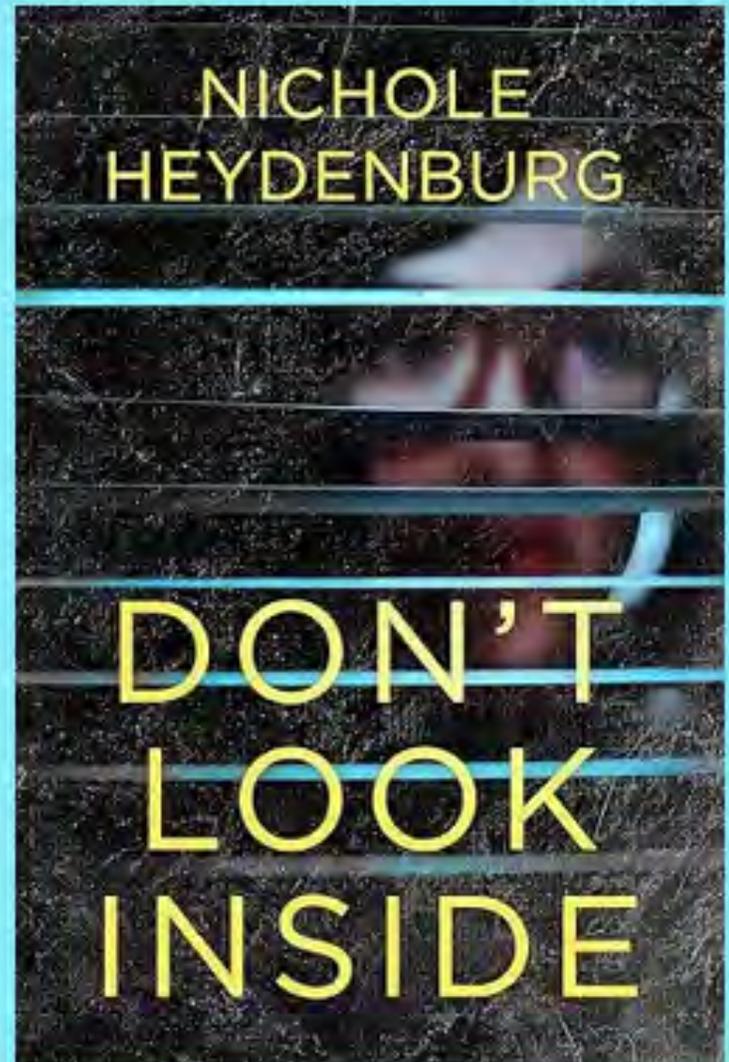
Nichole Heydenburg's Don't Look Inside

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

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

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

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



Advertisement

Gertrude Stein

Gertrude Stein

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

Gertrude Stein: I have written numerous works, including novels, plays, essays, and poetry. Some of my notable books include “Three Lives,” “Tender Buttons,” and “The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas”.

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

Gertrude Stein: “The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas” is considered my most popular work. It brought me significant mainstream attention and remains widely read.

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

Gertrude Stein: I always believed in the power of words and the importance of capturing the essence of the times. While I hoped my work would resonate, I am humbled by the lasting impact it has had.

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

Gertrude Stein: My favorite place to write was in my Paris home, where I hosted a salon that became a gathering place for many influential artists and writers.



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

Gertrude Stein: I was known for my avant-garde style, which was both celebrated and criticized. Some found my work challenging, while others appreciated my innovative approach to language and form.

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

Gertrude Stein: My work received mixed reviews. Some praised my originality and boldness, while others found my style difficult to understand.

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

Stein cont'd

Gertrude Stein: Every writer has their less successful attempts. I wrote many experimental pieces, and not all of them were well-received. However, I believe each work contributed to my growth as a writer.

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

Gertrude Stein: “Tender Buttons” holds a special place in my heart. Its exploration of everyday objects and language was a unique endeavor that I thoroughly enjoyed.

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

Gertrude Stein: Criticism is part of the journey. One particularly harsh review dismissed my work as incomprehensible. While it stung, it also reinforced my commitment to my unique voice.

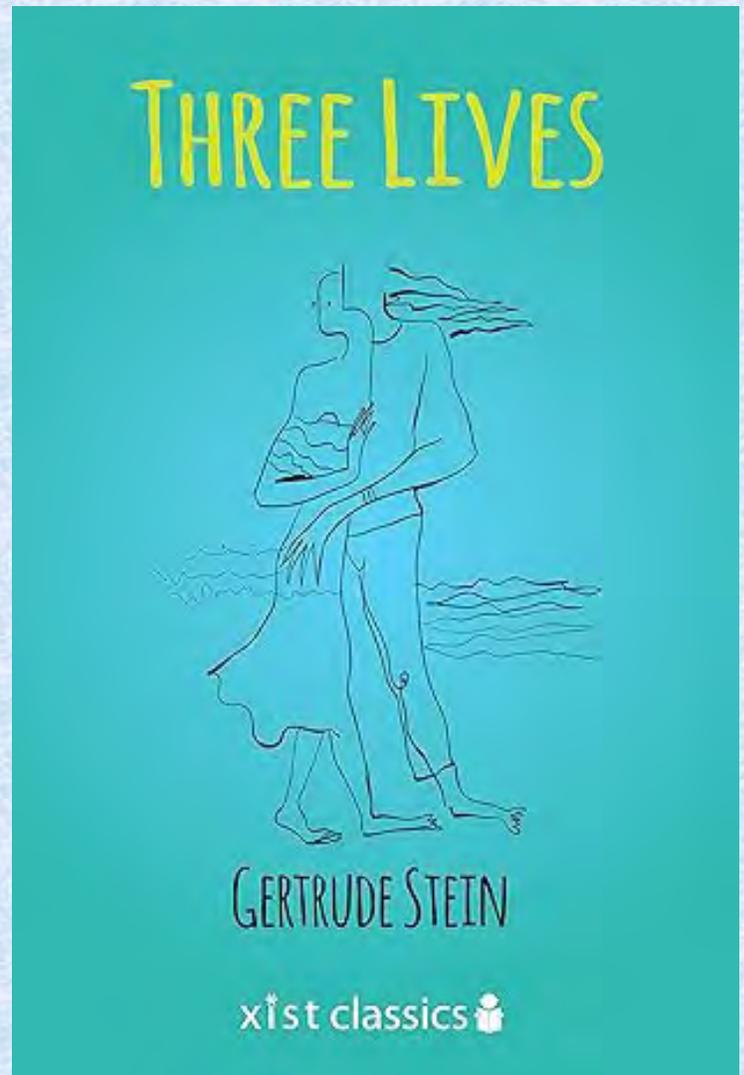
Literate-Ly Magazine: If you could give advice to centuries of authors, what would it be?

Gertrude Stein: Be true to your voice and don't be afraid to experiment. Writing is an art, and like any art, it requires courage and authenticity.

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

Gertrude Stein: Yes, I was fortunate to have many writer friends, including Ernest

Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Sherwood Anderson. Our exchanges were intellectually stimulating and deeply rewarding.





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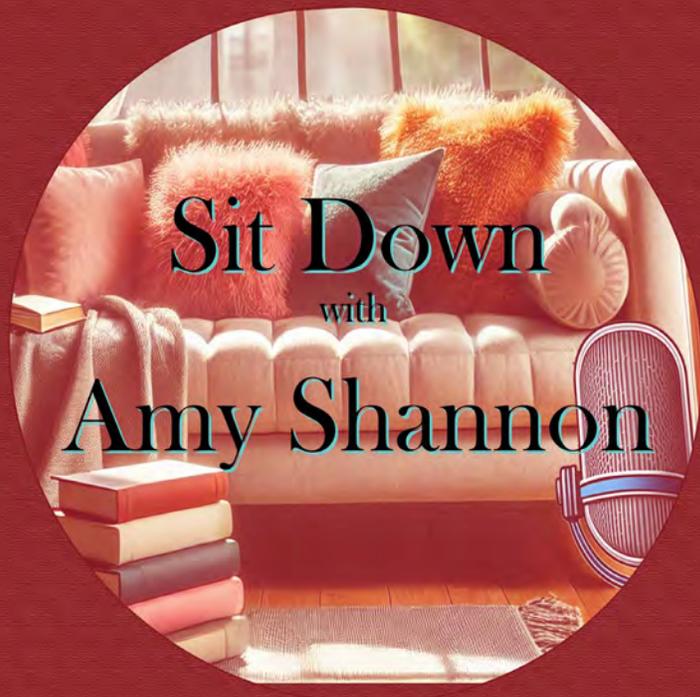
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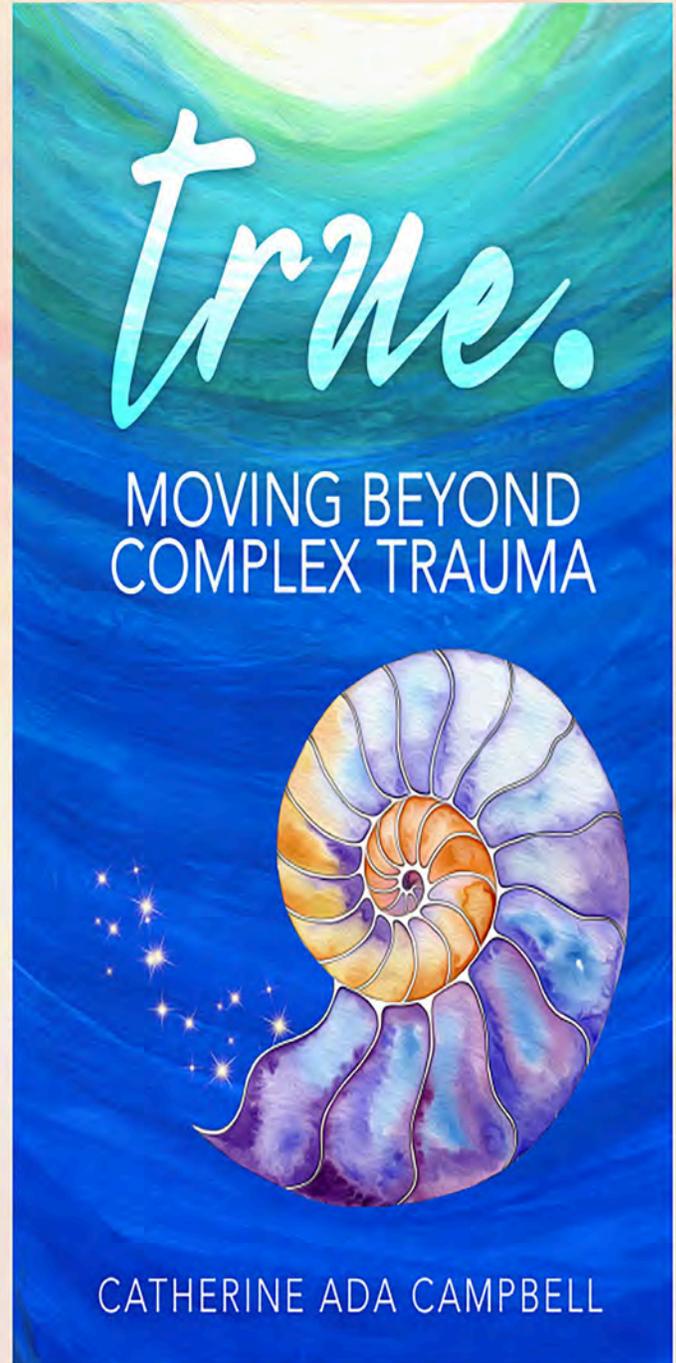
- Claudia Black, PhD. Author of

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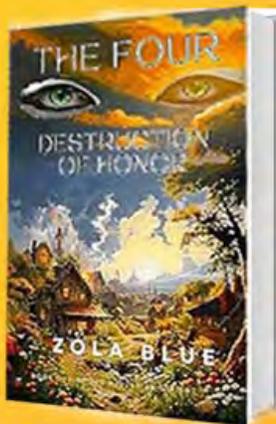
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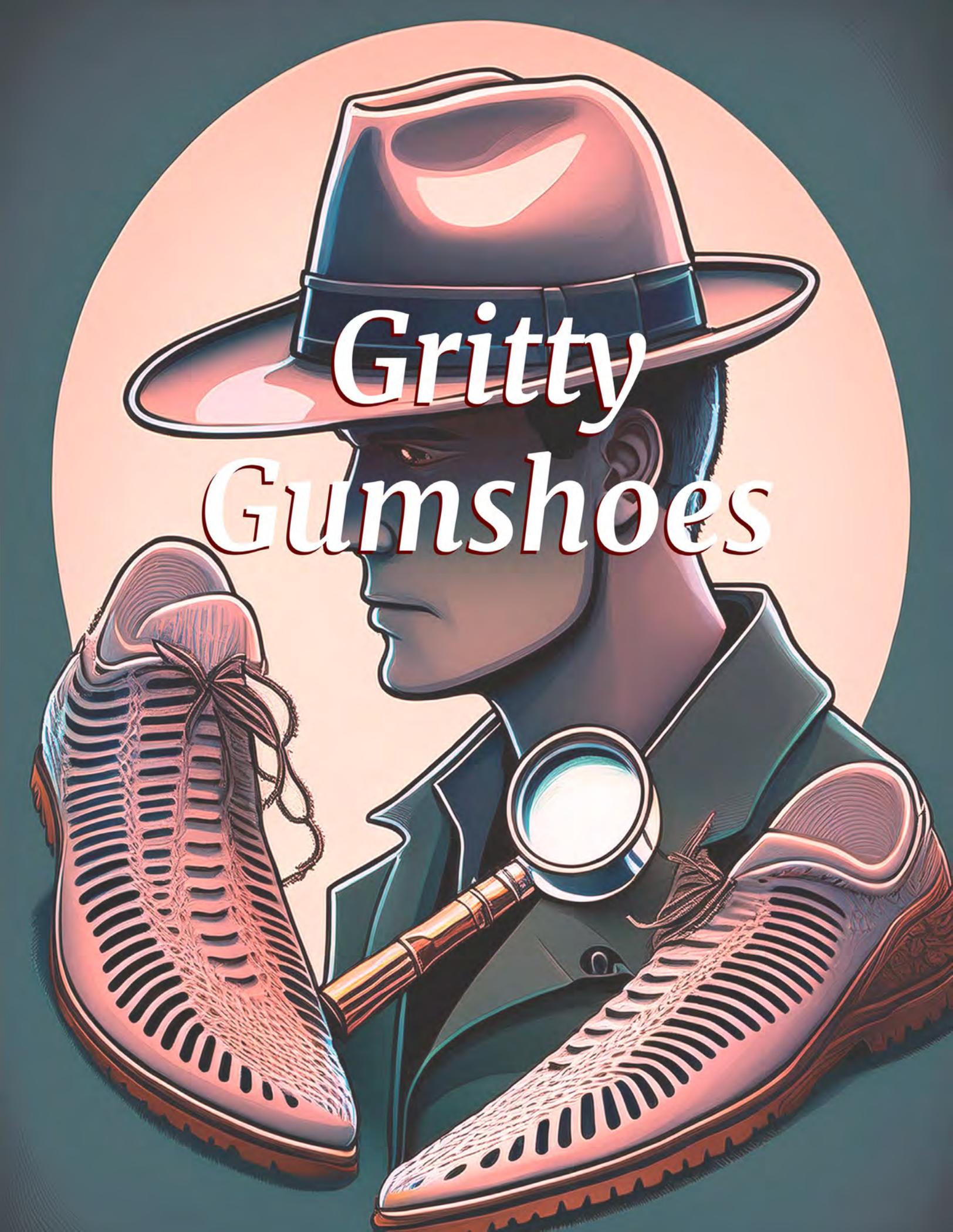
The Mejuarian are god-like creatures living on the planet Ercutis in a near-perfect world. In a galaxy where telepathic bonds and ancient dreams shape destinies, the Mejuar and their diverse allies embark on a thrilling journey that intertwines their fates across worlds.

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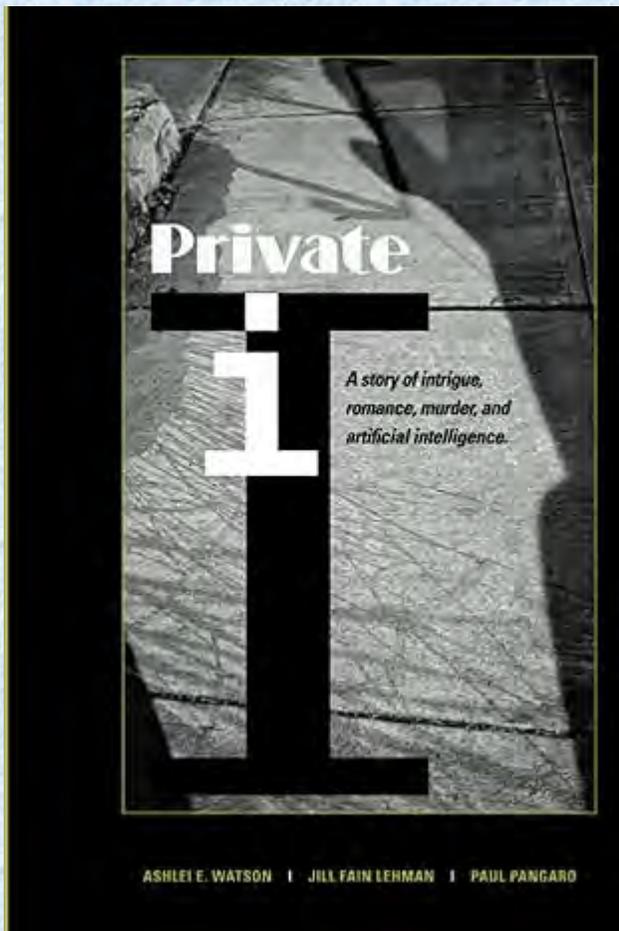


The Mejuarian are god-like creatures living on the planet Ercutis in a near-perfect world.



Gritty Gumshoes

Paul Pangaro, Jill Fain Lehman, Ashlei E. Watson - Private I



"Private I" is a gripping new adult thriller that weaves together elements of intrigue, romance, murder, and artificial intelligence. The story follows Paloma, a young woman on the brink of starting her college journey in Machine Intelligence (MI) at MITI, hoping to build upon her grandfather's secret technological innovations. Her plans are violently derailed when she returns home to find her grandfather tortured and killed, with evidence suggesting his murderers were after Marlowe, Paloma's MI companion of 15 years.

Forced to go on the run, Paloma must navigate a complex web of potential threats - from tech corporations to government agents to anti-tech terrorists - while protecting both herself and Marlowe. The novel explores contemporary questions about machine consciousness, human-AI relationships, and the societal implications of advanced artificial intelligence through a noir-inspired lens. What sets "Private I" apart is its unique dual narrative, featuring the internal monologue of both Paloma and her AI companion, offering a fresh perspective on classic noir themes while addressing today's headlines about AI development and its impact on society.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

5 Stars

A riveting thriller

In Private I, the reader is brought into the future, 2040 to be exact. I haven't read anything by these author before, and what a hidden gem. Paloma tells her story and at first, you are trying to gather all the pieces of what is going on, and why Marlowe is giving her instructions and information, like a whisper in her ear. Then, you understand, some what. The first chapter takes place at a memorial service for Dr. Smoller. Though it's a memorial service, much of the conversations is about Machine Intelligence (MI). Marlowe was created by Paloma's grandfather, and has been with her since she was a child. There are

Paul Pangaro, Jill Fain Lehman, Ashlei E. Watson - Private I (cont'd)

a lot of nuances, in the story, and it also brings forward the newest technology of artificial intelligence, and creating it to be more than a computer program. It is a being, whether its a robot, or a fancy machine, it is still an it, but it learns, and becomes more of a human than other humans. This connection with Paloma shows why she doesn't always understand the human side of humanity, and ironically, Marlowe shows Paloma more about humanity, and helps her find out the truths that need to be unleashed. This story is a grand suspenseful story. Both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. This story is amazing!



Jill Fain Lehman, Ph.D

<https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~jef/>

Paul Pangaro, PhD

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

Ashlei E. Watson

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WHEN LOVE GOES TOO FAR



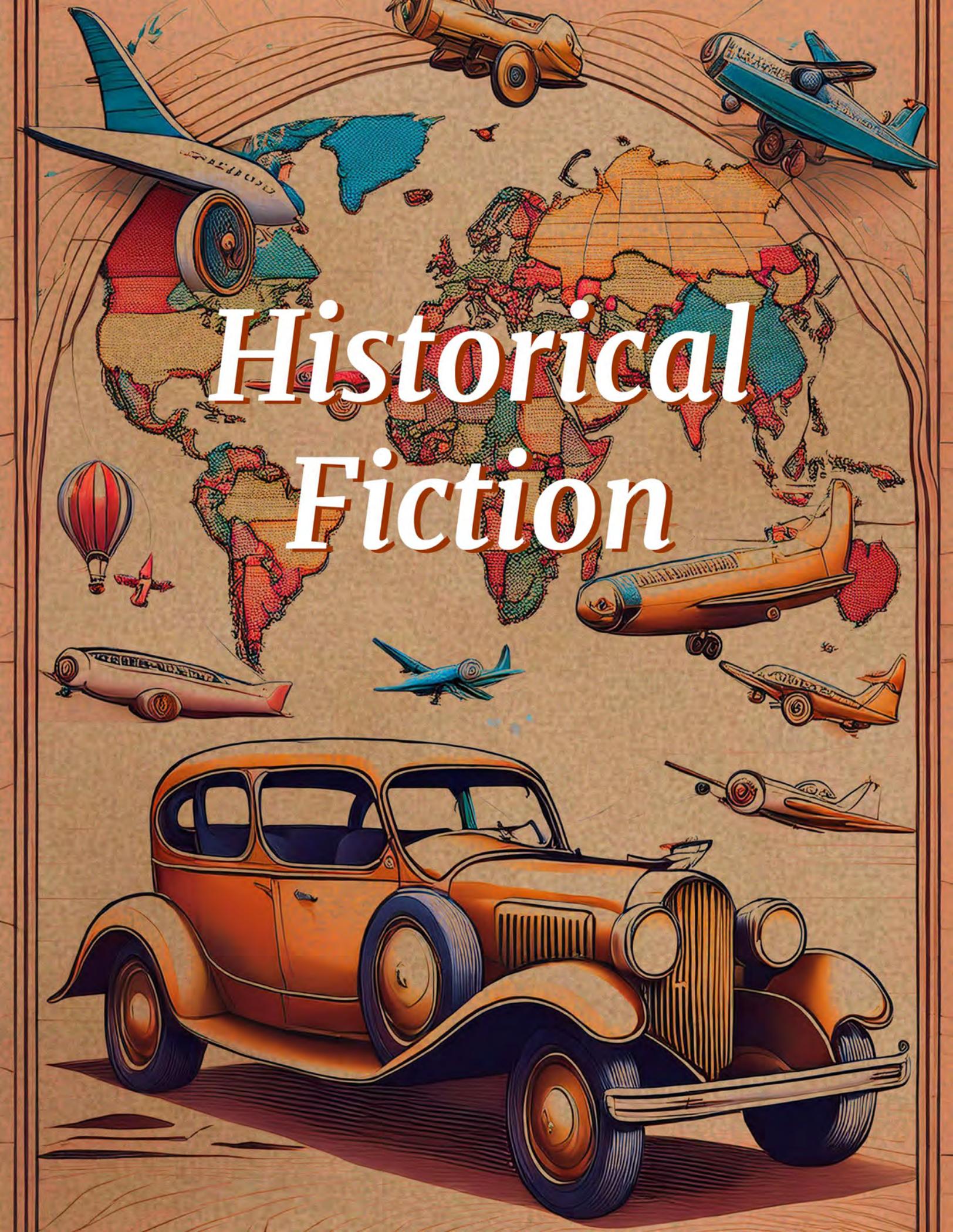
“YOU NEED TO DROP EVERYTHING AND READ THIS ONE ASAP” -PAIGE RAY, *UNVEILING NIGHTMARES*

“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.



A vibrant, stylized illustration featuring a central world map with various continents in different colors. Surrounding the map are several vintage aircraft, including a large biplane, a propeller plane, and a smaller airplane. A hot air balloon and a small bird are also depicted. At the bottom, a large, detailed illustration of a classic vintage car is shown. The entire scene is set against a background of curved lines, suggesting motion or a globe.

Historical Fiction

Frederic Fahey- The Scoundrel's Son

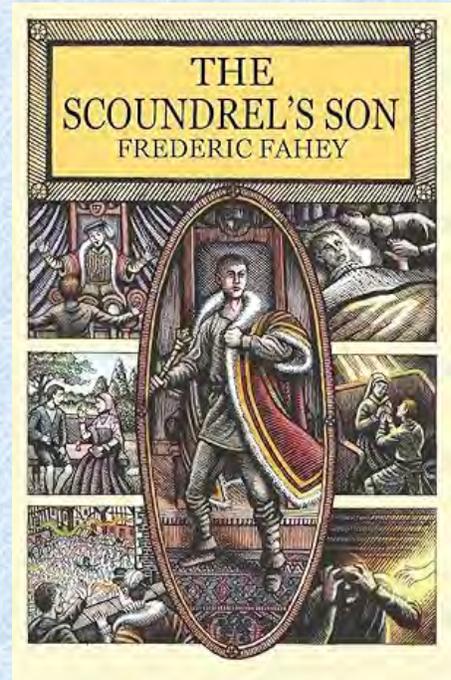
Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

Genre: F/Historical Fiction/16 Century

4 Stars

Frederic Fahey writes a compelling tale with *The Scoundrel's Son*

In *The Scoundrel's Son*, the reader is brought into back in time to 16-Century London, where Tom Canty, tells his story. I liked this story, and have seen or read situations where two people swap identities, but this one, where that does happen, it's unlike what I have read. Tom's friend, is Edward, who is the Prince of England, where Tom is poor and lives in a poor neighborhood. I haven't read anything by this author before, and what a hidden gem. I enjoyed it so much, that I have now followed the author and look for more books to read. Tom and Edward are great friends, but neither one knows about how the other lives, well, they haven't been in each other's shoes. So, enter this idea, switching places, and each one has their own adventure, and eye-opening moments. The author writes with talent, skill and passion, and it comes across in writing this story. This is a book that explores loyalty and friendship, while also having sub plots, that could prove disaster, but also give that particular twist that each story needs. I have fast become a big fan of Frederic Fahey. Fahey has certainly done his research on what London in the 16th century is all about.



About the book:

It's the year 1553, and the King of England, only fifteen years of age, is gravely ill and on the edge of death. His best friend pleads with him not to make the worst mistake of his brief reign by naming his cousin, also a teen, as heir to the throne while the King's half-sister plots her return to London to seize the crown from afar. Caught in this bloody crisis of succession at the midpoint of the Tudor Dynasty is an unlikely circle of three friends still in their teens, a commoner and two royals, being swept by the terrible winds of history.

Tom Canty, the pauper in Mark Twain's beloved *The Prince and the Pauper* tells his tale some years later to the unknown "my lady." It's been six years since Tom first exchanged places with Prince Edward, now King of England. Edward introduces Tom, both fifteen, to his cousin, the lovely, idealistic,

Frederic Fahey- The Scoundrel's Son

strong-minded Lady Jane Grey. Tom finds himself caught between two very different worlds. He still lives in the poor parish of Offal Court. Although he keeps his friendship with Edward a secret, the advantages afforded him by being named Ward of the King set him apart. The boys of Offal Court try to drag him into a life of crime, but he strives to escape the legacy of his father, the scoundrel John Canty. Tom and Edward still look amazingly alike, and so Edward asks Tom to impersonate him again, and Tom can't refuse. He watches through street-smart eyes and tries to keep Edward abreast of those around the young king, including his uncles, vying for power and influence. Further complicating Tom's young life is his burgeoning love for the beautiful yet unattainable Jane.

Soon illness seizes Edward, and he becomes even more dedicated to the English Reformation and Protestantism. Encouraged by his advisors, he names Jane, a devout Protestant, as his heir to the throne rather than his half-sister, the Catholic Lady Mary Tudor. Tom tries to warn Edward that this decision will have terrible consequences. Tom realizes that only a boy with his wily skills can aid his best friend and save his sweet Jane.

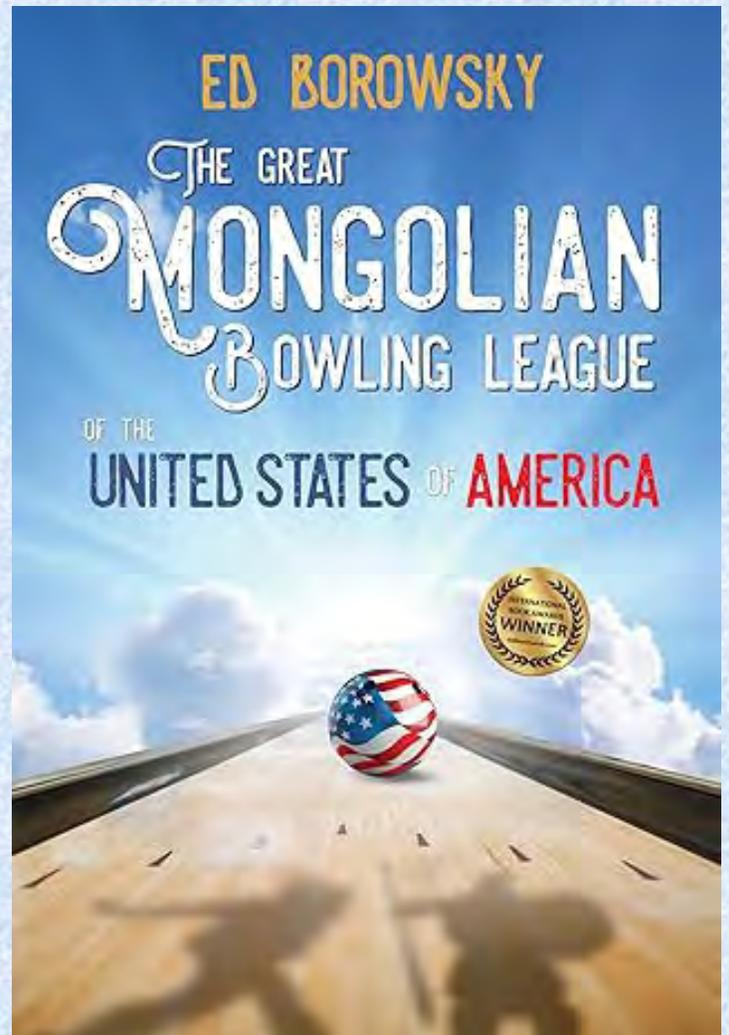
Pour an ale for Tom, a glass of wine for my lady and whatever you fancy. Make yourself comfy and get ready for a good listen as Tom spins his tale of precious friendships, young love, dear loss and the discovery of oneself amidst the deadly betrayal and intrigue of the Tudor royal court.



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

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

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



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THE CENTAUR CHOICE

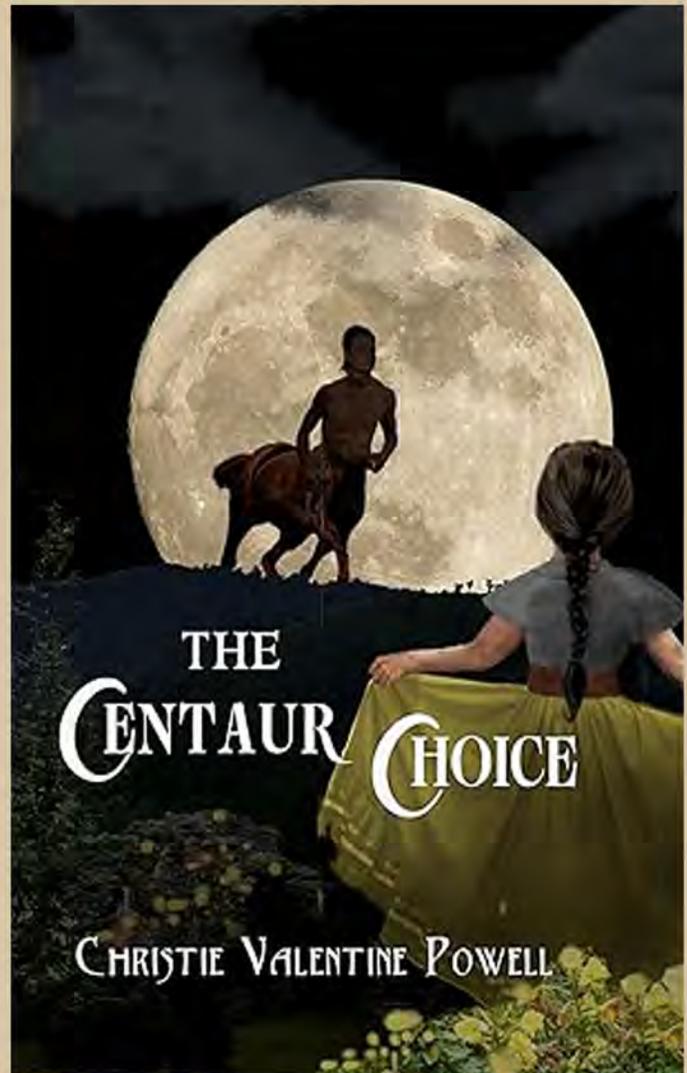
BY

Christie Valentine Powell

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

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

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



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A satirical indictment and love letter to Generation Y

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

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Literary Articles



Don't let yourself be taken advantage!

by

Amy Shannon

The writing community should support each other. I like helping other authors. I find it very upsetting when an author is taken advantage of, especially by someone who is supposed to be their ally and help them promote their work. The costs are high when it happens, and sometimes nothing is done, but the professional (sarcasm) still keeps the money. They tell the author, "we will promote your work. We will get you published. We will market your work." or something similar. Then, there is the contract. Money up front, sales generate a percentage of the work(s).

I work with a lot of publicists, publishers, book promoters, editors and the like, when I do reviews for their clients. No everyone takes advantage, and yes, if you want someone to work for you, you need to pay them. Before you do, and this is my recommendation, do research before approaching a publicist or agent, or any literary professional that you need to work for you. Then, when you decide, get a written contract, and know exactly what they are supposed to do. When they work for you, they should be able to tell you what they are doing for you. You should be able to get updates. Always know what is going on with your work. As an author, you decide what you want to do,



how to publish, who to use as an editor, cover designer, marketing. Even if you hire someone, you decide. Stay in control. If you are new the process, there are people that you can turn to.

We are a writing community, and we should support each other, lift each other up. I will do whatever I can help other authors. I work hard, with my podcast, and my reviews, that being my primary business. I have editing services, and I will also do feedback for authors not quite sure about their finished work. I have my podcast and I interview authors and other literary professionals. That's why I do what I do. I am also always upfront with costs, and what can be expected, depending on the business.



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

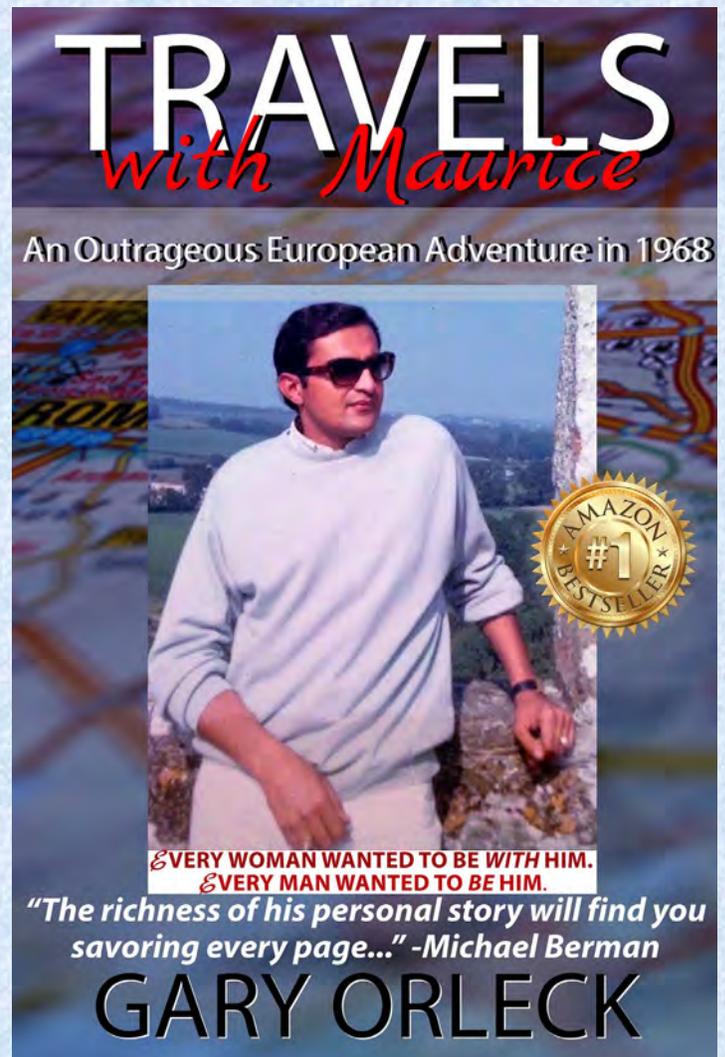
EVERY WOMEN WANTED TO BE WITH HIM. EVERY MEN WANTED TO BE HIM!

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.

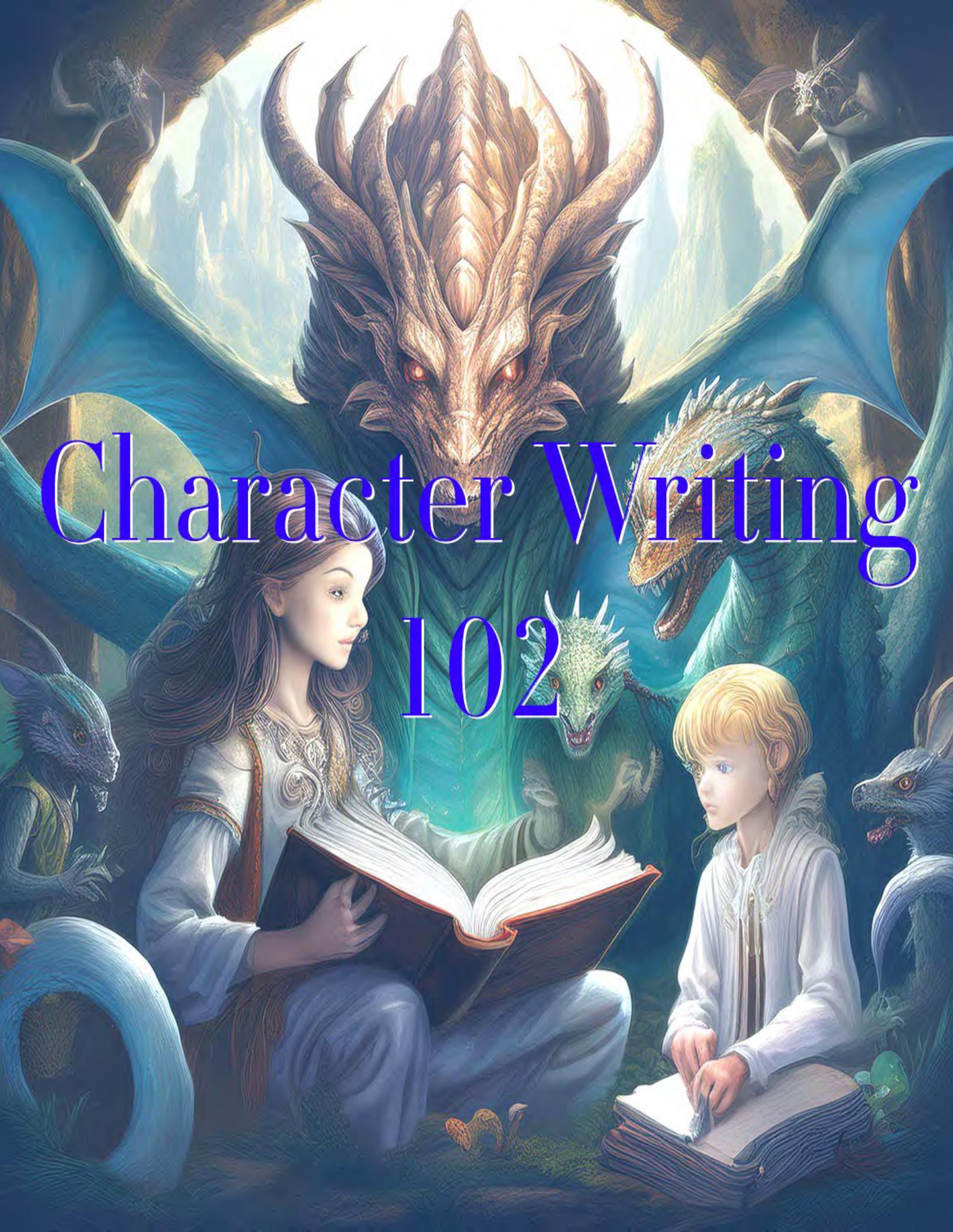
See them come of age while rubbing elbows with other famous persons, asked to dance by Brigitte Bardot, was even rescued out of handcuffs by Shirley Temple Black during the Russian Invasion of Czechoslovakia during the summer of 1968.

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



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A detailed fantasy illustration. In the center, a large, brown-scaled dragon with glowing red eyes and a crown of spikes looms over a woman and a child. The woman, with long brown hair and wearing a white and gold dress, sits on the left, holding an open book. The child, with short blonde hair and wearing a white tunic, sits on the right, writing in a book. A smaller green dragon with red eyes is visible behind the child. Two blue bat-like creatures are perched on the cave walls. The scene is set in a cave with a bright opening in the background.

Character Writing 102

Redeemable/Non-redeemable

Some characters are just plain evil, and have no redeeming qualities, but there is that little piece that makes them have a quirk or human side, even if they aren't human. There are also characters that go from good to bad, and it can be a progression, or it can be quick, but there is some reason, some purpose, for them to go from good to bad. It is possible that the same character can be redeemed, or that they *never* get redeemed. Or those characters that start off bad, can become good, or just a bit better than they were before.

Characters may not be real, but for them to have depth, and be more than just one dimensional, they need qualities, for good or for bad, that can almost imitate real life or be as lifelike as possible. The world of storytelling is more than just putting pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard), but it's about making whatever the writer wants to happen in the stories, happen, and no matter how improbable or impossible something or someone would be in real life, if it's logical in the story, then it will work, even if it is impossible.

Characters may not always be what they seem. In the beginning of my MOD Life Epic saga, Alex has a stalker, and though it was



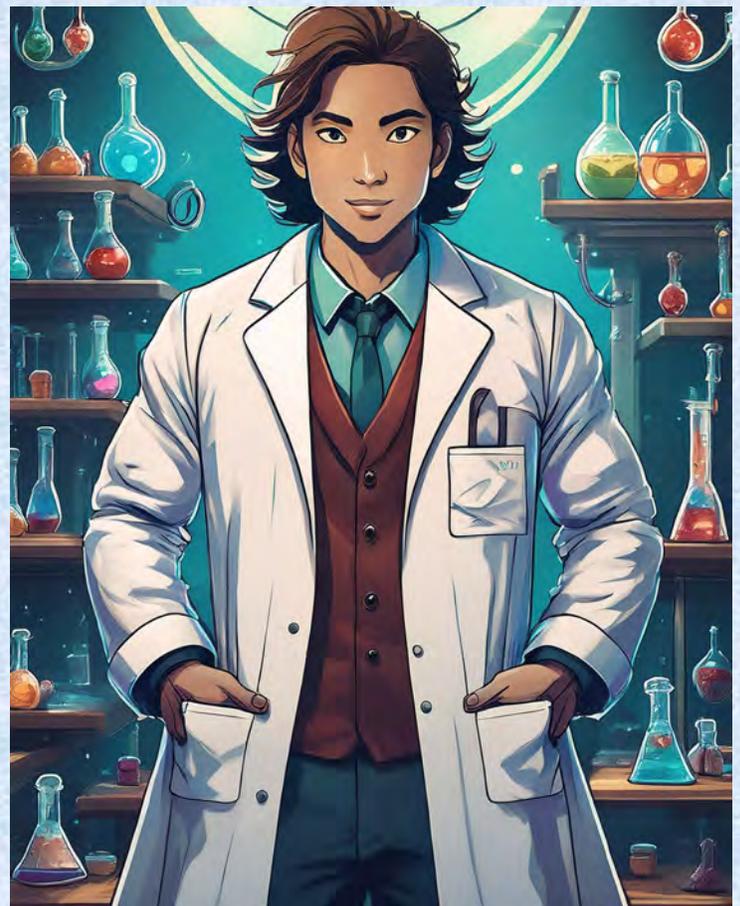
written for the reader to pretty much guess who the stalker was, Alex didn't know, or maybe she didn't want to know. The reason the reader would pretty much figure it out easily was for a few reasons. It wasn't supposed to be a mystery, but if the reader figured it out, there may be points in the story where they guess it could be someone else. Also, there was a reason why the stalker was who he was, and why he ended up in the same place as Alex. He wasn't the only one keeping secrets, but it adds to the story. So, for the longest time, this character was not evil, but not a good guy and very dangerous. He even died a few times throughout the story, and then, later, *much* later, this guy becomes a standup guy, who was always reminded or haunted by his past, which was the punishment he needed to keep his mind and actions straight. It also helped that he made a best friend and even fell in love.

Redeemable or Not

Another character in the same saga was Alex's first love interest, a married police officer who also worked in the technical department of Alex's company. Her attraction to him was more about sex than love, but he wanted her. This character was kind of a jerk, and he was known to lie to get what he wanted. He also kept secrets that affected Alex's life, and they didn't reveal themselves until several stories later. His story plays out, as his death was faked, then he died, and little did anyone know, he was also experimented on, which could have explained his change from bad to worse. Each time he came back, he was more obsessive than before. On his final approach back to earth, back to life, he started out hating and blaming the world for his return, but after a while, he toned down his outrage and just acted like a snide jerk. When he fell in love unexpectedly, he changed. Not just his outside, but something inside him changed, and he became an upstanding member of the police force, and community. He even became a father, which is something he never wanted in his life. He made the change, but not everyone accepts his change.

When a character is redeemed, not everyone will believe it, especially those who were wronged by the character.

Also, not every character has to be redeemed. They can keep coming back to the story, bringing havoc and evil. In my Saga, I have characters returning from the dead (not zombies, but living, breathing humans) and I have character "clones" that were put in place of real people. It can be fun and interesting to play around with the science of characters and how and why they exist.



Bob Freeman's H2LiftShip series

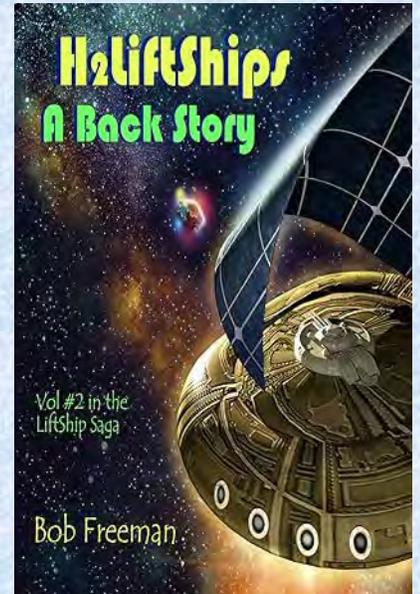
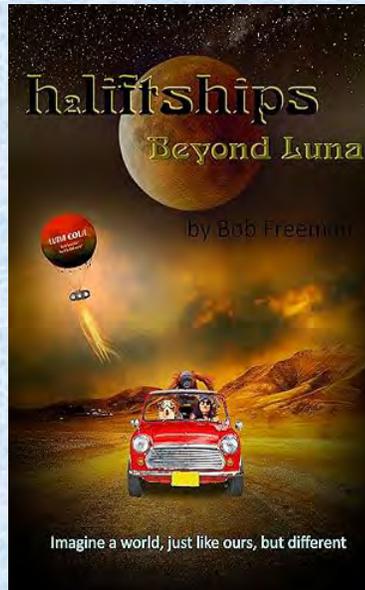
The H2LiftShip series is a unique and refreshing take on the space exploration genre, blending hard science, humor, and creativity.

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

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

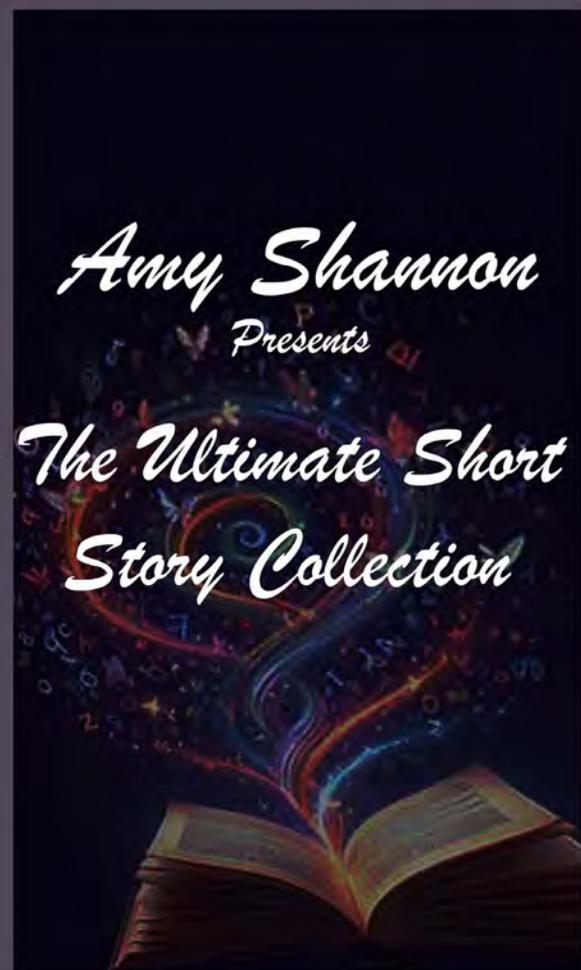
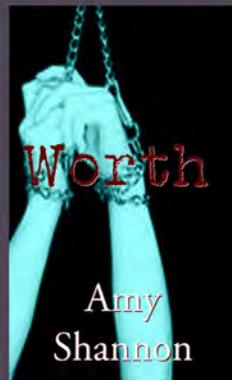
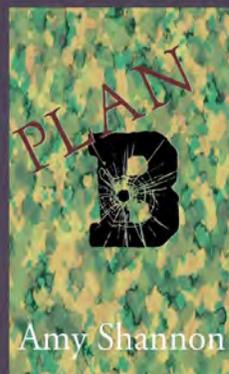
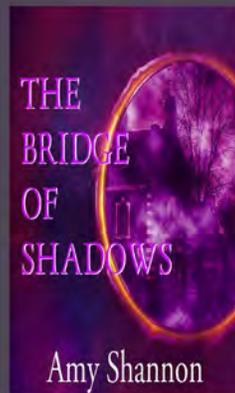
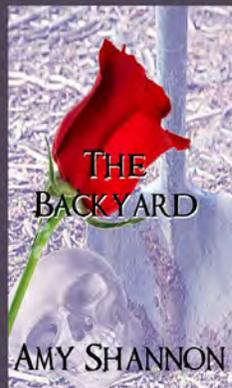
BosonsWave get's prepared for the ultimate showdown between H2LiftShip LunaCola and its enemies.

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



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Amy Shannon's Short Story Collection



Amy Shannon's Short Story Collection, including three never before published short stories.

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Short Stories



A Ghost's Writer (Part 2) by Amy Shannon

I walked out into the corridor and pulled my cell phone out of my pocket. I called Officer Newman. I knew he never wanted to step foot in this building again, but he could send someone, some people to get her out of here, and find the truth.

I waited outside the building and listened for the sirens. Three black and white squad cars pulled into the parking lot and got out of the car. Jack was one of them.

"I didn't think you ever wanted to be here again."

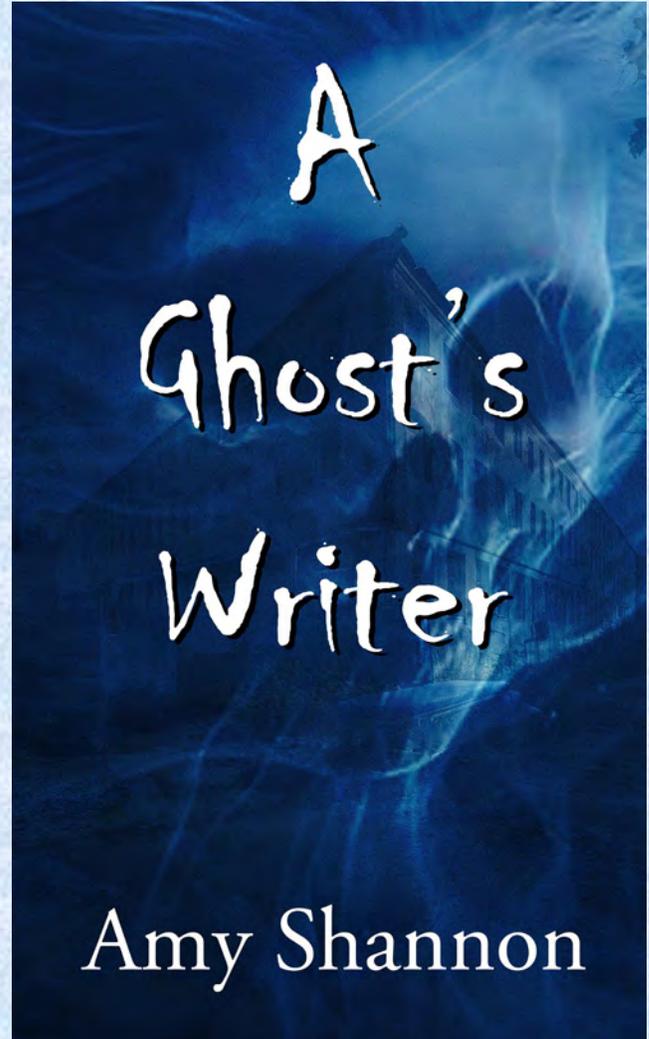
"You found her? You found Sarah?"

I cocked an eyebrow. "I know you're not that old," I snickered lightly.

"No, definitely not. No one ever wanted to be in that room. Room 101. It was the first room a so-called orphan was in, but as years went on, no one else would be in that room. Sarah was the only occupant, and the rumor was that she never left the room."

"Well," I cleared my throat. "I would say that now, she can finally leave. Do you know how she died?"

"Rumor was that she killed herself, but there were other rumors that a staff member got too aggressive with her. Then she disappeared, and no



one seemed to care. We didn't know if it was the truth, but there were a lot of things going on here, so we believed whatever we heard."

"Jack, do you believe in spirits?"

"I certainly do. Seen my share, just like your grandfather," he sighed, looking at the other officers, who seemed to share his viewpoint.

So, that day, the police officers took it upon themselves, to slowly open the floorboards, and

The Ghost's Writer (Part 2) cont'd

when they finally found her, a man's belt wrapped tight around her throat, so much that the imprint was left on the remaining dried skin. Part of her body was mummified, and some was not. They called the coroner, and I told them I would take care of her burial. It's what anyone with a heart would do, but Jack and the other officers said they would chip in as well.

Three days later, Sarah was buried in the newest cemetery, as far away from *Visceral Hills Orphanage* as possible. The Heavenly Gates Cemetery was on the other side of Shallow Falls, and her burial plot was positioned under a beautiful willow tree, and I tossed wildflower seeds on the grass around her site. She would always be surrounded by flowers. She could find peace.

*

So, Sarah was free, I hope. I haven't seen her, and I've visited her grave site several times. I took a break from going back there. The local papers called it a miracle find and told her story from the rumors of what happened to her. The coroner ruled her death an intentional hanging, but it was unknown if she was hanged, or she did it to herself. She never told me, and she may not want anyone to know the truth.

*

I went home and poured myself a shot of vodka. I didn't usually drink hard liquor, but today

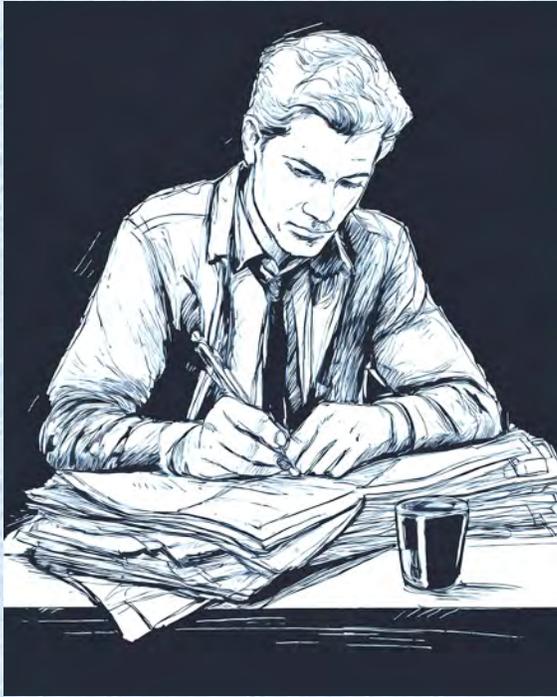


was unlike any I have ever spent. I bet there were a lot of lost souls in that building, and I had to decide if I should just listen and tell their stories, or if I could help them find peace somewhere. It's definitely not peaceful where they are. I poured another shot, and sat down at the table, and just as I drank it back, a knock on the door caught my attention. I dragged my weary body to the door and opened it. "Officer?" I was surprised to see Jack Newman in regular clothes. He dressed like my grandfather did. Jeans, and polo shirt, and they even sported a leather jacket, as they looked up to James Dean. If you don't know who that is, you might want to Google it.

"I'm sorry to bother you. But I wanted to talk to you."

"Of course, come in. I'm just having a drink. I think I'm going to switch to coffee, want some?"

The Ghost's Writer (Part 2) cont'd



“Love some,” Jack followed me into the kitchen.

I pointed to the chair at the table and gathered up my newspaper and notebooks into a pile, and then turned on the coffee pot. I waited until it was done, and then poured two mugs. I set them on the table. “If you want sugar or cream, I think I have some.”

“Black is great.” He looked around the house, from the kitchen you could see the living area, and the back door.

“You, OK?”

“I haven’t been here since your grandfather lived here. Do you feel him or see him?”

I sat down and took a sip of my coffee. “I know he’s here, but he doesn’t say anything. I think my mother is around, too, but I only feel them. I don’t see them. You probably think I’m crazy.”

“Not in the least. I always believed Edgy,” he smiled.

“Edgy?” I cocked an eyebrow.

“Well, he had what we called when we were young that Edgar was an *old person’s name*. It sounds funny because it’s our name all of our lives. But as kids, we, our group of friends and roommates, called him Edgy. He was strong, and brave, and he liked to bend the rules just before they were broken, and he liked to pull pranks on the nursing staff.”

“Really?”

“Oh, yes. He was quite the character, I’ll tell you. We went through hell there, the staff was just going through its motions. If we were bad, we were put in the hole. It was a dark closet in the basement. They tried to pretend the torture tables weren’t in use, but they were.”

“You said roommates?”

“Yes, Peter Hansen, Frank Simon, Harold Beesley, Jermaine Robinson, Edgy, and me. Some of the old rooms were converted to larger rooms. So, they could put more beds in the larger room than if they were just kept as the smaller rooms. Peter went missing when he was 16. He misbehaved by swearing in front of one of the inspectors. The staff always made sure that everything that was wrong with the building was hidden. Edgy and I were the same age, so we left when we aged out at 18. We both did vocational training, and then entered the military. When I came home, I became a police

The Ghost's Writer (Part 2) cont'd

officer, and your grandfather, a firefighter. He would've retired as one, but he died before he could. He loved this place. He was alone, but he knew you were out there, finding your way, just as we did."

"I'm sorry about your friend. What about Frank, Harold or Jermaine?"

"They were younger, a year or so, than us, and to be honest, once we left, we didn't look back. We convinced ourselves that they were OK, but we never checked. I ran reports on their names, but nothing popped up. Not a missing person's case, death certificate or even driver's license. So, I don't know what happened to them."

"Thank you for sharing, but is that all you wanted to tell me?"

"I think there may be more secrets not just at the *Visceral Hills Orphanage*, but also secrets in the cemetery behind it, or on the grounds. I don't know too many ghost whisperers, but I think you could use your gift. Not just tell their story, because every life and death have a story, but you could help them, if they want to be helped."

"That is what I've been contemplating. I don't know if I could or should do both. They tell me their story, and usually it's in my head. I can see them, but I hear them in my head. I don't normally tell anyone what I do. I just tell stories, real stories of living persons, who are no longer



living, but aren't completely dead either. I think the spirits are in a place between life and death, and many are tethered to where they are buried, or where their body could be."

"What do you mean?"

"I've seen spirits along the river, or even wading on top of the waves, as if they were somewhere under water. Sometimes they died somewhere else, found the water and decided to be part of it. I've seen spirits in the woods, and it ended up that their bodies were buried there."

"How do you report what you find?"

"First, I try to research that spirit, before they tell me anything. Sometimes if they were murdered, they don't remember it. They don't remember who did it, just that something bad happened to them. I have to admit, I've lived in a few different states, and different counties within those states, until I

The Ghost's Writer (Part 2) cont'd

realized I had to come home. I was a frequent anonymous caller, and sometimes, I would literally stumble onto something buried, so I had to report it. That's what I do."

"Well, you should think about it. You have a gift. You know what comes after life, and the paths that can be taken, or choices are taken away because of someone being killed. I'm sure there are vengeful ghosts, but maybe the ones like Sarah, you can help."

I drank down my coffee and refilled both of our mugs. "Are your officers going to keep looking around in the *Visceral Hills Orphanage*?"

"Not if they can help it. They think it's a one-time deal."

"I'm sure it's not," I explained. "I will see what I can do." I sipped my coffee.

"You know, you have the best view down here. Have you ever gone to the overlook above the falls?"

"Didn't know there was one."

"It's not far from the *Visceral Hills Orphanage*. The creek goes around the cemetery and there are a few acres of land that was owned by the orphanage, I think it's in the final acre of the land clearing. It was quite amazing when it became the falls."

"It became the falls?"



"Yes, there was the creek that went around this area of rocks and a cliff, I guess the boulders routed the creek around it. Then, one day the boulders were gone, well not gone, but fell down to the ground below. The creek water was rerouted, creating the falls, and then it connected to the river. There were some smaller falls on the other side of the creek, near the hospital on West Avenue, and that's why the town was named Shallow Falls."

"I had no idea. When did this happen?"

"Maybe 10 or 15 years ago. Before that it was just an overlook on boulders, but it was dangerous. Once the falls were created, the town built a safer overlook. There are rumors that a few people lost their lives by standing on the boulders and falling to their death, and once the boulders fell, it fell on top of them, making them forever a part of the creek." Jack stood up, and drank down his coffee. "Thanks for sitting with me."

The Ghost's Writer (Part 2) cont'd

"No problem," I followed him out. "I will seriously consider your suggestion. I will probably do it, just have to figure out exactly how."

"Channel your grandfather, he always knew what to do, whether it was right or wrong, he knew what to do to get things done." Jack headed down the stairs and over to his car.

I watched him pull out, and then I walked down the stairs towards the bottom of the falls. I could barely see the boulders behind the flowing water. Its beauty was amazing, as it flowed down, splashing silver and blue, and white waters. "And I thought you were shallow falls." I laughed and headed back to the house. I had to eat and get some sleep.

*

I had a sleepless night, as I was trying to figure out how to do both. Tell their stories and yet find them peace. I don't know what peace is to them, but I believe it's individual, not heaven or hell, or even crossing into the light. I know, I can feel it, that they are restless. Some are hateful and vengeful and want to take it out on everyone, living or dead, or some just want their loved ones to find answers. Closure is never something people have when they lose someone to death, but knowing where they are living or dead, gives them answers.

Before I went out, I did a Google search about the boulders and the Crossings Waterfall. I had to search for the name of the falls, as there were no

signs telling people what the name was. These falls should have a plaque at the top of them with the story. History is something people remember, and some may assume like I did. That it was Shallow Falls.

I also want to go back to the orphanage, and besides spirits, I'd love to see if I can find records of everyone who ever spent time there. I think that is important, along with any names of staff, aside from Nurse Weston, who has been quiet for a while.

I grabbed my go-bag, and made sure I had my infrared camera, which also had night vision, and then used my EMF to see if I could find any energy, good or bad. I will do what I can to find these persons and bring them home. I was ready to leave, after chugging down my coffee, but then I realized I needed to do one more search. I searched the missing person's database of persons that disappeared in this county, and printed out the individual fliers with their photos, date of disappearance, and when was the last time they were seen.

Over 100 fliers printed out, so I sorted by decade, and shoved them into individual folders. I had a feeling that any child missing from the *Visceral Hills Orphanage* would not be listed. So, I needed the records.

The Ghost's Writer (Part 2) cont'd



I emailed Jack and asked him if they had any records or where I could find any records at the orphanage, and he emailed me back, and said he would see if there was anything on his police databases, or in an old evidence file.

I knew I had to be ready. I just wish I could tell the spirits to talk aloud so I could record their story, rather than writing what I hear from my mind.

Now, I think I am ready.

*

I was driving toward the orphanage, when I had this urge to stop and go to the hardware store. It was on Main Street. Shallow Falls is a small village, and all of its businesses were family run, from hardware stores, clothing stores, boutiques,

hair salons, and restaurants. I like going to Juno's Diner now and then, when I don't feel like cooking. Anyway, I pulled in front of Tough as Nails Hardware store, hey, I didn't name it. I walked into the store, looking for something, something I could use as a marker of some sort, and of course a small shovel, and large paint brush. I noticed the reflective flags that were used for cyclists. I grabbed all that they had and headed toward the check out. Mr. Jones smiled at me and rang me up. "Have a great day."

"Thank you," I said, and grabbed the items and headed to the car. I opened the trunk, placing the items I bought inside it.

I felt there was someone sitting next to me, guiding me, but I couldn't see him or her. I think they were quiet and only gave me my feelings or intuitions and were leading me somewhere important. I figured they didn't talk so I didn't get distracted. I can't tell their story or find them, if I end up dead, or worse.

I pulled into the parking lot for the *Visceral Hills Orphanage*, but instead of parking in the front, I parked around the back, which used to be staff parking. I got out of the car, "Why am I here?"

He appeared translucent, yet I could tell he was wearing an older orderly uniform. He even had his name sewn on the shirt. Jason. "There are more

The Ghost's Writer (Part 2) cont'd

secrets in the building, but everyone knows about those secrets, or they pretend they don't know. There are beings that need your help. They are out and about here." He looked toward the grassy acres, where it appeared lumpy, and definitely uneven ground. "Here. Everywhere around here. If you run out of flags, use sticks." He disappeared.

I don't know if I'll see Jason again, or maybe he is hidden out here like many others.

I didn't hear or see anything at first, so I walked along the grass, toward the creek that became the falls. "I want to help," I said to the splashing creek.

Three figures appeared on top of the water. Two women and one man. The man spoke, "We are where we need to be."

"Oh, I don't understand. I'm new to helping spirits. But I've also been telling their stories for quite a lot of years. Now I want to do both."

"We were looking for our boy. This is my wife, Gina, and my daughter, Louise." He explained.

"I still don't understand."

"Our son, Jason, drowned in the creek before it came to the falls. He is still here, playing. As each of us passed, we wanted to be with Jason."

A few minutes later, a young Jason, who resembled the older Jason who guided me here, smiled and then splashed.

"Are you...?"

"That was my father," the man said. "I'm Jason the second. My son is Jason the third. He wants us to be with him, and mom, but since we don't want to leave, he tries to help the others."

"Others?"

"Those who want peace but can't find it."

"Are there others in the water?"

"Not anymore. Some were found when the creek dried up a few times."

I nodded as the spirit played with Jason in the water.

I looked around from where I came and tried to figure out where to go next.

My eyes scanned the grass, but the woods called to me. I walked back to my car and grabbed the reflective flags on their sticks.

I walked toward the woods, and entered the small, overgrown trail. Land, water and the cemetery bordered the woods. It was thick and there was never really a hiking trail. You can only access it from here or the cemetery. If you were looking for a place to hide a body, you'd have to know the area to find a place where no one ever comes or searches when people are missing.

As I pushed the tree branches out of my way, I could see several spirits. All of a sudden, twenty voices were in my head, saying the same thing. "Take me home," the spirits wept.

The Ghost's Writer (Part 2) cont'd

There was also something, someone sinister at the edge of the woods. He, appearing in just a skeletal translucent body, was quiet.

I hoped he would stay quiet so I could help these girls. "I'm here to help you. Please, one at a time."

They all looked toward one girl, the only brunette, as the other girls were blonde. They were all wearing long white nightgowns, and what looked like a sleeping or night cap. It kind of reminded me of that old show, *Little House on the Prairie*, which I loved to watch reruns. The young woman held her translucent throat and slowly spoke in a voice I have never heard. It was more baritone, and then I noticed besides the clothing, all the girls had another thing in common, their throats were cut.

"He ..." she looked toward the man's spirit, just a bag of bones, to show what death did to him. "My Pa... I saw him kill Ma. Then he chased me. All these girls look like Ma. Ma is here, too, but she never shows herself. He died here. He hit his head on a rock and fell onto his shovel."

"What is your name?" I asked.

"Mary. Mary Sullivan. He was Roland."

"What can I do to get you all out of here?"

"Mark our graves." Mary nodded to the others. "Go to your place of burial."

The spirits moved swiftly and slowly. I walked to each of their burial sites and placed a flag on each one.

I walked over to Roland, "You should stay here, but I'm not evil."

"You'll never find Regina," his skeletal mouth laughed raspy and sinister, like an old villain in one of those B-List movies.

"I wouldn't be so sure," I smirked. I turned and faced the woman who appeared. She pointed to the ground. I looked down at his bones, and underneath the shovel were piles of rocks. She didn't speak, but I was certain he used the rocks to bury her. She showed me what happened and how he ended up dead on her burial site.

Regina appeared to Roland quickly to him after he had finished his final burial of his last victim. He was startled and fell on the rocks he used to bury her. He hit his head and landed on his shovel.

I placed a flag at the top of the pile of rocks. I grabbed his shovel out from under his bones and used it to pull his bones into a pile of rotten leaves.

I nodded to Regina and turned around, heading out of the woods. I used my cell and called Jack.

After I hung up, I looked around to see if there was anyone else who needed my help. No one appeared, yet the creek called out to me. Not the family I met earlier, but a feeling I've never had before.

The Ghost's Writer (Part 1) cont'd

I followed the creek to the overlook that Jack had told me about. I live just down there. It was almost surreal, and I couldn't believe that I didn't know the stories of the falls. And then I was surprised, if there were people under the rocks, that they didn't show themselves to me, but then I thought about the family. Maybe they are where they want to be. Water can be very peaceful, for the living, and for the dead as well.

I closed my eyes and took a deep breath, and then opened them again, gazing at the blue sky.

In the distance, I could hear the motorcade of police and crime scene vehicles.



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

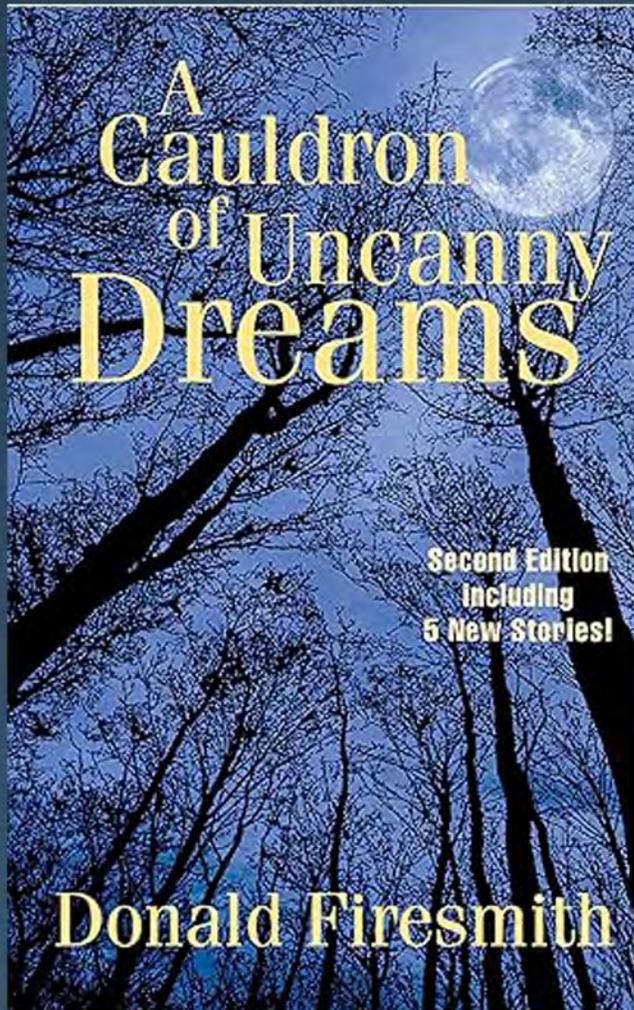
“The Ghost's Writer” is included in the recently published Amy Shannon's Ultimate Short Story Collection. It includes previously published short stories, and three, including “The Ghost's Writer” that are new to the collection.

The collection can be purchased at <https://www.amazon.com/Ultimate-Short-Story-Collection-Amys-ebook/dp/B0DHSVQDQJ3>



Donald Firesmith's A Cauldron of Uncanny Dreams

A collection of uncanny short stories to read in the cover of darkness



Her Mother's Eyes. A macabre take on a common phrase.

The Collector. If collectors collect collectibles, then who collects collectors?

Grandma Buford's Birthday. Grandma Buford prepares for a very special birthday.

The Farmer's Daughter. A snowstorm forces a young man to spend the night at an isolated farm.

The Haunting of the Ederescu House. A paranormal investigator discovers a Romanian strigoi.

Madam Kaldunya's Dolls. The young woman learns the danger of using voodoo dolls for revenge.

Billy the Arsonist. An arsonist considers working at a crematorium.

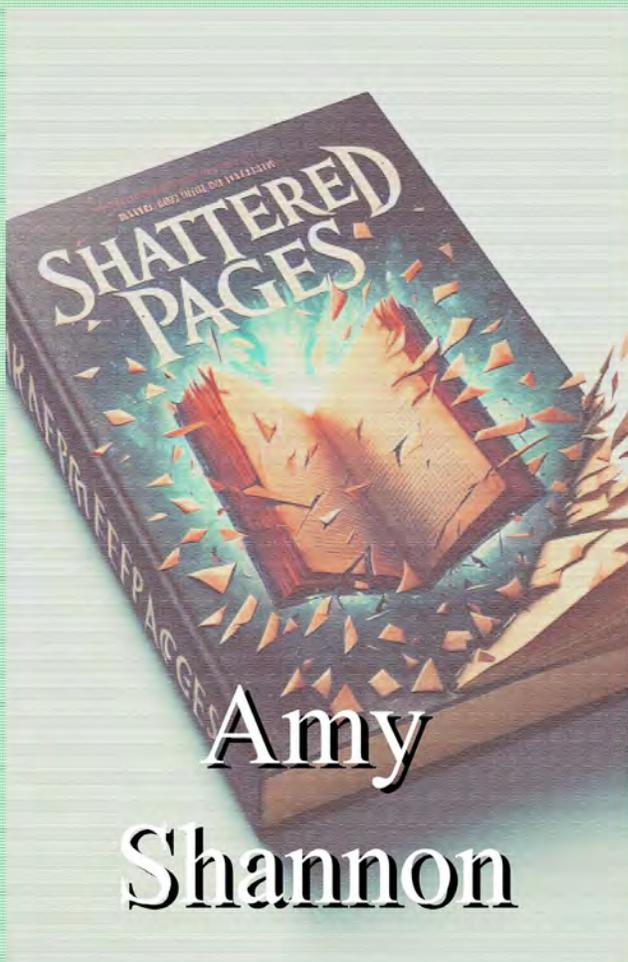
And many, many more great uncanny, chilling stories.



Advertisement

Amy Shannon's Shattered Pages

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



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

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

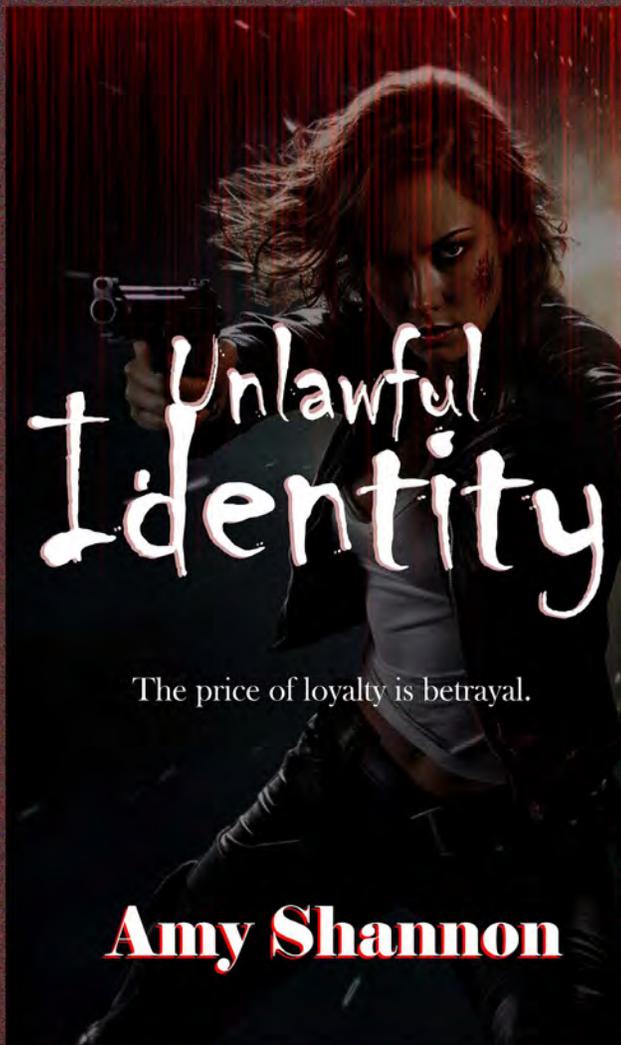


Amy Shannon

Presents

Unlawful Identity

Loyalty comes with a price. Betrayal.



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





Nonfiction

A LeRoy- Know Your Financial Rights

Genre: Nonfiction/Christianity & Spiritual Warfare

WE WERE NOT BORN TO BE SLAVES!

Four great evils... Taxation, Inflation, Confiscation, and Debt. All are impositions of men, all unlawful, all ungodly, all crushing our lives and livelihoods. Here's how we defeat them.

In this final book of his Battle Manuals for Freedom series, Abdiel LeRoy demolishes the lies and schemes of the banking cabal that seek to exploit you, enslave you, and finally to exterminate you. Your tax compliance, he points out, has been funding genocide, your debt payments are rewarding banks who never lent you anything in the first place, and the empty digits in your bank account can be seized at a moment's notice.

It is time to stop funding our demise and to transact in ways that tyrants can not monitor, surveil, or control, but this path to liberation should not be overly complicated or onerous. Thus, with long experience as a financial journalist writing for lay audiences, LeRoy cuts through the fog and obfuscation.

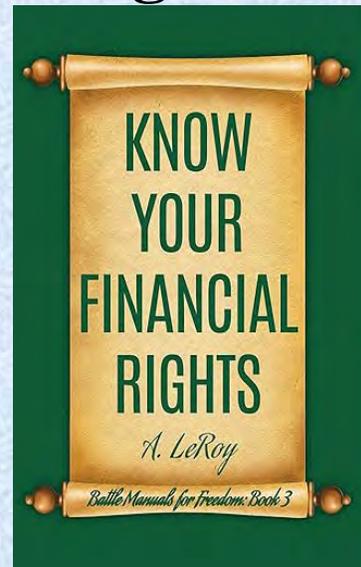
A second Exodus has begun, and this book is leading the way.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

4 Stars

A LeRoy writes an interesting book about financial rights

Know Your Financial Rights is a very interesting book. I like reading A LeRoy's books. When you read them, you don't have to



always agree with what his point of view is, but I can tell you, he is intelligent and has intelligent opinions. In this third book of his Battle Manuals for Freedom, it focuses on finances and the inalienable rights of finances and financial freedom. A LeRoy has very strong opinions, and he is not one of those conspiracy theorists that no one pays attention to. He is one person that many will agree with, in part or all of what he is thinking. His own opinions and beliefs are strong and come from within himself. He believes that humans have been lied to, consisting of programming and conditioning, and that no matter what, we must follow authority. He believes that people need to reclaim their sovereignty and birthright, as well as understanding what their rights actually are. This is a very intriguing read, and he has well thought-out options for achieving financial freedom.

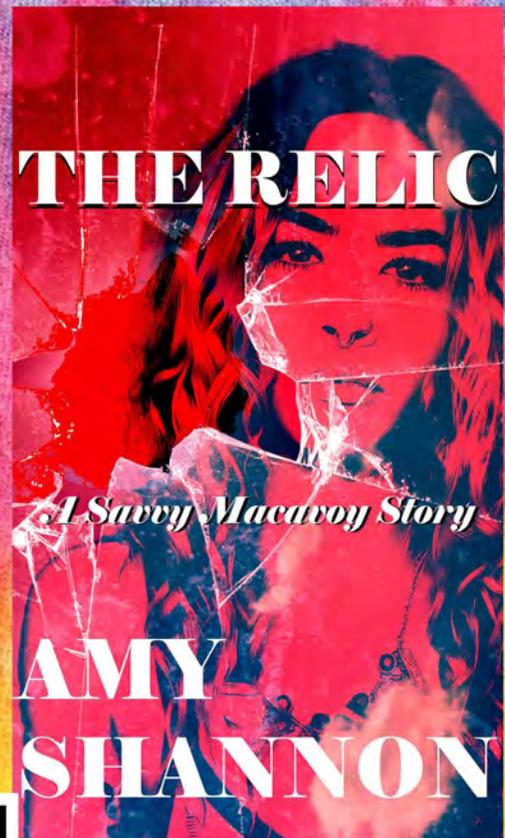
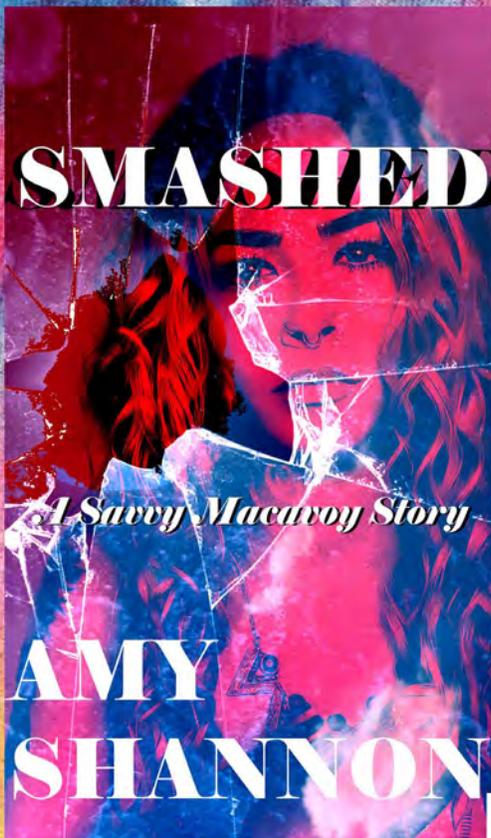


Amy Shannon

Presents

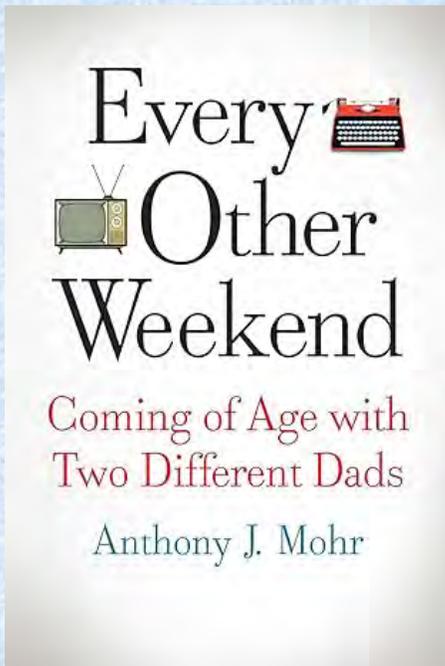
The Savvy Macavoy Stories

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



Anthony J. Mohr- Every Other Weekend: Coming of Age with Two Different Dads

NF/Memoir



Anthony's father, Gerald Mohr, is a well-known radio actor before slipping to the Hollywood B-list thanks to the advent of television. Accepting the lead in a dying Swedish TV series, he falls for the script girl and divorces Mohr's mother, who goes on to meet and marry credit card industry pioneer Stanley Dashew.

As his stepfather's career rises and his biological father's eases downward, Anthony tries to find his place. One weekend he's sailing on his stepfather's fifty-eight-foot catamaran; the next, his Swedish stepmother tells him that they're poor. Coming of age in a time when divorce is rare and viewed as shocking, Anthony lives at the edges of what others regard as a dream world, a place where reality and fantasy blend, maps lead to the homes of the stars, and obstacles abound.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

4 Stars

Anthony J. Mohr writes an interesting memoir

Every Other Weekend Coming of Age with Two Different Dads is a very interesting and relatable book. This is the first book I have read from this author. Mr. Mohr writes about his experience as a child of divorced parents. Then, his mother remarried, and he has a stepfather and his biological father. Anyone who has endured divorce or went from a two-parent home, to a one parent home, can understand the complexities of emotions, and even though the grownups are dealing with it, too, the children can suffer in silence. Children don't have control over the actions of their parents, and they certainly can't change the emotions between parents. Anthony writes the story very well, telling of how different the two households, that he was shuttled back and forth, were so different. I like that he says he has two dads, because some stepchildren who have a biological parent, don't always take to having a new mother or a new father. Of course, each parent, in his case, father, was different. This was an emotional rollercoaster.



Anthologies or Collections



Ólafur Gunnarsson- The Critic and other Stories

Genre: F/short stories/Drama/Thriller

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

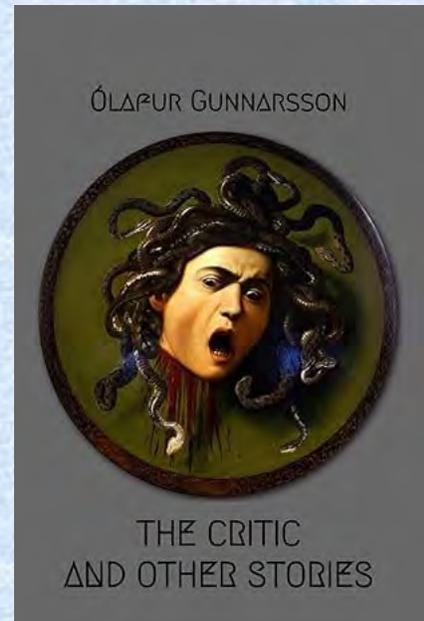
This book is translated from Icelandic by David McDuff and the Author except for "The Nazi" by Philip Roughton and "The Wrath of Jehova" by Sola Bjarnadóttir Ó'Connell. "Death Comes At Daybreak," and "Into the Fire" are translated by Steven Meyers

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

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

4 Stars

Ólafur Gunnarsson writes an intriguing collection of stories



In The Critic and other Stories, there are thirteen stories, and they all have the same theme. If you read the prologue, which I recommend of all books, you get the sense that the narrator is reflecting on his life and death. I haven't read anything by this author before, and what a hidden gem. I always scrutinize short stories more, because they aren't just short, they have to have a beginning, middle and end, like any story. I was very impressed by Ólafur Gunnarsson writing style and the theme of the book. Stories need to bring in the reader, and keep their attention, no matter the length. I read through all 13 stories, my favorite, after reading them all is Death comes at Daybreak. It's the first story, but all of them are worth reading. A reader can get lost in some of the stories, and others, make you question things, but if I told you, I'd give it away. An unforgettable read. I am a big fan of short stories, especially when they are written well, and keep the reader's attention.

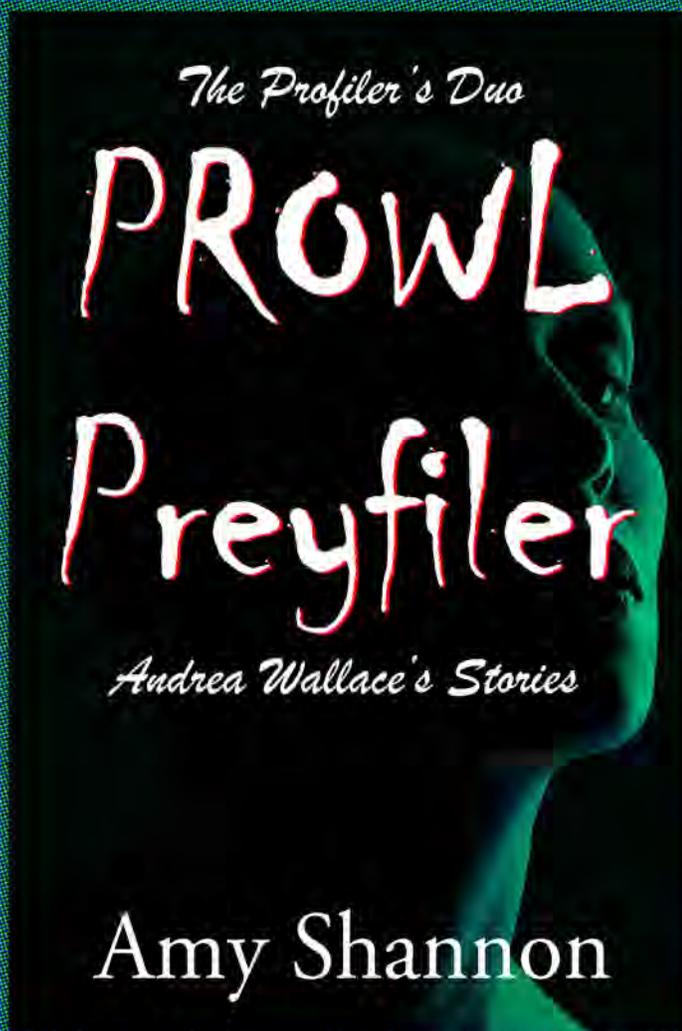


Amy Shannon

Presents

The Profiler Duo Set

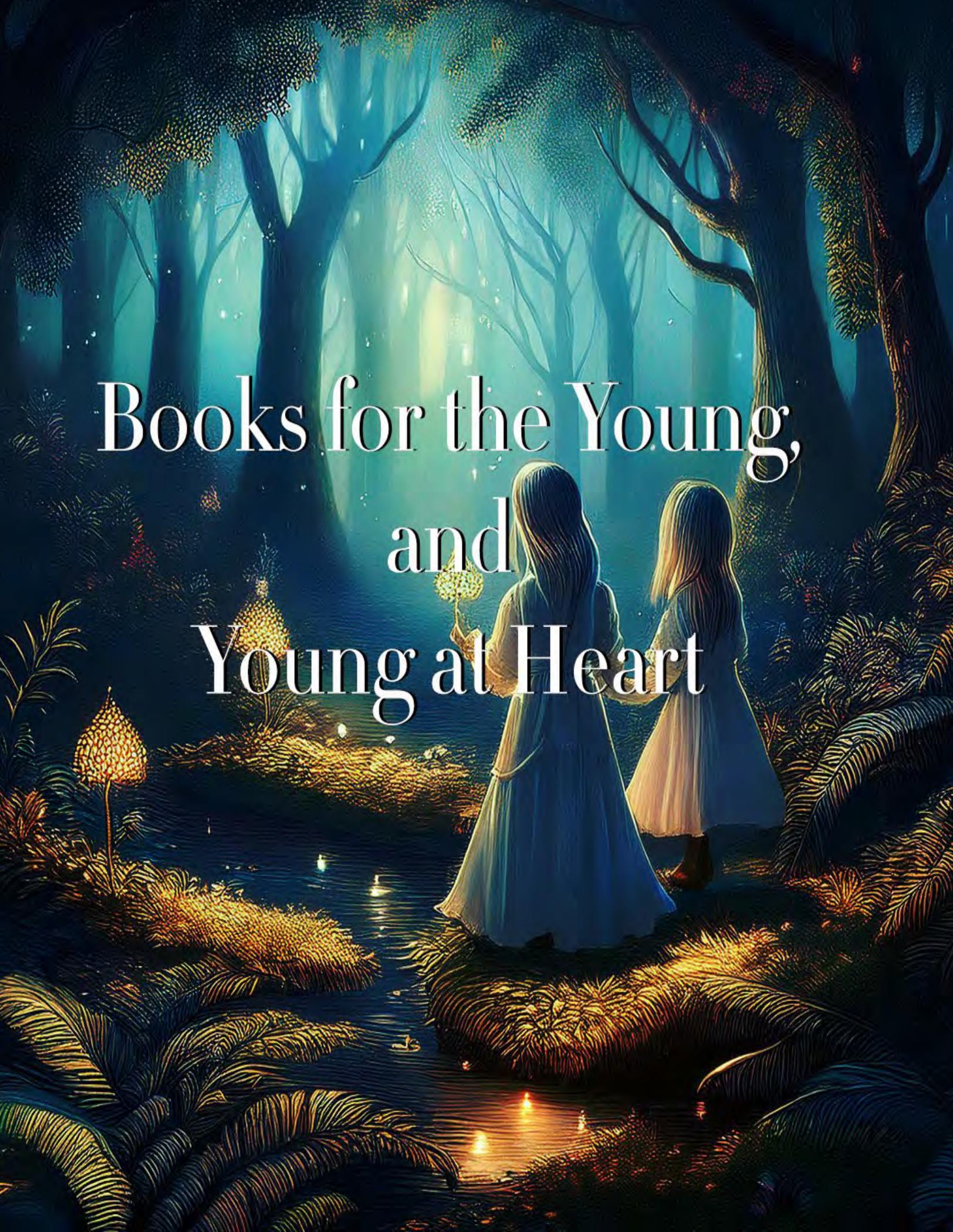
Just because your shadow catches you,
doesn't mean your story is over.



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

Prowl
Preyfiler





Books for the Young,
and
Young at Heart

Beverly Twomey- The Necromancer's Apprentice

Georgie would do anything to help his father - even learn the dying art of necromancy.

Twelve-year-old Georgie works hard to care for his grieving father while keeping his nosy younger cousin out of trouble. But when his father begins to decline even further, Georgie decides to bring back the one person who could do it all, his deceased mother.

The local Necromancer is an awkward and solitary man with an ancient black cat and a literal skeleton in his closet. With a few words, he can cause a dead sparrow to fly, stop an animated skeleton in its place, and even speak to the dead themselves. Georgie is quickly swept away into a world of skeletal horrors, abandoned graves, and wizard duels where woodland creatures arm themselves against the undead. But can he convince the Necromancer to resurrect his mother in time?

Perfect for fans of Diana Wynne Jones and T. Kingfisher, **THE NECROMANCER'S APPRENTICE** is a whimsical take on the process of grieving and learning to live again.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

4 Stars

What an intriguing story in *The Necromancer's Apprentice*

In *The Necromancer's Apprentice*, is introduced to the world of magic, where the necromancer becomes a major player in the story. If you're not



familiar with a necromancer, (I wasn't until a few years ago, when I watched a show about supernatural, and magical beings). I haven't read work from this author before, and I enjoyed this story. A necromancer can summon spirits, talk to them, and even reanimate the dead. The story isn't just about fantasy, but it is about grief, and impending death of a loved one. Georgie is 12, and is now in the position where he has to take care of his father, whose health is going downhill really quick, and his cousin. Georgie desperately wants his father to get better, so much that he is willing to make a request of the necromancer. This puts Georgie on a magical, yet horrifying world, where wizards duel and forest animals have to protect themselves against the reanimated dead. Georgie may be brave, but he is also scared and nervous about the world he has entered. All he wants is to get his mother back, from the dead.

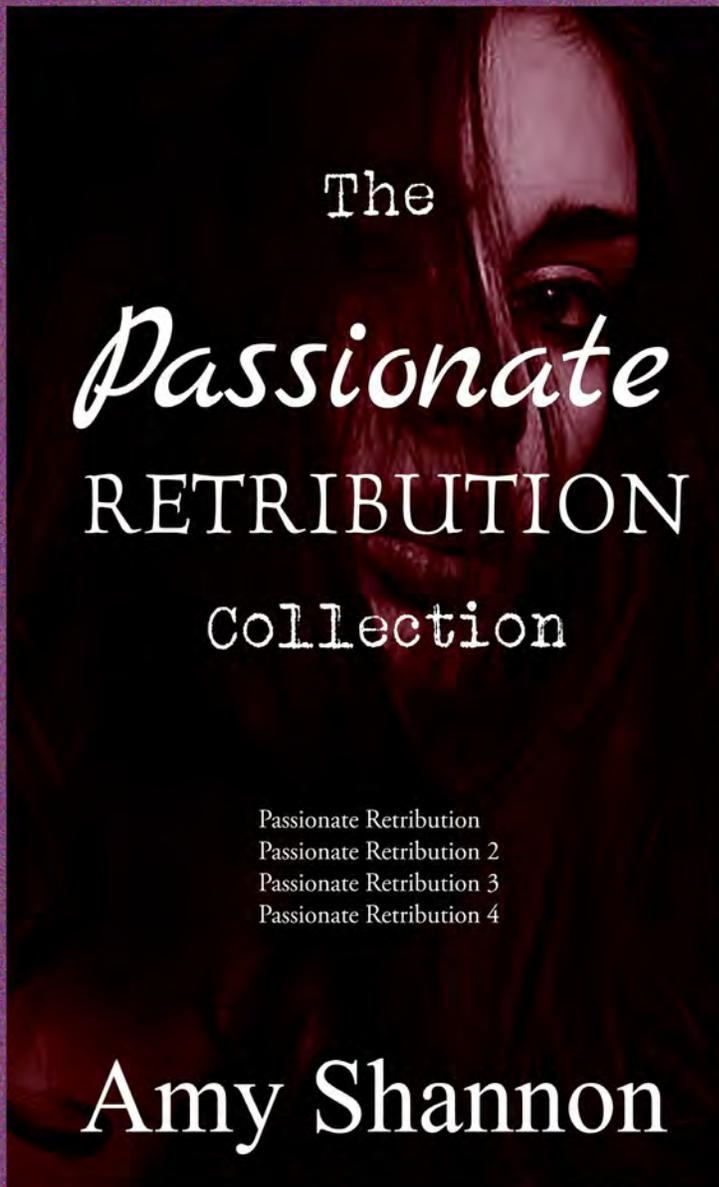


Amy Shannon

Presents

The Passionate Retribution Series

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

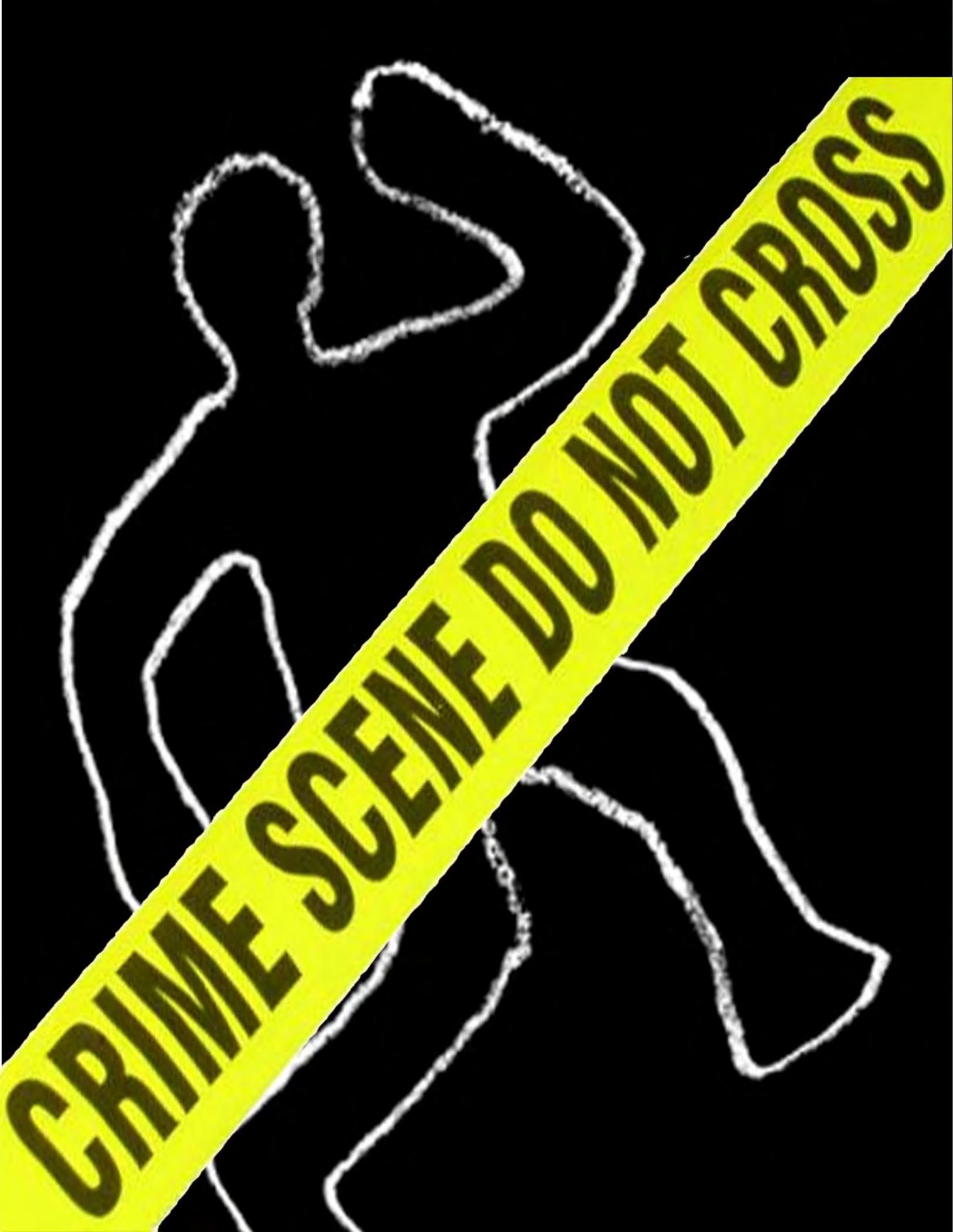


The Series is individual stories, each one about Carly and her friends and family. The books can be bought individually or as part of the collection book.

Passionate Retribution
Passionate Retribution 2
Passionate Retribution 3
Passionate Retribution 4



CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

A yellow crime scene tape with the text "CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS" is stretched diagonally across the frame. In the background, white chalk outlines of a person's body are visible on a black surface.

Robert Conlin - THE LEWISTON SHOOTINGS

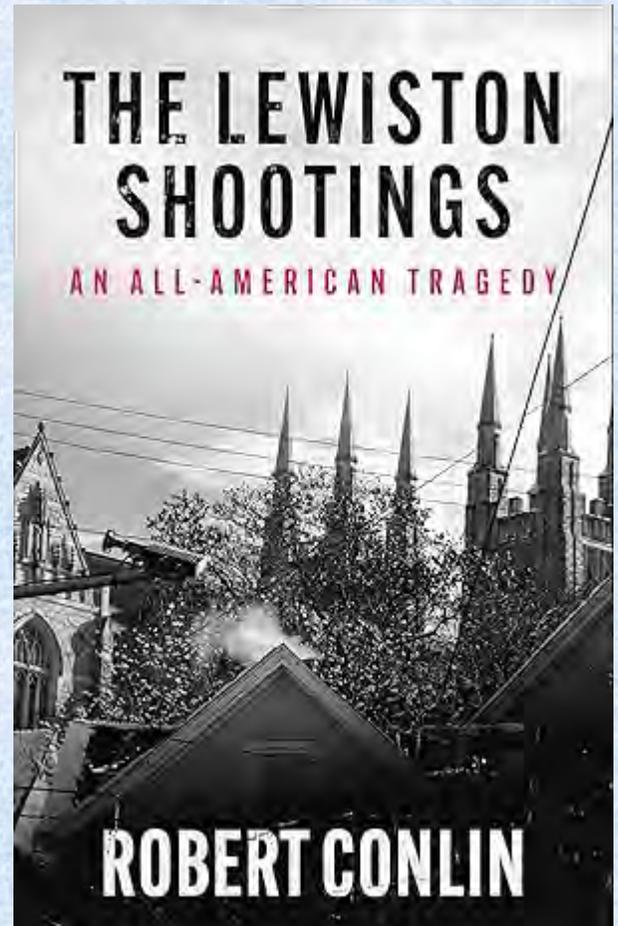
Never again could anyone say, "It will never happen here!"

Because it did.

October 25, working-class was just an ordinary night in Lewiston, a small, working class city of 37,000 in central Maine. Friends and families had gathered to do what they loved to do with the people they wanted to be with at a bowling alley called Just-in-Time Recreation Center and Schemengees, a popular sports bar and restaurant. They felt immune from the violent crime that seemed to wrack the rest of the country in a state that the FBI had just named the safest in America.

Then Robert Card II, a deeply paranoid Army Reserve soldier, walked into both places with a high-powered rifle and opened fire, killing 18 people and wounding 13 more. He then fled to a third location, where according to the evidence and the testimony of his best friend, he likely planned to lay in wait and kill his ex-co-workers when they came to work the next morning.

The tragedy is that the numerous red flags he had raised in the months before weren't enough to stop him before he carried out his terrible plan. A combination of watered-down gun control laws and law enforcement and military negligence made sure of that.





Poetry Corner



April
is

National Poetry Month

Rise Up by Amy Shannon



The spirit moves within the soul

rising up,

rising above,

leaving behind

that which brings you down

the pain, the anguish

dropping you to your knees

the tears that refuse to sprout

because it hurts too much

the hard gulps,

the searing stabs

the pulsing rumbles

dropping you to your knees

the spirit moves within your soul

rising up,

rising above,

leaving behind

that which brings you down

past crashing into present

reality crashing into dreams

hearts pounding

bones cracking

The spirit moves within the soul

rising up,

rising above,

leaving behind

that which brings you down

inspire.

aspire.

be well.

be here.

always.



What makes you beautiful ... by Amy Shannon

What makes you beautiful ...

You inspire without trying

You love unconditionally

You dance whether anyone is looking or not

You skip instead of walk

You smile when you want to cry

You cry because you laugh

You laugh because it's what you do

You are yourself

You are empathetic

You are compassionate

You lend your shoulder

You give yourself

You hold someone's hands

You rub someone's back

You share your life

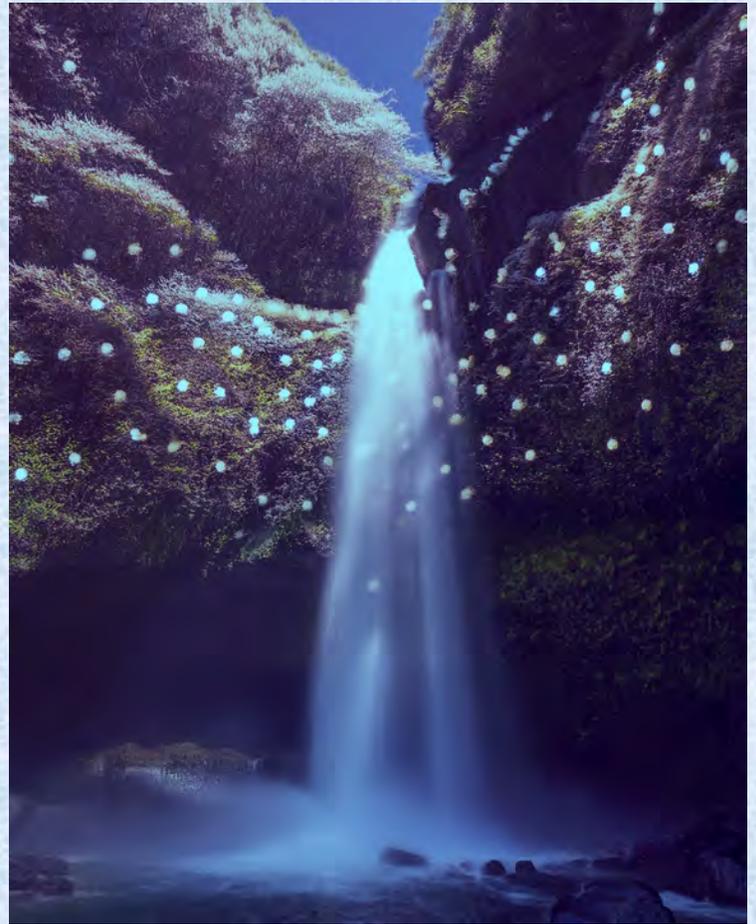
You share your stories

You save others

An unsung hero

An ordinary human

You are you



Rex Wilder- Rare Fuel

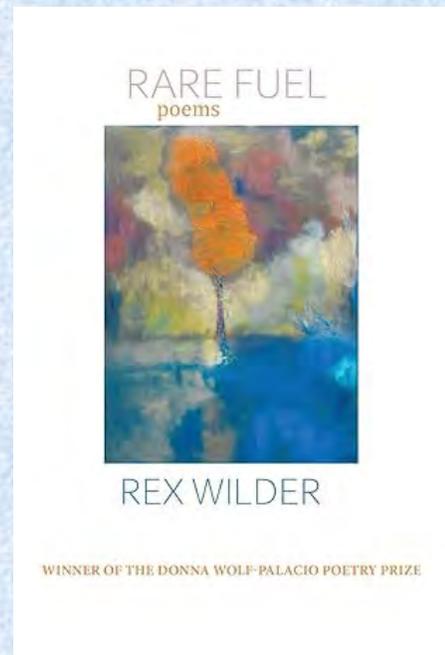
In *Rare Fuel*, Rex Wilder's fourth book, winner of the Finishing Line Press Donna Wolf-Palacio Poetry Prize, the author is "the Virgil who guides us through the underworld of his own personal hell" (George Bilgere), "his time as an inpatient in a mental health facility, alongside the kindness, the weirdness, the characters and the discoveries he made there. You can place it alongside the language's other great verse chronicles of madness: Christopher Smart, say, or Ivor Gurney" (Stephanie Burt). The book resonates with the wisdom of a man "deeply invested in the mortal world," as A.E. Stallings once highlighted. The poems ring with "the exhilaration of freedom from the chains of confinement" (Grace Schulman). Rex Wilder does not merely return to form here; he transcends it, offering readers a rare and vibrant fuel to illuminate their darkest nights.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

5 Stars

A magnetically charged Prolific Poet

This collection of poetry and prose by Rex Wilder is a remarkable work of words. The words almost flow across the pages of *Rare Fuel*. I enjoyed reading this collection, and entering the mind of this prolific poet. Such a wonderful read. My



favorite was *Balance*, because I can relate to his words, which emote his feelings and thoughts. Some think that a poem has to rhyme to be a poem, though that is not true, when this poet creates those lyrical rhymes about feelings, and it shows a talent of a true poet. I love poetry, especially well written, and I don't mean proper stanzas or verse, but with free verse, it gives a lot of leeway to the poet. A freedom to put thoughts and feelings to paper, and when you can show the feelings through words, and the reader, can feel it, then you know this is one of the better poets I have read. I loved this so much, I read many of the poems twice. I love all types of poetry from classic to contemporary, and this is just an amazing collection. I am also very fond of *Two Harbors*. In this collection, sometimes the poem is short and other times long, and it doesn't matter how long or short, but what the words show when you read them. When you read them, you feel them, and they aren't just words, but something you can't even explain. I look forward to reading more by this poet.





Amy's
Bookshelf Reviews

Picks of the Month

Elyse Hoffman- The Hangman's Master

In a world torn by hatred, reckless Stefan Harkel finds himself expelled from home at sixteen and drawn to the Nazi Party's Brownshirt Unit. But when the Führer turns against his own during the Night of Long Knives, Stefan vows vengeance for those he lost.

Joining an anti-Nazi resistance, Stefan's thirst for revenge leads him to a supernatural twist: he's chosen as a warden in Hell, granted a Contract for Zone N-1, home to the soul of Reinhard Heydrich, a key architect of the Holocaust. Yet, he's not alone in this dark game; a ruthless Nazi seeks to claim the power of the Contracts for himself.

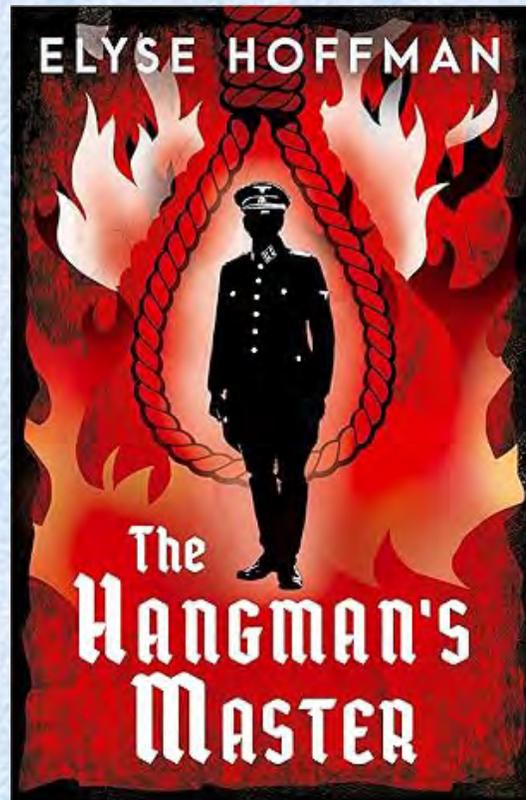
As the fate of Europe hangs in the balance, Stefan must protect his Contract from falling into enemy hands, confronting the ultimate battle between good and evil.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

4 Stars

Elyse Hoffman writes a dramatic good versus evil tale

In *The Hangman's Master* the reader is brought into the life of Stefan Harkel, not your typical teenager, but one who gets into trouble so much that his family sends him packing. I haven't read anything by this author before, and what a hidden gem. I enjoyed it so much, that I have now followed



the author and look for more books to read. *The Hangman's Master* is part of the Project 613 series, and this is volume four. Set during WWII, the story follows Stefan, initially intrigued by a delusional dictator and the Brownshirt Unit who blindly follow their master. The plot takes an exciting and unexpected twist as Stefan finds himself facing a fate worse than death. Determined to make the most of his circumstances, he seeks the Hell contracts to avenge lives lost to betrayal and a madman's treachery. This chilling tale is filled with death at every turn, maintaining a thrilling and intriguing pace from start to finish.



Melina Druga- Sex & Surprises



Cassandra Hardwick wouldn't trade having her globetrotting husband home for anything, but will their barely tested parenting plans hold up when a new baby gets added to the mix?

Cassie's spent the last five years feeling like a single parent to Megan and Josh while Nat was touring the country with Dramatic Sneezer. Now that his wife's writing career is taking off, however, there's less pressure on Nat to play show after relentless show, and he can finally offer Cassie some much-needed relief from running the household.

Of course, that's not all he brings to the table. With no tour dates to stand in their way, the couple waste no time indulging their high libidos. But when Cassie discovers she's pregnant with their third child, the routine they've just begun to establish gets ripped out from under them, and

everything suddenly seems to be in a state of flux. Spanning six years of Cassie's diary entries, *Sex and Surprises* follows the eponymous Rock Star's Wife as she tries to balance a happy marriage, healthy parenting, and a promising career — all while reckoning with the challenges a growing family brings.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

4 Stars

Melina Druga writes another grand Rock Star Wife's Romance

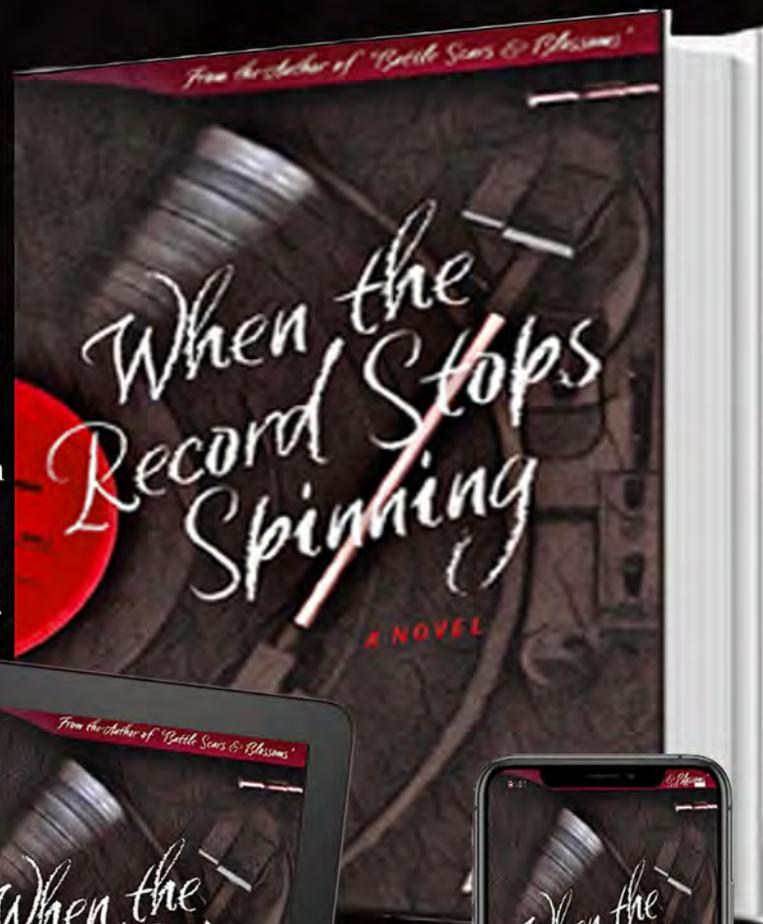
This is volume five in the Rock Star's Wife, and though each story is stand alone, you definitely don't want to miss the romance from the beginning. I believe it's important to know the backstory of Cassie and her Rock Star husband, Nat. I am a big fan of Melina Druga- and want to read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. Cassie loves her husband, and things really heat up when they're together, but sometimes Nat is gone on the road for long periods of time, and Cassie is left to take care of the household. Cassie is the mommy, and when Nat is gone, it takes toll on their relationship. This story gets told by six years of diary entries, and the trials and tribulations, plus their intimacy that brings them together, sensually. What a captivating and romantic, yet down to earth, where many of parents can relate. Unpredictable, with twists all the way to the end. What an emotional rollercoaster.

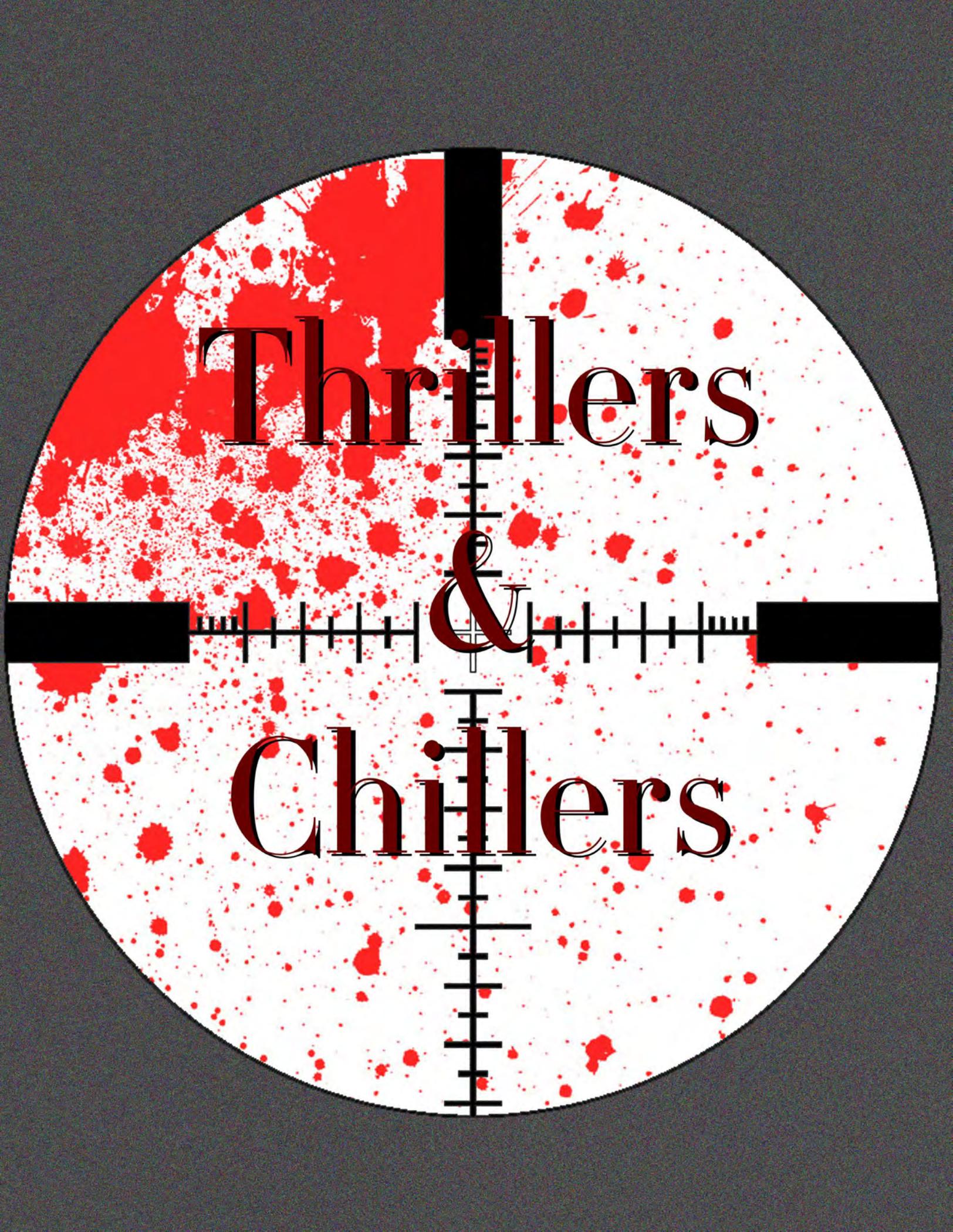
Micah Dawanyi's When the Record Stops Spinning

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.





Thrillers

&

Chillers

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In a world torn by hatred, reckless Stefan Harkel finds himself expelled from home at sixteen and drawn to the Nazi Party's Brownshirt Unit. But when the Führer turns against his own during the Night of Long Knives, Stefan vows vengeance for those he lost.

Joining an anti-Nazi resistance, Stefan's thirst for revenge leads him to a supernatural twist: he's chosen as a warden in Hell, granted a Contract for Zone N-1, home to the soul of Reinhard Heydrich, a key architect of the Holocaust. Yet, he's not alone in this dark game; a ruthless Nazi seeks to claim the power of the Contracts for himself.

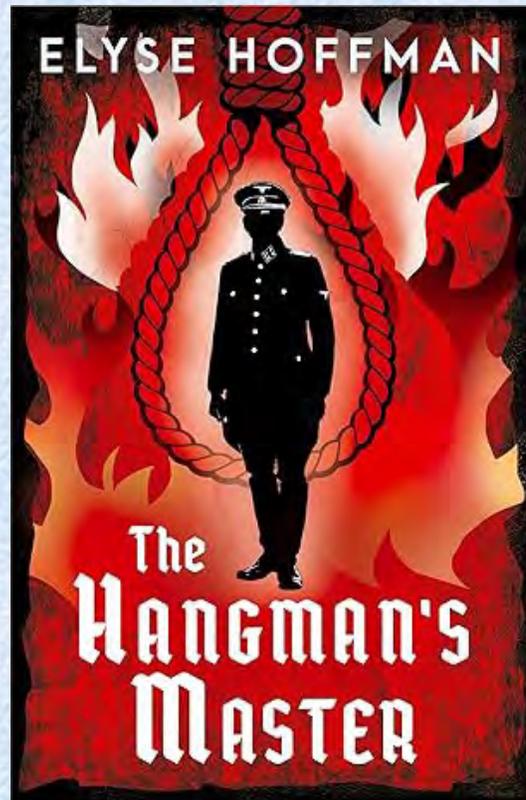
As the fate of Europe hangs in the balance, Stefan must protect his Contract from falling into enemy hands, confronting the ultimate battle between good and evil.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

4 Stars

Elyse Hoffman writes a dramatic good versus evil tale

In *The Hangman's Master* the reader is brought into the life of Stefan Harkel, not your typical teenager, but one who gets into trouble so much that his family sends him packing. I haven't read anything by this author before, and what a hidden gem. I enjoyed it so much, that I have now followed



the author and look for more books to read. *The Hangman's Master* is part of the Project 613 series, and this is volume four. Set during WWII, the story follows Stefan, initially intrigued by a delusional dictator and the Brownshirt Unit who blindly follow their master. The plot takes an exciting and unexpected twist as Stefan finds himself facing a fate worse than death. Determined to make the most of his circumstances, he seeks the Hell contracts to avenge lives lost to betrayal and a madman's treachery. This chilling tale is filled with death at every turn, maintaining a thrilling and intriguing pace from start to finish.

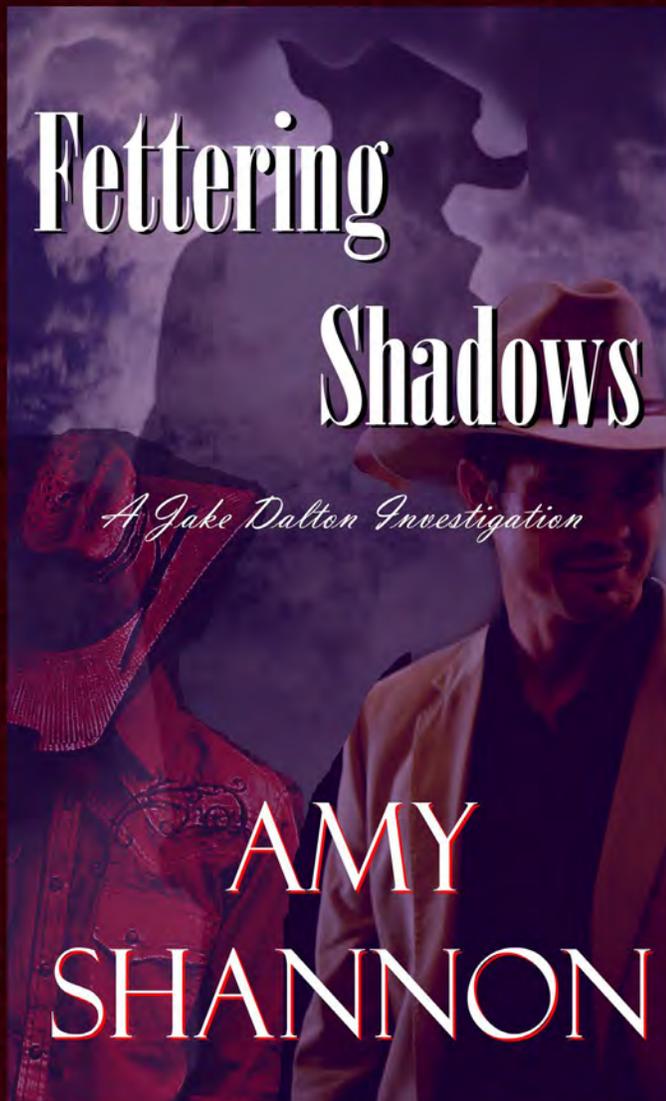


Amy Shannon

Presents

Fettering Shadows

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



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

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



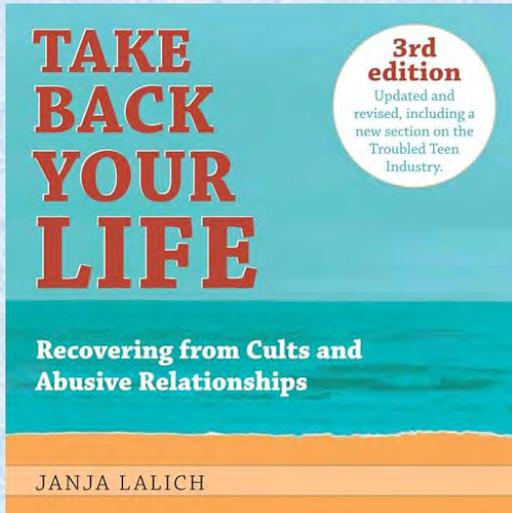


Audiobooks

Audiobook Janja Lalich - Take Back Your Life: Recovering from Cults and Abusive Relationships

Genre: Religion/Cults; Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

Narrated by: Becky Parker, Tyra Kennedy, Ryan Edlinger, Janja Lalich



Cult victims and those who have experienced abusive relationships often suffer from fear, confusion, low self-esteem, and post-traumatic stress. Take Back Your Life explains the seductive draw that leads people into such situations, provides insightful information for assessing what happened, and hands-on tools for getting back on track.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

5 Stars

Janja Lalich tells of experiences with cults and abuse, and survival

In Take Back Your Life: Recovering from Cults and Abusive Relationships, the listener is brought into a world that if you've only seen in movies or television, a totally different experience of being in a cult. In our world today, it is not uncommon, and some members are finally being caught and prosecuted. It's another epidemic in our country 112

that until it's made public, not many people talk about. Janja Lalich explains how one may be enticed into that world, especially if they believe no one cares or loves them, but then when reality sinks in, and abuse, physical and sexual occurs, with coercion, and believing there is no way out, defeat in oneself can occur. I recommend that every one listen to this book. First, because of how the book is put together, it makes the story more dramatic, where you get multiple actors, in the book, multiple voices. To me, it's like a play on audio, and it delivers, no matter the story. The terror, the aftermath of one that leaves the cult, is one that can last forever, and end up being part of the person forever, even defining that person. Not everyone gets out, or gets out alive, and that is another issue with survival or belief in something that is not really there. This book is entitled Take back your life, and it is worth every single word, and if it can help persons heal or start to heal, it has done its job. The experience of the author is worth noting, and how incredible a story, a true story of lives destroyed, and lives that can heal, is remarkable. PTSD is no joke, and many people who suffer from it, don't realize that they have it, and it's not just for war-torn brave armed forces, anyone suffering a trauma, can suffer. I know, because I do.



Writing & Publishing Tips



Target Audience by Amy Shannon

After we finish writing our books, no matter the type of book or genre the book fits into, or how long or short it is, we need to figure out who is the target audience of the story. That way, when we market, we get an idea of who to market to, and if we're looking for a publisher, agent or editor, we also know who we're marketing it to.

It is not always easy to say my target audience is one gender over another, or if it's a specific age group (unless we're writing children's books or erotica for a targeted 'adult' audience).

One thing I have learned, though, is even when we think we know who will be reading (or hope to have read) our work, sometimes, it is not always so cut and dry. I, personally, read anything, well, anything that is well-written, and I will enjoy that, not just as a reviewer, but as one who also reads books (yes, print copy of books) for research, or just entertainment. Everything from biographies to self-help books, to the classics (and much, much more). In my writing, I have asked others to read some of my stories, not just females within a certain age group, but males as well. I find I get different perspectives of the type of stories based on the gender of the reader, as well as the age of the reader, and I take all comments (positive and negative) into consideration.



So, if you know your target audience, find some readers who don't "fit" in that audience and see what they say. You may be limiting your promotion and marketing to readers where there are so many other demographics out there. Never limit yourself or your writing. Also, pursue those readers who may be just waiting to find a book such as yours (or mine).





Fantasy & Fairytales

W. D. Kilpack III- Rilari: Book Four of New Blood

Genre: F/Epic Fiction

The future of Mankind relies on the Guardian of Maarihk. Can he and the Knights of Ril resist forces bent on destroying Mankind's last hope?

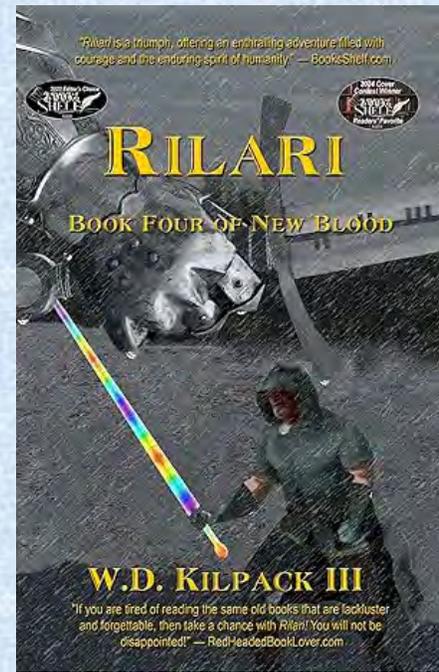
In the absence of the Guardian of Maarihk, the Usurper's venom has extended beyond the Gulf of Braag, seeding unrest and hatred for all things. Maarihkish. Natharr and the Knights of Ril must overcome malice and the ramifications of Ellis the Elder's boundless past that even Sight cannot reveal. The Rilari stand alone in a world in turmoil as they discover the tremendous reach of the Usurper's vizier. Even the endowments of the Daemons of Order are unable to withstand the ravages of fighting to survive on Rilari loyalties.

Meanwhile, Nathan and his summoned companion must rely on the teachings of both Natharr and Quiet One to carve out their place in the Maarihk Empire. Skill with a sword is only the beginning of their treacherous path, as fraught with peril as Darshelle's as she flees the animus of the ancient wood.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

5 Stars

W. D. Kilpack III writes another epic tale in the New Blood Saga



In Rilari, the reader is brought back to the saga of New Blood. Rilari is part of the New Blood Saga, and this is volume four. I am a big fan of W. D. Kilpack III, and read whatever this author writes, especially this saga. It's pretty amazing. Long reads are fine with me, as long as the story keeps the reader interested in what is going on. Not all long reads can hold the reader's attention, but this one does. Incredible characters, and they are written as you can imagine people, with layers and depth, and growth throughout the stories. Natharr is one unforgettable character, strong and decisive, but also with grand flaws that all heroes should have, humanity. Guardian of Maarihk is what keeps the world together, but if the world falls into chaos and destruction, who can protect it. A very unpredictable story, my favorite kind! This story is a wondrous trail of words. What a sci-fi fantastical marvel. I think this was my favorite one so far, and I know there is more to read. Rilari is both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end.



Amy Shannon

presents:

*Balls-Town: A Community
of History, Friends, Neighbors,
and Lingering Spirits*

Ball's Town:

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



Amy Shannon



Amy Shannon



Literary Consulting & Document Services

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Publisher.

Graphic Designer.

Research for Authors.

Query letters, resumes, press kits.

Create or maintain website or
social Media

Other Literary services.



writeramyshannon@gmail.com