

MAY TO JUNE 2025 Issue 17.0

LITERATE-LY MAGAZINE

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

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT:

Jennifer Conner Walt Whitman

AUTHOR INTERVIEWS:

chris karlsen Laura Ingalls Wilder Rose Wilder Lane

FEATURED SHORT STORIES A GHOST'S WRITER (PART 3)

True Crime

A MURDER ON CAMPUS POETRY CORNER

"Tell A Story" picture Contest

Book Reviews and More: Amy's pick of the month Out of this World Thrillers and Chillers The Gritty Gumshoes Fantasy and Fairytales Historical Fiction

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT:

Tommy Turtle's Birthday Kwame's Big Day

> Nonfiction: Take Back Your Life

> > AUDIOBOOKS: The Lane Betrayal

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Amy Shannon's

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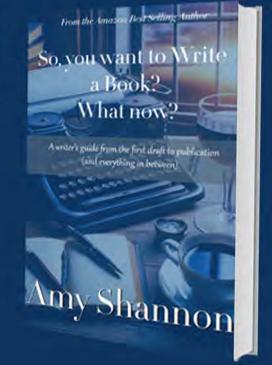
So, YOU want to Write a Book? What now?

A writer's guide from the first word to publication

Comíng June 9 2025

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

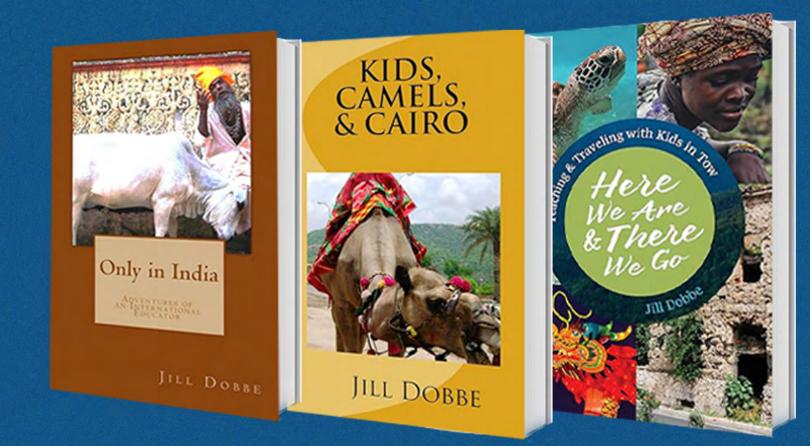
Many people often say, "I should write a book." If you feel this way, then go ahead and write it. You won't know until you try. Some people discover their writing talent early in life, while others find it unexpectedly later on. So, if you have the urge to write, just do it.





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International Educator & Travel Writer Jill Dobbe

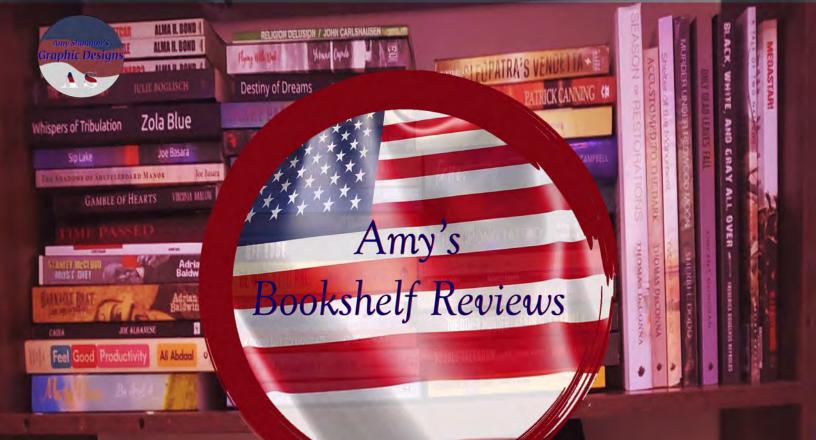


Buy Jill's Books



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





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HaLiftShips -Beyond Luna Bob Freeman

Bookly Litvertise

Where Artistry and Literature are Valued

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

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

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



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

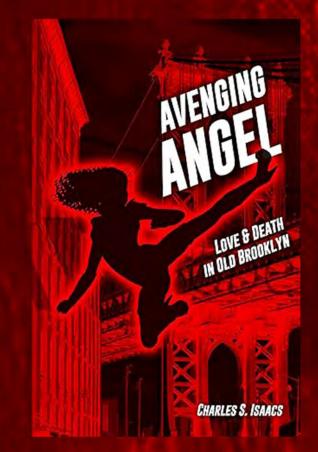


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Charles Isaacs Website

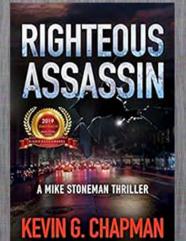


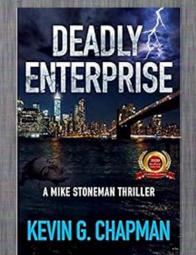


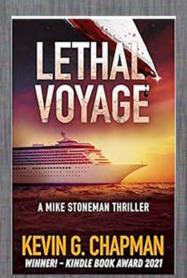
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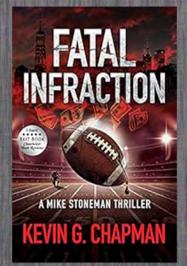
Kevin G. Chapman's Mike Stoneman Thrillers



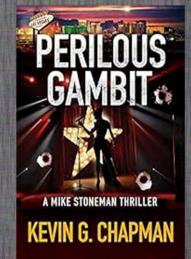


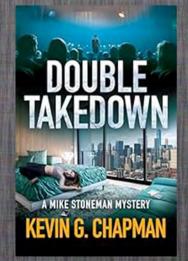


NYPD homicide detectives Mike Stoneman and Jason Dickson tackle the hard-hitting cases, while having ups and downs as partners, and while also trying to have a personal life.











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STORICAL FICTION BASED ON TRUE WWI EVENT

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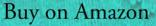
BROKEN FACES

"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?





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

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May Releases

 Eleanor Wells Velvet Records - Book 2 5/7/2025

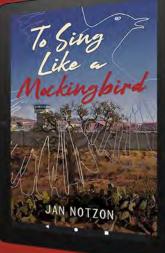
June Releases

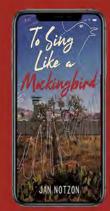
- Melina Druga The Pandemic Diaries 6/10/2025
- Elaine Mary Griffin Shadows in the Pleasure Gardens6/12/2025
- Nichole Heydenburg Deadly Vows 6/17/2025
- Richard Holinger Down from the Sycamores 6/20/2025

Jan Notzon's To Sing Like a Mockingbird

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

Justin Kopechne's once idealistic view of the world shatters as he navigates a school filled with disillusioned students, a detached principal, and friends entangled in the drug trade. After the school's closure due to a student's murder, he seeks refuge with his brother and sister-in-law, grappling with his family's deep-seated dysfunction.









JAN NOT7

kingbird

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Author Spotlight Jennifer Connor

Jennifer Conner is a best-selling Northwest author who has eighty short stories, books, audiobooks and screenplays. She writes in Christmas Romance, Contemporary Romance, Paranormal Romance, Historical Romance, and Erotica.

She has hit Amazon's top fifty authors ranking and her books have been #1 in sales.

Her horror screenplay, Starvation Heights, is a TRIPLE finalist placing in the Austin After Dark Film Festival and WINNING the Best Feature Screenplay in the Oregon Scream Film Festival and the American Horror Film festival. Her novel Shot in the Dark was a finalist in the Emerald City Opener, Cleveland, and Toronto RWA contests.

Jennifer is an Associate Publisher for the indie traditional publisher, Books to Go Now who resides in the Seattle area. They pride themselves in helping new authors get their foot in the door with well-edited manuscripts, professional covers, and platforms uploads. She is also part owner in Romance Novel Covers Now which designs book covers and formatting for indie authors.

She lives in a hundred-year-old house that she grew up in. Her semi-small town holds an interesting mix of resident hillbillies, billionaires and Navy Seals. And of course, Seattle, only a few miles away, is the birthplace of Starbucks so coffee is always on the checklist. She loves to travel in Europe, a castle junkie and is a huge fan of musicals.



She loves to hear from her readers. Please email her at jenniferconnerwriter@gmail.com

Yurie Kiri's Moonlight and Murder

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Author Spotlight Walt Whitman (1819 –1892)

Walt Whitman (born May 31, 1819, West Hills, Long Island, New York, U.S.—died March 26, 1892, Camden, New Jersey) was an American poet, journalist, and essayist whose verse collection Leaves of Grass, first published in 1855, is a landmark in the history of American literature.

Whitman's brother was wounded in the Civil War, and Whitman, went there to visit the wounded and dying solders, and worked as a paymaster, and he spent much of his small wages on gifts for both sides of the war's wounded soldiers.

Whitman was also inspired a new type of poetry, creating a collection of war poems. Whitman lived his life, open and honest, though many may not have agreed with is lifestyle. Whitman was a big fan of President Abraham Lincoln, and after the president's assassination, he wrote several poems, honoring the Present, such as the famous, "Captain, O, my Captain.

Whitman saw life first hand, and kept that with him.

Resource:

https://www.britannica.com/biography/Walt-Whitman



- Franklin Evans; or The Inebriate: A Tale of the Times (1842)
- The Half-Breed; A Tale of the Western Frontier (1846)
- Life and Adventures of Jack Engle (serialized in 1852)
- Leaves of Grass (1855, the first of seven editions through 1891)
- Manly Health and Training (1858)
- Drum-Taps (1865)
- Democratic Vistas (1871)
- Memoranda During the War (1876)
- Specimen Days (1882)
- The Wound Dresser: Letters written to his mother from the hospitals in Washington during the Civil War, edited by Richard M. Bucke (1898)
- Walt Whitman Speaks: His Final Thoughts on Life, Writing, Spirituality, and the Promise of America as told to Horace Traubel, edited by Brenda Wineapple (2019)



"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

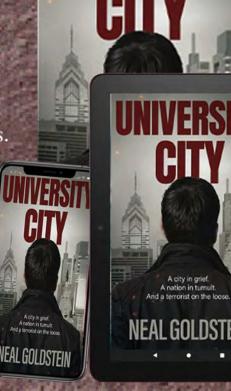
"In a Society run by science, Sablites hunt down every hint of [magic] power, and Etioiny must use all her pluck, ingenuity, and determination to find the truth of the last dragonfly..." -Fantasy Author Azalea Dabill



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

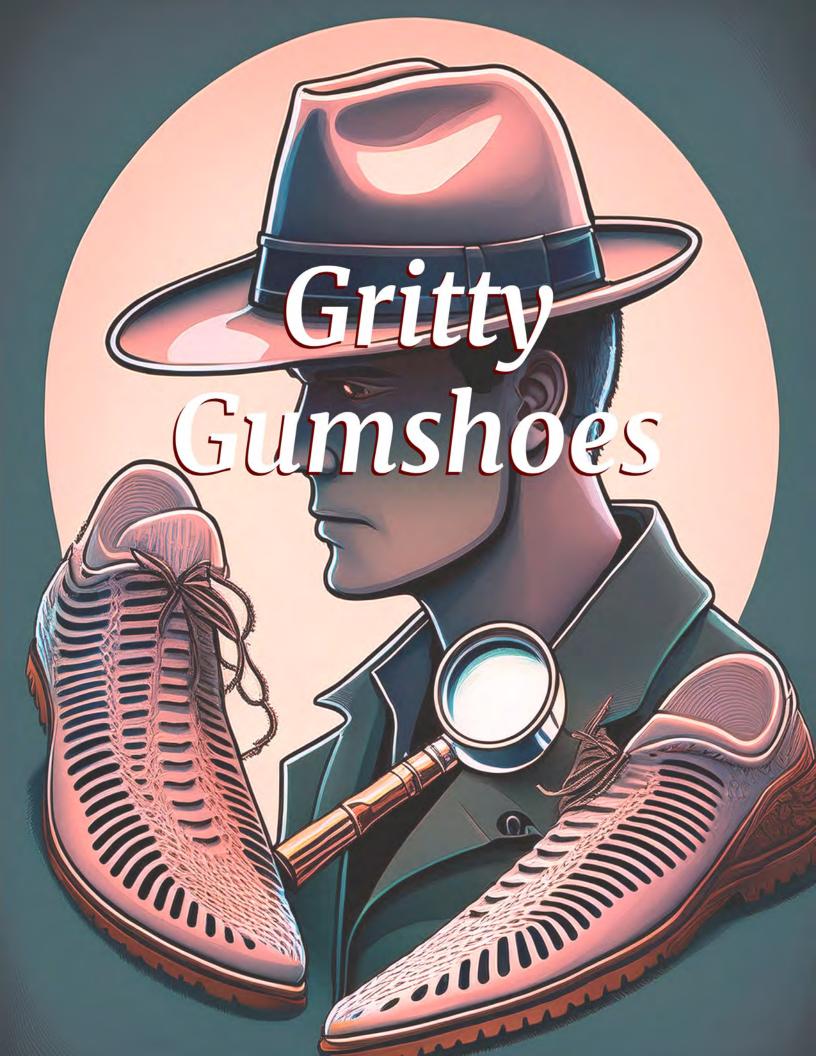




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R Weir- Justice for the Forgotten: A Steel Wheels Cold Mystery



Justice for the Forgotten: A Steel Wheels Cold Mystery

For widower Donnie Steel

Grief is a powerful emotion and a dynamic motivator. The retired police officer crafting an online blog. Therapy to ease the anguish of his lost soulmate. Readers reaching out, requesting his help

While traveling in his RV, with his faithful K-9 companion, Kogel. He learns of a threeyear-old cold case in Southern Colorado The victim's parents in search of answers to their son's death. Upon further investigation, he discovers the case was purposely botched. Those in power doing all they can for the solution to remain buried

With relentless determination to go the extra mile Heart and soul worn on his sleeve. And his highly trained K-9, fighting by his side. Donnie digs deep to go beyond his emotional and physical pain To find Justice For The Forgotten

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 5 Stars R Weir writes a new dramatic detective tale!

In Justice for the Forgotten, the reader is brought into the life of Donnie Steel, a recent widower, still reeling from her death, and a former police officer. He is trying to hold on, and finds he needs the companion of his dog, Kogel. Donnie runs a blog, and gets a lot of requests for help, but one seems to stand out more than the others. His need to help people, also helps him. I am a big fan of R Weir and want to read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. Donnie is a new character, and I hope there will more Steel Wheels Mysteries to come. It's dramatic, action-packed, and yet, also emotional and shows a level of humanity that makes the story incredible and captivating. I am liking Steel, and his approach to life, and determination to push through the pain.

R Weir- Justice for the Forgotten: A Steel Wheels Cold Mystery (cont'd)

Unpredictable, with twists all the way to the end. A reader can get lost in the story. It is always an honor to read R Weir books. It's a great story to follow and try to figure out what will happen next.

Buy the Book:



R Weir https://www.rweir.net





Author Interviews

Chris Karlsen

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

Chris Karlsen: Honest, wry, empathetic

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

Chris Karlsen: 13, All.

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

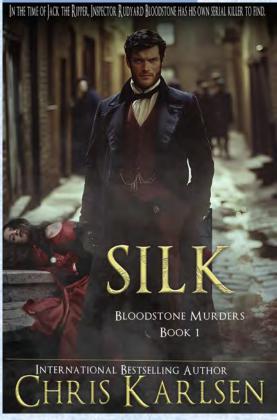
Chris Karlsen: I am currently editing the fourth novel in my Bloodstone series, titled Killer Friends. That series is set in Victorian London. The protagonist is Rudyard Bloodstone, a detective with the Metropolitan Police Service. The book is set in 1892 and is loosely based on an actual homicide handled by a detective I worked with when I was a police detective. It involves the investigation of a murder without a body. It was a unique case where a murder conviction was obtained despite not having a body as evidence. I hope to have it ready for release early 2025.

I also just released a historical fiction novel, Broken Faces. My friend, Jennifer Conner and I coauthored the book and it is based on an actual woman who worked with disfigured veterans in WW1.



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?

Chris Karlsen: I have used different ways to title my books. The very first book I wrote, part of my Knights in Time series, I called Heroes Live Forever. It has both a time travel and reincarnation element. I got the idea for the title from a Cher song I really like, "Song for the Lonely." I love the line: "For the broken hearted, battle scarred, I'll be by your side. And this is a song for the lonely." The hero in the story is a medieval knight who fought at Poitiers. The books in that series are all historical romances with a time travel element and the titles contain some reference to time.



The Bloodstone series the titles come from the weapon used in the murders or refer to the killer.

The Ack Ack Girl is set in WW2 England. Early in the war England needed to find a way to get more pilots in the air. They formed all female units to do much of the groundwork RAF pilots were doing. The heroine is part of an anti-aircraft team. They were called Ack Ack Girls because of the sound the guns made.

Do the titles change? On occasion but it is rare. I kind of know either in the beginning or early on what the title is going to be.

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?

Chris Karlsen: My favorite character is Rudyard Bloodstone. He is closest to my heart because he is a detective (like I once was). I'm long retired but when you've done something for decades, it remains a part of you.

Setting for me, is a character. I love history and all my stories have a historical side. I enjoy creating a medieval world for the time travel books. The Bloodstone books are set in London. To me, Victorian London is a brilliant setting to use. The city's diversity is the character. There is so much light and dark to the timeframe, socially and environmentally.

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

Chris Karlsen: Hard to say, but maybe Love & War as a genre. All my books have the historical element but either war or a particular battle plays a role in each.

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

Chris Karlsen: It is set at the start of WW1. The heroine, Abby Belorman, has given up her dream of being an artist. Instead, she obeys the demands of

her family and has agreed to an arranged marriage. Her new husband is part of the American embassy staff in London and they immediately relocate.

With no children or friends in England, she begins working with returning wounded veterans. She decides to put her artistry skill to use and try to find a way to make masks for the men who have come home terribly disfigured.

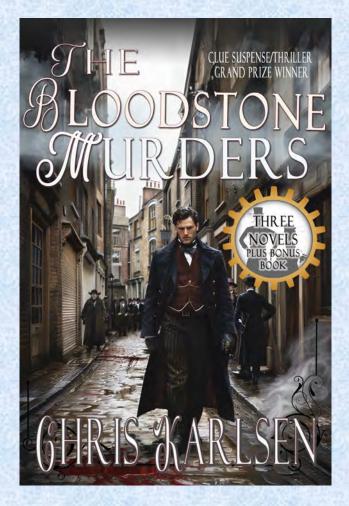
Through her hospital work, she meets a veteran, Colm Harp, who was a metalsmith prior to the war. His brother bears severe facial disfigurement. Like the other badly scarred men, his brother fears he can never lead a normal life again. Colm joins forces with Abby to try and design an achievable mask, a way for them to feel accepted.

**The story is a fictionalized version of a real life woman.

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

Chris Karlsen: The opening line from Silk (book 1 in the Bloodstone series). "Dressing the dead required a certain dexterity and patience.

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



Chris Karlsen: I'm a huge animal lover. For over three decades all of our dogs have been rescues. A Chicagoan by birth, I am and always have been a Bears fan, through & through, despite they sad record most years. I love certain periods of English history and the country.

My favorite tv series are: MASH, Downton Abbey, Band of Brothers, The Pacific, All Creatures Great and Small, The Last Kingdom, and The Sopranos.

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

Chris Karlsen: Bernard Cornwell, Julie Anne Long, Rudyard Kipling

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

Chris Karlsen: Fools and Mortals by Bernard Cornwell

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

Chris Karlsen: In the beginning, I made a basic outline. I quickly discovered outlines were a waste for me. I wound up never following them. Now, when I sit down and start a story, I have an idea of what I want it to be about in my head. I have a very loose plot in mind. I know how it will end. The details of the ending may change a bit but the outcome is what I planned from the start.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Chris Karlsen: I'm an only child so growing up I spent a great deal of time alone. I developed a good imagination as a result. Also, my mother was a voracious reader and encouraged me to read from a young age. As I got older, I'd read books and think how I'd change the stories or create my own worlds. After I retired from law enforcement, I decided to try writing some of those stories I had in my head. *Literate-Ly Magazine:* Do you currently have a WIP? If yes, what's the title, and is it part of a series or standalone?

Chris Karlsen: I am currently doing another read through of book four in my Bloodstone series. It is called Killer Friends. It is a standalone. All the books in the series are standalones.

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

Chris Karlsen: I do multiple reads of my own work before I release a book. I often go back when I'm writing sequels to recall certain details. There are scenes in different books that I reread for different reasons. Some of the sad scenes will touch me again, in the same way they did originally. Some of the exciting or dangerous scenes, I reread to get that feeling back especially when I'm working on a new book's action moments.

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?

Chris Karlsen: Yes. I'll listen to Il Divo when I'm writing an emotional scene. They touch my soul with some of their songs. I really like Moody Blues but have to say Il Divo's version of Nights in White Satin is the best I've ever heard. If I want to write a heartbreaking

scene, I'll listen to Andrea Bocelli's Time to Say Goodbye or a medley of songs by Sarah Brightman. When I wrote the Ack Ack Girl, which is set in WW2 England, I listened to big band music the entire time. What fun to listen to Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, etc. If I'm just listening to tunes and not really seeking a particular mood, I enjoy the soundtrack to Saturday Night Fever, or Neil Diamond, or the Doors.

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?

Chris Karlsen: Easy one!! I hate to write a synopsis or the back cover blurb. My mind just goes blank. I am just lame at cranking those out. I have a writer friend who has no trouble. For me, I look at the screen and think-ugh.

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). Chris Karlsen: I'd like to have a glass of wine with Elizabeth the First. I'd want to discuss how she managed to maintain her rule over a country that didn't want another queen, and certainly expected her to marry. I'd like to have a drink (Johnnie Walker Black) with Rudyard Kipling, and one with Oscar Wilde. I'd want to talk to Kipling about how he came to find such a meaningful way to express empathy with the average British soldier and for a different culture in his stories about India. Born in Mumbai of British parents but he had this ability to open the door to that world without being preachy. Wilde, I'd like to drink with for the pleasure of his wit. I'd also like to talk to him about how difficult it must've been for a man of his nature in that time period.

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

Chris Karlsen: To me, success as a writer means you sat down to write the book of your heart and you did that. The book may never get published, may never sell a single copy, or have anyone else read it. But the commitment it takes to write the first line to the last line is in and of itself, success.

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

Chris Karlsen: I made people who needed someone to listen know that for whatever brief time we were together, they knew they

were heard. That I brought joy and laughter to friends and family is important, to me. And I added a little kindness to an often unkind world.

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.

Chris Karlsen: I think banning books is one of the worst things we've ever done. It's one of the worst acts any country can do is cut off access to ideas and history. Frankly, I am shocked at how easy and quickly book banning came about and is being tolerated.

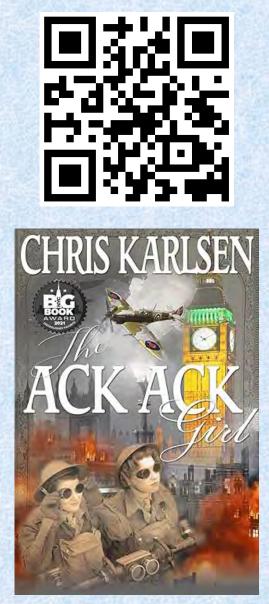
Literate-Ly Magazine: Any final thoughts that you want to give to your fans or even future authors?

Chris Karlsen: Don't be afraid to write what you feel. Don't let fear of what people might think restrict your ability to express yourself. There will be people who won't like what you wrote. It doesn't hurt to ask why. Constructive criticism is useful. If you choose to send your manuscript out for publication, you may run into a lot of rejection. Writer's need a tough skin Some of the most famous writers have had a tough start.

I read an interview of Stephen King's where he said every publisher he submitted Carrie to rejected the book. He said he gave up and threw the manuscript in the trash can. His wife retrieved it and told him to keep trying. Readers everywhere are glad he did!



www.chriskarlsen.com



Amy Shannon's Contrary Measures

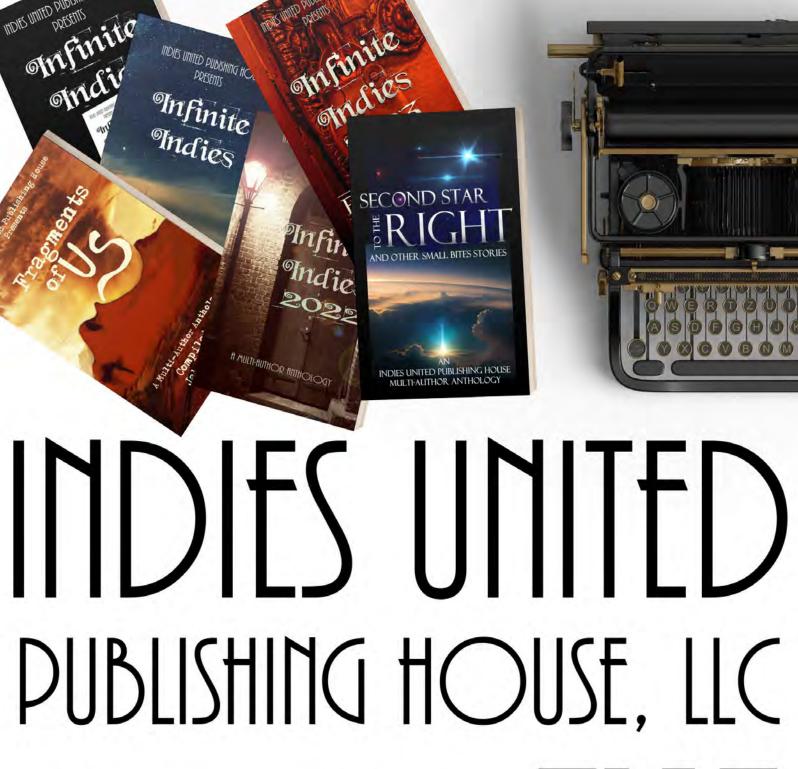
Rayna's quest for truth and trust leads her through a maze of secrets that could either shatter or save her.

Contrary Measures

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

Amy Shannon





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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.

GIL SNIDER & JUDY SNIDER FROM THE AUTHORS OF THE LAST & TOO LATE TO RUN

BETRAYED

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Laura Ingalls Wilder

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

Laura Ingalls Wilder: Thank you for having me. I wrote nine books in the "Little House" series, which are based on my childhood and early adulthood on the American frontier.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Which of your books is the most popular?

Laura Ingalls Wilder: "Little House on the Prairie" is probably the most well-known and beloved of my books. It has captured the hearts of readers for generations.

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

Laura Ingalls Wilder: I hoped my stories would resonate with readers, but I never imagined they would become such an enduring part of American literature. I simply wanted to share my experiences and the spirit of the pioneer life.

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

Laura Ingalls Wilder: I loved writing at my home in Mansfield, Missouri, particularly at Rocky Ridge Farm. It was a peaceful place where I could reflect on my memories and put them into words.

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



Laura Ingalls Wilder: People were generally very supportive and appreciative of my work. They admired the authenticity and simplicity of my stories, which provided a window into the past and the pioneer spirit.

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

Laura Ingalls Wilder: Most reviews were positive, praising the vividness and warmth of my storytelling. Critics and readers alike appreciated the historical accuracy and the heartfelt portrayal of family life on the frontier.

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

Laura Ingalls Wilder: There were certainly stories that I felt could have been better, but I believe every piece has its own value. One of

Ingalls-Wilder Cont'd

my lesser-known works, "The First Four Years," was published posthumously and didn't receive as much acclaim as my other books.

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

Laura Ingalls Wilder: "Little House in the Big Woods" holds a special place in my heart. It was my first book and marked the beginning of my journey as an author.

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

Laura Ingalls Wilder: The worst reviews were those that criticized the simplicity of my writing, but I always believed that simplicity was part of the charm and authenticity of my stories

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

Laura Ingalls Wilder: My advice would be to write from the heart and stay true to your experiences. Authenticity resonates with readers, and your unique perspective is what makes your stories special.

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

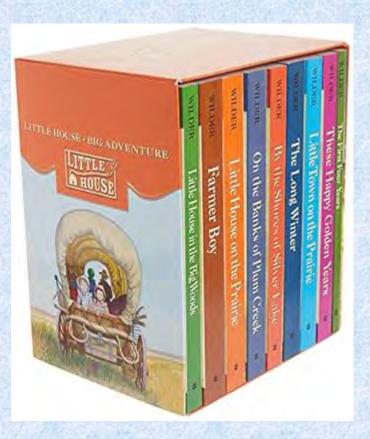
Laura Ingalls Wilder: Yes, my daughter Rose Wilder Lane was a significant influence and support. She was an accomplished writer herself and helped me immensely with my own writing. *Literate-Ly Magazine:* Did you share your work with anyone before it was published?

Laura Ingalls Wilder: Absolutely. Rose was my first reader and editor. Her feedback and encouragement were invaluable in shaping my books.

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

Laura Ingalls Wilder: I would love to speak with my parents again. They were the foundation of my stories and the source of my strength and resilience. I would thank them for the life they gave me and the values they instilled in me.





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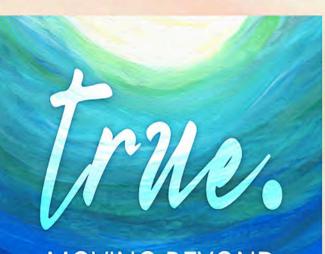
> - Claudia Black, PhD. Author of It Will Never Happen to Me, Unspoken Legacy, Deceived: Facing Sexual Betrayal, Lies, and Secrets

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Rose Wilder-Lane

Literate-Ly Magazine: Welcome, Rose Wilder Lane. It's an honor to have you here. Let's start with a simple question: How many books have you written?

Rose Wilder Lane: Thank you for having me. Over my career, I've written numerous books, including novels, biographies, and political works. Some of my notable titles are *Young Pioneers*, *Free Land*, and *The Discovery of Freedom: Man's Struggle Against Authority*.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Out of all your works, which one would you say is the most popular?

Rose Wilder Lane: *Young Pioneers* is probably my most popular book. It has resonated with many readers over the years.

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

Rose Wilder Lane: I hoped my writing would have a lasting impact, but I never imagined it would become such a significant part of my legacy. I wanted to share stories and ideas that mattered to me, and it's gratifying to see them still being read and discussed.

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

Rose Wilder Lane: I loved writing in the quiet of my parents' farm in Mansfield, Missouri. The peaceful surroundings and the connection to my roots provided a perfect backdrop for my creativity.



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

Rose Wilder Lane: People saw me as a strong advocate for individualism and liberty. My political writings, especially, garnered attention for their passionate defense of personal freedom.

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

Rose Wilder Lane: My reviews were quite varied. Some praised my work for its depth and insight, while others were more critical, especially of my political views. But that's the nature of writing—it's bound to evoke different reactions.

Wilder-Lane cont'd

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

Rose Wilder Lane: Every writer has their share of stories that don't quite hit the mark. One of my early attempts at fiction was rather poorly received, but it did get published. It was a humbling experience that taught me a lot about perseverance and growth.

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

Rose Wilder Lane: *Free Land* holds a special place in my heart. It captures the spirit of the American pioneers and their relentless pursuit of freedom and opportunity.

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

Rose Wilder Lane: The worst review I received was for *The Discovery of Freedom*. Some critics were harsh about my political stance, but it only strengthened my resolve to stand by my beliefs.

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

Rose Wilder Lane: Write with passion and conviction. Don't be afraid to challenge the status quo and express your true self. Your unique voice is your greatest asset.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Did you have any

writer friends?

Rose Wilder Lane: Yes, I had several writer friends, including Helen Dore Boylston, who wrote the Sue Barton series. We shared many adventures and supported each other through our writing journeys.

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

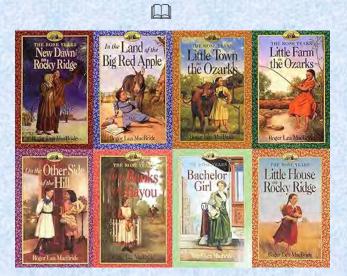
Rose Wilder Lane: I often shared my drafts with close friends and family for feedback. Their insights were invaluable in shaping my final manuscripts.

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

Rose Wilder Lane: I would love to talk to my mother, Laura Ingalls Wilder, again. Our collaboration on the Little House books was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and I cherish the memories of our time together.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts with us, Rose. It's been a pleasure.

Rose Wilder Lane: Thank you. It's been wonderful to reflect on my journey and share it with you.





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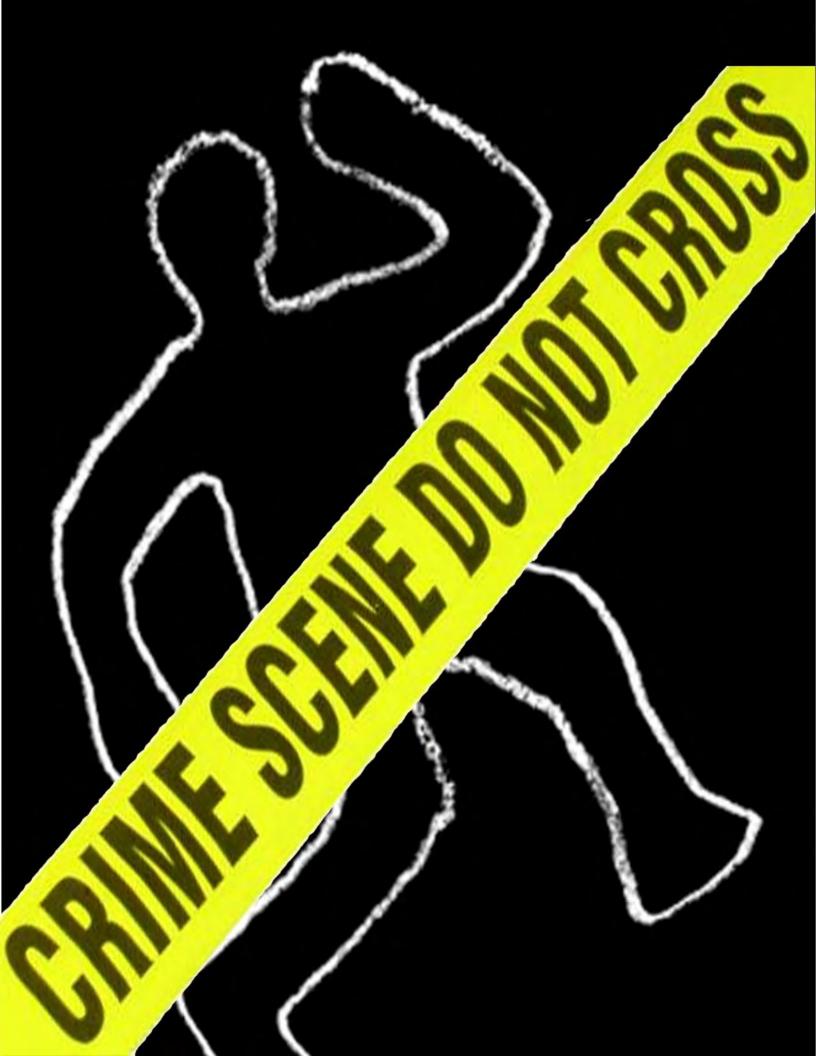
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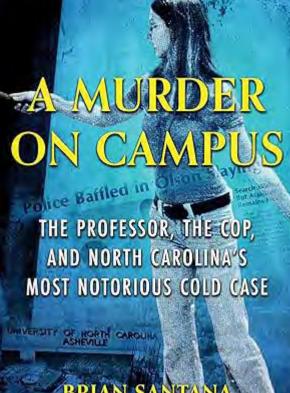
Brian Santana and Cameron Santana- A MURDER ON CAMPUS: The Professor, The Cop, And North Carolina's Most Notorious Cold Case

The fascinating story of how two brothers—one an English professor, the other a cop, and as different as night and day—tag team as authors to solve North Carolina's most notorious cold case ...

A MURDER ON CAMPUS: The Professor, The Cop, And North Carolina's Most Notorious Cold Case by Brian and Cameron Santana is a true crime investigation that unveils the shocking story behind the brutal 1973 murder on campus of 19year-old Virginia Marie Olson.

On April 15, 1973, two high school students discovered Olson's body near the campus of the University of North Carolina-Asheville. The cold case that followed would span over 50 years, involving three generations of detectives and the Asheville Police Department and North Carolina SBI as they worked tirelessly to uncover the truth. Olson's murder was horrifically violent—she had been bound, raped, and stabbed to death, leaving the Asheville community in shock.

The true crime book takes readers through law enforcement's dramatic efforts to find Olson's killer, facing numerous obstacles along the way, from the abduction of another UNCA student in



BRIAN SANTANA CAMERON SANTANA

1974 to a rape and murder victim's body discovered near Olson's crime scene in 1978. Whispers about the killer's identity have circulated for decades, with theories ranging from an escaped mental health patient to one of North Carolina's most notorious serial killers—until now.

A MURDER ON CAMPUS is the first to tell the gripping story of this unsolved

A MURDER ON CAMPUS (cont'd)

crime and the surprising twists that led to the authors' revelation of the killer's identity in North Carolina's most notorious cold cases. Written by two brothers, one a cop and the other an English professor, this book offers a unique and fascinating perspective on a case that has haunted Buncombe County for generations.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 5+ Stars The process of writing this book shows depth

of caring

If I could give this book more than 5 stars, I would. When first reading this book, A MURDER ON CAMPUS, the reader is introduced to the authors, brothers, and each one writes their backstory and how they came about this case. Individually, they told their story, and what led one Brian, to pull his brother, Cameron into investigating not just the case, but the victim, and what her story was. This is a 51 year old unsolved murder, of a young college girl, Virginia Ginger Olsen, who was murdered at UNCA. University of North Carolina-Asheville in 1973, across from the campus. The brothers not just searched for answers, but they wanted to find Ginger. Not just

where she was buried, but her life, dreams, and definitely her story. I've read true crime books that are focused on the process of the investigation, the crime itself, and it read like a police report. This is not one of those books. This true crime book shows the authors' need for answers, and to never let the memory of Ginger falter. The book preserves the personal accounts of memories from friends, family and acquaintances. Some may seem insignificant, but to the person talking about their moment with Ginger, it means everything. The book also dives into the investigations that occurred over the years, and those who would be at one time or another, suspects, and then how it went cold. The book also reminds us that technology in crime solving has evolved, and what would be procedure to do, didn't exist in 1973, such as DNA analysis.







Zola Blue's The Mejuarian Series

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

The Four: Destruction of Honor (Book 1) Bound in Strength: Stance Upon Heartache (Book 2) Courage of One: Conviction to Stand (Book 3) Whispers of Tribulations: The Present and The Destiny (Book 4) Thire-Los: Demon or Angel (The Mejuarian Book 5)



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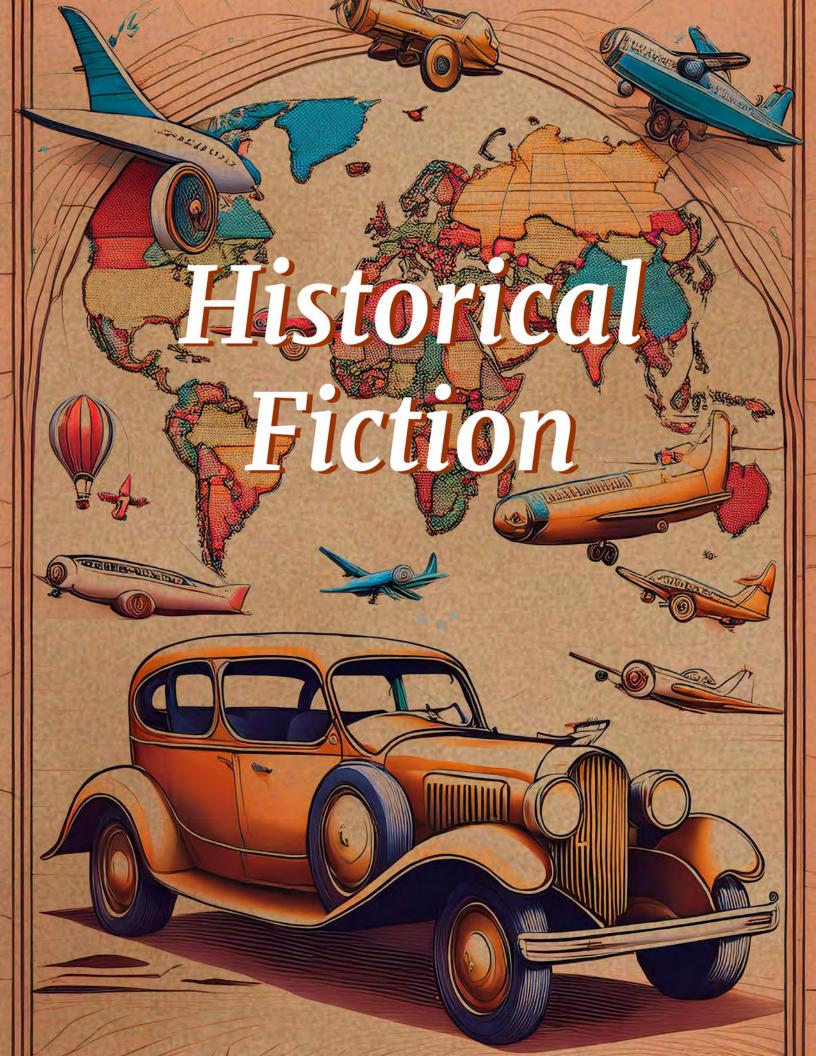
"IF YOU WANT SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE YOU QUESTION YOUR BELIEFS WHILE ALSO HORRIFYING YOU THIS IS THE ONE BOOK YOU NEED." Z. MARTIN, AUTHOR OF TALES FROM CHESTERFIELD

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.







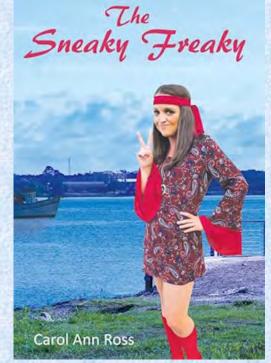
Carol Ann Ross- The Sneaky Freaky

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

4 Stars

Carol Ann Ross writes an interesting tale with The Sneaky Freaky

In The Sneaky Freaky, the reader is introduced to Naomi, and it's 1966. Her husband, off fighting in a war. War is everywhere. She can't seem to escape it. On television, the radio, and even the empty space left by her husband. The Sneaky Freaky is part of the Blue House Series, and this is volume two. I am a big fan of Carol Ann Ross and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination and talent for showing the story. The time of this story shows that it may be the hippie era, but it is also setting for a war torn struggle with whatever they are calling the Vietnam War, or police action. Naomi is a likeable character, and she is struggling with the reality of the world, not just her world, but the world itself. Insert magic, omens, and dreams, and whatever else can help crush the real world, even if just for a moment. A reader can get lost in the story. Yes, it's the end of the world as she knows it, and that may be her safe place, but who knows what can happen in an instant. The Sneaky Freaky is a definite recommendation by Amy's Bookshelf Reviews. I read this book to give my unbiased and Amy's honest review. Bookshelf Reviews recommends that anyone who reads this book also write a review.



About the book:

The Sneaky Freaky begins in 1966, in the fishing town of Sneads Ferry, North Carolina. Naomi's husband is fighting in Vietnam. The sight of Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune, from her window reminds her every day of that fact. The reality of the war is everywhere. It's on the nightly news, it's in the movies, it's in the music, and all Naomi wants to do is get away from it all. A magic cat, omens, the stars and dreams figure into a big dose of reality for a woman caught in the hippie era.

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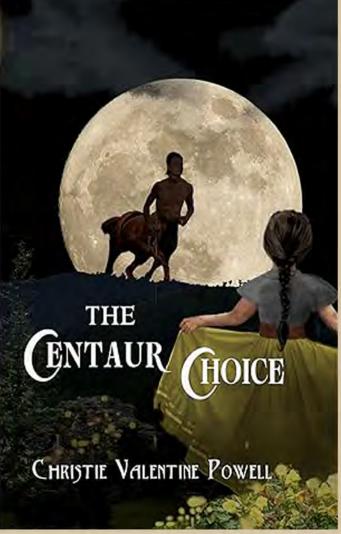


THE CENTAUR CHOICE BY Christie Valentine Powell

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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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Literary

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Elements of Literature and Workplace Themes

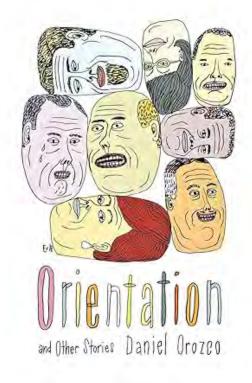
by

Amy Shannon

Well written literature conveys the experiences of the author or even perceptions of the author, which places the reader in the situation. A person does not have to have experienced the same situation, but just be able to place himself or herself in the narrator's place. Not all experiences or situations have to be real or part of reality, it is just the ability to describe it without stating matter-of-factly. When the writer uses metaphors or similes, the words cause the mind to follow and experience the story.

In Daniel Orozco's "Orientation," the narrator describes his own perspective of life within the cubicle work world. As he points out and describes individuals, it brings the reader into the cubicle jungle. The main character is the new employee, who is written in first person, where the narrator is in "second" person. This narrator has conversations with the main character and dialogue is exchanged. However, the new employee's dialogue is heard when the narrator rephrases the person's questions and then answers them. The story provides insight into the lives of the people that work in the "square" cubicle world.

The narrator has a story for each person that works within the cubicles that surround his



own. As in reality in a cubicle world, what a person observes can set their mind off wandering and wondering. The narrator describes "Amanda Pierce," as a woman who "comes to work exhausted and freshly wounded each morning, wincing from the abrasions on her breasts, or the bruises on her abdomen, or the second- degree burns on the backs of her thighs." In a cubicle work force, there are people who know or think they know so much information about another person. What someone does not know, they can make up or imagine, based on what they perceive is the truth. Gossip or even just the quietness of people can lead others to think differently about different people.

Elements of Literature and Workplace Themes

own. As in reality in a cubicle world, what a person observes can set their mind off wandering and wondering. The narrator describes "Amanda Pierce," as a woman who "comes to work exhausted and freshly wounded each morning, wincing from the abrasions on her breasts, or the bruises on her abdomen, or the second- degree burns on the backs of her thighs." In a cubicle work force, there are people who know or think they know so much information about another person. What someone does not know, they can make up or imagine, based on what they perceive is the truth. Gossip or even just the quietness of people can lead others to think differently about different people.

Working in a cubicle world can change perspectives on people and work. The cubicles are small and when a person stands up, if they are not too short, they can see everyone else. The construction and lay out of the cubicles allow others to hear or even see others business. There is no privacy. The feeling of the employer is always felt, even if miles away.



The story that leads the reader around the new job during "Orientation" also describes what type of employer the person works for, which could be any employer. Basically, do a good job and keep your opinions of others to yourself, but there are so many times when in a setting, everyone knows too much about others. Orozco writes, several times in the story, "you may be let go." This follows several statements about knowing too much or wanting to know too much.

Interacting with other employees, learning too much information about others or not knowing enough and drawing conclusions anyway can lead to situations that are not good for the morale or ethics of the employee.

The employee feels that certain things must be the way the employer states. In Orozco's writing about lunch and breaks, that following the rules is not something that is wanted but needed. "We get one hour for lunch. We also get one fifteen-minute break in the morning and one fifteen-minute break in the afternoon. Always take your breaks. If you skip a break, it is gone forever. For your information, your break is a privilege, not a right. If you abuse the break policy, we are authorized to rescind your breaks. Lunch, however, is a right, not a privilege. If you abuse the lunch policy, our hands will be tied and we will be forced to look the other way. We will not enjoy that."

Elements of Literature and Workplace Themes

In Emily Despain Polk's "At Work," she describes her work as being in a law office and her being a paralegal. She interestingly describes each office worker, partner, and associate with detail that even if the reader did not ever work in a law office, the reader could picture it or place themselves there. The situations of an office are not different from other offices, except the people or type of office. The desks, the connections to other employees, and knowing the private lives of each other as well as the "bosses." The narrator not only looks at the environment of the work she is in, but also how she perceives herself. Polk talks about herself and how she feels about herself but without stating the exact feelings. Polk takes a look at herself as all women do but more or less describe only the outward appearance, "When I have been getting no sleep, eating like crap, and feeling too lazy to exercise, I'm disciplined about putting on at least mascara and lipstick and even a stripe of eyeshadow."

The descriptions and perceptions are real to the narrator, as the experiences were real. It helps when there is no reference from the reader's point of view except when it is just the narrator. The reader makes relations to what the author is presenting as situational. The ins



and outs of working in an office. Sitting alone at lunch with a book, back to the conversations, hoping to blend in with the wall, rather than the employees. Not all employees want to be engaged in office friendships or any relationships except professional. There can be the pressure of feeling dragged to outside the office functions, such as after work drinks or dinners, when the eagerness is just to get home. Polk discussed how situations could become in flamed even when conversations are simply innocent. She mentioned how a discussion with another person, revered jealousy among other women she was working with. The truth in reality is sometimes much more interesting than fantasy.

In both stories, "Orientation" and "At work," the stories were different perspectives of people and environments of the work place. Where the situations and point-of-views were different, the reality, even just metaphoric reality, shows the reader of how he or she can relate. Knowing the workforce, whether in the square world of the cubicle jungle or just a desk-to-desk connection in an office. If the comparing of separation or non-separation it shows the interactions non-privacy between and employees and even the relationship with the employers. Not all employers or "bosses" is faceless but a great presence in the workplace, not always good and not always bad. There are times when knowing too much can get you in trouble, especially when it is about the boss.

54

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

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

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



An Outrageous European Adventure in 1968

"The richness of his personal story will find you savoring every page..." -Michael Berman GARY ORLECK





Charaster Writing

Growth/Depth

Characters need to grow, learn, change, or adapt to the story, or maybe the story adapts to the character's growth. This does not just mean that the character ages but adds something to the character that wasn't there before.

A character should learn from and embrace their mistakes and give them a sense of self. Characters can be close to being real, as they may have self-doubts, or self-confidence, or that one thing that gives them strength when the world seems to be falling apart. The progression of a character can happen throughout the story, and even be carried off into other stories, which would be part of a series. A series of books can be related characters in each book, unrelated characters that fit the series category, or a bit of both.

When a character is introduced in the beginning of the story, or makes their first appearance, by the end of the story, or as it concludes, there should be some changes, to the character, even if they are small. It makes for a more well-rounded character, and an interesting one that the reader wants to get to know more.

Depth. A character has depth when there is more than just one thing about the character



that brings the reader in. A private investigator is more than just an investigator; a cop is more than just a police officer. A doctor or nurse is more than just their career. This goes for people and characters; characters are more than just one piece; they have several pieces to the "selfpuzzle" that is them. When I say self-puzzle, it refers to how we look at ourselves and what makes us who we are. The same self-puzzle is all the pieces that make up a character.

To give the characters depth, think of what makes the them unique, and what kind of attributes or personality traits make up the character. Does the character do certain things all the time? Is there a way the character investigates something, tries to solve a mystery or even kills? Thinking of the character's MO (*Modus Operandi*) which is a trait or characteristic of a person, or how the person

Growth and Depth

always does something, like a particular method. The way someone in law enforcement would look at a criminal to try to figure out who that person was, it can relate to creating a character.

Creating characters can be done prior to creating their world, or after. Depending on the techniques of the individual writers or storytellers, the character can adapt to the world or situation he/she is placed in. If the characters are created first, and then the world is decided, then how can the world adapt or fit the characters within the world? It is perfectly fine to create characters that don't "fit" and see how they adapt. Characters are built from the minds of the writers and develop from there, even subconsciously, and the creation of the character is creating a new being, even in the world of just words, and storytelling. Giving the character depth, meaning, goals or objectives, even if the goal is just survival (but since when is something just about survival?).







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.

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Short Stories

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

I focused on the creek, and how it flowed over a few boulders still in place, and yet there was part of the creek that flowed around the bend.

As I watched the water, it seemed to flow slower, and slower until it went still. I've seen this view before. I can't explain why the world went still. The creek was telling me something, to look beneath the surface.

He appeared on top of the boulder, still looking like he did in life. "Jake!!" I realized this was from my dreams. Somehow, I was meant to be here.

"Yes, brother," he said. "I am here."

"Brother?" I couldn't believe his words.

"We're twin brothers. Didn't you feel me?" he asked.

"Why did you go away?"

"Father. He blamed both of us, but since I was born second, and then momma died, he really blamed me."

"I thought we were best friends?"

"We are, and also brothers. I've always been with you, Momma, Grandma and Grandpa."

"Father did this?" My mind started swirling with memories.

A Ghost's Writer

Amy Shannon

"He told me that you wanted to go fishing, so I went. He tried to push me, but something stopped him."

I closed my eyes as my mind started to slow down, and I unburied the memories of my brother, Jake. "I grabbed him and pushed him to the ground. You slipped and I tried to hang on to you, but you got swept down the falls."

"I had forgotten, too, but when you came back, I remembered. I became one with the falls, but when you returned something in me awoke. I don't want to leave the waters, but I still want to be with you."

"You can and you already are. Jake, I'm sorry."

"Walter, don't be. Oh, I think they are here for you."

I turned around and saw Jack, with several officers and crime scene technicians. "I have to show them."

"You do that." He came over to me. "May I?"

"What?"

"Be with you instead of the water."

"You want to be with me? Like a possession?"

"I'll be a part of your mind, and your heart. Not a possession. You will still be you, with a side of me. And the nightmares will never happen again."

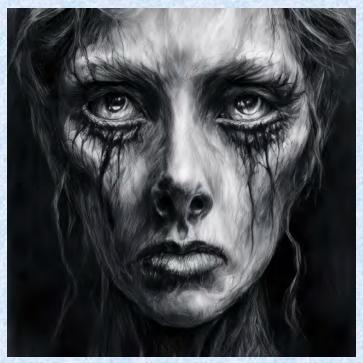
"Yes, brother," I said, and somehow Jake entered my body and all I felt was warmth.

Jack came up behind me. "Walter, are you all right?"

"I'm good," I answered. And I was, as I felt some sense of peace.

I explained to Jack what I found and where I marked the sites. I went home and was tired and hungry.

I know Jake was part of me. I could hear his voice in my head, and he could also listen to the other spirits.



After a few weeks of getting used to Jake being with me and trying not to let it interfere or distract me from my research of the victims in the woods. Especially when it came to the Sullivans.

Jack came over. He wanted me to know the story of the women in the woods. I only knew what happened from some else's memories. My research didn't come close, because I didn't have names, just translucent faces. I only had the names of the Sullivans, and wasn't sure if there were other Sullivans, and maybe their descendants, who never knew what happened to Regina and Mary, or even Roland. Jack carried a thick file folder with him, and set it on the table, as I poured us a cup of coffee, and then I sat down.

Jack looked into my eyes, "You've found him."



"Who?"

"Jake. You found him and now you both have peace."

"Part of peace. I still feel the others left at the orphanage. I need to help them."

"Good."

"So, did they find all of them?"

"Yes, and we're trying to match names, and ancestry."

"How long have they been out there?"

"The coroner brought in an anthropologist. She's helping with dating the bones, and even facial reconstruction."

"How long?"

"They date back to the early 1800s. They're running DNA and seeing if they can find a lineage." "I guess murder isn't new to any era, is it?"

"No, but this guy was a serial killer. Don't read too much about serial killers back then, but of course, maybe they didn't call them serial killers, or they didn't link murders. It's not like the Jack the Ripper case. Oh, sorry," he snickered.

"I just borrowed the pen name. I have no knowledge of the Ripper or who his victims were, and if there were more than reported."

"Well, this guy, he killed most of the women before he killed his wife, and then he killed his daughter."

"I met her."

"And then there were four last ones."

"And there would've been more if he didn't die there. The night he died, he had just buried his last victim, so Regina, his wife, appeared before him, startling him and he died. He hit his dead on the rocks and fell on the shovel. I moved the bones to the side, so she could be found."

"I figured as much. Walter, you're a good man. And helping these spirits is good, and you're telling their story, when they can no longer speak. You are making them important." He slid the folder across the table to me. "This is what we have. Maybe you tell their story."

I sighed. "I think I can do that. I want to learn more about them. I wish I could put a face and a name together."

"You should meet Dr. Sharpton."

"Olivia Sharpton is the anthropologist?"

"She's the one working with Dr. Helms, the coroner. Walter, she also has a gift."

"I've read all her papers. She's smart and beautiful. I find her work very fascinating, especially when she can give a voice or a face to someone lost so long ago."

"Then that's settled." He stood up.

"What?"

"She'll be at the diner at 8 AM waiting for you for breakfast."

"Jack?"

"You need a life, a wife, and someone as smart as you or even smarter ..."

"Oh, to be as smart as her."

"Just meet her." He left.

So, Olivia and I met in person, and our conversation kept flowing, so much that our breakfast also included lunch. I invited her back to my place after lunch, so I could show her the Crossings Falls. She was so enamored with the falls, and I think, me.



I think I fell in love with her on our fifth date. She said she fell in love with me on our first date. To be honest, so did I, just didn't want to sound creepy, or creepier than who I really am.

She understood me, and I understood her. She had her work, and I had mine, but when I needed a face to put with a spirit, she helped. She could see what I saw in my mind.

She couldn't read my mind, or all my thoughts, but she could see when Jake built a bridge when I saw a spirit. She could see and hear it, too.

Olivia and I felt complete, and somehow, when we married, my small home grew. The only thing she didn't take was my last name. She felt that *Olivia Olivier* sounded weird. So, she kept her given name, and I didn't mind. I agreed with her. I could feel Momma, Grandpa, and Grandpa. They were always

with us. We also didn't mind taking some of our work home with us to talk to spirits, who were wandering, and just wanted to feel something other than dread, or loneliness.

It's been five years and I'm still working my way, room by room, starting from the basement and up. I was finally able to get Lily out of the basement, but she didn't leave the building. She said she had nothing on either side, but she said she'd help me when possible.

Olivia has started showing, and I am so nervous. I don't want to lose her or our children. Our family has always looked out for us, and I believe they will continue to do so.

She liked going out toward the falls, and just staring at the water. She said the falls were so calming, she understood why some never wanted to leave.

One August morning, she was outside, very close to her due date, and she thought the falls would calm her nerves. I walked out to the porch, and I saw him. My father's shadow pushed her into the water.



Jake instantly left me, and plummeted into father, who disappeared into drops of ash. I jumped into the water, searching for Olivia. I couldn't give up, I wouldn't give up. Momma appeared on the water, so I knew where to look. I found her and brought her to shore.

I knew CPR and I needed to save my wife and my babies. I did compressions, and rolled her on her side, when she coughed.

I held her tightly and put my hand on her stomach. I could feel it harden, and then soften. Olivia opened her eyes, "Save our babies. They're coming."

I carried her into the house and laid her on the sofa. I grabbed the landline and dialed 9-1-1.

"Walter, I can feel them," Olivia cried.

"OK, OK," I removed her pants. Crap. I didn't know what I was doing. Olivia was a doctor, but she was in and out of consciousness. "Lily!!!" I yelled. "I need help.

Lily appeared, finally looking the way she did in life. She walked over to look into Olivia's eyes. "Stay awake."

And even without Jake here anymore, she understood. Lily took charge and walked us through the delivery of both of our sons. Jake Edgar Olivier was born first, and five minutes later, Walter Whitman Olivier II was born.

Olivia closed her eyes when the boys cried. I wrapped them in blankets as the EMTs finally arrived.

After several attempts, they were ready to call Olivia's time of death. I wouldn't allow it. I kept yelling at them, over the crying of my children in my arms, to fix her.

Lily disappeared and Olivia's heart was shocked one more time. The babies stopped crying, and Olivia opened her eyes.

After that day, I never heard from Lily again. I helped my wife get her strength back and helped her take care of our boys. Her mother, Eleanore, also came to stay with us, to help her daughter, and help with the care of the babies. Eleanore gave Olivia her gift, and she understood our life, and our work. She understood what gifts our boys may have as they grow up. Our life was amazing, and so was our growing family. I could tell the spirits' stories, and I knew that Jake was part of our boys, part in Jake and part in Walter, Jr.

Father's shadow never appeared again.

Jack was eventually a detective, and one time, when we were having our weekly coffee together at the diner, he told me he had a gift, too. He was basically a human lie detector. He could sense someone's pulse, go up or down, and if it went up, it was a tell-tale sign of a lie.

I think our town had a gift in itself, and if you were born here, and then left, you would always come back and take everything as faith.

So, as it was, it's better. Mysteries and legends had truths discovered, and some things, we just kept to ourselves.

I'm still a Ghost's writer, more like a storyteller, and I help those who want it, and if they don't want it, I recommend the place of peace just like Jake told me, in the water of Crossings Falls.

So, wherever you go in Crossings Falls, you'll be able to feel a sense of the past, present and future.

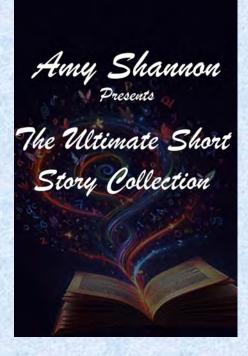
-- Sincerely,

Walter Whitman Olivier

The Ghost's Writer

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

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





Nonfiction

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

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.

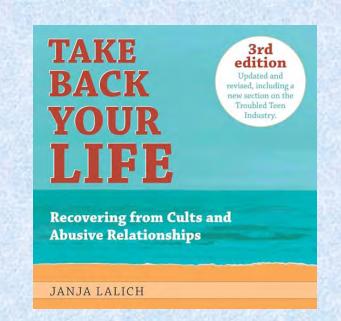
Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 5 Stars

Lalich

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

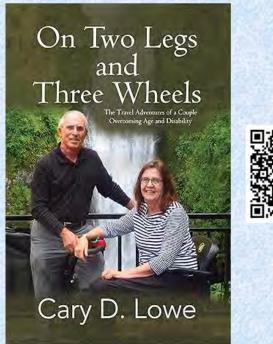
In Take Back Your Life: Recovering from Cults and Abusive Relationships, the listener is brought into a world that if you've only seen in television, a totally movies or different experience of being in a cult. In our world today, it is not uncommon, and some members are finally being caught and prosecuted.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

Cary D. Lowe - On Two Legs and Three Wheels Genre: NF/Travel/Memoir



Can you continue traveling as you get older or if you are disabled? On Two Legs and Three Wheels answers that with an emphatic, "Yes!"

Multiple sclerosis disabled the legs of the author's wife twenty years ago, making her rely on a mobility scooter, and now both the author and his wife are in their seventies. But none of that stopped them from traveling. On two legs and three wheels, they have traveled to twenty countries and twenty states. Perseverance, ingenuity, and flexibility have enabled them to virtually obstacles. overcome all These characteristics are on full display in the two dozen tales of their travels to locales as diverse as Alpine peaks, Caribbean beaches, desert canyons, and urban boulevards, via planes, trains, cars, buses, and ships.

Their adventures will inspire disabled and older people to keep traveling, while engaging in

activities that thrill fully abled partners, as well. And their travel tales will delight and entertain readers of all ages and physical conditions.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

5 Stars

Cary D. Lowe writes an interesting travel memoir

On Two Legs and Three Wheels is a very interesting book. This is the first I have read from this author. This book is unique in itself, as it is not just a travel memoir. It's a travel memoir about the author and his wife, Trish, who has mobility issues. Trish has MS, and can be debilitating, as well as it definitely makes the person have mobility issues. Together, they are an older couple, traveling together, and are in love as they were when they were married. Traveling is not easy even if you have two working legs, but the stories of their travels, while there were obstacles, shows how much they both cherish life. Not only did they travel through Europe but they also visited some of the most interesting towns and national parks in the US. This is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. I like how Cary shares his and Trish's stories with the reader, and he brings us right along with him. The obstacles he pointed out throughout the book, are what, unfortunately, many mobility impaired persons face, and as one myself, I think this book was just magnificent. I have trouble going to the store, so I can just imagine getting out in the world. I am a little envious, but bravo for sharing.

Books for the Young, and Young al Heart

Ann M. Morris - Kwame's Big Day

Kwame is a young, rural, Ghanaian boy, proud and happy to be able to attend Royal Promise Christian School.

Today is March 6, the day Ghana celebrates its independence. It is a big day for Kwame, as he will participate in a marching competition in his village to celebrate.

Hopefully you, the reader, will enjoy his story and learn some new things about southern, rural Ghana.

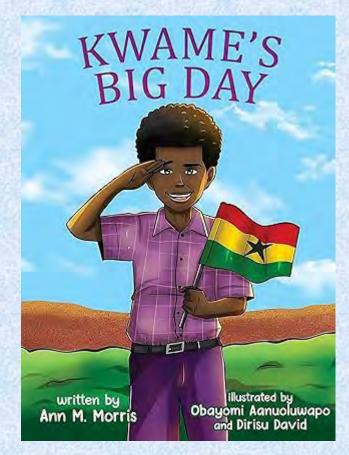
Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

Illustrator: Obayomi Aanuoluwapo, Dirisu David

5 Stars

What an incredible story in Kwame's Big Day by Ann M. Morris

I am a fan of this author! Whatever this author writes, I read. Kwame is from Ghana, and the author often visits there, where she has made friends. I recommend reading the entire book cover to cover, because there are other details outside the story, that will touch your heart. The characters were real, and how the children, know what is expected, and how they have to help their family. The excitement of the children, and their Big Day for inclusion in a parade, jumps off the page. The illustrations were fun to follow. This book would be perfect to read to a child or have the child read it back. The reader learns a bit about Ghana's culture, and the story explains what cultural-specific things such as language and food..



The story's school is based on a true school, that was named after this author. It's fun to read, and very enjoyable. The children that go there have a sponsor from the United States, to pay for their education. I recommend that readers of all ages read this book. Sometimes adults should sit back and remember what it was like to be a kid, and whatever their child may be going through



Carol Ann Ross- Tommy Turtle's Birthday: A Topsail Island Coloring and Story Book

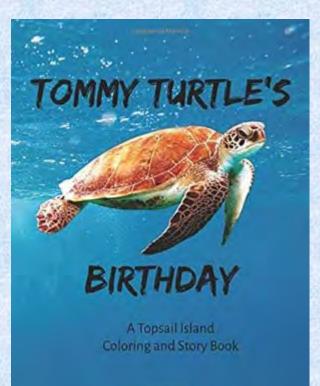
A fun and educational coloring and story book.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

4 Stars

What a fun and educational coloring book.

I am a fan of this author! Whatever this author writes, I read. Yes, it's a coloring book, but it is also part of the Topsail Island series written by Carol Ann Ross. I like that she brought an interesting story and combined it with being a coloring book. It's not your typical coloring book for kids, and I believe that this is one of the books of the series, that you should not overlook. I recommend that readers of all ages read this book. Sometimes adults should sit back and remember what it was like to be a kid, and whatever their child may be going through.

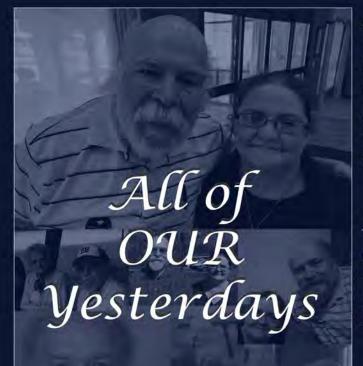




All of OUR Yesterdays

by Amy Shannon, Featuring Dennis E. Shannon

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



Amy Shannon Featuring Dennis E. Shannon

Coming July 4, 2025

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

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

Buy on Amazon



Essence Enterprises "Tell a Story" Picture contest



Write a 500 word or less story about the photo to the left. Email <u>essenceenterprises1972@gmail.com</u>

Subject: Picture Contest 1

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

Poetry Corner

Gary L. Brinderson-SITTING ON A ROCK

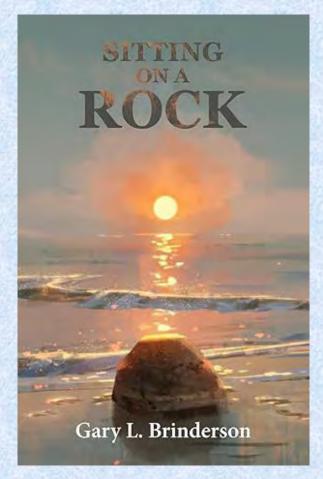
Affirmation, kindness, love, and self awareness are the touchstones of Gary Brinderson's poetry. In a deceptively simple, Zen-like style, Sitting on a Rock offers wise counsel, teaching us--just as he taught his students--that all of life's answers can be found within. We only need to go and sit on a rock, and listen to our hearts.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

4 Stars

Very Poetic thinking

This collection of poetry by Gary L. Brinderson is a remarkable/work of words. Many of the poems were short, but they said a lot within those few lines. Brinderson is a prolific poet and thinker, and what he came up with, as he was sitting on a rock, and I don't know if it was a real experience, or theoretical, but it worked. His works invoked thoughts and feelings. I enjoyed reading this collection and entering the mind of this prolific poet. Such a wonderful read. My favorite was Left Behind which starts with Achievement and goes on from there. I liked this so much, I read many of the poems twice. His words are inspirational, and they focus on love and kindness, something this world needs more of. I look forward to reading more by this poet..





Booksnelf Reviews

Amy

Picks of the Month

Jan Notzon-Sing Like a Mockingbird

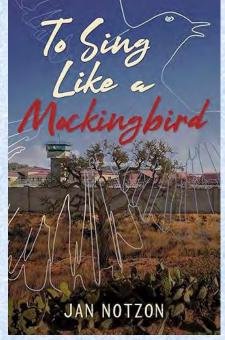
Justin Kopechne's idealized vision of the world that surrounds him is crumbling. In the school/reformatory where he strives to teach kids most have given up on, he is faced with a principal unable to face reality, students who are hired assassins and two friends on opposite sides of the illegal drug trade.

When the school is shut down owing to the brutal murder of the student who was the one light of decency, he takes shelter with his brother and sister-in-law to try to eke out some understanding of the bitter dysfunction of his family.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 5 Stars

Jan Notzon writes a magnificent literary tale with Sing Like a Mockingbird

In Sing Like a Mockingbird, the reader is introduced to various characters, with different lives and lifestyles, but something causes them a unique intertwined life, that no one expects. The teacher, a leader of a drug cartel, a corrupt sheriff, and that's just the beginning. I am a big fan of Jan Notzon and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. There are a lot of mix-themed and mash-ups of genres, but that's what makes this an enduring and intriguing story. I like the way the

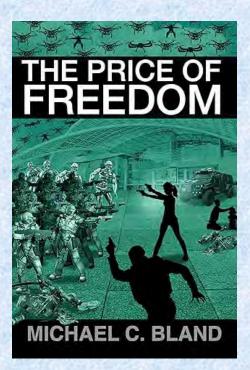


story is divided and yet comes together. With loyalty and trust, there comes a price, and sometimes, idealism and dissolutions are what makes it interesting. The characters are strong, flawed, and perfectly real. Talk about realism. This story is amazing! Both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. As quoted in the book, What is it that we ultimately seek? What drives some to bloody conquest, others to the insatiable pursuit of wealth, and still others to a voracious quest for fame or simple notoriety? The reader is looking under the hood of humanity.





Michael C. Bland- The Price of Freedom



It's 2047. The rebellion has been crushed. The Agency is reestablishing control.

Rebel leader Dray Quintero languishes in his cell, struggling against his captors' manipulations. His daughter Raven's cries torment him at night. He has doomed them both.

When given an unexpected chance to escape prison, they break out--but they're not safe. No one is. The Agency is still in power. And they're tightening their grip. As dangers mount, Dray is haunted by an impossible dilemma: flee and survive, or gamble his last chance for freedom by taking a stand against impossible odds.

He tried running. He tried fighting. This time, he must try something radically different. Something no one will see coming.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 5 Stars

Michael C. Bland writes a thrilling tale with The Price of Freedom

In The Price of Freedom, the reader is brought into the future. Welcome to 2047. And if you've read the other books in this series, you are familiar with Dray. If you haven't, what are you waiting form. The Price of Freedom is part of The Price of Trilogy, and this is volume three. I am a big fan of Michael C. Bland and want to read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. I recommend reading the books before this one and then read this one. I think this is my favorite one in the trilogy, but of course, I liked reading the ones before this one. Dray is a very complex character and is strong-willed. He is one of those unforgettable characters, and now, here he is, in his cell, examining the past, and wondering what is next. Is the Rebellion really demolished? This story is a definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. Both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. Sometimes you have to put the book down, just to take a breath. As always, very impressive story telling.



Mícah Dawanyí's When the Record Stops Spinning

Even in darkness, a spark can ignite a revolution.

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

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

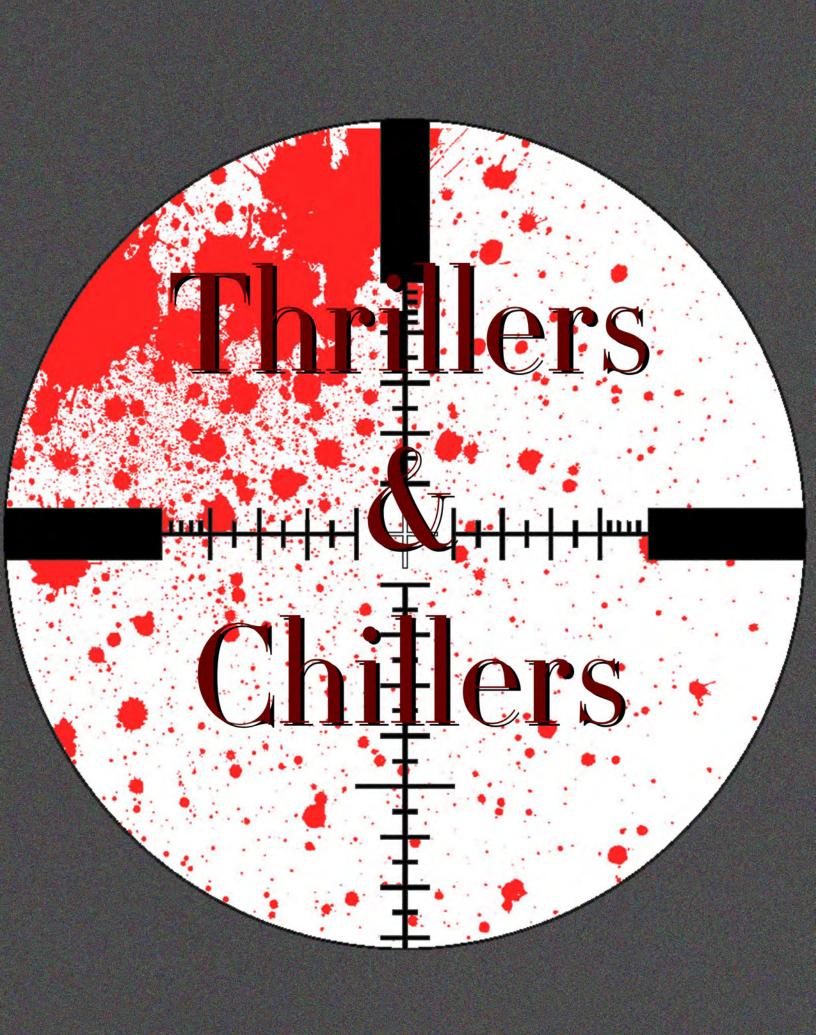






Free descher of Preste Score & Plasse

When the Record Stop Spinning



Yurie Kiri- Moonlight Skull

"Hey!" Gigi said. "What are you doing?" The sight of the big man carrying a bloody skull freaked her out. She wanted to run, but the horny Archeologist guy was still on top, pressing into her and he kept pumping like he was some kind of sex robot drilling for oil.

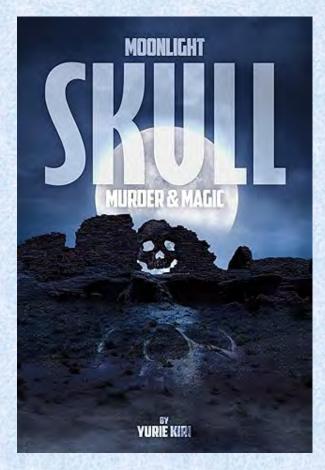
"Relax," Bob said. "Señor Ocotillo just wants to watch..." He held the skull carefully and let it watch. "He hasn't had any in a long while since as you can see.... He's been dead for some time...".

"You guys are too weird," Gigi said. "This will cost you extra...".

"Right," Bob said with a laugh. "I'll pay you even more to ignore me..." He held the skull and watched quietly for a while as the moonlight played on the canyon wall. He could almost see a ghostly moonlight skull image on the wall.

Margarita stared at the huge apparition that approached her. It was like some kind of evil nightmare had materialized right out of a bad dream. He was even more evil and more dangerous than before. She knew he was someone who was supposed to be dead because she'd watched him die. She started to scream as he got closer...

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 5+ Stars Yurie Kiri writes another intense tale!



In Moonlight Skull, the reader is brought into the life of Dirty Bob, or at this point, he's just going by Bob, but even though his name is simple, he's a very large, scary, and dangerous man. Moonlight Skull is part of the Moonlight and Murder series, and this is volume six. I am a huge, yes, Huge fan of Yurie Kiri and want to read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. If I could give this book more than five stars, I would. The reader learns a little bit about Bob, through his conversation with Marty, and we know something has happened, and more things will happen. This story is written with

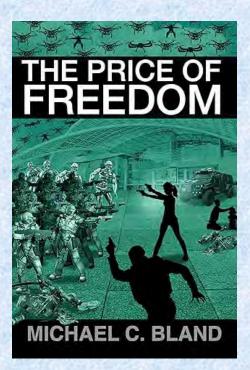
Yurie Kiri- Moonlight Skull

"multiple subplots and it combines the supernatural with just a psychopath, with a talent of his presence bringing out terror in anyone who encounters him. Bob is an interesting character, with a belief in the devil and his demons, and he knows a man named Sam, who has a similar belief. Bob has a way of inserting himself into a situation and becoming a completely different man, making the reader wonder what he could be up to, and then, insert Tito, another character who is just as terrifying and terrorizing as Bob. What a mesmerizing story. Unpredictable, with twists to the end. This story is chilling, with death around every corner, and twists on every page.





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Michael C. Bland writes a thrilling tale with The Price of Freedom

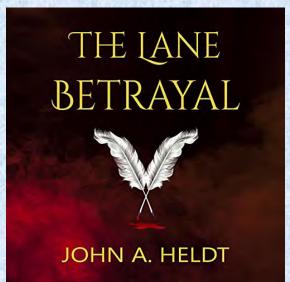
In The Price of Freedom, the reader is brought into the future. Welcome to 2047. And if you've read the other books in this series, you are familiar with Dray. If you haven't, what are you waiting form. The Price of Freedom is part of The Price of Trilogy, and this is volume three. I am a big fan of Michael C. Bland and want to read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. I recommend reading the books before this one and then read this one. I think this is my favorite one in the trilogy, but of course, I liked reading the ones before this one. Dray is a very complex character and is strong-willed. He is one of those unforgettable characters, and now, here he is, in his cell, examining the past, and wondering what is next. Is the Rebellion really demolished? This story is a definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. Both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. Sometimes you have to put the book down, just to take a breath. As always, very impressive story telling.



Audiobooks

Audiobook Legacy Author John Heldt-The Lane Betrayal

Genre: /F/Time Travel/Historical Narrated by: Todd Menesses



Virginia physicist Mark Lane has a problem. Weeks after privately creating two time machines, he learns his corporate partner wants to use the portable devices for nefarious purposes. Rather than give him the chance to do so, Mark takes the time boxes and escapes to the relative safety of 1865.

For Mark, wife Mary, and their children, the adventure is a chance to grow. Mary runs a business. Jeremy, 19, and Ashley, 12, befriend escaped slaves. Laura, 22, finds her place as a nurse. Jordan, 25, falls for a beautiful widow. All hope to find peace in the past.

Billionaire Robert Devereaux has other ideas. Shortly after Mark's betrayal, he sends an assassin to 1865 to retrieve his property and set matters straight. Filled with romance, suspense, and history, The Lane Betrayal follows a modern American family as it tries to find security and contentment in the final weeks of the Civil War.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 5 Stars

In The Lane Betrayal, the listener is introduced to the world that is John Heldt's mind, and of course, the Lane Family. I have read a lot of work by the author before, and I think this is one of my favorites. Heldt is known for his time travelling stories, and I like each one I read or listen to. I haven't listened to anything from this author before, and I really enjoyed it. I did read the print version of the story, and enjoyed it, but I also really enjoyed this audiobook. This narration really brought this story to life. The antagonist was a character that I felt was both devious and yet, in a way, enjoyable to read about. The story brings in the believable, even if almost impossible. This book deserves a second listen! (and maybe more). It is always a joy to read this author's stories, and now he has put his Time Box series on audio. This author is not just a writer but a great storyteller. The author's technique of intense characters and great plotlines is a gift. It's a great story to follow and try to figure out what will happen next. The Lane family is one of greatness and one that has a great loyalty to one another,

Audiobook Legacy Author John Heldt-The Lane Betrayal

really, how many families would be willing to go back to 1865? This story is well done! It had been a while since I read the story, and now listening to it brings it all back. Magnificent story, kept this reader turning the hanging on every word of the story.





Fantas



TC Marti- Cursed Mage

Genre: F/Dark Fantasy

Every family has secrets. Hers are trying to kill her.

Kaija can't wait to dive into university and leave the wreckage of her past behind. But becoming an orphan and moving in with her weird rich uncle wasn't on the cards. Neither was discovering she's a mythical Mage—and something rarer that the unscrupulous ruling party would kill to possess.

Now she's dredging up long-buried family secrets, chatting with drowned ghosts, and dodging elite assassins and a ruthless mercenary Mage. All while learning to control magic so she can rescue the sister she didn't know she had from the clutches of an oppressive political regime.

If Kaija fails, she and her sister won't just lose their freedom, they'll lose their lives... or worse. And the nation will pay the price.

Cursed Mage is the pulse-pounding first book in the Catenarian Chronicles. If you love chosen one dark paranormal fantasies packed with political intrigue, high-stakes action, and unforgettable characters, hang on for the ride of your life. Start reading today!

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 4 Stars TC Marti writes a dark fantastical tale





In Cursed Mage, the reader is introduced to Kaija, who has her whole what she sees as her normal life ahead of her, but then everything changes. With her trying to put the past behind her and as far away from her present as possible, she learns that it's not possible, not even with magic. I am a big fan of TC Marti and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. I like TC Marti's dark fantasies, and this adds that grand touch of magic and paranormal, and it creates an interesting world, that surrounds Kaija. Kaija learns of her family secrets, including a sister she didn't know existed, and her own Mage powers. It's a race against time for survival, and having to learn her powers and be able to control them. It kind of reminded me of Marvel's Doctor Strange, but in a female form because of the intensity of powers, and control it takes to handle them. It was definitely an intriguing story of family, magic powers, survival, and trying to hold on to your own humanity. It is always an honor to read TC Marti's books.

Out of this World

Peter Shokeir- The Scarlet Cloak

The moon rises ...

World War III has begun. The Occupied Territories are on the verge of revolt. Slate has escaped captivity to find the globe in turmoil and his friend mentally scarred.

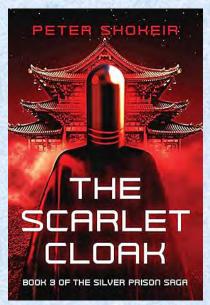
But in the Far East looms the biggest threat of all: another Helmet Man known as Temple. With the power of this new adversary, Cloak is now on the verge of achieving its ultimate ambition.

Can Slate and his friends defeat Temple and stop Cloak once and for all? Or will they finally meet their match?

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 4 Stars

Peter Shokeir writes a sci-fi tale with The Scarlet Cloak

In The Scarlet Cloak, readers are reintroduced to Slade, but this is just the beginning. As part of The Silver Prison Saga, this third volume continues the thrilling journey. While it's uncertain if more volumes will follow, I certainly hope so. As a devoted fan of Peter Shokeir, I eagerly anticipate anything he writes. His grand imagination and talent for storytelling shine through in this captivating third installment. The enemy, Cloak, is central to the narrative, and the title itself hints at



the ominous events to come. This riveting story is a must-read, especially after experiencing the first two books. Getting to know Slade, his companions, and the malevolent Cloak is essential. The plot is unpredictable, with twists that keep you hooked until the very end. Peter Shokeir has crafted an incredible world, from the confines of the Silver Prison to a chaotic world embroiled in WWIII. Yes, WWIII. This story is an absolute page-turner, making it impossible to put down. Some characters are so compelling that you love to hate them, and Cloak is a villain you won't forget. Shokeir's ability to create raw, magnetic characters and intricate plotlines is truly a gift. The end of the world feels tantalizingly close.



Amy Shannon



Literary Consulting & Document Services

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