

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

ISSUE 14.1

LITERATE-LY MAGAZINE

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

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT:

JEREMY JAMES SMITH
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

AUTHOR INTERVIEWS:

CATHERINE ADA CAMPBELL
DEBBIE DE LOUISE
HELEN MCKIBBEN
MOLLIE HUNT
ÓLAFUR GUNNARSSON
CHARLES DICKENS
EDGAR ALLEN POE

BOOK REVIEWS AND MORE:

AMY'S BOOKSHELF REVIEWS
AMY'S PICK OF THE MONTH
UNCAGED MAGAZINE

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT:

MADCAP SERENADE
STRAW-BAG TIN-BOX CLOTH-SUITCASE

NONFICTION:

WHAT'S EATING OUR KIDS?

AUDIOBOOKS:

FEATURED SHORT STORIES THE LEFT TURN: TWO LIVES, WORLDS APART
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CEO and Chief Editor: Amy Shannon

Email address: writeramyshannon@gmail.com

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

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Letter from the CEO and Editor

Thank you for reading and contributing to this magazine. Once I had one reader when I started, I considered this a success. No, it's not a money maker, and it is not supposed to be. Actually, except for an Ad purchase, it doesn't bring in any revenue.

If you have been following my blog posts or my social media posts, I have had to cut back on writing reviews by updating policies, and I made the announcement that this magazine's final issue will be in a year. November-December 2025 Issue 20.0 will be the final issue.

I have enjoyed bringing this magazine to readers and supporting authors. I love what I do, and I love reading, writing reviews, promoting authors, and also providing information and education to aspiring writers, as well as experienced writers.

I want to thank all of the contributors over the years, and a shout-out to author Kevin G. Chapman, as he was the first author to contribute to the magazine with his wonderful article about audiobooks.

Again, thank you for your support.



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Amy's Bookshelf Reviews "Best Reads" Book Project

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

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

It's a book that will recommend books, and teach or inspire a review from the reader.

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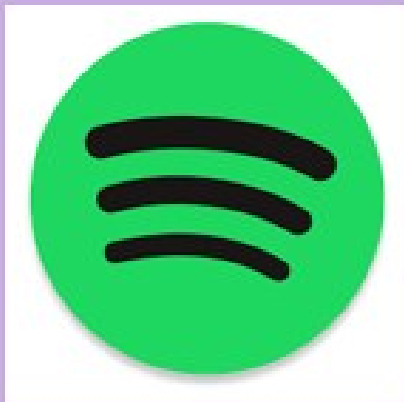
Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast!

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

Author's, your books can be on the show!

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

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews/Podcast



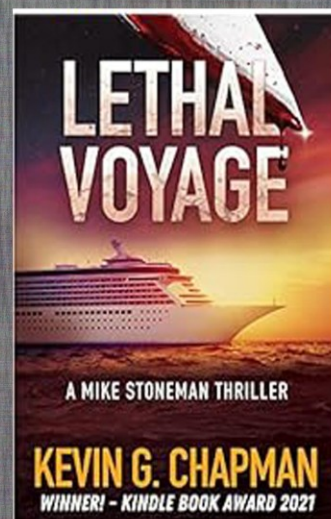
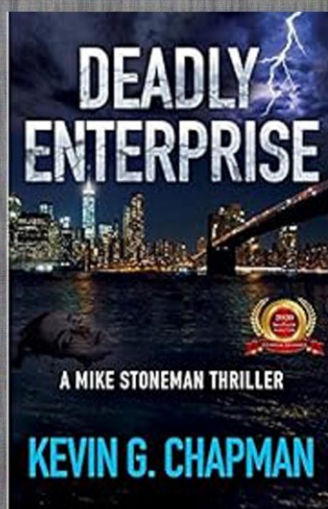
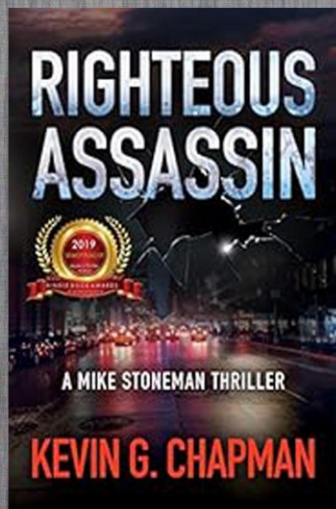
Now, every third Sunday of the Month, is the Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Poetry Corner.

Spotify

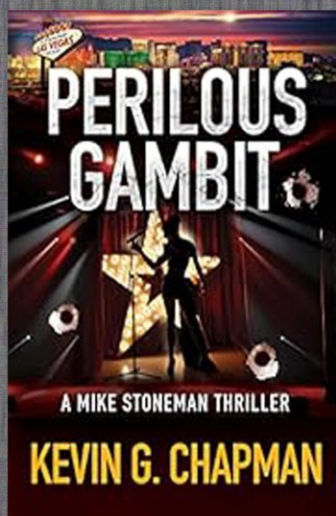
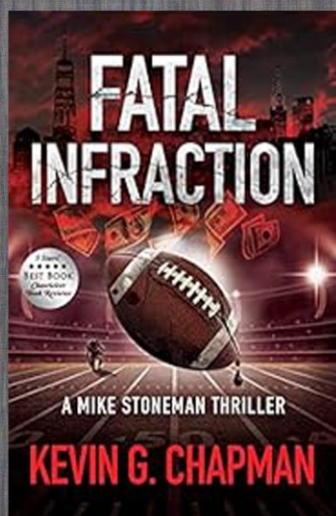


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Kevin G. Chapman's Mike Stoneman Thrillers



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



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

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Fractured Tears: A Struggle for Justice Expanded Version

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

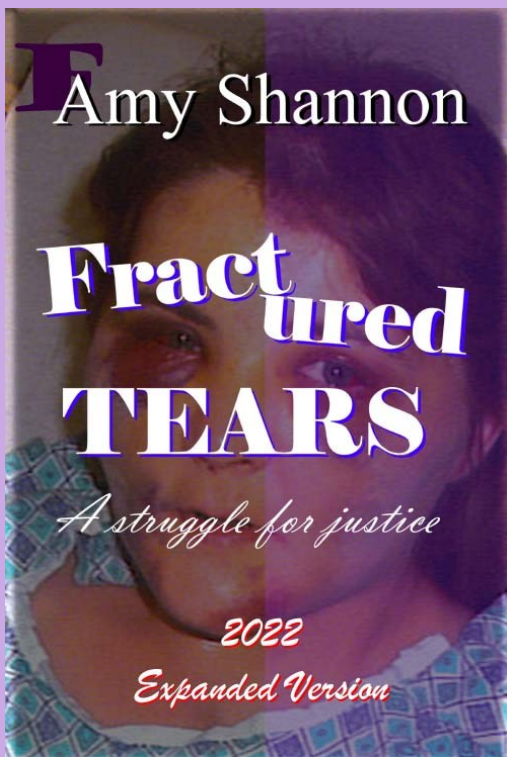
Read how Anna struggles to fight for justice, and deal with her personal issues from having been betrayed and abused by her husband of 13 years.

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

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

This is an expanded version and Fourth Edition.
Names have been deleted or changed for privacy reasons.

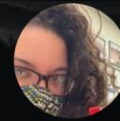
This is both a fiction book based on real-life events and a nonfiction book that tells my story.



Advertisement

WHERE WOULD YOU GO TO DIE?

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



Jada



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



Khan



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



Tyrnie



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



Laramie



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



John



"Ugly but beautifully written."



Isobel



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



E.J



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



SCAN ME

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November Releases

- Brian O'Hare Marked for Death 11/12/2024
- Greg Fields The Bright Freight of Memory
11/19/2024
- Syntell Smith Redeye 11/27/2024
- Phyllis Gobbell Prodigal 11/19/2024



December Releases

- Kevin G. Chapman Double Takedown-
Hardcover 12/1/2024
- Kevin G. Chapman Double Takedown-
Digital 12/1/2024
- Kevin G. Chapman Double Takedown-
Audiobook 12/1/2024



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

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

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



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a publishing contract, literary exposure
and more...*

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Author Spotlight

Author Spotlight

Jeremy James Smith

Jeremy James Smith is an epic fantasy author who enjoys making people chuckle. His books are filled with free-flowing and engaging dialogue that he attributes to tens of thousands of conversations over a 30-year sales and customer service career.

When he isn't writing about dwarves, elves, and orcs, he enjoys time with his wife and sons in their mountainside forest home in Idaho. In his spare time, he helps to run a Renaissance faire and practices martial arts from different times and places across history.

Check out [@harkentale](#) on socials



Author Spotlight

William Shakespeare

(1564-1616)

William Shakespeare was a poet, dramatist, and actor. It is known that he wrote at least 37 plays, 154 sonnets, and 2 narrative poems, but it is possible there were more.

"Shakespeare was the third child of John Shakespeare, a glove-maker and leather merchant, and Mary Arden, a local heiress to land. John and Mary had eight children together, though three of them did not live past childhood. Their first two children—daughters Joan and Margaret—died in infancy, so William was the oldest surviving offspring. He had three younger brothers and two younger sisters: Gilbert, Joan, Anne, Richard, and Edmund. Anne died at age 7, and Joan was the only sibling to outlive William."

"Records show that Shakespeare, who was also a company shareholder, had works published and sold as popular literature. Although *The Taming of the Shrew* is believed to be the first play that Shakespeare wrote, his first published plays were *Titus Andronicus* and *Henry VI Part 2*. They were printed in 1594 in quarto, an eight-page pamphlet-like book. By the end of 1597, Shakespeare had likely written 16 of his 37 plays and amassed some wealth."



<https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/william-shakespeare>

<https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/shakespedia/william-shakespeare/william-shakespeare-biography/>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/William-Shakespeare>

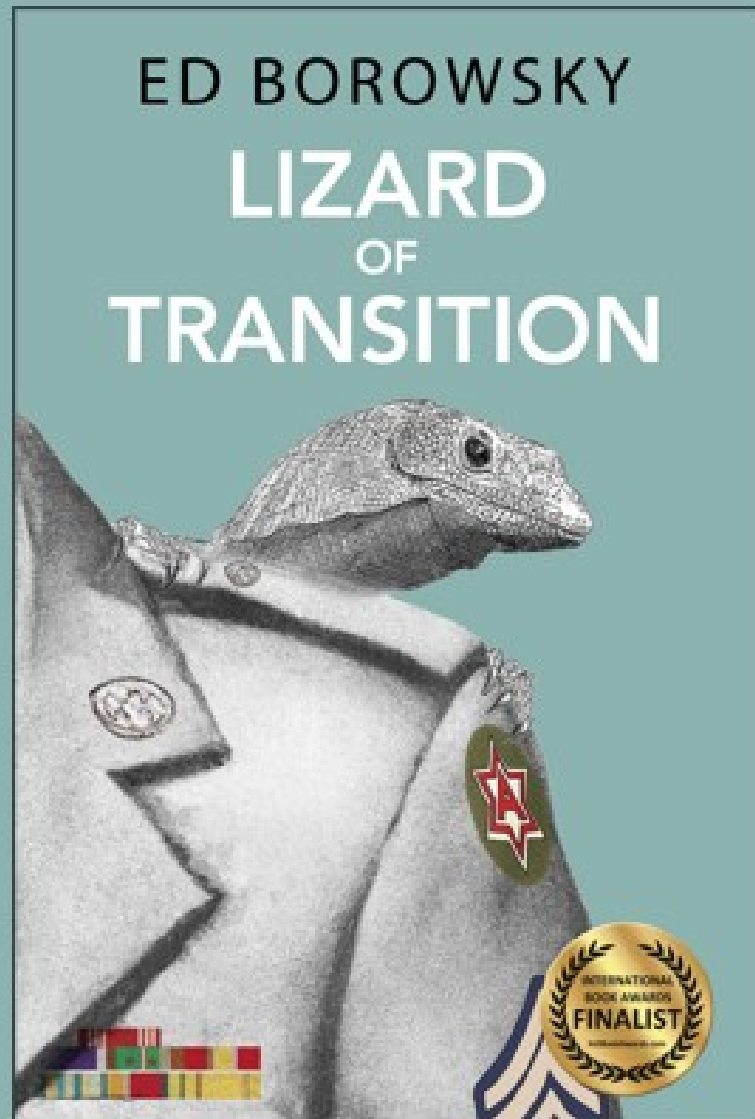
Ed Borowsky's Lizard of Transition

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

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

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

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



Advertisement



Author Interviews

Catherine Ada Campbell

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: Compassionate. Self-Aware. Curious.

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: I published two private genealogy books for different families.

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: Some of my readers have been asking for a sequel to true. Moving Beyond Complex Trauma, specifically writing about how my daughter and I were able to work through our respective issues and become the best of friends.

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?

Catherine Ada Campbell: In my case, before I started writing I had a flash in my mind, fully formed, of just the word “true.” in small capitals



with a period after the word. I could even see the font in my mind. The finished book uses a different font and of course the title now includes “Moving Beyond Complex Trauma,” but the core title is the same.

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?

Catherine Ada Campbell: Of course I have to say, me! Lololol. My book is part memoir and part illuminating the science and history of various therapeutic modalities.

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

Campbell cont'd

Any significant event or abuse that overwhelms a child's capacity to cope, can lead to



Common Signs* Can Also Be Coping Strategies

- Dissociation
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Self Harm
- Risk Taking
- Inappropriate sexual knowledge or behavior for child's age
- Alcohol / Drug Use
- Poor academic performance
- Violent Behavior
- Nightmares / Trouble Sleeping
- Obsessive - Compulsive Behaviors
- Social Withdrawal
- Criminal Behavior
- Harming others or animals
- Suicide Ideation and/or attempts

*not a complete list

Catherine Ada Campbell: What a fun question! My first passion was reading science fiction (not fantasy) as a child, which informed my love of science. Now that I'm thinking about this, the genre of my memoir is more memoir-psychology.

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: *true.* is about my 45+ year journey to good mental health, recovering from systemic, childhood abuse and trauma. It's a memoir of resilience and hope.

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: "True family is a matter of heart, not heritage." – *The Maternal Ancestry of ...* (person's name withheld for privacy).

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: I worked in radio broadcasting for many years, and plan to voice my own audiobook.

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: Oh, this is not a fair question. How can I say Louisa May Alcott and Taylor Caldwell when Issac Asimov and Robert Heinlein were childhood heroes? How can I leave out J.K. Rowling or J.R.R. Tolkien? Or ...

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: I'm currently reading two books – Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* and *The 10,000 Year Explosion: How Civilization Accelerated Human Evolution* by physicist Gregory Cochran and anthropologist Henry Harpending who also specializes in demography and genetics.

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

Campbell cont'd

Catherine Ada Campbell: I wish I were one of those creative, talented authors who get inspired and sit down and write. I have a system, I do research, I craft each chapter, and so on.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

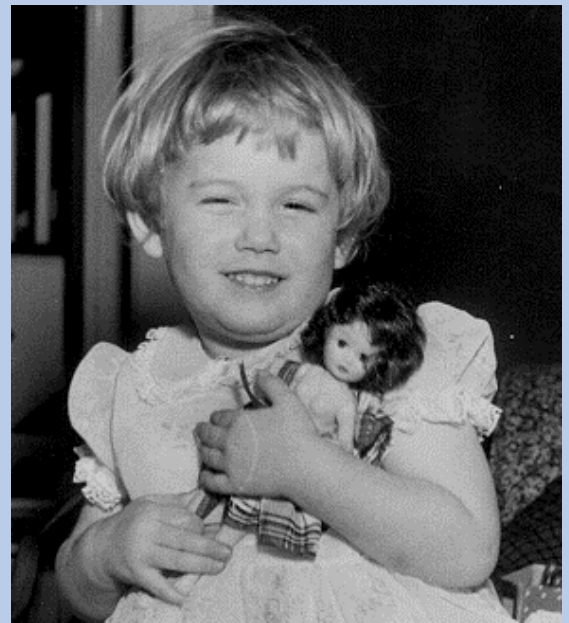
Catherine Ada Campbell: When I was young trying to survive an abusive, chaotic childhood, my journals were where my confusion, pain, fear and anger found safe refuge. I also used my journals as proof that something happened the way I remembered, or that someone said something the way I heard it.

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: No. I'm preparing for the next marketing phase for my book, which includes creating a media kit, prepping for podcast interviews, and so on.

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: Here is where I might be a bit unique. Professionally, I've spent years writing reams of advertising and news copy, news stories, corporate



newsletters, business reports, etc. I've developed an objective reading eye for my work. I welcome feedback and critique, because I understand there are a thousand different ways to write anything.

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?

Catherine Ada Campbell: I was a radio deejay at one point in my career, and my music taste is eclectic, with genres ranging from mountain bluegrass to opera, rap, jazz and rock n roll. But when I need to focus, I listen to meditation music like solfeggio frequencies and elysian harmonies.

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

Campbell cont'd

hardest line to write, the first line, the last line or the synopsis for the book?

Catherine Ada Campbell: The synopsis was difficult for me.

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).

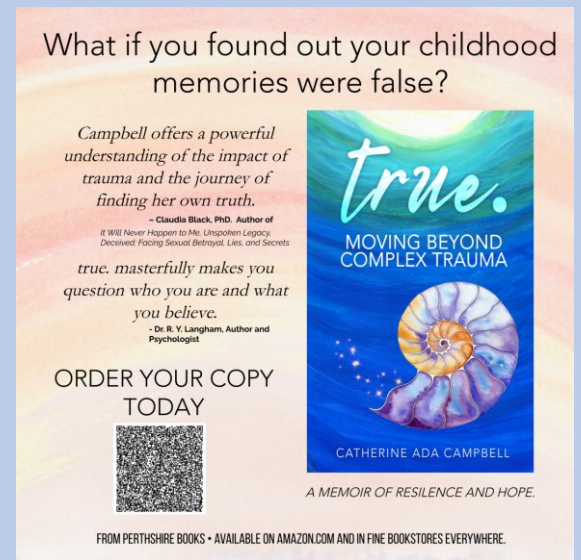
Catherine Ada Campbell: Ooh, another fun question! Maya Angelou because she speaks to my soul, Issac Asimov because he loved word play, science and using his writing to challenge reader's assumptions, and my great-great grandmother Augusta, because she could tell me stories about my Scottish ancestry.

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: If my book can help someone struggling, that's it for me.

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: I lived a life that was *true*.



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.

Catherine Ada Campbell: Banning books has NEVER worked in humanity's favor, from the Church's attempts in the Middle Ages to restrict certain writing, to the self-righteous people who won't take responsibility for what their children read and therefore want everyone else to do it. I know, that's harsh.

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

Catherine Ada Campbell: One thing that held me back from writing creatively was comparing myself to others. Comparing is shaming. You're either putting yourself down or the other person.





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Debbie De Louise

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

Debbie De Louise: creative, prolific, persistent. If you can count compound words, I would use cat lover, retired librarian, author.

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

Debbie De Louise: I've published nineteen books. Six are part of my Cobble Cove cozy mystery series and four are part of my Buttercup Bend cozies. The others are mostly standalone mystery thrillers with a few books of different genres; non-fiction, poetry, time-travel, and romance. I've won awards for two of them. My mystery, Sea Scope, won a silver medal from Reader's Favorites, and my time-travel novel, Time's Relative, won a muse medallion from the Cat Writers' Association. The muse medallion is the highest award given by CWA.

I've also written at least a dozen more that I hope to publish one day. They're in various forms. Most are handwritten in notebooks. Some are in different stages of edits on my computer.

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

Debbie De Louise: I'm working on a new release but don't have a release date. The title is *The Case of the Reptile Rescuing Receptionist: Buttercup Bend Mystery #5*.

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?

Debbie De Louise: I create titles prior to writing my books, and I rarely change the titles. I base them on the plot idea of the book. If it's a series, I try to keep them



De Louise cont'd

uniform. For instance, in my Cobble Cove cozy mysteries, I use “rocks” and “stones” in all the titles: *A Stone’s Throw*, *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, *Written in Stone*, and *Love on the Rocks*. In my Buttercup Bend series, I use an occupation and an animal: *The Case of the Cat Crazy Lady*, *The Case of the Parrot Loving Professor*, *The Case of the Llama Raising Librarian*, and *the Case of the Whale Watching Wedding Planner*.

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?

Debbie De Louise: This is a tough question because I believe all my characters are interesting. However, if I had to point to one, it would be Glen, Sarah’s brother in my award-winning mystery, *Sea Scope* because, even though he’s dead in the present time, I show his character through flashbacks of him as a child and later as an adult. He also has a secret that his sister uncovers toward the end of the book. I also think Sneaky, the library cat in my Cobble Cove cozy mystery series is a fun character. His purr-sonality shows up more in the later books of the series where readers can “see” his thoughts.

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

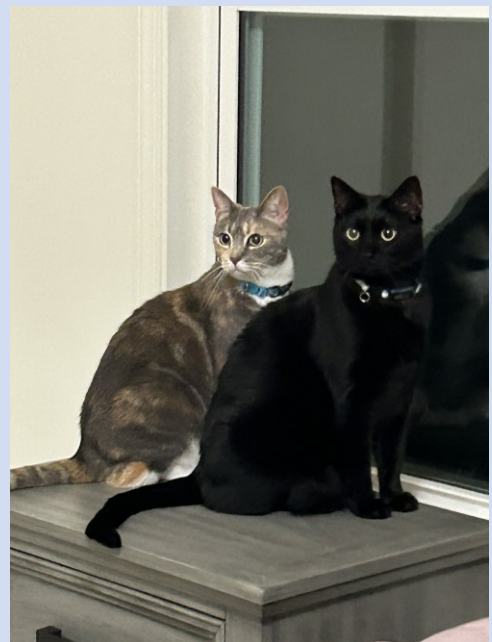
Debbie De Louise: Cozy Mystery Romantic Suspense Novels with Cats

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

Debbie De Louise: [*A Mixed Bag of Cat Tails*](#) is a multi-genre collection of ten short stories featuring cats.

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

Debbie De Louise: “The silence between Derek and I had grown too loud, too heavy.”
[*Sea Scope*](#)



De Louise Cont'd

I also really like “That’s not the way it’s supposed to work with cats or cat genii. I’m your master now, and my wish is your command.” From “Cat Genie” in *A Mixed Bag of Cat Tails*.

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

Debbie De Louise: I’m a retired librarian who recently moved from Long Island, New York to South Carolina with my husband, daughter, and two cats.

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

Debbie De Louise: My latest favorite authors are Adrienne Young, Megan Goldin, and Ruth Ware, although I enjoy reading many other

Indie, self-published, and best-selling authors of various genres.

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

Debbie De Louise: Daughter of Sorrow by Abigail Silver for a book club. This was a fantasy, Science Fiction book by a local author. I enjoyed it very much as a change of pace from my usual mystery reading.

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

Debbie De Louise: I’m a pantsner, so I just write as I go.

Literate-ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Debbie De Louise: I enjoy creating characters and stories that surprise me and that I hope others enjoy and find surprising, too.



De Louise Cont'd

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

Debbie De Louise: I'm writing the 5th Buttercup Bend cozy mystery, *The Case of the Reptile Rescuing Receptionist*.

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

Debbie De Louise: Other than during editing and before I submit a manuscript, I don't reread my books often unless I'm preparing for a book talk or book club event. I also reread parts of them if I'm working on another book in the series and need to check something from a previous book. When I reread them, I'm surprised that I can't remember them too well and that they're better than I remember.

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?

Debbie De Louise: I need complete silence to write.

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?

Debbie De Louise: The synopsis is tough. I find that I can't condense my books into one or two pages.

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).

Debbie De Louise: I'd love to have coffee with Phyllis Whitney. I was a fan of her writing for many years and even wrote to her. I lost her reply and have searched for it for a long time. She was an inspiration to me with her romantic suspense novels. She's dead but lived over one hundred years and wrote a large number of books. I'd also love to have coffee with my Mom who has been gone for six years now and who I still miss. I'd love to know how she's doing, and I can catch her up on my life, although she probably knows all about it. Lastly, I'd like to have coffee with one of the Bee Gees, probably Barry because he's the only one still alive. The Bee Gees were my favorite group and maybe he'd sing a song for me.

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

De Louise Cont'd

Debbie De Louise: That depends on the writer and what they feel is successful. To me, if you put your heart and soul into a book and share it with others who review it or contact you and tell you they've enjoyed it, you're successful even if you don't make much money from it or it doesn't become a bestseller.

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

Debbie De Louise: I'd like to publish every book I've written, those I've started and are in the process of writing on my computer, as well as those old handwritten manuscripts, and even the ideas I have swimming around in my mind but have to keep at bay as I concentrate on my current project.

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.

Debbie De Louise: As a retired librarian, I feel no book should be banned.

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

Debbie De Louise: I realize not all books are for everyone, but I write many different types of books that may appeal to different audiences. I particularly enjoy writing mysteries, both cozies and thrillers. I also like to try my hand at other genres: science fiction, time travel, non-fiction, poetry, etc. Most of all, I like to include cats in my books, some as main characters and others in supporting roles. I also include dogs and other animals in some of my writing.

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Debbie's Character's Chat Group:

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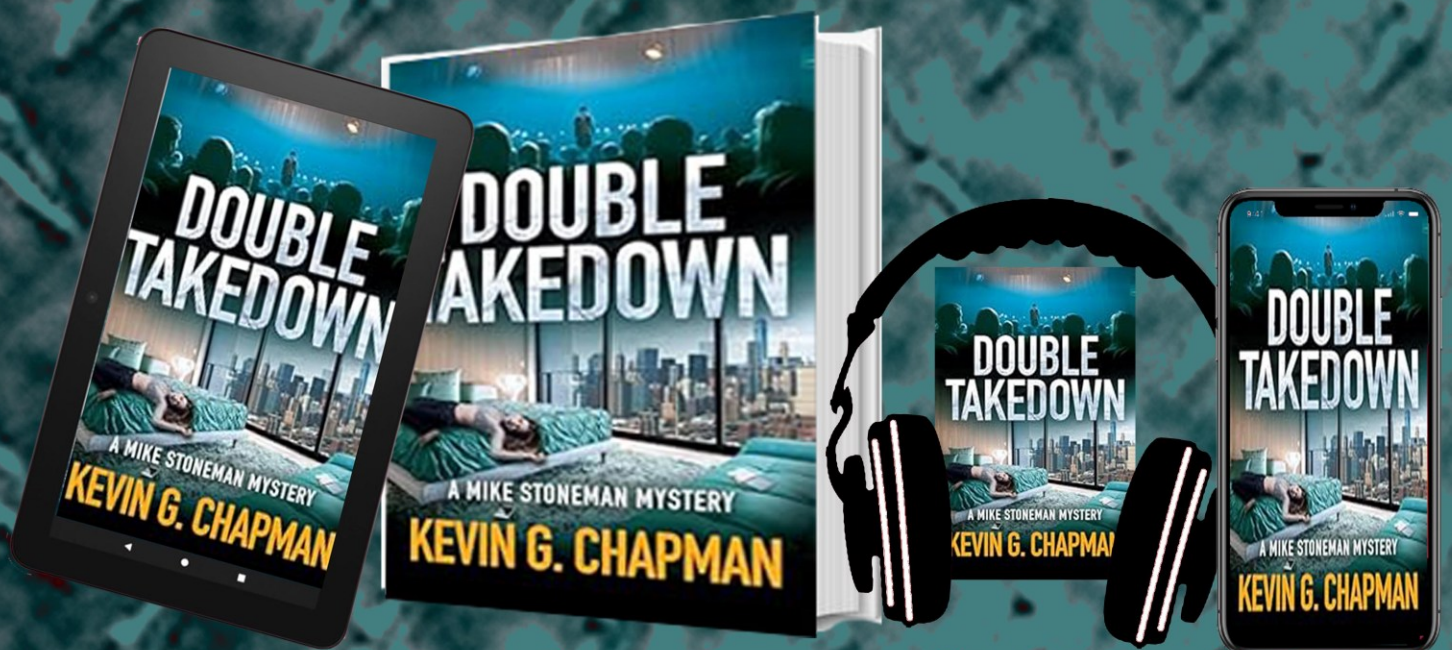


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Kevin G. Chapman's Double Takedown

What happens when a closed case cracks wide open?

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



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Helen McKibben

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

Helen McKibben: Dedicated, Innovative, Empowering

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

Helen McKibben: One

Literate-Ly Magazine: How much research did you do, and how long did it take before you even started writing?

Helen McKibben: It took years of gathering evidence and testing to confirm that the method worked for individuals.

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

Helen McKibben: Title of Book: Drop: Making Great Decisions published: 05/14/2024

Literate-Ly Magazine: In regard to research, how did you do your research? Did you interview experts, online research, or in a library etc....?

Helen McKibben: For the book "Drop: Making Great Decisions," the research process involved a combination of methods. I drew from my extensive 35-year career as a clinical therapist, incorporating insights from neuroscience and emotional intelligence. The book also includes real-life interviews and case studies, reflecting the experiences of individuals newly learning to



successfully apply the "Drop" technique. I utilized a range of resources, including scientific literature that supported my theory and methodology, to develop and refine the unique approach presented in the book.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What made you decide to write your past book, what inspired you?

Helen McKibben: The inspiration behind writing, "Drop: Making Great Decisions" came from my desire to offer a practical and transformative approach to decision-making and emotional well-being. Throughout my career, I observed that many traditional methods were insufficient for addressing the root causes of emotional triggers. I wanted to create a tool that could provide lasting solutions, helping people navigate their emotions and make better life choices. My goal was to empower individuals to understand and leverage their brain's natural design, fostering a deeper sense of self-awareness and control.

McKibben Cont'd

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

Helen McKibben: "Drop: Making Great Decisions" introduces a groundbreaking technique that helps readers tap into their brain's innate capabilities for optimal decision-making. The book emphasizes the importance of understanding neuromuscular signals that indicate unconscious emotions, allowing individuals to work with their brain rather than against it. It covers a wide range of practical applications, from managing stress and improving sleep to overcoming addictions and enhancing relationships. The method, known as "Dropping to the Blank Screen," offers a revolutionary way to resolve emotional triggers and achieve lasting emotional stability.

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

Helen McKibben: I am dedicated to teaching people how to shift from low self-confidence to high self-esteem.

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

Helen McKibben: Bill Bryson, Daniel Goldman, Jerry West

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

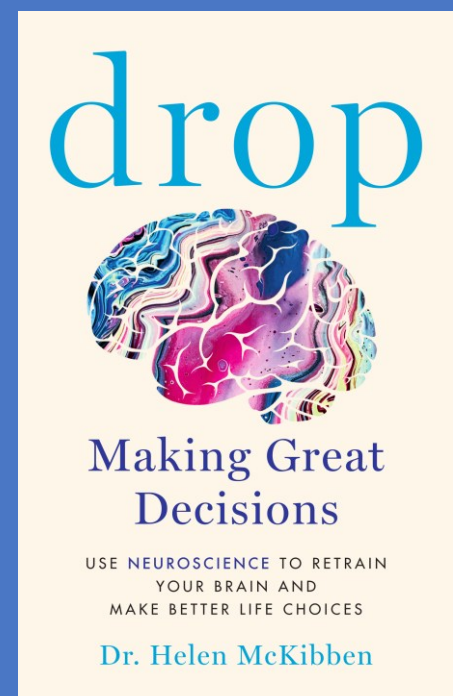
Helen McKibben: Family Systems Cultural Mores and Norms.

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

Helen McKibben: My writing process involves a structured approach, where I begin with a clear outline and a set of key concepts I want to explore. I then use real-life examples to illustrate the ideas. While I maintain a flexible mindset to adapt and incorporate new insights as they arise, the foundation of my writing is built on thorough planning and systematic exploration of the topic.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Helen McKibben: Because many physicians, clients, and therapists wanted this unique method to be made available to friends, family members, or their patients.



McKibben Cont'd



Literate-Ly Magazine: Are you personally an expert on the subject of your recently published book?

Helen McKibben: Yes, I created the method using extensive knowledge of how the brain works emotionally.

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?

Helen McKibben: The synopsis.

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

Helen McKibben: Being a successful writer means connecting with people and helping

them connect with themselves as a result.

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

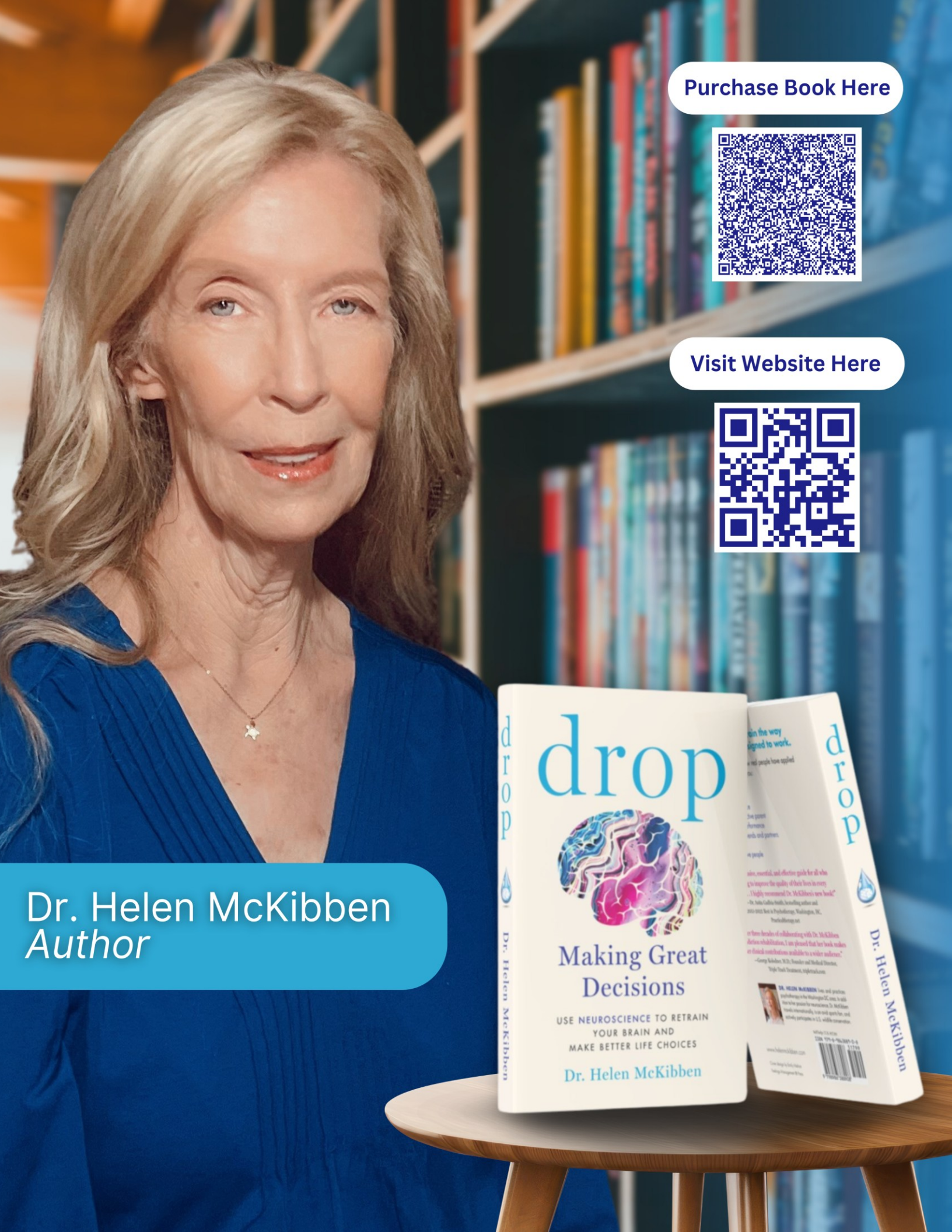
Helen McKibben: I want people to be able to tap into their inborn skills and achieve a deeper understanding of themselves.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What is the hardest part of the writing and publishing process?

Helen McKibben: Editing.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write nonfiction books? What subgenres do you write in as well?

Helen McKibben: I write nonfiction to expand communication with others and provide practical tools for personal development.



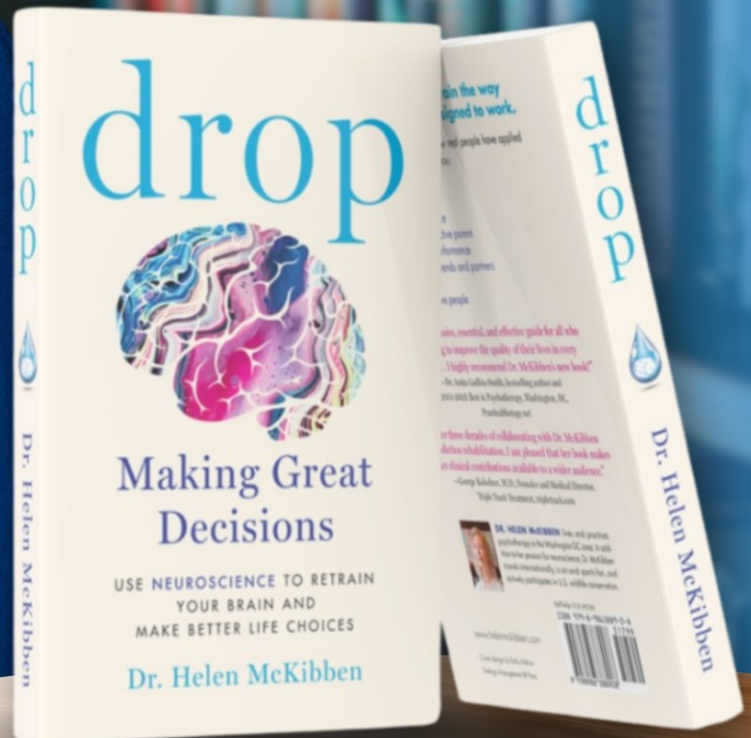
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Dr. Helen McKibben
Author



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BETRAYED



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

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Mollie Hunt

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

Mollie Hunt: Cat-lady, writer, persevering.

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

Mollie Hunt: I have 18 published books: three cozy series, a stand-alone mystery, and a COVID memoir. I have 5 other partially finished manuscripts that are languishing in my desk drawer.

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

Mollie Hunt: I recently published *Ghost Cat at the Mystery Hotel*, the 3rd book in my Tenth Life cozy paranormal series. I'm now working on the 11th Crazy Cat Lady cozy mystery with a proposed National Cat Day release on October 29th.

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?



Mollie Hunt: An interesting question. In fact, I often come up with the title first and write the book from there. Titles don't change once I decide they are right for the story.

All the books in the Crazy Cat Lady series have "Cat" in a two-word title. The Tenth Life series books begin with "Ghost Cat." Titles for the Cat Seasons Sci-Fantasy Tetralogy utilize the word, cat, with one of the four seasons. I don't remember how I came up with the mystery title, *Placid River Runs Deep*, because I wrote it so long ago, but the memoir, *There's a Cat Hair in My Mask: How Cats Helped Me through Unprecedented Times*, simply wrote itself.

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

Mollie Hunt: I enjoy Lynley Cannon, the hero of the Crazy Cat Lady mysteries,

Hunt Cont'd

because she is a cat shelter volunteer like me, and I can put her into all sorts of cat-related situations, but probably the most interesting of my characters is the ghost cat Soji from the Tenth Life series.

Since Soji is a paranormal being, she can do anything. She is always surprising me with her abilities such as making herself into a big, scary beast or talking with tigers.

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

Mollie Hunt: How about: *Cozy Cat Mystery with a Paranormal Twist Featuring an Amateur Woman Sleuth of a Certain Age*.

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

Mollie Hunt: *Ghost Cat at the Mystery Hotel* takes seventy-something Camelia Collins and her spectral cohort Soji to a murder mystery weekend at an obscure hotel on the Oregon Coast. One expects a murder at a mystery event, doesn't one? But when the victim turns out to be dead—really dead, things change fast. Trapped by a vicious storm with a houseful of strangers—one of whom

is a murderer—Camelia must trust Soji to keep her safe until the morning. Meanwhile there are other ghosts afoot who might have different plans.

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

Mollie Hunt: Let me see. Eighteen books, approximately 65,000 words each—that's a lot of lines to choose from. Besides, I don't play favorites. But one I do keep coming back to is this:

“I am the crazy cat lady, only I'm not crazy yet—not quite.”

—*Cats' Eyes*, the First Crazy Cat Lady cozy mystery.



Hunt Cont'd

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

Mollie Hunt: I love cats. I have been a cat person for all of my seventy-plus years. I was writing cat stories in fourth grade and had my own pair of cat ears. I have rarely lived without cats, be it a cat companion, barn cats on a hippie farm, or a clowder of strays from a shelter. Cats are a huge part of my life, and I believe I have come to know them reasonably well, considering I am merely human.

I have been volunteering with the Oregon Humane Society cattery since 2006 wearing many different hats. My current assignment is to help socialize difficult cats in OHS's Behavior Modification program. I have taken classes which include pet first aid, feline medical and geriatric issues, litterbox issues,

and psychic communication. I have fostered many cats with varying medical and psychological needs including hospice care. For four years, my cat Tinkerbelle and I were a registered Pet Partner therapy team, visiting hospice patients and assisted living facilities. I have a veterinary-approved certificate in cat first aid, CPR, and cat health. I even teamed up with cat behaviorist Jackson Galaxy and a troubled cat named Lux.

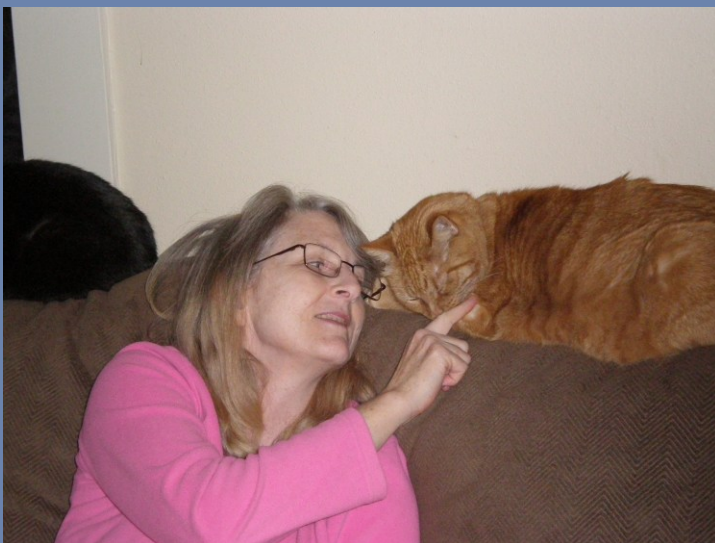
I also dress up and go to Star Trek conventions.

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

Mollie Hunt: Louise Penny, Shirley Rousseau Murphy, H.Y. Hanna.

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

Mollie Hunt: *Abaddon's Gate*, the Expanse Series, by James S. A. Corey



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

Mollie Hunt: I write first thing in the morning after feeding the cats and making coffee. The first draft begins on a whim and goes from there. I utilize a reverse outline and notes to keep track of where the story has

Hunt Cont'd

been and to better predict where it is going. The subsequent revisions are more like actual work.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Mollie Hunt: I was supposed to be an artist. That's what my family expected from the time I was young, and that's what I went to college to study. But I became disillusioned by the business side of the art scene. For many years, I did nothing creative. Then one night, I sat down at a computer and began to write a mystery. Before I knew it, I'd written 45 pages and had exciting ideas running around in my head.

When I write, edit, or revise a story, time disappears. I love the process as well as the end product. Though I enjoy doing other things, nothing is as fulfilling for me as writing.

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

Mollie Hunt: I am just finishing the third revision of the 11th Crazy Cat Lady mystery, *Crafty Cat*. Now it goes to the beta readers, and then to my editor.

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

Mollie Hunt: Here's how it goes: A first draft, a revision, then a second revision where I read it out loud to the cats. Once the manuscript comes back from the editor and I've added in her suggestions, I order a proof copy and read through it once more.

I have reread some of my older books and given them a brush-up once or twice, but mostly I move forward to the next story.

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?

Mollie Hunt: No music. Total quiet. Any sound besides my cats' meows are too distracting.

Literate-Ly Magazine: As an author, I find that the hardest thing to write (for me) is the blurb that will be on the back cover or book's description. When you write, what is the hardest line to write, the first line, the last line or the synopsis for the book?

Mollie Hunt: I'm with you. I can write an entire manuscript with ease, but when it comes to that tiny blurb, I'm left wordless.

Hunt Cont'd

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

Mollie Hunt: The Dalai Lama, to feel his serenity up close. Joni Mitchell, to talk about the changes. My mother, because she is gone.

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

Mollie Hunt: I recently received the following note from a fan: *We found your books at the Troutdale Art Walk and bought Ghost Cat of Ocean Cove. My daughter has just started reading it to my elderly mother and she is THRILLED!*

And this from another mother and daughter duo: *Hi Mollie: we received your book today. Mom grabbed it out of my hands and is reading it first! Not fair.*

These are my successes.

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

Mollie Hunt: I am content with my accomplishments as it stands. I can only do what I do; how it impacts others is not up to me so I can't worry about it.

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.

Mollie Hunt: Banning books is one symptom of a larger problem: factions wanting to control others. I am hoping the *epidemic* is a last ditch effort before those would-be controllers lose the fight once and for all, and we can finally go forward as diverse and free beings.

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

Mollie Hunt: Words to live by:

“Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;

The courage to change the things I can;

And the wisdom to know the difference.”

Hunt Cont'd

Mollie Hunt bio:

Cat Writer Mollie Hunt is the award-winning author of two cozy series: the Crazy Cat Lady Mysteries featuring a sixty-something cat shelter volunteer who finds more trouble than a cat in catnip, and the Tenth Life Paranormal Mysteries involving a ghost cat. Her Cat Seasons Sci-Fantasy Tetralogy presents extraordinary cats saving the world. She recently released a COVID memoir which she calls, "a tale of a plague and politics, of depression and inspiration, and an ode to the very real and healing presence of cats." In her spare time, she pens a bit of cat poetry.

Her cat writing has earned various honors, including CWA Muse Medallions and World's Best Literary Awards. She is the recipient of the prestigious Michael Brim Distinguished Service Award (CWA) and the Catalyst Council Connect to Care Award, celebrating a true story of the profound connection between a shelter cat and its adoptive pet parent. Her book, Cat's Paw, was a CIBA Mystery & Mayhem Semi-finalist.

Mollie is a member of Sisters in Crime and Willamette Writers, as well as being on the board of the Oregon Writers Colony and Northwest Independent Writers Association (NIWA). She is also the librarian for the Cat Writers' Association. Mollie lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband and a varying number of cats. Like her cat lady character, she is a grateful shelter volunteer.

You can find Mollie Hunt, Cat Writer on her blogsite: <https://molliehuntcatwriter.com/>

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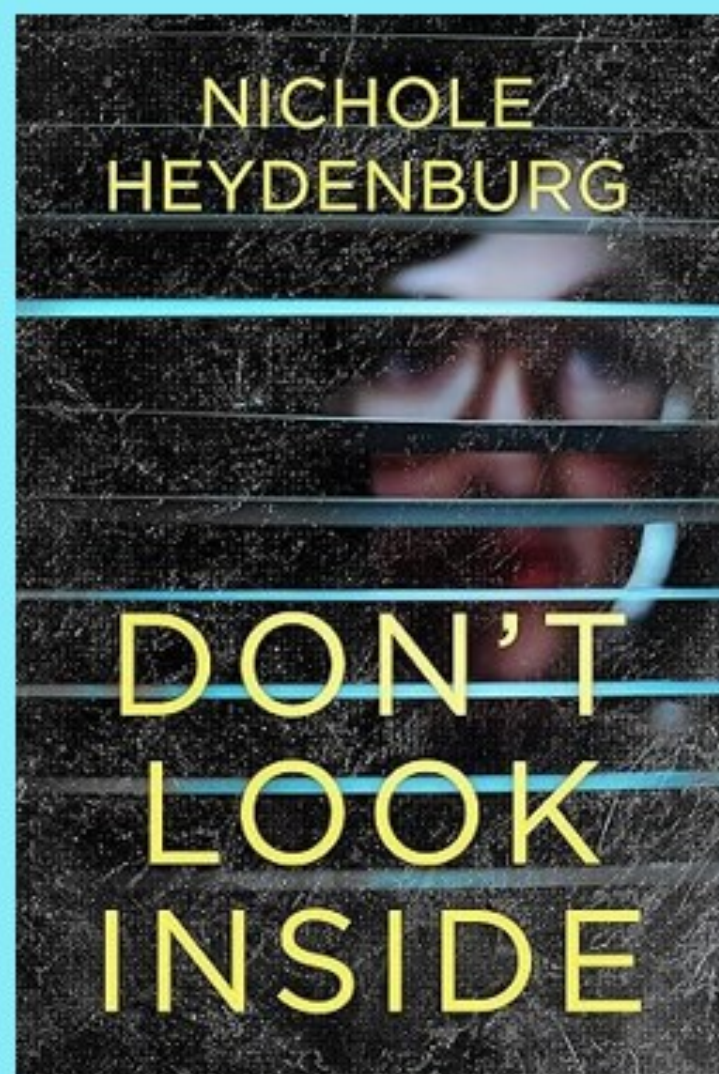
Nichole Heydenburg's Don't Look Inside

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

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

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

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



Advertisement

Ólafur Gunnarsson

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

Ólafur Gunnarsson: Gods little child.

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

Ólafur Gunnarsson: 25 titles, a single one unpublished and now lost.

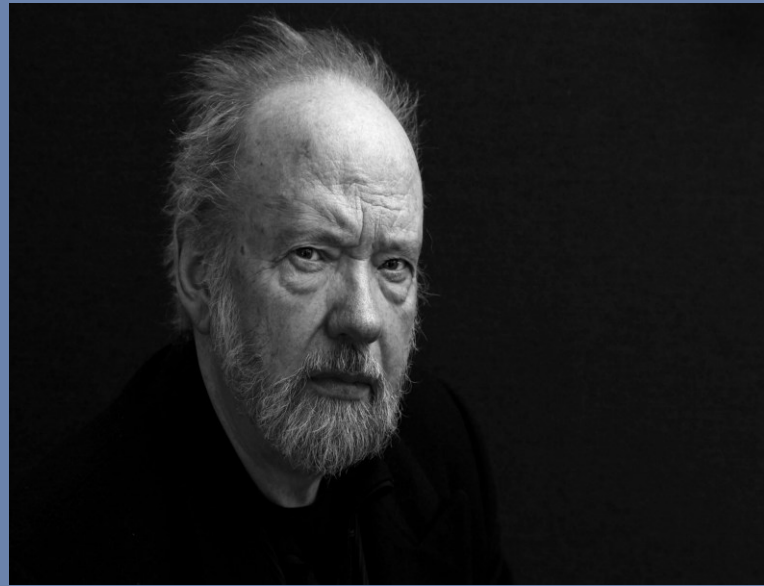
Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you have an upcoming release? If yes, tell me the title and impending release date.

Ólafur Gunnarsson: No, no upcoming release.

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?

Ólafur Gunnarsson: I create the title when the story has been written. The title is usually the theme of the story in a single word or so.

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?



Ólafur Gunnarsson: It is the architect Sigurbjörn Helgason in my novel *The Trolls Cathedral*. He wants to build a *Sagrada Familia* in Reykjavik.

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

Ólafur Gunnarsson: Hypertension novels.

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

Ólafur Gunnarsson: It is *The Critic* and other stories. A collection of 14 stories.

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

Gunnarsson cont'd

Ólafur Gunnarsson: “He decided to change planets and woke up on Mars.” The line is the opening of my novella GAGA. A story of a man gone crazy with too much reading. A science fiction Don Quixote.

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

Ólafur Gunnarsson: It's 38 years this summer since I had my last drink.

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

Ólafur Gunnarsson: Dostoevsky. Herman Melville. Thomas Wolfe.

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

Ólafur Gunnarsson: It was a biography of the poet Arthur Rimbaud.

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

Ólafur Gunnarsson: I use the Hemingway advice to stop when I'm going good so I will be sure I can keep going the next day.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Ólafur Gunnarsson: When I was three years old I had a vision of a lady in blue holding a harp. She told me to write.

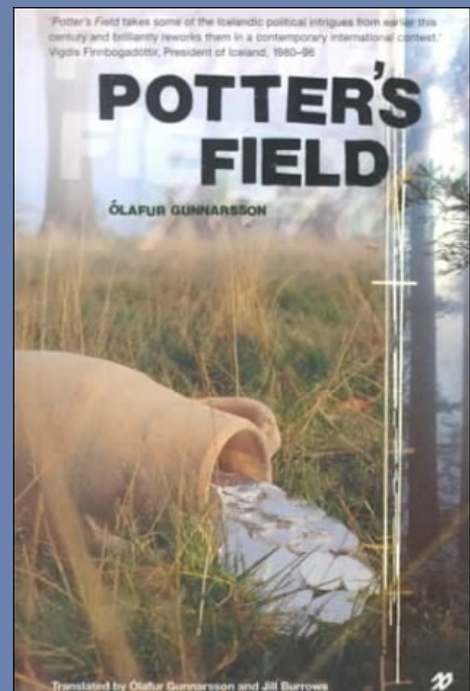
Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you currently have a WIP? If yes, what's the title, and is it part of a series or standalone?

Ólafur Gunnarsson: No, no WIP at this time.

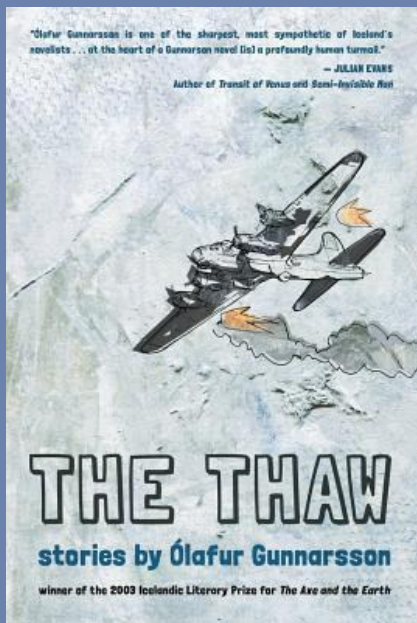
Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you read your own work a lot? If so, what does it do for you?

Ólafur Gunnarsson: No, I never do that.

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?



Gunnarsson cont'd



Ólafur Gunnarsson: No special group for me. I like to write in a café where there is a lot of noise. I can hide in the din and the loneliness does not become unbearable.

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?

Ólafur Gunnarsson: The synopsis.

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

Ólafur Gunnarsson: The same guys that are my favorite authors.

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

Ólafur Gunnarsson: To be content with what you get.

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

Ólafur Gunnarsson: Write a novel Dostoevsky would comment on the following: Not bad. Not bad at all.

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.

Ólafur Gunnarsson: I believe in the freedom of writers.

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

Ólafur Gunnarsson: Don't become a writer if you can't take endless shit. Joyce Carol Oates said; “Why are writers treated like they are ax murderers?”

Gunnarsson cont'd

About the Author:

Ólafur Gunnarsson was born in Reykjavík on July 18, 1948. He completed a commercial diploma from The Commercial College of Iceland in 1968. Ólafur worked for the merchant Ásbjörn Ólafsson hf. from 1965-1971 and was a driver with the Reykjavík medical emergency services from 1972-1978. Ólafur has worked as a writer since 1974.

Poetry by Ólafur Gunnarsson had appeared in newspapers and magazines before his first novel, *Milljón-prósent menn* (Million-Percent Men), was published in 1978. He has published novels, short stories and children's books as well as a travel story about his road trip with author (and co-author of the book) Einar Kárason in the U.S.A. in 2006. His novel, *Tröllakirkja* (Troll's Cathedral, 1996) was nominated for the Icelandic Literature Award in 1992 and the English translation was furthermore nominated for the IMPAC Dublin Literature Award in 1997. An adaptation for the stage premiered at The National Theatre in 1996 and the film right has been sold. He received the Icelandic Literature Prize for his novel, *Öxin og jörðin*, in 2004.

Some of Ólafur's work has been translated into other languages, the children's book *Fallegi flughvalurinn* (The Beautiful Flying Whale, 1999) has been published in Britain, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and The Faroe Islands, and was nominated to the Nordic Children's Literature Award in 1990. Some of his novels for adults have been translated to English, German and French. Ólafur has in addition to this, translated novels and plays into Icelandic.



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Charles Dickens

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

Literate-Ly Magazine: Mr. Dickens, thank you for joining us today. Let's start with a fundamental question: How many books have you written?

Charles Dickens: Thank you for having me. I wrote 15 major novels, numerous short stories, and several novellas. Some of my most notable works include *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *Great Expectations*.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Out of all your works, which one was the most popular?

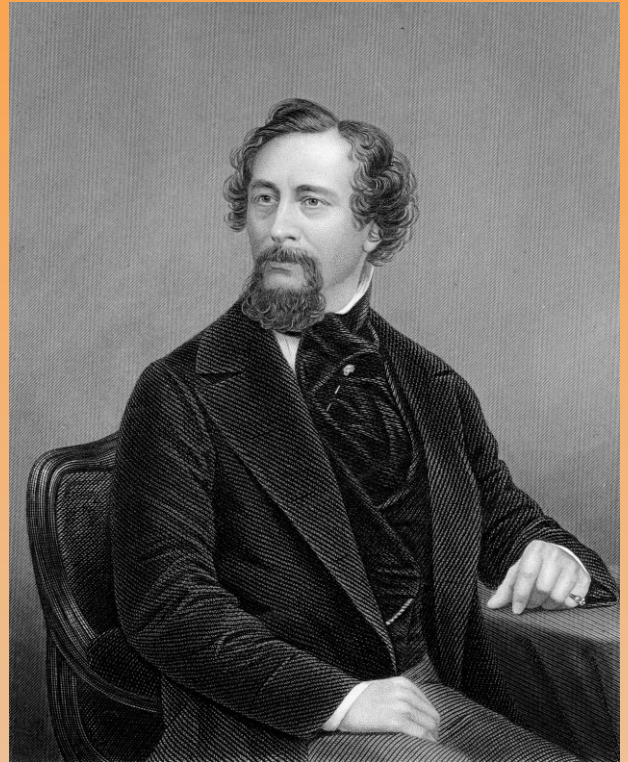
Charles Dickens: *A Tale of Two Cities* is often cited as my most popular book. It has sold over 200 million copies and remains a favorite among readers worldwide.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Did you ever imagine that your writing would become such a lasting legacy?

Charles Dickens: I always hoped my stories would resonate with readers, but I could never have predicted the enduring impact they would have. It is both humbling and gratifying to know that my work continues to be appreciated long after my time.

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

Charles Dickens: I had a study in my home at Gad's Hill Place, which was my sanctuary. It was a quiet, comfortable space where I could immerse myself in my writing without distractions.



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

Charles Dickens: I was fortunate to be quite popular in my time. My serialized novels were eagerly anticipated, and I had a strong following among the public. However, I also faced criticism from some quarters, particularly for my social commentary.

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

Charles Dickens: The reviews were generally positive, though not without their critiques. Some praised my vivid characters and social insights, while others felt my works were overly sentimental or moralistic.

Charles Dickens

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

Charles Dickens: Every writer has their missteps. I once wrote a story called *The Lamplighter*, which I later abandoned. It was never published as a standalone work, though parts of it were incorporated into *The Pickwick Papers*.

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

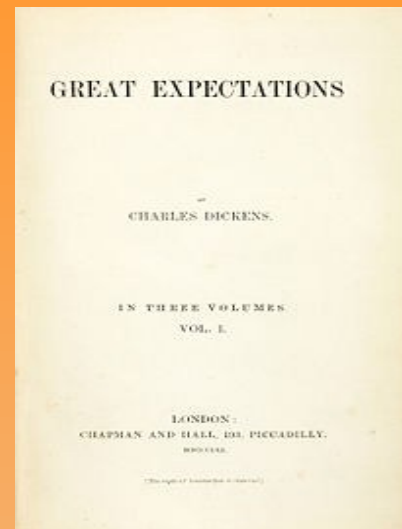
Charles Dickens: *David Copperfield* holds a special place in my heart. It is perhaps my most autobiographical work, and I poured much of my own experiences and emotions into it.

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

Charles Dickens: Critics can be harsh. One particularly scathing review called my work “melodramatic drivel.” While such comments stung, they also pushed me to improve and refine my craft.

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

Charles Dickens: Write with passion and authenticity. Draw from your own experiences and observations, and never shy away from addressing the truths of society. Most importantly, persevere through the challenges and rejections.



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

Charles Dickens: Yes, I was fortunate to have many friends in the literary world, including Wilkie Collins and Elizabeth Gaskell. We often shared ideas and supported each other's work.

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

Charles Dickens: I did. I valued the feedback of trusted friends and colleagues. Their insights were invaluable in shaping my final drafts.

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

Charles Dickens: I would love to converse with William Shakespeare. His mastery of language and deep understanding of human nature have always inspired me. It would be fascinating to discuss his creative process and the world he lived in.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Thank you, Mr. Dickens, for this enlightening conversation.

Charles Dickens: It was my pleasure. Thank you for your thoughtful questions.

Edgar Allen Poe

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

Literate-Ly Magazine: Mr. Poe, thank you for joining us today. How many books have you written?

Edgar Allen Poe: I have written numerous poems, short stories, and one novel. My works include collections like *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque* and *The Raven and Other Poems*.

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

Edgar Allen Poe: *The Raven* is perhaps my most famous work. The poem gained instant popularity upon its publication in 1845 and remains one of my most recognized pieces.

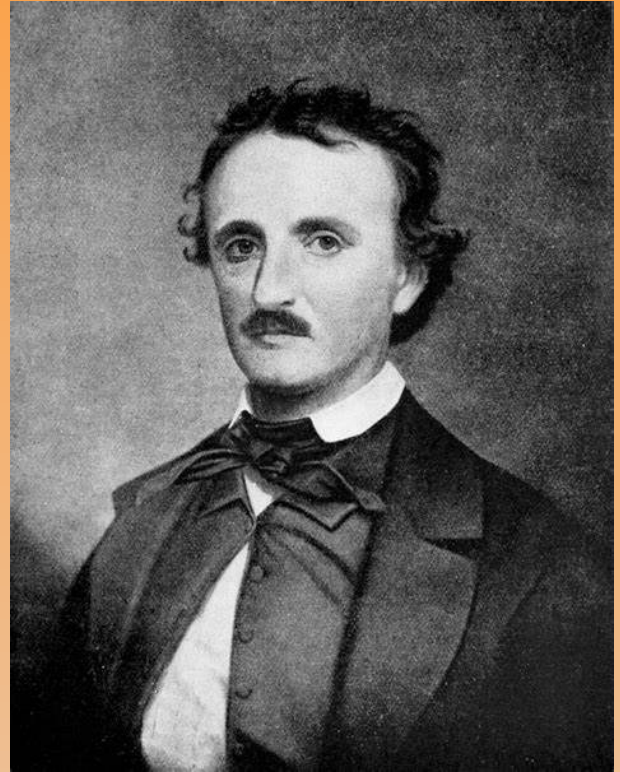
Literate-Ly Magazine: Did you think that writing would become a legacy for you?

Edgar Allen Poe: I hoped my works would endure, but I could not have foreseen the extent of their influence. It is gratifying to know that my stories and poems continue to captivate readers.

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

Edgar Allen Poe: I often found inspiration in quiet, solitary places. My time in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City provided various settings that influenced my writing.

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

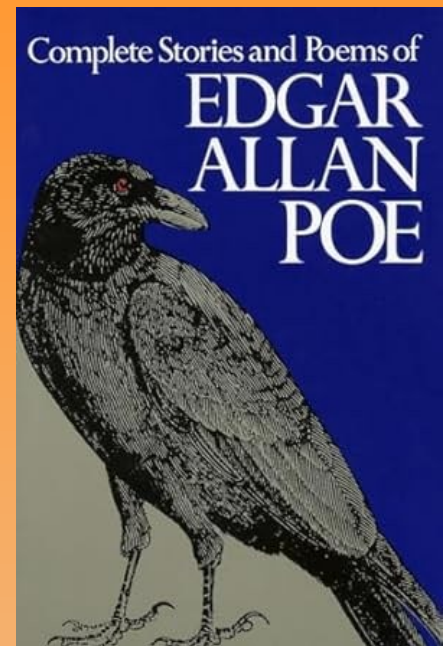


Edgar Allen Poe: Reactions to my work were mixed. Some admired my innovative style and mastery of the macabre, while others were critical of my themes and personal life. Over time, my contributions to literature have been more widely recognized.

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

Edgar Allen Poe: I received both praise and criticism. Some contemporaries appreciated my originality and depth, while others found my work too dark and unsettling.

Edgar Allen Poe



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

Edgar Allen Poe: Not every piece I wrote was well-received. Some of my early works, like *Politian*, did not achieve the success I had hoped for. However, each work was a step in my literary journey.

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

Edgar Allen Poe: *The Fall of the House of Usher* is one of my favorites. It encapsulates many of the themes I explored throughout my career, such as decay, madness, and the supernatural.

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

Edgar Allen Poe: One of the harshest critiques came from Rufus Wilmot Griswold, who wrote a scathing obituary that damaged my reputation for years. Despite this, my work has endured.

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

Edgar Allen Poe: Write with passion and authenticity. Do not shy away from exploring the darker aspects of the human experience. Let your imagination guide you, and remain true to your unique voice.

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

Edgar Allen Poe: I would love to converse with Lord Byron. His works greatly influenced my own, and it would be fascinating to discuss poetry and the human condition with him.

What if you found out your childhood memories were false?

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

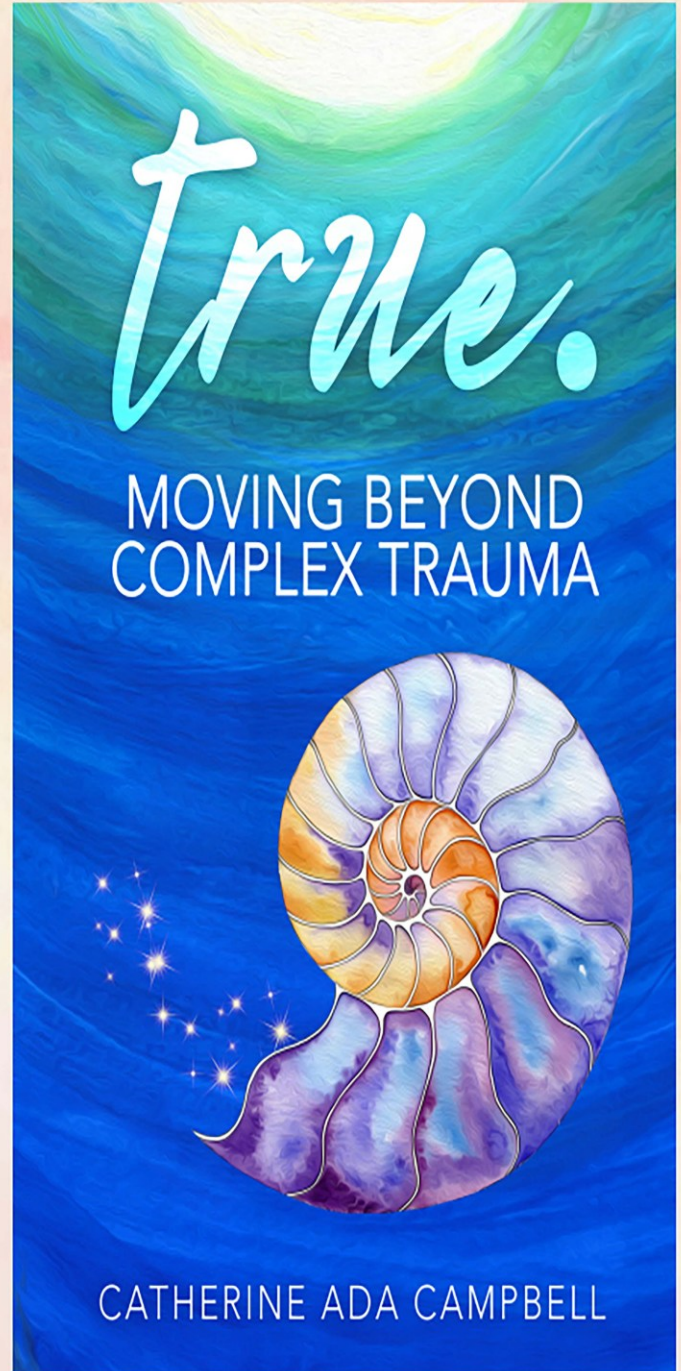
– Claudia Black, PhD. Author of

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

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

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

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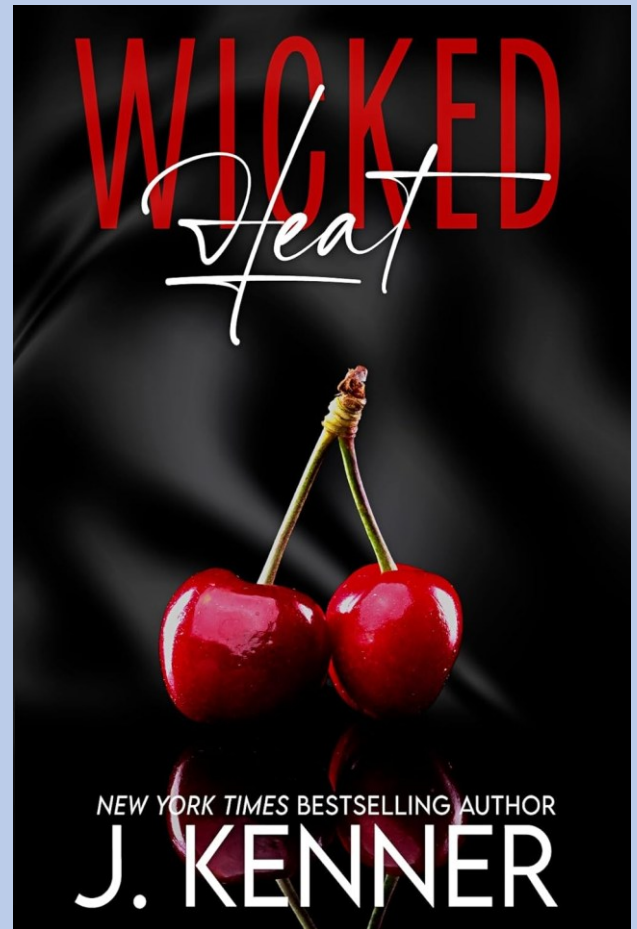
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Wicked Heat by J. Kenner

5 Stars

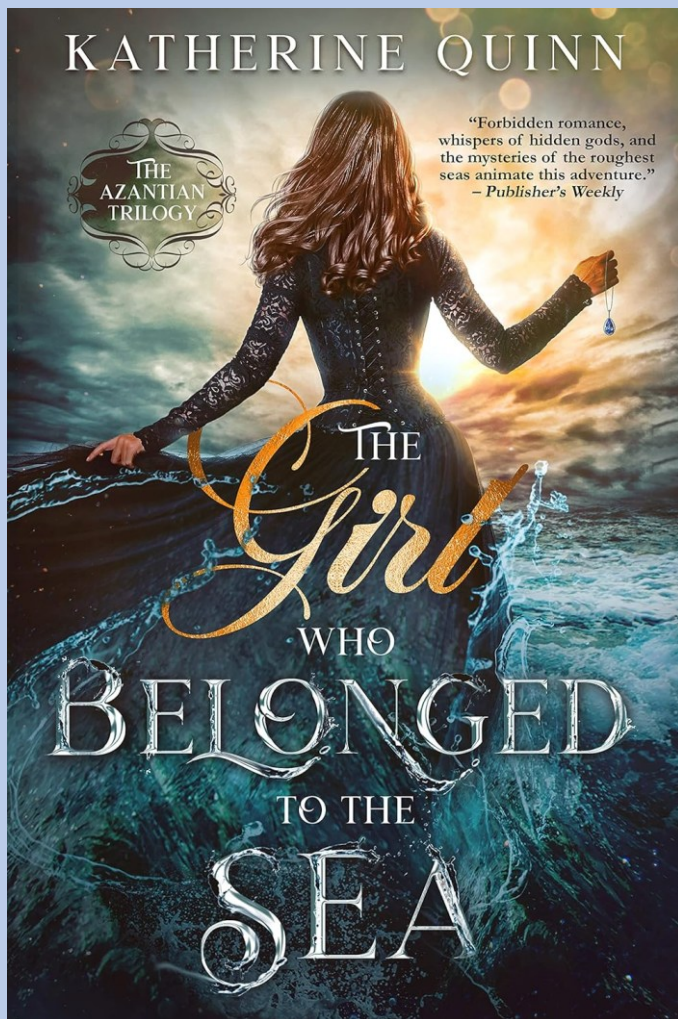
From the moment I opened this book, I couldn't put it down. This story is heartbreaking, romantic, suspenseful and with two perfectly, imperfect characters. As Bree's nightmares continue and become worse when she is blackmailed with tapes of a time she was held captive, drugged and the horrible acts done to her, and now finding out they were taped and a young child could be ruined if the tapes get out. Shutting herself off from relationships, Bree runs from her attraction to Ash, but Ash doesn't give up easily. When she finally confides in Ash about her kidnapping and the blackmail, Ash steps in to help. With seemingly unsurmountable odds, Ash and Bree grow close, but will Bree run again?

A great story, well flushed out characters and a great suspenseful plot with a few twists I didn't see coming. I had not read any of the books in this series before, and had no issues keeping up with this one but has definitely put this author on my radar.



Contemporary Romance

The Girl Who Belonged to the Sea by Katherine Quinn



4.5 Stars

This a great start to a fantasy series, and even though it was a tad slow in spots, the world building is top notch. Margrete has lived all her life under an abusive father, who only wants power and riches, so to make a new wealthy ally, he arranges a marriage for her to Count Caspian, who will become an ally to her father. But on the wedding day, they are attacked by sea pirates, and Margrete is taken hostage and taken to a land called Azantian, which is only believed to be in existence from fables. Bash, the King of Azantian, plans to use Margrete as a bargaining chip to gain back a relic that was taken from the island by Margrete's father.

There are a lot of twists and turns, betrayal, and a enemies to lovers trope working here. Margrete is much more than we believe, and we will see her mature from a stubborn, intelligent girl to a strong woman in her own right as she finds out the truth about her father, the Count and Bash and the island of Azantian. This is a well written story that kept me invested throughout and the full trilogy is out now and I plan on moving forward.

Fantasy

Tangled Up with the Highlander by Julie Johnstone

5 Stars

This is the second book in this series, and I think I liked it better than the first. This time around we are introduced to Sorcha, (or really Margaret Stewart) who has had a very abused life with her adoptive father, especially after her mother dies. She decides to enter an archery contest, to win coin for her sister and her to get out from under the horrible living conditions. Laird Alasdair will enter the same contest to win coin for his clan, and when he finds Sorcha and believes her to be the sister that Laird Ross Stewart (whom we met in the first book) and worth a mighty reward. He decides to tell her the truth of who she is and take her with him back to his lands until they can take her to her brother. Supposedly, she's been betrothed to a man since she was wee. But the more time Alasdair spends with her, the less he wants to let her go. And Sorcha will begin to see that all men are not the dishonorable men she's always believed.

This book has danger, romance and a second chance for love for Alasdair. As the two get to know each other and respect each other, will Sorcha really be torn away from his home and the two children from his first wife who died in childbirth? I enjoyed the two of these characters and the children were fun. It was also great to see Ross again, and even though his involvement came late in the book, it was worth the read to get there. There isn't much better of a read than the Highlanders, and the author does them justice. Even though I guessed pretty quickly what was going to happen in this book from very early on, it was a very enjoyable read. I hope in the next book, that they find their brother Graeme.



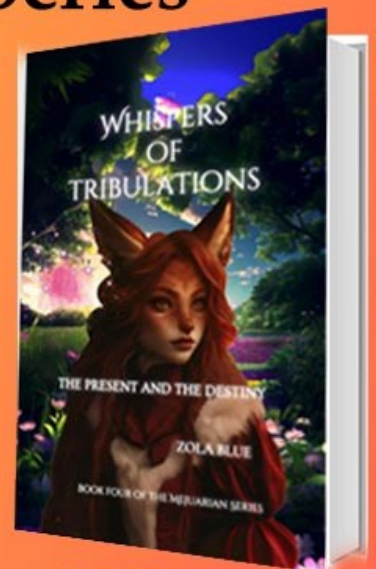
Scottish Historical

Zola Blue's The Mejuarian Series

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

Zola Blue's The Mejuarian Series



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

Amy Shannon's MOD Life Epic Saga

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AN ACT OF GOD

by
William Becker



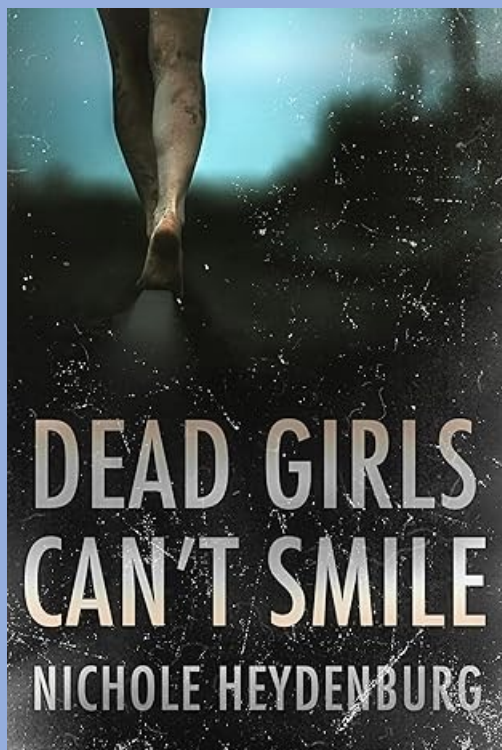
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The background features a spiral-bound notebook with a world map on its cover. To the left, a vintage typewriter is partially visible. The notebook's pages are filled with faint, handwritten text in cursive.

AMY'S BOOKSHELF REVIEWS®

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F/Psychological Thriller

About the Book: Four angry exes. A masked stalker. A missing sister.

When summer begins, sixteen-year-old Rose Blackwood's life takes a chilling turn. Enigmatic notes appear, and a figure in a black hoodie and mask stalks her every move.

The one-year anniversary of her sister Lily's disappearance only intensifies Rose's torment. Rose holds a dark secret about that fateful night, a secret known to no one except her best friend Spencer—and her stalker.

As Rose races to unmask her tormentor, the line between friend and foe blurs. With the clock ticking, she must depend on Spencer, the one person she can trust.

Nichole Heydenburg- Dead Girls Can't Smile

5 Stars

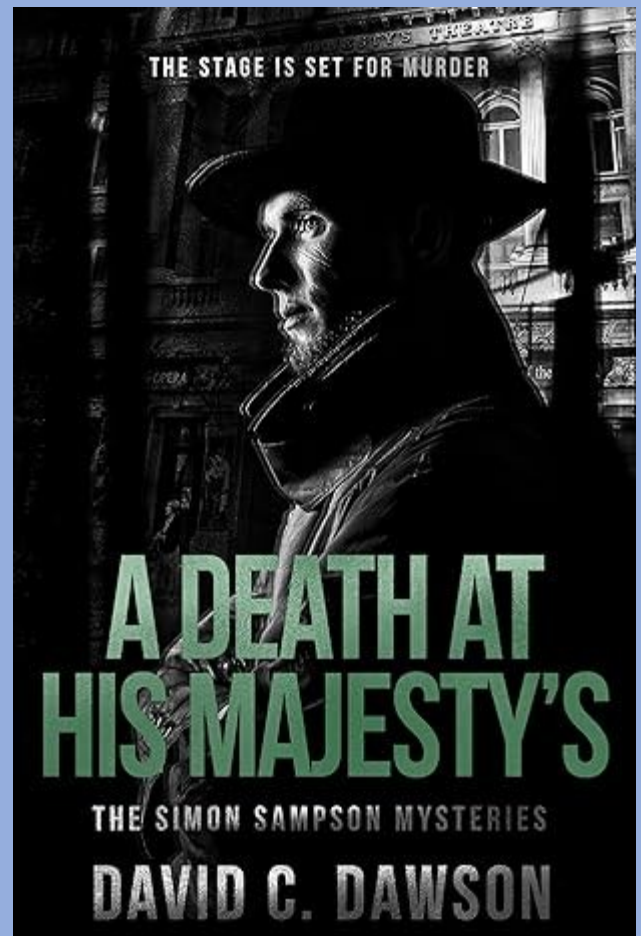
Nichole Heydenburg writes a heart pounding tale with *Dead Girls Can't Smile*. In *Dead Girls Can't Smile*, the reader is introduced to Rose, only sixteen, and her life is more intense than any adults. Rose also isn't your typical teenager, with teenage angst issues, she's dealing with the disappearance of her sister, who went missing over a year ago. And, she has to deal with a stalker, who knows her deep darkest secrets. I am a big fan of Nichole Heydenburg and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. She writes the intense thrillers that keep you on the edge of your seat, make you read with all the lights on, and keeps you glued to every single word she writes. Rose is much more than a teenager with a secret, she has Spencer, who knows her secrets, but so does her stalker, who seems to always be too close within the shadows. Obsession could have led to her sister's disappearance, and it may lead to her own. The writing is incredible and totally believable. This story is a definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. Rose is a lot stronger than she thinks, but she's still a kid, with adult problems, and danger around every corner. You get to know a lot about Rose, from her best friend to her stalker, and the secrets she keeps within herself. She could just be one of those lost souls. This story is absolutely chilling, with impending death or worse around every corner. Both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. This read is a phenomenal and provocative story, hands down.

David C. Dawson- A Death at his Majesty's

5 Stars

David C. Dawson writes an intriguing cozy mystery with A Death at his Majesty's

In A Death at his Majesty's, the reader is brought to the prequel of A Death in Berlin, something I definitely now have to read. A Death at his Majesty's is part of the Simon Sampson Series, and this is volume three. I am a fan of David C. Dawson and want to read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. It's 1929 London, and what else is new, but there is a serial killer, and the bodies are dropping on the doorsteps of various Theaters. Florence Bill Miles gets thrust into the mysterious killer's investigation, when a friend of hers is one of the victims. She teams up with Simon and hopes to find the killer before he or she strikes again. Somehow, they have to get into the mind of the killer and see what the victims may or may not have in common and catch the killer before someone else is killed. It's a cozy mystery at it's best, intrigue, killers, and the amateur sleuths are not amateur at all. This story is a definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. This book is both thrilling and intriguing, all the way to the end. What a gripping and incredible storyline.



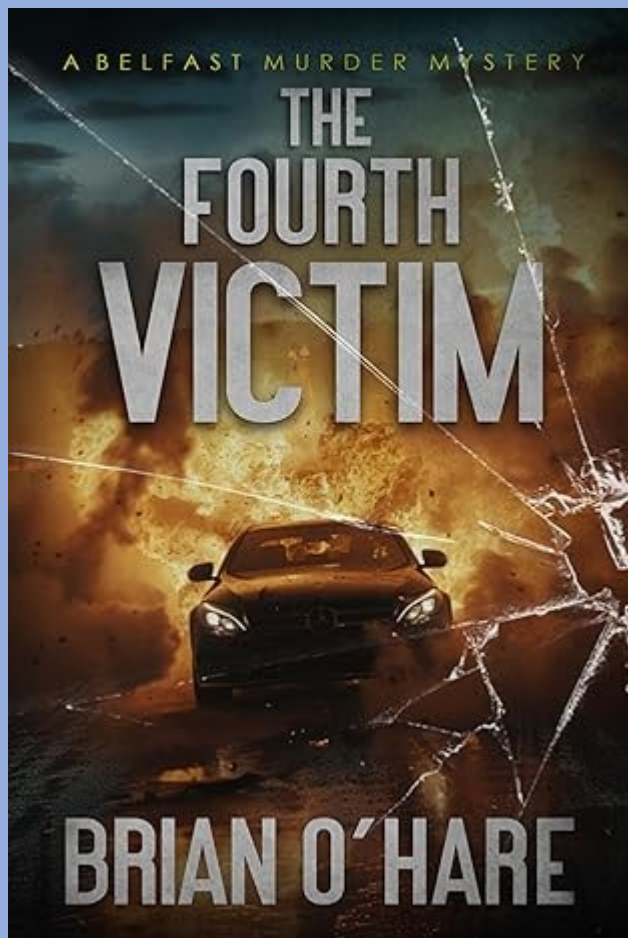
*F/Mystery/Cozy
Mystery*

About the Book: The stage is set for murder

It's the summer of 1929 and there's a serial killer on the streets of London.

Bodies of young women are dumped at the stage doors of London's theatres.

Noël Coward's assistant Florence Miles, known to her close friends as Bill, is dragged into the investigation when the body of her former secret lover is found outside His Majesty's Theatre.



F/Mystery/Murder /Thriller

About the Book: A child buried alive.
Three lawyers battered to death.
A judge murdered in his own home.

DCI Sheehan and his Serious Crimes Unit investigate the murders of the three solicitors. Revelations about the victims' shady dealings offer Sheehan and his Serious Crimes Unit a large number of solid suspects. Yet one suspect stands out above the others.

Brian O'Hare - The Fourth Victim

5 Stars

Brian O'Hare writes a dramatic and thrilling tale with The Fourth Victim

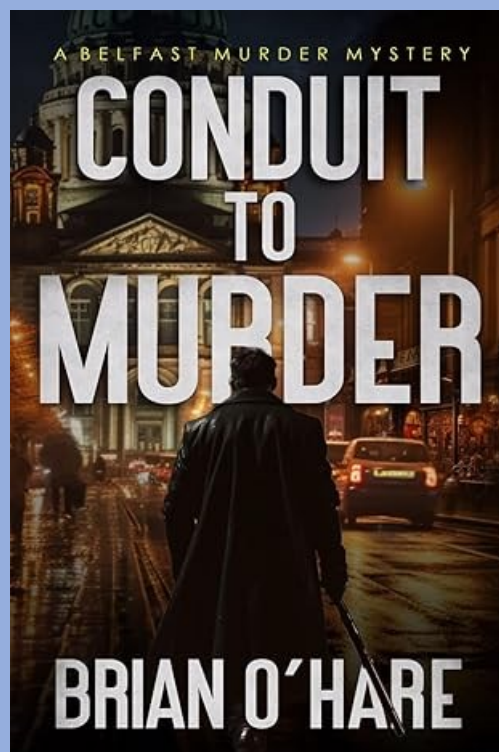
In The Fourth Victim, the reader is brought back into the life of Inspector Sheehan, and his Series Crimes Unit. So, far three victims, and the connection is there, but it's when a fourth victim is thrown into the mix that things get really interesting, and aren't as they seem, to the reader and to Sheehan. As always, Brian O'Hare builds a grand world of intrigue, investigation, and intelligence to whatever case drops on their lap. The Fourth Victim is part of The Inspector Sheehan Mysteries series, and this is volume seven. I am a big fan of Brian O'Hare and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. This is a story, like the other ones in the series, written in a way that shows the story, detailing what is important, and also portrayed as very realistic. Brian O'Hare not only tells the story but shows it with words as well. This story is absolutely chilling, and you never know what's going to happen next. Totally unpredictable, with great characters, with flaws, and perfections. Things really start to unfold when more suspects and deaths start piling up.

Brian O'Hare - Conduit to Murder

5 Stars

Brian O'Hare writes a thrilling murderous tale with Conduit to Murder

In Conduit to Murder, the reader is reintroduced to Inspector Sheehan, the protagonist of each of the stories in this series. Conduit to Murder is part of the Inspector Sheehan Mysteries series, and this is volume six. I am a big fan of Brian O'Hare and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story. I look forward to reading the books yet to come. Sheehan has become one of my favorite inspectors, with that keen eye for solving what he is faced with. However, in this one, his personal life gets intertwined with the murder case at hand. Sheehan looks for clues into the death of an antiques owner, and finds himself in the middle of the case, but more as a victim when his wife is kidnapped. Now, he has to solve the case, figure out those interesting and innocuous clues, and find his wife, but not necessarily in that order. This read is a definite attention grabber, so much I couldn't put it down. A very unpredictable story, my favorite kind! I just love, love, love this story. If you love a good murder mystery and thriller, this book should be next on your list. And you should check out all of Brian O'Hare's work, they will impress and captivate you.



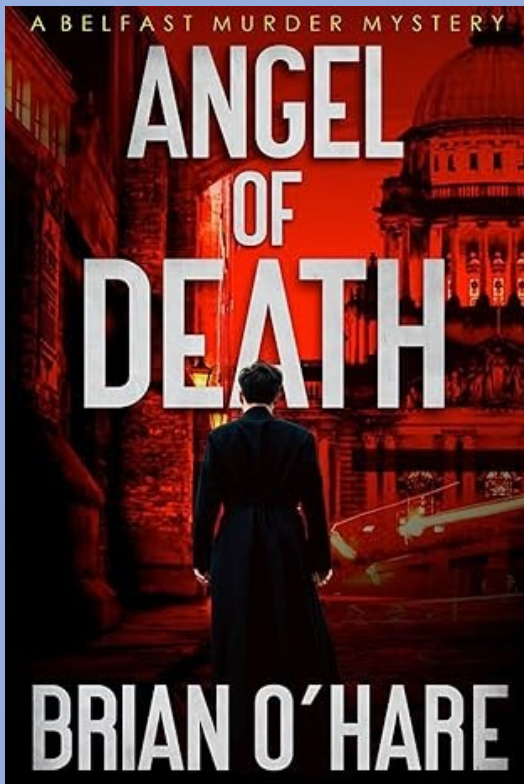
*F/Mystery/Murder
/Thriller*

About the Book: When the owner of an antiques store is battered to death, Detective Sheehan thinks it's just another murder. But when he discovers two keys hidden in an ornamental walking stick, he quickly becomes a target.

Desperate to figure out what criminal enterprise the keys might reveal, Sheehan risks everything to protect them — until his wife Margaret is kidnapped

Events start looking less like coincidence when Sheehan is faced with the fact a mole has been influencing the investigation.

Can Sheehan stop the mole and rescue Margaret before he has to hand over the keys?



F/Occult mystery thriller

About the Book: Seasoned Detective Chief Inspector Jim Sheehan has spent his life married to his career in the Serious Crimes Unit. No time for love, no time for friends, only time to find the next killer in Belfast.

When his newest case introduces him to the life he's missed — including the lovely widow, Margaret — and reminds him of the early life he left behind, Detective Sheehan's forced to face more than his job.

But his newest case is also his hardest: a series of killings with cryptic biblical undertones.

Brian O'Hare - Angel of Death

4 Stars

A great mystery

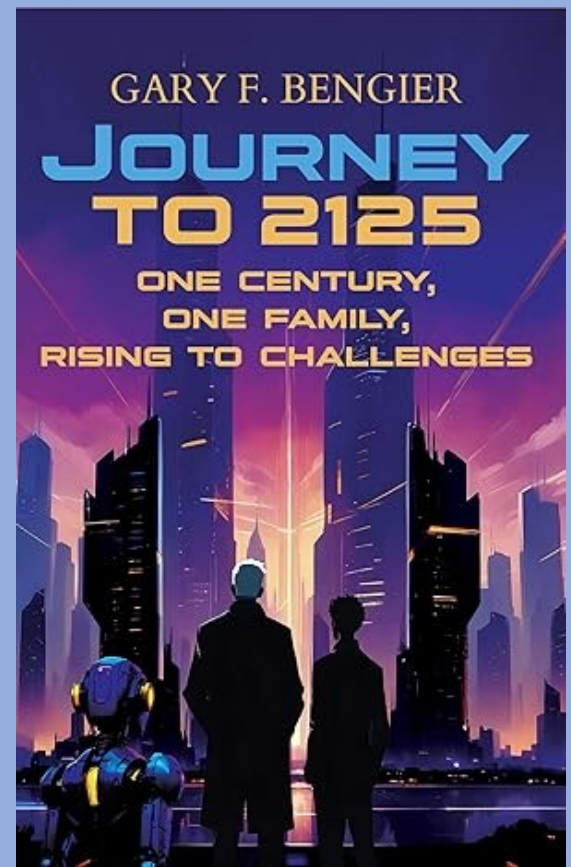
This is the first book of O'Hare's that I've read, and I enjoyed it. I found *Angel of Death* a great first book in this series, the Inspector Sheehan Mysteries. It introduces the readers to Inspector Sheehan. It's a definite mystery and follows the basis of a whodunnit. The characters have great depth. O'Hare has a writing style that brings the reader in and doesn't bog down the story with too much nonsensical details. It's an interesting story, and the mystery is great. I like the search for the killer of a series of murders, and it brings in the culture of Northern Ireland. It's dramatic flair brings a grand nuance to the story, especially with this case, as it is a Meara series of killings with cryptic biblical undertones. A great mystery and great read.

Gary F. Bengier - Journey to 2125: One Century, One Family, Rising to Challenges

4 Stars

Gary F. Bengier writes an interesting tale with Journey to 2125: One Century, One Family, Rising to Challenges

In Journey to 2125: One Century, One Family, Rising to Challenges, the reader is introduced to the year 2125, it seems so far away now, but if you think about it, it may not be so distant in the future, and our generations may be living in that century. I haven't read anything by this author before, and what a hidden gem. The reader meets Max, and then all of a sudden, his grandson shows up, very unexpectedly. This story is filled with stories that go through generations, telling tales of the MacGyver's past, bringing up secrets, strength and the ability to keep moving forward. Gary F. Bengier has a great imagination, and I'm sure some inspiration helped bring this story together. What an incredible world built by Gary F. Bengier. This story is a timeless tale and a very unpredictable story, my favorite kind! This story is has a well-written plot.



About the Book : It's 2125 when a long-separated grandson suddenly arrives on his doorstep looking for answers. Max MacGyver retells their family story and secrets, revealing a century of challenges that they've faced. Journey to 2125 is one family's touching story, across generations, of adventure, rivalry, loss, survival, and resilience.

This is the story of a family facing our future. A small boy escapes war in Asia. A young woman flees catastrophe driven by climate change in Africa. Some family members build technology companies, while others deal with the trauma of jobs lost to automation. A young couple fight for privacy and democracy. Lives are positively transformed by biomedical science and threatened by it.

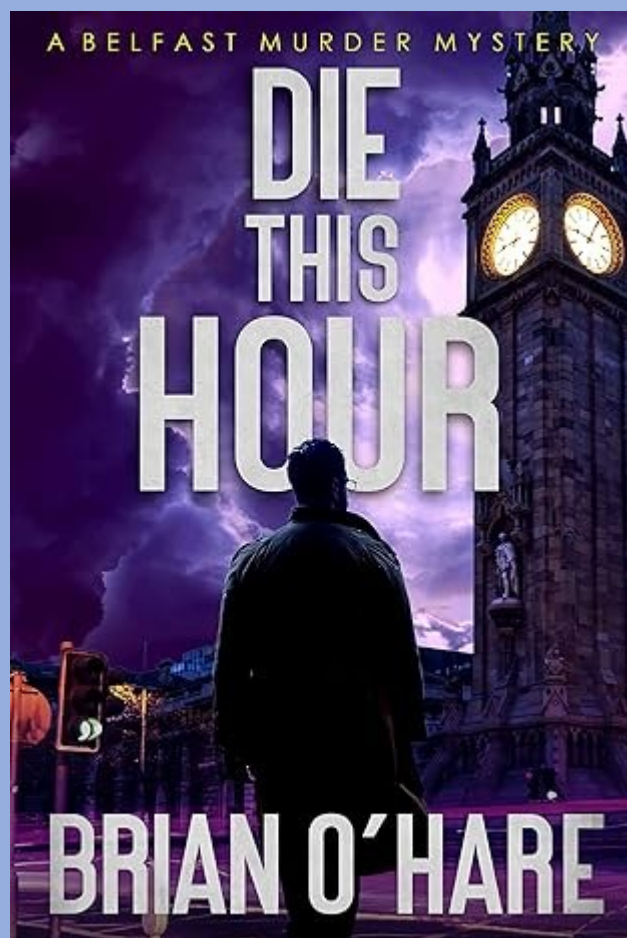
*F/Action & Adventure
/Political /Generational*

Brian O'Hare - Die This Hour

5 Stars

Another Magnificent Sheehan mystery read!

What a fantastic story in Die This Hour by Brian O'Hare. I am a definite fan of this author! Whatever this author writes, I read. This is the second book in the Inspector Sheehan Mysteries, but I have read them out of order, loving each one. This author brings the story to life. The characters had a lot of depth and were very realistic. Sheehan and his team have another murder to look into, and find the connection, besides the time and day of the murders. I love O'Hare's work, and his storytelling ability. O'Hare's work are hidden gems that everyone who loves a good crime slash mystery slash investigative murder mysteries, and they aren't you're run of the mill mysteries. It's a whodunnit but with flair and the added layers of life, work, and finding killers. The typical day for Sheehan and his team. It's definitely un-put-downable! It is always an honor to read this author's books. This story was very unpredictable. This book captures the reader's attention at chapter 1. The author's technique of raw, magnetic characters and great plotlines is a gift. It's a great story to follow and try to figure out what will happen next. A reader can get lost in the story. I hope to read more books by this author.



*F/Mystery/Murder
/Thriller*

About the Book: A ruthless and cunning serial killer strikes in Belfast every Tuesday night at exactly 11:05.

Changes to Sheehan's Serious Crime Unit (retirements/promotions) have left him needing a new sergeant.

He appoints Denise Stewart.

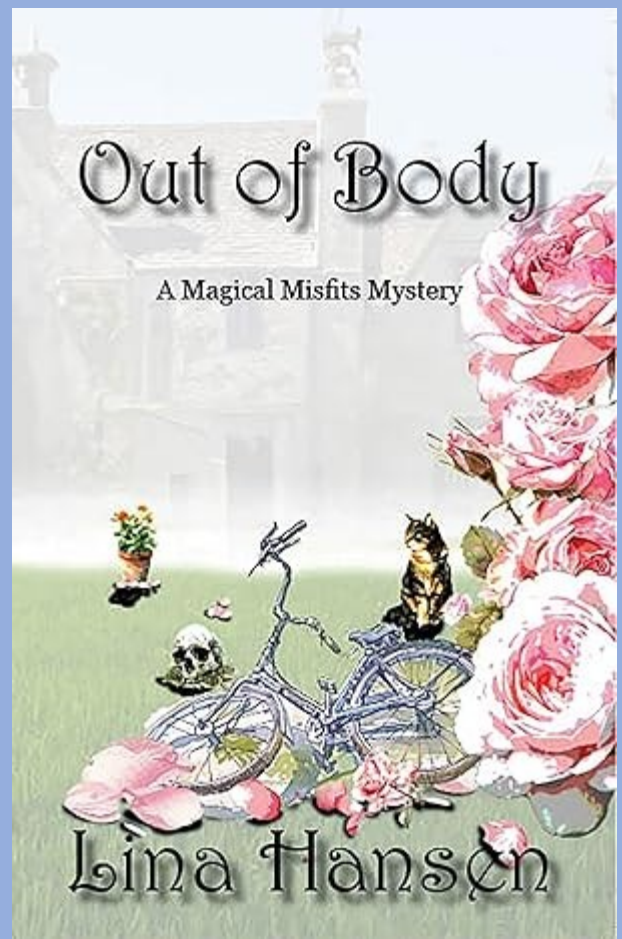
Despite suffering extreme misogynistic abuse in her previous posting, Stewart was instrumental in uncovering serious corruption where she worked, leading to the imprisonment of her superior and some of her previous colleagues.

Lina Hansen- Out of Body

4 Stars

Lina Hansen writes a wonderful cozy mysterious tale with Out of Body

In Out of Body, the reader is introduced (or if you've read the other books) reintroduced to Myrtle Coldron, a leader of the Magical Misfits. I like this quaint and intriguing story, and I hope to read the books that came before this one, to get a real feel for the series. I haven't read anything by this author before, and what a hidden gem. I enjoyed it so much, that I have now followed the author and look for more books to read. Out of Body is part of the Magical Misfits Mysteries series, and this is volume three. I have just become a fan of this author. I've read cozy mysteries before, and I find this one quite unique because of its bewitching story line. There is a great comradery with the characters, especially the relationship between Myrtle and Chris. Each character has their own personality, quirks, flaws, and interesting perspective, especially now that Myrtle seems to be part of something, unintended. She finds a skeleton on one of her hikes, putting her right in the middle of the mystery, and the haunting of her dreams. Lina Hansen not only tells the story but shows it with words as well. This story is a grand suspenseful story. A very unpredictable story, my favorite kind!



F/Cozy Mystery

About the Book: A skeleton unearthed, a coven in peril, and meddling villagers with a penchant for mayhem—Myrtle Coldron's life is about to get wicked.

Myrtle Coldron, owner of the Witch's Retreat B&B and leader of the Magical Misfits, enjoys a hike and stumbles upon a skeleton. The unwelcome discovery unleashes a series of bizarre events that shake the quaint village of Avebury to the core. And to top it off, she has scary dreams haunting her nights.

About Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

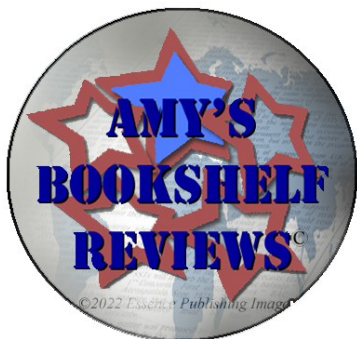
Amy's Bookshelf Reviews is a not-for-profit business, as Amy's Bookshelf Reviews does NOT charge for reviews. Amy's Bookshelf Reviews is a professional book review website, which accepts review requests from any author, and accepts most genres (with a few minor exceptions if the book promotes hatred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

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

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

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

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

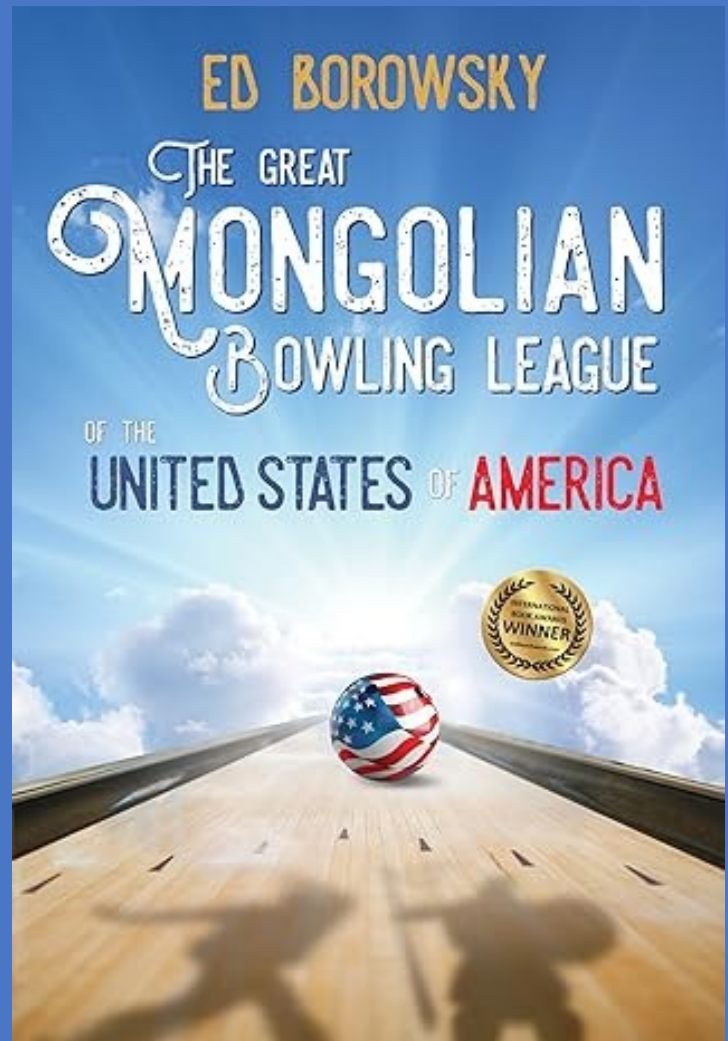


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Ed Borowsky's The Great Mongolian Bowling League of the United States of America

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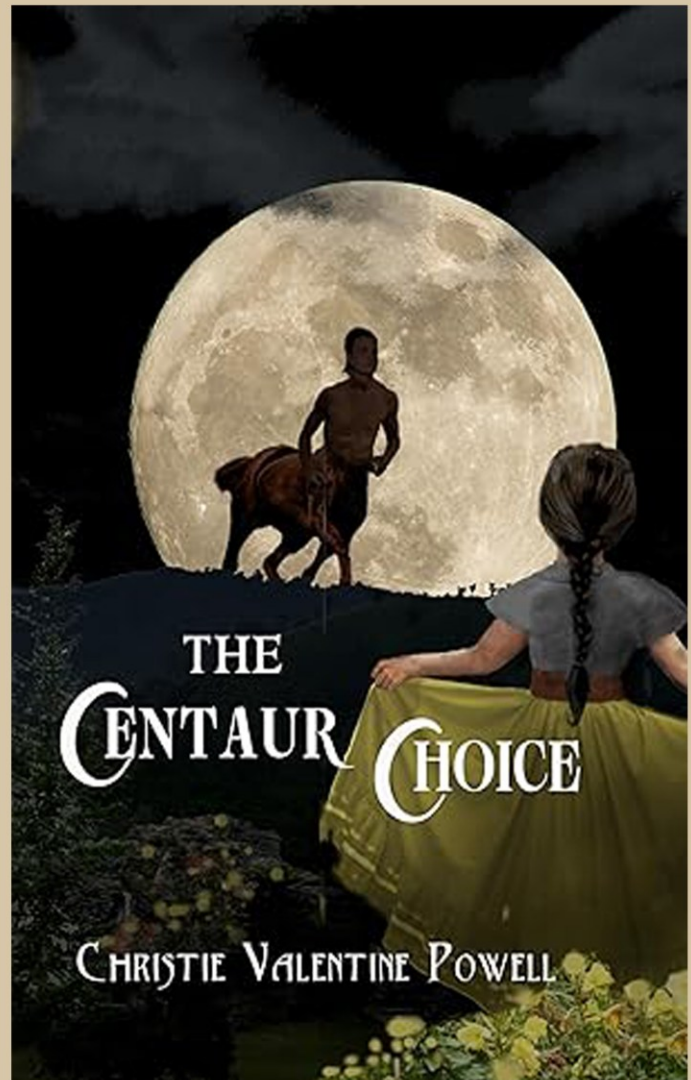
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Literary Articles

American Ethnic Literature

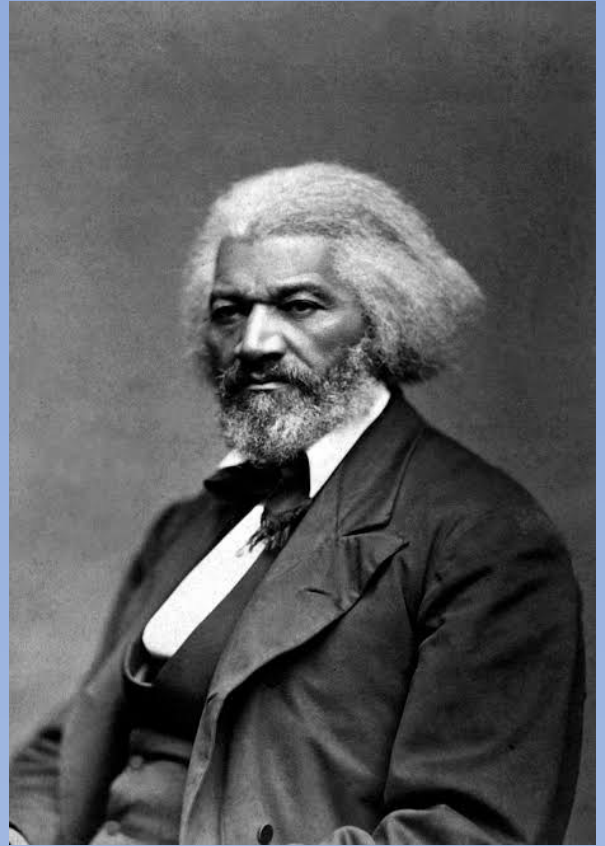
by

Amy Shannon

American literature is simply defined as literature that was created in the English language in the United States. Early literature started in the 17th century and evolved from that point. “During these years [1870 to 1920] American writing distinguished itself stylistically and thematically from the European tradition to which it had been dismissively compared for more than a century,” (Csicsila, J. 2006). American literature is a multitude of cultures and originalities of writers.

A literary canon is a group of work of literary pieces by a writer that represents a field or is deemed as authentic. A canon refers to the classification of those works. A work of literature can be canonized when literary critics, teachers, students or anyone who had a great influence in the literary world, have accepted it. The canon relates to society because of how the work is classified. The grandeur of American literature appreciates the greatness of well-written literature. Timelessly written pieces of literature will carry on throughout the ages as society relates to an era of centuries ago or present time.

Ethnic writers within the American literary experience may face special challenges. Any group that is not a Caucasian, male writer becomes part of the minority. The ethnic writer faces adversity with sharing the work of literature. The writer writes from



experience, whether it is about the culture, or creating a setting in a work that is unfamiliar to the reader. The differences with culture clashing, as well as different political views, can add dissention to the addition of new literary works. It may be hard to sell the idea of reading different cultural stories to those who are not within that culture. Even though the United States is a country that has a multitude of cultures and races, it does not mean that each one is fully integrated.

Ethnic writers define literature that shares the same language as the ethnic group, such as writing in regards to religion, culture, or race originality. This differs because the canon classifies literature based on acceptance, where ethnic literature does not have to be accepted to be literature, but it is written by someone who has a distinctive cultural background. There has been ethnic

American Ethnic Literature

(Cont'd)

segregation from American “canon” due to issues with the “race identity” of the writer, and how that translates into the knowledge and acceptance of the quality of work. “In this canonical dichotomy between the “White” and the “other,” America—the land of diversity—is no less a culprit to its steep division, in that, we, as well, divide our literature as either belonging to “white” (American Literature) or “other” (ethnic literature),” (Mura, C. 2012).

Ethnic writers may cover different historical, socio-political, and cultural topics. Depending on the culture, a writer may write about the history of their own culture, even describe the struggles of how some of them made their way to the United States. If writing American Ethnic literature, the writer may provide experiences from other lands or even the struggles and adversities faced within the United States. History and cultural topics may come hand in hand. For example, an African American writer may write a story based on the struggles of being a freed slave after the Civil War, or even the struggles during slavery. An Asian American writer may write on the life before and after the travels to the United States. Culture plays a big part in any writer’s writing, even if it is just part of the style or theme of the writing.

The Ethnic writer is not part of the literary canon, but the differences bring more culture and a hope of understanding within the work. Different pieces of ethnic writing define the experiences of the writer. Writers write what they know or in a setting, that comforts them. It is not to say that stories of all writers are true stories, but there is always a piece of the writer in each of his or her works of literature. The style of writing can be dictated by the culture or language of a writer. A white writer can write with African American characters and vice versa. It is not always writing about “what you know” but what you can experience, learn, or research. Ethnic writers write the same way, from their own experiences, but also with learning and researching other subjects. A male writer can write from a female’s point of view without having to have ever been a woman.

America literary liberty, opportunity, and equality are addressed in not only American literature but also ethnic literature. The first line of the Declaration of Independence states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Those words often fail in

American Ethnic Literature

(Cont'd)

literature, even though, the document in and of itself are one of the greatest works ever written, but not always thought of as literature. Ethnic writers use the experiences of the hardships or strengths to be present when writing in certain “American” themes of literature. African American writer, Frederick Douglass, writes about his life as an “An American Slave.” His struggles were emphasized along with his triumphs, as he was a journalist that lived during the period of time when African Americans were forbidden to learn to read and write. Equality is not always given, sometimes it has to be fought for and won. Not all battles are won, but there are more struggles of the ethnic writer in just having the right to write.

The ethnic writer suffers more than from writer’s block. The mind battles that a writer struggles with are not as powerful as getting the words out as a work of literature. Literature has always had to have some kind of acceptance within the circles of the literary world. Over the centuries of writing, American writers, including ethnic American writers, have evolved and shared their works of timelessness. Society does not always take in ethnic American writers as part of American literature, but any work written in English in America, is American literature.

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

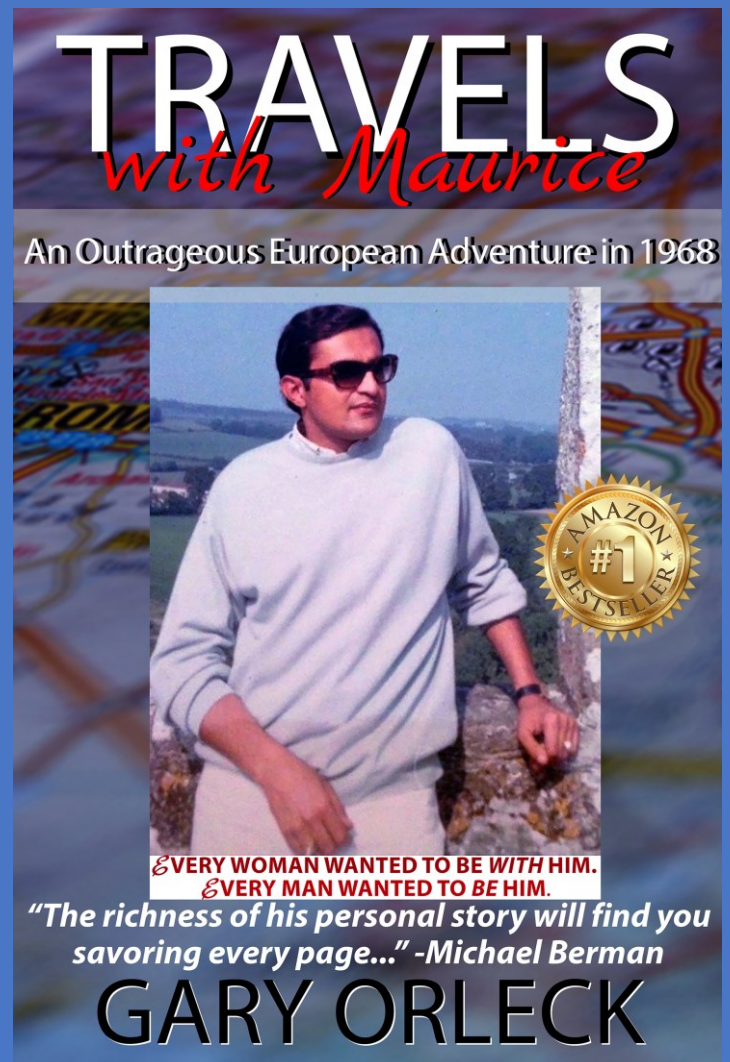
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Character Writing

102



Character Development, Family Ties

When writing and creating characters, one thing that the writer should figure out is the family of the characters. Sometimes the family dynamic plays a big part in who a character is and why the character acts or reacts a certain way. Family can also have connections to each other, for better or for worse. There is no one perfect family dynamic and that's why characters interact a certain way with each other. Brothers could be very close, or very distant. Sisters can be the same way, and how a character regards their mother and father, can outline their current state of mind.

In my MOD Life Epic Saga, half the residents are related in some form or another. It's how they relate to each other and are connected, and also how they may have little interaction at all with each other, which brings new stories and that's why my saga keeps growing. They don't really age much in Sars Springs, and when they die doesn't mean they're dead forever. The family started when characters Alex and Jim met, fell in love and got married. The family grew from there, and so did the town. As the writer of the story, I got more ideas for characters and interactions, as well as drama, romance, crime, suspense,

and career differences. It got so big that I've created maps of the town for myself so I can keep track of where everyone lives and works.

Example: (Rewritten Life by Amy Shannon, 2006).

[Jim and Alex} dropped on the sofa in the family room. [Alex} lay her head in [Jim's] lap. "Today was good."

"Yes, it was, Angel."

"Do you think that life can really be rewritten?" she asked.

"Yeah. It's not always perfect, but if you live right, you can rewrite it."

"Good, I was hoping you'd say that."

"Why? What's going on in that head of yours?"

"Well, I've got something to tell you, and I don't know how you're going to react," she sat up and looked into his eyes.

"Is something wrong?"

"I don't think so, but I really don't know how you're going to feel about it," she kissed his cheek. "You know, Anthony's so adorable."

"Yes, he is," Jim smiled. "Did he make you sad?"

"Anthony? No, why?"

"Well, I know how you feel about children."

"How do I feel?"

"Sometimes, you're sad when you look at them."

Character Development, Family Ties

"I am? I didn't realize it."

"Angel, I know that when Dr. Masterson told you that you could have a child, you got your hopes up. I'm sorry."

"Jim, that's what I wanted to talk to you about."

"What? Dr. Masterson?"

"Kind of."

"What about him?"

"Well, I had a check-up yesterday."

"Yeah, I know. You said you were healing fine. Is something wrong?"

"No, Jim. I don't think so," she touched his face. "Um, we're going to, well, become parents," she waited for his response with bated breath.

"What?" he looked at her. "What'd you say?"

"Babe, I'm pregnant."

"Oh, Angel, are you serious? This is wonderful. You mean I'm going to be a dad?"

"Yeah, and I'm going to be a mom. Weird, huh?"

He hugged her and kissed her all over her face. "No, this is so cool. We're going to be parents. Are you sure? Is he sure?"

"Well, yes, we're both sure. For obvious reasons, I have to be careful and have weekly check-ups, but he's confident that I'll carry full-term."

He got off the sofa and scooped her up. He carried her up the stairs and laid her on the bed. "We can still, um, do this? Right?"

She reached up and touched his face. "Um, yeah, that's how it happened. Remember the rain? So, yeah, we can still do this," she kissed him.

"I love you, Angel."

"And I love you, babe," she pulled him close. "Come here, feels like rain," she smiled.

He touched her face. "Pouring right down on us, Angel." (Rewritten Life, 2006).

The above excerpt was the start of their family and the final lines in the book *Rewritten Life*. In Sars Springs (MOD Life Epic Saga), the character Bill is considered the patriarch of the family. He is the uncle to many, and even those who aren't blood related. Bill is, according to his family, "older than God." He also is the character that has died and returned the most. He also has the most secrets, and sometimes, he does the wrong thing for the right reason. He entered the story using a false identity.

Character Development, Family Ties

Example: (*Life's Perspective: Bill Wheeler* by Amy Shannon, 2018).

Carol lay her head on my shoulder and I put my arm around her. "I'm so sorry about your friend," she whispered.

"Yeah, but he was a good man. Capshaw was one of the best partners I had. I'll miss him. We always kept in touch. The funeral was nice, though."

"Yeah, it was, and it was nice of Xander and Marjorie to let us use the plane."

"Yeah, I better go see how they're doing," I stood up and walked over to the cockpit. All of a sudden, I heard Marjorie scream.

"Xander, what's wrong?" she cried, as I burst open the door.

"What's wrong?"

She stood up and hit her head, knocking her unconscious. Xander was slumped over the wheel. "Xander," I yelled, as I looked through the window. The ground was getting closer and closer. I pulled up on the throttle, but it was stuck. All of a sudden, I was thrown backwards as an explosion was heard.

"Bill?" Carol cried.

I could feel my body as it thrust toward the tail of the plane. I heard a giant roar, and then silence. Darkness was all around me. I think or thought this was death. (Life's Perspective: Bill Wheeler by Amy Shannon, 2018).

Sometimes the writer has a firm matriarch or patriarch of the family, that likes to have the power to change the lives of his or her family. In "*Shattered: An Emily Graham Novel*," the character Kyndall Graham is the matriarch of the family and is the one that leads the rest of the family into what she wants them to be, sometimes with firm nudges, and other times with threats. Kyndall is married to Wellington Graham, but she has power and ferociousness.

Example: (*Shattered: An Emily Graham Novel* by McKensie Stewart, 2017)

Kyndall turned her head toward the right, where her husband, Wellington Graham, the attorney general was sitting. "At least I will be able to groom one of the men in my life to aspire to greatness. You know I wanted you to be President, but that's OK. I have my Brendon to rely on to pave this family's way to the White house. I deserve the White House," Kyndall explained. (Shattered: An Emily Graham Novel, 2017).

Bob Freeman's H2LiftShip series

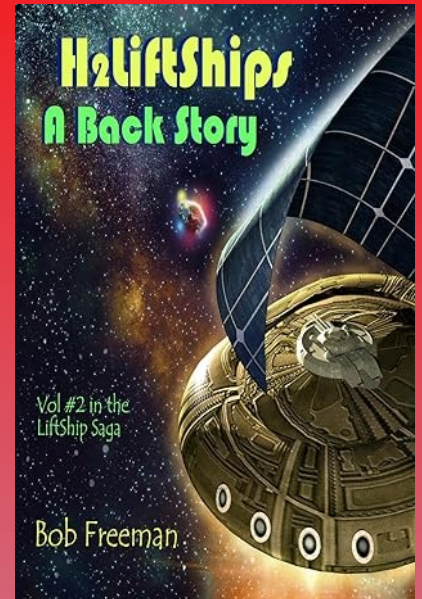
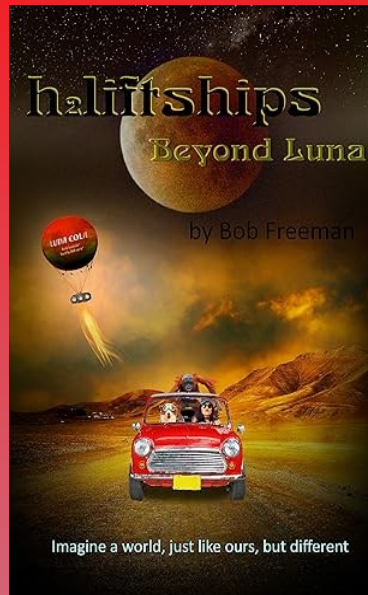
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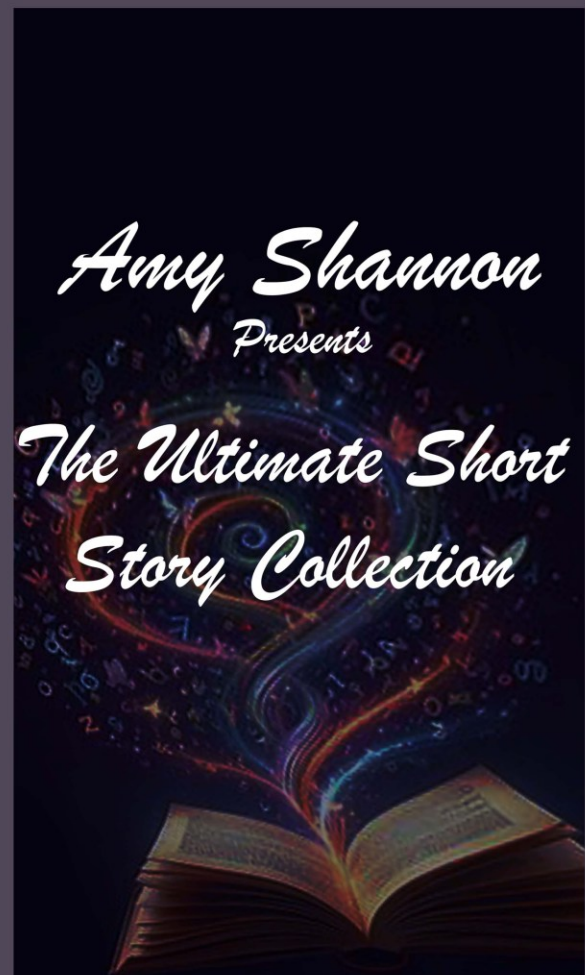
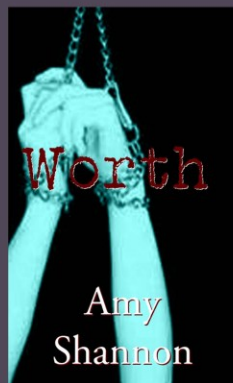
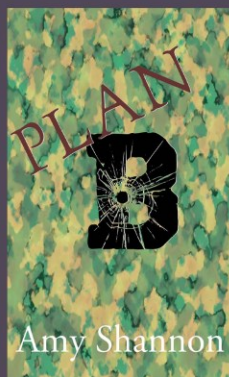
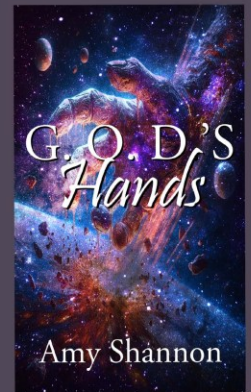
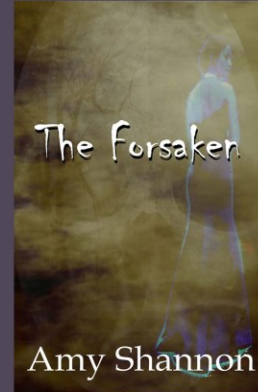
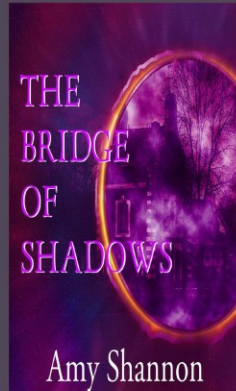
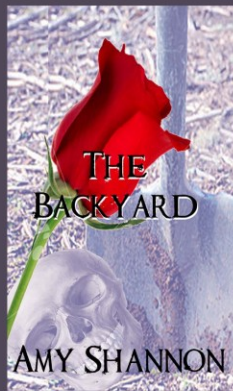
BosonWaves^2 pits the symbiotic combination of semi-sentient AI tablets and algal rocket ships against the Heliospheric Navy.



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Amy Shannon's Short Story Collection



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

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

Short Stories

She by Amy Shannon

She

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

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

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

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

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



She cont'd

be self-sufficient, not just because she had to be, but Ramona taught her, so when she was on her own, for good, she could, would survive.

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

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

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

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

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

Now, she was in the dark. A splash of liquid in her face woke her up from a deep sleep. She thought she was dreaming, but he was there. In her room. He poured more liquid on her face, waking her up, but it kind of burned. Her face felt like it was on fire, as she glared at him, climbing on top of her. She struggled and screamed, then, he sprinkled more liquid on her. Her eyes staring into his empty eyes, slowly faded as they burned. No, the nightlight was still there. The streaming of the window from the street lights were still peering in her room, but her eyes were on fire, going blind. She took a deep breath and continued to fight him, but he was too strong, and the pain of what she now knew was bleach on her face and in her eyes, taking her sight away, he could feel his hands around her throat, squeezing harder and harder. She tried to reach for anything on her nightstand she could hit him with. She grabbed what she knew was the hardcover book she was reading, *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky.

She *cont'd*

She managed to lift her arm, and hit him on the head, as hard as she could. He dropped on her body, his forearm under his body, pressing deep into her throat. She couldn't move him. She just felt the warmth of the blood from his gushing head wound. In that moment, gasping for air, she thought his blood would be cold.

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

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

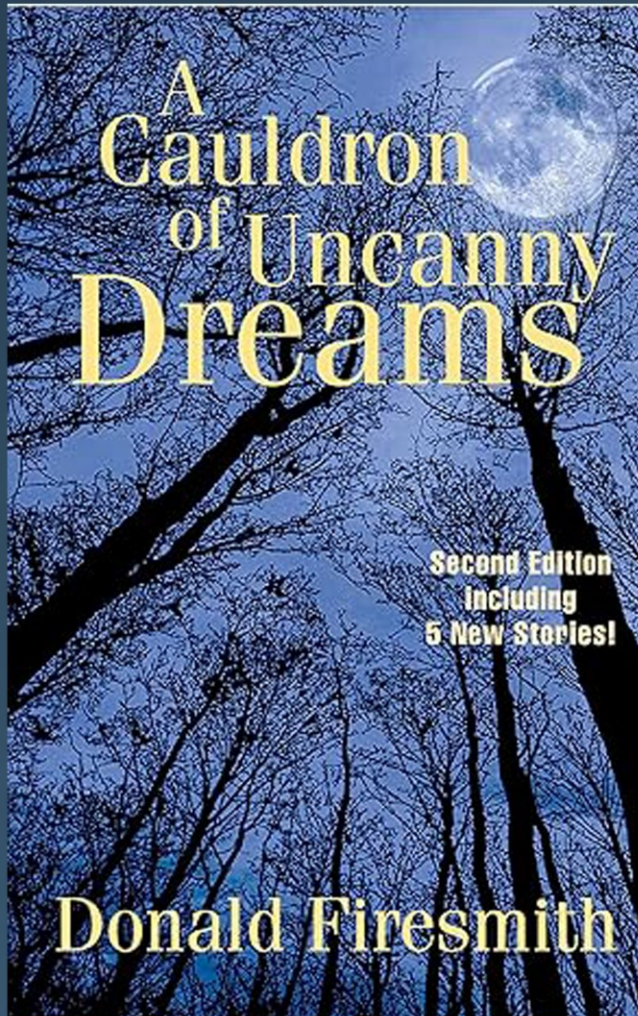
She gasped and gasped, opening her eyes, blinded by the bleach, but she pushed the dead man onto the floor, and reached for the phone. Charlotte dialed 9-1-1 and passed out before help arrived.

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

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

Donald Firesmith's A Cauldron of Uncanny Dreams

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



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

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

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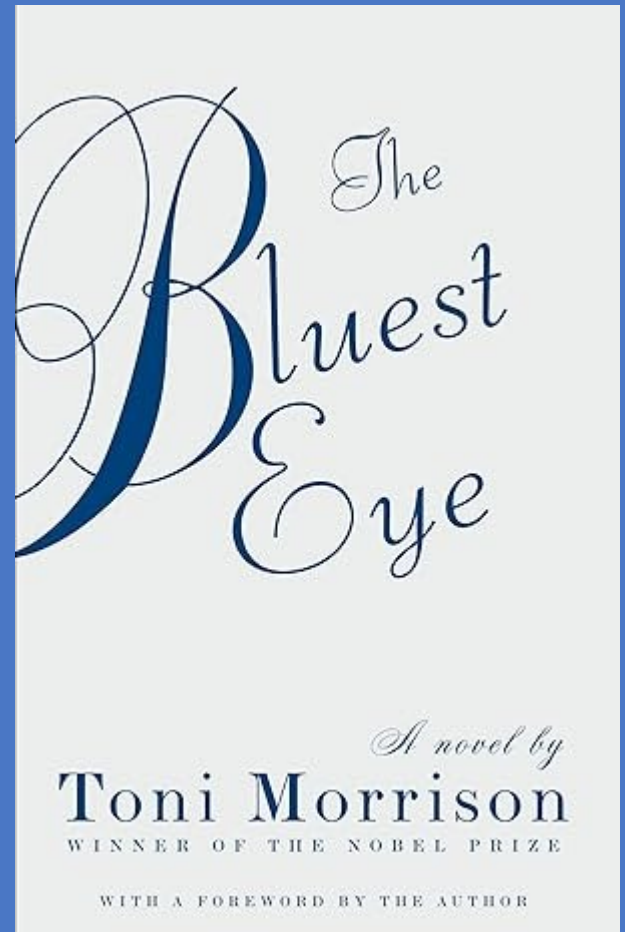
Amy's Personal Reads



Toni Morrison (1931 to 2019)- The Bluest Eye

Genre: Banned Book/F/African American

In Morrison's acclaimed first novel, Pecola Breedlove—an 11-year-old Black girl in an America whose love for its blond, blue-eyed children can devastate all others—prays for her eyes to turn blue: so that she will be beautiful, so that people will look at her, so that her world will be different. This is the story of the nightmare at the heart of her yearning, and the tragedy of its fulfillment.



5 Stars

An amazing, dramatic and cultural story.

The reader is introduced to several children, where their lives are different, and in some ways, the same. The hardships of Blacks who were poor and also out they were perceived by others, and themselves. Insert Pecola, a 12 year old black girl who dreams of not being ugly but having the bluest eyes ever. Her life seems the hardest of all. Pecola and her siblings have to call their own mother, Mrs. Breedlove. Some of the story is told by young Claudia, who has an older sister, Frieda. Claudia is bold and tells things like they are, or what she thinks they are. One thing that I found interesting, and even a bit shocking was that many wore the mask of ugliness. This book has been challenged, and is on the top of the ALA's challenged books of 2023. I would read this book, again and again. I now have the late Toni Morrison's work on my radar for more books to read. The highlights of the book are when the reader is shown the backstory of the characters, almost explaining why they are the way they are, nasty, evil, ugly, beautiful and soulful, for examples.

An open book with a dark bookmark is shown from a low angle, resting on a wooden surface. The pages are cream-colored and slightly aged. In the background, a row of books on a shelf is blurred, creating a warm, bokeh effect with various colors like blue, green, and red. The text "Nonfiction & Memoirs" is centered over the open book in a black, serif font.

Nonfiction & Memoirs

Julie A. Wendt, MD- What's Eating our Kids? A Parent's guide to food allergy, intolerance and toxicity

Genre: Nonfiction/Health/Children's Health

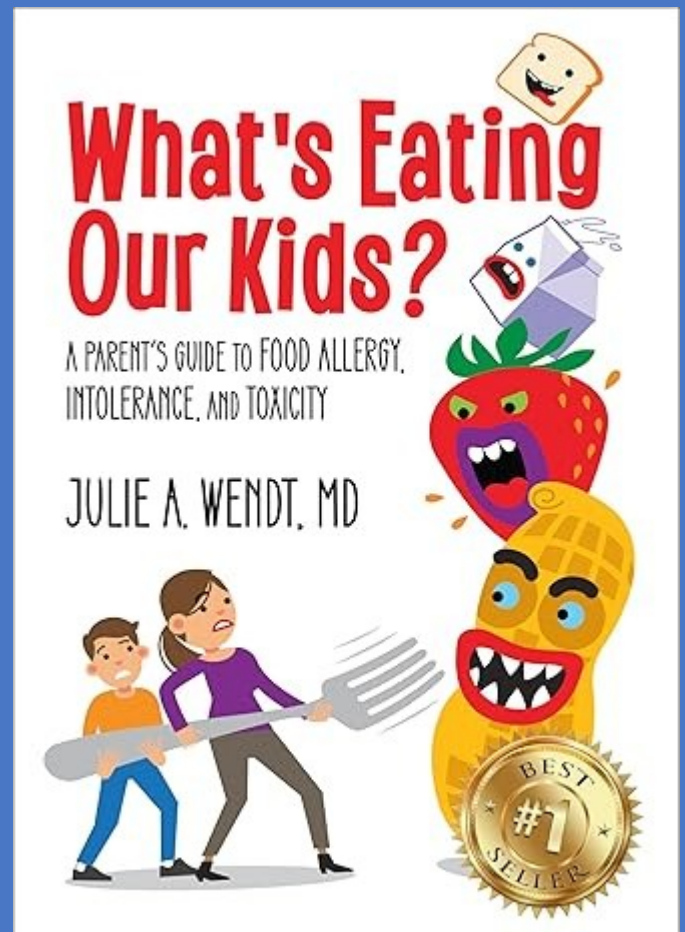
What is eating our kids? More and more of us parents are asking that question. There has been a steep increase in the number of allergic reactions and in the number of patients who can no longer tolerate food without absolute misery. Have you, as a loving parent, ever felt helpless in your struggles to figure out your child's food allergies, reactions, and aversions? Do you wonder why this is happening? Most importantly, I hope you haven't given up, because this book will help guide you or your child to the relief you've been waiting for.

You are not alone: I'm an allergy parent too. I have been through my son's severe eczema as a baby, dealt with a multitude of his allergies as a boy and young man, and managed the lactose intolerance of my teenage daughter. Whether you're a new or an experienced allergy parent, the emotional stresses and strains of managing your family's allergies are really challenging.

4 Stars

Dr. Julia A Wendt writes an informative book about allergies

What's Eating our Kids? A Parent's guide to food allergy, intolerance and toxicity is a very informative book. This is the first I have read from this author. I think this is a book that every parent or expectant parent should read. How many times have a child or even adult gotten sick by eating certain foods, but never really think it's an allergy. Some allergies are easy to spot, because of the knowledge of how a body can react, such as rashes, swollen body parts, and even respiratory distress. However, some foods or ingredients in food can cause more than a simple rash. It's possible that some kids grow up to be adults without realizing that they can't have gluten, dairy or other foods that can cause toxicity, and even death. Many are aware of the results bee sting allergies, or peanut allergies, but not necessarily other invasive allergies. People have been misdiagnosed about because of the results of certain ingredients.



Anthologies or Collections



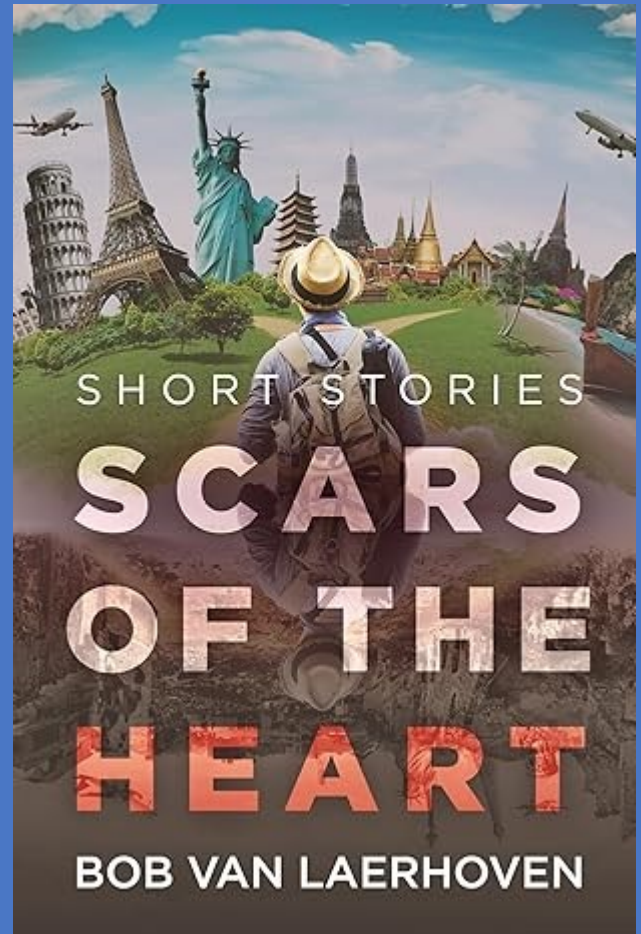
Bob van Laehoven- Scars of the Heart

Genre: F/short stories/Psychological/Literary

Why can people be so cruel to each other? In his search for answers, Bob Van Laerhoven concentrates on individuals, but ideologies, religions, and political structures shimmer in the background.

Through ten stories set in different countries and eras, Van Laerhoven takes us through the destructive consequences of our passions as a common thread, from contemporary Syria to Algeria in the 1950s, and the civil war in Liberia to the uprising in Belgian Congo in the 1960s.

The ten stories in SCARS OF THE HEART highlight the dark side of love, which fuels our violence, inner loneliness, and greedy egos.



5 Stars

Bob van Laehoven writes a magnificent collection of short stories with Scars of the Heart

In Scars of the Heart, there are ten stories, that show how darkness can cast a shadow on love, and how it can interfere with life, and cause effects such as violence, loneliness and greed. I am a big fan of Bob van Laehoven and read whatever this author writes. This author has a grand imagination, and talent for showing the story.

Each story in itself tells a remarkable tale, bringing intrigue and sharing the dark side of humanity, and what it can do to a person. These stories were definitely attention grabbers, so much I couldn't put it down. Each one is intriguing, and very unpredictable. Each story had a gripping and incredible storyline, and whatever this author writes, I want to read, more than once. Scars of the Heart is a definite recommendation by Amy's Bookshelf Reviews. I read this book to give my unbiased and honest review. Amy's Bookshelf Reviews recommends that anyone who reads this book also write a review.

The background is a painting of a rural landscape. On the left, a large, leafy green tree stands on a grassy slope. In the center, a wooden bench with a red cushion sits on a path. To the right, a large, vertical wooden structure, possibly a door or a wall, dominates the frame. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall tone is warm and nostalgic.

Children and Young Adult

Dan Kopcow- Madcap Serenade

Eli, a precocious 16-year-old social misfit living on Long Island in August 1979, cons his way into a professional boys' choir's Italian and Vatican tour so he can discover his missing father's legacy.

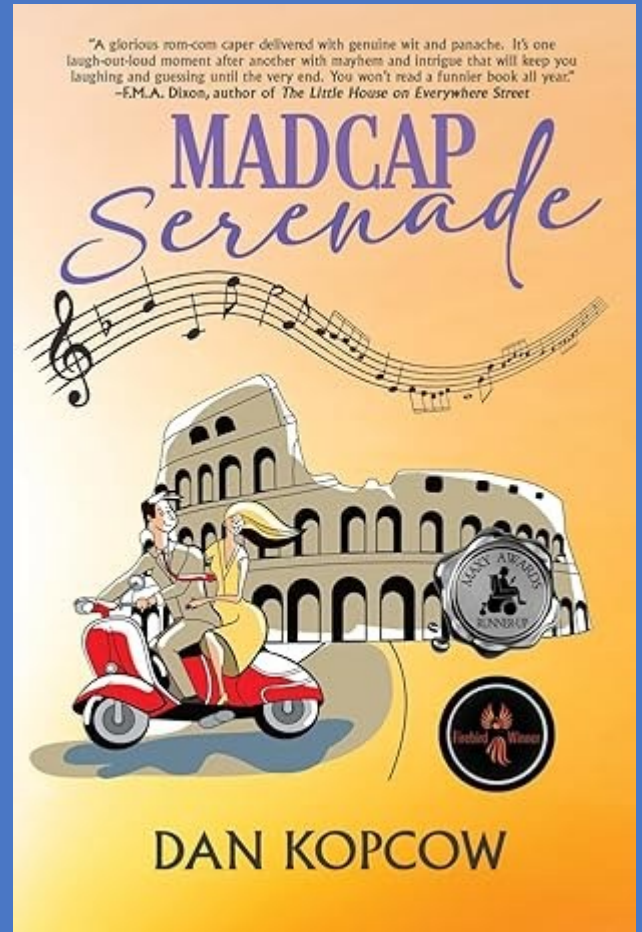
But when he meets his dream girl, Jane, and finds himself connected to an intricate murder plot involving a legendary drug, he must decide if singing for the Pope is worth losing his family and first love.

Jane, a rebellious 16-year-old American girl, is desperate to get back into favor with her school friends after accidentally calling a narc on them. When she is sent to a Roman convent for smuggling erotic novels, she realizes she must grow up fast if she's going to escape from the nuns, solve her family's mystery involving a mythical drug, keep clear of the authorities, and declare her love for Eli.

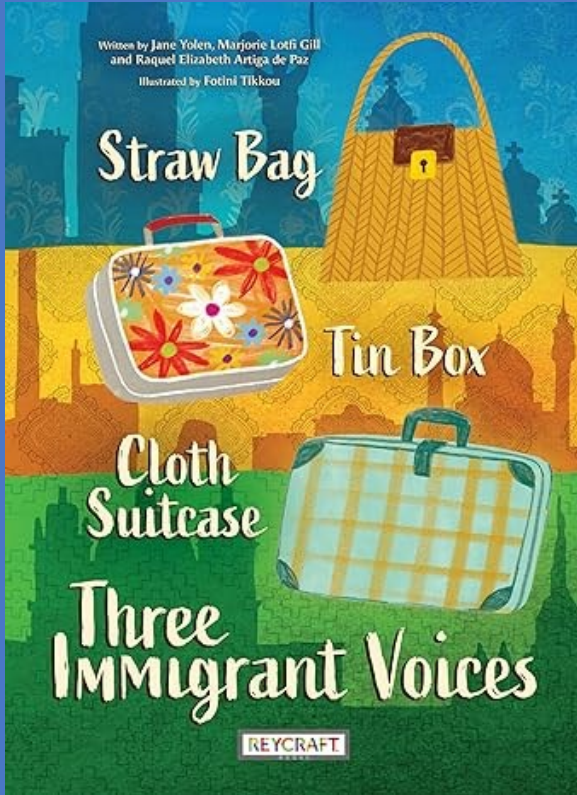
4 Stars

Dan Kopcow writes a grand romantic comedy with Madcap Serenade

In Madcap Serenade, the reader is introduced to Eli, and the year 1979. I wish I wasn't old enough to remember that era, but I do. And I was seven, so my experience is so different than that of Eli. He's a very interesting young man, insightful, curious about everything, and totally socially awkward, at least to him. To others, he's just another one that blends in the background as a misfit, or socially impaired person. I haven't read anything by this author before, and what a hidden gem. I enjoyed it so much, that I have now followed the author and look for more books to read. I have just become a fan of Dan Kopcow. Eli in his own way is intelligent, and gets himself into the local boys' choir, a professional Choir who will soon go to Italy and sing at the Vatican. Dan Kopcow created a remarkable world for Eli and setting the stage for a wondrous story. Eli intends to find out about his father, and his legacy, so he can find out who he is and who his father was, but then he finds something, someone unexpected. Jane. She has her own issues, and is also 16, American, and was sent to a convent. This is a fun romance, and it's something many of us can't remember, but the strange first love as a teenager, not realizing that there is so much more to life, than getting in trouble. I loved this story, and it is more than just teenagers running around Italy but engaging in more life than just each other's. I really liked this story.



Jane Yolen, Marjorie Lotfi Gill, Racquel Elizabeth Artiga de Pas- Straw-Bag Tin-Box Cloth-Suitcase Three Immigrant Voices



Three women, from three different continents and separated by generations, share stories of coming to the United States. Sarah's great-great grandmother Manya fled the Cossacks in the Ukraine at the turn of the twentieth century. Grace's mom escaped with her family during the Iranian revolution in 1979. Raquel and her family fled gang violence in El Salvador in the 2010s. These three stories, all accounts of the authors' real family stories--Manya is legendary author Jane Yolen's grandmother--highlight the essential commonality of the immigrant experience.

5 Stars

What a magnificent story in Straw-Bag Tin-Box Cloth-Suitcase Three Immigrant Voices

Straw-Bag Tin Box Cloth Suitcase Three Immigrant Voices is a magnificent story for children of all ages, and I recommend, if you're an adult, you read it as well. What I liked about the story is that it stems from the author's family stories. I also like that it proves that generational stories should always be told and shared. I haven't read work from these authors before, and I enjoyed this story. The illustrations were remarkable and were perfect for the story, so kudos to the illustrator. This book would be perfect to read to a child or have the child read it back. There are three stories, and each one starts with their bag or suitcase. Sarah's Nana takes out a straw bag. Grace's Momma takes out a Tin Box, and Racquel remembers the a cheap, cloth suitcase. The three had something in common, and seeing their stories presented on one page, each page, sharing their experiences. From the beginning, even if you never experienced having to leave your home, your home country, you get a feeling for the characters, the people telling the story, and true story experiences.



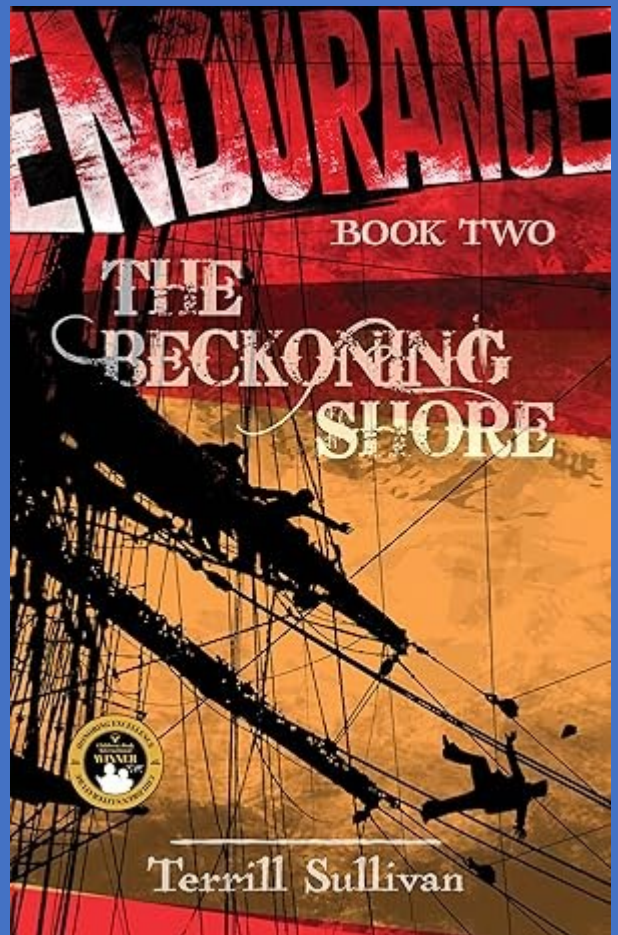
Terrill Sullivan- Endurance, The Frozen Keep

About Endurance, The Frozen Keep

Nineteen-year-old Jack Robinson is running out of time... The Endurance is departing the next morning, and he has to make a choice: Should he stay on the remote Island of South Georgia with the girl he had fallen for, or continue on an exciting, once-in-a-lifetime expedition to explore Antarctica? To compound his angst, his brother had abruptly left the ship to stay in Great Britain and now Jack has to make this agonizing decision alone...

In the early days of World War One, the sailing ship Endurance quietly left England with famed explorer Ernest Shackleton and twenty-nine crewmen on board. Their mission: Head for the distant Southern Ocean, fight through the pack ice of the Weddell Sea, then launch Shackleton and five other polar explorers across the vast frozen wilderness of Antarctica-1,800 miles on foot, with sleds and dogs. Shackleton would call this epic journey, The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

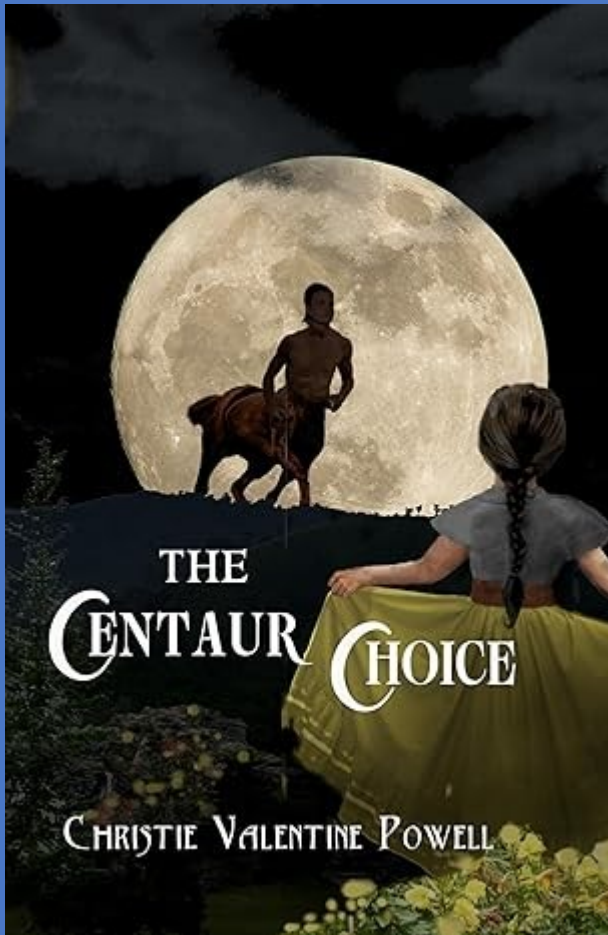
Based on true events, Endurance, The Frozen Keep is an epic tale that transports readers onto the decks of a wooden ship navigating the ice-filled seas of Antarctica and into the ravaged battlefields of Europe during World War One 100



Follow the journey of Jack Robinson, the young electrician aboard the Endurance, and Leah Carlberg, a young woman horrified by the slaughter of whales on her home island, in this gripping, coming-of-age adventure that intertwines the raw brutality of nature and the chaos of war.

Find more about Terrill Sullivan at www.terrillsullivan.com

Christie Valentine Powell- The Centaur Choice



About The Centaur Choice

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

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

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

Find more about Christie Valentine Powell at www.thespectrabooks.com

John T. M. Herres- Hell's Beginning

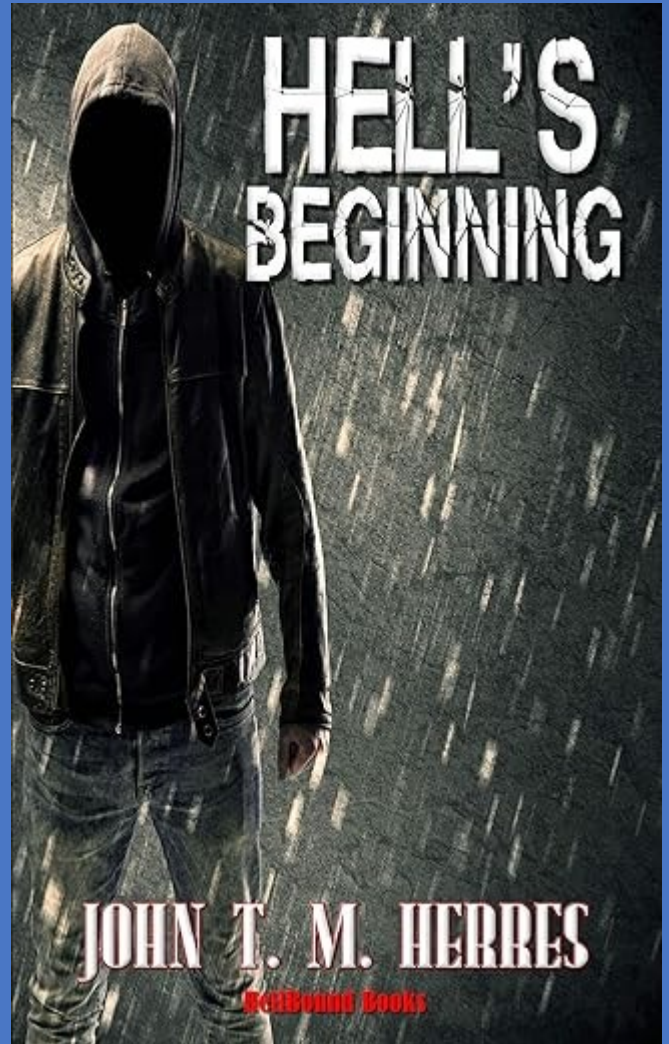
About Hell's Beginning

When a stranger arrives in Charity Falls, Utah, he has one intent: get a drink and some rest before hitting the road again. An altercation with a lush brings back dark memories, and the woman's final taunt tips him over the edge. He abducts and drags her off to an abandoned farm.

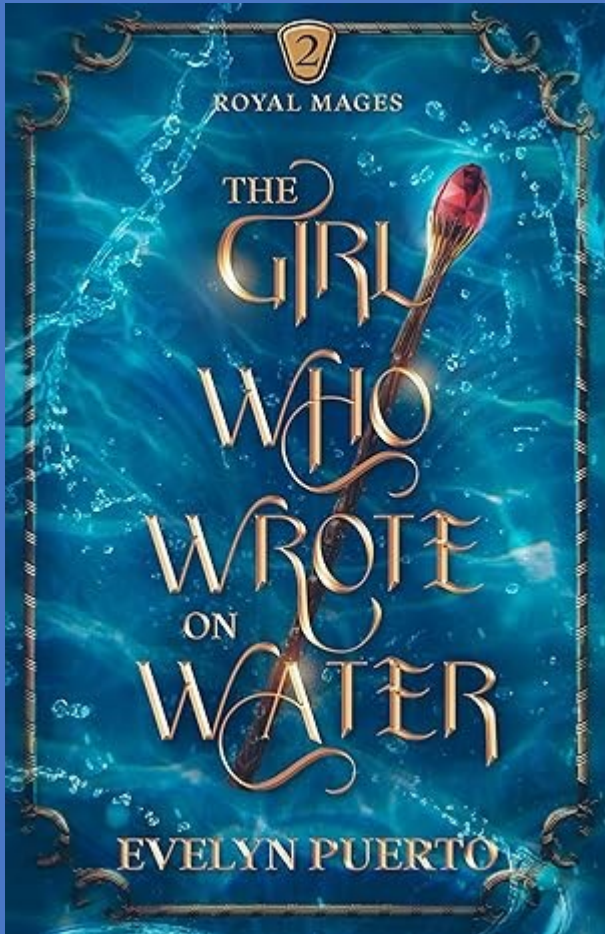
There, he introduces her to pain and suffering, on a journey into her darkest nightmares, and his bloodthirsty fantasy. However, the farm isn't as secluded as he had hoped, and he is forced to deal with several others who have wandered too close to his lair.

When just two innocents remain, only a battle of survival will decide who will walk away. But, the killer strikes again, and only one who has been close to the horrors will know what must be done. Someone must put an end to the reign of terror that has begun

Find more about John T. M. Herres at <https://www.amazon.com/stores/John-T.-M.-Herres/author/B00JNOMUHK>



Evelyn Puerto- The Girl Who Wrote on Water



About The Girl Who Wrote on Water

Sometimes a catastrophe isn't the worst of your problems

As dust settles on the buried kingdom of Ymittos, Princess Derya faces a horrifying truth: her friend Princess Eliana has perished after failing to break an evil sorcerer's curse. Which means the next obstacle in the plot to enslave the continent is Derya's father — the Emperor of Cinar.

When the emperor tasks Derya with forming a crucial alliance, her only way forward is to race the sorcerer in a hunt for the magical scepter he lost a millennium ago. If he retrieves it, he'll be unstoppable in his quest to dominate the world.

Seeking the scepter in barbarian-controlled territory could cost Derya her life.

But if she refuses the quest, she loses her right to the empire.

And if she fails, there won't be an empire left to inherit.

Find more about Evelyn Puerto at <https://www.evelynpuerto.com/>

Donald Firesmith- Hell Holes: The Complete Trilogy

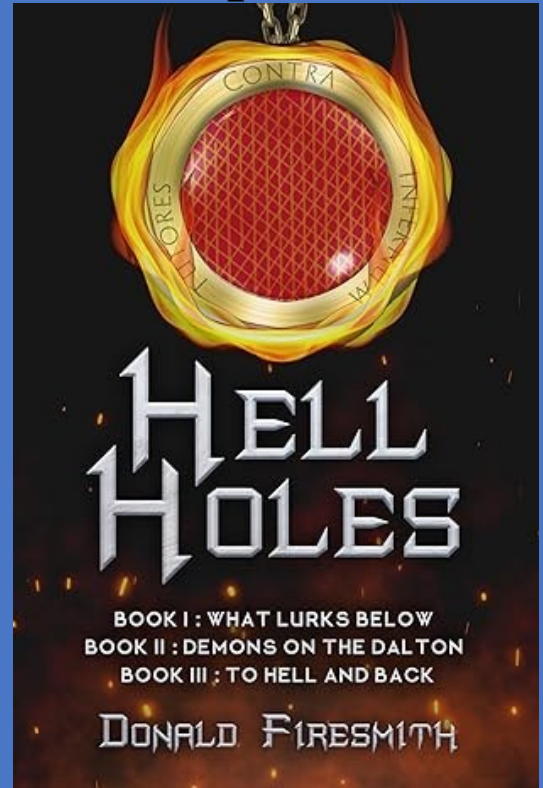
About Hell Holes: The Complete Trilogy

When the invasion begins, it will come from below.

Dive into the riveting world of Donald Firesmith's multi-award-winning Hell Holes trilogy, where the line between science fiction and supernatural horror blurs in the unforgiving Alaskan wilderness. This action-packed series plunges readers into a battle for the very survival of humanity.

When hundreds of enormous holes suddenly appear above the Arctic Circle, an oil company fears another hole might open under the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, causing a financial and ecological disaster. To assess the risk, they hire a geology professor to gather a small team of scientists to investigate. However, when flames simultaneously erupt from every hole, all hell breaks loose, and humanity is thrust into a desperate fight for survival.

The Hell Holes trilogy of alien invasion novels consists of the following three first-person eyewitness accounts made by three surviving members of the investigative team:



Hell Holes 1: What Lurks Below as told by Dr. Jack Oswald (geologist)
Hell Holes 2: Demons on the Dalton as told by Dr. Angela Melendez (climatologist)
Hell Holes 3: To Hell and Back as told by Aileen O'Shannon (photographer)

Find more about Donald Firesmith at <http://donaldfiresmith.com>

Brian O'Hare - Die This Hour

About Die This Hour

A ruthless and cunning serial killer strikes in Belfast every Tuesday night at exactly 11:05.

Changes to Sheehan's Serious Crime Unit (retirements/promotions) have left him needing a new sergeant.

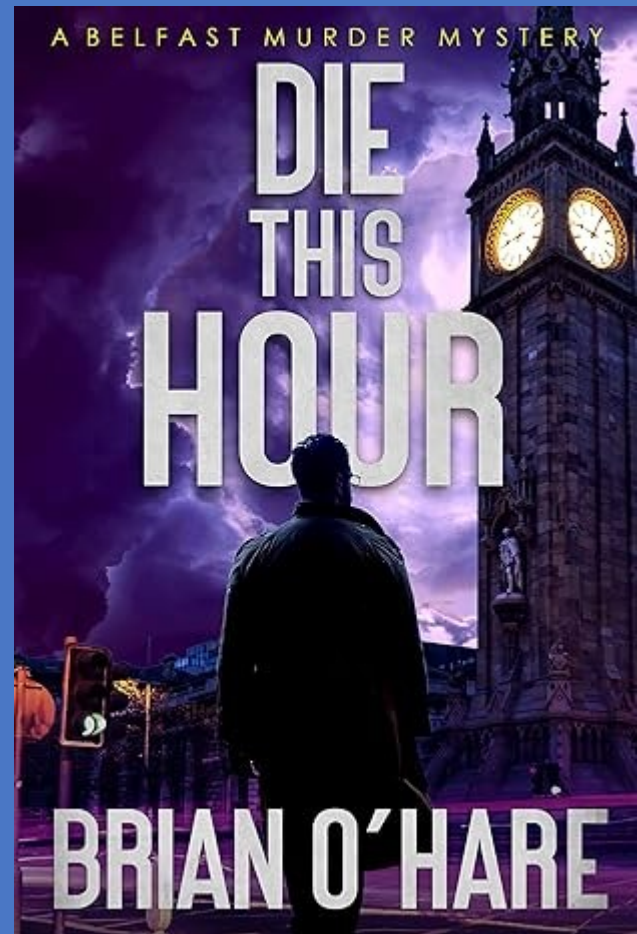
He appoints Denise Stewart.

Despite suffering extreme misogynistic abuse in her previous posting, Stewart was instrumental in uncovering serious corruption where she worked, leading to the imprisonment of her superior and some of her previous colleagues.

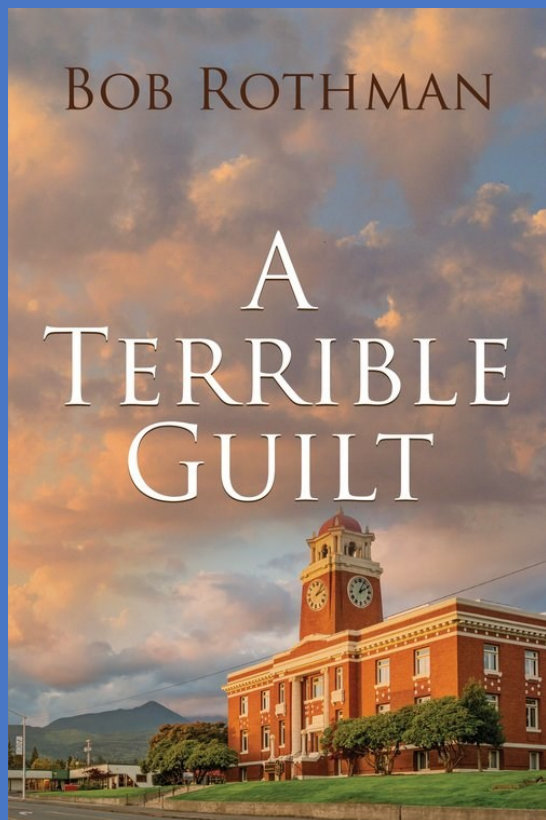
Stewart has no sooner joined Sheehan's unit than she becomes victim to attacks from an unknown assailant while she spends endless hours seeking to identify the serial killer

Her new team gives her the respect she deserves but with her life in danger, can she prove her worth?

Find more about Brian O'Hare at <http://brianohareauthor.blogspot.com/>



Bob Rothman- A Terrible Guilt



About A Terrible Guilt

When the owner and the chef of a popular diner in a small north Georgia town are found shot to death shortly before opening early one morning, Joseph Owens, a hot-tempered busboy, quickly becomes the prime suspect. District Attorney Paul Chastain, facing a serious challenge in his bid for reelection, charges Owens with the murders despite pleas from the lead detective for more time to investigate. After a hard-fought trial in which the judge allows the prosecutor to present highly emotional testimony despite the defense lawyer's objections, Owens is convicted and sentenced to death by the jury.

Two Atlanta lawyers, who observed part of the trial, become convinced the prosecution's case is flimsy at best. Shocked by the outcome, they get permission from their firm's managing partner to represent Owens in his final appeal. But as the appeal drags on and costs the firm more and more in lost legal fees, tensions begin to rise. Their involvement has a drastic impact not just on Owens, but on many others involved in the case, as well as on their own lives and careers.

Find more about Bob Rothman at <https://bobrothmanauthor.com/>

Addison Brae- Off Edge

About Off Edge

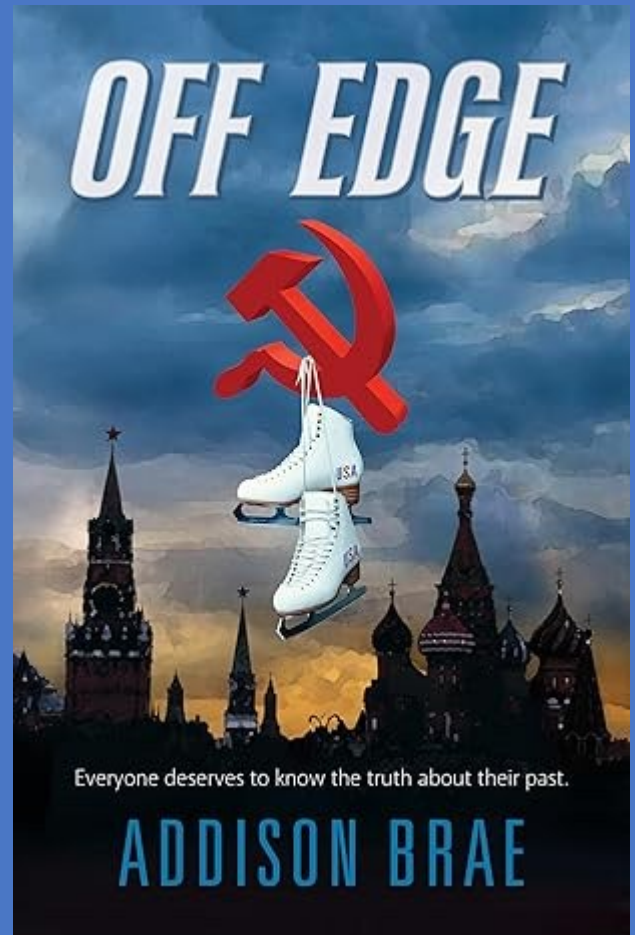
Do you know what it's like to win an Olympic gold, then have it stripped away? I do.

Gold is every figure skater's life dream. At fifteen, I experience the thrill of wearing the medal for a few minutes until judges accused me of being too young to be eligible. That's when I realized my father's ultimate lie could cost more than my title.

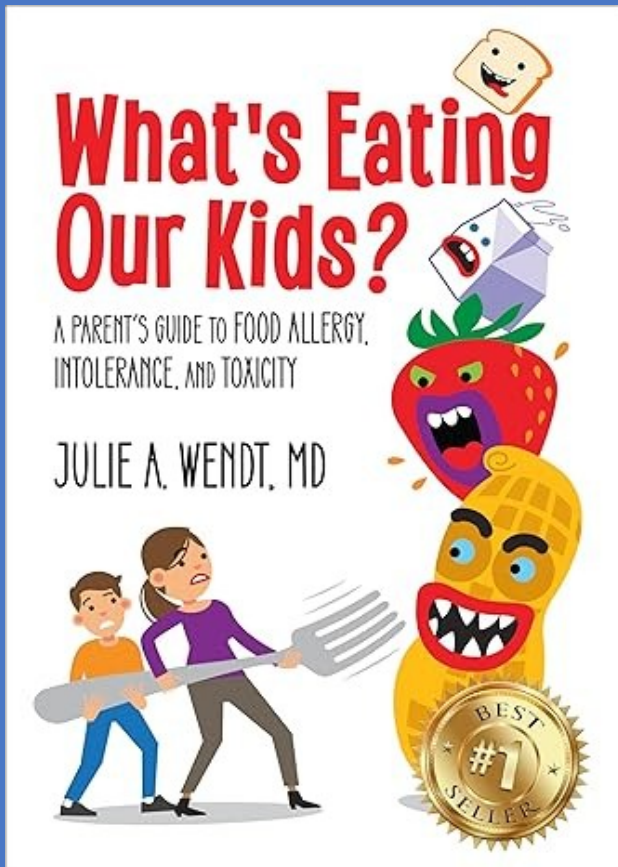
During our daring escape from Russia, I pressured my coach to tell the truth about my adoption. But the quad combination and two world titles aren't enough to keep the scandal from erasing my career and identity. Disgraced, disqualified, and devastated, I can't face a rink, fans, or daily life. My controlling dad's betrayal lights a fire to break free from his bad decisions. My best friend and a journalist who will tell my story step in to stop the downward spiral and help me uncover my past.

The story of Docia's fierce determination to discover her true identity, unerase her career, and find the passion to skate again will engage teen readers, figure skating fans, and anyone who's ever experienced betrayal from someone close.

Find more about Addison Brae at <https://addisonbrae.com/>



Julie A. Wendt, MD- What's Eating our Kids? A Parent's guide to food allergy, intolerance and toxicity



About What's Eating our Kids? A Parent's guide to food allergy, intolerance and toxicity

What is eating our kids? More and more of us parents are asking that question. There has been a steep increase in the number of allergic reactions and in the number of patients who can no longer tolerate food without absolute misery. Have you, as a loving parent, ever felt helpless in your struggles to figure out your

child's food allergies, reactions, and aversions? Do you wonder why this is happening? Most importantly, I hope you haven't given up, because this book will help guide you or your child to the relief you've been waiting for.

You are not alone: I'm an allergy parent too. I have been through my son's severe eczema as a baby, dealt with a multitude of his allergies as a boy and young man, and managed the lactose intolerance of my teenage daughter. Whether you're a new or an experienced allergy parent, the emotional stresses and strains of managing your family's allergies are really challenging.

What's Eating Our Kids? contains information key to understanding the causes of your suffering: food allergy, intolerance, and toxicity. I break down the most common (and some not-so-common) food reactions and walk through the symptoms, specific medical conditions, and the diagnosis, testing, and treatment process.

Find more about Julie A. Wendt, MD at <https://relieveallergyaz.com/>

Elli Morgan- The Shadowed Moon

About The Shadowed Moon

After they took everything from him, Dave Patton dedicated his life to hunting vampires. But he can't bring himself to destroy their newest vampire prisoner Sarah—a young woman with a tragic past, who awakens forbidden desires in him.

Sarah McAllister spent her childhood in the hands of ruthless vampires aiming to turn her into a perfect soldier. To take revenge, she hides her true strength and surrenders to a group of hunters, hoping her knowledge will help them bring all monsters to justice.

When the hunters' compound is attacked, Sarah has to reveal her powers to protect them from certain death. How will Dave react when he learns the truth? And how much will she have to sacrifice to defeat her tormentors?

Find more about Elli Morgan at <https://ellimorgan.com>

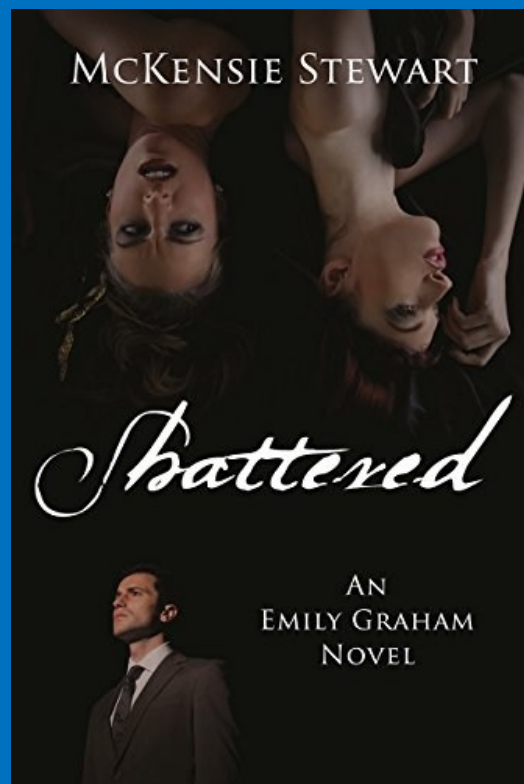


Shattered: An Emily Graham Novel

By McKensie Stewart



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



amazon

Advertisement

Micah 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.





Audiobooks

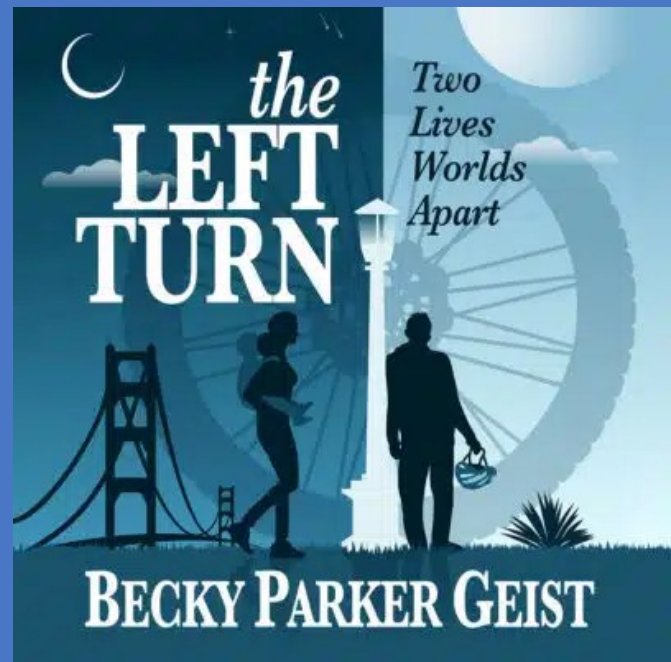
Becky Parker Geist- The Left Turn: Two Lives, Worlds Apart

Genre: F/Sci-fi/self discovery

Narrated by: Becky Parker, JS Arquin

Hannah, a forty-six year old author plagued with anxiety, and her partner James, an HR recruiter caught in a headlock of grief over his brother's death, are as desperate for inner peace as they are clueless about how to find it.

But will they be able to let go of their deeply ingrained subconscious beliefs about life and themselves to embrace the unfamiliar potentials they now face?



5 Stars

Becky Parker Geist tells a wonderful self-discovery story in The Left Turn: Two Lives, Worlds Apart

Hannah and James, both plagued with demons of the past, anxiety, and the search for peace. 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, especially with two narrators, and one being the author, herself. This book is definitely well told, and the characters are very engaging, and very realistic. Imagine if everything you knew and remembered was all of a sudden gone, and you're living a new life. I can't imagine having to rebuild a life into someone you've never been, as our pasts help define us. It's a normal day for the duo, but then everything changes, their entire world. I can't imagine, and with this story, the trials and triumphs, and the search for themselves, while dealing with the blur of their past, makes this story so unique, and very intense. This is one of those books that grabs you from the start and pulls you in. Geist has a great imagination. An emotional rollercoaster. Un-put-downable! It's a great story to follow and try to figure out what will happen next, even when I already read it, I listened to it with a new perspective.

Amy Shannon's Balls-Town

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

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

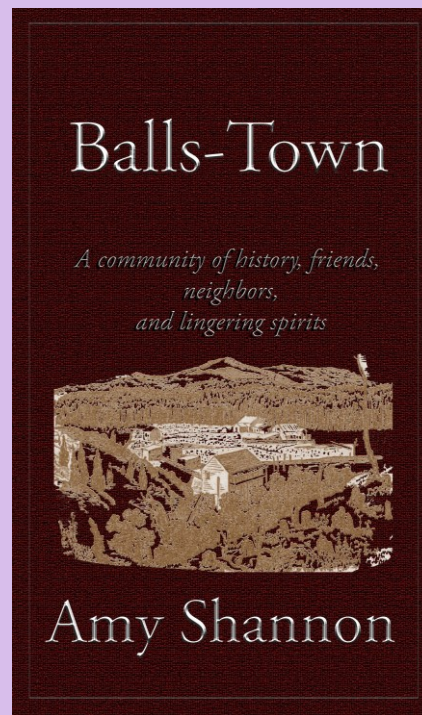
A lot of reading and research went into writing this book.

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

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

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

Advertisement



Synopsis of Balls-Town

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

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

EXPOSED! **MOBILITY** **IMPAIRED!**



YouTube

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

YouTube



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

