

Indie Publishing News

Issue 9 – Feb 2017

###From the Editor's Desk

Happy Valentine's Day everyone. Yes, I'm a few days early, though with all the events and book releases going on it is going to be a hectic time and we need to remember those we love.

We have a new back page Advert with GoIndieNow. A wonderful business who assists Indie Authors, film makers and more. Don't forget to take a look at their webpage.

OUR SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM IS NOW OPEN, PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO VIEW THE DETAILS.

Ghostly Writes Anthology was a huge success in October 2016, with 26 authors telling you some scary ghostly stories. Due to this we have decided to publish 'The Ghostly Writes Valentine's Anthology'.

This book will be available as an eBook on the 14th February 2017. It will be FREE. There will also be a PRINT edition which will have costing to reflect printing. Price will be known once this book is uploaded.

The stories come from Indie Authors Worldwide. All in different English Grammar and Language. Please remember we all speak differently and use different words to put our stories across.

Thanks

PLAISTED PUBLISHING HOUSE SPONSORSHIP 2017

The doors are now open for submissions for our yearly Sponsorship Program. This program is sponsored by Plaisted Publishing House in conjunction with Lynzie Fitzpatrick – Editor, Fantasia Covers & KKAssist – Promotions Manager.

The genre for this year is FANTASY with all sub genres. What you will need:

An Author Bio, Synopsis and First Two Chapters of your novel. You will need to submit via the link below. Submissions will close on May 31st 2017.

Your novel is to be no more than 90K words and unpublished. Only book one of a series will be accepted as a submission.

###Brain to Books Cyber Convention –Karina Kantas

Brain to Books Cyber Convention and Book Expo 2017 is going to be one of the largest author Cycon's ever. It's the perfect platform to be seen and for your book to be seen.

This year the Cycon is going global and will include virtual, TV, Radio and video advertising. And they are expecting thousands of readers. The Cycon has 100 volunteers working hard to make this the most successful cyconever.

There are going to be many exciting events for authors to take part in such as Cover Wars, Panels, Blog Hop, Author showcase, Cosplay, Word Wars, Genre Tours, Character Tournaments, Workshops and much more.

Registration is free and open now. Additional fees may apply.

<https://braintobooks.com/b2bcycon-registration>

This Cyber convention and Book Expo is open to ALL authors of ALL genres. If any authors wish to know more about this amazing and fun marketing opportunity, please register now and then join this facebook group, where we discuss the cyber convention and book expo. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/959667474103494> For readers this is the perfect place to pick up new books, find new authors that write in your favourite genre. Have three days of long lasting fun. Sign up now to save the date reminder and you could win \$100 <http://b2bcycon.com/>

###Indie Author Reviews

Heroes by Karen J Mossman

Everybody loves a hero, whether it is the superhero, a knight in shining armour or the person that comes to your rescue on the street. They come in all shapes and sizes and genres. In this collection of short stories, we go to Sarajevo, to Manhattan and to England for romance and adventure.

We meet the soldiers who rescue aid workers from a war torn country, the mafia man who falls for an English girl with a terrible secret. We travel back in time to the 18th century and a highwayman who relieves people of the jewellery and steals the heart of a squire's daughter.

There is a girl who devotes her life to charity and feeding the homeless and the unlikely hero who has to face her fears after discovering something dreadful.

Jamie is leaving the army and looking for a new home when he comes across a church with an angel who steals his heart.

Finally, poor Marlene whose life is falling apart and the penfriends who have never met, but now one of them is in trouble and needs help

Reaching for the Light – An Incest Survivors Story By J C Christian

Reviewed by Jennifer from Nebraska.

J.C. Christian's book Reaching for the Light was a book I just couldn't put down. She takes the reader on a journey discussing the details of incest that she endured starting at the age of eight. On the journey she discusses the trauma and how she was able to overcome it as an adult. God was at work and put the right people in her life to help her overcome the trauma. Incest and sexual abuse are not typically subjects that people discuss openly. I think this book would help victims of incest and sexual abuse and let them they know that they are not alone and that there is hope.

Revenge of the Zeeka: Horror Trilogy by Brenda Mohammed

Revenge of Zeeka, by Brenda Mohammed, is a one of a kind novella trilogy that delivers an incredible story guaranteed to give readers an absolute sci-fi treat. I especially liked how Brenda used current events as the pivotal point from which to build this amazing sci-fi horror. This made the story even more relatable. More importantly, however, I admired how she owned her story and created this captivating version of events. She captured with amazing depth the setting, characters, plot, and emotions in such few words. If you are looking for a thrilling short read, this fast-paced, sci-fi action novella will give you the time of your life.

Ghostly Writes Reviews by Patty Fletcher

A Dying Scream by J G Clay

Hi, readers everywhere! Are you looking for a read that will freeze your blood, and chill your soul? Speaking of souls, have you ever thought about what would happen if your soul did not correctly disembark from your

body when you died? Would you Rest in Peace, or would you somehow be bound to the earthly realm in spite of the fact that you were dead?

What if there were people who took on the job of making sure that happened as it should? And what if those who were doing such work had succumbed to a darker power?

Well, if you'd like to know the answers to all those questions you're going to have to pick up a copy of the Ghostly Writes Anthology

In this most magnificent collection you will find a story where those questions we've asked can be answered, but please? This story is not for the faint of heart. It is also not for those who have a bunch of deeply seeded notions about how we die and the afterlife. You have trouble put all that aside, and open your mind. Then you can enjoy the very first tale in the book with wonder, pleasure and a whole lot of terror thrown in for good measure.

Meet Red. A young man with a dark and dreary and somewhat violent past. When we first see him, he is on his way to be tested for the job of reaper. What will his job duties be? His job is to make certain those whom are dying give a scream so that their souls can properly separate from their dying bodies. This will insure that they may die properly and their soul may go onto whatever its next destination is in peace, and without any trace of its former host.

Things seem to be progressing right along, when Red is visited by some horrifying, and most triggering past memories, and right then and there he chooses to follow a darker path than what was originally intended.

What will become of him? Will he succumb to the darkness within? Will he allow his rage from past hurts and abuses guide him into a world of death and destruction for all reapers everywhere, or will he make the right choice, and continue as originally planned? Was his plan dark from the beginning? Or, did he make the decision in a flash? Make sure to pick up your copy today, and please? Once you've read, ad your own reviews to the mix.

J G Clay is a talented author, and my one and only complaint concerning this story is that it left me wanting more! So, how about it? Gonna write an entire book to tell the tale of what happened to Red? Or, was this just something to wet our whistle for the great things you write?

I give this story 4 out of 5 stars, and the only reason it did not get 5 was because it seemed just a bit hurried. If that was due to word limit constraint, then I give it 4 and 1/2. Great job either way, and keep those terrifying tales coming. Scare seekers like myself need them all the time to feed our morbid need.

###The Ides of March – Essential - 15th March 2017

On Facebook

###My Favourite Books by Famous Authors with Sharon K Miller

A Review of On Writing, by Stephen King

Because I am both a reader and a writer, I'm always on the lookout for books that will both entertain and inform me. I don't mean to distinguish between reading for enjoyment and reading to learn—they are two sides of the same coin. When I read fiction, I am looking to be entertained and informed. I want the author to tell a compelling story that keeps me engaged, but I also want to learn from the author's craft. I want her to school me in her particular art of fiction. By the same token, when I read non-fiction, I want the author to keep me engaged while I'm learning, and if he can be entertaining along the way, all the better.

As a master of compelling fiction, Stephen King is one of the most successful writers of our time. I remember reading *Carrie*, his first book, when I was a high school English teacher. I discovered that whenever I had a student who resisted reading (remember the days of the required quarterly book report?), I could recommend *Carrie* and, miraculously, the kid would become a reader. I'm not exaggerating; Stephen King has the power to make non-readers into readers. I remember a particular student who checked the book out on Friday and had finished it by Monday. She came to school looking for more Stephen King books.

Among King's backlist is *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*. Published in 2000, it came on the heels of a devastating accident that nearly took his life. He explains in the First Foreword that he needed to tell "how I

came to the craft, what I know about it now, and how it's done." In the Second Foreward, he says, "This is a short book because most books about writing are filled with bullshit...I figured the shorter the book, the less the bullshit." While much of the book is autobiographical, it is most assuredly not an autobiography—at least not in the normal sense of the word. It truly is about writing.

I owe King a debt of gratitude for something he said at the very beginning of the book. He described reading a memoir that recorded everything about the author's early years—a virtual panorama of events. For him, such detailed memory didn't exist. He described his childhood memories as a series of snapshots—mostly out of focus. His declaration liberated me from a belief that something was wrong with me because I didn't have a panoramic memory of my childhood. He gave me the language to understand my own disjointed memories.

In the book, he traces his craft from his childhood compulsion to tell stories and how it evolved over the years. He doesn't prescribe; he doesn't say do it this way or that way; he simply shows us his own process with only an occasional recommendation. It's clearly a process that works—something that aspiring writers can learn from and be entertained along the way.

###I Have Heard of Sales with Rose Montague

Authors don't often talk about their sales. Some might be embarrassed by low numbers, others probably don't want to appear to be bragging, and some just don't have anything to talk about. People in general sometimes think that if you published a book, you've made the big time and are raking in piles of money on a regular basis. Others seem to believe that if they don't see your book on the shelf in the bookstore, then you are not selling anything. The series of articles I will be doing here will focus on correcting some of the mistaken impressions about Indie authors and sales and will focus on how we all can improve our sales.

I consider myself moderately successful in terms of book sales among the Indie author community. There is a group of Indie authors out there that make my sales look pretty puny. Conversely, there are a lot of Indie authors that would be ecstatic with the sales I am getting. My goal is to be able to write full time and in order to do that, I need to be making enough money to justify leaving my regular job. I published my first book through a small press in November 2013. In 2014, I made around \$500.00 in royalties. 2015, I did much better with roughly 2,500.00 in royalties. Last year I made 6,000.00 in royalties and since I spent only around 700.00, mostly on cover art for my self-published titles, that meant I turned out a pretty decent profit. This year I hope to double my royalties again, and then we'll see if it makes sense for me to be a full time writer.

This post will be an overview of what I do to get sales. I have not done any paid ads and I have never priced one of my novels free, or even at 99 cents. I am convinced the over-abundance of free books hurts the author community in the long run. More on that later. I will go into more details in subsequent posts on each of these topics.

1. Don't Spread Yourself Too Thin. I see authors with personal and author pages on Facebook, pages for their series, pages even for their main characters. They run several different groups, have several blogs and websites, and they are active on every social media platform you can think of. Where they find the time to write, I can only imagine. I focus on just a few platforms, trying to make those work for me. I don't have an author page on Facebook, focusing on my personal page instead. It's more personal, I can connect and interact better with friends and readers, and to be honest, Facebook has made it difficult for an author to get page views on their author pages without paying for it. Every few months I consider starting an author page and just can't convince myself it is worth the effort.

I'm very active on twitter and I don't use a program. I use the 5/50 rule, five tweets, fifty re-tweets and a few replies and comments on a daily basis. It doesn't take that long, I usually do thirty minutes, three times a day. Twitter works, especially if you gradually build up a following of real people who love books. I see my job on twitter as not only helping improve my sales, but also helping other authors get sales as well. If you only tweet your own stuff, you are missing out.

I use my blog as a hub as well as a bulletin board. I feature guest posts, author shout outs, the occasional blog tour stop, promotional posts and news about my books, and writing related topics.

I have a few excerpts and meet my main characters posted on my blog that have several thousand page views. It's so easy to link to on Facebook, Twitter, and Google+. Meet Main Character: Jade <http://fantasyfunreads.blogspot.com/2016/06/meet-my-main-character-jade.html> Wow, that was easy!

2. Use Catch Phrases These things work and they are really not hard to come up with. The one I use for Jade goes like this: 4 LOLs, 5 WTFs, & 6 OMGs. It conveys both an element of humor as well as surprise. Readers love things like this. You can also use your reviews to find one. I had a review on Norma Jean's School of Witchery, Book One: Jewel that said it made Hogwarts seem like a play school. It might irritate a few fans of the Harry Potter books but it focuses on my target, readers that love the concept of a witch school but want something targeted at older teens.

3. Get Promo Pics Made and Use Them Just like that pic above I have had some promo pics made for my books. Pics work, and sometimes convey the message better than you can by just typing them out. They don't cost much, I paid around \$15.00 for each pic. You may be good at graphics (unlike me) and can do these yourself. Here's one I had made for my latest book, Jill.

4. Publish New Titles This is by far the best way to get sales. There is a natural excitement when a new book releases and they not only sell better than your previous books, they also help your back list of books start selling again. When I published Jade & Jane Re-Vamped last summer, I had a huge surge of sales over a 90 day period, my best results yet.

5. Get By With A Little Help From Your Friends This was a recent article with a pretty cool shout out to Jill, my latest book. <http://www.truthinfantasy.com/blog/igetbywithalittlehelp/>
Be there for your friends as well. At about the time this article publishes, I will be hosting an event called Our Books Are Not Free. The purpose of this event is to help Indie Authors sell a few books. At present we are already over 600 attending with a over two weeks to go before the event starts. It's a unique concept and I hope you will consider joining us.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/206705409792190/>

###Author Spotlight – Jane Risdon

Claire, thanks so much for asking me to be your guest here. I do hope your reader's will enjoy what I have to relate.

Most of my adult life I have worked in the international music business managing recording artists, record producers, song-writers and musicians, as well as one or two actors. I've been lucky to have worked with my guitarist husband whom I met when his group moved next door whilst I was still at school. They were in the UK on tour and we've been together ever since. I was sixteen at the time and he was eighteen.

When his band split up – years later – we moved into management. We've lived and worked all over the world – Singapore, Taiwan, Europe, Canada and the USA for example - with artists in rock, thrash metal and opera (even Chinese Opera) and have provided soundtracks for movies and television series. Our son is forty-five now – shock and awe - and we are grandparents to three lovely kids. He works in Hollywood and so does his wife... in the entertainment business. I've also worked at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and various other Government departments, but this was before I married and for some of the early years of our marriage.

Both careers have whetted my appetite for story-telling and have given me lots of material to use. I write mostly Crime/Mystery/Thriller stories but I sometimes like to jump out of my comfort zone and dabble in other genres. I've contributed towards Halloween and Christmas anthologies for my publisher, Accent Press, as well as several charity anthologies over the last four years. I started writing seriously about five or six years ago.

I have two stories in Telling Tales Anthology 2012 (Writers for Welfare) and I have a story in I Am Woman vol 1 Anthology 2012 (FCN Pub) – both in aid of various charities.

My blog features not only my own writing and guest author interviews, I also write about some of my 'jollies,' – trips taken to places of interest or beauty which seem very popular with my followers. I love photography so I always post lots of photos I've taken. I've written for online magazines, had my work podcast and recorded by Canadian Voice Over artists and I dabble in Flash Fiction from time to time.

The Hollywood music and movie business is fertile ground for plots and the machinations of the movers and shakers involved with the huge studios and record companies and the careers of their stars. If you've read

my short story Hollywood Cover Up which is in the anthology 'In A Word: Murder,' 2013 (Margot Kinberg Pub), you'll see what I mean: set in the world of book publishing, movies and politics, it just about sums up life in Los Angeles when you are working for the rich and famous. My other short story in the anthology, 'Dreamer,' is about a 1980s rock band about to hit the big time in London and what happens when the lead singer and songwriter is kicked out of the band.

My time at the FCO and other Government departments have also given me plenty of fodder for my stories and a little Espionage and Organised Crime often creeps into them, just like music does.

My major WIP (I have several by the way) is called Ms Birdsong Investigates and is about a former MI5 Officer who is 'voluntarily' retired when a mission with her MI6 partner goes wrong and she finds herself at a loose end in rural Oxfordshire – years before she anticipated living in her dream village – wondering what to do with herself. A woman goes missing and she sets out to find her at the request of the woman's son. Soon Ms B finds herself up to her pretty neck in people trafficking, drug-running and arms-dealing with the Russian Mafia and Ukrainian thugs. It's going to be a series

In 2014 I signed with Accent Press and, as I mentioned before, I was included in two anthologies: Shiver (Halloween) and Wishing on a Star (Christmas) and the two stories I contributed are not what I think of as 'normal' Halloween or Christmas stories. I always write with a twist in the tale. It gives me many headaches working them out and making sure they work.

Back when my husband was in his group a young rock journalist took over the Fan Club side of things and we became friends. Christina Jones went on to interview some of the most iconic bands in the business and managed to become an award-winning author of over 30 books in the following years. We always wanted to write together and some time ago we began writing Only One Woman – not a crime story for a change – about two young girls in the late 1960s who are in love with the same lead guitarist. It follows their love triangle and if you enjoy music, fashion and finding out what it was like in those days, with massive world events filling the pages of the newspapers and television screens, then you will enjoy this novel which is going to be published by Accent Press in May 2017.

Early in 2017 I have a short story included in an anthology called A Stab in the Dark: Cons, Dames and GMen. The stories are set in the Golden Age of Detection and mine is called Cue Murder and is inspired by the actress Lupe Velez – The Mexican Spitfire - who died in mysterious circumstances. I learned about her when researching Family History. My husband's Great Aunt, Elizabeth Risdon, often acted with her.

I've always wanted to write but when you are on the road with rock bands, or in the recording studio day and night for months on end, it is not very conducive to spending time alone to write. Babysitting testosterone filled young men and emotional teenage girls is a full time job affording little time for oneself. I promised myself that as soon as we got a life, I'd write. In 2010 I got the chance and I have been pounding the keys ever since. I never dreamed I'd see my work in print let alone get published. It still hasn't sunken in.

I don't plot. I get ideas from the News, from over-heard conversations, from a memory or an event I have experienced, or that of friends or contacts, usually in music or the Diplomatic service, and a title will come into my head and I write. I have no idea where things will lead, I have a rough idea but really it is a little like song-writing, the ideas and finished product come as if from thin air. I usually do one draft, though Ms Birdsong is proving difficult and I have re-written parts of her several times. She started off as a Miss Marple figure for the 21st century and has developed into a far more complex and harder character. She is martial arts expert, loves her wine and female things, but can kick arse if she needs. She has a love interest, her former MI6 partner, but they split up over their disastrous operation. She never expected to see him again; she got early retirement and he got posted to Moscow.

Social media is a godsend and I use it to promote. Having a music business background I understand the need for publicity and the way to reach potential fans. I treat my writing like music production and I go about publicity in the way I would work with a record company and publicity department there, using the same skills and tricks I picked up along the way. I expect to work with my publisher in the same way.

My favourite authors are many. I grew up reading Enid Blyton and Robert Louis Stevenson and graduated to Agatha Christie, Daphne Du Maurier, Raymond Chandler, John Le Carre and Frederick Forsythe to name a few. I still read these authors and I am a huge fan of Kathy Reichs – so much so I have undertaken four Forensic Science University courses to educate myself in all things forensic; Crime scene investigations, Identification of skeletal remains, Witness Investigations and Forensic Psychology, Forensic Science and Criminal Justice. Just because I love Archaeology I took a course in that too, and I am amazed how it crosses-over to Forensics. I also love reading Tess Gerritsen, Karin Slaughter, Michael Connolly, Peter James, Peter Robinson, David Baldacci and Neville de Mille. I could go on and on listing those whose books I read.

You can find out more about me and my writing and former life here:
My blog: <http://wp.me/2dg55> My Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/JaneRisdon2 My Amazon Author Page: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Jane-Risdon> My Accent Press Page: <http://www.accentpress.co.uk/jane-risdon> Twitter: https://twitter.com/Jane_Risdon

These books are available via most popular sites in Hardback, Paperback and eBook:

Ghostly Writes Anthology 2016 (Plaisted Publishing House)

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/books/1125012369?ean=2940153508849>
<https://store.kobobooks.com/en-us/ebook/ghostly-writes-anthology-2016>
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/ghostly-writes-anthology-2016/id1169859655?mt=11&ignmpt=uo%3D4>
<http://www.inktera.com/store/title/53129dd2-5565-4fd7-b431-472696191264>
<https://www.24symbols.com/book/x/x/x?id=1730315>
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ghostly-Anthology-Plaisted-Publishing-Presents-ebook/dp/B01MPXSNJ0/>

Madame Movara's Tales of Terror 2016 (Willow Creek Pub)

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/various-authors/madame-movaras-tales-ofterror/hardcover/product-22894139.html>
<http://www.lulu.com/shop/various-authors/madame-movaras-tales-ofterror/paperback/product-22894121.html>
<http://www.lulu.com/shop/various-authors/madame-movaras-tales-ofterror/paperback/product-22894145.html>

Wishing on a Star (Accent Press Pub)

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Wishing-Star-seasonal-collection-stories-ebook/>

Shiver (Accent Press Pub)

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Shiver-collection-halloween-stories-best-sellingebook>

In a Word: Murder (Margot Kinberg Pub)

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Word-Murder-Anthology-Martin-Edwardsebook>

I am Woman vol I (FCN Pub)

www.amazon.co.uk/Am-Woman-Anthology-Anthologies-ebook

You'll find Christina Jones:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/ChristinaJones/e/B001K8U57Y>

Short stories and Flash Fiction can be found on my Author Blog and links to various other locations are there. YouTube links for 'Changing the Guard' – short story - read by voice over artist Elijah Lucian who is at this very moment recording three other stories for me with his team. <https://youtu.be/UVCEvmgJuGM>

Claire, thanks so much for having me as your guest and for allowing me to share my story with you all. I look forward to reading any comments.

###Q & A with Jennifer Deese

Due Feb 4th - 1st Column

From one of our members comes this columns very first question. Thank you Karen J. Mossman for your question.

~How do you make your teasers? What programs do you use and where do you get your pictures from?~
Great question, Karen. It is one of the first I asked when I started doing my own teasers. Granted, it wasn't the only question I asked, for in the beginning I was like a newly developing child and everything and I mean

everything - I watched, heard, or read in this grand old world of Indie writing brought to mind many questions. I am positive, that in that 'new and learning phase' my constant stream of questions and 'how comes' surely drove many of my FaceBook Indie acquaintances crazy. It may very well have even caused some to cringe when they've seen that I either tagged them in a post or posted to their page (I thank you all for the patience, and willingness for sharing your knowledge with me). Sure, there was Google but, I figured why Google when I could get it straight from the horse's mouth, or in this case straight from the insights of the Indies.

Okay, so back to the question at hand. I have used many different programs/apps for my teasers, and banners. One thing they all have in common is that they are FREE. Many an Indie knows what it is like to bring a book to fruition on a shoestring budget. So, with that in mind all the programs I share with you today are free. Below is a partial list of what I use.

*Pixlr is my main go to for editing photos, collages, frames, overlays, adding text, filters, and all things related to tweaking those pictures. It is the easiest, IMO, to use. I like programs that do not require a four-year college education in photography and photo editing to understand. The only thing I cannot do in Pixlr is layer photos, I do that with another program then I upload the layered picture to pixlr and work from there. (More detail on what I use to layer below). There is a wide selection of font types for adding that special effect, or feel to your text. The selection of collage layouts, and the ways you can play around with frame width, corners etc is quite impressive. The tools for red eye, sharpening, blurring, color splash, contrast and so forth are easy to use. You can find it here: <https://pixlr.com/>

*SuperBanner is one I have used for making banners. It is much like pixlr in its ease of use. <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/p/superbanner/9wzdnrcds7hh>

*PhotoShop, of course, makes the list. To my understanding, there are also paid versions available, but as I said before, I use the free one. I must admit that I prefer pixlr to PhotoShop. Not that there is anything amiss with PhotoShop, I just like the absolute simplicity of Pixlr. This program is quite popular with many and usually gets great reviews. Here is the link for those of you that are not already familiar with it. <https://adobe-photoshop-express-windows-10.en.softonic.com/> PhotoShop utilizes the same kind of editing tools as Pixlr, and while the included link is for a free version, the paid versions do offer even more versatility.

*PhotoLayers is an awesome tool. Makes snipping/cutting a piece of an image from one photo, and superimposing it to another super simple. I have only used this program for layering, or superimposing thus far, and considering how easy it is to use I will continue.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.handycloset.android.photolayers&hl=en>

*Pixaby is wonderful for royalty free and non-copyrighted pictures. It's very well-known and used. If an image I have used is not from Pixaby you can be sure that it's either one of my own, or I have gotten permission from any one of my Photographer friends. Offering thousands of photos, drawings etc Pixaby more than likely will have the image you're seeking. If not the exact image you're looking for, then one that can be easily edited to fit your needs by one of the above mentioned programs.

###Grandma Peachy's Favourite Reads of 2016

I'm a couple days later this year than last in posting my favorite reads from last year. I've been contemplating the books I read in 2016 and there were just so many good books by some really fantastic authors. It was hard to pick three. Thank all of you wonderful indie authors out there for providing me with such a great year of reading. If I could have counted the ones I beta read or worked on editing I would have exceeded my Goodreads annual goal by several. But, I fell short just one book in my Goodreads Reading Challenge for 2016. I've decided not to set a goal this year. I'll read what I read and be satisfied that I'm well entertained. So now let me get to the point of this post, my three top reads for the past year.

Ludwika by Christopher Fischer

I had a difficult time picking just one of Christoph Fischer's books as I read his Three Nations Trilogy as well as the one I've picked. All his books are well written. The main character in Ludwika: A Polish Woman's Struggle to Survive in Nazi Germany by Christoph Fischer is based on real woman, Ludwika Geirz. The author wrote this fictionalized account of her life during WWII based on the information available on the actual woman whose family is searching for descendants of her relatives over 80 years after WWII. His portrayal of the hardships and emotional devastation of war is exceptionally well done. I grieved with Ludwika, was fearful for her and her family and friends in times of danger, felt her confusion, and loneliness. A well written

historical fiction that incorporates historical events of WWII and the personal information available about the real Ludwika Geirz during this time in history. I truly enjoyed the book and for historical fiction lovers, WWII history buffs, and those who generally love good human interest stories then I highly recommend this book.

One Night in Tehran by Luana Ehrlich

Another book that has remained with me could be called Christian literature because the main character is a new Christian. This aspect of the book doesn't overwhelm the plot though its impact on the character's development is significant. The book isn't preachy at all. The authors insight into how a new Christian reacts to the old life and the problems that arise and have to be overcome are realistic. One Night In Tehran by Luana Ehrlich is the first of her Titus Ray series. Titus Ray is a CIA operative who had been working in Iran when his cover was blown and had sneak out of the country. I see that she has published the next two books in the series and after reading this one I was determined to get the next books because her story was intriguing, interesting, and well written as though the author may have some personal insight into the world of international spies. Highly recommend for those who enjoy spy novels and those who love a well written Christian Spy Thriller.

The Dragon Dreamer & Dragon Lightning by J. S. Burke

Now to one the most surprising favorites which is actually two books in a series and could not be separated. The Dragon Dreamer series by J. S Burke including Dragon Dreamer (Book 1) and Dragon Lightening (Book 2) is a great children's fantasy series. Even as a grandma I truly enjoyed these books. The educational value and the quality of writing make me think that they should be in elementary school libraries and classrooms. Ms. Burke imparts solid moral and ethical values in a subtle and un-offensive manner that anyone regardless of their beliefs can embrace. The lessons on accepting diversity, different political systems and leadership styles, trade agreements and peace treaties, compassion, love, friendship, with a little science thrown in as well are all embedded in a fantastic fantasy with dragons and octopi. The lessons are at the elementary level but are presented in a way that only an adult realizes just how educational the stories really are. They give children an understandable foundation preparing them for more complex lessons in social studies, government, civics and sociology they will encounter in their higher education.

Poets Corner

A Playboys Playground By Paul Williams

A final moment...to recount and remember, these passing moments of time, a final dive in forgotten memories, before the axe of age savagely falls upon me, stripping it from me piece by piece, until all is forgotten...

One day...

This is the third collection of poetry from Fantasy Fiction and Horror writer Paul Anthony Williams. The third book recounts his present days and current moments in time as the dark storm of old age is brewing upon the horizon before him. There are a few recollections from the past, but all revolve around his search for love, his heartaches along the way, and the broken heart he has to try and piece back together. As he searches for that one special woman to call his own

This is a volume of poetry that is about the differences positive and negative emotions, and how to become a stronger person after going through them.

It's about learning how to cope when going through the many trials of life.

I hope to help you find inspiration and truth that enlightens your spirit, heart, and mind.

It is about looking deep inside yourself, understanding how to express, not repress, your emotions, and to use and feel them to keep your spirit strong.

Voices in my Head by Cindy J Smith

Ever want to get a second opinion on life? Well, Cindy has had voices giving her theirs all her life.

With straight talk and sarcasm, they rhyme their views to her. In this first book, she offers you a glimpse of the path she has been traveling while seeking her way in this world.

###Lynne Street – Editor

Tell us a bit about yourself. I'm old enough—just—to collect NZ Superannuation, with three adult offspring from my marriage (of forty-three years). I spent thirty-odd— that could be thirty odd—years teaching, in Primary, Intermediate and Secondary levels, then lecturing at Tertiary level. Teaching is my ikigai, I'm sure. After being invalidated out of my job, as I recovered I worked on gaining the Diploma in Applied Writing (Creative). Although I do write, I earn by editing.

What services do you cover as Red Penn? Anything to do with helping writers. I edit (content, and line), I proofread, I help write a blurb to sell the book, I assist authors to self-publish, I counsel on marketing platforms (blogs, facebook page, twitter) and assist in setting them up. On release, if I've edited the book, I add to the release publicity on my own blog.

I will be self-Publishing in the future, and ePublishing is another field tagged under Red Penn Services. As is marketing assistance, and publicity on release.

What bought you to the world of writing? 1963, in form II we were set to write a poem as homework. I forgot until after lights out, so I propped myself on the windowsill, watched the moon and the clouds. The neighbour came out to work in his shed, and his back porch light was enough to see for writing the poem. About twenty-five years later I found my poem was selected for inclusion in a School Journal, of New Zealand children's poems (published 1964), which was boxed up in the resource room where I was teaching. I wish I'd nicked a copy, now. Otherwise, for me writing is an extension of speaking, which in turn is an extension of imagination...and I love that I had a lively imaginative childhood.

What writing do you do, and does it fulfil your reader's needs? I blog, I write short stories, poems... Years ago, I wrote a half-page children's feature in the Huntly Press for nearly eighteen months. I've drafted a couple of novels, but am seriously working on my memoir of schooling in NZ (from the day I began to the day I fell out of lecturing)

How do you attack your writing? "Attack" is a great word – I'm pretty lethargic, so when I know I have to get on with it, I develop an attack plan. For fiction I plan the setting details, I do an almost SWOT analysis on the main characters, I know the story line...after that I write by the seat of my pants. ("Pansterring", the word for this, was created by the NaNoWriMo team years ago—and a handy word it is, too.

How did you get into editing? A writer (Virginnia De Parte) whom I met at Tauranga Writers asked me to beta read a draft of her novels. I found and pointed out a few errors her publisher had missed. This happened with two more of her works, and so her publisher offered me the chance to work as one of their editing staff.

What was the first book you edited, and to what did that lead? The first was *The Eternal Life: Meeting of Minds* (by Christina Blake and Haytham Bane) working under contract for Secret Cravings Publishing. I went on to edit twenty more romance novels for Secret Craving, until the publisher became R.I.P.

I now work under contract to Roane Publishing, still within the romance genre. I also edit for authors who approach me directly (or to whom I make an offer, after using the "Look Inside" feature of an eBook on Amazon.com, and seeing what a cock-up the author's editor has made).

How do you edit your own work? I edit as I write. After those 30 years teaching, bloopers jump off the page and grab my eyeballs! (Also, MS Office's li'l re squiggly line doesn't help me to ignore an error).

Who are your favourite authors/books? Fynn's *Mister God*, *This Is Anna*; crime writers Stuart MacBride and M J Arlidge – actually, any crime novel; Thomas Cahill's philosophy series, Jana Begovic's *Poisonous Whispers*

Links:

<https://RedPennReviews.com>

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###PIRATE ALERT: AUTHORS & NARRATORS –

CHECK THESE PAGES

UPDATE: YouTube has taken my content down...but the channels are still up. When I tried to report the channel, I can't because my content is no longer up there. If someone still has one of their audiobooks indexed on a channel, please try to report the CHANNEL so we can get the whole channel taken down.

Seems people are trying to sell pirated copies of audiobooks on YouTube. I just found this video, thanks to Google Alerts.

Go to YouTube and look up "Listen to YOUR AUTHOR NAME" and you might find more. Or narrators - "Narrated by YOUR NAME".

My husband and I have put a Google Doc together that has a bunch of links to the channels that are posting these. They all look like they're by the same person because of the style of the postings. Go to this Doc to view the links and start browsing for your audiobooks:

<https://drive.google.com/open>

Please tag these authors or narrators in comments below and tag other authors/narrators you know that you see on these pages while you're looking for your books.

Everyone who sees their books on here needs to click on their book video and then REPORT. Through this, you can submit a copyright infringement report on the video.

Publishers taking Unsolicited Submissions

This is from Authors Publish via out group and Brad Dennison. Follow the link and it will take you to a list of publishers.

<http://www.authorspublish.com/16-publishers-with-excellent-distribution-that-acceptunsolicitedsubmissions/>

###Spotlight Author Reviews

DREAMER Definitely the grittiest and most brutal story in this collection, and one of, if not the best here. Terrific story of the in-fighting within a rock band, fueled by some very bad people manipulating them. Very much a little noir story, this had people you loathed because the writer painted them so realistically they got under your skin. The ending was brutal and makes the reader swear, but to reveal more would be to ruin it. Five stars.

Reviewed by Bobby Underwood

I don't often read either thrillers or short stories, so this book was a bit of a gamble for me. However, it was recommended and I am so glad it was. I haven't read all the stories yet, as I am spacing them out between other books, but I have to say, that having read both of Jane Risdon's stories, I am so glad I bought it. I know very little about either Hollywood or the music business, so her two stories, and I know she know a lot about her subjects, were absolutely fascinating.

I can definitely recommend this book, even for people who think they don't like this genre.

Reviewed by Tina Jaray

The Haunting of Anne Chambers I read and reviewed a brilliant book of short stories that are chillingly perfect for Halloween reading. Magic stuff.

The most extraordinary of these stories is The Haunting of Anne Chambers by Jane Risdon. This writer employs an ingenious device that was first used in the Gothic novel - telling her gripping tale in two time periods. John Fowles pulled it off in The French Lieutenant's Woman and Risdon achieves it using so many mind-blowing twists that are all her own. A humdinger.

Haven't been as spooked since I saw Halloween

Reviewed by Colm

Merry Christmas Everybody Wow. Jane! What a story. OMG, I'm shivering just reading it. So glad you came through it all right, and a whole new perspective on "the show must go on" right? Nobody stops precious recording time! Amazing. Where was I? No idea. At least not precisely. Egham, I suppose, in a lecture or maybe having dinner.

Thanks as always for the insight into the life and times of Jane Risdon. You know I'm addicted to your tales and a devoted fan!!

Reviewed by Nick Wells

You Can run, but you Can't hide: Just read 'you can run....' Jane, excellent piece, I really enjoyed it, great twists and turns along the way. I hope it brings some readers in for you, a great showcase, thanks for the free read, cheers, Roger x

Reviewed by Roger A Price

Murder by Christmas Wow. You've presented the dark side of the face the public sees. How corrupt we can become, when our closet skeletons are threatened with exposure.

Everyone has a price, but some people don't have to be enticed very far.

It makes me think of all the situations and secrets I have been privy to. Guess I'll be watching my back after this. At least, till after Christmas.

Reviewed by Kat Browning

Madame Movara's Tales of Terror - Willow Creek Publishing - Haunting Melody Jane Risdon. Loved the way you built the suspense, and then massaged it, much like an orchestra's 1st violin, returning time and time again to the composer's theme to keep it fresh in the audience's minds and reinforce it. Jane, I also loved how you left the resolution up to the reader. Damn good stuff.

Reviewed by jfredlee

###Tom Fallwell – Indie Author

Tell us a bit about yourself? I had just retired from software developing and found I had all this free time. I have had stories in my head for a long time, so I wrote one down, a simple short story, and a friend began to encourage me to go on. I started writing and haven't stopped since.

What is your first book and what do you think of it now? My first full novel was Dragon Rising, which was a joy to write, but also a learning experience. Now, I still am pleased with the story, but have decided to rewrite it with all the new skills I've acquired over the past few years. I began working on that just this month, and will be republishing it under a different title later this year.

What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your reader's needs? I started writing epic fantasy, but I'm now also writing a paranormal series for SciFan Magazine, and planning to branch out into sci-fi, mystery, and other genres. Do they fulfil my reader's needs? I don't know about filling their needs, but I certainly hope they are being entertained. Judging from my reviews, I seem to be doing that at least. I don't think about what the reader wants when I write. I write what feel I must. You might say, what my characters tell me to write. If another finds it enjoyable, then I am understandably pleased.

Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it? Right now, my joy is in the completion of my Shadows Trilogy which is an introduction to a series, Rangers of Laerean. The three books in the trilogy are the culmination of over two years' work, and I'm very pleased to have completed it. The final book in the trilogy is, The Shadow of Narwyrn. An epic conclusion to a vast story that brings a simple Ranger to a destiny he envisioned many years in the past. There are many characters that come and go through the tale, but the Ranger Baric is the anchor that holds them all together, and the final book is full of action and adventure, and a huge battle between the forces of good and evil.

How long does it take you to write your first draft? That depends on the length of the book. I guess my average is about 8-9 months so far, with the three books of my trilogy around 70-80 thousand words each.

Do you plot or not, if so why? Some, but not a lot. I may have a general plot in mind as I begin, but as I write, it can and usually changes. I'm pretty much a punster. I tend to let the story flow.

Do you write in 1st or 3rd person, or have you do both? My novels to date have been third-person, but the series I'm now writing for SciFan Magazine is first person. I do both. Some future books I am working on or planning will also be first-person.

How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write? Sometimes I edit as I write, but I also step way after the first draft, at least a few days. Then I go over the entire story again and again, fine tuning, correcting and finalizing before I send it to my editor. For the last book, I also used some beta readers to provide feedback that greatly help with the process.

What type of people/readers do you market your books to? I've been targeting anyone who loves fantasy, but also young adults, as I've been told my works are appropriate for that age group as well. I don't specifically try to write for any specific market. I write because I enjoy it and I have stories I want to tell. I don't write

with profit in mind. Not that I'm adverse to making money, mind you.

Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Published? I have self-published both my books. I used assisted self-publishing with FreisenPress and Tellwell Publishing. Both books went through an editing process.

How do you promote your books? I have been promoting my books locally by selling them at farmer's market and craft sales. I also promote myself through doing interviews like this one which in turn promotes my books. I use my Facebook page and twit about my books.

Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Published? I decided in the beginning to self-publish. I prefer full control of my work and how it's distributed and sold. I have not regretted that decision. How do you promote your writing? Through social media and events. I think word-of-mouth is the most effective. As I said earlier, my focus is on writing, not selling. I do promote, but I don't stress myself over sales. They come, wonderful, they don't, still wonderful. I'm happy just to be writing and publishing my work.

Where can we buy your books? Amazon, Barnes & Nobel, and just about any online book outlet. Even on iTunes. The publishing methods I use distribute to the entire world.

Who are your favourite authors? J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Issac Asimov, Robert Jordan, Robert E. Howard, Arthur C. Clarke, and many, many more.

Links

Author Pages

Facebook: <http://goo.gl/87GVaU>

Website: <http://tomfallwell.com>

Amazon: <http://Author.to/Tom>

Twitter: <https://goo.gl/mhdzrZ>

Smashwords: <https://goo.gl/adtpGn>

Goodreads: <http://goo.gl/hYZOso>

Authorsdb: <https://goo.gl/SVkc5t>

IAN: <https://goo.gl/DMc1J4>

YouTube Channel: <https://goo.gl/EYqoh8>

A Whisper in the Shadows: <http://getBook.at/AWitS>

Where Shadows Fall: <http://getBook.at/WSF> The Shadow of Narwyrn: <http://getBook.at/TSoN>

I also do book trailers for others: <https://www.facebook.com/TrailersByTom>

SciFan Magazine (available on Amazon): <https://goo.gl/sQMBCY>

<https://www.facebook.com/SciFanMagazine/>

Do you have any more information you'd like to share with us? Just thank you for taking the time to spend with me. It's been a pleasure.

The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Read more at: https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic_inspirational.html

###A Short Story from Paul White

Pyro

I love sitting and watching a fire burn. I mean a real fire. You can feel the heat of the flames radiating outwards, warming your skin. The scent of burning wood drifting in the air. Smokey, yet somehow comforting, homely. Even the roaring of the blaze and the hiss of wood as the vapor escapes, the odd pop and crackle is soothing and somewhat reassuring. But most of all, I like to look deep into the flames, to the heart of the fire. This is where the imaginings live. Where the mind conjures a thousand pictures, a million images of fantasy. It is like seeing those shapes in the clouds, you might see a galloping horse, or is it a unicorn? A squirrel nibbling a

nut? Or your Grandmothers face smiling back at you? All fashioned by the flickering flames as they dance. Then there are the embers, glowing, shining, flickering. I like to let my imagination wander. What can I see? A tall building, a skyscraper, lights blinking on and off. Now I see a spaceship, Star Wars, Battlestar Gallactica, possibly? A town, war strewn, bombed-out, firestorms raging, Dresden from the air. Yes, I love fires. The bigger the better. They amaze me. Wonderment and joy. That is why I start them. So much enjoyment courses through my veins as I see that tiny, little match head burst into life. Such a small and feeble flame fluttering. I have to cup my hand close so the wind does not snatch its life away. Then it finds the food, the small puffs of cotton wool and twigs I collected and carefully piled into a heap. My baby's first meal. Hungrily it feeds. Gluttonous. Devouring the small stack and reaching out, claiming oil soaked rags and papers I heaped in piles, knowing my baby needed to spread out, to grow strong. I am a good father. My baby's chatter soon turns into a whoosh. Flames stands tall, red and orange, growing fiercer before my very eyes. I am proud. I can now leave my creation to his own will, his own destiny. I shall watch, look on from a distance, not too far, but not too close. I shall admire my baby's work as he consumes all about him. I shall see him become stronger, wild, ferocious. See him destroy it all. I know they will come, eventually. Flashing lights and sirens. They shall try and drown my baby. Kill him. But he is already immensely powerful and growing, minute by minute, second by second, taller, wider, higher, hotter. He does my bidding, clearing, cleansing, burning the old, the rotten, the evil. God's will. I love sitting and watching a fire burn. I mean a real fire. The intensity sends ripples of lust, of passion, of satisfaction through my loins. I lean back against the wall, satisfied. Lighting a cigarette, I watch as the roof falls inwards. More food, more strength for my growing child. See his tendrils reach out, high and wide, claiming more and more, claiming all about as his own. Pride thumps in my chest. I have destroyed evil. I have given life. I have given freedom. I am a God.

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###Cindy J Smith - Indie Author

Tell us a bit about yourself. First and foremost, I hate talking about myself. I am sure you would like to know a bit more than that so, I will share a few tidbits. I am an OTR truck driver with my husband, it keeps me in coffee and gives me time to write poetry. I love to cook, which is difficult with my present occupation. I also miss having pets, dogs and cats are amazing and add so much to life. I am a voracious reader, usually 5 books a week in a variety of genres. Indie authors are my go to choices besides Anne Rice and Stephen King.

What brought you to the world of writing? I have written poetry as far back as I can remember. I find it a great way to say everything that is not polite to say out loud. I was bullied as a child and used writing to ease my heart.

What is your first book and what do you think of it now? My first book is Voices in My Head and I am still very proud of it. It was hard deciding to put my work out there and I am honored with the positive responses it has received.

What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your reader's needs? My books are poetry that deal with life and all its ups and downs. They offer readers hope and companionship on their journey. Sometimes seeing a situation from a different perspective is all it takes to allow you to understand and accept.

Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it? My newest book, Words On the Wind, would be the one I would feature. It is a random selection of poetry. Much like a leaf floating in a breeze, the poems flit from topic to topic.

Do you write in 1st or 3rd person, or have you do both? Most of my poems I write in 1st person. I do this for two reasons, one is that some of them are actually about me and my life. The other reason is because I want people to think about what I am saying and by implying I am talking about myself, it is less confrontational and they may be open to consider the new viewpoint.

How do you edit your work? I send my work off to an editor when I get enough poems that I am overwhelmed or I want to publish.

What type of people/readers do you market your books to? My poems deal with all conditions of life so anyone would easily find something that touches them. There is no specific "market." If you read and feel then my books are for you!

Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Published? I have self-published, but I prefer working with a publisher. I am not good at formatting. I just acquired a new publisher and I am extremely happy here.

How do you promote your writing? I am not good with promotion at all. I post now and then on FB and on Twitter but that is about it. I tried events and giveaways and discovered it just cost me money.

Where can we buy your books? My books are available on Amazon, Smashwords, Barnes and Noble and through me.

Who are your favourite authors? I love Anne Rice and Stephen King for big authors. In the Indie world, I am currently loving enthralled by CG Blade, Uvi Poznansky, Virginia Nelson, Eva Pasco and Martha Perez.

Links

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100003625853937>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CindysVoices/>

Goodreads: <http://tinyurl.com/cc65z86>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/cindysvoices>

Amazon Authorpage: <http://tinyurl.com/clybzs8>

Website: <http://www.pseudosynthpress.com/cindy-j-smith>

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/cindy-j-smith/52/5aa/bb>

AllAuthor: <http://cindysvoices.allauthor.com/>

###FLASH FICTION 500

First Sight by Karen J Mossman

Joe was a homicide cop working a case. He had no idea something would happen today that would change his life. Unfortunately, it would happen when he had a mouth full of doughnut. Kathy awoke as she did every morning, threw on joggers, T-shirt, and sneakers, grabbed a bottle of water and headed for Central Park. She too was oblivious that today was the day when everything would change. The call came shortly before 6 am. Joe grabbed his coat. The man had shot out from behind bushes at 5.10 and grabbed a jogger. She had no time to scream as he launched a brutal attack. It would be wrong to call him a man because no true man would do what he did. Joe got there in time to preserve the crime scene.

"Get these people outta here!" he barked.

This was bad and he was thankful they couldn't see what he'd seen. It didn't help when it began to rain.

"Joe," a cop in uniform approached. "We have a witness."

"Where?" The cop pointed to a brunette who had her hands on her cheeks. "She all right?"

"She's in shock. It ain't a pretty sight."

"She see the body?" He nodded. "Okay, get the medics to check her over, then get her down to the station."

"Right." He nodded and left.

Kathy sat in a room full of cops working other cases. She'd been given coffee but hadn't touched it. Today was a day she wanted to begin again. She didn't know the something that was going to change her life hadn't happened yet. Joe picked up doughnuts on the way back to the station. He poured coffee from the percolator in the corner and shoved one in his mouth, picked up a manila folder and headed for his desk. The moment, that one moment that would define their future was about to happen. He arrived at his desk, the doughnut still in his mouth and stopped with surprise. Kathy's hair was still wet as was her tear stained face and with haunted eyes she looked up. For a moment – the moment, their eyes locked. Unconsciously, Kathy touched her hair and Joe dropped the doughnut. Their fate was sealed. Joe had met Kathy.

"The witness?" he asked.

"The cop?" she said back.

"Yes, ma'am. Sorry to have kept your waiting."

He offered his hand then wiped it on his trousers and offered it her again. And that was it. The one defining moment that would change their lives forever. Of course love, at first sight, is reserved for works of fiction. In real life, the process takes a little longer. In this case, it had already been triggered. They say out of something bad, often comes good. Kathy's testimony put away the killer and the image that haunted her that day would be eased away by Joe's gentle touch and his penchant for doughnuts.

###Book Chapters by Blog with Bekka Abbot

Besides, she was there in the middle of the day with a busy road behind her, and a cellphone in her jacket pocket. There was absolutely no reason to be afraid, she just had to look around and assess how much work the place needed before it might be ready for an open home. And a house that size could pay her rent for at least a year, so creepy or no, she was going in.

She put the key in the lock and pushed.

Taking a breath as she stepped inside, the odours of dust and age met her nostrils. Directly opposite the front door, a staircase curved up and around to the right. At the bend was a small window, filled with coloured glass in the shape of a red flower surrounded in orange and blue. Sunlight shone in from behind the window, although it wasn't an external wall, and she was struck for a moment by the beauty amongst the old and abandoned.

A broad patterned mat filled the space between the front entrance and the stairs, and openings led to other rooms to her left and right, as well as under the stairs in front of her. She sighed, lifted her clipboard closer to her chest, and turned right.

The dining room was empty of furniture. The floor was all dark hardwood, dusty but visually intact. She looked up to discover a carved ceiling and a full crystal chandelier. They'd need to get in a professional cleaner. It was tedious work to restore all of those tiny little crystal shards, and she was damned if she was going to do it herself.

Moving through into a hallway that ran under the staircase, she zigged into another room, a kitchen. There was no modern oven, just an old black coal range. If it was in working order it would increase the value of the kitchen, but a buyer might not be keen to cook with it. She looked at her check list and noted down the suggestion for the current owner to install modern cooking equipment to increase its market value.

She moved next to the sink on the far wall. Through the windows, the back yard was overgrown with spindly trees and suffocating weeds. All of the greenery was tall enough to swallow a grown adult. It looked oddly beautiful to her, like an old witch's garden or one of the secret places she used to explore as a child visiting her great aunt's estate.

She leaned forward and turned on the tap to check the water flow.

Dana brushed at a thread of red hair which had managed a desperate escape from the clips. Her hair had a mind of its own, and its mind always involved getting in her damn eyes. Standing at the base of the steps, she stared at the entrance. She was determined not to give in to her nerves. It was just an old house and she didn't believe in ghosts, even though this place could win the World Creepy Award.

She stepped back and stared up at it. The damn thing had towers on both sides and could have totally stood in for a television horror house if the original got burned down. She could see it now, a large family of people all wearing black, and standing on the broad front porch as they glared at the colourful world and clicked their fingers.

A tingling sensation shimmered up her body and hairs on the back of her neck stood on end. She shivered but gritted her teeth and strode up the steps towards the front door. There were no such things as ghosts!

A throbbing, jolting knock brushed through the walls and brown water coughed its way out into the sink. She let it run for a little while, coughing and spluttering out progressively clearer liquid. When the water was running clear, she ticked a box on her check list and shut it off again.

Moving to the next space, she discovered a tiny bedroom, with a wooden bed-frame and desk nailed to the wall, but no mattress or chair. It was way too small for her comfort and very dark. She wouldn't have wanted to stay there, even as a student. She shrugged; it must have been a servant's room.

Noting down a basic floor plan on her paperwork, she moved back into the hall, which was dark despite a window at both ends. She passed the back door and a small bathroom. There was no key for the back door, but when she moved into the bathroom and turned the taps in the claw-footed bath, there was running water, at least.

As she stepped out again, her foot touched a creaky floorboard, shattering the silence of the old house and triggering a shimmer of cold up her spine. The hair on the back of her neck rose up again, and she growled under her breath.

There were no such things as ghosts!

The last room on the ground floor was a large sitting room, she stepped under the archway and there was a noticeable drop in temperature. The lounge was empty of furniture, but there was a fireplace and the floor was covered by an extensive old mat.

She shivered, moving into the middle of the room where someone had left sand on the rug. She frowned at it. Why would someone make a circle of sand in the middle of an empty sitting room?

She stepped closer and that creepy feeling again tickled up her spine. It was like she was being watched, and by something very unfriendly.

She huffed. No such things as ghosts! Only pranksters who put sand in weird places!

The horrible feeling increased and she frowned. Stupid weird houses! Moving around the circle, she headed for the front door. She was obviously hungry, or thirsty, or something. She'd have lunch and come back with whoever was available from the office. She wouldn't tell them that she was creeped out, just that it was a big house and she needed help to do the assessment.

As she walked, her shoe brushed the sand, breaking the circle's uniform surface. A spear of ice shot up her spine and she stopped mid-step.

She knew she was safe. There was no one there. But if she closed her eyes, it felt like there was danger right next to her, as if someone held a gun to her head or a knife to her throat. The terror was so strong she couldn't think her way through it.

Something shifted, as if the invisible threat moved closer to her, and she was a moment away from death. Her reptilian brain screamed for her to run and her legs obeyed even as she was telling herself that there was no such thing as ghosts.

She skittered out of the front door, across the porch, down the steps and straight to her car.

NEXT CHAPTER IN MARCH ISSUE OR YOU CAN READ MORE HERE:

<https://willowitchwww.wordpress.com/willowitch>

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.

Helen Keller

https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic_motivational.html

###More Great Books to Read

When Hunter Meets Seeker by Betty Shreffler

Trained by the Arcane Society to fulfill her legacy as an Arcane Hunter, Anya Carlisle knows nothing but the loneliness that comes with being a hunter. One evening, in a place she never should've been, throws Anya into the heated snare of Dex Grigori. She should've seen him as the enemy, but instead her body longs for his touch in ways she's never experienced.

From the first moment Dex sets eyes on Anya, he wants her all for himself. After one night of forbidden passion he's left craving more of her, until he discovers how wrong for him she is. She's a deadly hunter that kills without question and he's exactly the kind of demon she's been trained to eliminate. Yet his fierce desire to have her brings him dangerously close to her heart, where he soon discovers she is far more than the cold killer he anticipated.

Adventures of Squeaky-Doo – A Teddy Bears Adventures by Brenda Mohammed

Adventures of Squeaky Doo: A Teddy Bear's Adventures is the Travel Memoirs of Squeaky Doo. This short story collection teaches children Geography, Cultures, and love for pets. Children will fall in love with Squeaky Doo who relates each story himself.

1. Squeaky Doo on the Beach 2. Squeaky Doo in California 3. Squeaky Doo in Orlando 4. Squeaky Doo goes on a Cruise 5. Squeaky Doo in Trinidad

On Top of the Rainbow by K Meador

Available as paperback, ebook, audio book on Audible.com and iTunes. Free on Kindle. Five-year-old Gabe runs away from home. While in the forest he meets Lep and Elita and climbs a rainbow. On Top of the Rainbow he must make the decision to cross over to a land of delight or go back to his family that he loves. Come and visit with Gabe, Lep and Elita as they discover the importance of family love.

###British Book Signing Virgin with Audrina Lane

Let's start with one of the negative points about my first ever multi-author book signing and that's the come down, deflated feeling I got the day after! It was only the two glasses of wine in the evening that cheered up the day.

So starting at the beginning, which is normally the day you sign up on a form and pay for your table, or in my case half a table. At this point not even knowing who I'd be sharing the space with. Cue then the long wait of anywhere from 3 months to years for the actual date of the event.

With my first one in Telford, it was about three months of waiting and planning and sweating about whether my next book would be a paperback in time.

Thankfully with four paperbacks ready and copies arrived from America in time the next thing I apparently required was free items to give away! So with some lovely little gift bags I added a keyring, sweets, scented candle melt shaped like a heart and a handmade gift tag. I even added book quotes and my signature too. Many of the more seasoned authors had been collecting pre-orders but I just did an honest post on the event Facebook page saying "I'm bringing loads of books so no need to pre-order" what followed surprised and delighted me. Two readers requesting a full set of The Heart Trilogy novels, and one reader the final book of the trilogy and my latest one! Two of them even paid in advance so already I had sales. I was a success!!

So finally a week before the event I was ready. Books packed, free gifts packed and huge free standing banner and a prize giveaway ready to go.

This particular event was themed as a 1940's book signing so dressed up in a suitable outfit I set off with everything including an assistant. With great excitement not just at meeting some of my readers but also connecting with the many authors who I'd only ever chatted to online.

The day was amazing, after I got over my technological glitch with my card reader not working! I settled in behind my table and waited for the doors to open. The first group of readers walked in and I chatted, gave away free gifts and smiled so much my cheeks ached. In the quieter moments I walked around the tables, meeting the many other authors and chatting about life, books and how great it was to meet. In many ways a book signing is more about this amazing camaraderie and the friendships it creates.

My readers were equally amazing and mind-blowing when we discussed my characters and from their comments I felt truly justified in calling myself an author! The day passed too quickly and packing up with slightly less books and free gifts I was sad to drive away.

I'm now counting down the days until my second book signing in Manchester — roll on August 18th, 2017!

So if any of you are wondering whether to take the plunge and sign up for one of these events I'd say 'Yes' just do it. You will gain friendships that will feel stronger than just the time spent chatting and sharing posts online. But if it's the money that floats your boat more — then maybe the outlay in all of the above things from booking the table, purchasing books and gifts will more than likely leave you in a deficit or at best a break even. However, I may have caught the bug a bit too much as I am now contemplating organising my own event!!

Rainne's Book Review

Child of the Night by Andy Peloquin

An edge of your seat, fast-moving and unforgettable read from Andy Peloquin.

I was drawn in the moment I started reading and my attention was held right up to the last word! I spent ten years with Ilanna, shared her hopes and fears, and her triumphs and failures. I felt the aches and

pains, the cuts and broken bones, and sat with her friends as she healed. I watched her grow from a scared, lonely little girl, called Viola, through months of torture, as Seven, and years of training, as Ilanna the apprentice, into a strong and determined journeyman.

The details and descriptions of Praamis, and the believable characters, each with their own personalities and troubles, made this book come to life. I didn't just read a story... I lived it! Andy Peloquin is an amazing writer and story-teller! I loved the book and am eager to read the next book in the series.

To all the Indie Publishing News Group. Thank you for joining, participating and sharing the magazine over the last 12 months. Yep you got it! We are now a year old. Let it continue and grow.

###Flash Fiction 500

Barthory's Last Voyage by Lily Luchesi

The ship's log had no destination, but that didn't bother me. What did was the lightning and thunder ahead of us. I didn't much fancy dying. I murdered people in order to be immortal, after all. The other people on the ship didn't seem at all perturbed. I wondered what I, a vampire on the run, was doing here with them.

The sea was turbulent, dark waters given a reddish cast by the odd, smoky sky above us. It seemed as though we'd never see the moon or stars again, the clouds were such a noxious black. Water splashed up against the boat's sides, sometimes splashing up onto the deck. None of the other passengers seemed to notice, so I pretended I didn't, either.

The storm was getting closer, chilling my bones, even as the air got hotter with humidity and electricity. There was a large wall of black clouds dead ahead,

How long will it be before the ship sinks? I wondered idly. And will I survive? It seemed nothing was bothering me this evening.

As I wondered, I saw the captain, a handsome man in a black cloak, come and approach me with a smile on his face as he told me how glad he was to see me. I asked him about the coming storm. "Ms. Bathory, that means we're close to everyone's final destination." "Lovely. ...And where might that be?" I asked. He chuckled, "Why, it's Hell, of course."

###Eve Arroyo - Editor

Tell us a bit about yourself. I'm an American living in Mexico with my husband. I've been an avid reader since kindergarten. I enjoy cooking and sewing. I'm passionate about the environment, striving to rid the world of plastic. I make my own hand cream, lip balm, toothpaste, and deodorant, using all natural ingredients and glass containers.

What bought you to the world of editing? With the boom of the indie book market I was reading more self-published books and finding the lack of editing turned me off. Even if the story had merit, I just couldn't get past the grammatical errors and plot holes. So, I decided to do something about it and here I am!

What is the first book you edited and what do you think of your work on it now? My very first edit was for Daelynn Quinn. I edited her book *Fall of Venus*, the riveting first book in her YA dystopian series. I did a good job for Daelynn, although I had yet to fully understand how to use the Review tools in MS Word. Looking back, knowing what I know now, I could have done an even better job. I started my career with a certain knowledge base, which has grown so much through experience, confidence, and studying my resource materials.

Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it? I can't choose, but four authors come to mind: Samantha A. Cole has written the Trident Series. The books center around a group of retired Navy SEALs who work together at Trident Security. The adventures of the Sexy Six-Pack take place all around the world with many stops at The Covenant, a BDSM club. Romance, suspense, and wild sex! What more can you ask for? A.J. Daniels is a new author. She's just published her debut book called *Skin Deep*. *Skin Deep* follows Ashley as she escapes an abusive relationship, running into the arms of the love of her life. There she

finds the love and acceptance she's always craved and the protection she now needs. Laylah Roberts writes Bad-Boy romance. Her current series starts off with Wilde. Wilde owns a BDSM club called WildSide. I don't want to give too much away, but the fun starts there one night when the woman he thinks he can't have unexpectedly shows up at the club. Acacia K. Parker writes dystopian and paranormal. She's recently published Delightfully Witchy, which is the first of a three-book series. It is a cute love story filled with adventure and magic. It was really fun to work on. I'm currently editing her previously released book Recess. Dystopian at its best. Recess is also the first of a three-book series.

How long does it take you to edit a manuscript? The time it takes to edit is completely dependent on the author's abilities and experience, and the length of the manuscript. A general guess would be 80,000 words would probably take me a week for both edits.

Do you edit 1st or 3rd person novels, or have you done both? I edit both. I don't have a preference.

What's your editing process? I edit and make suggestions via the MS Word Review tab. I go over the manuscript twice then return it to the author for revisions. After the author has made all changes and corrections to their manuscript they return it to me for a second edit.

What type of writers do you market your service to? I edit almost all genres except for nonfiction. Personally, I don't like to read nonfiction, so it's best left to someone that enjoys it. I think they can give better service to the authors. I have edited what I call "lite-horror." I am not a fan of gore, so I am particular about which horror books I'll take. Somehow I've accidentally encountered a lot of authors who write romance and about the BDSM lifestyle. I was like a blushing bride when I edited my first erotic novel, now I'm an old hand at it. It's amazing the knowledge one acquires at work!

Are your clients self- or traditionally published? As the indie-publishing world continues to evolve and separate itself from traditional publishing, my focus is almost exclusively on self-published authors. Traditional publishing houses have their own editors, but the indie-author must do everything for themselves. I try to cover as much ground as possible, blurring the lines between line editing, content editing, and proofreading. That being said, I have edited for traditionally published authors. Some simply want help in presenting a polished manuscript to the firm's editor. Another was unhappy with the editing received from her small publisher and enlisted my services on her first two books, and will be sending me her third manuscript soon.

How do you promote your services? I promote my services on my Facebook page and through various Facebook pages and groups. I've had writing contests on my website and my FB page. Currently my biggest form of promotion is by word of mouth from my clients. Thanks to all my friends and clients for trusting me enough to refer me to your associates!

Where can we learn more about your services?

You can visit my website at www.evearroyo.com for more information and to see my references.

Who/what are your favourite authors/genres?

I am a huge fan of Steven White's Dr. Alan Gregory series. I read the entire series beginning to end. It was sad when it ended. I also love Harlan Coben.

Links

www.evearroyo.com

www.facebook.com/evearroyoediting

Do you have any more information you'd like to share with us? I always start my relationship with potential clients with a free sample edit. That way we can both see each other's work. I want my clients to be comfortable, and know what they can expect from me.

By the same token, I have the opportunity to discover if the author is ready to be edited. Sometimes their desire to publish is premature. If they're going to pour their heart and soul into their project the last thing they want is to have low sales and hurtful reviews because of poor writing. Writing is an art and is not natural to some.

I feel honesty is the best policy. If a manuscript is not ready to be edited or published, I'll say so, along with constructive criticism on how to improve it, often with a recommendation to join a quality writer's group. I'm in the process of looking for another editor to add to my business. It's a big step, but I've grown so much over the past year, and I'm ready. Specifically, I'm attempting to replicate the editing process at the big publishing houses by having more sets of eyes on each manuscript. Try as we might, no one is perfect and things get past. The more individual input, the closer to perfection we can get.

Claire, thanks for this opportunity. I really appreciate it. Best of luck with your publishing.

Spotlight Author Recipe

###Jane's Nan's Recipe for Cheese and Onion with Eggs.

Served with Garlic bread or fresh crusty white bread, and an optional light salad if serving as a main course. This is my take on a recipe my late Grandmother used to serve my mother and her siblings when they came in from school in the winter, often having walked 3 miles through snow there and back in the late 1930s. My mother made it for me and my siblings when we came in from the school, also having walked several miles there and back often in the cold. It has never been written down and none of us ever used measurements or followed recipe books so if it comes across as a little hit and miss, forgive me. I learned to cook by eye and taste.

If you have your mascara on ladies - though it applies to gents who wear it, I have managed rock bands so I know you guys just love it too - I hope it is waterproof. We are peeling and chopping onions. To serve two with big appetites:

Peel 3-4 large onions (red are good) and chop into quarters. Chop the onions into slices – not too small. Add to a pan of boiling water (I don't ever use salt but add some if you really must) and cook until soft. Meanwhile hard boil 4 large eggs and when ready place them into cold water, with shells still on, to cool.

Grate a large block of Mature Cheddar or other strong cheese.

Grease a large oven dish (use Marg or Butter).

When the onions are soft, drain through a sieve, keeping a little of the liquid to use later.

Return pan to the stove and make a roux (white sauce): Melt butter, add powdered or made Coleman's Mustard – or other strong mustard but not whole grain (about a tablespoonful) and lots of black pepper. Mix and gradually add white SR (self-raising) flour though plain is good I guess. Stir until it thickens and add more Marg/Butter or flour if you need. You need to make a roux sufficient to cover the onions and eggs, not too runny or thick, but runny enough to coat the eggs as they sit in the sauce.

Add some of the hot water from the onions and stir to combine. Add whole milk (semi-skimmed burns) and stir and combine to make a white sauce.

Add all the onions.

Add most of the cheese, leaving some for the top of the finished dish. Stir and lower heat and allow to cook through into a coating sauce. The sauce should pour but not be thin. A little thinner than for Macaroni Cheese. You want to dip fresh crusty or garlic bread into the sauce.

Remove shells from cooled hard boiled eggs and cut into halves. Add the eggs to the mixture taking care not to break them, and transfer to the greased oven dish. Sprinkle remaining cheese over the top of the finished dish.

Place the dish under a grill to brown (golden) the top or if using later, heat in an oven for about 30-40 mins until top golden.

Serve in bowls with hot garlic bread/crusty bread and a light salad if you wish.

Bon appetite. Jane x

###Nathalie M L Romer– Indie Author

Tell us a bit about yourself. In 2015 I made Sweden my new home, where I live with my partner of more than 9 years. In the summer of 2015 it is when I embarked on my new career of book writing as "something to productive to do." When I am not writing I am keeping myself busy with a variety of hobbies and activities, including arts and crafts, design, website coding, and I love to cook. My partner says the latter spills over in my book writing because he claims that reading my books "makes him hungry." Until 2015 I lived in Britain, which was my abode for about 25 years. I am proud of a dual Dutch and British heritage, and even prouder of my Caribbean roots as my father comes from Curaçao.

What bought you to the world of writing? Actually I feel it was chance. I once had a teacher who told me I should consider either a career in art or a career in writing. I tried the art for a while, and thought it was time for writing now. However, that said I had the idea to be an author as early as 30 years ago, but then life got in the way, and by the time I was married I didn't get that chance anymore. It was not a nice marriage and my ambitions took a blow, so the whole writing was put on hold until after I was divorced. It's my current partner who encouraged me to remember my dreams and he is my direct inspiration to take up the challenge of writing

and not giving up on it either.

What is your first book and what do you think of it now? My first book is called "The Wolf Riders of Keldarra: Book 1: The Stone of Truth." It's what I consider my "I can do this" book, even now, and especially as now it has been professionally edited by a very nice editor called Alison Jack, who did a wonderful job understanding what I was trying to do with the story. By the time this interview goes live the republished version of this book will be back on Amazon as a print book and Kindle e-book, and in the process of being readied for store ordering at Ingram Spark. I am still proud of the book because it is what I see as my way of proving to myself that I can do something.

What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your reader's needs? I write the sort of books I like to read myself. I've always been a huge fan of Isaac Asimov, and by the time I was around ten or eleven years old I had read everything he had published to date. The Foundation Series is by far my all-time favourite group of books which I still will read whenever I got time. In addition, I like stories where there's an off the beaten track element to it. The way to explain what I mean is that seeing yet another story about vampires, demons, angels, or werewolves gets, at least in my mind, a bit cliché. I am working on a number of upcoming books where I'm attempting to create new types of supernatural beings. The first of these will hit the stores in late 2017, and in addition to this I've got a few books planned where there's an element of that "familiar" supernatural element to it, but told in a somewhat different way.

I started in epic fantasy with The Wolf Riders of Keldarra, because of the influence of an MMO I play called World of Warcraft. I directly credit this game for the idea behind this series, though the book is not like the game in the slightest. Because I have an interest in reading science fiction I decided to write science fiction as well. My own writing style in that respect is hard science fiction as featured in the apocalyptic story Subject 37, which is set five hundred years in the future. The hard science fiction aspect of this book will make itself known as the story unfolds in the follow-on books in the series. The next one in the series, Code Word Indigo, is out in March 2017. In addition, I've also embarked into the world of mystery writing with The Mystery of Priory Mansion, and this is not a series as such, but I will give Lucas Cayton and his girlfriend Louellen more "air time" in future books. In addition to these genres I am already dabbling in other types of books, but as most of them are due out from 2018 onwards, I think I'll play the Dr. River Song card: "Spoilers."

Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it? The book I'd like to feature is "The Wolf Riders of Keldarra: Book 1: The Stone of Truth". It is reworked, edited, freshened up, and hopefully better than before.

How long does it take you to write your first draft? Between 3 and 9 months depending on how long the story intends to be.

Do you plot or not, if so why? Yes, I plot now. When I wrote my first book I didn't know yet about doing this, but now I see it as essential. Though I don't think I do it exactly the same way as most authors do, but as I once read somewhere. Apparently every author has their own way of writing.

Do you write in 1st or 3rd person, or have you do both? I mostly (try) to write in 1st person, though the nature of The Wolf Riders of Keldarra meant I did it differently. It's a mix of 1st and 3rd person, which becomes evident in why and how if you read the book.

How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write? I now use a professional editor. I, for one, cannot stress enough how important this is. I made the mistake, huge mistake, to first try self-editing, then chose the "wrong sort of editor" plucked off the internet. My current editor, Alison Jack, made the comment "the book gets better and with less errors as I get further into the book" (that book being the one I mentioned above), and the simple reason for it "getting better" is only because I fired that so-called editor I found on the internet. I never vetted that editor, when Alison Jack is fully vetted by the Alliance of Independent Authors (a useful organisation set up by author Orna Ross), and my work suffered from my own mistake. I got the book edited, and the book is republished now (as of 10 February 2017), so the book listed now on Amazon is not the original "bad version" caused by my own mistakes. I see telling about this as a way to teach others to not make the same error as I did. If you write a book, always, always, always get it edited professionally by a vetted, credible editor with experience to back them up and with references to prove they can DO their work well.

What type of people/readers do you market your books to? I sell my books as paperbacks and e-books. I cater for a worldwide audience. I have sold books in Britain, USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, Sweden, and a few other countries so far. ALL my books can be ordered in your preferred local book store.

Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Publisher? I prefer the term "independent author" rather than saying "self-published author." I own my own imprint called Emerentsia Books which is registered

as a publisher in Sweden. Although I currently am publishing books as an independent author, I am working on a few pieces of literary fiction (slowly!) that I hope to finish next year to send to an agent I've already selected to see about getting one or more of these books published in the traditional way.

How do you promote your writing? I do my promoting with targeted adverts on Facebook and Goodreads, and in addition I also do Giveaways for 1-5 copies on Goodreads as well from time to time. The next of these Giveaway will be in April.

Where can we buy your books? Amazon (all countries), all book stores (independent and traditional), and from this summer I will also have ordering on my own author website too.

Who are your favourite authors? Among them are Isaac Asimov, Richard A. Knaak, Jean M. Auel, and Christie Golden and a whole load more. If an author writes a compelling book, it's more than likely I will read it, and most likely if it's fantasy or science fiction.

Do you have any more information you'd like to share with us? My books feature wolves (often!) in them. I would love it if you can show support for these beautiful animals by making a charitable donation to any of the wolf sanctuaries that exist as a kind gesture.

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###Wednesday Women: Barbara Winkes Interviews Katherine Mitchel by K. M. Hodge

<http://barbarawinkes.blogspot.co.nz/2015/06/wednesday-women-katherine-mitchel-byk.html?m=1>

First of all, who am I and who is Katherine Mitchel? My name is KM Hodge, but please call me Kelly. Eighteen years ago I birthed Katherine Mitchel, the leading lady in my novel, "Seasons." Life happened (marriage, a cross-country move, work, and children), and for many years she sat alone on disks, CD's, thumb drives and eventual a storage cloud. It wasn't until my youngest was in a mother's-day-out program two days a week that I was able to dust off the handful of chapters and turn it into a full-fledged novel. I finished the novel during the National Write a Novel in a Month event this last November. I then spent December-March having it edited for content, copy and proof. On March 20th, "Seasons" went live on Amazon.

Who is Katherine? Katherine is a 33-year-old old FBI agent who uncovers damning evidence against a crime ring called The Syndicate. The group, which controls the police, Congress, and even the FBI, will stop at nothing to protect their interests. With her life on the line, Katherine is forced to put her faith in her new and partner Alex, as she flees from Washington D.C. and is placed in the Witness Protection Program. But you can't run from The Syndicate. In what becomes the most dangerous investigation of their careers, Alex could ultimately prove to be Katherine's last and only hope.

KM, Is there a message in your writing you want readers to grasp? Women's rights and issues are important to me. I wanted to give a singular voice to women who have experienced domestic violence and sexual assault. Before I had children I worked for a Crisis Center where I heard countless heart-breaking stories of abuse. I've read all the startling statistics about the number of women who have been raped and how there are some people out there that still think that there are times when it is okay for one person to force another one to have sex. I have also been there for friends and family who have experienced these issues. I wanted to get a conversation started because change can only happen if we start talking instead of just pushing these issues under the rug. Victims of these crimes shouldn't ever be made to feel shame or guilt, or worse yet, feel that they deserved it. If you have been in a domestic violence situation or have been sexually assaulted, it is not your fault and there are people out there that can help you!

**Domestic violence hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).
National Sexual Assault Hotline: 800.656.HOPE (4673)**

###Announcing the RELEASE of Blood Brothers by Julie Nicholls

This is the 2nd book in the Blood Trilogy. We have already followed the characters – K34GEN, Gabriel, Lyssa, and GH05T from book one, Blood Ties, but it seems their trials are not over yet.

Gabriel is pure lycan and was caged by Dr. Keller at Solgen Labs. Dr. Keller is a genetic scientist who used Gabriel's lycan DNA to create the perfect soldier by splicing his genes with a human. K34GEN was Solgen's top hunter...but then Keller realized he could improve the enhancements he'd given the human and created GH05T. She was faster and stronger than K34GEN, with a few added enhancements, and it meant K34GEN was no longer the top dog. The former hunter, K34GEN teamed up with Gabriel and together they attempted to bring down Solgen Labs.

The story continues in Blood Brothers

Synopsis: Blood Brothers

When you've been a "guest" of Solgen Labs, brothers from another mother takes on a whole new meaning. Keagen and Gabriel thought they were experts on all Solgen's dirty little secrets. Until they met Ghost and found the deceit and conspiracy goes more than bone-deep; it goes right down to their spliced and enhanced DNA.

Need a sneaky peek?

"Your room's better than mine." Keagen pushed the door open wider as he edged his way into Ghost's quarters. "I guess it's a girl thing." He snickered. "Hey, if you want the pink duvet, take it," Ghost quipped. Keagen casually scanned the room while closing the space between them. He noticed the furrows congregating along Ghost's forehead and blew out a weighty breath. "I know what's going on in there." He pressed the tip of a finger to Ghost's temple. The possibility she might be right and he should tell Gabriel about his condition was on his mind constantly, but finding the courage to admit he was imperfect wasn't something he could do easily. He'd never concerned himself with the worries of others previously but seeing Ghost's agitated expression bothered him. The realization that he could end up like K44 gnawed at him like a dog with a bone, and it was highly probable that this rabid dog would need putting out of its misery. Fear wasn't in his vocabulary. There had never been anything he was afraid of...until now. Ghost grabbed his finger and with pleading eyes stared at Keagen. She felt his pain. The possibility not only his body, but also his brain, might betray him was stinging—lacing him with more poison on an already infected wound. She wished he would listen to her and willingly let Lyra and Gabriel help, but the stubborn mask he wore wasn't about to come off anytime soon. They turned simultaneously to the sound of a knock on the door followed by Lyra's soft voice. "I'm sorry to disturb you. I know you've had a long journey, but Michaels wants to brief you on the current situation with K44."

###Recently Released Books

Sweet Ickle Lies by T E Hodden

A tale of love, lies, gangsters and panda butlers, in a dangerous world...

Hale thinks his life is finally heading in the right direction. He was unemployed, and down on his luck, but the job at Retropolis, the shop that breathes new life into old toys, feels like a fresh start. He has new friends, Sophia, the owner, and Bosey, her felonious, pickpocketing butler (who happens to be stuffed Panda with a limited vocabulary).

When Sophia's boyfriend walks out on her, the wrath of her hot tempered uncle threatens to descend upon Hale's cosy new life. But it's okay, as Sophia has a plan. An easy plan. All Hale has to do is take the place of the pompous, aristocratic, lawyer, for a few nights. It's a simple little lie. What could possibly go wrong?

The Threadbare Hearts tales are short, sweet, romantic adventures, with a sense of adventure and magic, perfectly sized for a lunch break or commute.

Bing vs the J-Crew by Nadine Johnson

Bing vs. the J-Crew is a light-hearted, hilarious chapter book with tons of illustrations that children will love. Bing is a bird-loving, science nut who just wants to make it through the last ten days of school. He also wouldn't mind being crowned Science Student of the Year on Awards Day. However, Chad and Braxton (the J-Crew) are planning the ultimate prank to get Bing. After Bing overhears them plotting, he joins forces with his best friend, Joni, to crush their plan.

Bing vs. the J-Crew is a fun read, and it has important lessons for this age group. While Bing faces his fears, he learns he's a lot braver than he thought. He shows how to be a great friend and how to forgive. Also, as Bing tries to apply what happens in the birds' world to his own world, he learns that unlike mockingbirds and crows, children who are different can come together and be friends. It's a great lesson for Bing and for other children as well. Ages: 7-9

Right to Silence by Lily Luchesi

The truth can be deadly.

In the first of this two-part novel, we learn the history of hunters Brighton Sands and Mark Evans in their two lifetimes, culminating in their final battle with the insane vampire they have been hunting for centuries.

In the second part, with Angelica Cross still on the run, multiple vampiric murders lead to the kidnapping of a famous vamp. Detective Danny Mancini must drag a mortal into the bowels of Hell in order to rescue her. But why does Leander Price want her so badly, and what does she have to do with an ancient vampire prophecy?

The Hunters by Heidi Angell

For those who believe Vampires should be killed, not kissed.

What would you do if you found your town had been infested with vampires? For Chris and his brother Lucas, the answer was simple enough: you fight back. Gathering a small band of other people in their town who have been affected by the vampires, they begin a resistance. But after a year of fighting, they have only managed to kill a handful, while the vampire leader has turned five times that many.

Then two enigmatic strangers appear, changing their lives even further.

Fury and Havoc. They call themselves hunters, and want no part in this little band of heroes. Ordering them to lay low, the duo vow to rid their town of vampires. When Fury is injured, Chris aides these strangers, entwining his future with theirs.

Now that the vampires know the hunters are here, and that Chris and his friends have helped them, the group is in more danger than ever before. Lucas is torn between protecting his new family from the vampires, and protecting them from these seemingly inhuman beings who say they are there to help.

After all, what beings could be so powerful as to scare a vampire?

THIS IS NOT A 'WAR' STORY.

Life in the War Zone

A collection of poignant, eye opening stories and articles, written primarily as fictional accounts, yet based on true experiences from major war zones around the globe. Each story and article has been formed from interviews, discussions, reports and dialogues from those affected by conflict.

Life in the War Zone brings you the emotional truth about the effects and the long lasting legacy of pain and suffering, to both combat troops and innocent civilian lives, devastated by war and armed conflict.

Revealed, the cold hard facts; tales from the front line you probably do not want to consider. Situations you do not want to believe are true. Yet these things have happened, are still happening now.

For many, the fight continues long after the last shots of the battle have been fired. Physical trauma, disability and PTSD linger for years, even entire lifetimes, following conflict and struggle. These are the sad facts of modern warfare.

"In war, there are no unwounded"

Girlie and the Quest to for PEDI'S Family

Girlie is far from finished with her adventures. In fact, she has only just begun. Now that the hive is saved and being sorted. Girlie decides it is time to find out what happened to PEDI'S Family. Where were they? How

could she find them?

Along with Sammie Kitten, she sets out into the darkest corner of the garden in search of centipede families and helps various other insects along the way. Will she or won't she find them...Only time will tell.

The Night of the Moonflower by Poppy Mann

1975 and young talented New Zealand fashion designer, Anna Hunnicut meets Senior army officer Paul Andres and after a brief courtship, marry. When he is posted as Defence Attache to Jakarta, she accompanies him and soon becomes embroiled in the intrigues and glamour of the Diplomatic Corps there. However, both of the Andrews are unprepared for the shocking consequences of Paul's actions on an earlier posting 20 years previously which will change their lives forever.

Anna must seek the help of the dangerously attractive and enigmatic Dutch mercenary, Jan Van Hendryks, to save both her and Paul's lives from the machinations of the vengeful wife of the President.

Chronicles by Mara Reitsma and Mark McQuillen

Navina had learned much in such a short time, and yet there was still more that she needed to know. So many questions that just had to have answers; but she had help now. A Demon and his mate. A Witch, she had come to call friend, and a Valkyrie, whose own quest had brought them all together.

Malice had spent months searching for Marena, only to find her locked in an endless slumber; and in the care of an old friend. Her heart ached for the love she had lost, her soul crying out, over the injustice of it all. Marena had been but a pawn in the enemy's grasp, but to Malice, she had been so much more; unlocking the wonders and releasing the darkness the Valkyrie had harbored within.

Now that very same enemy, is threatening the whole Verse, and Malice will stop at nothing to unlock the secrets in Navina's mind; with the help of some new, and old friends. Together they will endure, whatever the Eno'tai send forth in the next wave, and they will find the answers they seek; for if they don't stand up and fight, then who will?

###Available SOON

Love at Valentines by Beth Bayley

Book three in a set of four Novellas tells the story of the youngest in the Truss Family.

Petra is a dark horse. Her family don't realise she worked as an agent for a now defunct government agency. During this time Petra's parents are murdered. To save her brothers, she disappears, only to get kidnapped and tortured by those she was trying to avoid. Her partner betrays her, working for the bad guys. The question is why?

In her dreams she is recalled to Bryn Mawr. Determined to escape she finally manages to get home to find Bryn Mawr isn't a myth after all. Here she meets her brothers' wives and Huw, a giant of a man, she couldn't take her eyes off. What will happen? Will she be safe or does more danger approach?

Do You Believe in Legends by Ani H Manjikian

"Legend isn't about people. It's about pursuing a dream or higher ideal. About believing in something impossible and transforming the belief into reality through faith and hard work. The future is a legend written and unwritten."

Jo Mason believes that creativity, spontaneity, and faith exist as definable words, but not actionable items. Negative consequences always follow the rare positive outcomes. It seems her destiny is surviving a chaotic world she can't control. Hearing her own voice where she shouldn't have leaves her wondering about her place in time.

Jeff has always been a part of her life, offering encouragements, wise words when she needed them, and many other things she can never completely thank him for. She knows he replaced her cousin who died saving his life.

When she questions why he didn't get to stay with his family, Jeff replies that without fixing the timeline everything she knows would be different.

When Jeff's twin brother Randy falls into her lap, both literally and figuratively, Jo hopes he can give her a better answer. There is only one slight problem... He doesn't remember anything about himself or his life and what he does, doesn't help.

Together, the three of them learn that life isn't about who or what you know, but who and what you care for.

Ghostly Writes Valentines Anthology 2017

From the minds of writers from around the globe, Plaisted Publishing presents a collection of ghost stories that will chill you, haunt your heart, and steal your soul from eternal devotion to undying love. International authors include: C.A. Keith, Audrina Lane, Karen J. Mossman, Adele Marie Park, Jane Risdon, Jennifer Deese, Lynn Mullican, and a poem from Kyrena Lynch This eBook will be FREE Worldwide.

###Authors Supporting Charities

LOOKING INTO THE ABYSS WITH PAUL WHITE

Now here is a story and a half. Paul White is an author extraordinaire and also a man who is involved with Saving the Black Rhino – 'Boots on the Ground' Charity. With this in mind Paul decided to compile an Anthology from authors around the world who would donate a short story.

Connect with 'Boots On The Ground' and help them protect and do their job. It is never ending – day and night

Yes, I am one of those authors. It was an amazing journey and I can't wait to read the book. My story is for children ages 3 – 8 years. It will one day be Book Three of my children's series of Charity Books 'Girlie Adventures.'

Looking into the Abyss is now available on Amazon and Kindle... You need to buy this book! It will make an amazing Valentines gift.

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THIS CHARITY!

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