

# ###Indie Publishing News

Issue 6 -10<sup>th</sup> November 2016

###Spotlight Author – Mara Reitsma

###From the Editor's Desk

Hello and welcome to issue 6 of Indie Publishing News. I do hope you enjoy the new format with the glossy front page. The newsletter is now monthly.

## What's New

I would like to introduce you all to two of my helpers. Claudia Plaisted of CeeJay Designs who makes my magazine covers - [www.cee-jaydesign.weebly.com](http://www.cee-jaydesign.weebly.com) and also my Spotlight Author Cartoonist – Adam Mitchell who you can find at <https://www.facebook.com/Adam-Mitchell-Indie-Illustrator303646706688121/>

Claudia and Adam volunteered their skills to help improve the newsletter for your enjoyment. If there is anyone else with ideas or can volunteer skills, then that would be awesome. Thanks

A new service to everyone. If you wish to advertise your book, project, event, business etc. each month, then you will get the first advert FREE. Afterwards it will be \$20 USD charge for the year or \$10 for bimonthly for the same advert. Payment is by PAYPAL.

## INDIEWRITINGTEAMS

As if I don't already do enough...I have started yet another new group called "Indie Writing Teams." This is a place we can swap editing type services with each other and build our own Writing Team to make the best of our books. This is all about EDITING. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/307121579645845/>

The group is looking for:

Line Editors, Copy Editors, Editors, Beta Readers, Proof-readers of all genres. If you can help or if you can do one of these things for a small fee due to not needing anything in exchange, then please put your name down under one of the post heading. To be part of this group you need to offer assistance to another author. If you don't you will be removed. Build your teams make your books the best of the best.

## STAGETHREE OF INDIE PUBLISHING NEWS

Now is the time to send a link to your readers and fans so they can get a copy of the Indie Publishing News. This will take the weight off your shoulders - you won't need to forward the newsletter if they sign up on the link below. Remember the more readers signed up the further everyone's reach – the more likely you are to get new readers and business. Thanks

<https://rotosis.wufoo.com/forms/indie-publishing-news-readers/>

Helping Indie Authors get their books published professionally

# ###Plaisted Publishing House Introduces you to New Indie Author

## - Amy Budd

### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

My name is Amy Budd and I'm an 18-year-old writer from Australia. My main area of writing is LGBTQPIA+ fanfiction and I get a lot of inspiration from my favourite alternative rock bands when it comes to what I write. When I'm not writing, I enjoy reading, along with watching TV shows and listening to music; my favourite genre of books and shows is paranormal/supernatural.

### **What brought you to the world of writing?**

I started writing fanfiction at the age of 13 and over the past five years, I've written many different stories and improved my writing skills an enormous deal.

### **What is your first book and what do you think of it now?**

I haven't released a book of my own yet, but I have taken part in 'Ghostly Writes Anthology', which is the first published work to feature a piece of my writing. I'm definitely proud of how hard I've worked to polish my writing skills to get to this point of being considered talented enough to be published.

### **What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your reader's needs?**

While I haven't written any books yet, I've found that I do best with the paranormal young adult and LGBTQPIA+ romance genres, so those genres are what any books of mine would be. Readers of my current pieces of writing have told me that they very much enjoy it, and their feedback has assisted me in growing as a writer.

### **How long does it take you to write your first draft?**

I haven't yet finished a first draft of anything but when I know what I'm doing, I can write a surprising amount in a short period of time. I imagine it might take me a couple of months to finish a first draft if I had enough information in the way of plot and characters to do so.

### **Do you plot or not, if so why?**

I plot a little, so that I don't forget details and so that I know where my story is going, but I can't plot too much or I feel far too stifled and compelled to stick to the plot outline and not let my creativity guide me. I find that a plot outline that has enough detail, but not too much, is extremely helpful.

### **Do you write in 1st or 3rd person, or have you do both?**

I've had experience writing in both points of view but I much prefer 3rd person. It's much easier for me to develop characters and not risk them being 'flat' or 'cardboard' in 3rd person rather than 1st person.

### **How do you edit your work?**

Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write? I write when I feel the urge, then I edit when I need to take a break. It keeps my work fresh in my mind and refreshes me on certain details that I might forget.

### **What type of people/readers do you market your books to?**

All of my writing is aimed at teenagers, young adults and adults, as it can be rather mature for children and preteens.

### **Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Publisher?**

I self-publish my current writing on fanfiction sites, and I imagine that any original works of mine would be self-published as well – or at least with an indie publisher.

### **How do you promote your writing?**

I promote my writing on social media such as Facebook, where I can reach lots of people, especially in the demographic I aim my writing at.

### **Who are your favourite authors?**

My favourite authors are J. K. Rowling, Rick Riordan, John Flanagan, Anthony Horowitz and Mika Fox.

### **Links**

<http://amybuddwrites.wordpress.com>

## **###Indie Author Reviews**

### **Fallowgrave – The Past is Not Dead by Tom Hodden**

5 stars I really loved everything about this story, 6 April 2016 By Shazzie

The past is definitely not dead in FallowGrave! I really loved everything about this story. I have read quite a few books by this author and he writes in many genres but with FallowGrave I found no problem in assigning it five stars. Hodden has a style of his own and I like his writing.

It is a well thought out storyline that will keep you there from beginning to end. Characterisation is brilliant. Bill - a woman, surprised me, a great twist. I thought T E Hodden did very well in portraying Flint and Ken, especially how their relationship formed and progressed through the story.

The story is dark, scary yet the reader is compelled to move forward with it. It's pacy and I really would have loved it if the author had made it longer. All in all, a great book.

### **The Orchid Keeper by Jennifer Deese**

Customer rating 5.0/5.0

I found the Orchid Keeper well written and it kept my attention span captivated throughout the novelette. The authors technique of sequentially stringing the storyline together in a seamless flow was excellent, and to which, each chapter kept me wanting more. My only complaint is that I wanted more, but that would be nonsensical given the fact that this is the first book in a series of books, thus more is what it is all about. I read in the authors short bio that the Orchid Keeper is her inaugural book and to that I say "hats off and well done". I am also confident to say that though it is her first book, her talent is clearly stated that she has been writing for many years. Many people can write but few can seamlessly sync thoughts and words and in Orchid Keeper the authors talent do such is clearly demonstrated.

I can't wait to get the second book in the series. I am excited to see how Cora's life has turned around, what role Sol plays in her life and what happens to Lee Ann. The first chapter of the second novelette was the cliff-hanger completely drawing me in. So, as they say, patience is a virtue.

### **Girlie and the War of the Wasps by Claire Plaisted**

I loved this children's book. The adventure keeps you interested and the sketches are adorable. I really enjoyed how there were several lessons interwoven into this story without it seeming like it were "teaching" moments. There is no doubt that children of all ages will enjoy this book! Highly Recommended

### **Threads of a Web by Marie Krepps**

By Deepak Charles

Well, I could just say these words and be done with it, "Genre busting and spectacular". But I'm not the one for laconic reviews.

When you hear of a movie or a book that covers many genres, you usually find in your hand something that is either well written or not (there's no in-between). And more often than not, it's the latter since juggling different genres isn't an easy thing to do. Add to that the dilemma of creating great characters and you're left with only a handful of stories that are genre-busting and still a great read.

THE STORY: Take the human-vampire conflict and add aliens to the mix. You would think that it would feel clichéd but it doesn't for one second. World building is done well without it feeling out of place and the story flows organically and doesn't feel forced or rushed. That is what stories are meant to be like.

There are no instances in the book where you lose suspension of disbelief which is a sign of a well written story. The separate character arcs fit well with the overarching story.

The pacing of the overarching story is just right. For an action packed novel, it has its quiet moments and that's when you see the characters grow and develop. And the characters do that when the pace is going at full throttle also, showing how well they are written.

THE CHARACTERS: The characters are extremely well done with no clichés. Character development happens as with the story, very well. It wasn't a surprise when I started to care about the characters more and more and genuinely feeling the loss of some characters.

People have a predefined notion that vampires are these creatures driven by any of the base emotions. Well, this book can and will shatter that notion and you see people all across the spectrum. People who stay human for various reasons and people who change for various reasons and again, none of it is forced. You will see characters reacting to events happening in the book realistically.

This makes for an interesting read in that the story feels very real. The dialog is never out of place and the way the book is written feels very natural and it did not feel like I was reading a book. It felt like I was watching a story unfold in front of me and that's the way I like my books.

### *The Silver Thread*

*The silver thread  
Shimmers in the summer sun  
Dew drops glitter  
Across each and every strand as the  
Spider weaves  
Picking each thread  
Connecting its web  
To entice a meal  
Eight legs to weave  
Around the web  
A comfy home  
Glistening in the sun  
She stops and waits  
Watching for prey  
They land and are stuck  
Until their dying day  
Wrapped in silk  
All tightly bound  
The spider leaves*

*To weave her home.*

*Claire Plaisted 2016*

## **LOOKING INTO THE ABYSS - IS A BOOK OF SHORT STOIRES WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO CHARITY TO HELP SAVE THE BLACK RHINO.**

### **GET YOUR PRINT COPY NOW ON AMAZON**

#### **Whisper in the Shadows by Tom Fallwell**

5.0 out of 5 stars A fantastic adventure, May 6, 2015 By Bibliophagist

Aside from G.R.R. Martin's Song of Ice and Fire, and Tolkien's Lord of the Rings series, I rarely read epic fantasy, however, I was offered a review copy of this novel and was intrigued right away by the blurb and very memorable cover.

The story follows Baric, a 'Bear' of a man and member of the famed 'Rangers of Laerean' and Whisper, a mysterious female assassin and part of an elvish race of people called the Vaar'da. Their adventure is arduous and strung together with one epic battle to the next.

As I read along through their epic quest, part of me wished that I was reading a detailed synopsis of a fantasy video game, and left me wishing to have the opportunity to take control of these characters or fight alongside them in their epic quest.

The story involves many creatures, shadow magic, dream walking, and epic sword play, all of which is delivered in an easy to read, fast paced style that brings you up to speed on the vast lore that develops (or unfolds) throughout the book, and is certain to grow and evolve in future books in the series.

This series, and the author are new to me, but I will be looking forward to more in this series, and will be checking for more titles by this author.

A whisper in the shadows is a quick and exciting read, and a treat for any fantasy gamers, or lovers of fantasy literature. Dive into this book and get your quest on with the Rangers of Laerean. This book could well be the beginning of an incredible and epic saga.

Level up Reading pleasure +10

#### **Living with Severe Food Allergies by Cari Minch**

The recipes are fairly easy and tasty By Amazon Customer - February 4, 2016

I live with 4 eosinophil diseases and suffer from severe allergies. It is difficult to find something with fairly comprehensive lists of alternative names for items. Manufacturers deliberately use often confusing names for seemingly common ingredients, which can be incredibly dangerous for those of us with food allergies or intolerances.

The recipes are fairly easy and tasty, something difficult to achieve when having to avoid so many things. The book starts out in a chatting with a friend kind of vibe, the author seems to be attempting to explain her experiences and why even seemingly small things can have serious consequences. For those with these food issues, caregivers for them and others just interested this is a fairly easy to read and use resource. I have bought a number of different books on the subject and this one is really easy to follow. I would recommend for anyone dealing with food issues at any level.

## *The Shadows*

*Why do we get Shadows?  
In the sunshine of the day  
And the moonshine eve  
Shadows cast Like a breeze.  
In winter and summer  
No changes are made  
As the Shadows follow  
Us all our days.*

*Claire Plaisted 2016*

## **###Author Spotlight with Mara Reitsma Paranormal Writer**

This little foxy lady has an imagination beyond many people dreams. It is huge and unique. After many amazing conversation, I thought I would introduce you

I'm a thirty-two-year-old, mother of three, living on the West Coast of Canada. I've been married for three years, and have quite the entertaining family, with two boys and a little girl, a house filled with finger painted walls and crayon covered floors, there is never a dull moment. Some people often wonder where I get the time to do what I do, a midst the chaos of young family life. When I'm not working or wrestling the children, I'm writing; reading, coloring... the list goes on. That's life, but it helps to have a wicked sense of humor, an imagination and a laptop. And let me tell you, I have one wild imagination. I blame my parents for it, really, when you think about it, your father tells you that the cows in the field, were really dinosaurs in disguise, wearing cow shaped hats, and they had special whistles for making cow calls. I'd stare off into the field as we drove past, wondering, just how in the world such big creatures could...Or how about my mother, who used to tell us, that Nana's stew was really Alligator Kneecaps and Crocodile Toes? And they say I'm strange, well, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. What was that? A freight train running through the city streets, you say? Are you sure it wasn't an earth quake, Dad? And how else would I release the crazy ideas? In to a ton of books, of course!

I have been writing since as long as I can remember, hiding away stories in notebooks that to this day, I'm still finding. Tales of adventure and mystery, stories of love and heartache, secrets and betrayals, journeys into another realm... Whatever my mind can think up! The crazier, the better. I've written, edited and designed the covers for eleven of my novels so far, laying them out on Wattpad for others to read and give feedback, and I've even made a few book trailers, posters, banners... I just like to create, which is how I ended up creating, Two coloring books as well. One for everyone to enjoy, and one for the adults that just happened to frazzle their last nerve. I've made cover art and banners for others, videos too; and I've found my way onto what I call YouTwitPinFaceReads. YouTube, Twitter, Pinterest, Facebook and Goodreads, and I have made a ton of new friends along the way, receiving a lot of support, in the world of Indie Publishing. At least in my case, a very simple, regular, happy life makes for better writing.

In the end, it's all about the story, no matter how you look at it; and as long as you love what you write, and write what you love, you are gold. I didn't start writing, so I could sell my stories, I started writing, because there was no more room left in my head, and I wanted my books on the bookshelf next to my favorites; the

fact that everyone else could read them too, was a massive bonus. Bringing someone else into a world I created and get so excited about, is like a dream come true.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyJewelsCollection/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MaraReitsma>

Wattpad: <https://wattpad.com/MaraReitsma>

Lulu Publishing: [www.lulu.com/spotlight/MReitsma](http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/MReitsma)

Website: <http://itybityqt.wixsite.com/marareitsma>

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFLxZ5UCVqmoFbg\\_XJzu-w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFLxZ5UCVqmoFbg_XJzu-w)

GoodReads: [https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/12332945.Mara\\_Reitsma](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/12332945.Mara_Reitsma)

## ###Grandma Peachy's Reviews

### **The Dragon Dreamer by J. S. Burke**

I read this delightful fantasy for middle school age children and enjoyed it. The author incorporated life lessons on relationships, social responsibility, diplomacy, and learning to accept those who are different both physically and culturally. There were the effects of certain geological events on the environment and subsequent ramifications beyond the initial impact. All these woven into a delightful story without being a dry educational text.

The story is wonderful and aimed at youth who are just beginning to develop abstract thought. This book should be in school and public libraries. It would make an excellent supplemental reading for social studies or English with class discussions on trade, diplomacy, and social issues we deal with in our daily lives. The Dragon Dreamer would make an excellent book to help teach children how to think for themselves through these class discussions.

The two main protagonists, one is a dragon who is different from most and is the basis for the title, he's a dreamer and is often teased because of it. The other is an octopus who is the healer in her pod. These two become friends after an unfortunate event that requires the octopus' skills as a healer.

Antagonists are predators and beings who have to search for other sources of prey after a major geological event destroys their natural source of food.

The author was accurate in her descriptions of earth sciences. For example, in the search for copper the dragons look for areas where turquoise is found, knowing that where there is turquoise there will be copper. I highly recommend this book for sixth through eighth graders. A precocious fourth or fifth grader would enjoy it too. Older teens and adults who enjoy fantasy would also like this book. Even as a grandma I really enjoyed the book.

Dragon Dreamer is well written, the characters are well developed and it was easy to become emotionally involved with them. Great read even for an adult that enjoys children's books.

Enjoy!

Grandma Peachy

## ###Rainne's Reviews

### **The Wastelanders by Tim Hemlin**

Reading A Friend in Need inspired me to read Tim Hemlin's Wastelanders.

I was fascinated by the brief introduction to the world and its characters and needed to know more. The story starts with a bang and had me hooked from page one, with its unique and strange world filled with interesting and believable characters.

The plot is intelligently thought out and well written, with surprising twists that add to the complexity of the story. Marvellous!

## ###Poets Corner

### **Dark Path, Sweet Peace by Zorha Edwards**

The end of a Path, but not the end of a journey...

We forever walk through time and space, looking for peace, so please see that hope, peace and self-awareness is possible...my Madness continues.

Peaceful journey

### **Perfect Chaos by Kirsten Campbell**

In this world each individual must face their own unique life, their own Perfect Chaos. In life we are taught to want the best and the most and to hopefully succeed in whatever we endeavor to do. In turn most people hope that this will lead to the perfect life and the perfect answer to the most fundamental question; why are we here?

This poetry book explores a variety of life-long questions and platitudes about a unique life that was lived by a person that expected the best (yet, at times, that received the very worst from the people closest to her) in her tiny world of Perfect Chaos. Enjoy the twists and turns within the pages and ponder the words that she delivers freely and without guilt, to everyone that enters her world, a world of Perfect Chaos...BUY LINK  
Unlock the Door by La Shawna

This book shall stimulate your every sense; as it ranges from love poems to social issues. Each poem has been written for this book by the author... Enjoy as you unlock the door to a new poetic adventure.

*The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.*

*H. Jackson Brown, Jr.*

[http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic\\_inspirational.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic_inspirational.html)

## ###Mara Reitsma Reviews

<https://www.wattpad.com/user/MaraReitsma>

Ocean Girl\_ The Hunt on Wattpad (Sitting at 574 Reads and 112 votes)

"I. Love. It!!!! Eeeeekkkk"

<https://www.wattpad.com/239575518-the-hunt-campanowrimowinner2016-wattys2016/page/2>

Delicious Minds The Hunt on Wattpad

"I love the bath house scenes.... always so much fun!"

<https://www.wattpad.com/240261578-the-hunt-campanowrimowinner2016-wattys2016-abath>

FireBreathingMama We Are The Devil's Daughters on Wattpad (Sitting at 867 202 votes)

"I followed along with the writing of this book from start to finish and I loved every page. I would read the updates as soon as the notification came in and then anxiously await the next installment. Great writing, flows smoothly and that makes it an easy engaging read! Keep it up!"

<https://www.wattpad.com/213109418-we-are-the-devil%27s-daughters-a-trilogy-zaharahe/page/3>

TaylorRutherford2

“Oohs such drama. Cannot be wandering away from this book”

<https://www.wattpad.com/272791323-we-are-the-devil%27s-daughters-a-trilogy-euphania>

Biscuit\_dunker Cursed on Wattpad (666 Reads 229 votes)

“I already really like Torsha a lot, she comes across as quite a strong female lead, as does Nan and God knows we could do with a few of them. Be interesting to find more out about Rea as well.”

AnnieTheAuthor Cursed on Wattpad

“Good start and completely different to what is normally on Wattpad.”

<https://www.wattpad.com/132654371-cursed-wattys2015-cursed-part-3/page/2>

*Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.  
Benjamin Franklin*

## ###South Pacific Authors

### **Silvana – The Turning by Belinda Mellor**

Lesandor of Deepvale, human son of a Silvanan mother, wants nothing less than the life his father, Fabiom, enjoys: to be loved by one of the beautiful and powerful Tree Ladies and to spend as much time in the Wildwood of Deepvale as possible.

First he must discharge the debt incurred when the heir of Windwood lost his mind attempting the very same quest. But Lesandor is very much his mother's son, and while his grace and talents win him friends, they also bring trouble his way.

Enamoured with his 'guest', the new holder of Windwood is very reluctant to let Lesandor return home at all.

As Lesandor's life begins to unravel he makes one, final, desperate attempt to reclaim his destiny. It is a decision that will face his father with an impossible dilemma: must Fabiom sacrifice his only child, or commit the ultimate atrocity?

### **Choice Cut – A Bite from the Dark Realm by Michael J Elliott**

Welcome to the Dark Realm. A delicious realm of darkness where the residents trade in the mundane for choice cuts of fear and dread.

This collection of meaty tidbits will have you screaming for more. Included in this collection are such juicy titles as:

PENANCE' Deep within the bowels of an ancient convent, Sister Elizabeta is praying for forgiveness while the Council of Elders plan a horrifying punishment for her.

A BITE FROM THE DARK REALM A strange race of carnivorous creatures takes up residence in a suburban London supermarket.

SPEAK NO EVIL A deaf woman takes her revenge on a philandering boyfriend. These and other tales await you in the Dark Realm.

## ###Patty Fletcher– Indie Author Interview

### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

My name is Patty Fletcher, and it is my pleasure to talk with you. Here's me in a nutshell. I live in Kingsport, TN, where I am a non-profit consultant, the creator of an online newsletter called The Neighborhood News, and I write full time.

My hobbies include reading, writing, music, and stand-up comedy. I like nature walks, light hiking, camping, and fishing. No, I am not afraid to bait a hook. My favorite types of music are classic rock, rhythm and blues, and classic country, as well as some present-day country music. I enjoy meditation music. I love volunteering my time. When I had to leave my job as volunteer coordinator for Contact Concern of Northeast Tennessee INC. I knew I'd need something to do. I started out contacting schools and letting them know about Campbell and me. Offering to come into the schools to educate children of all ages about Service Animals and how to appropriately behave when encountering one.

Over time, I began to chat with the family liaisons of the different schools, and soon learned there was a real need for children to have someone to read to. So Campbell and I began to volunteer our time by going into the elementary schools when needed, and letting children read to Campbell. It has been very well received. Not long ago, one of the schools I visit most frequently asked if I'd like to make it a weekly event. To say I was thrilled would be an understatement. When I'm not doing this, I like to get out and walk. I have trouble with my sense of direction, and some short-term memory loss, so when I was a cane traveller taking long walks was just too hard for me. Now I have my Campbell, walking is fun.

### **What brought you to the world of writing?**

When I realized going to 'The Seeing Eye' was what I wanted to do, I began to keep a journal of events. It was quite a process just to apply and be accepted. I felt like this was going to be a major undertaking and decided to keep some sort of record of what transpired. Once I got into training at 'The Seeing Eye' I was certain I'd want to find a way to let others know about all I was experiencing, but it wasn't until I returned home and my life changed in such a drastic way that I knew for sure I had to write a book about the whole thing. From getting ready to go, going through the training process, and most assuredly about what happened when I returned home.

### **What is your first book and what do you think of it now?**

My first book is 'Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life.' I am proud of the book, but now it has been out a while, and I've gotten some feedback there are a few things I wish I'd done differently. There are a few things I wish I'd added, and maybe a few that I could have written a bit more about. For the most part, the book says pretty much what I wanted it to say. It is my first and so it is only natural to have learned some things since publishing.

### **What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your reader's needs?**

So far, the only genre I have written has been Nonfiction. My book is an autobiography, and other than a bit of dabbling with other genres on my blog I have done nothing else. So far as I can tell from the reviews and letters I've gotten, even with what I did or did not do with the book, it seems to have done for its readers what I'd hoped. Sometimes I get some pretty cool emails. Not long ago I heard from someone who said that it had been sixteen years since she'd had a guide. She said when she read my book it made her want that freedom again. She told me she was ready to do the hard work she knew she'd have to do to get herself back into shape so she would be able to handle the physical and emotional riggers of training. The most awesome note I ever

got from a reader though, was when a lady wrote me and said she'd finally found the courage to leave her abuser. She said it was partly due to her having read my book that enabled her to do it. That's what it's all about. To me, if I have helped one person I've been more successful than if I'd hit the bestseller list. Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it? Let me tell you just a bit about 'Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life.' First, I'll put what is shown on my website. You know? The basic description. Then I'll add a few of my own thoughts.

"This is the story of how the author obtained her first guide dog, Campbell, from The Seeing Eye™ in Morristown, New Jersey: what motivated her, the extensive training she had, the special relationship she developed with her trainer, and the good friends she made. Once she returned home to Tennessee, there were many new challenges to be met and overcome, including domestic abuse. All that was in addition to her chronic conditions of bipolar disorder and fibromyalgia. With honesty, courage, and humor, Patty Fletcher tells a remarkable story of personal development that is sure to inform, entertain, and inspire others, both blind and sighted." That's the professional wording. The Plug as it were. I want to go a bit deeper though. I want you to understand why I wrote this book.

The first thing I wanted people to know was that even if they had multiple disabilities like Mental Illness and Fibromyalgia as well as their blindness, this was still quite doable. Hard as heck, but doable. Then when I began to realize I was not at all living the type of life I wanted - not to mention I truly was being abused by my then Fiancé, and I was definitely going to have to make difficult and everlasting changes in my life, I was absolutely sure. You see, Campbell truly did 'Retrieve My Life' and more than anything on earth, I wanted the whole world to know what a huge part he, and 'The Seeing Eye' played in that.

I wrote this book to tell the story of how going to 'The Seeing Eye™' and getting Campbell, learning to love, handle, and work him, then coming home and adding him to my life, gave me true freedom. I tell of how changing from being a 31-year cane user to being a guide dog handler, taught me things about myself I had never known before. I tell of the wonderment I experienced when I finally took the chance. A major goal of mine is to help others who find themselves in domestic violence situations. I also want to help others learn more about mental illnesses and how different situations and environments can drastically affect those with such challenges. I tell how training affected me physically as a result of the fibromyalgia. I deal with, along with the side effects of the medications I take.

I focus on bipolar disorder, on how it can go horribly wrong and cause a person to behave in ways they normally would not. Then I show how hurtful it can be when a person is completely rejected, made to feel as if they have been tossed out with the trash, when they become sick as a result of mental illness. Another thing I have attempted to show is how, in certain institutional settings, attachments can develop—and how those attachments can become unhealthy for all concerned if, they are not handled correctly on both sides. Most simply, I want others to know more about me.

### **How do you edit your work?**

I usually write one or two chapters at a time, go back and edit and then put them into the main draft. Once the writing is completed I then go back, read all the way through and then do another edit.

### **What type of people/readers do you market your books to?**

Since I am trying to raise awareness concerning a variety of disabilities, it is my hope that all will read my book. The key words that might lead someone to my book if they did a Google search lean toward the disabled community, but it is honestly my hope everyone can find something to gain from reading.

### **Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Publisher?**

I am a self-published author, and most likely will always will be. I find the cost is less, and the benefit more. Yes, it's a bit more work for me, but in the end the freedom it gives me is worth it.

### **How do you promote your writing?**

I promote a lot on Social Media. I'm very visible on Facebook, Twitter, and Wordpress. I especially love to blog. I feel it allows the reader to get a more up-close look into my world. You know? Kind of live and in person.

### **Where can we buy your books? E-Book**

The e-book version of Campbell's Rambles is available at the following online stores: Amazon, Barnes & Noble Apple - [campbells-rambles-how-seeing/id906110227](http://campbells-rambles-how-seeing/id906110227), Kobo, Smashwords.

The print version of Campbell's Rambles is available at the following online stores:  
Amazon, Barnes & Noble, CreateSpace

For those who qualify the book is also Available for download from the National Library Services For the Blind and Physically Handicapped. <http://www.BARD.LOC.gov> Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life DB83921. Reading time: 6 hours, 16 minutes. Read by Suzanne Toren. And at: <http://www.Bookshare.com>

### **Who are your favourite authors?**

I love the books by Stephen King, Dean Koontz, and many more. My favorite books include Stephen King's Dark Tower series, J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time series, and J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings series.

### **Links**

[patty.volunteer1@gmail.com](mailto:patty.volunteer1@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/patty.fletcher.108>

<http://www.Twitter.com/@Bubbalee04/>

<https://campbellsworld.wordpress.com/>

### **Do you have any more information you'd like to share with us?**

#### **Reader Review**

I downloaded and read this book pretty much in one big gulp last night and enjoyed it very much. I'm a Seeing Eye grad and am about to go back for a successor dog, so I was delighted to see some familiar names and read about training. I also could identify with the difficulties the author faced when she came home with the new dog. This book is an unflinching discussion of one of the possible challenges resulting from guide dog training, and that is the relationship with one's instructor. It's clear that Ms. Fletcher had an exemplary instructor, and a kind man, in Drew Gibbon, and it's also clear that he came into her life at a vulnerable spot for her. Guide dog training is a very emotional experience, whether it's the first time or the fourth, and with Fletcher's other challenges, it must have been terrible and wonderful all at once, and all in the same hour (smile). The discussion of how her increased independence changed her primary personal relationship is familiar to a lot of people who've "been there" and was at times heart-breaking but always honest.

The author's candor is moving, her experiences are unique, but anyone who has been through guide dog training can relate. I look forward to the second installment in this story. 4 out of 5 stars

My Newsletter... The first issue of The Neighborhood News came out on April 4, 2015. The newsletter features news, encouragement, ads, and short literary submissions. It can be read each month by visiting Campbell's World. Another great thing...one of my stand alone short stories which first appeared in an Online Magazine called Really Good Quotes now can be found here... Anthology Containing a Story by Patty Patty's story "Rescued" is included in the anthology Awethology Dark.

About my blindness I was born one and a half months premature. My blindness was caused by my being given too much oxygen in the incubator. I was partially sighted until 1991, at which time I lost my sight due to an infection after cataract surgery and high eye pressure. I used a cane for 31 years before making the change to a guide dog.

Book Cover Description... Pictured are the author and her dog, Campbell. The photo was taken by Dwight Lynn Sorrell at a Safe House event to recognize victims of domestic violence. The people were tossing flower petals into the Holston River in remembrance of them.

Cover design by David Dvorkin, [www.dvorkin.com](http://www.dvorkin.com)

Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life was edited by Leonore H. Dvorkin, [www.leonoredvorkin.com](http://www.leonoredvorkin.com)

Note: THE SEEING EYE and SEEING EYE are registered trademarks of The Seeing Eye, Inc. See: [www.SeeingEye.org](http://www.SeeingEye.org)

## ###Free & 99 cent Books

### **An Incomplete Gentleman by T E Hodden**

A sweet, fun, romance, for those with an adventurous spirit. Find out why readers are falling in love with Threadbare Hearts.

Meet Ben, a divorcee, chef, and human doormat. Everybody is finding love, except him. His best friend, his ex, and even the man who ruined his life, are rosy and giggly, with that one special smile. But a promise to help a new friend, and a chance encounter with a dirty little secret set Ben on a new path. One he has no intention of walking alone...

The Threadbare Hearts tales are short novellas, ideal for quick reads and commuters, packed full of love, hope, and adventure.

### **Will O Witch by Bekka Abbott**

Wilhelmina and Wilhelm Warrick run a witchy shop in a New Zealand city. They sell crystals, herbal remedies, and occultic books. Mina will do a psychic card reading or a house blessing for you, and Will offers Reiki sessions or personalised bindrune charms. They are born witches, and if you're in any kind of psychic or spiritual trouble, they can probably help you.

However, what sets them apart and makes them unique in their practice is that Mina and Will share the same body.

Dissociative Identity Disorder is a label with no fictional heroes, only tired tropes describing serial killers, insanity or comedy. No fictional heroes, at least until now.

<https://willowitchwww.wordpress.com/willowitch/scene-1/>

### **Lurking In The Shadows – Various Authors**

Embrace the darkness.

Murderous entities, haunted houses, screaming banshees, and sympathetic necromancers are just a few of the chilling things you'll encounter in this anthology. Follow our authors into the shadows ... if you dare. Stories featured in this anthology include the following:

“Release” by E.M. Fitch, “On Two Lane Roads” by Shelly Schulz, “Too Young to Kill” by Lily Luchesi, “An Empty Building” by Jacqueline E. Smith, “Living Nightmare” by Savannah Rohleder, “The House on Juniper Lane” by Jaidis Shaw, “Dorcha Scath” by Liz Butcher, “Scream for the Night” by Gina A. Watson, “Bump in the Night, Inc” by Melody Black, “Revenant” by Stacey Jaine McIntosh, “Lizzie” by Tania Hagan

## ###Sharon Lipman – Indie Author

Before embarking on writing my first novel, I started blogging. Usually I'd write stories and little anecdotes about what was happening in my own life. When we moved to Spain, the anecdotes got funnier and probably stranger – moving country is not for the faint hearted!

Strangers took time out to comment and tell me they liked my style of storytelling – even if it was just small articles about the nightmare that is getting an MOT test in Spain, or the time I nearly ran myself over trying to bump start my car by myself. (Yes, that actually happened).

Having been a fan of the paranormal romance genre for a long time, inspiration suddenly struck. It was just one scene, but I ran with it.

### **What is your first book and what do you think of it now?**

Bound to Blackwood was my first novel. Like all firsts the first draft was complete rubbish. I joined a lot of online forums to help me improve and learnt a lot, quickly. It wasn't easy and the learning curve was steep, but I'm glad I did it. As my debut publication, it has a special place in my heart. Every time I see, I think “I did that.”

### **What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your reader's needs?**

I write paranormal romance. I know it's not for everyone, but there is a large group of people out there who can't get enough of it. It's a tough nut to crack – how many different versions of vampires can there be for example – but I'm getting some really good feedback. After a big promotion a month or so ago, the reviews are trickling in and almost all of them are 4 and 5 stars, so I'm really chuffed that it's being received so well.

### **Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it?**

Bound to Blackwood is a paranormal romance set in England. I'm a big fan of the genre, but most stories I read are set in the US. I wanted something homegrown. There is a lot of legend and folklore in England and I wanted to incorporate that into my story. Bound to Blackwood centres on House Blackwood, the royal vampires household. All vampires in my story are fae, and they're the good guys. They have been protecting humans from dark fae, and in particular The Fallen, for millennia.

It's about the search for missing vampire child. She's been missing for over two hundred years and House Blackwood have always suspected Fallen involvement. Of course, it's a romance, so readers can expect some heat along the way.

Lena, a vampire and a Guardian of the Order, has been honour-bound to protect human souls all her life. Acting first and thinking second is what's saved her skin time and again in the war against the Fallen, but her disregard for orders soon catches up with her when her boss is seriously injured.

### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

I was born in west London, but grew up in the suburbs of Surrey. I'm in my mid-thirties now, and I've been writing on and off since my teens. I now live in southern Spain with my husband.

**What bought you to the world of writing?**

Reading! My mother is a teacher and I learnt to read fairly early. She's a voracious reader and all my life she's had her nose in a book. Our tastes probably couldn't be more different, but it's thanks to her that I'm such an avid reader. The more I read, the more inspired I was to start writing my own stuff.

Forced to take responsibility for her actions, Lena is thrust into the path of her very own kryptonite; Thorn. The raw power of his soul calls to her and his mere presence lights a fire within her that she cannot contain. With Vampire magic waning and the race in crisis, can either of them afford to ignore Nature's call? If they do, the future of the race is in jeopardy. If they don't, they will both lose the most precious part of themselves. Their souls.

**How long does it take you to write your first draft?**

About three years, on and off. Looking back, it was probably madness to start when I did. We hadn't long moved to a new country, and we bought a wreck of a house which we planned to renovate. Not being millionaires, a lot of the work and organisation for the renovation fell to us. I'm amazed I ever got any of it down on paper!

**Do you plot or not, if so why?**

Mostly I'm a complete panster. Bound to Blackwood sprang from an opening scene I envisioned. From there I created a five or six bullet pointed list of where I thought the story should go.

I am inspired by writers who do plan, but honestly, I'm not very good at it. I think I don't have the patience and just want to get the story down. However, as I move forward with the House Blackwood series, I can see the attraction of planning. There are lot of things I need to remember – rules to my world I set out in the first book – that are easy to lose track of. I'm writing the sequel now and I do keep thinking that a detailed plan would help. I just haven't quite got there. The five bullet points are working for now, but I suspect more detailed planning will be required for book three.

**Do you write in 1st or 3rd person, or have you do both?**

I write in close third. I find 1st person too restrictive and like how my voice sounds in 3rd. I also write multiple points of view, which as a writer and reader keep me interested. I think it's personal choice. I find writing in first person very difficult and it definitely wouldn't have worked for Bound to Blackwood.

**How do you edit your work?**

When I wrote Bound to Blackwood, I had a lot to learn in terms of writing craft. I asked for critical feedback all the time and edited a lot before I felt I could move on to the next section of the story. Now I feel more confident in my ability to write. I find it more important just to get the words down. Editing can come later.

I've already mentioned I'm not blessed with very much patience so I can't leave it alone for very long before starting the editing and rewriting process.

**What type of people/readers do you market your books to?**

Some scenes in my book are very adult, but I know I would have read it as a teen. I think anyone who reads paranormal romance will enjoy it. When I do targeted marketing via places like Facebook, I look for fans of the genre, but in particular readers and fans of authors like J.R. Ward, Charlane Harris, Jeaniene Frost, and Sherrilyn Kenyon.

I don't presume to be in the same league as these wonderful authors, but I think their readers would enjoy my stories too.

**Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Published?**

I'm self-published.

**How do you promote your writing?**

I have website and blog as well as accounts on Facebook and Twitter. I post articles about writing, and new releases and giveaways from other authors in similar genres.

I recently paid to be part of a giveaway of 150 romance ebooks. There was a grand prize of \$100 amazon vouchers and entrants could gain extra entries by signing up to authors' mailing lists.

I know not everyone is a fan of free promotions, and I certainly won't be doing it every week, but my numbers after the event were fantastic. Over 2500 people downloaded the book, I've had over 51000 page reads (Kindle Unlimited) in the month since the giveaway, and seen a spike in both review numbers and Amazon ranking. Plus, I have over 250 new subscribers to my mailing list. (You can read more about it here)

As an Indie Author, especially a debut author, the struggle for visibility is very real. This promotion has certainly helped me get in front of real readers.

**Where can we buy your books?**

The ebook and paperback are both available via Amazon

**Who are your favourite authors?**

There are so many, but J.R. Ward, Sherrilyn Kenyon, Charlane Harris, Laurel K Hamilton and Anne Rice are all huge inspirations for me.

**Do you have any more information you'd like to share with us?**

Bound to Blackwood is a year old! Exciting, isn't it? To celebrate, I'm giving away a signed copy as well as some awesome swag. Find out more here.

## ###Teaser from Kim Cox

"I don't know." Even to him, his voice sounded tinny and far off. "Shelley's small, but this woman seems much smaller. It's hard to say." The obvious resemblance struck him, but he looked for any reason he could to deny it. "Dehydration from the burns," the gray-haired coroner said. "It changes the facial appearance." Ryan glanced up and noticed the older man's immense nose and his astonishing resemblance to the comedian and singer, Jimmy Durante. The detective shrugged. "Well, if you can't be sure, I guess we'll just have to— Wait a minute! What about this?" Walsh removed a small envelope from his jacket pocket and extracted a plastic bag containing a necklace that had been tagged for evidence. Ryan's stomach spasmed. Acid scorched his throat. Every conscious thought screamed denial, yet his trembling hand reached for the bag. Under the fluorescent lights, the ruby pendant glowed like a hot ember. He squeezed it in his palm, trying to feel its pulsing warmth— like the warmth of Shelley's smile.

Suspicious Minds by Kim Cox

"Is that her?" Detective Walsh asked, talking around the wad of gum in his mouth. Ryan Donatelli tugged at the neck of his old football jersey while he looked everywhere but at the body on the steel examination table. The morgue walls were closing in on him.

Plaisted Publishing House is now into year three of business. As a supportive business for Indie Authors and Small Indie Businesses we have released new package deals for you to peruse. Each package deal means we are helping other Indie Businesses get more work and maybe a liveable wage in the not too distant future.

We would all like to welcome you to Plaisted Publishing House and their Indie Business Associates. For those who already have cover designers and editors we still offer FORMATTING Services. You can find out more about us at:

[www.plaistedpublishinghouse.wordpress.com](http://www.plaistedpublishinghouse.wordpress.com)

SUPPORTING PLAISTED PUBLISHING MEANS YOU SUPPORT OTHER SMALL INDIE BUSINESSES OUT THERE WHO HELP YOU GET PUBLISHED ONLINE.

## ###Breaking News

Plaisted Publishing House Sponsorship Program will be announcing the release date for their first winner of this competition – which was held in conjunction with Limelight Literature and Fantasia Covers. The book is Sci-fi with strong female protagonists. A story you will all enjoy.

**Discovery by J B Taylor – OUT SOON**

## ###Timothy Bateson - Indie Author

### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

I'm very much a city-by, having grown up around London. However, I have always been fascinated by the wilder side of nature. Apart from all the forest, and hillsides I've walked through, I've had the honour of being able to handle a good selection of animals – baby lions, alligators, wolves, owls, falcons, hawks, and eagles.

### **What bought you to the world of writing?**

In 2005 I moved to small-town Alaska, and married my wife, Sandi, who has proved to be the best muse, co-developer, and support a writer could ask for. It was her writing that helped create the world that would later become the basis of the "Shadows Over Seattle" stories, and led to me submitting my stories for anthology collections.

### **What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your reader's needs?**

I primarily write urban fantasy stories set in the city of Seattle, with a shapeshifter as my main character. I love writing about Richard Parsons, since he lives in two very different worlds. I think there are a lot of people who try to straddle the line between two worlds. I'd like to think that shapeshifters make great examples of those who manage to do so successfully, and give people a chance to see that even if they're conflicted about being part of two different worlds, it is possible to reconcile them.

### **Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it?**

"Under A Hunter's Moon (Shadows Over Seattle: Prequel 1)" is the first of the introductory short stories, that precede the release of the novels. Each story will follow a significant event of a character from the novel, and can be read as a standalone piece, or as a way to learn more about the characters and what shaped them.

"Richard Parsons is a lupine, one of the many breeds of shape-shifters living in Seattle. Mortal legends of his kind call them werewolves. When a traveling exhibition returns to Seattle, Richard takes a night time visit, with plans that go beyond seeing a particular display. However, he is unprepared for the memories and emotions that come flooding back."

### **What type of people/readers do you market your books to?**

I try to market to people who already have at least a passing familiarity with the urban fantasy genre, or an interest in shapeshifters. Because there is a mix of action and character-driven stories, those are the kinds of

readers I hope will really enjoy these stories. Anyone who is already familiar with writers like Jim Butcher, and Neil Gaiman should have an easy time getting into these stories.

### **Where can we buy your books?**

“Under A Hunter’s Moon (Shadows Over Seattle: Prequel 1)” is available as a short story, or in its original release in the “Moon Shadows” Halloween anthology. “Shifting Dreams” (a 100 word drabble) appears in Spooky Halloween Drabbles 2014. “Evaline Transcendent” is available in the “Across the Karman Line” anthology.

### **Who are your favourite authors?**

Neil Gaiman, Terry Pratchett, Douglas Adams, Jim Butcher, J.K. Rowling, Michael Crichton, Dean Koontz, Ariel Marie, Jackie Ivie, Robert R. McCammon

### **Links**

Website : <http://timothybatesonauthor.weebly.com>

Facebook : <http://facebook.com/timothy.bateson.3>

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

Google+ : <https://plus.google.com/+timothybatesonauthor>

### **How long does it take you to write your first draft?**

First drafts are always a difficult thing to define since a lot of my short stories have originated from the novel I started writing. On average, it’ll take me maybe a week to complete a short story, from concept to first draft. On the other hand, “Of Wolves and Men”, my first novel, has taken close to six years to reach the point it has. It’s far from a finished first draft, and has been abandoned several times before completing the story. And I never consider anything a new draft until I’ve actually completed a previous one.

### **Do you write in 1st or 3rd person, or have you do both?**

The “Shadows Over Seattle” stories are all written in first person, because that’s how my wife wrote the first draft of “A Rose By Any Other Name”, the novel that started me back down the path to writing my own stories. It’s also the format I find easiest to write, because I tend to immerse myself in the characters as much as possible. However, when I wrote my science-fiction short story, “Evaline Transcendent”, I wrote it in third person format, because it just leant itself to the story better.

### **How do you edit your work?**

I’m a terrible first-draft editor. If I let myself, I’d pick and scratch at every choice of words, sentence structure, and plot point until I was left with a bleeding mass of corrections that might, or might not ever heal itself into a full story. In order to finish anything, I’ve had to reign myself in, and work on the outline, then leave it for a week before I read it over. Then I sit down to work on the first draft, and once completed, I go back and read it in full. I make notes as I read, about plot points, things that I might need to clarify, stuff that doesn’t make sense or is contradictory, but never the grammar or spelling. Once I have the story hammered into shape, then I go back and check spelling, grammar, punctuation and over-used words.

### **How do you promote your writing?**

Honestly, my self-promotion is very minimal. I do some promotion through my blog, YouTube, Twitter, Google+ and Facebook, but it’s a very limited audience. But I have been involved in a lot of promotional work for others, as well as taking part in some organized events, such as podcasts, discussion panels, and even online conventions, like the Brain to Books Cyber Convention that happens every April. These events allow me to reach out to other authors, and even their readers in ways that simple advertising simply can’t. And I’ve learned a lot along from my fellow authors, including the power of video trailers.

### **What is your first book and what do you think of it now?**

“Under A Hunter’s Moon” came about because I wanted to write a novel, and the main character’s backstory kept trying to intrude on the plot. So I wrote it down, and put it aside. Then when I heard about a submission deadline for the “Moon Shadows” Halloween anthology, I submitted it, and was accepted. Going through the editorial process taught me a lot about my writing style, how to edit, and how to inject emotion into my work. I look back on the story, and the feedback I’ve had from some of those who’ve read it, and the only thing I would change is the length. I’ve had so many people tell me that the story doesn’t seem long enough, but it left them wanting to know more – which is definitely a good thing for a first timer.

*Be careful of what you say and do in life, you never know who's watching  
Gil Swanson from 'Darkness Awaits.' by Mark McQuillen*

**THIS QUOTE BY MARK CAN NOW BE FOUND AT QUOTE MASTER ☞**

## **###Recipe of the Month from Ani Manjikian**

### **PASTITSIO – GREEK MACARONI PIE**

Ingredients 235 grams dry elbow macaroni(reserve the pasta water)  
2 tbsp olive oil  
1 large onion diced  
2 garlic cloves  
500 grams lean lamb mince  
300 ml reserved pasta water  
3/4 lamb stock cube  
2 tsp tomato puree  
1 tsp cumin seeds toasted and ground  
1 tsp ground cinnamon  
1 tbsp chopped fresh mint  
56 grams unsalted butter 50 grams plain flour  
135 grams plain yogurt  
125 ml milk  
130 grams mature cheddar cheese grated, and divided Sea salt Freshly ground black pepper

This recipe is a favourite of Ani and comes from the following website:

<http://www.elizabethskitchendiary.co.uk/2015/03/pastitsio-greek-macaroni-pie.html/>

Elizabeth has many wonderful recipes you may enjoy, so please go take a look ☞

#### **Instructions**

Preheat the oven to 190 C/ 375 F. Bring a pan of salted water to the boil and cook the macaroni according to the package instructions, until al dente. About 8 minutes. Drain the pasta in a colander and pour over plenty of cold water to stop the cooking process. Set aside.

Meanwhile, heat the oil in a saute pan. Gently saute the onion and garlic for 8-10 minutes, until softened. Add the lamb mince, season well with salt and pepper, and cook until browned all over.

Mix the lamb stock cube with the pasta water to make a lamb stock, and pour into the lamb mixture along with the ground spices, tomato puree and chopped mint. Simmer, gently, for 10-15 minutes, until the mixture

is thick. Heat the butter in a small saucepan until melted and beginning to bubble. Stir in the flour and cook for one minute, stirring constantly.

Remove from the heat and whisk in the milk and yogurt. Return to the heat and cook gently for a further five minutes. Remove from the heat again and stir in half of the grated cheddar. Mix the cooked macaroni with the cheese sauce and spoon half of the mixture into the bottom of a medium sized baking dish. Spoon over the spiced lamb mince and top with the remaining macaroni. Sprinkle with the remaining grated cheddar. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes, or until the top is golden and bubbly. Serve with a side salad!

### **Recipe Notes**

Average calorie content (for those counting!) is approximately 600 if serving six.

## **###Nikki Belaire – Indie Author**

### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

That's a dangerous question! LOL! I'm from the south so I talk too much, laugh too loud, and drink more than I should. But, I always have a great time doing all three! :) :)

### **What brought you to the world of writing?**

My characters wouldn't stop talking to me. LOL! So one winter when the roads were too bad to escape I started typing. A year later, I had a book published by Secret Cravings Publishing.

### **What is your first book and what do you think of it now?**

My first book is Wine & Whiskey and I still love it. The characters are extra special to me because they've been with me the longest.

### **What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your reader's needs?**

I write romantic suspense so lots of danger and emotional angst. It seems like most readers like it. A few aren't fans of insta-love or the excessive swearing by my mobsters. LOL! But that's okay. There are plenty of books for everyone to find ones they enjoy! :)

### **How long does it take you to write your first draft?**

Usually about six months. I edit as I write so my first draft is also my final. I just can't seem to produce the story any other way.

### **Do you plot or not, if so why?**

In my mind but not on paper. LOL!

### **Do you write in 1st or 3rd person, or have you do both?**

My first four books are in third person. But my current WIP is a bit darker and needs to be first person to give it the depth it deserves.

### **What type of people/readers do you market your books to?**

Anyone who loves bad boys with guns and power. LOL!

### **Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Published?**

My first two books published with Secret Cravings Publishing. Once they closed down, I self-published the next two. I've loved learning all aspects of the business from doing it myself.

### **Where can we buy your books?**

All four are on Amazon.

Wine & Whiskey - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B015AICL12>

Wine & Whiskey: Everything for You - <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B015AF43PC>

Truth About Tequila - <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01CCG0694>

Truth About Tequila: Believe in Me - <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01MDN7BKN>

### **Who are your favourite authors?**

I'm totally fangirling T.M. Frazier and A Zavarelli right now.

## **###Recently Released Books**

### **A Message from Freedom by Lea LaRuffa**

A heartfelt page turner; of life, and loss, of love, and living in the shadows of others. About the life of Adam; a man who had endured his share of neglect growing up, and his attempt to preserve his family; a family which is killed by the hand of an incompetent doctor. His retaliation leads him to imprisonment, potentially for a lifetime. Life is meant to be lived, and enjoyed. But when your life, your family is taken away, the vindictive part of us takes over. Adam enters yet another phase of his life, and creates another family; a special and unique family. One capable of things no one else is capable of. This leads Adam to create the perfect environment and surroundings for his family. And for a while life seems blissful. A bird named Freedom is introduced to his life; Freedom, a celestial bird capable of bringing messages to and from the dead. After he endures the murder of his family once again, he takes it upon himself to find the assassins and becomes one himself. It isn't until he almost loses the last surviving members of his family that he realizes he had lost himself in the process. And that leads him to the final chapter of his life; the chapter of religion and the discovery of his roots.

### **Wandering Spirits Volume 1**

This is a lovely Anthology of five authors this is one of them

#### **HAUNTED HEARTS by Kim Cox**

(Lana Malloy Paranormal Mystery Series, Book 1)

Two ghosts, a hysterical neighbor and the handsome nephew of her aunt's fiancé and you get a mix bag of comical events. Lana Malloy embarks on a new career as a private investigator. She must solve the forty-year-old murder of her great aunt and her great aunt's fiancé or they will remain Haunted Hearts.

### **Chicanery by Barbara Chioffi**

What finds you in the night?

Chicanery is a collection of eight horror tales, each with a little bit of underhanded deceit and enough of the macabre to have you looking over your shoulder.

Who knows what awaits us as we go about our daily lives, unaware of what exists alongside us. In these tales, you will find a bit of betrayal, a snippet or two of terror, and a lot of comeuppance. Oh, and a good dose of helpful spirits.

### **Atlantis – A New Beginning by Lisa Kurlow**

Prince of Atlantis, Kyrian, has moved to his new kingdom in the Amazon with his soon to be queen, Yew'Il. He wants to begin his new life with his lady love and live happily ever after, but evil forces have other plans for Kyrian and Yew'Il and their new friends, Shea and Leode. Their happily ever after is interrupted by heart-wrenching threats to their love and their new home that will leave you shaken.

Many Atlanteans are gifted with impressive powers of the mind and the ability to create, conjure, shape shift, and heal; yet some choose to serve the Darkness by using their gifts to increase their own power. As a result, terror and sickness return to reign over the land.

Shea, Kyrian's servant, and friend, uses his final gift to save the world as they know it. In that process, the whereabouts of some of the Atlanteans is realized. Can they come together to keep their race alive, or will the once great empire be doomed to fall yet again?

### **Dragon Moon by Julie Nicholls**

Save the dragons, unite the races, no sweat.

I'm nineteen and wish I had a clue about my future. Instead of my own bed, this morning I woke in the strange land of Lur Neval. My name is Scarlett, but the Nevalese call me Dragon Mage. Seems it's my job to preserve the all-important dragons and oh, while I'm here, bring peace to the warring clans. Piece of cake if I can outwit Madoc, the manipulative, evil seer who wants every dragon destroyed. Whatever it takes, I'm here to fulfill my destiny under the light of the Dragon Moon.

Find out why the dragon mage is so important to the people of Lur Neval by reading *Dragon Moon*, an exciting teen & young adult fantasy by Julie Nicholls.

### **Zeeka's Ghost by Brenda Mohammed**

Swift. Silent. Ghostly.

Zeeka's Ghost appears to Steven and he feels the ghost has evil intentions. Coupled with that, Steven discovers that he and Mandy are the targets of unknown enemies and their lives are at stake.

Steven must find a way to hunt down and apprehend these ruthless maniacs and save his beloved wife. Is

Zeeka's Ghost here to harm or help?

Zeeka's Ghost is the fourth story in the series *Revenge of Zeeka*.

*Revenge of Zeeka: Horror Trilogy* received a five-star seal from Readers Favorite International in September 2016.

### **The Mystery of Priory Mansion by Nathalie M L Romer**

For years the house at the end of the street stood empty. However, one evening as Lucas Cayton is walking past the house walking his dog, he hears sounds coming from inside the building.

Curiosity gets the better of him and he quickly fetches his flashlight and enters the house.

He expects to find the house empty, abandoned and in a bad state of repair, but evidence shows that it is actually still occupied. By whom it is occupied and why the individual or individuals would not want themselves to be seen is puzzle the young man sets out to solve. In the process Lucas discovers a long buried past about the house that causes turmoil in the neighbourhood he lives in.

A past that had better stay buried and undiscovered.

### **The Wintered Heart by T E Hodden**

A rock and roll fairy tale for the modern age.

It is a few years since Blake's suffered too many hits at once. His one great love met a smarter, richer, far more handsome man on a hen party abroad, and at a charity party somebody slips him a drug, with tragic consequences.

Now his waking life is haunted by dreams with a mind of their own. A silent, fairy tale maiden, complete with a retinue of cute critters and a love of dancing is a constant companion, that nobody else can see.

Now a face from his past is stepping back into his record shop, looking for a second chance at friendship. She brings with her a mess of trouble, and a chance at unexpected love, with the girl of Blake's dreams.

### **Heart of Winter by James Hartley**

This creepy winter story is about a young girl, Enid Waters, who arrives at St Francis' School in the middle of a violent storm. Welcomed by the headmaster, Enid soon finds that the school in the middle of nowhere contains eerie, powerful forces. Instead of feeling afraid, the young girl feels at home for the first time in her life. And so does the magic which resides in the old buildings.

Heart of Winter is a short story which introduces you to the world of St Francis' School, scene of an upcoming series of Young Adult Books by James Hartley. It forms the prequel to *The Invisible Hand*, a novel due to be published by Lodestar Books in February 2017.

This disquieting, gothic tale is for readers who have a taste for the macabre.

Look closely at the School in the cover. Do you see yourself there? Or Enid, perhaps? Waiting for you...

### **Misty Eyes by Paul Williams**

It has been two years since Hal the Dark Poet escaped the Misty Eyes Asylum and nothing has been heard or seen of him since. The eerie building still exists, but has become rundown and forgotten, and The Warden, still harbouring the injuries given to him by the Dark Poet, has become as crazy as the inmates of the Asylum.

The city has changed over the last few years, as a major development company builds a new future and plan for Norwich all under the watchful eye of Megalomaniac and Billionaire Chris Nipples. Residents are forced from their homes all for the vision of the future, and those that oppose this vision are dealt with by any means necessary...

Somewhere in America, a middle-aged man quietly sits on a balcony drinking fine wine, but his peaceful retirement is about to come to a bloody end that leads him back into the sights of a new foe and the sights of an old friend.

Meanwhile, the crazed lovesick killer Kirsten searches for her Dark Poet, taking a path of death and murder to reach her true love. But, will she find him before a crazed vigilante, who has been paid by an unknown source to track and kill the Dark Poet, gets his hands on him first?

### **Emerald by C G Blade**

Pseudosynth Press would like to welcome you to the artificially induced world of Emerald, the third Trinity Series novel in our Pseudoverse. Hell hath no fury like Thirty-Five Women scorned. This psychotic novel delves into the circuit of the Pseudosynths and gives you a glimpse into a very satirical world of deceit, distrust, and programming run amok.

Xanthe Thirty-Three begins tracking the sexy but deadly Twins. The information she learns along the way will take your breath away as she ultimately finds out who, and what, she really is. Will humanity finally become STEADY? Tropa is all around us now as Heliotrope starts to take shape.

Join us in one wild mysterious ride along with a child who is as cute as she is eye opening. More importantly, this novel advances and blends an unsympathetic AI with subtle hints of a fondness for all humans missing a Y chromosome. We hope you enjoy this little 'slice' of science fiction heaven!

### **Ghostly Writes Anthology 2016**

Enter the chilling Ghostly Writes Anthology for 2016 and be prepared to be scared with 27 short stories from around the world.

Creepy houses, murder mysteries, paranormal, sci-fi and much more to haunt and thrill you. What are you waiting for?

*I love crime, I love mysteries, and I love ghosts.*

*Stephen King*

*From 'Unbidden.' by Rae Armantrout*

*The ghosts swarm.*

*They speak as one person.*

*Each loves you.*

*Each has left something undone...*

*Website <https://www.poets.org/poets org/text/poems-about-ghosts>*

*A poem is a naked person... Some people say that I am a poet.*

*Bob Dylan*

## **###Victoria Zigler - Indie Author**

### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

My name is Victoria Zigler, but feel free to call me Tori. I'm a blind poet and children's author who was born and raised in the Black Mountains of Wales, UK, and is now living on the South-East coast of England, UK, in a town near Hastings. I spend a lot of time in fictional worlds; some created by me, others created by other authors. When I remember to spend some time in the real world, it's mostly to spend time with my hubby and pets, though sometimes to indulge in other interests that capture my attention from time to time, such as doing crafts, listening to music, watching movies, playing the odd figure game or roleplaying game, and doing a little cooking and baking.

### **What brought you to the world of writing?**

I've been writing ever since I knew how. I fell in love with the written word as soon as I was old enough to understand what it was, and have always spent most of my spare time either reading or writing.

### **What is your first book and what do you think of it now?**

My answer to this question is different depending on whether you want the actual first publication, or my first published story. The first thing I published was a collection of poems, which I'm still pleased with the contents of, but worry about the cover on. The first story I published was the first in my "Magical Chapters Trilogy" and re-reading it I can see several places where I could have improved upon the story. However, I'm a firm believer in leaving them alone once they're published, and generally only release updated versions if I need to change the back matter, so I'll just consider both a learning experience, and move on. I mean, your first books are always learning experiences, aren't they?

**What type of books do you write and do they fulfil your reader's needs?**

I mainly write children's stories, but have also written a few poetry books. To date I've contributed a story to a sci-fi and fantasy anthology, published more than 40 children's stories across various genres (mainly fairy tales, fantasy stories, animal stories, or some combination of those three, though not exclusively) and published seven poetry collections, with plenty of ideas for more to come in the future. As for fulfilling the readers' needs... Well... Those people who have taken the time to write reviews for me generally seem to enjoy them, so I guess they must.

**Would you like to feature a book, if so which one? Tell us about it?**

I'd like to feature "Eadweard – A Story Of 1066" which is the story I wrote to celebrate the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, and published on October 14th 2016 – the actual date of the anniversary. It tells the story of a young lad named Eadweard who allows his daydreams of becoming a great war hero to overcome his fear of the punishment he'll get when his Father learns his orders to remain home were disobeyed, and joins the ranks of men marching to fight in the battle, along with his best friend, Cerdic. It tells the story of the battle itself, while also telling the story of how Eadweard learned that war isn't the amazing adventure he'd dreamed it would be. The book is recommended for ages eight and above, since scenes of violence make it unsuitable for younger, or more sensitive, readers.

**How long does it take you to write your first draft?**

You know the saying, "How long is a piece of string?" That's the easy answer. It's tricky to give a proper answer for this question. I generally work on more than one project at a time, and how much time I devote to working on each at any given time depends on how I'm feeling, which one I'm feeling most inspired to work on, what else is going on in my life at the time, whether I specifically want to complete one in time for a certain date so make myself focus on that one, and whether I have to interrupt the writing of the first draft in order to look something up or can leave the research work until I'm writing the second draft.

The length of the story will also make a difference to how quickly the first draft can be written. I once wrote an entire first draft in one afternoon, but that only happened once, and that story is a special one; the story I did that with was the final book in my "Kero's World" series, and was my way of saying my final goodbye to my beloved Westie, who the series is based on. Anyway, if I had to guess, I'd say it takes me anywhere between a week and two months to write a first draft, depending on all the factors mentioned earlier in this paragraph.

**How do you edit your work?**

I leave it alone for a while and go work on something else. My stories go through several rewriting and editing phases, and I set them aside for at least a few days between each stage, working on other stories during that time. It takes longer to deal with rewrites and edits than it does to actually write the stories. My poems are set aside until I'm ready to put them together in to a new collection to publish, and then get an edit to check for obvious issues before publication; I don't like to change my poetry more than necessary from how it was first written.

**What type of people/readers do you market your books to?**

In the case of my stories, it's mainly children and the young at heart, especially those who enjoy animal stories, fantasy stories, and fairy tales or fairy tale retellings. In the case of my poetry, it's generally anyone who loves poetry, regardless of their age. My stories have been enjoyed by young children and adults alike, and as a general rule, my books are suitable for anyone old enough to read and understand them without the aid of illustrations, though there are a couple of exceptions (all of which have content warnings as part of their book descriptions). I market my books with this in mind. At least, I try to.

**Do you self-publish or have you worked with an Agent/Publisher?**

I self-publish, because I don't play well with others. No, seriously, I self-publish because I like having the freedom to create my own deadlines, and write what I want, when I want. Plus, since my health isn't all that

fantastic, having only self-imposed deadlines makes it easier for me to avoid the feeling of having potentially disappointed others if I find myself needing to extend the deadlines for any reason. Well, there is the matter of my fans, but I'm careful not to give out exact details for progress reports and planned publication dates until I can be 100% certain of them, which I hope avoids causing them any disappointment.

### **Where can we buy your books?**

My books are available as eBooks and paperbacks. The eBooks are published via Smashwords, and are available from them in all formats they offer, as well as from all retailers they distribute to, including Barnes & Noble, Apple iBooks, Kobo, and several others. The paperbacks are published via CreateSpace in 16pt font, and are available from CreateSpace themselves, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and any other places that sell – or have the option for you to request that they sell – books published via CreateSpace. Both formats are also available to order from libraries that buy their books from CreateSpace, assuming the libraries in question buy them (which some will do on request).

### **Links**

<http://www.zigler.co.uk>

<http://www.goodreads.com/toriz>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Victoria-Zigler/424999294215717>

<http://www.twitter.com/victoriazigler>

<http://ziglernews.blogspot.co.uk>

### **Do you have any more information you'd like to share with us?**

Visually impaired readers may be interested to know that among the books I've written that aren't animal stories, fantasy stories, or fairy tales, you will find my "Toby's Tales" series, which is a series about a little boy's struggles to adjust after sight loss. The series is based on some of my own experiences, as well as those of my brother (who is also blind) and is designed to both show those dealing with the same issues that they are not alone, and educate the friends and family of visually impaired people about how frustrating and scary it can be when you find yourself in similar situations, and how much even small things can make a difference to giving a visually impaired person some independence back, or helping them to feel included in situations where they might otherwise feel excluded due to their sight issues.

## **###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!**

**PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THIS CHARITY!**