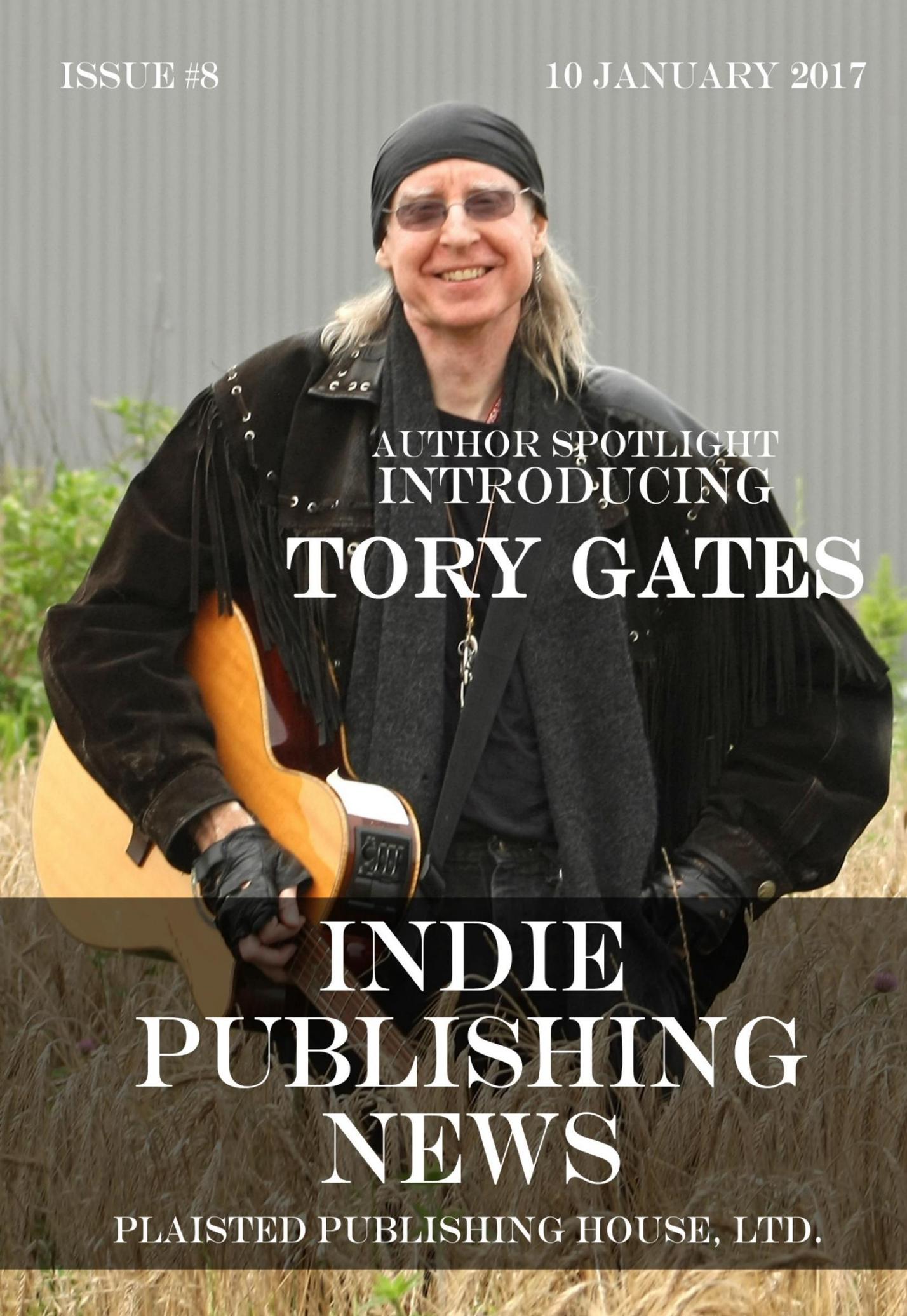


ISSUE #8

10 JANUARY 2017



AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT  
INTRODUCING  
**TORY GATES**

**INDIE  
PUBLISHING  
NEWS**

PLAISTED PUBLISHING HOUSE, LTD.

# Happy New Year from the Editor's Desk



Welcome to the New Year Edition of Indie Publishing News Magazine. We are happy to have you with us as we begin to roll through 2017. A new year, new ideas, new projects and some subjects you can enhance your education –

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.

Next month we will be opening our Sponsorship to Indie Authors. We will have several categories this year with one overall winner. The genre will be FANTASY. The word count will be 90K. More about this in next months magazine.

Ghostly Writes Anthology was a huge success. Due to this we are running a Ghostly Writes with a Romance criteria ready to publish for Valentines. Submissions need to be in by 27<sup>th</sup> January. There will be a \$5 USD entry cost. If you wish to know more please join our Ghostly Writes group [here](#)

This year in our Magazine we will be taking Flash Fiction 500 submission. All you need to do is email them to me with FF500 in the title of the email. We are also opening submissions to Educational Information for Indie Authors, be it editing, marketing, sales, book covers, contracts, awards etc. If you have items you wish to discuss please email us. We're happy to help promote you to promote those learning curves.

The next stage is opening a page for letter. You know like you have in magazine. We will call it **Question Time or Ask Abby type page**. If you have a query or need advice, please email us and maybe we can get an answer.

Also thoughts on the magazine. What can we improve? What would you like to see more of and what do you enjoy the most?

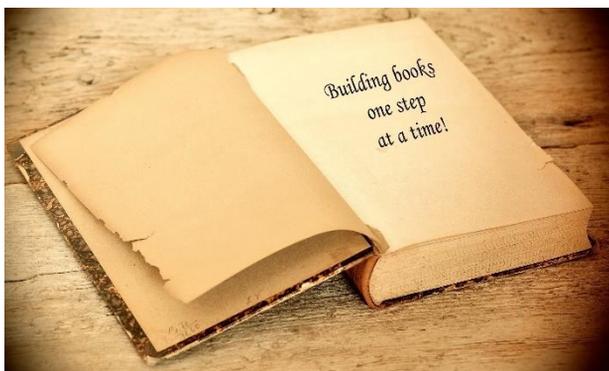
PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SHARE THIS MAGAZINE TO YOUR EMAIL GROUPS. THIS HELPS EXTEND THE REACH OF ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUP. FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FANS MAY FIND A NEW AUTHOR TO READ. AUTHORS MAY FIND THE RIGHT EDITOR, BOOK COVER ARTIST ETC.

SHARING IS CARING. THE FURTHER THIS MAGAZINE GOES, THE MORE INPUT WE GET, THE BETTER OUR MAGAZINE WILL BE., THE BETTER YOUR PROMOTION WILL BE. AT THIS STAGE THE MAGAZINE GOES TO:

ENGLAND, UNITED STATES, CANADA, INDIA, EUROPE, ISRAEL, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, NETHERLANDS, FIJI. WALES, SCOTLAND

IF YOU DON'T WISH TO FORWARD THE MAGAZINE THEN PLEASE FORWARD THE SIGN UP LINK FOR READERS – AND WE WILL SEND THE MAGAZINE TO THEM FOR YOU.

THANKS

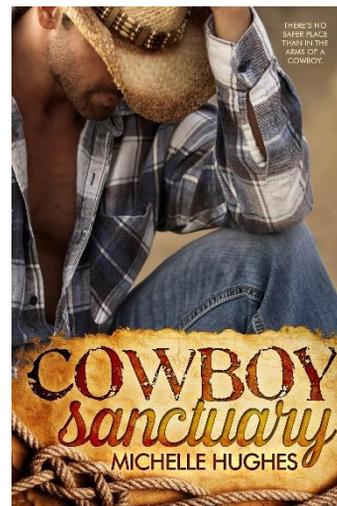


***Helping Indie Authors get their books published professionally***

# The Kindle Scout Journey – Michelle Hughes

Thank you for allowing me to share my journey on obtaining a Kindle Scout Publishing contract with my book, *Cowboy Sanctuary*. This started at the end of October 2016, after I'd written a 73,000 + word manuscript. I'd never written a contemporary western romance, and had no idea how to promote this to my current readers. My normal genre is romance, but new adult/college. I was searching on the internet and accidentally ran across Kindle Scout. Apparently, this has been around for some time, but I'd never heard of it. After reading the requirements, I decided to try it.

Kindle Scout offers a \$1500 advance, and pays out 50% royalties on every eBooks sold, and you retain the paperback rights. What really caught my attention was the promise of promotion through Amazon. Any writer knows that promotion is never easy, but having a powerhouse like Amazon taking care of that? It was a no-brainer for me. I submitted my book, book cover, and blurb with a tag-line. After two days, I received an email back saying I was accepted for a nomination.



This is where the fun began. You have thirty days to get as many nominations as possible. I used my twitter, Facebook, and mailing list, encouraging them to vote for my book. It truly was like an American Idol audition for books, and I enjoyed that process. It helped that everyone that voted would receive my book free if my book was chosen for a contract. That was the premise I used to spread the words to my social media contacts. I haven't done the "free book" spiel since early in my writing career, which I think helped somewhat. To take a back step I've been self-publishing my books since 2009, and this was my twenty-first book.

After thirty days of promotion on the Kindle Scout site, my nomination period was over. Within a week of that campaign ending, I was sent an email stating my book had been chosen. Two days after that email came with a contact for my Kindle Scout 'agent' and another email from Kirkus telling me they were currently working on my edits and would send me those edits two weeks later. I admit I'm excited about Kirkus handling the editing portion of this on the Kindle Press dime. I filled out separate tax information from what I normally use with KDP, but that process was painless.

So, what's next? After I receive the edits, I decide which parts to keep or not. A pre-order page will be put up and anyone that voted for my book will receive it prior to it being released to the general public. I'm keeping a tab on this process on my new blog for *Cowboy sanctuary* at [www.authormichellehughes.com](http://www.authormichellehughes.com) if you'd like to keep up with the next steps. A little more about the book to follow.

**Blurb:** Dana Waterfield's well-organized life gets tipped upside down when the brutal murder of her twin sister Danielle threatens to unravel everything she's worked so hard to achieve. Having found herself the sole guardian of her sister's newborn lovechild, Jeremy, and at the receiving end of her ex-brother-in-law's unchecked rage, Dana flees to the safety of Dixon Ranch and the strong, muscled arms of Brock Dixon. In order to protect the baby from the wrath of Danielle's husband and murderer, Dana must assimilate into the daily routine of ranch life, and rethink who she really is. When the wrath of a madman threatens the life of her nephew and everything she holds dear, will Dana put her trust in Brock or let the winds of change tear her family apart?

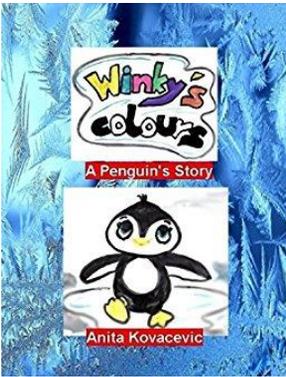
Falling for her sister's lover was never part of the plan, but there's something about a cowboy that no woman can resist. After all, the safest place to be is in a cowboy's arms...  
Outside of the new website you can follow me here:

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/michellehughes](http://www.twitter.com/michellehughes)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/authormichellehughes](http://www.facebook.com/authormichellehughes)  
Blog: [www.tearsofcrimson.com](http://www.tearsofcrimson.com)

# Indie Author Reviews

## Winky's Colours: A Penguin's Story

By Anita Kovacevic



“Winky's Colours: A Penguin's Story” is not only adorable but also a wise book.

Firstly, Winky, the penguin is adorable. He is just so cute, I would wish he'd be available as a stuffed animal. But, all cuteness aside, Kovacevic's book raises an interesting question, which I have never read before in a children's book, “... Can you imagine living somewhere where everything is mostly black-and-white?...”

I guess most children have never thought about this question and therefore will be eager to ‘accompany’ Winky on his journey to find colors.

Besides being educational, in Winky's world “... are no rainbows there, because it never rains – it's too cold...” this beautiful story tells about friendship, environmental problems, and how to solve them. Since the author is a teacher, she has added useful questions at the end of each chapter, which parents and teachers can use to engage their children even more than only reading this adorable story will.

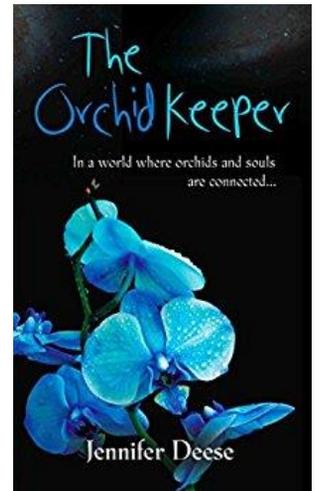
Beautiful, love it. 5 stars coming from my heart! I hope Winky will have more adventures and publish them.

**Gisela Hausmann, author & blogger.**

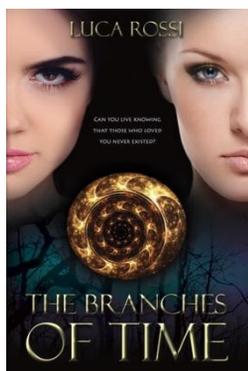
## The Orchid Keeper by Jennifer Deese

Reviewed by Swiftwater

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 in clearly states 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.



## The Branches of Time by Luca Rossi

This is a wonderful read. I truly enjoyed the way the author brought to life a world outside of our own. The characters were believable and easy to imagine. The way Rossi describes scenes allows the reader to easily visualize the settings.

I love alter world stories and this literary achievement by Luca has confirmed my reasons for loving them. The storyline sailed along with fluidity and detail that does not bog the reader down. I look forward to the next installment!!!!

Reviewed by Jennifer Deese

## Stake-Out by Lily Luchesi

### Dual Review with Annette Huss

You think anything not human is an enemy. You kill first and ask questions never. Not every paranormal creature is evil..."

Our Thoughts: (Please note that this is a dual review.)

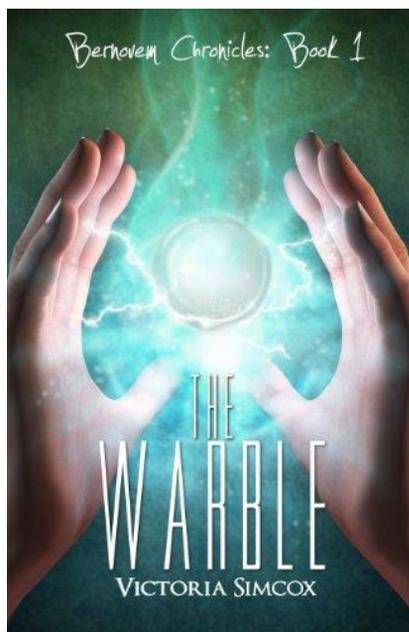
Lily Luchesi has created a story full of paranormal thrills, including vampires, werewolves, witches, hunters, supernatural powers, danger, heartbreak, excitement, and a devastating love story! What more can a girl ask for? All of our favorite things were combined into one story. From page one, the novel held our attention, and our breath caught as we read the last page. It can easily be agreed upon that vampire lore has been heavily explored these past several years, but we believe that "Stake-Out" holds its own. The characters were kick-butt and intriguing, creating both a strong atmosphere and reading experience.

Angelica added a depth to the story and proudly represented females everywhere. C and I have an extremely hard time finding female characters that we actually enjoy reading about. Too many of them are whiny, unpleasant, indecisive, passive, or are just blind followers. Others have low self-esteem or retain this complex where they think they need a man to rescue them instead of saving themselves. Now, we're not saying that these are terrible qualities or characteristics that lesson someone's worth; it's just that they are often qualities that are exploited or implemented so frequently that a girl seems weak. Angelica was just the opposite, though. She a true breath of fresh air. Angelica Cross can easily be described as headstrong and independent. However, she also doesn't fit in among humans or supernatural creatures extremely well, a fact that she doesn't let bring her down.

There were quite a few elements that made "Stake-Out" unique for us. For one, there were several lovely references to the fantastic show "Supernatural". (Cue the fangirling!) There were also quotes/lyrics at the beginning of each chapter. This made for a distinctive reading experience, smoothly setting the mood and tone for the pages it was representing. The flashbacks were also a favorite of ours. Yes, it was easy for us to guess Angelica's secret before it was revealed, but this surprisingly didn't ruin the story for us in any way.

If you're looking for a quick, satisfying paranormal read, "Stake-Out" is the perfect book for you! There were great characters, backstories, and romance. Lily Luchesi has won two fans today, and we eagerly anticipate the sequel!

\*Please note that we received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review. Our thoughts were in no way influenced and are strictly our own.\*



### The Warble (The Bernovem Chronicles Book 1) By Victoria Simcox

#### Reviewed by Tom Fallwell

The Warble is a delightful tale that is filled with fun and adventure, for any age. Like a classic children's tale, The Warble reads very easily and the characters are memorable. Fairies, gnomes, you name it. This story has it all. The heroine is a young girl, a seeming outcast, yet with a true hero's heart. This is the kind of story you can read to your children in the evenings. I highly recommend this book to all fantasy lovers, of any age. Well written, and action-packed, and adventure for the whole family.

2017  
happy new year

# **One Night in Tehran**

## **By Ms Ehrlich**

### **Reviewed by Pygmy Amazon Reviews**

I bought this book six months before I got around to reading it. I had forgotten why I wanted to read it. I'm glad I did get the book and will buy others of Ms. Ehrlich's Titus Ray series. The protagonist, Titus Ray, is a CIA operative who has to be smuggled out of Iran once his cover is blown. Decisions made and protocols not followed by superiors in competing departments cause the unnecessary loss of lives. Titus dresses down those superiors in his post operation debriefing. The result is a forced medical leave for a year and he is sent to Norman, Oklahoma. Even there he has to remain alert because his life is in danger. Though he is there under his real name he has to treat the experience as a new legend.

I was pleased with the Christian perspective which was prominent, to some extent, but not preachy. Refreshingly honest with the problems new Christians face, particularly when they do not have mentors to following up after their recent acceptance of Christ. The main plot line however revolves around his role as a spy. Ms Ehrlich spun a well developed plot full of action and intrigue accompanied by a realistic portrayal of the struggles of a new Christian. The current political stage around the world was believably woven into the plot with Hezbollah playing a prominent role for the antagonist. Her characters are realistic and I found myself having compassion for Titus when he's afraid he's ruined his career and hasn't a clue what he could possibly do with his life. I had hope that because of his recent conversion that he would finally find a place he could belong. I'm not a romance fan but in this case I really wanted Titus and Nikki to form a romantic bond. Maybe next time, Christian courting is usually a slow process. Nikki is a good support character. She is a strong woman yet has a vulnerability that pushes her to overcome a tainted past and prove herself. Danny is a bit annoying but a good reliable friend who doesn't miss a thing. Carlton is the boss and he plays his part well. A little side story novelette featuring Carlton would be interesting. I'd like to know the story behind the favor he called in near the end of One Night in Tehran.

I enjoyed this novel and though it is part of a series the story can stand alone. There is plenty of room for Titus Ray to appear in many more adventures, certainly I look forward to reading more of this character. Appropriate for spy thriller fans of all ages. Definitely a five star read.

### **Under A Hunters Moon by Timothy Bateson**

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.

"Under A Hunter's Moon" is the first of the "Shadows Over Seattle: Prequel" series, giving readers a chance to meet the characters who will be appearing in the main series. Every story is a snapshot of an event in that character's past, and can be read as a standalone short story, or as part of the series.

#### **Feedback already received:**

"He's building this world that is so amazing."

"If you like wolves, if you like werewolves, if you like that whole conflict of humanity, and conflict within yourself, you're gonna love this book."

"It reminds me of that whole Underworld kind of thing.. balancing of humans and werewolves... It balances out very very well."

"That conflict that is driven into the story. That beautiful story arc that starts off so well.. that builds up to a beautiful crescendo, and then it just drops you and your heart is going to drop when it's time for it. And you're going to feel it. You're going to feel the protagonists pain. You're going to feel everything."

# Author Spotlight – Tory Gates

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

I'm a native of Vermont, and have lived the past 16 years in Pennsylvania. My main career and real first love is broadcasting; I've been mostly in the radio business for over 30 years, and have done just about every job there is to do in it. Currently, I'm the Morning Desk Anchor for the Radio Pennsylvania Network, which provides news, public affairs and sports content to more than 60 stations. I also produce sports programming for iHeartRadio Harrisburg, and host a blues/roots music program, "The Music Club" on the London-based Radio-Airwaves Station. And...I'm a songwriter/guitarist in a folk-rock duo, the Dharma Fools.



**Photo credit to  
Alice Potteiger**

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

I think I've always been writing something, or at least making up stories in my head. Being the youngest in my family, I think I did it to get attention in some ways. It also laid the ground for what I would do as a broadcaster and an author.

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

"Parasite Girls" was self-published in 2013, and is available on Amazon.com, Smashwords and ChateBooks.com – it's contemporary fiction, set mostly in Japan and tells the story of a burned-out journalist trying to remake himself. He reconnects with an old friend in Tokyo, and gets drawn into the lives of people who, for various reasons are tagged as social parasites, because they stay at home, don't get married, and so forth. It's a story about finding yourself again, and dealing with change.

I think it's a good story, still. A departure from what I normally write, which is young adult fiction, but it's a quick read, only four major characters, and I've gotten some really nice compliments about how it dealt with social issues, and also mental illness.

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

I hope they do. I've largely written in a young adult/crossover vein, because I don't like the idea of sharply divided lines for literature. Things you do in one genre, for some reason you can't do in another, which I think is just plain wrong.

The way I write is like this, and it's kind of my mantra: I write about what I want to see, not what others tell you're supposed to see. While some of my work does have some time travel/fantasy/sci-fi elements to it, I do my best to make characters real, relatable and in situations other people can recognize.

My goal is for readers to read my work, and then come back to it. I hope they find a character they recognize or identify with, get to know that one, and understand them. I put a lot of my characters through stuff; when people see what they do, they might realize that their own lives aren't that difficult, and they can overcome their issues, and live better.

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

My current release, "A Moment in the Sun" is on Sunbury Press Books and Amazon. This is kind of the genre I like to write in. It's young adult/crossover, set in Japan and tells the story of Rei, a young woman who has fought her way out of self-isolation and homelessness to return to life. The book examines the hikikomori, which is what the Japanese call "acute social isolation." There are nearly a million people there who, for whatever reason, rarely leave their homes, because they feel they don't or cannot fit in.

Rei had her reasons, which we see in flashbacks. She discovers an online chatroom called the Dwellers, and finds a missing school friend, Sho is one of them.

Rei determines to get him out; on the way, she meets more hikikomori and realizes she has to come to terms with her past before she can really get on with life. Rei and Sho's mutual friends also get brought along in this, and they learn that people live different lives from them, and they need to see what others go through before they can move forward as well.

The book has also been nominated by Chanticleer Reviews for its Dante Rossetti Award for Young Adult Fiction, which I was shocked by, and yet I'm most thrilled. I'm awaiting to see if I make through the knockout rounds.

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

That depends. I often make the mistake of starting to write before I'm ready! Usually I will allow a book to "cook" upstairs in my head for anywhere between three to six months to a year, before I am ready to write. During that time, I'll think through characters, a storyline, and write all that down. I'll do a timeline, and some of these can be many pages long.

Once I start "writing," again it depends. The fastest I've written a draft is two weeks, but usually it takes about one to two months. I try to write one chapter a day, no matter the length.

**Do you plot or not, if so why?** Yes! That is my storyline, my outline, all of the pre-production. I need a basic guideline for what I'm doing, but I never stay with it. I make changes, improvements, and inserts all the way through the process. My edits and rewrites often go through several drafts before I let anyone see them.

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

I almost exclusively write 3rd person. I think that comes from my writing and journalism background, and also I never read much 1st person earlier in my life. I have written one unpublished novel, "Sisters of the Blue and Gray" from 1st person, but that's a way off from being ready.

**How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write?**

I used to just bash out the first draft, and edit later. Now, I'm finding in recent years that I do edit as I go. I'll come up with something for the last scene, and go back, for example, or forget something and have to put it right in now.

Usually, after the first draft, I go right to editing, get one good going-over through it, and then leave it be.

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

I don't like to say as wide an audience as possible, because my stories are not all things to all people, you just can't do that. My work is geared for young adult (13 to 21), but because of the issues they face, those are issues adults face as well. So an older audience can get into my work just as quickly.

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

Sunbury Press is my current publisher. They are an independent based in Mechanicsburg, PA—Larry Knorr is the owner and an author in his own right. He liked "A Moment in the Sun," and we will produce my forthcoming book, "Life from the Café" in 2017. We are also considered another in 2018, which will be the first of the "Sweet Dreams Series," a long collection of young adult/time travel works.

(A short prequel of the SDS is available in the anthology, "Awethology Light.")

**How do you promote your writing?**

Any way I can! Social media is one way I keep people up on the work I'm doing, and also my appearances. I've tried different ways to present my work—I have done readings with music, connected to the Dharma Fools. That has not been a success, because the music tends to override the reading. So I'm flipping that around; my songs (and others) are a key element of my stories at times, so they augment my writing.

**Where can we buy your books?**

The hardest thing has been to get stores, even independent bookstores to stock your work. They only stock what they can sell, and that's a fact of business and life.

You can buy "A Moment in the Sun" at [www.sunburypressstore.com](http://www.sunburypressstore.com) as well as on Amazon.com. "Parasite Girls" is also available through Amazon, Smashwords and ChatEbooks.com.



## Who are your favourite authors?

I have several, who doesn't? It wouldn't work to rank them, so I'll give you those that inspired me in different ways:

J.R.R. Tolkien—I read “The Hobbit” and “Lord of the Rings” when I was nine and ten, respectively, long before they became fashionable, thank you very much! Tolkien's imagination, and his lack of boundaries showed how much work you really need to do to make a place like Middle Earth work. He created his own universe, something I don't think anyone will ever be able to do again.

Douglas Reeman—He wrote a long series of novels, primarily about the Royal Navy and World War II, but he did write from other navies, and wars. They fascinated me, because the characters were real, all a bit rough, and almost none of them came from supposedly heroic backgrounds.

His novels focused on the workhorse vessels that fought in combat, mini-sub, motor torpedo boats, clapped-out steamers turned into fighting ships, and so forth. The realism got me, and showed a lot of possibilities.

Gabriel Garcia-Marquez—His “One Hundred Years of Solitude” is an example of a very long, powerful and all-consuming writing process. Descriptives, that just go on, but never make you feel bored, an eye for color and a mastery of language that captivates you. He also writes about what most of us would think of as taboos, but this is life, this is as he understood life. Reading his work is an experience in itself.

Haruki Murakami—Some of his writing is hard for me to get into, but “South of the Border, West of the Sun” helped me a great deal in writing “A Moment in the Sun.” Normally, I don't let other writers infiltrate my writing, but it served as a book Rei and her friends in her club were reading. It paralleled some of the issues Rei was dealing with, and we find, Sho was also battling.

His writing is also descriptive, mesmerizing, and Murakami is not afraid of writing explicit scenes. They are a part of the experience, and a part of real life. You can't pretend certain things aren't done or don't happen, or you don't have a story.

Edgar Allan Poe—I remember hearing an audio recording of “The Tell-Tale Heart” in middle school, and I immediately loved his writing. His dark, twisted (can I say Gothic?) prism, the death, the devastation, and also the dark intelligence...really amazing. He probably wrote the first real detective stories, such as “Murders in the Rue Morgue,” great stuff. Lou Reed did a musical exploration of Poe's work, “The Raven.” It is something to give a good listen to, and thought.

Sylvia Plath—Her poetry is an example of a woman determined to master the English language, and use it in ways other writers either dared not do, or were ill-equipped to do so. You can tell from many of her works, raw emotion, but refined, fashioned and sometimes kind of forced into a line or stanza, but you can also feel the mental stress that goes into every word.

“The Bell Jar” was an interesting novel, and this, plus Plath's diaries show a very intelligent, amazingly well-read, yet conflicted artist.

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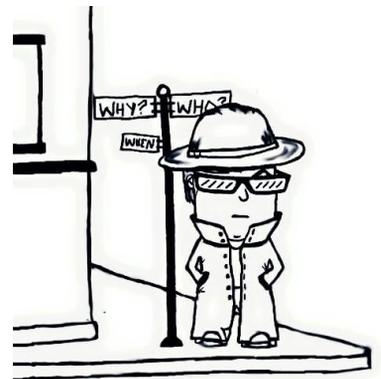
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I had a dream, when I was little, to become a police officer  
and a crime investigator.

Katia Winter



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

Currently, I'm awaiting the proof copy of "Live from the Café," and we'll know in the near future what the release date will look like.

I'm also seeking an indie contract with Something or Other Publishing for my unpublished work, "Drifters: Tales of the Southern Cross." I need 2,000 votes to get a deal. You can vote for me here:

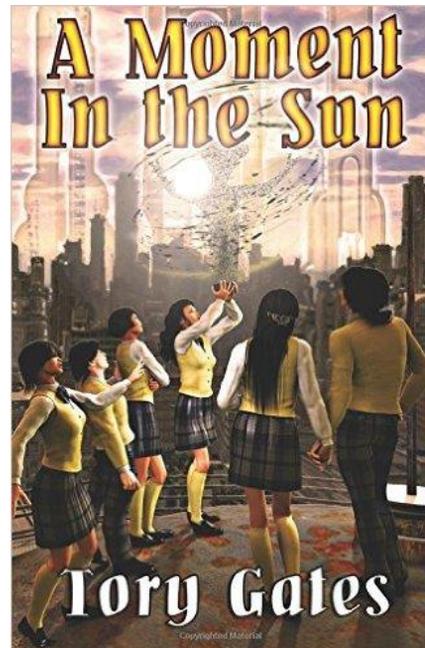
<http://soopllc.com/blog/book-ideas/drifters-tales-southern-cross-tory-gates/#.WGsbIKE9BOc.twitter>

## If I may in closing...

The one thing people ask me is, "How do you write as much as you have? How do you do it?"

What I say is, if you have an idea, don't just talk about it. You have to do it. Think about your idea, write down your ideas, your characters, your plot, your Point A to Point B. When you decide you will write, write. Don't stop writing until that draft is done, no matter how bad it feels to you.

Then when done, get back at it. I just tell people, do it, and don't stop. You will find out so much about yourself as you do. Writing for me is fun, and it's great therapy, which doesn't cost anything.



Mental Health Awareness is something we at Plaisted Publishing House know is an important issue in the world today.

We all know people who suffer from Depression, Bi-Polar, Anxiety and much more. What many don't realise is these conditions are generally part of a large issue. Most people will have other medical conditions.

Be kind and help those you can, when you can. Happy people are sometimes covering up their real feelings... Remember Robin Williams...

# Grandma Peachy's Reviews

## Dragon Lightning by J S Burke

Another amazing story by J. S. Burke. Her stories are about compassion, friendship, dreaming big and striving to accomplish the improbable. In this book three golden dragons and two of their octopus friends embark on an adventure in search of the legendary ice dragons.

I was particularly drawn to the new character, Drakor, in this second book of the series. Coming from a dictator led society, he's introduced to the more open and cooperative society of the golden dragons and that of their octopus friends. He learns much and teaches much in return. The open cooperation of the gold dragons fits Drakor's intelligent and kind-hearted soul.

Drakor is concerned for the safety of his people while the tribe's leadership sees no threat. Risking his own life and personal standing within the tribe, Drakor does what he believes is necessary. With the help of his new friends, he makes a bold attempt to ensure his people survive global changes beginning to take place.

After reading through this second Dragon Dreamer book I am convinced that this author's books would make a great addition to elementary school libraries and classrooms. There is so much education slipped into this fun, youthful, fantasy world. Science and exploration along with environmental issues, cultural diversity and acceptance, charity and generosity, political systems with different leadership structures engaging in cooperative trade agreements and treaties, etc... all in an enjoyable entertaining package of dragons and octopi, with a squid tossed in for good measure. The adventure is expertly penned and draws in even the mature reader.

Burke has a talent for imparting solid moral and ethical values in a delightfully subtle way that would never offend anyone regardless of their beliefs. She skillfully promotes values common to all rational, thinking humans in a way that is almost not noticeable. The older reader recognizes the educational value and the children are introduced to valuable life lessons in a fantasy world full of intriguing adventure and interesting characters. This is a series that I want my grandchildren to read. So, I've bought both books in the series and when there are more in the future I'll be buying those as well. It is my hope that others will want to read these wonderful children's fantasy novels too. I'd recommend the series for 4th grade through middle school readers and as young as first or second grade to be read aloud.

## Rainne's Reviews

### Dragon Lightning by J S Burke

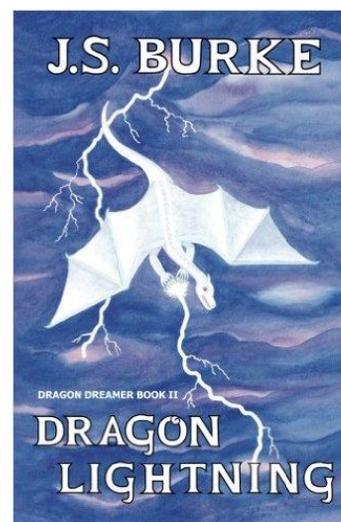
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/0996042563>

I read The Dragon Dreamer last year, and have since been looking forward to reading this, the second book in the series. Now I have to wait 'patiently' for the next.

The wonderful and enchanting story continues as Arak, Scree and their friends set out on more adventures, this time they're looking for Ice Dragons.

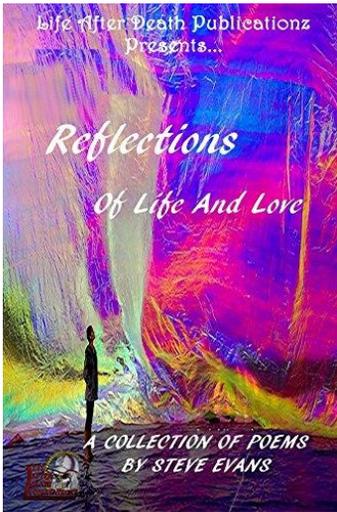
Once again the author blends fact and fantasy in an exciting story which is suitable for both children and adults.

The story is detailed and well written and I found myself immersed within the pages of the book, sharing the experience with the dragons and octopuses.



[BUY LINK](#)

# Poets Corner



## Reflections of Life and Love

**By Steven Evans**

My poems cover everyday issues that we all deal with. I write of pain and loss, of yearning and needing and of heartbreak and confusion.

When I write, I want the reader to be able to lose themselves in the story. I want them to see themselves in each word and to be able to relate.

I tend to go a little more to the darker side of life and love simply because I find it more interesting and easier to hold my attention and hopefully the reader's as well.

Steve

[BUY LINK](#)

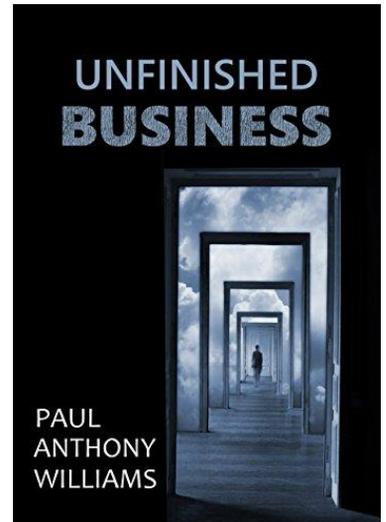
## Unfinished Business

**By Paul Williams**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS is a collection of previously unpublished poetry from fiction author Paul Anthony Williams. It is a collection that ranges from his childhood, through college, and into the present day.

Subjects range from dark moments from his childhood through his school days and the first whispers of love, through to heartbreak and the stress of a disastrous relationship where he fell into the depths of alcohol and depression. He also continues through to secrets of his college days and onto certain special people in his life.

[BUY LINK](#)

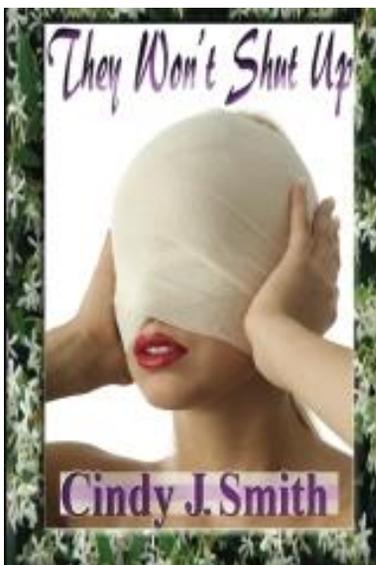


## They Won't Shut Up

**By Cindy Smith**

In this second book of poetry, Cindy's voices continue their relentless sharing of their opinions.

Touching on many of the emotions and life situations humans encounter, they offer their viewpoint in the hopes of finding the path to peace. At the end of the book, Cindy has shared a small section spotlighting the works of her angel daughter, to whom this book is lovingly dedicated for her Birthday.



[BUY LINK](#)

## **Lament of Tonight, Gloat of Daylight**

**By Adhwaith Das**

Forgone are the days,  
Of dateless nights as of  
Insomniac was I,  
Indeed cast away to far past  
Learning new concepts  
To know for a lifetime For now  
I am a new.

Vicarious veteran am I  
With a vestige deep down.  
Not blooming again from dust  
Not lingering about  
To destroy life  
As the world about me is new  
For now I am a new.

Vanished into the deepest corners  
Remaining there till death's sudden call  
Must be the pages of accounts  
Of old woes and sins and life,  
Escaping vexing memoirs  
Of bygone with a wipe,  
For now I am a new.

Quite afresh was the feeling  
Quite a difference was the living.  
But with the same enthusiasm  
Must I endeavour pursuit of change  
For a fresh new feeling  
For a fresh new living.  
For now I am a total new.

#hope #wait #believe

### **Closed Doors**

**By Shefali Banerji**

Why do you always look for an open  
door, my child?

Why do you dishearten yourself when  
the door is closed?

Sometimes all you need is a space in  
the window, my child

or a crack in the wall

to fly away to your dreams.

### **Resolutions by C A Keith**

59...58...57...  
Her heart raced in anticipation.  
56...55...54..  
Palms sweaty.  
53...52...51...  
Pupils constricted.  
Time ticked as swiftly as her quickened pulse.  
20...19...18...  
She had to think fast.  
Her warm hands slipped into her husbands.  
The noise of cheers and voices counting down, deafened  
her.  
She only thought inwards to her own psyche.  
What was her resolutions?  
It was a tough few years.  
All she really wanted was her health and happiness.  
It seemed and easy bargain  
But  
More of a plea...  
Her little girl looked up at her with eyes the colour of  
slate  
and hair lightly wavy and light in colour.  
Her rosy cheeks glowed.  
Her littlun tucked into her mother's arm.  
As the time ticked her heart fluttered.  
Her mouth was parched and dry.  
"Mama?" the little girl screamed.  
4...3...2...1...  
"Happy New Year!" the crowds cheered.  
In an instant her heart stopped.  
Her heart was too weak to stay.  
Her lungs full of fluid.  
Her soul paused and hovered over her body.  
It was time.  
Her pleas could not be answered.  
She looked one more time and flew off.  
Not hearing the audible screams of sadness and anger  
Caused by leaving too soon.  
Beep beep beep...  
Her eyes opened as her body convulsed.  
Her pleas were answered.  
She looked down at her daughter and up at her  
husband.  
She got her second chance.  
She never forgot that day's years ago  
and gave thanks every year since.  
She was the lucky one.  
And she never forgot that.

# Sharon Miller – Indie Author



## **Tell us a bit about yourself and what brought you to the world of writing?**

As an educator for more than forty years, I found many reasons to write, not the least of which was for my own pleasure. After I retired to Southern Arizona, I discovered an affinity with the desert that led me to studying the archaeology and history of the area and discovering real women whose lives were fascinating. As a result, I'm almost finished a three-book historical fiction series with strong female characters. I have plans for other books along the same lines, but they won't be part of this series.

## **Are there books by other writers that have influenced your writing?**

(1) *The Water and the Blood*, by Nancy Turner, explores the racism and small-mindedness of white rural America that, sadly, continues today in all levels of society everywhere.

(2) *The Widow of the South*, by Robert Hicks, is historical fiction at its best. A civil war novel, it is based on events surrounding the battle of Franklin in Tennessee.

(3) *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot, is the story of a poor, black woman whose cancer cells, taken in 1951, are responsible for some of the most important medical advances in history: polio vaccine, gene mapping, cloning, among others. Even with its medical and scientific content, the book is a page-turner.

(4) Stephen King's *On Writing* is an excellent treatise on the writing process as he experiences it, and it is filled with writing wisdom.

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

My first professionally published book, *Doing Academic Writing in Education: Connecting the Personal and the Professional* (2005) is a college textbook (co-written with Janet C. Richards). It's such a pleasure to get a royalty check each year that reminds me of the book's continued success.

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

I'm hooked on fiction, so that's where my concentration is now. Fans of historical fiction and of strong women characters will find these stories compelling. I'm pleasantly surprised to find that, although my books might be considered women's fiction, I have a male following.

## **Tell us about your current work, "The Clay Series"**

The three books in "The Clay Series" tell the story of one pot and three women over the course of eight-hundred years. All are set in Tucson on a small scrap of desert known to locals as the Romero Ruin in Catalina State Park.

In Book 1, *The Clay Remembers* (2015), archaeologist Anna Robinson, on the run from an abusive husband, finds the broken pieces of the pot and reconstructs it in the lab even as she reconstructs her life. Her spiritual nature opens her to the secrets and songs in the potsherds, and she finds a kinship with a woman who lived on the site in the nineteenth century, as well as with the woman who made the pot centuries before.

Book 2, *The Clay Endures* (2016), tells the story of Esperanza Ramirez who ventures with her husband beyond the Santa Catalina Mountains in 1865 to start a cattle ranch. She struggles to hold on to their dream in spite of loneliness and the threat of marauding Apaches. She finds the ancient pot which offers the companionship and courage of a woman who lived and struggled here centuries before.

Book 3, *The Clay Sustains* (coming in 2017), tells the story of the Hohokam woman who, in the twelfth century crafted the pot that became so vital to the women who followed her centuries later. It is a time of

struggle for Ha-wani and her people; their village, once an extensive, thriving, open community has evolved into a closed community within a cobble-walled compound huddled fearfully beneath the rugged Stone Towers of Great-Grandfather Mountain.

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

I'm a seat-of-the-pants writer, although I do plan the setting and a general story arc, and I know where I want to go with the story. I spend a lot of time building characters, writing their physical description, their back stories, and their goals. Finally, I drop my characters into that place and watch what happens. I love it when my characters do something that totally surprises me. Sometimes they take me in directions I didn't know they would go. For example, in my current work-in-progress (The Clay Sustains), the sassy younger sister of my protagonist's husband has emerged as a major player in the story, essentially telling me that my protagonist needs her as an ally. Almost every scene where this character appears is driven by her. She does things I neither planned nor expected, and it works!

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

I generally write in third person, which gives me the freedom to explore a character's motivation and struggles more deeply than first person might allow. Even my memoir pieces, with a few exceptions, are written in third person using two alter egos to carry the stories. Nellie Quinn, my childhood self, and Maggie Jean, my teenage self, deal with painful experiences that are otherwise hard to talk about without sounding like I am whining or asking for sympathy.

### **How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write?**

I always edit as I write. It may slow me down, but I feel like I have something a bit more worthy of taking to a critique session. Also, when I go back to my work-in-progress, I always read what I wrote in the previous session and make changes and edit. It gives me the push to move along to the next scene or chapter. It puts me back into the story and into the heads of the characters, which is a great way to overcome writer's block.

After I have the story drafted, I go back and revise: rearranging, filling in what's missing (i.e., environmental details, physical descriptions), and throwing out what doesn't work. As a relentless reviser, I wear the "Scarlet R."

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

With my first novel, The Clay Remembers, I spent a good deal of time chasing agents and making pitches, getting good responses but no serious offers. Ultimately, I decided to go the self-publishing route, and I'm very pleased with it. Even though I am a freelance editor and owner of Buckskin Books, which offers editing and self-publishing services, I always invest in a professional edit and proofread. I also invest in professional cover design, but I do my own interior design, print-ready set-up, and e-book conversions.

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

Book fairs/expos, social media, promotional swag, and local, on-site book talks and tours of the Romero Ruin at Catalina State Park, the setting for "The Clay Series." I have a Pinterest Board for each of the book. I'm not really very good at promotion. I'm sure I miss a lot of opportunities, because, frankly, I'd rather write.

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

E-books and print books are on sale at most online book sellers and locally at Mostly Books and Antigone's, indie book stores in Tucson, Arizona.

### **Links**

Website: <http://www.sharonkmiller.com>

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

Email: [info@sharonkmiller.com](mailto:info@sharonkmiller.com) or [sharon@buckskinbooks.com](mailto:sharon@buckskinbooks.com)

The Clay Remembers: Book 1 in The Clay Series  
(Online Preview) <https://adobe.ly/2hKZpj9>  
(Amazon) <http://amzn.to/2aOTjay>  
(B&N) <http://bit.ly/2hqg207>  
(Smashwords) <http://bit.ly/2hjoCUN>  
(Kobo) <http://bit.ly/2aJcXKH>

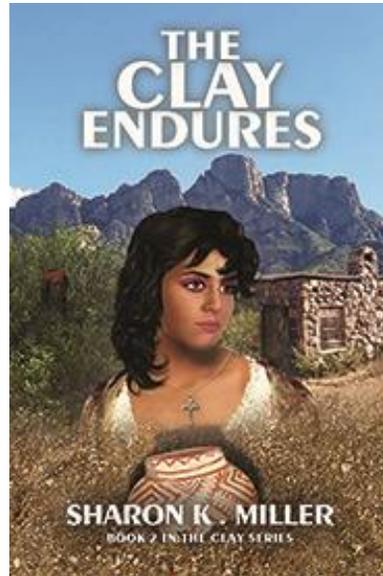
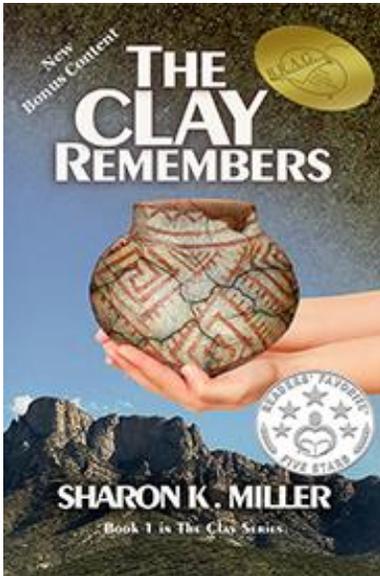
The Clay Endures: Book 2 in The Clay Series  
(Online Preview) <https://adobe.ly/2gXy8tI>  
(Amazon) <http://amzn.to/2acxu8i>  
(B&N) <http://bit.ly/2gy2CBj>  
(Smashwords) <http://bit.ly/29FNdl4>  
(Kobo) <http://bit.ly/2b3eASF>

#### Pinterest Book Boards

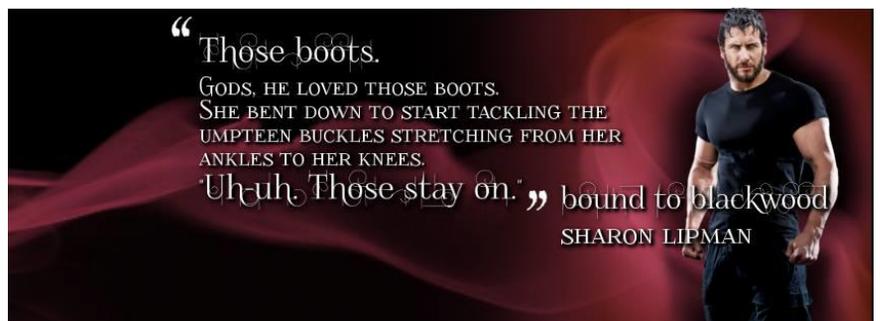
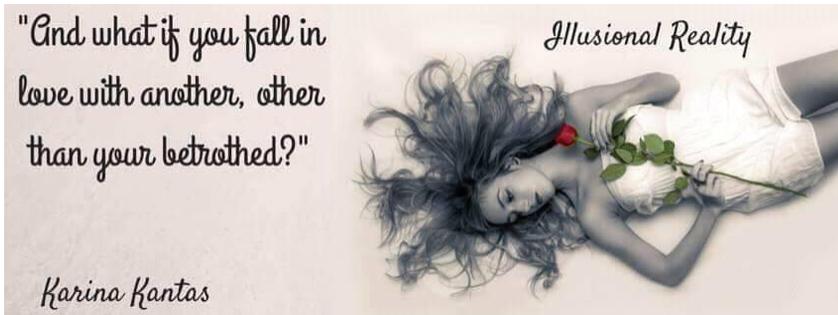
TCR: <https://www.pinterest.com/buckskinbooks/the-clay-remembers/>

TCE: <https://www.pinterest.com/buckskinbooks/the-clay-endures/>

TCS: <https://www.pinterest.com/buckskinbooks/the-clay-sustains/>



## Book Teasers





# Spotlight Author Reviews

## **A Moment in the Sun by Tory Gates**

Reviewed by Lorraine Price

A story about a 16-year-old Japanese girl who is a survivor and the friends that she makes, and the issues that each one faces in society, family, and school.

Some of the issues addressed were homelessness, depression, isolation, loss and neglect.

I found it to be a little confusing when the author went from the present to the past throughout the book. The names of the characters were a little hard to keep track of too. However, there was a strong story line and plenty of moments to keep you wanting more.

Some of their activities included a book club where they discussed the book that was voted upon to read and then spoke how they felt about it, plus an art class where they shared how the details of their sketches were progressing.

The characters are easy to relate to. They all come from different backgrounds. So the story appealed to me on an emotional level. They also were mature for their age, so many of their conversations were thought-provoking and logical.

It's an encouraging read for any teenager who feels at odds with their lives and thinks that no one cares.

### **I loved this book**

Reviewed by Amazon Customer

I loved this book ! The story holds your attention. It moves right along, and takes some unexpected turns along the way. Although the story line deals with the frailty and complexity of human relationships, it is also about discovering courage, hope, and even love. It's a lot to pack in a small book ! Incidentally, I am 68 years old !

### **Tory Gates lends a voice and validation to the "inner world" of struggling youth in A MOMENT IN THE SUN.**

Reviewed by Brian Flanders

As a high school English teacher I have seen withdrawn students over the past 26 years who can identify with the "hikikomori." Some of them make it, and sadly, some don't. Tory Gates gives them a voice in A MOMENT IN THE SUN and that may be the most poignant and liberating aspect of this novel beyond being a well written book that pulls the reader into the world of Rei and her friends as they discover the resilience hidden inside themselves.

### **He has always been a great artist and writer**

Reviewed by Amazon Customer

I found my self falling in to the book while I was reading , such a inspired writer and friend, he has always been a great artist and writer, can not wait to read one of his next books .. For "Parasite Girls," available on Amazon.com, Smashwords and chat eBooks:

## **New author, good story**

Reviewed by Rene

It's been months since I read this book and I have to say that the characters have stayed with me. Perhaps it's because I am familiar with some of the places referenced and I am familiar with people who have had similar mental health issues. The author has room to grow if this is a series, yet there is plenty of meat to this story. It is a story one can relate to, it makes you care for the characters and lets you in on a different aspect of society. I don't want to spoil any of it by talking too much detail of the story. I will say if you are interested in exploring new authors, supporting someone who's chasing a dream of writing check this out. Is it on top of the New York Time's best seller list? No, but a lot of other good stories aren't up there either. Don't let that stop you from checking it out.

## **A Great Read!**

Reviewed by Rhonda Fink-Whitman

A great read about a tough subject in an interesting setting. Tory Gates introduced me to a unfamiliar world and yet I felt truly immersed in the culture and was filled with compassion for the complex characters he created and the challenges they faced. Pick this one up!

## **Thoroughly enjoyable!**

Reviewed by Amber Graycat

This is a book I finished and had the reaction "Oh no! It's done! Now what do I do? I wasn't ready to leave yet..." Looking forward to new books by this author.

## **Amazing!**

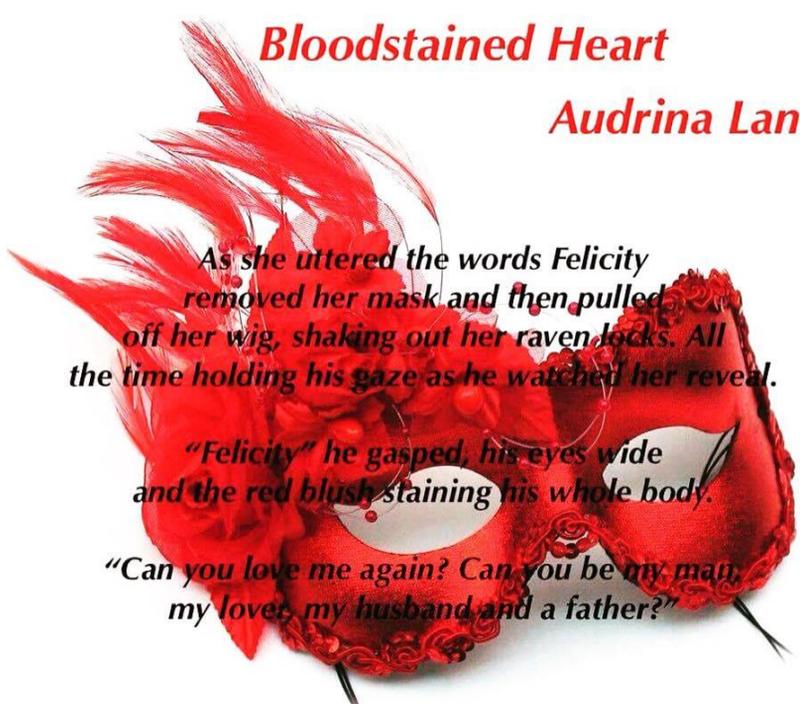
Reviewed by Kristen L. Carn

A fantastic book. Please read! You won't be sorry. Mental Illness is never an easy topic to discuss. Mr. Gates handles it flawlessly.

# **Book Teaser**

## ***Bloodstained Heart***

***Audrina Lane***



*As she uttered the words Felicity removed her mask and then pulled off her wig, shaking out her raven locks. All the time holding his gaze as he watched her reveal.*

*"Felicity" he gasped, his eyes wide and the red blush staining his whole body.*

*"Can you love me again? Can you be my man, my lover, my husband and a father?"*

# Marjorie Hembroff – Indie Author

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

I grew up on a farm in southwestern Manitoba, Canada, the fourth in a family of five I was imaginative and an avid reader since early childhood. A lot of time was spent dreaming up games and activities with a quarter section to roam. There were areas to explore which included the old stone foundations of the original house. I spent a lot of time exploring the small orchard and play area. One time I made little clay pots out of clay piled at the back of the house. The basement had been dug out to make an outside



entrance, and the clay was piled behind the house which created my mother's sunken flower bed. Another game was playing doctor and store using the lilac leaves as money. Fresh peas from the garden made good medicine. Some of my ideas created a lot of entertainment while others got me into trouble. My mother taught me to do basic embroidery stitches to try to keep me occupied. During my childhood years, I devoured every available book which included LM Montgomery's Anne series. For years I imagined myself to be like Anne partly due to having parents old enough to be grandparents. I, like Anne always seemed to be getting into scraps. A lot of my time was spent with my nose in a book and daydreaming when I should have been doing other things.

I now live in Strathmore, Alberta, Canada. When I'm not writing I like to sketch, paint, work in the garden and walk my dog, Odie. I also has a white cat, Patches. I'm a self taught artist and inherited my art talent from ancestors. I work in acrylic, pencil and colored pencil. My subject matter ranges from flowers and landscapes to animals.

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

I was in my sixties when the idea for my first book, Bess's Magical Garden, came along. I am proud of the book I wrote. I put forth the best book I could with the knowledge I had. I have learned a lot of things since publishing that are being applied to other stories and books. The story comes from my heart and Bess had started begging to come out of my head and come alive on paper. I am now working on the sequel, The Mystery of the Hidden Cabin.

## **What type of books do you write?**

Most of my books so far have been for children but are also enjoyed by adults. I also like to write middle grade stories and adult stories. Some of these I put on my website.

## **Would you like to feature a book?**

I would like to feature my newly released picture book, Gramma Mouse Tells a Story. In the story, Tiny, Gramma Mouse, tells her grandbabies the story of the time she crosses the garden to visit Cousin Mouse by herself. She promises her parents she would go straight there, watch for danger and not dawdle. Along the way she ignores all warnings but does learn valuable lessons on her journey.

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

Sometimes it takes anywhere from two weeks to a month depending how long the book is. There is a lot of rewriting and a book can take several years to complete.

## **Do you write in 1st or 3rd person?**

Bess's Magical Garden is in third person with letters at the end of each chapter. The sequel is in first person with journal entries. At first, I found it easier to write in third person, and I have gradually changed to writing in first person. I have to watch I don't lose my main character when I write in third person.

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

I leave my work alone for awhile and then go back and start editing. If I edited while I was working on it, I would lose track of where the story was going. I like to make little notes each time I stop work for the day. Sometimes I read a bit of the story, where I left off, to get my train of thought back.

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

My published novel is for ten to twelve-year-old girls and the picture book is for four to eight years old children. This means that the marketing is promoted to parents, teachers, and grandparents.

### **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.

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

My books are available on Amazon, FreisenPress bookstore, and Tellwell and locally of course.

### **Who are your favorite authors?**

My favorite childhood author was LM Montgomery, and she still is. She is my hero and inspiration. Her books have vivid descriptions of Prince Edward Island, Canada. She grew up there, and that was where her books took place. I have read so many books over the years which makes it difficult to find a favorite author among them. I read mysteries, historical, sometimes historical romance and children's books.

### **Links**

Website: <https://mhembroff.wordpress>

Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/mehembroff>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/margiesart1>

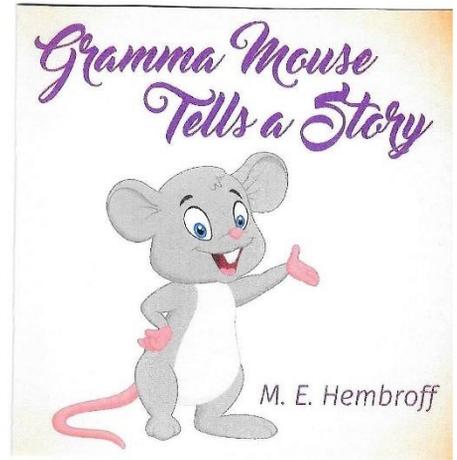
LinkedIn: <https://linkedin.com/mehembroff>

[www.amazon.com/author/mehembroff](http://www.amazon.com/author/mehembroff)

I have been submitting short stories with Channillo series. I started with the story Ghostly Encounters. Since then I have put in other stories similar in nature. The link is

<https://Channillo.com/yourseries> Memberships start at \$4.99. All my proceeds go to the heart and stroke foundation.

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



### ***Be that Person***

*The New Year brings a renewal of emotions, regret, and hope.*

*Anticipate the new year with titillation.*

*Promises broken, loves lost, dreams blown out like a popped balloon!*

*And the glow of new promises, hope, inspiration.*

*The New Year reminds us to glance at yesterday but not for too long.*

*Stare wide-eyed through the eyes of a child for tomorrow.*

*And never let go of your dreams.*

*Be passionate, demonstrating drive and compassion.*

*Show love, don't just say the words.*

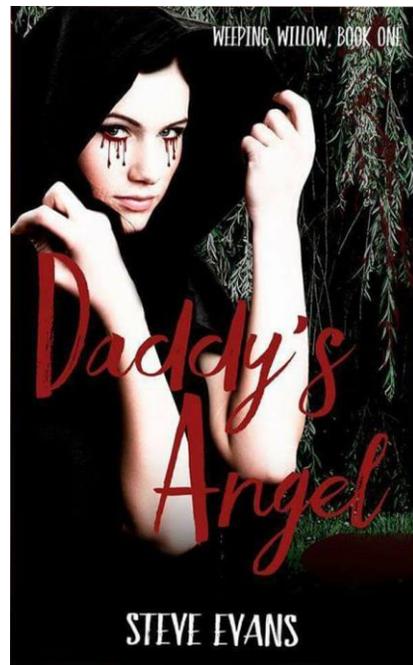
*Let others believe you.*

*Be the one everyone talks about with a sparkle in their eye.*

*Be that person  
Every moment.*

C.A. Keith

## **NEW -Poetry Book**



# A Short Story from Adele Marie Park

## Laughing Tongue

My tongue feels heavy. I try to swallow, but my mouth feels as if I've eaten a dirty cloth. Coughing only makes my throat worse. Too much wine last night. Hangover from hell. I hear voices and for a moment panic but I recognise Eric's voice. Who is he talking to?

"Eric?" Silence.

I open my eyes to faint light.

I look up and see him. He looks angry. What did I do last night? Why isn't he smiling at me? "Did we fight last night?" I ask.

He walks towards me, slow and easy like a snake. Sexy man.

"You were talkative last night. Thanks to the truth serum I put in your wine." He grins.

For a moment my mind still finds that smile sexy but something about his words frighten me.

I try to move my arm to caress his face but I can't. Realisation dawns on me with mounting horror and panic.

I struggle and he grins.

He steps back as I thrash around, trying to move my body.

"What have you done?"

He straightens up and folds his arms. "Found out the truth, Alexi."

A figure evolves out of the shadows and I recognise him as he come into the light.

My fear intensifies. My stomach tightens, crawls in ways it shouldn't and I vomit. It stinks of red wine and whatever I'd eaten last night.

"Don't like who you see?" Eric says and I never realised how cold his voice can be.

I can't remember anything but our love and drinking spiced wine.

I thrash around in the chair but I know it's futile. I won't get free. Eric tied these knots, he is a master at his craft and I'm a dead man.

He leans over me and the scent of lavender washes over me from his breath.

Tears roll down my face.

"Tell us everything and I'll make your death a quick one." Eric says.

"Why? I thought you loved me?" I hate myself for saying those words. I sound pathetic.

My head snaps back and pain as bright as a starburst explodes.

"I never loved you. You were a mission."

He turns away from me and I want to shout him back.

The other one moves behind me. I feel his hands on my shoulders, his fingers gripping.

"You will tell us about the plot to assassinate Lord Kieran."

What?

Fear crawls into my lungs and I gasp for breath. "I have never wanted to kill Kieran."

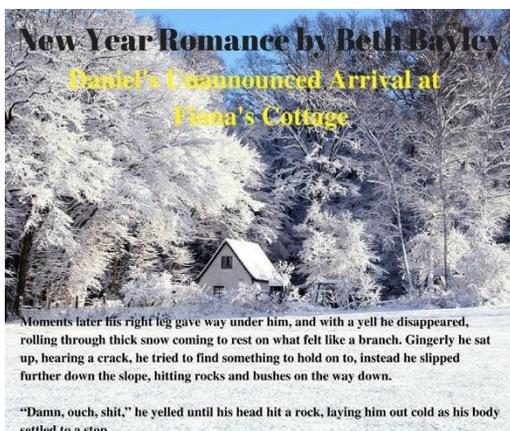
Eric's face comes into view and he raises his foot. The chair I am bound to crashes to the floor.

"The truth came flowing out of you last night. Laughing tongue will do that," he says.

I'm completely screwed. I was a dead man from the moment Eric sauntered into my life.

I can see his nomad boots from where I lie on the floor, they are so shiny, and I start to laugh.

## Book Teasers



# Lily Luchesi - Indie Author Interview



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

Hi and thanks for having me. I'm an author of paranormal, horror, and erotic fiction. Usually even my erotica has paranormal elements. I am the author of the Paranormal Detectives Series, which has hit the top twenty on Amazon in its category consistently with each release and won three awards for best villains. I am also the author of various short stories in the paranormal and erotic categories. When I'm not reading and writing, I'm watching the CW, anime, or reading manga.

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

I always made stories up in my head and had imaginary friends when I was a kid. Fiction was something I grew up enjoying, and wanting to create it came naturally. I decided on my career path when I was eight, and have steadily worked towards my goal of being an author.

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

My first book is called Stake-Out, and it is the first in my Paranormal Detectives Series. I love it. It was released in May 2015, and since then I can see my growth as a writer clearly, but I find it to be a really decent book in its genre (but I might be biased haha). I wish I had made it a little longer (it clocks in at 41k words), but it's my baby, and I'm still writing and publishing the series.

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

I write books about unrealistic characters (vampires, witches, etc) in very realistic situations with real limitations and emotions. When I started writing, I knew I wanted three-dimensional characters, strong women, lots of violence, and strong emotions while subtly addressing sociological issues. My readers immediately grabbed onto my female lead, Angelica Cross, and I like to think that, unlike a lot of other female vampire assassins/agents in paranormal fiction, she's a little different. She's not undefeatable, she's not perfect, her flaws are glaring when you look at them, and she isn't afraid to ask for help if needed. She's a natural leader, intelligent, and uses her brains and fighting skills more than her looks to get by. I love how my readers are so invested in her character.

When I wrote her, I wrote her for me. When I published her, I gave her to my readers.

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

Yes, I would, thanks. I'd like to talk about my newest release, Right To Silence, which is the fourth book in the Paranormal Detectives Series. It will be released on January 17th from Vamptasy Publishing. 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?

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

It depends. My first book took less than two months, the second one took over six (same length), and recently I wrote two books (805k and 60k words each) in four months. It depends on the story, how fast I can tell it.

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

Technically no. I will write a one sentence outline per chapter, but that's it. I am more of a pantsner.

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

Third, mostly, but occasionally I will write in first. I have a novellette coming out in April called A Bloody Legacy and that will be in first. My PD Series is in third person with alternating POVs.

**How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write?**

I leave it a week after finishing the second draft, write the third, and then send that to my betas. After that, I edit based on their suggestions and that fourth draft is what my publisher gets.

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

Anyone over the age of seventeen. I like to think my books have a universal appeal. I have readers in their twenties, and readers in their sixties, and every age in between. Good art has no age limit. (Stole that line from Mike Dirnt of Green Day haha). Of course, people who already like vampires and monsters will enjoy the books more, but I have romance and mystery and pop culture inside of them. They're not your typical vampire books, so I think anyone could get into them, any age, race, creed, or gender.

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

I work with Vamptasy Publishing and Hot Ink Press (which are imprints of CHBB Publishing). I love them, they're wonderful people. Sarah, who runs the company, treats her authors like people, not employees. It's a wonderful little community and I love being there. Their cover artists and editors rock, too!

**How do you promote your writing?**

Social media, newsletter blasts, online ads, group posting, doing author takeovers, passing out my business cards at cons and bookstores. Word of mouth.

**Where can we buy your books?**

All of my books are available on Amazon in e-book and paperback at: <http://amazon.com/author/lilyluchesi>. They are also available in paperback on Books A Million and Barnes And Noble. You can read the e-books free in Amazon's Kindle Unlimited program.

**Who are your favourite authors?**

Stephen King, JK Rowling, Edgar Allan Poe, Charlotte Bronte, Bram Stoker, William Shakespeare, Terri Garey, Darren Shan, Zac Brewer (nee Heather), Ellen Schreiber, Rue Volley, Stephen Kozeniewski, Ransom Riggs, and so many more! I read everything by everyone!

**Links**

<http://lilyluchesibooks.wix.com/lilyluchesi>

<http://amazon.com/author/lilyluchesi>

<http://facebook.com/lilyluchesi>

<http://twitter.com/LilyLuchesi>

<http://instagram.com/lilyluchesi>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7369101.Lily\\_Luchesi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7369101.Lily_Luchesi)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1000888509953193/> (street team)

*Beautiful Nightmares – an Anthology.*

*[Pre-Order now.](#)*

*All proceeds to charity.*

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

I'd like to let everyone know that the first half of 2017 is going to be quite the busy one for my readers and I! Aside from Right To Silence coming on January 17th, I have a short novellette on April 27th called A Bloody Legacy, which is Dracula-esque femdomme erotica. On June 14th, my fifth Paranormal Detectives book will be released (title TBA). I also will have two short M/M erotic stories and an erotic poem in the Naughty Bedtime Stories: Four You anthology, and a short horror story in the Lurking In The Mind anthology.

I welcome any and all new readers. I don't write for the money (though it's a dream to be able to write full time), I write because my mind compels me to. I write to give others the enjoyment I receive from fiction. So please, come one, come all. I welcome any new Vamplet who wants to join me.

**Bio:**

Lily Luchesi is a young author/poet born in Chicago, Illinois, now residing in Los Angeles, California. Ever since she was a toddler her mother noticed her tendency for being interested in all things "dark". At two she became infatuated with vampires and ghosts, and that infatuation turned into a lifestyle.

Her debut novel, Stake-Out (Paranormal Detectives Series Book One), was published by Vamptasy Publishing on May 19th, 2015. Book two, Miranda's Rights, was released on January 8th, 2016. Book three, Life Sentence, was released on August 2nd, 2016 by Vamptasy Publishing, and book four, Right To Silence, was also just accepted by the publisher and will be released January 17th, 2017.

She has a short stories featured in the anthologies Naughty Bedtime Stories: In Three Words, Death Love Lust, and Lurking In The Shadows.

When she's not writing, she's going to rock concerts, watching the CW, or reading manga.



I think with vampires, you can't really go wrong. For generations, vampires have been a hit because they're unobtainable, mysterious, sensual, dangerous, kind of sexy.

Ashley Greene

<https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/vampires.html>



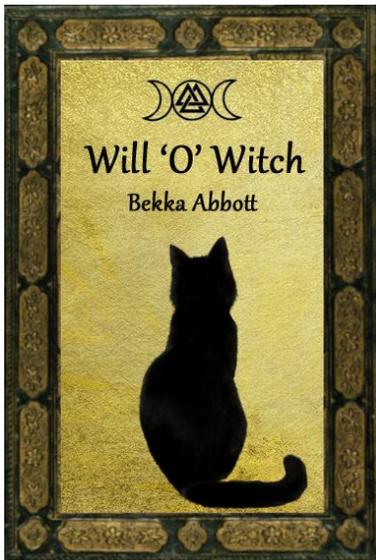
# Free & 99 cent Books

## Little Miracles by Tom Hodden

Christmas has become complicated for sisters Caroline and Sara. Sara just slept with Caroline's boyfriend. Sara's boyfriend was there, just to make the humiliation complete as two relations crashed and burned like meteorites hitting the atmosphere. Now both are heading across Europe to seek refuge at their parents. For one it will be a journey of self discovery, for the other a journey of redemption. Neither has a clue what is waiting for them on the way.

Told by a cold and sometimes brutally honest narrator, this story is written in a style that intends to emulate, and pay homage to European romantic film.

[BUY LINK](#)



## Will O Witch by Bekka Abbott **Scene Three in LINK**

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-3/>

## I am Cancer Free by Brenda Mohammad

I am Cancer Free - A Memoir, is a most touching and emotional true story of the author's battle with Ovarian cancer. The Author relates events when her life and financial well-being were threatened by this killer disease.

Her strong faith in God saw her through all the trials she had to undergo during her several months of chemotherapy sessions and cancer surgery in a foreign country.

Writing this book gives her the opportunity to demonstrate to others the meaning of prayer and family unity.

The book serves as an inspiration for those in a similar situation to not give up, trust in god, and continue fighting.

Ovarian Cancer does not have to be a death sentence.

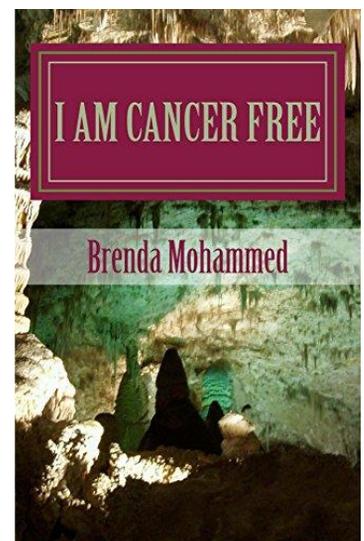
Ten years hence she is Cancer Free.

A must read for anyone with or without an illness!

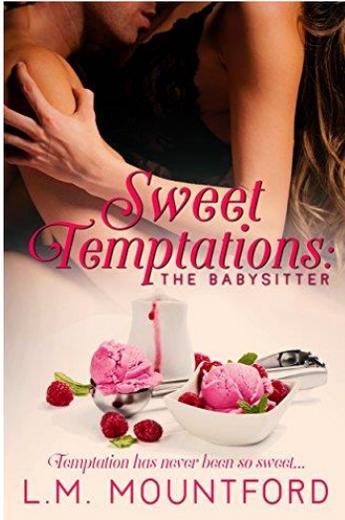
The author has included her thoughts on The True Value of Insurance.

I am Cancer Free was voted winner of Mc Grath House Indie Book Awards 2016 in the category Non-Fiction.

[BUY LINK](#)



## Sweet Temptations by L M Mountford



There were times Richard Martin loved his life. He had everything most men nearing middle age could want. A beautiful wife. A young son. All his hair.

He still has his hair, but not all is at it seems. His idyllic life was turned upside down when he and his family were forced to move from their home in Bristol to a small Gloucester flat because of Richard's new job and now he finds himself beset on all sides. However that is not the sum of his problems. When his new supervisor, a promiscuous bombshell more than ten years his junior, sets her sights on him, she is by no means subtle about her interest in him, no matter who might be watching.

But temptation comes in many forms, and Richard has recently found his eyes lingering on the woman from downstairs who babysits for them. Was it his imagination, or were her skirts getting shorter?

In this first volume in L.M. Mountford's sizzling debut series: Sweet Temptations, a naughty babysitter sets out to seduce her man. No matter what his wife might think, this tempting little wench is determined to rock his world...

[BUY LINK](#)

## The Paladins of Naretia by T P Keane

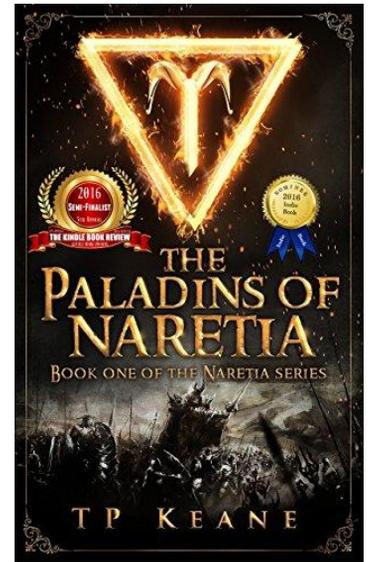
A vision sparks the beginning of treachery and war, and the kingdom of Naretia is about to fall....

Olórin's adopted son, Aramus, is a creature unlike any in Naretia. He is feared by all, and holds a darkness inside that is said will end all life by his eighteenth birthday. Olórin must scour the kingdom for godly ingredients to make a potion for Aramus that will save them all. He is hoping his son's human side will prevail over the rising darkness within him, for long enough to outrun their enemies.

But Aramus's real father, the dark God Dantet, desires his son's powers so he might, once again, walk on mortal soil. His legion of dark creatures follow Olórin and Aramus at every turn, trying to kill them. Dantet's army, however, is not the only one wanting Aramus dead. Something, or someone, changes fate's hand. Neither Dantet, nor Olórin, can see the terrible future that threatens them all. Even the traitors within the wizard caste are blind to what is coming.

But it is coming.

[FREE DOWNLOAD](#)



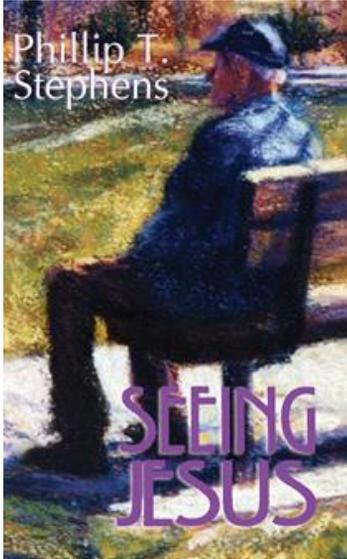
*Origin*

*by Louis McKraker*

*Every story has a beginning;  
Every beginning has an origin;  
Every lark now finding its wings,  
Will someday learn to soar again.*



# Phillip T Stephens Wins at the Human Relations Indie Book Awards



## Seeing Jesus Seizes New Awards Stephen's first YA novel wins with judges

Phillip T. Stephens' *Seeing Jesus* made three appearances on the podium at the 2016 inaugural Human Relations Indie Book Awards. The YA novel, about teen Sara Love and her relationship with a homeless man no one else can see, won twice and tied for third against international children's and YA entries that included fiction, nonfiction, self-help, picture and recipe books.

*Seeing Jesus* medaled in every category for which it was entered.

Released for Christmas last December, and finishing with a Christmas send up in the fashion of *It's A Wonderful Life* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Seeing Jesus* focuses on bullying, family neglect, and the way schools ignore the needs of brighter children to maintain discipline. The novel took gold for Pre-teen/Teen Human

Relations and Self-Esteem. It tied for third in Family Human Relations with Natalie Chase's *The Incredible Cam Man*.

In *Seeing Jesus*, eighth-grader Sara Love's parents transplant her from metropolitan Austin to the tiny town of Pollen, Texas. There she stands out like a blackhead on a bright red nose. Her father expects her to get along with the mayor's queen bee daughter and her hive because his business depends on the mayor's approval. The hive wants nothing to do with Sara. Nor does class clown Delbert Thrash, nor any of the other kids for that matter.

Sara makes friends with homeless Mr. Fisher. He tells Sara stories, stories that not only entertain her but help her discover resources within to cope with her loneliness and frustration. Unfortunately, only Sara has ever seen him.

Her parents aren't happy to learn about her homeless friend. Even worse, just when Sara's cast to narrate the Christmas play her classmates learn about Sara's imaginary friend, too. Sara discovers every dark cloud has even darker clouds pushing past. When she turns to Mr. Fisher for help, she can't find him..

Can Sarah use Mr. Fisher's lessons to rise to the occasion, gain her family and friends' acceptance, not to mention save her father's job and the Christmas play?

Not only does *Seeing Jesus* deliver a humorous, coming of age story, suitable for Christmas reading, the novel introduces young readers to questions of spirituality and philosophy. Without turning doctrinaire, *Seeing Jesus* provides readers a chance to address questions they will confront in the news, their classes and professional lives.

Stephens, a professional educator and writer, developed a number of innovative classroom programs for exceptional and at-risk youth. He drew on his student's experiences to write the novel, as well as his own experiences as a minister's son being frequently moved from school to school.

Stephens plans to release an extended version of *Seeing Jesus* for adults in 2017. The extended version will continue the storyline, add an essay on reflective thinking and family relations, a children's story by one of the characters and a study guide for readers and their families.

Stephens and his wife Carol rescue cats for Austin Siamese Rescue, and have successfully found homes for more than 300 abandoned and elderly cats since 2000. They live in Oak Hill, Texas, once a rural community but now an exit ramp from Austin.

*Seeing Jesus* is available on Kindle unlimited and in paperback.



The Human Relations Indie Book Awards were founded in 2016 as a way to recognize indie authors who write on human relations topics. Indie authors from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines submitted books on topics ranging from self-help subjects to

human relations memoirs that delve into both personal and professional subjects. Fiction, nonfiction, poetry and children's human relations indie books were judged on book content, organization, presentation and the human relations message conveyed.

The complete list of categories and winners have been posted online.

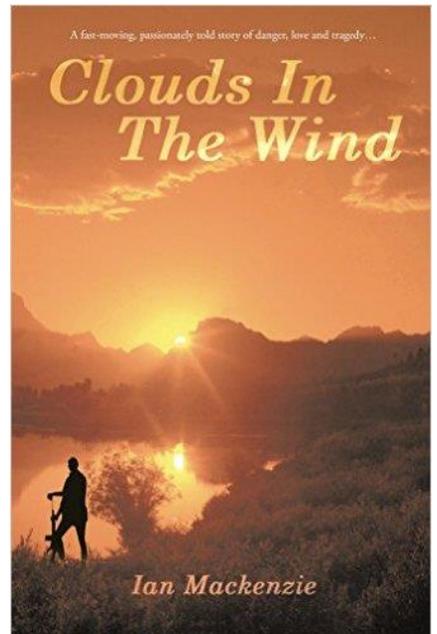
### **CLOUDS IN THE WIND by Ian MacKenzie**

Andrew Mason is an ambitious young banking executive from an affluent family background. Riding the wave of youthful exuberance, full of confidence and enthusiasm, he seems set to sail up the ladder of corporate success.

As if by conspiracy with destiny, two unrelated events occur within days of each other and his ideal life is suddenly and brutally transformed.

Andy is falsely accused of a breach of confidence and unethical conduct within his working environment and while busy trying to deal with that, he is called upon to help a distraught girl friend on a trip to her homeland of war torn Rhodesia.

Mason is wholly unprepared for the tragedy that follows and he is left bitter and angry in a land ripped apart by racial injustice, political intransigence and civil war. His corporate ambitions in tatters and his emotions in disarray, he enrolls in the Rhodesian military where he evolves to become a hardened and respected combatant with the elite Special Air Services.



By force of circumstance, through the horrors and tragedies of war, Andy finds himself living two lives; one of danger, brutality, sudden death and survival among his comrades in "The Squadron" and the other in the intoxicating arms of Alyson Carstens, the spoilt and protected daughter of wealthy and influential parents. Returning wounded from an ill-fated mission, Andy discovers that Alyson is pregnant and they decide to marry. However, on their wedding night, a devastating incident has a dramatic impact on their union, which inevitably exposes an underlying secret liaison of deceit and betrayal with far reaching and catastrophic consequences.

The tragedy of the times is symbolized in Andy's prosperity, his courage in the face of adversity and the progressive downward spiral as everything around him gradually decays.

As one heartbreak follows another, Andrew's emotional strength is sapped and his decline into alcoholism leaves him vulnerable and reckless.

**[BUY LINK](#)**

**THIS BOOK WON BOOK OF THE MONTH FROM A WEBSITE CALLED <http://noveltunity.com/> PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK IF YOU WISH TO KNOW MORE.**

# Wanda Luthman - Indie Author



## **Tell us a bit about yourself. What brought you to the world of writing?**

I've always written since I was a little girl. I wrote books and poems. I loved to keep a journal. I always planned on publishing a book someday but I didn't know what I wanted to write about. One day, I woke up with a whole story in my mind burning to get out. I wrote it down as fast as I could. It became my first published book, *The Lilac Princess*.

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

My first book, *The Lilac Princess*, is about a princess who wants to go outside the castle walls but she's not allowed to because it's not

She finds a way to escape and meets a dragon. He seems friendly at first and earns her trust, but he's not so friendly. That's when her adventure begins. I think it's a great story about courage, friendship, standing up for what you believe in and forgiveness.

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

I write children's books that entertain children as well as bring subtle positive messages about good character. I believe it's important for children to read about others who aren't perfect, who struggle, but who eventually show good character. This creates a powerful role model for them. Role models help children to grow up to be the best children they can be.

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

I would like to feature my latest book, it's a rhyming picture book. It's called *Little Birdie Grows Up*. It's about a little blue bird who comes out of his shell and longs to fly up in the sky. Readers will go on this journey with little birdie as he grows up. A fun, sweet book with a sentimental ending. One day that will become everyone's favorite story!

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

If I'm in the zone, a couple of hours. If not, it can take me several days with some frustrating moments in between pulling my hair out.

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

No, because stories just come to me, usually. It's all I can do to keep up with the thoughts coming to my mind.

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

3rd person

## **How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write?**

I will usually re-read right away and fix what jumps out at me. Then, I let it alone for a while and let my unconscious work. When I come back, I go through it with fresh eyes.

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

With children's books, marketing is two-pronged. You have to appeal to the children and then market to the parents. I also market to teachers.

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

I self-publish.

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

I blog consistently and am all over social media. I also freelance write for local magazines. I go to Book Fairs and Craft Fairs and I visit schools.

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

On Amazon or from me at [wandalu64@gmail.com](mailto:wandalu64@gmail.com) (I will ship for free anywhere in the US).

## Who are your favourite authors?

E.B. White, A.A. Milne and Emily Dickinson

## Links

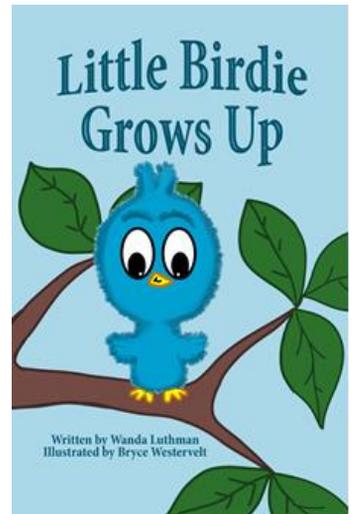
[www.wandaluthman.wordpress.com](http://www.wandaluthman.wordpress.com)

[www.facebook.com/wluthman](http://www.facebook.com/wluthman)

[www.amazon.com/author/wandaluthman](http://www.amazon.com/author/wandaluthman)

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

Yes, I'm working on another chapter book right now that I'm very excited about called Gloria & The Unicorn. It's about a little girl who has a difficult start in life, but a unicorn comes along and helps her. They get into a bit of trouble and Gloria has to make a lifesaving decision. It's about literacy, love, and empowerment.



## *Vanity Press Warning from Ian MacKenzie*

I need to share the following blog with the members of this group. It all happened in 2014 but these people are still in business and are still ripping novice authors off as fast as they can get their attention.. Author House, Xibris, I.Universe and Partridge are all part of the Author Solutions stable and as a victim of their extortionist tactics and unethical business practices, I reserve the right to share my experience with authors on a global scale..

I was assisted in publishing my first book by Author House. I was mega impressed by the speed and efficiency with which the whole process came together. I had paid them a fee, which I considered fair and believed that I had received value.

It took some time for the dawn of reality to emerge and by then I had been suckered in like sheep to the slaughter. Reality being that a produced book is their access to your wallet.

Firstly, the ink was barely dry and I got a call from the "marketing" department telling me what a wonderful book I had written and that it was destined for best seller status, but like any new product. it needed promoting. I was given a glowing resume' of how they had helped obscure authors out of obscurity and into the spotlight of publishing fame. Skeptical, I was, but when presented with what they had in mind, I had to admit that it sounded pretty damn good. I invested \$ 5,000.00 in the package they offered me and received in return about \$ 200.00 in value. What they delivered was vastly different from the package I had paid for and the money I had laid out was a total waste. But it gets worse Shortly after agreeing to (and paying) the \$5,000.00, I get a call from "Sales" department

"You have just invested in one of our most exciting marketing programmes" He said, "but to make that pay, we're going to need to have books in the stores. So you need to get some printed for distribution in the States. It will fly off the shelves and with the marketing programme you've invested in we will actively promote it, Your investment in the marketing and the printed books will turn over within 3 months with a calculated profit of 90 to 100%"... Yeah right!!.... I paid \$ 9,500.00 to have 3,000 books printed and immediately the money left my account they went into silent mode. It took me 3 months after I had discovered the marketing fraud to get answers as to the status of the books and eventually established that they were in a warehouse in Ohio awaiting orders from online booksellers .. No active promotion, no flying off shelves, no marketing plan and no intention to honour their undertaking.

ROYALTY TIME!!.. I received my first royalty statement a month later than it was due, which understated sales that I was aware of by 52 books. When I queried that, I was told to provide evidence of the sales that I was claiming. But the account with online booksellers was in the name of Author House and I could not gain access to the records without the authority of the account holder... Author House. Would Author House provide me with the required access?. No chance!

And the check for the royalties due against the understated sales?... "Oh that's in the post... We posted it on 30th May"... Well August is nearly over and I still don't have the check. The books that have been gathering dust in Ohio are now supposed to be shipped to me in South Africa, but they cannot find a carrier to handle the shipment. (30 boxes of books?!, C'mon!) only a half wit would believe that. I don't even know if the books were ever printed and I suspect not. After having demanded that they send them to me so that I could take control, one delay has followed another and after two months of wrangling I'm told they're on the way, but guess what?.. They can't find a copy of the waybill or any reference to the consignment. . They also keep ducking my request to provide evidence of their print run.. I wonder why?

Oh YES!!!!... I'm angry. I reserve the right to be. I can categorically state without fear of reprisal that the Author Solutions group are publishing predators. They prey on the vulnerability and inexperience of first time authors who are duped into believing their falsehoods.

I would strongly recommend that anyone thinking about publishing their work, steer very clear of these institutions.

I wish I had.

## FROM YOUR EDITOR

I have seen this happen a few times in my journey into publishing. Please never ever pay up front for services unless it is a deposit. You need to see all your work files prior to publishing.

At Plaisted Publishing House we do contracts with clients. One thing which is always the same is that ALL Clients keep their COPYRIGHT and ROYALTIES. With Plaisted Publishing you get your work Edited, Formatted and a Book Cover, however we also work for individual needs due to the fact many Indie Authors already have Editors and Graphic Designers.

### Budget Package

Consultation from start to finish of final book

Formatting with two Formatting Edits and One Interview

from \$ 159

All work is shared on our social media

### Red Package

Consultations

Formatting for eBook or Print with Two Formatting Edits

Author Interview

eBook or Print Cover

Editing

Book Trailer

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Consultations

Formatting eBook and Print with Two Formatting Edits

Editing

Book Covers for eBook and Print

Book Trailer

Social Media Marketing Help Package with Author Interview

from \$999 - 1,500

# Spotlight Author Recipe

## No Name Vegetarian Chicken Recipe

### What you'll need:

1-1/2 cups of rice (any grain is fine)  
1/2 pound of "vegetarian chicken" (Lightlife is good, but any you can find that you can cut into chunks is fine)  
8 oz. of organic pasta (I prefer Nature's Promise fettucine); or one package of udon noodles  
Two thick slices of onion, chopped  
One clove of garlic, chopped  
One whole pepper, green is good for color, but any is fine  
1/2 jar of spaghetti sauce (Newman's Own is my favorite, any vegetarian kind)  
Olive oil  
Sesame oil  
Ground black pepper, salt, soy sauce, powdered ginger (for taste)

### Instructions:

Prepare the rice in a cooker, according to instructions (this may take a little while, so you can prepare the other ingredients while this is going on).

Boil the pasta for eight minutes in water with a dash of salt (that will boil off); when it's done rinse in cold water.

Sauté the chicken in sesame oil, add the onion and garlic, and dust with black pepper until the "meat" is tender; get the pan hot on high heat, but go to medium heat for the actual cooking.

In a big frying pan, heat the olive oil, transfer the chicken and its contents, and add the pepper (you want these to still have some "snap" to them). Dust with ground pepper, and ginger to taste.

Add the pasta and the spaghetti sauce. On medium heat, blend these together, and let the heat get to the sauce.

Add more black pepper to taste...that gives it the zip for me.

Serve this over rice, add some multi-grain bread or baguettes, and you have a solid meal.

**(Note: this recipe is "borrowed" from What Did You Eat Yesterday? by Fumi Yoshinaga. I came up with my own twists, as the original involves chicken. There are no hard and fast rules; experiment!)**

It has no name.

*It's easy to impress me.  
I don't need a fancy party to be happy.  
Just good friends, good food, and good laughs.  
I'm happy.  
I'm satisfied.  
I'm content.*

*Maria Sharapova*

[https://www.brainyquote.com/search\\_results?q=food%20quotes](https://www.brainyquote.com/search_results?q=food%20quotes)



# Adam Dreece— Indie Author



## Tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm just your typical dyslexic, chronic pain and severe asthma "enjoying", prolific author. But I didn't start that way. For 25 years, I did nothing with my writing. Then after an appendix issue that left me in horrible pain for 15 months, then being hit with severe asthma after that, I decided it was time to change. No more "one day", becoming an author was going to start "now." It took me 3 years to get all the emotions of what had happened out, which I did by writing an autobiography called *Refusing to Stay Down*. When it

was edited and ready to release, I decided to shelve it and write my first fiction book instead. I didn't want to be "that guy" but the memoir I'd written would simply be a part of my backstory.

I had no idea what I was doing, but there was an expression I loved from one of the directors at Microsoft (where I worked for 4.5 years), it was "outrun your mistakes." As an indie author, that's got to be the case.

These days, when I'm not taking care of my three kids, I'm writing like a demon, doing book signings, and investing time and energy back into my marriage. That expression "go to bed exhausted"? That.

## What brought you to the world of writing?

As a kid, I was always running tabletop roleplaying game sessions, Dungeons and Dragons in particular. It naturally led to me writing stories, but those around me, teachers included, were dismissive or discouraging of it. In high school and into university, it was a rare handful that provided any support. It was strange, in that everyone seemed to like my stories, but between my undiagnosed dyslexia and the fact that I was not taking an English degree, that the self-proclaimed writers around me felt it necessary to tell me I'd never make it. Instead, I turned to complete strangers, sometimes knocking on the doors of fellow students in the dorms and asking them to read something and let me know. Their amazingly positive reactions stayed with me, and I kept that hidden deep inside for 'one day.'

While I built my career in software, I'd binge write something every now and then.

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

*Along Came a Wolf* was my first book after putting that memoir together, and it happened because of a nudge from my daughter. She asked me to capture a story I'd told her at bedtime, and it transformed into that book, and into the series, *The Yellow Hoods*.

Looking back on it now, I still think it's a good little book. A large part of me would like to revisit it, fill in some of the holes, and made the maturing tone a bit more present earlier on, but I've been told by many a fan not to dare touch it. It was an amazing achievement, and has sold thousands of copies, been a finalist for multiple awards, so I guess I did something right.

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

In the past year, I've branched out into three separate areas.

*The Yellow Hoods* is a story of escape, adventure, and personal discovery when you get down to it. Discovering that good and evil aren't black and white, discovering personal limits, and discovering the complexities of the 'real world'. Probably more than anything else, it has hope and perseverance at its heart. My fans have told me how much they connect with the themes and characters, and how they walk away feeling uplifted.



All of my works have a story of striving for better laced into it. The Wizard Killer's a personal journey of a character as he'll come to see how his actions brought about a dramatic change to his world, what some see as an apocalypse, but others see as a worthwhile trade for freedom.

The Man of Cloud 9 is a man trapped by his destiny and desire, but along the way, he never gives up on one thing. He's willing to lose everything to protect it.

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

The Wizard Killer – Season One

I took my love of action movies and comic books, of binge TV, and challenged myself to write something that was intense and unrelenting. So I created a first person tale in a world where magic had been at a sci-fi type height, with levitating cars for the masses and floating cities, and then somehow was 'broken', i.e. they had an apocalypse. You meet the "man without a name" as he awakens from the dead for the third time, but this time, his memories are muddled and he doesn't know why. He makes his way through the fantasy wasteland, piecing together what's happened and getting a glimpse into who he is.

Instead of chapters, I wrote each piece as a cliff-hanging episode, and used the idea of a TV season. It's earned the nickname from two critics of "Harry Potter meets Die Hard" and "MadMax meets Lord of the Rings", and been compared to Stephen King's Gunslinger as it has a touch of western feel to it.

It was an amazing personal challenge, and become a fan favourite. Write now I'm writing Season 2, which should be out by April.

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

Usually about 2 months, though it can be double that. It really depends on how quickly I can steal the time from my life, and how excited I am!

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

My process has really been evolving over the past three books that I've written (currently writing number 9). Now, I sketch things out a bit, start some writing, and then when the moment hits, I get some legal sized sheets of paper and sit down at the dinner table. There, I start to identify some key highlights of what needs to happen, and what I'm going to write (or revise) next.

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

I've done both. The Wizard Killer series is first person, where as my other works (The Yellow Hoods, The Man of Cloud 9) are third person.

I enjoy both as they allow very different styles of intimacy with the character.

### **How do you edit your work? Do you leave your draft alone for a while or edit as you write?**

I revise and rework as I go, until I reach the point where I feel the story has gelled, and then I push myself to get the first draft complete. Once that happens, I do three full revisions to tighten everything, before providing it to beta-readers, then I revise once again, and then I go through two passes with my editor. Being a dyslexic, it's really important to have a lot of filters for quality.

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

I've got three different sides of me in the works that are out there. Firstly, I've got The Yellow Hoods. Half my audience are boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 15, and the other half of my audience is dominantly over 28 (up to their 80s) and 70% female. The Wizard Killer, with its high action and intensity focus, is for 12 and up with an almost even amount of male and female readers. The Man of Cloud 9 is more a cerebral flavour of sci-fi, and has a 60% adult, 40% teen audience.

From a marketing point of view, being in the YA space means that people tend to have a very strong relationship with print, more so than say with Romance (from my discussions with other authors). This means I'm not too heavily eBook focused, and I do a lot more in-person events and try to connect with readers through social media.

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

I'm an indie author (self) though I have an agent who is waiting for me to hand over a new manuscript to her. I'm more than happy to become a hybrid author, as I believe it will up my 'game' and extend my reach.

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

Newsletters and guest blog or interviews for online, book signings, comic-con appearances and involvement in charity events for print.

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

The Yellow Hoods series is exclusively on Amazon these days,  
The Man of Cloud 9 is available on Amazon and Kobo  
The Wizard Killer – Season One is available on Amazon and Kobo.

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

Good Omens is one of my favourite books, and introduced me to Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett. The Myth series by Robert Asprin has such beautifully silly puns and humor to it. And Bob Woodward's biographies always grab me.

### **Links**

Website: [www.AdamDreece.com](http://www.AdamDreece.com)

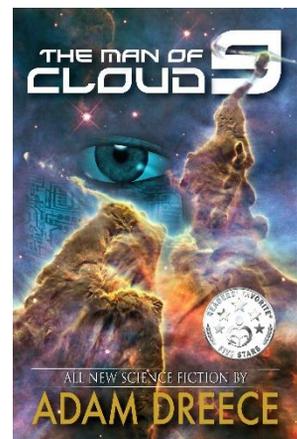
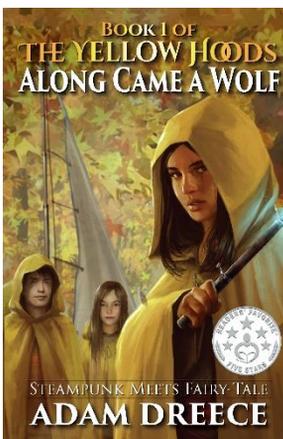
Twitter: [www.Twitter.com/AdamDreece](http://www.Twitter.com/AdamDreece)

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/AdamDreeceAuthor](http://www.Facebook.com/AdamDreeceAuthor)

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

If you're the type of person who enjoys getting sneak peeks and being introduced to other new authors, then [sign up for my newsletter](#).

Also, I have a [free samples page](#) where people can read several chapters of my books for free.



*I get so tired of people saying, 'Oh, you only make fantasy films and this and that', and I'm like, 'Well no, fantasy is reality', that's what Lewis Carroll showed in his work.*

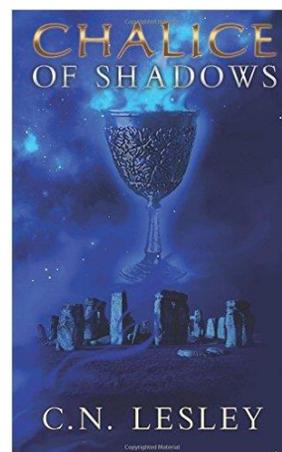
*Tim Burton*

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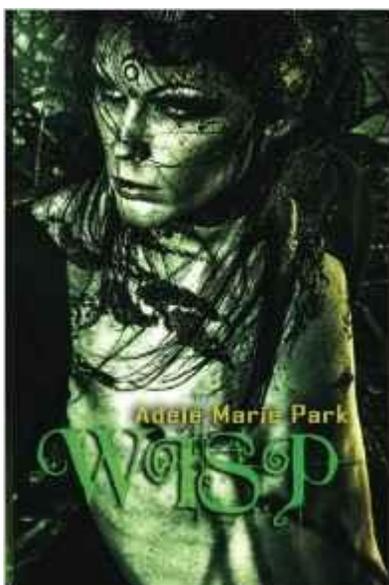
# Recently Released Books

## Chalice of Shadows by C N Lesley

Freedom from slavery should have meant a peaceful life for Morgan, but fate has other plans. Rescued by the Outcasts, Morgan escapes a Nestine attack only to be bound to the task of retrieving a lost chalice by the Outcast god. Unable to fight the pull of the chalice, she is drawn toward the vessel and all its unearthing will herald. Only her rescuer knows he must get her to the Brethren Haven where they will be safe. With familiar players of stories past moving into place, from the leader of the Nestines to Shadow and Ector of Avalon, only one thing is certain: Morgan is at the center of it all. In this third instalment, following Shadow Over Avalon and Sword of Shadows, C.N. Lesley takes us on another epic adventure, once again immersing readers in her alternate universe based on Arthurian legend and twisted into richly detailed science fantasy..



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## Wisp by Adele Marie Park

Edra; a world where magic flourishes and where dark secrets are concealed by those who rule. Secrets which can get the innocent killed without a thought. When the body of an elf is discovered in a treacherous area of the city, Wisp a young Law Enforcer is assigned the case. He soon realises the case is far from simple. As soon as he finds one thread another one leads him to unravel a tapestry woven from lies, secrets, corruption and evil. When friendship turns to love, Wisp`s life, as he knew it will completely change. What started out as a murder case ends in a grisly battle which Wisp and his companions seem to have no chance of winning.

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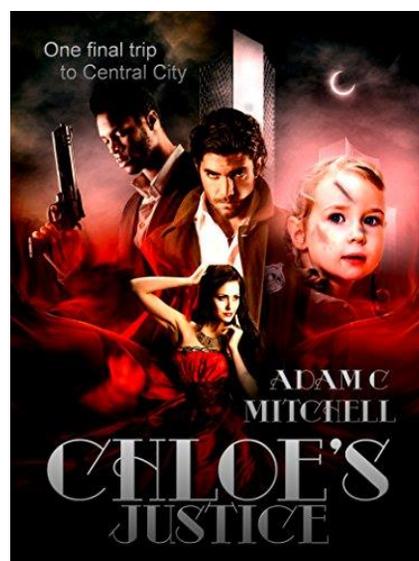
## Chloe's Justice by Adam Mitchell

Central City has fallen on bad times, The Police force is now run by the corrupt.

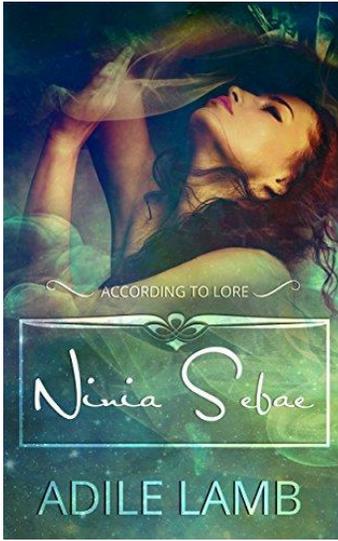
But there are still a few, who respect the badge.

A drive by shooting of young Chloe brings Detective Harry Morgan into the sorry affair.

The law of the city under new Crime Boss the dark Allegra Renetti, stops Morgan from getting justice for Chloe. So he and a band of like minded Detectives take to the Streets, to stop Allegra once and for all and get justice for yet another innocent victim of their dark city.



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## Ninia Sebae by Adile Lamb

Angela's parents died in horrific circumstances a few years ago, about the time she had last seen her childhood home—a quaint, old cottage situated deep in the woods that holds many secrets.

Angela's return to the cottage in the mysterious woods intends to be a once in a lifetime opportunity for her to ease back into a time that held an easier and simpler life. Yet, in her slumber, she dreams of a woman with flaming red hair. Baffled yet intrigued, Angela wonders who the woman is she dreams about.

After a chance encounter with a stranger who ironically resembles the woman in her dreams, Angela's life changes forever as she learns more about herself and the woods surrounding the quaint cottage that has a set of secrets all its own.

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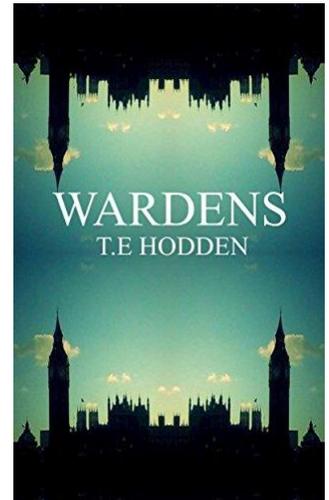
## Wardens by T E Hodden

A superhero novel, in the style of a screenplay.

The Wardens, the UK's own superhero family, have been adventuring in science and fantasy for years. Youngest son Ben just wants to be a regular archaeologist, with a girlfriend, and friends... and... well... a life.

An ex girlfriend, an old enemy, and mysterious artefacts are all about to converge in the futuristic city of the Wardens, and embroil Ben and his family in the plots of an alien menace.

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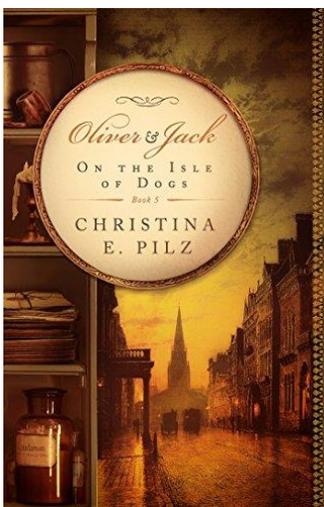
## Olive & Jack On the Isle of Dogs by Christina E Pilz

The love between an orphan and his street-thief companion is tested almost beyond endurance when they return to London and are hunted down by their darkest enemy.

After the cruel rejection from their families, Oliver and Jack brave the dangers they left behind to return to London and take up residence at the Three Cripples. The bedsit they share is small and riddled with bed bugs, but what does that matter when there is always cool beer on tap and the excitement and diversions of London are spread out before them?

While Jack returns to picking pockets, Oliver works in the tavern, serving beer and sweeping at the endless tide of dirt, struggling to retain what is left of his reputation, his dignity, and everything he ever thought he stood for. Amidst their happiness and plans for future contentment, Workmaster Chalenheim kidnaps them, assaults Jack, and leaves them both to die.

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In the busy, noisy, crowded streets of London, where shadows hold secrets often too horrible to describe, can Oliver and Jack rebuild their shattered peace? Will their love for each other prove stronger than hate?

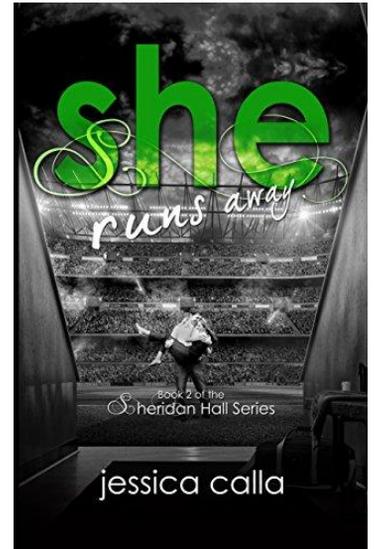
## She Runs Away by Jessica Calla

After tragedy strikes New Jersey University's Sheridan Hall, freshman quarterback Ben Riley's stable, normal life is turned upside down. Sidelined from playing the game he loves and on the verge of losing his scholarship, Ben wants nothing more than to escape the chaos of college and return home to rural Pennsylvania and his family.

Yet, there's something that keeps him from running. Or someone. A cute blonde he had a chance with but blew off for all the wrong reasons.

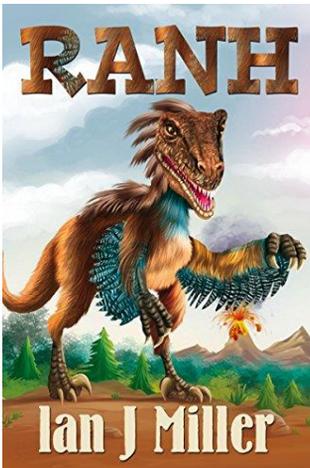
Megan Smith has secrets. Secrets that have burned her in the past. Secrets she's unwilling to share with anyone at Sheridan Hall—especially Ben, her sexy, rough-around-the-edges floormate who broke her heart in a matter of days after moving into Sheridan. Meg decided early on that it's easier to live life on her own than to share her secrets and let people in.

Meg runs, and Ben follows. But sooner or later, the clock on their chance at love will expire. With inner demons dragging them both down, they must find a way to stop running and trust one another or risk losing their perfectly matched love forever.



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## Ranh by Ian J Miller



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Ranh, a planet seeded with Cretaceous life from Earth that has evolved a technologically advanced race of raptors, many of who feel the proper place for a mammal is the larder. Governed by a theocracy, there are always some who wish to remove humans from the Planet of Creation (Earth). While a treaty with other advanced civilizations previously forbade them, that treaty has expired, and Natasha Kotchetkova arrives at Ranh to negotiate a further treaty. The agreed plan formulated on Earth is simple. The Kuyrills head the Space Curia, Kuyrill Kazyn would present Natasha to the Curia and his father would ensure the treaty was signed.

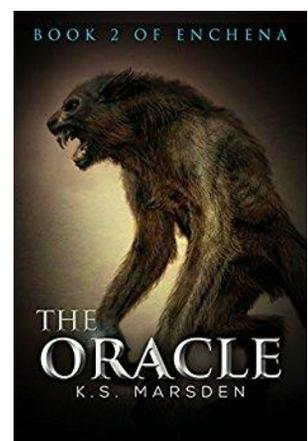
That plan failed. On arrival home, Kazyn finds the Kuyrill's in disarray and his father dead. Kazyn suspects assassination, and shortly Kazyn is accused of murder. Somebody does not want this treaty. While he has the perfect alibi through Seppet Methrell of the Military Curia, Methrell, perhaps the most dangerous female on Ranh, puts Kazyn on the run. Is she trying to sort out what is going on? Is she testing Kazyn as a possible mate? Or are her motives more sinister? Kazyn's only ally was his servant Baht, unacknowledged, the lowest of the low, who was forbidden to hurt a fly or stand up for herself, yet she must do what no other unacknowledged has ever done or there will be interplanetary war. And will Natasha and her associates survive long enough to get to the signing? A tale of plotting, conspiracy, religious fervour, murder, treachery, honour, diplomacy, and tail-ball.

## The Oracle by K S Marsden

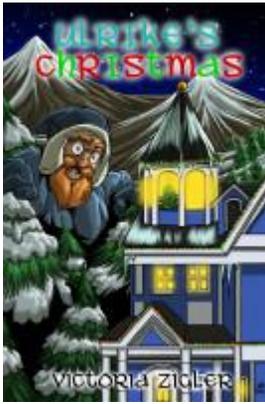
After a brief respite, the Gardyn rebels have returned to fight the tyranny of King Hrafn and Prince David.

Samantha, Jillis and Tobias will have to find their place in the new vision of Enchena; but first, they have to risk everything to make it real.

New allies will rise, as the past plays a huge part in the future; and an Oracle must be brought, to guide them all.



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## Ulrike's Christmas

Ulrike knows all about the Winter Solstice celebrations of the giants, being one himself. But what he doesn't know is why the humans cut down whole trees, only to take them home to decorate. Other giants tell him to forget about it, but Ulrike is curious; he needs to know why they do it.

Finally, when he's puzzled over it so much his head is sore from all the thinking, he decides that this is the year he'll figure it out, and risks a return trip to the home of the last family he watched to look for clues, despite almost being spotted last time he was there.

That's how he meets Billy, a friendly little boy who loves stories, and is happy to tell Ulrike all about tree decorating, and Santa Claus, along with a couple of stories he knows about them. Stories which Ulrike loves, and which inspire him to add some of what Billy says are Christmas celebrations to his own this Winter, in the hopes that Santa Claus will visit him too.

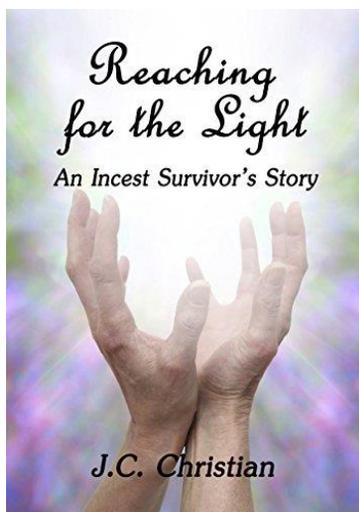
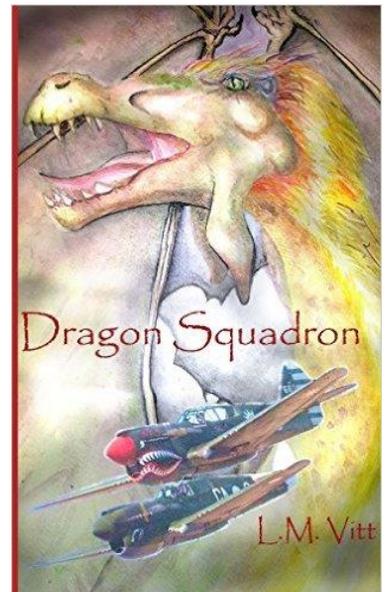
## Dragon Squadron by L M Vitt

Since the times of magic, Bob Conner's WWII fighter plane was as close as he could get to dancing among the clouds and nestling in the shoulders of his mighty emerald dragon.

It had been thousands of years since the magic was buried deep within the Earth to protect it from mankind. Now the world has changed forever as it has been rediscovered, and once again brought to the Earth's surface.

Now that the magic has been released, it is up to those few elves and dwarfs that have stayed behind to put things back. With the help of three special women and a small air force of vintage aircraft, this courageous group battles the darkness and it is the light that ushers in a whole new age of enchantment.

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## Reaching for the Light – An Incest Survivor's Story by J C Christian

The crime of child sexual assault is a national tragedy. With unflinching honesty, author J.C. Christian takes readers on a journey into the private world of the incest survivor.

In a world rarely seen outside a therapist's office, J.C. shares her inspirational journey of recovery and healing

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# Authors Supporting Charities

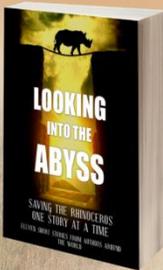
## LOOKING INTO THE ABYSS WITH PAUL WHITE

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

## [BOOTS ON THE GROUND TRAILER](#)

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.’



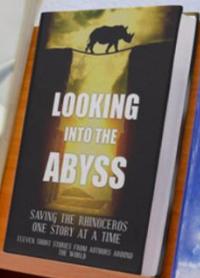
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The African Rhinoceros is being hunted to extinction for it's horn by illegal poaching, supported by organised crime.

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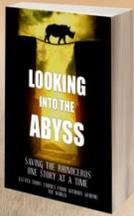
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You need to buy this book!***



Saving the Rhinoceros one story at a time.

Get your copy of this wonderful anthology and YOU could help save a Rhinoceros from a brutal and unnecessary death.

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When you buy your copy of this wonderful collection of short stories you are helping raise awareness of the plight of the African Rhinoceros

Conservation Redlist Magazine say's  
*"We all need to help save the Rhinoceros, if not for ourselves, for the sake of our children"*

Order you copy today.

***PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THIS CHARITY!***



## Beautiful Nightmares – Women of Horror Anthology

Demons, Vampires, Dark Readers of the Mind, Unspeakable Horrors and Ghosts that lurk in the night. When the sun fades behind the horizon and darkness falls, these are the things that chill your bones. Every bump, every whistle of the wind, every distant cry a nightmare waiting to unfold. Frightening. Terrible. Beautiful.

Beneath this cover you will find twisted tales of the macabre from some of the best in modern Horror, including:

Skye Knizley, Sarah Davis Brandon, A. Giacomi, Lily Luchesi, Laurencia Hoffman, October Weeks, Kindra Sowder, Faith Marlow, Petronela Ungureanu, P. Mattern, T.M. Scott, Nicolajayne Taylor

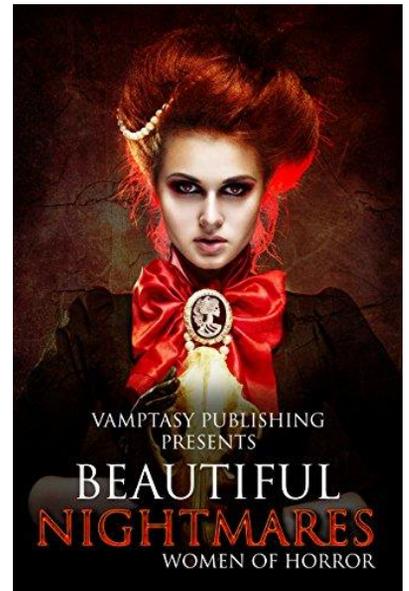
Cover design from Rebecca Poole of Dreams2Media

Read them, if you so dare, but leave the lights on. You never know who, or what, is lurking at the edge of darkness.

Beautiful Nightmares, a Horror Anthology from Vamptasy Publishing, the leader in Indie Horror.

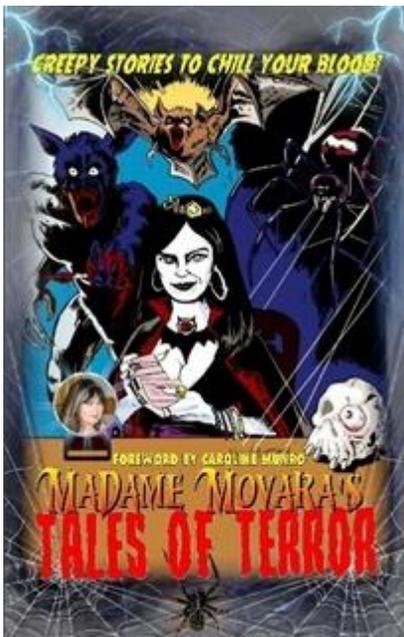
All proceeds to be donated to the Los Angeles LGBT Center. You can find out more about this Charity here. <https://lalgbtcenter.org/>

The Los Angeles LGBT Centre was founded by [Morris Knight](#) in 1969. Today they are the world's largest provider of programs and services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.



[PRE-ORDER LINK](#)

## Madame Movaras Tales of Horror Anthology



If you love the taste of fear, then this collection of short stories will be sure to chill your blood! An eclectic mix of spooky, horrific and gruesome tales from a motley group of writers, all of them condemned to suffer under the baleful gaze of your host, the devilish Madame Movara.

But wait! Whilst the authors themselves have been collected together in a hellish torment, Madame Movara promises that you WILL take delight from the words inside...

For as much as she is wicked, she is also kind. All profits from the sale of this horror anthology will be donated to the International Children's Charity, proving that some good will come from these truly dark tales.

Save the Children Charity: <https://www.savethechildren.net/>

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Please support them in anyway you can*



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