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### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Readers,

We're presenting DE MODE JUL-AUG-SEP 2022 GLOBAL ISSUE (VOL. 5, ISSUE XXVII) - 5th Anniversary Special - Presenting Designer Ivan Tran's AW22-23 'Trúc' Collection from THAILAND FASHION WEEK 2022. We did the cover shoot with an amazing team of photographers, make-up artists, hairstylists, and stylists in Vietnam. We love the outfit, vibrant colours and style. Met wonderful people. Designer Ivan definitely deserves an appreciation for his excellence in craftsmanship. Please enjoy the outfit from different angles and in different styles in our cover story.

When you open a book, you are also opening up: your mind, your potential and your point of view. We have brought you a list of the "Best 6 LGBTQ+ Books of 2022" that will help you open up your potential and your point of view toward people. Find the books on Page 14.

This time our Sr. Photo-Journalist, Michael Foust, was very fortunate to cover Concierto de Moda Internacional de Venecia in Venice. He has photographed the best 8 looks from the entire season. Page 27. Don't miss it!!

Wondering what the best books are to check out in September 2022? We got you. We'll be shining a spotlight on the Top 3 Best -Reads recommended by the editors of DE MODE.

Enjoy reading DE MODE JUL-AUG-SEP 2022 GLOBAL ISSUE and don't forget to share your feedback on Google.

Nikhil C. Rana (Nick)
FOUNDER & Editor-in-Chief

Wikhil Chandra Gana

**DEMODE** 





## AW THA Ivan Tran - outfits can

### AW22-23 COLLECTION AT THAILAND FASHION WEEK

Ivan Tran - who has succeeded top designer in Vietnam, and whose outfits can be seen on many global celebrities, presented his AW22-23 collection at Thailand Fashion Week in Bangkok. He sent off his clothes to all of you of his newest collection "Trúc - Bamboo". It's been quite a while since Ivan released a collection name with a rather short name, but deep in it is a forest of Ivan's thoughts. Bamboo is a kind of tree that people think of as affirmative, strong, and also very flexible in the wind when it comes to people. If it is related to Ivan's fashion or personality, it can be said to be almost the same, sometimes thorny, strong, somewhere flexible and versatile. Versatile here is that people find it very applicable in any place. We are presenting Ivan Tran's LGBTQ masterpiece at THAILAND FASHION WEEK 2022. Thoughtful, ingenious, comfortable, functional and long-lasting work. A rich and diverse selection of contemporary colours, highlighting the very best in creativity, diversity and craftsmanship.



# DEMODE | cover story

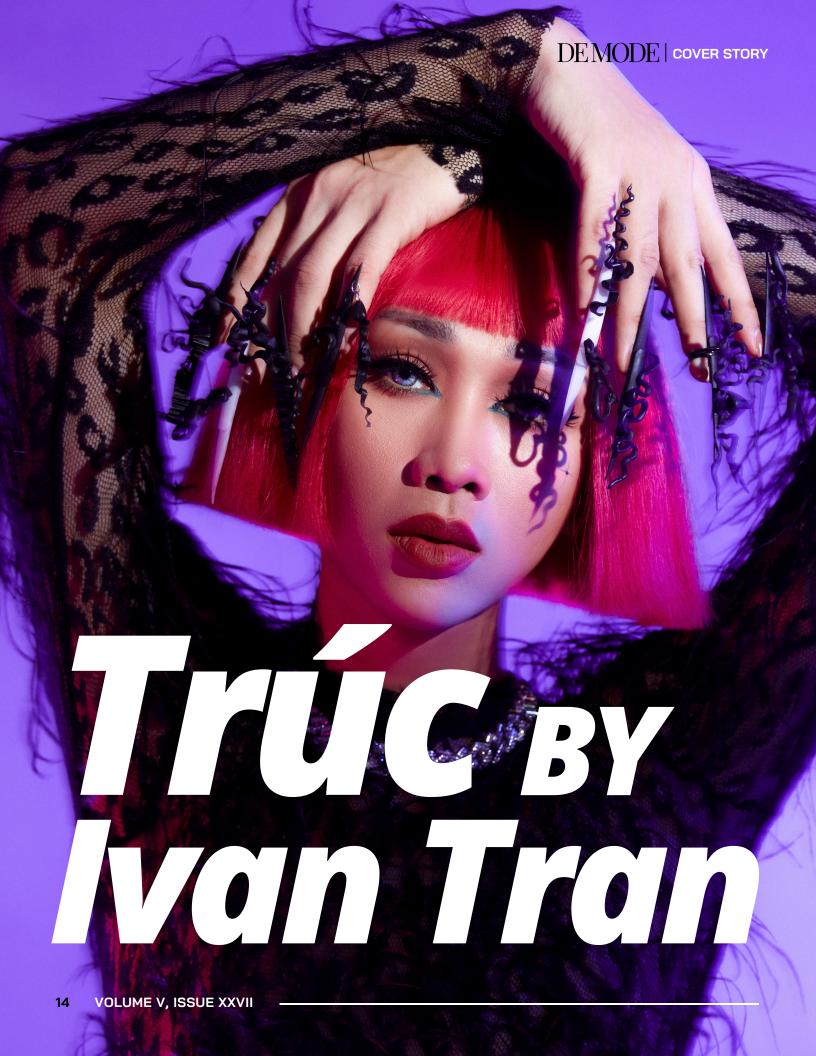
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WRITING CAN BE HARD, BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LONELY. READ THE BEST 6 LGBTQ **BOOKS FROM THF** MASTERS OF THE CRAFT.





### THE PRINCE'S POISONED VOW

### BY AUTHOR HAILEY TURNER

Hailey Turner writes LGBTQ+ science fiction and fantasy with

### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

Every country is built on revolution.

THE WARDEN. Soren is a nameless, stateless man, tasked with keeping watch over Maricol's borders. He isn't meant for politics, only dealing with the dead. His past was buried in the poison fields, but after a fateful encounter with a prince, Soren comes to realize he can't keep what magic burns inside him hidden forever.

THE PRINCE. Vanya Sa'Liandel was the spare who survived the Houses' murderous games to become the Imperial crown prince of Solaria. He has a duty to his country, but he'll owe his life to the wardens. Payment of any kind is costly, especially when he's at risk of losing his heart to the man who saved his life.

THE COG. Caris Dhemlan hears the siren song of clarion crystals better than anyone in Ashion. That skill for inventing has enriched her bloodline, but it's whom she can become that will ultimately entangle her with the Clockwork Brigade.

THE PRINCESS. Eimarille Rourke should have been raised to be the gueen of one country; instead, she is a prisoner of another. Guided by a star god, Eimarille bides her time in a gilded cage, spinning a political web to gain a throne and start a war the world isn't

Hailey enjoys bringing the reader along on a wild adventure. She loves exploring societal themes in her stories while also showcasing the relationships between people as they grow. Whether romantic or platonic, Hailey takes great joy in letting her characters forge strong bonds with each other over the course of a series.

Get your copy of The Prince's Poisoned Vow today. Discover more on www.haileyturner.com



### THE AUTHOR

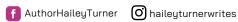
Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Hailey grew up surrounded by different artistic communities. Her passion for creating worlds led her to get a BA degree in creative writing pursue publication. Her time at university opened her eyes to what a writing community could be like.

Since then, she has found her tribe of amazingly talented authors who have long since become her form of found family. When Hailey isn't writing or working at her very demanding day job in the legal field, she can usually be found traveling to new cities and countries. Hailey loves to draw inspiration from different cultures, and the best way to experience them is to visit the source. Over the years, she has found inspiration throughout her travels, and she's grateful for all the experiences and people she's encountered along the way.

Science fiction and fantasy have always been Hailey's favorite genres to read since she was a little girl, so it only made sense to write what she loved. Hailey doesn't limit herself to one single subgenre of science fiction and fantasy, preferring to follow her muse to the next exciting story. That decision to never remain in one place creatively is an echo of her love for traveling, and Hailey sets her books in all manner of periods and locations.

Writing will always be Hailey's passion, while science fiction and fantasy will remain her one true literary love. Her goal is to provide a wonderful escape for readers, whether on the earth or amongst the stars.





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### Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

I started writing when I was 7 or 8, so I can't remember my first thought, but I know I enjoyed it. If I hadn't enjoyed it so much, I wouldn't be where I am today.

### Q: What do you like to write about the most?

I love creating new worlds and characters and getting to know them. It's exciting putting down the first building blocks of a new story and seeing where the plot will take me. That's one of the reasons I love science-fiction and fantasy so much. There are no boundaries for the imagination there.

### Q: What does your book emphasize?

One of the tropes you'll always find in my books is the concept of found family. Those people who come into our lives and, while not necessarily related by blood, are still so important that they become family. The LGBTQ+ community has always embraced found families and I think it's important to showcase that you can still find people who love you for who you are even if you're not related.

### Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

A little bit of both. I feel unmoored if I don't write every day, but on the other hand, sometimes I really want to do anything but write. I still get the words done and I'm happier for it.

### Q: What have been some of the most exciting changes you have seen with regard to support for LGBT youth and what do you hope to see in the future?

I love the fact that this generation of LGBT youth isn't afraid to be vocal about who they are. There's still far too much discrimination in the world, but there's also so much more support and solidarity and acknowledgment of LGBT youths and their place in society. Social media may have its downsides, but it has also enabled LGBT youth to connect across the world, and I think that sense of community is so important. I hope that support, both among youths and from adults, continues to grow so LGBT youth can thrive.

### Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I think every writer is putting their twist on the same core archetype of stories out there. In which case, every writer is providing something new for readers, which I think is wonderful. I write what I want to write, and I've been lucky enough that readers love my books and are willing to follow me along on the next adventure.

### Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

I think every writer is passionate about what they write. If they didn't love it so much, they wouldn't try to find the words to tell the stories living in their heads.

### Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

To me, publishing is simply the business side of writing. It doesn't change the way I create and write a story. So in that regard, nothing changed.

### Q: How many unpublished and halffinished books do you have?

I have some ideas in the pipeline for my next few projects, but none have been written yet. I can only write one book at a time, so I never have more than that in my files.

### Q: What does literary success look like to uou?

I think success is so personal and differs from person to person. For me, getting a book out there and watching readers fall in love with it definitely provides a sense of satisfaction as a writer

### Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

I do so much research for all of my books. I love that part of the writing process. It's pulling together all the little details that give depth to the story. I research before the start of each book but I also continue to research throughout the writing process.

### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

I'm happy that DE MODE reached out to me and I'm excited to be featured. Thank you for the opportunity!

### **BOOK REVIEW**

Terrific new series from Hailey.

Absolutely magnificent, what a thrilling ride that was. The world-building was superb, the characters fully fleshed, and you will DEFINITELY need to have your wits about you and take serious note of what goes on in the first part of the story 'Inferno'. Hailey certainly threw the kitchen sink at this one...political intrigue, clockwork agents, whom to trust, treachery, super secret agents, assassins, Star Gods plotting against one another...honestly, this first part of the Infernal War Saga has it all.

- Reviewed by BevS in the United Kingdom



### **MECHANIEK:** LOST PARADISE

### BY AUTHOR JC COMPTON

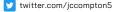
JC self-published their first series, Undertakers Inc., an 2022, they joined Spectrum Books Publishing and released steampunk novel set in a world ruled by mechanics. When JC

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Mechaniek: Lost Paradise is a post-apocalyptic LGBTQ sci-fi steampunk novel set in a futuristic world ruled by mechanics.

In the distant future, in a world ravaged by a toxic war, mechanics are now the ruling class. Taliesin is a peaceful fisherman on the isle of Ethia, bearing only a large scar on his forearm from the toxic rains that ravage the planet. One day, he is caught up in a toxic storm and saved by the renegade mechanic Merrick. They fall in love and find a tropical paradise they name "Paradise Island". Merrick then brings Taliesin back to Ethia, promising to return after fixing his mechanical sailboat. If they were to be separated, they vow to meet again on "Paradise Island", but Merrick never returns. After hearing that Merrick may have been arrested for piracy, Taliesin attempts to board a mechanical galleon to the city and a mysterious man offers him to play the role of the lost prince and pretend to marry his own son in exchange for Merrick's freedom. Little does Taliesin know that memories will resurface, confirming he was actually the lost prince, the son of the man who ordered the kidnapping of Merrick as a child and the murder of his mother. The most important theme in the story is true love, the sort that survives even lies and manipulation, and how love in itself is selfsustainable. We also see some not-so-good characters change because of love. The story ends on a cliffhanger: what will happen to Taliesin, Merrick, Nex, Goram, and Toweren thereafter? Find out in the next volume in the series, coming out later this year.

Get your copy of 'Mechaniek: Lost Paradise' today. Connect with Author JC Compton below.









### THE AUTHOR

JC is the non-binary, French author American LGBTQ+ fantasy, sci-fi, and romance paranormal novels. Born and raised in France, they grew up in a multicultural environment which has shaped their passion for meeting new people from all around the world. Home was filled with English classics of

literature and poetry such as books by Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Brontë, or Robert Browning, science fiction novels by Isaac Asimov, and IC also enjoyed the French classic authors Honoré de Balzac, Emile Zola, or Victor Hugo, and fantasy novels by C.S Lewis, Anne Rice, and Tolkien. Literature, poetry, the beauty of words, and the romantic beauty of JC's hometown on the coast all seemed to complement each other, forming an auspicious environment for creativity to blossom.

A shy and quiet kid, JC began to write their own stories at an early age, both in the form of novels and graphic novels, later preferring the novel format because they could express more in the same number of pages. They naturally followed the literary program in their high school, focusing on literature, philosophy, and foreign languages then studied the English language in the USA and East Asian studies and history in Canada.

A world traveller passionate about languages, JC is fluent in French, English, and Japanese, and has travelled to many countries. Their most unforgettable journey was to India, sparking their passion for the Indian culture and languages.

### Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

I started writing as a child because reality was 'not enough. I needed to create always more beautiful, more magical worlds. My lack of interest in contemporary novels was criticized by my teachers in school, who deemed me 'too creative'.

### Q: What do you like to write about the most?

Of course, I like writing about themes that are dear to me, like true love, but I also enjoy creating characters who are the opposite of me and imagining how they would interact with others and how their story arc would go.

### Q: What does your book emphasize?

My book is about finding one's truth in a confusing world where we are constantly being manipulated by the media, by marketing, etc.

### Q: What book or childhood author had the greatest impact on you?

The one book I read and reread the most as a child was The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, by C. S. Lewis. I had an old wardrobe at home, so it seemed like I too could go to Narnia! The imprint this book left on me is that there are no limits to the worlds you can write about and that you can create fantasy even from dull reality.

### Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

There are many, and many marketing tricks intended to deceive the readers. Many publishers are looking to publish LGBTQ memoirs or real-life experiences, to showcase us as objects of curiosity, but few care to publish us as fiction authors. After reading what a few literary agents were looking for, I stopped querying and simply published my own books, but I eventually found a publisher who was a match for what I wrote. My publisher, Spectrum Books, publishes multi-genre LGBTQ+ novels, where many orientations can be represented. They can reach a much broader audience.

### Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Writing is as essential to me as breathing. I experience great heights when writing a new book, and great lows when it is complete. But that's okay because inspiration soon comes back, and I write a new book!

### Q: What have been some of the most exciting changes you have seen with regard to support for LGBT youth and what do you hope to see in the future?

The LGBT youth is awesome. Because representation is much better nowadays, they know exactly who they are, and they say it out loud. But they are faced with rising pressure from anti-LGBT groups who seem all-powerful

because of their lobbies. This is why us LGBT people of all ages need to keep standing up, writing, singing, representing, and making our voices heard.

### Q: We hear stories about exclusion, harassment, bullying, and other struggles of LGBTQ youth. How do you deal with the critics?

As a non-binary person, I face criticism and bullying not only from non-LGBT people but also within the LGBT community. There are still some members of the community who say that people like me 'don't exist, that we are closeted transgender people, or that it's not possible to identify as more than one gender. I see gender as a spectrum, on which I know exactly where I stand. I have identified as a non-binary for over twenty years, and I've had plenty of time to think about it! Outside of the LGBT community, I get criticized for being a female-bodied person refusing to dress in a feminine way. There is still the expectation that women and/or female-bodied people owe beauty and femininity to others, and that their only value lies in their looks.

### Q: Do you try more to be original?

Originality is the most important thing to me. I'm not out there to write the LGBT version of Twilight or Fifty Shades of Grey, but something new and unique. People will like it or not, depending on what they are looking for.

### Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

There are so many different genres of books that anyone can write a book, however strongly they feel emotions. For example, some romance readers prefer platonic or even asexual romances, while others expect explicit, sexy, stormy love stories. There is a writer for every reader out there.

### Q: What is the signature quote that you'd like to share with the readers?

"People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it". I've always been fearless, and all my life people have told me "you can't possibly do it", to which I responded "watch me do it".

### Q: What does literary success look like?

It's writing a book, and then writing the next book. I don't look at how many books I sold before writing a sequel. I know people will read it, and some will like it. To me, that's success.

### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

I am very happy to be featured in the Pride month edition of DE MODE, and I hope to be a source of inspiration for LGBT youth, and future writers!



### YOU'LL BE FINE

### BY AUTHOR JEN MICHALSKI

Writing a novel that opens with the death of a parent is not exactly a comedy at heart: "Although Michalski says this is a family comedy, there is a tragedy at the heart of it. What she found in writing this novel and the one on which she's currently working is that you can't separate levity and tragedy, just like in real life. You might be at the funeral home, but something funny happens there, and you laugh and your family laughs and it's a moment you'll share, one that will warm your heart during those gutting periods of grief. She wanted to capture that duality, even if it meant the book is difficult to characterize as one way or another."

### ABOUT THE BOOK

After Alex's mother dies, she takes leave from her job as a writer for a Washington, DC, lifestyle magazine to return home to Maryland's Eastern Shore. There, she joins her brother Owen, a study in failure-to-launch, in sorting out their mother's whimsical and often selfdestructive life. Alex has proposed to her editor that while she is home she profiles Juliette Sprigg, her former high school fling, owner of a wildly popular local restaurant, and celebrity chef in the making. While working on the story and trying for a second chance with Juliette, Alex meets Carolyn Massey, editor of the town newspaper. Matters get complicated when Carolyn begins to show more than a professional interest in Alex, and Alex's Aunt Johanna, who has transitioned to a woman, comes from Seattle and reveals a family secret. Alex may have to accept her family for who they are rather than whom she hoped they would be, and just maybe apply the same philosophy to her heart and herself. Named a "Best Small Press Book" by Buzzfeed, You'll Be Fine "has plenty of heart" according to Kirkus Reviews and is "[A]n enjoyable story about an adult trying to grow up."

Michalski admits with 'You'll Be Fine' she was determined to write a family comedy and not a family tragedy, as in her previous family novel, The Summer She Was Under Water: "I'd noticed over the years, at readings or wherever I'd meet people who'd read my work, they always seemed surprised that I was funny in person, I mean, so much so that they'd tell me! And it bothered me that if you've only read my previous novels, you'd think I was this serious person when I don't see myself that way at all. I love laughing and making people laugh."

Get your copy of 'YOU'LL BE FINE' by Author Jen Michalski today.



### THE AUTHOR

Like most writers, as soon as Jen Michalski started writing, she couldn't stop. She remembers when she was seven her mother folded a piece of paper into quarters, making her a "book," into which Jen wrote about her birthday party. It was her first novel, and she's been writing them ever since---on the

backs of discarded office memos from her mother's work (which she brought home for drawing paper for len and her twin brother, Scott), into spiral notebooks she kept on a box on a shelf in her closet, and eventually on hard disks and USB files. The most important part of writing for Jen growing up was examining her sexuality. Writing, she explains, was her "emotional test kitchen," wherein she wrote about teens coming to grips with being gay the same way she was also a teen, coming to grips with being gay herself. In the late 80s, she notes, there were no novels about gay youth, nothing to make her feel like she belonged, or was understood, or even existed. So she wrote her novels. Now, having turned fifty in May, Jen is the author of three novels, three short story collections, and one couplet of novellas. Her novels The Tide King, The Summer She Was Under Water, and You'll Be Fine run the gamut from magical realism/historical fiction, family comedy, and family tragedy and have won The Big Moose Prize and Somerset Awards and a finalist for USA Book Awards. Her stories have appeared in numerous anthologies, and she's been nominated for the Pushcart Prize six times.

W wikipedia.Jen\_Michalski





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### Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

When I was seven, my mom folded a piece of paper into quarters to make a "book," and I wrote a story about my birthday party. It was my first book, and I've been writing ever since. I remember feeling at the time that it was so natural but also like being gifted a superpower.

### Q: What do you like to write about the most?

I write about things I want to understand—why people act the way they do, what makes a life worth living, and what do our authentic selves look like? Human nature interests me a lot, and it's unavoidable when writing about, well, anything. Whether it's science, history, or travel, the human condition is irrevocably intertwined with all of them.

### Q: What does your book emphasize?

You'll Be Fine is about accepting the family you have, rather than pining for the family you wanted or the family you lost. An important right of passage as an adult is forgiveness and acceptance, especially how it relates to one's past. Can we accept our parents are merely people, too, imperfect and fumbling around just as we are?

### Q: What book or childhood author had the greatest impact on you?

Reading Louise Fitzhugh's Harriet the Spy when I was eleven or twelve was life-altering. To read about Harriet, a bright, slightly irascible girl, and her very real pains of friendships and growing up made me realize I wanted to write in an honest way about relationships and people and their faults.

### Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

It's not an unethical practice, but there's inequity in the publishing industry, which will pay a million-dollar advance for some reality star's ghost-written memoir or a pedestrian thriller while passing on lesser-known smaller-platform authors with quietly good novels. Sadly, like many industries, it's not a meritocracy.

### Q: What have been some of the most exciting changes you have seen with regard to support for LGBTQ youth and what do you hope to see in the future?

The Young Adult (YA) market has exploded with books for LGBTQ youth, and I'm a little jealous —I wish I had seen myself represented in books when I was younger! I hope to see more adaptations for film and streaming and LGBTQ YA writers able to sustain themselves in the industry.

Q: We hear stories about exclusion,

### harassment, bullying, and other struggles of LGBTQ youth. How do you deal with the critics?

Fortunately, I haven't had many experiences with this—I just try to either not read Goodreads reviews, and I also remind myself that not every book is for everyone, just as not everyone's journey is the same. I do think, however, we should be unapologetic about our experiences as LGBTQ people and write as honestly about them as possible.

### Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

You have to write for yourself, I think, not others. If we're willing to write books we think people want, we're not really saying anything —we're just regurgitating what's already out there. I want people to walk away from my books thinking about something they may not have thought about before, or at least in a different way.

### Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

No. You have to be honest with yourself to write authentically, and that means being in touch with yourself. Part of being a writer is putting yourself in other people's shoes, and you can't examine another point of view without being aware of your baseline feelings and beliefs.

### Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

It made me realize that writing is a marathon, not a sprint and that hopefully, each book you write is an improvement on the last in some way—your plots are stronger, or characterization, or at the sentence level. Writing is difficult to learn and impossible to master—one is forever a student. I work harder.

### Q: How many unpublished and halffinished books do you have?

I have two unpublished books—one a comingof-age mystery in 1970s Rhode Island and a YA LGBTQ book about a psychic girls' school. I'm proud of them and would buy them if I saw them in the store, but sometimes it's just not the right time for a book, or doesn't resonate with the right people.

### Q: What does literary success look like to you?

I think getting a book published is successful. The icing on the cake is when someone reads your book and takes the time to email/DM you to tell you they responded to it in some way. Making a connection with other people gives me the greatest satisfaction, although I'd be lying if I said I didn't want a movie adaptation!



### SALAMAT SA INTERSECTIONALITY

### BY AUTHOR DANI PUTNEY

Putney is working on their second full-length poetry collection, tentatively titled Mix-Mix, which excavates their mixed-race Filipinx identity more extensively by, for example, reformulating text from undergraduate alma mater.

### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

Dani Putney's debut full-length poetry collection, Salamat sa Intersectionality, is a lyrical triptych that traces the evolution of the speaker's identity as a mixed-race non-binary. Filipinx. neurodivergent individual. Each "panel" of the speaker's life represents a distinct period of growth: a youthful beginning, which features important interactions with the speaker's parents; a sexually charged middle period that demonstrates the speaker's explorations of gueer sexuality; and a contemplative third section wherein the speaker reckons with their various "selves." The imagery of the American West percolates through the collection to ground the speaker in their intersectional identity.

Salamat sa Intersectionality may also be thought of as an anthropomorphic sculpture—"anthropomorphic" rather than a more specific term like "human" because exists liminality in the concept anthropomorphism, as in not completely human but possessing human-like characteristics. Because the speaker's existence as a queer, non-binary, mixed-race Filipinx and neurodivergent individual is necessarily caught in the crosshairs of identity, their selfexpression may not be completely understood through anthropocentric terms alone. The speaker jokes that they are swamp monsters or even an angel; indeed, these sentiments appear in the eponymous poem and "Angeligender," respectively. The in-between space of anthropomorphism cultivates a sense of freedom and creativity that enables the speaker to survive. Put another way, this collection is a reclamation of the speaker's swamp-monster self—in choosing to sculpt their anthropomorphic form throughout this collection, the speaker gives themselves permission to exist as they are.

Get your copy of "SALAMAT SA INTERSECTIONALITY" today on Amazon.



### THE AUTHOR

Dani Putney is a queer, non-binary, mixed-race Filipinx, & neurodivergent writer originally from Sacramento, California. Putney's work interrogates the various facets of their intersectional identity, complicating notions of selfhood in relation to family, place, and literary theory. They began writing poetry "seriously" at age 17

after composing a love poem in green ink on loose-leaf paper for a boy they liked (and thought they were in love with). Before this fateful poem, they believed they were going to be a biologist or even a doctor, which their mother wanted them to become.

After graduating from high school, they went on to study creative writing at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, taking workshops in poetry, creative nonfiction, and new media writing. They received their BA in English (with a specialization in writing) from the University of Nevada, Reno, and their MFA in Creative Writing (with an emphasis on poetry) from Mississippi University for Women. Presently, they are a PhD student in English (with an emphasis in creative writing) at Oklahoma State University, where they study under Filipina poet Janine Joseph. Besides their debut full-length poetry collection, Salamat sa Intersectionality (Okay Donkey Press, 2021)—which was recently named a finalist for the 2022 Lambda Literary Award in Transgender Poetry—they have published a chapbook titled Dela Torre (Sundress Publications, 2022), which meditates on their mixed-race heritage.

Discover more from Author Dani Putney on the links below:







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### Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

My first thought was something along the lines of "Oh, this is fun!" I started "seriously" writing poetry when I was 17 years old; I wrote my first poem—in green ink and on loose-leaf paper—for a boy I had a major crush on during my senior year of high school.

### Q: What do you like to write about the most?

I write about the various facets of my intersectional identity: queerness, non-binary gender, mixed-race Filipinx heritage, and neurodivergence, as well as the ways these identities inform one another and overlap. My second full-length poetry manuscript (in progress) is mainly about my racial identity, so I've been writing about that more intentionally as of late.

### Q: What does your book emphasize?

Salamat sa Intersectionality is about embracing the messiness of one's intersectional identity. Coming into one's self is complicated, so the collection emphasizes tackling head-on the intersecting identities that form a person's sense of selfhood. While reflecting on identity is difficult—it often involves confronting trauma—I believe this journey is necessary for people to more fully come into themselves.

### Q: What book or childhood author had the greatest impact on you?

Sylvia Plath, specifically her posthumous collection, Ariel, was incredibly influential for me as a beginning poet. She was the first poet I read voraciously, as she understood mental illness on a deep, visceral level, an awareness I'd not yet seen in a poetry collection (or a novel, for that matter).

### Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

I firmly oppose blind reading because it prevents historically underrepresented individuals from being properly considered. Part of the solution to cultivating a more inclusive publishing industry must include unlearning white, heteronormative aesthetic preferences, but if submissions are considered blindly, then writers who meet these "standards" more often than not continue to be published at a higher rate than disenfranchised folks.

### Q: What have been some of the most exciting changes you have seen with regard to support for LGBTQ youth and what do you hope to see in the future?

In the US, there are several states, such as California, Iowa, and Maryland, with anti-discrimination and anti-bullying laws for queer youth in school settings. These laws give me

hope because they specifically recognize the need to safeguard the rights of LGBTQ+ young people, some of the most vulnerable individuals in the country. I hope more laws like this get passed.

### Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I'd like to say neither. While I hope I'm being original (I'm an Enneagram Four, after all), I write something the way I need to write it. My primary audience is myself, so if I'm not being genuine to myself and my own experiences, then I'm not fulfilling the "mission," if you will, of the poem.

### Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

Probably, but I'm not sure how successful that person would be! I believe the best poetry (maybe even writing altogether) contains Duende, that mixture of danger and passion that erupts from the soles of somebody's feet. You can't have done without emotions—or the self-awareness of your emotional state.

### Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

Not much, honestly. I still write the poems and personal essays I want to write when I want to write them. There's so much flexibility in poetry and creative nonfiction, my two main genres, which means that the publishing process doesn't change how I approach my writing. Again, I ultimately write for myself.

### Q: How many unpublished and halffinished books do you have?

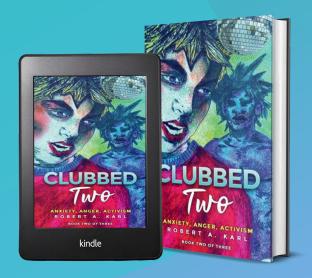
Just one, my second full-length poetry manuscript, tentatively titled Mix-Mix. However, I'm going to finish this book soon—within the next year or two—so I'm not worried about it. If you count chapbooks, I have an unpublished collection of personal essays, but I'm not actively submitting them. If it gets picked up, it gets picked up.

### Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

As a Ph.D. student, I'm used to academic research, especially art history, my secondary emphasis in my program. However, for creative writing, it depends—I might look at archival documents to reformulate some text, or I might brush up on literary theory to make sure a conceit works in a poem. None of this research takes too long.

### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

I'm excited! DE MODE is a lovely magazine with a wide reach, and as somebody who cares deeply about fashion, I can't not love it.



### **CLUBBED TWO**

### BY AUTHOR ROBERT KARL

Clubbed Two: Anxiety, Anger, Activism by Robert Karl is the second book in his powerful and poignant historical fiction trilogy. Set in Philadelphia between 1982 to 1992 as the AIDS pandemic begins its assault, the story centers around Joey and Henry, lovers and owners of Club Sanctuary, and the diverse cast of characters who frequent their club. Their stories range from funny, and fabulous to tragic, but each character is merely attempting to make their way in a world filled with hate, fear and heartbreak.

### ABOUT THE BOOK

CLUBBED TWO is historical fiction, set in Philadelphia PA from 1982 to 1992. A love story is included, but this is not your typical gay romance novel. It's his second book in a planned three-part series exploring LGBTQ history and culture.

Much of the story is told in a first-person narrative by Joey, the owner of Club Sanctuary. Joey and his partner, Henry, continue to develop their relationship as they build the club into a huge success. However, in order to provide greater insights into the words, thoughts and actions of various characters, the author often moves into a third-person narrative. This allows the reader to dive more deeply into the stories of characters whom Joey might not know at all. This format allows Club Sanctuary to be a metaphor for the greater LGBTQ community, without limiting the scope of the story. LGBTQ Pride; Diversity; Disability Awareness and Acceptance; Interracial Love; 1980s Queer Fashions and Fads; Ageism, Infidelity, and AIDS Activism.

Historical references are made as the characters attend the Gay Games, view the AIDS Memorial Quilt, or learn about the deaths of celebrities, AIDS activists and advocates, co-workers and friends. Others get involved with real-life organizations, such as ACT UP, as they struggle to fight against indifference and ignorance.

Readers have described the book as profound, poignant, fun, spicy, hilarious and as an amazing book with important stories. Come along for the ride and experience life in the true spirit of the Queer community.

Get your copy of 'CLUBBED TWO' by Author Robert Karl today.







### THE AUTHOR

Robert A. Karl is a native son of Philadelphia, PA. He spent his adult life as an active member of the LGBTQ community there. He earned his M.Ed. from Temple University and worked for the School District of Philadelphia as a teacher and technology specialist for 30 years. He

also taught courses in Educational Technology at the Temple University College of Education.

Losing many friends to the AIDS pandemic dramatically altered his world. Living in the LGBTQ community provided the historical background for his novels, CLUBBED: A Story of Gay Love and CLUBBED TWO: Anxiety, Anger, Activism. His work is a tribute to the incredible diversity in the LGBTQ community.

By setting the novels in a specific place and time (Philadelphia, PA during the 1970s through the 1990s) the author uses Club Sanctuary as a metaphor for the LGBTQ community and the many characters in the books embody the fabulous, funny and flawed people of that community.

The author openly discusses issues of internalized homophobia, racism, ageism, sexism & other problems that continue to exist within the Queer community. Ignoring these problems does nothing to provide a solution. The author believes that open, honest communication is essential to preserving our culture and our world.

Currently retired, he is the proud Gay Dog Dad to Zuna, the Awesome Boston Terrier. Living in San Juan, Puerto Rico, he enjoys the beauty and culture of La Isla del Encanto, the Island of Enchantment.

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### Q: What was that final or provoking thought that made you write your first book?

For the CLUBBED series, which are my first novels, I wanted to share positive stories of LGBTQ characters, starting before the AIDS pandemic and continuing into the 21st Century. It was important for the stories to be authentic and reflect the realities of LGBTQ life. I started the work at the beginning of the COVID pandemic.

### Q: What do you like to write about the most?

Queer characters find joy in life and accept themselves, even as they sometimes face adversity and obstacles. The overall theme of my books is to celebrate the diversity of Queer culture. I find empathy with characters who don't easily fit into the mold of the expectations of others.

### Q: What does your book emphasize?

Club Sanctuary is a metaphor for the greater LGBTQ world, exploring both positive and negative aspects of the characters' lives. The positive, long-lasting interracial relationship between the two main characters provides a focus for the other stories. Accepting ourselves and others as we are is a major emphasis.

### Q: What book or childhood author had the greatest impact on you?

I first read the works of James Baldwin many years ago, and I still re-read his works. His prose is brilliant. I recommend him to anyone who enjoys great literature. In CLUBBED TWO, the characters pay homage to Baldwin with a mural outside the club.

### Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

I have no direct experience with the publishing industry because my books are self-published. When I first looked for a publisher, they wanted me to wait much too long for them to make a decision. I would like to see the industry be more receptive to new authors from any age group and include more diverse voices.

### Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Writing energizes me! I get excited to tell the stories and see where the characters take me. I don't do any outlines or construct elaborate maps for where the stories will go. For me, that's part of the energy and excitement, to travel along with the characters.

### Q: What have been some of the most exciting changes you have seen with regard to support for LGBT youth and what do you hope to see in the future?

We now see ourselves represented more frequently in all types of media, which is

encouraging LGBTQ youth. There's still a long way to go and in some cases, we are now meeting strong resistance. More tolerance and acceptance are needed. And I want more stories with LGBTQ characters in all sorts of settings, including dramas, comedies, fantasies, etc.

### Q: We hear stories about exclusion, harassment, bullying, and other struggles of LGBTQ youth. How do you deal with the critics?

The hatred never went away, though it seemed to subside somewhat for a few years. Now, in places like the US, people openly state their hatred of us and promote violence against us. I won't stoop to their level, but I will maintain a strong, dignified resistance and always support my community. And continue to share my stories.

### Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I write stories that I love and I hope to find a connection with the readers. Each character comes from my heart. I describe them as fierce, fabulous, funny, and flawed. Their situations are sometimes funny, sad, serious, tragic, or all of them combined. Just like life.

### Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

Me, I get very emotional while writing. And by that, I mean a wide range of emotions. Sometimes, I'm laughing, or I'm terrified, or I'm crying. If I feel no emotion, then the writing hasn't served its purpose.

### Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

It made me a more confident writer. It didn't change my process, but it did make my voice stronger. And it gave me the confidence to take chances.

### Q: What does literary success look like to you?

Making a connection with the readers is the ultimate success. As a self-published author, it can be difficult to reach the right audience. I love to get direct feedback in the form of ratings and reviews. And I ask readers to send me photos of my books that I post on social media for "Where's My Book Wednesday."

### Q: How do you feel about your book being featured in DE MODE?

This is a fantastic opportunity for me to reach an audience that I could never reach on my own. Thank you to DE MODE for including CLUBBED TWO in this issue. I am honored to be included. Thank you!



### THE BLOODSHED OF THE BETRAYED

### BY AUTHOR A. L. SLADE

Chronicles) is an emotional story about the gift of emotions intriguing character & I connected with her. The romance is a pure joy to read & reconfirmed my belief that love is love.

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Unable to feel emotions, angels are God's devoted soldiers, who are tasked with carrying out God's will. One of which is to answer the question: can angels handle the gift of emotions without it interfering with their loyalty to God?

Enter Laramie. Angel Laramie is given emotions as a trial to decide once and for all if angels are ready to feel again. However, she soon becomes sidetracked by an infatuation with a human called Maggie, prompting her to neglect her orders and allow her mission to fail. She returns to her superiors in hopes of helping the human only to learn her feelings were a test. Her failure means her banishment to Earth until she fades away forever. Magda Mercy is a twenty-three-year-old college student with dreams of becoming a doctor. Her life changes forever when her brother returns on leave from the military with devastating family news. In exile, Laramie is confronted by Lucifer with a confounding revelation that changes everything Laramie has ever known as an angel. Lucifer presents an offer of eventual immortality in exchange for Laramie's ceaseless fidelity. When Laramie declines, Lucifer lashes out by tormenting the innocent Maggie as punishment for Laramie's refusal. Laramie must now do everything in her power to save Maggie and prevent Lucifer from realizing his goals, even if it means reaching oblivion sooner.

The Bloodshed of The Betrayed is a diverse dual point-of-view fantasy/adventure novel for the upper YA markets that touch very maturely on dark subject matters.

Get your copy of 'The Bloodshed of the Betrayed', and, connect with Author A.L. Slade

witter.com/alslade\_ 9 60425875-the-bloodshed-of-the-betrayed



### THE AUTHOR

A. L. Slade is the 18-yearauthor of Bloodshed Of The Betrayed" the first book in the anticipated series, "The Mercy Chronicles." Slade brings this skillfully adapted tale to life with her endless creativity and descriptive story-telling as her hopes to enlighten

readers and portray young authors in a brilliant way is the backbone of her writing career. Slade has spent the past five years cultivating her first book, "The Bloodshed Of The Betrayed" to be able to share it with the world. Slade has been writing for as long as she can remember and has been a part of the writing field since early 2017 when she first self-published her book with a selfpublishing company under the title 'Retribution.' Since then, she has gone back and implemented revisions to her book. She was unsatisfied with the preliminary result and has spent the past five years editing, revising, and developing her story into its truest form. Slade's craft has always come very naturally to her and is undoubtedly her greatest passion in this world.

The author openly discusses issues of internalized homophobia. Slade is a young Canadian author, and her primary influence for writing is to spread awareness towards marginalized communities and minorities, as she elects to write about POC and LGBTQ+ members to represent the underrepresented respectfully and accurately. Not only has she written the novel, but Slade has also designed the cover herself, enabling the book to be precisely the way she envisioned it to be from the very beginning. For A. L. Slade, writing allows her to create a world that is something incredible and what makes it unique is knowing that she can be a part of it.

### Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

I was very young when I began writing-five or six years old-and I was drawn to it because of the endless possibilities it provided. It became an escape for me, the ability to create a world so unique and personal to myself that I wanted to share with the world the more I grew and developed my abilities.

### Q: What do you like to write about the most?

Fantasy, Young Adult fiction, and LGBTQ+ are my three favorite genres to write about, as I've always been an avid fan of fantasy and YA, and since coming out, LGBTQ+ is high on that list. However, I also dabble in mystery, crime, thriller, and sometimes horror.

### Q: What does your book emphasize?

My book emphasizes POC representation in main characters (not just as supporting characters), a non-fetishized lesbian romance, and the disconnection between homophobias validity in religion–Christianity specifically. I'm proud to have written a book where the reason the two main female love interests aren't "allowed" to be together has nothing to do with homophobia or religious bigotry.

### Q: What book or childhood author had the greatest impact on you?

Hands down, I have to say, Rick Riordan. His first series I read was The Kane Chronicles, and after that, I fell in love with his other works. Seeing some representation in the books he wrote gave me the confidence to do the same in my writing.

### Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

While I can't speak for everyone in determining what the most unethical practice in the publishing industry is, I'd say a huge one is improper packing and shifting the burden of labor onto the customer, as a huge percentage of books in each order arrive in unsellable condition from the warehouse to the indie authors/distribution companies.

### Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

For me, it does both. Primarily, it energizes me because it gets my brain working, and I feel a sense of fulfillment being able to let my thoughts take me through the experience. Still, it gets pretty exhausting after countless hours of work, especially when it's spent staring at a screen all day.

### Q: What have been some of the most exciting changes you have seen with regard to support for LGBT youth and what do you hope to see in the future?

Some of the most exciting changes I've seen are mainstream representation, like Casey McQuiston's books, for example, and the book and show Heartstoppers' success. Hopefully, in the future, I want to see a world where LGBTQ+ representation isn't taboo or considered "fake woke" or only used for views and attention.

### Q: We hear stories about exclusion, harassment, bullying, and other struggles of LGBTQ youth. How do you deal with the critics?

Unfortunately, I've had to deal with all of the above due to my sexuality and having lesbian moms. I deal with it by surrounding myself with supportive people and reminding myself that it gets better. It's incredibly hopeful to think that all the homophobic, transphobic, and bigoted harassment will be a thing of the past one day.

### Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I'd say a balance of both. You want to make sure your writing isn't too easy to predict (unless you're aiming for it). Deliver work that your audience appreciates. Your work should be original, and people will enjoy reading.

### Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

I think anyone can be a writer, regardless of their emotions. You don't have to feel strong emotions to write about anything; you just need to be able to emulate and describe them, even if you haven't had those same experiences. That's what good writing is.

### Q: What does literary success look like to you?

Literary success, to me, is being able to see the effect your work has on others and see the creativity and motivation it inspires. It looks like seeing even if only one person expresses how much they've loved it and actively participates in fanart and vocal support. Truly, that's what literary success looks like to me.

### Q: What is your signature quote that you'd like to share with the readers?

"You do not create life to control how it exists." — A. L. Slade, The Bloodshed Of The Betrayed.

### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

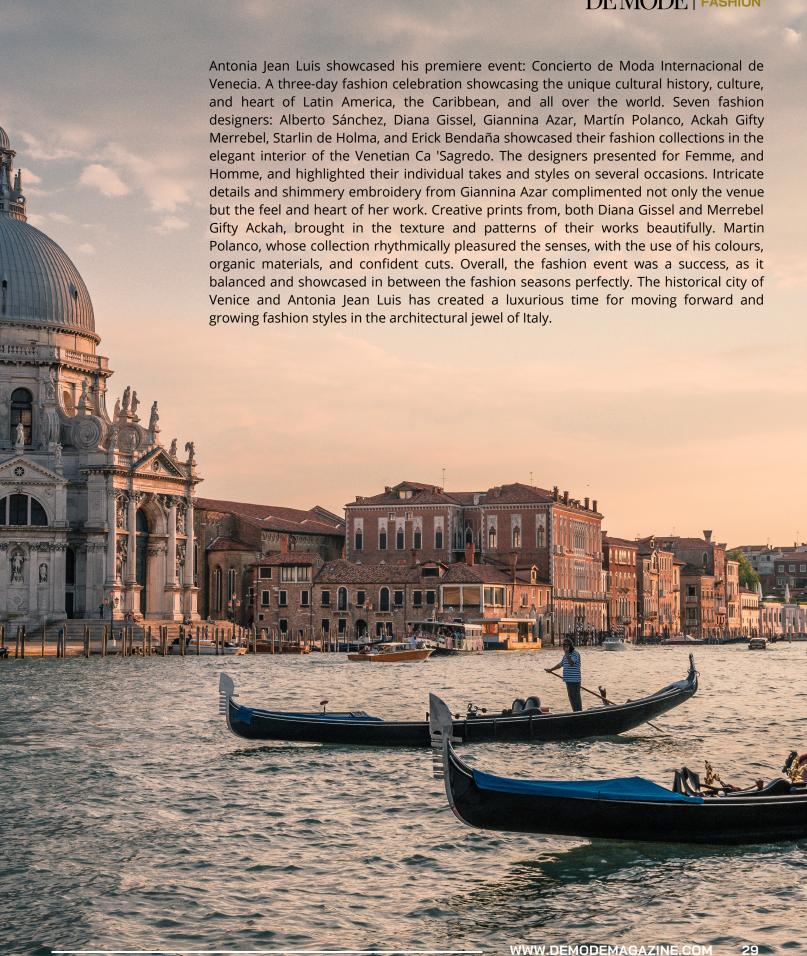
I feel incredibly humbled and honoured to have been approached to be featured by DE MODE, especially for this Pride Month issue. This is honestly a dream come true for me, and I'm incredibly thankful for this opportunity to reach a wider audience.

## Concierto de Moda Internacional de Venecia

### BY MICHAEL FOUST

photo-journalist [de mode]

### DEMODE | FASHION























# **CAPITOL FEVER**

#### BY AUTHOR WENDY LUCCA

Her most epic mistake is also her greatest chance to find 2022, this book is a masterpiece in the romantic comedu genre. Author Wendy will make you fall in love again, love happy ending. Available on Amazon. A trendy city, a bad boy boss. Capitol Fever is available for Kindle.

#### ABOUT THE BOOK

My most epic mistake is also my greatest chance to find love again! In hindsight, I should not have been caught having lusty relations with Arrow McCue in the back of his UPS delivery truck. My reckless meltdown got me fired from my first-year teaching job. But my embarrassment after the lurid videos went viral on social media paled in comparison to being abandoned by my husband for his legal secretary. When my Great Uncle Dax passed and willed me his real estate firm in Austin, Texas, I packed up my pride and my goldfish and headed for the Lone Star State, an awesome place for a fresh start. I vowed to stay on a straight path to no more drama. So, I keep trying to distract myself by having a fling with this hot drummer, John, a guy I met at a club in Austin. Falling for my new head of security, Jesse Dalton, was never part of my plan. Sure, Jesse's easy on my eyes and hard in the sack, (also my new office sofa, his bedroom, and the tops of cliffs), but he's a bad boy, free spirit with relationship commitment problems and things are turning into hot lava between us. I am a new girl boss now, and my business must come first. But Jesse makes me feel beautiful, sensuous, strong, and protected. All the things I never felt in the last years of my failed marriage. Jesse gets me and when I feel his arms around me, I am enticed to trust a man again. To fall in love again. To let lesse love me without feeling scared. But way down inside of me, I am petrified. Will this all be too much too soon and wreck my heart again? Will the risks of starting over be too great for us both to handle? Or am I an idiot to let a second chance at love pass me by? This is a novella length second chance, steamy romance with first person POV and a happy ending.

Get your copy of 'Capitol Fever' by Author Wendy Lucca on Amazon. Connect with her below

www.twitter.com/WendyLucca (instagram.com/wendyluccaauthor



#### THE AUTHOR

Growing up with a family that loved to read all kinds of books, Wendy Lucca was practically tripping over all the books in the house. There were never enough bookshelves. Much of the time during the heat of the Texas summers. she came inside to read and get lost

in a story. Wendy enjoyed many classics, but she always had time for a great love story or a pulp fiction horror story. One of her favorite classes in school was theatre arts. There, they dissected how to write and perform plays. Wendy's favorite drama teacher used to say that in order to become a brilliant writer and actress, one needed to go out and live life first. Wendy embraced life's joys and sorrows and made sure she did not just stay on the sidelines.

From then on, script writing for movies and plays informed Wendy's fiction writing. After college, she started teaching English with an eye to becoming a published author down the road. She learned about the hero's journey and tried to incorporate each story with a full plot arc. Wendy is also a member of several excellent writers' groups. Wendy published romance novels and also several romance serials. Becoming a serial writer helped her to write quicker and to master the art of the well-timed cliffhanger.

Even if Wendy has one new idea, she is always searching for more, and never stops looking for the next interesting tale. She loves giving readers a good story to get lost in, just like the writers of old gifted her those great tales she read in her youth. Thanks for reading Wendy Lucca's work! Cheers!

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# Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

In fourth grade, I begged my parents to buy me a movie camera for my birthday. Of course they bought the camera! I felt so proud and excited! Once I learned how to make films, I used the camera to make a silent movie with one of my best friends, Kristen. I wrote a script and then we filmed the story. We added subtitles and called the story "The Adventures of Myrtle and Gertrude." I am pretty sure since we were kids, the story ended with a pie smashed into someone's face! This was my first attempt at writing and I've never looked back since!

#### Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

About 6 years ago, my family and I visited the grave of the great poet Edgar Allan Poe. My first Edgar Allan Poe poem was Annabelle Lee, and I felt enamoured with his weaving of lost love into every eerie story or poem. My younger sister is a professional writer and our mother is an English teacher and a big gothic horror reader. While on a trip to visit my sister in Washington, DC, we drove up to Baltimore, Maryland, visited Poe's marble and granite grave marker and took pictures. The sun was shining, and we ate at a local mom-and-pop Italian restaurant. I recall getting some great pasta and Limoncello. But most intense, hovering over the day, was the mystical connection with a great American storyteller paving the way for other writers to follow.

# Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

Piracy is definitely a completely harmful practice and just about every writer I know must face it. Finding free copies of your hardwon writing craft put out in a way that dupes customers is disheartening. Most writers work tougher to help each other spot such dubious events and cope with them as effectively as possible under the circumstances.

#### Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Romance writing and the creative process energize me because I love immersing myself in spicy love stories. The passions and drama of human nature, and the highs and lows of romance, comedy and tragedy are exciting to me. I feel that attraction, that magnetism when I write—time suspends and the world retreats. People make sense of the world by telling stories. Each person weaves a narrative fabric of their own that is both unique and also connects to the larger world of universal experiences. I am passionate about life, love and happy endings.

#### Q: What are the common traps for aspiring writers?

Trying to be perfect is a huge mistake. Trying

too hard to make too many beautiful paragraphs with metaphors and antithesis about the moonlight, instead of writing from your heart can be a misstep too. Following your muse down too many rabbit holes and not coming back up for air can also be an obstacle.

#### Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

If kryptonite is a catchword for an exploitable weakness, then mine would be collecting ideas like leaves falling from a tree and then stashing them half-formed somewhere. Inside my many tote bags, I nestle gel pens, journals full of doodles and lists, free writes, or partial story ideas. Full of fancy, I veer down each path for a while and try on for size what that story will become, much like trying on endless pairs of designer heels or trying out sexy new cocktails and vintage wines. I can get lost!

# Q: What does literary success look like to you?

Success is about using best practices and expressing myself. Sure, part of success is money, but writing is my passion, so it never feels like a job. I do set smart goals for myself on progress, so success measures change each year.

#### Q: How many unpublished and halffinished books do you have?

That is such a hilarious question because all my writer friends and I have a variety of unpublished stories. Sometimes to kill time instead of writing, we have to go back and count them to compare. Of course, to answer this question, I still looked around in my various writing notes and journals to answer. Drum roll, please! I have six unfinished stories right now.

## Q: How long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

The old writer's cliche is true—write about what you know. I may spend a few days researching a niche area before writing if I need to. I like to write about a setting where I have spent a significant amount of time, but that is not always possible. I loved writing the story Capitol Fever because I lived in Austin for 5 years. I felt like reliving the fun of the place. Right now though, I am writing a romantic suspense story set in the middle east, and I have not been there. This story deals with military protectors, so the story required more research on that setting and topic.

#### Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

I felt honored and quite flattered about being listed in such a classy, trendsetting magazine as DE MODE. I love connecting with readers and I already have an international audience, so this was a great opportunity. Thanks again for supporting my work as a romance author!



# THE REIGN OF THE OCCULT

#### BY AUTHOR LAUREN LOUISE HAZEL

It is a great young adult novel that starts off as a series about a brother and sister who need to go to extreme lengths in order to save multiple worlds. Prue is the daughter of a mortal and a magic wielder, giving her the unique ability to see what is happening in two different worlds. She understands that the Underworld and the Overworld are in constant conflict and that the Underworld has tipped the scales and is winning the war.

#### ABOUT THE BOOK

The battle between the Underworld, full of darkness, and the Overworld, full of light, has been evenly balanced for millennia. Caught between them is the mortal world, where humans have become so afraid of magic they cannot understand or control that they allow the Occult to rule them. After the Occult joins forces with the Underworld, the balance shifts and the Overworld is decimated.

But still, in the mortal world, the magic won't die. It appears when a supernatural being and a human have a child, like Prue.

This is the first volume in an epic new fantasy series that spans the three richly detailed worlds as Prue, her non-magical half-brother Everett, and all Magic Users, fight to survive. They are being hunted by the Occult, who turn the Magic Users they capture into tools to eliminate their own kind and, eventually, to destroy all traces of magic.

The fight to survive turns into a crusade to save the magic by destroying the Occult and restoring the powers of the Overworld. Prue's ability to see the future is useful, but she and Everett cannot do it alone. This first, and terrifying, journey is a test of friendship, a new take on sibling rivalry and an exploration of all forms of love.

There are lots of twists and turns in this story that will help keep all readers hooked on what is happening. The characters are unique, and the world-building is fantastic. This is a must-read for anyone who enjoys fantasy novels. DE MODE highly recommends "The Reign of the Occult" by Lauren Louise Hazel.

Get your copy of 'THE REIGN OF THE OCCULT" by Author Lauren Louise Hazel on Amazon.



(i) laurenlhazel





#### THE AUTHOR

Lauren Louise Hazel is a Cyber Security Manager by day and a YA author by night. When she was a little girl, her father used to take her to bookshops at the crack of dawn to get new releases that she loved. He is hoping her writing career is profitable so she can get him a

Ferrari. Although she grew up writing stories and drawing the illustrations to go with them, Lauren did not ever pursue it as a job prospect, thinking the publishing industry was too competitive. It was a dearly loved hobby, which she pursued for fun rather than for financial reward. She fell instead into IT and security, where she has built a successful career.

Lauren started The Reign of the Occult back in 2010, during bouts of ill health when she was inspired to write the first five-thousand words, but she stopped there. Over the years she started many writing projects, some of which she completed and some she did not. Still, finishing a whole novel evaded her. In 2015, she came back to The Reign of the Occult, when illness returned, and decided she wanted to finish it. The writing was something she could do and enjoy even when unwell. There was no intention to publish at that time – only that it would be completed – to prove to herself that she could finish one.

Since finishing The Reign of the Occult, Lauren's approach to writing has changed completely. She has since finished its sequel, The Queen of the Underworld and a standalone novel, The Burning Bandit.

When you know you can finish something, and that it is possible, it makes all the difference!

# $\alpha$

# Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

When I started writing The Reign of the Occult, which is a YA fantasy novel, I wrote only the first five thousand words and came back to it years later. I wanted to prove I could complete a whole book and it expanded from there. It's strange it's now published, as that had not the intention when I started.

#### Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

When I decided to start writing as a job rather than a hobby – it completely changed my approach. I have become much more disciplined, and I concentrate on getting the words out first – before I start worrying about editing anything. It's something I must do rather than an option, and not surprisingly, I am much quicker now!

# Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

It can be whom you know, rather than what you know.

#### Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

A bit of both. There's nothing better than getting ideas flowing and having everything come together in your head and then on the page. I find it hard to stop writing when I'm in the zone and I enjoy doing it – even when I'm supposed to be having to time off. Sometimes I need to stop and disengage.

#### Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

If you try waiting for the perfect time, or for the perfect circumstances, to get writing and publishing, you can end up waiting forever. Just get going, one step at a time and progress builds from there. Suddenly you find you are further along than you first thought, and everything has added up.

#### Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

To improve at anything in life, you must be able to take on criticism. Few manuscripts come out perfect the first try. You must revise it, take on feedback and make the necessary improvements. Confidence and faith are good when writers face rejection, but you also need to be adaptable.

#### Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

I write the bits of a novel that I like first, which means I don't always write in chronological order. It is probably the least efficient way of doing things and I don't think writers would normally recommend it. Particularly for The Reign of the Occult – I went backwards and forwards on it all the time.

#### Q: Have you ever gotten a Reader's block?

I'm normally a quick reader, but I struggle every time with A Heart of Darkness by Joseph

Conrad. The book is only small, and I have about 3 copies, yet I still can't finish it. It was for a school English project, & I did not get it.

# Q: Do you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

Yes, I do write under a pseudonym. Hazel is my grandmother's maiden name.

#### Q: Do you try to be original or deliver readers what they want?

I love reading YA novels, so I just wrote what I would like! I already have the sequel, The Queen of the Underworld, written so it's not based on any audience feedback. When I sat down to write it one day, it all came to me in one go.

#### Q: How many unpublished and halffinished books do you have?

The Reign of the Occult is now published and released. Its sequel, The Queen of the Underworld, is complete but not edited – due out in November 2022. I also have The Burning Bandit (a standalone) which I haven't published yet but is all done. I will be releasing them over the course of the next couple of years.

# Q: What does literary success look like to you?

Obviously, you want people to like your work, but more than that, I want to create something I'm proud of. To build a collection of books that I would purchase and love. While I love YA novels, eventually I do want to write a novel for adults – to test my skills!

#### Q: What's the best way to market your books?

As a debut author, I am still figuring this out. I think it's trying things out and seeing what works for you and your novels. As well as social media, I've been using professional promotors, advertisements, and entering competitions. If anyone has any tips, then let me know.

# Q: How long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

My debut novel, The Reign of the Occult, is a fantasy novel with folklore elements, so I did a lot of research. Rather than doing it beforehand, however, I did it while I was writing – during a five-year period. The Burning Bandit (currently unpublished) I researched for about six months beforehand. Research is my favourite activity!

# Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

It feels very strange after so long writing it! But exciting too, like the start of a new journey. I just hope that people give The Reign of the Occult a try and that they like it. The best bit about writing is knowing people understand and enjoy what you're trying to portray.



# LEGACY

#### BY AUTHOR EAN W. LANNING

Legacy takes place in a dystopian society in what is known as old Los Angles. The people of old Los Angles live outside the wall. They strive day by day just to find enough food to eat and stay alive. Legacy may not be a fast-paced novel no it is more like a slow-burn type novel with a very interesting plot or storyline that will keep you hanging on every word. This book Will suck you in and leave you craving more it reads like an action movie with Suspense and drama and leaves you hanging on every page so glad to add this to my personal library and hopefully many more from this author.

#### ABOUT THE BOOK

Manhattan lives with his guardian Tom in the crumbling ruins of Old Los Angeles. The clothes he wears, the boots on his feet, and the necklace he must protect are his only possessions. In a rundown house on the edge of the city, Manhattan and Tom have distanced themselves from the chaos. Meanwhile, Tom has sheltered Manhattan from the reality all around him. The guards who are supposed to protect the people are abusive and hostile. The people are forced to live day by day on nothing more than scraps of burnt bread. Soon enough things begin to change. When a routine trip to the market ends in tragedy, Manhattan joins the Renegades. He learns to defend, fight, and work with others and soon enough the Renegades are ready to take on the tyrannical Lord Maddus head-on.

Legacy is a dystopian sci-fi novel by Ean W. Lanning that takes on a life of its own. We are not going to lie, when we read the blurb we went in with the notion that it'll be one of those everyday sci-fi novels, but we stand corrected. Not only has the author managed to pack a punch with action, drama & suspense, but things like the way the characters were developed felt authentic and the 'world' that this is set in is given you a deep-rooted feeling of familiarity & confusion at the same time.

Although the plot of this book is eventful and entertaining, we think we were mainly taken aback by one particular twist that we didn't see coming which changed our whole perspective of the story. Overall, it's a great book & a page-turner so we would definitely recommend it to readers who are into sci-fi &/or dystopian novels.

Get your copy of 'LEGACY" by Author Ean W. Lanning on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



(o) ew.lanning





#### THE AUTHOR

During Ean Lanning's four years in the United States Marine Corps, he checked himself into a rehab facility thanks to some good advice from a friend. In rehab he was learning to live life without alcohol when an unexpected new hobby began to form. On his free time, Ean began

writing a story of a young boy set in post-apocalyptic Los Angeles. He did not know at that time that those first few written pages would become known as his novel, Legacy. Ean did not have a desire to write before, during, or for a few years after he came up with the idea. Writing Legacy was a way for him to stay sober and focus on something else in his free time.

Ean continued to write while he was on deployment after he got out of the military, and while he was homeless, attending college. In college, Ean started to doubt why he was wasting his time writing something that would never be published. He didn't think that he was good enough to be a writer considering he never had any aspirations as a kid to write. He gave up on writing for a year but couldn't get Legacy out of his mind until one day he found his unfinished work tucked away in a closet. It was that day that he realized he had to release Legacy no matter how long it took.

His mentor and friend was the first person who was willing to read his manuscript and gave him much-needed constructive criticism. Ean Lanning spent a few years in total trying to query agents and after continued rejections, he finally decided to self-publish his novel with the editing help of his wife. After Ean self-published his novel in February (2022), he began working on Legacy Part 2.

# Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

When I first started writing, I was halfway through rehab. During that time, I could focus on bettering myself for my kids, me, and the future I wanted them to have. When I first started writing, I thought it was a way to put my energy into something other than drinking until I blacked out.

#### Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

A pilgrimage that I have gone on has been figuring out what makes my characters tick. What they would do in a certain situation, how they handle themselves, and understanding even the minutia of details that helps the reader connect with any character. If the reader can relate on a deeper level, then they have a desire to finish the novel.

# Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

That's a good question! I think when you lose the person you once were, and forget where you came from, then the will to go to areas deemed unethical become justifiable. The boundaries that you were willing to cross take you away from the person that readers connected with in the first place.

#### Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

At times writing energizes me when I'm sucked into the story, and I want to know what is going to happen next. When this happens the usual three or four pages become nine or ten pages and I find myself writing an entire chapter within a few hours. The times writing exhausts me is when I edit my work.

#### Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

A common trap that comes to mind is thinking that the novel is going to get picked up instantly, or that the novel will be known immediately. This is a trap for the mind of a writer when they think that the world of writing is smaller than it truthfully is. This conflict can dampen the writer's spirits.

#### Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

As a writer, you must be willing to "kill your darlings," meaning some parts of the book might have to be removed. I feel with a big ego, justifying your reasoning why leaving stuff in can hinder the potential of the novel. I think being consistent is more important than being right and an ego could affect this.

#### Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

My kryptonite has been procrastination. Instead of spreading the work throughout the days, I end up holding the work off until the day or two days before it is due. In school, I could finish assignments in a few days, instead, I would

cram the work into that night and would end up with an unsatisfied grade.

# Q: Do you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

I did consider it. When I had written a few short stories I thought about using a pseudonym that had a nice ring to it. I wanted to go under the name of Wade Winchester. When I discussed it with my creative writing teacher, he gave excellent advice and reminded me that Ian Fleming wrote James Bond.

#### Q: Do you try to be original or deliver readers what they want?

I want to be original. "Original" means a story that is written by you with your creative writing skills. This story shouldn't be copied from any author. I don't want to write a story that I am unable to connect to as well as pour my heart and soul into the story. If I wrote what others wanted me to write, then the joy of creating would be sucked out of why I started writing in the first place.

#### Q: How many unpublished and halffinished books do you have?

I have an unpublished short story that I wrote as I was writing Legacy. I wrote about a lonely boy who created a robot who was his only friend. I wrote just to write it then placed it in a document for safekeeping. Besides the short story, Legacy was the first story I have written and wanted to publish.

## Q: What does literary success look like to you?

To me, literary success is hearing readers have enjoyed the book. That they could connect with the characters, and they took something away from the novel. When I read and hear reviews about Legacy, it reassures me that it wasn't all for nothing. I can also connect with readers and know that we have dealt with similarities in our lives.

# Q: How long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

I prefer to not research before writing the book. I want to jump in and begin the story and see where it is going to take me. I like to say that I am a vessel for the characters and story as they come to life. If I do any research, it is for accuracy and for clarification.

# Q: How do you feel about being featured in DE MODE?

The thought of being listed in a magazine, after years of writing your book, unsure of how good it will do, doubting whether it is even worth the time, then after publishing your book you are asked to be in a magazine is a feeling that not enough words can express. I am very grateful and excited about the opportunity.

# Between The Sheets

I've gone to bed with the river Do not wake me if it rains

I am cradled in her current I am puddled in her ripples The pitter patterns of her brain I reach out as my hand graces stone Humbled by her body Enthralled by her cove I rest my cheek on her chest A soft hum A melody of deep breaths I've gone to bed with the river Like a faucet slowly leaking Flushed in the wonder of make-believe I swoon in the valley, between the sheets. With my dreamboat rocking steady downstream I am reminded of her kisses from the midst of the breeze.

I am far from alone

Can't you hear all the chatter of all the pebbles below? Whispering voices of broken stories that will never be told.

I hear you.

I've taken the plunge Engulfed by her request As the air seeps from my lungs

Freezing cold water complemented by the warm sun Transported by curves accompanied by her opalescent display Her fluidity sings I'm gone but not astray

> I've gone to bed with the river I've set my sail free...

BY JEANNE LEA DELAHOUSSAYE (POETESS & INTERNATIONAL MODEL)

# dream VIETNAM ESCAPES TRAVEL WITH DE MODE



#### DEMODE | TRAVEL

# HA LONG BAY

Hạ Long Bay, in northeast Vietnam, is known for its emerald waters and thousands of towering limestone islands topped by rainforests. Junk boat tours and sea kayak expeditions take visitors past islands named for their shapes, including Stone Dog and Teapot islets. The region is popular for scuba diving, rock climbing and hiking, particularly in mountainous Cát Bà National Park.

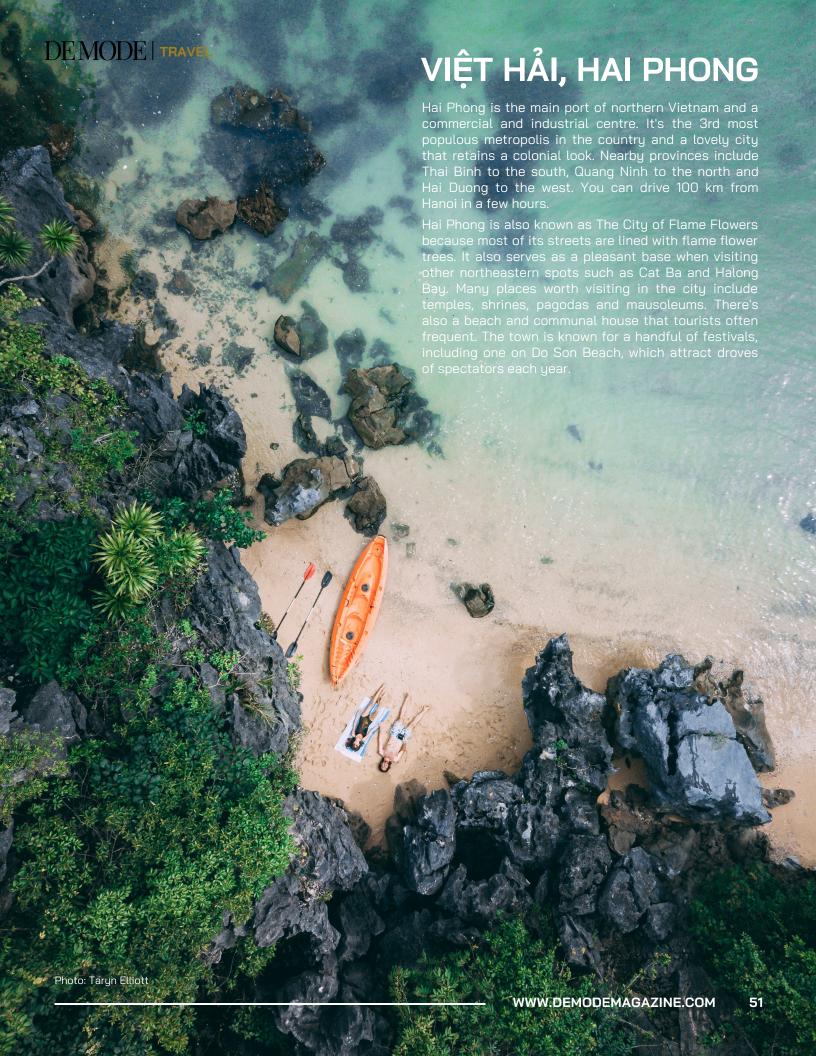






# THE LANDMARK 81 AT HO CHI MINH CITY







# **GOLDEN BRIDGE**

The Golden Bridge is a 150-metre-long pedestrian bridge in the Bà Nà Hills resort, near Da Nang, Vietnam. It is designed to connect the cable car station with the gardens and to provide a scenic overlook and tourist attraction. The Golden Bridge can be found in a place called Ba Na Hills, only a 1-hour drive from Hoi An or Da Nang — so it's totally doable as a half-day trip from both cities!







