

DE MODE

OF LITERATURE

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AN OVERNIGHT SUCCESS?
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



DE MODE OF LITERATURE

VOL IV, ISSUE XXII

Explore the wide lists of authors and books
to read this monsoon.

DANIELLE STEEL AMERICAN AUTHOR



She has been hailed as one of the world's bestselling authors, with almost a billion copies of her novels sold. Her many international bestsellers include *The Whittiers*, *The High Notes*, *The Challenge*, *Suspects*, *Beautiful*, *High Stakes*, *Invisible*, *Flying Angels*, *The Butler*, and other highly acclaimed novels. She is also the author of *His Bright Light*, the story of her son Nick Traina's life and death; *A Gift of Hope*, a memoir of her work with the homeless; *Expect a Miracle*, a book of her favorite quotations for inspiration and comfort; *Pure Joy*, about the dogs she and her family have loved; and the children's books *Pretty Minnie in Paris* and *Pretty Minnie in Hollywood*.

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BY SANDEE SGARLATA**

An author, certified life coach, public speaker, retired U.S. national and international figure skating coach, spent past 20 years helping people create lasting changes in their lives.



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A criminal defense attorney turned author. Holds degrees from The University of the Pacific and Georgetown Law School and serves annually on faculty of the Stanford Law School.

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●● DE MODE OF LITERATURE

VOLUME IV. ISSUE XXII

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FROM THE EDITOR

Anushka Singh
Chief Editor, DE MODE OF LITERATURE

JUL-AUG-SEP 2021 GLOBAL ISSUE



Dear Readers,

From disruptive culture to out-of-this-world literature, this issue celebrates the contribution of brilliant writers and their relentless need to question the way things work. The idea to come up with a separate literature issue in between fashion publications that we were already putting out on the stands since 2018 was very quick and unpredicted by the publishing company. It took one complete week to decide over separating the fashion issue and the literature issue, and finally, after long discussions, 100 rounds of tea & coffee and unwanted arguments, the team was very confident about the literature issue. So, hereby we proudly present you the very first literature issue of DE MODE for the months Jul-Aug-Sep 2021.

Doing the first cover story of our literature issue with the New York Times Best-Selling Author, Alka Joshi, was very thrilling and an amazing experience learning about her literary journey. Don't miss reading her interview with DE MODE on Page 8.

From gripping thrillers to literary gems, here are 25+ reads for this monsoon by brilliant authors Steven J. Morris, Amy Rivers, David Giffen, A. L. Berggren, Matt Jardine, Lee Mathew Goldberg, Kimberly Mullins, Nikki A Lamers, Kochery C. Shibu, Sandee Sgarlata, Alan Bayles, Helen Garraway and others.

Enjoy reading DE MODE OF LITERATURE VOL IV. ISSUE XXII and pick your top choices from the list of books inside.

DE MODE
OF LITERATURE - WORLD'S NO.1 LITERATURE MAGAZINE

An Overnight Success?

BY ALKA JOSHI

In 2008, when the global recession slowed work at my advertising/marketing agency, I decided—20 years after my husband first suggested it—to enrol in a two-year Masters program. At 51, I would learn how to write a novel.

At the same time, my mother and I were making frequent trips to Jaipur, where my brother had bought a condo. She shared so much about her girlhood during those trips, and it occurred to me that my mother, who had led such a conventional Indian life—arranged marriage, three children by 22, no career—had always encouraged me to make my own decisions about marriage, career and family. I decided to write a book for her, reimagining her life as Lakshmi, a henna artist, who defied society to forge a life of her own, much like the independent path India was charting after independence.

The Henna Artist became my Master's thesis. Within the next year, however, my mother died. Overwhelmed with grief, I stopped writing altogether.

A year later, my thesis advisor called to check up on me. When I told her about my mother, she suggested that working on the book could be good therapy and recommended some edits. She sent my revised manuscript to her agent Emma Sweeney, who loved it. And just like that, I had a literary agent!

I pictured myself signing books to a long line of readers, the way it happened in the movies. But Emma felt the manuscript needed work. She had me trim 140 pages—a painful task. She made another suggestion: hire a developmental editor. More rewrites? I cried.



Photo: Garry Bailey

My editor sent me 15 pages of extensive changes. **What?? After seven years, I still had more work to do?**

I stopped writing. Again.

A year later, I came across the manuscript. Curious, I started reading. Not bad, I thought and decided to take a second look at the editor's suggestions, make the changes.

Emma sold that final manuscript to MIRA Books, a division of Harper Collins—10 years and 30 drafts after I'd first conceived Lakshmi. A year later, MIRA bought the sequel, *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur*, before the first book appeared in stores.

I waited for my release date: March 10, 2020. On March 11, all hell broke loose! A global pandemic. My book launch: cancelled. Bookstores: closed. Libraries: closed. Amazon: only shipping essential supplies. What now?

Like a superhero, Reese Witherspoon to the rescue! She selected *The Henna Artist* as her May Bookclub pick!! More miracles: bookstores started shipping books; libraries arranged curbside pickups.



MY BOOK SHOT UP THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER LIST. MOVIE COMPANIES CALLED. I CHOSE THE MIRAMAX TEAM WITH FREIDA PINTO STARRING AS LAKSHMI.

To date, **'The Henna Artist'** has been translated into 23 languages. I've joined more than 550 bookclub discussions around the world. Readers are loving *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur*, and **I'm writing the third book in *The Jaipur Trilogy*.**

So is there such a thing as an overnight success? Hmmm.

Photo: Garry Bailey

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JUL-AUG-SEP 2021 | PAGE 06



THE SECRET KEEPER OF JAIPUR

A NOVEL BY AUTHOR ALKA JOSHI

The Secret Keeper of Jaipur began with a scene. Nimmi, a young tribal woman, is arranging flora she has harvested from the upper elevations of the Himalayas at her stall on the Shimla Mall. Two young children are playing at her feet in a basket woven by her hand. In the distance, Malik, a former street child, now a 20-year-old boarding school-educated young man, is leading his guardian Lakshmi to the stall because he knows Lakshmi will be interested in adding Nimmi's exotic plants to her Healing Garden in Shimla. Lakshmi notices the chemistry between Malik and Nimmi but doesn't approve of their alliance.

I knew then that Lakshmi would arrange for Malik to apprentice at the Palace in Jaipur. There, he would encounter characters from the first book, *The Henna Artist*: the successful Singhs, the Dowager Maharani and the younger queen, the Agarwals and their son Niki. And I knew Malik would unwittingly become party to an underworld smuggling scheme that would lead him right back to the mountains of Shimla, to his beloved Nimmi and to Lakshmi.

The Secret Keeper of Jaipur tackles the themes of parent-adult child relationships, the consequences of past actions, LGBTQ issues, and, as always in my novels, how South Asia's rich, ancient culture has contributed to world development.

The Secret Keeper of Jaipur, Prologue, Malik (1969, Jaipur)

It's May in Jaipur and already sweltering. The theatre is air-conditioned, but the air outside is fresher than the odour of a thousand bodies pressed close together inside the theatre. Ravi's wife, Sheela, refuses the chai and the food, claiming it's too hot to eat. Her baby daughter has fallen asleep on her shoulder, the warmth of her small body making Sheela squirm. Sheela puffs out her cheeks and walks over to a stall selling khus-khus fans. A bead of sweat glides down her bare neck and disappears into the back of her blouse. I force myself to look away.

Parvati is proudly showing off her four-year-old granddaughter Rita to the society matrons who have come to say hello. "Tumara naam batao, bheti." Kanta is chatting gaily with friends. Samir and Manu are being congratulated for their work on the cinema house who have shown up for the gala affair. I look around for Ravi, who was with them earlier, and wonder why he would miss this opportunity to be in the limelight. It's not like him.

As always, I'm watching and listening, something Auntie-Boss taught me to do well. In my next letter to her and Nimmi in Shimla, I'll be able to tell them what the moviegoers thought of the leading lady's hairstyle or the color of her sari (I'll wager Nimmi has never seen a movie in her life!). I'll also be able to tell them that most of the ladies of Jaipur would marry the handsome Dev Anand given half a chance.

I see Sheela coming back to join our group, waving her fan in front of her face. Parvati reaches up to lift damp curls away from the sleeping baby's forehead. Sheela is looking past her mother-in-law. I follow her gaze to the corner of the cinema house. That's when I notice Ravi escorting the younger actress out the side door. Sheela's eyes narrow as her husband and the starlet disappear in the darkness, away from the throng. I know there's a loading dock there. It's also where the drivers for the maharani and the actors are waiting to whisk them away.

We hear the bell announcing that intermission is almost over. The second half of the film is about to begin. I check my watch. It's now 9:30 p.m. Sheela's girls should be in bed, but Ravi had insisted that the family be present and seen by the public at his big moment. I'm sure Sheela fought him on it. She prefers to have the ayah look after the girls. The crowd files back into the lobby and through the open doors of the theater. I hand the empty tea glasses to the chaiwallas making their rounds. Banana leaves on which chaat was sold litter the ground. A fragrance of food served and eaten— not wholly unpleasant—lingers in the air. I lift Rita, Ravi's other daughter, whose eyes have started to droop, and hoist her onto my shoulder.

I follow the rest of the group inside the lobby. Before we make it through the doors, we hear a yawning creak, then a complaining groan, and then suddenly the roar of a thousand pounds of cement, brick, rebar and drywall crashing down.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

WITH NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

alka joshi

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

I'd never intended to be a writer. I always thought I'd be drawing, sketching or painting in some capacity. At 28, when I applied for my first job as an art director at an advertising agency, the Creative Directors asked me to join their team as a writer; they said my portfolio clearly showed I was a strong writer. Surprised but determined to eventually secure an art director position, I accepted. As it turned out, I loved writing commercials—those amazing, entertaining mini-stories taking place in 60 seconds or less. I was building characters and scenes, writing dialogue, and developing a beginning, middle, and end to each story. With my art background, it was easy to create those worlds in my imagination. But it would be many decades before I would enrol in a Masters program in Creative Writing and many more years—not until the age of 62—before I would publish my first novel, *The Henna Artist*.

02: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

I'm never more energized than when I'm in the midst of a scene, working with characters as if I were the director of production. I allow the scene to play itself out in my imagination. I move characters around—like chess pieces—and instruct them to try being less angry or more playful. Then I sit back and let the drama unfold. In this way, I get to know the characters so intimately that they begin to say and do things that completely surprise me. When that happens, I'm on cloud nine! Being able to give characters the freedom to reveal themselves is one of the greatest joys of being a writer. It's also the reason I ended up writing a trilogy. The characters insisted I write the rest of their story, not merely stop at the happy ending. How they grow into their personalities, how their relationships with one another change—this is what inspires and engages me in what is ultimately their story.

03: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

I could write a book about all the mistakes I made as a beginning writer! To start with, I thought I was done after my first draft. Then I thought my second draft was the final. What about my seventh draft? In the end, it took me 30 drafts to learn how to craft a novel. Writing is about rewriting—why didn't they teach that in my MFA program? Most writers stop too soon and then are disappointed when their work doesn't find a publisher.

Another trap is that an aspiring writer will focus more on getting published than on why they're writing. Every writer should ask themselves: why am I writing this story? Why now? Why am I the best person to write it? By keeping that intention as the main focus, a writer can

maintain her true north. If she has a deeply personal reason for delving into her project, that intention will resonate with readers in a visceral way.

Yet another reason aspiring writers get discouraged is thinking that the world will discover their true talent without their active participation. Many writers, most of whom are introverts, prefer to remain in the shadows after their work finds a publishing home. They think: if my work is good enough, people will find it. But why a writer chose their subject matter and how they talk about it incites readers to pick up their books. Writing is only half the work of getting the book into readers' hands.

04: What is your writing Kryptonite?

Because I started life as an artist (an introverted one), I learned to observe my surroundings in detail. After all, you can't draw a leaf without noticing its every vein, the changes in hue from its tip to where it attaches to the branch, whether the edges are ragged or smooth. In the same way, I learned to watch people: the way they interact with one another, what they say, what I can feel them thinking, and what they don't say. I also paid attention to whether there was a hum in the air or the crow of a rooster, whether I could smell freshly cut grass or the stink of an overripe banana, whether it was muggy or whether the breeze was making goosebumps rise on my skin. It's that sensory input and my ability to put it into words that produces my literary juice.

05: Have you ever gotten writer's block?

Maddeningly, no. Everything inspires me to create stories: a conversation with a stranger at the supermarket, the scent of my shampoo, garlic wafting from a neighbour's kitchen, music from my husband's CDs, my dogs digging in the sand—literally everything!

06: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

No.

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

I write the stories I want to read. I like reading about strong women, so my stories always have formidable personalities—women who are determined and persistent in their intentions. I like reading about real people, with all their strengths and weaknesses, joys and sorrows, triumphs and defeats. So I create imperfect characters, leaving room to develop and transform. I love historical fiction because our past determines our future and I'm curious about how we came to be. I love researching history to lend authenticity to my fiction.

Another paramount issue for me as a writer is that for so long, stories about South Asians have been told from the Western perspective, the point of view of the colonizers. I want to tell these stories from a South Asian lens, which is such a vital part of my DNA: the subtle nuances of culture, its fragrant flora and food, its class and caste divides, the intricate familial relationships, the depth of knowledge and wisdom accumulated over millennia. My intention is to show how life was (and is) actually lived in South Asia, the real story behind why India needed to rebuild itself after being ravaged by the British, the subtle and not-so-subtle ways patriarchy keeps women from achieving equality, and the continual struggle to preserve ancient tradition while incorporating modern modalities.

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

I think it would be difficult to write well-developed characters without being able to feel their emotions in any given situation. Whether we're writing science fiction or mystery or historical fiction, it's our ability to write characters readers can empathize with on an emotional level that marks the bestseller from the average book. The story is key, but the characters are king (and queen)!

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

Publishing *The Henna Artist* didn't change my writing process in any way. I still write in my pyjamas in bed. It's where I feel the most comfortable. My dogs are sleeping beside me. My husband is off cycling or writing in his own studio. I never attempt to write on a blank page. By the time I start, I've been processing scenes and characters in my imagination for months as I walked, rode my bike, took a shower or drove my car. The only thing that changed is how long it takes me to write the final draft. *The Henna Artist* took 10 years; *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur* and the third book I'm currently writing in the trilogy are only taking two years each. I'm writing about the same characters so I don't have to reinvent their likes, dislikes, or quirks of personality. I already know how they'll react in any situation.

10: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

I had started researching a new novel right after *The Henna Artist* was sent to the printers. I hadn't gotten very far before 20-year-old Malik insisted I write *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur*. He had grown into such a strong character in the first book that he would not leave my imagination. Six months after I began writing his story, *The Henna Artist* was released and I discovered, much to my amazement, that readers wanted to know more about Malik as well. He must have loomed large in their imagination, too!

11: What does literary success look like to you?

Literary success means I make a living as a full-time author. I have the privilege of creating stories and using my imagination for the rest of my days on this planet. And I have the honour of interacting with passionate readers who find comfort, inspiration, and courage in my story and my characters—it feels as if they are a part of my amazing tribe!

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

I've learned about marketing my books through experience. You and your publisher will collaborate on some of them; others will be completely up to you; the best methods will arise from trial and error. Before your book's release, traditional publishers will set up a few media interviews for you and send a press release to local, regional and national media outlets they feel are appropriate. They'll follow up with a few of those outlets which they feel are the most promising for features or book reviews. If pre-orders for the book are strong, the publisher will step up their promotional efforts on trade media like Goodreads or Bookbub.

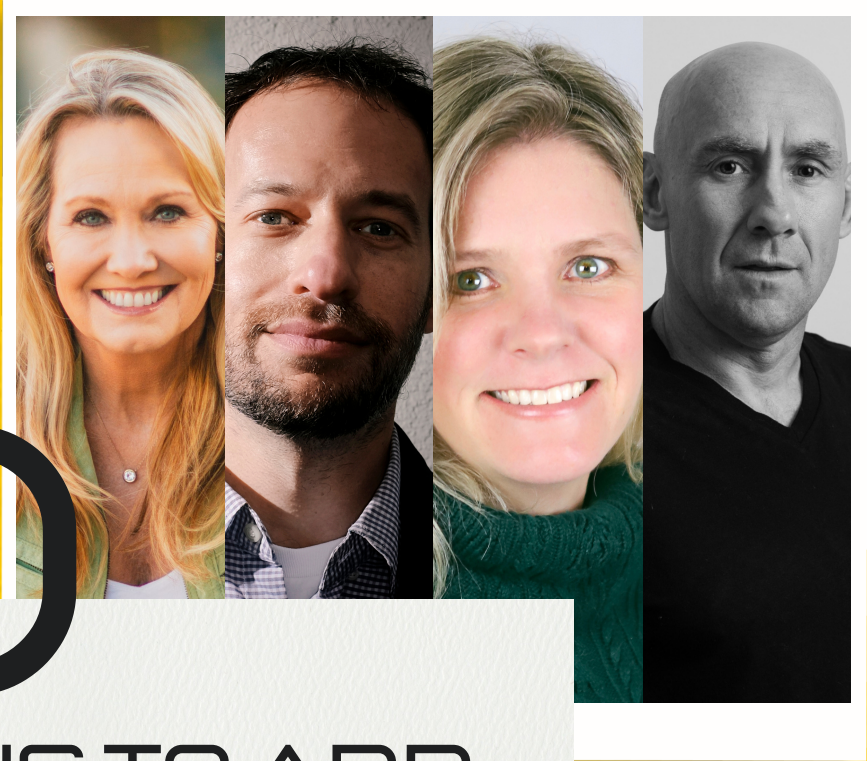
Social media is your promotional playground, so be proactive. You can post about your subject matter, your research, your inspiration, anything that relates to you! Try all the platforms, pay for promotional ads, and look at the analytics to determine which are best for you. You need to interact with your readers by responding to their messages, questions, and requests to meet with you virtually. They took the time to buy your book; now it's your turn to return the favour by giving them some of your time.

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

My research and world-building go hand-in-hand. The research is threefold: reading books, watching movies and documentaries, and interviewing people who lived in the period I'm writing about. For *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur*, I found fantastic articles about the nomadic tribes of the Himalayas and their knowledge of medicinal herbs, India's Gold Control Act, and how gold is smuggled into South Asia. Sheep shearing videos on YouTube filled the gaps in my knowledge about the Himalayan shepherds. My father, who worked as a civil engineer in Rajasthan in the 50s and 60s, enlightened me about construction/engineering issues that could cause a building like the fictional Royal Jewel Cinema to collapse. (Eerily enough, the launch date of the novel in America was two days before the Miami condo complex collapsed.)

13: How do you feel about being featured on the front cover of DEMODE?

DEMODE is a high quality, professionally produced arts and culture magazine. I'm deeply honoured to be featured on its front cover as a writer who is bringing stories of the rich South heritage to the global stage, to highlight how much the East has contributed to the West, to spotlight the resilience of our people—especially the women—in the face of centuries of colonization, invasion and domination by other forces.



10

BOOKS TO ADD TO YOUR READING LIST THIS MONSOON



From gripping thrillers to literary gems, here are some brilliant reads out this monsoon by authors Steven J. Morris, Amy Rivers, David Giffen, A. L. Berggren, Matt Jardine, Lee Mathew Goldberg, Kimberly Mullins, Nikki A Lamers, Kochery C. Shibu and Sandee Sgarlata.



THE GUARDIAN OF THE PALACE

BY AUTHOR STEVEN J. MORRIS

The Guardian of The Palace sits at the crossroads of Science Fiction and Fantasy, and several reviewers have thrown it into the bucket of Thriller. While the author did not intend the latter, suspenseful elements might have crept in through withered and warped door frames, through broken drain pipes, and around the guards meant to keep them out.

Book one of the four-book series, The Guardian League, follows “Red” Hernandez, a woman recently returning to civilian life after a shady stint in the military. Her experience lands her a job protecting a modern-day marvel of a building just as it enters a disputed Phase Two of its construction. While she had no illusions that the job would be easy, she expected her skills in unclogging log-jams in high-pressure military missions to enable the on-time completion of the engineering feat that the public had lovingly dubbed The Palace.

Author Morris begins Chapter 1 by dropping you smack into “Sunday, the day after the attack,” and then jumps between past and present to unravel the tangle of how Red ended up questioning her own beliefs about reality. Then the book marches you forward through science, magic, and adventure-filled mayhem. The chapters fly by, craftily teasing you to peek just a little into the next chapter until you’ve gone too far and might as well just keep going. Surely the end of this chapter will be a good stopping point! But alas, just a tiny peek more. Book one ends with a bang and a cliffhanger that leaves you eager for more. Add this one to your To Be Read list, and be ready for your fantasy/sci-fi/thriller adventure.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR STEVEN MORRIS

Steven J. Morris spends most of his day designing microchips for Intel Corp. With a PhD in Electrical Engineering, he has worked in multiple roles at Intel over the years, from transistor design to CAD tool creation, to chip creation, switching between the roles of an individual contributor and manager several times. During his career, he has tackled various external efforts - shareware game creation, starting a family, house construction, creating gadgets for the maker revolution, and most recently, writing.

Steve picked writing up after a confluence of events several years prior - a shift at work provided an opportunity, and a retired friend had just written a book. His friend’s self-published book reminded Steve of his desire, some thirty years before, to write a book. On a five-hour car ride one Easter weekend, he tried to pick up the

elements of his long-abandoned story, and think them through. By the end of the ride, he decided the story was at least viable—thirty years provides a great deal of insight and experience. He wouldn’t recommend waiting that long to others wanting to write... but some wines need thirty years!



Morris’s journey down the path of a writer brought him to the steps of an editor, Marla Taviano, who took on the role of writing coach, editor, and friend. And out of Steven’s idea, and Marla’s patience and feedback, The Guardian League came to life. Book 1, 'The Guardian of The Palace', came out in January of 2021. Book 2, 'Stars in the Sand' arrived in June.

Rough drafts of the four-book series existed before the first book appeared on virtual shelves, but it took him months to get each one ready to see the light of day.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **steven morris**

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Passion, though I hope I have captured a lot of emotion in the writing. I've never felt so much like I'm doing what I was meant to be doing as when I'm writing. But I've definitely laughed, gotten angry, and even shed tears over my characters as I created their stories—I do hope that comes through.

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

My buddy, Rafael Rios, wrote a book after retiring from Intel. Thirty years ago, I had been passionate about the idea of writing the story I had in me, but I couldn't do it then, and I'd let it scab over, then scar, until it was all but a tattoo I'd forgotten. When Rafael wrote his book... an alarm went off, awakening me.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

It makes me think more, in odd ways, experience more, even if it is just through the head of a character in my own mind. It helps me relate to other people better, and, bottom-line, it makes me feel better.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Tough one and I don't have a good answer. When I'm in a good frame of mind, writing is its own reward, and nothing else is needed. But I write because I like creating worlds, and I read because I like seeing the worlds others create—if I don't have any feedback that others enjoy my worlds, then I'm not sure I've achieved what I set out to do. That sounds a lot like awards to me. So I know what I'd like my answer to be, and I know it isn't quite true.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

I know I'm supposed to say something profound, revealing what an insightful person I am, but the quote that pops in my head when asked is this bit from Real Genius:

Mitch: "What are you doing?"

Chris: "Self-realization. I was thinking of the immortal words of Socrates, who said, '... I drank what?'"

Asking how does it make your favourite quote, he said "I will say, having some reviewers quote my own writing has been more thrilling than I expected, but my ego would never allow my favourite quote to come from myself."

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

Writing is weird. There's a point, where the brilliant idea in your head is so inspiring that it is maddening. Then you write it down. And it's crap. Total junk. And you stare internally at the thing in your head and read the thing on your phone/computer/paper, and you wonder what the hell went wrong. And then you coax the words, drawing the timid things out from their hiding places until you have something passable. Then you come back to it and remould it into something even better.

There's a lot of inspiring moments in there, but it is the sweat and tears (I don't think I've literally bled, fingers raw from typing, yet) that you put in to get you through the trials that are ultimately the most inspiring.

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

A mix. When I read, I want to see original world-building, but believable characters, so that's what I strive to deliver.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Thinking it will be easy. Giving up when it's not. Thinking you just need to write the thing in your head and you're done. You're not. Doubting yourself. Being afraid of what the world thinks. It's good to have friends help you through. To remind you to just keep swimming.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

World creation and believable characters—the combo needs to draw the reader into another world, and let them see things through someone else's eyes.

Q: How do you feel being an author?

Inadequate, but love trying!

Q: Do you have any upcoming book? What is it about?

This article was about Book 1 of The Guardian League: The Guardian of The Palace, which came out in Jan 2021. Book 2 recently arrived—June 15, 2021. Book 3 is pencilled in for December 2021, but not being an expert in book gestation (yet), maybe it is due Jan 2022.

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

I don't let a lack of research hinder me from starting a book. Sometimes I just want to get the idea jotted down. Then go do the research and reshape it. But I'll tell you this: one of the books I used for research in my first book, The Writer's Guide to Weapons, has a great quote: "Figure out what you need to know more about, see how it works, throw it into the story, and be done with it." He meant it to be a practical statement about not overthinking firearms and knives, but I think it applies more broadly.

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

Excited! Self-promotion is not my thing. I think, unless you are an extroverted business promoter who sat down and wrote a book, writers generally do not enjoy pushing their own work. An opportunity like DE MODE comes like a breath of fresh air.



COMPLICIT - BOOK 1 A LEGACY OF SILENCE

BY AUTHOR AMY RIVERS

A tangled web of deception and duplicity where predators are shielded by respectability and no one is safe.

Kate Medina had been working as a forensic psychologist and loving every minute until a violent attack left her shaken to the core. She's retreated to her hometown where it's safe, accepting a job where the prospect of violence is slim to none. As a high school psychologist, Kate tends to the emotional needs of the youth. It's not the career she envisioned.

Five years later, a student disappears, leaving the school in crisis. Roman Aguilar, the lead detective, reaches out to Kate for assistance. Kate's position at the school and her training make her an ideal ally, but her complicated relationship with Roman puts them at odds.

When the girl's body is found, changing the focus of the investigation to homicide, Kate finds herself in the middle of a situation she never anticipated. What started as her desire to help puts Kate directly in the crosshairs of an enemy who remains largely in shadow. As her past and present collide, Kate is dragged into the middle of a dangerous game where only one thing is clear—no one can be trusted.

BOOK REVIEWS

- A haunting deep dive into the demons all women must face. A brilliant masterpiece. - *Rea Frey, Author of 'Until I Find You'.*
- Complicit is a rare powerhouse of a literary thriller with a profound moral compass. - *Joe Clifford, Author of 'The Shadow People and the Jay Porter Thriller Series.'*

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR AMY RIVERS

Amy Rivers writes novels, short stories and personal essays. She is the Director of Northern Colorado Writers. Her novel All The Broken People was selected as the Colorado Author Project winner in the adult fiction category. She's been published in We Got This: Solo Mom Stories of Grit, Heart, and Humor, Flash! A Celebration of Short Fiction, Chicken Soup for the Soul: Inspiration for Nurses, and Splice Today, as well as Novelty Bride Magazine and ESME.com.

She was raised in New Mexico and now lives in Colorado with her husband and children. She holds degrees in psychology and political science, two topics she loves to write about. Complicit (Compathy Press) is her fourth novel. Her characters develop and interacts well with the other characters.



Margaret Mizushima, author of the award-winning Timber Creek K-9 Mysteries, including Hanging Fall wrote about her book, 'In Complicit, Amy Rivers has woven threads of a local conspiracy, betrayal, and family secrets into a captivating thriller that you can't put down. Gripping!'

Booklife Reviews wrote that 'The kickoff to the Legacy of Silence series combines suspense, deep relationships, and a compelling protagonist.'

Pat Stoltey, author of Wishing Caswell Dead Two sisters grown apart over the years, haunted by secrets they don't want to share, are drawn together when young girls from their hometown start disappearing, and dying. Complicit is an excellent romantic mystery that reveals one small town's ugly side.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR amy rivers

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

The inspiration for my first book, and ultimately for all of my writing, was to showcase women in a realistic way. Women are strong and resilient, but they are also human and fallible. I wanted readers to see themselves in my characters.

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Both. I write because I love to do it. I am driven to do it. But I also write from a place of deep emotion and compassion for the world we live in and people suffering from interpersonal violence.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Both. I think people should be fairly compensated for the work that they do, and I believe that recognition for extraordinary effort or performance is also appropriate. As an author, I want to be paid for my work but I also strive to create a quality product, one that will stand out from the crowd so recognition is always appreciated.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

Writing allows me to help people by shedding light on real social issues like interpersonal violence, addiction, and even things like juggling a career and motherhood. Knowing that even one person might feel less alone in the world brings out the best in me.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." Ruth Bader Ginsberg was a hero of mine. The way she lived her life and the way she did her work was in perfect harmony. That's my hope for my own life and work.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

I love hearing people's stories. The good and the bad. It's sometimes heartbreaking, but more often than not I see love, resilience, strength and community. I see families torn apart by violence finding ways to come back together and support one another. There is injustice, but there is also so much hope.

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

I read voraciously, which influences what I write, and I do a large amount of Internet research prior to writing and throughout the process. Most importantly, if I can, I visit the settings I am writing in because the details of a place make it come alive for readers—and immersing myself in a place helps me see those details first-hand.

Q: How do you feel being an author?

I feel free.

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

I don't think you can be successful in this industry without considering what readers want and practical issues like genre expectations and the market. That being said, it's important to develop a unique voice. That's what makes an author original.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Aspiring writers tend to put all their faith in the advice of more experienced writers. They haven't had time to build confidence in their own writing, so they make decisions based on other people's journeys. My advice to all writers is to look honestly at your situation, your goals, and your dreams and create a path forward based on them.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

Being a writer for me is storytelling with a focus on social justice. It's a chance to entertain and inform and it allows me the flexibility to live my life the way I want to.

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

Because I feel emotions strongly, it's hard to imagine writing without that but people experience the world in their own unique ways so who am I to say whether a less emotional person can write or not.

Q: How can you bring change in the literature world?

I think change comes from being confident in my work whether it conforms to mainstream industry expectations or not. By telling the story that I want to tell, I hope to change the way readers think about the world and to change their expectations of what fiction looks like.

Q: Do you have any upcoming book? What is it about?

I am currently working on the second book in my A Legacy of Silence series where I will continue exploring the lives of my main character Kate and her sister Tilly amidst the unravelling of a small-town sex trafficking operation.

Q: How do you feel about your book being featured in DEMODE?

I am grateful to be featured by DEMODE and look forward to reaching more readers.

MORE BOOK REVIEWS:

- **Magnificent read!!!**
- Amy's Bookshelf Reviews
- **Such a captivating read!!**
- AR



REDEMPTIVE TRAUMA

CONFESSION OF A DEFROCKED PRIEST

BY AUTHOR DAVID GIFFEN

David Giffen was once a defrocked priest. Having spent a decade as an Anglican cleric in Southwestern Ontario, David served in leadership in three urban social-justice focused appointments as a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada. David was deprived of ministry and terminated from his appointment as an incumbent priest of his parish on December 12th, 2018. He was in his fourth month on medical leave. David was formally accused, investigated and found guilty of sexual misconduct, all while he was drugged out, melting down on social media.

As someone working to heal from traumatic stress injuries from childhood, David's diagnosis with Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in 2018 led him to become a public advocate for the de-stigmatization of mental health and addiction issues (especially when related to generational trauma). He quickly learned the challenges and opportunities this presents, as he himself is one of the examples. Redemptive Trauma: Confession of a Defrocked Priest is a memoir embracing hard truths of trauma to help others heal their own.

David holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree from Huron University College at the Western University in London, Ontario. For most of his adult life, David served as a street-involved pastor in Toronto and London. His major focuses of ministry were related to social outreach, restorative justice, and learning to wrestle with life and faith in the rapidly evolving social media age.

The author is almost certain that if you don't like stories about sex, drugs, rock stars, alcohol, and the uneven rise and fall of the guilty and the innocent, you probably won't like the Bible either. Or this book. Otherwise, go ahead, dig into both.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR DAVID GIFFEN

David works with executives, academics, groups and businesses - anyone who has found themselves or their organizations in a place that requires support and guidance to plan the best steps to achieve a stated objective, all the way to working through transformative change.

A childhood immigrant from his native Scotland, David has spent a lifetime working alongside some of the most talented leaders across the Canadian landscape. From an early age, he learned that significant change only comes with impactful leadership. David has assembled a gifted collective of leaders to resource the growing needs of the wider community. Both in his work as founder of 403 Leadership Collective & the Co-Founder of The F.O.C.U.S. Movement.

David has become a public advocate for the de-

stigmatization of people suffering from mental health and addiction issues, and quickly learned the challenges (and opportunities) this presents when he himself is one of the examples.



David holds both a Bachelor's & Master's degree from Huron University College at the Western University in London, ON, and is the author of Redemptive Trauma: Confession of a Defrocked Priest. For most of his adult life, David has served as a street involved Pastor in Toronto and London. His major focuses of ministry were related to social outreach, restorative justice, and learning to wrestle with life and faith in the rapidly evolving social media age.

Today, David serves as a mental health professional with the Canadian Mental Health Association. David is an incredibly proud father to Rory, who has a unique ability to lead him in ways he never imagined.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **David Giffen**

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Writing is an extension of thought and reflection for me, both passion and emotion. I have been writing and public speaking since I was a little child, then as a student, preacher, blogger and author. I am not sure my life makes much sense without writing. There are times when I must write before my passions and emotions will make much sense to me.

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

This was my first book. I woke up after another meaningless night of drug use and alcohol consumption, looked in the mirror and asked myself if I could live with my son never really knowing who I am. I did not necessarily know my writing would lead to the popular published memoir it is today, but I wrote full time for almost three weeks straight after that treacherous morning. I poured out my story over the broken parts of my existence and saw how through it, I could be made whole.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

I believe in both. I think awards are an opportunity to acknowledge excellence among us (I was never big on participation ribbons). I think rewards are earned by hard work and dedication to one's craft. But ultimately, as I outline in my book, I believe in grace, mercy, and love, above all else. Deserve and earn can often be antithetical to the first two, and at its best, maybe even the third.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

**"I refuse to be a role model.
I set goals, take control, drink out my own bottles.
I make mistakes but learn from everyone;
And when it's said and done, I bet this brother be a better one.
If I upset you, don't stress,
Never forget that God isn't finished with me yet."
- Tupac Amaru Shakur (Also the final words of my book)**

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

It does not always. Sometimes it brings out dark and twisty sides of me.

Q: How do you feel being an author?

I am not sure I am used to it yet. It has been less than a year since my book debuted at #1 on Amazon Canada. I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to share my story with the world.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Believing that they will have more time later to finish their work. Now is the time.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how

long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

My first book is a memoir; a eulogy to both the first half of my life and my life as an ordained Anglican priest. The research was intensive therapy and working with others suffering from trauma disorders. It is a book about male vulnerability and learning the deep value of empathy while tackling mental health and the associated stigma, which often buries those who suffer. I tell stories about sex, drugs, alcohol and abuse, through the lens of grace, mercy and love. I spent a lifetime preparing for this one... I hope the next will not require quite the same.

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

Excited! It is a great honour.

BOOK REVIEWS

- **This is actually an indictment of the leadership in the Anglican Church of Toronto - CC7.**

The author's struggles are painful and difficult to read. But what is most shocking is the blatant hypocrisy of the bishops. He reached out to them and they "sent him back to work". He was clearly unable to fulfil his duties. They did not care about him or his congregation. They counselled him on how to be duplicitous. They turned on him and used his vulnerability against him. They were guilty of much the same conduct themselves, all the while cloaking themselves in piety. There is no compassion, no empathy and certainly no leadership. Disgusting. It is enough to turn one against the church - certainly against its leadership.

- **Refreshing Vulnerability - Tommy Giffen**

David Giffen's book is a moreish debut full of heartbreaking and uplifting stories. David bears all and truly lets you into all the highs and lows of his life, sharing his vulnerability, compassion, and humour. It arrived this morning at 9 am, and by 1 pm I'd finished. I was only meaning to read a chapter or two today! I can't recommend this enough. I loved it from start to finish.

- **re-demp-tive (adjective) - that saves you from the power of evil - Peter**

This is a book about one person's path towards redemption.



THE CRYING MINDS SERIES

THE SECRET, THE HUNT & THE BATTLE

BY AUTHOR A. L. BERGGREN

The Crying Minds series is set in London, UK, Europe, and China. Roze, a young woman with extreme emotional intelligence and mind-reading skills, gradually becomes a new age female “James Bond” caught in a fight against sadistic women hater and game developing psychopath: Hydra, through brainwashed minds, the secret service, and the dark web.

Three significant storylines weave through the books; the vital force of mind, EQ, truth, and love; the rise to power of Hydra and his many heads across the dark web and underworld, through a sinister reality computer game, enabled by his harem of Mind Slaves; the obsession with finding a cure against evil, mind-blindness, and abuse.

It's a fictional journey through real-life horrors such as abuse and modern slavery, ignorance of the importance of prevention and cure, potential dangers and possibilities around artificial intelligence and bioscience, as well as the extreme power of addictive computer games and virtual reality.

BOOK REVIEWS

- **THE SECRET OF THE CRYING MINDS** - 'Extraordinarily unique thriller', 'Gripping, Thrilling & Enticing!', 'A twisting, turning and hypnotising tale.', 'Brilliant and captivating read', 'Couldn't put down this intense debut novel.'
- **THE HUNT OF THE CRYING MINDS** - 'Done it again', 'A must for all those who enjoy a dark and intense thriller', 'Amazing narration', 'Spectacular', 'Mind-Blowing'.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR A. L. BERGGREN

A.L. Berggren is an Author and small business owner from Stockholm, Sweden that lives in London since 1996 and writes her books in English. The creation of stories has always been A.L. Berggren's passion. As a child, her stories were created through any means around her, such as; Lego worlds, Barbies, dressing up, pretend play, drawings, writing or paintings. Every day she would create a new story in her head, and she still does, wherever she is; at home, on the tube, in the car, at work or with friends and family - there are no limits on how much you can spice up everyday life if you have a little fantasy and creativity in you!

A.L. Berggren wrote her first book as a four-year-old, "The Birthday Party". The second book got written with her best friend as an eight-year-old called "The Hijackers", which hopefully entertained the classmates at "fun hour" a little.



Then a busy life happened, building a career within IT, moving to London, travelling the world, running guest lists at various clubs in Soho, then eventually settling down, getting married and having two

amazing daughters. For a short while, she even got into Stand-up Comedy, never with the intent to work as a comedian full time but to be creative and learn something new. Storytelling kept being part of this life, in the form of customer case studies and presentations, daily good night stories to the girls, comedy material, or to cheer up a friend with something fun. Photography has also always been part of her life as an alternative way to tell a great story. From 2012 until now, throughout a breakup, divorce, being a single mom,

a range of full-time jobs and a hideous family court experience, A.L. Berggren started to write a fictional story - The Secret of the Crying Minds

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR a. l. berggren

IG: @storytellerberggren | Twitter: @alberggrenstory

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

I get inspired by everything around me, people, art, music, relationships, politics, books, observations, conversations, debates, cultures, films, religions and moments. Injustice, entitlement and abuse make my blood boil which inspires significant parts of my more dark writing.

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

Ever since I can remember, new stories are shaping in my head daily. So it's the actual story that makes me write. When I was four years old, I wrote my first book - one edition and one copy only but with a great thought - The birthday party.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Rewards - Nothing makes me so happy when one of your readers rewards other authors or me with their review - that is an example of something meaningful and rewarding.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

I am not so sure it does. It might bring out a good book, but my personality is not great when I am writing. It's hard to focus on other things when you are totally engrossed in your story and characters. As a business owner and a single mum, this state of mind is not ideal.

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Creating a story is my passion, and my words, meaning and thoughts are full of emotion, so for me, it's impossible to choose between the two.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

One of my favourite book quotes is from Paulo Coelho's most famous book, The Alchemist: "There is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear of failure."

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Thinking that you will one day wake up and believe that your manuscript is perfect, that will probably never happen. It took me over eight years of writing to get my act together and publish the first book in the series. So draw the line at some point and give your book to your editor.

Q: How do you feel being an author?

I feel proud, relieved, excited, and scared at the same time. Some of the topics I write about can be triggering and perhaps difficult to digest for some of my readers - but for me, it's essential to write fiction that includes elements of our reality and our future around the corner, even if it's frightening.

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

I am not trying either; I am simply writing the stories down from my vivid mind and hoping that people will enjoy them. But, judging from my reader's reviews, I think it's fair to say that my writing style and the actual story are both original.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

Writing is my way to share my thoughts and stories with the world.

Q: Do you have any upcoming book? What is it about?

Yes, my newest book is called: The Battle of the Crying Minds, which should be out by the time this magazine is published. This is the third book in the Crying Minds series - following on from the first two books, The Secret of the Crying Minds, and the Hunt of the Crying Minds.

This fictional book is about the largest-ever organised abduction case in the United Kingdom. Roze, now 24, is a "new age" female James Bond, who uses her mind-reading powers and EQ abilities rather than violence to get the outcome she wants. The day Roze steps into her new office at MI5, she is immediately thrown into a world of interrogation and profiling to crack the most powerful criminal minds until a familiar Modus Operandi engulfs Roze's attention. There is only one person behind this evil, and Roze knows who...

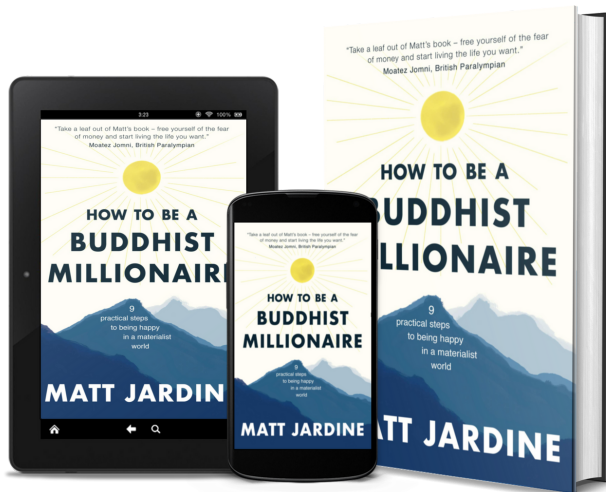


Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

Research is a constant part of my life, not only for my books but also because I am inquisitive about things in general. So I do most research alongside my writing, not before, to check that my stories are holding up. The type of research varies from Google searches, Wikipedia, books, maps, articles, podcasts, research documents to expert interviews.

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

I feel honoured to be mentioned in the article "10 books to add to your reading list this monsoon" and very excited to be featured in the DE MODE magazine.



HOW TO BE A BUDDHIST MILLIONAIRE

BY AUTHOR MATT JARDINE

Matt Jardine, award-winning author, podcaster, martial arts teacher and entrepreneur has spent 20 years seeking the answer to one of life's ultimate conundrums: how can we lead an authentic, spiritual and creative life in a relentlessly money-centric world?

Inspired by Paulo Coelho (author of the Alchemist) and driven by dissatisfaction with the day-to-day grind, in 2007 Matt embarked on a journey to the Japanese island of Shikoku.

Amidst mountains, coasts, and bamboo forests, he walked one of the world's most sacred trails—The Eighty-Eight Temple Pilgrimage—in search of answers to life's great questions. What he discovered transformed his life and became the subject of his debut book, 'The Hardest Path'.

In his latest book, **'How to be a Buddhist Millionaire- 9 practical steps to being happy in a materialist world'**, Matt expands on his previous work. After arriving home from his life-changing pilgrimage he quickly realised that those he'd left behind were still unhappy. One particular area of dissatisfaction was with their work lives. He began to ask people the question, "If I gave you a million pounds, would you go to work tomorrow?" Eight out of ten people answered, "No!"

With almost a third of our lives spent in the workplace, it seemed to him a waste of life for one not to do work they truly love. The seeds of 'How to be a Buddhist Millionaire' were sown.

BOOK REVIEW

'Take a leaf out of Matt's book; free yourself of the fear of money and start living the life you want.' - Moatez Jomni, British Paralympian

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR MATT JARDINE

Matt Jardine is a fiction and non-fiction author, podcaster, entrepreneur and teacher. His previous books include Mo and Lucy - Choices, a children's picture book that teaches the importance of decision making, and The Hardest Path, inspired by his 88 Temple pilgrimage of Japan.

His latest book, 'How to be a Buddhist Millionaire' won the Firebird book award, was selected as a finalist for the Eric Hoffer Book Award and received the highest recommendation from the US Review of Books.

He is a Londoner born and bred, but now travels the world writing and public speaking (mostly online during the COVID era). He says that different countries, cultures and points of view help him get a better grasp of the things that drive and inspire humanity. They also inspire ideas for his writing.



Former tennis pro and coach to the Royal family, he has always followed his passion in life. After practising meditation and other Eastern arts for over 25 years, he developed a successful chain of Shiatsu clinics (Japanese therapeutic massage) before going on to build an award-winning Martial arts school to train up-and-coming combat athletes. He is also the host of the 'Buddhist Millionaire Podcast'. The podcast is enjoyed by listeners in thirty countries around the world.

He now lives in the Middle East (Oman) with his wife and Jack Russell Terrier, Smudge, writing novels. His debut novel, set in South West England deals with the subject of 'Mind over matter medicine'. His 2nd, set in South Africa, deals with the complexities of peace and reconciliation in a time of violence and hate. The third looks into the tragedy of teenage suicide. The release dates are yet to be announced.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **matt jardine**

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

I have always loved to write. Before books, I wrote a column for one of Europe's leading martial arts magazines. It wasn't so much one final thought that pushed me to begin writing books but more of an inevitable evolution. It makes sense to do more of what I love.

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

I write both non-fiction and fiction and each title dictates what kind and how much research I do. I know some writers research relentlessly beforehand but I prefer to get on and write and fill in my gaps in knowledge as I go along. I'll do as much research as I need to make the work complete.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Awards can be a double-edged sword. I'm not going to lie: when I won my book award it felt amazing, but I think it's a dangerous thing to 'chase acclaim'. Do your work because you love it and then see what happens when it enters the 'wide world'. If it wins something: fine. If it doesn't: fine.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

I love that I am free to express myself. I love that sometimes I have to wrestle with ideas and sometimes they flow through me like I had nothing to do with the process. I love the idea that my work may bring a smile to a reader's lips, a tear to their eye or the light of hope to their heart.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it...The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."
- Nelson Mandela.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

I love that I am free to express myself. I love that sometimes I have to wrestle with ideas and sometimes they flow through me like I had nothing to do with the process. I love the idea that my work may bring a smile to a reader's lips, a tear to their eye or the light of hope to their heart.

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

My whole life is based on the concept of waking up and being delighted about the prospect of the day ahead. I have always believed that we should love what work we do and expect it to pay the bills. I have many passions, and writing is most certainly one of them. It's why I now write full time.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

The biggest is not sitting down and writing. People do this for two reasons: One- they are more interested in the 'fame' than the writing and so when an inevitable hurdle comes, they don't have the love to overcome it; two- they are frightened that what they write won't be any good. Just write. You'll get good eventually.

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

I don't 'try' to be anything. I say what I want to say and how I want to say it. Of course, I'm mindful of my audience but I don't contrive my work to fit a certain need. I believe in the saying: "Build it and they will come"

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

To express yourself as best you can and, maybe, in doing so, to connect with someone who was trying to say the same but couldn't yet find the words.

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

Hmmm. Another good question. I do think that one writes better work the deeper they delve. That said, we can only start from where we are. If you really want to write but don't yet feel strong emotions, don't worry. Write anyway. The emotions will come as you open up. Writing is a process, not an event.

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

I'd like for my work to bring 'big question' topics to people who ordinarily wouldn't have thought about them. For example, with my current work in progress (a novel) I deal with the concept of 'mind over matter' medicine. I've made it fiction so that those who might ordinarily laugh at such an idea can now engage.

Q: How do you feel being an author?

I cannot express how much I love it. I love the study of story craft, discovering ideas, writing them down, editing, rewriting, hearing my agent and publishers thoughts, watching my books be 'born', chatting with readers, doing interviews. I love the freedom to do what I love.

Q: Do you have any upcoming book?

I've currently just finished my debut novel, '21st Century Boy'. Here's the 'elevator pitch' - When teenager Sammy Martin learns to use his mind to heal, little does he expect that the biggest obstacle to curing his mother's cancer isn't the disease itself, but his older brother.

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

I'm actually really excited because my wife has been a fan and follower of DE MODE for a long time. At last, she might be impressed with me. :)



STALKER STALKED

BY AUTHOR LEE MATHEW GOLDBERG

Lexi Mazur is a depressed, alcoholic, pill-popper whose only joy has become her reality TV shows, often fantasizing that the people on TV are a part of her world. After her boyfriend Steve leaves her, she fixates on the show *Socialites* and its star Magnolia Artois, following every facet of the girl's life on social media in the hopes of befriending and becoming more like her.

But stalking isn't new to Lexi. She ultimately won over her ex Steve by following and manipulating every minute detail about him so he'd fall for her. In fact, she landed her other

ex-boyfriend Jeremy in the same way. Being a pharma rep, she's used to manipulation to get doctors to buy her drugs, along with the perk of saving pills for herself. **But what happens when the stalker gets stalked?**

Recently, Lexi has felt someone watching her: in her apartment in Queens, at her job. At first, she thinks her mind's playing tricks, but the watcher is behaving just like she would. And soon they begin leaving threatening clues like she starts to do to Magnolia once her obsession grows more dangerous. Is it one of her exes out for revenge? Her only real friend from childhood whom she's always had an unhealthy rivalry with? A detective who may have figured her out? The reality star Magnolia trying to turn the tables? Or even someone she might not know?

Lexi learns the only way to beat her stalker is to use her own stalking prowess to outsmart them at their own game. But has she finally met her match? Get your copy of 'Stalker Stalked' today.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR LEE MATHEW GOLDBERG

Author Lee has always been a writer since he was a kid, working on stories and most interested in English class when learning about literature. His first book '**Slow Down**', a Neo-noir thriller about a director who wants to make it in Hollywood, was published in 2015. He had a few short stories in magazines prior to that. In 2017, his novel '**The Mentor**' was published with St. Martin's Press about a college professor reunited with a former student who's now a big editor and makes his life a living hell when the editor won't publish his novel. This was followed by '**The Desire Card**' in 2019, which dealt with a Wall Street executive who is diagnosed with liver failure and attempts to get an organ on the black market. Over the last year, he had five books coming out. '**The Ancestor**' in 2020, which was a thriller like my first 3 novels, but also historical fiction set in present-day Alaska and during the Gold Rush with a dash of Sci-Fi. At the beginning of 2021, '**Orange City**', his first full science fiction came out along with a Young Adult



series called '**Runaway Train**' is about a girl in the 1990s who dreams of being a grunge singer. The sequel *Grenade Bouquets* about the rise and fall of her new band will be out August 5th with a third

book along the way. Finally, his thriller '**Stalker Stalked**' about a stalker of a reality TV star who discovers she is being stalked by a mystery person will be published on Sept 17. In addition to novels, he has also been active in screenwriting. His pilots and screenplays have been finalists in numerous screenplay competitions. One of his novels is currently being developed as a film off of his original script. He is writing the Young Adult series *Runaway Train* as a TV show and right now

there is a director attached. Author Lee is also working on *Stalker Stalked* as a feature film, but that hasn't been finished yet.

Ideally, he wishes to write both novels and scripts for the rest of his career, always adapting his own work and making sure it gets a chance to be read and seen in both mediums.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **lee mathew goldberg**

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

A little bit of both. I'm definitely fulfilled when I'm writing, and I'm always working on a novel or screenplay. But it's also a way to deal with how I'm feeling. Emotions creep into every one of my novels too.

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

I'd been fired from my first job and I took some time to go to the park and write every day. Eventually, that became my first novel *Slow Down*. I pictured people in NYC getting the same tattoo on the small of their back and the mystery behind it.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

It's a therapy of sorts. Also, it's a way of empathizing. As a writer, you create characters that all need empathy. Everyone has a story that begs to be told. I'm extroverted but introverted too, so writing is my introverted space.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Sure. Although art is subjective, there is something to be said when enough readers laud a particular book. It's also a way to get books noticed, and anything that gets books noticed, I'm all for.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

"The world breaks everyone and afterwards many are strong at the broken places." – Hemingway

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

I'm very inspired by writing and always reading while I'm working. There are too many books to read in a lifetime, so there's constantly a chance to sharpen my work. It helps to avoid Writer's Block too.

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

I try to write what fascinates me. If I'm bored, a reader is bored. So I try not to bore myself, usually by being original.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

It's important to listen to others about your work as well as yourself. Understand that editing is key and rejections will never stop.

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

Hmm, that's tricky. Depends on the story they are telling. If it's about a narrator who lacks emotions, they'd be perfect.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

A documenter of truth in the guise of a story (for fiction writers at least).

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

I do a lot of research because it naturally strengthens the book. I've written about fishermen in Alaska, Wall Street executives, cult leaders, a teen grunge girl, and a stalker in the reality TV world – all were based on a good amount of research.

Q: How do you feel being an author?

I love it. It's been my dream career since I was kid. It's not only what I'm meant to do with my life, it's the only career I really can do.

Q: Do you have any upcoming book? What is it about?

Yes! My upcoming book is called *Stalker Stalked*. It's about a stalker of a reality TV star, who discovers that she is being stalked as well. It's a satire on how reality TV and social media has invaded our culture.

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

Great! Honoured! Psyched! Thank you so much for this opportunity.

BOOK REVIEWS

• What an awesome read - Janalyn Prude

Lexi is an alcoholic and avid stalker. All is well in her world as she has conversations with reality TV show personalities stocks them on social media. That is until she realizes she is being stalked and true to Goldberg's style it keeps you turning the pages. Lexi is a mess but not so much of a mess that she can't stock her stalker, But who is stalking Lexi could it be Magnolia after she finds out Lexi got cast as a friend on her reality show social lights and may be responsible for her latest scandal or could it be officer Azlee or maybe one of her ex-boyfriends? The list is not short and Lexi is well with you will not get out of this unscathed. This was such a good book, I think I would read anything that this author wrote even if it was a recipe he is not good at. From the ancestor to the tutor to this book they're all just awesome and five star reads and this is no exception I completely recommend this book to anyone who likes dramatic situations with a few lol moments thrown in. What an awesome read!

• **Lee Matthew Goldberg is an artist of substance who makes a powerful impact on the reader. Very highly recommended. - Grady**



NOTEBOOK MYSTERIES EMMA

BY AUTHOR KIMBERLY MULLINS

Six-year-old Emma Evans and her family suffer a devastating loss during the Chicago fire in 1871. A few years later Emma is viciously attacked while trying to help a stranger.

Now in 1881, in the 10 years since the Great Fire that devastated much of Chicago's business district, the rebuild had begun and Emma is turning 16 years old during this turbulent time. Her family has opened a bakery and she's become a skilled baker. Desserts are key part of Emma's

life. As a talented baker, she enjoys making them and delivering them to customers on her routes. In the book, food is a reward for a job well done, bringing family together and furthering her adventures.

Though she enjoys baking, she grows restless and bored. Emma watches the delivery boys coming in and out of the shop, picking up deliveries they would be taking into the ever-changing city. She is envious of their freedom and the ability to have adventures. Her Papa has been expecting the request but has concerns that have to be addressed before he will agree. She soon convinces him to let work on the delivery wagons dressed as a boy to hide the fact she's a girl. He is reluctant but knows he has prepared her for the future by hiring specialists that trained Emma in self-defence and other skills she might need. During this time Emma learns that she has a particular talent for knife-throwing -- sometimes at targets, sometimes not.

Throughout the novel, Emma learns about the city-wide criminal organization. Two mysteries concerning her own family, and an answer to the question of who attacked her are resolved. Emma's sharp observational skills lead her into danger and she'll have to use all her knife skills & self-defence to find her way through.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR KIMBERLY MULLINS

Kimberly Mullins is the author of a series of books called "Notebook Mysteries". Her first book '**Notebook Mysteries ~ Emma**', was released in March'21. Her second book in the series 'Decisions and Possibilities' is coming out on August 24, 2021. A series of more than 10 books.

She lives in Texas with her husband and son. Her husband is her alpha reader for all of her books. Another close friend beta reads all of her books and gives her the drive to continue. Her husband and son do provide the inspiration for some of the characters in her books. They continue to offer suggestion as to what the characters are involved in. Their suggestions are often considered and mostly rejected. Her son turned 26 this year and will only read the novels when they are completed and in book form. He just finished book 2 in the series and says that he liked it-high praise.

She is from a large family; she has three brothers and 1 sister. She is a third-generation Texan. Her mother's family moved to Baytown to follow the oil production

for Humble oil, now Exxon-Mobile. She is the first in her immediate family to graduate from college. She met her husband while working in a fast-food restaurant to help pay for their college tuition.



She holds a BS in biology and a Masters in Business. When she is not writing she works as a Process Safety Engineer at a large chemical company. She has published technical papers on Risk and works with several committees on Process Risk. Technical papers have editors and final proof readers, but they are not as satisfying as completing and publishing a novel.

Her stories are based on historical events occurring in 1871-1883 Chicago. The time period is fascinating, all of the changes occurring to women and children. The laws were shifting at the time both protecting children and allowing women to move into more careers. She writes characters where the women are more independent than history reflects. Some women chose to be housewives but she wanted to show that not all did and many thrived in careers.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **kimberly mullins**

IG: @kremullins14 | Web: www.kimberlymullinsauthor.com

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

I did not like where the book I was currently reading was going. I did feel strongly that the author didn't take it to a satisfying conclusion. I wanted to change that. The first-year writing was an experiment—to see if I could do it and did enjoy the process. I did and now I have written 6 books, the first published. Each one brings me joy and makes challenges me to be a better writer.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Yes, to both. I haven't had any for writing, other than monetary of course. But I do have friends that have written beautiful stories and have gotten awards. I do like the feeling of having achieved something at work and receiving a reward. I look forward to that possibility in the future.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

I think that I have more self-confidence. So many people have gone out of their way to read it and I think that is lovely. I feel like I have something to say that people want to read. I also don't feel locked into my job any longer. I can see a future outside of it.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

Betty Smith a tree grows in Brooklyn. "Frances Counted the year's passing into by the months but the by holidays that came along." The quote brings thought of my father who worked so hard for his family and dreamed about the next holiday when he could spend time with us.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

Perseverance—just keep going or as Dory says, "Just keep swimming." I just move to the next book the next project. I don't stop. It gives me something to look forward to after a long day examining drawing at work. It also gives me a sense of what I would say when someone asked me, what will you be doing in five or ten years.

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

Historical fiction requires lots of research but in my current book series: Notebook Mysteries I spent about 2-3 months getting the background. Once the world was created, I didn't have to put so much time in. For new books, the research can take longer. It can be 3-4 months if I need to order books.

Q: How do you feel being an author?

I feel proud of my accomplishment and happy that others enjoy reading my book. When my book was published in March—it was both parts thrilling and surreal. Did I really get done? Another was when people I didn't know about the book and liked it. I continue to be nervous as I finish a

book and it moves to edit. I worry about the stories and if I have said enough, been though with my thoughts.

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

I let the stories guide me, sometimes I don't always agree with where I am headed but I follow it out. Original? I hope so, you strive for something different each time you write. I think that each book makes me a better writer.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

There is more than one way to be published. I think the trick is to make sure you do it professionally. This would be with cover designers, editors and beta readers. And don't live in a vacuum, continue to read other author's work and learn.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

I have learned through this process is that anyone with a pen to paper is a writer. The act of writing is such a challenge, putting something out there in the public, hoping that they enjoy it. It does expose me to the public in a way that is scary. So, I would say the meaning of being a writer is to be brave enough to have others read your work.

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

I do not, all writing is about sharing everything, you can construct a story in different ways. I am not a person that has strong emotions, but I can construct an interesting story. Not everything has to be felt, some writers are like this and I think that's amazing, but it isn't me.

Q: How can you bring change in the literature world?

I don't think I can bring change, at least not now. Right now, I want to work with my categories—young adult and historical fiction. I am getting to know my genre and the authors in it. I think change will occur with experience when I am more willing to ask myself harder questions about my characters.

Q: Do you have any upcoming book? What is it about?

Notebook Mysteries ~ Decisions and Possibilities. It is set two years after book 1. I have written 5 so far in the series and will release two a year. Set in 1883, it is book two in my 'Notebook Mysteries' series.



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

It is wonderful to be asked. As a beginning author, I like to know people are interested in me and my books. I hope to share more.



DREAMS LOST & FOUND

BOOK 1 - THE HOME DUET

BY AUTHOR NIKKI A. LAMERS

Samantha Voss loses herself after the unexpected and tragic death of her adoptive parents, the only parents she's ever known. She immediately leaves college and moves home, craving something familiar and hoping it will bring comfort. After nearly a year and a half of feeling numb and just going through the motions of living, she gets a wake-up call, pulling her back to reality and prompting her to realize change is not only what she really wants, but also what she needs.

At nearly twenty years old, she decides she wants to search for her birth parents in hopes of finding out more about where she came from, with faith it also might help her decide who she wants to be and what she wants to do with her life. When she receives a package of paperwork from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, providing her with some of the information she sought, she's rewarded with unexpected answers along with unending questions. She finds additional letters from her birth mom in the package, prompting her to make a spontaneous decision to move to the small town of Chance, Wisconsin near Madison in search of her birth father, hoping he will be able to give her more answers.

Will Samantha and Brady be able to find their way through their new reality together or will the future and the past be the things that end up tearing them apart? **'Dreams Lost and Found'** is book one of two in **The Home Duet**. **'Finding Home'** is book two in the duet. These books do need to be read in order and both are available now! Although the inspiration for this book originated from my own adoption, and my own search for my birth parents, Samantha's story is a work of fiction and it is nothing like my own.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR NIKKI A. LAMERS

Nikki A Lamers resides in Long Island, New York, USA with her husband, teenage son and teenage daughter. She grew up in Wisconsin, where her Home Duet takes place. She has always had a passion for writing and creating her own stories, especially romance and was thrilled when she published her first book, *The Unforgettable Summer* in 2014, which is book one in *The Unforgettable Series*. Each book in the series can be read as a stand-alone novel, but it's better read in order. Her stories incorporate various life experiences people encounter, both good and bad and shows how those things can impact different characters decisions and interactions in their lives. She focuses on mostly contemporary romance, but enjoys writing in other sub-genres, as long as there's romance. She's met some incredible authors from around the world whom she has worked with on various collaborations and hopefully, we will be able to see some of these works published down the road.



Besides having a degree in creative writing and writing for children and teenagers, Nikki also has a degree in Community Health Education with an emphasis in child and youth care from the University of Wisconsin, as well as a "Ducktorate" degree from Disney University in Managing and Communicating when she did a college program working for the world-famous mouse in Florida. She uses knowledge and experiences in her stories, keeping the information accurate, such as in *The Home Duet*, the main character, Samantha is adopted, just like Nikki was adopted when she was a baby. Her experiences with finding her birth family, prompted the story that started with book one, *Dreams Lost and Found* & then concluding with *Finding Home*. Nikki has also had the opportunity to

work on-set with Gemelli Films as a script supervisor with the cast and crew for several productions. Most of these television and film projects have a romance focus, while some may have only a piece. She also plans to spend more time traveling in the future.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **nikki a. lamers**

IG: @nikkialamersauthor | Web: www.nikkialamersauthor.com

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

Writing inspires me to share my stories with the world. I may see something or read something that gives me the motivation to write a new story and I would love to be able to inspire someone else to follow their dream or give them hope for whatever their dream may be. As a writer and a reader, I'm amazed every single time at what a good story can do for someone, myself included.

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

I've always been determined to write a book, but for a long time, I let outside influences get in the way. When I wrote *The Unforgettable Summer*, I couldn't get the story out of my head and I had to write it down to even get any sleep. That was when I decided I wouldn't let anything stop me.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

Writing brings out the best in me because it's a way for me to connect with others. I search for the good in my characters, knowing everyone makes mistakes. It's a way for readers to find someone they relate to and let them know they're not alone with whatever they're going through. Books and writing have brought me so much comfort and joy. I can't imagine a world without it.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Yes, I believe awards and rewards can have a positive impact as long as they're done with class. Creative people work just as hard in their work, no matter what kind of art they create. Mine just happens to be through words and you never know what kind of impact a few words can make on a person. A few words can change someone's world.

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Writing is definitely my passion. I've always written, but the creative side of writing and telling stories is what I love. I'm constantly thinking about stories, characters, settings, moments and so much more, but it's because I want to, not because it's a job. I feel like I live and breathe through my stories and characters. The story itself drives me.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

I have a few, but here's two...

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart. Helen Keller

All of our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them. Walt Disney

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

One of the biggest traps for aspiring writers is not editing enough. Plus, be sure to take corrective criticism, but that doesn't mean listen to someone who puts you down or

doesn't enjoy the genre you write and learn to know the difference.

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

I write where my characters take me. I come up with an idea or character and where I want the story to go, but I feel like the characters tell me their story as I write. I do like to add twists, but the characters lead the story and I hope it's what the readers want.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

For me being a writer is a gift. It's an opportunity to give someone an escape, a happy ending, hope, an adventure, a new world, excitement, and so much more.

Q: How can you bring change in the literature world?

I believe the best way to bring change in the literature world is by staying true to yourself and your passion and supporting others in the writing community in any way you can. There is so much talent out there and for me, there's always more books and stories to both read and write.

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

I think they could write, but I do think it would be really hard to write certain things, like emotion. Emotions control my stories. Many times I'm found smiling, laughing, frowning or even crying as I write. I think emotions are essential in writing and reading.

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

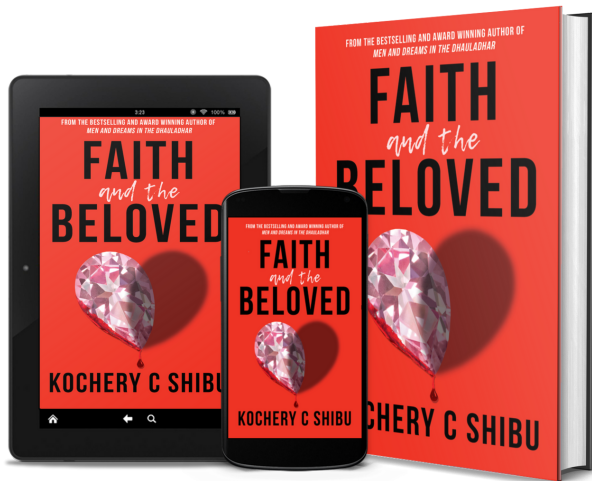
I will make sure I have notes on past books scenes, characters, histories if stories connect. I will research an area even when I know it a little more thoroughly. I will also research topics I'm not as versed in if I want or need it as part of the story and I can always research more if needed, but I want things to be accurate.

Q: Do you have any upcoming book? What is it about?

Yes, I have a sixth book in *The Unforgettable Series* coming out in August, *Unforgettable Mistakes*. In this book, the readers will finally learn Amy's story. 'Unforgettable Mistakes' is a stand-alone novel, but better read in order.

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

I'm thrilled and truly honoured to have my book featured in DE MODE. It feels like a milestone in my career as an author and I greatly appreciate being included! Thank you!



FAITH AND THE BELOVED

BY AUTHOR KOCHERY C SHIBU

Faith and the Beloved, from the author of Men and Dreams in the Dhauladhar, is a riveting saga of love, lust, betrayal, intrigue and revenge

Naithy Cherozil is a rich and successful businesswoman from Mumbai who marries the young and handsome model Tony D'Souza after the death of her spouse. Little does she know that the ideal sex slave of her husband is the sleeper cell of a terror outfit. Events in her life take unforeseen turns as the male Mata Hari is activated.

Prem Rollands is a 'Kalari' exponent and a brilliant student whose world revolves around his brother Arun. Things go awry when the police kill Arun under mysterious circumstances. Prem kills the inspector in retribution and is on the run. He is on the lookout to find the dark secrets leading to Arun's death. Prem must avenge those who have plotted to kill his brother.

Eighteen-year-old Alice Cherozil knows more about computers and mystery games than a girl of her age. Her life falls apart when her mother is hospitalised and in a coma. She is playing the ultimate mystery game of her life as the web of secrets surrounding two precious diamonds and her stepfather threatens to destroy her family. She overcomes the moral dilemma to kill her stepfather. Alice must outwit the underworld and stay ahead of all to save her mother's life or the guilt of her failure will haunt her forever.

As the lives of Naithy, Prem and Alice cross each other they must retain their faith and protect their beloved ones, even at the cost of their own lives. The story is all about love, lust, money and revenge. It has 2 parallel plots going on and to tell in short one is about Naithy and her daughter, Alice while the other one is about 2 brothers, Arun and Prem. Alice had killed her step-father and his people are behind her to kill her while on the other hand, Arun has been killed and Prem is convinced that his brother was murdered.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR KOCHERY C SHIBU

Kochery C Shibu, the bestselling and award-winning author of Men and Dreams in the Dhauladhar, graduated from the prestigious National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, in 1981. He has served in the Indian Navy and commanded two warships. Post his retirement, he has



executed hydroelectric projects in the Cauvery River basin in Karnataka, Beas River basin in Himachal and Teesta River basin in Sikkim. He holds a postgraduate degree in Defence Studies from Chennai University and MA in English literature from Pune University.

Author Shibu has changed track from the snow-clad mountains to the blue oceans and has been associated with the setting up of a shipping company in India. Faith and the Beloved is his second book. Many of the characters in the novel are inspired by those whom

second book. Many of the characters in the novel are inspired by those whom he has encountered during his extensive travel.

Kochery C Shibu was born in Kochi, Kangarapady and now lives in Bangalore with his wife and daughter.

BOOK REVIEWS

- **A Crime-thriller that will not let you put down the book**
- **A great read**
- **Faith and the beloved**
- **It is a thriller with so many stories**
- **A Great Intriguing Novel.**
- **A unique narrative**
- **Best crime thriller!!!**
- **Revenge and Retribution goes side by side**
- **Masterpiece in Crime-Thriller-Suspense**
- **Fast paced crime thriller**
- **Amazing book**
- **For Those Who Love Triller**
- **Awesome Book**
- **I personally love it. Worth reading. Read more.**
- **Nail biting Suspense thriller.**
- **Worth Reading.**

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **kochery c shibu**

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

I believe it is both. The writing needs to be passionate about the idea of the book and the plot. I believe that the author must passionately believe in what he is writing. Equally important is the need to have emotion for the characters in the book to bring them alive. I also believe that passion and emotion must be tempered with the reason for the writing to come out well.

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

The writer in me was kindled from the school days. The path to the completion of the first book has been lined with a number of novels in the making abandoned after a few pages. The first book in writing took four years and about 3600 man writing hours to complete.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

Writing is an intense process. It is passionate and emotive and at times the boundless passion makes you feel the dangers of the characters in the novel. Then you take a break and apply reason to temper what you have written. The writing takes you to a world that you create and you feel the pain, joy and ecstasy of the characters in the novel. It is a momentous feeling once you complete the book.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

I believe in awards and rewards. Awards in the literary field is a welcome recognition of your efforts and talent. Though I believe that the satisfaction of being able to write a novel that is appreciated by the readers is the biggest reward.

Q: How can you bring change in the literature world?

"Eyes do not see what the mind does not know". Reading is what enlightens the mind. Books empower the mind and usher in changes. The reader benefits from the protagonists and in a way live a different life with each book that he or she reads. I believe that the books that I write will have an impact on the readers to improve their clarity of thought and confidence.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

"The harder you work, the luckier you seem"

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

Writing is all about storytelling. As you start building up a story and the characters and the situations, it is a challenge to hold all the information in the mind and process it to progress with the writing. Initially, it does require the support of note pads and whiteboard markers to keep track of people events, time and space. Then one fine day they all fall into place and you can see everything in the mind's eye as you write. It is the most inspiring feeling when that happens.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

To me being a writer means being passionate about what you write and being able to make the characters come live to the reader. To be aware of what you are attempting to write, and to have a clear understanding of the impact on the readers. Most importantly to be clear in your mind as to why you are writing what you are writing .

Q: How do you feel being an author?

It is a fantastic feeling to know that your creation has come live as a book

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

- Allowing one's prejudices and biases to reflect in the writing
- Not being widely read and not doing enough research
- Limiting the scope of writing to one's horizon
- Pursuing cliché plot lines for sales
- Not getting a beta reading done and taking feedbacks.

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

I Believe in what I write and, tell the story in my style.

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

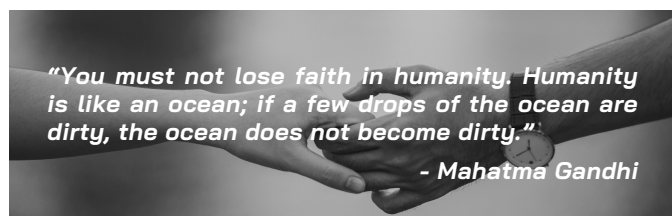
I think it would be very difficult for someone to be a writer if they do not feel emotions. The writing would fail to inspire a reader and fall flat if it acks the emotive energy. It is always the emotion that creates the connection and brings the character alive.

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

I believe that any and every aspect of the book should be well researched. The research consumes a major part of my writing time. My first book Men and Dreams in the Dhauladhar took me 4 years and 3600 man writing hours. More than half of the time was spent researching.

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

It is indeed a great feeling.



"You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is like an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty."

- Mahatma Gandhi



HAPPINESS SOLVED

CLIMBING ONE HUNDRED STEPS

BY AUTHOR SANDEE SGARLATA

Happiness Solved, Climbing One Hundred Steps, is a no-nonsense guide to help readers determine their own level of unhappiness and the steps they can take to find the peace and happiness everyone strives for during times of stress, uncertainty, and chaos that we all experience in today's world.

We are at a crossroads in humanity. We can either continue to hate, or we can choose love. To choose love, we have to be happy from within.

We have to love ourselves first to make an impact in this world. If we are all feeling negative, it is going to spread in ways we cannot even comprehend. Instead, we need to choose to love ourselves first and learn to love one another. Only then can we change the world in which we live.

Life happens (while we are busy making other plans) and it can be challenging to maintain a sense of peace and happiness. Sandee details her own experiences and life-altering tragedies to demonstrate that no matter what the reader has experienced and no matter what their daily struggles are, they can achieve a happy life. There are suggested daily exercises that will help the reader begin to create lasting change so that when life happens, they will have the necessary tools to be able to get back to and maintain a sense of peace and happiness.

Sandee was twelve years old and could not have been happier as she climbed the one hundred steps from the river dock to her house, only to learn that her older brother had tragically died while serving in the US Army. It was just one of the defining moments in her life. Facing death has been the underlying theme of her life and the catalyst for her never-ending search and desire to learn how to maintain a sense of peace and happiness. This is especially true during times of stress, uncertainty, and chaos that we all experience in today's world. Sandee is sharing her own no-nonsense way to create lasting change so that no matter what you have gone through and no matter what your daily struggles are you can learn how to get back to a state of peace and happiness. From the moment she learned about her brother's death, she began her quest to get back to that place of happiness she felt at the age of twelve. There is no guarantee how long you have left. Your life will pass you by in a split second. How do you want to spend every day while you are still here? Life is too short to delay the climb!

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR SANDEE SGARLATA

Sandee Sgarlata is an author, certified life coach, public speaker, retired U.S. national and international figure skating coach, and has spent the past 20 years helping people create lasting changes in their lives. Due to several tragedies that deeply affected her, along with hitting rock bottom with drug abuse in 1990, she has spent the last 30 years in her own quest to find and maintain a sense of peace and happiness. Sandee is also the host of the Happiness Solved Podcast which can be found on 15 networks including Google, Apple, Spotify, and the Happiness Solved YouTube channel. Feedspot has ranked the Happiness Solved Podcast as #11 in the top 70 happiness podcasts.

Sandee has two group coaching programs: Happiness Solved for Everyone and Happiness Solved for Entrepreneurs. Both of these programs offer group coaching, 1:1 coaching, and an extensive online course that is constantly expanding.

More information is available on her website at: www.sandeesgarlata.com.



INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR sandee sgarlata

IG: @coachsandeegarlata | Web: www.sandeegarlata.com

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Writing is a passion of mine and I also find that it is a way to work through some emotions. When I was writing Happiness Solved, it was very therapeutic.

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

My first book was a novel for teenagers and was inspired by a former figure skating student of mine. She came on vacation with us to watch my then two-year-old son. She told me about how she was heading down the wrong path when she was 15 years old and when I shared with her my experience with drug abuse, it changed her life and she got back on the right track. This inspired me to write a novel to help teenagers see the world differently.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

Writing brings out the best in me because I am so passionate about helping people and enjoy sharing my story to inspire others.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Yes, I do believe in awards to acknowledge one's accomplishments. It was such an honour for me to be the finalist in two book awards. There is so much competition in book awards, so to actually be a finalist or a winner is a big accomplishment.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

When I am writing, it is inspiring to me because I consider myself a writer that is inspired to write. I do not just sit down and start writing. So when I am inspired to write, that is what drives me.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

For me, the meaning of a writer is anyone who is able to write something that is inspiring to them. I do not believe that you have to be published to be considered a writer. There are many types of writers, not all are published.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

My favourite quote is "Peace. It is not about being in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. It's about being in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart." Author unknown.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

I think a common trap for aspiring writers is the belief that they have to be published by a big publishing company. Self-publishing is easier than ever these days.

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

When I am writing a self-improvement book, I try to be more original. When I am writing a novel, I try to keep it relevant so as to appeal to more readers.

Q: How can you bring change in the literature world?

That is a question that I have never considered. I feel as though since I have only published two books, I feel like more of an amateur in the literature world.

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

I generally research as I'm writing. I am working on a new self-improvement book and have been doing research on it prior to starting to write. I conducted a survey and have been researching the topic.

Q: Do you have any upcoming book? What is it about?

I will have at least two more books coming out in the next two years. One will be a self-improvement book which I have not named. The other one will be the second and third parts of my award-winning novel that was released in 2009. It was supposed to be a series and then my publisher went out of business. The second book in the series was finished in 2010. I am combing the first two books and finishing them. I have not decided on the title at this point.

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

I am so excited and grateful to be featured in DE MODE and thank you so much for the opportunity!

BOOK REVIEWS

• You can be happy despite real world challenges - Cogentenvoy

As a person that has read many books on self-help and self-improvement, I was very curious given the title - "Happiness Solved". More than just another self-help book written from a clinical or academic perspective, filled with platitudes and/or statistics, Happiness Solved is an introspective, transparent and very personal approach to happiness, based on the author's real-world life experiences. I'm so glad to have purchased this book and will recommend it to many, many others.

• Great Self-Help Read - Mark Trevor

Just opened, then read (cover to cover) Happiness Solved written by Sandee Sgarlata Addison. Dealing with the recent loss of my father, it was a timely read for me. Sandee courageously opens up and lays bare the tragedy and loss that she experienced in her life and the concrete steps she took (and still takes daily) in order to heal.



DE MODE BOOKS & AUTHORS

VOLUME IV, ISSUE XXII

10 BEST NEW BOOKS TO READ THIS MONSOON

Perusing is a lovely experience, independent of season or time. Reading by the seashore on a warm summer evening is a joyful encounter. Be that as it may, the best inclination is the point at which you sit inside a sweeping fortification, taste a cup of hot cocoa, and read a decent book when it is pouring outside.

In case you are an avid reader too, you will know how it feels to sit in a perusing alcove enclosed by a comfortable cover and read a decent book. Most of us love reading sci-fi books, thrillers at one point or another. With love, we have aggregated a rundown of 10 extraordinary books to read on a stormy day. Additionally, we have painstakingly picked each book from an alternate genre, so you will be able to pick your top choices.

MIRROR WARS DOUBLE JEOPARDY

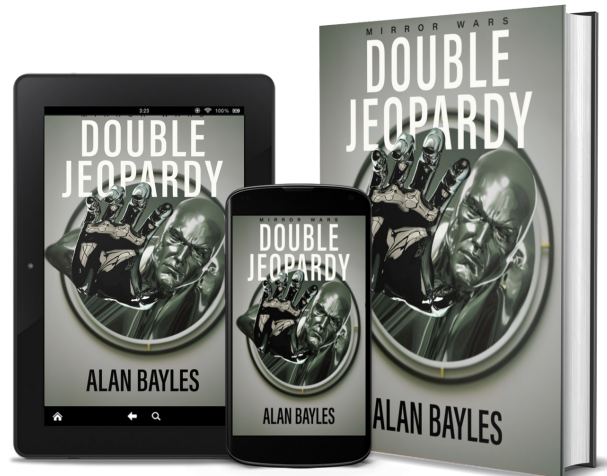
BY AUTHOR ALAN BAYLES

A failed military experiment. A global conspiracy spanning decades. Two worlds colliding. 12th September 1932 a failed military experiment opens the doorway to a parallel world and an ancient empire with ties to our world.

90 years later Detective Inspector Dave Barnes is summoned to investigate a murder in the quiet English village of Langley Park. Along with his friend and colleague, Detective Sergeant Andrew Jenkins, begin an investigation that uncovers some startling facts. Inspector Barnes is soon joined by Professor Claire Tulley, a history professor who has a personal stake in the investigation. Along with Constable Wendy Cooper, they begin to uncover evidence of corruption going not only all the way up to higher echelons of the British Government, but evidence of a global conspiracy spanning decades. They are soon embroiled in a fight for not only their own survival but also for the fate of the world against an oddly familiar enemy. As two worlds collide, an ancient inhuman force waits in the shadows... Whoever wins... humanity loses!

I love the idea that there is another version of me somewhere in a mirror reality, who could be doing the same thing as me, or something completely different as me. Growing up, I always dreamed of becoming an Astronaut but unfortunately, as life usually does, reality got in the way. I like to believe in another reality another version of myself achieved his dream and is looking at his Earth from orbit. I have always wanted to write a book that either incorporated my love and fascination with the multiverse or something based on my childhood fear of mirrors. My initial idea had been to write a one-off novel involving a creature from another dimension who used mirrors to attack and kill people. - Alan said.

Grab your copy of "Mirror Wars: Double Jeopardy" by Alan Bayles. The link to buy the book is available on our website.



THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR ALAN BAYLES

Alan Bayles is the author of Mirror Wars: Double Jeopardy. His debut novel is a fantasy conspiracy thriller. The first is what he hopes to be an original and popular trilogy. Born in Hartlepool in 1970. He lived in Langley Park, Durham, England until 2006, when he moved to Northern Ireland. He married his wife, Monica, in 2007. As a child he began his education at a Primary & Junior School and then attended Fyndoune Comprehensive in Sacriston up until he was 17. Alan studied to be a Medical Secretary at New College Durham from 1991 to 1993, after graduating he worked as a Medical Secretary for 11 years before his move to Northern Ireland in 2006, where he worked as a Medical Secretary in Belfast City Hospital and then as a GP Receptionist until 2020. He was 12 years when he fell in love with fantasy fiction when he read Alan Dean Foster's Spellsinger. A short time later he read



his first horror novel – James Herbert's The Rats – Not only terrified him but contained a scene that stayed with him for years and inspired him to one day write a book. It was then that he had made a

pact to himself, if he were to write a novel, he would include a scene as a respectful homage to James Herbert, which he is proud to say he has been to do that with his novel Mirror Wars: Double Jeopardy. Along with James Herbert, his other favorite authors are Stephen King, Clive Cussler, Dean Koontz, Audrey Niffenegger and Neil Gaiman. In April 2020 he found he had a lot of time on his hands, along with his love of fantasy and science fiction he finally took the huge step to write his first book – Mirror Wars: Double Jeopardy – which contains nods to some of his favorite authors & TV shows that have ignited his imagination over the years. He has also used his "experiences" of being a twin to help write about evil doppelgangers!

[@albay3037](#)

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR alan bayles

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

It is my passion. It is my belief to be a writer you need to be passionate and care about what you write. It also helps that I have been a very passionate reader since I was an early child, and for the past 30 years have felt I have had a burning passion to write.

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

I had been off work long-term due to ill-health and was sitting feeling sorry for myself. When one day I sat up and said "No! I'm not going to do this, feel sorry for myself. I might as well use this time to write that book I have been putting off for so long!"

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

Writing has helped me look at myself and made me realize I can do something if I set my mind to it. Not to be afraid of taking a risk. It has helped me to be more observant of what is around me. Look more closely at how everybody interacts and notice the small things in life.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Rewards. Writing is a gift and the best reward for a writer is knowing their book has been read and enjoyed. The only I would like is for one person to read and enjoy my story. If that does happen then I will be quite happy knowing for one brief moment I did something that was worthwhile.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

One of my favorite quotes was by the late great Stan Lee – *"To me, writing is fun. It doesn't matter what you're writing, as long as you can tell a story."* – As the great man once said - 'Nuf said true believer!

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

To be honest I am not sure I can! The one thing I have found since starting writing, for an independent author like myself it is hard work if you don't have somebody looking after your interests or help guide you. Maybe if enough voices spoke up, then perhaps it is possible to bring about a change.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

I have found writing has helped me to express myself in ways I have never thought possible. Since finishing my first novel, I have been inspired to write more, knowing I have it within myself to do it. I have realized anything is achievable if I put my mind to it.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

Not only to be able to entertain but being able to write the words where a scene can fire a reader's imagination

that will stay with them forever. For me it was James Herbert's *The Rats*, his vivid descriptions – especially in one particular memorable scene – will stay with me forever.

Q: How do you feel being an author?

It is indescribable! It is hard to put into words, after spending a lot of time and energy and then seeing my work in a physical form. To be honest I cannot help but get a sense of satisfaction when seeing my book on my bookcase and saying to myself "I did that!"

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Not setting yourself time each day to write. Creating your characters how you want to behave, rather than the way they should behave. Not reading enough, just because you are writing doesn't mean you should stop reading. Reading more helps broaden your vocabulary, which will make you a better writer.

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

I try to be original. If I deliver to readers what they want, then a story will become predictable and boring. Being unpredictable, you leave readers guessing, then they will want more and desperate to know what happens next.

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

I do not think that should stop someone from trying. If someone wants to become a writer then they shouldn't be put off not trying. Regret is one of life's most psychological barriers. If you try and fail, at least you won't look back with regret and say you didn't try.

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

When I first started my book, I was unsure how to begin so I researched and watch online tutorials on how to write a book, such as advice on character development and layout etc. Initially I spent a couple of hours a day over four days before I became confident enough to actually start writing.

Q: Do you have any upcoming books? What is it about?

I have just started work on the next novel in the series – *Mirror Wars: Severed Dreams* – which will follow directly on from *Double Jeopardy*, which I hope to release next year.

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

Quite excited at being given the opportunity to have my book featured in DE MODE Magazine.

SENTINALS SERIES I, II & III

BY AUTHOR HELEN GARRAWAY



The Sentinal series is an epic fantasy series set in the world of Remargaren. A world suffused with ancient magic and adventure. The first book ***Sentinals Awaken*** which introduces Jerrol Haven, a captain in the King's Rangers who discovers treason at the highest levels. As Jerrol flees for his life, he is rescued by a vision of the enigmatic Lady Leyandrii, a goddess who, according to legend, once saved the land of Remargaren from malevolent wild magic users known as the Ascendants by raising a veil to nullify their power and exiling them. Now, with signs that her veil is weakening and the Ascendants are creeping back into power, she has returned and is in dire need of Jerrol's help. For though he doesn't know it, Jerrol possesses a rare gift: By chance, he touches a revered Sentinal tree and awakens Birlerton, one of the Lady's personal guards who has been sleeping in the strange, tall trees since they were last called to battle. The adventure continues in the second book, ***Sentinals Rising***. Having rescued the king from the clutches of the malevolent Ascendants, Jerrol knows they haven't stopped their scheming. While trying to learn more about the mysterious Sentinals he woke from a three-thousand-year sleep, he has to defend his king and country from further magical attacks. ***Sentinals Justice***, the third book in the series takes us to Elothia. Having thwarted the Ascendant's attempt to destroy the nomadic Families of Terolia, Jerrol travels to Elothia as King Benedict's ambassador for peace in an attempt to divert war. Arriving in Elothia, Jerrol discovers that a new duke is in power, the young and untried son of the duke he was expecting to meet. Not only that, the Ascendants stand at his shoulder and direct his generals to wage war. Jerrol attempts to convince Grand Duke Randolph not to go to war, but the Ascendants will not release their grip so easily and the final confrontation looms. *The link to buy "Sentinals Series" by Helen Garraway is available on our website.*

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR HELEN GARRAWAY

Helen Garraway lives in the leafy royal borough of Berkshire in the UK and has been writing about the world of Remargaren, a fantasy world of her creation, since 2016.

An avid reader of many different fiction genres, a love she inherited from her mother, Helen writes high fantasy stories where she creates her own worlds and populates it with amazing characters and adventures. When she has time, she also enjoys paper crafting and scrapbooking as an escape from the pressure of working as a Product Manager.

Having graduated from the University of Southampton with a Degree in Politics and International Relations, she remains an active member of their alumni.

Having ventured into the world of self-publishing, Helen has now published two books with a third



scheduled to release in September 2021. *Sentinals Awaken*, released in October 2020, was Helen's debut novel, which was followed by *Sentinals Rising* in March 2021, and *Sentinals Justice* to be released

in September 2021.

The adventure is not over though and will continue in the fourth installment which will take us to the Island Empire of Birtoli and will release in spring 2022.

Sign up to Helen's Author newsletter and download a free novella set in the World of Remargaren, *Sentinals Stirring*, set about seven years prior to *Sentinals Awakens*. Sign up via www.helengarraway.com

If you would like more information, or to ask any questions about her

books you will find Helen on most social media platforms. *Follow her on Instagram @helengarrawayauthor*

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR helen garraway

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

I have become passionate about writing, as I love creating new worlds and the characters that live in them, but I began writing as a result of my darling mum passing away, a way to deal with my grief, and the time I suddenly had on my hands. I find writing therapeutic, emotional, and great joy.

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

I had been jotting down ideas for a book for many years; the ideas bubbling in the back of my brain. I just hadn't done anything with them. Then I began writing and the words flowed until I had written a book. It wasn't a conscious decision to write a book and publish it; it evolved more naturally.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

Writing is a way of expressing yourself. I feel alive when I talk about my books, the characters, and anything else to do with them.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Being an Independent Author, I don't necessarily find out about awards unless I spend a lot of time researching them. I have a full-time job and write in the evenings and weekends. I prefer to concentrate on the writing. My reward is seeing my books in print and readers enjoying them.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

I like the saying that everyone has a book in you, and you're the one to tell it. Only you can write what you have inside you, it is very personal and unique to you. If you have the urge to write you should write. If you intend to publish you should learn your craft and do a good job of it. As Frank Harcourt said:

'Everyone has a story to tell. All you have to do is write it. But it's not that easy.'

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

As a fledgling author with two books under my belt, I doubt I will make much change in the literature world. I love to write. If my books entertain and bring enjoyment to others then that is change enough for me.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

I had to think long and hard about this question. Not an easy one to answer. I think writing inspires me to write more. The more I write, the more ideas I have bubbling away in the back of my brain waiting for me to bring them to the fore and put pen to paper. I wish I had more time to capture the ideas and give them justice, but they will have to wait their turn.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

I write to entertain, to provide readers a moment of pure escapism. If I can help a reader experience a moment of joy, or intense emotions then that is success to me. The world is a difficult place to live in right now, and helping people cope or even escape from the pressures of their daily life is enough for me.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

A combination of self-doubt and being overwhelmed by the publishing process. Everyone doubts their book is good enough, but if you don't write it, you will never know. The important point is to write the book in the first place, and then invest in an editor to get it the best it can be. Worry about everything else later.

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

I try to be original, but to be honest I write what I enjoy reading. I am not a writer who can churn out a book every three months and write known tropes. I prefer to build a world and then populate it with some amazing characters and twisty adventures.

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

I suppose it depends on the type of book you are writing and what you are trying to achieve. If you are trying to evoke emotion in your readers then you need to understand how to trigger it. I often get into the heads of my characters and imagine how they react to a situation.

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

My research is more in the way of world-building. Developing the world, the culture, the politics so that my characters react to it consistently. Most research is into skills that are needed within these worlds, like types of swords and how to use them, or how to sail a boat, or how candles were made.

Q: Do you have any upcoming books? What is it about?

I am currently finalizing the edits for my third book, Sentinals Justice which will release on September 7th, 2021 and then I will begin editing the fourth book in the Sentinal series.

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

I am excited to be included in the Monsoon edition of Demode! I hope my books help the wet season pass, and your readers find a new author to put on their bookshelves. Thank you for having me, it's been fun chatting about my books and the whole writing process.

A DANGEROUS MAN

BY AUTHOR J. L. ENGEL

A DANGEROUS MAN is a dark, brutal, and fast-paced thriller that injects the reader into the grim world of one man's war targeting a human trafficking organization. He's an elite trained killer with capabilities well beyond those of an average citizen, yet he's incredibly relatable as a grieving father and parent who will stop at nothing to achieve his own brand of justice for the loss of his family. The synopsis reads as follows:

A DANGEROUS MAN: His crusade has freed countless trafficking victims from captivity, mysteriously taking the country by storm, and leaving a path of death and destruction in his wake.

But who is he?: He was a father, a husband, and a former government operative who lost everything he cared for to a merciless Russian crime syndicate. And he's arrived in Boston to bring his bloody odyssey of vengeance to a close.

Who can stop him?: Pursuing him is a relentless FBI agent with more at stake than enforcing the law, a hard-boiled detective suspicious of every piece of the puzzle, and a pair of cunning assassins with seemingly unmatched skill.

At what cost?: They'll risk everything being drawn into the chaos of one man's war for personal justice. Motives will be



questioned, loyalties will be tested, and no one will come out unscathed – if at all

At its heart, A Dangerous Man is a crime thriller that seamlessly blends genres throughout each page, all while keeping the reader glued to every page and itching to find out what happens next. And while A Dangerous Man rises to the upper shelf levels of other lone protagonists known across the world, it will surpass those entries with the depths of humanity infused into the characters and the visceral action that makes the pages anxious to turn themselves.

Buy "A Dangerous Man" by J.L. Engel to read the full story.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR J. L. ENGEL

J.L. Engel's journey into writing began as early as the 6th grade with a journal assignment given by his teacher. Not having anything to write – in journaling terms – he instead wrote an iteration of a 90's Dolph Lundgren sci-fi/actioner called "I Come in Peace". His teacher was so enthralled with his writing that she continually returned his journal when other assignments were finished and encouraged him to finish. This is where Jeremy learned the art of suspense and prolonged the ending for as long as possible. Eventually, he completed the story and his teacher typed it up and presented it to a friend of hers who worked for Reader's Digest. RD was interested in publishing the story under a children's spotlight, but

Jeremy displayed his youthful stubbornness and lost out on that opportunity when he refused to alter certain language in the story to "uphold the integrity



of his character". Looking back on this he says of himself, "Yeah, I was dumb." In his junior year of high school, he branched out of the seclusion of reading and writing to become an amateur Muay

Thai kickboxer for five years and has maintained a deep interest in martial arts and defensive tactics. Writing soon returned to his fold as a personal trainer and young father. His passion for the written word fired up over the years with encouragement and interest from others in his profession as a corrections deputy, where he is still currently employed... For now.

Now, with his first of many heart pounding thrillers to come, J.L. Engel has released his debut novel, A Dangerous Man. He's grateful for the constant love and support he's receiving. His second novel, "The Dock", is currently in the editing phase poised for submission. [@j.l.engel_author](https://www.instagram.com/j.l.engel_author)

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR J. L. Engel

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Writing is certainly a passion. When I write there's a story to tell, and that story has a life that flows through me. I see it as a movie in my head and present it in the narrative that it wants to be told. However, I also think that with it being a passion of mine, it acts as a vehicle of emotional expression. That's an ingredient that needs to be in the mix to not only ground what characters I want to bring to life but to allow the reader to connect with them and the story. Emotion is the glue that holds it all together.

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

The thought that led me to actually writing my first book was some advice given to me years later by an author who'd read an action/horror novella I'd written. After reading a piece of my work he told me, "The day you stop treating this like a hobby you'll be going somewhere. You're talented, and once you focus you'll be doing what you love."

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

Writing brings out the best in me because it allows me to do what I was meant to do. Finding and following your passion is something that escapes many people for many reasons, or excuses, whichever perception you decide to feed yourself. But I know that I am following mine when I write. It connects me to a deeper sense of myself, exploring and building and molding universes that exist within the well of my soul so I can fearlessly share them. That ability, or gift, makes me feel good and accomplished every time I put words on a page.

Q: How can you bring about a change in the literary world through your writing?

I don't know that I can, and I don't know that there's anything for me to change. I'm not writing to change anything in the literary world, per se. I'm writing to make a change in my world, in my life, and to impact the lives of others in a positive and meaningful way. Whether that's providing an escape from their daily grind, or opening their eyes to things they may have never considered before, that's what my writing will do.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

It's from one of my favorite films, and it's my favorite quote because it's incredibly simple, yet incredibly deep and all-encompassing to the life we live.

"What we do in life echoes in eternity." - Maximus, Gladiator

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

Writing inspires me to be committed; to achieve what I want to accomplish; to be disciplined; to be excited about the possibilities it can bring into my life. It's also inspiring

to me because, throughout the time I've been writing, I've seen the effect a story can have on the reader, running a gauntlet of emotions. That's powerful, encouraging, motivating, and because it's my role in this life to especially be a formidably good example to my child to reach for the stars, grab them, and realize that there's further to reach. I want to inspire that drive in her to follow her dreams and passions.

Q: How do you feel about being an author?

I'm excited about being an author. I have no delusions about it being an easy road to follow because it is not, nor that it will immediately become a career that can provide a comfortable life. It isn't. In time, whether it be a long or short duration, it will happen. I believe in myself as an author, and the world will too soon enough.

Q: Do you try to be original or to give the readers what they want?

I try to be original. In some ways, that's incredibly difficult because there are so many types of stories to be written and you have to put your spin on whatever kind you choose. As a writer, I believe you have to write what you would want to read and, with the size of the world, that means there will likely be many others who will enjoy it too.

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

Any research I do depends on what I'm writing, whether it is locations, a character occupation, or anything. The story will tell me where it wants to go and indicate what I may need to learn in order to paint the right picture. The imagery of it all is locked away in my head, so I have to paint that picture. If it's a technical detail it's all up in the air until I'm ready to cross the research bridge. And I don't necessarily research before I begin writing.

Q: Do you have any upcoming books? If so, what is it about?

My next book will be titled, "The Dock". That's probably the simplest title I've derived. A good title needs to grab you and something about it stuck with me. The story goes: Tensions rise and the blood boils when a crime family's "fixer" is backed into a corner by the return of a vengeful prodigal son and an unknown killer sent to reconcile a past transgression.

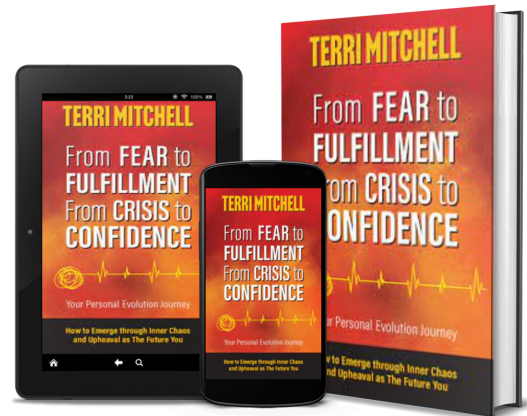
Q: How do you feel about your book being featured in DE MODE?

I looked into DE MODE and enjoyed the articles featuring the authors. The coverage was well done with great quality and they were incredibly exciting. And, seeing the broad reach of the magazine, it would be foolish not to be a part of a featured article such as "10 BEST NEW BOOKS TO READ THIS MONSOON". I'm grateful for the opportunity to be collaborating with the trendsetting exposure of De Mode. They know how to knock these things out of the park and this is going to be another home run.

FROM FEAR TO FULFILLMENT FROM CRISIS TO CONFIDENCE

BY AUTHOR TERRI MITCHELL

Fear is a universal emotional state, felt by people, animals, and other creatures. We feel and experience fear as a survival mechanism, and yet, so many people find themselves trapped in this emotional state, oftentimes subconsciously. It can present as anxiety, depression, acting out, obsessive or compulsive behavior, as both an emotional experience as well as physical symptoms. Some people's lives are shaped by terribly tragic and sad events, and fear seems to weigh upon them and drag them down into despair, long after the tragedy has passed. This book has been written to help explain what fear is, how it shows up, what it may feel like, and ways that it can impact people. To feel fulfilled, you must first understand how much of your way of thinking and being is entangled in fearful thoughts and behaviors. By developing greater knowledge, it is hoped that you will discover that you are not alone in your feelings and that instead, there is hope for you to let go of the overwhelming burden of fear and allow yourself to know the feeling of fulfillment. To achieve this state of being fulfilled, it also helps to know what you are pursuing, and in this book is a section on Fulfillment, designed to provide important insights into this satisfying state of mind and how you achieve it. Contained within this book is a section on confidence, to help describe what it is, how it feels, and how to live a more confident life. Also, inside there are three exercises for you to undertake to get you started on your



journey toward fulfillment and confidence. By committing to learning about fear and crisis, you may find that you gain deeper self-awareness, and more insight into who you are and how you live your life – either dictated by fear or determined through a confident sense of self. After reading this book, you will have more knowledge about yourself, and it will empower you to take charge of your life and live it more confidently.

If you have ever been held back by Fear, this book is for you. It will help you to understand your fears and guide you through your journey to Fulfillment. If you have faced Crisis and found yourself struggling, this book holds within its pages a wealth of valuable information, about how you can overcome the challenges and emerge with Confidence.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR TERRI MITCHELL

Terri Mitchell is a speaker, Confidence Coach, published writer, YouTube Channel and Podcast host, philanthropist, benefactor, and can now proudly add 'author' to her list of accomplishments. Her earlier qualification as a Psychiatric Nurse amplified her already growing curiosity with psychology and social conditioning, fuelled by surviving her traumatic childhood of physical and sexual abuse, and a home split by domestic violence and poverty. Terri gained her nursing qualifications from LaTrobe University in regional Victoria, Australia. Following this, she worked in an acute admission Psychiatric ward, as well as in the very challenging and richly rewarding 1:1 emergency on-call psychiatric nursing field. These experiences drew her further into observing, studying, and learning more about people. She also embarked on a personal journey into self-awareness, childhood emotional trauma recovery, resocialization, and body and mind healing through various modalities including rebirthing, hypnosis, non-dominant hand expression, and energy channeling. Not one to settle for theory, Terri set about to expand the



power of her own mind when she embarked on walking over a bed of hot coals at a weekend seminar in Sydney, Australia. Since then, Terri has completed the International Money and You program in San Diego and appeared as an international summit guest speaker in Sydney.

Terri has a fascination for, and genuine interest in the workings of the human mind. Her latest book draws upon her research into fear and a desire to create an easy-read, self-discovery book to help people transition into a life less overcome by fear, and one that is more fulfilling and expressed confidently. She has been a lifelong writer, exploring language and stories to create other worlds, people, and histories. Terri wrote the first draft of her very first novel, 'Legacies' after completing a short Creative Writing course while living in Sydney. She has also written six other diverse and engaging books, ranging in topics from Fear and Motivation to health and nutrition, and is currently writing her next novel, the first in a Private Investigator series. Terri is an advocate for The Lilian Dibo Foundation in Cameroon, Africa, and with her cat, she lives & writes from home in Victoria, Australia.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **terri mitchell**

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Writing is a passion, fuelled by my emotions. I have always known that I could express myself far more confidently through the written word because there is time to think and to edit.

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

I wrote my first book based on the thought, "I can do better than this!" The thought germinated on the buses of Sydney when as a commuter traveling to and from work, I would ensure I had a book to read. With the love of many genres, I would find myself so disappointed with some books that had come from major publishing houses. I simply figured that if the publishing houses were prepared to print stories of such ordinary quality, I needed to write something so much better. So, I set about to write my first novel, and I am proud of the result.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

I am able to express myself most articulately and with a joyous use of language that I may not use in everyday conversation.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

I am not sure there is much of a difference. When I started my writing journey, I certainly didn't approach it with the view that I would receive any kind of nomination for a literary award. That said, I would not be disappointed to be nominated for one. However, I find the greatest reward is when someone has said they have purchased my book and enjoyed reading it. Even my own 75-year-old mother has been reading my novel, "Legacies" and is so enthusiastic about it that she believes I should write a sequel! Now, that is a reward!

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

"Be the inspiration to others. Remember, there are people who aspire to be just like you."

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

The best way to bring change to the world of literature is through education. Today's younger people are being exposed to a society where communication is being reduced to emojis and text abbreviations. Movies and videos have transcended books and writing, and for the world to grow and become less about the 'selfie' and more about the greater connection to the global community, education about the power of the written word and language needs to be encouraged.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

Writing is one of the greatest gifts of self-expression. Words hold power, and well-written words can move people. That is what inspires me most about writing.

Q: For you, what is the meaning of being a writer?

Writers have the unique position of being able to articulate and express what many people only wish they could, or what some people simply cannot. Being a writer is a state of being. I don't know how to BE anything else or any other way. It is how I identify myself. It is my being.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

The most common traps for aspiring writers are not believing in themselves, not taking the huge leap of faith to start, and falsely assuming that writing any kind of material such as a novel or nonfiction is easy. It is not easy, it requires a huge leap of faith, and it most definitely demands that you must, above all else, believe in your ability to write.

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

I aim to write original material to express what is in my head, heart, and soul. However, I also understand language enough to deliver readers the kind of material that makes for a more enjoyable or valuable read.

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

I tend not to research beforehand so much. I allow my imagination to flow and capture whatever emerges first. Then, I may research on the fly, as in, undertake necessary research as I need to, as might help me better express a point of view in my nonfiction, or to provide quality plotlines in my novels.

Q: Do you have any upcoming books?

I have several upcoming books. This year I released my first novel, 'Legacies' and this was followed quite quickly by my book about Fear and Confidence. Right now, I am finishing the first draft of my first novel in the Private Investigator / Crime genre, featuring the character Laura Power. It is my plan to write several books with Laura Power, Private Investigator as the central character. I am currently creating a collaborative book that will feature several of the guests I interviewed in my podcast where they will share their stories and missions in their own chapter. And, I have plans for other books, many of which will soon be available on my website as digital books.

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

I am excited to be sharing my work with an expanding audience and hope that I can inspire and motivate with my nonfiction and entertain and move people through my novels.

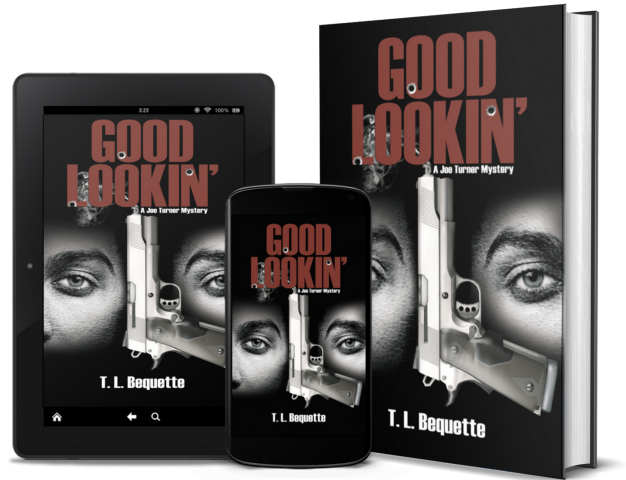
GOOD LOOKIN'

A JOE TURNER MYSTERY

BY AUTHOR T. L. BEQUETTE

Joe Turner, a criminal defense attorney in Oakland is appointed to represent Darnell Moore, a 19-year-old accused of a drive-by murder. Joe believes in his client's innocence but the defense is stymied by the snitch culture of the Oakland streets. Even Darnell refuses Joe's pleas to name the real shooter for fear of reprisal against his family.

A parallel story follows the struggles of two ten-year-old identical twin boys who suffer under the thumb of an abusive foster dad. The boys are forced to work, forage for food in dumpsters, and endure the random shoulder punches of their beer-swilling guardian. The brothers are reluctant to report the abuse for fear they will be separated. Damon notices that Jesse has grown unusually quiet. One night, Damon sees the man forcing Jesse into his bedroom. Damon races to protect his twin but arrives too late and endures a tearful night in the hallway, listening to the awful grunts and bed squeaks from inside. The next day, Jesse tells Damon of his plan to kill the foster dad, and the timeline ends with the abuser's vicious murder at the hands of his abuser. The parallel stories merge when the key witness for Darnell is revealed to be Jesse, who was recently released after serving twelve years in juvenile prison. When Jesse refuses to show up for a trial, he is jailed on a witness warrant. Gang members in jail, believing that Jesse will snitch, try to kill him but he survives. Jesse's twin, Damon, who was eventually adopted by a nice family and is



now in law school borrow Joe's jail pass and visits Jesse. In jail, the identical twins switch clothing, with Damon remaining in custody. Jesse testifies for the defense, revealing the surprise killer, and Darnell is found not guilty. The final scene finds Damon in jail, stalking the man who attempted to kill his twin, revealing that it was he who killed Jesse's abuser and that his twin went to prison for him.

Good Lookin', the street term short for "good lookin' out," examines the challenges and depths of protecting a loved one in the snitch culture of the streets through the prism of the unique bond of twins.

To read the mysterious thriller "Good Lookin'" by T.L. Bequette, get your copy today! The link to buy the book is available on our website. [@tlbequette](#)

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR T. L. BEQUETTE

T.L. Bequette aka Todd Bequette is a criminal defence attorney turned author. His practice in Oakland, CA centres around defending accused murderers, and his perspective on the criminal justice system's need for reform, the unfair jury selection process, and his fight for those with harsher sentences than deserved, is what propels his writing. His debut novel, "Good Lookin'", weaves his courtroom expertise into the pages of a compulsive thriller - mystery. Bequette's skill in delivering closing arguments, and presenting the narratives of his clients to the jury, make him a master storyteller. He holds degrees from The University of the Pacific and Georgetown Law School and serves annually on faculty of the Stanford Law School Trial Advocacy Clinic.



Good Lookin' is his debut novel. His next Joe Turner Mystery, Blood Perfect, is due out this Spring. Bequette is a fan of mysteries and thrillers. He has

practiced criminal defense for almost thirty years, so his work has given him a significant trove of genuine, real-life stories that are regularly crazier than fiction. He has always wanted to write inventively. As an attorney, he has plenty of opportunities to write, however, creativity and imagination for the most part disapproved of. You can't make up the law, above all things considered. So, at the point when he finally quit making excuses and began writing, it was a marvellous inclination — like seeing an old friend without precedent for years, for the first time in decades.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR T. L. Bequette

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

I'd say it is my passion. As an attorney for many years, there was not much in the way of a creative outlet. When I finally stopped procrastinating and started to write, it was an incredible relief.

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

Over the years, I've accumulated a trove of real-life memories from the courtroom that are often stranger than fiction. Early on, I knew those stories had to be shared.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

I am happiest when I'm writing. When I'm not, I feel my creativity bottled up. It's not healthy for me.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

My reward is writing. Of course, I'd be dishonest if I didn't say I appreciate recognition.

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

I think the authenticity of my mysteries can be educational as well as entertaining. I enjoy giving readers a look inside the courtroom and jails.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

I have found writing has helped me to express myself in

ways I have never thought possible. Since finishing my first novel, I have been inspired to write more, knowing I have it within myself to do it. I have realized anything is achievable if I put my mind to it.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

I think aspiring writers tend to gauge their success in terms of recognition – getting an agent or getting published. Everyone should write because they enjoy it.

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

Ideally, I do both. The uniqueness of my fiction is its authenticity.

Q: What kind of research do you do?

I've accumulated a lot of knowledge over the years, but research definitely provides helpful supplements. I've researched causes of death, blood spatter evidence, and DNA findings.

Q: Do you have any upcoming book?

Yes. It's another Joe Turner Mystery called Blood Perfect. Due out next Spring.

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

I'm honored. It's such a hip magazine, I'm excited for its intelligent readers to read my book.

BOOK REVIEWS:

- Great book by an exciting new talent. In the vein of John D. MacDonald — here's hoping T.L. Bequette will be equally prolific.
- Bequette is a masterful storyteller who skillfully weaves intricate details to create a highly suspenseful legal thriller filled with layers of intrigue. He also offers a fascinating insight into courtroom fundamentals such as jury selection, attorney/judge relationships, strategy for building a case, and the gathering of useful information even from uncooperative witnesses.
- Excellent prose, fast-paced, hard to put down. DA-detective work writing at its best, including twists and turns and a little romance.
- A page-turner. Lots going on with just the right amount of repetition so the reader knows what's going on.
- Only a well-seasoned criminal defense attorney could have crafted this suspenseful whodunit. Every chapter has a purpose which is a challenge for a writer and a gift to the reader. Dual plots converge and bring alongside a lovely and very human-evolving relationship. Snarky, funny, on point with the events of today. Empathic to both the accused and the innocent.
- Good Lookin' is far more than a monsoon read. It is a triumph! Read it and you will be hungry for the next book in the Joe Turner mystery series.
- Really enjoyed this book- it was fun, engaging, and unpredictable. I looked forward to reading it every night! Can't wait for the next Joe Turner mystery!
- Taut, gritty, and dryly funny at times, with a greedy twist. And for those who are tired of legal thrillers that bear no resemblance to reality, Bequette gets the "legal stuff" right. A great debut novel. More Joe Turner please!

FALLEN

BY AUTHOR GIANNA EMIKO BARNES



"Fallen" takes place in the beautiful city of San Francisco. The protagonist and leading lady, Taryn Okata is a simple girl from a small, close-knit community in Hawaii. After suffering through a messy divorce, she finds comfort in being around her family as they head to the Bay Area for her brother's graduation from college. It is the break from all the drama that she desperately needed. Once in San Francisco, she throws herself into the task of supporting her brother at his graduation, staying up all night making signs and posters to celebrate their big day. Being a clean-freak, she finds added peace and joy in helping him and his roommates move out of their old apartment. Between helping them pack, throwing out old food, and cleaning their house from top to bottom, she can distract herself from facing the pain she left back home. Despite the distractions, our leading man, up-and-coming actor, Derek Bennett comes crashing into her life unexpectedly. In San Francisco for his sister Emma's graduation, Derek finds his sister, trying to set him up with someone named Taryn while he's there. He brushes it off for the time being until, at the graduation, he is suddenly drawn to a mysterious woman from the moment he laid eyes on her. Little did he know, that woman was actually Taryn. After graduation, at a party back at Taryn's brother's apartment, Derek finds himself face to face with this woman who seems to turn his entire world upside down in all the best ways possible. With a simple smile, she has him melting at her feet. In a turn of events, Taryn and Derek end up spending the night together where they find comfort in each other as strangers. They both open up about their pasts in brutally honest ways that seem to connect them down to their souls. Aside from their obvious attraction to one another, Derek gives Taryn a sense of comfort in knowing that her decision to walk away from her marriage was selfless and that her love for those she truly cares for is unsurpassed. Then, for the first time since her divorce, she feels as if a weight has been lifted from her shoulders, finally allowing her the breathing room she needed to begin to heal. But for Taryn, her past is never far behind her as she runs into an old friend, Lewis from back home while on her trip.

Wondering what happens next? Read the book "Fallen" by Gianna Emiko Barnes to know the full story. Links to buy the book are available on our website. To stay updated about the "Fallen" series, follow her on Instagram @ge-barnes

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR GIANNA EMIKO BARNES

Gianna Emiko Barnes hails from Oahu, Hawaii. She is extremely close with her family, has a tight-knit group of trusted friends, and loves spending time with her two dogs. She loves food, long hikes, and spending her days off reading at the beach which is just a few minutes from her childhood home. At the age of 30, Gianna published her first book with Fulton Books Publishing Company. Her first book "Fallen" was released in March of 2021 and is currently rated 4.8 out of 5 stars on Good Reads. It is just the first book in a 3 part series, with Book 2: "Shattered" coming out in late August-early September. The final book of the series, "Healed" is currently going through the editing process. Her first stand-alone novel is geared to be completed in 2022.

Education has always been a vital component of Gianna's life. She double majored in undergraduate school, obtaining her Bachelor's Degree of Arts in English Literature Analysis and her Bachelor's Degree of Science in English Education. Her love for writing extends beyond her



own, constantly burying herself in all the latest novels and series she has fallen in love with. For Gianna, writing itself has been an intricate part of her life and has always been one of her fondest hobbies. Whenever she would go

through difficult times or need a safe space to vent and sort through her feelings, she would turn to her journals and just write everything down. This is a strategy that she has offered to her students on countless occasions when they were going through problems of their during their time with her.

The "Fallen" series, at first, was never intended to be published. Gianna escaped into the fictional world she created for her characters as a brain break in 2020 while writing her Doctoral Dissertation. She enjoyed the way the story could just flow from her instead of having to focus on all the facts and statistics to cite. Writing has always been her private escape. But, now that she

has taken the leap to put her work out there, she couldn't feel more proud and grateful for all the love and support she has received thus far. She looks forward to sharing more of her stories with all the lovely readers out there.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **gianna emiko barnes**

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

If I'm being completely honest, I just needed an escape when I wrote the "Fallen" series. Hawaii was just shut down due to COVID and I had to navigate learning how to teach online while trying to write my Doctoral Dissertation. All the academic writing seemed to dictate my life and I just needed something else to get away. For me, writing has always been that escape and I threw myself into the fictional world I created for my characters. After a long day of strictly academics, I would spend my evenings developing my characters and the storyline and it just brought me peace during a time where I was overly stressed.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

I have never been good verbalizing the thoughts that go through my head. I feel like writing brings out the best in me in the sense that it allows my creativity to flow without feeling as if I'm being judged or crazy for having all these fictional stories play out in my mind. It also helps me to destress and gives me breaks from reality when I desperately need it. Many times in my past, before I began writing the "Fallen" series, writing was my way of putting my feelings onto paper, in a safe space to vent, so that I could sort through everything and deal with my life from a more logical standpoint.

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

I feel like the literature world is ever changing. There are so many new and amazing authors out there that are still undiscovered. I'm still even finding new books, written by seasoned authors that I've fallen in love with. If there were to be one thing that I would hope to change, it's to bring voice to new authors in the literature world. Everyone has a story to tell and just because they're not known yet, doesn't mean their story is not worth reading. It would be an honor to one day be a well-known author, but until then it truly is difficult to get your work out there as a new author.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

This year has been a rough one for me. I've lost countless family members and a dear friend to old age and sickness, on top of going through a divorce. As such, my favorite quote is actually a book title by Jennifer Proby, "*Love Your Life.*" It's simple but so true.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

Writing inspires me like the ocean. It's beautiful, open-ended and freeing. Yet it can be so powerful. The idea of someone else's words being able to touch your soul, to evoke emotions from you, and make you feel like you're not alone, just amazes me constantly. The thought that my words and my writing could do that to someone, build a connection with them without even meeting them, is the best super-power I could ever imagine and it inspires me

to continue to tell my stories. Even if I know not everyone will enjoy my writing, if I can just touch one person's life, that's more than I could do if I didn't write at all and it means the world to me.

Q: How do you feel being an author?

Being an author has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. I can't even begin to describe how exhilarating my experience of being an author has been thus far. Between the love and support from everyone on "Fallen," even as a new author, I'm speechless and my heart feels so full. It has been the biggest reward to read reviews on my book and see how much readers have connected to my characters and the storyline. Don't get me wrong, it's a lot of hard work but when you see that final outcome and you have that hard copy in your hand, it is the greatest feeling in the world.

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

For me, I try to be as original and authentic to myself as possible in my writing. I write because it's what I like to do. Of course, I think about the types of storylines and twists that would continually intrigue readers. But, at the end of the day I know that my writing isn't going to be for everyone. So as long as I stay true to myself in my writing, I'm happy with it and I feel that is what keeps my stories "original" in comparison to other authors out there.

Q: What kind of research do you do before beginning a book?

I try my hardest to write about what I know. I feel this makes my storytelling much more authentic and easier to portray to my readers. So, much of my writing and the things my characters go through are based on personal experiences.

Q: Do you have any upcoming books? What is it about?

"Fallen" is just book 1 in a three part series. The second book "Shattered" that picks up with Taryn back home in Hawaii, comes out sometime late August to early September. The final book in the series, "Healed" is already written and going through the editing process. I also have my first stand-alone story "When Our Universes Collide" finished but I production on this book will happen by 2022.

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

I feel beyond blessed to have my book featured in DE MODE magazine. Words cannot describe how thankful I feel right now. I had to read the mail three times to see if it was real. It is beyond my wildest dreams to even have my book published, let alone featured in such a spectacular magazine and I cannot thank DE MODE enough for this amazing opportunity.

BURNING DESIRE - I

• THE PSYCHOPATH AND THE GIRL IN BLACK PRADA SHOES

BY AUTHOR M. L. STARK

The story is somewhat chilling and before I experienced it, I had no idea how psychopaths operated, and exactly how they wore down and destroyed the lives of their victims. After going through it myself, I entered this dark world. So much that I wanted to share it with the world. It's a tough read, but a vitally important one. It will shock and uplift readers, sometimes for the wrong reasons. However, I believe everyone will turn the last page with greater empathy for those around them, especially for victims of abuse who are trapped.

This story is based on real events beginning in 2016 in Bournemouth England, backtracking Mary's life to Spain in 2010, as her lifespan living in a petrifying mess, in an unfulfilling marriage with an unfaithful man. Mary begins dating an unnerving psychopath, a self-absorbed, lying person who throughout his entire life has exploited, stolen, swindled other people, and love-scammed many women. It showcases how Doctor Bates, manipulates Mary, for money and to maintain a sense of power over her vulnerability, which makes it highly authentic and impactful.

Doctor Bates presents himself as educated, funny, charming, and with a public persona of normalcy so Mary could not see what lay behind the dark shade of him. He was inappropriately flirting with her, stepping over the ethical line between patient and Doctor. It was too late for Mary to escape. Drake made his way into Mary's psyche and wielded power and fear to attract her, but little did she know that trusting him was fatal. Something



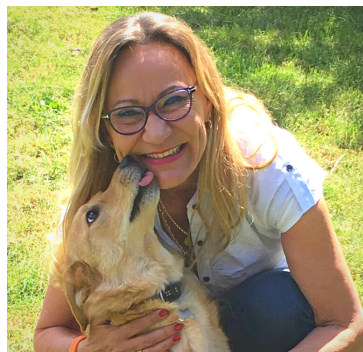
vastly magical happened around him and she begins a passionate love affair with him. Their life seemed blissful on the outside, but behind his malicious plan, it was chilling. Life becomes a globetrot – first to Denmark, then Asia, Balkan, and other countries and eventually back to England in 2020.

Trusting him, she doesn't see he is a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde type, consuming her into his dark, shady terror of promises of a better and happier life. His manipulative behavior ends disastrous, and Mary becomes a character in his weird imaginary disturbing life as Drake sinks into his mania of deceives and lies, while the romance takes them around the globe. Drake wants Mary to invest in different conning business concepts, promising her they will become rich. How does she figure out what she can expect from him?

This is part one of the Burning Desire trilogy. It will obsess you. Keen to know what happens next? Read the books "Burning Desire: The Psychopath and the Girl in Black Prada Shoes - part I & Burning Desire Fades - part II" by M.L. Stark to know more. Links to buy the books are available on our website. Follow her on Instagram @m.l.stark20

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR M. L. STARK

Author M. L. STARK wrote the "Burning Desire" series based on experiences from her personal life. For the past decades, she wanted to write a book about her life experience, from being born in the strict late Catholic fifties in Germany, to be abandoned as a newborn baby and left in miseries at a German Catholic orphanage. At the age of 8-year-old, her mother immigrated to Denmark where she shortly after was finding herself being brought up in several different orphanages. She was growing up during the free hippie time in a fast-growing developing time age in Denmark until she became an adult person in the twenty-first modern century, where



she went through three difficult stages in life. 'Childhood Horror!' and 'Matrimonial success, living in a rich environment with love and hate, until the difficulties appeared in the marriage ending with a divorce' until she lastly was dating a mean suppressive person. Phase three; 'Living in Hell!' She is a mother of 4 and is blessed with four grandchildren. During her 21-year period of marriage that tragically followed the trauma of the death of her first-born child. The Burning Desire II's author M. L. Stark enjoy helping abandoned animals and supporting children's causes if needed as it gives her the greatest optimistic values in her life.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR M. I. stark

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

For the past 3 decades, I desired to put down my few good and many evil memories of my actual events, into one book--from being born to becoming an adult woman. I have always written lots of notes, for me not to forget anything if I ever would write my autobiography. In 2016 I had the courage to grab pen and paper. However, I realized one book was not enough. I began all over again and divided the narrative into 4 parts of my life; being tangled into a toxic relationship, the younger adult life, marriage with sexual experiments, and my horrifying childhood living in different orphanages.

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

When the publisher promises you the moon, stars, and perfect editing by native educated editors in Oxford English. English is my second language so too late--when the book was printed, I realized, they had tricked me. The books were edited by a bunch of editors with bad English skills. Publisher's breach of contract. Publishers who are not paying you back the money you paid for campaigns the publisher didn't fulfill in time. There are too many unethical self-publishing companies out there.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

It does both. The process of writing Burning Desire and Burning Desire Fades was a long 6-year process that at times energized me, drew out my energy until I exhausted fell asleep. Sometimes I wanted to give up, but giving up was not an option, and gave me back my energy to continue.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

It depends on whether you have a good or a bad big ego. A bad ego is selfishness, egoism, and hurting others. A good ego is about you, me, and others, so it's not bad to have a big ego as it's essential for achieving peak performance. Personally, having a good ego was a sense of self-importance to get back my self-esteem, my optimism and to regain a healthy and normal good ego and life again, instead of being broken by an evil man. I'm sure it can help the writer if you stay true to yourself, also admit your mistakes, and not be selfish and egoistic.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

Getting out the truth. Fighting for people's justice and for a good cause of getting out the important message; never allow anyone ever to abuse you--as I was. Always report your abuser--which I didn't. It is my life-long regret that I never reported my abusers.

Q: Have you ever gotten a reader's block?

Yes! Many times, and writers block as well.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

At first, I wanted to write under my authentic name. After long consideration, I decided to write under a pseudonym.

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

I'm only original! It might be my writing is different from other authors' styles and far away from the average of being a writer. The writing is as I've experienced it in my life--whether it's with my anger, sadness, love, and joy or with my humor and the traumas I went through in my life. I am who I am! I will not compromise with my factual story! Therefore, I will not pretend I am something else!

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

That I achieved to open Pandora's 'abusive' Box. To shed light and increase awareness on a tabued subject as psychological abuse is. Talking and giving more understanding about the blindness in the adoration of the many love-scammers, how the sociopaths use to mentally abuse others, as the line between love and manipulation, is anything but clear-cut. Many victims don't dare to talk about their abusive relationship, if more will dare to talk about it and they can understand from my story, then it is a literary success.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

I am still in writing of books #3 and #4, where I shift between both, depending on the ideas popping up in my head and in which mood I am in at the time of writing.

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

My writing was heavily influenced by my first-hand experience dating a psychopath. Most research was during the 6 years I spend on developing the first book and the second round 6 months. Mostly Google search, scientific litterateur about psychopathic, sociopathic, and narcissistic behavior, along with criminal research, medical, and sexual information. I interviewed abused and love-scammed women, family, friends, patients, and people who were scammed by such an antagonist which I write about in my books. The research was a massive part of the creation process!

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

I feel honored and excited to get featured again. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to also feature my first book in such a beautiful Global magazine.

THE GCP

THE FIRST RESURRECTION

BY AUTHOR FRANTZ CHARLES

The sirens broke my meditation. I shot open my eyes as my heart began to beat fast. Sensing hundreds of gods miles from here, my hands started to shake in fear. The sirens were always taught to recruits that if you heard this sound, that the highest level of danger was at hand and to report to your leader with your holy item for further instructions, but it was highly unlikely the siren would ever ring. A motley crew of GCP members barged inside my all-white room.

Moses came up front, sweat dripping from his pale face. "We've been looking for you."

I nodded. "What's happening?"

"Something's gone bad with the mission to aid England. The gods are overtaking the headquarters in Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales." Moses shook his head. "The Republic of Ireland is reported to fall any minute; they're under attack by the gods that were held prisoners underground in London. Hurry now." Without waiting for my reply, he turned and ran out.

I got up and rushed with the others to the front of our US headquarters, crowded with members viewing the screens on the walls showing the events taking place at various locations worldwide. I stopped to watch a screen that showed hundreds of gods flying past cities in New York,



knowing they were making their way here. Switching my focus to the primary concern, I got as close as I could to view the screens projecting images from Heaven's Eye, an enormous computer that allowed us to see anyone or anything on Earth.

Before studying the screens, I stood by Moses and whispered, "Their mission was to aid England in wiping out those gods. Now you're telling me that the gods who were turned to stone have been revived? How is that possible? They would need—"

"The Golden Water." Moses gave a sharp nod.

To know what happens next, read the book "The GCP" by Frantz Charles. Link to buy the book is available on our website.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR FRANTZ CHARLES

Frantz Charles has always been passionate about writing and storytelling. They describe him as a curious author who loves exploring different themes regarding young adults and motifs. As part of his writing process, he loves immersing himself in stories relating to real-life situations in hope of bringing out a change to many readers. His projects—diving headfirst into the research, production, and fine-tuning of the stories he feels are the most important of storytelling. He's a mentor, poet, businessman, public speaker, and author. His debut novel *The GCP: The First Resurrection* was released in October 2020 and has since been in multiple book stores, magazines, newspapers, schools, and many more. Frantz Charles has spoken on various platforms and TV shows. Making guest appearances on TV to read for children to BBC radio shows.



Charles has spoken in different countries and to large audiences. Set to work on film, he hopes in works of literature, film, public speaking, and mentoring that he can bring out a positive change in everyone he reaches. His debut novel *The GCP: The First Resurrection* sets place in Parallel universes in a not-so-distant-future. Planet Earth is being attacked by a set of gods, led by the mighty goddess Vera.

A pitched battle for the future of the Universe commences and as three teenagers from different walks of life are determined in defending humanity from the gods hell-bent on destroying them and earth.

Eager to know about the next release? Stay updated about the upcoming books by Frantz Charles by following him on Instagram @frantzpcharles

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **frantz charles**

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

It's a passion of mine but it's a little of both. I love to write stories but when it comes to poetry my emotions take the lead. Emotions are essential when it comes to writing. In my opinion it's what's needed to bring words to life and how you flesh out your characters.

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

My debut novel was written in 2012 and it was gone with the rest of my other stories written on paper. Me and my family moved to another city and my mom accidentally threw out all my stories. Honestly, I gave up on writing cause it took a lot of work to write those stories and I loved writing. Living in this new city the only story that stayed surprisingly was *The GCP: The First Resurrection*. I reread it and thought to myself "This would make a great book or movie. If only it was possible." So I made my dreams a reality by pursuing the idea of making it a book.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

writing gives me the opportunity to do what I love doing and that's mentoring and guiding people. Through my stories my characters go through things I faced or seen and through the characters trials and tribulations they find a way out. For me I want to give my readers hope, teach them there's a way out, and leave valuable lessons for them. I love mentoring and helping people and doing so through my stories brings out the best out of me.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

I do very much. Life isn't easy and time waits on no one. So if stepping out in faith, being self discipline, consistent, and achieving your dreams had no rewards or awards then most people wouldn't do it or feel less motivated to do what they do. To achieve anything great, there needs to be a "why" that'll outweigh all the opposition. The why is the reward, but if there's no reward or award then people would give up. Something as basic as a 9-5 job the reward is a paycheck but if there was no pay (reward) then no one would work.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

That's from the Bible.

"I truly believe if you believe in your idea and have faith that it'll come, with the hard work it shall come to pass."

My foundation is built on that quote and has gotten me far.

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

The right story with the right message that not just motivates but inspires the reader to do something brings about change. I believe if the right story does an internal transformation or the story changes someone's mindset whether it's fiction or non fiction the reader will do the marketing for you. I plan to change the literary world one

book at a time with the right story, message, and marketing team.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

The opportunity to have my writings worldwide and have people read what's been on my mind inspires me. Also, to teach people something new through my writing excites me.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

The meaning of being a writer is having the freedom to spill what's on your mind, heart, soul onto paper through a pen, pencil, or computer. It's an art that expresses what a writer feels. Some people can't express or don't have someone to express vocally so they write things down. Being a writer is a deep skill and love I'll always appreciate.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Procrastination, getting off track, seeking perfection, social media, and life. These are traps writers can tell you that got in the way. Aspiring writers see writing a novel as this big journey that takes time and gets discouraged but they need to take it one at a time.

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

I try to be original because the right audience will be attracted to what I like to write about. Also I'm not subjected to one genre, so I'm very diverse in what I write about that should tell you I'm very original. I tell stories I want to tell in hopes people will love it but if not, then oh well. I know I can't make every book lovable to people.

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

I spend a lot of time researching. I look into personalities, issues, what life for a person dealing with certain conflicts is like, I have to know the beginning and end of the story before writing, I look into design and costumes, and so much more. I have to know everything before starting so I don't keep going back and starting over. This also prevents plot holes. I write out general scenes chapter by chapter so everything flows then I write. It's a lot but it makes the writing easier.

Q: Do you have any upcoming books? What is it about?

It's TBA at the moment but I'm hoping for 2022-2023 for a release date. The next book is the prequel to the GCP which is about the characters' parents. It'll be a children's book.

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

This is such an amazing opportunity. I'm glad to be featured and hope to be featured again for my next book and for other reasons beside being an author. This means a lot and to be noticed by DE MODE is so huge! Thank you all for this opportunity and can't wait to tell the world.

WHERE ARE WE TOMORROW?

BY AUTHOR TAVI TAYLOR BLACK

WHERE ARE WE TOMORROW?, follows four women working backstage on a rock 'n' roll tour, each coming to terms with what it means to be a woman working in a male-dominated industry. There is friction and competition between them all—their roles and personalities are all aspects of being female, but not one of them meets the generalized “expectation” of womanhood.

Alex Evans, a thirty-six year old electrician on the tour, has never longed for a traditional life. Her aloof parents have long concealed a dark secret; their distance and reserve instilled no desire in Alex to become a wife or mother, so she's surprised to discover through an accidental pregnancy and then the pain of miscarriage that she truly wants a baby. But to attempt another pregnancy, Alex will have to change both her career and her relationship; her partner, Connor, ten years her senior, isn't prepared to become a father again. When Alex is implicated in an accident involving the female pop star she works for, she and three other women on tour rent a house together in Tuscany. While the tour regroups, confessions are made, secrets are spilled: the guitar tech reveals a forbidden love, the production assistant's ambition knows no limits, and the personal assistant battles memories of long-buried abuse. Alex begins to understand the depth of her despair over the miscarriage and realizes she will never heal until she unearths the truth about her family. Through arguments and disappearances, combating drug use, and religion, the women help each other look back on the choices they've made, eventually buoying each other, offering up the strength to face tough decisions ahead.

This story began as an exploration of the deep wound of miscarriage—the loss of an idea, the loss of hope that a woman would have to conceal when completely surrounded by male coworkers. I wanted Alex to live inside the gap between feminism and post-feminism, between proving that women are men's equals and women reclaiming traditional gender roles.

To read the exciting book "Where are we tomorrow?" by Tavi Taylor Black, follow the link available on our website and grab your copy today! Follow her on Instagram @tavitaylorblack



THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR TAVI TAYLOR BLACK

Tavi Taylor Black settled in the Northwest after circumnavigating the United States, from Maine to New York, Florida to Texas. She has spent her life creating and supporting all forms of art, founding Undermined Arts Collective, a non-profit organization in Seattle which hosted multi-genre shows in the early 2000s. Tavi spent her youth as a painter, set designer, singer and ballroom dance teacher before she fell into a career touring with rock bands. For over fourteen years she worked as a lighting technician, production assistant and tour manager. Though Tavi has dipped her toes in many artistic ponds, writing has remained a constant since she penned her first story, “The Haunted Castle,” at seven years old.

In 2008 Tavi earned an MFA in creative writing from Lesley University in Boston where she worked with such skilled writers as A.J. Verdelle and Tony Eprile.



In the years following her graduation, Tavi created a collection of short stories, Crazy Happy. Several stories from the collection were shortlisted for prizes, including the Fish One Page Prize, Aesthetica Magazine's Creative Works Competition and the Donald Barthelme Prize for Short Prose. Another story, “The Flame,” appeared in Alligator Juniper. The prose poem, “To Her” was featured in Opium Magazine online, in 2011. Current stories are listed on her website at www.taviblack.com Tavi's debut novel “Where Are We Tomorrow?” was a finalist in the 2021 Next Generation Indie Book Awards, the 1st place winner of the 2016 PNWA Mainstream Fiction Contest and was also a finalist in the Nicholas

Schaffner Award for Music in Literature. Tavi currently lives on Vashon Island where she is finishing up a middle-grade fantasy novel.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR tavi taylor black

Q: How do you feel being an author?

That's a bit of a strange question. Living as an artist is the only thing I know. Author, painter, dancer is how I self-identify. If you mean "how does it feel to be a published author", it is, of course, an amazing feeling. To reach a life goal. Writing is so much different than other artistic pursuits. Anyone can create a painting, hang it on the wall, and have people interact and comment. But with writing—novels in particular—you work on your craft mostly in isolation. I wrote two full novels before the majority of the people in my life read a word. So, it became awkward for people to ask, "how's the novel coming?" I didn't want to answer that question. I was working on it...and working on it...and working on it. Writers are just not considered legitimate authors until they have published work. So, yes, I guess you could say now I feel legitimate in the eyes of the public, though no more a writer than I was pre-publication.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

I would say there are two major traps, the first being: not joining a writer's group. Other writers, particularly those who are well-matched to your skillset, can help you up to your game. You've got to find the right group and be comfortable taking critiques. Not everyone will understand your work. Not everyone will be gentle, but other eyes on your work is crucial. Revision is the majority of the work, so you have to be open.

The second mistake is that most writers give up too soon. Writing is work. You have to play for the long game. I'm convinced that it's all about numbers. Someone someday will connect with your work. They say it only takes one 'yes'. I agree.

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

Well, I don't really have a body of work out there yet, so up to this point, I only write what I'm inspired to write. I don't think that's likely to change. People have asked if I will write a sequel to *Where Are We Tomorrow?* I don't

have any plans to, but it's not out of the realm of possibility. I just have a lot of other books in the works right now.

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

I don't do research ahead of time. I write the story first because I'm of the belief that the story and the characters are what readers connect to. I finish a draft first, then I research. I read books about the time period, read other books in the genre for as long as I need to in order to feel comfortable digging back into the manuscript.

Q: Do you have any upcoming books? What is it about?

I do! I just signed another contract with TouchPoint Press for a historical novel called *Serabelle*.

During the Progressive Era in Bar Harbor, Maine, Mabel Rae has ambitions beyond her position as a chambermaid. At the *Serabelle* cottage where the wealthy come to play in 1913, Mabel, a girl burgeoning into womanhood, is impregnated by estate owner Alistair Hunt. She becomes entangled in a plot by Julia Ainsworth-Hunt to exact revenge on her husband by stealing his precious gem collection. At the height of the suffrage movement in New England, when women are striving for a voice and where temperance has taken an early hold, Mabel must discover where her loyalties lie and what freedoms she will eventually possess.

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

*I am always thrilled to talk about my work and about writing in general. And it's exciting to be reaching a wider audience through such an elegant magazine. I hope that *Where Are We Tomorrow* will resonate with readers the world over.*

BOOK REVIEWS:

- "Where are we tomorrow?" paints a true picture of the glitter and grime of the entertainment business and the crew supporting a traveling artist. Tavi holds back nothing and selectively gives you a clear sense of her characters' most poignant moments.
- Tavi Taylor Black's "Where Are We Tomorrow?" is a book I wasn't able to put down until the last page, and then I felt sad that it was over. This novel provides a fresh perspective on rock music tours: that of the women who work backstage as an electrician, guitar tech, production assistant, and personal assistant to a female rock star. The characters are vivid; their struggles with sexist men in the crew, real. Black's writing is beautiful and evocative. The novel roams the world and then comes home to a satisfying conclusion.
- By page 40, I was hooked. I couldn't put it down, since I was so involved with the characters. And I've been thinking about them since finishing the book. Now that is a sign of a good book!

SUMMER DANGER

A GILL LEDUC MYSTERY

BY AUTHOR JIM TONER

Seventeen-year-old Gil Leduc returns to France after a four-year absence from his native country. While at Gare Montparnasse in Paris, Gil reads about the disappearance of a foreign student in Royan, France. Since he heard about a group of American students studying in Royan from his area, he wonders if it is somebody he knows. On the train to Royan, a seaside resort, he meets Valerie Cartier, an elderly woman who shows him a picture of her granddaughter. Both the woman and the teenage girl cast an air of familiarity to Gil, but he can't quite place them. At Corniche Foncillon, a beach in Royan, he meets his cousin Catherine. He sees another man who looks familiar. The man approaches a young lady whom he calls, "Isabella."

At Corniche Chay, another beach in Royan, Francois Baumer, a police officer approaches Gil. Gil wants to help find the missing girl, but the officer tells him "no." On the other hand, the officer shows an interest in Catherine, an actress in a French police series. The officer mentions the name, George Arnaud. Gil recognizes the name. Gil and Catherine eat dinner at the hotel restaurant. Celeste, the waitress, tells him foreign students go to the Monte Carlo, a disco near the ocean. She warns him drugs are often exchanged there. The next day Gil and Catherine take a walk in the city. Outside of the cathedral, Gil sees Madame Cartier, but she denies having seen him before. She also denies having a granddaughter. They stop at Café Picasso where they see Mireille, whom they met in passing at Corniche Chay. He



inquires about Madame Cartier. According to Mireille, Madame Cartier is filthy rich and a scammer. The man from the beach enters. He approaches Gil and introduces himself as Richard Desjardins. Gil asks him about the missing girl. Desjardins claims to know nothing about it. Gil and Catherine head to the Carel Language Center (CLC) in Royan. Gil spots Hope Becker and Jacob Morse, whom he knows from his area back home. Hope hugs Gil. The teens and Catherine eat lunch at a Mexican restaurant. Hope tells Gil they went to Monte Carlo. Ashley Slick, who accompanied them to France, has gone missing.

To read the mysterious book "Summer Danger" by Jim Toner, buy a copy today, via links available on our website.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR JIM TONER

Like many authors, Jim Toner enjoyed reading at an early age. He read his first Hardy Boys book at the age of eight and vowed to someday write a similar book. He started writing about the time he got too old to play with toys. In junior high he had to keep a journal for English class, the teacher assured him it was well written. He wrote a series of cop stories which he tell people were really mock T.J. Hooker episodes.

In college Jim continued to write. Having studied in Tours, France, he developed a series of French police stories. In 1992 he enrolled in the Writers Digest novel writing course. He wrote the first fifty pages of a mystery novel containing a Toronto detective. He never finished it though as he could not develop the protagonist enough. He threw the novel in the garbage. In 1993 he got accepted into the Institute of Children's Literature. Toward the end of the first



course, he wrote the first few chapters of a novel with Gil Leduc, the protagonist of his three young adult mysteries. While he did not submit the novel for publication, it gave him hope for the future as

one of his writing influences read it and said it showed promise. In 1998 Jim enrolled in the Institute's novel writing course. He wrote his novel Under the Blood, which got published. This novel features Gil Leduc. This novel was based on a high school experience. In 2006 his second novel with Gil got published. It is entitled The Purity Ring Murders. In 2007, He returned to France. 21 years prior he was an exchange student in Tours (the city where Gil Leduc was born.) Jim wanted to write a novel depicting him in his native country. He went to Royan, a seaside resort along France's Atlantic coast. He fell in love with the city. How perfect for Gil, He thought and rewrote the novel.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **jim toner**

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Writing is a passion. I feel an intense passion when writing for young adults, my target audience.

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

I wrote my first book as a way to describe some of my high school experiences. I was the squeaky clean Christian kid, while others in my school were into Satanic rock groups. Some of them shouted praises to Satan down the hallway of the school.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

Writing brings out the best in me by allowing me to share some of my life experiences but in a fictionalized way. I like to give my readers the fictional dream by possibly allowing them to go places they couldn't otherwise go.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Awards are nice to receive. Rewards for a writer are meeting people and signing books for people.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

My favorite quote is

"Ne me demandez plus pourquoi j'aime la Touraine. Je l'aime comme un artiste aime l'art."

This is a quote by Honore De Balzac, my favorite author. As the great man once said - 'Nuf said true believer!

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

As for a change in the literature world, I know J.K. Rowling was a trendsetter as she was the forerunner of much young adult fiction. I am pleased to see so many young adult novels out there.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

Writing inspires me to improve as a person and ask questions of people. Writing is getting my stories out there and connecting with people.

Q: How do you feel being an author?

Being an author has added a dimension to my life. It has been a way to connect me with other authors and serves as a conversation piece when meeting people.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Traps for being a writer include writing for trends. Trends are started in publishing houses about two years before the books arrive in the bookstores. Writers should write what they want to write.

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

I try to be original. Nobody can write the stories I write. Also, I can't write the stories other people write.

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

Someone could write nonfiction as in textbooks if they don't feel strong emotions. But when writing about people whether it is fiction or nonfiction, the reader needs to feel emotions.

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

Research depends on the subject. I tend to write more based on personal experience.

Q: Do you have any upcoming books? What is it about?

I am planning an upcoming book tentatively entitled Car Show Disappearance. The story takes place in Warren, Pennsylvania. Two men kidnap a teenage boy as he agrees to meet a friend at a car show.

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

I would love to have my book featured in DE MODE as the magazine is read in France where my book takes place.

BOOK REVIEWS:

- This is a well-written, clean-cut, mystery novel. If you like mysteries written for teenagers you will love this one no matter how old you are.
- The narration is clear and crisp making it a good read for all thriller lovers. The language used is lucid. The elements of suspense and thriller are layered well by the author. The plot unfolds its elements as it flows gradually. There are numerous characters yet each character has been given sufficient scope to contribute to the plot. Each character is layered well.
- This was an enthralling read with a murder mystery intertwined with a thriller keeping the main theme on drug trafficking. The plot of this book is intriguing. The character of Catherine and Gil were likable along the secondary characters were well etched. The narration is exhilarating. The story moves at a brisk pace and with enough suspense and action to bind the attention of readers. The author is a brilliant storyteller, transported me straight to the setting with her vivid and detailed descriptions of surroundings. A very well-constructed plot that will nearly make it impossible for u to stop reading until you have reached the last Page.
- The story was a roller coaster ride, full of suspense which will make you read more and more pages in one sitting.

Follow Jim Toner on Instagram @jimtoner6



8 MUST READ

NEW BOOKS OF THIS MONSOON

BY DE MODE

Among all seasons, the monsoon is undoubtedly the best season. Sitting by the window and sipping a cup of hot coffee as you watch the rain pouring outside. A lot has been written about this rainy season. It's better to read books along with a cup of coffee, truly amazing!! Here we look at eight books by six brilliant authors that are recommended as a must-read for this monsoon season.

Crown of Crowns by Author Clara Loveman, Cold Consequences by Author David Rohlfing, The Lesbian Whisperer by Author Taylor S. Norman, Doom of Stars by Author Martyn Rhys Vaughan, Adventurer at Sea by Author Margreit Maitland, Reflection by Author Adam Ostaszewski

CROWN OF CROWNS

BY AUTHOR CLARA LOVEMAN

Crown of Crowns is the first installment of a futuristic new YA saga by Clara Loveman, described as "sweeping, epic, and engrossing" with an "intriguing and twisting plot" that's perfect for fans of The Hunger Games and The Divergent Trilogy.

Booklife: Loveman's fast-paced young adult fantasy series, collected in an edition containing the first novel and its sequel, tells of a privileged teen whose eyes are opened to how the rest of the world lives: mostly in poverty. In a futuristic world where robots have taken most jobs and science has made most illnesses impossible, Kaelyn thinks everyone in the world is happy. She falls for Roki, who shows her that only a small handful of royal families are truly happy. After her mother is murdered and Roki disappears, Kaelyn must turn heartbreak into determination, first starting a foundation in her mother's name and then accepting that helping her people means marrying Prince Zawne and becoming king and queen. Then life gets complicated. (Readers eager to avoid spoiling the second book's premise should skip to the next paragraph.) After she's crowned, a deadly virus is released, and Kaelyn realizes that the only way to save her kingdom is to give up her own life and become a powerful spirit. Balancing actions with consequences, Loveman makes this apocalyptic story complicated in the right way, reminding readers that people will be complex no matter how advanced

the society. After making an epochal choice at the end of the first book, Kaelyn discovers that nothing will be as simple as she had hoped—her choices now ripple across her world and even her galaxy. Rather than clear good or bad guys, this series concerns shades of humanity, driven by love and desires. She creates an intriguing new world with varied continents, seasons, clans, social classes, and advancements in technology. As the story grows, it expands to an entire detailed and fascinating galaxy of different worlds, creatures, and the city at the center of it all, where spirits come together to influence—good or bad—the rest of us. The choices characters make in the final pages will stir reader debate, but the journey is certainly worth it.



THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR CLARA LOVEMAN

Clara Loveman lives in Maidenhead, UK, a riverside town not far from Windsor. She has been featured in TBHonest.co.uk, Syfy.com, Female First, and on BBC Radio, and her debut Young Adult novel, Crown of Crowns,



has recently been longlisted for The Diverse Books Award. Born in Nairobi, Kenya, she identifies as Kenyan and British with dual citizenship.

She's an avid reader, keen walker and is at her happiest when she's writing her first draft. She writes at high speed, using a rough outline, but considers the acts of rewriting and revising long, seemingly

endless processes. A good day of writing for Clara is five to seven hours, late into the night. For entertainment, she enjoys romance, drama, and fantasy work at home or the cinema. At university, she majored in pharmaceutical

sciences and public health. She loves the arts equally and could have easily chosen to study the arts, possibly specializing in creative writing. However, Clara is proud of her science background and thinks it has enabled her to write more confidently in fantasy and science fiction. She graduated from Liverpool John Moores University and has an MPH from the University of Sheffield. She currently works in the pharmaceutical industry.

BOOK REVIEWS:

- "A coming-of-age novel with elements of romance, SF, and fantasy, set in a royal court... An original and creative YA tale with a likable lead." -Kirkus.
- Clara Loveman's novel had me reading non-stop for a week. I would totally recommend this tale of teenage love, bravery, nobility, intrigues, robots, and worlds ever imagined to anyone ready to enjoy the wonderful creativity of the author. Looking forward to learning more about Loveman's literature!
- This book was extraordinary! It took me to a place beyond my wildest dreams. I loved this book and it was very well written. I highly recommend it!
- If you love romance, sci-fi, mystery, and dystopia-themed novel, then this book is recommended to you.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR clara loveman

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

Weirdly, it's like gifting myself with something precious that has no appraisable value. I don't see it as a natural ability or talent that I own. Instead, my innermost being has an affinity to writing that it can't seem to shake. And when it's lent to me, it calms me, purifies me, and nourishes me. It's not spiritual. Let's just say it's fulfilling and redemptive.

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

It was an idea that intruded my thoughts, of spirits perniciously or innocuously controlling other people's thoughts, actions, and bodies. Human bodies gave spirits meaning. So, this notion of mysterious, invisible forces (good and bad) inhabiting human lives with potentially grave effects intrigued, captivated, and rattled me. I wrote an outline, a couple of thousand words, and off I went.

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Writing is my passion, and I feel strongly that it's also my purpose. I lose track of time when I'm writing, almost as if nothing else matters, and it gives me an incredible sense of peace. At the same time, it's not the only thing I'd rather do; I need other activities to stir my muse.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Awards or rewards can be important, as they serve as a yardstick of human potential and integrity. But we are more than awards, and people who deserve them the most may not receive that recognition. For these reasons, awards, or lack thereof, shouldn't define us.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

I have several, but at this moment, James Baldwin comes to mind.

"Perhaps the turning point in one's life is realizing that to be treated like a victim is not necessary to become one."

Also,

"If you really want to know something about solitude, become famous."

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

I want fiction to be more accessible as it's not only a pleasurable experience, but it can also change the lens through which one sees the world. The key for me is helping people find the book that turns them into readers. My contribution aims for simplicity in my writing, at then at the publication stage for availability in most formats and wide distribution. I want to do more than this.

Q: For you, what is the meaning of being a

writer?

It is to articulate the minute, delicate moments in life that we're too rushed to stop and acknowledge. Our private thoughts, agitations, observations, descriptions, sentiments, stories, morality, pain, love, human nature, and nature.

Q: How do you feel about being an author?

It's a blessing, but it's also nerve-racking because publishing puts your work out there, and it probably won't be everyone's cup of tea. This is something I have to accept and then plow on.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Procrastination and self-doubt rank up there! Also, use family and friends as beta-readers and constantly talking to them about your writing.

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

A bit of both, but mostly I try to be original.

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

Absolutely! There is an inbuilt advantage to having experienced something, but I don't think it's a prerequisite.

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

I research all sorts of things, including names, places, and the origin of numerous words. The amount of time I spend researching depends on what I'm writing. I'm currently writing a novel that requires more research than I've done in the past because one of the characters has a severe medical condition.

Q: How do you feel about your book being featured in DEMODE?

I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity. It's an honour. Thank you so much.

To read "Crown of Crowns" by Clara Loveman, 'the creative fantasy with a perfectly flawed heroine, the right amount of romance, and otherworldly surprises' get your copy today through the link available on our website. Stay up to date with Clara by following her on Instagram and Twitter.

 [claraloveman](#)

 [lovemanauthor](#)

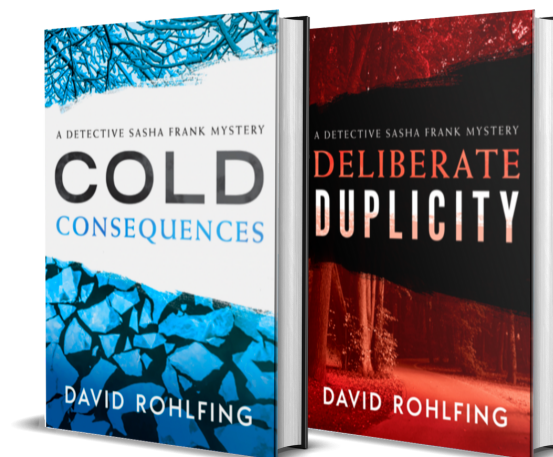
COLD CONSEQUENCES

BY AUTHOR DAVID ROHLFING

It was almost 1 a.m. on a Saturday when Ashley drove down the dark street on Bloomington's west side in the BMW 3-series convertible her father had given her as a college graduation gift. She was on her way to meet D to buy an opioid known on the street as "beans." She parked near the intersection where the dealer had instructed her to wait. A few hours earlier, she'd texted D that her need was desperate. He let her know he couldn't meet her then at the Uptown Normal bar, their usual meeting spot, but he could the following night. Ashley texted back that she needed her pills now, so he agreed to meet her at a street corner near his home. She'd never been to this part of the city, and she hoped D wouldn't be late. As she waited, she turned down her radio, lit a cigarette, turned up the heater, and cracked the driver's side window. Besides being addicted to pain killers, she'd also developed a pack-a-day habit and drank too much vodka every night. Not a good combination, and it was beginning to take a toll on her mind and body. Because of her increased drug use the past few months, she'd been arriving late to work several times a week and sometimes missing it entirely, but she wasn't too concerned because her father owned the company. Charlie Cummins Luxury Home Builders had a reputation throughout Illinois for the exceptional quality of their work

building residences exclusively for the well-to-do. Ashley was supposed to be learning the business so she could take over as president of the company when her father retired. She'd been waiting about five minutes when, out of the corner of her eye, she saw D angling across the street toward her car. He was wearing a heavy overcoat with a hood and leather gloves. As he walked toward her, Ashley hit the down button on the driver's side window and tossed out her cigarette.

Keen to know what happens next? Read the mystery thrillers "Cold Consequences" and "Deliberate Duplicity" from the Detective Sasha Frank Mystery series by David Rohlfling. Grab your copy today through the link available on our website.



THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR DAVID ROHLFING

David Rohlfling is the author of the Detective Sasha Frank Mystery Series. The murder mystery series follows a relentless police detective as he solves murders in the small Midwestern city of Bloomington, Illinois.



The first book in the series is "Deliberate Duplicity," released early this year, followed by the recent release of the second book "Cold Consequences." The second book is a prequel allowing readers to read them out of order if they so choose. He is currently writing the third book about a man attempting to find a young woman to replace his fiancé, who died in a car accident. Unfortunately for the woman he meets, they don't measure up to what he's looking for to find the perfect replacement in his delusional mind, and he punishes them for that by killing them. Sasha thinks there

is only one victim but finds additional victims while attempting to solve the initial crime.

After a long business career that allowed David to travel to countless countries and six of the world's seven continents, he decided to write the Detective Sasha Frank Murder Mystery Series. He has lived in several countries and currently lives in Central Illinois with his wife. When he is not writing, he spends as much time as possible with his wife and family and works on his golf game. He plans to continue to write additional books featuring Sasha Frank.

BOOK REVIEWS:

- "Cold Consequences" keeps you thinking! The author seems to have hit his stride with his second book. He starts by telling you exactly what happened and who was involved and then the story takes off from there! Very entertaining and well-written! Looking forward to the next book in the series. I highly recommend it!
- An interesting twist on a murder mystery where you know from the beginning who committed the murder.
- Rohlfling did a great job in keeping the action moving and the results hidden until the very end. I enjoyed the book.

📧 www.davidrohlfling.com 📷 [davidrohlfling](https://www.instagram.com/davidrohlfling)

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR david rohlfing

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

You can invoke emotion from readers in what you write, but I write because I enjoy writing, so it is a passion.

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

I've been a reader of murder mysteries featuring police detectives or investigators for many years. However, most authors feature characters who reside in large metropolises on the east or west coast of the United States, so I wanted to feature a protagonist from a small city in the Midwest. In developing the lead character of the Detective Sasha Frank Mystery Series, it was essential to make him a person who fought to find justice for his victims and their families. Sasha leaves no stone unturned to find those responsible for the murders that take place.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

Finding justice for victims of crimes or discrimination is a character trait that I am passionate about. Murder mystery readers, I believe, have the same desire to find justice for those victimized, so ensuring that perpetrators pay for their misdeeds reinforces that belief.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Certainly rewards. Awards can undoubtedly be rewarding to those who receive them, but my reward is in readers finding my books complex and thought-provoking. I hope that readers think of themselves as partners working beside Sasha Frank, helping him to solve murders as he pursues evidence to find justice.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

One of my favorites is from Ralph Waldo Emerson - *"Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood."* I've certainly made countless mistakes in my life, and I can only hope that I learned from them. While in business, I liked the anonymous quote, *"Delegate authority ruthlessly with confidence."* In most endeavors, it takes a team to accomplish big goals, and the only way for a team to achieve is for all to learn to do.

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

The one way that I can help is to make sure that the characters I develop reinforce that good wins out over evil. Having characters who promote what society as a whole sees as traits that bring out the best in people who find justice against the evil characters who cause havoc in my books is important to me.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

By writing about good triumphing over evil, I hope that I bring a message that the guilty ultimately will pay and aren't allowed to escape the justice they deserve. The

good people do around the world far outweighs the bad, but the bad tends to get highlighted most often.

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

Originality is what's most important to me. When family and friends read my books, they look at me differently now and ask where the darkness I write about comes from as I develop what I think are innovative ways to commit murders. Writing murder mysteries with new twists is fun, and I hope readers find them equally entertaining.

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

The books I write are part of a series and feature a recurring main character and a few support characters that work alongside him. When I sit down to write, I only have a general plot for the book and an initial victim and antagonist. In the beginning, I don't have an outline or fully developed new characters. As I write, I continuously build the story and add characters to build the suspense to its ultimate conclusion.

Q: Do you have any upcoming books? What is it about?

The first book in the Detective Sasha Frank Mystery Series was "Deliberate Duplicity" released early this year, followed by the recent release of the second book "Cold Consequences." The second book is a prequel which allows readers to read the first two books out of order. I'm currently writing the third book about a man attempting to find the perfect woman to replace his fiancé, who died in a car accident. Unfortunately, the women he meets don't measure up to what he's looking to find as a replacement, and he punishes them for that by killing them. Sasha thinks there is only one victim but finds additional victims while attempting to solve the initial crime.

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

I'm excited about reaching a larger audience outside North America that I hope will find the Detective Sasha Frank Mystery Series a compelling read. Streaming platforms we all subscribe to today allow us to watch crime shows produced in countless countries in our homes. As a result, we observe how investigators go about solving crimes in numerous countries of the world. I look forward to building a global audience that sees Sasha Frank as a fighter for justice who can visualize someone like him solving crimes in a small city in India, Thailand, or virtually any country in the world. Being featured in DE MODE allows me the chance to do that, and I'm grateful for that opportunity.

THE LESBIAN WHISPERER

BY AUTHOR TAYLOR S. NORMAN

The Lesbian Whisperer is an eloquently enticing collection of short stories, each filled with fluttering anticipation of breathtaking new love, the subtle language of obsession for another, and the titillating sensuality shared between women. Life-giving and nurturing love blossoms, and comes alive between the pages, or rather between the sheets of this wonderfully observant and current debut novel about real love and jaw-dropping intimacy between women! Tonight on this velvety night of unspoken promises, will be like no other our first together, my first with a woman! I am caught somewhere between my heartbeats, alive and burning in the throes of anticipation and ecstasy!

This book is about the author's soul and how she loves, and through various life experiences, and mini-adventures, sexual in parts, her life, and whom she is unfolded always coming from a place of pure love. Her words and memories in this compilation of short stories make her happy, because to those who will read it and find themselves questioning their own sexuality or those that have repressed their emotions and perhaps fear their sexuality, or those in the throes of contemplating coming out, or have newly come out, know that you are not alone. Many who identify as LGBTQ discuss questioning their gender and sexuality from an

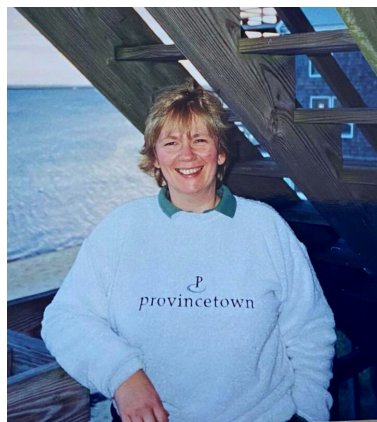
early age. Though this experience is not universal, some in the community cite feelings of fear and isolation and experiences of rejection, social biases, violence, and discrimination. It is a journey that many have shared, are sharing, and will share and in sharing her story, Taylor desires to empower you on your own journey. Your feelings of love for someone of the same sex are beautiful and valid, and you must know that it is not just from the lust that sex comes, but from the nourishing beauty of love. Love knows no bounds, it is ageless and genderless, Love is love and the final destination home.

The link to buy "The Lesbian Whisperer" by Taylor S. Norman is available on our website.



THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR TAYLOR S. NORMAN

Taylor S. Norman is a vegan feminist and active supporter of the LGBTQ community, together with being a supreme advocate of love and light, who is working towards achieving equality, and acceptance, and recognition for



everyone. Taylor is a vibrant native New Yorker and a well-seasoned traveler of life. Taylor is vulnerable enough now to let others learn that there is nothing anyone could do that would hurt her. She is an openly gay woman, living her best authentic life in this world with a profound purpose to help others rise on their own personal coming-out journey. She has no

with beautiful women, traveled the world, and experienced so many personal firsts and milestones without having the possibility of hurt or loss. Nothing but love has ever mattered to her, to a lover such as she is, sincere and ready to fall in love again. So should you, with all your heart.

"The Lesbian Whisperer" by Taylor S. Norman will help the new individuals of the LGBTQ community on their personal journey of self-acceptance and to live a limitless, happy and fulfilled life.

BOOK REVIEWS:

- The author did an amazing job of bringing out light to a sensitive topic. I appreciate the author for writing this book. I enjoyed the whole book.
- Such beauty and love in each story speak of the great depths of intimacy between two women. Not to mention the hot sex! What a page-turner, I couldn't put it down.
- This book is a captivating collection of stories that explore wonderfully what it means to only be ourselves.
- A tale that touches the spirit, amazes, and motivates.

 [the_lesbian_whisperer](https://www.instagram.com/the_lesbian_whisperer)

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **taylor s. norman**

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Writing is my passion. I am sure that everyone was born with some special talents and abilities. These can be writing, singing, acting, dancing, and so on. Every person has an opportunity to follow his or her own way and achieve great success.

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

I wrote my first book for the LGBTQ community and women coming out! The thought that provoked me to write my first book was the belief that through my writing I will be able to help others Rise.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

My soul is filled when I write. I am grateful for every precious moment my writing journey offers me. It allows me to see the miracle in each experience.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

Rewards grateful to write. The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more. Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe. The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

"In order to write about life first you must live it "- By Ernest Hemingway

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

By writing my heart and being authentic. Authenticity is everything! The keys to brand success are self-definition, transparency, authenticity, and accountability. Details matter. That inner voice has both gentleness and clarity. Truth is a point of view, but authenticity can't be faked.

Q: How do you feel about being an author?

It means being vulnerable to others. For me, being vulnerable means sharing your own feelings openly, bravely, but also having the guts to allow the other person to go at their own pace, even if you are anxious for them to move quicker. It means being patient, trusting, allowing the other their own experience.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

I love being an author. I love the challenge of bringing a book to life, of creating something from nothing other than my thoughts. I love getting a more organized mind, the diverse creativity that writing brings out in me, the constant learning, and most especially, the camaraderie.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Don't focus on it being perfect. Trying to be perfect is something a lot of people have tried, but none have succeeded. It's impossible to be perfect, no matter how hard you try. What typically happens is someone pushes themselves so hard because they want to be good at writing, that eventually it turns into more of an obsession with being flawless. You're aiming to be perfect without even realizing it.

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

I write original works from my life experiences. Readers want something that's real. They want to live in your book. They want to become your characters and feel every joy & heartache right along with them. They want to see, smell, hear, feel taste. It's one thing to create a story. But if you're using your life, your experiences, and your personality, then you have all the material before you even start.

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

Anyone can write, you do need some depth. Let pieces of your life interweave themselves into your book, along with completely made-up parts. It's a more flexible option than writing your life story. You can edit out the parts you don't like and add plot twists you think would make it better. It keeps that realistic feeling.

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

I don't research subjects.

Q: Do you have an upcoming books? What is it about?

My upcoming books are '[Full Bloom](#)' and '[Awaken Me](#)' a sequel to [The Lesbian Whisperer](#) in my trilogy.

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

"The Lesbian Whisperer" is very close to my heart. I'm quite excited about it being featured in DE MODE Magazine and to reach a wider audience. My other book "ABC's of love" was also featured in the previous issue and I look forward to being featured again for my next books "Full Bloom" and "Awaken Me." Thank you very much for this opportunity.

DOOM OF STARS

BY AUTHOR MARTYN RHYS VAUGHAN

"Doom of Stars" attempts to marry two types of fiction: firstly a character-driven story, where the reader is hopefully drawn into empathizing with the main characters and their struggles against seemingly impossible odds.

The story is woman-centered with two main female protagonists: Kalli, a teenager, and her grandmother, Tamara Adekola. The two women never meet but the actions of the grandmother impinge strongly on Kalli's life story. Both women are of African-American extraction.

The story opens upon the vista of a ruined Earth. The planet has become subject to great climatic changes and has winters in which most of the Northern Hemisphere is ice-bound in winter and dangerously hot in summer. Consequently, the capital of the North American Federation alternates between Florida in the winter and Canada in the summer.

We meet Kalli as an undervalued, almost despised, member of an impoverished community living on the edge of the sea somewhere near London, England. It seems the Ice Age has returned. Kalli is a loner, both for the color of her skin, and her rather questioning nature. She thinks she understands what had happened to the world but cannot convince anyone to listen to her. Her preoccupation with deep issues leads to her causing two

hunting expeditions to fail and as a punishment, all her treasured mementos from the mother who abandoned her are destroyed. However, she manages to hide the most valuable treasure—a mysterious silvery ball, which seems to react to her presence. However, life takes an unwanted turn when she accompanies the tribe to the snowy ruins of London. There she meets a man who claims to be her father and can provide Kalli with details about her family history. But his news is very unwelcome because it seems that her grandmother was a scientist who brought about the climate disaster through a failed experiment.

Read more: [The link to buy "Doom of Stars" by Martyn Rhys Vaughan is available on our website.](#)



THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR MARTYN RHYS VAUGHAN

Martyn Rhys Vaughan was born in the World Heritage town of Blaenavon in the green valleys of South Wales, a town where the first steps in the Industrial Revolution were taken and which has the best-preserved early ironworks in Europe.



From an early age he was always interested in writing and storytelling, and was particularly drawn to the writers of the "Golden Age of Science Fiction," as his heroes — people like Ursula K. Le Guin, Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury and many others. He was enthralled by their visions of worlds so different to the ordinary. However, he noticed

how many of the writers warned of trouble if science was misused and that struck a chord with him. He loved the work of H. Rider Haggard, with exciting adventures in unexplored Africa. He longed to write fantastic adventures and baffling

mysteries like his heroes. He did reasonably well at school but found it hard to find a career that satisfied him. Martyn tried his hand at a variety of jobs including working in agriculture, where one of his most amusing memories was of chasing an escaped piglet down a country lane. After that, his scientific education led him to work in an industry in a variety of jobs in chemical laboratories.

Marriage and fatherhood made him realize that he needed to settle down, and he used his mathematical skills by working for the British Government in the area of measuring the economy.

After leaving the work, he finally had the time to see what he could do in the world of fiction and published his first novel - "Quantum Exile." This story combined his two passions of concern for the environment and the use of science for the benefit of humanity. It tells the story of a man who finds himself thrown into an alternative reality, where climate change has run riot and large parts of the world are uninhabitable through heatwaves and rising sea levels. At the time, it seemed very speculative but recent events have shown such an outcome is all too likely.

www.martynvaughan.co.uk [@martynrhysvaughan](https://www.instagram.com/martynrhysvaughan)

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **martyn rhys vaughan**

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Both, but mainly a passion. I've always wanted to write from an extremely young age and found the creative-writing part of my education the most engaging. The desire to tell stories about human relationships and the exploits of great heroes is one embedded in the human condition. Dwellers in the caves would have told each tale on winter nights.

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

Although I am primarily a storyteller, I have always had an interest in the environment. There can be no doubt that humans are trashing the natural world in the pursuit of short-term gain. Recent events show the world is heading for disaster. We are losing entire species of both animals and plants. So my first book focused on climate change.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

I would like to think that it allows me a platform in which I can both entertain people and at the same time make them aware of the threats that we are facing. For this reason, my books always have a scientific angle to them. However, the best way I can do this is by seizing the reader's attention.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

As a writer, I believe that awards would be very gratifying, as it would indicate that I have made a difference. As for rewards, the only ones I really want is to know that people are buying my books and enjoying them. That would be enough.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

"If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"
-Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

By demonstrating that we have only one planet and if we trash this one we're toast. The problems come from the short-termism of some economic models and discounting of future problems. The problem is with maintaining the lifestyles of rich countries in a world of diminishing resources. This can be done by using science as a servant, not a master.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

By knowing I have engaged the reader and given him or her a rewarding experience by taking them out of themselves into an invented world of mine, which they find entertaining and enthralling. I do not believe in lecturing people or bombarding them with facts but only telling a good story.

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

Being a good writer means creating believable characters that act and sound like real people. This is the primary definition of being a good writer. The second aspect is taking the believable characters that you have created and putting them in situations where the reader cares about what happens to them.

Q: How do you feel about being an author?

I simply want to entertain and enthrall the reader. Any lessons learned from reading books are secondary. I want the reader to believe in the characters and be fascinated by their struggle. I believe that all enthralling tales involve some kind of struggle. The characters do not have to be good – just interesting.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

The most common trap is a lack of imagination and spending pages basically talking about oneself. Unless your own story is particularly enthralling—and who is the judge of that?—the author must go beyond his or her personal experiences. Another error is to try too hard to be "literary"—the story and the characters are what matter.

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

I try to do both. The most important thing is to deliver to the readership what they can justifiably expect from the type of novel they have chosen to read. The difficult balancing act is to do that originally and still maintain their interest. But to do both is very satisfying.

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

Because my books always have a scientific aspect to them, research is extremely important. An error in basic scientific matters would be very embarrassing and would cause the reader to lose confidence in my message. As a consequence, I do not start writing until I have done about a month's work of research, from as many sources as are practicable.

Q: Do you have any upcoming books? What is it about?

I have two forthcoming titles. The first is a collection of short stories and one novella. The stories have a mild horror flavor to them: DEVOURING DARKNESS—Out on August 26th. The second is a novel and is the sequel to my novel about a climate disaster: RESOLUTION OF STARS—out in the autumn of 2021.

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

I feel gratified and honored and hope it will encourage people to see what I have offer.

ADVENTURER AT SEA

BY AUTHOR MARGREIT MAITLAND

Runaway at Sea: Something bad and scary is about to happen to Robert. He must make a choice, stay or run. He runs! Fleeing from danger, Robert and his best friend Michael sneak aboard a ship and hide in a lifeboat, convinced they will start a new life at the next port. When they are found, the real trouble begins. Trapped aboard a British Naval vessel, the boys must learn to endure a harsh life at sea and figure out how to get off without being shot as deserters. Torrential storms, a terrorizing bully, a mysterious initiation, and an untimely death during a perilous rounding of Cape Horn fill their months with adventure. An unexpected chance to escape comes and the boys don't waste a moment. It doesn't take long for them to realize they have gotten themselves lost in a treacherous jungle. Sickness plagues them. Spiders, snakes, and lurking predators are there at every turn. Robert and Michael must learn to rely on their wits...if they want to survive.

The newly released second novel by Margreit Maitland- **Adventurer at Sea:** Thrilling twists and turns surround Robert and Michael as they continue their adventures around the world's oceans. Aboard a whaling vessel with their family of shipmates, a perilous hunt causes the death of a beloved friend and it is the catalyst for the boys renewing their vow to get to America.

On a remote exotic island, the boys hunt for wild boar and become immersed in the exotic life of the natives and missionaries. Robert falls for a beautiful young girl and his heart breaks when he has to leave. A raging storm puts the whaler in jeopardy and the boys barely escape. The fate of the ship is unknown but they are rescued and soon find out they are on their way to war. A battle ensues and Robert is gravely injured. Unexpected events make his long-sought-after destiny uncertain and he has no idea how or if he will ever be able to find America.

The link to buy "Runaway at Sea" and "Adventurer at Sea" from the series by Margreit Maitland is available on our website.



THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR MARGREIT MAITLAND

Writing has always been a dream, floating in the back of Margreit's mind for as long as she can remember. A love for literature was instilled in her by her mother and family in general from an early age. While growing up, she read a



wide range of books from the classics to something quick and fun, and adored getting lost in a story. When her grandfather Frost gave her the journal about Robert's trek across the world, it captured her imagination and bringing his story of joy, heartbreak and courage to life became a passion. She is proud to present this series as her debut to the writing world.

Since the publication of the first two novels in the series, Margreit has launched a Creative Writing Workshop for children aged 10 and up for schools and libraries and is enjoying an opportunity to help students discover their

potential and original ideas. In addition, she and her publisher Stephanie Larkin have collaborated on an online Creative Writing Bootcamp which is available for all writers and aspiring writers age 17 and up. Sharing what she has learned about writing and helping others tap into their imaginations in creating stories is a happy accident. Margreit is an enthusiastic supporter of literature, education, science, wildlife, and nature. The source of which lies in being encouraged to muck around in the mud searching for hermit crabs and other tiny or large inhabitants of the natural world. She enjoys living on Long Island, where she is happily surrounded by beaches and with her two children and Mr. Frosty the cat. In her spare time, she can be found staying active and outside whenever possible and with her treasured family and friends. She will keep sharing more stories in the future.

BOOK REVIEWS:

- *This story is a delight to read and makes it easy to imagine what it would've been like to sail the seas 150 years ago.*
- *From the first pages, you're drawn into the adventure and the author keeps you there throughout the book.*

www.runawayatsea.com [margreitm](https://www.instagram.com/margreitm)

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **margreit maitland**

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

It is both. The series is based on the life of my great, great grandfather, Robert. The family journal was given to me by my grandfather before he died. It is the most amazing inheritance I could have ever wished for. Creating the series about Robert's story has been a very personal journey for me and I will treasure it forever.

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

That I could do it. Not to be deterred by fear of the unknown and to go for it.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

It allows me to be creative and that is cathartic and brings me a great deal of personal satisfaction. This, in turn, raises my confidence and feelings of accomplishment.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

I do, and I believe people should earn them. Although, I think there are many talented people in all professions who go "unrecognized" and don't win trophies or awards, and that doesn't change or take anything from their valuable contributions. Winning an award for me would provide an opportunity to spread an inspiring message.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

"Tomorrow is another day." From Scarlett in "Gone With the Wind", my favorite book.

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

I would say the best way for me to contribute is to share what I've learned and try to inspire young readers and writers to use their imaginations. I developed a workshop for kids for school and library visits and collaborated on a Creative Writing Bootcamp for adults. The teaching aspect of my writing life is a happy accident, which I love.

Q: How does writing inspire you the most?

It has helped build my confidence and that sends waves of energy through my life which brings about more inspiration. Writing has given me an opportunity to share such an amazing story of courage and perseverance and the feeling that it may bring enjoyment to readers is fantastic. It motivates me to do more!

Q: For you what is the meaning of being a writer?

The best way to describe my answer is to say that through writing, I discovered that I can accomplish my dreams and goals. I can persevere through adversity, through doubts, and believe in myself. That is the only way any of this happened.

Q: How do you feel about being an author?

I feel proud of what I've accomplished and am so excited to release my second novel. I love to hear feedback from readers!

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Being trapped in an endless editing loop. At some point you just have to say, it is DONE!

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

I am writing Robert's story which is original. I try to make it as accurate as I can and include lots of imagery so readers feel like they are part of what is happening. I can only hope that is what readers want.

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

I am not sure how to convey a character's feelings, growth and interactions without feeling strong emotions myself. So for me, the emotional piece to character building is key.

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

Because I am doing a historical fiction series, I do an extensive amount of research. I really believe in being as accurate as I can be in settings and events. I do everything from reading personal journals from the Age of Sail to interviews, reading books, and watching movies for visual references.

Q: Do you have any upcoming books? What is it about?

I just released my second novel in the series, "Adventurer at Sea" and I am starting the third and final book now. I am hoping it can be released by year-end, but we will see when I finish it. The entire series is based on the true story of my great, great grandfather. He ran away from home in the mid-1800s to escape abuse, and it set him on a trek around the world quite by accident. He had all kinds of adventures that are quite unbelievable. It is an amazing story to have the privilege to tell.

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

I love it! I was so excited to get the request and am so grateful to any media that helps give an opportunity of exposure and voice to authors. Thank you!

REFLECTION

BY AUTHOR ADAM OSTASZEWSKI

"Reflection: A collection of short stories" is a book that contains six short stories that take you on a mysterious journey to Mars and a planet inhabited by descendants of humans and aliens. It is a book describing Europe during an epidemic, with an all-powerful European Security Service keeping the peace. Tales of an investigation into a suspicious death on an orbital platform, a daring action by Polish forces in Iraq and the Last Hero of the Kingdom. The "Reflection" and "Ares Mission" stories were recognized at the 1st and 2nd Clarke-Bradbury International Science Fiction Competition and published in English as part of collections of prize-winning works. The stories are about an era where the planet Mars has been inhabited by humans and an epidemic in Europe. The all-powerful European security services are trying their best to maintain peace. In the book, there is an investigation unusually and unnaturally in an orbital platform. The stories are based on fiction, mystery, and much more. They were written for some years and now the author has decided to publish them in one book.

Mars is a very different world. Have you ever thought of living there? Read this amazing fiction to discover and sense how living on Mars feels like. The book "Reflection: A collection of short stories" by Adam Ostaszewski is ranked in 1st place among the newly released Science Fiction books and 6th among all the books under the Science Fiction category on Amazon. The links to buy the book are available on our website. Grab your copy today and leave your valuable review.



THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR ADAM OSTASZEWSKI

Adam Ostaszewski is a lawyer by profession who lives in Poland. He is an author of novels and short stories. He is also a fan of historical, science fiction, and political fiction literature.

He takes inspiration from such authors as Isaac



Asimov, Philip K. Dick, Stanislaw Lem. He is a science fiction author, but you can find in his novels consideration about our reality.

Adam started writing when he was 9 years old. His first attempts were also short stories. After that he was writing stories and novels about never had so much courage to publish his novels

and stories. Twice he sent his novels to International science fiction competitions and he succeeds. His two novels were recognized. You can read them in the book "Reflection: A collection of short stories".

Adam is a cheerful person, he likes people, likes to

talk with them. He loves traveling and getting to know new people and other cultures. This inspires him a lot in his creativeness.

BOOK REVIEWS:

- The book has six stories and all are of an ideal mix of secret, fiction, and experience. The writer has clearly composed this. I totally happy with the narratives of the book and the language was unrivaled. Enthusiastically suggested book.
- There was a lot of creativity that went into each of these stories. What surprised me the most was how quickly a came to care about each of the main characters. There were many twists and turns with the author taking you on a very entertaining roller coaster ride with many satisfying endings. Great book to just lose yourself in!!!
- Reflection: A collection of short stories by author Adam Ostaszewski is a wonderfully compiled book. The author knows very well how to connect the reader with the book through his writings. My curiosity to buy this book came from the blurb when I went through it. It is so impressive.

 [adam_ostaszewski_autor](#)

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR adam ostaszewski

Q: Is writing your passion or emotion?

Writing is my passion, but of course, I have lots of emotions in creating new stories. I love to create a new world, new heroes, new communities. In every story, in every book, I choose one hero which is I think my alter ego. I love to guide him or her through my imagination. And I never know how his era her way will end. It deepens my emotions.

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

My first short story I wrote when I was 9 years old. It was short criminal story with brave police officer. I even made some pictures to story. But seriously I was writing lots of short stories through almost 20 years. Two of them, "Reflection" and "Ares Mission" stories were recognized at the 1st and 2nd Clarke-Bradbury International Science Fiction Competition and published in English as part of collections of prize-winning works. I decided to publish them now, I think because of pandemic. We all saw that nothing is stable and we must be most brave.

Q: How does writing bring out the best in you?

When I'm writing, I can bring out my emotions, my description of the reality we live in, my view on a lot of things, especially the condition of humanity. I can imagine the feelings of people who are in different situations. They must decide about their future, their families, and their security. I can walk in their shoes and imagine what could you do if you were them.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

The great awards and rewards for each author are that people want to read your books and stories. I had two recognitions and it was great for me. I felt that professional reviewers and writers discovered my creation and they said: "Yes, that was good". And then I heard from readers that they liked my stories and it was the best reward.

Q: What is your favorite Quote?

"I am part of that power which would the evil ever do, and ever does the good" -Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe "Faust". I think human nature is sometimes contrary. Even if someone wants to do evil, can do good to others.

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

We explore space, explore our planet. We always make some wars. Now it is pandemic, so I imagine what could happen when we take away our freedom from governments despite biological security. And I think I discover that our human nature is always the same. And I would like that my stories could take a look inside our humanity, our social feelings, and our decisions in face of

the unknown.

Q: How do you feel about being an author?

Being an author is the greatest thing in my life. This is a realization of my dreams. Awareness that someone reads my book, my stories, and even likes it, is the best thing in the world. I hope my stories influence people and they will be thinking about our future, our freedom, our society. I hope my stories make people better.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

I think aspiring writers must write, write and write. You must try to reveal your imagination. And do not surrender if you think that your novels are bad. One you write better one worse. It is normal. And do not write only for money. If you lose your imagination for accidental applause, it will be the end of your writer's journey. Be yourself and write what your imagination tells you.

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

A writer has to be himself and write what he feels or imagines. I try to do that. I know it could be hard because of newest writers with their own style sometimes are not understanding, but, on the other side, if I would try to write only for what the readers want it will make no sense. Everyone has their own sensitivity and can read what they want to. If my style hits someone's taste it will be the best for me as an author.

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

I try to take research from our life. I am a science fiction writer, but sometimes real life is better than fiction. And sometimes I say "Hey, that is impossible. People can not do those awful things or that can not happen". For example life in an epidemy. One of my stories in "Reflection", "Virus" is about pandemics in Europe. I tried to imagine what could happen when we take away our freedom from governments despite biological security. In the future, we can face those problems. Now is not only fiction. And after writing this story, I extended it to the novel. I will publish it in Autumn or Winter. But now please enjoy my book "Reflection".

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

DE MODE is one of the most influential magazines and features only the best authors. I am very honored that I and my book is getting featured in this magazine. It is a great honor to me that I can tell readers about myself and my books through this platform. I hope you will enjoy reading my stories and book.



Armin Boehm

Meyer Riegger Art Gallery
Berlin, Germany

Armin Boehm paints fictitious and spatially impossible scenes, based on urban layouts and architectural constructions, that are meant to evoke the inner human condition. The images, which sometimes appear to be aerial views or perpetually receding landscapes, explore the idea of natural and manmade borders in geographic surfaces. His most famous works are large-scale paintings, constructed using complex combinations of materials including fabric, oil paint, pure pigment, metal, and sand. A majority of Boehm's paintings have dark palettes and depict nocturnal views with small sources of light; in preparation for exhibiting his paintings, Boehm has been known to paint the walls gray and dim the lights to deepen the experience of darkness. Other subjects have included interiors, smashed trees, bucolic scenes, and car wrecks.



best



reads
for your



new



child

#thismonsoon

When interminable rains keep kids grounded at home, they need things apart from the regular schedule to unwind and enjoy their rainy day too. What better than starting with a new book – here is the list of seven children books to read in Monsoon by the top 4 emerging children book authors - Reena Korde Pagnoni, Brian Frederick, Ebonié P. Fields and Victoria Watkins.

MEET RAMBEE BOO!

BY AUTHOR REENA KORDE PAGNONI
ILLUSTRATION: STEPHEN LOMAZZO



The characters in the series are based on Reena Korde Pagnoni's youngest son Rocky (aka Rock), and her rambunctious puppy Rambo (aka Rambee Boo).

"Meet Rambee Boo!" is an engaging rhyming story about the importance of patience and finding adventure in an ordinary day.

The book, "Rambee...Boo! Halloween," (Illustrated by Frances Rose Español) is a rhyming story about how excited the pup is for the holiday...until he can't think of a costume. This story showcases how positivity and a little creativity can solve even the most stressful of problems.

"Rambee Boo Loves Mom Too!" from the series won 2nd Place in the Animals/Pets category in E-books. It received the Purple Dragonfly Book Award, a certificate of Excellence in Children's Literature by Story Monsters.

Join Rambee Boo, his brother Rock and their favorite sock on a silly week-long adventure, as they find things to do to keep Rock entertained until Beach day! Grab a copy from "The Rambee Boo Series" by Reena Korde Pagnoni, for your little one today!. The link to buy the books are available on our website.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR REENA KORDE PAGNONI

Award-winning Author Reena Korde Pagnoni was born in Mumbai, India, and raised in New Jersey from the time she was a year old. She graduated from West Windsor-Plainsboro High school in 2000 and went on to



get her degree for Bachelor's in Arts from Rutgers University, New Brunswick. She currently lives in New Jersey with her husband, three children and of course... her dog Rambo, the star of The Rambee Boo Series. She always had a great love for children's books, and started collecting them in college. At the age of 38, she turned her love of writing and passion for

picture books into her own series. She began writing THE RAMBEE BOO SERIES after she added a fur baby to her family, during the Covid-19 pandemic quarantine.

Whenever there's trouble, these two are usually at the center of it! She is thrilled to have the opportunity to write her own series to add to her collection. She hopes these books will continue to grow and foster children's love for reading. She can only hope that her readers enjoy reading her books as much as she enjoys writing them!

BOOK REVIEWS:

- *Ramble Boo is one of those cute books that would keep kids entertained.*
- *Excellent gift for a kid who loves puppies. I liked the illustrations too. A cute story overall.*
- *This is an adorable story about patience and all good things coming to those who wait!*
- *My sons enjoyed the book, it has repetition and rhyme, so good for the budding readers and it teaches about the days of the week.*
- *This was such a cute book about a child's relationship with a dog. My little one loved the different daily adventures they had. I enjoyed the lyrical rhyme. Fast and easy read. Perfect for morning story.*

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR reena korde pagnoni

Q: What do you love most about writing stories for children?

I love being able to share my stories with children and watch the books come to life through their eyes. Observing the way children make a connection with the characters is really special. I hope The Rambee Boo Series can provide useful tools for healthy social and emotional growth.

Q: Have you always wanted to be a writer? What inspired you to become a children's author?

Although I have always loved children's books, I never thought I would write one. Last year, at the beginning of the pandemic, we added a new puppy (Rambo aka Rambee Boo) to our family, and I saw a sweet relationship blossom between Rambee and my youngest son Rock (Rocky). When I started searching my library for books about children and their pets, I realized there were not a lot of options in the realistic fiction genre, so I decided to write my own.

Q: Do you like to create books for adults too?

Since my books are primarily read in read-aloud style, it is very important to me that adults enjoy my stories just as much as children do. The repetition and rhyming allow children to follow along and participate in the read-aloud, making it a positive interactive experience for all.

Q: What topics do your stories cover and why are these important to you? How do you come up with the titles to your books?

Each Rambee Boo book focuses on one of five themes: Patience, Anxiety associated with new experiences, Responsibility, Problem Solving, and Working Together. These themes play a vital role in the healthy growth and development of young children. Giving children positive role models who are modeling good behavior is important as children learn through imitation. These five themes resonate well with our readers since many of them are exploring similar situations in their own social interactions.

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

The Rambee Boo Series vows to never tell children how to think, feel or act. Instead, we want to provide children with positive characters and show them how our characters deal with a situation. We hope this will give our readers the tools they need to apply these concepts to their own lives.

Why do you think it is important for children to develop a love of reading? What is your favorite children's book?

There are so many benefits of reading to children and

fostering the love of books. Reading helps brain development, concentration, focus, communication skills as well as develop early literary skills such as learning sounds, words, and language. Books stimulate children's creativity and imagination. The Rambee Boo Series works hard to give children enjoyable read-aloud stories that they are excited to engage with. This takes the chore out of reading and makes it a fun experience. My favorite children's books are Little Critter by Mercer Mayer.

Q: What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?

Just how powerful a character can be in a child's life.

Q: Do you have a favorite character that you have written? If so, who? And what makes them so special.

I love all three of our main characters, all for different reasons. I love Rock because he's sweet and models good behaviors. I love Rambee Boo because...well who doesn't love an adorable puppy, and I love Sock because he provides Rambee Boo with comfort. Many children have a comfort toy, so they can relate to how important Sock is to Rambee Boo.

Q: What is the key theme and/or message in the book?

The main message in Meet Rambee Boo! Is patience. Waiting is hard but it's something we all experience. It's important to teach children to find adventure on any ordinary day. Not all weeks are super fun and that's okay. In Meet Rambee Boo! Rock can't wait to go to the beach on Saturday. The book shares the everyday errands that Rock and Rambee Boo run with their parents during the week.

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

That really depends on the book. Most of my books do not require extensive research, however, I do like to pass along my ideas to a focus group of about 10 children (including my own) to see how they receive the idea. I want the characters to resonate with the reader, so it's always helpful to get feedback from other children in my target audience's age group.

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

I am very excited about being featured in DE MODE magazine. I am grateful for the opportunity to connect with a broader audience and bring The Rambee Boo Series into more homes.

 [therambeebooseries](https://www.instagram.com/therambeebooseries)

SIGGY LOVES SAUSAGES

BY AUTHOR BRIAN FREDERICK

A happy little dog finds the thrill of the chase can come with a sweet reward.

Siggy the dachshund lived with Phyllis and her mum and dad at No. 16 Watercress Lane in Somerset in England. A chase after something sparkly and beautiful floating in the sky ensues with a romp through his village, meeting all of his friendly neighbors along the way. Author Brian Frederick pairs this rollicking story with vibrant painterly illustrations, while sharing the happiness and beauty of every day with his new picture book *Siggy Loves Sausages*. Siggy is very excited when he sees the sparkly red and gold paper bag swooping and soaring through the sky. As he happily chases it through his little village, he passes the friendly shopkeepers and workers along the way, who are all quite glad to see the little dog. Siggy galloped past Mr. Bunn the baker who was opening his shop. A lovely smell wafted out of the door. Siggy looked over and said, "Sorry, Mr. Bun. I can't stop. I've got to chase this paper bag!"

Mr. Bunn replied, 'Hi and goodbye, little Siggy!' and the little dog scampered past. The sweet Siggy's happy jaunt brings him past Marco the carpenter, Vivien the artist, and even little Phyllis at the park. As he finally stops in the woods, he sees his friend, Anya, the woodland sprite who, with a flick of her little wand helps Siggy to catch the swirling sparkling bag. Siggy takes it and bounds back



through the village with pride, bringing the bag back to its grateful owner, Mrs. Chana. "Who's a good boy?" she cooed, petting the delighted little dog. "Is it me? Is it me?" said Siggy excitedly. "It's me, isn't it?" When Siggy saunters off, his head held high, and his mouth full of tasty sausage from an appreciative Mrs. Chana, he is a happy dog indeed.

Families will delight in reading this heartwarming and playful tale, masterfully written by Brian Frederick. This precious story hearkens to a children's book era of the past—think *No Roses for Harry*—with its simple and sweet storytelling. In *Siggy Loves Sausages*, young children learn that positivity and kindness come with their own sweet rewards. Young children will exult in the escapades of a joyful dachshund in this delightfully illustrated tale. Links to buy "*Siggy Loves Sausages*" by Brian Frederick are available on our website and amazon.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR BRIAN FREDERICK

Children's book author Brian Frederick enjoyed creating his own worlds and being an insatiable reader from an early age. He always wanted to be a writer, having won praise and awards for his early stories and was particularly inspired by the Narnia stories. When he writes, he finds himself entering a bubble of creativity, allowing his mind to wander into an imaginary realm.



Brian grew up in Northern Ireland, during "the Troubles" and went to a posh school where CS Lewis was once a pupil and Samuel Beckett briefly taught. Brian made the sports pages as a champion

swimmer, traveling widely and representing Ireland as well as being a serial holder of records. He says he may have been more dedicated to training than to his studies at times. After school, he studied for a Law degree at Southampton University, before taking a Master's in Law at

Queen's University, while he enjoyed all that student life had to offer. A legal career beckoned, of course, and he pursued it, but it turned out that Brian liked being a writer more than being a lawyer. Whether the story is about embracing enthusiasm and good cheer or finding gratitude in the little things, Brian's characters are blessed with good fortune. In Brian's picture book, *Siggy Loves Sausages*, the magical little dog Siggy is rewarded for his positivity—with sausage, of course! His philosophy is that a great book shares the beauty in everyday life. His relatability to children is evident. Real events and local children delivering little bouquets to their neighbors inspired *The Phabulous Phlower Phaeries*, his forthcoming book for older children. Brian hopes that his stories provide happiness and enjoyment to his young readers. When he isn't writing imaginative life lessons for children—whilst listening to loud indie rock music on headphones—Brian enjoys following Manchester United Football Club and taking country walks with his wife, Harvinder (whose family hail from Punjab, India). Together they live in a small nature reserve, where their house is alive with birdsong and woodland critters run around the trees like a fairytale forest. Outside a few of the locals take a daily stroll with their dogs. One of the dogs is Günther the dachshund who inspired Siggy. It's a perfect haven for storytelling. Especially stories about sausage dogs!

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **brian frederick**

Q: What do you love most about writing stories for children?

Most of all I love thinking back to when I was a child myself and the wonderful, warm and cozy feeling I would get when I wrapped myself up in the world created by books. That's what I want to create for kids with my stories.

Q: Have you always wanted to be a writer? What inspired you to become a children's author?

I trained to be a lawyer, and I've owned several businesses as well as a law firm, but they never brought me joy as writing does. Being a writer feeds my own soul and helps me bring kindness into the world. Being a lawyer never did that.

Q: Do you like to create books for adults too?

When I began to write, about 25 years ago in London, I was writing for adults. I thought I wanted to become part of the smart literary set. I nearly became successful, but I'm glad it didn't happen for me then because writing for children brings me much more satisfaction than the world of the "literary salon" ever could.

Q: What topics do your stories cover and why are these important to you?

I want to entertain my children. If I don't do that, then they won't want to read the gentle life lessons and philosophy that I want to impart to them in my stories. I want them to absorb what I'm telling them so in a small way maybe I can help them to grow up to be really good, kind, and gentle people.

Q: How do you come up with the titles to your books?

Often the titles come before the rest of the story does. Other times, there's a working title and then the real title makes itself known. That often happens in the dead of night when my subconscious summons me to sit bolt upright and scramble for a pen to capture the idea.

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

In a very small, humble corner of the literary world, I hope I can set out my little table and decorate it with truth, with entertainment, and with empathy. I hope these beautiful things make that little table look inviting enough for children to sit down and hear more.

Q: Why do you think it is important for children to develop a love of reading?

Frederick Douglass said: "Once you learn to read you will be forever free." Books can take a child anywhere, and let them imagine doing anything. I think it's perhaps more important in our modern, transient world than ever before that children learn to love reading.

Q: What is your favorite children's book?

There's a cornucopia of brilliant books. Perhaps my own absolute favorite is *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by CS Lewis. I'd die happy if I had a book like that to leave as my legacy.

Q: What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?

Aspiring writers probably don't know how much there is to do after the writing is done - until they take the journey to the end. The words on the page are always the most important thing, but for them to appear there for readers to enjoy means walking a long and difficult path.

Q: What is the key theme and/or message in the book?

My books are about compassion, kindness and creating a sense of wonderment. At the heart of every story, those things are the core. In the end, we need our children to make a better world than we have done, and I hope in some small way to help them.

Q: Do you have a favorite character that you have written? If so, who? And what makes them so special.

My little heroine Phyllis and her sweet sausage dog, Siggie are my favorite characters. Phyllis is fictional but she's made up of all the good things I see in the children I meet. Siggie is like her animal extension. He's an irrepressible force for positivity.

Q: What were the key challenges you faced when writing this book?

Real events impinge on a writer. You are creating a world inside your head that needs to escape onto the page. When the world is filled with disaster, sorrow, and lies it can be challenging to imagine that better world you're seeking for your stories.

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

That depends on the book. Some books are written from my own experience, some almost completely from the imagination. Others do require research. It's always important to get the details and the tone just right. Children are discerning. They can spot a fake.

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

I'm excited - and, yes, honored - to be featured in such a prestigious publication as one of the best new children's authors. I'd love to think that parents will read this feature and that in turn their kids will read and love my books. That's what it's all about!

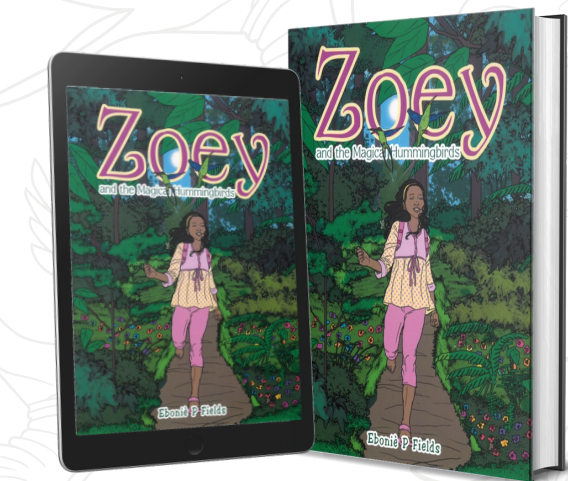
 [brianfredauthor](#)

ZOELY AND THE MAGICAL HUMMINGBIRDS

BY AUTHOR EBONIÈ P. FIELDS

Zoey and the Magical Hummingbirds is an exciting and wonderful tale of a little girl's enchanted adventure through the island of Jamaica. After the birth of a new baby sister, the little girl becomes jealous and decides to run away from home. While on her road to find a new home, she meets two beautiful hummingbirds, who take her on a magical journey to find new places and new things. Through her fun-filled journey, she meets friends along the way, who teach her the importance of treasuring a loving family.

Once upon a time in the country hills of Jamaica, there lived a beautiful young girl, named Zoey with two loving parents. They lived in a modest one-story pastel pink house with bright white paint that outlined the windows and doors of the home. In the garden, luscious green bushes grew with vibrant red and yellow flowers. In the middle of the front yard, stood a mango tree tied with a homemade wooden swing. On the trunk of the tree, swung Zoey, staring down at her hot-pink sandals that matched her hot-pink pants. She wore a yellow and pink polka-dotted blouse that was accessorized with a bright yellow bow. She slowly swung back and forth in the swing with no excitement or delight. She looked upon pink balloons and a yard sign that said, "Baby Girl." Zoey was saddened by the fact that her parents were welcoming a new baby girl into the family. For years, she was the only child in the family; swimming, playing, shopping, and eating with her parents. She can feel the attention and love drifting away from her and



onto the new baby. She said to herself, "They don't want me here anymore. My new baby sister is all they need. I am going to just leave and go to a place where I am loved." Zoey quickly ran through the house unnoticed, as both her parents gazed onto her newborn baby sister with joy. Zoey entered her room full of dolls, and family pictures of her and her parents at the Zoo, on the beach, and at home. She grabbed her pink backpack and filled it with clothes, and most importantly her lucky green blanket, \$20, and another pair of pink sandals. Once she was packed, she snuck out of the back door of the house and quickly began to walk up the road.

The links to buy "Zoey and the magical hummingbirds" by Eboniè P. Fields are available on our website.

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR EBONIÈ P. FIELDS

Eboniè P. Fields is a poet, writer, and children's book author of the adventurous tale of Zenie and the Magical Hummingbirds and Zoey and the Magical Hummingbirds which is her most recent publication received a Five-Star review from Readers' Favorite, and was featured as Fresh Pick of the Month in a Magazine's May 2021 issue. Fields enjoys using her writing talents to create exciting and vivid stories for children of all ages to read. She has the creative talents to descriptively allow your imagination to put you inside the story, taking you on an incredible journey with



her charismatic characters. She is currently working on her third children's book, which is set to be released later this year. In September of 2020, Fields founded Ebby's Book House LLC. Ebby's Book House LLC is a for-profit

organization that provides writing coaching and a collection of books written by her. At Ebby's Book House, Fields coaches inspire and motivate people of all ages to become great creative writers. She teaches the importance of creatively allowing words to paint a vivid picture for readers and educates clients on the beauty of the rhythm and flow of the written language. She helps clients master the basic writing process and the key traits of writing, guaranteeing to bring out their creative writing spirit. Fields has a B.A. in Journalism from Baylor University and a Master's in Business Administration with a concentration in marketing from Texas Women's University. She has years of experience writing for local papers, tv stations, and corporate websites. In 2008, she was awarded Rising Star in American Women in Radio & Television and selected as a nominee for Houston Business Journal's 40 under 40 Award in 2014.

Fields was born in Wilmington, DE, but grew up in Houston, TX, at 10. She now resides in Phoenix, Arizona with her husband and two adorable kids. She enjoys traveling, playing board games with family, and volunteering with local advocacy centers and women's groups. She serves as an active member of the Women in Leadership Committee for the Chandler Chamber of Commerce.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR **eboniè p. fields**

Q: What do you love most about writing stories for children?

What I love most about writing stories for children is the opportunity to take children away on an adventure through my magical stories, allowing them to be in a space of fantasy and joy. I love writing and the activity of creatively putting my thoughts and imagination on paper for children to read.

Q: Have you always wanted to be a writer? What inspired you to become a children's author?

Since I was a little girl, I have enjoyed writing. I remember at the age of 11, writing a children's mystery story and sending it to Disney. Disney later replied to my submission with a polite rejection letter, stating that they have their own writers. Many years later, I can laugh at my puerile attempt to work for Disney at such a young age. Since then, I have not given up on my dreams or my joy for writing.

One day after my husband and I decided that we wanted to start a family, I went to Barnes & Noble to buy books on facts and helpful tips on becoming parents. As I was walking through the store, I walked over to the children's book section. There on that day, I realized that there was a significant lack of books with characters of color in bookstores. I went home and discussed my observation with my husband. He said, "You love to write. Write a children's book." That summer I began writing my first children's book, *Zenie and the Magical Hummingbirds*. In December of 2020, I released my second book, *Zoey and the Magical Hummingbirds*.

Q: Do you like to create books for adults too?

I currently have a few ideas and rough drafts for a couple of adult books. However, I truly enjoy being a children's book author and the joy that I bring to children with my creative stories.

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

I think it is important that all children can select from a diverse collection of books. I'm bringing change into the literature world by creating stories with a positive message that all children can read, especially children of color. It is important that all children can see themselves, their families, friends, and neighbors in the books that they read.

Q: How do you come up with the titles to your books?

I easily come up with the titles of my books by just naming the main characters and the magical hummingbirds. My titles speak for themselves on what the story is going to be about. However, I like to make my titles enticing for children to want to read them, as well as easy for them to remember.

Q: Why do you think it is important for children to develop a love of reading?

Children must develop a love of reading to excel in literacy and academics. The more a child reads, the more educated they will become about certain topics, as well as develop better creative writing and reading skills.

Q: What is the key theme and/or message in the book?

Through the magical adventures in my books, children learn about the importance of cherishing their loving families, homes, and the importance of sharing with those less fortunate. It's important to remind children how blessed they are and how they can help others in need.

Q: Do you have a favorite character that you have written? If so, who? And what makes them so special.

My favorite characters in my books are my *Magical Hummingbirds*. I created my *Magical Hummingbirds* with my two Grandmothers in mind. I have been very blessed to have two amazing Grandmothers who are always dear and special to my heart.

Q: What were the key challenges you faced when writing this book?

The challenges I faced were overcoming naysayers and my own fear of publishing a book. Like any new project that will be presented to the world, you become overwhelmed with fear and doubt, and question if people will like your story. While publishing my book, I recognized the fact that there have been thousands of authors who have experienced the same fears and negative feedback; and they overcame them. I overcame my fear, by believing in my story, the message, and most importantly I believed in myself. My faith helped me overcome my difficulties in getting my books published.

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

My stories are fictitious tales, but I do like to throw in a few educational facts about the island of Jamaica for children to learn. I just do a couple of days of research to double-check my facts.

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

I am extremely excited about my book "*Zoey and the Magical Hummingbirds*" being featured in DE MODE. It is a global magazine and sharing my book and its message with the world is an amazing blessing to me. I truly feel honored.

 [eboniep.fields](https://www.instagram.com/eboniep.fields)

LITTLE VALARIE AND HER BIG WORLD OF OPTIONS

BY AUTHOR VICTORIA WATKINS
ILLUSTRATION: RACHEL GADSON

Little Valarie and Her Big World of Options is a story about a little girl who goes to school and starts to dream big. She is always eager and energized to learn, and based on her love for numbers, she inquires with her teacher about what she can be when she grows up. She hears a very cool list of options and is even more excited about her future. She sees the world's many options as hers.

Valarie is a little girl with big dreams. What's special about her, like other little kids, is her excitement for all the world holds for her. She may be young, but she knows she can do anything she wants and puts her mind to. So can you!

This book is the first of a series by Victoria, which will talk about the many options a little girl has before her. This first story talks about how she can use her love of math and numbers to do so many things when she grows up. The title of this book "Little Valarie And Her Big World Of Options" was finalized by Victoria after writing the story. It was a description of what I wanted young readers to keep



in mind when thinking about what they can do as they matriculate through their education. I want them to know they may be small, but the world is big and it is theirs.

Little girls can be anything they want to be. They have a wide range of dreams and options in their world and the courage to do whatever they dream of. This is a book full of excitement with a story of a little inspirational girl. Get a copy of "Little Valarie And Her Big World Of Options" by Victoria Watkins today for your little princess to get excited. The link to purchase the book is available on our website www.demodemagazine.com

THE JOURNEY OF AUTHOR VICTORIA WATKINS

Victoria R. Watkins is an attorney in Chicago, specializing in business, legislative, and creative industry law. She is Chief of Staff to Chairman and Co-CEO John Rogers at Ariel Investments, the oldest minority-owned asset



management firm in the country. In this role, she oversees the Office of the Chairman's business and social justice priorities. Prior to joining Ariel, Victoria worked for the City of Chicago in the Office of Mayor Rahm Emanuel, serving as Senior Advisor and Deputy Director of Legislative Counsel & Government Affairs.

She is a Co-Founder and President of Project Style,

a non-profit which provides workshops to young women on confidence and self-worth. She recently published a children's book, Little Valarie and Her Big World of

Options, and launched a curated tea line, Joy & Magic. She recently joined the Boards of Youth Guidance and WINGS.

Victoria is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and earned her Juris Doctorate (Doctor of Jurisprudence) from DePaul University College of Law. It is an undergraduate law degree in the United States of America. Initially in the US the legal experts were prepared and imported from England. A conventional apprenticeship or clerkship program was set up first in New York in 1730 around then a seven-year clerkship was required, and in 1756 a four-year higher education was needed notwithstanding five years of clerking and an assessment. Later the necessities were diminished to require just two years of school training.

Watkins loves creating books for children and connecting them with a unique world. She looks forward to writing more books in the series.

www.littlevalariebigworld.com | www.joyandmagic.co

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR victoria watkins

Q: What do you love most about writing stories for children?

I love encouraging children to see all the options and opportunities they have for success. They need to know there is an enormous, amazing world out there before them and they can do anything they want in it.

Q: Have you always wanted to be a writer? What inspired you to become a children's author?

I've always enjoyed writing, from poetry in high school to blogging after law school. Getting to inspire children, and give them something to get excited and be positive about was a true motivator in becoming a children's author. I'm also greatly inspired by my mom (the original Valarie), her love for reading, and being an Educator.

Q: Do you like to create books for adults too?

I'd love to create books for adults, too. I have some creative arts law, and business tips I'm sure I could share.

Q: How can you bring change to the literature world?

I can bring change by growing the number of readers, as little ones get to see themselves in books in new and inspirational ways. I can also encourage more people readers, parents, and teachers to share their stories. We all have something the world shouldn't miss out on.

Q: Why do you think it is important for children to develop a love of reading?

Yes. Everything you need to know is in a book, and the importance of reading is unmatched. Everyone may not enjoy reading of every sort, but there is a niche for each reader, and finding the love will open the mind in countless ways. Reading takes you where much else cannot.

Q: What is your favorite children's book?

Other than Little Valarie, Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters, by John Steptoe.

Q: What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?

Self-publishing offers a lot of options and flexibility, but studying those options is important.

Q: Do you have a favorite character that you have written? If so, who? And what makes them so special.

Little Valarie is inspired by my mom, a 40+-year Educator and remarkable advocate for reading. It was more than a pleasure for me to honor her in this way.

Q: What topics do your stories cover and why are these important to you?

My book is the first of a series, which will talk about the many options a little girl has before her. This first story talks about how she can use her love of math and numbers to do so many things when she grows up.

Q: How do you come up with the titles to your books?

I came up with this title after writing the story. It was a description of what I wanted young readers to keep in mind when thinking about what they can do as they matriculate through their education. I want them to know they may be small, but the world is big and it is theirs.

Q: What is the key theme and/or message in the book?

Don't let the world before you be the only part you see. There's so much more.

Q: What were the key challenges you faced when writing this book?

Finding the best publishing fit was a bit tough, but so worth the research.

Q: Do you believe in awards or rewards?

I believe in both. We must all know the importance of hard work and with that certainly comes rewards. I do also believe there's great value in awarding accomplishments and products. Recognition of quality is important.

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

I consult with educators and parents to understand what children are reading, which messages are currently resonating, and which gaps need to be filled.

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

I'm so excited to be featured in DE MODE and am thankful for the opportunity. It's a marvelous feeling to be situated with other amazing authors and purpose-filled creators.

 [littlevalariebigworld](https://www.instagram.com/littlevalariebigworld)



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CUBAN FASHION DESIGNER

Odalys Marino
At Thailand Fashion Week



LEBANESE FASHION DESIGNER

Ziad Nakad
At Paris Fashion Week



Issue XXIII cover
revealing on 31st August 2021

The upcoming edition - Volume IV, Issue XXIII is releasing in September 2021, featuring Valeryia As'ad - Fall/Winter 2021 and Top 30 Best outfits that were presented at Thailand Fashion Week. Also, find a glimpse from Australia Fashion Week 2022 Resort Collection - Exclusively covered by Michael Foust. Read the interview and discover the journey of the architect behind the New York Wheel.

Exclusive fashion issues are available on www.demodemagazine.com



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