

SCI-FI FANTASY | SUSPENSE | TEEN
PARANORMAL | ROMANCE | MAINSTREAM

In This Issue

Sarah J. Maas

Jack Heath

Guillaume Wolf

SA Bolich

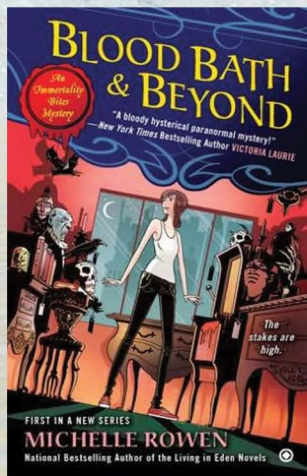
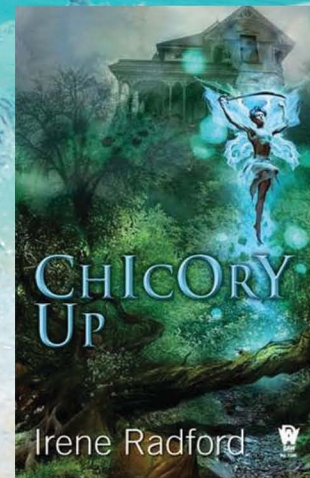
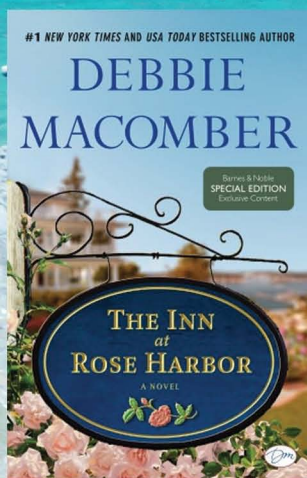
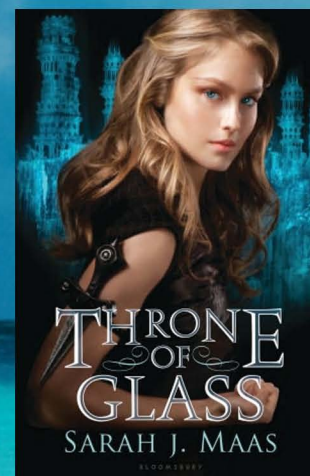
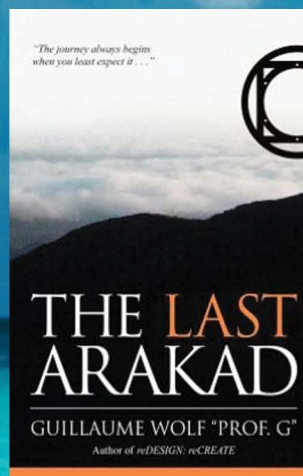
Michelle Rowan

Beth Yarnall

Gina L. Maxwell

Kate Richards

And More



3	Q & A with an Author Look into the Lives of Authors	11	Science Fiction & Fantasy A Look Inside the Books
4	Fabulous Fiction An Inside Look	14	Dark Streets Suspense at Its Best
7	Urban Fantasy and the Paranormal Hot UF / PN Releases Every Month	17	History Bits Travel Back in History
10	Inside the Cookbook Find Some Awesome Cookbooks	18	Love and Romance in Color Diversity in Romance
12	Teen Reads Young Adult Reads For All	20	A Piece Of My Mind Insights for Writers
13	Novel Technology The Low Down on Tech for Readers	22	Romance Stories To Make You Fall In Love

Night Owl Reviews™
WEtap Media, LLC
2459 SE TV HWY, #153,
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123
Reviews@NightOwlReviews.com
Editor-In-Chief: Tammie King
Director of Marketing: Tammie King
Tammie.King@NightOwlReviews.com
© Night Owl Reviews 2012



Sarah J. Maas

Current Release: Throne of Glass

Describe your current release in two sentences?

An infamous young assassin must battle her way to freedom in a corrupt kingdom where magic has been outlawed.

Please describe your writing environment.

Well, I have a home office, which is where I do all of my writing. I wish that my office was super-interesting and author-ly, but it mostly consists of a desk, three bookshelves, a couch (for reading and/or staring at the ceiling as I brainstorm ideas), and a bunch of knick-knacks from my various travels and adventures. The walls are covered in framed posters (my favorite is a 1927 movie poster from Fritz Lang's METROPOLIS), as well as quotes that inspire me, fan-art, and ballet photos (I'm a big ballet fan). I guess the most striking feature of my office is that I have a mirror hanging behind my desk. I have ALWAYS needed to have a mirror hanging behind my desk (even in college dorm rooms), so I can act out the scenes in my books and study my facial expressions/body language. Totally crazy, but I can't live without it.

What are you working on?

I'm currently working on edits for Book Two of the THRONE OF GLASS series! And I have a few other/non-TOG projects that I'm fiddling with. ;)

What is your favorite TV show?

Agh. Just one? I am a TV fanatic, so...picking one is nearly impossible for me, and it changes all the time. Buffy the Vampire Slayer is probably my favorite, but I also adore Avatar: The Last Airbender, Battlestar Galactica, Psych, Arrested Development, Veronica Mars, and Friday Night Lights.

What career fields have you worked in?

Well, after college, it took me around 18 months before I could get an actual job. I then spent about a year and a half

working as a college study abroad recruiter for The American University in Cairo (it involved me traveling around the West Coast and Southwest). That was my only "real" job before I became a full-time writer. During high school and college, though, I had a number of cool summer jobs that included doing storyboards for a movie production company, working at an antiques gallery, interning at a graphic design company, and working for a non-profit organization.

What are your plans for the summer? Any books you are looking forward to?

Working on Book Two of THRONE OF GLASS and celebrating THRONE OF GLASS's release! As for what books I'm looking forward to...Oh, man. So many. I can't wait for Nalini Singh's next GUILD HUNTER novel (ARCHANGEL'S STORM), Alex Bracken's THE DARKEST MINDS, Thea Harrison's LORD'S FALL, and J. R. Ward's LOVER AT LAST.

How was your road to publication?

Long. Long, and hard, and utterly amazing. I've been working on the THRONE OF GLASS series for just over ten years now. Long story short, I began writing the series in early 2002, wrote it for six years, then began querying in December 2008. January 2009, I signed with my agent, and we spent several months (including her maternity leave) revising the novel. We went on submission in late summer 2009, then sold to Bloomsbury in March 2010. So, finally getting to release day is pretty surreal-and wonderful.

If you could time travel, where would you travel to and why?

Oooh, hard question! It's so easy to romanticize the past, and I worry that the reality would be utterly horrifying (the smells! the garbage! the way women were treated!). BUT, I'd love to go to ancient Egypt around the time of Cleopatra VII--before the Library of Alexandria was destroyed (though that date is still debated). Agh, that'd be so amazing to see.

Thank you so much for having me here today! I had an absolute blast! ;)

Full Interview at: <http://teen.nightowlreviews.com/nor/Interviews/Tamazon-interviews-Sarah-J-Maas-on-Aug-07-2012.aspx>



FABULOUS FICTION

BY TIFFANY SCHLARMAN

An Inside Look!

The Last of Summer Beach Reads

The last bit of summer is upon us. School is beginning, vacations are ending and the only unchanging factor is the harsh heat we have been experiencing across the nation. I've saved a few of my favorite beach reads for last. They represent a mixed bag of publishers but all stand out in their own way. I hope you find a great read among these fabulous pieces of fiction.

A Good American by Alex George

A Good American is a beautiful story, the kind that could make us sit for hours at the knee of a beloved grandfather, enraptured with the tales of his past. The storyteller's talents are evident in Columbia author Alex George's first novel, an engrossing saga of immigrants Frederick and Jette Meisenheimer, who leave Bremen, Germany, in 1904 to create a new life and future in America. George gives voice to the Meisenheimers' story through their grandson, James, cast as a present-day narrator reflecting on his family's legacy.

George, a British transplant, writes exquisitely, weaving well-researched history throughout the novel's fictional plot. The story follows the Meisenheimers' journey from Europe to America. A Good American is painfully honest, covering subjects less than savory, laying bare life's harsh realities in a generation of change. Though the world has changed since the Meisenheimers' pilgrimage, the basics of humanity have not, and themes of love and excitement, disappointment and change, and sorrow and triumph are deeply rooted in



this book.

A Good American grasps the idyllic nature of the American dream and should be a must-read for everyone. After all – whether you arrived from abroad yesterday or your relatives were among the founding families– we're all immigrants in some capacity.

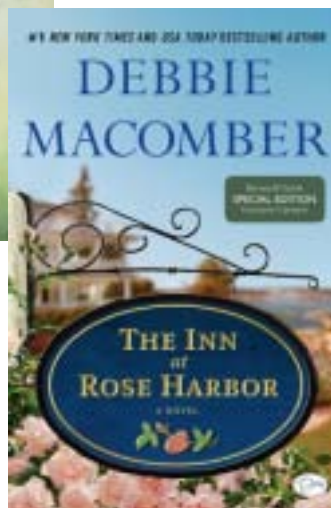


The Inn at Rose Harbor by Debbie Macomber

In Debbie Macomber's most recent novel, readers are introduced to Jo Marie Rose, a recent widow, who arrives in the town of Cedar Cove with the intention of finding peace and obtaining a fresh start, free from the memories of her past.

While coping with the death of her husband, Jo purchases a bed-and-breakfast, naming it the Rose Harbor Inn—and prepares to begin her new journey. However, the inn and its guest bring surprises beyond Jo's wildest imaginations.

The Inn at Rose Harbor is a novel full of pain and healing wrapped in a quaint setting and beautiful characters and an enjoyable story. From the synopsis, I wasn't sure what to expect but I was definitely intrigued! The story had many surprises in store for me—ones I won't spoil for you—and I loved them. It was heartwarming and lovely.



The Meryl Streep Movie Club by Mia March

This book has a little of everything, estranged relatives, family secrets, life's problems and of course Meryl Streep movies. The two sisters and their cousin are called to their family matriarch's inn on the coast of Maine. The oldest, Isabel, is dealing with her husband's affair and hiding a secret from long ago that is keeping her hostage. June—a single mother, bookstore owner and the younger sister—promised her son she'd find his father but her search leads her to unexpected places. Cousin, Kat, is a baker whose world is rocked by the arrival of her cousins and her mother's shocking announcement. In the wake of these events, Kat accepts her boyfriend's proposal of marriage, a decision that tests her in unimaginable ways. Each Friday night the inn has movie night—an event that is attended reluctantly by the three women. The films watched are those that feature matriarch's favorite actress, Meryl Streep. After the guests are gone, the popcorn is finished and the movie has ended, the women find themselves bonding late into the night, sharing secrets and learning about each other in unexpected and surprising ways. This book is for anyone who's had a close set of friends or family, the kind that both infuriates and supports you. This novel is a sweet story about discovering who you are and what you want in the midst of those who love you most.



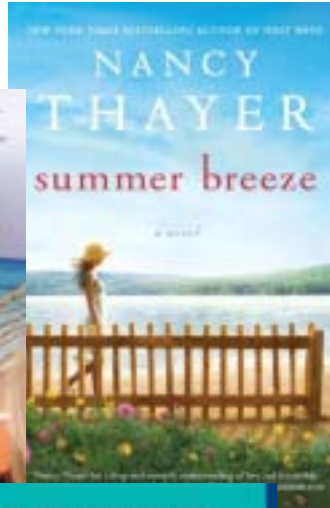
Summer Breeze by Nancy Thayer

In her newest novel, Nancy Thayer takes her readers to the Berkshires, leaving Nantucket behind. Summer Breeze, however, is not devoid of Thayer's style. It is a fascinating and enticing read that will keep your nose in the book as you read about three women who form a tight bond and unforgettable alliance over the course of a summer. In Summer Breeze, Natalie, Bella and Morgan's lives intertwine in unexpected ways that require each of them to depend on one another for support and encouragement in the midst of their trials and relationships. The story is all about dreams coming true and paving your own way with support of a few good friends making it easier along the way. It's a great read that kept my attention throughout the entire story.

Ocean Beach by Wendy Wax

If you've read Ten Beach Road, you'll want to read Ocean Beach. Ocean Beach picks up where Ten Beach Road leaves off. Author Wendy Wax shows the fun, emotional and romantic sides of the female spirit along with the strength and power it is capable of. In this sequel, Madeline,

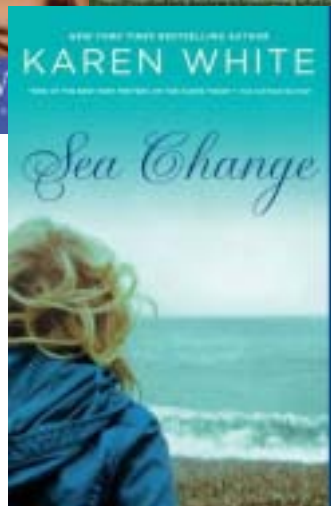
Avery, Nicole and Kyra begin renovating a dilapidated beach house for their television debut. The house is their second renovation and provides a chance at stardom or the memory of a "has been" experience with friends. The house is a former historic home that was grand in its day but now needs much love and care. The restoration poses new challenges to the four women who are still struggling with their individual lives and working to find a way to survive. In the midst of the approaching hurricane season, these four women find themselves back together and in need of each other more than ever before.



Ocean Beach is a must read this summer, especially if you've read Ten Beach Road.

Sea Change by Karen White

Sea Change is the most recent book to come off my shelf this summer. It's so recent, in fact, that I am still reading it yet telling you about it anyway. Karen White has written many wonderful novels that have knocked me out of my seat. This one is no different. The story is one that reader's will easily relate to while finding



themselves wrapped completely within the plot and falling for its characters. In Sea Change, Ava struggles with her sense of belonging. The trouble being that she doesn't feel she belongs at all. When she meets Matthew, a child psychologist, she begins to believe her lonely days are behind her and after a whirlwind, fairytale romance, the initial excitement ends and Ava is aware that happiness is still not hers to claim. In addition, there is a lot she doesn't know about Matthew include a few mysterious details about his

first wife's death. As Ava begins to uncover the past, she unknowingly threatens her future...

Even though I am not yet done with this book, it's far too good to not share! Cozy up on the beach with this book and bring plenty of sunscreen because you won't want to put it down.

No matter what you find yourself reading, enjoy it, share it and discuss it. It's a beautiful summer for reading.

Tiffany is an avid reader, reviewer and marketing specialist. You can connect with her via the following outlets. Website- <http://www.cozyreaderscorner.com> - Twitter - @cozyreadersnook - Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/groups/#!/pages/A-Cozy-Readers-Corner/152514161454295>

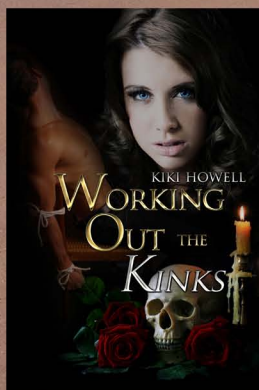
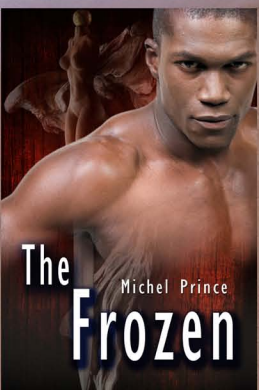
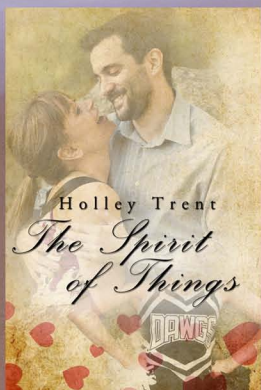
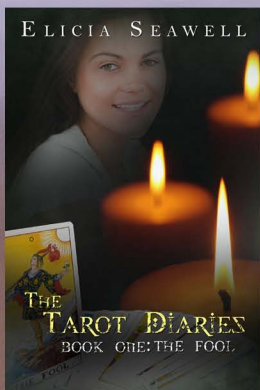
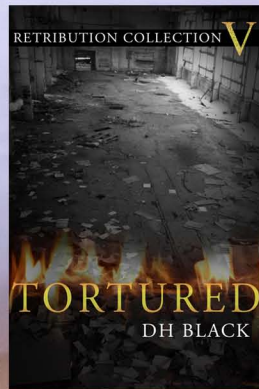
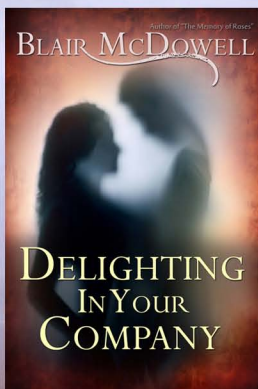
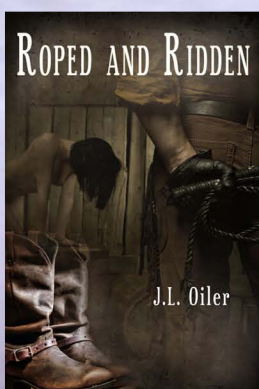
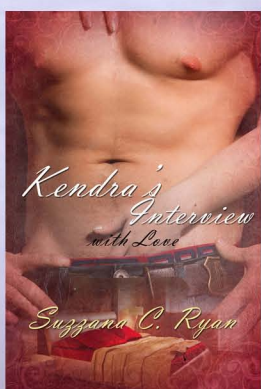
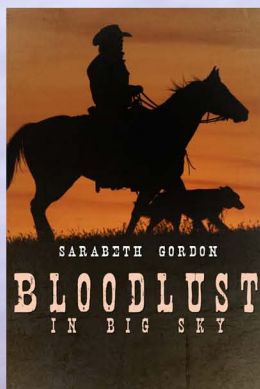
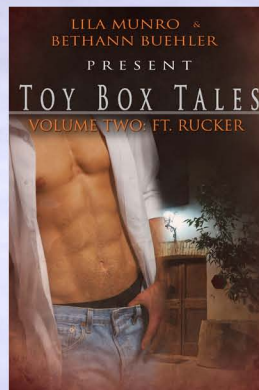
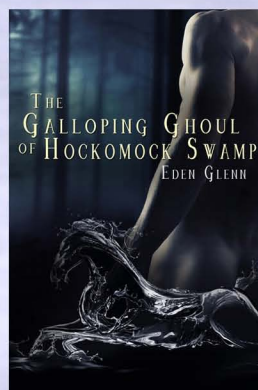
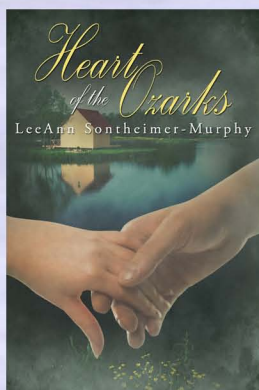
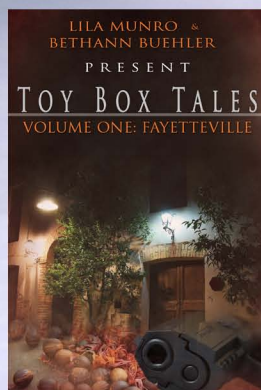
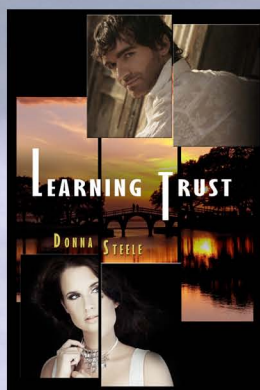
rebel ink press

real writing for serious readers

Looking for the perfect summer read?

With nearly two hundred titles under our belt in our first eighteen months, Rebel Ink Press offers some of the best in romance. From sweet to heat, we cater to every taste.

Our works can be found in all major e-book stores including ARe, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Bookstrand. For more information about Rebel Ink Press and their bestselling authors, please come by www.rebelinkpress.com and watch us grow Rebel Strong in 2012!



URBAN FANTASY AND THE PARANORMAL BY ROXANNE RHOADS

ROXANNE RHOADS IS A STORY STUMPET, TOME LOVING TART, AND LOVER OF ALL THINGS PARANORMAL. SHE IS ALSO A FREELANCE WRITER AND THE AUTHOR OF EROTIC PARANORMAL ROMANCES.



Where did the summer go? It's already August. What's on your hot summer reads list this month?

There are so many new releases it is hard to choose which ones to add to my wish list like *Rift*, the Nightshade Prequel by Andrea Cremer (my daughter wants this one really bad); *Haunted* (Anna Strong Chronicles, #8) by Jeanne C. Stein; *Immortally Yours* (Monster M*A*S*H #1) by Angie Fox; *Widow's Web* (Elemental Assassin, #7) by Jennifer Estep; and *Two Weeks' Notice* (Revivalists, #2) by Rachel Caine.

I have quite a few on my must have list including: *Biting Cold* (Chicagoland Vampires #6) by Chloe Neill, I adore this series; *A Witch Before Dying* (A Wishcraft Mystery, #2) by Heather Blake, book one was a nice intro to a new series so I'm looking forward to book two, and *Demon Hunting in the Deep South*, Book Two is the Demon Hunting series by Lexi George. The first book, *Demon Hunting in Dixie* was laugh out loud hilarious. I can't wait to read book two.

I also heard a rumor that *Third Blood*, Book Three in the Haven series by Kalayna Price is due out this month. I don't see it Amazon yet or even on the Bell Bridge website. I've been waiting for this book for a long time. I absolutely loved the first two.

Ok time to move on to the interviews.

THIS MONTH'S SUPER QUICK AUTHOR INTERVIEWS FEATURE AUTHORS JACK HEATH, GUILLAUME WOLF, AND SA BOLICH.

RR: Let's start with Jack Heath, please tell us the name of your newest release and genre/category it falls into:

JH: Salem VI- Rebecca's Rising, suspense, occult thriller.

RR: Can you describe your main character in 3 words?

JH: Vulnerable, self-absorbed, determined.

RR: Can you describe your heroine in one sentence?

JH: Rebecca Nurse- rises after 320 years when she was tried, convicted and hanged for the crime of witchcraft in 1692 and she wants justice after all this time.

RR: Can you describe your hero in one sentence?

JH: John Andrews is a media guy who follows the facts and history to uncover a spiritual feud between good and evil that has been raging through his own blood lines and is still going on...Andrews fights to expose and stop the satanic cult still at work in Salem, MA.

RR: What kind of paranormals or paranormal elements are in your book?

JH: The book is full of subtle and not so subtle paranormal activity. From the opening chapter, the spirit of Rebecca Nurse starts to become visible in John Andrews' daily life. Her force of good directs him on a journey into a painful past and into an uncertain future. Her powers give him an extraordinary sense of things around him, so much so that he draws more physical strength to save his life more than once. The satanic coven members perform several acts of ritualistic torture of innocent victims whose bloods goes to serve their devil God.

RR: Without giving away details, Can you describe one interesting scene in your book in less than two sentences?

JH: While visiting his late wife's grave, John Andrews is drawn to a part of the cemetery of the Putnam family which played a big role in accusing and convicting the victims of the Salem Witch Trials. As he explores down the stairs of the Putnam tomb and vault, he suddenly is hit by something in the back of his legs, falls and hits the back of his head on the old, stone steps. Not knowing if he is dead or unconscious, Andrews drifts back in time in his life and travels throughout Salem's 1800's and back to the late 1600's. He finds himself in the farm home of Rebecca Nurse when 6 men barge into her home and arrest her for the crime of witchcraft. He travels back to a small room of the 6 men where he witnesses the formation of their coven and pact with Satan, opting to serve another God in god-forsaken Salem.

RR: In two sentences or less can you tell readers something unique about your book?

JH: John Andrews, like myself, is a direct descendant of Rebecca Nurse, the last person hanged as a witch in 1692 and he is also a direct descendent of the Putnam family who accused and judged Rebecca. Combining these powerful spiritual blood lines and following where events lead him, and with a little help from an unpublished book by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Andrews becomes enthralled in a more than three-century battle between good and evil to the present day. His journey nearly kills him and destroys the things he loves most in his life.

RR: List three adjectives that describe your book as a whole:

JH: Provocative, suspenseful and original.

RR: What's the heat level of your book?

JH: Suspenseful, not knowing who the cult is, how they are recruited and just how evil they truly are. The clash between Andrews' good spiritual powers and the relentless evil of the coven. Salem's rich history meets a twist that blows up *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller and shows that the real evil lied with the Judges on the Salem witch trials.

RR: And last but not least, where can a reader purchase your book?

JH: July 19, 2012 the eBook will be released on Kindle and available at www.salemwitchtrilogy.com, the print and audio book will be released on September 28, 2012 on line through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc. and www.salemwitchtrilogy.com.

NEXT WE HAVE GUILLAUME WOLF AKA "PROF. G"

RR: Hi Guillaume, let's get started with the name of your newest release and genre/category it falls into:

GW: The Last Arakad. Supernatural Thriller, Chick Lit, YA

RR: Can you describe your main character in 3 words?

GW: Sensitive, magical, courageous.

RR: Can you describe your heroine in one sentence?

GW: Maya is a young woman who faces incredible challenges; but her greatest challenge is to recognize the gift life has given her, and to let it shine.

RR: What kind of paranormals or paranormal elements are in your book?

GW: I created a complete mythology around the Arkad magical tradition. The book involves an ancient demon, and small vampire-like creatures. There's also a lot of natural magic at work . . . and one of the main characters is a talking monolith (menhir). In the book we also explore Paris and its

esoteric secrets.

RR: Without giving away details, Can you describe one interesting scene in your book in less than two sentences?

GW: A turning point in the novel is a joyful party that turns out horribly wrong. The heroine discovers that everything she believed in turns out to be a lie—everything collapses (very fun scene to write).

RR: In two sentences or less can you tell readers something unique about your book?

GW: • It's a magical journey in today's Paris, as if you were there.

• I created a website for one of the characters of the book with a fake brand of energy drink brand called Nix Elixir (www.nixelixir.com). It looks very real but it's completely fictional.

RR: List three adjectives that describe your book as a whole:

GW: From Amazon reviews: "Fast-paced," "Captivating," "Poignant."

RR: What's the heat level of your book?

GW: Sweet with a dash of spice.

RR: And last but not least, where can a reader purchase your book?

GW: Amazon paperback and Kindle (both U.S. and E.U.), Smashwords. Free chapters and behind-the-scenes bonuses available on www.Arakad.com.

GW: I really enjoyed this super-short interview. Cheers, Guillaume.

NOW IT'S TIME FOR S. A. BOLICH TO ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS.

RR: What is the name of your newest release and genre/category it falls into?

SB: Firedancer, secondary world fantasy

RR: Can you describe your heroine in one sentence?

SB: Jetta is a top Firedancer who, having lost her lifemate to fire, is now uncertain of her own ability to dance rampaging fire to ash and afraid to love again—but must somehow come to grips with both or lose everything she has come to cherish.

RR: Without giving away details, can you describe one interesting scene in your book in less than two sentences?

SB: Some of the villagers don't think Jetta is up the task of protecting them from Fire's continual attacks. Jetta, however, has a tart tongue and a lot of knowledge they don't, which makes her confrontation with the biggest bully in the place pretty fun.

RR: In two sentences or less can you tell readers something unique about your book?

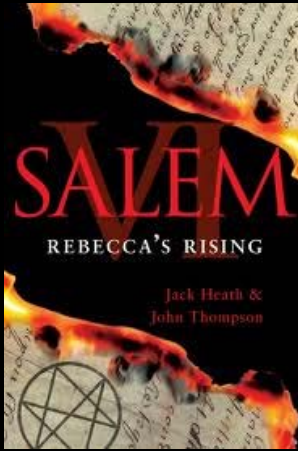
SB: Fire, Wind, and Water, Earth Mother's elemental children, are all living, thinking creatures in this world, and Fire very badly wants out of his prison underground. Fire and Air

should be incompatible magics—but Jetta manages to create the world's most unusual alliance with a Windrider who not only helps her fight fire, but blows away her own objections to new love.

RR: What's the heat level of your book?

SB: Sweet and romantic

RR: That's it for the August edition of author SQAI's thank you to Jack, Guillaume, and SA for answering our questions.

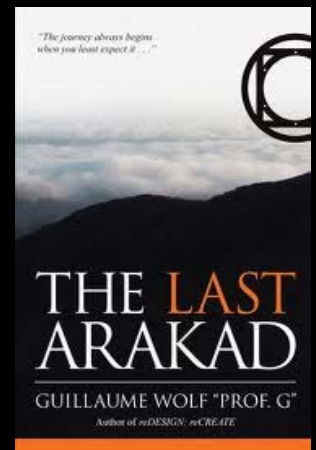


SALEM VI: REBECCA'S RISING
by Jack Heath and John Thompson

Having stepped off the fast track of primetime network television news, John Andrews has chosen a quieter life as editor of Salem News, a small paper in a quiet New England town. Life is perfect until Andrews' wife is killed in a tragic accident. After several years of trying to numb the pain with alcohol, Andrews is visited by the spirit of a long dead ancestor who opens a door to a shocking family history. After he experiences a surreal glimpse into the past, Andrews must confront the question of whether he is losing his mind or whether for several hundred years his ancestors have been engaged in a secret battle with a coven that worships Satan. Fueled by the need to understand whether his wife's death was really an accident or something far more sinister, Andrews, along with his beautiful assistant editor, risk everything to discover a truth so horrifying it threatens to destroy everything and everyone he knows and loves.

THE LAST ARAKAD
by Guillaume Wolf "Prof. G"

Do you believe in destiny? When sensitive Maya moves with her brother Thomas from Los Angeles to Paris hoping for a better life, she has no idea that everything is about to dramatically change. What starts as an initiation into the age-old Arakad magical tradition takes an unexpected turn when a wave of brutal murders shatters her world. Caught up in an ancient prophecy, she finds herself at the center of a ruthless battle between good and evil in which humanity's future is at stake. When all hope is lost and she becomes the final target of a sinister clan, will Maya learn to trust herself and her own power? Or will her own fears prevail?



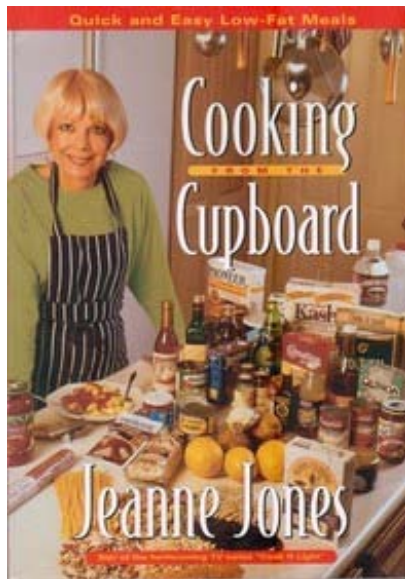
FIREDANCER (MASTERS OF THE ELEMENTS)
by S. A. Bolich

What do you suppose that fire thinks about as it cooks your dinner behind its cage of containment stone? Jetta ak'Kal knows--but no one listens to a Firedancer who has failed to protect her assigned village from an assault by living flame. The Ancient, the strange, elemental fire imprisoned at the heart of the world, took her lifemate, her reputation as the most talented Dancer of her generation, and nearly her life. Now her clan demands she redeem herself, yet seem strangely indifferent to her insistence that the Dance itself that has always bound the Ancient seems to be failing. Assigned to Annam, a village with no previous experience of fire, Jetta and her new partner, Settak, find themselves battling the naive ignorance of the villagers, the hostility of arrogant Windriders whose mastery of air could kill them both with the flick of a finger, and occasionally each other as they struggle to find new and more powerful forms of the Dance. Pursued by fire crawling up through every crack, by a new love she does not want, and a nagging suspicion that there is more to her assignment than her clan bothered to tell her, Jetta must forge unprecedented alliances in this high and beautiful place before the Ancient breaks free--for if it does, there will no longer be anything left to fight for.





INSIDE THE COOKBOOK WITH PAMELA ROBINSON



Cooking from the Cupboard

Jeanne Jones, star of the 'Cook it Light' television show, wrote this cookbook. The title indicated to me that this cookbook would make it possible for you to make wonderful dishes simply by using what you have on hand, in the cupboard. Now she does say this isn't an everyday cookbook, but more of an as needed kind of thing. Page three is titled: Planning Your Pantry. Well, already she's

added another step for me. I thought I was cooking from what I had on hand. How to stock your pantry went all the way through page ten. That's where the shopping tips began. Page sixteen featured the first actual recipe.

Let me start with my first pet peeve, no pictures, not a one. Okay, the cover, with a picture of the author on it, is high color and glossy. There are a few faded pictures on the chapter heading pages, but these look like stock photographs and have nothing to do with the recipes inside.

Ms. Jones does include nutritional information, which is wonderful, and for most recipes she only uses one cooking method. This cuts down on time in the kitchen and I know many cooks will appreciate that.

At this point I'm still on page sixteen which is the first recipe in the book. Guess what the first ingredient of the first recipe is? No, really. Look away and guess in your mind. ¼ lb. dried, unsulfured, sliced apples. Now I have to wonder how many people have that ingredient in their cupboards on a daily basis. I know I don't. Maybe if I'd already followed the instructions on how to shop and what to buy to stock my pantry I would have that in my cupboard and this paragraph would then be obsolete. I don't always follow direction well.

There are a few recipes that involve using canned meats instead of fresh. I love these recipes. Would I make

them all the time? No, but these are the kinds of recipes I believe this cookbook should have focused on. What if your husband brings home friends for appetizers and drinks without notice? What if your child brings home friends for an overnighter without notice? At that point, if you don't have fresh ingredients and the local pizza joint has stopped delivering, it would be fantastic to have a recipe that uses canned meat.

I liked the recipes on how to make your own breadcrumbs and croutons. They are made with items I actually have in my cupboard without prior shopping. The drink section at the end of the book is interesting, but again it uses ingredients that I don't always readily have on hand. If I have to shop for the ingredients and make plans ahead of time, then this cookbook is different than no other.

Featured Recipe: Low-Fat Chocolate Sauce

½ cup cocoa

½ cup sugar

½ cup corn syrup

½ cup non-fat milk

½ teaspoon vanilla extract

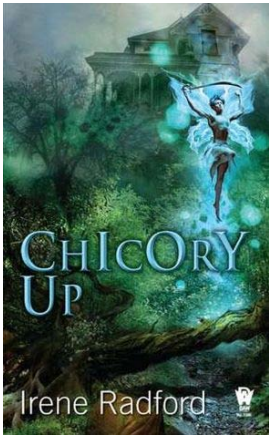
Combine all ingredients, except vanilla extract, in a saucepan and bring it to a boil over medium-low heat. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Cover and refrigerate until cold. (Makes 1 1/3 cups.) This thickens as it chills.

***This cookbook was formatted well and I like the way the sections were divided. The nonexistent pictures, fancy ingredients and fact that it did not live up to the title promise, makes this one a dud for me. ***

Pamela
Reviewer/Freelance Writer
www.thefantasticfoodie.wordpress.com

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

REVIEWS



Chicory Up The Pixie Chronicles, #2

by Irene Radford

Score: I Liked It

Reviewed by: ELF

An imaginative light read that explores the differences between Pixies and Faeries as they grapple for territory amongst mostly oblivious humans. It would be helpful to have some familiarity with the first book in the series, 'Thistle Down', in order to

understand some of the complex interrelationships. There are still a few too many entanglements being superficially touched upon and some of the characters seem to act a bit illogically so this story can be a bit challenging to interpret. This work is slightly better than the first in the series but still not quite representative of Ms Radford's normally fascinating tales.

"Chicory Up" by Irene Radford continues her 'Pixie Chronicles' series which centers around the inhabitants of Skene Falls, including recently engaged Police Sergeant Chase Norton and Desdemona (Dusty) Carrick as they try to help the pixie tribe which is still in a upheaval. Thistle Down has been exiled from Pixie society by the king and is still in a human body but she has made a niche for herself checking on the elderly and handicapped even as her relationship blossoms with Dusty's brother Dick. Haywood Wheatland seems to be determined to destroy the happiness of everyone in revenge for his imprisonment and the pixie Chicory searches for a way to unite all of the discontented members of his tribe who are suffering. An indiscretion from Dick's past comes back to haunt him even as the elderly Mabel Gardiner loses her ability to rescue some of the lost souls who seek her aid but the bitter Phelma Jo displays unexpected talents as well as a surprising affinity toward Mabel's estranged nephew, Ian McEwen. Dusty and Dick's mother



Juliet is blithely planning a formal wedding for her shy daughter whose misery increases exponentially with each new proposal for the ceremony. It may not be possible to experience true happiness in Skene Falls, particularly if Haywood has his way.

King of Thorns The Broken Empire, #2

by Mark Lawrence

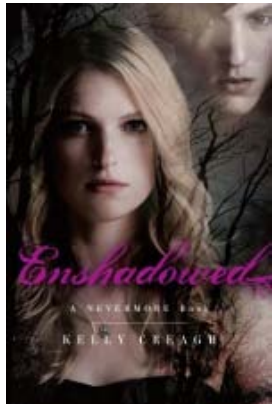
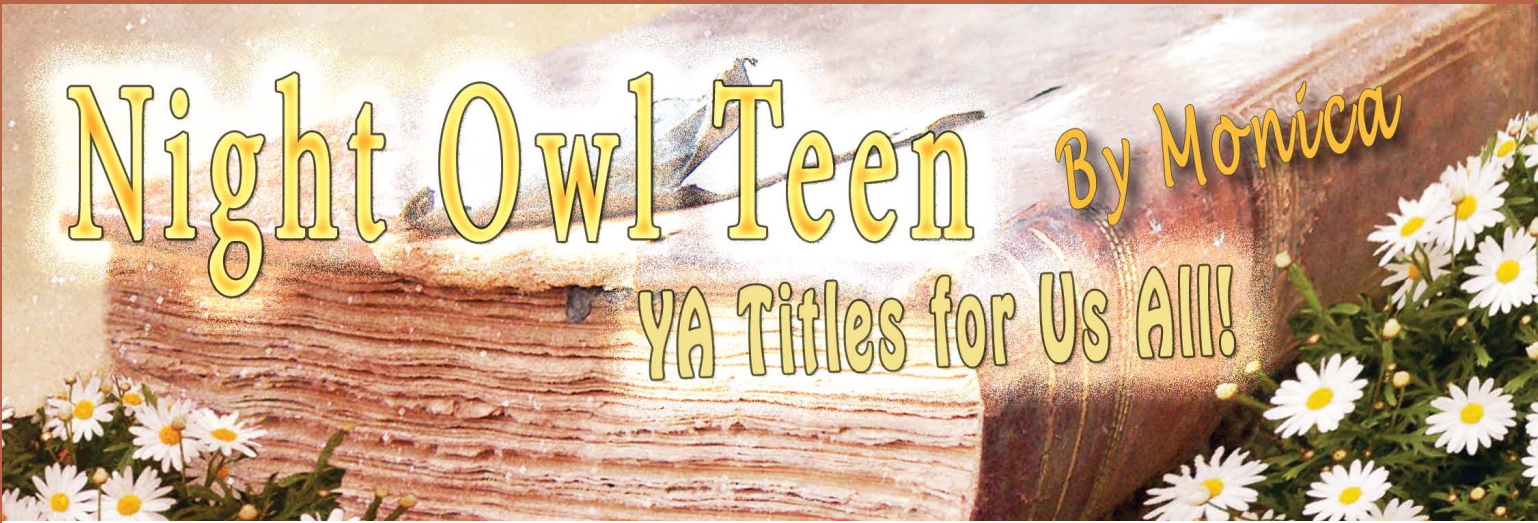
Score: Enjoyable

Reviewed by: Emireally

I was never one big on epic fantasy. Notice I used the past tense. Last year's debut of Mark Lawrence's Prince of Thorns changed my opinion on the genre. King of Thorns, book two in the saga continues as King Jorg stands upon his castle on his wedding day watching his beloved castle surrounded by enemy warriors. To top the unpleasantness off, Jorg has an unwelcome necromancy power whose nemesis Prince Arrow longs to claim his own.

Set four years after the events of the first book, King of Thorns, like Prince of Thorns, is brutally dark. This equally as violent tale furthermore exhibits Lawrence's genius as a writer with morally ambiguous characters and battles. The battle presents a series of puzzles, the pages of Mark's wife Katherine's diary come into play, and we see Jorg's family and new alliances both formed and torn apart.

King of Thorns is not the run of the mill fairy tale with happy endings. It is shockingly raw and a dark type of realism. To sum up my feelings, it is horribly amazing, like a deadly storm I just couldn't escape or want to tear my eyes away from.



This month I am going to introduce you to Simon and Schuster. I had the opportunity to read *Enshadowed* by Kelly Creagh a little prior to its release later this month. It is being released by the Atheneum imprint, a young adult imprint. This title followed the first book in the series, *Nevermore*. I talked non-stop about *Nevermore* upon its release, having carried the book around with me for an entire day until I could finish it. I adored every single page. *Enshadowed* wasn't as engrossing, but the poetic nature of the story leaves the reader stuck somewhere between Kelly's world and Edgar Allan Poe's. That's a feat I know the author would be proud of. *Enshadowed* is a middle book, a book that bridges a trilogy, so I expect the final novel in the installment (that is currently untitled) to be even more amazing than the first book in the trilogy.



There are a few young adult imprints from Simon and Schuster, to include: Atheneum, Margaret K. McElderry, Simon and Schuster for Young Readers, and Simon Pulse. These imprints release numerous book every month in addition to the publisher's adult books.



There are many books to watch out for in the coming months from this publisher:

- *Enshadowed* by Kelly Creagh (obviously) is an excellent choice if you read and adored the first novel

in the trilogy, *Nevermore*. This book is a paranormal dive into the macabre world of Edgar Allan Poe.

- *Rebel Heart* by Moira Young is a young adult fantasy that takes the reader out of the vampire and werewolf saturated world of YA and plops them into something fresh and new.

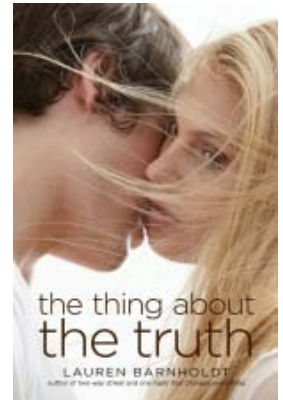
- *Clockwork Princess* by Cassandra Clare will be the next installment in the *Infernal Devices* series that is very popular following her *Mortal Instruments* series.

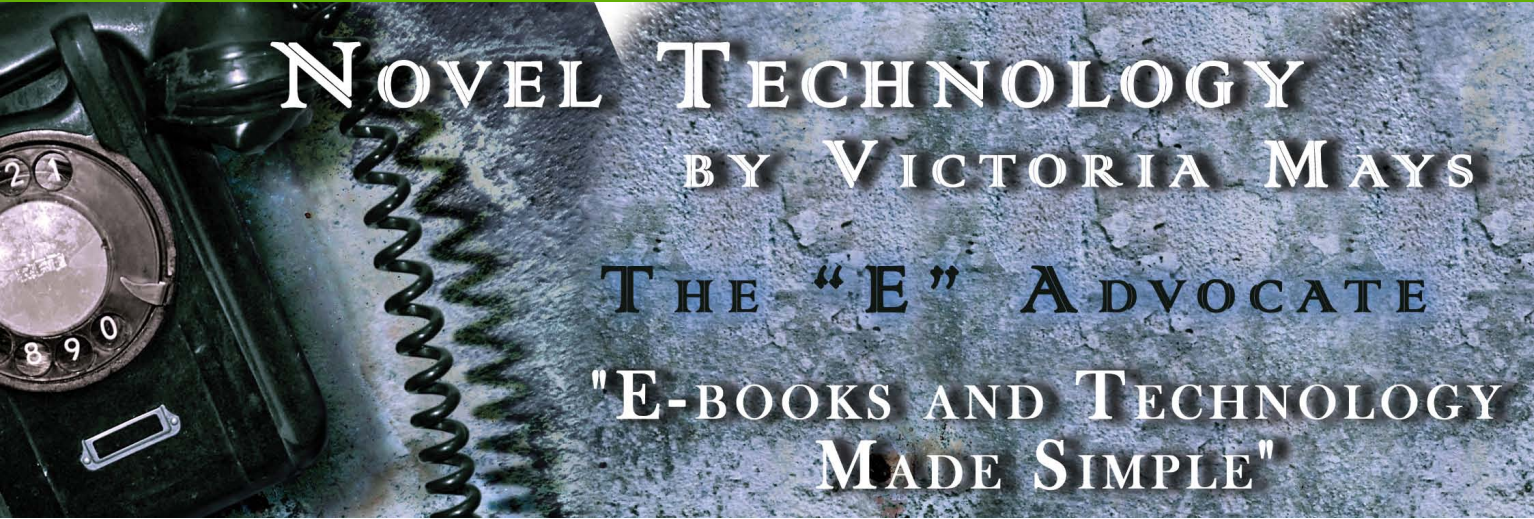
- *The Thing About the Truth* by Lauren Barnholdt is a contemporary young adult that contains secrets and an unlikely romance.

- *Finale* by Becca Fitzpatrick is the long awaited conclusion to Ms. Fitzpatrick's acclaimed *Hush, Hush* series. Angels...need I say more?

- *Tilt* by Ellen Hopkins is a stand alone novel where three different lives intersect and each weaves a very different result.

I hope you get a chance to check out these or many of the wonderful novels Simon and Schuster puts out every month. Fall is just around the corner, pick up a great book to read with your pumpkin latte.





NOVEL TECHNOLOGY

BY VICTORIA MAYS

THE "E" ADVOCATE

"E-BOOKS AND TECHNOLOGY MADE SIMPLE"

Reviews, Can I Get an Honest Review?

In this month's article entitled "Reviews, Can I Get an Honest Review?" Gone are the days of just having "Word of Mouth" recommendations for potential new reads and professional paid book reviews. Now there seems to be a blog or website for just about everything under the sun. Even I have a blog devoted to new release information and technology related to print books, e-books and audio-books.

There are a number of really well written blogs and websites devoted strictly to providing a reader with thought provoking and engaging reviews written by passionate readers like you and me. Some showcase the paranormal and urban fantasy, erotica, mystery and suspense and others pretty much offer the entire gambit of genres. Regardless of the genre, a well written honest review is what we are all seeking to find before we spend our bucks.

In evaluating book reviews there are a few tips and tricks that I would like to impart to you that may help you select your next great read. An honest review can be both positive and negative. An honest review that picks a reader's curiosity, addresses the plot and character development, exhibits substantial world building, adeptly explains a book's shortcomings and does not give away the climactic points of the story-line. A review should wet a reader's appetite for more.

In the digital world there are some great sources

for honest reviews. Some are NightOwlReviews.com, FictionVixen.com, SmexyBooks.com, and RTbookreviews.com. For a treasure trove of reviews check out Goodreads.com where you can get reviews from a wide range of readers. DearAuthor.com and SmartBitches.com hold nothing back when it comes to providing a truly honest review. Either way the authors are more than willing to express their feelings about a book and

make no bones about it. Their honesty is refreshing and appreciated. A reader is either going to like what they have to say or they are not.



I currently own a classic nook wifi-3G, an iPod Touch 4th Gen and an iPad wifi-3G. You would probably ask why so many, the nook is more for indoor reading for me, while the iPod touch is that on the go reading in line at the bank, waiting for a movie to start etc and the iPad is used for long term review reading and annotating. I still purchase my favorite authors in Imprint books, but my library has

grown exponentially since I have embraced the eBook technology.

Novel Technology "E-books and Technology Made Simple" next month's article

"Battle of the 7 Inch Tablets: Google Nexus 7 vs Kindle Fire vs Nook Tablets:"

DARK STREETS

BY TONI LOTEMPIO

ADMIN BY DAY, WRITER BY NIGHT, TONI IS THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL PAPERBACK AND E-BOOKS OF ROMANTIC AND PARANORMAL SUSPENSE

SUSPENSE AND THE SINGLE VAMPIRE (Or, why we all love Michelle Rowan)

Michelle writes paranormal romance, urban fantasy, and young adult fantasy. She was the winner of the 2007 Holt Medallion for Best First Book and the 2009 Romantic Times Reviewers Choice award for Vampire Romance.

Michelle lives in Southern Ontario with her husband and two cats named after the characters in the television series Supernatural. She won the Holt for his first novel *Bitten and Smitten*. She's also written under the pen names of Michelle Maddox and Morgan Rhodes.

Some of her other series include :

Young Adult, the *Demon Princess* series :

Reign or Shine (*Demon Princess #1*) — Walker Books, October 2009

Reign Check (*Demon Princess #2*) — Walker Books, June 2010

Reign Fall (*Demon Princess #3*) – January 2012

Paranormal romance, the “*Living in Eden*” series:

The Demon in Me (*Living in Eden #1*) – Berkley Sensation, May 2010

Something Wicked (*Living in Eden #2*) – Berkley Sensation, October 2010

That Old Black Magic (*Living in Eden #3*) – Berkley Sensation, December 2011

And my own personal favorite, the *Immortality Bites* Series:

Bitten & Smitten (*Immortality Bites #1*) — Grand Central Publishing, January 2006

Fanged & Fabulous (*Immortality Bites #2*) – Grand Central Publishing, July 2007

Lady & the Vamp (*Immortality Bites #3*) – Grand Central Publishing, April 2008

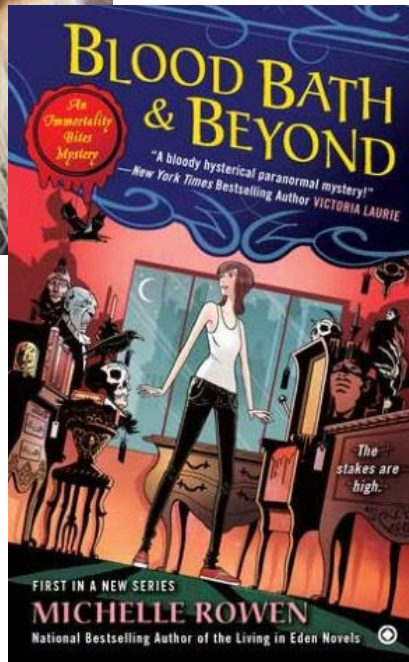
Stakes & Stilettos – *Immortality Bites #4*) – Grand Central Publishing, April 2009

Tall, Dark & Fangsome (*Immortality Bites #5*) – Grand Central Publishing, September 2009

Michelle Rowan is, hands down, the reason I became hooked on the paranormal suspense genre

The very first book I ever read of hers was *BITTEN AND SMITTEN*, which was categorized as paranormal romance but had suspense at every turn. Oh, yes, it had romance too – a generous sprinkling of each, I'd say. I eagerly devoured that, and the next volume, *FANGED AND*

FABULOUS, and was immediately drawn into the world of Sarah Dearly and her vampire consort, Thierry. I was hooked!



Michelle has a true talent for drawing the reader into her character's world. Take the above "Immortality Bites" series. Sarah Dearly goes on a date, gets bitten by a vampire who is killed shortly thereafter, leaving her without a 'master'. Enter Thierry who's been trying to off himself. He rescues Sarah from some vampire killers, and becomes her self-appointed master, guardian, savior – and lover! There are a lot of obstacles for the duo to overcome during the five-book series course (he's been married for 700 years – she's been turned into a Nightstalker) but by the end of book five, *TALL DARK AND FANGSOME*, all is resolved – mostly satisfactorily – and Sarah has the promise of a rosy eternal future with Thierry.

Now, almost a full three years since these characters rode off into the sunset, they're back...this time in a true paranormal mystery! (and from a different publisher, no less – it's NAL this time around). Here's the teaser:

Sarah Dearly is adjusting to life as a fledgling vampire, satisfying her cravings at vampire-friendly blood banks. But when her fiance Thierry takes a job with the Ring—the secret council in charge of keeping vampires in line—Sarah's about to get more than a taste of danger...

Being engaged to a centuries-old master vampire can be challenging—especially when he takes a job with the Ring. Thierry's in for fifty years of nonstop travel and deadly risk. It's enough to make any woman reconsider the wedding...any woman except Sarah, that is!

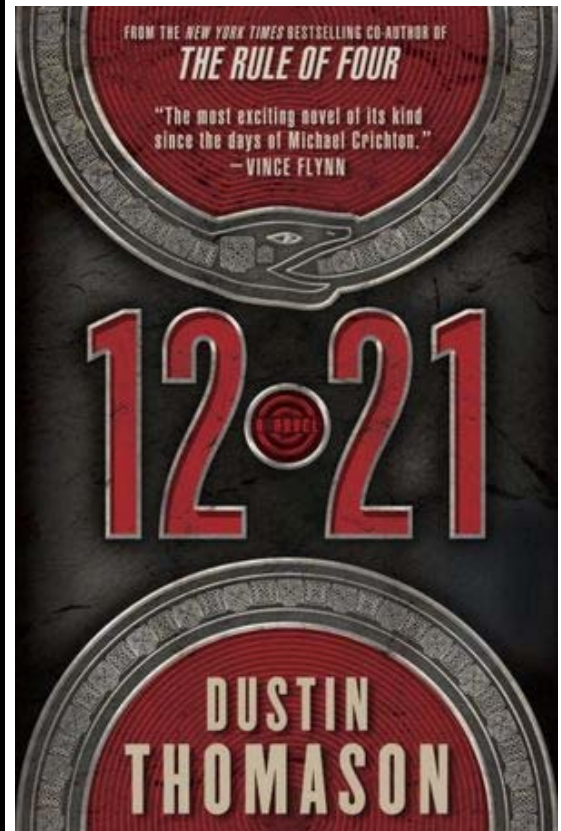
Traveling with him to Las Vegas for his first assignment, they encounter a child beauty pageant contestant from hell, as well as a vampire serial killer leaving victims drained of blood, potentially exposing the existence of vampires to the whole world. But when Thierry's truly ancient history comes back to haunt him, and he's accused of a crime he didn't commit, it's up to Sarah to clear his name before their immortal lives come to an end.

Now, if that doesn't sound suspenseful, what does? *BB&B* made its debut on August 7 – run, don't walk, to your nearest bookstore to get YOUR copy (or download one to your Nook or Kindle!). You'll be glad – oh, so very glad – you did.

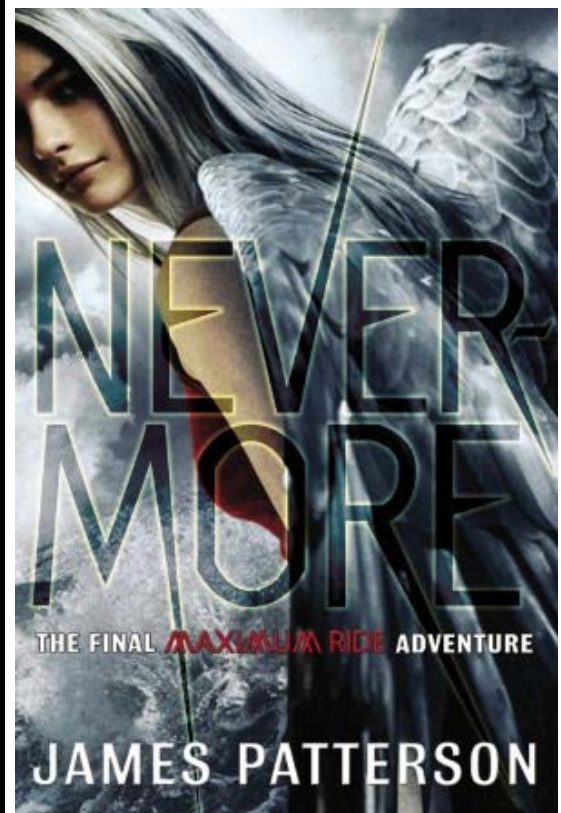
At least one more book is planned – mark your calendars for August 2013 and the debut of Sarah and Thierry in *BLEED AND BREAKFAST*- I know mine is!

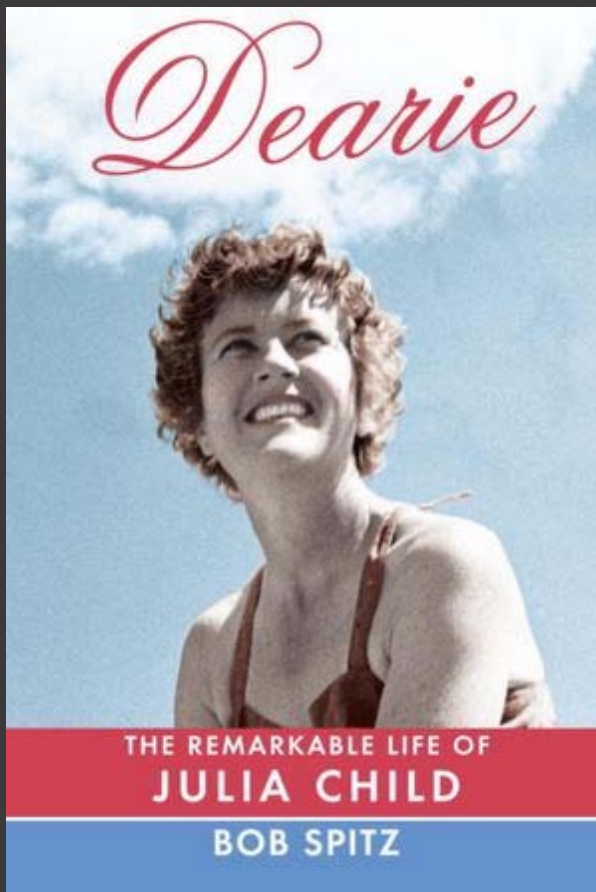
By Toni LoTempio – admin by day, writer by night, Toni is the author of several paperback and e-books of romantic and paranormal suspense – check out her website at www.tonilotempio.webs.com and her cat's blog! www.catsbooksmorecats.blogspot.com Check out her YA fantasy, *MY SUPERHERO SISTER* and her paranormal romances, *NO REST FOR THE WICCA* and *RAVEN'S KISS*, as well as new releases *DEMONS AND FIRE* and *RAVEN'S QUEST*. She is also featured in the paranormal romance anthology, *KISS ME KILL ME*, available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble, as well as *Every Witch Way but Wicked*, sales of which benefit the charity *Kids need to Read*.

Dustin Thomason



JAMES PATTERSON



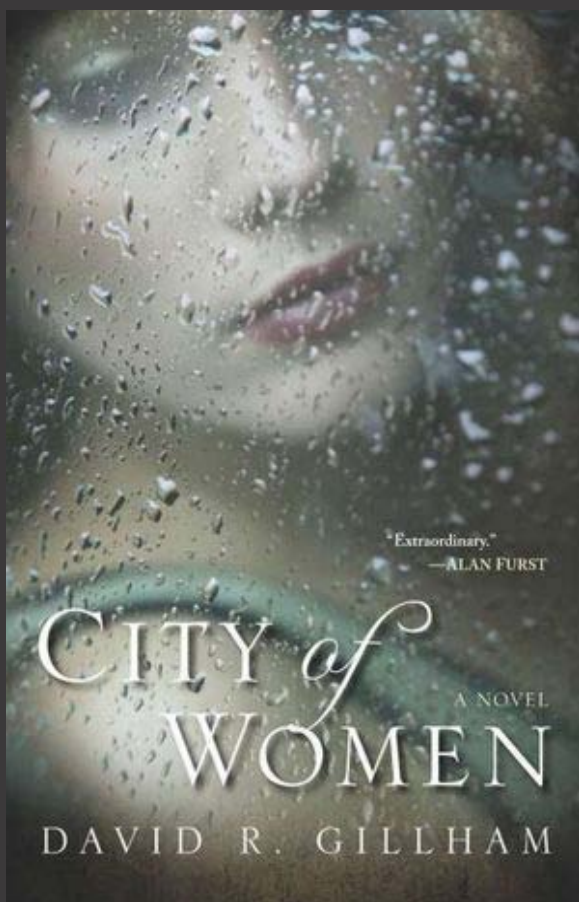


DEARIE:

THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF JULIA CHILD

by Bob Spitz

It's rare for someone to emerge in America who can change our attitudes, our beliefs, and our very culture. It's even rarer when that someone is a middle-aged, six-foot three-inch woman whose first exposure to an unsuspecting public is cooking an omelet on a hot plate on a local TV station. And yet, that's exactly what Julia Child did. The warble-voiced doyenne of television cookery became an iconic cult figure and joyous rule-breaker as she touched off the food revolution that has gripped America for more than fifty years.



CITY OF WOMEN

by David R. Gillham

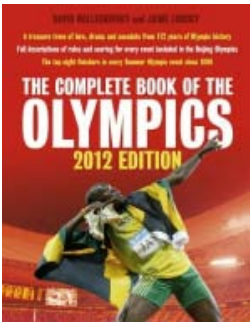
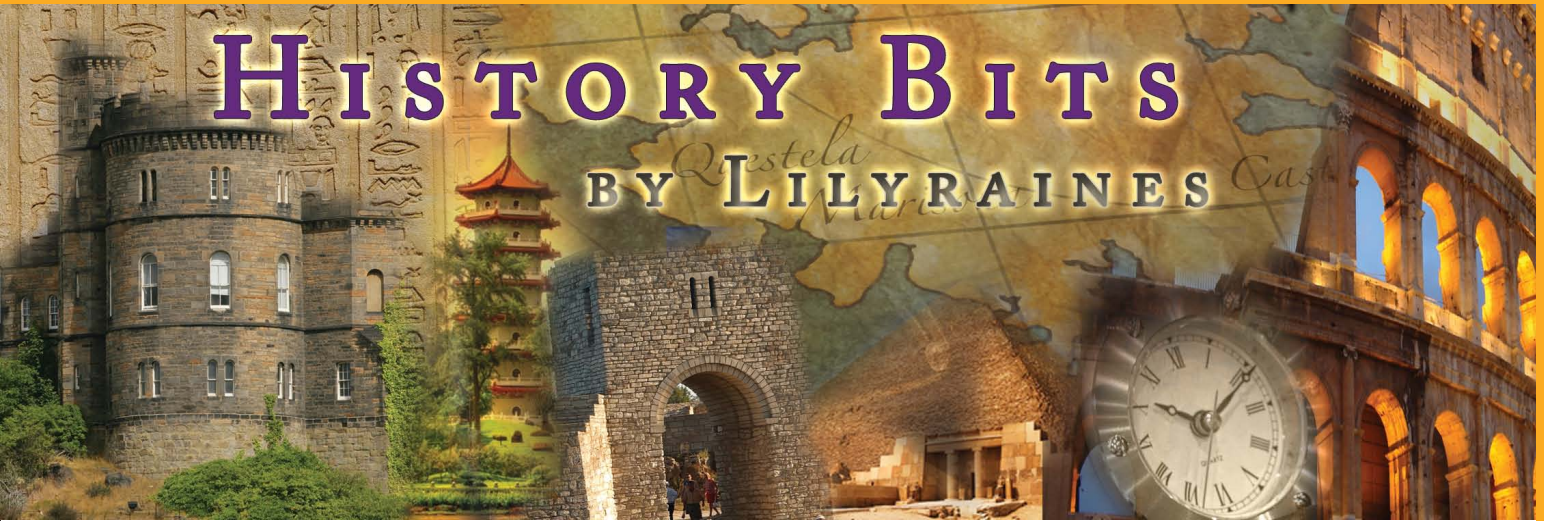
Who do you trust, who do you love, and who can be saved?

It is 1943—the height of the Second World War—and Berlin has essentially become a city of women. Sigrid Schröder is, for all intents and purposes, the model German soldier's wife: She goes to work every day, does as much with her rations as she can, and dutifully cares for her meddling mother-in-law, all the while ignoring the horrific immoralities of the regime. But behind this façade is an entirely different Sigrid, a woman who dreams of her former lover, now lost in the chaos of the war. Her lover is a Jew.

But Sigrid is not the only one with secrets.

HISTORY BITS

BY *Qestela*
Marie *Cas*
LILY RAINES

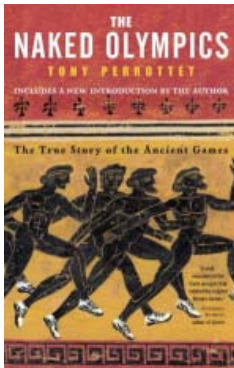


With the Olympics in full swing this month in London (with the Paralympics to follow at the end of the month), the focus of this month's article will be on the Olympics - both past and present.

First, there is **The Complete Book of the Olympics: 2012 Edition** by David Wlechinsky and Jaime Loucky

This is a reference book that contains anecdotes and statistics from 116 years of

Olympic history. According to the Amazon.com product description, the book "concentrates on the strange, the memorable, and the unbelievable." Some of the factoids contained in this book include croquet once being an Olympic sport and that a 72-year-old won a silver medal for target shooting. It also includes finals results for the top eight competitors in every Beijing Olympics event and the rules and scoring for the 2012 events.

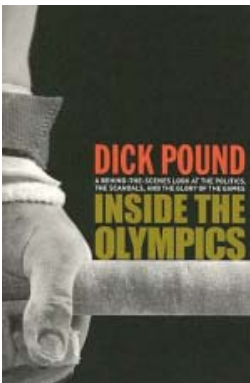


Both offer a look at how the original olympics were observed. Naked Olympics uses firsthand reports and sources such as a Handbook for a Sports Coach used by the Greeks (from the Amazon.com description) and takes a look at the sporting experience at the time that is said to include a bacchanal inside the tents of the athletes, all-male nude workouts under Eros' statue, and the first historical corruption scandals. A Visitor's Guide takes a look at what it would be like to attend the Olympics in 388 BC. This includes facts such as that there were no stands or shade (or women allowed)

and that the competitions involved footraces, the pentathlon, horse and chariot races, and three combat sports (wrestling, boxing and pankration (which is, according to the Tufts University Olympics page a combination of boxing and wrestling)).

The Paralympic Games Explained by Ian Brittain and **Athlete First: A History of the Paralympic Movement** by Steve Bailey

The first book takes a look at different aspects revolving around the nature of sport, disability and society. It takes a look at the history and development of the Paralympic movement as well as the social impact of the contemporary Games. It also introduces the medical,



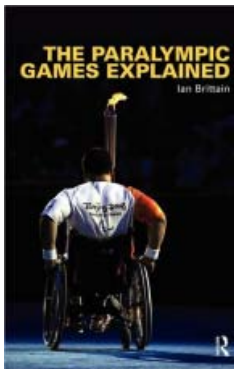
For a different flavor of book about the Olympics, there is **Inside the Olympics: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Politics, the Scandals and the Glory of the Games** by Richard W. Pound

Inside the Olympics takes a look at the darker side of the games by taking a look at not only the good, but the bad of the games. Both a former Olympian and a member of the IOC, the author highlights a number of controversial issues and events that surround the Olympics. This includes IOC officials and their conduct, the doping scandals that he thinks are the biggest threat to today's sports, and a look at the

negotiations that go into the worlds of television rights and corporate sponsorships. The politics, backstabbing and intrigues that take place behind the scenes are also looked at.

For the reader who would like to know more about the ancient games, there are the following offerings:

The Naked Olympics: The True Story of the Ancient Games by Tony Perrottet and **A Visitor's Guide to the Ancient Olympics** by Dr. Neil Faulkner



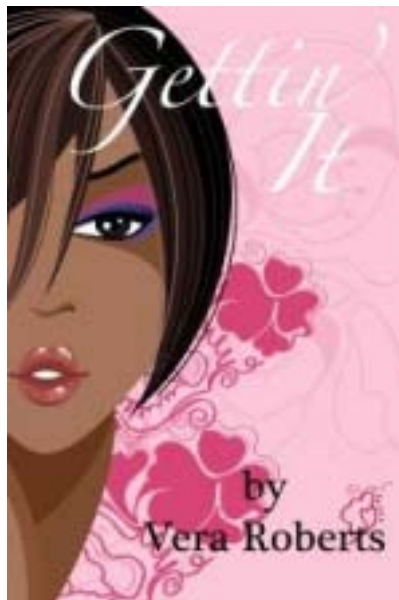
social, and bio-social models of disability in order to provide the reader with a better understanding of the Paralympics within the context of wider-ranging discussions of disability and society. Some of the issues covered in The Paralympic Games Explained include, per the Amazon.com product description, "how societal attitudes influence disability sport, the governance of Paralympic and elite disability sport, the relationship between the Paralympics and the Olympics, drugs and technology in disability sport, and classification in disability sport."

Similarly, Athlete First takes a look at the history and origin of the Paralympic movement and also takes a look at the changing historical context of disabled sport and international competition. The book also includes details about key players in the movement and what they do on and off the field.



Sexy Shorts

In between longer books, I like to read shorts. When everyone else is sighing over their long, romantic beach reads, I'm busy devouring an anthology of short stories or downloading individual ones to my ereader. What's so great about short stories? Well, for one thing, they're a good way to find new authors. If you like their writing style in the short, chances are you'll enjoy their longer works, too.



worth visiting their site to see what short stories they have available. Your favorite authors probably have short, free reads on their sites, too.



It varies by publishing house what defines a short story, but the books I've listed below are all complete stories with word counts below 10,000. In case you think you might not enjoy a short story, consider some of the most famous authors whose short classics you've probably read and enjoyed: Edgar Allan Poe, Guy de Maupassant, and O. Henry.

A couple more pluses are: You can slip in a short read while you wait to pick up the kids after school, during the workday commute, or on your lunch break. With prices hovering around two dollars or less, they're also economical so they won't break the bank.

More and more authors are starting to release short stories in between their longer works, and some publishers offer them as freebies on their website. If there is a publisher you purchase a lot of books from, it's



The next time you think you don't have time to read, try a short story, and start with the ones below.

The Milkman Cometh by Kate Richards

Roberto's reputation extends far beyond his efficiency as a milkman. He also provides intimate services to the many lonely ladies along his route. But he's had his eye on a lovely divorcee for quite some time. One who has ignored all his flirting, so far.

Alice is ready to make a fresh start. Treated as the tract harlot, just because she's on her own, she's ready to make that name a reality. And she's going to begin with the handsome milkman who has let her know on several occasions that he's ready to deliver.

Roberto is playing with fire—a fiery redhead whose surprising innocence may steal his heart and leave the ladies of his route unsatisfied once again!

Best Woman for the Job by Sharon C. Cooper

Cincinnati police officer, Craig Logan, needs a plumber, but not bad enough to hire a woman. "No way am I letting some woman wanna-be plumber anywhere near my pipes!"

When Toni Jenkins (TJ) shows up at Craig's house to repair his plumbing issues, he thinks it's a joke, but soon finds out the joke is on him. Not only is Toni the finest plumber he's ever seen, but she's good at what she does. Will Craig realize before it's too late, that not only is she the best woman for the job, but she's also the best woman for him?



Accepting the Dragon by Reana Malori

A life of secrets is all Takashi Nakashima has ever known. As both a favored son of the Yakuza and a shifter-dragon, he has followed a strict code of conduct and always adhered to the rules. Then he meets Sheila Graves, a woman not from his world, who finds her way into his heart and makes him desire for more. Takashi is willing to walk away from everything he has known in order to have the love of his life by his side. The only question is will Sheila accept the man in front of her, dragon and all.

Getting' It by Vera Roberts

Naomi Duncan and Darren Williamson have one thing in common: they're both ambitious but stuck in unhappy jobs. Darren would rather not sit through yet another boring meeting at his pharmaceutical company and Naomi can think of many things she would rather be doing than wait tables.

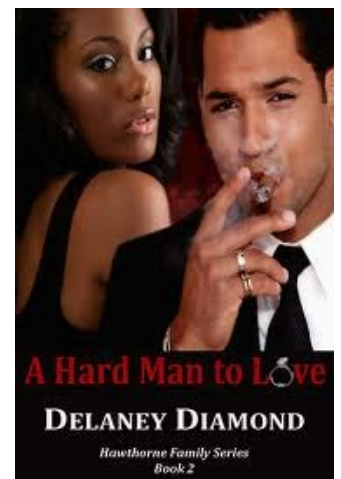
A chance meeting at Naomi's job proved there is more than meets the eye between the unlikely pair. A heavy week of flirting with a few sexual innuendos proved one just might be what the other needs to finally move ahead in their respective careers.

Dragon Sacrifice by Shara Azod and Marteeke Karland

Brynn was faced with two choices- take her sisters place as the lifemate for three burly warriors or become the first known human tribute to the tribe's protector dragon. Was there really an option? No way she was going to touch any of her brothers-in-law in a carnal way. But what would a dragon do with a human woman? Dragons stayed far away from human-kind, so no one knew what he would do with a female. But Brynn is about to find out.

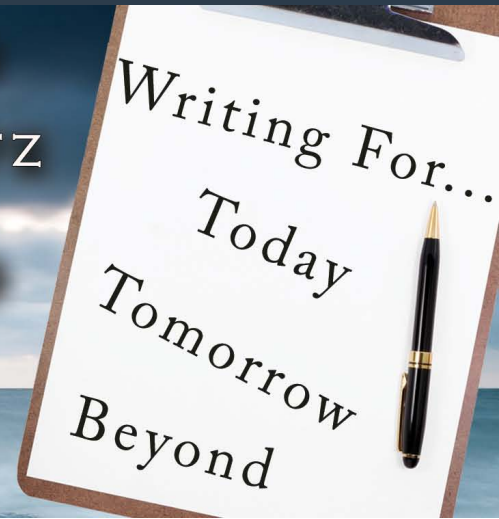


Delaney Diamond is the best-selling author of African-American and interracial romance. Her current releases Private Acts and A Hard Man to Love, are now available. Enjoy free reads on her website at www.delaneydiamond.com.



A PIECE OF MY MIND BY BENNET POMERANTZ

ADVICE FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO WRITE!



Work in Progress - Writer's Notes.....

I got an email about a month ago from a man named Jack. This man said he is a writer in Ohio, who also teaches middle school English. He heard me tell a story about a guy named Michael on a Blog Talk Radio show with Marsha Casper Cook. All I ask is DON'T ask me which show!

He said to me in his email, "Didn't you tell this story

enjoy this column.

"As a writer you are free. You are about the freest person that ever was. Your freedom is what you have bought with your solitude, your loneliness." ~ Ursula K. Le Guin

K. Le Guin

"As a writer you are free. You are about the freest person that ever was. Your freedom is what you have bought with your solitude, your loneliness." ~ Ursula K. Le Guin

"Success is a finished book, a stack of pages each of which is filled with words. If you reach that point, you have won a victory over yourself no less impressive than sailing single-handed around the world." ~ Tom Clancy

One of the banks I have money in is CitiBank. They have a new ad slogan: Let's Get It Done. They have this phrase plastered all around the bank on posters, banners and buttons. I think this is more a slogan for writers than for a bank.

We, as writers, may have the idea of a work in progress. That usually means an ongoing project or projects in development or research. However, lately

in one of your old A Piece of My Mind columns in Fiction Fix years ago?" The Fiction Fix magazine was the online magazine that was sponsored by Coffeehouse for Writers. It is too bad the magazine is no longer with us.

I emailed Jack back with a capital letter "YES.. Thank you for remembering."

He then asked me a favor. "Can you reprint that column? This way I can share it with my students this next term when I run the school newspaper. I think I can use it as a teaching tool"

So, this column is a reprint from my 2002 archives. In looking it over, the original column is still as good it was ten years ago...with a few amendments. You will see my notes.

And to Jack, I hope you and your students

"Success is a finished book, a stack of pages each of which is filled with words. If you reach that point, you have won a victory over yourself no less impressive than sailing single-handed around the world." ~ Tom Clancy

I've noticed a pattern at workshops and conventions - some writers do everything but actually write the work.

Let me relay in this column something that happened almost 18 years ago on this very subject. In the early 1990's, my Audioworld and Strange New World columns (alas that magazine has died too) were hitting their strides. I went to conventions to promote my work. I was away multiple weekends, doing many writers workshops and Science Fiction conventions. I logged many hours of time travelling up and down the east seaboard promoting my work and writing in general

There were great panels and workshops with the talents of Allan Wold, Casey Byrd (now Casey Shapiro), Hal Clement, Frederick Pohl and Mike Allen. This was a time of less internet and more personal interactions.

I met a man named Michael. This young man seemed intelligent and very bright. After a workshop panel of Creating Universes with noted author Hal Clement, the young man approached me and said "I have this great idea for a science fiction novel."

At that time classic Star Trek and its spawn Star Trek The next Generation, Babylon Five and the original Star Wars trilogy (Bennet note--that is episodes four, five and six these days) were in vogue. I gave him the best advice I thought of, "Write an outline, use it as a road map for your project and start writing the novel."

Six weeks later, at another science fiction convention, he came up to me and said in a joyous voice. "Mr. Pomerantz," He handed me an eight page outline of an interesting space opera novel. "Here is the outline for the novel." I read it over. It was a great outline. I thought that this novel could work if he would buckle down and write this piece. It was one of those hybrid Star Trek/Star Wars/Babylon Five kinds of space stories with a few twists (aliens, shapeshifters, and space vampires) in the tale.

"It's a good work in progress," I told him "Now write this novel, I would enjoy reading this after you are done!"

He said "Well I have to tweak the outline a little more." He and his outline vanished. One would think he would write this space opus and I would never hear from him again...unless I would get a review copy.

About a month later, I did another writer's workshop in Manassas, VA . . . and there, at a break of a panel discussion I was in, was Michael. He looked at me like we were best friends.

"Mr. Pomerantz," he said gleefully. "I just did character outlines and made pen-and-ink portraits of each character." He also showed me the outline, which was unchanged from the last time I saw it.

I encouraged him. "That's a great work in progress, Mike! So how's the writing coming?"

His face drew down and turned flat like I had deflated

a tire. "Well, sir. I am still working on a few more things and then I will write it." and he vanished again.

I next saw Michael three months later at Balticon in Baltimore, MD. He boldly came up to me after the panel discussion of "Do Vampires suck?", moderated by my friend Count Gore DeVol and the Horror writer (now also an erotic author) Elizabeth Black (Bennet Note—you need to read her Erotic novel PURR)

"Mr. Pomerantz, The Vampire panel was great!" Michael surprised me.

I looked at him and remembered him well. "So how is the novel coming, Michael?"

"Well sir," He pulled a large ship blueprint done in pencil from his knapsack. "This schematic is the spaceship that the characters will voyage on." He also showed me the character outline and profiles, which were now drawn like Japanese anime characters and in color. He also showed me the outline, unchanged from the first time I saw it.

I smiled, trying to seem approving. "So," I looked the blueprint, "Where's the bath room on this ship." I spoke up glibly.

Michael went crazy. He said "Oh my god, I FORGOT THE BATH ROOM!"

Thinking quickly, I marked a spot of the diagram. "There it is." Michael sighed in relief. I thought one bathroom for 500 people, it might work.

"So how is the novel coming?" He had that deer-in-the-headlights look, as he said, "I dunno, I really haven't started it."

I took him aside privately. I looked at him very sternly and spoke in a frustrated tone at him, "Look Mike, you been diagramming, outlining and character portrait drawing for more than six months. Shouldn't you just sit down and write this novel? When you first mentioned it to me, it seemed like a great idea. I watched your progress, I was impressed. So why haven't you done any real writing?" His face looked like no one had spoken to him like this before. "Mike, don't show me anything more until you have something written."

I saw Mike at a few other Science Fiction conventions and workshops, but he never came up to me again. Other writers had communicated that Mike had shared the outline, the anime pictures, character portraits, and the blue print of the ship with them and never wrote a single word. After a few years, Michael disappeared from doing workshops. Never to be heard from him again.

This is what is happening today to many writers with their work in progress. I give you this advice as Michael, **JUST WRITE IT!**

Reach for the Stars



ROMANCE WITH LOUISA BACIO

It's getting hot in here...

Turning Up the Heat

August happens to be one of the hottest months of the year in Southern California, and we've been sweltering with 100+ degree weather. I'm coming off three weeks of conferences starting with RWA Nationals in Anaheim, and culminating with Authors After Dark in New Orleans. Let me tell you, I'll take the dry heat of SoCal over the humidity any day!

Besides seeing friends in person, and collaborating with others who understand the writer's world, one of the best parts about conferences is all the free books, and new authors one meets. Friends posted pictures of upward of 70 books they carted home. With extreme TBR piles in my home-office, limited space and a grumpy non-clutter-loving hubby, I've started to get more selective, and bring home about a dozen. Others that catch my eye go on a list to purchase electronically (I'll even take a picture of the cover as a reminder).

Although it wasn't done on purpose, I realized that all three featured books this month come from debut authors! For those who strive to break into publishing, take note of all the opportunities available to you – new writers are getting published. And for you romance readers out there, enjoy these new voices that continue to bring life to our genre.

Rush

Beth Yarnall
Crimson Publishing

A new author, and a fairly new imprint: It's good to see the expanding options for both readers and writers. Beth Yarnall turns up the heat in this romantic suspense that'll leave readers with a rush. (Sorry, couldn't help myself.)

So who would turn down an ex-Navy Seal as a bodyguard? Not me! Lucas Vega can guard my body any day. When Miyuki Price-Jones attracts the unwanted attention of an

ex-con, Lucas comes on board. Here's a first impression:

"Lucas draped his arm across her shoulders, bringing her up against his side. A decidedly hot and altogether hard side. She could smell the leather of his coat mixed with the fundamental scent of warm male. It was all she could do to not turn her head and rub her face against his chest, luxuriating in his scent like a bitch in heat. Instead, she brought her arm up and under his jacket, laying her hand flat on his lower back just above the hard ridge of what was probably a gun. More heat. His muscles twitched under her palm." (Rush, pg. 12)



Rush explores a complexity that not all books in this genre tackle. Often, it's all about the suspense, and Yarnall takes on family issues with Mi's relationship with her younger brother, Jason. We get a glimpse into her life – and motives behind some of her actions – that's refreshing. The same can be said for Yarnall's descriptions, characterization and even the closer – it doesn't follow stereotypes, and shocks and surprises the reader. And in this case, that's a very good thing.

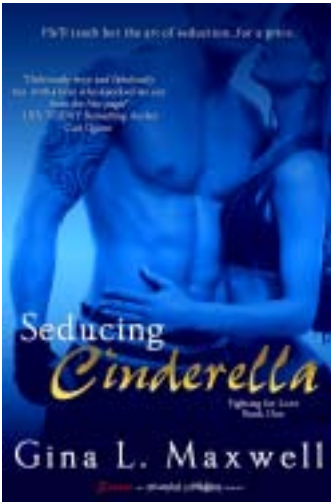
Disclosure: It's thrilling to see long-time writing-friends get published, and I count Beth in that category. She's worked hard for this success.

Seducing Cinderella

Gina L. Maxwell
Entangled Publishing

As a sucker for "Cinderella" stories, the minute I heard about Gina L. Maxwell's *Seducing Cinderella*, I wanted it. The release kicks off the new Entangled Publishing Brazen imprint, which features romance that's a bit more spicy. Fortunately, Maxwell's novel lives up to expectations.

When Mixed Martial Arts fighter Reid Andrews hurts his shoulder, he turns to Lucie Miller for some unconventional physical therapy. Still stuck in her shy shell, Lucie agrees to help Reid get back into fighting shape in exchange for



lessons in seduction. But, as most readers can guess, the tables turn and – in this case – the schooling leaves a sizzling impression.

Maxwell hits all the benchmarks for a success – most importantly, she makes the reader care. We’re appalled at Lucie’s crush on Dr. No-Good, and root for Reid to not only win his championship fight and Lucie’s heart. And now I want to see her picky best friend get swept off her feet by the “wrong” man. *Fingers crossed*

ON THE EROTIC SIDE

Mocha Kisses

Nikki Prince

Mocha Memoirs Press, LLC

As part of the Mocha Memoirs Press’ 31 Days of Steamy Mocha, debut author Nikki Prince infuses some sweltering romance in this erotic short story. This friends-to-lovers theme features Meredith and the noticeably younger Ronan. The twosome share a love of books and mocha lattes. When they meet at a coffee shop for book club, Ronan propositions Meredith to take their relationship to another level.

Despite the 10-year difference and age, and different ethnic backgrounds, the chocolate lovers connect on both a mental and physical level. Prince artfully shows the pleasure of playing with food – no spoilers here – and the readers connects with their experience.

Stay tuned for more from this multicultural romance author, whose tagline promises that love is colorblind.

~ * ~ * ~ *

I’ve very much enjoyed writing the Romance Column for NOR over the last year and a half. With my expanded duties in my local RWA chapter in 2013, and writing deadlines, I’ve made the hard decision to turn over the reigns of this column. You’ll see me continuing until a replacement is found, and I’m readily available online. And I hope to continue to contribute reviews to the main site. Thanks for reading.

Until next time,

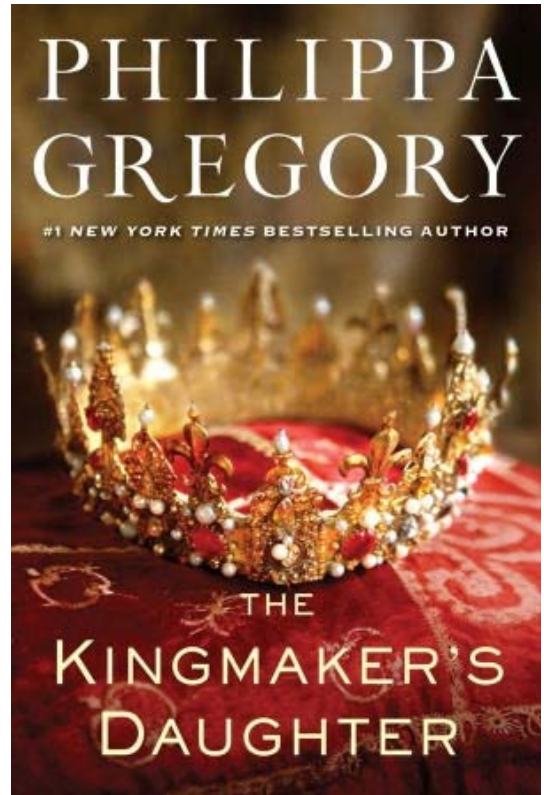
Louisa Bacio

Available Now by Louisa Bacio: Book 3 The Vampire, The Witch & The Werewolf.

<http://louisabacio.blogspot.com>



SPIES, POISON, AND CURSES



140 RECIPES & TIPS

