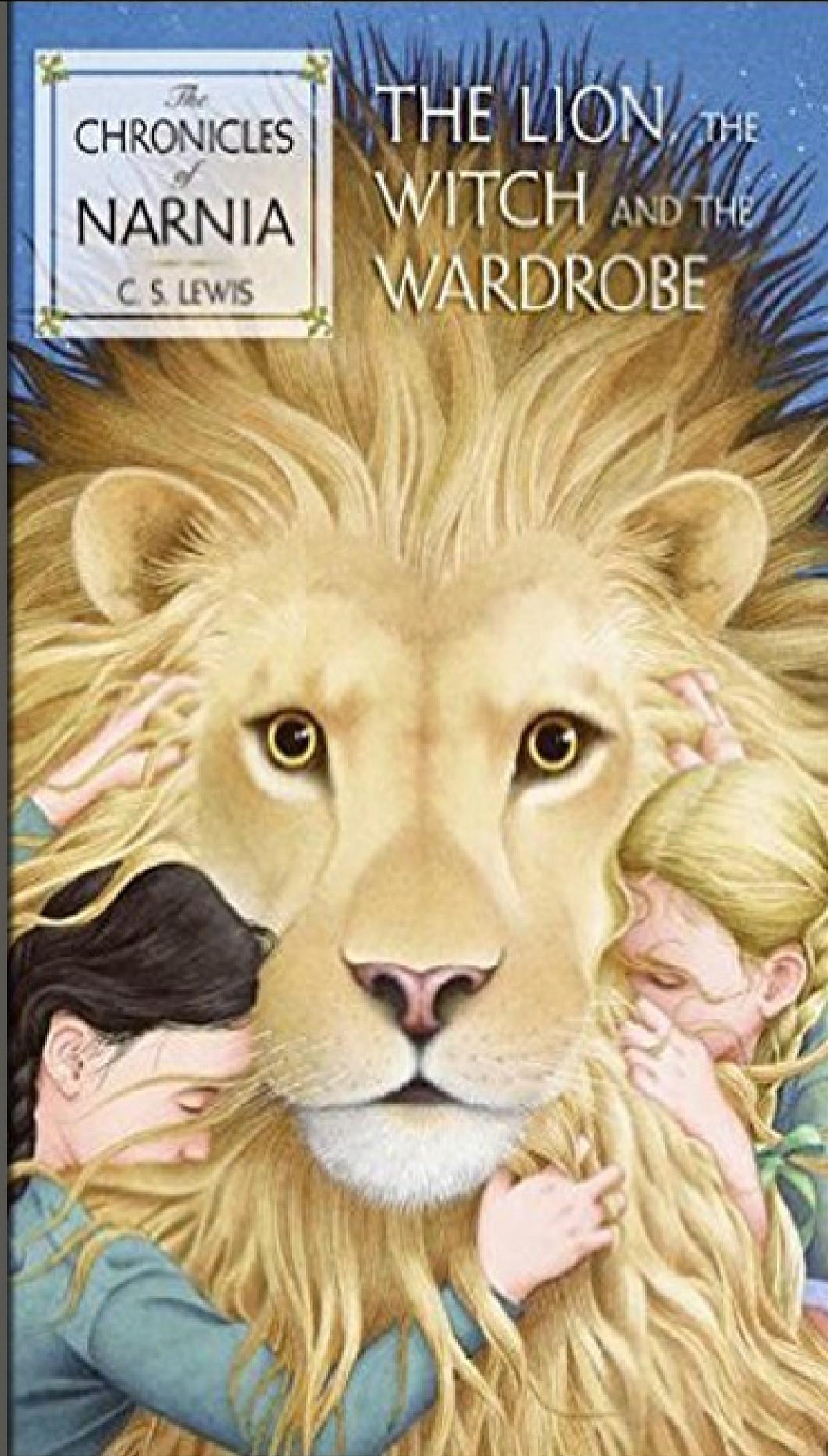


NIGHT OWL 79

**Books For
Readers**



MAGAZINE

Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – Apples to Oranges

Since 1956, millions of children have read, watched, or listened to C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia series, starting with the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. This is fantasy story involving Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie escaping the war in London only to find themselves in even more bizarre situations. What child wouldn't enjoy going to a magical world with talking animals and getting gifts from Father Christmas that would help you save the day? I certainly did!

This was one of my favorite childhood stories. Children of my age went inside a secret passageway to a land where lions, wolves and mythical creatures could communicate with human beings. An innocent girl named Lucy joyfully brought her own siblings and every reader on a splendid journey. In the process, we learned about Turkish Delight, the dangers of playing hide-and-go-seek with antique furniture, finding one's way from a random lamp post and that no one can rush Mrs. Beaver.

Which version did I enjoy best? Drum roll please..... the movie!

The aspect that frustrated me the most in the book was the character of Edmund. He was a stubborn young boy who rebelled against his circumstances and frustrated everyone with his self-centered actions. In the book, he sides with the villain for selfish reasons and when reunited with his family, there is instant (and unbelievable) forgiveness. Plus, his quest for redemption on the battlefield is told passively so we don't get to experience the scene of him trying to disarm the White Witch. In sharp contrast, the movie could have been renamed the Chronicles of Narnia: The Redemption of Edmund. There were two main film scenes that the book lacked that made all the difference for Edmund's

character arc:

1) Repercussions for informing the White Witch about Mr. Tumnus: It was such a heartbreaking scene when the faun was told that Lucy's brother was the reason why he was in prison and the expression on Edmund's face with the realization of his action's consequences.

2) Risking his life to try to disarm the White Witch's wand during the final battle: The audience got to watch Edmund, yet again, not do what he was told to do but for the first time, he disobeyed for the right reason. He knew what her wand was capable of doing and she was walking straight towards his brother. It was great to see

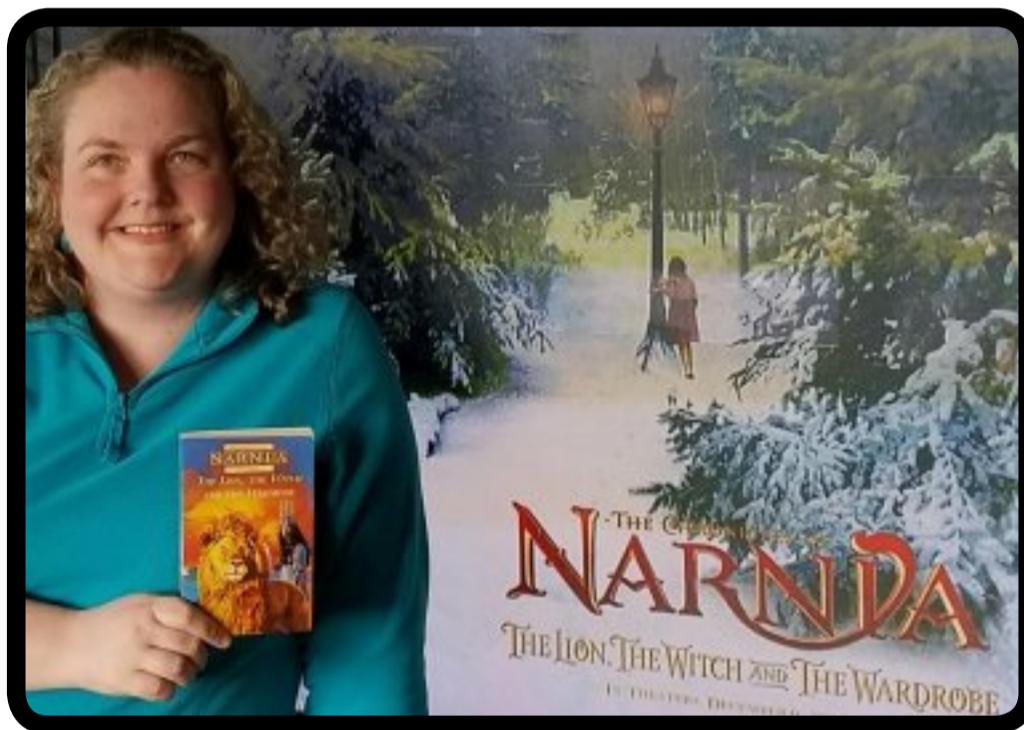
the full evolution of his character unfold on the screen.

As I child, I tried to continue on with the series but as soon as I figured out the new story was a thousand years later and not about more people going to Narnia through the wardrobe, I put down the series. Now I'm going to finish what I started 20 years

ago and read the next book, the Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian for next month's blog and compare it to 2008 Disney movie.



Columnist: Jessie lives in Oregon and writes to avoid the rain. She only feels compelled to kill her characters when she starts a new diet and if she hates the ending of a TV episode she'll rewrite it to give everyone a happily ever after. Currently Jessie is an unpublished author but she works tirelessly to removed two letters – un – from that word.



Urban Fantasy & Paranormal Romance June 2016

Summer is finally here. Kids are out of school and it is dads, grads, and wedding season. Busy weekends ahead full of events but there are plenty of long days and warm nights just waiting to be shared with a book.

I have a stack waiting anxiously, wondering which one of them I'll pick first.

What's on your list this month? What books will you pack for the beach, the boat and vacation?

At the top of my must read list is *The Curse of Tenth Grave* (Charley Davidson #10) by Darynda Jones. One of my all-time favorite series, every new release is a must for me.

Next up is *The Invisible Library* (Invisible Library #1) by Genevieve Cogman. I received a review copy of this and I can't wait to read it.

One that has caught my eye is *The Nightmare Stacks* (Laundry Files #7) by Charles Stross. Seven books in, how have I not heard of this series before?

Books being added to my wish list include: *A Study in Sable* (Elemental Masters #11) by Mercedes Lackey, *Allegiance of Honor* (Psy-Changeling #15) by Nalini Singh, *Born of Legend* (The League: Nemesis Rising #9) by Sherrilyn Kenyon, *Descendant: The Complete Nikki Glass Series* by Jenna Black, *Wicked Burn* (Realm Enforcers) by Rebecca Zanetti, *Amber Fire* by Lisa Renee Jones, and *Night Sins* by Lisa Renee Jones.

So many books....and an entire summer to read them.

Happy Reading.



Columnist Roxanne Rhoads: Story strumpet and tome loving tart...Roxanne Rhoads is a paranormal romance author, book publicist and owner of Bewitching Book Tours. Visit her at Roxanne's Realm and Bewitching Book Tours.



7 Oversights that Send Readers Away – Part III - Indie Pub It

Every indie author who has published at least one title is already aware of the obvious things they should be getting right if they don't want to look like amateurs or, worse, unreadable. Elements such as line editing, decent covers, good blurbs and cover descriptions and a decent amount of reviews are all no-brainers that you must master.

But there are seven other things you might overlook in your relief to have the book out there, that can help drive potential readers away.

This is the third and last part of a series, 7 Oversights that Send Readers Away.

Part I: Omitting series information at the back of the book.
Not giving your readers a reason to buy now.

Part II: Not Updating the book regularly.

Part III

4. Not putting a summary/blurb at the front of the book

This is an issue that has only emerged along with the rising popularity of ebook readers and ebooks in general.

Rabid readers will buy many more books than they can read. In the days of print-only, that building pile became the To-Be-Read stack. For some readers, the larger the pile, the better. They would add to the bottom and reach for the book on the top for their next read.

E-Readers create an entirely different set of problems. Many eReaders will sort ebooks into most recently read books, which means older and unopened books

slowly filter down to the bottom of the list, far out of sight and out of mind.

Not many ereading applications have good sorting or categorizing features and none of them offer a way to prioritize your reading so that you can keep a list of books to be read, in the order you want to read them.

Savvy readers have now learned to “mine their reader” for books they've overlooked and forgotten about, by occasionally browsing back through older purchases.

Both the lack of sorting and the nature of ebooks creates a problem for readers mining their reading application that print books

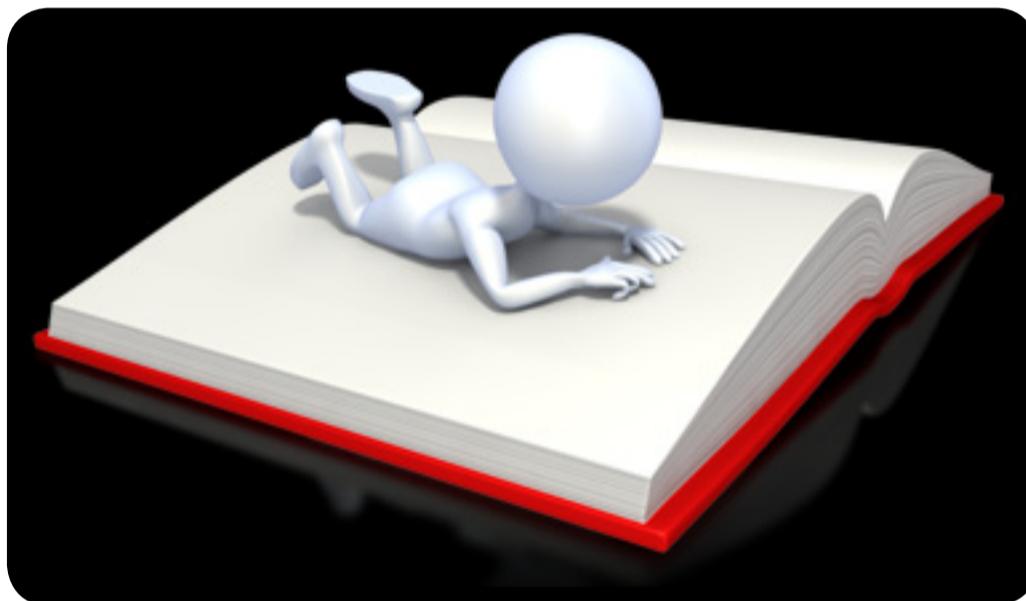
don't present. Print books come with the blurb on the back and often with author information at the back of the book.

Huge numbers of ebooks don't have the blurb in them. Anywhere. The reader must either remember what the book is about, or go

to the bookseller site to read the product information there. For a book they don't remember buying, and an author they don't know terribly well, a reader won't bother going to the bookseller site to research. They just won't read the book.

This is an awful event that can be so simply corrected by making sure there is a blurb at the front of the book. Some review quotes, mentions of awards or other kudos, including best seller statuses, are also useful in building social approval in the reader's mind. If these are at the front, right after the cover, then the reader gets an instant overview of the book and remembers why they bought it and wanted to read it.

Don't shoot yourself in the foot. Make sure your blurb, at least, is in the book.



5. Not adding anything about you.

At the absolute minimum, every book you put out there should have your author bio. It's stunning how many books skip this vital page, resulting in an "anonymous" story telling. Without the author bio, the reader can't get a sense of who you are. You're just a name.

Along with your bio, you should also consider having a list of previously published books and if each title in that list links to the product page for that edition's retailer, then you're giving the reader a sense of who you are. This is basic branding.

It's also a chance to infuse your personality, which might be quite different to the personality of the book's viewpoint characters.

All these factors help the reader enjoy the current book, and as these pages tend to be placed at the back of the book, they also help the reader decide if they want to read anything else you're written, especially if the story they've just finished is the last in a series.

6. Not having a full info website

As a reader, this one drives me crazy. I'll take the time to hunt down an author's site, purely to find out about them and about the books they've written. Often, just finding the site is a challenge.

Then, once I get there, I can't find a list of books they've written anywhere on the site. The most recent book is nearly always prominently displayed, often on the front page, but the author's backlist? Forgetaboutit.

This is legacy thinking and it's deadly for indie authors. Your backlist is where you make all your money. Make sure readers can find that backlist. Make sure all your books are listed on your site, even if it's a plain page with a list of text titles only. Readers who like your stuff will assiduously work their way through your backlist...but only if you give it to them. Retailers are shoddy at making sure all your titles are listed under your name, so don't rely on the reader using the retail

listings.

7. Not having a newsletter

I've left the biggest one for last. There are coaches out there who charge thousands of dollars for courses on how to build your email list...and for a very good reason.

Building your own email list of dedicated and enthusiastic readers is the single most effective way of increasing sales. Period. No other marketing strategy comes close, and most other marketing is completely ineffective in the new indie world.

Discoverability is a big challenge for indie authors, but having an email list cuts that problem in half. Once a reader trips over your work (however they find you), if you have a newsletter they can subscribe to, then you have captured their attention and can hold it. You're effectively stopping them from wandering away and forgetting about you.

There are whole sites, blogs and books dedicated to the setting up and management of newsletter lists, so I won't go into details here.

But do start building your own email list. It's never too early and I promise you won't regret it.



Tracy Cooper-Posey writes vampire romance series and hot romantic suspense. She has been nominated for five CAPAs including Favourite Author, and won the Emma Darcy Award. After a decade of legacy publishing, she switched to indie publishing and has released over 60 indie titles to date. Her indie books have made her an Amazon #1 Best Selling Author and have been nominated four times for Book of the Year. *Byzantine Heartbreak* won the title in 2012. *Faring Soul* was awarded a SFR Galaxy Award in 2015. Tracy has been a national magazine editor and for a decade she taught romance writing at MacEwan University. An Australian, she lives in Edmonton, Canada with her husband, a former professional wrestler, where she moved in 1996 after meeting him online. Her website can be found at <http://TracyCooper-Posey.com>.

The Resurgence of Short Fiction

The Melting Pot

It seems that everyone is busy these days. Over scheduled, over taxed and just plain short on time, most folks plod through their day with little time to eat let alone read a full length novel or a George R. R. Martin world-building-rich opus.

CBS Sunday Morning featured an interview with James Patterson about his approach to writing. He also announced the launch of his latest project: Bookshots. Bookshots are short fiction works written with the pacing of a movie plot. Mr. Patterson is a marketing guru, extremely astute and in tune with his busy audience. This year, he will release twenty-three Bookshots all under \$5 and 150 pages or less.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/james-pattersons-reading-revolution/>

The truth is short fiction has always been with us and continues to thrive online and in magazine markets. With regards to traditional publishing, for a while now, editors and agents specifically stated they were NOT interested in queries for short fiction. However, this stance – dear reader – has changed. I've noticed that savvy publishers, like TOR, are utilizing their websites and blogs to promote short fiction produced by their authors. Both e-readers and the advent of Audible have created new markets for shorter-than-novel-length works.

Let's add the crisp, snappy flavors of short fiction to The Melting Pot.

I discovered the Sin du Jour series by Matt Wallace via TOR's email newsletter and was intrigued by their promotion of a novella. I purchased the first book through my Audible subscription and was pleased to see that it clocked in at around four hours of listening time. I started listening during my daily walk and was HOOKED. I continued listening while I finished my day job work and during my drive home.

Mr. Wallace builds a diverse world complete with a gaggle of zombies, one Native American Shaman and his granddaugh-

ter, a Latin chef, a genie, an African-American female who kicks butt, a government agent, a clown, and one giant chicken. YES – Envy of Angels is one WILD ride...and I forgot to mention the mafia style clans of demons.

The second book, Lustlocked, continues to add new levels to each of the key characters while spinning a thoroughly enjoyable story about catering a goblin wedding.

I loved both of these Audible stories so much; I also purchased the paperbacks to study them to enhance my own short fiction. The third book, Pride's Spell, will be released on June 21st and I've already pre-ordered it. I hope that Mr. Wallace continues to produce novellas in this series, so that I can continue to throw my money at him. LOL!

WARNING: After reading Envy of Angels, chicken nuggets just won't be the same...EVER again. Envy of Angels



Envy of Angels: A Sin du Jour Affair by Matt Wallace

In New York, eating out can be hell.

Everyone loves a well-catered event, and the supernatural community is no different, but where do demons go to satisfy their culinary cravings?

Welcome to Sin du Jour - where devils on horseback are the clients, not the dish.

PRAISE FOR ENVY OF ANGELS:

“Matt Wallace tells a raucous, riotous tale of culinary madness - a jaw-dropping horror-fantasy restaurateur Thunderdome that makes the ‘monkey brain’ scene in Temple of Doom look like something you’d see on Nickelodeon. It’s like I dropped a heroic dose of acid and turned on the Food Network for eight hours. It’s funny and demented and sticks in you like a pinbone. Matt Wallace writes like someone just jammed a needle full of adrenaline in his heart - and then, in yours. From this point forward, I’ll read anything this guy writes.” ? Chuck Wendig, author of Blackbirds and Zer0es

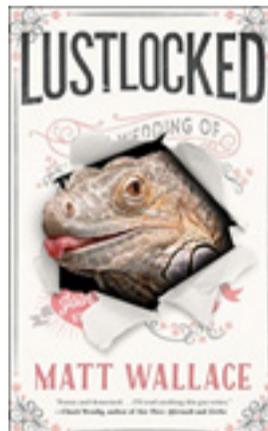
“No one makes me think, ‘Dammit, I should have thought of that!’ like Matt Wallace. The Sin du Jour series is something I

read with equal amounts of envy and delight.” ? Mur Lafferty, Campbell Award winning author of The Shambling Guide to New York City

“Envy of Angels is one of the most original urban fantasies I’ve read in a damn long time. Angels, demons and the New York restaurant scene. It doesn’t get any weirder than this. Matt Wallace is an author to watch.” ? Stephen Blackmoore, author of Dead Things and Broken Souls

“Envy of Angels is exactly the breath of fresh air I didn’t know I needed: darkly funny, sweepingly inventive, and just plain fun to read. Every time I thought I got the hang of this book, the next turn took me someplace even more breathtakingly weird and wonderful. Buy it. DO IT NOW. It’s the only way we can force him to write a dozen more of these!” ? Andrea Phillips, author of Revision

LustlockedLustlocked: A Sin du Jour Affair by Matt Wallace



The staff of New York’s premier supernatural catering company, has their work cut out for them in this outrageous follow-up to Envy of Angels.

Love is in the air at Sin du Jour.

The Goblin King (yes, that one) and his Queen are celebrating the marriage of their son to his human bride. Naturally the celebrations will be legendary.

But when desire and magic mix, the results can be unpredictable.

Our heroes are going to need more than passion for the job to survive the catering event of the decade!

Pride’s SpellPride’s Spell: A Sin du Jour Affair by Matt Wallace

The team at Sin du Jour?New York’s exclusive caterers-to-the-damned?find themselves up against their toughest challenge, yet when they’re lured out west to prepare a feast in the most forbidding place in America: Hollywood, where false gods rule supreme.

Meanwhile, back at home, Ritter is attacked at home by the strangest hit-squad the world has ever seen, and the team must pull out all the stops if they’re to prevent themselves from being offered up as the main course in a feast they nor-

mally provide

Starring: The Prince of Lies, Lena Tarr, Darren Vargas. With Byron Luck. Introducing: the Easter Bunny.

Pride’s Spell is the third installment in Matt Wallace’s Sin du Jour series.

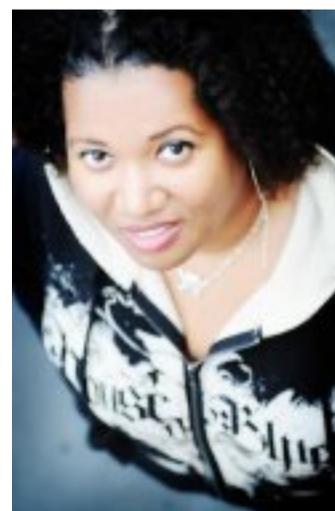
“I fell in love with this series for its joyous, high-octane sense of mayhem, but I would stay just for the food. When you read it, you’ll forgive me for saying this: each entry leaves you hungry for more.” -- Melissa F Olson, author of the Scarlett Bernard series, and Nightshades.

Columnist: C. Morgan Kennedy

I have a confession to make. I’m a time traveler. I love flinging myself into the future, then hurtling fast to an alternative past. In my usual time-space-dimension, I’m a mechanical engineer and business woman. So, I have a natural penchant for hover cars and steam or aether powered engines. Though I was born in the wrong era, I’m actually a child of the sixties – 1860,

1960, 2060.

My stories feature strong women, who know how to wield their minds like weapons. Their men are smart and often controlling...but, rest assured, my female leads give them a run for their money. They strive to follow their hearts and dreams for the betterment of themselves and their loved ones. Like my life, all of my stories feature a diverse cast of characters.



With my business partner, Therese Patrick, I work to demystify marketing principles for my author friends. Our first book, Author Marketing 101 Guide & Journal, was published by Gazebo Gardens Publishing and released in October 2013.

Steampunk, futurist, blerd, artist, author, and marketing maven...a real creative force of nature – that’s me in a nutshell.

Keep tabs on my adventures via my blog, Morgan’s Mix Tape, on my website: <http://www.cmorgankennedy.com>.

Going to the Dogs

Dark Streets

While I admit I'm partial to feline detectives, I have a soft spot in my heart for canine ones as well! Here are a few excellent cozies featuring some Sherlock-like pooches!

The Barking Detective Series – Waverly Curtis

Since I also have a soft spot for animals that talk (long story) one of my favorites is The Barking Detective series featuring Pepe, the talking Chihuahua! Pepe may have soft white fur, big brown eyes, and mucho attitude--but he's no furry fashion fad. Pepe can talk--even if his new owner, Geri Sullivan, seems to be the only person who can understand him.

In volume 1, Dial C for Chihuahua, Geri takes on her first assignment for a quirky investigator named Jimmy G and stumbles over a Seattle millionaire's corpse, Pepe proves to be worth his weight in liver treats. Suspicion falls on the not-so-grieving widow, who wants to finance a reality TV show, Dancing With Dogs, and Geri, who found the body. She and Pepe go undercover to ferret out the real killer and clear Geri's name.

In Book 3, The Big Chihuahua, P.I. Geri and Pepe take on a case involving a hapless husband trying to win back his wayward wife. This entails sneaking into a cult of dog-worshippers, whose charismatic leader pegs Pepe as the next incarnation of the spirit Dogawanda. But the discovery of a body, murdered between mantras, suggests there's more chicanery than channeling going on in this suspicious sect.

In Book 4, The Chihuahua Always Sniffs Twice, Pepi

and Geri try to find out who is poisoning recently deceased widow's Lucille Carpenter's dogs. Complicating matters is the fact the widow left her entire fortune to the dogs, so to speak. At the lavish Carpenter manor, Pepe digs for clues among the pampered pooches, bitter relatives, suspicious staff, and larcenous lawyers.

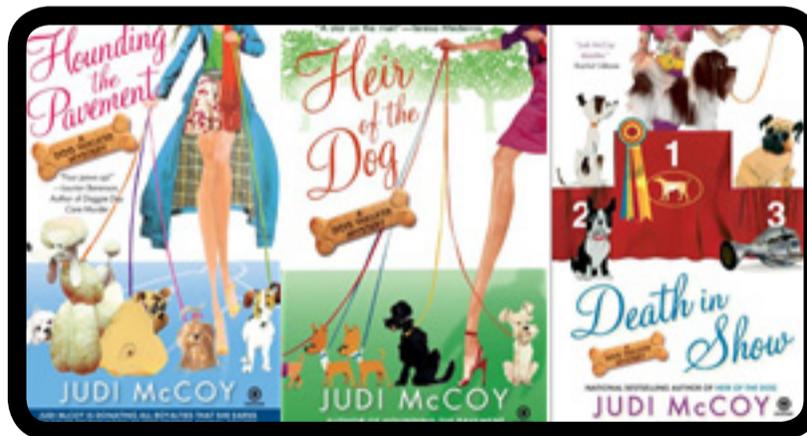


The most recent release, Silence of the Chihuahuas, finds Pepe a non-speaking dog. Geri can't figure out why he's not talking, and especially now, with Geri's best friend Brad missing and her ditzy sister in grave danger? Geri's lost without Pepe's

dogged detective work, especially when a client of Brad's expires under very murky circumstances. Fortunately...Pepe's an excellent blogger!

All in all a very entertaining series worth a look.

The Dog Walker Detective Series by Judi McCoy



This fun series features Ellie Engleman, psychic dog-walker! Elle discovers that she can hear what her canine clientele is thinking, a talent that comes in handy in the first volume, Hounding the Pavement, when a dog's owner turns up dead.

In the latest entry, Fashion Faux Paw, It's Fashion Week in New York and Ellie's in charge of the dogs' modeling outfits that match their mommy-mdoels for a fashion competition. But before the first round closes, one of the designers drops dead of anaphylactic shock, her EpiPen useless because someone's emptied it.

The victim's peanut allergy was well-known, so El-

lie and her dog Rudy must comb through the brash designer's rivals, colleagues, and many enemies to discover who was so desperate that she committed the ultimate crime of fashion.

Last but definitely not least....

Drop Dead on Recall – Sheila Webster Boneham

Not only has the very talented Sheila Webster Boneham written countless non-fiction books on dogs and cats, she has a series from Midnight Ink that features an Australian Shepherd! **DROP DEAD ON RECALL** features Australian Shepherd lover Janet MacPhail, Her AS Jay, and tabby cat Leo! (You knew a cat would get in here somehow, didn't you????) When a talented handler is murdered at an obedience trial, Janet becomes a "Person of Interest". Janet and her canine and feline friends all band together to sniff out the killer.



In the second volume, *The Money Bird*. A photo session at Twisted Lake takes a peculiar turn as Drake, her friend Tom's Labrador, fetches a blood-soaked bag holding an exotic feather and a torn one-hundred-dollar bill.

When one of her photography students turns up dead at the lake, Janet investigates a secretive retreat center with help from Australian Shepherd Jay and her quirky neighbor Goldie. Between dog-training classes, photo assignments, and romantic interludes with Tom, Janet is determined to get to the bottom of things before another victim's wings are clipped for good.

Book 3 – *Catwalk* – gives equal time to both cats and dogs! ('cause that's the kind of person Sheila is!)

When Janet gets a frantic call from champion dog owner Alberta Shofelter about a "cat-napping," she and her Australian Shepherd Jay jump in to assist. Fur flies when the search turns into a nasty run-in with local big shot Charles Rasmussen, a bully who enjoys throwing his weight around.

As Rasmussen makes good on his promise to cause trouble, Janet tries to keep up with her mom's romantic travails, figure out her own relationship with Tom, and train her animals for the upcoming agility trials. But when a body is discovered at the Dog Dayz event, it stops the participants dead in their tracks—and sets Janet on the trail of a killer.

In the latest entry in this series, *Sherpherd's Crook*, Janet has just arrived at a sheep-herding competition with her Australian Shepherd, Jay, when she learns that two dozen sheep have disappeared. Police think the animals have wandered off in search of greener grass, but Janet sees and hears things that convince her the sheep's owners are right—the animals have been stolen. Janet knows she should leave the snooping to the police while she attends to her own problems—new living arrangements, her mom's wedding plans, puppy and kitten antics, and extremists bent on keeping people from having pets. But when a livestock handler turns up dead and the sheep's owner disappears, the police and a pair of thugs pay Janet way more attention than she likes.

A definite must read series for dog lovers – and cat lovers, too.

Hope this has given you a few good canine mysteries to sink your teeth into!

Columnist: Toni LoTempio



Born in New York City, T. C. LoTempio is the national bestselling author of the Nick and Nora Mystery series. She has been a staff reporter at the young adult magazine *Susabella Passengers and Friends* for more than a decade. When she isn't reporting or writing novels, she and her cat Rocco fundraise for Nathan Fillion's charity, Kids Need to Read. Visit her at www.tclotempio.com or at www.catsbooksmorecats.blogspot.com

Raised-Bed Vegetable Gardening Made Simple

Inside the Cookbook - 3.5 Stars



Raymond Nones has a lot of useful information in this book. At first it is overwhelming to a novice like me. I almost want to qualify this as an ongoing resource rather than a read and forget kind of book. I love the idea of raised-bed gardening. The diagrams in this book were detailed and quite complete, but seemed to be more for a seasoned gardener. Nones also includes when and what to plant in your vegetable garden which is good to know. Fresh veggies are always wonderful. I can't wait to get started on my own raised bed. I am sure I will come back to verify information along the way. Recipes yearn for fresh vegetables.

Here is a favorite of mine:

2 cups fresh okra (sliced into pieces)

2 fresh tomatoes

2 cloves of garlic(minced)

2 T olive oil

In a saute pan, warm the olive oil. Add the minced garlic. Saute 2-3 minutes. Add the okra and cook until the slime is cooked out 'cause nobody likes slimy okra. Add the tomatoes. Cook 3-4 more minutes.

This is great over rice, chicken or all by itself. Enjoy!

Columnist Pamela Robinson: Pamela is an author and reviewer.