

THE NIGHT OWL REVIEWS MAGAZINE

ISSUE 37

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<http://www.nightowlreviews.com/v5/Magazine/NOR-Magazine-37>

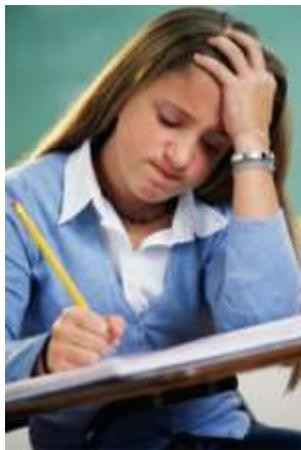


Indie Pub It: Pros and Cons of Indie Publishing – A Top Ten List. Part 2 by Tracy Cooper-Posey

Now that we've looked the negatives in the eye (last month's column), let's look at the hefty positives of indie publishing.

#5 No more synopses, really bad covers and more.

I can't stand writing synopses (not be confused with back cover blurbs) and I've heard horror stories about writers procrastinating themselves almost into a breach of contract over their avoidance of synopsis writing. As an indie publisher, you never have to write one again. For some writers, that alone is almost strong enough argument for indie publishing!



Every legacy publisher has quirks when dealing with authors. Some won't let you contact them directly, some via a web form, or only via your editor. Some won't return queries for three or five business days, no matter how urgent you think the matter may be. All those house rules are gone when you're indie publishing.

Bad book covers are also a thing of the past. Legacy authors may have to exclaim "how wonderful!" when they first see the disaster their publisher has arranged, but if your designer delivers a bad cover, then you're well within your rights to ask the designer to try again.

#4 You can publish as fast as you can write.

This is perhaps the most attractive reason for popular fiction authors (who are usually prolific) to indie publish. Legacy publishers—especially the Big Six Five—release books at such treacle speed

that most authors are lucky to be able to release two titles a year. Some contracts have non-competition clauses, forcing authors to stockpile manuscripts and leave them smoking on their desk.

Even on-line publishers who do release an author's titles more than twice a year still limit a prolific writer (I speak from experience). There are only so many publishing slots to go around.

All these issues disappear with indie publishing. An author can publish a title as soon as he has finished writing and producing it.



#3 Deleting the middle-man (agents & publishers) and talking directly to readers develops a more finely-focused product ... i.e. more sales

This is a subtle advantage that only becomes more apparent the longer you indie publish and build deeper reader relationships.

As your readers become more knowledgeable about the indie publishing business and begin to understand how much control authors have over their own product, the type of feedback and input they give will evolve. Readers learn from all sorts of sources, but they will learn most about indie publishing directly from you. Indie publishing is new enough that you could be their first indie author. You get to introduce them to everything indie.

Educated readers will provide feedback that helps shape future novels in a series, as they know that production timelines are so short they can read a book today, email the author today and possibly influence the next book in the series.

You can collate that feedback and decide what changes to make to suit the consensus opinion. Nothing is more valuable than direct reader feedback, and this is fresh from the reader to you. You give your readers exactly what they want...and they couldn't be happier.

#2 You control the revenue and the pricing.

Everyone knows now that indie books are cheaper, but a small backlash in late 2012 penalized indie authors with very cheap books. Readers still cling to the belief that cheap-to-free books are inferior and Amazon have changed their algorithms to favour books that aren't basement cheap. But too-steep a price on a new book can depress sales...

It's possible to release cheap(ish), wait for sales and reviews to pick up, then nudge the price higher to win the favourable sales rankings. This also earns better sales commissions and also attracts even more attention for the book. It's possible to keep pushing the price higher until sales flatten, then drop it back...or ride the sales hike to the top of the sales chart.

The pricing structure is so flexible for indie authors it becomes another form of promotion—a PR tool in its own right...and I haven't even mentioned the Amazon Select Program Free Days, which I don't intend to discuss here. Pricing flexibility and pricing strategies are available to any indie author no matter where they publish or which publishing platform they use.



#1 Creative freedom to build your own niche.

The numero uno advantage indie authors have is the ability to build their own brand or niche.

This was once a luxury only the very biggest best sellers achieved: Nora Roberts, James Patterson and Sandra Brown each have books with similar covers and looks. Each Sandra Brown story has the same feel, each James Patterson novel leaves the reader with the same feelings. This is branding or niching.

Indie authors can brand themselves from book one because they have complete control over their own product. They don't have to split their books or genres across different publishers or cover artists and risk losing the "look" they were building—or readers. No publisher merger or bankruptcy or the end of a line or imprint will force them to rebuild an entire line or series.

Indie authors can develop their career their way, without interruptions and with the full security of knowing exactly where they are heading. It is surely the very best of reasons for wanting to go indie.

Comment on this article at: <http://www.nightowlreviews.com/V5/Magazine/Articles/Indie-Pub-Ilt-Pros-And-Cons-Of-Indie-Publishing-Part-2-by-Tracy-Cooper-Posey?Collection=NOR-Magazine-37>



Columnist: [Tracy Cooper-Posey](#) writes erotic vampire romance series and hot romantic suspense. She has been nominated for 5 CAPAs including Favourite Author, and won the Emma Darcy Award. She published 35 titles via legacy publishers before switching to indie publishing in March 2011. She has published 15 indie titles to date. Her indie books have made her an Amazon #1 Best Selling Author and have been nominated three times for Book of the Year. 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 professional wrestler, where she moved in 1996 after meeting him online. Her website can be found at <http://TracyCooperPosey.com>



The Romance Zone: Romance Covers; the Wrap That Sells the Gift! by Cathryn Cade

Christmas is coming!

Hanukkah's almost here!

Kwanzaa is close behind!

Nearly time to tear into that pretty paper under your tree, or wherever your holiday surprises wait. A gorgeously wrapped gift is such a tease. It's like they're flirting, 'Look at me! Don't you wanna know what's inside me? C'mon, you know you do.'

One of my favorite gifts, and one I make sure to give myself this time of year, is a (okay, several) new romances. What a lovely escape from the buzz of preparations and the pressure to make this the perfect holiday.

How do I choose these gifts to myself? Several ways--favorite author, trusted publisher, favorite genre, recommendations from bloggers and friends, a great blurb.

But nothing shouts 'Read Me Next!' like a gorgeous manly chest or magnetic pair of eyes beckoning to me from a cover. Even a female, if she's someone whose teeny bikini or sexy spacesuit I'd love to slip into so I can experience her world.



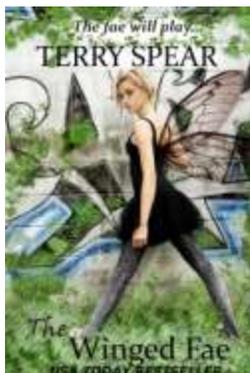
A cover should express the story's mood, heat level and tell me if the book part of a series.

It's not always easy for authors to get their share of cover love.

Art departments come up with the best artwork they can to represent a story, but sometimes stuff happens. My first book, *Tyger, Tyger, Burning Bright*, featured hot shifter love among the stars. When I received the cover, I swooned with joy. The gorgeous nude couple against the backdrop of planets tells readers this story is erotic sci fi romance.

Perfect! Except ... another Samhain author had been given that same couple (with their clothes on) for an historical romance debuting the same month. A scramble ensued to come up with a different look for *Tyger*. This cover became the signature look for the entire Orion Series, but ... I had already fallen hard for the first cover.

Yes, I got over it, especially when I received the cover for *Orion Rising*, the print anthology coming in July 2013 with *Tyger* and *Her Commander*. Visit my website for a sneak peek!



[Kim Killion](#) creates the gorgeous covers for my current Hawaiian paranormals. Kanaxa and Angela Waters are two more talented artists teaming up with Samhain to tempt us to read, read, read. And there are many more.

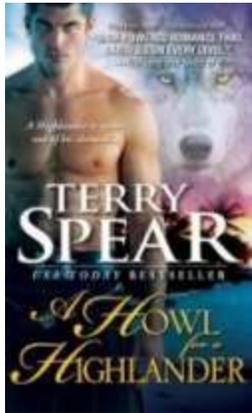
But what about the new crop of self-published authors? Where do they find the delicious wrappers for their romances? I decided to ask a few.

[Terry Spear's](#) paranormal shifter romances are USA Today bestsellers. Pretty



sure her fabulous covers have something to do with this. And she has a big hand in their creation.

Terry says “I love choosing covers for my self-published books. Sometimes, a picture will spawn a book as in *The Winged Fae*, Book 3 of *The World of Fae* YA series. I always try to find an unusual looking girl.”



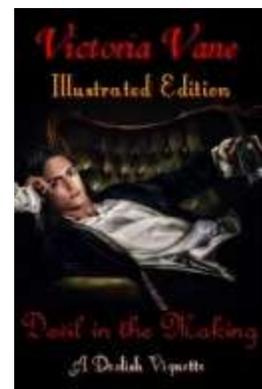
“Collecting covers is addictive! Black Friday half-off sale? Four new pictures to turn into covers!! And premade covers, too. When the cover art is ready first, I can tease readers with what’s to come. And when I finish the book, it’s ready to go. I may also use the picture to give me an idea of what to write, and as an incentive to write *The End!* For me, writing the book is just one part of the creative process. Adding a cover is the finishing touch.”

Terry’s *Heart of the Wolf* was one of Publishers Weekly ‘Best Books of the Year’. Now, the cover didn’t bring her that coveted award, but it can’t hurt, right? To find more of Terry’s gorgeous covers and the romances within, visit <http://www.terryspear.com>

Historical romance writers like artistic control, too. [Victoria Vane](#) has decided to return to a tradition of the late 1800’s and illustrate scenes inside her new books.



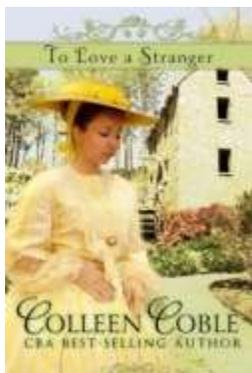
According to Victoria, “When I first conceived *A Wild Night’s Bride*, a Georgian set, Hangover-inspired romantic comedy, I had no idea that one devilish secondary character would spawn an entire series. But Ludovic ... captured the hearts of so many fans, I decided to continue the series, and recently commissioned full color illustrations.”



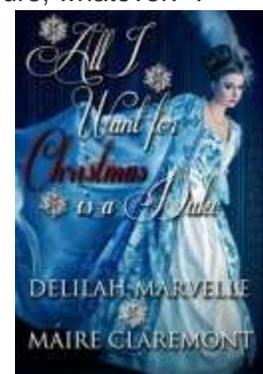
“The first (and just in time for all those glorious full color and graphics-capable Christmas e-readers), is a Georgian romp in the tradition of Fielding’s *Tom Jones* and a prequel to my award winning *Devil Devereux* series. *Devil in the Making*: The Illustrated Edition will be available in e-book early December 2012. A print anthology will follow later in 2013.”

Intrigued, historical fans? For more info, visit <http://www.authorvictoriavane.com>

Then there’s historical romance author [Delilah Marvelle](#)—who has not only has beautiful covers on her own books, she ended up on a cover!



Delilah laughingly confessed, “At RomCon 2011, I joined a Victorian fashion show and modeled some amazing ensembles. Kim from Hot Damn Designs took a few photos and asked if she could use one. I said, “Sure, whatever.” I didn’t think she’d actually use it! I ended up on the cover of [Colleen Coble’s](#) reprint of her inspirational, *To Love a Stranger*. Now, I write *really* steamy historical romance,



so to me, I couldn't believe I'd end up on an inspirational, lol. But I'm proud to say I'm on a romance cover!"

A successful Harlequin and Kensington author who has won RT's Best Sensual Historical Romance of the Year and Booklist's TOP 10 Romances of 2012, Delilah has a Christmas novella this season. *All I Want for Christmas is a Duke* debuts Dec 3rd for Entangled's new Scandalous historical romance line. Talk about holiday wrap!

In March, she'll self-publish more of her popular School of Gallantry series. Visit her at <http://www.delilahmarvelle.com> or her blog, which explores the naughtier side of history, at <http://www.delilahmarvelle.blogspot.com>.

Merry Christmas from my corner of the romance world to yours!

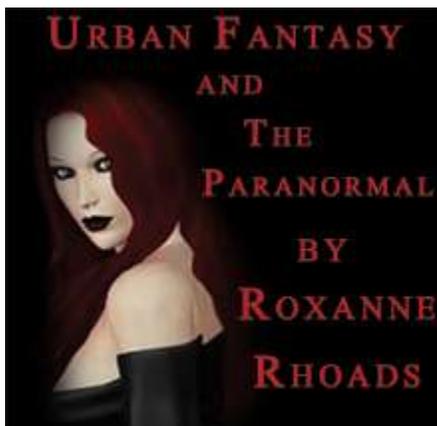
I hope you enjoyed this sampling of how romances get those fabulous covers. And remember, gift yourself with some romances to unwrap this holiday season, whether in paper or e-ink. Because you know the wrapping will tempt you.

Best,
Cathryn

Comment on this article at: <http://www.nightowlreviews.com/V5/Magazine/Articles/Romance-Covers-The-Wrap-That-Sells-The-Gift-by-Cathryn-Cade?Collection=NOR-Magazine-37>



Columnist: [Cathryn Cade](http://www.cathryncade.com) writes red hot romance for Samhain Publishing. Her erotic paranormal romances will take you from Hawaii to galaxies far away, with heroes who are more than men, and heroines who are woman enough for any adventure. She loves to hear from readers, and can be found on Facebook, Twitter and email. Stop by her website at <http://www.cathryncade.com> for these links, and to see her complete book list, read excerpts and fabulous reviews, and sign up for her newsletter.



Urban Fantasy and the Paranormal: Dec 2012 by Roxanne Rhoads

December already and the holidays are lurking just around the corner. Books make great gifts as do book store gift cards. I know my wish list is full of books- print and ebooks to add to my Kindle.

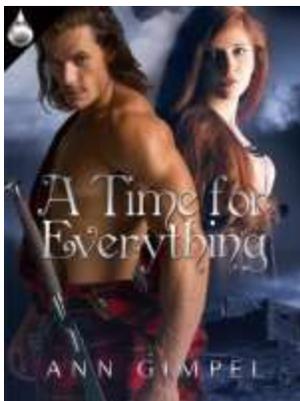
On my must have wish list this month are: [Touch of Steel: A Novel of the Clockwork Agents](#) by [Kate Cross](#), [Sealed With a Curse: A Weird Girls Novel](#) by [Cecy Robson](#), and [Touch of the Demon](#) (Kara Gillian) by [Diana Rowland](#)

Other new releases this month include: [Guardians of Stone](#) (The Relic Seekers Book 1) by [Anita Clenney](#), [Nightbred: Lords of the Darkyn](#) (Book 2) by [Lynn Viehl](#), [Reaper's Vow](#) (Shadow Reapers Book 2) by [Sarah McCarty](#), [The Accidental Genie](#) (An Accidental Series Book 7) by [Dakota Cassidy](#), [Last Kiss Goodnight: An Otherworld Assassin Novel](#) by [Gena Showalter](#), [Blessed By a Demon's Mark](#) by [E.S. Moore](#), [What a Ghoul Wants: A Ghost Hunter Mystery](#) by [Victoria Laurie](#) and [Kiss of the Betrayer](#) (A Bringer and the Bane Novel Book 2) by [Boone Brux](#) which is on tour with Bewitching Book Tours this month.

If you're looking for a few holiday books with bite here are some of my favorites from the past couple years.

[Wolfsbane and Mistletoe](#) is an anthology featuring some of the best authors in urban fantasy and paranormal including [Charlaine Harris](#), [Patricia Briggs](#), and [Rob Thurman](#). This one is full of bite- and a few twisted holiday tales ;-)

[Holidays are Hell](#) a great UF anthology featuring paranormal holiday tales from [Kim Harrison](#), [Lynsay Sands](#), [Vicki Pettersson](#), and [Marjorie M. Liu](#).



[The Bite Before Christmas](#) by [Jeaniene Frost](#) and [Lynsay Sands](#)- a must have for [Jeaniene Frost](#) fans. See how Cat and Bones celebrate the holidays.

[Heidi Betts The Bite Before Christmas](#). This steamy read will make you wish Santa would leave a vampire under your tree. [Heidi Betts](#) really knows how to keep the romance in paranormal romances. Her vampire stories are some of the sweetest, romantic books with bite you can sink your fangs into.

[All I Want for Christmas is a Vampire](#) (Love at Stake Book 5) by [Kerrelyn Sparks](#). [Kerrelyn Sparks](#) is an author you must read if you love vampire paranormal romances with lots of romance and humor.

[A Vampire for Christmas](#) is a great holiday collection with bite featuring vampire tales from [Michelle Hauf](#), [Laurie London](#), [Caridad Pineiro](#) and [Alexis Morgan](#)-Dark and delicious tales that'll put you in the holiday spirit and have you searching for more books by these authors- especially if this is your introduction into their dark worlds.

Here's another great collection of holiday tales filled with fangs -[Christmas with a Vampire](#) by [Merline Lovelace](#), [Lori Devoti](#), [Linda Winstead Jones](#), [Lisa Childs](#), and [Bonnie Vanak](#) ...Sink your teeth into

these while sitting in front of your tree.

Ok now it's time for this month's Super Quick Author Interviews.

RR: First author is [Ann Gimpel](#). Welcome Ann let's start with the name of your newest release and genre/category it falls into.

AG: [A Time For Everything](#), paranormal erotic romance

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

AG: Tall, curvy redhead

RR: Can you describe your heroine in one sentence?

AG: Rich, spoiled heiress who does a whole lot of growing up.

RR: Can you describe your hero in one sentence?

AG: Smoking hot Scottish laird with a penchant for redheads—and ghosts.

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

AG: A ghost, sidhe, visions

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

AG: Dumped yet again, the last thing Siobhan expects to find in the Highland mists is a man who looks like he walked right out of Scottish history.

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

AG: I spent a chunk of last summer in the UK and wrote this right after I got back. So my, ahem, depiction of the weather is spot on.

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

AG: Hot and spicy

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

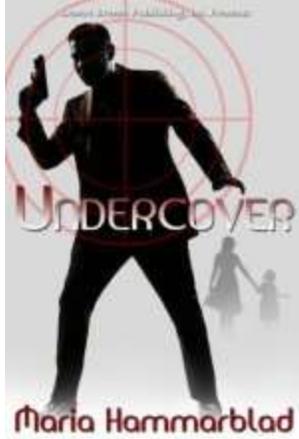
AG: [Amazon](#), Liquid Silver Books, All Romance e-books

RR: Thanks Ann, I must add this one to my Kindle. You hooked me at paranormal erotic romance then you tossed in a smokin hot Scottish guy and reeled me in. :)

RR: Now it's time for an SQAI with [Maria Hammarblad](#)

RR: So Maria tell us about your newest release and genre/category it falls into.

MH: My newest release is called [Undercover](#), and it is a contemporary romance.



RR: Can you describe your heroine in one sentence?

MH: Jenny Moore is a romantic and somewhat naïve dreamer who luckily also has a backbone of steel.

RR: Can you describe your hero in one sentence?

MH: Alexei Roshenko is handsome, exotic, intriguing, and dangerous.

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

MH: Jenny ends up with a gun to her head when she's forced to work as a messenger, delivering a mysterious package to the Russian mafia. It might be documents, or it might be a bomb set to go off at any minute...

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

MH: It's a multinational adventure featuring a man on the edge, and the woman who keeps him from falling off.

RR: Give us three adjectives that describe your book as a whole.

MH: Intriguing, sweet, and sexy.

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

MH: It's sensual... I'd say hot and spicy up to jalapeno level, but the super-spicy peppers have been put to the side.

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

MH: It is currently available as e-book from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, the iBookstore, and I

suspect a number of places I don't keep track of... During 2013, it will also be available as a paperback for those who prefer books on paper.

RR: Thank you, Maria. I love your jalapeno description for the heat level of the book. That grabbed my attention :)

RR: Our final author for this issue is [Jacqueline Paige](#)

RR: Welcome Jacqueline let's start with the name of your newest release and genre/category it falls into.

JP: [Heart](#): Animal Trilogy it's a paranormal / shifter romance

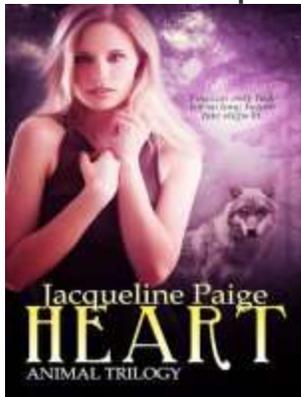
RR: Can you describe your heroine in one sentence?

JP: Rayne takes fearless to new levels.

RR: Can you describe your hero in one sentence?

JP: Devin is the epitome of the lone wolf.

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



JP: This trilogy is about shifters, the first book focuses on wolves, but the next two will be tigers and panthers.

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

JP: Setting up a tent alone, how hard could it be?

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

JP: It's a story of shifter mates that don't 'fall into each other's arms' because fate says they have to.

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

JP: Hot and spicy (3 flames)

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

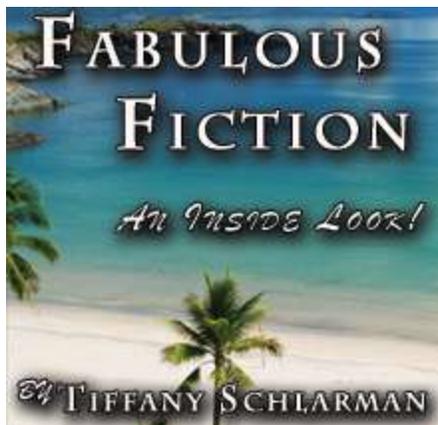
ETERNAL PRESS and [AMAZON](#)

RR: Thank you Jacq, shifter romances are so hot. I can't get enough of them. Something about that animalistic nature of the alpha male...

Comment on this article at: <http://www.nightowlreviews.com/V5/Magazine/Articles/Urban-Fantasy-And-The-Paranormal-Dec-2012-By-Roxanne-Rhoads?Collection=NOR-Magazine-37>



About 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](#).



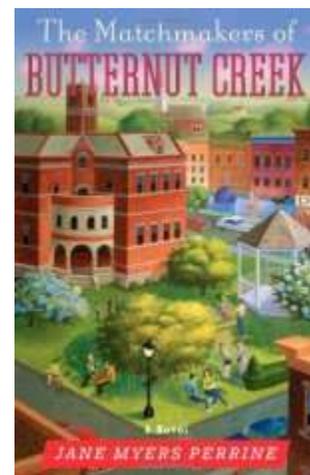
Fabulous Fiction: Tis the Season: Part Two by Tiffany Schlarman

As promised in last month's issue, here is part two of the Ultimate Gift Guide; you're sure-fire way to buying a wonderful read for the bookworm in your life. It's perfect for those last minute gifts! Without further ado, I give you another round of Fabulous Fiction.

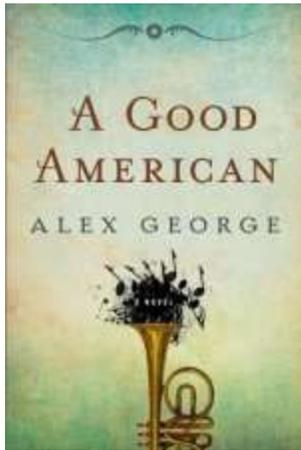
The Matchmakers of Butternut Creek by Jane Myers Perrine

The Widows of Butternut Creek are up to their match making tricks again. This time they are determined to find a bride for their sweet and beloved Pastor Adam. Their only set back is a pastor and his hopeful other half's shy ways!

As a college freshman, Gussie Milton suffered a traumatic experience that has left her 'once bitten, twice shy.' Although she'd like to be in a relationship, she is scared and caring for her aging parents, her photography business, and her church in order to avoid her fear. In the eyes of the Widows, Gussie would make the perfect wife for their young pastor. And though the attraction is mutual, Gussie's past and the



pastor's hopes for the future threaten to keep them apart. Can the Widows' meddling be the catalyst that changes the couple's lives forever or are these two meant for the single life?

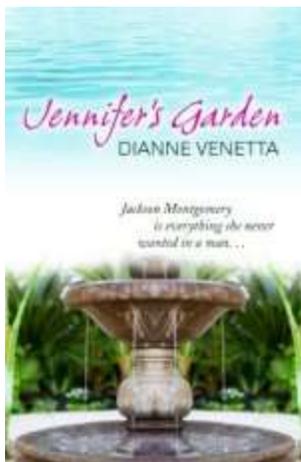


The Good American by Alex George

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 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.

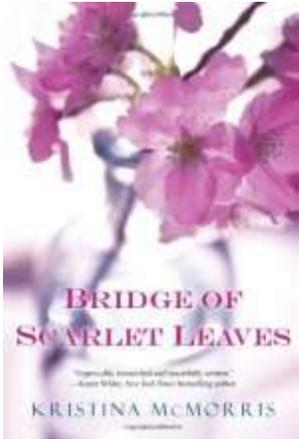
A Good American grasps the idyllic nature of the American dream and should be a must-read for everyone. After all – whether you arrived from abroad yesterday or your relatives were among the founding families– we're all immigrants in some capacity.



Jennifer's Garden by Dianne Venetta

In her debut novel, which is the first in the series, Dianne Venetta introduced a cast of wonderful and intriguing characters to life by giving them emotional connections the reader can relate too. Cardiologist, Jennifer Hamilton's time is like sand in an hourglass, she doesn't have much and it's moving quickly. Her dying mother's last wish gives Jennifer a short window of time to create a beautiful garden out of her empty backyard. Fulfilling her mother's dream to see her married means Jennifer has to rely on a skilled landscaper to make sure the wish comes true, for better or worse.

Unfortunately Jennifer's plans are slightly derailed when her landscaper, who came highly recommended, turns out to be a bartender who both infuriates and arouses her at the same time. Suddenly Jennifer's oh-so-perfect reasons for marrying are becoming rather imperfect and stifling. It turns out Jennifer has a lot to learn about love and Jackson Montgomery seems to be the person to teach her. But, will she fulfill her mother's last wish or risk it all in the name of love?



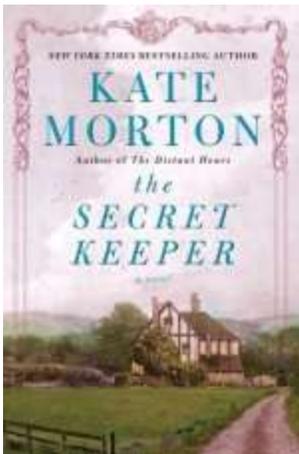
Bridge of Scarlet Leaves by Kristina McMorris

Violinist Maddie Kern's life was predictable and orderly until she fell in love with Lane Moritomo, the ambitious son of Japanese immigrants. Maddie expects their families' disapproval, but when Pearl Harbor is bombed the day after she and Lane elope, her new husband

is no longer viewed as just and outsider, but as an enemy.

Kristina McMorris, author of *Letters from Home*, amazed me with this title. I loved it. I'm was in awe of how well written this book is and awakened to so many different aspects and trials of that time period that I wasn't aware of prior to reading the novel. The author has a unique ability to portray the emotions of an era we didn't belong to, through words. The book is extremely accurate for a historical fiction. The author leaves a note at the end of the book that discusses the importance of accuracy for her in this book and explains how she went about achieving it. Her preparation for this novel is evident in her thoughtful and expressive writing.

Though it is fiction, these characters lived, maybe not as Maddie and Lane but as those who lived with the same hopes, dreams, realities and trials. The characters are well developed and intricately weaved together. To me they were friends, not characters. I was joyful in their happiness, heartbroken in their sorrow and connected with them throughout the entire story. Even though I finished this book long ago, the characters have stayed with me. I was changed by reading this book. I now have a whole new outlook and respect for those involved in WWII after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. *Bridge of Scarlet Leaves* is a must read for 2012.



The Secret Keeper by Kate Morton

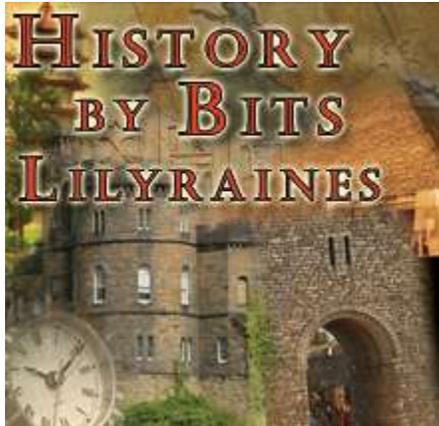
During a summer party at the family farm in the English countryside, sixteen-year-old Laurel escapes to her childhood tree house and is happily dreaming of the future when she spies a stranger coming up the long road to the farm. Before the afternoon is over, Laurel will witness a shocking crime that challenges everything she knows about her family.

Fast forward fifty years, Laurel is now a successful and well-regarded actress. Her family is gathering at Greenacres farm for Dorothy's ninetieth birthday. Knowing this may be her last chance, Laurel searches Dorothy's past for answers to the questions that still haunt her from that long-ago day.

The Secret Keeper explores longings and dreams and the unexpected consequences they sometimes bring. It is an unforgettable story of lovers and friends, deception and passion mixed with a spellbinding story full of history, mystery, thievery, and murder.

Comment on this article at: <http://www.nightowlreviews.com/V5/Magazine/Articles/Fabulous-Fiction-Tis-The-Season-Part-Two-by-Tiffany-Schlarman?Collection=NOR-Magazine-37>

About Tiffany Schlarman: Tiffany is an avid reader, reviewer and marketing specialist. You can connect with her via the following outlets. Website- <http://www.acozyreaderscorner.com> - Twitter - [@cozyreadersnook](https://twitter.com/cozyreadersnook) – Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/groups/#!/page>



History Bits: Travel Back in History by Lilyraines

Winter is here in the Northern Hemisphere and while some of us like to cuddle up with a good book and hot chocolate in front of a nice fire (at least dream of doing so), others like to either watch or participate in winter sports.

With that in mind, here are a couple of selections that might appeal to a variety of folks:

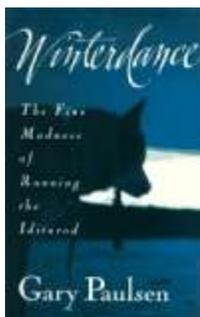


Winter Sports by Natalie Regier

Includes topics on bobsledding, hockey, curling, luge, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling and skating. The book also has brainstorming activities, vocabulary and spelling activities, word reinforcement puzzles, concentration games, crosswords and word searches.

From Skisport to Skiing: One Hundred Years of an American Sport, 1840-1940 by E. John B. Allen

According to the book description on Amazon.com, skisport (a 19th-century term) was introduced by Scandinavians who settled in the upper Midwest and helped with mail delivery, doctors' house calls and shopping. The description goes on to say that in its original format it was mainly cross-country and that it wasn't until the turn of the century that the Alpine events (downhill, slalom) became popular and that it grew exponentially in the 1930s with the introduction of lifts.

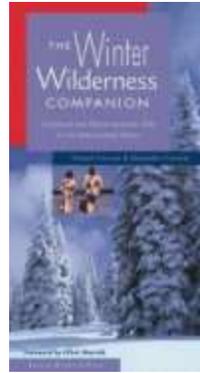


Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod by Gary Paulsen

A memoir wherein the author talks about enduring snowstorms, frostbite, dogfights, moose attacks, sleeplessness and hallucinations. Includes a map and color photographs.

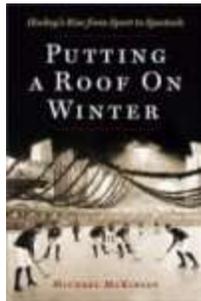
The Winter Wilderness Companion: Traditional and Skills for the Undiscovered Season by Garrett and Conover

The authors, who were named to Outside magazine's Century Heroes for a New Millennium", try to show the reader the season instead of just enduring it. Book includes plans instructions for making clothing, tents, toboggans, and According to the description for the book, it is a complete enjoy the winter wilderness by using traditional skills, philosophies.



Native American Alexandra

"Twentieth how to celebrate and detailed snowshoes. guide in how to equipment and



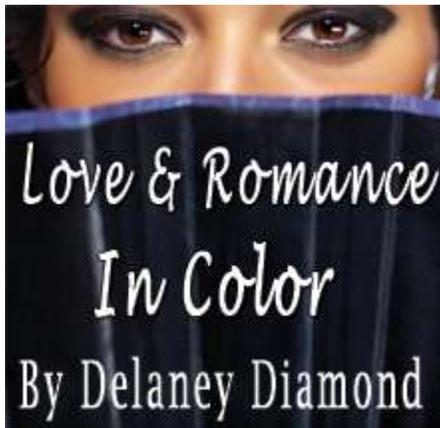
Putting a Roof on Winter: Hockey's Rise from Sports to Spectacle by Michael McKinley

Takes a look at how the sport has changed since the first indoor match in 1875 by providing tales of the "gods and villains" of the game, tracing the change's from the amateur days, through the moment when the pros went on the ice, to the Canada-Russia summit series. Also has profiles of Cyclone Taylor, Newsy Lalonde, Howie Morenz, some of the more powerful owners and the glory teams of the 1940s, 50s, and 60s.

Comment on this article at: <http://www.nightowlreviews.com/V5/Magazine/Articles/History-Bits-Travel-Back-In-History-By-Lilyraines?Collection=NOR-Magazine-37>

About Lilyraines: Lilyraines has worked as a freelance editor, proofreader, and ghost writer. In a past incarnation, she worked as a technical secretary for an engineering firm after receiving a Bachelor's degree in Legal Studies with a Political Science minor. Both experiences have come in handy for some of the proofreading she has done. And, of course, she is working on writing something that is currently in bits and pieces as it comes to mind.

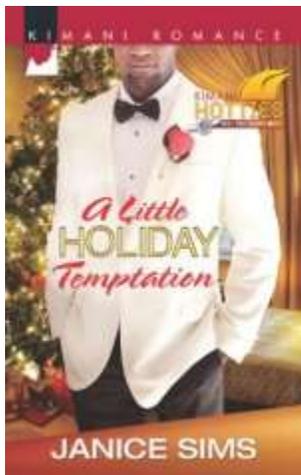
When not working or reviewing, she can usually be found knitting, cross-stitching, cooking, avoiding housework as much as possible and in a couple places online. She usually lurks at the following places: <http://www.facebook.com/gabbylily.raines>



Love & Romance in Color: Celebrate the Holidays in Color by Delaney Diamond

Can you believe it? In the blink of an eye, another year has come and gone. If you celebrate Christmas, in less than two weeks you'll be opening presents, and hopefully find something you like. Did you drop hints or cross your fingers and hope for the best?

If your loved ones know you well and know you enjoy reading, you may receive one of the handy



little e-readers on the market. Or you may receive a nice tablet to which you can download reader apps. Or maybe you're old-school and love to hold a book in your hand while reclining in your favorite chair.

Whatever your preference, you have plenty of options this season, because holiday romances went on sale a couple of months ago and are selling like hotcakes. If you keep your eyes open, you'll find some good deals on books that have characters celebrating Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah. To get you started, I listed a few books below that you may want to add to your personal list or the list of someone you're shopping for.

[A Little Holiday Temptation](#) by [Janice Sims](#)

Ana Corelli and Erik Whitaker have always been there for each other. Trouble is, Ana's starting to see the sexy entrepreneur as more than just a broad shoulder to cry on. After some soul-searching, she's finally ready to tell Erik how she feels. But between missed opportunities and an unexpected push back into the spotlight, their timing never seems to be right.

As the new face of Corelli Fashions, Ana is putting her family's international company on the map. Erik couldn't be prouder...and feels this is the moment to confess his pent-up love for the voluptuous model. But now there's another man in Ana's life. With the magic of the holiday season around them, will Erik be able to show Ana that he's the only one for her? And that sometimes best friends forever can become lovers for life...?

Celebrate Kwanzaa in [Holiday of Love](#) by [Kayla Perrin](#)

With her career as an artist finally taking off and her social life in full swing, Collette Jenkins is happier than ever--until just weeks before the holidays when a letter that's been lost in the mail arrives. Still reeling from the stunning news that the only family she ever knew is not her family at all, Collette heads for the Miami home where she was raised,



and comes face-to-face with another specter of her childhood--her first love, Dexter Harris.

Now divorced and a college basketball coach, Dexter can't help but remember that he gave up Collette once before--and he won't stand idly by when she's determined to find her true family. Convincing her that celebrating Kwanzaa might give her newfound courage will be tough. But Dexter will do whatever it takes--especially when he realizes the season's message of love is the best gift he can give.



Hanukkah Bliss by Sarah Salari

On her way to pick up supplies for winter break at Utah State, Jaz Jiménez notices a young woman struggling to hold onto too many shopping bags while crossing an intersection and rushes to help her. The girl turns out to be an Israeli exchange student, bringing home supplies for the festival of Hanukkah. The chance meeting begins one of Jaz's biggest challenges to date.

Can Jaz seduce the devout young Rivka, or is theirs a relationship destined to be limited to friendship?



Just as Good by Keshia Robertson

Evan Hermes traded in romance for pragmatism when he suggested marriage at their New Year's Eve party to his girlfriend Kitt Preston. It was a "suggestion" which wasn't well received by the love of his life. Though it's taken him most of the year to figure out the perfect proposal, this time romance is front and center to obtain a yes!

Kitt has been in love with Evan ever since he asked her out during their first year of college. Tall, handsome, and a family man, Evan is the kind of person that most women would be falling over themselves to marry...but not her. Kitt is only willing to say yes to a marriage proposal that is worthy of their love and years together.

Christmas Confession by Naomi Jones

Invited to a Christmas wedding, all Maxine could concentrate on was how much her feelings had changed for the brother of the bride. Cameron had long since gone from being her best friend to being everything she wanted in a man, but she'd put a restrictor plate on their relationship. That'd worked in the past, but all it was doing now was reminding her of how foolish that had been.



Cameron was living every man's dream: being friends with benefits with the most beautiful woman he'd seen. His best friend, somewhere along the way, he'd fallen in love with Maxine. Honoring her request became increasingly difficult, especially when he realized that he didn't just want to sex up this woman; he wanted to come home to this woman every night.

How much more can Maxine take of being so close to Cameron, yet still so far away? With gentle encouragement from his parents and straight out meddling from his sister, can Cameron make Maxine his by this Christmas?

Before I close out this month's column, I wanted to let you know that this is the last month I'll be writing for Night Owl Reviews magazine. It's been an absolute pleasure to share romance novels with you that feature protagonists of color. You know by now there's no shortage of these books available, and I hope you'll continue to seek them out and lose yourself in the pages.

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and happy reading!

Comment on this article at: <http://www.nightowlreviews.com/V5/Magazine/Articles/Love-Romance-In-Color-Celebrate-The-Holidays-In-Color-by-Delaney-Diamond?Collection=NOR-Magazine-37>



About Delaney: [Delaney Diamond](http://www.delaneydiamond.com) is the bestselling author of African-American and interracial romance. Enjoy free reads on her website at <http://delaneydiamond.com>.



Novel Technology: Holiday Roundup by Victoria Mays

I know it's a little early to be talking about that shiny new e-reader, tablet or smartphone that you are getting for Christmas this year, but knowing how to get the most out of that device is #1 in my book. In this month's article I want to focus on some of the apps that will make your device your new best friend.

For those interested in e-books, there are a multitude of e-reading apps available for your reading pleasure. Most of the major e-book retailers offer their own branded e-reading app. These apps are usually available for the Apple Devices, the Android OS based tablets and smartphones, as well as the stand alone desktops and laptops. There are also some third party apps that let you checkout the latest in e-books and audiobooks, read insightful reviews and satisfy ones cravings to contribute book opinions socially. By and by most of these types of apps are free of charge to download. It is the purchase of

e-books and audiobooks that may give you pause. But I am getting ahead of myself. Some of the popular apps that are surely to make your download list include:



- Kindle app (Amazon's e-reading app)
- Nook app (Barnes and Nobles e-reading app)
- Overdrive (Library Digital Content Manager)
- iBooks app (Apple e-retailer)
- Adobe app (Adobe PDF reader)
- Bluefire app (Adobe PDF/Epub reader)
- BAM app (Books a Million e-retailer)
- Desiel app (Desiel Books e-retailer)
- Kobo app (Kobo Books e-retailer)

So I have outlined the available apps that will help you on your journey into the e-book world. Now let's talk about purchasing e-books. From my list above you can see that there are a number of e-retailers willing to sell you an e-book. Most of these have expanded their selection of available formats to include Amazon's the proprietary AZW format for the Kindle. Remember only a Kindle device or a Kindle app can open and display a Kindle formatted e-book.

E-books have come of age! The bestsellers and movers and shakers of the industry are available in e-book format. There are hundreds of free e-books available at e-retailers and libraries. Without re-hashing old news (Agency 5/Publisher sets the price/Anti-trust case), let's assume that e-book prices are re-aligning themselves and a paperback/mass-market copy will be around \$7.99 or less per e-book. Depending on the e-retailer the cost may be higher or lower as the anti-trust case settlement takes effect. So shop around a bit, you may come across a bargain.



For those looking to expand or enter the social frenzy there are some really great apps that will plunge you into the world of the connected. These apps include Facebook, Twitter, Digg, Pinterest and Goodreads.



To help you manage all those new social outlets, check out Flipboard, Pulse and Hootsuite. These apps are an essential for getting a handle on the thousands of feeds generated via Facebook and Twitter. Never miss a post. Featuring a magazine style layout these apps make sure you stay abreast of the latest news.

Not to be left out for those of you looking to enjoy some quality entertainment via your new device, might I suggest the following apps for download. Topping my list of must have entertainment apps are Netflix, Hulu Plus, Fandango, Angry Birds (any edition), Audible.com, Harlequin and Words with Friends.

Switching gears a bit, I want to point out that there is a must have program called Calibre. Calibre lets you manage your e-books outside of iTunes for Apple Devices and as a supplement to those Android based devices. Calibre is a powerful piece software developed to help us manage all those e-books. It's free of charge so there is no risk should you decide that it's not for you. The software is designed to allow a user to edit e-book meta-data (genre, cover-art, ratings, etc), convert non-DRM (Digital Rights Managed) e-books to alternative e-reading formats and connect/transfer e-books to selected devices. This versatile software is my staple choice for e-book conversion.

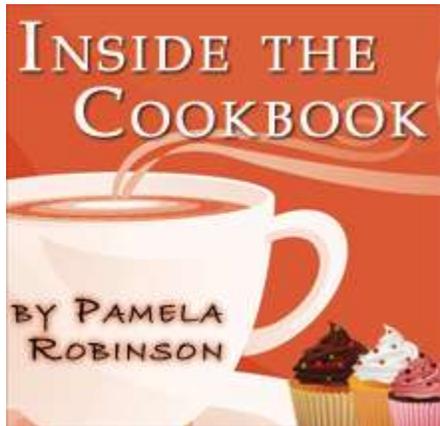
Well that's it for this month's article, so grab that e-reader/tablet/laptop/smartphone and take the plunge into the digital age.

Comment on this article at: <http://www.nightowlreviews.com/V5/Magazine/Articles/Novel-Technology-Holiday-Roundup-by-Victoria-Mays?Collection=NOR-Magazine-37>

About Victoria: Victoria currently owns 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, while the iPod touch is that on the go reading in line at the bank and waiting for a movie to start device. The iPad is

used for long term review reading and annotating. She still purchases many of her favorite authors in print, but her library

Inside the Cookbook: Vegetable Diet by Pamela Robinson

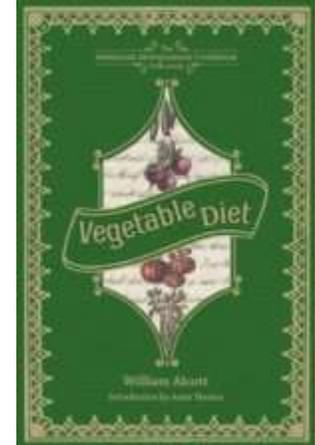


The Vegetable Diet focuses on humans eating vegetables instead of flesh, meat or fish. The majority of this book is a compilation of letters from various medical professionals, and others, who have removed meat from their diets for a prolonged period of time and what affect it has on their health. There was an overwhelming majority consensus that a vegetable diet improves digestion, memory and every day functioning. The most amazing part is that people have overcome multiple diseases by changing their diet. I was surprised that milk and some breads were part of the vegetable

diet.

This book was not an easy read. It took several chapters for me to get into the subject matter and understand what the idea was, but once I did I was hooked. I'm very interested in nutrition and how what we eat affects our bodies. This book delves into that very subject in great depth. I encourage anyone who has a chronic disease to read these words. Especially those who can't find relief with modern medicine cures.

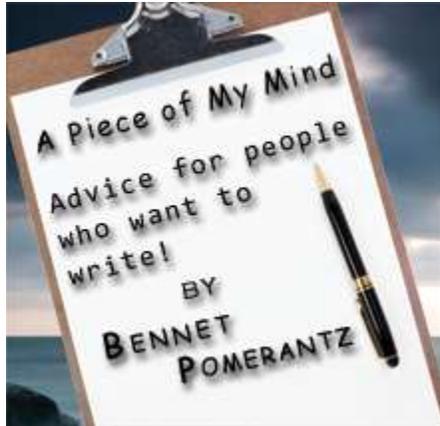
What I didn't find in this book was recipes. I was quite confused that this was labeled as a cookbook. While it is definitely a thorough nutrition book, it is not a 'diet' or 'cookbook'. It does say that this book is part of a collection of 'cookbooks' so maybe this was the first one to introduce the importance of eating vegetables? Either way, if nutrition is important to you and yours, I'd recommend reading this one.



Comment on this article at: <http://www.nightowlreviews.com/V5/Magazine/Articles/Inside-The-Cookbook-Vegetable-Diet-by-Pamela-Robinson?Collection=NOR-Magazine-37>

About Pamela Robinson: Pamela (www.thefantasticfoodie.com) is a thirty-year-old woman living in a small university town. She loves to cook and come up with new spins to old recipes, mainly her southern grandmother's. She has a small budget but that doesn't mean she can't live large. Along

with her fiancé she just bought their first house. They have a five month old Boston Terrier, Burton Guster, named after Dulé Hill's character on the show "Psyche." They have recently added another Boston to the mix named Shawn. And then a foster they saved from euthanasia at a shelter named Penny Layne. The five of them are learning to make a life together on their own. She is a reviewer and freelance writer.



A Piece Of My Mind: Insights for Writers - Promotion

The website www.oncewritten.com has this to say about book promotion.

"In 2005 the United States produced nearly 175,000 new titles. Even if the most intrepid of book consumers were able to read

three books a day, they would only be able to read about one percent of all the titles published that year. And let's face it, most of our consumers aren't that reading-prolific.

So the question is just HOW do you promote your book? Getting the word out is not easy, and as a new author you face incredible competition in getting your book noticed. From listings at Amazon.com, to online advertising, to book signings, phew, what should you do next?"

In my opinion, one of the hardest jobs to do as a writer is the task of promoting your work. It does not matter if it's a short story or novel. Writing is easy part, promotion is hard work.

When I discussed this idea with a friend over lunch, he suggested writing about it in my column.

Well, I explained that I got this email from the husband of a writer. He told me that he challenged his wife to write the book instead of talking about it. She wrote the book. Now the novel has been posted to Smashwords, Amazon and a few other sites with limited success. He wondered why her book hasn't been selling.

Lets be honest, many writers promote their work on all the social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Blogspot, etc. Nowadays, a writer cannot shy away from the spotlight and just write. Authors now have to do writer's workshops, readings...as well as interviews, appearances, guest blogging, blog hops, radio spotlights, book videos, TV spots and more.

It is hard to just go into your writer's cave and just compose a piece. A friend of mine who is a very shy and introverted man, but can write wonderful work, remarked to me. "I can't hide anymore! I need to go out in public and advertise myself. I used to just write my books, now I need to be at writer workshops six to eight weeks a year and interact with the public with book signings."

What the public wants is to know the authors of their books. For example, a few of the authors who have made appearances on my blog talk radio show ANYTHING GOES have said that their readership enjoys listening and knowing them through conversation rather than an interview by the numbers. From the emails I have gotten, it is great that they now know the author behind the words.

Many authors nowadays remark that their fiction writing has sometimes taken a back seat to promoting their work. Amazing as it seems, many writers have their media accounts updating themselves daily.

If an author has many mom de plumes, each author name tends to have their own Blogspot page, Facebook page, Twitter account etc. So there is more work promoting on social media sites.

In the days long ago, the large publishers had major marketing departments. In this age of independent authors, small e-publishing and on line direct publishing, this is rare to have happen anymore.

I do not want to sound like the prophet of doom and gloom. I have always been frank with you my readers. I always believed in telling it like it is. Promotion these days is as important as writing itself

So until next time, Reach for the stars

Comment on this article at: <http://www.nightowlreviews.com/V5/Magazine/Articles/A-Piece-Of-My-Mind-Insights-For-Writers-Promotion-by-Bennet-Pomerantz?Collection=NOR-Magazine-37>

About Bennet Pomerantz: Bennet Pomerantz has covered the Audio medium for the last 20 years. He has syndicated newspaper columns, AUDIOWORLD and "Movies of Your Mind", in Affaire De Coeur Magazine. In which he showcase his vast and diverse knowledge of the spoken word medium.

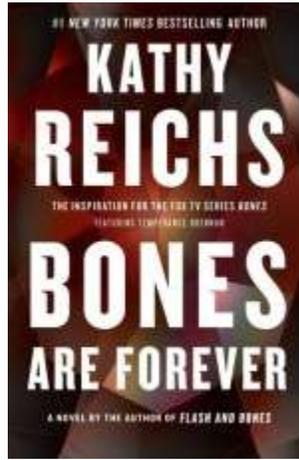
He is also known as a media review critic (books, music, graphic novels, DVDs, CDs) in his weekly syndicated newspaper column "A Piece of the Page". He also is a ranked media reviewer for Amazon.com. <http://www.facebook.com/bennet.pomerantz1> / E-mail: audioworld@yahoo.com



Dark Streets: Suspense in the Form of Bones... by Toni LoTempio

Author [Kathy Reichs](#) is no stranger to fans of the Fox television series “Bones” – the show is based on her life, on the character of Temperance Brennan that she created back in 1997. Her first novel, *Déjà Dead*, won the 1997 Arthur

(Tempe) is such a close parallel to differences in personality a good real life science, and Reichs is quote: “Everything I describe in another novel, *Grave Secrets*, she visit to Guatemala. And experience plenty of: She is one of eighty-eight the American Board of Forensic of Directors of the American busy schedule, in addition to being



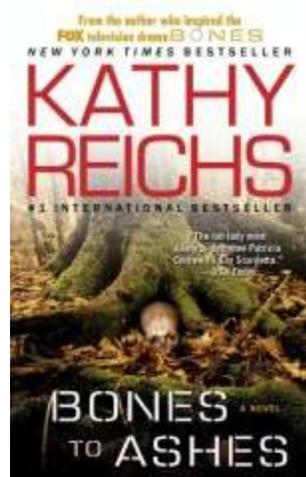
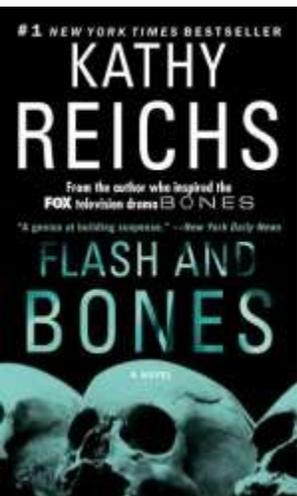
Ellis Award for Best First Novel. It's no surprise that Temperance her creator, although there are portion of the novels are based on nothing if not fastidious to detail. To *Déjà Dead*, I actually did”. In called upon her experiences from a in forensics is one thing Reichs has forensic anthropologists certified by Anthropology, and sits on the Board Academy of Forensic Sciences. Her a producer of *Bones*, involves

speaking engagements throughout the world.

Although the Fox series *Bones* is inspired by Reich's life, there are in actuality many differences. The main character is Temperance Brennan, and she is a forensic anthropologist; however, television Tempe does her work at the Smithsonian, appears to be much younger and socially awkward; is childless (or at least was – but fictional Tempe has a teenage daughter, whereas tv Tempe has a baby girl). TV Tempe came off a bit promiscuous at first, until finally “settling down” with FBI agent and partner Seely Booth; Fiction Tempe has an ex-husband, and her suitor, Ryan, is a Canadian detective. There are few tie-ins between the TV series and the books, but one thing is consistent: the suspense is top-notch.

Reichs combines suspense with science in all of her novels, beginning with 1997's *Déjà Dead* right up to 2011's *Flash and Bones*. August 2012 saw the debut of yet another Temperance Brennan novel, *Bones are Forever*.

Although it isn't necessary to read the books in order, as with any series, it's better if you do- so to that end, here's a complete listing of the Temperance Brennan books in order. Reichs is also the author of two YA novels, *Virals* and *Seizure*.



Déjà Dead, *Death Du Jour*, *Deadly Decisions*, *Fatal Voyage*, *Grave Secrets*, *Bare Bones*, *Monday Morning*, *Cross Bones*, *Break No Bones*, *Bones to Ashes*, *Devil Bones*, *206 Bones*, *Spider Bones*, *Flash and Bones*, *Bones are Forever* - [Blurbs and Purchase Links](#)

About [Kathy Reichs](#):

Kathy Reichs, like her fictional creation, Temperance Brennan, is forensic anthropologist for the province of



Quebec. She is Vice President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, serves on the Canadian National Police Services Advisory Council, and is one of only fifty-six forensic anthropologists certified by the American Board of Forensic Anthropology. A professor of anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Dr. Reichs now divides her time between Charlotte and Montreal. *Deja Dead*, her debut novel, brought her fame when it became a New York Times bestseller and won the 1997 Ellis Award for Best First Novel. In 2007 *Break No Bones* was short-listed for the Ellis Award for Best Novel. Kathy Reichs is the inspiration for the television drama *Bones*; her latest novel featuring Temperance Brennan is *Devil Bones*. Her newest release, *206 Bones*, is due out in the summer of 2009

Happy Reading!

Comment on this article at: <http://www.nightowlreviews.com/V5/Magazine/Articles/Dark-Streets-Suspense-In-The-Form-Of-Bones-By-Toni-Lotempio?Collection=NOR-Magazine-37>



Columnist: [Toni LoTempio](#) – admin by day, writer by night! In addition to writing the suspense column for Nigh Owl, Toni writes paranormal suspense and mysteries, among them, *Raven's Kiss*, *MY SUPERHERO SISTER*, *Raven's Quest* and *NO REST FOR THE WICCA* available at Amazon.com and B&N.com. Toni's cat, ROCCO, occasionally lets her on his blog, www.catsbooksmorecats.blogspot.com, which features interviews with authors and giveaways each month. Toni and her blogging cat ROCCO also do work for Nathan Fillion's charity, KIDS NEED TO READ, (Rocco is its official spokescat!) and Toni is featured in the paranormal anthology, *EVERY WITCH WAY BUT WICKED*, available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble, whose proceeds benefit the charity!

Read the full issue online and comment on individual articles at:
<http://www.nightowlreviews.com/v5/Magazine/NOR-Magazine-37>