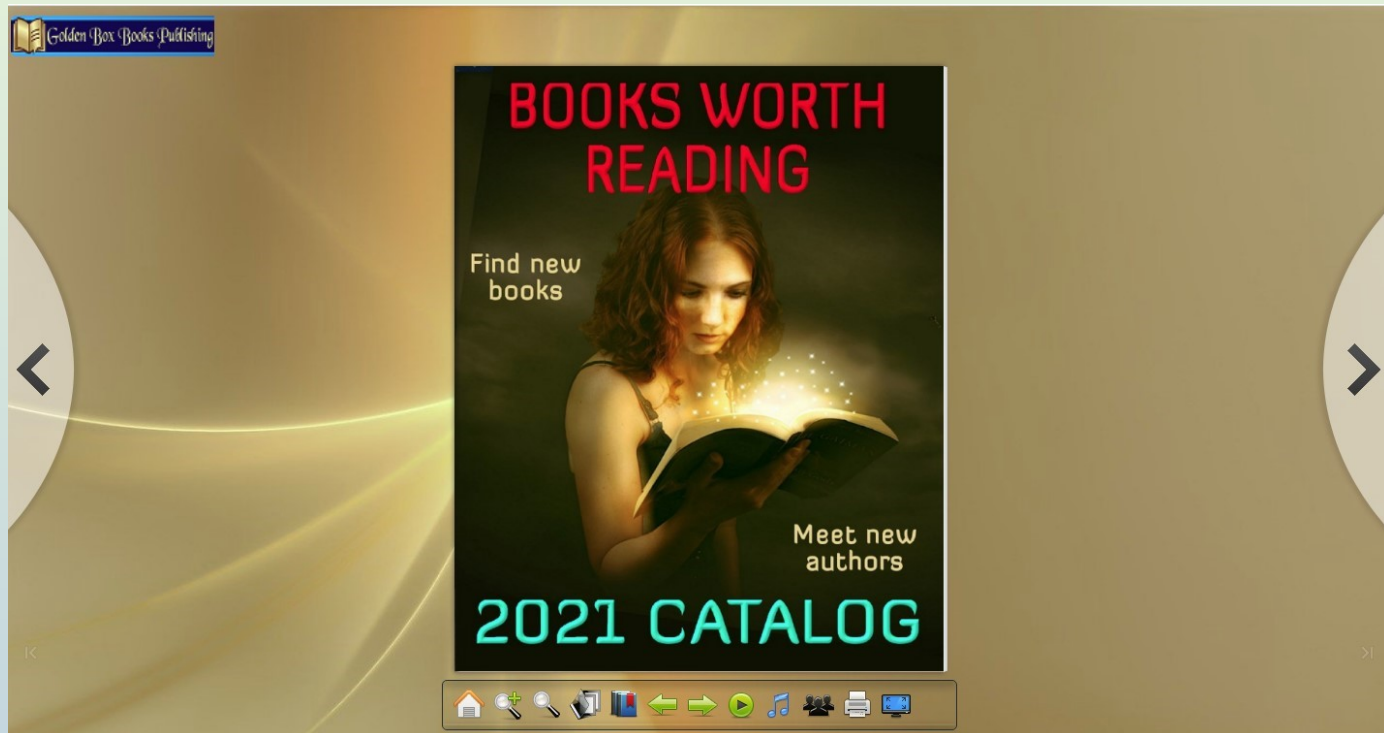


# BOOKISH MAGAZINE

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat and a white off-the-shoulder top, is sitting outdoors. She is holding a glass of white wine. To her right is a wicker picnic basket containing a bottle of wine. The background is a lush green forest with a large tree trunk visible on the right. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

AUGUST 2021





Read the magazine:

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/cmebw/ioza/>



Read free online magazines:

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GBB Pub, is a small publisher and assistance provider for self-published authors.

We will resume our services in January 2021

<https://www.goldenboxbooks.com>

# AUGUST

Dog days of summer are lingering here  
Heat and humidity won't end, we fear

The height of summertime spreading its wings  
Children enjoying the free time it brings

Plans being made for family vacations  
Camping trips or visiting relations

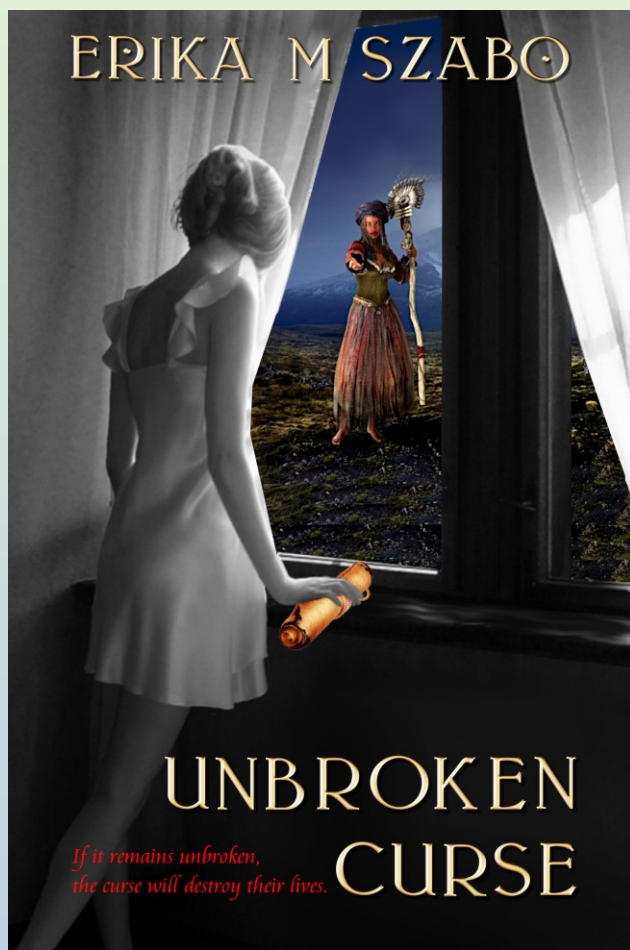
Sad faces on children hard to disguise  
When they see stores filled with back-to-school supplies

Parents excited long break will be done  
As children try to get in last minute fun

[© Cindy J. Smith](#)





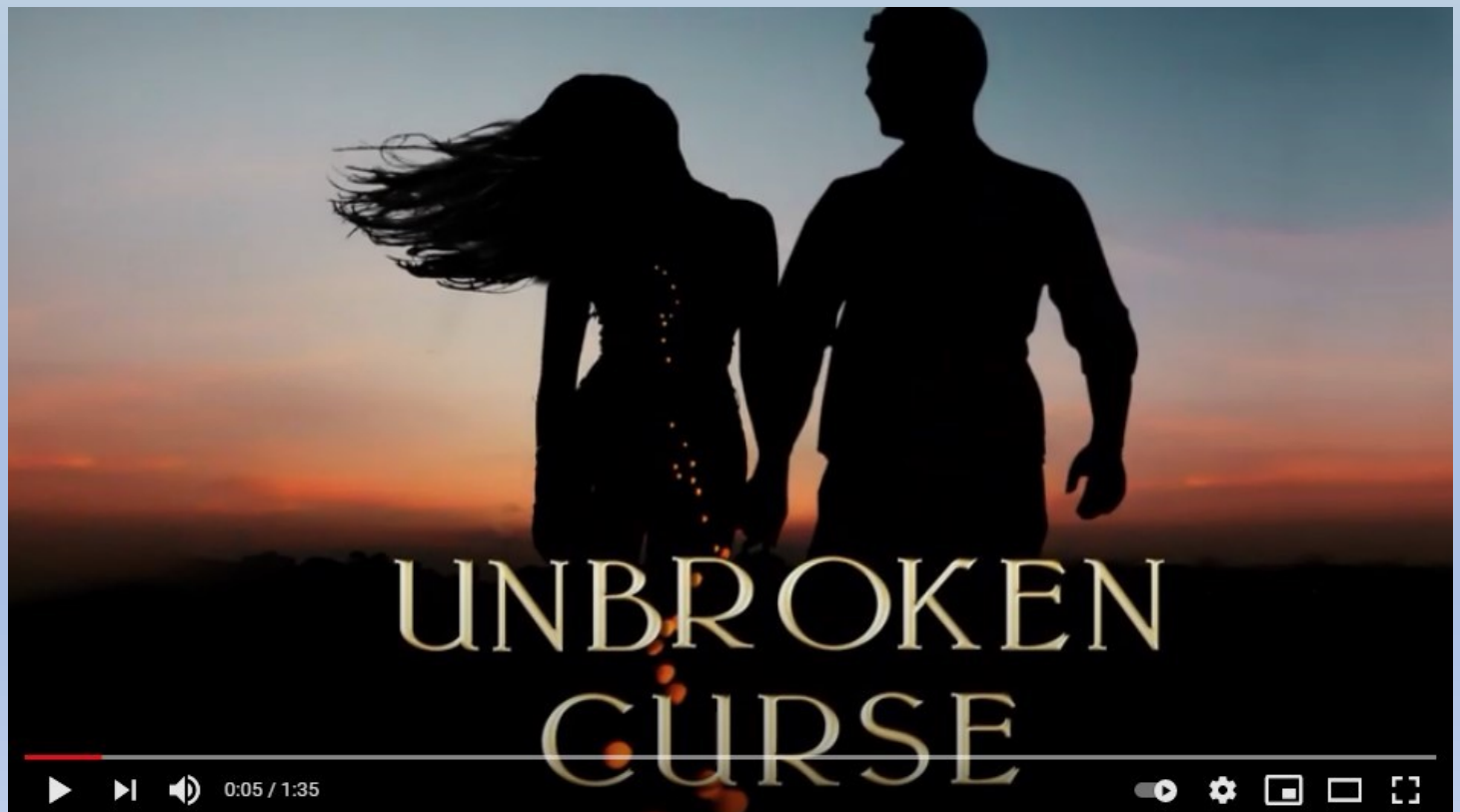


## Alternative history - suspense

A powerful curse cast sixteen hundred years ago destroyed the lives of their ancestors for centuries. If it remains unbroken, the curse will ruin the lives of future generations as well.

**Jayden's life is in danger.** When he finds a crude leather book in his grandmother's secret room that was written in 426 by a Shaman, his sister, Sofia, deciphers the ancient runes. They learn about their **family curse** and dark memories of their childhood start to surface. Is it possible to break the ancient curse and save Jayden?

[ON AMAZON](#)



Watch the trailer on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Wf4fhtTzohw>

# When A Self-Published Author Dies What Happens To Their Books?

It's not a question you ask every day, but what happens when a self-published author dies?

For the family of an author, you may want to keep the books available for sale.

In some cases, it's relatively easy if there is a publishing contract and the publisher is still in business.

But it is not so simple if the author was self-published.

In general terms, due to copyright laws, literary works do not become public domain books when an author dies.

Copyright lasts for the author's entire life and then continues for another 70 years. It means that successors can continue to sell an author's work for a long time afterward.

You might think that the law allows for transferring rights and royalty payments for a book or books to an author's next of kin.

Generally, this is often true when an author has a publisher.

A publishing contract usually contains a clause relating to the author's passing and what action the publisher will take.

When you self-publish, there is no contract, so you need to read the Terms of Service (TOS) for each provider.

KDP section 10.3 Other Legal provisions. You can read the [KDP Terms of Service in full here](#).

D2D section 19, paragraph f, General Legal Provisions. Read the [full D2D Terms of Service](#).

Smashwords section 9. Author and Publisher Warranties. Read the [Smashwords Terms of Service in full](#)

**[Read the original post...](#)**

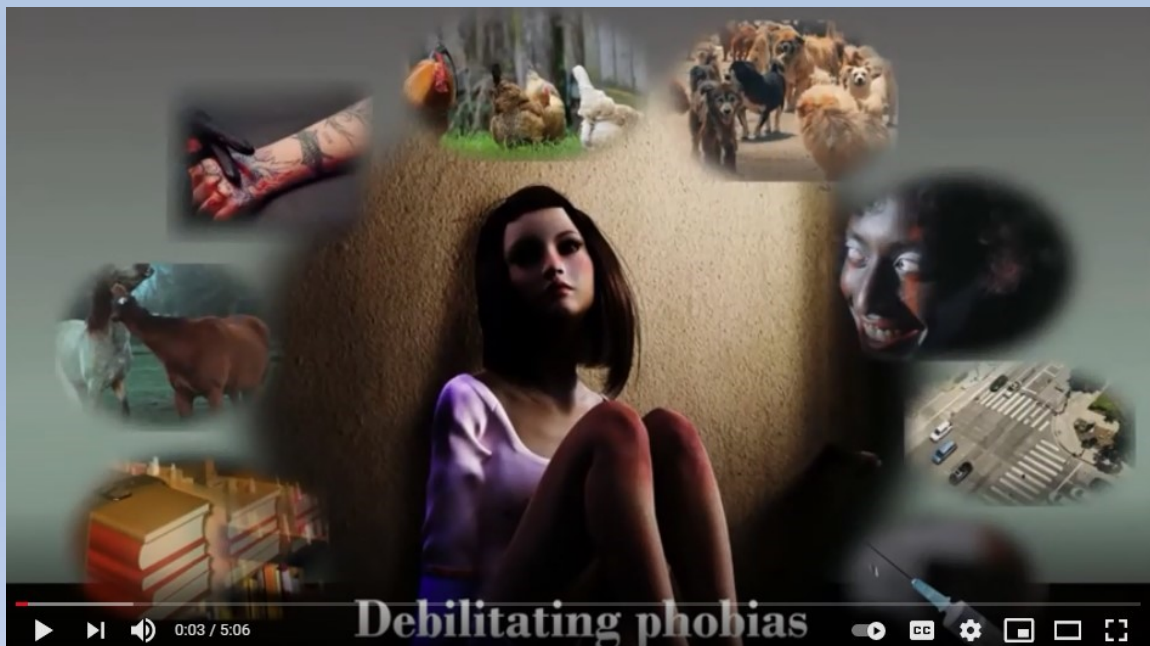
Bizarre facts about us humans. Some are fun, some are gross, some are just plain peculiar.

**Watch on YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/0gdMd5IJBoc>

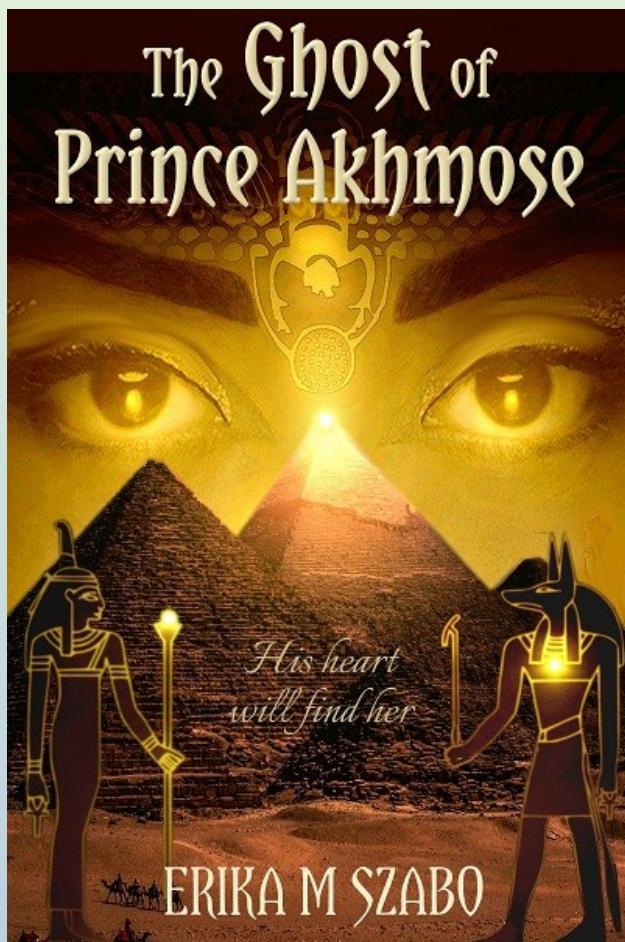


Fear protects you from danger. Phobias have little to do with danger. More than 19 million Americans have a phobia, an intense, irrational fear when they face a certain situation, activity, or object.

**Watch on YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/VI3wdikvNLs>





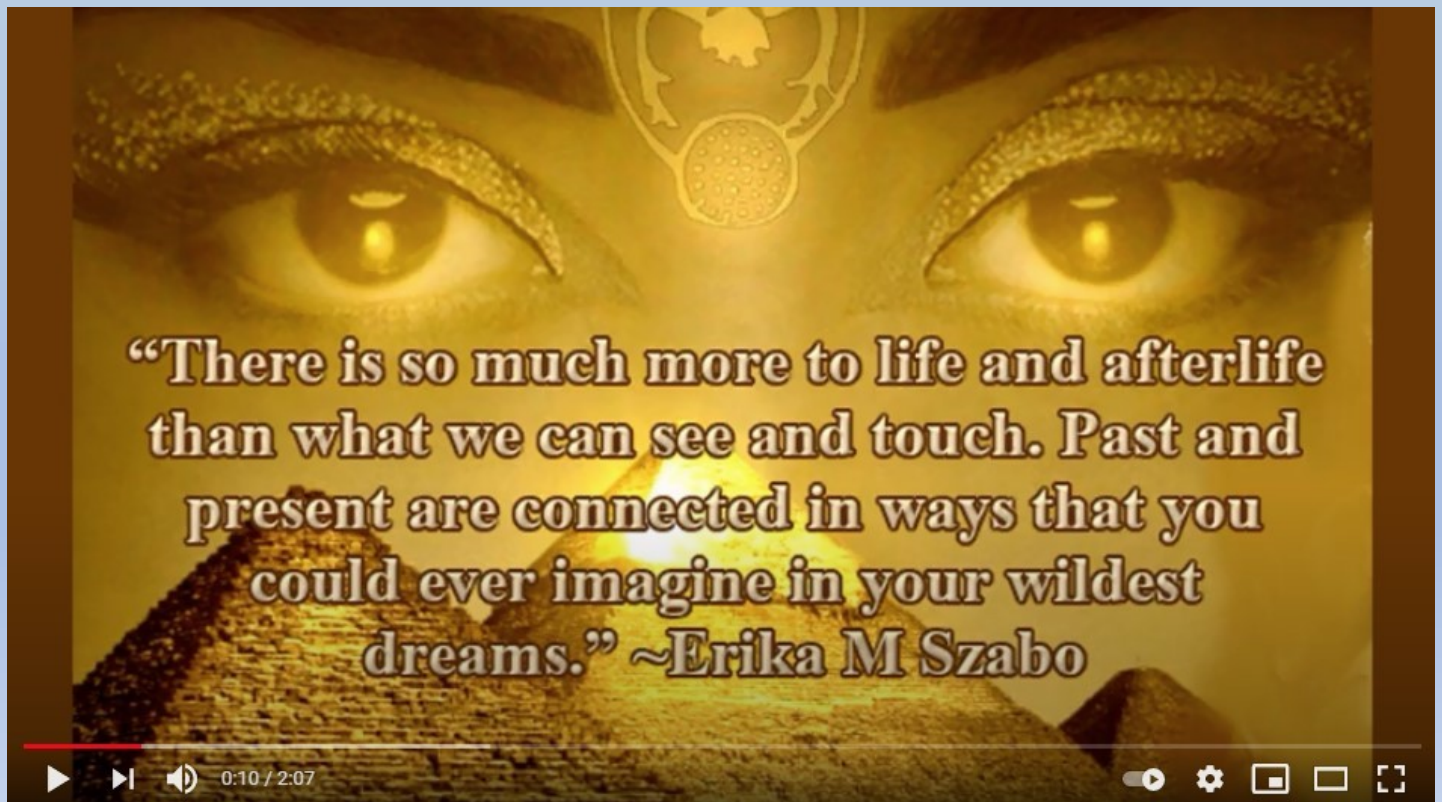


## Historical fantasy

A powerful curse cast thousands of years ago by the Grand Vizier. Tanakhmet cursed Prince Akhmosé to never enter the Field of Reeds, the heavenly paradise. Why did he want him to linger as a restless ghost among the living, forever? By reading the hieroglyphs, Layla, a young Egyptologist, inadvertently breaks the curse and frees the ghosts of both Prince Akhmosé and the Grand Vizier whose thirst for revenge is stronger than ever.

[ON AMAZON](#)

Watch the trailer on YouTube: [https://youtu.be/vvneP\\_BWNVM](https://youtu.be/vvneP_BWNVM)





## Hidden Inspirations by Eric J. Gates



**Have a good look at the book covers in the image above.**

They all have something in common.

Yes, I know it's not easy to spot, after all, there's a cookbook, a novel by a famous playwright, the original books from several top movies of the last seventy or so years, even one that was made into a superb TV series, starring House and Loki. Oh, and of course, a storybook and a novel for children.

Is it the colors, the style, the genre, the lettering fonts?

Last chance; any guesses?

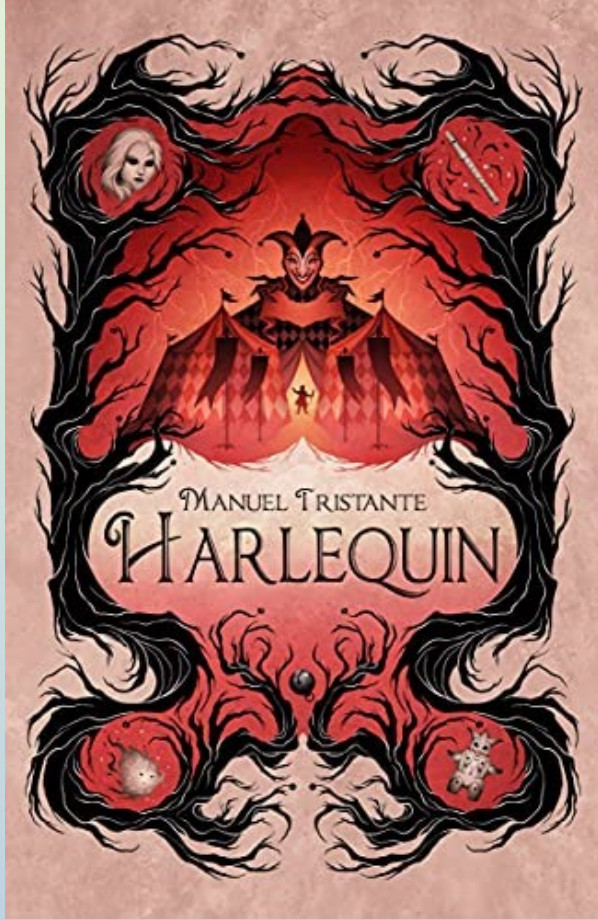
Okay, I'll put you out of your misery.

It's the authors.

**Still not figured it out?**

When thinking what to write about for this week's article, I decided to take a hint from the recent publication as a Kindle Short Read of my tale 'Death of a Sparrowman', and yes, the title is a direct reference to Arthur Miller's play.

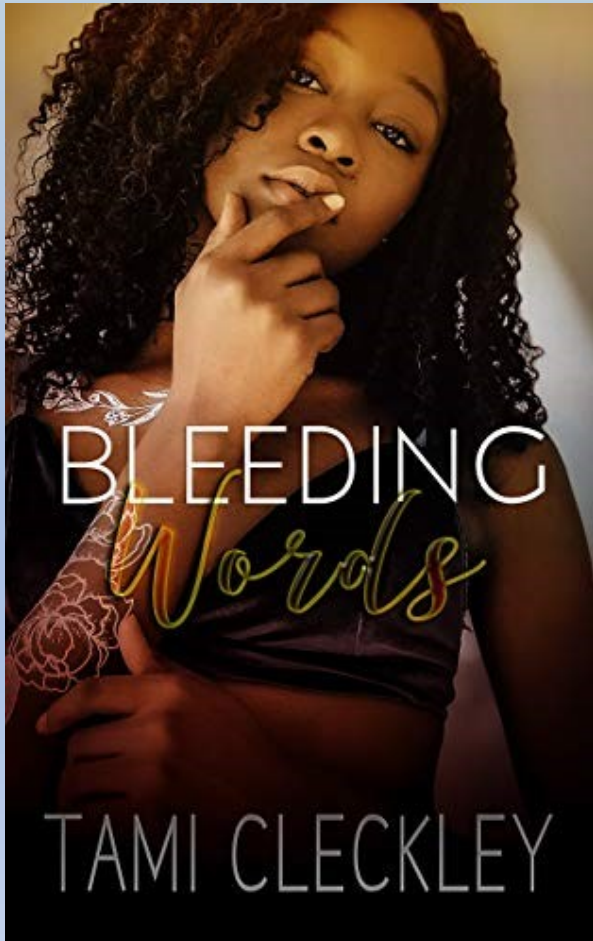
**[Continue reading...](#)**



## **A juvenile fantasy novel full with magical realism and suspense**

Amerie's calm ends when the "Fantasy Circus of Drec Gutan" arrives to the city of Verno accompanied by dark secrets. Memories of a tormented childhood are still latent. It is time to take off the mask and the truth to be known. Magic, legends, fantasy beings... And the haunting sound of bells.

**[ON AMAZON](#)**



## **African American Women's Fiction**

Ramona Jackson dropped out of college when she became pregnant. Casting aside her aspirations of becoming a professor and traveling the world, she focuses her energy on raising her daughter, Jazz.

Jazz and Ramona have a close, but somewhat rocky relationship as Jazz observes her mom living a life she doesn't completely accept. Despite the conflicts and turmoil, Jazz decides she is not going to let anything stand in the way of her dreams.

**[ON AMAZON](#)**



## Common and Uncommon Phobias - Part 1

A phobia is a type of anxiety disorder defined by a persistent and excessive fear of an object or situation. Phobias typically, result in a rapid onset of fear and are present for more than six months. ~Wikipedia

Many phobias develop as a result of having a negative experience or panic attack related to a specific object or situation. Genetics and environment. There may be a link between your own specific phobia and the phobia or anxiety of your parents — this could be due to genetics or learned behavior. I created some videos for you, enjoy!

I have a healthy fear of darkness, just like most people. I'm fortunate that it didn't escalate to phobia when as a child, I imagined monsters in every closet and under the bed. Just like most kids, I quickly outgrew the fear of darkness.

[Continue reading and watch the videos...](#)



# What makes a good book cover design?

Strong composition.

An intriguing focal point.

Clear title and subtitles.

Simplistic book cover design.

Most book covers look best with two or three colors.

In this video, I'll show you some of my designs and how I make a simple book cover.

**Watch the video on YouTube:** [https://youtu.be/JJFikFvqM\\_c](https://youtu.be/JJFikFvqM_c)





## You Are Judged By Your Grammar

When we read posts, emails, or articles with bad grammar, it can make us laugh or feeling annoyed. But it can also ruin someone's reputation and business. I came across a comment from an editor who advertises her service in every author group: **"*Their totally nuts!*"**

Do I want to hire her to edit my book? I don't think so!

### Grammar:

The difference between knowing your crap and knowing you're crap.

A woman, without her man, is nothing.

A woman: without her, man is nothing.

Let's eat, Mandy!

Correct at the dinner table.

Let's eat Mandy!

Correct on a deserted island when everyone is starving to death.

Sound alike (Homophones)

Kettle



Cattle



Kudos to all those who correctly use:

You're  
Your  
There  
They're  
Their

You're judged by your grammar, so, remember:

THEN: a point in time

THAN: comparison

THERE: a place

THEY'RE: they are

THEIR: belongs to them

[Click to see more...](#)

AISHA UROOJ

SLEEPING  
BEAUTY  
NO MORE

## Fantasy romance

Aurora woke up after sleeping for a hundred years. She was left alone and forgotten in her tower. Now she is determined to find out why. What happened in the past? How could sixteen-year-old Aurora reclaim her lost kingdom from the wicked witch and her demon army?

Aurora meets a handsome thief named Devon. He had been using her tower as his hideout. Devon and his gang of thieves, known as the Circle, promise to help defeat the witch who put Aurora under the curse.

[ON AMAZON](#)

SAMIA AKTER

FEARLESS ENTRANCE

DAMARIS

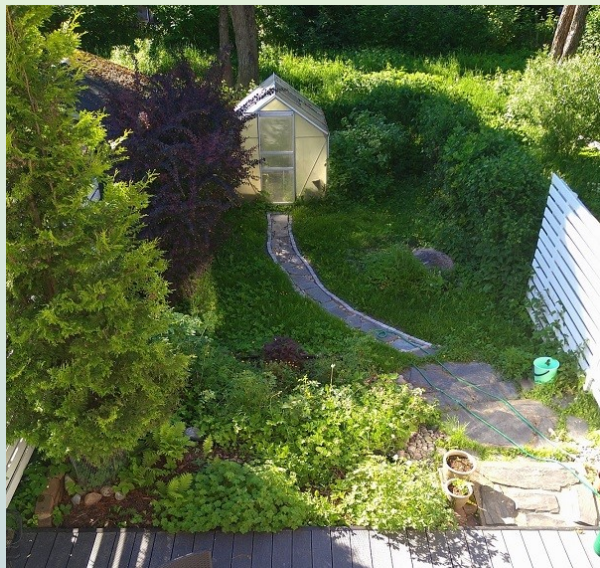
## Dark fantasy

Ferhat Arslan falls into a puzzle of contrasts and perplexing circumstances as a father and husband. His wife, Aliyah wants to divorce him and the reason? It is unknown to him.

However, his children Ava and Ryan have such a profound hatred for their father but why? Again, no idea. The situation becomes even more confusing when he discovers that he possesses some unique and exciting abilities.

[ON AMAZON](#)





## My Stress Relief Garden

By P.J. Mann

It hasn't been easy dealing with the pandemic, my day job, health issues in the family and keeping up with writing, editing, and marketing. Too much stress can really take its toll.

To me it meant that I needed something not just to keep me busy, because I was already busy, but that could have taken me away from thinking about my busy schedule. From my experience, nothing beats the planning and remodeling the yard.

So, I took my chance starting from something that had bothered me for a long time: the small path that leads to the greenhouse. Ten years ago, I planned that path without many thoughts, and the slate tiles I arranged directly on the ground are hardly visible anymore.

Learning from the construction sites I am following, I took notes on how to do the job. So this is my starting point at the beginning of Spring (yes, I know there was still some snow LOL)

The idea was simple, to do the path again in a way that it wouldn't sink into the soil with time. I needed 102 tiles for the border, gravel for the bottom, and coarse sand for the base under the slate tiles. This would have required unearthing the tiles, digging the earth until at least 10 cm deep, placing the landscaping fabric, the gravel (and settle it), the 102 tiles for the border, the sand and the slate tiles.

[Continue reading...](#)

I don't always post about my books... Okay, I do.

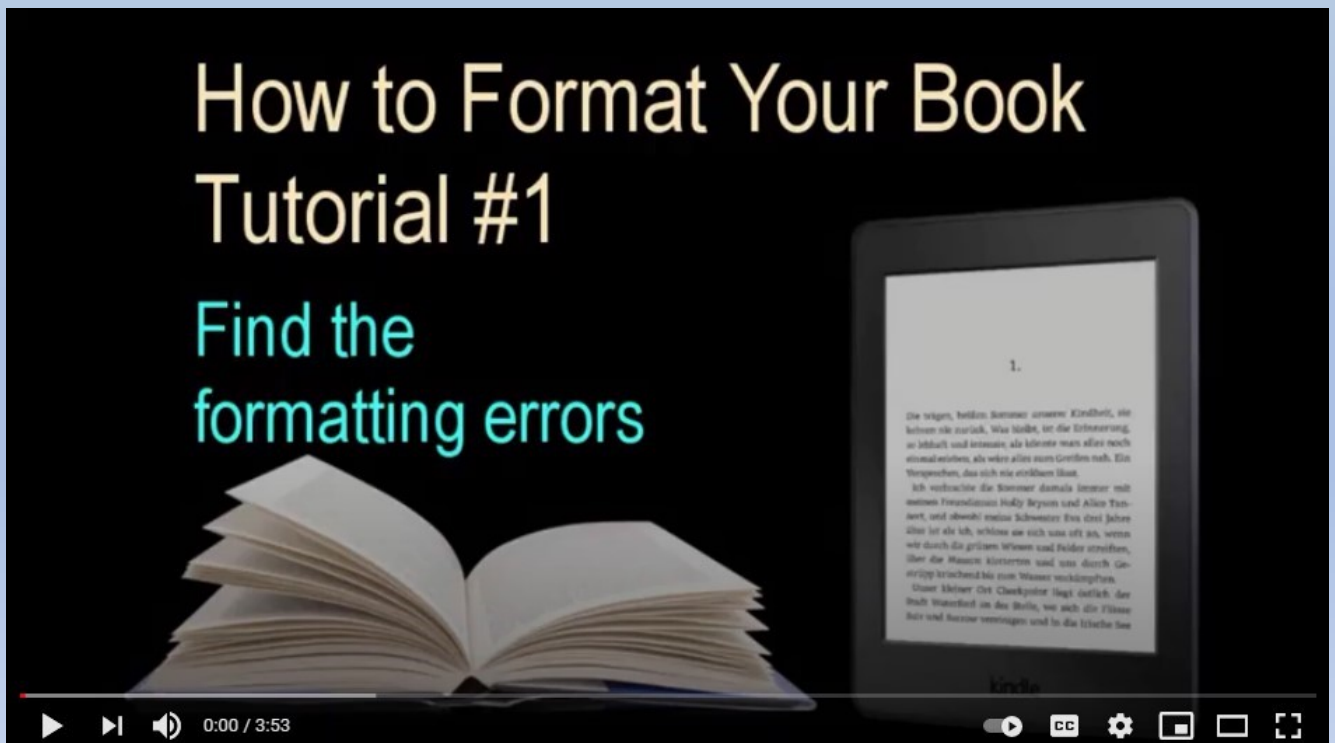
But sometimes I post silly stuff too!

**Watch my silly video on YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/1P57GxSyIKM>



A tutorial: how to find formatting errors in your MS word document.

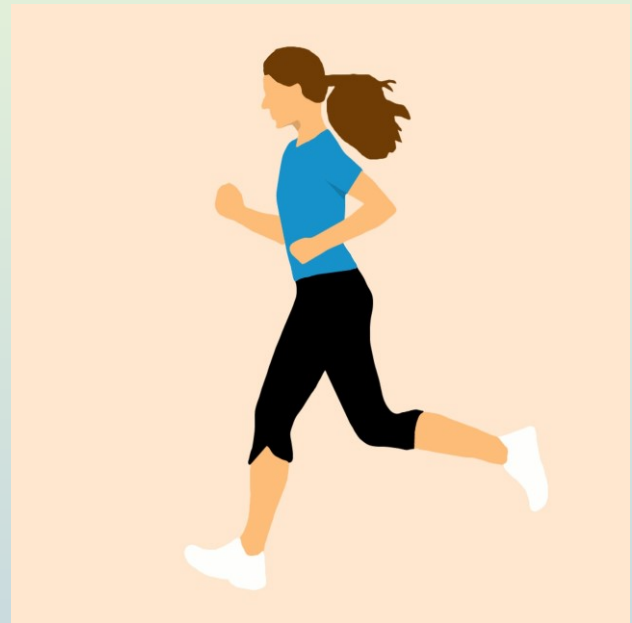
**Watch the video on YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/-Wpwo5Rnas0>





## The Mom Sprint

By A.J. Park



**“Was it a *regular* sprint or a *Mom Sprint*?”**

Silly me. I hadn’t realized there was a difference.

Last night I took my eleven year old daughter to her softball game. The whole team was there, in their uniforms, ready to play. Unfortunately, the other team never showed. So instead of going home disappointed, they decided to divide the team in half so they could play each other. They filled the empty spaces with coaches, umpires and... parents.

I don’t really know how to play softball. I know you hit that round thing with the stick, and then go for a run, but that’s about it. “Play Second Base,” the coach told me. So I went to second. But I warned everyone. “I can’t throw, and I can’t catch, but other than that... I’ve got you covered!”

Eventually my turn to bat rolled around. I stood next to the plate and held up the bat. “Keep your elbow up!” the coach advised. I did. “No. The other elbow.”

Good thing the kids were pitching to me. The ball came, and I took a swing and hit it. I took off for first base, but by the time I got there, the ball had arrived first, and I was out. [Continue reading...](#)



### YA sci-fi

In the year 2193, the population of Earth was approximately twenty billion people. Before a silent, relentless killer stalked the population, leaving destruction and devastation in its wake. It had only one name, 'Virus' and it never slept, it never faltered and it never died.

From this killer there was nowhere to hide, there were no terrorists to blame, no environmental catastrophe to point a finger at. It killed without mercy or remorse. A deadly assassin with humanity as its target.

[ON AMAZON](#)



### Medical thriller

An eccentric detective on a wheelchair, with his memory erased. His dead wife's Intriguing paintings hints about her secret affair. His suspicious mind swears to rebuild his memories to hunt his dead wife's boyfriend. Seeks his friend's support, hires another eccentric detective from dark web. Will detective's steely determination catch that mysterious person?

[ON AMAZON](#)



# Vanity publishers: wolves in sheep clothing



**I've added this article to my previous magazines, but it's worth repeating because there are still so many authors out there who fall for their scam.**

**A vanity publisher that poses as a traditional publisher.**

They don't mention their fees on their websites or when they contact you, you find out that money is due only after you submitted your manuscript.

**They claim to share the cost:**

Terms like "co-op", "joint venture", "partner", "subsidy", or any other phrase that suggests the publisher will be matching your investment with its own. They will not, their profit comes from the fees its authors pay and the books the authors buy.

**Glowing referrals from literary agencies or freelance editors.**

Reputable literary agents and freelance editors don't work with vanity publishers. Period.

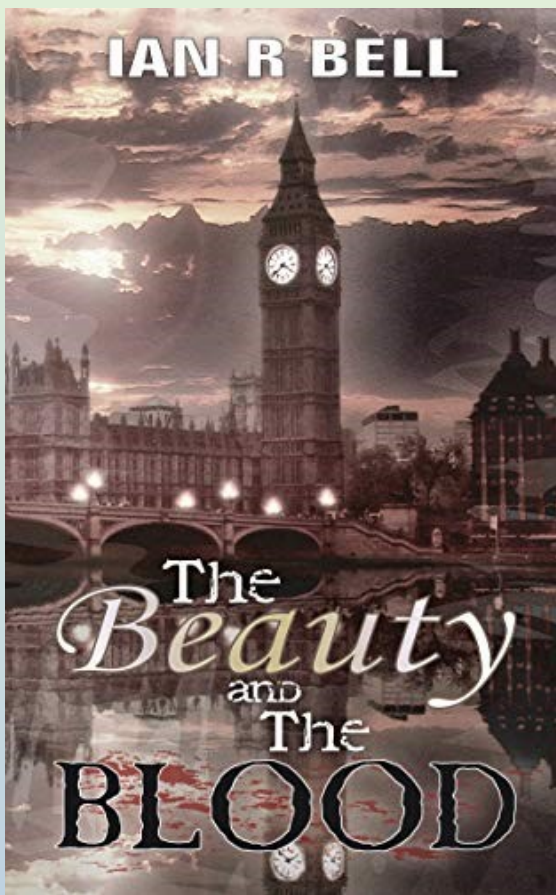
**A promise (usually implied) of a profit.**

They provide a nice sales projections chart supposedly showing that you can make thousands of dollars by selling X number of books.

**A setup fee or deposit.**

"You're not paying to publish, you just contribute to the cost of preparing your book for printing."

**[Continue reading...](#)**



## Supernatural fiction

American anthropologist, Samantha Russell is nervous on her PhD research visit to London! She's flat-sharing with a glamorous lesbian vampire called Sterling, who's deeply involved in the London gangland culture of the anarchic 1980s. When both women find themselves in possession of a mysterious ancient artifact, they soon become the objects of unwanted attention, and from this point onward, things start to turn decidedly dangerous and deadly.

[ON AMAZON](#)



## Epic fantasy

Tony Richardson is transformed into the Elvin queen, Gilraën Gulámae, upon a mysterious medieval world. Trapped within The Prophecy, Gilraën and the handsome Prince William fight to preserve the kingdom against Lord Beckworth and his evil Adjudicars.

But, Tony can't return to Earth unless Gilraën wins the war, defeats Lord Beckworth, and drives the Adjudicars from the lands. Gilraën is doomed to fulfill The Prophecy regardless of the cost.

[ON AMAZON](#)

# Are Insecure Men Intimidated by Strong Women?



Our patriarchal society demands that women strive to achieve yet maintain a form that resembles a young girl. Our bodies must look young, wrinkle, and blemish-free, a blank slate for a man to claim.

Instead of accepting women as they are, most men and even some women, scrutinize and discard them as never good enough, never young enough, and never beautiful enough. And the more women strive to conform, the more they give up control.

Do strong, opinionated women intimidate weak, insecure men? Yes, I still see it when I talk to some over sixty-ish men, and even younger.

I had this interesting conversation with an old man I know for over 20 years, at the doctor's waiting room, before wearing masks and social distancing. He was watching a young couple arguing for a while and then turned to me. "You know, life was easier when women obeyed their husbands and knew their place."

Me: "Oh? What makes you say that?"



Old man: "Just look at them! It would be easier if the wife just obeyed him and didn't make him angry by arguing with him. A woman's job is to take care of the family. Men needs to be in charge to make decisions. Women are too emotional."

Me: "Really!?"

Old man: "Do you obey your husband?"

Me: "Fat chance!" I laughed.

When instead of a mature woman, a 35-year-old actress is playing the role of the mother of a 30-year-old man in movies, what does it teach young teenagers? It teaches them to judge women by their looks alone. When people comment on older women's posts on social sites, sadly, most of the comments are about how they look and not about what they stand for or achieve.

Female youth is prized in our culture because it doesn't represent too much of a threat. Insecure men are intimidated by strong, wise, mature women. Women are trained into thinking there is something fundamentally wrong with getting older and are coerced into spending money, energy, and power investing in 'slowing the signs of aging'. The truth is that as women grow and mature, they gain wisdom and they're more of a force to be reckoned with. They see more, know more, feel more, and they put up with a lot less bullshit.

Just think about what would happen if all the women in the world started loving themselves even more with every year that passed, including each fat roll and wrinkle they gain as they move forward in time. Can you imagine how much more secure and powerful women would become as they grow older?



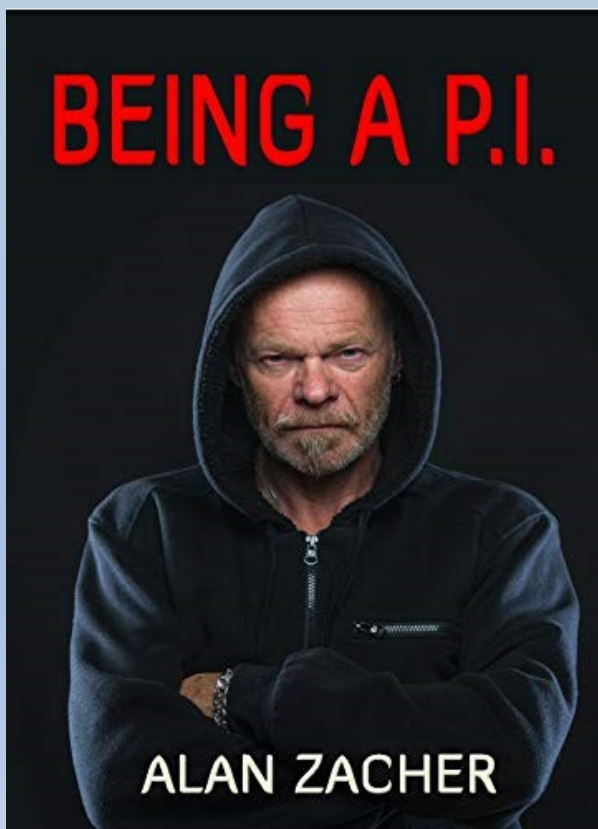
### **Metaphysical fiction**

When Haty notices a Tsinian crystal glowing, she knows she must stick to her word and return to her homeland as Thya. Knowing her kinsmen needed her, there was no hesitation. Even though there was more to lose than just her life.

Once more a prophecy informs the reader of oracles that only Thya could stop the war and save not just her people, but the rest of Enumac from Kovon's psychotic plans.

Along with three other companions, Thya is sent on a perilous quest to locate a crystal eye which holds an evil known as the Dark Force.

[\*\*ON AMAZON\*\*](#)



### **Private investigator mystery**

Tom Mayor is a 56-year-old unemployed alcoholic who still lives with his mother. It is Christmas time and Tom Mayor has just played a joke on his eighty-six-year-old mother, Lill. Tom, who still lives at home and hasn't worked in years, announces he is going into the private detective business.

To prove his newfound skill, Tom discloses the killer in advance of the end of a Thin Man movie, impressing his elderly mother.

[\*\*ON AMAZON\*\*](#)



# How do you create a mental picture of book characters?



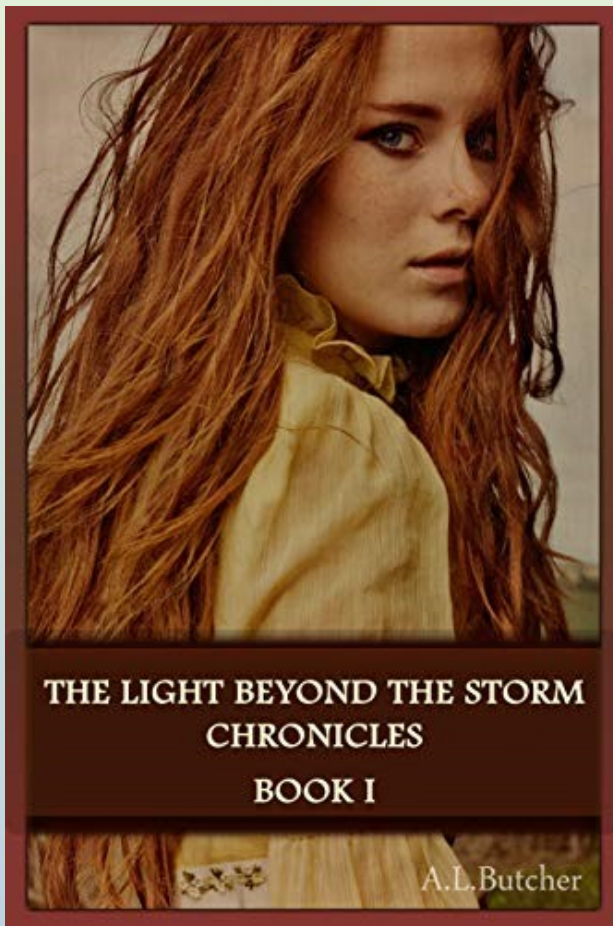
In my earlier books I had a tendency to keep going on and on about parts that didn't really move the story forward, but later on, my writing style turned into a more minimalist scene and character description.

Personally, when I read a story, I get easily annoyed by extremely detailed descriptions.

If the story plays out in present time and the author describes the character's outfit in minute details, it doesn't even give me a chance to use my imagination.

This is not from an actual book, but I've read something similar:  
She had shoulder length, platinum blond curly hair. She was tall and skinny with long legs. Her face oval shaped, sky-blue eyes large with long lashes. She stood in front of the walk-in closet selecting her outfit for the meeting. She chose a teal-blue knee length dress that accentuated her womanly curves. Next, she picked her black Italian leather open toed high-heels that showed off her freshly pedicured, coral-pink nails. You get the picture. For me, it's too long and way too detailed.

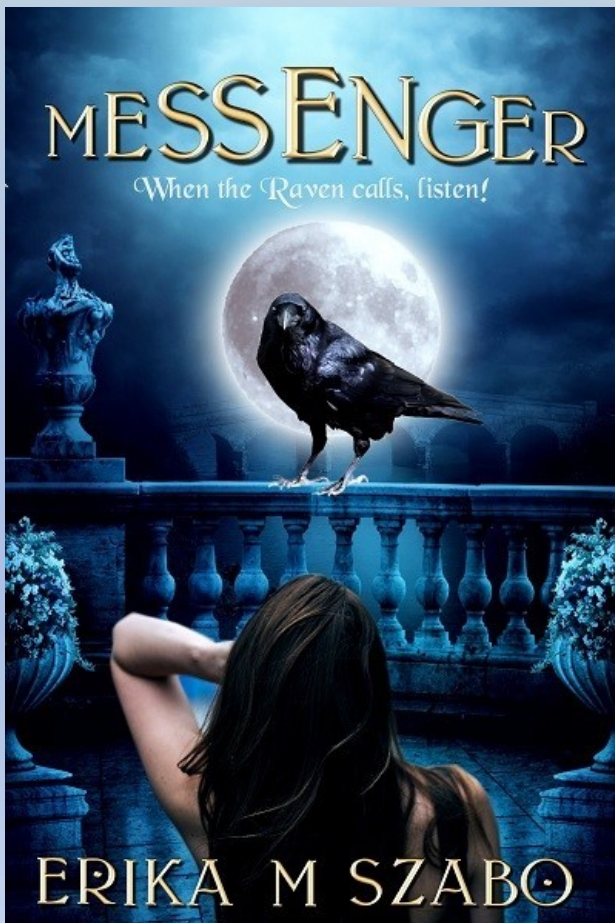
[Continue reading...](#)



### **Romantic fantasy**

A beautiful young elven sorceress flees for her life in a dark world where magic is forbidden and elves are enslaved. A world in which her very existence is illegal. Watching her are the Order of Witch-Hunters; the corrupt organisation that rule Erana by fear and ignorance. An iron fist which itself is watched. As the slavers roll across the lands stealing elves from what remains of their ancestral home the Witch-Hunters turn a blind eye to the tragedy, and a story of power, love and a terrible revenge unfolds.

[\*\*ON AMAZON\*\*](#)



### **Supernatural thriller**

Lauren has everything she'd ever wished for. Great career, financial security, loving husband, and devoted friends. When her Raven spirit guide warns her of impending danger, she takes the omen seriously, but she doesn't have enough time to perform the protection spell her grandmother taught her. Someone breaks into her office and after the brutal attack and the Raven's repeated warnings, she knows her life is still in danger.

[\*\*ON AMAZON\*\*](#)

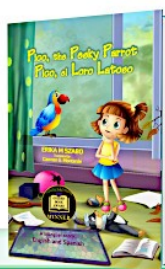




My published books [www.authorerikamszabo.com](http://www.authorerikamszabo.com)

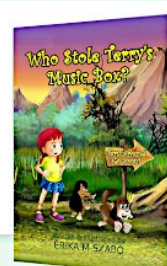
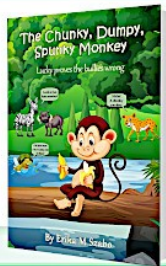




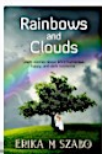


CHILDREN'S

BOOKS

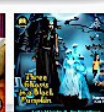


My published books [www.authorerikamszabo.com](http://www.authorerikamszabo.com)



Erika M Szabo

Author of epic fantasy, alternate history, sweet romance, romantic suspense, dystopian and cozy mystery novels, short stories, audiobooks as well as YA and children's books





# The Author Gang has a new home

We're a group of authors writing interesting posts weekly and interacting with readers. Enjoy our posts.



**P.J. Mann**

Paula J. Mann lives a double life. She is a geologist by day and a novelist by night. She's best known for writing psychological thrillers and dramas, like 'A Tale of a Rough Diamond.' She also writes historical fiction, like the Amazon.co.uk best selling Aquila et Noctua, and paranormal suspense.



**Erika M Szabo**

Erika became an avid reader at a very early age, thanks to her dad who introduced her to many great books. Erika writes epic fantasy, alternate history, sweet romance, romantic suspense, dystopian and cozy mystery novels, short stories, as well as fun, educational and bilingual books for children ages 2-14 about acceptance, friendship, family, and moral values such as accepting people with disabilities, dealing with bullies, and not judging others before getting to know them.



**Eric J. Gates**

Award-winning author Eric J. Gates has lived a life filled with the stuff of thriller novels. Supercomputers, cracking cryptographic codes under extreme pressure using only paper and pen, and teaching Cyberwarfare to spies are a few of the moments he's willing to recall. He is an ex-International Consultant whose specialty, IT Security, brought him into contact with the Military and Intelligence communities on numerous occasions. He is also an expert martial artist. He now writes thriller novels, drawing on his experiences with the confidential and secret worlds that surround us.



**Cindy J. Smith**

I've written poetry as long as I can remember. If you ask anyone who knows me, I am kinda partial to coffee, purple and jasmine. I love dragons, jokers, fairies and big cats! I want people to see and hear and taste my words. My goal for writing is to touch people's hearts and give them a view of life they may have never tried or have simply forgotten.



**A.L. Butcher**

British-born A. L. Butcher is an avid reader and creator of worlds, a poet, and a dreamer, a lover of science, natural history, history, and monkeys. Her prose has been described as 'dark and gritty' and her poetry as 'evocative'. She writes with a sure and sometimes erotic sensibility of things that might have been, never were, but could be.



**A.J. Park**

A.J. Park has embraced a lifelong passion for writing and reading. There is nothing better than a really good story, and she feels compelled to keep creating. Fantasy has always been her favorite genre, because it represents the world of imagination in fiction.



**Slate R. Raven**

Born and raised primarily in Illinois, Slate R. Raven started his writing career after attempting several other means of artistic expression. However, after a debilitating injury to his spine, Slate was left with the option of watching daytime television or finding something that proved to be more productive. So with that, Slate chose writing as a means of purging the turbulent emotions that coursed through his veins over being a prisoner of one's own body. The first of many novels emerged while sitting under a Laptop computer, a generous gift from his father. To pass the time during the long months of surgery and physical therapy. His recovery has been remarkable!

**Are you an author?**  
**Join The Author Gang**  
**HERE**