

BOOKISH MAGAZINE

In this issue:

New releases
The "bad guys" in novels
Audiobook giveaway
Short stories
Fun quizzes
Videos

A vibrant night scene of a city bridge, likely the Sydney Harbour Bridge, with fireworks exploding in the sky and boats on the water. The fireworks are primarily red and white, with some blue and green. The bridge is illuminated with lights, and the water reflects the lights and fireworks. The sky is dark with some clouds.

JULY 2022

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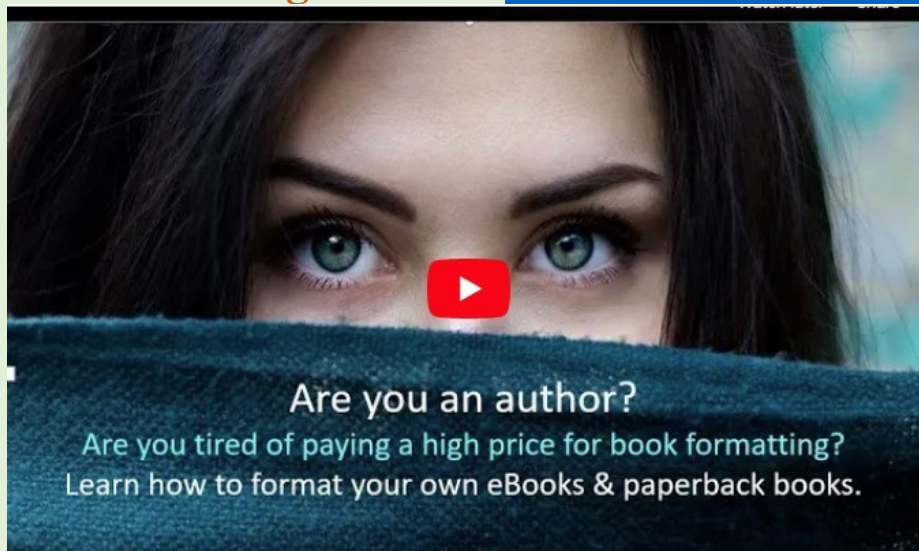
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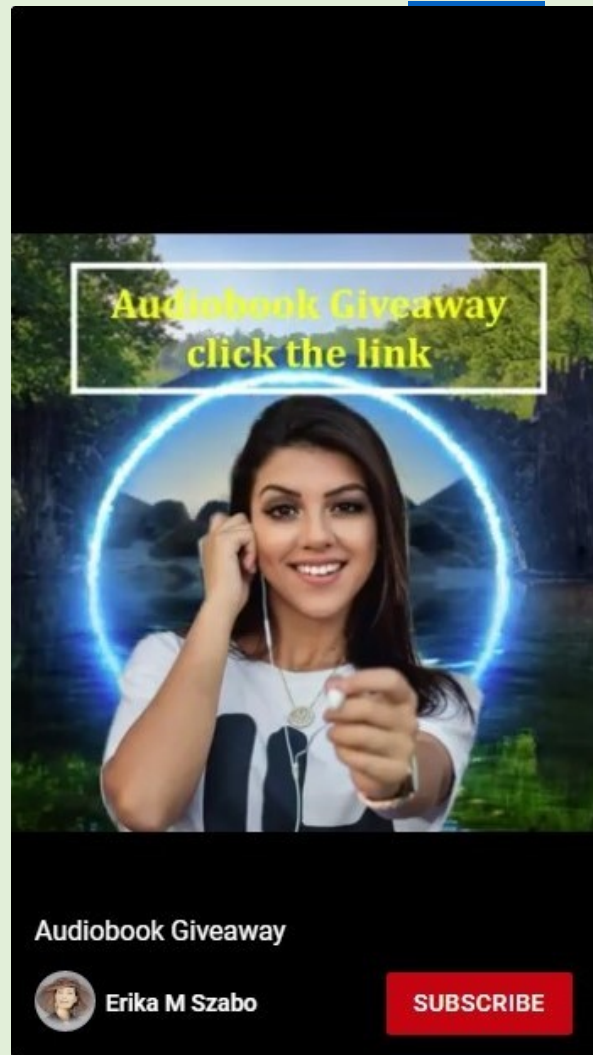
Find fun quizzes and videos on various pages

Audiobook giveaway

Enter the giveaway [HERE](#)

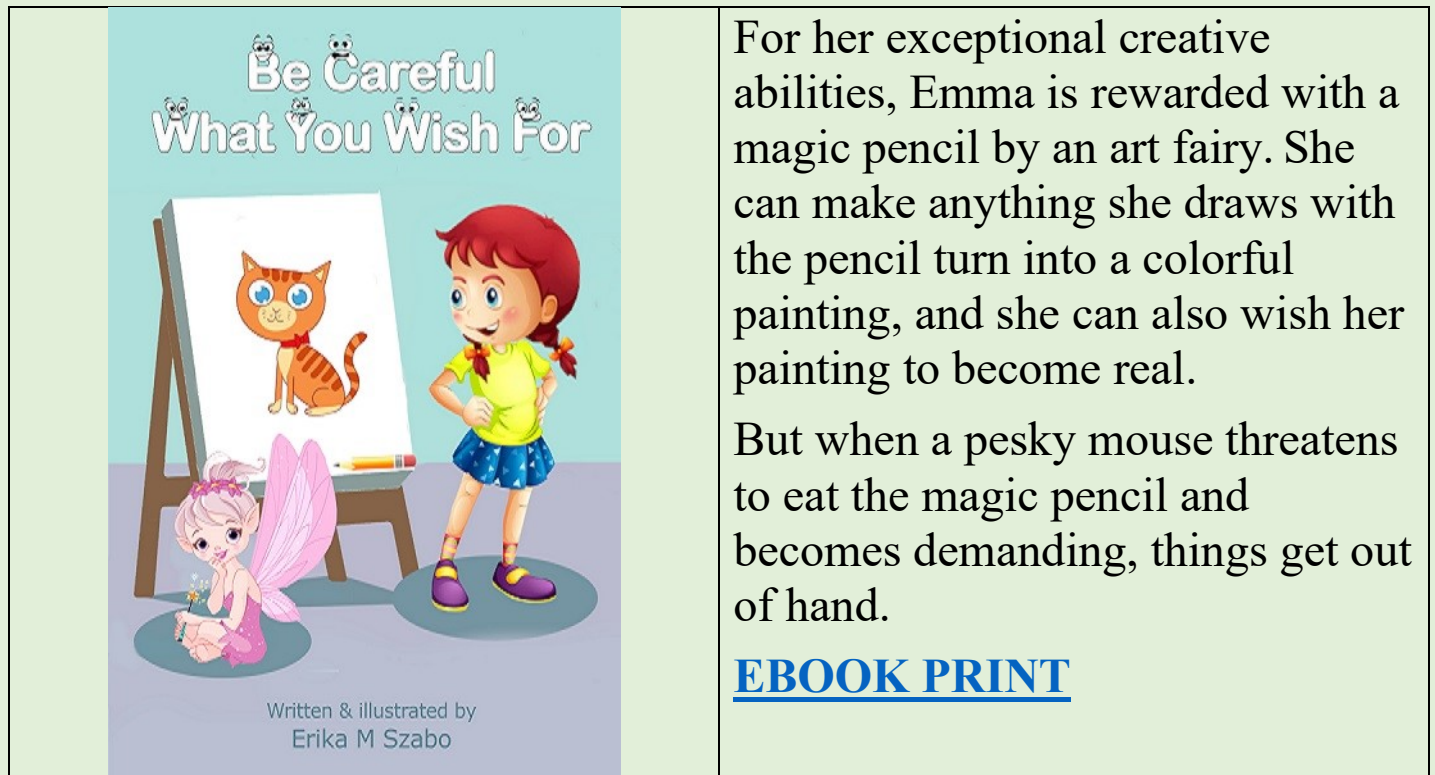


Watch the video [HERE](#)



New release children's book

A read-to illustrated storybook for children 4-7 and read-alone for children 7-10



Be Careful What You Wish For delivers moral lessons through magic and fun. The story teaches children the importance of art, imagination, and creativity, and if they use their wits, they can solve any problem.

From the editors:

“This story was so magical and fun, and I know readers will love imagining all the things they wish they could draw and bring to life. The pacing of the story was excellent, and the building frustration with Toby the mouse will definitely keep readers engaged. They will also like the build-up as Emma is drawing, each page turn will keep them wondering what will happen next.” ~Millie Godwin

“This was such a fun little story, full of both magic and wisdom! The moral to be careful what you wish for worked ever so perfectly and is a

timeless one. Also, it was done in a unique way—not just because of the enchanted pencil, but because the main character is usually the one who needs to learn the lesson. Here, Emma is the one teaching the lesson to Toby, the demanding mouse." ~Emma Lawson

Read free pages [HERE](#)



One day as the art fairy flew by Emma's window, she was surprised to see the little girl's beautiful paintings. She flew into the room and told Emma, "You're a talented young artist. You deserve a magic pencil."
"Thank you so much!" Emma replied. "I love to draw and paint. What does the magic pencil do?" she asked.

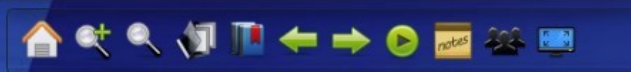
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"This pencil is enchanted," the art fairy explained. "It can make your drawings turn into colorful paintings, and if you want to, you can wish them to become real with this chant:

*Pencil, pencil, magic pencil,
I wish for your sparkles to appear.
And make my painting become real."*

7



In stores: [EBOOK PRINT](#)

New release Spanish novella



Novela de suspenso sobre historia alternativa .

Una maldición de malos actos incita una cadena ininterrumpida de maldad.

EBOOK

Una poderosa maldición lanzada hace mil seiscientos años destruyó la vida de sus ancestros durante siglos. Si no se rompe, la maldición también arruinará las vidas de las generaciones futuras.

La vida de Jayden está en peligro. Cuando encuentra un libro de cuero crudo en la habitación secreta de su abuela que fue escrito en 426 por un chaman, su hermana, Sofía, descifra las antiguas runas.

Aprenden sobre su maldición familiar y comienzan a surgir oscuros recuerdos de su infancia.

¿Es posible romper la antigua maldición y salvar a Jayden?

New release: Pittsburg Press Magazine



Pittsburg Press was developed to help Authors in the industry shine and show off their creative masterpieces. A place to meet a diverse group of Authors with various genres.

[EBOOK & PRINT](#)

We work together as a team and provide services that help Authors meet their goals. Our goal is to reach out to readers nationally and internationally. Creative people in this industry need the platform to succeed, and at the Pittsburg Press, we're here to work together as an Author community.

Meet Award winning Authors, and Bestselling Authors in this issue. We provide a diversity of genre's available in the market and have a lot of established Authors, and services in this issue.

What is an antagonist?

In storytelling, the antagonist is the opposer or combatant working against the protagonist or leading character and creating the main conflict. In conventional narratives, the antagonist is synonymous with the “bad guy,” while the protagonist represents the “good guy.”

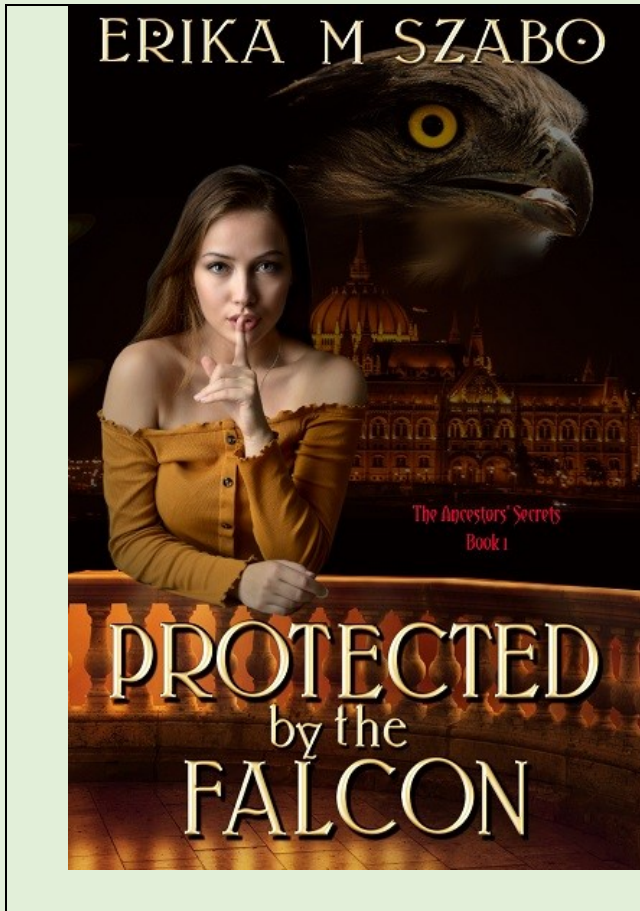
They’re not always bad or evil, but they will usually have some kind of conflict with the protagonist. The word “antagonist” can be used to describe someone who is opposed to the protagonist. Antagonists are usually considered as being “bad guys”.

But not every story has a villain, but regardless of style or genre, there is always an antagonist. In fact, villains are a subcategory of antagonists so while all villains are antagonists, not all antagonists are villains.

Villains are often antagonists but not always. In order to locate the antagonist, look for the story's primary conflict and ask where that conflict originated.

Enjoy the introduction of a few antagonists in various genre books

Interview with Mora



Alternate history fantasy

Mora is an evil-minded, power-hungry woman from the alternate history, magical realism novel series, *The Ancestors' Secrets*.

Punished by the ancestors long ago, Mora has waited centuries for the chance to reunite with her beloved Joland and to gain power over the Hunor clan. Revenge has kept her alive for over 1600 years, and she's been working on her evil plan.

[EBOOK PRINT AUDIOBOOK](#)

Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Mora, I was born 1600 years ago in a small village. Everyone thought that I was just a pretty girl, an insignificant nobody, but I knew I was destined for great things. When I met Joland, the love of my life, he gave me immortality and showed me what I was capable of. We craved power to punish all who wronged us. We wanted to rule the clans, but we couldn't succeed back then. Our time will come, you'll see!

How did you end up in the situation you're currently in?

You mean surviving in this old, withered body incapable of dying and tied to my bed? The Royals and Elders were furious when they found out many centuries ago that Joland had shared the gift of eternal life with me. The Elders took away my powers to keep my body young and separated

us, but they couldn't make us mortals again. I had lived so many lifetimes, alone, because Joland was exiled to a timeline in the distant past. As his punishment, he couldn't move forward in time with me. Although my body is useless, the power of my mind allows me to reach the remotest part of the world and beyond. The one thing they couldn't take away from us is our eternal connection. Although he's in a different timeline, we can communicate.

How's that possible?

We have access to the collective and we use it. I see you want to ask what the collective is. It's similar, but a lot more than your primitive internet. Making the connection wipes us out physically and mentally, but it's worth every second so see and hear him.

Do you have any regrets?

Yes, I have only one regret. I regret that I wasn't smart and careful enough back then to overthrow the Elders and Leaders to gain ultimate power over the clans.

Would you kill for those you love?

I have love only for Joland, and I've killed many in my life to get the chance to reunite with him. Killing a mortal is like squashing a bug. They die, anyway.

How do you think others see you?

Who cares what others think? I don't. But I guess they see me as a cold hearted, calculating person incapable of feeling remorse. And they're correct. I don't care for anyone except Joland, and anything other than to gain power to rule the clan.

Do you have friends?

Friends? No. Nobody loves me, and I hate everyone. I have servants to do my bidding, and that's enough for me, for now.

Who is your greatest enemy?

The Royals and Elders of the clan. I hate all with a passion, but my time will come to take my revenge. If I thread carefully and plan every step, it will be soon.

Do you believe you will be successful in your quest?

Yes, I do. I'm immortal, so I have plenty of time to plan and control my pawns in order to reach my goal.

What is your greatest fear?

My only fear is the possibility that I'd lose my ability of mind control. My body is useless, and without the power of my mind... I don't even want to think about that.

If you could have three wishes, what would they be?

My first wish is to unite with my beloved Joland. The second wish is to regain my strong, youthful body, my full powers, and gain ultimate control of the clan to rule and be admired forever. My third wish is that you'd stop bugging me and go away.

[TAKE the QUIZ](#)

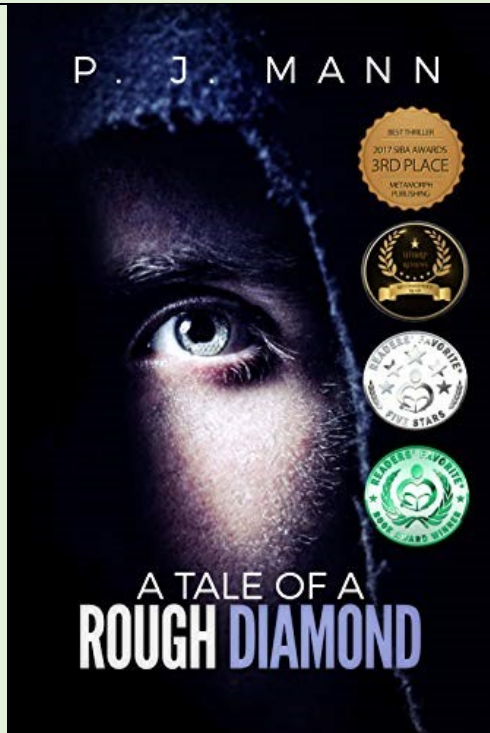
Which character's personality fits yours in The Ancestors' Secrets Series?



Are you Ilona, Ema, Zoltan, Bela, or Mora?

TAKE THE QUIZ

Interview with Roger Mills



EBOOK PRINT

Organized crime thriller

Not all that glitters is diamond; sometimes it is only glass. But even its sharp edges will never hurt you like family.

Stephan is living a life every teenager would envy. Son of a wealthy businessman, he lives carefree and carelessly. However, nothing is as it seems, and his perfect life is doomed; it has been since before he was even born. Days thrill-seeking, nights lock-picking; it's all just about to fall apart.

Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Roger Mills and I'm the first-born son of Jonathan and Jane Mills. I'm a successful businessman, and I'm married to the most enchanting and smart woman in the world. You might think my life is perfect, right? Well, you won't be farther from the truth, as my life is cursed by the presence of a little brother. Since the day he came to this world, he brought nothing else but troubles. It wouldn't be otherwise as he's not even my father's son, but this is another story.

Coming back to me, I did everything I could to follow the successful example of my father. I chose not to follow his steps and take over on the firm he was running with his brothers, because I wanted something completely mine. Moreover, sharing business with other relatives would

have stopped me to shape it the way I wanted. I don't have any children, apparently, I can't have them, but this isn't something bothering me. They would have been a way to steal my focus from my business, and since they aren't completely on the honest side, they might have suffered uselessly.

Have you committed a crime? What was it? If not, what circumstances would cause you to commit a crime?

As I said my business isn't clean, and in the first stages of my career, I was approached by a potential partner, whose fortune lied on his high-level criminal activity. At those times I wasn't aware of its full scale, but when I understood the real potential of a fusion between our companies, I was blinded by it and accepted without a second thought.

Do you have a moral code? If so, what might it be?

The only moral code is that of not getting caught by the feds. Something I highly value is the concept of family. I would never disrespect or cheat on my wife, and my parents will always be the role model to which I will look up to. The family is everything and perhaps that's my highest moral code.

Would you kill for those you love?

Of course. I am ready to kill for even less.

How do you think others see you?

The rest of the world sees me as a ruthless cold calculator, a killer ready to unspeakable crimes just for the sake of keeping my wealth growing and myself out of prison. Well, that's partly true, but most of all I do it for keep seeing the smile on the face of my wife.

Who is your greatest friend?

I don't have real friends, I have allies... aren't they the same thing?

Who is your greatest enemy?

I believe it is myself. At times I forget that everything should be carried out at the due time, and I need to take a deep breath before taking a decision. This has brought me to make fatal mistakes, particularly when trying to get rid of my beloved brother.

How do you define 'heroism?'

Heroism? Well, I think I can define it as the capability to take your life and destiny in your hands. Be able to have the courage to do what everybody would like to do but refrain to take any action for fear of the judgement of those around you. I think heroism is a sort of synonym of courage.

[**TAKE the QUIZ**](#)

What kind of stories do you like?



Are you a cozy mystery, sweet romance, supernatural fiction, or historical fantasy reader?

TAKE THE QUIZ

Interview with Commander Hendrick



Who makes the rules in this game of intrigue and lies? Shattered beliefs and unwelcome truths abound in an adventure filled with magic, passion, greed and revenge.

[EBOOK PRINT AUDIO](#)

Tell us about your role in the adventure.

I am a Witch-Hunter, my word is law. The Order rule the land, bringing peace and stability to a land beset with filthy mages and plague-bearing elves. The people, at least the human people, need to be protected from such menaces. Why should I show mercy to them? It's common knowledge elves brought the Plague that almost wiped us out. Magic is dangerous, it is a taint on the land and those who use it have no right to live. Magic demands a price, so they say. That price is death. I have, in my 'protection' an elf magewoman. One of those nasty Forest Elves who think the land should be theirs. Her and that sister of hers can help cleanse the land of a bane – a sorcerer lord who has been troublesome for some time. These elves will lead me to the lost elven city--which I will burn to ash—and to this Lord Archos.

Do you think you are a good man?

I uphold the law and defend the people, of course I am a good man. Occasionally I am forced to do unpleasant things – but the mages bring their punishment on themselves. Elves are property, slaves if you will, and need to be disciplined. They have no rights, any more than a horse does. They are mine, to use as I see fit.

Do you have a family?

I'm a career soldier, I have no time for that. If I feel the need of one – I will take a woman.

Do you have regrets?

I regret my sword is not sharper. Do I regret the lives I have taken? No, not for a moment.

What will you do when you meet your enemy?

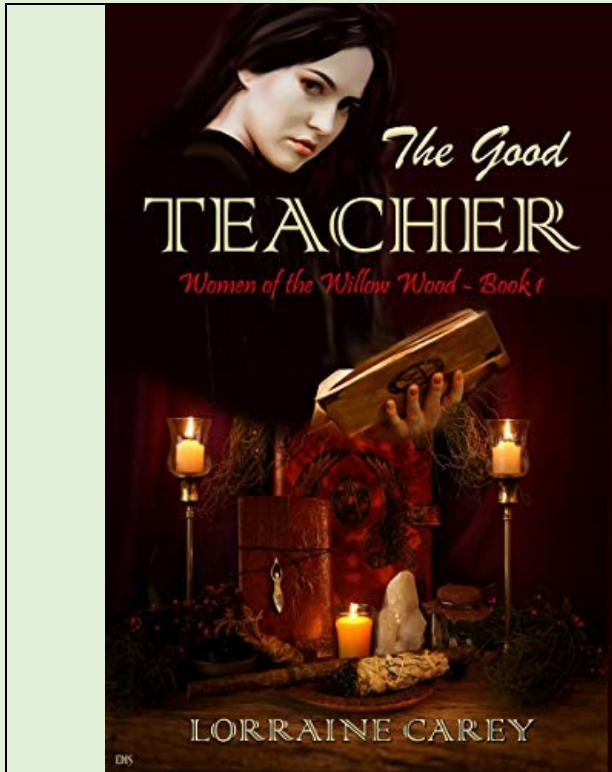
Oh, I look forward to it. I will flay the magic from him. He will end as nought more than a shell. I will be a hero – ridding this land of such a man.

What do you think he will do when he meets you?

He is arrogant, sure of his own magic, so I dare say he will try to kill me. I am not a fool – I will not go alone. I have the resources of the Order of Witch-Hunters, men willing to die to protect me...I mean the land from this scum. He has but a handful of allies, mostly elves and women. I have, among his 'friends', one who is loyal to me. This magelord is just a man – and men bleed. Men die by sword and fire. I do not fear magic.

What can he do against a squadron? What will Archos do when we meet? He will bleed. He will watch as his friends fall around him. And he will die.

Interview with Latrice Burke



Paranormal thriller

Latrice Burke, Rogue Witch and former member of the secret society, the Willow Wood Women. Featured in The Women of the Willow Wood trilogy.

[EBOOK PRINT AUDIO](#)

Tell us a little about yourself

Where do I begin? I'm an old soul and have had many lives, dating way back to ancient Egypt during the reign of Pharaoh Hatshepsut. I was the sorceress who provided enlightenment and served as her personal advisor during her reign in 1478 BC. Many had rumored that my beauty was the result of magic.

It was there I learned how to perform dark magic and a very old one from a high priestess.

I was later incarnated several times, each time having to serve a higher-up authority. I knew I had the power to be independent and work as my own sorceress; this is where it led me to a painful death during the Salem Witch Trials where I was crushed to death by heavy rocks. It was here on my death bed that I vowed to return as I had the ability to do so.

So, let's just say I've been around the block a few times and back again. And most recently I have become a member of a most secretive society of women here in New Mexico who practice white magic. It was the only way I could reincarnate again—promise to be loyal to the other side—the good one.

Is your life now as you envisioned it? If not- then why?

Of course not, this is not what I envisioned, but it was my only chance at another life. And once I learn the ropes with this new cult, and prove to them I should be one of their high priestesses, it won't take long for me to move up in the ranks of the Willow Wood Women.

Tell us about your family

Nothing much to tell—most are long gone. My original mother died while I was in service to the Pharaoh Hatshepsut. She was a gifted seamstress but did not possess the magic that I had. I never knew my father but was told he was simply a nomad passing through one day.

I've had a few close friends, but it always went sour due to their jealousy of my magic.

What is your greatest skill/ asset?

Well, that's a no-brainer, I'd say—it's powerful ancient magic.

I've learned spells over the years that not many newer witches know even exist. My best spells are those that include glamour (beauty), health, weather, binding spells to freeze unwanted souls, and shapeshifting.

Now that I'm working here in the Desert Mirage shop for the Willow Wood Women as a clerk, I'm in the throes of white magic. I have to say it does have its rewards, having no recourse if used for good intent.

Who is your greatest enemy?

Oh, dear—I've had many. Right now, I'd have to say it is Josephina DeLuna, the current high priestess of the Willow Wood. She is also my boss at the Desert Mirage shop. I just know she's envious of me and will

try to undermine my magic any way she can. She does not have the capabilities to hold such a position. This title belongs to me.

Do you want to live forever?

The rock band Queen had a huge hit in 1986 for the movie, Highlander, called, Who Wants to Live Forever? Gotta tell you here, I was at one of their concerts back when and they tore it up! I won't get into my life in the eighties now but to answer the question—no—I'm tired and know my days are numbered. I'm not sure how it will end, but they will end. As they say, it's "Time to Pay the Fiddler".

If you could have three wishes, what would they be?

For one, I'd wish to always retain my youthful looks no matter what life I was reincarnated in. Two, I wish for those who possess magic to not be afraid and see it as a gift, but to use it wisely. Finally, my third wish would be to be able to go back to my first life with the Pharaoh, Hatshepsut. She was my only true friend. I felt appreciated and valued there.

What do you think of your author/creator?

To be honest with you, she did acknowledge me for my hybrid and powerful magic but chose to have me be the 'bad guy' so to speak. I guess it was just my destiny—or the one that she'd chosen for me. But I shouldn't complain, I had my last hurrah and a chance to show all of them what I was capable of in that cave near the end. If it weren't for me, none of them would have survived. And I guess I've done my time, I'm tired and ready to make peace with the higher council. Nothing lasts forever.

Interview with Satan



Paranormal thriller

Three days until Halloween.

At the stroke of the thirteenth hour, Satan plans to impregnate a girl who turns thirteen on the day of Halloween to start Armageddon.

There are three girls who were born that day, but nobody knows who the Chosen One is.

[EBOOK PRINT](#)

Tell us about yourself.

Are you joking?! I'm the devil! Satan! The Prince of Darkness! Need more be said?!

How did you end up in the current situation you're currently in?

I wanted to fulfill Bible prophecy and begin Armageddon, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Do you have any regrets?

Yes, I failed—because of that damn, meddling, old, private detective, James Hurts; his partner, Tom Mayor; Tom's old mother, Lill; Hurts' adopted daughter, Amanda, Mr. Williams, head of a cryptic organization that guard the secret of the existence of vampires, and those damn leprechauns!

If you could have three wishes, what would they be?

One, not to be defeated again by James Hurts—he's the ONLY one who has ever done that! Two, Become god, and, three, Hurts' partner, Tom Mayor, co-wrote a fictional version of the “battle” that we had. He calls it “The 13th Hour, Again”. It's all lies! He co-wrote it with another liar, Alan Zacher. Two big lairs and no-talented bums! My wish, and goal, is that not one copy of that lying book is sold!

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

Which Magical Creature Are You?

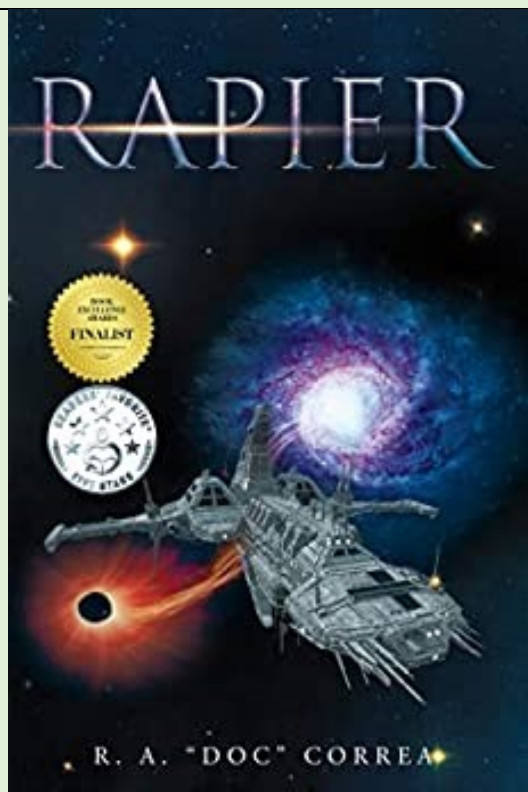
Which mythical creature are you?



Imagination is a great power of the mind. Without imagination, the world would be a cold, sad place.

TAKE QUIZ

Introduction of the antagonists



EBOOK PRINT

Space opera sci-fi

Kathy Masters never expected to journey to the stars. When she does, she experiences the adventure of a lifetime. That all changes when she is selected by the prestigious Galactic Geographic Society to photograph and record the flora and fauna of a newly discovered class M planet. Filled with hope and enthusiasm, she boards the S.S. America for the trip to Beta 3 Epsilon to begin her new project. On the way she is abducted and brought aboard the privateer Rapier.

In most novels there is a clear antagonist, or villain, for the protagonist, the hero, to defeat. The antagonist puts obstacles in the way of the hero to deter or destroy him or her, and in the end, there is an open confrontation between the two that usually ends with the heroes victory over his or her enemy. This is a *tried and true* formula for story telling that has existed for as long as there has been story tellers. In Rapier this is not the case. In the Rapier Universe, as in real life, there are many antagonists and villains, and not all of them can be defeated by the hero.

First is Prince Chou Yen Yi. Prince Yi is the patriarch of the Yi family, and ruler of the Yi Principality, an important part of the Chinese Prefecture. It was the Yi families forces that attacked Captain Black's home world, reducing it from a prosperous colony of two million people

to a barely surviving population of just over twenty thousand souls. There is much background as to what really happened and why, but that doesn't come out until *Razor* is published. Suffice it to say that when Captain Black captures Prince Yi and his three grandchildren he is so filled with hatred for the Prince that he forces Prince Yi to watch him sell his grandchildren into slavery before ransoming him back to the Chinese Prefecture (this is how Princess Lien Lan Yi ends up with Kathy and Cindy on the *Rapier*). Needless to say there is a great deal of animosity between the two men but, as it will be revealed in *Razor*, Prince Yi is not the villain Captain Black believes him to be.

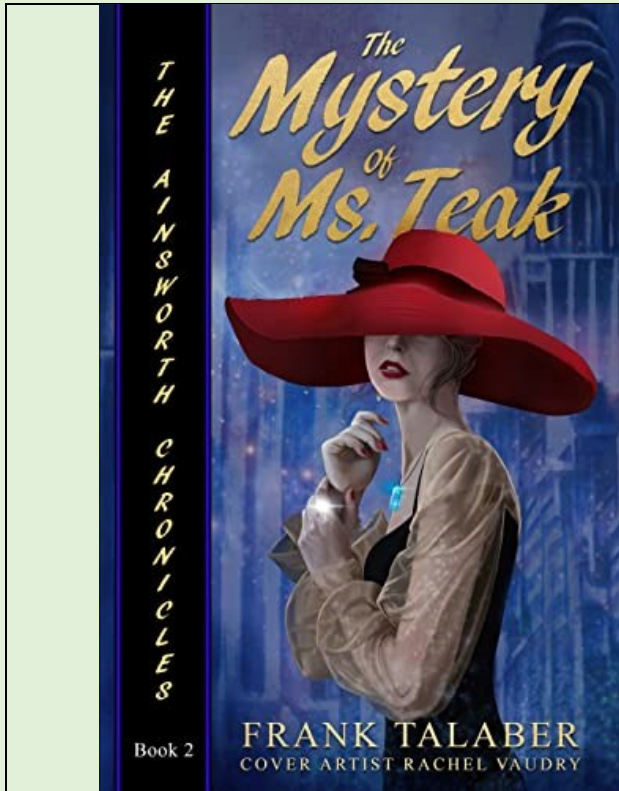
Martin Lee Black is the mayor of the survivors of Safe Port, Captain Black's home world, and the younger brother of the Captain. He is also Captain Black's main antagonist, and intends to keep him out there "even if everyone here dies before you, even if I do. Damn you to hell James she chose you." Clearly this is because the woman they both loved chose the Captain over the Mayor. To do this the Mayor uses the 'contract' (Letter of Marque) to keep the *Rapier* and its' crew on the edge of oblivion.

Colonel Bengt Chang Chén is a competent tactician and strategist. You meet him only briefly in *Rapier*, but he is the reason the *Rapier* attacks the SS America at the beginning of the story, and this attack is what leads to Kathy and Cindy being brought onto the *Rapier* as captives. From the interaction between Captain Black and Colonel Chén it is clear they know each other, and despise one another. Though highly regarded in Chinese Imperial circles Colonel Chén is corrupt to the core, and uses his rank and position to enrich himself (this guy is a true villain). He is also a brilliant genetic scientist, and his work, and the work of others that is based on his research, is the reason why the last war between the Chinese Prefecture and the Americans and their allies is known as The Genetics War. Colonel Chén makes his return to the story line at the end of *Razor*, and he is a major threat to Kathy and Cindy in the fourth book of the series, *The Black Wolves*.

Ahmed Mustafa bin Abdullah is tall, handsome, articulate, well educated and unimaginably rich. Think someone that is as wealthy as Klaus Schwab, George Soros and Bill Gates combined. His wealth and power is far reaching. He owns politicians throughout human space, including on Earth. He has worked hard to protect his wealth, and insulate himself from accountability for his actions. And he needs that insulation, because he makes the Marquis de Sade look like a choirboy. The man's sadism and debauchery knows no limits. And he will go to great lengths to get what he wants. He purchased Colonel Chén, and the other Chinese traveling with him for his 'playroom' from Captain Black. He wanted Kathy and Cindy as well, but Captain Black wouldn't sell them to him. So Ahmed has manipulated the situation in the background to get what he felt he was unjustly denied. You meet him early in the story, and you think that that is that. But he returns at the end of Razor, and he appears more in The Black Wolves.

Captain Black Jack Bartholomew is a true pirate. He is cruel and vicious beyond imagining. He is an excellent starship captain, and he knows his business. Captain Bartholomew is the biggest villain in Rapier. Though it is not described in the story there is previous history between him and Captain Black. The specifics of that history will be detailed in a prequel to Rapier currently titled James Ulysses Black. Captain Bartholomew's biggest weakness is his own ego. Unknown to him his ego allowed Ahmed Mustafa bin Abdullah to manipulate him into pursuing Kathy and Cindy for him (one of the things that comes out at the end of Razor) while believing he was getting revenge on Captain Black.

Introduction of Rof Breocht Woden



Our villain, Rof Breocht Woden, is banished in some form of Hell and eventually escapes to come after our heroine, Carol Ainsworth. She has to save a young girl, and her nephew from this being that has been split in two and trapped inside their minds. The scene below from the novel explains what he is and where he came from.

[EBOOK PRINT](#)

“I’ve majored in many mythical studies, and I am in agreement with the others. There is one mystical being that has been banished from our realm on more than one occasion. One such time was early in the rise of modern-day Christian religions, like the Catholics and Protestants, due to his status as a godlike being of early paganism.

“There are others, but this one, strangely, comes to mind time and time again because of his background and also because there were no reports of his spirit after he’d hanged himself in Windsor Forest. Rof Breocht Woden—the Bright Strength of Woden. It is believed he has to return to this realm only through a living soul. There is much speculation as to the accuracy of this, but these readings from various writers and historians may shed more light on what he is.

“This quote from one of my studies sums him up. ‘Woden is the Woodland Spirit and the Lord of all Nature. His son is the Hooded Man,

the English folk hero who will deliver us from oppression. Woden's Folk.”

“The Hooded Man? Not talking about a Robin Hood-type dude here, are we?” Carol asked.

“You are most astute, young lady. I'll get to that in a moment. Woden, who is often portrayed with horns, has come to be associated with Wicca and other earthly Pagan beliefs, like the Green Man. But this was not always so. Horned deities are an extremely ancient Indo-European tradition with even earlier precedents. We find paintings on French Paleolithic caves and Woden could be found in the Indus Valley of northern India where he was known as Rudra or Pashupati. But he was most famously known to Northern European Celts and Teutons.

“The Romano-Celts gave him the name of Cernunnos. Or more commonly, Herne the Wild Huntsman. It is believed that in certain parts of England, he leads the howling spirits of the dead through the forests.

“This merges with the newer legends of Robin Hood, who was, according to English legends, the reason Herne himself rode the night skies after committing suicide in Windsor Forest by hanging himself from an oak. It is thought he did something evil and couldn't live with himself, but that hasn't ever been proven true.”

“So, are you saying he is evil inside himself as well?”

“I think he struggles with being so good that he despises the badness in the world and overreacts to wanting to get rid of it. Now, the Anglo name of Robin Hood is actually also a variant of the Saxon name Rof Breocht Woden—the Bright Strength of Woden.”

Carol glanced up at Brad who had a most quizzical smirk on his face.

“I'm thinking we've one half here in Rosie and possibly the other in Nathan, hence why they are linked and why he reached for his sword as my sister told me.”

“And you suspect we’ve a version of this Rof Breocht Woden dude here, coming back?”

Brad nodded, “There’s much more from him and some other bloggers, but the more I read, the more it begins to jibe with me. You did say she mentioned his name.”

Carol thought a moment. “Yes, he said, ‘I am Woden.’ So you mean we’re mixed up with not some dead person coming back but some kind of mythical crazy-ass being?”

“Possibly.”

Oh, Agnes, how do you get me into this kind of insanity?

[TAKE the QUIZ](#)

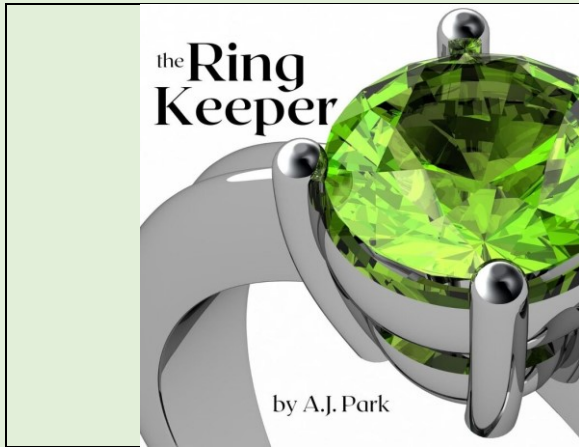
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Introduction of Haldreth



**Coming soon
To Amazon**

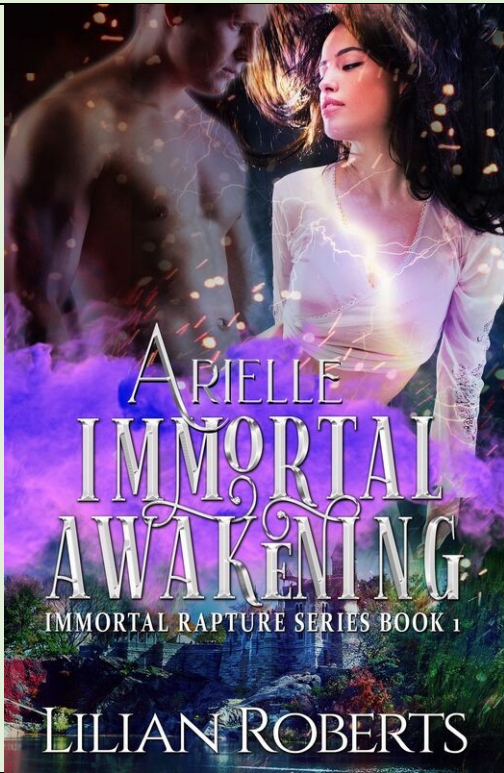
I am Haldreth, second son of Caldoreth, ruler of the Empire of Sarine. It might have seemed a little thing to everyone else, but being born a few moments after my twin brother cost me the empire. It probably wouldn't have bothered me so much if he hadn't been so smug about it. I've never met anyone so self-righteous. And the worst part of it is, everyone bought into it. They fell for his good boy act, and believed him. They loved him. They always loved him more than me.

And that's a little harsh, considering we look exactly the same.

I don't recall a specific moment when I decided to make him pay for all of it. The feeling grew gradually, over the years. My plans expanded gradually. I needed magic to take the empire, and I had everything I needed to learn it. One day, I found it. The spell.

When I cast this enchantment, I could summon demons. They would obey my every command, and my brother would have no defense against them. I was elated, until I realized that casting this enchantment would kill me. That was inconvenient. But there was a solution, Allia, a young woman who possessed a ring powerful enough to heal any injury. She wouldn't help me willingly, like everyone else, she was in love with my twin brother. She was going to marry him. I couldn't let that happen. She was the key to everything.

Interview with Duke Alexander Michael Bennett



Paranormal romance

A mortal soul...

From the time college co-ed Arielle Lloyd had been young, she had been able to hear the thoughts and feel the pain of certain others, and those she comes to think of as her special group.

[ON AMAZON](#)

Tell us about yourself

My name is Duke Alexander Michael Bennett. I have been a greedy person all my life and an avid gambler. It has taking me a lot of time but I have squandered my family's fortune and I have no regrets. This is something that tells me that I am not an honest person. I have always crafted false allegations against people I have never met or know anything about including my own friends and family.

How do you see your life?

In order to be able to make more money I arranged the marriage of my only son to my best friend's daughter by creating a veil of deception. I know that is very painful to my college friend but somehow I do not care. I have done this before with no repercussions and I will do it again.

How do you see yourself in the future?

I do not let others see who I really am. The truth is that I have never thought of what the future will bring because I am a selfish man and do not worry about tomorrow. What matters to me is today and now. My thoughts are sinister and they do not include any person's feelings or standing in this world. I only care about what I gain from others by destroying their life and that of their family. Somehow all that gives me pleasure that I can't receive from anything else in my life.

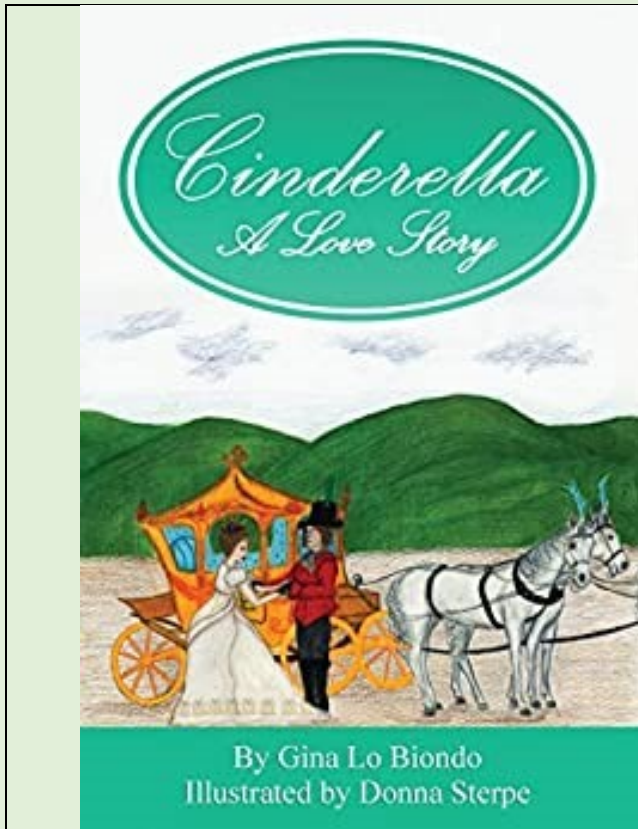
What about your family?

I have been married to the same woman for too many years. It was an arranged marriage. Love was nonexistent. I have never been faithful. I have had mistresses and bedded several married women. My wife stays in our country estate and I stay in our London home free to do as I please. I have one son who follows in my own footsteps. He is a rogue, a womanizer and a gambler. He goes from one woman to another without thought without feelings and no regrets. He is very much like me, he does not care what his actions may do to another family. I am proud to say that he is a better version of me.

Are you happy with your life up to now?

Yes, I have successfully become the dreadful person that I aimed to be from the very start. I do not worry or have any second thoughts of all the ghastly secrets I hold in my head. I have truly been amazed as to how easily I have escaped danger. Bedding a married woman can have a terrible outcome. The fact that I have survived a couple of duels did not deter me from repeating my undertakings. I do not care about a husband's honor; I only care about what keeps me satisfied. I will keep being me until someone stops me and exposes everything that I have done. At that point it will not matter because I will be dead taking with me every dreadful secret to the grave.

Interview with Lady Vera



Cinderella -- **A Love Story** is "a fanciful and absorbing rewrite of the classic faerie tale". It is told here in a fascinating new version, set circa mid-16th century.

[ON AMAZON](#)

Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is the Lady Vera. I am a “widow” and the mother of two daughters named Marguerita and Ophelia. Unfortunately, they seem to be lacking in the social graces! My new husband is a wealthy merchant with a daughter from his first wife. I don’t like the girl at all, she seems too good to be true! I plan on making her earn her keep if she doesn’t want to go to an orphanage!

How did you end up in the situation you’re currently in?

After I got rid of my first husband, my girls and I struggled. Then I met Charles – he has money and a title – we will not struggle any more. I just have to keep my secret from him or we may very well be out on the street!

Do you have any regrets?

Absolutely not! I need to look out for my own girls and myself, of course. My stepdaughter is not going to worm her way into a huge inheritance and leave her new sisters out if I have anything to say about it.

Who is your greatest enemy?

My greatest enemy is my goody-two-shoes stepdaughter. We gave her a new name because she's always covered in soot. We call her Cinderella now!

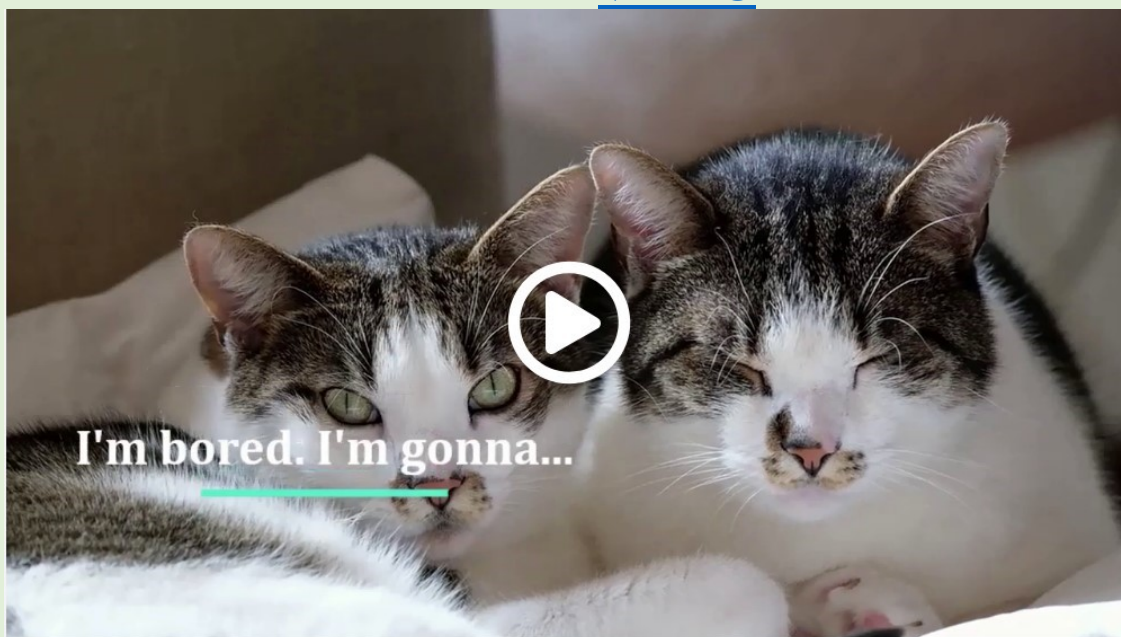
If you could have three wishes, what would they be?

1. That my girls learn some social skills and stop fighting all the time.
2. That by some miracle one of them marries the Prince.
3. That this new foreign princess goes back to her own kingdom and leaves the Prince alone so my girls have a chance at a possible marriage!



[GBBPub](#) is designing interactive videos where viewers can click on links right on the video clips.

Watch this [VIDEO](#)



Short story: Garage sale surprise

I stopped at a garage sale to browse and found a few books and a Christmas bowl that I loved. I was walking toward the owner with my treasures when I heard a woman, standing by one of the tables, talking to her companion.

"Look, this rubber snake would be great to scare the squirrels away. They keep chewing their way into the attic."

"Yes, and it wiggles too," the other woman replied."

I turned to look and saw a plump woman holding up a snake by the tail.

"How much you want for this snake?" The plump woman called over to the owner.

The owner seemed to be in deep thoughts for a few seconds staring at the snake in the woman's hand, and then she mumbled, "I didn't put a rubber snake on that table." And then she jumped up and screamed from the top of her lung, "Oh, my God! Throw it away!"

"What? Why?" The plumped woman asked looking confused, still holding up the wiggling snake by the tail.

"It's real! It's a cottonmouth," the owner yelled. "Throw it on the grass as far as you could."

The plump woman shook with fear, screamed, and flung her arm throwing the snake about ten feet away. The snake landed on the lawn with a thud and quickly slithered away. The owner closed the garage sale and asked us to leave the property. The plump woman gasped for air and threatened the owner with a lawsuit, but her companion calmed her and trailed her to their car. I was happy to get out of there and heard the owner talking to animal control on her cell phone.

Short story: I see angry people everywhere



Feeling angry once in a while can be therapeutic

Anger can be an empowering and therapeutic emotion when released in a healthy way, but it can also be addictive. Just like individuals who seek thrills for the adrenaline rush, some people have the same effect from anger. Individuals can become addicted to endorphins they feel when they get angry.

I turn on the TV and a red-faced man yelling in anger.

I scroll social sites and every other post is outrage and anger about something.

In the store a woman shouts her anger to another woman, "I'm so angry at him, I could kill him right now."

A young kid yells at his mother, "I hate you!"

Being a rageaholic

A "rageaholic" is a person who gets excited by expressing rage, or a person prone to extreme anger with little or no provocation.

Anger is One of the Most Powerful Emotions

The emotion of anger can provide tremendous energy to right wrongs and change things for the good. But when we allow it to control us, it can lead

to negative destructive actions such as emotional, verbal or even physical abuse and violence.

Anger is a negative emotion

Anger is typically associated with hostile thoughts, physiological arousal, and maladaptive behaviors. It usually develops in response to the unwanted actions of another person who is perceived to be disrespectful, demeaning, threatening or neglectful.

The function of anger

Is to protect vulnerability and neutralize threat. In humans, the threat is almost always to the ego (how we want to think of ourselves and have others think of us). Anger neutralizes the ego-threat by devaluing, demeaning, or undermining the confidence of the person perceived to be threatening.

What happens when we get angry?

When we get angry, the heart rate, arterial tension and testosterone production increases, cortisol (the stress hormone) decreases, and the left hemisphere of the brain becomes more stimulated.

The adrenaline-caused arousal that occurs during anger lasts a very long time (many hours, sometimes days), and lowers our anger threshold, making it easier for us to get angry again later on.

Anger triggers brain chemical rush

In the same way that substances trigger brain chemical rushes, so too does the expression and expulsion of anger. As any addiction, anger can induce discharge of dopamine epinephrine and norepinephrine — also referred to as adrenaline and noradrenaline.

Angry people can't think straight

Any strong emotion, fear, stress, anxiety, anger, joy, or betrayal trips off the amygdala and impairs the prefrontal cortex's working memory. That is why when we are emotionally upset or stressed, we can't think straight.

Methinks

Why are we so quick to point out the mistakes made by others?

It seems like for some people, pointing out other people's grammar mistakes and spelling errors has turned into their favorite internet pastime.

From blog posts to emails, news articles and tweets, if there's an error in there, someone's going to comment on it.



Can you blame people to feel a certain sense of pride when they find a typo or spelling error? Honestly? It does kinda make me feel good when I spot spelling errors or typos in famous, bestselling books.



But here's the thing: grammatical errors don't necessarily mean the author of the post, article, or book didn't know better. I constantly make a mistake writing "taht" instead of "that" especially when I'm texting.

The fact is that our brains are wired in a way that makes us all susceptible to grammar slip-ups.

Just think about it for a second. Even the fiercest Grammar Police person and the bestest editor makes mistakes, I've seen it many times.

Common grammatical errors such a "their" instead of "there" or "your" instead of "you're" and so on doesn't always happen because people don't know which word is correct (well, some people don't but most of us do). It happens because we focus on the content more than on the correct spelling of each and every word.

And, of course, I always notice my post, text, or email mistakes after I hit send. That must be a “cyberspace law”.

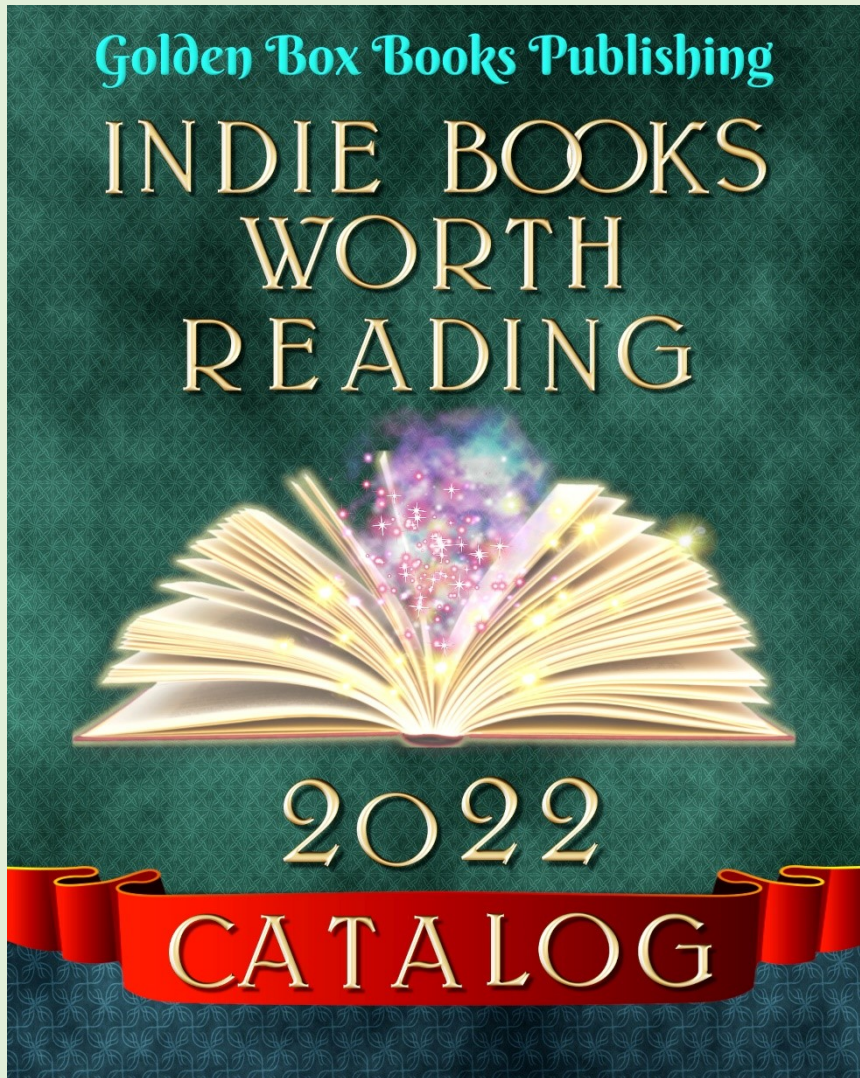
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