

# BOOKISH MAGAZINE

## MAY 2021

**Stories, books, and authors**

Poem of May

Stories by the OAG authors

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New release books

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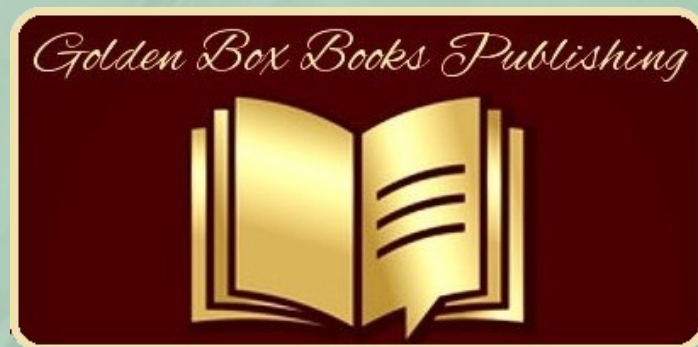
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for self-published authors.

We will resume our services in January 2021

<https://www.goldenboxbooks.com>

# MAY

*Finally an end to April's showers  
But where exactly are the flowers?  
Sun shining bright, skies are clear  
Bird's constant singing is all I hear  
Farmers plowing and planting seed  
Hoping for good crops to fill their need  
Baby animals exploring the world  
Before me life is being unfurled  
Is Winter over? It's hard to tell  
Mother Nature is not behaving well  
Enjoy the Springtime she provides  
Like shower's end it'll finally arrive*

**© Cindy J. Smith, 5/1/21**



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# Your cat is a chatterbox, you just don't listen



Cats don't use words to talk, of course!

But they communicate very well with sounds and body postures. If you pay attention to your feline friend's postures, you know exactly how they feel and what kind of mood they're in.

Let's see what kitty is saying.



"My ears are up, and my tail is up, I'm friendly."



"I know you wouldn't hurt me. I trust you."



"Just chilling, I feel relaxed."



"I'm ready to play."



"What are you doing? I'm curious."



"What is that thing? I'd better be cautious."



"Stop that! I'm frightened!"



"I'm anxious."



"I'm getting very irritated!"



"Leave me alone or else!"



"Don't you see? I'm angry!"



"Back off or I'll bite ya!"

Watch these cats talking to each other [HERE](#)





## Fantasy Creatures



Fantasy creatures have tickled people's imaginations for eons and still linger with us today. Friday, April 9, was National Unicorn Day. There was even a meme on Facebook where you could figure out what your unicorn name was. To satisfy your curiosity mine was Cupcake Glow Lilly. Not one that I would have chosen for myself, but it will suffice.

I am a fantasy writer and although unicorns have not appeared in any of my novels (My go to creature is a dragon), I thought it would be fun to explore fantasy creatures and start with unicorns.

Legends have it that unicorns resemble a horse or a goat with a single horn on its forehead. I, for one, lean towards the horse. Throughout history, these majestic beasts appeared in many different societies from Mesopotamian artwork to Greek literature and some even say they appear in the Bible. The word re'em was later translated to mean wild ox and unicorn in the early Christian church was interpreted allegorically. One of the earliest legends states that the unicorn is a strong and fierce animal that can only be captured if a virgin maiden is placed before it. Then the unicorn would leap into the virgin's lap, and the virgin would suckle it and lead it to the king's castle.

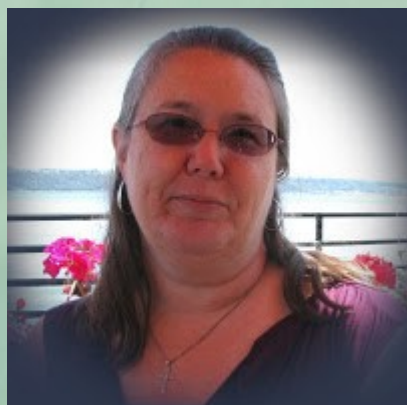


Neither legend sounds very appealing to my modern senses. One description that a Greek historian shared: The unicorn had a white body, purple head, blue eyes, and a multicolored horn. Now that's a unicorn I could get behind.

Another interesting legend involved the unicorn's horn. In the Middle Ages, it was believed that unicorn horns could counteract poison and purify waters. Merchants sold cups made of rhinoceros horns and narwhal horns by telling people they were made from unicorn horns. Danes had a throne made of unicorn (narwhal) horns. This legend proved to be detrimental to the narwhal population. Needless to say, unicorn horns were considered very valuable and powdered unicorn horn was sold in pharmacies as late as 1741 in London.

To this day the national animal of Scotland is the unicorn. Since 1971, Lake Superior University in Sault St. Marie, in Michigan has issued permits for unicorn hunters. They do recommend when going on such a search that you carry a flask of cognac and a pair of pinking shears. No explanation as to the need for these things, but hey if I'm searching for unicorns why not have some cognac to supply refreshment for the journey.

So even our modern sensibilities turn to fantasy creatures to escape the darkness sometimes blanketing our world.



**Christina Weigand**  
**AMAZON**

A writer, wife, mother of four, and Nana to five. She lives in Pennsylvania and has three published YA novels, a woman's Bible study, and two MG Fantasy.

Author of poetry and children's books  
<https://cindysvoices.blogspot.com/>



## Spring Is In The Air



Being born on the first day of Spring, I have found the "spring cleaning bug" lives inside me year-round. Any time the sun peaks out after a few days of cold and gloom, I feel the urge to make my house sparkle. Unfortunately, I do not seem to be as efficient as Snow White. I usually find myself in the situation of Cinderella (pic 2) with more to do the longer I am at it.

My grandfather used to call me Cinderella, so I feel like I was destined to be like her.

When I first got my own apartment, everything had a place it belonged, and I made sure it was where it should be every day. I cleaned floors on my hands and knees, dusted and wiped down everything except windows...I still can't clean them. Dishes were washed, wiped, and put away as soon as a meal was finished. My daughter was raised in this environment, and when she started to rebel by not taking care of toys, I bagged them up and threatened to give them away.

Somehow, life took over, and dishes drained overnight while I enjoyed family time. Then came moves to different states which resulted in boxes of items with no place to fit. As I waited to find their perfect location, another move took place and the pile of unemptied boxes multiplied. Becoming an over-the-road truck driver just amplified the storage issues. My daughter's passing added more boxes of treasures to deal with.

Read the full story [HERE](#)



# Resilience and Patience



Paula, P. 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 crime fiction. She also writes historical fiction and paranormal suspense. She loves traveling and shares her experiences on her blog: <http://paperpenandinkwell.blogspot.com>



Last year the 30th of December I was surprised to see one of my garden plants starting to bloom. I have it there for enough time to understand that it starts to bloom between April and August. I remember having chosen it just because of its long blooming season and because the first pollinators could have soon something to eat after the long winter.

For this reason, you can imagine my surprise when I saw it blooming in the middle of the winter. I was also worried because, although we didn't have had yet any snow, I was sure it would have come quite soon, meaning the demise of the plant.





In fact, as I feared, after a few days the Finnish landscape turned white, and the only hope I had was that at least only those early blooms would have died out, leaving the whole plant alive ready to bloom once again at the right time.

Likewise, every winter, the temperatures went far below freezing this winter, reaching -25 C. Every time I looked out of the window, I wondered about the well-being of those little flowers.

Many times I have been tempted to dig them out from the snow and cover them with a cloth that could have protected them from the cold, but a little voice in my head told me that perhaps the snow cover could be just enough of a protection.

A few days ago, as the milder temperatures started to melt the snow cover, I thought I saw something worth my attention, and as I went to refill the bird feeder, I reached the place where the blooming flower was planted.

And I marveled...

Not only the plant survived the harsh and long winter, but under the snow cover, those flowers found a safe cocoon from where to find shelter from the cold weather. They patiently kept themselves alive, gathering the weak light filtering through the snow cover, feeding on the slowly melting ice, and counting the days to Spring.



It gave me a sense of hope and also a good lesson, about patience. Sometimes we all need to work and wait before we can harvest the fruits of what we've done, as nothing happens in a one-day timeframe. So the old say 'good things come to those who wait' isn't so wrong after all.



## Alan Zacher on [AMAZON](#)



After many years of being a "struggling" actor in LA, I turned to writing. I have had several novels published: "I'm No P. I."; "A Ghoulish Good Time"; "The 13th Hour"; "Being a P. I.--Again". I have had MS for several years now; I know physical and mental pain; so I need much laughter to endure it. Hopefully, my novels do just that--give much laughter.

### The Doubts of an Author

Yes, I have doubts as to the quality of my writing. Is it any good or am I just fooling myself? Every morning, early, —always about 5 a. m.—I rise from bed and begin writing. I'm always excited to begin the day writing, my heart pumping, and my creative juices flowing. On good days, I may write, off-and-on, for four or five hours. If it goes well, I'm elated; if it goes badly, I'm miserable. If I only hammered out two or three lines, I feel that I have wasted my whole day—for nothing! I pout and I feel anger for the rest of the day, and I wonder whatever made me ever believe that I could ever do a thing like writing a book, to begin with. Stupid! And for an Indie writer, this is even worse—you don't have a publisher!

Well, and even having a publisher isn't always a sure deal of the quality of one's writing. I have had many short stories and six novels published. My first novel was published by a man who owned a small publishing company. He kept telling me that my manuscript was one of the best novels that he had ever read. The contract that I signed with him was a 60/40 contract, with a 30% overhead charge—meaning that before the 60/40 kicked in, 30% was taken off first: I made little money.

So, I don't know. Yeah, I have doubts. Even the King says—that's Stephen King— "Don't go into writing lightly. There are too many disappointments." Yet, when all is said and done, there are the occasional emails that I receive from people—total strangers! —thanking me for my writing putting a smile on their faces. Yes, I have doubts, but receiving one of those joyful emails makes it all worth it.



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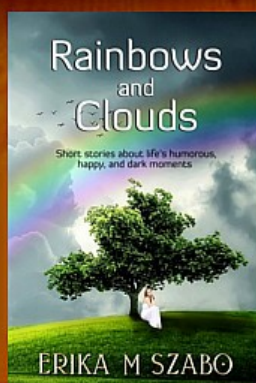
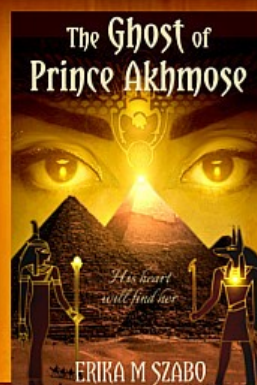
I write speculative alternate history fiction, romantic urban fantasy, historical suspense, cozy mystery, supernatural, and sweet romance novels as well as fun, educational, and bilingual books for children ages 2-14 about acceptance, friendship, family, and moral values such as accepting people with disabilities, dealing with bullies, and not judging others before getting to know them. I also like to encourage children to use their imagination and daydream about fantasy worlds.

If you'd like to read about my books, visit my website and click on the book pages:

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