

BOOKISH MAGAZINE

In this issue:

The work of great book cover artists
End of the year contest to WIN prizes
Failed New Year's resolutions
2020 accomplishments
My future projects

JANUARY 2021

2020, you really deserve a smacked bottom for all the bad things you've put us through!



Dear 2021, please bring us peace, good health, happiness, and prosperity.

Happy New Year!



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The artists who deserve the recognition

Although mostly the well-designed book covers catch readers' attention and sell the books, the artists who create them are rarely mentioned and appreciated.

Therefore, I decided to dedicate a few pages in this magazine to honor and recognize the great artists who created these awesome book covers.

Click on the names of the designers to read about them and about the great work they do.

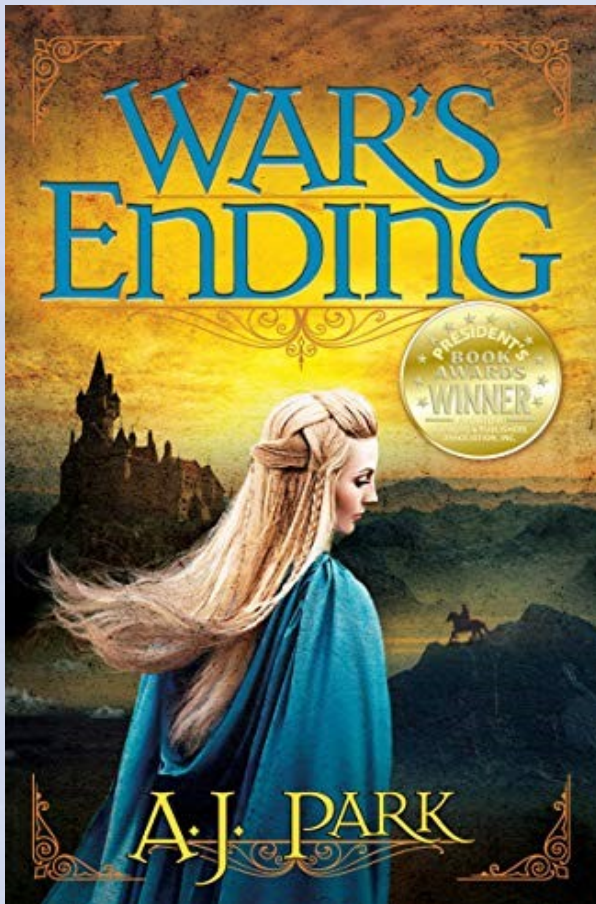
Keep reading and enter the contest to win cool prizes



Cover artist:
[Molly Phipps](#)

One looking for adventure. Another looking for a place to call home. When the trumpets of destiny are blown, two young heroines, Aurelia and Thaliasia, must summon the strength to turn the tides of fate.

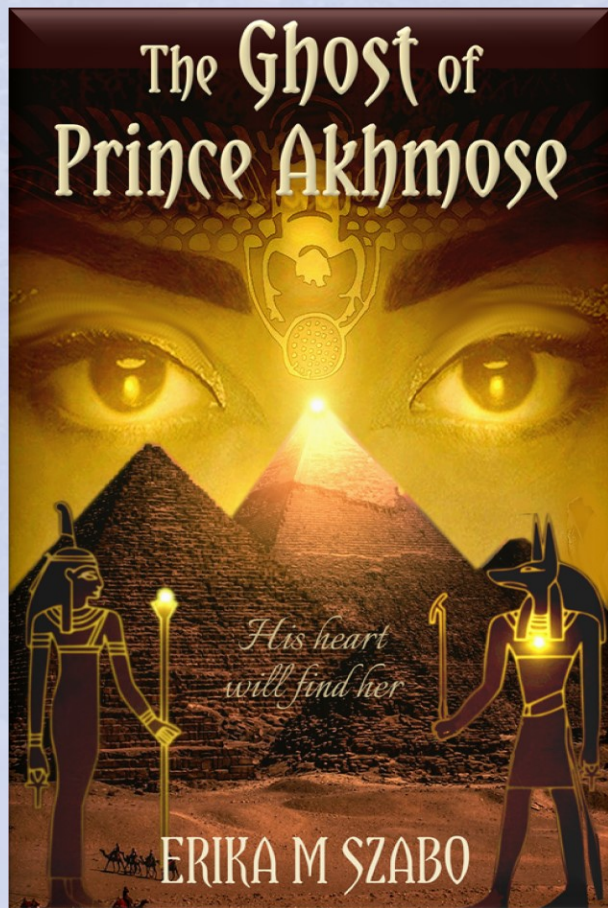
[EBOOK](#)



Cover artist:
[Brian Halley](#)

A courageous noblewoman. A mysterious stranger. A war that may destroy them both...
As the king's niece, Shalyrie can't wait to explore her kingdom's colonies with her uncle. But when a terrifying attempt on her life reveals that her own people are trying to kill her.

[EBOOK](#)



Cover design by:

[Erika M Szabo](#)

Historical fantasy

Thousands of years ago Tanakhmet cursed Prince Akhmose to never enter the heavenly paradise. But after Layla breaks the curse, does he really want to? Why did Tanakhmet want him to linger as a restless ghost among the living, forever?

[EBOOK](#)

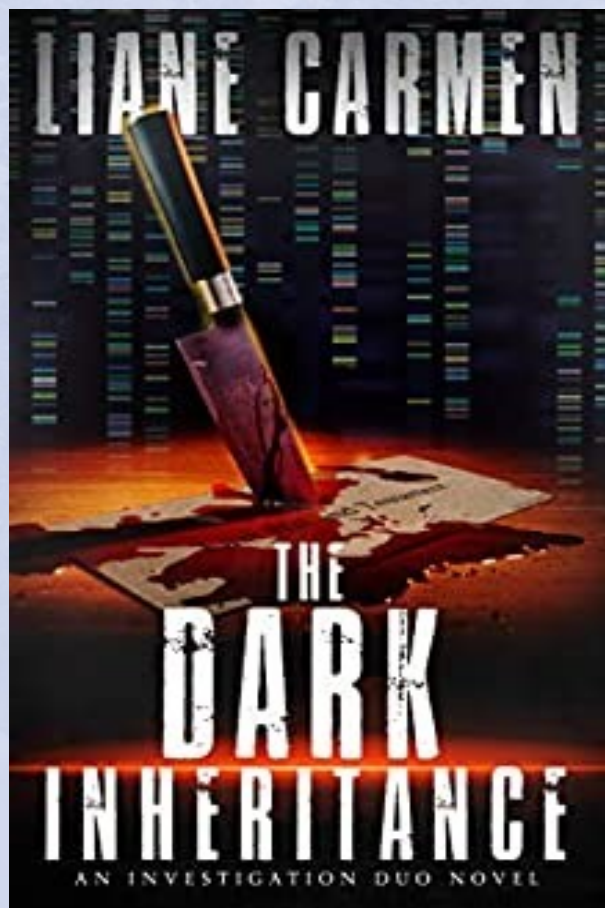


Cover design by:

[Tahani Nelson](#)

After her monastery is attacked and her sisters slaughtered, young Kaiya is left alone to fight back against a dark army and darker betrayal. THE LAST FAOII is the powerful and immersive introduction to the Faoii Chronicles.

[EBOOK](#)



Cover design by:

[100Covers](#)

When Donna's dad dies, his will contains the shocking admission of another daughter. Donna now has to share her inheritance and doesn't get a cent until she locates her half sister. Someone else is looking too. If they find her sister first, she'll be dead.

[EBOOK](#)



Cover design by

[Ravven](#)

Beth is fascinated by the man with violet eyes. Jonan longs for the woman who haunts his dreams. But Amelia's stories of supernatural attack are spreading, and Beth and Jonan know she is lying. Can they expose her games before she tears them apart?

[EBOOK](#)

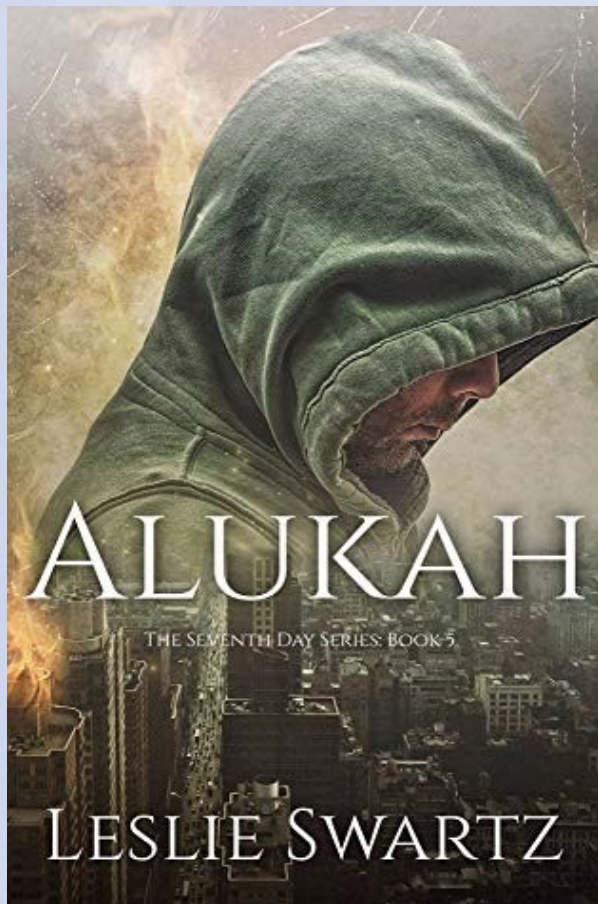


Cover design by
[Jessica Allain](#)

A lost princess. A smirking heartthrob. A dangerous secret.

Being a senior in high school should mean having fun and making memories. Instead, Ana is stuck battling strange visions and trying not to burst into flames. Oh, and bickering with Calix, the hot new guy, who has made it his mission to get under her skin.

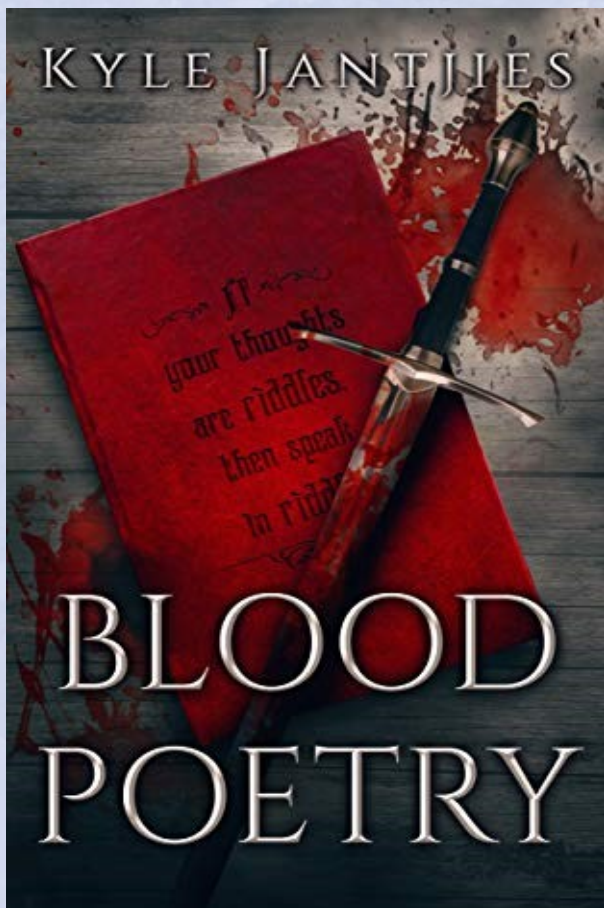
[EBOOK](#)



Cover design by
[Alainna MacPherson](#)

In all her years as Queen, Allydia has shown mercy exactly once. Now, as her people rebel and civil war has been thrust upon her empire, she will come to regret that decision. Wyatt will do anything to protect his family, but his latest sacrifice may prove too painful to bear.

[EBOOK](#)



Cover design by
[Ana Ristovska](#)

In an effort to make sense of his thoughts, Reed writes poetry. But when his Cadan's father is killed, Haley expresses interest in him and Emma is kidnapped he must lead his friends on a rescue mission. He needs to learn how to express himself before his emotions overcome him and his friends end up dead

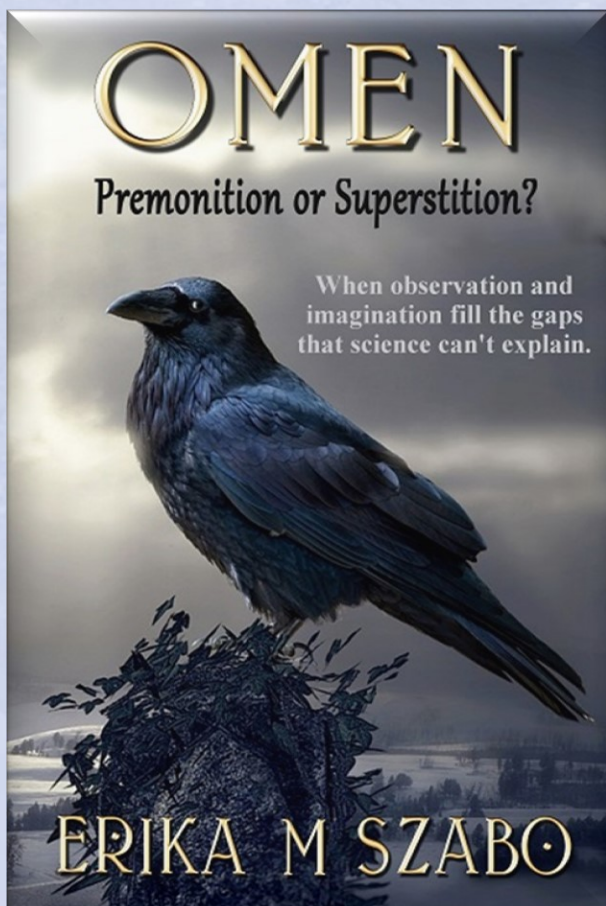
[EBOOK](#)



Cover design by
[Got You Covered](#)

When Rossin Morgan stumbles into Warrior's shattered world, she unburies the evils behind why he's been scarred in a knife attack. Trapped in a labyrinth of treachery, Rossin must seduce Warrior from his revulsion, saving them both or they'll be destroyed by those seeking revenge.

[EBOOK](#)



Cover design by:
[Erika M Szabo](#)

It's believed that crows are a symbol of bad luck and death. In this short journal I reveal some of my observations about knowing a crow family for decades, and I also share a great memory of watching and raising a litter of orphaned fox pups.

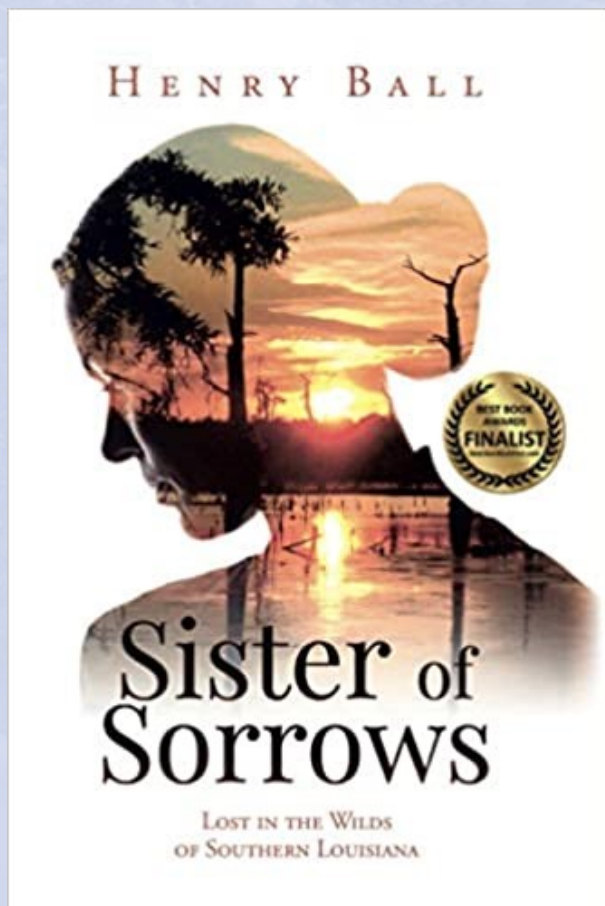
[EBOOK](#)



Cover design by
[SelfPubBookCovers](#)

When the balance between nature and civilization is skewed more towards technology, the Reset occurs...Will Meg survive or will she become another casualty of the apocalyptic event known as The Reset...?

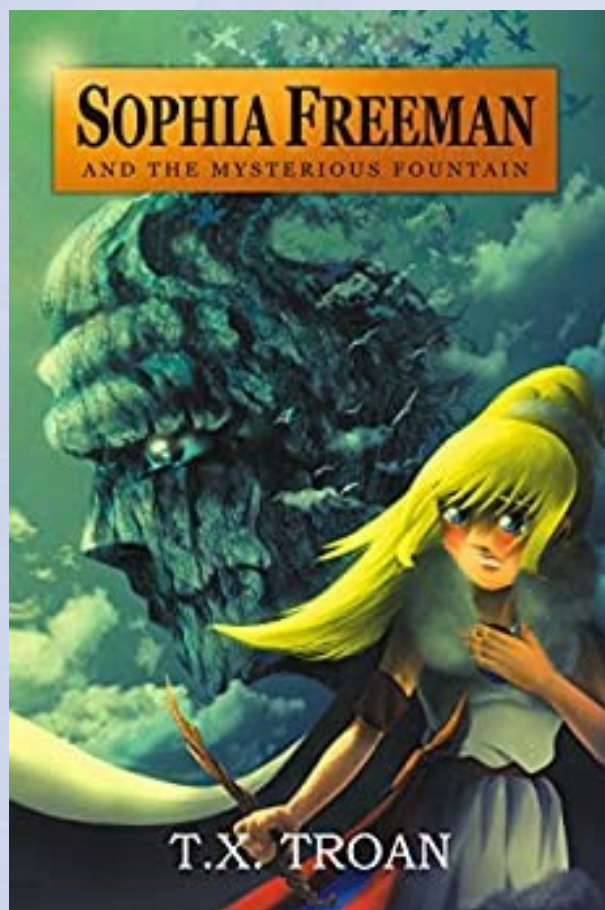
[EBOOK](#)



Cover design by
[1106 Design](#)

A tumultuous and remarkable journey through life, love, and lost in the wilds of Southern Louisiana. *Sister of Sorrows* also recounts the untold story of America's most notorious counterfeiting scheme and the redemption of Louisiana's hero, Billy Cannon.

[EBOOK](#)



Cover design by
[T.X. Troan](#)

What begins as a special trip for eleven-year-old Sophia Freeman and her father leaves her trapped on a mysterious island with a tree boy and fantastical creatures. Later, she learns she is dying from an eternal curse and the only way to prolong her life is to drink the island's sacred water. Can Sophia and her companions reach the fountain and defeat the guardian before time runs out?

[EBOOK](#)

CONTEST

Vote [HERE](#) or click on the picture below

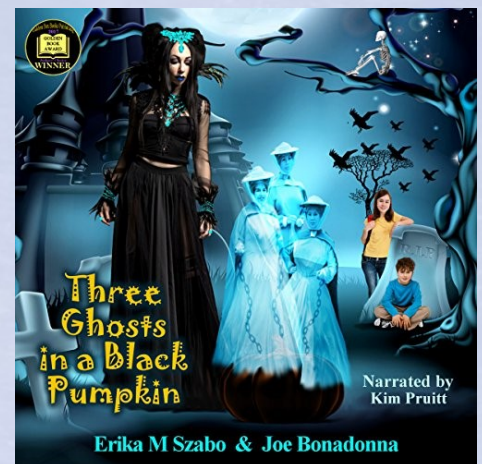
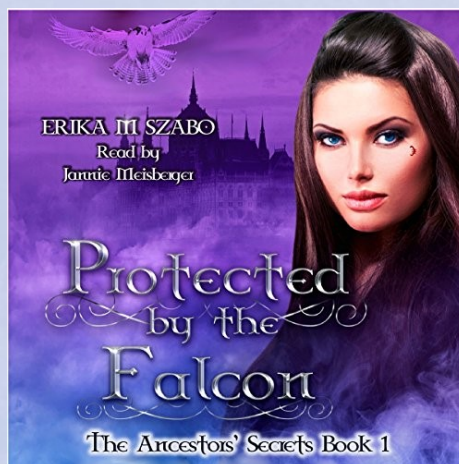
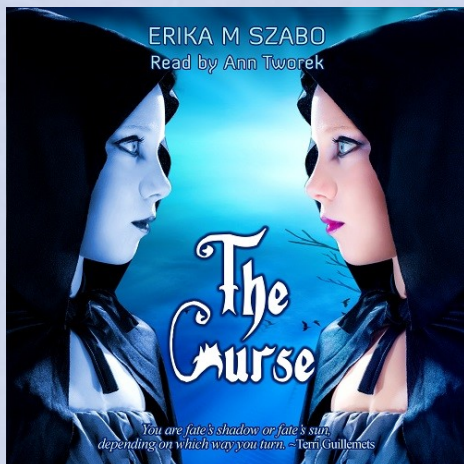
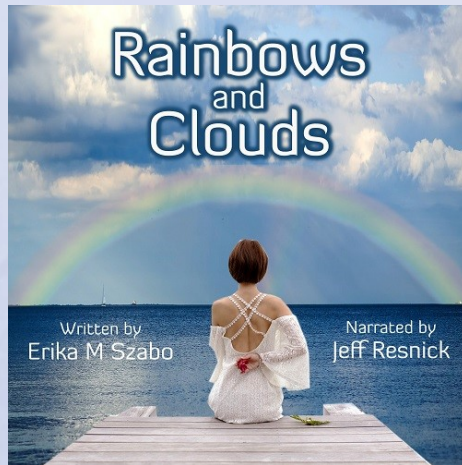
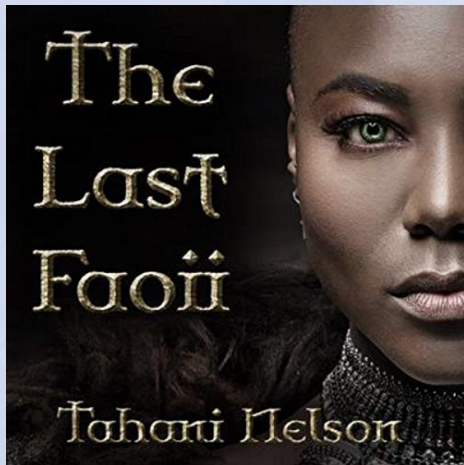


Vote for the best book covers, WIN prizes

Vote for the best book cover designs, tell us what grabbed your attention at first glance. The winners will be notified and prizes sent via email by the authors.

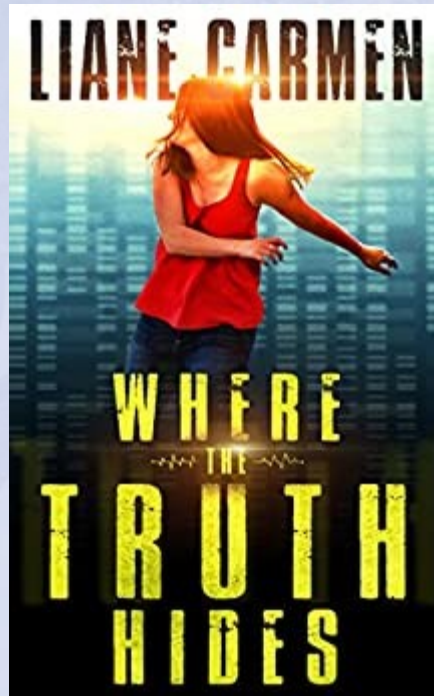
YOU MIGHT WIN

One of the audiobooks below



OR YOU MIGHT WIN

One of the eBooks below



New Year's resolutions

What is a New Year's resolution exactly?

Well, I think it's those promises we make for the first week of January and keep them for maybe 2-3 days.

My failed New Year's resolutions

1. For years I kept making promises to myself to lose 10 pounds. Yeah, and I've gained a few, every year. This year my New Year's resolution is to **gain** 15 pounds.

I hope the reverse psychology works!

2. Stop lying to myself about starting an exercise regimen. I've used the eclipse machine twice in January 2020, and after collecting dust for months, I donated it to the Salvation Army.

3. One year I promised to quit being sarcastic because most people just don't get it and get offended. But then I realized that I'm no quitter and being sarcastic makes me feel really good.

My 2021 New Year's resolutions

1. Lose a few pounds, eat less chocolate and sweets.

2. Learn to ignore SJW comments on social sites, they are beyond help, anyway.

3. Make better bad decisions.

Who am I kidding? Someone this awesome doesn't need to change a damned thing!

Failed New Year's resolutions

"I once said that my new year's resolution was to be nicer to the characters in my novels. A cacophony of laughter and guffaws ensued..."

Joshua Griffith

"In 2020, my New Year's Resolution was to go to the theatre more often. I'm sure you can guess how well that's gone! In 2021 I will be getting creative and looking for fun and inspiration in socially distanced ways."

Martha Dunlop

This made me laugh on [Pinterest](#)



This fun generator is from [Reddit](#)

New Year's resolution generator

© John Atkinson, Wrong Hands

choose one from each column

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| stop | shouting | during | grandpa's stories |
| start | sobbing | loudly at | rodeos |
| avoid | using the term 'derivative' | when tweeting about | Tom Hanks movies |
| keep | quoting ABBA | before | pilates |
| quit | saying 'it is what it is' | when complaining about | karaoke |
| practice | freestyle rapping | after | civil war re-enactments |
| try | mispronouncing chipotle | when deconstructing | anything |

gocomics.com/wrong-hands • wronghands1.com



Now this makes me feel better! I'm not alone!

2018 New Years Resolution Statistics

8%

Succeed in
reaching **their resolutions**

Resolutions



Save Money



Get in shape or
loose weight.



Travel More



Learn a new skill or
hobby.



Quit Smoking

I'm one of the lucky ones who can work from home, and so far, I dodged the bullet with Covid 19. However, a lot of my family members and friends contracted the virus, and it's no joke going through it. They all reported losing smell and taste, high fever for days and malaise, muscle aches and weakness for weeks.

For one friend, the viral infection triggered pancreatitis, and the other friend is still coughing after contracting the virus 2 months ago.

A few people I know went through it a little easier, they had fever for a day, headache, muscle aches, and loss of smell and taste for a few days. This virus seems to affect everyone a little differently.

Please be careful, try your best to protect yourself and others around you.

Accomplishments in 2020

We helped quite a few authors to self-publish their books in 2020.

GBBPub is a small, publishing assistance provider with reasonable prices. We help the authors with book formatting, cover, book trailer, and portfolio design, and I coach the authors through the publishing process on various selling sites, as needed.



Our website is not fancy, we don't really advertise our services because we get more than enough of work via word-of-mouth advertisements from the authors we work with.

I do most of the work and Zita helps me from time to time with correspondences. Because I concentrate on one book at a time, we accept a limited amount of work.

The authors I assisted in 2020

I helped the authors with every step of the publishing process, or part of it such as formatting, book cover, book trailers on [YouTube](#) and helped with setting up their audiobooks, or design their websites as well.

Alan Zacher

I helped Alan to self-publish 4 books and 2 audiobooks in 2020.

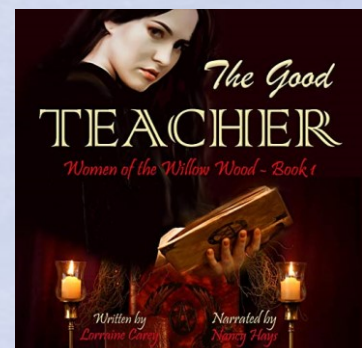
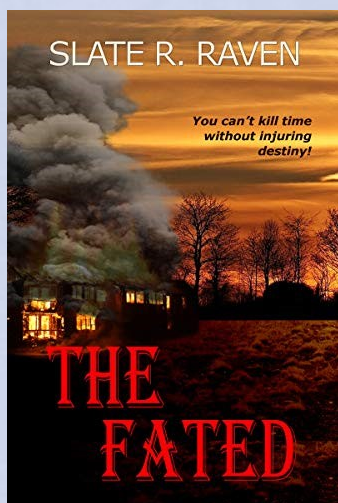


Slate Raven

I helped Slate to self-publish both his books and audiobook, and I designed his [website](#).

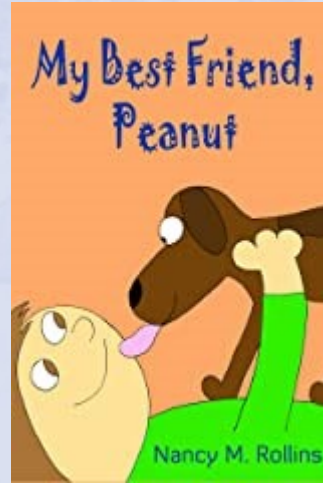
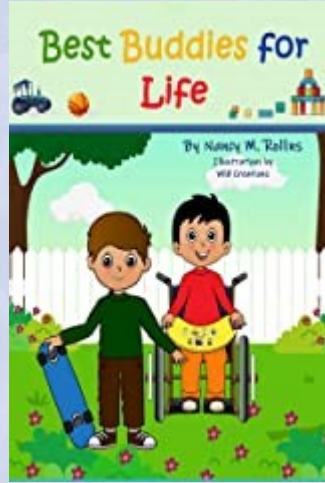
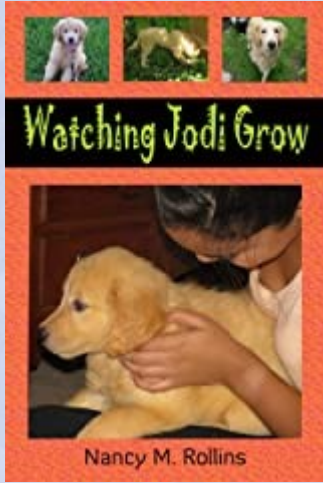
Lorraine Carey

In 2020, I helped her with book 3 in her series by designing her cover, audio cover, formatting her book, and creating her book trailer.



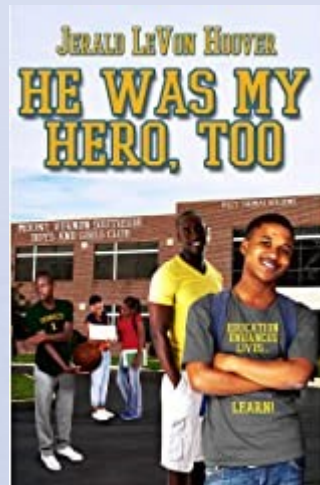
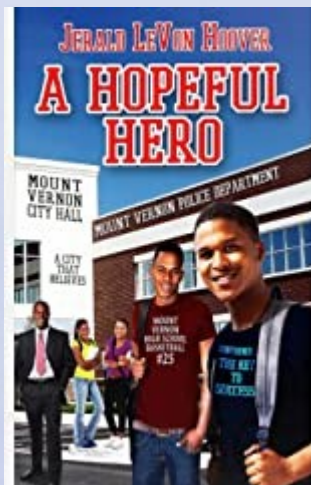
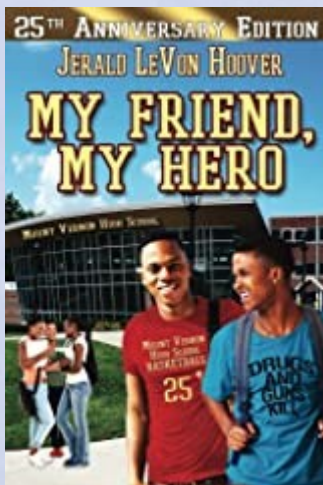
Nancy M Rollins

Nancy writes children's books, I helped her to self-publish 4 books in 2020. I did the formatting, book covers, book trailers, and helped her to set up an audiobook.



Jerald LeVon Hoover

I helped Jerald to self-publish his YA series



Unlike most publishing service providers, I'm never going to get rich by helping authors. I work with a limited number of authors and my prices are a fraction of what big providers with fancy websites and pushy salespeople charge. I come across these site or ads and it makes me angry seeing how much they take advantage of authors who can't do it alone.

I'm honored to receive such great reviews from the authors I've worked with:

"This is my One Stop Shop for all my publishing needs. Honest, Reliable and top-notch quality here." Lorraine Carey

"Erika has extraordinary professionalism in disposition, reliability, principles, and expertise." Mary Heneghan

"I had the pleasure of working with Erika every step along the way. She was literally available around the clock to see this publication endeavor from beginning to end, and attentive to customer satisfaction." Eva Pasco

"They offer a service package to fit every author's budget at affordable prices without skimping on quality. It was a rare privilege to work directly with Erika every step of the way." Slate Raven

"Erika is a pleasure to work with. Professional, proficient and generous with her time, she helped this newbie from start to finish – and the finished product was perfect." Debbie Christiana

"Erika is a self-starter, very competent person who knows all the in's and outs of her craft. Whatever it is she will give you everything you need to help ensure the success of your project. Her charges are very fair, and she is a very honest and sincere person." Edward Halpern

"We will work on your book until you absolutely love it." That was what I read in one of the first emails from Erika. She quickly had proven that statement true. The best description of Erika's performance is a twirl of wind. Breezing through the sites and programs, she skillfully formatted pages and book cover. Her confidence motivated even me to share her positive outlook for the books final début." Nancy M Rollins

I published a few of my books in 2020 as well



EBOOK

PRINT

The Audiobook is coming soon



A story for every day of the week:

Ghost: she breaks his curse.

Omen: when the Raven calls.

Deceit: dangerous love potion.

Magic: broken hearts unite.

Mystery: painting of a Musketeer.

Fate: soulmates across timelines.

Love: conquers misery and fear.

This collection includes the following 7 stories

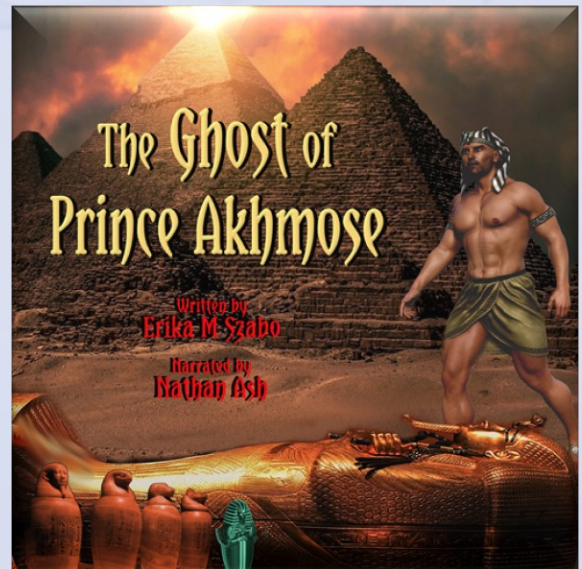
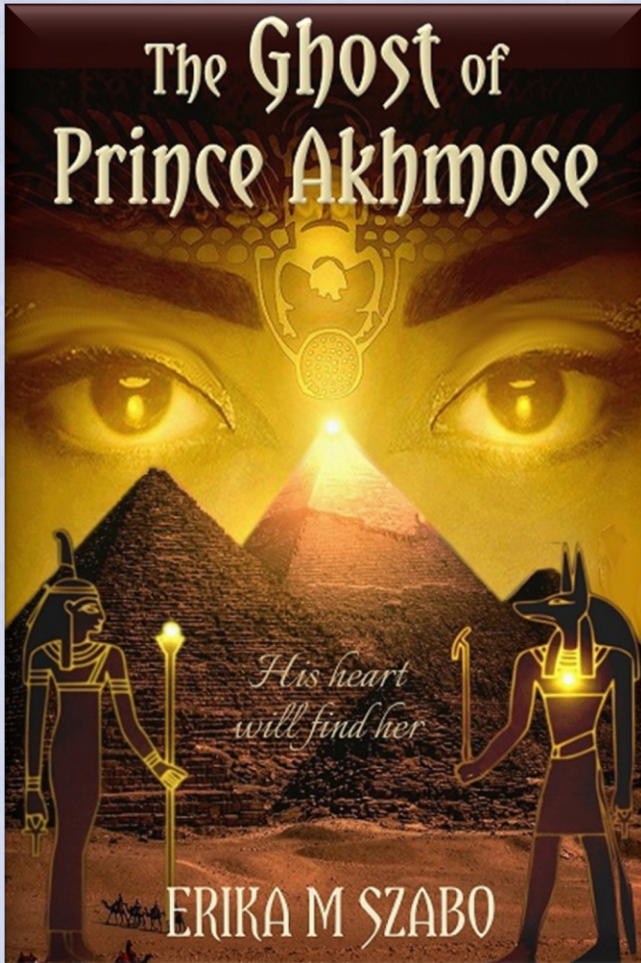
The eBooks and audiobooks are available separately as well

Included in The Seven Cozy Shorts

[EBOOK](#)

[LARGE PRINT](#)

The audiobook is coming soon



Supernatural suspense

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?

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. With Layla's help, can Prince Akhmosé finally cross into the afterlife?

Or perhaps, because of the charms of the mortal woman, he doesn't want to...

A cozy 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.

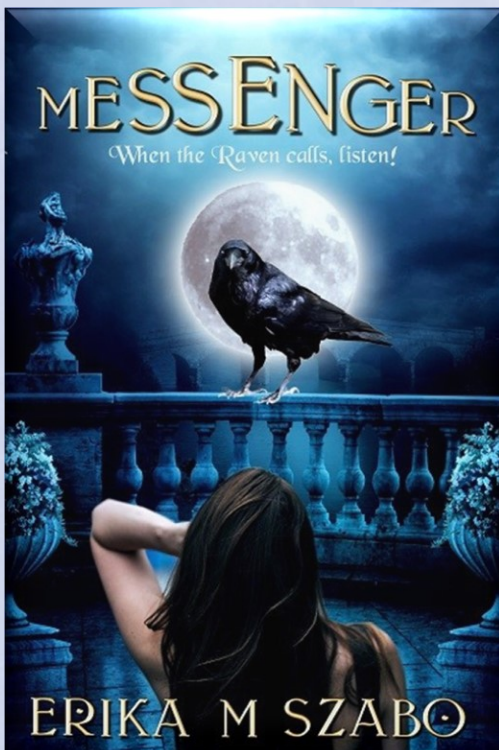
Someone breaks into her office and after the brutal attack and the Raven's repeated warnings, she knows her life is still in danger. Who wants her dead and why?

MORE

[EBOOK](#)

[AUDIOBOOK](#)

[SPANISH](#)



Young Adult supernatural fantasy novelette

A love potion made with haste out of jealousy puts Dorian into a comalike state. A rare orchid that blooms only once a year could save his life, but the precious flowers are fiercely guarded by Liam and his werewolf pack.

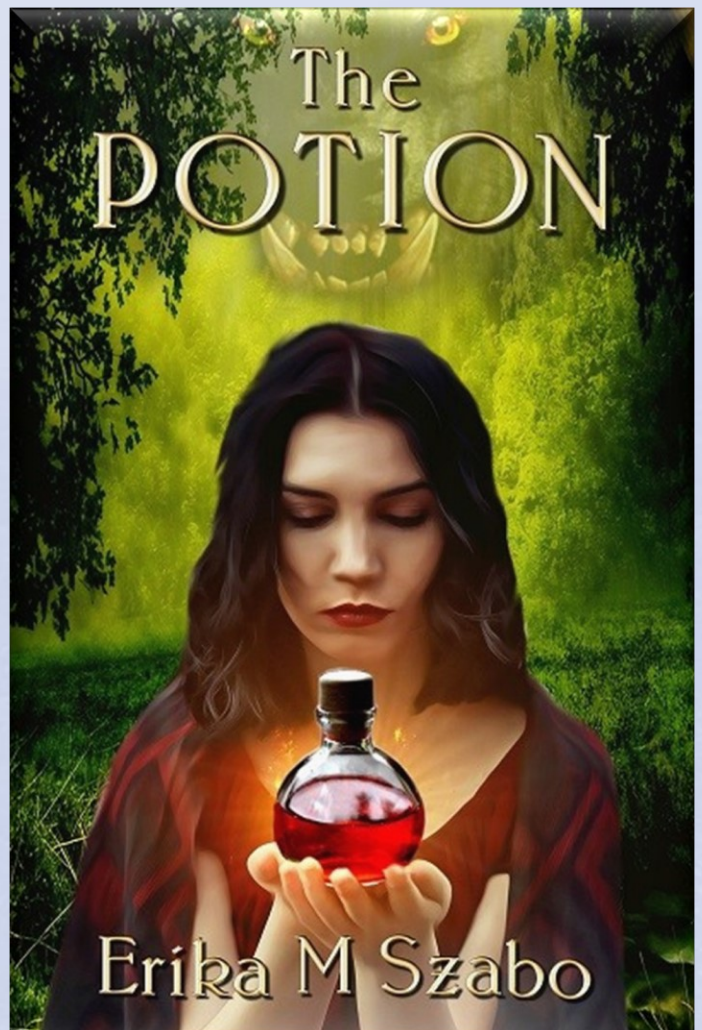
The acolytes of the coven are forbidden to enter the forest and the young apprentices volunteer to make the journey that will test their loyalty and courage.

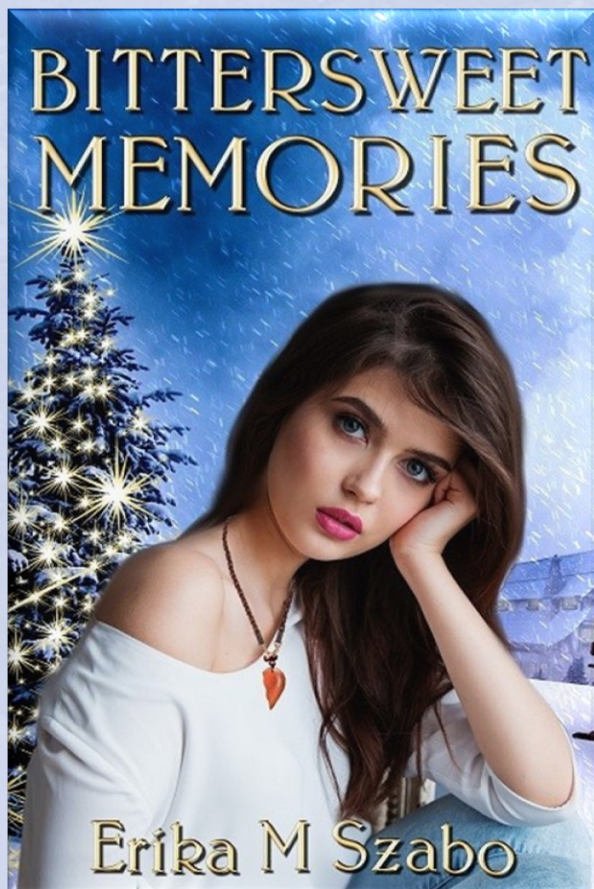
Will they succeed?

MORE

[EBOOK](#)

[AUDIOBOOK](#)





Christmas love story

Born to a drug addict mother and left on the church steps, Elana's life was revolving door of shattered hopes and disappointments. Until she met Luca. Allowing them only a short time of happiness, cruel fate tore them apart. All she had was hope and half of the rosewood heart pendant he carved to hold onto. Will they meet again?

English, Spanish and Hungarian eBook, as well as English audiobook.

[SEE MORE](#)

Watch the [VIDEO](#)



Cozy, small-town mystery

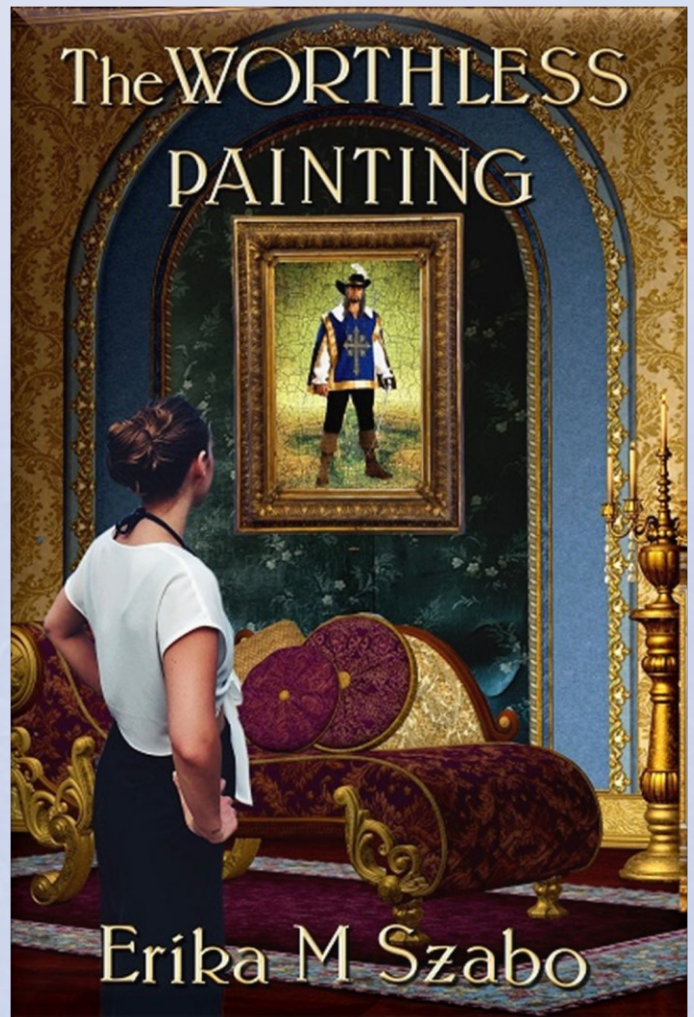
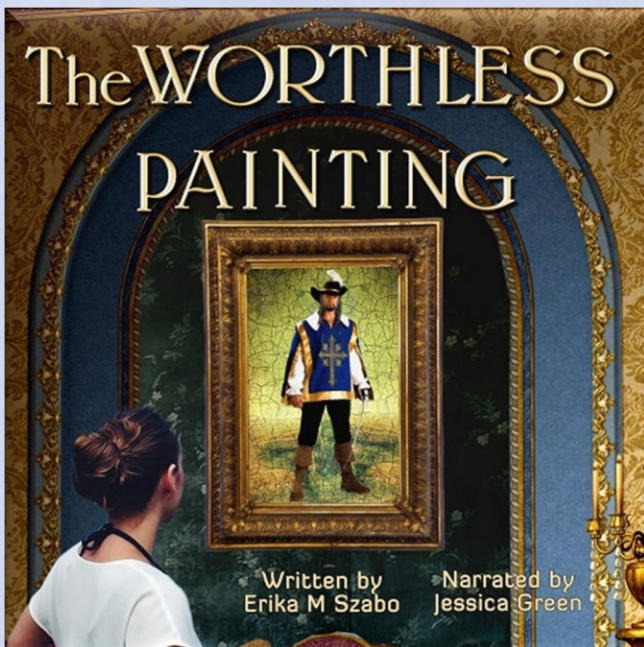
When Danielle finally quits her boring accountant job and opens an Antiques & Stuff store, her life changes for the better. But soon, her happy life starts to spin out of control when the snobbish new owner of the Couture mansion brings a seemingly worthless painting into her shop. The ownership of the painting is questionable, and the town's future is threatened by the plans of the ruthless, rich owner who wants to build a leather factory on the estate, too close to town.

An unexpected visitor arrives, and he may possess the much-needed solution to everyone's problems in this quaint little town.

MORE

EBOOK

AUDIOBOOK



A romantic sci-fi, dystopian novelette.

Being a fiction writer, anything can trigger a story followed by an avalanche of stringing words. When I read about the theory of Parallel Universes, I started thinking. *What if...*

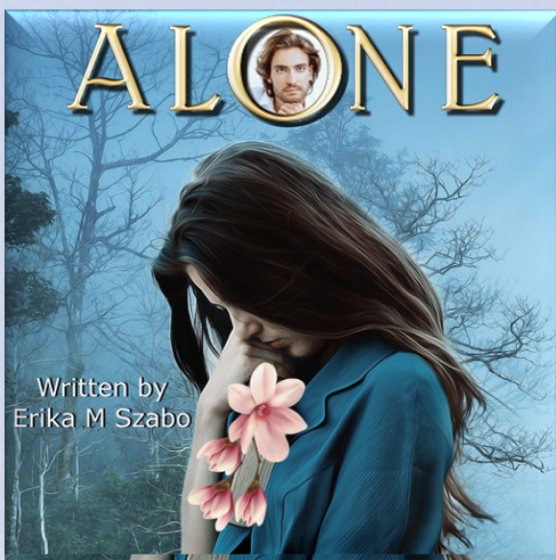
It triggered a thought-provoking short, easy-to-read story about love, loss, and... Nah, I'm not going to spoil it for you. Enjoy the story!

Caleb lost his soulmate, Valerie. Could it be possible to find her in a parallel universe? If his father succeeds to open the portal, will he find the same person in the alternate universe or a stranger? How far is he willing to go in finding the happiness he lost? Will he find his soulmate, Valerie?

EBOOK

MORE

The audiobook
Is coming soon



Unconventional family

People are not perfect, and we all come with baggage.

We can live a happy life or create a chaotic life. It all depends on the choices we make.

I wrote this short story remembering all the seemingly perfect families I've met in my life.

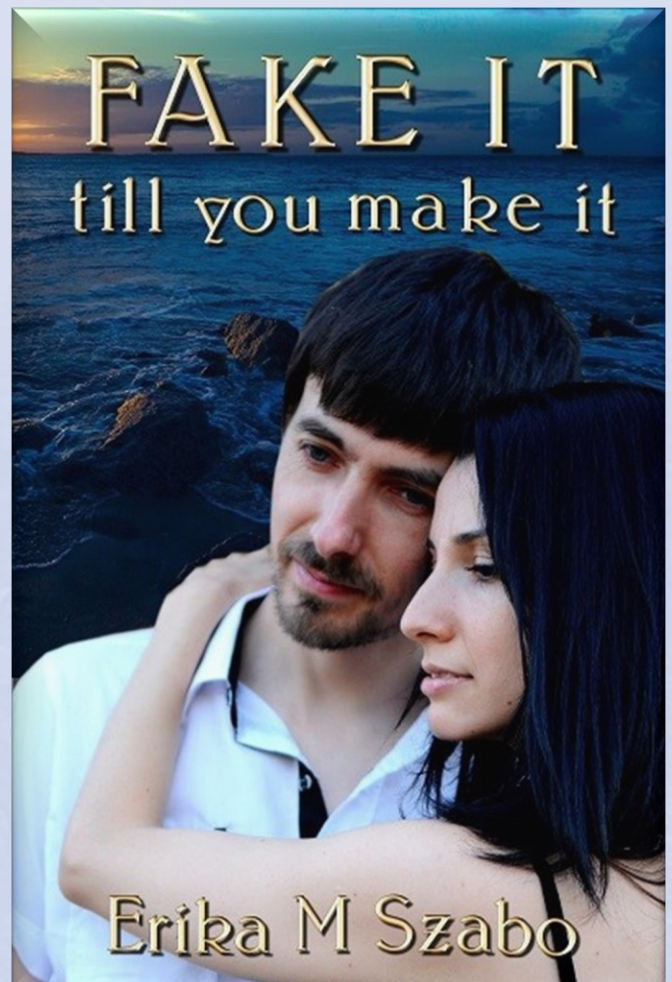
They show a picture perfect-family life but hide the struggles, heartache, compromises, and sacrifices they made to get there.

I wrote this short story remembering all the seemingly perfect families I've met in my life.

They show a picture perfect-family life but hide the struggles, heartache, compromises, and sacrifices they made to get there.

MORE

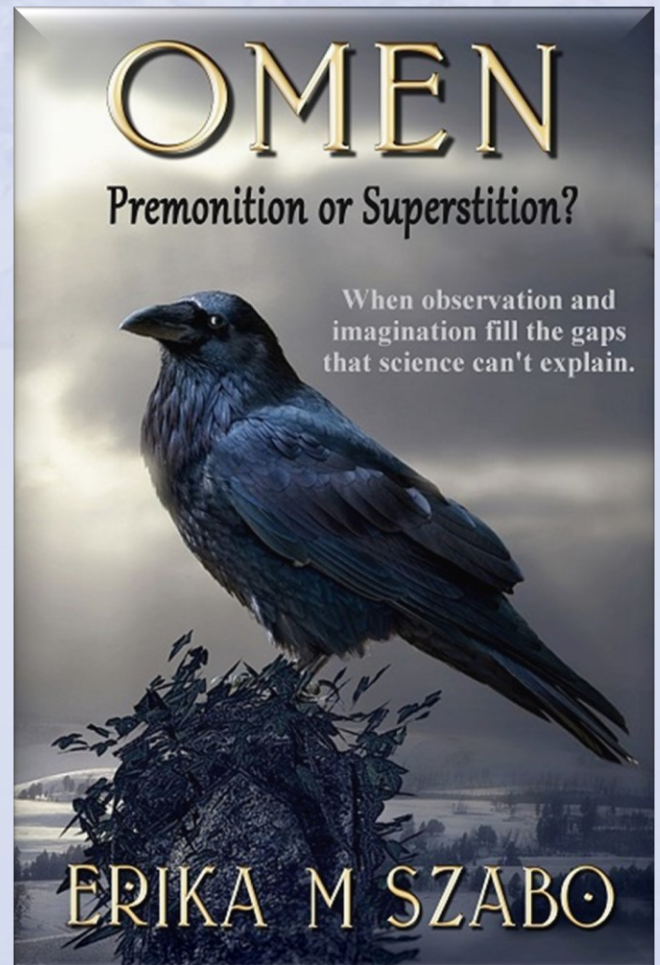
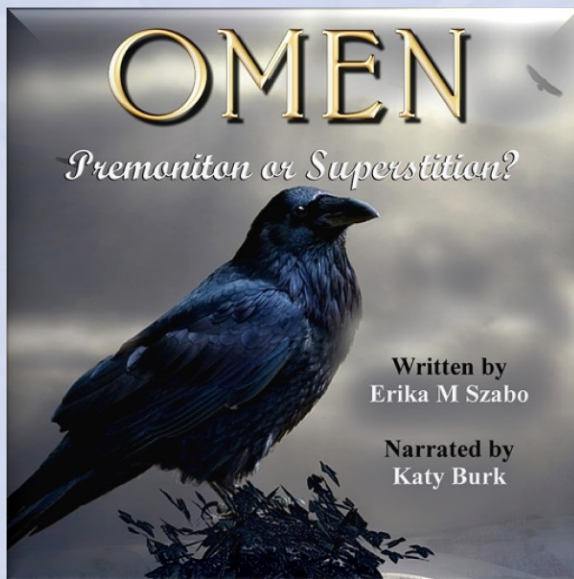
EBOOK



Also published in 2020

[EBOOK](#)

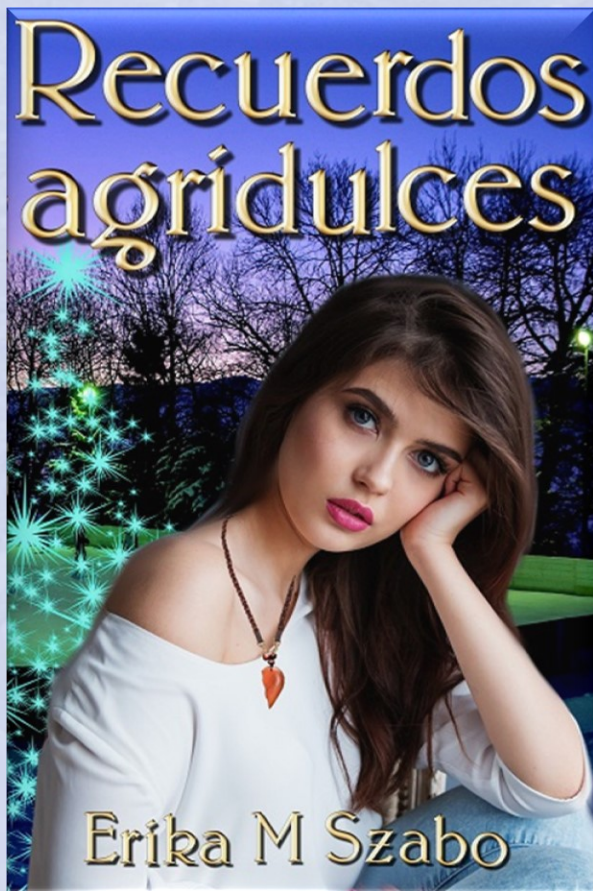
[AUDIOBOOK](#)



Short stories

When observation and imagination fill the gaps that science can't explain. Most of the perceived omens remain unexplainable myths, but others... you decide.

It's believed that crows are a symbol of bad luck and death. In this short journal I reveal some of my observations about knowing a crow family for decades, and I also share a great memory of watching and raising a litter of orphaned fox pups.

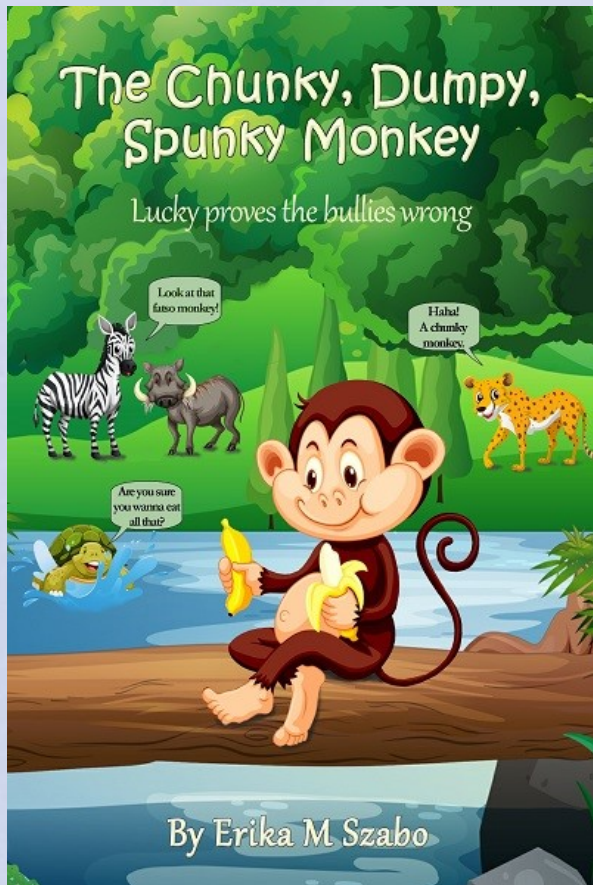


Also published in 2020

Novela dulce romance

Nacida de una madre drogadicta y abandonada en los escalones de la iglesia, la vida de Elana fue una puerta giratoria de esperanzas y decepciones destrozadas. Hasta que conoció a Luca. Pero el destino cruel los destruyó. ¿Se encontrarán de nuevo?

EBOOK



A read to story for children 4-7 and read alone for ages 8-10

They said she was a dumpy, chunky, silly, scaredy, grumpy, clumsy monkey. Lucky was sad but instead of feeling miserable, she chose to listen to her friend who knew her and said that Lucky was a lovely, cuddly, bubbly, spunky monkey."

EBOOK

PRINT

HARDCOVER

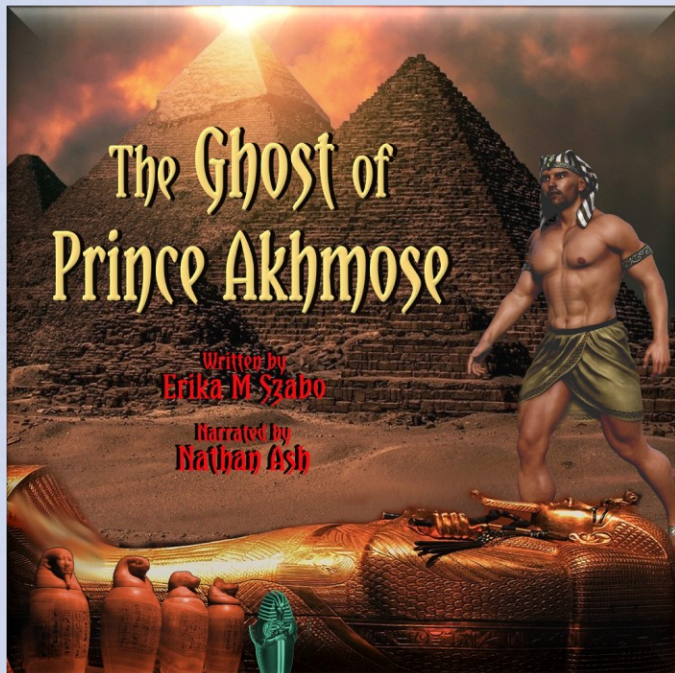
I have four audiobooks in the works,
they'll be released in 2021



EBOOK



EBOOK



EBOOK



EBOOK

I wrote this short story for an anthology and I'm planning to expand it to a full novel in 2021.

The Magic of Blackmire Forest

Generations upon generations Blackmire Forest was the favorite place of the witches of the Enchanted Maple Coven to search for their ingredients—herbs, barks, leaves, and flowers. Their paths were clearly marked by the coven's sigil that had been painted on the tree trunks.

Camilla Highmore and her fellow young acolytes in their late teen years, Sarah and Xavier, reached the knoll and found the witches' path. Their long years of apprenticeship was over, and they were expected to perform the final test before they'd be considered as fully trained witches.

They had to find the woodruff iris needed to brew the potion as their last test, and the instruction had been very clear. The woodruff iris flower thrived on the sweet sap the snag maple trees provided. Dead yet still standing, snag maple trees were a rich source of nutrients as well as magical ingredients for both thanomancy and biomancy. The rare flower had to be plucked exactly when the sun barely kissed the horizon and prepared before the last rays of the sun vanished into the cloak of the night.

Upon finding the flower, they only had one hour to rush back to the coven and add the flower as the last ingredient to their prepared potions. If they'd be unsuccessful, they'd have to remain apprentices and try again the following year. The pressure weighed heavily on them all.

The trio walked in silence keeping an eye on the trees with the sigil that marked their path. Suddenly, a raven appeared above Camilla and let out a raspy kraa sound. She shivered as the black bird flew away. She looked after the bird as it flew higher and higher and disappeared from view.

When Camilla lowered her eyes back to the trees, she spotted her grandmother's small, spiral symbol with a pentacle in the middle carved into a majestic pine tree. She had a strong feeling that she had to follow the path the raven showed her. She hesitated for a minute but soon made up her mind. "I'm going this way," she called out to her companion and pointed toward the narrow path by the tree.

"We were told to follow the witches' path," Sarah said, feeling annoyed. Her red, curly hair flew off her shoulders as she shook her head and rolled her green eyes. Always a strict follower of rules, she often disapproved when Camilla questioned or sometimes even broke the rules. "Why do you always have to break the rules?" She questioned looking at Camilla.

"I'm not... Okay, I do... sometimes. But my spirit guide..." Camilla stuttered like a scolded child but then her confidence returned. "Oh, never mind that. I've been here before with my grandma when I was very young, and I remember seeing dead maple trees in that area. Do you want to come with me?"

"No way," Sarah said, firmly shaking her head.

"I'm staying on this path as we were told. You shouldn't wander off either," Xavier warned. His chocolate brown eyes reflected genuine worry.

Xavier was in love with Camilla since they first met, but his sense of duty and obedience kept him from revealing his feelings. When he confessed to his father, he got angry and told him that he was destined to be a witch and follow the footsteps of his ancestors, and a strong-willed, often disobedient girl didn't fit into his future plans. Xavier agreed sadly and accepted his father's decision. He kept his feelings to himself but couldn't erase his love for Camilla from his heart.

Camilla stubbornly shrugged and strode off the well-worn dirt road. It made her heart race with excitement every time she followed the ancient path with her grandmother but going alone made her a little nervous.

The Raven is my spirit guide and it's never wrong. She thought, trying to calm her anxiety. It has a good reason to lead me off the usual path, and besides, my grandmother had marked this path for a reason.

The twisting path led her deep into the forest. Fallen leaves crunched under her boots, and she heard the rustle of small scampering creatures under the fallen branches and leaves. She tightened her grip on her gray knitted shawl as she continued along the path, her eyes automatically searching for the maple snags that woodruff iris preferred.

She still had about ten minutes before the sun began to sink below the horizon. Golden light filtered through the canopy of tree branches above her and the chilly wind cut through the rustling leaves making them dance. Camilla felt goosebumps rising on her skin triggered by the energy coursing all around her. More than anything in the world, she wanted to learn how to tap into that energy and wield the magic of nature.

The spotted an ancient, dead maple tree that stood just off to the side of the path. Beautiful even in its decay, its bare branches stood out against the bright late afternoon skies. Armfuls of woodruff iris in full bloom waved gently in the wind as they clung to the snag.

Camilla took a deep breath, bowed to the ancient tree, and to the scurrying creatures it still supported and took a step towards the patch of flowers to wait until the exact time for harvest.

As she took another step, suddenly, her foot crashed through the layer of dead leaves that had so perfectly hidden the tangle of thick roots and the warren between the path and the tree. She let out a sharp scream and the golden light of the world above her was thrust into shadows as she crushed through thin branches and roots, falling into a deep hole. She landed hard on the packed dirt in a deep, spacious room below the maple tree's roots.

Leaves floated peacefully around her as she stood up, groaning, brushing the leaves from her long hair and the dirt from her jeans. She moved her arms and legs carefully. Nothing is broken. She thought, sighing in relief. Light poked down through the hole above her head, enough so that she could easily look around in the underground room.

Camilla turned to examine the large, square, carved stones put together with precision to make the walls of the room. The stones were covered with moss and a thick layer of dust, but in the darker corner polished stones with runes carved into them caught her eye. “What is this place?” she whispered and shivered. How am I going to get out of here? She thought looking up at the hole in the ceiling, ten feet above her head.

Her stomach tied into a knot. It was a mistake! Why did I follow the Raven? A scream rose in her throat, but she managed to stay quiet. It’s no use. Nobody will hear me. They will come looking for me when Sarah and Xavier go back to the coven without me, and grandma will know where to find me when they tell her I followed her sigil. The thought of getting help calmed down as her curiosity rose.

She glanced at her watch and cried out, “Oh, no! There’s only five minutes until sundown. I’m not going to get the iris and... well, at least I’ll know where to find the flowers next year.” She shrugged and took a step closer toward the back wall. She could barely see the runes carved into the dark gray stones. “I wish I’d brought a flashlight” She sighed.

“Whoa!” Camilla exclaimed and stumbled back in fright as the room turned bright. “What the... what’s going on here?” She cried out but her curiosity was stronger than her fear.

She could see the carved runes clearly. I wish I could read them. As soon as the thought entered her mind, eerie green light illuminated the rune letters.

Ye who was born to possess the sight

Brings light into the night.

What is this? Camilla’s legs turned to jelly and sat down. I can read the runes. Is this place like a ‘your wish comes through cave’ or something? “I wish I could get out of here!” she said out loud. She felt lightheaded and closed her eyes for a few seconds. When the dizziness passed and opened her eyes, a strange sensation filled her body and mind.

She felt the energy around her and watched in fright as the pile of dead leaves that had cushioned her fall stirred and gathered around her gently lifting her back up through the gap.

“Whoa!” a surprised scream erupted from her chest as she steadied herself at the edge of the gaping hole. This place is magical! I’m going to show it to grandma. She thought dreamily but quickly came to her senses. Glancing at the horizon she knew she didn’t have a second to waste if she wanted to harvest the flower of the woodruff iris.

Watching every step carefully, she walked to the beautiful patch of flowers. She knelt, took her athame out of its embossed leather sheath, and waited, blade pressed against a blood-red stem. As soon as the sun touched the horizon, Camilla made the cut. What if the others can’t find the flower? There is plenty here. She thought as the plants shivered, and she held three perfect blossoms in her hands. She allowed herself a few moments to admire the delicate black petals before tucking the knife back into its sheath, and gently placed the flowers inside the leather pouch that hung on a thong around her neck.

After bowing her head for a minute and thanking the plant for letting her harvest its delicate flowers, she stood up and raced back on the path, following her grandmother’s sigils with a satisfied, happy smile on her face.

She anxiously waited a few minutes until finally, she spotted her fellow acolytes walking back on the witches’ path with shoulders hunched and gloomy expression on their faces. As they stopped, Camilla noticed their hands were empty. Her heart twisted.

Xavier glanced at her sadly and sat down on the carpet of leaves, looking defeated. “No luck,” he sighed. “Somehow, we got off the path and by the time we found the flowers, the sun was sinking into the horizon and the petals closed up. We were late…”

“We’re not going to be accepted,” Sarah muttered. “What rotten luck! We’ll have to wait another year.”

The words died on her lips when she saw Camilla opening her pouch and holding the precious black flowers. “No worries. Neither of you has to wait,” she said simply. “I have three flowers.”

Sarah stammered, “And you’d share it with us?”

“Of course! Let’s go. We only have half an hour to get back to the coven and fifteen more minutes to add the flowers and finish the potion.” She smiled.

Xavier leaped to his feet as Sarah rushed to embrace Camilla in a tight hug.

The spicy-sharp autumn air of Blackmire Forest smelled of pure magic as the apprentices hurried toward the coven.

They rushed back to the coven and under the watchful eyes of the High Priestess and Elders, they added the woodruff iris to their prepared, murky looking potions. They stirred the dark grey, thick liquid in their cauldrons and yelled out in surprise when the potion turned into ruby red, glowing liquid.

“You have passed your last test,” the High Priestess announced and looked at the acolytes with warmth in her eyes and smile on her lips.

Sarah glanced at Xavier with a sad expression in her eyes, and when Xavier nodded, Sarah looked up at the High Priestess. “We have a confession to make.”

“Oh? What is it, child?”

“We...” Sarah started and cleared her throat. “Xavier and I didn’t get the flower. We were unsuccessful in finding it and Camilla took two extra flowers and gave them to us.”

Xavier looked at Sarah and added in a shaky voice, “We don’t deserve to be witches, only Camilla does.”

“I know, my messenger told me,” the High Priestess admitted and glanced at raven sitting on the windowsill. “I was just waiting for you to admit it.”

“So, we have to wait another year, right?” Sarah asked and sighed.

“No, child. You don’t have to wait. The three of you passed the test because of Camilla’s loyalty. She could have taken only one flower, but she took three because she has a good heart, and she’s loyal to her fellow apprentices. Being the member of our coven is not about competing with each other and outdoing each other. It’s about love and loyalty to each other and helping one another.”

After the initiation ceremony a week later, Camilla and her grandmother went on a journey to discover more about the room that had been hidden for centuries. The spicy-sharp autumn air of Blackmire Forest smelled of pure magic as they followed the path to the ancient maple tree that guarded the sacred place deep in the woods.

I wonder what will Camilla and her grandmother find in the caves deep in Blackmire forest. Well, my muse have some ideas and my imagination will fill in the gaps.

I hope you enjoyed this magazine and found some awesome books to keep you entertained.

In 2021

I'm planning to reduce the number of magazines and I will publish Bookish Magazines quarterly instead of monthly.

Happy reading!

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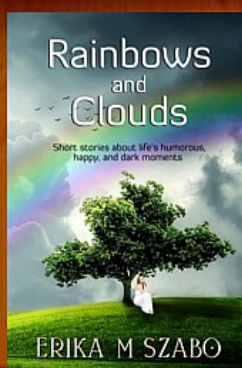
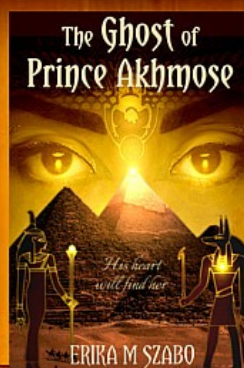
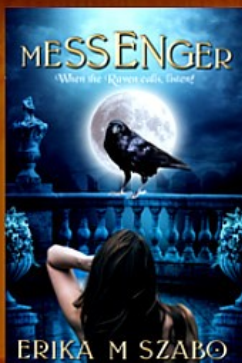
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