

BOOKISH MAGAZINE

JULY 2021



VIDEOS:

Book trailers

Fun videos

Publishing tutorials

STORIES;

Mental Pictures of Characters

Favorite Poets #2 William Shakespeare

Women are All Sugar & Spice

Parasites, or Better Known, Scammers

Kick-starting the Day

Meet the Nyms



Read the magazine:

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



Read free online magazines:

<https://fliphtml5.com/bookcase/uuhfw>



JULY 4th

Stars and stripes wave in the breeze
All across the Land of the Free
Families gather in the park
Picnics and visiting until dark
Children enjoying the summer sun
Anxiously awaiting nighttime fun
When fireworks will light up the sky
Celebrating another 4th of July

© Cindy J. Smith

In this Issue:

Poem of July by Cindy J. Smith

Stories from the Author Gang authors:

Mental Pictures of Characters

Favorite Poets #2 William Shakespeare

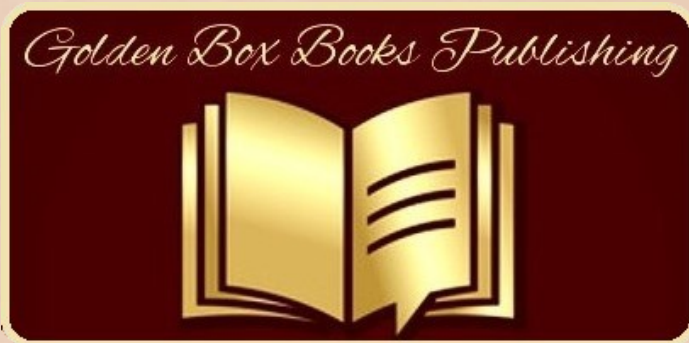
Women are All Sugar & Spice

Parasites, or Better Known, Scammers

Kick-starting the Day

Meet the Nyms

Book trailer, fun, and tutorial videos



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

We will resume our services in January 2021

<https://www.goldenboxbooks.com>



How do you create a mental picture if book characters?

By Erika M Szabo

I'm in the middle of rewriting my romantic historical suspense story, [The Cursed Bloodline](#), that I published in 2016. The past 5 years I've grown a lot as a writer, so I thought that it's about time to revisit the old story.

In my early books, [The Ancestor's Secrets](#) series (2012), which is next on my needs-rewriting-list, I had a tendency to keep going on and on about parts that didn't really move the story forward, but later on my writing style turned into a more minimalist scene and character description.

What is your opinion?

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

If the story plays out in present time and the author describes the character's outfit in minute details, it doesn't even give me a chance to use my imagination. This is not from an actual book, but I've read something similar:

She had shoulder length, platinum blond curly hair. She was tall and skinny with long legs. Her face oval shaped, sky-blue eyes large with long lashes. She stood in front of the walk-in closet selecting her outfit for the meeting. She chose a teal-blue knee length dress that accentuated her womanly curves. Next, she picked her black Italian leather open toed high-heels that showed off her freshly pedicured, coral-pink nails.

You get the picture. For me, it's too long and way too detailed.

CONTINUE READING...



My Favorite Poets #2

William Shakespeare

By [Cindy J. Smith](#)

I love Dr. Seuss, Mother Goose, and [William Blake](#). I have also mentioned my distaste for Frost and Dickenson. I bet you are wondering who could I possibly add to my list of poets I enjoy reading. Wonder no more...the second poet in "My Favorite Poets Series" is none other than the bard himself, William Shakespeare.

Like most of you, I was introduced to Shakespeare via his plays. They were required reading for my English classes in high school, and, with one exception, I read everything I was required to read.

Shakespeare's plays seemed to flow so smoothly. I loved them all but my favorites were his comedies, A Midsummer Night's Dream holding the top spot. All the mayhem caused by the fairies and Pan were delightful! His tragedies and histories were written in the same style. I am sure I am not the only one who memorized the "To be or not to be" soliquy of Macbeth.

Now you may be wondering why I am talking about his plays, since this is a post about poets. Well, the fact is Shakespeare wrote all his plays in the poetic form called blank verse! That is the reason they flowed for me. His style was smooth and eloquent at the same time.

[CONTINUE READING...](#)



In memory of Little Johnny

By Erika M Szabo

As a young nurse in Hungary, I worked in the pediatric unit for a short while. Johnny was a nine-year-old cute-as-a-button little boy who had leukemia. The medications and treatments wiped him out physically and emotionally, but he still had a sweet smile for everyone who entered his room.

Restrained sobs choked me every time I saw his pale, angelic little face and heard him say, “Hello, beautiful. Give me that shot quickly and tell me a story.” (His father was a flirt and Johnny imitated him by calling the nurses beautiful or gorgeous.)

Our storytelling sessions started when he had a very bad day after chemo, and the medications didn’t work to suppress his nausea and headache. All I could do was sit by his bed, hold his hand, and wait for the stronger medication to kick in. To break the silence and get his attention away from heaving and pain, I started reciting a fairy tale. “once upon a time...”

As I continued the story, his breathing slowed, and he hung onto every word, seemingly forgetting his pain and misery for a while.

The story with medicine became our routine. One morning, because I didn’t remember any more fairy tales that I had read as a child, I started telling him my childhood memories.

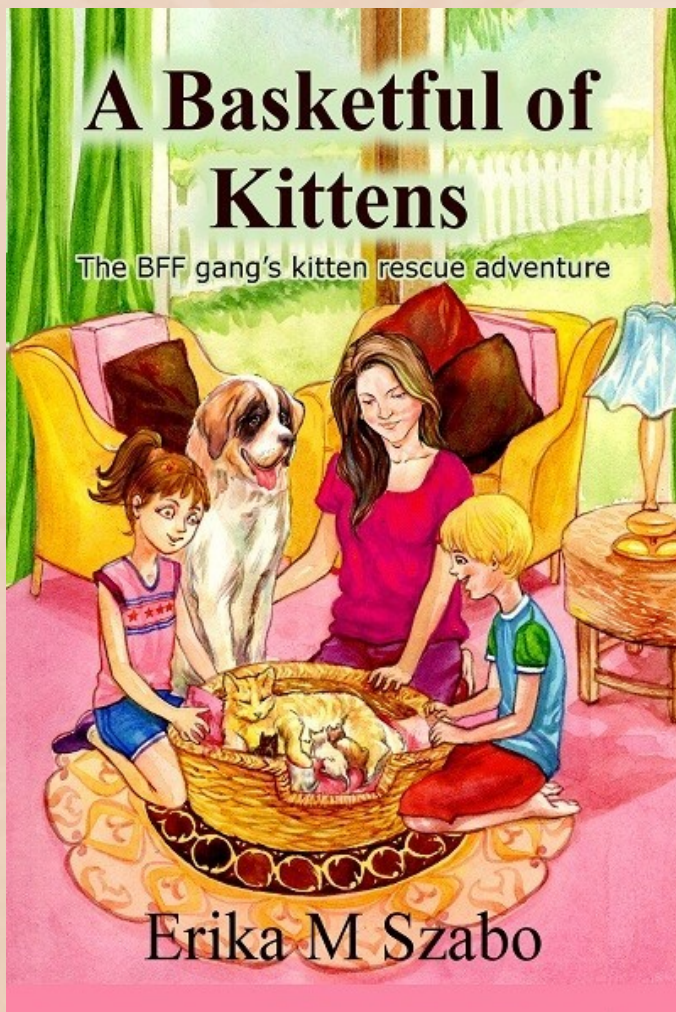
One of my fondest memories was how my best friend and I saved four drowning kittens when a cruel neighbor threw them into the river.

Johnny grew weaker and weaker and could listen to the story only a few minutes at a time, but he remembered the next day where we left off.

When we got to the part where my mom prepared a wicker basket for the kittens, Johnny's eyes lit up and said, "A kosárnyi kiscica," which means: "A basketful of kittens."

When I wrote this story into a children's book in memory of little Johnny, I gave the book the title that he came up with: "A Basketful of Kittens."

I never had a chance to tell him the end of the story. The next day, there were only a few minutes left to tell him how Daniel and I dealt with the neighborhood bullies, but when I entered little Johnny's room that morning, his bed was empty.



When Bianca, Daniel, and Peanut, the St. Bernard, are confronted by Mark and his cronies, the children stand up to the brute bullies with the help of Peanut. Their adventure continues when they see a woman throwing four tiny, meowing kittens into the river. Can the BFFs save them? Find out what happens to the kittens. Bianca and Daniel stand up to brute bullies and when they see a woman trying to drown kittens in the river, they save them with the help of Bianca's dog.

[**MORE...**](#)



Women are all sugar and spice, until...

By Erika M Szabo

A woman gets a local call. She doesn't recognize the number, but it's local, so she picks it up.

"Hello," a pleasant male voice with a heavy Indian accent greets her. "Are you Mrs. (so and so)?"

"Who's calling?" she asks, knowing that the caller, if it's a scammer, might record a "yes" answer and could use it for money scams.

"Ma'am, this is Brian from (whatever company) refund center. Our records show that you've overpaid for an item you've recently ordered. Are you close to your computer, ma'am?"

The bell goes off in her mind but she's alone and has a lot of time on her hands, so she decides to play along. "Oh, my!" she pretends to be surprised. "I'm getting on my computer right now. How much are we talking about?"

"Great!" the man calls himself Brian but most likely called Babala or something replies. "I can tell you the exact amount in a minute, but first I have to verify a few things. In order to do that, you need to search for this address on your computer: www.xxxxxx.com. Sign in with this email: xxx@gmail.com and enter the password 12345."

"Okay, give me a minute. I'm almost there. You said the password is 12345, right?"

"Yes, ma'am. No problem, ma'am, I'll wait."

The woman puts her phone on speaker, places the phone next to the keyboard and starts typing while mumbling to herself, "That's interesting. Oh, I see," she giggles.

CONTINUE READING...



Meet the Nyms

By A.L. Butcher

English is a curious, complex, and crazy language. Not least of which are the *-nyms*.

You may use these in everyday language and not give a second thought unless you're like me – a wordsmith and amateur etymologist – and such curiosities intrigue you.

Many of us have heard the term 'Synonym' – but what does it mean?

Synonym

A word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase in the same language, for example shut is a synonym of close.

Examples:

Shut / Close*

Far / Distant

Evil / Wicked / Bad / Malevolent

Push / Shove

Jump / Leap

Create / Make

Near / Close*

*See examples below as Close (as in near) and Close (as in close a door) are also *Homonyms*.

It's likely you've used homonyms regularly but might not have been aware that's what they were called.

What is a Homonym?

This is more complex – as there are several linguist concepts related to homonyms. **CONTINUE READING...**



Parasites – or better known – Scammers

By [Slate R. Raven](#)

Over the evolution of our species there has always been things we call parasites, better known to everyone else as “Scammers!” These loathsome creatures have been among us from the first civilization. Back in those days they came door to door, how horrible that must’ve been for us regular folks. However, as time progressed from snake oils and miracle cures, no wait we still have people trying to sell us that today. . . What I meant to say was as technology got more advanced the easier it was for these infestations to invade our daily lives. It started with the telephone, and that was bad enough. They called at all hours until a regulatory force was placed in charge of them disrupting our natural cycles.

Internet and emails

Next came the internet and a thing called e-mail, that brought new trouble with it. They now had ways to find out information on you to try to make it seem as though they were friends there to bring you aid just when you needed it the most. We put out all our information out in our profiles because it was new it was neat and exciting! At first, we didn’t think to hide or mask ourselves because who out there would want to do us harm? (Enter forehead slap here.)

As a generation we grew more intelligent, at least more aware of what people were trying to do. According to an independent news source, new scams and shams are created at a rate of a single new one every two minutes. What can we as consumers do? [CONTINUE READING...](#)



Kick-starting the Day

By P.J. Mann

When stress, crazy timetables, not-so-smart working schedules make us burned out, we all wish we could take a holiday. But we must keep going and waking up in the morning needs something more than just an alarm clock.

However we all have our ways to overcome the tiredness and to *kick-start* our days. Some people jump out of bed at the first sound of the alarm ready to face the day. Others require an hour-long self-persuasion about the great things that are going to happen during that day (which generally is more a self-bribing and often turning into self-blackmailing).

I have always been an early bird, so in the morning it's a game of who is waking up first. Me, or the alarm clock? Then the real kick-start is when I brew my first morning cup of coffee at the office.

There's something magic about being the first one to arrive. The silence, the tranquility of having the common spaces for myself, and enjoying my first morning cup in quiet as I read the first emails.

Things are not much different during the weekends or holidays. I am always the first one to wake up in the morning, and nothing wakes me up better than some quality time with my favorite cup of coffee.

[CONTINUE READING...](#)



How Did I End Up There?

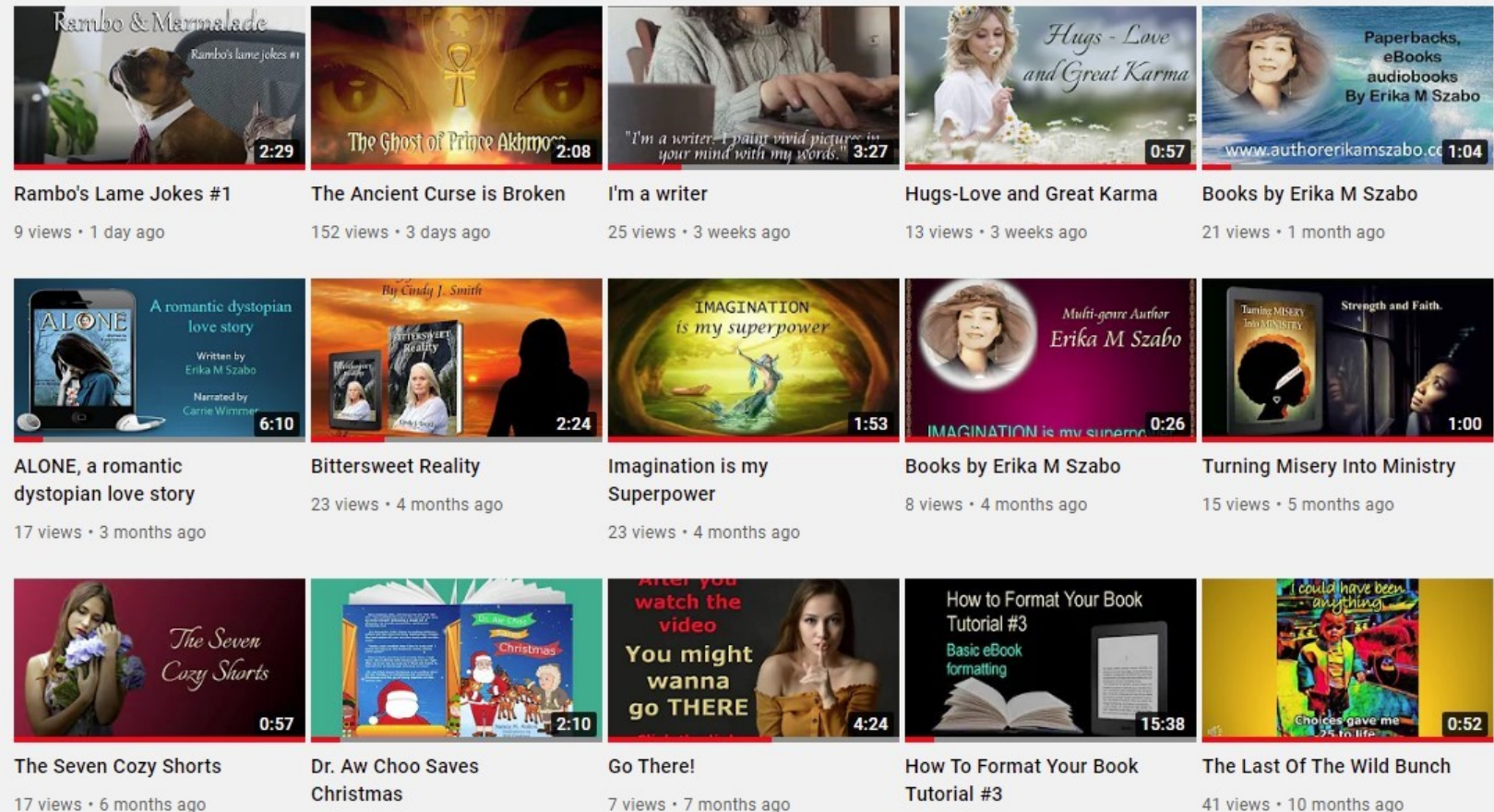
By Erika M Szabo

I clicked on a few websites to find comfy slippers, but don't ask me how, I ended up looking at badly translated signs and funny bumper stickers. No, I didn't find slippers, but **do you know how painful it is** when you try not to laugh with coffee in your mouth, but you can't hold it back and coffee comes out of your nose when you burst out laughing? Yeah, it is painful!

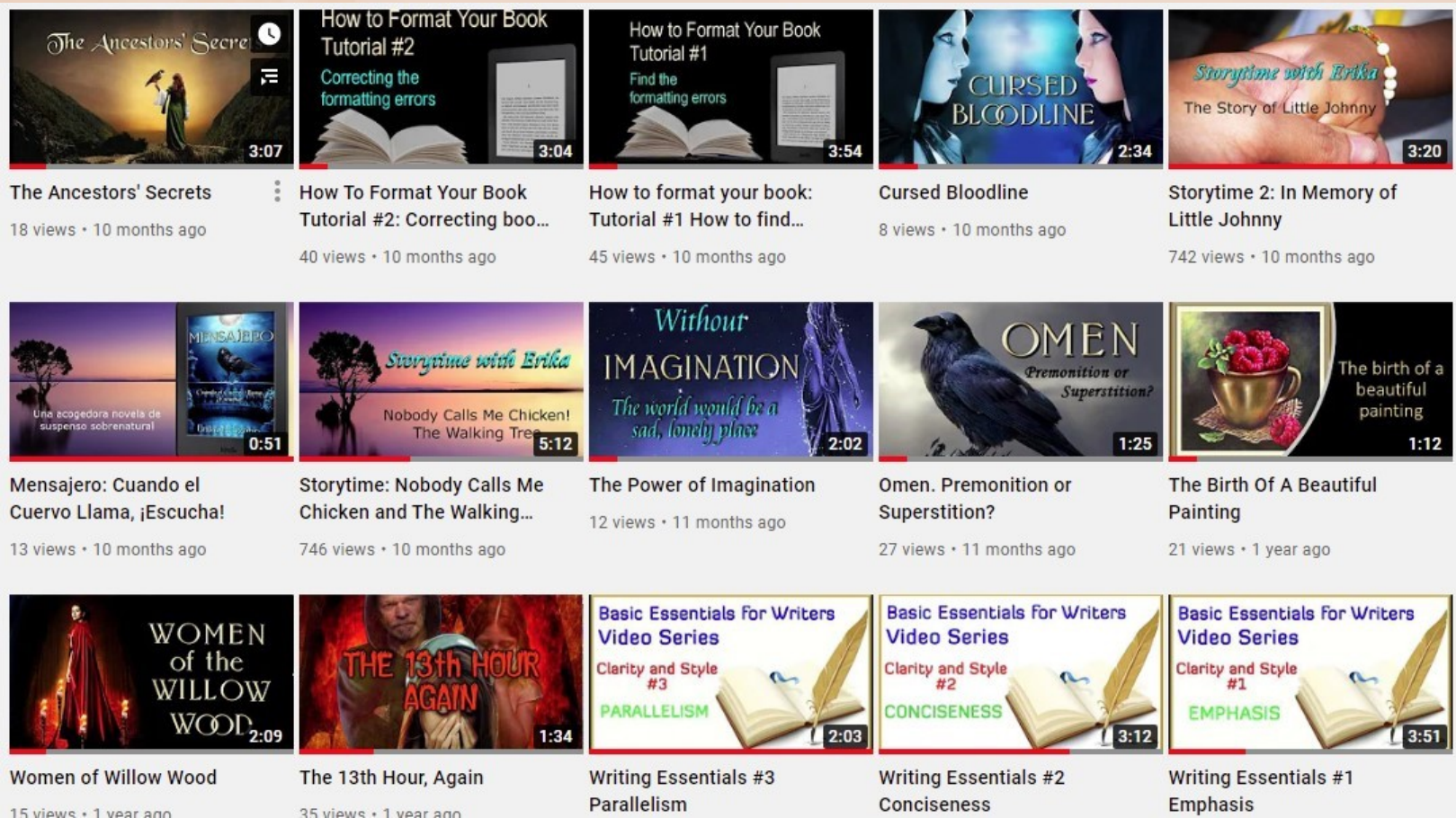
So, have a good laugh, but drink your coffee after you're done laughing!

[SEE MORE...](#)





I have lots of book trailers, fun videos, and tutorial on my [YouTube channel](#).
On the following pages, click on the book trailer videos, enjoy!



[Poetry by Cindy J. Smith](#)

"Just like there are two sides to every story, there are two paths to leading to the future. This collection is my attempt to offer a new view that will help you find the brighter one."



[Sweet romance by Erika M Szabo](#)

Growing up in foster homes, Elana couldn't make emotional connections with anyone. Until she met Luca. Cruel fate allowed them a short happiness and tore them apart. Will they meet again?



[Murder/mystery by Alan Zacher](#)

Tom Mayor is a 56-year-old unemployed alcoholic who still lives with his mother and has done nothing with his life. His first case--the murder of an eleven-year-old girl. Reluctantly--and fearfully--Tom takes the case.



[Inspirational memoir by Jerri Salley](#)

In this short book, Jerri shares the events of her life when she'd been tested and tells you about the power of having faith and standing strong even in the darkest times when there is little hope left to hold onto.



[Paranormal trilogy by Lorraine Carey](#)

Not since Practical Magic has a novel captured the essence of powerful ancient magic and pure love where strong women bond together to fight forces of evil which seem to be at every turn.



[Supernatural fantast by Erika M Szabo](#)

When her Raven spirit guide warns her of impending danger and after a brutal attack and the Raven's repeated warnings, she knows her life is in danger. Who wants her dead and why?



[Supernatural fantasy by Erika M Szabo](#)

A powerful curse cast thousands of years ago by the Grand Vizier. Tanakhmet cursed Prince Akhmose 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?



[Epic fantasy by Erika M Szabo](#)

Thrust into a world of obscure clan traditions and beliefs, Ilona's life is drastically changing. They travel back in time to when their people lived as nomads and to the castles of the 14th century as they struggle to overcome the obstacles placed in their path.



Dystopian love story by Erika M Szabo

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?



Cozy mystery by Erika M Szabo

Danielle's life spins out of control when the snobbish woman brings a seemingly worthless painting into her antique shop. The town's future is threatened by the new owners of the Couture mansion when an unexpected visitor arrives.



[The Chaos of Souls universe R.M. Garino](#)

Fantasy with all the expected goodies woven in; a unique magical system and fun villains.

Humor is laced throughout. Have caution while you eat and read, we don't want your drink to spray wildly from your nose!



A read to story for [children 4-7 and read alone for ages 8-10](#)

Lucky, the sweet-natured little monkey was bullied by the animals who didn't take time to get to know her. They said she was a dumpy, chunky, silly, scaredy, grumpy, clumsy monkey.





Watch: <https://youtu.be/X6uOg9-x77c>

Find me on social sites:

<https://plu.us/erikamszabo>

Read my portfolio:

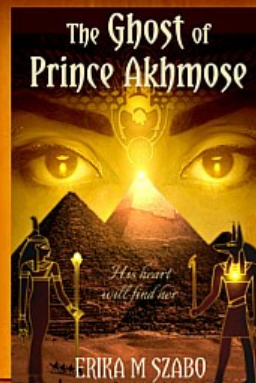
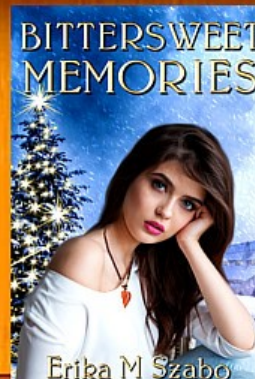
<https://online.fliphtml5.com/cmebw/yrgf/>

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:

www.authorerikamszabo.com

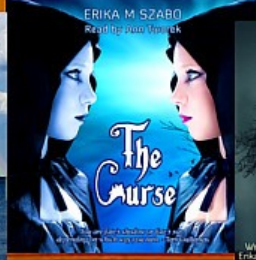
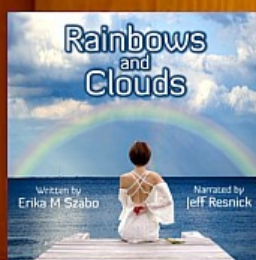
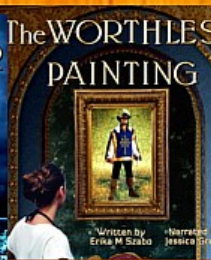
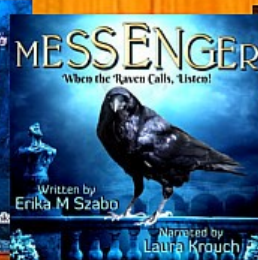
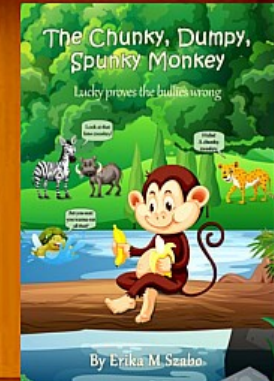
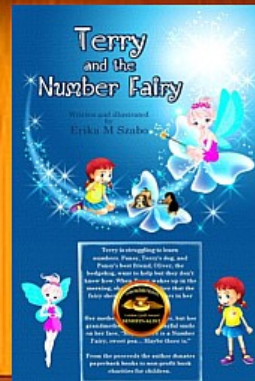
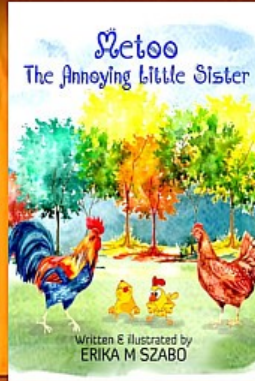
Fiction novels & novellas by Erika M Szabo



Paperbacks in the [GBBPub](#) store



Children's books & audiobooks by Erika M Szabo



The Author Gang has a new home

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



P.J. Mann

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



Erika M Szabo

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



Eric J. Gates

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



Cindy J. Smith

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



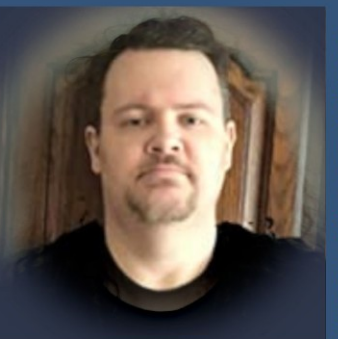
A.L. Butcher

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



A.J. Park

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



Slate R. Raven

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

Are you an author?
Join The Author Gang
HERE