

BOOKISH MAGAZINE



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SEPTEMBER 2021

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Erika M Szabo

I write speculative alternate history fiction, romantic urban fantasy, historical suspense novels as well as fun, educational, and bilingual books for children ages 2-14



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Hun mythology



September is my favorite month of the year. Not only because it's my Birthday month, yes, I'm 29 (at least in heart) and I'm sticking to it! But because finally, the brutal summer heat will be over.

Some exciting news

998 Total Units Sold *

as of 26 Aug 2021 Coordinated Universal Time [View Sales Dashboard](#)

My audiobooks on

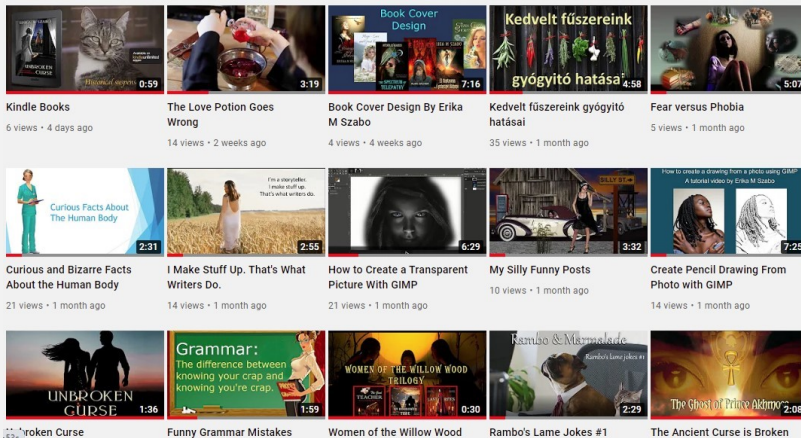
[AUDIBLE](#)

[AMAZON](#)

[APPLE](#)

It made me so happy to see that my audiobook sales only 2 sales shy of the 1000 books sold milestone. Of course, it's not making me rich after the selling site makes their 60% cut and sharing the 40% royalty with the awesome narrators, but it makes me burst with happiness to see that readers are enjoying my stories. So far, the reviews on my books are great, and I'm grateful that some readers take time to give feedback on my stories.

The group I started back in 2017 on Blogger, [The Author Gang](#), is doing great on the GBBPub hosting site. We had to abandon the Blogger blog because of Google's mindless censoring. They've removed posts written by different authors about bunnies and dragons. They reinstated the posts after I complained, but they didn't give any explanation about why the posts of pedophiles, extreme political activists and so on are allowed on Blogger, but stories about happy bunnies and the mythology of dragons are blocked and removed. Anyway, we're happy with the new hosting site and taking turns writing interesting weekly posts. Read our stories [HERE](#) and if you'd like to join us, fill out the application form [HERE](#)



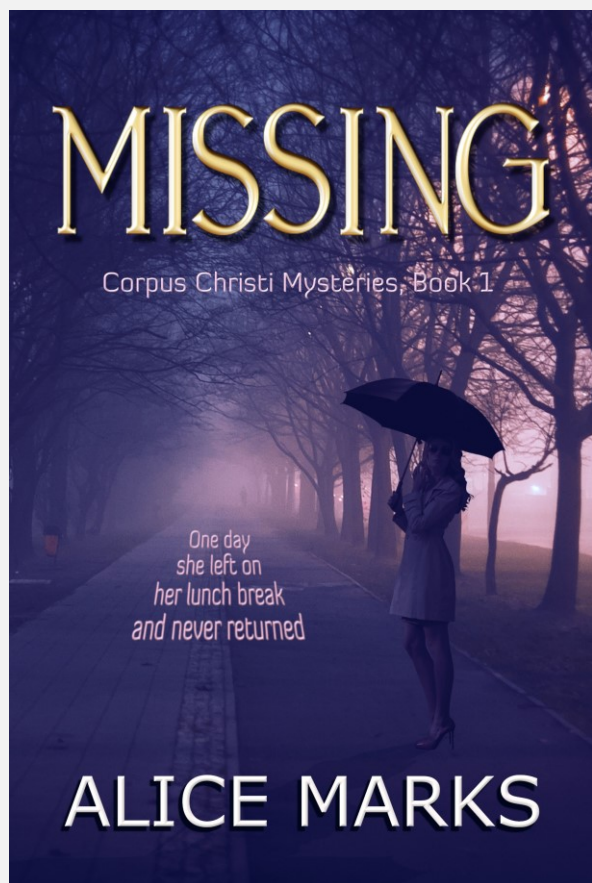
Although I don't have a lot of videos on [YouTube](#), it makes me happy to see that my channel has 216 subscribers.



I put my next book (a romantic story plays out in the 1800s) on hold for now. I'm working with [Alice Marks](#), a crime writer, helping her to publish the third book of her trilogy.

My editing partner, [Lorraine Carey](#), and I, are working on editing Alice's book. Lorraine is not only a great writer of paranormal novels, but a great editor too. I love her supernatural stories, but I'm not crazy about her naughty erotica series, though. Although a lot of readers love this genre, erotica is not my cup of tea LOL. See her books on [AMAZON](#). I'm so glad we partnered up because we complement each other so well. Lorraine's strong points are grammar, sentence structure and correct word usage, and my strong points are consistency, clarity, character development, dialogs, and the flow of the story.

I also work on the formatting and book cover, and Alice decided to change the covers on the previously published 2 books of the trilogy as well. So far, I created the first cover draft for book 1.



My furry and feathery friends

The baby foxes that are nesting under the old cottage with their mom in the back are spending more and more time away from the den, and soon they will find their own territories.

The groundhog babies are now as big as their mothers and ready to move out as well. The wild bunnies (six of them) are starting to change their color already, and the squirrels are extremely busy collecting food to fill up their winter pantries.

My crow friends are still at their summer place, but they check on their winter nest occasionally in the wooded area in the back.

12 Words Story Writing Contest

A fun way to test your story writing skills. If you can write a story in 12 words that triggers the imagination of the reader, you can write anything!



Enter the
contest
[HERE](#)

A fun way to test your story writing skills. If you can write a story in 12 words that triggers the imagination of the reader, you can write anything!

There is NO entry fee.

There are NO cash prizes.

The entry deadline is September 31st.

The stories will be voted on by readers throughout October, and the winners will be promoted on Halloween at the GBBPub website.

Have fun, you can submit up to 5 stories (exactly 12 words)

Example stories:

Help wanted: must own a shovel, be able to lift and dig.

Eyes closed, she turned toward the sun. A challenge for a pigeon.

Cindy has been writing poems for my monthly Online Magazines since May 2021. Thank you, Cindy, for making it a tradition with this beautiful poem for September!

SEPTEMBER

The days are hot and sweltering
People are sure they are melting
Foggy mornings starting the day
Means humid air is here to stay
Hints of Autumn riding a breeze
As it gently caresses the trees
Like an ocean wave, corn stalks sway
Lawns so dry they resemble hay
Praying Jack Frost will come soon
Ending the heat multiplying since June
Colorful leaves, and cooler nights
September's promised delights

© [Cindy J. Smith](#)





Weird Facts

By Erika M Szabo

Did you know?

High heels were first designed for men. At the end of the 16th century, Persian-inspired style was all the rage in Europe, according to the J. Paul Getty Museum, and heels were seen as being virile and masculine—and a great way to boost the ego of short men.

Clever design for roosters. Considering a rooster's call can reach 140 decibels or louder, it might leave one to wonder how the rooster itself keeps from going deaf when it crows. It turns out, the rooster have built-in earplugs. Researchers found that when a rooster opens its beak to crow, its external auditory canals close off, preventing sound from coming in and doing any damage.

Don't say cheese. We say "cheese" when our picture is taken because the word leaves us with a big smile on our faces. But if Victorian-era folk were to see our gleeful expressions, they'd scoff. Once upon a time, smiling in photos was considered undignified and reserved for the poor and the drunk. To retain a more serious look in their photos, they would say "prunes," a word so dull, the chances of it inciting a smile were slim to none.

The smell of rain is called petrichor. It comes from an oil plants exude that dries on the ground. When it rains, the oil combines with a byproduct from a type of bacteria to produce the smell.

Calculate tips the easy way. Assuming you want to tip 20 percent for good service, move the decimal point one digit to the left and then double that number. It's that easy! For example, if a bill is for \$35.50, you move the decimal to the left, which gives you \$3.55. Double that number, and you've got \$7.10—a 20 percent tip calculated in seconds.

Cats have fewer toes on their back paws. Just like most four-legged mammals, cats have five toes on the front, but their back paws only have four toes. Scientists think the four-toe back paws might help them run faster.

Turkeys can blush. When turkeys are scared or excited, the pale skin on their head and neck turns bright red, blue, or white. The flap of skin over their beaks, called a “snood,” also reddens.

Contrary to the popular belief, tomato juice doesn't really get rid of the skunk smell, but a mixture of dish soap, peroxide, and baking soda will do the trick. The skunk spray is oily, which your grease-fighting dish soap will take care of. Peroxide and baking soda add plenty of oxygen to the mix to get rid of the awful smell.

Tomatoes are native to the Americas, so there was no such thing as tomato sauce in Italy until at least the 16th century.

Independence Day. The British Empire grew extremely large before scaling back down. 62 countries eventually declared their independence from the empire, 48 of which celebrate an Independence Day from the United Kingdom.

The “Windy City” name has nothing to do with Chicago weather. Chicago’s nickname was coined by 19th-century journalists who were referring to the fact that its residents were “windbags” and “full of hot air.”

Pez candy was invented to help people quit smoking cigarettes; the original Pez dispensers were shaped similarly to a cigarette lighter.

Ice pops were invented by an 11-year-old by accident. In 1905, an 11-year-old boy named Frank Epperson left soda powder and water outside overnight with its wooden stirrer still in the cup. The mixture had frozen in the chilly nighttime weather, and so the Epsicle was born. He sold the treat around his neighborhood and a nearby amusement park and even patented the recipe. Years later, he changed the name to Popsicle because that's what his kids called their pop's concoction.

Peanuts aren't nuts. They're legumes. According to Merriam-Webster, a nut is only a nut if it's "a hard-shelled dry fruit or seed with a separable rind or shell and interior kernel." That means walnuts, almonds, cashews, and pistachios aren't nuts either. They're seeds.

If you like chewing ice, you might be suffering from anemia. Also known as "pagophagia," the compulsive eating of ice may not just be a nervous tick, but a way of cooling inflammation in the mouth caused by a lack of iron, according to the Mayo Clinic. So if you like chomping down on those cubes, see your doctor, stat.

Did you know that the little ball of cotton that comes in your bottle of pills is there to keep pills safe during shipping, is meant to be removed. It can collect moisture because of its absorbent nature, which makes your pills deteriorate faster.

Chewing an aspirin at the first sign of a heart attack can be a lifesaver. The drug inhibits platelets from forming a clot that can block an artery and cause a full heart attack. For the fastest relief (and time is of the essence), chew the aspirin instead of swallowing it.

[© Erika M Szabo](#)



Books need reviews and not just because good reviews boost the author's ego (which really does) but because reviews are an essential part of book marketing.

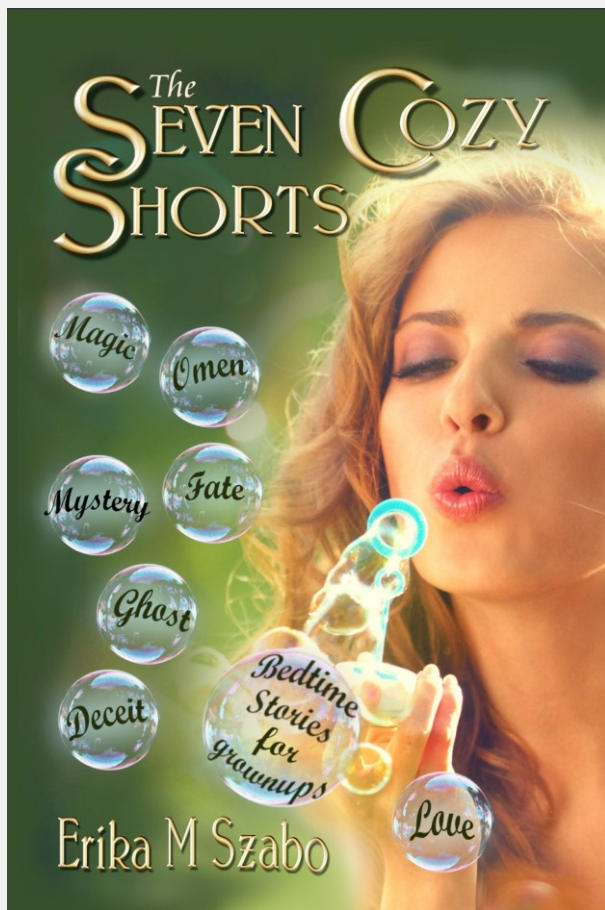
Without reviews a book gets lost in the thousands of other books released every month. With lots of reviews the books can stay in the spotlight and readers can find them.

Reviews on Amazon can be up-voted and down-voted by just clicking a button. At the bottom of all reviews, you will see “Was the review helpful to you?” with yes/no buttons.

If you like a book, but you don't want to write a review, then you can up-vote positive reviews that you agree with. This gives these reviews more presence and makes them “worth” more to the Amazon algorithm.

Likewise, if someone has left a bad review on a book you like, you can down-vote that review so it doesn't have as much of an impact.





Bedtime stories for grownups:

A story a day for every day of the week.

Magic

Mystery

Ancient Ghost

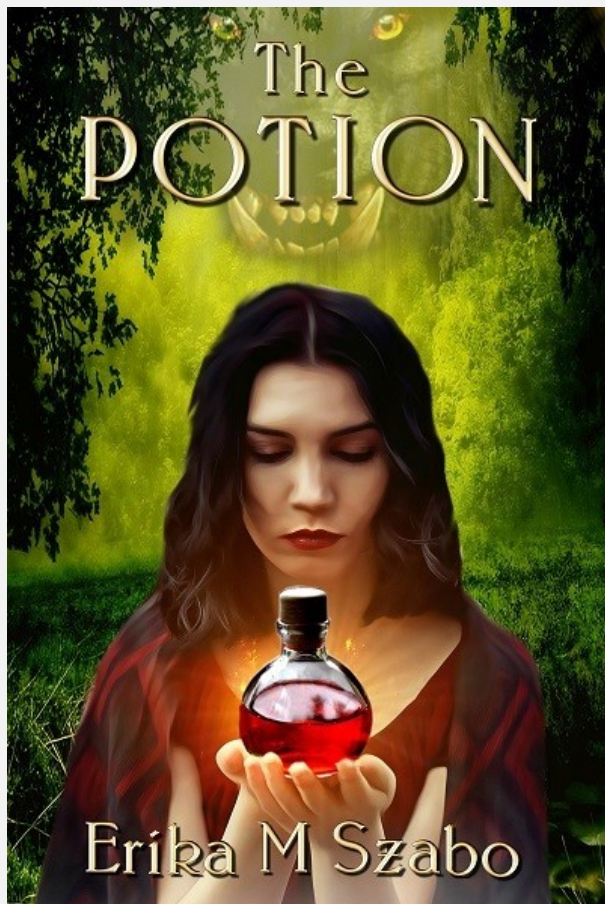
Fate, Soulmates

Love conquers at the end

Deceit

Omen

[ON AMAZON](#)



Young Adult supernatural fantasy

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?

[ON AMAZON](#)



Quirky British Place Names Part 1

By A.L. Butcher

British place names are diverse, influenced by Saxon, Viking, Norman, Latin words, among other sources.

What you see is definitely not what you get. At least not always. Here is a selection of British place names that often throw those folks unfamiliar with the pronunciation – including my fellow Brits!

Spelling

Belvoir Castle
Leominster
Frome
Loughborough
Cloughton (Lancaster)
Cloughton (Merseyside)
Cloughton on Brock
Cholmondeley
Bicester
Gloucester
Happisburgh
Hunstanton
Isleworth
Keighley
Little Hautbois
Magdelene College
Magdelene Hall I
Marylebone
Mousehol

Pronunciation

Beaver Castle
Lem-ster
Froom (to rhyme with broom)
Luff-bruh
Kluff-ten
Klaw-ten
Kly-ten – on Brock
Chum-lee
Bis-ter
Glos-ter
Hayz -bruh
Huntston
I-zel- worth
Keeth-lee
Little Hobb-iss
Mawd-lin
Mawn Hall
Mar-Lee-Bone
Mouzall

WHY DO I LOVE YOU

It is not because your face is nice
Nor the color or style of your hair
I doubt it is the sound of your voice
Maybe it is the way you seem to care

It's not due to the fact we exchanged some words
Nor is it the way your touch makes me feel
I know it's because we've been together for years
I think that just proves my love is real

Why do I love you? I do not know
But it's a truth the whole world can see
By the look in my eyes, the smile on my face
When you are standing so close to me



My husband's most favorite poem
from Cindy's new book.

He loves her poems and so do I, and
we thank her for the countless hours
of enjoying beautiful poetry.

Find Cindy's books on
[AMAZON](#)



Poetry

Seeing and hearing various remarks about the new year being "a clean slate" and that "each day is a new page in life write something fresh" inspired me to vow to write a poem everyday. I do write almost everyday, so I challenged myself to collect the very first poem, no matter the topic, as the day's offering.

I wanted to be able to look back and see if perspectives really do change daily. I offer everyone a ride on this poetic rollercoaster, where life changed at the speed of a turned page.

[ON AMAZON](#)



Psychic suspense

A dark family secret is about to unleash itself. An old gypsy curse was cast long ago and is about to rear its ugly head when Faith Bennett, a descendant from the D'Amici family, learns she is to give birth to the seventh daughter in the family. Faith's child will be born with a heightened sixth sense and regarded as the 'enlightened one'. A vengeful tribe of the Romani Cult has been waiting hundreds of years for this event. Diabolical plans have been made that include kidnapping the child and an attempted murder.

[ON AMAZON](#)



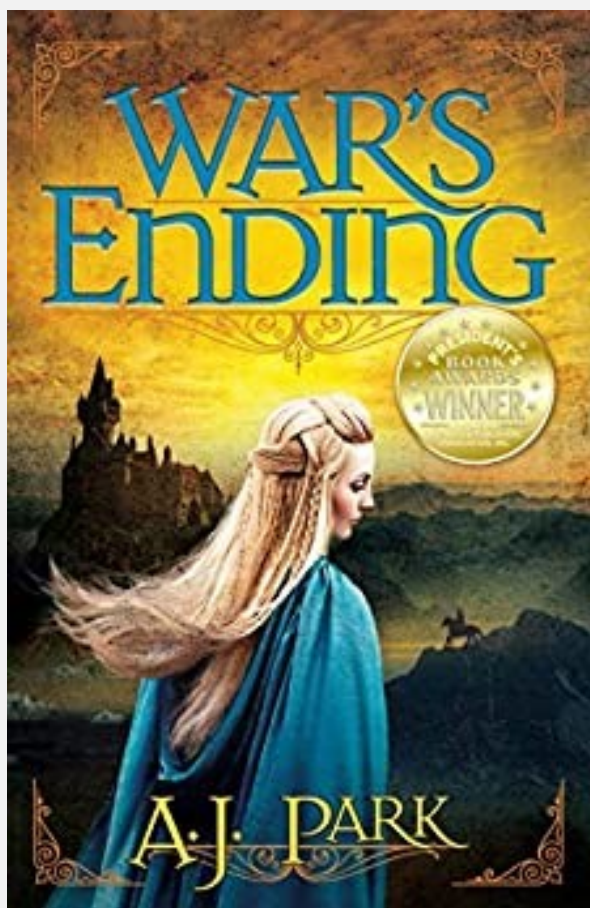
And Now We Go Over a Waterfall

By A.J. Park

My husband and I took **a wonderful trip to the Dominican Republic**. We tried to do everything while we were there, so of course, we signed up for white-water rafting. They loaded us up and dressed us in helmets and life jackets. The surrounding terrain was beautiful, and I was enjoying myself. Until the guide told me about the waterfall!

He said it so calmly, too, in a perfect tour-guide voice. “And now we go over a waterfall, three meters high.” And it was too late to get out of the boat! I thought the raft would dive nose first into the pool below, flipping us all into the raging river. This was a real waterfall, not just a rapid. It was vertical. And it was coming fast. Off we went, but somehow, we remained upright, and alive!

There are so many things in life that we are very worried about. They sound awful, and we don’t think we can do them. But if we just hang on, take a deep breath, maybe clench a little, we find we can do it! Don’t hesitate to scream if you need to! I think life often feels like being in a raft on a river, and sometimes it feels like my paddle is broken. Best wishes for your own voyage.



Romantic fantasy

FREE 9/27/21

A courageous noblewoman. A mysterious horseman. 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 she's badly injured in a savage raid and abducted by mysterious masked horsemen, she's stunned when her captors heal her wounds. As her feelings grow for her captor and his people, a terrifying attempt on her life reveals that her own people are trying to kill her.

[ON AMAZON](#)



Crime mystery

99 cents 9/20-9/25

A murdered executive. Key suspects with bulletproof alibis. Can a headstrong investigator catch the killer before the trail disappears?

Rome, Italy. Detective Maurizio Scala has a strong debt of honor to the victims of brutal crimes. So when a well-liked man is found dead in his car, Scala becomes determined to deliver deserved justice. But with every suspicious person appearing to have proof of innocence, the driven sleuth fears he won't be able to bring peace to the deceased.

[ON AMAZON](#)



What Made It My Favorite?

By Cindy J. Smith

Some things about me have been true as far back as I remember. **I absolutely love purple.** It has been my favorite color my whole life...as far as I know.

I do recall my mother saying I would outgrow it. I never did. Dark shades of royal purple and the lighter shades of lavender and lilac have always touched my heart and figured into my home decorating. I never have purchased much clothing in these colors, but if given any that were purple, I would wear them until they fell apart.

In addition to purple, I have other "favorites" which have held their positions in my mind since so far back I cannot recall what exactly happened that let them rise to their current position of importance. For instance, I love dragons, and fairies, and oriental knickknacks. I also have collections of shot glasses, jokers (from decks of cards) and salt and pepper shakers. Why I give them such a large place in my life, I have no clue.

Two things that have also been true about my likes is my total love of jasmine (which resulted in the naming of my only child), and the love of waves crashing against rocks.

To this day, I've never seen waves crashing. I do love waterfalls, though, and I had plenty of exposure to them growing up. Therefore, I always assumed the love of waves was just an extension of my waterfall obsession.

Where my love of jasmine came from, I really had no clue. It is not as if this tropical flower was readily available in Upstate New York.

Recently I have been watching a DVD set of one of my favorite shows from my youth, Dark Shadows. I remember rushing home from school and finishing my homework just so I could watch this "horror soap opera". After the first two episodes, I realized the sign on was, in fact, waves crashing against rocks. Could this be where the desire to see this phenomenon? I began to wonder...it did make sense. I watched this show for its entire run from 1966-1971, so my exposure to the opening credits was extensive.

As I continue watching this show, I find myself deeply enthralled again. It was while watching the second season that the scent of jasmine was mentioned as lingering scent, whenever the ghost of Josette was near. Once again, I had discovered the probable cause of my partiality to this delicate flower.

Finally, after 64 years, I have discovered the roots of my fondness for things I had no early exposure to.

I wonder when I might discover why I love purple...



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[**GBBPub**](http://GBBPub.com)

•**The Diamond package includes:**

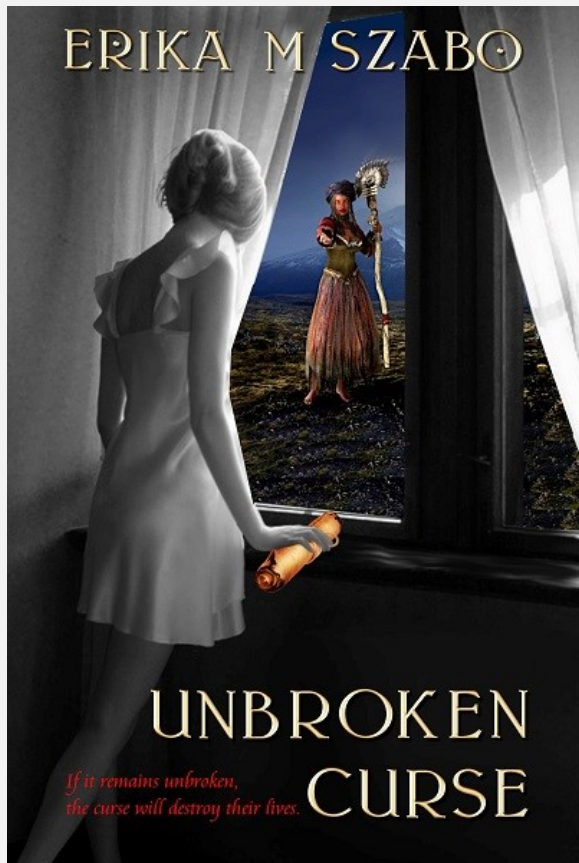
- Artistic print & eBook cover
- Professional formatting
- Assistance with publishing your eBook & print on Amazon (non-exclusive with Kindle Unlimited)
- Assistance with publishing your eBook on D2D or Smashwords
- Assistance with audio book on ACX if needed
- Book blurb editing
- A 30 seconds promo video
- Editing is not included



Ghost romance

I'm just a guy who is crazy in love with his wife. Okay, technically, I'm dead and hanging out in a closet at the hospital, but I still love my alive wife. So yeah, this is my ghost love story. Now I've got some awesome things rocking out in my new existence... like a cool dude skateboarding angel to teach me how to be a ghost, and some ghost friends from the 1800s who are fun. You could even say I live in a parallel universe to my alive life, but my heart is broken. I just need one last kiss from Emily or I'll... Anyway, my ghost folks just discovered my secret desire and want to help, but will it be too dangerous?

[ON AMAZON](#)



Alternative history suspense novella.

A powerful curse cast sixteen hundred years ago destroyed the lives of their ancestors for centuries. If it remains unbroken, the curse will ruin the lives of future generations as well. Jayden's life is in danger. When he finds a crude leather book in his grandmother's secret room that was written in 426 by a Shaman, his sister, Sofia, deciphers the ancient runes.

They learn about their family curse and dark memories of their childhood start to surface. Is it possible to break the ancient curse and save Jayden?

[ON AMAZON](#)

Hun Mythology

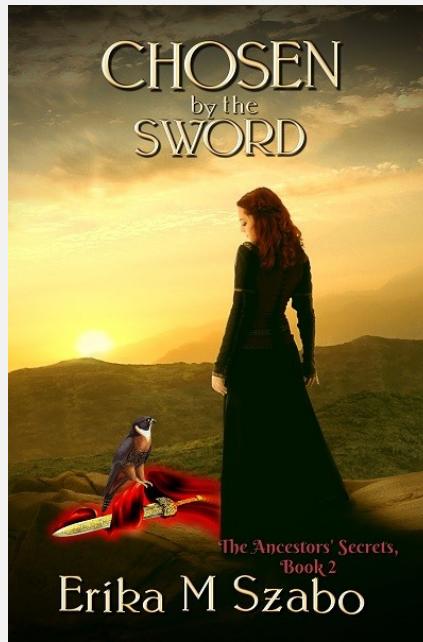


Since I was a young child, I was fascinated by legends and mythology, especially Hun legends such as *Emese's Dream*, *King Attila*, and the legend of *Turul* bird

According to <http://turul.info/>, the mythical Turul bird is one of the most important symbols of the Hungarians. The Turul is seen as the ancestor of Attila and is often depicted carrying the flaming Sword of God.

The legend of Emese, who was the descendant of King Atilla and wife of Ügyek, once had a dream. As the Turul bird appeared in her dream, a crystal-clear stream started to flow from her. As the water flowed, it grew into a mighty river. It was thought that the dream represented her symbolic impregnation by the Turul, and it meant that she would give birth to a line of great rulers. Emese found out shortly after the dream that she was pregnant. She gave birth to Álmos, who was the father of Árpád, the great leader of the Magyars and founder of Hungary. This legend reaffirms the Hun-Magyar kinship and the knowledge that the Magyars re-conquered Hungary as their rightful inheritance from Atilla's great Hun Empire.

In my fantasy series, *The Ancestors' Secrets*, I weaved my favorite legends and bits of historical facts into the story, that plays out in the present and past, with intriguing tribal secrets, magical heritage, love triangle, and an exciting and dangerous life in a secret society.



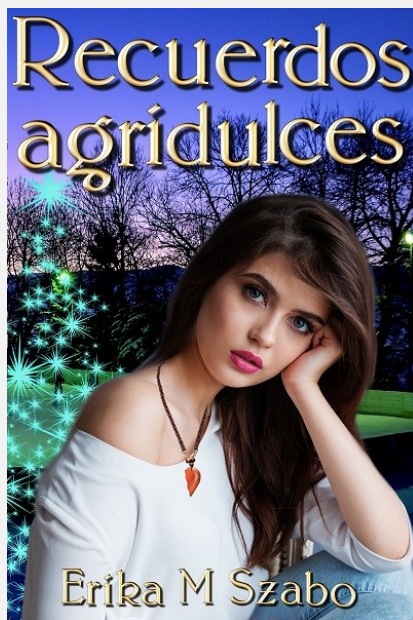
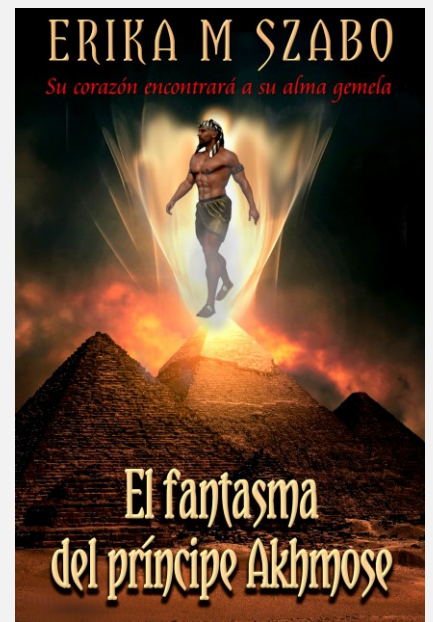
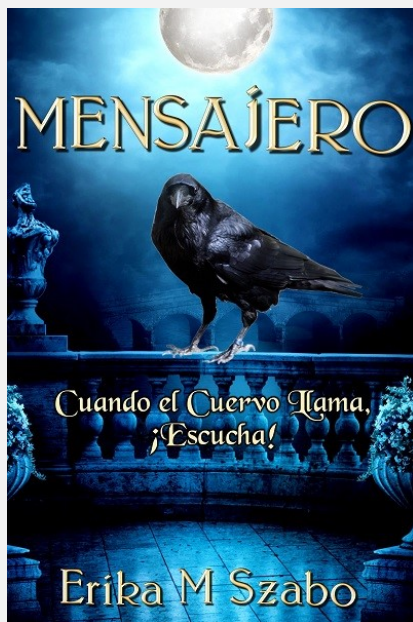
Read with
[Kindle Unlimited](#)

I love this beautiful video about the ancient beliefs, the mythology of the World Tree. It also mentions Attila the Hun and the Turul bird that carries the Sword of God. Watch it on [YouTube](#)



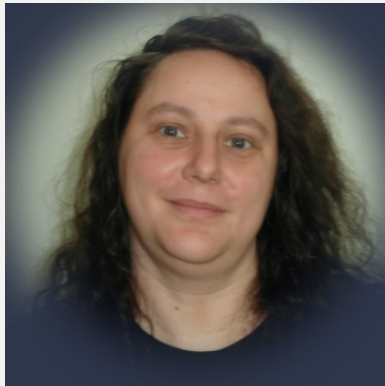
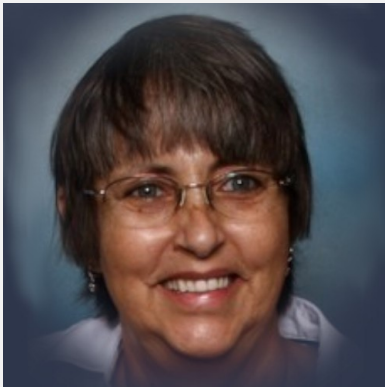


SPANISH BOOKS ON AMAZON



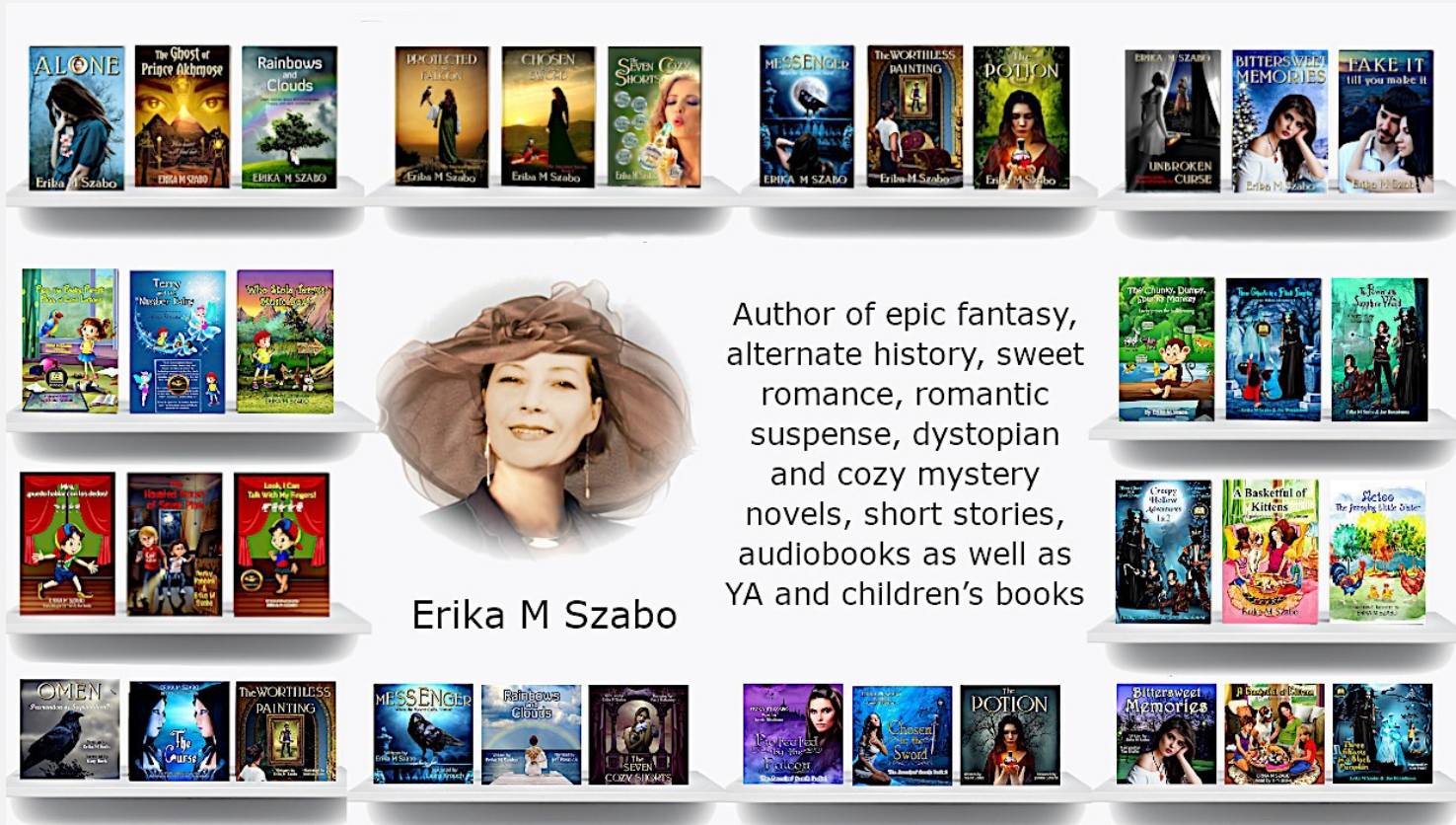
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