

VOLUME V

APR. MAY. JUN. 2022 - ISSUE XXVI

DEMODE

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A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

THE BEST OF LITERATURE

"16 Must-Read Books of This Summer"

FEAT. THE WRITERS' MUSEUM

EDINBURGH



DE MODE OF LITERATURE

VOL. V. ISSUE XXVI

MURIEL SPARK BRITISH AUTHOR



Muriel Spark (1918-2006) spent her childhood in Bruntsfield Place in Edinburgh, attending school at James Gillespie's High School for Girls, which inspired the Marcia Blaine School attended by the Brodie set in her famous work *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1961). A poet and literary critic before turning her hand to novels, Spark's works were known for their use of foretelling and their exploration of morality and religion. Spark was named No 8 in *The Times* newspaper's 2008 list of 'The 50 Greatest British Writers Since 1945'.

VISIT WWW.DEMODEMAGAZINE.COM TO BUY THE BOOKS LISTED INSIDE

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BEING SAM BY GEOQUASHA BROWN

Reading Sam's thoughts will give you a great insight into the things unnoticed. You'll no longer felt lost in reality. She explains 'You're not a failure, you just got to take the time to understand who you are and push yourself to elevate at a higher level.'



VICTORIAN GOTHIC (VOL. 1) BY D. R. MILLER

As Katherine dies, she gives birth to something nightmarish. Something which should not exist. Something which spurs Richard to embark on a terrifying journey of discovery as he chases the answer to one question: who or what killed his wife?

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Readers,

We're presenting DE MODE APR-MAY-JUN 2022 LITERATURE ISSUE (VOL. 5, ISSUE XXVI) - 5th Anniversary Special - Presenting Edinburgh, World's First City of Literature. It is the birthplace and home to world-famous writers, poets and playwrights including Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes), Walter Scott (Waverley), and JK Rowling (Harry Potter). It has its own Poet Laureate, the Edinburgh Makar. Enjoy reading some interesting facts about Edinburgh on Page 5.

Finding an extraordinary summer book can be overpowering as there are so many smash hit fiction and genuine deliveries on the literary market. In any case, whether you love puzzling thrillers, heartfelt books, self-help books, diverting diaries, or interesting article assortments, there is something on our rundown that makes certain to if it's not too much trouble, any book darling. Also, every book here would make an incredible expansion to your perusing list for this summer. Whether you're arranging a family road trip to the closest ocean side or you're taking off holiday to a tropical objective, try to pack one (or a couple!) of these must-read books.

Enjoy reading DE MODE APR-MAY-JUN 2022 LITERATURE ISSUE and share your feedback BY RATING US ON GOOGLE.

Nikhil Chandra Rana
Nikhil C. Rana (Nick)
CEO & CO-CHIEF EDITOR
DE MODE OF LITERATURE

DE MODE
WORLD'S NO.1 FASHION, BUSINESS & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

EDINBURGH

First City of Literature

DE MODE OF LITERATURE
VOL V. ISSUE XXVI



Image: The Elephant House...birthplace of JK Rowling's Harry Potter series

Source: The Elephant House

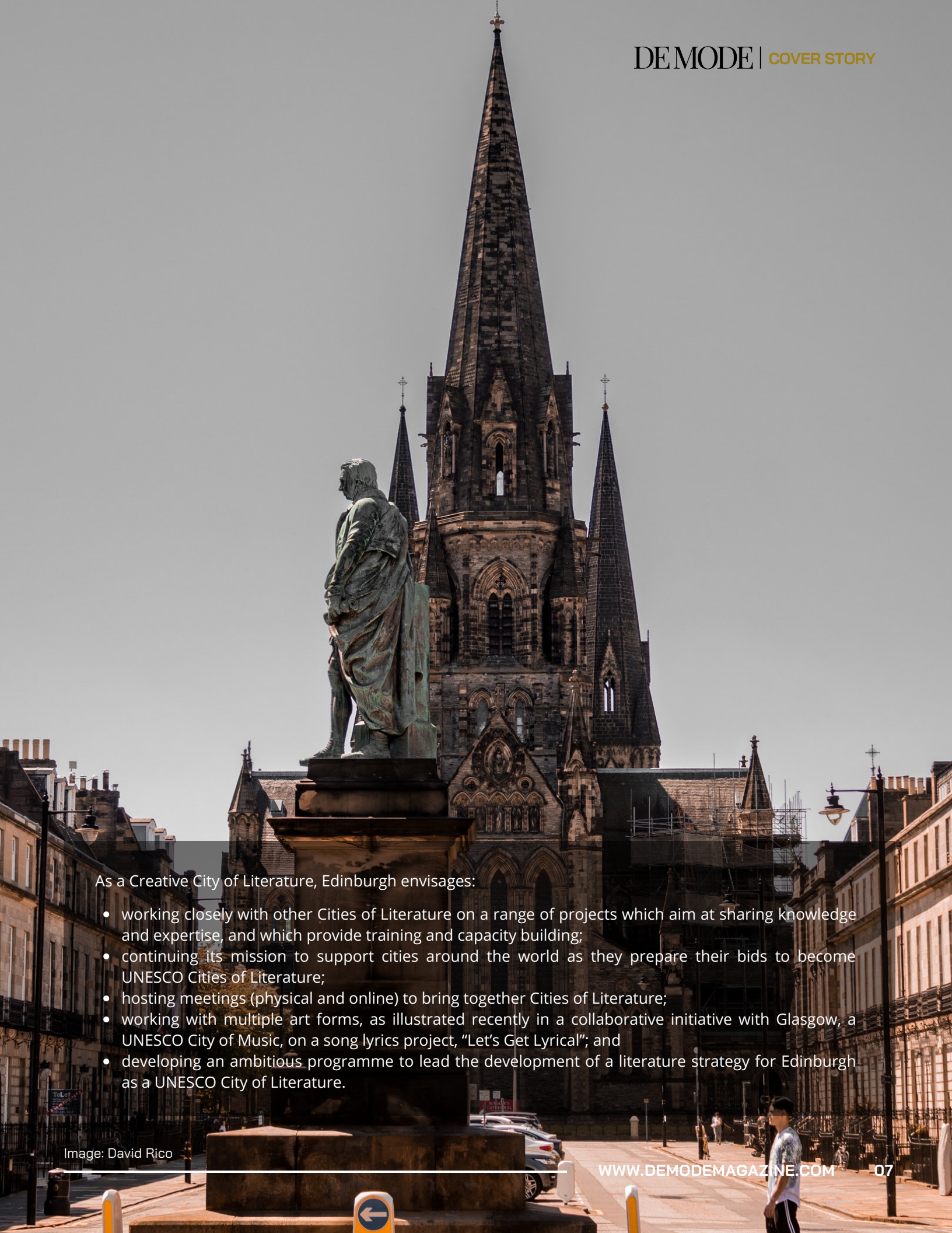
Edinburgh is the world's first UNESCO City of Literature.

It is the birthplace and home to world-famous writers, poets and playwrights including Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes), Walter Scott (Waverley), and JK Rowling (Harry Potter). It has its own Poet Laureate, the Edinburgh Makar.

Publishing Scotland, the national body for publishers, as well as award-winning independent publishers are based here. The Edinburgh International Book Festival is the world's largest literary festival of its kind, lasting for two weeks each August. The Festival welcomes approximately 800 authors from nearly 40 countries and brings in over 225,000 visitors annually.

In 1725 the world's first circulating library opened in Edinburgh and today free public libraries can be found all over the city. Furthermore, the National Library of Scotland, the leading centre for the study of the Scots, the Scottish Poetry Library and the Scottish Storytelling Centre can all be found in Edinburgh. The city is home to unique institutions fostering literacy, including the Scottish Book Trust, a national agency for readership development and the Writers' Museum and Makars' Court, which commemorates Scottish writers and poets.

There are over 50 bookshops in Edinburgh. They are key venues for a vibrant culture of readings, literary cabarets and workshops happening year-round. Edinburgh has four universities, including the University of Edinburgh, established in 1580 and which is one of the United Kingdom's oldest. The city is also the first in the world to appoint a Regius Professorship of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres (English Literature).



As a Creative City of Literature, Edinburgh envisages:

- working closely with other Cities of Literature on a range of projects which aim at sharing knowledge and expertise, and which provide training and capacity building;
- continuing its mission to support cities around the world as they prepare their bids to become UNESCO Cities of Literature;
- hosting meetings (physical and online) to bring together Cities of Literature;
- working with multiple art forms, as illustrated recently in a collaborative initiative with Glasgow, a UNESCO City of Music, on a song lyrics project, "Let's Get Lyrical"; and
- developing an ambitious programme to lead the development of a literature strategy for Edinburgh as a UNESCO City of Literature.



The Edinburgh International Book Festival is a registered charity, a non-profit making organisation. It is a distinctive international showcase celebrating the written word, literature and ideas. It brings leading and emerging international, British and Scottish authors and thinkers together to inspire each other and audiences in an extensive programme of public events.

UPCOMING BOOK FESTIVAL DATES: 13-29 AUGUST 2022 | More info: www.edbookfest.co.uk

Discussion, performance and interactive events have become prominent features of the Festival, complementing the more traditional interview-style conversations and readings, and contributing to the Book Festival's reputation as a powerful forum for the public to exchange views with writers and experts on a wide range of issues: social, ethical and political as well as literary and cultural. At the heart of the Book Festival's activity is an integrated approach to creative learning and education, with the aim of expanding participation in democratic discussion, fostering a love of reading and developing engaged, knowledgeable audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

The Book Festival's Baillie Gifford Children's programme of author events, activities and workshops is produced for young audiences of all ages, from babies to teenagers, attracting family audiences of around 20,000 each year. In addition, an extensive schools programme is created for primary and secondary pupils, with around 14,000 school children attending each year.

EDINBURGH WRITERS' MUSEUM

Situated in Lady Stair's House, built in 1622, The Writers' Museum is dedicated to the lives and work of Scotland's great literary figures, in particular Robert Burns (1759 - 1796), Sir Walter Scott (1771 - 1832) and Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894).

The rich collection of portraits, manuscripts and personal exhibits include Burns' writing desk, Scott's chessboard, dining table and the printing press on which his Waverley novels were produced. The Stevenson collection is the most significant in the United Kingdom. Other prominent Scottish writers, including contemporary authors, are featured in the museum's programme of temporary exhibitions.

The courtyard immediately outside The Writers' Museum has been designated as Makers' Court. Here you can find inscriptions commemorating famous Scottish writers, from the 14th century to the present.



Image: City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh

Source: www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk

Located in the heart of the capital, with six exhibition galleries, the City Art Centre is Scotland's emporium of the visual arts. It is both home of the City's collection of Scottish Art, and one the UK's leading temporary exhibition spaces.

Since opening in 1980, the City Art Centre has mounted a huge range of exhibitions, from rare Egyptian antiquities to the most innovative contemporary art, from Michelangelo drawings to Star Trek.

The scale and range of the programme has made the gallery one of Britain's most visited exhibition centres. The City's fine art collection consists of around 3,500 works of Scottish art: paintings, watercolours, drawings, prints, photographs, sculpture and tapestries, including works by McTaggart, Fergusson, Peploe and Eardley.

Through purchase funds provided by the Jean E Watson Bequest, the collection has been kept up-to-date, by the acquisition of works by contemporary Scottish artists, including Davie, Blackadder, Paolozzi and Bellany.

In 1997, the collection was further enriched by a substantial gift from the Scottish Arts Council. The holdings also include topographical views of Edinburgh and portraits. Exhibitions drawn from the collection are a regular feature of the City Art Centre's programme.

The City Art Centre's licensed café can provide you with a cup of tea or coffee, or a three-course meal.

EDINBURGH SCOTT MONUMENT

On the death of Sir Walter Scott in 1832, the great and good of the city came together to agree on a fitting monument to this outstanding Scottish literary figure.

In 1836, an architectural competition was launched, inviting designs for an appropriate memorial. Two years later, the trustees approved the design submitted by George Meikle Kemp, and construction began in 1840, after permission was obtained from Parliament to build in Princes Street Gardens.

Since the monument opened in August 1846, millions of people have climbed the 200 foot structure to admire its commanding views of the city centre, and to obtain a closer look at the statuettes of characters from Scott's works. Today there are three memorial banana benches which have been designed to compliment the area.



EDINBURGH The People's Story Museum

Housed in the late 16th century Canongate Tolbooth opposite the Museum of Edinburgh, 'The People's Story' is a museum with a difference. As the name implies, it uses oral history, reminiscence, and written sources to tell the story of the lives, work and leisure of the ordinary people of Edinburgh, from the late 18th century to the present day.

The museum is filled with the sounds, sights and smells of the past - a prison cell, town crier, reform parade, cooper's workshop, fishwife, servant at work, dressmaker, 1940s kitchen, a wash-house, pub and tea room.

These reconstructions are complemented by displays of photographs, everyday objects and rare artifacts, such as the museum's outstanding collections of trade union banners and friendly society regalia. A twenty-minute video presentation supplements the museum's storyline.

The museum houses Britain's largest collection of early reform flags and banners: 144 in all. These include banners in support of political reform, trade unions and the anti-apartheid movement. The museum also houses waxworks which illustrate the written histories of the Edinburgh people.

There are three galleries and a film screening room in the museum. The first gallery looks at life in tenement houses in the 18th century. The second gallery houses many banners from the museum's collection and tells the stories of Edinburgh citizens in the 20th century, through waxworks and written histories. The final galleries describe Edinburgh in the mid-to-late-20th century.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND

On the death of Sir Walter Scott in 1832, the great and good of the city came together to agree on a fitting monument to this outstanding Scottish literary figure.

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Image: Francisco Diez

View of **EDINBURGH** from Calton Hill

Edinburgh is one of the most visited cities within Europe. Whether it's the graceful Georgian and austere Gothic architecture, or the rugged volcanic geography, it serves as an inspirational ground for generations of artists and writers as well as being the world's festival capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It is inevitable for you to come across the view of Calton Hill at some time in your life; the views are used in numerous films, photographs and paintings of the city. You can enjoy an almost 360-degree view of the city by just hiking five minutes up the hill, and from there, you can easily pinpoint attractions such as the Edinburgh Castle, National Monument, Holyrood Palace, Arthur's Seat, Nelson Monument, sea view and much more.

If you would like a great view of the city, climb up the stone spiral steps of the Nelson Monument. If not, there are perfectly good views from the bottom as well. Walking down from the Nelson Monument, you will come across the never completed National Monument built to commemorate the dead of the Napoleonic Wars. Even though the monument was never completed, its style served as iconic architecture, influencing many recent architects. From here, the walkway to the left will lead you to the famous Dugald Stewart Monument. Next to this monument and the cannon is a great viewing point where numerous photographs of Edinburgh are taken. Be sure to test out your photography skill here and you will be guaranteed a spectacular photo to show off to your friends.



Best 10

**BOOKS TO ADD TO
YOUR READING LIST
THIS SUMMER**

**+ author
interviews**



CLUBBED TWO

BY AUTHOR ROBERT KARL

Clubbed Two: Anxiety, Anger, Activism by Robert Karl is the second book in his powerful and poignant historical fiction trilogy. Set in Philadelphia between 1982 to 1992 as the AIDS pandemic begins its assault, the story centers around Joey and Henry, lovers and owners of Club Sanctuary, and the diverse cast of characters who frequent their club. Their stories range from funny, and fabulous to tragic, but each character is merely attempting to make their way in a world filled with hate, fear and heartbreak.

ABOUT THE BOOK

CLUBBED TWO is historical fiction, set in Philadelphia PA from 1982 to 1992. A love story is included, but this is not your typical gay romance novel. It's his second book in a planned three-part series exploring LGBTQ history and culture.


Much of the story is told in a first-person narrative by Joey, the owner of Club Sanctuary. Joey and his partner, Henry, continue to develop their relationship as they build the club into a huge success. However, in order to provide greater insights into the words, thoughts and actions of various characters, the author often moves into a third-person narrative. This allows the reader to dive more deeply into the stories of characters whom Joey might not know at all. This format allows Club Sanctuary to be a metaphor for the greater LGBTQ community, without limiting the scope of the story.


LGBTQ Pride; Diversity; Disability Awareness and Acceptance; Interracial Love; 1980s Queer Fashions and Fads; Ageism, Infidelity, and AIDS Activism.

Historical references are made as the characters attend the Gay Games, view the AIDS Memorial Quilt, or learn about the deaths of celebrities, AIDS activists and advocates, co-workers and friends. Others get involved with real-life organizations, such as ACT UP, as they struggle to fight against indifference and ignorance.

Readers have described the book as profound, poignant, fun, spicy, hilarious and as an amazing book with important stories. Come along for the ride and experience life in the true spirit of the Queer community.

Get your copy of 'Clubbed Two' today, and, connect with Author Robert Karl today

 /robert-karl-27238458/

 60157627-anxiety-anger-activism



THE AUTHOR

Robert A. Karl is a native son of Philadelphia, PA. He spent his adult life as an active member of the LGBTQ community there.

He earned his M.Ed. from Temple University and worked for the School District of Philadelphia as a teacher and technology specialist for 30 years. He

also taught courses in Educational Technology at the Temple University College of Education.

Losing many friends to the AIDS pandemic dramatically altered his world. Living in the LGBTQ community provided the historical background for his novels, CLUBBED: A Story of Gay Love and CLUBBED TWO: Anxiety, Anger, Activism. His work is a tribute to the incredible diversity in the LGBTQ community.

By setting the novels in a specific place and time (Philadelphia, PA during the 1970s through the 1990s) the author uses Club Sanctuary as a metaphor for the LGBTQ community and the many characters in the books embody the fabulous, funny and flawed people of that community.

The author openly discusses issues of internalized homophobia, racism, ageism, sexism & other problems that continue to exist within the Queer community. Ignoring these problems does nothing to provide a solution. The author believes that open, honest communication is essential to preserving our culture and our world.

Currently retired, he is the proud Gay Dog Dad to Zuna, the Awesome Boston Terrier. Living in San Juan, Puerto Rico, he enjoys the beauty and culture of La Isla del Encanto, the Island of Enchantment.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR ROBERT KARL

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

I began writing the first book in the CLUBBED series at the start of the COVID pandemic. I wanted to share stories of LGBTQ life in the time leading up to the start of the AIDS pandemic, focusing on the joys of gay life at that time and how much of that changed as a result of HIV/AIDS.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

For these books, my literary pilgrimage was my life in the LGBTQ community in Philadelphia. I wanted to honour the characters by placing them in a real setting, which I know intimately. Many of the scenes occur in the Philly Gayborhood & I tried to honour that community.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

I'm self-published, so I don't feel qualified to answer that question. I will say that the industry forces new authors to wait much too long before deciding whether to publish or not. That's why I never submitted my books to any publishers.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

It totally energizes me! My stories take me back in time to my youth, and I enjoy developing characters to represent various segments of the LGBTQ community.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

For me, not knowing how to publish, market and promote were huge issues. For many writers, I think that feeling they have to follow the latest trends in books is a trap. I tell authentic stories that I hope will appeal to a wide audience around the world, but I don't try to follow what's trendy at the moment.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

I don't know about ego, but I believe that a good degree of self-confidence is important. You have to believe in your stories and in your ability to tell them effectively.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

I haven't met it yet. I have so many stories in my mind that it's exciting for me when I sit down to write them.

Q: Have you ever experienced writer's block?

No, because I have many stories about LGBTQ characters in my head, and I'm happy to share those stories with readers around the world. I hope they find the stories and characters as interesting as I do.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

No. I'm proud of my work and I want to be recognized for it. There can be many reasons why authors choose to use a pseudonym, but personally, that isn't for me.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I tell stories that are authentic. My hope is that there will be a connection with readers, but I don't write to follow popular trends.

Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

That depends on what's being written. Some genres require strong emotions, I think. I get emotional while reading and writing my own stories. If I don't, then something's wrong.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

My process didn't really change after the first book. I sit down with a general idea of the characters in a chapter and perhaps some idea of what may occur. But I let the characters take me along their path. I'm sometimes very surprised at the end of a chapter with how it turned out. I don't do any outlines or solid planning in advance. Just general ideas.

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

I'd love to have a best-seller, mostly because I believe stories about the LGBTQ community are important, especially now as our rights are under attack in many places. My first book was selected as a Distinguished Favorite by the Independent Press Awards and that was really cool.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

I'm in the beginning stages of my third novel. It's the conclusion to the CLUBBED series. CLUBBED THREE: Happily Ever After??

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

Since my books are historical fiction, it's important to get the details right. Since I know the settings very well, I didn't have to research much in that regard. For example, I know the city of Philadelphia very well, so I didn't have to research landmarks or anything like that. But I did check on things like songs that were popular at the time. I didn't want to say people at the club were dancing to a song in 1985 if it wasn't released until 1987!

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

I'm elated about having my book listed. I hope your readers will be interested in the idea of reading about Queer culture in the 1980s and 90s. Thank you so much for writing about my book.



LIVING IN JOYFUL RESILIENCE

BY AUTHOR KATE OLSON

'Living in Joyful Resilience: A Roadmap for Navigating Life's Ups & Downs' is a Call-to-Action blueprint for creating recurring joy and stronger resilience in your life. It provides thought-provoking research into the difference between being merely resilient and being joyfully resilient.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Drawing from psychology, education and neuroscience, the book explains how joyfulness contributes to the responses that enable us to bounce back from adversity, thriving not just surviving. Included are resilience stories from the author and ten contributors that will resonate and inspire you. The book is divided into three parts.

In Part 1, the author explains the difference between resilience and joyful resilience, as well as, some of the research on what we have defined as resilience and a little about the history and philosophy behind the traits that we have come to know as resilience. In Part 2, the author tells her own resilience stories and resilience learned from friends. There are also, ten resilience stories contributed by other invited authors. Kate included these resilience stories to motivate and inspire you and to give some examples that readers might see in their life circumstances. In Part 3, the author includes practices, exercises and tools to help you in building resilience traits and becoming both stronger and more joyful.

Throughout the book, Kate offers resources from traditional research, science, neuroscience, psychology and even the physical sciences and the world around us to demonstrate the link between joy and resilience and draw her concept together. This is her mission as an owner of Soul Fire Wisdom Coaching & Hypnotherapy. Author Kate was inspired to write this book during the pandemic and her move from Washington to the Arizona desert in 2020. She saw the signs of resilience all around her. The book is available in formats: kindle, paperback & hardcover.

Get your copy of 'Living in Joyful Resilience' today, and, connect with Author Kate Olson

 60096601-living-in-joyful-resilience  www.joyfulkate.com



THE AUTHOR

Being a writer was not the first career that sparked Kate Olson's interest growing up. Archeologist, Astronaut and a few more were in the running, but writing was one she loved beginning in grade school, when she discovered the magic of reading and books and it stuck with her.

She began college as an English major with the idea of becoming a writer, but was soon discouraged by an advisor who told her all of the professors had wanted to be writers and they were teachers, so what made her think she could be one? If only she had known herself better and had more resilience at the time. She changed her major to Psychology, which probably did play an important part in her journey. Her degree, however, was just a stepping stone on the way and not a final destination. Writing skills became a resource Kate used throughout her career in marketing, technical writing and even a few articles and contributions to other people's books, along the journey. It would be a lifetime before she achieved her initial objective of becoming a writer.

As a "Change Adventure Navigator", Kate helps clients to embrace change and see all its possibilities. This is her mission as an owner of Soul Fire Wisdom Coaching & Hypnotherapy. Kate believes strongly in creativity, self-expression and pursuing our passions. She believes in our uniqueness, worthiness and beauty. It is her mission to help clients see these qualities in themselves and to guide them to find their Path, Purpose and Peace. She is a speaker, author, radio host and retreat facilitator.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR KATE OLSON

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

When I started writing this book in 2020, my first thoughts were, I know this book is really needed and how can I express this so that anyone can understand it?

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

I have not gone on any formal pilgrimages, but travel is always a learning and literary pilgrimage for me. It often sparks the thoughts that turn into blogs or future book ideas.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

I am just learning the ins and outs of the publishing industry, which is its own world. I am not sure I have encountered all of the unethical practices or the worst, but people posing as experts when they are not has frustrated me and, of course, the small royalty percentages that authors actually get from their own books.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Usually, writing energizes me. If I find myself feeling exhausted, I know I need to take a break and do something else until I can get back in the flow of it.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

I think “over-telling” and “talking down” to the reader are common traps that aspiring writers fall into. In non-fiction and research-based writing, it is easy to be too academic in your presentation and this comes across for many readers as boring and fails to make an impact. Some of the sources I used came across this way, even to me.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

In my opinion, a big ego gets in anyone’s way and for writers, I think it would definitely be a deterrent.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

My writing Kryptonite is my ability to put myself in the reader’s shoes and know how they are feeling. Being an empath is a definite advantage for a writer.

Q: Have you ever gotten a reader’s block?

Yes, of course. I think it is pretty natural to feel blocked from time to time. I try not to push myself and to let the writing come naturally. I usually have several ideas brewing and if I let them flow out naturally it tends to work best.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

Yes, I played with the idea at one time and even submitted a few stories with a nom de plume. Now that I write on topics related to what I do professionally, it doesn’t seem to make sense

and I don’t think I’d use one even for the children’s books or fiction that I plan to write in the future.

Q: Do you try more to be original or deliver to the readers what they want?

I guess I try more to be original. I do want the reader to understand what I am writing, but not necessarily to say what they want to hear. I am more a “shake things up” type of writer.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

The process of publishing my book showed me the value and importance of outlining and re-writing. When you are tackling something as overwhelming as a book, things get so much easier when you can break it down into chunks and know what to focus on step by step.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

Good question. That depends on whether you are asking about written or unwritten books. Of the not yet written category, there are six or seven swirling around in the back of my mind. I have one old fiction manuscript that might get re-constructed and updated someday and a couple of unfinished short stories.

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

Literary success for me would be bringing my book ideas to life and having people read and relate to them. Being recognized for my work would be the icing on the cake! Writing a best-seller would be like winning the lottery.

Q: What’s the best way to market your books?

I am still looking for the best way to market my book and trying as many of them as I can. It seems to be a constant struggle to keep your book visible and front of mind for potential readers.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

Research can take years and be in many forms, as I tend to go through learning or personal transformation processes that I want to share with others when I see the need. Then, once I begin writing the research continues and narrows to fill the gaps not covered by my own prior learning and experience.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

I feel very honoured and excited to have my book listed by DEMODE! I feel my message is about a lifestyle and mindset of “joyful resilience” and that is so in tune with the magazine!



THE BLOODSHED OF THE BETRAYED

BY AUTHOR A. L. SLADE

The Bloodshed of the Betrayed (Book One of The Mercy Chronicles) is an emotional story about the gift of emotions and their torment once stripped away. A.L. Slade takes everything we know, or thought we knew, about angels and recreates it to fit her imagined universe. Laramie is an intriguing character & I connected with her. The romance is a pure joy to read & reconfirmed my belief that love is love.


ABOUT THE BOOK

Unable to feel emotions, angels are God's devoted soldiers, who are tasked with carrying out God's will. One of which is to answer the question: can angels handle the gift of emotions without it interfering with their loyalty to God?

Enter Laramie. Angel Laramie is given emotions as a trial to decide once and for all if angels are ready to feel again. However, she soon becomes sidetracked by an infatuation with a human called Maggie, prompting her to neglect her orders and allow her mission to fail. She returns to her superiors in hopes of helping the human only to learn her feelings were a test. Her failure means her banishment to Earth until she fades away forever. Magda Mercy is a twenty-three-year-old college student with dreams of becoming a doctor. Her life changes forever when her brother returns on leave from the military with devastating family news. In exile, Laramie is confronted by Lucifer with a confounding revelation that changes everything Laramie has ever known as an angel. Lucifer presents an offer of eventual immortality in exchange for Laramie's ceaseless fidelity. When Laramie declines, Lucifer lashes out by tormenting the innocent Maggie as punishment for Laramie's refusal. Laramie must now do everything in her power to save Maggie and prevent Lucifer from realizing his goals, even if it means reaching oblivion sooner.

The Bloodshed of The Betrayed is a diverse dual point-of-view fantasy/adventure novel for the upper YA markets that touch very maturely on dark subject matters.

Get your copy of 'The Bloodshed of the Betrayed', and, connect with Author A.L. Slade

 twitter.com/alslade_  [60425875-the-bloodshed-of-the-betrayed](https://www.instagram.com/60425875-the-bloodshed-of-the-betrayed)



THE AUTHOR

A. L. Slade is the 18-year-old author of "The Bloodshed Of The Betrayed" the first book in the anticipated series, "The Mercy Chronicles." Slade brings this skillfully adapted tale to life with her endless creativity and descriptive story-telling as her hopes to enlighten

readers and portray young authors in a brilliant way is the backbone of her writing career. Slade has spent the past five years cultivating her first book, "The Bloodshed Of The Betrayed" to be able to share it with the world. Slade has been writing for as long as she can remember and has been a part of the writing field since early 2017 when she first self-published her book with a self-publishing company under the title 'Retribution.' Since then, she has gone back and implemented revisions to her book. She was unsatisfied with the preliminary result and has spent the past five years editing, revising, and developing her story into its truest form. Slade's craft has always come very naturally to her and is undoubtedly her greatest passion in this world.

The author openly discusses issues of internalized homophobia. Slade is a young Canadian author, and her primary influence for writing is to spread awareness towards marginalized communities and minorities, as she elects to write about POC and LGBTQ+ members to represent the underrepresented respectfully and accurately. Not only has she written the novel, but Slade has also designed the cover herself, enabling the book to be precisely the way she envisioned it to be from the very beginning. For A. L. Slade, writing allows her to create a world that is something incredible and what makes it unique is knowing that she can be a part of it.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR A. L. SLADE

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

I was very young when I began writing—five or six years old—and I was drawn to it because of the endless possibilities it provided. It became an escape for me, the ability to create a world so unique and personal to myself that I wanted to share with the world the more I grew and developed my abilities.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

I can't say I've had the opportunity to really engage in literary pilgrimages, however, I'd say one most notable to me is going on a field trip when I was very young to a museum and taking in the experience as though I was apart of the Percy Jackson series, and considered it all from his perspective.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

While I can't speak for everyone in determining what the most unethical practice in the publishing industry is, I'd say a huge one is improper packing and shifting the burden of labour onto the customer, as a huge percentage of books in each order arrive in unsellable condition from the warehouse to the indie authors/distribution companies.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

For me, it does both. Primarily, it energizes me because it gets my brain working and I feel a sense of fulfilment being able to let my thoughts take me through the experience, but it gets pretty exhausting after countless hours of work, especially when it's spent staring at a screen all day, too.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Something I have fallen into is feeling like there's a deadline you must meet and therefore rush your writing, as someone who constantly feels as though I must prove my worth by showing my abilities and capabilities at such a young age. Remember: the world will wait for you. Take your time.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

There needs to be a balance between confidence and insecurity in writers. You need to have enough confidence in your abilities to face criticism and hate, but not so much that you believe there is no room for growth or development in your craft.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

My writing Kryptonite would have to be struggling at a point in my writing where I suddenly lack the motivation to continue, whether it be because that particular section is boring or tedious, or because I'm anticipating

writing another part of the story and can't focus on anything else.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

I love this question because I sort of do! My real name is Amy Lisa Anthony, but I chose A. L. Slade because I liked how professional it sounded, and I'd also like to change my last name eventually. Hence, I decided to test the waters for a different last name to see how it felt.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I'd say a balance of both. You want to make sure what you're writing isn't too easy to predict (unless that's what you're aiming for), while at the same time delivering work that is appreciated by your audience. I'd say your work should be original and at the same time something people will enjoy reading.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

When I first published my book, I was 13 years old and I went through a self-publishing company. It was definitely an important experience because it taught me not to rush myself and to take my time; the world will wait for you so you should be prepared to give it your best.

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

Literary success, to me, is being able to see the effect your work has on others and to see the creativity and motivation it inspires. Truly, that's what literary success looks like to me.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

Too many to count, honestly. However, books that I anticipate I will eventually publish/intend to be full-fledged books, I'd say, as of right now, four.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

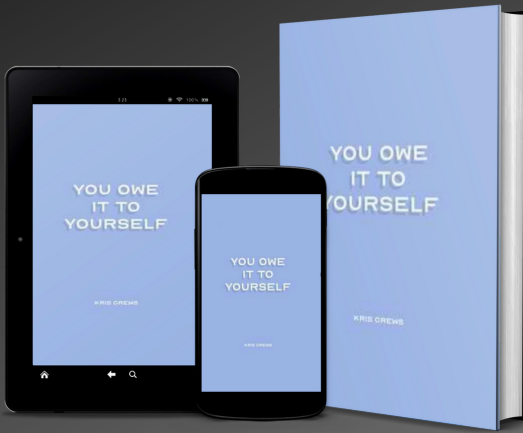
Depending on what I'm writing about and what sexuality/gender identity/ nationality and race/ occupation/ mental illness/ religion is, I make sure to do as much research as I feel makes my understanding as accurate as it can be. How long I spend researching depends on the topic, but it can be anywhere from a week to a few months.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

I feel incredibly humbled and honoured to have been approached to be featured by De Mode. This is honestly a dream come true for me, and I'm incredibly thankful for this opportunity to reach a wider audience.

YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF

BY AUTHOR KRIS CREWS



You Owe it To Yourself, written by Kris Crews, is a self-reflection journal full of quotes, prompts, and free pages for solo processing. You Owe it To Yourself is here to help those on their self-discovery journey find healing, know themselves on a deeper level, prioritize their mental health, and remind them they're not alone as they work on taking care of themselves.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Why You Need to Read "You Owe it to Yourself" Today for Mental Wellness

Anxiety. It's a word that we're hearing a lot nowadays as we're bringing this to light and normalizing discussions about mental wellness and health. Over the years, Author Kris struggled with depression and anxiety, and before meeting an actual therapist, writing served as a therapy for her. She always felt safe writing out her feelings. It was not until recently that she started becoming more honest with herself when she write and not feel ashamed to admit when she was struggling. She started to recognize that the emotions she is having are valid and that not addressing them would be a disservice. She owed it to herself to start putting her mental wellness and health first. During the lockdown, she continued writing as her anxiety was at an all-time high. She needed an outlet to make sense of the madness, and little did she know that she would find a way and that it would be shared with so many people through the release of 'You Owe it to Yourself'. The quotes and stories in her book are from her experiences that came in the most challenging times.

How You Owe it to Yourself can Help Others on Their Mental Wellness Journey

At the time, when Author Kris was writing this for herself - for her healing - but over time, she realized that this could help others prioritize themselves, improve their mental wellness, and share their stories too. In a world that constantly asks so much of us, it's easy to get caught up in our schedules and forget about what makes us happy. She hopes that her book will give people the space to slow down, breathe, find happiness, and rest through the prompts.



THE AUTHOR

Kris Crews is an author from Columbus, OH, residing in Los Angeles, CA. Over the years, writing became a haven for her, acting as a form of therapy and escape. Little did she know that writing in her journal would turn into something bigger, leading her to gain her BA in Journalism and Media Communication.

Soon, she wrote for publications like Huffington Post, MTV, Black Excellence, and 1and1Life. While writing for these publications brought her joy, she wanted to pursue writing a book. Fast forward a couple of years, and she released her first book, You Owe it To Yourself. She hopes to continue connecting with others and building communities that support others sharing their stories through her writing.

She wrote a quote that started the beginning of 'You Owe it to Yourself'. The quote read, "Silly of me to be afraid of the end when I haven't even started." She shared it on her Instagram and received positive responses and messages from many people sharing how they felt similar. From then on, she continued writing and kept sharing more quotes. She wanted to create something more interactive for others to participate in while highlighting parts of her own story and vulnerabilities. She has tons of journals from other authors and always found herself using them because of how beneficial they are.

Get your copy of 'You Owe it to Yourself' today, and, connect with Author Kris Crews

 [www.twitter.com/kris_crews](https://twitter.com/kris_crews)

 www.kriscrews.com

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR KRIS CREWS

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

I always wrote as a kid, but I didn't think anything of it until high school. Then, I started writing as a form of therapy, and it unlocked a way for me to express my feelings in ways I hadn't experienced before. However, it wasn't until college that I realized I could pursue writing in more ways than just journaling, and since then, I haven't turned back.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

The literary pilgrimages I've gone on or traveled to haven't been real tangible places, but more so going back in the past. I've had to dig deep and explore the not so pretty parts of the past. I try my best not to live there, though, but use it as a place of reference and to help me bring out my best writing. I want to travel more, though, and write about those experiences. I know there's still so much to see and more to write.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

In any business, I think deception is unethical. There are so many people who have a dream or work so hard toward something. Getting an agent or getting published is an exciting possibility. Unfortunately, some of those in the literary business can see that and prey on people's nativity by making them pay hefty fees to get published/self-publish when there are other optimal options. I hope that more guidance and leaders in this space will help writers see their talent and not look at them as just a dollar sign.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

It depends. I feel exhausted when writing about something that might not align with my interests. But I also think it's good to step out of your comfort zone and write about different topics because it can make you a well-rounded writer and help you see things from a different perspective. I feel energized with writing when it's something close to me or that I've experienced/am experiencing.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

I can't speak for every writer, but the biggest trap for me is thinking that I have to be writing or creating something all the time. I trap myself when I try to force something to make content. It has to flow, and I have to feel connected to it somehow. So I've been working on that and making sure that I'm also writing for myself, not because I think people expect me to.

Q: Have you ever gotten a reader's block?

I get writer's block all the time! But, at this

point, I try not to get too discouraged about it when I do.

Q: Do you try more to be original or deliver to the readers what they want?

I try to be more original in what I deliver. I like providing pieces that are centred around my experiences. I think that's as authentic and original as it gets.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

After publishing my first book, it changed how I take my time writing. When you care about something, you give it more time. I've learned not to rush and to enjoy the process. Your work will be released when it's supposed to be.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

I have a finished manuscript that I've written. I started it about five years ago. I'm not sure when I'll release it. I need to revisit it because so much can change over a certain amount of time. I want to go back to it with the understanding I have now and see what I might revise.

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

Literary success to me looks like using my work to connect with people and make meaningful connections. I'd be lying if I said that its monetary side wasn't necessary because I think it is when you want to sustain yourself and enjoy the fruits of your labour. Still, if my work makes people feel better or encourages them to take steps to be better and think about life differently, that's what success looks like to me.

Q: What's the best way to market your books?

I've been marketing myself on social a lot. Not having an agent or being signed to a publishing house, socials have been the best way for me to do that. I also like doing this because it adds a personal layer to it. People can get to know me more and tie that to my published work.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

It depends on what I'm writing. If I'm writing about something personal, I don't research because I already know everything about myself! But if I'm writing about anything else, it varies. Depending on the piece's depth I'm writing, it could be an hour or a whole week.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

I feel honoured. I'm happy that there is a space to highlight authors like myself!



UNCONVENTIONAL

BY AUTHOR JAMIE ANDREA GARZOT

An inspirational story about taking a chance, following your vision, and thriving in one of the US's wildest emerging industries, *Unconventional* profiles Jamie Andrea Garzot's journey as one of California's legal cannabis industry pioneers. Anyone who has ever dreamed of following their gut and reinventing their life will be inspired by Garzot's unusual and unconventional journey.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Jamie Andrea Garzot was one of the least likely people to become a cannabis entrepreneur, advocate, and industry pioneer. She had no business background. She was not involved in politics. She had only a four-figure capital investment to start with. And, surprisingly, she had very limited experience with cannabis products. So how did Garzot find herself at the forefront of California's cannabis movement?

In this inspirational memoir, Garzot describes her trajectory from a cannabis retail rookie navigating an unregulated market to a cannabis authority. During her time in the industry, she developed a wildly successful line of artisanal edibles, managed \$12 million a year in all-cash sales, and became an advocate for cannabis legislation at the state capitol—all of which led to an eventual acquisition by High Times, one of the most recognized names in the industry. From office intrigues, personal crises, and shifting regulations to teamwork, innovation, and community leadership, Garzot, with good-natured humour, shares how thinking creatively, planning ahead and forming connections in the most unlikely places contributed to her success in a continually shifting business landscape.

Unconventional is the story of an industry in its wild heyday, the inner workings of local and state government and cannabis's dicey road to regulation, and the seismic changes in the way cannabis were distributed and sold. But it is also the story of one woman's tenacious spirit and all the lessons she learned the hard way.

Get your copy of 'Unconventional' today, and, connect with Author Jamie Andrea Garzot today

 www.facebook.com/jamie.a.garzot  www.jamieandregarzot.com



THE AUTHOR

With eleven years of lawful cannabis industry experience, Jamie Andrea Garzot is one of California's pioneers, drawing from boots-on-the-ground experience as a state-licensed cannabis retailer, an appointed city official, and an industry advocate.

Since the beginning of her industry tenure in 2009, Garzot has logged thousands of hours advocating for responsible cannabis regulation before the California State Legislature and provided cannabis policy guidance to local governments throughout the Northern California region. In August 2020, both of her groundbreaking businesses—530 Cannabis and Synergy—were acquired by the most globally recognized name in cannabis, High Times.

Jamie holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from San Diego State University, with an emphasis in British literature. Jamie remains a high-profile industry advocate, educator, and public speaker.

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Jamie's book 'Unconventional' received the 'Distinguished Favorite 2022' recognition from the Independent Press Award.

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The book is available to buy at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop, IndieBound and Powell's.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR JAMIE ANDREA GARZOT

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

How the hell am I going to sit my butt in a chair long enough to write this book? As it turned out I didn't. I ended up dictating about 80% of the manuscript using Google docs while walking on the beach.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

None

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

I haven't seen any so I can't speak to this.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

It energizes me while I'm in that moment. If I think too much about it while not at the moment it can seem overwhelming. Consequently I only really focus on writing when I'm in the proper mindset.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Can't answer.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

Both. I think the confidence that can often accompany a big ego can absolutely help in that having confidence in your story and your ability to tell it is critical. However, I can see how a big ego may not be able to receive the inevitable criticism that is going to come to any writer. I try to balance myself somewhere in between.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

The never ending distraction of my dogs.

Q: Have you ever gotten writer's block?

No but then my first book is a memoir so everything was already in my head. I just needed to get it out.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

No because my book is the story of my life. A pseudonym would be counterproductive.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

Can't answer.

Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

I think it depends on their type of writing.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

I now understand the value and importance of developmental editing! Never again will I try to shop around for an agent or publisher with a vomit draft.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

None.

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

If just one person reads my book and is inspired, learns something new, or is entertained then I'll consider the book a success. Of course, I'd love for the loss of people to read it and have one of those three experiences, preferably all three.

Q: What's the best way to market your books?

I'm still trying to figure the marketing thing out but my strategy has been to get the book out there in as many new and different places as possible from literary publications to library catalogues to Tiktok.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

I'm really excited about this opportunity to reach and connect my book with potential readers from all over the globe.



Book the author for your event

With eleven years of legal cannabis industry expertise, Jamie Andrea Garzot is one of California's pioneers. She has boots-on-the-ground experience as a cannabis retailer, an appointed city official, and an industry advocate.



WHERE WILL WE GO? A SEQUEL

BY AUTHOR EMILY CRAIG

A perfect book to make the readers see that a failed relationship is not the end of your life and dreams. There's always more that you can discover and much more that you can accomplish. Good time that you spent building yourself up can heal you. I loved every bit of the book and I can see many readers finding it relatable and even inspiring.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Two years of marriage ruined by one drunken mistake.

Lucy's story is not yet over. In the sequel *Where Will We Go?* Lucy Berry is faced with new challenges that will both excite and challenge her. Newly divorced from her high school sweetheart David, she is plunged into a new world where David is now engaged to his mistress while she has to navigate life after love and heartbreak. Just when Lucy is feeling unworthy of happiness, a silver lining presents itself. She lands her dream job as a travel writer. Follow aspiring author Lucy as she embarks on a journey of self-discovery with her best friends by her side. Witness as she blissfully immerses herself in French culture while hitting all of Paris' hot spots for her new job. Laugh along while she helps throw an epic murder mystery birthday bash. Most of all, join Lucy as she transforms her self-doubt into self-love, ending a tragic year with the surprise of her life.

Will Lucy finally leave David in the past or will he continue to haunt her dreams?

BOOK REVIEWS

- I would strongly recommend this book to New Adult and Women's Contemporary Fiction readers. And also to those readers who like reading about travelling and especially if you are a Francophile (like me) you will love this book! ~ said a reader on Amazon.
- I had a really healing experience reading this book. It's important to love yourself first, and that's the message in the book.

Get your copy of "Where Will We Go?" today, and, connect with Author Emily Craig

[emilycraig44](https://twitter.com/emilycraig44) [Emily Craig](https://www.facebook.com/emilycraig) www.emilycraigwriter.com



THE AUTHOR

Emily Nicole Craig is an author, poet, and blogger. With a Bachelor of Science in English from the University of North Alabama, she always knew writing was her future. Her background in writing covers many genres, ranging from Southern Gothic to Young and New Adult. With five pieces of published poetry

under her belt and after the success of her debut book, *Will You Love Me Again?*, she wanted to fuel her passion for writing with a sequel, thus *Where Will We Go?* was born. She lives in Athens, Alabama with the love of her life Dustin and their dog Buttercup.

Where Will We Go? is a self-discovery story about a woman's journey after a devastating divorce. She struggles with self-doubt, heartache, and nightmares that ultimately make her stronger on her road to pure happiness.

Emily wrote *Where Will We Go?: A Sequel* because she wanted to continue her writing journey with a sequel to my debut book, *Will You Love Me Again?*. She has loved writing since she was 10 and now has two published books. Writing has been her escape from the world for over 15 years, and in the last year, She doesn't know what she would have done without it. Writing helps her heal her pain and allows her to grow through her struggles. Craig's books showcase how we can find hope after heartbreak or any storm in our life.

Although her author journey hasn't been typical (publishing in 2020), She is grateful for every part of her journey. Her words are out in the world because she never gave up on her 10-year-old self's dream.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR EMILY CRAIG

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

I created my current core four characters when I was 20 years old in the Summer of 2016. I was thrilled, but then I hit a roadblock. I never thought any of my writing would see the light of day. I remember feeling like my writing was never good enough.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

Nothing since I published because I published a week before the pandemic. In October 2019, before my book was published, I went to a Book Festival in Nashville and actually talked to a few authors. That was an incredible experience.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

Overworking editors and authors, especially when there is a lack of appreciation. We need to appreciate all sides of publishing. It takes a village to publish a book.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Both, if we are being honest. Some days, I'm like yeah I'm writing so much and I am so happy. Other days, I'm like I don't know what to say or where to go with a scene or chapter. So I'm just stuck which wears my brain out.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Imposter Syndrome makes them want to give up. As we grow, we learn to keep going despite that. When we are starting out, the voices are much louder.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

Definitely hurts them. Having a big ego will not make you successful in life. I just simply want to be myself and write.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

Music. I have so many Spotify playlists and I love having them on when I write.

Q: Have you ever gotten writer's block?

All the time. It'll hit at random times and occasionally it'll last for a while.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

Never. I want my work to be attached to me, always.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

Original. I always want my work to be me, not someone else. I care what my readers think. I am telling my story in my books through fictional situations and no one else can write that but me. I do talk through things with my readers as well. But I never spoil, of course.

Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

Not at all. I think we all have a little bit of writer in us. Some of us are just more emotionally driven. For example, I am also a poet, who writes about emotions and that's what drives me to write poetry. My prose (published books) is totally different. I write to bring hope to others.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

It didn't really change much after my first. I was kind of on a high of 'wow my book is out' and I didn't write my second book for nine months. I was stuck and so involved in editing and publishing my book that I couldn't focus and then finally I broke through. When I had the urge to write, I changed my entire game plan. From a David POV to a Lucy POV like my first book. My latest release almost looked completely different (I explain a little more in the next answer).

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

I am writing my first draft of my third book (currently unpublished, but I hope to publish it next year. It's called "What's Next, Lucy?") - a direct follow up to my newest release, "Where Will We Go?: A Sequel."

When I first came up with my Will You Love Me Again series, creating my characters and setting, it was originally during their senior year of high school. I never finished that part. The good part of having written some of it is that I have the backgrounds of my core four characters to go back to. I also started and stopped an idea for the original second book. One day I may revisit these two stories, but for now, I have other stories up my sleeves.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

I actually research while I'm writing. Since I write fiction mostly based on real-life places, I research as I go. When I get stuck on how something looks or a certain place I want to include slips my brain, Google is my best friend. I've never been to Paris, France but I wanted to make it feel as real as possible for my readers and myself. Travelling from my couch is what I like to call it.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

I am still in shock that DE MODE found me & my book, especially since the publishing date was so close. I feel incredibly lucky to be able to share my journey and book with their readers. Pretty epic!



A FINAL CALL

BY AUTHOR ELIOT PARKER

The mystery starts from the first chapter and gets better as it goes. In a homicide, all the clues are given at the beginning and all the emotions that were well embodied in the book. Involves strong and interesting both masculine and feminine figures all along. The plot is complete with a great story of crime, and corruption and these amazing characters like Stacy who from the beginning is introduced as a superwoman, implacable looking for the truth.

ABOUT THE BOOK

In the thriller 'A Final Call', Cleveland Homicide Detective Stacy Tavitt is contacted by a former college classmate who asks for help in finding her missing son, Colton. Still reeling physically and emotionally from her last investigation—which led to the disappearance of her brother—Stacy reluctantly agrees. At first, there is little reason to suspect foul play in his disappearance until he becomes the primary suspect in the murder of an ex-girlfriend. It's a race against the clock as Stacy tries to find out what happened to her brother and clear his name, all while stopping a lethal killer who continues to target the friends and family connected to Colton. Beset by threats inside and outside of her life, Stacy must go to great lengths to find a killer and save her brother.

This book is a sequel to a previous book featuring Stacy Tavitt titled Code for Murder. In Code for Murder, Stacy makes an overzealous decision that leads to a botched undercover investigation. As a result, Stacy is attacked, and her unconscious body is dumped into the frigid Cuyahoga River. Six months later, Stacy's first case back from medical leave involves the murder of Cleveland Browns football player Devon Baker. With little forensic evidence connecting anyone to the crime, Stacy sets out to find the killer. As Stacy comes very close to unravelling the tangled threads of the case, the killer wants her, and those close to her, to suffer for another impulsive decision she made in the line of duty. The killer just may be more familiar to Stacy than she realizes. While reading the book, you'll love Stacy's commitment to justice.

Get your copy of 'A Final Call' today, and, connect with Author Eliot Parker

 [www.twitter.com/e4419](https://twitter.com/e4419)

 www.eliotparker.com



THE AUTHOR

When he was in the eighth grade, he won the school writing award. His English teacher, Mr. Tom Cyrus, had submitted his name and some of his samples to a committee of faculty who ultimately made the award decision. That moment changed him forever. His experience being a student in Mr. Cyrus's class changed him

forever. Throughout that entire year, he encouraged him to write and at intervals asked him if he had been writing anything new. More importantly, he gave him notecards with inspirational quotes and messages about writing as a motivational tool to keep writing.

When he was in his M.F.A. in Creative Writing Program at Eastern Kentucky University, he learned how to be a better and more concise writer by taking courses on genre and learning how to write short stories that catch a reader's attention from the first page and hold them throughout the narrative until the end. Since his first novel 'Breakdown at Clear River' was published in 2012, he wrote four more thrillers and a collection of multi-genre stories titled Snapshots. He was awarded the 'West Virginia Literary Merit Award'. He also received the 'PenCraft Literary Award and 'Feathered Quill Book Award' for his short story collection. His thriller novel 'Fragile Brilliance' was a longlisted finalist for the SIBA (then the Pat Conroy Prize) for thriller writing in 2017. My latest thriller, featuring Cleveland (Ohio) police lieutenant Stacy Tavitt, titled 'A Final Call' came out in November 2021. He also hosts an author interview podcast program on the Air Global Radio Network titled Now, Appalachia.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR ELIOT PARKER

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

My first thought when I had a short story published in a literary journal was "Wow! Someone actually thought what I wrote was good and wanted to publish it!" That was in 2000.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

I had a chance to study with writers Jim Grimsley and Skip Horack in Edinburgh, Scotland in the summer of 2011 as part of my MFA summer residency program. Getting to live and write in Scotland for a month was an experience I will never forget.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

I think one of the most unethical practices in the publishing industry is what it means to be a book publisher. There are a lot of book "producers," which include people that will publish your book. Most authors think that automatically means the book will be available in book stores, gift shops, trade shows, etc. However, that's not always true. Most of these "producers" masquerading as publishers don't tell authors this information until after the contract is signed. New authors are often so excited to have someone publish their book that they often fail to ask questions about distribution until it's too late.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Both. If I'm really making progress with a story or book, I feel energized at the process of writing and creating the narrative. However, those moments of excitement often lead to moments of mental exhaustion at the end of the day. For me, it's important to finish a day of writing by doing something that doesn't require a great deal of mental stimulation so that my brain can relax and refocus for the next writing day.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

I think it's important for writers to have confidence in their own abilities. However, nobody likes an arrogant braggart. It's wise to always remember not to get too excited when writing and publication success happens while not getting too discouraged when struggles occur. Either can happen on any given day, so staying balanced and focused on individual goals is always helpful.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

My cellphone. I work from home a lot and my phone is always clicking and chiming with text messages and pictures and phone calls. I've learned to put my phone in another room when I am writing and pretend it doesn't exist.

Q: Have you ever gotten writer's block?

Sure. I think all writers experience writer's block at some point. For me, the key is to examine what is causing the block and then change up something in my routine to get rid of it. For example, if I am trying to write in the morning and my mind is cluttered from the events of the week or the previous day, then I take a walk and clear my head. It can be easy to let writer's block consume an entire writing session. Sometimes, doing some difference in your day or coming back and writing at another time later in the day are great ways to push writer's block aside.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

As a writer, I want to do something different in each new story/book that was not done in my previous books/stories. Those differences can be a unique plot, a new character, some plot twists involving unique challenges, or a theme that I have never explored before.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

When my first novel *Breakdown at Clear River* was published, I learned that writing a novel was a more intense and time-consuming undertaking than writing a short story. In writing that book, I had many days where I thought I was not making enough progress. However, I learned that those days often lead to productive days later. I also learned that when writing a novel, real writing comes during the revision process.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

I have one unpublished novel and one half-finished collection of short stories sitting on my computer right now. I hope to have them finished and out into the world by 2023.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

I spend several months researching a book before I begin writing. I like using newspapers and interviews with people who have expertise in whatever the subject for my book might be. I want my books to have some authenticity to them and to make sure that happens, I have to spend some time getting the information I need. Researching has become one of my favorite parts of the writing process and I'm so grateful that so many cops, lawyers, and scientists over the years have been so kind to speak with me and answer my questions.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

I am honored and thrilled that DE MODE chose my latest thriller *A Final Call* as one of the 10 Best Books to Read this summer. Thank you!



BEING SAM: I SAID WHAT I SAID

BY AUTHOR GEOQUASHA BROWN

The well-awaited return of Samantha Bennett has finally arrived. As a woman in her late 20s, in an ever-changing world, Samantha learns the guide to adulthood seems to be more complex than she ever imagined. This is around the way a girl has something to say and she will do it unapologetically. As life tends to throw sucker punches, will Samantha get swept off her feet or declare to be a force to be reckoned with?

ABOUT THE BOOK

We've all been through the phase in our lives where we don't feel worth it, or that we don't deserve to be happy. It is a part of life that we all have to go through good and bad days. Some even worse days. Sometimes the hard times last longer than we thought and nothing seems to work out for the better. Feeling hopeless is not uncommon or unheard of. But it is important to remember that even in hopelessness there is hope. Sam's life is much like any of ours. It's a beautiful thing to see her rise above her troubles and find herself.

The troubles and triumphs; the failures and the successes of the protagonist might feel very personal to some readers who have experienced the same or similar in their life. To get anywhere in our lives, we first need to get to ourselves. People or the reader or the audience will take something meaningful and positive from this special book.

BOOK REVIEWS

This book is a great read for children to enjoy. Hopefully the author makes more children books, my sister really enjoy it. She wants a series and so do I.

- Kay

I like the authentic vibe of this narrative. Reading Sam's thoughts gave me great insight into the things unnoticed. I no longer felt lost in my reality. I would recommend this to anyone in their mid 20's; you're not a failure, you just got to take the time to understand who you are and push yourself to elevate at a higher level.

- Kriss

This book was very good and it was short and easy to read. I would recommend to a friend.

- Lisa

Get your copy of 'Being Sam: I Said What I Said', and, connect with Author Geoquasha Brown

 <https://www.quabrown.com/>  53894400-being-sam



THE AUTHOR

Geoquasha Brown is a young author that is way beyond her years. The writer and children's book author grew up aspiring to be an author one day but never knew when it was time to take that leap of faith. Throughout her years of schooling, Brown mainly remembers her

English teachers and professors because they made such an impact on her writing career. She looked forward to going to school every day just for her English classes. With her debut novelette, *Being Sam*, Brown has received much recognition for the series. The five-star rated series set the tone for Brown being named the voice for the millennials. Brown has aspired to connect with her readers through her authenticity and personal experiences. For the proclaimed force to be reckoned with author Geoquasha Brown declares her journey as a writer is just beginning. Brown grew up in Hampton, Virginia. The Virginia native migrated to North Carolina after earning a full scholarship to play basketball and earn an education at Campbell University.

Before she began her writing career, Brown earned her graduate degree in Exercise Science and Health Promotion from the California University of Pennsylvania. Prior to her graduate degree, Brown transferred from Campbell University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Health Science from West Virginia State University. Graduating back-to-back cum laude as a student-athlete, Brown made her mark as an over-achiever. Brown is also a retired professional basketball player who later played in Europe and Mexico for several seasons. Today, Brown resides in Dallas, Texas with her loving family and puppy.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR GEOQUASHA BROWN

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

I began writing at the age of eight. I was given my first journal where I would hide my true feelings for my first crush. I still remember the very first page I wrote in there like it happened yesterday.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

I have not taken one but I plan on taking one this summer for my latest project which I am overly excited about.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

Vanity publishing companies. Unless signed to an actual publishing company, I truly believe an author is better off on their own compared to spending tons of money on a company in which you can do everything they're doing and more for cheap.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Writing energizes me. I feel the most alive when I create vivid stories. The power that creativity has where someone can dive into multiple characters' minds and convey a story that can connect with people all around the world is a feeling I almost can not describe.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

I think the most common trap I see is mimicking others' work or keeping up with the trends. In my short series, Being Sam, you will see I stressed the need of being original and authentic. Creating your own voice, skill, sound etc. will take you a lot further than copying someone else's.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

A big ego is okay for the times you need to remember your self-worth, dignity, and self-importance. That is healthy but ego can be detrimental when you are not willing to be flexible or open to valid criticism that can take your work to the next level. Just know when to turn it on and off.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

Perfectionism. I love it and hate it at the same time. As a human being, I know I am far from perfect and can not be but I feel like I do have control over perfecting my craft. I will redo any project I am working on until I am absolutely sick of it, all because it has to be perfect.

Q: Have you experienced writer's block?

Yes, and believe it or not, it's often. That's okay because I tend to live life a little more when I feel this coming on. I may take a trip or focus on something else for a week or even months. Then, when I come back to the drawing board, my ideas begin to pour in nonstop.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

Yes. I can be shy and introverted. Attention is not something I yearn for so I did consider it. However, I got over that thought when I realized I wanted all my work attached to my legal name. Spotlight can be intimidating but I still want to be recognized for my work.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I don't choose between the two. I want to keep a balance of both. I like staying true to myself because I have to be satisfied with my work and I also try to be relatable at the same time in order to better connect with my audience.

Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

That depends, maybe someone does not express their emotions very well verbally but their true emotions are written down somewhere. I think that is how many writers tend to operate.

Q: What's the best way to market your books?

As a signed author, the publishing company will take care of most of that. However, as a self-publisher, I would suggest building a network.

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

Literary success for me is making a difference in someone's else life by my stories, characters, or myself in general. I want to make an impact on as many people as I can while God has given me time. There are many people I have not met in this world and will not ever meet. However, if they can read my stories and take something away from it then we have still made some type of connection and I am satisfied with that.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

Tons. I have a lot of work that I need to reveal to the world.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

I am always doing research and I am not talking about the typical search on the internet. I rather listen to podcasts, and informational videos, read a couple of books, have conversations with people I meet day to day or friends and family or engage in fully what it is I am writing about because my best teacher is my experience.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

This is a phenomenal opportunity. I am blessed to be spotlighted and hope to continue to be selected for other upcoming opportunities. Thank you again.



LOVE IS WAR, WAR IS LOVE

BY AUTHOR ALFRED QUINSAY

Alfred Quinsay's novel describes the devious dealings of the immensely wealthy businessman, Tony Hua, who has his eye on Philippine land earmarked for the construction of the largest mall and luxury tourist development in the world. His motives are far removed from the unique tourist playground envisaged by Ronald Lim, owner of the company awarded the contract for the construction.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Capping off three miles amidst the breezy landscape of the vast area of Zambales, Emilio trotted towards the highest peak of the summit overlooking a disputed island called Scarborough. The thin air was evident as it passed through his lungs, savouring the high-altitude mountainous breeze. Clarity seemed to take over as his mind began to relax while he fixed his gaze on the shoal, a wondrous work of nature that would be soon obscured as man-made structures curtailed foreign objects encroaching within its radius. Once a haven for local fishermen had now become a restricted zone, threatening to apprehend those who would persist.

Alfred Quinsay's *Love is war, war is love*, follows the story of a rich man Tony Hua, who wants to acquire land in the Philippines, where the world's largest mall is about to be built. He gets involved in some illegal deals and some unruly businesses to get what he wants. Ronald Rim, the man in charge of the construction, however, has another thing coming for Tony. Emil, an engineer, and a military secret agent come over to oversee the construction, and to Tony's great surprise is he is also the ex-boyfriend of his wife Lily.

Will Emil's presence affect more than just Tony's business venture? Is Emil being there really just a coincidence? This book will keep you in it for the longest time. The storyline is engaging, with a perfect blend of drama, suspense, and conspiracy. A perfect book to read for the fans of the adventure, and thriller genre. The book has a unique plot and is packed with action and drama.

Get your copy of 'Love is War, War is Love', and, connect with Author Alfred Quinsay

 www.alfredquinsay.com  [instagram.com/alfred_quinsay](https://www.instagram.com/alfred_quinsay)



THE AUTHOR

Alfred Quinsay found his knack for writing novels when he was in his early twenties. It started more like a script for a movie, but as the plot and the characters of the story developed, it turned into a novel. He completed his first book after about a year but decided not to

get it published because of fear of embarrassment from peers. Being young and inexperienced, he also lacked the resources and connections that time so he thought it best to pursue other practical endeavors. For the next twenty years, he went after other goals and temporarily abandoned writing novels. He also became a CPA and earned an MBA degree.

During the intervening period which he later called his "real-world education," he worked in various industries. After his stint in various industries, he became a university professor in 2010 teaching accounting and business subjects. In 2012, he contemplated going back into writing contemporary novels which depict real-world experiences. Despite his regular job, he was able to complete his first official novel in 2014. This time, he made sure he submitted it to a publisher. From there on, he never looked back and returned to writing books with more passion & resilience. He realized those years that may seem inactivity in writing were really "a gathering of enriching experiences" that has honed him to be a better thinker and writer at the same time. They were never wasted, they were more like preparation according to him. At the time of this writing, he has self-published five more books & his latest book, "Love is War, War is Love," is an internationally released novel published by Olympia Publishers in the UK.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR ALFRED QUINSAY

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

I'm having difficulty recalling that first thought since it was about 30 years ago in 1992. But the feeling is vivid. It was like I was in a flow state. Nothing seemed to matter especially when you're seeing the characters take a life of their own as the story progresses.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

The literary pilgrimages I've gone were the ones written by some of my favourite authors and books like the one with Paulo Coelho in *The Alchemist*. Santiago, the main character of the story embarks on a journey seeking treasure in Egypt. There he went from one place to the next only to find the treasure within himself.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

I'm not that well-versed as far as unethical practice in the publishing industry is concerned. But I guess, just like any other business in any industry there are those that are common to a lot of industries. These may include under declaration of sales, and overstatement of expenses. Mostly accounting issues and maybe marketing to some extent.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Both. There are times that writing energizes me especially when ideas flow freely in coherence. These are the times when I lose myself in what I'm doing. This is when my creativity is at its highest.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

The common traps I see for aspiring writers are a lack of follow-through and impatience. Anyone can talk big but not anyone would be willing to undergo the tedious process of writing. It's also easy to get discouraged when you're not seeing results immediately and when your environment does not seem to cooperate with your noble undertaking.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

The ego is like a fire, it should be kept under control. It could either serve your purpose or it could hurt you. Great writers have big egos because they feel like they have this great idea that can revolutionize how we think. However, the process of generating this great idea entails a lot of self-awareness.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

To be candid about it, my writing kryptonite is sensual pleasure or for lack of a better term, lust. It is easy to get tempted when I see beautiful women in skimpy suits especially when I have spent so much time writing. Sometimes, you want to see the other side of the world and say, "how's it going out there?" (laughs)

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

I haven't seriously considered writing under a pseudonym. But it crossed my mind before when my publisher gave some suggestions.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I strike a balance between being original and delivering what my readers want. I'd make sure that when I let my book for publishing, readers would see an entirely fresh scenario and not just a spin-off of another story. I also try to elicit what genre my readers would like to read through research.

Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

That depends, maybe someone does not express their emotions very well verbally but their true emotions are written down somewhere. I think that is how many writers tend to operate.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

My process of writing changed significantly after publishing my first book. If I may use an analogy, my first published book can be compared to a stray bullet, it is powerful yet it has no target because it's misguided. After recognizing those mistakes I learned that to be more effective, it should have a target.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

I probably have a couple of them. I liked to write stories with great plots and some of them I put it into writing. But still not all that I've wrote were carried further into completion. Either because its lacking on research such as resource materials or it was temporarily halted for some other reasons.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

I do mostly qualitative research particularly ethnographic. This is effective when you want to learn more about the customs and habits of a certain culture. Before I started writing my latest book, "Love is War, War is Love," I immersed myself in the customs, and even learned some foreign languages. I also spent more than a month reading research materials.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

I feel elated when I learned that my book was listed by DE MODE. It is a global company which focuses on world events from fashion to business, literature and celebrity news among others. It gives me great pleasure to share my book with the global market. I thank God for this opportunity being listed by DE MODE.



THE ADVENTURES OF ZORAX ZOOMSTER

BY AUTHOR SHEMAR JAMES

Author James has combined humour with a lively adventure tale that keeps the reader hooked on how the ever-resourceful teenaged Zorax is going to outsmart the hateful King Zemus and foil his plans for intergalactic invasion, rescue his beloved dog, Vanilla and eventually his sister and best friend when they, like Vanilla, are kidnapped.

ABOUT THE BOOK

In this thrilling fantasy tale, a teenage alien crew ventures off into a vast galaxy with the hope they can save their civilization from a powerful ruler determined to carry out an evil plan. In the city of Zorgatopolis on the planet Zorga, teenage alien Zorax Zoomster has just saved the planet from a meteorite apocalypse.

As Zorax and his skilled team head to the planet where Zemus lives to save Vanilla, Zorax trains with different skilled teachers on each planet who mentor him on learning new elemental powers to use to fight Zemus. As the trio travels through the galaxy, they perform smaller rescue missions, combat crime, befriend other alien companions, and do other good deeds along the way.

Zorax Zoomster is a fresh, new sci-fi original story that tells an exhilarating adventure of teenage alien heroes battling for freedom in a futuristic, dystopian universe. As the story develops, Zorax's team of heroes grows, each member possessing a unique superpower and personality to go along with it. Zorax's galaxy taps into the fun of alliteration with most people and places beginning with the letter Z, encouraging the reader to really pay attention to who each character is and expand their imagination. The story is centered around determination, teamwork, patience, growth, forgiveness, and the battle for liberation against oppression. There are countless mini adventures and action-packed scenes in the book, sustaining the reader's engagement and building overall excitement through the entire story arc.

Get your copy of 'The Adventures of Zorax Zoomster' today, and, connect with Author Shemar James today

 www.lulu.com/spotlight/sjbooks  6489338.Shemar_James



THE AUTHOR

From a very young age, creative writing has always been something that Shemar has done in his free time. Writing was a way to explore his imagination and create fantastical worlds, develop fun characters, and craft interesting plots. In elementary school, Shemar recalls journaling numerous pages of funny

short stories where his classmates would gather around in anticipation and enjoy the comedic and action-packed adventures his characters would venture on. Being inspired by the television he watched and the video games he played, Shemar wrote and illustrated many stories both on his own and some with other friends. A close friend he rode the school bus with would wait impatiently for him to add more to his story journal so that she could pick up where she left off in the story and enjoy reading with the few minutes she had. He also remembers an older cousin that would come over and read his very early drafts of his published book, *The Adventures of Zorax Zoomster* and shared with him that "I wouldn't be reading your stories if I didn't think they were interesting." From these moments of his childhood, Shemar knew that he had something special to share.

Shemar is originally from Chicago and he completed his Masters of Science in Entrepreneurship last year. His long-term objective is to see his works transformed into television series, movies, or video games. He wants to inspire people who may be aspiring to become an author like him never to give up. He encourages aspiring writers to fix their eyes on the dream and just start writing.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR SHEMAR JAMES

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

Writing for me has always been a fun, imaginative tool of escapism. So I am always thinking of how much adventure I can go on inside of the creative aspects of my mind. Who are my characters? Where is the world in which these characters live & what is the conflict that drives an interesting story that I can have fun building and engaging readers along the way.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

Sadly, I don't think I've really had the chance to embark on a literary pilgrimage. However, I do think every writer must enjoy reading. This past summer, especially after we've been stuck inside our homes for the past two years, I discovered the euphoria of reading outside in the sun. As summer approaches, I am going to make it a goal of mine to enjoy literature amongst nature. There's something about being outdoors, feeling of the sunshine & breeze of the wind that enhances the literary experience. I encourage everyone to do the same.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

I think many times authors are not compensated enough for the amount of work they put into their craft. When an author finally breaks through in the publishing world their royalty earnings can be little to none. Writing and publishing is a very tedious process that requires an enormous amount of time on the author's end and this should be compensated appropriately.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

I think it does both. Writing is a passion that gives and takes energy. The process of creating an outline, developing my thoughts, and finding time to write is one part that is exhausting.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

That being a writer is easy and leads to immediate success & recognition. The journey of a writer has many ups and downs and requires a lot of hard work, patience, and perseverance. If you are not in it for the long game, then it may not be the right aspiration.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

I think a little ego is healthy for any writer. It's important to value yourself as a creative and not allow others to dictate what your value is. However, too much ego, of course, can definitely be harmful. Writers, no matter what level they may be in their career, can always learn from others. The minute we stop being receptive to constructive feedback and think too highly of ourselves is the minute we stifle our creativity and truly lose our sense of self.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

My cell phone and scrolling through social media. It can be a huge distraction for me because I easily fall into the trap of scrolling through my feed for hours and losing precious time to write. Also, sometimes it is having dozens of tabs open on my laptop other than the word document that I am writing on that has nothing to do with my story. Lastly, I would say my unhealthy obsession with checking my email. This definitely interrupts my steady flow of the writing process.

Q: Have you ever experienced writer's block?

Of course. I think all writers do at some point. However, I've never stayed in writer's block jail for too long. The key to escaping the prison of writer's block is to brainstorm and create an outline for my story.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I think being original is giving readers what they want. I think when a writer creates something that they love, truly feel connected to, and that is meaningful to them, readers will immediately gravitate to it and find it authentic.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

I think after publishing my first book, I realized the importance of knowing how I want my story to end before writing it. I think the overall story becomes so much stronger as I weave different plot points and events together when I know the arcs I want to take my characters through over the next several books of the series rather than just the ending of the first book.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

Too many to count. I have a large inventory of books that are not yet published or not fully completed. If I had to give a rough estimate, I would say at least ten or more. I think that speaks to the long process that the journey of writing and publishing can be.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

Because most of what I write is fictional, there isn't a lot of research that is necessary. However, I tend to be the person who researches as I write if I want to make sure I am using the correct words, phrases, or describing a particular object correctly in my efforts to show and not tell.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

I feel so honored and incredibly excited to be listed by DE MODE. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity. Thank you so much for giving me a space to be on this amazing platform.

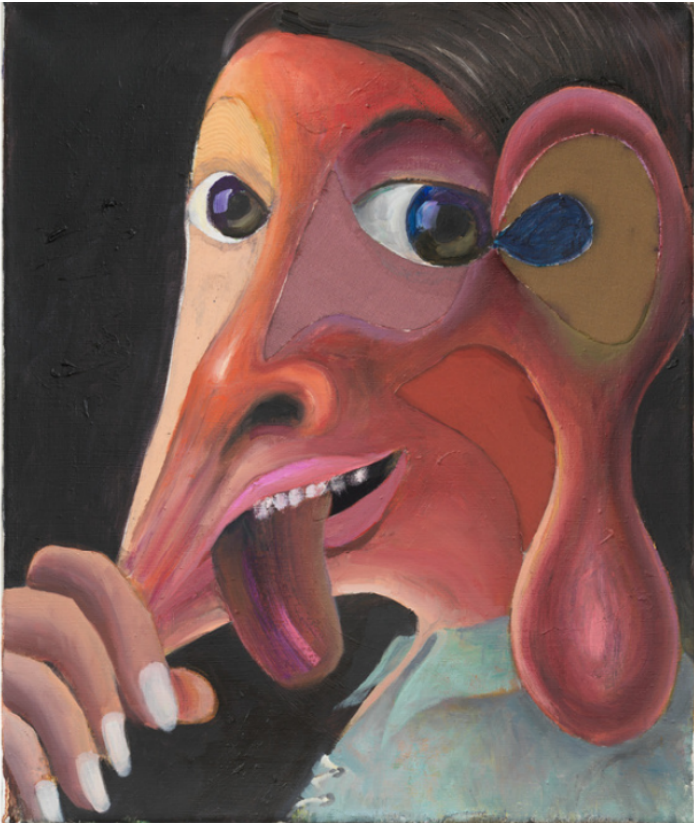


Armin Boehm

Choi & Choi Gallery
Seoul, South Korea

Armin Boehm paints fictitious and spatially impossible scenes, based on urban layouts and architectural constructions, that are meant to evoke the inner human condition. The images, which sometimes appear to be aerial views or perpetually receding landscapes, explore the idea of natural and manmade borders in geographic surfaces. His most famous works are large-scale paintings, constructed using complex combinations of materials including fabric, oil paint, pure pigment, metal, and sand. A majority of Boehm's paintings have dark palettes and depict nocturnal views with small sources of light; in preparation for exhibiting his paintings, Boehm has been known to paint the walls gray and dim the lights to deepen the experience of darkness. Other subjects have included interiors, smashed trees, bucolic scenes, and car wrecks.

MORE OF HIS WORK





Marco Battaglini

Art Rewards
Oslo

Marco Battaglini depicts classical subjects from the art history canon in contemporary settings. Battaglini pulls work from Italy's art historical roots and juxtaposes them with urban graffiti backgrounds in a playful, ironic turn. He blends culture, time, and space to reflect on and question the democratization of ideas and the resulting expansion of information. Pastiche works such as *No Sugar* (2018) aim to destroy the boundaries that disrupt the viewer's perception of life. In their fusion of the irreverent and the classics, Battaglini's works become a humorous space for deconstructing reality. He studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti, the Università di Venezia, and the Liceo Artistico di Verona. In his book, *ARTPOPCCLASSIC*, Battaglini elaborates on his ideology and the distinguished traits of his work.

MORE OF HIS WORK



A photograph of three women in a lush garden setting. One woman in a white ruffled blouse is holding an open book, while two other women, one in a brown dress and one in a blue top, look on with interest. The scene is bathed in soft, natural light.

6 new books to read
this summer + author
interviews



THE HANGING TREE

BY AUTHOR JAMES WALKER

Another whodunnit in the series of Lady Tremayne diaries. The year is 1654. When an anonymous young woman is found hanged from a tree, Lady Jane Tremayne believes she's been murdered and is determined to investigate the crime. The trail she follows proves to be a perilous one, leading to her being kidnapped and taken abroad, where she expects to be sold as a slave to Corsairs. Saving Olivia and her husband becomes a race against time in this fast-paced and adventurous whodunnit.

ABOUT THE BOOK

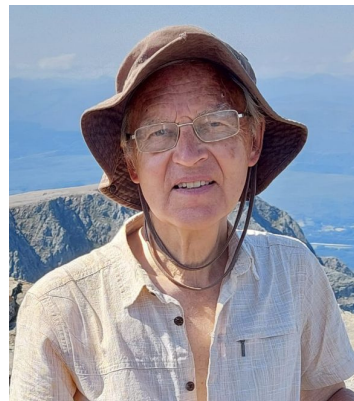
When an anonymous young woman is found hanging from a tree by her friend, Lady Olivia Courtney, Lady Jane Tremayne, who lives in South Devon not far from the ancient city of Exeter, believes the woman has been murdered and is determined to investigate the crime.

When an inquest is held, as Lady of the Manor, she successfully encourages the coroner to recommend an open verdict to the assembled jury, but the trail of suspicion that she then follows involves a coach seen in the vicinity on the day of the murder, proves to be a perilous one.

She engages the services of her lawyer, Francis Overbury, to identify the owner of the coach and he is also able to provide some additional information, which takes her to the back streets of Exeter where her further enquiries reveal the likely identity of the murdered woman. She then sets about discovering a motive for the crime, which in turn throws up the likelihood of a second murder along with evidence that the owner of the coach is a smuggler. A young woman who has given Jane vital information now disappears so Jane tries to discover her whereabouts but the trail she follows leads to her being kidnapped and taken abroad, where she expects to be sold as a slave to Corsairs in North Africa. She is able to avoid this fate when the ship she's on runs aground off the coast of Brittany in North West France, and she is then able to return to England only to discover that the man she has married in secret faces a charge of treason. Fresh dangers also await both her and Lady Courtney.

Get your copy of 'The Hanging Tree', and, connect with Author James Walker

 www.amazon.com/Hanging-Tree-second-Tremayne-diaries



THE AUTHOR

James, a retired lawyer, who is a south Londoner by birth, but has lived in Canterbury in East Kent since his early thirties, started writing in his mid to late twenties but didn't publish his first novel *Ellen's Gold* until he was well into his fifties. The novel was based on the

true story of a letter that was discovered describing the burial of treasure by retreating French troops in 1813 and was a labour of love with a number of rewrites.

Since then he has gone on to publish another six novels, all but one of which have been historical in nature. The exception was *Shamila* set in Marseilles and North Africa about a love affair between two students. The girl is a Moslem but her boyfriend isn't. Her family don't approve and this has serious consequences for her. A theme running through not only this novel but also *Ellen's Gold*, and two other novels *My enemy, my love* and *Aliza, my love* has been love across racial and cultural divides.

James has German ancestry and discovering the true identity of his great-grandfather encouraged him to write the novel *I think he was George*, about a German man living in England before the First World War, who becomes a spy for the Kaiser, not just in England but also the U.S.A. Most recently James has started publishing historical whodunnits set in England in the 1650s. The first of these novels, *Ravishment*, involves an investigation into a series of rapes culminating in a murder. The second is *The Hanging Tree* and a third novel in the series, *Falling is due* to be published soon. Also, James has recently co-written a novel based on the association that the Austrian composer, Franz Lehar had with Adolf Hitler.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR JAMES WALKER

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

As I can best recall, it would be an interesting challenge. I was in my mid-twenties at the time so that's now a long time ago as I'm now seventy-one. It's been a continuing compulsion ever since.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

I have visited the last home of the novelist Virginia Woolf in East Sussex; a poignant experience as she left it one morning in 1941 to commit suicide in the nearby river Ouse. I've also gone in search of places in London that the novelist Anthony Trollope frequented.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

I'm not really aware of any unethical practices, as such, but when it comes to so-called vanity publishing there are some 'sharks' around.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Always the former so long as I write in fairly short bursts of an hour or less.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

'Show, don't tell' is the most basic advice to aspiring writers, but I've recently read a novel by an internationally acclaimed author, which largely ignores that advice. Perhaps the moral of this story is that you should only do that once you're famous enough to get away with it.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

If you're all ego but lacking in talent then you're surely in for a big fall. On the other hand, if you have talent and are prepared to put in the work, having a big ego, too, probably won't do you any harm.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

The editing and proofreading of a novel. It can be a minefield and for me is never easy.

Q: Have you ever experienced writer's block?

Fortunately, no. The ideas have always kept coming, one way or another.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

Yes, as I have a common surname. I also only have to go back a couple of generations to find some far less common ones in my family tree.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

Definitely the former although I have ventured into the realm of historical whodunnits in the knowledge they can be popular. I'm a great admirer of C.J. Sansom, the creator of the Shardlake series of novels.

Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

I think anyone who is emotionally indifferent is more than likely to struggle to write fiction. Certainly, if they don't have a strong imagination, which I would tend to equate with feeling emotions strongly, they would be bound to fail.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

Above all, writing my first book taught me that it pays to 'show, not tell.'

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

Quite a few of the former. 'The Hanging Tree' is the second in a series of at least four novels. I'm publishing the third in the series this summer and am looking to publish the fourth next year as it already exists in the draft.

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

I derive pleasure from creating novels - it's a compulsive thing just as much as writing a piece of music or painting a picture.

Q: What's the best way to market your books?

Definitely through internet sites such as Instagram.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

When I first started writing historical fiction reference books were a must. They're still important but these days a lot can be sufficiently researched online. With the Lady Tremayne novels, I first create an outline of the stories, chapter by chapter, and then research as I write.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

Flattered.

CHAPTER PREVIEW:

I had not long woken from a deep, restorative sleep. I felt a pressing desire to relieve my bladder but I was reluctant at first to leave the warmth of my bed. Six weeks had now passed since I had given birth to a son, Lucas, and apart from some nagging discomfort, I was grateful for having made a full recovery. Fortunately, my labour had not been an overly arduous one, but I was increasingly concerned that Lucas was a sickly child and might not be long for this world.



THE BLUE TATAR

BY AUTHOR L.N. GRUER

THE BLUE TATAR by L.N. Gruer is a wonderfully written and richly descriptive debut novel with brilliantly drawn characters and settings. The author weaves a well-crafted, witty, and captivating historical fiction about five modern immigrant women. As the author states, 'it's a multi-generational saga of tragedy and vengeance, love and conflict, loyalty and betrayal, and above all - chasing that elusive American dream.'



ABOUT THE BOOK

Everyone has their American dream. Just make sure yours doesn't turn into a nightmare. In this captivating historical novel, five modern immigrant women—five destinies, linked together by blood and history. From the killing fields in Ukraine to the fire-scorched Hollywood hills, from three-star Michelin restaurants to home kitchens, here comes a multi-generational saga of tragedy and vengeance, love and conflict, loyalty and betrayal, and above all - chasing that elusive American dream. Flora, a Russian zealot and spoiled housewife are married to a successful American businessman. Terrified of getting old and feeling ill at ease in her new homeland, Flora is lost and angry, looking for meaning in infidelity and plastic surgery. Oksana mistreated shopaholic desperately wanting to escape the clutches of her thug of a husband and needing the approval of her own patronizing St. Petersburg family. Naïve, romantic Oksana dreams of designing beautiful women's shoes. Does she risk too much, having faith in an improbable love?

Gentle people-pleaser Sasha is caught between a homophobic adoptive father and her American born gay son. Happily married to a hard-working Ukrainian man, Sasha worries about doing everything for everyone. Whom will she choose?

The past and present collide as these women deal with it all - caring for ageing parents, managing businesses and careers, struggling to understand their American-born children and not always ideal husbands; and never giving up on the needs of the heart.

Get your copy of 'The Blue Tatar' today, and, connect with Author L.N. Gruer today

 www.linkedin.com/dr-larisa-gruer-58324016  www.lngruer.com



THE AUTHOR

Born and raised in Odessa, Ukraine, (the former Soviet Union), Doctor Larisa N. Gruer is an internationally recognized holistic practitioner, media personality and Instagram entrepreneur. L.N Gruer is her official pen name.

Dr. Gruer is a frequent USA national podcast radio guest at iHeartRadio, Books That Make You, Dare to Dream, WKNY-AM New York, and KORE-FM, Washington. Her journey as a published author started while pursuing her advanced university studies, where she wrote award-winning essays, a Master's thesis, and a PhD dissertation.

The dissertation became her first non-fiction medical book, Beyond PB &J. How mineral deficiencies can play havoc with children's health.

'The Blue Tatar', her debut historical novel about modern immigrant women was an Amazon bestseller. The book has also been featured at the Frankfurt Book Fair, as well as in global lifestyle magazines. Only one year later, L.N completed 'Revenge of Alpha Centauri', the first instalment of a new cosy paranormal mystery series. Currently, she is busy researching and outlining the sequel to the Blue Tatar, the Red Mongol, which will further take a deep dive into the Russian-Ukrainian conflict as expressed by the trials and tribulations of her heroines.

When not looking after her patients or writing, L.N can be found at her piano, gardening, or playing baseball with her two grandchildren. Dr. Gruer lives with her husband and adorable Maltese, Pasha, in California and Texas.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR L.N. GRUER

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

I started to write a diary as soon as I learned how to write, in the first grade. Mostly, I wrote little encouragement to myself because I didn't feel safe telling anyone what I really thought.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

I don't know if I'd call it pilgrimages, just explorations of different points of view and different cultural perspectives.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

In my humble opinion, best-selling authors no longer writing but using ghostwriters' talents to promote their own brand.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

That depends on what's going on in my life. I run a full-time medical practice and have numerous family responsibilities. I would say, exhausted isn't the right word, maybe a little conflicted.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Self-criticism for one, the never-ending research without actually putting the work into writing, and self-editing that stops you from pushing forward, to the end.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

Hmm, That's a good question. Probably yes, but it's not my way.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

Oh, that one is easy: writing in my head. In a way, I'm always daydreaming about stories, dialogues, descriptions; so, nowadays, I forbid myself to write, as I call it "in the wind." I think I'm doing better.

Q: Have you ever experienced writer's block?

Never thought of it as a block. If I read something that doesn't resonate, I usually put the book down. If you mean writer's block, then no.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

Yes, I am pathologically introverted and private. But using my initials works well.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

Both. Let's be fair, who knows about the public tastes? At the end of the day, it's you and your own voice that counts. What I do try is not to bore my readers, but, I marvel at best-selling authors who can crank out dozens and dozens of "pulp" fiction. Good for them.

Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

Indeed. We have many examples of completely narcissistic, even cold-hearted personalities who wrote interesting books. I can point to F. Scott Fitzgerald, for example. You can observe as a detached player, and never really care.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

I became much more organized and productive.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

I'm working diligently to get every book to the publishers before starting another one, but yes, I do have one half-baked novel and one fully completed one in the hands of my editor.

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

Primarily, not letting what others think too close to my heart, meaning not allowing them to silence me. Always striving to get better at my craft and making a difference in my reader's lives.

Q: What's the best way to market your books?

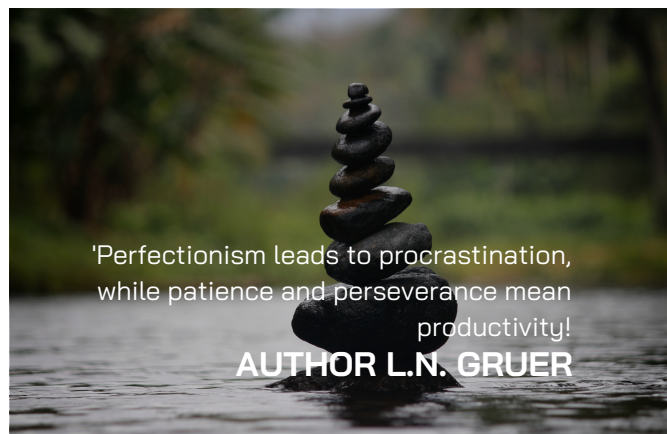
Hopefully, by word of mouth, but probably, by building a solid reputation and a body of work; i.e. becoming a brand.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

I'm a historian by formal education, so I have many tricks up my sleeve. I also love to observe and listen to people's life stories. My process is a little different: I write and research simultaneously.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

A bit surprised, but very pleased and of course grateful for the opportunity to be included in your most interesting publication.



'Perfectionism leads to procrastination, while patience and perseverance mean productivity!

AUTHOR L.N. GRUER



MY FRIEND MUGSY

BY AUTHOR NATHANIEL G. SUTTON

This book is about two young African American men, right out of high school in the early eighties! Became best friends, and their adventures in the streets of New Jersey and New York. How Mugsy would always try to prove he was connected to the Italian mafia. Even though Mugsy had a rough exterior, he had a heart of gold! It is a must-read story of true friendship bonded by a trust that grew into a brotherhood, and new enlightenment to life.

BOOK REVIEWS

A Hidden Gem! Such a great and easy read. The author has an exquisite ability to place you in the scenes while you become enthralled in each page and chapter. I was able to finish this in one sitting and am definitely looking forward to seeing more from this author. Highly recommend! - Shady Garden

A great read. This book was a great read about a good friend that I knew to have someone touch your heart so much that you write a book about them is nothing but love and the author (Nathaniel Sutton) has been touched by God to write a book like this God bless you, my brother. - Kevin J martin



Interesting Philosophical Read. The book reads like a series of parables. A philosophical approach to teach the reader life lessons through the author's personal experiences with the main character. You are taken into unexpected areas of New Jersey and schooled in street survival, friendship, death and family. - Richard G Christie

I like the book all the reading was put in knowledge of a good friend Mugsy and I hope there are other books to come. Good job WAYNE. - Thomas Byers

This story has a heart. It is told in such a way that it makes you feel like you really know the subject personally. There are many anecdotes to make you smile and wisdom acquired from a lifetime to ponder. An enjoyable read. - Bernadette

If you grew up in a city you can relate to, if not you will have a better sense of the experience. This book is difficult to STOP reading, each adventure pulls you in. Loved it. - Peg

Get your copy of 'My Friend Mugsy', and, connect with Author Nathaniel Gawayne Sutton

 www.facebook.com/nathaniel.g.sutton  60211449-my-friend-mugsy



THE AUTHOR

One day Gawayne asked God what is his purpose was in life? The next morning, he woke up hearing this voice and words, there is no such thing as the past, and there is such thing as the future. There is only now, and right now, "you are one of the world's

talented artist and writer", So Gawayne started painting because he felt he was too young to have anything of importance to write about. However, as his life moved on, he met amazing people along the way that really forced him to share the experience they had with the world. After Gawayne's best friend passed away, he was hurt. He knew the best way to honour his friend was to write about him, their friendship, and their adventures. After he wrote the book "My Friend Mugsy" and published it, it was such a heavyweight lifted off Gawayne to share all the good times with the world was amazing.

He also wrote about his German Shepherd dog Charlie, who was a show dog and his best friend. "The Adventures of Charles in Charge." is a book about a family of German Shepherd dogs that lives in the woods.

When Gawayne's father passed away, he was so hurt he wanted to honour his father by writing something about him. The most memorable and valuable thing his father ever taught him was how to attract women. He wrote "How to Pick up Any Girl in 13 Steps" to honour his father and shared that with the world. Gawayne says, "the process works for both men and women."

Gawayne hopes his Art and Books will continue to be enjoyed for many years to come.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR NATHANIEL G. SUTTON

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

I knew that I was always going to be a writer for the rest of my life. After I got a calling from God that's when I knew what I was, and I was supposed to dedicate the rest of my life to painting and writing.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

When I go to my sanctuary the cabin upstate New York. It helps me the spirit of the person whom I am writing about comes through me and onto the paper.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

When you do not feel that the sales of your book and the royalty matches up.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Writing energizes me, mind body and soul.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

They believe they must write a 20,000-word book before they are considered a real author not knowing that low content books will do just fine.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

I feel that you must have a somewhat big ego just to have someone pick up a book that you wrote. An ego can hurt a writer if he/she writes about a subject that they or did not do their research on or have any knowledge of the subject.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

My honey does list is my Kryptonite.

Q: Have you ever experienced writer's block?

I never think about writers' block and whenever I think of a subject to write about the fires lit.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

No, I have nothing to hide.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I prefer to be original, but my goal is to report exactly how it happened and hope that they feel the experience the way that I did.

Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

Not at all, because if you don't feel emotions what are you really giving the reader.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

I knew in the future, that I must leave the reader with something of value to walk away with.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

I have authored five published books and currently, I only have one book unpublished and is a work in progress and it's a real spiritual journey.

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

Being on Amazon's Best Sellers list, New Times Best seller list and a minimum of one million copies sold.

Q: What's the best way to market your books?

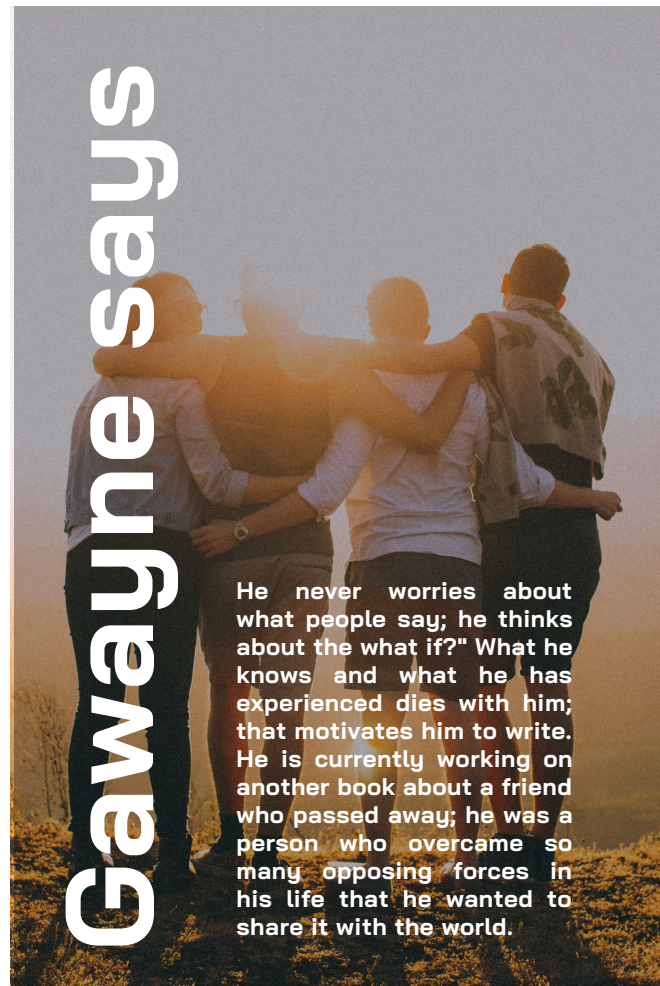
On-Line, social media, word of mouth.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

I reach out to people that may have known the individual via social media, phone, or emails to get their stories and see how they viewed the person from their prospective. This can take me a few months to gather the information.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

I will be honored to have my books listed in De Mode Magazine to reach a wider an audience globally.



Gawayne says

He never worries about what people say; he thinks about the what if?" What he knows and what he has experienced dies with him; that motivates him to write. He is currently working on another book about a friend who passed away; he was a person who overcame so many opposing forces in his life that he wanted to share it with the world.



THE PASSAGE OF CONQUEST

BY AUTHOR T. D. KUCHEL

During an evening, promising adventure aboard a galleon, 18-year-old Giselle is marooned on a tropical island. As she begins to uncover remnants of an ancient civilisation, she learns that she has travelled to a parallel world and that the island was veiled four hundred years ago to prevent an ancient evil from escaping. As the mystery of the islands history unfolds, Giselle is drawn into a desperate quest for a key that will enable safe passage home aboard the galleon.

ABOUT THE BOOK

In the year 1959, eighteen-year-old Giselle joins her uncle's sixtieth birthday celebration aboard his new sailing ship, which he discovered unmanned in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Found on board was a strange artefact that is accidentally activated during the night, sending the ship into a violent storm. From the lifeboat, Giselle, and her uncle's first mate, Nickolas watch the ship go down before landing on a deserted beach.

As they begin to uncover remnants of an ancient civilisation, they learn that they have travelled to a parallel world and that the island was veiled four hundred years ago to prevent an ancient evil from escaping.

As the mystery of the island's history unfolds, Giselle is drawn into a desperate quest for a key that will enable safe passage home aboard the galleon before it is used to unleash death and destruction throughout time and space.

This is the tale of a strong, independent woman who just did not know it yet. Flickering with drama, romance and suspense, this powerful, unique tale will be highly enjoyed by readers of all age.

BOOK REVIEWS

If the TV series 'LOST' floated your boat (novel-related pun intended) you are going to love The Passage of Conquest! With parallel worlds, time switches, weird beasts and mysterious happenings, the compulsive-viewing vibe of LOST is faithfully recreated between the gorgeous covers of this novel. - **Leonie Kelsall (Best-selling Australian Author).**

Get your copy of 'The Passage of Conquest', and, connect with Author T. D. Kuchel

 58507862-the-passage-of-conquest  www.tdkuchel.com



THE AUTHOR

Though a keen interest in writing had been present at a young age, T. D. Kuchel proclaims that, The Passage of Conquest did not come from the intention to produce a novel. Instead, it is the product of a moment's inspiration.

With the former passion latent in mind, T. D. Kuchel boarded a plane for Hamilton Island in April 2010 with his girlfriend of four months and an engagement ring in his pocket. The following evening, whilst sailing through the Whitsunday Islands during sunset, he gazed deeply into the swirl below and found himself imagining - "What if somebody fell off the yacht into one of the whirlpools and it transport them to another world ...?"

This was not a common practice for Kuchel. However, he had been reading more than usual and had been struggling to find a book of interest. Unintentionally, he began compiling mental notes of what he desired to read. As the week developed, T. D. Kuchel and his fiancé hiked and sailed every conceivable location in the Whitsundays. Upon returning home, Kuchel's mind was stimulated with an accumulating plot. "To be inspired to write again was empowering," he says. "I feel I truly found myself and whom I once aspired to be. As children we dream and should be encouraged to dream. As an adult, I have found that happiness lies in realising our childhood dreams."

As the week developed, T. D. Kuchel and his fiancé hiked and sailed every conceivable location in the Whitsundays. Upon returning home, Kuchel's mind was stimulated with an accumulating plot. "To be inspired to write again was empowering," he says.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR T. D. KUCHEL

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

My first thought of this book came in 2010, at a time when I had not thought about writing for many years. At the stern of a yacht, I caught sight of a large whirlpool in the ocean that made me wonder, "What if someone fell in there, and it sent them somewhere." It was enough to re-ignite my dream of becoming a writer.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

I have a keen interest in experiencing the setting I write first-hand. Though I acquired a great deal of inspiration from the Whitsundays during the week that followed the evening aboard the yacht, I have returned three times during the writing process. To broaden my writing abilities and experience a wider range of settings, I have also travelled to New Zealand, Britain, Italy and Iceland. I have taken inspiration for all three of these books from all of these locations.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

I'm not actually sure, perhaps I might be able to answer that further along in my experiences as an author.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Writing definitely energizes me. Especially when I'm writing down my ideas in the book for the first time. It's just like reading or watching a great story unfold, except it's better because I'm in charge. It's very exciting.

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

In my opinion, it's getting too bogged down in what the industry wants. I believe the best creativity comes from a story that is not forced, but one that a writer has there bursting to be told.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

Time! Especially time that I can set aside for writing. As this is my first published book, I still have many other jobs and responsibilities that I must work around.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

No, I never considered that. However, I do write under my initials rather than my full name.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I strive to write the story that I personally want to read. Although I find that stories can begin to tell themselves once started, at every turn or chapter I ask myself, "How would I want this to go if I was reading this?"

Q: Have you ever experienced writers block?

Fortunately, I have not. Perhaps because I have had my entire story in my head and scribbled into notebooks from the beginning.

Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

I believe anyone is capable of writing something. There are so many topics of interest and everyone has experiences. Everybody matters and everyone has something to tell if they want to.

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

I used to write one chapter and edit that before moving on. Because of that, *The Passage of Conquest* took a long time to write. When I wrote book two, I just wrote it all before going back to edit. That's the way I've found works best for me now.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

I have written short stories in the past, but this series of books are the only books I have completed. *The Passage of Conquest* is the first and the only one published so far.

Q: What's the best way to market your books?

I am doing everything I can to tell the world about my book. Going forward, online events through Instagram will be a regular thing for me. I'm also doing more physical events around Australia and even a New Zealand Tour.

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

Literary success for me has two levels. The first being, having my book read and enjoyed by readers. The second would be, having it become so popular that I would be able to write for a living and give readers my stories far more often.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

I did a lot of travel for research when I was establishing the plot for *The Passage of Conquest* trilogy. But when I sat down to write it all down, I certainly did a lot of research on the way things work and to make sure all details related to reality were correct. My cousin is a ship captain and his fiancé has sailed galleons and captained tall ships, so I had many discussions with them.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

I'm always interested in, *The Passage of Conquest* being discovered by new readers. I hope *The Passage of Conquest* will find its way into the hand of your readers and they enjoy it. Also, what an honour to be featured by an international magazine.

VICTORIAN GOTHIC (VOL.1)

BY AUTHOR D. R. MILLER



It is December 1888. Jack the Ripper has not killed for over a month and London is beginning to relax as Christmas approaches. When Katherine cuts herself on a strange book at a dinner party, she quickly falls ill. As Katherine dies, she gives birth to something nightmarish. Something which should not exist. Something which spurs Richard to embark on a terrifying journey of discovery as he chases the answer to one question: who or what killed his wife?

ABOUT THE BOOK


This remarkable story came to light when an assortment of letters, diary entries, clippings and accompanying paraphernalia were discovered in an attic many years after the events they speak of. The papers tell an extraordinary tale of courage, love, and nightmares, painstakingly pieced together by the enigmatic person who discovered them.

The story begins at a Christmas soiree held by Lord and Lady Bamfry in December 1888. Lord Bamfry hosts the party for professors of University College London every year and among the attendees are Richard Kramer and his good friend Charlie Bent. But during the proceedings, Katherine Kramer falls ill after cutting herself on a strange book. Over the next few weeks, Richard and Charlie try to save her, but her symptoms are so strange, so alarming, that their combined medical knowledge proves to be of little help. Poor Katherine dies giving birth to something horrific and unnatural.

Richard's brother-in-law, the reverend Robert Morris, recognises the strange book and warns of the dangers that come with it. He recommends consultation with the enigmatic Dr William Westcott, a police coroner and co-founder of the secret society The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. Richard, Charlie and Constance are plunged deep into an underground world of witchcraft.

Is the sinister Dr Westcott really the man he appears to be? What do these events have to do with the secret hidden in Richard's ancestry? Is there time to discover the cause of Constance's illness before it engulfs her?

Get your copy of 'Victorian Gothic Volume 1: The Uncanny Death of Katherine Kramer', and, connect with Author D.R. Miller

 [facebook.com/victoriangothicauthor/](https://www.facebook.com/victoriangothicauthor/)

 www.drmillerauthor.co.uk



THE AUTHOR

D. R. Miller has been writing since the age of five, when he would open the story book at school to the underwater page and write about divers, sharks, submarines and octopi. The rest of his school career really went by in a blur. They were not enjoyable days and he

dropped out of university after only a year. From a writer's point of view, he would say those days did introduce him to one of his all-time favourite novels though: *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Can anyone argue that Atticus Finch is not one of the greatest characters in literary history?

He became much more serious about writing many years later after his first marriage ended. Some friends wanted to make a short film for their Halloween party and he agreed to write it. The story was called *13 Minutes To Midnight* and was essentially a 10-minute house invasion horror with a twist at the end.

He was soon writing for himself. Fantasy had always attracted him, especially being a big fan of pulp novelists like Robert E. Howard. Over a few years, he had created a new fantasy world discovered in several stories about two siblings: Strom and Brasa. He took inspiration from the likes of Edgar Allan Poe when writing poetry and drew on his love of H. P. Lovecraft, Bram Stoker, Dennis Wheatley and Robert Louis Stevenson when writing horror.

Victorian Gothic came about as a similar short story. When he asked his wife if she would like to know what happens next, she said "absolutely, yes!" and the world of *Victorian Gothic* was born.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR D. R. MILLER

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

That it was just a hobby, to get some ideas out of my head. That was back in, oh, 2005 maybe? I was writing short stories to script into Halloween films and some pulp fantasy about a pair of siblings where each story helped to build a whole, unique world around them.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

Hay-on-Wye is my literary home. I am back there at the end of May for the annual literary festival.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

I am self-published, so probably not in the best position to answer that. Although one agent did say to me they liked my book and would consider it if I rewrote it for the young adult market. That got me wondering how many authors out there have sacrificed their true vision out of desperation to be published at any cost.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

It energises me, to the point where I have so much going on in my head that I wake up in the middle of the night constructing plot, scene details, easter eggs, points to research... It's safe to say I do not sleep very well when I am deep into the writing process!

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Oh, there are so many. For me, the biggest trap was self-doubt where I was asking myself all the time whether the story, the writing, and the characters were good enough. That was hard to overcome with the first book, but the feedback since then has really given me the confidence to trust in my own storytelling ability.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

Distractions. When I write, I immerse myself completely within the scene, so if the radio or TV is on or someone interrupts me, it throws me completely.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

I think it depends on the publishing route. I don't see myself as having a big ego, but I think I would have needed one for traditional publishing. I did still feel awkward signing books. I think of it as having to dress up in my persona as an author, rather than being just regular old me.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

Absolutely, yes! In the end, I thought it would be too confusing. I used initials instead as a comfort blanket, to protect myself a little bit.

Q: Do you try more to be original or to**deliver to readers what they want?**

I try just to be me, so I guess the answer to that one is that I lean towards being original without consciously trying to be original. I would like to think that the stories are what they need to be, not what readers necessarily want them to be. Nobody has predicted where Victorian Gothic is going to go yet!

Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

That's a good question. I think the skill is in the writing, so I think that person could still write a book and find an audience for it. A book from a killer's perspective, perhaps? It has been done before, but who is to say that person can't bring something fresh to the idea?

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

Writing in a historical period taught me to do my research first. Victorian Gothic Volume 1 started as a short story, and then grew into something bigger. I needed to be able to stand in a Victorian street and experience the world around me: the smells, sounds, sights, and colours. Since then, I have always done research before starting to type.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

I have just finished the first draft of volume 3 which will close out the Victorian Gothic trilogy. That will hopefully be published later this year. I have an anthology of horror shorts, also the fantasy anthology for that sibling duo I mentioned earlier. Besides those, I have a few ideas for growing the Victorian Gothic universe too.

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

When I started, just the publishing of Victorian Gothic Volume 1 was a success for me.

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

Volume 1 had at least a year of research. I looked at maps from 1889, medicine, fashions, funerals, railways, the world of esotericism... The pile of books was waist height, and I'm 6 foot 3! Plus visits to locations... Every detail needs to be studied so the story can fit seamlessly around the history. It's an exhausting, never-ending job!

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

It is the absolute highlight of my journey as an author. It is truly humbling to know that my books are being picked up and enjoyed to such an extent that they have come to the attention of a magazine like DE MODE. Thank you!



THE SECRET LIFE OF MARY WHITE

BY AUTHOR LENAYE MARSTEN



Inspired by a true story from the 17th century Piscataqua region of New England. Young Mary White must walk a fine line between her healing craft and the deadly intolerance of the fearful and ignorant. From natural magic and alchemy to ancient wisdom and folklore, she must transcend the consequences of her gift in order to survive and help others with her crucial healing talents. A story of triumph and tragedy and the transmutation of darkness into light.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Inspired by a true story from 17th century New England, "The Secret Life of Mary White" follows a young girl who has inherited her grandmother's gift for healing. She must tread carefully as this rare and misunderstood intuitive ability is seen by the ignorant in the town as linking her to witchcraft and magic and could send her to the gallows. Mary is a practitioner of physick, or an herb woman. In a world rife with suspicion and fear, she must learn to cope with the hatred and intolerance of the masses, enduring formidable odds, triumph, heartbreak, violence, and tragedy. Despite all her efforts, with her life hanging in the balance, only when her nemesis can no longer conceal his own shortcomings does she have a chance. But for how long? The story takes the reader into Mary's inner world as the events of her life unfold. She has a special connection with all of nature, plants and animals, that defies most people's mindset. It transports the reader into an expanded awareness of the interconnectedness of all of life and illustrates the consciousness that flows through all physicality. And in another crucial scene, during Mary's darkest hour, she discovers true alchemy and healing grace that allows her to pick up the pieces of her life and carry on.

Themes of familial ties, friendship, love, compassion, grief, mortality, courage, resistance and survival fill the narrative. The work is also full of traditional herbal healing remedies and is historically accurate. Most of the characters were real people, albeit re-imagined. This debut novel will transport you back to the 17th century.

Get your copy of 'The Secret Life of Mary White', and, connect with Author Lenaye Marsten

 www.newearthmessages.com  www.lenayemarsten.com



THE AUTHOR

Marsten says her journey began with being read to daily as a small child and subsequently diving into books. Transported into literary worlds that both developed her imagination and became a fertile refuge that could sweeten life immeasurably. Her father was an ivy league

poet and fiction writer and she held him on a pedestal. "Writing was his world," Marsten states, "so I went to school for Fine Art." Still, her enjoyment of painting in words was always there.

In her early 40's, the inspiration struck for her first novel. The first two pages of her book, Marsten says, are autobiographical. The novel's "hook" was her hook and is actually how it all unfolded. "It truly became my passion to tell Mary's story. To sleuth out the truth by researching every which way imaginable. I sensed it was one of the things that I had agreed to do before I was even born. It went deep."

She spent the next seven years recreating Mary's story. "Sometimes I felt like I had one foot in the here and now and my other in the 17th century. It was pretty wild; you begin to question reality." She put her manuscript down at times, edited it voraciously, joined a local writers group, took a creative writing class at the University of New England through their Women Writer's program, and finally enrolled in an online class with the UK based Curtis Brown Creative to ready her story for publication. Sadly, her book was published long after her father's death, but Marsten says her father had read an early 500-page version and was always supportive and encouraging with her endeavor.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR LENAYE MARSTEN

Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?

Well, it wasn't as much of a thought as it was a totally giddy, blissed-out liftoff of a feeling! When I actually let the dam of resistance break and poured out a confluence of exposition on Mary White, scrawled on a notepad while sitting in my car in a supermarket parking lot. It had been building for months and I finally just let it come through.

Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

In physical life, exploring Sarah Orne Jewett's "Country of the Pointed Firs" here in the state of Maine. Another was channelling Dorothy Wordsworth in the English Lake District, who was her brother William's "eyes." I sat in her garden as an 8-year-old and felt she was there with me. One of the most special was getting a "turn" also as a child with my two sisters at each being shut alone inside CS Lewis's original wardrobe. It is part of the collection at Wheaton College in Illinois.

Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?

Pillaging an author's royalties with every click of a mouse.

Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?

Writing transports and energizes me. I absolutely cannot cook and write at the same time :/

Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?

Trusting other people's opinions when your heart will guide you perfectly.

Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?

Has a big ego ever helped anyone? I think not.

Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?

If what I have to share doesn't rock my soul, it won't rock yours.

Q: Have you ever experienced writer's block?

Ha! This is really part 2 of question #7: maybe my soul has as I'm waiting to be inspired.

Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?

I suppose I already do write under a pseudonym, as 'Lenaye' is the only part of my name on my birth certificate that I still have. Lenaye, after the botanist Linnaeus's flower, and Marsten, means "flower of the earth." I'll take it :)

Q: Do you try more to be original or to deliver to readers what they want?

I follow my own inner muse . . .

Q: Do you think someone could be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?

I think this question is quite interesting. They could certainly write from their heads but upon imagining this, no feeling to the thought would be pretty dry and boring, yes?

Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?

I am much more relaxed about it. I know how I am personally most comfortable creating now.

Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

There's another book that I have begun, but I feel that it may have something to do with another book that has yet to inspire me.

Q: What does literary success look like to you?

Literary success is publishing a book that people really enjoy reading and selling many of them.

Q: What's the best way to market your books?

Unfortunately those costly clicks but perhaps articles in magazines will surprise me!

Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

Research of all kinds I have used—psychics, past life regression, historical societies and museums, records, documents, books, canoeing the waterways and bushwacking. While writing this book I never stopped researching, I absolutely love to do it. You never know what you'll discover and it helps my creative process.

Q: How do you feel about your book being listed by DE MODE?

Elated—DE MODE Magazine is great fun!



In the seventeenth century the Piscataqua region was occupied by a small number of scattered settlements bound together by family and business connections.



Pre-Columbian, Art of Costa Rica

Barakat Gallery

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This beautiful sculpture represents the beauty of female fertility. This artifact most likely played an important role during fertility rituals. She may represent the ancestor of a member from the tribe. This particular figure is profound in its seductive and womanly design. The beauty of this sculpture is the way she is positioned. She is seated so that her anatomy is displayed. She has highly accentuated thighs and small stubs as feet. Her arms are long and narrow and loop round so that her hands rest on the upper thighs. Dark black lines highlight the breasts and each breast contains a hole that creates the effect of erectness. Her jaw is jutting forward possibly due to the pain that childbirth inspires. The eyebrows and nose give the face a peaceful countenance. This work of art is covered in geometrical tribal tattooing in red, orange and black. This female effigy embodies the essence of womanhood and fertility. She is a symbol of the grace and poise that is attained with becoming a woman. The Ancient Costa Ricans placed a great deal of energy creating fertility effigy vessels as a respectful gesture to emphasize the important role it played in their culture.



Nicholas Crombach

Oeno Gallery
Bloomfield

Recalling the costumed makeup of a sad clown, color is strategically introduced by the artist to highlight the subtle emotion of the figure's expression.

Nicholas Crombach (b.1989, Kingston, ON) graduated from OCAD University's Sculpture and Installation program in 2012 winning the Faculty Award, the Samuel Lazar Kagan Award, and the Hayden Davies Memorial Award. Working in a variety of cast media including bronze and resin, Crombach explores the complex relationship between animals and humans. His thought-provoking work is imbued with wry humor.

Crombach was a recipient of the Abraham and Malka Green award, a BMO 1st Art Nomination as well as grants from Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation and the Ontario Arts Council. He was the 2016-17 artist in residence at The Florence Trust in London, UK. Crombach has completed public art commissions notably Billy, Nanny, and the Kids for Appleby Village Mall in Burlington, Ontario and he has exhibited widely in Canada, Spain, and England. His work is held in private, corporate, and public collections including the Museu Europeu d'Art Modern in Barcelona and First Capital Realty in Toronto.

A photograph of two women kissing. The woman on the left has short dark hair and is wearing a white top. The woman on the right has long brown hair and is wearing a white shirt. In the background, a rainbow flag is visible, with the yellow, orange, and red stripes being most prominent. The text 'STOP HATE' is overlaid in large yellow letters.

STOP HATE

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