

Books Shelf

"So Many Books, So little Time"

April/May/June
Issue III

Exclusive
INTERVIEWS

Engaging
SHORT STORIES

Meet Amazing
AUTHORS

*"One benefit of summer
was that each day we had
more light to read by!"*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

You want it - we got it

Meet Andrew Pacholyk

3 - 4

Power of Positive Thinking

5 - 6

Meet Kim Carter

7 - 8

Exclusive interview with Kim Carter

9 - 10

Meet Carole Ann Moleti

11 - 12

Meet E.C. Land

13 - 14

Exclusive interview with E.C. Land

15 - 16



Meet Rick Bleiweiss

17 - 18

Exclusive Interview with Rick Bleiweiss

19 - 20

Love Stinks But Life is Worse

21 - 22

Meet author Helena P. Schrader

23 - 24

Meet author Timothy J. Lockhart

25 - 26

Meet author Katy Munger

27 - 28

Meet author Linnea Tanner

29 - 30

Meet author Joseph Gergen

31 - 32

Meet author Kelly Shade

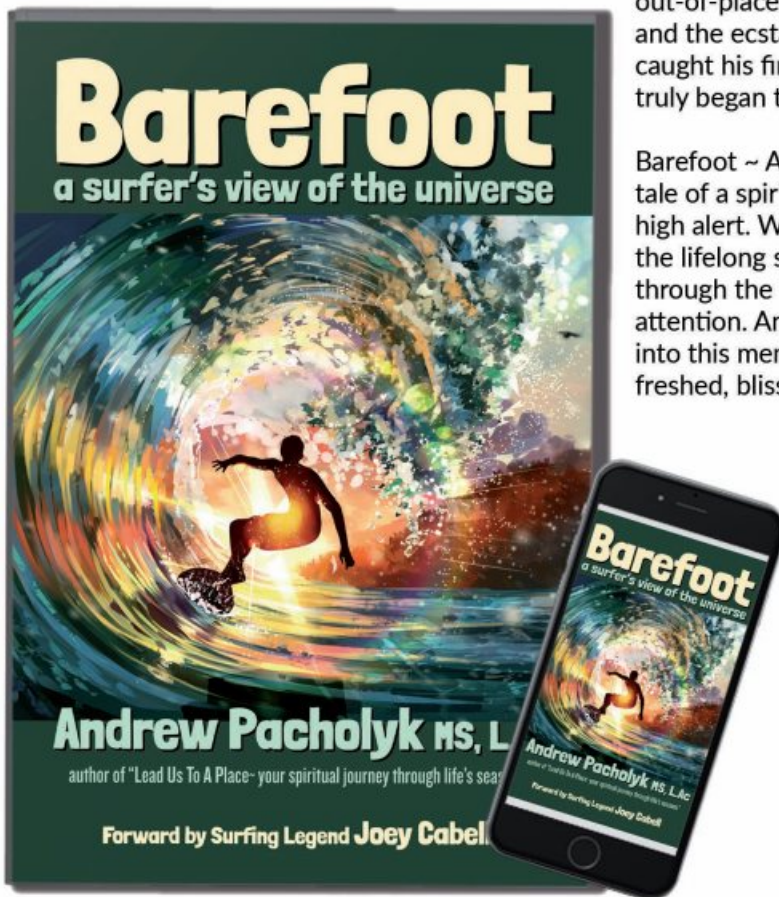
33 - 34

BAREFOOT

- A SURFER'S VIEW OF THE UNIVERSE

by Andrew Pacholyk

Ready to feel the beating heart of existence? Kick-off your shoes and discover the ultimate way to navigate uncharted waters. If you like powerful observational wisdom, thought-provoking revelations, and the gift of learning from each moment, then you'll love Andrew Pacholyk's breathtaking story of his pilgrimage through time.



Andrew Pacholyk was a gawky kid with big ideas. Awkward and out-of-place as a teen, he relished the moment he discovered dancing and the ecstasy of the rhythm of his body. But it wasn't until he caught his first wave on the wide-open ocean that this nature-lover truly began to comprehend the vast balance on tap in the cosmos.

Barefoot ~ A Surfer's View of the Universe is the unvarnished true tale of a spirited man's life with sand between his toes and senses on high alert. With stunning lessons of solace and eye-opening insights, the lifelong surfer, professional dancer, and acupuncturist's journey through the blue serve as an everyday account of the power of paying attention. And with talented storytelling and vivid prose, diving deep into this memoir-like search for meaning will leave you feeling refreshed, blissfully connected, and transformed.

In Barefoot ~ A Surfer's View of the Universe, you'll appreciate:

- The practice of accepting who you are and embracing what you find
- How daily discipline and awareness build courage and confidence
- Tips for helping your fellow humans in this grand struggle called life
- Techniques to cope through connecting with the body and soul
- The magic and genius of nature, and much, much more!

Barefoot ~ A Surfer's View of the Universe is a doorway to resetting the self. If you like powerful observational wisdom, thought-provoking revelations, and the gift of learning from each moment, then you'll love Andrew Pacholyk's breathtaking story of his pilgrimage through time.

Buy Barefoot ~ A Surfer's View of the Universe to ride the waves of perception today!

Andrew Pacholyk

Andrew Pacholyk is an American dancer/choreographer, director, and producer. His transition to a second career with a Master's and Doctoral degree as a licensed acupuncturist and healer seemed like an unlikely path. But his love for surfing and the sea was the catalyst that helped with his transformation.

Through life lessons of courage, conviction, and dedication, learned through the joys of surfing, Andrew's ability to see beyond the horizon gave him the curiosity to seek out more.

Andrew is the author of *Lead Us To A Place ~ your spiritual journey through life's seasons*, and the International Best Selling author of *The Crystal Light Crystal Therapy Course* and his popular *Chakracology Course*.

As an educator, he has taught and certified over 100,000 students worldwide in these specific healing techniques. His articles on spirituality, health, and wellness have been published all over the world in 30 languages.

Peacefulmind.com is the culmination of his 25 years in the metaphysical and healing arena.

Surfing has been his life-long love and passion taking him all over the world in search of the perfect wave.



POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING

A Short Story By Andrew Pacholyk

The sun breached the horizon spilling liquid gold across the early morning canopy of palms. I was made aware of the symphony of paraquats hidden away in the banyan trees screeching their discord over who was to eat first. I could hear the repetitive rolling of the waves just beyond the trees. The brisk breeze brought the relaxing sound to my ears telling me that the waves were going to be great this morning. We stopped to wax our boards under a brooding mango tree.

Big Steena bent down and picked up a large juicy mango. "Oh look," he said, "breakfast!" He quickly whipped out a pocket knife and proceeded to separate the beautiful yellow-orange skin from its meat. He handed me the sweet golden fruit. "Chupa," he said. "Chupa, chupa."

I looked at him, half asleep. He picked up another mango, peeled off the skin, and put one end into his mouth. He made a slurping noise as he pulled the dense meat off the pit with his teeth.

"Awwwww, chupa," I said. I quickly followed suit enjoying every bit of the mango's pulpy goodness.

We walked to a spot that Big Steena thought would be good for my skill set and there they were. An entire pod of wave worshippers perched off the coast on dawn patrol. You could hear the laughs and the ribbing going on between them as the air carried their howls to the shore. A couple heads turned to notice us. Probably wondering where we were going to park.

Big Steena leaned into me and said, "come on, let's wander." Which meant, let's go down the beach a little further to find our own waves.

I suddenly felt an uncomfortable feeling under my heel. I bent down and picked up a very small, smooth stone that had a little barnacle protruding from its face. "Let me see that?" Big Steena gestured. I tossed him the stone as he carefully observed it. He rolled it over in his hand several times. "It's a gratitude stone," he said tossing it back to me. "Keep it in your pocket. When you reach in there to get some change, you will always remember to be grateful."

"A gratitude stone?" I smiled. "I will remember that."

"Whenever you touch the stone, tell the stone and essentially the Universe something you are grateful for. It's a powerful and affective way to bring gratitude, humility, and positive thought into your life."

On the South end of town was Kammies, one of Lahaina's reef breaks. We paddled out to the soft shoulder. The waves were coming in at a strong, but even pace with the off shore reef adding to their size. It took me a couple of waves to get my bearings as I felt more and more comfortable with the right-handed waves that were pushing in. "Keep in that Magic Zone and you can't go wrong," Big Steena would remind me.

We surfed with a few of the locals who came over to greet Big Steena. "I knew these guys since they were little delinquents. Their parents turned them over to me as a path to rehabilitation after they got out of juvey," Big Steena confided.

These guys were a little older than me. They cautiously looked me up and down to deduce if I was worthy of a nod. Even though we were surfing together, they kept that silent courtesy wall up between us, nodding occasionally when they seemed to approve of something I did.



"Me hoa says the harbor is really firing today," I overheard one of the local guys telling Big Steena. He answered as if he understood.

"Well Golden Boy, Taavi says his friend thinks that the harbor has good waves today," Big Steena translated for me, once he saw the confusion on my face. "Come on, let's hit the harbor."

He was right. Kahului harbor was Maui's premier surf spot on the island's North central coast. Known for its deep-water channel and reef break, this wide-open surf spot was full of locals and one of the most popular for tourist as well. After half a day in the harbor, we moved over to the West side. It is here that large swells crossed through the wide harbor entrance and often combined with swells bouncing of the jetty. We were joined by Bill and JackO. The wind had shifted and was now coming in from the South. The waves started increasing in size exponentially with swells coming in from the Northeast

"Just in time for the big ones," Steena gestured to the boys joining us. We sat out back, experiencing the increasing size of the ground swells. The waves were now towering and plunging into the sea. Because of the swell size combined with the steeper sloping shore, the waves were now cresting and creating perfect curls. The crowd of surfers in the water had increased. The water had changed.

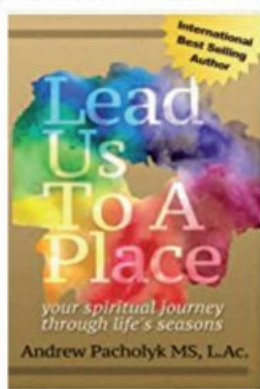
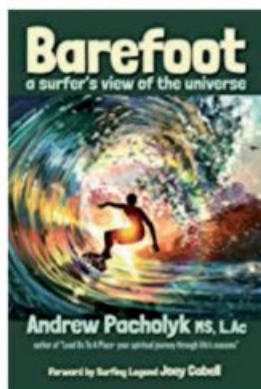
You always remember your first big ride. It was my turn. I was up. This was not a wave. It was the power of chaos. It was a meticulous balance of beauty and temptation coercing you into its majestic folds, all the while testing you to see just how familiar you wished to become.

This was not a wave, but a bone breaking, board crushing steam roller that only gave up its power once sea collided with land. This was not a wave, but a fine crafted sculpture of liquid mass, magnetically pulled towards you and you to it.

"Take the risk," I told myself! "Even if I fail, I can get back up and try again." I was too far into my comfort zone and it was time to make a move. If I didn't put myself out there, I'd still be standing in the same place. Here it was, the right wave. Can't think about it, "go, go, go." I swallowed the big ball of saliva amassing in my throat. Three strokes and I was up. "Just relax," I told myself, "It's only water."

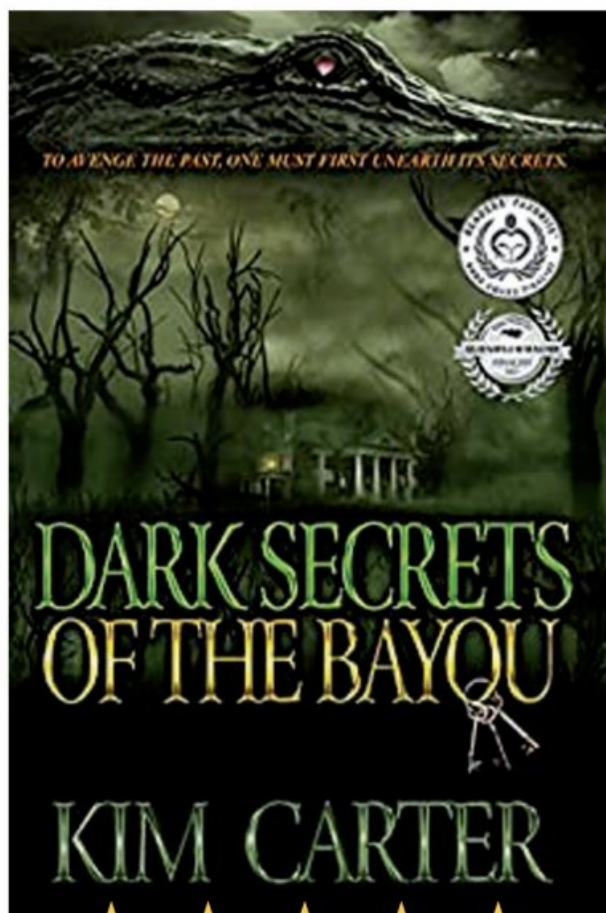
In a split second as, the water continued to roll over me, I would catch glimpses of sun spraying through the barrel, illuminating the curl with a prism of color. My heart was pumping with the possibility that I was actually doing this. My laser focus was steady, staring directly over the nose of my board with the beach to my left and the towering wall of water to my right. I felt confident in my actions, as if I had done this a hundred times before. I sensed the water escorting me through the tunnel as I reached the end of the curl. The wave would christen me with one final spray as it closed down behind me. I stepped off my board into the now shallow water, grinning from ear to ear. I suddenly remembered the little stone in my pocket. I reached in and touched my gratitude stone. I offered a quiet thank you. Exhilarated, I could only try to calm my rampant breathing as I recognized the accomplishment of a surfer's ultimate dream!

Books by Andrew Pacholyk



Dark Secrets of the Bayou

by Kim Carter



"Tink is a fascinating character. I loved her from the beginning. The history part was intriguing, I liked that the author shows what was in the past and then turned to modern time. I was on edge many times, I was puzzled on another and was cheering for Tink though out all of the book. The author definitely knows how to write thrilling and suspenseful mysteries, she surely kept me glued to the page. With this said, I think it's obvious why I'm rating this book with five stars and of course, I recommend it to all fans of the genre. I loved it."

Could a concealed crime from the 1800s, or the family's estate itself, harbor keys to unlocking the past?

Catherine "Tink" Mabry, an up-and-coming attorney, is shocked by her recent inheritance from her estranged family on the bayou. After her mother died during childbirth, Tink's father had quickly relocated them to the big city of Atlanta, Georgia.

With no memory of her mother, she is determined to learn more about her lineage and decides to visit the bayou town of Kane, Louisiana. Candace, Tink's co-worker, and best friend agrees to make the trip with her.

Before she has time to explore her family's history or decide what to do with the declining property, local murders plague Tink's homecoming. She quickly finds herself caught in the middle of a multiple murder investigation—and quite possibly, the prime suspect. When Candace retreats back to Atlanta, Tink finds support among an unlikely cast of characters and sets out to discover clues that have haunted and tormented her family for generations.

Could a concealed crime from the 1800s, or the family's estate itself, harbor keys to unlocking the past? The more they learn, the more they question whether some secrets are best left buried.



KIM CARTER

Kim Carter is a multi-award-winning author and critically acclaimed writer of gripping suspense, chilling thrillers, and haunting historical mysteries.

Ms. Carter is widely known for her vibrant characters in her Clara and Iris Mystery series, a couple of overly curious widows who turn into private investigators. These funny women were inspired by Kim's mother and her mom's best friend. Book one of this series, *Murder Among The Tombstones*, was chosen Finalist for the 2018 Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award and a recipient of the 2017 TCK Publishers' Readers' Choice Award.

Ms. Carter's Mysteries and literary works include; *Sweet Dreams*, *Baby Belle*, *When Dawn Never Comes*, *Deadly Odds* (chosen Editor's Pick in *Books Shelf Magazine* in 2022), *No Second Chances*, *'And The Forecast Called For Rain,'* and her newest mystery *Dark Secrets of the Bayou*. "Bayou" has been awarded a Reader's Favorite Editorial 5-Star Review, also chosen #1 Finalist for Best Historical Mystery from Reader's Favorite 2021 book awards, and was awarded a 2021 Killer Nashville Finalist for The Silver Falchion Awards. In 2022 "Bayou" was chosen by The Author Shout Book Awards as a Recommended Read.

All Kim's novels can be purchased online at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, BAM, and Indie Bound. Kim's writing career started after she suffered an illness that made her housebound for a couple of years. An avid reader of mystery novels herself, she embarked on writing to fill her time. Kim's health struggles and successes have been chronicled on *The Lifetime Television* in early 2000, *The Atlanta-Journal Constitution*, *Women's Day Magazine*, and *Guidepost*.

Now, with seven acclaimed mystery titles to her credit, Kim worked in many different capacities in county government. Still, it was ultimately her job as a correctional officer that offered her opportunities to talk and interact with a diverse group of people. Her experiences run the gamete of inspiring success stories to tragic endings as she writes within her mysteries.

Kim began networking and made connections with numerous homicide detectives, medical examiners, and prison officials. Her research has taken her to many places, including morgues, death row, and the occasional midnight visit to cemeteries to gain material for her novels.

Kim is a college graduate of Saint Leo University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. She is an avid reader and has raised three successful grown children; she currently resides outside Atlanta, Georgia.

Exclusive Interview with Kim Carter

What makes writing your passion?

Writing is very much like reading a really good book. It takes you away to another place. Often times I'm unaware of how my characters manifest themselves into the opposite of what I'd envisioned them becoming. They seem to take on a life of their own so I simply follow their lead.

What was the feeling when you published your first book?

Oh wow! I quickly learned that writing a book is just the beginning of the process. The cover, the edits, and the 'dreaded synopsis' are to follow, along with other details. But there is no other feeling in the world than actually holding your own book in your hands - the culmination of so much work, literally blood, sweat, and tears... but hardest of all, saying good-bye to characters that have become friends.

What's the story behind your choice of characters?

Honestly I have no idea how my characters form, but as I said, they often end up changing into villains or good guys without my intent, but I follow their lead. They know themselves better than I do. LOL...

*The characters of Iris and Clara are, however, based off real life characters - and allow me to stress 'characters'! My mother and her friend of fifty years were an absolute hoot, just as Clara and Iris are, and I so enjoy writing about them because it brings back such fond memories of being blessed with spending time with them. They were first introduced in my novel, *Sweet Dreams, Baby Belle*, and everyone loved them. They were meant to be bit parts, but they clearly stole the show, making a series a no-brainer.*

If you could go back in time and talk to your younger self, what would you say?

Don't allow one bad review to keep you from seeing the positive ones. Don't compromise your ideas or style because someone else thinks another way is better. Do you. Find the best and most honest editor you can and do what it takes to keep them! They are the heart of your book being a success! Don't compromise on cover design. The 'never judge a book by its cover' is B.S.! Unless you're James Patterson - the first thing to catch a reader's eye is your cover. Did I say I have the BESTEST cover designer ever? If I'm allowed to put in a plug for him - Keith Saunders can be found at www.mariondesigns.com. (No money changed hands for this endorsement...) :)

Have you ever incorporated something that happened to you in real life into your novels?

Not necessarily anything that's happened to me, but I often throw in sayings that friends and family say to see if they catch them when reading. They haven't missed one yet. When we were in high school one of my friends would ask her Mom to go somewhere and if she didn't want her to go, she'd say, "No! And I don't mean maybe!" Wasn't funny to us at the time but we find it hysterical now, so I plugged it in one of my novels. I'll also throw in first or last names of friends and wait on them to find it. It's kind of cool.

Which of your characters you can compare yourself with? Did you base that character on you?

*I think I can relate to certain aspects of many of my characters but if I had to choose one, it'd probably be Candace Ramsey from *Dark Secrets of the Bayou*. She was so funny to me, and even though my kids say - Mom, you think you're funny but you're not - I still find myself quite comical! Candace was down to earth and what ran through her mind came out of her mouth. She called everything like she saw it and never failed to express it. She was nosey and skeptical and I loved her.*

What do you think, the book cover is as important as the story?

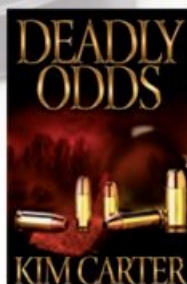
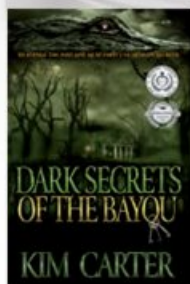
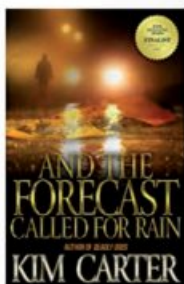
No doubt! Especially to virtually unknown authors like myself. There has to be something to entice readers to pick it up. A good cover, especially for a spooky mystery, will draw the reader in long before the story does.

Do you connect with your readers? Do you mind having a chat with them or you prefer to express yourself through your writing?

I love talking to my readers and attend any book clubs that I'm invited to. What an honor to meet with someone that has taken the time to read your work! I enjoy hearing about the parts they enjoyed, the parts they didn't necessarily feel connected to and why, and which of the characters were their favorites. It'd be quite boring to pump out a book and never see the fruits of your labor!

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BOOKS BY KIM CARTER



CAROLE ANN MOLETI



Carole Ann Moleti lives and works as a nurse-midwife in New York City, thus explaining her fascination with all things paranormal, urban fantasy, and space opera. Her nonfiction focuses on health care, politics, and women's issues. But her first love is writing science fiction and fantasy because walking through walls is less painful than running into them.

Boulevard of Bad Spells and Broken Dreams was inspired by her life, and her life's work, as she roamed the streets of The Bronx as it has morphed from an emblem of urban blight to a vibrant and ethnically diverse borough in New York City.

Her short stories have been featured in the Ten Tales Series: Haunted, Seers, and Beltane, and Bites, as well as in Hell's Kitties, Hell's Mall, and Hell's Heart. Carole has also authored The Unfinished Business series of Cape Cod paranormal romance novels: Breakwater Beach, The Widow's Walk, and Storm Watch.

Excerpts of her memoirs, ranging from sweet and sentimental to edgy and irreverent, have been published in a variety of literary venues. Carole was awarded the Oasis Journal award for best nonfiction in 2009. She has also contributed to the award winning feminist anthologies Shifts and Impact.

Exclusive Interview

How do you get over the "writer's block"?

I switch genres. For example, when I run dry on a fiction project, I go back to writing and submitted short and creative nonfiction which is based on what is going on in my life at any given moment. I also find reading in any genre relaxing, and I binge some of my favorite authors. Right now, I'm reading Jane Austin's novels. Take a look at my Goodreads list!

We all know the writer's path is never easy, what makes you keep going? What advice would you give to new authors?

I'm a member of a writer's group, which has members who can help with craft issues and content like how to shoot a bow and arrow . We have mini workshops and critique each other's submissions. I'm a member of my local Romance Writers of America chapter, which has workshops on writing craft as well as the business of writing and marketing. My advice for new authors is to take writing classes. There are so many online that help so much. Then join or form a writer's group with the people you meet in your classes. I have many friends since I started in 2005 that I met online and hail from the UK, Bulgaria, and many from the United States as well.

Void of Course

BOOK ONE IN THE BOULEVARD OF BAD SPELLS AND BROKEN DREAMS SERIES

BY CAROLE ANN MOLETI

The dhamps and weres want the witch, and her partner is into sex magick. Taina wants revenge, and she's got the fairies on her side.

Taina's search for the murderers uncovers a vast werewolf/dhampir conspiracy--and an alliance of fae to aid in her quest for justice. But she needs more than the elderly santera who teaches her mysterious Santeria rituals.

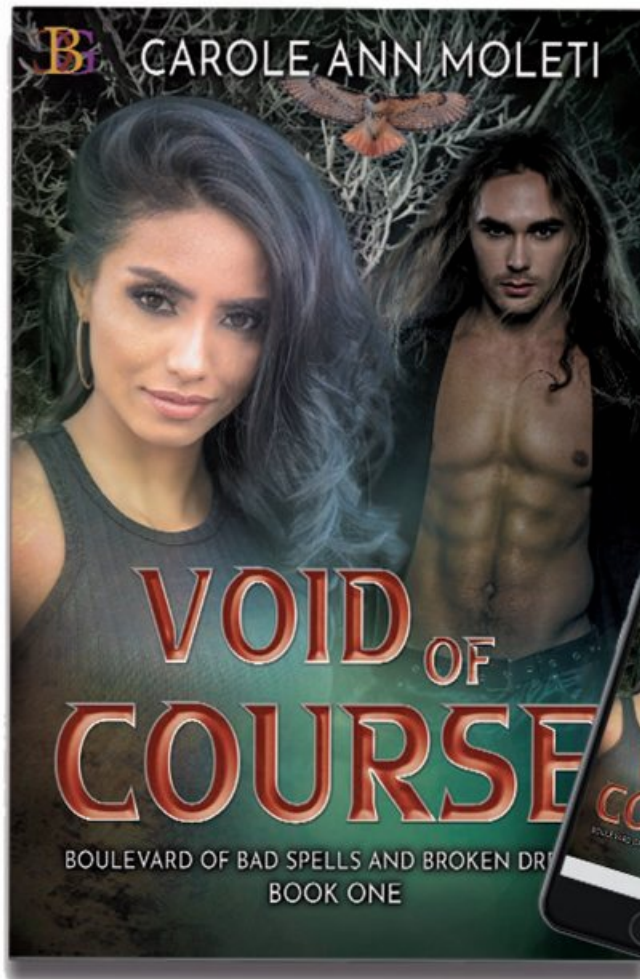
She enters into an uneasy alliance with Arnaldo Arroyo, a reformed addict turned community activist who schools her his own special mix of sex magick and brujería.

The truths she uncovers shake her faith in everything and everyone she ever knew.

Will she give up and run? Or will she accept the mandate of the orishas, restore the balance between good and evil--and take back the neighborhood?



"Void of Course was an absolute surprise to me. A pleasant one, I must say. Taina is a character that I will remember. She is not perfect, she has her PTSD, her lung problems, her sad past and yet she is a strong woman that wants the truth about the loss of her family. I liked how the fantasy (vampires and such) was so well described, I liked the guy who seems to help Taina, I liked the whole novel. The plot was compelling, easy to read and at good pace. Overall, I can simply rate this book as a 4.5 out of 5 stars and recommend it to all who like urban fantasies."



KEEPING REAPER

SATAN'S KEEPERS MC BOOK 1 by E.C. Land



Being the Prez of the Satan's Keepers MC has its perks. Women throwing themselves at you happens to be one of them. I usually have a steady flock of ladies I can choose from, but one night at the bar there's a sassy woman who stands out more than the rest.

Reaper

Being the Prez of the Satan's Keepers MC has its perks. Women throwing themselves at you happens to be one of them. I usually have a steady flock of ladies I can choose from, but one night at the bar there's a sassy woman who stands out more than the rest. Suddenly, no one else matters. She's hot, spirited, and has a bangin' body. It's a one-night stand and that's all I think it is, until I find out where she works. Suddenly my one-night stand becomes someone I'll be seeing on more than one occasion. Ivy has a hard time swallowing that pill, but she'll get used to it. If she doesn't, I'll just have to do whatever it takes to change her mind.



"Interesting couple is an understatement. Ivy and Reaper were a delight to read about, I loved how I could feel her feelings and strive to be strong woman. Reaper, well, he was developed well but I felt he needed a bit more depth. No matter, I liked him, I liked how these two worked out. The plot itself was interesting, compelling. It ends a little tricky so I guess I'll check out the next in the series. Let me mention, this is the first time I read anything from this author but it won't be the last. I liked her writing style, I will check some of her other books as well."

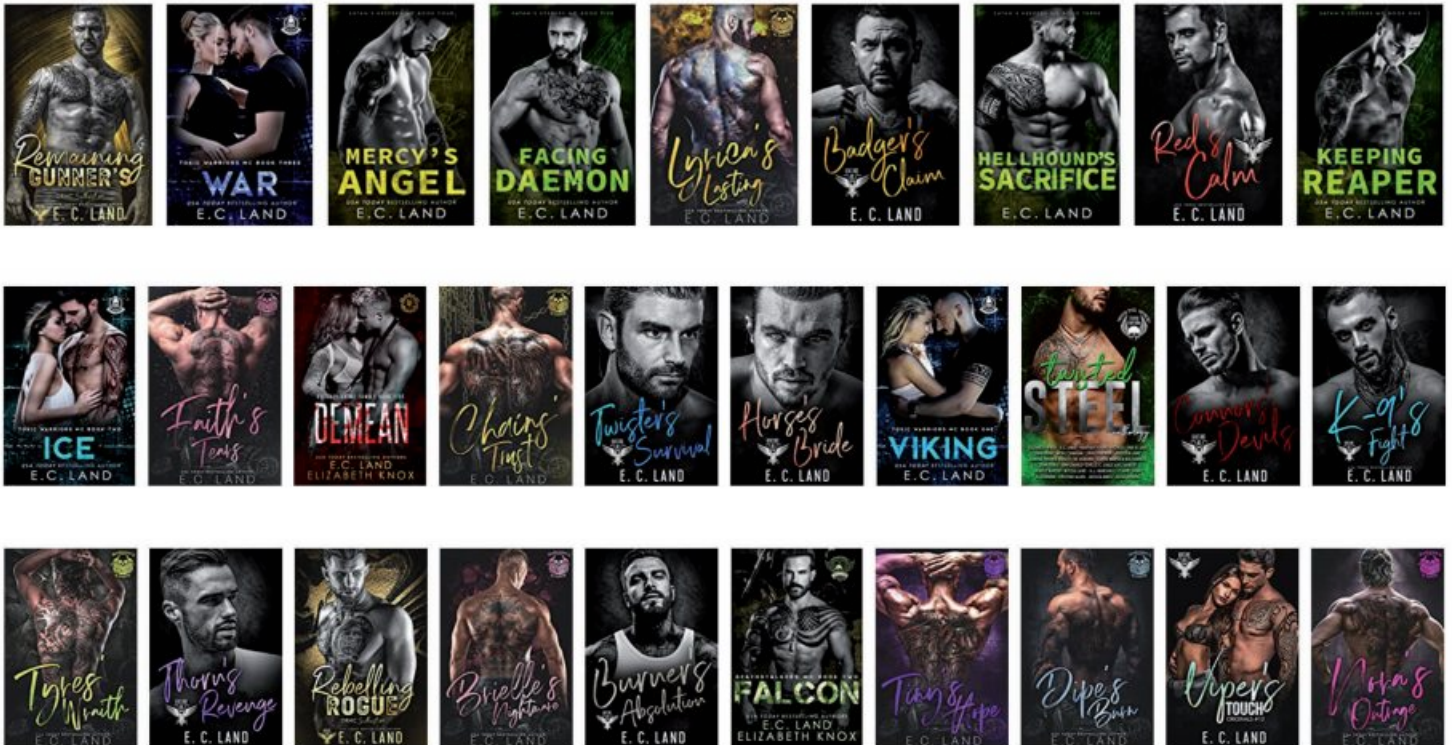


E.C. Land

DARK & DAMAGED ROMANCE

E.C. Land is a MC and Dark Romance author who lives in the countryside of Virginia. She started her publishing journey writing MC romance, but she now has an undying love for writing in all sub-genres of dark romance.

Books by E. C. Land



and many more....

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

with *E.C. Land*

When did you start writing?

I started my first series in 2018 and published in 2019.

What makes writing your passion?

Words have such a powerful impact on a person, I think. I started out with writing poetry as a way to release emotions when I would bottle them up.

How long have you been writing?

I've been writing Dark Romance since 2018 and absolutely love it.

What was the feeling when you published your first book?

Pride. I couldn't help but feel I've accomplished something, I never thought I would before.

What's the story behind your choice of characters?

Each of my books there's a different story line behind each character, but I try to make sure to switch it up. However, I always try to make sure it's something that will be related to by the readers.

What annoys you the most in pursuing a writing career?

Honestly, I'm not sure. I think it will be plotting out the stories since a lot of the times my mind wants to take me another way entirely.

How do you get over the "writer's block"?

I take a step back and go do something fun with my family or pick up on of my books I like to read.

We all know the writer's path is never easy, what makes you keep going? What advice would you give to new authors?

It's not easy, but what keeps me going is the fact my kids look up to the idea I'm doing something I love and work hard to achieve it. I would suggest to take your time write and don't rush. Let the words flow as they're meant to and not force them.

If you could go back in time and talk to your younger self, what would you say?

To not listen to anyone telling me I can't do something like follow my dream of writing and go for it.

Do you read your book reviews? How do you deal with the bad ones?

I read some of them, but for the most part I try not to. I did once and it hurt my feelings to the point I felt I wasn't good enough. But in the end, I kept going.

What is the feeling when you get a good review?

The reviews I do read from my beta team make me feel great.

Have you ever incorporated something that happened to you in real life into your novels?

All the time. I feel putting a little personal aspect into life helps with adding emotions when needed.

Which of your characters you can compare yourself with? Did you base that character on you?

In Twister's Survival, book three to my Devil's Riot MC. It's the third book I ever published. It released in July of 2019. I felt the character's emotions were mine.

What do you think, the book cover is as important as the story?

I believe a book cover says something about the book. It's the first thing to draw a reader in besides the blurb.

Do you connect with your readers? Do you mind having a chat with them or you prefer to express yourself through your writing?

I love connecting with my readers and hearing from them.

How do you feel when people appreciate your work or recognize you in public?

I greatly appreciate it and try to let them know when they do this how much it means to me.

Keep Reading on BooksShelf.com

Pignon Scorbion & The Barbershop Detectives

BY RICK BLEIWEISS

In a reality in which all the greatest detectives lived, Dr. John Watson's friend, eccentric Chief Inspector Pignon Scorbion deductively solves cases much like his contemporaries Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot. However, Scorbion alone solves his cases in the barbershop, aided by a colorful group of amateur sleuths - the barbers, a shoeshine man, and a young newspaper reporter - all acting as his assistant "deputies." Witnesses, suspects and victims alike are interrogated and interviewed in the Barbershop; it is where Scorbion delights the barbers with tales of his exploits and his unique family history as well as telling them background stories relevant to the cases they work with him.

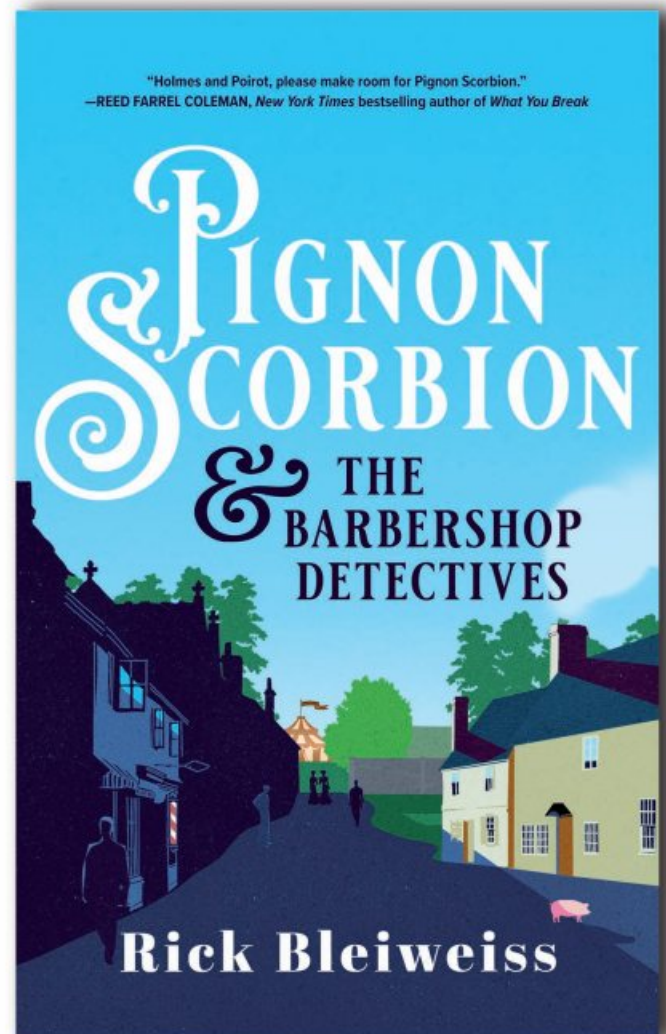
The year is 1910, and in the small and seemingly sleepy English municipality of Haxford, there's a new chief police inspector. At first, the dapper and unflappable The year is 1910, and in the small and seemingly sleepy English municipality of Haxford, there's a new chief police inspector. At first, the dapper and unflappable Pignon Scorbion strikes something of an odd figure among the locals, who don't see a need for such an exacting investigator. But it isn't long before Haxford finds itself very much in need of a detective.

Luckily, Scorbion and the local barber are old acquaintances, and the barbershop employs a cast of memorable characters who—together with an aspiring young ace reporter for the local *Morning News*—are nothing less than enthralled by the enigmatic new chief police inspector.

Investigating a trio of crimes whose origins span three continents and half a century, Pignon Scorbion and his "tonsorial sleuths" interview a parade of interested parties, but with every apparent clue, new surprises come to light. And just as it seems nothing can derail Scorbion's cool head and almost unerring nose for deduction, in walks Thelma Smith—dazzling, whip-smart, and newly single.

Has Pignon Scorbion finally met his match?

For fans of Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot, author Rick Bleiweiss's quirky new detective and ensemble cast of characters set against the backdrop of small-town England in the 1910s, will feel both comfortably familiar and thrillingly new.



"Pignon Scorbion is a very interesting, unique character. The time period along with the setting was perfectly described. I loved the author's writing style, it was compelling. The detective truly captivated me, I loved his weirdness and character. The plot itself was a page-turner, the cases were twisted, and full of surprises. The barbers also were a great idea, I simply loved it. Overall, a book that is a little like Sherlock Holmes but it has its own voice, unique. I recommend!"

Rick Bleiweiss



Rick Bleiweiss is a Best-Selling Author, Publishing Executive, Former Music Industry Executive and GRAMMY Nominated record producer.

At 77-years-old, his first novel, "Pignon Scorbion & The Barbershop Detectives" was published in early 2022 to great acclaim as an Amazon Editors' Pick, a Debut Mystery Pick by both Barnes & Noble and Publishers Weekly and was voted their Buzz Book by the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association (among other major endorsements). It was Amazon's #1 best-selling Cozy Mystery, #1 Historical Mystery and #1 in three other categories. To support the book, Bleiweiss created a video game, theme song, t-shirts and a video trailer.

Additionally, his story in the mystery anthology *Hotel California*, which is being published later this summer, has been getting great advance reviews.

Rick is a member of the International Thriller Writers, Mystery Writers of America, Historical Novel Society, and the Pacific Northwest Writers Association among other organizations.

Bleiweiss started his career in music as a rock performer, producer of over fifty records (including a Grammy nomination), songwriter and record company senior executive in New York City. He worked with numerous music industry legends, including Clive Davis, Melissa Etheridge, the Backstreet Boys, Kiss, U2, Whitney Houston, the BeeGees, and many other superstars.

Since 2006 has been a publishing company executive with Blackstone Publishing, In that role he has acquired works by bestselling and award-winning authors and celebrities including Rex Pickett ("Sideways"), Robert Downey Jr, Al Roker, James Clavell ("Shogun"), PC Cast ("House of Night"), Gabriel García Márquez, Natasha Boyd ("The Indigo Girl"), Andrews & Wilson ("Tier One"), Dale Brown, Ramsey Lewis, Al Di Meola, Catherine Coulter, Heather Graham, Andrew Child, and Nicholas Sansbury Smith ("Hell Divers"), among others.

On his YouTube video show "Rick Bleiweiss' Chapter & Verse" Rick interviews best-selling authors, literary agents and other entertainment industry figures. In their segments they talk about their careers and give advice to aspiring writers.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

with Rick Bleiweiss

When did you start writing?

I started writing songs when I was twelve, and that same year I wrote and published a sports newspaper. I wrote a play at 15 and film scripts in college, all the while continuing to write songs. Throughout my life I've written newspaper & magazine articles and columns, but it wasn't until I was 77 years old that my first novel was published.

What makes writing your passion?

I enjoy the process of writing and I love to interact with the characters who I "meet" when they and the story they are in play out in my brain like a movie. Writing is something I find to be enjoyable, and it comes somewhat easily to me.

How long have you been writing?

Since I was twelve, but I started writing fiction in 2005 when I was 61 years old.

What was the feeling when you published your first book?

FANTASTIC!

It was very much the same feeling I had when records I produced were released.

What's the story behind your choice of characters?

They just appear in my head and they, and the story, play out like a movie which I then capture for a reader on my computer. Often I will not have the specific characters but rather the story, and then I go and flesh out the characters and who they are.

How do you get over the "writer's block"?

I rarely have it, but when I do, I walk away from whatever I'm writing and start writing something else. Then I come back to whatever I had the block about and see if it's even worth continuing or if the block was because there was no good place to go with the story.

We all know the writer's path is never easy, what makes you keep going? What advice would you give to new authors?

I keep going because I continually have stories playing in my head that I want to capture, and because I enjoy the process of writing. My advice is: write, write and write more. Writers write. Also, hone your craft, find your "voice" and write what you're good at writing.

Do you read your book reviews? How do you deal with the bad ones?

I read them all. When there is a bad review, I read it to see if I can learn something from it that will make me a better writer, and then I never read it again. I find it easy to deal with bad reviews knowing that there's no book that everyone has universally liked, and that some of the biggest books had some bad reviews. Also, some bad reviews are from trolls who probably do it just because they're not very nice people.

What is the feeling when you get a good review?

Elation. Confirmation. Happiness. Pleasure.

Have you ever incorporated something that happened to you in real life into your novels?

Yes. For example I won a crossbow competition at a British castle in the mid-nineties, and have incorporated a crossbow into the second Scorbion novel that I just finished writing. I have incorporated some other real life events in other unpublished novels I've written too.

Which of your characters you can compare yourself with? Did you base that character on you?

I based none of my characters on me, but there's a bit of me in Scorbion (problem solving, fairness, lover of art) and in Thelma Smith, the bookshop owner in the Scorbion books (unconventional, well read lover of books, involved in social causes).

What do you think, the book cover is as important as the story?

No. The book cover is extremely important but if the book inside isn't as good as the cover then it's a bigger problem than if it was the other way around.

Do you connect with your readers? Do you mind having a chat with them or you prefer to express yourself through your writing?

I connect with most through social media and email. I have chats and general conversations. I am open to speaking with my readers, but mostly it's through the written word.

How do you feel when people appreciate your work or recognize you in public?

It's very satisfying and gratifying. I'm not yet at a level where I'm being recognized in public for my writing, but a lot of people have praised and appreciated my works - and that feels great!

What are your hobbies? What do you do in your free time?

Write, play and record music. Read. Play video games. Watch TV & film. Get together with friends. Read.

Do you have unpublished books? What are they about?

Lucky Lenny & Hector Go To Vegas is a magical realism story about a road trip two friends take to Las Vegas to win enough money for one of them to be able to buy a house. They meet some interesting characters along the way, including a hippie-like young woman who claims to be able to "read" cards from their backs.

Tourists From The 26th Dimension is a science fiction story about two aliens who come to Earth from a different dimension (for a vacation) and interact with a human telling him about what life is like in the other dimensions while they are being pursued by a governmental agency.

The Eye of Jupiter is a science fiction musical; that I've co-written and is currently being shopped by my agent. It's about an Earthling who tries to defeat a savage intergalactic overlord who has invaded our solar system and taken all humans prisoner (at least those left alive after he slaughtered most of them). It's somewhat like what Star Wars might be as a musical.

If you were allowed 3 wishes – what would they be?

Good health for me, my wife and our extended family. A world at peace in which everyone was treated the same (with respect and dignity). Fame as an author.

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Love Stinks But Life is Worse

A Short Story by Katy Munger

Is it ironic or inevitable that I hate Valentine's Day with what can only be described as a kind of burning passion? It's the greatest con in American history. Well, almost. You just can't win. Either you're disappointed at what your loved one did or you end up feeling like a jerk because you didn't do enough. The truth is that Valentine's Day is like a coat of cheap paint slapped on a crumbling wall. In my opinion, the only thing you should do if you feel a burning passion is visit a doctor fast.

"I fucking hate Valentine's Day," Lamar at the Bar said from two seats down. I had to admit, he had reason to. His last wife had dumped him to run off with her personal trainer. "It's a bunch of bullshit," someone else said from further down the bar. A chorus of low pitched grumblings agreed.

That was when I realized that I was the only woman in the entire joint. What did that say about me? "How do you feel about younger men, Casey?" the bartender asked as he put another shot of Jack down in front of me.

"I didn't realize you cared," I told him.

"I don'tcare," he said cheerfully, "but it looks like you have a fan."

I spun around on my barstool but the only person I saw was Eddie the Human Eeyore, slumped against the jukebox playing a Celine Dion song for the umpteenth time. I was getting ready to shove his beer up his ass if I had to hear how his heart would go on one more time. But Eddie in no way qualified as a younger man. I was mystified. Where was my fan?

"Hey lady! The fat man said you'd be here."

I looked down. A kid no more than eight or nine years old had planted himself firmly in front of me. He was hopping up and down on tennis shoes that made a strange suction-like sound every time the soles hit the sticky beer-soaked tile.

"You're looking for me?" I asked as I rummaged through my past. I did not remember giving anyone up for adoption, but I had lost entire years of my life to a haze of alcohol and drugs before I wised up.

"I said that that the fat man told me you'd be here," the little squirt repeated, holding out a grimy fist clutching a crumpled wad of dollar bills.

"You're going to need more than that to get her attention," Lamar at the Bar told him.

"Shut up, Lamar," I said automatically. "I'm pretty sure the terms of your probation mean you need to back off another 1,990 feet from this kid."

Lamar returned to his beer with a smile.

I didn't have to ask the kid who the fat man was. When your boss is pushing 400 pounds, it's pretty obvious. The real question was why the hell Bobby D. had let a little kid with straw-colored spikes of hair, ears the size of bats, a pinched face, and more freckles than a speckled pup's belly, march alone across four blocks of Raleigh's downtown on a February afternoon dressed in nothing more than a striped cotton T-shirt and a pair of cargo shorts. Even I knew this kid had no business walking around by himself.

"What exactly did the fat man say?" I asked.

"He said to come here and look for a chubby lady with fake blonde hair and a low cut blouse." He was staring at said lowcut blouse with undisguised appreciation. "He made it sound like you were a hot mess. That's what my momma used to say. But I think you're pretty."

Aaaah. Valentine's Day was looking up. Which tells you how desperate I was.

"Why did the fat man tell you where I was?" I asked.

"I told him I needed your help and could pay," the kid explained. "That was when he told me you'd be here."

By now, the entire bar was staring at the country song unfolding before them. I knew I should have stopped the drama right then and there but the words were out before I could help it.

"Need your help with what?" I asked.

Eddie the Human Eeyore had started to take a keen interest in the exchange. "Maybe he wants you to buy him them red shoes because his momma is going to meet Jesus tonight," he called out from the jukebox.

"Shut up!" a chorus of voices answered and Eddie slumped back over his Celine Dion. He was always perplexed when the rest of the world did not appreciate his bad soundtrack approach to life.

"My mom is already daid," the little boy announced. The bar fell silent, like that moment in church when you know the service has ended and you're just waiting for the pastor to pick up the songbook so you can dash for the aisles and get out the hell out of there.

"What do you mean your mom is already dead?" I asked. If this was some sort of my daddy killed my momma and I need you to make him pay kind of case, this was not going to help my cynicism about Valentine's Day.

"I mean she's daid. The drugs killed her. Mrs. Young said she just should've said no."

"Who is Mrs. Young?" I knew I was following him down a rabbit hole, but I was helpless in stemming my curiosity.

"Mrs. Young is the lady that takes care of me. She's got like five of us crammed in her house and I have to share a bunk bed with this kid named Andy who wets his bed, so I said he had to sleep on the bottom bunk because I didn't want no piss dripping on me in the middle of the night. We got in a fight and Mrs. Young hit us both with a switch even though I weren't the one ruining her mattress."

Okay, then. I was the adult. It was up to me to get him to focus.

"What exactly is it you want to hire me for?" I asked.

"I need to find my daddy. I can't ask my mom because she died and Mrs. Young who takes care of me, well, she don't give a shit."

"You can't curse in here," I told him with the kind of annoying authority that complete strangers assume with small children.

"It's a cop bar."

The little squirt was growing impatient. "Are you going to help me or not? Usually when I say my momma is daid, people pay a little more attention to what I want."

"Where did your dad go?"

Now he was really losing patience with me. "If I knew where he went, why would I need you to find him?"

"What's his name? What does he look like?"

"I don't know his name and I don't know what he looks like. That's the point." He stared at the bills in his hand. "If I'd known you were so gall darn stupid, I wouldn't have saved up so much."

Sheesh. Everyone's a critic. "You don't know who your daddy is but you want me to find him for you?"

Keep Reading on BooksShelf.com





Katy Munger is a North Carolina-based mystery author who has had 16 novels published since 1990 by major publishers in the United States, U.K, Germany, and Japan. She is the author of the Dead Detective series; the Casey Jones private investigator series; and the Hubbert & Lil cozy mystery series. She has also edited or contributed to numerous short story anthologies; authored several group novels; and is a co-founder of Thalia Press, an independent publisher based on an author cooperative model. In addition to providing a platform for authors who are often continuing their traditionally-published series, Thalia Press advocates for writing quality and reader affordability in independent publishing. Katy has also been a book reviewer for the Washington Post and served as North Carolina's 2016 Piedmont Laureate.

The Dead Detective series (four books) is a serious police procedural series with some comic overtones that takes a deeper and more thoughtful look at life and death than most crime fiction. The Casey Jones series (seven books to date) is a humorous, semi-hardboiled series set in North Carolina featuring an unlicensed female private investigator and numerous recurring sidekicks. The Hubbert & Lil series (four books) takes place in New York City and has been described as using a “cozy with attitude” approach.

Her books are available in ebook format on Amazon and can be ordered in trade paperback format through Ingram Distributors wherever books are sold.

For more information on the author and her books, please visit katymunger.com



Fire and Rain

A CASEY JONES MYSTERY

by Katy Munger

A MISSING STRIPPER, MOTORCYCLE GANGS, AND TOO MANY EX-BOYFRIENDS TO COUNT....

Katy Munger's Casey Jones has her hands full avenging the death of one of her oldest friends -- while trying to keep unruly strippers and untrustworthy bikers in line.

Casey Jones is back with a new adventure that takes her from four-foot strippers to forty-something bikers—and a head-on collision with too many ex-boyfriends to count. Will regrets slow her down? Can anything stop her? So long as she has caffeine and Krispy Kremes within reach, Casey's never calling it quits. But will her stubbornness pay off?

When The Tiny Dancers hit Raleigh, North Carolina, the diminutive strippers are a huge hit. Men line up and down the block to watch their rootin' and tootin' topless routine. But someone's not a fan and the vicious death threats the Tinajero sisters are receiving kick Casey into high gear.

But when what should have been a routine bodyguarding case turns deadly, and Casey loses one of her oldest friends, the case turns personal in more ways than one. Her friend is dead, one of the strippers is missing, and the handsome biker Casey met the night before sure seems to be in it up to his neck. Vowing to track the killers and find the missing stripper, who may or may not be in on the murder, Casey sets out on what turns out to be a wild ride that takes her from the flatlands of eastern North Carolina to its most exclusive mountain enclaves.

But no woman is an island and Casey knows she can't do it on her own. Fans of Casey Jones will recognize their favorites in the cast of colorful supporting characters who answer Casey's "all hands on deck!" call. From her 360-pound boss Bobby D. and his epic meals, to police mole Marcus Dupree and his magic keyboard, to ex-boyfriends Burly and frenemy Detective Bill Butler, Casey needs all the help she can get -- even if she's too stubborn to admit it.

If you've been missing your kick-ass Casey and craving Krispy Kremes, you'll find all that you need in this seventh installment of a beloved female P.I. series.

If you love a good plot laced with plenty of humor and lots of heart, it's time you discovered Casey Jones. Her tough as nail exterior and no-nonsense self-awareness is a combination that appeals to male and female readers alike. Fans of Sue Grafton's Kinsey Millhone, Sara Paretsky's V.I. Warshawski, Laura Lippman's Tess Monaghan, Marcia Muller's Sharon McCone, and Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum, as well as their tough and witty male antecedents, will want to move over and make room on their bookshelf for Katy Munger's Casey Jones.

Not tempted yet? How's this:

If you've ever wondered how the love child of Nero Wolfe's buddy Archie and Anna Nicole Smith would turn out if she was raised by Brienne of Tarth (and who hasn't?!), well: look no further than Casey Jones.

Go on. Try her out. Casey dares you



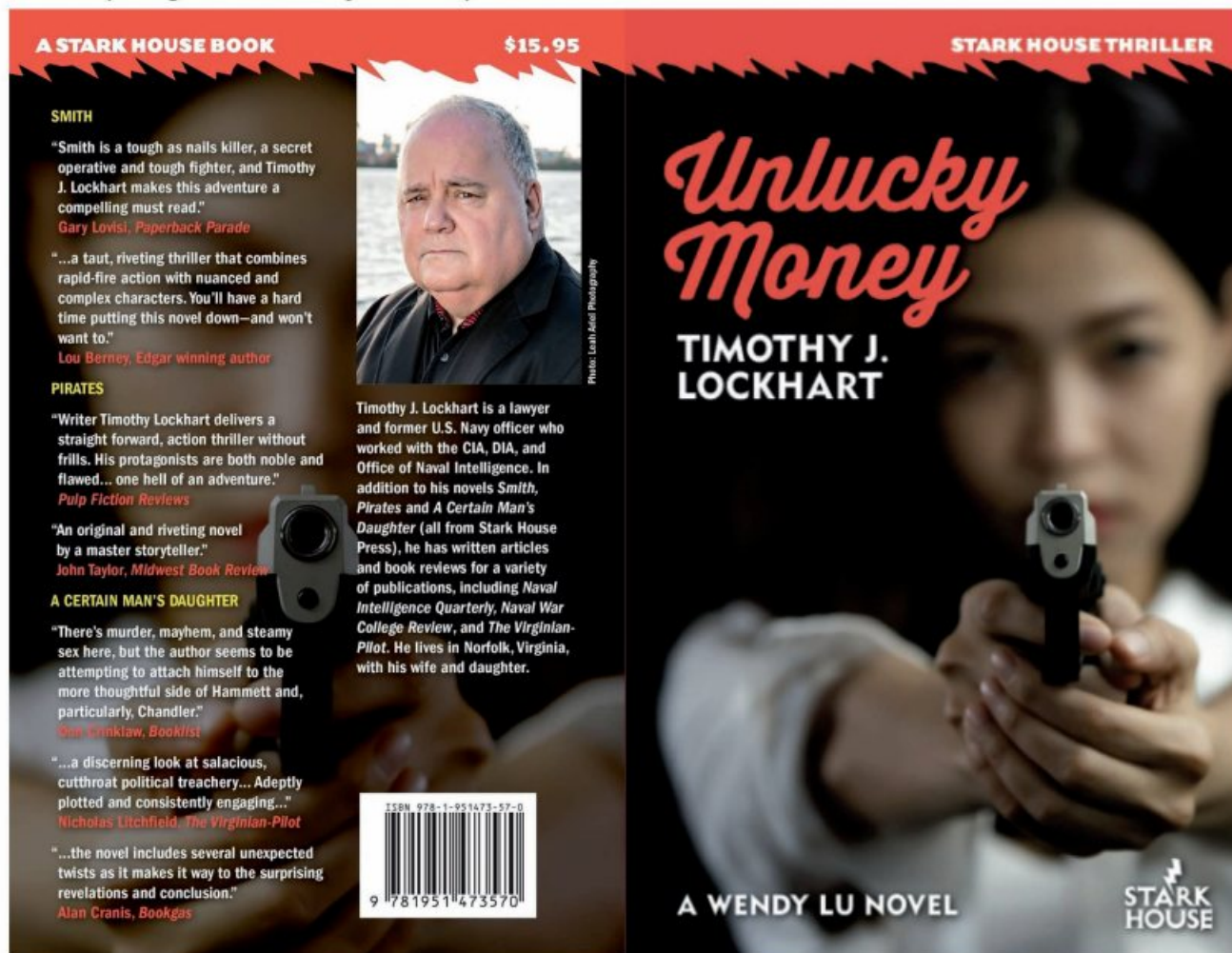
Unlucky Money

BY TIMOTHY J. LOCKHART

When Chinese American private-eye Wendy Lu takes on her first murder case, she doesn't realize how dangerous it's going to be. Probing into the murder of Susan Fontaine, the wife of her client, wealthy real-estate developer Whit Fontaine—the primary suspect in the case—Wendy fights to prove he was framed.

Wendy used to be a cop but quit after a rookie mistake caused the death of her partner. Now she leads a more traditional life, dealing with her guilt, feeling she has disappointed her parents. Yet despite hostility from Fontaine's arrogant business partner, opposition from the police, and violent threats on her life, she perseveres in the case.

And that's when Wendy discovers things that Fontaine, his partner Tom McKenna, and even Ryan Connolly, the police detective in charge of the murder investigation, would like to keep secret—that Fontaine-McKenna Associates is using criminal-syndicate money to finance the casino the firm wants to build. Now she is forced to use everything she's learned just to stay alive.



TIMOTHY J. LOCKHART

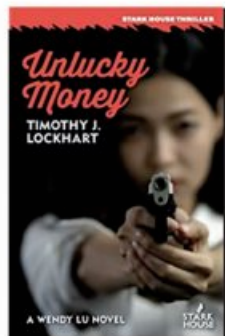
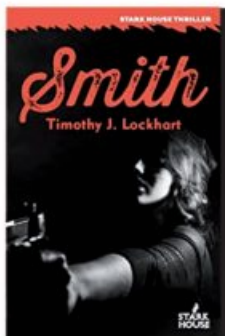
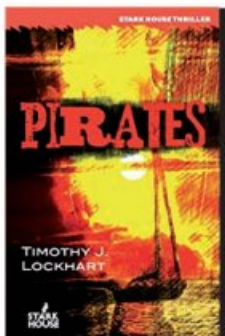
Timothy J. Lockhart is a lawyer and former U.S. Navy officer who worked with the CIA, DIA, and Office of Naval Intelligence.

In addition to his novels *Smith*, *Pirates* and *A Certain Man's Daughter* (all from Stark House Press), he has written articles and book reviews for a variety of publications, including *Naval Intelligence Quarterly*, *Naval War College Review*, and *The Virginian-Pilot*.

He lives in Norfolk, Virginia, with his wife and daughter.



MORE BOOKS



MORAL FIBRE by Helena P. Schrader

A BOMBER PILOT'S STORY

The inspiring story of a bomber pilot, his crew and the woman he loved based on historical accounts.

Riding the icy, moonlit sky—

They took the war to Hitler.

Their chances of survival were less than fifty percent.

Their average age was 21.

This is the story of just one Lancaster skipper, his crew,

and the woman he loved.

It is intended as a tribute to them all. (50w) (261 c)



Flying Officer Kit Moran has earned his pilot's wings, but the greatest challenges still lie ahead: crewing up and returning to operations. Things aren't made easier by the fact that while still a flight engineer, he was posted LMF (Lacking in Moral Fibre) for refusing to fly after a raid on Berlin that killed his best friend and skipper. Nor does it help that he is in love with his dead friend's fiancé, who is not yet ready to become romantically involved again.



"Moral Fibre by Helena P. Schrader is a wonderfully written story. I've read other books by this author and I love her writing. For the fans of historical aviation fiction with a dash of romance - this book is for you. I recommend the book."

Helena P. Schrader



Helena P. Schrader is an established aviation author and expert on the Second World War. She earned a PhD in History (cum Laude) from the University of Hamburg with a ground-breaking dissertation on a leading member of the German Resistance to Hitler, which received widespread praise on publication in Germany. Her non-fiction publications include *Sisters in Arms: The Women who Flew in WWII*, *The Blockade Breakers: The Berlin Airlift*, and *Codename Valkyrie: General Friederich Olbricht and the Plot against Hitler*, an English-language adaptation of her dissertation.

Helena has published twenty-one historical novels and won numerous literary awards, including “Best Biography 2017” from Book Excellence Awards and “Best Historical Fiction 2020” from Feathered Quill Book Awards.

For more on her publications, works-in-progress, reviews and awards visit:
<http://helenapschrader.com>

MORE BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR



APOLLO'S RAVEN

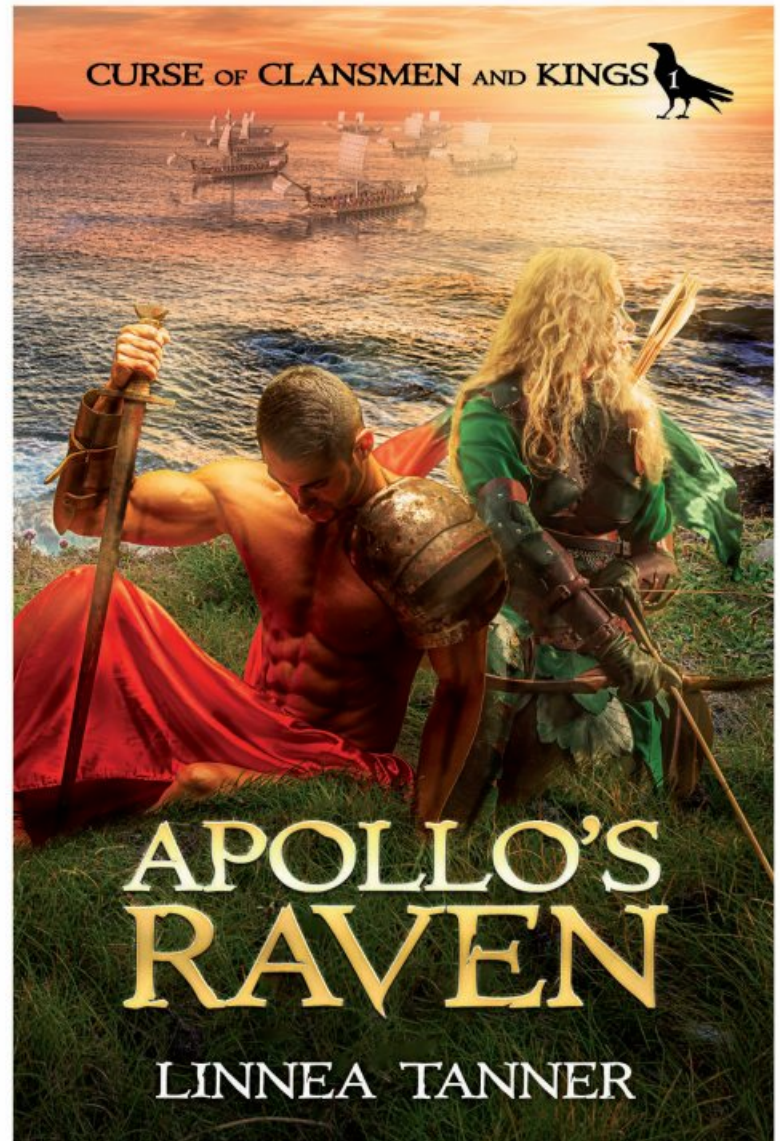
BY LINNEA TANNER

A dark prophecy threatens the fates of a Celtic warrior princess and her kingdom. She must find a way to break the curse but is torn between her forbidden love for the enemy and loyalty to her people. Award-winning Apollo's Raven sweeps you into an epic Celtic tale of forbidden love, sorcery, and political intrigue in Ancient Rome and Britannia.

A Celtic warrior princess is torn between her forbidden love for the enemy and duty to her people.

AWARD-WINNING APOLLO'S RAVEN sweeps you into an epic Celtic tale of forbidden love, mythological adventure, and political intrigue in Ancient Rome and Britannia. In 24 AD British kings hand-picked by Rome to rule are fighting each other for power. King Amren's former queen, a powerful Druid, has cast a curse that Blood Wolf and the Raven will rise and destroy him. The king's daughter, Catrin, learns to her dismay that she is the Raven and her banished half-brother is Blood Wolf. Trained as a warrior, Catrin must find a way to break the curse, but she is torn between her forbidden love for her father's enemy, Marcellus, and loyalty to her people. She must summon the magic of the Ancient Druids to alter the dark prophecy that threatens the fates of everyone in her kingdom.

Will Catrin overcome and eradicate the ancient curse? Will she be able to embrace her forbidden love for Marcellus? Will she cease the war between Blood Wolf and King Amren and save her kingdom?



"Apollo's Raven is a historical fantasy with elements of romance and political intrigue. Many twists and tension will keep you engaged from cover to cover, I also enjoyed the fast-moving storyline as I was so intrigued by the heroine's decision on whether to follow her heart or doing her duty. Recommend the book!"

LINNEA TANNER

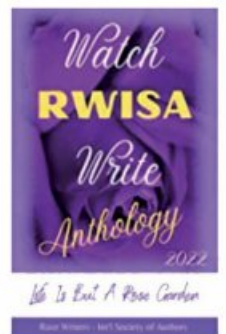
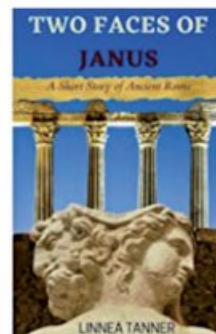
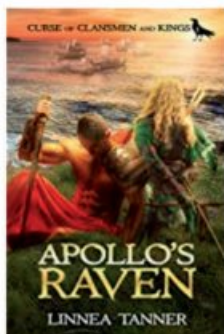


Award-winning author, Linnea Tanner, weaves Celtic tales of love, magical adventure, and political intrigue in Ancient Rome and Britannia. Since childhood, she has passionately read about ancient civilizations and mythology. Of particular interest are the enigmatic Celts, who were reputed as fierce warriors and mystical Druids.

Linnea has extensively researched ancient and medieval history, mythology, and archaeology and has traveled to sites described within each of her books in the Curse of Clansmen and Kings series. Books released in her series include Apollo's Raven (Book 1), Dagger's Destiny (Book 2), and Amulet's Rapture (Book 3). Skull's Vengeance (Book 4) is anticipated to be released in late 2021 or early 2022.

A Colorado native, Linnea attended the University of Colorado and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry. She lives in Windsor with her husband and has two children and six grandchildren.

BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

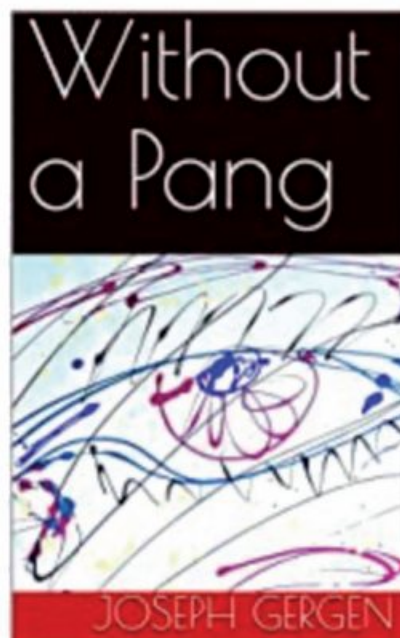
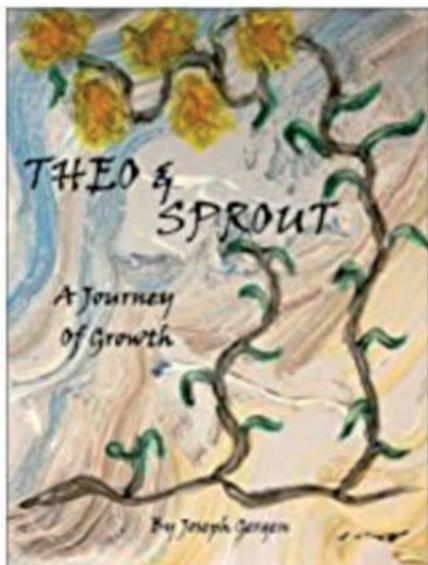


JOSEPH GERGEN

I mostly just another human from Minneapolis, but I enjoy painting, furniture making and writing I've taken the circular path to authorship. I left college thinking I would be a writer, decided I didn't know enough to write anything and now have come back to writing years later knowing even more about how much I don't know but not caring so much about that.



BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR



THEO AND SPROUT

by Joseph Gergen

A Journey of Growth

Theo and Sprout by Joseph Gergen is an incredible story that is meaningful, entertaining and unforgettable. Book reviewed by Rachel for Chick Lit Cafe Books & Reviews.



"Theo and Sprout by Joseph Gergen is a book full of important messages, depth and encouragement. I believe this novel should be read by YA as well as adults as its content can be surprisingly helpful. I liked the author's writing style and how he developed the characters. And definitely not in the last place - it was fun reading it! It was actually very enjoyable, humorous and insightful book. I absolutely recommend it! 5 out of 5 is a must."

Sprout says she's there to help him, to guide him. Theo, an introverted, teenage boy from a large family, is not so sure about that. He's not sure about much of anything at the moment. You see, Theo is thrown into absolute uncertainty one morning after he has showered for school when Sprout suddenly manifests herself physically in his body.

Is she a dream? A hallucination? That is what Theo grapples with as he not only sees Sprout in the mirror, then validates what he's seen by looking down at his body, now her body, but also begins a conversation with her about what the hell is going on.

While Theo longs for some guidance through the perils of adolescence, the guidance he knew his family wouldn't give him, he isn't prepared for Sprout to present herself and offer it to him. In fact, he doesn't appear to have a choice since Sprout, sassy and confident about her presence, won't go away.

Thus begin the adventures of Theo and Sprout. Sprout comes and goes as she pleases, forcing Theo to come to grips with her existence, the fear of being caught, the guidance she offers and the choices she asks him to make. Together Theo and Sprout must navigate the uneasy situations Sprout creates by appearing at inopportune times, whether in school, at church, or at a family gathering.

Sprout just wants Theo to grow. Theo just wants to survive.



BOOKS SHELF



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