

AUG 2018

BOOKS ^{IN} PIECES

A Magazine for Writers and Readers



PETER JAMES

International Bestselling Author

WHO SAYS CRIME DOESN'T PAY WELL

SHORT STORIES:

CHARLES HITCHCOCK: THE LAST LAUGH JIM HASSE: NOTHING TO FEAR PAT TOMKINS: AMONG THE BRIARS MARK TOWSE: HUGH'S FRIEND

INTERVIEWS:

PETER JAMES: INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLING CRIME AUTHOR (COVER) TONY PHILLIPS ALAN BRENNERT STUART HORWITZ JOANNE PENCE MARC RAINER ELLIS KNOX LAURA C. LEFKOWITZ WRITERS ON THE EDGE

ARTICLES:

JERI WALKER WINE WHILE WRITING ALL ABOUT EDITING JILL HEDGECOCK BOOK REVIEWS WRITER GUIDELINES

MISCELLANEOUS:

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The Publisher's inkdrops

This issue is packed with content. Some 7 interviews, 4 short-stories, several articles including a new column called "Wine While Writing." We have book reviews, writing tips, Facebook

shortstory

Among the Briars

by Pat Tomkins

Tantalizing once described how I felt about blackberries. The wild bushes, heavy with fruit, were a gift of summer. But I've lost my taste for them. And summer, which once spelled freedom, now just means hot months to endure

teraining myself, and most kids in my neighborhood were several years older or younger, so Alex became my constant companion. One humid July morning, we went down by the river to pick blackberries. I considered leaving Alex

unzipped. I backed up.

"Sure tasty," the man said and smiled again.

I nodded and untied Alex, who was sitting now. I jerked his leash. "C'mon."

The man reached for a cluster of berries overhead. He grabbed one berry, and as he pulled it off the cluster snapped back up. He stood on tiptoe to reach again. "Tantalizing. The best are

ask my mother; she'd want to know why I was asking. I looked in our encyclopedia—nothing—and in the dictionary, which confirmed the origin of tantalize. It did seem an awful predicament, being up to your neck in water but unable to drink, fruit dangling just out of reach. What had Tantalus done?

After lunch I rode over to the library. I asked the librarian, "Can you tell me

The bucket held a few pints when Alex rushed up. His tail beat against my legs.

I patted between his ears. "It's too hot to get worked up over a squirrel."

He ran off and pulled against his leash so that the bushes shook. Then he came back, pleading with his eyes. He dashed off again and started howling. I dropped the bucket and ran after him. To keep him from choking, I unspooled

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William
William Gensburger, Publisher
Cover sign: Ljubisa Sujical23RF.com

get lost in this town if she tried.

"I don't mean lost."

The cushion on the folding chair sighed. By the time the screen door screeched open, I was headed upstairs, Alex bounding ahead of me.

As an only child, I was used to en-

day-old rolls half price.

"Is that a fact? I could eat a jelly donut or three or four."

Then he plucked two berries and popped them in his mouth, and I noticed his fingertips weren't purple like mine. I also noticed that his jeans were

"I'll get more tomorrow," I said.

"Tomorrow's Saturday. We're going to the lake this weekend, remember?"

"OK, I'll get berries Monday." I had forgotten my plans to teach Alex how to swim. Meanwhile, I wanted to find out about this Tantalus guy. I didn't want to

I'd been Friday. Soon mud covered my

Keds and sweat trickled around my ribs. Ripe berries were scarce at this spot.

Like a flock of crows, weekend pickers had landed here. I stooped, thorns snagging my fingers, to grasp plump, dark berries, the ones that practically fell off.

ology didn't

seem stand-

ard reading fare for convicts, but why not? It's loaded with



crime and gore and revenge. They never found Tommy. For a while, some thought he'd run away. Soon, people were saying they "feared the worst" had happened. Alex and I stayed closer to home the rest of the summer. After Tommy disappeared, the whole town aged. People thrive on secrets, and you can't keep them from having secrets them. It's the allure of the furtive. The blackberry man had briefly been my secret. I told myself nothing might have said, would have helped

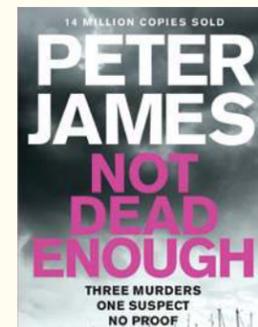
interview
peter james *A Most Interesting... International, Bestselling, Crime/Thriller Author*



His first job, he boasts on his Website

Q: You've been (more than) around the block with a lengthy career in a variety of writing (television, films, novels, stage plays and more.) If you could only pick one form of writing, which would it be and why?

A: I love writing crime



A: I think as a writer every single thing you do in life provides opportunities to draw from for both inspiration for stories and for texture. I find one joy is that it is impossible to be bored even standing in a tedious airline security queue as I'm looking

A: I am a great believer in Oscar Wilde's maxim that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught! I think a lot of teachers at school told me they didn't ever think I'd amount to much and I think determination and tenacity to prove them wrong was a big driver.

Q: What is your writing process like? Are you rigid in your approach, sched-

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Peter is also an animal lover, hosting three dogs, a number of hens, alpacas, emus, as well as a large number of ducks.

To date he has written 53 novels, most bestsellers, 13 of which feature Detective Superintendent Roy Grace, the star of his crime series.

for your stories?



achieve. What turned you around from that student, to your current level of proficiency?

do not surprise yourself, you aren't going to surprise your readers!

Q: Any advice to new writers hoping to enter the field?

A: The best possible advice I can give to any aspiring writer is to read, read, read, and analyze, and write, write, write. Writing is a craft, and any craft is improved with practice. But

shortstory

The Last Laugh

by Charles Hitchcock

I slammed the door shut behind me and stood there shaking. Every muscle in my body was jerking uncontrollably as beads of sweat ran down the wrinkles

taste in my mouth. My stomach tightened, and I stamped the butt out on the floor.

Prison does something to a man. After

saw me, but after all these years, didn't recognize me. No surprise, I wasn't the same man that went to jail— because of him. Over half my life wasted, because of him.

My heart pumped harder, the black-oil of hate spilling into my brain and draining into every nerve and muscle. I stood up and grabbed the bottle of

Through the rear view mirror I could see that no one had followed me. Good. By the time I was through with the car the owner wouldn't want it back, anyway.

I swung into a gas station and bought a gallon of gas which I filled into a jug in the back seat. The attendant thanked me and gave me directions for the address I wanted.

couldn't speak. He just sat there gasping for air. Every muscle in his massive bulk either twitched or was paralyzed. This is exactly what I wanted. He could sit there and think about his death.

"Edwards, I know you can hear me so listen closely and think about what I say. Think back to the days when we were both young. You were green-eyed

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Photo credit page 4: Lara James

some happiness that I could not give them. Edwards, now he is to blame. The only thing left to live for now is to watch him die. When Edwards dies, my tortured brain will find peace.

Thinking of Edwards gave me a bad

changed much.; less hair on his head and maybe a little fatter. He stood there in his white suit and fifty-cent cigar stuck in his thick overgrown lips as he barked orders. His stubby fingers pointed out the work that still had to be done. He

adress.

An old car was parked outside Ernie's place and the owner had been fool enough to leave the keys in it. Just what I needed. I slid under the wheel, started her up, and raced off down the highway.

area and I would be created out of my revenge. But you're alive and I haven't been cheated. Watching you die is the moment I've dreamed of".

He licked his lips but his tongue was dry. He was really scared now. He

tor to get up.

He started for his feet and with a huge surge of power suddenly knocked me out of his way. My .38 fell to the floor and Edwards pounced on it. We were both on our feet at the same time

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was soggy with blood. I heard the faint sound of a car starting up outside. I had to make it. I strained every muscle in a last attempt to reach the gun. Then my hand closed around it. I lay in the doorway laughing. He was in the car I had stolen and now had the motor running.
I could have laughed my damn-fool

WRITER BIG WORDS

WRITERS ON THE EDGE! *interview*

LiveStream, YouTube Podcast For Authors, By Authors, Reaches Large, Global Fanbase

Q: The Writers' Edge started last year, and features a wide range of guests from... set questions ahead of time. We create a Facebook event, create a YouTube event



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CRAIC (n): Fun and entertaining, related to conversing and communications.

PRAGMATIC (adj): dealing with practical matters

topic, something that will be appealing and helpful. Then we find guests who suit the topic. Once those preliminary steps are completed, Christie develops the questions and sends them to the participants, although live questions from viewers are encouraged too. Nothing is scripted, but the panelists do know about the

their episode. Its like any other marketing scheme, more views should equal more sales long term!

Watch all the episode of The Writer's Edge at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrFrRVtIOYaR8NEYAdZ24w>

WRITER GUIDELINES

So you'd like to submit your short story to Books 'N Pieces Magazine? We'd love to see it. Our guidelines

Please avoid ALL CAPS. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE SCREAMING AND EVEN IF YOUR CHARACTER IS

able Online to read as well. <http://bit.ly/MrsDuttaWrites>

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what response are you expecting from me? Excellent proofing methods include reading it aloud, having someone read it to you, record it and play it back. You will be amazed at the mistakes you find.

ent example of the power of a short story, without being overt in explanation. I hope you will find them useful. <http://bit.ly/HemingwayHills>

• Another excellent short story* "Mrs. Dutta Writes a Letter" is avail-

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I look forward to reading your submissions.

shortstory

NOTHING TO FEAR

by Jim Hasse

It was a chest crushing bearhug. My arms were pinned to my sides. I was spun around, and now faced a

I possessed flowed through me and I threw the forward attacker off and rolled over, wrenching my pistol out of

felt dizzy. Mike rounded the corner and slid into a kneeling position to my left. "Oh my

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pressed hard against the back of my head. I snapped my head forward just as the gun discharged. A searing pain pierced the back of my scalp, followed by a ringing in my ears.

A physical power that I did not know

tried to think. Was this real? I couldn't feel any pain. I felt the back of my head and could feel a bloody, mushy spot with a chunk of scalp missing.

I felt my stomach area and it was tender to the touch. I was shaking and

ture trail and head toward the freeway. They lost them as they headed west toward East St. Louis."

"I feel so tired. Why can't we talk at the hospital? I just want to sleep. Just want to sleep. Let me rest."

"No Ted, you can't sleep. You must be alert. You're in bad shape. You've lost a lot of blood. I don't want to scare you, but they need as much information as possible just in case you don't make it. That's why Martin is flying with you." I gave a weak wave to Mike as we

He had the bearing of a doctor. I closed my eyes and shook my head from side to side, "Help me get through this. I'm really hurting." It made me more nervous that everyone was so serious and I heard the medic that had been on the helicopter

The blonde nurse leaned over me. She had a soft, caring smile. I looked at her name tag. The white letters etched into the black background said, Gabhann. What? That's my name. She wasn't a relative. Other than family I had never met another Gabhann.

can't get to it."

As one bag of blood emptied it was replaced by a second. Suddenly there was a loud and steady noise coming from the heart monitor. An alarm sounded. As the doctor continued to try to clamp off the bleeding vein, another



THE REVIEW'S IN!
by Jill Hedgecock, Program Coordinator, Mt. Diablo
/California Writers' Club Website: www.jillhedgecock.com

The Woman in Cabin 10

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me and I could hear excited voices. I heard someone say, "Yeah, he's a cop. An undercover state narcotics agent. Grazing gunshot to the back of the head and stab wound in the center of abdomen. Pretty serious." A tall man in a white coat said something to me that I didn't understand.

called ahead to the emergency room and had units of O-positive waiting for me. There was now a bag of blood hanging from a rod above my head. I heard the doctor say to Detective Martin, "No. You can't talk to him now. We're prepping him for surgery. We've got to go."

took a deep breath and began an incision adjacent to my puncture wound. As he opened me up he said, "The vein to the spleen has been severed. I've got to clamp it off." He worked quickly, with an intense focus. Blood continued to flow from the incision. Dr. Brand mumbled, "Damn, I

Earning a master's in counseling, he became a drug and alcohol rehabilitation instructor. Hasse is a member of the California Writers Club and the Concord Veterans Writers Group. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, Carol..

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(2017, Simon & Schuster, paperback, 300 pages, \$9.51) has been compared to *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn and *Girl on a Train* by Paula Hawkins. This debut mystery novel certainly delivers on the unexpected twists and turns of these two popular novels. *The Luckiest Girl Alive's* story is narrated by Ani (pronounced aw-nee), short for "Tiffany," and oscillates between current

obsessed with losing weight for her upcoming wedding to wealthy Luke Harrison and fourteen-year-old Tiffany's first year at prestigious Bradley High School. Adult Ani is thriving at *The Woman's Magazine*, where she writes a sex advice column and is positioned to write serious pieces for *The New Yorker* when the two magazines merge. Ani seems to have it

all and her cynicism initially makes her seem ungrateful and, therefore, unlikeable. At times she is cold, calculating, manipulating, but at the same time somehow compelling. We soon learn that her love for her fiancée has waned and Ani is questioning her decision to marry Luke.

Meanwhile, as the new kid in

begin to make sense. Tiffany's narcissistic mother, a social climber more concerned with other's opinions, combined with her emotionally-distant father contribute to Ani's complex personality.

Ani's past and present collide when Ani returns



short story **HUGH'S FRIEND** by Mark Towse

When I speak to my friends we often joke and reminisce about the imaginary friends we used to have as kids, sometimes we would play or discuss things with them and even

get his head around, was something I will never forget. The teacher placed me next to some kid called Robert. He seemed nice enough, but Hugh seemed jealous that I had even said hello to the kid.

In my ear all day, "you're a homo, you're a homo," and slightly more inventive "Jack and Bobby sitting in a tree, Jack blows Bobby, one-two-three."

down the hallway and towards the back end of the house.

"You'll see soon enough," is all he replied as he finally made it to the cellar door.

My Dad always said the cellar was a work in progress and too dangerous for us to go in, I always wondered why it didn't apply to him though.

"Hugh, I am not allowed in there,

"Keep going, nearly there," he replied.

I kept edging along the wall and finally came to the end of the room; I flashed the torch around and could see nothing else worth noting.

"Push that last panel, Jack," he said.

I did and it moved inwards, not just a little bit, and I soon realized it was a makeshift door.

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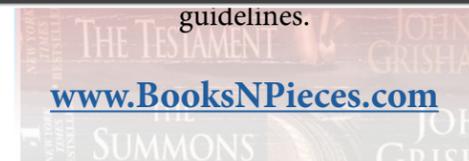
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good couple of weeks before I realized the stubborn little prick wasn't going anywhere.

The first day at school, already a hard enough time for a seven-year-old to

let her down considerably. Hugh was still unbelievably pleased with himself and asked me to follow him; he had something to show me.

"Where are we going?" I called out to him in pursuit as he sprinted ahead

grabbed the torch. I saw the vast array of jars and bottles of wine spread across various tables and felt my way along the walls.

"What are we doing here, Hugh?" I asked impatiently.

Mark is currently working in sales and marketing but would sell his soul to the devil for a full time career as a writer. Some of his other stories will be published shortly. Follow him twitter.com/marktowsey12

Story Photo credit: Aleksandr Belugin | 123RF.com

THE FIRES OF TONY PHILLIPS

Author, Journalist, Commentator



Q: You studied philosophy, written political com-

performing in front of the mirror and taken my performance to the stage. From that moment onward, writing has been a daily

People need to get a grip and recognize that not every critique is an attack. There can be more than one fair observation about any

loose-leaf pad, toiling away by oil lamp light until I hear my muse and my heart thrums to her clarion call. All that is insipid romanticism. It's the sort of thing writers talk about to make writing seem like something it's not.

I write haphazardly, extemporaneously and spontaneously. Essay-length work I don't even outline. I formulate key sentences then write around them. For a

words a day, five to six days a week. In the past quarter-century I've written nearly 20 million words. I like a few hundred thousand of them. The point is to just get the words out and let your voice develop its own memory, form its own habits and follow its own course. Think of it as a combat sport. You're not ready to go 12 rounds in the ring until

The Pirate, Part I: The Traitor by Malcolm Torres

When Jack Turner was arrested for stealing a car in LA, the judge gave him a choice: Two-years on probation or join the



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point for a writing career, it would be in 1993. I got a gig writing a recurring column for a publishing industry magazine and the first time I saw my own work in print I felt the sensual satisfaction of the work itself amplified a thousand times. I had stopped

A NOVEL

whether a vast readership recognizes it or not. Likewise, as a people we Westerners are beset by the plague of one-sidedness.

what hat I don, cocked at what jaunty angle, and what gin paired with what dark chocolate sits on what corner of my desk beneath what leaded-glass window in what corner of the attic on what winter's day, while I, in fingerless gloves, hunch over my

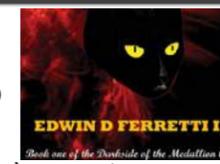
encourage all writers to follow. First, and this is axiomatic, write. You might think you write copiously but I promise you, when you're all written out there's someone else still writing. In addition to my own writing, I write as a contractor for two dozen private and public agencies. Most of it is word salad, but I write an average of several thousand

and built it around a 15-year-old boy. It's a coming of age tale with admittedly auto-biographical facets, told in part in the vernacular of a place and people I revered.

You can buy Tony's novel "The Fires of Orc" at Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2uRzsaA>

Jen a gold medallion that he found on a dig in Egypt many years ago: a relic that bridges 128,000 light-years, and opens a door to continue a 7000-year-old war into Jen's present time.

The book is FREE on Smashwords, <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/617076>



Alan Brennert: People's Choice & Emmy Award Winner

by Jill Hedgecock
Novels and Screenplays and the Flexibility of Writing Both



Q: Tell us about winning an Emmy for your work on the television show, L.A. Law, in 1991. Did you get more satisfaction for this achievement, for the People's Choice Award, or for winning the Nebula Award for "Ma Qui"?

Q: I understand that you transformed one of your first novels, Time and Chance, into a screenplay. When you revisited this work, where did you see your biggest improvement as a writer over time? Was reworking this novel like visiting an old friend?

MEET STUART HORWITZ

AUTHOR OF FINISH YOUR BOOK IN THREE DRAFTS

by Jill Hedgecock
www.jillhedgecock.com



Is 2018 the year that you're going to finally find time to tackle

am happy, of course — but it is like I am hearing about a trip they've taken when I got left home.

Nothing will ever beat those rare nights when I knew I nailed it. When I had prepared for a writing session, and executed, while welcoming the unex-

— as I spend a lot of my time thinking about structure:

1. What you're writing isn't what you think you're writing. Not that it's that far off, necessarily. Let's say you've set sail—to use an extended marine metaphor—heading for an is-

lem? Because when you involve beta readers (people who read your draft when you know it isn't done), you are far more open to feedback than you will be at a later stage. You may lose time and focus by pursuing a direction that someone else recommended rather than discovering the

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there are times when I'm describing what someone is wearing or what a room look like that I ask rhetorically, "Isn't there a department head who can do this for me?"

influences of the work of Arthur Golden and Lisa See, and Palisades Park owes something to Larry McMurtry's *The Desert Rose*).

research!
I hope you've enjoyed hearing about Alan Brennert. To learn more, visit his website <http://www.alanbrennert.com>.

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sessions where I was achieving the height of my flight. When someone says, "Your books are so original; I have learned more from you than anyone else" — I

mistakes you see in author's manuscripts?
A: This is a big question! I'd say the following five are the biggest structural mistakes I see

prehensive.
4. You let too many people read it before it was ready. Why is this a structural prob-

where you can sign up for his newsletter.
Visit his Amazon Author Page: <https://amzn.to/2LEwvmX> or <https://amzn.to/2LKUcu4>

All About ~~Aditing~~ Editing

by Jeri Walker
JeriWB.com

All manuscripts need multiple rounds of editing. Polishing a book's language makes little sense if content issues haven't been ironed out and vice versa. An author's publishing goals

tion. Often, Indie authors think only a proofread is sufficient before publishing, but it most certainly is not! When choosing an editor, word of mouth is a great place

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On the other hand, copy-editing focuses on correcting errors to ensure consistency, cohesiveness, and completeness. The last step in the process is proofreading, which should ideally take place after a manuscript has been formatted for publica-

tion. Often, Indie authors think only a proofread is sufficient before publishing, but it most certainly is not! money on, right? Invest wisely.

Photo credit: Andriy Popov | 123rf.com

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Cover photo: Sherry Briscoe Photography.

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From the San Francisco Bay Area to Boise, Idaho....

Joanne Pence:

Award-Winning, Bestselling Author and Co-Founder of The Idaho Writer's Guild



Joanne Pence is an award-winning, USA Today best-selling author of the Angie Amalfi and Rebecca Mayfield mysteries, historical fiction, contemporary

thrive. I am constantly amazed by the number of well-established, well-known authors in our community. IWG is a great venue to for the authors to meet for informal, useful discussions and sharing.



At the time, "Indie" publishing was just beginning, so I decided to give it a try. The book, Ancient Echoes, did surprisingly well, so I branched out to other books, and started a second mystery series. To my amazement, publishing my

Where magic is real, monsters roam the land, and the Roman Empire never fell

Ellis Knox



LIVING THE ALTEARTH WRITER LIFE



magic had to be real. But I would keep as much historical reality as I could. What enthralled me was the prospect of treating two thousand years of history as a kind of

I see no reason to write in any other setting. For one thing, much of the world-building work is already done. I don't have to invent plants and animals. I can just look at

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and networking. IWG has grown beyond my expectations, and I hope it will continue to

realized that New York publishers didn't really know what to do with such a book.



Photo credit: Sherry Briscoe Photography

A: It stems from the core idea, which I had some time in the mid-1990s. I would take all the myths and legends and monsters of European history, which of course meant

Empire never fell, and I keep all the rest I possible can. Once I came up with the name, Altearth, I knew I had to write at least something in that world. Never waste a good title.

puter-based work from there, though once in a while I'll print out a chapter, especially to make heavy editing notes.

Continues on page 27

MARC RAINER

Stranger Than Fiction: The True Story of a Local Bestselling Author



there was Lea's encouragement. Second, I went to law school with a guy named (John) Grish-

Q: Why did you decide to self-publish as opposed to going the mainstream publishing

of the agents who were there. I just went to see what I could learn from the various seminars

speaking to another agent following my own presentation on a self-publishing seminar at the conference. One asked the other, "Has he pitched anyone, yet?" The response was, "Why does he need an agent with his sales?" I found that to be very revealing. Every author dreams of that magic, six-figure advance check, but the "A-list" hasn't called

astounding, and even more astounding is Amazon's refusal to filter them. I've had one-star reviews listed in which the "reader" admitted that he had not even tried to read the book! I've had folks file reviews who were obviously looking for literary fiction instead of crime thrillers. Every art form is subjective, and you can't even try to please

Knox Continued from p. 25

The finished work goes over to Word, off to my editor, rinse and repeat. From Word, it's off to the self-publishing process.



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and prosecutions. I'd mention them to my wife, Lea, and her reactions were usually, "You can't make this stuff up," and "You ought to write a book." As far as what prompted me to write the first book, that's also a combination of things. First,

ready to do so, and I don't force them. While I've never had "writer's block," I do wait on writer's motivation. To steal a line from an old winery commercial, I will sell no crime before its time.



a total of more than 50,000 copies to date (including the e-book sales). I have no regrets about the self-publishing decision. I attended a thriller writers' conference last year, and didn't "pitch" any

nitely ailing. Amazon's e-book and hard copy print-on-demand schemes have revolutionized the publishing world, and even "successful" authors have turned to self-publishing rather than the play the old game any longer. I heard this same agent

when you started? A: I've had good and bad surprises across the spectrum. On the positive side, I've received a lot of very positive feedback from law enforcement and prosecution professionals who've said, "Finally, someone got it right." On the negative side, the number of hypercritical trolls who file reviews is

members whom he lost to cancer: his little brother Marc, and his mother, Betty Rainer Ambrose.

Visit his Website: www.marcrainer.com
Visit his Amazon Author Page: <https://amzn.to/2LUFihU>

Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Russia, Estonia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, England, and Scotland. "They like to think they are just getting started," he says.

Visit Ellis' Website: <https://www.altearth.net/>
Ellis' Amazon Author page: <https://amzn.to/2AgTNv1>

Idaho Writer's
Guild Luncheons
& Garden City



interview

Laura C. Lefkowitz, DVM

Tell-All Tales of An Emergency Veterinarian



Q: How did you develop the idea of an at-home euthanasia service

tion which is comprised of multiple veterinarians and technicians from different hospitals in the area who make themselves available through an on-call list. Thus, working together

cess was organizing the stories into an order that would have continuity as a finished product. My stories were written over the span of many years. Each of my chapters describes an experience which is independent from the next chapter and which can stand alone as a story. In the end, I resolved the problem of how to organize the book by

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• Writers Helping Writers is a large group with 75K members. that's a lot of support. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/27659251025/>

• The Write Life Group offers a

information for your book, perhaps: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fictionwritersgroup/>

• 10-Minute Novelists boasts almost 12K members and allows you to break your efforts into smaller sized bits. <https://www.facebook.com/>

that is you should really look. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NaNoWriMoparticipants/>

Feel free to send us you favorite Facebook writing groups. This will be a permanent feature on our Website at www.BooksNPieces.com

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that with the rising rate of burn out, compassion fatigue, and suicides amongst veterinary professionals that if I started this service it needed to be fair to my colleagues as well. I could not put any one veterinary professional into a role whose sole job would be to euthanize animals all week long. My solution was to create Gentle Goodbyes, an organiza-

tion which would have a true understanding of the demands and the stresses of the job. There seems to be a general misconception by the public that a veterinarian's days are spent vaccinating cute puppies and sewing up easily repaired lacerations when in actuality, nothing could be further from the truth. For me, the most difficult part of the pro-

cess to me that not one person recounted the same story twice, and that everyone I spoke to seemed to remember the book as having had a different emotional impact on them. One person remarked how she had "out-and-out belly laughs" while reading through it, another told me how she had cried over the story of the geriatric,

aggressive chihuahua that I had taken into my home and tried to rehabilitate. Another expressed how angry she was about the verbal abuse that veterinarians are subject to, another mentioned how utterly disgusting she found the stories about abscesses to be. I can't disagree with her there, abscesses truly are nauseating. A few told me they could never look at a dog with a docked tail in the same way again. A close friend swore he would never breed a dog again after

sure that the stories will continue to flow. For my next book, one of my main goals is to sit down with my colleagues who practice less conventional dairy, equine, or zoo medicine and ask them questions that they would never dare to answer if it was not being asked by a fellow colleague. I want to show the reality version of those facets of veterinary medicine and to highlight some of the challenges that these doctors face. I also want to interview my colleagues who practice small

onward, she's been jotting down peculiar professional moments. In such a stressful career—vets are disproportionately likely to commit suicide, she notes—it's important to look for the lighter side. Whether it's a kitten swallowing a condom or a dog sipping piña coladas, she often shakes her head over owner negligence and animal mischief.

"My job is never boring," the author proclaims. The book's careful thematic structure also reflects the fact that diagnoses tend to

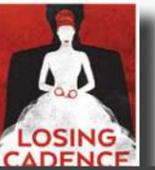
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Losing Cadence by Laura Lovett

When Cadence Weaverly graduates from high school, she thinks it's for the best that she and her boyfriend, Richard White, take separate paths: she to Julliard and he back to Harvard. Ten years later, she has an ideal job and a wonderful fiancé, Christian.

She is building the life of her dreams-until the day Richard resurfaces out of the blue, abducts her from her San Francisco apartment, and returns her to his mansion where he holds her captive. In this psychological thriller,



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books?

A: I have a never-ending pile of stories, which are in various phases of completion, stacked up on my desk. For as long as I continue to practice veterinary medicine I am

veterinarian.

Lefkowitz (Did My Dog Eat a Sock? Did My Dog Eat a Rock?, 2014), a veterinarian for more than 20 years, currently practices outside Boise, Idaho. From veterinary school

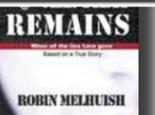
delicately balance comedy and pathos.

You can buy the book on Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2LH4nzZ>

rich and the mothers that gave them bodies, some more free than others. Then love gets in the way, the rest is history. A family branded by the sins of the past a woman tormented by love and deception. All leading to the discovery of the worlds greatest undiscovered robbery.

It's all smoke and mirrors, it's all fake, or is it? Why did they wait 30 years before telling the story?

Buy it on Amazon.com: <https://amzn.to/2LTp314>



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YEGman by **Konn Lavery**

In the darkest streets of Edmonton, crime is around every corner. The police have exhausted their resources. Citizens are in a constant state of fear. The city is in dire need of justice. Someone needs to give the felons what they deserve – skip the courts and deliver their verdict with a fist full of fury! At least that is what Michael Bradford tells himself. He struggles with violent tendencies while personally investigating the Crystal Moths, Edmonton's most notorious gang. His vigilante methods get caught on film and are uploaded to the web with the hashtag YEGman.



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machine later. When Griffin saves Oliver Terra from an attack, Terra uncovers a terrible secret. The Foundation has been lying to her...and maybe they still are. They have labelled Griffin a killing machine, yet he acts more human than many of The Foundation's leaders. Can Griffin overcome the machine inside and trust her? Or will getting in touch with his human emotions destroy him once and for all?

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

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Wham (Timewalker Book 1) by **Carol Marrs Phipps**

When Children and Family Assistance police drag her mom, her dad and her beautiful sister out the door into the night and beat her senseless, Tess Greenwood finds herself alone, her every move watched by the hidden World Alliance. Almost blind after her beating, she flees to the forbidden Broadstreet compound and a troll named Maxi. So begins Tess's journey from quiet teen at home to fierce young woman, determined to get back her family any way she can. Even if she must travel time itself. But time is one thing she has little of. Those arrested in the night



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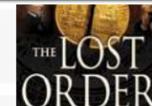
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Skyjack: (A Thea Paris Novel) by K.J. Howe

In the follow-up to her exhilarating debut, *The Freedom Broker*, K.J. Howe delivers a “riveting” and “rip-roaring” thriller perfect for fans of Sandra Brown and Lisa Gardner. International kidnap expert Thea Paris is escorting two former child soldiers on a plane from an orphanage in Kanzi, Africa, to adoptive parents in London when the Boeing Business Jet is hijacked and forced to make an emergency landing in the remote Libyan desert. *Reveal*



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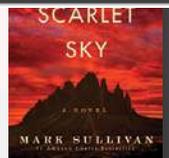
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bombs, Pino joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps, and falls for Anna, a beautiful widow six years his senior. In an attempt to protect him, Pino's parents force him to enlist as a German soldier—a move they think will keep him out of combat. Now, with the opportunity to spy for the Allies inside the German High Command, Pino endures the horrors of the war and the Nazi occupation by fighting in secret, his courage bolstered by his love for Anna and for the life he dreams they will one day share.

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