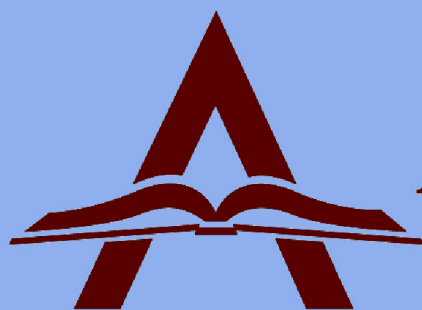




ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

Issue 4

Arizona Authors Association

October-November 2019

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Vice President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte

The focus for the past two months has been on updating the website and on judging the contest. Our new website is <http://www.arizonaauthors.com>. Your membership entitles to you to a webpage there. For those of you who have not yet sent in the information for your webpage, please check the Webpage Requirements on the next page of this newsletter. My grandson Aaron has been helping build the pages. You can send me the materials in a Word document or in the body of an email, whatever is easier for you, at toby@tobyheathcotte.com. We'll add your page.

Jane Ruby has been in contact with many of you to help with judging the contest. Thank you, judges, for participating in this critical function of the Association. Once you return the judging ballots, the winners are notified and materials collected to create the literary magazine, a time-consuming process. I know this year's magazine will be beautiful and you will all be proud of it.

Whether you won or lost, or even if you didn't enter the contest, I hope you will want to attend the banquet on November 2 at Moon Valley Country Club in Phoenix. It's great fun. Maybe you could dress up as your favorite sleuth. It's the most important event of the year for our members to get together and celebrate writing and writers. You'll probably also want to order a 2020 Arizona Literary Magazine. For details on making your banquet reservations, write to Jane Ruby directly at moonvalleyisr@cox.net or check page [20](#) of this newsletter.

continued on the next page

Vice President's Corner, continued

Mountain View Elementary School in Phoenix will hold its Fifth Annual Young Authors Day on October 4. Several of our members volunteered to participate by presenting programs on writing, reading from their works, and teaching children about the writing life. This is a terrific program, and I wish we had more of them. They create interest in books and writing and help sell books. All good things. If you know of similar programs or other activities our members might want to participate in, let me know so I can advertise the details.

For personal reasons, our president, Russ Azbill, has moved to New Mexico. The State of Arizona requires that Arizona corporations provide a statutory agent who resides in Arizona. I applied to become the statutory agent once again. I'm happy to resume that role since I held it for the ten years of my presidency.

As you can see from the rundown above, the board members are working hard to make the Association successful. We could definitely use some help. If you want to volunteer for activities that accentuate your talents and help all the members, here are the slots we'd like to fill:

Membership
Webmaster
Promotion

A reminder, if you've not joined our Facebook page, please click on this link: [Facebook Group](#)

See you soon, hopefully at the banquet. Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!

Toby

Toby Heathcotte 
tobyheathcotte.com Author
Arizonaauthors.com Vice President
[Facebook](#)
Email: toby@tobyheathcotte.com

Arizona Authors Association Members' Webpages

If you haven't yet updated your page on our Arizona Authors Association [website](#), please do so now. We'd like to see all of our members get the recognition they deserve, and the webpage will enhance your professional presence on the web. The following items will be needed:

Photo: Color or B/W, 3x5 inches, 300 dpi minimum.

Name: Write your name as you wish it to be listed on the website (two or three names).

Trade: This line will list your trade, i.e. Author, Editor, Publisher, Literary Judge, Journalist, Blogger, Technical Writer, etc. Be **sure** to stay within a 21 **character** limit.

Genre: This section contains 3 lines. The first line has 21 characters. The next 2 lines each have 28 characters. State the genres of your work, i.e., Fiction, Nonfiction, Sci-Fi, Biography, Drama, Comedy, Screenplays, Play Scripts, Technical Manuals, Blogging, etc. Be **sure** to stay within the **character** (not word) limit for each line.

Email: If you wish, provide an email address where the public may contact you. This will be available to anyone who accesses our site.

Website: Supply an http web address to create a link, if desired. Go to your website and then copy the link, such as: <http://www.debbieweiland-author.com>. Indicate whether you are published or unpublished.

Biography: Write your biography of up to 2000 words. You may list your published works here or save that for the next section.

Works by (Your Name): In this section, list your works in whatever order you like, but be sure to group series together. If you write under more than one name, group your works by name. Include the title, book cover photo, and the link where buyers may purchase your book.

Note that our staff may edit any section as needed. Please send your completed updates to:

toby@tobyheathcotte.com

In the subject line of the email, insert "Website Bio Update." Thank you!



Saguaro by [Bernard Gagnon](#)

Arizona Authors Association Leadership

Board of Directors:

President.....Russell Azbill
Vice President.....Toby Heathcotte
Treasurer.....Debbie Weiland
Board Member.....Nicolas Lagrand
Secretary/Literary Contest Director.....Jane Ruby

Newsletter Editor.....Kathleen Cook

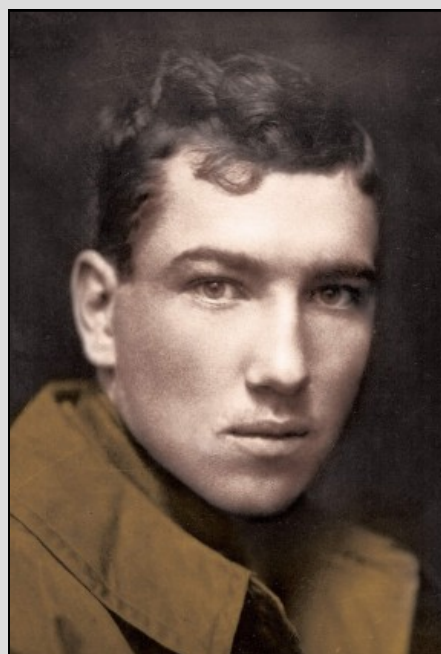
Unless expressly stated, Arizona Authors Association, including its newsletter staff, neither endorses nor takes responsibility for the opinions expressed in this publication.

**Editorial correspondence and
newsletter submissions may be emailed to:**

faerland@yahoo.com

All other inquiries should be sent to:

Arizona.Authors@yahoo.com



There is no money in poetry, but then,
there's no poetry in money, either.

Robert Graves, British Poet and Novelist

Arizona Authors Association

Current Benefits and Submission Guidelines

Membership Benefits

With the Arizona Authors Association relaunch, we offer several valuable benefits to our members. This newsletter provides you with a bimonthly guide to workshops, events and activities, many of them free or low cost, designed to hone your skills as a writer. In addition, newsletter articles offer advice, suggestions, and insight to reinforce your expertise.

The yearly Literary Contest furnishes an opportunity to showcase your work and the possibility of earning prizes that will enhance your reputation as an author. As the relaunch progresses, we plan to once again participate in book fairs or other events. The opportunity to advertise under the Arizona Authors Association banner will allow you to promote your work and increase your visibility with a minimum of expense and effort.

I hope you will take advantage of the newsletter to report your accomplishments. Our "Congratulations" page is designed to applaud your efforts and inspire other members. We also welcome your input on anything author related, such as your own literary news, useful tips, helpful websites, etc. Ask questions that will be answered in the next issue. Together, we will all benefit from the combined knowledge of our diverse membership.

Lastly, one of the biggest benefits of your Arizona Authors Association membership is the ability to reach others with your book releases and advertisements. You may submit a quarter-page ad for your author-related services without any cost to you through the rest of 2019. Books released within the previous six months will receive a free, full-page ad.



Submissions to the Newsletter

Your input is welcome! The following categories accept submissions through midnight on the **15th** day of odd-numbered months. Send all entries to: faerland@yahoo.com.

Features are generally between 800-1200 words (lengthier or shorter submissions will be considered). We seek articles that motivate and inspire writers, enhance their skills, assist in promoting their works and more.

What Are You Reading? asks members to share their current reading material in 200 words or less. Tell us why you like or dislike a book (written by anyone except yourself). This will help other members in their quest for new reading material.

Road to Imagination seeks finished works of 800 words or less based upon the previous issue's story prompt. **Back Page Humor** seeks jokes (200 words or less) on the foibles of writing, editing or publishing. We also need Arizona landscape **photos**, as inspiring space fillers for our newsletter. If we use them, we'll credit you. Please be sure to state in your email that you took the photos.

If you published a book within the last six months, share it with the Arizona Authors Association Newsletter. We'd love to advertise it in our next issue. We will also list any upcoming book-related events, meetings, workshops, book sales, book signings, etc., across the state or in nearby regions as space permits. If you offer editing, proofreading, or other literary services, submit a quarter-page ad with us for free through 2019.

Send your articles in Word, Notepad or Wordpad format. Pictures may be gif, png or jpegs. Send large pictures, if possible, (no less than 2"x4") since we can shrink any picture without losing quality, but small pictures cannot be enlarged without noticeable deterioration. Note that all submissions are subject to light editing/proofreading. You will be informed in advance of publication if extensive edits are needed.

Thank you!

Recent and Upcoming Events

RECENT



On July 18, 2019, Sedona Author Peter Bernhardt presented a three-hour workshop at the Sedona OLLI campus, entitled, *Write Like a Pro: Tips to Fine-Tune Your Storytelling*. This is the same workshop that our own Arizona Authors Association members were privileged to attend on May 18 at

the Metro Center Community Room in Phoenix.

Encouraged by positive feedback, Peter will present the workshop again during the OLLI winter session, on February 7, 2020.

Peter bolstered the relaunch of the Arizona Authors Association newsletter earlier this year in both the first and second editions, which were published in April and June. His 2-part article, The Author's Guide to Avoiding Pesky Pitfalls, covered some of the material in the workshop and helped our readers to fine-tune their own stories.

A cosmopolitan author, Peter is currently translating his second novel, *Kiss of the Shaman's Daughter*, into German to join the German editions of his other two novels. The book is a sequel to *The Stasi File*, a 2011 ABNA Quarter Finalist, and precedes his spy thriller *Red Romeo*. Find out more about Peter and his books at: <http://tinyurl.com/a7rnpql> - <http://sedonaauthor.com> - <https://tinyurl.com/yeyvps3b>

UPCOMING

Mountain View Elementary School in Phoenix will hold its Fifth Annual Young Authors Day on October 4. For more information, contact [Karen O'Keefe](#).

Award-winning author Marilyn June Jansen conducts workshops at the Southeast Regional Library (SRL) at 775 N. Greenfield Road, Gilbert, AZ., and at the Red Mountain Recreation Center (RMR) at 7550 East Adobe in Mesa, AZ.



Beginners and advanced writers are welcome to attend her classes. Visit Marilyn's website for more information at: www.janwrite.com. You may also email her at janlitserv@cox.net, or call 480-699-6389.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 5 Location: SRL Children's Picture & Chapter Books Writing

Create kid friendly characters, storylines, edutainment, choose POV, add description, and setting. 10 AM-12 PM \$25. [REGISTER](#)

MONDAYS OCTOBER 14-28 Location: RMR Fiction/Nonfiction Story Structure & Development

Award winning writer and author Marilyn June Janson M.S. Ed. shares her foolproof method to writing the perfect short story, novel, memoir, and family history. 6 PM-8 PM \$20 plus a \$12 registration fee for Mesa residents (or \$14 for non-residents). [REGISTER](#)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26 Location: SRL Mind Craft Fiction Writing

Have a great idea and don't know where to begin? Instructor Marilyn provides her foolproof writing strategy and personalized materials to create your story line. Short stories and novels. 10 AM-12PM \$25 [REGISTER](#)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23 Location: SRL Raiders of the Lost Ark Writing

Learn how to use ancient artifacts to create your perfect universe and story. Personalized writing instruction and activities. Short stories and novels. 10AM-12PM \$25 [REGISTER](#)

Congratulations to Our Members

Our own Arizona Authors Association columnist, Mark D. Walker, has had a string of literary successes since our last issue. He has been named a finalist in the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest for his essay, "Hugs Not Walls: Reuniting the Children."

The article that we featured in the August issue, "Trouble in the Highlands," was reissued in *Revue*, a Guatemalan-based magazine with a readership of 25,000 throughout Central America. The magazine published six articles so far, including one in his *Yin and Yang of Travel* series titled, "Traveling with a Chapina," issued last month.

QUAIL BELL Magazine has picked up his third immigration article, "Justice & Responsibility: The Plight of Central American

Immigrants." In addition, his article, "Moritz Thomsen: His Letters and His Legacy," will be published in the September

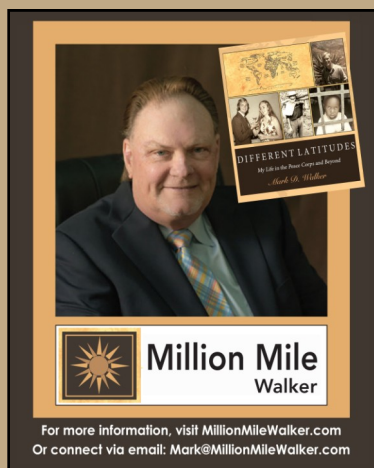
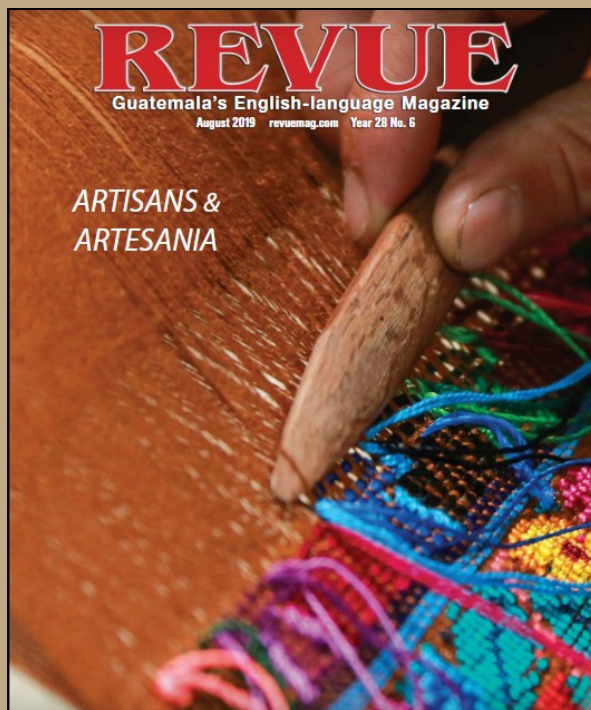
issue of *Scarlet Leaf Review*. Their mission is to erase borders and unite people under the same umbrella, no matter how divergent they are. They give voice to emerging writers and offer a "canvas to future world renowned artists."

Check out Mark's Facebook Page [HERE](#)

Read his article in *Revue* [HERE](#). You'll find it on page 82

Find out more about Mark, the president of Million Mile Walker LLC, at:

<http://www.millionmilewalker.com>



Marcia Fine has been accepted into the Burton Barr Central Library's Local Author Fair, Saturday, November 2, 2019, 11:00am-2:00pm. Marcia will be there with her satirical series about Scottsdale and her Historical Fiction novels.

Currently, production is being completed on her eighth book, *LOVE and DEATH in RHODES—A Novella of Biblical Proportions*, to be released in 2020.

Learn more about Marcia at: marciafine.com

You may view Marcia's library of books on Amazon [HERE](#)



Arizona Authors Association member, Marcus Nannini, has earned quite a bit of attention lately with his superb book, *Left for Dead at Nijmegen: The True Story of an American Paratrooper in World War II*, which is featured on page [25](#) of this newsletter. The book chronicles the fortunes of Eugene Metcalf, an American hero who was dropped into what should have been a peaceful meadow near the city of Nijmegen in the Dutch province of Gelderland. Within moments, he realized the intelligence got it horribly wrong. What happened next attests to his heroism, strength, intellect, patience, and endurance.

Eugene's tale has been vividly and eloquently narrated by our own Marcus Nannini. It was published by the internationally recognized Casemate Publishers, with offices in Oxford, UK, and Philadelphia, PA. Marcus' book has recently been recognized for inclusion into the United States National Archives. Here are a few of the many reviews:



[MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW](#), 06-10-2019:

Left for Dead at Nijmegen: The True Story of an American Paratrooper in World War II is an extraordinary and simply riveting memoir that will prove to be an immediate and enduringly valued addition to both community and academic library World War II Military History & Biography collections."

"Very Riveting" [Herbert Bauernebel](#), American Correspondent for the German periodicals BILD and amerikaREPORT.

[Literary Titan Review](#) 07-12-2019

"It's not every day that we come across a historical work with as much life in it as we see in *Left for Dead at Nijmegen: The True Story of an American Paratrooper in WWII*. The level of research and attention to detail that went into the retelling of Eugene Metcalf's harrowing tale of survival is shown in spades. The reader has no problem understanding not only the physical situations faced by the main character but also the emotions and state of mind."

Find more about Marcus Nannini [HERE](#):

Purchase a copy of *Left for Dead at Nijmegen: The True Story of an American Paratrooper in WWII* [HERE](#) or check out page [25](#) of this newsletter for more options.



Please join Donis Casey for the launch of *The Wrong Girl*, a fresh new series featuring Bianca LaBelle, star of the silent screen action serial, *The Adventures of Bianca Dangereuse*. Fifteen-year-old Blanche Tucker is longing to escape her drop-dead dull life when dashing Graham Peyton roars into town and convinces the ambitious but naive teenager to run away with him to a glamorous new life. Instead, Graham uses her as cruelly as a silent picture villain. Yet by luck and by pluck, taking charge of her life, she makes it to Hollywood, eventually transforming herself into Bianca LaBelle, a major star of the silent screen.

The book launch will be held at 7:00 PM on October 29, 2019, at the Poisoned Pen Bookstore, 4014 N Goldwater Blvd #101, Scottsdale, AZ.

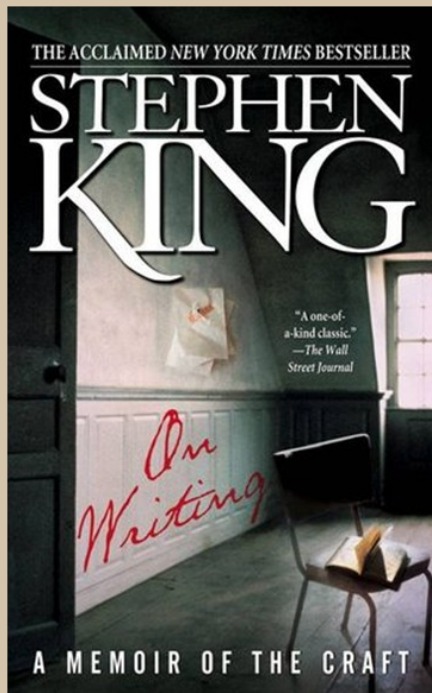
Find out more about Donis at: www.doniscasey.com

Check out her Book Release for *The Wrong Girl* on page [26](#) of this newsletter.



The Million Mile Walker Review What We're Reading and Why

By Mark D. Walker



This month I'll be reviewing the books of two great authors, Stephen King and Virginia Woolf. We'll learn about writing from their lives and what and how they wrote. I've never read one of Stephen King's books before, nor do I remember seeing any of the movies based on his books, but which author can ignore a book on how to write by the critically acclaimed, million-copy bestselling writer? One piece of advice stands out, which he repeats several times and it's worth repeating:

"If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot."

He goes on to say, "Yet there is a learning process going on. Every book you pick up has its own lesson or lessons, and quite often the bad books have more to teach than the good ones."

The second forward of his book explains why he wrote the book the way he did:

This is a short book because most books about writing are filled with bullshit. Fiction writers, present company included, don't understand very much about what they do—nor why it works when it's good, nor why it doesn't when it's bad. I figured the shorter the book, the less the bullshit.

There you go—no muss or fuss....He goes on to reveal the one exception to the bullshit rule is "The Elements of Style," by William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White. He highlights rule 17, "Omit needless words."

The book is indeed a memoir as he takes us through the winding road of memories from his childhood, the emergence of becoming a writer to the near fatal accident in 1999 and how he survived it and refocused on his writing. He made his first buck at an early age, "Four stories. A quarter apiece. That was the first buck I made in this business." In his third foreword he gave another memorable *rule of the road*: "The editor is always right," and the corollary, "no writer will take all of his or her editor's advice..."

Other pearls of wisdom include, "It's dialogue that gives your cast their voices, and is crucial in defining their characters—only what people do tells us more about what they're like, and talk is sneaky: what people say often conveys their character to others in ways of which they—the speakers—are completely unaware."

continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker Review

The author offers an edited section of one of his books as an example of his revision process. He also provides his own "Booklist," which includes such classics as Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, Graham Greene's *Our Man in Havana*, and Lee Harper's *To Kill A Mockingbird*, as well as three pages of other worthy candidates for a good read.

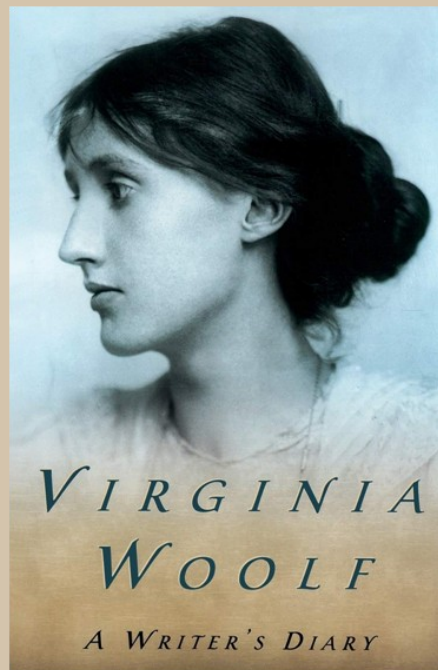
His final words will inspire you to carry on with this magical vocation:

Writing isn't about making money, getting famous, getting dates, getting laid, or making friends. In the end, it's about enriching the lives of those who will read your work, and enriching your own life, as well. It's about getting up, getting well, and getting over.... Writing is magic, as much the water of life as any other creative art. The water is free so drink.

I knew that Virginia Woolf was one of the major literary figures of the twentieth century and understood that she transformed the art of the novel with her ground-breaking works *Mrs. Dalloway* and *To the Lighthouse*. I'd soon learn that she was the author of numerous collections of letters, journals and short stories, and an admired literary critic and master of the essay, so she was someone I needed to become familiar with.

I assumed that she was also the inspiration of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, played in the film version by Elizabeth Taylor in juxtaposition with Richard Burton. Although the play's title alludes to the English novelist, the play has nothing to do with her, according to its author, who described the inspiration for the title as follows:

I was in there [a saloon in New York] having a beer one night, and I saw "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" scrawled in soap, I suppose, on this mirror. When I started to write the play it cropped up in my mind again. And of course, who's afraid of Virginia Woolf means who's afraid of the big bad wolf... who's afraid of living life without false illusions. And it did strike me as being a rather typical, university intellectual joke.



The diary was an excellent place to start the learning process, as it provides a guide to both the art and mind set of the author based on a collection of personal records her husband Leonard collected. The first entry is dated 1918 and the last was written three weeks before her death in 1941.

She finished one of her most popular books, *Mrs. Dalloway*, "without a break from illness, which is an exception; and written really in one year...without more than a few days' break for writing journalism..." as opposed to another book, *The Waves*, which was, "...written at such high pressure that I can't take it up and read it through between tea and dinner; I can only write it for about one hour, from 10 to 11:30. And the typing is almost the hardest part of the work. Heaven help me if all my little 80,000 word books are going in future to cost me two years!"

The author's philosophy of writing is best expressed in this passage: *I will not be "famous," "great." I will go on adventuring, changing, opening my mind and my eyes, refusing to be stamped and stereotyped. The thing is to free one's self: to let it find its dimensions, not be impeded.*

continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker Review

Old age and writer's fatigue would be exacerbated by mental illness, which plagued the author throughout her life. She was institutionalized several times and attempted suicide twice. Her illness was considered to have been bipolar disorder, for which there was no effective treatment at the time, and at age 59, she committed suicide by putting rocks in her coat pockets and drowning herself in the River Ouse.

This collection of writings reflects the ups and downs, anguish, the triumphs and creative vision of one of the great writers of our century and represents an inspiration and a reminder of the challenges of writing to successful as well as aspiring writers.

You can find the complete versions of my reviews on "Good Reads."

"On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft", Stephen King: [Good Reads Review](#)

"Virginia Woolf: A Writer's Diary" Compiled by her husband Leonard: [Good Reads Review](#)

Please let me know what you think—about this newsletter, my reviews and most importantly, what you're reading so I can ponder all of it and share some of your comments in my next column. You can email me at:

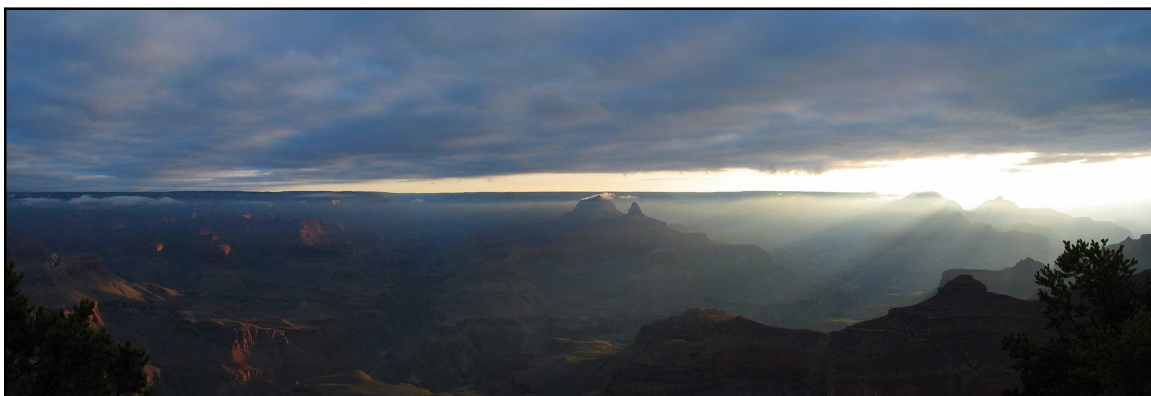
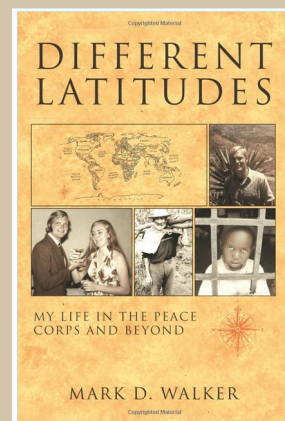
Mark@MillionMileWalker.com or through my website: <http://www.millionmilewalker.com/>

Walker was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala and spent over forty years helping disadvantaged people in the developing world. He came to Phoenix as a Senior Director for Food for the Hungry, worked with other groups like Make a Wish International and was the CEO of Hagar USA, a Christian-based organization that supports survivors of human trafficking.

His book, *Different Latitudes: My Life in the Peace Corps and Beyond*, was recognized by the Arizona Literary Association for nonfiction and according to the *Midwest Review*, "... is more than just another travel memoir. It is an engaged and engaging story of one man's physical and spiritual journey of self-discovery ..."

Several of his articles have been published in *Ragazine* and *WorldView Magazines* while another appeared in *Crossing Class: The Invisible Wall*, an anthology published by Wising Up Press. His reviews have been published by *Revue Magazine* as well as *Peace Corps Worldwide*, including one on Paul Theroux's latest book, *Figures in a Landscape*.

His honors include the "Service Above Self" award from Rotary International. His wife and three children were born in Guatemala. You can learn more at www.MillionMileWalker.com and follow him on his [Facebook](#) page.



Grand Canyon By [Dschen](#)



WHAT POUNDS MY CAKE!

by Jane Ruby

Wanna know what pounds my cake? Forgettaboutit. I'm too busy to tell you since I've been coordinating the Arizona Authors Association's 2019 Literary Contest.

Yeah, it's been a tough year for me—trying to pound cake and coordinate a literary contest at the same time, But let me tell you, I have to give EXTRA credit to this year's judges. They had a tough job reading and evaluating many entries. And then I'd throw in a curve ball, asking for further scrutiny in case of ties. You judges were terrific sports, and if you are attending the awards banquets, I'll treat you to a sarsaparilla.

This year's awards banquet will be held at the Moon Valley Country Club in North Phoenix. Why? Because that's my hood, and I wanna quick drive home after a long day. I think I deserve it. But it's also a great place for good food, great views and stellar socializing. Oh, and don't forget the awesome literary awards!

You can view the facilities on our website or go to moonvalleycc.com for more details. My family has been a member of this country club for years. We've booked birthday parties, dances and special events with this club. I can honestly tell you the accommodations are first class.

Our theme for this banquet is "Whodunnit?" We'll have a whimsical crime-solving event with suspects and clues. You can play along (if you're a mystery buff) or not. But dress up as your favorite detective like Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot (from Agatha Christie novels), Magnum PI, Honey West, Peter Gunn, Angela Lansbury (from TV's Murder, She Wrote) or even Dr. Temperance Brennan (from TV's Bones). If not, you can always wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt like Tom Selleck or the detectives from Hawaii 5-0. But please, no tank tops or cut-offs as per the country club dress code. So join us if you can. Seating is limited. I'll be e-blasting the awards banquet to all members as soon as I get the price and final menu.

Here are the finalists in the Unpublished Categories (in alphabetical order):

Novel

A Gallery Of Shadows – K. Patrick Malone, Freehold, NJ

A Love Divided By Time – Richard McMaster, Surprise

A Spy In Silks – Kara Krelove, Phoenix

Vanishing, Inc. – Janet Crum, Flagstaff



continued on the next page

What Pounds My Cake, continued**Short Story**

Phantom Wagons – Constance Osterlitz, Phoenix

Proof Text – Janet Crum, Flagstaff

Strange Events in Slater Canyon – Mark Ford, Flagstaff

Surviving English – Duke Southard, Green Valley

Essay

First Love – Lasting Love – Julia Watson, Prescott

Hugs Not Walls: Reuniting The Children – Mark Walker, Scottsdale

Notre Dame – Rico Austin, Scottsdale

Wishful Thinking – Rose Garlasco, Scottsdale

Poetry

Soul Sifter — Marilyn McDonald, Flagstaff

The Peaks — Mark Ford, Flagstaff

Time is a Bandit — Sherrie Goldberg, Paradise Valley

Western Girl — Julie Morrison, Flagstaff

Here are the Finalists in the Published works:

Nonfiction

American Heroes : Fascinating Fact and Inspiring Voices – Marty Feess, Glendale

Better Than Me -- Albert M. Quihuis, Chandler

Left For Dead at Nijmegen, The True Story of an American Paratrooper in WWII – Marcus A. Nannini, Cave Creek

The Least Likely Criminal – Laura Orsini, publisher, Chandler

continued on the next page

What Pounds My Cake, continued**Fiction**

Angel Fierce – Vijaya Schartz, Glendale

Fallacy of Closure – Duke Southard, Green Valley

Final Grains of Sand – David Harder, Prescott Valley

Final Tipping Point – Duke Southard, Green Valley

Children's Literature

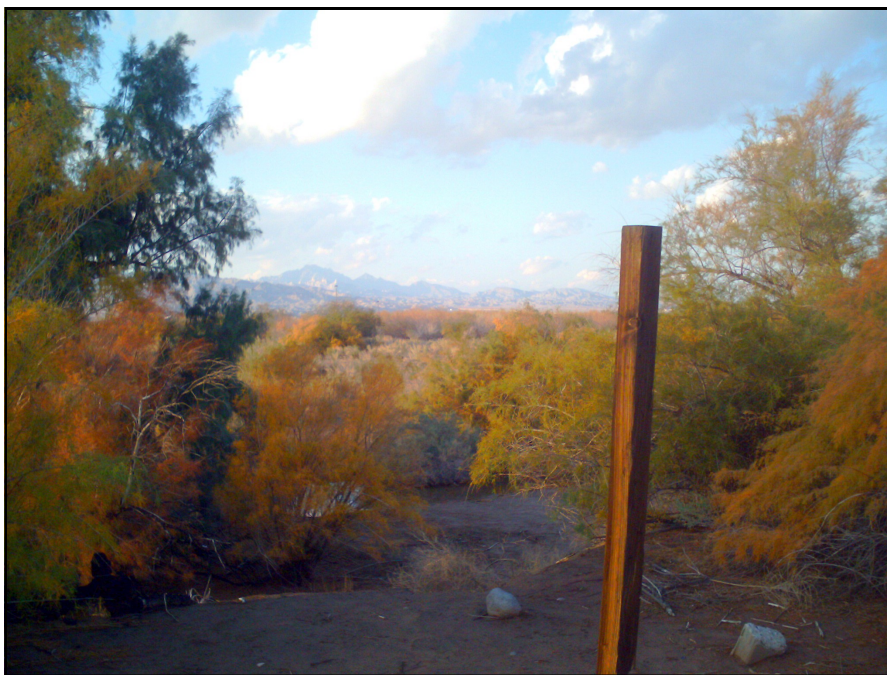
Bella's Secrets – Lynn Marie Lusch, Chandler

Needles, The First Christmas Tree – David Kurud, Green Valley

Saturday Safari – Caren Cantrell, Cave Creek

The Secret of Delphi – Craig Sodaro, Phoenix

Jane Ruby is an award-winning novelist, essayist, and short story writer. She's judged many association literary contests and feels primed to be the Literary Contest Coordinator as well as Secretary of the Association. Learn more about Jane at: <http://www.theazuriteencounter.com/>



Fort Mohave, Arizona, in Autumn
Photo by [Renjishino](#)

*"Fall has always been
my favorite season.
The time when every-
thing bursts with its
last beauty, as if
nature had been
saving up all year for
the grand finale."*

— Lauren DeStefano, [Wither](#)



The Road to Imagination by Cherie Lee

Do you ever need a prompt to get you started? Try Cherie Lee's story starter to spur your imagination and get the sentences flowing. An award-winning author, Cherie wrote the following paragraph as a guide:

"This fictional teaser can be used by teachers or by anyone (recommend sixth grade and up through all adult ages) who wants a creative writing exercise or to jump start a new work. This idea is not meant to be genre specific, but left to the writer's imagination. There are no specific rules to follow. All the listed questions do not need answers. There is no order for preferred reading."

If anyone would like to share the story they create with this prompt (800 words or less), please send it to faerland@yahoo.com and we may publish it.

Swirls

Swirls with no patterns describe my life as a human on this planet. Everywhere colors swirl in the sand, in the grass, in the trees, and even in crowds of people as they pass each other on the way to their destinations. Swirls have a beginning and an end. Yesterday, I felt my swirl pattern closing tighter and tighter.

That feeling first ignited two weeks ago, when I started my new job at Research Oceans. It's a small group of scientists who work together to undercover the mysteries of this planet's oceans. I'm their secretary and have no scientific knowledge, but do take excellent notes.

Genetic swirls are the pattern artwork they have posted everywhere in the office. I was told those artwork pieces are based on some of the ancestors of the scientists. One of those patterns appears the same as the one my grandmother had. It made me dizzy to look at it, but guess I'll get used to it. Still, I feel uneasy, but this weekend I'll learn the truth about those swirls, especially my own.

Questions:

Who is telling this story?

Why would swirls be important?

How long had those scientists been studying oceans on that planet?

What were they looking for?

How many scientists worked there?

What were their specialties?

What do the cities look like?

Was this strictly a research place supported by a government?

What research would be needed to write a believable story based on this idea?

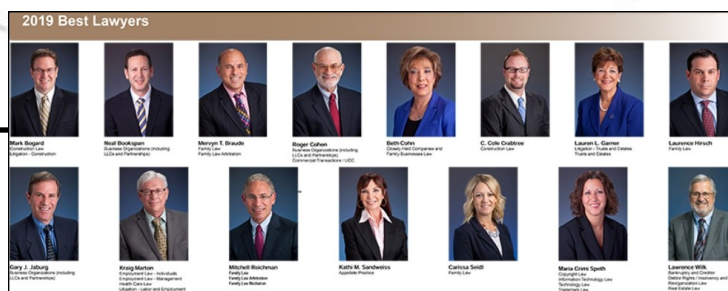
What would be good page turners or hooks for this story?

Just what does that artwork look like? Is it easy to picture a swirl pattern or would it be necessary to give more details?

Now, it's your turn. Go forth and write!



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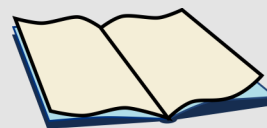


Stout Arch
Mystery Valley, Arizona
Photo by [Bernard Gagnon](#)

What Are You Reading?

This month, I am reading Alex S. Vitale's [*The End of Policing*](#). With the militarization of America's police, I am both alarmed and intrigued by the origins of our increase in policing, surveillance, and the weaponry used by the average police force. Present trends disturb me, but I think being aware and forewarned is better than being unaware and sorry if we go even further into the black pit of authoritarianism. Therefore, I recommend this book.

—Editor





Book Proposal

by Toby Heathcotte



Final Call for Contributors

Discrimination I Endured

Dear Women Arizona Authors Members,

I'm hoping to compile the stories and essays of women who have experienced discrimination, repression, and sexism wherever they happen. I'm wondering whether you would want to participate.

Experiences might include the workplace, school, church, social situations, and family life. We will include testimony of baby boomers, the younger generations, all interested women up to the present.

The purpose of the book, with a working title of *Discrimination I Endured*, is to give younger women a better understanding of the sexism, discrimination, and abuse women faced in our history, and provide ammunition to continue the fight. Any proceeds from the book would be donated to a nonprofit. The beneficiary could be the NOW Foundation, ACLU, or another appropriate organization. I'm open to suggestions.

I wrote an essay called, "It Can't Be About Beautiful," as an example of what could go into the book. If you would like to read my essay, please send me an email so I can forward it to you.

If you would like to contribute your own stories or an essay, here are questions you might consider:

- ◇ How did the experiences change your attitude or your personality?
- ◇ How have your experiences affected your children or other family members?
- ◇ Would you react differently if you had it to do over?
- ◇ What support systems are available for voicing injustices and bringing about reform?
- ◇ How have "me too" experiences impacted you?
- ◇ How might these experiences intersect with racism and prejudices against groups, such as homosexuality, autistic spectrum, or mental illness?
- ◇ What societal reforms might be feasible in the future?
- ◇ How might we make the future brighter for people impacted by discrimination?

continued on the next page

Book Proposal, continued

My publishing company, Mardel Books, will obtain the copyright and use ISBNs I've previously purchased. We can publish on kdp.com for free and purchase print copies at a reduced rate on Amazon.

I will do the first edit and then ask other contributors who are professional editors to do the other edits. I hope to find a cover artist with a story to tell. If not, I'll pay for a cover design.

The deadline for submissions is November 1, 2019, but can be modified if appropriate.

Length of the essays is 300 to 3000 words.

We will publish anonymous stories as one separate chapter along with authors' bylines for the other chapters.

Contributors should plan to help promote the book through social media, blogs, and personal contacts. Other help in marketing might include book signings, group sales, bookmarks, speaking before organizations such as schools, book clubs, and churches.

If you have any questions or suggestions about how to proceed, let me know because the plan for the project is fluid. Let me know also whether you're interested in contributing to this project.

Toby Heathcotte



tobyheathcotte.com Author

Arizonaauthors.com Vice President

[Facebook](#)

Email: toby@tobyheathcotte.com

"A woman is like a tea bag - you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water."

- Eleanor Roosevelt





Member Spotlight

by Jo Ann Crooks

First of all, I want to say how happy I am to be back with Arizona Authors Association, and the members—the old ones, and all new members! If you are not familiar with this feature, I interview one of our members to learn about their life, their writing, and what we can learn from them. It is also to give them exposure and help sell any books they have. This will be the first Member Spotlight for this incarnation of Arizona Authors' Association, and the newsletter.

Rodo (pronounced like Roto Rooter, or Rhododendron) Sofranac was born in Montenegro—formerly Yugoslavia. Because his father was anti-communist, his family fled to Salzburg, Austria. When he was eight years old, his family was sponsored by a group in Cleveland, Ohio, and they moved there. He lived there until he went to college.

He went from the Serbo-Croatian language to German, and then English. The schools he grew up in during the mid 1950s did not have the programs and understanding they have now to help language learners. He was lost in three languages, and had to find the best way to master English. He says that books gave him the opportunity to learn, relate and relax.

Books became a safe-haven for him. Before he mastered the words, pictures meant so much to him. When he and his sister were told they were coming to the United States, he learned from books about the Statue of Liberty, cowboys, Indians, the steel mills of Ohio, and the “world’s grandest hole in the ground in some place called Arizona.”

Several people were generous in helping him, and he promised to pay it forward when he could. He started writing notes, poems, and short stories, whatever he could, sometimes with all three languages in one sentence! But the more he wrote, the better he got.

His difficulty learning languages inspired his life-long work helping children and language learners of all countries and ages. He has written in various genres—articles, essays, poems, speeches, curriculum, short stories, and much more. His first love, though, is writing for and working with young children. He wants those he works with to see the glass as half full, and tries to support them to be able to fill it more positively.



Rodo Sofranac

He explains we are all language learners. Most of us do it only once in our lifetime, and when we are very young, so we don't remember the process. He remembers it, and uses that to help others trying to learn. His difficulty learning English gives him empathy for language learners, young or old.

He has worked for over 45 years as a teacher, translator, and mentor, working with children and adult learners of all ages. He has seven books published books, labeled “children’s literature,” but people of all ages and language bases—all those young at heart—have enjoyed

continued on the next page

Member Spotlight, continued

and learned from his books. His books focus on developing relationships and sharing life.

A synopsis of his books includes:

[The Red Tail Tale on the Arizona Trail](#) - Rowen, a young, red-headed explorer, and Rojo, a clever, red-tailed hawk, meet, bond, and experience a wonderful adventure on the fascinating Arizona National Scenic Trail. (Fifty percent of profits go to Arizona Trail Association youth programs.)

[Polly and the Peaputts](#) – Meet Polly Poppop, and learn about her family, friends, and their village, Peaputt Place. See how Polly and the Peaputts live, love, laugh, and smile. In this episode, Polly and her friends discover understanding, acceptance, and forgiveness.

[Polly and the Peaputts Pull](#) – Excitement from the Peaputts and their creative efforts to extract a strange "root" leads to lessons of acceptance and cooperation from the smallest member of the community.

[Polly and the Peaputts on the Move](#) – The Peaputts are a very lively bunch, and they all have different ways of moving around. Some, like Polly's newest friend Kikiriki, have more of a challenge. In this latest adventure, there's a fun two-Putt race that Polly and Kikiriki want to join. Can Polly and Kikiriki enter? Can they win?

[Find Your Nose](#) - Rhythm, rhyme, and personalization of the learner's name make for lots of fun! This book gives the child, or other language learner, the opportunity to interact while discovering the names and functions of various body parts.

[My Maddy, My Daddy](#) - In this book's episodes, Maddy and her daddy help each other work and play, learn and teach, laugh and cry, because that's the way they share their love for each other. (This book is available in English and Spanish editions.)

Rodo and his wife, Susan, use 100% of the profits from his book sales to produce, purchase, and donate more books to schools, libraries, and nonprofit agencies working on literacy—over 115 organizations on five continents so far! They focus the sales of their books through his website, www.rodowrites.com, and the 30 + local businesses listed on his website. He can personally inscribe books purchased through his website. He also has a [Facebook](#) page.

Rodo has been married to what he says is "the same patient lady" for 44 years, has four wonderful children, and four grandchildren. He lives in Northeast Phoenix. When asked his age, he said, "old enough to get Medicare." He says, "My home is where my heart is. I live where my relationships present possibilities," which is where he continues to "learn, teach, write, and have fun with words, especially telling stories."

Jo Ann Crooks is a long-time member of the Arizona Authors Association and wrote her Member Spotlight for years in the previous iteration of the Arizona Authors Association Newsletter. She has written, and had published, short stories and poetry, and was an AAA Literary Contest winner in 2016. Her first major book, her memoir, is currently at the publisher.



Arizona Authors Association

Literary Awards Banquet

The gala affair will be held on November 2nd. We promise that this year's awards banquet will be entertaining with a "Whodunit" theme, where you can solve a murder mystery during the cocktail hour. Dress or accessorize as your favorite super-sleuth like Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot (Agatha Christie), Inspector Clouseau (Pink Panther), Jessica Fletcher (TV's "Murder She Wrote"), or even Dr. Temperance Brennan (TV's "Bones") to name a few. Or just dress casually in your favorite Hawaiian shirt like Tom Selleck (TV's "Magnum, PI"). Please no tank tops or cut-off jeans as per the country club dress code.

November 2nd

5-10 PM at Moon Valley Country Club

151 West Moon Valley Drive

Phoenix, AZ 85023

Contact Jane Ruby for more information: moonvalleyirs@cox.net

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Politically Incorrect

by Marlene Baird

How to Train Your Wife

Advice given by the fictitious D.L. Harrington
Professional Dog Trainer since 1972

You might be more forgiving, but I always prefer, when reading an advice article, to know that sufficient research has been done by the author that I can trust him or her. Putting your mind at rest — I have been married three times. I have learned, first hand, everything in the following pages.

As a professional dog trainer, I feel competent to write this article. Not that I am comparing wives to dogs. How stupid would that be? Plus, I'd be in jail. It's just that training of any kind takes a good deal of patience, perseverance and repetition.

Warning. The following is not politically correct. There are no safe spaces except between the paragraphs.

SIT

In training dogs we almost always start with the command, "sit." Why? Because this gives us the first feeling of control. A sitting dog cannot bite your ear, or trip you up from behind. However, the 'sit' command is dangerous when dealing with a wife. In fact, I have learned to never use it. I find that keeping her as busy as possible is preferable, such as doing the laundry, taking down the Christmas lights, grocery shopping or a dozen other necessary things that keep her mind occupied. And she is not *always* dangerous when sitting. While paying bills on the computer, for example, sitting is quite acceptable.

When it gets dangerous is when she is *just* sitting. Maybe there is a cup of tea or coffee at hand, but otherwise she is just sitting. Kind of staring into space. Then you must realize she is *pondering*.

Do not approach. Gird yourself.

Two days hence she will speak quietly: "We need to talk."

Those few words make my blood run cold. It starts with an ice-cream headache, then my limbs begin to tremble, then my stomach flips over.

Those words are an invitation to join her sitting, probably at the kitchen table. I need desperately to go to the john, but I sit. It is hard to keep my tongue from lolling out since I am having trouble breathing. My mind is whirling. Is it her birthday? Did I not call the kids last week? Is she wondering where I was from 2:30 to 4:25 last Friday? (My ex needed dating advice.)

She speaks. "Do you smell anything odd in the house other than the garbage bag that has been sitting around for two days?"

Oh, thank God. It's minor. I almost faint from relief. I see the blue garbage bag now, for the very first time. Being a man, I am programmed to notice danger and threats so that I can leap up to save my loved ones. I am not programmed to take out the garbage. Seriously, I don't *see* the garbage even after all these years. And sometimes I even forget about it while I am taking it out. I need to pass through the laundry room to get to the garage. By that time I am wondering if there is anything in the garage that I might want to do. So I, unconsciously, plop the garbage bag on the washing machine and head to the garage. Sometime later I head back inside, passing the garbage bag sitting on the washing machine.

continued on the next page

Politically Incorrect, continued

“Oh, yeah. Sorry,” I say. “Last night I didn’t have my shoes on.”

“And you didn’t know where to find them,” she answers.

STAY

Another common dog command is ‘stay.’ I have had minimum luck with this one. Of course I don’t say ‘stay’ to my wife. Instead, while she is occupied in the house, I say, “I’m going to the gym.” She might be mopping the floor or wiping down the countertop. Her response is consistent. She gives me a half smile and says, “Don’t overdo.” And I’m away.

Nine times out of ten her car is gone when I pull back into the garage.

FETCH

‘Fetch’ is tricky.

With a dog it is pretty straight-forward. You throw a ball or a stick and point, and away they go to do your bidding. Not so with wives.

If you want her to bring you a sandwich, for instance, you don’t make the sandwich first and then toss it. You have to be clever. Not long ago it was dinner time and I could hear no action in the kitchen. So I got up from my net surfing and wandered casually toward the kitchen.

“When is dinner?” I asked in a friendly tone. But she was not even *in* the kitchen. I found her sitting (yikes) in a late afternoon shaft of sunlight reading a very thick book. Maybe a cookbook.

Having 20-20 vision, I recognize a minefield when it pops up. “Shall we go out to eat tonight?” I ask.

She can read and talk at the same time. “Sure.”

“When?” I ask.

“Whenever,” she says, eyes not leaving the printed page.

Okay, so now I know *when* we will eat. After we drive to a restaurant, we will order and wait. At least an hour. “What do you feel like having?” I ask.

“Whatever you want. I had lunch while you were at the gym. I’m not that hungry.”

I’m hungry enough to eat road kill but don’t have the ambition to chase it down. So we get in the car. She starts to tell me something about the book she is reading, but I can’t decide if I want a steak smothered in garlic mushrooms, a whole rotisserie chicken, or a pulled pork sandwich piled so high you can’t get your mouth around it.

She makes a statement.

“Huh,” I say.

“That’s all you’ve got to say about it?”

“Uh.”

“Children being mutilated? And you say uh?”

“Uh.”

She turns her head to study the traffic beside us. That is body language for quiet time. I will suggest she have a martini when we get to the restaurant.

She enjoyed the martini and ordered a second before I could get the check from the waitress. The first martini makes her feel good. The second one turns her into a banshee.

“You never, ever, listen to me.” She is leaning across the table, hissing, with a false smile on her face for the other patrons.

“That’s not true. I listened to you in the movie on Saturday even though it probably upset the people in front of us.”

continued on the next page

Politically Incorrect, continued

She straightens her back and glances around the room. Then she leans into me again. “In the movie I said I was not feeling well and wanted to leave.”

“And?”

“You told me to get popcorn.”

Well, that explained a lot. When the large bucket of buttered popcorn washed over me, I assumed she had tripped.

COME

This sometimes works. I’ve heard it said in the movies. “Come, my darling.” I tried it once.

“Come, my darling,” I said in a low, mellow tone.

“Don’t darling me,” she said.

“I’m not darlinging you,” I said. “I thought that was romantic.”

“Well it’s not romantic when my hands are in dishwater.” I handed her a tea towel. Turns out it was a bit short. She couldn’t quite tie it around my neck.

EAT

Mostly, dogs will eat regularly. But once in a while I find it necessary to put their dish in front of their noses, with added incentive such as a bite of salmon. “Eat,” I say. “Eat.” One dog preferred my wife to me, and bit my ankle instead.

My wife is forever on a diet and that puts her in a bad mood. Tired of her not smiling and saying good morning, one day I put a bowl of her favorite strawberry ice cream in front of her face and said, “Eat.” She grabbed the spoon and banged it right in the middle of my forehead. For two weeks it looked like I was honoring Ash Wednesday.

“What’s that thing on your forehead?” my Catholic friend Gerald asked.

“My wife blessed me with the back of a spoon.”

LIE DOWN

This can take dogs quite a while to learn. However, I thought my wife and I had been together long enough.

“Lie down,” I said, wrapping my arms around her waist.

“What? Now? I’m washing the windows.”

I know my timing was bad but I couldn’t resist. “Come, my darling,” I said.

She squeegeed my eyeballs.

Marlene Baird is a long-time member of Arizona Authors Association, and a judge for our annual writing contest. She has won the contest for both a novel and an essay. Marlene also enjoys writing short stories, having taken 3rd place in the Lorian Hemingway writing contest in 2008. She lives in Prescott with husband, Bob.

Find out more about Marlene at <http://marlenebaird.com/>

Marlene’s Books:

[Murder Times Two](#)

[The Filigree Cross](#)

[Minnie and the Manatees](#)

[Claire Walker](#)



Will Book Prices Head North Due To Trade Tariffs?

According to the latest US Trade Tariffs decision released on August 13, all printed books, other than religious and most juvenile and picture books, are subject to a ten percent tariff that began in September and will continue until the tariff brouhaha subsides. So where was your book actually printed, and will the tariffs affect you? Up until this July, Amazon printed many books in China. The company [ended](#) that relationship on July 1st, citing their growing concern for the profitability of the Chinese print market. As the company put it, "Our international operations may not be profitable on a sustained basis." They continue, however, to have a digital relationship with Chinese firms.

There are ongoing worries about the global economic downtrend sparked by the US-China trade tariffs and sanctions. Ken Kong, managing director of Jade Productions, a large Chinese printing house, called the situation "unpredictable," and went on to say in summer, "I still believe that books will be the last item on the list of products subjected to the tariffs, and that U.S. publishers and associations will do their utmost to ensure that books are tariff-exempted." His hopes, however, no doubt faded when the tariff went into effect in September.

Alice Fan, a sales manager at Magnum Offset, a Hong Kong-based printing company that specializes in print-on-demand and other products, related to [Publisher's Weekly](#): "The negotiations—on, off, and then on again, and at this percentage or that—are very distracting, with no one really knowing the next U.S. or China game plan."

It seems clear that if tariffs continue, books and other products will cost more in America. Many American companies are trying to research alternatives for their print-on-demand books. Will they find them at an affordable price? Contrary to antiquated Western images of the "Made in China" label being synonymous with low quality, American book publishers have found the value of Chinese print to be equal to or greater than most European printers, and at a price that no one else can beat or even meet.

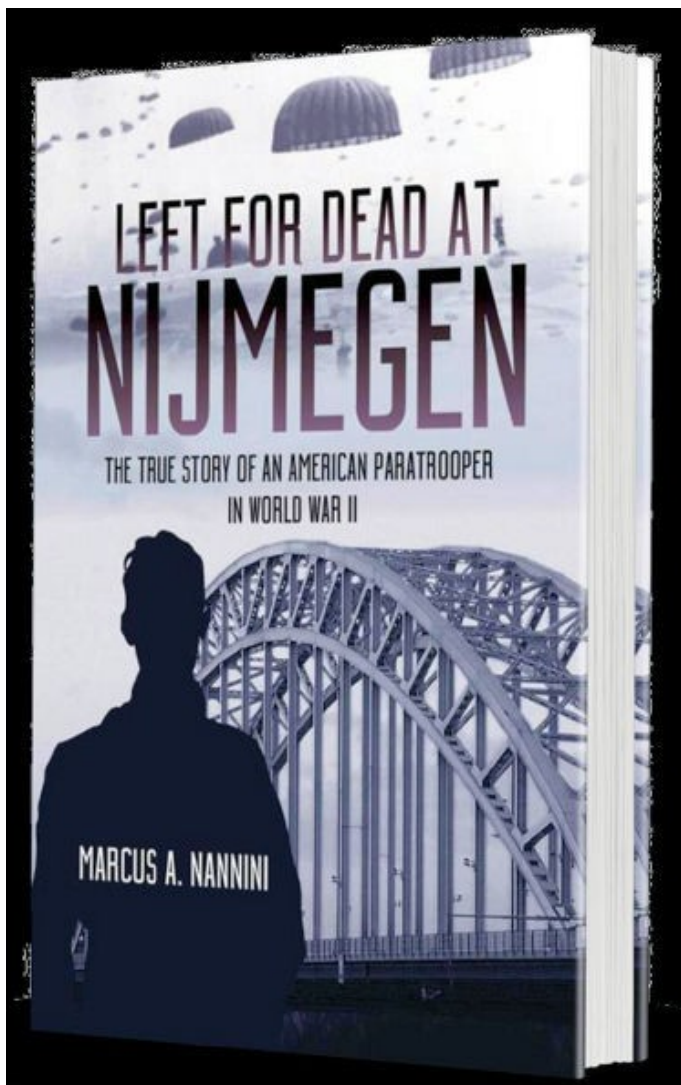
Matthew Yum, executive chairman of Hung Hing, one of the largest printers in China, says that China will not be able to absorb the cost of tariffs on books. As he mentioned to [Publisher's Weekly](#), "For Hung Hing, market diversification has proven to be helpful, since we are also active in Europe, the U.K., China, and other markets within Asia Pacific." In other words, if tariffs continue, his company will focus on other markets outside the US.

Printing companies, as well as most other sectors in China, have been endeavoring to "go green," for future sustainability. While China still produces prohibitive amounts of greenhouse gases, the efforts of the Chinese government as well as its large manufacturers, in comparison to the United States and its larger businesses, have proven diligent and innovative. China is certainly trying. Europe has embraced this effort wholeheartedly, and welcomes a greener alternative to the old manufacturing systems. As China expands in those markets as well as elsewhere around the world, America may be left in the cold with antiquated equipment. Tariffs will not help us if we do not innovate.

Is there a light at the end of the tunnel? It seems that China will focus more on e-books for their American markets. American companies like Amazon, too, will hone its digital offerings. Those of us who prefer a printed book may have to be content with paying more in the future. The one bright note is that digital books may come down in price, by comparison. Reading screens such as Kindle products will also improve, to give more of a print experience from a digital screen. There may come a time in the future when printed books prove a valuable rarity, but digital information will be even more available than it is now. There are pros and cons to both outcomes, but do we want to live in such a world? That is the question. —Editor

NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Marcus Nannini



Left For Dead At Nijmegen

The True Story of an American
Paratrooper in World War II

“Imagine being thrown into the air and smacked into the ground so hard your right eardrum shatters and your skull is cracked. That’s what happened when a shell from a German “88” exploded nearby Gene Metcalfe, a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne, 508th PIR, a little before midnight on the first day of Operation Market Garden, 17 September, 1944.

Braving withering fire from the 10th “SS,” his best friend raced across the road, turned him over and saw blood pouring from his ear. He left him for dead and was lucky to make it back himself. Next thing Gene knew, he was standing in front of the notorious Nazi henchman, Heinrich Himmler, machine gun toting “SS” fanatics on either side of him, while deep in the bowels of an ancient castle. Things only grew worse from there.”

Published by Casemate Publishers in March of 2019, the epic true story contains 256 pages and more than 50 photographs as well as original sketches by Gene Metcalf. Marcus’ book has been acclaimed by many experts and has just been recognized for inclusion into the United States National Archives.

To purchase the book, click on any of these links:

[Amazon](#), [CasematePublishers](#), [National WW2 Museum Store](#), [Wal-Mart](#), [Barnes and Noble](#)

Nannini is a life-long history buff with a particular interest in World War II. He once discovered an error in his fifth grade history book, which the publisher corrected in future editions following Nannini’s letter pointing to the error. His continuing curiosity over several Japanese aerial photographs and the turtling of the *U.S.S. Oklahoma* spurred him to write *Chameleons, an Untold WW II Story*.

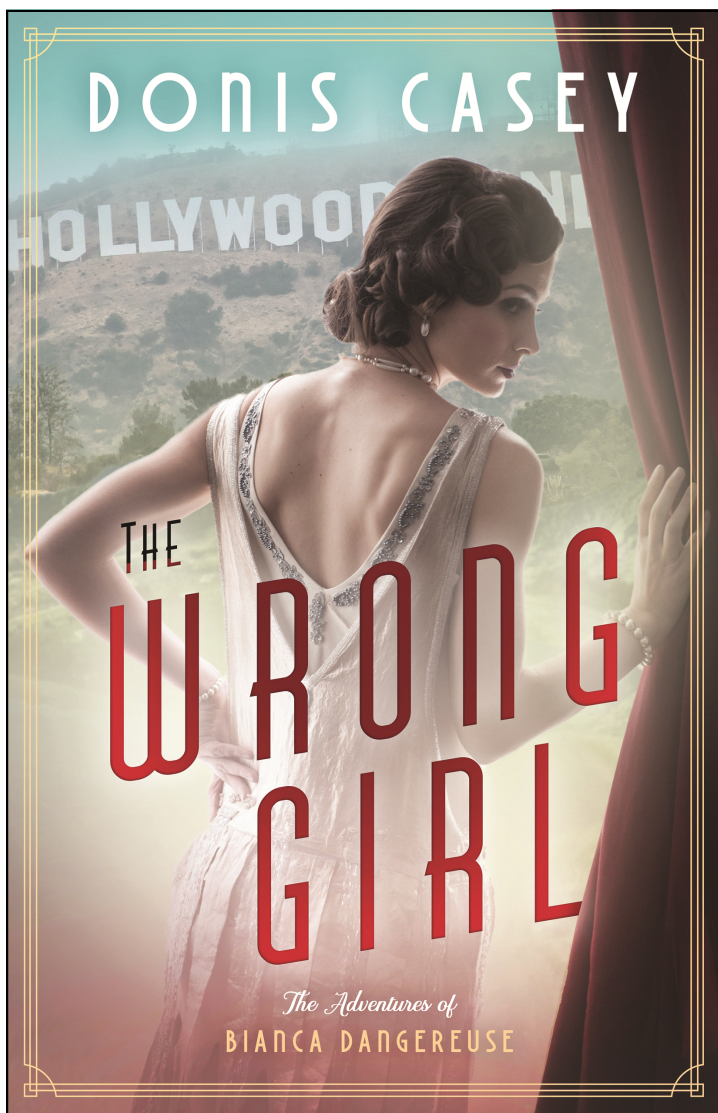
His most recent work is *Left for Dead at Nijmegen, the True Story of an American Paratrooper in WW II* (Casemate Publishers, 2019). It is the first of two WW II biographies. *Midnight Flight to Nuremberg*, the second of the two, is pending publication. He authors magazine articles for *World War II History Magazine*, *Military History Now* and *Casemate UK* blog.

Find out more about Marcus at: <https://chameleonsthebook.com/marcus-a-nannini/>



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Donis Casey



The Wrong Girl

The Adventures of Bianca Dangereuse

The Wrong Girl is the introduction to a fresh new series starring Bianca LaBelle, star of the silent screen action serial, *The Adventures of Bianca Dangereuse*. Fifteen-year-old Blanche Tucker is longing to escape her drop-dead dull life when dashing Graham Peyton roars into town and convinces the ambitious but naive teenager to run away with him to a glamorous new life. Instead, Graham uses her as cruelly as a silent picture villain. Yet by luck and by pluck, taking charge of her life, she makes it to Hollywood, eventually transforming herself into Bianca LaBelle, a major star of the silent screen.

Bianca LaBelle is cock-sure, headstrong, and headlong. She's also disappointed, wounded, and angry. Bianca goes from being a sheltered farm girl to one of the most famous and admired women in the world, but she doesn't do it without a whole lot of help, her own creativity, and the bootstrap self-reliance she learned by growing up on a farm in early 20th century Oklahoma.

To find out more about this title or to purchase the book, attend the book launch at the Poisoned Pen Bookstore, 4014 N Goldwater Blvd #101, Scottsdale AZ, on October 29th at 7pm. Or, you may find it on:

[Amazon](#) [Target](#) [Barnes and Noble](#)

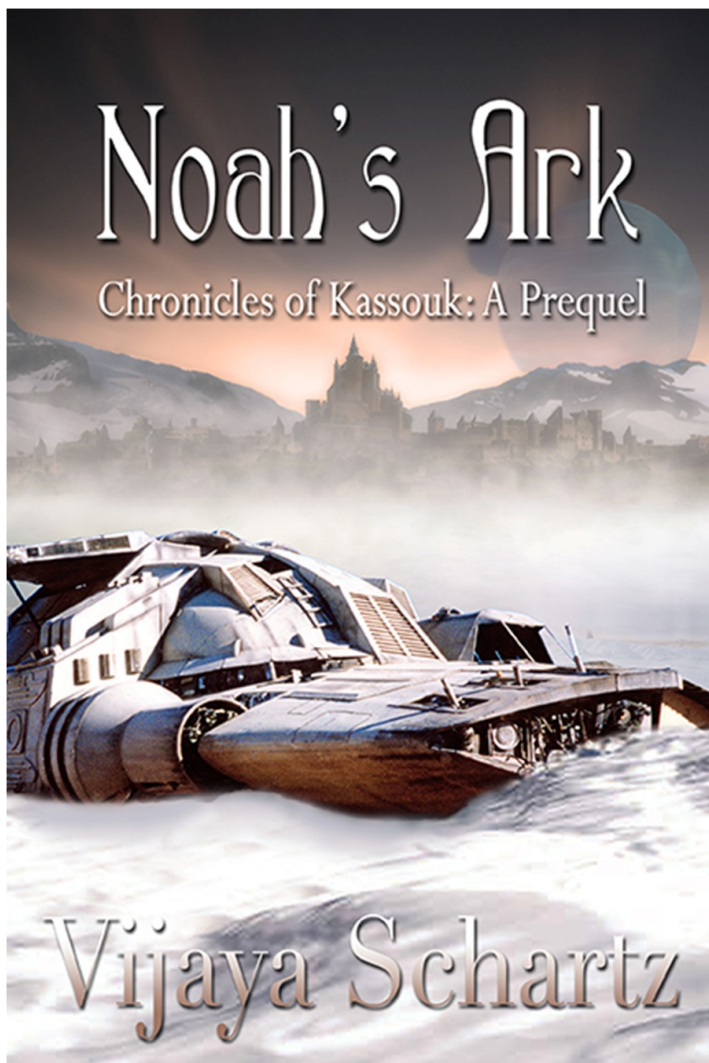
DONIS CASEY was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A third generation Oklahoman, she and her siblings grew up among their aunts and uncles, cousins, grandparents and great-grandparents on farms and in small towns, where they learned the love of family and independent spirit that characterizes the population of that pioneering state. Donis graduated from the University of Tulsa with a degree in English, and earned a Master's degree in Library Science from Oklahoma University. After teaching school for a short time, she enjoyed a career as an academic librarian, working for many years at the University of Oklahoma and at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ.

Donis left academia in 1988 to start a Scottish import gift shop in downtown Tempe. After more than a decade as an entrepreneur, she decided to devote herself full-time to writing. *The Old Buzzard Had It Coming* is her first book. For the past twenty years, Donis has lived in Tempe, AZ, with her husband. Find out more about Donis at: DonisCasey.com or FanFiction



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Vijaya Schartz



NOAH'S ARK

Chronicles of Kassouk - Prequel

When Trixie's starfreighter, Noah's Ark, drops out of jump space in an uncharted part of the universe, she believes the Earth-like planet on her viewer represents hope and salvation for her motley crew and the ragtag settlers aboard her ship.

Kostas, ex Space Marine, the expert survivalist recruited for this expedition, doesn't believe in coincidences, and knows that when something looks too good to be true, it usually is.

Everyone on this voyage to seed a new planet with life is running from something, and harbors dangerous secrets... including Trixie, who vowed to never let a man control her life again. As for Kostas, he would get lynched on the spot if anyone suspected who he really is.

But on this seemingly abandoned planet, others are watching, herding them for evil purposes... And when the truth emerges and secrets unravel, Trixie and Kostas will have to fight for survival, for freedom, and for the right to love...

Find Noah's Ark on: [Amazon](#) [Barnes and Noble](#)

Born in France, award-winning author **Vijaya Schartz** never conformed to anything and could never refuse a challenge. She likes action and exotic settings, in life and on the page. She traveled the world and claims she also travels through time, and feels just as comfortable in the future as in the far past. Her novels collected many five star reviews and literary awards. She will make you believe you actually lived these extraordinary adventures among her characters.

Blasters, Swords, Romance with a Kick

<http://www.vijayaschartz.com>

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NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Vijaya Schartz

White Tiger

Chronicles of Kassouk Book One

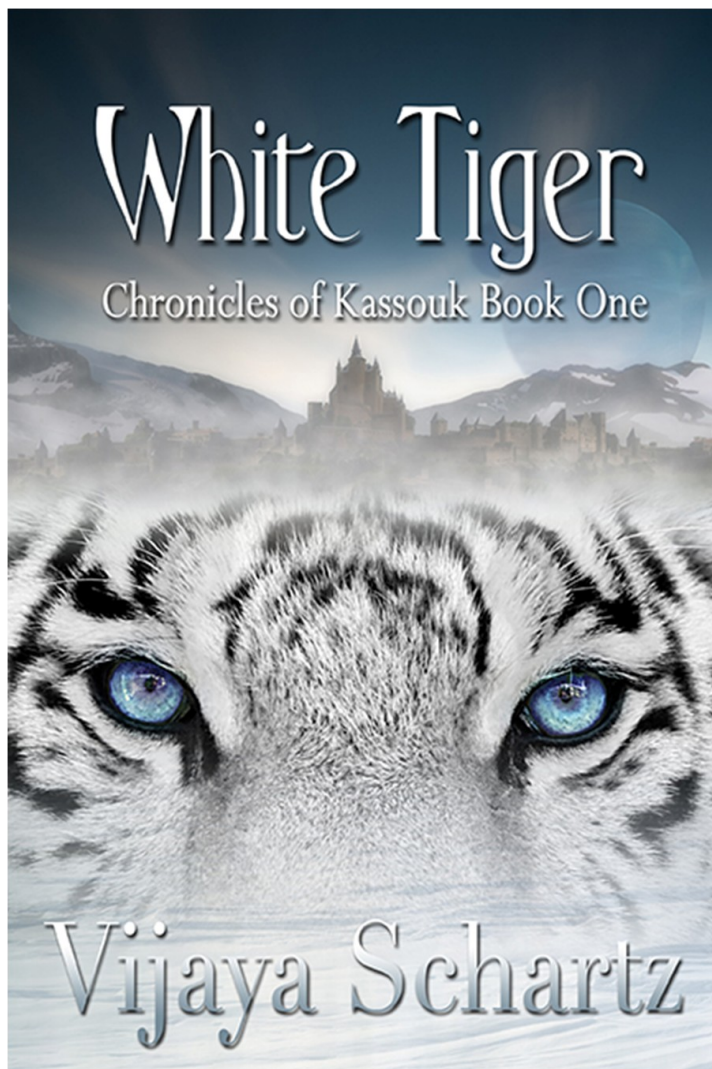
On the frozen plains of Kassouk, where a few aliens rule a medieval Human world, Tora, Human warrior trained by tigers, seeks her father's murderer. But what she finds at the point of her sword confuses her. How dare Dragomir, the handsome Mutant, question her bloodline and her loyalties? And could a new enemy control the savage hordes of the fringe?

Dragomir offers to help, but Humans and Mutants are forbidden to fraternize under penalty of death... Should Tora trust her mind, her instincts, or her heart?

In the vortex of war, treason and intrigue, among blizzards, avalanches and ambushes, Tora sets out to solve the mystery of her father's death. When she unveils the secret of her birth, she realizes Dragomir is the key, and together, they must save their planet from the invaders and fulfill their destiny... if they can survive dire persecutions from those they mean to protect.

"...an exceptional tale that belongs in a place of honor on keeper shelves everywhere." Johnna Flores - Coffee Time Romance-5-cups

Find White Tiger on: [Amazon](#) [Barnes and Noble](#)



Born in France, award-winning author **Vijaya Schartz** never conformed to anything and could never refuse a challenge. She likes action and exotic settings, in life and on the page. She traveled the world and claims she also travels through time, and feels just as comfortable in the future as in the far past. Her novels collected many five star reviews and literary awards. She will make you believe you actually lived these extraordinary adventures among her characters.

Blasters, Swords, Romance with a Kick

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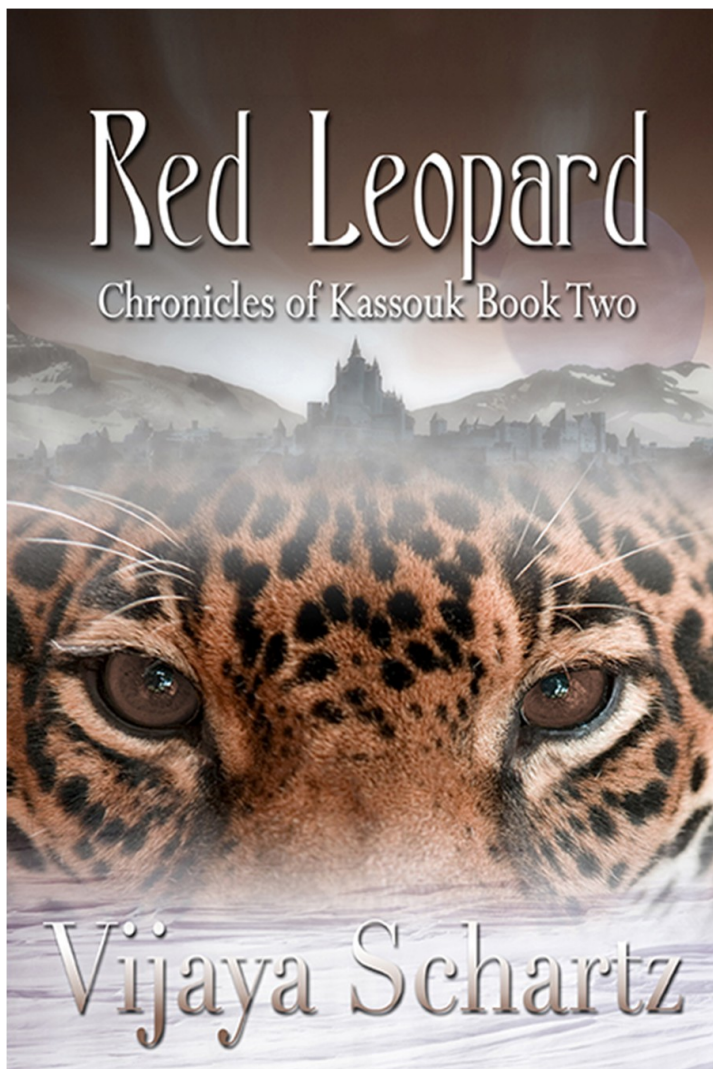
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NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Vijaya Schartz



Red Leopard Chronicles of Kassouk Book 2

In charge of the Kassouk fortress in the king's absence, what is Terek to do when a Goddian spacecraft lands in his medieval backyard?

The striking woman leading the galactic party is bent on finding a crystal with hyper-conductor properties, and the futile defiance of a tribal chief nicknamed Red Leopard, like the infernal feline that follows him everywhere, isn't going to stop her.

Terek must defend his people's freedom, but an old prophecy surfaces, carrying a new threat. When political intrigues, greed, murder and betrayal tip the scales, whom can Galya trust? Her fellow Goddians? The Mutants bred to serve her race? Or her primitive Human enemy?

"action packed, fast paced story... I can't wait to read the next book in the Chronicles of Kassouk series." 5 angels - Fallen Angel Reviews

"This book was so good. The plot, characters, setting, everything was laid out in detail; vivid and believable. I was completely lost in the world Vijaya created and loving every second of it." 5 stars - Goodreads.com

Find Red Leopard on: [Amazon](#) [Barnes and Noble](#)

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The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

This morning I woke up thrilled to look out my back window and see the first signs of red in my summer green tree. I honestly don't know what species it is; I think it's a Bald Cypress based on Google pictures. We haven't had that cool a September so I was surprised by that splotch of color that appeared overnight. I had expected another month to pass before the fall colors arrived; this jolted me from my "summer mode" complacency. The picture below was taken in late October of last year ... that's my garden/potting shed nestled among the trees. I knew fall would come ... I just didn't expect the colors to spring upon me without warning, as I enjoyed my leisurely summer.

I think the best surprises are the ones that occur when we've grown familiar with something and come to expect a bit of same old, same old. I've read some authors who are expert at adding those little surprises to their writings. They give a reader a sense of continuity, a sense of, "I know exactly what's going to happen." They let that feeling remain only long enough to settle down to a rhythm, a tempo, like a familiar tune that you begin to hum along with, and then WHAM! One little change and you prick up your ears and think, "Hey wait a minute; I'd better pay attention."

I endeavor to follow that example in my writing, too. I like to set a tone, a mood, and create a comfortable basis for the story. As it unfolds, the little surprises pop here, there, and yet again. Those surprises aren't too frequent



and they aren't enough to make a reader think, "What the heck am I doing with this? It's too crazy." Don't punch a reader in the gut too many times in one story. But taps, yes ... taps every so often keep them awake and reading.

Sure, there are books that make readers' heads spin constantly ... some of them even successful. But for such tomes to work, you must have an incredibly unique story and research every detail to the max. One tiny bit of incredulity and such works fall apart. Most of us choose to write something a little less disorienting, something that will keep a reader reading without giving them an exhausting ride after a long day at work. Those little pops of color that brighten an ordinary story, those little twists of surprise, they are what make for a fulfilling and entertaining novel.

How often should you use them? Seek a rhythm and flow to your writing, one that soothes the reader without boring them. Make sure a person is settling down and getting comfortable before you spring another surprise. Wait until the, "Hmm ... when is she going to do that again?" is forgotten, for at least a few minutes. When it comes again, it revs up your reader and spurs them forward to finish the chapter and wonder what the next one will bring.

I was comfortable with summer. That small little patch of red told me that I had better get ready for autumn. But I'll be comfortable with autumn, too, until the last leaf falls to the ground and I'm jolted by the thought of Christmas decorations. And after the holidays, I'll settle into my "snuggle by the woodstove fire" mode, until I suddenly realize I've got veggies to plant. A book is like a year of your life. Just when you think you've got the hang of it, something happens to change everything.

Kathleen Cook is a free-lance editor and the author of nineteen books. A former copy writer/editor for Demand Studios, she also served as the Fictional Religion Editor for the ODP (Open Directory Project). She is currently the Arizona Authors Association newsletter editor.

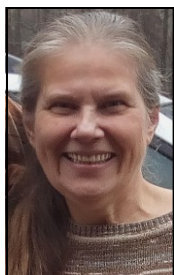


Mystery Valley, Arizona, in Autumn
Photo by [Bernard Gagnon](#)



The **HARD** deadline for submission into the Arizona Authors Association Newsletter is the **15th of the month** in the following months: January, March, May, July, September, November. If your submission is late, it will go into a future issue. Please do not ask for extensions, and thank you!

Brighter Stars Editing Services



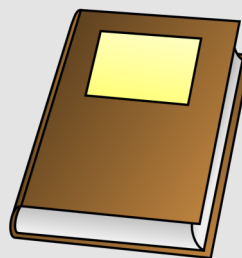
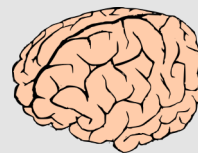
Kathleen Cook offers editing, proofreading, formatting help and other services. Full-service editing includes extensive comments, suggestions and rewrites at 4¢ per word. Basic editing offers a similar manuscript without comments at 3¢ per word. This choice is ideal for those who have opted for full-service editing in the past.

Proofreading, without edits, is offered at 2¢ per word and honest, three-page assessments of your manuscript are a flat \$50. Please write to faerland@yahoo.com if you have questions, and take advantage of my new client special, just \$25 for full-service editing of the first thousand words of your novel. Thank you!

Back Page Humor

The brain is a wonderful organ; it starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you enter your office.

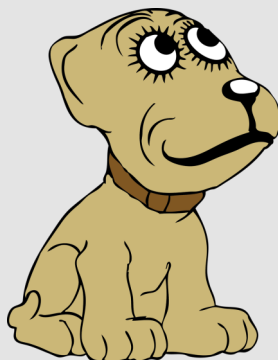
Robert Frost



Genius without education is like silver in the mine.
Benjamin Franklin

Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in their shoes. That way, you'll be a mile from them and you'll have their shoes.

Jack Handey



Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.
Groucho Marx

Do you know a joke about writing, publishing or editing, or have a funny quote from a famous author? Share it with Back Page Humor and if we use it, we'll credit you with the entry. Send it to faerland@yahoo.com before the 15th of odd-numbered months, and it may appear in the next issue.