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### Interview with Dave Vitagliano and Tim McAnally of Squiddog

By Song River

#### A LITTLE CHILI, A SQUEEZE OF LIME FLOATING UPON THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Some feel that times change, but in all honesty they really don't. Music and those who are passionate about her still feel the same way today as they did yesterday, and its guaranteed they will tomorrow as well. Two local legends who reside here in Phoenix, Arizona have experienced many facets of music, all with a twist of lime and a little touch of chili. They are still the toast masters of delivering just the right Southwestern flavor to soothe a soulful person's brow on a hot summer's day.

My afternoon chat, under the shade of a saguaro limb, with buzzards circling overhead, and rattler in my boot... David V and Tim of Squiddog.

Song: For a good sound-call Tim eh? Hey, Tim what bathroom stalls across America can you be found on?

Tim - All except Rhode Island

Song: Dave and Tim, the 70's in Arizona was dried and arid... but it would seem the music was alive and a shakin faster than a agitated rattle snake baking in the shade. You were kids then, jeans and flannels were the style. Who did you listen to?

Dave - As far as local bands there were a few. Smokey, was always good, and I hear Mike Torrez is still around. I used to like Norm Pratt, a lot too, when I used to catch him at the Warehouse on University, it's a parking lot now. Myself and

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## INTERVIEW WITH PUBLISHER, MANAGING EDITOR P.J. HULTSTRAND

Interviewed by Song River

**Publisher of Az Publishing Services, LLC, and Managing Editor of The WOD Newspaper and Media Services - Patti Hultstrand, aka P.J.**

It isn't often business owners get five seconds to sit down and chat about their passions, goals and direction in life (let alone breath), but I managed to pin this swirling whirl-wind of an entrepreneur and queen of adoration for pop culture, Patti Hultstrand for about three minutes. Always full of quips, and a humorist side that gets her from point A to point Zed... on any given day she will be out supporting



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the pop culture community, businesses, and her signed authors. Hard working and diligent don't even begin to describe her moxie.

Song: Duran, Duran is neither a Duran or a Duran... true?

PJ: I have no idea. I thought they were all family members. "We are FAM-I-LY. I got all my sisters/brothers, and me." We are all family here at The WOD.

Song: What has lit a fire under you Patti? As

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## Interview with Cartoonist - Frank Jordan

Interviewed by Song River

**COMPANY MAN** By Frank Jordan



Photo credits: Frank Jordan

**Daily Office Antics, But Never a 'Copy!' The Original CompanyManComic: Interview with Phoenix, Arizona Cartoonist- Frank Jordan**

Song River: Frank who is Company Man? And where does the Ricoh company fit into this?

Frank Jordan: Company Man is a funny and skewed look at the day to day happenings of group of employees of a Media Group in Phoenix, AZ. I do this for FREE so my REAL job is RICOH as a Global Order Coordination Specialist. I know it sounds exciting but it's just high level logistics.

Song: Something many people won't admit to in the annals of copier antics, photocopying their butts. Is there a statistical average known in the copier industry for this?

Frank: Ha! I wish I knew the answer to that one! I'm going to make an educated guess and say... an average of 30% hmmm, that may be the reason why I'm ALWAYS completing orders for Starbucks. Those baristas butts must break a lot of glass!

Song: Would you happen to be a fan of the series The Office? If so, is there a

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## Interview with Todd VanHooser of Laughing Moon

By Song River



Photo credits: Laughing Moon

**Interview with Author and RPG Creator: Todd VanHooser of Laughing Moon Chronicles**

"Writers write."- Todd VanHooser

Song River: I have heard, that a love for writing comes from a love for reading. What's your take?

Todd VanHooser: Absolutely. Reading is an essential part of a writer's life. Its instrumental. It's the equivalent of job-training. You wouldn't be a car mechanic without first working on cars. Want to be a good writer? Read good writing. And it's easy to spot the difference in the material produced by a writer who reads and a writer who doesn't. It's the difference between vanity and work ethic. The problem shows up when those vanity writers publish a book and expect others to read it. Sorry. That's just not going to happen. There are those who write to say they are writers and others who write because they are writers. Those are your readers.

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Tom Gibney, used to split nights with Walt Richardson at the Vine on Apache. Those were really fun nights and we'd all wind up playing the last set together. I'm sure there was lots of other great stuff going on then, but I was into what I was doing so never really got out to see other acts much unless I had an opportunity to play. This was still the late 70's, the guys who would later put Tempe on the music map were still in grade school.

Tim - Lots of good local bands. Smokey, Trout Fishing in America, David Dote and the Hi-fi's did great "Beatle" covers.

Dave - Oh yeah, Dave Dote! Those guys rocked.



*Song: In the Phoenix scene was hanging out in the 'boonies' considered the only thing to be happening?*

Dave - Did some of that, mostly up at the East end of South Mountain Park and Canyon Lake. Good times, hanging out with friends/girlfriends, Legend City, and of course jamming.

Tim - No not at all. Lots of local clubs and parties. Mr Lucky's.

*Song: What were some of your favorite bands Dave and Tim, and what was getting airplay?*

Dave - My musical tastes in those days were varied, but the main constant in everything I listened to was melody. It had to have a strong melody. And great

guitars. And for me the Doobies and Skynyrd were it. But I also loved the thoughtful singer/songwriter stuff. Jackson Brown, the Eagles, CSN, and Neil Young too. I also always gravitate to songs at 80 beats a minute. That's just me. The other guys, especially Tim and Jeff kid me about this pretty unmercifully.

Tim - Doobies, Allman Brothers, Jeff Beck, Johnny Winter.

*Song: Can you recall the first rock n roll song you kissed a girl to?*

Dave - To be honest, no I really can't remember, but it was probably something hokey like Color My World from Chicago at Junior Prom.

Old Local favorites Beau Geste, the late Ted Kowals band was probably playing. Man, I haven't thought about that for years. Ted was a great bass player.

Tim- Three dog night. "Mama told me not to come"

*Song: Dave was Twist of Fate your first 'steady' band you played bass and did backing vox for?*

Dave- Really I had played in a few other bands before that, nothing that lasted too long or meant too much. Although in my early days my brother Alan, who passed away in 2006, did play drums and those are great memories.

But in the early 80's I met Craig Hannay and Al Renzo and we initially

formed a trio called Hannay Brothers, with no The, just Hannay Brothers. Damn I learned so much playing with them. The first three of four years we developed killer 3 part harmonies and played mostly Folk Style covers like CNS, Neil Young, Dan Fogelberg, and other stuff along that vein. I played bass then and sang mostly backup. We did almost a year at the old Lunt Ave Marble Club and 6 or 8 months at After the Gold Rush right next door. Playing every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for almost two years really forces you to perfect what you're doing and we had a great little loyal following.

After a while Craig and Al started really getting into the Grateful Dead and we began adding a lot of Dead covers to the mix also. Then we added two drummers and keyboards and changed the name to Twist of Fate. By then it was the late 80's and we played in that form for another 8 years doing the club scene in Tempe. We were one of two bands back then doing the Dead thing, the other being the No Hobo band, but we did a wider range of music than they did and had those killer three part harmonies. I remember so many great nights packing then in at Tony's New Yorker on Broadway and Edsel's Attic. Great times. But then life started catching up to us. Marriage, kids, and we began to play less and less until around 1995 when I switched to guitar and went out solo. I still see Craig and we are still close. Unfortunately my great friend and brother Al Renzo passed away in 2013. It's hard for me to believe we 3 will never sing together again.

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## The WOD News Staff

Managing Editor: PJ Hultstrand

Business Manager & Web Administrator: Donald Jacques

Online Content Manager: Song River

Columnists: Michael Bradley, John Paul Ried, Song River

Book Reviewers: Normalene Zeeman, Michael Bradley, J.J.M Czep, Ron C. Tobin, John Paul Ried

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Photography: Song River, Dee Astell, Chet Shupe, Michael Fett, Donald Jacques, PJ Hultstrand

Layout & Design: Patti Hultstrand

The WOD Newspaper is a for-profit newspaper and webzine for Fan's of literature, art, music, and video who attend Fan-Conventions. The newspaper is published in Arizona and distributed to fans in the southwestern states of the US: AZ, CA, NV, and UT. We also distribute to selected locations in Washington, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Circulation is estimated at 7,000+ based on the numbers we were getting from a previous publication and the fact we also have a website to offer readers; thewod.net.

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character among them you would identify with most? Why?

Frank: I LOVE The Office, both versions! I have the snarkiness of Jim, with the I don't give a \*BLEEP!\* attitude of Stanley.

Song: What took you from St. Louis, your beloved baseball team, to Phoenix, Az where melt downs are a daily occurrence?

Frank: I used to work for Best Buy and they had a job board and one of the Phoenix stores had an opening so I said to myself "Phoenix doesn't have any natural disasters! It's time to make a move!" To be honest, I didn't know about the natural disaster known as Governor Jan Brewer!

Song: In school where you known to be the 'class-clown?'

Frank: I was an enigma in school. I was a clique-hopper. I hung out with all of the factions. I liked to make my friends laugh with my comic strip The Kirby Street Kids, which became The Kirby Street Teens. They were all in the comic strip.

Song: Go through your processing in creating a daily/weekly comic strip. From beginning to end.

Frank: First I go to my thinking spot (my bed) I lay down and then fall asleep, wake up around midnight, then head to my Man-cave (this is where the magic happens!) by now I've thought of something to write and draw, if I haven't, it's off to TMZ or Perez Hilton to see what stupid thing Kanye West said or Justin Bieber did! I then write out the script, draw the characters, scan them, plug them into a frame template, add background colors and dialog, re-size it, post it to the website and there you have it, COMEDY GOLD!

Song: Have you ever experienced a 'dry spot' of nothing creative coming forward? If so, what did you do?

Frank: Yes I have. It happens more than you think. When I get blocked, I make a comic about writers block. The last one I did had Hemingway, blocking my shot... see what I did there?

Song: How hard is it to use yourself as the main character? At times can it be uncomfortable?

Frank: I'll use myself as a character especially if it's making fun of myself! I'm never uncomfortable doing that.

"I see online as the future of comics."- Cartoonist Frank Jordan

Song: It is said there is truth in humor, what do you say?

Frank: Very much so!

Song: At times politics plays into your strip. Is that topic one you try to walk carefully?

Frank: I NEVER walk around on eggshells when it comes to politics. I'll make fun of anyone, no matter what their affiliation is.

Song: There are multiple forms of expressing humor. Live comedy, acting, screenwriting, etc... why did this expression call you?

Frank: I used to do stand-up comedy back in the day but had to get a REAL job to pay the bills, so now it comes out in comic strip form.

Song: Who are some of the comedic geniuses you look up to?

Frank: Chris Rock, Robin Williams, Eddie Murphy, Norm McDonald, Mitch Hedberg, Mitch Fatel, and Louis C.K.

Song: Have you ever created a serious comic strip, with a topic that meant something to you personally?

Frank: I like to keep it funny. Something totally heinous would have to happen to warrant a very special episode of Company Man Comic!

Song: What is the difference between comic strips in the days of hard-copy newspapers, and web-comics? Do you see an advantage or disadvantage to either?

Frank: Some folks see the word "Web" in front and they tend to not take you seriously. I prefer Comics that are online. With the decline of newspaper readership, mainly because all of the old people who still read Cathy, are dying off LOL! I see online as the future of comics. Mainly because the Cartoonist can say whatever they want to say and they're more accessible to the fans with email and social media.

Song: What comics do you collect and is there someone in the comic



strip industry you would like to work with?

Frank: I collect Superman comics, with some Batman, Justice League and Green Lantern Corps thrown in for good measure. I'd love to work with Stephan Patis of Pearls Before Swine fame.

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**COMPANY MAN** By Frank Jordan



 HERCULES & ANDROMEDA	 AVATAR: THE LAST AIR BENDER & HOOK	 HEROES OF COSPLAY	 NEW TEEN TITANS & BLADE
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*Song: Where did you move on from there to do?*

Dave - With the demise of Twist of Fate I still needed a musical outlet so I put together a solo set and started doing the Coffee House Circuit. Mostly the Coffee Plantations, especially the Biltmore. Did that for ten years playing two or three nights a week- all while working full time, going to school, and raising a family. But I loved and still love playing so I couldn't give it up. Funny how back in those days the gigs paid almost exactly what they do now, but I was making good extra money and the wife and kids would always come when it was close to home.

*Song: What is about it rock n roll that just keeps on buzzin in our ears?*

Dave - It is the music of my generation and there is something to be said for that. It moves my soul like no other music does.

*Song: How long have you and Tim been back together working now?*

Dave - Tim and I went to high school together at McClintock in Tempe. We were always in bands, but never together. I always loved the way he played. Tim is a GREAT lead guitarist. He is one of the best ever to come out of this town in my opinion, but after just being in a few bands after high school he never pursued any thing and was only playing in his bedroom. When I went into the studio to record in 2005 I knew I had to track him down. And let me tell you, that was no easy feat.



Strangely it was only through seeing his dad's obituary in the paper that I was finally able to call him and ask him to record with me. We've been together as a musical partnership since then.

*Song: Do you and Tim Co-Write?*

Dave - We do write together, but not everything. My stuff on my own is more singer/songwriter oriented. I love songs that tell a story. Tim brings the faster harder edge to the writing. I do write all the lyrics, but whether I begin the music on my own or not, Tim always has the ideas to lead it in it's ultimate direction. He has a great ear for a groove that I don't. I believe that's what gives our partnership strength. We also now have Mark Greenawalt adding to the writing mix which also is bring a different edge in.

*Song: Your love for music, has it influenced your family's interest?*

Dave - Yes, my kids are both musicians too. My daughter who just started school at NAU is a classically trained clarinetist and is on scholarship for music. My son has also really grasped music. He is classically trained and is a multi instrumentalist. In the last year he has begun playing mandolin with the acoustic version of Squiddog. I am proud of them both.

*Song: Tim it would seem guitar, rock, chicks, fast cars...just mix. What was the real reason you picked up the guitar?*

Tim - Because it was cool and when I heard Hendrix, Grand Funk Railroad etc. I had to learn what was going on.

*Song: I recall reading Tim that you had won a 'battle of the bands' with Sweet Rush- as that the catalyst that moved you forward in music, or where did the keen interest for sound come in?*

Tim - Yeah, winning that was a real kick and we were only together for six weeks. Sound engineering was just natural for me and I had a lot of good influence from local guys.

*Song: With technology moving forward, are you finding pluses nowadays by comparison to the early days of your sound days.*

Tim - Lots of pluses in the digital mixing and new speaker types. There is just so much less you need to set up to get a great sound.

*Song: Do you primarily do sound for live events or as well in the studio?*

Tim - I started with live events and then moved into the corporate arena which exposed me to so much more learning to do lighting and video also. I have a company called AVExperts. Studio stuff is really not my forte. I can track really well, but mixing I'll leave up to the patient guys.

*Song: Tim would you say you are more Rock, and R&B than Dave?*

Tim - Absolutely!! (laughing) We joke that he can't write a song over 60 beats per minute.

Dave - They are relentless. (shaking his head)

*Song: Dave in your bio you have written that your style is a Southwestern Gen-X, explain.*

Dave - That's my fault. (laughing) When I started in music again in earnest I listened to what was out there. What were people my age, and a bit younger, cause I am old, listening to? What were they digging? Of what I was hearing and what I was gravitating toward myself was the bands who came out of Tempe during my heyday. The Peacemakers, the Gin Blossoms, DeadHot, The Pistoleros. The thing about that music, was that it was most relevant to folks who lived here, and folks around my age. Plus, I knew some of these guys, I watched them grow up and I liked, really liked what they created. I have to admit, our album Chili Lime Squid, was heavily influenced by that stuff. Although I gotta say though, I was sailing the Sea of Cortez a long time before Roger Clyne made it cool, but he is a lot prettier than I am. So who ever else this style of Americana appeals to... I feel it is most relatable to the Gen-Xer who lives here in the desert.

*Song: What changes have you seen here in Arizona in the music scene? How about nationally?*

Dave- This is the hardest question for me to deal with. Mostly because it makes me feel like a Dinosaur. (In my best crotchety old man voice)... "when we were playing back in my day..." But seriously, it used to be that great live music was not only found everywhere, but it was welcome everywhere and you could make a little bit of money doing it. It seems like venues are drying up left and right. I feel like due to a few key people, Carol Pacey being one, that there still is a community. And that's good because we musicians have to support each other to keep the community alive. It is just frustrating to me that you can have a great line up of local bands, who are kick ass good, and just not many people care enough to get out and see them. Nationally it's the same. Unless it's a big name that every knows, local live music, great local live bands, writing and playing great stuff, plays to almost empty houses on some nights. The internet has given us an outlet, but you have to have the energy to work it.

For more information on Squiddog please contact:  
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Website: <http://www.squiddog.net/>  
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it would seem *The WOD Media online, as well as newspaper is just busting with pop culture!*

PJ: And wait - I have also re-lit the light under the burner for Az Publishing Services, LLC with this new book, *The Apocalypse*, by T.M. Williams. LOL.

Other than being totally crazy in love with everything going on here, I just want to say to all naysayers and haters out there, "Just wait, I have just begun to get crazy!"

The WOD started with the author website, Weavers of Dreams, and Donald Jacques and I had white-boarded the entire WOD Media idea back in the beginning of 2010 because I knew then that MEDIA was a very important part of the author's journey. I had been producing magazines and other large publications for many years in my own graphic design business, but what I was talking about was expanding into a regular print, web, radio and then into video media.

Back in 2012, I started doing radio shows on Blog Talk under the KWOD Radio banner. Then, the opportunity to take over as Managing Editor for Connotations came to me, which was already a near 20 year old newspaper. My journalism start way back in college on the Mesa Community newspaper known as the Legend. Naturally then, for me, this was taking me back to my roots and gave me something to sink my teeth into as print media in the area of interest for fans of conventions.

A few years into the venture with Connotations, I felt the calling to push the limits more into pop culture and under the non-profit leadership of CASFS, I just couldn't expand any further. Then the offer came to me to break away from Connotations and do something pop culture oriented, and I took the chance.



*Song: The advent of several comic book/gaming stores has boomed in the United States, along with comic cons. Do you think this too may have had a huge influence on the fans demanding more information, background, etc.?*

PJ: I haven't seen a surge of comic book stores. We lost 2 in the last year, and then added 2 on the outer reaches of Phoenix. Will they survive? I don't know. I hope so. It baffles me really that there are two comic book stores in Tempe within a mile of each other around ASU. How can that area support two stores? I've heard it said it's because they carry different comic books and cater to different customers. I don't know, but they must have come to terms with this many years ago since they have both been around for a long time.

I have always known this one thing to be true; Pop culture enthusiasts are the most widely read and media viewing group and for that the creatives love them for it. When I say "creatives" I mean creators of books, art, comic books, movies, blogs, or even the video makers. And since it has become HIP to be a GEEK,



everyone wants to cater to this demographic.

What I really hate seeing is the "wanna be" who use the term "pop culture" like they know what it means, when they really do not. The funny thing is that these people use the term pop culture to put the creatives and the geeks into some segment of the population. They say things like, "We are the Pop Culture television station". Then they wonder why it doesn't work - they weren't able to snag the segment they were looking for. The truth is, pop culture is an ever changing beast that refuses to be caged, because by doing so goes against what we in the pop culture community are really all about.

This is one reason why Comic Cons have gotten to be so huge and in a way, like magma, unmanageable. The Pop Culture community continues to change and morph, never really coming into true focus, before it changes again into something else - some other shiny thing we have suddenly taken an interest in. Yesterday it was "What does the Fox say" and now it is "The Ice Bucket Challenge" and tomorrow who knows - probably a "Squirrel from outer space".

Comic Cons have been one of the influences of this pop culture growth. But since pop culture includes so many things we have the luxury here at The WOD to add on new things and interests. Three years from now we will be saying, "Pop what?" We will all call it something else. To me The WOD has to change with these interests in order to be the very things we report and share.

*Song: What part are you wanting The WOD to play in this?*

PJ: We are a community driven newspaper, radio, video group. We follow the peeps around so really it is all of you who make The WOD what it will become tomorrow.

*Song: Plans for the webzine, paper, and radio in 2015?*

PJ: There will be a steady flow of events going into 2015.



*Song: Aside from being the editor and chief of The WOD, you also are the owner and operator of Az Publishing. How many years has Az Publishing been established?*

PJ: I had changed my graphic design business from the 90's into Az Publishing Services, LLC in 2008 in anticipation of publishing more books and magazines. Was going very strong in 2009 and when the recession turned many of us into the homeless society in 2010-2012, I had slowed the pace, but kept going. From 2012-2014 - I rarely published any books under Az Publishing name, but rather assisted authors to find their way in this mess of a business called publishing.

I had become disillusioned by the publishing industry and all those sharks and Amazon making a killing on the aspiring authors. This gave me time to start up WOD Media really and is where I channeled my passion. I had lost my house, my credit and regular income, so really couldn't give the authors what they needed from me. Worked on building WOD Media and worked the conventions, giving these things all my time and talents.

Then Tina Williams, a local author whom I helped pull the book, *The Apocalypse*, together before LepreCon 2014, had caught me in a weak moment. It was crazy, but I loved the energy that went into it by the both of us, working together to get it done in time. When it was done in time and the author loves their book, that is the most rewarding time for me. I revel in the finished book. So, Tina said I should become her publisher. This isn't the only time she's said this, but she caught me in the high of this finished book, so I agreed. LOL.

Really I said, if I do this again, I want to do it right and send all our books through Ingram/Lightning Source for distribution all over the world. And that is exactly what we are doing.

*Song: Along with publishing you also offer editing services, correct?*

PJ: To me, editing and the book's cover are the most important part of the book publishing process, because you can have an okay story, but if you have a killer cover and have edited very well, the book will sell well, and in some cases will chart the best seller lists. But, if you have a terrific story, but edited the book yourself or had your best friend read it who just changed a few things and deemed it a HOT book, and then made the cover yourself too, then the story will be read by fifty people and most of them will be your friends and relatives.

So, while I am good at editing, I really don't like to do it because it takes a lot of time, especially when the book hasn't been proofread or beta read first. So, again, I said this process is one of the most important factors in the success or failure of all books in the market now, therefore put a call out with the help of Tina Williams, for proof readers to go through the manuscript first, fixing most punctuation and general errors, then I dig deeper into the story and help clean up inconsistencies and plot weaknesses. Then the author is forced to be a part of the process because they MUST learn their craft, not just keep writing without learning anything in the process.

I had seriously burned myself out on manuscripts some years ago that needed basically to be rewritten and I just couldn't get through the book. I wanted to take them out back and shoot them rather than try to fix them.

One of my favorite steps to do in this publishing process is to design the covers. And like a fine wine, I think I've gotten better with age. I have been designing covers for other small publishers over the last few years as well, because I know what I'm doing when it comes to making the finished product PRINTABLE by any printer.

Interview with PJ Hultstrand - Continued on Page 7



# THE SNOW BEAST OF PIKE'S PEAK COLORADO EVIL MONSTER OR BENEVOLENT HERO?

By John Paul Ried



Near the outskirts of the city of Colorado Springs, Colorado and the base area of the mountain of Pike's Peak there have been reports of a huge, nine foot tall, big foot like snow beast which is terrorizing people, animals and anything in its path. This monster is supposedly like a giant ape with huge arms and legs which weighs over 2000 lbs. This snow beast prey's on elk, deer, even bears and also has been investigated by local police, and other monster hunters. The producers of the Monster Quest television show viewed on the History Channel have created an entire episode devoted to tracking down this deadly, stalking apparition which premiered on March 11th, 2009.

In 1977, a television movie named "Snow Beast," plot was about a giant apelike creature who would chase after vacationing skiers hoping to eat them for breakfast. This phenomenon concerning the Snow Beast has generated a lot of interest and I wish to gather more materials about it.

From what I have heard about this monster is that one person was actually rescued by what could have been the Snow Beast of Pike's Peak. The story goes that four college students named Trisha, Frank, Jorge and Sue were skiing in one of the many vacation resorts in January 2010 when suddenly, Jorge had a skiing accident which resulted in him being pinned at the bottom of a ravine approximately 300 yards from an advanced ski route. When Jorge was noted as missing about one hour later, there was an alert from the resort beginning a massive search for Jorge in the surrounding areas. Because Jorge was at the bottom of a ravine and since new fallen snow with high winds obscured his tracks, the initial searchers could not find him though they probably missed him by only 150-200 yards.

When Jorge himself woke up after his long tumble, he believed he was ok without any broken bones or bleeding. However he was covered with scrapes, bruises, and forest debris as well as some snow and ice so he began to dig himself out. About six hours later he fell asleep again and around 2 a.m. some shuffling and digging awoke him. Jorge was excited and thought, "YES! Someone is trying to dig me out!" so he began to shout and dig faster. After

about 45 more minutes of digging, a huge, snow white, hairy, bare arm came through the layers of ice and snow above him and Jorge knew that this was not a human would-be-rescuer. Puzzled and very frightened, Jorge lay back down and simply watched as now two giant arms continued digging and shifting debris above him. In another few minutes, Jorge saw what looked to him to be a giant white ape glaring down at him. When the ape grabbed him, Jorge banged his head upon a frozen ice section above and to his right and he was knocked unconscious again.

At dawn on January 16th, 2010, Jorge was found alive and asleep about 300 yards from the advanced skier route he was previously skiing on by local police and volunteer searchers with dogs. What puzzled everyone was that the searchers did sweep the area for Jorge the previous day and they could not figure out how they had missed him.

When Jorge came too himself, he immediately jumped thinking that he was in the grip of some evil, hungry monster and began excitedly explaining what he saw after his accident. Most of the doctors, volunteers and nurses present first thought Jorge was simply hysterical and imagining his whole adventure until some long, white, tufts of hair were discovered on his outer clothes. Jorge insisted that he saw this giant, apelike, nine foot tall creature glaring at him and digging debris above him.

To this day, Jorge is amazed that he was not eaten and has decided that what happened to him was miraculous. He also believes that this Snow beast does possess more than animal intelligence since he was found neatly laid out upon the ground. When Jorge told investigators where he was trapped, the ravine was discovered and something had dug through almost 50 feet of ice, snow and rock to get to him. I certainly wish to express my gratitude for Jorge's life to the Snow Beast if this story is true.

*John Paul Ried grew up in Upper Montclair New Jersey and has recently lived in seven different states. His career includes college teaching, public school teaching K-12 in Special Education, Fundraising for two non-profit organizations and part time chess teaching in public schools. Mr. Ried currently lives in Phoenix Arizona with his very demanding cat named Enalan. Along with his writing, Mr. Ried also enjoys attending Sci-Fi/Fantasy conventions and has met hundreds of imaginative and interesting people such as Isaac Asimov, Margaret Weiss and Tracy Hickman, Terry Ferrell, Penn and Teller (Rebo and Zooty). John Ried is also the Emperor of the Enalan Family Crew [EFC] Facebook groups that are dedicated to the Mafia Wars Zynga game. Mr. Ried is also Chairman and CEO of the Phoenix Arizona Fantasy Gaming Association and the International Fantasy Gaming Association.*

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*Song: What is the projected number of books slated for this next year?*

PJ: Oh geez - that is the hardest question here and it shouldn't be. I keep getting more inquiries by authors or aspiring authors and if they are good, I really have a hard time saying I can't do it until 2015, although we are really maxing out here already, and I just reopened the doors to Az Publishing unofficially since May.

By my estimate right now for this year, there will be 21 more books in print and eBook by this Christmas by various authors and genres. In 2015, we already have 8 books alone for T.M. Williams with projected release dates, and another 5 so far for others. We are also opening up a few of the worlds by a few of our authors for other writers to try their hands in writing stories in these worlds. Those opportunities will be coming out early in 2015.

*Song: Tell authors a little about what Az Publishing offers them that is unique to your publishing services.*

PJ: We teach the author HOW-TO become their own imprint publishers, then we stand beside them as their Parent Publishing House in all publishing and production matters to make their books the best they can be, even if it hurts. Then we become their agent to get books into the distribution channels and help them create opportunities to sell in other events, conventions, book signings, etc. This is really the best time to come aboard if your book(s) fits where we can help the most. We have made many mistakes along the way over these years, but we are getting ready to really go to town.

*Song: What have been some of the changes in the publishing and editing business you've noticed over the years?*

PJ: I started this publishing business just when the eBooks snuck up on us all. I knew they were going to be hot, but I also knew that Amazon was going to cheapen our business with their duplicity



of helping the self-published authors. This has come to pass. Writers became too hurried to make their millions to go through the bother of making their products the best they can be, but where did it get them? Amazon is the only one making real money here, look at their bottom line and ask yourselves, how much of that money did they make from my book or story? If you do it again, do it right this time.

*Song: A passion lies in words, and an appreciation must resonate. What inspired this road, and where would you like it to lead?*

PJ: I was inspired to write again when I almost died from complications of a surgery in 2002. Most of us have stories to tell, but not everyone has the ability to do so. While I believe in evening out the playing field I still expect my authors and those who work with me to do their part to make what we do better each day in the best ability we can.

And where I would like to see it lead us: To send Don to the Moon, literally! *We aim to please.*



WOD

Pop Culture Spotted in Unusual Places  
Wodda Turtle Spotted these at a UPS Store in Mesa

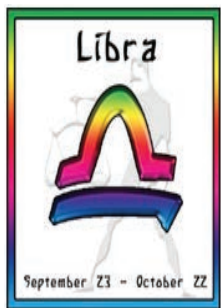


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OCTOBER 2014 HOROSCOPE  
 EVALUATED BY THE  
 MAGICAL MAGICIAN -  
 OLIVER WENDELL ENALAN!

Written by John Paul Ried  
 on this dimensional plane

Professor Oliver Wendell Enalan has been tutoring me for months now. He has told me that it is time for me to step forward and scan the cosmological layout and perceive our dimensional plane celestially. We have some amazing events for October and even some preparations to make for the Halloween Holiday!



**LIBRA THE SCALES** - As the planet Earth rotates into the Libran constellation annual cycle; this would be the perfect time to reassess your career and your destiny! You are still riding your health high from last month and this strange energy fills your spirit with optimism. Your compassionate, sympathetic ear will be highly sought after because other

signs such as Sagittarius will find their own relationships challenging this month. Share your optimism and grand vista's of hope with all those around you. Your clarity of thought will help many of your friends cut through all of the superficial motivations of others and get to the core of matters. No one will take you for granted this month. For the Halloween season it might be fun to really sex it up with your costumes since you will be the life and bounce for any party you partake in. Consider couples costumes also with your special someone.

**SCORPIO THE SCORPION** - For some reason no one has yet explained, Scorpio individuals seem most susceptible to exotic lunar activity. On October 6th, the moon will be full and experience a total lunar eclipse! This month would be fun to get out into the woods somehow with some friends and howl at the moon. The chimes of midnight seem unusually attractive and your prowling spirit will be highlighted. A wonderful Halloween costume idea for Scorpio men would be a Werewolf outfit. Scorpio Ladies should indulge in a witch costume or perhaps something nature based. As the climax of the month is Halloween, you should make special plans with your romantic partner, go out into the countryside and let the moon possess you! AAAUUUWWHHHEEWWW!



**SAGITTARIUS THE CENTAUR ARCHER** - Hope you got a lot of rest last month because your energy will be shooting out in all directions now. While the moon usually accentuates this process you really have to not let yourself get carried away. Nearly all of your relationships will be a challenge for you this month but the ones that survive the touchstone

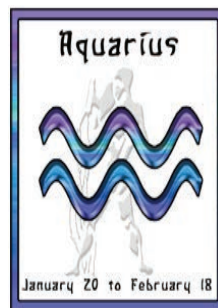
will last you a lifetime. Halloween is always fun so try to enjoy something new and different. Perhaps a science fiction costume of your favorite Star Trek, Star Wars, Firefly or even Battlestar Galactica character will blast you off into new worlds. Your finances appear stable so if you need some advice on how to handle your lover, find yourself a Libra friend and give your partner something special.

**CAPRICORN THE GOAT** - Last month permitted you to focus on finances and leadership. This month now you will reap the benefits. If you are single, your personal magnetism will be very hard to resist from someone



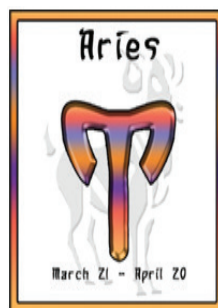
who may have been surreptitiously observing you for some time. Relax, have fun and let yourself go nuts! The oppositional position of planet Uranus to our sun blazes in your soul and encourages you to take some risks and go for it! For Halloween, rummage through your closets or attic and you make stumble upon some brilliantly old costumes that would be megahits now! Another idea might be to decorate your yard or even your car with Halloween fun and host that Halloween party for once instead of capering around the neighborhood aimlessly. Guiding children about the neighborhood though might end up incredibly fun as well so keep your options open. If you are married or have a partner, sweep them off their feet and enjoy yourselves..

**AQUARIUS THE WATERBEARER** - Now that you have gotten your act together from last month financially and socially, now would be a great time to improve your health and fitness. Who wants to look slim and younger for that Halloween costume you have wanted to try for several years now? Focusing on your internal energy will build up your stamina for an unusually exciting Halloween this month. Find your local Halloween parade or even a Zombie March and lockstep with your friends. You will also make new friends this month as your sociability and vivaciousness will be contagious. Once outside, try to stay outside and enjoy the fresh air and find a way to drag that special someone out with you. If you are single, focus on meeting new people and remember that the accidental encounter may not be accidental.



**PISCES THE FISH** - Be sure to use sound judgment now. Do not let the other fishes lead you into an embarrassing or not so legal situation and set you up for scapegoating. Keep a clear eye of those around you and do everything you can to avoid compromising situations. Do not just blindly jump at the chance to join the cool pack. Meanwhile if you have children then they will be your release and escape by helping them enjoy Halloween with costumes and candy. Strong financial picture for the future is consistent with last month's plans. Remember what is best for you and let nobody push you too hard. If you are backed into a real corner, then come out swinging and do what you believe is right and fair. Standing up for yourself now may also be a good career move. Just be sure about your facts and do not jump to any rash conclusions or convulsions.

**ARIES THE RAM** - This is no time to make any risky bets. The autumn can be very exciting for you if you are unmarried. Try to listen more to your significant other and remember that you do not have to win at everything. Your competitive spirit may be excited by the October 6th lunar eclipse with the full moon so please remember not to risk the family fortune just to prove a point. The last two weeks of October will be very favorable for you emotionally and your family, work and romantic relationships will grow in peace. Community activities such as parties,

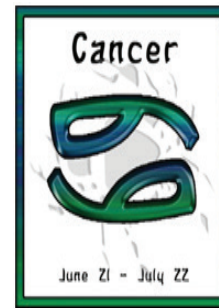
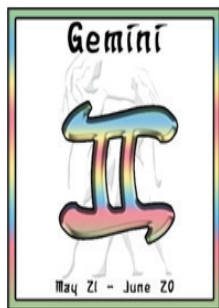


parades or even Zombie Marches (particularly if you live in Phoenix AZ) will be exciting outlets for you and your loved ones. Someone may come to you with projects dear to them so you will have the chance to make some real money with positively encouraging and promoting their interests.



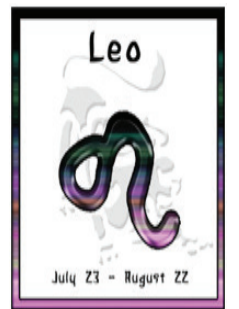
**TAURUS THE BULL** - Many Taurus's thrive on attention and this is a perfect time for you to shine. Many of your friends and relatives will be asking for advice from you. Guide them with wisdom from the ages about having a good time. Good taste is always timeless but a good time is often tasteless. Find a raucous Halloween Party and immerse your head into the water barrel to grab that apple with your teeth. If entertaining young children, gather them around you and tell them about the Great Pumpkin or some other Halloween escapade you enjoyed at their age. If you tell a good story you may have many people of all ages hanging on every word. Be sure to mix with people as often as possible and find a few Scorpio's again to have fun with just like last month!

**GEMINI THE TWINS** - This month you can really relax and be yourself. Your health will be excellent and your friends and family will see how content you are. If you have had some rough times with relationships lately, now could be an excellent opportunity to make things right. One of the best things about Halloween is the opportunity to 'be free' with a new costume, partying with a new group or even just handing out trick or treat candy. Clear your head, take a deep breath, and enjoy the festivities around you. Your paramour may be eager to try some cosplay or that new group party with you. If you are single, you might just be swept off your feet by an Aquarius and why not? The trick this month is to just go with the flow and enjoy the emotional contentment ride. No one expects you to solve the Multiverse's problems right now and clearing agenda items off of your schedule will resolve many issues.



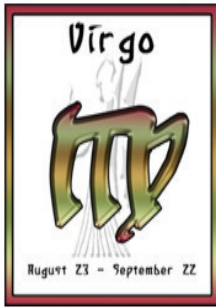
**CANCER THE CRAB** - High finances and investments are featured for you this month. While money issues usually bore you, this time you will find them fascinating. You really are only two or three payments away from clearing that pesky debt that has bothered you for some time. Just do not rob Peter to pay Paul by borrowing large sums from people because you do not need too. Review some Wall Street analysis and pick some investments that will really pay off. Your loved ones will actually be eager to help cheer you up and get you into the spirit of events with ghosts and other spirits. Here is a chance to really enjoy some fun with friends or family with Halloween activities. Focus on family and they will focus on you. With the holidays approaching you may gather some useful Intel on possible holiday gifts for those you wish to impress.

**LEO THE LION** - One of the wonderful things about being a Leo is that you just LOVE to dance and prance during Halloween! You might even have some extra fun with the Scorpios this month. The lunar eclipse during the full moon on October 6th will excite your competitive spirit and drive you wild to prove that you are the King of the Jungle and don't you forget it. Your love life is raised to a fever pitch this month and you should be able to carry off



any partner you wish...even if it is just your spouse! Now would be the perfect time to plan that family and child that you two have been considering carefully before. Charge into the wilderness and enjoy the super rush! Life is grand and so are you! Even your pocketbook will swell with unexpected funds!

**VIRGO THE VIRGIN** - While most of the other signs are just bursting with activity and dynamism, you Virgo just want to relax and have quiet and intimate fun. Your constellation just passed out of the annual highlights and you are ready to rest, recharge and rejuvenate. Strangely enough, your significant other would just love to curl up with you by a roaring fire and enjoy you for the evening. Save your energy for the Halloween holiday weekend because many of your friends just cannot wait to see what sort of cosplay costume you will flaunt! You may just want to watch horror movies and pass out candy to the trick-or-treaters for Halloween anyway and enjoy the oncoming autumn. If you have children, they might want to pull you outside to go trick-or-treating with them and you should just roll with it. Meanwhile, try to exercise caution about where and how you spend your money as last month's splurging may be catching up with you. Just do not skimp on the Halloween candy!



## SCIENCE-FICTION: THEN AND NOW

By Michael D'Ambrosio

When I was a 6-year old back in the sixties, I looked forward to spending time at my grandparents on the weekends. My dad worked a lot of overtime and, with five younger brothers and sisters, my mom was always happy to lend me to my grandparents for the weekend.

My grandfather subscribed to Popular Science and Popular Mechanics. He had a book collection made up of authors like Clarke and Asimov as well as lesser known sci-fi magazines with articles about the future. The magazines had amazing pictures about what the future might hold for us and the stories were written in such detail that they sounded as if they already happened. As I read, I often referred to my grandfather's encyclopedia collection or the thick Webster's Dictionary that sat on his book shelf to learn the meaning of many of the words. I was so overwhelmed with the stories about cloning, robotics, space travel and future societies. My desire to read these stories helped me become a very good reader and writer by the time I got to first grade with an exceptional vocabulary. One thing was for certain, I never dreamed that so many of those ideas that I read about would come true in my lifetime.

Let's flash forward to today and where science fiction is. As a writer, I have an advantage because of my technical backgrounds. With years as a weapons crew chief in the military, a nuclear field engineer developing upgrades for the industry, and an in-house nuclear controls technician at a local nuclear generating station, I had plenty of ideas and lots of creative assignments to pull my thoughts from for my novels.

With an opportunity to qualify on a variety of aircraft weaponry, I had a lot of insight for my space battles. It's nice to be able to describe the effects of a weapon that strikes an object in space or how to control the blast effect of an explosion. My imagination was rewarded when I was hired as



a nuclear field engineer and, along with servicing their existing incore flux mapping system, I also developed new products and functioned as an applications engineer, identifying nuclear customers' issues with aging equipment in their plant and developing new, state-of-the-art retrofits and upgrades.

When I sit down and write a story, I often find myself thinking, "What new ideas can I incorporate into my story that might come true one day?" As the early masters of sci-fi we're able to look ahead into our future, I hoped to be able to do the same. Alas, that is what brings me to write this article.

Science is changing so fast today that new theories and inventions soon become old hat. As I think of cool things that may one day be, I open Popular Science and am crushed to see that it's already been developed and implemented. What's a writer to do. I strive to entertain my readers as I was once entertained but this has truly become a challenge, even with my backgrounds. I find, like many other writers, that we often have to entertain with our characters more so than our science foresight due to the pace that science changes before our very eyes. This doesn't mean that your favorite writers won't stop trying. It just means that the masters of the early days of science fiction will always be revered for what they could do with the limited resources available to them.

When you consider that they had no internet, worked with typewriters, and lived in a very large world back then with hot news stories reaching us days after they happen compared to our "breaking" news, it really is amazing. Today's writers may not be cutting edge with new technology but they can still teach the average reader a lot about the future. My advice to all of you is to keep in mind that the future changes so fast and you can still learn a lot from those wacky sci-fi writers about how you may be living in five or ten years instead of fifty or a hundred.

-- Reviewed by: Michael D'Ambrosio, author of *The Space Adventures Series*, *The Fractured Time Series*, *Night Creeps*, and *Princess Pain*. You can find Michael in the dealers' room or in panels at many sci-fi conventions throughout the US. <http://www.fracturedtime.com>

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*John Paul Ried grew up in Upper Montclair New Jersey and has recently lived in seven different states. His career includes college teaching, public school teaching K-12 in Special Education, Fundraising for two non-profit organizations and part time chess teaching in public schools. Mr. Ried currently lives in Phoenix Arizona with his very demanding cat named Enalan. Mr. Ried is also Chairman and CEO of the Phoenix Arizona Fantasy Gaming Association and the International Fantasy Gaming Association.*

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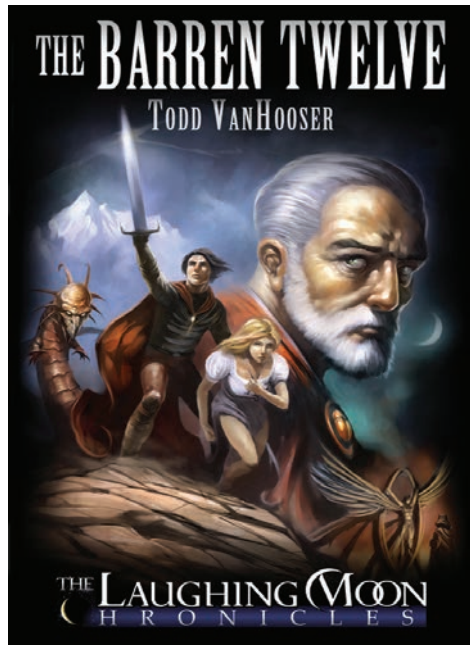
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*Song:* Were you a reader as a young person? Did you have a favorite author or series?

Todd: I've been an avid reader since about 7th or 8th grade. That's fairly late in the game compared to a lot of writers out there, but it took me a while to discover books that really turned on my imagination. I started with C.S. Lewis, Lloyd Alexander, and Tolkien. Later I discovered Stephen King and fell in love with his ability to create such believable characters. He can sell any situation or conflict because the reader is so invested in the characters. In high school I loved the Dragonlance and Forgotten Realms series, then later discovered writers like Robert Jordan, L.E. Modesit, Jr. and others. Even at a young age I knew the difference between a good literary read and a guilty pleasure. I think there's an important place for both.

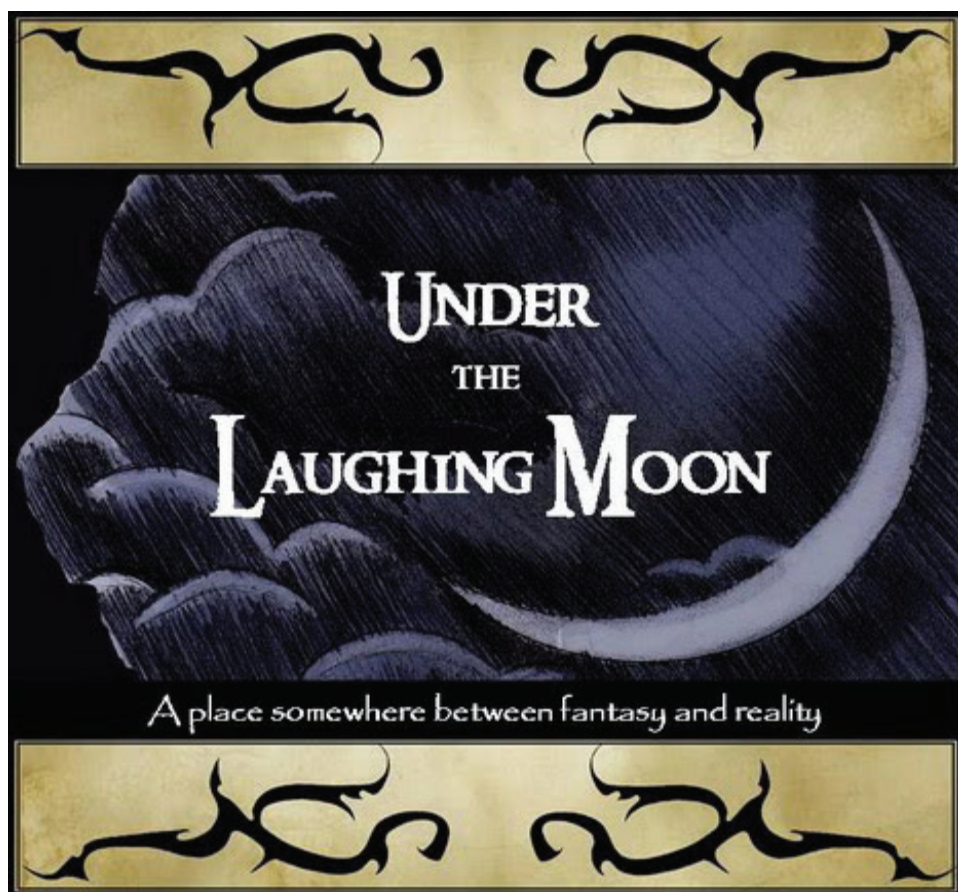
*Song:* Do you recall your first story? What was it about?

Todd: The first thing I remember writing was a short story about a TV journalist trapped behind enemy lines. It was for an 8th grade English class, and my teacher was blown away. Her reaction really opened my eyes. I spent the summer between 8th grade and freshman year really experimenting with my writing. I wrote my first fantasy book that summer, although I don't think I could even look at that now. Still, it was a start. One night I finished a book I had been reading and put it aside. I realized I didn't have anything else to start, so I literally said, "okay, I'll write my own."

*Song:* I understand that you're a teacher. Do you use your passions for writing to influence your students?

Todd: Yes, I try to bring in my own experience as much as possible to share with the students. I think one of the important things to teach is that anyone can be a writer. You don't need to publish, you just need to write. In our current education system there is a serious lack in cultivating or encouraging creativity. Because of that, kids are starved for it. I try help rekindle that spark.

**"There are those who write to say they are writers and others who write because they are writers. Those are your readers."- Todd VanHooser**



*Song:* As a teacher, I am sure you must have seen some of those same potentials coming forth from a few of your students? How do you encourage them?

Todd: I've had the pleasure of seeing several extremely talented young writers. In my creative writing class I try to provide a safe but honest environment where students can share their writing and get constructive feedback. I tell my kids that the worst thing anyone can say about someone's writing is "I like it," or "it's good." Those are useless comments. If it's good, explain why. If it needs work, offer helpful solutions. My advice in class boils down to basic ideas such as 1) create conflict and 2) show don't tell. I leave my students with a simple statement that I used to keep taped to my computer monitor: Writers write.

*Song:* Do you find since you are a teacher, that you possibly approach teaching reading and writing a bit different than other teachers who aren't necessarily authors?

Todd: All I can really say is that I think there is tremendous value in reading, no matter what career or profession you plan to enter. Classic literature like Shakespeare is in the very DNA of our pop-culture from sitcoms to Hollywood blockbusters. Our world leaders incorporate quotes from the literary greats in their speeches. The education system would have you believe that there is more value in reading non-fiction than fiction. I disagree. I think there is tremendous value in each. Non-fiction teaches what life is like. Great fiction teaches what is worth living for. We need to rekindle that passion. When asked what I do in my class, I say I don't educate. I enlighten.

*Song:* Laughing Moon Chronicles as I understand just wrapped up another photo shoot to use in the next two graphic novels, correct?

Todd: Yes, Song of Dominion is a four-part series that uses actual photography as reference for the interior illustration. I was able to cast specific "actors" for each character in the series. The result has been a near year-long endeavor, and a tremendous amount of work on everyone's behalf. I've been lucky to surround myself with people who believe in the project and are very dedicated in seeing it through. We completed a huge shoot recently that finishes up the last two books in the series. Now it goes to our illustrator, Ethan Scott, and he'll work his magic.

*Song:* Can you share anything about the series, and the up and coming releases with us?

Todd: I'm incredibly excited about these last two books in the graphic novel series. Each part tells its own story, grounded in its own theme. Book 3 reveals a back story that is both epic and heartbreaking, set in a time-period that has only been referenced in the novels, but never explored. Book 4 takes the conflict to a new height, bringing everything to a head. I think the end-result is very satisfying and I'm very eager to share it with readers.

In addition to the graphic novel, I've got a co-authored novella titled The Twilight Swordsman with one of my original Kickstarter backers named Donovan Pruitt. It has been a fantastic collaboration and the end-result is a great story. The biggest release on the fiction front for me is the long-overdue sequel to my novel, The Barren Twelve. It's titled Ashes of Evermore, and I think that fans who have waited so long for this book won't be disappointed.

On the gaming front, I am extremely excited to introduce a brand new version of the RPG called Laughing Moon Crossroads. This "multiverse" take on my world combines elements of the Old West within the fantasy genre. In other words, you've got magic and bullets flying in the game. We're play-testing the game now at a handful of conventions and looking to release Crossroads sometime next year. It's exciting and fun, and unlike anything else out there.

You could say it's been a busy summer.

*Song:* Musician/Photographer/Writer/Illustrator, Ethan Scott and you have worked together. Tell us a bit about your relationship.

Todd: Ethan Scott and I first worked together on a RPG book called The Ragged Man. He has a beautiful artistic style that I really loved, and felt that together would could offer something new and exciting to the comic book world. His style is a perfect fit for this fantasy setting, offering a window into this world that we haven't seen before. I've believed in his work since I first met him, and I feel that great things are going to come through this relationship.

**"Non-fiction teaches what life is like. Great fiction teaches what is worth living for."- Todd VanHooser Author and RPG Creator**

*Song:* How do you choose who you work with?

Todd: I've been burned in the past with certain people I've worked with, and I'm adamant about not making those mistakes again. This is a tricky industry

where the illusion of success gets confused with popularity. I invest myself in the people I work with, and I like building bridges. There's little room for ego or attitude. I've made difficult goodbyes with individuals that just couldn't understand that concept, but ultimately it was for the better. My Laughing Moon team is an extended family with a lot of love. I want to support my team's outside projects and be invested in their lives. Creativity, loyalty, honesty, passion. Those are all necessary ingredients.

*Song: Fantasy fiction, Tabletop RPG, and Graphic Novels. Do you have an over-active imagination?*

Todd: I don't know anything different, so I couldn't say. I want to always remain awake to my creativity and my ability to tell a story. My imagination is very much alive, and at 40, I feel like I'm just now hitting my stride. I find immense satisfaction through storytelling, and I've found enjoyable ways to do that. They're good stories, people need to check them out.

*Song: What is it about each of these you pursue so well, that directed you to build each of them?*

Todd: Everything I do is a part of one larger story. Themes and conflicts are deeply rooted so that Laughing Moon readers and gamers can trace those threads from fiction to graphic novels and into the tabletop game itself. Each type of writing allows me to build upon that world and that story in unique ways, and hopefully reach new audiences. My hope is to see those readers cross over. It is truly something special I've created here. It's something worth reading.

*Song: Share the Tabletop RPG element. What has been your involvement in what you are producing. Tell us about it? How does it connect overall with your works?*



Todd: The tabletop RPG side of Laughing Moon is something that constantly surprises me. It's something I originally thought would be written, produced, published and done. Instead, I find myself writing expansions and adventures, planning conventions and now a new offshoot of the core game itself. I'm talking on game-design panels and working with big names like John Wick. It's crazy to me, but I love it. The game itself is closely connected to everything that I write, and the idea is that gamers have the opportunity to interact with characters and conflicts that are first introduced in the fiction.

*Song: You've spent time with the SyFy Channel's Face-Off veteran Alana Rose, and current Face-Off contestant Keaghan Ashley. How did that come about?*

Todd: Both Alana and Keaghan are extraordinarily talented special effects makeup artists, and I really value my friendship with both. I met them at a convention in Ventura last fall, and later invited them to two different Arizona-based conventions. I had the pleasure of watching them bring unique Laughing Moon characters to life right there in our booth for attendees to see. Additionally, Alana came out as a special guest to Laughing Moon Con where the students at Desert Edge High School had the chance to speak directly with her and watch a live FX demonstration. I whole-heartedly believe in their talents and look forward to what they'll be doing in the future.

*Song: Laughing Moon has a yearly event/con they hold in the West Valley, what are your plans for 2015?*

Todd: Laughing Moon Con is an annual event that I hold at the high school where I teach. It's a unique opportunity for the younger crowd and the community to get a taste of the pop-culture world through a mini comic-con experience. I work closely with school administration for this event, and we have not yet set a date for this year's convention. After the success of last year, however, I am very excited to see what we can bring to the table. Once I know the date, I'll be sure to share it on my website at [www.toddvanhooser.com](http://www.toddvanhooser.com).



Upcoming Signings / Events at The Poisoned Pen

**Sept 29th - Kim Harrison signs Witch with No Name - 7pm**

**Sept 29th - Richard Kadrey-The Getaway God - 7pm**

**September 30th - Richard Paul Evans - Michael Vey 4-7pm**

**October 18th - Betty Webb signs Desert Rage - 2pm**

**October 28th - Clive Cussler - Havana Storm - 7pm**

**November 5th at the Arizona Biltmore - Michael Connelly will be signing, The Burning Room - 7pm**

**November 8th - Jenn McKinlay - On Borrowed Time - 2pm**

**Livestream Events: <http://new.livestream.com/poisonedpen>**

**October 11th -10:30am-Coffee and Crime Discussion Group**

**Young adult workshop - January 25th - 11am**

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In order to participate in the signing, we ask that customers purchase the author's new book from the Poisoned Pen.

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# HIGHLIGHTS FROM WAKE UP AND DRAW AT SAMURAI COMICS

Photo Credit: CowGirl Zen Photography

More Pictures and FULL ARTICLE on webzine - [www.thewod.net](http://www.thewod.net)



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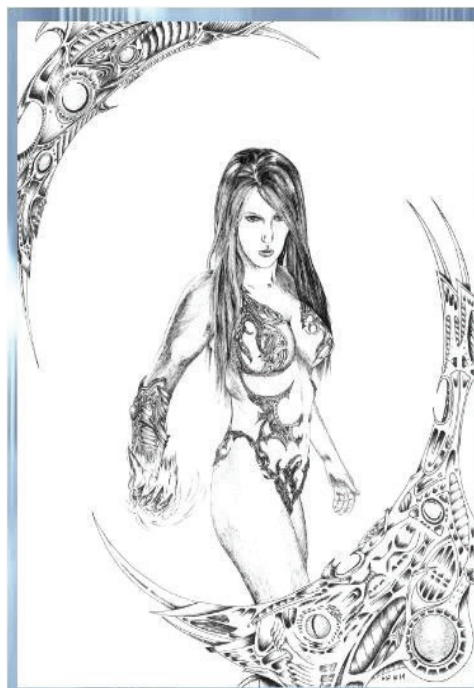
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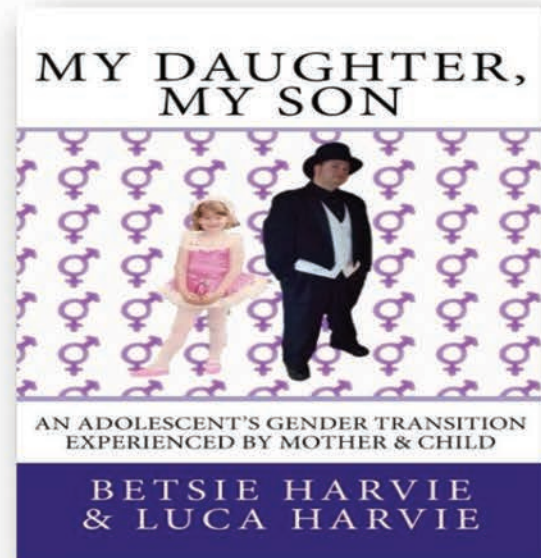
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## My Daughter, My Son

An Adolescent's Gender Transition Experienced by Mother & Child



A true-life, no-holds-barred account of gender transition, from local author Betsie Harvie, and her son, Luca Harvie.



**What if You or Your Child Were Born in the Wrong Body?**

Could you live with a secret?

How young is too young for sex reassignment surgery?

Would you have the courage to show the world your true self?

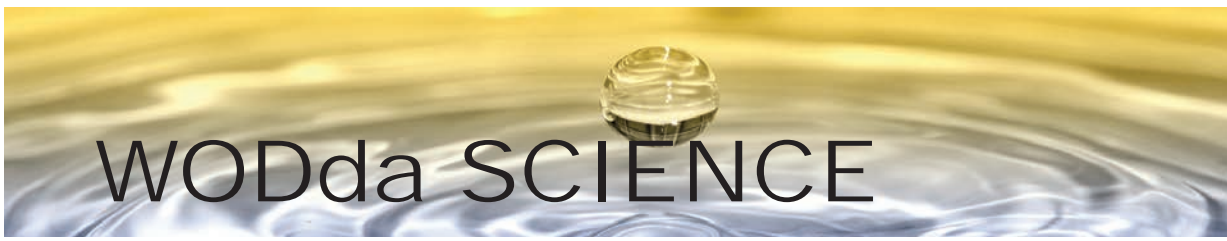
A tell-all journey of one of America's youngest transsexuals to undergo controversial gender reassignment surgery, spanning more than 20 years. Join Luca, and his mother, Betsie Harvie, as they struggle with childhood depression, multiple arrests, bullying, and transphobia—as Luca grapples with body dysphoria, drug addiction, and dating. Cheer them on as they fight for the rights of transsexual juveniles!

**"I loved this story ... an amazing look into the lives of a mother and child who are dealing with difficult and real issues that a lot of people are facing today..."** — *Matthew, Amazon.com*

**"... whenever I put it down I wondered about the next chapter ... It's written by a mother and son who are both brutally honest people..."** — *Florrie, Amazon.com*

**"... an incredible journey detailing gender transition, it also has humor [and] love... you can hear Luca's message loud and clear, don't let anyone hold you back from the person you are meant to be. This book has made me laugh and cry... I was glued to every word..."** — *Christina, Amazon.com*

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## ACTIVITIES ON THE SPACE FRONTIER

Science Columnist: Donald Jacques

NASA has chosen the finalists in the race for Commercial Space. SpaceX will get 2.6 Billion, and Boeing will bet 4.2 Billion dollars to continue development of the passenger craft to take astronauts to the Space Station. SpaceX Dragon rides could begin as early as 2016 or 2017, while Boeing is not expected to begin until at least the year after.

Elon Musk says, "... the goals of SpaceX are very long-term, which is to establish a city on Mars." Musk also said at a press briefing in September. It wasn't the first time Musk has talked about sending people to Mars, but it was the first time he mentioned a Martian metropolis. His company demolished the Mobile Service Tower of Vandenberg AFB's Space Launch Complex 4 West, which was the last intact Titan Rocket pad in the world, to make way for the landing pad for SpaceX Falcon rockets. And now they have launched their fifth cargo mission to the ISS in a 12 mission contract with NASA. This mission carries the first 3-D printer for the astronauts to tinker with.

Boeing is moving forward with their Orion capsule. The spacecraft had its first test flight just three months ago, and is scheduled for a test flight into space in December. During its Dec. 4th test flight, the unmanned capsule will take two big laps around Earth before re-entering the atmosphere at 20,000 mph and parachuting into the Pacific off the San Diego coast. The entire mission will last 4½ hours.

Spacesuits of the future may resemble a streamlined second skin - For future astronauts, the process of suiting up may go something like this: Instead of climbing into a conventional, bulky, gas-pressurized suit, an astronaut may don a lightweight, stretchy garment, lined with tiny, musclelike coils. She would then plug into a spacecraft's power supply, triggering the coils to contract and essentially shrink-wrap the garment around her body. The skintight, pressurized suit would not only support the astronaut, but would give her much more freedom to move during planetary exploration. To take the suit off, she would only have to apply modest force, returning the suit to its looser form.

We used to be awed by a single payload being launched into space. Now, apparently, they can launch several payloads on a single launch. NASA is reviewing data from a rocket launch that tested a new sub-payload deployment method for suborbital rockets. NASA says a Black Brant IX suborbital rocket was launched at 5 a.m. Thursday from the agency's Wallops Island Flight Facility on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The new deployment method uses small rocket motors to eject sub-payloads from a rocket's main payload. Thursday's test included releasing vapor traces in space.

Solar Power, Origami-Style - There is this idea that spacecraft components could be built effectively by implementing origami folds. We've seen different components fold up for storage and unloading, like the Lunar Rover for example. But this idea is even better - especially for solar panels. Panels used in space missions already incorporate simple folds, collapsing like a fan or an accordion. But Trease and colleagues are interested in using more intricate folds that simplify the overall mechanical structure and make for easier deployment. Last year, Zirbel and Trease collaborated with origami expert Robert Lang and BYU professor Larry Howell to develop a solar array that folds up to be 8.9 feet (2.7 meters) in diameter. Unfold it, and you've got a structure 82 feet (25 meters) across. Their 1/20th-scale tabletop prototype expands to a deployed diameter of 4.1 feet (1.25 meters).

### All is not rosy for Space Ventures!

NASA doesn't have enough money to get its new, \$12 billion rocket system off the ground by the end of 2017 as planned, federal auditors say. The Government Accountability Office issued a report Wednesday saying NASA's Space Launch System is

at "high risk of missing" its planned December 2017 initial test flight. The post-space shuttle program would build the biggest rockets ever -- larger than the Saturn V rockets which sent men to the moon -- to send astronauts to asteroids and Mars. "They can't meet the date with the money they have," report author Cristina Chaplain said.

SLS could face Exploration Class rival - With the recent announcement the Space Launch System (SLS) has become challenged by her schedule, the NASA rocket may soon find herself in a battle with a commercial "alternative". SpaceX's super powerful Exploration Class rocket is targeting crewed missions to Mars up to 10 years ahead of SLS - although both vehicles continue to avoid being classed as competitors.

And speaking of SpaceX, the company took time to review the circumstances behind a test flight that ended in a spectacular explosion. In a statement. The company completed their review and launched AsiaSat 6 telecommunications satellite a day later than previously planned.

In an interview Tuesday with NBC News TODAY guest anchor Brian Williams, Branson acknowledged he won't be flying (Virgin Galactic) this year. "It's taken longer than we thought," said Branson, who appeared on the show to promote his new book, "The Virgin Way." "We're now going through the final testing stages. We'll be doing at least one flight into space before the end of the year, then move the whole operation to New Mexico where the spaceport is.

### From up and coming tech!

Roberto Battiston, Professor of Physics at the University of Trento in Italy and his colleagues are developing techniques that sound like something from the starship Enterprise. It's called the Space Radiation Superconductive Shield (SR2S) - (read Shields Up!). It is effectively a superconducting magnetic energy shield that mimics the protective effect of our planet's own magnetic field, deflecting cosmic rays away from the crew's precious cells.

Scientists studying how floating particles move on the surface of water have come up with a way to pull them in, push them away or make them stay still. They can now precisely control objects by generating waves with specified frequency and amplitude. The work by Australian National University researchers might find use in cleaning up oil spills. It could also lead to a better understanding of how moving water develops into rip currents. Orrrrrr, put together a basic tractor beam!

### And now the "Off-shoots" of Space-Tek

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crewmembers of a commercial space station has received the signature of approval of a former NASA astronaut. Anderson, who in 2007 spent five months living aboard the International Space Station, was at the Hong Kong Watch and Clock Fair on Sept. 4 to help launch the timepieces, which feature day and date dials, stopwatch functions and eight hours of luminescence.

Michigan-based Bell's is pioneering a limited-edition set of beers based on the famous orchestral suite by English composer Gustav Holst. This August, they will release the first in a series of the beers, "The Planets", followed by new offerings to be released every two months through July 2015, based on seven of the planets in our solar system (Earth was excluded from Holst's piece, which was written between 1914 and 1916)Country music star Brad Paisley traveled to NASA's Kennedy Space Center on Saturday (Aug. 16) to launch his new space-themed song, "American Flag on the Moon." According to an interview with Billboard magazine, Paisley was inspired to write the song after his young son tried to see the flag left by Apollo 11 moonwalkers Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin in 1969. Paisley recalls what happened in his lyrics.

Donald Jacques was born in 1957 as an Air Force brat. He has lived in ten states over the years, enjoying 8 kids, and 6 grand kids. He spent 16 years as a computer programmer, has served as a past president of Phoenix Moon Society, chair of LepreCon 2014, is the designer and builder of the Black Scorpion Trebuchet, and the author of "The Homestead Project: 12 Steps to a Permanent Lunar Settlement" and three other fiction books.

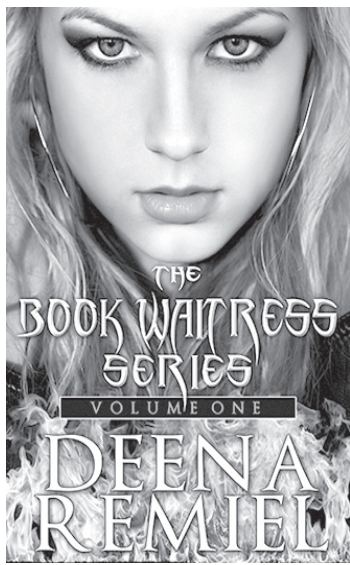
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**Fall Season Puzzle**

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Answers on Page 23

**POP CULTURE NIGHT AT THE QUEEN'S**

Photo Credit: CowGirl Zen Photography



# KEEPING THE BEAT: THE HAY GIRLS SHOW UPDATE

By Song River



**THE HAY GIRLS SHOW**  
<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/kwodradio>



If you haven't come over and hit the LIKE sign for two independent women of rock's FB fan page: The Hay Girls Show and show some love to all the cool independent local musicians we've had on the show... plus The Delta Fifts coming up, and Mill's End, and Treasurefruit- Plus our special year end show with- Daryl G. Scherrer and Jeff Gonzales! Then we are on to shout and support more bands in 2015! Show us some love and support- come like our page, come out to the NO COVER shows once a month, and listen in on: <http://www.kwodradio.com>

Of course we always want more new music too!

We are always looking for more music -- Alt-Country, Blues, SKA, Bluegrass, Punk/Grass, R&B, Folk, Punk, Reggae, Roots-Rock, CowPunk, Rockabilly, Indie, Alt in pure forms and infusions. We are fiercely independent and play anything we pretty much just like, just please make sure it is of awesome, radio quality. Please send radio-awesome tracks to [thehaygirlsshow@gmail.com](mailto:thehaygirlsshow@gmail.com) and thanks!



The Hay Girls Show:

Co-hosts: Carol Pacey and Song River  
Sound-works: Vintage Note Records  
Location: Ice House Tavern, Phx. Az.  
Promo: Devin James and Chris Marz  
Video: Jeff Jones and Harrison Tyler  
GM: Patti Hullstrand

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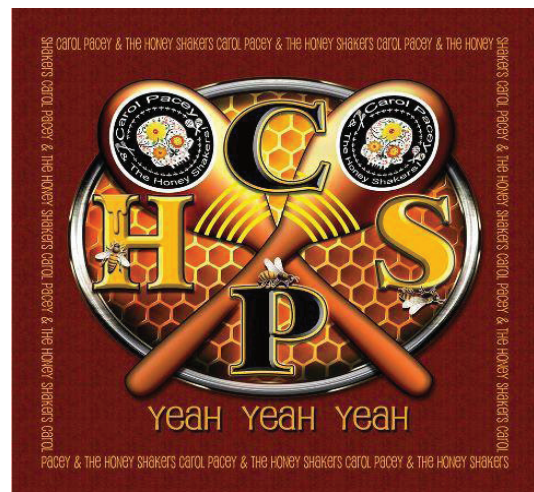
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## CD Review: Carol Pacey and the Honey Shakers

### CD Review: Yeah Yeah Yeah “Americana Whip with a splash of beer”

Carol Pacey leads the posse known as, Carol Pacey and the Honey Shakers, an all original Americana, pull your boot straps up roots band, with a smattering of hard rock roped in with sticks of dynamite attached.

This is Carol Pacey and the Honey Shakers first album release, Yeah Yeah Yeah. CPHS are a massive explosion of Americana Whip with a splash of beer, vocally charmed in a duly noted woman driving her own caravan as her band mates strengthen the bolts and boards to carry this four wheeled buckboard up and over every hill. Nothing can stop this energetic led band as they have taken the Phoenix Valley by storm. CPHS is currently being spun around the airwaves all over the Valley and most recently internationally on The Lopsided World of L with well renown radio DJ- Jonathan L.

Their new album opens up and lets the honey begin to shake with their song, Do You Think Someday, which begs that old question... “do you think someday you’ll care to know the new me... maybe someday?” Leading us into The Knitting Song as we unchain our hearts, and skip over to feeling our way to the next track knowing what a “good-for-nothing lying Fool” is. Epic Love Fail leaps from the grooves with wisdom, “You never find the love you want if you don’t know what kind you’re looking for.” CPHS’s, Yeah Yeah Yeah, gives us a Happy Little Tune, and tell us that Rock and Roll Saves, and yes we all sing along in unison. Never short on determination and life’s outlook their debut album rounds out with Roll My Way, asking even when things go wrong, “I’ll try to appease and let some good times roll my way.” Carol Pacey and the Honey Shakers entry album, opens a whole new hive of music in a sweet, and tasty treat for all your musical senses. A throng of sweetness, and energizing droplets of Americana ReCharge!

The original line-up for their first CD release: Carol Pacey Lead Vox and acoustic, Andy Borunda Electric Guitar, Conrad Padilla (former bassist), Ben DeLuca with help from their friends: Jeff Quinonez on keyboards, Danny Torgersen on trumpet, and James Pope with Joseph Asselin on percussion.

CPHS’s album, Yeah Yeah Yeah is a culmination that needs to not only slide into your play-list, but is something you must experience live. The explosive capacity of Lead vocalist, Carol Pacey, flirtatious in her jeans, cowgirl boots, and boho country charm, belts out her vocals as she constantly connects with her audience. Carol creates a relationship with each fan letting them know with her wicked smile upon her lips and sparkle in her eyes, that each person dancing and listening is a part of their rock n roll wagon!

Matching her is the powerhouse guitar work of Andy Borunda who brings any room into complete submission with each solo riff, as he transforms himself and his audience into becoming one with his masterful guitar work. Dante Fiorenza thumps his bass, and sets the course of each song as he drives in the mood hard, sweetly, and seductively with each pluck measured forth, and always keeping the beat with a passionate- let’s have a good time strike- is their impeccable drummer, Ben DeLuca, who honestly shines in his pure love and enjoyment for what CPHS is creating together. And together they are Americana Power Pop or as I like to call their style Americana Crack an explosion of good times, groovy feelings and great country rock! Ready to set your mood off into the land of friends/family, Friday nights, music, and letting all your cares fall away.

*\*Carol Pacey and the Honey Shakers will be appearing September 26th on the Local KWSS stage for the Summer Ends Music Festival, at the Tempe Beach Park. For more information and to purchase your tickets visit: <http://www.summerendsmusicfestival.info/>*

“We were honored and really excited when they asked us to play the Summer Ends Music Festival. Truth, I had already bought a three day pass before I knew we were playing; I was going regardless if we were playing or not! But then when we were asked to perform, I just couldn’t believe it! Our band sharing such a huge festival with all of the other great local bands, most of whom we haven’t played with yet locally, and then all of the national acts...mind blown!- Carol Pacey of Carol Pacey and the Honey Shakers.

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/CarolPaceyAndTheHoneyShakers>

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<http://instagram.com/carolpaceyandthehoneysmakers>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PaceyPublishingLLC>

## CD Review: Bittersweet Way

### heavens the latest album release by The Bittersweet Way

#### A sound that brings the listener closer in.



Heavens is the latest album release by, The Bittersweet Way, and it was celebrated with a successful Cd release party at The Rogue in Scottsdale, Az. to a packed house of eagerly awaiting fans. Time and time again Jedidiah Foster, lead vocalist/guitarist of The Bittersweet Way, delivers live and in studio his light, calm, at times even psychedelic melancholy way of 21st Century Shoegazing. With his ‘pet project’ this album, heavens, brings the talents of Danny McWatters to the mix, as the two mingle... guitar, voices, drums... creating a momentary throw back of sound reminiscent to the early Smith’s, but mixing in the nu gaze genre with the classic style of dreamy melodies and blending yesteryear of the 60’s ease.

With each song a tease or snippet to the insight of the songwriters heart gives us a taste into heavens. Opening the tracks is a sad longing love song entitled, How it Ends. Turning 180, the tune Mostly Alright gives a little upbeat tempo leading the listener to know it maybe being alright for once in our lives. Quickly breathing in the album takes us to, ‘I’m so terrible at hide and seek’ as this song lingers the measure to Oxen Free.

An another interesting aspect is the song divided into three parts called: Jed the Baptist Part 1, 2, and 3. Each part brings with it the cleansing relief and could it possibly be without a religious overture the referring to the album title, heavens? Part 1 and 2 are simple lyrically and in melody. However, as we reach Part 3 the blending of more dreamy instrumental supplies the lilting sounds with each feeling as if one were swimming through water to reach another destination.

Taking us through the completed trip is Plural, not Possessive, the longest song on the album. The song is reminiscent to some of guitarist Gary Lucas works of crossing the psychedelic sounds. A blend of diversity that keeps the listener keen to wanting another and looking forward to the next Cd release by The Bittersweet Way.

For more information: Social Media:

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<https://myspace.com/thebittersweetway>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/thebittersweetway>

[https://play.spotify.com/artist/3EAs9cEbMNHycYENQCsFDdb?play=true&utm\\_source=open.spotify.com&utm\\_medium=open](https://play.spotify.com/artist/3EAs9cEbMNHycYENQCsFDdb?play=true&utm_source=open.spotify.com&utm_medium=open)

To purchase music:

<http://music.thebittersweetway.com/>





# COLD SHOTT and the Hurricane Horns

## COLD SHOTT AND THE HURRICANE HORNS

Cold Shot and the Hurricane Horns were in concert at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts August 15th. They are an awesome band (R&B, Soul, Blues, Jazz, Rock, Funk) that started with just three people in the 90's and now have seven band members.

The band features many veteran Arizona musicians most of whom have performed professionally since the 1960's, not only in Arizona but all across the United States! Winning the 1999 Phoenix Blues Society Annual Blues Showdown sent the band to Memphis, TN to represent Arizona in the International Blues Challenge. The band was also chosen the Year 2000 "Best Blues Band" as awarded by The Arizona Republic.

You can catch the band next spring at the Sunday A'Faire free concerts in the park in Scottsdale. To find out other venues you can visit their website at [www.coldshott.com](http://www.coldshott.com).

*Judy Wood is a mixed media artists and poet here in the Valley. Has been a resident since 1962. She is the mother of artist, and tattooist Chris Wood, and guitar and song writer Jeremy Wood. She and her husband David enjoy spending time with their kids and grandchildren.*



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— Peggy La Vake for IndieReader

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**FEATURED MUSIC ARTIST:**

**Jeremy Yokum**

This month's featured artist is Jeremy Yokum. Jeremy has been teaching in the Mesa School District for 16 years and also teaches printmaking classes and workshops at The Mesa Art Center. Jeremy won a drawing contest at the age of four and has been active in the arts ever since. He studied Art Education at NAU in Flagstaff, AZ. He has shown at numerous venues (galleries, clubs, and restaurants) in the Valley of the Sun. He's a painter, printmaker, and jewelry maker. He enjoys working with bright colors and his subject matter ranges from dogs, monkeys, and giraffes, to whimsical prints of people and vintage items such as boom boxes and cassettes. His style is colorful and unique. Jeremy has a new show opening at the Olney Gallery at Trinity Cathedral, 100 West Roosevelt, in Phoenix from 6 pm - 9 pm on September 5, 2014. The show will run through September 25th. Visit Jeremy's website at <http://thejeremyocum.com>.

**Part of the Jungle Marketing Survival Guides**

To be successful at promoting ones writing, you must understand a single truth to the human condition: people are lazy. Especially when you haven't paid them extra to make any further effort. If you don't make it as easy as possible to publicize you or to promote your work, you will have less success in dealings with radio, print, television or any media, really.

In my dealings with authors and publicists through my Blog Talk Radio station, KWOD, and in my capacity as the Managing Editor of The WOD Newspaper and WebZine, a niche newspaper, I have witnessed a total lack of understanding what a media kit is and what components are needed to be included. Even in my capacity as the host blog site for over a hundred authors, showcasing their works, I have seen the need for an organized media kit. It is undoubtedly, the single most important tool in your arsenal.

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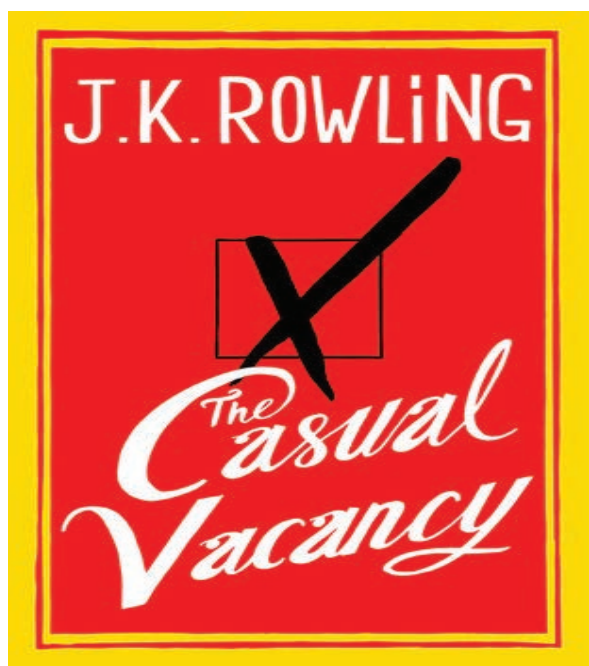
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# BOOK REVIEW: CASUAL VACANCY by J.K. Rowling

Reviewed by John Paul Ried



After her tour de force Harry Potter books, JK Rowling has literally become one of the wealthiest women on our planet. After such triumphs and accolades, Rowling was no doubt eager to impress everyone with her abilities to write compelling books with plots, characters, and thought provoking issues that would be completely different from her previously successful genre.

Sadly she fails. It is impossible for JK Rowling to top herself, especially with Casual Vacancy. Many people like me bought the book hoping to find glimmers and hints that Muggles would enjoy but JK Rowling was determined to escape from her perfected genres.

Not for lack of trying or ability but basically because JK Rowling tried way too hard with her book, Casual Vacancy, to present us with an adult story with characters based in modern British reality. Her over-the-top main characters are all stereotypically depraved and ready to destroy each other for their ambitions and local political issues. JK Rowling also presents us with 'class' issues that many Yankees like me would have difficulty understanding. In England, and even most of Europe, people born into the 'right families,' with extensive pedigrees, even after falling on hard times, are still better off and have more opportunities for advancement than the rest of us commoners with lacking backgrounds.

These artificial class differences are painfully overdramatized and repeated endlessly throughout Casual Vacancy.

Her story begins with a local British community almost neatly divided between rich and poor with a local 'Parish Councilman,' unexpectedly dying and leaving important local issues unresolved that have been unresolved for as long as sixty years. These 'Parish Councilmen,' are similar to what we Americans would expect of our county commissioners or perhaps state legislators. They are all ready to humiliate and destroy anyone who opposes their individual ambitions.

With many of her characters detesting their romantic partners and wanting sexual improvements, no wonder cussing abounds in this book. The continual repetition of negative F, S, and even C words in this book, which is a definite change from Harry Potter, and the constant references to teenaged male erections and masturbation even within the first few chapters become redundant and overwhelming. Apparently everyone living in either rich Pagford or poor Yarvil have past indiscretions or crimes they desperately wish to keep hidden. Another endlessly repeated theme is how so many local people's lifestyles, employment and livelihoods would be affected if an ambiguous ghetto area known as 'the Fields,' is transferred from one jurisdiction to another.

The socioeconomically disadvantaged characters, i.e. the poor people are mostly drug addicts and rapacious sexual animals intent only on their own appetites. These characters of all ages including teenage girls, little brothers, addicted mothers and much older drug pushing men, all seem to talk like Hagrid and dat's enuf innut? Krystal Weedon, her little brother Robbie, their mother Terri, and everyone around them continually search for gratification and all are dependent on a local medical clinic that would be shut down if 'the Fields,' transfer is approved. The recently deceased Parish Council member, Barry Fairbrother, was completely immersed in these local considerations and was trying to find positive solutions when his untimely death places everything in doubt.

The fortunately wealthy characters are really not any better and are all stereotypical. You have the horny, forty year old, woman who literally throws herself at a handsome sixteen year old while inebriated at a party. Most of the husband

characters are eagerly cheating on their spouses. Along with established, local community leaders, we have up-and-coming

reluctant bachelors desperately trying to wriggle out of permanent commitments while still lovemaking with their marriage-obsessed partners.

While the book is effectively well-written, the banal and fierce competition among these local despots lack relevance and become tedious. Without revealing any more spoilers about the plot, our reluctant bachelor mentioned above named Gavin "could muster neither pity or indignation; all he felt was dismay at the firm grip Kay seemed to have on the intricacies and personalities involved in this esoteric local issue," regarding 'the Fields.' The readers of this book have to make every effort to identify and appreciate the characters and local issues involved. Otherwise it is just too easy to abandon reading Casual Vacancy and grab the Harry Potter books again.

Perhaps I am simply jealous of JK Rowling's success with her previous works. If I had written the Harry Potter saga and truly appreciated the magnitude of its influence across the globe, I would keep writing Harry Potter stories until I dropped dead on the floor before my computer (which I would hope would be a very long time off). My immortality would continue after my death with hundreds of Harry Potter books as my legacy instead of just seven. The idea that anyone would wait in a long line until midnight at their local bookstore even in their local ghetto 'Fields,' for a Casual Vacancy sequel is truly laughable, deplorable, and so not a fantasy.

While Rowling tried her best to give us a shocking and thought provoking climax with Casual Vacancy, I believe the end result was sadly wanting and even a bit of a relief. Everything in this book could also be found in real life in almost any local newspaper with tragic drug overdoses, lethal accidents, murders and suicides. The magic is never there with Casual Vacancy and I do not mean wands, spells or wizards. I tried to empathize with the family of the local councilman Barry Fairbrother but most readers do not even know who their own local leaders, councilmen, commissioners or alderman are so it is hard to draw parallels. Every successful politician has some sort of skeleton hiding in their pasts and embarrassing or humiliating them on the internet is certainly not an original or unexplored idea either. Reading Casual Vacancy is like having casual sex with someone you had just met. It is not as pleasing as you hoped and you wish you had not bothered when you are finished.

My advice for JK Rowling, meant with total respect, would be to abandon attempts at "different tales," and just stick to writing Harry Potter stories until she finally dies. JK Rowling would make far more money than she has already and rapid Potter fans like me would again be waiting in line outside my local bookstore until midnight. Casual Vacancy is aptly named because it is very casual and extremely vacant.

*John Paul Ried grew up in Upper Montclair New Jersey and has recently lived in seven different states. His career includes college teaching, public school teaching K-12 in Special Education, Fundraising for two non-profit organizations and part time chess teaching in public schools. Mr. Ried currently lives in Phoenix Arizona with his very demanding cat named Enalan. Along with his writing, Mr. Ried also enjoys attending Sci-Fi/Fantasy conventions and has met hundreds of imaginative and interesting people such as Isaac Asimov, Margaret Weiss and Tracy Hickman, Terry Ferrell, Penn and Teller (Rebo and Zooty). John Ried is also the Emperor of the Enalan Family Crew [EFC] Facebook groups that are dedicated to the Mafia Wars Zynga game. Mr. Ried is also Chairman and CEO of the Phoenix Arizona Fantasy Gaming Association and the International Fantasy Gaming Association.*

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# WOD Bookshelf

## THE LAST INCARNATION

By J.A. Giunta

Publisher: Brick Cave Books

The Last Incarnation is by local Arizona author J.A. Giunta and first published in 2005. It is the first book in his The Ascension series. As a debut novel, it is well written and an enjoyable fantasy adventure. The story focuses on Barr, the standard archetype character of the young boy with mysterious heritage, untapped powers and a tragic start to his life.



I was very impressed with Giunta's quick and strong development of scenes and supporting characters. He immerses the reader in new environments and cultures while sculpting interesting if a bit traditional characters around Barr. He has the adoptive fathers, the love interests, the shunning of those who find him different, petty enemies and stronger ones as well. Though these are common literary tropes and the setting is strongly reminiscent of a mix between Avatar, Lord of the Rings and Dungeons and Dragons, it is still unique and compelling.

The odd thing about the novel is that the least developed character is the protagonist Barr. While every other character is revealed in depth, Barr himself remains a bit of an enigma throughout the novel. This first in the series ends with the growing up of Barr, his collection of companions for future adventures, including a huge hound and giant hawk psychically linked to him, and the makings of strong future conflicts.

The overall read is enjoyable and fantasy readers will enjoy the book. It is not the best story you will ever read, but it covers familiar ground with enough new elements to be interesting.

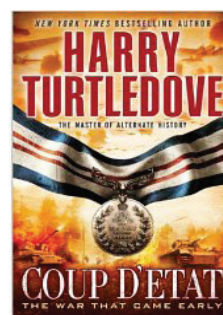
-- Reviewed by Michael Bradley  
 Author of *The Travelers' Club and The Ghost Ship, Fire & Ash, Twisted History, and Twisted Nightmares*  
 Web Blog: <http://mbtimetraveler.com>

## COUP D'ETAT

By Harry Turtledove

Harry Turtledove is known as "The Master of Alternative History." His books are too numerous to recount here as he probably has more series of books than most famous authors have individual titles. Coup D'Etat is the fourth book in his most recent The War That Came Early series. Best known for his novel Guns of the South, which focuses on an alternative Civil War, this is his third foray into retelling World War 2 with a twist.

In the Darkness series Turtledove



retells WW2 as a fantasy series with dragons instead of aircraft, behemoths instead of tanks, and similar changes. In another WW2 series he has aliens invade the Earth. In The War That Came Early series, he moves up the start of WW2 with dramatic changes as a result. He often says the key is to change one element of history and see how that change would then ripple through and affect other things.

Harry Turtledove's style in this series as with many others is to tell the overall story by not telling the overall story. Instead, he moves you from country to country and side to side and tells the story through the experiences of people both high and low. To explain what happens in Spain, he has the occasional scene following a person there. The same with the Russian front with a soldier, a German pilot, a French infantryman, and so on.

Typically, this form of writing is difficult to read, but when mastered, as with early Tom Clancy novels and earlier Turtledove novels, it lets you experience the big events by glimpses into the trenches. By following the lives of participants, you know the overall story. Although it is the fourth in the series, the first being The War That Came Early: Hitler's War, it is easy to pick up on the characters and the situation.

The one critical note here is that if you do not know the actual history of WW2, you may not realize the changes. Substituting a dragon for an aircraft is pretty easy to recognize. Having Franco shot by a sniper in the Spanish Revolution is more subtle. History buffs such as myself know that in actual history, the Spanish Revolution happened before WW2 officially started and was a "proxy war" for fascist versus communists. Franco won the war and was ruling Spain prior to Germany invading Poland. Since Turtledove starts the war early, hence the series name, the Spanish Revolution is going on concurrent to the fighting between the Germans and Russians on the Eastern front.

There are so many changes that occur in the novel similar that only a true history buff will get full value out of the experience. Luckily, even if you know nothing about WW2, Turtledove is such a masterful story teller that you will still enjoy being drawn into very unique and compelling characters and wonder what will happen to them. Spoiler – Turtledove will often kill off characters when you least expect it.

I wholeheartedly recommend this book for alternative history readers. I suggest you start at the beginning of the series so you get the full benefits and enjoyment.

-- Reviewed by Michael Bradley  
 Author of *The Travelers' Club and The Ghost Ship, Fire & Ash, Twisted History, and Twisted Nightmares*  
 Web Blog: <http://mbtimetraveler.com>

## QUEEN'S HUNT

A River of Souls Novel

By Beth Bernobich

Queen's Hunt is the second book in the River of Souls series, the first being Passion Play. The series are sword and sorcery novels with a Germanic/Slavic twist. Most of the character names, cities, and even the magic words are a mix of German, Russian and Slavic languages. This makes reading a little more difficult for those more familiar with traditional Anglican names, though having studied German I found it a refreshing change.



The first novel, Passion Play, won the Romantic Times Reader's Choice Award for best Epic Fantasy in 2010. Having not had the benefit of reading the first in the series, I found the second book obtuse. Throughout the novel, start to finish, I could not honestly identify the main character. For a novel meant to include romance, there is very little involved. There is an interesting story line and compelling characters, but as a reader you have no idea where the story is going.

In the early chapters, it seems like a mystery with a young man using a fake persona to insert himself into a noble's household to find who killed his friend. Just as you think that is the story, you are swept across the country to focus on a young woman. When you think the story is now about her, suddenly new characters are introduced and the perspective changes to their viewpoint. I found this style confusing at best. As a reader, just as I became really interested in the story, that part ended and whisked me away to a new story line.

While the prose is exceptional and the characters well developed, the changing focus of story lines, characters and perspectives makes this a difficult and less enjoyable read. Many times an outstanding author spends many years on their premier novel only to have the publisher push them for the next in the series. I can only speculate that this is the case with Queen's Hunt. That Passion Play was a focused love story well-told, while the second in the series is meant to set up future volumes and comes out disjointed.

I don't recommend reading Queen's Hunt. If you try out Passion Play and like it, then it would probably be worth it to follow up on what happens next. Otherwise, you will find yourself more confused than satisfied with this fantasy novel.

-- Reviewed by Michael Bradley  
 Author of *The Travelers' Club and The Ghost Ship, Fire & Ash, Twisted History, and Twisted Nightmares*  
 Web Blog: <http://mbtimetraveler.com>

## THE MISTS OF FAERON

By J.A. Giunta

Publisher: Brick Cave Books

The Mists of Faeron is the second book in The Ascension series by J.A. Giunta. Unfortunately, while the first in the series, The Last Incarnation, took its time to develop solid characters and a storyline, the second book does not.



In the Mists of Faeron enough characters, battles, places and plot elements for seven books are smashed into one in a haphazard fashion. The main character from book one, Barr, becomes too powerful in a Neo from the Matrix like transformation that comes with little transition. He loses his place as the main character as well, with at least a dozen major characters moving in and out of the story.

The story line is disjointed. Is it Barr discovering his history, powers and purpose? A love story with his promised? A quest to find twelve objects of power, all with their own names and personalities called emblems? What of the major foe who controls twelve undead kings like the Nazghul from Lord of the Rings? Or the man who is really a dragon? Or the statues come to life, or the memories of countless lifetimes, or the gods fighting and plotting amongst themselves like Clash of the Titans? I could go on and on, and the book does.

Added to this confusing and dizzying array of plot lines and characters is a walk-through of the entire Monster Manual familiar with Dungeons and Dragons players, including minotaurs, demons, nagas, trolls, elves, dwarves, orcs, goblins, wargs, golems, wercreatures, sea-elves, dragons, and more. Then there is the magic, mist magic, rune magic, teleportation, gates, rifts, the Darkness, immortals, non-immortals, faeries... Yes, all of this and more in one novel.

The book is 470 pages of this mad dash from one scene to another, at the end of which, you are not sure what happened or if you even care. It was disappointing after reading the first novel which was so much better written. The author fell into a familiar trap – instead of focusing on character development and a good pacing they pushed every idea together as a story narrative that reads more like a history of fantasy world we've never seen.

The author plans a third in the series, to be called, Out of the Dark. Hopefully, Giunta will return his story telling skills from book one and not force the story lines at the expense of the characters.

-- Reviewed by Michael Bradley  
 Author of *The Travelers' Club and The Ghost Ship, Fire & Ash, Twisted History, and Twisted Nightmares*  
 Web Blog: <http://mbtimetraveler.com>

## THE MAD SCIENTIST'S GUIDE TO WORLD DOMINATION

Edited by John Joseph Adams

I must admit to being disappointed with this anthology of mad scientist short stories. As a steampunk fan and science fiction author I was looking forward to sitting down and enjoying some of the top authors in the field. The reason for my discouragement is the tone of stories selected by the Editor, John Joseph Adams. The focus is on zany, humorous tales similar to the recent movie *Despicable Me*. I liked the movie, but reading an entire collection of stories of cartoonish mad scientists was not for me.

The individual stories are well written but I didn't find any of them to be compelling or especially memorable. Often, anthologies suffer because the Editor looks for a certain type of story and as a result, though different, each story seems the same. So it is with this collection. If you are looking for short stories reminiscent of *Marvin the Martian*, *Wile E. Coyote* or *Despicable Me*, then you will enjoy these stories.

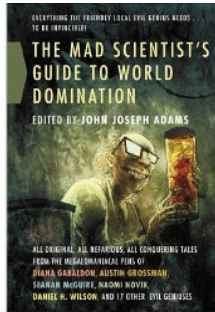
As for me, I like my evil villains and mad scientists with a bit of grit and real evil intentions. I can't really recommend this collection unless all you want is some easy reading, simple and amusing tales of hopeless and mostly harmless scientists.

-- Reviewed by Michael Bradley  
Author of *The Travelers' Club* and *The Ghost Ship, Fire & Ash, Twisted History, and Twisted Nightmares*  
Web Blog: <http://mbtimetraveler.com>

## LINE OF DEPARTURE (2014)

By Marko Kloos

The first one, *Terms of Enlistment*, came out earlier this year and playing on its popularity, this second one picks up about 5 years in the future with continued fighting between the Sino-Russians and the Commonwealth (which seems to be everyone else), matched by both groups fighting and consistently losing to the alien, 80 ft. tall, sauroid, Lankies with their seemingly-unbeatable technology. There is still a lot of military jargon in both these books and the fight scenes go on longer than I would have preferred, but the action stays high and the tension that keeps you glued to the page is still there. Andrew is a smart, creative soldier that has to find innovative ways to use dwindling resources to keep himself and his teammates alive. With the help of some old friends from the first book, they find ways to do just that and discover some things that may change the face of the conflict. Based on what happens here, I can see that the tide will turn in the next one, so now I just have to wait for it to come out.



If you want more in this universe, Kloos has two short stories available on Kindle that give you something to read while you wait for the next novel in the series.

-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman  
Adult Services Lead Librarian,  
Prescott Public Library - [www.prescottlibrary.info](http://www.prescottlibrary.info)

## HOT LEAD, COLD IRON: A MICK OBERON JOB (2014)

By Ari Marmell

Mick Oberon is a Lord of Fae hiding out from previous not-so-minor misdemeanors on 1930s Earth as a down-on-his-luck PI. He sounds like Spade, dresses like Bogart, carries a magic wand and has just enough magic to make his life interesting. This case may require more of his talents than he's used to as he is tasked with finding a changeling from 16 years ago. The trail is cold so he starts calling in favors which leads him back to Faerie and yet more trouble. This was a fun, fast read and the characters were very well done although verging on caricatures of gangster tropes even when they weren't human. I'm glad there will be more of these because I loved the worldbuilding and the secondary characters like Oberon's gangster friends. The next one is *Hallow Point*, out in May 2015.

-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman

## THE GOBLIN EMPEROR (2014)

By Katherine Addison

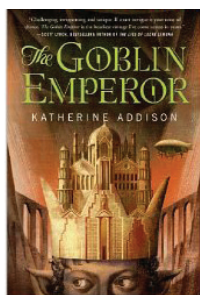
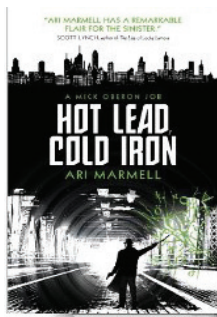
Maia only became emperor because someone assassinated his father and brothers leaving him unready for this responsibility. He was raised in a small town with only one out-of-favor guardian so when he takes on the crown, he has to solve the murder of his father and negotiate the currents of the court. Reminiscent of ancient China or India with the formality and intricate court politics found there, Maia has bodyguards, hours of dressing for court and arranged marriages and treaties. The fantasy elements are few and far between, other than Maia is a dark-skinned goblin and most of the court is blonde and Elvish. I liked it but found it did not live up to the hype. Given a choice of one coming-of-age-as-royalty book, you might prefer *The Queen of the Tearling*.

-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman

## THE QUEEN OF THE TEARLING (2014)

By Erika Johansen

Princess Kelsea finds herself a queen when the search for her whereabouts reveals her hidden



refuge. She was raised to know she would be queen if her uncle doesn't have her assassinated first. She doesn't know who to trust and court politics reveal things about her mother that she doesn't want to believe. The country is in turmoil and war may be unavoidable if she can't find a way to make friends and influence people. I loved this one so much more than *The Goblin Emperor* even though they are so similar as to be indistinguishable if you only look at the base storyline. For a coming of age story with elements of fantasy this one can't be beat. I loved the secondary characters and the worldbuilding was awesome. This could easily be made into a movie as the descriptions were so vivid. AND the author left room at the end for a sequel which I will love as much as this one. It wasn't cliffhanger ending but it definitely left me wanting more. This is Erika Johansen's first book so we have lots to look forward to.

-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman

## THE CAUSAL ANGEL (2014)

By Hannu Rajaniemi

Final book in the Jean le Flambeur trilogy, this brings all the parts together and leaves no point behind. We again meet Jean, Mieli, Josephine, Matjak and more friends and enemies. To rescue Mieli from a virtual prison, Jean must put many pieces in play. It starts out like a *Mission Impossible* storyline with everyone needing to be in exactly the right place at the right time. Jean juggles the pieces like a master and even when parts fall through, he has a backup plan and a backup for his backup. This author is now on my must read list as his intricate plotting and fun characters are so much fun to read. Do read them in order, the first one is *The Quantum Thief*, the second one is *The Fractal Prince*.

-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman

## ELISHA MAGUS (2014)

By E.C. Ambrose

This is the second in the *Dark Apostle* series with the first one, *Elisha Barber: Dark Apostle*, coming out last year. When we meet Barber in this volume, he is guest of the new king, but soon on the run. He must track where Brigit hid the talisman, while he evades her new betrothed - the king. She is carrying Elisha's child but the king doesn't know that. Most of this is action-packed and very quick-paced. We still get quite a bit of character development and move deeper into an understanding of Elisha's magic. We meet several new characters that look to be important to the resolution of the third volume and they are interesting and fully-developed. I finished this in



a day because I couldn't put it down. I love when I find books like that.

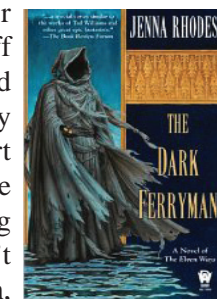
-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman

## THE FOUR FORGES (2006) THE DARK FERRYMAN (2008)

By Jenna Rhodes

With the third of the *Elven Ways* trilogy, *King of Assassins*, finally coming out this November, a reread of the first two was in order, *The Four Forges* and *The Dark Ferryman*. The world of Kerith holds native species, such as *Galdarkans*, *Kernans*, *Bolgers* and new arrivals, the *Vaelinar* who came there from somewhere else. *Vaelinar* are elvish, magic and have ruled the land for many years. The natives don't like the *Vaelinar* and revolution is stirring. The main characters are not your usual star-crossed lovers: *Sevryn* is a half-*Vaelinar* warrior, pledged to the protection of the *Vaelinar* Queen and *Rivergrace* is full *Vaelinar*, abandoned by her real family and raised by humans, but she serves as a lady in waiting to the Queen. *Sevryn* is smart and sensitive while wielding a mean sword and *Rivergrace* is no slouch at defending herself either. The worldbuilding is deep and broad, encompassing wars, treaties, betrayals, the history of each of the peoples of the land, and lots of magic. The characters are many, some human, most not; but all of them well-developed, interesting and relevant to the plot.

*The Dark Ferryman* takes up where *The Four Forges* leaves off with *Sevryn* and *Rivergrace* possibly farther apart than ever and the revolution heating up. November can't come soon enough, I have waited eight years and I must know what happens. I was amazed to find out all the pen names *Salsitz* writes under as I loved most of these authors before I knew they were all one person. Rhodes is also *Emily Drake*, *Anne Knight*, *Elizabeth Forrest*, *Charles Ingrid*, *Rhondi Vilott*, *Salsitz*, *R.A.V. Salsitz*, *Rhondi Vilott*, *Jenna Rhodes*, and *Rhondi Greening*. The approach Rhodes takes towards elves is similar to that of *Patricia Kenneally's* handling of Ireland's *Sidhe* in space, with the *Keltiad* series. Both take what could be fluff and give it the gravitas of *Tolkien*.-- Reviewed by: Normalene Zeeman - Adult Services Lead Librarian, Prescott Public Library - [www.prescottlibrary.info](http://www.prescottlibrary.info)



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**THE DAEDALUS INCIDENT (2013)**

By Michael J, Martinez



A wild mixture of steampunk and scifi, this tells two stories that at first have no relation to each other, but the stories are fun so you keep reading. The characters are fully-fleshed, quirky and the setting is vivid: 1779 British Sailing ship that also sails the stars using alchemy, and 2132 Mars with an international crew of space Marines and a private company of miners. It's about page 300 where the two stories come together with a bang and a stepped pyramid on Mars. How that comes about is wonderfully realized in both halves of the story. The second one is already out, The Enceladus Crisis but after having exterminated (possibly) an ancient Martian Warlord with supermartian powers, what could the author do to top that? I will be reading the next one to find out.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

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**HEXED (2014)**

By Michelle Kryz

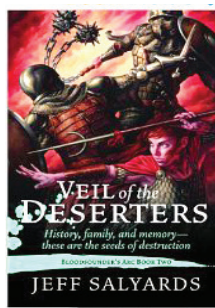


This new young adult novel catches Indigo Blackwood, popular high-school cheerleader on her 200th moon or 16th year finally inheriting her witchly powers - Justin time to she is part of a struggle between witches and sorcerers that has gone on for centuries and concerns a book her mother has been guarding. Of course the book gets stolen and a hunky warlock tries to help her get it back, but nothing is as it seems and Indie may not make it out alive even with hunky warlock, Bishop's help. The second one in the series (Charmed) should be coming out soon although Amazon doesn't have a date set yet.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**VEIL OF THE DESERTERS (2014)**

By Jeff Salyards



Magical named weapons have been fun to read about (if you want more you can try Jennifer Roberson stories of Tiger and Del) and this one ranks high on my list. This is the second in the Bloodsunder's Arc about the flail that Captain Braylar Killcoin carries which steals the memories of those it has killed. We start exactly where we left off in the first book from last year, Scourge of the Betrayer, with scribe Arkamondos still at the fair, having just seen the Hornman he saved. Arki returns to the inn to find Bray's sister, a Memoridon or memory mage, is joining them on their commanded return to the capital. However this Syldoon patrol always has several plays in motion and with a little creative maneuvering, they can fulfill one last thing before turning towards home. Sounds easy but in practice, there is tension and conflict on all sides with the threat of death always there. Arki and Bray continue to grow and we learn much more about the history of the Deserter Gods, named weapons, Memoridons and the political climate of the area intersperse with lots of action. While the ending is not a cliffhanger, it does definitely leave you wanting more. At this time, neither Amazon nor Goodreads have any information

on the upcoming next volume so we all just have to wait.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**ELYSIAN FIELDS (2013)**

By Suzanne Johnson

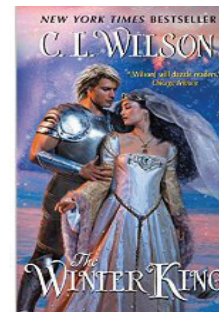


This is the third in the series about wizard DJ (Drusilla) Jaco in post-Katrina New Orleans. When the levees came down it also broke the barriers between the worlds and let the supernatural have free run of our world. Now DJ has to contend with vampires, werewolves, Fae, merpeople, nymphs, the undead pirate Jean Lafitte and other s. Here we meet a copycat killer from the 1918s called The Axeman and he wants DJ dead. Who's controlling him and how to stop him when he's already dead is a problem DJ and her team need to solve before it's too late. We learn more about DJ's relationship with former partner Alex, we find out what kind of being Rand is and we get to visit Alfheim and undead Barataria. The action is pretty much nonstop so it doesn't leave much time for introspection or research, but DJ tries to find answers before her usual chaos hits and she is left ill-informed and clueless. I like the characters and the worldbuilding and it looks like Johnson isn't slowing down on this series so we have lots more to look forward to.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**THE WINTER KING (2014)**

By C.L. Wilson



Loved the magic system and the main character, Khamsin, and her relationship with the conquering hero, Wynter, was pretty well-done and built slowly enough that I felt like it could work. I have loved all of C.L. Wilson's books and read them as soon as they come out. I enjoyed the magic system and how it played to the characters' strengths, yet didn't make them seem invincible, although Wynter's Ice Gaze was pretty spectacular. Even the secondary characters' motivations seemed well within bounds for what you could expect, even if I did want to reach out and smack them several times. I can't wait to see what Wilson does with the Seasons, Khamsin's three gorgeous older sisters.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**SHATTERED (2014)**

By Kevin Hearne



The seventh Iron Druid book is also the first to come out in hardback. That lets us know that when they put New York Times Bestselling Author in front of Hearne's name, they mean it. This one has three POV changes, Atticus, Granuaile, and Atticus's teacher, Owen Kennedy, who Atticus rescued from a slow-time island in the last book. POV changes come every chapter, but it only takes a few sentences to determine who is speaking as the characters are very unique and different in the way they present themselves. We learn a little more about Atticus's past as Owen is not shy about telling tales of his apprentice's youthful misdeeds. We meet Yeti who love hockey, Indian goddess Durga, Japanese goddess Inara and the ever-disturbing Loki. Each character has a story to tell and they intersect and drift apart throughout the book. Ragnarok is not

stopped, just changed and possibly delayed and Atticus still has his part to play. I loved it but it felt like we are just preparing the storyline for the good stuff in future volumes but that doesn't mean the author should stop writing, because I'm not stopping reading these. I may just re-read all of them so I can remember the good parts.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**FRACTURED (2014)**

By Sarah Fine

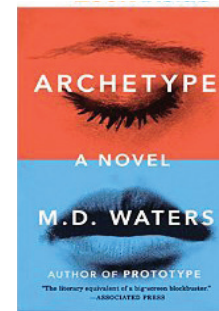


This is the second in the Guards of the Shadowlands series and sequel to Sanctum, which came out last year. Lela and Malachi are in our world now having been forced to take up their duties as guards fighting the soul-stealing, human-body-inhabiting, Mazikin, who have found a way out of the Shadowlands and into our world. But Lela is Captain, not Malachi and their personal relationship or lack thereof makes things difficult both on and off duty. This one didn't grab me as much as the first one, but the world building in the first one was very vivid, yet here we have just a high school. The plot seems to point towards them returning to the Shadowlands for book three so I have something to look forward to and the twist at the end I was not expecting. We do meet some new characters and learn a little more about the Shadowlands and the Mazikin, but I'm waiting for the finale to see how it ends.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**ARCHTYPE (2013)**

By M.D. Waters

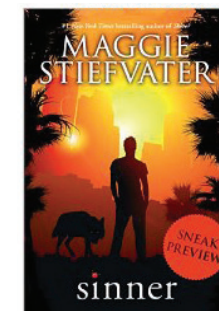


I liked this book for many reasons. It felt similar to Before I Go to Sleep, another memory loss story - but not scifi, which I also loved. The characters were well-developed and the worldbuilding, while not unique, fit the storyline and gave us enough depth and breadth of history where we felt like we belonged. Emma has had an accident and her husband Declan is trying to help her recover. But from the very beginning, we hear that small voice in Emma's head that says don't trust him. Emma is one of the few fertile women left in the world and as such she is a prized commodity. Her world is harsh, but her husband is one of the richest men in the world and the reason why will shock you. The sequel, Prototype, is already out and I have it at the top of my pile.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*

**SINNER (2014)**

By Maggie Stiefvater



This is the fourth in the young adult Wolves of Mercy Falls series. These characters are so cool and at the same time so messed up, neither wants to admit that life is a series of regular days, one after the other and you just have to get through them. Rock star, Cole wants every day to be something special, he is self-absorbed and yet so very vulnerable in that an impersonal snarl from a stranger can send him into a deathward spiral that a smile can fix. Pre-med student, Isabel wants security so badly but doesn't think she can get it from Cole - and then there is the wolf that he turns into (not a spoiler, people - read the rest of the series!) that she has to deal with. They so deserve each other and they also deserve some happiness, but whether they get it long term is still to be determined. Character development is good, but much of what made the series so fun for me was the wolves and they are mostly missing from this story. This is a love story and a coming of age story, but parts of it aren't pretty even though the book is filled with "Beautiful People" - it's L.A. - what do you expect? Stiefvater's other young adult series are on my favorites list as they are quick read with

Fall Season Puzzle

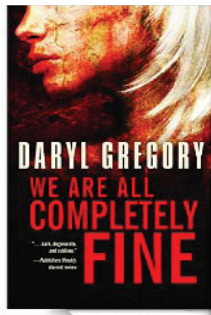
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I M P E R I A L Q U T P Q S T X S Z N I J L K Z I

lots of action and real characters that you care about, just like Cole and Isabel.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*  
*Adult Services Lead Librarian, Prescott Public Library - www.prescottlibrary.info*

**WE ARE ALL COMPLETELY FINE (2014)**

By *Daryl Gregory*



At 182 pages, this is a very quick creepy read that stays with you long after you've finished. The horror is understated and very subtle as we join the first support-group meeting of victims of an unknown trauma. As we learn more about the group members, we find they have all interacted with The Hidden Ones in various ways. The Hidden Ones are those things you see out of the corner of your eye but are gone when you try to get a better look. The end is not at all what you expect and leaves room for a wonderfully-setup sequel. Gregory is also the author of Afterparty and Pandemonium. He's a master of the genre-bending story, has written short stories, novels and comics and won enough awards, I can't list them all.

-- Reviewed by: *Normalene Zeeman*  
*Adult Services Lead Librarian, Prescott Public Library - www.prescottlibrary.info*

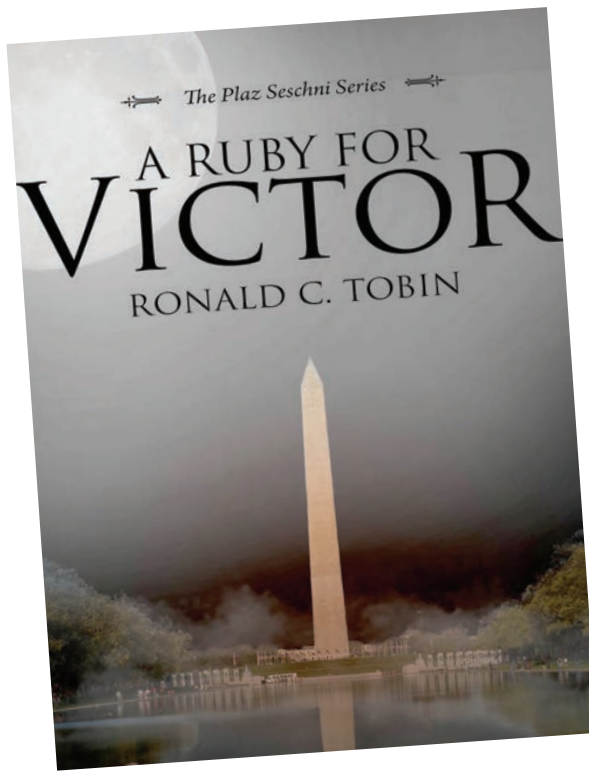


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-- Reviewed by *Jenn Czep*  
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**OCTOBER 21st - THIRD TUESDAY  
 Summer by Robert Heinlein.**

**Synopsis:** Dan Davis was tricked by an unscrupulous business partner and a greedy fiancée into spending thirty years in suspended animation just when he was on the verge of a success beyond his wildest dreams. But when he awoke in the future, he discovered he had the means to travel back in time -- and get his revenge!

**NOVEMBER 18 - THIRD TUESDAY  
 by Lev Grossman.**

**Synopsis:** Like everyone else, precocious high school senior Quentin Coldwater assumes that magic isn't real, until he finds himself admitted to a very secretive and exclusive college

of magic in upstate New York. There he indulges in joys of college-friendship, love, sex, and booze- and receives a rigorous education in modern sorcery. But magic doesn't bring the happiness and adventure Quentin thought it would. After graduation, he and his friends stumble upon a secret that sets them on a remarkable journey that may just fulfill Quentin's yearning. But their journey turns out to be darker and more dangerous than they'd imagined.

**DECEMBER 16 - THIRD TUESDAY -  
 A Hard Day's Knight by Simon Green.**

**Synopsis:** John Taylor, P.I., has come into possession of the legendary Excalibur. To find out why, he'll have to consult the Last Defenders of Camelot, a group of knights who dwell in a place more frightening than the Nightside? London. John has been there in years-and there are good reasons for that.

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