

SEARCH

MAGAZINE

FALL 2023

#ArtandPoetry

POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

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Letter from the Editor



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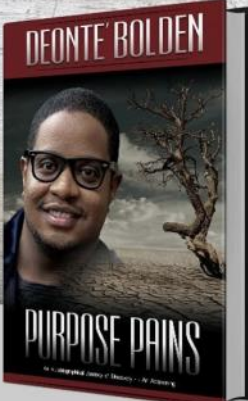

In this issue, we celebrate our second annual poetry contest. It was a simple concept, but the enthusiasm generated by an issue based around arts and poetry was overwhelming. People love the opportunity to talk about what really excites them. Creativity and self-expression enliven our existence. Too often, we're practical. *SEARCH Magazine* seeks to inform, entertain, but also to inspire.

Our music columnist, Michele Roger, was quick to dash off an article about adding music to classical poems, explaining that it was a topic she already knew a lot about. Kay Tracy, who often writes for our Travel column, gave me an article on learning to paint before I'd finished clarifying our theme. In all honesty, I shouldn't be surprised at the outpouring of creativity and enthusiasm. All of us have a creative corner of our hearts. Sometimes we don't want to share our small passion—perhaps afraid it will be judged—but nonetheless these passions inspire us to craft, study, and consider.

So, enjoy a glimpse into our hearts and arts,

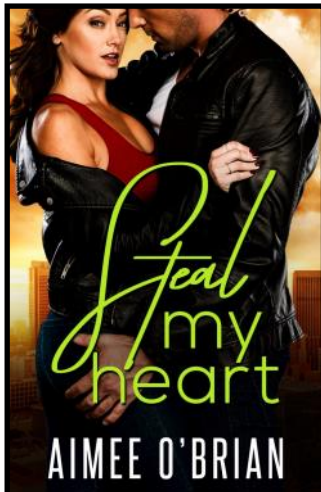
Heather Roulo / Editorial Director

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RENEE ROULO

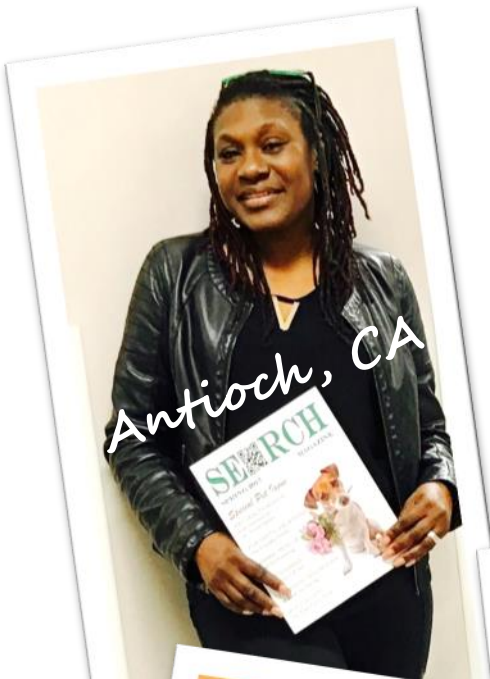


is a published author who interned at an indie press. She is an editor of her university's literary magazine and is pursuing a degree in Biology. Her loyalties remain divided between her love of science and literature.

Want to contribute to our magazine? Email articles or pitch ideas to: searchmagazinemail@gmail.com

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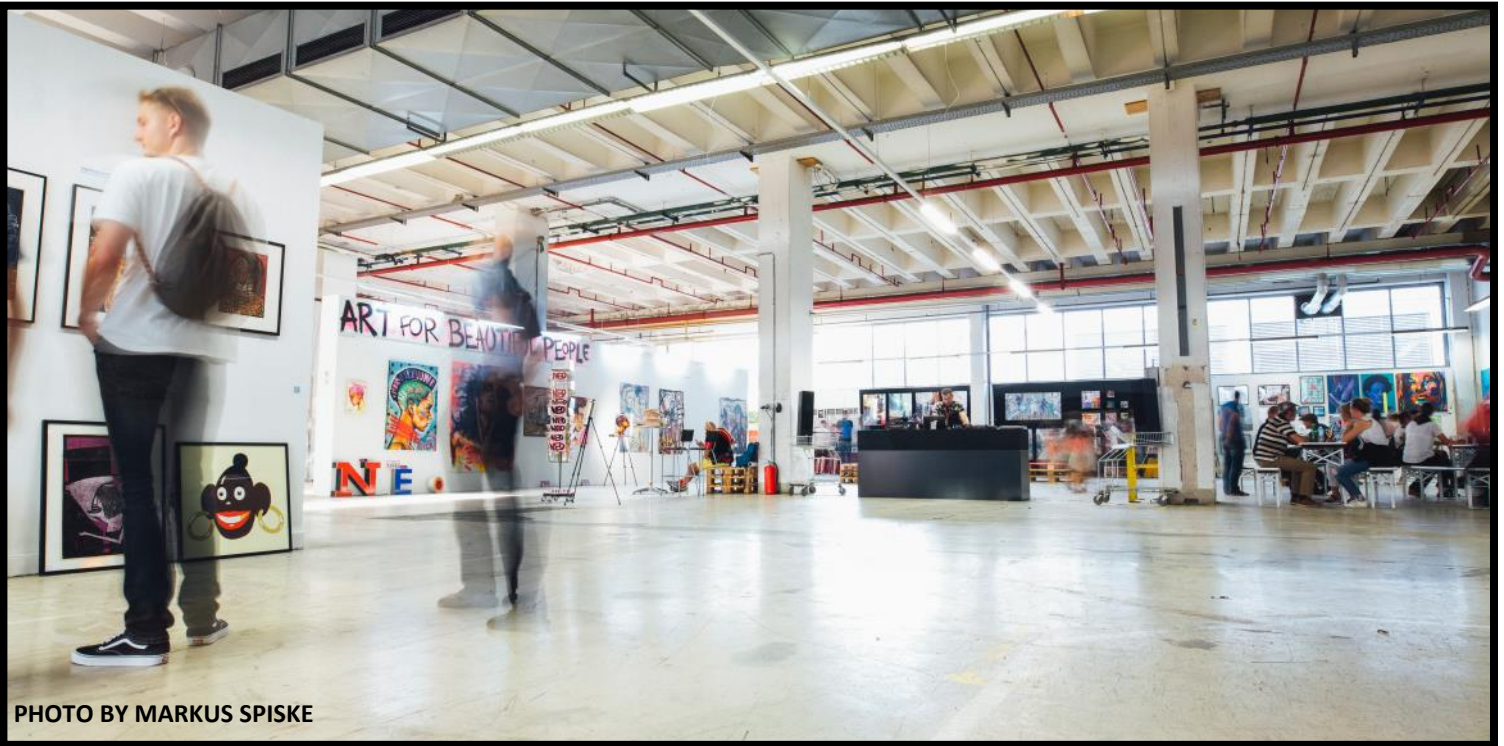


PHOTO BY MARKUS SPISKE

All around the globe, on the first Friday of every month, people gather together to celebrate art and culture with a variety of activities. In some places, these include full or partial street closures for street fairs and sometimes, full-blown art festivals take place.

Festivals are often combined with open artist's studios, art galleries, and museums offering free admission and staying open late into the night. Musical and theater performances, pop-up art galleries, and parties are also frequent features of First Fridays. Oakland's First Fridays started in 2006 as a part of the local art scene, as a result of the forming of Oakland Art Murmur, a non-profit that provides a central hub connecting local Oakland art organizations. The first year only eight local art groups—including Rock, Scissors, and Paper Collective—participated in Oakland Art Murmur and First Fridays. Oakland Art Murmur now includes over fifty visual art venues and mixed-use art spaces throughout the City of Oakland.

Vallejo's First Friday event, Vallejo Art Walk, debuted on Valentine's Day in 2014 and highlights the city's vibrant art scene. Larger urban areas often have

separate neighborhood ArtWalks, such as North Beach First Fridays in San Francisco, and Chinatown First Fridays in Los Angeles. One of the largest and oldest First Fridays takes place in Phoenix, Arizona, and started nearly thirty years ago, back in 1994.

First Friday is also the name of a popular networking event for Black Urban Professionals which started in 1987 in the United States but has since become international, and happens overseas in places like Lagos, Nigeria. In addition, First Fridays Devotion is the name of Catholic reparational devotion dating back to the 17th century. While it is unknown if either of these other First Friday occurrences had a direct impact on the creation of First Fridays Art Celebrations, it is certain that they are celebrated together in some areas.

In some places, art and culture activities take place on First Thursdays, in addition to (or instead of) First Fridays. California's oldest ArtWalk, established in Laguna Beach in 1998, takes place on First Thursdays. San Francisco has had a Downtown First Thursdays ArtWalk since 1993, and a Tenderloin First Thursday ArtWalk. Free Museum Day in San Francisco for most museums is First Tuesday, but for some museums, the free day is First Wednesday or First Sunday.

Weekend art fairs, festivals, and block parties—such as Second Saturdays in Miami, Florida—are more inviting to an all-ages, family-friendly audience than the usual nighttime Thursday and Friday ArtWalks.

While there are older ArtWalks, such as the Venice Family Clinic's Artwalk and Auction in Venice, California—established in 1979—they are universally annual. The very first monthly ArtWalk in the nation is First Thursdays at historic Pioneer Square in Seattle. It was established by local art galleries in 1981. Ahead of their time, they created a map visitors could use to take themselves on a self-guided tour of the local art scene, which had been in place since the early 1960s. That kind of map is now a feature at almost every ArtWalk around the country. While not an ArtWalk, Houston's oldest poetry event is also called First Fridays. It was established way back in 1975.

Art walks—sometimes called art strolls—are not just a national phenomenon. There is an art walk in Cairo, Egypt, and one in Puma, Brazil, to name just a few. Before the name was applied to street fairs, it was the name for self-guided tours of neighborhoods that were filled with multiple museums, such as the renowned art walks of Paris and Amsterdam. Paris has a famous art stroll of just under four miles, which includes such world-famous museums as the Jeu de Paume (established in 1851), Musée de l'Orangerie (established in 1852), Musée d'Orsay (established in

1986), and the Louvre (established in 1793). The stroll encompassing all of these museums takes about thirty minutes and would have been established over 170 years ago. These kinds of art walks are all over the world as well. The Line Art Walk—London's public art walk—is a fine example of this.

Public art museums themselves are only 300 years old, with the Musei Capitolini having opened to the general public in Rome fifty-nine years before the Louvre. Not only is it the oldest public art museum, it is the oldest museum of any kind. It was originally established in 1471 under Pope Sixtus IV, and is within walking distance of the Colosseum. Rome's modern art walk goes through Deo-Wain-Sta Public Art Plaza and is currently under expansion.

The second oldest museum, the Vatican Museum, is only an eleven-mile drive away in Vatican City. It was established in 1506 by Pope Julius II and is home to a number of world-famous works of art, including *The Last Judgement* by Michelangelo. It opened to the public for the first time in 1771. Both museums are part of local arts and culture tour offerings that people make driving a Vespa. ■



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I wanted to give painting a try and found you can learn to paint via classes online—for free!

My experience: Those little plastic kids watercolor paint sets with six or so colors in a plastic case with the cheesy brush.

My results: Pretty awful. I had no idea what I was doing.

WATERCOLOR

Watercolor Costs:

A set of basic watercolor paints and a little set of decent brushes runs about ten dollars, USD. Decent watercolor paper costs another ten to fifteen dollars for thirty 8x12 inch pages. I will admit that being frugal, I cut my watercolor paper to smaller sizes for experimenting.

Learning Watercolor:

A gentleman from the UK, Frank Clarke, has a series of easy-to-follow lessons online for watercolor and acrylics. His style is gentle, fun, and gives results. Learning to paint “carrots” and use his system “Have Some More Fun,” you can have success in your journey. While mostly landscapes, the basics of how to use paints and construct a painting is invaluable.

For more information, and the free lessons, start at: simplypainting.com

ACRYLIC

Acrylic Costs:

For acrylic lessons, you can start off spending about twenty-five dollars. Purchase of the primary colors along with white and black runs you about five to six dollars a piece if using inexpensive craft paints. *Note: You will use a lot more white than anything else. The brushes are a bit stiffer than the ones used for watercolor, but still about six to eight dollars for an inexpensive set. You can use paper for acrylics, or pick up a pack of canvas squares for about ten to twelve dollars from the local hobby stores.*

Learning Acrylic:

I found a wonderful website with fun lessons, including a month (Acrylic April) of painting everyday. The “Art Sherpa” (Cinnamon Cooney) is one of my favorites for learning this art form. The instructor is gentle and knowledgeable in her art. She takes you from a blank canvas to a finished painting. Each video usually live-streams, followed by archived videos you can access anytime, again for free, along with printable tutorials and instructions. It lasts about an hour. You can follow along and have real success.

The lessons are rated in “hoots,” like an owl. One hoot is basic paintings, fun and reasonably fast with skills you learn so you can build on them. Three hoots has more advanced techniques and results.

From basics of color mixing, brushwork, setting up a “studio,” to fun paintings with gentle teaching, Cinnamon gives you results you can be proud of. From animals and landscapes to realism and fantasy, the variety of lessons is beyond impressive. She has thousands of hours of lessons on how to use acrylic paints



and take care of the tools. All are available for free. This includes things to do if you are using inexpensive craft paints to get results that are every bit as nice as using professional level paints. She even has a lesson on painting a blueberry without using any blue paint.

To start learning with the Art Sherpa, start here!! theartsherpa.com ■



“*Northanger* is a delightful story based on Jane Austen’s classic, *Northanger Abbey*, that will appeal to both Austen fans and lovers of the gothic novel.”

~ Kara Louise,
author of
Pirates and Prejudice



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SHAADI SHAMPOO



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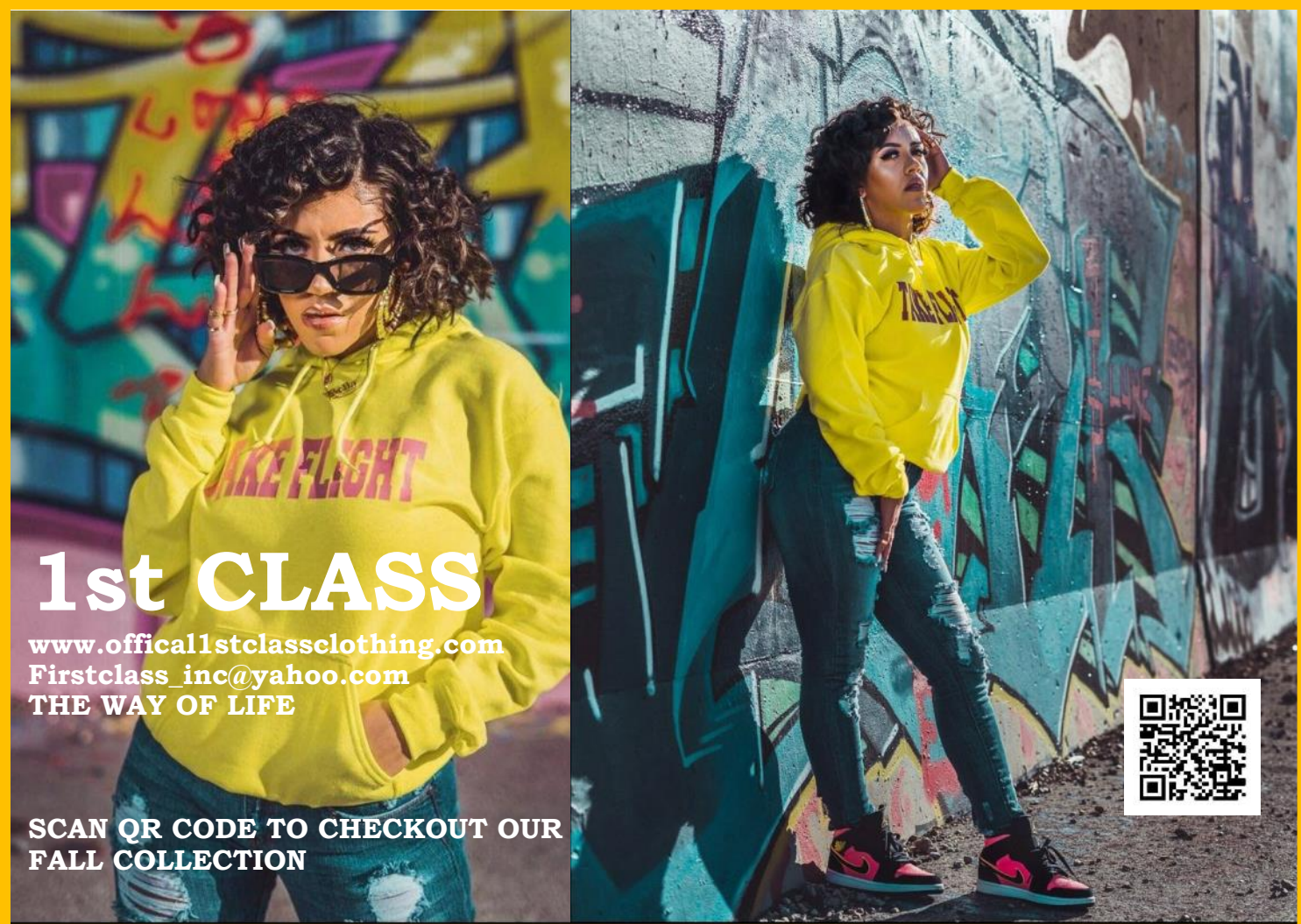


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A long time ago, before the internet was invented (the Stone Age of the 1980s), I took my hobby of doodling and tried to break into the big-time, exciting world of editorial cartooning.

I wanted to follow in the footsteps of such greats as Feiffer, MacNelly, Conrad, and Locker, who all won the Pulitzer Prize (and whom none of you have ever heard of). Of course, they drew for the daily *Chicago Tribune*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *The Village Voice*, while I was making my daring artistic leap onto the pages of the weekly *St. Marys Journal-Argus*—circulation six people. Okay, maybe it was closer to 2000, but it weren't no *L.A. Times*—1986 daily circulation 1.2 million.

I dreamed of glamor, fame, and, of course, cash. If I could only win a Pulitzer I'd be in demand and the cash would roll in. Dream on, goofball. I didn't make cash. None. Zero. Bupkis. Zilch. What I *did* make was gas. Or, more accurately, I was paid in gas coupons good only for the local gas station, which the newspaper's owner/publisher also owned. I'm not disparaging

this method of payment. \$5 a cartoon doesn't seem like much now, but back in 1986, \$5 worth of gas got my little Ford Escort all the way to Toronto (two hours away) and back again, and left me plenty of fuel for the week until my next cartoon-coupon exchange occurred in the damp and dark back alley behind the dumpster.

Life as a cartoonist wasn't *all* glamor, though. Sure, I got to make fun of myself as a rabbit-owning bachelor in a small town, but I also had to come up with an idea once a week for a cartoon, then draw it before the Monday noon deadline. I hate deadlines. Just ask Heather, the Editorial Director for *SEARCH*. More than once I ended up sitting in my car across the street from the Journal-Argus office frantically using a marker to scribble up the weekly chuckle-making zinger. I looked like a creepy stalker who couldn't afford a camera and was sketching the person I was following.

The lovely thing was, although my editor was so old school that he didn't watch television (how does someone in media not watch other media?), he was pretty flexible in letting me take my shots at all the things that frustrated me. Subjects like, Reagan and Gorbachev, potholes, the cost of putting kids in extracurricular activities, and the excessive number of \$100/ticket "elimination draws" run by the Kinsmen, Lions, Rotary Clubs, and junior hockey teams. I took my shots, and they wrote their Letters to the Editor. In over 100 weekly cartoons drawn over two years, I only made two readers angry enough to write in, and both letters were about me daring to take a shot at a holy and sanctified service club. How on earth could I ever win a Pulitzer Prize if I couldn't even get one death threat? I'd failed as an editorial cartoonist.

Then again, I got to make people laugh and think, and what more can a five-buck-a-week-stalker/artist ask for? Now, I just need to find some delightful, glossy, family magazine to let me do the same thing with deadlines every three months or so. ■

UNDECIDED
BY EMMY Z. MADRIGAL

Will Cynthia make the right decision?

amazon kindle

Name: Renee Roulo
Location: Pullman, WA

Tell us a little about yourself.

Hi there! I'm a student, studying Genetics and Cell Biology. In my free time, I enjoy drawing to unwind, and singing in choir to express myself and connect with others who share my love of music.

What are you up to these days? I previously worked at my school's literary magazine as a fiction editor. Now, I've stepped away from writing and editing, and have had a work of art published in the magazine instead.

What is the best book you've read recently?

A book I really enjoyed recently was *Leech* by Hiron Ennes. It's a Gothic Horror Sci-Fi book about a hive mind. One of the coolest parts about it was the style of worldbuilding, where basic assumptions about the setting were completely



Renton. Their lattes are some of the best I have ever had. ■

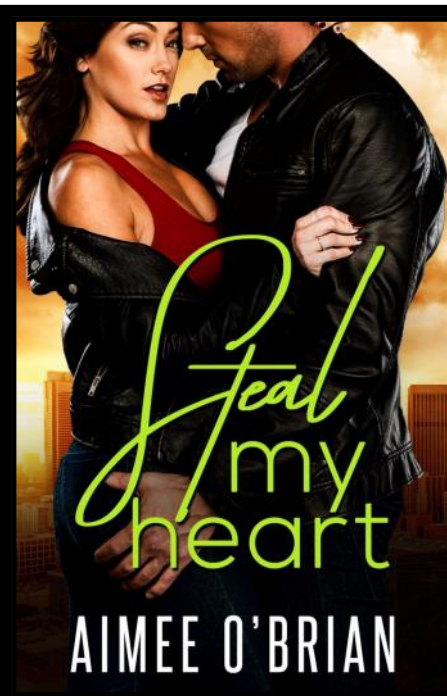
overturned in shocking ways, but the characters acted like this newest bit of worldbuilding was completely mundane because they didn't know anything different.

You've written articles for our City Spotlight column. Do you travel much, or have places you'd like to visit?

I've traveled. One place that is good for a vacation is the town of Seaside, Oregon. It is directly next to the ocean, and it has plenty of activities like four-person bikes, an arcade, and other fun close by towns. While going in the summer makes the most sense, there are still things to enjoy in the off-season.

Do you have a hot tip for us?

If you are ever in Seattle, you have to try Boon Boona Coffee. They have a shop at University Village and downtown



When a fantasy turns into a cold reality...

Lexanne Harris had a plan down to the last sexy detail. Never did she think her attempt to spice up her love life with her boyfriend would involve her in a burglary with a sexier-than-sin thief whose emerald eyes and serious between-the-sheets skills are impossible to forget. As a police detective, she is expected to stand on the side of the law and fight for justice. But what happens when the lines of justice blur and what's wrong becomes way too tempting?

The situation might be challenging, but Lexanne is determined to get assigned to the case, recover the jewels, and catch the culprit.

What will she do with her sexy cat burglar when she catches him?



...*May Not Be so Modern.*



PHOTO BY DAZHI

No one knows from where inspiration may arrive at the doorstep of a musician. Ironically, one place from which many musicians derive lyrical encouragement is ancient poetry. Skeptical? Let's take a look at some profoundly good examples.

First and most obvious is the title of Sting's album, *Nothing Like the Sun*. Anyone familiar with Shakespeare will recall that the famous poet wrote that line in Sonnet #130. He writes of his lover and says, "My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun." The album title by Sting then suggests that maybe, to a lover of the Bard, the songs will predominately be about love.

There is some controversy over whether Sting "borrowed" his lyrics for one of his most famous songs, "Fields of Gold" from 1700's poet and song writer, Robert Burns. Burns was Scottish and wrote a

song in 1782 called, "Corn Rigs Are Bonnie." In "Fields of Gold," Sting sings about the moon, the fields, and eventually making love to his wife in the tall field of barley that grows around their home. In "Corn Rigs Are Bonnie," Burns sings of the moon, the corn fields, and also taking a lassie to the fields with amorous intentions. While there is no blatant copyright infringement, the two songs are similar. This is a case of ancient poetry inspiring a modern love song.

While Sting may be the most famous song writer inspired by ancient lyrics, a close second is Lorena McKinnet. Her song "The Dark Night of the Soul" is based on a poem by St. John of the Cross, a mystic and monk who wrote between 1575 and 1577. The poem was originally written in the monk's native language (Spanish) while he was imprisoned. St. John of the Cross is considered the Catholic Church's most famous mystic. While "The Dark Night of the Soul" is part of a three book series, the monk never finished writing the poem. When asked about the source of her muse, McKinnet wrote on her CD cover, "May, 1993 - Stratford. Have been reading through the poetry of 15th century Spain, and I find myself drawn to one by the mystic writer and visionary St. John of the Cross. The untitled work is an exquisite, richly metaphoric love poem between himself and his god. It could pass as a love poem between any two at any time... His approach seems more akin to early Islamic or Judaic works in its more direct route to communication to his god... I have gone over three different translations of the poem, and am struck by how much a translation can alter our interpretation. Am reminded that most holy scriptures come to us in translation, resulting in a diversity of views."

It wouldn't be a proper article about music and ancient poetry without talking about Kate Rusby. Rusby is an English folksinger who has found an audience all around the world. While she does write many of her own lyrics, Rusby is also known for taking ancient poetry and setting the words to music, hence breathing new life into the piece. Her fame has brought poems—often written by common people that would have fallen into obscurity—to the attention of modern music lovers. A good example of the this is her song, "The Good Man." While no one knows who actually wrote this song, it's a lot like most good Irish and English folk songs.

As a harpist, I learned a version of it when I was a child. My grandfather was an Irish tenor who loved to sing to me. He taught me "A Good Man" although the tune and lyrics are slightly different than Rusby's version. I think what's so appealing about this one song

in particular is that it captures the rough-edged humor of the average country farmer. It's easily a pub song and in general, it's all around fun. The song speaks of "A Good Man" who comes home one night to find a whole lot of things amiss. Here is a bit of the poem/ lyric.

“The good man, he came home one night,
 The good man home came he.
 There he spied a riding coat,
 Where no coat should there be.”

In the end, the poor good man discovers that his wife has taken a lover on a night she didn't expect him to return. To hide the evidence, she tries to convince the soft-hearted man that his eyes are playing tricks on him, that the coat is just a sheet. The end of the song brings home the realization when he finds another man in his bed. His wife tells him it's the milking maid. The good man replies that he's never seen a beard on a maid.

These common themes of love, loss, struggle, and marital strife were alive and well in the fifteenth century as much as they are today. Modern songwriters help us connect to those themes as well as our past by incorporating ancient words with modern melodies. What was once old is made new again. ■



PHOTO BY EUROPEANA

During its first 50 years, **THE DEAN MARTIN ASSOCIATION** published a phenomenal 415 issues of its regular journal, containing news, articles, features, opinions, reviews and more, all about Dean Martin, his career, his peers, his admirers and his life.

Here, collected together in one volume, is a selection of the DMA's output from 1960 onwards, re-edited and updated. With exclusive brand new material and illustrated throughout, it includes: Contemporary reviews of Dino's live shows by those who were there; interviews with entertainers and artistes; rare press articles and product advertisements; retrospectives of Dino's music, films and TV work; essays, both new and old, about Dino and his legacy; contemporary news bulletins; DMA members' memories of Dino - and more!

Poetry Contest

For our second annual poetry contest we searched for something uplifting. We asked to be wrapped in feelings in just twenty lines, inspired by the idea of *Bright Memories*. The poets among our readers offered us the softest dreams, warmest memories, and revived nostalgia for times we never even lived through. Among our entries we chose two to share.

The Beauty of Escape by Sana Jahangir

Under the vast sky,
My soul takes flight.
Soaring high, limitless,
A boundless delight.

In my dreamy world,
Where imagination reins,
No limits, no doubts,
No shackles, no chains.

As I look down below,
I'm grounded in reality.
Yet, the memories of my flight,
Fill my heart with clarity.

I belong to this world,
With its chaos and noise,
But the beauty of my dreams,
Fills me with endless joys.



PHOTO BY FRANK MCKENNA

I'll keep looking up,
To the vast expanse of sky.
For the bright memories of flight,
Will never truly die.

And though I am bound,
To this earth below,
The magic of my dreams,
Will forever glow.

*Sana Jahangir is an esteemed individual who calls Delhi, India, their place of abode. As an artist, she uses her brush to bring life to colors and sometimes her heart longs to dance with words.
IG: @slayart__ ■*

The Light of Love

by David Starkovich

Love and Light,
Go hand in hand.

Through every being,
Throughout all lands.

Through every rainbow,
Through every fish.

In every tear,
In every wish.

We all need Light
To co-exist.

We're made of Love:
Just to exist.

We need to learn,
The Love of Light,

Which gives its Light,
To lighten Love.

For Love's heart is heavy,
In this day and age.



PHOTO BY JIROE MATIA RENGEL

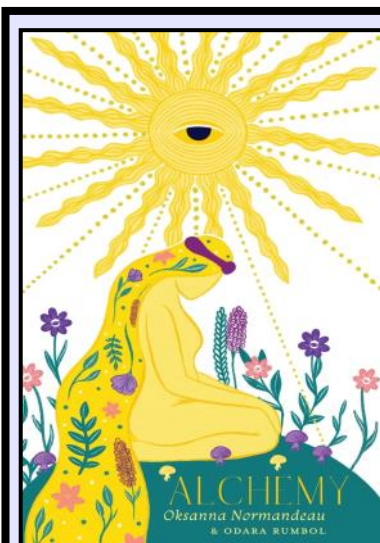
When people cheapen,
What it has made.

A day of magic,
A day for fun.

It's all the same,
Under the sun.

LOVE!

At age forty-two David Starkovich finally met his soulmate, Kenny Cowan, and they discovered their telepathic abilities, as told in Dave's fairytale, The Tale of the Almost Cursed Child, available on Amazon.com. They live—intermittently—happily ever after, in San Francisco, California. ■



Alchemy by Oksanna Normandeau

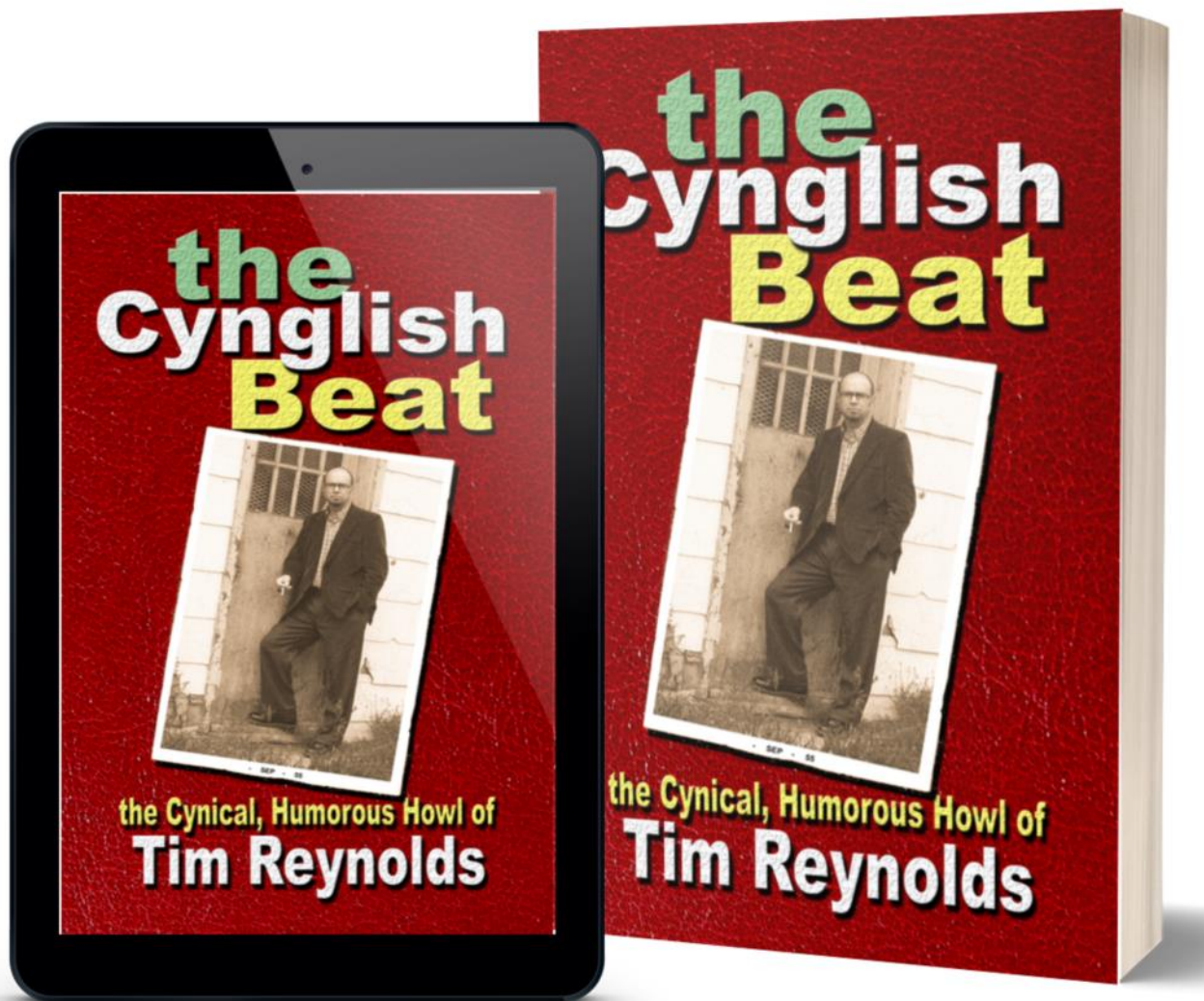
A story of realization, heartache, understanding, acceptance, and resilience. A collective of commentary poems on the corruption of various worldly issues. The illustrations highlight the impacts made on the human psyche captured through a psychedelic lens in hopes of deciphering the truth within a broken foundation.

Illustrated by Odara Rumbol.

oncpoetry.com

amazon





Not all ideas are great ideas, but even the less-than-great ones can be fun and satisfy a creative void. Back when I was doing stand-up comedy, I also started reading Beat poetry in the form of the writings of Allan Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac.

I went out and bought bongos, then started performing my stand-up set dressed in all black, wearing a beret, and banging away on the bongos. One day, I wrote an actual poem and performed it in place of my usual jokes. The audience was confused, but I was having fun.

Right about that time, we took a drive across the country with our two little dogs to attend my thirtieth high school reunion. In addition to the dogs, the bon-

gos went along for the trip.

Every time we crossed a provincial border or a state line, I got the bongos out and we got a picture of me sitting under the "Welcome to..." sign. This became The Bongo Boy North American Tour, and when I was a passenger or we were chilling in a motel at the end of the day, I started writing more poems, inspired by life as I saw it. Eventually, I had dozens of poems that all had a similar cadence and theme, and a very retro groove. By the time we got back home after the very long reunion trek, I was determined to publish a collection of these poems. I'd heard such a thing was called a "chapbook."

The first step was to select which poems were going to be included out of the dozens. I wasn't going to create some monstrous, boring thing the size of a phone book. I wanted a little thing to simply exist, and maybe sell a few at the comedy clubs after I performed. I printed out the poems, laid out the sheets on

the floor, then started shuffling them around, looking for connections between them, for a poem-suggested order.

Some of the choices made perfect sense. “Riding the Bus” was followed by “The Bus Driver’s Lament.” Some choices were based on manipulating the mood for the reader. It couldn’t all be cynical doom and gloom and snark, but neither could it be all fluffy happy-happy-joy-joy. I mixed it up, like a good wedding DJ does: three fast, two slow, two fast, one medium, and then “Paradise by the Dashboard Light,” which no one can dance to but everyone can take a break and go to the bar or bathroom to.

Within the collection there were some similarities between poetic themes, so I picked the better of the choices and filed the “losers” away for later use, maybe in another book. The hardest part was actually the final ordering of the selected poems, to create an interesting rhythm that drew the reader in and kept them turning the pages. Books of poetry are tedious enough to read without them also being boring.

While I was mulling over choices for the interior of the book, the visual artist that also occupies my head started working on a title and a cover. I wanted something that fit the theme of cynical Beat poetry. I ended up going with *The Cynglish Beat*, “Cynglish” being my own contraction of “cynical English” and the whole title being a play on the name of the band, The English Beat, though it had nothing to do with their music.

A quick bit of history. Back in 1954-55, Allan Ginsberg published his poem “Howl” in his 1956 collection titled *Howl and Other Poems*. The poem contained quite a few references to illicit drugs and sexual practices and seeing as how this was the 1950s, Customs seized the book. Howl’s story is much longer and more complicated than I’m presenting here, but suffice it to say, there was a widely publicized obscenity trial. “Howl” really, really shook things up. I didn’t expect my poems to shake anybody up to that extent, but I did end my collection with “My Own Howl” as a reference and homage to the original. I also subtitled the book “The Cynical, Humorous Howl of Tim Reynolds.”

Now that I had the text for the inside and the words for the front cover, I needed the cover art and layout. Because the whole thing was a tribute to the Beat poets, I decided to create a deep-fake photo of me as an academic of the 1950s, including a plaid shirt, corduroy jacket, wool slacks, and leather dress shoes. In the photo, I’m even holding a (fake) cigarette, because *everybody* smoked back then. I could have used one of my wife’s real cigarettes, but use of the prop one was intentional. Because the photo was fake and the poems weren’t really from the Beat Generation, the prop cigarette with the red tinfoil flame was a nod to the

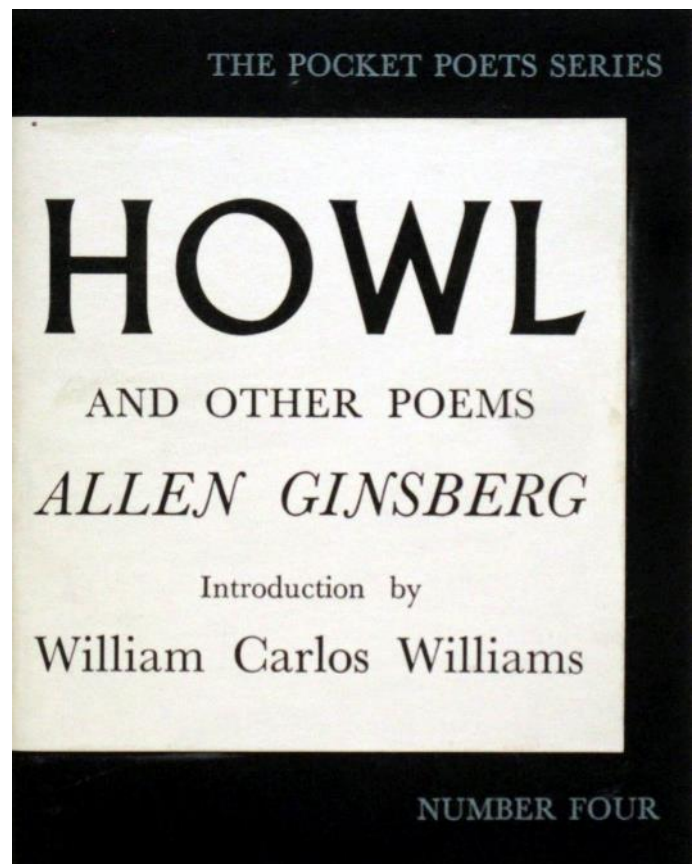
conceit of the entire project.

According to Wikipedia, “Chapbooks were cheap, anonymous publications...” Well, I was up for cheap, but it was hardly going to be anonymous. The article also says that members of the upper class liked theirs bound in leather, so I made a mock leather cover. Unfortunately, chap books are also defined as originally being twelve to twenty-four pages long in the sixteenth century, and in modern times are up to about forty pages. My slim little volume ended up being seventy-seven pages long. I suppose I could have made it shorter if I’d used a smaller font, but I didn’t, so technically I didn’t create a chapbook, it was just a collection of poems. Yeah, whatever.

On the back cover, I needed words to draw the readers in, as well as a quote from someone famous. I was lucky enough to have connected with the most famous man in Canadian stand-up comedy: Mark Breslin, the Founder and CEO of Yuk Yuk’s Comedy Kabaret chain across Canada. Mark had seen one of my Bongo Boy sets at the club here in town and in addition to great encouragement, agreed to give me a blurb after reading the rough draft of the book.

I could not have asked for a better blurb. “Kudos to Tim Reynolds for channeling fifties Beatnik culture in his new volume, *The Cynglish Beat*. If you like your poetry hip hop and full of barbed wire, Reynolds is your man.” Wow!

All that was left to do was the simple task of actually designing the interior of the freaking book. I can’t teach you how to do it all in this article, but I can



summarize the process. I used Adobe's InDesign to create the manuscript, page by page. For every poem, I took photographs and in Photoshop, I created simple black-and-white-no-shades-of-grey graphics that represented the poems on one level or another. Straight black-and-white images reproduce better, and are much cheaper than color.

In addition to the poems and the graphics, there was also the Title Page, the Copyright Page (I copied the layout from a major publisher, to make sure I got it right), the Dedication, the Special Thanks page, the Introduction—an apology to the original Beat Poets for not being as edgy as they were—a proper definition of “Cynghish,” and the Table of Contents. In retrospect, that's all too much for the front section of a book. Some of it could have gone at the back. At the back of the book—after “My Own Howl”—is just an author bio and a photo of me playing my bongos on a dock on the shore of the Mississippi River.

So, although there's much more to creating a chap-book (or a too-long-to-officially-be-a-chap book) than writing the poems, if taken step-by-step, you can put together your own collection and publish it on Amazon, Draft2Digital, or another platform. Or you can just take it to a local book printer (not some random poster printer) and have them guide you through it.

My last bit of advice is simple and I give it to every author self-publishing a book: go onto Amazon or to a large bookstore and look at the covers of dozens of traditionally published (not self-published) bestselling books in the genre/field your book is in. Take pictures of those covers, then go home and design a cover (or hire a designer to do it) that reflects what the industry pros are already doing. Nothing says “amateur” as fast as a cover that can't sit next to bestsellers with its chin held high.

Most of all, have fun writing your poems, creating your book—chapped or otherwise—and sharing your work. Because if you're not having fun with it, why are you doing it?

Finally, here's an excerpt from *The Cynghish Beat*, from “Me, Myself, and Age.”

*Old age hasn't sneaked up or creeped up or
sauntered on up behind me;*

*It's been sitting here beside me on this old
comfy couch,*

*Reclining back, eating my peppy pizza, drink-
ing my cerebral-cell-killing bevvy's*

And laughing at old sitcoms... ■

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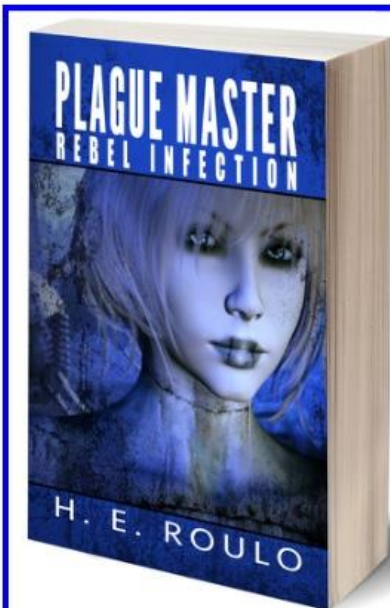
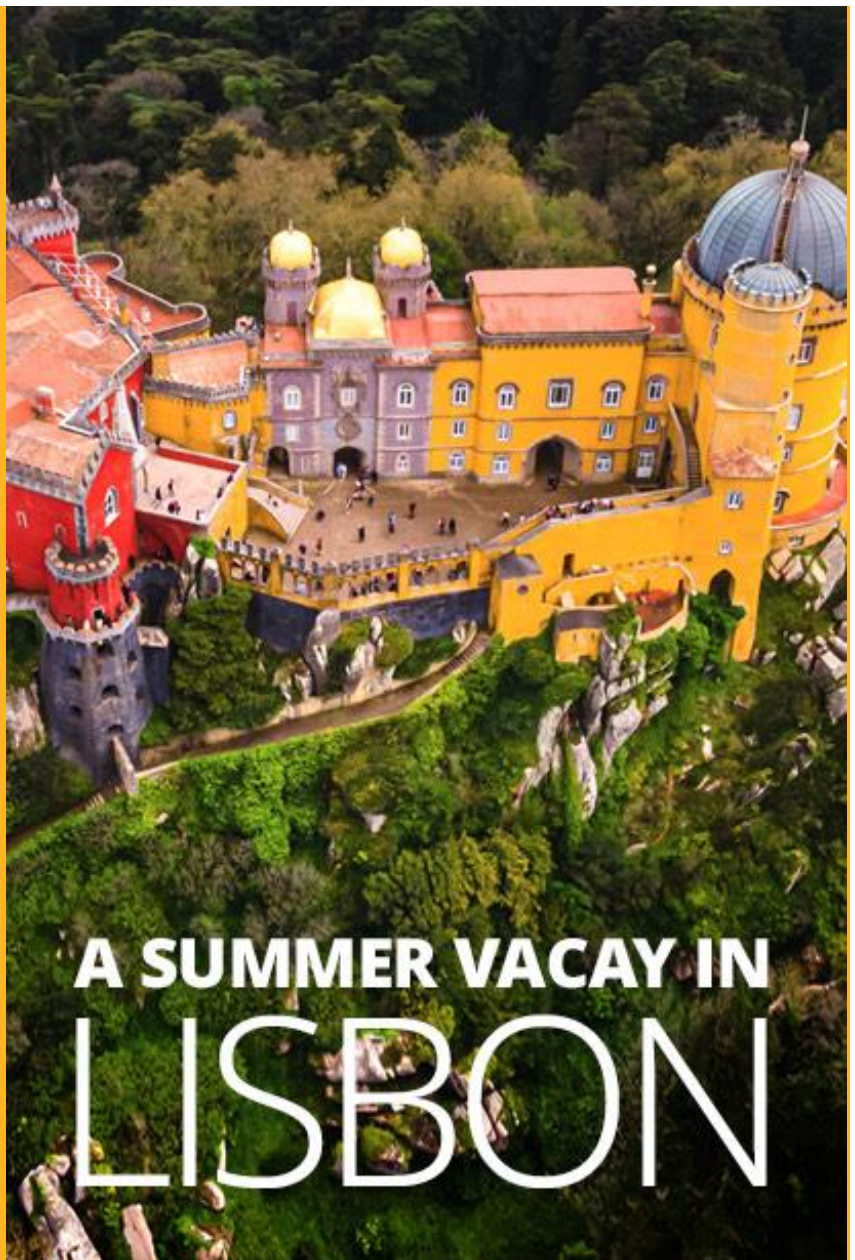


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PLAGUE MASTER: REBEL INFECTION BY H.E. ROULO



Trevor's return from the zombie infection makes him unique. It also makes him dangerous.

He's a hero on his homeworld, celebrated for finding a vaccine against the zombie virus, but the ruling Founders don't trust him and his low origins. When the revolution comes, Trevor is caught in the middle.

Despite his homeworld's troubles, a message from a Plague Master forces Trevor to seek reinforcements. He hunts for Kristin, the woman he left behind, and an answer to why the vaccine is failing.

He and his friends must fight on space stations and worlds overtaken with infected to discover the terrible truth about his cure.



Do you do science? Would you like to do science? Would you like the children in your life to have an opportunity to do science, REAL Science? Do you want to learn more about science yourself? Not sure where to go to learn more?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, even if you have no idea what you could do, fear not! You can become a citizen scientist.

NASA and other government programs have an entire set of science activities and real-world research that you can participate in. With topics ranging from tracking mosquitoes in your area to reviewing images from space telescopes to look for craters, planetary or star discs, or even just cloud formations in your local area, you can contribute to real science. Many of these suggestions will be in the form of apps you can download to your phone to make observations with or report on. Some might take you to images online to look for specific items researchers are interested in. They cover everything from pictures of landslides, observations on birds in your area, reporting earthquakes, and even taking readings on ambient noise in your location. There is sure to be something you might have an interest in doing or a willingness to help with.

Why citizen science? Well, there is the old adage, “Many hands make light work.” What might have taken years of scattered observations and a few dedicated scientists working somewhat in an isolated community, can now be done in a fraction of the time by people interested in the subject and the outcome of the research. The advent of the internet and the number of people with smart devices means that interested people anywhere in the world can make observations

that are needed for accurate scientific data in myriad areas and disciplines. Your two minutes of observation or informative photo sent to a project coordinator could provide valuable insight and data points for researchers around the globe.

This is a truly egalitarian approach to real science. Not just for adults either. There are projects for everyone in the family willing to take a little time and make observations by way of their smartphones. For some projects, you might take part in online observations from NASA websites.

One of the first ones I took part in back in the 90s was counting craters on the moon and classifying them by size and type. I would open the website, look at a strip of a lunar surface photograph, and tally up the craters. Input from all the people working together on the various strips allowed researchers to more quickly classify the different craters.

Some might remember an even earlier citizen collaboration project that was conducted out of UC Berkeley for Project SETI, helping to analyze radio telescope signals for signs of Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence.

Should you like to do something a little more hands-on, there is Radio Jove. This one will require a purchase of a radio astronomy receiver and antenna parts (less than \$300) that will allow you to “listen” to the Sun, Jupiter, and celestial events. Report your observations and you help to create a very *VERY* large array radio telescope. To learn more, check the website at: radiojove.gsfc.nasa.gov

The opportunities to participate as much, or as little in science are out there. A quick internet search on the words “Citizen Science” will give you a number of options, from government-sponsored to non-Profit groups doing social and environmental research.

The ability to crowd-source scientific observations and information analysis is a pleasant result of the current level of communication systems! We can all participate in making a difference.

Should you have an interest in sharing science with others, there is a program called Solar System Ambassadors through NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. Primarily in the US, the folks at JPL provide online training sessions and educational materials for ambassadors to share with their local groups and communities. As a person who has volunteered with this program since the Galileo Space Mission, with ambassadors holding events all around the US, I urge anyone interested in learning more about space science to give it a look.

Go forth and SCIENCE! I will see you out there. ■

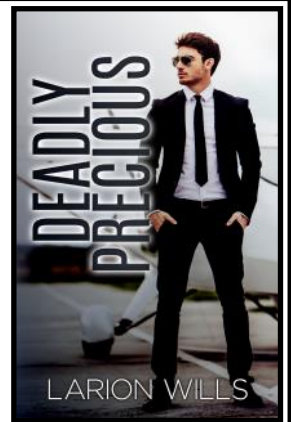


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Drew's plan was to pay her expenses after the attack, walk away, and forget it. In no way could she know about his millions.

Or did she?

Was revenge her plan, not forgiveness?



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YOU ARE THE BEST THING IN MY LIFE

Superlative Basted Eggs

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DAKES

We've always considered great cooking to be an art, as it requires creativity, skill, and practice. Creativity is found in the making of original recipes and the presentation of the food which can turn an ordinary serving into a plating pleasing to the eye. Setting the table for a meal sets the scene in which to enjoy the culinary extravagance of flavors—both delicate and bold. More than anything, we believe it is inspiration that makes a dish special.

Ingredients

- *2 Mandarin oranges
- *1 Fuji apple
- *6 ounces fresh raspberry
- *4 large basil leaves
- *4 pieces thick cut bacon, smoked
- *4 large eggs
- *1 ounce white wine
- *2 to 3 slices of Swiss cheese
- *Salt and pepper

Today, we're sharing a wonderful dish with increased versatility. Traditionally, we consider eggs to be a breakfast food, but with the recent cost increases in what was once considered a staple, egg dishes are quickly becoming a delicacy. So, in sharing with you our favorite way to enjoy eggs, we decided to add a bit of fun and pair it, not only with our special Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee—which we purchased for our anniversary and which is ideal for a leisurely Sunday brunch—but also, to recommend pairing it with a fruity Sauvignon Blanc with charming notes of grapefruit and guava, citrus and kiwi for those very special evening eggs. And, really, when you prepare breakfast for dinner, surely a wine pairing is perfectly acceptable.

In this recipe, we use a steam-baste method to cook the eggs. Many years ago—much to our delight—a friend shared with us this style of egg preparation. After some initial experimentation, we were hooked and, even after all these years, it's still a favorite of ours. This technique falls neatly between frying and poaching. While we appreciate both fried and poached eggs, we find the steam-baste method preferable for several reasons. First, it eliminates the need to turn the eggs over as one must when frying eggs. Second, it doesn't require the added complication of boiling water or the messy cleanup of a poaching pan with egg cups.

We recommend using white wine to steam-baste the eggs. You can use water, but the reduced wine adds a superior flavor to the eggs, and the steam removes that greasy texture that comes with a fried egg. With the steam-baste method, it is important to note that seasoning is done in a different order. This is because steam often destroys the flavors of salt and pepper.

When steam-basting, always add salt and pepper at the end. Only add seasonings and spices strong enough to retain their flavor to the eggs before steam is applied. When we first experimented with this process, we added fresh oregano or rosemary with flat champagne left over from the night before, which admittedly is a delicious combination. But, with this recipe, we kick things up a notch with the addition of basil, fresh fruit, and bacon to take it from ordinary to art and from wonderful to superlative.

PREPARATION

- *Peel the Mandarin oranges. Separate oranges into individual segments.
- *Take 1/2 of the peel from one Mandarin orange and cut into 1/8-inch squares.
- *Cut apple in half from top to bottom. Use a paring knife to cut out the apple core.
- *Lay half of the apple flat on a cutting board and slice into 1/8-inch slices.
- *Remove raspberries from container, discarding any bad or crushed berries.
- *Stack basil leaves and cut into 1/8-inch squares.



COOK

- *Cut 4 bacon strips in half.
- *In a 10-inch, non-stick fry pan, cook the bacon pieces over medium heat, turning occasionally until bacon is brown and firm but not yet crisp. Remove the bacon to a paperlined plate to drain. Do not overcook bacon as it is cooked again later in the recipe.
- *Remove the fry pan from heat. Retain bacon drippings in the fry pan.
- *Cut cooked bacon slices into 1/2 inch wide pieces.
- *Return fry pan with bacon drippings back to medium heat.
- *When the fry pan has come back up to heat, carefully crack the eggs in touching pairs, being careful to not break the egg yolks.
- *Sprinkle orange peel and basil pieces evenly across the top of eggs.
- *Pour 1 ounce water or white wine around the inside perimeter of the pan and place a lid on the fry pan. Cook for 2 minutes.
- *Remove the lid from the fry pan and spread bacon pieces across egg pairs. Cover egg pairs in a single layer of pieces of sliced Swiss cheese, cutting slices to fit egg pairs if necessary.
- *Replace lid on fry pan for 1 minute to melt cheese. Remove pan from heat and remove lid.

SERVE

- *Using a spatula, remove each egg pair to a serving plate.
- *Arrange apple slices, orange segments, and raspberries on the plate in an attractive arrangement.
- *Serve with hot coffee and/or white wine. ■

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FITNESS | Paddle Boarding

BY S. G. BROWNE

Falling while standup paddle boarding may not sound like the best way to learn or enjoy the sport, but September and October provide great fall conditions for “supping” without the summer crowds.

Lakes, rivers, and bays often provide great conditions for novices and experienced paddle boarders alike. But you’ll want to check the wind, tide, and weather reports beforehand.

If you’ve never considered the sport, or have been hesitant to try it out, some of the benefits include:

- Low-impact exercise
- Full-body workout
- Strengthens core muscles
- Improves balance
- Boosts endurance

Also, unless you’re paddling in choppy waters or against a strong current, supping can be a great stress reliever. There’s nothing like the sound of the gentle water lapping beneath your board and the slow, rhythmic motion of your paddle to create a Zen-like experience, especially when you’re surrounded by nature.



My first paddle boarding experience was in Hawaii, which helps when you fall off your board (I fell off a lot). I gained confidence practicing on a calm lake in Wyoming. My first time using my own board was on the San Francisco Bay during a small-craft advisory. That was fun.

If you don’t have the storage space or a car rack for a traditional paddle board, inflatables are a great option. My inflatable fits in the trunk of my car with enough space for a second inflatable and takes about ten minutes to inflate once you reach your destination. If you have to transport your board or want to check it for airplane travel, it comes in a backpack storage case and weighs about thirty-seven pounds.

While lessons are helpful to get started, repetition is key to developing good technique. The more you practice, the more fun you’ll have.

So, get out there and paddle! ■

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PHOTO BY DANIEL COOKE



About thirty-five miles east of the City of London, is a settlement of some 165,000 people, once unfairly declared by the famous novelist Charles Dickens in 1835 to be, “The dullest and most stupid place on earth,” because he couldn’t find a newspaper on a Sunday.

How then, did this relatively small place, founded by the Roman Empire as “Caesars’ Field” become a thriving city in the east of England and what relevance has it with the #artandpoetry theme for this edition of *SEARCH*?

An ancient Neolithic settlement, the Romans didn’t rock up until 60BC, seemingly with the intention to replace London to be the provincial capital of the country. With the full story of why that didn’t happen now lost to time, the town of Chelmsford grew of its own accord, flourishing long after the Romans departed. It was given a Royal Charter in 1199 by King John to become a market town and in 1516, land was purchased by King Henry VIII, to build the Boleyn Estate, the residency of his future wife Anne. Anne Boleyn’s influence can still be felt across many of the surrounding suburbs and John’s charter is still in place today.

In 1899, Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi—who discovered a radio wave-based wireless telegraph system—opened the first radio factory in the world in

Chelmsford. Making the first official publicized sound broadcast in the UK in 1920, the town had the honor of becoming the birthplace of radio. From 1922, Marconi made the world’s first regular wireless broadcasts for entertainment which subsequently led to the creation of the BBC, and there we have our link to this edition theme.

Finally, on June 1st, 2012, Chelmsford was granted city status to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. ■



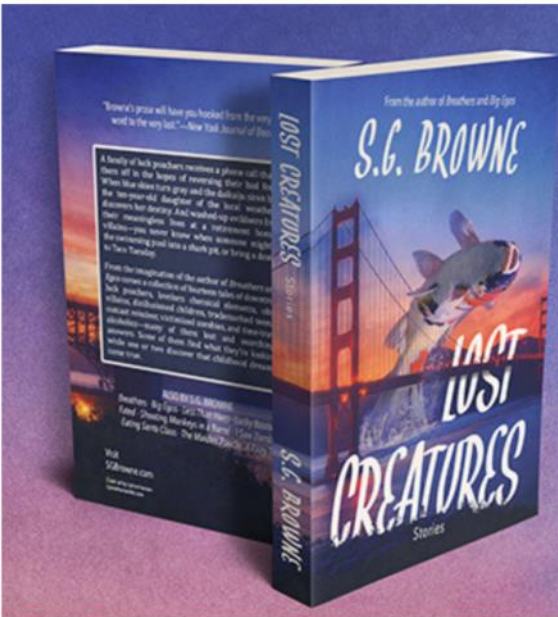
ITALIAN INVENTOR GUGLIELMO MARCONI



Sole Sista's

STYLISH LOOKS FOR STYLISH SOLES





LOST CREATURES

S.G. Browne

"The sardonic city-dwelling sibling of Grimm's Fairy Tales... This book is so original, it's breathtaking."

—Loren Rhoads

"A heartfelt collection of magic and monsters emerging in our world...ridiculously brilliant."

—John Hornor Jacobs

"Superbly crafted short stories by one of today's most talented writers."

—Jonathan Maberry



A blend of fantasy, science fiction, horror, dark comedy, and social satire, *Lost Creatures* contains fourteen tales of downtrodden luck poachers, lovelorn chemical elements, disillusioned children, trademarked teenagers, outcast reindeer, domesticated centaurs, obsolete villains, and victimized zombies.

"A perfect addition for fans or a great start for new readers wanting to try Browne for the first time."

—Portland Book Review

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ENHANCE YOUR TRUE BEAUTY





PHOTO BY ANNIE SPRATT

One of the most common symptoms of Autistic Spectrum Disorder is delayed development of language skills. ASD people struggle to identify their own emotions and to articulate their wants and needs.

At times the frustration must be unbearable, so it's no wonder some ASD kids have meltdowns. People who have difficulty processing language and reading social cues have a much harder time developing relationships both social and professional.

If language presents such an obstacle to communication, is there a nonverbal alternative that can provide ASD people with the outlet they need? One method that's proving both accessible and effective is art therapy.

The Art Therapy Credentials Board explains, "Art therapy—sometimes called creative arts therapy or expressive arts therapy—encourages people to express and understand emotions through artistic expression and through the creative process." Art therapy is about more than just getting in touch with one's feelings. "Art therapy is an effective treatment for persons experiencing developmental, medical, educational, social, or psychological impairment. A key goal in art therapy is to improve or restore the client's functioning and his/her sense of personal well-being."

The crucial phrase there is "to improve or restore the client's functioning." In a world where digital communication gets faster and faster all the time, ASD people may need help to catch up and keep up. Social media involves a lot of photography and video featuring body language and facial expressions. Art therapy can

help ASD people become more connected to themselves.

"When we produce art with our own hands, there is increased neural connectivity in the area of the brain that deals with introspection, memory, and self-monitoring. This means that this area is more active when engaged in producing art. Mentally, we become more psychologically resilient, we have increased positive perspectives, and become more self-aware," says Caleigh Flannigan in the article "Improving Your Everyday Life Through Art Therapy" at HeySignmund.com.

Whether a person is neurotypical or neurodivergent, becoming more psychologically resilient is a good way to live. "A resilient person is someone who has strong coping skills and is able to marshal their avail-



PHOTO BY RHONDA K NATIVE FLORIDA FOLK ARTIST

able resources, ask for help when needed, and find ways to manage the situations they are facing,” says Kendra Cherry in the article “What Is Resilience?” at VeryWellMind.com.

Art therapy has many benefits on the individual level. It can also become a gateway for ASD people to expand their social networks.



thanks to watching Steve draw clues on *Blue's Clues*. The “How To Draw” bonus features on *Veggie Tales* DVDs expanded John’s interest even more. In elementary school, if John completed his visual schedule and did not disrupt the class, he earned ten minutes of drawing time. John’s speech therapist made use of John’s drawings to encourage conversation and expand John’s vocabulary. Now, at the age of twenty-four, John has participated in two public exhibitions of his work. Last year, he won two Fine Arts ribbons at the County Fair. Art gave John the means to express himself before he’d learned enough words to do so. Art has shown John the power of his imagination and the rewards of diligent practice. Art led him to achievement and the start of a career.

Best of all, Arts Therapy requires no previous training or any particular talent. “All too often, it’s assumed that a nonverbal person or a person with limited verbal capabilities is incompetent in other areas. As a result, people on the autism spectrum may not be exposed to opportunities to use artistic media, or the opportunities may be too challenging in other ways (in large class settings, for example). Art therapy offers an opportunity for therapists to work one-on-one with individuals on the autism spectrum to build a wide range of skills in a manner which may be more comfortable (and thus more effective) than spoken language,” says Lisa Jo Rudy in the article “How Art Therapy Helps People With Autism” at VeryWellHealth.com.

Some ASD people may not be able to speak. That doesn’t mean they don’t have a lot to say. Arts Therapy can become the universal translator that gives them their own unique voice. ■

ADVANTAGES OF ART THERAPY

- Great for those who struggle to communicate: For anyone that finds it difficult to communicate through speaking, art therapy offers something that can help them overcome mental distress. This therefore is ideal for when someone struggles to express their feelings or emotions through speech.
- Group experience can be positive: Art therapy often takes place in a group setting, which can help people to see they are not alone in their struggles, and interpret others’ feelings through art.
- Bypassing defense mechanisms: In forms of talking therapy, a person’s defense mechanisms may block them from talking freely. But this is bypassed in art therapy, as the patient will get straight to the point by communicating through art, rather than tip-toeing around the subject.

The therapeutic qualities of art have made a big difference in the life of my son, John. He began drawing





PHOTO BY CAMILLE BRODARD

My early years were dark. Quiet. Silenced. I read a lot of books. I spent a lot of time observing my surroundings. I sat on the sidelines of track meets, football games, and concerts and watched people love their craft with true passion.

I would admire their gusto. I would reach for this same desire they carried inside of myself but could never get to the point of true connection between mind, body, and spirit. This is what triggered my exploration of self. Seeing others LOVE what they do.

Once the words came, my experience changed. It was like a gate—that had been melded shut for years on end—was finally opened. Metaphors, illusions, words, and ideas flowed out of me like a river in the spring and I was the vessel of opportunity for it to come to life.

“Life is poetry” is a phrase I use often since this understanding took place. When it first happened, poetic verse would leak from my lips and I would write it down in hopes of a better day, one present moment amongst the rest. Five years later, I am able to channel that poetic verse into wiser poetry, art, education, and energetic healing. I would describe it as the mastering of my own version of alchemy.

It was a thought that became habit, that became how I wanted to perceive the experience I was having here on Earth. In poetry, this perception (or delusion) brings that spark of light within the darkest of caves. It’s a reminder of the beauty and the dance of a flame as it illuminates the space around it. The human race has the pleasure of experiencing happiness, pain, joy, love, laughter, heartache, sadness, the inner world, the outer world, and everything in between.

I cried tears of joy for the first time when I was twenty-two. I have cried at every opportunity since with an open heart, knowing I am understood in my emotion. I carry a new confidence. I am meant to be here, in this moment and every moment, feeling it with every morsel of my being. My mind, body, and spirit have contracted and expanded, and my world view has cracked wide open. The universe provides endless opportunities to blossom as the wildflower I am, through poetry.

In my humble opinion, the biggest and best thing to happen from all of this was connection. Connection with self, with nature, and most importantly, with others. My tribe. What I have come to realize is in all of those years of observing them, was I really just wanted to know about them. Why did they choose this passion? How did they manage to stay motivated? What were they planning to do with it in their future? In turn, I would ask myself the same questions and find out more about myself, because without them being their truest, most honest version of themselves in that moment, we wouldn’t have been brought together sharing that experience. And the most common answer to all of those questions is, “Because passion helps to keep the peace.”

My peace came when the words came. With self-autonomy and a village supporting me through and through in light and love, the idea came that at any moment, life is poetry. ■

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