

**THE FICTION FLYER**  
**An Ezine for**  
**Readers and Writers of Fiction**  
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Dear Readers,



all our contributing writers, who include Nonnie Augustine, Nancy Famolari, Michael Kechula,, C.S. Larsen, Adam Weiss, Sara Reinke and Marilyn Byerly. Great writing by all!

Cynthia Brian, founder of the wonderful charity called *Be The Star You Are*, writes about her experiences on the treasures of giving on page 6. I hope some of you will take the opportunity to contribute in some way to her charity, which promotes reading among our underprivileged youth. A link to her site is provided.

Ray offers some of his expertise in his money-talk Investment Perspectives for this issue, this time on the folly of lenders. He studies this stuff quite a bit – you might even call it a hobby – and his facts and opinions are researched and well-informed. It may literally pay to read his articles and heed the advice.

We have a couple interesting contests this issue, including a new one: *Out-of-the-Box Promotion Idea Contest* for writers. We're hoping to get some novel ideas we can actually use! This time, the Flash Fiction Contest involves a *panjandrum*. What's that? Read page 22 to find out! Both contests offer modest cash prizes.

There's a marvelous line-up of authors for The Mother Daughter Club Radio show. Read about all our wonderful guests on page 9.

Finally, I've included an article about giving live presentations. After years of trying different promotional tactics, I've found that this is miles better than any other. I have several author friends, heavy hitters in this area, who tend to agree. It doesn't mean that other methods, such as online techniques, don't work – I'm simply stating that I think live presentations work best to reach more people faster and in a meaningful way.

That about does it! The Holiday Season is upon us (*again and already!*). Ray and I wish you all a fantastic season filled with the presence of friends and loved ones. And may you sell a TON of books!

☺ Happy Holidays!  
 Kathe Gogolewski [kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net)

**LIVE PRESENTATIONS: THE BEST WAY  
 TO SELL BOOKS**  
**PART I: AUDIO PRESENTATIONS**  
 By Kathe Gogolewski

I believe live presentations are the number one best method for authors to sell their books. The idea of selling online appeals to many authors who enjoy their time in the saddle working keyboard and monitor, yet online techniques—such as posting or maintaining a website, sending media releases, exchanging links or submitting articles to online venues—may not sell more than one book at a time, if at all. While it's important to create an online presence through these techniques, they are in of themselves lacking. There's no **there** there, as Gertrude Stein once remarked.

In other words, **you** are missing from the formula. Unless you're already branded and famous, people are likely not going to visit your website and buy your book until they've met you. If you are a stranger, readers may enjoy an article or blog written by you, but they are not likely to look for and read your book unless they read several more articles or blogs by you that they enjoy. This can take a lot of writing and blogging. A personal presentation can short circuit this longer process.

So does this mean that an author must leave the comfort of his or her desk and computer and step immediately in front of a podium onstage inside a huge auditorium to sell books? No, you can sell books without ever leaving your slippers. Still, I feel the closer we get to presenting in front of a live audience, the better. Bestselling



author John Kremer stated in one of his newsletters that "all of marketing, all of business, can be broken down to one thing: creating relationships—or, as I like to put it, making friends."

Your job is to make friends."

**PRESENTATIONS continued page 2**

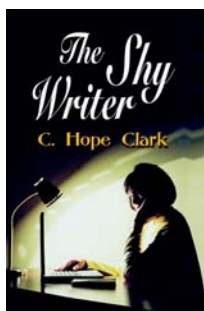
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Robin Jay, who wrote the award winning book *The Art of the Business Lunch* [www.robinjay.com](http://www.robinjay.com), adds to Kremer's statement when she writes, "...people like to do business with people they like...so to become friends with, or at least become "friendly" with your clients is the key to successful business." While both Kremer and Jay are referring to one-on-one sales, the principle still holds for presentations in front of a live audience. The most effective way to make friends, hands-down, is through live interactions, whether it's one-on-one or one-on-many.

And isn't that what it's all about? Why do we bother writing unless our purpose is to share it? As authors, we are not journaling our thoughts in a diary to lock away in the dresser drawer. Magdalena Ball, author of *Sleep Before Evening*, told me in an interview for The Mother Daughter Club on [www.byforandaboutwomen.com](http://www.byforandaboutwomen.com) that we have within us an innate desire to express ourselves through creative effort. We have a need to find our "voice," and in so doing, may discover a deeper meaning for life. I couldn't agree more. I'll add that we write to share, and we promote to complete that process.

This doesn't mean we have to jump off the deep end and start advertising as a keynote speaker. First things first! There are steps toward realizing our goals, and we take them one at a time. The important thing is to take the next one. For shy people, author Hope Clark is a great resource. She's written a book called *The Shy Writer*, which can help you work with your shyness and still promote. You can find it here:

<http://www.theshywriter.com/>



So where do we begin? We'll start with audio, a milder form of live presentation (milder in terms of the stress level for our participation that is) and work our way up to the Big Speech. We'll address two choice methods for presentation. In Part I, this is 1) audio, such as radio and podcast creations, and, in Part II, 2) presentations, such as speeches performed in front of live audiences and live television appearances. I think these venues all provide a potential for great results in making a connection with your audience. You can find your comfort zone within this spectrum and take it from there.

## Audio Presentations

### Traditional Radio

Listeners today get their music online and, in that respect, traditional radio is losing ground. As a result, traditional stations are promoting more talk radio to fill up the air waves, especially talk radio that features women. This opens doors for many authors who might otherwise have been shut-out of the scene. Where to find a station? There is a wealth of them with online websites where you can query the hosts. Since many talks or interviews are conducted via telephone, you are not necessarily limited to your geographical area, however, local stations are often most interested in local personalities. If you have a landline, use it. They transmit sound far better than a cell phone. Many traditional radio stations also broadcast via the internet. You'll find a list of stations and their websites in this article.

### Internet Radio

Even with new opportunities opening up for authors in traditional radio, internet radio remains an easier venue to approach and get booked for an interview or chat. While the scope or audience reach for satellite or internet radio is not generally as impressive as traditional radio, internet audio files can be archived, allowing visitors

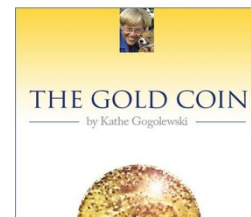
**Continued next column**

### FROM AMAZON SHORTS:

#### The Gold Coin

By Kathe Gogolewski

★★★★★ (3 customer reviews)



#### Kathe Gogolewski talks about The Gold Coin:

This is a true story. Did you ever see the movie, *Pay it Forward*? It promotes a truly inspiring message: when someone does you a favor, no need to pay it back—pay it forward and do a favor for someone else. This story, my father's story, has an element of that in it. Perhaps it is more than an element. I don't know; you can decide. In keeping with the spirit of the story, 100% of my royalties are donated to Casa de Ampara, a children's charity in my town of Oceanside, California.

**Price: \$0.49**

**Length:** 2,412 words, 10 pages

You can purchase the short here:

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Gold-Coin/dp/B000IB0JHK>

### PRESENTATIONS...continued

to access the file at any time. Edie Galley, producer of the internet radio show, *By For and About Women Radio Network*, says that most of the listeners for her shows arrive after the live one, up to 6,000 per show. Nothing to sneeze at, I say! Here's a list of both internet and traditional radio stations:

#### Radio Locator

<http://www.radio-locator.com/>

US radio by listed by location, theme, or language. For example, Spanish, Hip-Hop, News-Talk, Religious, Dance, Alternative. Includes countries all over the world

#### Mike's Radio World

<http://mikesradioworld.com/>

Lists comprehensive stations in Europe, Canada, United States, Australia and New Zealand

#### Radio Online

<http://www.radiorow.com/>

<http://links.radio-online.com/stations.htm>

Listed by station and genre in the US

#### Other Ideas for Using Audio

**1. Create a podcast for an excerpt from your book and post it on your website.** It's best to post it on a webpage by itself as sound files tend to be large, and some people will not be able to load the file on their computers. If this is the case, anything else on the page will be missed, so create a link on a main page for people to click and listen on another. The wonderful thing about

**Continued page 3**

creating a podcast is that you can record and re-record until you get it just the way you want it. Here's one by Raymond Grant from his book *Don't Be Impatient...Read a Short Story!* Scroll to the page middle:

[http://redenginepress.com/ray\\_grant.htm](http://redenginepress.com/ray_grant.htm).

Here's one by Joyce Faulkner from her book *Losing Patience*:

<http://www.joycefaulkner.com/freelance.htm>

I created this podcast excerpt for my children's book, *Tato*:

<http://tri-studio.com/TATOPodcast.html>

And here's one for *A Promise to Keep*, a romantic suspense written by my alter ego, Ann Durand: <http://tri-studio.com/ANNDURAND-PODCAST.html>

Creating an audio file may be easier than you think. Most computers built in the last five or six years come with the recording software. All you need is a microphone. You can purchase one at your local electronics store for \$20 and up. I did my first podcast, an ad for my upcoming interview with Scott the "Z" Man on Artist First at [www.artistfirst.com](http://www.artistfirst.com), in 2005 with a cheap microphone. Scott told me to keep the podcast under a minute and promised to run it on the show. I hooked up the microphone, clicked on the software and practiced recording my ad over and over until I got what I wanted. I was pleasantly surprised at the sound quality – I had thought a cheap microphone would deliver undesirable white noise, but it actually sounded professional, and I enjoyed hearing it played on the Artist First show. This was my first podcast.

**2. Create a short audio podcast advertising your book or book event.** You can record a quick, maybe a fifteen second podcast, and send it via email to your online contacts inviting them to listen, or even better, listen and post to their websites! Often, a site that has already posted a review of your book is happy to post a short audio file. I created a funny one for *Fury and Destruction: How to Use Violence Effectively in Your Writing*, an audio class that I co-authored with Joyce Faulkner. I sent it to our publisher, Deron Douglas at Double Dragon Publishing, and he created a banner for it, which he posted on his front page. It's since been removed, but you can listen to it here:

<http://tri-studio.com/PODCASTEXCERPT2.html>



I also created several audio excerpts for Amazon Short stories written by Charles Mossop, Joyce Faulkner and me. My editor says he will post them on the site soon at

<http://www.amazon.com/amazon-shorts-digital-shorts/b?ie=UTF8&node=13993911>

Continued page 5

## INVESTMENT PERSPECTIVES FOR WRITERS



by Raymond P. Gogolewski, Ph.D  
(also writes fiction as Ray Grant)

### What Were The Lenders Thinking?

I've been thinking about the current state of affairs in the lending industry – the banks, insurers, and mortgage corporations – who seemingly have shot themselves in the feet, discovered that their feet have holes and are hurting, and are now pleading for help and forgiveness.

Back a few years ago, the FOMC [Federal Open Market Committee] decided to lower short term interest rates to 1% to help the economy recover from a recession caused by the bursting of the *technology bubble* on Wall Street. After they finished lowering short term rates, the stock markets began to recover, and we, along with the rest of the planet, have experienced broad global 'bull markets' ever since.

Little noticed, at first, was the gradual increase in the price of real estate. The combination of low mortgage rates, improving stock markets, and full employment led to what "the Alan" [Alan Greenspan] described as *the housing bubble*. In many parts of the country, the price of houses began to increase ten or more percent per year! Hallelujah! Just about anyone could make *big bucks* by buying and selling a house. While this was working, it was truly wonderful! In the *hot* markets, for example, a house purchased with little or nothing down, no proof of income, and a *teaser* monthly mortgage payment (constant for three to five years!), could be sold by the owner after making a few modest improvements six or twelve months later for a profit of 50% to 100% or more on the initial investment! Wow!

Things *heated up*, and anecdotal stories soon appeared in the financial news of people buying new homes with little, if anything, down. Better yet, it was reported that some borrowed even more than the value of the house they were buying! Think of it, you could buy a house, take out a mortgage, and receive a check from the lender! You could net money up front – positive cash flow just as you took ownership of the property! What were those lenders thinking?

Well, the logic may have gone like this: If the price of a house appreciated ten, twelve, fifteen percent, a year – one could lend with very little down – because within a year or two the value of the property would be 20% or 30% higher – and, presto, the loan had positive equity! No problem there!

Well, as they say on Wall Street, "only rockets go straight up, and even they can fall back to Earth." So, who would have thought that housing prices might peak? Clearly, not the lenders! Not too long ago, I read that only 6% of the residents of San Diego County could afford to buy the *average* priced house -- flipping that around, *94% of them couldn't!* Seems like the top in the price of housing had arrived.

Do you think the lenders ever thought that prices might just peak? Or worse yet, go down! Who was minding the lending store? Clearly, not those over-paid CEOs and senior executives who have been making tens of millions per annum in salary, options, deferred compensation, and perks.

So, when prices peaked, and lots of folks were sitting on recently acquired properties with little, if any, down payments and with adjustable rate

Continued page 4

mortgages with reduced, teaser monthly payments for the first few years, some folks began to say – wait a minute – what happens if people can't make the first *reset (significantly increased)* monthly payments on their adjustable rate mortgages (which appear, usually, three years after the mortgage commences)? Can they refinance their loans and have the problem go away? Well, the quiet answer was – you need to make your monthly payment or we, the lenders, will be forced to foreclose. Sorry! No other options available!

All of a sudden, part of the lenders' mortgage interest income disappeared, and instead they would now have to spend serious money for every foreclosure – over a short period of time, income transformed into large expense. Furthermore, some of the people holding a mortgage with little or nothing down and unusually low monthly payments may have just called their lenders and said: "You own it! It cost me nothing to buy it, and I've enjoyed the low monthly payments you gave me (low costing rent – if you will). But the new increase in monthly payment is more than I can afford – so, you keep the property!" Well, they didn't really say it like that, but that's certainly quite probable. By the way, lenders don't want to own property, they want to lend folks money and receive principal and interest payments.

For those who want to keep their houses, another louder answer was – you can't refinance your loan *fully* because your property is now worth less than your current mortgage (less than you paid for it). You've negative equity! Who's going to pick up the difference? We can lend you so much (and by the way, let's check over that information you gave us initially, and you may need a down payment in order to refinance). However, that won't pay off your current mortgage, and we can't proceed until you do. Can you find a second mortgage somewhere?

Back a few decades ago, you couldn't buy a house unless you could put down, at least, 10% of the purchase price, and many lenders wanted 20%. I remember when they actually gave folks a hard time when they asked for a 10% down loan – available only to the most credit worthy -- required homeowners insurance, escrow payments, etc. Furthermore, one couldn't take out a loan for more than three times annual family income (and one had to prove one's family income to a prospective lender), and again, three times was an "uncomfortable" upper limit for the lenders. What happened to these simple guidelines, designed to reduce speculation and increase the probability that folks that bought houses could actually make their monthly payments as a reasonable percentage of their income.

Clearly, lenders forgot, ignored, threw out, such *antiquated* guidelines, and searched for and found their silver plated revolvers and began polishing them instead. Then, about a year ago when housing prices peaked, they began to point them at their feet. Well, they pulled the triggers, bullets found their marks, and the pain began.

Prices of houses are down, and from what I read the average housing cycle runs about eight years. So, four years is mid-point and we've moved a year or so from the latest peak. So, we've another two to three years before prices bottom out. Hopefully, the lenders will clean up their mess during the interim, help those that want to keep their houses by extending the duration of their refinanced loans and lowering their mortgage interest rate, and even, remember the simple rules that had worked so well during most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. And, maybe, just maybe, the lending institutions will hire or promote qualified, experienced people, who will "watch the store" rather than the daily value of their stock options and deferred compensation packages.

Continued next column

## Don't Be Impatient...Read a Short Story! by Raymond Grant

Now available from Red Engine Press and in bookstores everywhere

Purchase Link:

<http://tri-studio.com/RaymondGrant.html>



"With economy and deft delivery, Raymond Grant has slipped into the consciousness of everyman with the arrival of his new collection of short stories. A flash of humor, a flash of fantasy, a flash of many a sacred cow--all delivered with a liberal sprinkling of moon dust and marmalade! There's something here for everyone--especially the time-challenged reader who wants a fresh, entertaining, and often contrary look at the world around us." --Chick Lang: Fiction Editor Futures Mystery Anthology Magazine; Fiction Editor of Coffee Cramp eZine

"*Don't be Impatient... Read a Short Story!* That's good advice. Ray Grant has written a wonderful collection of stories that are short enough to read even if you have only a few minutes. Open this book to any page, and you'll find a complete story, full and finished, that is imaginative and memorable. Grant tells a tale in just a few paragraphs, and he does it with skill and insight, along with liberal doses of wit and wisdom. His book will entertain and inspire you. It will make you laugh and make you think. So stop for a minute or two and read a short story. You'll be glad you did." ~ Charles Mossop, Vancouver Island, Canada, Author of the *Magistrate Lin Mystery Series*, the *Captain Square Mysteries*, and the novel, *Jade Hunter*.

## LENDERS...continued

Perhaps, those at or near the top should be well rewarded *only* for success in meeting moral and ethical *corporate* objectives. Something's wrong when a CEO is fired because his/her corporation has performed abysmally, and he/she walks away with a check for tens, if not hundreds, of millions dollars as a *parting gift* from the Board of Directors. Shareholders need to get control of senior executive compensation and put an end to this nonsense – but that's another story!



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Genre: Science Fiction - Romance

eBook Length: 211 Pages

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Publisher: Double Dragon

Publishing

Imprint: Dragon's Heart Romance

Purchase Link: <http://double-dragon-ebooks.com/single.php?ISBN=1-55404-451-0>**Synopsis:**

Katera would rather die than allow the Elders to present her at the altar of Kopa Na An. Her twin sister, Adrella, never returned after her summons to the altar, and Katera is tortured by the memory of her sister's sacrifice. Intent on escaping a similar fate and craving an end to her suffering under the merciless rule of Askinadon, she constructs her own demise. Her plans are foiled when an attractive stranger rescues her from her attempt to plunge hundreds of feet down a waterfall to her death. The stranger takes her to a cave and releases her from her forced servitude to Askinadon by removing the high tech device implanted in her head. Encouraged by her new freedom...and her attraction to this mysterious stranger, Katera asks him to help her find her sister, if she is still alive, and free her people from Askinadon's unrelenting grip.

Mikolen wants to help, but is so close to completing his ten year project...tantalizingly close. Helping Katera can only thwart his efforts by exposing him to Askinadon, his old arch enemy. All will be lost if Askinadon discovers that he was not killed ten years ago. He doesn't need the risk. The only thing he needs is the exotic matter stored inside the Orb in Askinadon's lab. With it, he can end his exile in this hellish world and create a wormhole to complete the stargate...the one that will carry him home. He has only to steal the Orb as his last act in this world.

**3. Create your own audio classes.** Authors Joyce Faulkner, Carolyn Howard-Johnson, Allyn Evans, Marilyn Peake and I have co-authored a series of audio classes available from Double Dragon Publishing at [www.double-dragon-ebooks.com](http://www.double-dragon-ebooks.com). Drawing on our different areas of expertise, we created three threads: one for promotion, one for the craft of writing, and one detailing methods for the writer to use technology to aid in their craft. Working with these ladies made the commitment that much lighter and made for lots of fun! We used a conference line at [www.freeaudioconferencing.com](http://www.freeaudioconferencing.com), which is free until you download your file, then you pay \$10 for it. We submitted the recorded conference sessions to Deron Douglas at DDP, and he created the downloads and distributed the files to different venues. I'm all for networking because when you put your energies together with other authors, you're likely to get a more comprehensive and polished product.

We also created a number of excerpts from these audio classes which we used to advertise the classes. They may be heard here:

<http://tristudio.com/AUDIOCLASSESALL.html>



We did not entertain outside callers during our recordings, because we wanted to present a more formal product. In order to ensure that our classes included everything we intended, we planned it carefully and worked with an outline. Writing classes, however, can be held live on these teleconferencing sites, with people calling in their questions. This creates a spontaneous and conversational style, which may make for

easier listening, but you run the risk of losing or repeating information. It depends on the style and tone that you want to create and your marketing plan. To sell the classes through a publishing company, you need to ensure that you will deliver the material promised, so an outline or script may work best. If you're not interested in selling the product, however, the call-in format can work well for a teleclass where the conference is not recorded, or is recorded but given away as a perk on your website. And there is always the option of editing an audio file.

**4. Create a weekly blog podcast and chat about your writing life, writing in general, or life in general.** It's a great way to bring attention to your books. Penny Sansevieri with Author Marketing Experts, Inc. at [www.amarketingexpert.com](http://www.amarketingexpert.com) has a great article on podcasting. If you'd like a free copy, email her at [info@amarketingexpert.com](mailto:info@amarketingexpert.com). People listen to podcasts on iPods or other mp3 players, through iTunes, or on several free downloadable software applications.

**5. Offer an audio product to an existing sale to create more value.** Penny Sansevieri gives away a free audio CD at the end of her speaking gigs to anyone who buys a book after the session. [www.amarketingexpert.com](http://www.amarketingexpert.com)

**6. Start your own internet radio show.** There are internet radio shows looking for hosts. I found my niche at *By For and About Women Radio Network*. Producer Edie Galley and I chatted and set up *The Mother*



## Mysterical-E

**Lonely Trail to Perdition** by Patricia Harrington, a short story of mystery and intrigue, is available in the current issue of *Mysterical-E* at [http://mysterical-e.com/index.php?issue=current\\_issue&body=story&file=perdition.htm](http://mysterical-e.com/index.php?issue=current_issue&body=story&file=perdition.htm) This story incorporates the character of Ross Macdonald, the famous mystery author who wrote the *Lew Archer* series. The author chose 29 Palms, CA for the setting, a place where Harrington lived as a Marine wife.

Also look for **Murder So Sad**, another short mystery story by Harrington at [www.mothfulofbullet.com](http://www.mothfulofbullet.com). The protagonist, Bridget O'Hern, moved on to be the series sleuth in two of Harrington's published novels, **Death Stalks the Khmer** and **Death Comes Too Soon**.

Daughter Club Show where I interview authors and guest experts on issues that concern women. It's been a fantastic resource and a great way, indirectly, to showcase my own work. Edie set up a great web page with links to my website and books. Here's the link: [www.themotherdaughterclub.com](http://www.themotherdaughterclub.com)

You can look for a show of your own by querying the hosts of different internet radio programs or shows. Often, these hosts are looking for co-hosts to offer them some time off from a weekly show, or producers are looking to expand their program. I have just resorted to a bi-monthly format for this reason. I am currently looking for a co-host so that I may return to the weekly format. Interested? Email me to audition at: [kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net)

Here's a free service (at least there's no charge at the time of this publication) with Ubroadcast: <http://www.ubroadcast.com/broadcast.php> With this software, the user can broadcast live at any time to ubroadcast listeners, or users can upload their own mp3 and WAV files to play on their ubroadcast station 24 hours a day. You can blog live, or upload your ads and excerpts for round the clock service. They claim that enhanced features will soon be released to provide a full interactive experience between broadcaster and listener "unlike anything else currently available in traditional or Internet Radio."

This link has a good article about how to start your own internet radio station: <http://www.allinternetradio.com/stationguide.asp> If you decide to try them, please send me an email and let us know what you think about their service. [kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net)

### Tips for Giving Audio Presentations:

#### 1. Be Prepared

If this is a planned topic or theme, you should know it well or have done your research. It's okay to have a script, but it should never sound like you are reading. It's better to outline your key points and speak in a conversational tone.

#### 2. Create a punchy opening

It's the same principle that you use when you start writing a book or novel—if you don't grab your reading audience on the first page, it's likely that you won't grab them at all. Speaking is no different. Create an opening that grabs attention, either with a question, quote or story, a joke or offer a startling tidbit or fact that makes people want to know more.

#### 3. The Principle of Threes

People remember things in threes-- phone numbers are presented three digits at a time; a memorized grocery or errand list is remembered in groups of three. If you want to make a point in your presentation, use three subpoints to illustrate your main point.



**4. Back up your Points.** Each subpoint listed in #3 should be supported by facts, statistics, testimonies, examples, anecdotes or stories. Be specific. Remember not to ramble. Get to your point quickly, then move on to the next. Your host may cut you off before you're done, or may ask questions which take longer than anticipated causing you to skip either a main point or the conclusion. Always ask and find out how much time will be allowed for the interview.

**Continued page 7**

***A message from the founder of  
Be the Star You Are!™  
charitable organization  
PO Box 376, Moraga, CA 94556  
877-944-STAR***

### ***Cynthia Brian***



"What brings you back for an appointment?" asked my chiropractor as I sat on the examining table earlier this week. "My back, of course. I hurt it again lifting all the boxes to ship to Southern California for our OPERATION FIRE RELIEF program. And you know what, David," I responded, "it's so difficult for me to ask for help."

Are you challenged by attempting to "do it all yourself"? Asking for what I want and for I need has always been difficult for me. I grew up believing if I was a good little girl and did what I was told, asking would not be necessary. It worked fine as a child growing up on the farm, however, here in the real world, if you don't ask, you don't receive. Sometimes I think that God directed me to found Be the Star You Are! charity so that I'd have copious lessons in asking. It hasn't gotten any easier, yet I practice every day!

As Doctor David worked to re-align my back, he offered sage advice. "Cynthia, you are the Executive Director of a charity. A charity doesn't operate without donations and volunteers. People EXPECT you to ask. Just do it!"

'Tis the season for giving, so I am ASKING all of you to please open your wallets, be generous, and make a donation to our very worthy cause of giving a brand new book to every child that suffered a loss due to the Southern California fires. You'll get a tax write-off while giving a gift that lasts a lifetime - the love of reading. And it feels good to donate.

A donation of only \$99 will supply approximately 35 new books worth \$550.00. What a deal!

One thing that I've learned is that the more we give, the more

**Continued page 10**

**From Amazon Shorts: *Weighing In* by Kathe Gogolewski Kathe writes about *Weighing In*:**

This short is a light-hearted romp through weight discrimination reversed – thin people....beware! Many of us suffer from the struggles of weight gain. For a subject that is normally somber, I wanted to create an opportunity to laugh it off! (Oh, if only it were that easy!) **To purchase for 49 cents, click here:**



[http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000HDZAXW/ref=sr\\_11\\_1/102-5486577-8896114?ie=UTF8](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000HDZAXW/ref=sr_11_1/102-5486577-8896114?ie=UTF8)

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Nothing binding ... writers and readers, this is 'da place where we're all meeting to party. Be there or B □.

[www.nothingbinding.com](http://www.nothingbinding.com) Nothing Binding is a community of writers ... nonfiction, fiction, poetry, playwrights, screenwriters, copy writers ~ you name it. We are gathering together to make it easier for readers to find us and our works. Many of the writers are published, but not all of us, so it is truly an opportunity to follow a person's writing career from the early days.

Nothing Binding is one month old. Beta testing of the site is going extremely well thanks to the tireless efforts of our hosts: Jerry Simmons and Ben Ruddy. BYOB (bring your own book/buy yourself our books) and join the party ... This is the start of something big! [www.NothingBinding.com](http://www.NothingBinding.com)

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Check out this: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fu6f\\_4ab0uk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fu6f_4ab0uk)  
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## A PROMISE TO KEEP By Ann Durand

### A Romantic Suspense novel

The tidy world of schoolteacher Karen Hudson turns upside down as she embarks on a reckless chase from a small town in California to a jungle in Mexico, searching for the truth about Michael Browning, the man who has captured her heart. Stunned when he

disappears without a word, she soon learns that he's been charged with murder. Her quest to locate him and unravel the mystery surrounding the charge makes her the next target for murder.

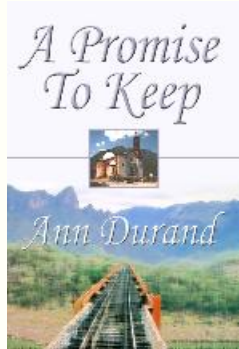
Michael Borbeau, alias Michael Browning, never intended to mislead Karen, or to fall in love for that matter. Only the need to protect his daughter forced him to choose a new town and a new name. Now, the whole mess is threatening to surface, and he must flee to keep his daughter safe.

Will he ever see his beloved Karen again? Will she discover the truth before the killer strikes again? Will she succeed in reuniting with the only man to ever unlock her heart?

Available from Double Dragon Publishing  
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ISBN# 1-55404-215-1

Available in large print and eBook format



## PRESENTATIONS...continued

### 5. Offer a conclusion or reiterate your main points.

Use the opportunity to stress your main points and give your audience a mnemonic device to help them remember. If your talk has been persuasive in nature, suggest an action item—something the listener can do after the broadcast. Do not introduce new information at this point in the broadcast. It's too late and will only confuse.

### 6. Tell the audience how to get hold of you or your books.

Okay, duh. I actually did forget this once (earlier in my interviewing career, ahem) and my gracious host remembered to ask me how listeners could reach me, or I would have said goodbye and checked out! (Oh those nerves!)

### 7. Eliminate fluff words and empty expressions

What are they? Words like uh, um, er...and "like that." Also "You know," "Needless to say," "So," "Anyway." Avoid long pauses and don't repeat words or phrases such as, "Yeah, that was really, um, that was really, um...like really...um..."

### 8. Use short words and sentences.

Your book may register as a 10 on the Flesch Readability Scale, but that's not how you want to talk to your listening audience. The most memorable speeches are easy to understand. Check the number of syllables for each word in your prepared speech. Are most in the two and three syllable range? It's okay to have longer ones, but they should be surrounded by the short syllable words. And keep your sentences short, too. They have more impact than long, convoluted ones. This doesn't mean that the entire speech should have short, staccato sentences—you can blend in longer ones to add variety—but the principle for using short words applies here. Surround your long sentences with shorter ones. Even your paragraphs should be short. Remember, people don't remember everything they hear, and if you give them too much, they won't remember anything.

### 9. Be descriptive

Help the audience visualize your words. Tell a story and make it interesting! Instead of saying, "My dog ate the whole thing" say, "Chippy stuffed his snout into the plate of leftovers and inhaled everything on it with a great sucking noise." You are writers and storytellers! You already know how to do this. Use your talent!



### 10. Control your volume

Keep a steady volume with your voice, especially at the end of sentences. People new to speaking often let their voices drop at the end of a sentence. Guard against this.

### 11. Use Vocal Variety

Allow expression into your voice. Let it rise and fall in the right places. The last thing you want to do is drone on like a honey bee and put everyone to sleep. Use enthusiasm if your topic calls for it and let your voice rise. If you're talking about a serious subject though, a lower voice conveys the proper attitude.

### 12. Speak slowly

You don't want to speak too slowly, of course, but generally inexperienced speakers tend to talk fast because they're nervous.

Continued on page 8

A good rate is somewhere between 125-160 words per minute. It's especially important to slow down when you're presenting information that you want people to remember.

**13. Use pauses creatively**

Pause after you've made an important point to let it sink in. Also, pause between sub-topics.

**14. Show confidence**

This is important, even if you're not. The key is to practice—use a tape recorder and listen to your voice. Make adjustments and record it again. You'll know when you're ready to present. If you're going to be interviewed, engage a friend's help. Allow them to ask you questions and practice delivering your answers.

**15. Use humor**

Humor works with all but the most serious topics (such as war). Humor will relax both you and your audience.

**16. It's okay not to know the answer**

If an interviewer asks you a question you can't answer, don't worry about it. Tell him or her that you'd like to find out yourself, and ask if you can get back later with the answer.

**17. Finally, enjoy yourself!**

You are being interviewed because you are the expert or you are knowledgeable about the topic, therefore, it must be a topic that you love. Allow yourself to love it while you speak, and your natural enthusiasm will shine through. Have fun, and rest assured that you know your stuff. It belongs to you!

Continued in the next issue of *The Fiction Flyer, Part II*  
**LIVE PRESENTATIONS: GIVING SPEECHES**



WRITER WRY TOON ABOVE



Above: Meet the Audio Divas - Carolyn Howard-Johnson, Kathe Gogolewski, Joyce Faulkner and Allyn Evans . Find out about their Audio Classes for Writers at: [www.audio.divas.com](http://www.audio.divas.com)

**For Shrieking Out Loud** by Joyce Faulkner

"For *Shrieking Out Loud!* One minute it's chortle in the gut funny! The next so poignant it nudges at the heart. Joyce Faulkner may single-handedly bring the two minute essay back into vogue."

Carolyn Howard-Johnson, author, poet, publicist, teacher

To purchase at Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Shrieking-Out-Loud-Joyce-Faulkner/dp/0978515846>

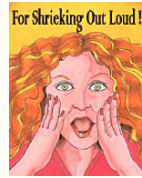
To purchase at Barnes and Noble:

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/isbnInquiry.asp?z=y&EAN=9780978515850&itm=1>

Illustrated by Kathe Gogolewski

**Paperback**

ISBN: 0978515854



Joyce Faulkner is also the author of *In the Shadow of Suribachi*, which won the Gold Medal for Historical Fiction from the *Military Writers Society of America (MWSA)*

**Be the Star You Are! 2007 FOURTH Annual NATIONAL Essay Contest**

**Be the Star You Are! 501 c3 charity announces its 4th annual essay contest to promote literacy and positive messages.** [www.bethestaryouare.org](http://www.bethestaryouare.org).

FEE \$10 donation per entry

DATES: October 18-December 27, 2007

**1st Prize** - \$100 plus guest appearance on the nationally syndicated radio program, Be the Star You Are! (Total value, \$700) Additionally, your story will be published in our StarSearcher Express newsletter and at [www.bethestaryouare.org](http://www.bethestaryouare.org). Other Prizes to be announced. In the event of a tie, winners share cash prize and both receive publication and radio interviews.

Other Prizes to be announced. **Runner-ups** –Published in our StarSearcher's Express newsletter and noted on web site

**You may choose from the three following topics**

1. What is the importance to living Green? Describe how you are helping preserve Mother Earth for the coming generations.
2. How can we improve literacy and decrease illiteracy? Write about your efforts to inspire reading.
3. Who is your hero and why he/she is a role model to you? Illustrate the importance of mentoring through walking the talk.

All submissions must be received by Be the Star You Are! by midnight December 27, 2007. Essays accepted by mail or email.

You may enter as many essays as you'd like, however each one must be in a separate email or envelope accompanied by a \$10 tax deductible donation entry fee. Be the Star You Are! is a 501 C3 charity. All entry fee donations are tax deductible according to the law.

- Any statistics must be documented with researched sources.
- Word Count: Please keep stories between 300-600 words .
- Email address: – [cynthia@star-style.com](mailto:cynthia@star-style.com)  
no attachments, please - place your essay within the body of the email)
- US mail – Be the Star You Are! charity, PO Box 376, Moraga, Ca. USA 94556
- All submissions must be original, and the sole property of the author. Author retains all rights to submission. Winners and runners-up entries will be published on Be the Star You Are! web site effective January 9, 2007. Winners notified by that date. Winners will be listed in the newsletter and on the web site. No additional mailings will be considered. Payment accepted by check, money order , VISA, MasterCard, or PAYPAL.

Please supply: Author's name, mailing address, email address, phone number, words count and don't forget a 30 word BIO!

For more information. please visit: [www.bethestaryouare.org](http://www.bethestaryouare.org)

## Daughter Club Radio Show

with Host **Kathe Gogolewski**

Please join me as your host on The Mother Daughter Club, a segment of By For and About Women Radio Network at [www.byforandaboutwomen.com](http://www.byforandaboutwomen.com) every Thursday at 8 pm EST or 5 pm PST. We will chat with authors and experts that offer messages that you can take to heart! The show touches on that unique bond that exists between generations of women and reaches across cultures as we address topics that matter to us all. And yes, men are welcome too. And stay tuned for funny lady Joyce Faulkner who reads a short story from her collection of humor stories at [www.celebritycafe.com](http://www.celebritycafe.com) and from her book, *For Shrieking Out Loud*. If you're like most of us, the stories will leave you laughing-out-loud with her real life antics! Every show ends with this segment.

Listen to archived shows or tune in live on Thursdays at 5 pm PST at <http://www.themotherdaughterclub.com>

## Upcoming Shows:

**12/6 Part II with Melinda Boyer**, an up and coming speaker and writer as well as co-producer of *The Power of Mentorship: The Movie*. With a powerful theme about mentorship and the Law of Attraction, the movie is being touted as the sequel to *The Secret*. In Part I with Melinda, she shared the first leg of her journey toward realizing her dreams. You can listen to Part I in the archives at [www.themotherdaughterclub.com](http://www.themotherdaughterclub.com). In Part II, she reveals how this incredible movie came together, and how Marie Diamond and Bob Proctor, who are both featured in *The Secret*, came to be a part of *The Power of Mentorship: The Movie*. Both Part I and Part II of the interviews with Melinda may be heard in succession or independently.

**12/20 Jin Dorst**, National Board certified elementary schoolteacher, has late stage Nasopharyngeal Cancer that has metastasized and is wrapped around her bronchial tubes and esophagus, and it is in her lungs. Listen while she shares how she brought herself out of a suicidal depression after the initial diagnosis to eventually experience a level of happiness she had never known before. After she survived a suicide attempt, she fell in love and began her life over. Now, every day, every moment, brings uncommon joy. Don't miss this one as she shares her life journey, and remembers with us all the things in life that truly matter! <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jindorst>

**1/3 Lori Scott**, award winning author of the *Meghan Rose Series* for children is also a former first grade teacher. She offers both parents and teachers a wealth of activities and ideas on her website at [www.MeghanRoseSeries.com](http://www.MeghanRoseSeries.com), all beautifully brought to life through artist Stacy Curtis. Lori is also the author of *Busy Moms' Devotion To Go* and has contributed to over a dozen books, including Mothers of Preschoolers or MOPS International's *Real Moms* and 2007 Eppie Award winning science fiction book *Infinite Space, Infinite God*. She has published over thirty devotions, short stories, poems, articles, and puzzles for children, teens and adults. Tune in as Lori chats about her inspiration for her stories, who is often her funny and precocious daughter, Meghan Rose. Find out why *la real* Meghan Rose jumped up while staring at the ceiling and shouted "BOO!"

**1/17 Georgia Richardson** is very funny. She even makes a living as a Southern Humorist (as opposed to a Western or Northern one!). She is also an author, motivational speaker and Gabologist. What's that you say? Her nickname should tell you, because she's known as Queen JawJaw, and we all know what the jaw is good for besides chewing! Georgia currently writes a monthly humor column for *The National Association of Baby Boomers* and is the author of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Throne*, which consists of her every day life experiences with a few twists here and there! Tune in as she shares how she makes lemonade from real-life lemons. Co-hosted with Joyce Faulkner. [www.queenjawjaw.com](http://www.queenjawjaw.com)

**1/31 Jenny Gardiner's** funny, funny manuscript, *Sleeping With Ward Cleaver*, about one woman's odyssey with her adventurous, romantic sweetheart-turned-mundane-hubby, won the American Title III contest by Dorchester Publishing and Romantic Times Magazine, and will be available from Dorchester in 2008. Other novels by the author may be found on her website at [www.jennygardiner.net](http://www.jennygardiner.net). Jenny imparts her impressions of a plain-vanilla marriage with wit and charm in this interview with Kathe Gogolewski,. Laugh out loud with us on this show!

FUN WITH BOOK PROMOTION!  
YOUR CHARACTER INTERVIEWS...

In the September issue of *The Fiction Flyer*, we printed an interview with a character from a novel by Ann Durand, *A Promise to Keep*. (To view, go to <http://tristudio.com/ezine.html> and click on the September, 2007 issue)

We invited our readers to present their own interviews with a character from their books, and the response we got was wonderful! All the submissions are so funny that we want to publish every one, though it's going to take several issues to do so. I will fill each *Fiction Flyer* with a few so as not to cram up the works, and will continue to publish until they've all been featured – so if you don't see yours in this issue--it's coming!! Here they are, presented in random order.

**An Interview**  
**With An Alpha, Furry Guy**  
**Adam Weis-Weremones**

**Buffi:** Mr. Weis! I'm so glad you could make it. Everyone, I'm so proud to interview Adam Weis, hero of Weremones.

**Adam Weis:** Thank You, Ms. Woodall?

**Buffi (smiling):** Actually, It's Buffi BeCraft-Woodall. Please, call me Buffi. But, I'm sure our readers want to hear about you. Is it true that you are a werewolf?

**Adam Weis:** (Clearing throat or...is it a growl?) Okay, Buffi. I'm a *wolven*. Werewolf is a slur among my kind. Were isn't a very nice term either.

**Buffi (grimacing):** I'm so sorry about that. *Wolven*. Duly noted, Mr. Weis. Moving along...How is the construction business in your area. Are there many we--shapeshifters in that job market?

**Adam Weis:** Call me Adam. Mr. Weis is what my kids' teachers call me. Business is pretty good. I own Lobos Luna Construction--Just look for the wolf in sunshades logo. We're all over East Texas. And I'm not sure about other places, but in Anderson County--my territory, *wolven* are the only shapeshifters. Like all supernatural predators, we're territorial.

**Buffi:** You mentioned kids. So, you're a family man?

**Adam Weis:** (grinning and pulling out-Yikes! a pocket photobook) Yeah. I've got five boys and a stepdaughter. Almost all of them are teens. Ummm...Here's everyone's school pictures. These are the twins, Bradley & Brandon. The goof with the crossed eyes is Mark...Rick...Seth. Oh, Yeah. This is me and my stepdaughter, Karen, at the annual Daddy-Daughter dance. Pictures of my mate-beautiful, huh?...my buddy Mack...

Continued page 10



we get. The more we are thankful for, the more we have to be grateful for. Everyone experiences pain, grief, sadness, depression, and loss at some point. It's not what happens to us that matters, it is how we react to any situation. Sometimes when we look at all the disasters and tragedies in the world, it's easy to feel insignificant, however, each of us has the ability and the responsibility to make an impact. Every day I give thanks for the blessings in my life and feel so appreciative of the beauty and light that surrounds all of us.

If you want to learn more about Be the Star You Are!, listen to Bright Spot Friday November 9th, 2007 3:00-4:00 PM on [www.radiosandysprings.com](http://www.radiosandysprings.com) (go the website, click on Show Schedule, scroll down to Friday 3-4 PM Bright Spot when Dot Blum interviews me about the charity and our programs. The program will be archived at that site as well, so tune in.

Thanks, Doctor David, for helping mend my aching back as well as the smart advice. And thank you for your donation as well. Yes, I did ASK and I did RECEIVE!

Thank you one and all for support. As a small grassroots volunteer charity, we truly appreciate your continued contributions, volunteerism, and attention.

HAVE A BEAUTIFUL WINTER HOLIDAY and keep being the STARS YOU ARE!

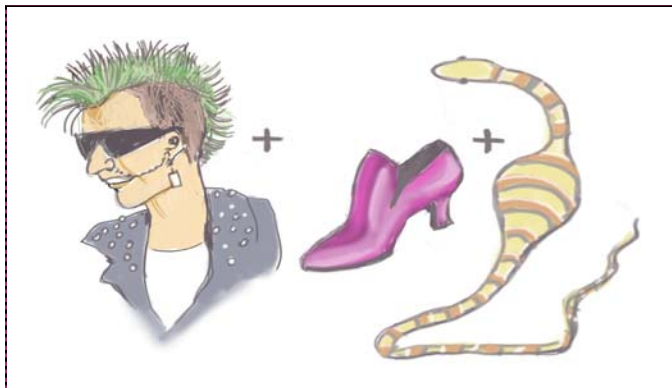
Many blessings,

*Cynthia Brian*

Founder/Executive Director  
Be the Star You Are!  
[www.bethestaryouare.org](http://www.bethestaryouare.org)  
[cynthia@bethestaryouare.org](mailto:cynthia@bethestaryouare.org)



Tune into our radio show every Thursday from 3-4pm PST/6-7PM EST [here](#) and archived [here](#).



WRITER WRY TOON ABOVE:  
PUNCTUATE



TATO BY KATHE GOGOLEWSKI

Fantasy Adventure for middle grade readers "Compelling" and "well-written" – Piers Anthony; science fiction and fantasy author of the Xanth series

TATO captures children's imaginations by recognizing their desire to earn the admiration of the adults closest to them. The story casts Michael Tate, an inventive and willful boy, and his bossy older sister, Nicole, into a strange world filled with mirrors and strange creatures where they must rescue their parents from the evil power that rules the realm.

Michael's trouble begins with the passing of his grandfather and best friend, Gankum. Rebuffed by his family when he insists that Gankum now lives in his closet, he confides in his grandfather's spirit that he wants someone new to love him. When he learns the secrets for creating a baby brother by soaking a potato in a magic formula, he jumps at the chance.

He botches the formula, however, and instead of a brother, two creatures are spawned: One, soulless and desperate, kidnaps Michael's parents. The other, Tato, part human, part potato yet irrepressibly warm and affectionate, accompanies Michael and Nicole in their quest to find and free their parents. Danger and treachery greet them every step of the way. Children will be enchanted by this tale of a young boy who acquires magical powers that get him both in and out of trouble.

Available from Wings Press  
<http://www.1shoppingcart.com/app/netcart.asp?MerchantID=19895&ProductID=2571398>

Paperback price: \$9.95  
ISBN# 1-59088-564-3

Available in trade paperback and eBook format

BOOK PROMO: CHARACTER INTERVIEWS continued

Buffi: (trying to stop staring at the werewolf with the bragbook): Great pictures Adam. I've heard that there is a lot of Fairy influence in East Texas. Is it true that a real Fairy Prince is hiding out in your woods?

Adam Weis: *Fairy Prince?* Is that a band? Because I don't really keep up with that stuff. I mostly listen to country and old rock.

Buffi: (trying not to laugh) Is it true that you are trying to increase your pack numbers?

Adam Weis: Uh...(Turns red) I'm not turning away any applicants. I have made a couple of exceptions for some strays. But they seem like good guys for bitten wolvern.

Buffi: So there is a difference in bitten wolvern and those that are born?

Adam Weis: Among the old school, yes. But the stigma isn't as bad as it used to be.

continued page 11

**Buffi:** What about the stigma your predecessor Garrick Moser left behind? Are you having much trouble Moving past his crimes?



**Adam Weis:** I'm only going to say this once. Garrick Moser was a monster. He's dead. Let him stay that way.

**Buffi:** Are you growling at me?

**Adam Weis:** Ah..No, Ma'am. (Music erupts from cell phone) Hold on while I get this.

**Yes? Yes, this is Mark's dad. .... He did what? Yeah. Sure, I'll be right there.** (flips phone shut, returns it to pocket, & stands up)  
**I'm sorry Buffi. That was the school. I've got a family emergency.**

**Buffi:** Oh, I understand. I hope everything is alright.

**Adam Weis:** Oh, I'm sure it will be once they catch all the snakes from the presentation.

**Buffi:** Snakes?

**I did have a few more questions, but Adam had to leave. (Shudder) With luck, maybe he or another of his pack will agree to an interview later...after the school is snake-free.**

**So, if you have any supernatural questions, be sure and send them my way. If I can't find out, then maybe I'll be able to find someone who can.**

**Happy Reading! ~~Buffi**

*Buffi BeCraft-Woodall -- Paranormal Romance*

[www.buffibecraftwoodallauthor.com](http://www.buffibecraftwoodallauthor.com)

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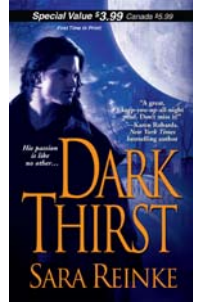
"Get Ready for Mr.Alpha, Furry, Blue-Collar Guy!"

The Blue-Collar Werewolf Series avail from New Concepts Publishing. Weremones- In Print; PMSing- In Print; Making Tracks- Ebook

**BOOK PROMO: Continued next column**

**An interview with Caine Noble of "Dark Thirst," the first in a paranormal romance series by Sara Reinke**

Available in mass market paperback for only \$3.99 from Kensington/Zebra Books



"This new twist on the vampire legend...is a fascinating and unique romance," raves *Romantic Times Book Reviews* magazine. For more information, including excerpt and purchase links, visit [www.sarareinke.com](http://www.sarareinke.com).

It's another chilly, rainy afternoon, just the latest in a seemingly never-ending string, but the weather doesn't seem to bother Caine Noble at all. Grandson of Augustus Noble and heir to a multibillion-dollar fortune that includes Thoroughbred horseracing and the country's leading independent bourbon distillery, Noble's demeanor is as cool as the early spring air. It's his first visit to the city, he tells Mira Miles, a young female interviewer from *Midtown* magazine as they meet for brunch, but he sits with the relaxed ease of a young man well in his element. He's handsome like a movie star, with waist-length, glossy, black hair, etched features and dark eyes that seem more to pierce through you than look at you. Dressed head to toe in black—black T-shirt, black slacks, black boots—he strikes an impressive figure. It's not even noon yet, but he's nursing a glass of Bloodhorse Reserve, one of his family's bourbon labels. As he cradles the tumbler in hand, turning it this way and that before sipping, he says that you can only call it bourbon if it's distilled in Kentucky, and that's how the interview officially begins.

**Caine:** Did you know that? Anything else, anywhere else, and it's just whiskey.

**MM:** No, I didn't. How long has your family been in the bourbon business?

**Caine:** Bloodhorse was officially founded in 1835, but the distillery was in operation for several years prior to that.

**MM:** So is that what's brought you to our fair city? Bourbon business?

**Caine:** (smiling thinly) No. But I *am* here on family business of a sort, you could say. I'm looking for my brother.

**MM:** He's missing?

**Caine:** In a manner of speaking. I've come to bring him home again, where he belongs.

**MM:** It's nice of you to be so concerned about his well-being.

**Caine:** (with a laugh) I don't give a s\*\*t about his well-being. What I care about is tradition and honor, the heritage our family has spent the last thousand years carving out for us. Things that Brandon has pretty much s\*\*t all over. You see, my family isn't like yours. My people aren't like yours.

**MM:** Why do you say that? Because you're wealthy? That's a typical attitude for trust fund babies, isn't it, Mr. Noble? You

**Continued page 12**



**WRITER WRY  
TOON on  
LEFT:**

**ASSONANCE**

think your money makes you more entitled, superior to everyone else?

Caine: It has nothing to do with money. That's a common constraint of the human stain.

MM: The human stain?

Caine: Yes. We've acquired money because it allows us to live segregated from you without suspicion or concern. Money keeps us above scrutiny, gives my people the freedom to live our lives as we pretty much always have. *Separately.*

MM: You keep saying 'my people.' What do you mean?

Caine: I mean the Brethren. To your simple, superstitious point of view, I suppose you'd call us *vampires* or something equally primitive and ignorant.

MM: Vampires?

(Caine nods)

MM: Vampires?

(Caine nods again.)

MM: As in Count Dracula?



Caine: (arching an eyebrow) You see what I mean? Primitive and ignorant. (He takes a drink of bourbon and leans forward.) Yes, my dear. Vampires, as in Count Dracula. Big fangs, blood-sucking, all of that happy horses\*\*t.

MM: So...you're saying you're a vampire? You and your entire family—you drink blood, are undead and immortal, sleep in coffins, hide from sunlight, crucifixes and garlic, the whole nine yards?

(Caine laughs for a moment.)

Caine: I never realized how imaginative you humans could be. This is my first time among you, you know. I mean, beyond the obvious occasions when I'm feeding. Where do you come up with this bulls\*\*t? Let me clear the record—no, we aren't undead or immortal. We're *long-lived*. My grandfather is over three hundred years old. But we die eventually, just like you do, and we can be killed—if you're lucky. We heal a thousand times faster than you do, so it takes a lot—a bullet to the head,  
**Continued next column**

From Amazon Shorts: *Pony Palace* by Kathe Gogolewski – a story for kids  
Kathe writes about *Pony Palace*:



Using experience gained as an elementary teacher, I have written a story intended to inspire children to work toward something they want, instead of begging for it. They will be able to relate to the protagonist, a ten-year-old girl named Mikaela, who wants a pony. The humor will capture the attention of both boys and girls as they laugh at Mikaela's overactive imagination, wondering what she will do next. In the end, their heroine makes all the right choices. Print the story out and give it to your favorite young reader. To order for 49 cents, click below:

<http://www.amazon.com/Pony-Palace/dp/B000KLP7U>



*Flashes in the Pan, Fifty Short Stories for the Impatient*, is a collection of stories, each ranging from four to less than two thousand words. The stories are grouped in six categories and designed to stir your imagination, bring a smile to your face, touch your heart, or stimulate your thoughts.

A typical story takes about five to ten minutes to read. So, when you're between tasks, delayed, looking for something to do, or when you're starting to feel exasperated, take five...read a story...and let your spirit soar!

Price: \$4.99 USD ISBN: 1-55404-357-3 Genre: Fantasy/SF - Fiction/Adventure Length: 94 Pages  
Available from Double Dragon Publishing at:

<http://www.double-dragon-ebooks.com/single.asp?ISBN=1-55404-357-3>

**BOOK PROMO: CHARACTERS continued**

the stereotypical stake through the heart—that kind of thing to kill us.

(He leans forward in his seat, locking eyes with the interviewer.)

Caine: Nothing against crucifixes, but they mean jack-s\*\*t to me. As for garlic, I avoid it...as a personal preference only. I dislike the smell of it cooking. And I sleep at night in a bed, sweetheart, not a coffin. Among other things...

MM: (feeling suddenly light-headed, nearly mesmerized, unable to look away) Other things...?

Caine: (in a low voice, nearly purring) In bed.

MM: Oh, my. So...uh...what will you do?

Caine: In bed?

MM: Uh... (blinks, manages to look away) Uh, no. No, what will you do when you find your brother? You said bring him home...?

Caine: Yes, I'm going to. Eventually. I might have to break his hands again first.

MM: Again?

Caine: I broke them once before, last year when he tried to leave. It was supposed to teach him a lesson. I guess it didn't. So I'll try again when I find him. This time, I'll probably throw in his kneecaps to make sure he learns.

MM: Learns what?

Caine: That there's no escape. It's forbidden for the Brethren to live anywhere except among their own. To fraternize with humans is beneath us.

MM: But...you're fraternizing with a human right now.

**Continued page 13**

Caine: In a manner of speaking. I'm getting ready to have brunch with a human. There's a difference.

MM: What do you mean?

Caine: I think I must have forgotten to mention that there *is* one superstition about us that you humans have right. We're able to read your minds, force our thoughts upon you, make you puppets under our command.

MM: (feeling light-headed again as Caine stares) Puppets?

(Caine's eyes have turned black, his dark irises spreading in circumference, seeming to swallow all of his visible corneas. His canine teeth have also begun to elongate, hooking down from his gums like saber-toothed fangs. There is a moist, sickening, popping sound as his bottom jaw suddenly dislocates, swinging open wide in a grotesque, gaping 'o'.)

Caine: Puppets.

(He gestures with his finger, drawing Mira near. As she leans across the table, unable to stop herself, much less scream, he leans forward to meet her. He cocks his head, and she feels his breath against her neck. There's a light pricking sensation, like the quick sting of twin needlepoints against her flesh, and then there's nothing at all but darkness, and a strange, persistent slurping...)

Sara Reinke is the author of several books, including *Dark Thirst*, the first in a new paranormal series from Kensington/Zebra Books that *Romantic Times Book Reviews* magazine calls a "new twist on the vampire legend" and "a fascinating and unique romance." Her debut fantasy, *Book of Days*, from Double Dragon Publishing, was named one of the Top 10 Science Fiction/Fantasy Novels of 2005 in the annual Preditors & Editors Readers poll and a Finalist in the 2005 Dream Realm Awards competition. Other available titles include *Book of Thieves*, the sequel to the award-winning *Book of Days*; *Tethers*, a science-fiction thriller and the historical romance, *An Unexpected Engagement*. She is a member of the Louisville Romance Writers chapter of Romance Writers of America.

Purchase link: <http://www.amazon.com/Dark-Thirst-Sara-Reinke/dp/142010053X>

**BOOK PROMO: CHARACTERS continued page 14**

Edited by Ray Grant

In the September issue, we initiated a new feature for our Ezine – *Flash Fiction by Contributing Authors*. The Response was marvelous, as it is again for this issue. We hope you enjoy the stories as much as we did.



Our contributing authors for this issue are: Nonnie Augustine, Nancy Famolari, Michael Kechula, and C.S. Larsen. We are pleased to present their stories below. I have included one of my own as well.

If you would like your *unpublished, original* flash fiction story to be considered for publication, please follow the guidelines below.

**Author Guidelines:**

Only email submissions are acceptable. Please title your message: Fiction Flyer – Contributing Author Flash Fiction: Your Story's Title by Your Name."

Please submit the following information using Size 12, *Times New Roman* Font:

- Your Name
- Your Address
- Your email Address
- Word Count
- Author's Bio (Up to 50 words)
- Link to your blog/website (optional)
- Your Story

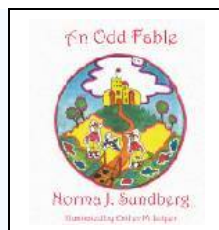
Stories shorter than 100 or longer than 600 words will *not* be read. Do *not* attach your story to your message; attached stories will *not* be opened. Please send your email with story and particulars to [raygogo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:raygogo@sbcglobal.net) by 15 January 2008.

**Continued page 14**

**An Odd Fable by Norma J. Sundberg Illustrated by Esther M. Leiper**

Published by CyPress-starpublishations.

"Children are often sources of sound sense:--The White Knight in *An Odd Fable*. Princess Giggle has a "great idea" for solving a serious situation of the dilapidated drawbridge in the little round Kingdom of Odd. But no one will listen to her "great idea". Meantime the King and the Knights are trying to decide what to do with the strange square object that has suddenly appeared in the Round.



"An Odd Fable" is available on Amazon.com. URL: [http://www.amazon.com/Odd-Fable-Norma-Sundberg/dp/0977695859/ref=sr\\_1\\_1/104-1943454-8436710?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1190215003&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Odd-Fable-Norma-Sundberg/dp/0977695859/ref=sr_1_1/104-1943454-8436710?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1190215003&sr=1-1)

Go ahead and check other online stores (Wal-Mart, Target, BN.com, etc.); should also be showing in other places.

And now...on to Flash Fiction by our contributing authors!

**The Brief Reign of King Johnny  
by C.S. Larsen**

Bukharin III, King of Argon in the north regions of Uzbekistan, looked sternly down at his son. "Why – Why Johnny?"

"I don't know," Johnny replied with his gaze diverted. It was a lie. He knew exactly why he did it.

"Why would you do such a thing?" repeated his stepfather as he stood angrily by the kitchen table. He clenched his fists while he continued chiding his son. "You *knew* it was wrong. I know you were proven innocent, but you're guilty. *I was there*. How could you disgrace the family?" Stepfather folded his arms and turned sideways to shun the boy. "You are an *evil* boy and no son of mine!"

Johnny looked up at his stepfather, scowled, then spat in his face. The spit flew into his father's ear. A perfect hit. Johnny smiled and calmly said, "Yes, I did it. I'd do it again if given the chance. You, sir, are no father of mine!"

His father grabbed his handkerchief and reached for his ear to clear the spit. He turned abruptly back toward Johnny, reaching forward as if to grab him forcefully, then he thought otherwise. *Mother would not approve*. Putting his hands down, he said, "I cannot let your action go unpunished, Johnny -- even with Mother thinking you are innocent and absolving you of your crime. I will still punish you *severely*."

Johnny understood he had defamed the family name and kingdom. Yet, it was only a name. In Johnny's eyes, the name was not important. It was power. That was what Johnny desired most of all - to be king. Johnny winced as his father raised his hands at him, as if his father were trying to remove some demonic possession. However, that would not work -- not with Johnny. His devilish attitude tunneled deep into his heart making it cold and lifeless.

"That cookie was mine!" yelled his father as he reached across the kitchen table and slapped Johnny. The strike was light, but crisp. It stung only for a moment. Thoughts and images of retaliation and fervid demise vibrated wildly in Johnny's mind. *Nobody slaps Johnny, especially not his stepfather*.

"It was just a *cookie!*" screamed Johnny, throwing his glass of milk. It splashed on his stepfather and fell to the ground, shattering into a speckled pool of glass and milk.

"What's all the commotion?" said Mother, as she barged heavily into the room.

"He hit me," said Johnny with a wry smile. He rubbed his cheek where the strike had occurred. "And he smashed my milk glass --

**Continued page 15**

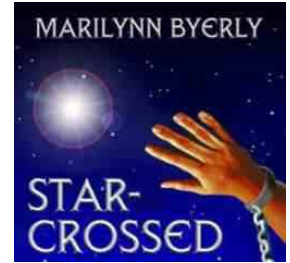


**STAR-CROSSED by Marilyn Byerly**

Published by Hard Shell Word Factory in trade paperback and ebook formats  
<http://www.hardshell.com>

**INTERVIEW WITH FLOPPY**

Floppy, the sentient alien kitty, from *STAR-CROSSED* was kind enough to let me interview him. His interpreters were busy, but, fortunately, he is quite proficient at writing human Basic so he typed his answers on my laptop.



Floppy is a bit larger than the average Earth cat, and has a solid black, smooth coat, emerald green eyes that dance with intelligence and mischief, and elegant long ears that resemble a rabbit's. Those ears move with the elegance and grace as he speaks in his own silent language.

Marilynn Byerly: "Thank you for letting me interview you."

Floppy: I am always happy to talk to my biographer.

MB: "Biographer? STAR-CROSSED is Mara's story."

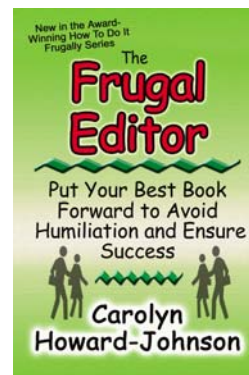
Floppy: No, it isn't. It's the story of how I helped her find happiness with a true mate and children of her own.

MB: "I guess it is. My error."

**Continued page 15**

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0978515870/>

ISBN: [978-0-9785158-7-4](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0978515870/) Publisher: Red Engine Press; Delivery Oct. 1, 2007



There are gremlins out there determined to keep your work from being published, your book from being promoted. They — resolve to embarrass you before the gatekeepers who can turn the key of success for you — lurk in your subconscious and

the depths of your computer programs. Whether you are a new or experienced author, *The Frugal Editor: Put Your Best Book Forward to Avoid Humiliation and Ensure Success* will help you present whistle-clean copy (whether it's a one-page cover letter or your entire manuscript) to those who have the power to say "Yea" or "Nay."

"I-- I--" stuttered Father. He knew he could prove nothing. Mother would always judge Prince Johnny as innocent even with crumbs in his hand and a cookie in his mouth.

"Go!" Mother commanded to Father. "I've had enough of your jealousy!"

Father would not leave. He had had enough of this circus court. He stood his ground this time. He would not be removed again from his own palace.

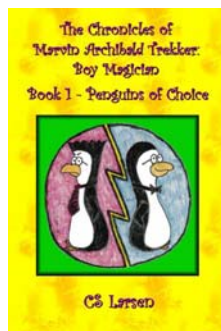
"I said, GOOOO!" bellowed Mother with her finger pointing towards the door. Her voice wailed like a demonic banshee from hell.

Father defied her screeching demand and stepped toward her. Mother had a look of horror. No one ever threatened her. "Why, how dare you!" She took a step towards Father. Prince Johnny could see that an epic battle was about to unfold. He quickly scurried out of the kitchen to let the words and fists fly freely. No sooner had he left the room when silence covered the palace. It was deathly quiet – a condition that rarely occurred.

Johnny stepped back into the kitchen. Both parents were dead. Most children would have screamed or cried. They would have panicked. Not Johnny. He smiled. His plan had worked. It took several years, but it had finally come to fruition. He was now King of Argon.

Nibbling on the stolen cookie, he smiled and began planning his ruthless campaign. He chuckled with an evil grin. He coughed. He gagged. *What was wrong?* He stared at the stolen cookie and froze in horror. It was a cookie made from peanuts. King Johnny was deathly allergic to peanuts.

**C.S. Larsen** is an award winning author of short stories and author of the *Magic Krystal* and the *Marvin Archibald Trekker* series. He currently lives in Rochester, Minnesota with his wife Nancy and two boys Zach and Alex. Visit him at [www.cslarsen.com](http://www.cslarsen.com) or email him at [chris@cslarsen.com](mailto:chris@cslarsen.com).



**Permanent Vacation  
By Michael Kechula**

"Norman. I hate to say this, but you smell bad."

"Good! If you noticed, so will everybody else."

"Whadda ya mean?"

"Well, I'm tired of being in the Air Force. My enlistment ain't up for another year. I wanna get out and go on permanent vacation."

"Well, they sure ain't gonna let you out just because you wanna go on vacation."

"Sure they will. I've stopped showering, shaving, and cleaning

**Continued page 16**

Floppy: She deserves every happiness, and I could not find my own happiness until I knew she was happy. I kept her safe through our adventures.



MB: "I thought Tristan did that."

Floppy: He helped as did others.

MB: "Very gracious of you. I'll start with some questions others have asked me about you. Here goes. What's with the bunny ears? Cats don't have bunny ears."

Floppy: Humans call my race rab-cats, but we are not Earth cats, and we're not rabbits. We're the sentient cat race on the planet Arden.

MB: "Cats from another planet? That's ridiculous."

Floppy: The cat is the perfect predator. Why shouldn't it evolve on more than one planet? Many planets have a vermin similar to a mouse so many have some form of cat to keep it in check.

MB: "That still doesn't explain the ears."

Floppy: The most feared predator on my world is the tyrlin. Tristan compares it to the Bengal tiger on Earth. It kills and eats every creature which crosses its path, and if it is not hungry, it kills for the pleasure of it. It hunts more by sound than scent or sight.

MB: "So its prey evolved into absolute silence."

Floppy: Yes. No cries or songs, and stealth in its movement. Rab-cats also hunt prey so we had to evolve with excellent hearing as well as sight and smell.

MB: "So the big ears help you hear quiet mice?"

Floppy: Exactly. We also developed intelligence, and we created a silent language by using our ears.

MB: "Clever kitties. What do you think of Earth cats?"

Floppy: Mara is owned by a cat. Sheba was very kind to me when I first came to Mara's house from the vet hospital. She licked my face, purred, and slept curled around me to comfort me.

MB: "You were nearly killed by a tyrlin when you were a kitten."

Floppy: Yes. It killed my mother and was trying to kill me when Mara lured it away and blasted it. She took me to human doctors then brought me to her home to live.

**Continued page 16**

up my area in the barracks. It won't be long, and I'll smell so bad they'll only be too glad to throw me out."

"I never heard of getting out that way. You sure it'll work?"

"Yep. A guy over on the other side of the base did it. Now he's free."

"Just like that?"

"Yep. It comes with an Undesirable Discharge. To me, it's worth it."

Before long, everybody noticed how bad Norman smelled, especially the sergeants and higher ups. Ordered to clean up, he refused.

They pulled Norman from his jet mechanic's job and made him pick up cigarette butts around the base ten hours a day. It was dirty and humiliating, but not enough to nudge Norman toward the shower stall.

Punishments were incremental. Each was devised to humiliate and isolate him a bit more, but he stood his ground. He was getting really dirty, had horrible body odor and everyone avoided him.

Then, they assigned him to the dirtiest job in the dining hall--- cleaning huge pots and pans. Some were so large, he could crawl inside, crouch, and not be seen. I heard he used to nap inside them whenever no one was looking.

Norman sailed through this demeaning, arduous task. After all, it wouldn't last forever, and it helped make him smell worse.

One Sunday morning, I passed his area after showering.

"Hey Pete," he called. "You got an extra bar of soap?"

"Sure," I said, figuring he was finally beaten and was going to clean up.

I was wrong.

Taking my soap, he sat on a footlocker and began to whittle aimlessly with a pocketknife. Freshly cut soap chips fell to the feet of a man who now looked sullen and beaten. I wondered about his sanity. I headed to church services to say prayers for his mental stability.

When I returned, Norman was beaming!

"Guess what I did with that piece of soap you gave me?" he asked, holding one hand behind his back.

"You chopped some of it up and took a shower with the rest."

"Hell no! I don't wanna mess things up. I ain't gonna shower

Continued page 17



MB: "I'm sorry about your mother. Why were you two alone in that meadow with tyrlins about?"

Floppy: An earthquake destroyed our home and killed my father, my brothers and sisters. There was nowhere safe to live or seek refuge. The earth would not stop shaking so no den was safe.

Our only choice was to cross that meadow and reach the rab-cats who lived in the hills beyond. My mother hoped the tyrlin would be busy looking for the dead of the quake.

MB: "How horrible! I'm so sorry."

Floppy: It was a long time ago, and my heart mother Mara healed me and loved me after my fur mother died.

MB: "Heart mother?"

Floppy: Mara's heart chose me although she is not rab-cat.

MB: "Back to Sheba and Earth cats. Do cats talk? And what do they say?"

Floppy: They are not as evolved as we are. They talk, but they have little to say to others. *Feed me. Hold me. Leave me alone.* That is all they feel they need to say to humans. They speak with their voices and with their bodies. A slight twitch of the whiskers and a flick of the eyes in a certain direction can say volumes.

MB: "I know. Pan, the cat who owns me, will twitch his ear to beckon me toward him, then glance down at himself then up to me when he wants me to pick him up and hold him. He's only vocal when he's starving to death after being away from his food bowl an hour or so. If he's silent, I know he just wants to be held."

Floppy: He doesn't need to be vocal for most of his needs because you read his body's language. Some humans only understand a loud meow, and others don't even understand that.

MB: "Some humans are pretty blind."

Floppy: Yes. You did not know I was sentient when you began my story.

MB: "No, I didn't. I thought you were an alien pet, there to make Mara's first scene obviously not on Earth. But you set me straight when you jumped up on Mara's lap and took over the plot."

Floppy: I do my humble best to set humans on the right path to happiness.

MB: "One thing I don't understand. After I realized you were sentient, I wanted to change your name to something more dignified than Floppy. Why wouldn't you let me?"

Floppy: Floppy is a perfectly dignified name. In fact, in my native language, my kitten name meant almost the same

Continued page 17

until I have that discharge in my hands. Guess again.”

Not in the mood for silly games, I snapped, “Just tell me!”

Removing the hand from behind his back, he opened his fingers. Sitting in his palm was a beautifully carved horse, wonderfully formed, and detailed.

“You did this? From a bar of soap?”

“Yep. I can’t believe it.”

The excitement of creativity and accomplishment splashed across his unshaven face. “I never knew I could do anything like this. I was just sitting here, cutting away, and next thing I knew, a horse started to form.”

Because he was restricted to the barracks, he asked me to go to the Post Exchange to buy more soap for him. I did, and he spent the rest of the day whittling several beautiful animals.

Although Norman smelled worse than a dozen barnyard animals, other guys gathered to admire his work.



Next, he asked if I’d go to a hobby shop in town to buy him some wood, a set of carving knives, and sandpaper. I didn’t mind, though I had to hitchhike twenty miles each way. I knew his life was miserable and that he’d finally found something that made him feel vital. No matter how many dirty pots and pans he had to clean, no matter how many sloppy garbage cans he had to empty until he was discharged, he’d found a way to retain his personal dignity. He was a master carver, and nobody could take that from him.

By the next morning, he’d carved an exquisite wooden letter opener, with a perfectly formed ball on the end of the handle. Then, he cut that solid ball so that it consisted of four thin ribs forming an open sphere. Examining the letter opener, I noticed it was seamless, and that he’d cut everything from a single piece of wood. Norman didn’t believe in using glue. In a few days, he’d carved a ball within a ball, within a ball, from a single piece of wood. Each inner ball moved independently. No one had ever seen anything like it.

Too bad the Air Force didn’t need a wood carver. Maybe, he’d have stayed.

Norman was discharged a month later. He showered, shaved, and put on fresh civilian clothes. An ugly duckling was transformed into a dashing male model.

“Thanks for giving me that bar of soap,” he said, shaking my hand vigorously. “It opened a whole new world for me.”

Continued page 18

thing. My ears were quite long, and I hadn’t quite developed the strength to control them completely.

My parents never lived long enough to give me another name so Floppy I will stay to remember them.

MB: "I can understand that. It's amazing that Mara chose a name for you so close to your real name."

Floppy: Mara sees with her heart so she sees truly. I forgot that for a time when Tristan entered our lives.

MB: "She is an extraordinary person. Thank you for this interview."

Floppy: You're welcome.

**About Star Crossed:** Trapped on Arden, Earthman Tristan Mallory discovers that men are sex slaves forced into harems. He has no intention of belonging to anyone, not even beautiful fellow scientist Mara d’Jorel.

Mara despises the harem system and has refused to participate, but her heart won’t allow anyone else to own Tristan, and owning him will turn his growing love into hate. To give Tristan the freedom her world denies, she must risk everything--her reputation, her home, and even her freedom and life. But her greatest risk is losing Tristan’s love to another woman.

Tristan’s friend Kellen Votrain is acquired as a bed slave by vicious Cadaran d’Hasta, head of Arden’s Internal Security, who has used the lives and deaths of thousands of men to gain her power. Intelligent and amoral, she’ll do anything to destroy him and Tristan and any woman weak enough to love them.

With the help of a local intelligent alien who resembles an Earth cat and Dorian Dalia--Tristan’s longtime romantic interest, Tristan, Mara, and Kellen escape the planet. Through the vast emptiness of space and the most primitive of human colonies, they seek freedom, but Cadaran is always one step behind them.

**About Marilyn Byerly:**

Best-selling author Marilyn

Byerly’s writing passion is adventure stories--past, present, and future. In her creations of swashbucklers, true love, and villains to vanquish, she also likes to add a dash of magic. *Romantic Times*, the bible of the romance industry, has called her an author to watch. *Affaire de Coeur* named her an Outstanding Achiever in romance.



Her novel, STAR-CROSSED, has received a Sapphire Award, the National Reader’s Choice Award, the "Affaire de Coeur" Award, and a Write Touch Award. It was also a double finalist in the PEARL Awards and the RIOS (Reviewers International Organization) for the best sf romance and best book of the year, and it was nominated for the Frankfurt eBook Award and the James Tiptree, Jr. Award, for exploring gender issues using science fiction.

"Sure, anytime." Then I realized there wouldn't be another time. "So where are you heading, Norman?"

"Venice Beach in Southern California. I'm gonna setup a stand and sell my carvings. Well, not every day -- maybe, a day or two a week. This way, I can be on permanent vacation. Hey, why don't you join me? It'll be lots of fun."

"Nah," I said. "I like the Air Force. "Besides, I wouldn't feel human if I didn't shower twice a day. And my face would itch something terrible if I didn't shave."

I watched him walk down the street toward the bus stop.

"I hope you make a million!" I'm not sure he heard me.

**About Mike Kechula:**

The flash- and micro-fiction works of **Michael A. Kechula** have appeared in seventy-one online and print magazines and anthologies in Australia, Canada, England, and the USA. His books, *A Deck Full of Zombies-61 Speculative Fiction Tales* and *Crazy Stories for Crazy People* are available in paperback at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). The former is available electronically at [www.BooksForABuck.com](http://www.BooksForABuck.com) and [www.fictionwise.com](http://www.fictionwise.com).

**Continued next column**

The stunning debut novel, *Sleep Before Evening*, by poet **Magdalena Ball** is now out! Marianne is a young woman teetering at the edge of reason.

Set in and about New York, this gritty, relentless story unfolds with the same cool detachment that motivates the central character to peel back the layers of her life and expose the painful scalding within.



"There is so much beautiful writing here, soaring passages." RUHMAM VELTFORT, author of *The Promised Land*.

"The writing is exquisite, without ever calling attention to itself, which is a real feat. It is a pleasure to read. The pitch is perfect, and the characters are so beautifully developed and very intriguing." JOAN SCHWEIGHARDT, author of *Virtual Silence, Island, Homebodies and Gudrun's Tapestry*.

For a free mp3 audio file of chapter one, excerpts and more information, visit: [http://www.bewrite.net/bookshop/excerpts/sleep\\_before\\_evening.htm](http://www.bewrite.net/bookshop/excerpts/sleep_before_evening.htm)

There was once a young man who, in his youth, professed his desire to become a great writer. When asked to define great, he said, "I want to write stuff that the whole world will read...stuff the people will react to on a truly emotional level...stuff that will make them scream, cry, howl in pain and anger!" He now works for Microsoft writing error messages.

A screenwriter came home to a burned down house. His sobbing and slightly singed wife stood outside. "My God! What happened?" he cried.

"Oh, Joe! It was terrible," she wept. "I was cooking, the phone rang. It was your agent. Because I was on the phone, I didn't notice the stove was on fire. It went up in a second. Everything is gone. I nearly didn't make it out of the house. And poor Fluffy—"

"Wait, wait. Back up a minute," the man said. "My agent called?"

**American Television**  
**By Nancy Famolari**



Anita struggled to open her eyes. The last thing she remembered was being surrounded by a gang of little blue aliens. She thought they planned to kill her, but she didn't seem to be dead. She seemed to be lying on a long flat surface. *Were they going to dissect her?*

Her eyes flew open. The little blue men still surrounded her, but they were seated at a long table set with china and silver for a dinner. *So this wasn't an autopsy. What was it? She was lying naked in the center of the table.*

"She's awake."

"Where am I? I thought you were going to kill me."

"We wouldn't kill you. We love you," said the tallest alien.

"If you love me, what am I doing on this table?"

"Ah, we know about American love. We watch television."

"I don't understand."

"On American television, we saw a handsome man look at a beautiful woman. He said to her. 'I love you. You look so good I could eat you.' We aren't barbarians. We love you; and so, we're doing the American thing. We're going to eat you."

**About the Author:**

**Nancy Famolari** is retired and lives with her husband, eight horses, three dogs and numerous white cats on a farm in the Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania. Her stories and poems have appeared in Long Story Short, Flash Shot, Lyrica, and Matters of the Heart from the MuseltUp Press. You may write to Nancy at: [ngfamolari@gmail.com](mailto:ngfamolari@gmail.com).

**Continued on page 19**



GIVING CARE

By Nonnie Augustine

Up in the attic yellow elephants, who love to go places, dance tail to trunk on my well-worn suitcases. They wear square hats on their heads and gold rugs on their backs. Asian flowers and exotic bits of squiggle are printed 'round their red cloth backgrounds. How dreary they must feel among all the cartons with those old box smells and black plastic bags of who knows what, that's been who knows where. There's barely any air up there.



Neglected, yes, but it can't be helped. This has been a time when I've been needed, and I'm glad I've heeded, but if those pachyderms in some way think, I daresay, they blame it all on me -- the two years they've been up, and I've been down in this quite nice house. At least they're close to one another. In fact, one's right inside another.

They're meant to go. They can roll, you know. Inside them are pockets, zippers, and netting for keeping my small things from slipping. They'd grown used to the scents of clothes, shampoos, and the journals I've filled. They hate the wait. I know they do, 'cause I do too. Yet, I dread the day we can go away. For before we can leave, I'll have had to grieve.

We will go again to Argentina or Spain. I'll unpack them in Venice within sight of the San Marco. We might take a boat to Tierra del Fuego. We'll go to Scandinavia, Istanbul, or Moravia. Take ferries and trains, drive on highways and lanes, and when we stop for a breath, I'll mourn for Dad and Mom -- near a sea's cool blue calm.

**Nonnie Augustine** writes poetry and fiction. She is the poetry editor of the new ezine, "*The Linnet's Wing's*" [<http://www.thelinnetswings.net>] which debuted online 1 September 2007. Nonnie's writings have placed in several contests including a second place win for her flash, "Through the Black Door," on *The Fiction Flyer*.

**Continued page 20**

A visitor to a certain college paused to admire the new Hemingway Hall that had been built on campus.

"It's a pleasure to see a building named for Ernest Hemingway," he said.

"Actually," said his guide, "it's named for Joshua Hemingway. No relation."

The visitor was astonished. "Was Joshua Hemingway a writer, also?"

"Yes, indeed," said his guide. "He wrote a check."

**Doorman's Creek** by Lea Schizas  
Published by [eTreasures Publishing](http://www.etreasurespublishing.com)

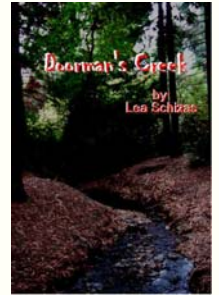
Ebook now available \$4.00US

Print book coming out end of March 2007 \$7.99US

Advance copies now available for purchase.

[http://www.etreasurespublishing.com/Lea\\_Schizas/doormans-creek.htm](http://www.etreasurespublishing.com/Lea_Schizas/doormans-creek.htm)

When Kyle Anderson and his two buddies decide to explore a cave hidden within Doorman's Creek, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton... and an unknown entity, throwing them right into the path of a serial killer.



Faced with a sudden gift of visions into past and present disappearances, Kyle must now track down who the murderer is before another family member gets killed.

*"Doorman's Creek by Lea Schizas has to be one of the best books I have ever read, period. Part mystery, part paranormal thriller, Doorman's Creek is an incredible read that starts with a bang and just keeps going. From the moment the novel starts, you're taken on a whirlwind of secrets, murder, sacrifice and death that just gets better with every page."* Anon

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She answered, "If I tell you, it will defeat the purpose."

I find television very educational. Every time someone switches it on I go into another room and read a good book. – Groucho Marx

**You've Got Me, Kid, an Amazon Short**

by [Kathe Gogolewski](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000RO9V0O/ref=ord_shrt_bib_1/103-8063462-9790259) (Author)

**About You've Got Me, Kid:**

Nanette knew these kids would be difficult. Casa de Refugio only housed the children who had run out of other options. Wards of the court were sent here. When she volunteered to help tutor Cesar, a sixth-grader who had been taken from his mother, she expected a struggle. And she got it, but when she discovered the inroad to his heart, she played it to the hilt. All went well until an unexpected curve sent Cesar spinning out of control.



**Kathe Gogolewski Says:**

This story is a tale of fiction. Even so, it is notable, in my mind, that children like Cesar proliferate and often flounder within our foster care and group home systems. Not everyone, however, is set up to offer a home to receive these children. Yet, there are so many ways to touch their lives without turning over one's own completely to the process. Through a Big Sister or Big Brother program, volunteer tutoring, or by showing up for an art or music project, we can make a huge difference in the lives of these children. It means a lot when we can say to one of them, "You've got me, kid," if only for the day.

**PURCHASE FOR 49 CENTS:**

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000RO9V0O/ref=ord\\_shrt\\_bib\\_1/103-8063462-9790259](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000RO9V0O/ref=ord_shrt_bib_1/103-8063462-9790259)

**The Apprentice**  
By Raymond Grant

The customer approached the portal with ticket in hand and a look of concern.



"Sir, I'll take your ticket," the apprentice said with an air of confidence. "Please stand at the center of the circular platform. That's very good, sir. So, you're going to the Alpha System?"

"Yes, my lad. I'm approaching sixty years. This is my first transport. My daughter and her family live in the Gamma Colony. She wants me to visit for a few months. I'm a bit worried about the trip."

"Well sir, the transporter is almost instantaneous. You'll be there in a blink. It's an easy trip."

"I hope so," the customer replied. "My daughter's done this many times. She tells me to just relax. It's over so fast that you're there before you realize it."

"Yes sir. She's right about that. Modern technology is truly amazing!"

The apprentice thought, *now, to the countdown:*

*Step 1: Insert ticket.*

*Step 2: Press energize.*

*Step 3: Check destination coordinates.*

*Step 4: Press dissociate.*

*Step 5: Press associate. Oops, I pressed terminate.*

*Let's see...Troubleshooting Guide...terminate instead of associate...here it is...Call the supervisor immediately.*

*Hope I don't lose my job again. I'm rather enjoying this one.*

**Continued next column**

**Books by Cynthia Brian:**

*Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul*

*Be the Star You Are!*

*The Business of Show Business*

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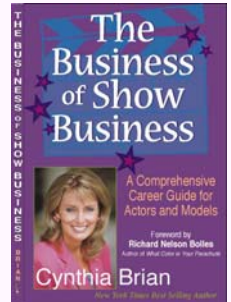
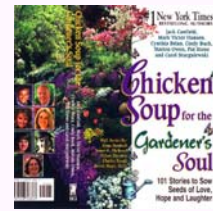
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Cynthia Brian, Media Coach, Writer, Author, Speaker, TV/Radio Personality, Spokesperson

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**Flash Fiction...continued**

**About the Author:**

**Raymond Grant** is an award-winning author of short stories and poetry. *The Apprentice* is taken from his new collection, *Don't Be Impatient...Read a Short Story!* published by Red Engine Press. His first book, *Flashes in the Pan, Fifty Short Stories for the Impatient*, is available in electronic format or large print paperback. For more information, visit <http://Tri-studio.com/RaymondGrant.html>.

A linguistics professor was lecturing to his English class one day. "In English," he said, "a double negative forms a positive. In some languages, though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However, there is no language wherein a double positive can form a negative."

A voice from the back of the room piped up, "Yeah, right."

**Once upon a time.** Four words that evoke memories of princesses and goblins, of fables and fairytales. They have become an archetype, harking back to a time when the word novel was synonymous with fantasy. In fact, English literature was forged in the fires of sorcery and unreality. Think Faerie Queen, Dr. Faustus, Gulliver's Travels. Sound familiar? Where would you look for these stories in your local book store? Certainly not in the fantasy section. Back when Moby Dick was published there were no fantasy and sci-fi, no mystery or romance, only novels. Alexander Pope did not worry about cross-genres when he composed The Rape of a Lock. And Robert Louis Stevenson was not catering to horror fans when he wrote Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hide.

When did literature become a slave to labels? Who else but marketing managers profit from categorizing literature? Certainly not in the consumer. Fantasy buffs head straight for these shelves, but how many great fantasy stories are missed, because they are classified as "literary" instead?

READ MORE....

**BETWEEN THE CRACKS 101**  
with Kim McDougall  
[http://www.kimmcdougall.com/Between\\_the\\_Cracks\\_101.html](http://www.kimmcdougall.com/Between_the_Cracks_101.html)



**Review: "Don't be Impatient... Read a Short Story!"  
By Kim McDougall (\*)**

Flash fiction is categorized as a short story under one thousand words. Once it was synonymous with prose-poetry, short bits of text that were too poetic to be prose, but not formatted like poetry. Poetry-prose evolved into flash fiction, a medium that has blossomed in the ezine market, as well as traditional print magazines.



You might ask, how hard can it be to pop out a few hundred words? Well, it's harder than you might think. Consider that the writer of flash fiction must create believable characters, scene and plot for each of these micro fictions. Think of that. In Raymond Grant's slim book, *"Don't be Impatient, Read a Short Story,"* he has created fifty-four individual worlds. Each is a complete story with well-developed characters and plots, not obscure poetry-prose that leaves you wondering, "huh?" Raymond Grant tells a story with each title, in clear prose, with believable dialogue and descriptions. You might also ask, what's the point of such a short story? They're fun, for one thing, and they're satisfying. Reading them at night is like a lime sorbet for your mind; they cleanse away the taste of the day's thoughts and give you something fresh to ponder for your dreams. The only problem is I couldn't read just one. Because they are so short I found myself eager to read the next and then the next after that. Highly addictive stuff.

Raymond Grant's themes run the gamut: love, revenge, coming-of-age. Some are set in modern times, others in the far past or future. There is something for everyone inside these covers. In "My Sister's Treasures," a little boy wonders if the girls in *Playboy* are as smart as they look. In "Transition" a father gets a rare glimpse of his daughter's special moment, when the little girl becomes a woman. Some of my favorites were unique character sketches like "Gary's First Law." Gary's voice is unique and unforgettable. "Nothing moves unless I move it," says Gary. "Nothing makes noise. I know where everything is... Funny how some things hurt and other things don't."

Other stories are full, detailed plots. "Revelation" is the journey of a boy to a man, reflected in his thoughts about his parents. "Follow Me" is a frightening tale of retribution that spans a thousand years in about six hundred words. Like all good fantasy, "Follow Me" comments on themes that are relevant to us today. Here's a taste of "Follow Me."

*The Chosen One whipped the crowd to a frenzy again and left them to destroy the property of the unworthy. The crowd turned their focus to the outsiders. They broke glass. They pillaged. They burned. They murdered. It was so easy to destroy what others had worked hard and long to create.*

*Those in distant lands seemed unconcerned. After all, this was a minority of fanatics, radicals, fundamentalists. The followers of the Chosen One would be placated - replaced - eliminated - one way or another. They, who watched from afar, did not worry. Their politicians would worry for them.*

**Continued next column**

**Review...continued**

The longest story in this collection is five pages. The shortest is nineteen words, including the title. Some are heavy with meaning, like "Follow Me." Most are lighthearted and fun, often with a twist ending like "It's the Damn Snake!" Eve says:

*My new green snakeskin boots with matching purse go well with my palm frond skirt.  
Maybe, this gig outside of Eden won't be so bad after all!*

So "Don't be Impatient, Read a Short Story!"

(\*) Originally published by Kim McDougall, Author and Publisher, in her eZine, *Between the Cracks Fiction*, October 2007, Volume 3 17.

<http://www.kimmcdougall.com/Home.html>.

**A Different Kind of Contest for Writers:  
Best Out-of-the-Box Promotion Idea**

As published writers and authors, we all know what's expected of us: Write, write, write and then promote, promote, promote. All of us are inclined toward the former, but many of us struggle with the latter. Generally, authors are honest and thoughtful people not prone toward exaggeration, unless of course it's understood that we are exaggerating. Yet, contrary perhaps to our inner promptings, promotion begs both exaggeration and shameless boasting. It becomes a distasteful task or, in other words...it's WORK.

Perhaps it doesn't have to be that way. Maybe we can enjoy **even** this. That's what we're hoping to achieve with the Out-of-the-Box Promo Contest: We want to discover fun and interesting ways to promote our work and not compromise certain values, such as achieving fame and riches without advertising. Yeah, right.

Seriously, we are looking for different and creative ideas, not yet tested or tried. New technology might be employed in this promotional idea; networking with other authors may be part of the plan. Perhaps it's a funny idea, like writing interviews between the author and a main character in his or her book (Sorry! That's been done!) Strange ideas are okay, too. Maybe a group of authors singing in one of their own complaint choirs in a city square will work (no kidding – it's a new phenom!) Check out this site: <http://www.complaintschoir.org/>

Perhaps you have an idea for a collective effort for a YouTube project. Maybe a podcast project...whatever it is, if it's ethical and possible, we want to hear about it. There are even modest cash prizes for winners. All the best ideas will be published for all of us to consider. Perhaps we can even organize a project together, hm? Maybe this promo stuff isn't so bad after all...

**Here's the guidelines:**

1. Create an idea in 400 words or less. Remember, we're looking for untried creative and original promotional ideas. Provide specifics. Suggest a link to technology, if it's used.
2. Submit ideas in the body of the email. Graphic attachments explaining your idea are okay, too.
3. Make Kathe happy and use Arial 10 point font.
4. Submit to [kqogolewski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kqogolewski@sbcglobal.net) with OUT OF THE BOX written in the subject heading.
5. Deadline: January 31, 2008

**Prizes:**

First place idea gets \$10; second and third receive \$5 each. We'll publish up to three honorable mentions. Have fun with this!

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR THE FICTION FLYER

**A. Contest submission guidelines are listed individually for each contest. See Table of Contents for current contests.**

**B. Flash Fiction submission guidelines are listed at the beginning of the Flash Fiction by Contributing Authors feature article. See Table of Contents.**

### C. Advertising Submission Guidelines:

1. A short blurb under 100 words about your book or book event
2. A jpeg or gif of your book cover included as an attachment
3. A link to your publisher
4. A short bio under 50 words

### D. Article Submissions Guidelines:

To submit articles, you must be a *The Fiction Flyer* subscriber. To subscribe, send an email to [kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net) and write EZINE in the subject heading.

Each issue of *The Fiction Flyer* is packed with information for readers and writers of fiction. We welcome article submissions that will stimulate, motivate, persuade, entertain or inform our readers on topics pertaining to the reading and writing of fiction. At present, we do not pay for article submissions, however we do offer a good measure of exposure as we currently maintain a subscriber list of nearly seven hundred. The list has been growing each month. When our subscriber list reaches a pre-determined level, we will charge for advertising and pay a stipend for article submissions. Currently, we are accepting original work as well as reprints. Please advise us if it is a reprint so that we may credit the original publisher. The author retains all rights to the work beyond granting a single issue publication in *The Fiction Flyer*.

Additional guidelines:

1. No obscene language, excessive violence or pornography
2. Length of article: Between 500 and 2,000 words. Do not center titles and bylines. Leave all text left-justified.
4. Use Arial or Times New Roman 10 point font
5. Send electronic submissions only—include in the body of your email. *No attachments*
6. We reserve the right to edit work and will send it to you for approval before publication
7. Simultaneous submissions accepted
8. All articles are archived at <http://www.tri-studio.com/ezine.html>
9. We reserve the right to reject any submission without explanation

Send your article submission to Kathe at [kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net) and write ARTICLE SUBMISSION in the subject heading. Include your bio and a website link if you have one. Thanks for sharing your work!

## The Panjandrum Writing Contest Edited by Raymond Grant

Here's an opportunity to have some fun, publish your story, and win a prize! Your new *unpublished*, story *must* be at least 300 words, no more than 500 words, *and* be inspired by the prompt.

**Prompt:** Write a Flash in which the main character encounters or is a panjandrum (a pretentious official).

Now, to *the prizes*: The first place winner will receive a check for \$10 along with a First Place Contest Award Certificate. The second place winner will receive \$5 and a Second Place Contest Certificate. The third place winner will receive \$5 and a Certificate of Honorable Mention. Winning stories, along with author's Bios, will be published in the next issue of *The Fiction Flyer*.

### Guidelines

Only email submissions are acceptable. Please title your message: Fiction Flyer – The Panjandrum Writing Contest: Your Story's Title by Your Name."

Please submit the following information using Size 12, *Times New Roman* Font:

Your Name  
Your Address  
Your email Address  
Word Count  
Author's Bio (Up to 50 words)  
Link to your blog/website (optional)

Your Story

Stories shorter than 300 or longer than 500 words will not be read.  
Stories that bear no relation to the prompt, as determined by us, will be rejected.  
Do not attach your story to your message; attached stories will not be opened.

Please send your email with particulars and story to [raygogo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:raygogo@sbcglobal.net). So, dear readers, be creative, have fun, and we look forward to reading your submissions.

**How many science fiction writers does it take to change a light bulb?** Two, but it's actually the same person doing it. He went back in time and met himself in the doorway and then the first one sat on the other one's shoulder so that they were able to reach it. Then a major time paradox occurred and the entire room, light bulb, changer and all was blown out of existence. They co-exist in a parallel universe, though.

**How many publishers does it take to screw in a light bulb?** Three. One to screw it in. Two to hold down the author.

**How many mystery writers does it take to screw in a light bulb?** Two. One to screw it almost all the way in, and the other to give it a surprising twist at the end.