

*Spring/Summer*  
*2021*

# World **i**ndie warriors

**Member**  
**Spring Releases**

**Creativity – Bene-  
fitting those whose  
needs are greater than  
those of others**

**Spruce Up Your  
Writing Goals**

**New Logo**

**Natalie Narbonne  
Webdesigner of  
Our Brand New  
Website**

**Stacking the Deck**



# Who Are We?

We are Indies! We colour outside the lines and call it art.

Supporting authors who are living their dreams.

The World Indie Warriors are striving to help expand the stage for the indie voices, because indie creatives not only are able to serve diverse and niche audiences, but they can also dare to challenge conventions in a way that mainstream outlets are not able to do. If a writer feels like writing a longer book than what traditionally published convention would suggest, they can do that. If a photographer wants to use mediums that aren't trendy, they can do that. There will be enthusiasts for all stories that defy convention, that defy the status quo.

We began as a group chat on Facebook from a private group for women writers. From there we formed friendships, began collaborating on projects, and started helping each other to grow. Over a short period of time, we realized that what we had was special. Collectively and mindfully, we decided to form a collaborative group to help other indie creatives grow. We aren't just for women, nor just for writers, we are for all indie creatives and the enthusiasts who support them. We would love for you to become a part of our ever-evolving story.

Imagine a place where creatives and those who appreciate creativity congregate to converse about artistic expression in its many forms, such as writing, photography, music, film, and things yet envisioned. The World Indie Warriors is a collective of people where we have created such a place.

We are creatives. We are also those who

appreciate creative expressions. We are a supportive community where we help each other grow in creative endeavors through the development of our skills, our reach, and our vision of ourselves and what we can express. We have workshops and master classes to help develop our skills. We have forums to call upon each other to help brainstorm through creative blocks and improve upon skills. We are ever building upon an infrastructure to crowdsource promotional networks in order to support lifting up each other and shining spotlights on each other's work. We are here to help each other grow and shine.

We are also the readers, the audience, the viewers of the creative expressions.

We seek artistic expressions that are outside of the status quo, the mainstream. We want to see fresh voices. We want to converse with the creators and have a dialogue about the work, because it speaks to us and we can say, yes, I feel you were speaking to me. We want a place to talk about things that matter to us in artistic expression. We want to talk about things we'd like to see in creative works and things we find puzzling or problematic. We want the choice to be part of the conversation and make a difference in how the human experience is expressed in creative works. We are part of the human experience. We want our voice to be a part of what is expressed.

## WHO WE ARE?

Michell Raab, PhD

Founder, Fearless Leader, Marketing,  
and Editor-in-Chief, Zine Layout

Ally Aldridge

Editor-in-Chief

Spring Zine/Special Projects

CD Pulley

Blog Editor-in-Chief

Jodie Cross

Advisor for Structural Framework,  
Social media, and Event Planning

Cassidy Reyne

Advisor for Membership Relations,  
Indie Creative Outreach, Content  
Support

Ricki Delaine

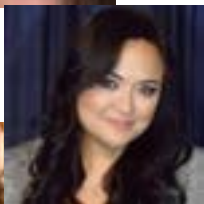
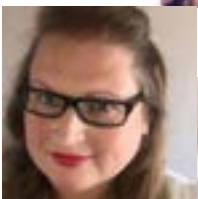
Advisor for Strategic Planning

Natalie Narbonne

Website Administrator

Ciara Delahunt

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# Leadership

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Front cover photo credit Michelle Raab

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[Instagram.com/worldindiewarriors](https://www.instagram.com/worldindiewarriors)

## Letter from the Founder

I remember at the beginning of quarantining about a year ago that people were bringing up works like the Decameron as hopeful ideas of things we could accomplish during this time. It hasn't turned out that way for most people I know. Between battling depression, trying to do homeschooling, working from home, and dealing with isolation, working on pieces like the Decameron and whatever else the geniuses during the plague were able to accomplish, that's not gonna happen right now. It was unrealistic to think that that could happen.

The Decameron was about a group of nobles who were trying to amuse themselves during an epidemic much like our current pandemic, but they were a people of means. Most of us are not like that.

For many of us, just getting through the day is hard enough. I think we need to accept that. I think we need to embrace and accept and acknowledge the heroism of getting

through the day during times like these. I think we need to honor and cherish that about ourselves and each other when just getting through the day can be an act of blind faith. For the World Indie Warriors acceptance and love are two of our core values and these two core values need to be applied not only to each other but also to ourselves.

If all we accomplish during this crazy time is getting through the day, then that's our creative expression, our expression of the human experience. Just by living we are expressing what it means to be human. We will have time later to put words to it. Images. Music. Right now, let's celebrate ourselves and each other for getting through each day. Anything we can accomplish is just icing on the cake.

**Mama Doc Michelle Raab**

**Founder and Fearless Leader**



## Letter from the Editor

The year didn't start off going to plan. I'm certain I am not alone in seeing my well laid plans make little to no progress. I even resorted to kicking some goals off my list to make it easier on myself. But, I was disappointed in my lack of progress.

Michelle asked me to write an article for the eZine, but I didn't feel up to it. What do I have to offer you? Why would you even want to hear what I have to say...

When I started this World Indie Warriors Brochure and eZine, I did it to showcase other indie authors. I am so impressed by anyone that not only can write a book, but bravely puts it out into the world.

At the time, I hadn't even published a book. And, even though I have now, I still don't feel like a real author. Next to these incredibly talented individuals, I feel like an imposter.

And, now I feel the pressure of writing book 2. People keep asking when it will be out, and I'm slowly managing 5k words a week. And, I know how much more work there is after the first draft. "The End" looks so far away...

I forget this is progress and how far I've come.

We all have to start somewhere. The best place to start is by being kind to yourself. Celebrate your wins, even small ones. And, sometimes taking a break to recharge is more productive than pushing ourselves to burn out.

It helps to surround yourself with like minded individuals, like members of the World Indie Warriors. Other authors have

shown me I'm not alone with self doubts. Even authors with tons of books cringe at putting themselves out there. When I published, I was so happy to have them cheering on my release.

Being alone was something that put me off self publishing but being part of World Indie Warriors changed that. I'm not alone, I'm part of a community. The members share their experiences and I can learn from them.

They have become my friends, and we now chat about more than just writing. There's something empowering about my struggles being understood, and I strongly believe in a problem shared, is a problem halved.

Here's a confession... Some weeks I didn't write a single word. My mind was too busy with all the changes going on, but my fellow indies got me. They didn't judge me, or call me a fake. They were with me, for the good times and the hard. You are not alone when you're a world indie warrior.

It would have been easy to quit when things got tough but indies are resilient. I've learnt not to get in my own way. Even if it takes longer than I originally planned, I still acknowledge my progress. It's much better to be moving towards your goal, than not at all.

Ally Aldridge

Zine Editor-in-Chief



Check out our website at  
[www.worldindiewarriors.org](http://www.worldindiewarriors.org).



# Announcements

## Our Support Crew is Expanding!

Our website has gotten a make-over thanks to two amazing people: Natalie Narbonne and CD Pulley.

Natalie Narbonne is a webdesigner, digital marketer, and bookcover artist. She has completely overhauled our website.

CD Pulley is a feminist, writer, and blogger. She has agreed to lend her talent and vision to our blog. She will be seeking out voices from our community. So keep a look out for her announcements and calls for posts. She has an amazing vision for our blog.

## Vision for Blog

I envision the blog for World Indie Warriors becoming one of the top voices of the indie world. It should be a place our members can write about their different experiences as indie creatives and feel safe. The blog should be a place where all indie creatives can discuss our world in the past, present and future perspectives. It should be a place where all creatives can come and learn from our members and see the value in becoming a part of our world. I envision our blog as a tool, as a teacher and as entertainment for the indie world.

CD Pulley

Blog Editor-in-Chief

[info@worldindiewarriors.org](mailto:info@worldindiewarriors.org)

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# Our Blog



**Our Editor-in-Chief**  
**CD Pulley**

We would love to showcase your voice. Guest spots open.

### Branding and Multi-Genre Writing

I have always imagined writing in multiple genres under one name. I have romance, erotica, supernatural, and action stories semi-mapped out in my mind. There is even a mystery and a fantasy story banging around in there. When I began to research writing in multiple genres, everything I read stated I needed to have multiple pen names to write in multiple genres. This was not what I wanted to read.



### The Overwhelming

Updated: Feb 10

It doesn't matter what orientation, our gender are similar in our experience writers go through the characters and worlds from the ideas in my head. Then I create outlines and write my story down (some writers tell their story with no outline). I read my story and think, this is shit.



### A Book Bible: A Plotter and a Pantser's Perspective

The Plotter

For years, I have been writing my stories in notebooks. My first novel was written in the green journal you see here and it is the place where my story came to life.



Email [info@worldindiewarriors.org](mailto:info@worldindiewarriors.org).

## Coming Soon: Call for Brochure Submissions!

Call for submissions to the Annual Brochure.

Melanie Cronin has put together a database that will help us organize this year's annual brochure of indie creatives' works and services.

Deadline for entries will be September 1st.

Stay tuned for more details!

## The winner is ...Samatha Goodwin's Bookcover contest





# Features

## Spruce Up Your Writing Goals

H.B. Lyne

It hasn't been the easiest year for most of us. I think we all hoped, rather than believed 2021 would be an improvement on 2020. With so much in the world outside of our control, it can feel futile to make plans. Especially in certain places where the rules keep changing.



It's understandable that so many people are just lurching from one day to the next without much of a plan.

Even I've really struggled to implement my plans so far this year - and I'm someone who normally has a plan for everything and checks off those to-dos each day! So if you're feeling rudderless, please know that you are not alone.

However, as challenging as this time has been, we can still find direction and make progress. It may be time now to look up and take a deep breath and get ready to tackle something.

### ***Pick a Date & Set A Micro-Goal***

The end of the month is approaching as I write this. It's another opportunity for reflection and planning, another fresh start. Thanks to a heavily connected world and more awareness of other cultures, there are many opportunities throughout the year for this kind of rejuvenation. Lunar New Year, Eid, the solstices, new moons... take your pick.

You don't really need a big date in the calendar to find that. Any day can provide it. But if you're someone who needs a psychological trigger then pick a Monday, or the first day of a new month and start from there. Start with something small and easily attainable. Pick a goal so laughably easy that there's really no way you can fail to accomplish it. Exactly what that might be depends entirely upon your unique circumstances.

***“I think we all hoped, rather than believed 2021 would be an improvement on 2020.”***

You know your life best. So pick a micro-goal, or

writing habit to get your creative gears going again nice and gently.

### ***Take Stock***

Summer approaches for us in the Northern hemisphere. It's a time for cleaning out the kitchen cupboards and starting new projects. Take a look at what you have planned. Re-examine the goals you set for the year and see how you feel about them.

Has something shifted to change your priority? Is there something that no longer feels relevant?

Now is a good time to clear out the clutter,

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like those kitchen cupboards, and get rid of old ideas. If a project isn't moving you in the right direction, then set it aside. If something has been weighing you down, then unburden yourself.

It doesn't benefit you to carry baggage. That might be projects that don't inspire you, or obligations that are more chore than enthusiasm, it might also be ideas about yourself.

### **Clear Your Mind**

We all have automatic negative thoughts about ourselves, or fixed mindsets about things. But we can learn to overcome them. If you've been telling yourself that you'll never finish that novel, or that no one likes your books, then it's time to cast that negative self-talk aside.

If you feel that thought intruding then stop it in its tracks and try saying the opposite out loud. Instead of thinking "I'm not good enough", say "I love and accept myself just as I am". There may be a voice that says "that's not true", or "no I don't". In which case, try "I am learning to accept myself", or "I am developing as a writer", or whatever fits your personal doubts. Pick a phrase that you can accept as true and use it as a pattern interrupter for your inner critic.

The truth is that you CAN accomplish your goals. You just need to reassess them at regular intervals and employ little tricks to get you over hurdles. Maybe you can't leap them, but can clamber over with a step up. So create those steps for yourself. Set yourself up for success with prompts and cues that will help you get into the right frame of mind.

This is why I love micro-goals so much. They take the overwhelm out of the equation. They are a stepping stone to something more. It's always a good idea to keep your Big Why in mind, but right now, with the world the way it is, it's not essential. It might be best to just keep your focus on the next step.

So, this season:

- declutter your to do list,

- ditch the stuff that isn't serving you,
- pick a day to take the next step,
- set a micro-goal that moves you forward,
- Interrupt your inner critic with positive statements

Are you ready to take control of something in your life and move forwards?

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H.B. Lyne lives in Yorkshire, UK, with her husbeast, two children and midwife cat. When not juggling family commitments, she writes dark urban fantasy novels, purging her imagination of its demons. Inspired by the King of Horror himself, Holly aspires to be at least half as prolific and successful and promises to limit herself to only one tome of The Stand-like proportions in her career.

Holly is a bullet journal enthusiast, and podcaster, and has a knack for getting shit done. She's the author of the best-selling non-fiction book, *Goal Setting for Writers: A Step-By-Step Roadmap to Success*.

Find out more at: <https://hblyne.com/goal-setting-for-writers/>

Get regular goal setting and productivity tips direct to your inbox here: <https://www.subscribepage.com/goalsettingwithholly>

Listen to the Unstoppable Authors Podcast: <https://anchor.fm/unstoppableauthors>



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## Stacking the Deck

Ricki Delaine

Here we are in 2020 ... I mean 2021, and the topic of the day is Positivity.

How surreal it is, to be three months into this year, when it seems like we skipped last year entirely. Thankfully, although there surely will still be rough spots ahead, it feels as though the world is turning a collective corner.

Everyone is looking for a way forward, a positive way forward, through all of the difficulties that have impacted so many of our creative endeavors, as much or more than they impacted other areas of our lives.

So, how do we do that, exactly? Move forward, positively?

Things are looking up. Life might not be back to normal (not by a long shot) and a lot may be out of our control, but in the words of Norman Vincent Peale, author of *The Power of Positive Thinking*, "Change your thoughts and you change your world."

Positivity is defined by the Great God Google and Oxford Languages as: "The practice of being or tendency to be positive or optimistic in attitude." The word itself is more than 350 years old and, fun fact, is actually much older than the word "negativity," which apparently did not show up until the 19th century. For whatever reason, positivity has a bit of a bad rap as being not a "real word," enough that Merriam-Webster actually spent the time to write a post about it under their [Word History\(1\)](#) heading. Um. So. Regardless of the apparent teeth-gnashing going on, positivity

has been around a long time and is likely here to stay.

Etymology aside and more importantly, we could all do with more of it. Positivity, that is. More gentleness, more patience, more understanding. More of that unconditional positive regard that we should all aspire to give others and all hope for ourselves.

Let me tell you a little story.



***“More gentleness, more patience, more understanding. More of that unconditional positive regard that we should all aspire to give others and all hope for ourselves.”***

Shortly after I self-published *Splinter*, I was given a rare treat: my schedule and my husband's aligned one morning, and we were able to carpool to work. While listening to the local radio station, stuck in morning rush hour traffic, the DJs invited callers to, "Call in and share that thing you did that you never thought you'd do."

My husband encouraged me to call, and

it took him a few tries, but I finally dialed. Listening to the other callers while the phone connected, I fully expected a busy signal.

"Hello! You're on the air!"

I won't go through all the gory details, but it was a fun call, right up to and through the moment they asked what it was that I had done. "I, umm, self-published a novel!" and oh my gosh, they were so surprised, so supportive. They asked all the right questions, what was it about, where could they find it? What was the main character like? So cool. Positive! It was great.

When we hung up, they said, "Wow."

"Yeah."

"Who's gonna beat that? Might as well just  
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stop right there,” and I said, “Nooooooooo!”

It was one of those a-ha moments for me, that this publishing-a-book thing that had been such a slog and so much work, filled with nail-chewing anxiety and the uncertainty of stepping far outside of your comfort zone, was kind of a Big Deal. That was followed quickly with, “Wait, no. Don’t stop there,” because I am at my very core, the kid who wants to make friends on the playground. I still wish they had taken more callers that day. Of course, they were the Morning Crew, and joking was what they did best. They picked another topic and the world spun on.

That conversation and its aftermath (read: “noooooo!”) is one I remember pretty vividly, even after all this time. The perfect package of a pretty cool moment and a cringy one, all wrapped up in a nice little bow.

I am still flattered and a little awestruck that these Radio Personalities were interested enough to ask for all the deets on my book, but I haven’t really told anyone else about it. I’m not entirely sure why. Maybe because in an ideal world my bit would not have been the end of the story? It would have kept going, adding all the other callers that came after and the fun/silly/amazing things they had done that they never thought they would do.

Might as well just stop right there.

They were joking ... being funny and I’m grateful because, come on, they said so many nice things! Yet that last bit also sent a message to everyone else listening, that their wins weren’t good enough. This type of comparison is damaging, like termites chewing away below the surface of a fresh coat of paint, and it is so subtle and so systemic that we forget it is there. It becomes a litany in the back of our minds, of how very far we think we have to go, that we forget

where we are, where we have come from and what we have achieved.

If we forget our own achievements, lost in the shadows of what others have done, how do we remember what we are doing, and where we are going?

### ***It’s a trap!***

My point is, we are socially conditioned to compare ourselves against the accomplishment of others, by media, by our cultures, and even by our families. Not a bad thing if it is motivating. Not a good thing if it isn’t.

All too easily, we adopt those social behaviors for ourselves. We internalize it and pass it on. Compare, contrast, do I stack up? It makes sense that we do it when we are virtually bathed in it from birth.

***“If we forget our own achievements, lost in the shadows of what others have done, how do we remember what we are doing, and where we are going?”***

As a creative, it is well-known and oft repeated that we are our own

worst critics. There are jokes about it, and endless memes, and I almost fell down a meme hole just now. They all go pretty much the same: I can do this. Work hard. This is terrible. Work harder. Maybe this is okay. It’s not okay - burn it. Work some more, etc., until finally you have a product you think maybe, possibly, it might be sort of okay if other people look at it. Not too closely.

Wait.

Scratch that, it needs another edit.

Or, better idea ... I have this bag of cookies that really needs some attention.

We are our own worst critics. We are our own worst enemies. Combine our own self-doubt and second-guessing with the powerful outside influences of the constant white noise of all-of-the-everyones-who-do-it-better and well, you have to turn the music up pretty loud to drown it all out.

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These tendencies we have, to beat on ourselves, are memes not because they are rare. We all do it, at some point or another.

Did you know? There is a term in Psychology, called Negativity Bias. An article on the website VeryWellMind articulates it well: “The negative bias is our tendency not only to register negative stimuli more readily but also to dwell on these events. [...] we feel the sting of a rebuke more powerfully than we feel the joy of praise.” Further in, it says, “Neuroscientific evidence has shown that there is greater neural processing in the brain in response to negative stimuli.” In essence, we are hard-wired to pay more attention to negative feedback. It affects us more strongly than positive feedback. How is that a thing??

Yet we all know that being creative depends on positivity. Your inspiration might not always be happiness, but you need positivity to be creative. At a minimum, it gives you the confidence to try, knowing you can and will succeed.

*“Believing in negative thoughts is the single greatest obstruction to success.”*

– Charles F. Glassman

This brings me to my second point for today (and you’ve heard this one before): Comparisons should not be to find faults in your work, but to find opportunities to grow. What can we learn from the creations of those we admire?

When you find yourself wondering, “Why am I stuck?” listen to your self-talk. Be mindful of the people and other influences around you. You don’t need to cut Uncle Humphrey out of your life (because who can? His art is food and he brings the main course at Thanksgiving), but knowing there is a negative influence in your life makes it easier to manage. Cultivate positive feedback with other people as support, friends or other family members. Or find a group of like-minded people, such as the fabulous World Indie Warriors, for Indie Creatives (wink, wink). Being aware of how negative world news affects you will let you control

your exposure to it, and you can take it in small doses, giving positive influences a chance to overcome it ... for your own well-being.

To think of it another way, picture the Perfect Picture and know that if it were framed from another direction, it might not have looked as good, or wonderful, or majestic. That doesn’t mean you’re hiding something, or being deceitful, or fooling yourself. It’s about perspective.

The artist chooses what to focus on and that is a lot of what the road to Positivity is about.

### **Takeaways**

Being positive and having positivity is more than a mantra, more than meditation or whatever method you choose to keep your Zen, or do to build the energy to break through a creative wall. Those things can be part of it, but we have to be mindful of what might be eating away at it.

So, for this year and beyond, be kind to yourself. Limit your negative influences. There is a reason they say to surround yourself with positive people. Now that we know about negative bias, we know that positive feedback is fighting under a handicap. Stack the deck in your favor. Be skeptical of what society says you should be. Choose what to focus on and speak/paint/picture your own truth. Don’t be your own enemy and frame your comparisons for growth.

Finally, Positivity is an actual real word.

To leave you with one final quote, from my favorite (and the somewhat creepy) master of horror, Stephen King: “You can, you should, and if you’re brave enough to start, you will.”

Look out, 2021!

(1) <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/positivity-is-a-word>

Ricki Delaine is on the advisors committee of the World Indie Warriors and is the author of the high fantasy novel *Splinter*, which can be found on Amazon Kindle Unlimited.



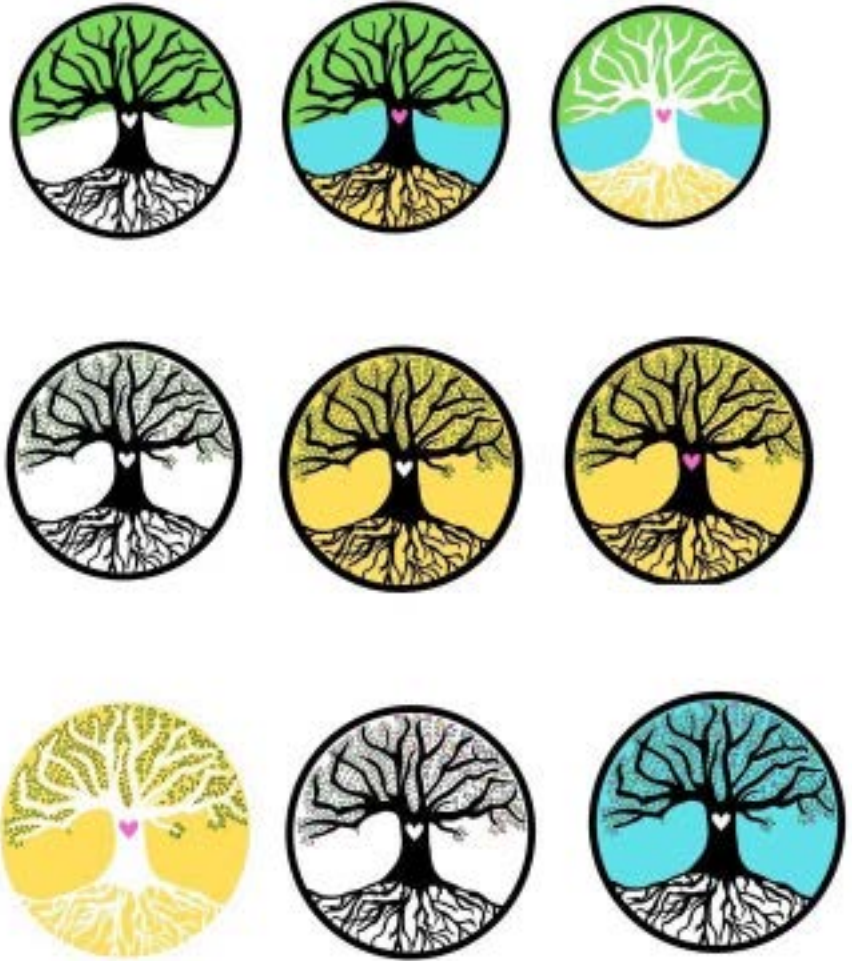
## New Logo

*A sneak peek at the new logo and bio*

### Ellie Mitten

Ellie Mitten is an author and book designer from Cornwall with a love of all things magic. After choosing to go indie a year ago, formatting was a steep learning curve, but one that left her with a passion for making books as pretty as they could be. And thus Saltwater Book Design was born. To create her bespoke designs Ellie uses a combination of stock images and her own illustrations.

You can email Ellie Mitten at [elliemitten@gmail.com](mailto:elliemitten@gmail.com) or follow her on Instagram on @[ellie\\_mitten](#) or @[saltwater\\_book\\_design](#). Her YA Fantasy book [\*Garden in the Sands\*](#).





# **Creativity – Benefitting those whose needs are greater than those of others**

*Interview with Heather Grace Stewart*

**Cassidy Reyne**

**Meet Heather Grace Stewart, a Canadian Poet, Author and Journalist. After gaining her graduate diploma in journalism and working as a chief reporter and associate editor for different publications, she started her freelance writing and editing business, Graceful Publications, in 1999.**

Heather's books were traditionally published till 2016 when she decided to retain all rights to her work and go the self-publishing route.

With 18 published works, both fiction and poetry, she is an accomplished writer and one of her novels, *The Ticket*, a romantic comedy inspired by a true story, became an International Kindle Bestseller. It has also been optioned to become a movie or television series. Most recently, it was translated into a French and can be found as audiobook as well.

A few years ago, Heather decided to use the proceeds from her poetry collection to benefit those who need it more. It is her way of paying it forward, using her talent for creative writing to pave the way for the younger generation to expand their horizons.

In Heather's own words:

"My company Graceful Publications began sponsoring Miriam, now 15, and her community in October 2018. All proceeds from sales of my poetry books go to sponsoring her through Plan Canada's Because I Am A Girl program. I've always felt that educating girls is the key to solving a lot of our world's problems, so decided the small amount of money my poetry books make might be best put to use in this area.

Miriam's community is in Villa Adela, located in the Northeast of Bolivia. The majority of people live in small houses made

of adobe and straw roofs. The families are farmers. There's very little access to health services and there are few kindergartens in the communities. There are not many teachers, and secondary schools can only be found in the more populated centers. On average, adolescents have to walk one or even two hours to reach their schools.

A year after Graceful Publications started sponsoring her, Miriam wrote to us and told us she was now attending school daily and sent some photos. She was very grateful, she wrote, "that you are so kind and do not forget about me."

Plan Canada reports that over the years, ten schools have been built in Miriam's area and adolescents, especially girls, have been given support and training about their own health and gender-based violence. Globally in 2020-2021, our donations have helped families secure shelters during disasters like Covid-19, stop child marriages in Bangladesh, and send home-learning materials to children in Uganda."

Because I Am A Girl is Plan International's global initiative to support and increase girl's and young women's rights through education and awareness.

According to them, globally, nearly 130 million girls are not at school, nearly 12 million girls are married before the age of 18, and approximately 16 millions girls aged between 15 and 19 give birth every year.

Girls the world over are continually facing obstacles and barriers that violate their rights and prevent them from growing and thriving to become all they can be. It's discrimination and perpetuates gender-based violence, leading to girls having few opportunities to get educated, being married at a very young age and getting pregnant while still being children themselves."

If you are interested in helping Heather help Miriam, her village and many other

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girls and their families the world over, please consider purchasing one of Heather's poetry books, all of which can be found on Amazon.

Her most recent book is a reflection on life during the current pandemic and contains a wonderful collection of funny, quirky, beautiful and thoughtful poems which all are well worth a read. Not only will you contribute to a better future for these girls, but you will also be able to enjoy some relatable, down-to-earth and heartfelt poetry that will leave you smiling and make your world seem a little brighter.

About Plan International:

In 1937, British journalist John Langdon-Davies and refugee worker Eric Muggeridge founded Plan International and made it the organization's mission to promote and protect children's rights. Its original aim was to provide food, accommodation and education to children whose lives had been disrupted by the Spanish Civil War.

Langdon-Davies' idea was to create a personal relationship between a child and a sponsor. This would put the child at the center, and 80 years later, it's still the core belief of all of Plan International's continuing work.

Today, it is a global organization which is active in 75 countries and works to advance children's rights and equality for girls. Over the next five years, their ambition is to transform the lives 100 million girls.

"Plan International is standing with girls and young women by providing a platform, opportunities and support for them to become leaders and make change happen. Once girls are aware of their rights and can exercise them, they can successfully advocate for change in their lives, in their community, or around the world. For example, we have seen girls at the forefront of movements to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in their community or ban child marriage in their country.

Equality will not be a reality until the world recognizes the inherent power and potential of youth – especially girls. We are on Team

Girl but that does not mean we exclude boys from our work, in fact we actively engage men and boys in our efforts to advance equality. Important shifts and real, lasting change require everyone to be involved in the process. Together, we can create a new and equitable normal over time."

If you'd like to support the continuing efforts of Plan International, please donate following this link:

[Make a donation](#)

To sponsor a child like Miriam and help give them a brighter future, please follow this link:

[Sponsor a child](#)

World Indie Warriors is not affiliated with Plan International. The links are provided for your convenience if you wish to donate and as the spirit moves.

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Cassidy Reyne is the Alter Ego of a Swedish girl living in England. She's been happily married for over 25 years and have two grown up children.

She writes steamy, contemporary romance with some suspense thrown in for fun and excitement. Her current series, The Bound by Conviction Series and the Agent of Honor Series are available in Kindle E-books, Paperbacks and Kindle Unlimited.

Currently living in South London, she fits her writing in with the property business she and her husband run from home.

When she isn't writing, she enjoys spending time with friends, visiting her family on an island in Sweden and drinking a glass or two of a good wine. Sometimes the wine is replaced with vodka or rum.

Cocktails anyone?

If you would like to connect with Cassidy, you can find her on several social media sites.



# Reasons to follow us



# Reasons to join



## Natalie Narbonne -- Webdesigner of Our Brand New Website

*The Reason We Look So Good*

**Cassidy Reyne**

**May we introduce our fantastic web designer, Natalie Narbonne. She has worked tirelessly to create our wonderful new site, and we hope you're as pleased with it as we on the Advisory Team are.**

Natalie lives in sunny Florida with her husband and son and runs a Digital Marketing company with her partner, providing everything from website design and social media marketing to search engine optimization.

When we first started our website, we were limited in our experience of how to build it, even with the templates provided, and there were a number of things we wanted it to do that couldn't be incorporated due to the limitations of the hosting site. This led to us considering moving to a different hosting site, and Wix was one of our options. At this time, Natalie, a WIW member, very generously offered to help us design it if we decided to use Wix as the host, as this is where much of her expertise in website designing lies. Of course, we jumped on her offer, all while hoping she wouldn't come to regret it.

With lots of back and forth with texts to be written and links inserted, we slowly made our way through the lists of things we wanted to have on the site and items Natalie told us were necessary.

We watched it grow and take shape with her expertly adding, tweaking and linking all that we wanted to include. Our jaws dropped a few times, we must admit.

When we added different areas to the

website, we were mindful of not making it appear we were only for authors and readers. One of the cornerstones of the group is to support creatives of all types, be it fiction or non-fiction writers, poets, photographers or musicians. We hope every visitor can find something that resonates with them and also discover new and exciting avenues to explore. We truly believe this will be the case, and we will continuously update the site to

Our Multi-talented Website Designer:

Swag

How a Unique Cover is made

Fan Art

Unique Book Covers  
Swag Merchandise  
Pre-Made Book Covers

Specializing in Author Website Design

reflect as much creative diversity and talent as we can.

Not only is Natalie a web design guru, but she's also a genius book cover designer. All her covers are true works of art and several of our members have used her talents to grace the front of their books. The time and effort she puts into creating these covers show in every little detail with hidden messages, symbols, and other representations relating to the story. These covers are eye-catching, engaging and exciting, and will draw any reader's eye, making them pick up the book to find out more.

There seems to be no end to Natalie's

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talents and we are enormously grateful for her hard work making the web site look as amazing as it does now. Let us just say that again — We love what she's created for us, and we appreciate it so, so much.

For anyone who might be looking for help with creating a web site which reflects what they are all about, or need a gorgeous cover for their upcoming book, don't hesitate to get in touch with Natalie. She will give you her full attention and create something you'll want to show off



to the world.

Here's how to find her:

Original Book Cover Designs, including Digital Author Services:

<https://www.originalbookcoverdesigns.com>



**Cassidy Reyne**

If you would like to connect with Cassidy, you can find her on several social media sites.

## The Things We Get Up To.

All organized, tracked, logged, posted and tweeted by our very own Jodie Groom.

(Shhhh. We call her Dr. Strange because she's that awesome.)

@jodie\_at\_home

Use  
**#WORLDINDIEWARRIORS**  
for promo!



# Spring Book Releases

## L. B. Anne

### ***The Way To Storey (Follow the Birds)***

*Beyond the Bright Sea* meets *Willa of the Wood*.

Eleven-year-old Luella has a life she loves. She's homeschooled and lives on a swamp. But there is a reason she's sheltered away from everything.

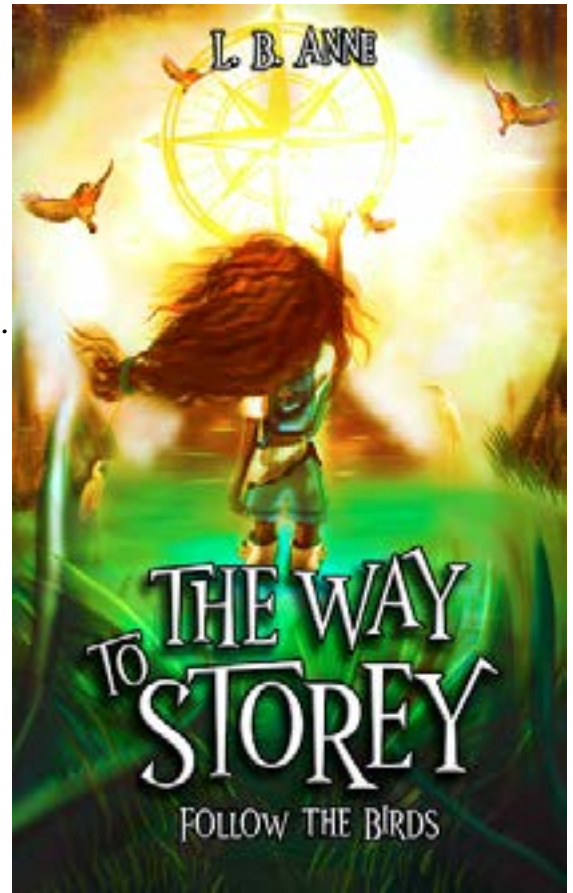
There is a place called Storey. Some say it's just a myth. . But it is where Luella's grandfather says they are from. His instructions are for her to go there if anything ever happens to him.

"Follow the birds," he said. But the birds disappeared, and no one could explain why.

A mysterious light from her grandfather's drawer leads Luella on a journey across the swamps of Southern Florida to find those like her. Along the way, she makes new friends, or are they enemies? And why is someone tracking her?

Luella is led down a path of discovery, exploring questions of identity, belonging, and finding home.

A fast-paced adventure filled with hope.



The Way to Storey is a middle grade fantasy novel.

## Lindsay B

### ***A Mother's Day Surprise***

Six-year-old Rainbow can't wait to surprise her moms on Mother's Day. She's going to need all the help she can get to pull off the best Mother's Day surprise ever!



**Bookseller icons are clickable links.**

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## **Elexis Bell**

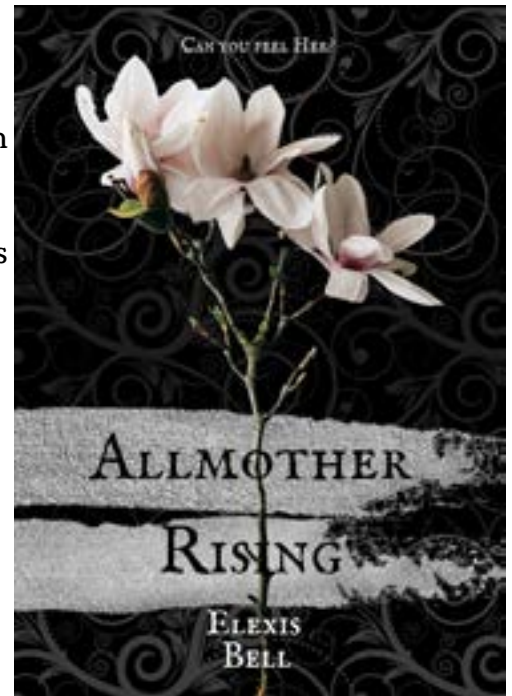
### ***Allmother Rising***

A coup in a neighboring kingdom brings threats of invasion and fire to Priestess Rising Veliana's home in the forest. Under the guidance of her goddess, The Allmother, she forms an alliance with the deposed prince, Tyrvahn, and his ex, Garle, the leader of a rebellion that's been brewing for years.

But Garle has many secrets, one of which could unravel Veliana and Tyrvahn's budding romance and the future of these uneasy alliances. Veliana's best friend, Kivala, tries to soften Garle with the ways of their fallen homeland, but what she learns chills her to her core.

At war with a vicious man twisted by the god of greed, they can't afford to fight amongst themselves. Can they overcome their differences to save their home and their goddess from the new king? Or will the forests burn over blood-soaked earth?

Fans of magic and grit, high stakes and godly secrets will love this dark high fantasy novel with straight and LGBT romance.



## **M. L. Broome**

### ***And Then Came You***

A steamy friends-to-lovers romance that's full of heat, heart and a sob-worthy happily ever after.

Lexi:

They say you should dress for the job you want.

Apparently, ripped jeans and a rock t-shirt is the outfit of choice to land the role of a supermodel's best friend.

No joke. It's what I was wearing when my world intersected with Samuel Bernard; right before he grabbed my phone and berated my most recent excuse for a boyfriend.

In Samuel's defense, the guy had it coming.

Now, I have a new buddy who also happens to be the world's most famous—and infamous—male model.

But we're just friends.

I will not fall for Samuel Bernard is my new mantra.

It's not working.

Samuel:

Lexi is the first woman who has ever truly understood me, although she's seemingly immune to my outer appeal.

It's a two-way street. Lexi is adorable and wicked smart, but she's not my type, even though

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she's the first person I call when I'm down and the only person I care to see when I'm in town.

Then, there was that night when she read her steaming hot sex scenes. Now, she's got a recurring role in my dreams.

But I don't need another lover. I've got plenty of those.

The friend zone is the safe zone for Lexi and me. And that's where we'll stay.

If you repeat something enough times, you'll believe it, right?

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If you repeat something enough times, you'll believe it, right?

## **K. M. Cannon**

### ***Ashes In Winter***

#### ***(Book One of The Rangers of Walden Series)***

In the height of a brutal Canadian winter, a motley group of survivors must rebuild and survive after civilization vanishes out from under them.

#### ***Retirement Will Have to Wait***

Derek Moss was so close to retirement he could almost taste it, but he now finds himself leading a group to protect the last spark of civilization before it fades. As he and the others scramble to just survive the first winter, Derek leads an expedition to rescue as many survivors as he can to the north of the wall but he soon runs afoul of Cecelie, a survivor turned warlord determined to tear down what he and Sheridan have built.

#### ***A City in Chaos***

Daniel Wither is a Sudbury cop caught at City Hall when everything goes dark, leaving him, the Mayor of Sudbury, and a scant few other survivors trapped in the complex. After rescuing the Mayor from a rogue mercenary named Harnet before he can murder her, Dan leads the survivors to survive in the tower while Harnet and his mercenaries bombard them on all sides.

#### ***Pushed Into a Corner***

Gina Egivand is familiar with the bush and survival as a firefighter in the military... but that was in Australia. Thrust into leading a small group of survivors on a fished out lake with roving gangs of raiders determined to take what little they have has her seeing red. There's only one thing to do and that means giving the raiders a taste of what they're dishing out.

#### ***Alone in the Dark***

Without the roads plowed, Garrett Wither and a few others are trapped at the High Falls dam behind Nairn Centre with little supplies and even less food. As what little they have

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quickly run out, he and his people face starvation or risking freezing to death to find help. His people are desperate to survive and he's equally desperate to make sure they do... but will Dane let him live long enough to do it?

All four, held together by a tenuous thread called hope, will have to lead the way from the ashes of a world they once knew.

## **Marissa J. Gramoll**

### ***A Game Like Ours***

To the outside world, Bobby Anderson is an attractive, charismatic baseball star.

But inside, Bobby holds secrets—including his closeted sexuality—and each secret alone has the power to destroy his carefully-constructed life.

When his best friend Cody dies, Bobby is thrown into the unwitting role of supporter for Cody's grieving fiancée, Lexie. The issue? Bobby has long-harbored feelings for her that he never allowed to surface.

Torn between his growing attraction for Lexie and devotion to his deceased friend, Bobby is forced to re-examine his life and concern about divulging his sexual identity. Another secret spoken by Cody during his final moments eats away at Bobby's conscience, driving the wedge of Cody's death deeper.

Once these secrets come to light, will Lexie ever be able to forgive them? Can she accept Bobby for who he is? Will she ever want anything to do with him again?

*A Game Like Ours* is a New Adult, LGBTQ, College Literary Fiction with strong romantic themes about coming to terms with loss and identity.



## **Grace Herbst**

### ***Confident New Chloe***

For Chloe Clark, the world is black and white. Her parents' divorce is a relief because it means the fighting is over.

But a secret from her father's past unravels what she thought she knew and threatens her distant-but-solid relationship with him. Her entire sense of family seems to blow up around her.

Can Chloe put the pieces of her life and a sense of family back together before she loses hope?



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## **Kaitlyn Legaspi**

### ***Red Blood***

#### ***Card Holders Book One***

In the fifty-two domains, there exists two groups of people: The bound and unbound, those without powers and those with them. Only the unbound can hold the highest positions in the government: The Card Holders.

When her domain's Card Holder dies, seventeen-year-old Neela Blydes is forced to participate in a tournament to find the unbound most worthy of leading the Queen of Hearts Domain. But the tournament isn't as glorious as it seems. It herds unique unbound known as Specialists into deadly combat. Winning by default is nonexistent and killing is permitted.

As Neela progresses through the first few rounds, she realizes the tournament is just one of her worries. The burn scar on her left shoulder suddenly flares up at random times, an elite assassin marks her as his next target, and a frightening connection to the murderous rogue organization comes to light. While trying to deal with all these stresses weighing on her shoulders, one more appears in the form of a white-haired man with crimson eyes.



## **K. S. Marsden**

### ***Summer Sin***

#### ***(Northern Witch Book 4)***

As an eventful school year draws to a close, Mark has to face his greatest challenge yet.

Witches, demons and spells have quickly become the norm for Mark, but he will find that magic can't solve all of his problems.

With everyone relying on him, will Mark be able to save the day?

Or will the price of being a hero be too high?



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## Cassidy Reyne

### *The Sentinels 3 - Saving Lives*

#### **Book 3 in The Bound by Conviction Series**

**Everything he does is driven by duty. Everything he wants is driven by love.**

Who knew that a single phone call could destroy the lives of two people overnight?

Logan Wells is not long-term relationship material. Relationships lead to disaster—this is a lesson he's learned early in life, and he stands by it. A few enjoyable dates and then onward and upward. No promises, no commitments, no problems.

Men's inability to commit has never bothered Casey. So, when she meets Logan and starts dating him, she thinks it is the best thing that has happened to her, even knowing he is not the going steady type.

After receiving a late-night call, Logan's life is turned upside down. Driven by a sense of duty, he must make hard choices that will change his entire existence forever, leading to unforeseeable consequences. And losing Casey is the hardest one of all. Pushed into a corner, he has no choice but to create a whole new life, away from his friends, his job, and his love.

When Logan disappears without a word, Casey struggles with the loss. Hurt and distressed, she does a few things she isn't proud of, putting herself in immediate danger. However, the biggest threat comes completely unexpected, and it is the one she isn't sure she can survive.

At the moment when everything seems to be lost, only one person stands between Casey and her inevitable demise — Logan Wells.

But does he have what it takes to save the woman he loves? Or had they said their final goodbyes when he left everything and everyone he loved behind?

If you like romance thrillers that will make you laugh, cry, and hope, then you'll love the third installment of the Sentinels series. Get your copy now!

This book can be read as a standalone, but is best enjoyed after reading books 1 and 2.



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**Catrin Russell**

***The Resurgence of Light***

***(The Light of Darkness, #3)***

**Despite miraculously avoiding an eternity of darkness, Samael teeters on the brink. The High Priest might be gone, but his taint still claws at the demon's mind.**

The Prime is struggling to resist the feral, unable to keep the state contained while the priestess desperately searches for a way to aid him. But the taint is seemingly impossible to cleanse, and Anaya's efforts only lead to more unanswered questions.

She begins to doubt her prophesied fate.

Anguish engulfs the couple as they face their most merciless challenge yet. Unrest abounds within the Panther tribe, and foreboding rumours surface, threatening to bring the House of Fahd to its knees.

The callous grip of peril is not limited to demons, for, in the wake of a madman's quest for vengeance, the champions of Light are left adrift. The Priesthood is shattered, the Temple village is left in ruins, and the priests find themselves in a world overrun by demons. Survivors attempt to gather in resistance, but they do not know where to turn.

Until they receive the most unlikely summons.

*The Light of Darkness delivers an epic fantasy tale dripping with dark undertones and a touch of romance.*

*The Light of Darkness series is intended for a mature audience, containing sensitive subjects including violence, torture, consequences of sexual abuse, emotional scars, mature language, and steamy scenes.*



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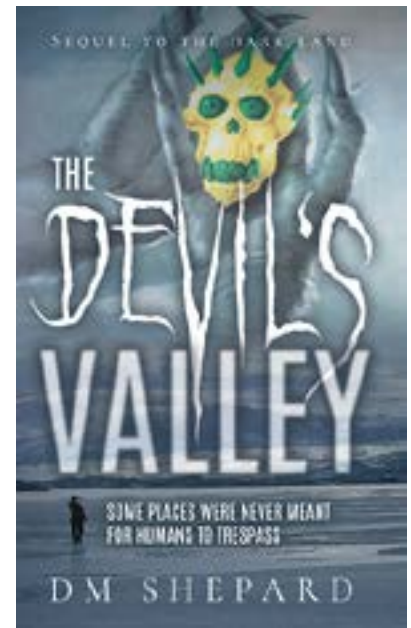
We are  
fueled by  
*Love*



**D M Shepard**  
***The Devil's Valley***

Five friends on a winter fishing trip discover that something bites harder than the Alaskan winter. Evil places earn their names for a reason, and were never meant for humans to trespass. Rose and Ulrik must make a choice—return to the safety of civilization, or save the ones they love.

On the heels of their near-death battle with the legendary Tailed-Men at the Headless Ravine, Rose and Ulrik face a new challenge. The dead walk in the icy forest; leaving nightmares in their wake. Voices whisper in the darkness, driving people to question their sanity. Surrounded by monsters in a vast wilderness, the psychological warfare is now worse than the creatures' obsidian claws and whip-like tails. When a group of their close friends on a winter camping trip are the next targets of the Tailed Men, Rose and Ulrik will risk everything to save them.



The answers to defeating the Tailed-Men hide behind the jade grin of an ancient and mysterious golden skull, and time is running out to unlock its secrets and save their friends. It's a treacherous race against time and darkness to reach the north side of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park to a remote place known as:

**The Devil's Valley**

The Dark Land is now waging war. The stakes are their lives...and the souls of the ones they hold dear.

Promote yourself



**TOOT YOUR OWN HORN**

Opportunities to promote yourself and meet collaborators like graphic artists, ARC reviewers, and more.



Meet Collaborators.

# ***Join World Indie Warriors. Cheerleaders. Support.***



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We are  
fueled by  
*Love*