

SIREN BOOK REVIEWS

February 2011 Ezine

ISSUE #1



EDEN'S HELL

I: The First

by DAWNÉ DOMINIQUE

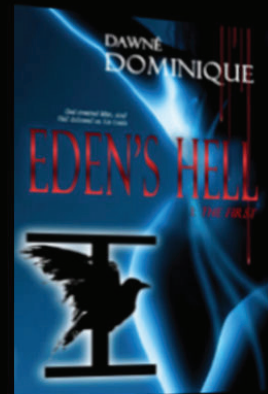
You're in for a wonderful ride with Eden's Hell...

~ Jennifer, Dark Diva Reviews

"When I read the blurb I was initially intrigued about a story detailing the mythology of Adam and Lillith. But from the beginning of the story I became a fan of Dawné Dominique's Eden's Hell. She created a world and a story that exceeded all my expectations and, to be honest, I didn't think I'd be as spellbound by the tale as I was. What a pleasant, nay, wonderful, surprise!"...

~ Kathy K., EbookAddicts Reviews

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SIREN BOOK REVIEWS

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SBR sits down with Edward Kendrick

Author of Everyone's Man

What inspired your decision to write?

Joining a fanfic site and deciding to try my hand at it.

Do you research your books? What kind of research do you do?

I do research for some of my stories, depending on the subject. Anything that involves the police or forensics requires it. I look online and I have a fairly decent selection of book on forensics in my personal library.

What kind of notes do you keep while you're writing?

I'll track time frames and character names, ages, appearances and such. As I'm definitely an off the top of my head writer, not a plotter, that's really about it.

What was it like to sign your first publishing contract?

Amazing and unbelievable. It only happened a few months ago and honestly, until I see my book up I still won't quite believe it.

What do you do when you have writer's block?

Writer's block? What's that? And having said that it'll probably hit me big time now. LOL.

How do you come up with and develop your characters?

Most of them come from some basic 'what if' thought. From there they just sort of grow as my mind takes me

from the start on through to when I feel it's time to end.

Do you have any new releases? Tell us about them.

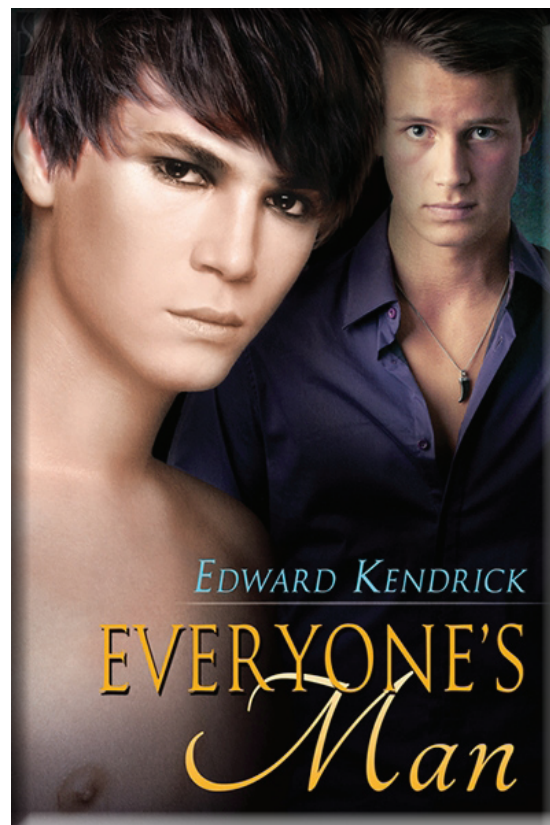
My first book, 'Everyone's Man', is due to be released on Feb. 19th through Silver Publishing.

Do you want to share a blurb of your latest release?

Colin Wilcox, a male whore who only handles clients of the same sex, is gang-raped while on the job. Needing medical attention, he's taken to the local ER and is befriended by one of the doctors. While he's recovering physically, reoccurring flashbacks of the attack provide small images of his brutal rape and he's forced by Detective Keyes to handle the emotional fallout of being victimized.

Detective Keyes, a rape victim himself, is assigned to solve the crime. When a second boy is gang-raped under what appears to be similar circumstances, he needs Colin's help to catch the perpetrators. In the process, he tries to use his own personal experience to help Colin understand he's not to blame for what happened.

A slow, but sure, friendship unfolds between the two men that blossoms into love, stunted by the traumatic event. When the perpetrators are finally in custody, Colin has to move forward, and the next battle is underway. He must learn to lower the barriers that will allow him to let Detective Keyes into his life for both mental



and physical support. Only then will the two men be able to consummate their tender passion.

What is your favorite movie?

Blade Runner

If you could go on vacation and money wasn't a concern, where would you travel to? What would you do?

I'd go to Great Britain, hire a canal boat, and travel the country that way.

If you were handed a million dollars right now, guilt-free, what would you do with it?

Donate at least half of it to shelters for the homeless and street kids.

Dog or cat person?

Definitely a cat person, although sometimes I think my cat has reservations about that when I won't let her in my lap while I'm on the computer.

What CD is in your stereo/track on your MP3 player right now?

MP3 player? -laughing- Jazz radio all the way.

What kind of television shows do you watch?

I don't own a television. Okay everyone, pick your jaws up off the floor.

Where can your readers find you?

[-http://edwardkendrick.blogspot.com/](http://edwardkendrick.blogspot.com/)

[-http://edwardkendrick.multiply.com/](http://edwardkendrick.multiply.com/)

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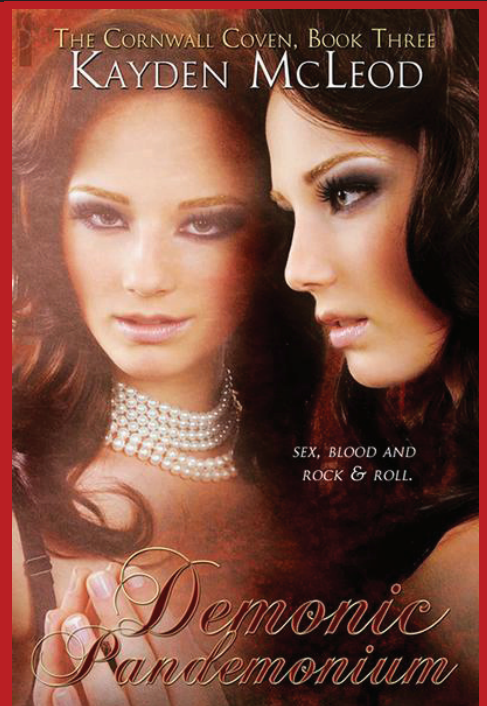
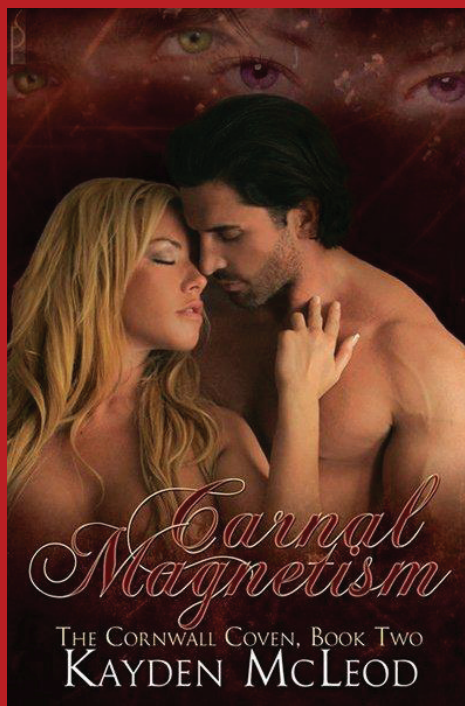
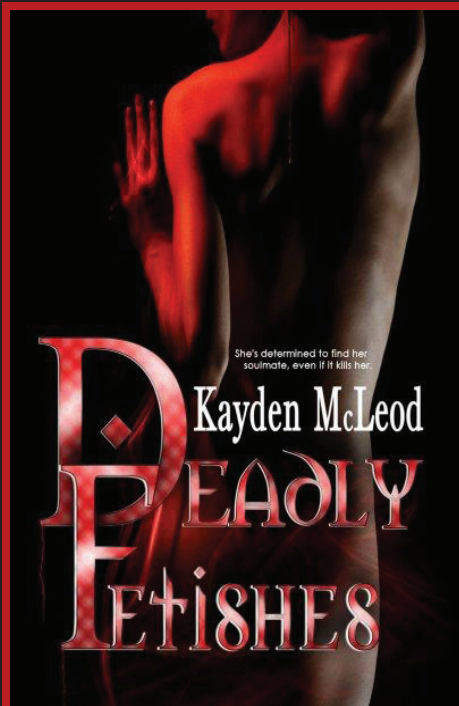
- BLOOD POND by D.J. Manly
- INTO THE LIGHT by Scarlet Blackwell
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Cindy Spencer Pape

D.M. Slate

Andi Anderson

Victoria Blisse

Denyse Bridger

Cindy Jacks

Sirens's Best Books of 2010

Best Book and Best Horror Book of 2010

Angel of Death
by Karen Dales

Genre

Horror

Publisher

Dark Dragon
Publications

Buy-Link

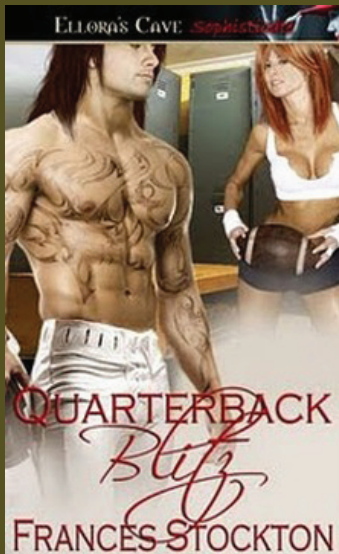
http://www.amazon.com/Angel-Death-Book-One-Chosen/dp/0981196500/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1245983847&sr=8-1

Reviewer: Rhonda J Callum-King

'Angel of Death: Book One of the Chosen by Karen Dales was by far one of the best stories by a new and upcoming writer that I have read.' –Rhonda, Siren Book Reviews

Review: <http://sirenbookreviews.blogspot.com/2010/05/karen-dales-book-one-of-chosen-includes.html>





Best Contemporary Romance 2010
Quarterback Blitz
 by Frances Stockton

Genre
 Contemporary Romance
Publisher
 Ellora's Cave

Buy-Link
<http://www.jasminejade.com/p-8560-quarterback-blitz.aspx>

'This book was so delicious I don't know where to begin.' — Cia, Siren Book Reviews

Review
<http://sirenbookreviews.blogspot.com/2011/01/frances-stockton-quarterback-blitz.html>

Best Western Romance 2010

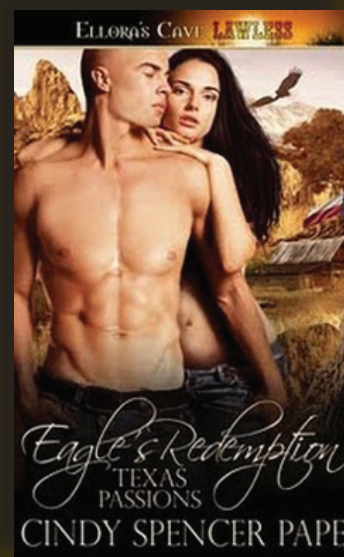
Eagle's Redemption
 by Cindy Spencer Pape

Genre
 Western Romance
Publisher
 Ellora's Cave

Buy-Link
<http://www.jasminejade.com/p-8423-eagles-redemption.aspx>

'Cindy does a great job bringing you into the lives of Dash and Carmen; you will fall in love with them.' —Yvette, Siren Book Reviews

Review
<http://siren-bookreviews.blogspot.com/2010/09/cindy-spencer-pape-eagles-redemption.html>



Best Paranormal Romance 2010

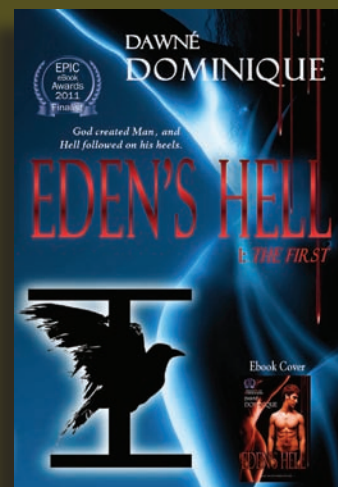
Eden's Hell
 by Dawné Dominique

Genre
 Paranormal Romance
Publisher
 Purple Sword Publications

Buy-Link
http://purplesword.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=2&products_id=29

'Ms. Dominique has created fascinatingly likeable, believable characters that move through a story as old as time, with a many exciting twists.' —Brigit, Siren Book Reviews

Review
<http://sirenbookreviews.blogspot.com/2010/04/dawne-dominique-edens-hell.html>



Best GLBT 2010

Workplace Encounters 1:
The Elevator Mechanic by Serena Yates

Sub-Genre

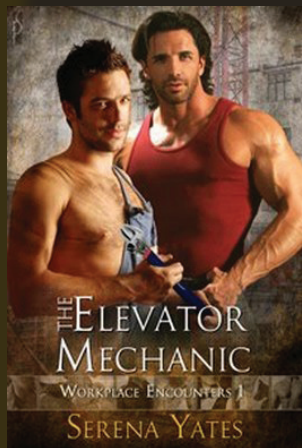
GLBT

Publisher

Silver Publishing

Buy-Link

http://silverpublishing.info/product_book_info/the-elevator-mechanic-p-86



'The emotional growth of this couple was splendid, and the skyrocketing sensuality was heart melting.'

–Cia, Siren

Book Reviews

Review

<http://sirenbookreviews.blogspot.com/2011/01/selena-yates-workplace-encounters-1.html>

Best Erotica 2010

Afterlife
by Joey W. Hill

Genre

BDSM/Erotica

Publisher

Ellora's Cave

Buy-Link

<http://www.jasmine-jade.com/p-8851-afterlife.aspx>



'I can't wait to read this again.'

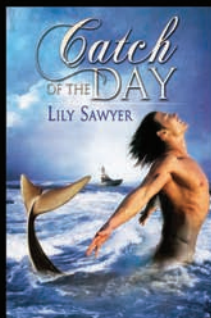
–Cia, Siren Book Reviews

Review

<http://sirenbookreviews.blogspot.com/2010/12/joey-w-hill-afterlife.html>

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Decadent Publishing



**Best Fantasy
2010**

*Blood Moon
by Ellen Keener*

Sub-Genre
Fantasy
Publisher
Decadent
Publishing

Buy-Link

http://www.decadentpublishing.com/product_info.php?manufacturers_id=32&products_id=161&osCsid=6c1232251c1e45744bd0b3ee7262f414

'Talk about a riveting book. Blood Moon took me on an emotional ride.'

–Cia, Siren Book Reviews

Review

<http://sirenbookreviews.blogspot.com/2010/12/ellen-keener-blood-moon.html>

Best Science Fiction 2010

*Day 94
by D.M. Slate*

Genre
Science Fiction
Publisher
Eternal Press

Buy-Link

<http://www.eternalpress.biz/book.php?isbn=9781770650046>

'My heart raced and ached throughout the entire story.'

–Trinity, Siren
Book Reviews

Review

<http://siren-bookreviews.blogspot.com/2011/01/dm-slate-day-94.html>



WRITING FICTION - THE PITFALLS

By Chris Burton

There are two types of Science Fiction reader. The Scourer and the Believer.

The Scourer will be an avid follower of this genre, who may well have some knowledge of the subject matter. In the case of a Sci Fi where Space is involved; they will know the difference between a Nebulae and a Cluster or a Giant and a Dwarf Star. Beware the writer who strays too far from fact, when only fact will work...

The Believer Science Fiction reader is really everyone else.

They may enjoy the genre, but not exclusively and expect that a book should include a good mix of credible Science Fiction, a good narrative, dialogue, characterisation and a fast moving storyline, interspersed perhaps with romance, political intrigue and conflict.

Pleasing both types of reader is a difficult balancing act. The Scourer will scour the text for inaccuracies. For him, it has to be both factually correct and believable. You cannot

suggest that a space ship will take only one hour to cover, thousand of light years of space without backing up with reference to how this

was achieved and at what velocity. On this last matter alone, you need to be uniquely careful. Go too

far and you will lose credibility...

In 200 years, we will surely not be able to travel to the end of the universe and back... but space travel within our own galaxy is more than conceivable.

***And then
there are the aliens!***



Chris Burton is a financial business to business advisor and part time writer, who lives on the edge of the South Downs National Park in rural Hampshire, England, with his wife, two young children (with a third on the way), two dogs and a cat. Alpha One - The Jump Pilot is his first novel.

The Alpha One series will eventually contain seven books; two trilogies and a one off final book. The second book in the series is complete and is undergoing final editing before submission.

"I have been inspired to write this series from childhood. It was always simply a case of starting and now that I have started, there is a lot more to come. I hope

you enjoy the Alpha One Series of books!"

WHERE READERS CAN FIND ME

1) **My website:** <http://www.chrisburton2212.weebly.com>

2) **My publishers website:** <http://www.eternalpress.biz/book.php?isbn=9781615722426>

3) **My blog:** <http://alphaonethejumpipilot.blogspot.com/2010/12/is-world-ready-for-alpha-one.html>

4) My Twitter name is: *chrisburton99*



But if you become too embroiled in the techno babble, you will put off the Beleiver Sci Fi reader and lose the strength of your story. My stance on this is two-fold:

1) Don't mix fact with fiction, unless it is credible.

2) If your story goes too far, it becomes fantasy.

Alpha One is a Space Opera. By definition, that means a Science Fiction Adventure, of Love, War and Conflict, in Space. There is fact and the science is designed to be credible, but not too far removed from the realms of possibility. It is set 200 years from now. That means that looking forward; it is highly possible that space travel will become more prevalent. It is also quite possible, that life on other planets will have been detected and that high velocity space travel is achievable.

And then there are the aliens! How many alien races are there out there? Will they be friendly, technically advanced or fearsome warriors? Will they be like us or multi-phasic blobs floating freely across the cosmos absorbing everything in their path. Most successful Science Fiction writers tend to adopt a humanisation of their aliens, i.e. they more or less resemble humans,

and somehow they are able to speak our languages. Don't even get me started on that! Universal translators are surely wild fantasy. To communicate with an alien, will surely never be that easy?

Again, Alpha One draws on the best experiences of others. My aliens, The Sentinels, The Partacians and the Kryl are all to an extent humanised, because if they were not then the technicalities of communicating would take away from the storyline.

As I write this blog, I have just pencilled an outline for my Fourth (yes 4Th Alpha Novel!). No, I am not getting ahead of myself. I have already written book two, which is at the editing stage, before submission and the third is the final part of the first Alpha One Trilogy. The storyline for book 3 is therefore more or less set in stone as I seek to bring together all the facets of the previous two books into a trilogy conclusion.

The Fourth and hence the start of the second trilogy represented more of a challenge. I needed new aliens, new concepts and new areas of the cosmos for events to take place in. I am quite happy with the result, but for now that will remain a closely guarded secret. Let's get the first three books into print first!

SR



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Roxanne Rhoads

**Freelance Writer,
Author, Book Reviewer**

RoxanneRhoads@aol.com

Whispers of the Night

by Heather Kuehl

Heather Kuehl is the author of the Sarah Vargas series and Promises to Keep. Learn more about her at: <http://www.heatherkuehl.com>

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Website: www.heatherkuehl.com

Blog: <http://heatherkuehl.blogspot.com>

Twitter: @heatherkuehl

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Heather-Kuehl/172267734681>

Darkness closed in, leaving nothing in its wake but death and despair. Amelia saw it coming, felt it, but nothing she could do would stop its advance. She stood still, frozen in time, waiting for it to claim her. But it did not. It passed over, not even considering her presence as it moved on. And then nothing was left but silence.

Amelia woke up in heaven. Bright lights shone down. A feeling of warmth filled her. But florescent lights and medication were confusing things. She looked around, trying to piece together what had happened. A nurse came in, checking her vitals and giving her a reassuring smile before

leaving the room. Amelia tried to speak, but only air left her lungs. A doctor came in and sat at her bedside.

"Do you know where you are?"

Amelia cleared her throat and tried to speak again, but nothing came out. The doctor handed her a pad of paper and a pen. Her hands moved to claim them.

Hospital? she wrote.

He nodded.

"Do you know which one?"

She scrawled the name of the hospital on the pad. The doctor nodded again.

"Do you remember how you got here?"

Amelia couldn't remember. Why can't I speak? she wrote instead. The

doctor sighed.

"We had to put a tube down your throat to help you breath. It was removed last night. You might be able to talk again by tonight or it may take a couple of days. You've been through a lot. Just rest and get well."

You've been through a lot. Those words had weight on them. They meant something. Amelia just didn't know what.

The doctor cleared his throat. "Do you remember how you got here, Mrs. Fontaine?"

No, she wrote. I don't.

Amelia remembered the darkness coming for her. She remembered walking along the beach with her husband during the twilight hours and seeing...

Nothing. Everything

was darkness and silence until now. The doctor was staring at her, as though he was trying to figure out if she were lying.

"You were attacked. On the beach," he said. Amelia knew that he was fishing for something, she just didn't know what. "You were found floating in the water fifty miles off the coast by fishermen."

Where's Michael? Amelia wrote.

"I'm sorry. He didn't make it."

The silence came again. The doctor's mouth kept moving, but all Amelia heard were those words; he didn't make it. Tears made tracks down her cheeks as she tried to force her mind to remember, but nothing she could do would fill the void from that night. She looked up to say something, anything, to the doctor but he was gone.

Michael. The darkness had passed over her and claimed him instead. It wasn't right. Amelia paged the nurse. She had to get home, back to the beach house. She had to do something. She couldn't just lie there.

Amelia would be released in the morning, the nurse explained. The nurse called Amelia's mother and made arrangements for her release.

Michael. Amelia could remember his smile, how it lit up his face and made his eyes shine. She remembered the sunset, how glorious it made the ocean

look. Michael took Amelia's hand, stopping and turning her towards him. His lips made her heart skip. Her soul felt whole when she was with him. His brown eyes looked into hers, then drifted past her face and looked over her shoulder. She turned and saw...

The darkness took over her memory.

Amelia was wheeled out of the hospital in a wheelchair even though she could walk. She wished that there was some waiver she could sign to avoid the looks of pity, but there was none. Her mother loaded her up in the car.

"Are you sure you want to go there?" her mother asked, referring to Amelia's home. "You have enough to deal with right now."

To deal with. The funeral plans or her darkness?

The house was on the beachfront; the ocean and its waves were the view from the living room window. Michael had bought

this house as a fifth wedding anniversary gift to her. He knew how much she loved the beach. The memories of this house were many. The long weekends. The romantic dinners.

Michael died here.

Amelia's mind knew it, but her heart refused to believe it.

Night would be coming soon. Amelia showered, washing away the scent of medicine and death. Michael's razor was on the counter, watching her as she combed her wet hair.



Was it still his even though he was gone?

His clothes hung in the closet. His shoes were by the door. His golf clubs leaned against the foyer wall. His smiling face watched Amelia from the photo on the mantel. It was too much.

The full moon shone down on the beach, turning the sand gray and the ocean black. Stars glittered like diamonds from the velvet black sky. The sand slid between her toes as she walked, following the same path that she and Michael had walked just days before. Tears filled her eyes, blurring her vision.

Walking. Laughing. Hugging. Kissing. Fear. Then nothing.

Amelia screamed and fell, tears dropping down to the sand beneath her. Grief overtook her like the waves of the ocean. It washed away everything, leaving clarity in its wake.

Michael's eyes had slid over her shoulder and fear filled them. Amelia turned around, and saw a woman standing just feet from her. Her eyes were like red embers glowing from behind a curtain of green hair. Her skin was milk white with black scales splashed across it.

The woman lunged for Michael, an inhuman scream leaving her mouth. Her long fingers with even longer black nails wrapped themselves

around Michael's neck, pulverizing the vertebrae within moments. Michael dropped to the ground, his eyes seeing that Amelia was frozen in fear. She couldn't run and even if she wanted



to, she wouldn't be able to outrun such a beast. Michael sputtered, blood oozing from his mouth as he tried to call out to her. The woman looked down at him, her smile revealing sharp white teeth. As she looked up and started moving toward Amelia, Michael stilled and the life left his eyes. The woman grabbed Amelia's wrist and flung her into the ocean.

The cold water pushed at Amelia. Hands grabbed her, dragging her deep within the ocean's

depths. Amelia kicked and fought. Her thoughts muddled as the air in her lungs dried up. The woman's eyes looked into hers, and a smile darkened those eyes. Deadly hands came up to Amelia's neck as she passed out.

What was that woman? People can't do to Michael's neck what she did. And why did she let Amelia live?

She looked up from the sand as the sharp sting of realization hit her.

Amelia wasn't spared.

Red eyes burned into hers. Green hair glinted in the moonlight and the black scales glittered. The woman stood against the backdrop of the night, smiling at her with sharp white teeth. Amelia wasn't spared. Her body and soul were allowed to marinate in grief and loss, making her ripe for the taking.

The beastly woman looked into Amelia's eyes, and never-ending darkness followed.



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Posts on Myspace, Twitter, and Facebook
Up to 2 lines in post with cover and link to buy book

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So, you've gotten published. What's next?

By Heather Kuehl

Congratulations! Every year publishers receive thousands of manuscripts. Many of them get rejected, but you were one of the lucky few to make it through the slush piles and get that coveted acceptance letter.

But what now?

After you celebrate, it's time to get to work. Not only are there edits to work on, but you've got to start marketing your book and working on your next manuscript. It's never too early to start promoting. Even if your release date is a year away, there are things you can start doing to get the word out about your book. Many of them are easy to do, and most of them are free.

Start by creating a website or blog. There are many places that offer websites or blogs for free, such as Weebly or Google. However if you want your own domain name you'll have to pay. Getting your own URL can be handy. Why? Well, take my website for instance. My Google Sites webpage is <http://sites.google.com/site/malevolentdead>. That's quite a bit to put on a bookmark and it's hard to remember. GoDaddy.com's domain name rates are reasonable, and you can link it to your free webpage (for example, if you type in my purchased URL <http://www.heatherkuehl.com> it will bring you to the Google Sites webpage I mentioned above). If you ever want to stop using your free website provider and switch to a new provider, your purchased URL goes with you. That way, you don't have to waste money making new promotional material (I'll get to the promo material in a second). Regularly post updates about your book along with any excerpts or tidbits. Twitter and Facebook are also great for updating friends and family about your book.

Do you want to create a book trailer and put it on YouTube? You can use Windows Movie Maker, which is on most Windows computers. It's an easy 1-2-3 process and it's free! Creating a book trailer can be a little tricky at times, like when you need to find non-copyrighted music to have playing during your trailer or images you want on there. I've found that it's easier to use pictures that I have taken myself and tweaked in Microsoft Paint. There are many sites that offer free non-copyrighted music, such as <http://incompetech.com>, and all you'll have to do is site the creator.

Join message boards or groups with other authors. They will often give helpful advice. While you're there, see what blogs other authors are guests on and request a guest spot or interview from those blogs. Some authors even set up virtual book tours, hopping from blog to blog for a week or longer to promote their book. Virtual book tours can either be set up by the authors themselves, or by services such as Goddess Fish Promotions (which charge a fee to set up a virtual tour). Another free way to promote your new book is to set up interviews on Blog Talk Radio (<http://www.blogtalkradio.com>). Blog Talk Radio is a great tool in promoting your work, but it can be overwhelming trying to find the stations that are right for your book.

Don't forget about book reviews! Out of all the things that need to get done when a book is released, this is the most important. About three months before your book's release date, make a list of what book review sites you want to send your book to. As soon as you get your hands on your advance reader's copy (or ARC), send it out to reviewers. If you're lucky, you'll have some glowing reviews appearing near your release date.

There are also some inexpensive ways to promote, such as making your own bookmarks, business cards, etc. to give away. This can be done by either making the items yourself, or by ordering them off of sites like Purebuttons.com or Uprinting.com. Is your book in print, is it an ebook, or both? If your book is in print, call your local independent bookstores and set up a book signing. Just be aware that you will have to purchase your own books to sell at the signing. Of course, a book signing isn't plausible if your book is digital. Many ebook authors have been burning CDs with their book information on it, from reviews to excerpts, to sign and hand out.

Are you overwhelmed yet? It's easy to feel like there's too much to do in so little time. Just keep reminding yourself of all the blood, sweat, and tears that went into writing your book. Don't you want to make sure it reaches as many readers as possible?

The best advice I have for new authors is to enjoy the ride. You, dear author, are one of the lucky ones to receive the highly coveted acceptance letter. Remember that!





Sensual Treats

<http://sensualtreats.webs.com/>

Sensual Treats is a quarterly magazine. We are dedicated to romance of all sorts from writing to traveling and everything in between. Our **March 2011** Issue is dedicated to all things Celtic. Please come join us as we celebrate Celtic Romance this issue.

All ads are rated for a three month period with us, plus we have a new free option, as well. (Check the bottom of the page for that offer)

Full Page - \$15.00

Full Page - our design - \$25.00

With your FULL PAGE ad, if you wish for us to design the ad for you, there is an additional charge of **\$10**, and you will have final approval on any work we do for you, of course. Samples of our full page ads are posted below.

Half Page - \$10.00

Quarter Page - \$6.00

Book Covers - \$5.00

Banners - \$5.00

Contact Heather to arrange for secure, private handling the purchasing of your banner and ad space:

sensualtreats@gmail.com

SAMPLE AD PAGES



Previously your ads ran on the website as well as in the magazine. Since our issues run forever once they're archived, we're making a few changes.

The **SENSUAL FRIENDS** page is now the **SENSUAL WHISPERS** page, and is being devoted to permanent ads and sponsors, musical, sexy, and just plain **FUN!** We're going to post links and banners to some sexy and wicked places, as well as the romantic and beautiful.... so check it out often because you never know what you will find!

Also **NEW** is our **FREE** quickie promo/ad spot.

Beginning with our **ONE YEAR**

ANNIVERSARY issue, **JUNE 2010** - I will be creating a new page in the magazine - the **DE-CLASSIFIEDS** - and this is where your short ads will be placed. There is a limit of 150 characters, so keep in mind you have the length of one of Twitter's posts. Your link can be added to this, but your ad must **NOT** run more than the 150 characters allotted, and that includes spaces. You can email us your ad and link, and it will appear in the next published issue of the magazine. Please use the words "Free Ad" in your subject line so Heather can keep track of the ads until press time.

As always, thank you - and we look forward to bring you this new service.

NIGHTSEEKERS

BY CINDY JACKS

A howling wind swept across the snow covered grounds. Headstones dotted the white landscape like rotted teeth in an otherwise pearly smile. But Clara didn't feel like smiling.

How does one dig a grave in frozen soil? she wondered. Or dig a way out of one?

She checked her watch. Bartholomew was late; the sun would rise soon. When the cops had come, he'd told her to run, to meet him here if the worst happened. Perhaps the very worst had happened and he wasn't merely late. She closed her eyes against the tears prickling there. Her mate was not dead; she could feel him inside her. Her throat ached with his thirst, her body ready for his icy touch.

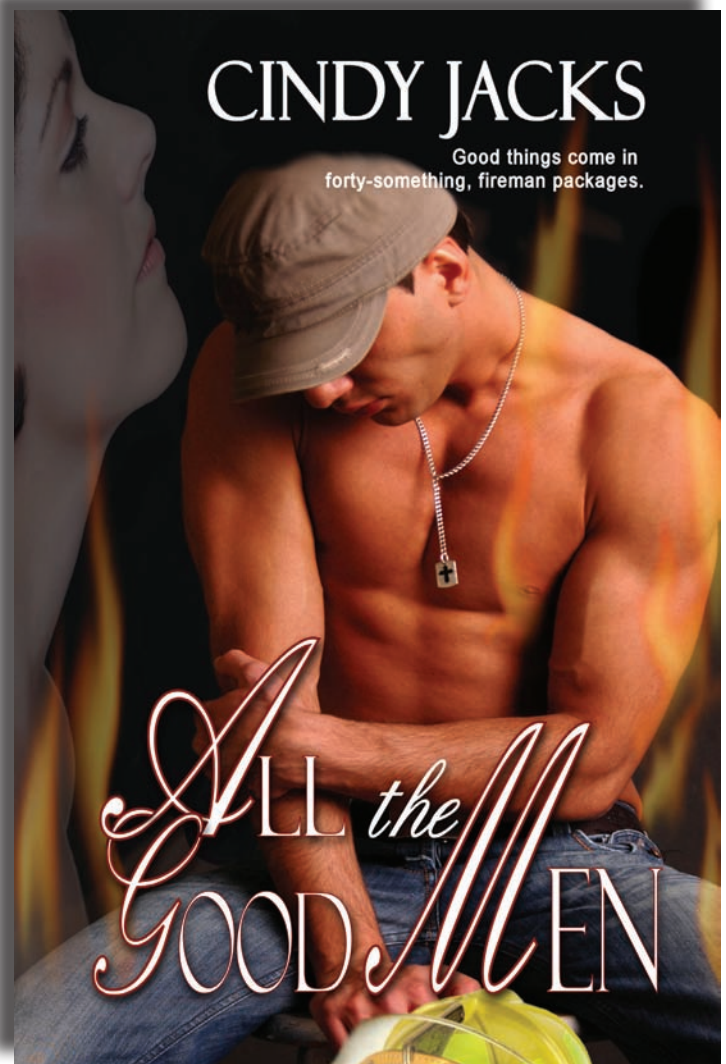
Checking her watch again, she staved off the worry pressing at her ribcage. Why had they run to Alaska? Well,

there had been nowhere left to run. Not to mention, sixty-plus days of constant night gave them some time to catch their breath...and feed. With no need to flee the rising sun, the town had been like a Vegas buffet. Warm blood surging from its host down her throat, there was no better feeling. Not since the change.

She'd admit they'd been greedy taking one victim too many. She'd begged him to move on, but then the night clerk had opened the door to their room. At the sight of their kills, the woman started shrieking.

Bartholomew had to take her. Maybe if he'd just killed her without draining her, they could've slipped away. Would've, should've, could've...but didn't.

When the floodlights first clicked on, Clara had panicked. As bright as daylight, her skin tingled the way it did if she were caught by the



first rays of dawn. She wasn't as old as Bartholomew, not nearly as strong.

"Go out the bathroom window," he said.

"I can't leave you," she replied.

"Go. If they catch me, they won't look for you."

"They'll kill you." Her hands trembled.

"They don't know how to kill me. I'm sure they're armed with wooden stakes and silver bullets. Just go, my love." A rakish smile parted his lips, his fangs gleamed in the lights. "Meet me at the cemetery, two hours before the sun reappears."

But now the sun would rise in less than an hour and he hadn't come. Just what they'd done with his body, she didn't know. Sanitized news reports described a violent drifter who'd died during a shootout with the police. Clara picked up whispers from policemen who'd been there. Bartholomew had been shot, cut into pieces, burned and buried here. They'd sprinkled holy water on his grave. The thought made her chuckle. Holy water, indeed. He was right. They had no idea how to kill him.

Forty minutes until sunrise. She chewed at her lip—what would she do if he didn't show? A crunch of footsteps startled her. Scanning the cemetery, she saw no one.

"Bartholomew?" she called, but he

didn't answer.

She stood up, her head swiveling from left to right.

There! She heard it again—a muffled footfall.

"Bartholomew, this isn't funny."

A hand clamped over her mouth, catching her scream before she could utter it. She fought and thrashed, biting at the attacker's hand.

Cold, she thought. No rivulets of blood spilled over her lips. A cackle filled her ears as he released her. She turned to find Bartholomew's handsome face lined with laughter.

Striking at his marble-smooth chest, she said, "You scared me to death."

A sly grin twisted his full lips. "I'm sorry, love. Just a bit of fun."

"You're late. We have to go, *now*."

"Not before I get a proper welcome." He pulled her into his muscled arms, his mouth crushed to hers. Clara melted against him, fingers tangled in his jet black hair, the scent of earth filling her nostrils.



SBR SPEAKS WITH D.C. JURIS

AUTHOR OF ON SOLID GROUND

SBR: What is your favorite book(s), and why?

DJ: I won't pick out any m/m titles for this question, because that's impossible! *grin.* Otherwise, I have random favorites among mainstream literature. I love "The Lord of the Flies" because it's such a fascinating look at human nature. "The Island of Doctor Moreau" I've read about 200 times (not even kidding). Again, fascinating subject matter. "Flowers for Algernon" was just moving and so very heartbreaking. And "The Bumblebee Flies Anyway." Wow. Just...wow.

SBR: Do you write a series? If so, how hard do you find it to keep all the details straight?

DJ: I do! I have a series called The Sky People trilogy out with Breathless Press. I had no intention of doing more than one story, originally, but my editor suggested I do so, and I ran with it. It's really not hard to keep the details straight -- I'm rather obsessive compulsive about that sort of thing.

SBR: What kind of notes do you keep while you're writing?

DJ: Every pairing has their own hanging file in my filing cabinet. Inside that file is a notebook filled with notes on the characters. What they look like, where they work, their pasts, etc. There's also research that I've done, say, if one of them has a particular job or hobby I'm not all that familiar with, I'll

research it and write down notes. Also in the folder is an individual folder for every story, and a pouch-type folder so that if I'm working on a story, I can keep the folder/notebook together easily. (Told ya I was obsessive compulsive.)

SBR: How do you come up with and develop your characters?

DJ: My characters come to me pretty much already developed. The reader may only know what's in the story, but when a character taps on my shoulder, I find out everything I can and write it all down.

SBR: When you sit down to start writing a book, what do you?

DJ: I write in scenes and snips. Whatever comes into my head, I write it down, and then I'll piece it all together later.

SBR: Do you plot out your story before writing, or just go page to page, never knowing what will happen next?

DJ: Both, I guess. I always know where a story is going. Some of the details are hazy, but I always have the general plot. I don't write it all down in any sort of organized fashion, though. LOL

SBR: Do you have any new releases? Tell us about them.

DJ: I do! I've just had a new m/m romance release with Torquere Press, called "On Solid Ground."

SBR: Do you want to share a blurb of your latest release, "On Solid Ground?"

DJ: Jack and Alan are back! The couple's world is turned upside down by a break-in, and while Alan takes it all in stride, Jack finds himself faced with something he's never dealt with before: fear. When panic attacks start to take hold, Jack decides Alan would be better off with someone "normal" and runs away to his parents' cabin in the woods. With the help of Solid Ground Security Systems, Alan just might convince Jack there's nothing they can't overcome together.

SBR: What do you have in store for your readers?

DJ: I've got several WIPs going on. As far as releases, there will be more Calliph and Mateo (my shifter pair), a 7-story anthology coming soon, and several other new pairings!

SBR: What are your hobbies?

DJ: Photography is my second passion. Otherwise, I enjoy gardening, long drives, and nature walks.

SBR: If you were handed a million dollars right now, guilt-free, what would you do with it?

DJ: First things first, I'd buy our house. Then I'd pay off all the bills. I'd buy my husband a hot tub (he has extreme pain from back issues, so he could really use one!). I'd buy him a Jeep for the summer drives,

and then I'd just put the rest in the bank.

SBR: What is your number one goal in life?

DJ: To be happy. Really, that's all I want, in whatever form that takes.

SBR: Dog or cat person?

DJ: You know, I used to be a cat person until I started working for a veterinarian. Dogs rule!

SBR: If you could describe your life in a few sentences, what would it be?

DJ: I don't even need a few sentences, just a few words: calm, relaxed, mostly stress-free, open, honest, and encouraging. And happy. J

SBR: What is your ideal woman?

DJ: How much time do you have? LOL My ideal woman would be another writer - only because she'd be able to truly understand the passion I have. Otherwise, someone who is comfortable in her skin, who can laugh at herself but doesn't enjoy laughing at others. Someone who can dress up but can also get dirty. A happy, open minded person who understands who she is and doesn't let her faults define her.

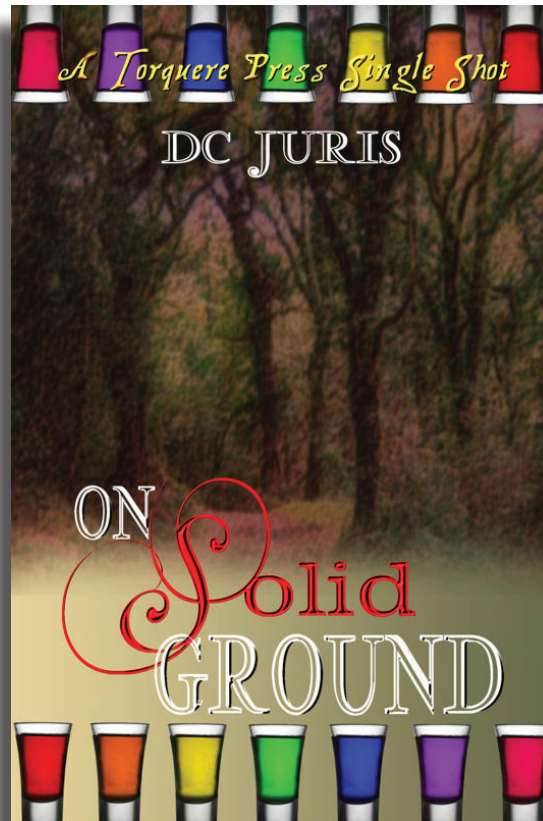
SBR: Do you have another job, besides being a writer?

DJ: I do - I'm the office manager at a small animal veterinary clinic.

SBR: Tell us the first five random things about you that come to mind.

DJ:

1. I don't like to go barefoot anywhere.
2. I chew my drink straws when I'm finished with my drink.
3. I'm far harder on myself than anyone else can be.



4. People who don't take responsibility for themselves anger me.
5. I'm lactose intolerant.

SBR: What CD is in your stereo/track on your MP3 player right now?

DJ: I keep my iTunes set to a specific playlist for when I'm writing. It consists of songs like "Come With Me" by Puff Daddy, "Better Days" by Citizen King, "Are You Sure Hank Done it This Way" by Waylong Jennings and a bunch of others from artists like Will Smith, Counting Crows, Robbie Williams, BNL, Creed, The Crystal Method, PM Dawn. Basically if it has a beat, I like it.

SBR: What kind of television shows do you watch?

DJ: Hoarders, Family Guy, Deadliest Catch, WWE, NFL, Sons of Anarchy, Top Chef, Cupcake Wars, Chopped, Food Network Challenge, Survivor, Destination Truth, Dexter, Californication, Supernatural, South Park, The Walking Dead, Penn & Teller: Bullshit!

Basically anything gross, weird, or funny. LOL And there's a couple British comedies I love, but don't watch anymore because Hubby isn't fond of them: Keeping Up Appearances, Are you Being Served? and Allo 'Allo.

Where Can Our Readers Find You?

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