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BEST
BOOKS
MAY
2023

[NISA MONTIE]

LITERARY TODAY • BRILLIANT BOOKS LITERARY • MAY 2023



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Nisa Montie

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Only Divine Providence could have arranged for co-authors Frank Scott, growing up in Peru, and Nisa Montie, living in the U.S., to meet. Brought together first professionally, then as friends, and finally as Eternal Companions, a name given to them by the Angelic Realm.

The Guides had a reason—soon Frank and Nisa were married and collaborating on the writing and publishing of twenty-seven books. Twelve fictional eco-tales teach children how to care for themselves and the Earth using lively fairy and nature characters. Fifteen non-fiction spiritual volumes, the most recent being *Eternal Companions of Love*, explore how humans exist in both worlds of time in our material constructs, and eternity in the Soul-based awareness seeded in our Hearts.

This information, and the experiences derived from *Eternal Love*, were gifted to us from the Higher Realms through intuitive “downloads.” They support each of us, and humanity as a whole, in gaining the higher Perspective of Divine Oneness, Beauty, and Eternal Love.

Our Guides and Angels would wake us up at all hours with these messages to write down, edit, and publish, as we were informed by our personal experiences of increasing Knowingness, and united ever more deeply through Heart, Spirit, and Soul.

Since Frank moved on to the Eternal Realm in 2021, we continue our beautiful, eternal companionship, connecting through Heart and Soul---confirming the usefulness of what is written. Enjoy this Journey of your Eternal Beingness!

Wishing you much Love, Nisa and Frank



Thus, we are entities, as Beings of Light—subjects of illumination or enlightenment. We are also Soul-possessing—that which allows us to see and hear creation with the Eyes and Ears of our Creator. We are Spirits of Life and Intelligence—that is, endowed with those imperceptible fields of activity that give rise to the powers of attraction and repulsion, growth, instinct, rationality, and Faith. Here, Faith represents a sense of belongingness and relationship to everything, slowly growing as a state of Knowingness and Lovingness that fills one's heart.



My poems are oftentimes born from some great sadness. They usually speak of things that have been lost. They try to catch the soul and trap the memory - To tell the story...true...and- what-the cost. I rhyme because it helps me to remember. I rhyme so I must measure every word. I rhyme to help those lost things live forever. In rhyming, lilting, steeped-in-meaning verse. Words can prevail past flesh or thoughts or empires, And words can make souls live beyond the grave. So Man will ever know the wonder of them -The courage that they showed...the joy they gave.

Diana Leavengood Blanco

<https://www.facebook.com/diana.l.blanco.73/>

After graduating from Duke University, I lived with my grandfather at the base of Diamond Head, travelled to Tahiti, hitchhiked across the face of Europe, then lived the life of an educated, working vagabond. I finally settled in California where I found...then later lost....a husband.

I worked for an amazing man who was a small animal veterinarian, a famous man who was an amazing thoroughbred racehorse trainer, and then a major newspaper. I bred and raced slow racehorses, ever hoping for a fast one. I was raised by my two children. Now that they are off to seek their fortunes, I am left to look back upon my life and see that it has fallen quite short of what I had imagined it would be. Most of the dreams are shattered or completely unrecognizable.

One of my fondest dream has been to tell the stories, meet out the wisdom, and paint the pictures of courage, beauty, love, tragedy; and cruelty in my poems and then give them to the world. If this one dream of all the dreams can now be fulfilled, perhaps I will find peace...



- *What inspired the idea of your book?*

The inspiration for my book was when I helped my beloved dog and companion, Lucy, travel from her pain into death. I realized there were many beings who have walked this earth that deserved to be remembered.

- *What part of the book did you have the hardest time writing?*

As far as the poems, it is often hard to write all the things you want to write--in RHYME. As far as the Haikus go, it is hard to write something of value in just SEVENTEEN syllables. Sometimes the words flowed. Sometimes they had to be coaxed.

- *How did you come up with the title of your book?*

What lies within the pages of my book directed what the title should be. I just wrote out the four words.

- *What perspectives and beliefs have you challenged with this work*

Some of my poems challenge the belief that there is such a thing as REAL justice, that there is such a thing as ONE truth(for there are as many "truths" as there are brains perceiving), that it was God who created Man, and not Man who created God.

- *What is the ultimate goal for this book?*

My ultimate goal in writing my book is to tell the stories of beings who have walked the earth, so that they might be remembered, and to shine light upon the foibles and transgressions of Mankind--and also the love and courage--so that we may be aware of their presence and their power.

- *If you are planning a sequel, can you share a tiny bit about your plans for it?*

The response of my readers to what has already been written will determine if more WILL be written. If I cannot cling to the belief that my words are of some value to people other than myself, then I will just KEEP them to myself.

- *How do you use social media as an author?*

Since I am not very adept at promoting myself or using the internet, the most I have done with social media is to mention I had published a book and to tell its title. Occasionally, I quote a passage from my book like, "In Life what SEEMS to BE--so seldom IS", or write one of my poems on Facebook, like "A Mommy's Love" on Mother's Day, hoping those "glimpses" will generate interest in reading more.



Sandra Glassman

Sandra Glassman lives in Long Island New York where she is a writer of children’s books and a consummate poet. She composes music and has written a classical piece for a book. Sandra’s tenure as a piano instructor spans more than 35 years. Most of her wonderful students were young children, and some adults. She enjoys writing poetry where life and fiction cross paths. Music and poetry are a combined force of pleasure for Glassman. She wrote a poem about our nation’s space program that was sent to the White House. Now Glassman’s prized framed poem is brilliantly displayed in her family room sporting former President Bill Clinton’s signature. Sandra Glassman presently has written over two thousand poems, and recipient of plethora awards. She records music for Emerald Records, located in Nashville Tennessee, Hilltop Records in Hollywood California, and Sun Records in Nashville Tennessee. A year ago, Glassman started guitar lessons which she never thought she would enjoy so much! Sandra Glassman has two lovely adult children Lee and Marrah. Because Glassman was able to read music and play before any structured piano lessons, music has helped her through life’s roller-coaster up and downs. Sandra Glassman said “Words are a most powerful weapon, think before speaking.”



- *What is the most challenging part of your writing process? How long have you been writing, or when did you start?*

The most challenging part of the writing process has a topic to explore. I began writing over thirty years ago. My son got married, and he and his wife moved to Texas. I only travel a little. How would I be able to deal with loneliness without him? I put my mind to coping and began writing poetry and also music.

- *What comes first for you — the plot or the characters — and why?*

When I write, the plot comes first. I always have characters in mind based on everyday events in my own life. question

- *How many books have you written, and which is your favorite?*

I have written three children’s books with animal poetry. In one book, the leading animal was an elephant, always getting into trouble. The other book was about children from a foreign country coming to America and learning to speak English better and having fun learning

- *How did you come up with the title of your book?*

Gazing Through The Prism Of Life, that title came to me from my Poetry themes, life is an everyday challenge in itself. Rise I each day, perhaps we have errands to do, taking our children to school, we see violence and accidents. Horrible weather from storms. Shootings lost children looking for their parents, etc.

I chose the title Chocolate Frosting On Vanilla Prose because I believe people will be more interested in the book if it is about cooking--or so they believe. Also, it’s kind of funny when people assume that it’s a cook book when in fact it’s about poetry.

- *What do you need in your writing space to help you stay focused?*

In my room, where I write, I see my work hung up all around me I have awards and letters from my piano students who still keep in touch, telling me they miss their music teacher and want to thank me for getting on their journey in music. I enjoy that so much.



Press Release

Why Press Releases are more important than ever:

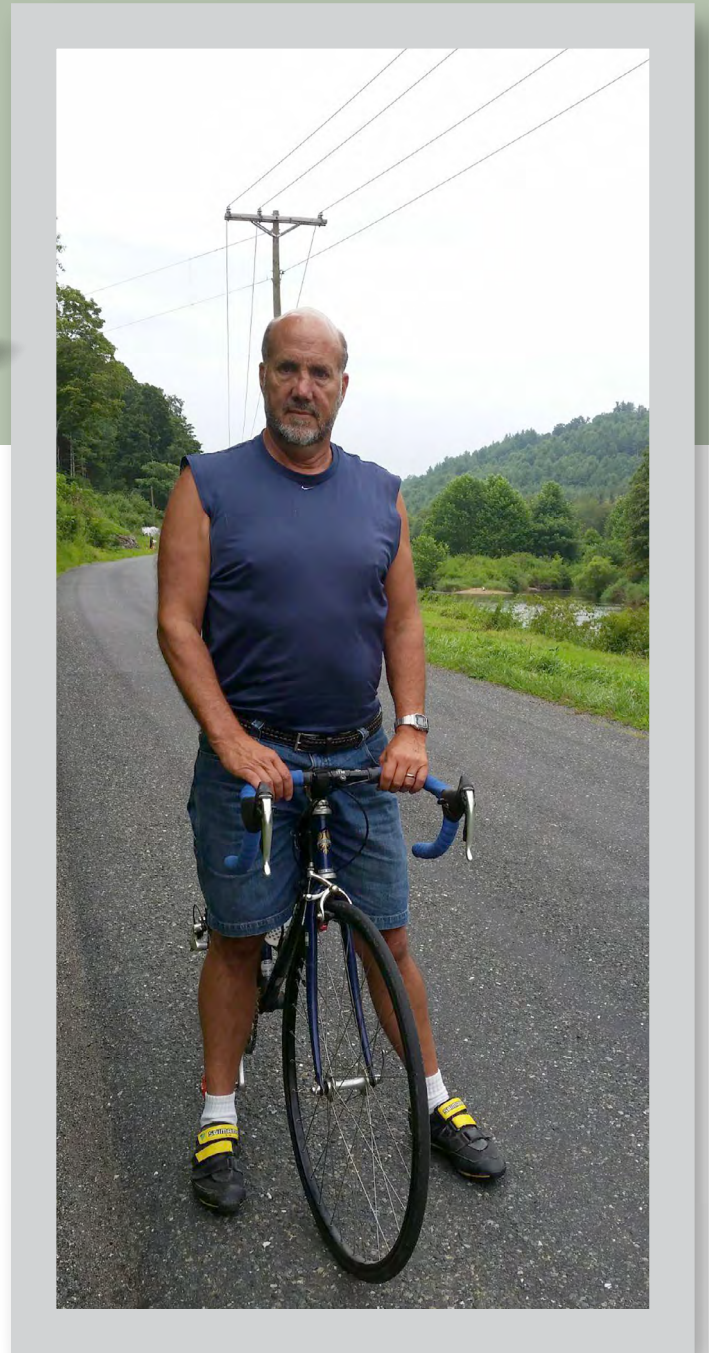
Social media has quickly become an indispensable tool for authors. While many have figured out what it takes to drive a successful branding platform and social media campaign, an important component are press releases.

Social media has changed how people communicate around the globe. It's led political revolutions and even created pop culture phenomena. As businesses scramble to figure out how to harness the power of social media to reach new audiences, a familiar marketing tool—the press release—has now gained fresh purpose. Press releases have become a vital tool and more important than ever in successfully promoting your book. Find out how you can leverage press releases and specific content to help traditional publishers, film companies & Literary Agents learn more about your book.

The New Face of Public Relations

For most authors, public relations and social media marketing provide a solid foundation and baseline for brand awareness and general marketing campaigns. Before the advent of social media, authors had to go through a long and arduous process of contacting journalists who acted as gatekeepers.





- *What do the words “writer’s block” mean to you?*

In answer to the question about “writers block”, I can only say that it does not apply to me. I was writing a memoir, so I never experienced writers block. I had trouble recalling some events from so many years in the past and other events were troublingly easy to remember,

- *How do you process and deal with negative book reviews?*

With regard to my response to positive or negative reviews, I have to say that I am fortunate. The vast majority of my reviews have been overwhelmingly positive. So much so that it almost becomes embarrassing. All I have to say about negative reviews is that I am aware that everyone has an opinion. I simply try to use the input constructively and improve my next writing. Same as I used to do with negative patient outcomes. Reflect on the input and actions and try to improve.

- *How many books have you written, and which is your favorite?*

In response to the question about the number of books that I have written, it is easy. I have written two books. The second is titled “Poor No More”. It was written in response to one of the reviews from the first book. The review simply said that they did not know anything about me as a person. So I basically wrote a biography. Some of the parts were very hard to write because the memories are often very painful.

- *What part of the book did you have the hardest time writing?*

The part of the book that was hardest to write was the section on Internship and Residency. This was difficult time in my life and it is hard to return in memory. My approach to life has been simply to keep going forward and this necessitates a return to memories and times best left behind. I did meet some wonderful patients and had the pleasure of helping a few.

Steven Bentley, M.D. is a board certified ER doctor with a career spanning more than thirty years in various North Carolina emergency departments. His journey began in the mid-1970’s when he chose to pursue a career in medicine. In his youthful perspective he came to regard doctors as the good guys, the ones who healed people and saved lives. He knew that he would be one of those good guys one day.

He describes the real world of emergency medicine from the viewpoint of a practicing emergency physician. In the dynamic world of emergency medicine, there is a great deal of pain, blood and tragedy, but there is also hope, compassion and excitement - for both the patients and the staff.

Snips from Publishers Weekly

May 15, 2023 issue

News

Sparking a Movement

Reimagining Bookstores, a network of indie booksellers coordinated by Kepler's Praveen Madan, is gaining momentum

In October 2021, Praveen Madan of Kepler's Books in Menlo Park, Calif., and a team of co-conveners launched an experiment known as Reimagining Bookstores. Some 600 booksellers and publishing professionals registered for the inaugural Zoom session, and about 350 tuned in. Madan and his team addressed the "multiple crises" that threaten bookstores' existence, *PW* reported, yet the conversation was "one of the most invigorating gatherings on independent bookselling in a generation."

Participants in Reimagining Bookstores view bookstores as akin to cultural hubs like libraries, literary arts organizations, local journalism, and public radio. The aim is to disrupt hierarchical, top-down management styles and institute more collaborative civic models. "Reimagining Bookstores is not a product or a service someone is trying to sell you—it's a movement," Madan emphasized.

Madan is the CEO—in his case, "community engagement officer"—of Kepler's Books and board director of its nonprofit wing, Kepler's Literary Foundation. With community buy-in and with knowledge he acquired on the board of the Bay Area independent Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Madan rescued Kepler's in 2012 and now operates it as a social purpose corporation.

"I benefited so much from being part of the Berrett-Koehler ecosystem," he said, noting B-K's status as a certified B Corp and the encouragement he received from colleagues, including fellow B-K board member Paul Wright of business consulting firm WrightWork Communications.

The creation of Kepler's for-profit/nonprofit structure sparked Madan's vision for Reimagining Bookstores. "It was abundantly clear to me that if I wanted to pay better wages, I needed to have community governance, and that meant running an organization in a very different way," he said. "It was a very good idea on paper. But how to deliver?"

In 2012, Kepler's Bay Area community generated "close to \$1 million to save the store" and trusted Madan to take the lead. Now, "Kepler's is 100% community financed, and

has been for the 11 years since I joined," he said.

Madan believes not only in community investment but in alternatives to conventional ideas about growth. Booksellers take tight margins and anxiety as givens; in times of inflation and flux, they worry about emergency loans, charitable aid, or fundraising. "We concluded at Kepler's that maximizing

profits is outdated," he said. "There's a contradiction between the drive to maximize profit and the need to raise employees' salaries. What matters is that you have enough money coming in to pay everyone well," and that means rethinking the basic framework of how stores operate.

Thanks to the conversations in 2021, Reimagining Bookstores is gaining steam. Investors and philanthropists, already in communication with the regional independent bookselling asso-

ciations, have begun offering grants and investments, sustainable loan arrangements, and strategic advice to growing cohorts of bookstores. Films about indie bookselling are in development. And Reimagining Bookstores is partnering with the Washington, D.C.-based Whole School Leadership Institute on two informational sessions, May 19 and 25, to develop customized training modules for bookstore management and creative leadership.

Madan said he believes "narratives are starting to emerge" around bookstores as intrinsically valuable community spaces. "I'm trying to light a fire, and there are sparks all over the place. I'm asking how to turn this into a bigger movement."

Because movements are decentralized, Madan does not micromanage the groups that sprouted from the first Reimagining Bookstores meeting. Nevertheless, he's an enthusiastic matchmaker for those itching to be involved. At an April 10 gathering of Beyond Bookstores, a group of 35 participants, Madan joined the audience. Media producer Steve Wax, who's chair of the board of independent publisher Heyday Books in Berkeley, Calif., and Lisa Uhrig, founder of the Plenty on Spring bookstore and president of the manufacturing company Franklin Fixtures in Cookeville, Tenn., described themes they see developing, and plans for work-



News

shops to support in-store experimentation.

"I felt like I was transformed by every conversation" with the Beyond Bookstores members, said Uhrík, who has worked with Madan and Seminary Co-op's Jeff Deutsch to develop her own gathering space, Plenty on Spring, as a B Corp. "I'm excited to be in a cohort interested in thinking beyond the walls of bookstores."

Uhrík and Wax have identified four themes that resonate with participants, and they'll build a series of workshops to further explore those pathways. The cohort wants to practice storytelling in curated displays, rethink national advocacy around political issues and the book industry, explore partnerships with local and national businesses like hotel chains and theaters, and foster broader community engagement.

On the topic of advocacy and book banning, for instance, Uhrík said she's heard "so many booksellers saying, 'I will not be polarizing.' They want to be a space of welcome, want to be above the noise—they realize how precarious it can be to be controversial." Though bookstores "focus on the freedom to read," she added, they want to do advocacy without alienating locals. "We live in volatile times, so how do you be the light on the



corner? I thought that was interesting data."

Jill Hendrix, owner of Fiction Addiction in Greenville, S.C., likewise appreciates the collaboration fostered by the Beyond Bookstores group. When she saw room for improvement in her own marketing

strategies and noticed that other bookstore owners felt similarly, she started an idea-sharing session titled StoryBrand Marketing, alluding to principles from Donald Miller's 2017 book *Building a Story Brand*.

"It's a fact-finding process, trying to identify common issues with marketing," Hendrix said. "Why should each store have to come up with its own marketing plan?"

The StoryBrand Marketing group looks for approaches that appeal across markets and is compiling a file of good ideas. Hendrix said the discussions prove that "indie booksellers have a hard time believing in their value proposition and explaining it. A lot of people struggle with confidently telling customers why they should pay a higher price to shop with us."

Next week, part two of the workshop series will explore ways groups and individuals are preparing booksellers for the future.

—Nathalie op de Beek

The Weekly Scorecard

Print Sales Fell 6.7% in Early May

Unit sales of print books fell in all major categories in the week ended May 6, 2023, compared to the similar week last year, resulting in an overall 6.7% sales decline at outlets that report to Circana BookScan. The juvenile nonfiction category had the smallest decline thanks to Wendy Loggia's *Taylor Swift: A Little Golden Book Biography*, which sold nearly 103,000 copies in its first week, making it the #1 book that week. In second place on the juvenile nonfiction list was *The Beginner's Bible*, which sold more than 5,000 copies. Sales fell 1.1% in adult fiction. Emily Henry's *Happy Place* stayed in first place on the category list, selling more than 53,000 copies, followed by four new releases. *The 23rd Midnight* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro and *Meet Me at the Lake* by Carey Fortune both sold more than 37,000 copies, with *23rd Midnight* edging out *Lake* for second place. Unit sales fell 11.4% in adult nonfiction, despite a good showing by a number of new books, led by Joanna Gaines, which sold more than 67,000 copies. Jessie Inchauspe's *The Glucose Goddess Method* was in second place, selling nearly 21,000 copies. Two new religious titles were #7 and #8 on the list: *Has the Tribulation Begun?* by Amir Tsarfati and *Serenty in the Storm* by Kayleigh McEnany both sold nearly 12,000 copies in their first week. Rick Riordan's *From the World of Percy Jackson: The Sun and the Star* sold more than 52,000 copies in its first week, but juvenile fiction sales fell 4.9%.

TOTAL SALES OF PRINT BOOKS (IN THOUSANDS)

	MAY 7, 2022	MAY 6, 2023	CHGE WEEK	CHGE YTD
Total	14,197	13,252	-6.7%	-2.2%

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY CATEGORY (IN THOUSANDS)

	MAY 7, 2022	MAY 6, 2023	CHGE WEEK	CHGE YTD
Adult Nonfiction	5,761	5,104	-11.4%	-4.9%
Adult Fiction	3,508	3,426	-1.1%	4.9%
Juvenile Nonfiction	1,085	1,077	-0.7%	-7.2%
Juvenile Fiction	3,045	2,897	-4.9%	-4.7%
Young Adult Fiction	552	506	-8.2%	1.7%
Young Adult Nonfiction	77	71	-7.1%	-4.5%

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY FORMAT (IN THOUSANDS)

	MAY 7, 2022	MAY 6, 2023	CHGE WEEK	CHGE YTD
Hardcover	4,232	4,055	-4.2%	-4.5%
Trade Paperback	8,298	7,693	-7.3%	-0.9%
Mass Market Paperback	634	477	-24.8%	-18.1%
Board Books	642	647	0.7%	1.5%



SOURCE: CIRCANA BOOKSCAN AND PUBLISHERS WEEKLY. BOOKSCAN U.S. CONSUMER MARKET INCLUDES APPROXIMATELY 80% OF THE PRINT BOOK MARKET AND CONTINUES TO GROW.

Troy Donahue Jackson

In Jackson's debut memoir, a dedicated, full-time caregiver for his mother relates his own experience and offers advice for others.

The author gave up his career as a marketing analyst to care for his mother, Gloria. At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, he rushed Gloria to the emergency room when she showed signs of having suffered a stroke. Doctors put her on a ventilator and kept her in the hospital for nearly two weeks. It was clear that she would require 24-hour care, as she was on oxygen and needed a BPAP machine to relieve excess carbon dioxide at night. Jackson, however, refused to put her in a nursing home, which, he believed, wouldn't provide her with the best medicine: love. He faced numerous hardships as a caregiver, including multiple hurricanes while at his mother's New Orleans house. They lost power for two weeks, though he was prepared with reserves of food and water and a generator for the medical machines and household appliances. Unfortunately, mother and son couldn't evade the ongoing pandemic, both testing positive for Covid-19 after a physical therapist's home visit. The author's brief account is succinct, doubling as a helpful guide for potential caregivers of loved ones. The author details Gloria's healthy diet as well as her daily routines for necessary care. His story is inspiring, as the author has persevered throughout multiple setbacks, his love for his mother and his faith in God intact. Jackson continually encourages readers, ensuring them that the physical, emotional, and financial stress of caregiving can be overcome. The refreshingly candid text plainly outlines his day-to-day tasks and doesn't shy from condemning certain friends and family members—whom the author describes as “selfish people who have no compassion or understanding”—or nursing homes for what he sees as their lack of compassion. A handful of sometimes confusing typos and grammatical oversights prove distracting in this otherwise stellar book.

A true-life story of family and love that's chock-full of benevolence and perceptiveness.



—Kirkus Review

- *How do you process and deal with negative book reviews?*

First, I always put my best foot forward on anything I pursue in life. Everyone has their own opinion about anything. I respect their thought and mind but I do not let it in my mind and I block it out. Because at the end day no negative reviews will stop me from reaching my goal. I can take constructive criticism, some of the industry top authors had negative reviews but did not stop them.

- *What inspired the idea for your book?*

I wanted to help, encourage, and uplift other caregiver in the world that are facing the same challenges I am doing every day and all day. This is my purpose in life and passion about it.

- *How did you come up with the title for the book?*

I have always cared for people all my life, and always been a giver from my heart, that is who I am. So, when I became my mother caregiver on a full-time basis. This made sense to name the book The Caregiver, The Greatest Achievement of My Career and in Life.

This is my calling in life and very proud of it.

- *How important was professional editing to your book's development?*

Very important, its paramount above anything else. Editing is one thing you do not mess around with. Hire the best professional editor you can, because it can make a good book a great book. No exception to this rule...

- *If you could spend a day with another popular author, whom would you choose?*

John Grisham

- *What is the ultimate goal for the book?*

The goal is to bring awareness to all caregiver world-wide in the universe. Educate everyone what a caregiver does and understand the challenges they face. Also the commitment and sacrifice one must make. Become New York Best Seller and move the needle on units sold...

Ingram Catalog

When it comes to promoting your book to booksellers, libraries, and independent specialty bookstores, it pays to be in league with somebody your market already trusts.

Brilliant Books literary has formed a strategic partnership with Ingram, America's largest book marketing and distribution company. This collaboration makes use of Ingram's network of booksellers, librarians, and specialty retailers that rely on the company's selection of print magazines, online catalogs, e-newsletters, and other book-related products in the industry.

This puts your book exactly where it ought to be—right in front of their eyes.

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Along with title listing, it also leads in editorial content, including author interviews, merchandising tips, and products news.

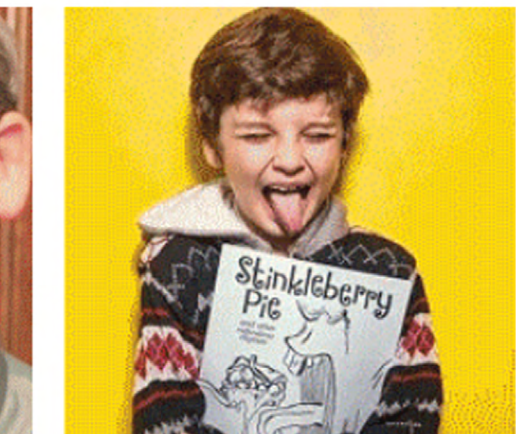
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Ruthie Carter



My name is Ruthie D. Carter and I am a black woman born July 21, 1942, in Dawson, Terrell County, Georgia, to Daniel Carter and Johnnie Mary (Cobbitt) Carter. I attended school in a little white building that doubled as a church on Sunday. I had two brothers, and we were an average family until 1953, when my father, who was the apple of my eyes, suddenly passed away within a two periods and my world fell apart.

I was the second child, I need to clarify that, you see my older brother was one year and nine months older and my younger brother was nine years and 10 months younger than I am. Needless to say I was a little spoiled by my dad, but we all loved the baby boy that was so much younger. The little family was devastated by the loss of my father. Life was hard from that point on during my younger years. My father passed away on August 12, 1953, and our grief-stricken family moved from Georgia to Detroit Michigan by Thanksgiving, that same year.

Life was hard for the rest of my childhood. I moved from a country school where I knew everybody to a city school where I knew no one and did not fit in. I was eleven years old and about five feet two inches tall and very skinny. My clothes were different because my mother made them because she couldn't afford to buy them because I was growing so fast. I was five feet nine inches when I was 13 years old. I had a few friends, but I was such an introvert that I rarely went to school activities.

My haven was the new church my older brother had discovered one Sunday, the family joined the church, and I took my baby brother to Sunday school every Sunday. I was active in church, although I didn't fit in there either. I was a good Sunday School student and joined the youth usher board and sang in the junior choir all the way from junior to the young adult choir.

When I entered Northeast High-School I was 5 feet nine inches tall. I was called skinny Minnie and long tall sally. I had a few friends but stayed by myself to avoid being teased about my appearance. My mother asked me one day why I always walked on the opposite side of street from the other kids walking home from school, and my response was I am so much taller than everyone else and her response was I can take up your clothes when they are too large and let the hem out when they are too short, but I can't do anything about your height. Her answer did not help much. However, In Study Hall one day my life began to change. A girl came to visit, and she wore a blue Air force uniform. She looked so sharp. I decided that day

that I was going to join the Air force. That was my goal when I graduated from high school.

Well, for some reason, I was of the opinion that I had to be 17 years old, with my parents' consent to get into the Air Force. I was sixteen when I graduated from high school. I had enough credits to graduate in January, 1959, but my mother said I was too young to get a job and I had to stay in school until June of 1959. I was not too unhappy because I thought I could go into the Air force when I was seventeen years old. I went to see a recruiter immediately after graduation and started the process to enter the Air Force. The final steps were to bring my birth certificate and a parent. I was so happy the day my mother consented to go with me to sign up to join the Air Force. However, my balloon burst when the recruiter said I had to be eighteen with A parent's consent and you just turned seventeen. I guess when he was working with me, my height made me look older. A year later, my mother had changed her mind, so I had to plead with her from July to November to let me enlist.

I served as an Administrative Specialist after basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, and clerical training at technical school at Amarillo Technical school. I was assigned to Travis air force Base in Fairfield, California, where I spent the rest of my enlistment. At the end of a total of four years and nine months of being in the Air Force, I receive an Honorable Discharge on August 6, 1965.

I was a different person when I returned home to Detroit, Michigan. I was a young woman with higher self esteem and proud to be who I was. After I used up the two of months of vacation time I had accumulated, I started to look for work. I got the first job I applied for. The Assistant Director of Personnel at Allstate Insurance Company had just been discharged from the Navy. He interviewed me and hired me that day. I Left that job because there was no potential for growth. I applied for a position at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan after 13 months at my previous job. The Director of the department of the job I applied for was a retired Lieutenant Colonel. He interviewed me and told me he was not only going to hire me, but someday he

was going to make me manager over the department where I had applied. It did work out exactly that way, but He was true to his word. I went from Data Entry Operation to the Senior Utility position, then Department Supervisor, then Department Assistant Manager, then Manager. I worked at BCBSM for a total of 37 years before retirement. I can truthfully say I have never been unemployed after I was discharged from the Air Force.

It was during the years when I was a Department Manager that my Mother was in the beginning stages of

Alzheimer Disease in 1992. As the disease progressed it became more difficult to manage her and work. The book *My Ladybug's Alzheimer's Journey* tells of some of the struggles. I was forced to retire from work, in January 2003, because of the difficulties involved in managing both her and the job. It is my hope that someone will be helped in dealing with family members with this Alzheimer's disease by reading my struggles.



My Ladybug's Alzheimer's Journey is about the disease that seemed too far removed to imagine it affecting the most important person in my life, my mother. My assumptions changed drastically when Alzheimer took over my mother's existence in all phases of her life.

My hope for help from the medical profession hit rock bottom when they informed me, There is no cure for the disease. It was even more agonizing when I watched my mother mysteriously drifting away from me, disappearing into a world of disorientation and delirium. I became a stranger to my own mother. Near the end, there was a

paradoxical shift when I became the mother and my mother became my child.

My Ladybug's Alzheimer's Journey chronicles the grueling challenges in the relationship between a mother and daughter that revolved within complex behaviors and grief of losing a living mother to a life destroyed by Alzheimer's Disease.

Hopefully readers will join the journey where loved ones can walk together and reach a goal of empathy and understanding. Ultimately, the final aim is to help family members find ways of coping with the many faces of this life damaging disease; Alzheimer.

- *Are there therapeutic benefits to modeling a character after someone you know?*

Writing "My Ladybug's Alzheimer's Journey" was my first book. It was therapeutic after the death of my mother. I wrote in the evening as I looked for work to supplement my income.

- *What advice would you give to a writer working on their first book?*

I would suggest to anyone writing their first book to stay focused. Sometimes it may be difficult, depending on what you are writing about, but don't give up, stay with it.

- *Which of the characters do you relate to the most and why?*

I relate to the main character because I actually lived through the ordeal.

- *How do you process and deal with negative book reviews?*

Don't be discouraged when you are told no one will read a book like that.

- *What inspired the idea for your book?*

I was inspired to write "My Ladybug's Alzheimer's Journey" because it was my journey also. And I wanted to share my story with other people going through the

problems I experienced and encourage them to share what they were going through with a friend, or family member and not be ashamed of the behavior they would see in a parent, or husband, or other relative. I was amazed with the people that came to ask questions when they saw the title of the book. One day a nurse that was working at a show kept coming back to ask more questions because she was ashamed when her mother acted out, when she went to the bank or supermarket.

- *How did you come up with the title for your book?*

I came up with the title, "My Ladybug's Alzheimer's Journey" because one Friday I was exhausted when I left work. I prayed on the way home that I would have a peaceful weekend, because I was exhausted. After I had paid the caregiver and fed my mother, we sat down to watch television. She was quiet and I thought, "thank you Jesus". She turned to me and asked, well, who is your mother? I was speechless for a moment. I looked in my mother's face and saw that she was serious. I was at a loss for an answer for a moment. Then I responded, you are not my mother, and she said "NO". That is when I came up with Ladybug, and she seemed to like it.

Book Trailers

In case you are unfamiliar with the concept, a book trailer is a short promotional video for a book. As the term suggests, it functions like a movie trailer, giving people an in-depth look at a newly released or soon-to-be-released title.

However, there are a few key ways in which book trailers differ from movie trailers.

For example...

- Book trailers tend to be much shorter than movie trailers, usually 30 to 90 seconds long.
- Trailers for books are focused on teasing the audience without giving away too much.

- Unlike movie trailers, which are displayed in previews, book trailers are meant to stand alone.

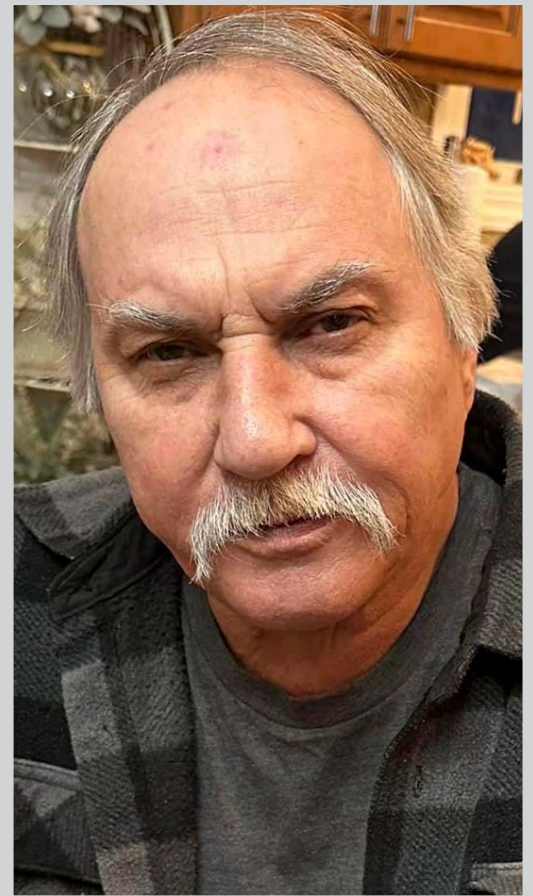
Ultimately, it is about engaging potential readers and getting them familiar with the narrative.

Book trailers combine audio and visual components to deliver a more well-rounded sensory experience than just text or graphics.

This means your video has the potential to leave a lasting impression on viewers. Plus, it can help your book stand out from others that do not offer a synopsis in this medium.

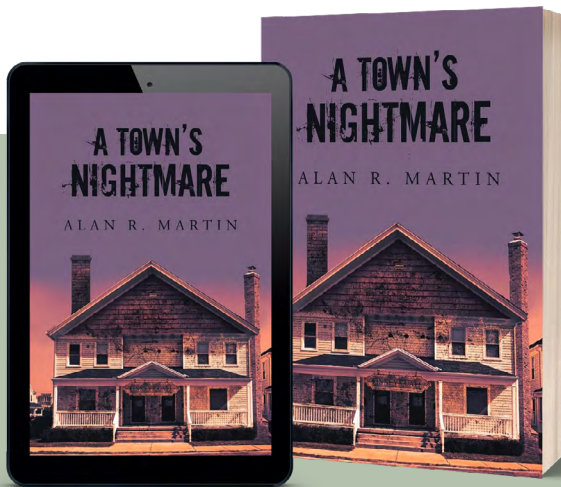


Alan R. Martin



To the readers who enjoy mystery and suspense.

I'm pleased to be represented by Brilliant books Literary publishing Company. I don't necessarily call myself a writer, but more of a storyteller. I haven't been to college, and I've never been to a journalist school or even held a job around English courses or extensive writing. My skills and training usually came in the form of Technical Trades. Electrical, carpentry, Heating/cooling industries. I have too many experiences to name them all.



A Town's Nightmare was originally written as a short story for another book, but eventually I decided to create a novel from it. It took me longer than I thought it should have, but of course it is fiction, and the ideas in it are from one's own imagination. Another reason for the slow pace was because I wanted to make it exciting and witty. Sometimes patience is a virtue, so try not to hurry unless you have something planned and consistent with your story plot.

- *What do the words "writers block" mean to you?*

It tells me I can't focus on the story or plot or even the purpose I'm writing about, or perhaps burnt out,- (that's if I even started a story). I usually will do something else, like working in my garage on an old vehicle I have or play some music. Depends on the month of the year. There were times I had an empty space in my head for 2-weeks, thinking what the next paragraph should be. Then suddenly, the flood gates started opening. Writing fiction is different from non-fiction.

- *What, to you, are the most important elements of good writing.*

Depends on what you are writing about. But the details of characters, the plot, and the planning of a story that the reader can identify with. But I find mystery, and a good plot is a good start. Remember you are writing a story that the reader can and will enjoy using a constant curiosity on each sentence that you put in the story. In other words, they don't want to put it down until the end of a chapter.

- *What part of the book did you have the hardest time writing?*

It depends. If you are writing a novel and you are using time and dates as a compass of events; then

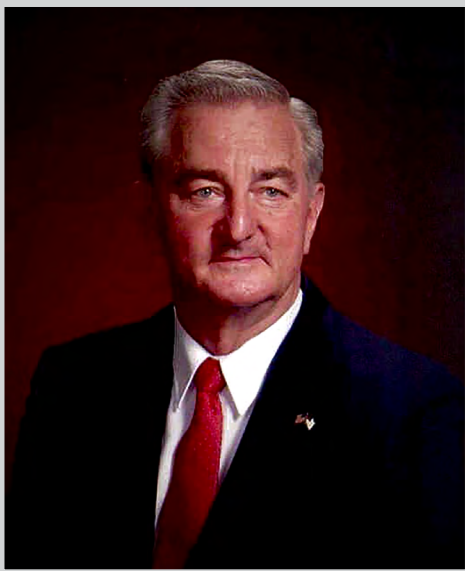
you could like I did get time and dates mixed up in other chapters; especially if it's in sequential order. Also getting the plot and characters established and trying to end the book in which the reader can identify the story. It can be harder than what you think. Sometimes I'll use a paper pamphlet to explore ideas and I'll use it to keep records of characters and time /dates.

- *What inspired the idea of your book?*

Imagination played an important part. After 5-pages were written I had to make several decisions about what I wanted to do. I had to discover a plot during the early pages and then I started with characters. Of course, the plot thickens as I go further; writing and changing certain events. And when pages were being written more characters came into play. Remember this book is fiction. Several times I got stuck.

- *How much research did you do for your book?*

I probably visited the internet and some encyclopedias, more ten 10- times, looking up what they did in the 1820's – 1850's. It is a helpful tool especially if you want to get hands on information about another era. And of course, the college dictionary.



Richard S. Johnson



Richard S. Johnson was born and raised in Cameron County, Pennsylvania, a county of less than 5000 people in the heart of the Allegheny Mountains. He maintained a residence there until recently. That residence high in the mountains had elk, deer, and turkeys in their yard, bears on their decks, and many types of birds and animals on their feeders. Johnson retired from the Navy as a Command Master Chief after service that included Swift Boats and Navy Support Groups in Vietnam; service on board an aircraft carrier, a destroyer, and a destroyer tender; and senior positions in recruiting duty. After Naval service, Johnson served in Vice President and General Manager positions in technical companies that also provided training services before beginning his training and consulting company. Over his career, Johnson developed more than 100 training programs. One major multi-week course for business owners and executives resulted in his first contract for four leadership

and management books which began his writing career. With many management-type books published successfully, Johnson began writing novels that readers and other authors have described as page-turners. His initial published works are based in the sparsely populated mountains where he invested much of his life. He has several as-yet uncompleted novels concerning Vietnam experiences, which memories prevented completion in the past but are back on his writing schedule. Even though he retired from his training company, Johnson still gets requests for his personal training services. A recent course on De-escalation had many attendees completing their evaluation sheets with requests for a book on De-escalation which is almost complete. Johnson's novels include the excitement gained from personal experiences, realistic stories, much of which happened, and life-improvement learning experiences that tend to support readers in other ways over the long term.



- *How long have you been writing or when did you start?*

I was placed in charge of training as a collateral duty and the first training seminar I wrote was on Difficult People. That seminar was followed by many others. I began writing leadership type books in the Navy. After the Navy, I made training a part of each management job I had. I developed a Total Quality Management/Continuous Improvement Program for business owners and senior management that was a day and a half a month, year long program. One of the attendees contacted Quality Press and told them, there should be a book written on the material in this course. Quality Press called and told me to send a list of possible subjects for the book. I sent a list of more than 40 potential topics, they sent the list back with three red lines, told me it was really four books and sent contracts for the four books due in six months. I sent the last book on quality training the last day but made the deadline.

- *How many books have you written, and which is your favorite?*

I've written 17 books the last two of which are novels published in 2023 and I developed more than 100 training programs in my Navy and business careers. I have sequels

for the two novels plus a book on de-escalation in progress. My favorite novel is Twisted Minds because much of the novel and the sequel are real happenings. Some years ago, I began two separate novels that included characters and actions from Vietnam and I wasn't able to finish them. When I finish the three now in works, one of those novels is next.

- *What inspired the idea for your book?*

Every book and course I developed are based on real life happenings and real experiences. For example, the first course I developed was on Working With Difficult People and was in my Navy career. My Officer-in-Charge suggested that seminar because he thought it would help a certain difficult person. I discovered no one learned more in that program than me...not even the difficult person it was written for. I too could be a difficult person and not know it. My lessons learned in that program did wonders for my Naval career, marriage, and life. I've instructed many seminars on that topic and wrote a book on it. It became the basis for a recent de-escalation seminar and after seminar participants said that seminar should be the foundation for a book on de-escalation, that book is in progress.

Bookstore Returnability Program

Bookstores like to carry books whose publishers offer full returnability. In lay-men's terms, returnability means a retail bookstore can return books that they do not sell to the publisher. The books are shipped back to the publisher, the publisher absorbs the cost, and the store owner is not left with a stockroom full of unsold books. Bookstores tend to over-order, so they return a substantial percentage of books. Why not? Over-ordering entails no liability for them.

The ability to return unsold print books is a standard publishing business practice that has remained since the Great Depression. Since that time, brick-and-mortar booksellers have been able to mitigate their own financial risk by relying on publishers to credit returned books.

Often, booksellers will hesitate to order and stock books when they aren't "Returnable." This means if getting

your title stocked on bookstore shelves is part of your marketing plan, Bookstore Returnability is an essential element to earning shelf space and/or in-store book signings.

When you purchase Bookstore Returnability:

- Your book will be designated as "Returnable" in Ingram's ipage ordering system for retailers and libraries. (Ingram is the world's largest wholesaler and distributor of books.)
- Your book will be designated as "Returnable" in Baker & Taylor's ordering system for libraries. (Baker & Taylor is a leading distributor of books, with 180 years in the business.)*
- You will not be charged back for royalties earned on the sales to the store if your books are returned.



Movie Treatment

Why Do You Need A Film Treatment?

Most screenwriters create film treatments for one of two purposes:

- Working out a complex idea: Writing a film treatment allows you to structure the story and find issues with the plot. It can also help with world-building and developing compelling characters.
- Marketing a screenplay: Before deciding to produce or invest in a movie, studio executives often read film treatments. A great film treatment can get producers interested in your screenplay.

A film treatment is a written document that describes the story that your screenplay will tell. Most film treatments follow a narrative format and include key information about the characters and the plot while guiding the reader through the story arc and the acts of the film.

Screenwriters generally develop film treatments before writing the screenplay. That's because film treatments are ideal for working out ideas and narratives before investing time and energy in the screenplay.

Treatments can help you find your film's story, while simultaneously helping to raise money. The research for both treatment and film involves gathering the same facts, talking to the same individuals, and shaping the same story. By figuring out how to communicate your passion, knowledge, and vision on the page, you reach a deeper understanding of how your story needs to be told on the screen.

A script treatment comes earlier in the writing process, before any actual scriptwriting, which allows you to sort out the necessary story elements you need. The point of writing a film treatment is to:

1. Set up the world you want the reader to envision.
2. Lay out the structure of your whole story.
3. Help you identify plot holes, or parts of the film you're missing.
4. Flesh-out characters and figure out the importance of each role.
5. Serve as a road map that makes the journey of your film easier to navigate.

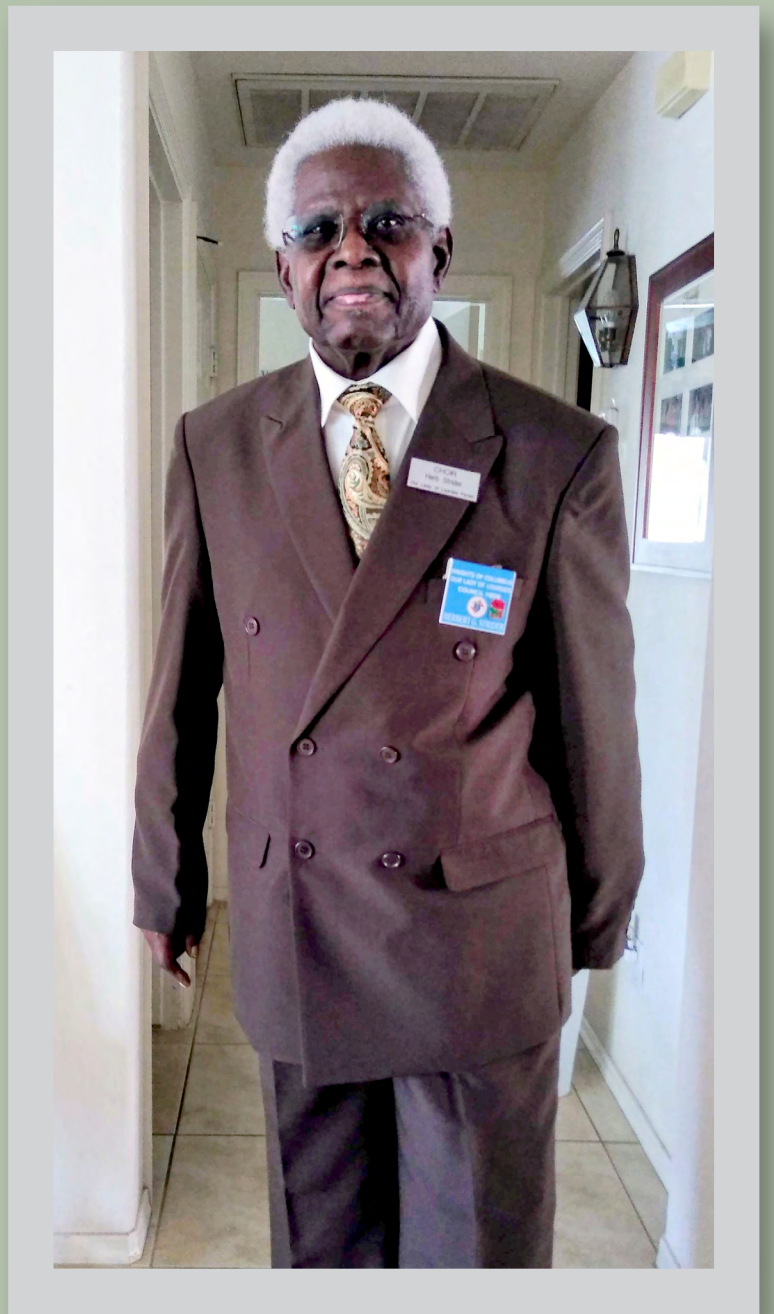


Herbert Strider

*M*y name is Herbert G. Strider, and I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the Hill District. I attended Central Catholic High School. The family moved to Cleveland, Ohio in 1960. I finished school at East High School on the East side of Cleveland and upon graduation joined the United States Air Force to become a Jet Engine Technician for 16 years and because of combat injuries was retrained into a Training Administrator for 2 military training hospitals, while still in the military obtained a Bachelor Degree in Occupational Education from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois. Retired in 1982 to continue working in the military for the Navy Rework Facility at Alameda, California. He is divorced with 3 adult children and 9 grandchildren. He is a disabled Vietnam combat vet and a cancer survivor.



- *How do you process and deal with negative book reviews?*
Negative book reviews only tell me of my weak points, which I can use to strengthen my weaknesses.
- *What comes first for you – the plot or the character?*
I will have the plot and blend the character in the plot of the story, usually at the beginning.
- *How do you use social media as an author?*
Social media is a great tool for promoting the book, making awareness of the book, keeping track of sales, and a great marketing tool.
- *What perspectives or beliefs have you challenged with this work?*
I have challenged the belief the African American was/is an integral part of American History since the beginning of this Nation.
- *What inspired the idea for your book?*
A quest for knowledge concerning the answers to the questions: What part of Africa did we come from, when did we get here and why. Why were we treated so cruelly? Why are we still hated?
- *What is the goal for the book?*
Educate everyone in this Nation the truth about this country from the beginning. Tell the truth about slavery and Black people. Tell the truth that was hidden from all citizens concerning the history of the United States, Tell the truth the white man refuses to teach in school about the history of our Nation.



The Chronicles of the African American is about American history that was not taught in schools. It is about a timeline of sorts, a calendar of event in the life of the African American outside the plantation. The laws of our land that governed the African/ American and some of the results. This book is about a quest for freedom, equality, and dignity.

In-Depth Review

In-Depth Review is one of several services designed to help you get your book turned into a film. It is a way to assess the potential of a book or script to become a film.

The Book to Film Review discusses the potential of the project to become a film and how to best present and pitch it. The review begins with a summary of the book and a short overview describing the basic story line. Then, it focuses on how well the book is suited to being adapted into a film and how this might best be done.

For example, if the book has many characters or multiple plot lines, the review might suggest how to reduce the number of characters and focus on the most important plot elements to make a more effective film with a budget that makes filming possible.

The review can also suggest what you might need to sell the project, such as pitching film rights or creating a treatment or script to increase the potential for selling your story.

In short, the review is like a map that can guide you on the path to turning your book into a film, and it can help you decide whether to take that journey.

DELIVERY

- Your manuscript will be forwarded to our screenwriter for the In-Depth Review.
- The screenwriter will read the manuscript from cover to cover to fulfill the said details above.
- The In-Depth review will be completed 1-2 weeks from the date that we receive the manuscript.
- Once completed, author's consultant will send the document



At **Brilliant Books Literary**

we listen to your stories and we make it possible
the world knows about them too.

