

Literary Today

Powered by



Brilliant
Books
Literary

BEST
BOOKS

JUNE
2023



IYVONNE
BELLIVEAU

LITERARY TODAY • BRILLIANT BOOKS LITERARY • JUNE 2023



Contents

Editorial Board	2	Bookstore Endorsement	11
Yvonne Belliveau	3	Peter F. Lester	12
Geraldine Hollis	4	Book Reviews	13
Importance of Marketing	5	What is a Literary Agent	14
Huck Fairman	6	Melody Clancy	16
Jimmy Mulzet	7	Buck Elder	17
Snips from Publishers Weekly June 19, 2023 issue	8	Why Do You Need A Website?	18
Priscilla Miller	10		

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief:	Jay Williams
Section Editors:	Kevin Miller, Paul Baron, and Nicole Anderson
Marketing:	Max Collins
Distribution:	Paul Baron and Kevin Miller
Layout and Graphics:	Fortis Book Formats



Yvonne Belliveau

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/yvonnebelliveaucoach>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/yvonnebelliveau>

Website: www.yvonnebelliveau.com

Yvonne Belliveau was born and raised in the small town of Shediac, New Brunswick, Canada, also referred to as the lobster capital of the world. She now resides about 20 minutes away in Dieppe, New Brunswick.

Yvonne is an inspiring, uplifting, and empowering successful entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and empath. A leader and expertise in her field for the past fifteen years, as a coach, mentor, transformational and spiritual teacher, healer, and intuitive. She helps new and seasoned empaths in their spiritual awakening and transformational journey, bridging them into self-enlightenment. Yvonne is extremely devoted with her time, to her work and clients. Her work is done with compassion, empathy, knowledge, unconditional love and light, shifting the empath into a higher soul and consciousness level.

- *What inspired the idea for your book?*

My purpose and life's mission are to show empaths how to recognize themselves, to help them develop and enhance their spiritual gifts, bringing them through the process of their own self-mastery journey. Many healing techniques, tools, tips, exercises, and experiences I wanted to share with the flowering empath on how to come into their own self-empowerment and self-enlightenment.

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

I was searching for a title that would represent, inspire, and attract the reader to connect at the soul level to the book. I felt inspired to write down the current title, perfectly aligning to my soul. This was it!

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

This is the first book in a series of three. I am in the process of writing the second book which will further amplify the ascension process at the soul and consciousness level.

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

For the book to reach as many readers as I can worldwide, helping empaths transition from the ordinary to the extraordinary – coming into their own greatness.

As you filter through this book, many questions will emerge. Within these questions, answers will be revealed from the deepest part of your soul. A loving sacred space that derived from pure intention when you entered this earth plane. This book will entice you to connect and deeply search within for that power you are born with. It will also bring forth the story of my spiritual awakening journey and process. After reading the first chapter, you will feel enlightened to become true to who you are. You will profoundly resonate with each word, exercises, recognizing your true expressible identity. One person's authentic journey will considerably be parallel to other souls. Take the time to carefully read, letting this beautiful manuscript enter every part of your body, while magically healing your cellular system. Let yourself thoroughly feel and just be in the moment. Connecting with every written word. I promise that if you do this, it will be the first step in your discovery to self-enlightenment towards your life's purpose and mission. Believe. Believe. Believe in yourself. You are strong. You are capable. You are the answer.



Geraldine Hollis

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GeraldineHollis>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/geraldine.hollis>

Youtube Link: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=FNcVbfTAtXQ&si=EnSIkaIECMiOmarE>

Website Link: <https://www.authorgeraldineedwardshollis.com/449734959.html>



Growing up, Geraldine Hollis “lived in a small city where I had no ability to do the things I wanted to have done,” Hollis says. “That’s why I read so very much — it gave me a chance to escape.” Going to Tougaloo College in Jackson, Mississippi exposed her to new perspectives — students came there from all over the country and the world, which she found satisfying and gratifying.

“I enjoyed reading, I enjoyed learning, and I wanted to find out as much as I could, because in order to do the things that I had as my dream, I knew that I had to do something a little bit different,” says Hollis.

She first ended up at the Wednesday night meetings, lectures, and discussions with her fellow students because they were held in the building beside her dorm, and the meetings always had coffee and donuts. But she was soon drawn in by her love of learning, as a diverse group of speakers, including civil rights leaders, visited to talk about culture, race, and politics.

“I got started with thinking about the things that I could do to make a difference,” Hollis says. “There were people who were coming to speak at Tougaloo because they could not go to any other area and speak the things that they were speaking.”

Come with me on a journey back to March 1961. The days of uncertainty, fear, and determination are outlined in a day by day experience. Yesteryear was where it started, in terms of remembrances. Today, there is an urgency to redirect the “thinking” to self- understanding, directions and possibilities!!!! I am excited about my mission and being a part of this emerging “mind-set”!!! Goal: enlighten “nationally” and direct the re-education close to our roots! We can move forward, but we must look back seeing from where we came; assess where we are on the road to making the trip of full appreciation by taking a part of the process and making it a personal quest and journey!





Importance of Marketing

Writing is not limited to jotting down your experience or thoughts on paper and just putting it out. Every author needs to remember that it needs to be valuable and provide insights to its own readers. It should be able to carve a lasting remark, the process of which begins way early than even writing itself. Book marketing is very salient for authors.

To Build a Personal Brand - Book Marketing is not just about the branding and promotion of a book but also the promotion of the author itself. It's as accurate as every breath that readers today have become keener and more conscientious about the author and the book itself. Wherever a reader searches about the writing of his favorite genre, he googles the author, goes through the reviews and checks out the experience and background of the author. The impact of

writing, the understanding of language, and the connection with a reader play a significant role in creating a wholesome reading experience that can be built and enhanced via personal branding.

To Understand the Readers Behavior - There is an infinite number of books available in every genre, so how does the author recognize his reader base? How does the author bridge the gap between his book and readers? In understanding the reader preference, book marketing plays an essential role.

To Build a Genuine Reader Base - Along with the fathomless books, the count of readers is also not any resting stop. So, contemplating the narrow road is much better than shooting arrows in the open air. The return on the book will be bounteous only when it reaches its actual readers.

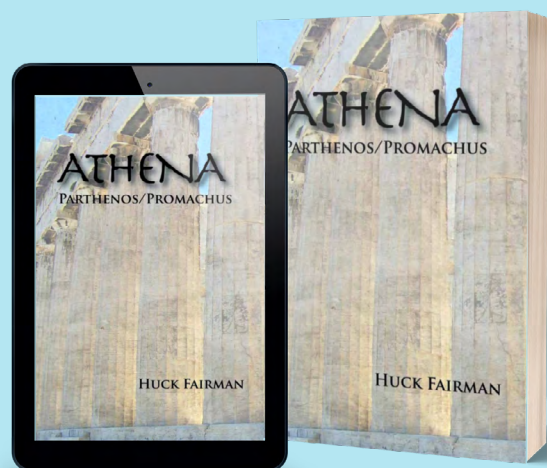


Huck Fairman

Website: <https://huckfairman.com/>

Born in New York City, Huck Fairman spent his early childhood and much of his adult life there. After graduating from Middlebury College, he worked for two years in VISTA before turning to a career in the film business. He gained experience in all phases of documentary and dramatic production, including script writing and direction. He has written a number of original screenplays including *Refuge*, which aired on public television's American Playhouse Series. *Hymn* is one of three novels he has set in New York City.

- *How many books have you written, and which is your favorite?*
I have written 5 novels, 2 collections of poetry, one collection of short stories
- *Which of the characters do you relate to the most and why?*
The character I related most to was 'David' in *HYMN* as he, like me, worked/directed in the film business.
- *How did you come up with the title for your book?*
The title, *ATHENA*, was chosen because of the goddess's character and the parallel with one of the book's characters.
- *How do you develop your plot and characters?*
My plots follow experiences that I have had. The characters, to a lesser degree, follow individuals I've known.
- *What, to you, are the most important elements of good writing?*
To me, good writing weaves interesting style with unique story and characters.
- *If you could spend a day with another popular author, whom would you choose?*
If I could, and where he still alive, I would spend a day with James Joyce. Or, the same with John Updike.



An American couple, Belle and Wren, have traveled to Greece on an anniversary trip, hoping to resurrect their stumbling marriage. But at a party along the Attic coast they meet several guests who offer unexpected digressions, one being a cruise around the age-layered Aegean Sea. Circumstances lead Belle to take the cruise, while Wren, alone in Athens for a few days, chooses to visit Delphi and its oracle. Told through their alternating views, both experience life-altering encounters which support their growing beliefs that their marriage can make neither happy and fulfillment lies in other directions.

ATHENA Parthenos/Promachus, is Huck Fairman's fourth novel, following HYMN, TALES OF THE CITY, and NOAH'S CHILDREN. When not working on fiction, he has been active in the environmental movement (CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY, SIERRA CLUB, 350.org) seeking solutions to global warming and writing a guest column on local and national solutions in a local newspaper.

Jimmy Mulzet nearly died before his first birthday. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at six months of age, it initially appeared that Jimmy's journey in life would be full of challenges. Despite his diagnosis and prediction that he would never walk, Jimmy soon discovered that God sometimes provides miracles. All he had to do was be patient.

In an inspirational memoir shared to encourage others to be the best they can be despite their obstacles, Jimmy chronicles his remarkable life experiences that shine a light on the value of being embraced and loved unconditionally by both God and his family as he overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to lead a self-sufficient, accomplished life. Buoyed by his faith and prayer, Jimmy details how he achieved independence by eventually learning to walk—a life skill that allowed him to attend school, make friends, and later run in the New York City marathon, climb the stairs to the top of the Empire State Building, and meet Pope Saint John Paul II. Throughout his narrative, Jimmy inspires others with disabilities to never give up, find hope in the darkest of places, and always rely on God for strength.

“Facing the Challenge, Beating the Odds, is ... a story about faith—Jimmy's love for Jesus and His Church, and his attempts to put his faith into action.”



Jimmy Mulzet

Jimmy Mulzet was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at six months of age and was never expected to walk. Not only was he able to walk, but his path led him in many directions. Recently retired after thirty-nine years of working for the City University of New York, Jimmy, a devout Catholic, intends to use his faith as his guide to achieve much more in life.

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

I feel okay. This is my first venture in writing and just hopes it helps other people with their lives. I know not everyone will understand what I went through in life.

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

The character was myself, and writing my story for everyone to see made me feel wonderful.

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

This was my first book and the hardest part of the process for me was finding a publisher.

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

Don't give up if you love writing and want to get your story out.

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

I am not planning a sequel unless I live another 100 years.

- *What inspired the idea for your book?*

My life and my faith in God. Sharing it to other people to show them that you can overcome it if you try hard.

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

What I was able to achieve and overcome in my life made the title easy to come up with. Odds were against me and I overcame the odds.

- *What is your writing process like? Are you more of a plotter or a pantser?*

I am a plotter and I wrote it the same way I lived it by memory.

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

I just need quietness to write. It helps me concentrate and think more clearly.

- *What risks have you taken with your writing that have paid off?*

Opening up about my life and what I went through was a risk with not knowing how people would take it. It has paid off in meeting people now and developing friendships with them now knowing what I have been through in my life.

- *If your book were made into a movie, which actors would play your characters?*

Tom Cruise for me because we are both short. Archie Bunker for my Dad and Gene Stapleton for my Mom.

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

To help other people overcome their odds and that it is okay to have a strong belief in God.

Snips from Publishers Weekly

June 19, 2023 issue

News

CI2023 Helps Booksellers Adapt

Approximately 340 booksellers attended the American Booksellers Association's Children's Institute, which ran June 5–7 in Milwaukee. Bookstore owners, managers, and staffers participated in educational sessions that highlighted how booksellers can meet neighborhood needs, adapt to readers' changing interests, and sustain their operations whether they run pop-ups or are outgrowing their spaces.

While CI2023 was undeniably festive, with booksellers lining up to participate in the opening reception costume party, dancing at the Scholastic Graphix after-party, and belting tunes at Drag Story Hour karaoke, participants also engaged in much more serious discussions: about defending the freedom to read, developing literacy initiatives, and implementing best practices as employers.

Gen de Botton, ABA's senior manager of children's book-selling education and programs, called the show "the largest gathering of children's booksellers in the history of CI." She said "attendees prioritized being wholly present during education sessions. People were taking in information and creating action plans."

In the "Communication in a Changing Workforce" session, Timo Anderson of ZingTrain, a leadership training organization for retailers, pointed out that people's belief systems have an impact on how they give and receive feedback. He suggested that owners and managers should regularly provide employees with detailed feedback. Employees "who know exactly the expectations are happier," he said, adding that feedback of any kind "is a gift, because it takes so much energy. Thank even customers who complain."

Communication, hiring, and inclusion also were on the mind of featured speaker Adia Harvey Wingfield, a sociologist and the author of *Gray Areas: How the Way We Work Perpetuates Racism and What We Can Do to Fix It* (Amistad, Oct.). She researches hiring, promotions, and norms in organizations, and the ways racial disparities are perpetuated despite stated DEI intentions. "Organizational norms often encourage color blindness," Wingfield said, but working environments aren't "race-neutral."



Adia Harvey Wingfield discussing her forthcoming book, *Gray Areas*.

Employees still face overt harassment in some settings, while in others they encounter "subtle biases"—as when managers ask whether a hire will be a "good fit" with the company's culture. She suggested substituting the term "race-conscious" for "race-neutral" in store culture, being aware that calling a business a "family" might not feel inclusive for all, and expanding hiring networks to include HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities) and HSIs (Hispanic serving institutions).

Being mindful of employee morale was also a theme of the "Small but Mighty" session, during which ABA CFPK Sindwani chatted with Kathy Burnette, owner of Brain Lair Books (South Bend, Ind.), and Heather Hebert, owner of Children's Book World (Haverford, Pa.). Citing the ABACUS report, Sindwani noted that smaller stores average a higher inventory turnover, spend less on rent, and sell more per square foot than bigger outlets. This may afford owners of smaller stores to pay their employees a little more than they



From l.: Tegan Tigani, Brein Lopez, Ashley Valentine, and Calvin Crosby at a CI2023 panel on book deserts

think percentage-wise, due to having a smaller staff and potentially more flexible finances.

In a session titled "A Child's Freedom to Read," a trio of librarians and a bookseller suggested ways in which booksellers can most effectively help librarians battle censorship. All agreed that access to books and informational media is essential, awareness is key, and action is necessary.

Laura DeLaney of Rediscovered

The Weekly Scorecard

Print Sales Dropped 5.8% in Early June

Unit sales of print books fell 5.8% in the week ended June 9, 2023, from the comparable week in 2022, at outlets that report to Circana BookScan. Adult fiction was the only category to have a sales increase, posting a 0.4% gain with the help of three new titles. *Cross Down* by James Patterson and Brendan Dubois was in second place on the category list, selling more than 28,000 copies, followed by *Lore Olympus* by Rachel Smythe, which sold more than 26,000 copies. In seventh place was *Unfortunately Yours* by Tessa Bailey, which sold just under 20,000 copies. Adult nonfiction had the smallest decline in the week, with sales down 5.9%. *Pageboy*, a memoir by Elliott Page, was #1 in the category, selling more than 20,000 copies in its first week. Three other new releases were in the adult nonfiction top 10, including Mike Glover's *Prepared*, which sold almost 15,000 copies. The juvenile nonfiction category had the largest decline, with sales down 12%. In early June of this year and last, the top 10 spots were dominated by Summer Bridge Activities books, which sold about 90,000 copies in the most recent week, down from 96,000 copies in 2022. Juvenile fiction sales fell 9.4%, with *Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea (Dog Man #11)* by Dav Pilkey replacing *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* by Dr. Seuss in the top spot, selling about 28,000 copies. Sales in the young adult fiction category fell 9.4%, as *If He Had Been with Me* by Laura Nowlin regained the #1 position, selling about 14,000 copies.

TOTAL SALES OF PRINT BOOKS (IN THOUSANDS)

	JUNE 10, 2022	JUNE 9, 2023	CHGE WEEK	CHGE YTD
Total	13,948	13,144	-5.8%	-2.5%

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY CATEGORY (IN THOUSANDS)

	JUNE 10, 2022	JUNE 9, 2023	CHGE WEEK	CHGE YTD
Adult Nonfiction	5,129	4,827	-5.9%	-4.8%
Adult Fiction	3,541	3,554	0.4%	4.5%
Juvenile Nonfiction	1,323	1,114	-12.0%	-7.9%
Juvenile Fiction	3,087	2,797	-9.4%	-5.2%
Young Adult Fiction	611	551	-9.8%	-0.6%
Young Adult Nonfiction	84	77	-8.3%	-0.7%

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY FORMAT (IN THOUSANDS)

	JUNE 10, 2022	JUNE 9, 2023	CHGE WEEK	CHGE YTD
Hardcover	3,643	3,464	-4.9%	-3.8%
Trade Paperback	8,646	8,171	-5.5%	-1.6%
Mass Market Paperback	587	472	-19.6%	-17.8%
Board Books	673	643	-4.5%	0.9%



SOURCE: CIRCANA BOOKS CAN AND PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, BOOKSCAN'S U.S. CONSUMER MARKET PANEL COVERS APPROXIMATELY 80% OF THE PRINT BOOK MARKET AND CONTINUES TO GROW.

News

Books (Boise, Idaho) urged booksellers to join state library associations. "That means you get alerts to legislation," she pointed out. "Encourage your customers to join them too."

University librarian and Idaho Library Association president Lance McGrath recommended that booksellers reach out to elected officials, from school board members to state legislators, and "build relationships." He also endorsed public testimonies. "Make yourself heard," he advised.

Literacy and economic diversity propelled the "Serving Children's Book Deserts" panel, which offered nonprofit strategies for becoming neighborhood oases. Ashley Valentine (Rooted MKE, Milwaukee) established a literacy center, Calvin Crosby (The King's English Bookshop, Salt Lake City) began running Brain Food Books, and Brein Lopez (Children's Book World, Los Angeles) used a James Patterson grant to start the Readers and Writers Rock! program. "Serving book deserts helps your community, and it also helps your store [foster] personal relationships," Lopez said.

During "Averting the Adult Gaze in YA Literature," a freelance book reviewer, two booksellers, and a literary agent urged publishers to publish what teens want to read and booksellers to stock more trope-driven books. "Kids aged six to 18 lead challenging lives," said Cathy Berner, the children's and YA specialist at Blue Willow Bookshop (Houston). "Kids want to escape, and we're not giving them that." Noting the popularity of "pulpy" adult science fiction and romance among Blue Willow's teen customers, Berner said, "[Genre] books are the money makers, so sell them. We are booksellers, not book judges."

Children's Institute 2024 will be held in New Orleans, June 10–12. —Claire Kirch and Nathalie op de Beeck

Call for Information

Feature: *Big Indie Books of Fall*

Deadline: June 26 Issue date: Aug. 28

For this feature, we'd like to hear about lead titles forthcoming from independent trade presses between September 2023 and January 2024 (new titles only please, no reprints). We are seeking adult and children's books in all categories and formats. Publishers can submit up to two titles per imprint. Include a description of each title and an author bio, pub month, ISBN, marketing plans, print run, and company contacts for interview. Email pitches to reviewpitches@publishersweekly.com by June 26. Please put "Call for Info: Big Indie Books of Fall" in the subject line.

Priscilla Miller

Priscilla grew up in a small town called Borger, Texas. Her folks were meager means. She finished High School in Des Moines, Iowa, after her marriage. She planned on taking her married life to the grave but God said through Gabriel she had to write a book after the death of her husband.

- *How do you process and deal with negative book reviews?*
I'm expecting some bad reviews because there will be people that will talk about my book and they will probably doubt my experience.
- *What inspired the idea for your book?*
God told me to write that book
- *What comes first for you — the plot or the characters — and why?*
It's the character since God is the main subject of my book and He told me to write it.
- *How many books have you written, and which is your favorite?*
I only wrote Stormy Winds so basically this is my favorite book since it's about God.
- *What advice would you give to a writer working on their first book?*
First of all, I think God should inspire the person. They should be willing to be used by God. When I wrote my Book Stormy WINDS IT WAS LIKE GOD IS STANDING BESIDE ME, GUIDING ME ALL THROUGH THE BOOK



When she married him, she made a vow to God and said “She will not raise her children in a divorced home.” Little did she realize the scope of her vow. As you read and walk through her life, you will experience some raw emotions. Also, God gave her the Formula for the Cure for Cancer that she is working on now.

Bookstore Endorsement

5 GUARANTEED LOCAL BOOKSTORE

During

- ✓ 5 Guaranteed Physical Bookstore Placement - We will pitch your book to elite physical bookstore owners.
- ✓ Copies of Books
- ✓ Marketing Materials
- ✓ Book Representatives
- ✓ Photo Documentation
- ✓ Post Fulfillment Report

St. John Fisher College Bookstore, in Rochester NY

Mix Bookstore, Newark OH

The Boerne Bookshop, in Boerne TX






Give your book what they deserve! Getting your book to be physically displaced on bookstores!




GUARANTEED BOOKSTORE PLACEMENT LOCATION

ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE




St. John Fisher College emphasizes the liberal arts, offering programs in traditional academic disciplines as well as more directly career-oriented fields. The College is composed of five schools: the School of Arts and Sciences; the School of Business; the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. School of Education; the Wegmans School of Nursing; and the Wegmans School of Pharmacy. Each school is accredited by regional, national, and/or international accrediting bodies. Learn more about accreditation. Fisher offers undergraduate majors in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, business, education, and nursing, as well as several pre-professional programs. The College also offers a variety of masters and doctoral programs; a fully online program and several online courses are part of the curriculum mix as well.

the BOERNE BOOKSHOP



The Boerne Bookshop is an exciting new bookstore in the heart of historic Boerne. We focus on a high-quality experience with books that appeal to all readers. Having a wide range of topics and an eclectic mixture in all areas is a point of pride for us. We want to both provide the books our customers are seeking and expose them to books that will intrigue them. To this end, we seek to engage with our customers on what they read and the topics that interest them. And if we don't have something you want, we can get it.

Kick's Mix



Kick's Mix Bookstore is your local destination for new & used books, vintage books, children's books, used DVDs & CDs, and old vinyl records in the Newark area. We do special orders and also teach classes to create book art. We have 3,200 square feet of awesomeness and would love to be your local bookstore. Plus, we have a cat. Stop in today or contact us for more information!



Peter F. Lester

Peter is an Emeritus professor at San Jose State University in California. During his forty years of association with the university, he played football as a student and was on the Athletics Board as a faculty member.

Prior to that, he was an adventurous cyclist, riding from Pasadena to Yosemite several times, as a teenager.

Both of these parts of his life play into his two books: 'Out of the Shadows and Into the Fire', and 'A Football Story'.

As a Meteorology professor, he was known and respected worldwide, giving papers at conferences, being a witness in aircraft accident cases, and much more. His research specialty was clear air turbulence. He was beloved by his students, many of whom keep in touch to this day.

After a long career based in California, he retired to Ashland, OR, and then Kailua Kona, HI, with his wife, Julia.



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

Negative book reviews distress me. I have worked so hard to write well. But after thinking about the comments, I sometimes realize the person has a point. So I then act on the suggestions.

- *How long have you been writing? When did you start?*

I have been writing since I was in high school. In my career, however, it was all scientific work, papers, presentations. Late in my career, I took a sabbatical and wrote a book. Jeppesen liked it, published it, then asked for a text book. I only started writing fiction in my retirement.

- *How many books have you written? Which is your favorite?*

I have written and published four books. Each one is satisfying in a different way.

- *What inspired the idea for your book?*

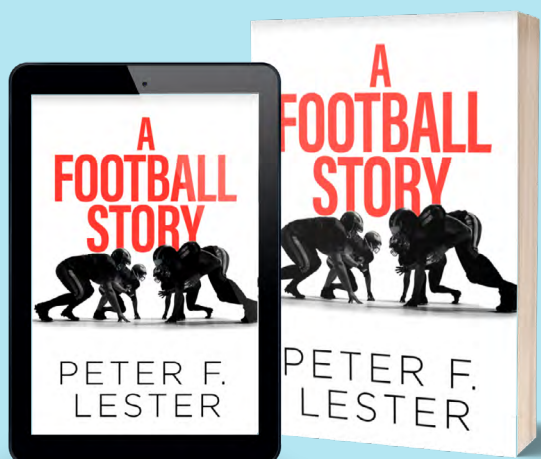
Life experiences have inspired the ideas for my books, both scientific and fictional.

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

I wrote 'Out of the Shadows and Into the Fire' from cycling trip experience. However, for 'A Football Story', I had to do some research to discover how other universities coped with the problems about which I wrote.

Almost Sixteen-year-old Josh Mayer has a falling out with his parents over their perception of his lack of accomplishments in school, work, and sports in comparison to his older brother. Their criticisms lead to Josh's self-evaluation of what he needs to do to "be better." He meets Kelly, a shy fellow student, who sees Josh in a much more pleasant light. With her encouragement, Josh attempts to solve his family problems by taking on another job for the rest of the school year and then getting away on a long summer bicycle trip. Unimagined adventures and a lot of growing up are down the road.

A Football Story examines the journey of Mike Wolf from the gridiron at Western Kansas University, where he was a student and an outstanding football player, to the college lecturer at that university, where he reinvents himself as a talented assistant professor in computer engineering. Despite academic demands, he is drawn back into football as a member of the university athletics board. Only a few months into his appointment, a serious cheating episode carried out by members of the football team drives Mike to find a way to right the wrongs that contaminate the sport. The journey is complex. His personal experiences go beyond intellectual challenges to violent attacks protesting his efforts to clean up football. Even he couldn't have anticipated the final impact of his efforts.



Book Reviews

Title: Holy Spirit Mystifying Scriptures Volume 1
Author: C.J. Pitts
Publisher: Primix Publishing
ISBN: 9781955177702
Pages: 64
Genre: Religious, Christian, Non-Fiction, Art
Reviewed by: Leah Shepherd

Hollywood Book Reviews

In this compact and inspirational book, C.J. Pitts presents beautiful drawings, each one illuminating a specific Bible verse, along with the author's brief explanations about her art.

The drawings vary in style and technique, including pointillism and hidden face (a picture within a picture). Pitts highlights spiritual themes with bold colors, striking shapes and Christian symbols; such as a fish, which evokes the biblical command to be fishers of men.

One drawing shows a woman sleeping in bed with a peaceful expression. Her white hair is in the shape of a lamb. The calming shades of light blue and purple lend the scene a special tranquility, recalling God's peace in our hearts. Another colorful drawing shows a beautiful Queen Esther, covered with symbols like a flower, snail shells, and a red apple. There's also a poem about a caterpillar, symbolizing transformation and dying to sin in order to be reborn and soar with beauty. In another drawing, Adam and Eve are depicted in black as mirror images, facing each other. Later in the book, we see Adam and Eve in stark white after the fall, facing away from each other.

For anyone who is a visual learner, the art will make the biblical teachings even more meaningful and memorable. It's a unique and effective approach. The author's drawings and words can inspire us to pray and praise God in song and dance. Her book offers genuine hope and reassurance to Christian readers and spiritual seekers. However, it's not for readers who don't wish to hear proselytizing.

Pitts tells us that by accepting Jesus as a personal savior, we can be forgiven for all our sins and be born again, completely clean. This is the way to get to heaven after dying.



Title: Come Climb Toward God: Are You Hungry For God?
Author: Marianna W. Albritton
Publisher: Brilliant Books Literary
ISBN: 978-1641336963
Pages: 40
Genre: Christian
Reviewed by: Lily Amanda

Pacific Book Review

Come Climb Toward God: Are You Hungry For God? is a step-by-step accessible compendium that focuses on how one can begin a personal relationship with God and how to stay in communion with Him. The author compares believers to the scriptural branches of the vine which represent Christ. The caretaker of the vine is God. By Christians staying connected to Jesus, the True Vine, they will ultimately bear good fruit, and get to partake in life eternal.

Author Marianna W. Albritton assures readers that in Jesus, one finds calmness, the tranquility of spirit, and confidence in the promises and provision of God. Her meticulous approach digs into lessons on lordship, service, abiding by Christ, the topic of resurrection, a call to rest, and seeking Jesus even as she seeks to carefully break down the meaning of these terms in laymen's language. The book draws from Biblical figures such as Mark, John, and Paul as it emphasizes that each Christian had a unique walk with God.

Further, the text explains that the first step to spiritual maturity is seeking Jesus.

Consequently, the Holy Spirit draws one to Him. God has placed in each of us a gift to serve Him and by being in fellowship with Jesus, opportunities to serve will land in due time. The chapters further bring forth God's desire to satisfy believers' hunger with good things. Albritton hopes that by reading this book, readers will be able to discern God's call in their lives as He fills the empty areas in their lives.

The tapestry's breakdown blends personal experiences from the author's life with an astute analysis of the scriptures. The preface of this guide is bracingly enthusiastic that uses a surprisingly symbolic anecdote to describe the process of growing into a mature Christian. In design, the book makes use of bold fonts to highlight keywords along with scriptural references and a study guide. The result is a comprehensive inspiring read that will tug at the heartstrings of every reader.

Indeed, Come Climb Toward God: Are You Hungry For God? is an eloquent and inviting tome that edifies in a deeply satisfying way. Author Albritton's sage wisdom and lessons are of mammoth proportions and much needed in this contemporary world we are in.





What Is a Literary Agent?

A literary agent is a person who represents the business interests of writers and their written works. Agents work with new writers and bestselling authors alike, acting as business-minded intermediaries between creatives and book publishing houses, film producers, and theatrical or film producers. Agents generally are paid a fee of between 10 and 20 percent of sales that they help negotiate on behalf of the writer they represent.

3 Benefits of Hiring a Literary Agent

An agent can help land lucrative book deals. Though it's possible to make money by self-publishing as an indie writer, your best shot at getting a big advance upfront from a high-profile New York publisher is through a literary agent. Most of the Big Five publishers won't accept unsolicited manuscripts—especially if it's the first book a new author—and are only looking for books with bestseller potential. Agents have the contact information for publishing executives, and traditional publishers have a familiarity with an agent's client list. This relationship can increase your chances of signing a lucrative book deal and make it more likely that your manuscript will make it to the top of the vast slush pile of submissions.

An agent enables you to focus solely on writing. The business side of the writing can be complex and mentally taxing, especially if you're a first time writer who's new to the industry. Agents can tackle the tricky stuff, like negotiating foreign rights, subsidiary rights, and keeping track of royalty statements. An agent can also deal with the logistics of planning a United States book tour and hiring a publicist for your completed work. Having a dedicated teammate to help with the business aspects of the industry can free you up to focus on what you do best: writing.

An agent helps guide your career. Agents work on commission, so they should be actively invested in your success.

In a perfect world, you and your agent are partners, working in tandem to promote your career. They can offer you constructive feedback and advice as to the current state of the writers' markets. For example, if you're considering writing something in a genre of fiction that is new to you—a thriller, a science-fiction epic, a young adult romance, or even a self-help book—a great agent will encourage you to follow your passion while also advising as to the market feasibility and editors' appetites for certain genres. In a perfect world, your literary agent assists you during every step of your career, serving as a trusted adviser and honest confidant.

This proposal is a submission of a query letter to 500+ Literary Agents and 500+ Traditional Publishers

How long is a query letter?

Typically it is about 300-500 words in which you briefly describe your book or script, highlight major plot points, provide a short bio about yourself, and indicate anything you have done or plan to do to get publicity or a large social media following.

What kind of stats do you have about the effectiveness of sending an email?

Commonly we have an 88-95% delivery rate, with about 88-90% for films, 94-96% for books. The open rate is about 75% for books; about 70% for scripts and films, which is affected by the appeal of your project. We currently have a 99% reputation rating with the main service we use for sending out queries, which is based on the percentage of deliveries and the very low number of unsubscribes, bounces, and spam reports, which is under 1% since we regularly update our databases through our own test mailings, about every 4 to 6 weeks.



How soon can I expect a response?

Generally, most contacts will respond within a day or two, some within a few hours if you send the query early in the day.

Why can't I send my own queries?

You can if you have the time it takes and knows who to contact and how. It could take you 20+ hours to put together your own database, and spend several more hours sending out the queries individually or spend about \$500 for the software to send out multiple queries, plus take the time to learn how to do this. Plus it costs several hundred dollars to buy the directories or subscribe to the industry services that provide this data.

But we've already gotten the contact and company information and used keywords to indicate their main areas of interest. We also spend several days each month updating the databases, based on the latest deals for publishers, agents, and producers, plus we buy the latest books and subscription services to keep the databases up to date. Additionally, we help you write an effective query letter, and even some established writers need help with this. That's why we review all the letters before they go out and make suggestions or write letters for clients.

Here is the process:

- Step 1 Making of the Query Letter
- Step 2 Submission to 500+ Literary Agents and 500+ Traditional Publishers
- Step 3 Wait for responses.
- Step 4 Reply. Comply. Negotiate.

A synopsis of the book is needed for the query letter.

If the book is already published, the book title **MUST** be changed to something else since these literary agents and

traditional publishers will be looking for that book online and see if it's selling or not.

An unpublished title will interest them to take a look at the query letter and manuscript. A published title with less or no sales online will most probably end up getting declined.

The main idea is to let these agents and publishers think that this is a new unpublished book so that they will be curious about it.

Checklist

- A 1-2 page synopsis
- A couple of sample chapters (more may be required, depending on the agent or publishing company)
- Email address (an AOL or a YAHOO account will not be accepted since these providers will usually not allow senders that are not on the mailing list to go through)

Note:

Responses, whether negative or positive, will be sent directly to the authors' email.

Negotiations about contracts will be between the author and the contacting party - Brilliant Books Literary will not be involved.

Our role is just to initiate contact.

CALL US @ (209) 432-0554
info@brilliantbooksliterary.com
www.brilliantbooksliterary.com

Melody Clancy



Lady Clancy born in Florida and done a bit of traveling, including living on an Indian reservation in her early years. Her first book she wrote before going to medical school. This book *An Enchanted Journey* was written while she was in med school and her third book written just recently. Her life and learning based on several unique and interesting experiences including multiple death experiences. She is a lifetime member of the International Society of Poets. In 1996, she became an Ordained Minister and is also a Shaman, a Life Coach, Personal Trainer and caregiver of her very special son.

Lady Clancy is also practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

She is a nature and animal lover and believes in love to the extent that most would not understand. She hopes that through her words you can find healing and strength and still find your unique way to shine.



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

To me that means I need to calm and relax my mind... however my words just come quickly so I have to write it down right then.

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

Never really had that experience but also aware not everyone feels the same or can understand another’s feelings

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

Let it flow don’t fight the words...

- *What part of the book was the most fun to write?*

The release of the emotion when a poem is completed.

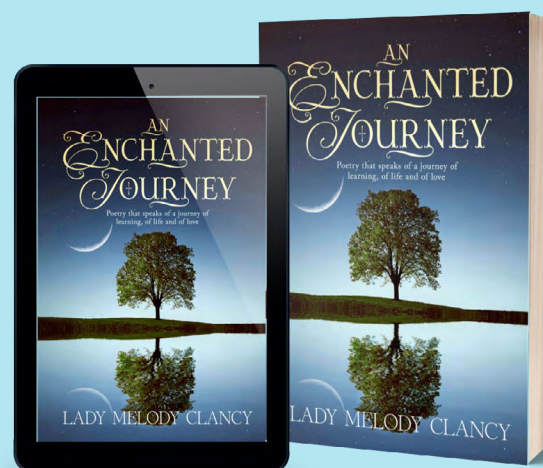
- *What perspectives or beliefs have you challenged with this work?*

Realized the depth and my perception of love and feelings

- *What risks have you taken with your writing that have paid off?*

Being so open and sharing deep feelings...I was once contacted by some soldiers in IRAQ who had gotten this book (*AN ENCHANTED JOURNEY*) and they shared with me how much it helped them in their day to day.

This book as well as her 1st book are dedicated to her “Soul Mate” so that he may forever know of the love that is there for him. An Enchanted Journey is an extension or continuation of Lady Clancy’s first book, Remnants from within. It is a collection of her poetry about love, passion, sharing, growing and loneliness. As a friend stated An Enchanted Journey shows more of the haunting, mystical qualities of Melody and her writing. True to her form you can almost feel Melody’s breath on your skin and hear her heart beat. So if you would like to share in the Joys and loneliness that come from such a love, to know that you are not alone, to find healing, to find hope, to see the simplicities within the complexities of deeply rooted emotion or take and share with another their Enchanted Journey then you will enjoy reading this book.



Buck Elder



God Plants A Garden ...A Different Kind of Love Story



What in the world was God thinking when He began creation? Have you ever wondered why God even wanted to create our world in the first place? Have you ever thought about the decisions God had to make each day as He went through the creation process? What did He have to do first? How did God decide where to put His creation, what He was going to include, what each thing would look like, what each thing would be named? For whom did God make His creation? What might it have been like if you had been there looking over God's shoulder and seeing the creation process unfold through His eyes? God Plants a Garden takes a fresh look at the creation story and gives you the opportunity to imagine journeying with God through the creation process each day, exploring some possible answers to these questions and appreciating all that God must have had to do as He created His garden-and perhaps even discover a different kind of love story along the way.

- *What do the words “writer’s block” mean to you?*
You’ve reached the point where you can’t decide how to finish whatever you’re working on.
- *How do you process and deal with negative book reviews?*
Depending on how it’s worded. If it’s a constructive positive or negative, then I will try to flip it into making it into something positive.
- *What is the most difficult part of your writing process?*
How long have you been writing or when did you start?
I started writing when I was in grammar school and I was encouraged by my teachers to continue doing it.
For me the most difficult part is getting started and the second part is to how to end it.
- *What advice would you give to a writer working on their first book?*
My advice to the new writer is to not get discouraged, follow your own instincts and do not be afraid to use your imagination.
- *What, to you, are the most important elements of good writing?*
Make sure to pick a subject that you’re interested in and what you think others might be interested in.
- *What’s your favorite and least favorite part of publishing?*
My most favorite part is when the book has already been published and the least favorite is trying to find someone who would publish the book.

Why Do You Need A Website?

They say the world is now in our hands, and the information is at our fingertips. There are no second thoughts about that. The internet is fantastic and continues to transform the way we connect with people, share information, and live a quality life.

A lot of people spend most of their time on the internet. This could be for buying a product, using a service, reading a blog, entertaining themselves, or for various other reasons.

Considering the amount of time people spend on the internet, businesses too have moved online. Having a website

with a presence on social media has become the need of the hour. If you are an author and do not own a website, you might be losing a lot of potential book sales online. Therefore, knowing the importance of a website is key to growing your credibility exponentially.

Having a website makes it very easy for people to find you, read up about your book, discover what you do, and answer a bunch of questions they have on your title. By having a website people will be able to find your book when they search for the title on a search engine like Google, Yahoo or Bing.



At **Brilliant Books Literary**

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

