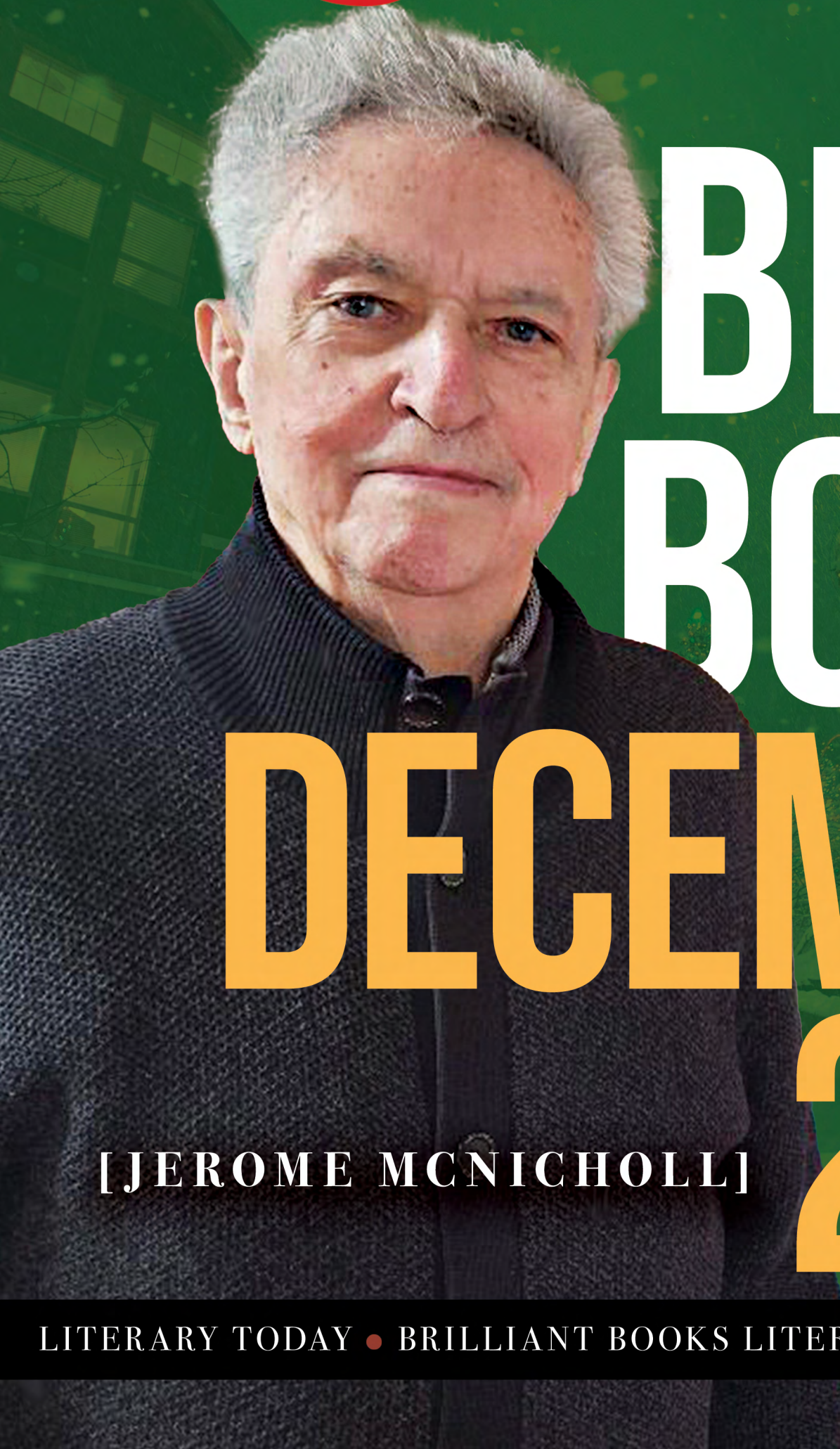


Literary Today

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BEST BOOKS

DECEMBER 2023

[JEROME MCNICHOLL]



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EDITORIAL BOARD

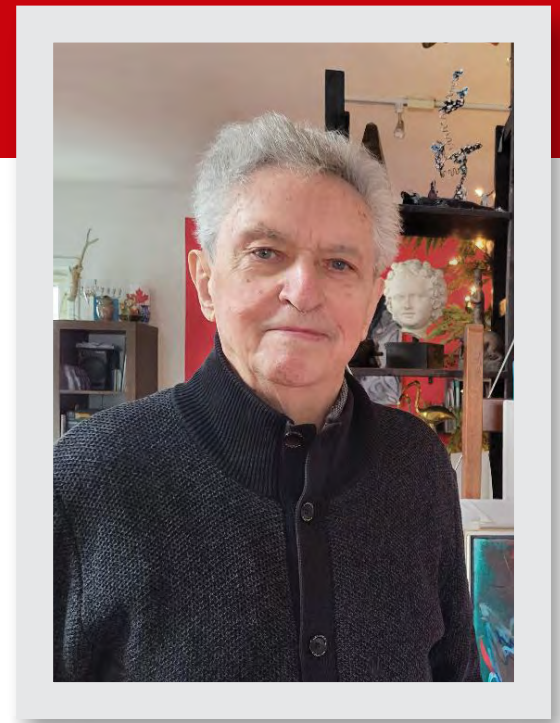
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Jerome Austin McNicholl

I began visual arts copying Norman Rockwell illustrations at age twelve. Writing took hold of me at age seventeen in between creative Dance and Piano became life long passions. Meeting Canadian poets Margret Avison and Leonard Cohen at age twenty-one helped confirm I had a budding poet within me.

As an artist I have worked in Stained glass, designing, painting and assembling various church windows and private commissions. In Theater – Stratford Ontario's Shakespearean festival theater I painted sets and costumes. I have constructed and painted several large sculpture relief mural commissions.

I have had numerous exhibitions of my paintings, drawings and sculpture reliefs exhibiting mostly in Toronto, Canada and Paris France where I lived more than six years. Since 1975 the Alphabet work has been evolving as a 'labor of love'.



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

The most difficult part of my writing and illustrating process is waiting for the 'material'—the words and images to emerge. I am for the most part always ready to go—inspired, but the material, which I carry within me, is not always available.

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

I definitely relate to Argo the dust frog who eventually becomes the A creature but only by virtue of the glow in his shadow of which he had to struggle a long time to achieve. Like me Argo is a touch sensitive and often unsure but he is for the most part obedient to his 'inner voice' and at times can demonstrate 'courage'.

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

There are two more books already well underway. Book Two is entitled 'A Book of small WORDS'—a Living Alphabet discovers words. In this book the animals exist within a visual environment that supports a Poem on a given word. I began writing these poems in Paris in 2002. I have words like Art, Best, and Care etc. twenty-six in all. In book three the Living

Alphabet Creates Words. They have all been given names and come together to express they're attitudes and thoughts about being in a given word, words like ALIVE, COLOR, DIVINE, HOPE, twenty six in all... it's like being inside a single word.

- *What characters in your book are most similar to you or to people you know?*

As I mentioned Argo is most similar to me as is the T animal. I live in Toronto an ethnically very diverse city, which I value and always wanted my alphabet in some ways to mirror that diversity.

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

The title came one day reading a book of poems by Dylan Thomas entitled 'Quite Early One Morning'... the last word became 'Planet' and I had the title.

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

The ultimate goal of the book is for other people as I have done to 'fall in love with the alphabet characters with the hope that they create a more tactile less abstract relationship with letters and ultimately Words. When I was six my father would read the dictionary with me, occasionally he would point to a certain word and say 'now that's a beautiful word'...I feel the Living alphabet work was born in me in those moments.

Quite Early One Planet—The Arrival is a mythical tale about the origins of our Alphabet. It's alphabet creatures with feathers, scales, and agile bodies. A living alphabet delivered to planet Earth 'from all parts of the universe' by a Great Weaver of Words.

It all begins with Argo a dust frog, who has sought refuge from all his fears on a desert oasis. One day at sundown, after years alone, Argo discovers a 'glow' in his shadow. Within the glow a voice whispers 'Argo set out to find your B, C, and D, all of the others will follow, You will know them when you see them and they will know you.'

When all of the creatures find Argo and one another on planet Earth the Weavers' plan is nearly complete. In a shower of inspiration they discover their letter sounds and they're purpose is revealed "You will travel to the humans and make yourselves seen and heard so the humans are able to make Words...you my dear friends are an Alphabet, this you must never forget" whispers the Weaver to each one.



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.

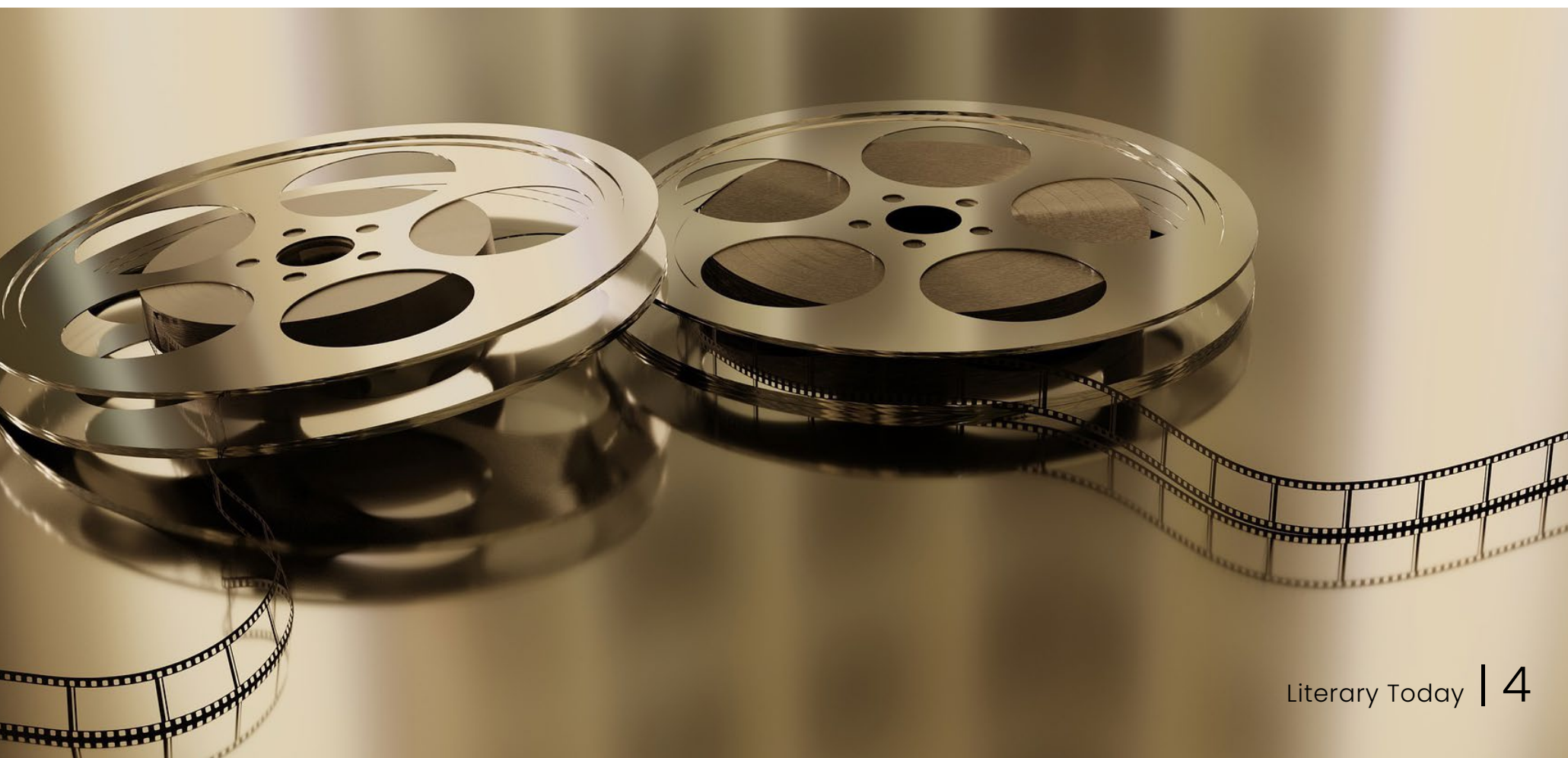
A film treatment is a written document that describes the story that your screenplay will tell. Most film treatments follow a narrative format and include key information about the characters and the plot while guiding the reader through the story arc and the acts of the film.

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.



Tori Marie Busto

<https://www.instagram.com/bustotori/?hl=en>

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

I have written 2 sequels that will be released. Each Otter will have a story. In the second book the otters have an entire weekend in San Francisco and the Bay Area. The story is filled with San Francisco activities. The Otters make sure to catch the most famous sights and family adventures continue. The third book travels to the Redwoods and Northern California.

- *What is a significant way your book has changed since the first draft?*

Not Much has changed at all. If anything, the process of getting a book past publication is a nightmare.

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

Just came to mind when I was swimming laps in the pool exercising...

- *Would you and your main character get along?*

Absolutely yes. We would be doing circles around each other all day chatting and swimming and eating.

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

Story line, Plot and dynamics...Sometimes being around all the activities I am around. When life is quiet I can draw upon life's adventures into my story lines. For example sometimes something might be interesting happening in an event. I can relate the events into stories.

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

A good cup of Matcha Green Tea and Music.

In this children's book, come along for the adventure of the Trio of Otters. This group of friends has a fun-filled day, meeting new friends, fishing, and seeing the ballet in San Francisco! A story of a magical day filled with happiness.



Tori was raised on Military Bases moving every 4 to 5 years with her father's assignments. Moving to California was the final destination. After working in Social Services and Child Care for many years. Her focus is Teaching Water Aerobics and Coaching Track and Field High School and USATF.



Maiya Eliab

Instagram: maiya.eliab



Hello, my name is Maiya Eliab and I am astonished to share my stories with you all as I've been wanting to unleash my creative streak for the longest since I was little and I do that by writing vast and creative stories. I grew up in Greensboro and I've played the violin for 3 years.

Reiner Strife is a teenager harboring feelings about his father's death or disappearance. One fateful night changes the boy's world entirely when a cunning faun appears before the boy while giving him the opportunity to fight alongside him to win what's known as the king's title, a title that will allow its holder the power to govern both universes.



- *What comes first to you, the plots or the characters and why?*

Personally I'd say plot, then strong characters because if you have a strong plot it's like a backbone for the characters and some may say it's characters in which it is that too but you need a strong plot that makes sense because it's what they are doing in turn that makes memorable characters shine.

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

Hint about my writing style series wise: When I write a series you'll see tie ins of previous themes about the previous books like my foreshadowing and explanations for who characters are and why things were given to them, ect.

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

The turmoil and shenanigans of the school in general just makes you want to say "How and why

is this school still operating after everything that's going on?

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

Easy answer, Reiner and somewhat Elizabeth! Growing up I used to have a strong sense of what justice was in my opinion and even though I get awkward at times I still try to improve based on my past and how I was. I could relate to Elizabeth because she is funny as I've given her my comedic humor and antics wrapped in a bow.

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

This book is basically a nod to my faith as a Christian and how different kingdoms were a part of that notion but ultimately this book was about friendships that blend boundaries in what is good for the sake of the world in this book's case both worlds.

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.

Kicks Mix



Kicks 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!

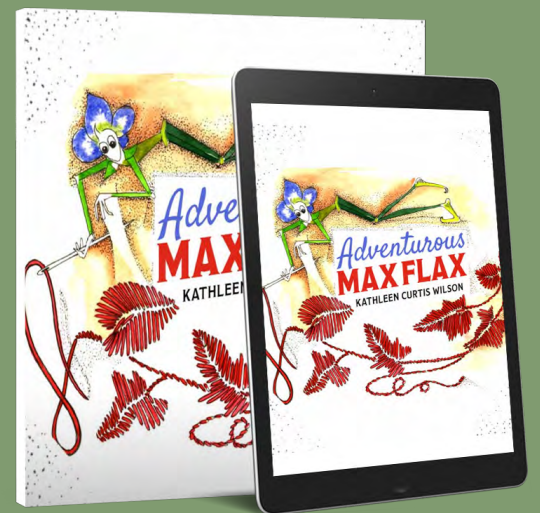


Kathleen Curtis Wilson

Kathleen Curtis Wilson has been an honorary fellow at Virginia Humanities, Charlottesville, Virginia for thirty years. As a nationally known researcher, writer, editor, and speaker, her work has been recognized in the publication of countless articles in professional publications and four books, including *Uplifting the South—Mary Mildred Sullivan’s Legacy for Appalachia* and *Textile Art from Southern Appalachia: The Quiet Work of Women*. She guest curated a multi-venue international exhibition by the same name that completed a two-year tour at the National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh. A renowned authority on Appalachian crafts, Wilson served as editor of the Craft Section of the award-winning *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*, (2006), and completed the history of *The Southern Industrial Educational Association, 1905–1926*, a digital resource at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Wilson’s third book, *Irish People, Irish Linen*, published by Ohio University Press in 2011, is a seminal study of the globalization of linen produced on the island of Ireland for over 400 years. During her five-year tenure as visiting scholar and honorary fellow at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, Wilson interviewed linen makers and owners, uncovered the finest examples of linen in private and public textile collections, and consulted with the foremost textile authorities to write a book that is lavishly illustrated and engagingly written. Each chapter tells of art, social and economic history, design, fashion, architecture, technology, and cultural traditions that celebrate Ireland’s linen industry.

Wilson was born in Michigan where she studied weaving at the Cranbrook Schools. A lifelong lover of textiles, she lived in Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee for many years. She and her husband live in Blacksburg, Virginia.



Follow along with Max Flax as he shows you how he is transformed from a plant growing in the Irish countryside into an elegant linen shirt worn by a coffee plantation owner in South America. Linen cloth made on the island of Ireland is famous all over the world. For centuries, kings and queens, rich and poor, old and young alike wore linen. Linen is woven with fibers found inside the tall, slender flax plant. The fibers are very strong and durable, giving the finished cloth special properties that make it suitable for many things other than clothing. Linen has been used to make fire hose, tablecloths, flags, maps, book covers, and feed sacks. Flax fibers could be spun into fine sewing thread or thick rope. It was used for tennis rackets, baseballs, riding saddles, and fishing nets. Flax seed is good to eat and sold in most health food stores today. Animals like it too. The seed can be turned into linseed oil for cooking. You may have one of these products in your house.

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

If I have writer’s block, I go for a walk or call a friend to take a break. Character development is ongoing, constantly changing from great euphoria to disappearing in the blink of an eye.

- *How do you develop your plot and characters?*

Finding time, devoid of outside responsibilities, is a constant struggle to my writing. The best time to plot and scheme is in the night and I keep pen and paper next to the bed. My books cover very diverse subjects that educate and entertain readers to little known facts in a wider world.

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

I have been writing for 40 years. I’ve published 5 books, many journal articles, and presented academic papers in the USA and abroad. I recently finished my first novel.

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

I spent years in field research to write about Appalachian culture and historic textile traditions in the region.

- *What inspired the idea for your book?*

Adventurous Max Flax was great fun to create. He was an inspiration while I was living in Northern Ireland to write my most comprehensive and richly illustrated book, *Irish People, Irish Linen*. I love to garden and thought children should know more about how clothes are made. He would be a charming cartoon character.

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

I have thought about sequel characters for Max, such as Sukiyaki Silk and Crabby Cotton.

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

Snips from Publishers Weekly

December 11, 2023 issue

News

The Man in the Middle

Baker & Taylor's Aman Kochar has embraced the wholesaler's role as a conduit between libraries and publishers

It's been an eventful two years since Baker & Taylor CEO Aman Kochar added a new title to his job description: owner. On Nov. 4, 2021, Kochar completed his acquisition of B&T, the country's largest public and academic library wholesaler, where he'd worked in various roles since 2014—a move that put the company in the hands of an owner-operator for the first time since W.R. Grace bought it in 1970, and ended B&T's five-year stint as part of the Follett Corp., which had bought it back in 2016.

"We were coming out of a brutal period," Kochar said when asked about the state of affairs at the company leading up to the acquisition. Not only had B&T's finances taken a hit, he explained, but in the wake of the pandemic, the company was struggling to meet the shifting needs of its library customers.

"We were kind of in a state of flux," he recalled, noting the widely reported pandemic-driven surge in demand for digital products and services in libraries, which historically had been a small part of B&T's business. "There just wasn't a clear path forward for libraries to come back to normal in terms of operations and material acquisitions."

Reimagined

Now in his third year as B&T's owner, Kochar said his vision for the company's next act has taken root. B&T employees are "reimagining" the way B&T supports its library and educational partners, with the goal of creating a company where libraries know they can get books but also "the best of breed software and content solutions." Kochar estimated that 50% of the products, solutions, and services B&T now offers didn't exist two years ago.

For example, Kochar said, B&T has harnessed prescriptive modeling technology to offer Evidence-Based Selection Planning (EBSP), which uses the same methods that drive common online assistants and recommendation engines to help librarians make better book buying decisions. The company has also created a tool to help libraries assess whether their current collections match the needs of their diverse communities. And B&T has invested heavily in creating new digital services for libraries, including the launch of Boundless, an app that replaces B&T's Axis 360 and provides patrons with expanded digital content and programming options, particularly for children.



The goal, Kochar said, is to give local libraries the tools they need to customize their collections and services to carry out their mission. "I want to empower communities and their thinking," he explained. "I am not interested in providing a one size fits all model for libraries."

To that end, Kochar wants the company to operate along the lines of "radical candor," a principal developed by author Kim Scott that focuses on "caring

deeply" and "being direct." He said he has empowered B&T's 1,500 employees to bring new ideas to the fore, and enabled the team members who interact most with the company's customers—such as sales reps—to recommend new products and services. "We need to listen to our customers and form solution-oriented partnerships," Kochar said.

In other significant moves initiated by Kochar, B&T has re-entered the academic library market, an area it left in 2015. And in May 2022, Kochar sold off B&T's U.K. division. And while some thought he would also exit the distribution business, he has in fact grown Baker & Taylor Publisher Services. BTPS now has 80 full-service clients, distributing to bookstores and a host of nontraditional outlets.

Kochar is also deeply aware of the tensions in the library market today. Amid a surge in book bans and attacks on libraries, Kochar emphasized the wholesaler's commitment to supplying libraries with the books their communities want and need. "We are in the business of supporting all our library customers equally," he stressed, adding that B&T's "guiding principal" is the fundamental belief that "people have the right to decide what they want to read and don't want to read."

Kochar also launched a children's publishing arm, Paw Prints Publishing, in May 2022, which grew out of his belief that more children's books are needed that feature voices from marginalized communities. "I wanted a platform to tell

The Weekly Scorecard

Print Sales Up 4.2% in Early December

Unit sales of print books rose 4.2% in the week ended Dec. 3, 2023, over the comparable week in 2022, at outlets that report to Circana BookScan. Juvenile fiction sales were up 8%, led by Dav Pilkey's newest Cat Kid Comic Club graphic novel, *Influencers*, which sold more than 87,000 copies in its first week, making it the week's top overall seller. The young adult fiction category had the largest sales increase, with units jumping 22.6%. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins remained #1, selling more than 38,000 copies. A new release, *The Do-Over* by Lynn Painter, sold nearly 10,000 copies, landing it in sixth place. Adult fiction continued to rebound, with sales up 9.4%. Three of the top four bestselling titles were by Rebecca Yarros, accounting for a combined total of about 134,000 copies, with *Iron Flame* taking the top spot. Adult nonfiction was the only category where sales fell. Last year, Michelle Obama's *The Light We Carry* was #1, selling more than 93,000 copies. In the most recent week, the category's top seller was *The Woman in Me* by Britney Spears, which sold more than 34,000 copies. In second place was the newly released *How to Be the Love You Seek* by Nicole Lepera, which sold more than 28,000 copies. Sales of juvenile nonfiction were up 3.9% last week, led by two books about Taylor Swift. Wendy Loggia's Little Golden Books biography about the performer was #1, selling nearly 26,000 copies, followed by Arie Kaplan's *96 Facts About Taylor Swift*, which sold just under 20,000 copies.

TOTAL SALES OF PRINT BOOKS (IN THOUSANDS)

	DEC. 3, 2022	DEC. 2, 2023	CHGE WEEK	CHGE YTD
Total	21,358	22,250	4.2%	-3.0%

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY CATEGORY (IN THOUSANDS)

	DEC. 3, 2022	DEC. 2, 2023	CHGE WEEK	CHGE YTD
Adult Nonfiction	7,306	7,077	-3.1%	-3.4%
Adult Fiction	4,233	4,631	9.4%	0.3%
Juvenile Nonfiction	2,028	2,108	3.9%	-8.0%
Juvenile Fiction	6,280	6,784	8.0%	-5.3%
Young Adult Fiction	693	849	22.6%	-0.3%
Young Adult Nonfiction	134	137	2.7%	-3.8%

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY FORMAT (IN THOUSANDS)

	DEC. 3, 2022	DEC. 2, 2023	CHGE WEEK	CHGE YTD
Hardcover	7,373	7,684	4.2%	-1.9%
Trade Paperback	10,531	10,828	2.8%	-3.2%
Mass Market Paperback	676	620	-8.2%	-16.0%
Board Books	1,545	1,923	24.3%	-0.5%



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

News

lived stories," Kochar said. The first titles were released in June 2022, available in both English and Spanish.

Two of Paw Prints' titles are written by Kochar himself—his first turn as an author. Both *The Loving Library* and *Forever Friends* are drawn from his experiences growing up as a religious, social, and ethnic minority. (Kochar is a Sikh.)

Kochar said he is encouraged by early results of the publishing venture: Paw Prints books are getting good reviews from industry publications, and sales are robust. To date, the company has shipped nearly 48,000 copies of the 43 titles Paw Prints has published thus far.

Kochar is also aware that the relationship between publishers and librarians can sometimes fray—particularly when it comes to issues around digital access. He said he has worked hard to earn the trust of both publishers and librarians and believes he can serve as an honest broker in developing economic models that can meet everyone's needs. Candid conversations around price points and digital lending models can help develop terms that publishers can embrace and that "libraries can comprehend and can successfully spend on," Kochar said. And in working with more than 5,000 libraries, he added, he is well positioned—and willing—"to be a mouthpiece for libraries to the publishing community."

As the new year approaches, Kochar said his efforts to remake B&T are paying off, and he points to a number of positive metrics. For the first time in years, B&T is at capacity levels in its two warehouses, which allows it to offer customers more choices. B&T's inventories are also at their highest levels in years. And incoming customer orders have increased every year since he bought the company.

"Our economic model is carry it, sell it, and turn it," Kochar said. And the positive metrics, he believes, reflect a renewed confidence that B&T's customers now have in the company. "When I started in 2014, I instantly fell in love with the industry and the work Baker & Taylor does," he explained. "To have a company that started in 1828 still be thriving and evolving to meet changes in a rapidly evolving marketplace is incredibly motivating to me."

While Kochar is gratified B&T is on the upswing, he said he was never driven to buy the company merely by the prospect of profits—he bought the company to support libraries. "I am committed to the cause of libraries," he added. To be sure, B&T is "a profit-making business," but those profits are being reinvested to help libraries promote literature, reading, and diversity.

"We're not in the library business," Kochar said. "We are in the business of celebrating and championing libraries."

—Jim Milliot



D'Ette Owen

<https://www.facebook.com/DetteOwenAuthor>

D'ette (Dee-Ett) Owen is just an ordinary woman serving an extraordinary God who bestowed on her an exceptional sense of humor. After years of amusing audiences of all ages through using her family recollections to enhance her teaching for classes and seminars, she finally put a few of the stories on paper to share with the rest of the world.

D'Ette lives in Alaska with her husband, Fred, and enjoys the next generation of stories being created by her grandchildren.

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

I have to admit that I haven't read the reviews. I honestly didn't bother looking. The only reason I know what any reviews have to say is because my grandson let me know that I had some "great reviews". The book just needed to come out. I let it out. Since it is based on my own story, the judgment isn't as relevant. I know it's believable because I lived it. I know the characters because I birthed them or had custody of them.

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

Be purposeful. Have a plan. Time block to get it done. There was no real progress until I got purposeful. Since I own a few businesses also, my calendar is serious business. If it's not in my calendar, it doesn't exist. And my calendar was already full. So, I started backing my alarm clock 4 minutes a day. I didn't feel the loss of sleep in those small increments. At the end of one month, I had gifted myself 2 hours every morning to write.

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

There were two: the loss of my best friend and the accident that put my son in the ICU. Initially, I had only planned to share the "light" stories. I want people to smile, giggle and feel good after reading each chapter. But, I got writer's block every time I tried to jump over this section of time. I finally accepted that I couldn't write a memoir that didn't share some of the heartache of life to counter the joy of life. So, I wrote it. And, every writer can share

that as they write something, they live it in their mind. I had to relive two of the most painful times in my life. It took longer than other chapters because I had to just push through. It came with crying, puffy eyes, snot nose...the whole thing. And, I survived it a second time.

- *What inspired the idea for your book?*

When I am teaching or speaking, I frequently use the stories and antics of the kids for a subject lesson. People kept asking for me to share more. Then, they started asking for me to write a book. However, it was when I had a few of the collectible kids tell me how grateful they were that my husband and I opened our hearts and home to them that I realized they had no clue how much they had blessed me. A few people asked me how I came to claim 21 children (though at least 100 called me Momma, only 21 lived with us). What better way to both tell the story and tell these precious ones how grateful I am for having them in my life than to tell it in a book?

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

The original goal was to give the book to my children, both birth and collectibles. I have done that. Through phone calls I have discovered that the book has helped some of them with their own children. That was a bonus. Now, I think the goal is to make people aware that they can make a difference in someone's life every day. Open your eyes to the opportunities that God provides us daily.

How does one woman go from hearing, "You can't have any more children" to making the statement "About one hundred kids call me Mom"? Author D'Ette Owen did so.

*In *The Making of Momma Dee*, Owen shares the story of her family's adventures moving cross-country to Alaska, with their three wild boys in tow. She also describes how she and her husband gathered a gaggle of other kids, their "collectible children," along the way, raising them with the wide range of parenting skills that such a diverse group required and gaining her the nickname Momma Dee. Exploding toilets, joining frequent-flyer programs at emergency rooms, establishing a demilitarized zone for the neighborhood, delivering babies, and launching children off the roof are just some of the events she recounts over their lives together. Throughout it all, Momma Dee's mission is to survive her rambunctious family and find her own purpose.*

This memoir offers a collection of personal narratives detailing the life of one woman and the family she and her husband build around their sons and various other children.





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.

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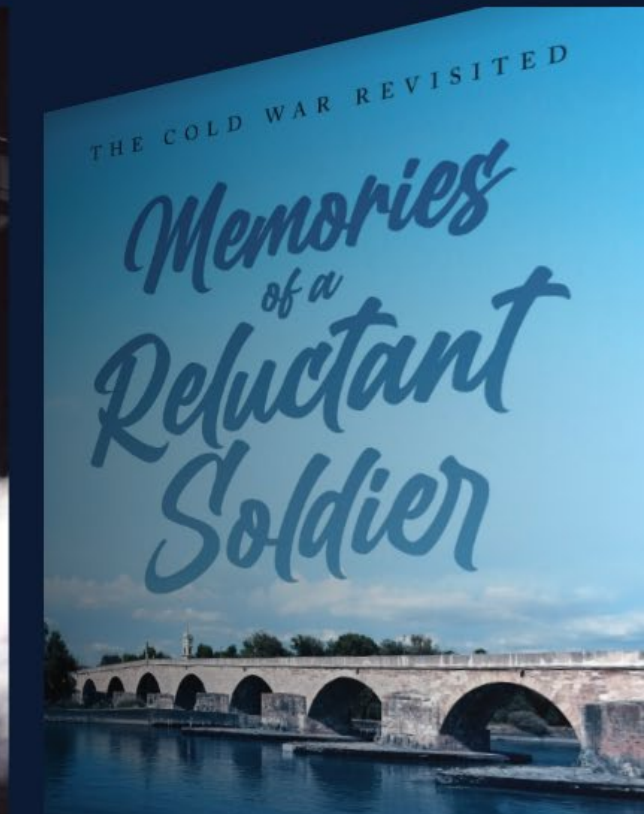
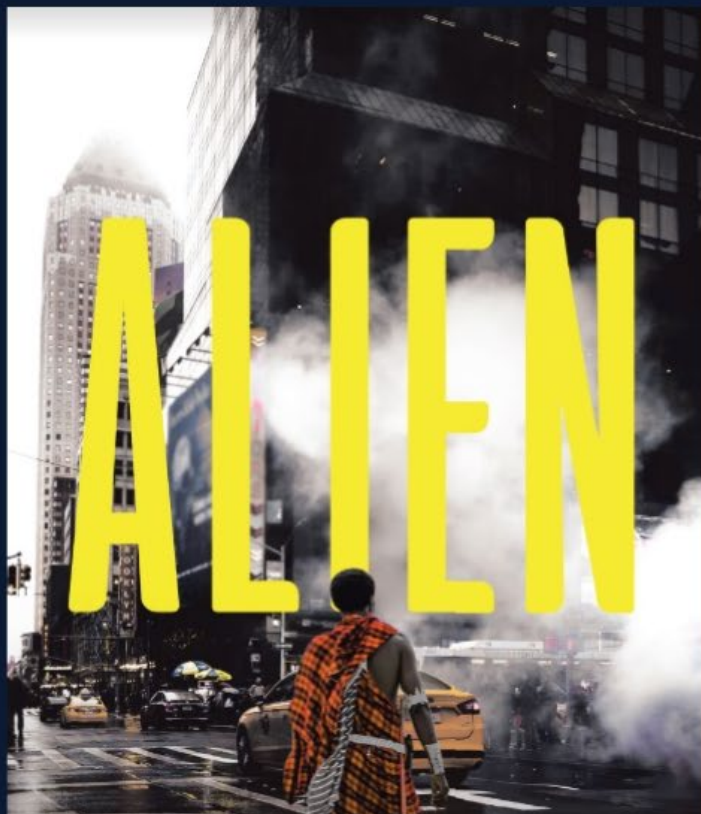
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Paul Bryan lives near the Atlantic Ocean and loves to take his son fishing in the coastal waters, play basketball and Uno with his daughters, and study chess and baseball statistics in his spare time. Peanut butter is his favorite snack and he considers it one of humanity's greatest inventions. He has a background in the classics and is a retired school teacher and librarian. He is the author of "Zeus, Zeus."

Paul Bryan

- *What do the words "writer's block" mean to you?*

To me, writer's block means only one thing – excessively editing my work before putting pen to paper, (which I still do even with the advent of new technology). It is the same thing that causes me to speak with folks haltingly at times. You have to conquer the impulse to be perfect, because it can lead to mental paralysis.

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

Making meaningful connections for consistency, utilizing literary techniques for originality, building your work around a very powerful theme, and composing sentences that sound good to your ear when you write them.

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

I love to write conclusions and will craft them very carefully, sometimes before the rest of the book is even written.

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

I am planning a sequel called *Mouse in Space*, with more positive thematic elements and an essentially heroic character. Like *Mouse on the Mountain*, it will be a combination of humor and admonition.

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

Mouse on the Mountain is a book about a leader who is in charge of his country; hence its title seeks to display the thematic contrast between someone small in control of something massive and very difficult to control.



Enter the world of a very important mouse...a mouse who becomes immensely popular while he is sleeping. Mouse on the Mountain is a provocative political satire in the good tradition of George Orwell's Animal Farm.

At **Brilliant Books Literary**,
we listen to your stories and we make it possible
the world knows about them too.

