

THE UNIVERSAL BREAKTHROUGH

Fergal
Joe

**IN THIS
ISSUE!**

SPRING
EDITION

**TOP 10
BEST
BOOKS**

NEW BLOOD:

Explore
Joe's World
of Magical
Realism

OSCARS 2021

Digital Publishing Trends for 2021

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN AUTHOR

EXCLUSIVE!

Author
**FRANK
DAVERSA**

FILM MAKERS BOOK TRAILER

THE GOLDEN EAGLE

and the

FIDDLE OF DOOM

Garret Fedor | Keith Hernandez | Terence Halligan



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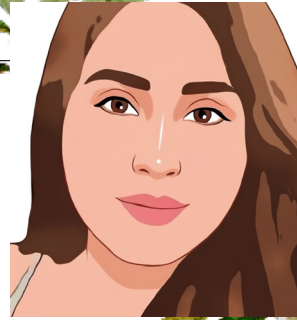
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Editorial's Note



remember when I was a kid, my granny would always say, "getting a glimpse of stories in the pages of a book is like taking a vacation from a far-away, unknown place." Her storytelling was what made me giddy every time we dropped by her small cottage near a lakeshore.

Growing up, she taught me that stories are powerful because it's a thread that connects emotional beings in sharing information and understanding life's experiences. Today, I have the privilege to work on this incredible company where I get to know influential writers and read through their stories, and delve into a world of romance, real-life accounts, adventure, and every bit of genre the universe can offer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cyndi'.

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Easy DIY Spring Decorating Ideas to *Make Your Home as Cheery as the Season*

BY KATHERINE MCGEE

Whether you like or like it more, spring comes around bearing its season's greetings with warmer weather, colored trees, blooming flowers, waking animals, and seasonal festivities. Even at the midst of a pandemic, spring reminds people that this season of rebirth and renewal does come. Here are five easy DIY ideas to embrace the blossoming season in your home.



Decorating for spring may take time and effort, but it should not cost you that much money. Go and incorporate these nifty DIY spring décor ideas to make your home as cheery as the season!

Flower Wreath's

One hundred percent spring classic. Flower wreaths can be placed on front doors, room doors, walls, and on more places where you can readily see them. Spring wreaths represent new life and survival on the land from the harsh winters. It is celebrating nature's bounty and posting it on your door.

To make your customizable flower wreaths, you have to purchase a plain, under-signed wreath from a store. Commonly, those bought plain wreaths will look so white and bland for a nature-like look. If you want to show some of its "wreathiness," you may soak the bought wreaths in coffee and warm water for 15-30 minutes, then let it dry. After that, you may gluegun on it artificial flowers that blossom a specific color motif of your choice (e.g., green and white, red and orange, etc.).



Chic Tire Ottoman

Ever get tired of the spare tires lying on your garage? Give them the ultimate glow-up by upcycling them into a chic ottoman. This Ottoman will be great as your next living room sitting spot, bedside chair, or even coffee table, ushering in the spring season vibes.

In making this chic ottoman, you will need one spare tire, nine rolls of braided knots of Everbilt, a trusty glue gun, and a dependable glue stick. To prepare your tire, make sure it is cleaned and dried from the inside out. Next, drill holes on its center corner so that threads of Everbilt can criss-cross and make up for the hollow space. Once done, spiral around the whole thing the braided knots of Everbilt using your choice of glue gun and a glue stick. This will give that “earthy” touch perfect for the season. Finally, you now have a new couch spot without breaking your bank.



Mason Jars Spring Edition



You can do a lot of vase designing and flower arranging using your handy mason jars. Dish out your scrapbook materials and get those flowers in the vase for more spring vibes in the house. Mason jars are cute and vintage looking, so they can mesh well with whatever season you can put them into use. (They are Christmas cookie jars, Halloween candy containers, and so much more.)

To design your mason jars, you can glue your unused scrapbook materials. If you want to surround the jar with designs, that's entirely up to you. However, if you're going to make the insides of the jar show, give your jar a minimalist design.

Birdhouse

What's spring without some animal element? Birdhouses are meant to take in birds from the bad weather and increase their population. Socio-culturally, these are the trails of people who are affectionate of nature's little chirpers and to the greater wildlife scene as well. Birdhouses play a significant role between man and nature's relationship in the Turkish and Native American cultures.

To make your own birdhouse, you can make use of your spare wood from the basement. Craft it into a birdhouse and paint it with pastel colors reflective of the spring season. If you intend to make a real one for birds, you can make a bigger one outdoors. If you simply want an indoor décor, tiny-sized ones will do the work and pique the interests of your guests.



Hanging Gardens

Usher in the spring with this Instagram-worthy craft that is easy to make and with easy-to-source materials!

You need at least a 3 ft. long wooden piece, 10 ft. of 20 threads or rope-looking craft yarns, and faux flowers and leaves. Attach the faux flowers and leaves as you would please on the threads using a glue gun. Next, attach these threads to the wooden piece in uniform spaces apart. Then get perfect space in your house you may hang your spring hanging gardens.



UNWAVERINGLY
COMMITTED TO
SUPPORTING ALL
OUR CLIENTS
THROUGH THE
PANDEMIC.

“Alone we can do so little,
together we can do so much”

— Hellen Keller.



A MOMENT THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

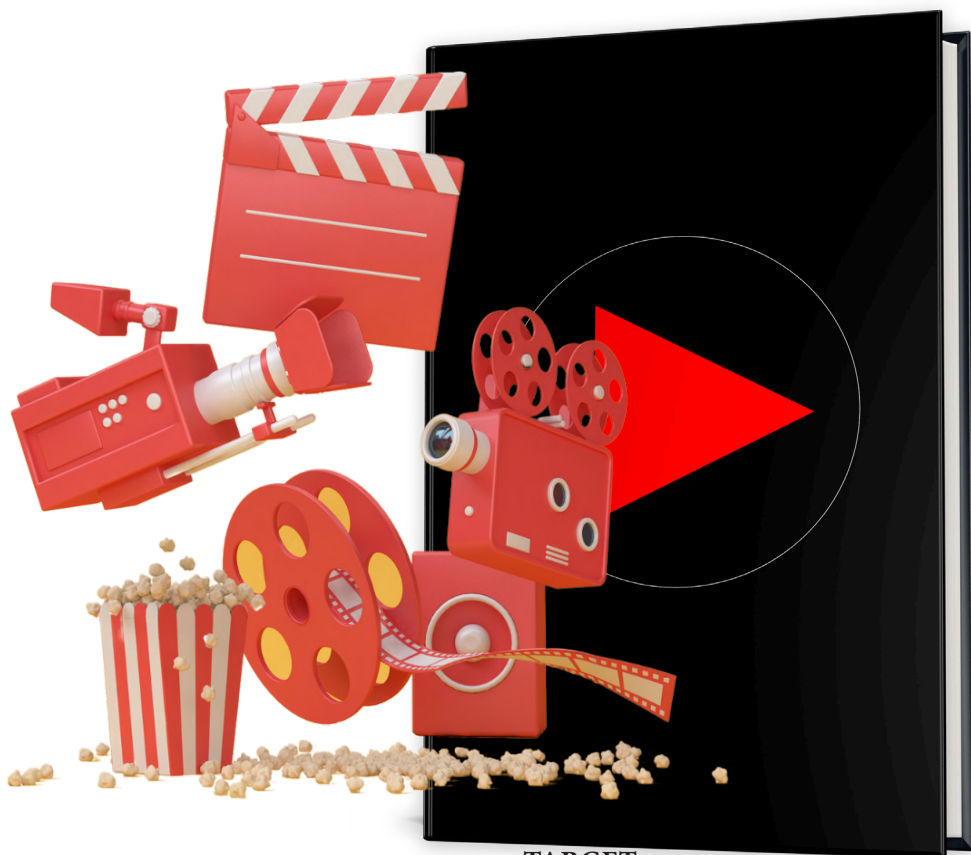
By JOHN MICHEAL HOPKINS

Is it possible to cling towards a moment and let that brief period entice you with something that can potentially change your perspective towards life?

Books have been an essential part of human existence since time immemorial. It holds a magical experience of someone's life through fiction or even the recent results of their ventures sealed and written into pages after pages. Books are an avenue for learning new things. They are an escape from reality and into the fictitious world that an author has crafted out. It is the common denominator for learners who want to receive knowledge, wisdom, imagination, and creativity. Books stand out still amidst the advent of modern technology because nothing beats the immersive experience of learning through words without the world's distractions.

Out of many things, the most important benefit from picking up a book is the change stipulated with it from the experiences you get from an author. And a creative way to hook readers is through a Book Trailer. A moment then cannot be "just a moment" now because those few seconds of interest can take a person to places. It can be the start of the "newer perspective" that we acquire from these creations.

A Book Trailer comes in different forms. It may be a reenactment of a pivotal scene that features the summit of the characters' problem or through a book's narration. It showcases excerpts or details and maybe a presentation of images coupled with animated texts. But how does a book trailer extract the uniqueness of a book from a society with a now scientifically proven declining attention span?



TARGET

Book trailers are essentially a marketing strategy. It makes it feasible if the trailer creators know full well the audience: What they want, What motivates them to read the material, and How this piece of content inspires them.

HOOK

Knowing the good parts of the book can launch a great foundation for a book trailer. When the creators know where to concentrate and lay their cards onto a good scene, it can be a powerful hook to pique the readers' interests.

LENGTH

Society nowadays tends to focus on one thing quickly, never bothering to look at the details ever again. Thus, it is best to consider the length of the trailer that the audience can tolerate.

The goal of Book Trailers is to make sure that potential readers will get a hold of the whole concept. With book trailers, it can make a lasting impression through a digital narrative experience. They are made for easier consumption thus, enabling them also to be shareable to diverse people. With just a few words strategically and creatively structured, it can reach wider audiences.

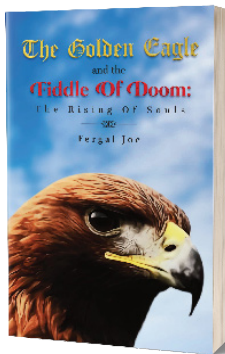
Although the imagery brought by book trailers can be compelling, it also has its limits. Book trailers can be subjected to scrutiny if created at a poorly cinematographic taste. According to the Author Learning Center, there are seven elements necessary for an effective trailer. These are the target, hook, length, imagery, audio, call to action, and distribution.

AUTHOR,
FERGAL JOE



Fergal Joe is quite the adventurous Irish soul. Despite his battle with dyslexia, Joe is determined to reel in readers to a world filled with adventure and mystery. This story is about a man called Rhymes Ramose and how he tried to destroy the world after a man named King Hovercraft killed his sister Hanneck Ramose. It also tells how people tried to stop him from destroying the world, for Rhymes Ramose holds the rest of us responsible for his sister's death. The story begins when a plane crashes in a desert, and the discoveries and truth from the past slowly uncovers.

The Golden Eagle And The Fiddle Of Doom Series

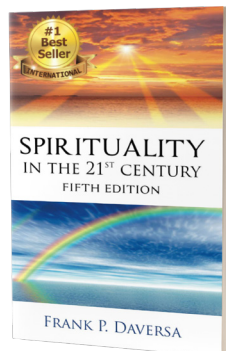


AUTHOR,
FRANK P. DAVERSA



Having been agnostic for 20 years, Frank shifted his outlook and restored his faith. As he said, "I am inspired by my faith in God and Jesus Christ." Spirituality in the 21st Century offers insight into the divine, the world, and life. It presents a frank assessment of spirituality as it exists today. His book explores the five principles of spiritual enlightenment by contemplating revolutionary concepts that defy common knowledge. However, it does its best to tell the truth. If you read it, though, you might view spirituality and the world in a better light.

Spirituality in the 21st Century

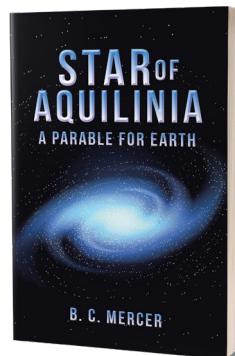


AUTHOR,
B.C MERCER



B. C. Mercer is retired from nursing, teaching, and working with natural therapies. Aquilinia is a jewel in the universe, warmed by a yellow sun during the day and lit by two moons at night. A humanoid race inhabits the planet, along with a wide range of other life-forms, and the people, who communicate telepathically, exist in harmony with their surroundings, with a highly educated and advanced society. In this sci-fi novel, a woman born with a great healing gift works to save her planet from environmental damage caused by reckless scientists.

Star of Aquilinia: A Parable for Earth

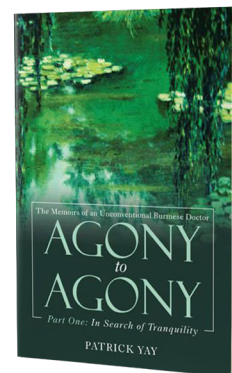


AUTHOR,
PATRICK YAY

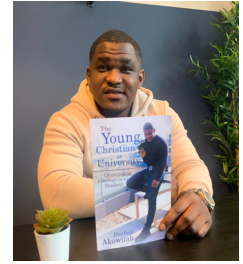


Patrick Yay was born in Burma when the people of Myanmar felt helpless and frightened while living under the rule of a brutal military junta regime. While growing up, Yay had a few seemingly simple wishes: to be valued and respected, to have rights and freedom of choice, and to be treated as a human being. Agony to Agony aims to tell the truth and share his personal experiences with the world the many difficulties he endured under an unethical administration of senior doctors.

Agony to Agony: Part One: In Search of Tranquility

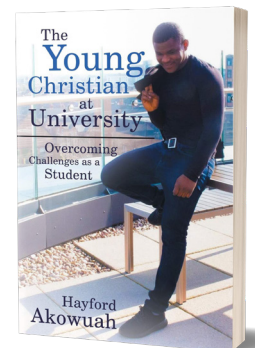


AUTHOR,
HAYFORD AKOWUAH



There are so many things that happen as you're away from home. And all these things will try and take your attention away from God. So how does one stay focused on God with all these challenges? This book talks about some of the commonly known challenges that students go through and how to overcome them. The book also contains a twenty-one-day devotional which will enable you to stay focused and connected to God.

The Young Christian at University: Overcoming Challenges as a Student

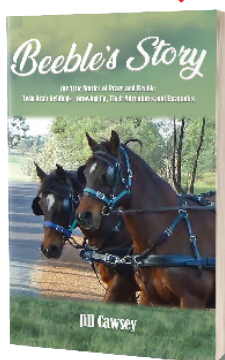
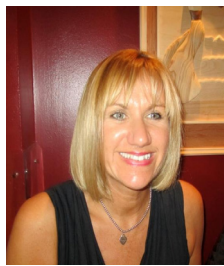


TUB'S TOP 10 FINEST BOOKS TO READ RIGHT NOW!

AUTHOR,
JILL CAWSEY

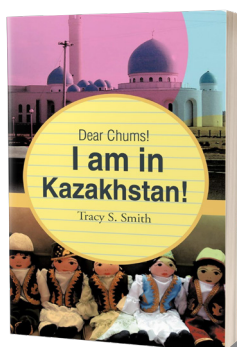
Jill grew up in England working with the New Forest ponies, which led to her becoming a forever horse lover. Observing how close her twin Arabs have been over the years, she wanted to share their story with all who know animals as sentient creatures, with feelings emotions, and intelligence. This is the true story of Praz and Beeble, twin Arabs, born in Tasmania. Animal lovers will find it funny, endearing, sad, interesting, and fascinating, and see many similarities to their own animals.

Beeble's Story

AUTHOR,
TRACY S. SMITH

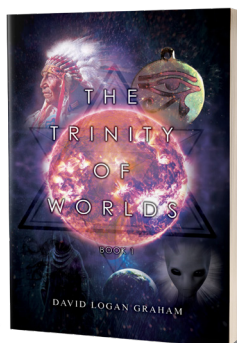
Tracy S. Smith is a graduate in psychology with over 20 years working, traveling, and "observing people" within her capacity as an HR professional in the Oil and Gas industry. This book is an amusing account of her summer as an "expat wife" in the ex-Soviet Country of Kazakhstan written from the heart. It comprises her experiences of the culture and her experiences by way of a biographical viewpoint of her life and her time in Aktau, Kazakhstan through a series of letters to her family in friends.

Dear Chums! I Am in Kazakhstan!

AUTHOR,
DAVID LOGAN
GRAHAM

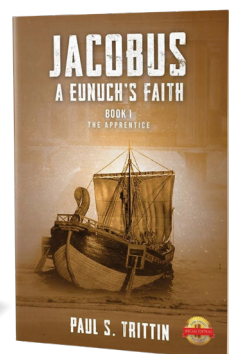
Graham's life began with a deep foundation within the world of the supernatural, and his father before were mediums — spirit channelers. Among others, "Fogril" was one of these spirits brought forth. He was the spirit of a great American Indian Shaman; this Shaman became Graham's "spirit guide's", who taught him the art of the dream warrior. This book was inspired by such journeys into the unconscious mind and much more. This is one man's journey through the unknown, the walk towards the great prophecy of a new world, a new dawn of reality.

The Trinity of Worlds

AUTHOR,
PAUL TRITTIN

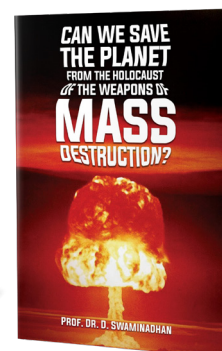
Paul Trittin's choice to situate Jacobus in the Roman Empire at a period coinciding with Jesus Himself is very well thought of. Jacobus presents the less viewed side of homosexual relationships while mainstream media has to a point made homosexuality tangential with promiscuity. Paul Trittin's work does a great job of showing that homosexuals are humans too. They are capable of expressing great love, undergoing similar ordeals and challenges in life, and being able to take part in what is regarded as divine, which has otherwise been kept from them by faith.

Jacobus: A Eunuch's Faith

AUTHOR,
PROF. DR. D.
SWAMINADHAN

Prof. Dr. D. Swaminadhan has nearly 50 years of experience in higher education, engineering, technical and management education, research, educational planning, and administration. He has a clear foresight about the dynamics of higher and technical education in the country. How on earth did mankind come to assemble such a large stockpile of nuclear weapons and think this was a good idea? He takes us back to the First World War and rightly traces the current global predicament to the mistakes and efforts that were then entered into.

CAN WE SAVE THE PLANET FROM THE HOLOCAUST OF THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION?



When life seems too overwhelming and uncertain, spending time to pure page-turning escapism is transformative. Here are the TOP 10 amazing books that made it into our list!



IMAGERY

Incorporating literary devices into the trailer makes it an immersive experience, such as putting sensory imagery into it. Nothing goes wrong with having creativity and imagination take the steering wheel.

AUDIO

Getting the readers to transport into the world of the book is one thing. Setting the mood with visual elements is another vital factor that makes a good book trailer.

CALL TO ACTION

Enticing the readers to read the content should be enough to call for action as to where the readers can purchase the books. A good trailer must have an ending that says what platforms and stores your book would be available such as website URL and stores locations.

DISTRIBUTION

A book trailer should be distributed to major online video websites such as Youtube to increase the visibility or exposure of your book. This makes it easier for promotions because a link can be sent through different platforms, reaching different potential audiences.

A moment should not be insignificant if the right quality of the book trailer is achieved. A moment should not be forgettable if the immersive experience is captivating enough to hold the reader's attention. And a moment, albeit short, could last for a lifetime — a lifetime's worth of wisdom, knowledge, and experience from books.



HIGH QUALITY, PROFESSIONALLY PRODUCED CINEMATIC BOOK TRAILERS

THE UNIVERSAL BREAKTHROUGH!

CREATE EYE-CATCHING MOVIE LIKE book trailers in no time with us!

WATCH ON THE UNIVERSAL BREAKTHROUGH

AND DON'T FORGET TO LIKE, SHARE, AND SUBSCRIBE!

BACK FROM WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

By *STEPHEN VARGAS*

The Golden Eagle and the Fiddle of Doom marks the first in the four books of Fergal Joe's Golden Eagle Series, and it is here that we get the first glimpse of the world that Fergal creates, and the many other colorful characters populate the tales.

We get to follow John Coiners' adventures and his quest to find a priceless Golden Eagle, a gold eagle with a crow's head, in a bid to take his son, Michael, out of Prison. Michael and his friends' mischievous actions would later snowball into a series of consequences the world has never seen, such as the merging of mortals and Gods' destinies and the impending doom of Mankind.

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

Aboard the ship Red Dragon and with only a picture as a reference, John Coiners and his crew are headless chickens looking for a needle in a haystack, not knowing where to find the replacement for the artifact burnt by his son. In their search, they chance upon a particular cave in West Africa containing another powerful artifact that in their carelessness unleashes the greatest evil that has its eyes set upon the destruction of all men.

In this book, the tale of and tragedy that befalls Rhymes Ramose is told; the death of his sister and the vengeance he acts upon King Hovercraft.

Laced with humor to great comic effect, Fergal Joe does a great job putting up this fantasy world of great lore without having the quirkiness and comic effect dilute the usual awe-inspiring and magical feeling we get from reading fantasy novels. Occasional popular culture references might raise eyebrows to some. Despite playing minor roles in pulling off the comic effect of characters and parts of the story, these references are never made the bedrock of the whole fantasy that Fergal creates. Pop culture strongly reinforces the story without being a rip-off of those sources: the characters and story are unique and original. The book can remain faithful to this throughout.

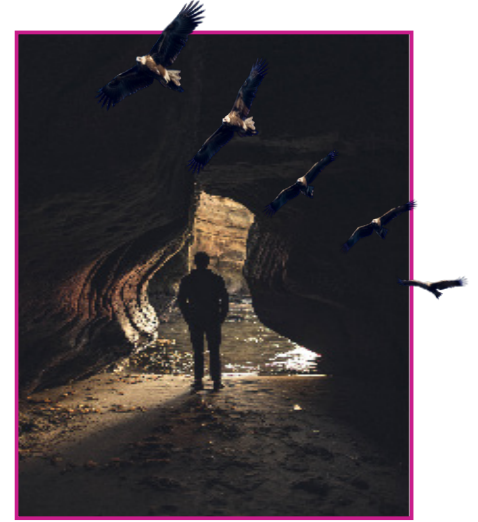
Joe draws from the strengths of famous works of fiction like the Lord of the Rings or the Pirates of the Caribbean, and the influence of these classics and favorites definitely shows in his style and content.

One can easily spot the combination of his own prosaic style with poetry, a pervasive element in more modern epics that offer a variety of the old and the new. This way, the story is from time to time sprinkled with beautiful poems, which are one of the very brilliant parts of his craft.

A MUST - READ FANTASY

The Golden Eagle Series is a must-read book that would be enjoyed by teenagers and adults alike. The stories are presented somehow, bearing a little bit of semblance to Tolkien's fantasy works, heavily inspired by it yet being very original. The series can bestow its own thick mythology filled with very unusual yet equally interesting characters. The overarching story of the grand scale of things is easily reminiscent of two things: Tolkien's Lord of the Rings and Greek Epics.

Meanwhile, the first book manifests in the setting where the underdog forces of good are faced by greater and stronger adversaries in numbers and skills and backed by great immortals who seek the domination and utter destruction of the forces of good. And in the burning of the Golden Eagle and the Fiddle of Doom, interestingly being a parallel of the discovery of the One Ring, incidents initiated in accidents. Or by chance at the most inconspicuous of characters, yet eventually leads to the events that change the world.



It makes the heroic characters of the series very relatable to ordinary folks, which helps the understanding of the character's emotions much easier.

The Golden Eagle and the Fiddle of Doom is a quirky adventure that starts with mischief leading to events that threaten the existence of Mankind: how crazy and exciting is that? For those looking for a fun fantasy adventure of epic proportions, this is the golden eagle you are looking for.

NO - ORDINARY WRITER

While it may come out of the ordinary at first, Fergal Joe's storytelling is nonetheless entertaining and sufficient. Closer appreciation of his work reveals that it has its own merits. These merits reveal themselves only if one lets oneself have an open mind and gets lost in the enthralling stories he weaves. Fergal is a writer who aims to develop his passion amid the challenges of Dyslexia, and for an individual who has worked his way through schooling and work, being able to accomplish three books with a particular coherence in the story is an amazing feat.

If anything, Joe's work should be praised, as he has never written before, nor does his schooling align with creative writing. Yet, he can create a wonderful world of adventure that many people would love to immerse themselves in and be enchanted in its richness. Rising above adversities, Joe has proven that he is more than a capable writer; the books' richness and the fun story speak for his creation stories.

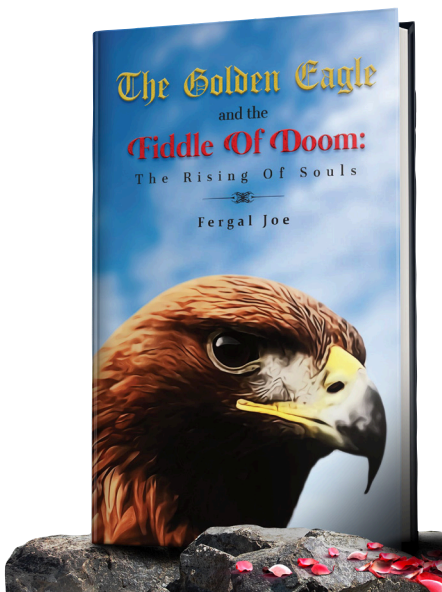
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THE GOLDEN EAGLE AND THE
FIDDLE OF DOOM, BY FERGAL JOE



Now on his second book on the Golden Eagle Series, The Golden Eagle and the Fiddle of Doom: 2 Protectors of Weapons, Fergal Joe expands on the adventures of our protagonists with even more travels and challenges.

Powerful characters with interesting backgrounds also add to the already thick lore of our epic and push the story in a manner that will surely fascinate and bewilder your imagination. Who is Black Knight, and how has he fallen to where he is right now?

What role does he play in the grand scheme of things, and what would his relationship be to the Prince of Darkness, Thousand Boils?

In this quest, we join the adventures of our favorites Captain John Coiners, who, with the help of Keith Black, the pilot of the spaceship the Red Dragon, must find a replacement for the Golden Eagle which his son burned – currently imprisoned with his friends for this crime.

In this grand adventure, it seems that their fates are destined to intertwine with the Thousand Boils and the Black Knight, two powerful beings who now travel to a mountain in Africa. A mountain contains powerful artifacts that hold the key to turn the tide upon Rhymes' path of destruction so that he can finally save humanity from extinction. It is here that Fiddle Doom, the artifact that can capture an immortal's soul, lies in slumber.

In this part of the series, we explore the tragedy that befalls Rhymes Ramose after his sister, Hanneck Ramos, was killed by King Hovercraft. In his despair, Rhymes exacts vengeance upon the whole of humanity he holds accountable for the death of his beloved daughter: but why? What leads him to this diabolic solution, and what motivates him to do this?



FERGAL JOE

RHYMES RAMOSE'S WRATH

BY CAMILLA WONG

We explore the lands that span across continents in this tale of extremely great proportions with the equally great content to match. A grandiose tale of adventure where our characters' actions play have significant repercussion not only in our material plane but to those adjacents of it combined with a sprinkle of bizarre absurdity, like that of a sea which turns into a desert and a ship stranded in the middle of the sandy plains.

A native of Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, Fergal Joe loves writing in his spare; time stories that exercise his mind and widen the worlds of those who read them. Joe describes himself as a reserved individual, occasionally going out on weekends to grab a beer or two to socialize with others. Do not let the shy disposition, however, fool you, as he has proven himself to be quite the loremaster, able to create vast worlds and layered stories that will surely have anyone dazzled.

Joe's books are treasure troves of fantasy.

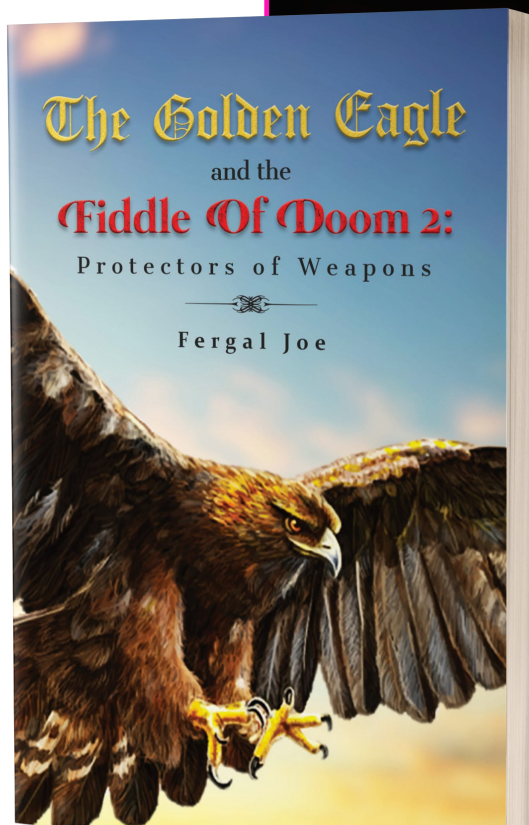
The Golden Eagle and the Fiddle of Doom: 2 Protectors of Weapons is a story of revenge, justice, and alliances, with a variety of unusual characters but lovable ones which would leave their marks on our minds and hearts.

Powerful characters with interesting backgrounds also add to the already thick lore of our epic and push the story in a manner that will surely fascinate and bewilder your imagination. Who is Black Knight, and how has he fallen to where he is right now? What role does he play in the grand scheme of things, and what would his relationship be to the Prince of Darkness, Thousand Boils?

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In his third book on the Golden Eagle Series, *The Golden Eagle and the Fiddle of Doom 3: Schooldolas Grave*, Joe expands on the adventures of our protagonists with even more travels and challenges.

The story picks off on where the last book ends; Rhymes Ramos, a man who swore vengeance on the one responsible for killing his sister, is locked up under a mountain somewhere in Africa for ages now. Ever boiling in his heart is his contempt for humanity who has imposed upon him this justice an unjust view, for the only crime he is guilty of is the retribution for his sister's murder – on this, he swears upon the destruction of mankind.

Will he finally be able to break the restraints upon him and his army and successfully crushing humanity once and for all?

It is this grand narrative of epic proportions that our characters find themselves, willingly or unwillingly, embroiled with. What adventures lie in wait for John Coiners and his company? What happens to Michael and his friends, imprisoned for burning the Golden Eagle? In the search for replacing the artifice they set ablaze, they stumble upon the Fiddle of Doom, an item so powerful that it could imprison souls of immortals and make men fall to their knees. The fiddle, however, is inconspicuously tied to the fate of humanity. It's a paradoxical fulfillment of a prophecy; that the Fiddle of Doom is central in developing the forces that ultimately counter the forces of evil that are Rhymes, yet it is the same instrument which marks the Rhymes' release from his imprisonment which has spanned across many millennia.

Taking center stage in this book is Schooldolas and Schooldolew and their role in the grand scheme of things. Schooldolas is finally awakened from his deep slumber by the forces opposing Rhymes, yet this comes at a great cost to Schooldolas himself, as would be revealed in the later stages of the book. It is a tale of the adventure of two brothers: the tight and strong bonds of fraternity binding them, growing ever closer in the face of extreme adversity and great evil.

Considering Joe admits that his works are influenced by the Pirates of the Caribbean films, particularly the part where Davy Jones gets involved in the series of events that pushed the adventures of Jack Sparrow forward.

The story contains a segment wherein the Dead Man's chest, or at least the concept of "leaving something behind" as part of some grand destiny or supernatural rule, has its equivalent to the fates of the two brothers, Schooldolas and Schooldolew.

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

By SCOTT EVANS

The adventure *Pirates of the Caribbean* possesses is combined with the massive proportions of battles and exquisite that makes the Lord of the Rings Franchise famous.

To take after the footsteps of these works of giants requires great imagination and the will to dare to be as great, or if not, greater than them.

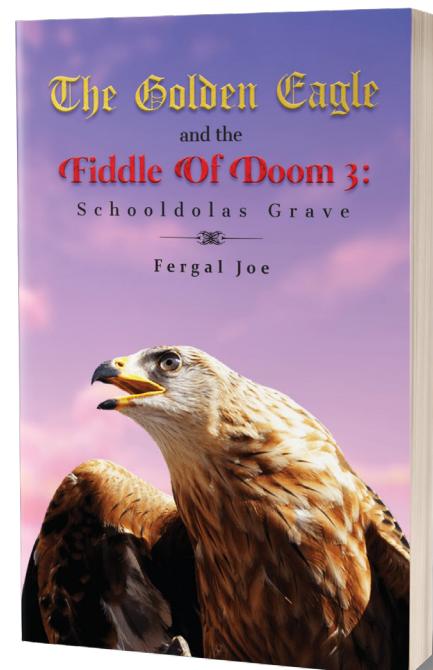
Additionally, there is the added challenge of maintaining originality amid great inspiration. The danger of being a mere copycat and rip-off is ever-present and could make or break the novel. Of these challenges that Joe faces, he overcomes them all. What we are given is a uniquely wonderful epic, with its own identity and its style – a novel attempt at storytelling, capable of exuding its own set of strengths when it comes to making the story felt to the individual reader without it feeling like a mechanical robot or program that is just mindlessly spewing words in an attempt to be literature. Fergal also adds allure to his novel to populate the world with many peculiar yet equally exciting characters.

Being the latest addition to the series, Fergal has hinted at developing the fourth and final book already in the works; given the amazing work and dedication he has put from the first book up until now, the upcoming book is something we should look forward to. As far as the story goes, it has so far proved to be light-hearted in the mood it sets for its readers and simple to digest.



Yet, it retains the capability to project serious tones when the gravity of the situation calls for it and to cast an atmosphere of awe and wonder to the readers. Like the author, this third book of his is more than meets the eye.

The *Golden Eagle and the Fiddle of Doom 3: Schooldolas Grave* is a welcome collection to many fantasy lovers worldwide looking for a unique story told in a manner different from the mainstream. Of a tale where destinies are meant to be overcome by bonds of fraternity and friendship, even if the odds are against them.



The Oscars 2021 is perhaps one of the most remarkable, for better or worse, Oscars in the past few years. Amid an ongoing pandemic, it appears nothing can stop one of the most prestigious awards from being held on the Union Station at Los Angeles, California. From our favorite Hollywood and international stars who have gathered to the usual flocking of photographers and the press, the awards seemed to be sending us a message – amid crisis, and the show must go on.

Suppose anything is to be picked up from the prestigious awards. In that case, it is that despite the harshness and restrictions of the past year, the world should still go on, and the creative work of various artists, directors, and the teams behind them shone a light on our otherwise dreary lives.

This year's Oscars nominees and winners were equally outstanding. While many winners took the spotlight that they deserved upon their awarding, some shone brighter than the rest, and honestly, they well deserved it.

Raking in three awards is Nomadland, with three awards under its belt for Best Actress in a Leading Role, Best Picture, and Best Director. While Frances McDormand fittingly won the award for her mind-blowing performance of a strong independent woman wandering from her hometown after the death of her husband, Chloe Zhao wins it all for all the women and people of color in the field. Having won the Best Director and receiving the award for Best Picture being one of the film's producers. Zhao is the first person of color to have won the award for Best Director while being only the second woman to win, so, after Kathryn Bigelow won the spot way back in 2010.

Mia Neal and Jamika Wilson also took the spotlight as the first black women to win the Best Make-up and Hairstyling award for their fantastic work on Ma Rainey's Black Bottom and Sergio Lopez-Rivera.

The two ladies became ecstatic on the awards as they felt like “breaking the glass ceiling,” alluding to their hopes that in the future, greater diversity of the people, regardless of gender or race, would be able to get the recognition they deserve.

Yuh-Jung Youn also broke ground as the first actress of Korean-descent to win the award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in Minari. Daniel Kaluuya, known for his role in the Marvel film Black Panther and Jordan Peele's Get Out, won Best Supporting Actor for his role as revolutionary Fred Hampton of the Black Panther Party in Judas and the Black Messiah.

OSCARS 2021:

PEOPLE OF COLOR TRIUMPH, A GREAT LEAP FOR AMERICAN FILM RECOGNITION

By NICK HUANG



Lastly, the event that elicited one of the most shocking if not controversial reactions among many people were Anthony Hopkins's surprise win. In his role as a man who has dementia in The Father, over Chad Boseman, who died August last year after fighting a long battle with cancer. As the award for Best Actor was positioned at the final part of the show, many were expecting Boseman to win as a powerful ending to the awards, much like Heath Ledger when he won the award for Joker in Nolan's The Dark Knight. Not to say that Hopkins was undeserving of the award, but many expected the academy to give Boseman somehow the tribute he deserves for the career that ended too early.

Overall, while this year's Oscars has its downs, one of the best things to happened to the awards is the increasing amount of recognition people of color get, in the context of a ceremony historically dominated by white people, which has stirred controversy over the last couple of years. The Oscars win not only reflects the increasing recognition of the diversity of the American film industry, but it also represents a stark contrast and powerful statement against the surrounding political scene of racist and violent politics.



THINGS YOU MUST GIVE UP

TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL WRITER

BY *CHELSEA GRIFFIN*

Writing is a demanding profession. That is one thing writers learn at the onset of their writing career. With life priorities and other easier ventures, writing gets shoved to some dusty part of the mind like an endnote on a bucket list. This is one reason why there's a huge gap between writers and success (with success equating to getting published). If you aim to become a successful writer, here is a curated list of the things you have to give up to reach your goal:

1 Defeated Mindset

Success is for winners that much we know. Harboring thoughts that you are set for failure will land you there. Win over your mind and prepare it for all the challenges writers face — mental block, exhaustion, and frustration, among others.

2 Personal Limitations

Stop putting up boundaries of what you can't do. This is just another way of backing down early from the writing game when it hasn't started yet. It helps to accept that drawbacks are bound to happen in your journey. The important thing is you conquer it, like the hero in every interesting saga ever printed.

3 Endless Comparison

This works for you if you are the type of person who draws inspiration from other people's progress. Chances are, you're not, and you get dissuaded upon seeing how much output they have while you seem to have a mountain to tackle. Don't bother to check. Focus on your progress and goals. Life goes on, and work gets done without your rivals.

4 Procrastination

It's at this juncture that your desk is cleared, the laundry and dishes get done, and your house receives that much-needed general cleaning. Take a break if you must but make every effort to stick to your routine and deadlines. There's joy in crossing out items in your worklist, after all.

5 Time

It's not just bad habits that successful writers give up. One (in) tangible thing that gets sacrificed is time. The key is knowing your priorities, creating a schedule, and sticking to it — not easy but worth giving a try.

6 Fun

It follows that some hobbies and trips have to give way to your writing.

7 Anonymity

This is a pain when you are comfortable with being anonymous. As a beginner in writing, you can develop your craft by building a network through conferences, attending classes, and mentorship. Beyond that, you will endure a little bit of fame if you become a bestselling author with movie rights under your belt. Don't worry about it. Just brace yourself since it might happen.

8 Illusion

Success does not happen overnight. Some writers post stories on free apps and sites and receive a movie offer in a blink or get a publishing deal right after submitting their first manuscript. However, it doesn't discount the fact that writers generally have to go through a lot to get published.

It's generally your fears that successful writers need to give up first, and the rest will follow. It might seem a lot but trust that you will gain so much more.



THOUGHT HYGIENE:

A GUIDE TO COMBATING PANDEMIC BLUES

BY JACK BECKER

**“IF ONLY I WERE FINE.”
“IT’S JUST ALL IN MY HEAD.”
“THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR ME TO
HANDLE ALL AT ONCE.”**



At some point in time, these words have been spoken by our mouths as a manifestation of corrupt health both in mind and physique. Not all the time do we pat ourselves on the shoulder and say, “Well done for today!” or wake up at the right side of the bed where everything seems sunny and exhilarating. Sometimes, these are days where we see dark, gloomy clouds pouring rain while we wrap ourselves in the familiarity of our beds. Sometimes, this could mean a long walk in a dark tunnel seemingly infinite with no escape route on sight. When there are finer days, there are also those days where everything seems so south. And that is okay. It is fine to see those days as an integral part of the human experience. However, the important thing to realize is how we are well aware of it.

Awareness is the state of being conscious of something. Health Awareness Months are campaigned to educate and promote health to be mindful about certain diseases. Diseases are taken into the light so that people can take action for early detection, screening, and prevention. These are important in contributing to health promotion that aims to empower individuals to choose a healthy lifestyle, reducing the risk of developing diseases and morbidities. May celebrates Mental Awareness Month.

Over a year has elapsed since the COVID-19 pandemic began. 365 days or even more have gone by since we are forced to stay in our homes as part of the action plan to stop the deadly virus spread. While we are hopefully preventing the risk of getting infected, it orchestrated another risk - the risk of having mental health problems due to social isolation and the lack of liberty to go outside. Because of the pandemic, our mental health has taken damage. When the world gave birth to COVID-19, it secretly had conceived its twin brother, the pandemic blues.



Pandemic blues is coined to describe the poor mental health situation that is caused by isolation, grief, loss of income, fear, and pressure. Symptoms include increased levels of drug and alcohol use, insomnia, anxiety, and depression.

It is, therefore, essential to take care of what we feel and think. Fortunately, like our physical hygienic practices to combat deadly diseases, there is an equivalent to caring for our mental health. And these are in the forms of self-care, healthy diet, and social connection.

The Magic of Self-Care

The adjustments we are making can overwhelm us, and our rooms explicitly made for slumber can sometimes be a multi-purpose function for school and work. Having to leave out the option of going out, we have a lot of time to be in the same space with the same routine every waking day. Thus, it is important to allot time to pamper ourselves. Self-care can be watching our favorite television shows every once in a while. It can be praying and meditating, a time to pause and reflect on how far we have come. It can be a time to have that long, soothing shower we always wanted without the idea of rush hours. It can also be a time to get skincare and have the daily grind of sweating out toxins in the body. Pampering ourselves can be shaped into many forms, as long as it produces that happy hormone.

Good Food, Good Thoughts

Aside from getting the essential nutrients our body needs, eating good and healthy food has been scientifically proven to brighten our mood. The gastrointestinal tract is home to billions of bacteria that influence the production of neurotransmitters, chemical substances that constantly carry messages from the gut to the brain. (Alice Gomstyn, 2021). Our gastrointestinal tract, often termed our “second brain,” when given healthy food, promotes the growth of “good bacteria,” which influences better neurotransmitter production. Integrating whole foods, fiber, antioxidants, Folate, Vitamin D, Magnesium, and fermented food are considered good-for-your-mood foods.

Stay Connected!

With the advent of modern technology, even with isolation, connecting to our friends and family is still possible. It is important to stay connected to fight loneliness because it can lead to depression, anxiety, and increased levels of stress when experienced in longer terms. Experiencing the horrors of a worldwide pandemic should not also be parallel to damaging our mental health. It is important to combat pandemic blues with thought hygiene.

Practice regularly.

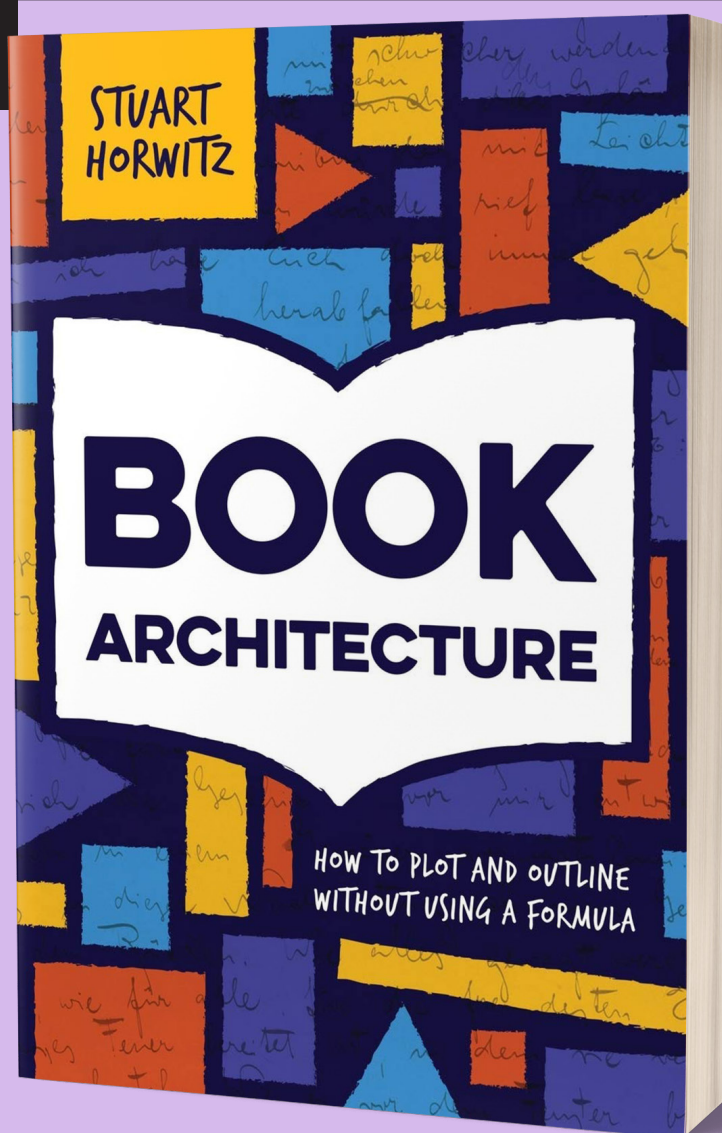
STUART HORWITZ

Many are struggling with writing compositions, much more making a good plot. In developing a story, writers often get confused and hesitant about what exactly needs to be done in a sequence. Sometimes it becomes a matter of having a topic first or simply write from the flow of ideas emerging into one's mind?

Writing may be difficult for other people, but just like any other thing in life – there is always a way out of that exertion. The “Book Architecture: How to Plot and Outline Without Using a Formula, written by Stuart Horwitz, will undoubtedly answer subjects on the current state of writing a quality plot.

There are already many books about writing that are out in the market. All of those kinds aim to teach aspiring authors how to write efficiently and effectively. Stuart Horwitz shares powerful practical tips and knowledge for all writers in this work, which set it apart from other books. He is an award-winning essayist and poet and the principal and founder of Book Architecture. He serves as an inspiration to many writers who eventually became authors. He passionately offered over twenty years of his life coaching and guiding them. Some of those authors who are clients in Architecture even made it to the best-selling list – whether fiction or non-fiction books. Famous TV shows such as The Today Show, The Tonight Show, Oprah, and other well-regarded journals in their specific fields also featured some of them.

As we all know, writing is as essential as reading for everyone, regardless of the status in life. Not only is it a requirement in school, but it will linger in the course of one's lifetime. Thus, writing has come a long way to meet the changing demands and purpose of writing compositions. Consequently, while writing seems a natural and ordinary task, people tend to get lost in its complexities in its whole process. And this is where the book of Stuart Horwitz comes into great importance.



PLOT AND OUTLINE WITHOUT USING A FORMULA

By ANTONY MENDOZA

The book contains new writing approaches, supplemented with detailed and concrete examples, which help the writers create astoundingly plots. The said book works not just for one but several writing genres – classic creatives: fiction or non-fiction to blockbuster films, making it exceptional.

Although this book talks about formula, let it be clear that Stuart Horwitz has created an excellent guide for hitting your target plot while avoiding being boxed by a pre-determined equation. To give you a little hint of what you are up to in this book, the matter of “universal story” and its elements and partitions like “pinch point,” “midpoint,” and the percentage distribution of a story were discussed thoroughly.

It's time to hit the goal of creating a great plot with the help of this guidebook. Save time through an efficient and effective style of writing, and be among the best-seller authors.

Putting an Armor of Wisdom in the Midst of Chaos

By KRISTINE SPENCER

In a world full of misery and untoward incidents – what, where, and who do we run to? At times, life here on earth seems too overwhelming that we tend to crawl back into our comfort zones regardless of how dark it may seem. Every day, as we got up in the morning, we hear stories and news of unfortunate events and even experience these mishaps ourselves.

But why do you think you are still here? Why do you think that you continue to survive and grow despite all odds? That even if there are times that doubts and frustrations cloud your mind, you chose to carry on and live another day? As simple and as complicated it is, we are alive because we still have a purpose of fulfilling a task in this world.

When it feels like everything is falling apart, take a pause and take your time to reflect and meditate. Feel your energy and realign it with the Universe's will. Most importantly, know that we have an all-knowing and ever-present God. Know that despite the chaotic world that we live in, there is always a path leading to better days in the future.

In the modern world, where everything seemed to be explained and rationalized by Science, the idea of believing in God is sometimes seen as backward thinking. In addition, we have so many material things and convenience brought by the technology around us that we forgot to take care of ourselves internally for our sake and not just for the world to see.

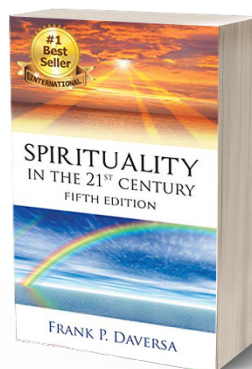
But is it that easy? Things are always easier said than done, but who are we not to try? It does not hurt to look at *Spirituality in the 21st Century* and read it with an open mind and soul.

We may be people belonging to different races, religions, beliefs, and cultures, but one thing is for sure – we believe in the presence of an Almighty One. And even if we are different people coming from different walks of life, we know that our Spirituality has a significant role in the way we live our lives and cope with their realities.

In Frank P. Daversa's *Spirituality in the 21st Century*, we can find a down-to-earth approach to understand our spirit, soul, and consciousness. It's a very timely book for those experiencing anxiety and distress in the chaos of our time. Daversa combines beautiful stories

from his own life to encourage us to enjoy the spirit's presence, a guide to spiritual paths, from openness to spiritual understanding.

The book explores the five fundamental principles of spiritual enlightenment by contemplating revolutionary concepts that defy common knowledge. As the author explains how one can embrace and optimize these principles, he draws upon the teachings of historical figures who have epitomized these higher levels of enlightenment.

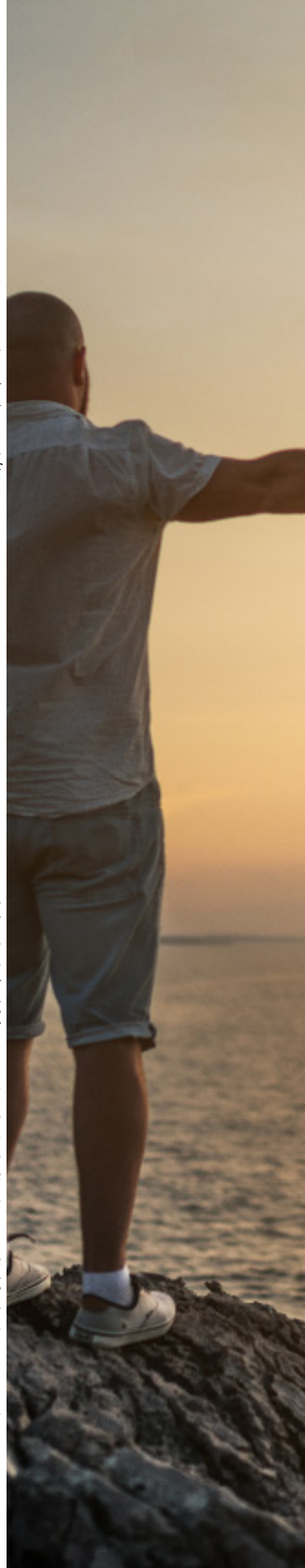


Spirituality in the 21st Century strives hard to deliver the message of the Love of God for everyone regardless of the varying religious affiliations. Daversa does not persuade readers to believe in a particular doctrine or arbitrarily have faith in the divine. Instead, his writing encourages readers to ponder on the deeper meanings and real-life significance of each story.

“My goal is to help get as many people as possible started on a new, real path toward spiritual enlightenment, not make them hesitant to even try,” — Daversa, said. From the author's years of research, study, and personal experience, he created a roadmap where an individual can find order amidst all the chaos.

Also, this book is not just for spiritual guidance – but also a practical guide toward conquering misfortune and hurdles in our pre-destined lives with the power of spiritual stability and willpower.

“We can always create new paths for ourselves, as long as we have the determination. If I could do it, then so could you.” —Daversa added



ONE ON ONE WITH THE MAN BEHIND SPIRITUALITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

By NICK HUANG



Much has been said, and after having a copy of Frank Daversa's book "Spirituality in the 21st Century," let us look at an exclusive interview with him and breathe life into the world this author creates. In a conversation with him, interesting facts about his personal matters like hobbies and messages that were not explicitly written in the book were shared.

Interviewer: "Share something your readers wouldn't know about you."

Frank: "I am into personal investing. My retirement account is worth over a quarter of a million dollars."

Interviewer: Where do you get your ideas?

Frank: "I got most of my ideas for my book from contemporary life. An example of this is chapter 8, Wants vs. Needs."

Interviewer: "What is your writing process like?"

Frank: "I get an idea for something to write. I type it into my computer. I edit it for syntax and grammar. Then I leave it alone for a couple of hours. I go back to it and reread it, revising it for good readability. I leave it alone for a day or two. I then reread it, revising it for good readability. Lastly, I incorporate it into my manuscript."

Interviewer: "Tell us about your first published book? What was the journey like?"

Frank: "I got an idea for a novel. I composed a synopsis for the story. I hired a writer to write the novel. I submitted my synopsis to him. He began researching the story. He composed the first chapter, and submitted it to me for review. I gave him my feedback. He began writing the second chapter. We repeated this process 15 times, including the Epilogue. I read the entire manuscript from start to finish. I provided him with feedback. I then hired a copyeditor to edit the manuscript. She would read each chapter, providing me with corrections that I would either accept or reject. Upon editing the whole manuscript, I purchased a publishing plan from AuthorHouse. I submitted my manuscript for them to publish. They returned to me a finished copy of the book. I reviewed the book and gave my approval. Then they formally published my book."

Interviewer: "Can you share with us something about the book that isn't in the blurb?"

Frank: "The book discusses what I call the five C's of relationships: Compatibility, Communication, Compassion, Commitment, and Compromise."

Interviewer: "What was the highlight of writing this book?"

Frank: "Having it published for the first time."

Interviewer: "Do you hide any secrets in your books that only a few people will find?"

Frank: "No. I spell everything out for all to see."

Interviewer: "What do you hope your readers take away from this book? Do you hear from your readers much? What kinds of things do they say?"

Frank: "There is always a solution to life's problems if only you search for it in the right places. I mostly hear from reviews of my book. Overall, they say the book is very enlightening."

Interviewer: "What would you say is your interesting writing quirk?"

Frank: "I reread something I have written countless times before I get it right."

Interviewer: "What advice do you have for writers?"

Frank: "Get all your rough ideas down on paper first. Then go back and worry about syntax and grammar."

The Path to Become an Author Entrepreneur

BY KEVIN BARKER

Book publishing in the United States is on a roll. Steven Piersanti of Berrett-Koehler Publishers wrote that more than 4 million books were published in the US in 2019. An increased number of writers venture into self-publishing, with 1.7 million books independently produced in 2018. This staggering number of output spells business for each author who managed to finish a manuscript.

THE AUTHOR ENTREPRENEUR

Like any business owner whose goal is to determine what sells, the author started the writing process with the target audience's interest in mind. Both the author and entrepreneur are innovative thinkers who can create value from ideas. However, the author has to go beyond to build a business around his writing or become an entrepreneur. An author has to fully embrace entrepreneurship and put up business models to promote his work and ensure success in sales.

BUILDING THE BOOK BUSINESS

The creativity of an author entrepreneur is crucial in building the book business. In the sea of 4 million books, how can one ensure that his work stands out?

Coming up with a new idea is a tricky challenge in the publication world because plenty has been written about various topics in different genres. While an author can seek distinction through a unique story, he can also achieve it with his writing style. Upon completing a con-

cept, he can test and show it to the people who can provide solid input for its development. This equates to additional work because of more edits and modifications, all a part of the creative process.

Once the manuscript is ready, the business gets real with fund sourcing. Naturally, an author entrepreneur's creativity is pivotal in raising money and dealing with available resources. Then there's another story that comes after polishing the book, deciding its packaging, and whether it will be softbound, hardbound, ebook, or in another format.

Another aspect that demands innovation is the actual selling of the book. Using the available digital channels like social media for marketing and sales is a good strategy, especially nowadays that Information Technology is rapidly on the rise. Also, a good story can only do so much without good advertising and a readers' community. Several years after its publication, the Harry Potter series remains to top the charts because of its fandom. There is always something new about it that keeps the people talking and buying. The general structure of generating a sustained profit through time is one of the most important things an author entrepreneur has to anticipate, like what the author of the mentioned book series must have done.

An author entrepreneur should learn to like business. This is not an easy feat, especially for authors who don't particularly like social-

izing. With other obstacles like the intense competition in the publishing industry, this challenge will seem minute in comparison. Only authors who are up to this can guarantee the success of their business.



Imagination is a Life Saver and Friend: A Writer's Note

BY CASSANDRA WILHEIM

W himsical, Magical, and Illusive, the mind of a child is like a playground of fantasy. I remember the days where I get excited telling my mom about seeing a heart-shaped cloud and looking forward to meeting fairies in the garden. Being the only child in the family, I always long for a friend. Unfortunately, I don't have any siblings around, and strange it may seem, but I am the only child in our neighborhood. So, reading stories about the magical world of fairies, nature, and fantastic creatures is my comfort, happiness, and friend. It saved me from being an alone and lonely child in my own world.

Other people have a different story about their encounter with imagination. According to an article about leadership, all successful people share is how to use imagination in their favor. Both Bill Gates and Steve Jobs used their

imagination in visualizing how personal computers can change the world in the future. Who would have thought of this massive innovation in the past? It is simply mind-blowing! Imagination is always associated with visualization. If you read "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne, she mentioned that the law of attraction starts with imagination. No one should underestimate the capacity of the mind to think and imagine because the universe is capable of making a reality of your thoughts. However, it also works with negativity in mind. It will keep expanding in certainty if you keep on thinking about it. You need to be mindful of what you think.

In terms of using imagination for a living, fiction writers are much immersed in dealing with their imagination. I believe this is an inside job to produce a masterpiece of writing about creating new worlds

and characters that your readers will enjoy. As a writer myself, I always admire the works of J.K. Rowling of "The Harry Potter" series. Who would not know that novel? It earned fame and fortune in book publishing and film production. She took the worldwide audience in this witchcraft and wizardry craze that leaves an indelible mark in the history of literature. Surely, other authors who also believed and never gave up on the calling of their imagination managed to be fulfilled on their respective works.

Therefore, never deny the power of your imagination. You can be working on a business or other thing but never set your imagination down to zero just because of adulthood. You will never know where it will take you one day when the time is right. The one thing that I can only assure you is it will lead you to a place closest to your heart.



Brave NEW WORLD



1. I am excited when I write:
 - A. Non-Fiction (true to life narratives)
 - B. Fiction (an imagination that may or may not reflect true to life narratives)
 - C. Both
2. I can say that I am more confident when writing:
 - A. Scientific papers
 - B. Novel
 - C. Blogs
3. When I start to write, I often:
 - A. Research all information needed
 - B. Let my mind create characters and setting
 - C. Explore and gather some inspiration from others.
4. I write because I aspire to:
 - A. Produce informative material based on facts
 - B. Encourage others to be imaginative
 - C. Share my ideas and opinions
5. I am sophisticated in my writings when it comes to:
 - A. Every Detail
 - B. Entire Impact
 - C. The trend



What Kind of Writer Are You?

Many writers would agree with “You are what you write.” In writing, authors don’t just offer their talent and writing skills but also their soul and identity – their whole being. It goes to say that every write-up reflects a writer on a personal level. In other words, there is a phenomenon in which the masterpiece is directly connected with its creator.

How about you? Do you believe in the said quote? If yes, here’s a quick quiz for you to determine what type of writer you are based on your personality and preferences.

6. The purpose I write is to:
 - A. Develop studies in a field
 - B. Express my creativity
 - C. Make a living
7. My main material when I write is:
 - A. Data
 - B. Subject
 - C. Audience
8. When I write, I used to:
 - A. Make sure to follow the standard way of writing
 - B. Be original and often not conform to any styles
 - C. Align to the marketable demands and public opinion
9. I am more likely to release my inner writer in me when I:
 - A. Study a lot
 - B. Imagine a lot
 - C. Wander and observe a lot
10. As I write, I am more concerned about:
 - A. Substance
 - B. Imagine a lot
 - C. Wander and observe a lot

Now, tally your answers to find out your quiz results! If you answered more:

YOU ARE A SCIENCE WRITER!

A You are brilliant. You tend to be logical and much interested in formal, scientific write-ups. You strongly believe that there is power in writing papers solidly backed with evidence gathered through thorough research. And that, through these researches, we have come a long way in advancing our technologies – making a more convenient and better world to live in. You could be the next Albert Einstein, Charles Darwin, or Marie Curie.

YOU ARE AN ARTIST WRITER!

B You are spectacular. What matters most to you is designing a unique character and prose or story, so you do not mind defying the standard manners of writing. You possess exceptional talent in creatively translating your imaginations into words. Your crafts are like bombs filled with mixed emotions, which wonderfully explodes once it gets into the readers’ senses. You could be the next William Shakespeare, J.K. Rowling, or Paulo Coelho.

YOU ARE AN INFLUENCER WRITER!

C You are impactful. Your ultimate goal is to sway public opinions through write-ups based on your beliefs and personal or other’s experiences you have been inspired to. You define the effectiveness of your masterpiece if it caused a change of heart to others or if it was agreed by many. Most of the time, you write for a living as a blogger, an advertiser, or a columnist.

No matter what kind of writer you are, always remember that all sorts of writers, regardless, what, where, or how he/she writes, are significant in coloring our world. There is no such universal rule as topics, tools, or formulas that a writer must follow. Nevertheless, you surely have got what it takes to be a writer if you have an ample amount of patience, courage, knowledge, and strong willpower to pull off your thoughts and relay them to your readers.

So, what kind of writer are you? A Science, Artist, or Influencer Writer?

HOW SPRING ARRIVES AROUND THE WORLD?

BY ANTONY MENDOZA

Ever wonder about the seven hundred million tulip bloom in the Netherlands or the cherry blossom in Japan? How about the picturesque valleys in the Palouse Region, Washington, USA, that change colors? Or the flower valleys in Castelluccio, Umbra, Italy? The spring season is regarded as a celebration of colors and culture and/or the rebirth of nature after the cold winter. On the other hand, it is the welcoming of warmer days before hitting the hot summer. In different countries along the mid-latitude regions of the earth, the spring season starts at different dates. For instance, in the United Kingdom and the United States, it falls in March, April, and May, while in Australia and New Zealand, it happens from the 1st of September to the 30th of November. However, it occurs as early as February and lasts until the latter days of June. Vivid and vibrant as the sun shines, dormant flora gushes to life as rivers and lakes thaws. Hibernating animals stretch outside their dens as migratory birds return to their territories. By mid-spring, flowers and greens cover the land providing an abundant niche to animals who are now cuddling their young.

People spend most of their time outdoors enjoying the splendor of things. Flower festivals are usually jam-packed with tourists from all over the world in Japan, South Korea, and the Netherlands. Jewish holidays (Passover) commence while the Hindu of India celebrates the festival of Holi (Good Harvest and Fertility of the Land). But spring is not just a mere season. It is a science of the length of daylight, rising temperatures, and the wind system. Tilted at an angle of 23.5 degrees, earth's revolution (around the sun) gives an uneven amount of light to the different regions, namely: polar (arctic and Antarctic) that has one season; the tropics with two seasons (wet and dry) and the mid-latitudes with its four seasons (winter, spring,

summer, and autumn/fall). While the tilt affects the earth's evolution (on its axis) by either lengthening or shortening the daytime (we only experience twelve equal hours of day and night twice a year).

As the mid-latitude regions witness the arrival of spring through the revival of its nature, only subtle changes affect the rest of the world. In the polar parts, superficial sunlight never ceases for half a year, that it lessens the cold as the ice gradually melts. While in the tropics, either there's a monsoon giving a sudden burst in the middle of a prickly summer, or the prolonged daytime ushers the fruition of trees and the mini-blossoming of tropical flowers. It is not spring season for the rest of the world, yet it has its own version of beauty in diversity. We may all want to see the 700 million tulip bloom in the Netherlands or the cherry blossom in Japan, the picturesque valleys in the Palouse Region that change colors, or the flower valleys in Italy. But even if we can't, we will always be part of it. For without all the other seasons, spring won't be possible. Thanks to the earth's tilted angle, we face the sun at different times of the year, giving us an amazing planet with lots of phenomena and choices.

Although the spring season this year may be different from the past years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, one thing is for sure, there is a message of hope for mankind. We've may missed the actual celebrations or sightseeing due to minimum health protocols which are to be strictly observed. But the spirit of the season still lives. Virtually and across all social platforms, tulips and cherry blossoms bloom. And in our localities, we can sense the subtle changes. Amidst the global cold and deadly winter brought by the COVID 19 pandemic, we are certain that spring is coming, with all of us warming up the situation through mutual aid and cooperation.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN *AUTHOR*

BY KATHERINE MCGEE

All of us can write, from little snippets of thoughts in our notepads to diary entries and blog posts, letters, term papers, etc. Some of us write for a living, and others find writing a passion in life, yet just a few become authors.

It seems to be an intimidating task that the first reaction is to balk and be contented with writing for the self. Don't get me wrong, writing for yourself is good for the soul. It helps you organize your thoughts and attain peace of mind. But if you want more and wish to get your message heard (or read), you must know what it takes to write for other people. Here's our checklist for budding authors:

Writing Skills

This is the top-of-the-list, most basic skill you should have that it's not even negotiable. Let's skip the grammar and composition part (although very important), but focus on how you can convey your thoughts. That is certainly a writing skill that is often overlooked. You have to think of your Ws— What is your message, Who is your audience, Why are you writing. Once you have it narrowed down, you can move on to planning.

Planning

You got it right. Writing requires a lot of planning. You have to plan your Ws and plan your schedule since there are tons to do. First off, there's the research. I cannot emphasize it more, but it has become our social responsibility to provide people with truthful information in these times of fake news and scam attacks. Secondly, there's editing that will occupy a huge chunk of your time.

Attitude & Mindset

Some writers find it most challenging to begin. Some experience the mental block in the middle, and some feel at a loss on how to wrap up everything and finish; it all depends on the writer. One thing we can all agree on is it's tough to get going. So when it does (and it truly does), reset your mindset and face on with your best attitude. It helps take a little sanity break and watch a little bit of Netflix but stick to your routine. Surprise, surprise, writers need to create a routine and find time to write. I've been whining about it so much, but it pays to develop discipline so you can finish what you're working on. Devoting even just 2-3 hours each day to your book is huge progress.

Write! Write!

Just write. There are hurdles and mental blocks, whether it be at the beginning, middle, or end. I'm sure many can relate once I tell you that I trash most of my work before it gets to the end. Whenever I'm on that ditch, I go back to one of the most quoted saying by my life guru, "aim for consistency, not perfection." It can be tempting to keep on reading back and perfect what you have so far, but chances are, you keep on revising and eventually get frustrated and chuck everything out in the bin. So just finish writing and go over everything after. If a book seems daunting, try writing short stories, magazine or newspaper pieces, or blog posts. The most important thing is you get started, and you finish.

Networking & Literary Marketing Agent

Is your work seriously finished? Nope, you're just getting started. You need to publish!

You can start networking while writing; you can commit more time to it with your manuscript ready for review. You can attend a writer conference or enroll in a writing masterclass. This is how you build a group that, in turn, can offer you support and pointers and provide you constructive criticism. That is also a part of creating your profile and marketing yourself. I know this is a bit of a downside for introverts, but the publication is a competitive scene, and it's also a business. You got to make your following bigger—create a site, run ads and promotions. Remember that the goal is to be published.

You always have the option to self-publish but if you prefer to get published by traditional publishing houses, then get yourself an agent! Treat the agents as your ally. They can open doors for you with their connections and steer you in the negotiations. Better yet, represent you and do the talks themselves! They can refine your draft and advise on what is preferred by the publishing houses or what sells. A good agent can be the bridge between you and your dream of having your name on print.

Let me guess what is going on in your mind right now, "This is a lot!" We agree. It takes a lot of work to become a writer, much more in being an author. I'll throw you in another quote from Tom Hanks, "if it was easy, everyone would do it." Everyone can write, but not everyone can be an author. Best of luck!

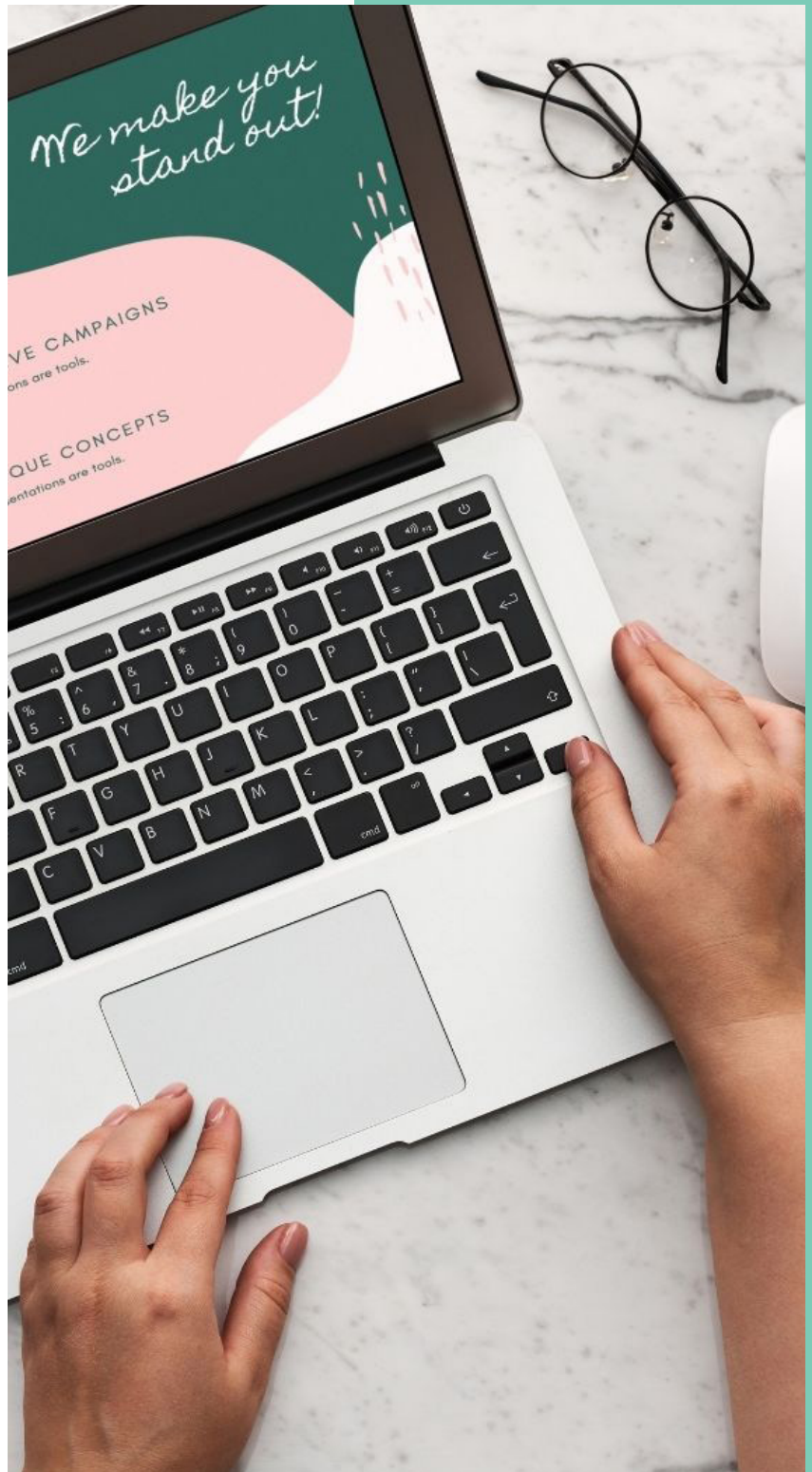
DIGITAL PUBLISHING TRENDS IN 2021

By ANDREA HOLGATE

Publishing has come a long way throughout decades. Now that we live in the age of technology, digital publishing has been burgeoning.

Considering the wide use of gadgets worldwide, especially smartphones, it has undoubtedly provided easy access to all users, anywhere and everywhere.

Even before COVID19 strikes, user's behavior has already been spontaneously changing – which further augments during the pandemic. Everyone is exerting efforts to shift all the works into the digital platform to deliver productivity and effective communication even with less physical contact and face-to-face interaction. Thus, we now tend to rely on the digital electronic world.



Here are some of the digital publishing trends in 2021:

- 1 Ebooks are better than the Alternatives.** The electronic book, or what we call E-book, has gained significant attention to users. Since its creation, many frequently use it, as it is genuinely cost-efficient and convenient. Scholars and students primarily benefit from it, as they need not spend a lot buying physical books. They can also skip bringing bulky and heavy books as Ebooks may be carried everywhere.
- 2 Audiobook is a step ahead of digital publishing.** Aside from eBooks, audiobooks are also a trend nowadays. It is a convenient alternative to old-fashioned reading. You can listen to the newest bestseller while traveling or cleaning up the house. Besides, it can sometimes evoke a more emotional response to the content. According to Techcrunch, it is anticipated that the world will use more than 8 billion voice assistants by the year 2023.
- 3 AI is a game changer:** Artificial Intelligence or AI paved the way for the fast advancement of digital publishing. It provides many features that help publishers to produce efficient works, such as the automated text analysis, which identifies redundant and repetitively used texts. It can also detect plagiarized content or erroneous statistical data. Thus, shortening the process and load of work – serves like an auto-tune for authors and publishers.
- 4 Metadata to better integrate resources.** Having metadata is one significant benefit to authors and publishers. Aside from the fact that researchers will be able to obtain richer resources using metadata, this also helps to properly check and cite credits to the rightful owners of existing works. Thus, avoidance of plagiarism and misquoting.
- 5 open access is a fireball of information and education.** Open access is a promising feature of digital publishing. It attracts many reads, views, and downloads because many users depend on easy, free, but reliable resources. The more papers that anyone on the internet can access, the more it likely encourages others to create papers. Therefore, a chance to pay it forward in the name of information and education.

Whether we like it or not, life is going virtual. Thus, the trends mentioned above are just a few of the digital trends continuously coming forth. Although some of those things mentioned above are probably familiar already since they existed even before the pandemic, we cannot deny that it has developed, evolved, and massively maximizing changing the classical ways of publication. With many stores and businesses forced to shut down due to the pandemic, e-commerce has become even more relevant and powerful. And since this pandemic

crisis is not eradicated anytime, we need to find a way to work and continue to strive in life amidst the pandemic.

It's time to advance and level up our game in the world of publishing. Take the online platforms and utilize the digital age for your business niches, like publishing. Continue to cope and make two steps ahead with the new trends through maximizing technological innovation.

CELEBRATING THE AUTHOR POETRY

To be an author is always worth celebrating. It is worth celebrating extraordinary minds, exceptional skills, and hard work.

Welding words to certain degrees
Expressing ideas that might agree
Fiction, fact, of varied genres
Challenged truth and current dogmas

Inked, typed on a visible end
A power tool that will transcend
Queer mind and voracious senses
Landscaping views, beliefs, and awareness

History attests authors' divinity
Bestowing growth to humanity
Prodding civilization to advance
Emancipating actions and response

But wherever the word may lead
An author's heart bleeds for these:
Keen observations and social engagements
Topped with the love of wrinkled foreheads.

Sri Bhupesh Chandra Karmakar is one of our authors that is worth celebrating. He is a retired defense person from Indian Force who has written few romantic novels and short stories. Besides his ideas of an environment-friendly modern society pervade all his prose writing, old traditions and festivals thrive in all their pastoral glory and scientific progress. Explore the beauty of nature around us through his wonderful poem.

A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN

It was a calm sunny morning
with motionless clouds in the sky.

The dewdrops on lotus leaves
were sparkling in sunlight.

I woke up by this time and moved
to view our garden.

I could hear the birds calling out
to each other in their song.

I walked listening to the songs of
birds nesting in the trees.

Then the cool breeze accompanied
a burst of moving clouds.

A sudden burst of rain shrouded
the garden in darkness.

I entered inside garden to enjoy
the beautiful environment.

I saw numerous classes of roses
like Gemini in the garden.

Meadows dotted with flowers
made the garden beautiful.

The road was lined with trees
full of delicious fruits.

When the Sun was shining brightly,
I walked in the garden.

I could feel the cold wind whipping
strongly around the garden.

The wind created a breathtaking and
an awakening environment.

It was a lovely garden, where I can
spend my leisure time nicely.

THE UNIVERSAL BREAKTHROUGH



ARE YOU DECIDING TO SELF-PUBLISH YOUR BOOK?

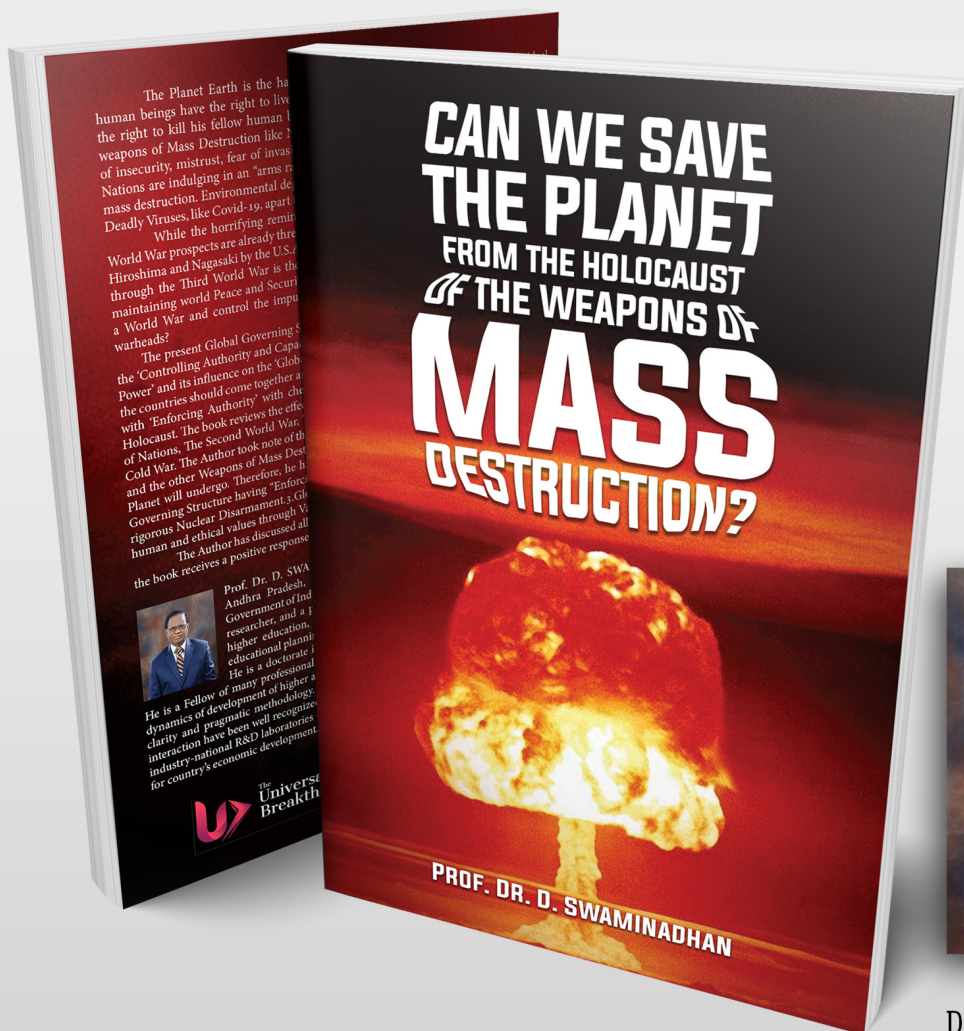
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The Author suggested the World Democratic Federal Government, Its Structure, and Constitution and published books on the subject. He has also focussed on the important and critical element of the Value Orientation of Education.

He further made a Global Appeal to All the concerned with the World Peace, Security, Freedom, No wars, and the Liveability of the Planet to fructify the Unified Global Agenda through global Unified Action.

COMING OUT
THIS
2021



PROF. DR.
D. SWAMINADHAN

PROF. DR. D. Swaminadhan dedicates his Book to all those Victims of the Nuclear Holocaust and the Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Planet.