



## Newsletter

---

### *Issue 5 - March 2016*

Welcome to our fifth newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading them and would welcome any feedback. This is our way of staying in touch, introducing new members, their work and bringing us all up to date with the latest goings-on. If there is anything you would like to see, or tell me of any inaccuracies then please email me.

Bridget

### **In this Issue**

Welcome.....	2
News from the Incas .....	3
Mummy's Little Angel – JW Lawson.....	3
The King's Jew – Darius Stransky .....	3
Book Snippets .....	3
New Books .....	4
Food for Thought .....	5
One sentence on a new page? .....	5
Scene Breaks .....	5
Perspective .....	5
Taboo words .....	5
New Books in Detail .....	6

## Welcome

Since December we are delighted to welcome:

**Cat Nicolaou** – Cat lives with her family and many pets on a small island in Greece. She grew up surrounded by crystal clear blue waters and beautiful beaches. Living in such a peaceful area, she enjoys the idyllic setting around her. It is therefore not surprising that she likes to write romantic stories. Strolling by the seaside is where she gets all her inspiration. As an ever-romantic herself, she likes writing and reading stories with a happy ending, though she does torment her characters before they find a happy resolution.

Not being one of those authors who have been writing since childhood, it came as a real surprise to the people around her when she finally decided to do it. But "When Time Comes", life has a way to show you what needs to be done and she finally realised that she had to put her stories on paper and let people know her.

The greatest joy of writing for her is seeing where the characters will take her every time she starts a story.

Besides spending time with books, she likes drinking coffee like a maniac and listening to music. She also enjoys riding her motorcycle because it makes her feel free.

Her debut novella "When Time Comes" was published in February 2015. A story set on the island of Rhodes where a famous rock star and an artist find love that can last forever. "When Time Comes" has been translated in Spanish with the title "Cuando Llegue La Hora".

Her second book "Life, Love and Death" was published in February 2016. A collection of eighteen short stories of Romance, Crime, Horror and Comedy.

Cat is also the co-writer of "Romantics Anonymous", a short story published in the "Hearts and Other Dead Things" anthology by Cake & Quill Writers Group.

**Richard Vobes** – A new support function in his web site, Book Snippets. There are now links from the Inca web site and more details in the News section.

If you have recently joined us and aren't in this list, please let us know and we will include you next time.

## **News from the Incas**

### **Mummy's Little Angel – JW Lawson**

To be released at the 55<sup>th</sup> Chicago Book Fair on June 11<sup>th</sup>. JW is working hard on minor rewrites and the book is no longer available through Amazon, so if you have a copy of the original you are fortunate. It will however be republished at hopefully similar prices once the mainstream publisher is ready. Many congratulations.

### **The King's Jew – Darius Stransky**

Darius has now got the book published via mainstream channels – it has been a lot of hard work with roots in the defunct Authonomy initiative, but certainly well worth all the effort to get recognised.

### **Book Snippets**

Richard Vobes has created a vehicle for actually reading out a five minute sample of your book. Many of the Incas have taken up this offer and their books are now in place on: <http://book-snippets.com/>

Select an extract of your manuscript that highlights the style and nature of the work and that intrigues the audience to want to know more. Send it to Richard along with any background information to assist the interpretation of the text. If there are usual words, character names or place names, it is helpful to provide a guide to pronunciation. Richard records the snippet and posts on social media and various other outlets.

## **New Books**

### **Daniel and George's Double Treasure Hunt Trouble – Phillip N Smith**

A playful scavenger game has an unexpected twist to it, sending our favourite twins time travelling into the middle of a real life treasure hunt. This is the first book in a series of their adventures.

### **The Whispering Mime – D J Meyers**

Shakespere, Shake-shafte, or Shakespeare... Were these three men one and the same, or a figment of the imaginations of Elizabethan England?

### **Strudwick's Successor – James Court**

A comical quirky tale of incompetence and intrigue follows the fight for survival of a factory

### **Bad Business – Andy Paine**

An hilarious expose of life in the Fashion industry. Watch out for the 'Fashion Assassin', presumably a hit man for the Fashion Police who have been after me ever since I started buying my own clothes.

### **When Time Comes – Cat Nicolaou**

a woman's personal reminiscence of a tryst with a singer, which moves to being a struggle to make sense of the affair and to find her way toward the old-fashioned idea of family and love.

### **North Cyprus, One Man in a Bus – Robert Wingfield**

A light-hearted diary of a guided tour around the Republic of North Cyprus. This can also be used as a guidebook if you are thinking of visiting.

50% of the royalties will be donated to Kyrenia Animal Rescue (<http://www.kartrnc.org/>)

### **Ravensdale – Lucinda Elliot**

Rewritten and republished, a story of highwaymen (and women), derring-do and adventure. Great fun and very easy to read.

### **Fire and Steel – Cliff May**

523 A.D. Arthur is dead. As Britannia burns a small tribe clings to its colony of Anglia. Across the German Sea powerful enemies covet Engeln itself. But the English are not easily cowed. As Spear-Danes threaten the homeland a hero returns, leading the fightback with ferocity and guile.

The Kindle version to be released on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – a more detailed summary will be included in the next newsletter.

Cliff is also working on reformatting and republishing his back catalogue. As a note, the excellent cover was completed by professionals and cost £170.

## Food for Thought

### One sentence on a new page?

A quick tip from Inca, James Court - when text overlaps by a few lines to a new page at the end of a chapter, consider putting a picture, cartoon or other to fill up the space. This saves the problem of leaving a nearly blank page at the end of a chapter or scene break.

### Scene Breaks

Make sure you put some sort of divider to show the reader that they are now viewing from a different angle of point of view. Don't simply carry on from where you are. At least put in a blank line.

### Perspective

It is easy to have two of your characters speaking, and reflect thoughts from both at the same time.

E.g.

"How are you?" said Pete, thinking, *I don't really care.*

"Fine thank you," said Dud, thinking, *I know you hate me.*

While this works well in comedy, if you are trying to get your reader into the head of your main character, they wouldn't be able to read the mind of the other. Leave the reader guessing if you can.

"Fine thank you," said Dud, scowling.

### Taboo words

Keep a look out for excessive use of the following words in your manuscript.

**Well** – at the beginning of a speech. Remove it and see if the context changes – odds on it won't.

**Indeed** – beloved of technical and management authors. 'In – deed' literally means "In what you have done (or are going to do)". If you find it in your work, try taking it out altogether and see if it makes the slightest difference to your meaning.

**Very** – very good = excellent, very hot = scorching – see what I mean.

**Really** – similar to very – it means 'In reality' (as opposed to 'in imagination'). Try removing it to see if it makes any difference to the text.

**Just** – try removing this or replacing with something more descriptive. "He was ~~just~~ washing his face when the doorbell rang = His hand was barely on the soap when the doorbell rang.

*Please contact us with any other hate words (or phrases) you would like us to highlight.*

## New Books in Detail

### **Daniel and George's Double Treasure Hunt Trouble – Phillip N Smith**

Twin brothers Daniel and George move from London to the Scottish Highlands, to live with their eccentric and mysterious grandfather on an island in the middle of a Loch. The street-smart boys are amused at his attempts to make them feel at home by telling them a childish story involving time-travelling twins and a magic record player that can bend the sounds of time. They are similarly disdainful of the scavenger hunt he has organized for the following day. Misreading the clues designed to lead them around the island, the twins find themselves inside a tower that have been forbidden to enter. At the towers summit, they discover an old-fashioned record player and a large box of records. Wondering whether there might be some truth in Granddad's bizarre bedtime story, the boys decide to see what the record player can do. Before they can regret their decision, they have twisted the sounds of time, and find themselves aboard a real 17th century pirate ship. Desperately trying to recall the vague memories of what Granddad had mentioned in his bedtime story about how to get back home, Daniel and George now become involved in a real life treasure hunt, the prize being the means to return to Scotland and the present day. They manage to earn the trust of the ship's Captain, 'Terrible' Teddy Theodore, who reveals himself to be the boys' long lost Great Uncle. So begins a race across the oceans to the infamous Island of Norbert's Dog, where they search for treasure in a volcano and engage in pitched battle with the evil pirate, Von Damburger, and his crew of cutthroats. Over and above all this, the boys have to find the way to get back home, and that involves doing a good deed that the mysterious time travelling device will accept. It also involves the twins staying together, and staying alive. Is this going to be the first or the last of their adventures in history?

### **The Whispering Mime – D J Meyers**

History is decided with a whisper Shakespere, Shake-shafte, or Shakespeare. Were these three men one and the same, or a figment of the imaginations of Elizabethan England? Follow William, born a Catholic, raised a Protestant, exiled to become a priest, as per his father's wishes. Adventurer, poet, spy, assassin and lover, with an imagination that defied the conventions of his time, and a name easily confused, mis-signed, and misquoted. Ink never sleeps; it dries and haunts us forever. This is Volume 3 of the Renaissance Series.

### **Strudwick's Successor – James Court**

Set in 1960's Peckham. Strudwick runs his French polish and German sausage company as a benign proprietor, and his sudden removal from the company creates a vacuum which sets off a chain of events that could result in financial ruin. But the staff unexpectedly rise to the occasion as they fight for their survival. A class of workers used to having their thinking done for them suddenly need to learn new mental skills. They rapidly assimilate the arts of deviousness and corporate deceit as they struggle to ensure their future. But they are not without help in their struggle. Just who is that slim dark haired woman with the guttural European accent and very tactile nature? . A quirky tale of incompetence and cunning. Not suitable reading for managers of a nervous or paranoid disposition.

### Bad Business – Andy Paine

Bob Bobbins doesn't know anything about business; come to think of it, he's not even certain how you spell it.

Bob is naturally apprehensive therefore, when he suddenly inherits his grandmother's estate, and is handed the keys to a rather exclusive business; 'Madame Bob's High Fashion.' To make matters even worse, it quickly becomes apparent that in the treacherous world of high fashion, murder is considered a far less distasteful act than poor taste.

Can Bob, with the help of his inherited staff, avoid the murderous overtures of the Fashion Assassin, defeat the pluming peacocks that are the Fashion Union (FU), and avoid the relentless sleuthing of Detective Dan? Can Bob achieve commercial success, with so many seemingly intent on his demise? Bad Business is an irreverent comedic fantasy, kind of, which pokes fun (not physically) at government administration, the legal system, unions, fashion, consultants, and others. Set in the mischievous city of Titan, Bob must overcome vampire prosecutors, cross-dressing judges, leprechaun refund officers, trendy dwarves, street corner consultants, a democratically elected despot, a grapevine that will not shut up, and a rather large elephant in his room.

### When Time Comes – Cat Nicolaou

"Most of us have been in that situation at some point in our lives and because we have I think readers will find that both the teacher and the singer seem "real" in their inability to express their true feelings to one another and equally "real" when it comes to the reasoning behind the decisions they make.

Nicolaou has a light touch even though she is dealing with some difficult subjects: She does not beat her readers over the head with complex psychological justifications for the actions of her characters, for example, nor does she push any agendas down their throats. She purely and simply tells a story of two people at different points in their lives who meet for a brief time. To be sure, there are some steamy scenes in the book but not many, certainly not enough to classify 'When Time Comes' as erotica, and I think they add a layer of richness to the narrative.

I have no trouble recommending this novella to romance fans and to anyone else who is unafraid to step outside their genre comfort zone for just a bit." **Author Mike Billington**

### North Cyprus, One Man in a Bus – Robert Wingfield

Ever heard of Cyprus? Certainly you have, but what about The Republic of North Cyprus? The small island in the Mediterranean was split in 1974 when the Turks invaded, displacing 50,000 Turkish Cypriots and three times as many Greeks. A lot of water has flowed from the Taurus Mountains since then, and in 2008 the two parts kissed and made up. Now, although unrecognised as a country by everyone except Turkey, North Cyprus is again a wonderful holiday destination. This book is a (hopefully) amusing diary and colour photographic record of a guided coach tour around the North, an area very similar in size to Cornwall in the UK. We were lucky to get one of the best guides, who not only knew the all the sights to visit, but also the history extending back 12 millennia, and some of her vast knowledge is shared here. When I go to a place I like to see it, its culture and history, so there won't be much about 'leisure' activities which you can find anywhere, rather I am focused on what you need to know and see when you are there to make the best of a short break. Oh, and by the way, it's one of the cheapest destinations to visit, for food, drink, petrol and everything except scarves!

### **Ravensdale – Lucinda Elliot**

For those who love a spoof with compelling characters and page turning adventure. When the group of highwaymen headed by Reynaud Ravensdale, the disgraced Earl Ravensdale, hold up the hoydenish Isabella Murray's coach, she knocks one of them down and lectures them all on following Robin Hood's example. The rascally Reynaud Ravensdale – otherwise known as the dashing highwayman Mr Fox – is captivated by her spirit. He escaped abroad three years back following his supposedly shooting a friend dead after a quarrel. Rumour has it that his far more respectable cousin was involved. Now, having come back during his father's last illness, the young Earl is eager to clear his name of murder, even if he might happen to be living as an outlaw meanwhile. Isabella's ambitious parents are eager to marry her off to Reynaud Ravensdale's cousin, the next in line to his title. The totally unromantic Isabella is even ready to elope with her outlaw admirer to escape this fate – on condition that he teaches her how to be a highwaywoman herself. This hilarious spoof uses vivid characters and lively comedy to bring new life to a theme traditionally favoured by historical novelists – that of the wild young Earl, who, falsely accused of murder by the machinations of a conniving cousin and prejudged by his reputation, lives as an outlaw whilst seeking to clear his name. 'Ravensdale' is a fast paced, funny and romantic read from the writer of 'That Scoundrel Émile Dubois', following the adventures of that character's equally roguish cousin and set in 1792, just prior to the outbreak of the French Revolutionary Wars, two years before the story of 'That Scoundrel Émile Dubois'. While a prequel to that story, this story is also a novel in its own right.

### **Fire and Steel – Cliff May**

To be released on Kindle, March 11 2016 – a fuller description will be featured in the next newsletter.