

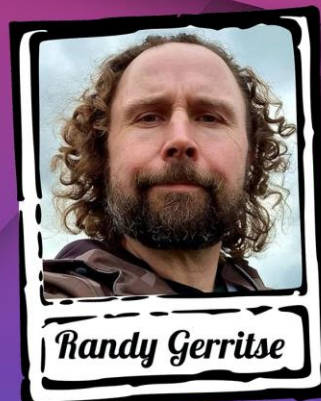


The E-Mag For the #WritingCommunity 1st Edition!

The most awesome
member of the
#Writing Community?
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With:



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FREE

Rebecca Weber, The most Awesome Member of The Writing Community?

Rebecca, how was your first experience with the #WritingCommunity on Twitter?



“My experience with the #WritingCommunity on Twitter has been all around fantastic. Everyone was so accepting and helpful when I first joined, as is evidenced by how my follower count has grown! I’m very thankful for all these supportive friends!”

Do members of the #WritingCommunity help you with your writing goals, or personally?

“Both! I’m a member of a middle grade critique group that has greatly improved my writing technique, and Twitter folks have given awesome advice when I’m going through personal upheavals.”

What’s your favourite aspect of the #WritingCommunity?

“The togetherness is by far my favorite part. It’s the best feeling in the world to know you aren’t alone in this crazy writing to publication process!”

You are probably one of the most influential and popular persons in the #WritingCommunity, and surely one of the most beloved. What is your tip for writers that want to get more followers?

“Engage with people in an authentic way. Ask interesting questions and take the time to really get to know your fellow writers. As with face-to-face relationships, online bonds are strengthened with caring and compassion.”

Do you have a tip for writers that want to be published?

“Research, research, research. There are a million different roads to publication, and it only takes one success to make it. Brush up on your knowledge of writing contests, publishing houses, pitch events, etc. Be prepared to be flexible. You may have a specific road for your writing journey in mind, but the likelihood is you'll have to veer off the main path. Don't be discouraged by the no's. Every no helps you hone your craft and brings you one step closer to your yes.”

For indie self-published writers, what is your advice when it comes to success and book sales?

“Be your best advocate. Talk to people about your book, be open to letting people read your work, mingle with other writers and swap stories. If people connect with your work, I think that will boost book sales with eventual publication! As I've not officially released my novel yet, I'll let you know if that's actually the case sometime this summer.”

Rebecca, if you were a publisher, based on their tweets, which follower of yours would you approach for publishing?

“Ooooo, this is a tough question. I’ve beta read for many writers on Twitter and **ADORED** all of their stories for different reasons. I don’t think I could pick just one!”

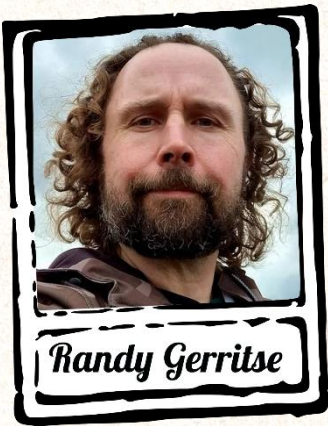
“The Painter’s Butterfly” by [Rebecca Weber](#) is an upper middle grade story about a foster kid named Nova who goes to live in the country with a painter. She finds an easel in the attic that brings paintings to life! Magic can be messy!

Available this Summer. More details on [her website!](#)



Poetry & Humor with VSSPoem's Host, Randy Gerritse!

Mr. Randy, could you tell us a little about yourself and your poetry career?



First of all, thank you for having me, it's a pleasure. You're one of those many friendly faces I see pop into my feed almost daily, I do thank you for your support.

As for your question, on a personal note I am a Dutch native and live in a nice and quiet little town in the south-east of the Netherlands with my wife, dog, and three sphynx cats. I've run my own web development company for oh, roughly the last fifteen years or so? Time flies when you're having fun.

Whenever I'm not writing code, I write. It used to be mainly lyrics, which I now write for four different bands. But about three years ago I woke up with the outlines of a story in my head that just would not let me go — so I started to write it down. That story grew and grew in both size and complexity, until it became a hundred-and-fifteen-thousand word science-fantasy novel, which I've been trying to find a home for ever since.

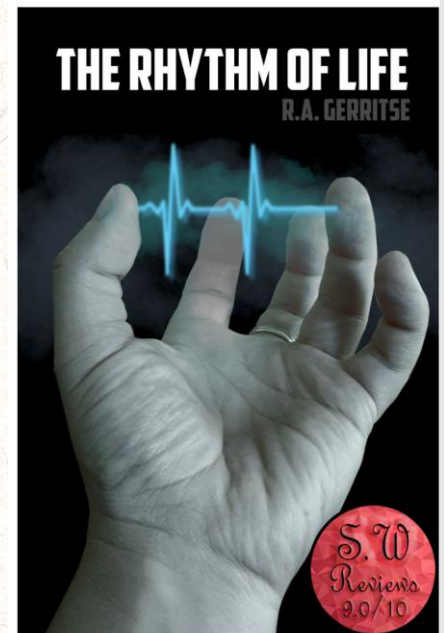
In my efforts to seek representation, I found my way back to my old (and mainly unused) Twitter account, for I was told by several

authors that Twitter is where these mythical creatures named agents live. Turns out they're mere mirages here, but I did find something else — a world of poetry. In this world I met many, many wonderful people expressing the purest of worldviews and emotions through prose. As a lyricist, I instantly connected with this artform, and started to write my own works.

That's how I met a guy named Joel Maslakowski, who was the founder of the “vsspoeM” hashtag. He used to live in the Netherlands too, back in the day, and we clicked. Joel, however, was struggling with some health issues at the time and had a hard time keeping his prompt alive, and I get that. You see, what many people often seemingly forget and what I hold to be a great personal truth, the internet and the arts are great, but real life **always** comes first. It is why I offered to start helping him out.

Not long after I posted my first or second VSSPoem prompt on the then newly created [VSSPoem](#) account, Joel withdrew with the words ‘It's yours now’ and I suddenly found myself the permanent host of the VSSPoem legacy — both a shock at the time, and a wonderful thing.

Through the daily grind of VSSPoem I bettered my art and found my own voice in poetry — which, it turns out, is not that far from my lyrical work. My first year in poetry I collected and sorted into my first-ever poetry publication named ‘[The Rhythm of Life](#),’ which is [available on Amazon](#). There have been many publications since, in several different magazines.



VSSPoem, is the one of the most popular writing prompts hashtags on the internet. Could you give us a glimpse on how this came to be?

As I mentioned, I did not create this hashtag. From what I learned in my talks with Joel is that he used to be a daily contributor of the even more popular VSS365 prompt on Twitter, but since that prompt, which I believe stands for 'Very Short Stories' was not primarily intended for the poetic form, Joel felt it came with too many restrictions. He wanted to create an unrestricted freehaven for poetic thought, which became [VSSPoem](#).

When I took over and created the separate account for the tag, I rebranded this moniker, created a new website and updated logo and slapped on its current tagline 'Vivid Slices of Soul.' I didn't just do this to make our logo look prettier (although it absolutely does). I also added it to distinguish and set it apart from the abbreviation that had once inspired it. We are after all a completely different beast.

You have access to more than 500 poems a day, so one can say that you have a good bird's eye view on the poetry world. When it comes to Twitter, what is your general perception on poets and poetry?

That's a tough one to answer. In my earliest prompting days, I must be honest, I did not think much of a lot of the poetry out there. You see, to me poetry must have a rhythm, but I despise the forced structures that many poets force into their writings with a rhyme every other line. I used to feel that there are too many 'roses are red' types of poets out there. But you know? Over time I've come to recognize the power that comes with certain structures and rhyming conventions.

It is still not for me, but I can respect it — it offers the artists the freedom to simply express, without the burden of seeking their words' own rhythm. Which fits a fleeting medium as Twitter. I still do prefer works that find this beating pulse of emotion underneath the message though, and luckily, there are enough artists with such works out there.

Do you think that most poets undervalue themselves when it comes to publishing books? If so, why?

Any good artist has at least some degree of self-doubt over his, her, or their work. That is only human. Even I am perpetually self-editing. Finding ourselves in the echo chamber that is social media only amplifies these doubts. Add to that the near impossibility to monetize works of poetry and you have a nice recipe for depression.

What are your best advices for poets that want to get their poetry published?

Keep writing. Keep writing daily. Do not force yourself into rhyming structures, try to feel the rhythm of the words, the feelings beneath the message, and let them guide your writing. And most of all. Write for you, not for anyone else. Some will connect with your expression, some will not, but it's all good. These are records of your journey, not anyone else's.

Does VSSPoem host contests?

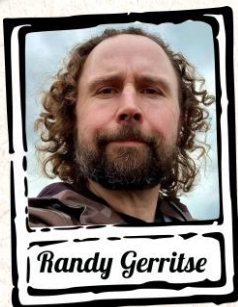
We have not yet done so, mainly because we wish to over a freehaven with as little rules and restrictions on expression as possible — heck, even our prompt itself is optional.

Having said that, we did have the occasional collaboration prompt in the past with other prompts to spice things up, but those proved difficult to manage. Perhaps it's about time we started thinking about something along the lines of an anthology. Stuff to ponder.

What are the goodies that VSSPoem is planning for the month of May and June?

Although some of our prompts are written in advance, most of our prompts are created spontaneously. On any given day I do not have more than five to ten potential prompts on file and which one of those become that night's publication usually gets decided in the AM, fitting my then mindset.

Planning? Ha! Once again, thank you for having me, [Julio!](#)

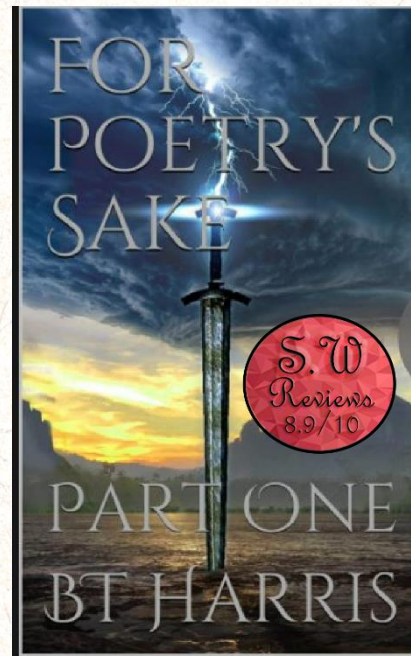
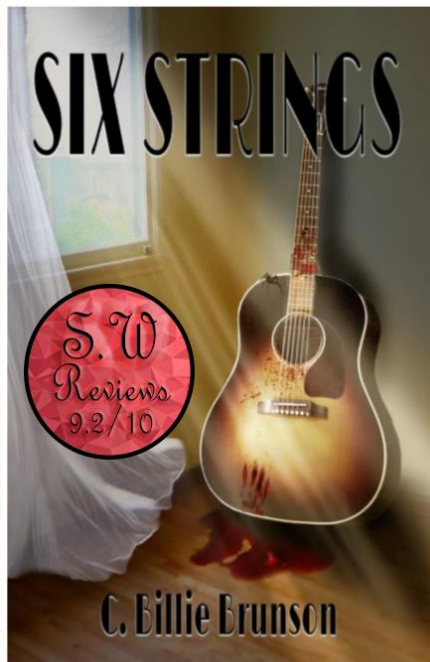
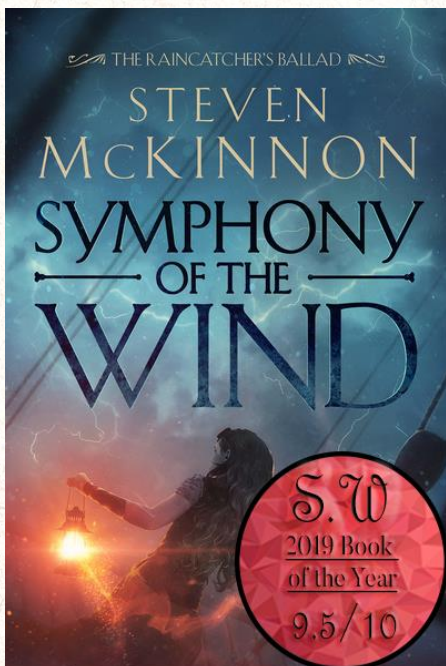


[The Rhythm of Life by Randy Gerritse](#) has changed the way I saw poetry and poets by blowing my mind on it's masterful execution of imagery and is currently the top candidate to win our "Book of the Year" Award on the Poetry category at Scribble's Worth

Check out the [review on the blog](#), and, [on the Podcast!](#)

Third-party reviews and recommendations convert better to sales, specially when they are as detailed and gripping as [ours](#).

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Want Funky Covers? Then J's your "Man"!

Colourful, vivid and clean are the graphic works of J-Man, a digital graphics artist that is much more than what meets the eye, but the question is: how funky is J-Man?

Regular people will have difficulty connecting with his art, even after being dazzled by the smoothness of it, but the curious, the odd and the film enthusiasts fascinated with sci-fi, aliens, robots, and monsters and creatures of all sorts will be *delighted* by [his works](#) .



Here's our [review about this awesome artist](#).

If you write Sci-fi, Thrillers, Horror or Fantasy, and you want to dazzle your readers with awesome book cover graphics and make some exclusive shirts, or [merch](#) to go with it, J is your Man.



Though mainly an artist, J-man is also an active member of the #WritingCommunity with a piece of literature of his own, a great collection of well-written short-stories that have elements of thriller, horror, sci-fi and even romance, called "[Errors](#)".



Here's Scribbles Worth's [review about it](#)

[J-Man Store](#) // [Instagram](#) // [Twitter](#)