

Gratitude, Writing & Success



19th Ed.

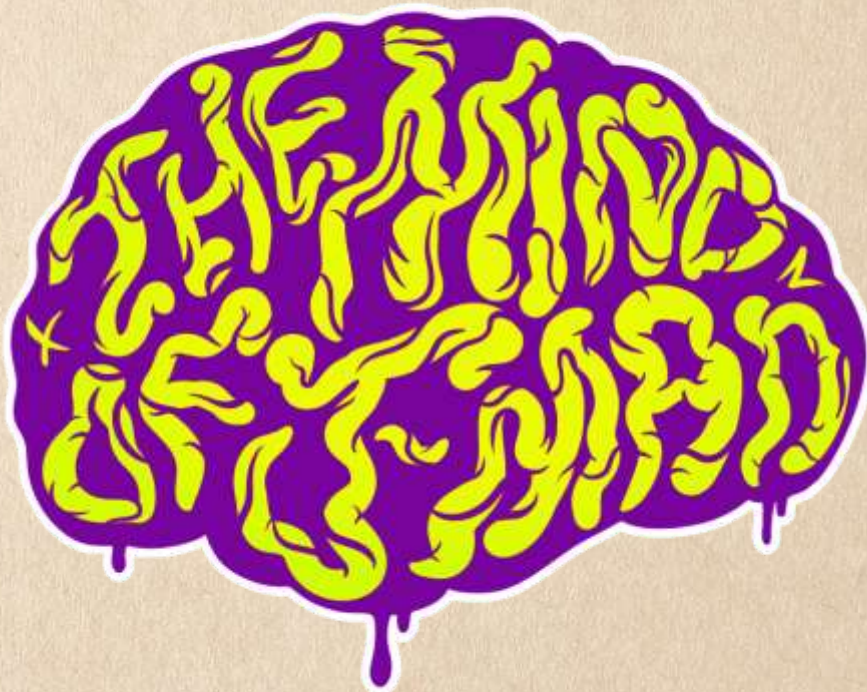
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Writer-Editor Gratitude Dynamics with Deon Ashleigh!

Hello, Deon Ashleigh, and welcome once again to our E-mag! How have you been doing lately?



Hey! I've been doing great! For the last two months, I've been working hard on a sci-fi anthology, [WHEN ALL THAT'S LEFT ARE STORIES](#), and it's available on [Amazon right now](#).

Eleven other authors and I have been working hard [to create this book. It's free](#), and I'm super excited to share my story, "The Dark Warehouse."

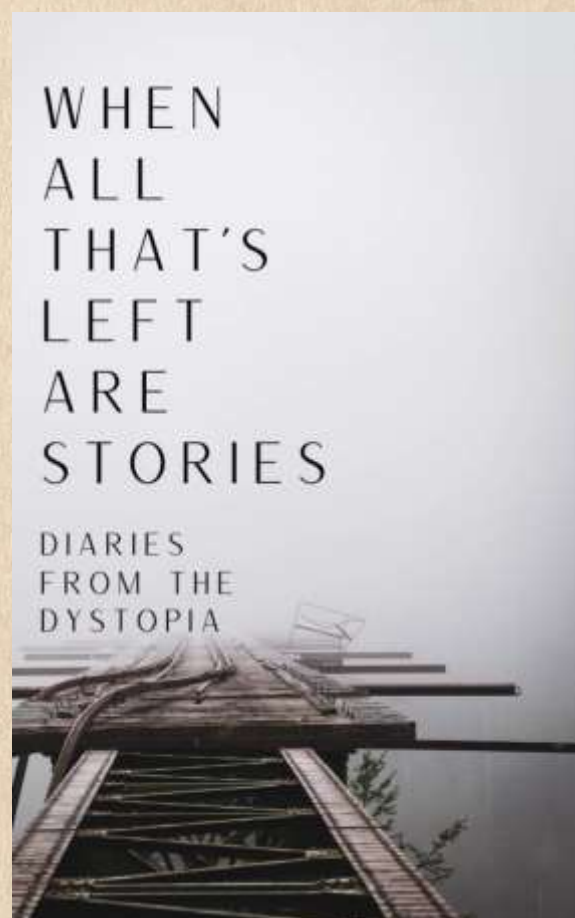
Here's [the Twitter link for you](#), dear reader, to check out:

From what I hear, you are almost finished scheduling your editing clients. How's the process going?

I'm working hard to schedule more editing clients. My monthly schedule may fill up, [but I can be booked months in advance](#). I book continuously.

The process is coming along. I'm stepping up [my Twitter](#) engagem, sending more DMs, and putting out more feelers on LinkedIn. I'm still working on getting booked out for the next year. :)

Gratitude. As a professional editor, do you often experience acts or words of gratitude from your clients?



Yeah. Often, my clients will thank me for helping them polish their books' stories, characters, grammar, and more.

Here's one example of gratitude [from my client, Charlie Muse](#):

“I was blown away by Deon Ashleigh’s feedback, insight, and professionalism. Her notes and advice are the perfect tools to help navigate editing. No complaints!”

It makes me happy to hear [my editing clients are enjoying my work](#). As an editor, I aim to preserve their voice, help them write better, and publish a high-quality book. I love seeing the changes—*and progress*—they've made when they send the revised manuscript back to me.



Can you tell us about an experience that marked you profoundly or experiences you carry to this day where your clients have shown you gratitude?

After submitting [a free sample](#) to my first client, she wrote an exclamation-filled paragraph back. She said she'd never gotten this kind of editing and was excited to work harder on her manuscript so that I could edit it.

That was an amazing experience for me. I'd quit my job (yes!) the day before to edit full time, so it was a big confidence boost. After that, I knew I could make it as a freelancer.



Another experience happened with a man who isn't my client yet. I met him on Twitter, and he's so excited to work with me that he's been giving my information to other writers. I can't believe someone I haven't worked with believes in me so strongly.

From your point of view, Deon Ashleigh, what do these acts of gratitude make to your career as a professional editor?

I often receive testimonials, but once in a while, a client will recommend me on social media. This is invaluable to my career, as one of the tougher parts is reaching more people. I love when my clients give me a shout-out.

You, Deon Ashleigh, although fun, serious, and precise in your approach, are also kind and grateful. From what you can recall, how has that helped you close deals with clients over the years?

These descriptions are all true of me, and they're crucial. Every one of these qualities has helped me get [many repeat clients](#). People come for the precision and stay for the humor. *For the positivity*. For the cheerleader who cares about the final product.

Not only do I want my clients' content to be stellar, but I want them to become a *better* writer for having worked with me.

To me, kindness is most important. Sending your content to an editor is nerve-wracking, and I want to always put my clients at ease.

I polish my clients' floors; I don't rip them up and install new ones. Telling them this, then SHOWING them that's how I work, helps me create stronger, *longer* relationships with my clients.

Excellent! What do you do, Deon Ashleigh, to exercise gratitude inward and outward?

Inward, I thank the Universe for the ability to breathe, swallow, think, walk, use the internet, and edit. I'm grateful for every small thing because so many people don't have these abilities or access to the



internet and technology. I'm grateful I'm able to share myself with the world. Some people are locked in their bodies.

Outward, I share people's work, encourage them, and help them get what they want. I enjoy helping behind the scenes and watching other people's projects grow. [Every Friday, I host a #writerslift on Twitter](#), where I shamelessly promote other authors.

Also, I spend time on my projects. I thank myself for staying focused and working hard to reach my dreams. I used to be hard on myself, but I'm more compassionate now.

- No one has to do anything for me, so I'm grateful for any share, like, smile, referral, or comment. Anything. I try not to take their time and effort for granted.

Have you noticed a difference between grateful and ungrateful people and their success rates, especially in a self-centered society like ours?

No. I don't focus on ungrateful people or have them in my circle, so I don't know their success rates. The grateful people I know tend to have larger, stronger networks. They often have more skills because they help others with their projects and spend time learning for their own projects.

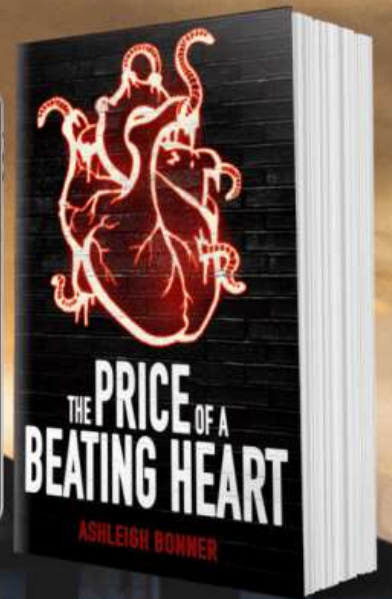
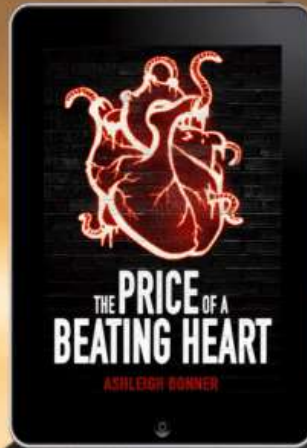
Deon Ashleigh, let's talk a little about your book. Is it ready?

My sci-fi debut, [The Price of a Beating Heart](#), is set in a disturbing (according to the beta readers and my editor) dystopian world 400 years from now. It's not ready; I'm working on the final edits before sending it to my editor. :)



It will be published by the end of 2022!

A STRICT
HIERARCHY.
A VOW.



Can you share an excerpt of it for our readers?

Here a little something: "I sprinkle more sand on his arms and rub it along his body. It absorbs his sweat and dirt and leaves him fresh. When I get to his fingertips, I look closer. Dried blood lines his fingernails.
Not all of it is his."

Before we go, Ashleigh, are there any cool resources writers MUST check out?

Yes, one excellent resource [is Social Champ](#). It's a free, top-notch Twitter scheduler.

With it, you can bulk upload, schedule recurring tweets and threads, check your messages through an inbox, and more!

[Social Champ](#) is what I use to stay engaged on Twitter.

Given that you are almost closing your client's quota for the year, are there still spots left?

I continuously book clients, so there are spots available. I have two spots left for November 2022 and more for the remaining year. When I reach my quota for a month, I'll update my clients.

Is the promotion [of your services still valid](#)?

Yes, they are! [I'm offering free 2,000-word editing samples for indie \(and traditionally published\) writers](#). I'd be more than happy to use my ten years of experience to help you improve your book.

Also, for **Nanowrimo participants**, I'm offering 10% off [my editing services until November of 2023](#). I'd love to read your books—written during Nanowrimo or not.

Sending you so much luck!

Well, thank you so much for joining us and sharing your knowledge with us! See you on the next one, Deon Ashleigh!

You're welcome. Thank you for interviewing me.

I can be reached at the following links:

Website: ashleighbonner.com

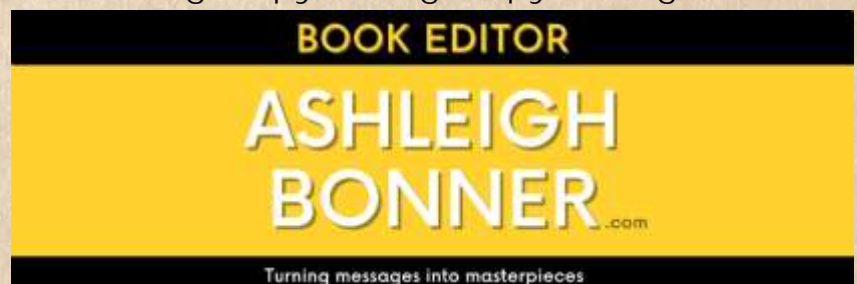
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EditorAshBonner>

Email: abonnereditor@ashleighbonner.com

Again, my name is Deon Ashleigh (formerly Ashleigh Bonner). I offer developmental editing, line editing, copyediting, copywriting, and proofreading.

Thank you so much for being fantastic writers.

Have a lovely day!



Scribble's Worth

Book Reviews

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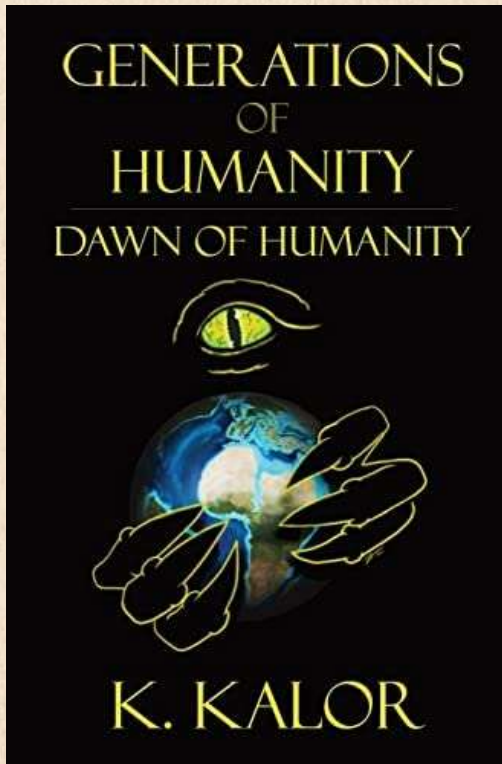
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[Dawn of Humanity by K. Kalor](#)

[Dawn of Humanity by K. Kalor](#) is science fiction mixed with Greek mythology. In simple words, the powers of the Gods are explained



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through science yet keep the folklore alive. When Anunnaki and Titans stumble upon a planet that provides a deeper connection to their power as described from the days of Olympus, the lizard shape reptiles are sure this planet is their new home.

This discovery results in Sa-Tan Enki taking a team that has set out to start a new race, one which is a mixture of humans and immortals. As a fantasy and sci-fi lover, I always look for something that transports me to a new world with space science, mythology, magic, or monsters. [Dawn of Humanity had all four and so much more.](#)

Dawn of Humanity reminds me of *'the 100'* by Kass Morgan, in terms of the vibes or aesthetics of the book, however, I'd like to clarify there is no similarity between the plots of the two. One of the most interesting parts of this book was the Greek mythology and how amazing it was exploring Hades and Athena among others. Their birth and how they came into existence. The creative liberty the author has taken in getting them [very powerful backstories](#) and how they came to be known as the God of the underworld and Goddess of war *is intriguing.*

[K. Kalor](#) has tried to pinpoint some amazing things about the war [at the beginning of the book](#) itself, which takes you into the world right from the beginning. Firstly, the author talks about the terror

or fear people go through when they are attacked in their home, a place **that's** supposed to give them a sense of comfort. Secondly, she talks about power and the need to control it. [There are several instances where it is shown how power can corrupt the best of people](#) and make them betray the people closest to them and hurt them in the process. And when you have the security of people in your hand there are bound to be innocent people who become collateral damage. [Dawn of Humanity](#) sensitively talks about these issues. These topics *don't* make this a sad or heavy read and that is commendable on the **author's** part.

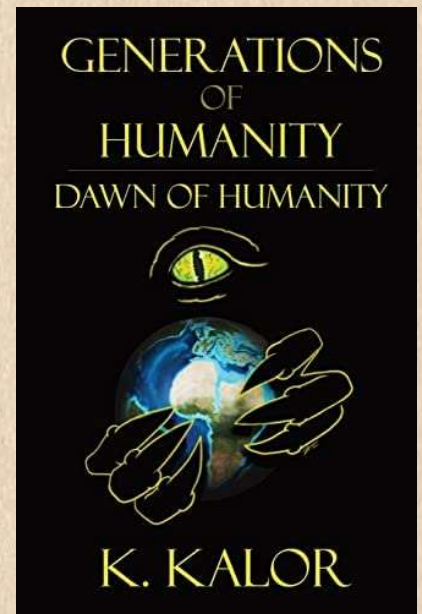
[The world-building is amazing.](#) I feel we need more books that talk about the concerning issues in the world at large but these books *shouldn't* be overwhelming to read since in the end fiction is meant to be enjoyed. A good story is one where you can enjoy an amazing time reading it and gives you something to think about. [Dawn of humanity](#) does both fairly and decently.

[Dawn of humanity](#) is an amazing novel that much exceeded readers' expectations, especially those who are familiar with Greek mythology. Knowing Greek mythology, you can predict some events. Expectations, *however*, frequently take unexpected turns.

Book score: 8.6/10

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This review was made [by Akansha](#).



[Remaking of the Sorceress by Natalie Bartley](#)

Imagine being one of the most powerful beings in existence, the most feared witch, a goddess that was adored and hated for thousands of years, to the point that your name spread chaos and panic, and you suddenly lose your powers and **become... mortal.**

How are you going to recover them? *IF* you ever do so? Easy! Just face challenges against all gods that you did wrong, all witches that want you dead, *and yes*, you will have to fight them, as... a mortal. A walk in the park **indeed...**

“Once I felt the trees surround We in their embrace— I heard the cackles of the witches and the fae as they took to the air. Two hours to run— two hours to hide two hours until I died.”

Karma is really a bitch, and Karma will be wicked towards Medea in this story, not only in funny, but also in wicked ways. She will have to face her sins (*coughs* *those* ones too *coughs*), and be done the same to her, as she has done to others.

[“Remaking the Sorceress: Titan of the Light Book 1” by Natalie Bartley](#) is a very twisted book, fun, light, but in many ways well-thought, a little exaggerated in terms of sexual fantasies, but with great sex scenes, touching *just a little* in the cliché part, but presented in an unexpected way, which was good.



Scribble's Worth

Book Reviews

A few times I had the impression that the plot was favouring Medea, and the author enhancing a little *too much* the courage of Medea, but that does not stop [the novel](#) from flowing, and although the plot is easy to follow at first, you will get a lot of unpredictable turns as you read more and more which makes [this book exciting and surprising](#) until the end.

Medea is not your usual female MC, and she is **truly**... *free*, shall we say this, *without* giving you spoilers, but know this: *You will be very surprised with her... moves*, so leave your judgments behind, and if you are the type of reader that prefers “puritan” books, [this is NOT that book. Any one but THIS!!!](#)
HAHAHHAHAHHAHAHAH! Go Medea!!!!

Another great thing about this MC is that she is powerful, but also extremely flawed and at times, vulnerable and broken. The growth



Medea experiences throughout [the book](#) is uncanny, and actually, *forced*, in a good way. Well, at times, she gets some lashes **but.... that's** another wicked story.

There are lots of secrets, twists, and [even backstories at the end of the book](#) that will make you go *ahhhhhhh*. This is a [well thought-out book](#), and the fact that the mythology was well researched adds a lot [to this title](#), not only for being *extremely* creative, but also for introducing us to many gods, and magical beings that normally **don't** get a lot of attention such as

the Horned God, The *Lame* God, and the Golden Fleece. **It's**

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Scribble's Worth

Book Reviews

surprising, enlightening, and *oh* you will want to punch Aphrodite on the boobs, *trust me*.

[This is a title](#) that I am sure everyone will enjoy, *except those that think that sex is/ should be "clean"*. Once again, / repeat, do not [read this book](#) if you like puritan stuff, there is nothing here for you. Other than *that*, I [recommend this book to anyone](#) that is looking for a quick, entertaining, funny, sexy, and extremely creative read about Greek Goddesses, Vampires, Dragons and very horny Fae.



Book Score: 8.6/10

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The Lost Maidens by Destiny Swallows and Ruby Marley

The Lost Maidens is a book that quickly picks readers interest because the storyline isn't usual. You get female Viking warriors



with anger management issues, lesbian warriors and a princess, all going to Vinland. Definitely not something you read everyday, maybe never.

There is dread, cold, adventure, dangerous creatures, *murder blobs*, and a quest to find the one in peril, in this narrative that is emotionally charged, sometimes reaching to the point of fiery, **coughs**, *hot*, **coughs**, as the two unlikely partners fight for their own survival, time after time. I mean, / *wish* I could go into details without

giving you major spoilers, but that would take the fun of you discovering things for yourself, wouldn't it?

If you think that “*oh, this is a story of wild adventure and rediscovery*”, well, I want you to hold that thought after Thor turns this boat of a story around, and then you find that our characters will actually have to fight demi-god and monsters along the way because of it.

The emotional depth, and the display of the inner conflicts of the characters is incredible and consistent throughout the story which grips us as readers to it, as we feel more and more connected to Kaitlyn, Alva, Lise and others that will join them in this story. There are many action moments, *some extremely unexpected*, and

others necessary, that [spice up the book](#) and bring it to new heights from time to time, and these moments will be counter-balanced either with sad or funny moments that come afterwards, [giving the book a natural and realistic flow](#), increasing in the believability of what the author wrote.

Sex scenes. Ok, we have to say that, [sexy scenes are frequent here](#), not sex scenes, but *sexyscenes*. The authors did make a teasing and “foreplay” in the stories before the main scenes actually came, or better saying, *arrived*, in [glorious details and length](#).

[The Lost Maidens](#) is a novel of fight, survival, bonding, love, freedom, destiny, perseverance, leadership and all things viking and berserker that [brings a WHOLE new perspective on the term “Viking”](#). It's a novel that shows how strong women are, *have been* and will always be, and that the world, underestimates them for being women. [This novel](#) is a game changer both romance, and Viking and Nordic fiction books. Amazing read.

Book score: 8.7/10

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Mysteries and Gratitude with K. E. Robinson!

Welcome to our E-mag K. E. Robinson! It's so awesome to have you here with us for the first time! For those who don't follow you yet, can you please introduce yourself?

Hello to all of you at Scribblesworth. I am Author K.E. Robinson, Architect of the Crescent Moon Chronicles, occupant of the genre I refer to as Crime Adventure Thriller.

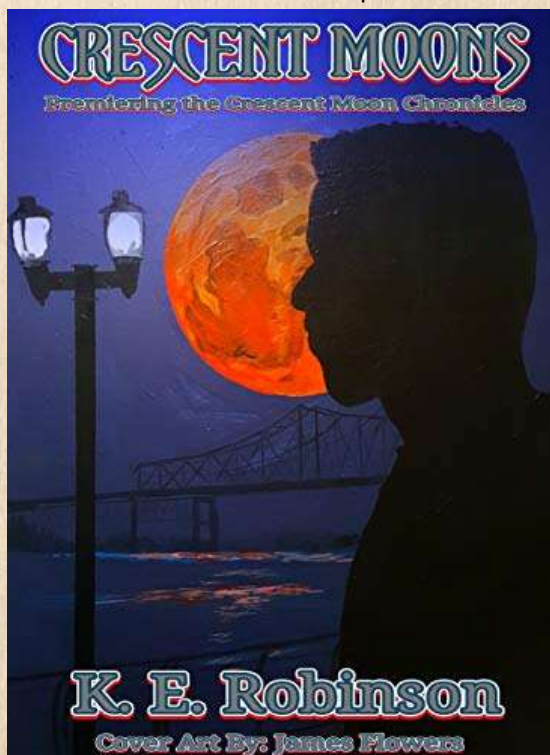
Robinson, when did your writing career start? When did the letter bug bit you? Please tell us a little about that.

I wrote my first story “The Ghost Ship” in 4th or 5th grade. It was published in the school newspaper at the time. The urge to write didn't hit me again until I was challenged to write based on a prompt. That prompt became the first chapter of The Crescent Moon Chronicles. That was

roughly 2016. In 2020 I saw “Children of Blood and Bone” sitting on the shelf at Wal-Mart and told myself: *You have a story to finish.*

What types of writing do you engage in?

Well outside of writing a Crime fiction series, I also blog on my personal website at www.robinsonianexhibit.com . I cover vast subjects, some of which may be



inspired by some of the guests I've interviewed on [The Authors Spot Podcast](#).

We will talk more about your books shortly, but first let us get deep in the Subject of Gratitude, shall we?

Robinson, is it important to be grateful as a writer?

Being able to write is such a gift in itself but you know **what's** a greater gift? Being able to spread your works to people you may never see. It allows you to reach rooms you may never touch!

In which aspects authors should be grateful and how can that help them have better careers?

Authors should be really grateful for readers but even more so for reviewers. Reviews give you a clue on where you are at and what you need to work on. I believe Authors should *always* shout out those willing to leave reviews, Good or bad, because they are the litmus test for where our works stand.

Is there such thing as being grateful for your own writing? Have you ever had a moment of being grateful for the ability to write?

I absolutely believe you should be grateful for your own writing. There are so many people who want to produce literary works but they **don't** know where to start or even how to start. Completing a book is a huge accomplishment that should never be taken for granted. Every time I look at one of my books or see a new review, I am extremely grateful for the ability and opportunity to write.

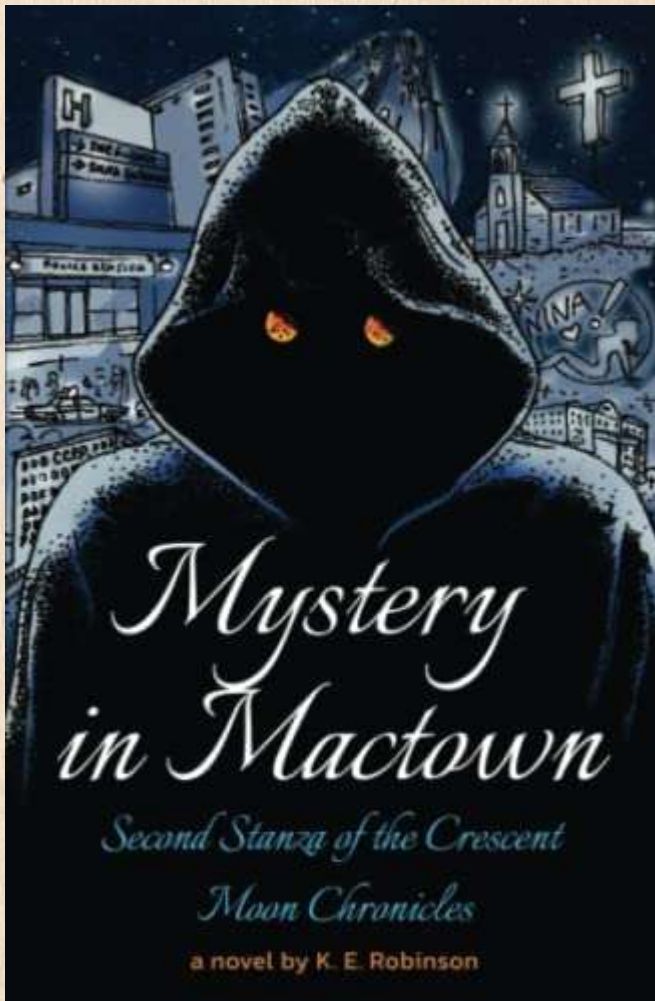
When it comes to connecting with readers, how and where does gratitude comes to play?

Gratitude is paramount. There are thousands of books produced everyday. What makes yours stand apart? *You*. Your personality, your graciousness, your connection to the readers is what attracts them to your work.



Can you share some experiences on that?

It's doing the little things with your readers that makes them love you the most. For my second book "[Mystery in Mactown](#)" I have personalized copies bought on my website with a specialized stamp. For those who bought copies of my original title "[Crescent Moons: Premiering the Crescent Moon](#)



[Chronicles](#)" I have stamped their books as well at the requests of the readers. The way **readers'** faces light up when they see me burn the ink and drip it onto the page makes it all worth it for me.

I imagine that an author reading this says: "I have no reason to be grateful", what would you say to them?

I would tell that Author their reward is on the other side of their efforts. You are competing with millions of other authors, it is going to take more than just writing the book for it to stand out. You have to make

some appearances, go on a podcast or two, host some book signings, join others at a book festival, post about your works on social media, etc.

OK. Robinson, you are consistent in promoting your books, specially "Mystery in MacTown", it's certainly an interesting book. Horror, mystery and Scifi. How that came to be?

Well, following the fallout of the lighter and more comical “[Crescent Moons: Premiering the Crescent Moon Chronicles](#)”, I needed to set the tones of the cities in Louisiana. The character The Baron was actually an idea I had for a haunted house character. I believed the setting of “[Mystery in Mactown](#)” was the perfect time to introduce him to others.

For those who haven't yet read the book, that [was highly rated by our toughest reviewer](#), what's [Mystery in MacTown](#) about?

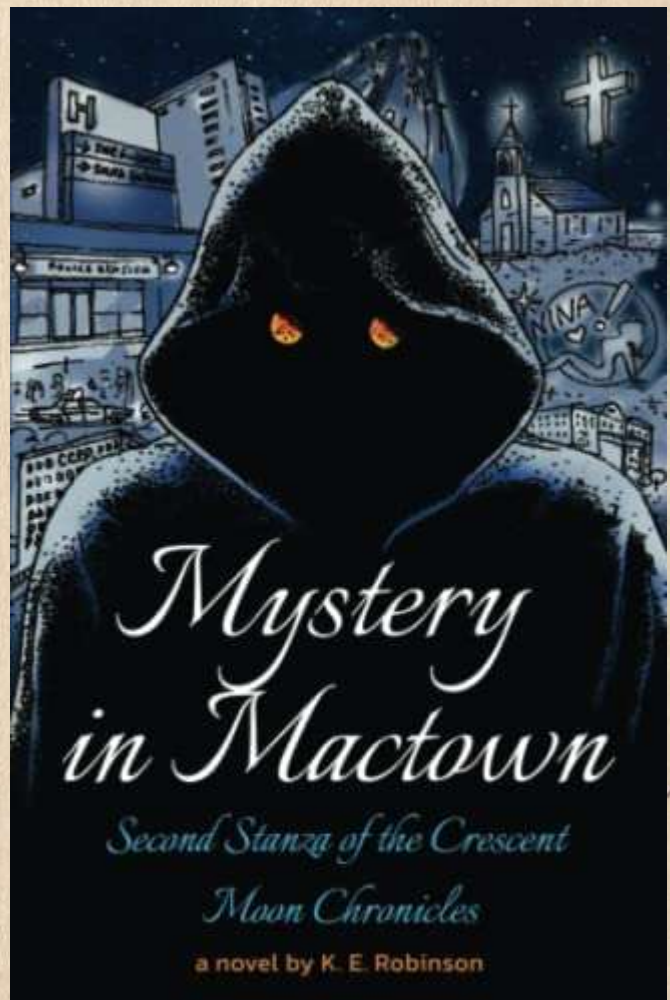
• “[Mystery in Mactown](#)” is a Crime Thriller set in the Greater Crescent City. This sequel, *which is capable of standing alone*, follows the stories of three Crescent City Police Department Detectives, a battle tested heroine and their many antagonists who are hoping to unravel a city already being torn to shreds. While one hero is missing the remainder of Crescent City's finest is left to clean up the pieces of a broken town, still in Flux.

What is the type of readers that will drool over your book and why?

Readers who love Crime stories, drama, and suspense will absolutely love this book. “[Mystery in Mactown](#)” is a whirlwind adventure ride through the Greater Crescent City, where the stops are few and still jolting.

Can you share an excerpt of the book for them?

Here's one of my favourite parts of the book:



“In life we are guaranteed few things: Taxes, death and somewhere in **between...a meeting with our monsters.**”

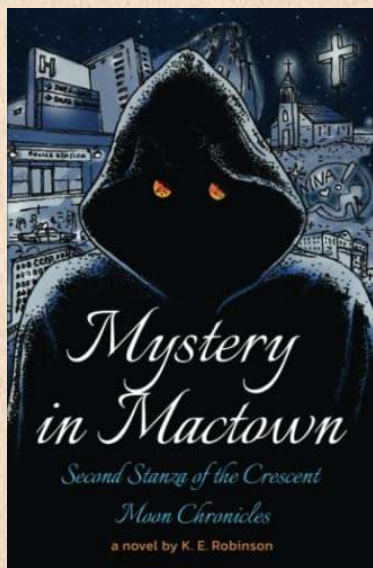
Where can readers get it? And will it have a sequel?

If readers are interested in “[Mystery in Mactown](#)” it is available online at [Amazon](#), Target, Wal-Mart, Books-A-Million, Barnes and Nobles, Ebay, Bookshop.org, Atmosphere Press, etc. If they are interested in personalized copies they may find them under the “Books” tab at www.robinsonianexhibit.com.

• Yes, although I have not had much time to work on it, there is definitely going to be a sequel. The name is unannounced at this time, but, for those who have read both books so far, a portion of the title has already been shown to you.

Can you share the best reviews it got? Or excerpts of it? Given that many of us are still in the Halloween spirit, lol.

Well, this one may be very familiar to you all here at Scribblesworth as it came from the in-depth review you all produced. It went a little something like this:



*“I must say that while reading this book, I kept thinking that it would **make an excellent graphic novel!** The descriptions are **so vivid and dynamic** that I was able to ‘**see**’ each scene! Mystery in Mactown is a perfect middle book in the series as it delivered a more streamlined plot that answered questions from the previous book while providing drama and soliciting further intrigue. I anticipate continued growth with each new book for what is **quickly becoming an enigmatic series.**”*

Ok, I have a personal question: Why New Orleans? Why that set-up?

There are a few reasons that the story spans the Greater New Orleans area. First, **it's** home. I grew up in Marrero, which is the inspiration for Mactown. Secondly, I felt the culture of New Orleans, well, Louisiana in general is often imitated but never duplicated. We deserve more than the casual cameo and I wanted to prove we were worthy of the spotlight.

Before we go, Robinson, can you share some of your thoughts on the aspects of Gratitude in the Writing Community? How can writers show gratitude to other writers?

Having other writers around you is **Must!** Who else is going to understand the challenges and struggles you encounter? Who else can aid you in navigating your next great book? What about the different places you can meet new readers? Not every major book show/event is widely advertised, so **it's** great to have other writers to connect with. Also, writers are almost always willing reviewers because they understand the need for reviews!

Does that help us on our success as writers and as a community? Can you share some experiences on that?

Engaging in the Writing Community is absolutely paramount! I may not have been able to self publish my first book without the guidance and assistance of fellow author Arrionne Bradley. She unselfishly answered any questions I had about publishing and even was a beta reader for my book before I put it out to the masses. Author Andrew Snorton allowed me to complete my first literary interview on his platform "**Meet the Authors**". Most forums I have been a part of has been at the invitation of other authors. Our Best work is our NETwork!

Do you have any word to say to other writers and readers reading this?



For the writers out there, **do not** get discouraged. You were given that story for a reason and part of that reason was to spread it to others. The right people may not find out about your book if you don't promote it. **Don't** keep that grand idea a secret. LET THE WORLD KNOW!

To the readers, you all are the life blood of what we do. I personally love to hear from my readers regarding their thoughts and feelings on my works. Those reviews are almost like love letters for Authors and it **let's** other readers know whether or not **it's** safe to dive into a new adventure.

Thank you so much for being here with us! It was a total pleasure and thank you so much for accepting our invitation!

I want to thank Scribblesworth for having me on here. I thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere and questions asked in this interview.



VSSing with DeRicki Johnson

Mr. DeRicki, you are a daily, if not hourly participant of the Writing Community on Twitter, and it's always nice to have your feedback and support, so tell us, when did you start writing on Twitter?

It's been so long ago, I **don't** remember. Maybe around 2010 or so? It was back when the character limit was 180.



I **wasn't** really sure I wanted to use Twitter until I noticed people posting poetry. Until then Twitter seemed like something people just used to troll each other. When I saw the poems, I liked them and wrote a couple of my own. People using the #vss365 hashtag liked them and followed me. I had no idea what was going on, but I wrote a few more poems and just stuck the hashtag on them.

Someone kindly explained that everyone wrote to a daily prompt. A game? I was hooked. It was difficult to tell a three act story in a 180 characters, but when it changed to 280, it felt doable and I started posting everyday.

Over time I discovered there was a whole community of writers using Twitter in very useful ways—to promote their work, hone their skills and support each other. **I've** tried to pass on the same love and support others showed me when I stumbled into **Twitter's** writing community. Along the way my creative writing skills have grown as a result of my many connections with other writers on Twitter and Instagram.

Can you tell us a little about your overall career?

I was a reporter for the New Orleans Times-Picayune in the 1970s, when I realized newspapers were dying and computers were taking off. I jumped ship, and my first tech job was repairing

computers for IBM in the early 1980s. I eventually started working with tech startups in the Pacific Northwest at the turn of the century. In 2015 I moved back to my hometown of Fort Worth, TX to be of service to my aging mother. **I'm** semi-retired, which has given me more time to develop my love of creative writing.

INTERESTING!! Mr. DeRicki, you are one of the most humble people on Twitter, and that shows. You are always grateful for the comments you get, the feedback and always supporting other writers. From your experienced point of view, how does Gratitude help writers?

As I said, **I'm** just giving back the love and support **that's** been shown me. As for gratitude, I **don't** focus on being happy or avoiding sadness like I did as a young man. Happiness and sadness are externally driven by forces mostly out of my control; ephemeral and shallow in their impact. But joy? Joy is my conscious decision to feel gratitude. And I can make that decision whether **I'm** happy or sad. Thus joy, built on gratitude is what I rely on today. When **I'm** connected to joy, I **don't** have to wait for inspiration to write. I write and the inspiration comes. **I've** learned this both from life and by observing, and by interacting with much more accomplished writers **I've** met in the online writing community.

In your personal experience, how does being grateful helps you? What improvements you get from being genuinely grateful for the contribution of others in your work as a writer?

It's fair to say **I'm** grateful for **others'** writing, and for the interest they show in my writing. One thing I stress to newcomers to vss365, and where I focus most of my activity, is not to just dump a post and run, but to take time to read **others'** posts, commenting if **there's** time or inclination. When I do this, I get several benefits, among them:

- I learn from other writers. Seeing what works and what **doesn't**—then asking myself “**why?**” This has brought my writing a long way. It **doesn't** matter how accomplished a writer might be in relation to others. I can learn something



from any of the writers I read. I have learned a lot from the other writers here. Even in this tiny Twitter format, I've learned about plot, pacing, drama and more, by reading my fellow writers' stuff.

- I improve by engaging with other writers. By commenting and otherwise engaging with my fellow writers, sometimes little pearls of wisdom drop, giving me insight into the processes of others. It's helped me to grow. Not every interaction has to be profound. A simple "this resonated with me" or a "thanks" in reply to someone's Comment is all that's needed. Over time those pearls I mentioned reveal themselves as we strengthen the ties between us.
- I feel like I'm part of a community. And we are always stronger together.

A tough question now Mr. DeRicki: "What drives gratefulness, and how can we have more of it?"

Wow, that's a deep question. I don't know if I can answer that here, but I can share my process.

When I wake, I sit on the edge of the bed, and drink a glass of water. I feel thankful for the water, and thankful for the body receiving it. That's the beginning of my gratitude list. I continue to list things for which I'm grateful. Now, this doesn't mean I ignore my failures (opportunities for improvement). I just no longer start my day with them, like I used to do. I just choose to not start my day there.

The tenor of my day has been markedly improved by this simple routine. Days I fail to do this always seem harder to get through. This doesn't just affect my writing. It affects everything. I don't know if this is for anyone else. I only know it works for me.

Have you ever hosted one VSS Prompt session? How is it like?

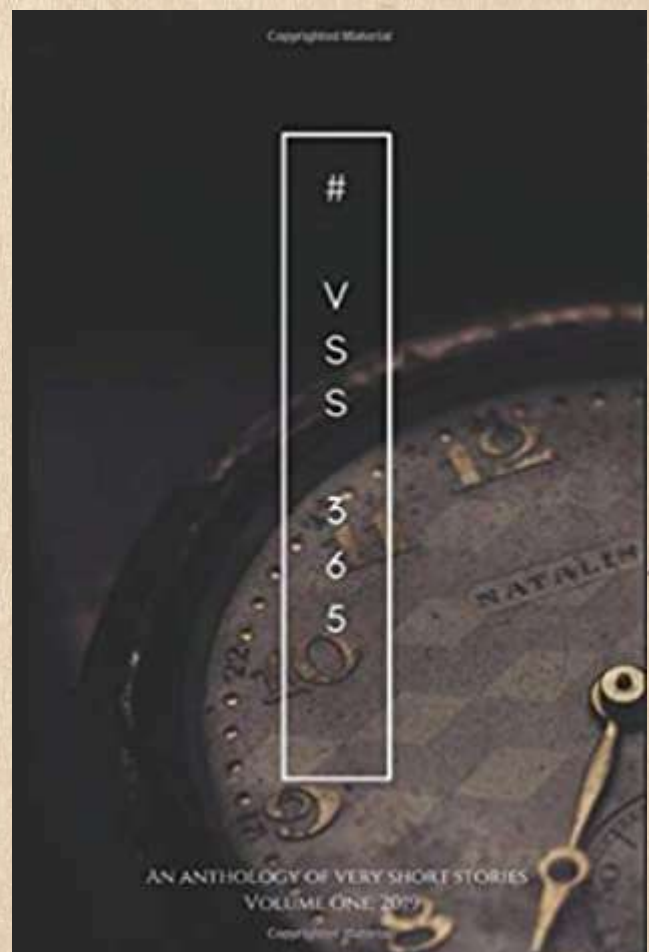


I've never hosted a vss365. I am an Ambassador, though. We advise, guide and support hosts.

The Hosts are the unsung heroes of vss365. Most are unaware of the commitment necessary to create a great hosting cycle. When we were in the dozens it was a lot easier. But now hundreds of writers and readers participate.

A great Host reads as many posts as they can, commenting and encouraging as many writers as they can with the time they have available. They have to endure the inevitable grumbling about word choices from participants who often have no idea **what's** involved in Hosting. (*This is something I've had a hard time understanding...if you don't like the prompt word, don't write to it. And try to be grateful someone is doing this as an unpaid service to our community. But, I guess we all at some time struggle with being grateful for the things before us. So maybe I do understand.*)

I'm grateful for the father of vss365, Mark A. King [@Making Fiction](#), and the group of writers who called themselves the FlashDogs for getting vss365 off the ground. What started as a few has grown to many, with a number of "vss" spin-offs. This is what social media should be about! There are so many to be grateful for that I can't list them all, but [@ArthurUnkTweets](#) wrote the vss365 charter. And for those who use vss365today.com to get the day's prompt word, you [have Caleb Ely @cely717](#) to thank for that little gem. He's a volunteer like everyone else involved, going the extra mile to host and manage the website on his own dime. (*If you're looking for a way to practice a little gratitude, and can afford to, use the site's*



donate button to help with cost of website upkeep. I'm sure he'd be grateful!)

Your books. Mr. DeRicki, do you have any works of your own? If so, can you tell us a little about them?

No publications of my own, yet. *But watch my space. I'm* in the [VSS365 Anthology on Amazon](#). Proceeds go to charity.

Are there some cool folk in the Writing Community that we all should check their work and follow?

Too many to list here. Besides I **wouldn't** want to deny you the adventure of discovering them yourself by reading the many posts available to us all.

Thank you so much for your insight Mr. DeRicki, and thank you for your presence! It is awesome to have you with us.



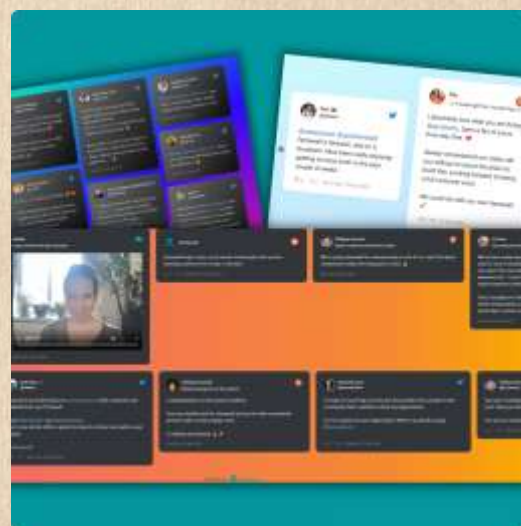
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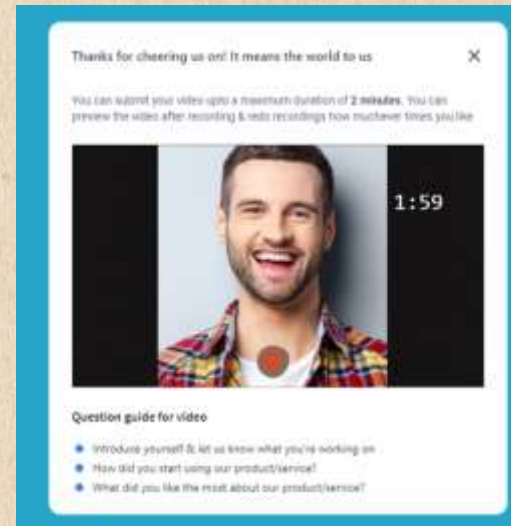
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