



It has been a summer of changes.

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Hello GentleReader,

Change is hard for stubborn people like me. But as I've gotten older, I've started to appreciate change for the opportunities it brings. New assistants mean fresh new ideas for how to do daily work. New cowriting teams create remarkable new story ideas. New sets of crutches... yes, moments after I wrote last month's newsletter, I fell in a hole in the yard and sprained the heck out of my ankle. Three weeks in a cast, now three more in an air cast, crutches, rehab, the works. It was certainly not how I was planning to spend the summer.

But accidents also bring change. Healing has been slow but steady, especially in the last week, and I've had extra time to plan out my next steps with all my creative endeavors. I have four projects in various stages of completion, and I'm reminded of my leap into publishing over a decade ago, when having three projects running concurrently was the norm—one in development, one in editorial, one in release. It's giving me new energy, and I'm thrilled to see my productivity shooting through the roof. I have to attribute some of this to the accident, some to pandemic woes, and the rest to being unexpectedly in Nashville this month instead of on our usual vacation. Might as well work, right? There will be times for vacations later in the year.

The kids are back in school here, I've been doing planning of the back half of the year, and it feels more like fall has arrived. It is a season of renewal for me, so much more than spring. I've even been having dreams about rearranging furniture, which, according to the internet sages means I'm actively rearranging parts of my life. (Let's not get into the crazy rattlesnake attack or the vampire kittens...I think my CBD gummies might be elevating my dream game a bit.)

It seems everyone I know has taken a moment in this wild time to step back and assess their lives. What is important? What matters? The downstream of those thoughts means this turbulence won't be ending any time soon, so it's time to make space for more changes as well as focusing hard on the path ahead. For me that's the new Taylor book, and the new Jayne Thorne (more news on that in September!) and the next standalone...I have an inklet of an idea and a main character who has revealed her first name to me but nothing more. I'll take creative tsunamis any day.

Speaking of the act of writing, [I did a very cool interview](#) with Kirk McElhearn for the Scrivener podcast on my love of the software to develop my stories. I think you'll enjoy it.

□ Book News



I'm so excited to share that Taylor Jackson #2 has a new look! [14](#) is rereleasing this month! Grab your copy with a brand new cover [here](#).



In amazing news, [TOMB OF THE QUEEN](#) is the August Sci Fi/Fantasy Book of the Month for [The Poisoned Pen Bookstore](#)! Signed copies are [available from the store](#) - supply is limited, so hurry and grab your copy [here](#)!



There are several sales going on right now -- LIE TO ME on Audible, GOOD GIRLS LIE on Apple Audio, ALL THE PRETTY GIRLS and NO ONE KNOWS for \$1.99...Check out my bargains page [here](#) to see all the book deals!

▣ Read All About It...



[THE CURSED WITCH](#) by R.L. Perez

I am a big fan of R.L.'s world building, her characters' banter, the sweet romances, and the way she writes strong women who are truly finding their place in the world. I loved Brielle and really thought this story was fun and unique! Can't wait to read the rest of the series.

[THE STORY TELLERS](#) by Mark Rubinstein

As a member of the mystery and thriller world, I really enjoyed these extended interviews with the luminaries in the field. There's a TL;DR, too, for upcoming writers - discipline, and series

[NINE COACHES WAITING](#) by Mary Stewart

My friend Barbara Peters at Poisoned Pen mentioned this story in a conversation about the Gothic we had, and I was hooked at the setting of French chateau. There's something amazing about reading the doyennes of the genre, too.

[THE CELLIST](#) by Daniel Silva

I am going to wrap my month with this book, and I can't wait. Silva is a must buy for me, a true master of craft and story. And prognostication—his books so eerily predict political chaos it's almost like reading narrative non-fiction.

☐☐ August Recipe: Chocolate Olive Oil Cake



With food allergies, the challenge of finding a cake both of us can enjoy is real. Since the only bakery in town we both could eat at seems to have closed (damn you, pandemic) I resorted to homemade. Enter this delightful chocolate olive oil cake from Diana Henry I found in [Home & Garden UK](#). It is easy to make and exceptionally delicious. And unlike the denseness of a flourless torte, it's rich and fluffy inside. The top cracks, and a little powdered sugar makes it look like a pro made it. Perfect for any time!

SOUNDS DELISH!

You can find all of my recipes [here](#). And if you want some wine to go with the meals, [The Wine Vixen](#) has you covered.

Contest

Every month, I draw a name from those of you who open the newsletter and send that lovely person a \$30 gift card to the bookstore of their choice. It's my way of saying thanks for being here. Congrats to last month's winner: Patricia S.

To enter this month's giveaway, click on the survey below!

**Do you want to be entered in this month's
giveaway?**

Yes!

No thanks

SUBMIT

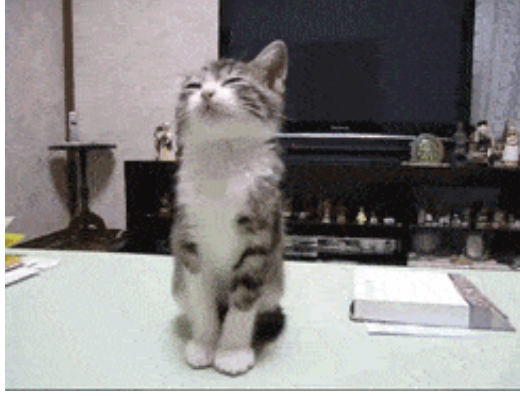
As always, it's been a pleasure to spend some time with you today. Buy yourself a new notebook for fall, revel in the last of these warm days, and read some books!

peace and hugs,



Are you still here?

Here's a kitten for your troubles!



Did you like this newsletter? Share it with a friend!



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