

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
J.T. ELLISON



Personal news and my world-famous chili

September 2020

Vol. 221

Hello GentleReader,

As I write this, apocalyptic fires are ravaging our west coast lands, a hurricane has swept through the gulf coast, and clusters of COVID outbreaks persist. It got me thinking about the idea of everyone having their own personal earthquakes. We see horrible events on the news, but they are usually far away, happening to someone else. In Nashville, we experienced this firsthand with the 2010 flood—it was so personal, so local, that the rest of the world, while sympathizing, just wasn't affected, and continued moving along. And that's how the world normally works. With the advent of 24-hour news and social media, what were once only local tragedies are so magnified. But they are still only happening to a subset of people. Terrible, and terrifying, for an unlucky few, but not enough to shift the winds of change for the rest of us.

And then COVID-19 descended, and now we are all suffering, together, worldwide. This is not a local phenomenon. Rather, it is, but it is local to nearly every person on the planet at once. That, in and of itself, is fascinating to me.

Epoch shift, astrological shift, planetary shift, cultural shift—2020 has them all, and wow, are we getting the short end of the stick. I am ready for this all to be in the past. For the stories and tales to emerge in our work instead of in our daily lives.

But there is hope, as always. Hope in kindness. Hope in generosity. Hope in the unborn, and the young. Hope in the wisdom of our elders. Hope in our future, in the sweetness of our breath, in the gratitude in our hearts. We live and serve humbly, this planet, our friends and family, our gifts, our Gods. And we shift with the times. We will persevere. We always do.

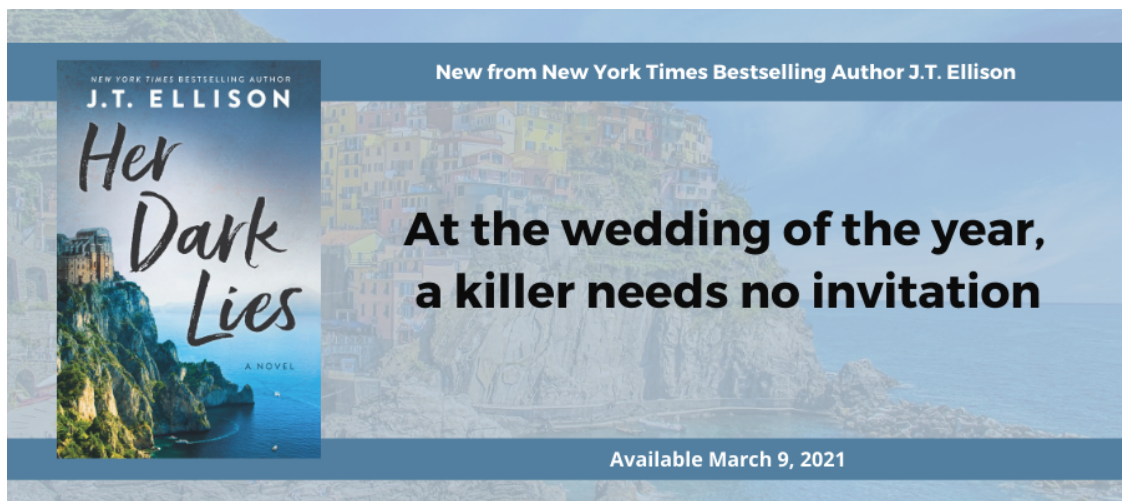
This has been a year of change for us all. Hopefully, a few months from now, we'll be celebrating a new year, and leaving the chaos of 2020 behind us. And in a few weeks, with luck, our own personal upheaval will be finished. Mr. Ellison and

I have bought a new house, one we're in the middle of fixing up. Very soon, all the renovations will be finished, and we will move into our new space. For a homebody Taurus, this change is hard, but it's something we've been thinking about doing for a few years. Like everyone else, when we're both working from home full-time, the limitations become more stark. I'll tell you this—I can't wait to build and share my new office!

It's going to be very, very hard to leave the nest we've been in for the past 15 years. All but one writing career moment, I've had in our house. My first deal. My first conference. My first Oprah interview. (I hope not the last!) Twenty-two book releases. Thrillercat, and the Minions. I'm not even ready to think this through, so I leave you with this thought:

You. All of you have happened, too. ♥

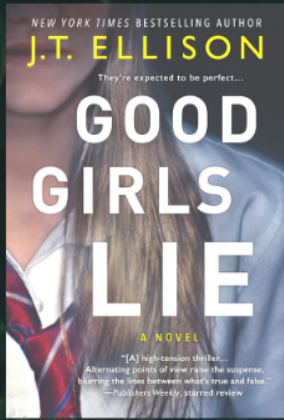
▣ **HER DARK LIES — on sale March 9, 2021**



Thank you for all your enthusiasm about the cover reveal for [HER DARK LIES](#)! It was such a thrill to share it with you all. March 9 will be here before we know it!

And good news: [Goodreads is giving away 25 Advanced Reader Copies](#). (US only.)

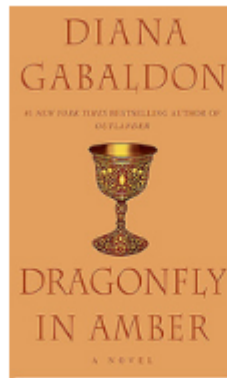
▣ **GOOD GIRLS LIE is now available in Max!**



**“A high-tension thriller...
Ellison keeps readers
guessing throughout.”**
—★ Publishers Weekly, starred review

Now available in mass market max

□ What I'm Reading



[THE ORDER](#) by Daniel Silva

I've been a Silva fan forever and a day. I look forward to his books in the way of all rabid fans. He never, ever disappoints, and that is an incredible track record for an author. This new Gabriel Allon adventure is the perfect escape. I've been reading slowly because I don't want to wait another year for more! Highly recommended.

[DRAGONFLY IN AMBER \(OUTLANDER #2\)](#) by Diana Gabaldon

Comfort food. With COVID and quarantine and Mars retrograde and the end of an epoch and my own personal life shifts, I need some comfort food. And I need some comfort reads. Diana Gabaldon is one of my go-to authors when I need to self-soothe. I've read the [OUTLANDER series](#) a number of times, but I've never listened to them. Oh my gosh, y'all. To experience my favorite characters in a totally new way has been a total balm on my soul. And of course, minion Jordan enjoys mama slowing down for a bit, too.

[CONFESSIONS ON THE 7:45](#) by Lisa Unger

I've been a fan of Lisa for years, because she just keeps getting better and better at her craft. Last year's awesome [THE STRANGER INSIDE](#) blew me away, and this new one, *CONFESSIONS ON THE 7:45*, didn't disappoint either. Fans of the long con will love this book, and those of you who think everything is okay at home will rethink every interaction you have. A wonderful, twisty, engaging read.

[FAERY TALE](#) by Signe Pike

Signe Pike is a tour de force writer exploring 6th century Scotland with her two brilliant books, [THE LOST QUEEN](#) and this week's release of the sequel, [THE FORGOTTEN KINGDOM](#). But I couldn't wait for the release, so I dug up a copy of her wonderful memoir, *FAERY TALE*. Heartfelt and wise, it's a journey of transformation, with the best backdrop in the world. I was swept away. I believe in fairies. Do you? Highly recommended.

☐☐☐ **September Recipe: Ellison's World-Famous Chili**



Twenty-eight years ago, I met this really cute boy the first night of classes for my graduate program at George Washington University. Said cute boy asked me out, and whilst we were dating, he made chili for me, using a recipe card his mother had helpfully tucked into a small tan plastic box for him, filled with version of his favorite foods. At the time, I despised beans, but we were very new to one another, and I didn't want to seem picky. Imagine my relief and delight when he pulled out a box of spaghetti and dumped it into the pot. Turned out, neither of us like beans, and both our moms had discovered the joy of Cincinnati style chili to feed their picky kids. I already had a feeling about Mr. Ellison, but the spaghetti in the chili sealed the deal. Here's Mrs. Ellison's original recipe, now adjusted to both our more expanded tastes.

LET'S EAT!

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.

A reminder: Everyone who opens the newsletter is automatically entered to win a **\$30 gift card** to the bookstore of your choice. It's my way of saying thanks for being here. Congrats to last month's winner: Toni!

That's all for now! I'll see you next month.

peace and hugs,



PS: Do you get my blog posts in your inbox? Sign up for as it releases (usually once or twice a week), as a weekly digest, or by RSS feed. You should also join my Facebook book group, **the Literati**.

DAILY

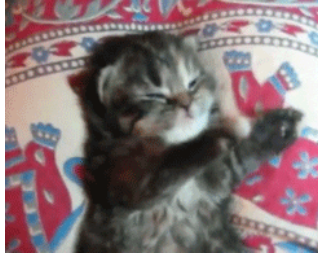
WEEKLY

RSS FEED



Are you still here?

Here's a kitten for your troubles.



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



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