



Damp January, Tons of Projects, and a New Audiobook

January 2022

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Dearestreader,

Happy New Year, my friends! I hope you are all organized, resolutioned, dewy with the sweat of your new exercise regimens, and otherwise geared up for a fabulous 2022!

I don't do a lot of resolutions, outside of choosing my theme word for the year, but I do love a good Damp January. For me, that means a glass of wine with dinner only on the weekend. My bestie asked me if we were doing Dry, Damp, Low-Humidity, or "F*ck-It-All-And-Embrace-The-Torrential-Downpour-Because-It's-The-End-Of-Civilization" January® (and yes, I just trademarked that for her. You can see exactly why we're friends...) After I pulled myself off the floor laughing, I agreed to Damp, simply because it *is* a bit apocalyptic out there, and I reserve the right to be a grown woman and have a glass of wine if and when I want. My theme word for 2022 is Choice, after all.

The only other resolution, per se, was my commitment to write more this year. I have several projects in various stages of completion: books #25 (To Be Named Standalone 2023, in editorial, pubbing February 2023); #26 (Taylor #9, drafting, pubbing Spring 2022); #27 ([Master of Shadows](#)—Jayne #2, in revision, pubbing July 31, 2022).

I want to finish them up, get them into your hands, and turn my attention to the proposal of #28, Standalone 2024, which examines family legacy. That's actually the current working title, #Legacy. The 2023 book does have a title, or two, actually—and I'm waiting to hear which it will be. I should be able to share that next month!

There are two more projects I'm considering, as well, [including using Substack](#) to publish new and revised writing essays. And I'm deep into the transcripts for Season 7 of [A Word on Words](#) and prepping Season 8.

Yes, if you're wondering, all of this does make my head hurt, which is why I have taken myself off social media to wrestle these various projects into submission.

Speaking of. I really do miss everyone, but this disciplined schedule is truly allowing me to function at a higher level, both from focus and creative perspectives, and word counts. It's possible that down the road, I will shut off everything but the blog, and only post to Instagram occasionally. We'll see. I'm not quite there yet. Talk about something that feels apocalyptic...leaving social media entirely is a challenging concept for me.

So off we go into 2022. Onward to one of my favorite posts of the year...



My [Annual Review](#) is live. As I mentioned above, 2022 has been designated the Year of Choice. I am very excited about my stripped-down goal-setting process and the ways I'm refocusing my creative efforts. How did your annual review go this year?

▣ Read All About It...



[BOMB SHELTER](#) by Mary Laura Philpott

MLP has done it again. Her latest memoir is stunning. There isn't a mom out there who won't use identify with her wry, scary, bittersweet, and downright hilarious observations. Highly recommend this one! Congrats on another triumph, MLP!

[THE HOLIDAY SWAP](#) by Maggie Knox

Oh my gosh, what a fabulous way to end the holidays! This is a sophisticated romance with a fun twist—identical twin sisters swap places. It sounds trope-y, but trust me, this is clever, original, and I'm in love with both of the men the ladies fall for. And—baking. As in, one sister has a baking reality TV show in Hollywood, the other runs the family bakery in the quaint, picturesque hometown. Noms. I am about to attempt my first GF sourdough starter, and am INSPIRED! (Maggie Knox is the pen name for the cowriting team of Karma Brown and Marissa Stapley.)

[THE SOLACE OF OPEN SPACES](#) by Gretel Ehrlich

I've only read a few pages of this gorgeous little book and it's already going down as a favorite of the year. I learned of it through the TV show Yellowstone—Beth is reading it and quotes it to her father. The passage she read aloud blew me away, and I sought out the book. It's amazing, and the author's backstory is quite poignant.

[AN ECHO IN THE BONE](#) by Diana Gabaldon

I knew I wanted to revisit Diana's latest before I read GO TELL THE BEES THAT I AM GONE, and of course, I ended up going back 4 books instead. I'm nearly finished with Echo, and moving on to WRITTEN IN MY OWN HEART'S BLOOD, which I've only read once!!!

☐☐ **January Recipe: Blueberry Buckwheat Pancakes**

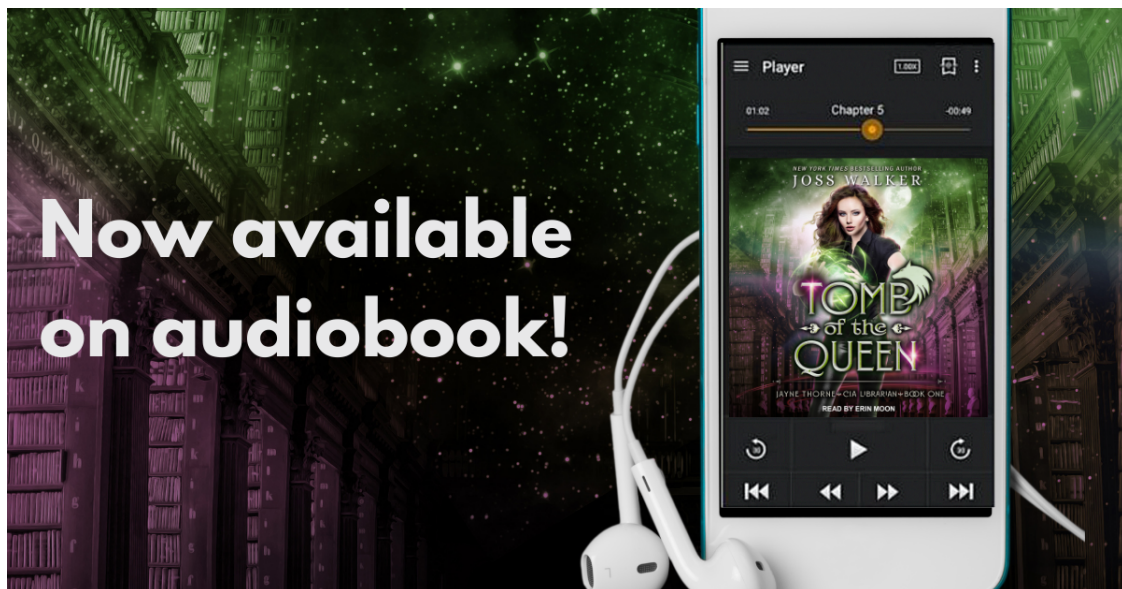


For some reason, I have never shared my most favorite weekend go-to: the humble yet delicious GF blueberry buckwheat pancake. Hearty, tasty, loaded with protein, this will be a winner for everyone on a Sunday morning...

GIMME THE DELICIOUSNESS

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.

📖 Bookish News



Exciting release news!!! [TOMB OF THE QUEEN](#), the first book in the Jayne Thorne, CIA Librarian series, is now available in audio. It is well acted by Erin Moon, and it's also at a great price on Audible for a limited time! Get it [here](#)!

📖 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: Shela!

And don't forget to enter this month's drawing below!

I WANT THAT GIFT CARD!

Let's make 2022 a good one, yes? I'll see you next month, hopefully with news about next year's standalone, a finished Taylor (with, fingers crossed, a release date), and more. Keep reading!

Peace and hugs,



Are you still here?

Here's a kitten for your troubles!



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