

Ghostly Tales, Pre-orders, and a Cover Reveal!

October 2022

Vol. 247

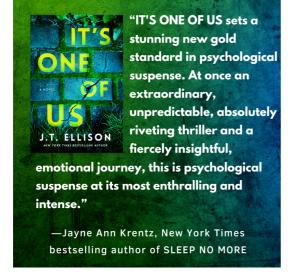
Dear ones,

Boo!

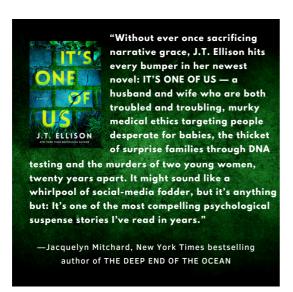
Did I scare you? No? Well, I'm not much for being scared myself, so I'll let it slide this time. I do, though, adore Halloween, and all things October. The crisp blue sky days, the multicolored palette of the trees, even (GASP!) a version of a pumpkin spice latte that I've found that is both gluten-free and not overbearing.

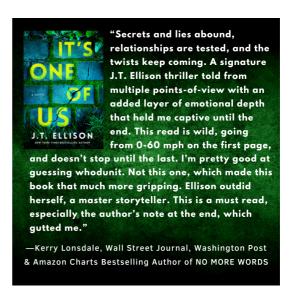
Speaking of overbearing, Hurricane Ian turned out to be quite the jerk. I have to send all my friends in Florida my deepest love and sympathy. While there's been some damage at our house, it is nothing compared to what others have suffered. The tales I've been hearing are hair-raising. Our little beach town is badly flooded, so I've been glued to the news from afar, and sending donations to local GoFundMes. This one captured my heart—the video of (now Ian) the cat being saved went viral, and they are splitting the proceeds with their local shelter. \sqcap

Before Ian barreled through, I was in Toronto with my publishing team, talking all things IT'S ONE OF US. (We also had a great time at a Blue Jays game...) I'm telling you, many incredible things are coming for you with this book. Giveaways, contests, the works. But! It would be utterly amazing if you preordered the book. Authors ask this for a very important reason—your preorders help determine the success of a book. The more pre-orders, the more books get out into the world as a response, and this is what makes or breaks a book's trajectory. I love this book. I can't wait to get it into your hands. I'm honestly a bit afraid of talking much about it, too, but I have a few months to wrap my head around that issue. I do believe you'll love it, though. Some of the early praise has been off the charts.





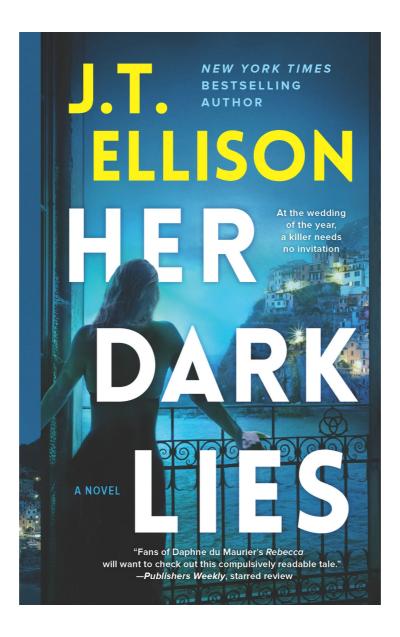




PRE-ORDER NOW!

Now that the big ask is out of the way... it was a good writing month and a busy one. I wrote a dark academia story for an anthology coming out next year called X HOUSE. It's pretty creepy, even for me. My short story with Amazon is all wrapped up, and we've chosen the audio narrator. Man, I'm telling you, talent is abundant out there in the audiobook land. We book listeners are so lucky! And I have another story wrapped in an anthology that's coming in early 2023. We're taping a slew of shows for AWOW at Southern Festival, which will be incredibly fun. But the best news is I'm back to work on my next novel! There's only been one small hiccup—one of the main characters came out of my head in first person, but that doesn't work for this particular story. Thankfully, I only had a few chapters in her POV to change (12?) and now I've done that and am full steam ahead again. This means I am all writing the new novel, all the time, until it's wrapped. I made an exception to my no events in 2022 policy for an excellent cause, so I will be appearing at the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville November 5 (you can see all the details here) and other than that I am going to be a ghost. How apropos. So with that, onward!

HER DARK LIES is coming out in mass market February 21, the week before IT'S ONE OF US, and as such, it has a new cover, and I am in love. It captures the story perfectly—the Italian setting, the island, the storm, and especially that seething woman who is central to the plot... What do you think?



Last month's results were not a huge surprise...

Y'all love cop stories! Speaking of, I hope to have news on the new Taylor book ASAP. I apologize for the delay, I've had a LOT going on.

Private Eye 6.22% Detective/Cop 51.78% 408 votes 3.68% Spy Assassin 3.93% 31 votes 2.16% Lawyer 17 votes Amateur Sleuth 14.09% Neighbor Next Door 4.82% 38 votes Regular Joe/Josephine 13.32% 105 votes

This month's poll...

Your favorite type of lead character is...?

I'm curious what you're thinking about social media and state of the newsletter these days.

your favorite authors?	
○ Newsletter	Blog
○ Facebook Page	Facebook Private Group
○ Instagram	Twitter
○ TikTok	Patreon
Substack	Discord

☐ This Month's Reads



Happy news: I have broken my reading fast at last! Part of that was in response to finding Peng Shepherd's incredible book, and the other was a more esoteric prescription—listening to author interviews. I figured hey, if writing about writing breaks my creative blocks, maybe listening to authors talk about writing their books will break me free of my reading slump. And it WORKED! The Poisoned Pen Podcast is a remarkable resource, and I highly recommend two special interviews, both with the store's amazing owner Barbara Peters: Peng Shepherd and Adam Hamby; and Jan Rankin.

Now, on to the books...

HEX HALL by Rachel Hawkins

I needed to get in the mood to write my dark academia story, and I've had this one in the queue for much too long. Engrossing, original, and utterly bewitching!

THE CARTOGRAPHERS by Peng Shepherd

I love maps, and Peng's book has them aplenty. It's a story of family, love, magic, and I was captivated from the opening line.

<u>WHEN WE HAD WINGS</u> by Ariel Lawhon, Kristina McMorris, and Susan Meissner

I had a front-row seat to the writing of this book, which makes it all the more special. If you like historicals, this one is exactly what you (and your book club) need to read this month. This is not your usual WWII story...

THE WITCHES OF MOONSHYNE MANOR by Bianca Marais

Back to witches for me—I mean, come on, it is Halloween! This book came highly recommended and I can't wait to dive in!

☐ Book News

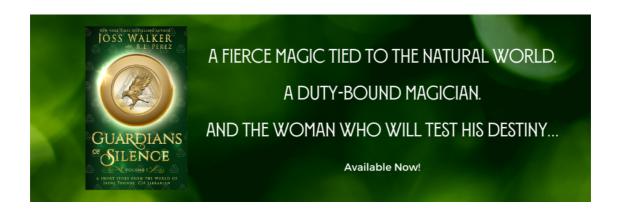
To celebrate the spooky season, all of my ghost stories are on sale!







If you're into my fantasy world, there's a new story on sale now, too. This is a story you can read without knowing anything about Jayne, as it predates her entry into the magical world from the series. It kicks off a new mini-series, and has a tragic love story at its core.



I've got something new in this newsletter, <u>a contest</u> sponsored by an outside vendor. I'll be able to judge how well you like it by how many clicks there are, obviously, but I'd love to hear what you think. Is this something you're interested in seeing more of?



□□ October Recipe: Loaded Baked Frittata



I am a big egg fan, in all its many guises. But there's only so many scrambled or omelets you can do before you need something more exciting. Enter: the
humble frittata
. It's incredibly easy, versatile, and quick to put together. Plus, it's pretty! This is one of my favorite recipes. It elevates the weekend every time. You can also check out my reelon instagram about it!

You can find all of my recipes <u>here</u>, and if you want some wine to go with the meals, <u>The Wine Vixen</u> 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: Dianne W!

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

I WANT THAT GIFT CARD!

Phew! Here we go, heading into the holidays, and I'm not ready yet...but I'll see you back here in November, and we'll talk turkey. (see what I did there? Ha!) Happy early Halloween and take good care!

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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