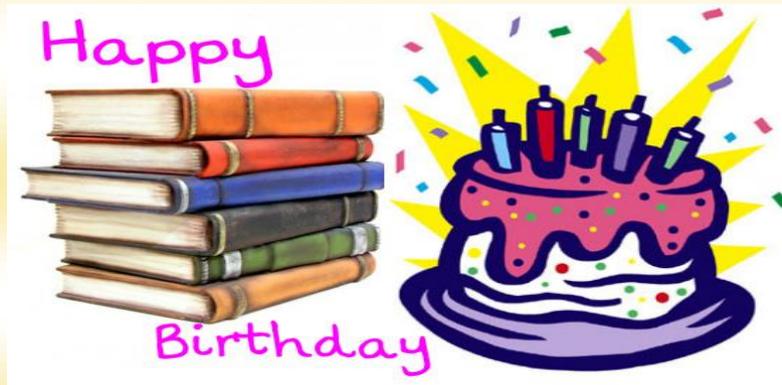


Coffee Stained Pages: Issue 7

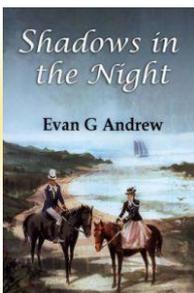
The latest from 'Writers Plot Readers Read'.

October 2016

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!! 1 Year Old



New in the shop:



Shadows in the Night by Evan G. Andrew

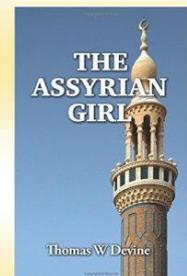
The violent world of smuggling is seen through the eyes of Julia, a spirited young woman who leaves the court of George III for a new life with her great-uncle in the country town of Winchelsea. In dangerous encounters she learns the truth about those she trusted - and those she shouldn't have.

Can she risk losing her heart to the dashing Mr Hamilton who she suspects of leading a double life?

The Assyrian Girl by Thomas W Devine

Security contractor, Matt Couper, returns from Iraq with memories of a fifteen-year-old Assyrian girl, Tara Nasrim, whose life he saved.

Five years later, as a refugee, Tara shows up in New Zealand. Even there, Islamic extremism rears its head. Religion clashes with love, vengeance is pursued, and Matt's world overturns.



I am Minerva by Karen Zelas

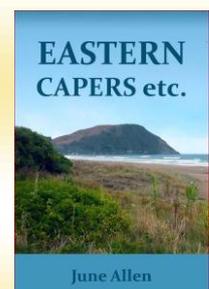
I am Minerva begins with a light-hearted selfie and ends with the writer's realisation that – like the goddess Minerva – she is a custodian of words and creativity and even wisdom. A poet no less.

In between the selfie and the self-realisation, Karen Zelas explores with intense fascination the people and histories that inform her life.

Eastern Capers etc. by June Allen

A Young Life in Gisborne

Memoirs of Gisborne, a town on the East Coast of New Zealand. Time set in mid 20th century. Schools, family life, the beaches ... which is life as the author knew it in Gisborne and the East Coast in the 1940s and 1950s.



What's Happening around the country:

NZ BOOK FESTIVAL

It's an exciting time for the literary world, with the resurgence of independent publishing bringing new voices to the fore, and allowing diversity in the publishing landscape. The NZ Book Festival brings writers and readers together to share their love of the written word.

Meet the writer behind the book, chat with passionate Kiwi authors who've come from all over New Zealand and browse through books that you may not find on mainstream bookstore shelves. Discover gems from a diverse range of genres – and authors!

Are you a writer with a manuscript mouldering away at the back of a drawer? Or has your story been rejected by traditional publishers and you don't know what to do now. Your next step is to come to the NZ Book Festival where you'll get the opportunity to ask how to publish your own e-book or print book. Let private New Zealand publishers share their knowledge to help you bring your dream of publishing to life.

NZ Book Festival

Saturday 5 November – 10:00am to 4:30pm

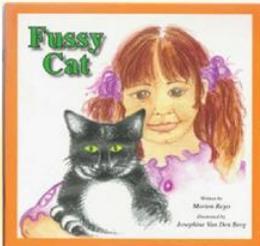
Mt Eden War Memorial Hall

487 Dominion Road (Opposite Potters Park)

Mt Eden, Auckland

Have a look at the events and people on the webpage – <http://nzbookfestival.co.nz/>

Books for the younger readers:

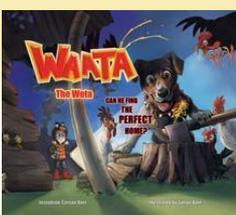
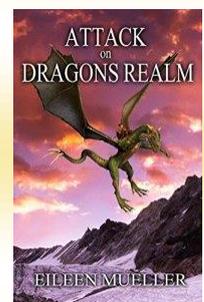


Fussy Cat by Marion Rego

Everyone knows a fussy cat, and will relate to the frustration experienced by this young owner, and to the solution too. The text has been carefully tailored to the child who has got past the early stages of learning to read but still needs lots of familiar words and repetition.

Attack on Dragons Realm by Eileen Mueller

Drums pound the danger signal. Tharuks are attacking Dragons Realm. Jerrick, a dragon rider, becomes a laughing stock when his friends discover his fear of flying. Reina, a wizard, is mortified when her magic backfires. And Benno, a warrior, faints whenever he thinks of blood. All three must prove themselves and save their families, can they turn the tide of battle?. An interactive book, where you choose which way you read the story. One beginning, one end and three middles - you choose which order you read them in.



NEW

Waata the Weta: Can He Find the Perfect Home? by Jo Carson-Barr

Illustrated by Simon Barr

Waata the Weta is different from other Weta. He is looking for fun, sun and adventure, so he leaves his home in the woodpile and sets out on a journey to find the perfect home. Does he find it?

Winners of The Scarf short story competition:

The stories can be downloaded in .pdf form from the website under the tab Competitions. There will be a link to them on our website's front page. Or pick up a printed copy of the winning story at the shop.

Birthday Specials for October:

Discount for 2 or more books in a series purchased at the same time.

Instore prizes and discounts. More information will go up on the website and on Facebook/Twitter. Come into the store and wish us a Happy Birthday – we would love to see you.

What's On:

School Holiday Writing Courses

Two 5-day writing courses in the holidays – details on the website and facebook page
Years 9-13 in the second week 3rd Oct – 7th Oct

Writing group – with Cat Connor

Meets at the bookshop every 3rd Saturday 11am - 12:30pm
Next meetings 1st Oct. and 22nd Oct \$5pp

Daytime writing for individuals – writing desk, refreshments, internet access, inspiration from being surrounded by books. \$5 for half day; \$10 full day – discounts for continued use.

Poetry Evenings

We may have a new venue for this – information will be put on the website and posted on Facebook.

Writing Courses

There has been quite a bit of interest for more writing courses – if you are interested email us your contact details and we will contact you when we organize our next courses.
Note: they will be held during the day.

All events are held at the shop; further details on our website or contact us via email, phone or facebook message.

All details on the website and Facebook pages – and a reminder that all books can be purchased online at our website –

<https://writersplotreadersread.wordpress.com/buy-now/>

Author Interrogations:

We have added a new section to the website, interviews with kiwi authors with books in the shop. These will be updated on a regular basis. Today we meet Trish McCormack -

Kia ora,

Please welcome our latest ~~victim~~ guest, Trish McCormack. On the metal plate suspended above that puddle by wires is a chocolate fish. Behave and the delicious pink marshmallow fish covered in chocolate won't end up a goopy mess on the floor.

In the event of an earthquake/zombie plague/or random occupation - you'll find emergency procedures taped to the bottom of your seat. Yes, just like a flotation device. You'll also find a Glock 17 with a full magazine.

Remember you cannot reason with zombies and it's a head shot every time.

Comfy?

Very!

1. What's your favorite type of takeaway? (Yes, that means take-out in NZ speak)

Fish n chips

2. Describe your current mental status.

Changes by the minute - but laughing right now.

3. I know how I do what I do ... but how do you do what you do?

WHAT???

Oh yes got it - hmm usually at the last minute - I need to be staring at the end of a deadline to achieve anything.

4. Could you tell us a little bit about your latest work?

My third Philippa Barnes mystery, Cold Hard Murder grew out of my experience of being a national park worker in Punakaiki during the heyday of cave exploration. Our boss took us out looking for caves when we were supposed to be working. I remember being shoved into a cave (feeling like a canary in a coal mine) I was the smallest of the team and could theoretically wriggle where no one else could go. The experience has given me lasting claustrophobia but I put this to good use when I imagined a killer somewhere close behind me in a twisty limestone labyrinth. And turned the scenario into a novel.

5. Do you have a favorite coffee or tea?

Flat white coffee - at least double shot.

6. Walk us through a typical day. (Do you make sure you're wearing your lucky underpants before you sit down to write, perhaps you prefer commando? While we're discussing your underpants, boxers, briefs, or budgie smugglers. Inquiring minds want to know. Yes, that includes my Admins... we don't piss off the Admins.)

Struggle out of bed taking great care not to disturb Miss Lizzie our beautiful cat, mainline first coffee of the day, walk to work, try to find something funny there (spoiled for choice usually), walk home, dinner and RED WINE TIME, read a great crime novel (last night it was Frances Brody's Died in the Wool which I thoroughly recommend), write (when approaching aforesaid deadline), go to bed when summoned by Miss L. Oh and underpants? Let's just say: unglamorous.

7. Tell us about your main character. (How did you first meet? Would you like to hang out with him/her? What delights you the most about writing him/her? You get the idea ...)

Philippa sidled into by consciousness years before I started writing about her. She was the encouraging voice in my head when I did things I shouldn't - career-limiting bridge-burning things - and you know what? I regret (almost) none of them. But she had better things to do than watch me mismanage my life. She was young, gutsy, full of energy - and coping with tragedy and responsibility that were not of her own making. She was also eternally curious, kind, indiscreet (not the best trait for a sleuth) and self-deprecating.

When she appeared in my first book some readers didn't like her anger and this surprised me as given what she was coping with I didn't think she was angry enough! Others loved her for her sparky personality. I must say I liked this feedback more! Then there were a couple of readers who contacted me to tell me she was drinking too much. She probably still is ... Three books later and maybe she has mellowed a bit, but the edge is still there. She's fascinated by people and their secrets and always willing to try and solve mysteries no one else wants to touch.

She lives my dream. When I'm writing her stories in her wonderful NZ glacier and national park world I feel like I'm there too - miles away from city, work and boring reality.

8. Who are your favorite writers?

So so many but top of my list right now are Louise Penny, Val McDermid, Frances Brody, Charles Todd, Elly Griffiths, Cat Connor, Tina Clough, Sharon Bolton, Kate Saunders, Deborah Crombie, William Brodrick, Ann Cleeves.

Favourite past inspirations which remain perennial - PD James, Agatha Christie, Dana Stabenow, Josephine Tey, Kate Atkinson, Ruth Rendell/Barbara Vine, Reginald Hill, Elizabeth George, Ngaio Marsh, Dorothy Sayers.

9. Who inspires you to do better? (Be as corny as you'd like ... just go for it! Mmmm chocolate fish.)
Reading great crime fiction by other writers. And wanting to help put New Zealand on the world map as the place for the perfect crime.

10. Do you ever put pants on your dog, cat, or budgie?

I wouldn't dare try and dress Miss Lizzie! But back in the day my sister and I did dress up our dog and cat.

11. Describe your perfect day.

A good hill walk - Makara on the Wellington coast is a great favourite - followed by a swim in the sea, then an evening of red wine, good food and a great book - with Miss Lizzie in close attendance for latter part of programme

12. Who is your favorite fictitious villain? Or are you all about the hero? Who do you love to hate?
Two spring immediately to mind - Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca -and Kate Atkinson's Gloria from One Good Turn. They are truly inspirational! They could be villains or heroes - like the best people I know in the real world!

13. Do you have any quirks?

Heaps.

14. All-time favorite movie and why?

Gone with the Wind because I love Scarlett O'Hara - what a role model!

15. Do you enjoy the editing process?

Not much - but when I see my MS improving it is a good feeling. I hate it when you work and work and NOTHING seems to be changing and the words are lying on the page like lumps of mud.

16. If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be and why?

That changes - but this year I'd live six months at Awaroa in Abel Tasman National Park followed by six months in that wonderful book town Hay-on-Wye on the Welsh border.

17. Favorite Pizza topping?

Cheese. No contest

18. What were you before you became a writer?

A stropky teenager trying to avoid work or anything else that looked like commitment.

19. What is the most random thing you have ever done?

Lying in a discarded coffin (left aboveground for no apparent reason) in an old goldfields cemetery watching the stars. Then getting married in the same cemetery. Divorce followed ...

20. If you're not working, what are you most likely doing?

Reading

21. Who is your ultimate character?

This changes from year to year so I can't just pick one. My rogues line up would be: George from the Famous Five, Anne of Green Gables, Emily of New Moon, Harriet Vane, Miss Marple, Jane Tennison, Anna Pigeon, Inspectors Gamache, Dalgliesh, Wexford and Dalziel, Jackson Brodie, Deborah Knott, Hamish Macbeth, Barbara Havers and ... where to stop!

22. Whiskey or Bourbon? Red or white wine? Tequila? Beer?

Red wine. Every time.

23. What's in your pockets? (Or handbag, whatever you carry your stuff in. Are you apocalypse prepared?)

Books, random handwritten notes, coffee money, socks, t-shirt and shorts, iPhone tuned to audiobook (I hate people ringing me and dragging me back to the real world). So no - not really prepared for the apocalypse.

24. Laptop, PC, Mac, tablet?

Laptop

25. Ebook or tree book?

Tree book - we recently bought a new house as we'd run out of room for all our books in our old one.

26. Favorite apocalyptic scenario?

Leaving the ruined city and going back to my roots in the heart of the country with a host of pets, my old weaving loom and a good garden. Our books will have survived so there'll be endless escapism into other worlds. And lots of good places to go walking. not to mention sea to swim in nearby.

27. Where do you do most of your writing?

At the dining table.

28. What's the hardest thing for you when it comes to being an author? (For me it's marketing but for others it's the actual writing ...)

Marketing - the "how-to" advice makes me lose the will to live.

You made it!! Damn, you rock. Now would you like to try for the chocolate fish? Mind the puddles ... but hurry. Power surges are common in the dungeon; you don't want to have one hand on the metal plate containing that delicious chocolate fish and a foot in a puddle...

That laughter you hear is coming from The Knight, he probably won't flip that switch he has his hand on. Probably ...

You can find out more about Trish McCormack in the following places ...

<http://www.trishmccormack.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/Assigned-to-Murder-Trish-McCormack-144069328967562/?fref=ts>

<https://twitter.com/TrishMcCormack2>