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OF LITERATURE

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Pioneers** 
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IN THE
FOOTPRINTS
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Literary Cities and
Their Stories

FROM ANCESTRAL ECHOES TO INKED LEGACIES

LENAYE MARSTEN

THE VOYAGE FROM DISCOVERY TO LITERARY REVELATION



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TSHALA BY AUTHOR HARMONIE K. MBUYAMBA

The Luba kingdom hung on the brink of collapse after years of internal conflicts, their prosperity owed solely to their allegiance to God. However, as the ruler turned malevolent, God's benevolence waned, severing ties with the kingdom. Sensing opportunity amidst this rift, the devil, drawn to chaos, aimed to exploit their vulnerability.

A LIST OF NINE PAGE TURNERS

PAGE-TURNER PIONEERS: AUTHORS REDEFINING STORYTELLING

The path to finding literary treasures

"Page-Turner Pioneers: Nine Authors Redefining Storytelling" ventures into the enchanting realm of contemporary literature, spotlighting the trailblazers who have reinvented the art of storytelling. This exploration navigates through the inventive minds and narratives of nine authors, each reshaping the literary landscape with their distinctive styles and imaginative prowess.

In this article, readers will embark on an exhilarating journey through the literary contributions of these visionaries, delving into the depths of their storytelling genius. From transcendent fantasy worlds to riveting tales deeply rooted in reality, these authors unravel narratives that challenge, and redefine the very essence of storytelling.

Discover the profound insights of authors who defy conventions and carve new paths in the literary domain. Through their pens, they breathe life into characters that resonate deeply, unveil thought-provoking themes, and weave intricate plots that leave readers spellbound.

This article isn't merely a spotlight on their accomplishments; it's a celebration of their narrative ingenuity, shedding light on the diversity of genres, themes, and storytelling techniques that mark these authors as pioneers in the contemporary literary panorama. Whether you're drawn to sprawling epics, introspective memoirs, boundary-pushing sci-fi, or haunting mysteries, this article promises a vibrant mosaic of literary exploration.

As we traverse the landscapes of these literary maestros, readers will uncover the essence of storytelling in its most potent and transformative form. Each author showcased here not only tells a tale but embodies the evolution and dynamism of the written word, fostering a renewed appreciation for the boundless possibilities of literature.

- **Frizzy Lizzy** Author, Liz Leonard
- **Alpha Bette** Author, Jennifer Manocherian
- **Meeting Pip** Author, Fiona Lowry
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- **Tshala la Princesse du Royaume Luba** Author Harmonie K. Mbuyamba



FRIZZY LIZZY



BY AUTHOR LIZ LEONARD

In the first book of the Frizzy Lizzy series, Lizzy and her sisters find themselves lost during a family hike. Faced with the daunting task of finding their way home, Lizzy steps up, using her sharp wit and trusty pocketbook to navigate the challenging situation. Targeted at young children, "Frizzy Lizzy" teaches valuable life lessons about preparation, trusting one's instincts, and learning from challenges. Paired with the captivating illustrations of Katherine Hillier, the stories inspire children to be proactive, creative problem-solvers, and most importantly, to become their own heroes.

The "Frizzy Lizzy" series is a testament to the power of resourcefulness and the magic of everyday adventures. It's sure to captivate young readers, encouraging them to engage their imaginations and teaching them that they can overcome anything with a little creativity and courage.

BOOK REVIEW

The enchanting cover of "Frizzy Lizzy" hinted at the greatness within, and it didn't disappoint. The captivating illustrations vividly portrayed the characters, infusing life and personality into them. The story's cuteness, seamless flow, and delightful rhyming made it a joy to read, captivating my young daughter with Frizzy Lizzy's unique charm. The book's essential message of celebrating individuality left a lasting impression. It's a heartwarming reminder that being different can be a source of strength and kindness.

As a parent, I was transported back to my own childhood, relishing the nostalgic feeling this fantastic children's book evoked. We eagerly anticipate diving deeper into Lizzy's world, as this book served as a charming introduction to her adventures. It's clear that the series promises more heartwarming lessons and captivating tales. "Frizzy Lizzy" is not just a great children's book; it's a treasure that instills valuable values and brings joy to both kids and parents. We can't wait to continue this enchanting journey.

GET YOUR COPY OF 'FRIZZY LIZZY' TODAY. AVAILABLE FOR WORLDWIDE DELIVERY ON AMAZON IN KINDLE AND PAPERBACK FORMAT.



LIZ LEONARD

JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR

Liz Leonard's journey as a passionate storyteller and creative professional is a compelling narrative that adds depth and richness to the literary landscape. Residing in the vibrant state of New Jersey with her husband, daughter, and loyal dog, Liz's artistic foundation is rooted in her attainment of a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and Tufts University. This educational background serves as the springboard for her immersive exploration into the realms of animation, film, and television, where she skillfully draws inspiration from the well of her own childhood experiences.

Beyond her roles as an artist, Liz wears the hat of an executive at a global hotel brand, seamlessly blending her creative passion with her corporate pursuits. Her position not only enables her to contribute to the world of storytelling but also allows her to satisfy her love for travel, a thematic element that often finds its way into her narratives. Adding another layer to her diverse experiences, Liz has dedicated her time to volunteer work with a non-profit organization, leading her on multiple journeys to West Africa. This altruistic engagement not only underscores her commitment to making a positive impact

but also contributes to the tapestry of stories she weaves.

The intricacies of Liz's background, coupled with the complexities of her childhood and the transformative experience of parenthood, serve as the fertile ground from which her enchanting stories sprout. The "Frizzy Lizzy" series, a testament to her storytelling prowess, artfully blends early memories with recent adventures, creating a mosaic of tales that captivate and impart valuable life lessons to young readers.

Liz Leonard collaborates with illustrator Katherine Hillier, based in Northamptonshire, England. Katherine's academic journey shapes her unique illustration style, drawing from nature and urban chaos. Together, they form a dynamic duo seamlessly blending words and images, creating works that entertain and resonate across diverse readership, offering a delightful exploration into imaginative realms.

FOLLOW AUTHOR
LIZ LEONARD

 www.frizzylizzy.com

 [frizzylizzybooks](https://www.instagram.com/frizzylizzybooks)

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR LIZ LEONARD

Q: Your children's book, "Frizzy Lizzy," is filled with heartwarming adventures for young readers. Can you tell us more about the inspiration behind the character Lizzy and the stories in the series?

Frizzy Lizzy was inspired by my childhood in the 90s and my personal experiences while growing up with a complicated family dynamic. The character is based on me but also embodies aspects of my frizzy-haired, daughter's personality. She is meant to be relatable and possesses characteristics that I hope resonate with all.

Q: "Frizzy Lizzy" teaches young children valuable life lessons about preparation, trusting instincts, and learning from challenges. Why do you think it's important to impart these lessons through storytelling?

Like Mary Poppins, Frizzy Lizzy always seems to have the right thing in her purse at the right time. This allows her to relax, thrive and be confident. Preparedness, trust of instincts and intuition are critical aspects of daily life that we must impart upon our children – especially in the complicated world of today. A teacher we recently worked with posted an amazing reel on Instagram sharing how she incorporated these items in her lesson plan. She explained that the theme of preparation resonated with her students and that she always tells them "It's better to have it and not need it, then to need it and not have it." I think that sums it up perfectly.

Q: As an author, how do your own childhood experiences and your journey into parenthood influence the stories you create for children?

All details and characters within the Frizzy Lizzy series are intricately and collaboratively developed based on my childhood. Yet, it is without a doubt that they will continue to evolve as I dive further into parenthood. As parents we always want our children have a better life than we did but that is becoming increasingly challenging as the analog world shifts further away. It is critical for our children to leverage technology, but it is also equally important to ensure that they can survive without it. This dichotomy has and continues to be a driver and influence in my books.

Q: "Frizzy Lizzy" is targeted at children aged 4-8. How do you approach writing for this specific age & keeping them engaged?

Well, that's the easy part – I use my daughter, nieces and nephew as my test subjects! I also collaborate with a lot of parents and teachers across the United States to gather feedback and to gauge their young readers interests.

Q: The stories in the "Frizzy Lizzy" series inspire children to be proactive and creative problem-solvers. Why is fostering these qualities in young readers important to you as an author?

Problem solving or what some may refer to as "street smarts," are extremely important to instill in our

children. I think these necessary skills help us succeed in all aspects of life whether it be in school, work, or in social situations.

Q: The book is beautifully illustrated by Katherine Hillier. Can you share your collaboration process with the illustrator and how it enhances the storytelling?

In terms of the illustrations, I chose to collaborate with the extremely talented, Katherine Hillier because her artistic style is very similar to mine... or what I wish mine was like! I wanted the book to be different, to have some edgy undertones, and many layers of content for discussion. As an avid storyteller who studied animation and film in college, the visuals in the book were the most important part. I created the storyboards and developed every detail with Katherine down to the character's footwear. There are also a lot of easter-eggs planted in the story that serve as an homage to things like my love of Italian combos or my pets, who've passed away. The writing was intentionally simple to allow the reader to dive into the imagery and to leave room for discussion. I know kids don't use pay phones or paper maps - but that's the point. I felt it was important for these items of the past to be discussed. The illustrations don't just enhance the book, they are very much the focus of the book and that was purely intentional.

Q: You have a diverse background that includes your work in the creative arts, as well as your executive role at a global hotel brand. How do these experiences contribute to your storytelling?

As mentioned, my stories are somewhat autobiographical, so my experiences naturally fold into my books. One of the many things I love about both creative arts and travel is that they can transform perspective. They make us more aware of the world around us and allow us to see beyond our preconceived notions. I hope that Frizzy Lizzy conveys this concept to young readers as the stories continue to unfold.

Q: What can young readers and their families expect from future instalments in the "Frizzy Lizzy" series? Can you provide a glimpse into the upcoming adventures and lessons you have in store for your audience?

The next book is about friendship, sharing and caring for others. Meet a new character in this book who is based on my husband (as a child) which has been fun to create. Katherine and I are hard at work and we cannot wait to share Frizzy Lizzy's next adventure!

Q: You're also a passionate traveller and have volunteered in West Africa. How do your travel experiences influence the cultural aspects and diversity in your stories?

Without spoiling things, Frizzy Lizzy will take her readers to many destinations around the world. Eager to explore my Ghana memories and see how they shape Frizzy Lizzy's adventures.

ALPHA BETTE

BY AUTHOR JENNIFER MANOCHERIAN

Alpha Bette centers on Bette Gartner, a tough old ninety-five-year-old wheelchair bound Manhattanite, who wakes up one morning believing that she has received a long awaited signal from her dead husband confirming that there is an afterlife. Bette decides to give a dinner party that night for her nearest and dearest: her daughter Claire and her husband; her great granddaughter Jia and her boyfriend; her long time housekeeper Rosie; her night aide Venera; her across the neighbour Miss Sidenstricker and her downstairs neighbour Dariush. It seems a summons more than an invitation and no one knows what Bette has in mind, especially given that she hasn't had dinner company since her husband George died five years earlier. Mavis Jane Robbins, a medium, has been asked to come after dinner, sending anticipatory chills through the guests. Alpha Bette intertwines diverse storylines culminating at a transformative dinner, unravelling personal struggles amid urban life's monotony. Exploring love, loss, and acceptance, delves into existential angst caused by departed kin. Through multiple viewpoints, akin to renowned works like 'The Poisonwood Bible' by Barbara Kingsolver and 'The Lincoln Highway' by Amor Tolles, it paints a poignant portrait of familial history and healing.



BOOK REVIEW

This book is quirky in all the right ways. The whole time this 'old lady' is preparing a dinner party for all these people in her life to everyone's confusion, and the payoff is worth it. We follow the lives of her guests from their perspectives within the 24-hour period leading up to the event. Her community may be small, they all either live or work in the same building, but their personalities and stories are not. It shows the unusual ways people affect and become entwined with one another's lives without even knowing. It reminds us of the value of being seen and the power we have to change our lives. It'll make you laugh and I bet it'll surprise you too! (Good Reads Reviewer)

GET YOUR COPY OF 'ALPHA BETTE' TODAY. AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY ON ONLINE BOOKSITES IN PAPERPACK, KINDLE & AUDIBLE.



Photo: Christine Petrella

JENNIFER MANOCHERIAN

JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR

Alpha Bette is Jennifer's first novel. She put much of her personal and professional life experience into writing it, having been a family therapist, divorce mediator, Broadway and Off-Broadway producer, musical book writer, screenwriter and producer, and screenwriting teacher. Jennifer Manocherian, born into a family of readers and writers as the middle of three sisters, initially an underachiever, emerged as a family rebel. Her writing journey commenced in high school, leading to a diverse repertoire. In her twenties, while raising a family, she contributed to a local magazine. Later, as a divorce mediator, she authored articles for professional journals and a chapter on divorce in *The Family Life Cycle*, a family therapy textbook. Transitioning to a career as a theatre producer, she collaborated with Dan Martin, composer, and Michael Biello, lyricist, creating plays, screenplays, and musicals such as *Marry Harry* (not THAT Harry), which underwent regional productions and became a theatre/film hybrid available on Reveel: <https://reveel.net/programs/1302629/marry-harry>. *Cockroaches & Cologne*, another

musical she co-wrote, earned numerous festival awards and is accessible on YouTube. Presently, she and her collaborators are engaged in developing an episodic musical series for cable TV.

In the 1990s, she co-wrote and produced a movie, *Family Blues* (formerly *Hudson River Blues*), available on Amazon Video: [Watch Family Blues | Prime Video](https://www.amazon.com/watch/Family-Blues) (amazon.com). Additionally, in May, she served as an executive producer and writer for *Boundary Waters*, slated for release in 2024. Adapted from *Closed Doors* by Lisa O'Donnell, a novel she optioned in 2014, the film is co-written and directed by Tessa Blake. Amid the COVID pandemic, she penned her debut novel, *Alpha Bette*, and is presently crafting a second novel focusing on characters from *Alpha Bette*, notably Miss Sidenstricker. Jennifer Manocherian continues to enchant audiences with her artistic evolution.

FOLLOW AUTHOR
JENNIFER MANOCHERIAN



<https://jennifermanocherian.net>



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THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR JENNIFER MANOCHERIAN

Q: Please share the inspiration behind "Alpha Bette" and how your diverse professional background, including family therapy and Broadway production, influenced the narrative?

Years ago I had a writing prompt about someone looking into a mirror. I immediately thought about my nonagenarian wheelchair bound mother seeing herself in a full length mirror for the first time in years – and I was off and running with a character who became Bette. All I have done in my life has informed my writing.

Q: As someone with experience in family therapy and mediation, how did those aspects of your life shape the characters and dynamics within Bette Gartner's family in the novel?

As therapist and mediator, you are trained in understanding human dynamics as a basis for helping people solve their issues. As a family member, you may not have sufficient perspective and/or may be part of the problem, but having those tools to navigate the various relationships is a big help. I say that as wife, mother, grandmother and mother-in-law.

Q: The story in "Alpha Bette" unfolds through multiple points of view. Can you elaborate on your decision to structure the narrative in this way and how it enhances the reader's understanding of the characters?

The book began as a series of short stories about different characters. During an annual writing retreat, I realized that if I could find an organic way to link them, I might be able to write a novel. I felt that to really understand each character, it could best be done by giving each one his/her own POV.

Q: Given your involvement in Broadway and Off-Broadway productions, did your experience as a producer and musical book writer influence the dramatic elements in "Alpha Bette"? If so, how?

As a producer seeking properties as well as a musical book writer, it's essential to know what's involved in good storytelling. For me, it's all about character development. Knowing the character's needs and wants informs the plot and everything else from the dialogue to setting to costumes to sound. As writer, I internalize my characters before writing.

Q: "Alpha Bette" explores the convergence of different personalities at a dinner table, leading to epiphanies and resolutions. Can you discuss how the setting of the dinner party serves as a metaphor for the characters' personal journeys?

In Alpha Bette it is a supposedly social gathering at dinner, but it could have been a family meeting any place where the guests are invited for a specific reason. Bette's purpose, unbeknown to her attendees, is to make sure they are all on the right path in life. The dinner serves as a moment of reckoning for them.

Q: As a screenwriter and producer, how does your approach to storytelling differ in the medium of literature compared to film, and were there specific challenges or advantages in transitioning to novel writing?

There are commonalities such as strong character development and story arcs, but how you tell the story is different. I'm comfortable writing dialogue as a means of telling the story, but in novels, you don't have an audience member or a camera as aid. In a novel the narrative sets the stage, is the 'so to speak' camera.

Q: The characters in "Alpha Bette" navigate both daily mundanities and larger existential concerns. How do you balance these two aspects of storytelling to create a rich and multifaceted narrative?

The fact is that we all deal with mundanities as well as larger issues. We all face death and almost everyone experiences some form of personal or family crisis. You go about your business and then the phone rings or you have a medical crisis or your child is bullied or your elderly parents need care. And so on.

Q: In your role as a board member of New York Stage and Film and The Peace Studio, how do these experiences influence your creative process, particularly in writing a novel like "Alpha Bette"?

TPS subsidizes artists whose work is aimed at restorative healing. In my novel, something is at stake for each character that demands resolution, i.e. healing. The same is true of plays and films. There's a pressing issue, obstacles towards solving it, then ultimately resolution. NYSAF develops works at their early stage when figuring out that arc is the mission.

Q: The novel seems to draw from personal experiences, including being married with five children and grandchildren. How did your own family life contribute to the authenticity of the characters and their relationships in the story?

Not to be glib, nothing is autobiographical per se and yet I wrote it so it all stems from my life experiences and perspective. A few events, for example the widow's husband, when alive, was hospitalized after a fall. I took some of that from an awful fall father had when he was old.

Q: Would you like to share any upcoming projects or future plans, either in literature or other creative endeavors, that your readers can look forward to after "Alpha Bette"?

Boundary Waters, a movie I wrote based on the novel Closed Doors by Lisa O'Donnell, was filmed this May and will hopefully come out in 2024. A coming of age story, it's about the impact of trauma on a twelve year boy, his family and community. I'm also writing a second novel based on a character in Alpha Bette.

MEETING PIP



BY AUTHOR FIONA LOWRY

Allow your imagination to transport you into another world, of fun and innocence. Closer than you think. At the bottom of your own garden. Where anything is possible, and fairies truly are real.

Harris doesn't believe that fairies are real but when his older sister, Faith, sees something new on the Oaktree, she sets out to prove that they are. Only then, do the fun conversations begin with Pip, and the children start to see the world in a whole new way. Pip lives at 19 Primrose Gardens. A quiet neighbourhood with many families and lots of children. Known as the 'fairy woods' children love to play in the peaceful forest around the babbling brook. One warm summer's day, Pip hears two voices, Faith and Harris, playing around her front door and she admiringly watches through the window as they giggle and chase each other. Collapsing with laughter by an oak tree, Faith notices what looks like a fairy door near the roots of the tree, but her younger brother Harris doesn't believe in fairies, so she sets out to prove him wrong.

After writing a letter and leaving it where Faith thinks she saw a fairy door, the children are thrilled and amazed to find a slug-slimed and snail-eaten reply in the same spot the next morning, from their local tooth fairy – Pip. An "adorable" and "magical" story about a tooth fairy, where children can't wait to see what happens next. Meeting Pip promotes outdoor play and the use of imagination.

BOOK REVIEW

"I have thoroughly enjoyed all of this author's work so far. They have a natural flair for writing such fun and imaginative tales that children love, with this one being no exception! - It's thrilling to think that fairies might be real, and this lovely, whimsical read makes the idea feel even more plausible. I can imagine it inspiring lots of play and creativity as children use it as a springboard to write their own fairy letters and construct enchanting places for them to reside. For young readers who love fairies, this book will be a delight. For those who aren't sure about the idea of fairies, it might just change their mind! Either way, it will make a wonderful addition to any child's library." (Louise Jane, CEO, The Golden Wizard Book Prize 2023)

GET YOUR COPY OF 'MEETING PIP' TODAY. AVAILABLE ON AMAZON IN KINDLE AND PAPERBACK FORMAT.



FIONA LOWRY

JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR

She grew up in the serene embrace of Saline, a Scottish village, alongside her older brother David, parents, and cherished memories that defined her idyllic childhood. Saline, with its clear air, abundant wildlife, and breath-taking views of Stirling and the Wallace Monument, remained her sanctuary.

At the age of 9 or 10, she fondly recalled sharing sunsets with her father on their home's front steps, savouring the spectacle of bats flitting among the leylandii trees. Her parents, devoted and supportive, instilled positivity and encouragement, dedicating their lives to nurturing their children's dreams. Saline was a treasure trove of anecdotes that filled volumes – from hay bales careening into their home to adventures with David, making gang huts, and crafting booby-trapped forts. The idyllic landscape, encompassing rope swings, games, and a rich variety of animals, imprinted lasting memories. Her upbringing was perfect, an experience she wouldn't trade for anything. Grateful for the freedom, independence, and unspoiled uniqueness Saline offered, she cherished every moment.

Her bond with David remained strong until David's departure for London when she was 14. Author Fiona Lowry found herself thrust into a transformative journey when her brother, David, returned to Scotland after 18 years in Japan and 26 years away from their homeland. David's embrace of non-duality sparked a curiosity in Fiona, propelling her into a profound exploration of spirituality. Delving into readings and research on spirituality, Fiona unearthed forgotten concepts from her youth, rekindling a sense of lost wisdom and reflecting on a life lived for nearly three decades out of sync with her true self. She recognized a past veiled by societal and others' expectations, realizing a departure from her authentic path.

Embracing this newfound understanding, she channeled her experiences into her writing, advocating for children to listen to their inner voice. Her stories carried gentle messages, inspiring inner confidence, courage to face fears, and an appreciation for uniqueness, spreading positivity to both children and adults, showing them that anything is achievable.

FOLLOW AUTHOR
FIONA LOWRY

 www.fionalowryauthor.com

 [fionalowryauthor](https://www.instagram.com/fionalowryauthor)

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR FIONA LOWRY

Q: 'Meeting Pip' invites young readers to imagine a world where fairies might exist. What inspired you to write a story that explores the magic of childhood wonder and belief in the extraordinary?

I had such a wonderful upbringing in the countryside and playing outdoors, that admiring the world around me became second nature. I love the sound of the winds rustling through leaves on the trees, and imagine what else could be causing it – a giant, invisible animal perhaps, huffing and puffing as it runs past?

The joy of animals bounding through a field and how they interact with each other. Do they hold conversations and meetings when humans are not watching? I have always been – and hopefully always will be – a big child at heart! Also, my positive outlook on life which I strive to consciously live by, means that I try to see the best in everything around me. I trust that what I think about, comes about, so I aim to focus on the good things in life. As a result of this, anything is possible.

Q: The book follows the adventures of Faith & Harris, and their encounters with Pip the fairy. Can you share how the idea of Pip and the children's interactions came to life in your storytelling?

I love spending time outside with my children, who are a huge influence on my writing. Meeting Pip is inspired by a ceramic, shop-bought, fairy door that we have in our own garden. My children decorated the area, creating a rope bridge and a swing, and affectionately named 'our fairy' Pip. My daughter began asking questions about Pip such as, How old do you think she is? What is her favourite colour? And what do you think she likes to eat? As her imagination grew, I suggested that she write Pip a letter asking these questions. These letters and the resulting snail-eaten responses from 'our fairy' became the foundation of Meeting Pip.

Q: Your book is set in the Fairy Woods, where the existence of fairies is a topic of conversation. How do the children's beliefs and experiences in the story challenge the notion of whether or not fairies are real?

We have all had fairy tales told to us by parents or grandparents growing up, but not everyone believes these to be true. As children, we are much more open to the possibility of fairies with an innocence and open mind to such things with society's expectations of 'good sense' not having taken over yet.

Some children have imaginary friends and therefore the hope that fairies are real actually makes their perception of them a reality and other children just simply don't believe.

In Meeting Pip, the Fairy Woods have been renowned for fairy sightings for generations. Faith's expectation of seeing a fairy is much higher because she wants to see one. But for her younger brother, Harris, the woods are just a forest of trees, flowers, and a brook. It is Faith's job to convince him otherwise.

Meeting Pip's message is that if you want to see something, you must look for it and believe that anything is possible.

Q: Your bio mentions that your children inspire you with their infectious lust for life. Can you elaborate on how your experiences as a parent influence your storytelling, particularly in creating relatable characters for young readers?

My children are a wonderful inspiration. Now aged 11 and 8, they constantly stimulate me with ideas. Sometimes, it may be from something funny they have said or perhaps from a behaviour or hobby they have. For example, Meeting Pip was inspired by my daughter, her absolute belief that a fairy lives in our garden, and the beautiful innocence of the questions she asked as a result.

Another one of my award-winning books – Franco and The Green Light Fairy – is inspired by my son's love of cars and the hundreds that used to lie on the floor every day. However, the message of this book was undoubtedly motivated by both my children as they moaned about being stuck at a red traffic light one day. I instinctively suggested thinking of the 'green light fairy' so that the lights would change, and we would be on our way. It worked and both children thought they were magic! This book highlights the power of positive thinking in all aspects of life, for children and adults alike.

Q: You have a background as a designer and a director of a successful Design & Installation company. How has your expertise in design influenced your approach to illustrating and designing your children's books?

When I write a book, I have an image in my mind of the characters and how I would like the completed book to look. Although I am not an illustrator, my design background allows me to visualise how I would like each page to be laid out. I was lucky and honoured to have worked with the late Johanna Bruyer on my first two books. Johanna was an incredibly talented illustrator who effortlessly brought my words to life, naturally understanding the concepts and messages woven through them. She set the colourful, eye-catching, and bold style that I love in a children's book, and I aim to continue in future titles.

Q: 'Meeting Pip' encourages children to enjoy their imagination and believe in themselves. Can you share a specific message or moment in the book that you hope will inspire young readers?

As with all my books, Meeting Pip has a gentle message woven through about enjoying life to the fullest. Meeting Pip promotes outdoor play and the wonders of imagination. It encourages children to observe the world around them - the more they do so, the more they will see.

THE FUTURE IS A MEMORY

BY AUTHOR C.M. ROSS

A tale woven in an intricate meta story of good versus evil, love, redemption, courage, In 2043 six women are destined to become visionaries and leaders. All are radiant in mind and longing in heart. On this hero's journey, each are unsuspecting of how they will come to know each other personally in the ordinances of branching timelines.

Sheiresa is the managing editor of a prominent publication. Stacy is a lobbyist. Ashley is a broadcast journalist. Veronica is the ingénue of the hour. Penelope is a professor of theoretical physics. Rebecca is the President of the United States. The six women embark on a hero's journey, backed by a prominent family and male mentors, battling

against a malevolent purveyor of catastrophic lies. Their odyssey signifies the zenith of their existence. The President holds the weight of a monumental decision crucial to their reality. A misstep risks obliterating their familiar present, rendering their journey's significance null, underscoring the immense stakes at hand for these women and the world they inhabit.

"Rebecca, gazing at the snow-covered Rose Garden, contemplated the uncertain future. Echoing Banquo's plea in Macbeth, she yearned for the witches' insight into destiny's threads. Amid fading light, she questioned her capacity to unveil the seeds of time, pondering which paths would thrive or perish."

BOOK REVIEW

A tale of heroic women seeking transformation of their lives while on the hero's journey. Love is a defining characteristic of this novel, but so is evil, redemption, coming of age, perseverance, ingenious world building, egalitarianism, revenge, however the greatest of these is love. The author chose to resolve many of the challenges we face in the world of today, only to imagine the future in 2043 with new obstacles and wonders. The character development is deep and abiding, remaining devoted to the arc of life. Richly told as a meta story of overarching missions and motivations, it's an exciting read, hard to put down. I look forward to the next novel in the sequence of "Liberte Feminin".

GET YOUR COPY OF 'THE FUTURE IS A MEMORY' TODAY. AVAILABLE ON AMAZON IN KINDLE AND PAPERBACK.



C.M. ROSS

JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR

Author C.M. Ross is a former science and engineering professor, entrepreneur, and radio broadcaster. It was through his belief in the potential that lies in the understanding of physics and communications that the technological aspects and relationships in this sequence were born.

With a deep love for the arts, Ross spent years as a Shakespearean actor as well as an opera singer. His passion for the beauty that lives in the prose of poetry, philosophy, and the many variations of theology and mythology, became a strong foundation for the possibilities that are experienced throughout The Many Worlds of Liberté Feminine sequence.

The influence of his grandmothers, Marian and Chrétien, instilled in him a lifelong respect for the beauty, strength, and resiliency of women. This lasting impression is the very core that created a vision of the world portrayed in The Future is a Memory and is a running constant throughout the entire sequence.

'The Future is a Memory' is the first instalment of The Many Worlds of Liberté Féminin sequence, which received over 40 awards in 20 literary festivals prior to publishing. The sequence of Liberté Féminin is a meta-story of good versus evil, love, redemption, courage and perseverance, coming of age, an egalitarian future, and revenge. For all female protagonists who are on the hero's journey of departure, initiation, and return, this becomes the pinnacle of their lives from one book to the next." ~ C.M. Ross

C.M. Ross calls the lush landscapes of the Pacific Northwest home, dedicating his days to crafting narratives that envision a future surpassing any era witnessed in history. Immersed in this picturesque setting, he channels inspiration from the natural beauty surrounding him, infusing his writing with the essence of boundless possibilities. With every word, Ross weaves tales that stretch the imagination, painting vivid landscapes of a potential future that transcends the boundaries of time.

FOLLOW AUTHOR C.M. ROSS



www.amazon.com/C.-M.-Ross



[cmross_author](#)

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR C. M. ROSS

Q: You've had a diverse career as an engineer, entrepreneur, actor, opera singer, and radio broadcaster. How have these varied experiences influenced your writing, and do you draw from them in your creative process?

I was encouraged by my grandmothers to develop my interests in acting and singing. They were artists, writers, and educators.

Marian and Chrétien could weave a tale from ancient times compelling enough to capture any child's imagination in history. I was in business for many years and perfected thereby an interest in engineering and physics. All show up in my writing.

Q: Your bio mentions that you always write, drawing from your stream of consciousness. Can you share how your writing process has evolved over time and what inspires your creative flow?

I am constantly focusing on an imagined character's mental process and their actions. To do this effectively I have imagined the world they live in, literally world building in great detail. The setting is this world with familiar names twenty years in the future. This is what drives the characters' actions going forward.

Q: You've mentioned your grandmothers, who were educators and muses and played a significant role in your upbringing. Can you elaborate on the impact of their stories and love on your life and writing?

I mentioned them as my original muses. Today there is Alexandra, who is my ideal in love, my muse and inspiration in romance, on her own journey of the hero. I am introduced constantly to the superb values, and character, of women everywhere.

Q: 'The Future is a Memory' is set in 2043 and features six women who are destined to become visionaries and leaders. Can you discuss the inspiration behind this futuristic setting and the unique qualities of these characters?

I chose women whose character arcs were in the fields of lobbying, journalism, communications, physics and science, entertainment, and politics. I chose to resolve many of the challenges we face today and create new ones twenty years in the future. There will always be evil. They prove love is the principle defense.

Q: A preeminent family and male mentors play a role in your book as advocates and champions. How do these characters impact the hero's journey of the six women, and what challenges do they face?

Their understandings, beliefs, and actions relating to science, warfare, business, politics, and family values, support the mission for each woman. The preeminent family are preter-human and their strength, purpose, are constant throughout. Their greatest test is facing and overcoming the evil in their ranks yet maintaining their proclivity for devotion to the arc of life.

Q: 'The Future is a Memory' is the first book in the literary sequence of 'The Many Worlds of Liberté Féminin.' Can you provide some insights into the overarching themes and narrative of this sequence, and how this book fits into the larger story?

Growing up in a feminist environment led me to give women a superb presence in my novels. To do this I actively use the criteria of the Alison Bechdel-Liz Wallace Test, the Mako Mori Test, and the Johanson Analysis, to demonstrate female "sovereignty". So, in this literary sequence the theme is to demonstrate feminine freedom, or "*Liberté Féminin*".

Q: Love appears to be a defining characteristic of your work. How does love manifest in 'The Future is a Memory,' and what role does it play in the lives of the characters you've created

This novel is a metastory of good versus evil, redemption, courage, perseverance, coming of age, an egalitarian future, revenge, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Q: Your book is the winner of 20 literary festivals. Can you share some of the key moments or accolades in your writing journey that have brought you to this point of recognition?

2022 was the year of the literary contests and festivals for this novel. This success was a wonderful experience. One of these was the five-star review of Literary Titan.

Q: You've mentioned upcoming books in 'The Many Worlds of Liberté Féminin' sequence. Can you offer a glimpse of what readers can expect in these forthcoming books and how they continue the narrative?

Early in 2024, "In Time and Tides." We aren't done with the main hero, and she receives her new call to adventure and her amulet. In the second half of 2024, the third novel, "Behold, My Equal". Two novels are planned for 2025, "A Kiss, Before I Die", and "Everything Is More Beautiful Because We're Doomed."

Q: When you're not writing, you direct several choirs and do public readings. Can you discuss the role of music and public engagement in your life and how they intersect with your writing pursuits?

Shakespeare and opera have been very significant pastimes, even as I have passed this on to younger people in teaching, performing. To me, people are all that matters. Writing about people gives me a chance to relate what I learn from people every day. I'm thinking now of reading my own work, post Covid, publicly, once again.

Read the full interview on www.demodemagazine.com

PROPORTIONAL REVENGE

BY AUTHOR DAVID G. WILLIAMSSON

Fifty Shades of Grey meets House of Cards!

Proportional Revenge lands somewhere between an erotic thriller and a political drama. Each twist and turn of the plot takes you by surprise and ensures you're eagerly waiting for what's coming next. Lovers of thrillers based on a tale of agony, betrayal, power, erotic romance, BDSM, blackmail, drugs, club nights, wild parties, money, vendettas, and murder, will not get enough of Proportional Revenge.

Chique Louise Fluellen appears as a striking, skilled African-American programmer haunted by past abuse, escapes to London for a cyber-security job. Seduced into a destructive BDSM affair with her married boss, Peter van Ark, she ends it violently. Seeking aid from Peter's wife, Mary, Chique faces betrayal, landing in a secret British prison. Her transformation from victim to a relentless force for revenge is a chilling yet empowering tale, devoid of sensationalism. The narrative, rich in description and twists, unfolds against Washington's political backdrop, exploring power dynamics and the extremes to which individuals safeguard their reputation. Suspense mounts steadily, culminating in an explosive finale, paving the way for 'Chique, Mutually Beneficial.' This gripping story traces Chique's journey, skilfully delving into human complexities and retribution, leaving readers captivated by its realism and depth.

BOOK REVIEW

Everything about this story intrigued me: the cover, the synopsis, the revenge. And it did not disappoint one bit. The beginning of the story is dual timelines until the past catches up with the present (I really love it when an author does this). It's terribly sad to read about what Chique goes through as a child and then young adult and really it doesn't get any better until it gets even worse. But her revenge is quite epic. And her sister is just amazing. Claire (sister) and Elaine were some of my favourite supporting characters. The way everyone comes together to support Chique as she takes on the very rich, is phenomenal. The twist at the end was great which makes me look forward to the next book even more.

GET YOUR COPY OF 'PROPORTIONAL REVENGE' TODAY. AVAILABLE ON WWW.DAVIDGWILLIAMSSON.COM.



DAVID G. WILLIAMSSON

JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR

Born and educated in England, David has since settled in Holland with his wife, Jacoline. David G. Williamsson smoothly transitioned from a prosperous career in programming to becoming a thriving software entrepreneur. After successfully selling his international software company, he ventured into the world of writing as a personal hobby. "Programming and writing share many parallels," remarks David. "Both demand a creative process grounded in structure, discipline and a keen eye for detail, all aimed at crafting an exceptional customer experience."

Currently, David is deeply engrossed in both penning the manuscript for the third installment and conceptualizing the intricate plot for the fourth in his series. His literary journey commenced with "Proportional Revenge," the inaugural entry in the enthralling Chique series, introducing readers to the captivating persona of Chique Fluellen—an exceptional, brilliant, and Afro-American woman.

David describes his books as spanning several genres, from erotic to political to crime and psychological thrillers. When the book was unexpectedly removed from Amazon, David decided to showcase his work on his own website. "I was bitterly disappointed that Amazon took this unexpected and unexplained decision to ban my book and remove it from their site. Yes, the book has sex, drugs and violence, but it's all part of a well-thought-out storyline where persistence and determination are the main themes. Chique, our protagonist, is dealt some very bad life cards and we follow her as she fights back." Undeterred by Amazon's decision, he adds "I don't understand their decision, I think that there's no reason consenting adults shouldn't read and enjoy fiction with dark themes."

David has published the second book in the series "Chique, Mutually Beneficial" on both Amazon and on his own site. He is currently working on the third in the series, "Chique, Persistence and Determination" which will be released in 2024. All of David's books are available as eBook or Paperback on his own website.

FOLLOW AUTHOR
DAVID G. WILLIAMSSON

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THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR DAVID G. WILLIAMSSON

Q: "Proportional Revenge" and "Mutually Beneficial," plunge readers into intricate plots filled with intense themes. What drew you to explore such complex and dark subject matter in your storytelling?

Well, the subject matter isn't that dark. Sex, be it vanilla or BDSM, and politics are, after the weather, two of the most talked about subjects. I wanted to mix the ingredients to produce an exciting read. Political intrigue, played out in a long game, is the underlying theme, but the steamy sex moves the story along at good pace.

Q: "Proportional Revenge" delves into a tale of brutal power, retribution, and political intrigue. What inspired the creation of the main character, Chique, and the journey she embarks upon?

Ah, Chique! I'd created Chique for another book that I was working on and sort of fell in love with her. She's young, very beautiful, very intelligent and very sharp but when life deals her some very bad cards, knocks her down time and time again, she just never gives up. Persistence and determination define Chique. I like that.

Q: Both books seem to grapple with themes of vengeance and power struggles. Can you elaborate on the underlying messages or themes you aimed to convey through these gripping narratives?

Well, I wouldn't use the word 'vengeance'; proportional revenge and just-retribution describe the emotion better, I feel. But the underlying theme is to never give up when times are tough. The books also play on the age-old themes of good versus evil and loving friendships being invincible.

Q: The trigger warnings in "Proportional Revenge" highlight sensitive subject matters like abuse, explicit content, and violence. How do you balance the rawness of these themes while ensuring the story remains respectful and impactful?

Well, to start with, I definitely do not write porn. As one reviewer put it "while it is explicit it doesn't cross that invisible line from erotic into turgid and grubby." Some of my sex scenes are fairly explicit but they all serve a purpose, building on the characters and adding to the depth of the story.

Q: Your readers praise the immersive nature of your writing, citing the vivid scenes and well-developed characters. How do you approach character development and scene-setting to create such an engaging narrative?

That's inherent in my style of writing. I don't write my books sitting at the computer. At the keyboard, I'm just entering what I've already written in my head. When I go out for walks, or when I'm driving, or just relaxing with a glass wine, I live the scenes, actually talking the conversations and hearing them in my head.

Q: "Mutually Beneficial" continues Chique's journey into a world of political manipulation and danger. What prompted the evolution of her character from "Proportional Revenge" to this sequel?

The first book in the series is all about positioning Chique as our protagonist. Setting up her abused background, defining her character and assembling her friends and enemies. Proportional Revenge also contains the seeds for expanding the political threat that erupts in Mutually Beneficial.

Q: "Mutually Beneficial" seems to revolve around a high-stakes political plot. What inspired this storyline, and what research or elements did you draw upon while crafting the intricate political aspects of the book?

Well, I follow the international news and take a lot of my inspiration from that. In all of my books, real world events, injustices, scandals and personal tragedies have been used to build my plot. I'll move the context and maybe add a few new elements but there's a lot of real life in there.

Q: Both books explore the darker aspects of human behaviour and societal power structures. How do you perceive the role of fiction in addressing or shedding light on these challenging aspects of humanity?

Ah, not a question that I want to answer. I just write books to entertain. Everything I write or write about - be it the profanity, the drug use and abuse, the sex, some of which some people may call extreme - are all taken from every day society. I'm not teaching or commenting, just storytelling.

Q: The descriptions in the reviews emphasize the immersive nature of the stories. Can you share a bit about your writing process and how you strive to create a vivid and engaging reading experience?

As I mentioned earlier, I write in my head, and I really try to get inside my characters. I try to feel their emotions and reactions. I set up my books as I would a programming project. I know the starting point and I know exactly where I'm going, then I set off on a journey and live it.

Q: As a writer, what impact do you hope your books, especially these intense thrillers, will have on your readers or the larger literary landscape?

I can only address myself to my readers, I have no pretensions to be part of a larger literary landscape. I want my readers to have a great reading experience. Reading about things outside of their comfort-zone, feeling the roller-coaster ride of Chique's life. Crying, smiling and maybe even orgasming with her. At the end of the book, wanting more.

Read the full interview on www.demodemagazine.com

EVERYBODY HAS A STORY & EVERYBODY'S STORY COUNTS

BY AUTHOR SILVIO TOMEO NOSDOW

In mid-2019, our protagonist bid farewell to two influential relatives, marking significant losses. However, the following year brought life-altering events due to his father's tragic accident. Encouraged by his parents' affinity for writing, he had planned to pen his life story in later years. Yet, witnessing his father's ordeal drastically altered his perception of time.

During a sunny afternoon in 2020, his father's bike accident resulted in a severe concussion and complications during knee surgery, prompting an early retirement. This incident profoundly shook our protagonist, reshaping family dynamics. This memoir, delving through English, Italian, and Spanish, explores Silvio Tomeo-Nosdow's initial 33 years. The first volume spans childhood to college, while the second reveals a candid Silvio, navigating adult life and mental health battles. Themes of family, perseverance, and agape love weave through, celebrating bonds and cultural acceptance.

Reflecting on tumultuous experiences, from a challenging upbringing to fascination with organized crime, Silvio details his father's redemptive journey and his mother's pivotal role in keeping the family intact.

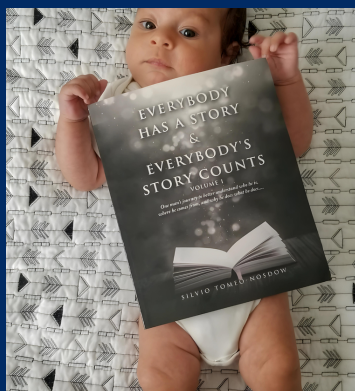
A memoir recounts life-altering events after a father's accident. Silvio Tomeo-Nosdow reflects on 33 years, emphasizing family, perseverance, and divine guidance, revealing impactful relationships and personal growth in multiple languages.



BOOK REVIEW

Silvio takes a very Honest & Humble look at the ups & downs of his life. We All have them. I Love how he very openly shares how he & his Famiglia learned from their different mistakes & experiences, but more importantly, & very interestingly, Silvio pays tribute to those who touched his life throughout its course. I Love Greg, El, Angie, & of course Silvio, but my Favorite characters have to be Nonna Catarina, Granny Elisabetta, & Pop Cesco!! Nonna Catarina taught Silvio how to carry weapons -- a knife & a roll of pennies - - to protect himself in Railroad City when he was barely double digits in age.

GET YOUR COPY OF 'EVERYBODY HAS A STORY & EVERYBODY'S STORY COUNTS' TODAY. AVAILABLE ON AMAZON IN KINDLE AND PAPERBACK FORMAT.



SILVIO TOMEO NOSDEW

JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR

In 2014, Author Silvio Tomeo Nosdew underwent a phone change and opted to disconnect for a period, testing the waters of therapy but entering without a clear understanding of what to expect. Truthfully, he wasn't fully prepared to delve into self-reflection and address his personal issues. Despite gaining some insights from counselling, he prematurely terminated the psychotherapy sessions with that particular therapist, choosing to navigate his journey independently. Admitting it might not have been the wisest decision, he felt he had absorbed all the knowledge or possibly divulged as much as he was willing to at that time.

Fast forward to 2020, when he underwent surgery on his Left Wrist to remove previously inserted hardware dating back to his college days. This initial Left Wrist surgery had abruptly halted his basketball aspirations, leading him into an unfamiliar phase of desolation. During the recovery phase, he extensively pondered his life, assessing his career, marriage, the emotional vacuum due to unsuccessful attempts at conceiving, and

scrutinizing his intimate relationships, particularly his bond with his earthly father. When he found himself grappling with these complexities, he decided to give counseling another chance.

Author Silvio Tomeo Nosdew embarked on a transformative journey, guided by a therapist whose Bible-centered Christian beliefs resonated deeply with his own. This collaboration spurred a profound introspection into the initial thirty-three years of his life. Inspired by the thirty-three years that Jesus Christ spent in human form on Earth and influenced by his admiration for basketball legend Larry Bird, whose jersey bore the number thirty-three, Silvio found a symbolic timeline for his introspection. This period became a poignant focal point, encouraging a thorough exploration and reevaluation of the experiences, decisions, and growth that shaped his life's trajectory.

FOLLOW AUTHOR
SILVIO TOMEO NOSDEW

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THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR SILVIO TOMEO NOSDEW

Q: Your memoir, "Everybody Has A Story & Everybody's Story Counts," is divided into two volumes covering different phases of your life. What motivated you to embark on this introspective journey and share it in such a comprehensive manner?

When I initially began writing, my plan was to cover the first 33 years of my life in one book, however, as I began to delve in, I quickly realized there was no way I was going to accomplish my goal in only one volume. I've always been a detail-oriented person, and as I wrote, the words just flowed out of me like a waterfall running over the edge of a cliff. I didn't originally anticipate that would be the case, but the journey through the river of my life was well worth the time invested.

Q: You've had a diverse career path, transitioning from operations to a transformative eight years in a residential treatment facility. How did these experiences shape your understanding of yourself and your worldview?

Transitioning from operations to human services was very challenging. Two close friends of mine, who have long been like brothers to me, worked many years at the same RTF before I ever gave it a chance. I didn't initially think the headaches they spoke of, were worth it to me, but once I decided to change career paths, those same headaches proved more rewarding and enlightening than I ever could have imagined. My eyes were regularly opened to look through the lens of life with grace and mercy, especially towards my father, who was essentially raised, in an eerily similar environ. This directly aligned with my Faith as a Believer in Christ. Those impactful eight years left a lasting impression on me and incited much growth and an innate desire to know myself better.

Q: The title of your memoir suggests the importance of everyone's story. What message do you hope readers will take away about the significance of sharing personal narratives?

My genuine desire is for readers to know that each of their lives matters. One never knows who they can help until they open up and share their personal experiences with others. Naturally reticent, this was difficult for me, at first. I believe readers will be fascinated to learn how much they have in common with others and how much people need each other. Sharing personal narratives is healing.

Q: In Volume I, you explore the formative years of your life. What were some pivotal moments or decisions during that time that significantly influenced your path and outlook on life?

Pivotal moments from my formative years that influenced my life's path were; growing up in the city, then moving to the suburbs just in time for high school. Dealing with death for the first time when I lost my Nonna Catarina. Realizing that my Nonno – Pop Cesco, was anything but a normal grandfather, but

deeply connected to organized crime. Saying goodbye to my first love – basketball. Abandoning a clean, God-fearing life to test the dangerous waters of the party scene. Going from borderline anti-social to craving deep bonds with those close to me.

Q: Volume II covers your adult life, focusing on professional experiences, faith, family, friendship, and love. Can you elaborate on how these elements interplay in your journey of self-discovery?

These elements are all interconnected, but my faith in Christ defines me and influences every decision I make. The older I've gotten, the more looking back helps me make sense of my past and decisions I've made. As a wise person once said, "You can't know where you're going until you understand where you've been".

Q: Your father's own experience in a similar environment to the one you worked in must have added a unique perspective to your understanding. How did this familial connection impact your work and the insights you gained?

My father's experiences in an orphanage added a very personal perspective to my understanding of troubled youth, especially those who'd experienced childhood trauma, specifically abandonment, neglect, physical and mental abuse. Behavioral problems, as I too, have battled at times, throughout my own life, was one of the constant themes amongst the children who received treatment at the RTF where I worked. That hit home very closely. At times, I struggled to find a balance of how to approach the youth I worked alongside, but as time went on, I like to think I found my niche.

Q: As you conclude Volume II at a pivotal age of thirty-three, what reflections or realizations did you come to about yourself and your life's journey up to this point?

At thirty-three, I wasn't at all happy with myself. I was addicted to sleeping pills and battling depression, struggling to keep pressing on at work. Though I was regularly maintaining "close" friendships with fourteen brothers by bond, inside I felt extremely lonely. I was also battling with weight fluctuations, which caused physiological pain in my body. I felt very sorry for myself for not yet finding "the one" to share my life with and that bothered me deeply.

Q: In your experience, how does vulnerability in storytelling contribute to personal growth and understanding, both for the storyteller and the audience?

Vulnerability in storytelling can be very uncomfortable. It forces the proverbial walls that we all build, to come down. To me, being transparent with the sometimes raw/ unfiltered truth is where growth truly begins to take place. I believe we all search for sincere authenticity in others and when we find it, it sets the stage for us to reflect more honestly upon our own lives and involvements. Personal development is an ongoing goal I strive towards each and every day.

FORBIDDEN LOVE

BY AUTHOR JOANNE GREGOREC

Forbidden Love is about two young women from very different backgrounds and is set during the Second World War.

Meet Daisy Peters, a working-class girl who lives with her parents, Jack and Hannah, her twin sister Mary, and brothers George and Mark. They live in Luton, England, and Daisy has dreamed of being a nurse from an early age. After being interviewed and accepted, she begins training as a nurse at The London Hospital Whitechapel.

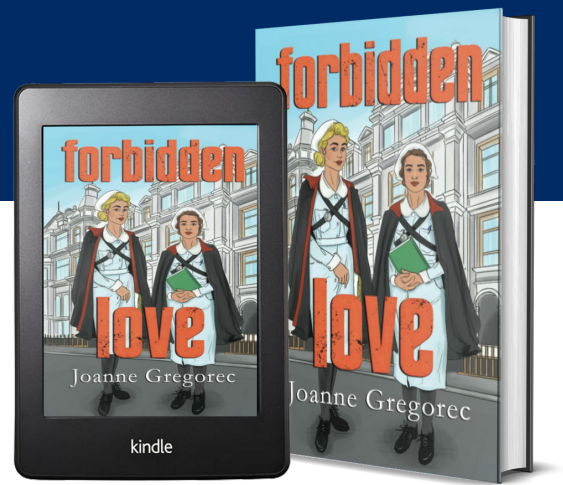
Meet Lady Elizabeth Fenton, who lives with her parents, Lord Clifford and Lady Margaret and her brother Edward in Newton Hall, Warwickshire. Her mother, Margo, wants to control her daughter's life and, out of the blue, introduces her to Lord Charles Holmes, who, unbeknownst to her, has arranged her engagement with him and his family, but Lizzie wants to find someone she loves for herself.

The day war breaks out when the two girls meet for the first time and become friends as they settle into their lives at the hospital. As they begin their rigorous training, both aren't looking for love. Still, Lizzie meets Captain Christopher Jameson unexpectedly as his men are being treated in her ward following the evacuation of the beaches of Dunkirk. After spending time with him, she knows she is falling in love, but he is soon sent away with his regiment.

Daisy keeps crossing paths with a doctor called Michael Reynolds, who keeps trying to get her to go out with him, but she keeps avoiding him. When he suddenly breaks the news that he is joining the Army Medical Corps, she is unsettled by her feelings and reactions. She wonders if their path will cross again.

With both men now away and Charles and her mother putting pressure on Lizzie to set a wedding date, she is more determined to fight it and be with the man she truly loves. Once qualifying the girls join the QAIMNS and travel to foreign shores on their return they get ready for D-Day and in its aftermath, something bad happens to Lizzie and her friends it's a race against time to save her.

GET YOUR COPY OF 'FORBIDDEN LOVE' TODAY. AVAILABLE FOR WORLDWIDE DELIVERY ON AMAZON IN KINDLE AND PAPERBACK FORMAT.



JOANNE GREGOREC

JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR

At school, Joanne wasn't the most gifted of students, having an undiagnosed learning disability called dyslexia. Through some help and her strong will, she managed to get through school and start nursing at Eighteen.

Joanne has always loved reading books, especially about the Second World War, having spent much time talking and listening to her parents, who were teenagers when the war broke out. This became her passion and helped her when doing the research for her book. She never had a natural urge to write a novel, as she didn't think she was good enough or was a good writer to capture people's imagination.

Just before the COVID pandemic around 2019, she broached the subject of writing a book with her husband, Roman. To her amazement, he wasn't shocked but encouraged Joanne to do it.

About two years later, the novel was finally finished, and she didn't know if it was good to be sent to a publisher or even if it could be published. She had many doubts playing through her mind and a major fear of rejection as she didn't think she was famous or clever enough.

Her son encouraged Joanne to finally submit the manuscript to a few publishers she had found on the web, and to their amazement, she had responses from all four. Only one turned it down as it wasn't their genre. After much thought, Joanne decided to go with Olympia Publishers, and she has to thank them for giving her this great opportunity.

When asked about the emotional journey of her characters in the book seems integral to the narrative. She said, 'Portraying the emotions of the characters in the story is pivotal and you use your vast personal experience. I think I have the right balance. They have to be as genuine and believable as possible to the readers not doing so, the story just wouldn't have worked.'

**FOLLOW AUTHOR
JOANNE GREGOREC**

 www.joannegregorec.com

 [joannegregorecauthor](https://www.instagram.com/joannegregorecauthor)

Q: "Forbidden Love" takes place during a significant historical period, the onset of World War II. What drew you to this specific time frame, and how did it influence the central themes of love and friendship in your novel?

I've always been interested in history and the Second World War from talking to my parents, who were teenagers then. People from different walks of life were thrown together, and unusual friendships were made. Many fell in love quickly as they didn't know if their lives would be cut short.

Q: Daisy and Lizzie come from vastly different backgrounds. How did you approach developing their characters and ensuring their friendship felt authentic, especially considering their contrasting upbringings?

Both girls had this common bond: they wanted to be nurses, and I built the story around that. Strong friendships are developed when you live closely with someone in the nurse's home, which generally only happens when you work with someone closely and are comfortable interacting with them daily.

Q: The setting of The London Hospital during wartime adds a unique backdrop to your story. How did you research and recreate this environment to bring authenticity to the narrative?

When I trained as a nurse, I visited the hospital and local area and wanted to use this in my stories. I also read up on the hospital's and the nurses' history for my research and used my vivid imagination.

Q: The theme of resilience seems crucial to the story of these young women. What aspects of their resilience did you find most compelling while writing their characters?

Elizabeth shows great strength after her attack and still goes against her mother's wishes when she could have just accepted her fate. Daisy, in the hospital, saw the reality and horrors of war for this, she also built up a strength of character in stomaching the horrific sights of the injured. Through their experiences, they became better people.

Q: Your protagonist, Daisy Peters, faces challenges in pursuing her dreams. How did you approach portraying her struggles and the sacrifices made by her parents in a relatable and empathetic manner?

Allowing Daisy to stay at school to finish her education showed her parents were supportive and paid for all her books and uniform, shoes and other items that were required. In return, she helped take care of her siblings and helped her mother's business. The father took on overtime at the factory while the mother took on more dress-making.

Q: Lizzie's desire to escape an arranged marriage adds another layer to the plot. Can you discuss how this aspect of the story contributes to the themes of love and

freedom explored in "Forbidden Love"?

In that era, most people would do as their parents asked, not question why. People's views changed because of the war which gave people a chance to travel and opened options that were never there before. As a result of these experiences, they became more rebellious by asking why and marrying the person they wanted to.

Q: Your background in working for the NHS must offer unique insights into the world of healthcare. How did this influence the depiction of nursing and medical practices in the novel?

It was hard as I had to ignore some knowledge of modern healthcare as it didn't fit into that era, but using research books from other authors and my understanding of healthcare, I managed to try and get the right balance for the story. I also spoke to my friend who nursed just after this era.

Q: The book's title, "Forbidden Love," hints at a complex and possibly challenging romantic relationship. How did you approach balancing the love story with the broader historical context and friendship dynamics?

Many people couldn't marry their true loves during that era, and I wanted my book to show you that you could if you had strong determination and patience. I blended the love story and the historical context together to make the story more authentic and believable to the readers.

Q: As a debut author, what was your biggest challenge in bringing this story to life, and how did you navigate the process of writing and publishing your first book?

Having the faith to write it and hoping people's reactions to the book were positive in the proofreading stage. Finding a publisher willing to take a chance on an unknown author was daunting. Having it published is a bonus. However, it did require me to be selfish in that I had the time to do the writing and research.

Q: Living in Bedfordshire with your family and working for the NHS, how do you balance your career, family life, and writing? What routines or habits do you find helpful in managing these diff aspects of your life?

I am fortunate as I work part-time and can write on my day off and over the weekends. My family are older and supportive, and now I have more time to engage in my hobby which I dearly love.

Q: Now that your debut novel has been published, what are your hopes and aspirations as an author? Are there specific themes or genres you're excited to explore in your future works?

My second book is being proofread, and I hope to have it published in the near future. I have written more books, hoping to have them published one day, and they are all set in the same era.

THE IGNATIUS 7

BY AUTHOR WILHELM P. OSTIR

"The House of Phoenix Chronicles, Vol III: The Ignatius 7" by Kurt Wilhelm Oster unfolds a captivating narrative as RJ, an ordinary archaeology graduate student, stumbles upon an extraordinary secret during a routine campus stroll. The mysterious injury he sustains catalyzes a revelation that shakes the foundations of the arcane and mundane realms, reshaping RJ's perception of the eternal struggle between good and evil.

As RJ delves into the sinister plans of the legendary Merlin, he discovers that magic is not confined to those born with innate powers. He becomes the keeper of a key that could thwart the impending destruction of the mundane world.

The fabric of time unravels, revealing missing relics from the past and exposing a twisted fate where the secrets of a family's past play a pivotal role in Merlin's quest for ultimate power.

Teaming up with his roommate, Dalton, RJ embarks on a journey to unearth their college's hidden history, encountering resistance at every turn. Unexpected allies, including the enigmatic Ignatius 7, emerge to aid RJ in his quest. Frustration mounts as echoes of time persist, prompting RJ to forge a novel strategy combining the forces of technology, mind, magic, and love to end the battle threatening both the arcane and mundane worlds.

Amidst the chaos, RJ grapples with matters of the heart, navigating the complexities of college life and unravelling the mystery of his own identity. Confronting the challenges his estranged family poses, RJ's journey becomes a compelling blend of adventure, romance, and self-discovery. The stakes escalate, inviting readers into a world where the boundaries between reality and magic blur, and the threads of fate are rewoven with each passing moment. In this immersive tale, Oster invites readers to explore the intricate tapestry of a universe where the extraordinary emerges from the ordinary and the power to shape destiny lies in the hands of unexpected heroes.

GET YOUR COPY OF 'THE IGNATIUS 7' TODAY. AVAILABLE FOR WORLDWIDE DELIVERY ON AMAZON IN KINDLE AND PAPERBACK FORMAT.



WILHELM P. OSTER

JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR

Kurt Wilhelm Oster, originally writing as Wilhelm P. Ostir, is a California-born fantasy literature enthusiast. Having lived across the United States, including Arizona, California, Florida, and New Jersey, he weaves his passion for fantasy and history uniquely, reimagining classical historical figures. His third book in the House of Phoenix Chronicles continues the Heroes journey, exploring the multigenerational family narrative of the great Houses of Phoenix and Ignatius, with the fourth instalment, "Things Are Not What They Seem," set for release in Spring 2024. The LGBTQ+ coming-of-age series, appealing to all ages, promises excitement with every page.

In October 2023, Oster introduced a children's book spin-off, "Mystical Way of Time." Beyond his writing, Oster dedicates his career to advocating for and transforming the lives of individuals with various exceptionalities and reading disabilities, serving as a mentor, educator, and advocate.

Overcoming dyslexia and a profound reading disorder, Oster evolved into a passionate literacy advocate. Celebrating disabilities, sexual identity, LGBTQ+ life, culture, and classic heroines in the House of Phoenix Chronicles, Oster shares a personal journey from disdain for reading to a love for the fantasy genre.

Oster, an esteemed graduate with Honours from Rutgers University, holds diverse graduate degrees, including an MSW from the University of Pennsylvania and an MAT from the University of Southern California. Their literary opus, "The House of Phoenix Chronicles," a modern-day five-part fantasy series weaving magic, dragons, time-travel, and diverse characters, expands through multiple spin-offs. Apart from their creative endeavors, Oster passionately advocates for LGBTQ+, neurodivergent, and disabilities communities, actively fostering inclusivity and acceptance. Their commitment extends beyond words, aiming to empower marginalized groups, striving for societal representation, and championing equality through dedicated advocacy efforts.

**FOLLOW AUTHOR
WILHELM P. OSTER**

 www.kurtwoster.com

 [kurtwosterauthor](https://www.instagram.com/kurtwosterauthor)

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR WILHELM P. OSTER

Q: The House of Phoenix Chronicles series is a rich tapestry of magical beings and time travel adventures. What sparked the creation of this expansive world filled with Wizards, witches, and fantastical creatures?

The series weaves a captivating narrative of magical beings and time travel, sparked by the author's desire for a rich modern-day fantasy. Infusing a unique twist on Merlin, the series embraces diversity, technology, and the trials of adolescence. Motivated by a commitment to break literary norms and promote acceptance, the author fills a void by creating a strong female protagonist.

Q: The series features the Phoenix siblings navigating a world of magic, mystery, and ancient darkness. How did you approach crafting their characters, and what challenges or lessons did they face that resonate with readers of various ages?

In crafting the Phoenix siblings in the series, the goal was relatability. Breaking from narrative norms, a strong female lead embraced diversity, incorporating LGBTQ+ and neurodivergent characters. Readers appreciate the departure from the conventional male lead, valuing the rich representation. The multi-generational dynamic within the Phoenix family resonates, bringing family dynamics to life and adding depth to the narrative.

Q: Your dedication to advocating for the LGBTQ+, neurodivergent, and disabled communities is commendable. How do you weave messages of inclusivity and acceptance into your stories to resonate with your readers?

Drawing inspiration from daily struggles for today's youth, the series addresses real-world acceptance challenges for the neurodivergent and LGBTQ+ community. The series blends history, fantasy, and LGBTQ+ themes to celebrate diverse elements, focusing on creating a world where all are accepted, showcasing the challenges of coming of age and characters overcoming adversity. Readers express gratitude for representation, acknowledging the author's promotion of understanding and acceptance of unique abilities and identities.

Q: Magic, time travel, and Dragons are central elements of your storytelling. How did you maintain consistency imbalance with the magical world you created across multiple books in the series?

Maintaining consistency in the series involved extensive character mapping and developing distinct personalities. The blend of fantasy and time travel required careful crafting to evoke wonder and suspense. Adding diverse magical individuals and creatures like dragons or phoenixes enriched the narrative. The publisher played a crucial role in ensuring the storylines flowed seamlessly, keeping the author on track.

Q: Your advocacy for literacy education and supporting individuals with reading disorders is inspiring. How has your journey with dyslexia influenced your approach to storytelling and character development in your books?

Identified with dyslexia in college, the author's struggles with reading and the amount of time it required shaped their overall approach to writing. Coming from a family of readers, fantasy literature became a refuge, inspiring relatable characters and intricate narratives. The drive for consistency, relatability, and engaging narratives stems from the author's quest to make reading accessible and relatable.

Q: The series delves into LGBTQ+ coming-of-age themes. How do you represent diverse sexual identities and experiences while ensuring they are portrayed authentically and respectfully?

The series genuinely explores LGBTQ coming-of-age themes, prioritizing individual journeys and acceptance. Each character is uniquely developed, emphasizing their personalities. Unlike some LGBTQ+ literature, the focus is on character depth; whether Ethan's or RJ's relatable and expanding coming-out journey, the emphasis is on creating likable characters while authentically portraying their struggles, offering readers a safe space for resonance in their journeys.

Q: Your background in social work and education is diverse. How do these experiences inform the themes or messages conveyed in your writing, especially regarding inclusivity, acceptance, and celebrating diversity?

Drawing from a diverse social work and education background, the author, working with youth, finds inspiration in their daily struggles. Addressing acceptance for the neurodivergent and LGBTQ+ community, the narrative mirrors real-world challenges. Clients with learning differences express boredom with reading, while family therapy sessions reveal struggles around identity acceptance. The author aims to create characters navigating these complexities, celebrating their unique identities amidst real-world challenges.

Q: What can fans of "The House of Phoenix Chronicles" expect from the upcoming book or spinoffs, and are there particular themes or journeys you're excited to explore in future writing projects?

Fans of "The House of Phoenix Chronicles" can anticipate the ongoing journey of the Phoenix and Ignatius houses, focusing on character growth and exploring neurodivergence and LGBTQ+ acceptance. The author is excited to delve into these themes in spinoffs, promoting acceptance and diverse identities through new characters. Additionally, the heroine's journey will be reintroduced to provide more robust representation for underrepresented groups.

TSHALA LA PRINCESSE DU ROYAUME LUBA



BY AUTHOR HARMONIE K. MBUYAMBA

The Luba kingdom hung on the brink of collapse after years of internal conflicts, their prosperity owed solely to their allegiance to God. However, as the ruler turned malevolent, God's benevolence waned, severing ties with the kingdom. Sensing opportunity amidst this rift, the devil, drawn to chaos, aimed to exploit their vulnerability.

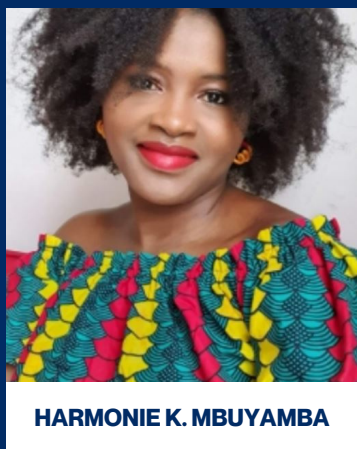
The malevolent force pledged relentless warfare, seeking to bar the people of Luba from their God indefinitely. Yet, in this impending catastrophe, the kingdom possessed a forgotten legend—a guardian who appeared cyclically, every hundred years.

This mythical protector, steeped in strength and wisdom, emerged as a beacon of hope. Whispers of the guardian's imminent return echoed among the populace, offering a glimmer of salvation. The kingdom's inhabitants clung to this legend, praying fervently for the guardian's arrival. They hoped this legendary savior would restore their severed connection with their forsaken God, countering the devil's relentless assault and preserving the kingdom from imminent doom.

BOOK REVIEW

Above all, I would like to thank @editionsbaudelaire for sending this book. I find the cover very pretty. We follow Tshala, a young girl who made a promise to always protect those who need help. She is the princess and guardian of the kingdom and her role is close to her heart. Indeed, guided by her family, she will always help others and work for their happiness. There is a lot to learn from this character and I enjoyed discovering her. I would like to point out that religion has a very important place in the story and there are several verses cited. The family lives totally for God so each of their actions is to serve him and share his love. This confused me a little at first because I have never read books or religion in such an important place, which is why I prefer to bring it up. This book shares good values and there are good lessons to be learned from it. It is very short and yet very complete. It's a thought-provoking read. Once again thank you to @editionsbaudelaire for their trust. Don't hesitate to check out their publications on their Instagram account.

GET YOUR COPY OF 'TSHALA' TODAY. AVAILABLE FOR WORLDWIDE DELIVERY ON AMAZON IN KINDLE AND PAPERBACK FORMAT.



HARMONIE K. MBUYAMBA

JOURNEY AS AN AUTHOR harmoniembuyamba

Harmonie Kapinga Mbuyamba was born in 1990 in Kinshasa, Congo. She has lived in France since 2005, and works as a saleswoman.

Author Harmonie K. Mbuyamba's journey into writing was unexpectedly woven through her pastoral calling and a rich background in music. Trained for a decade by her father, a seasoned pastor with over 35 years in ministry, Harmonie's spiritual upbringing deeply influenced her artistic path. Initially a singer devoted to religious melodies, her venture into writing commenced with songs, poems, and eventually, novels.

Despite her professional roots in sales and commerce, the COVID-19 pandemic became a pivotal period. The enforced isolation sparked a resurgence of characters and narratives she had envisioned during her professional years. Rediscovering these creations rekindled a creative flame, prompting her to revisit unfinished projects with newfound zeal.

In the amalgamation of her literary endeavors, Harmonie realized a profound connection between her pastoral insights and storytelling. The fusion of her experiences as a pastor a

nd her burgeoning literary pursuit birthed 'Tshala - La Princess of the Luba Kingdom.' This fusion of faith and fiction became an inseparable part of her writing, an endeavor she passionately envisages dedicating her life to.

Harmonie's journey from the pulpit to the world of literary creation illustrates the convergence of spirituality and artistic expression, moulding her path toward crafting compelling tales rooted in her deep spiritual wisdom. Author Harmonie K. Mbuyamba's transition from pastoral duties to literary creation embodies a profound melding of spiritual guidance and artistic endeavours. Beyond the confines of her pastoral upbringing, she discovered an unexpected affinity for storytelling, intricately weaving her faith into the fabric of her narratives. This fusion, forged through personal and spiritual reflections, forms the essence of her works, serving as a testament to the inseparable link between her life's purpose and her commitment to crafting stories that resonate with spiritual depth and purpose.

**FOLLOW AUTHOR
HARMONIE K. MBUYAMBA**

 amazon.co.uk/Tshala-princesse-du-royaume-Luba

Q: "Tshala, the Princess of the Luba Kingdom" explores a rich narrative with elements of internal conflicts, divine intervention, and the battle between good and evil. What inspired you to delve into this particular story and the setting of the Luba kingdom?

I explain to you, the Holy Spirit described in the Bible is the Spirit of creation (the creative action of God). Nothing exists in the entire universe without the Holy Spirit. Everything in the universe exists only through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can live in human beings. The Holy Spirit wants to live in the body of every human being on earth. The Holy Spirit is infinitely wonderful, excellent and creative, he is my divine source of inspiration. I am originally from the LUBA people who are located in the greater KASAÏ region in the Democratic Republic of Congo (central Africa). The LUBA culture is rich in these traditions and customs, this is normal because they are inspired by the Bible. There are many similarities between LUBA culture and the laws of the Bible. The inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the cultural richness of the LUBA people are the elements that inspired the decor of Tshala's book.

Q: The synopsis suggests a complex interplay between the divine and the earthly. How did you approach the blending of spiritual elements with the human conflicts in the narrative, and what messages or themes do you hope readers take away from this interweaving?

The two physical and spiritual worlds are inseparable. People are not aware of this and think that there is a separation between the two worlds. Everything we see in this physical world comes from the invisible spiritual world so the two worlds are linked. The message is that man has an interest in making peace with God through Jesus Christ alone. And this is where the Holy Spirit comes to inhabit the body of all those who have accepted to receive Jesus Christ into their lives.

Q: The legend of the guardian appearing every hundred years adds an intriguing layer to the story. Can you share more about the inspiration behind this mythical figure and its role in the fate of the Luba kingdom?

What inspired me regarding the character of the guardian of the kingdom is found in the Bible, in fact the principles of God's operation are established according to God's logic. Regarding the guardian of the kingdom there are two principles firstly the time frame established by God is a century (100 years), secondly, the strict selection criteria are defined by God himself. So to be guardian of the LUBA kingdom, one must be alive in the time established by God and meet all the requirements that God expects. It is not possible to cheat because it is God himself who judges, approves or disapproves someone. One hundred years represents a century so it is the period that God has set to make the selection of the person to whom he will entrust this important mission.

Q: As someone born in Kinshasa and now living in France, how have your background and experiences influenced the storytelling in "Tshala, the Princess of the Luba Kingdom"?

Since my birth, I was raised in the LUBA culture. I had the opportunity to know and appreciate our customs and our operations. I arrived in France at the age of 15 and it was there that I deepened my communion with the Holy Spirit, and my biblical knowledge and I began to serve God in preaching and teaching the Bible. These are all things that influenced the narration of Tshala.

Q: The book discusses the consequences of turning away from God and the temptations of the devil. How do you explore these themes in the context of the characters and events in your narrative?

It is impossible to be neutral, moving away from God we automatically move closer to the devil whether we are aware of it or not. Compared to the character in the book of Tshala those who rebelled, originally had already turned away from God. Thus they were open to the influence of the devil and succumbed to temptation. In this case they begin to walk according to the will of the devil, therefore they confirm their status as an enemy of God.

Q: The book seems to touch on the consequences of human choices and the redemption of a kingdom. Without giving away spoilers, can you discuss the moral and emotional journey that readers can expect from the characters in your story?

From a moral point of view according to the biblical understanding, the reader must be aware that God sees all his actions. And all the evil committed on earth will be punished sooner or later just as the good will be rewarded. And about emotions, all those who have received Jesus into their lives are entitled to the help of the Holy Spirit to control their emotions to be wise and act maturely in life; by reading this book the reader can easily see that all characters who fear God benefit from his approval on earth which will lead to a happy eternity with God; At the same time, all those whom God disapproves of are cursed on earth regardless of appearances. And they will spend an unhappy eternity in fire and limitless suffering far from God.

Q: As an author, what do you hope readers will feel or think after finishing "Tshala, the Princess of the Luba Kingdom"? Are there specific emotions or reflections you aim to evoke through your storytelling?

I hope that at the end of their reading readers will realize the importance of putting God at the center of our lives. I want to evoke through my narration the love of values for example: love of one's neighbor, self-control and discipline etc.