

## AR Issue #37 Two New Books Launched and How to Eat Hot Pot!



**The Artsy Raven**



### March 2025, Issue #37

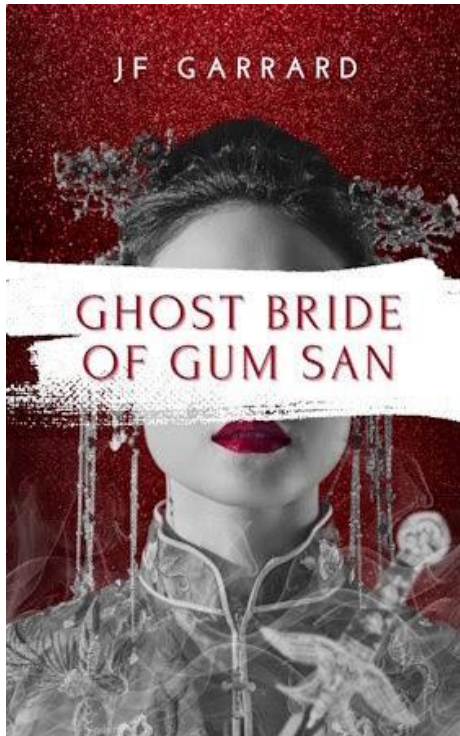
It's been a very exciting March for me. Two of my books were published at the beginning of the month—one is about yokai demon hunting in 1869 San Francisco (*Ghost Bride of Gum San*) and one is an anthology of Asian Canadian writing (*Infusion*). Both projects have been simmering for about three years, so it's nice to get them out into the world finally!

A fellow author advised me I should try out TikTok so I've been making videos and uploading. Sadly, my Artsy Raven video about authors doesn't do quite as well as my video about "Stuffies at Costco" but I'm experimenting for now!

I'm @jfgarrard on TikTok, Instagram and Twitter. Very happy I have the same name for everything. Recently I've started to write the sequel to *Ghost Bride of Gum San* and trying not to lose momentum, but it's really hard to keep going sometimes!

- JF Garrard

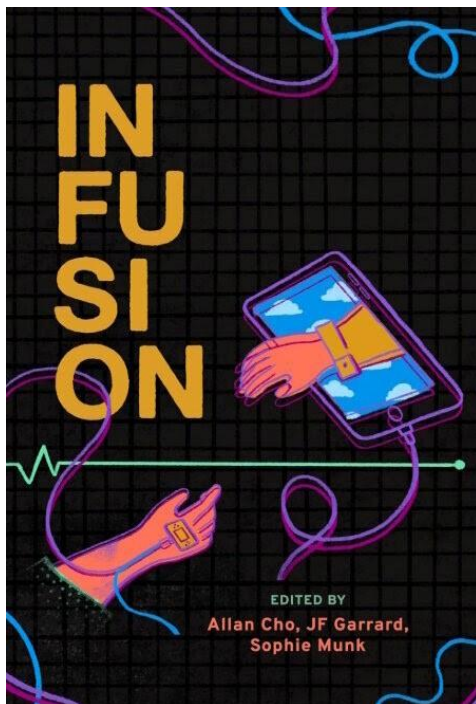
## Latest Books Published in March!



*Ghost Bride of Gum San* is about yokai/demon hunting in San Francisco in the year 1869. The main character, Pearl Ming Ju Wong was chosen to be a ghost bride during her journey to America from China and thrown overboard. She is enlisted in a mission to find a missing artifact to save Chinatown, but at the same time, she has a deal to hand over the same item to an octopus yokai who can help her find her missing sister.

This is a xuanhuan fantasy novel mixing Eastern and Western concepts of Taoism and Roman Catholicism.

For more details about the book, visit Dark Winter Press' website: <https://www.darkwinterlit.com/>



*Infusion* offers a poignant exploration of themes central to the Asian diaspora experience. Discover the poignant tales of immigrants forging connections in unfamiliar territories, grappling with the isolation of being "the other," and finding solace and strength in unexpected places.

As the world shrinks and cultures intersect, this book serves as a testament to the human spirit's resilience and adaptability. It is a celebration of diversity, community, and the enduring human quest for connection and meaning.

More details on Dark Helix Press' website: <https://darkhelixpress.com/acww/infusion/>

# Latest Artsy Raven Podcast Episodes

JF Garrard (writer, editor and publisher) has frank conversations with writers, editors, publishers, artists, actors, directors and other art professionals about what inspires them to create and what led to their success. Writers on the podcast will showcase their work by reading from their book.

## 70 The Artsy Raven Podcast

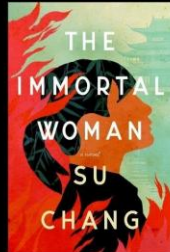


**Devil in the White House**  
(Daniel Debs Nossiter, *Devil Takes It*)

### Ep 70 Devil in the White House with Daniel Debs Nossiter

Daniel Debs Nossiter talks about the inspiration, book influences and themes in his latest book, *Devil Takes It*, a darkly comic satire set against the backdrop of Trump-era Washington, D.C.

## 71 The Artsy Raven Podcast



**How I Published a Debut Novel**  
(Su Chang, *The Immortal Woman*)

### Ep 71 How I Published a Debut Novel with Su Chang

Su Chang discusses how to get debut novel published, her writing process word count target, and how writing helped her out of postpartum.

# The Artsy Raven Podcast Channels

To listen to all 70+ episodes of The Artsy Raven podcast, please click the Spotify or Youtube links below. Happy listening!



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# Artsy Fun - How to Eat Hot Pot



*What is hot pot?*

Hot pot is a dish of soup/stock simmered with a heat source to cook meats and vegetables by dip-boiling in the liquid.

It's a great meal because you can customize with any meat, carb or vegetables! In modern times, people can have individual hot pots instead of sharing a communal hot pot.

In Toronto there are many, many, hot pot restaurants due to the large Asian population in the city. They all differ slightly, but the idea of boiling food is the same. Some are buffets, others weigh your bowl or you pay per item (meat, veggies, etc). Since it's a relatively easy meal to prepare, if you visit the Asian grocery store, you can buy the soup stock yourself along with frozen ingredients (meat, fish balls) and fresh ingredients (tofu, vegetables) to prepare your own meal.

Although the weather is getting warmer, I still love having hot pot. In this video I share my experience at Souper, one of the more newer hot pot restaurants in Toronto which has massive fridges filled with ingredients to select from!

Tiktok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@jfgarrard/video/7478506504773979447>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DG1vTg1tf0q/>

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## Story Origin Group Book Promos



Thrills and Chills

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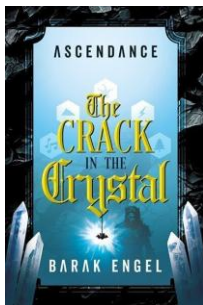
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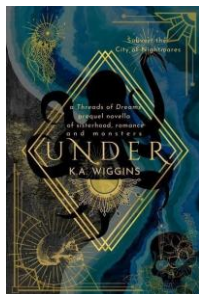


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## Story Origin Fellow Author Promos



*The Crack in the Crystal* by Barak Engel ([click for preview](#)). Five unlikely heroes, one buried secret. At the heart of the volcanic city of Kyber lies a secret that has been hidden for centuries. The clues surrounding this mystery begin to unfold when five strangers are recruited by a shadowy organization. As covert missions lead to more questions than answers, the increasingly desperate heroes seek help from unexpected sources.



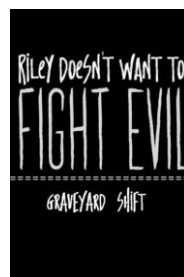
local homeless shelter *Under: Subvert the City of Nightmares* by K.A. Wiggins ([click to download](#)). The twins' bond kept them together through everything the Towers of Refuge could throw at them. But when Ange fakes her own death in a rash attempt to protect her twin, she loses both her home and her livelihood. Secrets—and the dangerously distracting strangers—the girls encounter below the waterline could sever their bond for good.



*Bodacious Creed: a Steampunk Zombie Western* (The Adventures of Bodacious Creed Book 1) by Jonathan Fesmire ([click for preview](#)). U.S. Marshal James Creed has known loss, starting from the untimely death of his wife and daughter in a sudden fire. His work, chasing down and arresting outlaws across the Wild West, is all he has left to live for. Then one day, in 1876, the infamous killer Corwin Blake catches Creed by surprise and guns him down.



*Olympia Investigations: Dead Hungry* by Sherry D. Ramsey ([click to download](#)). Acacia Sheridan is a private detective with a special gift for communicating with the supernatural. When patrons of a



*Riley Doesn't Want To Fight Evil - Prologue* by D. R. Mills ([click to download](#)). It's another dreary night at Grocery Hut, and corporate wage slave Riley Thomas is hard at work perfecting the store before closing.



*Midnight Voices* by L.K. Latham ([click to download](#)). Six stories about humans, vampires, werewolves, and goblins, and the troubles they get into. Urban Fantasy Short Stories from the World of

start turning up dead, with suspicious-looking bite marks on their necks, a local vampire is an obvious suspect. But as Acacia digs deeper into the case she starts to wonder...could even more sinister forces be at work.

Unfortunately for him, the mother of all problem customers is about to enter the store. Surely nothing goes wrong and he doesn't get covered in the other worldly fluid of some eldritch abomination of death and destruction. Right?

follows a handsome man out of a nightclub, and her world changes forever. The past gets in the way of a vampire who just wants to party with friends. Galveston's newest police detective meets residents who've lived on the island far too long.



*Clash of Goddesses* by R.A. Goli ([click to download](#)). Gna' is sent to the Underworld to negotiate the release of Frigga's son, Baldur. Gna' must fight a sorceress, fend off an attack from hellhounds, solve riddles, and face Hela's army of Galveston's newest police detective meets residents who've lived on the island far too long.

