



The Artsy Raven



April 2025, Issue #38

Happy Easter for those who celebrate!

Recently I made some new lady friends and was surprised to learn that many of them have a license, but are afraid to drive. Similarly, I used to be very anxious about driving, so I thought I would share my story on how I overcame this. Driving is a necessity for me since I live in suburbia and not downtown anymore.

This month I'll be speaking at the Toronto Indie Author conference at the Toronto Reference Library. If you are attending, please come and say hi!

- [JF Garrard](#)

Toronto Indie Author Conference



The Toronto Indie Author Conference is happening April 26-27th, 2025 at the Toronto Reference Library. On April 26 I'll be hosting a Cover and Blurb clinic : meeting with indie authors to talk about their projects. On April 27, I'll be presenting the topic "13 Biggest Mistakes Authors Make When Networking" and also doing a roundtable on the same topic. Check out the awesome workshops and events here: <https://torontoindieauthorcon.com/schedule>

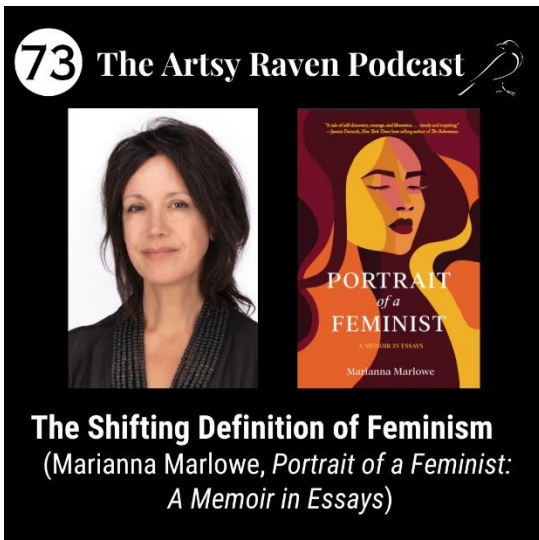
Latest Artsy Raven Podcast Episodes

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.



Ep 72 Revealing a Never-Before-Told Story with Kathleen Lippa

Kathleen Lippa, a Canadian journalist, reveals a never-before-told story about a pedophile schoolteacher in the Arctic and the Inuit lives he destroyed and discusses the complications she faced during the research process.



Ep 73 The Shifting Definition of Feminism with Marianna Marlowe

On the Artsy Raven, Marianna Marlowe speaks about why the definition of feminism has shifted, zooming in and out of scenes during memoir writing and the importance of self-care when conducting emotional advocacy work.

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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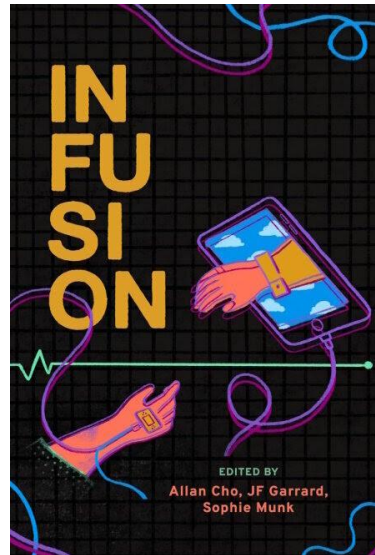
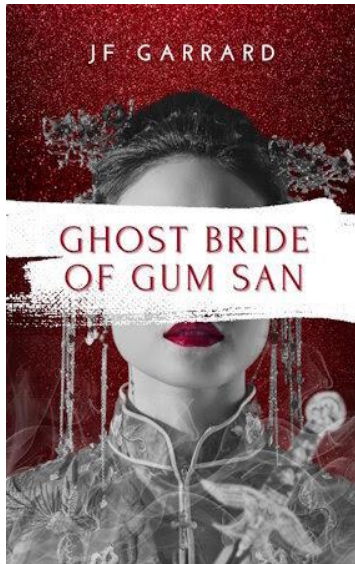
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Books released in March 2025 we'll be selling for rest of the year!



Artsy Fun - How I Got Over my Fear of Driving



One of my friends asked me last week about how I got over my anxiety of driving. Everyone's experience is different, so I thought I would share mine.

In the past, driving made me really frightened. Not because of the act of driving itself, but it was fear of other drivers on the road crashing into me.

There are a lot of mean drivers out there who seem to exist to make life difficult for others and their actions made me anxious and angry. But back then, I didn't have to drive very much because I had a husband and a father who drove me around a lot.

A few things happened which made me need to drive: 1) Dad died, 2) We moved to the suburbs, and 3) We had a child with a schedule filled with extracurricular which required driving them to places.

All of these things combined forced me to face my anxiety and fears of driving. A few things made me overcome my fears:

- The will to change - realizing that I had to learn this skill to adapt to my new reality. Also, dad dying made me less fearful of death for some reason because I think he'll meet me when the time comes.
- "Roads are for cars, sidewalks are for people" - one of my friends told me this and I reflected on the fact that everyone is driving to get somewhere, as well as myself. No one wants to voluntarily get into an accident, so best to forgive as much as possible.
- Now I know why dad listened to a lot of Cantonese ballads - listening to calming music or podcasts made me less angry in the car and helped me with my road rage immensely. I can't get too upset when Hyde of

L'Arc-en-Ciel is howling in Japanese or if I'm more concerned about how a true crime case is solved by detectives in a murder mystery.

- Using technology to overcome disabilities - I rely on the camera on the back of the car to park in reverse and use Google Maps as a GPS since I have spatial issues and no internal compass. These tools have helped me immensely and if they disappear one day, I will have to adapt again...but I also hope there will be smart self-driving cars in the near future!

If you have any good driving tips, please share! I'm always needing some motivation for heading out onto the road!

Story Origin Group Book Promos



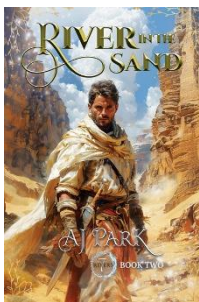
Only Free Books for April

Get these books fast! This promotion ends May 14th! Erotic romance, sci-fi, political & crime. ([click here](#))



Supernatural Spring: Urban Fantasy Book Bonanza. Get these books fast! This promotion ends May 15th! ([click here](#))

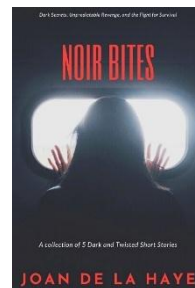
Story Origin Fellow Author Promos



[River in the Sand by A.J. Park \(click to download\)](#). Hiding in a remote corner of the desert, Kyjia guards a precious tablet of gold



[Pantheon by Joshua Landeros \(click to download\)](#). As the eldest child of the Sowell family, Athaliah must now take up the mantle. Sebel is a land filled with beauty as well



[Noir Bites by Joan De La Haye \(click download\)](#). In "Noir Bites," deception and revenge take centre stage, and survival demands a dangerous dance. This collection will immerse you

granting the right to rule the kingdom of Tyar. Her enemies will stop at nothing to possess it and claim the throne. When her father is murdered, she realizes they will come after her next.

as monsters, but Athaliah has always wanted more. For as long as he can remember, he's wanted access to the vast knowledge of the Mystic Order. Before that dream can be grasped, he must be tested. The sacred hunt awaits.

in a world where crime is a constant threat, and survival comes at a cost. Are you ready for the intensity of these noir bites?



[Daphne Mayne and the Goblin Quest by Kent Silverhill \(click to download\).](#) Once, Wydoria was free. Now it's ruled by the magic-denying Consistorium and cut off from the rest of the world by an impenetrable Hedge...Daphne Mayne can't sit around while her brother, Daniel, lies dying...Especially when all she has to do to save him is fetch a handful of berries

[Storm and Flame \(Book 1\) by Mallory Wanless \(click to download\).](#) Elena has always been a disappointment. Her magic is practically non-existent and now, on her sixteenth birthday, she is expelled from magic school by the strict headmistress—also known as her mother. Quinn is a thief, a hunter, and a hothead. Men aren't supposed to be capable of magic. Will they be able to

an old healer said would
cure him. The catch? The
berries grow in a forest on
the other side of the
Hedge. Crossing the Hedge
is forbidden.

escape those that hunt
them? Can they fulfill the
prophecy, destroy the
turmio and save magic
from being destroyed once
and for all?



Stay safe until next month!

