
AR Issue #39 Anime North Pics, Writing about Spirituality and Overcoming a Disability



The Artsy Raven

A Dark Helix Press/JF Garrard Newsletter



May 2025, Issue #39

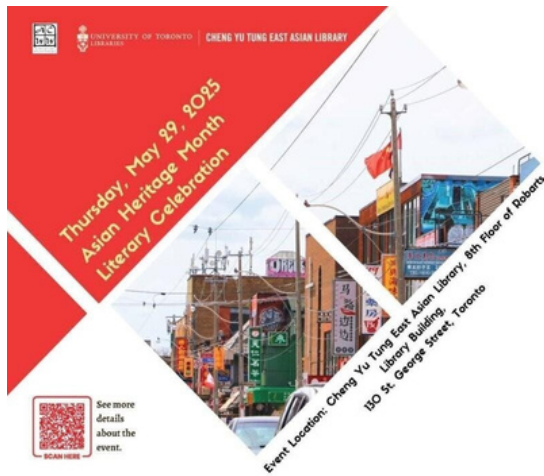
Finally the end of May is here!

May was a bit hectic for me, lots of speaking gigs from Anime North to moderating a LiterASIAN **Infusion** book launch at University of Toronto. I also did a 5k [Puma Women's](#) run to support the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario. Various people have lectured me about spending money on running races but I think I was a crow in my last life because if there is no incentive of a shiny participating medal at the end, I would not run because I hate exercising!

- JF Garrard

President, Dark Helix Press
Podcast Host, **The Artsy Raven** Literary Podcast

Toronto LiterASIAN 2025



Did you know within libraries there are libraries?

At University of Toronto's Robarts Library, it contains smaller libraries such as the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library. In May they hosted LiterASIAN Toronto 2025 and a book launch for *Infusion*.

If you ever get a chance, please do visit this free event next year. Register early because they have to know how much dim sum to order to serve during the break! When the video of the event is live, I'll send out a note in the newsletter.

Details about this past event here:

<https://alumni.utoronto.ca/events/asian-heritage-month-literary-celebration-literasian-toronto-2025-infusion-book-launch>

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.


76 The Artsy Raven Podcast 


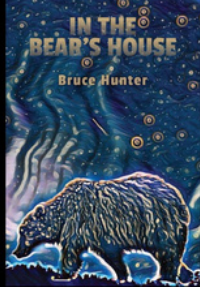



Incorporating Spirituality into a Memoir
 (Linda Trinh, *Seeking Spirit: A Vietnamese (Non)Buddhist Memoir*)

Ep 76 Incorporating Spirituality into a Memoir with Linda Trinh

On the Artsy Raven, Linda Trinh discusses why spirituality is such an important theme in her memoir, the conflict of being caught between cultures, and how her favorite place inspired her book's cover art!

77 The Artsy Raven Podcast 

Overcoming a Disability While Becoming an Award-Winning Writer
 (Bruce Hunter, *In the Bear's House*)

Ep 77 Overcoming a Disability While Becoming an Award-Winning Writer with Bruce

Bruce Hunter shares with us how he makes his teachings and work accessible, how his book was published in Italian, and how he overcame his disability to become a writer.

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!



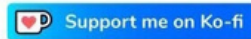
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Books released in March 2025 we'll be selling for rest of the year!



Artsy Fun - Anime North Pics



In Toronto there is a fan run Japanese Animation convention called Anime North which draws in over 30,000 people. About 75% of them are cosplayers, in assorted costumes from anime to movies to videogames. A decade ago I was their Guest Director, bringing in English dub voice actors. I hadn't been there in a while and suddenly got a call this year to pull together some writing, editing and publishing panels. Out of 30K people, usually 50-100 are writers who want to learn more about the craft.

There's a lot to see and do, event is not focused on solely anime anymore. There is a huge Lego display area run by [ToroLUG](#), a building devoted to digital games and board games, jpop/rock performances, dolls, wrestling and things I don't know about!

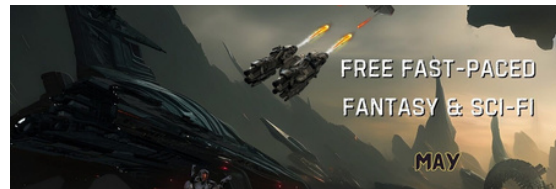
More details about AN here: <https://www.animenorth.com/>



Story Origin Group Book Promos

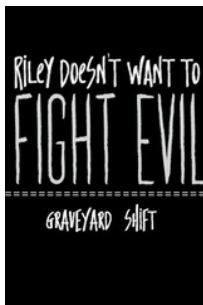


Horror Giveaway May. Get these books fast! This promotion ends June 16th! ([click to download](#))



FREE Fast-Paced Fantasy & Sci-Fi - May. Get these books fast! This promotion ends May 31st! ([click to download](#))

Story Origin Fellow Author Promos



Riley Doesn't Want To Fight Evil - Prologue
by D. R. Mills ([click to download](#)). Riley Thomas

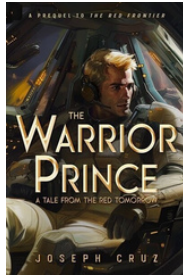


If the Broom Fits: a Witches of Whynoby by Marisa Mohi and Margaux Carroll ([click to preview](#)). Dive in and allow yourself to be transported



Dead Mech by Jake Bible ([click to download](#)). What happens when a mech pilot dies and becomes a zombie while piloting a mech?!

works the graveyard shift, and absolutely NOTHING goes wrong at all! The full Prologue to my upcoming Horror - Comedy novel!



The Warrior Prince: A Tale from the Red Tomorrow by Joseph Cruz ([click to download](#)). Piloted giant mech combat with swords and shields
An action-packed prequel novella to The Red Frontier



The Rise Of Manifesto The Great: A Sci Fi Comedy Where Women Wear The Trousers by Kerrie Noor ([click for preview](#)). Manifesto The Great comes from a dynasty of leaders who treat

into the enchanting world of Whynot the go-to place for magical ingredients and laughter. In "Witches of Whynot," small-town life and the quest for love is always an adventure, but never one that's expected.



Phoenix in the Machine by Leigh Kimmel ([click for preview](#)). Dreams come true in cyberspace -- but so do nightmares. Roger remembers dying in a fire on the launchpad. He's reconciled it with being alive again. However, being an infomorph in a simulated environment has been a difficult adjustment. Toni tells him he went mad the first time he awoke, and she had to crash the computer.



Shadow Game by Caitlin Demaris McKenna ([click to download](#)). Wars make unlikely allies. A tale of serendipity and empowerment set in the thrilling universe of the Expansion series.

A Military Sci-Fi Action Adventure with Mechs in a Zombie Apocalypse



When the World Fled East by Daniel Willcocks ([click to download](#)). The end of the world, as you've never seen it before
An apocalyptic short

women like breeding machines. When his forefather dies, he must take over as leader, but will he be able to control the women?



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