

## AR Issue #41 Travelling Western Canada with a Squid Game Doll!

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**The Artsy Raven**

**A Dark Helix Press/JF Garrard Newsletter**



**July 2025, Issue #41**

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Recently I went on a trip out West to take part in [LiterASIAN](#) Vancouver and then we drove to Edmonton to visit relatives. LiterASIAN was inspiring, but as the only fantasy/horror author I did feel imposter syndrome since the other books were more "serious" Canlit works. I was asked if I would consider writing a memoir and I promised I would think about it.

Since [Squid Game](#) (오징어 게임) Season 3 was coming out at the same time, I decided to take my Young-hee (영희) doll (in the show she is a giant doll that plays "Red Light, Green Light") with me out West. This way I could tag books, literary festivals and Squid Game in my social media posts. Out of a few million Squid Game watchers maybe I can find one reader! In the picture above, I took Young-hee to the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#) where she fit in perfectly with the kawaii/cute Otani Workshop ceramic figurines!

- JF Garrard

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

# 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.

**80** The Artsy Raven Podcast 



**James & Eddie, a Korean- Canadian play on War, Migration, and Family**  
(M.J. Kang, Elsha Kim)

## Ep 80 James & Eddie, a Korean- Canadian play on War, Migration, and Family

Playwright and actress M.J. Kang along with actress Elsha Kim speak about what inspired the play James & Eddie, how they bring their own experiences into the play and what they hope to achieve on their acting journeys.

**81** The Artsy Raven Podcast 



**Coming of Age as an Outsider**  
(Dur e Aziz Amna, *American Fever*)

## Ep 81 Coming of Age as an Outsider with Dur e Aziz Amna

Dur e Aziz Amna tells us about what inspired her coming-of-age book (*American Fever*), challenges faced as a new immigrant in America, and what she hopes readers will take away from her story.

## 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!



[Spotify channel](#)



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# Support the Artsy Raven podcast!

For a summary each podcast episode, please visit our Ko-Fi or Patreon page links below where you can leave a tip or become a sponsor of the podcast!

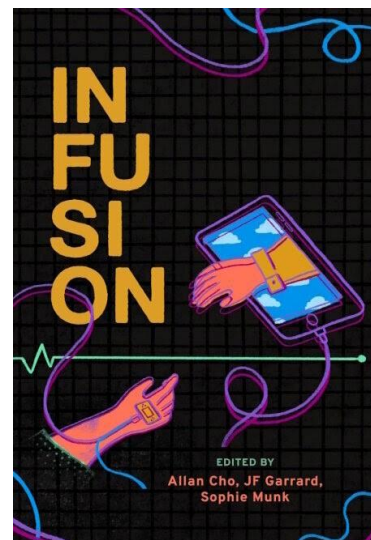


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**Books released in March 2025 we'll be selling for rest of the year!**



# Artsy Fun - Travelling with Young-Hee



My family was super embarrassed I was taking pictures with a doll and avoided me when I did so. It's ok, more quiet time for me! The picture above is in Vancouver, outside the [CF Pacific Centre](#), where there is a large chess game set. I pitched the two books I published this year against each other for fun as opponents to see who would sell more at LiterASIAN. *Infusion* won!



In Vancouver we visited the [Hello Kitty cafe](#) and had expensive but delicious mango cake!

The [Chinese Canadian Museum](#) had an awesome historical costume display and listening stations for cpop and mpop music released over the last few decades.

Visiting the Chinese Canadian Museum, Vancouver, BC!



**Lake Louise** is in Banff National Park among the Canadian Rockies, and it was beautiful! Lots of people were visiting and we boarded a hotel bus to take us there versus going at 4am for a parking spot.

**Jasper** had fires recently, so half of the town and forests were burnt, but the other half were ok!



We rode a massive ice explorer bus at the **Columbia Icefield** to walk on the Athabasca Glacier which made me realize how small I was in this world!

At **West Edmonton Mall**, my favorite thing there was the Lego store flower wall and secondly, the pirate ship in the middle of the mall!

I am still posting pictures and videos of this trip while also trying to do a trivia game to let people guess where the doll is. For more details visit my socials:

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/jfgarrard/>  
 Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/JFGarrardauthor/>  
 Tiktok - <https://www.tiktok.com/@jfgarrard>  
 Twitter - <https://twitter.com/jfgarrard>

## Story Origin Group Book Promos



July Horror Readers List Giveaway! Get these books fast! This promotion ends August 13th! ([click to download](#))



The Fiction Giveaway Extravaganza! Get these books fast! This promotion ends August 8th! ([click to download](#))



Strange Magic: An All-Genre Giveaway for Unusual Fantasy. Get these books fast! This promotion ends July 31st! ([click to download](#))



Fantasy, Sci-Fi and Horror Summer Giveaway. Get these books fast! This promotion ends August 1st! ([click to download](#))

## Story Origin Fellow Author Promos



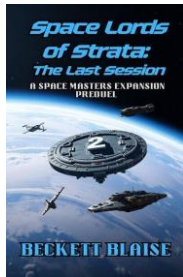
*Guts and Gears: Tales of the Weird West* by Jonathan Fesmire ([click for preview](#)). This collection of twelve character-driven stories explores morality, technology, and intrigue in a Wild West that never was but might have been. Witness a forbidden romance, the kindness of a friendly automaton, resurrection, and the chaos of the San Francisco Riot of 1877. Even Wild Bill Hickok makes an era-changing appearance.



*The Void: The Stone Legacy Prequel* by Luna Fox ([click to download](#)). A failed assassination attempt against Lianna prompted Alastor to act and perform a grievous ritual to tap onto the power of the Void, the dark forces beyond the universe. Has he betrayed his friends and family to gain power? Can Lianna stop Alastor before it's too late? Will she and Ludovic be able to save the world from the evil warlock he has become? What if it was all just a lie?



*A Girl of Silver & Snow* by Kelsie Engen ([click for preview](#)). For twelve-year-old Pia, survival means sacrifice. Each day is a battle to scrape together enough food, to keep the cold from seeping into their bones, and to quiet the hunger gnawing at her younger siblings. Pia won't let her family fall apart. Not when she's the only one willing to do whatever it takes to keep them fed, warm, and safe. Even if it means making a deal she can never take back.



*Space Lords of Strata: The Last Session* by Beckett Blaise ([click to download](#)). Dr. Stephen Maddox, using his old gaming persona Thomas Bright, promises gamers an immersive experience beyond anything they've ever imagined. But this is no ordinary game. The revolutionary technology from the secretive Jaddus Corporation blurs the line between reality and fantasy, gradually erasing the players' memories of their real lives as they become the characters they created decades ago.



*Lightning Hunter* by Cathryn deVries ([click to download](#)). When Tana comes home from a lifechanging quest, everything seems rosy at first—until the glamour wears off. Now she just wants to feel like she belongs again, and fixes on winning the title of 'Lightning Hunter' to do just that. But when she finds an orphaned hargryph in amongst the motherlode of lightning cap mushrooms, she must decide what's most important to her—fitting in, or following her conscience.



*The Aftermath: Terra* by Bradley James ([click to download](#)). The clock is ticking to stop a second asteroid from striking Earth, and Elliot Adams is humanity's only chance. But saving his home world will push him and his friends to their limits as they return to a planet torn apart by devastation. Beneath the ruins, salvation may lie—if they can survive long enough to find it.



*The Biohunter* (Preview) by Ingrid Moon ([click to download](#)). Axel Mercer, a former soldier, explores the hostile plains to recover organisms for scientific research. But the corporations who run civilization want more. As his last mission, Mercer learns the organism is not a monster, but a teen girl—a wasteland fighter. Her spirit and fierce determination challenge everything Mercer has believed about his job, his future, and his questionable past.



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