



An Artsy Raven Newsletter



March 2026, Issue #49

Finally, things are slightly defrosting in Toronto where I live!

Recently I went to a [Podcast camp](#) where everyone talked about how impossible it was to make any money podcasting! Well, I do my podcast because I enjoy helping and learning from my fellow indie authors. I have to keep this purpose in mind, otherwise, it becomes grueling volunteer work!

I am also excited that a book cover I designed a while ago is finally available as the book is up for sale. Designing it was a smooth process and a lot of fun!

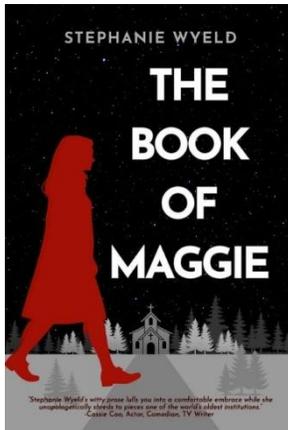
[- JF Garrard](#)

President, Dark Helix Press

Podcast Host, *The Artsy Raven* Literary Podcast

Upcoming Book by Stephanie Wyeld

My good friend Stephanie Wyeld has released her debut novel with DarkWinter Press titled *The Book of Maggie*. It's available now on Amazon in paperback and e-version for Kindle, [click here for more details](#).



I designed the book cover as part of a collaborative process between the author, the publisher, and myself. Everyone brought different ideas to the table, and after about a month of discussions, we developed the first draft of the cover.

Since the book explores a woman's struggles within a fundamentalist Christian church, we included religious imagery in the cover's background to reflect that setting. The woman walking forward in the foreground represents her strength and courage as she leaves the establishment behind. On the back cover, there's also a small Easter egg—a figure in a forest. The author's original concept involved a photo of a girl in a church, and although we ultimately didn't use it, the image in the forest serves as a quiet tribute to that original idea.

Latest Artsy Raven Podcast Episodes

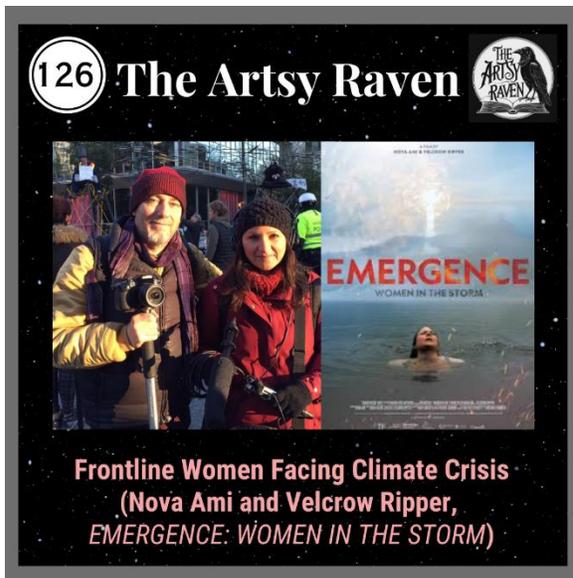
JF Garrard (writer, editor and publisher) has frank conversations with writers, editors, publishers, artists, actors, directors and other art professionals about what inspires them to create and what led to their success. Writers on the podcast will showcase their work by reading from their book.

Please visit our website for the latest episodes: <https://artsyraven.com/>.

We've lowered the Patreon tiers so it's easier to gain access to the 100+ bonus episodes to

help people on their creative journeys! Just pay what you can (\$5-30USD/month) and individual bonus episodes available for \$3USD

- <https://www.patreon.com/c/ifgarrard/membership>



Ep126 Frontline Women Facing Climate Crisis with Nova Ami and Velcrow Ripper

Nova Ami and Velcrow Ripper share the inspiration behind their latest documentary, EMERGENCE: WOMEN IN THE STORM, reflect on the challenges of filming in the midst of climate crisis, and explain why building deep trust with their subjects is essential to their storytelling.



Ep127 Dark Thrills from Toxic Relationships with Jennifer van der Kleut

Jennifer van der Kleut discusses her background as a features journalist, the inspiration behind the toxic female relationships at the heart of The Better Mother, and how seeking professional guidance helped fast-track her journey to becoming a published author.

The Artsy Raven Podcast Channels

To listen to all 100+ episodes of The Artsy Raven podcast, please click the Spotify or Youtube links below. Happy listening!



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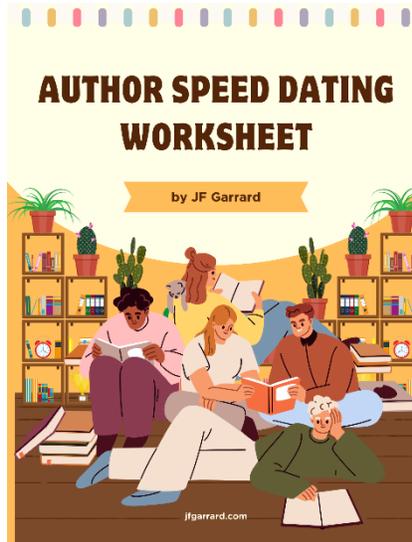


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Artsy Fun - Author Speed Dating Worksheet



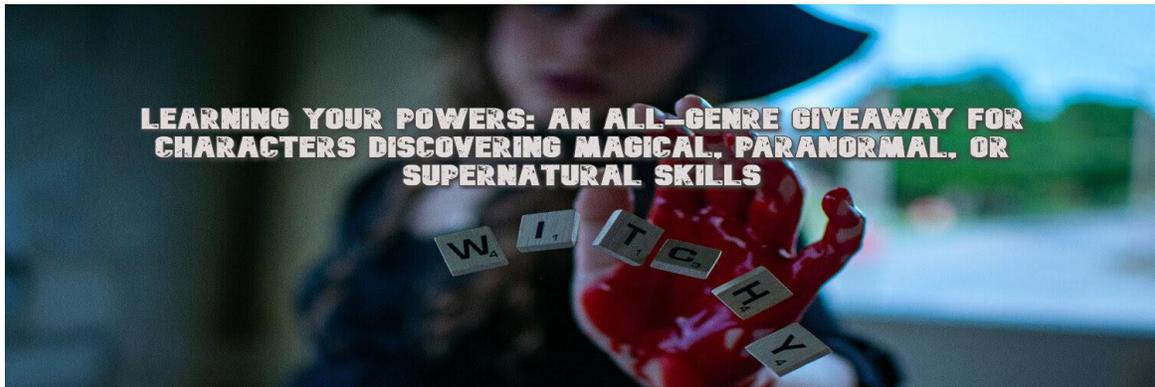
This month I'm busy preparing for the talks I'll be giving at the [Toronto Indie Author Conference 2026](#), taking place April 18–19, 2026 at the Toronto Reference Library.

One of the panels I'm hosting is "Author Speed Dating." I'll be giving away a worksheet filled with networking questions to help authors start conversations and connect with others. If you're interested, [you can click here to download a digital copy](#). As an introvert, I know how awkward it can feel when you're face-to-face with someone and not sure what to say. This worksheet is designed to help spark conversations and encourage other authors to share their experiences and knowledge.

I'll also be participating in panels about AI in writing and sharing editor perspectives in the publishing world. Plus, I'll be giving away a selection of books written by guests from *The Artsy Raven* Podcast.

If you're in Toronto, I hope to see you there!

Story Origin Group Book Promos

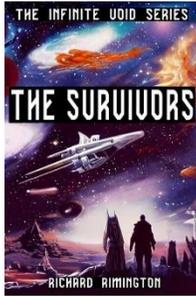


Learning Your Powers: An All-Genre Giveaway for Characters Discovering Magical, Paranormal, or Supernatural Skills. Get these books fast! This promotion ends Mar 31, 2026! ([click here](#))



Free Science Fiction / Fantasy Stories - March 2026. Get these books fast! This promotion ends Apr 2, 2026! ([click here](#))

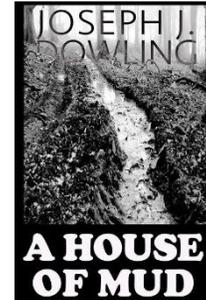
Fellow Indie Author Promos



[*The Survivors* by Richard Rimington \(click to download\).](#) In this tale of space opera and cosmic adventure, the Ambassador of a mysterious and ancient family must forge a path through chaos to overcome the terrible enemies that desire humanity's destruction. Her plan to avert galactic catastrophe will unite a band of survivors who have faced every imaginable danger and disaster.



[*Wielders of Woe: Frostlite* by Jeffery Roarke Jr. \(click for preview\).](#) Republican and Matriarchal forces vie for control of the world and are locked in a bitter stalemate. But it's no ordinary civil war. Tendrils of Madness run through Velra with the false matriarch propped up at the seat of power. If nothing is done, then Madness will claim another planet in the Realmverse and Velra will fall.



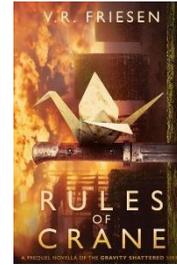
[*House of Mud* by Joseph J Dowling \(click to download\).](#) Mud. It got everywhere. Clung to their possessions and sneaked into places Suzie never realized mud could reach. It'd been so different when they'd arrived on the godforsaken plot, full of excitement and hope, long before the earth spat out those old bones. It seemed like yesterday and forever ago.



[Puzzle Box by Kristen Illarmo \(click to download\).](#) It's a day like any other; Moss itching to see the outside world, but his AI caretaker keeps the door closed, always, for safety. As a tornado bears down on the house on the plains, Moss is driven to find out the truth about his parents' disappearance; a truth that may shatter his world more thoroughly than any whirling wind.



[The Dragon Assassin: League of Supernatural Assassins by Sheri-Lynn Marean and League Supernatural Assassins \(click for preview\).](#) After being alone for over a hundred years, Ash felt it the moment his realm was breached. By a female. Yet though his dragon was drawn to her, hungry and eager to claim this stranger as mate regardless of her intent, he was dying.



[Rules of Crane by V.R. Friesen \(click to download\).](#) It takes a grav-walker like Crane to navigate the treacherous, unpredictable gravity zones that fill the city. Crane has been assigned the mission of escorting a downie to the mysterious Tower, and the mission rules give her regrettably little wiggle room to use her knives on him. Even though no one—especially not a downie—should get their hands on the secrets in the Tower.



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