

## AR Podcast #51-Steven Gellman contest, Melanie Dale, Ahmad Saber, Mackenzie Stannard, Japanese Egg Toast-May 2026

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### An Artsy Raven Newsletter



### May 2026, Issue #51

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Spring is finally here I think! It was snowing in Toronto in April, so it feels like good weather is never going to come. But it's gotten warmer recently so there is hope.

This month I'll be visiting University of Winnipeg to talk about my experience in Canadian publishing and what happens after you have a debut novel (nothing much, really!). May is also Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, so lots of events are happening everywhere to celebrate!

My hubby was complaining that I never make him breakfast, so I found a great recipe for Japanese egg toast which I share below. It is simple and my kraken child thinks it tastes great since even they can make it themselves!

- JF Garrard

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

# 2026 Canlit, Writing, Publishing and Pedagogy Conference



Dates: May 27-29, 2026

Location: University of Winnipeg

The University of Winnipeg is hosting a creative writing, publishing and pedagogy conference. This is being organized and hosted by Celiese Lypka and Lindsay Wong, Associate Professors from the University's English department.

Confirmed keynote speakers include Stephanie Sinclair, Publisher of McClelland & Stewart/Penguin Random House, and Cody Caetano, literary agent at CookeMcDermid and award-winning author of *Half-Bads in White Regalia*.

At this conference I will be speaking on two panels, "Publishing 101," and "Before and After the Debut."

Conference website: [Canlit Conference 2026 | Connect with the University of Winnipeg](https://www.canlitconference2026.com/)

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## 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.

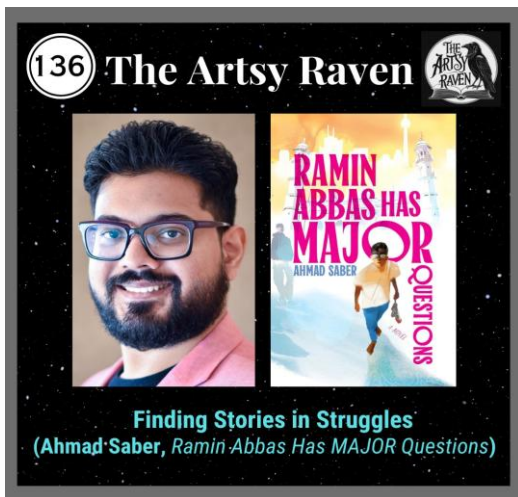
Please visit our website for the latest episodes: <https://artsyraven.com/>.

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/jfgarrard/membership>



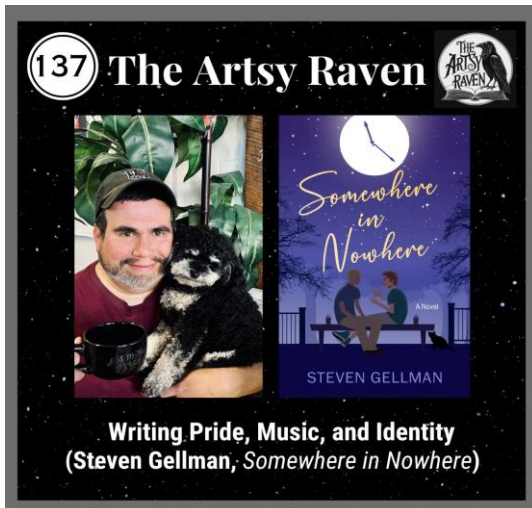
### Ep135 Acting Dead, Writing the Living with Melanie Dale

Melanie Dale shares how she went from being a zombie on *The Walking Dead* to writing for the television series *Creepshow*, and reveals the personal inspiration behind creating a book centered on a character living with OCD.



### Ep136 Finding Stories in Struggles with Ahmad Saber

Ahmad Saber discusses balancing his medical career with writing, how suffering inspired his debut novel, and why completing a manuscript is a crucial step for aspiring writers.



### Ep137 Writing Pride, Music, and Identity with Steven Gellman

Visit <https://artsyraven.com/free/> to win a copy of *Somewhere in Nowhere*! Enter by May 8, 2026.

Steven Gellman shares how his background as a songwriter shaped his debut novel, explains why telling the story of an LGBTQ+ Jewish teenager felt necessary, and treats us to a live performance of the theme song he wrote for *Somewhere in Nowhere*.



## Ep137A Documenting Strength and Struggle with Mackenzie Stannard

Mackenzie Stannard discusses his path into filmmaking through volunteering, how he came to document Nyousha Nakhjiri's journey in *Constant Battles*, and why having a strong team is essential for directors.

## 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!



Spotify channel



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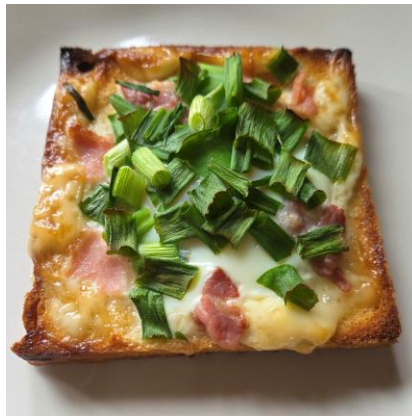
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## Artsy Fun - Japanese Egg Toast



The recipe for Japanese egg toast is quite simple as long as you have thick bread (Texas toast style will work), mayo, egg and bacon. The secret is that the mayo forms a "border" for the egg, so it doesn't fall off the bread. We added scallion, cheese and even shrimp one weekend for some variety.

The instructions below don't specify a temperature because it's cooked using a toaster oven. Depending on how runny or solid you want the egg yolks to be, the time can be adjusted.

### Japanese Egg Toast – Instructions

1. Use the back of a spoon to gently press a shallow well into the center of a slice of bread.
2. Pipe or spread a border of mayonnaise around the edges of the toast (Japanese mayo works best for flavor and usually comes in squeeze bottle with a star tip). This creates a "frame" to hold the egg.
3. Crack one egg directly into the center well, keeping it inside the mayo border.
4. Sprinkle bacon pieces evenly over the egg.
5. Bake in a toaster oven set to your preference—about 5 minutes for a runny yolk, or 8–10 minutes for a firmer yolk.

Recipe found here: <https://norecipes.com/japanese-egg-toast-recipe/#recipe>

# Story Origin Group Book Promos

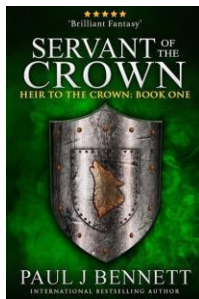


Support Indie Authors! Get these books fast! This promotion ends May 31, 2026! ([click here](#))



FREE Fast-Paced Fantasy & Sci-Fi - May 2026. Get these books fast! This promotion ends May 31, 2026! ([click here](#))

## Fellow Indie Author Promos



*Servant of the Crown* by Paul J Bennett ([click to download](#)).

An old warrior, too stubborn to die. A royal heir, hidden since birth. Can they save a realm on the brink of war? Tragedy tears Gerald's world apart and only his unwavering loyalty saves him. After serving as a soldier for years, a single act of self-sacrifice thrusts his future into the world of politics.



*Spells & Stardust* by J. Scott Coatsworth ([click to download](#)).

*Spells & Stardust* is Scott's first anthology eight sci fi and fantasy shorts that run the gamut from regeneration to redemption. The Bear at the Bar: A gay fish out of water tale with a pinch of magic. Tight: What happens when your lover disappears in midair? Most of these stories have been previously published in various anthologies and journals. This is the first time they have all been collected in one place.



*Midnight Voices* by L.K. Latham ([click to download](#)).

Sink your teeth into six short stories about vampires, werewolves, goblins, and humans as they live and work together to keep the peace in Texas. A woman 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. And more...



[Cybil](#) by [Bruno Martins Soares](#) ([click to download](#)). In a distant solar system, a war breaks between the Webbur Union, its ally the Kingdom of Torrance, and their rival, the Axx Republic. Byllard Iddo is a young man who accidentally killed his father in a martial arts training session. As he walks this path, through tales of love, pain and sacrifice, he becomes the youngest and most decorated Captain in Webbur Space Navy's history.



[Tangled Truths](#) by [K. E. Brungardt](#) ([click to download](#)). In the midst of the awkward and bewildering journey through puberty, my life takes an unexpected turn when my hair starts talking to me – inside my head. Who can I ask about this bizarre and unexpected development?  
Answer: no one



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