

The Language Of Night Essays On Fantasy And Science Fiction Ursula K Le Guin

The Anarchist's Guide to Grammar: "Banish the "rules" of grammar in the U.S.!" is the revolution called for by author Val Dumond. "Scary? Of course, but drastic measures must be taken. Just look at the state of language today! The time is now! Stand up and reclaim it!" "We've been taking U.S. language for granted," claims this long-time writer. We make several assumptions: 1) that we have a language called "Proper English"; 2) that a set of "rules" lies in some mysterious place, written by some mysterious authority; 3) that one must follow those "rules" to speak and write correctly. Not so! The time has arrived to banish what we call "rules" and expose the assumptions." Dumond asks: What would happen if we all spoke the language of our heritage? We would quickly learn the sound of the Tower of Babel - since US-language has come about by combining languages from (at least) 150 countries around the world. As immigrants enter the country, they bring with them new ideas, cultures, foods, music, and language. As they become settled, they combine their culture with US-ers, thus enriching all of us in the United States, including our language. In an amusing Introduction, Val explains how we have assumed there exists an incontrovertible set of grammar "rules" to be followed in order to speak proper, correct, good English. "We're not in England anymore!" she points out. Oh yes, we started out with British "rules," but as we declared our independence, language changed, and continues to change. Do you really understand ordinary British English? Numerous pundits over time have drawn up what they consider the "rules" of grammar and forced them on their students. Yet, when those students run up against someone who studied a different set of "rules," confusion and doubt rear their heads. Must we in the U.S. speak "proper English" or do we have a language all our own? After clarifying the conundrum of US-language, Dumond offers guidelines to aid writers in determining what constitutes understandable language. Those guidelines don't depend on memorizing all the crazy names for the parts of language, but rather the guidelines focus on how those parts function. Nouns and pronouns become Things; adjectives and adverbs become Modifiers; punctuation becomes Rules of the Road - all presented in easily understood language, with examples to boot. Included in the guidelines are ways to decide which nouns to capitalize how to discern the difference between plural and possessive nouns how pronouns perform ways to vary word modifiers how to add modifying phrases and clauses use of the little words that serve as the glue to connect words into sentences how to use the dots, dashes, and curly cues we call punctuation. But she doesn't stop there. Writers will especially enjoy the freedom offered to create new words and put together sentences and paragraphs. She offers suggestions to use numbers and inclusive language, as well as offering four ways to improve spelling. The solution to the confusion of US-language seems so simple. Look at the "rules" that come close to your interpretation, then modify them to make them work for you. Set up Your Style Manual, rather than depend on style manuals put together according to some other group's interpretations. And she shows you how. All this is included in The Anarchist's Guide to Grammar: toss out the assumptions, clarify them, pick up some basic, helpful guidelines, and write with power and assurance. No longer will you need to ask, "What are the rules for writing Proper English?" At last, you'll understand why there aren't any. At last you can write your own guidelines.

Even though the fantastic (in its most inclusive definition) has been a part of our culture for as long as it exists, it has not been a prominent feature of European academic interest. With its inherent transgressive moment the fantastic allows for an ideal space of the cultural negotiation of political, social and physical boundaries, which should place it at the center of popular cultural research, not as is the case, at its periphery. But the commencing boom of fantastic themes in contemporary media production has facilitated a paradigmatic change in research, prompting a wide interest in the fantastic in all its forms, from fantasy to horror, from fairy tale to science fiction. This volume addresses this growing interest by reviewing the status of research on the fantastic in Europe so far and by providing a necessary outlook for the future. In the essays current trends, such as the liminality debate, as well as established discourses, as for example on genre theory, are brought together to show interested researchers a network of interdisciplinary (from literary, media and social studies) approaches towards the fantastic.

The world is infected and humanity is reduced to creatures of vicious insanity. Doctor Thorn's rescue by a group of young survivors is just the beginning of their nightmarish journey to survive. In this apocalyptic landscape, humankind has one final hope that rests on the strength and determination of 10 young men and women.

Shayla had no idea her life would turn out like it did. She had two kids, independent, a college degree, owns a Top Business Consulting firm in Buckhead, Atlanta and a Non-profit organization for the community, but in the midst of it all she was Trapped. Trapped in love, hate, lust and PAIN!! She had a natural body that these women would die for, her personality made her beautiful, her presence was unreal and she had a smile that would lighten up your darkest days. Shayla wasn't your average chick she was street and book smart, but had one problem men was her weakness. She picked the men she had the weakness for. Shayla was living a triple life and the walls were starting to close in on her fast.. Shayla was focused on her businesses, but on the flip side enjoyed herself, She never meant to hurt anyone feelings, so she tried to be as upfront as possible when they would ask, which was never so, she never offered the information. She is about to go for the ride of her life, she's a street girl by nature, maybe she can get herself out it. Her best friend Kisha is by her side to support her until Shayla finds out her secret. Shayla is into deep..... Home is where the heart is... Seven years after leaving town and the only girl he loved, Cooper still couldn't forget about Sophia. He had two loves. Music and the woman of his dreams. Coming back home proved that would always be true. But things have changed. Now he has to gain her trust again if he wants to make her all his. The question is, did he lose his chance the first time? Some things are hard to forget... Sophia tried to stop loving Cooper and failed miserably. Despite the way he'd abandoned her seven years earlier, she can't seem to stay away, even though trusting him doesn't prove easy. One careless night could change it all and the secret she carries may ruin any chance of them being together. They say life is all about taking chances. But when opportunities are lost and love comes knocking the second time around, lives are changed forever.

Agafya is a short story by Anton Pavlovich Chekhov detailing a late night encounter between an intelligent but lazy village dropout and the peasant wife of a signalman. Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, (29 January 1860 - 15 July 1904) was a Russian physician, dramaturge and author who is considered to be among the greatest writers of short stories in history. His career as a dramatist

produced four classics and his best short stories are held in high esteem by writers and critics. Chekhov practised as a medical doctor throughout most of his literary career: "Medicine is my lawful wife", he once said, "and literature is my mistress." Chekhov renounced the theatre after the disastrous reception of *The Seagull* in 1896, but the play was revived to acclaim in 1898 by Constantin Stanislavski's Moscow Art Theatre, which subsequently also produced Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* and premiered his last two plays, *Three Sisters* and *The Cherry Orchard*. These four works present a challenge to the acting ensemble as well as to audiences, because in place of conventional action Chekhov offers a "theatre of mood" and a "submerged life in the text." Chekhov had at first written stories only for financial gain, but as his artistic ambition grew, he made formal innovations which have influenced the evolution of the modern short story. His originality consists in an early use of the stream-of-consciousness technique, later adopted by James Joyce and other modernists, combined with a disavowal of the moral finality of traditional story structure. He made no apologies for the difficulties this posed to readers, insisting that the role of an artist was to ask questions, not to answer them. Always modest, Chekhov could hardly have imagined the extent of his posthumous reputation. The ovations for the play, *The Cherry Orchard*, in the year of his death showed him how high he had risen in the affection of the Russian public-by then he was second in literary celebrity only to Tolstoy, who outlived him by six years-but after his death, Chekhov's fame soon spread further afield. Constance Garnett's translations won him an English-language readership and the admiration of writers such as James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and Katherine Mansfield. The issues surrounding the close similarities between Mansfield's 1910 story "The Child Who Was Tired" and Chekhov's "Sleepy" are summarised in William H. New's *Reading Mansfield and Metaphors of Reform*. The Russian critic D.S. Mirsky, who lived in England, explained Chekhov's popularity in that country by his "unusually complete rejection of what we may call the heroic values." In Russia itself, Chekhov's drama fell out of fashion after the revolution but was later adapted to the Soviet agenda, with the character Lopakhin, for example, reinvented as a hero of the new order, taking an axe to the cherry orchard. One of the first non-Russians to praise Chekhov's plays was George Bernard Shaw, who subtitled his *Heartbreak House* "A Fantasia in the Russian Manner on English Themes" and noted similarities between the predicament of the British landed class and that of their Russian counterparts as depicted by Chekhov: "the same nice people, the same utter futility."

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Out of the Dark
Night
Essays on Decolonization
Columbia University Press

"The family elements in the story - the real struggles with marriage, raising a family, making a living, and just trying to enjoy life - have broadened the book's appeal to a wider audience, primarily women who are not into technology." **DARK END OF SPECTRUM** will make you think twice before turning on your cell phone or PDA! **DARK END OF THE SPECTRUM** is a frighteningly plausible and headline ripping tale of the real threats that loom in cyberspace and beyond with a Michael Crichton realism. Based on the author's years of research into the hacker culture. **DARK END OF THE SPECTRUM** is a thriller that will connect with everyone with a cell phone, PDA or wireless device. When a group of digital terrorists known as ICER take over the

US power grid and the cell phone network, they give the government an ultimatum - bomb the borders of Afghanistan and Pakistan with nuclear weapons to put an end to Al-Qaeda or they will start downing commercial airliners. When the government refuses, ICER destroys most of the downed aircraft in airports all over the country. When ICER sends a pulse that will kill millions on the East Coast, only security expert Dan Riker can stop them, but ICER has kidnapped Dan's family. Will Dan save his family or will millions die?

When Aislinn Amon's father disappears, her mother drags her from New York to Indiana where she is to attend a new boarding school - Source High. At Source High, Aislinn finds herself in a whole other world than what she knew. Everyone has something supernatural about them, including her. Soon, she finds that she's not the normal, rebel, messed up teenage girl she thought she was. Her friends try to help her along the way when trouble comes knocking on her door. People die, she finds herself falling in love with, something she swore she'd never do, and secrets start to form. Can Aislinn cope with everything that's happening? Can she handle the life she's been forced to deal with? Or will she crack under the heavy pressures laid upon her seventeen-year-old shoulders?

"The Anthropocene is the current geological age, in which human activity has profoundly shaped the planet and its biodiversity. In this ... symphony of essays adapted and expanded from his ... podcast, bestselling author John Green reviews different facets of the human-centered planet on a five-star scale--from the QWERTY keyboard and sunsets to Canada geese and Penguins of Madagascar"--

Achille Mbembe is one of the world's most profound critics of colonialism and its consequences, a major figure in the emergence of a new wave of French critical theory. His writings examine the complexities of decolonization for African subjectivities and the possibilities emerging in its wake. In *Out of the Dark Night*, he offers a rich analysis of the paradoxes of the postcolonial moment that points toward new liberatory models of community, humanity, and planetarity. In a nuanced consideration of the African experience, Mbembe makes sweeping interventions into debates about citizenship, identity, democracy, and modernity. He eruditely ranges across European and African thought to provide a powerful assessment of common ways of writing and thinking about the world. Mbembe criticizes the blinders of European intellectuals, analyzing France's failure to heed postcolonial critiques of ongoing exclusions masked by pretenses of universalism. He develops a new reading of African modernity that further develops the notion of Afropolitanism, a novel way of being in the world that has arisen in decolonized Africa in the midst of both destruction and the birth of new societies. *Out of the Dark Night* reconstructs critical theory's historical and philosophical framework for understanding colonial and postcolonial events and expands our sense of the futures made possible by decolonization.

An insidious parasite is working its way through the suburbs of Washington, D.C. NITS follows the trail of a virulent outbreak of head lice as it wreaks havoc on the lives of a social climbing mother of a scholarship student, a buff young Latin teacher and a controlling do-gooder who is so consumed with exterminating the pest, people start calling her the "Lice Nazi." A social satire with bite, NITS explores the themes of class, ambition, and the unavoidable interconnectedness of modern life.

This book critically examines Le Guin's fiction for all ages, and it will be of great interest to her many admirers and to all students and scholars of children's literature.

"He Walks with Dragons" takes place when what was, what is, and what shall be were one in the same. Draig, a boy on the verge of his manhood, is summoned to the majestic mountain by the Great Ones. There he finds out he is about to transcend the ages and risk his life to prevent the destruction of mankind. Born into the naïve innocence of ancient man, Draig lives a simple pastoral existence in a quiet, small village. But one day he is flung on a magical journey into a forbidden new world. There, Draconos, a dragon, befriends the boy, training him in the art of warfare. From this day forward, the young boy finds himself in awe at the wonders the world holds for him. Not only has Draig become a man, but he is living like a dragon and learning their mystical powers. "From the time Man first crawled upon this earth...we found him worthy to take his rightful place among the creatures that walk upon the earth. While hiding in the shadows, we have protected him. We have nurtured him all these many ages. But now man grows in great numbers and makes war on everything he sees." And when the time comes, will Draig be willing to lay down his life for the sake of saving the dragons? And when the dragons are gone, where will he go? He is no longer just a man.

Mary and John Hilt are hired to restore the Mandiev mansion isolated between four surrounding towns. In the past, the Mandiev brothers had a fatal accident which killed hundreds of local citizens. The event marked the beginning of a device that would control its creator and the community for years to come. Mary will soon discover the madness that spawned from its awakening and unravel the deadly secret behind the device. The Necro Device is a mystery, suspense thriller loaded with hidden agenda, multiple twists, and a diabolical plot. It all begins with a betrayal, a machine, and a darker intent... It has a purpose

Become the writer you have always wanted to be! Pat is a writer, a writing coach and a publisher. As you read 'How to Write - Right!' you will see that is also a teacher - and so, your book and writing skill are waiting for you at the end of the book.

This collection contains every essay written in George Eliot's career, including some rare works like The Influence of Rationalism. Tender and passionate autobiographical essays by the National Book Award-winning author of Becoming a Man. "Does it go too fast?" Monette asks about life at the beginning of one piece. The answer is a resounding "yes" for the individuals who populate this stunning work of nonfiction. These ten autobiographical essays memorialize those whose lives have been claimed by AIDS. Following Becoming a Man and Borrowed Time, Last Watch of the Night is Monette's third and final self-portrait. In this collection, he confronts death—those of lovers and friends, and even his own eventual demise—with both bravery and compassion. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Paul Monette including rare images and never-before-seen documents from the Paul Monette papers of the UCLA Library Special Collections.

Childhood memories become warm and rose colored, "and that's as it should be," so said an old friend of mine who shared more than a few with me. Mine, too, are warm and rose colored; but also vivid. Yes, I really do remember being in a crib. Folks challenge me on that once in a while. But for how much longer, I'm not sure. Once the mental concrete hardens, I'll be left with what I can glean from pictures and second hand accounts. So I wrote this book. And of course, one memory led to another. Eleven

years of them, the ones I spent growing up Brooklyn. What follows are the good stories of the people who mattered - still matter - to me. Today more than ever, I look at them with warm, rose colored sight, content that my earliest memories are true and valuable.

The current running boom has led to growing interest in running books. This daring volume combines the best of writing on running with the appeal of the best kind of literary writing, essays that take in a healthy dose of the outdoors, the sights and sounds and smells of real life, of real risk, of real pain and of real elation. Emphasizing female voices to reflect the preponderance of women among runners, this collection of personal essays set in different countries around the world offers a deep but accessible look at the power of running in our lives. From acclaimed novelist Emily Mitchell to ESPN reporter Bonnie Ford to UC Santa Cruz student Kelsey Eiland, a diverse lineup of writers captures a variety of perspectives on running at night. These are stories that can inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to take on a thrilling new challenge. The contributors all have distinct tales to tell, but each brings a freshness and depth to their experiences that make Night Running a necessary part of every runner's library - and a valuable addition to the reading lists of all thoughtful readers.

Nobody likes a smart aleck! Beryl and Nigel get together again six years after their college graduation and resume their word-sliding ways. One is a country pastor and the other is president of a small Christian college. Beryl is suffering the boredom of not having enough to do in his small village church. Nigel is challenged by colorful faculty members with questionable doctrinal positions, a micromanaging board, and a property developer who wants to buy the campus out from under the school. Beryl is persuaded to take classes in Nigel's seminary as a way to isolate some of the problems. They also enlist Beryl's father Daryl, a wealthy real estate developer and businessman, to track down some of the irregularities in the management of the school. Beryl's life is complicated by the need to manage both his class work and his pastorate. After being smitten by Nigel's blonde secretary, the resulting tumultuous relationship distracts everyone. Even after Daryl, Nigel and Beryl remove the board chairman, the tension rapidly builds to a series of events which threaten the lives of the three main characters.

Sy Middleton, a teenager living in Manhattan, enters a secret world when he is initiated into Earth-tribe and becomes a Triber. In the Middle Realm, Tribers from Earth-, Fire-, Air- and Water-tribe train to enhance their powers and compete in monthly Lunar Festivals. The Zodiac Council has protected the Lower and Middle Realms from the Darkforce for thousands of years, but the balance of power has shifted, placing humanity at risk. The Darkforce has stolen the Book of Dreams. Sy and his friend Joshua Ryderson embark on a quest to find it...

Is this the year you are finally going to share your message with the world? Don't let the idea of having to write a book hold you back. It's easier than you think, and you don't even have to actually write the book yourself... Never thought about writing a book? Maybe you should consider it! Publishing a book will give you expert status, help spread your message and increase sales of your other products and services. It may even kick-start or boost your public speaking

career. Writing, publishing and promoting a book has never been easier. You can do it in a week. This guide will teach you: The best kept secrets to a quick start for writing, promotion and sales Smart writing process hacks Alternatives to writing the book yourself Self-publishing The keys to launching a successful book, superfast "I just published my book. What I haven't been able to achieve in the past three years I did in just 7 days!" Chris About the authors Esther Jacobs (The Netherlands, 1970) is an international (TEDx) speaker and author. Esther has given over 1000 keynotes and is (co)author of 21 books. Her workshops have helped over 400 entrepreneurs to write their book. The NO EXCUSES LADY helps leaders and entrepreneurs to transform their challenges into opportunities. Marie Stern (Germany, 1982) is an "Amazon Self-Publishing Ninja." She authored 7 bestselling Amazon books, even though she wasn't even good at writing in school. However, she spent many hours browsing and reading in bookstores, discovering the secret behind successful books. As a former data mining analyst, she knows how important research is and how to find structure in any process. Marie helped many non-writers have their book written and likes to share her best knowledge on how to self-publishing and sell books. Esther and Marie met at a conference, where they were giving a book writing workshop. They decided to write this book in just one day, using their own tested method. And now they're inviting you to try it, too!

The language of science fiction, and of fantasy, has a steep challenge: that of the creation of other worlds, societies and characters that are alien to us in diverse and fundamental ways, but still compelling and knowable. This exciting book steps away from the issues of race, gender and politics that have saturated sci-fi and fantasy criticism. Rather, it challenges two widely held but poorly substantiated beliefs circulating about science fiction and fantasy - that they are a) written in plain and unremarkable prose and b) apt to present characters that are flat types rather than fully realised individuals. Mandala draws on traditional syntactic categories of stylistic analysis as well as the relatively more recent pragmatic and sociolinguistic paradigms such that the original analyses here take our understanding of these two genres beyond the usual confines, to consider how language is used to draw alternative worlds, represent the far future and distant past, and create psychologically believable characters. Covering both British and American fiction and television, this is a wide-ranging and perceptive book.

If you have ever tried to learn another language, you know that learning it can be an extremely intimidating endeavor. Spanish Now! teaches you the essentials of learning conversation Spanish including:-Proper Grammar-Sentence Structure-Masculine and Feminine Conjugation-Essential Nouns, Verbs and Adjectives-Real Practice Examples! You may feel self-conscious about sounding wrong and not knowing it until someone else laughs or you are corrected. It takes time. You won't be a fluent speaker over night, but Spanish Now! teaches you what you need to know to begin conversing in a few weeks or less! And Most people who are native speakers are actually happy to have the chance to

talk in their native language, especially if you are a novice and indicate that you are trying to learn the language. When it comes to learning Spanish, you are already almost half way there because their language structure is extremely similar to English (with a couple of notable exceptions) and so many Spanish words and phrases have crept into everyday usage in the U.S. The biggest challenge with Spanish is vocabulary. Spanish Now! tackles vocabulary and takes you through the essentials you will need to have a solid Spanish-speaking foundation. Also, Since Spanish is one of the Romance languages, it's pronounced and sounds very different from English. Practicing out loud and watching supplemental videos is encouraged with this book to get the full understanding. Once you get the basics down you will find that having basic discussions is far less intimidating than it initially seems. Spanish Now! gives you the basic guidelines that will help you learn conversational Spanish to speak with anyone. Regardless of the nation a native Spanish speaker is from (ie. Mexico, Argentina, or Spain), you will be able to feel confident that you have the basics to converse in the Spanish language. Buy Spanish Now! and learn Spanish in a few weeks or less!

A repackaged edition of the revered author's anthology of satirical yet serious essays on evil. In these spirited essays, C. S. Lewis—the great British writer, scholar, lay theologian, broadcaster, Christian apologist, and bestselling author of Mere Christianity, The Screwtape Letters, The Great Divorce, The Chronicles of Narnia, and many other beloved classics—discusses evil in the world. Blending irony, humor, and paradox, he tackles religion's most difficult and intriguing questions regarding immorality, belief, and the meaning of prayer. Best of all, the infamous Screwtape makes a special cameo appearance in this funny and poignant collection.

Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Dispossessed* is of interest to political theorists partly because of its association with anarchism and partly because it is thought to represent a turning point in the history of utopian/dystopian political thought and literature and of science fiction. Published in 1974, it marked a revival of utopianism after decades of dystopian writing. According to this widely accepted view *The Dispossessed* represents a new kind of literary utopia, which Tom Moylan calls a 'critical utopia.' The present work challenges this reading of *The Dispossessed* and its place in the histories of utopian/dystopian literature and science fiction. It explores the difference between traditional literary utopia and novels and suggests that *The Dispossessed* is not a literary utopia but a novel about utopianism in politics. Le Guin's concerns have more to do with those of the novelists of the 19th century writing in the tradition of European Realism than they do with the science fiction or utopian literature. It also claims that her theory of the novel has an affinity with the ancient Greek tragedy. This implies that there is a conservatism in Le Guin's work as a creative writer, or as a novelist, which fits uneasily with her personal commitment to anarchism.

She emerged as innocent as any newborn. The party of starbursts and sparkles came to a standstill. In awe, millions of

heavenly beings paused. Shine Star, Princess of the Universe, was the most precious and rare of all creations. As an expression of perfect happiness, thus was the king's daughter born. A magical love story unfolds in Vikrant Malhotra's wondrous debut, *The Stories of Goom'pa: Book One*. Meet Goom'pa. He is a Poofy, a small furry creature who resides on Earth in a place called Palidon, on the edge of the Miron National Forest. His world is a quiet one-until he spies Shine Star, a glorious star in the sky and the daughter of Prime Ray, the king of the universe. Enchanted by her elegance, Goom'pa knows he is willing to do anything to win the love of this celestial beauty. As the two meet and fall in love, Shine Star's father worries about his only daughter. Exploiting that concern is the Star Lord, Rath, who wants nothing more than to wrestle control of the universe away from Prime Ray. Will Goom'pa and Shine Star find a way to be together? Or will Rath's evil plan doom them all?

The color green is at the center of the spectrum. For earlier writers like Emily Dickinson or William Blake, the green world was a space of haunting, irreconcilable, opposites: life and death, human and vegetal, innocence and experience. In these essays, letters, repetitions, and experiments, poet and scholar Gillian Osborne adds a third, contemporary, term: the environment as both vital and ailing. This is nature writing outside of adventure or argument, ecological thinking as a space of shared homemaking: reading, writing, and living in vicinity with others.

IT was a dark, chilly night in September, 1884. A heavy gloom had descended over the streets of A——, a small town on the Rhine, and was hanging like a black funeral-pall over the dull factory burgh. The greater number of its inhabitants, wearied by their long day's work, had hours before retired to stretch their tired limbs, and lay their aching heads upon their pillows. All was quiet in the large house; all was quiet in the deserted streets. I too was lying in my bed; alas, not one of rest, but of pain and sickness, to which I had been confined for some days. So still was everything in the house, that, as Longfellow has it, its stillness seemed almost audible. I could plainly hear the murmur of the blood, as it rushed through my aching body, producing that monotonous singing so familiar to one who lends a watchful ear to silence. I had listened to it until, in my nervous imagination, it had grown into the sound of a distant cataract, the fall of mighty waters ... when, suddenly changing its character, the ever growing "singing" merged into other and far more welcome sounds. It was the low, and at first scarce audible, whisper of a human voice. It approached, and gradually strengthening seemed to speak in my very ear. Thus sounds a voice speaking across a blue quiescent lake, in one of those wondrously acoustic gorges of the snow-capped mountains, where the air is so pure that a word pronounced half a mile off seems almost at the elbow. Yes; it was the voice of one whom to know is to reverence; of one, to me, owing to many mystic associations, most dear and holy; a voice familiar for long years and ever welcome: doubly so in hours of mental or physical suffering, for it always brings with it a ray of hope and consolation. "Courage," it whispered in gentle, mellow tones. "Think of the days passed by you in sweet associations; of the great lessons received of Nature's truths; of the many errors of men concerning these truths; and try to add to them the experience of a night in this city. Let the narrative of a strange life, that will interest you,

help to shorten the hours of suffering.... Give your attention. Look yonder before you!" "Yonder" meant the clear, large windows of an empty house on the other side of the narrow street of the German town. They faced my own in almost a straight line across the street, and my bed faced the windows of my sleeping room. Obedient to the suggestion, I directed my gaze towards them, and what I saw made me for the time being forget the agony of the pain that racked my swollen arm and rheumatological body.

A collection of twenty-four essays concerned with writing in general, the field of fantasy and science fiction, and with the author's own writing.

"Lovers of the personal essay will be thrilled by this innovative collection." —Publishers Weekly "In a horror movie, an infected character may hide a bite or rash, an urge, an unwellness. She might withdraw or act out, or behave as if nothing is the matter, nothing has happened. Any course of action opposite saying how she feels suggests suffering privately is preferable to the anticipated betrayal of being cast out." Night Rooms is a poetic, intimate collection of personal essays that weaves together fragmented images from horror films and cultural tropes to meditate on anxiety and depression, suicide, body image, identity, grief, and survival. Whether competing in shopping mall beauty pageants, reflecting on childhood monsters and ballet lessons, or recounting dark cultural ephemera while facing grief and authenticity in the digital age, Gina Nutt's shifting style echoes the sub-genres that Night Rooms highlights—spirit-haunted slow burns, possession tales, slashers, and revenge films with a feminist bent. Refracting life through the lens of horror films, Night Rooms masterfully leaps between reality and movies, past and present—because the "final girl's" story is ultimately a survival story told another way. "Whether she's uncovering connections between her homebuyer's course and haunted house movies, her wedding anniversary and Victorian taxidermy tableaux, or her shopping mall's glass elevator and destiny, Gina Nutt writes prose so astonishing I want to read it in an MRI machine just to confirm that every part of my brain indeed lit up. Night Rooms is a brilliant, beautiful, boundlessly inventive book." —Jeannie Vanasco, author of Things We Didn't Talk About When I Was a Girl

When ancient gods ruled and Druids kept Faith alive, the Celts thrived as a democratic, matriarchal society. Then savage Roman soldiers swept across Europe, killing and enslaving. The Celts did not succumb without a fight. Their Old Ways survived centuries of ruthless domain until another menace loomed: a tortured god worshiped in cold stone buildings. The sacred shores of Avalon began to drift away, the mists threatened to hide the island from mortal eyes forever. Against the bleak backdrop of war, the gorgeous Scottish Highlands stood tall, sheltering its inhabitants from greedy invaders. Yet the reach of the eagle banners was long and the highlanders turned to the Goddess for protection. However, the sacred groves felt silent and grim as Avalon faded away. Once sad, pealing bells began to sound strangely comforting while the high walls of monasteries offered an alluring barrier from violence. Caught in the middle of this centuries-old war, a young High Priestess might be Avalon's last chance. Wise beyond her years and powerful like no other Priestess in her lifetime, Rowen had served the Goddess faithfully, forsaking her family and the company of her soulmate. When the Lady of the Lake asks for another sacrifice, it might be one too many for her scarred heart. How could she obey the Goddess without betraying Caddaric? Could she trust Eochaid, who embodied everything she

despised and hated? Would she be able to fulfill her duties without losing her soul? Caddaric had been Rowen's companion in countless lives; but, now, they existed in different realms. Beautiful Rowen lived in the mortal world while sweet Caddaric remained in the sacred isle of Avalon, watching over her. Could he step aside to allow another man - a flesh and blood man - to become her protector? Eochaid had sworn to protect the Old Ways. The rude warrior never quite understood his faith yet his loyal heart belonged to the Goddess. A gorgeous, fiery High Priestess was not in his plans. He would risk his life to protect Rowen; but, would the Goddess safeguard his heart? Could he defend the bewitching maiden from himself? When stakes were so high that a simple mistake could cost their very world, a priestess, a Druid, and a warrior must learn to trust one another and the mysterious ways of the Goddess. Their success would save Avalon. Their failure would tear the island from the human realm forever, condemning it to oblivion. Failure was not an option. This is a standalone, historical/paranormal romance. Its mature themes - sexual violence, religion, and pagan rituals - might not be appropriate for audiences under 18.

The Book of Knowledge and Wonder is a memoir about claiming a legacy of wonder from knowledge of a devastating event. In some ways it has the feel of a detective story in which Steven Harvey pieces together the life of his mother, Roberta Reinhardt Harvey, who committed suicide when he was eleven, out of the 406 letters she left behind. Before he read the letters his mother had become little more than her death to him, but while writing her story he discovered a woman who, despite her vulnerability to depression, had a large capacity for wonder and a love of familiar things, legacies that she passed on to him. The book tackles subjects of recent fascination in American culture: corporate life and sexism in the fifties, mental illness and its influence on families, and art and learning as a consolation for life's woes, but in the end it is the perennial theme of abiding love despite the odds that fuels the tale. As the memoir unfolds, his mother changes and grows, darkens and retreats as she gives up her chance at a career in nursing, struggles with her position as a housewife, harbors paranoid delusions of having contracted syphilis at childbirth, succumbs to a mysterious, psychic link with her melancholic father, and fights back against depression with counseling, medicine, art, and learning. Harvey charts the way, after his mother's death, that he blotted out her memory almost completely in his new family where his mother was rarely talked about, a protective process of letting go that he did not resist and in a way welcomed, but the book grows out of a nagging longing that never went away, a sense of being haunted that caused the writer to seek out places alone-dribbling a basketball on a lonely court, going on long solitary bicycle rides, walking away from his family to the edge of a mountain overlook, and working daily at his writing desk-where he might feel her presence. In the end, the loss cannot be repaired. Her death, like a camera flash in the dark, blotted out all but a few lingering memories of her in his mind, but the triumph of the book is in the creative collaboration between the dead mother, speaking to her son in letters, and the writer piecing together the story from photographs, snatches of memory, and her words so that he can, for the first time, know her and miss her, not some made up idea of her. The letters do not bring her back-he knows the loss is irrevocable-but as he shaped them into art, the pain, that had been nothing more than a dull throb, changed in character, becoming more diffuse and ardent, like heartache.

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