

**BOOK
AUTHOR
MAGAZINE**

Issue 1, October 2011

FEATURES

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COMPETITION



- WELCOME -

This is something of an experiment The first in what I hope will be a monthly magazine aimed at writers and creators of e-books, whether they are novelists, poets, or manufacturers of 'how-to' books. In all cases, we are the people who are reclaiming the publishing industry for the original creatives without whom the rest of the industry could not exist.

I hope this magazine will prove to be a forum where we can meet and discuss our concerns, trumpet our achievements and, if worst comes to worst, drown our sorrows.

Of necessity this issue is a one man show but I hope others will be inspired to contribute. Fiction, comment, whatever, they're all welcome. Go to the Submissions page for details. At the moments there's no cash in it but, in the future, who knows?

I need feedback, because I don't know everything. Honest! Does the two column format work? How about the background graphics? Let me know.

This is not intended to exclude readers of e-books, because without you we'd just be wasting our time. You too can have a voice here. Tell us what you want to read and the formats you'd like to read it in. If the e-book phenomenon is to mean anything, it should really be about direct communication between reader and writer.

This magazine will be available exclusively through free-ebooks.net as I've found them to be the best for promo e-books, gathering together a good number of writers and readers, and I'll aim to have a new issue out at the beginning of every month.

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I hope you enjoy reading this. I've tried to throw in a little of everything, from tutorials on creative writing to a couple of humorous short stories to a competition. In any case, let me know what you think. It's the only way it can work.

Gurmeet Mattu, Editor



**This Issue's BIG question.
What's a fair price for a 50,000
word novel e-book in pdf format?
Leave your answer in the
Review.**

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COMPETITION

REVIEWS

SUBMISSIONS

THE E-BOOK STORY

A LIGHT-HEARTED LOOK by Gurmeet Mattu

Once upon a time there was a writer. He was a good writer and felt that people would like the things he wrote. He'd written a book, using all his skills and imagination, but he only had one copy and it was soon tattered as all his friends wanted to borrow it to read it. The writer knew that to let a lot of people read it he would need to have it printed and published, but the writer didn't have any money to print it and publish it.

One day a man came to see the writer. He was a publisher and he said he would pay to have the writer's book printed and published. The writer was delighted but he knew there had to be a catch.

"Why are you doing this?" he asked the publisher.

"Because I love the arts and I appreciate good writing," the publisher replied, "You are a very talented writer and your book deserves to be read by a lot of people."

"But you're taking an awful risk," the writer protested, "you'll be spending thousands of pounds to get my book printed and published and if nobody buys it you might lose all your money."

"I'm willing to take that risk," the publisher answered, "but because I'm the one taking the risk I think I deserve to be taking most of the profit. That's if there is a profit, of course."

"What do you mean by 'most'?" the writer asked warily.

"I'll give you ten per cent of the cover price, a royalty, and just to show that I believe in you, here's an advance of a whole dollar."

The writer was delighted. His book would be getting printed and published so lots of people could read it and he had a whole dollar as well!

The publisher was even more delighted, especially as the book sold thousands and thousands of copies and he made a lot of money. He saw that this was

such a good idea that he took on other writers and printed and published their books too. Most of them sold well and he made so much money that he became incredibly rich. So rich in fact that he had chocolate profiteroles for breakfast!

One day a big company came to see the publisher and said they would like to buy his publishing business for millions of pounds. The publisher was quite happy with this, as some of the books he published didn't sell all that well and a few even lost money. So, if he could take that level of risk out of his life and still get a bucket-load of money, that would be perfect.

The big company was run by accountants and they didn't like risk at all. They weren't interested in books being well written by talented authors, all they wanted to see was books making a profit. So they decided to only publish books by famous authors or celebrity TV chefs and as these sold a lot and made a lot of money, they were happy.

One day our writer wrote another very good book and took it to the big company to see if they would publish it.

"But you're not a famous author or a celebrity TV chef," the big company said.

"No, but I've written a very good book."

"Ah," they replied, "but it doesn't fit our list and the markets are depressed."

The writer was saddened by this. "What can I do?" he asked.

"Murdering somebody would be good," the big company said, "or marrying twelve women or joining the Taliban."

"But it's a really good book," the writer insisted.

"Can you guarantee sales?" they asked.

"No, of course not."

[CONTINUED](#)

FOR LOVE OF A GOAT WOMAN

She is very much respect in my culture, the goat. We are Talibash of Kuru Mountains and knowing wise beast when we are seeing. Goat is top animal for wrestling and I am saying this from personal knowledge, as I am No 1 Goat Wrestler in Southern province, Torfu, it is my name.

Goat wrestling is ancient tradition with my people and is proper wrestling not from script like western TV wrestling. Goat cannot read script. Goat eat script.

I am beginning in goat wrestling as a boy as I am No 2 son and will not inherit farm of my father, so I must make my own way in world.

Within few years, and after getting ass butted many times, I develop subtle moves to defeat goat. I notice that goat have very

sensitive scrote and so I attack goat scrote viciously and goat soon surrender and I am champion. This bring me great prestige and immense wealth and I buy enormous house with many rooms and outbuildings, even larger than that of Ranji Bey, chief exhibitionist of all the Kurus.

So, with immense fame and fortune and in the fullness of my vigor I decide to take a wife. I decide on Soapi because she is very clean and also because her father tells me she is ambitious. This is important to me as I do not

want a wife who only dries dung and weaves blankets, but one who is yearning after finer things in life like catalogue shopping. Also Soapi is quite beautiful and I look forward to having bed fun with her and giving her many sons. But alas, after our wedding, eight years ago, I cannot find her of an evening when it is

time to retire to the night chamber for bed fun. Now I see the curse of having a large house. So many rooms, so many alcoves, so many cupboards. I am exhaust looking for my beautiful Soapi, but never can I find her.

During the day she is in my company and is cooking my food and doing my laundry, but in evening she is disappear and I am full of unrequited lust.

Having made great fortune with my skills I no longer wrestle the goat as often as I

used to, only an exhibition match once a month if there is no rain. But I have found other source of income in breeding wrestling goats. Torfu's wrestling goats are the finest in all the Kurus and any man who wagers against my beasts is a fool. I am teaching the goats, you see, and breeding them with less sensitive scrotes, so that they are a challenge even for my grappling skills. Finest of them all is Tumshi the Magnificent, who has shown such courage and skill in his wrestling career that I am semi-retiring him and putting him to stud.



So, it is coming as a surprise when Shirga, my chief goat keeper is asking me if I know where Tumshi the Magnificent sleeps.

“In the bridal chambers, of course, fool,” I reply curtly, “with his nanny goat of choice, making little goats for the glory of Torfu.”

“Ah,” Shirga nods in agreement, but with a low grin, which I am hate very much.

“And you still have not discover where your wife sleep?”

Now, he stretch my patience. “You know I have not discover, that is why I am kicking the chickens every morning. They are get the suffer because I do not get the bed fun.”

“You follow her?”

“I try, but she move like the wind, upstairs, down corridors, through rooms, I cannot catch.”

“Maybe you follow the wrong one,” sneer

Shirga, “Maybe you follow Tumshi, you find Soapi.”

“What you mean?” I demand, “What you imply, you dog of a dog?”

But he return to polishing buttocks of the goats and I decide I will fire him and buy a machine to do his tasks, the Swiss have good model, reasonable price.

Still, it is making me think and that night when Soapi is disappear, I follow Tumshi to see where he go. He is easy to follow, unlike Soapi, because he knows I do not want to have bed fun with him. Imagine my shocking then, when I track him to a room on seventh floor of third eastern outbuilding which I did not even know existed. And there on a bed is lying my beautiful Soapi. Her glossy, black hair is tumbling over her ivory shoulders, her brown

eyes are smouldering and her bosoms are heaving.

“What is this?” I cry, “Do you intend betray me with a goat?”

“It is because I am ambitious,” Soapi answers with a voice which drips with sultriness.

“Ambitious? To have bed fun with a goat?”

“To have bed fun with Tumshi the Magnificent,” she growls, “because I want to go to America.”

She has me confuse. “What do you mean America?”

“America is land of future and they do not have children there, but kids. I am reading this in magazine. You cannot give me kids, but Tumshi can.”

I strike my head with hands, but only to cause little sore. “Oh, you foolish woman, you are failing elemental biology and also American English. Woman and goat cannot make kid, and kid mean children in Americanese.”

“Is true?” and she have very pretty dimples.

“Is true,” I insist, “But as you have betrayed me I must do the divorcing of you for sluttish behaviour and return you to your father as damaged goods and demand repayment of dowry. With interest.”

But Soapi is as wise as she is beautiful and kicks off the sheets that cover her. It is the first time I have seeing her naked with no clothes on.

We move to Wisconsin next Fall. With kids.

Please note that the photograph used to illustrate this short story is not of Tumshi the Magnificent but of his brother, Joe.

WRITING IN TONGUES-A look at character creation.

Listen then, my brothers and sisters, and I will tell thee of magic, of wondrous things and of ancient arts. I have much to tell, and all of interest to the seeker after wisdom, but mark this and mark it well, these skills are not for shallow men, but to make great those who would lead our humble race to greater things.

This then I tell to speed thee on thy quest, to place one's heart, one's very mind, into that of another, better to convey those things we wish to tell. For is it not known that our noble listeners do take amusement if the tale is told in many voices, rather than the pathetic squeaking of thy servant.

How then shall we, but made of clay, conduct this wondrous task, this work for godlings? It requires no runes or spells, I tell thee, and only the application of some simple practice.

But first, my brother and sisters, ye must know the one into whose skin you wish to climb, and this learning comes only from being in the company of thy victim, if I may so name him. Ye must gain knowledge from this closeness, and the more you cling the better shall be thy understanding. Note not only, my beloved friends, the tone of voice, but the turn of hem, for all things are of import in this matter.

Yeah, you gotta get to know the guy, but big style. Every little bit of him, what he eats, where he drinks, even things he don't know about himself. It's the only way to grab his voice. Sure you can imagine, you're some kinda creative writer, aintcha? Can't expect you to behave like no newshound and just tell what you see, but you gotta start with what you got. And what you got

is a real live breathing human being, I hope, less he's a corpse, and you gotta watch out for his foibles. Foibles is important, cause they's what makes a guy the guy he is. Foibles is everything, from the cut of his suit, to the smell of his aftershave. The size of his wife's butt to where he buys his automobiles. I aint kidding, the more you got, the better you'll know your man. Don't mean you have to put all that stuff on the page, just keep it in your head and the knowing will make your fella a more rounded and believable kinda guy.

For believability is the essence of our work. If we fail to convince the reader of the reality of the existence of our character then the whole dramatic experience is minimised if not totally destroyed. The reader's needs must be regarded as paramount, surpassing even the writer's desire to express herself in a voice she regards as totally her own. I'm sure I read an adage once about 'knowing thy enemy', not that I dwell upon such things, but similarly the writer must know the character she is writing. It is of no use to write of an African princess if one has no knowledge of how such a person exists. The honest writer will take her pencil and notebook in hand and research that existence. I do not of course expect her to travel to the dark continent in order to discover such truths, that would require too much of even the most generous of husbands, but in this modern age there are many public libraries where information on such matters is freely available. I would strongly urge every writer to learn the manners of the people she wishes to write if she wishes to speak in their voice.

E-BOOK FORMATS



An electronic book also known as an e-book is a publication in digital form, consisting of text, images, or both, and produced on, published through, and readable on computers or other electronic devices. Sometimes it can be the equivalent of a conventional printed book but e-books can also be created to exist only in a digital form. E-books are usually read on dedicated hardware devices known as e-

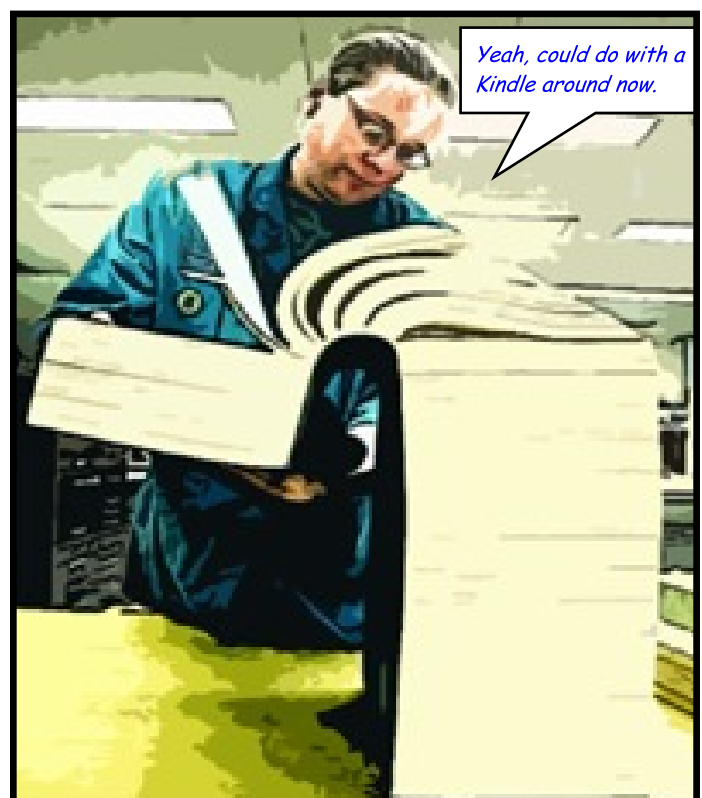
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TPZ - Topaz file extension used on Amazon Kindle. Topaz is a collection of glyphs arranged on pages, along with an unproofed OCR text version. An Amazon proprietary format, used to make older books available quickly, since conversion is essentially automatic from scans of the pages of a book, but it reflows very well.



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BBeB - The Sony proprietary format. Stands for Broadband EBook, also known as LRF because of the file extension.

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CHM - Compressed HTML, often used for Windows help files. It has become very popular for distribution of texts and other support materials over the Web.

DJVU - format by Lizardtech that is more and more widely used for scientific publications. Its main characteristics is that the compress ratio is about 10x better than in PDF format at the same quality.



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DOC - This format could be a document in Microsoft Word format, which uses a .doc extension, or in PalmDOC.

DOCX - This is the latest Office Open XML format used in Word 2007 and later. Older versions of Word can be upgraded to support this format.

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EXE format means that the eBook is actually a PC executable. Basically the eBook includes the program to display it.

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LRS - also: BBeB Xylog XML. Source format for BBeB books, which is compiled into LRF for reading on the device.

LRX - A protected BBeB document. The Sony Librie and Sony Reader use mutually incompatible formats.

MART - This is a proprietary format used only on the Martview web site for distributing books consisting of images.

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OEB - Open eBook format. An ebook format used by EBookwise-1150, MobiPocket, and Microsoft Reader. This standard is an older version of ePUB.

ODT - This is an open standard, document format used in OpenOffice.org, Star Office and many other word processors.

OSIS - This is an XML Schema definition for Bibles and other Biblical research texts.

PKG a format used on the Apple Newton.

PNPd - format used by the eReader program. This is a popular format (Also known as PML).

PS - Postscript is supported on a few reading programs but is intended for sending information to a printer.

RB - Rocket eBook format made for the Rocket eBook device and the Gemstar RCA REB 1100.

RTF - Rich Text Format is a document interchange format available supported by some e-book readers, and also by many Word processing applications including MS Word and OpenOffice. It is the preferred format for many users who create their own content for the Sony Reader.

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