

A NEWSLETTER FROM AUTHOR JB CAINE

THE BUSY QUILL

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FEMALE PROTAGONISTS WHO KICK BUTT

Once upon a time, when I was a little girl and dinosaurs roamed the Earth, it was hard to find a female lead in a story who was strong, clever, and powerful. In fact, in most of the fairy tales I grew up with, the strong, clever, powerful women were all villains, and the nice girls who cleaned up after everyone and waited to be saved by a prince were the “heroines” of the story.

I'm glad to say that those days are gone, at least in our culture. Women don't have to be weak to be good. Men can be partners instead of saviors. And our young ones have heroes to look up to who look like them: Katniss, Ripley, Gamora, Mulan, Shuri, and Hermione.

Writing strong women is a genuine pleasure and honor as a writer. We get to create characters in our own minds who are who we would like to be and, in some ways through this act of creation, we do become those women, at least in words. But we, like our readers, get to see ourselves in women who have

vulnerabilities, fears, doubts, and rise above them to do what needs to be done.

I guess that's what women have always done, if you think about it. It's just that now we get to have those innate elements of female strength viewed as heroic. Welcome to the brave new world, girls. Own it.

MY FIVE

THIS MONTH: KICK-BUTT CHICK FLICKS

1. *The Long Kiss Goodnight*
 2. *Aliens*
 3. *Wonder Woman*
 4. *Terminator 2*
 5. *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*
- Runner up: *Resident Evil*

WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH:

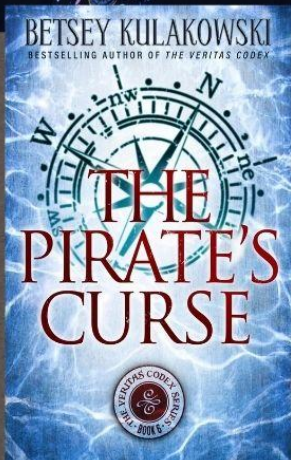
BIG NEWS IS COMING,
FRIENDS...



WHERE TO FIND ME THIS
MONTH



FEATURED AUTHOR: BETSEY KULAKOWSKI



JBC: WHAT'S A ONE-SENTENCE TEASER TO GET READERS INTERESTED IN THE VERITAS CODEX SERIES AND YOUR NEWEST NOVEL, THE PIRATE'S CURSE?

EK: "Some truths were never meant to be told."

JBC: I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE WIRING PARANORMAL THRILLERS. WHERE DID YOUR LOVE FOR THE PARANORMAL BEGIN?

EK: I have loved paranormal since I was a little girl. I lived in the Pacific Northwest when I was very small, and the first monster I can remember hearing about was Bigfoot. I started watching shows like Ripley's Believe it or Not, MonsterQuest, In Search Of, etc. as a kid. The attraction never left me. I think it's an attempt to understand the things in this world that are beyond explanation that keeps me coming back.

JBC: YOUR MC, LAUREN, IS A POWERFUL FEMALE LEAD. WHAT ABOUT HER IS MOST AND LEAST LIKE YOU?

EK: Dr. Lauren Grayson is everything you could want in a strong female lead. She's smart, she's strong and she doesn't necessarily need a hero to save her. She can save him just as easily. She is most like me in that I am just as strong-willed and stubborn as she is, but I need someone to lean on just as she needs her partner, Rowan. Fortunately, my husband fills that role nicely. I don't have a PhD like she does, but if I ever decided to go back to school, I'd seriously consider a degree in anthropology, like her.