

A NEWSLETTER FROM AUTHOR JB CAINE

THE BUSY QUILL

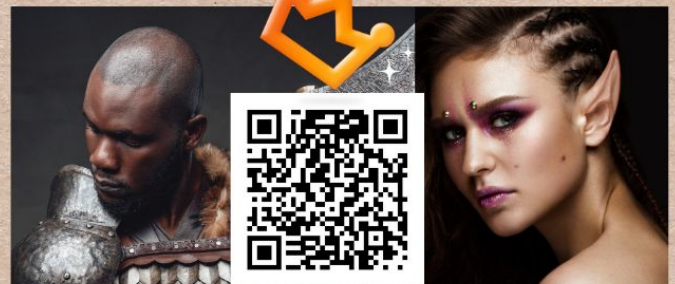
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JOIN THE ADVENTURE FOR FREE!

Do you love a good fantasy story? There was a time when the public library was the place where fantasy-loving readers got their fill of stories without breaking the bank. If a book wasn't what you were looking for, then no biggie! Return it and get onto the next, no money lost.

Now I still love the library, but in the digital age, a lot of us just won't take the time to go to one anymore. But there's a new-ish way to try before you buy! Have you heard of KINDLE VELLA? It's a platform that is designed to be optimized for your phone and allows you to read three episodes (generally 10K - 15K words) to see if you like something before you commit to buying it. Cool, right? If you haven't checked out my fantasy adventure IRONSHIELD'S SHADOW, you can click the QR code or copy the link (<https://www.amazon.com/kindle-vela/story/B09ZKP65HX>) to sample Kindle Vella for yourself. And if you do like IRONSHIELD, I sure would appreciate it if you'd give it a like and a quick review! Even a sentence or two makes a difference!



MY FIVE

THIS MONTH: HIGH FANTASY FILMS

1. Rankin/Bass' *The Hobbit* (where my love began)
2. any Peter Jackson *Lord of the Rings* movie
3. *Legend*
4. *Conan the Barbarian*
5. *Avatar* (mixed sci-fi and fantasy)

runner up: *Labyrinth*

disclaimer: I haven't seen the new DnD movie yet!
Don't @ me!

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Is there a fantasy story or franchise that really stuck with you, maybe even changed how you viewed "the real world"? Drop me the title and author of your favorites!

Post a comment on the website underneath the QUESTION OF THE MONTH on my newsletter page (www.jbcaine.com/newsletter)! Let's talk about it!

FANTASY WORLD-BUILDING:

Writing fantasy fiction means creating a whole world, not just characters. To do this successfully, you need to create a consistent world for your readers. Here are a few key steps:

- What VIBE do you want?
 - Is this a post-apocalyptic fantasy world? What made it that way?
 - Is it more like medieval Earth?
 - Is there peace? War? If war, what's the cause?
- What SYSTEMS apply here?
 - What is the role of magic in your world?
 - What is the political/religious landscape like?
 - Is there a social hierarchy?
 - What races of creatures exist here, and how to they relate to each other?

FOUR THINGS TO CONSIDER

- What does the world LOOK like?
 - Are there mountains? water? deserts?
 - How large is the world?
 - Give names to the world and its regions.
 - What do country/national borders look like?
 - Consider basing your world on a map that already exists, like the map of a nearby state park!
- What are the RULES of your world?
 - How does magic work? What is its power source?
 - Do the laws of physics have exceptions?
 - Are there laws that affect the inhabitants of your world?
 - How do the social expectations for different creatures work?
 - What are the linguistic rules?



FEATURED AUTHOR: R.S. HAMILTON

JBC: WHAT'S A ONE-SENTENCE HOOK FOR YOUR LATEST BOOK?

RSR: Two boys, half a century from each other, meet in a place of magic and wonder and soon find out that the adventure of a lifetime lies before them.

JBC: WHY DO HUMANS NEED FANTASY STORIES?

RSR: From stories like "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" to the books from the Harry Potter series, these stories allow us to drift away. They allow us to recollect ourselves. As cliché as it can be, fantasy stories sweep us away from the trials and tribulations of everyday life.

JBC: WHAT WAS YOUR AHA! MOMENT WHEN COMING UP WITH THE IDEA FOR EVERGREEN?

RSR: My Aha! moment for Evergreen was when I discovered the world before Evergreen, The In Between. A place where two twelve-year-old characters, Billy and Josh, meet each other even though they live fifty years apart. That was the moment I knew I had a story!