

A NEWSLETTER FROM AUTHOR JB CAINE

THE BUSY QUILL

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TO ILLUSTRATE MY POINT ...

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BRINGING A STORY TO LIFE WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

When I first released *Ironshield's Shadow: Beginnings*, I was focused on getting the story into readers' hands. Like many independent authors, I made use of the tools available to me at the time—including AI-generated artwork—to help bring the book to life visually. I've never had an objection to using AI art, especially as a practical solution for indie publishing. But as the Ironshield series has continued to grow, I found myself wanting something more personal ... something crafted by hand, with the same care and intention that went into writing the story itself.

That desire led me to commission original artwork for the series, and I'm excited to announce that a new edition of *Ironshield's Shadow: Beginnings* is now available, featuring an updated cover and interior illustrations by comic book author and artist Grace Brooks, a graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design.

The new edition of *Ironshield's Shadow: Beginnings* represents that step forward for the series. It's the same story, but presented the way I always hoped it could be, with artwork that reflects the heart of the world and the characters who live in it.

If you've read the book before, this edition gives you a new way to experience it. And I'm excited to share that Grace is hard at work on illustrations for *The Book of Order!*

If you're new to the series, this is the perfect place to begin. And for me personally, this release marks an exciting moment—not just because the book is back with a new look, but because Ironshield is continuing to grow, shaped not only by my imagination, but by the talents of the artists who help bring it to life.

MY FIVE

THIS MONTH: ICONIC ILLUSTRATORS

1. E. H. Shepard (Winnie the Pooh)
2. Maurice Sendak (Where the Wild Things Are)
3. Dr. Seuss
4. Steve Ditko (Amazing Spider-Man)
5. Alan Lee (The Hobbit, LOTR)

WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH:

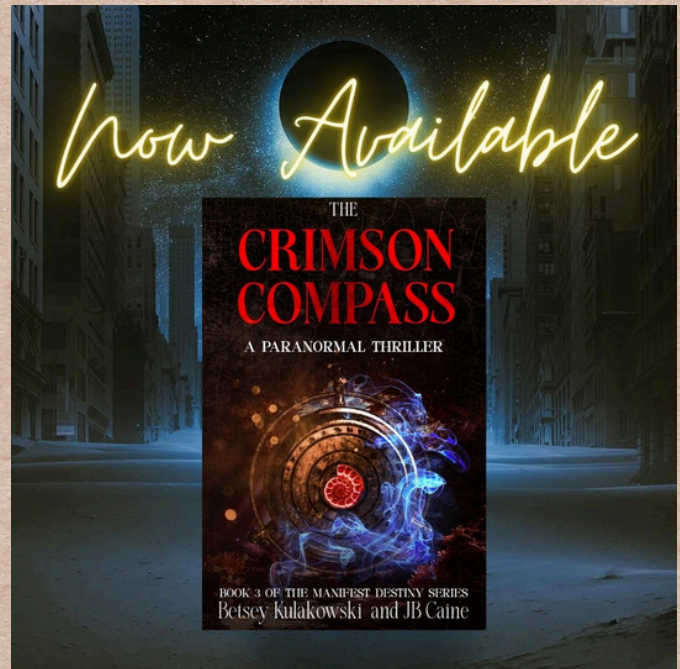
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NEW RELEASE!



The Strange and the Story by JB Caine

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FEATURED GUEST: GRACE BROOKS



JBC: GIVE US YOUR ELEVATOR PITCH FOR "BEHIND THE SCREEN."

GB: It's the story of a couple of guys who accidentally buy a magical TV and are thrown into whatever movie happens to be playing. They've found themselves the unwitting participants in an epic, swashbuckling adventure.

JBC: WHEN YOU'RE DESIGNING A COMIC BOOK, DO THE VISUALS COME FIRST OR THE STORY?

GB: In my process, story trumps art. It doesn't matter how nice the art is if the story isn't worth reading. Often, the direction of the story will influence the direction of the art. A fun, cartoony style wouldn't suit a dark, heavy, grungy comic.

JCB: WHAT CREATIVES, EITHER IN STORYTELLING OR ART, INSPIRED YOU, AND WHERE CAN WE SEE THEIR INFLUENCE IN YOUR WORK?

GB: One of my biggest inspirations, both in art and storytelling, is Stephen McCranie, creator of Space Boy. It's a beautiful story with equally beautiful art, and it can be found on Webtoon or vthrough his website or Dark Horse Comics. Another inspiration is Tradd Moore, a fellow SCAD alumni. His art is some of the most psychedelic and awe inspiring I've seen in cartooning and he'll forever be one of my all time favorites. He doesn't use social media, so you'll find his work exclusively on his website or through his comic books.