

A NEWSLETTER FROM AUTHOR JB CAINE

# THE BUSY QUILL

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## GENRE STUDY: RE-TELLINGS AND HOMAGES

We've all heard that there are no new stories, and that all stories are variations on a couple of dozen archetypal plots. And while that may be true, it's wonderful to see how writers are able to take those archetypes and create new tales and universes for readers.

But there's a whole genre here that mustn't be ignored: the re-telling/homage/adaptation construct. When done well, this genre can breathe new life into stories we know and love, or even give a fresh perspective to a character in the story whose story needed to be told (think *Wicked* by Gregory Maguire).

I had the privilege of participating in a charity anthology called *WICKED EVER AFTER* which featured YA-friendly dark re-tellings of well-known fairy tales (as if fairy tales are dark enough). My story was based on "The Little Mermaid"--the Hans Christian Andersen version, not the Disney one--and I added a touch of necromancy and some other twists and turns.

The best thing about it, though, is that we raised money for the UN's humanitarian aid fund benefiting Ukrainians displaced by war. (WEA, from Grim House Publishing, is still available on Amazon.)

If you're stuck on something to write, re-tellings are also a fun way to get those creative juices flowing!

## MY FIVE

### THIS MONTH: RE-TELLINGS OF FAMOUS STORIES

1. *Warm Bodies* (*Romeo and Juliet* with zombies....the only version of the play I truly enjoy.)
2. *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (*The Odyssey*)
3. *The Lion King* (Hamlet)
4. *Maleficent* (*Sleeping Beauty*)
5. *My Fair Lady* (*Pygmalion*)
6. Runner up: *Apocalypse Now* (*Heart of Darkness*)



# WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH:

## ARCANA BOOK 2: RUSH TO JUDGEMENT...OCT 17

The thrilling sequel to RISE OF THE MOON drops October 17!

Death and grief are familiar companions to Aria Rush, but when she herself cheats death in a car accident, her understanding of the veil between worlds shifts forever. She had always heard the ghost stories about her family's estate, but now a fearsome entity stalks the grounds, and she must find a way to protect what family she has left.

When the power of Judgement is set free, Aria is drawn into the dark world of the Magician. She must find a way to protect herself from his hunger for power and control, while keeping her family safe from the unearthly forces that want to destroy them.

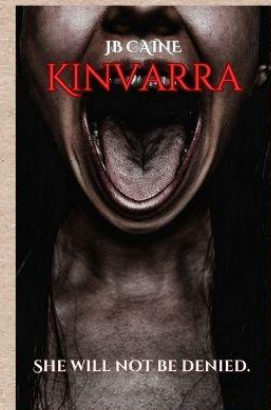
COVER REVEAL COMING SOON! I'm just as eager as you are to see what the art team has come up with!

## AUTUMN TALES II OCT 21

My newest short fiction, "Kinvarra", will be included in the charity horror anthology AUTUMN TALES II, being released October 21.

This year, we've DOUBLED the number of authors and stories included, making it twice as creepy! Stories vary from monster tales to slashers, and everything in between. What could be better than getting all that entertainment and supporting a good cause at the same time??

October will be filled with teasers, book cover releases, and other spooky and fun shenanigans from Anatolian Press. Keep an eye on my social media for updates!



## FEATURED AUTHOR: KILLIAN WOLF

JBC: GIVE ME A TEASER FOR YOUR LATEST NOVEL, THE DEVIL'S GAMBIT.

KW: A pirate prince, hungry for revenge. A thief with magic that can kill. Both will face Death to save someone they love.

JBC: YOU CREATE AN AMAZING WORLD IN TAROTLAND. WHAT INSPIRED IT?

KW: There are so many things that inspired this worldbuilding. Years ago, when I was studying the history of the tarot, I realized that there was so much happening both religiously and politically within the pictures in the original tarot. I was immediately inspired to write a story on, but back then the idea was to make it a historical fantasy. As the years went by, and I wrote different things, my ideas developed into something bigger, and much more fantastical. I wanted to bring in how people create stories and interpret them in their own way. There are so many different versions of the tarot now, and the world of "Ipa" has its own which depicts what happened when the Fate took the tarot from a different timeline, and brought it to a new world where a different magic system already existed. It's an example of how some things should be appreciated from afar and left alone. I could have just created a basic world where the incarnations of the tarot were indeed just that--but my vision for this was so much more than that. Alice in Wonderland inspiration came much later when my editor started pointing out the parallels, and because of that, I brought in the character Gari, and the entire beginning of the first book changed. I was also largely inspired by Pirates of the Caribbean, and since the Ipani are islanders, it just worked. The Ipani language is inspired by the Polynesian dialect, and Imboe is a creole between that, and Ancient Greek to stay true to the development of multiple languages coming together over time.

