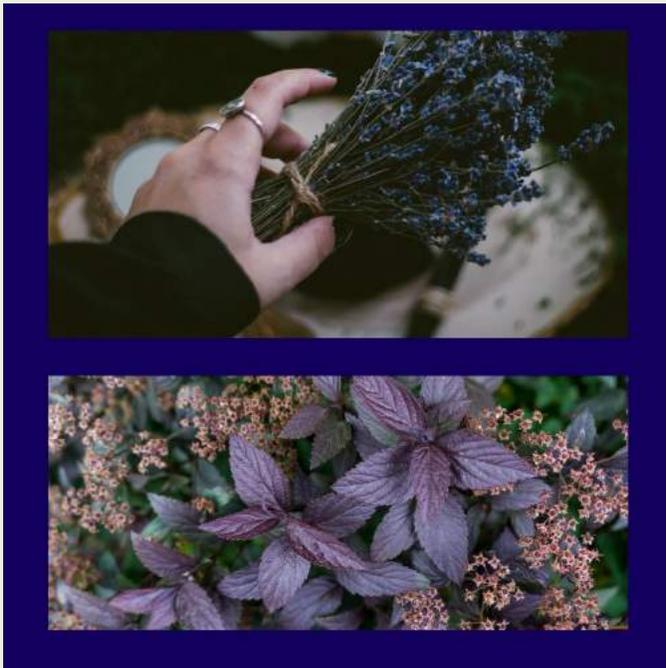


The Dragon's Scribe

J.L. Henker, Author – Quarterly Newsletter



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Writing About Green Stuff

This article was developed from notes I took at a Fantasy/SciFi Writing Conference Workshop facilitated by Olivia Wylie, professional horticulturist and business owner who specializes in the restoration of neglected gardens. When the weather keeps her indoors, she enjoys researching and writing about the plant world, the future and the...CONT...

Whether your writing about brave new worlds in science fiction or fantasy worlds which mimic the ancient European continent, you'll have an opportunity to create a green environment. Olivia Wylie has some tips and resources to help the *green stuff* in those world appear more realistic:

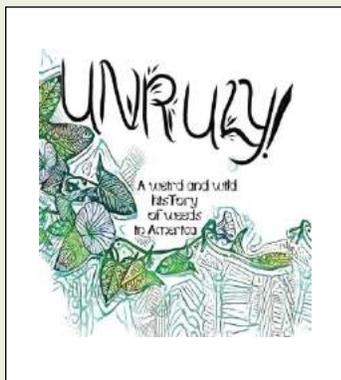
Consider what kind of plants world grow best in your world:

- Cold & barren, lush & moist, hot & dry? Lots of light or full of shadows?:
 - (1) Low UV environments (not much light) would be populated with plants with large dark leaves to absorb the most sunlight (exp: Hostas/ferns)
 - (2) High UV environment plants would be lighter, fuzzier & thinner to protect from radiation (Ex: Mullen/African violets)...CONT...

...complexities of being human. She co-writes hopeful queer science fiction under the pen-name O.E. Tearmann. Her solo work is in illustrated non-fiction works of ethnobotany, intended to make the intersection of human history and plant evolution accessible to a wider audience. She lives in Colorado with a very patient husband and a rather impatient cat. Her works can be viewed at:

www.leafingoutgardening.com

<https://www.oetearmann.com/>



What would travellers carry in their pack for medicinal use?

- Some examples: witch hazel (clean injuries); yarrow (compresses); slippery elm bark (sore throat); hawthorne (repellent/protect); comfrey (bruises, burns, sprains); rosehips (diuretic, skin ailments, anti-inflammatory)

What can be foraged? Maybe it's Not All Green...

- Cattails, acorns, dandelion, nettle, wild rice, birch bark, horsetail, reindeer moss
- On an alien planet? Humans need chlorophyll to survive, so what are the options? NASA has an interesting theory [about plants on other planets](#)

Will it kill you? How do you know if it's toxic?"

- Strange sensation or heat on tongue, intensely bitter or soapy flavor, milky white sap, foliage that looks like dill, parsley or carrot fronds
- Many [medicinal plants are poisonous](#) (can be used with proper preparation): Foxglove (strengthens heart); Willow bark (for aches & pains); Hemlock (pain relief, insomnia); oleander (anti-inflammatory)

Books for Additional Research:

[Pederson Field Guide to Edible Plants](#)
[Rodales Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs](#)
[Magic & Medicine of Plants](#) (Readers Digest)
[The Complete Medicinal Herbal](#), Melody Ody
[How to Stay Alive in the Woods](#), Bradford Angier

On-Line Resources:

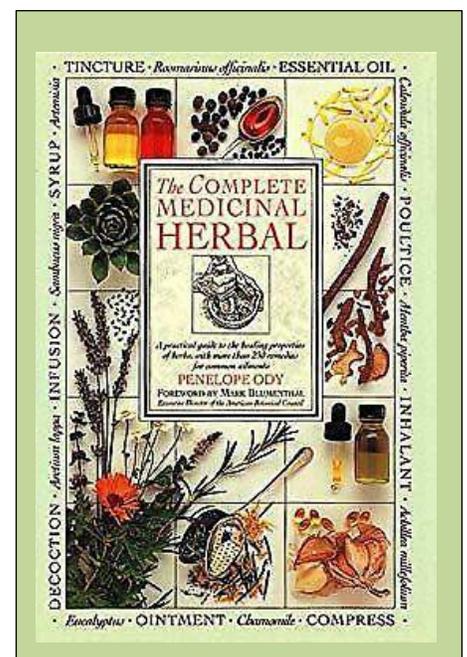
[Survival Skills – 14 Wild Medicinal Plants](#)

[How Earth's Vegetation Holds Clues to Alien Life on Other Planets](#)

[Herbs of the Ancient Celts](#)

[Pyramid of Wilderness Survival Food](#)

[An Alien Diet](#)



Author Spotlight #1: Cassandra Thompson

[The Ancient Ones](#) (2020)

(★★★★★ – Goodreads)



Cassandra has always been attracted to the macabre & says all of her writing contain elements of darkness. Gothic horror is her favorite. The story idea for [The Ancient Ones](#) came to her as a teenager, continuing to write ideas down until her 30's, before making it become a reality. In her spare time she wanders graveyards, takes pictures of abandoned things & explores deep into the woods.

Review:

Vampires across time...one of my favorite themes. The last vampire alive has an amazing story to tell, from Rome to 1800's London. History, gothic horror & mythology are perfectly blended into this dark fantasy. Thompson's writing style is smooth & rich, weaving character development masterfully into a centuries long saga of gods & vampyres.

Cassandra's website with a complete list of publications:

<https://www.quillandcrowpublishinghouse.com/authorcassandralthompson>

Interview with Cassandra:

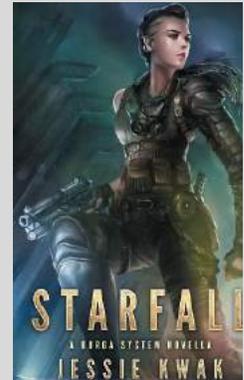
<https://www.coffeebookandcandle.com/post/interview-with-cassandra-l-thompson>

Follow her on Twitter: @cassthomp13

Author Spotlight #2: Jessie Kwak

[The Durga System Chronicles](#) (2016-2018)

(★★★★★ – Goodreads)



I met Jessie at World Con 2018 in San Jose & was struck by her cover art. So began my reading journey into the Durga System Chronicles. Her ganster sci-fi series of novellas is stellar.

By day, she is a copy editor & ghost writer. Her GoodReads bio says: "she sends readers on their own journeys to immersive worlds filled with fascinating characters, gunfights, explosions, and dinner parties." This is what makes her writing so interesting, exciting & fun.

Review:

"This was a rollercoaster ride of a space adventure with a cast of characters so vivid that I was totally invested the outcome of their story. I'm already looking forward to reading the rest of what looks to be an amazingly entertaining series."

This review of the riveting Bulgari series says it much better than I can. I devoured them. The characters are flawed & interesting, story lines rich with adventure. I had no idea there was such a thing ganster sci-fi but I'm glad I found it!

Jessie's website:

<https://www.jessiekwak.com>

Follow her on Twitter: @jkwak

Contest Corner

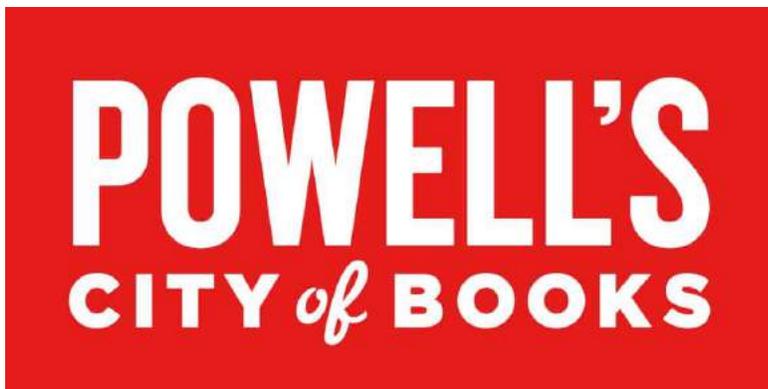
Congratulations to Jaima H, winner of signed first edition copy of Mercedes Lackey's Alta. Thanks to everyone who signed up for the newsletter. If your dragon magnet hasn't arrived, please let me know.

Fall Contest

New contest begins September 1st. Enter for a chance to win a \$25.00 gift certificate from the world famous "City of Books," Powells Books in Portland, Oregon.

Earn one entry to the drawing for each friend your refer. If 3 friends sign up for the newsletter, you receive 3 chances to win. Simply send me (jlhenkerauthor@gmail.com) the email of the friend(s) you've referred. Once I confirm they've signed up, I'll add a ticket to your name.

Drawing to be held December 1, 2021



COMING IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE:

- Are you a book collector? Ever wonder if that signed first edition has any value? One of my former careers was a used/rare book buyer for a local independent bookstore. I'll share some wisdom and tips I learned to help get you started.
- Indie & small press *Author Spotlights*
- Another exciting contest/giveaway (*Doctor Who* Themed)

Website: <https://jlhenker.com>

Twitter: @jlhenker

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jlhenker>

Facebook Group: [Dragonsire – A Community of Dragon Lovers](#)