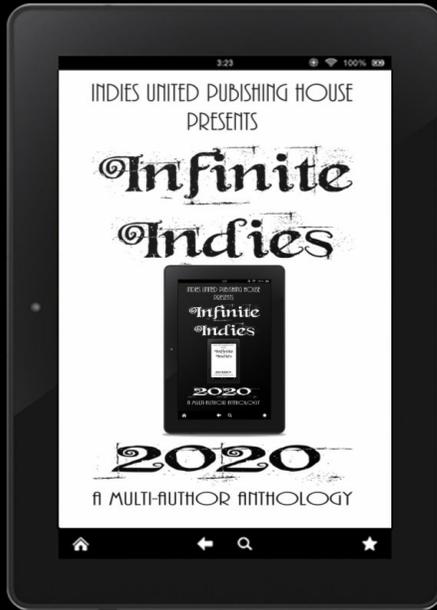


INDIES UNITED PUBLISHING HOUSE
PRESENTS

Infinite Indies



2020

A MULTI-AUTHOR ANTHOLOGY

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Indies

A MULTI-AUTHOR ANTHOLOGY

2020



TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Foreword by Jennie Rosenblum](#)

[Why Do We Write by R.J. Emery](#)

SPRING

[A Girl Alone by Scott Meehan](#)

[Open Heart, Open Home by Lisa Orban](#)

[Pollination by Aaron S Gallagher](#)

[Unbuttoned by Timothy R. Baldwin](#)

SUMMER

[Everyone Needs a Jim by Lisa Orban](#)

[The Island of Babushkas by Muhammad Idrees](#)

[Jeeves by Ketan Desai](#)

[My Summer Job by Ralph Rotten](#)

[The Taxi Driver by Timothy R. Baldwin](#)

FALL

[A Necromancer and the Cheshire Cat by S.R. Ruark](#)

[Dead on Time by Guy Thair](#)

[Ethical Objectivity by Dr. Sanford W. Wood](#)

[Things They Never Warned Me About by Lisa Orban](#)

[Willy's Tavern by Michael Deeze](#)

WINTER

[A Heretical Guide to Classifying Beer by Timothy R. Baldwin](#)

[Baby's First Book by Michael Deeze](#)

[Dark Holiday by JB Murray](#)

[Gumbo by Aaron S Gallagher](#)

[Today by Lisa Orban](#)

ABOUT INDIES UNITED

Foreword

Jennie Rosenblum

Long ago a little girl dreamed of being a librarian. As time passed, the world had a different idea, and even though that dream came true for a while – her real dream came true when she discovered the world of Independent Authors. Who thinks that, at a certain age, starting anew is the way to go?

I had been on the fringe of the self-publishing world for almost ten years. I saw the evolution but did not know the entirety of the world. So my journey began. I learned as much about the publishing world as I could, and the more I looked, the more gaping holes I saw. Many undiscovered gem-type authors and their wonderful stories were not making it in the traditional publishing world and so instead, they were trying to figure out their way in self-publishing. I wanted to help but there was little out there that either didn't require a lot of money or could be depended upon.

Then I had a conversation, well several actually, with Lisa Orban. She had an idea she thought could work. I happily watched from the sidelines, throwing in my two cents as she did all the heavy lifting and her dream became reality. Her creation, Indies United Publishing, provides a base for authors. They can be independent but at the level with which they are comfortable. Indies United provided solutions and freedoms at a reasonable cost. No more going it all alone. And best of all, it was a place I could send those special authors!

Back in my world, I was collecting Indie authors. At one point someone called me the Kevin Bacon of the Indie world and I took that compliment with a smile. Like trading cards, each author is unique; they just do not fit well into a shoebox. I have a connection with each. Some of them have been to my home for dinner, many I have shared a cup of tea with, and there may have been a gin with one or two – but I'll never tell. Some I have only met through the pages of their creations, but even that helps me know them.

First in my collection is the original Aaron Gallagher. Over very strong tea, we discussed his characters and his vision. The first book I read of his is still a favorite but this author has honed his skills to a level

where I would put him up against any New York Times Bestseller. (Please do not mention that to him as it will only go to his head!) He was quickly followed by Sosha Ruark, another cup, this time iced tea, and a discussion on how her mind worked and a vision of a trilogy.

After taking care of my mother as she passed and trying to help my Dad get ready for life on his own, I discovered the *I'd Rather Starve than Cook!* Cookbook and Lisa Orban. With a unique voice and grandiose ideas, I quickly added her to my quiver. She is fun and real and I crave people like that in my life.

An email from across the pond (thank you Claire Perkins) brought the thought provoking R.J. Emery into my circle. With a wit that keeps me amused and a mind that is spinning I have hung on his coattails and enjoyed the view.

A trip to Tucson and their Festival of books introduced me to a gentleman (again, don't let him know I said that as he likes to think of himself as a bit of an asshole) who was giving away absolutely free business cards. Ok, make me laugh and I am halfway there to liking you! His *Calizona* series sealed the deal, entertained me, and I kept an eye on this guy too.

Advance about two years, my editing business is picking up and I am finally making more than I am spending – so I went to Orlando and their Indie Book Fest. Through days and many conversations about way too much romance, I see a cover that catches my eye. The author has an idea for a Pulp fiction collection of other authors. I had a tie to Indies United (remember Lisa?) and thought it would be right up their alley. Plus, he was a really nice guy, and had some great stories – enter Scott Meehan.

Lisa introduced me to the work of Guy Thair, J. B. Murray, Timothy Baldwin, and Dr. Wood. Guy and JB over some decent barbeque and a few boozy drinks. Timothy came along a little later when his first YA book *Camp Lenape* was released. Dr. Wood stretches my thinking with every paragraph. Each author has a unique voice with a very different story to tell, and all with that something extra that lets you know it's going to be a great story.

Muhammad Idrees found me and after hearing his story and reading of his unique adventures in Kyrgyzstan, I introduced him to Indies United. There was nothing like his story in the publishing world.

Mike Deeze (or Dr. Mike as I think of him) had me hooked with his trilogy. His third has wonderful stories that took me right back to my college days in central Pennsylvania when I would go home for weekend trips with my roommates and hear the Amish buggies passing their house

after date nights. Editing that book was tough as I kept dreaming about Shoo-Fly Pie!

Ketan Desai is the most recent one added to my collection, but definitely not the least or last. His book, *Germes of War*, a bioterrorism thriller, kept me firmly in my seat and swiping pages. His logical presentation of a scary scenario was right on point.

Being a person who mostly deals in organization and logic, I find the world of authors and their creativity intriguing. Any chance to glance behind the proverbial curtain and discover each creation keeps me entertained and motivated. However, my absolute favorite thing to read is an anthology. That giant box of chocolates that Forest Gump waxes poetic about is my chance to test out various authors, styles, and genres.

So grab your favorite beverage, find a comfortable spot, and crack the spine on this impressive collection of chocolates... ummm... stories.

Feel free to see all my reading suggestions at jenniereads.com or contact me if I can help in any way to make your dream of publishing come true. I'm always ready for the next Author and story!

Why Do We Write?



R.J. Emery

That's a question I think every author asks more often than not. On good days I know why I write. On the bad days, when I can't get what's in my head down on the page, not so much. Comedy is easy, writing is hard. I've been at it since 2006 and I'm still learning.

I began writing short stories at the tender age of 13. I wrote about things that interested me. Sometimes it was a couple of pages, sometimes more. The first was about the loss of my dog who had been run over by a passing truck. Yeah, I know, gruesome. The other early stories are just a foggy memory. I wish I had kept them.

I attended a Catholic school where we had great nuns for teachers. One, in particular, Sister Mary Dora, read my stories and encouraged me to keep writing. She asked me one day why I enjoyed it so much. I answered with a shrug. She said, "I know why, because you have stories to tell." (A line I actually included in *Swimming Upstream*, a feature film I wrote and directed). With Sister Dora's encouragement, those little stories expanded into 5, 6, 7 pages. I kept on writing all through the years including the 4 years I served in the Air Force. There, I found another mentor, the 1st Lieutenant who was my immediate supervisor. He, like Sisters Dora, read my short stories and encouraged me to keep writing.

It was during this time I took an interest in films and wrote my first screenplay. It was awful. It wasn't until I was a civilian working in advertising writing newspaper and radio copy that I penned a screenplay that actually got produced with private investor backing. Since the film was my vision, I was encouraged to direct. I was petrified—I had no idea what I was doing. Thank goodness for the professional film crew who looked after this newbie or I would have never made it through. If not for them, I'd probably be selling timeshare condos today.

Seven features films later—all of which I wrote and directed—and over 140 hours of award-winning television productions and more TV commercials than I care to remember—I retired. A New York publisher offered to publish my memories of a television series I created, wrote,

and directed for Starz/Encore titled “The Directors.” I wrote and directed ninety-one episodes. Each featured a single film director along with over 250 major Hollywood actors, composers, and cinematographers. I ended up writing four volumes on those experiences. Suddenly I was a published author. But there was one screenplay I wanted to see produced that did not get picked up. An author friend encouraged me to turn it into a novel instead. I had no experience writing fiction, but I wrote the book over two years and a publisher picked it up. I’m now working on my 4th and 5th novels and another non-fiction in the works. So many stories to tell, so little time.

Each of us approaches our writing in our own way. My method is to never outline my novels. I know my main characters and the opening and the ending. From there, I allow my imagination to take over surprising myself chapter after chapter. I love the freedom of working that way. I do take copious notes about points I want to make, but never an outline.

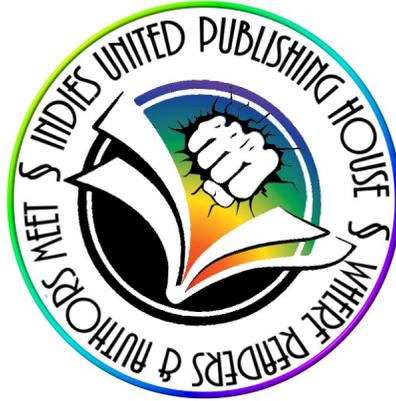
For me, the most important thing is creating believable characters; without them, the story is just another story. I plead guilty to being a “rewriter.” No book is ever really finished, so I depend on my wife who reads everything I write and eventually forces me to stop and send it to my editor.

There are two themes here. First, I had people who encouraged me. That was critical. And although I had many years of experience writing screenplays and TV scripts, I had zero experience writing novels before that first one but found that I loved it. Today, I spend 4-6 hours a day writing, I reminding myself each day how fortunate I am doing what I love.

So, as Sister Dora said, we write because we have stories to tell. It’s that simple. Let’s keep doing it.

To find out more about R.J. Emery and his books, visit
www.indiesunited.net/rj-emery

Thank you for taking the time to read this collection from the authors of Indies United Publishing House. We hope you enjoyed it and would like to encourage you to take a moment to review this collection on your favorite reading platform.



A little about Indies United

Here at Indies United, we are a co-op of like-minded authors working together to showcase our books and highlight our diversity as writers. We openly encourage and support both new and established authors in their pursuit of finding their audience while bringing to you books worth reading. Our goal is to give authors a home to call their own, while bringing fresh, innovative, and exciting books to readers all over the world.

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