

LELITA BALDOCK

AUTHOR

Writing Newsletter

April 15 2021

It's Indie April! A month where the hashtags *#IndieApril* and *#IndieAuthors* should be trending across social media – so let's work together to spread the indie love.

In honour of this I will be including a shout out to some of my favourite independent authors in this newsletter – and I strongly encourage you all to try a work by an indie. There is such an amazing diversity of voices out there in the indie writing community. Give a new author a go, you won't regret it!

I also have a fantastic feature with self-titled multimedia content creator and journalist Tammy Reese.

There's lots to get through, so without further ado, let's get to it!

I hope you enjoy.

Cheers,

Lelita



Lelita Baldock

Author – Writer - Editor

What I'm excited for!

Indie April!

I know I already mentioned this in my intro – but this month is all about independent authors!

A shout out to some of my favourites who have also been featured in my previous newsletters:

- Eme Savage @eme_savage
- Syntell Smith @SyntellSmith
- Holly Tinsley @hollytinsl3y
- Heidi Gallacher @HeidiGallacher

Stage 2 lockdown lifts!



This is a personal one, but this week pubs and restaurants across England were able to open up their outdoor areas to customers. My husband and I took Monday afternoon off to head to our local – it was bliss!

Wherever you are in the world, and whatever stage your restrictions are at, I send you my well wishes.

The Bridport Prize



The Bridport Prize is now open for novel submissions. They run various competitions for short stories and poetry also. Well worth checking out!
<https://bridportprize.org.uk/the-competition/novel-award/>

Featured Creative – Tammy Reese, multimedia content creator / journalist



Tammy Reese in summary

I've performed in hundreds of stage shows over the course of my career. I've written, directed and produced tv, short film, commercials in Upstate NY. Also as press I've covered tons of entertainment and film industry events such as New Jersey Horror Con and Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival, and HBO /Cinemax Urban Action Showcase Expo to name a few. I am Editorial Writer and Contributor to numerous media outlets where I interview influencers and Celebrities regularly. I serve on the Communications Committee for New York Women In Film and Television and I am Founder and Lead Publicist of Visionary Minds Public Relations and Media.

Her parents were her first fans

I started my career at age 12 because my parents believed in my talent. I auditioned and joined a company called The Media Unit TV and Stage Production Company where I performed in 60 live stage shows a year for eight years. During my time with the company I also hosted and directed a live tv show at our public access tv station. The show was called Rough Times Live. The theater and tv shows were all on topics of social justice and social impact.

Tammy wants to uplift others

I love spreading awareness on social issues through the arts. Journalism is an amazing way to do that. Moreso, I just want to continue to tell stories of triumph through adversity. I love highlighting stories of victory because we all have something that we have overcome which can help inspire and uplift others. I want to make an impact by telling stories of positivity, and resilience as well as entertain anyone who sees my work.

She loves being creative – in a wide range of ways!

I love storytelling. Either through acting, writing , creating , interviewing, public relations or directing. Anything I do I love ! I enjoy the fulfilment of being selfless with my gifts especially when I mentor someone coming up behind me.



Her biggest challenges?

Time management can often times be a challenge but it's apart of the industry I'm in.

Famous interviews anyone? - No name-drops here though!

I've interviewed Grammy, Emmy, and Oscar winners along with Billboard Charting artists. I've covered top film industry events which have made me extremely proud.

I'm proud of the many awards I've won over the course of my career, and the work I've done as a Journalist, actress, writer, director and Publicist. Also I'm so proud of Meagan Good Franklin shouting me out twice on her Facebook page to her over five million followers after I interviewed her. Overall I'm proud of my over 20 year career.



Tammy's advice for others

If you're aiming to be a independent Journalist or aiming to work for a major network always tell the truth with your stories and never compromise your morals.

Connect with Tammy

Instagram / Twitter @tammyreesemedia

Web www.tammyreesemedia.com

Inhale



Back in 2009 I started writing an apocalyptic novel - about a world in which everyone needed to live under domes to avoid an air born disease. A strange symmetry with events today. Thought I would share an excerpt. Not sure if I am glad I never finished it, or wish I had!

The story was to be about people living in domes so the air could be filtered from contagion, but all is not as it seems. Society is oppressed, ruled over by a small group of powerful unelected leaders. Outside the Domes a small group of rebels are working to free the world...

This is an excerpt from when Burna, a young woman who has lived all her life inside the Dome, risks it all, leaving the safety of filtered air to join the rebels outside.

'Taking another deep breath she stepped outside. She felt herself shiver, though she knew she was not yet cold. The shadow of the tent looming over her shared its sense of doom. Burna raised her hand and unclipped the Velcro which held her glove to her suit. Open, she shook her hand shaking out the pendant and chain. She looked back through the hole she had cut in the tent. It was her last chance to go back. If she moved on, this life, this world would be lost to her forever. There was a moment in which she might have gone back, turned around entered the tent. Covered the hole and pretended none of it, not the training, not the planning, not Akeem, none of it had ever happened.

But then Burna would be living a lie.

The only reason she was here at all, enjoying this freedom, exploring the outside, was Akeem. She glanced at her pendant, it seemed to sparkle at her despite the shadow. The arrow pointed north, straight ahead of her, her path obscured by the tent until the evening temperature inverse brought the winds that would hide her tracks. The plan was perfect. Burna stood tall and began to walk. One hand holding out her Northern pointer, the other lugging a spare oxygen tank.

Burna walked all night, glad of her suit as it buffered the whipping winds and kept some of the desert cold from her skin. The start of the walk had been easy, if tinged by fear. The setting sun had provided a kaleidoscope of dazzling colours, pinks and reds and oranges such as Burna had not even dreamed. But with the last lick of its rays came a darkness so complete Burna's heart seized. A life under fake lights had meant such blackness was only part of the deepest and worst nightmares. Burna spent a night trapped within it. She was forced to remove a glove and feel the pointers direction and walk ahead. Somewhere around midnight her oxygen warning light flicked on. Burna sat in the sand and replaced it with her spare, holding her breath a full minute while fumbling the exchange in the dark. Despite the life she stumbled towards she could not release her fear of the air. She slept a while, waking to a slight greying of the sky above her. Burna dusted herself off and continued walking.

It was early morning, soon she would be missed.

Trudging on as the sun rose, dawn brought new delights to surprise her but also heat like she had never known. She now understood Peter's comment that day she first arrived, it was crazy hot and without the shade of the work site, Burna was sweating profusely. Without water and not knowing how much further she would have to walk, Burna had no choice but to remove all of her protective suit. She sat again in the sand, inspecting her hand for any signs of harm. Finding none, knowing she had come too far to make any other choice, she removed all of her suit. As her clothes wet from sweat met the still air very little relief was offered. The sensation of sweat running down her back and stomach so foreign to her she was glad of Akeem's training. Her body, having never had the need to perspire was struggling. But Burna soldiered on. Movement, she found, blew air around her overheated body, offering some relief. It was not much longer before the warning light for her last oxygen tank came on.

This was it.

Akeem had asked her once "Do you trust me?"

She had replied fervently in the positive. "Good" he had said, "The day will come when you will need to."

That day was now.

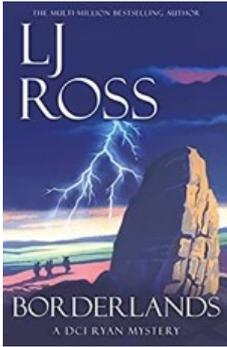
In the middle of the dessert, hours from the Dome, surrounded by sand and out of oxygen, Burna had to trust Akeem. His word was all that would save her. She walked on, sucking in the final traces of air from her helmet. Dizziness overtook her. Burna collapsed to her knees. She had to face it, the time was now. Weak from walking, lack of food and water and oxygen, Burna unclipped her helmet and pulled it up over her head. She held ber breath as long as she could; not sure what she was hoping for. And then, finally, her body convulsed, forcing her to open her lungs and breath, deeply.

Burna sucked in the air, hungrily, greedily, on hands and knees.

Soon her breathing slowed. Burna remained still considering her body. The air tasted dry and almost sweet on her tongue. It smelled different too, cleaner and dirtier at the same time. Burna sank back onto her heels and looked around her, eyes free, no protective layer of glass shielding her sight, for the first time. The dessert was large and sparse, around her rolled mountain after mountain of sand. The yellow of the sand was paler than she'd thought, the sky even brighter.

Burna breathed free air for the first time, tasted the outside world and cried her heart out at the joy and horror of the experience.'

What I'm currently reading



***Borderlands* – LJ Ross**

I am loving these DCI Ryan Mysteries. This is book 14. A series you can really sink into! Plus, when I am writing historical fiction, crime is the best thing to read.

Writing Quotes / Inspiration

"Get it down. Take chances. It may be bad, but it's the only way you can do anything really good."

-William Faulkner

You can't improve if you don't start!

"I can shake off everything as I write; my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn."

-Anne Frank

Writing can be a wonderful way to get in touch with your inner self

"Difficulties mastered are opportunities won."

-Winston Churchill

Challenges are what help us to grow and improve.

Are you an author, blogger, reviewer, editor, podcaster, or other writing content creator?

**SUPPORT
LOCAL
AUTHORS**

I want to feature you!

This year I want to open up my newsletter to feature people from all aspects of the writing process – creatives, promoters, enthusiasts and more.

If you would like to feature in an upcoming edition of my newsletter, please email me: lelita.baldock@gmail.com and we can get started!

Coming Up Next

I am going to keep the interviews rolling! The Writing Newsletter will be back in May with more featured creatives, competition suggestions, tips and more. And maybe even a little sneak peak at my upcoming release. Watch this space!