

LELITA BALDOCK

AUTHOR

Writing Newsletter

May 20 2021

It's been a wet few weeks here in the UK, but the forecast is for some sunshine just around the corner. I can't say the rain has been altogether negative. I have enjoyed the time to potter around the house, make stew, read and edit my third novel. But I think I am ready for some adventures now!

I am truly excited to share with you this month's author interviews. I have best-selling thriller author J Luke Bennecke and debut spy-novelist William Brumley to inspire and encourage you all. Some great reads to suggest, novel prizes to enter and much more!

I hope you enjoy.

Cheers,

Lelita

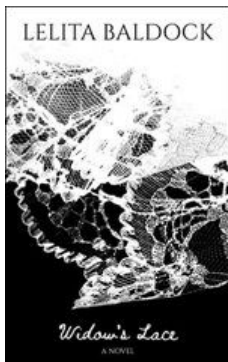


Lelita Baldock

Author – Writer - Editor

What I'm excited for!

My debut novel *Widow's Lace* an Amazon Best-Seller

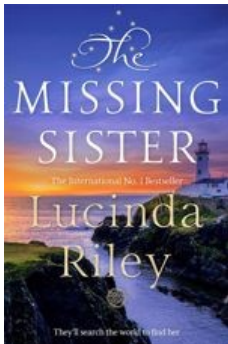


Absolutely *thrilled* to share that my novel *Widow's Lace* ranked 1st on Amazon's Best-Sellers in Historical Australian & Oceanian Fiction. Also 2nd for Best-Sellers in Mystery, Thriller & Suspense Literary Fiction and 3rd for Best-Sellers in Historical Literary Fiction.

Thank you to everyone for giving my debut novel a go.

If you enjoy Historical Fiction with mystery mixed in, head over to Amazon and get yourself a copy: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B086BDLP3X>

***The Missing Sister* – Lucinda Riley**



The last book in *The Seven Sisters* series by Lucinda Riley, releases May 27 (I already have my pre-order ready to go for Kindle!)

I adore these novels. Page turners, emotional and easy to read. Characters you will come to love. Riley plays your emotions perfectly.

This series is also a bit personal for me. A dear friend and I read them together in our own private 'book club' to have something to share whilst we were living on opposite sides of the world. Having these to share has meant so much to us both.

Excited for the final novel. A little sad too. But I can't wait.

If you enjoy family drama and a bit of mystery, give *The Seven Sisters* a go. A found book one a little challenging to get into, but the author's style settles well as the book progresses and you can't help but be drawn in!

Award season is upon us!

Fellow writers, now is the time to strap yourself at your computer and get submitting. Several major writing awards are open for entry until May 31st. Whether you write fiction, non-fiction, novels, poetry, short stories, flash fiction and more... there is a prize waiting for you! So back yourself and get writing!



Bridport Prize: <https://bridportprize.org.uk/the-competition/short-story/>



Bath Novel Awards: <https://bathnovelaward.co.uk/2020-2/>



Blue Pencil Agency Awards: <https://bluepencilagency.com/bpa-first-novel-award-2021/>

Featured Creative – William Brumley, Author



I am excited to introduce you to debut spy-novelist William Brumley. An indie author like me, his debut novel *Vehemence* is out now through Amazon, and it sounds like a gripping page-turner!

Without further ado I will hand you over to William to talk about all things writing and inspiration!

My name is William Thomas Brumley. I am 33 years old and currently reside in Kalamazoo Michigan. I am originally from a small town named Saint Joseph Michigan. I have lived in Indiana, Florida, and then finally found my way back to my home state and since then that is where I have stayed. I currently own and run my salon with my wife Nicole. That is what takes up most of my free time when I am not writing.

His debut novel is out now!

I have officially published my first novel. My book is titled *Vehemence: Tree of Treason*. It is a spy thriller. I would say it has that familiar feel to the spy thriller genre. But I feel you will also get something new from it. I put a lot into the characters and the back story. I am currently working on the follow-up entitled *Vehemence: A Long Way to Die*.

So what inspired William to start writing?

I have always wanted to write. For as long as I can remember in my free time, I would write down notes of ideas that I would love to see as films or television shows. After years of notetaking. I finally decided to just sit down in front of my computer and start my first story It took me forever to do this because I thought I would never even be able to write just one full chapter. Then, four months after starting that story. I am published and have sold 42 copies so far.

And I for one am glad he did. So where does his inspiration come from?

Inspiration for my story ideas can come from anywhere. I have gotten so many ideas from movies, shows, real-life events, even things you see on billboards. All it takes is one seed of an idea to transform it into a full-blown story. Some things also just come to me. Most of the time this happens when I am laying down trying to fall asleep. A lot of my early inspiration can be traced back to my childhood. I was a big fan of Indiana Jones, James Bond, and lots of Steven Spielberg.

He loves to craft a story, but it comes with some challenges.

I think what I enjoy most about being an author is just the act of writing itself. Getting all these ideas you have been brainstorming and putting them down on paper. I enjoy seeing the reaction from fans who enjoy my work. Saying they did not see certain things coming in my novel. Or telling me about characters they enjoyed. I just really enjoy hearing all the feedback. I love creating new worlds I can explore when I dive into my writing

The thing I find most challenging in writing. Is the time and distractions. I can sit in front of my computer with my hands on the keys and nothing churns out. Some days I can write over 2,000 words and some days I draw a complete blank. Sometimes I just take a small sabbatical from writing and become inspired again by things around me.

So far, the thing I am most proud of is just the response I have been getting from people who have read my novel. Starting and finishing was an achievement. I am just extremely excited to see where things go from here.

And he's an indie! Stepping out there and sharing his work with us all.

I am an indie author. I have published on Amazon and Kindle. I have quite enjoyed the process. I like being in complete control of my work. At times formatting and preparing my book to be published was a challenge. But it was also a great learning experience. I will not say no to traditional publishing if the opportunity ever presents itself, however.

Advice for aspiring authors?

The best advice I could give that I have learned early in my writing career would be to never give up on your dreams of writing. Never think people will not like your idea. I promise you, someone, out there will. With self-publishing, the sky is the limit. You can always get your story out there.

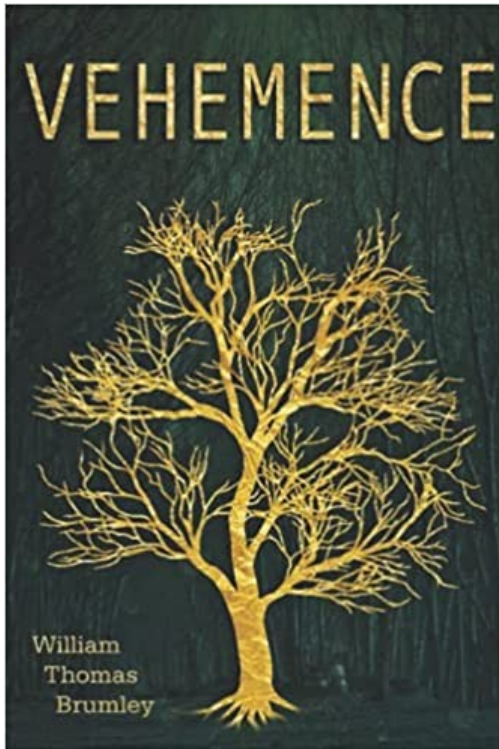
We share a favourite author too!

The author I would love to meet most is Emily Dickinson. Her work is incredible. I would love the opportunity for just an hour to discuss writing with her and her viewpoints. She is single-handedly one of the greatest writers of all time. Her

work can be dark but also so beautiful You can understand how she was feeling behind her words. She was a true trailblazer.

William's Debut novel, *Vehemence* is out now through Amazon

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B093RP1G5K/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o02_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1



Praise for *Vehemence*

" Vehemence is unpredictable and has amazing twists! It is a refreshing new tale in the spy thriller genre!"

Connect with William

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/AuthorWilliamBrumley>

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/william_thomas_brumley

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/WilliamB3452>

Featured Creative – J Luke Bennecke, Author



A civil engineer by day, writer by night, Bennecke was drawn to writing as a release from the daily hustle.

In my day job, I'm a civil engineer and partner in a medium-sized firm in Riverside, CA, where we manage the construction of large transportation projects, e.g. bridges, interchanges, freeways, etc. I've been married to the woman of my dreams for almost three decades, have two grown daughters, and three spunky cats. Writing is a way for me to escape the stresses of life and I enjoy the creative process of telling a good tale.

And he has no plans to stop!

I've been writing novels for over five years now. My first thriller was an Amazon best-seller (Civil Terror: Gridlock) and the second book in that universe is scheduled to release April 22nd (Black Rose Writing, publisher). I've also written and edited the third book in the same universe and will be shopping around for an agent if the 2nd book does well. I've also written and edited a fourth novel in a completely different universe (psychological suspense) that explores the phenomena of reincarnation memories in children. I've also written two screenplays and plan to adapt one of them (Time Goggles, sci-fi thriller) into my next novel. One of the screenplays is with an agent and she is actively pitching it to production companies with the hopes of getting a movie made.

Why did he start typing?

Initially, my intentions were to bring to light several important issues (e.g. self driving cars, freeway congestion, vulnerabilities to our water supply, and the

numerous problems with the US power grid), and tell a cautionary tale with each issue, knowing there are practical solutions to each one. But I fell in love with the process of writing novels and am excited about continuing my journey down this path.

Some musings on ‘muses’.

I’m just a conduit for my muse. Nobody really knows where ideas come from. Egoically we all assume ideas are our own, but are they really? What if our minds are like antennas? They simply tap into already existing story ideas that need to be told. After all, everything you see around you (houses, roads, movies, books, dams, furniture, etc. – all man made) was an idea in someone’s mind at one time. They acted on their ideas and brought them into existence. My mind is constantly working and when I relax, ideas come to me and I write them down on a list. When it’s time to start writing another story, I review the ideas, pick one that sounds intriguing, then start my process.

The best part about writing for Bennecke?

Hearing positive feedback from excited readers! I also enjoy doing radio and TV interviews (the one I did in 2018 for the KTLA Morning Show was a particularly fun adventure!) and talking with other authors about their experiences. I’ve found the author community to be a most welcoming and helpful bunch of people, and I enjoy helping others who are behind me in their own writing journeys. I have a long ways to go on my particular author journey and love learning more from the true pros of our industry.

His biggest challenge is one I think we all understand - the sales/marketing side of the business.

But he’s achieved Best-Seller status with his debut, congratulations!

Indie or Traditional?

As of April 22, 2021 I will officially be both. How have you found the experience? The traditional path can lead to insane levels of global sales, but is hyper competitive and rightly so. Anyone can be an indie author and publish their stories, so in general the quality of writing – the “craft” – is typically not as good, which gives that side a bad name, although there are many, many talented indie writers making a good living at the craft. I wrote over 200 query letters and pitched over 60 agents in person at various writing conferences before I landed my first agent.

Bennecke’s advice for aspiring writers?

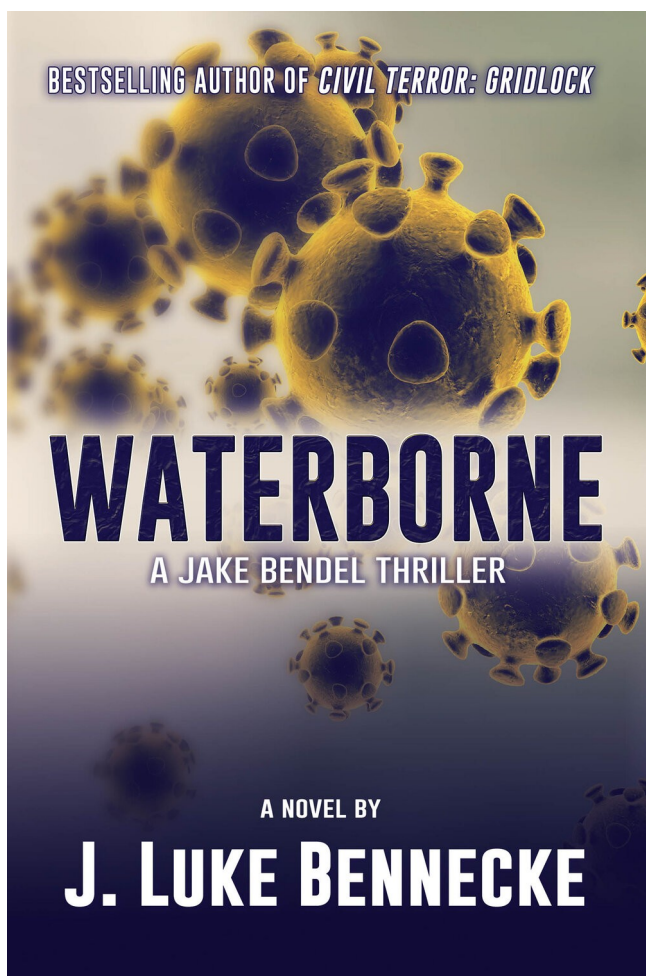
Write every day! It’s important to keep that little writing part of your brain lubricated with creative juices. Read Stephen King’s “On Writing” and make sure you go to at least one writing conference. There are a ton of “rules” you need to follow if you’re going to get traditionally published. Agents will pick your work apart if you don’t follow these rules, which—fortunately—if/when you get

published, you can bend/break. Also, don't stress about having people read your work...try to enjoy the process of writing, stick with it, and follow your individual path! Everyone's is different!

And he has met some of his writing heroes!

I've had the privilege of meeting some of them already: John Sandford, Lee Child, Lisa Gardner, K.J. Howe, Stephen James, Meg Gardiner, Gayle Lynds, and J.D. Barker (to name a few). But of course, Stephen King is my all-time favorite author. I'd also like to have had dinner and drinks with Ernest Hemingway...

Bennecke's second novel, *Waterborne* is out now.



Praise for *Waterborne*

“The breakneck pace will surely thrill and delight many.” — Sarasota Magazine

“Bennecke was able to create a suspenseful story that was driven by an action-packed plot. The book pulled me in and left me eager for the next installment.”
— OnlineBookClub.org

Connect with Bennecke

Website: <https://www.jlukebennecke.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/jlukebennecke>

Insta: <https://www.instagram.com/jlukebennecke/>

Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/56588561-waterborne>

Publisher Site: <https://www.blackrosewriting.com/thrillers/waterborne?rq=waterborne>

My review of *Waterborne*

I was fortunate to receive an advanced copy of *Waterborne* from MindBuck Media.

I have two words for this novel – page turner! The thriller genre is not one I read often, but I thoroughly enjoyed this foray into a new style of story-telling. The basic plot revolves around the threat of a new man-made virus that is being spread through the water supply in California, and the risk that it will get out of control and effect the whole globe. Very different to the origins of COVID, but I imagine the threat of a pandemic still rings true to us all these days.

Some readers will have met the main character Jake Bendel in Bennecke's best-selling debut novel *Civil Terror*. Though *Waterborne* is technically a sequel and I imagine some of our connection to character would be heightened by reading *Civil Terror* first, I found the plot easy to follow and despite having not read the first novel and was soon immersed into the character dynamics.

At times I found the writing style a little stunted, but I suspect this to be result of the genre and my own inexperience in reading it. That said, I was fully drawn into the story and I *wanted* to know what would happen. The chapters were short and to the point, leading me through the unfolding plot at a fast pace.

If you enjoy an easy-read with a gripping plot, why not give *Waterborne* a try?

What I'm currently reading



***The Fire Court* – Andrew Taylor**

Getting my London history on! As many of you will know one of my passions in life is history, and when I get to combine that with reading (or writing) I am in my element. *The Fire Court* is the sequel to *Ashes of London*. History, political intrigue and some good old fashioned whodunit all rolled up together. Worth a try!

Writing Quotes / Inspiration

“The first draft of anything is shit.”

-Ernest Hemingway

Good ol' Hemingway, telling it like it is. Don't despair, it's part of the process!

“Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass.”

- Anton Chekhov

I have always loved this quote. Get down to the grit in your descriptions, and don't hold back. It makes it real.

“Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.”

- Scott Adams

Nothing, and I mean, NOTHING, is perfect straight away. Learning takes time, and it takes mistakes. Embrace the process, back yourself and go for it!

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

**SUPPORT
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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

June is shaping up to be HUGE! I have not one, but two debut author's to share with you – and I simply can't wait! No spoilers. Bring it on!