
DEMODE
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VOLUME VIII. ISSUE LXVI
66th edition
TOP FIVE WHISPERS FROM THE WRITTEN WORLD
DESTINATION INDIANA
SHARON WILLIAMS
A VOICE OF FAITH FOR THE WOUNDED AND THE SEEKING
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CONTENTS

DE MODE VOL VIII. ISSUE LXVI 'INDIANA' EDITION

FASHION + LITERATURE + TRAVEL + LIFESTYLE



05 SHARON WILLIAMS: A JOURNEY OF FAITH, HEALING, AND INSPIRING WHISPERS

Sharon Williams, now 81, turned a childhood rooted in faith into a lifelong journey of spiritual resilience. From a turbulent home to profound personal loss, her unwavering trust in God carried her through. A Hospice volunteer, Stephen Minister, and author of two award-recognized books, Sharon continues to inspire others through Bible study and writing—proof that faith planted young can bloom into a legacy of hope.

04 EDITOR'S NOTE

This season, DE MODE explores stories that heal and inspire from Sharon Williams' powerful faith journey and her award-winning books to "Whispers from the Written World," a collection of timeless, soul-stirring reads. We also spotlight Scandinavian fashion icons Eton and Tretorn, blending heritage with modern style, and invite you to discover Indiana's charming landscapes and culture. Join us as we celebrate meaning, tradition, and quiet strength in every story.

19 BOOKS & AUTHORS

Some books don't proclaim loudly; instead, they whisper. They settle into your soul, gently speaking to your heart with enduring wisdom, subtle strength, and profound emotional depth. *Whispers from the Written World* honors these serene yet impactful reads—stories that bridge generations, providing comfort, insight, and spiritual clarity. Here are five remarkable books and authors whose words resonate long after the final page is turned.

52 TRAVEL & FOOD



31 INDIANA ESCAPES: SCENIC ADVENTURES, SMALL-TOWN CHARM & YEAR-ROUND FUN

Discover Indiana's perfect blend of natural beauty, historic charm, and cultural flair. From hiking in Brown County to beach days at Lake Michigan, and exploring Indy's museums or festive small towns like Santa Claus, there's something for everyone. Visit Indiana Dunes, kayak scenic rivers, or enjoy autumn's vibrant colors. With welcoming towns, hidden gems, and year-round adventures, Indiana offers unforgettable weekend getaways and family fun in every season.



ETON AND TRETORN: CRAFTSMANSHIP MEETS INNOVATION

Eton and Tretorn, two Scandinavian icons, excel in balancing heritage and modern style. Eton, founded in 1928, is celebrated for its impeccable shirts and classic tailoring, merging premium fabrics with contemporary design. Tretorn, established in 1900, evolved from rubber boots to iconic sneakers like the Nylite, embodying the essence of tennis culture and outdoor fashion. Both brands continue to redefine menswear and sportswear with craftsmanship, functionality, and understated elegance rooted in Swedish tradition.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

MAY 2025 V1 'INDIANA' EDITION



Dear Readers,

This season, DE MODE turns the page to stories that don't just entertain—they heal, uplift, and endure. We begin with the powerful testimony of Sharon Williams, a woman whose faith was forged in fire and softened by grace. Through personal trials, devastating loss, and spiritual renewal, Sharon transformed pain into purpose. Her award-winning books, God's Whisper Always Near and Because He Loved Us, remind us that even the quietest voices can stir the soul and spark profound hope.

Continuing with this theme of gentle power, we introduce Whispers from the Written World—a curated selection of five books and authors whose works speak softly but leave an indelible mark. These are the stories that grow with you, offering timeless comfort, wisdom, & spiritual insight across generations.

Heritage is key in fashion, highlighted by Scandinavian brands Eton and Tretorn. Eton is known for its impeccable tailoring, while Tretorn has evolved from rubber boots to popular sneakers, reflecting Sweden's confident style in menswear and sportswear.

For soul-refreshing escapes, Indiana features rolling hills, small-town charm, and cultural gems. Highlights include autumn bike rides in Brown County and festive magic in Santa Claus, making it a year-round destination for travelers.

DE MODE celebrates meaningful experiences found in scripture, fine stitching, and nature. This month's stories offer inspiration through calmness and intention.

Happy Reading!

Nikhil Chandra Rana

Nikhil C. Rana (Nick)
FOUNDER & Editor-in-Chief
IG: @iamdkingnick

DE MODE
WORLD'S NO.1 FASHION, BUSINESS & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE



SHARON WILLIAMS

A VOICE OF FAITH FOR THE
WOUNDED AND THE SEEKING



Exclusive Cover Story

SHARON WILLIAMS

Sharon Williams is a woman of deep faith whose life has been shaped by both hardship and hope. From a young age, she found strength in the Bible, which became her anchor in a turbulent home. Her unwavering belief in God carried her through two divorces and the devastating loss of her youngest son. To find healing, she volunteered with Hospice patients for nine years, gaining a profound understanding of peace and life's fragility. She later became a Stephen Minister and studied Theology, further deepening her commitment to spiritual care. During the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sharon felt called to write. At 79, she authored God's Whisper Always Near, an inspiring book that placed in the Fall 2021 Christian Authors Award. At 81, she released Because He Loved Us, focusing on the ministry of Jesus. Sharon continues to lead a Bible study group, devoted to strengthening others in their faith journey.

The Story of Sharon Williams

THE FAITH THROUGH EVERY CHAPTER!

FOUNDATION BUILT ON FAITH

Sharon Williams' journey with faith began at an early age, shaped by the need for stability in a turbulent home environment. Growing up in a disruptive household, Sharon found solace and strength in the Bible. Even as a child, she sensed the protective presence of God, a realization that inspired her to begin reading scripture—often in the evenings and sometimes before school. The Bible became more than just a spiritual guide; it was her anchor amid chaos. This early connection laid the groundwork for her unwavering belief in God's nearness and sovereignty. Her spiritual routine became a lifeline, shaping her moral compass and emotional resilience. As her life unfolded with its fair share of heartache and loss, it was this foundation of faith that carried her through. Sharon's story is a testament to the fact that sometimes, the smallest seeds of faith planted in childhood can grow into a powerful, lifelong relationship with God, sustaining a person through storms they never imagined facing.

FAITH THROUGH TRIALS AND HEALING THROUGH SERVICE

Sharon's faith was not without testing. She endured two divorces and, most painfully, the death of her youngest son. These life-altering events would break many, but Sharon leaned into the very foundation she had built in her youth. Seeking healing, she turned outward and chose to serve. For nine years, she volunteered with Hospice patients, providing comfort to those nearing the end of life. These experiences, often filled with profound conversations about mortality, loss, and hope, led her to a deeper understanding of peace and the nature of death. Her time with Hospice taught her that death need not be feared, and that there is a calm acceptance available to those who walk closely with God. Through this, she also became a Stephen Minister, offering emotional and spiritual support to people navigating personal trauma. These roles helped her fully grasp the universal struggles people face and reinforced the importance of compassion and love—principles central to Christ's teachings. Her ministry became a reflection of Jesus' love, lived out through action.

FROM ISOLATION TO INSPIRATION: WRITING HER FIRST BOOK

When the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the world, bringing isolation, sorrow, and uncertainty, Sharon once again turned to her faith. She felt compelled to share the nearness of God in a time when many were questioning everything. Though she had never written a book before, Sharon began what would become her first published work: God's Whisper Always Near. Initially hesitant, she was soon overcome by a natural flow of words—each line seemingly guided by the Holy Spirit. In the book, Sharon recounted personal paranormal experiences that confirmed God's presence for her, but she didn't shy away from the darkness she had encountered either. These experiences brought to light the importance of spiritual vigilance and staying grounded in scripture. More than just a memoir, the book served as a vessel of hope, especially for those grieving. Published at the age of seventy-nine, her debut work earned third place in the Fall 2021 Christian Authors Award, solidifying not just her talent, but her calling to inspire others through her testimony.

NOW CONTINUING THE MISSION: TEACHING AND A SECOND BOOK

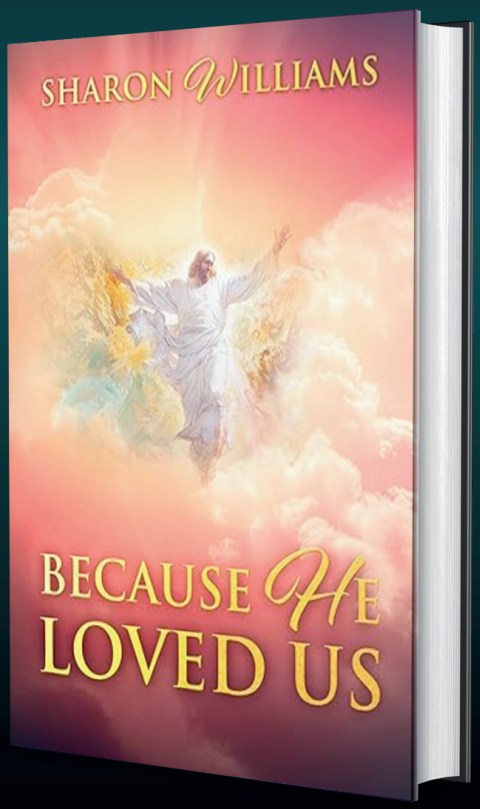
Faith did not end on the pages of Sharon's first book—it blossomed further. Recognizing the ongoing need to help others understand and experience God's love, she began leading a Bible study group, which she has continued for over a decade. Her passion lies in helping others engage with scripture on a deeper level, showing how its truths are still relevant and life-changing today. At eighty-one, Sharon authored her second book, Because He Loved Us, a reflective work on the three-year ministry of Jesus Christ. Through this book, she explored not only the events of Christ's ministry but also the resistance and challenges He faced. She drew connections between Jesus' journey and the struggles of the present day, ultimately emphasizing His unwavering love. Sharon's work continues to speak into the lives of believers and seekers alike, bridging the gap between biblical times and modern reality. Her life serves as a radiant example of how faith, once planted and nurtured, can flourish into a lifelong ministry that touches hearts across generations.



Exclusive
Cover Story

THE AUTHOR

BECAUSE HE LOVED US



Because He Loved Us is a heartfelt, accessible guide to Jesus Christ's life and teachings. Drawn from the four gospels and written chronologically, it speaks to both new and seasoned Christians. With clarity and compassion, Williams explores love, grace, and redemption, making scripture feel personal and spiritually enriching for those seeking deeper understanding.

Drawing from her background in theology and her experience as a Stephen Minister, Williams brings a thoughtful and inquisitive approach to scripture. She acknowledges the struggle many face when trying to understand the Bible, especially when it seems repetitive, obscure, or overwhelming. Yet through her reflections, she demonstrates how every encounter Jesus had—whether with the outcast, the sinner, or the devout—was marked by unwavering love and compassion. The book shines when it dissects Jesus' parables and miracles not just as historical events, but as timeless teachings filled with personal relevance. Williams doesn't preach; instead, she invites readers to contemplate their own walk with Christ and discover how His love is not a distant, abstract concept, but an active and transformative force in everyday life.

Because He Loved Us stands out for its simplicity and sincerity. Free from complex theology, it invites readers to rediscover Jesus' heart and grace. It's a refreshing guide for anyone feeling disconnected from faith or overwhelmed by scripture.

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GOD'S WHISPER ALWAYS NEAR

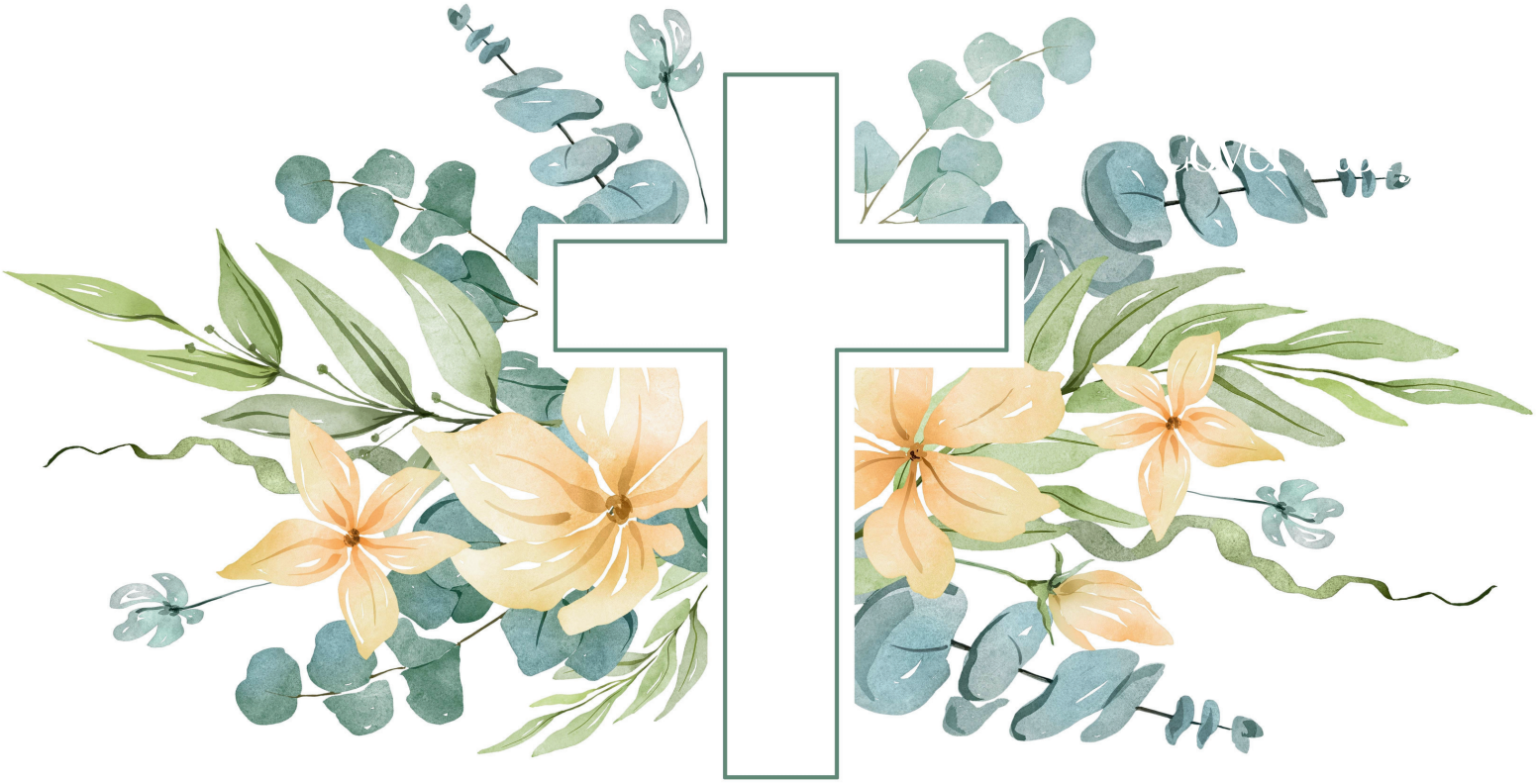


God's Whisper Always Near, released in March 2021, won third place in the Fall 2021 Christian Authors Award and continues earning 5-star reviews. One reviewer called it "a soul-stirring, deeply reflective journey of faith," describing it as a hidden gem in Christian literature—both intimate and universally relatable, inviting readers into a personal spiritual experience.

God's Whisper Always Near reads like a heartfelt conversation with a wise friend. Rather than preach, the author shares her personal faith journey, making each chapter feel relatable and real. With themes like "New Starts" and the "Image of God," readers are invited to reflect on their own path. Each chapter includes thought-provoking questions and "Seed for Thought" sections that deepen spiritual insight. The book's central message is the ever-present whisper of God—guiding, comforting, and strengthening us, especially in uncertain times. Written with grace and clarity, Williams-Wade makes complex spiritual truths accessible. Though rooted in Christian faith, its themes of hope and divine presence are universal. It's more than a devotional—it's a companion for the soul.

This book is more than a spiritual read—it's a lifeline for those feeling lost or disconnected. With warmth and wisdom, it reminds us that God is always near, offering comfort, guidance, and love in every season of life.

WORLDWIDE DELIVERY AVAILABLE ON AMAZON



REVIEW OF BOOKS

LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY ON ONLINEBOOKSCLUB.ORG

Because He Loved Us was officially reviewed by 2 different reviewers on the Online Book Club review team! Check out each of their reviews:

Review 1 ~ Official Review by Cynthia Pence ~ Rated 5 out of 5.
Check here:- onlinebookclub.org

Review 2 ~ Official Review by Prince Oyedeji Oyeleke Jayeola ~ Rated 5 out of 5.
Check here:- onlinebookclub.org

LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY ON AMAZON.COM

It's like reading the Bible with detailed explanations. The simple terms and relatable language used by the author made the book extremely enjoyable to read.

Wow!!! This book really kept my interest. I kept looking forward to the next chapter. It was very well written. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to better understand the Word of the Lord and how it applies to todays world. Great book!!

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AUTHOR_SHARONW



Exclusive
Cover Story

CONVERSATIONS WITH AUTHOR SHARON WILLIAMS

Q: What has life taught you about faith through the years?

I have been taught to have faith in God's timing instead of my timing. We're always wanting a response as soon as possible, but our way of thinking doesn't match that of our Creator. God will answer or provide in the right moment, in the right place with the right results.

Q: How has being a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother shaped your faith?

Raising your children to know God has its rewards later in life. Having a solid Christian base for children helps them build upon their faith later in life. As your children grow into adults, they will, in turn, raise their children to follow Christ. Making sure of their spiritual development is as important as their academic development. Both are needed to prosper.

Q: How do you stay connected to God's presence in daily life?

When you pray, don't say "Amen". It should be an open and continuous dialog. God is always with us; therefore, the communication should always be available. In any relationship, communication is key.Maintain your curiosity in God's word as we find questions will sometimes lead to avenues we hadn't yet thought of.

Q: What does it mean to you that God's signature is in our DNA?

The human body is a master piece of high complexity and function. As with all master pieces, it is signed by the creator. As cited in Psalm 139:19, David writes about our parts being interwoven into the body by our Creator. Little did David know of our DNA code. This is in reference to the title "How DNA Reveals God's Design" by Dr. Alan L. Gillen April 25, 2024

Q: How did your science background influence your spiritual insights?

We know so little about the spiritual realm until we are there. Yet it is something we will all experience. However, God opens our eyes sometimes to reveal a glimpse. Feeling the Holy Spirit has helped me avoid injury by guiding my actions. I have seen shadow people in broad daylight. This and other events have allowed me to realize that evil spirits and good spirits exist, and we need the armor of God to guard our soul for every day of our life. We find that armor in God's Word. Having some knowledge in science only revealed to me, just how little we know. That would be to accept that we are all loved by an omnipotent Creator for which words cannot express. – Our language is too limited.

Q: How did the loss of your son impact your faith and life journey?

As with parents, there was guilt felt by me in his passing. I wanted to know that he was okay. I was fortunate to have some Hospice patients for 2-3 years and during that time, we had wonderful deep and meaningful conversations about the afterlife. I have come away feeling that death is as natural as breathing. When the body is no longer able to support the soul/spirit, it is released without even our thinking about it. We have many detailed experiences from NDE and I enjoyed reading of Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, an Swiss-American psychiatrist, as she dove into near-death studies, especially with children.

Q: What did you learn from volunteering with hospice patients?



That death is not to be feared. Easy to be said, until we step up to that door and approach what lies on the other side. However, I realize that fear can be an effective tool of evil. With fear, there is no progress, and this is just what Satan wants. Faith in God will overcome fear and allow us to realize that although this life is brief, it is the basis for our spiritual Christ-like development.

Q: What makes your Bible study group so impactful?

When I am around others who share my beliefs, it is nourishment for my soul. Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." You will feel the love within the room as we draw into and study His Word. A few times, I have felt the love from the Holy Spirit and it will take your breath away. No words can describe this feeling, but next time you're in church, and maybe alone, take a deep breath and close your eyes to focus inward, while testing to see if the Holy Spirit resides there.

Q: What has Stephen Ministry taught you about helping others?

There are so many hurting in this world who are not following Christ. If you love Christ, its natural that you share His words with them in the hope that the seed will take root and God will be allowed to stir their hearts. You may walk with them, but it is God who plants His word into their spirit.

Q: What key message do you hope readers take from your book?

That God is real and continually active in our lives today. This is no made-up stuff and I would hope that others would realize how vitally important our decisions are in determining our eternity. I want readers to understand the infinite love Jesus has for us and what he endured so that the barriers between God and us were torn down. When God created man, He did so to have a personal relationship with us. God abhors sin, so when Adam and Eve sinned, we lost that precious close relationship until Jesus paid the price and took our sins to the cross.

Q: How do reading, music, and gardening nourish your spirit?

It's good to quiet the soul. God rested on the seventh day and we forget how to. God tells us "Be still and know that I am God". How can we hear Him with all the clutter and busyness in our lives. Taking time to read books of religious content can quiet our soul and, at the same time, spark an interest in wanting more. Music is great therapy as stress and mental health challenges are rapidly becoming the modern era's most daunting health crises, prompting us to seek innovative therapeutic solutions. Using music to soothe the soul is a strategy that's supported by science, and shows that listening to songs can reduce your heart rate, blood pressure, and anxiety, and distract your body from pain. Gardening gets me closer to God because our planet was made specifically for mankind. The medicinal and nourishing plants, along with the energy released from earth are harmonious with mankind. All nature will remind us of a great creator who has made it pleasing to our senses. Recently, Earthing or grounding has been discovered to benefit our sleep and reduce our pain. This is accomplished through the vast supply of electrons on the surface of the Earth. The Earth holds so many mysteries that we currently are unaware of.

Q: What's next for you in writing or ministry?

I have started a Grief session because with age, we have accumulated many losses, and I don't want others to feel alone. A hug, a smile or someone who will just listen can help in healing any loss that may come our way. I hope that maybe I'll be able to write a devotional book for my next project.

Q: How does it feel to be featured on the front cover of DE MODE magazine?

I'm not as photogenic in my 80's as I use to be. So, I was hesitant a little but I feel God opened this opportunity. Words cannot express the gratitude I have for DE MODE magazine and the wonderful gift in literature they give to others. In allowing my books to be featured in their magazine, I am sure that someone, somewhere, will experience a life change as the seed of faith is planted.



Discover stories that inspire, and stay with you



THE TIMELESS SHELF

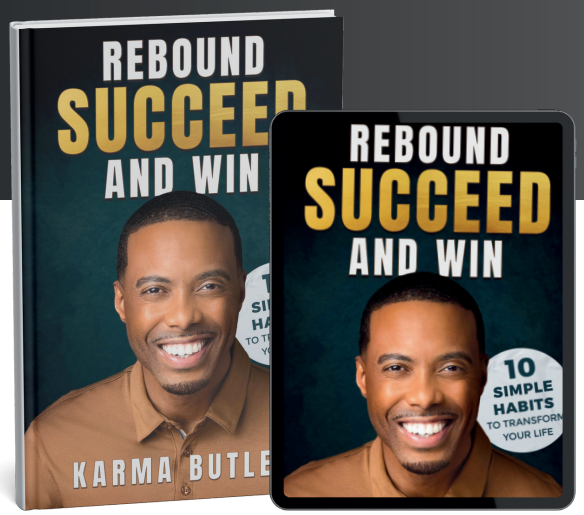
The literary universe is a thrilling cocktail of tales that inspire, challenge, and utterly enchant!



DISCOVER STORIES THAT INSPIRE, AND STAY WITH YOU



REBOUND SUCCEED AND WIN



BY AUTHOR KARMA BUTLER

Every great success story has a turning point, a moment when everything seems to fall apart, and the only path forward requires unimaginable resilience. Rebound Succeed and Win by Karma Butler is a testament to that very moment. It's not just a motivational book—it's a blueprint for anyone who has faced hardship and is ready to rise stronger, wiser, and more determined than ever before.

In a world overflowing with superficial advice and fleeting inspiration, Butler delivers something rare: authenticity. This book is grounded in real-life struggles, from devastating financial hardship and homelessness to the relentless pursuit of personal and professional dreams. Butler doesn't just preach success, he's lived the journey, and he invites readers to walk it with him.

What sets Rebound Succeed and Win apart is its raw honesty and practical wisdom. Through a unique blend of heartfelt storytelling and actionable strategies, Butler unveils ten transformational habits that turned failure into fuel. These aren't abstract concepts—they're life-tested tools, forged through adversity and proven by personal victory. Each chapter feels like a personalized coaching session, providing readers with the mindset & methods needed to break through fear, tap into inner strength, and create lasting change. You'll explore chapters like "Overcome Your Fears and Beat Your Cowardly Lion" and "Get the Results You Want & Stand Out from the Crowd," where Butler distills years of experience into clear, empowering lessons. He speaks directly to the reader with warmth and conviction, transforming vulnerability into empowerment and setbacks into setups for success.

Rebound Succeed and Win stands out for Butler's genuine passion to uplift others, offering more than just motivation. It provides a clear, actionable roadmap for turning challenges into triumphs. Globally praised, this book is your call to stop merely surviving and start thriving. Your journey to success and transformation begins here.

GET YOUR COPY OF 'REBOUND SUCCEED AND WIN' TODAY. AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE ON AMAZON.COM IN KINDLE & PAPERBACK FORMAT.



KARMA BUTLER

THE LITERARY JOURNEY OF AUTHOR KARMA BUTLER

Karma Butler's journey into authorship began not with a grand plan, but with a spark—one ignited in the vibrant, creative energy of his childhood. Raised in a family that celebrated artistic expression, Karma was immersed early on in the world of entertainment. A key influence was his cousin, the celebrated Hollywood actress and singer Tichina Arnold, whose work inspired Karma to dream bigger. Visits backstage during her performances, especially the original stage production and later the film version of Little Shop of Horrors, gave young Karma a firsthand glimpse into the magic of storytelling through music and performance. These experiences planted the seeds of creativity and ambition that would grow steadily over time.

Karma discovered his passion for storytelling through writing in elementary school. A significant moment was an assignment where he created a heartfelt story for his cousin Jeron, which was so impactful that it was added to the school library. This early recognition foreshadowed the emotional depth and powerful voice that would characterize his future work as an author and motivational speaker.

With over 30 years of experience across entertainment, education, and entrepreneurship, Karma Butler brings a rare blend of artistic insight and practical wisdom to his writing. His acclaimed book, Rebound Succeed and Win, is the culmination of a life lived boldly—through both soaring highs and crushing lows. Karma's journey has included major achievements, but also moments of deep struggle, including a period of homelessness that tested and ultimately strengthened his spirit.

Rather than hide these challenges, Karma uses them as the foundation for his message: that adversity is not the end, but a beginning. Through Rebound Succeed and Win, he shares ten transformational habits rooted in lived experience, empowering readers to rise above setbacks and build lives of purpose, resilience, and success.

At the core of Karma Butler's writing lies a profound belief in the untapped potential within every individual. His narrative transcends personal triumph; it's about illuminating the path for others to uncover their own strength and confidently embrace the life they are meant to lead.

FOLLOW AUTHOR KARMA BUTLER

karmabutler.com

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THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR KARMA BUTLER

Q: What first inspired your journey into music, business, and authorship?

My journey into music has been fueled by my cousin, Hollywood celebrity actress/singer Tichina Arnold. As a kid, Tichina would babysit me and take me along while she was working on television shows and stage performances. When she starred in the original theatre musical, Little Shop of Horrors, I got to meet Rick Moranis backstage. Then she starred in the movie version, and I fell head over heels for music.

My journey into business was inspired by my father, who was a regional manager for IBM and Kodak. I always was thrilled to visit his business offices and conferences and became infatuated with the daily operations, typewriters, and SUV-sized copy machines.

My authorship journey originally unfolded when I had an assignment to write a small book in elementary school. I wrote about "My Cousin Jeron," who was monumental in my younger years. The book was selected as a winner and placed in the school library. Many years later, after overcoming severe depression, I was motivated to share my personal story of triumph and rebound with others who might feel stuck, lost, or alone, giving them clear steps to achieve their greatness and destiny.

Q: How did it feel to see your music hit #1 on the Sony charts?

When featured by a division of Sony as a recording artist in a worldwide remix contest, I was excited but didn't expect much regarding ranking. At the start of a new week, I received an email from the track's producer in Germany telling me the song we collaborated on was #1 on their Sony music chart. I pulled up the website to verify and almost fell out of my office chair when I saw my song at the top of the chart. It was a surreal moment I'll always cherish, remember, and remain grateful for.

Q: As an entrepreneur, what's one business decision that transformed your career?

I decided to be courageous and step out of my comfort zone, transitioning from being on camera to being behind it as a producer. I created and executive produced an original dance reality television series, Karma Butler's American Dance Legend. Although I had no formal training to produce television, through grit, determination, networking, and perseverance, I successfully produced three seasons. The show aired on affiliates of CBS and My Network TV, opening up many other opportunities. It was one of the best business decisions I made with my previous entertainment production company.

Q: What themes or messages do you most often explore in your books and songs?

Fun, love, self-growth, success, motivation, passion, and devotion are common themes and messages that resonate throughout my published works.

Q: How do you balance your roles as an artist, author, and business leader?

Time management is a skill I've acquired and mastered over my 30+ years as an artist, author, and business leader. Admittedly, balancing these diverse fields can still be challenging; however, through prioritization, planning, & an unstoppable drive to achieve my goals, I somehow manage to pull things off pretty smoothly.

Q: What has been your most memorable performance or collaboration to date?

As a performing arts student at Virginia's Governor's School for the Arts, I was part of a performance group called the "Voices of Virginia." We toured many eastern states, but the most magical and memorable performances were during a four-city, two-week tour of Japan. We were featured on local news in Norfolk, Virginia, performed on some of Japan's biggest stages, met mayors, and were chased by screaming, raving fans following our tour bus. It was the most epic experience of my performance career, and visiting Japan broadened my life perspective significantly.

Q: Can you share a moment where you overcame a major career setback?

After seven years of climbing the corporate ladder, I aspired to become a Managing Partner at Texas Roadhouse, but faced setbacks, including failed interviews and a broken partnership in a new venture. Discouraged, I received advice from a local restaurant operator to refocus on my ambitions without distractions. Five years later, I achieved my goal and became the Managing Partner/Owner of Texas Roadhouse in Orlando, Florida, turning setbacks into life-changing opportunities. Overcoming these challenges taught me resilience and the value of tenacity. Each setback was a stepping stone, guiding me towards refining my skills and sharpening my focus. The lessons I learned along the way were invaluable—they taught me to embrace change, adapt quickly, and never lose sight of my goals. This experience not only shaped my career but also strengthened my belief in the power of perseverance. Success is often a journey with unexpected turns, and it's the ability to navigate through them that truly defines a leader.

Q: How does it feel to be recognized as a global influencer across so many Industries?

Being recognized as a global influencer is fulfilling. I aim to promote positivity, equality, and unity in communities, representing the desired positive change. The journey to greatness has been long, but I cherish every moment and appreciate the support and partnership of those with me.

Q: What advice would you give aspiring creatives looking to build a global brand?

Stay humble, grounded, and always thirsty to learn and elevate to the next level. Surround yourself with successful people who genuinely support your entrepreneurship journey. Dream big, think bigger, and start small. Make service to others the foundation of everything you do.

Q: What can fans expect from you next—new music, a book, or a business launch?

I have a strong desire to write my next book, but I'm unsure if it's the right time. I'm also eager to create new music, encouraged by a dedicated fan to release a song. Only time will tell what the future holds.

INSTAGRAM MOMS ARE FULL OF SH*T

BY AUTHOR LESLEY PROSKO



In a world where social media dictates perfection and parenting feels like a competitive sport, Instagram Moms are Full of Sh*t: To Hell With Mom Shaming* by Lesley Prosko arrives as a refreshing, unapologetically honest anthem for every mother who has ever felt overwhelmed, unseen, or silently judged. With raw candour, sharp wit, and a touch of sarcastic humour, Prosko—mother of two and unapologetically imperfect—unmasks the glossy lies of "picture-perfect" motherhood perpetuated online.

From mornings that begin in chaos to the endless parade of curated reels showing moms who seem to have it all together, she reminds us that behind every filtered photo is often a mess just out of frame. This book holds space for the moms who are doing their best, even when it doesn't feel like enough—and offers a much-needed sigh of relief to those who are tired of pretending it's all sunshine and crafts. It's not. And that's okay.

Far more than just a critique, Prosko's book is a rallying cry against the toxic culture of mom-shaming. Drawing from her own experiences and the voices of countless other mothers, she explores hot-button topics that have become battlegrounds: breastfeeding vs. formula, working moms vs. stay-at-home, sleep training, screen time, birth plans, and more. Each chapter dismantles the myths, peels back the judgments, and reminds mothers everywhere that they are enough—even when they feel like they're not. Celebrated for its relatability and fierce honesty, readers have called it "liberating," "hilariously truthful," and "the book every mom didn't know she needed." Instagram Moms are Full of Sh*t isn't just a book—it's a movement. A love letter to real moms navigating real-life messes, missteps, and miracles.

For those tired of curated chaos and craving real conversations, Lesley Prosko's unfiltered narrative offers both validation and freedom. Because motherhood was never meant to look perfect, it was meant to be lived, in all its beautiful, maddening imperfection.

GET YOUR COPY OF 'INSTAGRAM MOMS ARE FULL OF SH*T' TODAY. AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE ON AMAZON.COM IN KINDLE & PAPERBACK FORMAT.



LESLEY PROSKO

THE LITERARY JOURNEY OF AUTHOR LESLEY PROSKO

Lesley Prosko is a bold new voice in contemporary nonfiction, speaking directly to the messy, beautiful realities of modern motherhood with humour, insight, and unfiltered truth. Long before she became a published author, Lesley was already a storyteller ,chronicling life's chaos through heartfelt words, a sharp sense of humour, and a deep empathy forged from years of experience on the frontlines of both parenting and healthcare.

She lives just outside Edmonton, Alberta, on a cozy acreage she shares with her husband, two kids, three dogs, a tortoise, and four goldfish. Her days are a balancing act of family, writing, and a career that spans nearly two decades in healthcare. Starting out as a Paramedic and now working as a Cardiology Technologist, Lesley has spent years witnessing humanity at its rawest. That rare glimpse into people's most vulnerable moments has shaped her voice—grounded, compassionate, and deeply aware of the pressures women face every day.

The seed for her debut book was planted during her maternity leave, when she began writing for a local mom blog. What started as a lighthearted effort to share family-friendly tips quickly turned into an eye-opening experience. A single meme or innocent photo would spark waves of unsolicited advice and criticism—revealing the darker undercurrent of online "support" groups where moms were more often torn down than lifted up. After conversations with two close friends who were new moms themselves, and a deep dive into this culture of constant judgment, the concept for Instagram Moms are Full of Sht: To Hell With Mom Shaming* was born.

Though this is her first published work, writing has always been her outlet—equal parts therapy, rebellion, and reflection. And this book is just the beginning. With a growing audience and a voice that resonates with mothers who are tired of perfection and ready for the truth, Lesley Prosko is just getting started.

She writes not to impress, but to connect—to say what so many are thinking but few are saying out loud. For every mom who's ever felt like she was doing it all wrong, Lesley's words are a reminder that real motherhood is messy, imperfect, and absolutely worth celebrating.

FOLLOW AUTHOR LESLEY PROSKO

amazon.com/dp/B0D6RR931V

lesley.prosko.author

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR LESLEY PROSKO

Q: What does "real motherhood" look like to you?

It is real, it is raw, it is messy, it is hard. But it is also beautiful, fulfilling, all consuming, and the best feeling ever. Motherhood is a big game of winging it. It is not about right and wrong. It is not black and white. There are so many wonderful shades of gray.

Q: How do you define authenticity as a mom in today's world?

Admitting that there are hard times, does not negate the love and gratitude you have for your children. No one is perfect, and your kids don't expect you to be. All moms are different, and that is ok. Moms are all just trying to do their best.

Q: What moment in motherhood challenged you the most?

Every day is a challenge. Just when you think you have your child figured out, they go and change. You will never have it all figured out, and that is ok. Both you and your children will continue to evolve together.

Q: How do you balance being a mom, wife, healthcare worker, and author?

I am incredibly lucky that I have the option to work both outside of the home, as well as in the home. I have a casual position in several hospitals, which allows me to work when it works for me, as well as be able to attend my children's events/sports, have the occasional date night with my husband still, and pursue my passion of being an author.

Q: What myths about motherhood do you want to break down?

Parenting books like to tell us that there is only one way to parent out there, and then you end up feeling like a failure if that doesn't work for you and your child. The truth is, there is no right and wrong, there is only what is right for you and your child. Every mom is different, every child is different, that's what makes it real.

Q: How do you handle judgment—from strangers or even other moms?

The older I get, the less I care about what others think about me. It can be hard when it comes to social media, to block out the criticism. It is important to remember that someone else's opinion of you does not defy who you are. You are amazing.

Q: What inspired your bold approach to calling out toxic mom culture?

The world got mean, and I didn't like it. People decided that they were entitled to opinions on everything. It is ok to not agree with someone else, but it is not ok to be an a$$hole. Opinions without context can be damaging. A little kindness and compassion can go a long way

Q: How do you protect your mental health in a comparison-driven society?

I try to block out all the noise and take "advice" with a grain of salt. Have I had moments where I read all the negative comments? Sure. Not everyone is going to like me, or like what I have to say, and that is ok. Someone trying to break you down says more about them than it does you.

Q: What's one parenting decision you're proud of—even if it wasn't popular?

It is a tough world to raise a child in right now. I try to be as honest with my kids as I can when they ask questions about big topics, even if the subject might be a little more mature. I don't believe in sheltering them from hard topics if they are interested, but I do try to use kid appropriate language.

Q: What role does humor play in surviving motherhood?

Laughter will help you through those hard times. Motherhood can be a bit of a sh*t show at times but find that humor in it. No one has their sh*t together all the time.

Q: If you could rewrite the "rules" of motherhood, what would change?

I would tell moms that there are no "rules." What is going to work for you and your child will not be the same for every mother and every child. Not even in the same family. What works for my first child, does not always work for my second child, so if two children parented the "same" have different "rules," then how are we supposed to fit all parenting "rules" into one rigid box.

Q: What legacy do you hope to leave for your children through your writing?

I want my children to know that it is perfectly ok to be imperfect. To laugh through the bad times and cherish the good times. And most importantly, to know that there is nothing in this world that would ever stop me from loving them unconditionally.

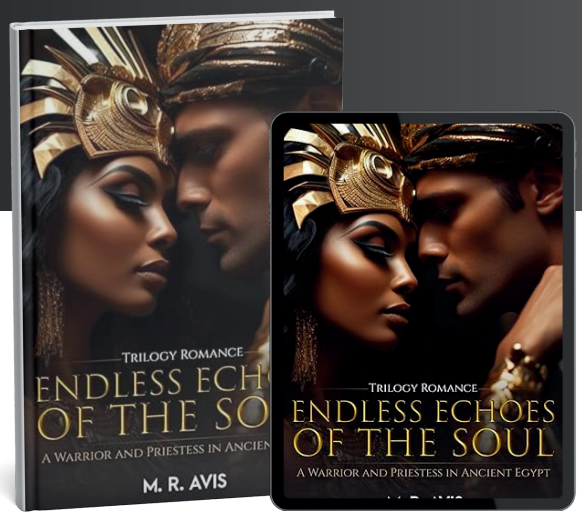
BOOK REVIEW

Author Lesley Prosko provides readers with a sense of relatability. There is no one right way to parent, there's a reason why the role of mom is so difficult. I felt seen by Prosko, I felt validated, and I felt okay with where I was at. So often there's this desire to seem put together and perfect, but the fact is we overwhelm ourselves trying look like we have it all together. Learning to embrace the imperfection with the beauty, exhaustion with the fun, and mess with the moment. Prosko is a mom of two herself. Working in the field of healthcare, trying to be a wife and mother, and having experienced so much in her journey already she uses her experiences, encounters, and research to pen an encompassing roadmap of stopping mom shaming in its tracks. Tackling many myths, differences in techniques, and the guilt, shame, and burnout that can arise, this book was a refreshing and rejuvenating read.

Beginning with what a mom truly is, to exercise, pregnancy, birthing, feeding, sleeping, working, screentime, and so much more, this book was an eye-opening encounter. No matter how much you think you know, Prosko breaks it down and makes every mom feel seen, with the not-so-subtle reminder to quit mom shaming.

ENDLESS ECHOES OF THE SOUL

BY AUTHOR M. R. AVIS



In the vast expanse of romantic literature, few tales manage to intertwine the mystique of ancient civilizations with the timeless allure of forbidden love as seamlessly as M.R. Avis's debut novel, Endless Echoes of the Soul: A Warrior and Priestess in Ancient Egypt. This mesmerizing first instalment in her engaging and emotionally resonant trilogy invites readers on an unforgettable odyssey where destiny, reincarnation, and passion converge against the rich, evocative tapestry of Ancient Egypt.

At the heart of this narrative lies the poignant relationship between a valiant warrior and a devoted priestess. Their love, deemed forbidden by societal norms, transcends the confines of time, leading them to be reborn and reunited in an era far removed from their original existence. As their souls recognize each other once more, they are thrust into a world where ancient secrets loom large, and the sands of time challenge their every endeavour to stay together.

Critics and readers alike have lauded the novel for its intricate plot and emotional depth. One reviewer noted, "Each chapter brims with rich, poignant details that bring their emotional turmoil to life, making it impossible not to feel their pain, passion, and fierce determination to fight for love." Such testimonials underscore the book's ability to resonate deeply with its audience, evoking emotions that linger long after the final page. Beyond the romance, Endless Echoes of the Soul delves into themes of destiny, the cyclical nature of life, and the enduring power of love that defies societal constraints and time. It's a narrative that challenges readers to ponder the forces that draw souls together and the lengths one might go to honour such connections. For those yearning for a tale that seamlessly blends historical richness with passionate romance, M.R. Avis's "Endless Echoes of the Soul" promises an unforgettable journey. As the first book in a trilogy, it sets the stage for an epic saga that will continue to explore the depths of love, sacrifice, and destiny. Embark on this timeless adventure and let the echoes of the past illuminate the path of the heart.

GET YOUR COPY OF 'ENDLESS ECHOES OF THE SOUL' TODAY. AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE ON WWW.AMAZON.COM IN KINDLE & PAPERBACK FORMAT.



M. R. AVIS

THE LITERARY JOURNEY OF AUTHOR M. R. AVIS

M.R. Avis is a fresh new voice in fantasy romance, capturing readers' hearts with a debut trilogy that blends slow-burn passion, high-stakes danger, and immersive magic on every page. But like many storytellers, her journey didn't begin with a book deal, it began with a deep love for epic tales, long nights spent reading by lamplight, and a mind constantly crafting stories of fates entangled and love that defies all odds.

She grew up enthralled by fantasy worlds and emotionally rich romances, where heroines were bold, heroes were complex, and nothing was ever as it seemed. From an early age, she began building her own universes, scribbling in notebooks, sketching out characters, and imagining entire realms where destiny could be rewritten and reimagined endlessly. Though her life took her through its share of responsibilities, challenges, and reality checks, the stories never stopped coming. They simply waited, quietly growing deeper, bolder, and more powerful, until she was finally ready to bring them into the world.

That moment came with the release of her debut trilogy. From the instant book one landed in readers' hands, it ignited a wave of excitement and anticipation. Readers were swept away by the richly layered world, fierce heroines, and morally grey heroes who walk the line between light and shadow. The series quickly found its audience, romantic fans who thrive on emotional tension, forbidden love, and breath-taking adventure. With glowing reviews, stunning fan art, and a passionate, ever-growing community of loyal readers, her transition from daydreamer to published author has been nothing short of magical.

The trilogy is more than a fantasy, it's a love letter to those who crave sweeping worldbuilding, enemies-to-lovers dynamics, deep emotional stakes, and choices that can change everything. Each book delves deeper into a realm where magic is as dangerous as it is beautiful, and where love must survive war, betrayal, loss, and fate itself.

Now residing somewhere between reality and the worlds she creates, M.R. Avis continues to write stories that grip the heart and refuse to let go. The first book was only the beginning of something truly special. The journey is far from over, and for those ready to fall into a world where fantasy meets fire and fate, the best is still to come.

FOLLOW AUTHOR M R AVIS

amazon.com/dp/B0DGPR37CY

romancetrilogy

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR MICHELLE RENEE AVIS

Q: What inspires you to blend romance, mysticism, and history in your stories?

I've always believed that the heart of humanity lives in its stories—its love, its longing, and its mystery. Romance is timeless, mysticism invites wonder, and history grounds everything in a rich, textured reality. Blending them allows me to explore how the spiritual and the emotional transcend time. It's about capturing the ache of a love that feels fated across centuries, or a moment of magic that changes a life. That's where stories become unforgettable.

Q: How does a story usually begin for you?

Always with a feeling. A spark. Sometimes it's a single image—a woman waiting at a train station in 1942, a letter buried beneath a centuries-old floorboard, a dream that feels like a memory. The characters come next, and they speak before I even know who they are. I don't write to create a plot—I write to uncover it.

Q: What's your approach to historical research?

Research is my form of time travel. I immerse myself in letters, diaries, old maps, forgotten rituals, even the fabrics and perfumes of the time. It's not about facts—it's about atmosphere. I want readers to feel the cobblestones underfoot, hear the music of another age, and sense the weight of a world long gone but not forgotten.

Q: How do you balance the mystical with emotional realism?

Mysticism, for me, is never just about the supernatural—it's about the unseen forces we all feel, intuition, fate, longing, spiritual connection. I ground the mystical in emotional truth. If the characters believe, if they ache, if they love—it becomes real. The mystical is most powerful when it reflects our deepest human truths.

Q: What makes a love story truly meaningful to you?

It's the love that changes someone. The love that cracks them open, that heals a wound they didn't know they had. It doesn't have to be perfect—it just has to be real. For me, the most meaningful love stories are the ones that honour vulnerability, choice, and the soul-deep recognition between two people.

Q: Do specific historical eras influence your writing?

Absolutely. I'm drawn to moments of cultural or spiritual upheaval—times when the world was shifting and people were searching for meaning. The 1920s, the turn of the century, post-war Europe, ancient empires... Each era whispers something different, and I love listening for the secrets history tries to keep.

Q: Which character has meant the most to you and why?

It's hard to choose, but there's one—Amira, from Endless Echoes of the Soul—who still haunts me. She was a priestess in a crumbling ancient Egyptian province, and through her, I explored what it means to carry truth no one wants to hear. She taught me that courage isn't always loud. Sometimes it's quiet, stubborn, and full of grace.

Q: How has your writing style evolved over time?

In the beginning, I tried to control everything. Now I surrender more. I trust the story to lead me. My prose has become more fluid, more lyrical, more intuitive. I let the emotion breathe. I've learned that silence between words can speak volumes, and sometimes one line can carry the weight of a lifetime.

Q: Which authors or stories influenced your voice?

Isabel Allende, for her lush lyricism. Alice Hoffman, for her quiet magic. Gabriel García Márquez, for making the impossible feel intimate. I've also been deeply influenced by poets—Rilke, Rumi, and Mary Oliver—because they taught me that language is a spell, and every word matters.

Q: Are there mythologies or spiritual themes you return to often?

Yes, I'm fascinated by the idea of fate, prophecy, the divine feminine, reincarnation, and ancestral memory. There's something deeply resonant about ancient stories that still echo in our modern hearts. I return to them not to retell, but to reawaken.

Q: How do you create such vivid atmosphere in your prose?

I write with all five senses. I want readers to smell the rain on old stone, hear the rustle of silk skirts, taste the fear or longing in a kiss. I close my eyes and step into the world I'm writing. If I can feel it, they will too. Atmosphere is the soul's landscape—it holds the mood, the memory, the magic.

Q: What can readers expect from you next?

A sweeping love story set in 19th-century Istanbul, laced with Sufi mysticism, secret gardens, and a forgotten manuscript said to unlock the soul's destiny. It's a tale of forbidden love, spiritual awakening, and the courage to reclaim your truth across lifetimes. I can't wait to share it with the world.

BOOK REVIEW

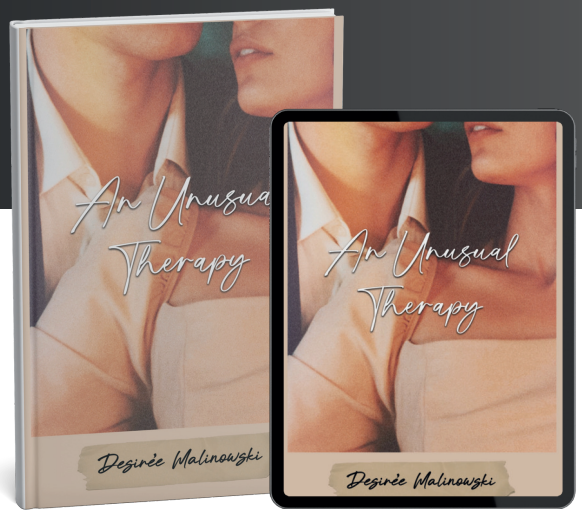
This is a captivating tale that unravels the mystery of twin flames. The book delves into intriguing and controversial aspects of human life, such as reincarnation, telepathy, and telekinesis. Set in the captivating backdrop of ancient Egypt, the book is fully packed with romance, revenge, and suspense. Grab a copy for yourself.

"One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a dancing star."

— Friedrich Nietzsche

AN UNUSUAL THERAPY

BY AUTHOR DESIRÉE MALINOWSKI



Max, a bold, sarcastic, and unapologetically confident psychologist and matchmaker, unexpectedly crosses paths with her long-lost first love, David. Clueless about who Max really is, David hires her to help him win over his assistant—a woman who's been rejecting him for an entire year.

During their first meeting, Max realizes that David is nothing like the boy she once loved. He's now self-centered, arrogant, and, much to her annoyance, undeniably attractive. Determined to help him despite her own conflicted feelings, Max comes up with a unique plan: therapy to train him to control his impulses and learn how to treat women with respect, rather than as objects of desire. Intrigued and desperate for a solution, David agrees. Their sessions take place in Max's apartment, where she cleverly challenges his self-control by using her femininity and charm to tempt him—forcing him to confront his own weaknesses. The goal? To master his desires so he can form a genuine connection with the woman he wants.

However, as the therapy progresses, the undeniable chemistry between Max and David intensifies. Both find themselves caught in a magnetic pull they can't resist, and their carefully built boundaries crumble under the weight of their passion. When they finally give in, they're forced to confront the messy reality of their feelings and whether they can truly move on from their past.

In the aftermath, both must take separate journeys of self-discovery, understanding that love sometimes means letting go before they can find their way back to each other. An Unusual Therapy is the first book in an enthralling trilogy, blending humor, passion, and self-growth. The second installment, An Unusual Therapy 2, is already completed, while the third is currently in progress and expected to be finished by the end of the year.

GET YOUR COPY OF 'AN UNUSUAL THERAPY' TODAY. AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE ON AMAZON.COM, BARNESANDNOBLE.COM, AUSTINMACAULEY.COM AND WATERSTONES.COM IN KINDLE & PAPERBACK FORMAT.



DESIRÉE MALINOWSKI

THE LITERARY JOURNEY OF AUTHOR DESIRÉE MALINOWSKI

Desirée Malinowski's journey as a storyteller didn't follow a straight path. Born in Galicia, Spain, she grew up surrounded by the melodies of the Spanish coast and the vivid tales passed down through generations. Her love for stories sparked at just seven years old when she penned her first short story—a whimsical piece that would unknowingly set the foundation for a lifetime of writing.

But life wasn't just about words. Desirée's passion for storytelling took root while balancing the demands of everyday life. Determined to bring her imagination to the world, she self-published her debut novel, The Sun Sets in Bengal, in 2017. It was more than just a story—it was a love letter to India, a land that had left an indelible mark on her soul. The book marked the beginning of a new chapter—one where stories of rich cultural landscapes and deeply woven emotions became her signature.

Her creativity wasn't confined to the page. With an insatiable curiosity and a desire to breathe life into characters, Desirée ventured into screenwriting, translating her passion for storytelling into scripts and screenplays. She also found her voice—quite literally—as a voice actress, blending her talents into a multifaceted career that spanned across genres and mediums.

Life, however, wasn't always about creative triumphs. Desirée faced moments of doubt and uncertainty, questioning whether her passion for storytelling could truly become more than just a dream. Yet, despite the challenges, her unwavering dedication to the craft kept her moving forward. Through heartbreak and hope, successes and setbacks, she continued to weave stories that resonate with authenticity and depth. Each new project became both a test of her resilience and a reaffirmation of her love for storytelling—proving that even when the path seemed unclear, her creative spirit remained unshaken.

Today, as she works on her latest screenplay, Desirée reflects on the journey that shaped her—a path defined by passion, persistence, and an unyielding belief in the power of words. Whether through a written story, a whispered line, or a vivid screenplay, she remains committed to capturing the essence of human experience—one story at a time. Every tale she tells drives her to keep pushing boundaries and embracing new creative challenges.

THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR DESIRÉE MALINOWSKI

Q: What inspired you to start writing?

I guess that what inspired me to start writing was the bedtime stories my father and my grandmother used to tell me when I was a small kid. It made me start wondering if I'd be able to also create my own stories, and engage people the same way I used to get dragged into their short tales, making me picture scenarios and live in my head vividly what I was hearing from them.

Q: How did your first short story shape your journey?

My first short story, which I wrote at the age of seven, made me realize that, although the story was not so good, I had what it takes to write. I had the imagination to create a plot, characters with their own personality and problems that they had to solve/overcome. I just had to learn how to develop those skills and I think that I've achieved that. It took some years of writing as a pastime for me to shape and cultivate my craft.

Q: What draws you to drama, romance, and horror?

Drama and romance are topics in everyone's day to day life. It's easy to write drama and romance stories in which the reader can get lost in the story and let their emotions flow, either if it is crying unconsollably because the character they fell in love with died, or laughing when Max, with her short temper, comfronts the people who used to bully her during high-school times in An Unusual Therapy. I've always been a big fan of horror stories myself, and I love to create sleep-depriving stories for my horror-loving peers, based on true events to give them that nightmare material they're craving for.

Q: How has growing up in the Canary Islands impacted your work?

I was born in a really small town in the outskirts of Vigo, surrounded by nature, sea breeze and animals. That made me connect to nature to some levels I still maintain to this day, but I think that growing up in the Canary Islands, in its multicultural richness, enhanced my creativity and curiosity to another levels. Meeting people form different parts of the globe, and learning about their cultures, enriched my creativeness allowing me to introduce in my stories everything what I was learning from them.

Q: How do translation and interpreting skills help your writing?

Knowing different languages has helped me create characters and environments in my stories that I couldn't have achieved speaking just one language. I like to name my characters according to their personalities and significance in the story, and that is easier to achieve when you know where they come from, what their roots are and their role is. Also, being able to speak other languages has allowed me to make the reader dive deeper into the story, getting attuned with the character when they don't understand what their interlocutor is telling in another languages such as italian or gujarati.

Q: What do you mean by "delusion" being your strength?

Everyone has those small voices in their heads that keep telling them "you're aiming for too much" or "you won't be able to achieve this or that?" well, delusion helps me mute those voices and think that everything I put my eye on is possible. Why should I limit myself when all I have to do is to put in the effort to achieve my goals? Of course, I'm talking about metaphorical delusion, but the reality is that I don't think there's a goal big enough as far as you have the determination and the willingness to put in the work that is needed to achieve your ambitions.

Q: What techniques make a character truly engaging?

I think the secret to create engaging characters is to make them relatable. I like that my readers relate to the characters, that they feel seen when they see the characters going through some situation they have lived themselves. I think it's deeply immersing, when you're reading and feel that the person in those pages understands you, that there're some struggles you don't have to go through all alone.

Q: What was it like adapting The Sun Sets in Bengal into a screenplay?

Adapting The Sun Sets in Bengal into a screenplay was by far my most challenging project. How do you adapt a 370 pages novel into a 120 pages screenplay? You have to cut a lot of content, change situations and speed up the action to fit everything into a film that reflects the full essence of the novel, without losing a trace of it's personality and that at the same time, makes the viewers get engaged into the story, understanding everything without the need of reading the novel first.

Q: Do you write in multiple languages? How does it affect your storytelling?

I love to write in multiple languages because it makes the reader get in the skin of the character who is being talked to in a language they don't understand. In The Sun Sets in Bengal there are dialogues in English, Gujarati and Bengali, and I think it's nice for the reader not to have a clue of what's actually going on since the main character, Elizabeth, just speaks English herself. In An Unusual Therapy, there are some small dialogues written in Italian, because Max, the main character, is half Italian and I feel that it gives a different and more natural flare to the story.

Q: What challenges did you face in self-publishing?

The biggest challenge I faced in self-publishing has been the marketing process. Getting the people to know about your book is a difficult task, even using Social Media. If you look for tips to promote your book on Social Media you'll always find the same advice: use hashtags, follow people for them to follow you back, create your network, etc... The reality is that it doesn't work. To me it didn't work. I have post with dozens of hashtags and just two likes, and the worst part of it is that many times, even my followers don't get to see my posts on their feeds. The sad truth about marketing your book as a self-published author is that, unless you have already thousands of followers on Social Media, you and your book will be invisible.

THE DEVIL'S FOOTPRINTS

BY AUTHOR C. R. STOBO



Tom Brightly and his friends are back! After their thrilling festive escapade in Santa's Dragon, the team returns for another exhilarating adventure in The Devil's Footprints. Brace yourself for an unforgettable journey as schoolboy Tom and his loyal friends travel back in time to the wild Scottish Highlands of 1839. Their mission? To find a legendary magical flag, an ancient relic said to grant powerful abilities to anyone who possesses it.

But they are not alone in their daring quest. A sinister figure known as the Bleck Gled has been haunting the countryside for months, spreading fear and terror wherever he roams. Determined and relentless, he, too, is hunting the flag—and will stop at nothing to reach it first. As danger looms ever closer, Tom and his friends must summon their courage to stay one step ahead.

As they follow the trail of the elusive artifact, they uncover dark secrets lurking in the heart of Glendern. The once-proud Duke of Glendern has mysteriously vanished, his lands and title claimed by an enigmatic new ruler. But who is this shadowy figure now presiding as Laird? Even more perplexing, a prisoner remains hidden within the gloomy depths of Glendern Castle—a strange bagpipe player whose haunting music echoes through the cold, stone corridors. His eerie melodies seep into the darkest recesses, and the locals whisper that his music holds secrets that could unravel the truth. Adding to the tension are the ominous footprints appearing on the high hills—markings that fill the villagers with dread and hint at something sinister lurking in the shadows.

The Devil's Footprints is the electrifying second installment in the University of Time Travel series, following the captivating introduction of Tom and his friends in Santa's Dragon. Blending suspense, adventure, and historical intrigue, this gripping tale will keep readers riveted to the page, eager to unravel the mysteries alongside the fearless young heroes.

GET YOUR COPY OF 'TOM BRIGHTLY AND THE DEVIL'S FOOTPRINTS' TODAY. AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE ON AMAZON.COM IN KINDLE & PAPERBACK FORMAT.



C. R. STOBO

THE LITERARY JOURNEY OF AUTHOR C. R. STOBO

C. R. Stobo was born in Glasgow, Scotland. He began reading aged four and writing stories by the age of 10, and he hasn't stopped since. His early efforts took the form of hand-drawn comics, which he created and shared with his friends, delighting them with his imaginative tales. As he grew older, his storytelling evolved into crafting short stories and heartfelt poems, before diving into the whirlwind of NaNoWriMo in both 2008 and 2009.

After quite a lot of real life happening in between, navigating challenges and personal growth, he published his first book, a beautifully crafted, bestselling poetry collection for adults, in 2018. The success of this collection reignited his passion for storytelling, leading him to revisit those two long-form stories from the noughties and develop them into the beginnings of his University of Time Travel series.

The first of these stories, Santa's Dragon, was crafted during the challenging and isolating days of the pandemic, when creativity became both an escape and a solace. Published in 2021, it soared to success, becoming an Amazon number-one bestseller in the USA and earning widespread acclaim. This whimsical and heartwarming tale marked his debut children's literature (though it also engaged grown-ups who retain a childlike sense of wonder) and serves as an enchanting introduction to the University of Time Travel series. The journey continued with Tom Brightly and the Devil's Footprints, the first full-length installment in the series. He now resides on the southern edge of the Scottish Highlands, in a picturesque and tranquil setting, where he shares his life with his young son and their spirited, gallus wee cat, embracing nature's beauty.

When he is not immersed in the world of storytelling, C. R. Stobo can often be found gazing up at the vast Scottish sky, searching for elusive comets or delicate snowflakes. His adventurous spirit leads him to explore the rugged landscapes of Scotland, uncovering the myths and legends that linger in its ancient, storied places. An avid sports enthusiast, he enjoys golf, swimming, and curling. Occasionally, he also shares glimpses of his life and inspirations on Instagram.

The upcoming book, titled Tom Brightly and the University of Time Travel, serves as the eponymous centerpiece of the series, promising an epic journey filled with adventure, intrigue, and the limitless possibilities of time itself.

FOLLOW AUTHOR C. R. STOBO

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THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR C. R. STOBO

Q: What inspired you to explore time travel and dragons in your stories?

A combination of watching and reading a lot of Doctor Who since I was a kid, plus a healthy dose of The Hobbit at just the right age. Also, who doesn't want to explore time and have a best pal who can fly and breath fire?

Q: How does living in the Highlands influence your writing?

Significantly. As well as being a beautiful place in which I am very lucky to live, it is chock-full of myths and legends and rather a lot of thin places, too. Thin places are thought to be locations where the boundary between the physical world and the spiritual or divine feels especially thin, almost transparent. They hold great significance for me personally and play an important role in the books.

Q: Why is retaining a sense of wonder important in adulthood?

It is the antidote to cynicism and to darkness – and there is more than enough of that in the world at any given time. Or at least that is what we are always being told to think. In reality, much of the world is a beautiful place, full of lots of good and kind people – and it is very important to remember that.

Q: If time travel were real, which historical moment would you visit?

There are so many to choose from! Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire would be high up on my list, but, on balance, my favourite period remains Victorian London. It is distant enough in time to be rather alien, whilst at the same time, there are elements of it which persist to this day. Plus, they had great hats!

Q: How did you blend fact and fiction in Tom Brightly and the Devil's Footprints?

Carefully, I hope. The initial idea for the story was reading about the Devil's Footprints mystery that took place in Devon in the mid-nineteenth century. This referenced an earlier similar mystery in Perthshire in 1840 and this in turn mentioned an occurrence of strange footprints the previous winter – almost a mere footnote, but a place from which to start a story.

Q: How does your fascination with fleeting beauty shape your storytelling?

Capturing moments like these on paper is the magic dust which I hope gives life to this (or any) story. All life is ephemeral on one timescale or another, and it is important to recognise even the most transient of moments. I call them sparkers and of such things indelible memories are made. "What is this life, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?" W. H. Davies (Welsh poet and writer) was onto something with that.

Q: How do you balance logic and magic in your writing?

Again, carefully – I hope. There has to be some degree of order and interior logic to the magic in order to maintain the inherent credibility of a story. I'll leave definitive labels to others, but were I pressed, I think I'm writing magic realism for children, rather than out and and out fantasy or indeed sci-fi, albeit there may be elements of both in the books.

Q: What do you hope readers take away from your books?

First and foremost, I hope they are entertained. There are several important themes which I aim to explore: friendship, courage, perseverance and family amongst others. However, the most important theme is kindness. I read recently that the mark of true wisdom is kindness and I'm not going to argue with that.

Q: How do themes of family and home influence your stories?

In stories featuring children, there is always the challenge of how do you separate children from their families in order that they can have the freedom to go off and have loads of adventures? The freedom of so many children is much diminished or non-existent nowadays – and that is a great shame. So, in the books, the two main characters both have loving – albeit slightly different – families and because of this, they perhaps have a little more freedom than the norm. And even though neither family is 'perfect', the boys know they are there and that they will be able to return home, to a place of safety, in the end.

Q: If you could talk to any fictional character, who would it be?

Again, there are so many to choose from, though high on the list would be the Doctor (Doctor Who) – particularly the 4th and 12th iterations of that character and also Peter Pan – a very fascinating fellow.

Q: Do you see any connection between sports and storytelling?

Very much so. We watch and participate in the most compelling sport for many reasons, not least of which is the drama that can ebb and flow as fortunes change throughout a game, a match or a race. There is also a similarity in not giving up even when one has seemingly hit a wall or a dead end. One more heave, as it were, and you may just triumph.

Q: How has being a parent shaped your creativity and approach to writing stories for children?

Well, it means I have a good test audience for starters! There is a point about seeing the world anew through a child's eyes (another antidote for the creeping cynicism of adulthood) and the joy and magic wrapped up in that. It also reminds you of what you were like as a child and if I am doing anything, I am trying to write the sorts of books I would have devoured as a kid. The ones which you are enjoying so much that you wish they would never end. If I can capture one child's imagination like that, my work is done!

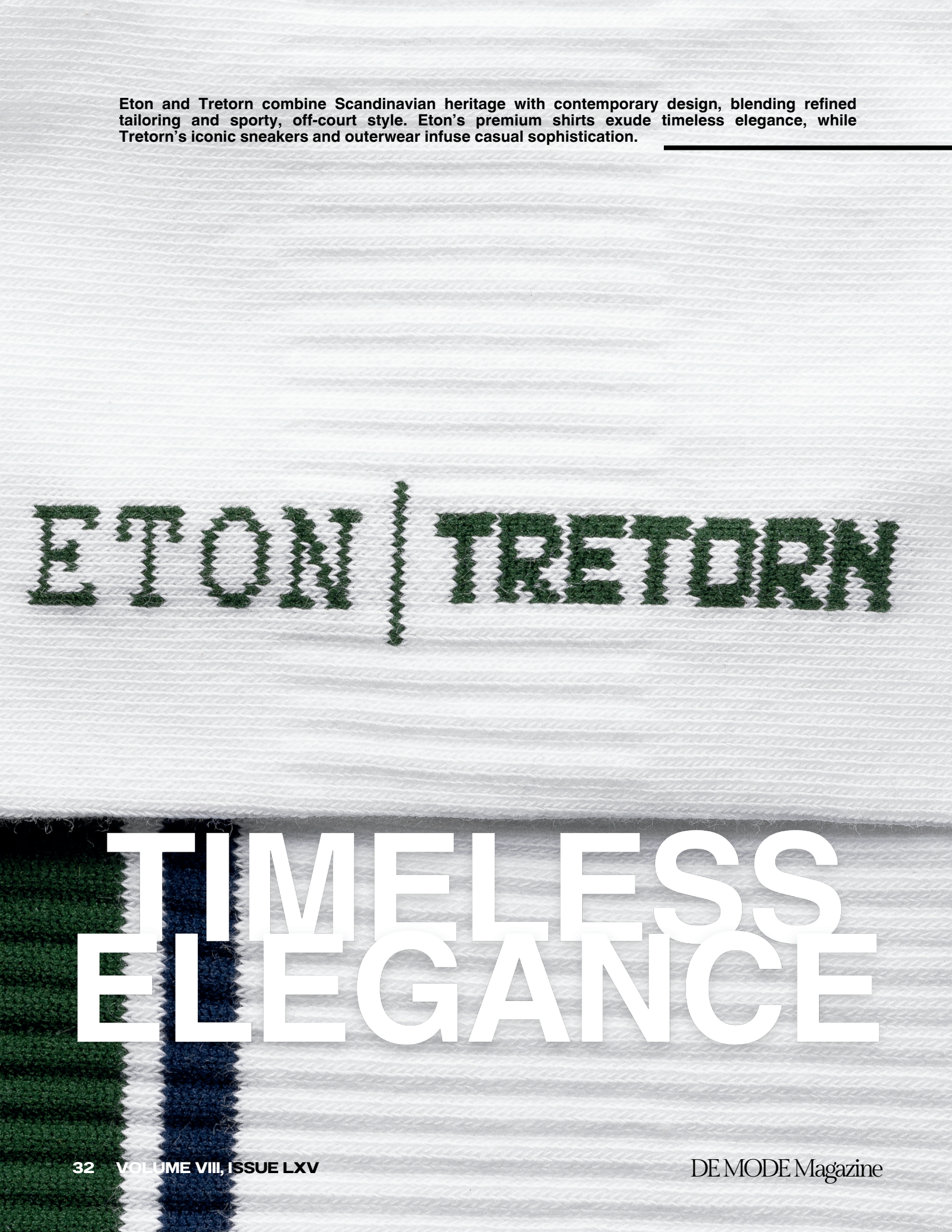
"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."
— **Maya Angelou**

Eton and Tretorn



Scandinavian heritage, modern street vibe.

Eton and Tretorn combine Scandinavian heritage with contemporary design, blending refined tailoring and sporty, off-court style. Eton's premium shirts exude timeless elegance, while Tretorn's iconic sneakers and outerwear infuse casual sophistication.



TIMELESS ELEGANCE


ETON | TRETORN

PLAY HARD. DRESS SMART.



IN THE WORLD OF FASHION, FEW BRANDS HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THEIR HERITAGE WHILE CONSISTENTLY EVOLVING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MODERN CONSUMER. TWO SUCH BRANDS, ETON AND TRETORN, HAVE MANAGED TO DO JUST THAT. BOTH DEEPLY ROOTED IN SCANDINAVIAN DESIGN PRINCIPLES, THEY HAVE CARVED THEIR OWN NICHES IN THE WORLD OF MENSWEAR AND SPORTSWEAR, EACH DEFINED BY A LEGACY OF CRAFTSMANSHIP, INNOVATION, AND TIMELESS STYLE.

Eton: The Epitome of Swedish Tailoring Excellence

Founded in 1928, Eton began as a small tailoring shop in the quaint Swedish town of Gånghester. What started as a local business quickly grew into a global phenomenon, celebrated for its impeccable shirts and meticulous attention to detail. From the very beginning, Eton focused on using premium fabrics and perfecting the art of shirting. Over the decades, the brand expanded its offerings to include a range of modern tailoring that effortlessly balances classic silhouettes with contemporary design.

Tretorn: A Legacy of Functional Fashion & Outdoor Innovation

Founded in 1900, Tretorn began as a rubber company in Helsingborg, Sweden. While the brand initially focused on producing rubber boots and galoshes, it soon expanded into the world of sportswear, creating some of the most iconic sneakers in history. The Nylite sneaker, first introduced in the 1960s, became an instant classic, capturing the essence of tennis culture and off-court style.

Tretorn's design philosophy revolves around combining functionality with fashion, making it a go-to brand for outdoor enthusiasts and fashion-forward individuals alike. Whether it's waterproof outerwear or retro-inspired sneakers, Tretorn's products remain rooted in the Scandinavian tradition of simplicity, practicality, and understated elegance.

Tretorn: A Legacy of Functional Fashion & Outdoor Innovation

Today, Eton and Tretorn come together to present a collaborative capsule collection that perfectly encapsulates their shared Scandinavian ethos. This tennis-inspired collection reimagines preppy, collegiate style through the lens of modern streetwear. It merges Eton's refined tailoring with Tretorn's sporty, casual aesthetic, creating a line that is as sophisticated as it is relaxed.

Signature regimental stripes, varsity cardigans, tailored "track" chinos, and reworked Nylite sneakers form the heart of the collection. With a carefully curated palette of deep green, navy blue, eggshell white, and sandy beige, the collection evokes the charm of vintage tennis courts while offering a contemporary spin on classic pieces.

For Eton, this marks a milestone as it expands into full-look collections, bringing its signature craftsmanship beyond shirts and into an elevated yet casual realm. For Tretorn, the collaboration is a nod to its sporting heritage, allowing the brand to reinterpret its iconic Nylite sneaker with playful, modern touches.

The Road Ahead: Preserving Heritage, Embracing Modernity

As Eton and Tretorn continue to evolve, their shared commitment to Scandinavian craftsmanship and design remains at the core of their brand identities. Both brands are poised to captivate a new generation of style-conscious individuals who value quality, versatility, and timeless design.

With the launch of their tennis-inspired capsule collection, Eton and Tretorn demonstrate how two iconic brands can come together to create something truly unique—a collection that not only pays homage to their heritage but also embraces the dynamic, ever-changing nature of modern fashion.






ETON | TRETORN




ETON


ETON | TRETORN
ETON




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JOURNEY
INDIANA
SEAL OF THE STATE OF INDIANA
1816

Indiana offers a diverse travel experience with natural beauty, historic charm, and vibrant culture. Key highlights include:
Scenic landscapes for hiking and biking, from Brown County to Lake Michigan.
Indianapolis features world-class museums, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and the Children's Museum.
Small towns like Nashville, Madison, and Santa Claus showcase art, heritage, and festive events.
Nature attractions like Indiana Dunes National Park and Marengo Cave.
Ideal for autumn foliage, kayaking, and countryside retreats, Indiana promises warm hospitality and unique experiences for weekend getaways and family vacations throughout the year.





Indiana's food scene combines Midwestern traditions with modern flavors. Signature dishes like the breaded pork tenderloin sandwich and sugar cream pie highlight hearty, home-cooked meals. The state, a major producer of corn, soybeans, and tomatoes, emphasizes fresh, local ingredients, especially in cities like Bloomington and Indianapolis, where farmers markets thrive. Indiana also features diverse global cuisines, from Mexican tacos to vegan options. Seasonal delights like apple cider and persimmon pudding showcase the state's agricultural wealth. Overall, Indiana's dining culture reflects community, the land, and the Hoosier spirit, offering both comfort and innovation in flavors.

INDIANAPOLIS

Rev up your soul in the racing capital of the world

Indianapolis, the capital of Indiana, offers a vibrant mix of sports, culture, and history. The city is home to the famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway, hosting the legendary Indy 500. The downtown area features the scenic Canal Walk, perfect for walks or paddle boating. The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, the largest in the world, is a must-see. Art lovers will enjoy the Indianapolis Museum of Art and its sprawling grounds. The city also boasts White River State Park, which blends green spaces with attractions like the zoo and museums. With friendly locals and a dynamic food scene, Indy is an urban explorer's dream in the Midwest.

Best time to visit



May – To attend the iconic Indy 500 and enjoy mild, pleasant weather.

FACT

Indianapolis has more war memorials than any U.S. city outside of Washington, D.C.

BLOOMINGTON

Where college town charm meets Indiana's wild side

Bloomington is a picturesque college town nestled in the rolling hills of southern Indiana. It's best known as the home of Indiana University, which gives the town a vibrant, youthful energy. The IU campus is a peaceful place to stroll, with limestone buildings, art installations, and nature trails. The town is also a cultural hub, boasting live music venues, art galleries, and theaters. Nearby, you'll find the beautiful Monroe Lake and Hoosier National Forest—perfect for hiking and water sports. With a strong emphasis on sustainability, diversity, and local charm, Bloomington offers both natural serenity and lively town culture.

Best time to visit



April to October – Lush greenery, outdoor festivals, and university events are in full swing.

FACT

Bloomington is the birthplace of the famous rock band Hoagy Carmichael and his hit "Stardust."



FORT WAYNE

Big city buzz with small town warmth

Fort Wayne is Indiana's second-largest city and a hidden gem packed with culture, parks, and family attractions. Known for its thriving downtown and riverfront development, it's perfect for walking, kayaking, and sightseeing. The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo is repeatedly ranked among the top in the nation. The city also boasts the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Science Central, and a lively art scene. Fort Wayne's Historic Old Fort and charming neighborhoods like West Central give it a rich, local feel. It's a great spot for family vacations and anyone looking to enjoy a blend of urban convenience and natural beauty.

Best time to visit

June to August – Ideal for enjoying the riverside trails, festivals, and zoo in full swing.



FACT

Fort Wayne has one of the largest public genealogy centers in the U.S.—great for tracing family history

SOUTH BEND

Where tradition, education, and river lights meet



Best time to visit

September to November – The fall foliage and Notre Dame football season bring the city to life.

FACT

South Bend was once the headquarters of the Studebaker Corporation, a pioneer in early U.S. auto manufacturing.

South Bend is most famous as the home of the University of Notre Dame. Its charming campus, featuring the Golden Dome and Basilica of the Sacred Heart, attracts visitors year-round. But the city has more to offer—like the Studebaker National Museum, East Race Waterway for urban rafting, and a revitalized downtown with great restaurants and shops. The River Lights along the St. Joseph River create a magical ambiance in the evenings. South Bend blends academia, history, and local flair in a scenic riverside setting. Whether you're a sports fan, history buff, or foodie, South Bend has something to enjoy.

COLUMBUS

Design meets delight in every corner of Columbus

FACT

Columbus is ranked sixth in the U.S. for architectural innovation—just behind cities like Chicago and New York!

Columbus, Indiana, is a small city with a big reputation—for architecture! Known globally for its modernist and contemporary structures, Columbus ranks among the top U.S. cities for architectural innovation. You'll find works by legends like I.M. Pei, Eero Saarinen, and César Pelli scattered throughout town. Beyond design, the city offers a charming downtown with boutiques, public art, and great cafés. Nearby Mill Race Park and the People Trail system provide opportunities for biking and walking. It's a quiet yet sophisticated destination perfect for architecture lovers, photographers, and anyone seeking beauty in both built and natural landscapes.

Best time to visit

April to June – Perfect weather for walking tours and outdoor art installations.

MADISON

Where the river meets heritage and hospitality

FACT

Madison has the largest contiguous National Historic Landmark district in the U.S.—over 130 blocks!

Nestled along the Ohio River, Madison is one of Indiana's most charming river towns, known for its beautifully preserved 19th-century architecture. The entire downtown is a National Historic Landmark, offering cobbled streets, antique shops, and art galleries. The Lanier Mansion and Clifty Falls State Park are key attractions, with the latter providing spectacular hiking and waterfall views. Madison hosts popular festivals like the Madison Regatta and Chautauqua Festival of Art. The town's scenic riverfront and vibrant small-town culture make it perfect for a relaxing getaway. Whether you're a history lover, nature enthusiast, or festival-goer, Madison delivers timeless beauty and charm.

Best time to visit



Late Spring to Early Fall – Ideal for river cruises, outdoor events, and waterfall hikes at Clifty Falls.



TASTE OF INDIANA



PORK TENDERLOIN SANDWICH

This Indiana staple shines brightest in Indianapolis. The sandwich features a massive pork loin, pounded thin, breaded, and deep-fried to golden perfection. It's typically served on a bun far too small for the meat, adding to its charm. Topped with pickles, lettuce, tomato, and mayo or mustard, it's crunchy, savory, and juicy. Many local diners and pubs take pride in offering their unique take on this classic. You'll find it at places like Edwards Drive-In or The Aristocrat Pub. It's not just a meal—it's a rite of passage for visitors seeking a true taste of Indy.





CONEY DOGS



A Fort Wayne tradition, the Coney Island Wiener Stand has been serving these iconic dogs since 1914. What makes them special? A perfectly grilled hot dog placed in a steamed bun, topped with their secret-recipe meat sauce, diced onions, and a dash of mustard. It's simple, delicious, and nostalgic. The restaurant itself is a step back in time—with old-school booths and a lively open kitchen. These Coney dogs are a staple for locals and a must-try for visitors looking to savor authentic Fort Wayne flavors. It's a quick bite that leaves a lasting memory.





PERCH DINNER

Inspired by nearby Lake Michigan, the perch dinner is a beloved local dish. Lightly breaded and fried to golden perfection, these fish fillets are crispy outside and tender inside. Served with tartar sauce, coleslaw, and fries, it's a Midwestern classic. Many South Bend eateries, especially local taverns and supper clubs, pride themselves on their fresh, flaky lake perch. It's particularly popular on Friday nights when many locals follow the tradition of a fish fry. The perch dinner offers a delicious taste of the Great Lakes region, capturing the essence of South Bend's cultural and culinary roots.



FRIED CATFISH



A staple along the Ohio River, Madison's fried catfish is crispy, flavorful, and tied deeply to its Southern-style culinary roots. Typically seasoned with cornmeal and herbs, the fish is deep-fried and served with hushpuppies, coleslaw, and tartar sauce. Restaurants like Key West Shrimp House or local diners near the river serve this delicacy fresh and golden. It's a Friday night tradition for many Madison locals, offering a savory taste of the area's cultural heritage. The combination of river views and river food makes dining here a sensory delight—perfect for a laid-back evening by the water.

GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

Green Bean Casserole is a quintessential comfort food in Indiana, especially cherished during holidays like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Though it originated in the 1950s as a Campbell Soup recipe, it quickly became a Midwestern classic and holds a special place on Hoosier family tables. Made with green beans, cream of mushroom soup, milk, and topped with crispy fried onions, this dish is simple yet deeply satisfying. In Indiana, where green beans are widely grown, it reflects the state's agricultural heritage and love for hearty, home-cooked meals. Many families add their own twist—extra cheese, garlic, or breadcrumbs—creating cherished versions passed down through generations. Whether served at a church potluck or family dinner, green bean casserole evokes warmth, nostalgia, and community. While gourmet takes with fresh ingredients are gaining popularity, the traditional version remains beloved for its creamy texture, savory flavor, and status as a timeless symbol of Hoosier hospitality and tradition.



STUFFED BELL PEPPERS

Stuffed bell peppers (vegan style) are a wholesome, colorful, and flavorful dish popular across Indiana's plant-based food scene. Typically filled with a mix of quinoa, black beans, corn, tomatoes, and spices, they're baked until tender and sometimes topped with avocado or vegan cheese. This dish is both nutritious and satisfying, often featured in vegan cafes and farm-to-table restaurants. With fresh local produce and bold flavors, vegan stuffed peppers are a vibrant, healthy alternative loved by health-conscious Hoosiers.




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