

JOSS WALKER'S APRIL DISPATCH

All hail the Earth Goddess!

Hello, you glorious creatures.

It's a breezy, soon to be stormy, April day, and I am taking advantage of the slightly warmer weather to spend the afternoon writing on the porch. There's nothing better, except the wind is blowing around the pollen, so I've been scaring the cats with my sneezes. The price we pay for a glorious Tennessee spring.

I came across [a fun video](#) on Instagram that truly has #writergoals written all over it. I'm sure you're familiar with Victoria Aveyard, who writes the incredible Red Queen and Realm Breaker series. She did [a day in the life of an author video](#) last week, and it captures the banal freedom we writers have perfectly. Plus, she makes me laugh. I certainly don't get enough walkies, the cats are not amenable, but her video shows a healthy balance of real life and this odd world of creation we find ourselves in. There's only so many hours a day you can stare at your screen, and it's very important to get out and smell the roses. It gives your work more texture, and gives your body and brain a respite from the relentless backlights and perpetual scroll.

Speaking of creation, the first butterfly of the season just made its appearance, braving the 40 mph gusts in search of sustenance. I need to get some flowers in the garden, STAT. I feel responsible for the creatures in my backyard, from the butterflies to the cardinals, the bunnies and the tiny titmouse couple, the chipmunks and squirrels. Hummingbirds are not far away. Perhaps that's why our Jayne is an Earth goddess... hmm...

It's funny that that this note would turn to butterflies and gardens, but that just hammers home what I was ruminating on sitting outside in the breeze—the need for a healthy work/life balance, which is so vital to creation. Victoria clearly gets it, and I am working hard on bringing that balance back to my own world after the Month of Deadlines.

Also, thank you so much for participating in the poll! I forgot to mention the result in the last newsletter, whoops! It was wonderful to get to know you and your likes and dislikes a bit better. I was very happy to see that while you are particular—and I love how discerning you are—you're also definitely into the kind of books I'm writing, with the same level of heat, and sense of fun and adventure with a side of serious thriller world-building. I will make sure to keep these results in mind if I decide to stray from this current style, for sure.

And with that... I'm very pleased to share that Master of Shadows, the second Jayne Thorne adventure, is available for pre-order now! The print books will be going into the system soon, and will be available closer to release.



A lost grimoire. A dangerous new enemy. And a powerful magical weapon that could destroy the world.

Jayne Thorne, CIA Librarian, is back for another exciting mission. When her mentor goes missing, Jayne is sent to Paris to find him, only to land in the crosshairs of a deadly terrorist organization and their diabolical weapon, a mysterious poison that renders their enemies powerless.

Fighting to combat this weakness, Jayne struggles to make peace with her sister, who has been hiding the truth of their family history for years, and overcome difficulties with her shifter boyfriend, who can't quite sync up with Jayne's new powers. Even worse, the terrorists demand she locate a necromantic grimoire in France, or they will kill her mentor.

As Jayne hunts for the grimoire, she unlocks the secret to summoning the Master of Shadows—a long-dead master magician possessing a dark and destructive magic. With this lethal power unleashed, she must protect her team from the worst magical threats they've ever faced...or suffer the deadly consequences.

PREORDER IT HERE!

READER OF THE MONTH

Each month, I feature a bookstagrammer who's caught my eye! If you'd like to participate, be sure to use the hashtag #josswalkerbookstagram and tag me at @josswalkerbooks!

This month's pick is [@these.tangled.words!](#)

I love the aesthetic of candles and fuzzy blankets/reading in bed!

Give her a follow [here!](#)



FEATURED BOOKS & BARGAINS

Book recommendations, promotions, and giveaways just for you!

A priestess, a dragon god – and a lie



that threatens to destroy them all.

Celia is about to break her vow.

As the head priestess of the most powerful dragon temple in the empire - Celia is a shining example of knowledge, purity, and unquestioning loyalty to the imperial couple, the legendary dragon gods themselves.

Sworn caretakers of their citizens, the priestesses must awaken the power of the spirit arts in others and guide the next generations.

But all is not what it seems. Everything they've been taught, everything Celia knows, is wrong.

Following Celia's disastrous visit to the capital, she is trapped amidst a chaotic scheme that spans over a thousand years beyond her lifetime... and is now faced with the ultimate betrayal.

SOUNDS COOL!

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One grand prize winner will win a 7" Kindle Fire and two lucky runner-ups will win a \$15 Amazon gift card! Enter the giveaway [here!](#)

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Things that make me happy:
books

Things that cause me to have
mental breakdowns and cry at 3
am: books

**Why? Why do books bring so
much joy...and also so much
pain?** 😊 😞

Source: [Book Garden & 3 Goats Gruff](#)

JOSS WALKER'S READERS & ROGUES

Join the conversation! Enjoy bookish discussions and
laughs in my Facebook readers group [here](#).

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HAPPY READING!



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