

JOSS WALKER'S DECEMBER DISPATCH

A Magical Tale for A Magical Time of Year

Hello, you glorious creatures!

Backstory. It's something I'm always thinking about. When you're building a world, building characters, knowing everything about them is quite helpful. It's the only way for a character to truly come to life, I believe. But think about your friends. Do you know everything about them? Of course not. That doesn't mean they don't have a wellspring of experiences that you just haven't heard about yet. Characters in stories are the same. They wear a necklace, or use a notebook, or have a favorite pair of boots. All of these "things" have a story to tell about their life. It's really one of the most fun things about writing books—finding out these little details, why they matter to your character.

This is what R.L. and I have been doing this year, fleshing out the backstories of the characters in the Jayne Thorne series. We started with Sofia's story in [The Eighth Road](#). Then we moved to Amanda Newport, Jayne's boss, in what's the first story in a mini-series that exists alongside the books called [Guardians of Silence](#). And now, we've dug into the past of our hulking gentle giant, Jayne's mentor, Ruger Stern, in a new story, [A Betrayal of Magic](#).

Ruger is what I like to call a lynchpin character. Without him, Jayne's entire mythology would be altered. Maybe another Adept would have found her, maybe another would have mentored her. But without him, she would not be the woman she's become. Ruger is *hard* on Jayne because he knows how incredibly vital she is to the future of the magical community. And of course, their relationship deepens from mentor/mentee, to one of respect, and eventually, friendship. But without knowing why he's so invested, I've felt something was missing.

I've fixed that. I think you'll love this one. A little heartbreak, a little terror, and a whole lotta magic. You're receiving this exclusively—and for free—before it goes on sale tomorrow, as a big fat joyful THANK YOU for being a part of this world we've built.



GET MY FREE STORY

And because we love you, starting at midnight tonight, [**GUARDIANS OF SILENCE**](#) **is free through December 19!** What a deal, right?

Now, what's to come from us in 2023? Why, another book (or two) and a couple of short stories. You can preorder [**A KEEPER OF FLAMES**](#) now, and we will keep you updated further on book 4 (wow, this series is flying along, isn't it???) We have 6 books planned, in case you're waiting to get started thinking it's a trilogy, and a number of stories and even a spin-off series. So get thee reading!

And as always, we love to hear from you! If you've read and loved the books, please consider leaving a review and a rating. It helps other readers who might be on the fence about whether these stories are really for them. (They are. They are for EVERYONE!)

Happy Holidays, Merry Everything, and here's to a safe and joyous New Year!

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 [@shereads2much](#)

Wow, what an elegant vibe this feed has. I love the sepia-like tones! It makes me think of vintage photographs.

Give her a [follow!](#)

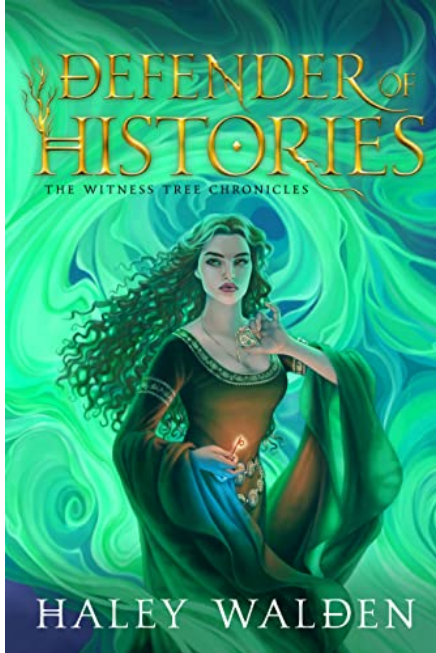


FEATURED BOOKS & BARGAINS

Book recommendations, promotions, and giveaways just for you!

**A young historian. A hidden power.
And a dark history poised to repeat
itself...**

Introverted bookworm Silira Mór is the most promising historian to serve the city-state of



lathium in centuries. When Lira is selected to inherit the city's archive as the next Defender of Histories, she can hardly believe her good fortune.

Lira has more than she could have ever dreamed possible: true friends, meaningful work, and even a budding romance with lathium's young ruler, Rí Eremon. In a cruel twist of fate, Lira learns her beloved histories have been falsified—and that a forgotten, long-suppressed magic is surging across the continent.

With the help of Eremon and her childhood friend, Aidryn Tarlach, Lira sets out to learn the real truth about her world. But when tragedy strikes, she finds herself completely alone, with enemies at every turn.

If you love epic fantasy with strong friendships, tragic romance elements, and a friends-to-lovers slow burn, you will love *Defender of Histories*.

SOUNDS COOL!

They're meant to be together, but forbidden to do anything about it...

When Nate Lupinski relinquished his place as clan Alpha to pursue opening a production studio, he never imagined the danger that would follow. But he's committed to his new work, and so is his human fated mate, Sydney. Or so he thinks...

After three years of working her dream job as a Production Coordinator, Sydney Gray is ready to move on. Her undeniable attraction to her boss and her body's betrayal anytime he is near is enough to drive her mad, but his constant flaunting of conquests has broken her heart too many times to count.

Now Sydney is ready to move on if Nate won't open up with her, but if he reveals his secret, they could both suffer a fate worse than death.



I'M IN!

Here are a bunch of fantasy freebies for you!
Just click on the image to browse the selection.

FEATURING 250+ FREE & DISCOUNTED BOOKS

C.L. CANNON'S FANTASY & SCI-FI BOOK FAIR

**BLACK
FRIDAY
SALE**



ENTER TO WIN A KINDLE FIRE, 1-MONTH OWLCRATE GIFT SUBSCRIPTION, AND A \$10 STARBUCKS GIFT CARD.

The image features a woman with long brown hair, wearing a purple top and metal shoulder armor, holding a sword. She has glowing red markings on her face. In the bottom left, there is an inset image showing a Kindle Fire, a Game of Thrones book, a Starbucks gift card, and an Owlcrate box. A red starburst graphic in the top right corner contains the text 'BLACK FRIDAY SALE'. A black box in the bottom right corner contains the text 'ENTER TO WIN A KINDLE FIRE, 1-MONTH OWLCRATE GIFT SUBSCRIPTION, AND A \$10 STARBUCKS GIFT CARD.' The background is a dark, starry space.

PORTAL TO FANTASY PRESENTS...

WILD ADVENTURES



PORTAL TO FANTASY

The image shows a white unicorn with large, feathered wings flying over a lush green tree. The background is a cloudy sky. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for 'PORTAL TO FANTASY' featuring a unicorn head and wings.

Fantasy For All December



The image depicts a large, ruined stone building with many windows and arches, set in a desert landscape. There are mountains in the background and a few small structures or ruins in the foreground. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

LITERARY LAUGHS

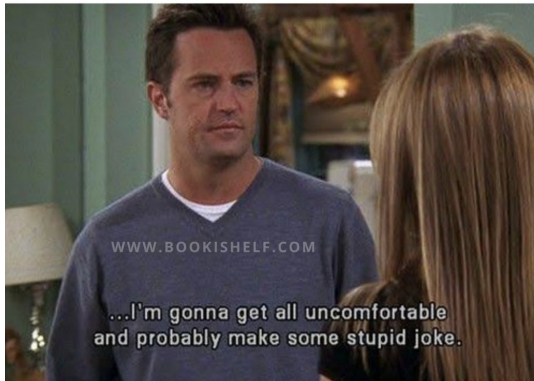
Something funny to brighten your day!



The background is a vibrant green with white sparkles and bokeh effects.

When I have to put down a book to go out with family and be social...

Wait, talking to people?? Like IN PERSON?



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](#).

Do you like this newsletter? Share it!



HAPPY READING!

JOSS WALKER



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