

JOSS WALKER'S JANUARY DISPATCH

How's the weather out there?

Happy New Year, you glorious creatures!

It's the middle of January and here in Nashvegas we've seen tornadoes, snow, and sunny days perfect for skipping out on work to take a nice long walk (today). Weather is such a strange connector for us all, isn't it? I talk to my parents every day and my mother always asks how the weather is. It's a universality, something we all experience, and that's what makes it a great communication tool. It's a benign opener used to gauge the mood of a person.

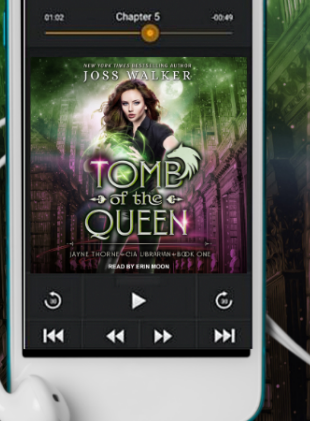
You can tell a LOT about someone (a character especially) by their reaction to the weather. Do they collapse in on themselves in the winter, suffering terribly from lack of Vitamin D or even Seasonal Affective Disorder? Do they hate it when it's hot and refuse to go to the beach? Do they love to ski and languish when the slopes are closed? Are they only happy when it rains? ([One of my favorites, that.](#)) How we interact with our weather is as telling of our personalities as our favorite color or food or catchphrase.

One of the big "rules" of writing is to never start a story with the weather. I actually disagree—I think there are absolutely moments when setting the tone of a story with what's happening atmospherically can create the perfect mood. Especially if it's fog. I do so love a good fog. I mean really, "It was a dark and stormy night" is a classic opening for a reason (and no, Snoopy, you did not author the cliché. Bad dog.)

The fun with fantasy writing is not only can you have weather in the story—or to open the story—but you can also create your own. Now that's power.

All of this to say, whenever someone tells you NOT to do something in your work, shake them off. For every rule, there is an exception, and a strong writer can make a "mistake" work in their favor.

Audiobook Giveaway!



What could be more exciting than starting a new year with a new format???

[TOMB OF THE QUEEN](#) is now available in Audio—and it is so well read by Erin Moon we can't wait for you to give it a listen. To that end, we're giving away a few copies! Share this on your social media with the links below to be entered. Make sure to tag me at [josswalkerbooks](#) so I can record your entry in the giveaway!

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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 [@i_ambooked!](#)

I love the rich, earthy tones from this feed! And the reader has great taste in books, too! Give her a follow [here](#)!



FEATURED BOOKS & BARGAINS

Book recommendations, promotions, and giveaways just for you!

They call me a thief like it's a bad thing.

Life as an avian shifter and "acquirer" of fantastical things is dangerously sexy and fun. At least it is until someone beats me to my latest mark, and I'm blamed for a gruesome murder I most certainly did *not* commit.

Now, I've got a choice to make. I can get taken in by the hotter-than-hell agent sent by the Death Enforcement Agency, or wait for my bloodsucking client to realize I've failed at his job. I don't like either door, so I'll take the window instead.

Time to track down the real killer and clear my name.

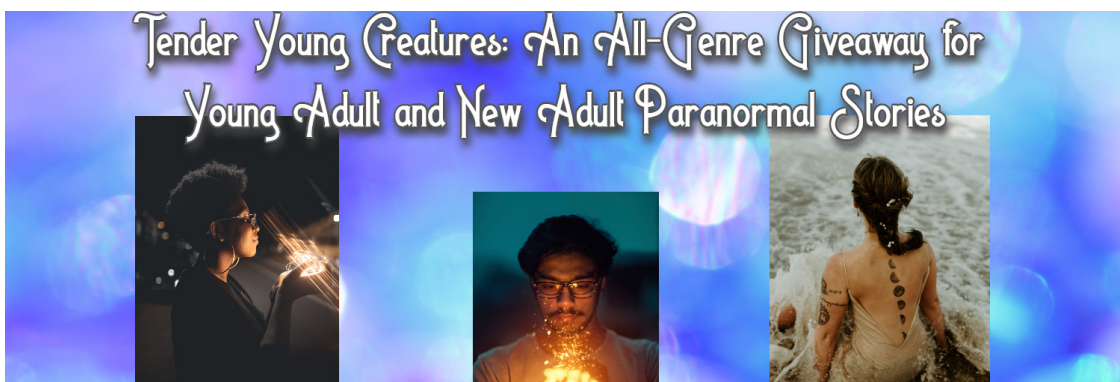


Because if I don't solve this murder fast, then I might just be facing a lifetime in a grim reaper's prison. Or worse, a lifetime of servitude to my client, a vampire who's turning out to be far more dangerous than I realized.

SOUNDS COOL!



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Yep. I'm looking at you, George R. R. Martin.

Source: hookedtobooks.com

JOSS WALKER'S READERS & ROGUES

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HAPPY READING!



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