

JOSS WALKER'S JULY DISPATCH

My Sci-Fi and Fantasy Inspirations

Hello, you glorious creatures!

It's release month at last, and I for one am beside myself with excitement! It has been so long in the making—from the idea of this series to putting together the first book with [Alisha](#), then bringing [R.L.](#) on board, to having many many elements of the series (and the mini-series and spin-offs) planned out, enough that we have work for several years ahead of us. Releases make all of this very very real. I look so forward to hearing what you think about [Master of Shadows](#)! So far, all of our early reviews have been stellar, which is very important to writers who are trying something new, trying something different, and who can't necessarily see the forest for the trees.

Now that R.L. and I are getting a little more established as a co-writing team, these releases are going to happen faster. I know that's good news to everyone who is invested in seeing Jayne Thorne come into her powers and truly change the world with her attitude and her morality and her humor. I told you [last month about the back story where I got my love of fantasy](#); this month, I thought I would talk a little about how I approach fantasy as a thriller author.

I have found over the years that when I'm stuck in my writing, when I can't come up with a plot, when I can't get to the depth of a character, I default back to a fantasy novel. Mostly because I think fantasy and sci-fi has some of the smartest writing on the market, but also because I love the escape. I am continually amazed at the depth and breadth of imagination in this genre. There is everything you can possibly imagine out there, something for everyone. My dad, a huge sci-fi reader, prefers classic space stories. I particularly love stories of young heroines who are forced into roles of leadership.

Thinking of the early Sarah J. Maas, Leigh Bardugo, Holly Black, Julie Kagawa, Kendare Blake, Victoria Aveyard (I'm reading War Storm right now, actually)—all writers I turn to when I need a boost —many of these have the same themes to them: the reluctant hero who becomes the golden leader, the normal person who rises above an evil challenger to conquer and lead justly. Obviously, the Harry Potter novels are a favorite for just this reason.

I think the best modern example I could possibly give is The Hunger Games trilogy. I remember reading the first book and being completely blown away that this was considered young adult. But our young adult readers are incredibly sophisticated, always have been, and stories with morally challenging themes do well. What I wouldn't have given to have some of these books available when I was growing up...though I did okay. Ursula LeGuin, Mary Stewart, Anne

McCaffery, Marion Zimmer Bradley, and of course, Asimov, Tolkien, all the big hitters.

Our Jayne comes from lofty influences, that's for sure. And now, there is a whole new world before me, a vast and dizzying array of talented novelists who are tearing it up with their incredibly feisty leads: our Alisha, and our R.L., Kerri Maniscalco, McKenzie Hunter, K.F. Breene, to name just a few. What an embarrassment of riches we have now. Tell me your favorites!

Oh, and before I wax poetic any longer, a quick housekeeping note: look out for the next newsletter on release day, because we're having a HUGE giveaway—a Kindle Paperwhite and 4 \$25 gift cards to the bookstore of your choice. Preferably to be used to buy Master of Shadows! And to whet your appetites...

A Sneak Peek

Pssst... Want a sneak peek of [MASTER OF SHADOWS](#)? Here's a special reveal, just for you.

[READ THE FIRST CHAPTER!](#)

Come Party With Us!

A promotional graphic for the release party of the book 'Master of Shadows'. The background is a dark, atmospheric scene with a woman with long, wavy brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark jacket, looking towards the viewer. She has a glowing orb of light in her hands. The text is white and purple.

MASTER OF SHADOWS
— RELEASE PARTY —
Sunday, July 31, 2022 | 9 am to 11 pm CDT

Join me and 11 other fantasy authors as we celebrate the release of Joss Walker and R.L. Perez's new book, MASTER OF SHADOWS.
There will be games, prizes, book giveaways, and more!
To participate, join the group here:
facebook.com/groups/josswalker

Don't miss out on this huge event! 12 authors, TONS of prizes, and a boatload of games! [Join the group](#) to participate.

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 [@bookslaceandleaves!](#)

I love the floral theme of her feed, and I am insanely jealous of her candle collection ☺

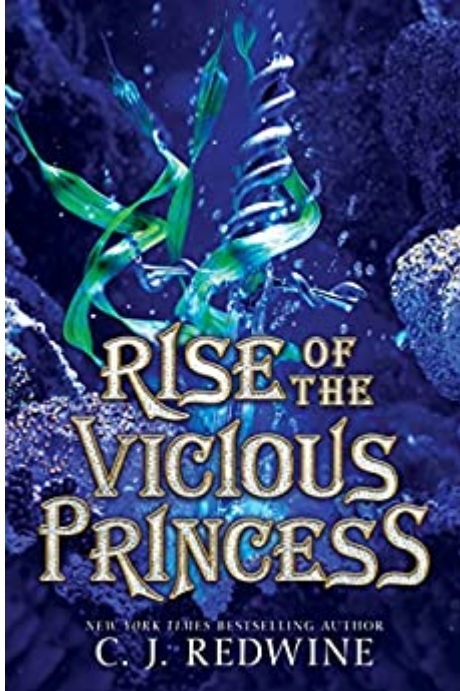
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FEATURED BOOKS & BARGAINS

Book recommendations, promotions, and giveaways just for you!

Princess Charis Willowthorn is the dutiful sword of Calera. Raised to be ruthless and cunning, her only goal is to hold her war-torn kingdom together long enough to find a path toward peace with their ancient foe Montevallo, even if the cost is her own heart.



When violence erupts in the castle itself, nearly killing the queen, Charis must assume her mother's duties and manage both the war and her kingdom. But as an unseen enemy begins sinking Calera's ships, Charis realizes a threat much greater than Montevallo is coming for her people. So she forms a plan.

By day, she is Calera's formidable princess intent on forging an alliance with Montevallo. By night, she disguises herself as a smuggler and roams the sea with a trusted group of loyalists, hunting for their new enemies. And through it all, there's the one boy she can't have—who guards her life, but steals her heart.

But her enemies are much closer than Charis realizes, and her heart isn't the only thing she has left to lose.

The first in a YA political fantasy duology about a fierce princess determined to bring lasting peace to her kingdom regardless of the cost to her heart—from C.J. Redwine, the author of the *Defiance* series and the *New York Times* bestselling *Ravenspire* series. Perfect for fans of *These Violent Delights*, *And I Darken*, and *Ash Princess*.

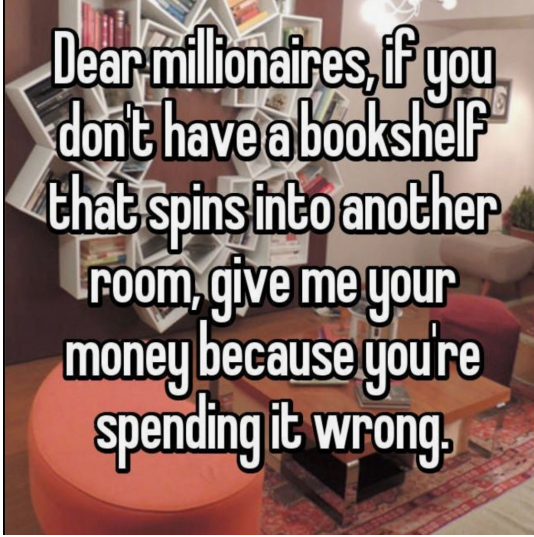
SOUNDS COOL!

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LITERARY LAUGHS

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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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