

JOSS WALKER'S JUNE DISPATCH

Origin Stories

Hello, you glorious creatures!

I've been thinking a great deal about origin stories lately, especially because R.L. and I have been working on a new project that will give some perspective to the Jayne series in form of the historical magical system we're dealing with. (Yes, it is VERY cool and VERY fun to play with, and we will share it soon!) Obviously, a writer must know the backstory of their characters—and in fantasy, the magic system—but it's also vital for any character you're writing about. We need to know why and how a person came to be who they are when the reader meets them for the first time. That's the writer's job, really, to know the iceberg intimately. You, as the reader, only need to experience the tippy top of that wall of ice for the character to connect.

I've written the origin story of Jayne, about how she was conceptualized, which you can read [here](#). But lately, some folks have questioned why a thriller author might start writing fantasy, and I thought you might be interested in that, too.

It's all because of Star Wars. I was single-digits old when the first Star Wars film was released. I recall not wanting to go to the movies that day, probably because my mom didn't want to go—science fiction not being quite her bag, and I, the dutiful only daughter in a family of boys, always taking her side. But my dad insisted, and I grumbled all the way to the theater. (Now is the moment to share that I grew up in the woods in Colorado, on a dirt road, and any trek meant packing a lunch because it took over an hour to get anywhere of note.)

Popcorn and a coke made me more malleable, and by the time the lights went down, I was resigned to my fate.

The screen went black. The iconic words appeared.

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

I started getting chills. Every good story starts this way—the budding writer in me knew I was about to be taken on a journey.

Then that shock of music slammed into me—the intense march of the trumpets, the now-famous beats, the orchestral swelling—and I was lost. I don't think I moved for the whole movie. And after it was over, I turned to my dad, utterly starry-eyed, and asked, "When can we see it again?"

That began my love affair with all things fantastical (and seeing ANY movie my dad wanted to watch, no grumbling ever again.) And an adoration for anything John Williams does. Not a huge surprise he scores so many of my favorite films, including the wonderful Harry Potter compilations.

Ah. I'm sitting here covered in goosebumps remembering the intensity of my sudden love for this magical world. A love that bordered on obsession. An obsession that led a girl to finally, finally, explore creating a world of her own, all these years later.

Next month, we'll be sharing an excerpt of the new Jayne book, MASTER OF SHADOWS. Meanwhile, I give you...

ARC Paperback Giveaway Winners!

Congratulations to these winners of the paperback ARCs! If you see your name here, check your email—I sent you a message with the details 😊

Carman C.

dlburns55

badlyironedboy

Valeri S.

Karen M.



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 [@starlight_and_fairytales](#)!

I love how bright these photos are! I'm also loving the candles-and-plants vibe on this feed 😊



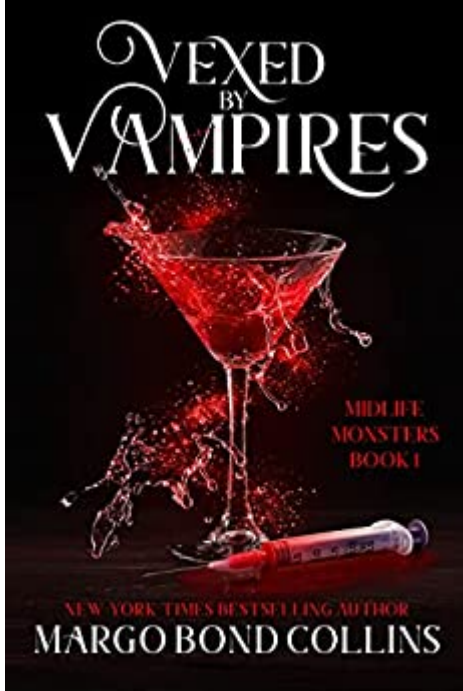
FEATURED BOOKS & BARGAINS

Book recommendations, promotions, and giveaways just for you!

Vampires. Not the midlife crisis I expected.

When I finally got around to dating after my jackhole of a husband walked out on my fortieth birthday, I thought personal grooming was my biggest worry. Until I went on a date with a vampire and ended up fighting for my life.

Now I see magic—and danger—everywhere I look, and somehow I'm the one responsible for keeping everyone safe.



It's worse than being roped into heading a PTA committee. Well...maybe.

Anyway, whatever happened to finding a teenage girl to be the Chosen One?

Still, I'll do whatever it takes to keep the people I love safe.

I might even be willing to protect that jackhole ex. But only if I have to.

SOUNDS COOL!

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LITERARY LAUGHS

Something funny to brighten your day!

Fact 1: Reading can make you a better conversationalist.

Fact 2: Neighbours will never complain that your book is too loud.

Fact 3: Knowledge by osmosis has not yet been perfected. You'd better read.

Fact 4: Books have stopped bullets - reading might save your life.

Fact 5: Dinosaurs didn't read. Look what happened to them.

All facts! The truth doesn't lie



Source: [Prix Gautney, Fantasy Author](#)

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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