

JOSS WALKER'S MAY DISPATCH

When the plague comes for a visit, what do you do?

Hello, you glorious creatures.

After three shots and three years of very careful public interactions, COVID has finally arrived on our doorstep. I believe I caught it on the plane home from my parents, as no one there tested positive. I am a loner on a plane—I don't like to talk to people in the best of times—but my seatmate was a terrified first-timer, and his fear was making me nervous, so I chatted with him. I may not be the person a scared flier wants, as I once worked for the FAA and know a bit about what's happening all stages of the flight, but he was interested and appreciated the distraction, and by the time we landed, even declared he would fly again.

But I think he was probably shedding virus, because I was symptomatic less than 48 hours later. As I write you, I am still in isolation (and in bed) because my second five day test was still positive. I am very grateful to be doing so, though. It seems I have lucked out and had what they call a "mild" infection (which included two days of a high fever and every classic symptom.) It's like having a cold, the flu, and strep, all at once. Quite unpleasant, but short-lived.

Do you believe we can manifest situations? Because I'd always planned to rewatch Game of Thrones if I got sick, but I never said that aloud until last week, when I told my father. And poof, four days later...

Watching GOT again has been a revelation. I know the show is simplified from the books, but it is such a masterclass in storytelling. There are parts that work (basically any scene with Tyrion Lannister) and parts that I fast forward (anytime Theon Greyjoy and Ramsey Bolton appear). Watching the Starks doom themselves over and over again through the hubris of their versions of honor make me want to throw my thermometer at my iPad. Daenerys Stormborn finding her power with Khal Drogo was just as impactful the second time around. She didn't just make lemonade from lemons, that girl built herself a world. With dragons. And I'd totally forgotten Lady Brienne with the bear. Sheesh.

It reinforces my primary storytelling edict: leave out the boring parts. Yes, stories must ebb and flow. If the action is relentless, the characters (and consumer) don't have a chance to catch their breath and enjoy what they've just experienced. Nor anticipate what comes next.

Speaking of what comes next...

ARC Paperback Giveaway!

I am so excited to have a couple of print galley's that I'd love to share with you! No strings attached: read it, enjoy it, share it with a friend. They're gorgeous...



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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 [@dailybookrecs!](#)

I'm getting an autumnal vibe from her color scheme, and I absolutely *love* it! 😊

Give her a follow [here!](#)



FEATURED BOOKS & BARGAINS

Book recommendations, promotions, and giveaways just for you!

My enemy took everything from me, but it turns out that there's something I've never thought I could have that I can't let him destroy.

My kind is despised amongst purebloods. We're abominations that will never have what they have—a soulmate.

But when I go on a mission to find a pureblood vampire that can save my brother's life, I meet a sexy, alpha werewolf who's too alluring for my own sake.

To keep my true identity a secret, I need



to pretend to be a damsel in distress. He can never find out what I am or why I'm in his town. But as I get to know Shane and all I believe is put to the test, I can't help but fall for his charms and wish that I had what the purebloods have— someone to spend my eternity with.

SOUNDS COOL!

Check out this selection of **FREE** mythology stories [here!](#)



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LITERARY LAUGHS

Something funny to brighten your day!

I tried everything to get to sleep last night. Well, everything except closing the book and putting it on the nightstand.

Let's not get too crazy.



Because that's just absurd.

Obviously. 😏😏

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

JOSS WALKER'S READERS & ROGUES

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HAPPY READING!



Joss Walker/Two Tales Press

PO Box 218453
Nashville, TN 37221
USA

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