

AUGUST 30, 2021

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— YOUR GUIDE TO SELF-PUBLISHING —

Cover Redesign ■ **Indie Spotlight** ■

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14 New BookLife Titles Reviewed ■ 99 New BookLife Titles Listed

Placing the Genre- Nonconforming Novel

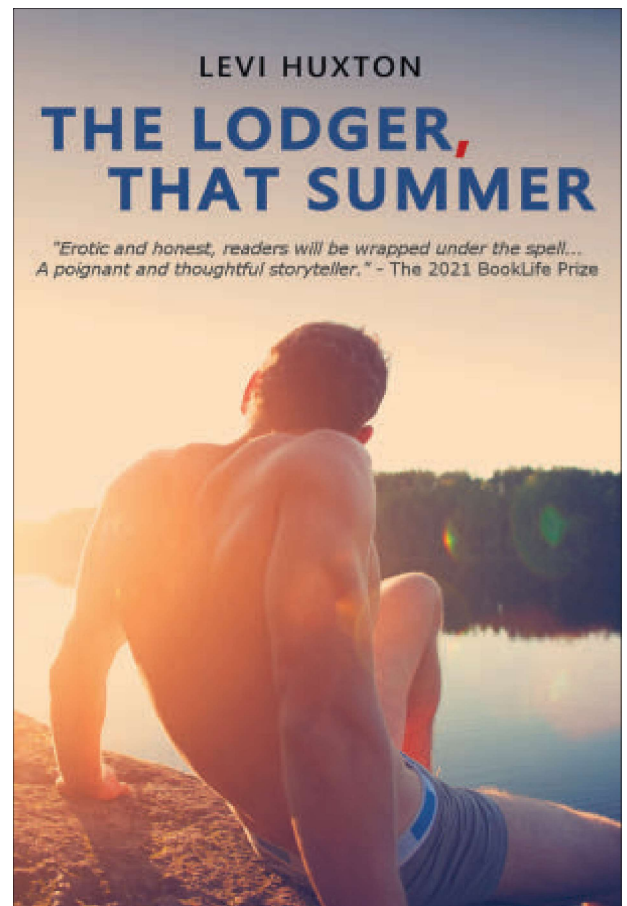
It's worth it to write the novel you want to write,
regardless of where it fits in

BY LEVI HUXTON

How much do you let genre expectations shape your writing? Is conforming to the tropes of a genre a prerequisite for success?

Penning my debut novel, *The Lodger, That Summer*, I thought shockingly little about my readers. It was my first time writing a book, and my inexperience led me to write first, find an audience later.

I imagined the reader as a variation of my own self, a gay or bisexual man hoping to find aspects of his identity and sexuality reflected back on the page. Growing up, novels by gay authors had provided useful signposts to ways of being in the world. And yet depictions of sex—one of the defining experiences of gay identity—were often veiled or sanitized. I wanted the novel to be erotic and honest, to describe how sexual experiences can inform our sense of self and help us face the challenges that shape our lives. I also wanted it to be accessible—a short, breezy summer read that a young gay man might easily pick up, undaunted by its literary pretense. I set out to write what I'd struggled to find as



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INDIE SPOTLIGHT

Author statement: “This book would never have been written if I had been better at playwriting. I was trying to write a play about a female political consultant who is failing spectacularly in her career and is suddenly visited by an ancient warrior —someone only she can see—who helps her regain her confidence and learn how to be the leader she was meant to be. After weeks of trying, I switched over to trying to write a novel and suddenly the characters and the words were there.”

A WHOLE NEW WORLD

The Space Between: The Prophecy of Faeries

Susan Rooke

ISBN 978-1-73367-337-2



About the book: A young woman. A kidnapping. And a journey to a magical world. Mellis has been taken by the Penitents, a tribe of faeries who believe that she is the key to an ancient prophecy. But, to fulfill this prophecy, Mellis will have to make a great sacrifice. Will she accept her new life with her Penitent captors? Or will the most ancient of evils lay waste to their desperate

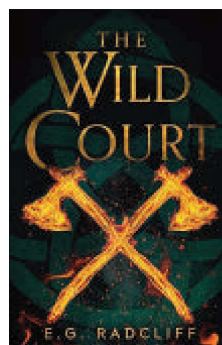
hopes of reunion with the Maker?

Author statement: “*The Space Between* began soon after I’d learned of a folkloric belief that faeries are descended from fallen angels. I heard my own voice say in my head, ‘A young woman is taken by faeries.’ A few days later, I was reading a book about the physical abnormalities that have been documented in human beings. I knew at once that the faeries who kidnap the young woman have imposed such challenges on themselves because of guilt over their fallen angel ancestors. I named them the Penitents, and, armed with that knowledge, I began writing the book.”

The Wild Court

E.G. Radcliff

ISBN 978-1-73367-337-2



About the book: What perils await on the other side of the veil? In the seventh year of Áed’s reign, night descends on the autumn festival. But a time of revelry turns into one of fiery destruction as fae pour across the veil and the Gut becomes a battlefield in an otherworldly war.

Author statement: “My first book, *The Hidden King*, originated in a dream and grew as I began writing. I knew from the beginning how I wanted the entire series to unfold, culminating with the final book in the trilogy, *The Wild Court*. I write because it makes me feel whole, it makes me feel like all me. It’s grounding. It’s my center.”