


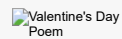
February to March Updates

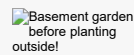
for
Beth Bowser's Readers

 Connected Logo

February-March Reader Happenings

My Writing Journey Updates

 Valentine's Day
Poem

 Basement garden
before planting
outside!

 Belated Happy St.
Patrick's Day!!

February-March in Summary...

I'm very sorry I didn't send out a newsletter on February 28th or March 1st as I promised to do! Rather than giving excuses about how busy I was and mention all the things that pulled me into tons of directions, I'll be honest instead: I didn't want to send out the email newsletter. It's quite a bit of work to create these, even though Mailjet is so much easier to use compared to Mailchimp. You don't even want to know how much I work on ensuring everyone in my contact list gets them, sometimes days afterward! (Mailjet still has delivery problems where even if it's sent, the email often makes into your spam or 'promotions' folders, but at least you got it?). By the way, the primary reason I asked for your name during the sign up was to be able to include your name in the emails to you. It makes it much more likely you will get the emails! Hopefully you didn't enter a fake or funny name, but if you did, you likely didn't even get this newsletter! Yahoo is especially bad at requiring your name be present in the subject line of emails or somewhere within the body of the email or it just won't accept the email to send to you. Honestly, good on them for fighting spam and phishing and scams, but wow it makes it harder! I was considering scrapping the whole marketing thing and crafting my own emails to send them out to mass of you, using BCC, but I kinda like the tracking ability, being able to see what links you click on from the email and, sending them directly makes it more likely my primary email will get black-listed or tagged as spam... So yeah, I have been tossing ideas back and forth about the best way and just decided to go this way again for this month. Maybe it'll be the same next month or not, who knows! The trials and tribulations of self-employed people thrust into learning marketing. Ugh.

So I hope everyone had good Valentine's days and St Patty's days! As good as could be during a pandemic at least! I can report that I submitted a number of my short stories to publications in Feb and March and already heard back that one was accepted! The accepted story is another nonfiction about the fire service to Gonzo Press and will be published some time in April. I don't know when, but rest assured, I will have updates on my site as soon as I know! Also, I don't want to be picky, but I would very much prefer that one (or more) of my fiction stories were accepted. They have a much longer time yet to respond so I'm not panicked that all were rejected. But, since my novel is fiction, getting name recognition in nonfiction doesn't really help. I mean I do have a nonfiction novel that is near done about my travails in medicine, but I stopped on that novel because I don't have a good ending. Yet, I hopefully I'll have a happy one soon? Speaking of, happy spring growing time!! There's just something about hearing happy birds and seeing all the plants perking back in this time of year. Makes me feel re-energized, along with choking instantly on going outside, yay spring hay fever, but hopefully you're just as energized! I love how my seeds have exploded this year into mostly beautiful plushy looking saplings!

I did push out one unpublished short story of mine that's basically a prequel to the story I wrote for the climate fiction submission requests. Climate fiction is a new genre and I found two publications looking for stories in that new genre. You may know of one of them already if you follow my site: [Grist](#). The other is [The World's Revolution](#), and is a brand new publication as of Feb 2021. They funded their existence and request for submissions (paying \$.01/word for accepted stories) with a kickstarter. I want to basically use the same story for both submissions, but one has a word limit of 5,000 and the other's limit is 10,000. I have to figure out how to both flesh out my story and cut it down!!

In novel news (both new and about my book! Get it? Ha! So funny, right?! Sorry, the dad humor gene is very strong in me even though I am not even a parent.) Anywho... I spoke with an editor about my book and the problems I was having with writing and it was a super helpful conversation! She is [Kimberly Kessler](#), a Story Grid certified editor. I wasn't technically following Story Grid, but what I am following is Story Path which, to me, is both a more advanced and easier version of Story Grid, so it's similar enough to what I know. Anyway, she was super helpful and I'm going to call her up again for a Story Session once I've completed what she suggested! I was introduced to her in one of her monthly live editing workshops. I suggest that, if you are a writer or want to be one, consider joining one of her monthly calls. They are free and only require your email address to get a Zoom link. The next call is happening on April 23rd. So yeah, I went to 2 of the monthly calls, just listening, before I decided to sign up for a free 30 min call with her that turned into an over hour long call! She also sent me a recording of the call so I could re-listen to her suggestions (and fast forward past myself speaking). If you have a writing project or want to start writing, check her out!

In other news, these last two months, my SHEG (Super Hardcore Editing Group) met twice in both February and March. We are mostly still only discussing the craft rather than critiquing our submissions. I, for one, am very happy about that as I have not completed my first draft. From my last newsletter, I had submitted a chapter, but realized I needed to complete the novel first and then be able to give a first pass of my own self-editing, but I should share it with anyone else. But we have a new member starting April 2nd who is already published and working on her 2nd novel. She has a mostly complete professional working draft, query and synopsis. I mean, we all need to reach that level at some point, but I honestly thought we'd reach the same milestones at the near same time. I don't know. "Be open minded, self!"

Happy Easter! Please stay safe from COVID-19! And please don't be shy with book suggestions and sharing my website with your friends and family! Thank you!



Reading List (from Feb): To begin 2021, I picked up To Helvetica and Back by Paige Shelton...

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Reading List (from March): thank you for the novel suggestions!...

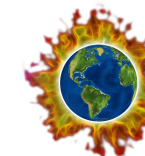
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Hot & Bothered An unpublished short story of mine that is a kind-of prequel for the Clifi short stories I submitted (or will be submitting shortly!)

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