



Straight from the Pad

Monthly e-newsletter from Author K. R. Raye



July 2022 Edition

THIS MONTH'S RECAP

Whew, I took a bit of a break this month and enjoyed some much-needed family vacation time. Here's hoping that you're able to keep cool and spend time with your loved ones this summer.

Now for the recap. The *Aspiring Authors Magazine* just dropped July 22nd and I'm featured in the "United Authors from across the USA" article representing the state of Maryland! 😊



UPCOMING EVENTS

Here's where you can find me next month for book events, speaking presentations, or interviews:

07/29-31: Writer's Digest Conference – Attendee and Pitch Slam Participant

08/01: DVPitch – Tweet Pitch Participant

08/18: "Tales She Told Me" podcast – Guest

08/18-21: Agent One-on-One: First 10 Pages Boot Camp – Participant

08/21: "Self-Publishing Tips & Tricks" podcast – Guest

Here's an update on the new book. As you may recall, I participated in the prestigious NY Pitch Conference in June and went 100% with all four of my pitches requesting pages! For a follow-up, I'm attending the Writer's Digest Conference this week in NYC and signed up for the Pitch Slam. Authors have one hour to basically speed date as many matching literary agents as they can during timed, 3-minute pitches. Wish me luck! In addition, I'll get the chance to hear some phenomenal people in the publishing industry. Looking forward to the keynote speaker, Beverly Jenkins, as well as learning from my author buddy Sadeqa Johnson during her two workshop classes.

Next month, I'll finally submit my work to all the agents and editors that have requested pages. Fingers crossed that we're one step closer to getting a literary agent and a traditional publishing deal!

That's it for this month. Keep scrolling to see my book reviews and the new Spotlight section that highlights other authors and/or book giveaways.

SPOTLIGHT

Along this fun author journey, I'm always encountering new people and discovering new books. Here are some that you can check out while you patiently wait for my next series. 😊

Featured Author - Linda Shantz:

Get *Bright, Broken Things*, the prequel to the best-selling *Good Things Come* series for free at <https://dl.bookfunnel.com/xzx6yzjzig>.

A finalist for the 2020 Dr Tony Ryan Award, judges said of *Good Things Come*, "Mixing together hope, heartbreak and romance, a dash of rivalry, and a great deal of excitement, 'Good Things Come' is the story of an intense young woman, a troubled young man, and the quirky but talented filly they both love."



Book Giveaway:

Ready for some free books? Don't miss "The Sun Does Shine - Miscellaneous Genre Book Giveaway" featuring 23 free books spanning across multiple genres.

Get your sizzling summer reads here, <https://claims.prolificworks.com/gg/8GPL0i6iBMjDPFtacSsD>, before time expires on August 21st!

BOOK REVIEWS

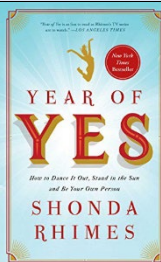
One of the things that jumpstarted my writing career was reading. In 2021, I read over 40 books. Since "sharing is caring," I'm sharing short reviews of two books that I read last year. Hopefully, you can find your next reads. Enjoy!

Year of Yes by Shonda Rhimes

★★★★☆ (4 of 5 Stars)

Cute Memoir

Cute, semi-inspirational, but very repetitive memoir from the creator of ABC's Thursday night lineup. In case you're not familiar, Shonda Rhimes is the powerhouse behind some of my favorite shows: *Grey's Anatomy*, *Scandal*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, and *Bridgerton* (the first season only, not fond of season two). Regardless, Shonda Rhimes writes her life's stories in the same dramatic frothiness as her tv shows. Overall, it's cute and inspiring, but grows tedious with fluffy mantras.

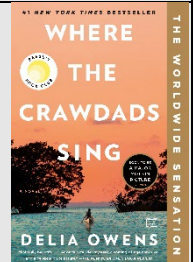


Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

★★★★★ (5 of 5 Stars)

My favorite read of 2021!

Sharing my review in honor of my absolute favorite read from last year becoming a movie this month. A *NY Times* #1 bestseller for an astounding 30 weeks, this book is hard to categorize. It's a murder mystery, a coming-of-age story, a survival manifesto, and a love ballad to nature rolled into one. Set in a backwoods North Carolina town in the 1960s, we follow Kya Clark as she tries to survive a horrific childhood on her own in the marshes. It's a beautiful read with a cool mystery to boot!



To ensure you never miss one of my book reviews, [see past reviews on my website](#) and follow me on BookBub, Goodreads, and LibraryThing.

Happy Reading and catch you next month!

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