



Straight from the Pad

Monthly e-newsletter from Author K. R. Raye



November - December 2024 Edition

THIS YEAR'S RECAP

Cheers to another beautiful year! I want to personally thank you—my wonderful readers—for your continued support. Here's a behind the scenes summary of what we accomplished in 2024.

Although I didn't attend as many public events this year, only 9 versus 23 in 2023, I still kept busy honing my craft and learning everything I could about the publishing industry. Here are the places I visited:

- Creative Fundamentals Class at Harford Community College - Author Panelist
- 2024 Indie Author Retreat - Author Attendee
- Oklahoma/Arkansas SCWBI Fall Revision Retreat - Author Attendee
- Indie Authors Book Fair - Artist Vendor
- National Book Club Conference (NBCC) - Author Attendee
- Old Fashioned Ice Cream Festival at Rockwood Park - Artist Vendor
- Art Fest at Whitehall - Artist Vendor
- Lock House Craft Beer & Wine Fest - Artist Vendor
- Women in Publishing (WIP) Summit - Author Attendee

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here's where you can find me in 2025 for book events, speaking presentations, or interviews:

02/11: Wilde Readings Season 9 - Interview

03/05-08: Women in Publishing Conference - Author Attendee

04/26: Art Fest at Whitehall - Artist Vendor

08/01-03: National Book Club Conference - Author Attendee

09/19-21: Creatures, Crime, and Creativity Conference - Author Attendee



The Lit Ladies at Rockwood Park: K. R., our lucky prize basket winner, Claudine Marcin, D. A. Jennings, and Irmgarde Brown (not pictured).

Many of you know that my son and I have written a Young Adult Fantasy novel that we're trying to get traditionally published. If we would have heard the little-known statistic that it typically takes five (5) years from the time an author types *The End* to the time a traditional publisher releases the book, we may have chosen a different route. However, we're goal-oriented, and we know that it takes hard work and dedication to turn your dreams into reality.



During my last newsletter, I mentioned that we hired a top editor in September to help us take our manuscript from 80% there to 100%. In October, I pitched four more agents and publishers at the Indie Authors Retreat in Beverly Hills, CA. As soon as I returned home, I finished incorporating the edits and submitted the revised manuscript to 12 agents and publishers I successfully pitched. Within days, our efforts paid off.

We are delighted to announce that after 2 years and 8 months of querying and pitching literary agents, which included: 18 query letters, 30 pitches, 23 partial manuscript requests, 12 full manuscript requests, and 26 rejections...we received literary agency representation!!!



To understand how daunting an accomplishment this is, we found varying statistics which claim that only 1 in 6,000 authors who seek representation, ever get an agent. 🤯 We're now on the path to fulfilling our traditionally published dream! However, the journey is far from over. So, buckle up and let's see what blessings 2025 brings.

Thank you and Happy Holidays! 😊

BOOK REVIEWS

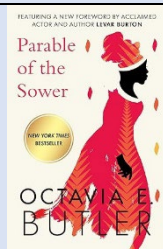
One of the things that jumpstarted my writing career was reading. Since “sharing is caring,” I’m sharing short reviews of two books I read. Hopefully, you can find your next reads. Enjoy!

***The Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler**

★★★★★ (5.0 of 5 Stars)

Disturbing Dystopian Prediction!

When you realize that the Nebula- and Hugo-award winning author, Octavia Butler penned this present-day setting story back in 1993, your jaw drops. She paints a bleak, climate-change effected, socially polarized America that closely resembles where we are in 2024. A must read!

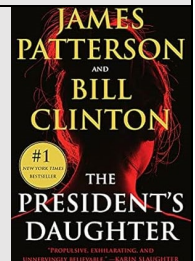


***The President's Daughter* by Bill Clinton and James Patterson**

★★★★★ (4.5 of 5 Stars)

Action-packed Thriller!

Nice nod to Clancy in this action-packed, multi-POV political thriller in a race to find and rescue the President’s daughter from a cunning terrorist.



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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