

## Duck Avian Shifters 1

In a crucial shift within posthumanistic media studies, Bernhard Siegert dissolves the concept of media into a network of operations that reproduce, displace, process, and reflect the distinctions fundamental for a given culture. Cultural Techniques aims to forget our traditional understanding of media so as to redefine the concept through something more fundamental than the empiricist study of a medium's individual or collective uses or of its cultural semantics or aesthetics. Rather, Siegert seeks to relocate media and culture on a level where the distinctions between object and performance, matter and form, human and nonhuman, sign and channel, the symbolic and the real are still in the process of becoming. The result is to turn ontology into a domain of all that is meant in German by the word Kultur. Cultural techniques comprise not only self-referential symbolic practices like reading, writing, counting, or image-making. The analysis of artifacts as cultural techniques emphasizes their ontological status as "in-betweens," shifting from firstorder to second-order techniques, from the technical to the artistic, from object to sign, from the natural to the cultural, from the operational to the representational. Cultural Techniques ranges from seafaring, drafting, and eating to the production of the sign-signal distinction in old and new media, to the reproduction of anthropological difference, to the study of trompe-l'oeils, grids, registers, and doors. Throughout, Siegert addresses fundamental questions of how ontological distinctions can be replaced by chains of operations that process those alleged ontological distinctions within the ontic. Grounding posthumanist theory both historically and technically, this book opens up a crucial dialogue between new German media theory and American postcybernetic discourses.

A soldier enslaved by the emperor who conquered him, with only one hope to save the man from madness... Jaden, a soldier sold into slavery when his country fell, survives day to day, his only wish to find his little sister and save her from the same fate. The war might be over, but the scars of those who underwent Tranaden's conquest still linger. But when he is given as tribute to the very man who conquered his country—Dersai, known as the Wolf, an emperor feared and loathed beyond Tranaden's borders—Jaden sees his last hope fading away. It is whispered that the emperor is mad, possessed, without the faintest shred of mercy. Yet, Jaden finds that the man is someone quite different among his own people, in the safety of his own world. Old hatreds die hard, but Jaden finds himself fascinated by the complex, mysterious man beneath the warrior shell. There is a darkness in Dersai, but also a chance to set things right at last. Dersai cannot afford the luxury of mercy in any form. His country, his people come first, and he will do anything to defend his borders and drive back those who seek to possess the lush beauty of Tranaden. His ancestor made a pact with a demon, and ever since, each emperor must endure the possession of the demon bound to protect Tranaden at any cost. As with those before him, Dersai will eventually fall into madness, his own people forced to annihilate him, and the next emperor forced to bear the burden again. He'd never held any hope...until he met Jaden and began to believe the old prophecies might finally come true. That a mate for the wolf would come and break the cycle forever... Reader note: Expanded with new material! Contains intense emotional elements. Reader discretion advised.

This is a remarkable look into the intrigue surrounding the mysterious death of Rudolph Hess and why hundreds of millions of pounds a year were spent to keep him from having any communication with the outside world. This not only includes his association with the Vril flying saucers and Antarctica but other aspects of his legacy that have gone unnoticed. Told in the context of a historical novel, Peter Moon also fills in missing pieces of the Montauk saga by adding time travel to the mix and connecting dots that have previously been overlooked. This includes a look at three notable people who all lived in Egypt at the same time: Noble Drew Ali, Aleister Crowley, and Rudolph Hess. Directed by Tibetan elders, the Germans sought to harness the Vril, an energy so powerful that it can change the very nature of the elements themselves. To succeed, however, a major change was required in the evolutionary development of the human species. A dramatic scenario of events unfolded, however, which not only ensured that this endeavour was sabotaged but included an undertaking designed to prevent humanity from ever discovering its ancient heritage and the secrets of the Vril. It was against this backdrop that two of the most colourful characters of World War II, Rudolph Hess and George S. Patton, became immersed in an age old battle involving the legions of light and darkness. The end of World War II precipitated more intrigue and struggle for power than the war itself. Much of this centred around the secret projects sponsored by Rudolph Hess which included not only the Antarctic project but the construction of Vril flying saucers. Patton's job, as the war came to a close, was to recover the secret technology of the Germans and safeguard it for American use. After accomplishing his mission and compiling a German history of the war, General Patton was killed in a dubious accident, the mystery of which has never been solved and has been magnified by government refusal to declassify the file on the investigation of his death. Far more conspicuous and powerful than Patton was Rudolph Hess, the Deputy Führer of Germany, who flew to England in 1941 as an envoy of peace and was imprisoned for life and suspiciously killed just before his imminent release. The current of intrigue and power which permeated these two individuals and led to their downfall was the same current which led to a repatriation of the U.S. Government and an undermining of a constitutional government that is run by and for the people. Besides technology, much of this intrigue centred around the banking files the Nazis confiscated from the Freemasons. The effort to keep this secret is still a factor in today's politics. It was thus that Patton and Hess wore different uniforms but shared common interests and held within their grasp a force so powerful that, if harnessed, it might raise the ancient civilisation of Atlantis itself. It was for this power that both were killed and so begins our mystery.

A global survey of unknown creatures reported by thousands of eyewitnesses--creatures that have either been verified, refuted, or are still being examined by scientific researchers. \* Nearly 100 entries on the full range of cryptids, organized into categories of types of animals \* Primary sources, including eyewitness accounts of sightings of undocumented creatures \* Sketches of reported hidden animals and photographs of real species uncovered in the pursuit of cryptids \* A "Who's Who" in cryptozoology with brief biographies of major figures in the field \* A wide-ranging bibliography of print and online resources for further exploration \* A comprehensive index of animals (real and speculative), people, places, and discoveries

Your first look at the next D&D title comes on August 24! Keep an eye on wherever you get your D&D news for a preview of the book.

"Must Love Dogs has already been a major motion picture, and now New York Times bestselling author Claire Cook's hilarious and heartwarming series is begging to hit the screen again as a miniseries or a sitcom."-Nancy Carty Lepri, New York Journal of Books "Reading about how life goes for this wacky marvelously lovable family becomes addictive."-Pamela Kramer, Examiner Sarah and John are buying Sarah's family house, and they're hoping their relationship will survive it. Sarah's dad is part of the deal, and so is the litter of kittens they've discovered

under the front porch. Finding a contractor isn't as easy as they thought it would be, one of the parents at Bayberry Preschool is driving Sarah crazy, and a big nor'easter is barreling toward town. From Claire Cook, New York Times bestselling author of the novel turned romantic comedy movie starring Diane Lane and John Cusack, comes *Must Love Dogs: Who Let the Cats In?*, Book 5 of the fun and fabulous *Must Love Dogs* series. The *Must Love Dogs* series: *Must Love Dogs* (#1) *Must Love Dogs: New Leash on Life* (#2) *Must Love Dogs: Fetch You Later* (#3) *Must Love Dogs: Bark & Roll Forever* (#4) *Must Love Dogs: Who Let the Cats In?* (#5) *Must Love Dogs: A Howliday Tail* (#6) *Must Love Dogs: Hearts & Barks* (#7) "Wildly witty"—USA Today "Cook dishes up plenty of charm."—San Francisco Chronicle "Funny and pitch perfect."—Chicago Tribune "A HOOT"—The Boston Globe "A hilariously original tale about dating and its place in a modern woman's life."—Book Page "This utterly charming novel by Cook is a fun read, perfect for whiling away an afternoon on the beach."—Library Journal CLAIRE COOK wrote her first novel in her minivan at 45. At 50, she walked the red carpet at the Hollywood premiere of the movie adaptation of her novel, *Must Love Dogs*, starring Diane Lane and John Cusack, which is now a series. She is the New York Times, USA Today, and international bestselling author of 21 fun and inspiring books. If you have a buried dream, take it from Claire, it is NEVER too late! Join Claire's newsletter list to receive your free welcome gift and stay in the loop for new releases, giveaways and insider extras at [ClaireCook.com](http://ClaireCook.com).

Sacred cows, wily serpents, fearsome lions, elegant swans, busy bees, and sly foxes--all are caricatures of the creatures themselves, yet they reflect not only how different cultures see the natural world around them but also how such cultures make use of their native animals. In this fun and thought-provoking book, historian and animal enthusiast Boria Sax argues for a classification of animals that goes beyond the biological to encompass a more meaningful distinction: tradition. From ants and elephants to tigers and tortoises, *The Mythical Zoo* weaves together a crosscultural tapestry encompassing mythology, history, art, science, philosophy, and literature. The result is a beautifully illustrated, masterfully composed love letter to the animal kingdom.

When Scott Evans sends an anonymous invitation to the dominant he's fantasised about for months, he just hopes that Joe Stuart will be curious enough to turn up at the specified address and do a scene with him. It never occurs to Scott that Joe will send a note back to him, or that something as simple as writing a letter could evolve into a kinky game that will test both men to the limit. Orders, pleas, kinks and even love-there's nothing a letter can't contain once two hot and passionate guys start *Pushing The Envelope*. Please Note: Please note that this is the second edition of the title.

*Highland Gaymes* by Carol Lynne Shaw Fitzgerald loves touring the United States with his brothers. A fiddle player since an early age, music is the only thing he's ever been passionate about. That is, until he sees Curt Macaula compete for the first time. As a competitor in the Highland Games, Curt knows how important it is to concentrate on the individual events. Getting distracted while tossing a one hundred and fifty pound pole isn't an option. Away from his events, Curt is free to ogle the very pretty member of the Brothers Fitzgerald band. Toward the end of the season, Curt knows it's time to make his move. With Shaw being guarded by four macho brothers, it won't be easy, but Curt is determined to win the man of his dreams. *Good Cop, Bad Cop* by Jenna Byrnes and Jude Mason Officer Kevin Sands and his lover get off on playing games - role playing games. When one of their escapades goes awry, will someone else pay the price for their fun? Or can the lovers solve a mystery that could mean the end of everything they hold dear? *Elliot's War* by Kim Dare The woodland war is billed by the university as an important exploration of differing cultural traditions within the British Isles. As far as Elliot understands it, the game involves the local Welsh students and those who invade the university from across the border, waging a war in the woodlands that surround the university. *Crossed Hearts* by Lisabet Sarai For the past six years, Jason Hofstadter has attended the Four States Annual Scrabble Tournament. Jason comes to the Four States for two reasons - to play Scrabble and to get laid. Every year since his first, he has managed to hook up with one of the other players for some sexual fun. This year he has a chance at the grand prize in the tournament. Meanwhile, he figures he has hit the jackpot when he spots handsome, bookish Matt Sawyer, who's competing at the Four States for the first time. *Rough Riders* by Devon Rhodes Luke Briscoe has a good reason to stay in the closet with his team, the Rough Riders. Bitter past experience has taught him to be cautious around athletic teams. But after Mario, his teammate and lover of ten years, leaves him, tired of the secrecy, Luke is forced to confront his fears, especially since the sexy and confident new member of the team, Derek Grimm, has no problem with being out and proud. *Contact Point* by Gwendolyn Cease Jesse Chandler needed a place to get out of the storm. What he found was a bar catering exclusively to wolf shifters. Cade Reynolds, pack Alpha and bar owner, sees nothing but trouble when the small human wanders into his bar. When Jesse signs up for the pool tournament, Cade decides to let him participate, so he'll lose and leave. Instead, Jesse wins every game he plays until a storm puts the brakes on everything.

Years in the making, Sarah J. Maas's #1 New York Times bestselling *Throne of Glass* series draws to an epic, unforgettable conclusion. Aelin Galathynius's journey from slave to king's assassin to the queen of a once-great kingdom reaches its heart-rending finale as war erupts across her world. . . Aelin has risked everything to save her people-but at a tremendous cost. Locked within an iron coffin by the Queen of the Fae, Aelin must draw upon her fiery will as she endures months of torture. Aware that yielding to Maeve will doom those she loves keeps her from breaking, though her resolve begins to unravel with each passing day... With Aelin captured, Aedion and Lysandra remain the last line of defense to protect Terrasen from utter destruction. Yet they soon realize that the many allies they've gathered to battle Erawan's hordes might not be enough to save them. Scattered across the continent and racing against time, Chaol, Manon, and Dorian are forced to forge their own paths to meet their fates. Hanging in the balance is any hope of salvation-and a better world. And across the sea, his companions unwavering beside him, Rowan hunts to find his captured wife and queen-before she is lost to him forever. As the threads of fate weave together at last, all must fight, if they are to have a chance at a future. Some bonds will grow even deeper, while others will be severed forever in the explosive final chapter of the *Throne of Glass* series.

In a dark and perilous realm, a nameless outcast seeks a voice, a past, and a future: "A dazzling debut" (Jennifer Roberson). In all of Erith, there is perhaps no one as wretched as the nameless mute foundling confined to the lowest depths of Isse Tower. Abused by many and despised by all, the pathetic creature lives without memories in the shadows. The amnesiac longs to escape—to roam the wild landscape in search of a past, a name, a destiny—but dangers surround the tower. Only flying ships and majestic winged horses carrying important visitors can reach the castle safely, landing high above the ground on its battlements. The local servants whisper about malevolent creatures that roam the forests and bear no love for humankind. Escape seems impossible in this treacherous world of wights and monsters. Praised as Australia's J. R. R. Tolkien, Cecilia Dart-Thornton has set a towering new standard for fantasy fiction, earning the respect and acclaim of readers, reviewers, and some of the world's most renowned fantasists. With roots firmly embedded in the ancient folklore of the British Isles, *The Ill-Made Mute*—the opening volume of Dart-Thornton's magnificent *Bitterbynde Trilogy*—introduces fantasy lovers to an unforgettable character whose remarkable adventures rival the epic trials of the Bagginses and the tales of *The Silmarillion*.

Keaton is the mate of Chay's dreams--Chay just didn't expect him to be male. But Keaton isn't sure about another lover who denies being gay. Can they depend on each other when Keaton's life is in danger?

Everet has found his perfect place in the nest. As a raven, he's ideally suited to his new role in the nest's security flock. Some of the jobs it entails have been far more enjoyable than others, but when he's called to retrieve a magpie, who's got himself into trouble in a local human club, it becomes a truly life changing experience. Magpie shifters have always been looked down on by other avians. Just as attracted to shiny things in their human bodies as they are in their avian forms, everyone knows they'll do anything for money-and they're not above stealing what they can't get by more honest means. Kane knows what being a magpie means, and he's got the bruises to show for it. When Everet rescues him from his latest scrape, Kane knows better than to believe the raven will actually take an interest in him and his welfare, but it's just possible that Everet is different to any other man Kane has ever met. Please Note: This book is best read in order as part of the Avian Shifters series. The previous stories are *Duck!* and *Celebrate*.

*Howling Shadows* is a core rulebook for *Shadowrun*, Fifth Edition, with a wealth of dangerous creatures, sprits, artificial intelligence, and more to add variety and fun to *Shadowrun* games. The critters were designed with both players and GMs in mind - they can be added as a resource for players to use or obstacles to overcome. The critters also have plot hooks built in to fuel plenty of adventures and campaigns. With full color art, this book displays the bizarre and dangerous critters of the Sixth World in their full glory.

In this regard, semiotics is of relevance to a wide spectrum of scholars and professionals, including social scientists, psychologists, artists, graphic designers, and students of literature."

Raised among humans, Ori Jones only discovered he was an avian shifter six months ago. Unable to complete a full shift until he reaches his avian maturity, he still can't be sure of his exact species. But with species comes rank, and rank is everything to the avians. When a partial shift allows the elders to announce that they believe Ori to be a rather ugly little duckling, he drops straight to the bottom rung of their hierarchy. Life isn't easy for Ori until he comes to the attention of a high ranking hawk shifter. Then the only question is, is Ori really a duck-and what will his new master think when the truth eventually comes out? Please Note: This is the second edition of this title. It has been tweaked and re-edited but the plot has not been changed.

*Information and its Role in Hunter-Gatherer Bands* explores the question of how information, broadly conceived, is acquired, stored, circulated, and utilized in small-scale hunter-gatherer societies, or bands. Given the nature of this question, the volume brings together a group of scholars from multiple disciplines, including archaeology, ethnography, linguistics, and evolutionary ecology. Each of these specialties deals with the question of information in different ways and with different sets of data given different primacy. The fundamental goal of the volume is to bridge disciplines and subdisciplines, open discussion, and see if some common ground-either theoretical perspectives, general principles, or methodologies-can be developed upon which to build future research on the role of information in hunter-gatherer bands.

Recently, scholars of Olmec visual culture have identified symbols for umbilical cords, bundles, and cave-wombs, as well as a significant number of women portrayed on monuments and as figurines. In this groundbreaking study, Carolyn Tate demonstrates that these subjects were part of a major emphasis on gestational imagery in Formative Period Mesoamerica. In *Reconsidering Olmec Visual Culture*, she identifies the presence of women, human embryos, and fetuses in monuments and portable objects dating from 1400 to 400 BC and originating throughout much of Mesoamerica. This highly original study sheds new light on the prominent roles that women and gestational beings played in Early Formative societies, revealing female shamanic practices, the generative concepts that motivated caching and bundling, and the expression of feminine knowledge in the 260-day cycle and related divinatory and ritual activities. *Reconsidering Olmec Visual Culture* is the first study that situates the unique hollow babies of Formative Mesoamerica within the context of prominent females and the prevalent imagery of gestation and birth. It is also the first major art historical study of La Venta and the first to identify Mesoamerica's earliest creation narrative. It provides a more nuanced understanding of how later societies, including Teotihuacan and West Mexico, as well as the Maya, either rejected certain Formative Period visual forms, rituals, social roles, and concepts or adopted and transformed them into the enduring themes of Mesoamerican symbol systems.

A new edition of a classic book on viral catastrophes--the Spanish flu, the Avian flu, and now, Covid-19 In his book, *The Monster at Our Door*, the renowned activist and author Mike Davis warned of a coming global threat of viral catastrophes. Now in this expanded edition of that 2005 book, Davis explains how the problems he warned of remain, and he sets the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of previous disastrous outbreaks, notably the 1918 influenza disaster that killed at least forty million people in three months and the Avian flu of a decade and a half

ago. In language both accessible and authoritative, *The Monster Enters* surveys the scientific and political roots of today's viral apocalypse. In doing so it exposes the key roles of agribusiness and the fast-food industries, abetted by corrupt governments and a capitalist global system careening out of control, in creating the ecological pre-conditions for a plague that has brought much of human existence to a juddering halt.

Praise for the First Edition "Now a new laboratory bible for optics researchers has joined the list: it is Phil Hobbs's *Building Electro-Optical Systems: Making It All Work*." —Tony Siegman, *Optics & Photonics News* Building a modern electro-optical instrument may be the most interdisciplinary job in all of engineering. Be it a DVD player or a laboratory one-off, it involves physics, electrical engineering, optical engineering, and computer science interacting in complex ways. This book will help all kinds of technical people sort through the complexity and build electro-optical systems that just work, with maximum insight and minimum trial and error. Written in an engaging and conversational style, this Second Edition has been updated and expanded over the previous edition to reflect technical advances and a great many conversations with working designers. Key features of this new edition include: Expanded coverage of detectors, lasers, photon budgets, signal processing scheme planning, and front ends Coverage of everything from basic theory and measurement principles to design debugging and integration of optical and electronic systems Supplementary material is available on an ftp site, including an additional chapter on thermal Control and Chapter problems highly relevant to real-world design Extensive coverage of high performance optical detection and laser noise cancellation Each chapter is full of useful lore from the author's years of experience building advanced instruments. For more background, an appendix lists 100 good books in all relevant areas, introductory as well as advanced. *Building Electro-Optical Systems: Making It All Work, Second Edition* is essential reading for researchers, students, and professionals who have systems to build.

As the landlord of *The Dragon's Lair* and leader of *The Black Dragons Motorcycle Club*, Axel Carmichael has seen it all and done it all. He's a respected and experienced dom. Nothing shocks him any more, and nobody catches him off guard. When Bayden rides up to *The Dragon's Lair* on a bike worth more than most men earn in a year, and immediately demonstrates that he has far more attitude than sense, it's easy for Axel to write him off as a silly little rich boy who's about to get himself killed. But, there's more to Bayden than meets the eye. He's no silly little boy, rich or otherwise, and werewolves aren't easy to kill.

Presents a practical but unusual guide to mastering food and cooking featuring recipes and cooking tricks from world-renowned chefs.

The Rawlings men have always had a close association with the police force. Those who don't become policemen themselves have always flocked toward related professions. The family is full of forensic psychologists, scene of crime officers and police advisers. And as for those rare Rawlings men who have no interest in maintaining law and order - they can still appreciate a man in uniform, and a finely crafted pair of handcuffs! This volume contains the first four stories in the series: *In Handcuffs and Leather*, Dr. Rawlings wants nothing more than to help Constable Hadley overcome a traumatic event endured while on the job. Nothing, perhaps, except to teach the younger man what dominance and submission are really about. Hadley's about to find out what it's like to be restrained by a lover rather than a criminal. In *Handcuffs and Glory Holes*, Sergeant Conrad Rawlings discovers that even hiding behind a glory holes can't stop him coming face to face with a submissive in need. When he catches sight of Willis, as they exit neighboring cubicles, what was supposed to be a fleeting hook up quickly becomes far more. In *Handcuffs and Headlocks*, undercover police officer Ed Rawlings has become so good at playing pretend he's finding it increasingly difficult to return to reality and remember who he really is. Can martial arts instructor Derby Fitzgerald remind Ed how good it feels to be himself? In *Handcuffs and Trouble*, Trent Rawlings has just joined the force. He isn't surprised to find himself being hazed. He's content to play along and take it in good grace. Kieran Osmond, however, is furious to find a newbie stumbling into his undercover operation. He has no choice but to rescue Trent, but he has no idea how much trouble that will lead to.

Money. Excitement. Duty. Lust. Four men have agreed to be thrown to the local pride of werelions. Each man might have had a different motive when he first applied for the position of willing human sacrifice, but one thing is guaranteed—once a man is delivered, bound and naked, to the lions' doorstep, he's destined to receive far more than he ever bargained for. And, as for the lions who accept those sacrifices—from the leader of the pride, all the way down to the gentlest cub, they're about to find out just how much trouble humans can be. This volume contains all four stories from the *Thrown to the Lions Series*: *Ryland's Sacrifice*, *Marrick's Promise*, *Ellery's Duty* and *Cameron's Pride*.

Devon and Chase were abused by the same Dom, James. Now a Dom himself, Devon rescues Chase. But James is still obsessed with Devon.

Consulting plant spirits for spiritual and psychological guidance and healing • Reveals how, by communing with the deva or spirit of a plant, we can call forth its medicine without even needing to ingest it • Includes wisdom from the devas of 13 herbs, such as rosemary, datura, and uva ursi • Empowers readers with the tools to develop their own inner resources for healing in relationship with the plant devas around them Each plant has a story to share with us, a healing story to guide us in trying times, a spirit medicine for the New Earth that is presently unfolding. Herbs are some of the most powerful allies we have for these transitional times--we just need to learn how to listen as they share their knowledge with us. In *Wisdom of the Plant Devas*, Thea Summer Deer reveals a new dimension of herbal medicine, one where the plant's spirit is consulted for guidance and healing beyond the physical. Examining the botany, modern and traditional uses, history, and folklore of 13 special herbs, such as rosemary, uva ursi, and datura, she shares divinations and messages from their devas, or plant spirits, explaining how these stories carry the herbs into our lives, letting them work their magic on us. Exploring herbal medicine from an energetic perspective, she reveals that by communing with the deva of a plant, we can call on the plant's physical, psychological, and spiritual medicine and guidance--without ingesting it or even being in its presence. Detailing the sacred space of a Medicine Wheel Garden, whether in a backyard or our imaginations, she connects us with the devas and empowers us to seek our own answers with their much-needed spiritual guidance and divinatory advice. Creating a bridge between botanical medicine and plant spirit medicine, she shows how by coming into community with the devas and co-creating with the world of nature, we can gain tremendous insights to help heal our hearts, our minds, and our spirits and consciously evolve as together we birth the New Earth.

"[Blandings] is an entire world unto itself and, one senses, Wodehouse pours into it his deepest feelings for England." —Stephen Fry The Honourable Galahad Threepwood has decided to write his memoir—a tell-all that could destroy polite society. Everyone wants this manuscript gone, particularly Lord Emsworth's neighbor Sir Gregory Parsloe-Parsloe, who would do anything to keep the story of the prawns buried in the past. But the memoir isn't the only problem. A chorus girl disguised as an heiress, a double-dealing detective, a stolen prize-winning sow, and a crazy ex-secretary are only a few of the complications that must be dealt with before everyone can have their happy ending.

A powerful Alpha wolf shifter and a strong-willed human overcome traditions ingrained over generations and uncover long-buried secrets to fulfill their destiny as true mates. Regarded as the strongest wolf shifter in generations, Alpha Zev Hassick is surprised and confused by his attraction to his best friend. His very human, very male best friend. A male shifter has to mate with a female shifter to keep his humanity, so shifters can't be gay. Yet, everything inside Zev tells him Jonah is his true mate. Maintaining a relationship with the man he has loved since childhood isn't easy for Jonah Marvel, but he won't let distance or Zev's odd family get in their way. When unexplained ailments begin to plague Jonah, he needs to save his own life and sanity in order to have a future with Zev. Zev and Jonah know they're destined for each other, but they must overcome traditions ingrained over generations and long-buried secrets to fulfill their destiny.

A sobering forecast of a potentially lethal virus known as H5N1, currently affecting the poultry and wild bird populations of East Asia, evaluates the World Health Organization's concerns that the virus is on the brink of mutating into a pandemic illness and cites the ecological and political factors that are contributing to the threat. Reprint.

Exploring Biology in the Laboratory: Core Concepts is a comprehensive manual appropriate for introductory biology lab courses. This edition is designed for courses populated by nonmajors or for majors courses where abbreviated coverage is desired. Based on the two-semester version of Exploring Biology in the Laboratory, 3e, this Core Concepts edition features a streamlined set of clearly written activities with abbreviated coverage of the biodiversity of life. These exercises emphasize the unity of all living things and the evolutionary forces that have resulted in, and continue to act on, the diversity that we see around us today.

A fantasy adventure game, at its very heart, is about developing an open-ended "story" of the characters. The referee is in charge of the fantasy world, and the players direct the actions of their characters in that fantasy world. Neither the referee nor the group of players has complete control over what's going to happen, and the result is an evolving set of surprises for both the referee and the players. Unlike the players, as the referee and creator of the game world, most of your "work" is done ahead of time. To some degree or other, you have to create the groundwork for the adventure before the game starts. Even though no battle plan survives contact with the enemy - and if you're an experienced referee you know exactly what I mean - the game has to start ... with a starting point. This might just be a vague set of ideas, or it might be as complex as a set of maps with a detailed key and well thought-out encounters for the players to run into. The Tome of Adventure Design is organized as a series of "books," each one providing resources at every step of the way. The vast majority of the content of each book is made up of random generation tables that we created over a quarter of a century (sigh) for our own use. It should be said up front that these are tables for deep design - in other words, most of them are too long, and contain too many unusual or contradictory entries, for use on the spot at the gaming table. There are already many excellent books of tables for use on the fly; the tables in these books are different. They work best as a tool for preparation beforehand, providing relatively vast creative resources for browsing and gathering, rather than quick-use tables designed to provide broad, fast brushstrokes. Our shorter tables tend to deliver cryptic results designed to shock the reader's creativity into filling in the gaps, whereas the longer tables are unusably vast for easy random generation, being designed to shock the reader's creativity into operation by presenting a sea of possibilities.

Still traumatised by her brush with a psychopath, Detective Cassie Maddox transfers out of the Murder squad and starts a relationship with fellow detective Sam O'Neill. When he calls her to the scene of his new case, she is shocked to find that the murdered girl is her double. What's more, her ID shows she is Lexie Madison - the identity Cassie used, years ago, as an undercover detective. With no leads, no suspects and no clues to Lexie's real identity, Cassie's old boss spots the opportunity of a lifetime: send Cassie undercover in her place, to tempt the killer out of hiding to finish the job.

A Year with Nature is an almanac like none you've ever seen: combining science and aesthetics, it is a daily affirmation of the extraordinary richness of biodiversity and our enduring beguilement by its beauty. With a text by herpetologist and natural history writer Marty Crump and a cornucopia of original illustrations by Bronwyn McIvor, this quirky quotidian reverie gazes across the globe, media, and time as it celebrates date-appropriate natural topics ranging from the founding of the National Park Service to annual strawberry, garlic, shrimp, hummingbird, and black bear festivals. With Crump, we mark the publication of classics like Carson's *Silent Spring* and White's *Charlotte's Web*, and even the musical premiere of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*. We note the discovery of the structure of DNA and the mountain gorilla, the rise of citizen science projects, and the work of people who've shaped how we view and protect nature--from Aristotle to E. O. Wilson. Some days feature US celebrations, like National Poinsettia Day and National Cat Day; others highlight country-specific celebrations, like Australia's Wombat Day and Thailand's Monkey Buffet Festival, during which thousands of macaques feast on an ornately arranged spread of fruits and vegetables. Crump also highlights celebrations that span borders, from World Wildlife Conservation Day to International Mountain Day and global festivities for snakes, sea turtles, and chocolate. Interweaving fascinating facts on everything from jellyfish bodies to monthly birth flowers with folkloric entries featuring the Loch Ness Monster, unicorns, and ancient Greek, Roman, and Egyptian mythology, the almanac is as exhaustive as it is enchanting. A Year with Nature celebrates the wonder and beauty of our natural world as we have expressed it in visual arts, music, literature, science, natural history, and everyday experience. But more than this, the almanac's vignettes

encourage us to contemplate how we can help ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the landscapes and rich biodiversity we so deeply cherish.

When Liam Bates volunteered to visit lonely patients at his local hospital, he expected them to be able to talk back when he chatted to them. But, when he's assigned to visit a comatose man, he soon finds himself spilling out his whole life story in an effort to fill the silence. It's not long before the peace and comfort he finds in the man's hospital room becomes Liam's refuge from an increasingly hostile world. Vampire Marcus Corrigan has been trapped inside his paralysed body for over three years, unable to communicate with anyone. The chatty young man who visits Marcus quickly captivates him, and Liam's softly spoken words soon have him determined to rescue the boy from his current life, but, unable to move a muscle, all Marcus can actually do is lay there and listen. There's only one thing that can wake up Marcus. There's only one thing that can save Liam's sanity. Everything is about to change for them both, and it will change with a kiss. Please Also Note: This is the second edition of this title. It has been tweaked and re-edited but the plot has not been changed.

This is more than a guide to drawing birds it is also an introduction to the lives, forms, and postures of the birds themselves. An imaginative field instruction book for really seeing and drawing birds by the bestselling author of the innovative field guides on the Sierra and San Francisco Bay.

After one mind-shattering night with a stranger at a local leather bar leaves him forever changed, Gabriel lives on the streets as a vagrant to elude the master who hunts him, but the shifter is a fierce, stubborn predator who reclaims him soon enough. Gabriel is carried away to the pack's home territory where his instruction on what it means to be the pet of an alpha begins. Gabriel isn't just any pet, though. He is the rarest among their kind: a human omega. Treasured? Or cursed? As Gabriel's father, the Distinguished Gentleman from Pennsylvania and stalwart of the conservative party, pushes the considerable resources at his disposal to locate his missing son, Gabriel explores who and what he is under his master's careful protection. Gabriel falls for the shifter who is lover and destroyer, owner and...friend? Content Warnings: Dubious consent, lotsa kink, and an embarrassment of riches in hormonal anarchy - RAWR!

This book presents an interdisciplinary overview of the origins of African livestock, placing Africa as one of the world centres for animal domestication. With sections on archaeology, genetics, linguistics and ethnography, this collection contains over twenty contributions from the field's foremost experts and provides fully illustrated, never before published data, and extensive bibliographies.

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