



Stone and Flesh is Here!

The big day has finally arrived: the public launch of *The Fruit of War, Book 1: Stone and Flesh* – a.k.a. one of the most important days of my life, the realization of the my long-held dream of becoming a published author. I hope you'll allow me a little reminiscence, but, if you're short on time, here's the important bits first:

Don't have a copy yet?

Now available in eBook and paperback at my online store and most retailers (and new ones are being added every day)!

Buy direct for a personal touch!

I earn more per book when you buy directly from me versus if you buy from elsewhere. Money isn't everything, of course – and sales ratings are always helpful – but buying direct is *also* how you get a signed and numbered* copy! There's extra goodies in the store that you won't find elsewhere, too!



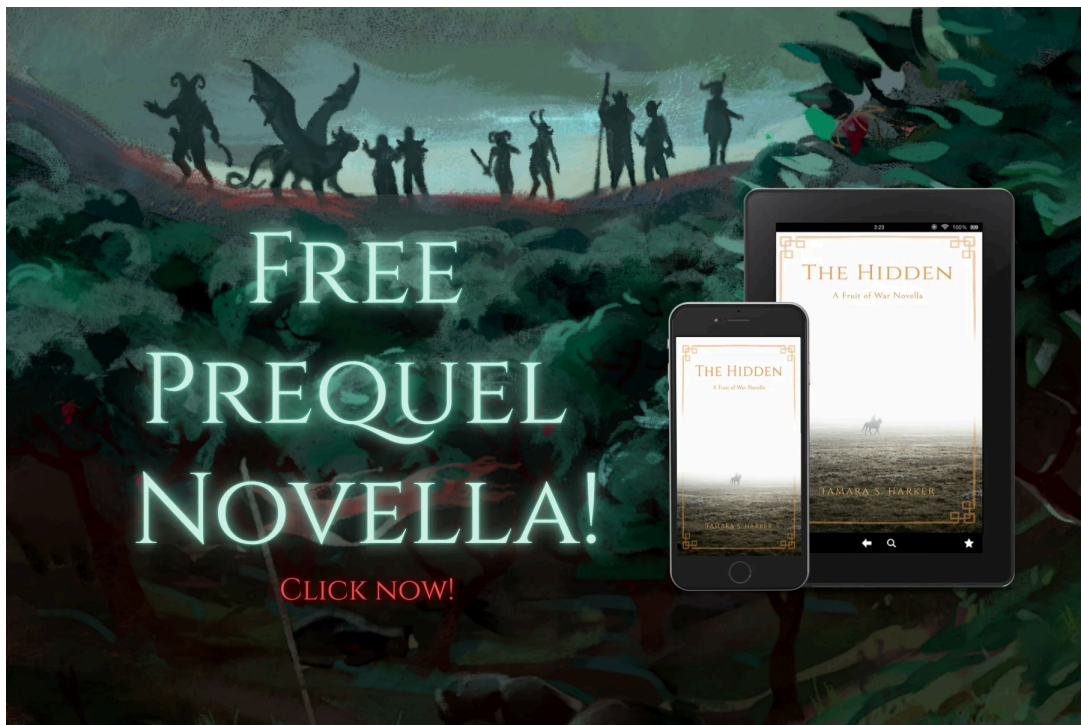
Take me to the Mercantile!

Buy from your retailer of choice!

If you're dedicated to a particular retailer, follow the link below to see all the varying places you can find *Stone and Flesh*! I heartily encourage you to buy through Bookshop.org to support independent bookstores.



Find my Retailer!



Now that we're live, the newsletter freebie has of course changed! I didn't want you to miss it, so click the image above (or [here](#)) to download your **free** copy of *The Hidden*, a prequel novella focusing on the infamous Hidden Company led by Iknaïš, set some eighteen years before the events of *Stone and Flesh*.

Join Andras and Amathara as they sign up for what appears to be a routine mercenary job: find and rescue the kidnapped son of an ambassador. But of course, matters are never that simple if warlocks are involved.

Not *the* beginning, but *a* beginning

I began writing *Stone and Flesh* under the temporary title "Bitter Fruit" in April 2021; Draft 1 was completed in March 2022 and the final Draft 4.5 in November 2025, with my self-publishing research beginning in roughly September 2021. In other words, it has near-completely occupied my life for **five years**.

I've mentioned before that this isn't the first novel I've completed – that honor belongs to a sci-fantasy project called "Project Orchid", which got as far as the traditional querying stage in December 2012. (I may go back to it someday.) I spent a long time with that and several other irons in the fire, and even though "Project Orchid" went out into the world there was always a sense of incompleteness. I struggled to write – struggled with my very identity – until I took a "here goes nothing" attitude and undertook, then finished, "Bitter Fruit".

Much of this novel's journey has been under my own gumption, because that's the nature of respectable authorship and, furthermore, self-publishing. That said, I could never have done it alone!

I can't thank you enough for supporting me at the crucial beginnings of my published-author journey. If you recall, when you signed up to this humble newsletter I mentioned that this was a dream long in the making – though I'd conceived of myself as a writer since my early teens and publication an inevitability of sorts, the road to actually getting there seemed murky if not impossible at times. Your support and readership swept away the fog.

What's next?

I've already been thrilled by the support I've received thus far and I'd ask nothing else but your good thoughts in the months to come, but if you'd like to help more, here's some ideas:

- **Spread the word** about my book, especially if you've read or are reading it!
 - See the two free graphics I've included at the bottom of this section for easy-peasy sharing. (Want to get serious and become a Herald, a.k.a. my street team? Reply to this email or otherwise get in touch with me!)
 - Talk about the book on social media or at your book club, or point people toward [my various haunts](#). Recommend me in online bookish groups or [Reddit/Fantasy](#).
 - Encourage folks to sign up for [my newsletter](#).
- **Add me to your TBR** on [Goodreads](#), [The StoryGraph](#), [Fable](#), or [Pagebound!](#)
- Finished reading? **Review and rate, and widely!** (Copy-pasting is encouraged.)
- **Request a copy for your local library!**

In short, activity begets activity, and every little helps! At this stage in my career it's as much about building my readership as it is about sales, and while I'm still a little fish in a big pond I'm trying all the things that move the needle.



Save me for easy sharing!

As for me personally... Many folks are under the impression, I think, that as soon as a book is published, the work is done. Nothing could be further from the truth, especially for indie authors. While I am of course continuing apace on drafting Book 2, *Nectar for Wasps*, my outlook for the next few months will be focused on reaching new readers.

There's also some fun things like competitions (the Indie Ink Awards and SPFB012 among them) on the horizon toward the end of the year!

But in the short term, I'm throwing a modest little launch party for myself this evening!

There will be a loosely-book-inspired menu – roffi skewers, *hejulah mikahb*, and ikam punch included – and at least one of the games will appear as part of a public giveaway sometime soon! I'll be sure to post some snapshots in the next week or so on [my blog](#) and [my socials](#).

To wrap things up: thank you to all of you who have already bought a copy directly from me these past two days! I hope, if you haven't read *Stone and Flesh* already in its ARC form, that you enjoy it, and (like me) are looking forward to the journey continuing!

With love and gratitude,

Tamara S. Harker

Want to do a little extra to support me?
Just \$5, even in this economy, still manages to Buy Me A Coffee!

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Links to all retailers are listed here: books2read.com/fruitofwar

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