

The Heat Persists!

Happy July, ! Here in Louisiana both the heat and the humidity are in full force. We're reaching the point in the summer where there's often a fifteen-degree difference between what the thermometer reads and the 'feels like' temperature the weather apps so kindly provide. While wintertime is associated with hibernation, I consider the zenith of summer to be a sort of hibernation down here.

Consequently, this update is a little briefer. I've spent most of the past month simply writing, and there's only so much I can elaborate about that! However, here's some small things.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- eBook sale!
- The importance of crossposting!
- Library adventures!
- Don't forget your copy of *The Hidden*!

July Sale!

If you haven't grabbed an eBook copy of *Stone and Flesh* (or want to grab one for a friend), good news! For the **whole month of July**, the eBook will be **50% off** both on my website and on Smashwords. That's less than a cup of coffee!



Shop my sale and support me directly!

(The file I offer looks and functions the same as one from a retailer, and it's easily added to your e-reader library!)



Shop the Smashwords sale!

Library of Love

One of the big drivers behind my self-publishing choices was that I was determined to be available in libraries. At first glance, this might seem counterintuitive: surely I don't profit from making my books freely available? The reality is far different!

We do earn a royalty!

Getting a book in a library isn't a matter of simply showing up and dropping off a copy*. In this instance, the process goes something like this:

1. A title must be **requested** by a patron.
2. The title is then **reviewed** by the Collections Development Librarian. They look for things like production quality, reception (i.e., reviews, especially professional ones), and demand.
3. If approved, the title must then be **purchased**. (Or, if it's a local author, the author may be invited to drop off a courtesy copy.)

We, the authors, earn a one-time royalty from that purchase! Any subsequent copies also earn us a one-time royalty.

Approval isn't guaranteed, with libraries' shrinking budgets and shelf space, so getting a copy in a library system – particularly a physical copy – is a big deal!

** Please don't do this, ever. However well-meaning, unsolicited donations that haven't gone through the proper process will likely end up in a fundraising sale rather than on the shelf.*

But it's not ultimately about the money.

While money is nice and I'm grateful for everyone who chooses to support me financially, the truly rewarding thing about libraries is threefold:

- I'm supporting an incredibly important institution by doing my part to drive traffic through their doors, both physically and digitally. More traffic = more cause for funding.
- I'm finding readers I might not have otherwise.
- I'm becoming part of a larger, tangible legacy.

And it doesn't stop with me!

At the time of writing, I already have three eBooks and six paperbacks in four libraries in four U.S. states; the only one I personally put forward was at my local library in Baton Rouge. That means that all of the others were requested by other people! And that isn't counting Little Free Libraries! Isn't that great? I'd love it if you helped keep the ball rolling.

The best part is how easy and free it is – and I'm surprised by how many folks don't even know they can request a book, period! If you're in the dark like I was, here's what to do:

1. **Ensure you have a library card** for the library system you're inquiring with. If you're in Texas, you can't request a copy for a library in Florida. (Don't worry, it's free, and gives you access to much more than just the stacks!)
2. **Check** your library doesn't already own a copy!
3. If you want to inquire **in person**, you can do so at the front desk. There'll be a **short form** to fill out. Have your library card handy.
4. If you want to inquire **online**, go to your library's main website and look for something along the lines of 'Request a Purchase'. This varies by library, but is often found in the bottom menu ribbon or under a 'Services' or 'Contact' category. Again, there'll be a **short form** to fill out, and you should have your library card handy.
5. The Collections Development Librarian or another member of staff usually follows up to either accept or deny the request. If accepted, it can then take a while for the title to appear in the catalog (and even longer on the shelves). **Be patient**!

And that's it! It's free and easy, and always worth a shot. This is obviously U.S.-focused, so **if you're overseas, let me know what kind of process exists for you**. Finally, if it comes in handy, here are *Stone and Flesh*'s ISBNs. You don't have to provide them, but it can help speed the process along.

- **Print (paperback):** 979-8-9935265-0-8
- **eBook:** 979-8-9935265-1-5

Thank you for helping me reach more readers!

Find Stone and Flesh on Libby!

Help me reach even *more* potential readers!

Expanding my reach has been my primary occupation these past months, outside of writing itself, even moreso than sales. To put it bluntly, **when you're an indie author, no one will know you exist until others say you do** – that's how important word of mouth is in this business.

Sure, ads and other marketing help, but potential readers are much more likely to trust what *another reader* has said versus what *I* say, and with good reason. So, , will you help me?

1. **Leave *Stone and Flesh* a review**, if you enjoyed it and haven't already! Don't worry, it doesn't have to be anything fancy – even a few words helps.
2. **Copy and paste** that review everywhere you can! All of my retailers* for both eBook and paperback are listed here in one easy place, and here are its pages for Goodreads, The StoryGraph, Pagebound, and Fable.

Easy! And if you want an even easier way to recommend me, here's a couple of handy graphics that you can use however you like.





** With Barnes and Noble, be sure to check your email to* confirm *your review after you submit it. Also, keep in mind that sometimes review buttons or even the reviews themselves may not be visible depending on your browser (B&N being one of them; I had to use Chrome rather than Firefox).*

Why am I asking for this? Firstly, because not everyone uses the same platforms, so I may not reach someone who'll love it as much as you did. Secondly, it helps create a sense of ubiquity – and people are much more likely to try something that's familiar.

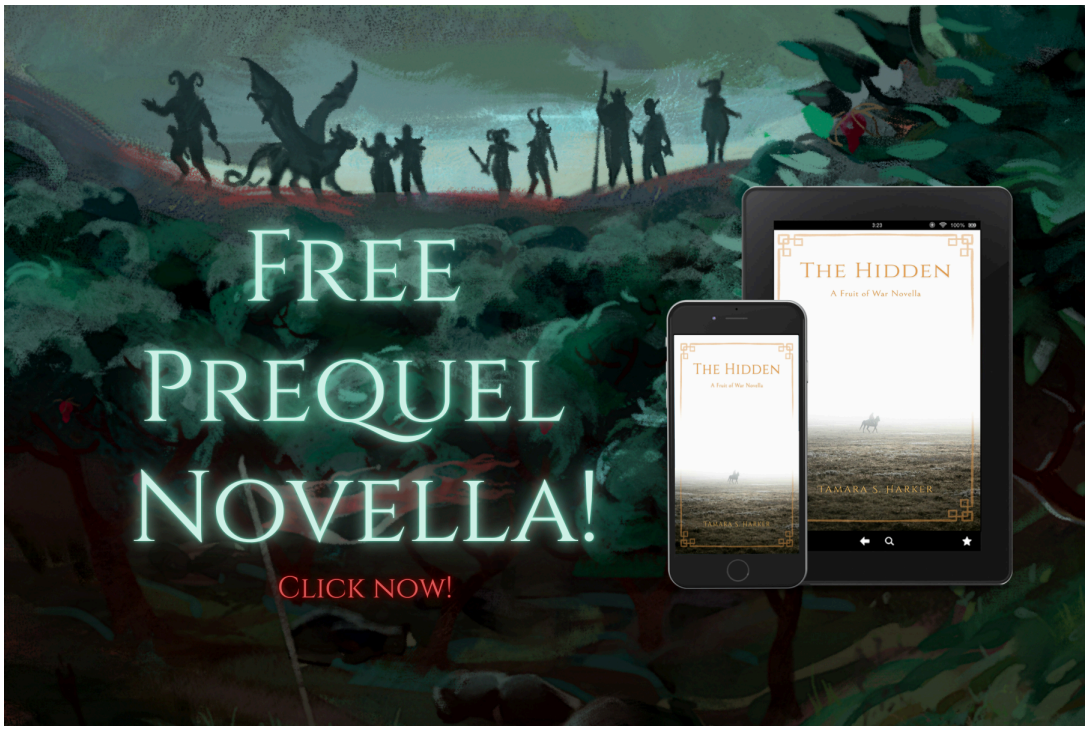
Thirdly, it makes *Stone and Flesh* look especially tasty to the algorithm and to potential stockists and competitions.

It may only take a few minutes for you, but it's immense for me both in a business sense and a personal sense. Sincerely, thank you.

Don't forget *The Hidden*!

Finally, a quick reminder to click the image below to grab your **free** eBook copy of *The Hidden*, a short prequel novella focusing on the infamous Hidden Company led by Iknaïs, set eighteen years before the events of *Stone and Flesh*. And no, you don't need to have read *Stone and Flesh* to enjoy it!

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.



That's all for now!

It's time for me to round up and get back to writing *Nectar for Wasps*! Thank you as always for reading, reviewing, clicking, and otherwise keeping me in your thoughts.

Uushbaht ru'onrel – be safe as you go. 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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