

## Pamela K. Kinney's Fantastic Dreams Newsletter



Hello, readers. This is my first attempt at my newsletter. So, have patience with me. I have been behind but here it is, January 2026 and the newsletter is ready to go. Since December 2025 is gone, I still wanted to share in what was still considered Spooky Season through Christmas season. In fact, Christmastime was considered scarier than Halloween! There is Krampus, which has been coming back in resurgence, with Krampus Walks happening on or near December 5<sup>th</sup>. Besides Krampus, there is Black Pieter and others. Like Yule Cat.



Yule Cat, known as Jólakötturinn (YOH-la-ko-tuhrin) in Icelandic, is a massive, formidable creature from Icelandic folklore that prowls the country on Christmas Eve. This giant feline is described as having bright, glowing eyes, needle-like hair, bristle-like whiskers, and a shaggy coat. On top of that, the Yule Cat is said to tower over even the tallest buildings in town as it stalks its prey each holiday season.

It makes its rounds, peering through windows and targeting those who haven't received new clothes for Christmas. Much like Krampus, the Yule Cat's purpose is to encourage good behavior. Though, these days it seems capitalistic and classist, the myth likely developed as a story to motivate medieval Icelandic farmers into processing their wool stores into yarn before the winter season.

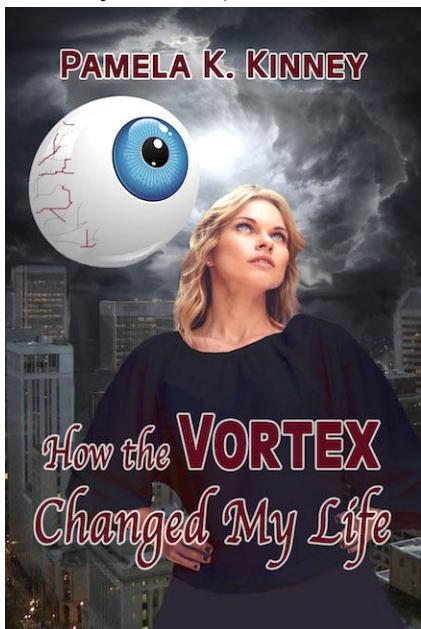
The Yule Cat isn't alone on its holiday patrols. The Jólaköttur is a pet of the Icelandic troll ogress Grýla (GREE-la). She is also the mother of the mischievous and unruly Yule Lads, 13 trolls who play pranks on naughty children and reward the well-behaved with presents. But unlike her sons, Grýla and the Yule Cat don't offer rewards. They stalk the city streets side by side, sating their hunger. While Jólaköttur is fashion-focused, his mistress looks for naughty children to devour, like some kind of macabre Mrs. Claus.

The first known literary mention of the Yule Cat dates back to the 17th century in the collection "Íslenzkar þjóðsögur og æfintýri" by Icelandic Folklorist Jón Árnason. He referred to the creature as an "óvættur" or "evil beast," stating that it consumed those without new clothes for Christmas or, at the very least, stole their jólarefur, the additional portion of food given to each family living on the farm in Christmas Eve.

# New Release!

## New Releases of 2025

*How the Vortex Changed My Life*: Released September 30, 2025. Urban fantasy with horror and even humor. Most Urban Fantasy heroines use a gun or sword, Cat Viggolone uses he snark. eBook at Apple Books, Kobo.com, Barnes and Noble with ePub, and on Kindle at Amazon. Paperback is at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Books a Million, Bookshop.org, Walmart.com, and other online dealers, plus you can order it at your local indie bookstore and at your Barnes and Noble or Books a Million bookstore, anywhere that orders from Ingrams. The paperback is available in traditional font: (ISBN: 9781963928259) and in open dyslexic font for those with dyslexia (ISBN: 9781963928235).



Cat Viggolone just can't get a break. She'd gotten married, but that ended when the

husband left her for his younger secretary. She wanted children. That flew out the window with the cheating husband. There's the career, but working a window at the Virginia DMV can't really be classified as a great career choice. At thirty-three, her life had become positively dull.

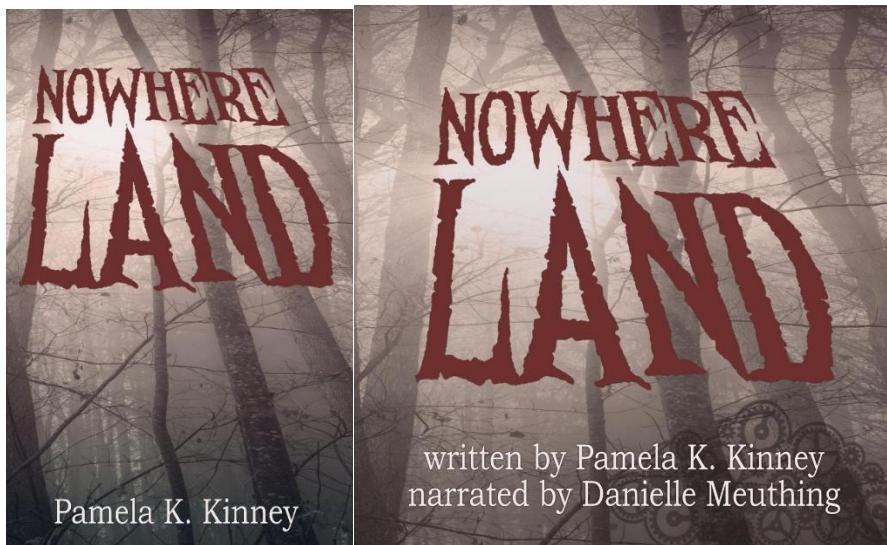
Then the vortex opened.

Sucked into a corridor just outside of hell, she meets Connor, a werewolf, and Larry, a demon that looks like a blue-eyed eyeball. They escape back to earth, only to find that the vortex has opened up in downtown Richmond. The town is going to hell, literally. Besides a grayness seeping out and turning all living things into zombies, monsters and demons are invading Cat's world.

Will Cat and her new friends (including an angel named George) be able to stop the vortex before it claims the entire planet?

Cat's life is definitely no longer humdrum and ordinary.

*Nowhere Land*: Released October 7, 2025. The eBook is at Apple Books, Kobo.com, BarnesandNoble.com with ePub, and on Kindle at Amazon. The paperback is at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Books a Million, Bookshop.org, Walmart.com, and other online dealers, plus you can order it at your local indie bookstore and at your Barnes and Noble or Books a Million bookstore, anywhere that orders from Ingrams. The paperback is available in traditional font (ISBN: 9781963928143) and in open dyslexic font for those with dyslexia (ISBN: 9781963928150). It is also available on audiobook too-Spotify, BarnesandNoble.com, and Audible on Amazon.



## If Haunting of Hill House had a baby with Stranger Things, Nowhere Land would be the result.

For centuries, legends have been told of a haunted land not far from Gloucester, Virginia. The local tribes had labelled it a place of demons. Wildlife is hardly seen there, and even insects avoid it. Sound fluctuates; nothing above a whisper one moment, only to come back minutes later. Those who dare to cross the land never make it out, mysteriously vanishing.

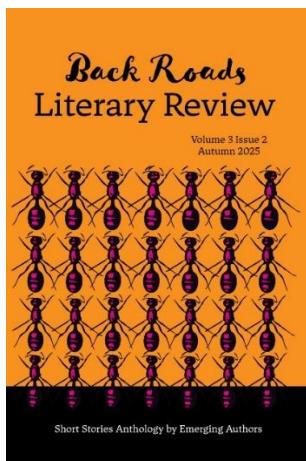
Parker Burkett and his sister, Lisa Polivka, inherit the land from their grandfather. They bring in a group of investigators to find if the stories behind the property are true. Parker has plans to turn it into a historical attraction and wants to debunk the ghost tales. He finds the paranormal group gone the next morning, except for a finger still wearing a ring lying in the loft of one of the buildings. It is the only evidence they'd been there.

Ben Neilson, who leads the paranormal team, Seekers of Paranormal World, wants to investigate, but first he must convince Parker to let them. He also wants longtime friend and psychic medium Neri Phelan to help his team.

Neri left the group a couple of years ago after the death of her younger sister on an investigation. She has a past with the cursed land, and she doesn't want anything to do with it. Nightmares and an attack from something dark that destroys her spirit guide help her decide that it's time to break the curse.

Will they solve the truth behind the legends? Or will Neri and Parker, along with Ben and his team, join the countless others over the centuries and become sacrifices to Nowhere Land.

I also have a short horror story, “Death of the Apostrophe,” in Back Roads Literary Review’s Autumn 2025 Anthology. You can either order it from Back Roads’ webstore at <https://tinyurl.com/y4emn84n>. It is also available at Walmart.com, Amazon, BarnesandNoble.com, Bookshop.org, and BooksAMillion.com.



In this short story collection of twenty-one macabre tales by emerging authors, you'll meet ghosts, spirits, and spooky things that creep in the night. Murder, insanity, and dark mystery will seep into your soul and haunt your waking thoughts. Remote villages, derelict mansions, cemeteries, and claustrophobic settings will offer no escape.

Beware of the Inanimate objects that bring a twisted fate.

Greed, racism and insanity beset an 1880s miner.

An argumentative husband with a discontented wife is faced with a nightmare he can't escape.

A recluse with memory issues is haunted by a shapeshifter.

Lost tourist stumbles upon a desolate town with a terrifying secret.

A woman inherits a mansion from a relative accused of being a witch.

Leading what seems to be a normal life, a serial killer tinkers with a hideous collection in his man cave.

In an old cemetery, a woman discovers her name on a tombstone.

Depression-era tale of horror far beyond the unyielding threat of nature's fury.

Set in New Orleans, ghosts seek the magic spells of a charming clockmaker to get one day for a life moment to do over.



## Releases for 2026

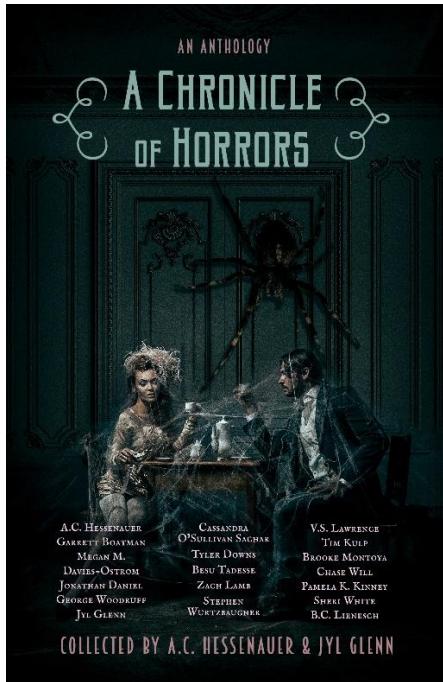
I have a horror flash fiction, With This Body and Blood, included in the Flash Phantoms Magazine, January issue that released online January 1<sup>st</sup>. You can read my story and many others in the issue free at

<https://www.flashphantoms.net/january-flash-fiction-horror-1>

Releasing this Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at Amazon is a horror anthology, *A Chronicle of Horrors*, that my short story, *Bloody Beach*, is included. The merpeople horror story is not set in Virginia, but in San Diego, California, in the year 2010.

Right now, only the Kindle is available for preorder, although I heard that will be a paperback, maybe releasing the same day. But for now, you can preorder or buy it the 10<sup>th</sup> when live, at

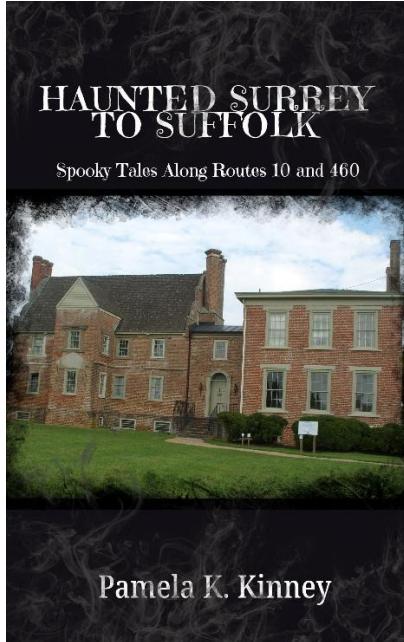
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*A Chronicle of Horrors* invites readers on a chilling journey through time—each story an echo from a different decade, where fear evolves but never dies. From crumbling manors and gaslit streets to neon nightmares and haunted futures, this anthology traces the dark pulse of humanity across the ages. Every era has its monsters. Every age leaves its scars.

There's another nonfiction ghost book, this one by Dreampunk Press and not Schiffer Publishing, *Haunted Surry to Suffolk: Spooky Tales Along Routes 10 and 460 East*. It is available for preorder at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Books a

Million, and Bookshop.org, in both eBook and paperback right now, and you can even order the paperback through your local indie bookstore. The ISBN is 9781963928280 and it is distributed by Ingrams. The release date is January 27<sup>th</sup>.



Take a journey along Routes 10 and 460 eastbound to enjoy the lovely countryside and metropolises that spread around these two roads. Most of all, discover that some historical houses, plantations, battlefields, parks, and even modern cities, have more than touristy knickknacks, ham, and peanuts to offer. Many have ghosts! Bacon's Castle has been haunted since the 1600s. Stay in a cabin overnight at Chippokes Plantation State Park, and you might find you have a spectral bedfellow. The city of Smithfield has more to offer than the world's oldest ham; it also has some very old phantoms stalking its buildings. Take a ghost tour of Suffolk and see why the biggest little city is also one of the spookiest. Discover the myths and legends of the Great Dismal Swamp and see what phantoms are still haunting the wildlife refuge. And if that's not enough, Bigfoot, werewolves, and UFOs are part of the paranormal scenery. These and other areas of southeastern Virginia are teeming with ghosts, sasquatch, UFOs, and monsters. See what awaits you along 460 south and 10. No matter which road you take, the phantoms can't wait to SCARE you a good time.

Later this spring, my second children's picture book, *Mothman's Son*, will release. Dreampunk Press may have the book's launch at Ravencon 2026 in Glen Allen, Virginia, April 24-26. Check <https://www.ravencon.com> for information about the

convention. I will not be a guest this year, but I will be at the convention, times at my publisher's table, doing book signings, plus for the book launch. Right now, we are waiting on the illustrator for the illustrations. That includes the cover.

From Schiffer Publishing, my new nonfiction ghost book from them, *Paranormal Appalachian Trail*, may be releasing Spring 2027. I have seen the cover and all 14 states are mentioned on the cover, so it will be one book. It ended up 90,000 words, plus there are photos, including ghostly images ones, in Virginia, West Virginia, and southern part of western Maryland. Plus, some images for werewolves, Dogman, Mothman, that I am permitted to use. I am not allowed to share the cover yet, but it is freaking awesome!



### What I Am Working on Now

I am working on *Shapeshifter Nightmares*, second book in the Moon Ridge, Virginia YA dark fantasy trilogy. *Demon Memories*, which won in the YA fantasy category of The Book Fest Awards Spring 2025, is the first book. This novel will be Cresil's story. The third book when I begin work on that will be titled *Sorcerer Thoughts*. It will be Jacob's story.

And yes, *Nowhere Land* will be a series—the Imprisoned Gods horror series. After *Shapeshifter Nightmares*, I will be working on a horror novel, *Dark Power, Dark Soul*, which will not be part of the Imprisoned Gods series, but the children of the two main characters will be in the sequel to *Nowhere Land*.

That is it for now on what I have out new or what is coming soon.

# Author Appearances

Book signing: *Nowhere Land* and *How the Vortex Changed My Life*

January 10, 2026-1:00-3:00 p.m.

Barnes and Noble

15000 Potomac Town Place Suite 160

Woodbridge, Virginia 22191.

## Marscon 2026

Author guest

January 16, 17, and 18, 2026

Holiday Inn Virginia Beach-Norfolk

5655 Greenwich Road

Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462.

## MystiCon

Author guest

January 23, 24, and 25, 2026

Holiday Inn Tanglewood

4468 Starkey Road, SW

Roanoke, Virginia 24018.

## Scribblecon 2026

Scribblecon is a one day writers conference and I will be speaking on “Creepy Things that Make People Scream.”

Saturday, Feb 21-9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Benton Middle School, 7411 Hoadly Road, Manassas Virginia

## Author Con 6

Author Vendor

Held by Scares That Cares, a charity, this convention has author vendors with their books, panels, readings, and more. Mainly horror, science fiction and fantasy authors, including guest authors too. It does cost, but brings in the readers from all over.

February 27, February 28, and March 1, 2026

DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton

50 Kingsmill Road

Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.

For the new subscribers of my newsletter, first issue, you all get a PDF copy of my Krampus horror short story, Holiday Sacrifice. I will send that separate to your email addresses.

I am looking into maybe Substack for the next newsletter, so I shall see.

Keep spooky!

*Pamela K. Kinney*

Journey to worlds of fantasy, beyond the stars, and into the vortex of terror with the written word of Pamela K. Kinney.

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