

June Newsletter



Welcome everyone,

By 'eck it's been bloody hot, ain't it? June seems to have been the month of sipping cold ice teas, fanning oneself with an old *Woman's Weekly*, and commenting on the gentile nature of the South. For some people. For me it's been swearing every time I touch the steering wheel and wondering how much hairy leg is acceptable before violating indecency laws. And writing! Always writing.

So on with the show...

Quick Note for Newbies

I know it can all seem a bit overwhelming with so many series, but don't worry, I'm here to help. At the moment there's three key threads to follow:

- the *Heroes & Demons* series is for mature and apocalyptic speculative fiction fans, which aren't always for the faint of heart – but take things deep. (For fans of *Sigma Force*, *The Laundry Files* and the character-driven queer fantasy of K.D. Edwards's *Tarot Sequence*.)
- The *New Knights Saga* which is the more mythic fun spine – lots of individual novels with different subgenres and energies from Arthurian myth to tech-noir thriller; and all with a queer heart. (For fans of *The Rook* meets *The Avengers*, with a queer found-family heart)
- *'til the End of the World*, an episodic series of novellas done like a nostalgic YA supernatural TV show circa 2005 (For mature fans of shows like *Buffy*, *Supernatural*, *Being Human*)

Check out my site's [Where to Start](#) guide for some suggestions!

Where I Am in the Saga

The big take-away: *Sinners & Saints* releases on July 3rd – make sure to snag your copy through checking out the book page [here](#). The penultimate *Heroes & Demons* novel is where it's gonna hurt. Again.

However, several things are now well underway:

- ***The Heroes & Demons Series***

Sinners & Saints is now only three days away, but *Fall & Flood*, the culmination of twenty years of the *Heroes & Demons* series, has now officially started. The end is in sight. You can follow along the journey on my social media (and here, of course).

- ***The New Knights Saga***

Echo, the final standalone novel series within the *New Knights* saga, is going through the extensive editing and polishing process. I'm really excited to see how the cover turns out. A limited ARC run should be available in eBook in around August, after which full release is scheduled for 10th October, 2026. Full details can be found on the book's page [here](#).

- ***The 'til the End of the World Series***

'til the End of the World is going strong, with all beta episodes up to [Episode 7](#) now available through the series page. The release of the first collection ([New in Town: Volume I](#)) has gone well, but as always if you've taken a chance on it and could leave a review that would be massively appreciated. Beta episodes will continue to be released monthly, with the next collection (*Where Loyalty Lies: Volume II*) scheduled for 4th December, 2026.

Behind the Curtain

For this month's behind the curtain, I'll give you a peek at my overall writing process. Now, I don't claim this way will work for all authors (and sometimes I'm sure it can be claimed it doesn't work for me either) but it's the way most of the time it turns out. I'm quite an organised person, in a kind of disorganised way. To create action, there must be a period of creative festering, followed by intense scaffolding.

So, ideas come to me all the time. Sometimes when I'm actively thinking about them – say when considering where I'd like a sequel to go for one of my stories. Sometimes, it begins with an image or a grain of a thought, or even a question. These are more likely to catch me off guard. Perhaps when losing myself in the emotion of a song. Perhaps when chatting away with an old friend over a few pints. Or even sometimes when doing something completely different – one emotional revelation came to me during a Corrs concert. Stuff like that.

I don't immediately act upon ideas however, I sit with them. Sometimes I may note things down (I have more notebooks than I do socks) and create vast mind maps of different connections. Then, something will happen – and there is no way to predict it. The urge comes over me like a sugar-deprived zombie, and I outline the whole story from start to finish. Broad outlines, mind you,

emotional beats, key set pieces, journeys, arcs, new characters, old characters. I'll work through the logical progression from beginning to end.

Then, it can be days, months or years later, I'll begin the outline. Chapter by chapter, working through the perspective and function of each to achieve the story I want to tell. This section often takes a few days to a week, given the strength and depth of the story outline written. Emotions are surface here, perspectives clear but journeys not always so.

And one day, I'll begin to write. There's very little changing to pacing, story elements or chapter order following this point – I've lived with the story after all for often years by this point. But what does often change, is the focus of the emotion in particular scenes, and therefore the interpretation and the arcs of characters throughout the novel. They sharpen, they deepen, and I get sometimes get so into the psyche of them that it feels a little weird shifting back to myself afterwards. And sometime after that whole process has been completed, I look down and realise I've written a book.

That works for me, but I'd love to hear what works for you!

Spotlight

Two spotlights this month:

Character Spotlight: Rick Carter

I know he gets a lot of love on this pages, but he's my first MC so please if so inclined, give me a break. Plus, also since *Heroes & Demons* is kind of a feature here of this one, we'll give him the spotlight one final time, alright?

Rick ain't even necessarily my favourite character from the series (I love all my characters equally *side eye*) but he's an important one. He embodies the ultimate message of the series – that binaries are not always clear cut. He's a hero, and he does horrible things. He loves fiercely, but destructively. He says mean things, and just as easily turns them on himself. Rick is the ultimate self aware protagonist, understanding his deep flaws, and yet somehow knows they don't stop you from doing the right thing.

Or saving the world. If that's the same thing?

Music Spotlight: Blood//Water – Grandson

Don't get me wrong there's a lot of melancholy in the *Heroes & Demons* soundtrack, alongside some heavy metal, it's this track which really encapsulates the energy of the opening. *Blood//Water* by grandson is not one that I selected at random. In fact, it came to me as a suggestion given the items I'd already added to my Spotify playlist when working through it.

I was immediately struck by the energy, which is kind of chaotic, angry and layered with frustration and imagery. It promises a reckoning, which is what *Heroes & Demons* became in the end – and is why it was placed right at the beginning. As we get to know Rick, Sandy, Ben, Andrew, Ruth and Janet and before everything that follows... none of them are coming from rainbows and puppies. But maybe energy alone won't be enough.

If you want to check out the full playlist, you can click the link [here](#) or check out each individual book's respective pages.

Current ARC Opportunities

Current ARC opportunities are closed for the moment, with both **'til the End of the World** and **Sinners & Saints** runs finished. I'll update new opportunities here – such as **Echo** in August and **'til the End of the World: Where Loyalty Lies (Year One · Volume II)** likely later in the autumn.

You can, however, sign up to be notified immediately of upcoming ARCs and join the wider ARC team for Rick Rawes' novels [here](#). You'll also be able to claim a free eBook copy of Avalon to boot.

Something New For You

The following extract is brought straight to you hot off the presses, and comes from Episode 8 of **'til the End of the World**, with the beta episode due at the end of July. It's from an opening scene set during a beauty pageant, where glitz and glam collide with horror. This episode is not for the faint of heart, but is going to bring a little more magick to the town of Calendar.

You can click the [link here to get the full excerpt](#).

Until Next Time

So there we are, caught between releases, in a world where things are quietly but carefully ticking away. 2026 is nearly half over, and seismic changes have already begun to ripple through everything we do. The second half looks to be equally as monumental, setting the foundations for a 10-year anniversary celebration in 2027 that will change everything.

And you, dear reader, thanks for coming along.

'til the End

Rick Rawes

30th June 2026