

July Newsletter



Welcome one and all,

July has been a heck of a month. As the world continues to get more bonkers – who'd have thought our homegrown fight between a politician and a bin would have been a particular highlight? – I'm over here still writing. July has turned out to be a monumental month; behind the scenes, it kicks off my 10th year of self-publishing (though our shared celebration will be the whole of 2027). And at the same time, it ended with a goodbye to 22 years of storytelling. So, without delay, 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 are 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

Between releases, series continue in the background and have reached some excellent milestones.

- [*The Heroes & Demons Series*](#)

[*Sinners & Saints*](#) was released on July 3rd and is now available in Paperback and eBook across various marketplaces. The fourth and penultimate *Heroes & Demons* novel takes us on a wild ride five years beyond anything written so far – and asks when the villain controls the narrative, who is left to do the saving? Meanwhile, **Fall & Flood** has finished its first draft, meaning the series now has a definitive end. More to come about that release in the future.

- [*The New Knights Saga*](#)

Things are beginning to ramp up now for [*Echo*](#), the final standalone novel in the *New Knights* saga and again, we get a genre switch. This time, expect a tech-noir thriller that asks big questions about identity and consciousness, while still very recognisably existing in this world. With the cover now done and a reveal upcoming, a limited ARC run of the eBook should be available around August, after which the 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*](#)

We're getting deeper into Year One of **'til the End of the World** now, with [Episode 8 "Solo"](#) having just been released in beta novella form on the series page. Beta episodes continue to be released monthly, with Episode 9, "Where Loyalty Lies," scheduled for release on the last Friday of August. The first collection ([New in Town: Volume I](#)) is available now, while the next ([Where Loyalty Lies: Volume II](#)) is scheduled for 4th December 2026.

Behind the Curtain

A shorter but (hopefully) sweeter behind the curtain this month, focusing on deciding on titles. You might have noticed I have a bit of a tendency towards simplicity with book titles. I guess because somewhere deep down, I am an incredibly to-the-point kind of person. You wouldn't think it with over a million printed words across 10 books, but I promise it's true.

Don't get me wrong, I don't mind a long title. *A How to Make Friends and Alienate People* or the *Incredible Importance of Earnestly Being Inherently Ernest*, can tell you exactly just how witty a book is. But I love the simplicity of a title. *Alien*. *Predator*. *Jurassic Park*. No one ever watched *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and mistook it for a cooking show.

That's the principle behind my books. *Avalon*. *Echo*. *Insomniac*. Arthurian. Tech. Psychological horror.

I also like to construct stories and worlds where ideas recur, and things complement one another. *Heroes & Demons* was so named because the story begins with a focus on binaries – and rapidly deconstructs them across books. *Hope & Fury* focuses on lingering emotions, *Fire & Water* evokes elemental battles, and *Sinners & Saints* speaks to the falsity of narrative labels (as well as being an incredibly tongue-in-cheek Rolling Stones lyrical nod).

So, there you go. You'll never get an overwrought title from me, it's just not my style. All my waffling will remain well within the pages.

Spotlight

Two spotlights this month:

Book Spotlight: Sinners & Saints

Back to a book spotlight for this month, as we have a release month! *Sinners & Saints* picks up five years after *Fire & Water* left off. One thing that never happens between my books is a reset. Things matter. Events happened and cannot be undone. To anyone who's ever read *Fire & Water*, you'll realise... those were some pretty big events. Instead of undoing them, *Sinners & Saints* lets them breathe. Let the dust and blood settle.

And then we're back. I loved writing this novel because I knew by this point exactly when the end was coming. And knowing it was coming lent a kind of freedom to the writing. It became a love letter to these characters, while at the same time allowing for some pretty cutting commentary on the state of the world today – all of which dovetailed into a propulsive action fantasy thriller that might contain one of my most divisive endings yet.

If you want to try it out, there are the links above, or you can start way back at the beginning with [*Heroes & Demons*](#) and see what the world is about.

Music Spotlight: Ain't No Grave – Johnny Cash

While writing the emotionally devastating ending of *Fire & Water* (yeah, I cried like a baby at my own writing – and not just due to a misplaced comma for a change), I had one song constantly playing in my head and on my Spotify. Johnny Cash's cover of *Hurt* by Nine Inch Nails. Still gives me chills and is genuinely him at his absolute best.

So when opening *Sinners & Saints*, another song struck me as absolutely perfect – and I don't think it's one of the more well-known ones. *Ain't No Grave* has that old school wild west feeling while literally feeling like some apocalyptic reckoning. The exact emotional register I was trying to hit as we were shuffling forward, on stumbling gate, from the ruins of *Fire & Water* and into the brave new world of *Sinners & Saints*—definitely one to give a go – even if you're decidedly not country.

You can check my playlist inspirations on all the novel pages.

Current ARC Opportunities

ARC opportunities are about to reopen in August for **Echo**. I'll pop an announcement post and a link on the website (with a specific link in the August newsletter). The ARC opportunity for **'til the End of the World: Where Loyalty Lies (Year One · Volume II)** will be available in November.

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

Something New For You

The following extract is the first prologue and Chapter from **Echo**, coming in October. Here we're introduced to a father and son in Ladybower Woods, where they slowly come to realise there's something strange about the forest. And soon, there will be.

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

Until Next Time

Well, I think that about sums it up for July. Another novel out. Another beta version episode has been released. And the end of 22 years of writing the *Heroes & Demons* series. The thing that reinforces for me more than anything is the continuing enjoyment of this process. I will always write, as long as I'm allowed (and spookily maybe even after) – and sharing it with you all is the icing on the cake. I hope you find something to enjoy yourself here, and as always, I'd love to hear from you if you do. I'll be over here, continuing to tinker away at my keyboard.

And this month, wondering if the bin will win.

'til the End

Rick Rawes

Leeds, West Yorkshire

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