September Newsletter



Welcome, one and all!

September seems to have flashed by faster than Grant Gustin in a red suit, and we're already on the cusp of the gates opening between the lands of the living and hell. Or as some call it, Black Friday. Still, it's been a busy one behind the scenes, so on with the show!

Highlights for Speedsters

For busy skimmers, here are the highlights:

- Science-fiction novel *Echo* releases October 10th – can be pre-ordered now!
- ARCs for Echo close on 3rd October – link here
- New *'til the End of the World* episode (novella) – Suffer the Children – just released – link here

For everyone else with a cuppa, some time to kill, or a craving for juicy goodies, read on…

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. It's mature, apocalyptic speculative fiction that isn't always for the faint of heart, but it goes 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, playful side of the universe – 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

Lots of behind-the-scenes movement as we edge toward a new release. Let's take a glance, shall we?

- ***The New Knights Saga***
  - Fancy a bit of sci-fi with teeth and a surprising amount of family drama? The last standalone novel of this thread of the New Knights – *Echo* is releasing on 10th October in eBook and Paperback
  - While you don't need to read each series within the saga to fully enjoy *Echo*, the other New Knights series are already out and available. You can check out *Avalon, Insomniac, and Bastet* while you wait.

- ***The 'til the End of the World Series***
  - Hard to imagine we're almost halfway through Year One, with Episode X – Suffer the Children – now available. A Christmas Special – yes, I know it's September, but there's madness in my method – is perfect for our spooky darkening nights.
  - The final episode for 2026, Episode XI – A Whole New World – will arrive Friday 30th October, after which our mid-season break sees us returning in January 2027.
  - Episodes VI to XI, polished and with bonus features, are available to pre-order in the collected edition – *Volume II · Where Loyalty Lies*, releasing 4th December 2026. *New in Town (Volume I),* collecting Episodes I to V, is available now.

- ***The Heroes & Demons Series***
  - The final book of the epic flagship series, *Fall & Flood*, is deep in the editing phase now and due to be released next summer as part of my 10 year anniversary celebrations. (Of self-publishing, not birthday or marriage)
  - If you want to see what all the fuss is about, catch up with Books 1 to 4 via the series page

Behind the Curtain

Since the nature of consciousness is a big theme for *Echo*, I thought I'd think about thinking. So metacognitive, my teachers would be proud. For *Echo,* I had to get myself into the mindset of what might be my most alien consciousness yet. How? Well, my technique was remarkably simple.

I sat, and I stilled myself. Call it mindfulness, call it meditation, yoga, or daydreaming, whatever you like. I anchored myself in the most basic of information – what can I sense? How does the chair feel under me, the smoothness of the table on my hands? The warmth of the air on my face?

And, importantly, recognising how I *felt* about those things and consciously separating myself from that. It allows space for – what if? Sitting somewhere between mindfulness and empathy is that sweet spot of being able to think, for a moment, like someone else.

Great when in the mind of a hero. Pretty dark when you're in a villain's head. Or someone who talks during movies.

Spotlight

Music Spotlight: Sail – AWOLNATION

Thought I'd go with a music spotlight this time around – and with *Echo* out soon, why not start looking at the inspiration? Once you see the full soundtrack, you'll see a very deliberate, eclectic family of sounds – with perhaps the only place in my written universe where Boy George and Nina Simone sit next to each other.

But the opening track of AWOLNATION's Sail sets the tone. It has that techno-percussion beat and raw vocals that created the first image of *Echo* in my mind. A sense of motion, foreboding. And, for reasons that may become obvious after reading, one image stuck in my mind. If I say *Spider-Man 3*: The Birth of Sandman, it might click. Iykyk as the kids say.

Current ARC Opportunities

The current ARC window for *Echo* ends on October 3rd, and limited copies remain through this link. It requires an email and is fulfilled through BookFunnel, which will allow downloads in your preferred format. You can access them through this link.

If you'd like to be notified about upcoming ARC opportunities, then please consider joining the team by filling out this form. You'll be notified as soon as opportunities arise. You'll also get a free copy of Avalon as a thank you.

As always, unsubscribe anytime.

Something New for You

I like to say *Echo* is my first techno-thriller, but at its heart it's also about a deeply dysfunctional family. So this month, I'd like to share an early chapter that I think highlights the book's tonal range nicely.

This link will take you to the exclusive PDF sample.

Until Next Time

And there we have it, another month slipping by like a reel about pygmy hippos. With a new novel landing, next month will be big. I hope you have a great spooky season between pumpkin lattes and ghost hunting. And also, if you get a chance, check out *Echo*. Did I say that enough?

It is, after all, a ghost story. At first.

'til the End
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