

News from Elizabeth Forest



Witches, witches, witches!

Time to celebrate autumn's magic



Artwork by Stacey Walsh

Since it's the season of the witch...

Why not read the witch-filled sequel

to [The Third Kind of Magic?](#)



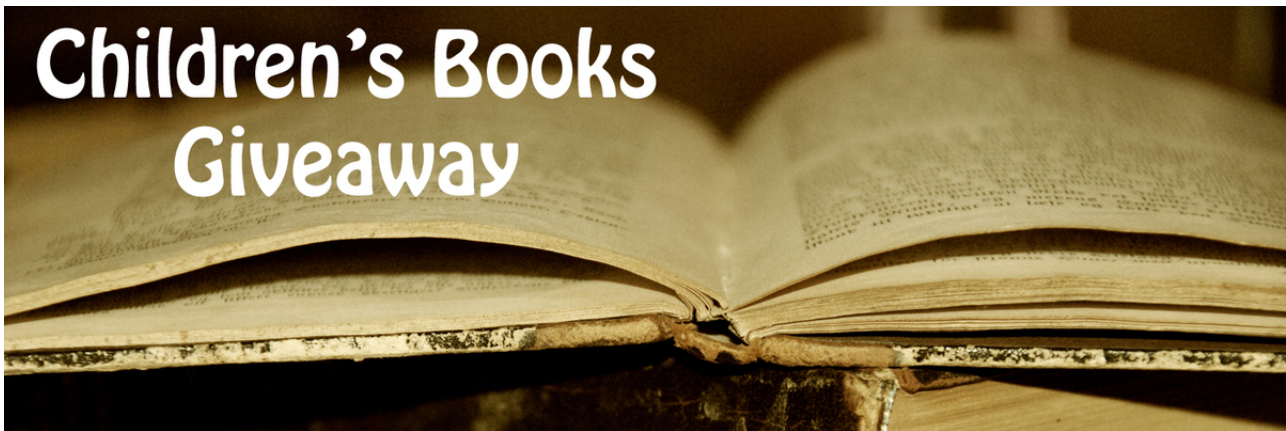
ELIZABETH FOREST

The further adventures of Suli Wing (and Coalfeather)

And if you haven't yet read the first book, try the excerpt you can download here:

[Free books for middle-graders](#)

You will also find many different kinds of free kids' books in this promo, so there should be something for everyone.



<https://books.bookfunnel.com/octoberchildrensbooksgiveaway/baot23cr64>



Painting by Violeta Dabija

So how's *your* pandemic going?

I've gotten to the point where I forget about it for long periods of time, what with breathing seriously unhealthy air for months, the ongoing danger of wildfires (I'm in CA), and the ghastly spectacle of the United States election besides which the usual horror stories pale in comparison. Oh yes, and crazy stuff at work, which no one needs to hear about, but it adds to the stress.

But they've rolled another log down the hill at us: our local utility will shut down the power the night of the day I'm writing this, as a precaution, in the hopes their wires won't spark *another* fire in the projected high winds tonight. Of course, the last time they did this (or was it the time before?) there were

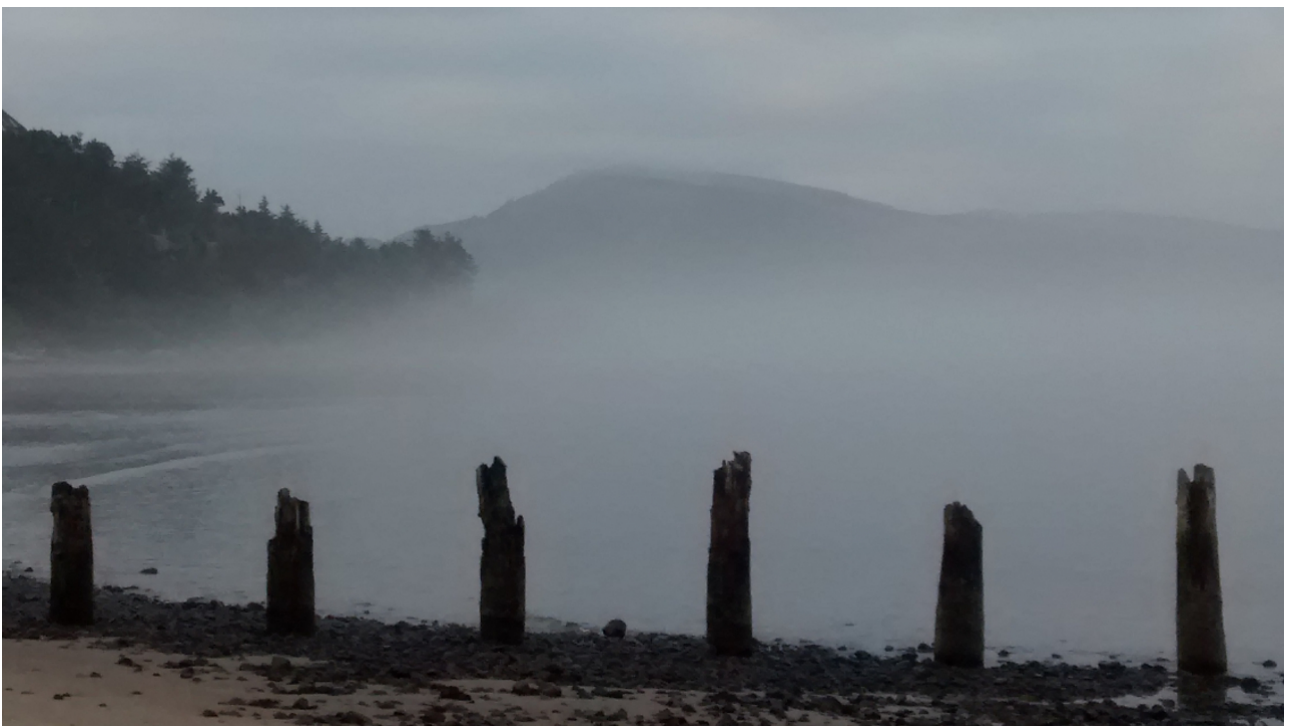
wildfires in the neighborhood anyway, just no one got an emergency alert because all the cell towers were down.

Let's hope they manage it better this time. Meanwhile, I am giving up on trying to work tomorrow. If the shutoff lasts longer than one day, then I may have to drive somewhere to find a COVID-safe way of stealing wifi from some cafe. Outside of course.

I recharged everything I could, piled up the batteries, stuffed water bottles in the freezer and fridge, and planned what to read and write. In the cold. Without heat. But it's okay, the hot water heater is self-igniting and I have one of those heavy Hudson Bay Pendleton blankets! (Also an awesome Nissan thermos.)

The upside is a Twitter moratorium. The next crisis must happen without me.

And yes, **I've already voted via USPS**, and it arrived at the county clerk's office, no problem.



A ghostly abandoned pier in Netarts, OR. Who knows what lurks in the fog?

What I'm reading

If any of you are interested in writing, I should tell you about the book I just finished reading. It's called *The Heroine's Journey* by Gail Carriger.

If you don't recognize her name, she's written several successful series set in a steampunk Victorian England. While they are technically romance, they are also quite witty satires on, among other things, the fantasy, scifi and romance genres she draws from. And quite fun.

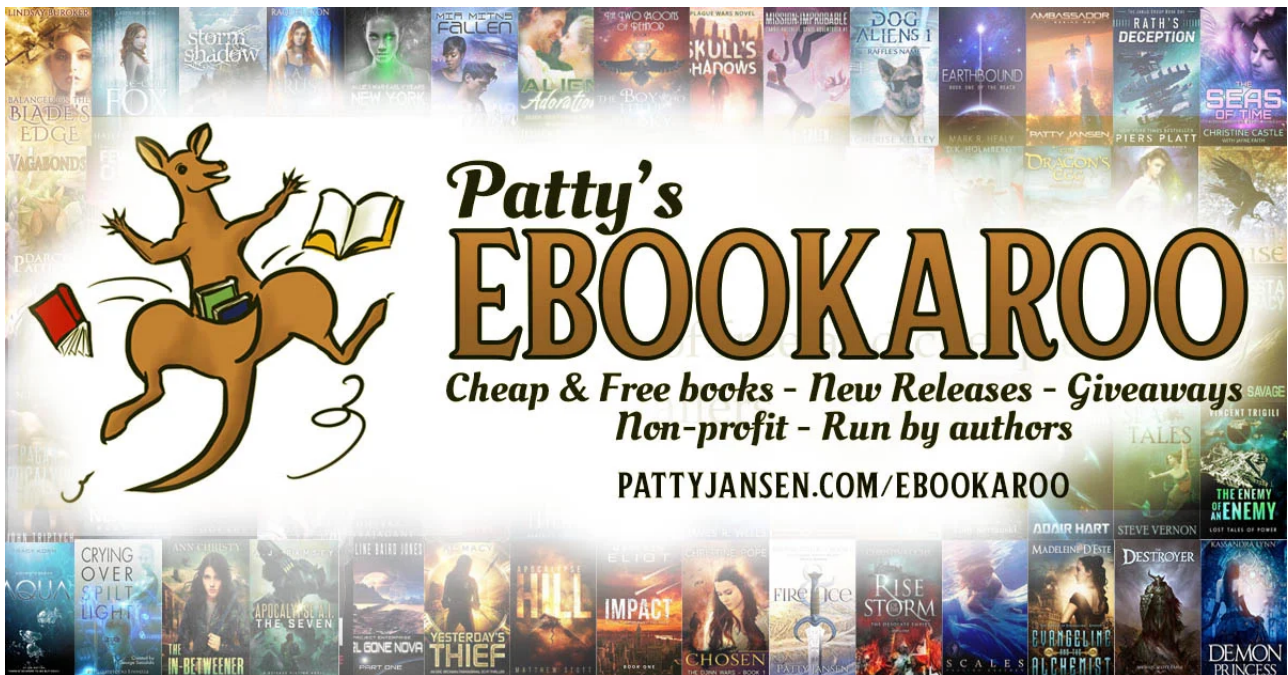
It's not Jungian archetypes, but a certain structure of story Carriger is interested in. Her analysis beautifully explains how and why readers feel betrayed if, for example, they feel they've been promised a hero's journey story, only to discover it will turn out to be a heroine's journey. And vice versa. And since the hero's journey is valued by our individualist, capitalist culture, writers who choose to create something in the other mode are going to be

mocked and criticized. And why Harry Potter is a perfect example of the heroine's journey.

I recommend it as an interesting lens to look at your own reading habits (and maybe an explanation as to why your best friend likes books you can't stand).

Bargains for Grownups

And once again, here's a link to the ever changing selection from EBookaroo. SF, Fantasy, Thrillers, YA, Paranormals - it's all here. Take a look.



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That's the update for Samhain and October, the month of all too spooky news.

I am still working on an excerpt I'd like to send you, but with all the craziness of the last few months, it hasn't gone to the beta readers yet. Y'all are next, I promise.

Elizabeth Forest

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