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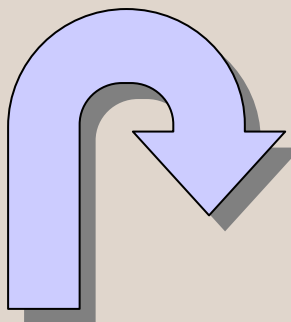


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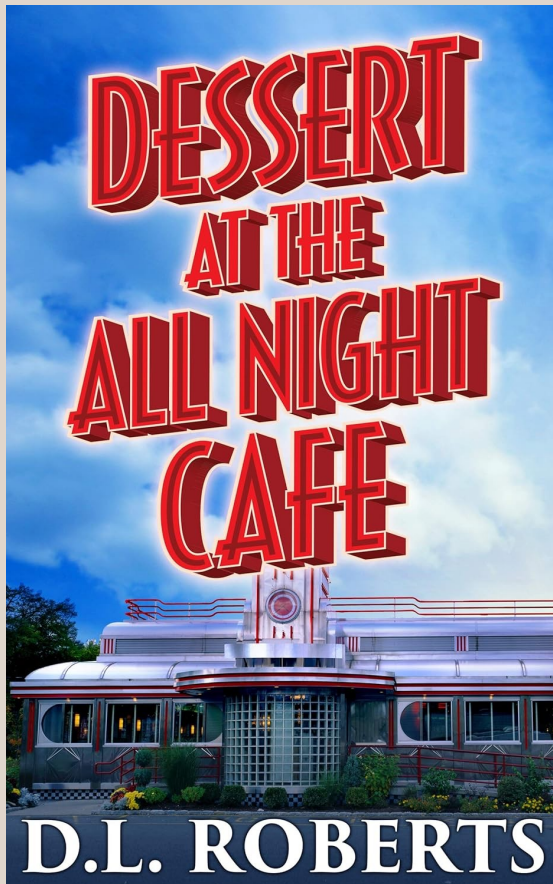
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D.L. Roberts



Dessert At The All Night Cafe

As difficult as it is to believe, six men and six women from vastly diverse backgrounds are individually drawn to the All Night Cafe at one point. There is a skilled surgeon and a homeless man, a nuclear physicist and a grocery store cashier, a police sergeant and a spoiled society playboy, and a White House doctor and a retired housewife. There is a common thread that binds the group. Collectively, each person undergoes some trial, tribulation, or challenge that draws each individual into the All Night Cafe for compassion, wisdom, and a slice of a fresh baked pie.

It is in the cafe that they meet the man behind the counter who dispenses advice, compassion, and brotherly love in a spiritual atmosphere. The strange thing is, locals in the neighborhood do not recall ever seeing anything on the corner of Thirteenth Avenue and McDowell Road except a vacant lot.

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One by one, each friend begins to share their story. Soon we discover that each has experienced their own unique trial or tribulation. The story concludes with each person proudly rising from their stool at the counter to share how they turned their troubles into triumph.

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D.L. Roberts



Dessert At The All Night Café Closing Time

Patrons of the All Night Cafe were certain that the little diner held no more than twenty customers at a time. But the last time the cafe was occupied, there must have been nearly forty, with room for more.

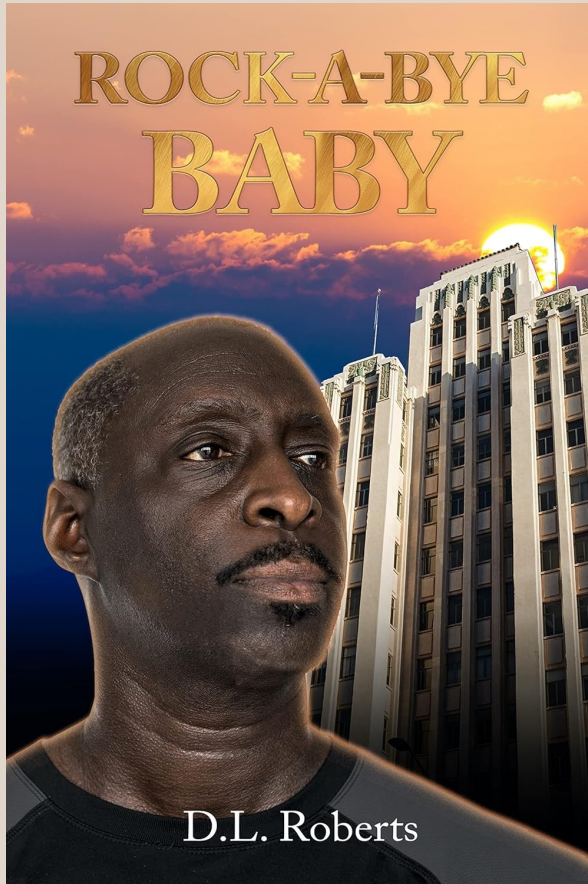
All who benefited from visiting this nostalgic diner in the past have returned one last time to recount their successes. As they say their final goodbyes, the attendees realize that seeds of mutual respect, love, and consideration for their fellow travelers have been planted deep in their hearts.

Like the mustard seed, from tiny beginnings, great things will grow as these trailblazers carry these seeds out into the world. As they journey forward, in time, each patron of the All Night Cafe will find a way to spread positive attributes throughout humanity.

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D.L. Roberts



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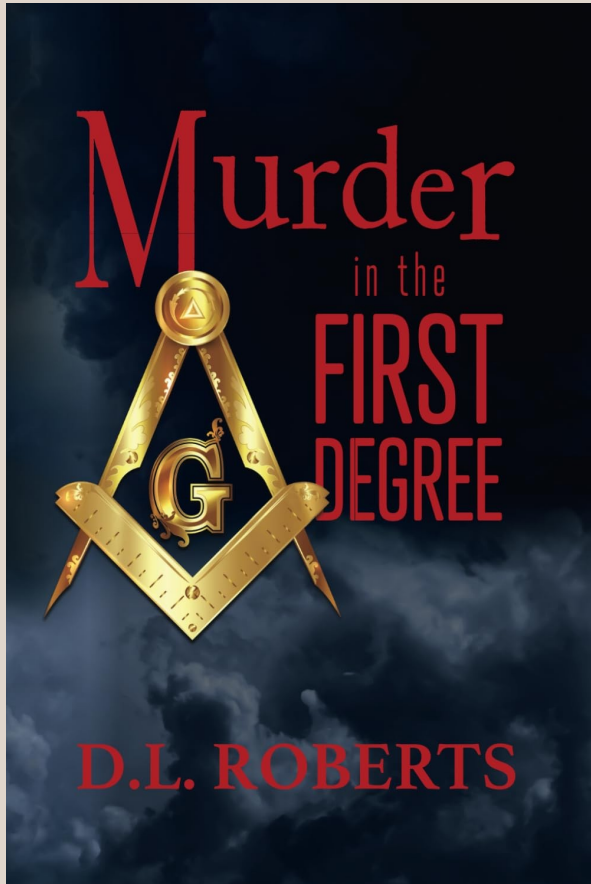
Rock-A-Bye Baby

Pity poor Precious Gordon, a woman who for all her married life has been a loyal, dutiful wife 100% supportive of her husband. It is only after he becomes terminally ill that she learns he's been having an affair with the couple next door. Adding insult to injury, he blames her for his illness. Having been protected all her life, she's ill prepared for the many disappointments and abuses that get heaped on her by her daughter, her neighbor, minister, and undertaker.

In time, she tries to move on with her life only to be hurt again. When the story opens, Precious is poised atop the Luhr's Tower in downtown Phoenix to throw herself fourteen stories below. It is on the crenelated parapet of this building she meets a wise man and is confronted with her own hypocrisy. When her body goes over the edge, she decides she doesn't want to die.



D.L. Roberts



Murder in the First Degree

One day, Master Mason and secretary of Pilgrim Lodge No. 18, Peter D. Queen (PDQ) finds his comfort zone in shambles. Mystery, murder, and mayhem land on his doorstep. He must either accept the fact that he may become a murder suspect or assist a lodge brother and deputy sheriff in solving a murder.

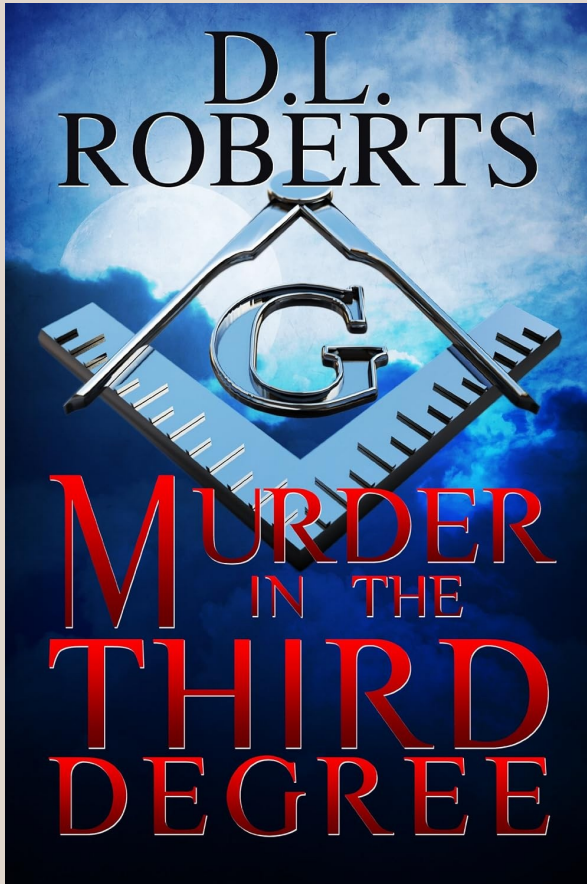
The tale begins near Cartagena, Colombia when Michael Tomelli defects to the United States. The defector is placed in the witness protection program and makes his way across the country to Phoenix, Arizona. In an attempt to hide the witness in obscurity until the trial, he is placed in the most extraordinary and unlikely of locations. There is only one problem. The witness is murdered anyway.

Suspects abound. There's the South American hit team, the resort reception clerk, the book-keeper, and others. The deputy and PDQ are hampered because people are not who they pretend to be. There is a murderer loose in Wickenburg, Arizona and the clock is ticking.

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D.L. Roberts



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Murder in the Third Degree

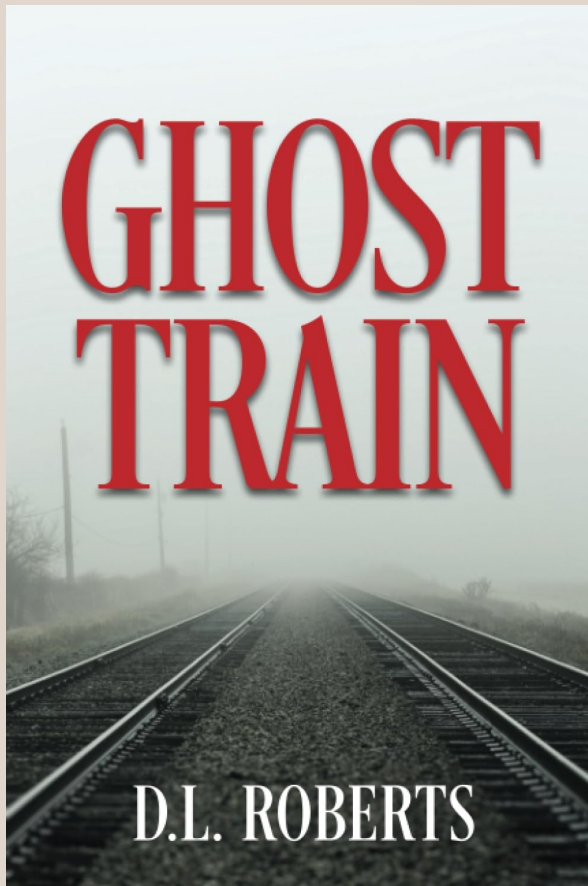
Peter D. Queen (Q to his friends) is the secretary of a Masonic Lodge in Glendale, Arizona. He enjoys a rather sedate and secure life as a bachelor who lives with his elderly father. His world becomes complicated when he gets chatted up by a woman and then the murder of a prominent Mason and member of his lodge.

The Grand Master of all Arizona Masons enlists Q's help to determine whether or not the murder could have been committed by a Freemason. Q wends his way through the hijinks of his father and a love life that gets complicated at every turn. At one point he is considered a suspect himself in the crime and then finds himself the possible victim after two more people are viscously killed. Added to the mix is a ghost that walks the lodge room and communicates with Q. In the end, Q and his girlfriend must sift through an entangled web of suspicion and intrigue mixed with Masonic ritual and humor.

Freemasons have been labeled as a secret society. Fact or fiction? One thing for certain is that as an organization keeping secrets, they have failed. Their meeting halls are clearly marked, the members proudly wear their regalia in public, and their so-called secret rituals appear on the History Channel.



D.L. Roberts



Ghost Train

Young lovers, Sharon Carlton and Wesley Blake are planning to leave their life in rural America to find good jobs, get married, and raise babies in the big city.

The year is 1929 and the full impact of the Depression has not yet reached the starstruck couple. Full of big dreams and romantic notions, they believe that hopping the next train out of town will deliver them to a place where opportunity, happiness, and new beginnings await.

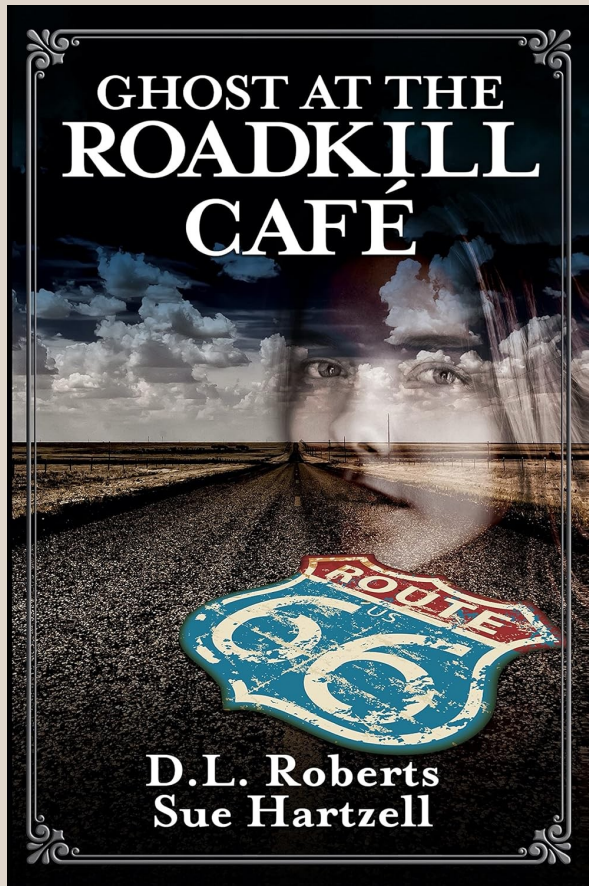
The young stowaways soon discover that the transport they've chosen is no ordinary train. The engineer, conductor, and crew are nowhere to be found. Food and clothing magically appear. And the warm, comfortable caboose is inexplicably unoccupied.

As passengers on the mysterious ghost train, Sharon and Wesley never make it to the big city. Instead, they are delivered to places where they are most needed to assist people with problems greater than their own. In the short time it takes the train to make its circuit, the young couple learns lessons more important and life-changing than anything they hoped to find in the city of their dreams.

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D.L. Roberts



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Ghost At The Roadkill Café

Ever since assuming control of the family business, Debbie and Bruce Mejia have had two goals: grow the various Pope Enterprises and help revitalize interest in Route 66.

Although Northern Arizona is in the grip of a massive winter snowstorm, sales and profits are soaring. Suddenly, a Roadkill Café attraction suffers a cave-in. The Mejias wonder if the cave-in was the portal to the nether reaches of hell.

Dishes are broken. Storerooms are ravaged. Expensive equipment is broken, and stuffed animal heads are thrown about by unseen hands. The Roadkill Café has a ghost.

When the media becomes involved, the family business is pushed to near bankruptcy. Bruce attends a sweat lodge that was some old army pal's. Debbie uses her wits. Together, with their staff, they come up with a plan to ease the pain of an angry and suffering spirit.



D.L. Roberts



The Good News About Samantha

Dave is the worst kind of American tourist. He belittles the waitstaff of his hotel and demands priority service. Karma comes when Caribbean natives kidnap Dave and turn him over to the local witchcraft shaman. Dave, a well-educated man, should not have believed he'd been turned into a flesh-eating creature, but that's what happened. Upon return to Phoenix, he quarantines himself in a dry riverbed.

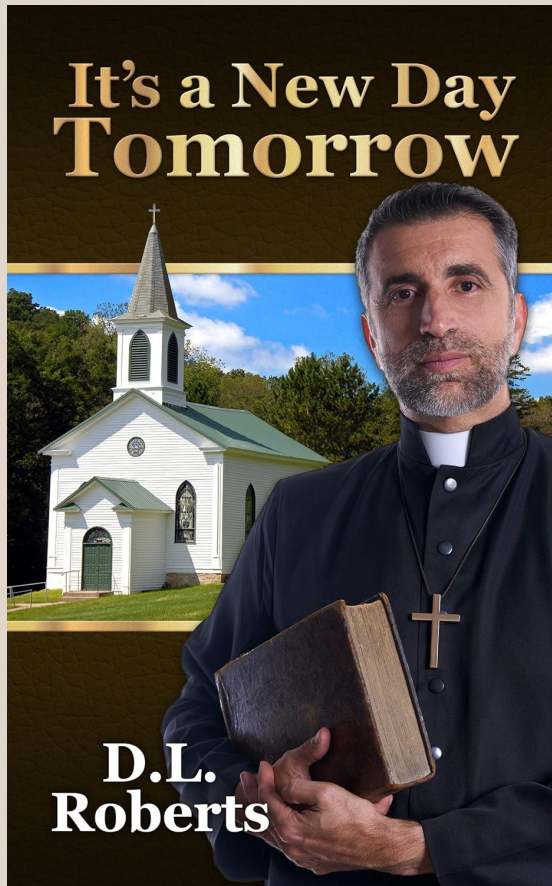
Police are baffled over the discovery of partially devoured wild animals in the Salt River riverbed. Enter Samantha, an entitled, recent college graduate armed with a bachelor's degree and a burning desire to solve this mystery. Her editor wants to start Sam at the lower levels of reporting while she seeks the one spectacular story that will propel her from the Arizona backwaters to the east coast highlights.

Her quest for fame and glory nearly destroys her relationship with her father.

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D.L. Roberts



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It's a New Day Tomorrow

From the pulpit of the Church of the Living Waters in Glen's Knob, Missouri, the Reverend Jacob Farley announces that he has been visited by God. Farley claims that he is to announce to the world when Jesus is going to return to earth and establish his everlasting kingdom. The deacon of this non-denominational church in the Ozarks does not believe that the Lord would select an unknown minister to deliver this news when there are a dozen or so prominent ministers of the age who command audiences in the millions worldwide.

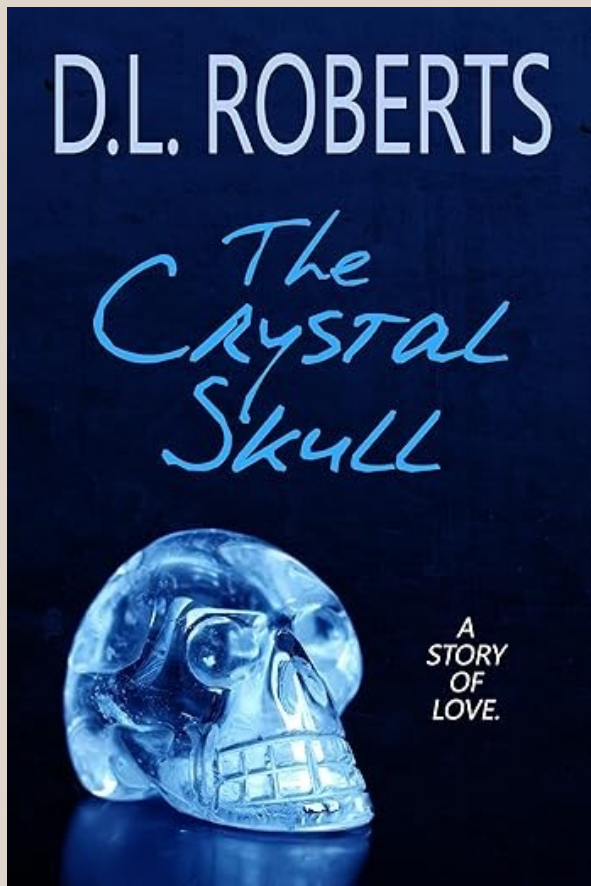
The year is 1962 and Rev. Farley views the tensions between the U.S. and Russia become more volatile. No sooner does he announce the exact date when Jesus is coming that his congregation begins to fall apart. Some divest themselves of all possessions, others commit suicide, while others commit murder. Even Farley's wife doubts her husband's is truly God's representative on earth. He will not be deterred.

Who are the dark figures who appear periodically and what is their interest in Jacob? Rev. Farley believes he is God's voice and representative on earth. He's been selected from the multitudes who are more pious and learned to be so honored.

Is there a new day tomorrow?



D.L. Roberts



The Crystal Skull

On the topic of crystal skulls, some learned professionals, who argue in favor of the existence of the skulls, assert that crystal cannot be machined or cut cross-grain with known technology. This view adds to the mystery and mystique of the skulls.

In turn, they would pooh-pooh any discussion that does not begin with the existence of crystal skulls in the first place.

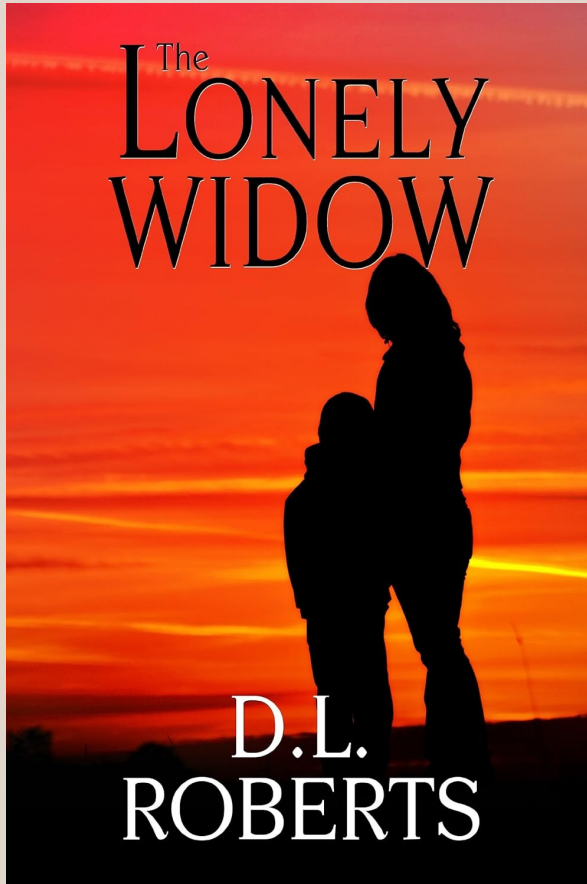
The next group discounts the idea that crystal skulls exist in any form anywhere. The purpose of this story is not to validate or nullify the existence of crystal skulls but to pose a question. What if? What if the creation of the skulls is heavenly inspired to attract people who should be happy together and thus populate the globe with people who no longer need to kill or enforce their will on others. It's a stretch, but I ask again...

What if?

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D.L. Roberts



The Lonely Widow

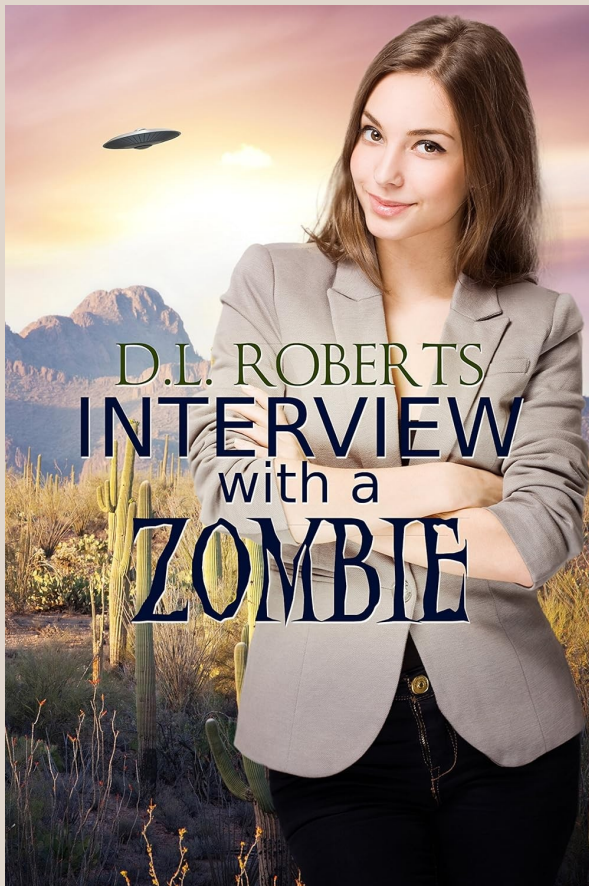
Lucy Forbes, a recent widow, finds herself in a position she never before imagined. When Robert was alive, she deferred to him in all domestic activities. His friends were their friends. He required his wife to remain home, keep house, raise the children, and see that meals were prepared in a timely fashion. With him gone she wonders if life is worth living. The passion for living has abandoned her.

One day while seeking the perfect place to drown herself she encounters a ten year old boy who challenges her to discover a future of living and loving. Does she dare to consider a future different than what she has always experienced? Her desire for self-destruction is strong, but if given the opportunity for fulfillment in her role as a woman, does she dare to give life a chance?

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D.L. Roberts



Interview with a Zombie

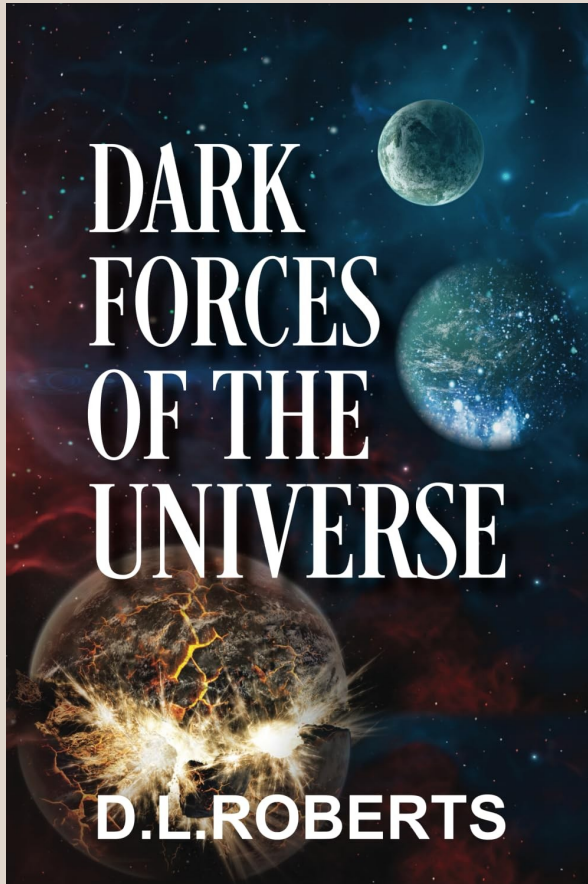
Samantha is a recent graduate from the Arizona State University's college of Journalism with very firm ideas of the duty of print media to not only just report the news, but in some case make the news. Her belief of the "Public's Right to Know," comes in conflict with harsh reality of what is just and morally right. In her search for the ideal story that will propel her out of the back waters of Phoenix, Arizona, to the bright lights of New York or some other major media market, she finds the perfect story that could garner her national attention.

One dark night she stakes out the bed of the Salt River and comes face to face with a man claiming to be a zombie as the result of his misadventures in Haiti while he was researching voodoo rituals. Sam decides to use this man's history at whatever the cost that will ultimately result in her move to a major market and national acclaim. In the end, she is challenged to question her university teachings with her core values and what is just and morally right.

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D.L. Roberts



*Dark Forces Of
The Universe*

Pirates? Not the “Arg” or eye patch kind, but space pirates somewhere in the very distant future.

A family’s travels are interrupted by pirates who kidnap a man and his wife but a young man avoids capture. This is his story of how he rescues his parents and becomes a high ranking officer in the Space Force.

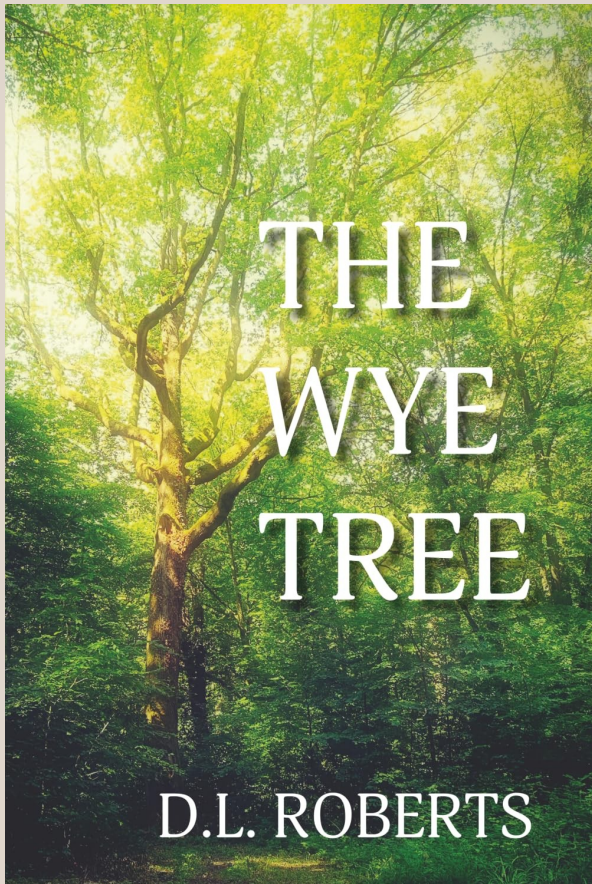
Our future hero is joined by a young couple. Together the three overcome obstacles to destroy slavery on a planet far from Earth. Many times, it would have been easier to quit fighting and return home. Living a quiet life is nice if you can pretend dark forces in the universe do not exist.

Three adventurers destroy a kidnapping ring and help bring order to the universe. This is their story.

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D.L. Roberts



The Wye Tree

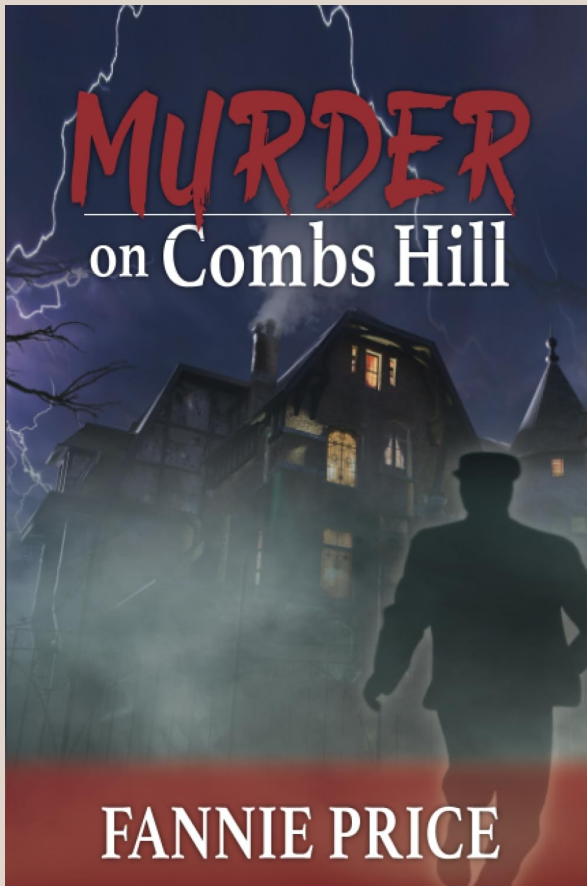
I am frequently asked how I come up with my ideas. Usually, I don't know. They just show up. In this case, the movie *The Chronicles of Narnia* somehow hit a nerve and caused me to wonder about parallel universes. One thing led to another and the very short e-story *The Garden, Barn and the Tree* was published on Amazon, and it still resides there.

Copying C.S. Lewis' wonderful story was unique and the Walt Disney people are formidable, so trying to clone their work was never an option. However, these fine people don't own the idea of parallel universes. Over the years, many have written about things happening in the same place but in different dimensions. Why not me, I reasoned. The laptop was dusted off, an ink cartridge was inserted in the printer, and my editor went on full alert. The Wye Tree was born. I hope you enjoy it because I enjoyed writing it.

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Fannie Price



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Murder on Combs Hill

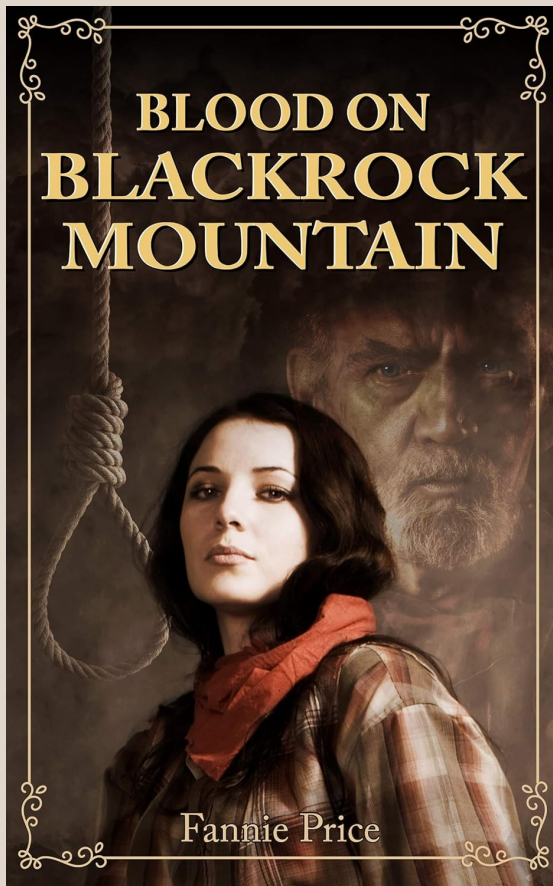
Annabelle Ford, daughter of the late Colonel Tiberius, is dying. Her doctor expects her to pass in the next week or two. Her life has been one of meanness, duplicity, rudeness, and heavy-handedness. Many people despised the wealthy spinster, but there is no reason to kill the old woman since she was about to die anyway, but that's what happened.

No one expected her to be shot—but she was. No one expected the butler to inherit the estate—but he did.

The will is an ancient document that invites murder. Suspects, and questions abound. Why did the nurse suddenly leave Arizona? Why did Annabelle's nephew assume immediate control of the estate? How much influence did the butler hold over his mistress? What is the secret her doctor holds that he would kill to suppress? What is the significance of the fountain pen by the bed?



Fannie Price



Blood on Blackrock Mountain

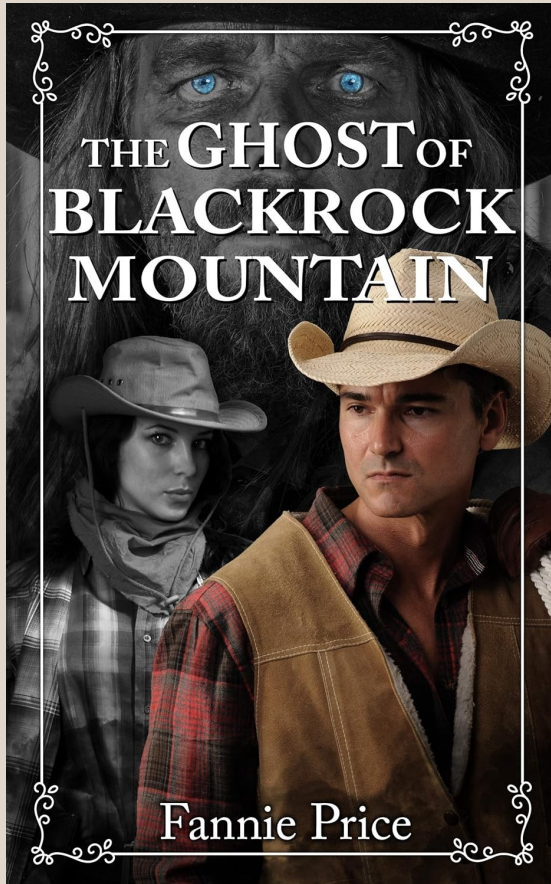
Anne Dee Carter (or Andy, as she prefers) starts her life as a sole survivor of an Indian attack on the frontier. Taken to an orphanage and later becoming the assistant to a snake oil salesman, she is on a life-path that would lead to an early death. Fate intervenes to brighten her future when she is adopted by a kindly and wealthy landowner. He just happens to have a gold-laden artesian well that deposits gold for the taking.

When someone has wealth, someone else is ready to relieve the fortunate of their holdings. The desire to steal is as old as man. Fanny Price, an octogenarian, captures these emotions in her first novel. Preferring obscurity to notoriety, she shares the story from her modest home in central Arizona.

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Fannie Price



The Ghost of Blackrock Mountain

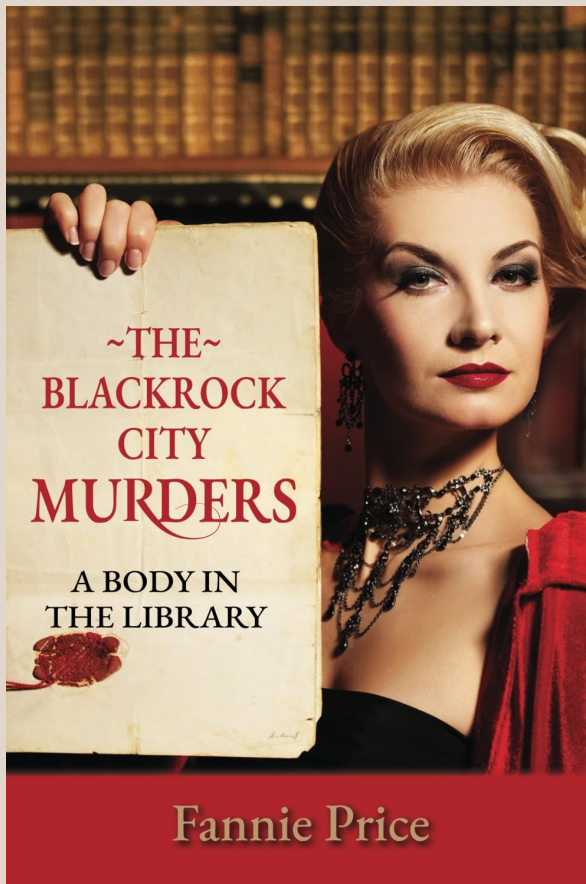
Life for Ann Dee Larson, or Andy as she prefers, has taken a pleasant turn. She's rebuilding her home to be a showplace of the county. When she meets a handsome young stranger, he announces that he will be the new sheriff. Little does she know that malevolent forces are plotting to descend on her. Everyone she knows will be affected by the changes—some having fatal results.

A bogus mining engineer will use murder, extortion, and blackmail to gain access to the gold rich Blackrock Stream that has its beginning on Andy's lands. He guardian angel appears to overcome the mayhem that has visited Blackrock Mountain. Fanny Price, an octogenarian, makes her home in central Arizona. "Writing is so much more satisfying than knitting or quilting," she says.

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Fannie Price



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The Blackrock City Murders A Body in the Library

Someone systematically murdered city department heads in Blackrock City. David Burns, a corporal in the U.S. Army, is happiest when he's elbow deep in dough—bread dough that is. He's shocked when the American Red Cross informs him that his father, the mayor, is gravely ill and David is needed at home.

In less time than it takes to tell the story, David finds himself in Blackrock City as the reluctant police chief where some live in fear of an ancient Egyptian death cult that promises murder to those who obstruct.

Father is fine. The police force is impotent. City workers are fearful of being the next victim. A convoy of semis laden with heavy dredging equipment rolls through town in the wee hours. There's trouble in Blackrock City and David is in the mix. Confused? Oh, yes, there's Sam. David is up to his once flour-dusted elbows in distrust, intrigue, murdered department managers, rogue cops and the newest victim—a hooker is discovered dead in the city's new library.