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AUTHOR NEWSLETTER

Herb Hughes

Third Quarter, 2020

NEWSLETTER SHORTENED

The last newsletter (Second Quarter 2020) turned out longer than I would like, so changes are being implemented to shorten this and future newsletters. Among other changes, the novel review and recipe sections have been eliminated.

Reviews are available at Amazon and Goodreads. Simply type in the book title to read the reviews for that novel.

I have received no feedback on the recipes, leading me to believe that few people, if any, have tried them. Since it has nothing to do with my novels, the recipe section was also deleted.

The Reading Recommendation section will not be a regular feature. It will only be included when I have read a novel that stands out from the crowd.

Pop me an email at herbhughes1994@att.net and let me know what you think about the changes.

CONECUH WINS INTERNATIONAL LITERARY AWARD!

Every writer wants to win awards for their books. Not only does it validate their hard work, but it also boosts sales and builds name recognition for future sales. So I was excited and happy to get an early morning notification that Conecuh, my latest Civil War novel, was awarded the bronze medal in historical fiction in the 2020 Global eLit Awards for Literary Excellence. It made for a very pleasant day. 😊

The 2020 awards are the 11th straight year that eLit has awarded the best in eBooks from independent publishers and authors. It is a major competition, very much like winning a bronze medal in your event in a major international sports tournament.



When I first heard Caleb Garner's story from my cousin, Sherry Hughes Garner, I was hooked. I had to tell his story in a novel, and I had to give him an ending since his true ending has been lost to history. This award validates the hundreds and hundreds of hours of research, writing, and rewriting.



This was not the type of book you can write by yourself. As detailed in the back of the novel, I had assistance from many people: John and Sherry Garner, Sherry Johnston, Robin Robinson, my wonderful wife Dr. Charlotte Hughes, Myra Singleton Johnson, Mutt Suttles, and Marilyn Parker. You all share in this award. Thank you once again.

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, there will be no live awards ceremony in Miami this year. That's a shame, but understandable. I'll try my best to win another award in the future!

POUNDING THE KEYS – A WAR WITH GOD

[Pounding The Keys is a regular feature about my current novel in progress.]



BEFORE 1

Once *The Great Brain Robbery* was published, I took a three-month break from writing. I've been working pretty hard for the last four years and needed to let my fingers rest while I considered my writing future.

During that time, I gutted and remodeled our guest bath, along with a few other projects. (There's nothing like construction to set your subconscious free to think about other things.) Here are the Before and After pictures. It's hard to get a good photo in a small space, but hopefully, you can tell that I did a little work. 😊



AFTER 1



Yeah, I went ever so slightly overboard with the trim. I'll cut back a bit when I remodel the other rooms.

Winning an international award is a great way to get inspired to write again! I have returned to the keyboard and my science fiction work in progress, *A War With God*. Darren Foster, a middle-aged software engineer, wakes up to find himself dead, but death doesn't seem to be quite what he expected. He soon discovers that life and death and Earth and the entire cosmos are not quite what he expected. Well, not even remotely what he expected.



But I better stop there. Wouldn't want to give it away! Look for *A War With God* late in 2020. I hope. But 2020 hasn't exactly been predictable so far.

JUST FOR FUN

[Writer's jokes. Something to make you smile.]

Why don't escaped convicts make good writers?

Because they never finish their sentences

A hungry lion was roaming through the jungle looking for something to eat.

He came across two men. One was sitting under a tree reading a book; the other was typing away on his typewriter. The lion quickly pounced on the man reading the book and devoured him. Even the king of the jungle knows that readers digest and writers cramp.

I told my old classmate at our 10-year reunion that I'm a writer. "Oh yeah?" he asks. "Have you sold anything yet?"

I said, "Sure. My house, my car, and all my stuff."

A writer died and was given the option of going to heaven or hell.

She decided to check out each place first. As the writer descended into the fiery pits, she saw row upon row of writers chained to their desks in a steaming sweatshop. As they worked, they were repeatedly whipped with thorny lashes.

"Oh my," said the writer. "Let me see heaven now."

A few moments later, as she ascended into heaven, she saw rows of writers chained to their desks in a steaming sweatshop. As they worked, they, too, were whipped with thorny lashes.

"Wait a minute," said the writer. "This is just as bad as hell!"

"Oh no, it's not," replied an unseen voice. "Here, your work gets published."

What's the difference between a park bench and a writer?

A park bench can support a family.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

[For the first five issues of my newsletter, I will feature one of my previously published novels, discussing where the idea came from and how it developed.]

The Blast From the Past for this issue is my first science fiction novel, Killing Rhinos.

On the prison planet Agrilot, monstrous creatures randomly burst from the ground, ready to kill for no reason. The gigantic, blood-thirsty monsters slaughter humans with a large serrated horn that protrudes from the front of the animal's head, a head as big as a grown man.

The creatures are nicknamed Rhinos, though Jack Wheat does not understand why. According to the Earth books in the library, the handful of books that came on the freighter before the prison planet was abandoned by Earth, a rhinoceros is as tame as a cat compared to a Rhino.

Jack is a professional Rhino hunter. He walks, no, runs into the face of death, braving danger after danger to track and kill Rhinos for a living. The government pays well if you survive. And, so far, Jack has survived. In fact, he is the greatest active hunter as the opening scene of the novel unfolds. But Jack harbors a secret he cannot afford to have anyone discover, not even, Sheffie Jarrett, the woman he loves.

And Agrilot harbors even more secrets, both below the surface of the planet and far above.

Crazy Mac, an old hermit who lives at a desert oasis and a confidant of Jack's, discovers the secret below ground. Much to Jack's dismay, the secret above the planet comes looking for him.

Then there are the problems on the planet's surface itself. More than one. But enough. If you don't already know the story, I won't spoil it for you.

Jack Wheat started hunting and killing the monstrous creatures called Rhinos way back in the 1970s, at least in my head. So these creatures were bursting from the ground long before the string of sci-fi/horror movies with the same concept. I guess I should have written faster. 😊

Unlike my other books, I'm not sure what triggered this story. Maybe I knew at one time, but it floated around in my head for so many decades I've forgotten. The really good thing is Jack and Sheffie and Crazy Mac got out of my head and quit bothering me once the book was published. Mostly, Jack has popped up from time-to-time talking about a sequel. I tell him to leave me alone, that I've got too many books to write now. But he's getting more and more insistent. We'll have to see how convincing he can be.

Killing Rhinos

354 Pages

Formats:

eBook \$2.99

Paperback \$15.95

Available for free to Kindle Unlimited subscribers

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0721L1989>

Average Ratings:

7 Amazon ratings – ***** 4.8 out of 5 stars

6 Goodreads ratings – ***** 4.17 out of 5 stars

***NOTE: KILLING RHINOS eBOOK IS ON SALE FOR 99 CENTS UNTIL JULY 14th! ***

Thank you for reading my newsletter,

[Herb Hughes](#)

While my novels are receiving great reviews and comments, as well as international awards, I need your help to spread the word. PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ALONG TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY. Please ask them to do the same. Thank you.

If you would like to receive my newsletters, please send your name and email address to either: herb@tennesseeyankeenovel.com or herbhughes1994@att.net.

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