

Full Author's Notes

From

Rebirth, Book 5

The Ascension Myth

Author Notes - Ell Leigh Clarke

July 23rd, 2017

Hi Ascenders!

So I've just read MA's Author notes, and I have a few things to ~~correct~~ respond to.

Dr. Genius.

Ok, so MA has picked up on something that may or may not have been there... How that conversation *actually* went was more like:

Ellie, having told MA that she collapsed at the gym and was feeling ill again, made some comment about how Dr. Genius had suggested interval training.

MA: Oh so he's in the dog house now?

Ellie: I collapsed! Yes, he is.

(Beat)

Ok, in his defence, by interval training he probably meant different heights on the treadmill. Not 30 minutes of running and then 20 minutes of kick boxing.

Two days later...

MA: So how's Doctor Genius?

Ellie: I dunno. I haven't had another appointment.

MA: So he's still Dr. Genius, or has he been reverted back to Dr. Awesome?

>>> It seems MA has decided there is a sliding scale:

Dr Awesome – the guy, as he is normally.

Dr. Genius – his name when Ellie does something stupid like kick boxing too soon and suffers consequences.

Dr. Google - When MA looks up Ellie's symptoms and makes a diagnosis from Google.

[MA - WAIT A MINUTE, I don't think I'm the one was looking up the symptoms! You could barely get your head off a pillow, and I'm supposed to take the fall for your memory now, too?]

[ELLIE – I couldn't lift my head off of the pillow, YOU were the one Googling!]

And he now has one more name that the Author's Editor came up with:

Jen: your Doctor sounds hilarious.

Ellie: Yeah. And he's CUTE.

Jen: BONUS. Hahaha, we should call him Dr. Hotsome...

Ellie of course realises that this is becoming so embarrassing she needs to just get the hell better so she doesn't need a doctor anymore.

* * *

Speaking of fun and amusement, one of the other things we (MA and I) have been up to is getting a submission in for South by South West (SXSW) – the conference for creatives.

Under my alter ego as a maverick entrepreneur I ran a Think Tank at the beginning of this year called: Storytelling for Social Profit. Basically it was a conference, with a Think Tank attached to it, where we posed the questions: how do we make the world a better place? And then how do we effectively weave this into a badass story?

Several weeks ago one of the Think Tank experts suggested we submit a panel to SXSW, based on this project.

Ellie: Yeah. Great idea. (Silently thinking what a baaaaaad idea it is given she can't even get up out of bed most days.)

Two weeks later... chin wagging with MA on one of our long rambling calls, Ellie explains the idea, and then finds herself suggesting MA makes up the fourth person. "Because look at all the awesome story shit you do, top 100 author... It will be a blast."

MA agrees.

3 days before the deadline...

Ellie: shit. Guess I should get something pulled together.

Emails her panellists to get bios, and inside leg measurements.

1 day before the deadline... with half of the Rebirth Manuscript still waiting to be punched up to be sent to Jen, having pulled our release date forward by 4 days (because MA is competitive! #justsayin')...

Ellie crawls out of bed at 8am (unheard of normally), puts on makeup, does hair, and records a sequence of narrative videos to insert between sample clips.

That was Friday.

Ellie worked on solidly the whole afternoon and evening, in order to turn around both the

application/ video and Rebirth... on the same frikkin day.

Jen 'Editor-Extraordinaire' McDonnell then stayed up till nearly 2am to edit the rest of the MS so we could get it to the JITers for Saturday morning. Phew.

Regarding the SXSU application, I may, if MA agrees, share the link with you when it goes out to the public vote... My reason for this is four-fold:

1. We need the votes in order to get selected.
2. I'd like to share some of what we're working on in the background to help impact the world as writers.
3. We've got an awesome clip of MA doing his speaking thing... and he manages to drop both and f-bomb (or more) AND says motherfucker, in like a 5 minute clip. He's HILARIOUS.
4. I regard the TKG community as my friends... and I know MA does too. Heck, at this point we're practically family. And I just want to share this other part of what we're doing with the family.

When that goes live, I'll ping you an update... either through the next author notes or on the fb page.

www.facebook.com/elleighclarke

Ok, back to all things Kurtherian. Massive thanks must go to Jen for accomplishing such a short turn around, last into the night, and with a cheeriness.

I would also like to thank the incredible JIT team, and Zen-Steve their coordinator, for their incredible efforts so we don't embarrass ourselves with school girl errors.

I'd also like to thank my Icelandic friend, Trausti Traustason again for checking the Icelandic cussing and grammar. You da bomb, man. Thank you.

And of course, massive thanks must go to my long-suffering Yoda, without whom none of this would be possible. Dude, I know take the *micky* (look it up) something rotten, but you're the best. Thank you for the encouragement, the enthusiasm, the piss taking, and the constant stream of Slack messages. And I'm sorry your plan to get your fans asking for Molly book 5 backfired, and resulted in them asking you for BA book 18 in your reviews. That was them. I had nothing to do with it... and just laughed away in the corner when I saw what was happening. :)

Bwahahahahahahaha....

I'd also like to say a massive thank you to you, the readers, the fans and the reviewers. Your reviews and interaction with us are a CONSTANT source of encouragement and

entertainment. Seriously, when there is a lull in a conversation what often happens is: “did you see so and so’s review...”. Or: “Lemme go check the 5* reviews.” Or: “Dude, one of your fans messaged me to check your Darkest Night reviews and....”

You’re the best. So *thank you!*

(P.S. I’ve been hearing you’re making other authors jealous!)

Michael and Competition

MA: Dammit Ellie.

Ellie: What?

MA: you’re making me up my game with the formatting of my fucking author notes now!

Ellie: (blink blink)

Michael and Admin Rights

I just wanted to close the loop on this one. You may have seen on fb some discussions about how MA has full admin rights to post on my page, and I have practically no admin rights to post on his.

It has fast become my conclusion that even though this is drastically unfair (mostly from the perspective of wanting to wield equal opportunities to write sneaky, entertaining posts) this has been filed under “never going to happen.”

Along with the other 997 things that I thought would be a good idea.

So that’s the loop closed.

Sigh.

[Edit - MA - Wow, I didn’t realize a British Lady could create a full-on pout in text.]

Michael and Language

Ok, so I’m sure it’s not just me being English that has trouble understanding some of what MA is talking about half the time. Here are three phrases he uses that kinda confused the heck out of me.

“Out of pocket”: Ok, so this always gets me, because in the rest of the world this means to lose money on a business transaction. MA however uses it when he’s being asked for things, or hasn’t done something. So I had to go look it up. Turns out that it’s an old (read: OLD, old... two generations back, old) Southern expression for “out of communication”.

Like who the hell is going to know that?

And besides, in the olden days weren’t they always out of communication? I mean, they

didn't have cell phones, or whatsapp, or fb. So why would they have a word to describe their constant state?!

“A ways out...”: This is one of those like math/ maths. I kinda figured it out from context, but just makes me stop and think every time I hear it. Yep, MA, that's the glazed look I have when I'm trying to translate. Normally unrelated to the context of the conversation! ;)

“Oh snap”: Yep. This one had me completely baffled. And it was during a joust on the fb page. I had to wait until he could explain what was actually going on...I couldn't figure out from the Urban dictionary definition if he was supporting *me*, or the *other* guy.

It turned out the boys were ganging up on me.

Sigh.

* * *

So during one of our many arguments heated discussions Ellie resigned herself to not getting anywhere with the discussion, and nodded sagely saying: “ok, Michael. Whatever helps you sleep at night.”

MA thought this was hilarious. After he picked himself off the ground laughing, he made a note of it.

He has since used this phrase a total of 7 times... In a fortnight (That's two weeks for non-English-speakers!)

So after the third time, Ellie suggested that even though he found it awesome, maybe he should try a new phrase.

“Besides... it's copying!” she protested.

MA: Yeah but everybody get's something from somewhere. Otherwise you wouldn't even be able to speak!

(Edit: you can't fault his logic!)

Ellie: Yeah, but you're using it all the time. And out of context...

[Michael Edit – LAME!]

* * *

Hey Michael, did you get that bio and stuff pulled together ok? I want to submit our SXSW application today.

MA: whaaa? Yes. Er no. Hang on.

(Scuffling on the line as he searches for the email.)

MA: ah yes, but... (*Pulls up email to see what he needs to do*)... It's your fault I didn't do it yet... Those two links you sent me were hilarious. I started reading through them and at 2am I'm still there going through them laughing my ass off.

Ellie: Squirrels. Rave.

MA: *You're* the one that's sending *me* squirrels in my slack channel!!!

Ellie: you didn't have to read them. And you are allowed to prioritise.

MA: whatever helps you sleep at night.

Ellie: dude - that doesn't even make sense!

* * *

One last one. I was talking with MA relating communication with Dr. Awesome where he was discussing his reading The Ascension Myth books. (*Michael Edit - remember to read Ellie's part in a British accent.*)

Dr. Awesome: I've been reading your books. They're like talking to you in person, only dirtier.

Ellie: I could talk dirty to you in person, but I'd be worried about your medical license.

Author Notes - Michael Anderle

July 23rd, 2017

First, let me say what a pleasure it is for me to type the following phrase: “Thank you for not only reading this book... But, reading it ALL the way to the end and NOW, reading my Author Notes as well.”

;-)

Second, I know what you are really here for. You want to see what kind of mischief that Ell has been doing to me, lately. You are wondering what the Padawan could possibly be doing that befuddles the Yoda.

In a word? Everything (sharing later).

First, she was sick, lacking energy, falling off weight machines over in Los Angeles as she tried to get back to a normal life every time she had an erg of energy. Then, she would rail against Dr. Awesome depending on how little energy she had.

Personally, I think it had to do with how bad the caffeine withdrawals went and whether the doc realized just how out of life the prescribed regimen was sending my collaborator.

Then, Dr. Awesome became Dr. Genius. Now, you might think this was a step up for the good Doctor - but not so much. It seems with a British accent; you can REALLY make “*genius*” sound like a negative. I figured if the doc kept up with the lack of caffeine, he might get renamed Dr. Google.

As in, his doctor certificate was going to get relegated to second place behind (Ell edit: MA!) Googling for the answers. ;-)

(Michael edit to Ellie’s Edit: I don’t think so... I’m not the research scientist who knows all sorts of stuff, and goes out to confirm everything. That’s the scientist in you.)

Don’t worry if you don’t understand that comment, the right person will LOL.

Finally, she had a sort of good day, and wonder-padawan started acting normal. Which is to say that she started doing more than looking out at the world as something you went and did something in, instead of watching go by as you laid on the bed or couch.

Then, shit got real.

She had two or three days of success with energy after about three weeks of nothing. Her efforts to catch up started producing results and now it was my turn to go ‘oh shit, she’s going to be done with the story, soon.’

Fuck my life.

I hadn’t realized that the breather I was experiencing was just about to go down the tubes.

Perfect Padawan was about to start firing on all caffeine cylinders again (she moved herself to that mom coffee stuff which has less caffeine, and you could tell she was starting to run on premium once again and then I think she moved to something slightly stronger.)

So, my hats off to Ell Leigh Clarke as she went through a freaking horrible time in her life, and yet she has accomplished something short of miraculous that I’m going to mention here.

I’m writing this on July 23rd, 2017. Our fourth book (which is mostly Ell’s efforts. We work on beats, a few major character choices and some emotional stuff) was released on July 5th, 2017.

For those who are eagle-eyed mathematicians, you will catch that SANCTIONED (book 04) was released just 19 days before we release book 05 REBIRTH. Ell had already been writing book 05 while book 04 went through editing, so she had a small jump on the books before she went through physical hell for a while, but that is NOTHING on the fact that she fucking did it.

She released her fifth book in 19 days and I couldn’t smile more for her accomplishment and I would like to be very clear.

REBIRTH is *Ell’s* awesome accomplishment. She will say “ours” and to a point, it is. BUT, I want to make sure that our readers understand the Padawan deserves so much credit for the amazing results.

Right now, SANCTIONED is still a top 1,000 book in the Amazon store (#819 as I type this riding in the car from Austin to Dallas-Fort Worth) and has over 100 reviews (109).

Simply awesome!

Having said that, I can *ALREADY* hear those fans of mine saying “Well, what the hell is up with you, Michael?”

I’m glad you asked ;-)

I released Forever Defend on July 1st, 2017. Since then, four books have been released with collaborators including:

#2) Sanctioned (July 5th – Ell Leigh Clarke)

#3) Born Into Flames (July 7th – Justin Sloan)

#4) Shades of Dark (July 10th – Justin Sloan)

#5) The Arcadian Druid (July 19th – Candy Crum)

There are 4 more books due this month, including:

#6) Rebirth (July 24th – Ell Leigh Clarke)

#7) Storm Callers (July 26th – PT Hylton)

#8) Nomad's Force (July 28th – Craig Martelle)

AND – One more book, but in fact this is a whole NEW UNIVERSE.

#9) Quest For Magic – (July 31st – Martha Carr)

Before I explain MORE about what is going on, I want to say “I get it.” I get that for many of you, it isn't about the other story lines. Many of you would rather I get the next book for Bethany Anne out sooner. However, I chose to bring more authors into the fold (such as Ell) and frankly, I have to take time from Peter to pay Paul.

Here are my personal desires, and how they play out for the future of The Kurtherian Gambit, my own stories, and the collaborations with other authors.

BETHANY ANNE

She is the one that ALL of the Kurtherian Gambit revolves around (for better, or worse.) Right now, we have the following authors writing stories in the Kurtherian Gambit (In order of appearance):

1. Michael Anderle
2. Paul C. Middleton
3. Justin Sloan
4. Craig Martell
5. Natalie Grey
6. CM Raymond / LE Barbant
7. Ell Leigh Clarke
8. PT Hylton
9. Candy Crum

Here are the authors we are shepherding through to bring new series to you:

1. Amy Hopkins (AOM)
2. Brandon Barr (AOM)
3. Amy DuBoff (AOE)
4. JN Chaney (AOE)
5. Holly Dodd (Ethereic Empire)
6. Hayley Lawson (Age of Madness)
7. Tommy Donbonvand (AOE)

ORICERAN

Now, let's add the Oriceran Universe (more on this later):

1. Martha Carr
2. SM Boyce
3. Abby-Lynn Knorr
4. Flint Maxwell
5. Sarah Noffke

AUDIO

We are producing audio for EVERY Kurtherian Gambit / Oriceran series we have in production. So, that is a large overhead of effort.

AUDIO for Other Authors

We have four authors running through LMBPN Publishing which we only do Audio for.

COVERS

I'm involved in every cover setup (I allow the collaborators to project manage, but I'm part of the discussions. This includes models, costumes, concepts etc.

BILLS

I have to make sure everyone gets paid.

NEW AUTHORS

We (Craig, CM Raymond & LE Barbant, Martha Carr and myself) are working to bring the authors on board (new, support, etc.)

SOCIAL

I try to stay up to date on our Facebook efforts and whoever reaches out to me.

TRANSLATIONS

We are working to bring about German Translations if possible (test going well so far).

EMAIL

I do all of the emails announcing new books.

Plus, all of the support for some other authors that I do ad hoc. Now, I don't do all of this myself as Stephen Campbell is a big part of doing a LOT with this and I haven't even started to say thank you to the JIT readers, other service providers we use for website / layout / art / editing etc. we work with, communicate with and everything else that goes on to make producing these stories and getting them out to your wonderful reading hands every month..

So, I'm not personally surprised that my book dates are slipping a little. It is going to happen, unfortunately.

I just promise that I WILL complete Bethany Anne's story (21 books), Michael's story (4 books) either by the end of this year (2017) or early 2018 barring something unforeseen.

Then, I will plot out Bethany Anne's next series.

Personally, I derive a huge amount of pleasure from the success of others, and specifically my collaborators. When I see the excitement and joy they receive having busted a new record for themselves by writing with me, I'm personally damned happy.

Now, I have to admit that perhaps a little, just a little, I might be particularly pleased with Ell's success because.

She:

1. Had not read a fiction book since she was 12.
2. Was focused in a completely different area (Internet Marketing, personal success, some recent work on Story with screen writers) when she and I first spoke.
3. The Ascension Myth Series has brought NEW readers into The Kurtherian Gambit Universe. They read TAM and from there, go on to discover the other stories, including Bethany Anne.
4. Her series is a huge success, and STAYS a success. Her Facebook group is rocking it with readers speaking with her all of the time.
5. She trusted me blindly (perhaps not the most prudent decision on the face of it), but it paid off when we went with a character that 'didn't have it all' and frankly, some worried her brokenness would turn off readers.

6. She is a scientist type person to whom I can throw sciency stuff and not only does she answer the questions, I actually understand what she is saying. That is a talent, that's all I'm saying.

Now, let's chat about a few "WTF?" moments with our favorite British author.

That's Not Me!

You might remember in the Sanctioned Author Notes how Ell coned me into allowing her to edit my author notes, and add some of her comments. In one of those comment adds, she made it sound as if I was going to give the wrong impression to the readers related to how often she curses.

Yet, she typed out a 'fucking' *RIGHT* in the line about not cursing!

I keep laughing about that to this day so here is...

Ellie's Reputation, Part II

Ellie: Fuck, fuck, fucking fuck...

Mike: And you wrote in my author notes that you don't cuss all the time.

Ellie: I hope you don't give me a bad rep in these next author notes.

Mike: <No Pause> You mean telling the *truth*???

Gnom Nom's (The Alien Race)

So, we were working on creating aliens a few weeks ago, needing names for some bad-ass guys. One of these names is "Gnom nom's"

Well, Ellie has a way of talking when she likes (whatever) food she is eating or talking about. She does this...

Ellie: Oh, but the food is so good! Nom nom nom...

Mike: You know that has become a fucking alien race now, right?

Passive Aggressive

So, Ellie and I are talking and I make some comment that leads Ellie to say "I'm passive aggressive." (Ellie edit: *being*. I said *being*. I'm not inherently any kind of aggressive!) (Michael edit to Ellie edit. *This is so wrong!*)

I happened to believe that was an incorrect description of herself and said this:

Mike: You are not passive aggressive...

Mike: You are aggressive aggressive.

Mike: For you to be passive, is like a sniper who is passive, until he shoots you.

Needless to say, she thought this was hilarious (and accurate by my estimation.)

Ways to get Michael to Write Nothing.

A week ago, I flew out of town to Phoenix to provide a handoff on a project that was my 'last' non-publishing / writing job. That evening, after a long day and flights etc. I'm in my hotel room and for whatever reason, Ellie is thinking it is a good idea to send me two links to funny stuff. Now, Ellie has already given me shit for having the attention span of a squirrel at a rave... And yet, she sends me two links for 'fun':

<http://www.boredpanda.com/best-parenting-tweets-2017/>

<http://www.boredpanda.com/american-british-cultural-differences-confusion/>

Not the worst, but the problem is boredpanda.com is one of those websites which has so much click bait, it is crack for your mind.

So, I'm stuck in a damned hotel room with highly questionable internet speed and I see an awesome picture of a World War II base / island that was talking about secret stuff. Now, I'm already a sucker for anything that is related to conspiracy theories and I'm off to go see about these 30 bases.

Those 30 bases are 1 PAGE EACH. Over a slow-assed internet connection downloading HUGE pages of ads...

Each picture has maybe two sentences describing what it is (nothing in depth) and it is taking me longer than a minute to get through each page.

No more taking me to task when you send me the invite to the rave, Clarke!

