

**Full Author's Notes**

**From**

**Retribution, Book 6**

**The Ascension Myth**

# Author Notes - Ell Leigh Clarke

August 27th, 2017

As always I'd like to thank the Yoda for his unwavering support and encouragement - especially through my health being sub-par these last few months. His pep talks, chin wags (and even posting on the fb page) have meant the world to me. As you can probably gather from these notes and on the fb page, we have a laugh - and that is what makes the work not just doable, but fun.

It was Yoda's idea to go and sign up at the co-working space, WeWork, to get me out of the apartment and interacting with people again. It was he who encouraged me to go buy a piano to help balance out the writing part of my brain. When I couldn't figure out how to have caffeine without crashing, he helped me figure out the decaff to half caff ratio.

It feels like every time I have a problem, or I'm just too tired or I'm feeling stuck, he's there to solve the problem and to make everything ok again. And when I'm excited about new story lines, or something cool that has happened, he's always there to add to the giggles. (And take an Author Note to tease me about later). Thank you Yoda. You're like my fairy godmother... partner in crime, and best friend all rolled into one.

(No doubt he'll have something to say about the fairy godmother reference - but I'm sure everyone else understands what I mean.)

I would also like to thank the rock star JIT team, and Zen-Steve their coordinator, for their incredible efforts in catching typos and story-flaws. Thanks also to Jen McDonnell for her incredible support and her editing skills.

We work on incredibly short turnaround times and yet she's still able to pull a rabbit out of the hat every time. She's even taken over fielding a bunch of the JIT corrections for me too, which today alone has allowed Yoda and I to plot out three new books. Thank you!

I'd also like to thank my Icelandic friend, Trausti Traustason this time for creating an audio file to help our narrator pronounce the Icelandic in Book 1. Dude, you're a life saver. I had no idea what to tell her when those words appeared on our list of things she wanted to clarify!

Massive thank yous must also go to everyone who also took the trouble to Up Vote us on

our SXSW proposed panel. We'll keep you posted with what happens with that, but for those who didn't see, we submitted a panel where we would talk about the power of story to change the world.

I took a peek at a bunch of the other proposals and none of the others I looked at had anything near the levels of support you guys gave us with your shares and comments. Thank you sooooo much! <3

And last, but by no means least, gratitude bombs must also go to you, the fans, for reading, awesome reviewing, and leaving your kind words on the 'Zon. Your enthusiasm and interaction both on the 'Zon and the fb pages keep us writing - for so many reasons. Thank you!

### **Ellie and Dr. Mojito**

As you may have seen on the fb page, the Author got referred for a couple of root canals, having had a filling fall out recently.

Arriving at new practice, she was greeted by the receptionist and talked through a form. For some strange reason she started telling the Author about how the Doctor was really good at making mojito. The Author cannot recall how on earth this came into the conversation.

Anyway, it was mentioned, and after the promise of Mojitos at some point one Friday afternoon after an appointment, he henceforth became known between MA and the Author as Dr. Mojito.

### **Ellie vs the Wittering**

[Edit Mike: *What the fuck is Wittering?*]

Have you ever noticed how dentists witter on?

They have their quirks... because well – captive audience. And of course with all the instruments and braces and suction devices in one's mouth, they rarely get any feedback or retorts because their audience can't respond.

Until Ellie...

Dr. Mojito: Oh my god... I've never had a patient who talks back so much!

Ellie: 'ell 'ith all 'is crap in 'y 'outh it 'akes it 'ifficult 'o 'alk.

Dr. Mojito: You seem to manage just fine.

*...Hysterical laughter from Ellie and Mojito's assistant.*

## The Count of Dentistry

I think we agree that root canals can be sucky.

The drugs they give to numb out... not so much. Turns out he may as well be giving me laughing gas.

Of course, Dr. Mojito realized this only too late and ended up giving me an extra shot to make me sleepy (my theory) even though I said the pain wasn't too bad... He said he wanted me feeling nothing at all because he didn't want the Author moving at all.

Ha!

More like he didn't want the Author laughing. Or talking.

Dr. Mojito: (*Counting the teeth he needed to work on*). One two, and then three. See I can count...

(*Ellie edit: see what I mean about the general wittering...?!*)

Dr. Mojito: well, at least to three. I went to school you know.

Pause.

Dr. Mojito: well, 32.

Ellie: why 32?

Dr. Mojito: laughs. Because you have 32 teeth!

Ellie laughs her head off, despite all the instruments in her mouth. Assistant pauses doing whatever she was doing, waiting for laughter to stop.

Mojito stands there waiting with instruments, waiting for Ellie to hold still.

Ellie continues to giggle.

Assistant starts giggle. Still waiting to put instruments her mouth.

Mojito starts laughing...

...

...

Ellie starts to regain her composure.

But then Mojito sniggers, and Ellie's off again.

...

...

...

Five minutes later, still no dentistry is being done.

Through fits of laughter, Mojito calls to the girl on reception: Is there anyone in the waiting room?

Ellie: 'hy?

Mohito: Coz I don't want them hearing this. They'll be wanting some of whatever you've had!

Ellie sets off laughing for another round of giggles.

### **Dental Porn**

So, after 4 hours in the dentist's chair for one tooth, the procedure eventually comes to a close. Dr. Mojito has another x ray taken.

Dr. Mojito: That is a nice root canal.

Ellie: What makes a root canal "nice"? I mean, a root canal is a root canal, right?

Dr. Mojito: No. This is an American root canal. (Having a dig at British dentistry...)

Ellie: (*Not convinced*). Yeah, I don't see it.

Dr. Mojito: Seriously. Look at the curves on this... (*Points at his work*). Rather than this straight line crap. Root canals aren't straight through the tooth like that... (*Points at an existing one, on another tooth on the x ray.*)

Ellie: I bet you guys have websites where you sit admiring root canals at night.

*Dr. Mojito disappears into his office laughing so hard he's crying...*

\* \* \*

### **Ellie and Hot Chocolate Therapy**

Ok, so there's the guy who works in the café on site where I live.

Several months ago, when I first moved in, I was in there, and I needed things like the wifi password. I had problems understanding him. He's one of these guys that is too cool to speak properly... He gives the impression that it's cool to mumble.

You know the type right?

Anyway, I dove in for a latte on my way to the airport this one time, and I needed help with counting out change. I explained, I still haven't got used to your money here yet...

Mumbling guy: Oh you're not from around here.

Ellie: Er. No. Didn't my English accent give it away?

Mumbling guy: No. I just thought you were from North California.

*(Ellie, secretly facepalms in her head, but maintains a polite smile.)*

Ellie: Nope. Definitely from England.

Mumbling guy: Oh! I thought there was **something off about you.**

*(Ellie cannot believe it!)*

Ellie to MA later on: I just...

MA: Yep.

Fast forward to my return from a recent dental appointment.

Ellie goes to get a hot chocolate.

Ellie: Make it as chocolately as you can. I'm suffering.

Mumbling guy: oh why?

Ellie explains about the dental work, hand over her half numb face.

Ellie: also, I think the drugs have made me a little loopy – so it's that. I'm not drunk or anything.

Mumbling guy: Oh, drunk or no, it's no different from how you usually are.

### **Anterior vs ulterior**

As you may have seen we've been involved in pitching a panel to SXSW to discuss how story can be used to change the world. One of the panelists is my friend and story guru, John Truby, (JT). I'd asked him to share what we're doing with his email list, to help us get enough votes in.

He told me all the reasons he didn't want to.

So I offered to write the emails.

Then straight away he said yes. With a grin suggesting it was all a ploy to get *me* to do the work...

So off I went to write a sequence of emails his team could just load up, and I sent them over to him.

A few hours later, I got a message on fb...

JT: I assume the use of the word anterior is a pun you intended?

Ellie: what pun?

*(Getting undressed so she could finally get in the shower, after a morning writing emails).*

JT: the word is ulterior. I thought anterior is a pun on the word auteur.

Ellie: hang on, looking up meaning of auteur.

*(Stands in bathroom half naked, looking up on google on her phone what the word means...)*

***Auteur: a filmmaker whose personal influence and artistic control over a movie are so great that the filmmaker is regarded as the author of the movie.***

Ellie: Oh fuck. That is clever as hell. Put it in italics. ... Yes it was totally deliberate. ;)

JT: Right.

Ellie laughs her ass off...

\* \* \*

Heads up.

As you may have seen at the end of Michael Book 2 there was a section where the Duke hired a scientist to figure out how to kill Michael. Behind the scenes, that was actually MA trying to get Ellie to figure out how it might work.

As a result of this, and a bunch of conversations where MA was complaining about having so much to write and wishing he could have someone help him, we kinda came to the conclusion... why don't I help write the remaining Michael books?

And so it will be. We've already started plotting the last two books and I think I speak for MA as well when I say we're excited about how this is shaping up. MA will keep you posted on time lines but all being well we should have this next book out pretty quickly with the two of us writing in tandem on it.

And I'm sure the Author Note will be fun.

Speaking on Author Notes, we're going to try something out. MA and I on video talking about some of the stuff we'd normally just save for author notes. It may be hilarious. It may be an epic fail. Who knows. What we'll do though is throw the video up on the Lawn Fairies site later this week, and you can let us know. If it works, we'll keep going... and it may even turn into a podcast.

Here's the site: [www.LawnFairies.com](http://www.LawnFairies.com)

The video wont be up right away... but give us till the weekend. We'll also announce on the fb pages too.

Ok. That's it from me. See you soon!

Ex

# Author Notes - Michael Anderle

August 26th, 2017

First, THANK YOU for not only reading this book, but also reading to the end, and my author notes as well!

Second, Sumbitch CLARKE! I really didn't need to finish reading this book, with tears in my eyes (but apparently, you made me do it anyway.)

At the moment, I'm not sure what 'Clarke' is writing in her author notes. Hell, I'm not sure she remembers she has to DO author notes.

*Heh heh heh.*

So, in support of her awesome and emotional rollercoaster ride of a book, I'm going to pull out a few author stories... Ones that I find funny!

*A note to protect the (mostly) innocent. Ell has been to the dentist 3-4 times for root canals, and has been "messed up" most Friday/Saturdays since the last book.*

## **#WeWereTalkingAWhile...**

So, I think the setup for this is we had been talking a while, and I (probably) said something that caused her to ... well, hell if I know. Anyway, here is the next few sentences:

Ellie: I should probably stop talking, now.

*Then, she doesn't stop talking and continues on as if she didn't make that comment at all.*

She notices me making a face...

Ellie: What?

Mike: Hopes dashed.

Ellie: Can you see me flipping you off? (In the English version 1.0 way)

## **#DuelingDoctors**

*Ellie becomes super excited on the Zoom talk.*

Ellie: Tomorrow I get high again...

Mike: *(Completely confused, pauses talking)* ... Come again?

Ellie: I get to go see Dr. Mojito (a dentist)... Wait, don't write that - Dr. Awesome will get jealous...

Mike: Oh *HELL* yeah... (Laughing as he types up the note.)

### **#EllieIsHigh...IThink**

Ellie is talking about a way to use Scrivener that I suggested.

Mike: Do you want to show me your screen?

Ellie: Yes, wait no - you might want to copy my work.

Mike: I'll think I'll put my name on it anyway

Ellie *kills* herself laughing.

<Ellie has had little sleep (which perhaps explains the maniacal laughter)>

Ellie: You've already done that (that which I copied above) I don't think you are allowed to do that.

Mike: Why not?

Ellie: There should be some terms and conditions to these author notes!

Mike: No.

Ellie: Hashtag IndieOutlaw - *Don't you fucking regulate me.* (More maniacal laughter).

### **#CaliforniaIsGreat-ButItIsn'tAllAmericans**

For Ellie - Trying to be modest, Ellie calls it being "British"

Then, she goes on 'talk' how everyone here is American (not British), and obviously we must not *do* modest.

Ellie: My experience is you don't.

Mike: You are in California; Californians are genetically predisposed to not be modest.

*(I've lived in California (Lake Arrowhead, Orange County, Family in Los Angeles) and I've met very humble people, but it is much more rare to find them in LA - just saying.)*

### **#EllieIsAnnoyedThatImFocusedOnSomething**

So, I'm focused on something relevant, and Ellie believes I'm not paying attention to whatever she was discussing. In her passive-aggressive style, she says...

Ellie: "Hi my name is Michael Anderle and I have a squirrel addiction."

Mike: *bitch!*

Then, after our laughter dies down and I explain how I was actually paying attention to the conversation, (but whatever)... I say:

Mike: I'm not sure I actually said 'bitch.'

Ellie: You *did*.

Mike: Well, at least I'm consistent.

Ellie: (Absolutely NO pause) We call that *unimaginative*.

Mike: (pause)... *bitch!*

*cue more maniacal laughter.*

### **#MikeDoesntDoEnglishShows**

So, I'm working in the kitchen and Joey Anderle pops in (before he left for college). He notices that I'm on a conference video call with "British Lady" and he waves. Then, I share with him one of the headphones I'm using and he starts talking with Ell Leigh Clarke.

Then, they go off on some tangent about shows that I've got no clue about. Joey then asks British Lady a question.

Joey: What do you think about the new Doctor? (Doctor Who)

Ellie: ...The female?

Ellie: Well, I don't know I haven't seen her act yet.

Joey: You haven't seen Black Mirror? You know, the BBC series.

Ell: No...

*Half a second pause...*

Joey: (Deadpan) You fake British person.

### **#EllStillCusses**

Ell is on Zoom, a version of Skype (Video Call). I'm showing her three fingers (as in, I counted something three times.) If you read Ell's comment's with a British Accent, it is ALL the more humorous...

E: What is that?

M: Three fingers, you said fucking 3 times in one paragraph.

E: I don't have a problem with that.

M: But, you don't want to be seen as cussing.

E: I just want to be fairly represented.

M: If anything, I underrepresent your cussing!

See, just for the record, I'm being nice to her and her potty mouth problem!

### **#EllieIsMolly**

So, she is explaining a problem she had with the first visit to the dentist, where she is tipped backwards and spends two hours "needing to pee."

Then, when she can finally get out of the chair, and expects to make a dash to the restroom, suddenly there is no need.

Well, this causes her to wonder about this situation and looks at it from an engineers (designers) perspective. She figures out if you were going to put a sensor in the bladder, where is the obvious location?

Ellie: So, I figure the sensor is at the top of the bladder! So, when when the doctor tips the chair back down, the sensor isn't tripped anymore.

Mike: That is such a Molly comment.

Mike: *I have* to write this in the author notes.

### **#GeekIsWhatIDo**

So, Ellie is at WeWork in Los Angeles, stickers all over her laptop (Dr. Who quote, Tardis sticker etc.) AND she is wearing a t-shirt with six spaceships on it (Millennium Falcon, U.S.S. Enterprise, Serenity, Planet Express, Tardis, Battlestar Galactica) with the caption "Choose Your Spaceship."

She explains she had a moment where she realizes for her whole life, she has been this geek, feeling like she was one of the fringe.

Now, she is a science-fiction author. It all makes sense and being geek *IS HER WORK*.

How cool is that?

### **#ItsFuckingHotInLA**

So, we are trying to get through a scene or something and it's August in Los Angeles (So, hot!)

Ellie: I have to go close the door, one second. (She leaves.)

Ellie: (She gets back) Sorry, but I have to close the door because I was causing too much noise.

Mike: What, are you a #PartyAnimal that your neighbors are complaining?

Ellie: No, I'm talking with you.

Mike: (thinking to himself) *How the fuck does someone talk to loud they bother the neighbors?*

### **#MichaelIsCynical**

Ellie is commenting that she often feels she doesn't know the world much better than "9 year old her." I make some comment that perhaps, just perhaps, I might have a clue at 50'ish.

Ellie: Do you feel like you have your view of the world sorted?

Mike: Gives 2 examples...

Ellie: So you use cynicism as a way of imposing order on your world?

Mike: Well, it sounds messed up when you say it that way.

Ellie: That's an author note... Write it up, bitch.

### **#PhysicistDoesntKnowEverything**

Mike is talking about something, and spouts some numbers and something else that sounds like it's sciency.

Ellie: Look, Physicists don't know everything... And that whole thing about being able to do math in our heads? It's also *not* true.

Mike: Ellie, you are fucking up my world view.

Ellie: It's ok, it needs a reality check.

So ends the Author Notes from books 05 and 06 (some of those didn't make it into the last book.) THANK YOU for supporting what we do, because we can't do it without *YOU* reading!