

Full Author's Notes

From

Cloaked, Book 7

The Ascension Myth

Author Notes - Ell Leigh Clarke

September 17, 2017

Thank yous!

As always massive thanks must go to Yoda/ MA for his constant support. A lot goes into producing and publishing these books and he deals with all of it – some of which can be emotionally draining and stressful. I'd like to acknowledge him for his endless patience and persistence even while he's flying around the country fielding all manner of responsibilities. Thank you Yoda.

Uber thanks must also go to our awesome JIT team and Zen-Steve. Because of tight time-scales and conflicting schedules, they received this manuscript (version 1) unedited. I'm immensely grateful to them all for their hard work in turning this around and making it happen in time for our deadline.

I was also mega impressed by Steve Campbell's optimization of the process. I managed to restrain myself from putting in the slack channel that his new tweak to the process was sexy.

Oops. So I guess I wrote it here instead.

Oh well. ;)

[EDIT Michael: Hahahahahaha! I wonder if Steve will read this? THEN I wonder, if you read this Steve, will you add your OWN comment to this?]

[EDIT Steve: Oh crap - How did I get roped into this??? I'm calling this 'sexy' new optimization tweak the George Clooney process. Big thanks to Kelly O'Donnell and John Findlay for playing the role of George Clooney for this one.]

And as always, I owe a debt of gratitude to you the reader, who reads the stories (sometimes more than once!), writes the five-star reviews, and provides an endless source of encouragement over on the Facebook page. I cannot explain to you what a boost it is to hit the Facebook page in the morning or during writing breaks and see your comments, your jokes, and your interaction with the random stuff I post.

You keep me writing.

Without you, these stories would not be told.

Thank you.

Additionally, I'd like to thank everyone who voted for us for the SXSW panel. We haven't heard anything back yet, but looking at the number of likes, comments and shares, we certainly out-did the competition on that front. And it was thanks to you! Whether we get selected or not, I know that we (which includes you) did everything possible to stack the odds in our favor. The rest it up to the judges now. I'll keep you posted.

Thank you for supporting us in all the ways you do!

Dr. Mojito continued...

So, there I am, midway through another root canal.

(You may ask why so much dental work. Nope – it's not because I eat sugar or sugary drinks. Turns out these root canals and fillings were done so badly in the UK that lots of work is required to get me back to normal. Sucks for me.)

Dr. Mojito: do you know what this is, dear?

Ellie: (mouth open, full of instruments, sees him holding a threatening look syringe) 'o. 'hat?

Dr. Mojito: chloroform.

Ellie: (gasps.)

Dr. Mojito: It's okay. I'm just using it to break down some of the filling.

Ellie: 'o, it's coz you 'ant 'o 'op me giggling...

Dr. Mojito: Hahahahhaa. Yes. This is true. Here, let me give you another injection.

Ellie: (tries to smack him but misses).

Later, to MA...

Ellie: You know Dr. Mojito gave me chloroform today!

MA: Sounds like he's trying to find a way to sedate you that actually might work.

Ellie: Hey! I wouldn't be laughing if no one else was messing about.

* * *

Healed

The last couple of root canals it seemed like the Author may need to take an antibiotic, something she tries to avoid if at all possible. But each time she walked in the week following the risky work, and Mojito asked about infection and antibiotic, here's how the conversations went:

First time...

Mojito: Any swelling?

Ellie: A little, for a couple of days.

Mojito: Did you take the antibiotic?

Ellie: (shakes head) I didn't need it.

Mojito: How come?

Ellie: I healed it.

Mojito: (frowning) How?

Ellie: I stopped eating sugar and sent it nice thoughts.

Mojito: (frowning even more). Seriously?

Ellie nods.

Mojito: (grunts and grumbles) Well, okay. Let's have a look.

Second time...

Mojito: Any swelling?

Ellie: A little, for a couple of days.

Mojito: Did you take the antibiotic?

Ellie: (shakes head) I didn't need it.

Mojito: Why not?

Ellie: I stopped eating sugar and sent it nice thoughts.

Mojito: **Can you please stop healing it?** I want to get a read on how good my work is!

Ellie: (collapses into a giggling fit which spread to whole staff).

Plus, for some reason, his brother (another dentist) came in to say "Hi" while I had my mouth full of metal instruments. The author was perplexed, but was later informed it had something to do with her laugh.

(Update: Ellie is still puzzled, but this week Mojito asked her if she wanted his brother to finish the last tooth).

* * *

Dental Porn 2.0

So, there we are sitting looking at x-rays and Mojito is admiring his work.

As he does.

Ellie: You know, I told my friends about the dental porn.

Mojito: (laughing) Really? You told them about the curves and dental porn?

Random consultant shows up at the door to speak to Mojito, mouth open, eavesdropping, and laughing — probably wondering what he’s walked in on.

* * *

Keto Dramas

I’m sure you’ll be hearing more about this over the next few podcasts we record (and when MA actually gets started with it) but here’s what’s happened so far.

Last time MA and I were actually in the same room was a while ago at a writing conference. He and another author were talking about wanting to get into a certain type of good-looking jeans and made a pact to work on it: i.e., lose weight so that next conference they could be looking ‘all that and a bag of chips.’

This Author was invited into the pact, but from some of the hell they were talking about in reference to the keto diet, it sounded like a form of self-flagellation that wouldn’t end well.

She opted out.

“I’ll cheer you on from the sidelines,” she agreed.

Fast forward several months to a few weeks ago and MA brings this up again. Wanting to lose weight. By this time, this Author has been through hell and back already and no longer eats grain anymore. Thinking “Well, I’m half way there already, and having recalled that Dr. Awesome had mentioned it as a next step,” she listened carefully as MA talked about his hopes and dreams with keto.

For the uninitiated, Keto is short for the Ketogenic diet.

Basically, it’s a super effective method to trap the body into burning fats rather than subsisting off carbs for fuel. (From the research the Author has done recently, done right, this is actually a more efficient way of fueling the body – and more importantly for a writer, the BRAIN!).

So when MA mentioned it again, the Author said: “Okay. I’m in. But lemme figure out how to hack the transition because I want to minimize the hell.”

MA agreed.

About a week later, the Author had ordered up a shit-ton of materials to help the transition, including a super-informative scientific summary of everything relevant to ‘going keto.’

The arrangement we had was that the Author was going to try the various hacks, and if

they worked, would pass them on to MA, who would then also implement. (This also limited the amount of science he had to hold in his brain to implement each thing.)

[Edit - Michael: For the record, I was so damned excited that Ellie was going to sciency the shit out of this, I damn near wet myself.]

The official reason is because he was travelling and didn't know where to have the stuff shipped to.

Anyway, Ellie transitioned in about a week, and only lost about 3 days of effective writing time.

MA is still eating pizza and tacos.

[Edit Michael: For the record, I was good for 5 days. I've now sucked for 3 out of 5. I'll get back on it!]

There are lots of ins and outs to this process, which we will update you on very soon on the podcast (www.lawnfaries.com), but the Author is noticing a massive increase in energy available for gaming and productivity. She is also able to focus longer and better. (The adaptogens and mushroom coffee are also proving indispensable in this too.) She is consuming waaaaay fewer calories and not feeling like she wants to chew her own arm off.

And she's more emotionally stable.

Mostly.

Disclaimer: A ketogenic diet probably isn't for everyone.

MA suggests that he'll be doing it and then cycling back out of it when he's into those Levi-whatsit jeans. But Ellie thinks that maybe this is a new way of being in the world.

Time will tell.

* * *

Sword vs Light saber

MA: I can't believe you sent me a sword!

Ellie: It's not a sword. (in her head, she added the word *dumbass* and *heathen*). It's a light saber (patiently).

(I mean, who the fuck doesn't know what a light saber is? And why wouldn't you be excited about it? Oh, right... not everyone has the same level of geek. Sigh.)

MA: It's a big red dildo.

Ellie: Well, good luck with *that*. I think at 5 feet and however many inches girth that's one

hell of a dildo.

[Aside: Ellie, puzzled, wonders: Is this what they mean when they talk about women not being able to park because guys tell them that six inches is yay small? :-0]

[EDIT Michael: I think I said 'glowing' not 'big'... But I may have. This fucker is got to be 8" in circumference or something. It looks a lot smaller in pictures than when you have to put it together.]

* * *

Author Shenanigans Podcast

As you may have seen if you've been on the Facebook pages MA and I have started trialing a podcast.

The true origins of this project are still disputed (MA is adamant that I twisted his arm, though I distinctly recall being laid out on the floor, unable to move, not knowing if I was even going to be able to continue writing let alone doing anything else, and saying that we'd have to revisit it when I was feeling better).

Anyway, it's happening. As long as you keep listening/ watching, we'll keep producing them.

So what is this podcast all about?

Mostly the shenanigans and stuff that happens behind the scenes when we're talking business and/or story.

What you see is not far off our normal average conversations ...

We've had a few episodes we've recorded about the differences between English and American (bastardized) English.

MA has also explained some southern expressions which have confuddled me beyond belief. (Honestly how ANYONE can use the expression "ridden hard and put away wet" and not go bright red from embarrassment is beyond me. I'm blushing just typing it!)

[EDIT Michael: OMFG! She is SO bright red on the video... You have to go just to see that part. I think I warned her, too.]

I saw today MA slip some other phrases into our special slack channel for squirrels and shenanigans. He followed them with instructions: DO NOT READ.

So I can't tell you what other topics he's planning.

But if he gets his arse in gear about the keto stuff I'm sure we'll have more drama to report

on that front.

What is already becoming clear, as a number of people have pointed out – if this is indeed representative of how most of our conversations go, the fact that we get any work done at all is... well... astounding.

And yet somehow stories get published.

In our defense, as I recall telling MA waaay back when he first brought me on board and taught me to write, what's the point in doing anything if it's not fun?

And work isn't work if you love what you're doing. It's just play.

So this is how we roll.

And long may it continue.

You can join in the fun here: www.lawnfairies.com

And at some point soon I'll get an opt-in up so you can put in your email address and hear about new episodes as soon as they go live.

* * *

General Fuckery

You may have seen this on MA's website, but he thought it might be fun to add in here. When I first joined the KU I was asked to fill in some questions asked by the Actors Studio.

Here are my responses...

What is your favorite word? FUCK. Especially when uttered by a very smart guy. [3 #fuckingmagic

What is your least favorite word? See you next Tuesday... (can't even type it!)

[EDIT Michael: Holy crap, I had to phonetically say that, then the "See" screwed me up a few moments... "S? What S?... OH! "C" "U" NEXT TUESDAY... Wait a tic.]

What turns you on creatively, spiritually or emotionally? Smart guys/ Time Lords.

What turns you off? Judgmental people.

What is your favorite curse word? Fuckery, or fuckwit. Fuckwit on Wednesdays.

What sound or noise do you love? The sound of a cello in an empty hall.

What sound or noise do you hate? Starbucks blenders

What profession other than your own would you like to attempt? Time Lord's companion

What profession would you not like to do? Anything that requires a 9-to-5

If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates? Come, let me show you the control room for this place.

[EDIT Michael: Oh, that's a GOOD one!]

Author Notes - Michael Anderle

September 17, 2017

First, let me THANK YOU for not only finishing this book, but making it past Ell Leigh Clarke's author notes and reading mine now, as well!

Unfortunately, we have spent all of our wonderful 'snippy comments' on our videos (which you should totally watch, because they are fucking hilarious!) So, I'm going back through some of our normal notes since the last time we spoke, and catching you up in what I am calling...

"The life and times of an Indie Author..."

No, that sounds pretentious...

How about "The World According to Mike."

Wow, talk about a snoozer just waiting to happen. Here we go.

"Notes from reality, two authors work to go on Keto, talk back and forth and frankly have fun while writing stories."

Or not.

35 Evil Minion Memes

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/437764026262451406/>

So, Ellie is harassing me about the minion that she has. Remember, that gift bit me in the ass. Either way, I go off and find this wonderful website that has funny as hell Minion memes including ones such as (they have pictures of Minions, but I figure I can't place them here for legal reasons) :

Of course women don't work as hard as men... They get it right the first time! (Selected by Ellie – big surprise!)

She follows this up with:

How to stop time: Kiss

How to travel in time: Read

How to escape time: Music

How to feel time: Write

How to waste time: Social Media (then she adds 'squirrels' to the end of it.)

I'm thinking *YOU SENT ME THE SQUIRREL!*

Ellie is complaining (errr, I mean commenting) about coffee and other stuff and says "i wish i could hurry up and get enlightened so i don't have to bother with all this shit!" which I found rather funny (reminds me of "God give me patience...and I want it NOW!")

I went and found the Minion meme:

You laugh, I Laugh!

You cry, I cry

You take my COFFEE? May God have mercy on your soul!

The next day, she sends me a picture of her two pillows...

Now I tell her she has a very strange sense of humor and she just needs to come out of the closet. This is the very picture I talk about in one of our video author notes.

Her sense of humor drives our fans to share their own humor with us. Especially in the reviews...

Random Ellie Comment: Reading some reviews.... one reader said: . I also look forward to your collaboration on the Michael series, and the future of Molly. Don't stay up too late looking at root canal porn. ;-)

Not so Random Ellie Comment (related to post showing the minion I sent):

FB comment on minion post - "MA just replaced himself..."

bwhahahahahahhahahaha

i think it's the best performing post so far

See? This is the type of verbal stuff I get behind the scenes. I know all of you are besotted by her English accent (so is half the world, it's scientific) but you have to know, she can be downright competitive.

ELLIE LIES THROUGH HER TEETH

So, another day, another message comes my way from Ellie.

Ellie: omg - ive found the best yoda mug for you. What's your postal address?

Mike: When are you thinking it will arrive?

Ellie: next few weeks...

Mike: Because I'm in and out between here and Texas uh....

Ellie: You'll still be vegas?

You want it for your Vegas office really... ;-)

<EDIT: I should have paid attention to the wink..>

So, she is worried the gift won't arrive until I've left for Texas and we figure out it should hit before I go from Las Vegas to Texas.

No big deal.

The day comes when I get notified that I receive a package that is being held downstairs in the mail center for our condo building.

Seems legit. I didn't expect a mug to be in a box small enough for the regular postal content anyway.

Hours later, I go downstairs to get my Yoda mug. I'm kinda excited. I go to the security station and ask for the mail and I'm told I have two boxes. No biggie, I ordered something from Amazon.

The rather petit security guard walks into the postal room and I follow. Then, she unlocks the door to the postal storage and I wait. There is some box movement and then the door opens, and she sticks a foot to stop the door from closing on her and wrestles with a box.

Now, I'm starting to clue in. I'm *thinking* "This lady shouldn't be wrestling with any boxes that are coming to me. What the hell is up?"

So, then I see it, and my mouth drops open. She is wrestling with a box THAT IS FOUR FEET TALL.

<< Ellie Edit: it was bigger than four feet. Keep reading, then do the maths...>>>

Ell Leigh Clarke did NOT send me a Yoda mug...Oh no.

No, no, no, no, no, no!

Ok, I don't have a big office in my condo. I have a SMALL office in my condo and now, I have a HUGE red light-saber light thing and I am in shock. Why, you ask?

I'll tell you.

Cause I *believed* her. I actually believed that I was getting a nice little Yoda mug that might sit on my desk and instead, I have a five-foot-tall-evil-red-lamp-sword.

It takes me a little while to get through the shock. But then, I'm starting to warm up to the idea of a big lightsaber lamp. I'm starting to think... "Shit, I'm going to decorate this room and this lamp is going to be one of my main pieces!"

And THAT is how I came to own a massive red lightsaber lamp and I am (now) happy to

say I have a pivotal piece to help me decorate my office in Las Vegas.

<Note: When I tell her the story of my shock, she laughs hysterically.>

<< *Ellie Edit: mwhahahahahahaha... Hang on. Why wouldn't anyone be THRILLED to be sent a fucking awesome light saber?? >>>*

LOW-CARB / KETO DIET

I'm probably going to save more of these for the next book. But I have to share this one.

<< *Ellie Edit: ... the reason he has to save it because he hasn't really started the keto bit yet! >>*

If you have ever gone on a low-carb diet, there is a SHIT time when your body is pulling off of carbs, and you feel like crap. Ellie was researching the hell out of stuff to help get through this, and I'm behind her (and even more now) with getting my shit done.

So, I've done the diet twice now, and I know what to expect (which is why I'm trying like crazy to hack a way to not feel like shit.)

It's Ellie's first time.

<<RANDOM AUTHOR COMMENT>

Ellie: hey - i have some things i need to clarify for Michael. (vampire Michael, not you.)
Lmk when you might be able to run through a scene with me to just make sure i've got this squared away?

<<RANDOM AUTHOR COMMENT>

So, she is starting her Keto stuff and like 8 hours later I get this:

Ellie: Re keto... death is always an option, right?

18 hours later:

Ellie: Hello. Life is worth living again. Keto salts finally showed up. YAY! Oh and they work. At least they have been for the last ten minutes.

Couple days later:

Ellie: i'll have to get my shit together and get some writing done!

[11:29]

plugs brain in... and watches it misfire a few times

Oh Shit!

It's my birthday coming up, and I get this message...

Ellie: morning! (by the time you see this). I need two pieces of info from you. 1. where will you be on your bday. and 2. if it's texas, I need your mailing address, si vous plait. I promise i'm not sending a light saber, so you can relax. It's all chill.

Needless to say, I wasn't convinced.

During this time, Hurricane Irma hits Florida which is where Stephen Campbell and Julie live. They have to evacuate after a little while to a friend's house north because they have no power.

I get a package from the mail. It isn't four feet tall, so she wasn't lying about the no lightsaber... No, this time is is a gorgeous hardback book "The Personal Story of my Life." With my name printed on the front in gold lettering.

I open it up and it has a TON of questions about my life ... that aren't filled in. I quickly realize she sent me *HOMEWORK* for my fiftieth birthday!

I'm lazy, I don't want to think this hard. But, it's such a beautiful book I'm damned tempted to start filling it in.

...but it is *homework!*

I can't believe she did this to me.

<< *Ellie Edit: cracks whip... come on geek-boy. I wanna read these entries about your pivotal life-moments...How about you have it filled out by your 51st? And then you can do another one when you hit 100. (tee hee) >>>*

I just went and looked at the book again a few minutes ago (it's on my office desk.) I just know I'm going to get hand-cramps writing in it. My hands don't know how to write more than "thank you" and my signature anymore as I either type or dictate everything.

I'm so screwed.

* * *

I regale you, the fans with these stories but know that I appreciate Ellie for my gifts, and I really am going to make the lightsaber something that is going to help influence the decoration of my office!

Author Shenanigans...Cause I had three (3) that we forgot about.

Most of our hilariousness was put into our Author Shenanigans (I just love that word) podcast. However, three of them were saved for YOUR enjoyment.

We hope you like them!

Ellie and I are discussing the author blurb for book 06 Retribution.

Michael: Ok, I'm not wanting to make this blurb sound too "*KILL, KILL, KILL!*"

Ellie: good....

Michael: Pause (not receiving any instructions to create a killing blurb, not create a killing blurb...)

I guess that's another author note. (trust me, this was funny as hell when it happened.)

So, we were talking about Oz and Molly having a few more scientific discussions in the story when out of the blue Ellie spouts this off...

Ellie: I got to get my "ya ya's" out about using worm holes to travel on the Michael (MD) Cooper's podcast... So, I don't have as much frustration about that.

I *HAVE* to ask more questions about worm holes and my poor little Indie Author head *explodes*.

YOU HAVE TO READ THIS IN AN ENGLISH ACCENT FOR ELLIE... It is SO much funnier that way!

Ellie: I have changed my phone to the correct English swearwords...

Michael: That is such a Molly thing to do.

Ellie: Like "ass" changes to "arse"

Pause... (she notices me not paying attention.)

Ellie: You are writing this down, aren't you?

Michael: Yes, this is too good to pass up.

I sent Ellie a Minion due to her need to effectuate efficiency by providing tasks. To others, namely *me*. (Ok, probably not me much, but I'm hypersensitive to being given tasks.) She now named this Minion "Mikey" and I realize the practical joke bit me on the ass.

Ellie is playing w/ "Mikey" and waving at the video.

Michael: Don't make me regret sending him to you.

Ellie: I thought you already did?

Michael: *More*.

If you have not looked at our Author Note videos, check them out here:

<http://lawnfairies.com/>