



Tied-In

The Newsletter of the International Association of Media Tie-in Writers

An Author of Two Comic Universes

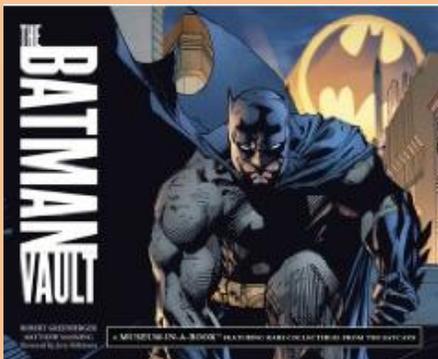
By Robert Greenberger

One of the most under-reported portions of media tie-in writing include those books based on comic book properties. Dating all the way back to the 1940s and George Lowther's *The Adventures of Superman*, there have been books featuring the four-color superheroes.

More recently, Pocket Books released a run of original novels based on the denizens of the Marvel Universe, while DC has licensed out novelizations on their major crossover events.

Additionally, non-fiction works related to the history of the field and its characters have been growing in volume and sophistication.

Many among the IAMTW team have written stories involving these household names, and come this fall, I join the party. In an off quirk of the



schedule, I had a fiction story come out in late September and a non-fiction work a week later, though it was written first.

I wrote *The Essential Batman Encyclopedia* for DC Comics in 2007, and based on that experience, they asked if I would be interested in writing something called the *Batman Vault*. The Vault concept, a museum-in-a-book, was a fairly new idea.

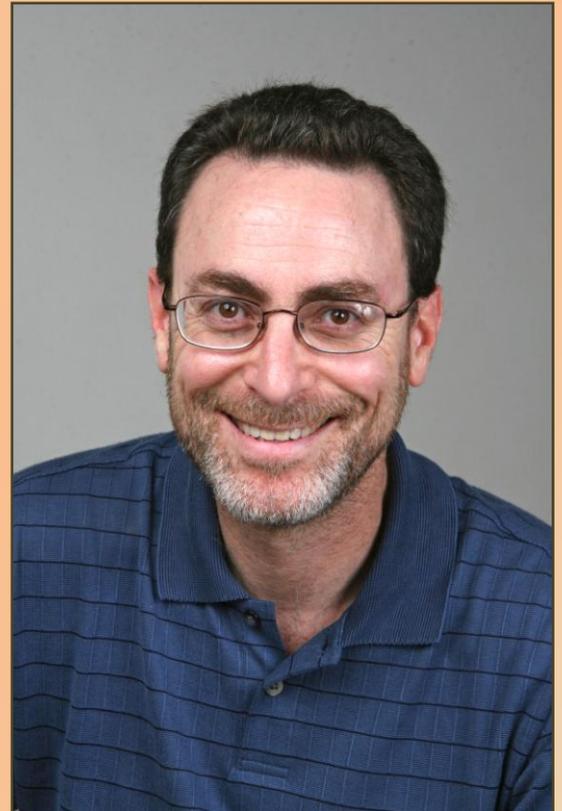
It's a spiral-bound book that features every 15 pages or so a plastic sleeve with a facsimile of a rare artifact, the kind found in a museum. By

then, there had been one for Star Wars and Marvel Comics, with the DC Comics book on press at the time.

Of course I said yes.

During the summer of 2008, I wrote the 35,000 words Running Press asked for. It touched on Batman's comic book origins and his explosion into mass media through the ABC TV series. All facets of his global popularity were touched on. My DC editors were thrilled, although Running Press felt it still needed some work.

Unfortunately, it was at that point when I lost my son and was in no shape for a revision.

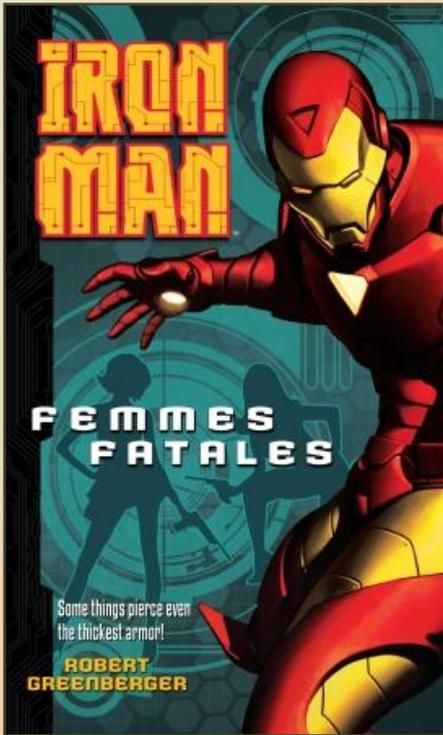


Award-winning author Robert Greenberger

Rather than wait, they opted to bring in Matthew K. Manning to do the work. Matt's no slouch at this sort of stuff and did a nice job.

DC did all the visual legwork and throughout the fall I worked on revisions and captions until everything was put to bed around Christmas time.

Meantime, as I was wrapping up my work on *The Essential Batman Encyclopedia*, my Del Rey editor, Keith Clayton, mentioned that they had signed a deal with Marvel for a



novelization of Iron Man by Peter David, a nonfiction work about the hero by Andy Mangels, and two original novels.

As a kid in the 1960s, Iron Man was my favorite Marvel hero, so basically I began lobbying for a shot. Months later, he invited me to pitch the story. At first, I was under the impression this was based on the movie continuity so I crafted something along those lines. But after he read the pitch e-mail, he corrected me. The original novels would be set within the comic book continuity. No problem.

Given that my favorite era for the character was the one when I first met him, I began looking for something to set in those halcyon days. As I flipped through the old comics, an idea presented itself and I wrote up an outline which Marvel approved without change. By then, Keith was assigned to other projects, so Steve Saffel was brought in as my line

editor, and he did a great job helping me shape the story. With a nod toward the mainstream readers who would hopefully be buying this book, we tweaked the comics continuity slightly by having the general world know that Tony Stark is Iron Man. Marvel had no problem with this.

I spent the fall mainly writing the Iron Man novel, and we put the finishing touches on that earlier this year. Now, both are about to see print, and it's wildly exciting to have them both in my hands . . . another dream come true for a long-time comics fan.

Stacia Hits the New York Times

By Stacia Deutsch

Stacia Deutsch, New York Times Best Selling Author. I can't believe it.

This morning when I woke up to a congratulatory email, I felt like I was walking on water.

I was so excited, in fact, that I immediately picked up the phone to call my boyfriend.

It was 6:30 AM in California. I figured he wouldn't mind, this was big news. Huge!

"Hello?" the male voice answered.

"OH MY GOD!" I shouted. "Check your email!" I had forwarded the announcement to him as a way of drawing out the surprise.

"Um," the tired voice said on the other end of the line,

"I think you have the wrong number."

Ooops. In my excitement I'd dialed 552 instead of 522. Whoops.

I quickly apologized and hung up.

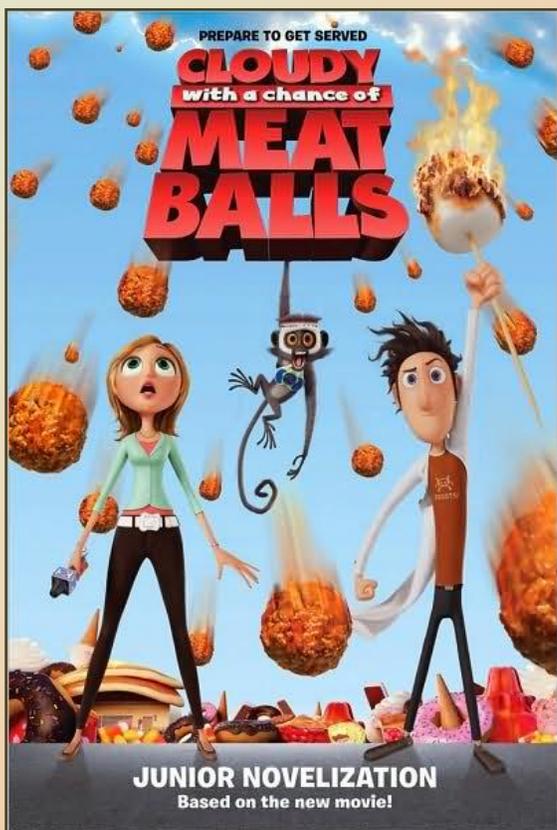
A few minutes later, the male voice used his Caller ID and called me back. I didn't give him a chance to yell at me for waking him. I quickly rattled out, "I just found out that one of my books—*Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*—hit the New York Times Best Seller List. I am sooo sorry that in my frenzied thrill I called you by accident."

"Oh," the man replied. And the conversation abruptly ended.

"Oh? Oh? OH?" Come on! Even a stranger should be more excited than that. This is every writer's dream come true.



Stacia Deutsch



The day went forward from there. I emailed everyone I knew. Talked to my co-author five gazillion times and basically had myself a little day-off celebration. I drank Diet Coke, which I'd been trying to wean myself off of. Ate ice cream for lunch. And gabbed on the phone. I even took a well-deserved nap. Now, that's my idea of a celebration!

It's odd, this being on the NYT list – especially if you got there as a tie-in writer. As the news began to settle and evening came, I started to imagine what people out there might be saying:

"It wasn't really her idea, you know."

Or, "It was a movie novel. Lucky for her, the movie did well."

Or, "She kind of stole herself a place on the list. The screenwriter deserved the honor, really."

I called my co-author for what was the sixth gazillionth time. I told her what I was thinking. Funny, she was thinking the same things. We'd both also had the same stray thought that the picture book we'd sold the day before would fall through because now the publisher would worry he couldn't afford us. Really, let me just say this - he still can. Nothing has changed from yesterday except maybe the size of our egos.

This tie-in writing is a strange and fickle business. Sure, the book wasn't Rhody's and my idea. The dialogue wasn't ours either. But we were

the ones who fleshed out the script. We didn't see the movie. We guessed. And we guessed well, because we are professionals who have done this before. We know how to add description and build characters, even from a single line in a script.

It was the boyfriend who finally knocked some sense into me. When I actually called the correct number and got him on the phone, he said, "If the book was bad, no one would have bought it - no matter how great the movie was."

He's right.

Rhody and I have been working hard as writers. We have had our own original series, have paid our dues to educational pub houses, ghost written, and now – we have been rewarded for our hard work.

I don't know what happens from here. I don't know if we will suddenly get a career boost from this. I sure hope we do. I hope it makes it easier to sell other projects. And to get more tie-in work. I feel like we have now proven to the universe that we can quickly turn around quality material.

I am thrilled to be on this week's New York Times Best Seller List. And I am honored to be there for a tie-in novel. I am so proud to be part of the IAMTW.

Today, a dream came true. I can't wait for what tomorrow will bring.

Come With Me If You Want to Write Or, How I Joined the Human Resistance

By Greg Cox

TERMINATOR SALVATION: COLD WAR (Titan Books, October 2009) is a prequel to the recent movie starring Christian Bale—and my first professional sortie into the War against the Machines.

An arctic environment offered all sorts of elements that I hadn't seen in a TERMINATOR movie or TV episode before

Although I had seen and enjoyed all the previous movies, as well as the late, lamented TV show, I had never had a chance to play in that universe before, so I jumped at the chance when Cath Trechman at Titan emailed me to ask if I was interested.



Greg Cox

Hell, yes!

The plot of the book was a genuine collaboration between me, Cath, and James Middleton of The Halcyon Company, the movie's producers. As an earlier prequel by Timothy Zahn had already chronicled what the franchise's major characters—John Connor, Kyle Reese, etc.—had been up to prior to the movie, it was decided that this book should explore what was going on elsewhere in the gritty future world after Judgment Day. The movies had all been set in and around Southern California, with lots of sun-baked desert highways, so I immediately fixated on the idea of setting the story somewhere cold and snowy, just to be

different. And an arctic environment offered all sorts of elements that I hadn't seen in a TERMINATOR movie or TV episode before: snowmobiles, glaciers, avalanches, active volcanos, chainsaws, bush pilots, and grizzly bears, oh my.

In no time at all, I whipped up an outline involving a scruffy band of Alaska freedom fighters led by a fierce Native Alaskan forest ranger named Molly Kookesh, whom I saw as

an indomitable heroine in the tradition of Sarah Connor. I had my heart set on telling her story.

In the meantime, however, James Middleton and my editor had become intrigued with another character: Dmitri Losenko, a Russian submarine captain who appeared briefly in the movie.

What was his story? How had he come to join the Resistance? How had his crew reacted to Judgment Day?

Could I work Losenko into the book somehow?

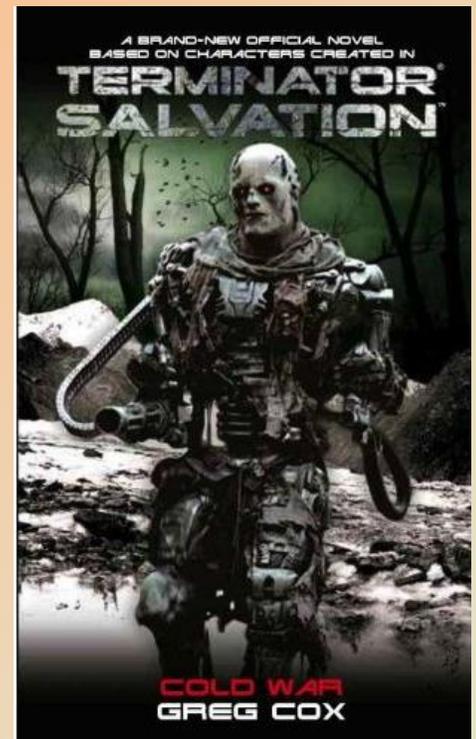
The result was a book that ended up being much more ambitious than the one I originally conceived. COLD WAR tells two parallel stories that ultimately converge in the

end. One concerns a Russian submarine crew in the immediate aftermath of Judgment, trying to find a new purpose after mushroom clouds destroy the world they knew, while the other, set many years later, finds the Alaskan Resistance fighting a guerilla war against the Terminators in the frozen wilderness.

And did I mention that the fate of the Russian submariners and my scrappy Alaskans wind up being inextricably linked in (hopefully) heart-rending ways?

COLD WAR was a challenging book to write (not the least because I've never set foot on a submarine or in Alaska), but I'm very pleased with how it turned out. And, fifteen years after I first watched THE TERMINATOR in my local cineplex, I finally got to strike my own small blow against SkyNet.

Remember: if you're reading this, you are the Resistance.





Kevin Hosey Set For a Texas Signing

IAMTW member Kevin Hosey will be highlighted at ConDFW IX this February in Dallas, TX.

Kevin will appear on panels and will sign copies of *Star Trek Strange New Worlds 6* and *8*, in which he has stories.

Visit his web page at www.kevinhosey.net.

Deadly Danger! Grab a Copy Now

Deadly Danger!, a Thunderbirds™ novel by IAMTW member Joan Marie Verba, has hit the shelves.

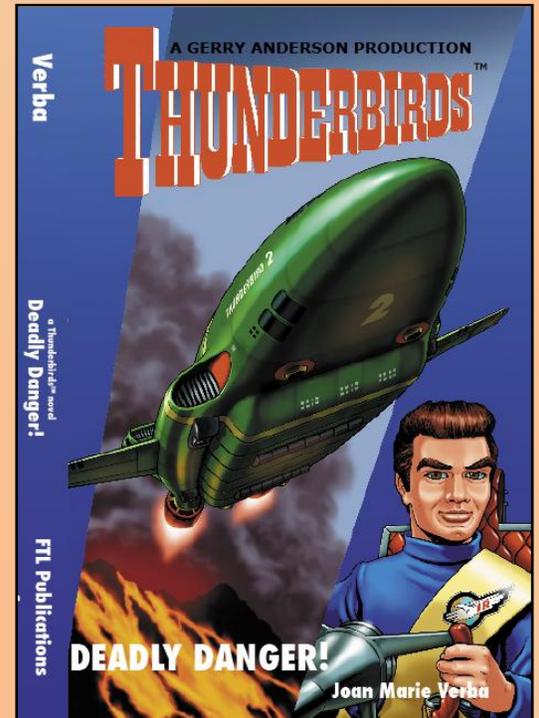
Jeff Tracy, his five sons, and their associates run an organization called International Rescue, which helps people beyond the aid of the usual first responders.

Virgil Tracy, the second of Jeff Tracy's sons, pilots the heavy-rescue craft, Thunderbird 2, which carries the specialized rescue equipment to the danger zone. In addition to his expertise as a pilot and engineer, Virgil is also a talented pianist and artist. Virgil's calm disposition serves him well in the extreme hazards that he faces as a member of International Rescue.

In Deadly Danger, Virgil will have to draw on all of these skills to meet the challenges he faces:

- a California wildfire
- a mine disaster in South Africa
- a volcano eruption in the Pacific
- an airliner in trouble
- a town in Peru in danger of vanishing into a sinkhole
- a bridge collapse in India
- and explorers in danger in the Antarctic.

Most of all Virgil and his brothers and associates must find a warped genius who will stop at nothing to build and deploy a fleet of advanced machines to prove he is the greatest rocket scientist of the 2060s.



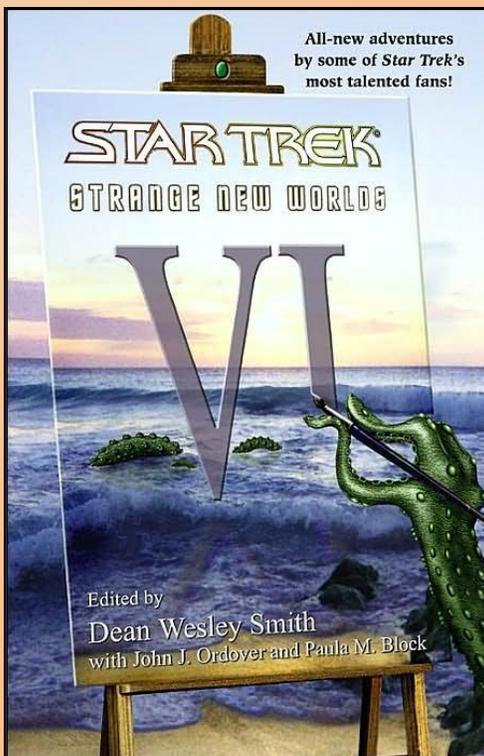
WGA to Highlight Steven Paul Levia

The Writers Guild of America will present a reading of Steve Levia's play *Made on the Moon* November 16th.

Star Trek actors Robert Picardo and John Billingsley will be featured in the cast. The event will be held at the WGA headquarters.

Levia writes: In *Made on the Moon*, a battery of research scientists interview volunteers for a medical experiment. Their least likely subject is the most difficult. Like something from *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*, Stanley Lewis, a middle-class nebbish from Southern California, unreels a story of absurd and mythic proportions.

From the cradle, Stanley has been obsessed with the moon. He yearns to be with it. His

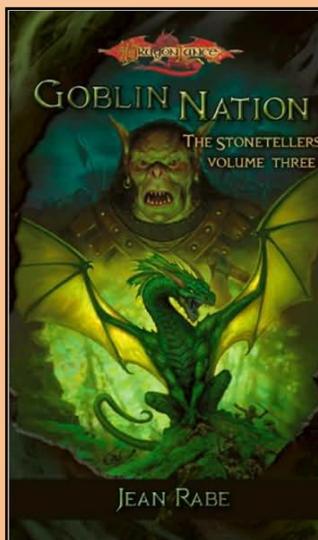


fantasies of getting there leap forward in the late 1950s with the exploration of space. The cultural vacuum of suburbia, however, proves to be a greater barrier than the void of space, itself. Being entirely the Wrong Stuff, Stanley Lewis is marooned on planet Earth.

But obsession does not die. As the inspirational promise of the New Frontier succumbs to commercialism, and cheap trinkets are eventually “Made on the Moon”—Stanley implodes. He does everything he can to get there. The consequences prove that a little guy's triumph can be as deeply moving as a great man's fall.

The Last “Goblin”

Jean Rabe's Stoneteller trilogy concluded with the October release of *Goblin Nation*. Rabe, the author of two previous Dragonlance trilogies for Wizards of the Coast, received editorial praise for her goblin books. Her other upcoming releases include *Spells of the City* and *Timeshares*, anthologies she edited for Daw Books.



2010 SCRIBES

You've not much time left to submit. Eligible books must be published between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009.

Send a copy of your book to each judge in the category and to the IAMTW at:

IAMTW
PO Box 8212
Calabasas, CA 91372.

**GENERAL FICTION
BEST NOVEL—ORIGINAL**
Keith R.A. DeCandido (Chair)
PO Box 4976
New York, NY 10185

Bob Greenberger
36 Yarrow Road
Fairfield CT 06824-4559

David Spencer
41-07 42nd Street #4B
Long Island City, NY 11104

BEST NOVEL—ADAPTED
D. J. Stevenson (Chair)
P. O. Box 297
Claridge PA 15623

Alina Wickham
160 W. 95th St. #5A
New York, NY 10025

Raymond Benson
811 Thompson Blvd.
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

**SPECULATIVE FICTION
BEST NOVEL - ORIGINAL**
Jean Rabe (Chair)
3511 22nd St.
Kenosha, WI 53144

Steven Schend
816 Fairmount St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Ben Rome
5310 Ferndale St.
Springfield, VA 22151

BEST NOVEL – ADAPTED

Debbie Viguie (Chair)
PMB-418
3-2600 Kaunualii Hwy. Ste B-18
Lihue, HI 96766

Christina York
1045 SW 10th
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Lance Parkin
1410 Wharton Drive
Newark DE 19711

BEST YOUNG ADULT ORIGINAL & ADAPTED

Richard Dean Starr (Chair)
7440 Sepulveda Blvd. #312
Van Nuys, CA 91405

Brandie Tarvin
10864 Crosstie Ct
Jacksonville FL 32257

Donald J. Bingle
5N085 Crane Road
St. Charles, IL 60175

Convention

Calendar

WindyCon

November 13-15, Lombard Illinois, is the site for this year's WindyCon. Guests include: James P. Blaylock and Phil and Kaja Foglio. Early bird registration is \$45 for the weekend, with hotel rooms at \$104 a night. For more information: www.windycon.org

TusCon 36

Stoker-winning author Weston Ochse headlines the guests at TusCon 36 Nov. 13-15 at the InnSuites Hotel in Tucson, AZ. The convention staff requests that hotel reservations be made early, as the "room block" is expected to fill up quickly. Activities will include an art show, filking, panel discussions, gaming, and more. For more information, write the convention at TusCon, PO Box 2528, Tuscon, AZ, 85702. Or you can send an inquiry via e-mail to: bsfa@earthlink.net

Philcon 2009

The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cherry Hill NJ is the site of this year's convention, set for Nov. 20-22nd. The web site lists more information: www.philcon.org

Thought Bubble 3

Nov. 20-22nd has been set for one of the UK's prominent comic conventions. The event will be held in Saviles Hall, Leeds, England. More than 1,600 fans attended the previous year's convention. Activities will include workshops, seminars, comic-related film screenings, and a "book crossing." For information on attending and/or participating, contact Lisa Wood: thoughtbubble@hotmail.co.uk

LosCon 36

November 27-29, Los Angeles, CA. The convention will be held at the LAX Marriott. Planned events include panels, workshops, and many other activities. The con is organized into "theme days," and programming tracks.

Friday: horror; Saturday; dress like a pirate day; Sunday: honoring artists and writers. Author guests of honor are Tananarive Due and Steven Barnes. For more information, see the convention's website at: www.texassf.org

ConDFW 2010

February 12-14 at the Crowne Plaza Suites Hotel in Dallas TX marks the annual running of ConDFW. Highlights include discussions, booksellers, shopping, an art show, charity book swap, auction, short story contest, and non-traditional activities such as a sci-fi spelling bee. Guests include IAMTW member Kevin Hosey, Jack McDevitt, Elizabeth Moon, and Vincent Villafranca. The convention promotes the advancement of education, with emphasis on horror, fantasy, and science fiction literature. For more information, visit the web site: www.condfw.org

Lunacon 2010

New York's oldest science fiction and fantasy convention is planned for March 19-21 at the Hilton Rye Town in Rye Brook, NY. Visit the website at: www.lunacon.org

WHC 2010

The World Horror Convention will be held March 25th- 28th in Brighton, England. Guests of Honor are Tanith Lee and David Case. Jo Fletcher is the Mistress of Ceremonies. The venue is the historic Royal Albion Hotel, which opened its doors on July 27th, 1826. For more information, see: www.whc2010.org

IAMTW

President—
Max Allan Collins
Vice President—
Lee Goldberg

Website:
www.iamtw.org

E-mail: tieinwriters@yahoo.com

Send Tied-In submissions to:
jeanrabe@hotmail.com

IAMTW
PO Box 8212
Calabasas, CA 91372

