

Turtle Tracks

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<https://www.turtlecovepress.com>

Don't Do This in Your Story

I recently read an online article titled, [Deus Ex Machina: Latin for "Don't Do This in Your Story"](#). The article was from 2011, but it struck a chord due to a recent conversation I had with a writer. The writer insisted that *deus ex machina* is an acceptable device in children's literature. I disagreed. (Still do.) In a children's story, the children must solve their own problem(s). A brand-new character can't swoop in at the eleventh hour to save the day. *Deus ex machina* is used when the author (1) has painted him/herself into a corner from which there is no solution, (2) is too lazy to develop a plot that enables the characters to grow and develop to the point where the solution they arrive at is believable and satisfying, or (3) both. The authors I publish (you are all wonderful!) develop strong plots with believable characters. The characters grow throughout the story and, by the end, are believably prepared for the climax. Along the way, they endear themselves to the reader. And to their publisher!

Abby Hugill: One of Five Young Women to Watch

Turtle Cove Press author Abby Hugill has been named one of Five Young Women to Watch by the Tallahassee Democrat. Abby's debut picture book, *Betsy and Bernie, Eco-Guardians* (TCP, 2021) was part of her Gold Award for the Girl Scouts. Her project also included building a pollinator garden and a bat house at Maclay School, where she is a senior. Congratulations, Abby!



Share Your Book News!

Do you have news to share in the March issue of Turtle Tracks? Send an email to editor@turtlecovepress.com with your author event, writing awards, and other news/information to share with your fellow TCP authors! Don't forget photos!

Books (and More) at the Bay!



The Panacea Community Market returns April 2 to the grassy area between the Volunteer Fire Department and the Panacea Community Garden (across from Dollar General on Coastal Hwy. 98). Turtle Cove Press will have books and photos. Zelle and I will be in the tent. Stop by if you can! Remember that being able to talk to the author often results in a sale! Other vendors will have fresh vegetables, homemade bread and goodies, homemade soaps, original art, and more.

Surf Dog Wins Tally Top Pet!

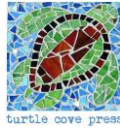
Our beloved Surf Dude (now known as Buddy) has been named Tally Top Pet. This contest, which supports low-cost spay/neuter services, was a perfect fit for Surf, an ambassador for homeless pets. Thank you to everyone who voted (even if you didn't vote for Surf)! You help save lives by making spay/neuter services affordable.

April is National Poetry Month!

TWA's monthly meeting will be a Poetry Slam. Attend in person or via Zoom at 6:30PM on April 14. Sign up to you're your poetry. I'll raffle a copy of Suzan E. Zan's poetry collection, *From Suffering to Salve!* More details in the Calendar on Page 2.

Alert Your High Schoolers to This Event!

Midtown Reader has a twist for its April Story Slam: It's for high schoolers! The theme is "Superpower." Deadline for submissions is Friday, April 22 at 6pm. You must be able to read at the in-store event on Friday, April 29 at 7pm. More info at MidtownReader.com.



Call for Submissions for Children's Poetry Anthology

Do you write poetry? Do you write about animals? Do you write for young children? If you answered "yes" or "I have a poem about animals for young children brewing in my skull," please consider submitting a poem or two (up to 10, actually) to Turtle Cove Press. There is **no** reading fee, and poems that are accepted will earn \$12 each for poems of 12 lines or more, \$5 each for shorter poems and haiku. Email editor@turtlecovepress.com for details.

April Observances

- **April 2:** Sea Turtle Awareness Day
- **April 4:** School Librarians' Day
- **April 6:** National Walking Day* (first Wednesday), National Bookmobile Day*
- **April 10:** National Hug Your Dog Day, National Siblings Day
- **April 11:** National Pet Day
- **April 17:** International Bat Appreciation Day, National Haiku Poetry Day
- **April 23:** World Book and Copyright Day, National Take a Chance Day
- **April 27:** National Tell a Story Day
- **April 28:** National Superhero Day
- National Library Week (April 3-9)
- National Volunteer Week (third week)
- National Poetry Month
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month
- National Pet Month



CALENDAR

Here's a look at what's happening in April for Turtle Cove Press authors!

APRIL 2 | Springtime Tallahassee Jubilee in the Park. Look for Zelle Andrews at Pat Stanford's "Book Cart." Enjoy music, food, arts and crafts. The Grand Parade is at 10:30AM.

WHERE: Chain of Parks, Tallahassee, FL.

WHEN: 9AM – 5PM.

APRIL 9-10 | Word of South Festival. Tallahassee Writers Association will have a tent at this literary and musical festival. TWA authors are invited to sign up for two-hour shifts (Saturday-Sunday).

WHERE: Cascades Park, Tallahassee, FL.

WHEN: Sat., 10AM – 6PM; Sun. 11AM-6PM.

APRIL 14 | TWA Monthly Meeting featuring Poetry Slam.

WHERE: Marzuq Shrine Temple, 1805 N Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, or via Zoom

WHEN: 6:30-7:30PM

APRIL 28 | Midtown Reader's Story Slam. Deadline to enter is April 14. Must be available to read on April 28 if your story is selected. See midtownreader.com for details.

WHERE: Midtown Reader, 1123 Thomasville Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32303

WHEN: 6:00PM

APRIL 30 | Indie Bookstore Day. Support Tallahassee's independent bookstores, Midtown Reader (1123 Thomasville Road) and My Favorite Books (1410 Market St Suite C-2).

Say a prayer for the people of Ukraine.



M.R. Street, MPH, MSI (she/her)
Editor, Turtle Cove Press

