

What made you choose this piece for Pulp?

Honestly, I chose this story because when I searched through Submittable, it came up in the sections I was searching through. I send out my stories to anyone and everyone who will take them. Hoping they'll be accepted and published into a wider audience view.

Is there anything in particular that you're proud of about this piece, or that you learned while creating it?

There was really only one thing I realized after this story was finished. It was that I prefer stories with realistic consequences. Sometimes characters fail. Sometimes they falter or die. I love a happy ending as much as the next person, but I also believe if you get stabbed you can't just brush it off like a stubbed toe. Decisions have consequences. I like rules to come with my settings.

Where did your inspiration for this piece come from? What is its "story"?

I admit, I wrote this story some time ago before it was accepted for publication. I don't really remember what the original inspiration was. I have a love of darker themed fantasy elements. The only thing I know is that I wrote the story with the decision that it wouldn't end on a happy note. That there would be consequences to the protagonist 'winning'.

What messages/themes do you want viewers to pull from this piece?

I'm not sure that there are any messages to pull from my story. The only thing I can possibly consider is that you should never be guided by vengeance. A hunger for punishment and pain for another person never seems to end well for the crusader. In the end, you might just become as monstrous as the one you seek to ruin.

In "The Ebony Queen," you were very creative in your use of formatting the Queen's dialogue by experimenting with bold and uppercase/lowercase letters. This gives the Queen an otherworldly feeling to her that is quite effective; it also indicates the protagonist's change by the end of the story. What was your thought process when choosing how to format her dialogue?

I wanted to give her voice more of an impact. I did indeed write her dialogue differently to give her an otherworldly quality to it. To me, her voice has an echoing quality to it. As if more than one voice was speaking through her.

Your use of a prologue in "The Ebony Queen" is a very unique way to start a short story, almost reminiscent of a novel. Was there any particular reason you chose to start the story this way?

Over the years I've found my writing style to be like a movie. I write my works like I'm watching them on a movie screen. I also discovered writing a prologue is almost like a cheat to info-dumping so I can get to the more interesting parts of my stories. I don't always include a prologue in my story, but if I do it's often for this reason.

How long have you been creative?

If you're referring to being creative as in "How long have I been writing?" I have been writing with purpose since 2019 when I first began putting out my work. If you're referring to how long I've been creating characters and writing about them, I'd say I've been doing that since I was in middle school.

What does your creative process or practice usually look like? In what ways has it changed during your artistic journey?

I write when I can or when inspiration strikes me. I read and listen and learn to improve my writing. I'm currently a part of the Saskatchewan Writers Guild based in Regina and their program affords me many opportunities to expand my knowledge and gain tips for writing.

My process, if you can call it that, hasn't changed much in the few years I've been writing. I have always focused on description and character more and that remains my focus. I like knowing what things look like and feel like the characters should be the ones driving the story forward. That said, I do believe my writing has improved. The stories I write now are more polished than they were even just a few months ago. I'm prouder and happier with my current writing style. I don't have to do as many rewrites. I'm always improving and each improvement makes me prouder of the works I share.

What sorts of things inspire you?

I take inspiration from just about everything around me. I was raised on fantasy and science-fiction works since I was a little girl. I find most of my inspiration comes from music and artwork. I am a fantasy/sci-fi girl at heart, and sometimes little ideas pop up as I'm reading or watching stories unfold. I think "What if things worked this way?" Or "What if the author took things in this direction?" "What if there was a character like this in this world?" Sometimes I'm just going about my day and scenes, dialogue, or entire story ideas pop into my head.

Have you ever been published before/where can we find your work?

Yes I have. I have been published around thirty times since my first publication in 2019 with "The Spelunkers: A Chipper Press Anthology". I was so excited back then. My first publication and it was in a physical book I could hold! Since then I've grown and now taken part in a total of five physical books with my stories and name printed in them. I can't wait to see what comes next.

You can find more stories and links to all my other publications on my wordpress site.
www.racheldotsdot.wordpress.com

Do you plan on continuing your creative pursuits into the future? If so, what does the next project look like for you?

Yes. Even if my writing never becomes a full time career I can't see myself ever stopping writing and sending out stories. One day I'd love to publish a full novel of my own. I love writing and all I really want is to share these characters and worlds I love with other people.