



Local author Autumn M. Birt emerges into sunshine from her cozy writing cave and realizes she missed planting her garden... again.



BREAKING NEWS

Local Author Emerges from Editing Cave, Startled to Discover It Is Apparently Summer

By Goldie, Senior Correspondent, Glitter Paper Staff
(and only qualified journalist available)

After months of surviving almost entirely on tea, stubbornness, and questionable amounts of keyboard clicking, local fantasy author Autumn M. Birt has finally emerged from what experts are calling "an alarming editing cave."

Witnesses report the author blinked several times at the sunlight before asking, "Wait... it's July?"

Authorities confirm the lengthy disappearance was caused by repeated encounters with *Bane of Dark Gods*, a manuscript widely believed to have consumed every spare evening, weekend, and available brain cell in the surrounding region.

The good news? The beast has finally been tamed.

Bane of Dark Gods is now available for preorder and officially releases August 12, giving readers just enough time to finish Magic Unleashed before everything inevitably becomes more complicated for poor Raor.

Scholars remain divided on whether his decision-making improves in Book Two.

Early evidence continues to suggest absolutely not.

Autumn was last seen smiling suspiciously while muttering something about "writing the final book." Experts fear she may already be wandering back **toward the cave**.

Developing story.



TEA BREAK

A New Companion Arrives

The Glitter Paper is delighted to report that the author's household has welcomed its newest resident.

After what can only be described as an unnecessarily complicated journey aboard a mythical air carrier, Luna has officially arrived.

Current activities include exploring absolutely everything, discovering which sticks are the very best sticks, and reminding everyone that naps are, in fact, a perfectly respectable career choice.

Goldie has already attempted introductions.

Luna remains politely unconvinced that pixies are helpful.

Rumors also suggest another traveler may soon be setting out on an epic journey across the realms.

EXCLUSIVE PHOTO

Goldie has obtained the first official cover of *Bane of Dark Gods*.

She assures readers she acquired it through perfectly legitimate means.

Autumn insists there was "absolutely no pixie-related theft involved."

One of these statements may be inaccurate.



Preorder *Bane of Dark Gods* on [Amazon](#)

The rescue mission involves one very well-fed Cairn Terrier currently answering to the future name Faelin.

The author insists the name means Little Wolf.

Goldie would like the record to show that naming one dog Luna and another Faelin seems suspiciously destined to create moonlit howling.

Autumn maintains this is "adorable."

Goldie remains... cautiously optimistic.

Further reports will follow after sufficient belly rubs have been administered.



The lovely (and much loved) Luna



GOLDIE INVESTIGATES

What Exactly Is the Rift... and Should We Be Worried?

Spoiler: Probably.

By Goldie, Investigative Correspondent (self-appointed)

Every fantasy world has at least one thing sensible people are told not to poke.

In Alpha Magenta, that thing is a rather inconvenient tear in reality known simply as the Rift.

Naturally, I poked it.

(Editor's Note: Goldie absolutely did not poke the Rift. Please do not encourage her.)

After extensive research involving old books, several suspiciously knowledgeable mages, and one librarian who kept muttering, "That's classified," I have assembled the following report.

So... what is the Rift?

Imagine reality developing a crack. Now imagine that crack slowly growing larger because it feeds on emotion.

Yes. Emotion: Joy. Fear. Hope. Despair. Love. All of it.

Apparently this was considered a good enough reason for the mages to ban books, stories, and most interesting forms of self-expression for over a thousand years.

Personally, I think banning books because reality might eat them feels a bit extreme.

But then again, I once ate an entire honey cake because someone told me not to.

Different circumstances.

Why does everyone care?

Because if the Rift keeps growing... Well... Entire worlds disappearing would certainly ruin everyone's travel plans.

Unfortunately, that's only one of the problems. Ancient gods have begun stirring. Long-forgotten magic refuses to stay forgotten.

And an alarming number of people seem convinced they know how to save the world. History suggests this rarely goes well.

Enter one extremely reluctant former mage...

Raor wanted a quiet life. Books. Research. A perfectly respectable career choice.

Instead, he finds himself pulled into ancient conflicts, dangerous magic, assassins, gods, and enough impossible decisions to make even experienced heroes consider a long vacation.

Personally, I blame destiny. Destiny has terrible timing.

Goldie's Official Conclusion

After careful investigation, I have determined the following:

- Ancient magical tears in reality are generally inconvenient.
- Secret gods should remain secret.
- Assassins make terrible dinner guests.
- Raor desperately needs a holiday.

Whether he actually gets one...well... You'll have to ask Book Two.



Goldie's Tiny Wisdom

- Heroes rarely know they're heroes. They usually think they're just trying to survive Tuesday.
- If your plan requires "just one tiny spell"... Pack snacks. It is going to be a long day.
- Kindness is a bit like glitter. It has an astonishing habit of turning up where you least expect it.

EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS

An Early Reader Recounts Their Encounter with Bane of Dark Gods

Interview with Typo Slayer Cassandra

Congratulations on surviving Bane of Dark Gods, Cassandra!

Survived, that's a funny way to put it traveling through the lands of Ylécium with multiple assassins, feuding elves and dwarves, and an Arcane Arch Mage. Yes, I survived...

1. On a scale from "slightly frazzled" to "emotionally adopted by fictional people," how are you feeling after finishing Bane of Dark Gods?

I feel like I fall in between—but not into the Rift. I cannot believe I took a trip through the realms of Ylécium with an Arcane Arch Mage, multiple assassins, Dramna a White Elf, Koss an Ember Dwarf, and Viper, a Gray Agent, as well as a mystical cat from the Temple of the Arcane. All just to find a magic book to save the love of the guy they're supposed to assassinate. Whew! Yeah, you could say I feel like I was part of the group of companions by the end, they are now my people.

2. Which character would you invite for tea? (Choosing Otano is considered a bold life decision.)

BWAHAHA! I would have to say Rosaylyn, she seems the most down to earth and least likely to kill me upon meeting. And she must really be something to have caught Raor's eye all those years ago (I mean he's crossing the world of Ylécium to help heal her.) OHHHH, and I would invite Christiana, the Royal Trader! She can bring the snacks, since she has the means. I love her chapters, and can't wait to find out how she survived with a piece of an unkillable plant in her and how this is to play out in the next book! She needs to 'spill' the tea, not literally, nobody wants to clean that up.

3. What snack pairs best with this book?

I'm thinking pretzel rods for those nail biting moments, and tea to stay warm on those cold, snowy nights (brrrrr). Maybe you can talk to Autumn about not changing chapters and Character POV when the drama starts, maybe then I wouldn't need the pretzels... Ohh, and can she maybe set it in fall or spring, the weather is much nicer!

4. How many times did you yell at a character?

- ☐ Never. I remained composed.
- ☐ Once or twice.
- ☐ Frequently.
- ☒ I had several strongly worded conversations with the pages. Can someone please make Koss take a bath!!!! I can smell him from here!
- ☐ I would like to file official complaints with the author.

- 5. Tissue Forecast
 - ☀ Clear skies
 - ☁ Slightly misty
 - ☁ Needed one tissue
 - ☁ Entire box vanished
 - ☹ I am now approximately 80% tears

I shredded them to make me feel like I was in the snow storm with them, I call it immersive reading!... I live in Florida and it's summer, so this was my only forecast that was acceptable.

6. Goldie's Important Research Question Which character is secretly the most likely to carry emergency snacks?

We all know the Dramna, the White Elf, will carry the emergency snacks. She's always prepared and know the others will not be, looking at you Koss, with a pit (larger than the Rift) for a stomach.

- 7. Survival Difficulty Glitter Rating
 - ✨ One sparkle: Easy Stroll
 - ✨ ✨ Two sparkles: Minor emotional injuries
 - ✨ ✨ ✨ Three sparkles: "Just one more chapter."
 - ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ Four sparkles: Accidentally hissed at coworkers for interrupting reading time.
 - ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ Five sparkles: Currently trying to convince strangers to read it.

Oh I love more sparkles! Five is the only correct answer! Any other answer must deal with Otano, and good luck to you.

8. Which side character completely stole the show?

Side character?? If they're in the story then they are MC! I'd say I really want to know more about Christiana, the Royal Trader, and Fiana, Raor's sister (she seems a little off-her-rocker in a fun way.)

9. If you could accidentally fall into one scene...which would you choose?

The Savage Barrens.... I'm intrigued about these magical rock beasts! I want to learn more of their story and befriend one too.

10. Do you think Raor's life choices improve in the second book? (I highly question his decision making)

I feel he continues to save each of the traveling companions in so many ways. He is putting them on a new path that might be more righteous than their previous paths. I guess you can only go up from being trained/hired assassins though. It seems he is doing this all for love, to help heal Rosaylyn, so I feel he is improving his decision making skills.

Thank you, Cassandra! Bane of Dark Gods is coming August 12th! You can preorder now.



Your Forecasts

ADVENTURE FORECAST

August Outlook

- ✂ Epic Quests: Excellent
- ✨ Magic Levels: Rising rapidly
- 📖 New Adventures: Highly Likely
- ☕ Tea Consumption: Necessary
- 💤 Sleep: Unlikely

Current Reading Conditions

- 📖 Excellent
- 🛏 Blanket Recommended
- ☕ Tea Strongly Encouraged
- 📱 Ignore Notifications

Regional Forecast

🌊 Ylécium Storms of Arcane Magic expected beginning August 12 as Bane of Dark Gods arrives. Travelers are advised to keep healing potions nearby and avoid making bargains with dark goddesses.

🌍 Earth / Beyond the Veil A magical front is moving in. Beginning August 4, reports indicate Shattering the Veil may cause outbreaks of legendary heroes, ancient relics, and widespread curiosity.

🌸 General Outlook An excellent month to begin new adventures in beloved worlds. Pack snacks.

Goldie's Official Forecast

"I predict you'll finish one chapter and accidentally read seven."

FAE GOSSIP

Whispers from the Realms

Born of Water Refuses to Act Its Age

Witnesses across the kingdoms report that Born of Water, despite first appearing many years ago, has recently been seen sprinting through the Fantasy Charts like an overexcited new release.

Current reports place the adventure among the top ranks of Epic Fantasy after hundreds of readers apparently decided they had other plans for their sleeping schedules.

Scholars remain baffled.

Goldie is not.

"Some stories simply know when it's time for another adventure."

Unfortunately, every attempt to verify the sightings has been interrupted by malfunctioning runes, suspiciously convenient mist, and at least one pixie insisting she "definitely saw him... probably."

Authorities recommend remaining alert.

Something is stirring.

Mist Runner Still Missing Her Mother

Explorers traveling the Mist report that Kira's ability to navigate its shifting paths continues to improve.

Unfortunately, her search for her missing mother remains frustratingly unsuccessful.

Goldie has volunteered to help.

The Mist politely declined.

Further updates are expected... eventually.

Unconfirmed Sighting: Riasg

Several highly questionable sources insist the elusive fae, Riasg, has been spotted wandering the edges of the Hidden Realm.

Reliability: 🐝🐝🐝🐝🐝

"Several trustworthy fae overheard this while eavesdropping."

AUTHOR SIGHTING

Magic Appears to Be Escaping the Veil

Goldie has been fluttering through the book realms again and stumbled across author Steven A. Guglich, who seems to be having entirely too much fun poking holes in the barrier between our world and one where magic never truly disappeared.

Reports indicate that his newest adventure, Shattering the Veil, is now available for preorder.

Considering the title, this feels... mildly concerning.

Readers who enjoy hidden magic, unlikely heroes, ancient mysteries, and worlds quietly waiting just beyond the edge of ordinary life may wish to investigate before the Veil finishes shattering on its own.



Pre-order Shattering the Veil [here!](#)

Small Fae Rehabilitation Centre

Has Your Sparkle Lost Its Gleam?

Exposure to pesticides? Iron? Industrial runoff? Humans?

Our caring staff specialize in restoring tiny wings, weary hearts, and faded glitter.

Included with every stay:

- 🌻 Organic flower nectar
- 🍰 Fresh fairy cakes
- 🌸 Floral teas
- 🛏 Moss beds
- ✨ Complimentary sparkle restoration

"Helping little fae shine again."

Their lavender cakes are worth pretending to need treatment.

You can visit this lovely place in Fae Revolution.

FIELD REPORT

Atheneum: The Invisible Library That Is Extremely Difficult to Visit

Official Objective:

Investigate the legendary invisible library of Atheneum.

I have several questions.

First...

If the island is invisible... how does anyone know where to go?

Do students just sail around shouting, "Marco?" until someone answers, "Library!"

Second...

If the books are invisible...
...how does reading work?

I tried opening one.

Nothing happened.

Mostly because there wasn't actually a book there.

I was standing in a shrub.

Fortunately, one exceedingly patient librarian explained that the island is invisible.

The books are not.

This seems like an important distinction that could have been mentioned earlier.

Once inside...

Atheneum is astonishing.

Towering shelves.

Ancient magic.

Enough knowledge to make any scholar faint dramatically.

The librarians politely asked me not to test whether pixie glitter can be used as a bookmark.

Apparently the answer is already known.

Goldie's Travel Rating



Wonderful atmosphere.

Excellent tea.

Suspiciously few pastries.

Visibility could be improved.



Atheneum is an island if you can find it.

Did You Know?

Atheneum is home to one of the greatest magical universities in the Nine Worlds, where scholars study everything from emotional magic to the mysteries surrounding the Rift.

Unfortunately, they still refuse to answer my question about whether dragons need library cards.

Investigative journalism continues.

Goldie's Travel Tips

ATHENEUM

- ★ Bring comfortable walking shoes.
- ★ Do not annoy librarians.
- ★ Absolutely do not shelve yourself.
- ★ If someone tells you the island isn't there, keep sailing.
- ★ Tea: Excellent.
- ★ Pastries: Needs improvement.

Souvenir Acquired

ATHENEUM

- ☑ One feather
- ☑ Three bookmarks
- ☑ A very stern letter from the librarians
- ☐ Ancient forbidden artifact (Maybe next time.)

COVERS SPOTTED

Local Heroes Receive Unexpected Makeovers

Several familiar faces have recently been observed emerging from portrait sessions looking noticeably more... heroic.

Niri now appears to command enough water to concern nearby fishermen.

Meanwhile, Zhao has apparently decided that if one is going to save the world, one should at least look suitably impressive while doing so.

Officials insist these are merely "updated portraits."

Goldie suspects magical enhancement.



Editor's Note: Readers may begin noticing these updated portraits appearing around the realms soon. Please avoid startling the heroes by complimenting them too enthusiastically.

VILLAIN WATCH

Otano Declines Interview

This month's scheduled interview with Otano, Dark Goddess of Wind and Torture, unfortunately did not proceed as planned.

When asked, "So... how are your world domination plans coming along?"

Otano replied, "Mortal suffering is inevitable."

Goldie replied, "I'll mark that as 'Busy.'"

The interview concluded shortly thereafter.

Current Threat Assessment

Name: Otano

Occupation: Dark Goddess

Current Mood: Concerning.

Favorite Activity: Making everyone else's day considerably worse.

Known Weakness: Goldie has yet to discover one.

Interview Status: Declined. Forcefully.

Goldie's Tea Wisdom

"Life is better with tea.



Also dogs.

Mostly dogs.



The tea is harder to pet."

GOLDIE'S CURIOSITY CABINET

Frostcap Whisper Mushroom

Found only beneath the ancient pines of the southern forests of Xasno, the Frostcap Whisper Mushroom prefers deep moss, cool shade, and being left entirely alone.

Its pale blue cap appears dusted with fresh snow even in midsummer. At dawn, tiny droplets collect beneath the cap and shimmer with faint magical light.

Scholars insist this is simply condensed moisture.

Pixies know better.

Please admire.
Please do not lick.
~ Goldie

Uses

✿ Highly valued by healers for calming fevers and easing magical exhaustion.

✿ Often dried and brewed into restorative teas.

✿ Safe to eat...

...provided it has not begun whispering.



Frostcap Whisper Mushroom in its native habitat

Goldie's Notes

The mushrooms occasionally release tiny drifting spores that sparkle in moonlight.

They look beautiful.

They also cause sneezing.

This has made stealth operations somewhat difficult.

Goldie's Rating



- Excellent appearance.
- Excellent medicinal value.
- Average conversational skills.

Habitat

Ancient pine forests.

Season

Late summer through first frost.

Uses

- Healing.
- Tea.
- Soup.
- Not hats.

Warning

May attract curious pixies.

Goldie's Verdict

Worth the hike. Pack snacks.

Readers Wanted

Smashwords is running its annual Summer/Winter sale.

Good news! Goldie notes deals do not require selling your soul to sketchy sorcerers. Make room on your eReaders and bring lots of snacks.

Visit the sale!

MYTHICAL CREATURE WATCH

Creature: Winged Behemoth Bear

Habitat: Northern grasslands

Temperament: Generally peaceful. Hungry.

Favorite Food:

- Fish
- Berries
- Unwary travelers

Favorite Activity: Looking deceptively cuddle-shaped.

Status: Recently Sighted

Field Notes

Reports continue to arrive from the northern grasslands regarding the elusive Winged Behemoth Bear.

Goldie traveled north to determine once and for all whether these legendary creatures are as fluffy as they appear.

The answer is... Yes. They are.

Unfortunately, they are also capable of gliding with surprising enthusiasm.

Goldie would like to clarify that she was conducting important scientific research and was absolutely not running away while yelling, "I only wanted one hug!"

Researchers recommend admiring Behemoth Bears from a respectful distance.

Goldie recommends a slightly greater distance.

Goldie's Recommendation: 10/10.

Observe. Do not hug.



Do You Think You Might Be Fae?

Have people accused you of laughing at inappropriate moments?
Do shiny rocks mysteriously appear in your pockets?
Have you ever accepted tea from a suspiciously attractive stranger?

You may be entitled to answers.

Take Goldie's Official "Are You Secretly Fae?" examination today!

THE WHISPER HERD

Rumors, Gossip, and Absolutely the Truth In Magiana...

Several travel companions (unnamed) say they have seen Raor smile at least twice and possibly held Rosaylyn's hand. These events could not be confirmed.

Unnamed sources suggest Koss has formed an unlikely attachment with a travel companion, against all odds and possibly the gods. We are waiting for divine punishment to confirm or deny.

White Elf assassins have reportedly begun complaining that heroes are becoming increasingly difficult to predict.

Goldie would like to remind everyone that this is generally considered a positive character trait.

A mysterious scholar has been observed repeatedly checking out books concerning forgotten gods, ancient prisons, and things best left buried.

The librarians insist there is nothing unusual about this.

Goldie respectfully disagrees.

Whisper Herd Exclusive

Several highly reliable sparrows report that an Arch Mage recently uttered the phrase, "How much worse could this possibly get?"

Historians agree this is traditionally followed by events becoming considerably worse.

Reports suggest several mortals have recently stayed awake far later than intended after beginning Magic Unleashed.

Experts describe this condition as "just one more chapter."

No cure currently exists. Fears grow this will soon spread to readers of Bane of Dark Gods.

CLASSIFIEDS

LOST

One Dark Goddess
Last seen attempting world domination.
Answers to "Otano."
Reward offered for information leading to significantly fewer apocalypses.

HELP WANTED

Heroes Needed
Experience preferred.
Common sense optional.
Must be willing to ignore ominous prophecies and continue anyway.

FOR SALE

Slightly used prophecy.
Only fulfilled once.
No refunds.

GOLDIE'S GUIDES

Confused by Fae?
So am I.
Fortunately I've written several completely unofficial guides explaining pixies, changelings, questionable etiquette, and why accepting mysterious gifts is usually a terrible idea.
Free from the Reader's Library!
"Mostly accurate."
~ Goldie

PUBLIC NOTICE

Missing: One Free Novella
Reports indicate Assassin's Shadow has escaped into Kobo, Apple, Google Play, Barnes & Noble...
...and is happily free.
Amazon, however, appears to believe otherwise.
Goldie suspects someone misplaced the memo.
If you happen to wander past the Amazon product page, there is a handy little link titled:
"Report an issue with this product or seller."
Should you feel inspired to mention that this delightful novella is free everywhere else such as Kobo, Barnes & Noble, Apple Books, & Google Play...
Goldie certainly wouldn't object.
(Neither would Dramna.)

HELP WANTED

Volunteer Stone Troll Needed
Applicants should possess a calm disposition, sturdy constitution, and ideally be willing to stand perfectly still for extended periods.
Job details will be discussed after successful verification that you are, in fact, a genuine stone troll.
Please inquire with Fiana.
No prank applicants this time.

MISSING

Have You Seen This Fae?
Name: Riasg
Last seen doing something mysterious.
Again.
If encountered, please refrain from asking difficult questions.
Instead, kindly inform Bramble immediately.
Reward:
One very sincere "Thank you." Possible a Brownie spine.
(Actual reward may vary.)

SERVICES WANTED

Rune Specialist Required
Seeking experienced craftsperson capable of repairing broken runes.
Must have references.
Must not accidentally summon ancient evils.
Payment offered in genuine fae gold.
Guaranteed not to become leaves.
Probably.

LOST & FOUND

Found:
One slightly singed spellbook.
Owner may reclaim it after explaining exactly what happened.
No judgment.

PET SERVICES

Winged Bear sitting available.
References not provided.
Insurance recommended.

PERSONAL

To the Sylpham who keeps watching me from the treeline:
I noticed.
You aren't nearly as sneaky as you think.
Sincerely,
Someone who definitely isn't looking back.

FOR SALE

Fresh Frostcap Whisper Mushrooms.
Guaranteed authentic.
Do not purchase the glowing ones.
Those are stolen and a different species.

WANTED

Experienced Hero.
Must enjoy impossible odds.
Competitive benefits include:
• lifelong friendships
• emotional damage
• occasional world-saving

COMMUNITY BOARD

Looking for your next fantasy adventure?
Dozens of fantasy authors have gathered together to offer free adventures, magical worlds, and dangerous quests.
Goldie has already wandered through.
She recommends bringing extra bookmarks.
Join the Free Fantasy & SciFi Books
Join the Free Adventures in Fantasy

The Temple of Solaire

Elemental?

Your magic deserves proper training.

For over a thousand years, the Temple of Solaire has trained generations of elemental mages in the disciplines of Water, Fire, Earth, Air...

...and even Spirit.

Applications now accepted for students 8 years and older.

"We are Myrrah's oldest continuously operating Temple."