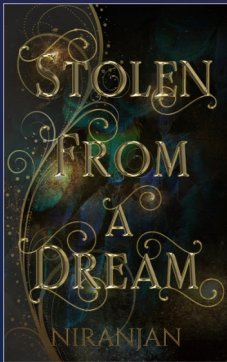


# The Far-Seeing Eye

Release Radar for *Indie* Fantasy, Sci-Fi, and Horror

September 2023

## Issue #1



Grain Demons, Dragons, Space Pirates!

# Hello There!

Why a release radar, you ask? Ever come across an article touting to feature the twenty most anticipated fantasy releases? The best sci-fi of the summer? The most spine-chilling horror books of 2023?

Most of those lists don't include a single book published by indie authors or small presses, and isn't that a shame when so much of the innovation and experimentation in literature is happening out here in indie space?

So let's foster a healthier attitude towards indie books, akin to how people view indie games or indie music. Some of them exist. And some of them are the most awesome, touching, gut-wrenching stories we'll have the privilege of reading, and they absolutely deserve our love, our attention, and our support.

The Far-Seeing Eye hopes to shine a spotlight on the books featured here. The authors have agreed to let me include small samples of their writing, so you can judge for yourself if a book is for you. So be brave, try something new, and hopefully you'll find a favorite new read.

If you like one of the books featured here, buy it. Review it. Recommend it. And don't forget to tell your bookish friends about the Far-Seeing Eye.

Happy Reading,

--Susanne

September 2023

# The Far-Seeing Eye

Release Radar for Indie Fantasy, Sci-Fi, and  
Horror

Published by Susanne Schmidt

<https://susanneschmidt.me>

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For concerns or feedback, contact me [contact@susanneschmidt.me](mailto:contact@susanneschmidt.me).

Featuring excerpts from:

Stolen from a Dream by Niranjan

Soultaming the Serpent by P.M. Hammond

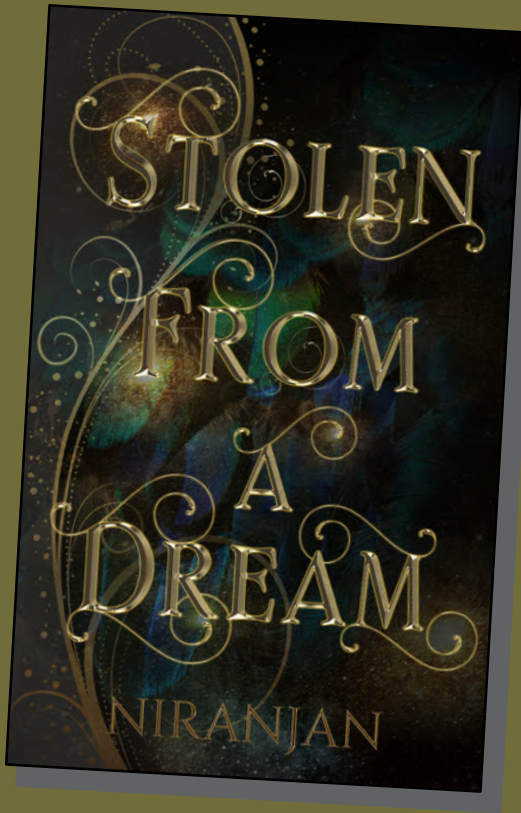
Bad Grains by Susanne Schmidt

ReBirth: Zodiac Book One by Azshure Raine

And including:

Hyvilma (The Kitra Saga #3) by Gideon Marcus

If you would like to know about potential triggers, please consult the [list at the end of the publication.](#)



## Stolen From A Dream

By Niranjana

Saving a stranger causes Pelthiel and his sister, Leithia to come into the sights of the very beings they had been trying to avoid all their lives: the Gods who rule their world, who had been responsible for the deaths of their father and his siblings.

## STOLEN FROM A DREAM BY NIRANJAN

“We have to go!” Her father sounded tense and Leithia looked at him from where she was playing with her doll. He was dressed in black clothes and had a hood on. A bag was strapped to his back.

“Darien?” Leithia’s mother asked, rising from where she sat, sewing a tear in one of Leithia’s dresses. She placed a hand on her full belly. “What happened?”

“No time to explain, Seania,” Father said, holding out a black cloak with a hood. “We have to leave now!”

Leithia looked at the window through which could be seen the heavy rain falling outside.

“Father, it’s raining,” she said. “We’ll get wet.”

“It’s all right, Leithia,” her mother said, turning to her. “Get up and come; see, we all have matching cloaks.”

The black cloak was warm, and smelled faintly of spices. The hood fell down almost to her eyes. Leithia took her mother’s hand, and they followed their father outside. There was a small wagon outside with a cover, and Father helped Mother and Leithia up before climbing on to the driver’s seat.

“There are no horses,” Leithia whispered to her mother.

“Hush, Leithia,” her mother said, holding her close to her breast. “Stay quiet for a bit, please, my darling, and don’t look outside.”

There were shouts and screams coming from somewhere, and the wagon started moving. Leithia wanted to ask her mother what was happening, but she dared not. Her mother had asked her to be quiet, which was something her mother had never asked her before.

Read on: <https://books2read.com/u/3yVNDZ>



## Soultaming the Serpent

By P. M. Hammond

Jun never knew adventure until she took her first step out of her village at age 60 and then found a young man, which only led her to more adventures and stories, some of which point to home.



## SOULTAMING THE SERPENT BY P. M. HAMMOND:

Jun was barely ten years old when the last dragon died.

Almost fifty years had passed since then, but she remembered what it was like when the dragon was alive, even if she never saw it herself.

That was also the last time she crossed the border of her village. She hesitated now at that invisible boundary.

Fifty years ago, the dried earth under her feet was a field of lavender. Her mama owned half of it and nobody else in the village ever claimed the other half. Her mama made Jun pick flowers only from this point on and toward their house. Every harvest season, the border became visible with the lavenders picked clean on one side and those wilting on their own on the other.

Fifty years ago, Jun skipped over the edge with a grin, hiding through the flowers that were almost as tall as her.

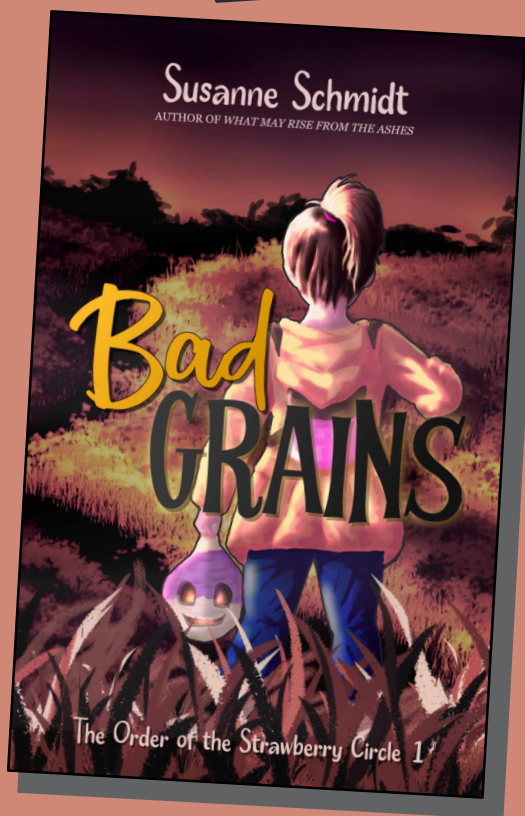
Now, the earth was dry and cracked and dead. Now, there was no visible border.

She shuffled toward the line anyway and then immediately shuffled back when a spark from her torch fell over the border. The warm night air was a comfort.

Jun had never crossed this line at night.

Fifty years ago, when the dragon died, it rained for weeks. Mama and mother had told Jun not to wander as they collected the rainwater. They both knew what the dragon's death meant.

Read on: <https://books2read.com/soultaming>



## Bad Grains

By Susanne Schmidt

In the German town of Fels, Halloween takes a dark turn for 11-year-old Jo when her annoying older brother goes missing. Jo soon uncovers a gruesome legend: A monster has been preying on the children of Fels for centuries, ensnaring them into its world under the rye fields.

## BAD GRAINS BY SUSANNE SCHMIDT

Everything has its price, even if the price tag isn't always visible.

Take recess, for example: Nearly every day, I buy a loaf of potato bread from the school kiosk. The price tag on the bread is obvious: A chunk of my allowance, and precious time wasted standing in line.

But I'm not just buying bread. The snack line gives me somewhere to be. The bread in my hand gives me something to do while I hover at the fringes of a group of girls, who meet below a stairwell to exchange collectible stickers. Chewing the bread gives me an excuse for why I'm never talking. Gives me the appearance of being sociable when I'm just hanging on.

The bread saves me from becoming a friendless loser, like my classmate Rani, who always spends her breaks outside, jogging around the building. Even on days like today when the rain comes pouring down.

Once the bell rings to signal the end of recess, Rani walks back in, dripping water across the school's mud brown carpet floors. She smiles to herself; a blissful, carefree smile of pure freedom. From my spot under the stairs, I envy her.

But she, too, pays a price. The sticker girls all stop chatting. They stare at her openly, giggling and snickering. And when they make fun of her wild hair and wrinkled clothing, my envy of Rani quickly fades. No, I tell myself: I'm much better off in the snack line. Better off with the sticker girls, even if we never talk.

Read on: <https://books2read.com/u/b6WAgW>



## ReBirth: Zodiac Book One

By Azshure Raine

Threads of gold, ancient and dangerous, pull them together; a bond  
neither can deny

A Crown Prince running from his past and a girl who barely  
remembers her own must come together to end a 1000 year threat.

## REBIRTH: ZODIAC BOOK ONE BY AZSHURE RAINE

The Titan of Time gripped the spear's shaft in her chest until her hand bled. A thousand years of being left pinned to the roots of the Mother Tree by Fate gnawed at her.

Groaning, she threw her head back, her long white hair dingy from the dirt and overgrowth. It stuck to the bark and pulled, causing stinging to roll through her skull.

Her chest heaved in frustration as she let out a primal scream before releasing the blood-red metal of the weapon. The tips pierced between her navel and breasts. She drew up the length of the captured arm with her free hand, tracing the tattoos with her blood. The red contrasted magnificently with the pale blue of her skin.

Throughout the twisted root cave, slivers of her power, thin golden threads, glittered across everything, waiting to catch prey in its nets.

Light at the end of the tunnel flickered, causing Time's lips to curl into a devilish smile. Come to me. I could use the entertainment.

A rush of wind filled the hollow space, feathers scattering toward her in a kaleidoscope of black and white.

Time chuckled, low and deep. It's her.

Read on: <https://mybook.to/ReBirth>



## Hyvilma (The Kitra Saga #3)

By Gideon Marcus

A deadly ambush by pirates sends the Majera reeling through hyperspace. Now getting back home in time is the only way Captain Kitra Yilmaz can save her dying shipmate.

But landing at Hyvilma may be impossible: war has broken out on the Frontier.

With illustrations by Hugo Finalist Lorelei Esther.

Book Link: <https://journeypress.com/titles/kitra/#Hyvilma>

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## Potential Triggers

Stolen from a Dream by Niranjan

Violence, Death, Foul Language, Domestic Abuse, Child birth, Pregnancy, Drowning, Trauma, PTSD, Gaslighting, Loss of siblings, loss of loved ones

Soultaming the Serpent by P.M. Hammond

Violence

Bad Grains by Susanne Schmidt

Violence, Missing Children, Death

ReBirth: Zodiac Book One by Azshure Raine

Violence, Death, Foul Language

Hyvilma (The Kitra Saga #3) by Gideon Marcus

Violence, Death