
Fwd: News from Fox Spirit Books

Fox Spirit <foxspiritbooks@gmail.com>
Draft

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Tempus Fugit.

It's May 2014. I'm having trouble wrapping my brain around that. We are now less than a month from celebrating the 2nd anniversary of Fox Spirit coming into being and we have not been idle.

Yes some titles have suffered slippage; it was inevitable given all we are trying to do, especially given we all work full time outside our FS duties. Still I am proud of what has been achieved. In almost two years we have published twenty titles with Warrior Stone being our 20th and also our first YA novel. That's not much shy of a million words in total.

Of course we are also running our first serialisation in 'StarFang' which will be released in 2015 as a complete novel.

We've built a great community of artists, writers, reviewers and we hope fans over the last two years and I am proud of every publication Fox Spirit has put out.

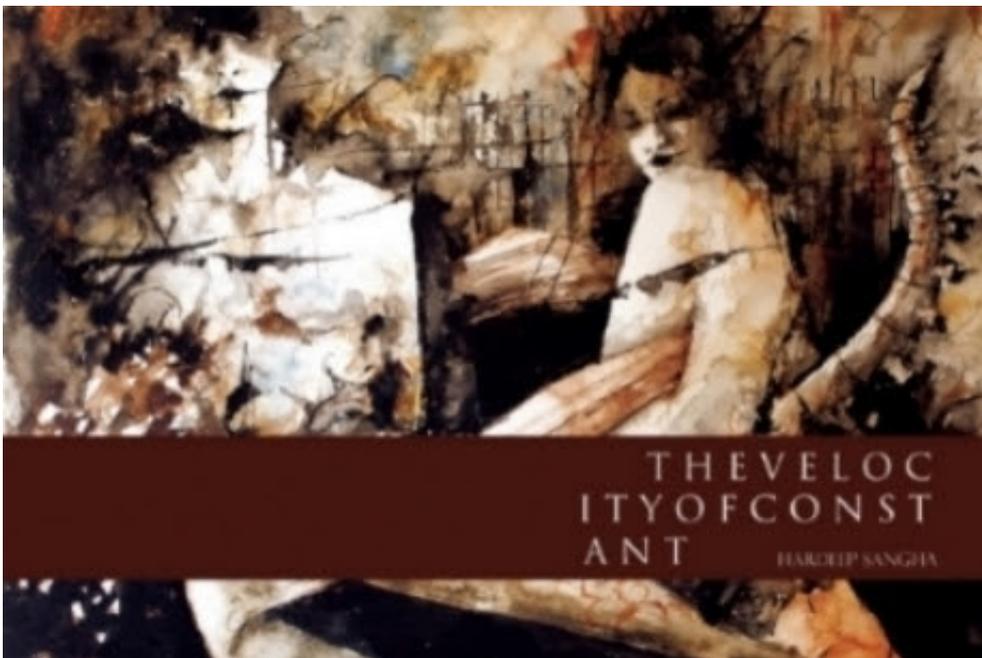
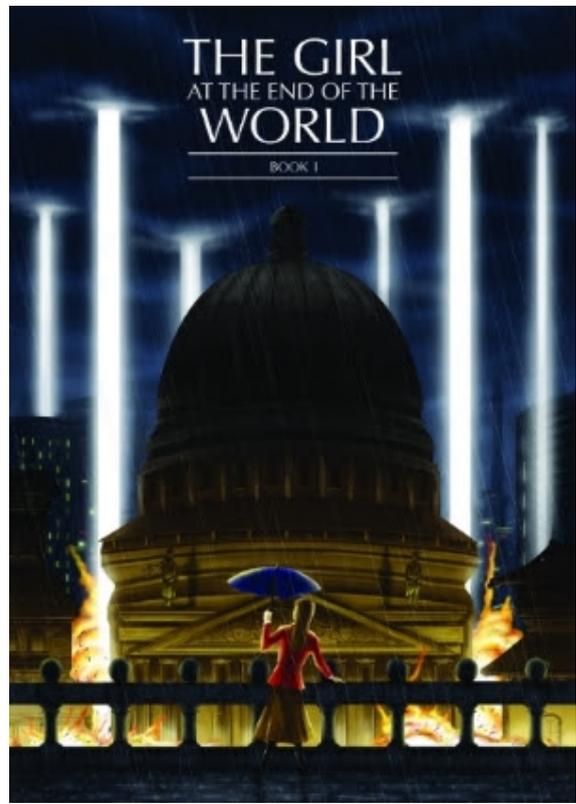
To celebrate our birthday we have a couple of gifts. First of all there will be 100 copies of the Nun & Dragon ebooks available to download free to newsletter readers on the following code: 'foxsubs100'.

There will also be 100 copies free via a code we will release on facebook. So if you don't have it, get it downloaded.

The giveaways will begin on 2nd June.

We are also giving all newsletter subscribers a sampler of 'And the Fox Crows', our poetry chapbook coming soon. We have included the prose sections and one poem from each section to give you all a preview. This is an exclusive to newsletter subscribers.

You can download the chapbook from the members area of the website <http://www.foxspirit.co.uk/members-area/reviewer-downloads/> with the code 'newscrows02'.



Releases, recent and upcoming!

A quick reminder of everything we've released in the last two years with much more to come.

- 04/07/2012 Requiem in E Sharp
- 03/12/2012 Weird Noir
- 04/12/2012 Tales of the Nun & Dragon
- 06/12/2012 Heart for the Ravens
- 10/12/2012 Spares
- 10/12/2012 Oasis
- 20/12/2012 The Pseudopod Tapes Vol 1

03/04/2013 Blood Bound
27/05/2013 Shadows
07/06/2013 Piracy
03/07/2013 Tales of Eve
04/07/2013 Noir Carnival
28/10/2013 The Lost Giganti
17/11/2013 Shapeshifters
30/12/2013 Tales of the Fox and Fae
16/02/2014 Guardians
21/02/2014 Extricate ebook
20/03/2014 Weird Wild
20/04/2014 White Rabbit
12/05/2014 Warrior Stone: Underland
24/05/2014 Extricate & Other Stories Paperback

'Weird Wild' is an illustrated collection by Fox Spirit regular Geraldine Clark Hellery. A blend of genres and styles including poetry and sporting a wonderfully colourful cover by Matt Clark Hellery.

'White Rabbit' is a noirish crime novel with a supernatural twist and an accidental gumshoe. It also comes with a recommendation from best selling crime writer James Oswald.

'Warrior Stone : Underland' is the first in a young adult series by Rob Harkess and our first YA title, bringing younger foxes into the fold we hope. It should appeal to fans of steampunk, urban fantasy and other London stories.

Coming soon:

We have our second YA novel 'Heart of Fire' a werewolf urban fantasy adventure by Joyce Chng writing as Joyce Damask, who is also the author of our online serial.

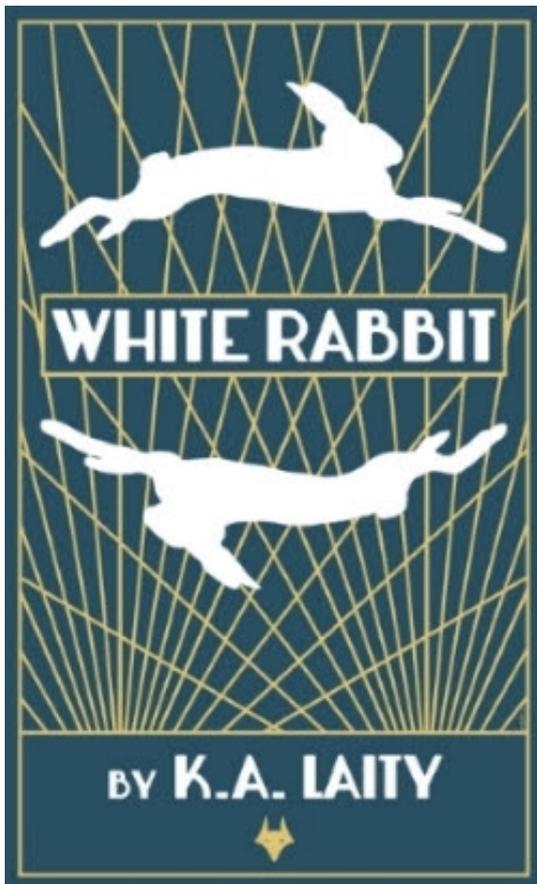
'The Velocity of Constant', part prose, part beat poetry and just a little bit SF by Hardeep Sangha, a local Leicester writer and an exciting emerging voice.

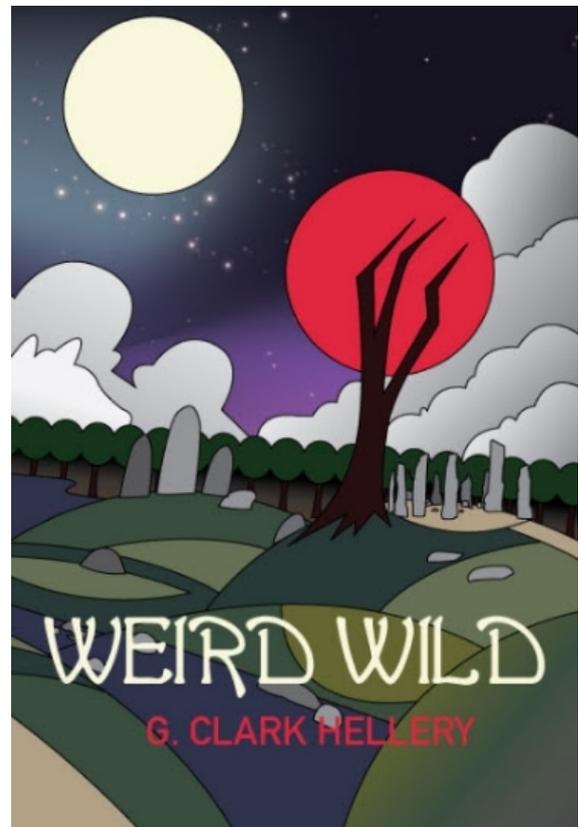
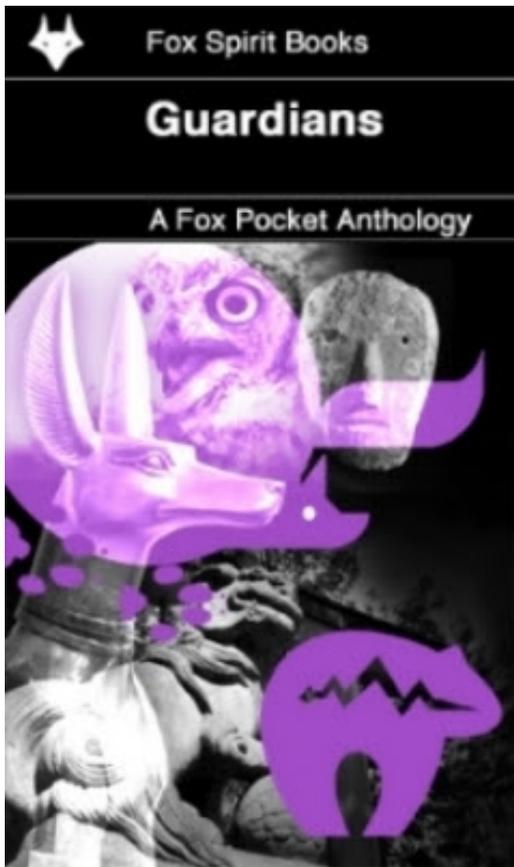
'25 Ways to Kill a Werewolf' by Jo Thomas is a fantasy with a touch of horror that explores what happens when a normal (sort of) girl finds herself targeted by monsters.

'Missing Monarchs' is the fourth Fox Pocket and is well on its way, a marvellous and slightly mad collection of short and flash fiction for your pockets.

'The Girl at the End of The World' is a two volume anthology featuring new and seasoned members of the skulk from all over the world exploring the end of it at a global and personal level. There will be two sets of these books available with 'girl' and 'apocalypse' covers.

And that's just the next few titles!





Fantasy and Reality: The Rise of HEMA

Swords and fantasy fiction go hand in hand, it's hard to think of a fantasy novel where sword fighting isn't involved. What is Arya Stark without Needle? Aragorn without Narsil? The sword reminds us of a heroic, romantic past. Fans of fantasy fiction have explored this love of the blade in many ways: through art, cosplay, role playing games - both tabletop and console, and live action roleplaying. As time goes on people seek more and more 'realism' in their fiction. This applies to swordplay too.

Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA) is a little-known but growing movement that seeks to revive the martial heritage of Europe. It is not re-enactment, stage fighting, or sports fencing. It has more in common with the martial arts of Asia, the difference being that the latter have been passed down from master to student over time.

The fencing masters of the past wrote a lot of literature, and in the last two decades practitioners of HEMA have been working with these original texts to translate, interpret and put them to practical use. From classes, to sparring to tournaments, sword fighting is very much being brought back to life.

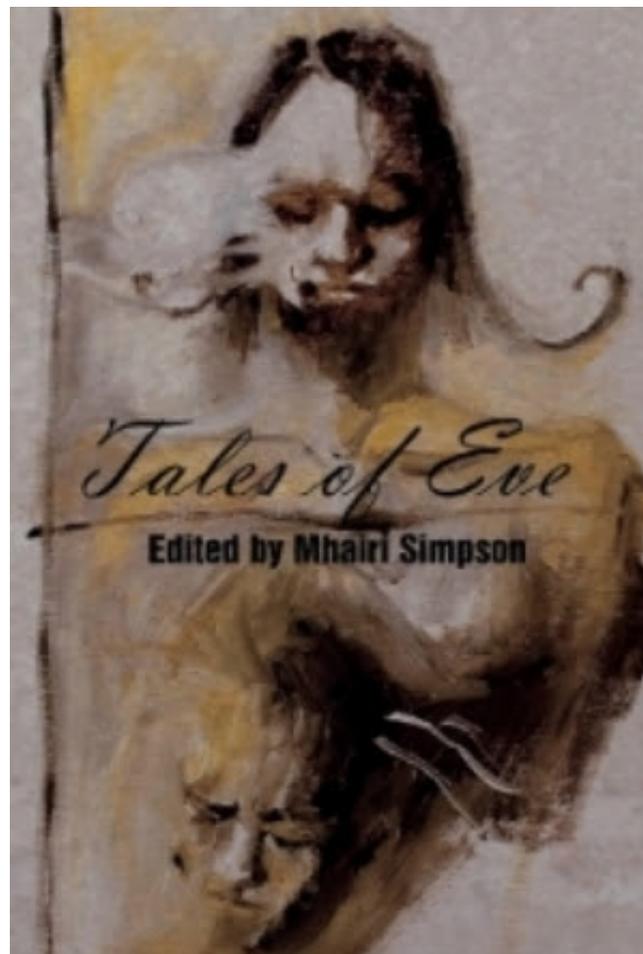
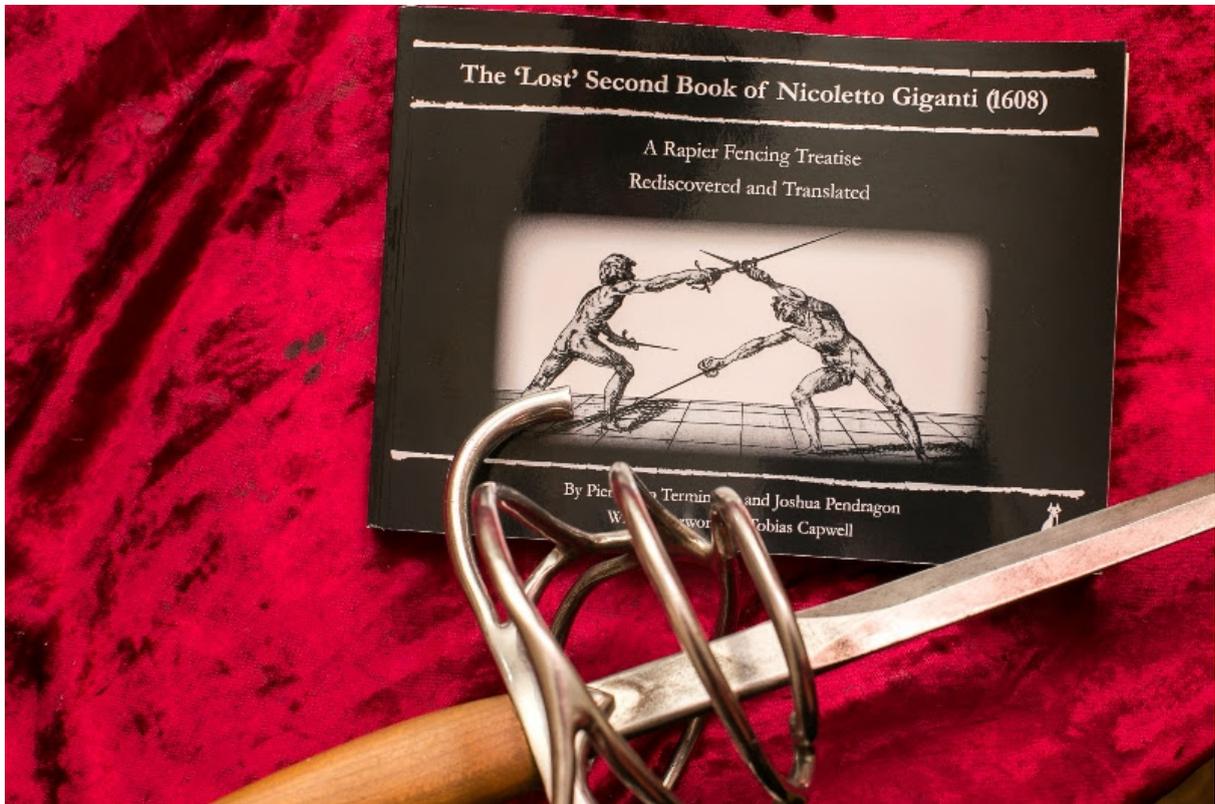
It's easy to see why HEMA would appeal to a reader, and especially writer, of fantasy or historical fiction. Who could resist an opportunity to understand the mechanics of a fight, the actions of a blade, a chance to hold a real sword and to fight with it?

And it's not just swords either. The books cover a period from the early medieval all the way to the Edwardian era - daggers, shields, sickles, spears, fists, grapples, sticks and many more weapons are waiting to be found. We are learning about more techniques all the time, and we are no longer limited by the stage fighting we see on screen to inform our understanding of swordplay. The 'clumsy heavy swords' of Europe and other myths are being rapidly dispelled as we discover and learn the complexity and subtlety of these arts.

Each time a new discovery is made, it changes our understanding of history, we grow as authors, as readers and fencers.

Fran Terminiello has been studying historical fencing for four years. She has written several stories for Fox Spirit Anthologies and is currently working on a co-written fantasy novel with David

Murray. She will appear alongside fellow fencer and Fox Spirit author Jo Thomas at Edgelit Derby to present a talk and demonstration on swordplay for writing.



The Original Tale Of Eve

4th June, 2012

This happens on Facebook:

Adele Wearing: Wondered if you still had a hankering to do that anthology? The perfect partner one? Coz it's a good idea and since I appear to be an imprint now www.foxspirit.co.uk ;p... Just a thought...

Me: OH MY GOD I LOVE YOU SO MUCH YES I WANT TO DO IT PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE LET ME SHOWER YOU WITH GOLD AND LLAMAS...

Adele Wearing: Okay okay, but just the llamas, gold looks cheap on me.

5th June, 2012

Email about a billion people inviting them to submit to "the anthology". No idea what to call it yet. Quite sure I'm going to hell for having the temerity to approach people like Juliet McKenna and Tricia Sullivan. Eat lots of chocolate as a kind of last supper.

6th June, 2012

First submissions received from Alasdair Stuart. Rejected all of them as not fitting the theme. I'm a bad person.

15th June, 2012

Submission received from Adrian Tchaikovsky. Read it through. It's amazing. Bizarre. Disturbing. Perfect, in fact. Email him straight back and tell him so.

19th June, 2012

Adrian sends his story through again with "a few errors taken out". I can't see any difference but if he's happy, I'm happy. He is, after all, Adrian Tchaikovsky. He wields the power of The Beard. And I have no problem with high personal standards.

29th June, 2012

Receive a submission from Andrew Reid. No one gets hit with a wrench. This makes me sad. But the story's amazing.

20th August, 2012

Paul Weimer sends through his "zeroth draft". Damn, he's good.

Borne off by new friends Syd Moore and Steph Roche who mop me up in a corner.

They understand when I tell them I don't want the launch to be the pro authors' charity deed for the year nor the new authors' first crappy experience of a launch. Then they tell me I'm being ridiculous and it will be monumentally successful. They're adorable. I don't believe a word they're telling me but I'm dehydrated from crying so I stop and we go to the bar.

3rd November 2013

Cart the books nearly a mile from my (very nice) hotel to the convention. Realise if nothing else comes of it, I've had a good workout.

Start setting up for the launch. Realise I have no idea how one sets up for a launch. Eventually pile thirty copies of Eve up in a pleasing not-quite-swastika type design. Scatter everything else about any old how. Turn to discover a complete stranger on my right asking if he can buy the books yet. Reply 'yes', then realise I never discussed with Adele how much I should sell the books for. Arbitrarily decide everything is £5. Another complete stranger on my left also wants books.

In the meantime the authors have turned up and are seating themselves. The pros have brought their own pens. This is comforting. They, at least, know what they're doing.

Discover a couple of books with printers' errors - blue tinged covers, front page back to front. Sideline one of each for posterity. Also sideline author copies for the authors who haven't yet arrived or who aren't able to attend. Am very pleased with how organised I am.

Look down the tables and realise everyone is either signing or talking to someone about the book. Then people start asking me to sign it. I tell them it diminishes the value of the book and they don't care.

I sign.

And again.

And a few more times after that.

I realise everyone I know at the convention has actually turned up to the launch but am too busy taking people's money to cry.

30th August, 2012

"Friendly reminder" email sent out. Gnawing fingernails. Is three stories enough for an anthology? Probably not.

31st August, 2012

Cover art arrives. Takes two hours for me to realise how perfect it is. *flail*

21st September, 2012

Ren Warom's story makes me cry.

20th October, 2012

Rob Haines' story also makes me cry. Suspect a conspiracy.

25th October, 2012

Suggest a change to Juliet McKenna's story. Lightning is about to blast through my roof and burn me for hubris. My ashes are going to hell.

29th December, 2012

Final version of "Ellie Danger" is in. I... I... I...
How is it I know so many talented people?

30th December, 2012

Ten stories! How did that happen?

Several times over a six month period

Why can't I find anything wrong with Adrian's story? *cue existential crisis* I'm not a proper editor if I don't make at least ONE comment!!

9th April, 2013

Galley sent to authors. Email is mostly OHMYGODTHEEXCITEMENT... Authors very understanding.

12th September, 2013

Eve goes live. On the anniversary of my grandmother's birthday. Six separate plans in place for leaving the country should everyone realise I'm a fraud. There's no escaping my grandmother's ghost, though. I know that for sure.

17th September, 2013

Alasdair Stuart informs me that we could launch Tales of Eve at World Fantasy Con. I am beset by flying pigs.

The following six weeks are a continuous round of emails between myself, Adele and all the

Rob Haines arrives late and I discover I've accidentally sold his author copy. I've also sold Fran Terminiello's and Paul Weimer's author copies. In fact, I've sold every single copy, including the ones I put aside for future savings plans for when I'm rich and famous (or all the authors are) and people want copies of my (or their) early output with printers' errors in. I feel terrible.

Someone turns up after we've sold out. Suzanne McLeod sells them her own author copy. Someone else turns up after that. I take her name and address to send her a copy after the con. She gives me money. Suddenly realise we've sold around forty books in under forty minutes and I'm now carrying a lot of money.

Then realise I'd better hurry up and give the speech I spent the last ten days practicing because our time slot is running out and since all the books have sold out I might as well talk now. It's actually a specific thank you to the authors but the moment I start talking, everyone else shuts up. It's too late to stop so I keep going. Then everyone claps. Then Colum Paget gets up and says something deeply untruthful about how amazing I am. Everyone claps again. Then Juliet McKenna says something. More clapping. It's horribly embarrassing. In the back of my mind I think they may be talking about someone else, but they're looking at me.

Then I'm even more embarrassed because Ian Whates is starting to set up for *his* launch and we're still packing the place out even though we were supposed to be gone five minutes ago. I rush to pack up the remaining half dozen books (out of about fifty we originally brought) as best I can while my hands and legs shake uncontrollably.

The box is much easier to carry when it's nearly empty.

For the rest of the day, various people, including Syd and Steph, rip the piss out of me for being so worried about the launch. Adrian Tchaikovsky tells me that he attended four launches at the convention and this one outdid the attendance of all the others combined.

COMBINED.

authors as discussions regarding money, books, booking of launch slots and generally spinning until I fall over redefine my life. Then...

31st October, 2013

I'm at World Fantasy!! It's so good to see everyone!! I'm astonished to discover I know about four-fifths of the people there, and eight out of ten Eve authors are also present. It's like a school reunion except only with people you actually like.

2nd November, 2013

Have spent every waking minute of the convention telling everyone I see (every time I see them, which must be annoying but I can't stop) that the launch is at 10am on Sunday. Wander through the launch alley to see a lovely author of my acquaintance at a table which is full of her books but empty of punters. Wander away to the Dealers' Room where I burst into tears.

The empty box is the only hard evidence I have that it wasn't all a dream. (It's still in my living room today.)

22nd March, 2014

This happens on Facebook:

Adele Wearing: Saw one of the Eve authors today and we cooked up a Fox Spirit anthology to keep you busy.

Me: I love that that sentence is even a thing. Hit me.

Adele Wearing: How do you feel about a follow up to Tales of Eve? A couple of authors have already said yes.

Me: OOOOOOOOOOH

Here we go again, folks!



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Please be patient, Aunty Fox also has a full time job so sometimes is unable to respond immediately.

Check out the foxy quick guide and let a little Fox Spirit into your life.

