

Rogue Submarine Newsletter  
Volume 4  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2016

Rogue Readers,

Welcome to the fourth Rogue Submarine Newsletter! I appreciate your interest in the stories I write for you, and I hope to keep you entertained for many years.

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### **1. Audio Books Update**

If you read my prior newsletters, you may have concluded that doing audio books the right way—using professional voice talent—costs too much for a little indie author like me. I've gone in circles trying to narrate them myself, as Amazon-owned ACX suggests. It would take a lot of time and yield questionable quality. I'm putting this effort on the back burner.

### **2. Review of *Rogue Hunter*.**

This book is released in its Advance Reader Copy version and doesn't have many reviews yet on Amazon. My best feedback is private feedback (thank you!).

I explored the surgical strike capabilities of the *Specter* and the *Goliath* so they could disable the Russian Black Sea Fleet without sinking all of its ships and without inviting a rage-driven vendetta. When I was done, I was happy with my effort, and I hoped readers would notice.

However, most of the feedback concerned the Russian dolphins. I thought it would be interesting to have the beloved creatures fighting for the so-called enemy, but they may end up being the fan-favorites for this book.

It took me nine years to write *Rogue Avenger* (yes, that's slow. I was a slow learner), and then it took me twelve years to write the next seven books. I see clearly now that I could have saved twenty-one years if I had just started writing about dolphins in the first place. Dolphins, kittens, puppies, and bunnies. I get it now! Look for warring mammals in my next book (just kidding).

### **3. Voice recognition software**

I had shoulder surgery a month ago, and my arm is immobilized. It will remain that way for another month. Though one-handed, I am pressing onward with my writing. How?

I'm using an old version of Naturally Speaking voice recognition software. Sometimes it's great. Sometimes it's worthless. For example, did I say "happen" or "happened"? Did I want to write "50" or "fifty"? Of course, homonyms (there they're their) are understandably difficult, but I'm boggled that the software mistakes 'he' 'key' and 'the' for homonyms.

The software allows for choosing among its ambiguities and for spelling corrections via voice commands, but my mastery of the virtue of patience doesn't extend that far. Nor does it extend to typing my username, password, or slang. I've invented swear words in my frustration.

Voice recognition software is improving, and it's great for people with no other way to write. But for me, it makes me appreciate my ten working fingers on the keyboard.

### **4. Exploring Submarine Detection Technology**

I owe this update to feedback from one of my readers. Out of respect for privacy, I won't name names, but I appreciate when you all bring valuable feedback to my attention.

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/us-navy-patent-device-submarines-that-detects-anything-underwater-while-keeping-itself-super-1550105>

The article mentions quantum entanglement as the physics behind using a particle in the radio frequency spectrum to track submarines underwater. That sounds mind-blowing. But as a naval fiction author, I must try to understand it enough to demonstrate its real-world relevance.

After reading this article, my head hurts. I did notice that the primary reference is a patent application, which means the technology may be speculative. So, naval fiction authors beware while exploring this technology!

### **5. Real world submarine technology update**

From Wikipedia, I see that the Greek/Hellenic Navy has seven old German submarines and four modern *Type 214* German submarines. It has thirteen modernized frigates, where 'modernized' means old ships with new stuff. Then there's a good twenty or so new missile boats and another ten or so old missile boats, but they appear weak or helpless in undersea warfare.

Why examine Greece? Because...

### **6. Rogue Invader, Intruder...?**

For the ninth book, I'm sending the gang to Greece to disrupt that nation's commerce. I think this is the first time I've sent Team Renard against a 'pure' American ally (I think that Russia as an ally is debatable). I trust it will make for exciting fiction to push the boundaries of what our mercenary fleet can and should be doing.

The premise is that powerbrokers in Europe have had enough. Without having to get violent with their own navies, they're going to hire the Rogue Submarine gang to pressure this corruptly-led and failed economy out of the European Union.

### **7. Typos, mistakes, and the electronic publishing industry**

I decided to enter Rogue Fortress into a writing competition. So I reread the book to find a handful of typos to clean up for the competition. What I learned was startling.

After a year in the market, I found that (insert embarrassing number here) problems slipped through my copy editing process. This suggests that I need to clean up all my books.

I've already found and fixed (insert another embarrassing number here) problems in Rogue Betrayer. You may ask why I don't use a professional copy editor. Well, I did use one for Rogue Betrayer. So I'm hesitant to pay professional copy editors thousands of dollars for questionable results. Fortunately, electronic publishing allows quality control to be an ongoing effort, and I hope to eradicate troublesome errors from all my books over time.

Due to the mistakes in my books, I decided to give readers an anonymous way to identify possible errors. It's a touchy subject. So let's do it anonymously. Here's the link:

<http://www.subthriller.com/errors.html>

### **8. New series: Archangels' Wrath/Rage...**

The short stories in the *Visions* collection, where the Slake brothers take control of the minds of animals and humans, are now becoming the foundation for a new trilogy (Archangels' Wrath/Rage... TBD). It will include paranormal phenomenon and demonic intervention.

One main character is Jake Slate's older brother Nick, who has shown possible paranormal perception in the Rogue Submarine series. The other main character is a former soldier who became a priest and then an exorcist. Wounded in battle and suffering chronic pain, he deals with his troubles through alcohol abuse, which clouds his vision and efficacy as an exorcist.

I hope the collision of those two characters' worlds will lead to enjoyable adventures.

I'm halfway through drafting the first book, *Wrath of the Angel*, and I expect to publish it within six months. The follow-on books will be *Wrath of the Beast* and *Wrath of the Christ*. I want to complete the trilogy before deciding if there will be a fourth book.

That's enough for one newsletter. Thank you for reading!

John