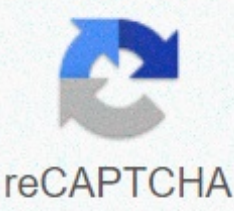




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Knight in shining suit read online free

During the day, indie author Jerilee Kaye, who was born in the Philippines but now lives in Dubai, manages a portfolio of suppliers for one of the biggest port operators in the world. At night, she's a writer, interacting with fans of her self-published novel Knight in Shining Suit—one of the top-selling romance on Smashwords and one of the site's 25 bestselling titles of all time.What's unusual about Kaye's success is that more than 10 million people had already read her novel—for free, on Wattpad—before she self-published it. In fact, Knight in Shining Suit topped Wattpad's most-read chart multiple times in the chick lit and romance categories. Much of the book is still there for anyone that wants to read it. But that hasn't stopped sales of the self-published edition, priced at \$2.99 in digital, from taking off.We talked to Kaye about her success on both platforms, her decision to monetize her content, and what it's like to navigate the self-publishing industry from abroad.Finding a Platform"I was a closet writer for a long time," Kaye says. "In fact, some of my closest friends didn't know I could write until I started posting on Wattpad." Until then, she'd only shared what she'd written with her friends and family, and while her sisters encouraged her, she admits that she assumed they were just being nice. Her journey from a closet writer to a public one came as she was doing research for a story. As the plot involved a romance between step-siblings, she was nervous about the content and how it might be perceived, and went online to find similar stories to see how other authors had dealt with the sensitive subject matter. "A link on a Wattpad story came up and that's how I discovered how Wattpad provides an avenue for writers to share their work and actually get good and honest feedback from readers of different ages, genders, and nationalities," she says. The platform's social aspect—it allows readers to comment, follow, and vote on stories—also appealed to her. "I wanted honest comments from readers who didn't know me and had probably read thousands of stories in the same genre as mine, and Wattpad was the perfect platform for that," Kaye says. She decided to try the site for her next novel, Knight in Shining Suit—a story inspired by a friend's recent breakup with her cheating boyfriend. The book soon became a hit."When I first started posting on Wattpad, I was ecstatic to get my first thousand reads. I was even happier when I reached a thousand followers," Kaye says. "But then, people started getting into the story and started tweeting about it and sharing it with their friends and getting others to read it, too." The book now has 10.6 million reads, 128,000 votes, and 11,000 comments from fans who want more.Kaye says that the comments she received from readers were invaluable—especially when it came to pointing out inconsistencies with the book's American setting. Since the author doesn't live in the U.S., she found the feedback helpful in ensuring that the narrative was accurate. "Readers who came from the same country or city as your characters will give you immediate comments if something you wrote seems off," she says, "like the minimum age for driving in a particular state, or the minimum age for drinking." Her readers were also quick to point out other errors. For example, one reader saw the phrase, "He whispered in my ears," and wrote to Kaye, noting, "You can't whisper in both ears unless you say the same thing twice—in one ear after the other."Kaye's book eventually topped Wattpad's romance charts and attracted the attention of some traditional publishers. She says she was also courted by companies that wanted her to use their platforms to self-publish. "I didn't have an agent, I didn't know how to get in touch with one," she says, so she was left to research the inquiries on her own. When a large publishing firm in Asia approached her about publishing her book, it asked for three-year exclusivity on her next works—something Kaye wasn't interested in granting. "I was okay with one book, but I wouldn't know what I would do or where I would be in three years so I didn't feel comfortable with that." After a bit of research, she also discovered that the company doesn't offer its books in a trade paperback format and that its distribution is online only, mainly through Amazon—all of which made her hesitate. And while the publisher did offer an advance as well as royalties in the 10%–20% range, she eventually declined the offer. Ultimately, she decided that self-publishing was her best bet.Monetizing ContentOn Feb. 24, 2014, Kaye published Knight in Shining Suit on Smashwords, and took down much of the book from Wattpad, leaving just 10 chapters out of 39 as a sample for readers, which also ensured that the comments on her story, and the impressive stats, remained on the site."I read around the Net to see how I could get my book the widest distribution and exposure," Kaye says. "Smashwords is quite aggressive in marketing and promoting self-published authors," she notes. She also felt that its wide distribution via sites like Apple, Barnes & Noble, and Kobo was an important consideration. Simplicity was also important to her, she says. "Though I wanted a wide distribution, I also needed to be able to handle everything with minimum effort since I have a very demanding day job, and an even more demanding full-time family routine." For her trade paperback edition she used CreateSpace. "A paperback edition is a must, not just for me, but for many of the book's Wattpad followers," she says. "I gave CreateSpace a try because that almost instantly lists your book in Amazon. I was very pleased with the professional quality of the paperback, and I found the prices to be quite reasonable."Another challenge Kaye encountered had to do with receiving payments from the U.S. while publishing abroad. "Amazon will only pay by check to authors residing outside of territories that have a direct bank transfer facility with them," she says. Where I am, it takes 45 days for me to clear international checks," which, she says, is less than ideal. Kaye says she found a solution with Smashwords, which can transfer funds in a matter of days using PayPal.Crash Course in PublicityDespite her success on Wattpad, Kaye says she was a novice when it came to promoting her work. "I was not aware of every trick and tip. As a result, I did a lot of publicity only after the release date."In retrospect, Kaye realized that networking with bloggers before the publication date and organizing a blog tour is crucial to building buzz—something she didn't do before the release. She now uses a site called Book Blogs to network with other authors, reviewers, and bloggers and to share resources. "I just recently joined them and found that there are members there who could help you out, like authors who could provide a good review of your book, or bloggers who could feature your book on their sites," she says. She also uses Goodreads, where she paid for an ad campaign to get the word out about her book. "It's good to get your book cover to be shown randomly throughout the day on the site," Kaye says. "I also did paperback giveaways through Goodreads, as well as limited-time discount coupons, which I gave to my Wattpad followers."Additionally, Kaye learned to interact with her readers, something she says she enjoys a lot. "You'll find that many of your readers not only want to know about your book, they may also want to know about what you are like in person," she says. She also learned that promoting her book didn't necessarily mean posting about her book. "Tweeting about stuff other than your book helps. It gives your followers a glimpse of who you are, what inspires you, and what drives you."Kaye also found that posting new stories on Wattpad garnered new readers for her—readers who then discovered the sample chapters for Knight in Shining Suit. "Different stories appeal to different groups of readers and that's how you widen your reach," she says. "Sometimes, I post a new story on Wattpad or engage in another book that is completely different from the book I have on sale.""Ten years ago, I would probably not have sold a single book unless I got a publishing contract," Kaye says, looking back on her self-publishing experience. "But things are evolving now. There are plenty of tools, plenty of ways, and platforms to do it independently." Kaye's latest title, Intertwined, was released via Smashwords on January 31—and so far it has nearly 10 million reads on Wattpad. ELEMENTAL LEGACY SERIES BY ELIZABETH HUNTERSHADOWS AND GOLD (ELEMENTAL LEGACY #0.25) BY ELIZABETH HUNTERThe first novella in the Elemental Legacy series:Parâdit visu...SHADOWS AND GOLDFailing grades. Misleading wind vampires. And a fortune in forgotten gold.Traveling to the most remote region of China certainly wasn't what Ben Vecchio had in mind for his summer vacation, but when Tenzin suggested a quick trip, he could hardly turn down a chance to keep her out of trouble and practice the Mandarin he still struggled with in class.Of course, Tenzin might not have been clear about everything travel entailed.Driving a truck full of rotting vegetables and twenty million in gold from Kashgar to Shanghai was only the start. If Ben can keep the treasure away from grasping immortals, the reward will be more than worth the effort. But when has travel with a five-thousand-year-old wind vampire ever been simple?"What's on the agenda for tonight?" "I thought we'd go into Shanghai. Eat some fish. See the lights.""Okay.""Then maybe lure a traitor into the open before he steals my gold."Ben paused, thought, then gave her a nod. "Sure, sounds like fun."At least he was practicing his Chinese.Right?SHADOWS AND GOLD is a prequel novella in the Elemental Legacy series.IMITATION AND ALCHEMY (ELEMENTAL LEGACY #0.5) BY ELIZABETH HUNTER Description:All Ben Vecchio wanted was a quiet summer before his last semester of university. Was that too much to ask?All Tenzin wanted was a cache of priceless medieval coins that had been missing for several hundred years.And some company.Phrases like "never again" don't mean much when you've been a vampire for several thousand years. And promises made in the heat of anger don't outweigh the lure of gold. Ben Vecchio thought he knew everything there was to know about the immortals of Italy. But when Tenzin tempts him into another adventure finding a cache of rare gold coins missing since the nineteenth century, he'll discover that familiar places can hold the most delicious secrets. And possibly, the key to his future.OMENS AND ARTIFACTS (ELEMENTAL LEGACY #0.75) BY ELIZABETH HUNTERDescription:In the elemental world, reputation is everything, but gaining it can get you killed.Setting up shop as an antiques hunter means nothing if you don't have clients. Benjamin Vecchio, nephew of a famed vampire assassin, is the subject of widespread speculation, but so far that speculation hasn't translated into work.What Ben needs is a job. A big job. A profitable job.A legendary job.Finding the lost sword of Brennus the Celt, the mythical Raven King of the British Isles, would make Ben's reputation in the immortal world, but it could also draw dangerous attention. The Raven King's gold hoard isn't famous for being easy to find. Luckily, Ben has his own legend at his side.Tenzin is a wind vampire who doesn't like digging, but she's more than happy to let Ben do the dirty work while she provides the muscle he needs to make other immortals pay attention. They're partners. Or so Ben thinks.But when finding this treasure puts Tenzin's future plans at risk, will their partnership...MIDNIGHT LABYRINTH (ELEMENTAL LEGACY #1) BY ELIZABETH HUNTER Description:He's one human caught in a tangled maze of theft, politics, magic, and blood. In other words, it's just another night.Benjamin Vecchio escaped a chaotic childhood and grew to adulthood under the protection and training of one of the Elemental world's most feared vampire assassins. He's traveled the world and battled immortal enemies. But everyone has to go home sometime. New York means new opportunities and allies for Ben and his vampire partner, Tenzin. It also means new politics and new threats. Their antiques business is taking off, and their client list is growing. When Ben is challenged to find a painting lost since the second world war, he jumps at the chance. This job will keep him closer to home, but it might just land him in hot water with the insular clan of earth vampires who run Manhattan. Tenzin knew the painting would be trouble before she laid eyes on it, but she can't deny the challenge intrigues her. Human laws mean little to a vampire with a few millennia behind her, and Tenzin misses the rush of taking what isn't hers. But nothing is more dangerous than a human with half the story, and Ben and Tenzin might end up risking their reputations and their lives before they escape the Midnight Labyrinth. MIDNIGHT LABYRINTH is the first book in an all new contemporary fantasy series by Elizabeth Hunter. author of the Elemental Mysteries and the Irin Chronicles.BLOOD APPRENTICE (ELEMENTAL LEGACY #2) BY ELIZABETH HUNTER Description:If you're a human in a vampire's world, nothing goes according to plan.When a map to the mysterious fortune of notorious privateer Miguel Enriquez falls in the lap of Ben and Tenzin, only one of them is jumping at the opportunity. Tenzin can't wait to search for a secret cache of gold. Ben, on the other hand, couldn't be less excited.All Ben knows about Puerto Rico is what he hears on the news and a few lingering memories of his human grandmother. Going back to his roots holds zero appeal for the carefully constructed man he's become.In the end, the lure of hidden gold can't be denied.Ben and Tenzin head to Puerto Rico where the immortal world is ruled by Los Tres, a trio of powerful vampires commanding the wind, the waves, and the mountains that make up this small island in the Caribbean.To find Enriquez's treasure, they'll have to walk a fine line between flattery and secrecy. To leave the island might mean a bigger fight than either one of them foresaw.THE DEVIL AND THE DANCER (ELEMENTAL LEGACY #2.5) BY ELIZABETH HUNTER Description:Sometimes falling is the safest step to take.Chloe Reardon has a problem, and his name is Gavin Wallace.Okay, Gavin isn't exactly a problem, unless you consider a highly attractive wind vampire with dubious intentions a problem. Especially if that vampire is your boss. With an affinity for kilts and excellent taste in music.But none of that matters because Chloe Reardon has had enough of dangerous men. Danger is overrated. Danger is the opposite of sexy. So Gavin is the last man—or vampire—on earth she needs to let into her heart.Except what if the most dangerous man you knew was also the one who made you feel the strongest?The Devil and the Dancer is a paranormal romance novella in the Elemental Legacy series.NIGHT'S RECKONING (ELEMENTAL LEGACY #3) BY ELIZABETH HUNTER Description:Darkness comes for everyone, and some fates are inescapable.For over a thousand years, the legendary sword Laylat al Hisab—the Night's Reckoning—has been lost in the waters of the East China Sea. Forged as a peace offering between two ancient vampires, the sword has eluded treasure hunters, human and immortal alike.But in time, even the deep gives up its secrets.When Tenzin's sire hears about the eighth century shipwreck found off the coast of southern China, Zhang realizes he'll need the help of an upstart pirate from Shanghai to retrieve it. And since that pirate has no desire to be in the middle of an ancient war, Cheng calls the only allies who might be able to help him avoid it.Unfortunately, Tenzin is on one side of the globe and Ben is on the other.Tenzin knows she'll need Ben's keen mind and political skills to complete the job. She also knows gaining Ben's cooperation won't be an easy task. She'll have to drag him back into the darkness he's been avoiding.Whether Ben knows it or not, his fate is balanced on the edge of a thousand-year-old blade, and one stumble could break everything Tenzin has worked toward.DAWN CARAVAN (ELEMENTAL LEGACY #4) BY ELIZABETH HUNTER Description:After this night, dawn can't come fast enough.For Ben Vecchio, everything has changed. His eyes. His diet. His new aversion to sunlight. But after a long sojourn in China, Ben realizes that the world he left behind hasn't changed as much as he feared. He wants to leave his old life in the past, but there's one job remaining that just won't leave him alone.Radu's mystery is too interesting—and too profitable—to ignore. The problem? Taking on this commission puts Ben in the path of his old partner, the one woman he's spent years avoiding.Tenzin has been following Ben at a distance, hoping his ire might wane, but when he heads to Romania, her patience runs out. Ben is a new power in their world, and more than one vampire will be eager to test him.Ben and Tenzin need to work together if they want to find the truth behind Radu, his mysterious clan, and the treasure at the heart of the Dawn Caravan. One last job, then it's finished between them.Right?

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