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September 2021 Newsletter

My Next Next Book?

Since I'm still waiting on the publisher regarding whether or not my biography of Jack Kent it will go forward there, I've started working on my *next* next book.

Writing my [Heroes for the '90s!](#) essays reminded me just how much I admire the work of writer and editor Mark Gruenwald. That reminder happened to coincide with the debuts of *The Falcon and Winter Solider* and *Loki* on Disney+, both of which draw greatly from Gruenwald's work. So I'm chest-deep in research for a biography of him, and will be visiting his hometown of Oshkosh, Wisconsin in the near future.



3 Minutes, 49 Seconds

I decided to revive and revise a 13-year-old feature on my music blog, *3 Minutes, 49 Seconds*. The feature is called "12 by..." and the premise was that I would pick 12 songs to summarize the career of a particular musical artist.

Well, turns out many of those artists I originally wrote about didn't stop releasing albums in 2008! So I have some updating to do. You can read more about it [right here](#).

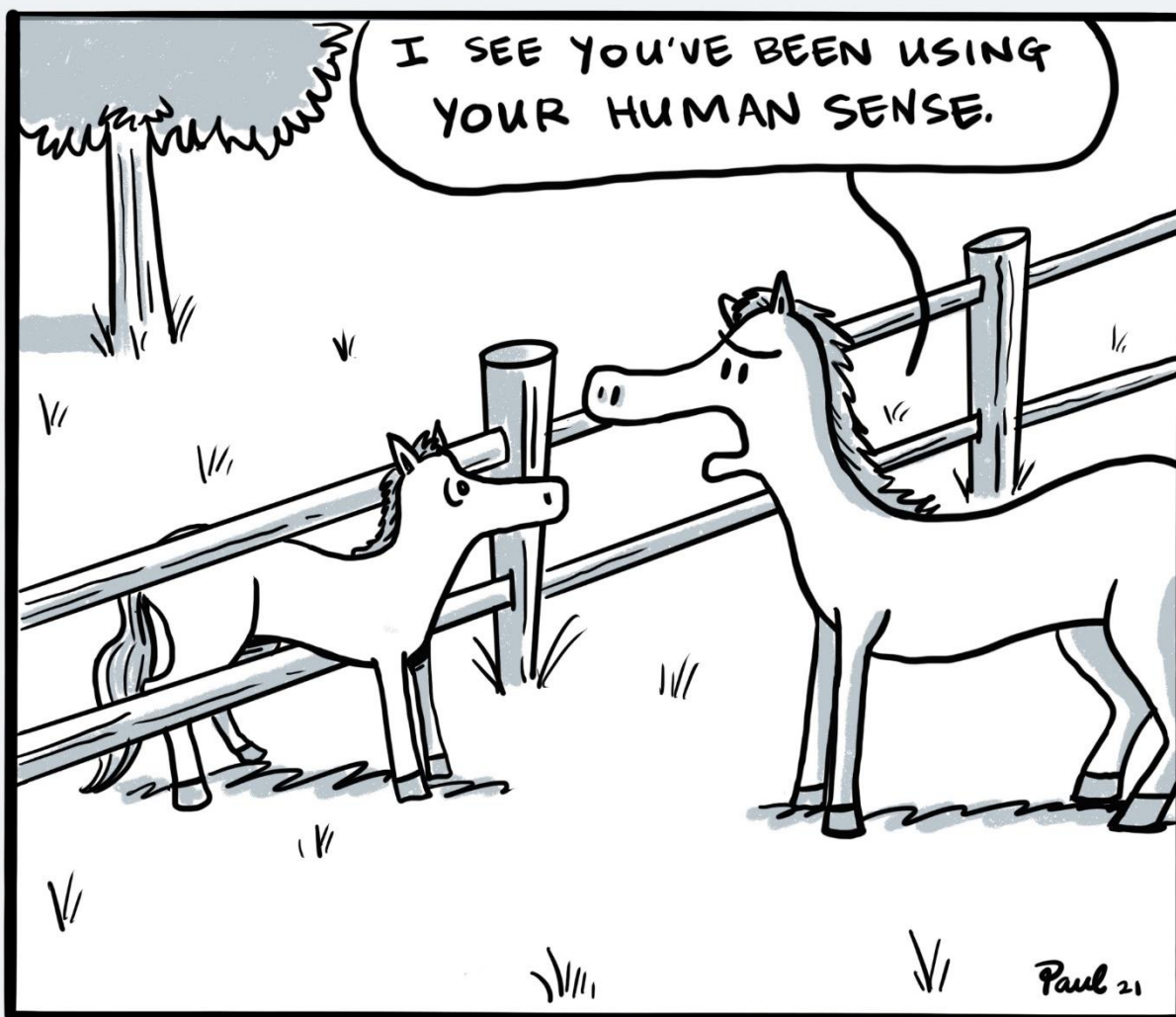
The Creative Offspring of Beginner Books Creators

In my research for **I Can Read It All By Myself: The Beginner Books Story**, I ended up interviewing many of the children of the artists and writers who worked on the books. And I noticed a persistent pattern: A lot of them became artists themselves. I had originally intended to write about it in the book itself, but I simply ran out of room. So here's a brief write-up on [the creative legacy of Beginner Books creators](#).

Beginnings of Life

My first experience with my writing being "published" was in fourth grade. My teacher, Mrs. Nelson, had us write on the theme of "new beginnings," so I crafted an essay about my next-door neighbor's baby. The essay made it into a compilation of writings from kids at elementary schools across the district called "Write on Bloomington." I recently unearthed this masterful piece of prose, and you can read it right [here](#).

A Brain Cloud



As always, thank you for reading. Love and peace to you all.