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Newsletter #19 - July 2022

Defacing Deadlines

Most of my summer has been spent facing down deadlines for my next two books, so I thought I'd give you a brief behind-the-scenes glimpse into that.

Jack Kent

The final manuscript and all related materials are due to my editor on August 1st, and the book is in pre-production, so that means filling out a lengthy form for the marketing department, approving the book summary for the catalog, and trying to get all of the illustrative material collected. The latter is the most time-consuming because not only do I have to get clean scans of everything, I have to obtain written permission from the rights holders, place them in the manuscript, write captions, and fill out a spreadsheet that documents all of that.

Mark Gruenwald

My first draft (which is really more like the fifth draft) is due in October, but with school starting up again soon, I wanted to have most of it pressure to have it mostly done by mid-August. So since May my focus has been on finishing writing the last three chapters, completing the last couple of interviews, revising the whole thing to get it down to the brutal 35,000 word limit (I'm still not there, but I'm close), and sending it out to everyone I interviewed for corrections / adjustments / feedback, then making those corrections.

As you can see, writing is not all glitz and glamor. As Mark wrote, "being a writer is like having homework to do every day of your life."

A Hopefuls Soundtrack and Update

Here are a couple of Hopefuls tidbits for you!

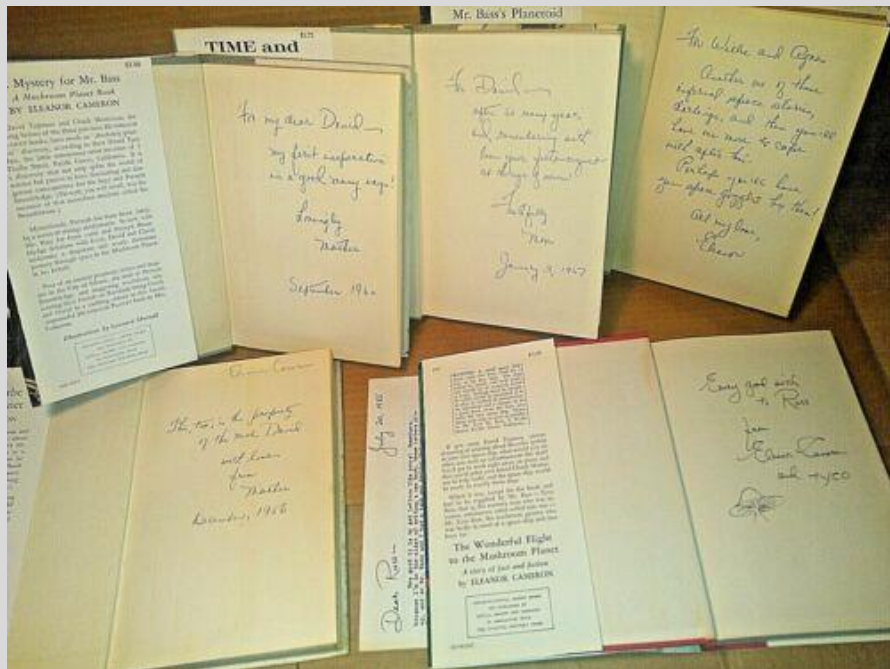
First is a soundtrack I made to accompany the book chapter-by-chapter. [This link](#) will tell you all about it.

Second is an update on what the guys have been up to in the last two years. Think of it as a free bonus chapter to the book. Read it [here](#).

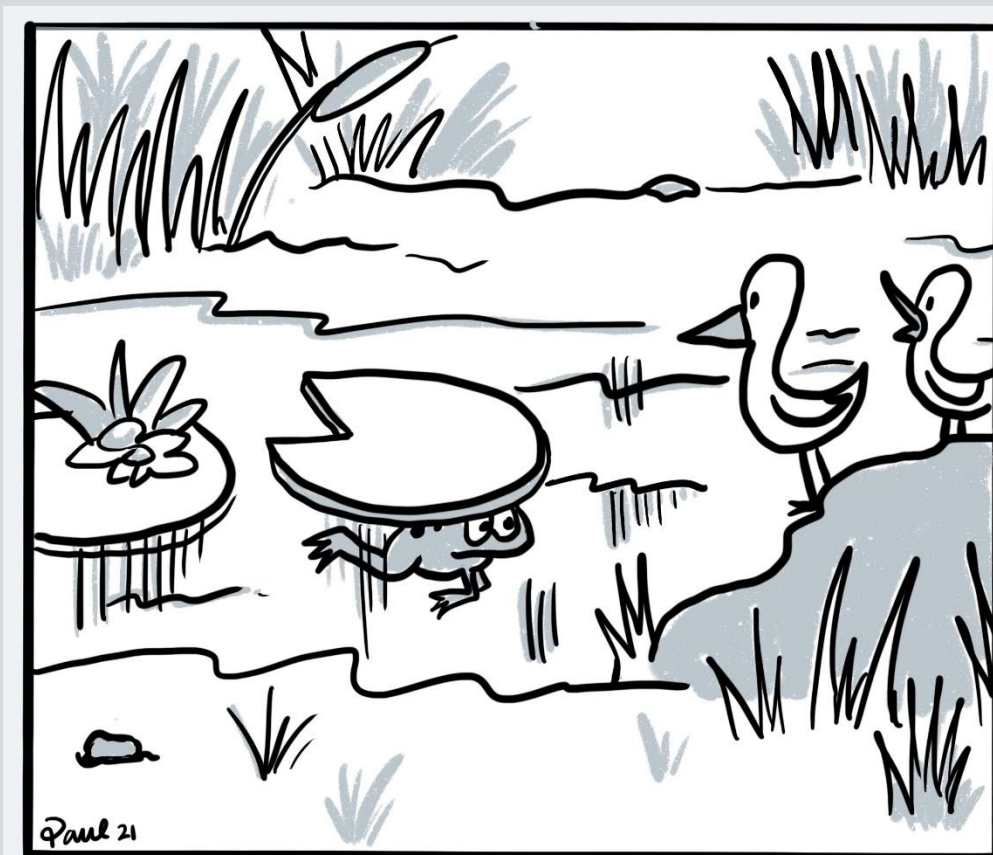
Eleanor Cameron

Rest in peace to Russell Phillips Chappell, who passed away in February at the age of 93. I interviewed Russ for my biography of Eleanor Cameron, because he was good friends with her son, David (and even served as the executor of his estate). He was a train enthusiast, and also loved opera, the Oz books, and Disney.

Strangely, I found out about his death when I came across this eBay listing for a set of Mushroom Planet books from his estate, most signed to David from Eleanor. The final selling price for this set was \$941!



And Finally, a Brain Cloud



"I had a witty comment about this, but then I realized I stole it from John Irving."