A Successful Trip to the UK

By Joe Scholes

As you know, Connie recently returned from a sixteen-day trip to the United Kingdom, with visits to London, Manchester, and Edinburgh, as well as Dublin, Ireland and a few other cities. Here is what a couple of her fans had to say about meeting Connie in London.

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It was a really great opportunity to meet Connie and her family. The venue selected made the gathering really intimate and personal, not a commercial exchange.

Because of her fantastic storytelling and prolific output, I honestly expected Connie to be 10 feet tall! Instead I was greeted by a petite, delicate and entirely feminine woman who was charming and made me feel instantly welcome.

I and the others talked about our favourite characters - Ryland, Ashe - as well as our least favourite ones - Norian (grrr), Gavin (boo) - and speculated on how the God Wars series is going to evolve.

This was my first ever 'fan meet' so I'm grateful it was such a positive one. Not only was Connie welcoming, it was fantastic to meet some other devotees and talk all things Connie!

Best wishes,
Sanjay D.

* * *

We had a great time! Connie and the fans talked about the first line in Blood Wager, how we learned about Connie, and how much the books cost in the UK.

Connie and her family are really lovely. Gavin was talked about a lot. The twins are my fave. Connie was telling us the books are going to be bit more steamy. That sounds like fun.

I have been posting on Facebook to all my friends and their friends about Connie and her books.

Kay H.
Blast from the Past

By Joe Scholes

In December 2011, just a few short months into Connie’s publishing career, we met to discuss the release schedule for her upcoming books. This is what she wrote down. But for you longtime fans, you know Connie always releases just a bit earlier than promised! This was the original release schedule for 2012.

After that, we didn’t even bother writing it down; it was just a given that she planned to release a book a month!

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Below is a photo of Connie when we were at the beach in Port Aransas on one of her many writing trips. This was taken in November 2012. She was thrilled (not really) that I took a pic of her just after she showered. The title of this particular photo is her favorite word.

Any guesses as to what that may be? - Joe

“If you don’t have time to read, you don’t have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that.” — Stephen King
Fan Photos

Kristin B. from Kentucky sent in this photo of her wearing the Difik hoodie. Looks good on her! I hope it keeps her warm on those cool Kentucky evenings!

And this photo is from Kathy R., right here in Oklahoma City! Doesn’t she look fine in that Difik T-shirt while reading Demon’s King?

The lovely Brandy M. in the UK sent this photo of her wearing one of the limited edition aprons we had made. Stirring up trouble are you?

Those kitchen comesula are all over the place! Jessie B., from Austin, Texas, looks like she’s ready to report to the kitchen on Le Ath Veronis!

Thank you to everyone who wrote and sent in photos!

If you’d like to submit a photo for inclusion in a future newsletter, email it to joe.scholes68@gmail.com. We’d love to share it!
We have finalized the arrangements for the first meet and greet in the US; this one in Oklahoma City!

**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2013  
**Time:** 2-4 pm  
**Location:** The Paramount OKC, 701 W Sheridan, Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
Phone: 405-517-0787

Several fans have already responded that they plan to attend. For anyone who lets us know ahead of time they will attend, you will have a surprise goodie bag waiting for you! Join the event from Connie’s Facebook page, or email me at joe.scholes68@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

In addition, we will have copies of Blood Wager, Bumble, and the entire High Demon series available for sale, and Connie will gladly autograph them for anyone who is interested.

Check out The Paramount OKC’s Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/ParamountOKC](http://www.facebook.com/ParamountOKC)

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**Excerpt from Blood Revolution** (Book 3 of the God Wars series):

**Lissa’s Journal**

She’s sleeping, now. I had to heal skull fractures. Karzac's mindspeech was relieved and grumpy at the same time. Only he might pull off those emotions in mindspeech and I wasn't sure what to make of that.

What happened? Who threw her against a wall?  
I have no idea. I was hoping you’d know.

Belen is dancing around like he's drunk, though, I pointed out. He'd had some news and I was waiting for him to say what it was. He was doing the Nameless One version of a touchdown celebration in my study, and I was only waiting for Karzac to tell me my sister was all right before I demanded (as much as I could) that Belen tell me what he knew.

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“There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed.”  
— Ernest Hemingway
Excerpt from *Blood Revolution* (Book 3 of the God Wars series):

"Ready to see Director Bill?" Winkler walked into the kitchen where Trajan and Trace waited.

"Yeah, boss, let's go," Trace lifted van keys off the kitchen island.

"He says he has two agents with him, and we may inadvertently recognize one of them," Winkler rolled his shoulders.

"Been working too long on that computer," Trajan grinned. "Meet me in the dojo later, and I'll beat that out of you."

"Maybe we can beat on Bill's agents," Trace snickered. "Show 'em what a werewolf is made of."

"Please, don't destroy the relationship we have with Bill's department," Winkler said with a grin.

"Come on, boss, you know you want to cream some of those guys."

"Maybe." Winkler's grin widened.

"I think you wanted to cream Bill in the beginning, when Hancock was still director," Trajan teased.

"I may have, I can't recall," Winkler waved a hand, dismissing Trajan's words. "He kinda grows on you, though," he added.

"I like Director Bill," Trajan said. "Better than I like Hancock, nowadays."

"I like my lawyer more than I like Hancock," Winkler said. All three werewolves burst out laughing.

"Read, read, read. Read everything—trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You’ll absorb it. Then write. If it’s good, you’ll find out. If it’s not, throw it out the window."

—William Faulkner
In this issue, I’m proud to present an interview with fellow author Susan Illene. I first met Susan on a blog, but then became acquainted with her as an author who also happens to live in Oklahoma!

Instead of making the traditional post high school move and attending college, Susan joined the U.S. Army. She spent her eighteenth birthday in the gas chamber — an experience she is sure is best left for criminals. For eleven years she served first as a human resources specialist and later as an Arabic linguist (mostly in Airborne units). Though all her duty assignments were stateside, she did make two deployments to Iraq where her language skills were put to regular use.

After leaving the service in 2009, Susan returned to school at the University of Oklahoma to study history with a focus on the Middle East. She no longer finds many opportunities to test her fighting abilities in real life, unless her husband is demanding she cook him a real meal, but she’s found a new outlet in writing urban fantasy heroines who can.

Toward the end of June, Susan and I met for lunch and I had the opportunity to find out more about her and her work.

Connie Suttle: What made you turn from book blogger to published author?

Susan Illene: It all started out innocent enough. I think most avid readers have their own stories playing around in their heads. In my case, I’d already written one novel (that will never see the light of day) and made several other attempts before I started book blogging. A part of me thought I’d never be good enough to put something out for the public to read and actually pay for. I have my friends and many contacts I’ve developed online over the past few years to thank for the motivational push. If not for them, I might never have clicked on that “publish” button.

CS: What made this book different from the others you started before and chose not to finish/publish?

SI: For one, the storyline was stronger than previous ones. I’d wanted to write a female veteran as a heroine for some time, but hadn’t found the right premise to make it work. Very few authors have female protagonists with military backgrounds and those who do usually portray them inaccurately. I can tell you as an Army vet with many Army vet friends that we aren’t walking robots. We don’t keep our stuff perfectly organized and clean around the clock (not even when we’re in the service). We don’t like taking orders even when we have to and are known to argue with our superiors (I have a plaque from the 82nd Airborne Division that says “Keep giving them Hell”). We like fashionable clothes and can go out and have a good time just like any other woman. The list goes on! My goal with The Sensor Series was to show a female veteran can be normal in most ways but have some bonus skills the average woman does not.
Focus on the Art

CS: Okay, so why put her into an urban fantasy setting rather than contemporary?

SI: Well, partly because I don’t read much contemporary these days and didn’t have any desire to write it at the time. I also thought with the large number of kick-ass heroines in urban fantasy that military females were highly under-represented despite their ideal background. Every move my character makes (except maybe stabbing someone in the heart…my husband refuses to let me practice that one on him) is one I know how to do and have done. Melena’s fighting techniques are not made up, nor are her military experiences (which I drew from multiple close friends). It’s fun to explore how a realistic background can be used against supernatural forces.

CS: Here’s a question I get a lot about my characters. How much is she like you?

SI: I worried a lot that people would think Melena is a reflection of me. Yes, she has some of my military training because I can’t avoid using it as part of her skills, but her job in the Army is different than mine. Her past is different, and I never name where exactly she served in combat other than the Middle East (it’s easier to keep from dating the books that way, too). She also hates animals, which I love, and eats more food than I do. Her mind isn’t in the gutter nearly as much as mine, either. I really do see her as a totally different person.

CS: What about the men who come into play in the Sensor Series?

SI: In real life, a smart woman marries the sensible and loving man (at least, that’s what my husband assures me he is). For books, it’s much more exciting to go to the extreme because bad boys make for more interesting characters. While Melena has several very different choices in the first book, she keeps them all at a distance until the second novel. I didn’t want a love triangle or quadrangle or whatever, though, so once she picks a guy that’s it for her. There will be lots of ups and downs as they work things out and outside forces will work to break them up, but things will eventually work themselves out. I’m a firm believer in happy endings, but glad I have a whole series to make it happen.

CS: Has becoming a published author affected your book blogging?

SI: I’d hoped it wouldn’t, but I’ve had to cut back a lot on posts that aren’t focused on promoting/reviewing other author’s novels (I only mention my books on that site on release day or stick my book covers up sometimes). It used to be I’d discuss reading, writing and other related topics regularly.

Continued next page
I do hope to get some more random posts out in the near future because I have loads of fun spouting out things that come to my head and may not be appropriate for my author website.

One example would be a post I did a few months back titled “Words that make your dirty mind go mmm.” That one had a surprisingly strong number of responses discussing key words that made various people’s minds go to the gutter. I also wrote a review on “water” just like you’d write for any Amazon product except I discussed the element in general—it only received two stars from me. Under my book blogger identity I tend to be a lot wilder (when I have the time).

**CS:** What advice would you give to readers who are also aspiring writers?

**SI:** Work on your craft. This process never stops even after you publish, but do your absolute best to make sure you’ve learned all the basics before putting a manuscript out for the world to see. At the same time, you can’t let yourself fiddle with it forever. I know I played around with Darkness Haunts for a year after I finished the first draft because I couldn’t let it go. There is a certain point where it’s either ready or might never be and you need to move on.

Don’t be afraid, though. If you’ve got enough honest people (not your mom, dad, sister, aunt) telling you it’s a good story and should be published, then take the next step. For me, it’s totally been worth it. You have to work hard and the sales won’t come right away (usually) in the first days, weeks, or even months, but with a little (okay, a lot) of luck readers will eventually find you.

**CS:** Susan, thank you so much for taking the time to answer a few questions. I really enjoyed meeting you, and I think readers of this newsletter will find you as interesting as I do! Hopefully, they’ll check out the links to the left.

**SI:** It was a pleasure to meet you too, and to be a part of the newsletter!

Check out The Sensor Series by Susan Illene! –Connie Suttle
Merchandising News

We have a few Difik T-Shirts and Hoodies available. Look for quantities and sizes we have left on the sales page of subtledemon.com.

Subtledemon.com Stylus
We now have a stylus/pen with the subtledemon.com website address on it! The stylus end is a capacitive touch nib that works on the iPad, iPhone, Kindle, Nook, and any other device that you can control with the touch of a finger. The other end is an ink pen, accessible by twisting the stylus barrel. The stylus is black with chrome trim, and the website address in silver lettering.

The stylus costs $4.95 each for orders within the USA, including Shipping and Handling! For orders outside the USA, the stylus costs $8.95 each, also including S&H.

Two other relatively new items are the Difik apron, and the subtledemon.com tote bag.

The apron costs $14.95 plus $6.00 S&H, and the tote bag is $4.95 plus $3.00 S&H. (S&H is quoted for USA orders. Email us at for S&H to other countries at joe.scholes68@gmail.com)

If you’re interested in ordering multiple items of mixed merchandise, email Joe for a quote on S&H to save you money.

We also have the coffee mugs shown here for sale. The subtledemon mug has the bat/wolf image, like the tote bag.

The Difik mug comes in two types, one with the dictionary definition of the word and one without.

Mugs are $10.95 each, plus $7.00 shipping and handling. Joe can get you a reduced S&H charge for orders of more than one mug, or for mixed merchandise orders. Contact him at joe.scholes68@gmail.com!
My favorite excerpt from all of Connie’s books, is from Blood Rebellion, Wylend Arden speaking to Lissa:

"Death is not the evil that many believe it to be," my grandfather said. "So many of us do whatever we can to avoid it as long as possible." He drew in a breath before continuing, as if he were carefully choosing his words. "We even grasp at straws, sometimes, to keep death away from us," he said. "But death is not the enemy. It takes us when our bodies are no longer prepared to carry on in our current lives. Brings us peace and freedom from pain. It is life that is often the enemy. The siren that convinces us to hold onto it as long as we can, though we are filled with pain, or have lived long past our usefulness. My father always said that we should let our life leave us when it is time, and do it gladly, instead of with sorrow and bitterness. Something else awaits us, and when we arrive, we will wonder what it was that held us back from it so long."

Joe Scholes
Contest Announcement!

Remember the first two lines in Blood Wager? “Two vampires walk into a bar. Sounds like a joke, doesn’t it?” Here’s one version of the finished joke I thought you’d like as much as I do. My son’s friend Chuck Lester came up with this. -CS

Two vampires walk into a bar. The bartender says, “Hey, we don’t serve your kind here!” One of the vampires asked, “Really, are you sure?” The bartender replied, “Oh, positive!”

Contest Description
Come up with the finish for the joke that starts with “Two vampires walk into a bar.”

Contest Rules
1. Submissions must be made by email to joe.scholes68@gmail.com no later than midnight August 15, 2013. Do not submit via Facebook!
2. Connie Suttle and Joe Scholes will select their top ten favorites from the submissions received.
3. The top ten jokes selected will be posted on the Connie Suttle Author Facebook page as individual entries no later than August 17, 2013.
4. Votes may be cast by all who are interested by “liking” the joke(s) posted. Voting concludes midnight August 22, 2013. The top three jokes with the most “likes” win the contest.
5. Winners will be announced NLT August 26, 2013, and prizes mailed NLT August 30, 2013.

Prizes
1. First place: A 20x30 poster print of the book cover of the winner’s choice, a set of two coffee mugs (subtledemon and Difik), and a Le-Ath Veronis lanyard.
2. Second place: A coffee mug of the winner’s choice (subtledemon or Difik), a lanyard, and a stylus.
3. Third place: A stylus, a set of five bookmarks, and a set of twelve notecards.

If you have any questions, email Joe at joe.scholes68@gmail.com.

Winners will be announced on Facebook and in the next newsletter.

Good luck to all!

“If you wrote something for which someone sent you a check, if you cashed that check and it didn’t bounce, and if you paid the light bill with the money, I consider you talented.”
— Stephen King