

Welcome to the August Edition of The *Ambition & Destiny* Trilogy Newsletter



Welcome to the First *Ambition & Destiny* Newsletter

As I ramp up my efforts to get my first book ready for publishing things are starting to feel real. This first newsletter is mainly to tell you what I am setting up, although 'Character Corner' at the bottom of the email, is to start introducing you to some of the main characters in the books.

I hope you find the information interesting. If you have anything you'd like to ask, or see added to the newsletter, reply to this email and it should reach me.

Editing

Book 1 came back from a professional editor around the middle of the month. There were a lot of comments (as I would expect), but fortunately nothing major enough to stop me in my tracks. The changes are underway, and hopefully should be ready for a second round of editing / proof reading in the next month or two.

Book Covers

With the editing started, I have commissioned a graphic designer to work on a set of covers. I obviously want a similar theme running across all three books and hopefully I might have something to share with you next month

Recent Posts

The latest post to my blog is called ['14 Hats Indie Writers Need to Wear to become Successful Authors'](#). It may not be a comprehensive list of everything I need to do, but it's daunting nonetheless. It's things like this that make me miss my old

marketing colleagues!

Book Titles

You may have noticed that although I have a title for the book series (*The Ambition & Destiny Trilogy*), I haven't yet shared titles for the individual books. The good reason for this is that I haven't made a final decision. A shortlist of titles has, however, been shared and voted on by a number of people who have read at least Book 1. I have given the winning and runner up titles to the cover designer and the final decision will be made when I see the graphics for each option. Again, it's something I hope to share with you next month.

Introducing the Characters - Mary

Before I have any excerpts of the books to share, I thought I'd take the chance to introduce some of the characters. I promise there'll be no spoilers!

Mary is the central character of Book 1 and her story is loosely based on the life of my great, great, great grandmother. It seems that she was widowed at the age of twenty-three and left to look after her two young children, William and Mary-Ann. When I learned this it set me wondering how she survived in the 1840s with no welfare state and little chance of work.

My first thought was that she must have ended up in the workhouse, but when I could find no evidence of that I had to come up with other scenarios. I know that at the time of her husband's death she lived with (or close to) his family in rural Staffordshire. I also know she moved to Birmingham at some point. Why she did that I will never know.

Using other snippets of information I'd discovered, I aimed to piece together a story that could resemble the truth. As I had no knowledge of her existence before tracing my family history, however, a lot of it is guesswork and I'll never know how realistic it really is. Whatever the facts, the books are very much a piece of fiction and without wanting to run into those spoilers, I'll stop there!

If you know of anyone else who would be interested in the books, please ask them to visit <http://valmcbeath.com> and sign up for the newsletter
