

The *Ambition & Destiny* Newsletter

You are receiving this email following your interest in *Condemned by Fate*,
(the prequel to The *Ambition & Destiny* Series)

Hi there!

A very belated Happy New Year! I hope the year has started well for you. I've been busy with Parts 4 and 5 of the series. More details below:

- The *Ambition & Destiny* Series: Update
- Part 4: Only One Winner - Cover Reveal
- Part 5: Progress Report
- Ten spaces open on the Advanced Review Team
- Self-Publishing Spotlight
- Fact or Fiction. From *Hooks & Eyes*: Did they really drink so much gin?

The *Ambition & Destiny* Series: Update



Things have moved on apace since the end of last year:

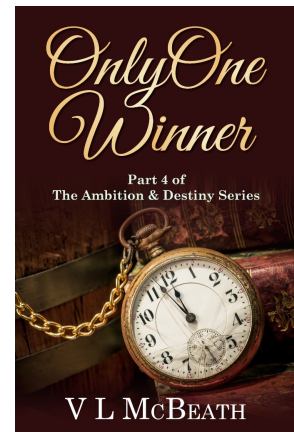
Part 4 came back from the editor just before Christmas and the changes have been made.

The writing of Part 5 is underway.

Part 4: *Only One Winner* - Cover Reveal

I'm delighted that I can now share the cover for *Only One Winner*. I've had it on my computer for almost a year waiting for its moment! I think it is my favorite of the series so far, although *Less Than Equals* is a close second. What do you think?

With the editing now done, the book is ready for a final proofread. As soon as I confirm dates with the proofreader, I'll put the ebook on Amazon for pre-order. Stay tuned for further details!



Part 5: Progress Report

Part 5 will be the final book in *The Ambition & Destiny Series*.

It starts in 1890 and moves from the Victorian era into the 20th century.

I started writing it at the end of last year and am now about 75% of the way through. The main challenge is that as the story progresses, one of the characters (in real-life) made a life-changing decision. The problem is, for the life of me, I can't figure out WHY! I'm sure I'll work something out, either based on fact or fiction, but I must admit, it's testing my little grey cells!

10 Spaces Open on the Advanced Review Team

Since the launch of *Hooks & Eyes*, nearly a year ago, I've had a small team of volunteers who receive a free copy of the forthcoming book in exchange for posting an honest review on Amazon at the time of publication.

I am now opening up this team to an additional 10 readers.

There is no requirement to have read all or any of the books so far and as long as you are prepared to leave a review, I am happy to provide copies of earlier books in the series to bring you up to date.

If you think you may be interested, please reply to this email and we can make the relevant arrangements.

Self-Publishing Spotlight

A couple of alternative books for you to check out this month that are a little different to normal. One is a historical romance while the second is a different take on history, in the steampunk genre...

Susannah and Lucas by Annie Boone

Susannah Tumlin wanted more out of life than she would ever find in



Boston. She decided to leave. She had to have a way to do it, so she decided to become mail order bride. She would be going to Rocky Ridge, Colorado to marry the sheriff of the town. The whole thing sounded exciting and frightening at the same time.

Lucas Jessup wanted a family. He needed a wife to get the family. His life was different than it once had been. He'd been a Texas Ranger with a life full of drama and danger. Life as the sheriff in Rocky Ridge was easy with much less drama and certainly no danger. Now was the time to start that family.

Susannah and Lucas hit many milestones together, even though their marriage takes an unexpected turn. Through trials and great disappointments, they'll have decisions to make. This emotional winding road will take you places you don't expect and reveal personal failings that will make or break the strongest. Take the journey with Susannah and Lucas and find out where they end up.

This is Book 1 in the Colorado Matchmaker Series, a sweet and inspirational series of love, romance, and trust. [Click here to get your copy.](#)

The Untold Tales of Dolly Williamson by J.M. Bannon

A book that redefines alternative history fiction

Fredrick "Dolly" Williamson is a young detective in the newly formed special crime detection branch at Scotland Yard. When he is called on to investigate the murder of an investment banker, he is reminded of past encounters with the occult and requests help from **Rose Caldwell**. Problem is Rose is an outsider whose very presence grates on the Victorian society she protects from the paranormal threats they want to ignore. Sister Rose an expert in the mystical arts uses her ingenuity to craft devices that straddle the latest scientific and metaphysical discoveries to create defenses against the dark arts.

As the body count continues to rise and the mystery deepens after the enigmatic Necronist Guild provide clues to the origins of the murderer. The clues from the secretive French death cult are not enough and Rose and Dolly must reach out to a cast of characters that include a young lord that is possessed by a Sufi mystic from the thirteenth century and an up and coming triad gangster.

A tightly wound thriller set in an alternative 19th century where powerful guilds use mechanical power, occult rituals and alchemy to vie for influence in the courts of Queen Victoria and the ever-youthful Emperor Napoleon.



The untold tales of "Dolly" Williamson is an occult steampunk thriller and the prequel to The Guild Chronicles, a steampunk fantasy book series.

This book is what steampunk is all about with the right dose of technology and wizardry to make you

wonder what our world today would be like if our past was like this. The story respects the steampunk genre and the intellect of the fans of steampunk.

This is the prequel to the Guild Chronicles

Book 1 The Alchemists

Book 2 The Necronists

Book 3 The Mechanist***

[Click here for further details](#)

Fact or Fiction:

The *Ambition & Destiny* Series was inspired by a true story and readers often ask whether certain storylines are based on real-life events.

If you have a question please let me know by replying to this email.

From *Hooks & Eyes*:

Did they really drink so much gin?

This is probably the most frequent comment/question I get asked.

If I'm being honest, as far as my ancestors are concerned, I've no idea. However, I felt the need to include it in *Hooks & Eyes*, as gin was widely drunk by the poor and working classes at that time. In the early 19th-century water quality in the UK was often poor. This was especially true in the rapidly expanding urban centres, and so for the price of a penny, it was often healthier to drink either gin, which had been distilled or ale.

Within The *Ambition & Destiny* Series, the consumption of gin declines as the books move forward. This is partly because as the century advanced, towns gained access to clean drinking water making alternatives such as tea more popular. It is also because around that time, gin was very much associated with the poor. As the family's prosperity increased their drinking habits had to change accordingly!

Next month: From *Less Than Equals*: Was Harriet really locked in an asylum?

Thank you for your continuing support.

For further details about any of the books, [click here](#).

A captivating journey
of love, loss & betrayal

NOW AVAILABLE



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

See you again next month

Best wishes

Val
