

Paul's Monthly Newsletter

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A Newsletter from the Desk of
Paulsbooknook

I have huge news for some of you and confirmation for the rest of you. I won the inaugural bi-annual short story competition hosted by Rogue Animal Books and Writer's Island. A big thanks to all of you who: watched the Facebook (now weirdly known as the 'metaverse' but that's a topic all unto itself!) live interview, read the story and voted for me. I couldn't have won without your support and I am truly grateful to have received the acclaim. It humbled me (as much as anything can humble this guy) and gave me the boost of energy to finish the month with a few extra stories.

For those that didn't get a chance to read "Always a Question of the Rats" look no farther and click on this link - <https://www.rogueanimalbooks.com/>. As a teaser, here's a few paragraphs:

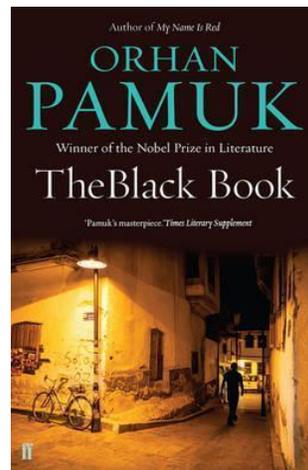
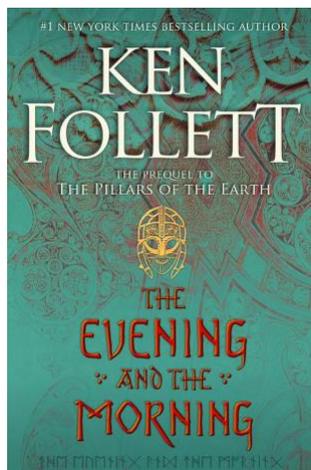
I can assure you these rats, my rats, were more interested in the corpses in the abandoned tractor-trailer. You see, the corpses were en route to the cemetery for a mass burial in mid-October. All were prisoners in a bus that had rolled on a country road. The driver and guards had survived with minor injuries (they were the only ones not shackled to the seats). The prisoners that were injured, but still alive after the bus tumbled down an embankment, suffered the double horror of burning to death as the gasoline ignited and peeled the yellow paint off the shell of their transport. Like the grooves on a vinyl record, the screams heard that day would be forever etched into the brain of the driver.

When I did my interview with him – the driver – he had the thousand-yard stare. Freaky. It didn't help that he looked like a slightly pudgy Ed Sheeran. Did you know that guy is worth something like two hundred million British pounds? Ed Sheeran, not the driver. Sorry, rambling again.

You see, I'm a detective, or used to be. An alcoholic and cheater, who used to be a damn-good police officer. Now I'm a 'private investigator.' Life isn't glamorous, but everyone has to earn a living.

What does an author read?

I completely nerded out and read Ken Follet's The Evening and the Morning and I wasn't disappointed. As the prequel to his most famous book, The Pillars of the Earth, I highly recommend it. After finishing that, I began reading The Black Book by Orhan Pamuk. I found it in an English bookstore in Istanbul during a long weekend visit to the crossroads of Europe and Asia. I'd never heard of it, but seeing that it won the Nobel prize in literature, who was I to leave it sitting on the shelf?



Social Media.

I've been accused of being braggadocious (I can use that word because I believe that I am smarter than a certain former US president), but I like to believe that I market myself shamelessly and without fear. I increased my Twitter followers by

42% this month and am happy with the results. My goal by Christmas is 200 and after that, it's only a matter of time before I'm at 1 million (think exponentially).



Updates from behind the screen

- Limestone City Murders The crime thriller continues to make progress. I wrote about 11,000 words this month and the goal is to have the rough draft completed before the ball drops on December 31. If you want to have your name in it (murder victim, witness or otherwise) let me know!
- Worth Your Weight In Dirt Still in progress. I was going to finish it for submission to a writing contest but, I switched gears and finished another. ~~This one should be done by mid-October.~~ **It will be finished in November. I know, I lied, but I had tons of other projects. Trust me, this will be a great read once it's finished.**
- Hooked a Big One What would you do if you were out fishing in a canoe and came upon a scene so macabre that you knew it had to be a mob hit? Would you tell anyone? Or pretend that it never happened and just continue on with your regular life? **This story is now finished and waiting to be published!**
- Flight Delay What would you do if you saw a group of people walking towards the same gate for your flight? Now picture them all in biohazard suits.

- Dead Motor I jumped off the deep end and submitted this to the CBC annual short story competition. I'm hoping just to make it past the first round. If I crash and burn, I'll publish for my loyal readers.

[Paul Hook](#) is the author of [Island of Rubies](#) and many [short stories](#).



(I know you want to click on the links to my SM. Go ahead. I won't tell anyone)

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