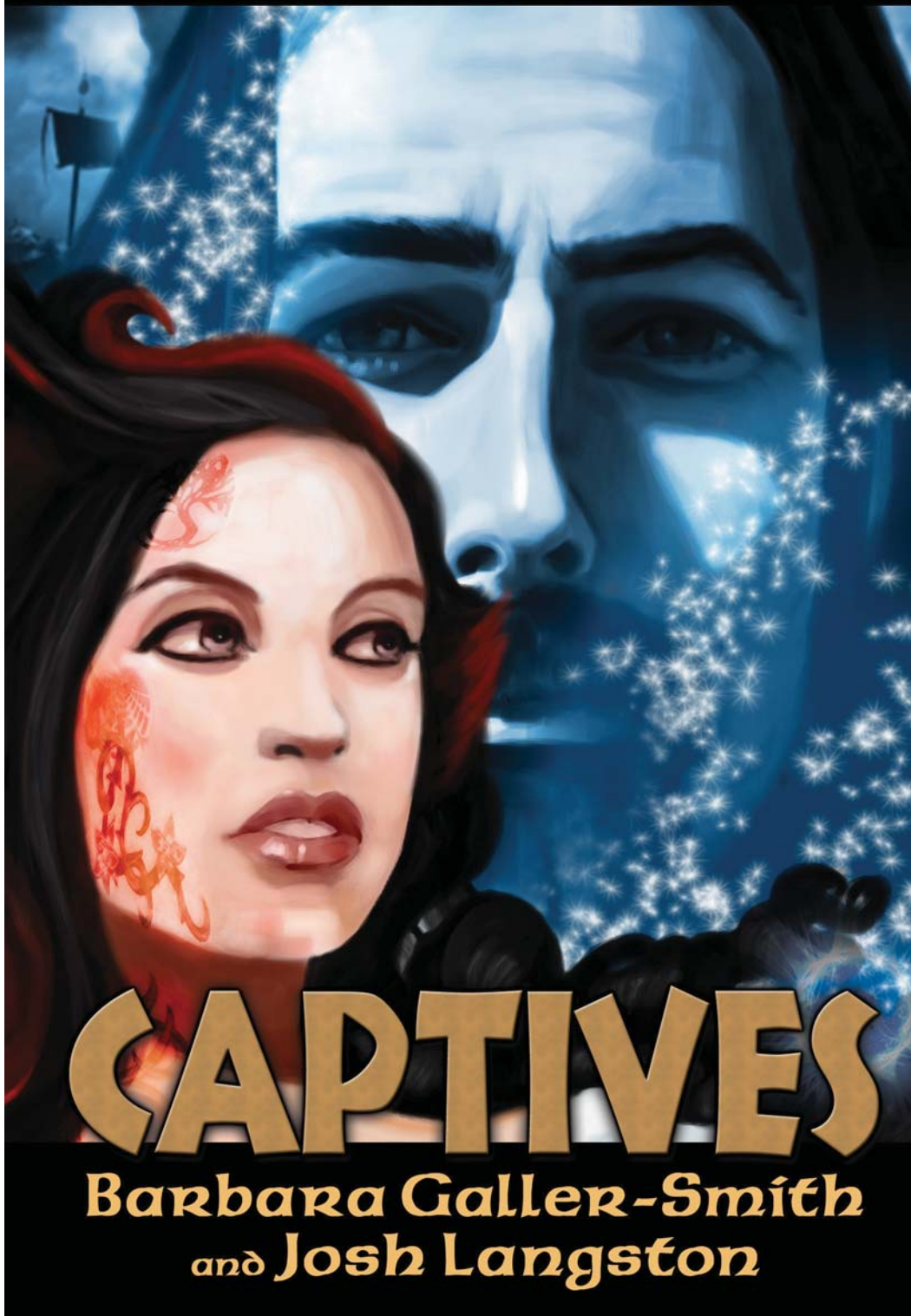


"Intriguing and densely textured."—S. M. Stirling



CAPTIVES

by Barbara Galler-Smith & Josh Langston

Media Kit

EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing

May 2011 Release



www.edgewebsite.com



CAPTIVES

Barbara Galler-Smith and Josh Langston

Captives

Release May 2011

Contact Information:

Janice Shoults

Marketing Director

ph. 403.254.0160

fx. 403.254.0456

events@hadespublications.com



Author Biographies

Barbara Galler-Smith

Barbara Galler-Smith resides in Edmonton with John, her fabulously supportive husband, and some incredibly cute Yorkshire terriers. After a hiatus from everything but working for money and writing romance or pet care brochures, she returned to the quirky world of writing science fiction and fantasy.

She's a member of Edmonton's Science Fiction and Fantasy Writer's Group. "The Cult of Pain", and co-founder, with writer-editor Ann Marston, of the emerging new writers group, "The Scruffies" (named for a group-written story's main character, not for their personal conditions). Barb has been recognized for her work as editor of On Spec Magazine, and will be Editor Guest of Honor at Winnipeg's Key-Con, this year.

Josh Langston

Josh Langston has been a writer all his life, beginning as a child in Minneapolis, MN, and continuing to his current residence in Marietta, GA, which he shares with his bride of nearly four decades, their two undisciplined mutts, and an indeterminate number of over-sized goldfish. A graduate of Georgia State University with a degree in Journalism, Josh's writing tastes quickly shifted away from non-fiction. His short stories have been published in a variety of magazines and anthologies. When not writing novels, Josh develops multi-media presentations about Georgia's past for historical societies around the state.

Barb Galler-Smith and Josh Langston are available for interviews, book signings and personal presentations on a variety of topics related to the DRUIDS saga, and writing in general. For further information please contact Janice Shoults at events@hadespublications.com



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Author Q and A Page One

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Trade Paperback
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Our Author Q and A is compiled of excerpts from different coverage of DRUIDS.

“How did the two of you start to write together?”

Barb: *Hmmm. The story of this collaboration epic is epic in itself. It all began one stormy night when we met online on Compuserve . We were Compuserve “IMPs” in their SF/F writing forum. There’s no single hook that tied it all together for us, other than we were having so much fun writing together, we simply started. We were talking just today-it started with a silly fantasy that sucked like a vacuum, but with one character we liked. That guy (Spaldeen) never made it into the first three novels, but has shown up in 4/5 (we think).*

Josh: *I won’t bore you with a recap of Druid’s labor or delivery, or add to Barb’s recount of our writing history. Our backgrounds are very different, as are our politics-almost drastically so (for two white, middle-aged North Americans). How is it then that we can write novels (four at last count) together when under most other circumstances we’d likely not be talking to each other?*

I think it’s because we both have a profound love for a good story. Our politics have no bearing on issues the druids faced. We have deep -- and conflicting -- convictions about modern social issues, but they rarely interfere in the evolution of stories that focus on personal crisis. By weaving our tales through little-known bits of history, we create boundaries for ourselves that are wide open for creative exploration, but leave little, if any, room for current issues.

So, even though one of us is a pragmatic, non-emotional, libertarian and the other is a nascent socialist whose worldview is utterly media-inspired, we manage to work together pretty darn well. (I imagine this might be subtly rephrased to read: So, even though one of us wears socio-political blinders forged by neanderthals, and the other sees the world in all its many shades of reality, we manage to work together pretty darn well.) I have absolutely no idea why I’ve written this, but I hope it helps!” — Bitten by Books.com



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Author Q and A Page Two

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BBB: *How far apart do the two of you live? What was the biggest challenge with the distance and writing Druids together? How did you overcome it?*

Barb: *That would be 3800 kilometers apart. The biggest challenge in the early days of writing was my astronomical phone bill-at 56 cents a minute it didn't take long to discover half my monthly salary went to the phone company. Infrequent face-time was precious and on those times when we could get together, we ended up in marathon sessions that seemed to last days past my bedtime! (The man was a slave driver! Still is, now that I think about it.)*

Instant messaging via computer phone helped a lot, but most useful, especially during last year's galley edit process, was Skype. We could be looking at the same text and talking and writing simultaneously. For the usual write and rewrite bits, we relied on regular email, with Josh being better at keeping up with the latest conferencing technologies.

Josh: *According to Google Maps, it's a mere 2,400 miles between Marietta, Georgia and Edmonton, Alberta. The biggest challenge is that neither of us has the ability to hop in the car, drive across town, and throttle out writing partner for being A) obstinate B) stubborn, or C) stuck in a soul-sucking cycle of negativity. Of course, since neither of us has ever been in any of those conditions, the distance hasn't presented any problem at all. (Thank you, God, for the internet....) — Bitten by Books.com*



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Author Q and A Page Three

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The entire DRUIDS saga was created in actual historical settings, and inspired by factual events. How did you select the time period, do your research and consequently weave your characters and story into what you found?

Barb and Josh: " We wanted to find something that hadn't already been done to death, though we knew it had to focus on a period when druids had major mojo, and before the Celtic world had been reduced to its present boundaries.

That pretty much limited us to the era of Julius Caesar.

Fortunately, that covers a heap of ground, and we found our largely ignored chunks of history in Iberia and Gaul where massive civil wars were waged and then promptly forgotten.

Our primary guides to this period were Plutarch, Seutonius, and Caesar. Of the three, we found Caesar's writing to be stunningly self-serving. The way he dealt with and referred to his Celtic foes suggests he thought of them as subhuman, utterly unworthy of respect, tolerance or consideration. That he could so easily kill off wandering bands of farmers -- tens of thousands at a time -- without any hesitation, told us we'd found our historical villain. Despite what most of us learned about the man in school: that he was a pillar of western society, a brilliant leader, and a gifted politician, we thought of him as a mass murderer, much the way our characters do.

Of those characters, Mallec came first. As his story evolved, we encountered Rhonwen, who was every bit as intelligent, resourceful, and cantankerous. Their clans and families provided still more characters, all of whom had to be shaped by factual events.

Since our historical landscape stretched across a great deal of Europe, it dictated the need for characters who were similarly spread out. We ferreted out the historical events that seemed most compelling, while also being under-used in popular fiction, and pushed our characters into the mix. Most notably, the great Roman General Sertorius gains a Celtiberian lover, and Gaius Julius Caesar comes very close to having a delicate portion of his anatomy removed. Who better to populate these scenarios than a couple young druids from obscure Celtic settlements in lands now known as France, Spain, and Belgium?"



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Previous Praise for *DRUIDS*, Book One in
the *DRUIDS Saga*

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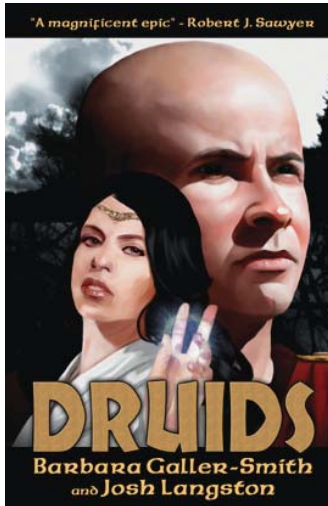
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fx. 403.254.0456

events@hadespublications.com



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ISBN: 978-1-894063-29-6
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Praise for the Aurora finalist, DRUIDS

“Josh Langston and Barbara Galler-Smith have written a magnificent epic — richly detailed, exciting, dramatic, and compelling. This is the debut of a major writing team; don’t miss it.”— Robert J. Sawyer, Hugo Award-winning author of Hominids

“DRUIDS is a very fine fantasy novel that cries out for a sequel.”— Mike Resnick, Hugo and Nebula winner

“This is such a terrific book! It combines historical fiction with fantasy to deliver a spellbinding story of love, war, revenge, and magic. I couldn’t put it down!” — Amanda R. Shelfari

“An epic tale of love, loss and betrayal...If a book can pull tears and emotion with the ease that this tale did, I am confident that anyone who enjoys a fantasy tale that has a historical base, a compelling and emotional storyline and some fantastically headstrong characters that drive the book to an unforeseen climax should definitely pick this up.” — Bitten by Books

“Galler-Smith and Langston have written a well-crafted book that combines obviously painstakingly researched history with a touch of magic and mystery. The characters of Rhonwen and Mallec are strong and well realized, and the story draws the reader in from the first page. Set in the first century BCE, the book details the conflict between the Celts and the rapidly expanding Roman Empire. The plot sweeps the reader along in a great ride, start to finish.” — Patricia Ann Marston

“Druids is well written, with a feel for the period in which the story is set, and the authors make good use of a historical Roman figure and the events surrounding him around which to build their tale.... Highly Recommended.” — Ronald Hore, CM Magazine



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Bitten by Books interview with
the authors.

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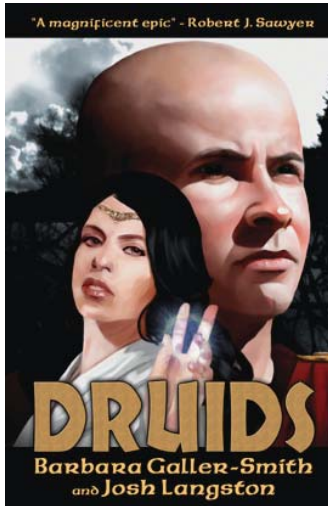
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DRUIDS was rated as a 4/4 Tombstones by Bitten by Books.com

“DRUIDS weaves the tale of two lives as they face the cruelties of war, the betrayals and deaths of friends and family, and the hardships and simple trials of existence in that time. The two Druids who simply want to use their magical powers to help those in need, one as a healer and one as a diviner of the future, may never meet but are touched by many of the same hands of fate as they toil through their lives...

*... I had many differing opinions of this book while reading it. The first half of the book seemed a bit over my head at times; I thought that maybe I had bitten into a book that was too far off my normal genre, and it wasn't holding on to my attention as much as my preferred reading choices. That thought was brief as I kept on with this **epic tale of love, loss and betrayal**. I ran the gamut of emotions while I continued through the book and especially was completely distraught while racing through the final 50 pages. What I had thought had been a book worthy of a 3 continued on to become a solid 4.*

If a book can pull tears and emotion with the ease that this tale did, I am confident that anyone who enjoys a fantasy tale that has a historical base, a compelling and emotional storyline and some fantastically headstrong characters that drive the book to an unforeseen climax should definitely pick this up.” — Bitten by Books

The complete review can be viewed at:

<http://www.bittenbybooks.com/?p=21063#more-21063>