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Mission Statement: The purpose of An International Journal of Exploratory Meta-Living is to provide a resource for the dissemination of creative works relevant to the subject of meta-living. The journal welcomes both academic and artistic exercises expressed in any medium capable of being transmitted through the physical mechanisms of the journal. Due consideration also will be given to submissions that do not conform to these mechanisms. The journal explicitly forbids the establishment of a regular publication schedule.

Meta-Living: One useful avenue leading toward an understanding of the term meta-living is through analogy, particularly by considering meta-fiction. Wikipedia, the oracle of all contemporary knowledge, defines meta-fiction as “the literary term describing fictional writing that self-consciously and systematically draws attention to its status as an artifact in posing questions about the relationship between fiction and reality, usually using irony and self-reflection.”¹ By straight-forward analogy, meta-living is the existential term describing a manner of living that self-consciously and systematically draws attention to its status as an artifact in posing questions about the relationship between existence and reality, using irony and self-reflection among other devices. These other devices include, but are not limited to, scientific inquiry, ontology, various theologisms, sophistry, rhetoric, tomfoolery, transcendental perspectivism and, of course, the omnipresent specter of post-existential relativism.

¹<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metafiction>, accessed 2014 April 16.

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A Note on the Font: This font is Dax Compact Regular, designed by the late Hans Reichel, musician, instrument maker and font designer.

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Notes on A Tetralogy: How I Survived the Presidency of Douchebag J. Troglodyte, A Daily Account

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Abstract: The Poison Pie Publishing House revisits a set of brief notes originally published online in January, 2021. These comments follow the tetralogy, "How I Survived the Presidency of Douchebag J. Troglodyte, A Daily Account", which was serially published on a daily basis from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2020, with an epilogue that concluded January 20, 2021. The purpose of these notes is to provide a context for the writing. The timeliness in reissuing the notes is brought about by the degradation of our democratic principles and more broadly social civility, resulting from the second term of the titular president. We seek to remind ourselves of the role of the arts in contributing to the preservation of a culture that openly resists the on-going efforts to destroy the long-standing but increasingly tenuous virtues that define an admittedly imperfect American society.

The blog of the Poison Pie Publishing House posted a new entry every day from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2020. The writings from each year were collected into a literary work, three of which took the form of novels and one a practicum. Four brief notes taken from the forward to the final volume are reproduced below.

1. A Literature of Non-Idiomatic Improvisation

This tetralogy is a work of non-idiomatic improvisation. The author wrote one page each day. Upon completion of each passage, the text was uploaded to the site of the Poison Pie Publishing House. Just as non-idiomatic improvised music

eschews elaborate after-the-fact polishing so too is this writing subject to no further editing. Such improvised music is "heard as played"; these books are "read as written".

2. Writing as Listening

Each of the one-thousand four-hundred and sixty-one passages in this tetralogy was written in its entirety to the accompaniment of a recording of a particular piece of music. The work is identified at the end of each passage. Such a process admits the embodied cognition in the music. Furthermore, as the American pianist Vijay Iyer has noted, "[M]usic can be viewed as a consequence of active

listening...Placing the skillful listener in such an active role explodes the category of experiences that we call listening to music..."¹

3. A Tetralogy

The content of all four books represents a daily contribution beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2020, corresponding approximately to the term of the current president of the United States of America. Lest there be any misunderstanding, this collective work is an unambiguous repudiation of the forty-fifth president of the United States of America, who invoked the lowest forms of divisive rhetoric to take office with a minority of the vote, aided by the intervention of a foreign power. While in office, this president, on a daily basis, has stoked the worst impulses of Americans, attempting to set one against the other for his own advantage.

4. No Apology

The title of the tetralogy is "How I Survived the Presidency of Douchebag J. Troglodyte: A Daily Account". For those who decry this title as an antagonistic provocation, which further inflames the unproductive hyper-partisanship that currently consumes the country, we do not disagree. At the same time, we are compelled to justify the title by the recognition that failing to explicitly call out the egregiously corrupt behavior of our elected leaders threatens to normalize it for future generations.

Links to the Works

In this section, we provide the title and cover for each work in the tetralogy. The reference contains a link to the entry to the work on the site of the Poison Pie Publishing House. At the time of writing, all works remain available via free, anonymous access.

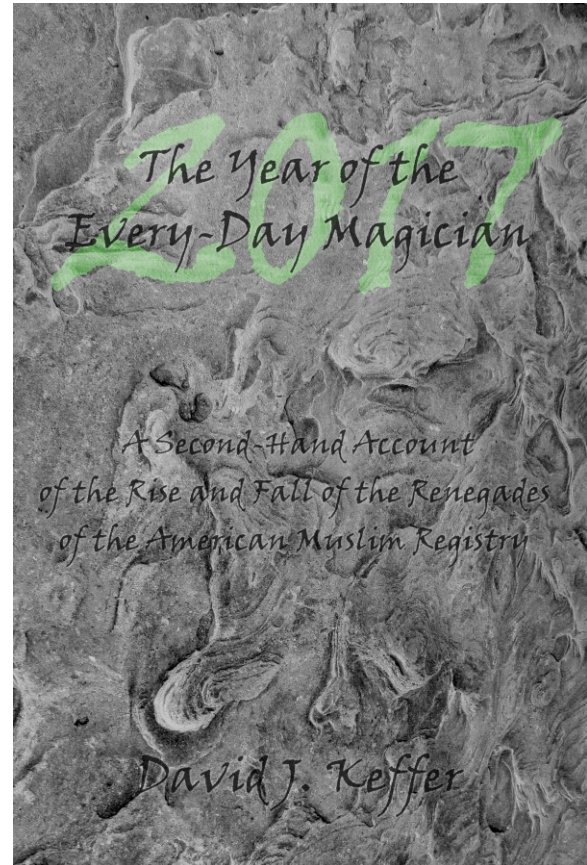


Figure 1. Cover from 2017: The Year of the Every-Day Magician (2017)

The first book in the tetralogy is titled 2017: The Year of the Every-Day Magician.² It is subtitled *A Second-Hand Account of the Rise and Fall of the Renegades of the American Muslim Registry*. This novel was serially published on a daily basis from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. This book is described by the author as "a post-existential fantasy generated through a non-idiomatic improvisational creative process".



Figure 2. Cover from Piecemeal: Proceedings of the International Congress on Exploratory Meta-Living (2018)

The second book in the tetralogy is titled Piecemeal: Proceedings of the International Congress on Exploratory Meta-Living.³ This novel was serially published on a daily basis from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. This book is described by the author as “a post-existential fantasy generated through a non-idiomatic improvisational creative process”.

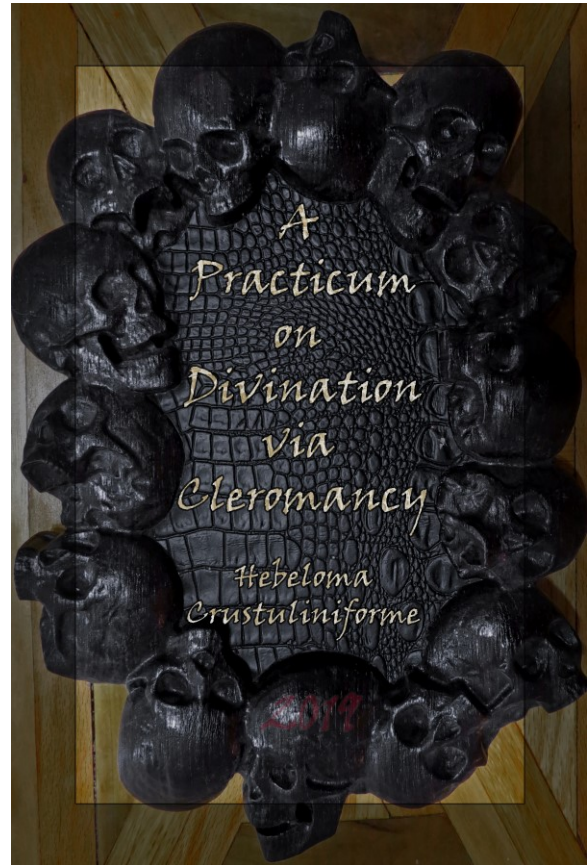


Figure 3. Cover from A Practicum on Divination via Cleromancy (2019)

The third book in the tetralogy is titled A Practicum on Divination via Cleromancy.⁴ This work was serially published on a daily basis from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. This book is described by the author as “a post-existential fantasy generated through a non-idiomatic improvisational creative process” as well as “a practical invitation to a joint exercise in apophenia and introspection”.

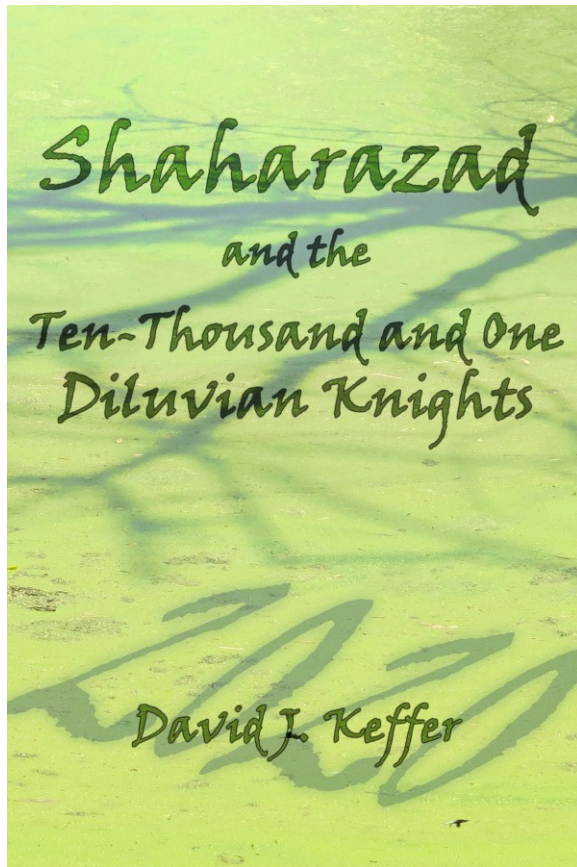


Figure 4. Cover from Shaharazad and the Ten-Thousand and One Diluvian Knights (2020)

The fourth book in the tetralogy is titled Shaharazad and the Ten-Thousand and One Diluvian Knights.⁴ This work was serially published on a daily basis from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. This book is described by the author as “a post-existential apocalyptic horror generated through a non-idiomatic improvisational creative process”.

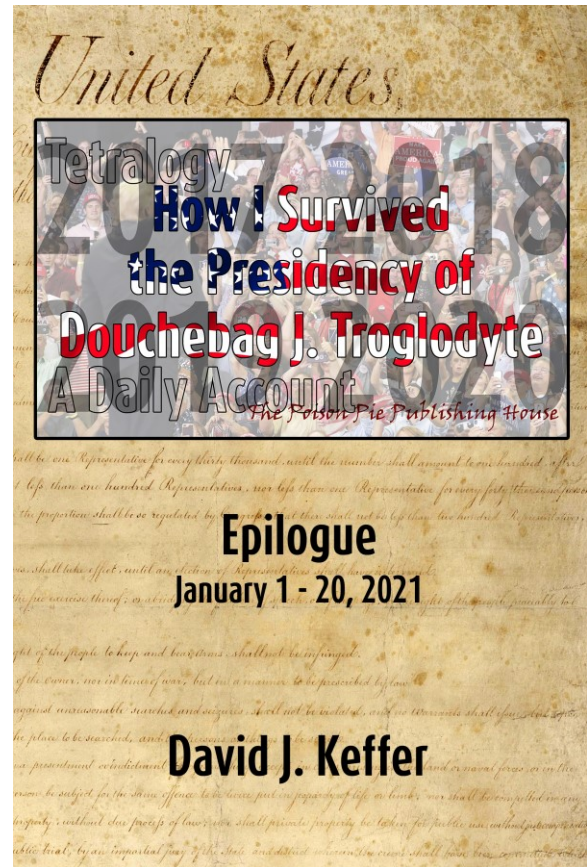


Figure 5. Cover from An Epilogue (2021)

The tetralogy also includes an epilogue that takes the form of a pamphlet.⁵ The epilogue was serially published on a daily basis from January 1, 2021 through January 20, 2021. This pamphlet brought us to the end of the presidential term.



Figure 6. All works were published by the Poison Pie Publishing House in a physical format in the first few months of the year following their writing.

These notes were originally published on the blog of the Poison Pie Publishing House under the title, A Tetralogy: How I Survived the Presidency of Douchebag J. Troglodyte: A Daily Account.⁶

As made clear in the second note above, the writing from each day occurred while listening to a piece of music. A document collectively identifying the music from all four books as well as the epilogue is available online.⁷ The page numbers in this document correspond to the collected works of the tetralogy, in which all four parts and the epilogue are assembled into a single volume. This volume has not been published in any format, electronic or print.



About The Poison Pie Publishing House

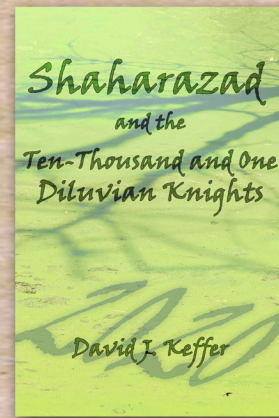
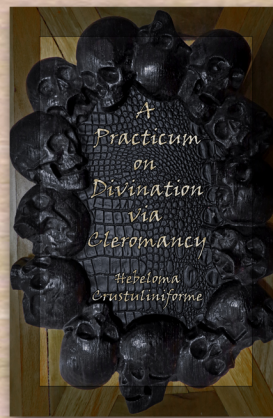
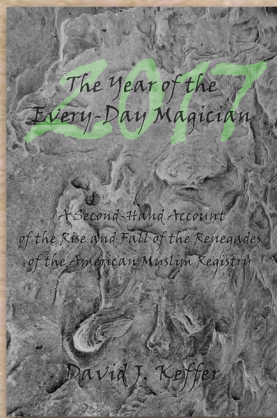
The Poison Pie Publishing House⁸ is an independent publisher specializing in post-existential fantasy generated through a non-idiomatic improvisational writing process. In addition to serving as a publishing house, PPPH hosts an arts blog⁸ and “An International Journal of Exploratory Meta-Living”.⁹

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Tetralogy 72018 How I Survived the Presidency of Douchebag J. Troglodyte A Daily Account *The Poison Pie Publishing House*



1,481 daily passages of non-idiomatic improvisation available via free, anonymous access at <https://www.poisonpie.com/publishing/text/douchebagjtroglodytetetralogy.html>



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