
Of Writing and Places in Between

Grant & Abi Pearson

Blogs. Work. Patreon.

On Our Life and Work
by Grant and Abi Pearson on February 13th

We are now two months into the new year. It's crazy how fast time flies when you're busy. We've done a number of things over the last few months that we wanted to take a few minutes to share with you in a few short summaries.

Abi celebrated 200 followers on her blog this month. Abi also got an internship for a literary magazine. So far it's mostly been in an editorial position, though she is hoping to eventually work her way up the ladder so she can help run the rest of the magazine in addition to editing it.

Grant is working at ACE as a Teacher's Assistant, instructing in a variety of subjects including Language Arts, Humanities, and Latin. He's hoping to continue working with the school for a few more years and then possibly teaching elsewhere. We are looking into places internationally where we could go and teach English, experience the culture, and write about everything.

Abi has begun using a new website called Patreon, which is a platform that artists use to advertise their work and get support from

Short Story

My Kingdom for a Song
by [Grant Pearson](#)

There once was a little girl whose favorite and most prized possession was a stuffed, brown, teddy bear. She was five years old, and her single mother took her every day to the train station, where they would take the train to a daycare before the mother rode off to work.

On this day, they arrived a bit earlier than usual, and the little girl held tightly to her teddy bear as they waited. As the little girl bounced on the tips of her toes as children often do when they are waiting, she heard a strum of music coming from somewhere nearby. As she looked for it, she caught sight of a young man near the wall of the station playing a guitar and harmonica at the same time. He was a dirty young man with holey jeans, a ripped and worn plaid shirt, and scraggly facial hair. But he didn't seem to be caring about his looks -- rather he was entranced with his own music.

The little girl pulled her mother closer and joined the small crowd that was listening to the young man. After a few moments, the little girl began to dance to the music. Her mother would have stopped her if she had thought about it

other artists who enjoy their work. She is going to be using this website to help springboard her creativity into a full-time job. If you're interested to take a look:

<https://www.patreon.com/abipearson?ty=h>

Abi is also close to finishing her second poetry book and is hoping to have it published this summer.

We have also finished our first short story collection (details are in the next section), and we have begun work on a sequel to the work, which we hope to be publishing summer 2018. Our dreams are to put out a total of at least 2 books/collections/etc a year (about 1 each) for the rest of our lives. And we're making decent progress so far.

but was hardly thinking about her little girl at all -- she was thinking about all the work she had to do that day, and the bills to pay. The little girl smiled up at the young man as he continued to play for her.

And then the train arrived, and the group moved immediately for the train doors without a second thought about the young man who had been entertaining them moments before. As the mother pulled the little girl toward the train, the girl looked back at the man and watched his face fall with a heavy sigh. She pulled away from her mother and raced back to the young man. She offered her teddy bear to him with a smile, and he smiled back. He picked up her little bear and carefully handed her his harmonica. They held eyes for a moment, and then the little girl's mother grabbed her and took her back to the train in which they disappeared down the tracks.

WHAT IT ALL MEANS: Published & Available

by [Grant Pearson](#) on February 7th

Abigail and I finished and self-published our first book on February 7th. We have been working on writing various stories for a long time and have dreams of publishing fantastic novels one day, but novels take a lot of work, so we haven't gotten around to finishing a novel yet. However, we have been writing short stories, and this book is a collection of stories we have written over the last few years.

Abigail has been writing short stories for a number of years, but until the beginning of college I hadn't thought I would enjoy writing short stories as much as novels. Since

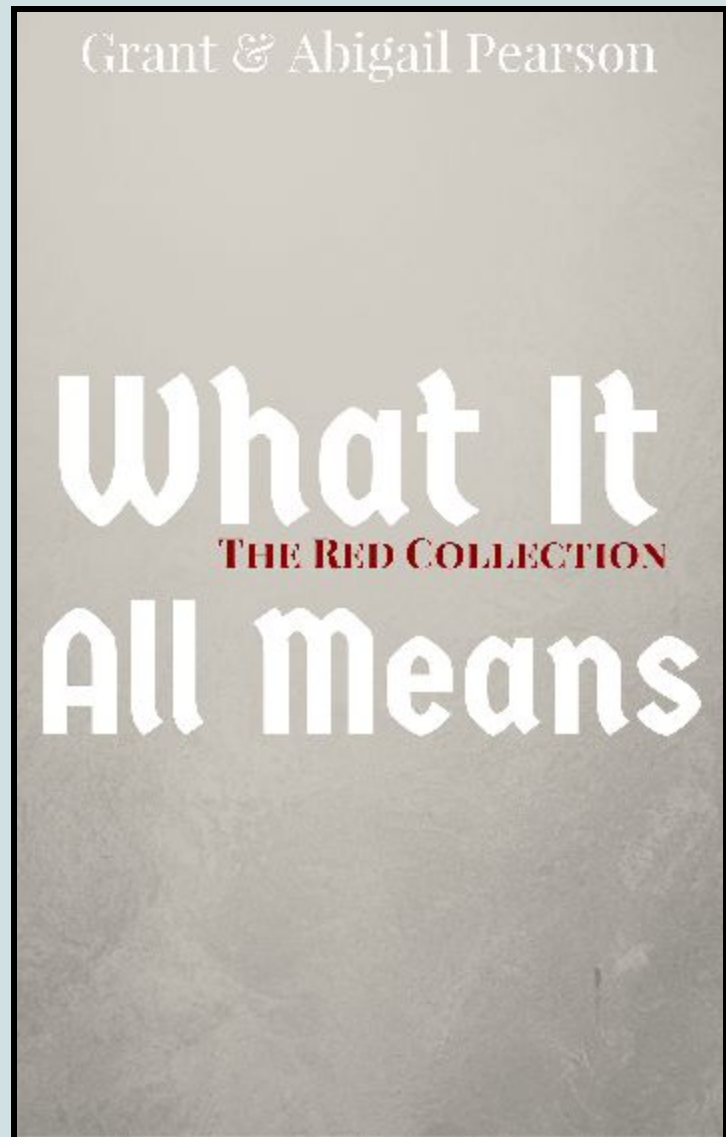
then, I have discovered that I very much enjoy short stories, especially since they take a bit less commitment than preparing a novel for publication.

About a year ago Abi and I decided we wanted to take our favorite short stories, revise and edit them over the course of a year, and then publish them in a short anthology. This anthology is now complete and was published on Amazon.com this February. We named it “*What It All Means: The Red Collection*”, and it includes four stories by Abigail and four stories by me. The stories are written in a variety of styles and genres with characters who all attempt to answer the questions: What does it all mean? What makes life worth living? What makes life worth dying for? And how much is too much?

This collection includes love (both romantic and familial), guilt and regret, honor, madness, and even blood on occasion. It is called the Red Collection because this group of stories center around objects, people, and emotions that are often thought of as “red”, and so they all work together -- perhaps darkly at times -- to answer the question of What It All Means.

These stories are not meant simply as entertainment, though we do hope you enjoy them. They are meant to make people think, to push the boundaries of storytelling, to propell the reader and encourage change. As such, some of them don't have happy endings. That's not because we think the world is a terrible place, though we are cynical on occasion. More information on each story is available on our blog and on Amazon.com.

We have more stories planned for future collections, including the sequel to this which will most likely be a Yellow collection themed around Pride, Hypocrisy, and Lies. If you're interested in Beta reading for us in the future, we're always looking for people willing to read and comment before publishing.





Sylvia Beach Hotel

by [Abi Pearson](#) on January 10th

A couple of years back I happened to find out about a magical little hotel on the Newport Oregon coast, where the rooms were themed after famous authors, where a cat called Shelly lived, and where a library and a tea and coffee room sat open 24/7 for

community gathering, card games, and relaxation with an ocean view. Excitedly I sent the link to my then best friend, Grant, telling him I had to go there one day.

Flash forward to December 2014 when I finally found myself stepping into one of the rooms in the hotel on my honeymoon with my best friend. And the hotel was every bit as amazing as I thought it would be. Since that time, Grant and I have visited a total of three times, and we hope to go again at least once a year.

The Sylvia Beach Hotel is a quiet hotel; depending on when you go there could be only half a dozen people staying at the same time. Each room is a fairytale land, decorated to the era or the subject of the author's works. You close the door and pick up a book and never feel the need to move again.

Thus far Grant and I have stayed in the rooms of J.R.R Tolkien, J.K. Rowling, Jane Austen, Gertrude Stein, and Jules Verne. Our favorite rooms to date are the Jane Austen and the Tolkien rooms.

Jane Austen's room (pictured above) is calming and sweetly decorated. It has an ocean view and is located on the third floor. We loved this room because we felt it's one of the best quality rooms from the bed to the shower. We also enjoyed the atmosphere, which felt the most authentic.

Tolkien is one the best rooms on the first floor. This room has plenty of floor space (beat only by Jules Verne of the rooms we've experienced) with a lovely bathroom and a Queen sized bed. The decorations are also fantastic, with replicas of Tolkien's own drawings painted on the walls, along with a map of Middle Earth.

We hope to return to the hotel this summer. Eventually we'd like to have stayed in each and every room possible, but for now the next rooms on our list are Oscar Wilde and William Shakespeare.

We definitely encourage everyone reading this to go as well. Sylvia Beach Hotel has great service and a wonderful hot breakfast every morning. It's just a few yards away from the beach, and only a short walk away from several nice restaurants. We love it so much, we wish we could move to Newport and work there for the rest of our lives. But for the moment we'll have to satisfy ourselves with the view.

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