



Welcome to Issue One

Hello and thank you for being here.

You're an "early adopter." I like your style, and I sincerely appreciate your support.

I promised to bring you the inside scoop on this whole book business, so let me fast forward you from the beginning of my book-baby's life to where we are today. Ten years ago, I started writing a story about a mischievous Cupid who gets himself tossed off Mount Olympus for shooting one of his love-tipped arrows into the wrong rump. He lands in present-day, small-town USA, where he must serve out his divine sentence. It's not all bad, as Cupid's Earth-body is a vast improvement over his Olympian form, and he is swiftly relieved of his virginity. But when his punishment kicks in, Cupid's heart is put through the wringer as he struggles to fulfill a torturous mission that pits love against duty.

Cupid's quest played out as a four-book series, which I finished writing in April (YAY!). All along, I've promised myself I'd self-publish if I didn't have agent representation by the time I finished the fourth book. **Last week, I officially established [Isotopia Publishing](#) and hired myself to publish *First Quiver*, book one of the *Cupid's Fall* series, with an expected release date of January 26, 2021.**

While my amazing cover artist got busy whipping up the exciting designs that will grace all four books, I worked my way through multiple rounds of edits on *First Quiver*. Happily, I have now turned over the final manuscript to a professional book-interior designer for a makeover on everything between the covers.

Curious about how interior formatting impacts your reading experience? Next time you open a book, pay close attention to how the words appear on the page. You eBook readers have much more control over font size and spacing and page flow, so you're not necessarily receiving the experience the way the publisher laid it out for you. Even so, there are many elements our brains register subconsciously while we read. Are the chapters numbered and/or named? What mood does the font invoke? What's in the front and back matter? How does the interior meld with the book's cover?

Many, many decisions - from miniscule to major - go into converting the Word doc living inside my computer into the polished book (or eBook) we'll hold in our hands in January. If you're curious about the nitty gritty details, you might want to follow my ["Adventures in Publishing"](#) on my website.

Next come the Advance Reader Copies (ARCs). Once the insides are pretty, I'll put out a request for ARC readers. These are the folks who get a copy of the book ahead of release and start the buzz going on review sites like Amazon and Goodreads. Ideally, these are also the folks who will catch any typos or other embarrassing bloopers before the book meets the world.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: The exciting *First Quiver* cover reveal!

And now, 3 minutes of mythology...

Here's a spicy myth to refresh your memory and hopefully whet your appetite for more stories about the characters you'll encounter in *First Quiver*.

Disclaimer: Where multiple stories exist within classical canon, I offer my favorite version.



THE AFFAIR OF ARES AND APHRODITE



The story begins with the birth of Hephaestus (God of Fire and Forge) to Zeus and Hera (King and Queen of the gods). Ashamed of her son's ungainly, deformed body, Hera casts Hephaestus out of heaven. Angry and hurt, Hephaestus fashions a Golden Throne with a built-in curse: when Hera sits upon the throne, she is bound fast to it. Distressed over Hera's fate, Zeus offers Aphrodite (Goddess of Love) in marriage to the god who delivers Hephaestus to Mount Olympus to reverse the curse. Fully believing her beloved Ares will prevail, Aphrodite agrees to the arrangement. But learning of Zeus's offer, Hephaestus appears on his own to free Hera, thus claiming a very reluctant Aphrodite as his eternal bride.

Disregarding the marriage, Aphrodite and Ares proceed to carry on an illicit affair, which is discovered and reported to Hephaestus by the Sun-god Helios. Heartbroken once again, Hephaestus forges an invisible mesh of fine bronze links expertly fashioned to respond to the slightest movement, and he arranges the net around the bedposts of his marital bed. When Aphrodite brings Ares into her bed, the mesh ensnares the couple in a most compromising position. At that moment, Hephaestus flings open the bedroom doors and ushers in all the gods to witness the flagrant indiscretion. [According to Ovid, "The gods were not displeased; one of them prayed for shame like that. They laughed and laughed; the joyful episode was long the choicest tale to go the rounds of heaven."]

Hephaestus finally releases the pair from his net, but not before Eros/Cupid is conceived from the unholy union. Hence, the event is not forgotten, nor does Aphrodite's passion for Ares diminish, a sad truth Hephaestus must forever bear in his heart.

Thanks again for taking this journey with me.

Got questions? Suggestions? Complaints? Your replies go straight to my inbox.

Until we meet again, stay safe out there!

Beth C. Greenberg



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