

# The Life∞Line Series: The Newsletter

By Grant Edward Miller

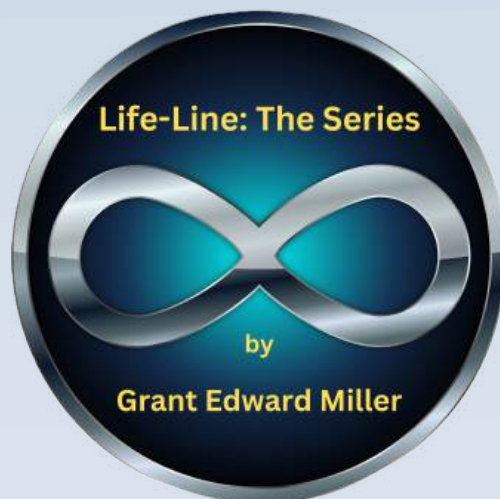
Volume I, Issue II—October 14, 2024

**W**elcome to my second newsletter, devoted to my news about my novels, science fiction and romance with a focus on the LGBTQ+ community. I've also branched out by mentioning other books that I am reading outside of my genre. Enjoy and feel free to contact me to give me your feedback!

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## **(1) The editing process of Life-Line: Diversions – my nemesis!**

Phew! I just finished the first pass on my manuscript after the developmental edit I received from my editor. I have to admit that it has been a difficult journey for me. There were a few pitfalls that delayed me getting through this edit – which took three times longer than expected. I'm going to regress to something in the past to better explain what has been happening lately.

I used to attend a book group for authors. It was there that I read out the beginnings of my first novel, Life-Line: Origins. An author friend had suggested that I attend with him. It was there where he read his work to others.

The group was composed of blog writers, romance authors, poets and crime novel writers. My friend read them a part of a play that he was working on at the time. His play was a gay-themed one and he got really good responses from the others. This encouraged me to take a risk and read my short story. After that the members took turns giving feedback and I can remember my friend telling me, "Take what you want from the feedback and ignore the things that don't suit you." It was good advice. There was one reader who started by saying that he wasn't a science fiction reader, yet he gave me a ton of feedback – surprising for someone not into science fiction. At one point, he looked around the table and almost seemed to sneer as he said, "And who the hell are these Sirens that you mentioned anyway. What has that got to do with the story about a stowaway on a spaceship?"

My friend, sitting beside me, discreetly put his hand on my leg and squeezed, making quite clear to not get upset. I found out later, that this particular man had a pension for ripping other peoples' writing apart and never offering up any of his own work. So, I took a deep breath and told him thank you. Afterwards, I realized his comments were exactly what I had intended: to get the reader to start asking questions and get pulled into the story. It was at that point, that I realized I wanted to continue the story beyond a short story format.

Over the following months, I would bring new chapters and get more feedback and I remembered that I would take what I wanted and let go of the rest.

Fast forward to 2020 and the COVID epidemic. Since I was home alone a lot, I managed to do a lot of writing. At this point, I had finished my first draft of Life-Line: Origins and asked a couple of friends to read it. At this point, I was much more capable of listening to feedback because I trusted those friends, Seann and Masoud. They both gave me amazing feedback and I incorporated their suggestions in the rewrite. It was the next year when I submitted the manuscript to my publisher.

The editor gave me excellent suggestions and helped me with my language use and showed me plot holes that needed to be fixed. I followed through all of those suggestions to the point where the novel was completed as it stands now. Overall, the editing process was useful and I appreciated the feedback. So this leads me to this year.

I had become very comfortable with the editing process and expected to feel the same way with my second book's developmental edit. It was the opposite. I read through a lot of the comments and became very disheartened. I felt like a total failure! So, I found every excuse to not sit down and work on my revisions. Procrastination became my close friend. As I look back to that time, earlier this year, I realize that I had to take some of it with a grain of salt. There were sweeping suggestions to delete many chapters, take out some of the relationship building, etc. Days and weeks went by and I didn't touch my manuscript.

I finally sent a few of the editor's comments to an author friend and she said that some of them were mean-spirited. She suggested the same thing as my friend long ago – take what you want and leave the rest.

This helped me return to my revisions and I managed to get through most of the manuscript at the end of September 2024. It was coming along great and I began to get excited about the changes and improvements to the manuscript. So when it errored out, I restarted and found half of the second last chapter, the final chapter and the epilogue were missing! I panicked and loaded the backup copy and discovered it too was damaged. I was so disappointed! So much so, that it took me up until last week, October 6<sup>th</sup>, when I forced myself to sit down and finish. I pulled the missing part out of the copy I received from the editor and pasted it into the manuscript. I had to revise those chapters over again.

I think that I felt dejected because of the error and I felt like my creativity was squashed. I thought that I wouldn't be able to duplicate what I had written and lost. So, on October 6<sup>th</sup>, I revised and everything from the error point to the end of the manuscript. Now, I had a finalized copy! I was excited again!

I think that these pitfalls helped me become a better writer. I am excited about my changes and now I am working on the next edit – fixing a list of ideas that I recorded during my first pass through. I hope to get through the second pass before December. I'd also like to find two friends willing to read the manuscript and give me their feedback. How did this make me a better writer? It helped me recall my friends words. I took what I wanted and left the rest. I also discovered that I can recover from pitfalls such as the word processor crashing. I now copy sections and put them in a second document where I make changes and then paste it back into the manuscript. I also back up my computer often so that I will have all my copies.

Fingers crossed! I will get through this!

## **(2) Character Profile: Gary Dean “Dino” Higashi from Life-Line: Diversions**

Here's a character that based off another friend.

### **Gary Dean “Dino” Higashi**



Gary is of Japanese decent. In the setting of my novels, history has been lost about humanity's origins. All cultures have melted into one. Gary's family, however, passed down many traditions that somehow survived the eons since leaving the Milky Way. Gary is in his forties and has never sought out a partner. His life is his piloting. He has a dog named Akira who goes everywhere with him – even in battle.

Gary is a master pilot for the planet New Ceres. His regime is at war with Suda Trome regime (See Sean Caprio-Elderking from my first newsletter) and also the Chimera regime (watch in the next newsletter for a Chimeran character profile!) Gary is a talented mentalist and is able to push emotions onto other people. This is a valuable asset in the war with the other regimes. Also, he is a high level conduit – able to communicate with many others of his regime in a mental meeting that he leads with the Guardians (the leaders of New Ceres) and the Vanguard (protectors of the Guardians).



### (3) What's up with me?

I retired from teaching at the end of June of this year so the summer felt more like a summer vacation from teaching. I participated in a book fair in Moncton, took a trip to Provincetown and attended a local dance party known as the Bear Ball. The Ball is held in a Halifax hotel conference room three times a year. The theme was “the summer of love.” I bought a tie-dye t shirt and danced the night away with friends. I stayed in a friend’s room in the extra bed because I drank too much to drive home. My dog, Finn, came with me and stayed over as well.

I also spend the summer in my gardens moving soil and putting mulch on all the flower beds. I did some DIY projects as well around my home, Otter Cottage in Fox Point, Nova Scotia.



In September, I began substitute teaching in Halifax. I work two to three days a week. The rest of the time, I am writing, gardening and doing work around the house. Finn the dog gets a good walk almost everyday as well.

At the end of October, I am off to Palm Springs to celebrate Pride and Hallowe'en with a good friend of mine, Gary. I'll put pictures in my next newsletter..



#### (4) A review of No Ashes in the Fire: Coming of Age Black and Free in America by Darnell L. Moore

	<p>Here is the summary of Darnell’s book:</p> <p><i>“From a leading journalist and activist comes a brave, beautifully wrought memoir.</i></p> <p><i>When Darnell Moore was fourteen, three boys from his neighbourhood tried to set him on fire. They cornered him while he was walking home from school, harassed him because they thought he was gay, and poured a jug of gasoline on him. He escaped, but just barely. It wasn't the last time he would face death.</i></p> <p><i>Three decades later, Moore is an award-winning writer, a leading Black Lives Matter activist, and an advocate for justice and liberation. In No Ashes in the Fire, he shares the journey taken by that scared, bullied teenager who not only survived, but found his calling. Moore's transcendence over the myriad forces of repression that faced him is a testament to the grace and care of the people who loved him, and to his hometown, Camden, NJ, scarred and ignored but brimming with life. Moore reminds us that liberation is possible if we commit ourselves to fighting for it, and if we dream and create futures where those who survive on society's edges can thrive.”</i></p> <p>When I read, I usually read science fiction or fantasy. I came across Darnell’s book while looking for LGBTQIA+ authors. I’d been listening to podcasts about coming out gay so the topic was on my mind. I read it over the summer and his story really hit me. I must acknowledge my privileges as a white man, as his story paints an eye-opening and startling story through the eyes of a gay black man. His stories of the AIDS crisis hit home for me because it was a time that I went through as well. His story, however, is very different from mine. He writes about the crack epidemic, what it was like for a young black gay man searching for intimacy and his work for Black Lives Matter and LGBTQIA+ causes.</p> <p>There were parts that were very difficult to read, but I found the journey compelling and hopeful as well. Darnell Moore is an amazing writer. This book is worth picking up.</p>
<p>Five Stars. This is 100% worth picking up.</p>	



#### (5) My Links

My website	<a href="http://www.grantedwardmiller.ca">www.grantedwardmiller.ca</a>
My email	<a href="mailto:grantedwardmiller@gmail.com">grantedwardmiller@gmail.com</a>
FaceBook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Life.Line.Grant.Miller/">https://www.facebook.com/Life.Line.Grant.Miller/</a>
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/grantedwardmiller/">https://www.instagram.com/grantedwardmiller/</a>
Goodreads	<a href="https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/29728790.Grant_Edward_Miller">https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/29728790.Grant_Edward_Miller</a>
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My Reedsy Profile	<a href="https://reedsy.com/discovery/user/grantmiller">https://reedsy.com/discovery/user/grantmiller</a>
Darnell L Moore	<a href="https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/36204938-no-ashes-in-the-fire">https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/36204938-no-ashes-in-the-fire</a>



## (6) Final words

Thank you for checking out my second newsletter. Please feel free to contact me to let me know what you think. Maybe you would like to hear about other things in my novels or my take on things in the world of science fiction?

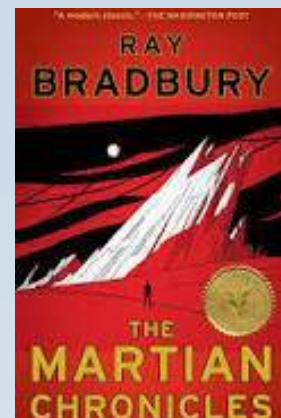
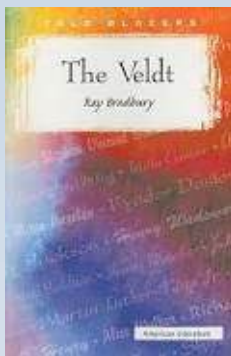
I'll keep you posted on updates about [Life-Line: Diversions](#) and more news from the world of science fiction! See you soon!

*“Science fiction is any idea that occurs in the head and doesn’t exist yet, but soon will, and will change everything for everybody, and nothing will ever be the same again. As soon as you have an idea that changes some small part of the world you are writing science fiction. It is always the art of the possible, never the impossible.”*

*“I know you’ve heard it a thousand times before. But it’s true – hard work pays off. If you want to be good, you have to practice, practice, practice. If you don’t love something, then don’t do it.”*

*“You fail only if you stop writing.”*

*Ray Bradbury*



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