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Science Fiction
and Fantasy
Publishing

Release: February 15, 2008

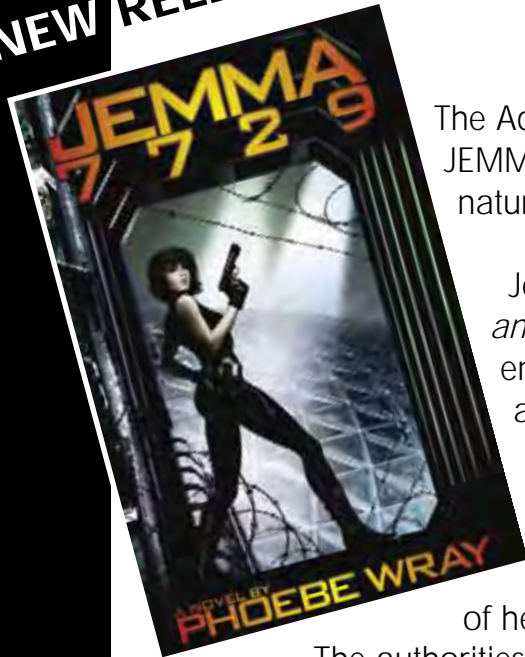


JEMMA7729: Inappropriate Behaviour by Phoebe Wray
ISBN-13: 978-1-894063-40-1 / ISBN-10: 1-894063-40-6
5.5" X 8.5" - 256 Pages - Trade Paperback
Release: February 15, 2008
\$ 15.95 US BISAC: FIC028000 FIC028530

Science Fiction

JEMMA7729
ABOUT THE
BOOK

NEW RELEASE



The Administrative Government of North America flagged JEMMA7729 as an independent thinker of a rebellious nature exhibiting *inappropriate behavior*.

Jemma's mother tried to indoctrinate her with the "*woman's creed*" to keep her out of trouble, but her father encouraged Jemma to express herself, and, playing against the rules, gave her a glimpse of what life had been like before the suppression of women's rights.

When the day came for Jemma to choose and proclaim the social role she would play for the rest of her life, she knew it was a lie and a trap and rebelled.

The authorities stepped in, arrested her, and sent her to a facility that would change her mind or kill her. **Remand, with no chance for parole.**

But before they could crush her spirit, Jemma escaped to the safety of the beautiful Countryside beyond the domed city — the place the Government claimed was toxic and uninhabitable.

Clever and and lucky, Jemma avoided recapture as she criss-crossed North America and became a self-taught but skillful saboteur, single-handedly destroying the state-run labs that manufactured the chemical that altered the minds of people the system could not control.

Finally, as her career blossomed, she joined forces with other rebels, becoming their leader, a heroine to some, and the most-wanted enemy of the state.

JEMMA7729, if caught, will face immediate, permanent, and uncontestable *deletion*.

JEMMA7729

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JEMMA7729
ABOUT THE
AUTHOR



"I've been writing since I could write, and was telling stories before then, much encouraged by my family. My early dream was to be a newspaper reporter, especially a foreign correspondent. I started to pursue that but instead ran away with the circus, so to speak, and became a stand-up comic. From there I went into the theatre, studying and working, eventually also writing plays and songs and directing. But I didn't stop writing. I had poems published, did theatre reviews, and have always kept a journal."

— Phoebe Wray

Phoebe Wray was born in Franklin Pennsylvania. She now resides in Ayer Massachusetts with her three cats; Max, Mouse, and Jenny.

Phoebe teaches in the Theatre Division of The Boston Conservatory both Theatre History and Cultural History. She has taught at the University of Southern California and Bradford College.

She is a director, actress, and playwright and has starred in the Off-Off-Broadway Movement in New York City in such plays as *As You Like It*, *Henry VIII*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Richard II*, *Othello*, and *Antony and Cleopatra*. Phoebe has toured with the jazz trio "Shelton, Blake & Wray" and is a lyricist for other bands.

She was the voice of the Tree Dragon and the Twell Tribe on the PlayStation 2 game **Darkling Skye**.

Phoebe founded and ran an international environmental group (The Center for Action on Endangered Species) from 1973-1983. She has traveled many places attending conferences, presenting papers, and was the official US Delegation to the International Whaling Convention three times.

Phoebe Wray

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Testimonials

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Forword Magazine:

"This is author Phoebe Wray's debut novel, and against all odds, she succeeds in giving a nuanced look at the nature of political organizations. Like the late Benazir Bhutto, JEMMA lives in a land where there is both good and evil, but not everyone is wholly good or wholly evil. JEMMA's courage is a flag and a beacon for the freedom of choice. Wray teaches in the Theatre Division at the Boston conservancy. She has also taught at the University of Southern California and Bradford College. Boys and girls will enjoy the action of JEMMA2279, while teachers and parents will find the chapters providing lively discussions of topics both current and speculative."

M. E. Jones, The Public Spirit:

"The right stuff seems to resonate in the first few sentences, where it counts. The set-up sketches the state of affairs in the narrator's high-tech, big-brother's-watching world ... Techno-jargon segues to familiar territory as Jemma's voice emerges, wry, precocious and believable... The hook is set, promising a good read for the next 200-plus pages."

Mayra Calvani, Blogcritics.org:

"This is one of the most interesting Science Fiction novels I've read in a long time. What makes Jemma7729 stand out is the strong heroine and the feminist issues Wray weaves in the story, making the reader wonder and think at its implications."

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Mayra Calvani, Interview:

When did you decide you wanted to become an author? Do you have another job besides writing?

I was telling stories before I could write. My Dad was a great story-teller, and he encouraged me to make up stories. The adults indulged and applauded and spoiled me. I wrote my first poem in second grade (I was about 7) and it was published in our very small village's weekly newspaper. I started a newspaper in the 5th grade, a little weekly that ran 2-3 pages. Started writing stories about then, too.

Yes, I have another job. I teach in the Theatre Division of The Boston Conservatory, a very fine Theatre/Music/Dance private college in Boston. I teach History of the Theatre, Cultural History, occasionally Acting.

Were you an avid reader as a child? What type of books did you enjoy reading?

Yes. I especially loved animal stories, and action stories. I read a lot of comic books, too. I read all the kids' stuff — loved Robin Hood (I wanted to be Robin, not Marion), Mark Twain, Stevenson, the Nancy Drew Detective books. I liked poetry books and I read the dictionary. (It was a children's version.)

Tell us a bit about your latest book, and what inspired you to write such a story.

JEMMA7729 is a rather dark action-adventure, futurist story, set in North America in the early 23rd century. The government is rotten and repressive —it's a government that tells Big Lies and holds the country together with fear and intimidation. Once Jemma discovers that what she's been taught is not the truth, she sets out to discover the truth for herself and becomes a rebel, a saboteur, and the government tries to stop her.

I got the idea one day thinking the "what If..." mantra. What if there were a government so repressive it just lumped all crimes and misdemeanors into one

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huge category: Inappropriate Behavior. That was the original title of the book. I'm sure that the discomfort and anger that I've felt (and many many other Americans have felt) over the past eight years of bullying and repression by my own government has a lot to do with why I wrote it.

The theme may be one reason that I got frameable rejections from American publishers and it wound up being taken by a Canadian publisher.

How would you describe your creative process while writing this book? Was it stream-of-consciousness writing, or did you first write an outline?

I can't work with outlines. I had a hard time starting the novel. I just couldn't get past a few pages until ... it sounds hokey, but there was the morning when I sat down to write ... and Jemma walked into the room. The novel had to be written in the first person. That's not my favorite voice, but nothing else worked. The whole book comes off Jemma's ideas and personality.

Of course I manipulated the character, but she's a strong personality, and not a particularly comfortable one to carry around in your head for years.

From the moment you conceived the idea for the story, to the published book, how long did it take?

For-Evaaa! Or so it seemed. I wrote it first as a short story in 2000. Then a novel in two parts, and finally I turned the first part into JEMMA7729. From the time the publisher took the novel to its publication was about 2-1/2 years.

Describe your working environment.

I live in an 1860 farmhouse at the edge of a small Massachusetts town, with a huge yard and a protected wetland just beyond my back yard. Very pleasant place, even though the age of my house means windows don't fit well anymore;

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it's hot in summer and cold in winter and the floors are uneven. There are two stories. My study is a huge room on the second floor, with a window beside my desk that looks out to a street and a wonderful maple tree I planted in 1976 which is now taller than the house.

My study is very messy and full of bookshelves, files, two desks — the computer desk and one that came off a 19th century sailing ship. There's a sound system, too. Sometimes like music when I write — music of all kinds. Mozart is good, so are Dixie Chicks. Depends on what I'm writing.

I use a Mac. I am generally accompanied by one or more of my three cats. If they aren't sprawled some place in the room, they come to interrupt me periodically. The big catboys (Max and Mouse) like to sit behind me when I write. I have a big leather chair, so there's room for them, one at a time. The little cat, Jenny, likes to sit under my feet.

Are you a disciplined writer?

Yes. I like to write in the morning. I'm an early riser — usually waking at 5:30 or 6:00, and after the cats are fed, I'm at the computer. I write something every day.

Have you ever suffered from writer's block? What seems to work for unleashing your creativity?

Yes and it's a rotten state of affairs. I think only once has it be really disabling, and that was early on, because I wasn't able to sell any of my stories. I've been a nonfiction writer, and, generally, everything I wrote, I sold. These were articles and a book about endangered species and marine mammals, short plays, some theatre stuff.

Then I did begin to sell the fiction, and that helped to get me back on track. The trick I use when my Muse is failing is to open the dictionary at random, stick my finger on the page and write something using or about the word I've pointed at.

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One of the times I did that, I had pointed to “name.” I wrote a weird horror story called “Names,” which I’ve just sold to Inkspotter Publishing for “Backless, Strapless and Slit to the Throat: A Femme Fatale Anthology.” It’s due out sometime soon.

Technically speaking, what do you have to struggle the most when writing? How do you tackle it?

Starting. I need the first sentence. That is sometimes tough to get. I just keep writing first sentences. I don’t let myself give up. I have rarely changed those first sentences. I certainly didn’t with JEMMA7729.

How was your experience in looking for a publisher? What words of advice would you offer those novice authors who are in search of one?

When JEMMA was first shopped around, I had an agent. I don’t have one now. We had all those glowing rejections. Then nothing happened, my agent couldn’t think of where to send it any more. Once I was on my own, I started sending it to small presses, and finally sent it to EDGE. It took them about six months to get back to me, but they bought it.

Just don’t give up. If you believe in your work, keep trying. Often, the problem is that what publishers are looking for is a narrow band. You have to fit into that band. You have to find the compatible fit.

What type of book promotion seems to work the best for you?

I don’t know yet.

What is(are) your favorite book/author(s)? Why?

I would love to write like Connie Willis. Her fabulous time-travel novel “The

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"Doomsday Book" is one of my very favorites. I've read it many times with pleasure. And I like George R. R. Martin, and Suzy Charnas.

What is the best writing advice you've ever received?

That one is simple: write from your heart.

Do you have a website/blog where readers may learn more about you and your work?

Yep. <http://www.phoebewray.net>. It's under construction, but readable.

Do you have another book on the works? Would you like to tell readers about your current or future projects?

JEMMA7729 is my first published book. I've got four setting on my desktop. A magic realism series, Tales of the Winter People, and a thriller.

The Winter People series is partly based on my adventure of being a working environmentalist for eleven years, I worked several times with Native American people, and became fascinated with the old tales of how the tribes integrated new technologies into their societies without losing their culture.

Anything else you'd like to say about yourself or your work?

I think people who can write ought to. We've become so wifi and anime and other techno things that sometimes we can feel overwhelmed. But I'm about to teach Drieser's "Sister Carrie," published in 1900, and it captures the fin de siecle in America as nothing else. Words ARE.

Thanks for stopping by! It was a pleasure to have you here!

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