

eBooks or Books?

Which would you rather read, books or ebooks? Interesting question, isn't it?

For the past month, Robert and I have been self-publishing. It's grueling work -- re-writing, editing, re-editing, researching P.O.D. (print on demand -- no upfront costs) companies, applying for and buying ISBN numbers (so the P.O.D. company isn't the "publisher" of your work, you are), working with bar codes, learning new programs to create pdf, and modify jpg image files, learning how to correctly paginate, designing and creating back and front covers, yada, yada, yada ...



In Robert's case, he wrote the three stories in *Trilogy of Awareness* twenty years ago, so they first had to be brought into the light and dusted off before doing anything with them. (Of course, I had to talk him into bringing them into the light in the first place. He didn't seem to think them worthy, but they are. They're wonderful stories.)

In my case, I worked on the second *Barking Spiders Poetry* book for eleven years. The preschool book was actually an afterthought, mostly because I felt some of the poems were too young for *Barking Spiders 2*, but also because parents wrote, asking if I had a book for the pre-school set. Drawing my own illustrations was also an afterthought, but after making the decision to self-publish, it was something I wanted to do.

Once the books were ready to go, we uploaded them to the P.O.D. company and got in the queue, waiting our turn to have them printed. In the meantime, we decided to go ahead and publish them in ebook format while we waited ... holy crap ... no one

tells you how crazy (and how difficult) it is to do that. Each ebookstore has their own requirements.



Okay, that brings me back to the original question ... which would you rather read, books or ebooks?

Robert and I were talking about it the other night, cuddling on the couch with a cup of decaf.

The ebook on a PC, Kindle, or Nook device is certainly the new rage, but we both agree, nothing is better than reading a physical book. I don't know, there's just something special and unique about a real book ... the weight of it in your hands; the anticipation of what will happen in the story when you tuck the bookmark in and put in down for later; the smell of the paper and the ink; and the most important thing of all, a book creates an intimate feeling, a caring relationship, with the book, the words, the characters, and the author ... no batteries required.

Hugs to you,
CJ