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THE SAGE CHRONICLES

Press Announcement

UNVEILING THE

EXTRAORDINARY:





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BEYOND WORDS

The Sage Chronicles Unveils Enchanting
New Covers and Narratives in Latest Editions.

For Immediate Release

USA 11/15/23 — The Sage Chronicles, a beacon in the literary landscape, proudly announces a reinvigorated chapter in its history with the release of new editions for two pivotal titles in the series, “*The Way Beyond*” (formerly titled “*The Life and Times of Halcyon Sage*”) and “*The Book of Squidly Light*.” These editions showcase stunning new covers designed by the acclaimed Richard Lejohones, a master in the art of capturing narrative essence visually.

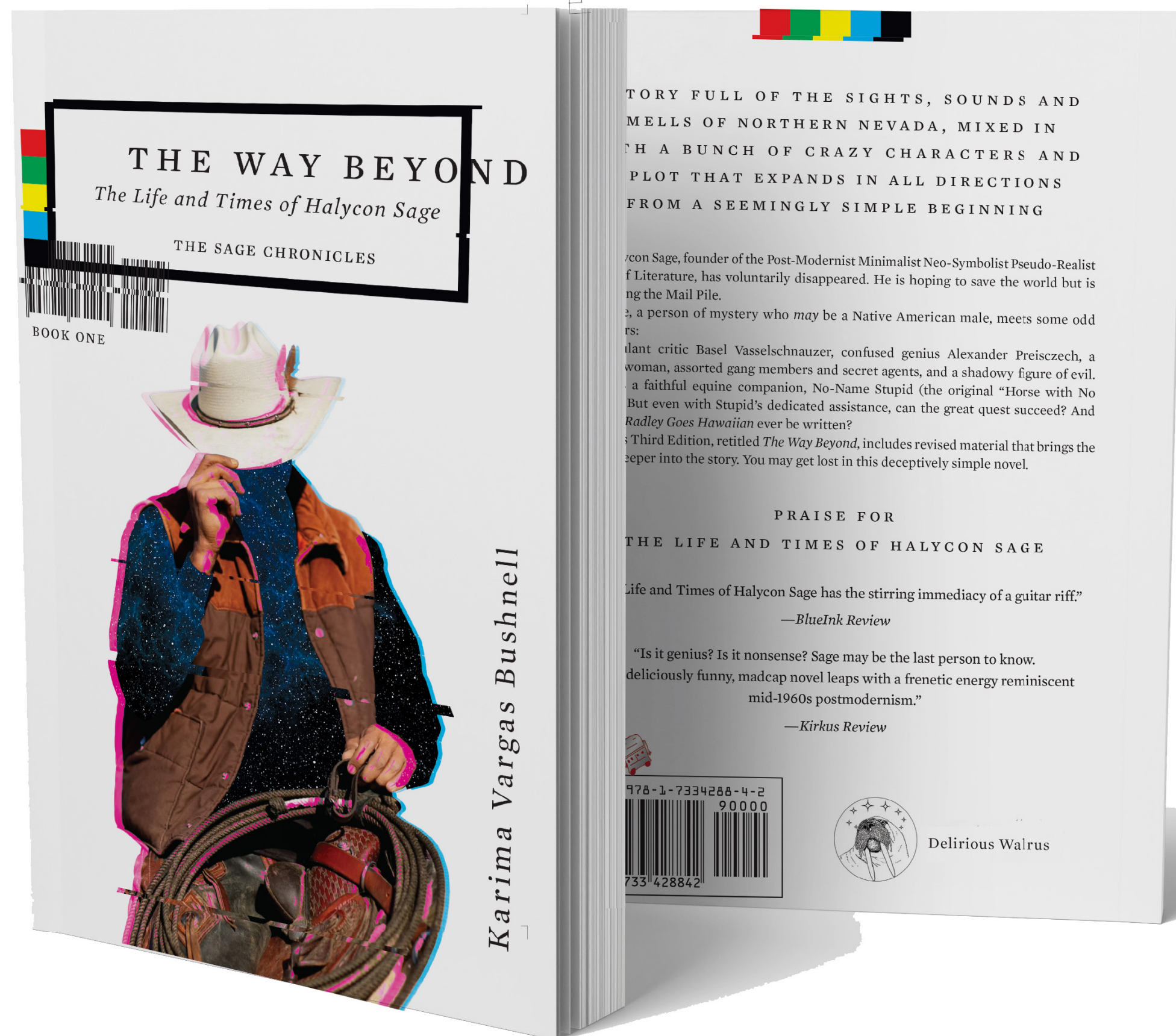


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THE COVERS, A VISUAL FEAST, REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT
AESTHETIC TRANSFORMATION FOR THE SERIES.

COVERING NEW GROUND:

RICHARD LJOENES, an [award-winning](#)
cover designer, brings a
fresh and



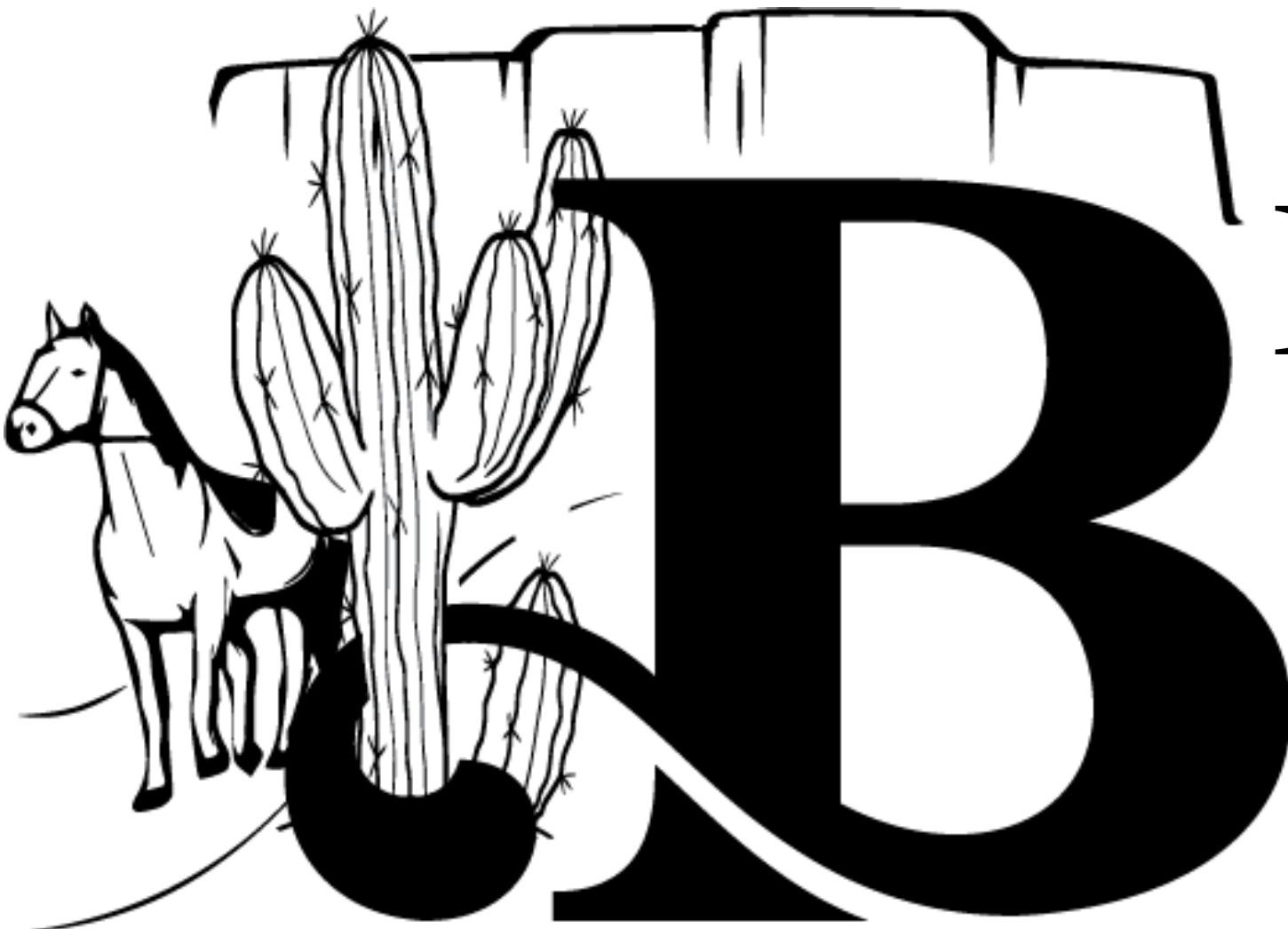
evocative
perspective



to the forefront, giving readers a glimpse
into the worlds within.



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BEYOND AESTHETIC APPEAL:

An interior redesign heightens the reader's immersion, promising an enriched experience and ensuring that the narrative unfolds in a visually captivating and artistically engaging manner.



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DELVING BEYOND THE SURFACE

THE SERIES TAKES ON **NEW LIFE** WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF
FRESH AND *REVISED CONTENT*.

Both *NEW EDITIONS* feature updated prologues, forewords, afterwords, and author bios, as well as significant revisions to **Book One**, where the *interlactic Squidren* have reached out a tentacle to give you a taste of what is to come.



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Loyal readers and newcomers alike will uncover **hidden depths** within the narrative, providing an opportunity to rediscover the magic of *The Sage Chronicles*.



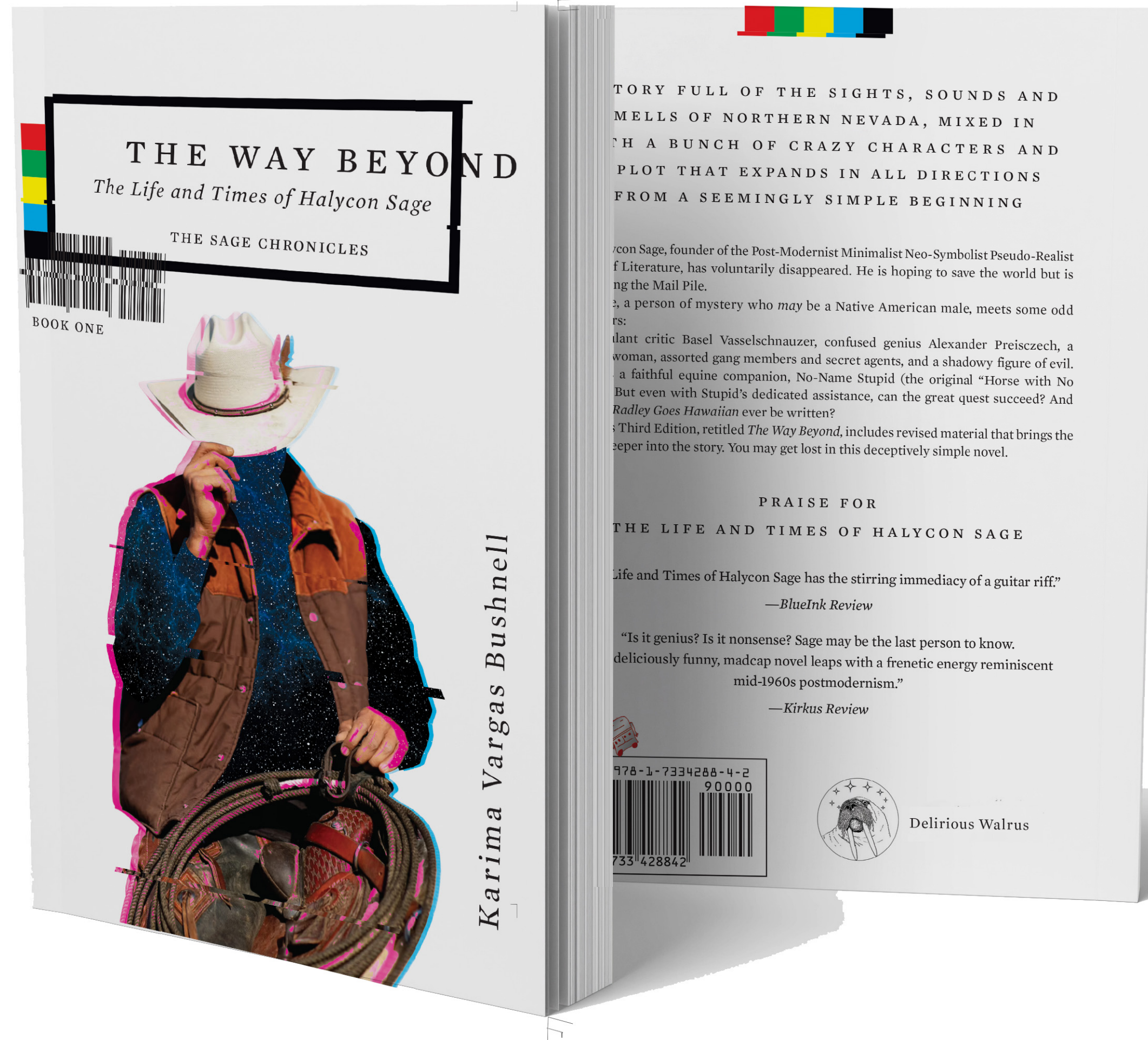
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THE WAY BEYOND

Available Dec, 20 2023

ISBN: 978-1-7334288-4-2

EISBN: 978-1-7334288-7-3



The Way Beyond is a masterful work of literary science-fiction—which on its surface tells the tale of world-famous author Halycon Sage, and his un-realized quest to save the world. While beneath the surface it offers a profound exploration of identity and faith. Through symbolic themes and subtle references, the book delves into the complexities of human existence. It examines different attitudes towards religion and the struggle to define oneself. The novel also highlights the importance of preserving the Earth and our connection with nature. This critical analysis serves as a gateway to deeper reflection and invites readers to approach the narrative with a philosophical and open-minded perspective.



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THE BOOK OF SQUIDLY LIGHT

ISBN: 978-1-7334288-5-9

EISBN: 978-1-7334288-8-0

RELEASE DATE TBD 2024

The Book of Squidly Light follows the residents of Dry Creek Gulch as they navigate post-apocalyptic life and grapple with the arrival of the Squidren, a group of extraterrestrial beings from another dimension. As the Squidren and residents of Dry Creek Gulch interact, they must confront and navigate the challenges of intercultural relations. However, their efforts are complicated by the discovery of a mysterious perimeter wall that encloses their town and raises questions about the nature of their existence and the barriers between different worlds. Throughout the book, themes of cultural exploration, understanding, and coexistence are explored, highlighting the complexities and possibilities of intercultural relations in a changing world.





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SAGE'S MULTIVERSE MINI-SERIES

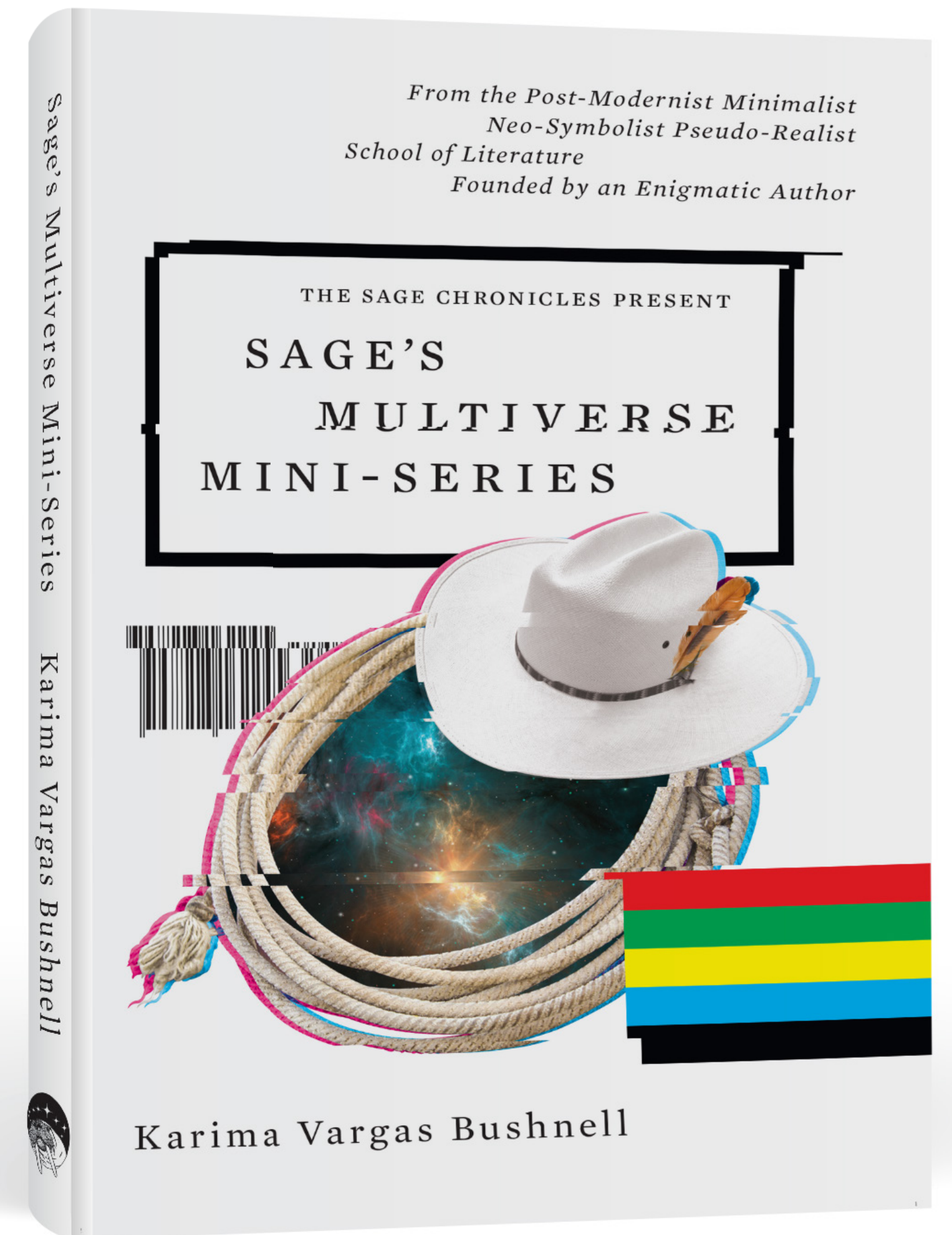
Available Nov 30 2023

ISBN: 978-1-7334288-35-5

EISBN: 978-1-7334288-66-6

Sage's Multiverse Mini-series is a companion collection to Karima Vargas Bushnell's series *The Sage Chronicles*. Originally existing as a humble blog segment in the multiverse, this compilation has undergone a fascinating evolution, transforming into the immersive mini-series that it is today.

In the preface, Jeanene Harter beautifully captures the essence of Karima's unique storytelling, stating; "Multiverse is a galactic block of Swiss cheese. It's a thing on its own, but as soon as you jump into one of the holes (a book, a post, a poem), you never know where you're going to come out. And that's Karima's magic. You never know where you're going, but you know it's going to be one AWESOME ride."





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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

With a Master's degree in Intercultural Relations and a wealth of experience in teaching and facilitating workshops, Karima Vargas Bushnell has dedicated her career to bridging cultural gaps and fostering understanding. Her rich background, which includes academic exploration, multicultural family influences, and various professional roles, has shaped her unique perspective and expertise. From designing programs and workshops to collaborating with organizations and faith leaders, Karima has been instrumental in promoting intercultural dialogue and inclusivity. Her writings, collaborations, and initiation into a Sufi lineage further reflect her deep exploration of mysticism and world religions. Through her fiction, she continues to challenge borders and actively engage readers in the quest for global unity.

- Karima taught Intercultural Communication at Metropolitan State University, Antioch University's Weekend College, and the University of St. Thomas.
- She received the Student of Color Ally Award from the University of St. Thomas.
- Karima designed programs and workshops for various organizations, including the National Science Foundation, the Association of Twin Cities Colleges and Universities, and the St. Paul Area Council of Churches.
- Her writings include "Culture Clash Dialogues" for the American Society for Training and Development, "Keys to the Global Village: Unlocking Intercultural Relations," and her Master's thesis on biculturalism among immigrants, refugees, and Native Americans in the USA.
- Karima co-authored "Cultural Detective Islam" as part of the Cultural Detective series used worldwide for intercultural training.
- She collaborated with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faith leaders to create the Walls into Bridges triologue.
- Karima's play, "Voices on the Waves: A Multicultural Comedy-Drama in Two Acts," was performed by a Muslim/Jewish/Christian cast for an interfaith peace weekend.
- She has a close association with writer, mystic, and world religions scholar Lex Hixon/Shaykh Nur al-Jerrahi, including initiation into his Sufi lineage and her embrace of Islam.
- Karima's fiction books received positive reviews in previous editions and *The Book of Squidly Light* was selected for the American Library Association's Booklist Magazine.

KARIMA VARGAS BUSHNELL





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KEY THEMES

Identity and Authenticity

The character of Halycon Sage explores the theme of identity and the pressure to conform to societal expectations. The problematic nature of his own identity creates inner turmoil, and the negative reception of his second novel causes him to question his own identity as a writer and the authenticity of his voice.

The Power of Criticism

The story touches on the theme of the impact of criticism on artists. Halycon Sage's emotional response to a critic's scathing review of his second novel highlights the vulnerability and emotional toll that criticism can have on creative individuals.

Quest for Fulfillment

Sage's decision to embark on a spiritual quest suggests a theme of personal fulfillment and the search for meaning in one's life. By attempting to save the world and find inner fulfillment, he represents the universal desire for purpose and self-discovery.

Cultural and Societal Commentary

The humorous depiction of the character Preiscech and his confusion in the supermarket reflects a theme of cultural disorientation and the absurdities of contemporary consumer culture. It satirizes the overwhelming choices and information overload faced by individuals in modern society.

Friendship and Loyalty

The friendship between Sage and Preiscech, Ratbone's generous response to Wolf's plea for help in finding Ruby, and Ruby's odd collaboration with Basel Vasselschnauzer all highlight the theme of loyalty and the lengths people will go to for those they care about, or even sometimes for total strangers. *The Way Beyond* showcases the importance of relationships, the bonds that hold individuals together, and how they can grow and take on meaning through shared experience.

Halycon Sage's Identity

One subplot revolves around the mystery of Halycon Sage's true identity. Critics and his editor speculate about his background, propounding theories that he's a Native American, a Somali, a frustrated religious leader, or a woman. The secrecy surrounding his identity adds an element of intrigue to the story.



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FAITH-BASED

STORYLINE REFERENCES

The Way Beyond subtly hints at a faith-based storyline, emphasizing the complexities of religious identity. In a humorous 'might be' imagined by his editor, the protagonist's apparent dissatisfaction with his religious role suggests a struggle between personal beliefs and societal expectations. By adopting a new identity, this imaginary Sage seeks freedom from the constraints imposed by his faith, raising questions about the nature of religious conviction and the pursuit of personal truth.



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Join the adventure as The Sage Chronicles series unveils its new title and new editions, inviting readers into a world of wonder and imagination.

May the Horse be with you.



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