



# Lesley Donaldson-Reid

## Narrative Designer, Author, Creative Powerhouse

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## About Lesley

I recently left the emergency nursing industry. Saving lives was a privilege. Creating imaginary lives that feel real is my passion.

There isn't a story I'm afraid to tell and I love being challenged in creative environments.

Writing is a life-long passion and I want to be where at the digital forefront of storytelling. I'm particularly fond of RPGs but I'm not above doing a victory dance when I win a FPS Battle Royale.

I'm also a hobby medievalist and enjoy travel with my family.

## Training & Education

- 2022 Writing for Video Games, University of British Columbia
- 2023 in progress:
  - Unity Essentials
  - Unreal Engine & MetaHuman
  - Project Management (Agile & Scrum)
  - Game Design
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, U of T (BScN)
- Hons. Bachelor of Science (Hons. BSc), U of T

## Narrative Design & Game Writing

2023

**5TH Cell** • Writer, Narrative Design

**FREELANCE** • Writer, Narrative Designer, Writing Coach

2022

**The Wilders** MetaWest fantasy NFT game • Worldbuilding, Head of Story

**Wildemyre: Cryptid Quest** • Fantasy NFT mobile game • Worldbuilding, narrative design

**Polytasy: Battle for Nyllona** • NFT fantasy battle game • Worldbuilding

**The Maze** • Interactive, text-based web game coded in Twine

2021

**Chicken Sauce: Poultryageddon** • multiplayer NFT shooter • Writer: GDD

**Code Coven Care Jam 2021** • *Hearten / Hyrtan* • Narrative Design & Writer

**Thunder: Throne Wars** • IMU Studios • Narrative Design & Sr. Editor • Short Screenplay

2017

**"Heart of Sroon"** • TEGG • Fantasy RPG tabletop one-shot game (on hold)

## Speculative Fiction Stories & Novels

2016-2022

**"The Gentlecloak"** • *From the Ashes: Legends Never Die Anthology* • IFA • Fantasy short story about retired warriors (who happen to be women)

**"The Crowning Ceremony"** • *Beyond the Shadows Anthology* • Mystic Inkwell • Grimdark short story in a medieval matriarchal society with a transgendered protagonist

**Inside Voices** • Aquhorthies Publishing • Short & flash speculative fiction

**The Wrath of Atticus** • Aquhorthies Publishing • Contemporary and historical dark fantasy

**"Bound by the Past"** • Aquhorthies Publishing • SF short • [Wattpad](#)

**"The Tower of Egizii: A Stormtalons Short Story"** • The Ed Greenwood Group • Coming of age medieval magic fantasy

**The Queen's Viper** • Aquhorthies Publishing • Contemporary and historical dark fantasy • 2016 Kindle Book Awards Semi-Finalist

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## Employment: Video Games & Publishing

**2022 November to 2023 July - FT Writer, Narrative Designer**  
**5TH Cell - original IP for independent studio**

- Remote writing contract using Google Suite, Slack, Jira, and more
- Writers' Room and solo content creation; idea pitches; narrative design for non-linear narrative; problem-solving with dev team
- Wrote hundreds of interactions with pithy dialogue for choice-based procedural RPG narrative in an open-world Science-Fantasy setting
- Worked alongside programming and dev team for smooth integration of game loop and mechanics

**2021 September to Present: [Fiverr - Freelance](#)**

- Narrative Design, Game Writing, Character Design, Game Documents & Whitepages, Creative Writing Consultant
- Global digital clients across a range of creative projects, from worldbuilding new IP to BAFTA screenplay editing
- Select highlights: Medical Ethics training tool

**2021 Aug to October - FT Sr. Editor and Lead Narrative**  
**IMU Studios - independent start-up studio**

- MMO FPS science-fantasy open-world with both RPG and arena elements
- Mentored 14 multi-national writers, including seamless adaptation of meetings for neurodivergent team members
- Attempted to limit narrative scope crawl; suggested edits for YouTube scripts to better reach target audience; constantly revisited game and story concepts to improve players' experience
- Budget-conscious introduction of programming concepts to quest writers, and screenplay writing for YouTube shorts
- Complied years of documentation into a writing style guide

**2017 to Present: Your Author Strategy**

**Owner • Writing Coach, Branding Advisor, Accountability Coach**

- Individualized author coaching and brand strategizing for aspiring authors (traditional or independent fiction & non-fiction publishing)
- Substantive editorial reviews for genre and non-fiction manuscripts
- Accountability coaching & creating writing plans that motivate clients to complete their objectives

**2014 to Present: Aquhorthies Publishing**

**Author • Publisher • PR • Marketing • Community Manager**

- End-to-end publishing control and out-sourcing, panelist & vendor at conventions; live streaming & recorded content; community building;
- My highly sensitive memoir, *Growing a Rainbow: The Premature Journey of a Two Pound Hero*, raised \$2500 for the Canadian Premature Babies Foundation

## Technology

MS Office / Google Suite / Jira  
Discord / Slack  
Zoom / Skype  
OBS Studio / Filmora  
Miro Boards / Lucid  
Unity Essentials (in progress)  
Unreal Engine (in progress)  
Inkle's Inky Editor (learning)  
Twine (learning)  
Rapid adaptation to new technology

## Creative

Values inclusion and diversity  
Solid narrative structure  
Verbal/Non-verbal storytelling  
Compelling player motivation  
Character driven story  
Linear and non-linear design  
Unifies story with game mechanic  
Inventive; avoids tropes  
Meets deadlines  
Loves brainstorming  
Creative problem-solver  
Detail oriented  
Writes content for all game styles  
Capable of diverse game content

## Team & Leadership

Highly collaborative & motivated  
Adapts to fast-changing dynamics  
Self-directed & productive  
Respectful, caring, & fun  
Servant leadership  
Receives & gives constructive feedback