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# THE RETURN OF KING LILLIAN

by Suzie Plakson

2019 Independent Author Book of the Year Award Winner  
2019 Pinnacle Book Achievement Award Winner  
2019 Readers' Favorite Award Winner

"*The Return of King Lillian* is a basket of magic. Echoing Joseph Campbell's feeling that the world needs new story-tellers and new myths to help us greet the coming age, I'll say that Suzie Plakson is one of those storytellers and *King Lillian* is one of those myths."

— Jacob Nordby, author, *Blessed Are the Weird: A Manifesto for Creatives*

"*The Return of King Lillian* is entrancing, audacious, and addictive in the very best way. A splendidly creative allegory told by Suzie Plakson with flair, wit, and passion."

— Marianne de Pierres, author, *Parrish Plessis* and *The Peacemaker* series

"With *The Return of King Lillian*, Suzie Plakson has done the impossible, telling a tale that at once seems both like a timeless classic and something modern, fresh and entirely new. Her audiobook performance is a tour de force that casts you under her spell. This impeccably-produced recording is guaranteed to brighten your day and lift your spirits!"

— David Briggs, Supervising Sound Editor, *Tales of the City, Divorce, Escape at Dannemora*

"*The Return of King Lillian* is a highly engaging work of fantasy and metaphysical fiction...a whimsical and philosophical fairy tale for the modern age."

— K.C. Finn, Readers' Favorite Awards

Once upon a time, a dream-vision of a red-headed woman in white poet-sleeves, a scarlet velvet cape and a purple Musketeer-style hat, galloping off under a canopy of gigantic trees, appeared to a struggling actor in New York City. That actor was Suzie Plakson and that vision became *The Return of King Lillian*.

When Lillian, the one and only heir to the throne, is cast out of her kingdom by malevolent forces, she gets lost in the Forest of Forgetfulness, where she is rescued by wolves and raised by an eccentric old wise woman. When she comes of age, she is called by Destiny to return home. The trouble is, when Lillian steps out of the Forest, she has no memory of who she is or from whence she hails. Undaunted, the spirited, self-reliant young woman sets off into the unknown, determined to rediscover her long lost self and to reclaim her stolen birthright. Most of the tale is told by Lillian herself as she chronicles her extraordinary adventures.

This offbeat debut novel, written and narrated by multi-media artist Suzie Plakson, is a new hero's journey, an allegorical saga full of comedy, calamity, and a host of unforgettable characters. Early readers and listeners have compared this unconventional fairy tale to such novels as *The Last Unicorn*, *The Alchemist*, *The Princess Bride*, and *The Once and Future King*. This genre-bending story celebrates the divinity of nature, the wisdom of animals, and the enduring power of art, truth, and freedom.

**Suzie Plakson** has been in love with fairy tale and myth ever since she was a young lass growing up in the wilds of suburbia. The idea for *The Return of King Lillian* first came to her when she was a struggling theatre actor in New York City, doing odd jobs, improv comedy, and various off-off-Broadway productions. She eventually landed a lead in a national tour, which dropped her off in Hollywood, and since that time she has appeared in such films and television shows as *Mad About You*, *Love and War*, *Wag the Dog*, *Dinosaurs*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *How I Met Your Mother* and *Star Trek*. She has also done voiceovers, written short stories and poetry, written and recorded an alternative country album, created an allegorical solo show, and produced sculptures large and small in her otherwise unused oven. *The Return of King Lillian* is her debut novel.



Now available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Audiobooks.com, and many other retailers

Find out more at [kinglillian.com](http://kinglillian.com) and [suzieplakson.com](http://suzieplakson.com)

## **A Conversation with Suzie Plakson, author of *The Return Of King Lillian***

### **How did this world, these characters, and this book come about?**

Decades ago, when I was in a place of frustration and despair, I first saw Lillian in a flash of a dream, galloping uphill on a big chestnut horse, disappearing under an archway of giant trees. And from that moment on, over a period of many years, the story and the world grew through dreams, trials, errors, and, finally, collaboration.

### **Can you talk about the importance of having a strong female protagonist in *King Lillian*?**

Ever since the epic of Gilgamesh – which was the first hero's journey in Western mythology – the star of the show was always a fella, usually with a lot of "I am the conqueror" kind of energy going on. So, with respect to balance, I'm hoping it's an auspicious time to tell the tale of a seeking soul from the other side of the psyche. However, with all sorts of fantasy heroines now gracing the landscape, it's important to note that Lillian isn't a warrior, she's a philosopher. Her strength is in her resilience, her humor, her point of view.

### **There are so many strong connections between humans and animals in the book. Why was it so important to you to feature these relationships?**

Anybody who has ever befriended or loved an animal knows that that bond is, in its way, just as profound as relationships with humans, and the innocence of animals makes those bonds that much more sacred. The genius and wisdom of animals is only just beginning to be recognized. Particularly amongst those who love peace and quiet, animals "speak" very loudly, love very deeply, and truly are sages, if we're willing to be taught by them. I could rhapsodize further, but I'll stop there.

### **Why do you think fantastical worlds continue to draw us in?**

Because the real world can be such a drag! And escaping into a fantasy world can be so liberating and fueling. And then, when you return to this thing called Real Life, maybe you feel a bit stronger at the core. You know, it's like Dr. Seuss says: "Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living, it's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope, and that enables you to laugh at life's realities."

### **You clearly have a deep love of language. Have you always been a collector of words?**

Yes, I've always been charmed by words, and enchanted by people who could weave them together into something that sounded and felt like music. For instance, I've always been smitten by Oscar Wilde and Dickens and Tolstoy and Twain. And I'm a sucker for a massive old dictionary. In other stories I've written, other characters have had very limited vocabularies; however, Lillian's love of language spoke to me and through me, and the story is told in her own very particular, some might say peculiar, vernacular.

### **When you were writing this, were you always thinking of this as an audiobook?**

When I write prose, I tend to write as if people are conversationally telling the tale, so I suppose the audiobook was a natural expression of this story from the beginning. Storytelling began as an oral/audio experience, and I think when we hear someone tell a story, we're moved in perhaps a more visceral way, as we are with music. And it's so nice that we're now living in an era when podcasts and audiobooks and such are so highly valued. I remember once reading an article about some scientists who proved that DNA can be reprogrammed and rejuvenated by words and frequencies – which makes perfect sense to me, as it will to anyone who is particularly sensitive and receptive to sound. My hope is that the audiobook (and the book, of course) will be a place of respite in a mad, mad, mad, mad world.