

NEW LITERARY SOCIETY

14 / MARCH
2026

*SECRETS OF
WORLDS' WRITERS*

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NEW LITERARY SOCIETY

THE CON TENT

SECRETS OF WORLDS' WRITERS

EDITOR'S NOTE

- TEASER: JEFF TURNER — FROM THE UPCOMING BOOK

AUTHOR INTERVIEWS:

- NAOMI KENNEDY
- ANIA VILAL
- LUNA POPESCU
- OVER 50 EMPRESS

BOOK PHOTOGRAPHY & LINKS FOR PURCHASE

ISSUE 14 – MARCH 2026

Editor's Note

The Month of Thresholds

Scientist Writer



ADELIA E. RITCHIE SPECIAL EDITION

Editor's Note

Funnily enough, while finalizing the details of this issue, I realized I had stepped into an editorial paradox: it was too soon to announce the winners of the Winter Contest, and already too late to announce the winners of the Summer one.

Too early to reveal one book launch, and too late to reveal another. March arrived with its own timing, and I found myself navigating unexpected thresholds as an editor.

Curiously, the same thing happened as a writer. I was invited to send an article about the month of March, and suddenly the month itself felt like a riddle.

March is, after all, like its ancient god—both war and agriculture, destruction and renewal.

A month of change, of beginnings, of feminine force rising through the last cold days.

In this issue, you'll find a series of four interviews with remarkable women writers, each answering the same question in her own voice. And you'll also find a teaser from Jeffrey Turner's upcoming book—a glimpse into a world that will soon unfold.

March may be unpredictable, but it always brings movement. This issue is my way of stepping into that movement with you.

Belly Dancing Writer

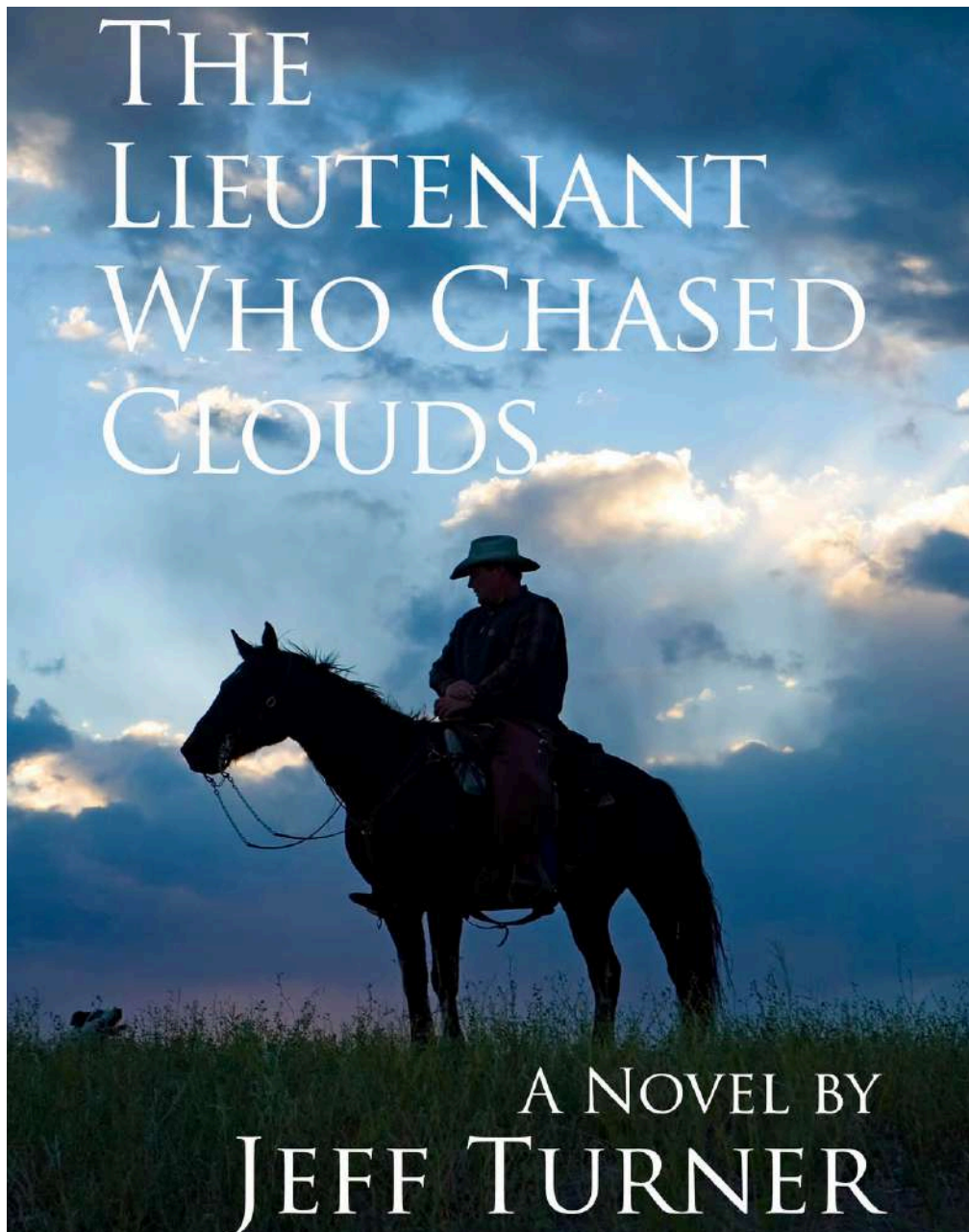


ADELIA E. RITCHIE SPECIAL EDITION

Teaser: Jeff Turner

From the Upcoming Book
The Lieutenant Who Chased the Clouds

Scientist Writer



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ADELIA E. RITCHIE SPECIAL EDITION

Insights from Ania Vilal

Interview by Julia Kalman | New Literary Society,
January 12, 2025

Interview

1. That Special Moment

One fine day, you started writing poems/stories. How did it happen exactly?

AER: I was on a short business trip to Lithuania in April 2010. A friend had challenged a group of us to write a poem every day for the entire month, it being National Poetry Month! I accepted, thinking I could write poetry on the plane each way, and one or two poems while in the country.

But it turned out that the Icelandic volcano eruption shut down air traffic and stranded me in Vilnius for five weeks, during which I explored the city, took lots of photos, and wrote a poem every day of the month.

I eventually published them in my first chapbook, *Leaves of Glass*.

2. Art Is Work

What does your work as a writer consist of? What are the biggest challenges of the present?

AER: There are several parts to my life as a writer.

One part is writing for pleasure, and because I have something I need to say.

This part cranks out poems and essays, mostly published on Medium.com and Substack.com.

Another part is technical writing, which helps pay the electric bill.

Interview

I write proposals, corporate policy documents, internal work instructions, technical proposals, and the like.

And the other part, the most fun of all, is writing memoirs and adventure stories, like in my recent book *The Accidental Expat: A Costa Rican Adventure*.

The biggest challenge right now is finding enough time to write for myself, i.e., to finish that memoir about adventures with my Dad, and then finish my second *Expat* book of adventures in Costa Rica!

3. Without Projects, There Is No Future

What are your representative projects? What projects are you working on?

AER: My father was a very interesting and unusual man, not bound by anyone's book of rules other than his own.

The project I've been working on in between finishing my current new book and working as a technical writer is a memoir about me and my dad, his crazy life, and our adventures together, from Japan to northern Virginia to Paris to Frankfurt, and many other adventures in between.

Sometimes I believe I am a female clone version of him, and the more I write, the more I believe it.

I've recently published a manuscript I've written over the years, entitled *The Accidental Masterpiece: Poems from a Colorful Life*.

Interview

My poems are often light and humorous, with a story to tell.

Also, earlier this year, my poetry group, which has been meeting via Zoom since COVID forced us to stop gathering in person, collectively decided to compile a collection entitled *Timeless Voices: A Poetry Anthology*.

This book was published by Bainbridge Island Press earlier this year.

Currently in press are two new works: *Quito and the Galápagos: A Bucket List Adventure*, and *Where the Water Remembers*.

The first is a photo-illustrated narrative that follows our adventures across the Galápagos archipelago, retracing the incredible insights and discoveries of Charles Darwin.

The latter is a collection of 30 ekphrastic poems created after a friend challenged me to observe National Poetry Month this past April.

I'm currently working on a serious non-fiction book — working title *The Secret Book of Rules*— which has captured me in endless research-related rabbit holes and fascinating discussions with everyone I encounter.

4. The Scent of Creation

Describe a scent that immediately transports you to a moment of inspiration or creativity. What emotions does it evoke, and how does it influence your creative process?

AER: The scent of a Pacific Ocean wave lapping against a Central American beach transports me.

Interview

It takes me away from daily pressures and lands me squarely in the moment, and when I'm lucky enough to have my painting kit with me, I often just sit down in the sand and start sketching in watercolors.

The rest of the world doesn't exist in those moments.

5. Ink and Intimacy

If your writing style were a tactile experience, what texture would it be? How does the act of putting pen to paper or fingers to keyboard make you feel on a deeply personal level?

AER: My Muse is *"the little man in my head who gives me a report each morning."*

When I'm thinking about a project, I will give my "little man" the assignment so that I don't have to be conscious of it while I'm working on something else.

The next day or so, when I sit down at my computer to write about the project, I'm not consciously aware of exactly what I'm going to say... that is, until my fingers hit the keyboard and the words flow out as if someone else were dictating them to me.

My "Little Man" is my unconscious, and over the years, I have learned how to make him do much of the heavy lifting, often while I'm sleeping.

Writing like this is a joy beyond description.

Interview

6. The Harmony of Silence

Think about a moment when silence spoke louder than words in your creative journey. What were the circumstances, and how did it shape your understanding of your craft?

AER: When I draw, sketch, or paint, especially in plein aire, I lose myself in my work, almost as if meditating.

This is when the “little man in my head” goes to work, when I meditate or sleep, generating ideas or resolving unanswered issues with a current project.

It's as if he hands me a report each morning when I awaken, silently acknowledging that I could not have done it without his help.

He is my muse, and only comes to me in silence, when my mind is still.

7. The Palette of Dreams

Imagine your creative mind as a painter's palette. What colors dominate your artistic spectrum, and how do they represent the different facets of your imagination?

AER: My entire life has been intensely colorful, on many levels. As an artist, my palette is filled with strong colors, primaries, and brights.

Life is meant to be lived surrounded by happy colors and filled with laughter... and never a “dull” moment.

Adelia E. Ritchie

**Quito and the
Galápagos:
*A Bucket List
Adventure***



Interview

8. The Quill of Vulnerability

If your creative expression were a handwritten letter to yourself, what truths and vulnerabilities would it unveil?

AER: When I was 16 years old, I wrote a letter to myself that began with “Dear Sad Girl...”

Somehow, I managed to keep that letter all these years, and I reread it now and then, with a smile, remembering the lessons I was teaching myself about all the mistakes a young person makes and that it’s all going to be okay someday.

These days, I have learned that honesty in writing is key, and that readers wish to connect, to relate to the vulnerabilities and mistakes.

And I have reached that magical age where I no longer worry too much about what people will think about my opinions, advice, experiences, or biases, and I just tell it as I see it.

My readers tell me that, when they read my essays, it’s as if I’m talking directly to them. They are connecting directly with me. And that’s exactly what I hope for.

9. Symphony of Shadows

Consider a character or theme in your work that embodies the shadows of your own psyche. What does this shadow teach you about your fears, desires, or unexplored dimensions?

AER: I do not write fiction, so the characters in my stories are real. I don’t look for shadows and fears in my writings, but more for the

Interview

humor and silliness of everyday life experiences.

Occasionally, I will write a poem that evokes heartache or searching for something or someone.

Once at a poetry workshop, I read some fun villanelles that evoked a few chuckles from the audience.

But later that day, a well-known poet (male) took me aside to tell me, "I never write funny poems."

What he was trying to tell me in his arrogance was that poetry isn't poetry unless it's filled with angst and depression.

No, that's not at all who I am or what I write.

10. Echoes of Childhood Whispers:

Recall a childhood memory that resonates with you as a writer. How do the echoes of your early experiences manifest in your work today?

AER: When I was a little girl on a huge farm in northern Virginia, USA, I had an adorable pet pig that I had caught in a greased-pig-catching contest at the county fair.

My dad let me keep her, and she became the family's best friend and comic entertainment.

Some of my earliest memories of my dad and his irrepressible humor are from those days with Porky and our pack of hunting dogs, which she led on hunts.

And decades later, my dad's last great belly laugh, with tears rolling down, was when he recalled the story of that day when Porky tried to point at a pheasant in the brush.

Her curly tail refused to straighten.

Interview

The entire group of hunters were laughing so hard that they all had to retreat to the farmhouse for a shot of whiskey. These are the kinds of stories that I love to write.

11. Melodies of Memory:

If your memories were composed as a musical score, what instrument would represent your creative recollections?

AER: My first thought is “Flight of the Bumblebee” played on a flute!

I have had so many experiences in so many places, having moved households 59 times since I was born, around the world, tasting cultures, sipping native liqueurs, and learning a few words of many languages.

I have seen and learned and felt ten lifetimes of things most people can barely relate to, and I think all those life experiences enable connections and novel ideas that wouldn't be possible if, for example, I had lived in a small town my entire life.

A girl needs to flap her wings and buzz off, or she'll grow old and boring.

12. The Dance of Syntax:

If your writing style were a dance, what would be the rhythm and tempo? How does the cadence of your sentences mirror the beating of your creative heart?

AER: This question hits home for me. because I was a dancer when

Interview

i was younger, from grooving in a bird cage at the Whiskey-A-Go-Go in Washington, DC, to belly-dancing in a troupe in Atlanta.

My poetry “moves” range from a slow waltz to wild salsa dancing, and, depending on the subject or theme of my essays and other works, soft rock is the tempo, often with a twist or two.

13. Admiration Exercises

Which writers do you admire? What are your favorite books?

AER: One of the most profound and impactful was *Ecology of Commerce* by Paul Hawken.

With the global economy based on growth, including that of population, the sustainability of business and manufacturing processes is a crucial concern. I have used the principles set forth in this book dozens of times in business, in politics, and in life.

Sapiens, by Yuval Noah Harari, left me gobsmacked and slack-jawed with its god’s-eye-view of the history of the world, including the evolution of mankind, condensed into one unputdownable tome that defines what it means to be “human.”

Another, entitled *1491*, by Charles C. Mann, portrays the deep history of the pre-Colombian Americas, a story that has little to do with what I was taught in history classes as a youth.

Now, as a resident of a tiny Central American country, I have a completely altered perspective on colonialism and the devastation it brought to the indigenous peoples and their civilizations.

Book in Hand



ADELIA E. RITCHIE SPECIAL EDITION

From colonial heights to volcanic shores— a personal bucket list follows Adelia’s adventures through the cobbled colonial streets of Quito, Ecuador’s capital city, then dives into the living legacy of the Galápagos archipelago, as she and her fellow travellers retrace the incredible discoveries of Charles Darwin.

When Darwin visited the Galápagos Islands in 1835 it stimulated his advancing a theory of evolution. Almost 200 years later evolutionary biology produced a half-dozen Costa Rican ex-pats who traveled together to the Islands. I know these jungle dwellers and will testify that they know how to have a good time. One of the group was Adelia Ritchie, the travel writer who produced this book, which, predictably, is a good time.

There are 13 major islands in the Galapagos chain, as there are 13 scutes on the top of the shell of a giant tortoise. Coincidence? Of course not. We’re selling books here, and maintain that the earth is balanced on the back of a giant tortoise, which was once called a Galápagos. How can you resist exploring the islands, the creatures, and the people of one of the most fascinating places on the planet? Dive in. You’ll be glad you did.

— Dan Lee, retired journalist, author of *Indian Shadow*

Interview

14. An Indiscreet Question

With which influential author or inspirational figure from life, past or present, would you most like to share a cup of tea and a captivating conversation?

AER: Definitely Sir David Attenborough, a fascinating and engaging storyteller.

He is an English broadcaster, writer, and naturalist noted for his innovative educational television programs, especially the nine-part Life series.

His broadcasts and writings have been a significant part of my interests for decades.

What I love about this man is his curiosity and his motivation to share his vast knowledge about nature and the sometimes invisible connections that tie all things together, both living and inorganic.

15. A Story in Ten Words

Drought and dust. Downpours and flooding.
Climate change has arrived.

16. A Favorite Fragment from Your Works

AER: I enjoy writing 75-word novels, tiny stories that have a character, a situation, or drama, and a resolution.

Interview

Here's one example, entitled "Late Night Cuppa":

"In over 20 years of serving burnt coffee to late-night drunks, she had never felt such a body slam to her amygdala, having felt only numbness for too long. His musky scent invaded her nostrils and lungs, metastasizing through her like earthworms sliding through rich damp soil. His look told her everything she needed to know. Her steady hand moved toward him. Heaving a sigh, she poured him another cup."

17. Contact Information

How can you be contacted?

AER: By email at adeliar@gmail.com.

18. Blog/Author Page/Social Media Profile

Where can we read your works?

AER: I have two publications running on Substack, "Tico Tales" and "Adelia's Substack."

Access here: <https://aritchie.substack.com>

19. What exactly would you like to convey to a fellow writer/editor/screenwriter/film producer?

AER: Honesty, passion, vulnerability, entertainment, education, and connection are my primary values when writing. I believe readers possess finely tuned BS detectors, which I never want to set off!

ADELIA E. RITCHIE SPECIAL EDITION

Interview

And I believe readers more deeply engage with writers who are passionate about what they are saying.

Readers also want to connect with someone whose defenses are down, who is fearlessly exposing their inner selves to the world.

I also love to entertain, and many of my pieces are humorous, sometimes in a subtle way, sometimes not.

There is so much happening in our world these days that it is difficult to understand and easy to ignore because of a lack of knowledge.

For these reasons, many of my essays deal with science that the reader can directly relate to and that affects them daily.

My stories are real and true and full of heart and life. And most of them are delicious fun!

Where can your works be read (in English)?

In addition to Substack, which is free for everyone at this time, my recent book, *The Accidental Expat*, can be found on amazon.com (<https://a.co/d/18Zqil6>) in both paperback and eBook versions.

An Accidental Masterpiece: Poems from a Colorful Life is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/an-accidental-masterpiece-adelia-ritchie/1146428087?ean=9798330348374>

ADELIA E. RITCHIE SPECIAL EDITION

Interview

20. Embers of Endings

Envision the conclusion of a significant project. How do you feel as you pen the final words or brush the last strokes? What is the emotional resonance of completion, and how does it influence your anticipation for the next artistic endeavor?

AER: When I complete that final edit before I send off a manuscript, I feel as if I have just run out of gas, that I've been zooming ahead at full speed, and then dead stop.

That's when it's time for a glass of wine and a nap, and later get up and read the entire thing one more time!

A manuscript is never finished.

There will always be improvements that could be made, but one must ultimately just stop and let it go.

That decision brings tremendous relief and excitement.

And finishing one essay, or memoir, or poem brings on a flood of new energy (after a nap) to jump-start the next project.

THE ACCIDENTAL EXPAT

A Costa Rican Adventure



Adelia Ritchie, PhD

Author Portrait



ADELIA E. RITCHIE SPECIAL EDITION

Books by Adelia Ritchie

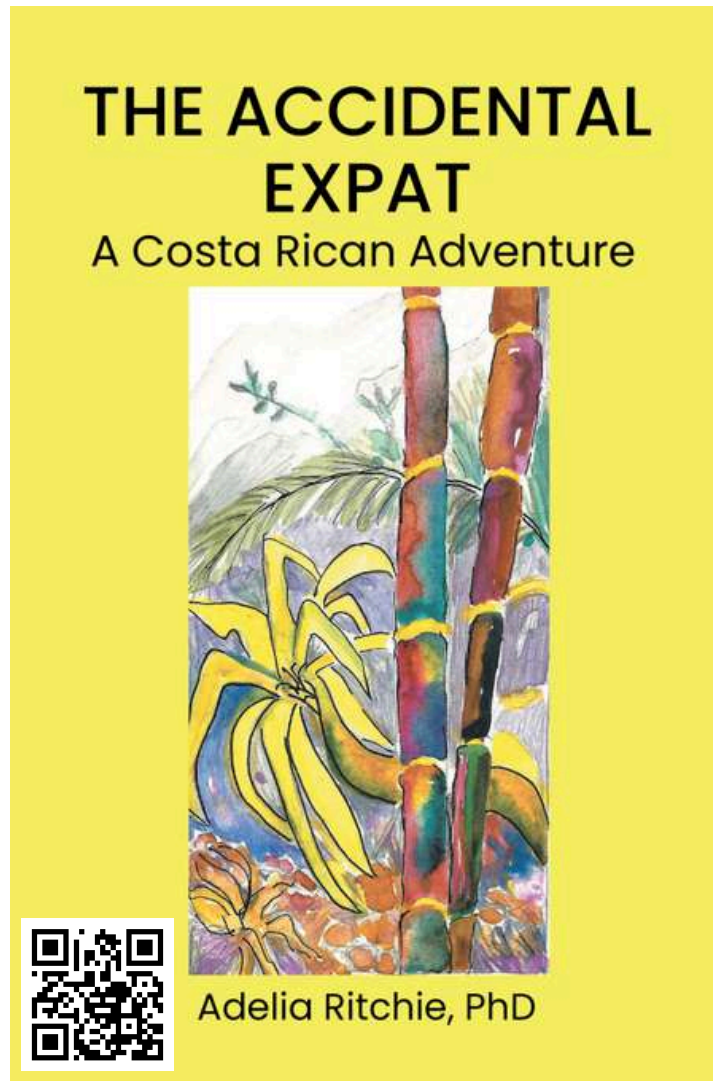
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By Adelia Ritchie

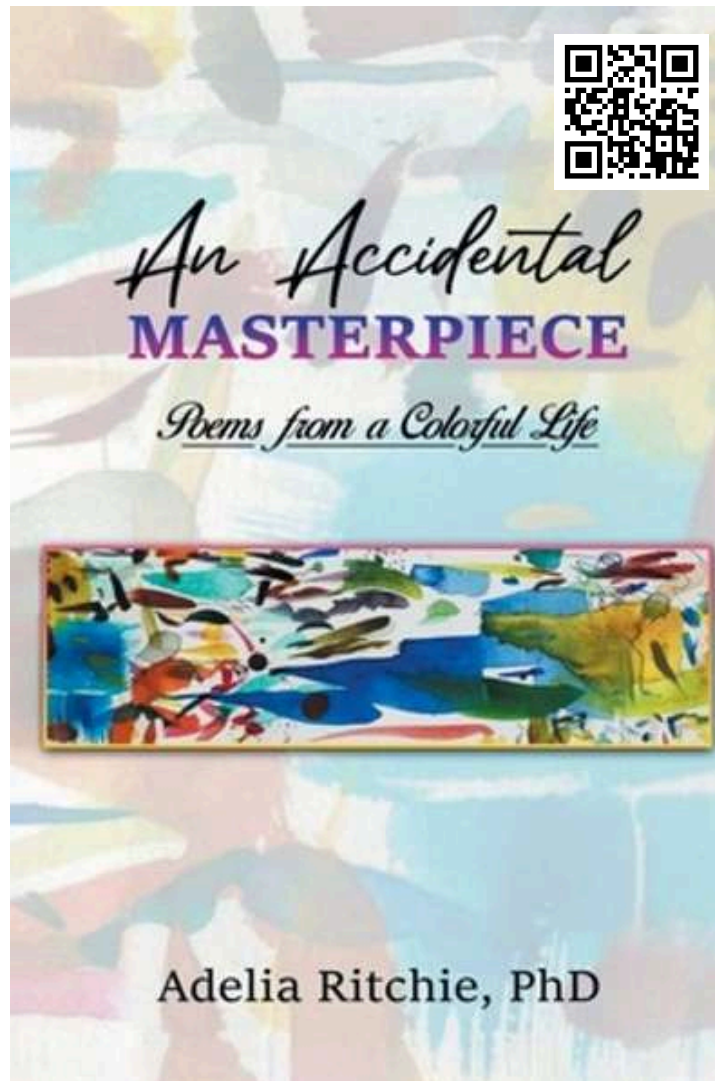


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An Accidental Masterpiece— Order Now

Poems from a Colorful Life

By Adelia Ritchie



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Timeless Voices – Order Now

A POETRY ANTHOLOGY

By *Adelia Ritchie* (Editor)



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