

MEDIA KIT



Shattered Energy: A Memory in Time By Athena Plencner

CURRENT WORDS PUBLISHING

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BOOK OVERVIEW

Hook: A woman haunted by dreams discovers they are memories, just as the creatures from those memories begin to appear in her world.

Short Description: Ariyana has lived a double life since childhood, one grounded in reality, the other unfolding in dreams she cannot escape...

Praise:

KIRKUS: “action aplenty”

Midwest Book Review: “a cut above many McCaffrey stories”

Genre: Epic Fantasy

Audience: Character-driven fantasy readers

Where to buy: Available in paperback from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and major online retailers beginning April 13, 2026. Kindle and audiobook editions available April 20, 2026.

AUTHOR



Athena Plencner arrived in San Diego during high school, fell in love with the West Coast, and hasn't looked back since. She writes fantasy fiction that pushes into imaginative territory — stories built around the worlds we wish existed and the ones we haven't yet dared to imagine.

Off the page, she's usually out on a trail somewhere, logging miles and gathering the kind of inspiration that only comes from moving through the world at full speed. Athena holds a Bachelor of Science degree from San Diego State University.

More at athena-plencner.com

PRESS RELEASE

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A DEBUT FANTASY SERIES LAUNCHES THIS APRIL FROM CURRENT WORDS PUBLISHING

Shattered Energy: A Memory in Time by Athena Plencner Goes on Sale April 13, 2026

LOS ANGELES, CA — Current Words Publishing will release *Shattered Energy: A Memory in Time*, the debut novel by Athena Plencner and the first installment in a new fantasy series, on April 13, 2026.

Praised by *Kirkus Reviews* as having “action aplenty,” and called “a cut above many McCaffrey stories” by the *Midwest Book Review*, *Shattered Energy* introduces Athena Plencner as a compelling new voice in contemporary fantasy fiction.

About the Book

Ariyana has lived a double life since she was six years old. By day, she is a mother to twin boys and a wife to a distant husband who dismisses her fears rather than helping her understand them. Each night, the same dream returns — one in which she is no longer human, watching helplessly as her dragon-like companion is torn apart by insect-like creatures. Every night she fails to save him. Every morning, she wakes with his name burned into her soul: Glacin.

On the morning of her thirtieth birthday, Ariyana's two lives collide when creatures from her dreams appear on Earth. The truth she uncovers is as unsettling as it is undeniable: her nightmares have not been dreams at all, but memories. And she is not who she thought she was.

Now hunted by the same beings that destroyed her companion — and their mysterious leader — Ariyana must confront a past she cannot remember in order to protect the family she loves. The only question is whether she will reclaim who she was in time, or lose everything trying.

Shattered Energy blends high-concept fantasy with intimate emotional stakes, appealing to fans of Anne McCaffrey and character-driven epic storytelling.

About the Author

San Diego claimed Athena Plencner during her sophomore year of high school, and she hasn't looked back. A fantasy writer drawn to imaginative realms and the uncharted territory beyond the familiar, Athena builds worlds on the page the same way she conquers trails in real life — with

speed, stamina, and a refusal to stop moving. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from San Diego State University. Learn more at athena-plencner.com.

About Current Words Publishing

Current Words Publishing is a Los Angeles-based hybrid publishing house founded in 2017. A boutique, family-run operation, Current Words combines professional editing, cover and interior design, and author coaching to bring distinctive voices to readers across genres. Most titles are published under the Current Words imprint, with select genre works released through specialty imprints including Gravelight Press (horror), Hawkshaw Press (mystery and detective fiction), and Out-of-This-World Press (science and speculative fiction). Learn more at currentwords.com.

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Series: Shattered Energy, Book 1

Author: Athena Plencner

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EXCERPT¹

Ariyana felt Lexa reaching out to her, but she was more aware of the mental connection than the physical one that Lexa had tried to initiate. It was over-whelming, and she hardened herself against it, pushing back as hard as Lexa pushed to connect. Her body was surprisingly responsive to her needs. She moved faster than she thought she was capable of, and she could feel the thin layer of liquid silver moving to areas where she felt vulnerable. She felt connected to the energy that swarmed around her. It flexed and bent to her will without thought. Her body felt strange but familiar. The weakness that she had felt when Kylor beat her was gone, and now she held him easily against the rock wall. The uncomfortable heat was also gone. Her body temperature had lowered significantly to equalize itself with the chill in her chest. Kylor groaned, and she squeezed his throat tighter. “Aris,” he wheezed. She loosened her grip slightly and narrowed her eyes, “That is not my name. It’s Ariyana.” The feathers along her back ridge rose and vibrated with irritation. Her tail whipped from side to side along the ground. “No...Aris,” he countered, his eyes full of arrogance. “It means ‘song of the mind.’ A name given to you by your Glacin.” She gripped him tighter, until no sound could escape his lips, and pressed the point of the blade into the corner of his eye. “How do you know that name?” she demanded. “How dare you speak it as if you knew him?” She pressed the full weight of her body into his, driving the strength of her position into her hold on his throat until his voice forced its way into her mind.

Enough!

She was unprepared for the forceful intrusion, and she released him, jerking away. She felt off balance and shook her head to re-orient herself. She expected him to move away from her, make an escape, but he stood there, glaring at her, rubbing his throat.

“Why did you really seek this species out, Aris? To hide from us, or from yourself?” He spit the words at her, adding more emphasis to her name.

She took a step toward him, raising the blade again, but he countered quickly and grabbed her wrist. The contact sent an electrical jolt up her arm, her body stiffened, and light filled her vision.

Ariyana was in a large chamber that was filled with warm light. The far side of the chamber was occupied by a spring of bright green water that bubbled slightly. It was enticing and called to her like a siren, promising comfort amid its warm embrace. But she ignored it, gave in to her anxiety, and paced the chamber.

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She was confused and agitated. It felt the same as it had when she'd lost Glacin. *She was alone, but why was she alone? It wasn't because she had lost Glacin. That had already happened. So what could it be? Why did she feel so confused? Why was she agitated?* She couldn't remember how she got into the chamber. She felt sure that something had gone wrong, but couldn't grasp what that something was.

Then, she realized that it wasn't Glacin that she was looking for in her mind, it was Vayle. *Yes, it was Vayle that wouldn't respond; it was Vayle that had shut her out.*

She stopped pacing. It was too quiet in her mind. She looked at her hands and sucked in a breath. They were caked in milky lavender...Blood. *What did I do?* she thought to herself. She had no idea what horrible thing had happened, but she knew that she was responsible.

She rushed over to the spring and thrust her hands into the warm water. She vigorously scratched and rubbed at the skin, so anxious to re-move the sin from her flesh that the Lielycet turned red and began stinging her. She pulled her hands away from the pain only to feel rage crash over her from behind and beat against her raw emotions.

"It doesn't matter how many layers of skin you remove. The stain of your actions will never wash clean."

She whipped around to face Idrin in the doorway. Anger and pain were etched into the features of his face. She couldn't remember a time when he had turned that anger toward her. His right hand shifted at his side, and a silver blade glinted in the light.

Disbelief and betrayal filled her, overshadowing her guilt and anxiety. She hissed at him. "What have you come here to do, my companion? Shun me as Vayle has done or kill me?" She remembered in that moment that Kylor had betrayed his people, the Aryllyns, and Vayle and her people, the Draxins. That was why Vayle was quiet, she was in mourning. Ariyana couldn't recall what happened after that, but she remembered that she was angry about the pain that Kylor had caused Vayle.

"Your actions were disgraceful among my people," Idrin snarled.

She squared her shoulders. "What of his actions?" she demanded. "He disgraced Vayle and her people!"

"His punishment was decided. You had no right to interfere!" he yelled back.

"Your punishment was weak!" She spit the words at him, hoping to piss him off.

He charged her, slammed her against the wall, and pushed the blade into her chest. She caught it in her hand and held it firmly in place, silver blood dripping onto the rock floor between them. She sucked in a breath.

"Death then?" she muttered.

He ignored her words. "Kylor's actions made the alliance weak, but it was your actions that ripped us apart."

The words tore at her just as the tip of the blade tore at her skin. She longed for the connection that she'd had with him and Vayle, but his words and actions shattered the bond that she craved. She felt more alone than ever. Vayle had made an oath to her after Glacin died, and she'd broken that oath when she pushed her away. And now Idrin, someone who

had sworn his hearts and ryn to her, had a blade to her chest. He could no longer control her, and so he wanted her dead.

She glared back at him. Her hand shook around the blade as he continued to try to force it into her chest. He struck her, and her head whipped back and hit the wall. She licked the blood from the corner of her mouth but held firm.

“The Draxins want vengeance against the Aryllyns, and the Aryllyns are screaming for your blood. You had no right! You have left me no choice!” he screamed and hit her again.

She still couldn’t remember what she had done, but she was hurt, so she lashed out. “I had every right,” she said smugly, her tone laced with disgust. “I don’t answer to them, and I’ll never answer to you.”

“And that’s why you’ll never be anything other than a Tehkara,” he sneered.

Outsider.

The word sliced through her. It stung more than any mortal wound. Her eyes burned. She met his gaze, and the last thing she saw was the shock in his eyes as she released the blade, and it pierced through her hearts.

MEDIA ASSETS

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Available Files:

- Cover (Print – 300 DPI)
- Cover (Web)
- Headshot (Print – 300 DPI; color and grayscale)
- Headshot (Web; color and grayscale)
- Press Release (PDF)

PUBLISHER



Current Words Publishing is a Los Angeles-based, female-owned hybrid publishing house founded in 2017 by Dianne Pearce and David Yurkovich — a husband-and-wife team with more than forty combined years of experience in writing, editing, design, and publishing.

A selective partner press, Current Words works closely with authors from manuscript development through production, distribution, and beyond. Every title is evaluated on its merits, crafted with editorial precision, and designed to find its audience. The result is a roster of distinctive voices across fiction, poetry, and memoir—books as carefully made as they are thoughtfully published.

Current Words Publishing releases titles under its main imprint spanning general and literary fiction, nonfiction, memoir, and beyond. Genre titles are published through three specialized imprints: Gravelight Press (horror), Hawkshaw Press (mystery and detective fiction), and Out-of-This-World Press (science and speculative fiction). The press is also home to *Instant Noodles*, an award-winning digital literary magazine, and Old Scratch Press, a poetry collective supporting new voices in short-form writing. Beyond publishing, Current Words offers editing, design, coaching, and author marketing services — working with writers at every stage, whether or not they publish with the press.

Current Words is a proud member of the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), the Editorial Freelancers Association (EFA), ACES: The Society for Editing, and the Safe Space Alliance.

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