



## **COOKING THE BOOKS : FEBRUARY 2025**

**To crow or not to crow...**

**Eggs on Everything!**



Dear

For those who "know" my name (moonlight in Persian, in case you didn't) will know that I'm a Parsee.

Which means we have this **delightful** habit of cracking eggs on everything, and I do mean **everything**, to make it a meal.

This is my lunch from a few weeks ago. The base is plant-based meatless mince cooked with onions, tomatoes, red chilies and a variety of Indian spices to make a really delish [kheema](#). I'm including this yummy recipe in case you want to try it with a meat protein of your choice. I cracked an egg on it, let it cook for a few minutes, and it was ready in minutes.

Parsees are known to crack eggs on tomatoes, potatoes, potato sticks, eggplant, okra... You get my drift.

Sooooo, I challenge you to try something new today:

- 1) Find any leftovers in your fridge.
- 2) Spread it in a thin layer in a non-stick pan and make a well (or two) in it.
- 3) Crack an egg (or two) into the wells, cover with a lid. Cook on low till the egg is cooked to your desired doneness.
- 4) Slide the base plus egg onto a plate and dig in!

Drop me a line and let me know how adventurous you were. I might be inspired to try a new base, too!

## Twenty one books and counting!





**John Scalzi** @scalzi.com · 5d

Seriously, creative folks: Don't be afraid to let people know your stuff is out there for them, or worry that "now is not the time for that." People are stressed and freaked out and looking for the things that will give them a moment of rest and joy. It is EXACTLY the time for what we do. Tell them.

882

4K

20.3K



**John Scalzi** @scalzi.com · 5d

And yes, if you want to tell them about what you're doing IN THIS VERY THREAD, please do!

79

14

526



Not all my books are here but you get the picture(s). I've always been reluctant to "crow" about my books but I recently read a post by John Scalzi and I was like...yeah! Absolutely yes!!!

You have prolific author, John's, *and* my permission, to crow about any of your accomplishments. Out there is *someone* who will love

what you do! And if not for your crowing, they'd never find you. Share your creations. Now.

**Got your copy yet? Do me a favour and get one, for yourself or anyone in your family/friend circle, who might enjoy a good ghost story.**

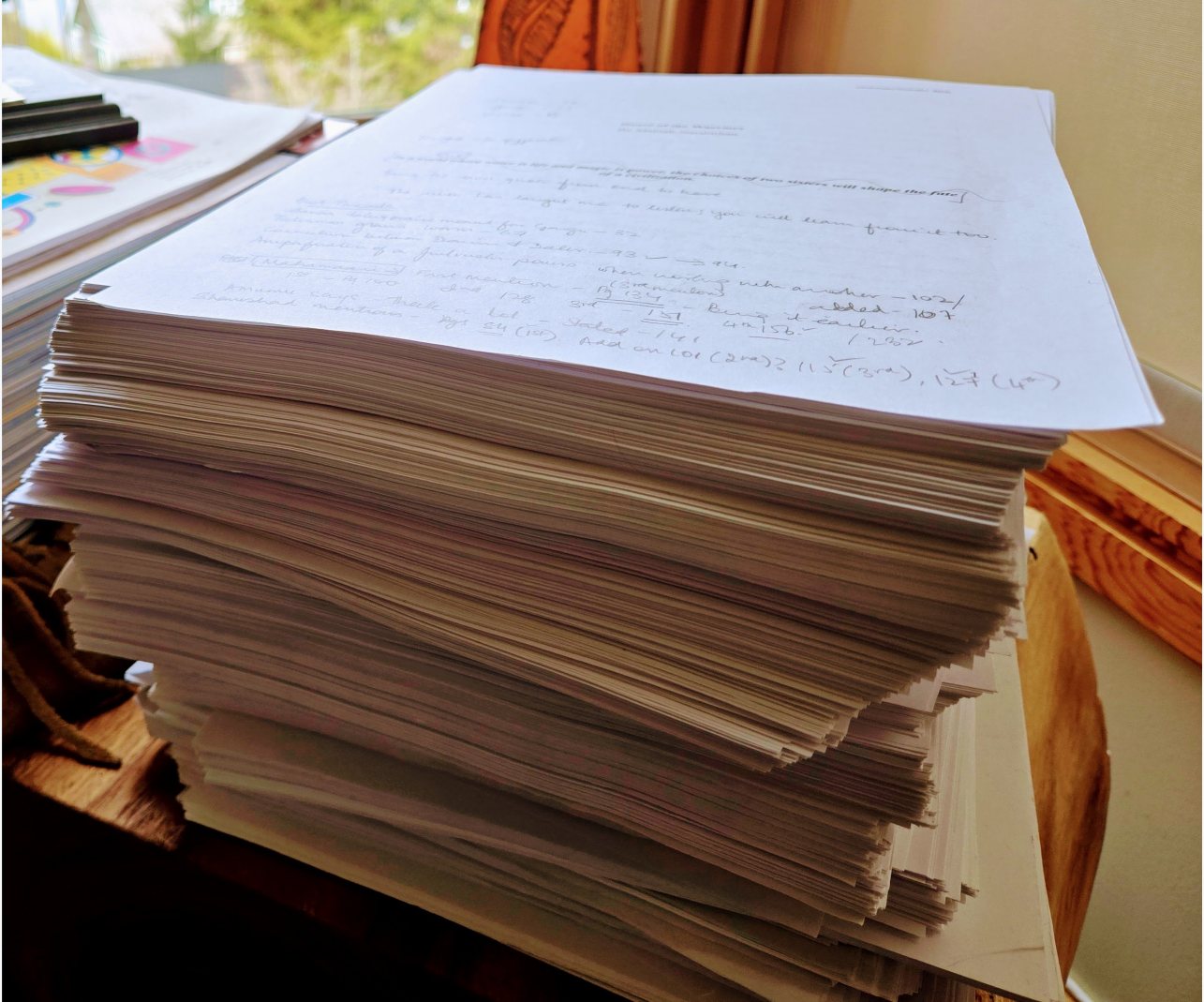
**[GHOST QUEEN IS NOW AVAILABLE!](#)**

***Hey, Ghosties, this is the Ghost Queen tuning in from the most haunted place in India!***

Teen vlogger Malika's ghost hunter channel is almost popular enough to start earning money to support her family. All she needs is one viral video—and she knows exactly where she's going to get it. Bhangarh Fort is the most haunted place in India, rumoured to be home to the cursed princess Ratnavati and her wicked captor. Malika convinces her boyfriend to sneak into the fort with her after dark and record the experience for her avid fans and followers. That's when things go terribly wrong. Can the "Ghost Queen" escape, or is she doomed to spend eternity trapped with a mad magician and the princess who rejected him?

**Check out the [book trailer!](#)**

## What's up with me...



This pile of paper comprises revisions of my YA novel from 2022 to now. I'd had the idea for this novel back in 2016.

Between each of these paper revisions were a couple of digital revisions.

I had no idea the pile had gotten so tall until I dug out all the various versions and stacked them up with a mind to shredding and recycling them. All those words added and cut, tweaked and tightened took thousands of hours and frankly, it's only because I love the story and the world so much that I refused to give up.

The next time you read a book (mine or any other) or look at a painting or any work of art, know that a lot of time, effort, and love was poured into it. *Even if you're not a fan, be kind.* Be kind in your reviews if you're in a mind to post one.

So, what else am I working on? Just finished a scary middle-grade novel which is now with the editor, working on another hi-lo and a picture book. I'm *crowing*, again, because, you know... John said it was okay.

As to that other [crow](#)...

I'm still working on it. If I succeed in doing it, you will be the first to know. I might even be brave enough to share a picture. Wish me luck!

## Some final words...

My current fave quote is from *Don't Believe Everything You Think* by Joseph

Nguyen :

**"if you want to stay alive**

**nourish your body**

**if you want to feel alive**

**nourish your soul."**

And one more...because this book is full of gems such as these:

**"one of the greatest powers we possess is *choice*."**

Please remember to [whitelist my email address](#).

I hope you enjoyed this newsletter, and if you did, please share it with people you think might enjoy it. Or better yet, ask them to subscribe through my website.

[This](#) must have taken some serious editing! Don't you love technology?

xo

Mahtab

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