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STELLA FOSSE



VAMPIRES OF A CERTAIN AGE

If you've read *[Vampires of a Certain Age](#)*, please post your honest review on Amazon, Goodreads, or wherever you like to review books. It's the best gift you can give an author. And if you haven't yet read the first installment of the Blood Sisters Chronicles, the time is right, because the prequel is coming!

Buy *Vampires of a Certain Age* ebook direct from the Stella bookstore, [here](#).

CroneHub Launches!

I love to immerse myself in the culture of women past midlife: The books about our vivid lives, the blogs and podcasts where we share vibrant ideas, the movies and television that celebrate the reality of how we live. For years I've longed for a central place to find it all, but there was no such place. So my partner Graham and I decided to create one. In the background, as I wrote books and blogs and he published them, we've been building a cultural showcase for years.

And suddenly, voila! On the first of July we launched CroneHub.org, the place for all that great stuff by and about older women. Click on this [link](#) and you'll see two ways to search for whatever you want: by type of Resource (books, videos, organizations, etc.) or by Topic (Creativity, Sexuality, Power, and more). There are hundreds of resources to explore.

The response from early users has been gratifying.

What a brilliant idea — and so needed!

— Diana Place,

Founder of The 333 Collective

Exciting doesn't quite cover it.

Groundbreaking comes to mind, though.

— Jane Trombley, Host of Crones' Feet: Life as We Age

CroneHub is magnificent.

It's perfect for all of us who are interested in midlife and beyond.

— Helen Hirsch Spence, Founder of Top 60 Over 60

Take a look. Use CroneHub to delve into whatever catches your fancy. Whether you're into fiction with strong older female characters or organizations promoting financial equity for older women, it's all there for you. And if you have a resource to suggest, check out the criteria on the "[About](#)" tab and send us a recommendation via the link you'll find on that page.

And then there's CAT...

This month I realized that I've named way too many things with the word "Crone." There's [CroneHub](#), of course. Plus there's my Substack, [Creative Crones with Stella Fosse](#). And then there's [Crone Authors Together](#) (CAT), the forum for older women writers supporting each other as we connect with our audience (That connection is also known as marketing, if you're not put off by the M word).

CAT is six months old. We meet on the last Tuesday of every month and feature an interview with a woman author over sixty, plus a presentation on a topic of interest. You can register [here](#) in plenty of time for the August 25 meeting when author Teri M. Brown will explain the ins and outs of Facebook marketing. Teri earns four dollars for every dollar she spends on Facebook ads; sounds like a worthwhile presentation!

Minneapolis

I can't write about this month without mentioning our trip to Minneapolis, where my youngest child lives. This daughter is adopted from Vietnam, which is material because she was abducted by ICE in January, despite being a citizen with a United States passport. That experience, though blessedly brief, affected her deeply. Being with her, being there to support her, in a city that still shows signs of trauma along with amazing resilience, was incredibly moving.

Portland

After Minneapolis I turned around and went to Portland for a writing workshop with the marvelous [Andy Couturier](#), whom I hadn't seen in person for two decades. Andy, whose book [Writing Open the Mind](#) I highly recommend, is all about writing as play. As he says on his website, "Tired of writing in a straitjacket? Frustrated by endless rules

and formulaic instructions on "how to write"? Ready to let go of the fear of judgment, and instead bust out into uncharted territory? Powerful writing comes naturally when you are willing to take risks, experiment, and look for the unexpected."

What a marvelous afternoon we spent at a teahouse in Portland, playing with the sounds and meanings of language. Andy also teaches online; more about his school, **The Opening**, is [here](#).

Upcoming Book: *The Sword of Vivienne*

Soon after my return from Portland, we looked after my grandson while his folks took a long weekend to celebrate their anniversary. We are talking about a very tall, very active five-year-old. My older daughter and her husband returned having dissolved the top layer of their exhaustion to reveal the deeper levels of total exhaustion within. I'm still recovering after just three days with the child!

Meanwhile I was supposed to finish editing my next book, *The Sword of Vivienne*, by the middle of July. "How's that going for you?" as my partner would say. I am super excited about this book, the origin story for the Blood Sisters series whose motto is, "Women become more powerful with age. Especially after 500." In this story, a medieval swordswoman fights for her king in the Hundred Years War until an encounter with Joan of Arc inspires a new mission: to fight for womankind. Becoming a vampire gives Vivienne the time and the power to do just that.

And coming back from Andy's workshop, I have a new mission: to bring the spirit of play to bear as I complete the edits. Look for *The Sword of Vivienne* this Halloween season.

Stella in the News

[Michelle Zive](#) has a calling: to create a global sisterhood rooted in radical love and self-acceptance. Her online community, [Louder Girl](#), is just the kind of place I'd like to be. So I was chuffed when Michelle decided to publish an article about my books (and CroneHub) this month. I like being called a Good Troublemaker. Check it out [here](#).

I hope whatever good trouble you get into this month, that meanwhile you keep the pen moving (as Andy would say), or keep the keys

clicking.



All the best,
Stella,
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This Month's Blogs



A Taste of the Banquet

Stella Fosse

As I've interacted over the years with the marvelous women who create Crone Culture, I've often wished for one place where we could see it all: the books, the podcasts, the shows and movies



Zero to Fifty

Jacci Turner

As I child, I remember reciting,
"What Are Little Girls Made of?
Sugar and Spice and Everything
Nice."
Somehow, that never seemed
right. The girls and women I

that celebrate women past midlife. A place to learn more about the vibrant women who are pushing back on stereotypes and telling the stories of our lives as we really live them. Because I never found that place, I decided to build it.

Creating CroneHub.org has been a multi-year adventure for my partner [Graham Bird](#) and me. Graham is the guy told me a decade ago, "You could launch your own imprint and keep the revenues from your books instead of the royalties." He made that happen with Baubo Books, our own publishing venue. Graham created the stellafosse.com website and encouraged me to write the essays that evolved into my [latest book, Rock On: Power, Sex and Money after 60](#).

Now he's the tech wizard (or self-described Web Imp) behind CroneHub.org, which we've both worked on in the background for years. The site launched on the first of this month. I love exploring its many riches and hope you will too.

Do you like TV Shows about older women?

As we were building the website, I knew we had to include [Happy](#)

knew were made of stronger stuff. Wanting to better define this, I began interviewing women as a graduate student and never stopped. I've interviewed over a hundred women over the past decades, almost all of them over forty, in search of a better definition. Now, I'd say we're made of grit, perseverance, curiosity, connection, and creativity, underscored by love and a sense of humor. Here are a few examples of women who truly showed themselves to be feisty, gutsy broads past forty:

A Woman Made Of...

Gabrielle's story shows grit, perseverance, creativity and connection. Her parents were political activists in South Africa. The family came to the United States when bombs were sent to their home. Having always worn uniforms to school, neither Gabrielle nor her mother knew how New York students dressed, so Gab's mother felt that Gab's best dress, lace tights and patent leather shoes would show respect. When she got to school and saw her Vietnam war era peers in torn jeans, tee shirts and shoeless, she called her mother to take her and her

Valley. The series stars Sarah Lancashire as Catherine Cawood, a powerful police sergeant nearing retirement in Yorkshire, England. Lancashire's acting is superb. The show is raw and real as it contrasts her professional assertiveness with the complex challenges she faces in her home life, including raising her grandson. This boy is the son of Cawood's daughter who died after being assaulted by a man who leaves prison near the start of the series—where work and home life collide.

[Read More.....](#)

brother and sister home. She didn't feel comfortable in what the other girls were wearing and started making her own clothes.

[Read More.....](#)

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