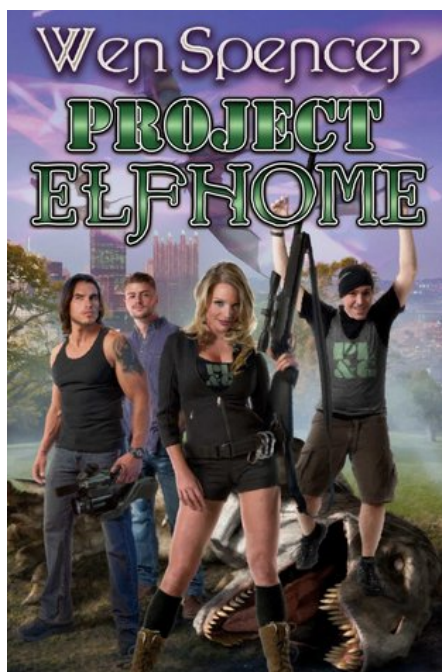




Project Elfhome

Wen Spencer

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Stories exploring the fascinating realm of Elfhome, a world where modern day Pittsburgh has collided with the kingdom of the Elves. A special entry in the the best-selling Romantic Times Sapphire award winning Elfhome series. Contains some of Wen Spencer's best shorter works including gems "Bare Snow Falling on Fairywood," "Pittsburgh Backyard and Garden," "Peace Offering," and more tales set in the world of best-selling Elfhome series entries *Tinker*, *Wolf Who Rules*, *Elfhome*, and *Wood Sprites*!

Pittsburgh: a sprawling modern Earth city stranded in the heart of a virgin forest on Elfhome. Sixty thousand humans, twenty thousand black-winged tengu, ten thousand elves, an unknown number of invading oni, four unborn siblings of an elf princess, three dragons, and a pair of nine-year olds geniuses.

For every story written, there's a thousand others not told. Lives interweave. Fates intersect. People change one another, often without realizing the impact they've made on others. They come together like a mosaic, little pieces creating a greater picture.

Project Elfhome tells the stories of those impacted by Tinker and Windwolf as they struggle to make Pittsburgh a safe haven. Some of the characters are familiar: Stormsong, Pony, Blue Sky, and Lain. Others are new to readers.

Law forages for wild plants and fish to sell to elf enclaves. A social misfit, she drives a hundred year old Dodge, has a pet porcupine, and saves damsels in distress in her spare time. A mysterious phone call sets her on a collision course with danger as she races to save a young female elf.

Jane Kryskill is the producer for the popular TV series Pittsburgh Backyard and Garden. She spends her days keeping her host, Hal Rogers, from getting himself killed as he takes on man eating plants. She's not happy when the network drops famed naturalist Nigel Reid and his cameraman in her lap to film Chased by Monsters.

Olivia is sixteen, a runaway wife of a religious cultist, illegal immigrant, and soon to be mother. As Pittsburgh plunges into war, she makes a desperate bargain with the mad elf lord, Forest Moss.

As the war between the elves and the oni builds to a head, these three women struggle with their own problems, supported by a circle of unique friends, yet entangled with each other.

The Elfhome Series

Tinker

Wolf Who Rules

Elfhome

Wood Sprites

Project Elfhome Details

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Author : Wen Spencer

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From Reader Review Project Elfhom for online ebook

Carolyn F. says

Because I love to complain - I will start off with I HATE THE COVER! This author's Elfhom books usually have these wonderful illustrations (not always true to the book but then again I'm a complainer so what did you expect). However this is like a frat party gone bad cover. The guy with his hands in the air looks especially stupid.

The description of this book kind of confused me because it said it was short stories but the author must have turned the short stories into a longer narrative while interspersing some short ideas she had for stories that I'm not sure she will ultimately use. It's a behind-the-scenes look at the Elfhom's main story, which was really interesting. Overall, the book was really good.

Elizabeth says

Have loved this world since Tinker and Wolf Who Rules met

Confession, I enjoy Wen's stories so much that I bought the eARC so I can read them asap, then the ebook since it's portable, the paper version so I have backup and the audio version because it never fails to surprise me to hear something that I don't remember reading.

This is a very nice compilation of Elfhom stories ranging the time line from past to current with a hint of the potential future. Some of the stories have been previously released and others are new material.

Wen has also included several scenes, drabble, that popped into her head while writing that are just for fun. These were previously mentioned on Wen's social media sites, nice that they are collected in one spot now.

For those new to Elfhom who would like to visit, the Jane, Law and Olivia stories show Wen's style and the craziness that is Pittsburgh transferred to another world. Few of the major characters are involved directly in these stories so reading of the previous books is not required.

For those addicted to this universe these stories flesh out events ongoing before and during the core novels - Tinker, Wolf Who Rules, Elfhom and Woodsprites. And the drabble, especially Oilcan and the quads, makes you hope it becomes part of the canon of Elfhom.

Looking forward to more Elfhom stories as well as other releases from Wen.

Beth says

Hardcover read September 10, 2016

1st Read June 16 , 2016

So nice to have all the shorts I knew previously combined into one book! Then getting the sequel to PB&G and Peace Offering then the first chapter of Harbinger? Wow.

Only problem is I want Harbinger ASAP.

Re-read:

Kathy Martin says

This is a set of interconnected stories which highlight characters who are not the main characters in the rest of the Elfhom series. The three main characters around whom the stories revolve are all human women. Law and Jane were born in Pittsburgh and have grown up with it being part of Elfhom. Olivia is a sixteen-year-old runaway from Earth who is trying to get as far away from her abusive husband as possible.

Some of the main characters from the other books make brief appearances in this book but the main focus is on how "ordinary" humans are dealing with the war between the elves and the oni and dealing with the fact that Tinker has cut the gate back to Earth.

Law's part of the book talks about someone who is a forager with a strong hero complex who finds herself rescuing a young elf who has no clan ties to anyone in this part of Elfhom. She has been rejected by all the clans there.

Jane's part of the book was the funniest. She is the producer for Pittsburgh's version of a home gardening show. Only plants on Elfhom are much more dangerous than any Earth plants. Jane is in charge of keeping the accident-prone start of the show from doing anything too extreme. She is also put in charge of baby-sitting a new crew from Earth who wants to make a show about the dangerous animals living there. Of course, she is also looking for her young sister who disappeared when she was six.

Olivia has run to Elfhom to escape her abusive husband and the religious cult that she was living in. She's pregnant, there illegally, and searching for a way to make a place for herself. When she learns that there is an insane elf who needs a domi she decides that becoming his will make a place for herself in this new world.

I liked the way all the stories were woven together to make a cohesive whole. I also liked the author's notes at the end that told how she came to write each story. Fans of the Elfhom series won't want to miss this fascinating new glimpse into the world of Elfhom.

Mercurybard says

Wen Spencer is From the Internet and this collection of short stories, novellas, and drabbles (yes, drabbles) proves it.

Highlights include Windwolf and Stormsong meeting Pony on the day of his birth (spoiler alert: Pony pees on Windwolf), Usagi's home for illegal immigrants & their half-elf babies, the first appearance of the Water Clan, and the absolutely hilarious Pittsburgh Backyard & Garden novella. I thought I was going to rupture something, I was laughing so hard.

For a series taking place in such a tight time frame, Spencer does an excellent job of keeping everything straight. My only quibble with Project Elfhom is how on earth everyone in the main story line missed six namazu rampaging through downtown Pittsburgh.

Olga Godim says

Wen Spencer is one of my favorite fantasy writers. Her Elfhome series, which started with Tinker, resonates deep inside me. I love her multifaceted characters. I love her original world building. And this book fits into my love like chocolate fits a cake. Sweet and satisfying.

The book is a collection of shorter works from the author's Elfhome universe. Some of those works are short stories. Others longer novellas. Still others are as brief as flash fiction or even drabbles. It is like the author wrote fan fiction to her own novels.

Some of them deal with the characters from the novels – their past, their side stories that didn't line up with the main plots of the novels, and even their character studies. The author's creative closet, so to speak, which is a rare treat for a reader. As I love most of those characters, my curiosity about them was insatiable, and the book fed it.

Other stories introduce new characters, but their tales are just as fascinating. Most stories in the collection happen in Pittsburgh, an American city stranded by a quantum physics accident in the parallel universe of Elfhome, the planet of the elves. That is where the bulk of the novels take place too.

Pittsburgh is a microcosm, a cauldron of the world's conflicts and tensions and friendships. Its citizens come from all walks of life, from a hunter to a TV producer. Some are elves. Most are human. All of them are trying to create something better out of the haphazard maze of their lives in the war zone. Because there is a war going on the periphery of all the stories, a war between elves and their ancient enemies, a war everyone knows about, even though they try to live their lives as normally as possible.

However, the main theme of all the stories is not that war but the characters' identities. Staying true to who you are often takes courage. Sometimes people who love us most are trying to change us, for our own good, of course, and many heroes in this collection grapple with relevant problems. Staying true to yourself, not conforming, takes them along the unexplored paths, the hard paths of being different. I enjoyed reading their stories and, as always happens between me and Spencer's writing, I want more, even though the book is by no means perfect. It has its small share of glitches, and the writing is not as smooth or as polished as it should've been, but overall, it made me happy.

The cover is horrible though, no connection to any of the characters in the book at all.

Dan says

Better than I had expected, generally collections of short stories never seem to approach the quality of a dedicated novel. These almost did. 4.5 stars!

Debrac2014 says

E-arc! Good read! I enjoyed the behind the scenes stories!

Reread! I enjoyed rereading Chased by Monsters and Harbinger! Good collection of stories!

Susan says

This is a collection of short stories, novellas and musings from the author all set in Pittsburgh/Elfhom. The first thing I ever read written by Wen Spencer is the novella "Pittsburgh Backyard and Garden" when it was posted on the Baen Books website back in 2014. I loved the story and decided that at some point I would read Tinker and the other books in the Elfhom series. This year I have finally kept that promise to myself and have thoroughly enjoyed all of them. The stories in Project Elfhom give us the backstory of some of the characters we know from other books and introduces us to some people we have never met before. I enjoyed reading it and will probably reread the entire series in the near future now that I know how everything comes together and I can slow down and enjoy them.

Chris says

Very entertaining collection of shorts and drabbles that expand on and tie up some loose ends from the four (so far) main books.

Bungluna says

This a series that requires reading in order, particularly since the author takes pains in developing bits from previous books in later ones.

Thus, having this collection of previously published and new short stories and novellas gathered in one place and in chronological order is a delicious treat for fans of the Elfhom universe.

I very much enjoyed reading about secondary characters in this world and finding out how they played their part in the background of the original novels. There is very little retconning done by the author and the peeks she affords us into her creative process were a sweet treat for me. The book concludes with the first few pages of the next novel, which is either a boom or a torture, depending on your pov!

I would not recommend this one for anybody new to the series, but for those already addicted to this world, "Project Elfhom" is a must.

Cecelia says

Project Elfhom is a series of short stories/novellas set in the world introduced with the novel Tinker. Some of Spencer's fans may have already read many of the stories included in this title, but the new material adds to some of the stories and develops the characters presented in the previous stories. I especially liked the fact that even though I had an idea where some of the stories would or could go, Spencer still surprised me, and always in a good way. My only complaint is a minor one, which is that the people in the cover art don't really match my vision of the characters, and so I have to decide if I want to stick with my mental images or try to picture the ones on the cover. I am sticking with my own image for Taggart . . . read the stories and you'll understand.

I encourage anyone who enjoys well-written and original fiction to read anything by Wen Spencer. She is one of the few authors from whom I will pre-order books. When I found out the eARC was available for Project Elfhom I immediately bought my copy, even though I had already read a lot of the included material. I can re-read her stories and always find something new or a new interesting aspect. Spencer can

write a series and keep each title a separate and different story, and the writing and world building are so superb that I don't care about cliffhangers (except for the impatience waiting for the next book). I rarely want to see more stories from the same world with the same characters, but with Spencer I always want to read more of whatever she can manage to write and get published.

Brian Palmer says

This is a collection of stories set in the author's Elfhorne universe which serve to tie together events (and possibly fix plot holes) in the preceding books. Most of them were reasonably good - quite a few featured new characters who seem to suit the series; none of the stories struck me as amazing.

I found two stories, "Peace Offering" and "Price of Peace," slightly curious. In the books, a character, Forest Moss, was introduced with a tragic backstory -- he was an elven mage who was one of the first to encounter the evil race of Oni while on a trading mission to Earth. His caravan was slaughtered and he was tortured before finally escaping. Having demonstrated his inability to protect his own (despite being a strong warrior), he's been driven insane by the repercussions of the torture and centuries of near excommunication by elven society. He was Chekhov's gun looming ominously over the mantel, as a likely driver for future novels.

In these two short stories, he may have been taken down from the fireplace. (view spoiler)

Tineke says

I discovered Wen Spencer's Elfhorne series through a recommendation in one of the comments on Ilona Andrew's blog. The mix of fantasy (think graceful, long-lived and long-haired elves), urban fantasy (the series takes place in our near future) and science fiction (think space ships) sounded intriguing, so I decided to try the sample chapter on Amazon. I got sucked in the story - even though the beginning of Tinker seemed a little bit strange - and immediately bought the first three novels. I'm happy I didn't judge these books by their cover (I personally don't like the cover art of the second and third novel), since I absolutely loved them. I reread the first three novels a few times while waiting for the fourth one, but still couldn't get enough of this series. I tried other books, but that didn't help, since I wanted to return to the wonderful world of the Elfhorne books. (Later I learned that this feeling is sometimes described as a book hangover.) So I started looking online for more and discovered the publisher's website. On Baen's website I found a few free novellas. On their forum, called Baen's Bar, I was treated on some drabbles and snippets from future stories. All those - and so much more - are collected in the 'Project Elfhorne' anthology.

The stories in this anthology are ordered chronologically, starting several years before Tinker was even born and before Pittsburgh ended up on Elfhorne for the first time. 'Project Elfhorne' ends a few hours after the end of 'Elfhorne', the third novel in this series, and 'Wood Sprites', the fourth one, with the addition of the (possible) start of 'Harbinger', the fifth book in the series.

The drabbles and short stories feature pivotal moments of the lives of secondary characters, like Lain, Stormsong or Pony, for example, or less important characters, like Wojo. I usually prefer that extra stories are situated in the series' present, but I didn't mind reading about the past this time. Maybe because these stories provided me with extra insight, like the significance of Pony and Stormsong's names?

The novellas are told from the point of view of three strong females. I liked that they really felt like three different characters, different from each other, but also different from established characters, like Tinker or Stormsong. Each one clearly has her own voice, background, strengths etc. It was also wonderful to read more about what happened in Pittsburgh during those months described in the first three books. Tinker is a

fascinating main character, but she can be rather focused to the exclusion of everything else going on around her. Through Law, Jane and Olivia we get to see more of life in Pittsburgh on Elfhme. Their stories also answered some of the questions I had, (view spoiler) 'Project Elfhme' also contains a lot of humor, just like the rest of this series, even though Pittsburgh is actually at war. I especially smiled a lot while reading Jane's stories. Working with Hal sounds rather difficult, but it is fun to read about it. I'm only afraid that Wen Spencer made it rather difficult for herself by adding these three characters and their storylines to the Elfhme series, since I would like to read more about them, too, and it can't be easy to juggle all those different storylines in one story.

My last remark brings me to the third type of stories included in this anthology: drabbles whetting my desire for the fifth book in this series, even though I know I won't read it for several years. Included is a sort of fanfiction from Wen Spencer herself, in which she describes how certain characters won't meet each other. She also gifts us with the making of this anthology and a stab at the beginning of 'Harbinger'. I read an earlier version of this on Baen's Bar and rather liked the changes and additions, (view spoiler). It's only a few pages long, but it contains both the humor I've come to expect (view spoiler) and rather clearly shows some of the things at stake. (And this is only Tinker's story line, there're also the stories of Law, Jane, Olivia etc.)

To summarize my rather long post: This anthology contains all the previously published Elfhme short stories and novellas, plus a lot of new material. I really loved 'Project Elfhme', I recommend it to everyone who likes the Elfhme series and I can't wait for the next book.

(This review is based on the eARC I bought on Baen's website.)

Sebastian says

Read the eArc.

Its a nice collection of short stories. I believe it does include all prior short storys, so you dont have to go search for them, but there are also a lot of new ones.

There are some storys about the childhoods of some the elfs (Windwolf,...) which were quite interesting and we finally have a continuation of the older ones like PB&G. It gets the different side storylines up to date.

You will defenetly enjoy this one if you like any of books.
