



The Storyteller

STORIES. INSPIRATION. POSSIBILITIES.

AUGUST 24, 2026

VOL. 1 • ISSUE 1

PRICE THREE CENTS
(Priceless Ideas Inside)

1st YEAR: NO. 1

STORY EMPORIUM VILLAGE, EVERYWHERE

MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 24, 2026

News and ideas from around the Story Emporium village.

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WELCOME TO STORY EMPORIUM

A village of imaginative adventures and experiences

There is a blue door waiting to be opened.

Beyond it lies Story Emporium, an imaginative village where you can discover and purchase thoughtfully created experiences to enjoy in your own life. Each offering gives you something real to do: an adventure to take, a meal to share, a place to explore, a conversation to begin, or a memorable way to spend time with people who matter.

You might choose a Wonder Walk from Wild Roots, plan an unexpected journey with LOVe Lab, gather around a YaYa's Kitchen experience, or discover another offering designed to bring curiosity.

We call them Living Stories because you do not simply read them—you experience them. The activities, prompts, and details are created for you; you make the experience your own simply by living it.

The Storyteller shares new offerings and seasonal inspiration from around the village.



WILD ROOTS

Wonder Walk Arrives This Fall

Wander. Notice. Connect.

Launching in late September, Wonder Walk is a new Wild Roots adventure for solo wanderers, families, and small groups.

Step outside, slow down, and discover what becomes possible when you look at the natural world a little differently.

One path. Many ways to wonder.



COMING SOON

LOVe Lab Takes to The Road

A new adventure for couples—scenic routes, playful prompts, and meaningful moments designed for the journey.

More details next month!



Which path
will you take today?

Explore. Discover. Connect.



ENTER THE STORY EMPORIUM

storyemporiumstudio.com

A LITTLE SOMETHING TO CARRY WITH YOU

Take the road you do not know.

Notice what asks you to stay.

The smallest unexpected moment
may become the story of the day.

FROM THE KITCHEN

Parmesan-Crusted Chicken
with Fall Couscous and
Roasted Brussels Sprouts

See recipe on page 10.



DEAR STORYTELLER

What would you tell
your younger self?

This month we explore
advice, encouragement,
and the wisdom we
wish we'd known then—
and maybe still need
now.



A NOTE FROM THE STORY ARCHITECT

I've always believed that
when we gather, create,
and share, we change more
than our plans—we change
each other.

Thank you for being
part of this beginning.

With gratitude,

Dana



STORIES ARE MEANT TO BE LIVED.



SHARE YOURS WITH US.



#StoryEmporium

ART & LEISURE

The Book That Chose You
Some stories entertain us. Others arrive when we are ready.

Imagine stepping into a bookshop without a title in mind. You are paying attention to what draws you closer: a color, a question, a phrase, or the feeling that one particular story has noticed you.

The Book Shop at Story Emporium is not simply about acquiring another book. It creates a moment of discovery around the story you choose—or the story that seems to choose you.

A Living Story may begin with reading, but it does not end on the page. It can lead to a conversation, an outing, a meal, a ritual, or a choice you would not otherwise have made.

Two books already have a home in the Book Shop. More books and creative offerings will arrive as this corner of the village grows.

OPINION

Discovering Who I Have Always Been



I love helping to create meaningful moments. I love inviting people into a space where they choose vulnerability and something different. Everything I do is about those kinds of experiences and moments.

Building a village may sound like a new direction. In many ways, it is the most honest expression of who I have always been.

The village holds food, travel, nature, imagination, relationships, books, and the next wonder-filled experience.

For the first time, I can see clearly where it came from. Join me as I continue to discover what the village holds for people who want to step into their own adventures and experiences.

AVAILABLE NOW

Howling Ridge
The Howling Ridge murder mystery is available now—an experience filled with secrets, suspicion, and discovery.



COMING SOON

THE ROCKING UNICORN
Arriving soon as part of the Curious Cottage.

THE ART OF THE PARTY
Coming to the Book Shop to help hosts entertain more effortlessly and remain present at their own parties.

TEA & SASS PRESENTS EVENING APOTHECARY
Botanical drinks with or without spirits, complete with menus, recipes, printables, and hosting guidance.

POTIONS PARLOR
A playful children's experience filled with fruity teas, colorful transformations, fizz, and invented potions - perfect for birthday parties.

WILD ROOTS • TRAVEL & ADVENTURE

Wonder Walk Arrives This Fall
Wander. Notice. Connect.



LOVE LAB

LOVe Lab Road Trip
A journey shaped around the two of you.



The best road trips are made from the choices along the way: the unexpected turn, the place almost passed, the meal worth stopping for, and the conversation that could not happen anywhere else.

LOVe Lab Road Trip is being developed as a ready-to-use experience for couples—thoughtful, surprising, and easy to step into together.

We’re so excited to share Road Trip with you when it’s ready.

STORY ORB INSIGHT — WHEN A SMALL CHOICE LEADS TO A BIG STORY LATER

A small choice rarely announces what it will become. A different road, an invitation, or one more question may become meaningful much later. The Story Orb reminds us that every experience contains more than one direction.

COMICS CORNER

Original cartoon
to be added

FOOD & DINING

Summer Garden

A table set with seasonal colors, flavors, and a gathering of ladies for lunch.



When we aren’t wandering through Story Emporium Village, we’re bringing its stories to life around real tables. YaYa’s Kitchen opened its doors for a neighborhood women’s luncheon—beautiful food, easy conversation, and the magic that happens when people feel genuinely cared for.

“All of Dana’s hosting feels so effortlessly smooth, and the presentation is always beautiful but never fussy. I leave feeling culinarily inspired.”

— **Kelly S.**

DEAR STORYTELLER — WHAT WOULD YOU TELL YOUR YOUNGER SELF?

Pay attention to what makes you feel more like yourself: the people around whom you become more honest, the work that leaves you deeply satisfied, and the moments you keep thinking about. Uncertainty is not proof you are failing. Sometimes it is simply the space between an old understanding and a truer one.

You do not have to understand the whole story while living the current chapter. A small choice made with courage and curiosity can become meaningful much later.

You do not need to know the ending. Trust yourself with the next step. —The Storyteller

FROM THE KITCHEN

Parmesan-Crusted Chicken with Fall Couscous and Roasted Brussels Sprouts

A generous autumn plate with savory, sweet, creamy, and bright flavors.



Parmesan-Crusted Chicken

Ingredients

3 Tbsp Dijon mustard · 1 tsp white-wine vinegar · 1/2 tsp salt · 1/2 tsp freshly ground black pepper, divided · 6 small boneless, skinless chicken-breast halves (about 2 lb), patted dry · 1 1/2 English muffins · 3/4 cup finely grated Parmigiano-Reggiano · 1 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted · parchment paper

Method

Heat oven to 450°F with a rack in the center. Line a baking sheet with parchment. Whisk mustard, vinegar, salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper; toss with chicken. Finely grind the English muffins in a food processor. Pulse in cheese, melted butter, and remaining pepper. Press each chicken piece firmly into the crumbs and place on the baking sheet. Bake until golden and cooked through, 15–20 minutes.

To serve

Slice and serve with Fall Couscous and roasted Brussels sprouts finished with balsamic glaze.

Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Balsamic Glaze

Halve the sprouts, toss with olive oil, salt, and pepper, and roast cut-side down at 425°F until deeply browned and tender. Finish with a light drizzle of balsamic glaze just before serving.

Fall Couscous

Ingredients

1 1/2 lb butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cut into 1/2-inch cubes · 2 Tbsp olive oil, plus 1 Tbsp as needed · salt and pepper · 1 Tbsp butter, if needed · 1 large sweet onion, diced · 1 3/4 cups Israeli couscous · 2 cups low-sodium chicken stock · 2/3 cup orange juice · 1/2 tsp poultry seasoning · 1 cup dried cranberries, coarsely chopped · 2 tsp minced fresh rosemary · crumbled goat cheese · toasted pine nuts

Method

Toss squash with 2 tablespoons olive oil, salt, and pepper. Roast at 425°F until caramelized and tender, about 20 minutes, turning occasionally. Heat remaining oil and butter in a heavy saucepan. Add couscous and cook 3–4 minutes, stirring, until lightly golden. Add onion and cook until softened. Bring stock and orange juice to a boil; add with poultry seasoning. Cover and simmer until the couscous absorbs most of the liquid. Fold in cranberries, reserved squash, and rosemary. Season to taste and finish with goat cheese and toasted pine nuts.

Serve hot or at room temperature.

A COMPLIMENTARY LOVE LAB DATE NIGHT

Take the Long Way Home

Choose a familiar destination by a route neither of you normally uses. Make one unplanned stop that catches your attention. At the end of the evening, each name the moment you would keep.