

From Melissa:

Because there were artists who not only inspired my writing, but also contributed to the website and the book trailer, I have requested that we add this page so you can know who they are and why I think they all deserve kisses and/or cheers.

The song which inspired the book is by the band [Five Finger Death Punch](#). Their music is on the website, the book trailer, and ads. If you aren't already a fan, you should check them out. Not only are these men extremely talented, but they also support our troops overseas which is even more important to me (as I am the wife of a retired Marine).

The band was co-founded by Zoltan Bathory, a fighter who previously won the silver medal at the Abu-Dhabi Pro Jiu-Jitsu World Trials in his division. Zoltan also has a fight gear company and is a supporter of UFC and MMA fights. Lead singer Ivan Moody keeps fit, in part, by boxing. I didn't know all of that when I cranked the music to write that first weekend. I just knew that I loved their work. *Now*, I think it's a sort of universal logic that their music is what drives a series inspired by my own childhood love of boxing . . . and my 20-something dating a boxer and then 20-something marriage to a Marine. Fighting and hard rock are in the bones of this book. Listening to 5FDP makes the world of the novel clearer.

The drumming video clips were provided by the talented and charming shamanic drummer [Rudiger Maul](#). He was also the drummer who most directly inspired the idea of the music in the carnival being capable of ensnaring listeners. To enjoy more of his art, check out the band [Faun](#). Their music was in my Darkest Mercy video and often playing in my office.

The trailer came into being through the fight choreographers in the Dutch company called [Orde der Noorderwind](#).

I'm sending much much love to the dozens of people involved in the book trailer as well, especially Youval Kuipers (Belias & fight coordinator), Ticho Welschen (director), Kaat Geervers (Aya), Gregal Vissers (Kaleb), & Rourke Pouw (Sol). Additionally, I want to say how thrilled I was that glass ball artist [Beatrice Baumann](#) was in the trailer. You all exceeded my hopes.

And after all of that, if you're an audiobook fan, please take a moment to cheer with me over the man with the super-delicious voice who performed the audio. [James Marsters](#) is a talented actor best known as Spike on the TV programs Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Angel. He is one of my favourite readers, and I all but swooned when HarperCollins hired him to read the book. He did a wonderful job—especially with Marchosias' voice.

So if your paths cross with any of these fabulous people, please tell them I said "thank you!" because I don't think I could say it too often.