

About the Author

Author bio:

Beth Tashery Shannon worked with the Egypt Exploration Society's excavations at el-Amarna and contributed to *Amarna Reports IV* and meetings of the American Research Center in Egypt. Her experimental short fiction has appeared in *Pushcart Prize III* and *IX*, *Chicago Review*, and *TriQuarterly Review*. Her story in *Pleasures: Women Write Erotica* (Doubleday) was a basis for an ABC TV movie. Coincidentally, in 2009, *Twilight* actor Edi Gathegi performed her prose poem "Bons" with WordTheatre. Her novel *Tanglevine* was published in 2012 by BearCat Press, as was *The Sun and Stars*, a murder mystery set in the court of Henry VIII, under the pseudonym Elizabeth Adair. Shannon's literary criticism includes an essay on *Salome* in *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Oscar Wilde* (MLA Press). She has taught university creative writing at the University of Oregon and Transylvania University and edited fiction for a publishing house. Besides writing fiction, she freelances as a graphics artist, editor and consultant on Egyptian antiquities. She is a volunteer tour guide for Old Friends, a retirement facility for Thoroughbreds.

Author's Note:

Dark Wine took shape in my imagination some years ago, but I might never have got it right had it not been for encouragement from my publisher at BearCat Press. I owe her many thanks. What possessed me to write *Dark Wine* in the first place? I like ghost tales, vampire stories and other fiction about the paranormal, and I enjoyed recapturing my impressions of Egypt in the mid-1980s when I first spent time there. But where did the obsession that ensnares its characters come from? I don't know. I can only quote from the only vampire story that ever gave me nightmares, "The Room in the Tower" by E. F. Benson: "It came out of the dark, and into the dark it has gone again."

- Beth Tashery Shannon