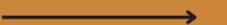


Annika Nori Ahlgrim

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

SUNDIAL: AN ART DIRECTION PORTFOLIO

A study inspired by Catriona Ward's novel Sundial



SUNDIAL

Summary

As the past begins to snap at her heels, Rob takes her daughter, Callie, to her childhood home, a remote desert compound once dedicated to cutting-edge scientific research. Callie notices her mom is acting strangely and it scares her. Why did her mom actually bring her out to the desert? And will both of them return home alive?



Annika Nori Ahlgrim | Product Development Assistant

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MOOD BOARD

- Reflecting themes of death, ghosts, memory, entrapment
- The desert as character
- bones play an important role
- Wildness in behavior and image

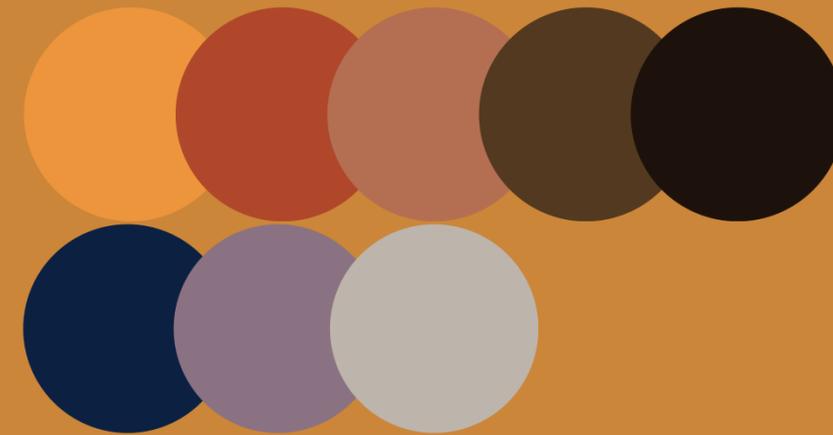


TYPOGRAPHY & COLOR PALETTE

Aa

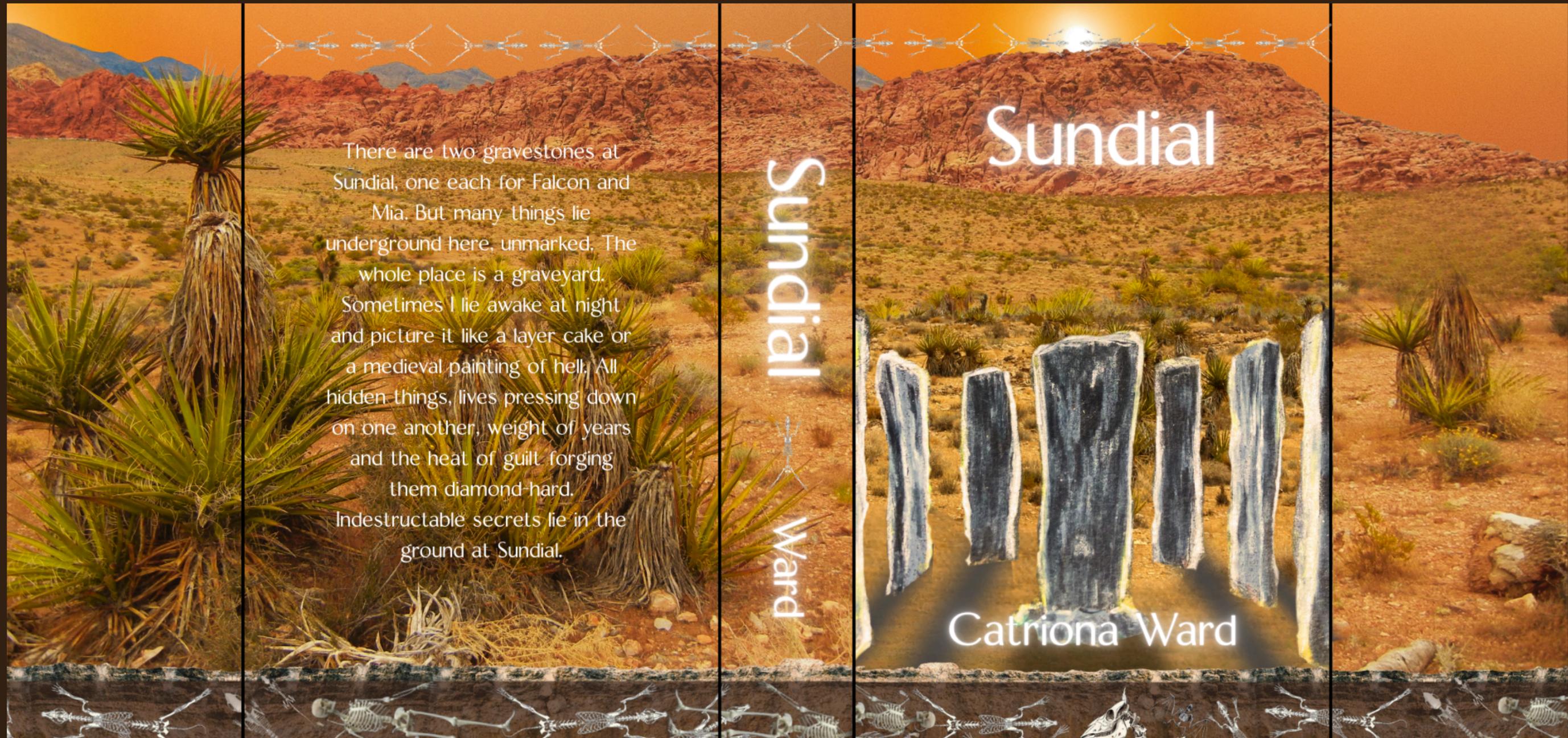
Desert Dreams

Desert Dreams was chosen, in part, because of its name. The font is wide and flat and mimics the organic shapes of cacti and succulents. I wanted to give a sense of desolation and emptiness and the curved lines remind me of visual depictions of wind and the shimmery waves of heat in a desert.



To emulate the suffocating heat of the desert during the day and at night, I chose a palette steeped in warmth. From earth and redrocks to wide indigo skies to bones and stars.





DUST JACKET

Sundial

The dust jacket depicts the layers of the desert, the titular place and the bones buried in time and earth beneath it all. The quote I chose for the back of the dust jacket describes Sundial - the remote desert compound - in its multitudes.

The title, a white-hot foil inlay, is radiating heat like the sun while the stones throw their shadows away from it. At first glance, a Southwest motif borders the top of the dust jacket. On closer inspection, we see it is, in fact, dog skeletons, a choice made because of the significant role dogs play in this novel.



HARDCOVER CASE

A soft matte lamination in deep blue covered in anatomical drawings of tiny skeletons in silver foil, both bones and stars. The title luminesces from the spine like the moon.



FRONT END PAGES

After the desert on the dust jacket, we find a cooler place inside the book. A civilized house, we think. We are transported to the preteen bedroom of Callie, where she decorates her walls with beautifully hand-drawn anatomical skeletons of small animals. The quote reveals Callie's thoughts about her little animals, and provides an intriguing and somewhat disturbing portal to the world of the book.



They will be sad without me, my little animals. Usually they nestle in my pockets, sleep in the hollows of my body at night...

Now they'll have to wander the house, lonely...

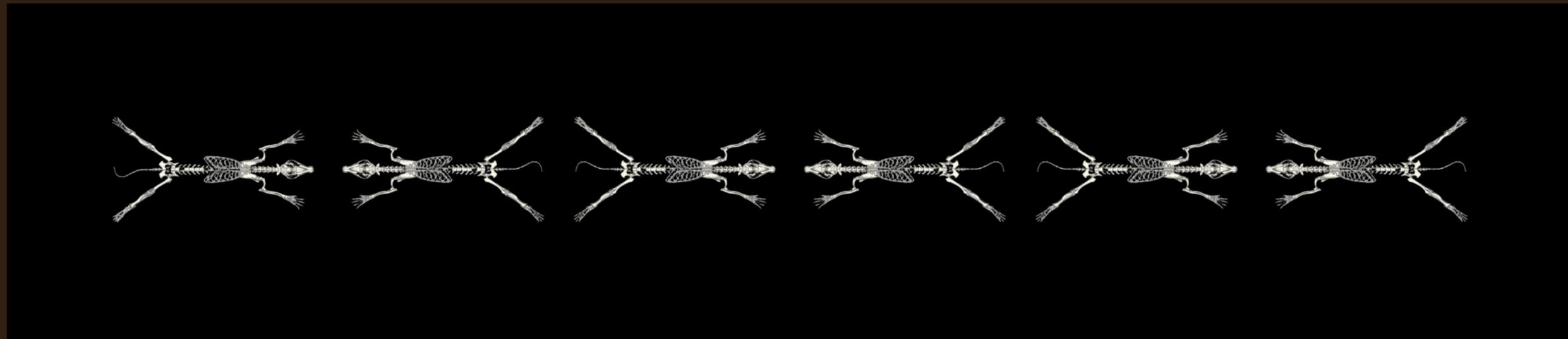
BACK END PAGES

I have chosen to depict my favorite scene - the reckoning and climax - in the back end pages. Callie curls up outside the fences that surround the Sundial compound, looking into the vast expanse of another being, who is big and everywhere, who helps her through the final pages of the story only to go back where she was from, leaving Callie alone. The quote is luminescent, like a moon, lighting the way forward.



STENCILED BORDER & EDGES

This stenciled border depicts repeated dog skeletons. Dogs feature heavily in Sundial, from the wild coyotes to Dumpster Puppy. The life and death of dogs in this story is significant, along with the science that controls them. The design, from a distance, resembles a Southwest motif, adding to the layers of this design.



THANK YOU FOR UNBOXING MY
VISION FOR SUNDIAL. I LOOK
FORWARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF
CREATING MORE MAGICAL READING
EXPERIENCES WITH OWLCRATE.

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