



At the start of every year, Cherie lights this inkwell candle, given to her by a friend while still at university, and uses a pen-nibbed quill to record her new writing goals.



Cherie Curtis
It's Hollywood in a book. It's action, romance and fantasy.

editor Jo Butler, who loved the story and requested a full manuscript.

Unfortunately, the editor was on leave when Mrs Curtis submitted the work and after the manuscript was at Harper Collins for 15 months, Clan Destine Press came knocking.

"I got my contract at a writers conference at the Gold Coast in August last year," Mrs Curtis said. "Lindy Cameron, the publisher from Clan Destine Press, said 'I really want your book and we can publish it next year, so let's go look at book stores this morning and see what cover you want.' Then we went shoe shopping. It's a really great memory!"

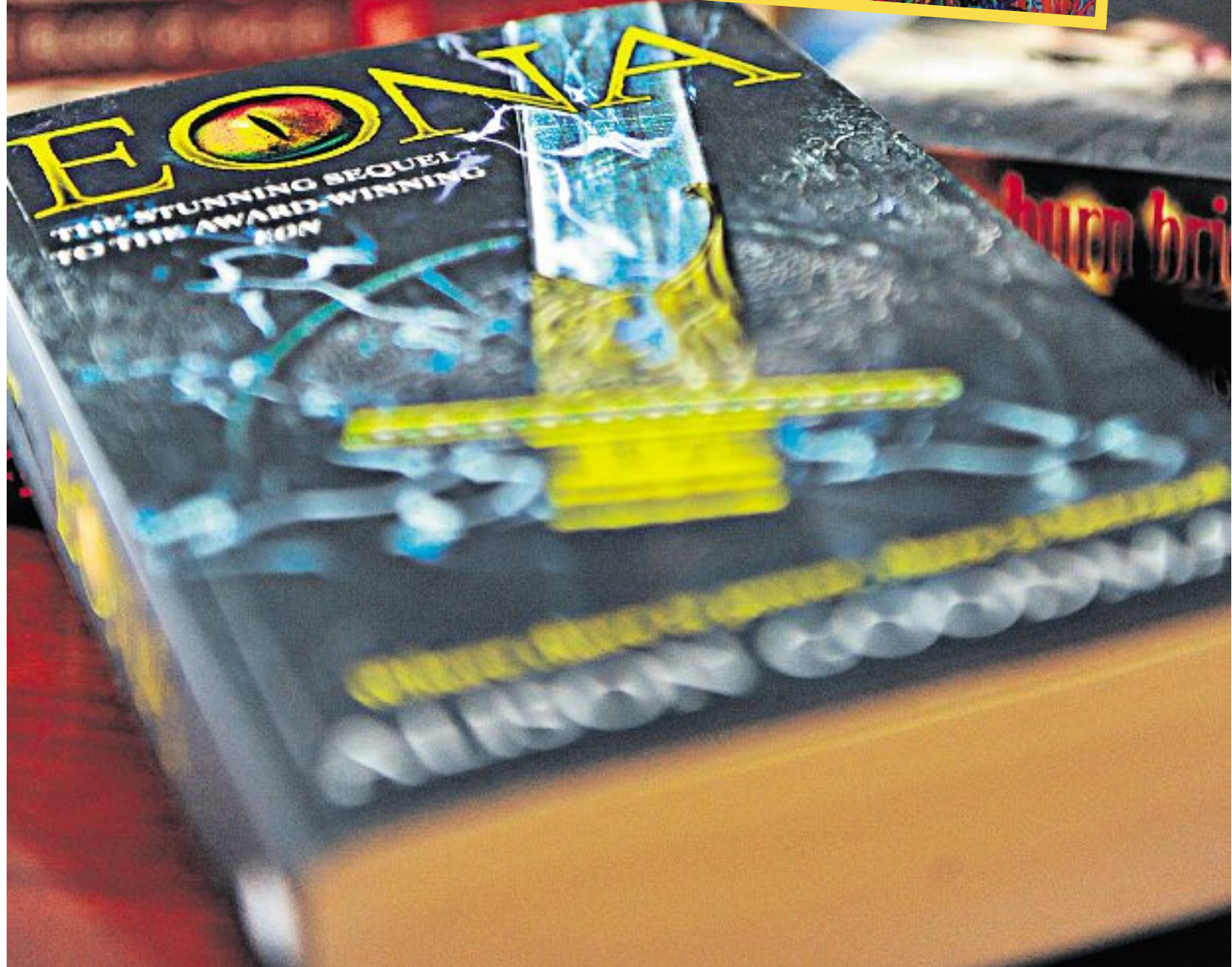
The list of supporters, who have helped in her journey is a long one, with Bundaberg Writers Club members, writing buddy and mother-in-law Sandy Curtis, Louise Cusack, Jo Butler, Lindy Cameron, her parents and, of course, her husband all playing important roles on the voyage.

"Shane is my biggest muse of all," Mrs Curtis said.

The series is classified in the young adult and newly created new adult sections, the latter catering to 18 to 25-year-olds.

"Clan Destine Press has been around for about three years and I'm officially their first young adult/new adult author," she said.

■ The Blood She Betrayed will be released as an eBook in July and a paperback in August.



IMAGINATION: Part of Cherie's book collection, which inspired her to write an urban fantasy story. INSET: Cherie Curtis (aka Cheryse Durrant) reads a book by Young Adult fantasy author Marianne de Pierres, one of the keynote speakers at last year's WriteFest. She gained a three-book contract for her Heart Hunter series, after pitching her manuscript to Clan Destine Press Publisher Lindy Cameron at last year's WriteFest. The paperback will be launched in August this year.

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