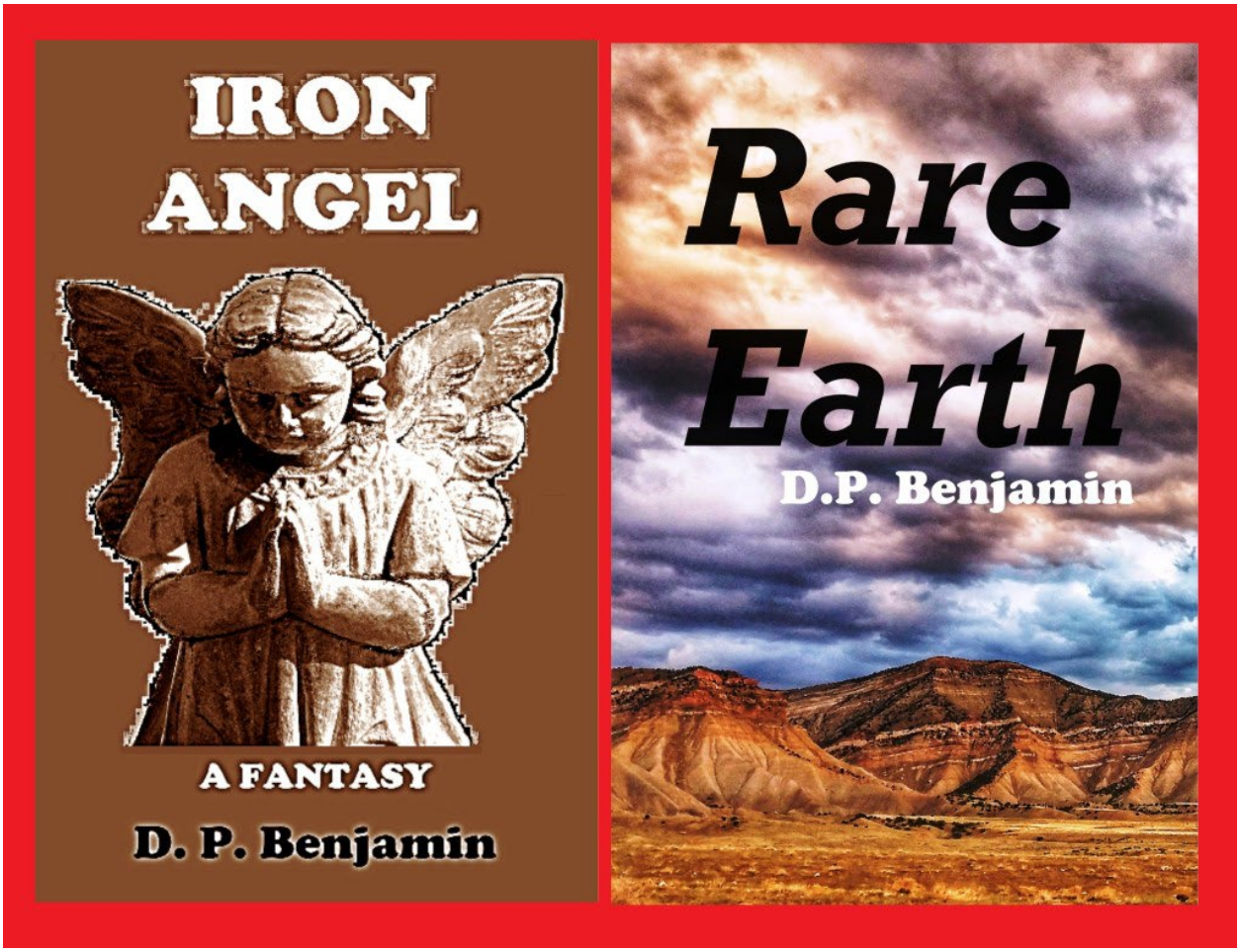


As part of the Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center (GMAEC) annual Jingle Mingle Online Auction, a Western Colorado writer will offer bidders the opportunity to appear as a character in one of his upcoming novels. Local author, D. P. Benjamin, has two new books in the works: *Rare Earth*, a mystery set in the Four Corners region, and *Iron Angel*, an epic fantasy adventure.

Winning bidders can submit their name or the name of someone they wish to honor, for inclusion in the author's new novels. Bidders can choose to be a character in either the mystery or the fantasy. Two characters will be named, one in each book. The highest bidder in each category will earn the naming rights.

The character naming auction comes with a few conditions. The author reserves the right to use the winning name as he sees fit. If a name other than the bidder is submitted, the author presumes that person has given their permission. Permission will be verified as needed. He promises not to make the person a villain, although he or she might end up dead in the book. He reserves the right to reject any name he may deem inappropriate, offensive, or ill-intentioned. This auction is for the name only. The winning bidder does not have any role in helping determine the storyline, the character's personality, or physical description. That's all up to the author. Participation in the naming auction acknowledges that the bidder understands and agrees to these conditions. The highest bidder in each category will earn the naming rights. All proceeds go to support the Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center (GMAEC.) The online auction will post a preview at approximately 3 p.m. on November 18. Online bidding opens on November 21 and ends on December 4, 2026.