

Kris Bowser

I write speculative fiction
featuring outcasts,
magicians, travellers, tinkers,
thieves, and goblins. I
copyedit and proofread.

But this isn't about that. This
is about how I redesign
things to be more useful to
me and make things that I
need to exist.

**This is my design
portfolio.**

Infographics and Flowcharts

Print and screen. Includes "All About Mushrooms,"
"Chick Care Tips," "The Social Anxiety Flowchart for
Dealing with Phone Calls Badly," and "How to Make
a Paper Robot."

Books and Ebooks

Print and screen. *Pumpkin Goblins, Spirit Notes
Fading.*

Assorted Print Projects

Logos and materials for writing events, a family t-
shirt that the family actually wears, and a
Halloween wedding.

Infographics & Flowcharts



Before creating this parody infographic, I did some research into real health and diet infographics. I wanted to this to appear friendly and informative. Created for web use.

Chick Care Tips

BABY CHICKS, TURKEYS, GUINEAS, PHEASANTS, AND PARTRIDGE

Friends, we have added the information below to help you get your baby poultry started correctly and to eliminate any potential problems that might arise. Please read this information carefully and be prepared when your baby poultry arrive. On the back of our order blank is a handy checklist. Please use the checklist to assure yourself that you have done everything correctly in preparing for your new arrivals.

Poultry need feed water, heat, light, and space.



FEED

Use a commercial chick starter for the first 8 weeks. On the first day, cover the litter with newspaper and spread some feed on it. Have your feeders full also. This will allow the new birds to find the feed. Use a 2 foot feeder for each 25 chicks. After the first day, remove the papers. Please refer to the order blank for feed protein levels for the type of poultry you are ordering.

LIGHT

If you use a heat bulb, this will also serve as the light you need. Otherwise, be sure to give your birds light. Use a 75 watt bulb on dark days. Have a small light for night—15 watts or similar—to keep them from piling.

HEAT

The temperature where the birds are should be 90 to 95 degrees for the first week. Reduce the temperature 5 degrees per week until you get to 70 degrees. Then they shouldn't need any more heat. A good source of heat is a 250 watt bulb. (Red bulbs are better than white. They cause less picking.) Hang it 18 inches from the floor. The temperature directly under the bulb will be higher than 90 degrees, but the birds will adjust themselves to the area they like. Use 1 bulb for each 50 chicks in cold weather. Use 1 bulb for each 100 chicks in warm weather.

SPACE

Try to provide 1/2 square foot per bird at the start. For starting 50 chicks, use a draft shield (see below) and make a circle about 5 to 6 feet across. For 100 birds, make the circle 7 to 8 feet across.

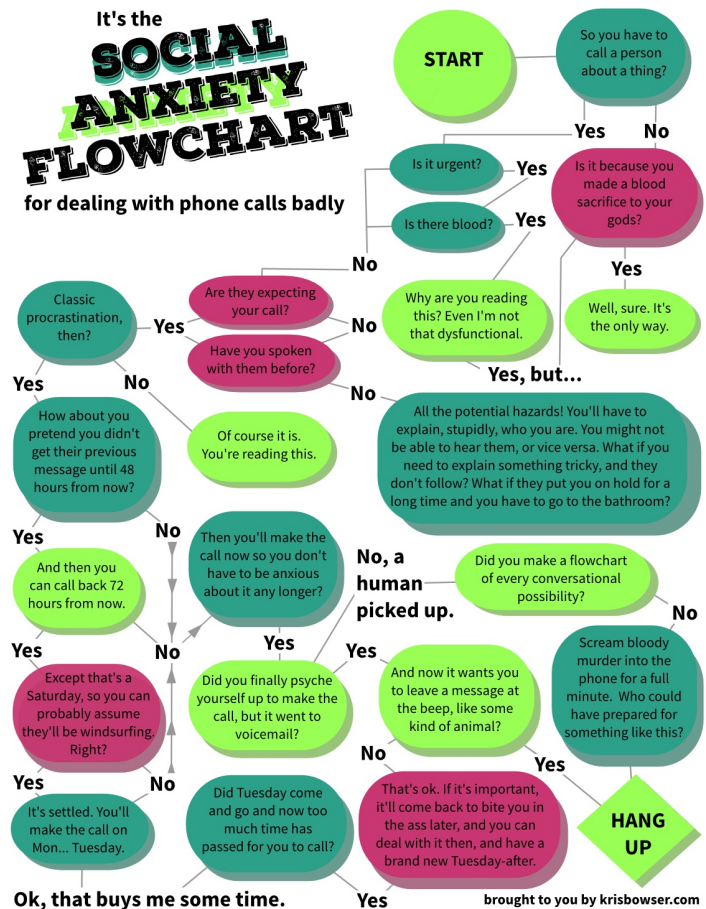
WATER

Have a 1 gallon chick waterer for each 50 birds. Dip the beak of the chick in the water before you turn it loose. For the first 2 days, add 3 tablespoons of table sugar to each quart of water for extra energy. For the best results, have either Quik Chik, Broiler Booster, or an antibiotic in the water. Your birds will be thirsty when you get them. A taste of water right away helps them to find more water soon. Most baby bird loss is caused because the bird doesn't start to eat or drink.

When my partner and I bought twelve baby chickens from the local hardware store, we were also given a print-out of a web page about chick care tips from McMurray's website. I thought the chick care tips would be more accessible if they were broken into blocks with clear headings. This uses all the same text as the print-out we were given, but I did a light copyedit and arranged the information so that it would be easier to find sections at a glance. Shown: the top half of the first page.

I created this graphic in Inkscape, a vector graphics program that I have found to be a satisfying substitute for Adobe Illustrator. Like the “All About Mushrooms” infographic, this is meant to be humorous. Unlike “All About Mushrooms,” I designed this to fit on a single sheet of letter-sized paper.

It's the SOCIAL ANXIETY FLOWCHART for dealing with phone calls badly



How to Make a Paper Robot







This paper robot is made by attaching two origami boxes to a toothpick spine. The boxes are wrapped in additional paper to cover the open back, and to add extra strength. Arms, legs, and facial features are added at the end.

GATHER SUPPLIES

Multi-colored papers, clear tape, glue, scissors, ruler, toothpicks, pen

CUT PAPER PIECES

-  Head $3\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ inches
-  Head wraps (x2): $3\frac{3}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ inches
-  Body: 3×3 inches
-  Body wraps (x2) $3\frac{1}{4} \times 1$ inches
- Limbs (x4): $2\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4}$ inches

FOLD PAPER BOXES

Fold paper diagonally and unfold.

Fold in again, this time along the creased edges themselves.

Flip the paper. Fold on opposite edges into the center. Unfold. Fold the other two edges into the center.

Fold one of the top flaps over the other.

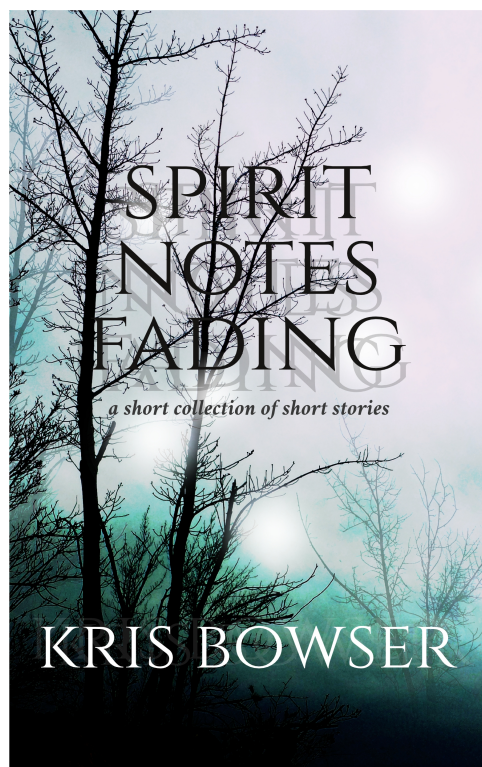
On the side the flap came from, fold in the two thickly layered corners. Return the flap.

Now fold over the other flap. Fold in the two corners on this side and return the flap. The whole thing should be shaped like a diamond at this point. Open it along the center where the flaps come together and shape into a box.

ASSEMBLE ROBOT

After the internet failed to have instructions for the type of boxy paper robot I wanted to hand out at an event, I figured out my own method. Then I created a printable .pdf for my website, so now the internet has no excuses. Shown: the top half of the first page.

Books & Ebooks

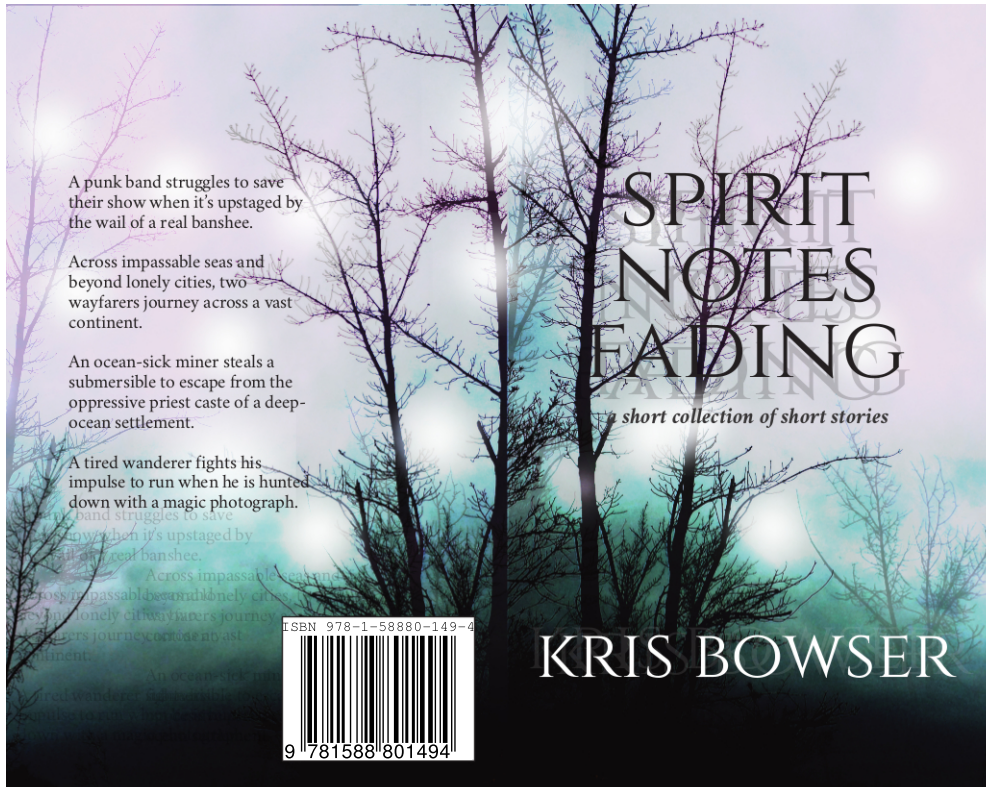


Spirit Notes Fading is a short collection of speculative fiction stories. A cover with a literal representation of any single story would have misrepresented the other three stories, and the book as a whole. For this reason, I aimed to capture the tone of the book: primarily fantasy, with a dash of creepiness.

While I think I succeeded in capturing the tone of the book, I'd like to prune some of the excessive branches behind the title text when I release a reformatted version of the book.

I also created a series of desktop wallpapers as a thank you for anyone who took the book poll.





While I haven't had it printed it yet, I've finished the work on the print cover and interior, following CreateSpace specifications.

14 | *Kris Bowser*

Her face told him
the lie, that she had kn
the usual sort of tricks
you would leave with r

"So, the clock tow

"Those years were

"And the raven."

"His own magic. N

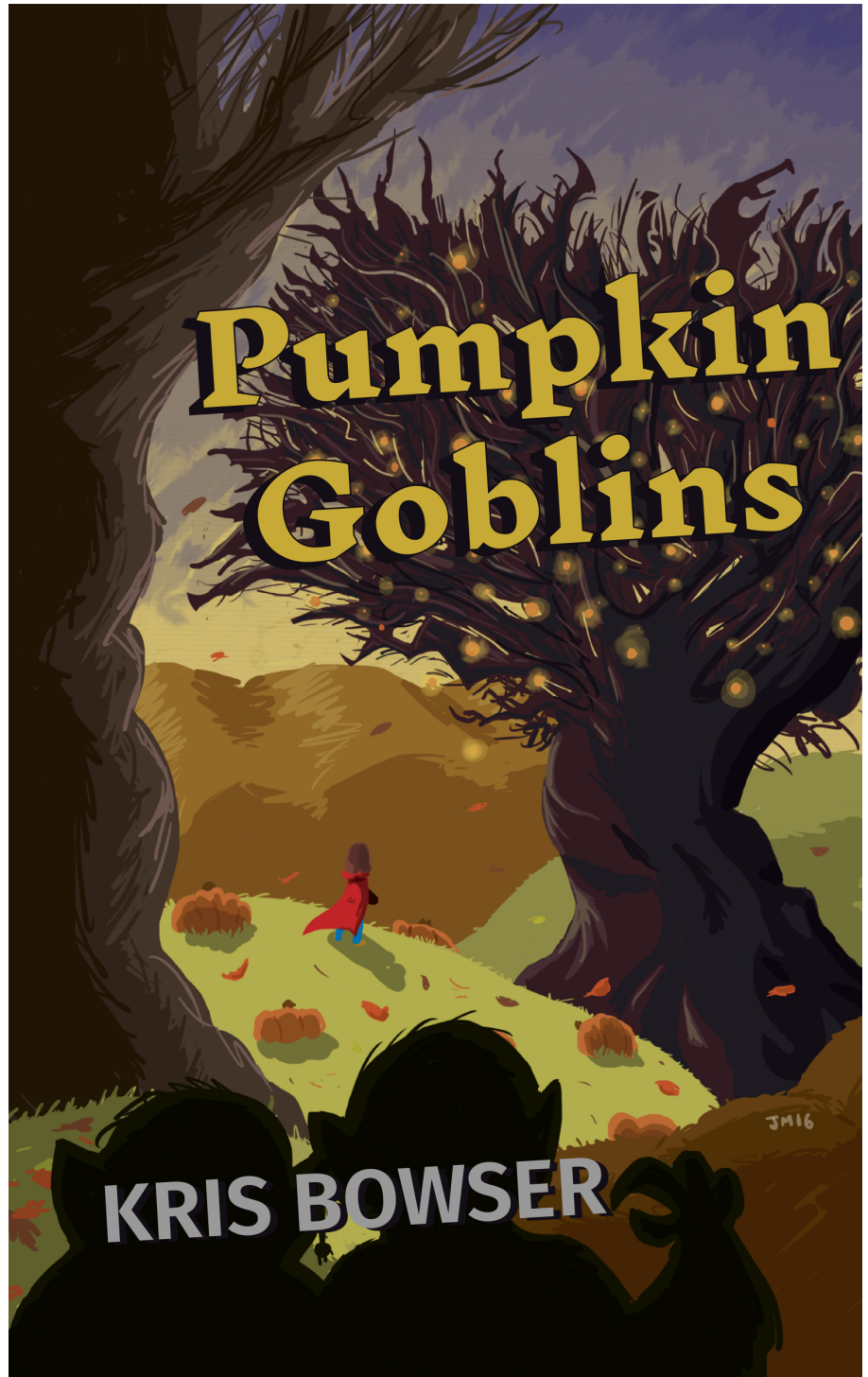
ABYSSOPELAGIA

AS AGREED, Morning met the priest at the end of a seaglass and iron corridor nestled on the ocean floor. Where the glass dwellings of the priest caste met claustrophobic workers' shacks of dull metal, he waited by the submersible, one of the dingy old ones that brought the expendable workers to the mines.

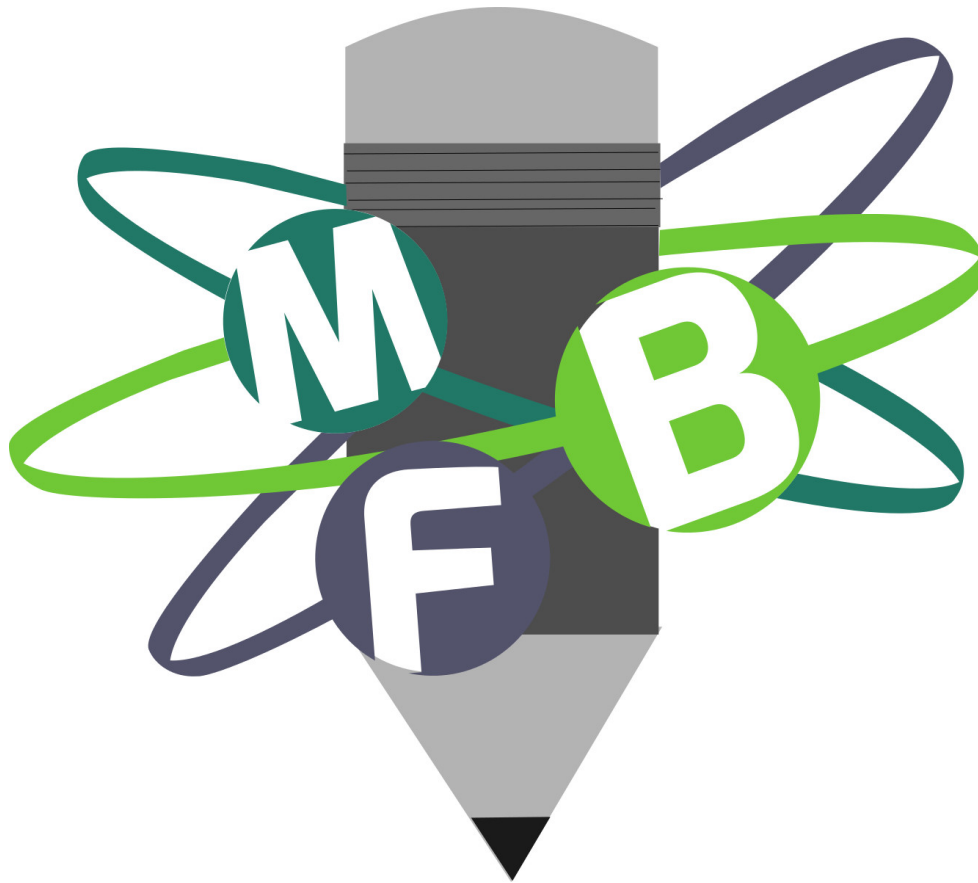
All around her, the ocean dared Morning to acknowledge it. Fathomless water-heights pushed down from above, and in the openness of the corridor, there was no denying them. The dim lights flickered with the movement of swimming creatures outside. *We are taught not to think of the ocean*, she thought, and pushed it out of her mind once again.

The cover of *Pumpkin Goblins* owes a lot of its character to the cover illustration by Justin Motta. My job was to make sure the typography pulled its own weight in conveying that this is a fun children's fantasy adventure story.

After the ebook conversion software I used for *Spirit Notes* left me with some errors, I decided that I would format *Pumpkin Goblins* myself. Because of this, it has some classy touches like small caps at scene openings and spaced periods instead of a single ellipses character (as recommended by the *Chicago Manual of Style*).

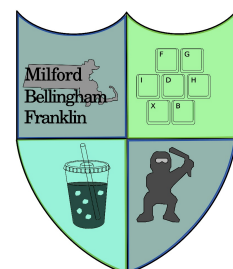
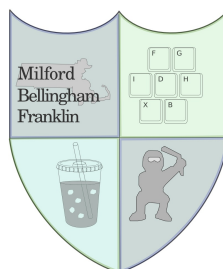
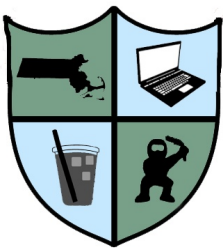


Assorted Print Projects

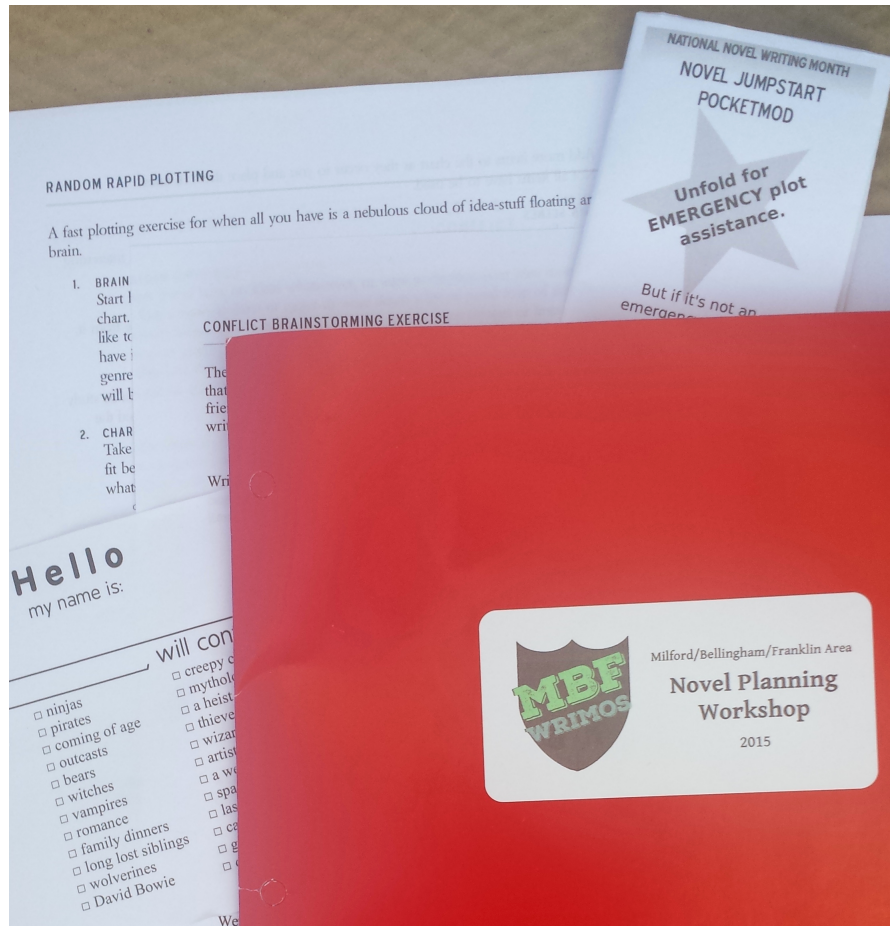


I created this logo for the local National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) group that I co-organize events for in the Milford/Bellingham/Franklin area of Massachusetts. The logo has had a long evolution: I made changes every year or two as I improved my skills.

To the left: 2016.
Below, from left to right: 2010, 2013, 2014, and two versions for 2015.



The main application of the logo tends to be as a label for our Novel Planning Party (formerly known as Novel Planning Workshop). I created all other materials shown in this picture as well: worksheets for plotting and creating conflict, a foldable pocketmod with mini writing exercises, and an extra-large nametag for participants to check off elements that they plan to include in their novels.

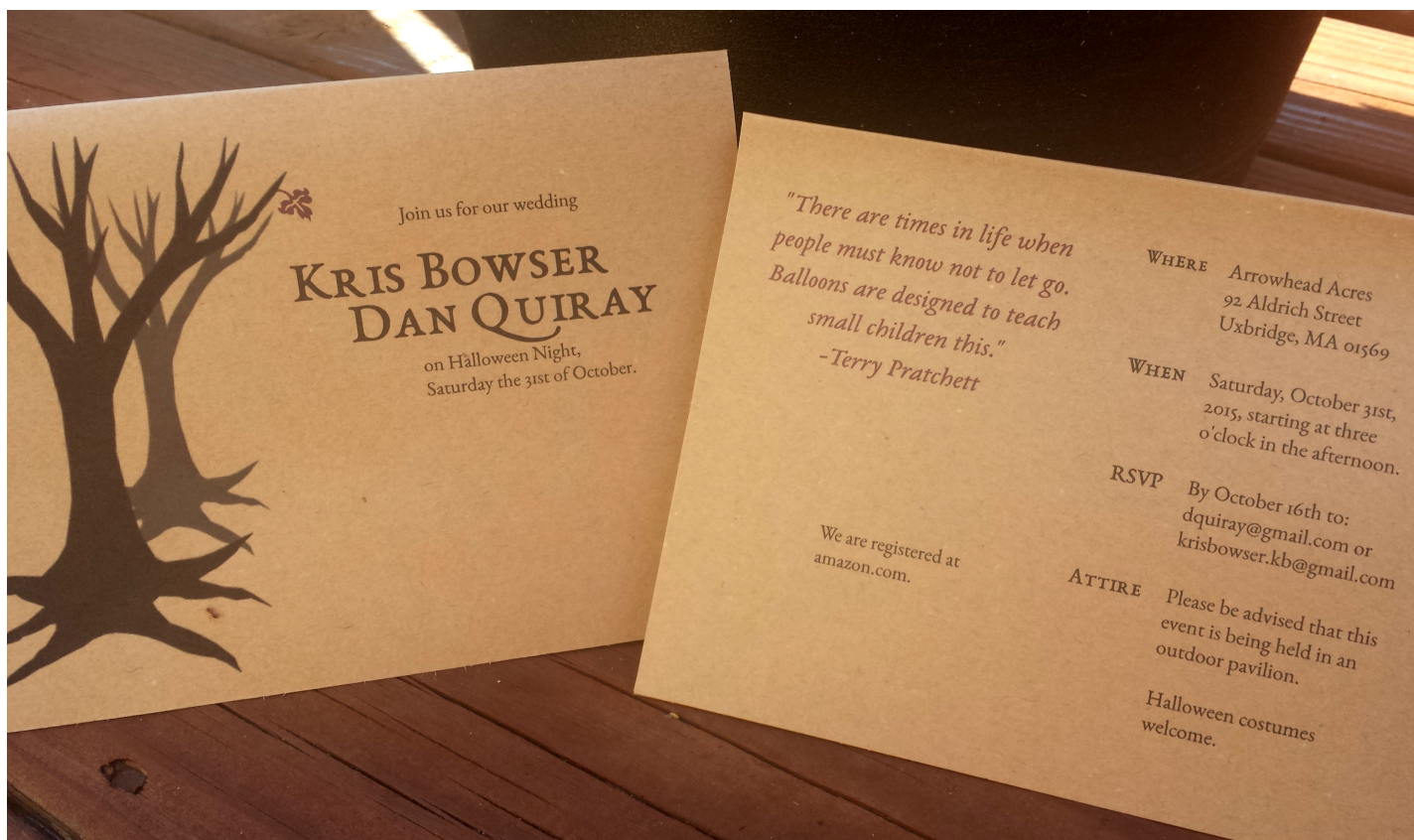




My challenge with this project was to create a family t-shirt that my large extended family would actually wear, and so even before I sketched out any concepts, I knew I wanted to represent the family name rather than write it out. I wouldn't wear my own last name on a t-shirt, so I didn't expect my aunts, uncles, and cousins to wear theirs either. Along with adding a lot of hidden meaning, I added the initials of everyone in the family, arranged along the sun in chronological order and by family tree. That was the most challenging part of the design, aside from creating the shadow of the "H" using only two colors and negative space.

To the left: the t-shirt itself. To the bottom: the two-color vector art I brought to the screen printer (shown on a navy background for visibility).





Clockwise from bottom left: the graphic that was printed at the bottom of the photobooth strips, the CD cover of our wedding playlist, and the trick-or-treat bags we sent home with our guests.

Our wedding was on the informal side: we had a number of handmade elements, and the event itself was held at a structure called the "rustic pavillion." We wanted our wedding invitations to convey a sort of spooky elegance, while also hinting at the fun, informal vibe we were going for. The invitations set the tone for both the wedding itself, and all the other wedding items I designed.