

WITNESS STATEMENT OF STACEY A. MAY

I, Stacey A. May, having personal knowledge of all matters as stated herein, declare as follows:

1. I am the author of “Fresh & Foraged Foods for Land Hermit Crabs” (the “Work”), having written and published the text in its original pocket guide format under the pseudonym, “Creative Solutions :: RipdNTorn” on July 15, 2021.
2. At times throughout this Statement, I may refer to Evidence to support my statements visually.
3. On January 7, 2025, I was alerted to the fact that a significant portion of the “Work” had been plagiarized by Jessica Valderrama of the Land Hermit Crab Edu Center. At the same time, I discovered that the underlying foundational material for the “Work” had also been reproduced as well as a large amount of materials owned by one of the “Work’s” Contributing Editors, Stacy Griffith¹, also president of the Land Hermit Crab Owner’s Society (LHCOS) and current owner of the Crab Street Journal. Because the discoveries occurred at the same time, much of the investigation and evidence collection that I performed immediately following the event involved both the copyright infringement of my “Work” and the intellectual property thefts of Stacy Griffith.
4. Those events were recorded and outlined in an email and sent to a long-time friend and client of mine (who also happens to practice criminal law) on January 21, 2025. That email and its attachment are offered in addition to this Witness Statement as “witness testimony” written at a time period very close to the actual event and I attest to its authenticity and truthfulness as I knew the facts to be at that time. (*EXHIBIT WS-2*) The images in the email attachment were not redacted when sent privately to my lawyer client but have been redacted for submission here. Despite having made their comments on a public post (whether in a private group of 1000s of people or not), displaying a name is likely to be viewed negatively. (*EXHIBIT BL*) Therefore, unless a individual’s comment and their identity becomes relevant to proving a statement in my Claim, I have opted to block out the identities.
5. I published a public “cease and desist” notification on a website outside the confines of social media on behalf of myself and Stacy Griffith on February 11, 2025, where, in the absence of assistance from Jessica

1 Stacy Griffith was married in October of 2025 and is now legally known as Stacy Wodicker. For the purpose of this Claim and in the interest of simplicity and clarity, she will be referred to as Stacy Griffith.

Valderrama, it remains available for viewing at <https://jessicavalderrama.landhermitcrabedu.com> and available in hardcopy format as *EXHIBIT WS-3* and *EXHIBIT WS-4*. That website and its timeline of events are also offered as “real-time” witness testimony in addition to this Witness Statement and I attest to their authenticity and truthfulness. There have been no notifications or submissions through the provided email or any online comments refuting what is presented and all edits to the original page have been publicly documented.

6. The testimony revealed in *EXHIBITS W-2, W-3, and WS-4* provides additional background, context, and scope as they relate to the actual infringing acts and provide support to the statements made in the Direct Party Statements well as form a basis for the remainder of this Witness Statement document.
7. Because the act of the plagiarism of the “Work” is so blatantly obvious to me as presented in the Direct Party Statement and in the Evidence, a substantial portion of this Witness Statement document will instead focus on explaining the nature of “Work” itself, the perceptions of the online “hermit crab community”, how that “community” makes purchasing decisions, and why intellectual property thefts in a peculiar niche occurred in the first place. It will serve to highlight a history of observed behavioral and character traits that continue to indicate that it is unlikely that Jessica Valderrama will permanently desist from future infringements unless there is a substantial deterrent in place, either in the form of legal consequences or being held accountable by the “hermit crab community”. Of the two, the first is more likely than the latter.
8. By “hermit crab community”, I mean those that comprise the most often seen personalities interacting within multiple hermit crab-related groups and pages as of the past few years (~2023 - present) as well as some generalizations regarding keepers that can be made from witnessing the same behavior repetitively over several years — as it primarily pertains to the Facebook social media platform.
9. It is impossible to offer the motives and an eventual explanation regarding the “why” someone would take someone else’s work, claim it was their own, and proceed to offer it for “free” — what occurred when a portion of the “Work” was plagiarized by Jessica Valderrama and posted first on Land Hermit Crab Edu Center websites and then in a Facebook group of over 16,000 members all of whom are its target market — without first explaining the perceptions within the online “hermit crab community” and perhaps a little bit more about hermit crabs and the observed [online] habits of the typical keeper in the first place.

10. I've kept hermit crabs a few times throughout my life, but one of my current hermit crabs, a *Coenobita compressus*, was acquired at a reptile expo in April of 2011. After an abnormally long 6 month molting period (where my hermit crab disappears under the substrate for an anticipated 6 weeks) ended in December 2018, I sought out and joined a few species-specific care groups on Facebook to review my husbandry practices against what other keepers may be doing, fearing I may have done something wrong.
11. In my experience, corporate-owned pet stores have never provided in-depth, adequate husbandry information for keeping the land hermit crab species (or any of the exotic species I have had in my lifetime) and veterinary resources are near non-existent. Therefore, published texts, online species-specific forums, more recently Facebook groups, and published research articles have always been my sought out sources for husbandry information. The Land Hermit Crab Owners Society (LHCOS) was one of those Facebook groups that I joined on January 3, 2019. LHCOS is a non-profit organization whose history stems from a Yahoo! group created in 1999 (Facebook, 2015). The Crab Street Journal was created in 2001 as a companion site to the organization, hosting a variety of articles and care topics over the years. The longevity and influence of both institutions is reflected in what are broadly held as the standards and norms for today's care of land hermit crabs.
12. Inherent to every species-specific husbandry group, forum, or site is information regarding housing, climate/environment (temperature, humidity, lighting, substrate), and diet (food, water). The "Work" is a resource that deals primarily with "food" but also overlaps with the environment when more nature-minded keepers choose to create naturalistic environments using woods, pods, leaves, and other plant parts as decor. As stated on the My Hungry Hermit® website:

"Fresh & Foraged Foods for Land Hermit Crabs" is a reference guide with an extensive listing of safe foods and items to introduce to a crabitat, as well as a section addressing things that are unknown or typically considered unsafe... Because hermit crabs are scavengers and liable to taste anything, things that aren't typically food have also been included amongst the relevant lists (i.e. wood for climbing, decorative pods for hiding, aquatic plants in water, living bioactive cleanup crew insects). They aren't necessarily a part of a diet, but their potential toxicity is relevant when they are introduced to a hermit crab's environment.

It was a project that began because of its use to me personally that I thought others would find equally useful and valuable for years to come.

13. Every hermit crab sold in pet stores and beach souvenir shops is imported and wild-caught. In the summer

of 2018, Mary Akers successfully bred and raised the first significant number of land hermit crabs (*Coenobita clypeatus*) in captivity, made available for adoption in 2019. Her “breaking the code” to captive breeding is a HUGE contribution in the hermit crab world where a significant portion advocates for the cessation of the collection of wild-caught hermit crabs for the pet industry. Mary Akers is a Contributing Editor to the “Work.”

14. Despite being part of the pet trade since the 1950s, there have been few advances in hermit crab care within the larger, commercial pet industry with regard to the development of products or diet - a niche more individual hobbyists have been scrambling to fill in more recent years. By my last count, roughly 70 new Etsy shops offering hermit crab-related food or supplies opened in 2025 alone. With such competition, food vendors seem to be struggling to differentiate their products, and do so by ingredient choices, preparation, and presentation and/or by using the relationship-driven social selling approach on social media platforms.
15. The majority of newer members joining the hermit crab groups (typically the most active posting members at any given time) enter with woefully-lacking care instructions from the stores that sold them their hermit crabs. Upon arriving in a hermit crab-specific Facebook group, in addition to being told their setup is typically inadequate, members are frequently told to throw out their commercial hermit crab food, that the food is “toxic” and bad for them. This inevitably leads to: “What do you feed hermit crabs then?” And the various hermit crab-related husbandry groups are inundated with questions like “is [food] safe?” and “can hermit crabs eat [item]?” every year after Spring Break when a lot of the spontaneous souvenir purchases occur.
16. In recent years, posts created by new owners who are fearful of making more mistakes after being told their entire setup was wrong and their “easy” commercial food is “toxic” (and also spending way more money than anticipated on their \$6.99 souvenir that doesn’t actually die naturally after a year) present an opportunity for the few sales-seeking individuals who see the care groups as hunting grounds for their market share. They either describe the information to the new owner as though it is incredibly difficult to figure out how to feed their new pet “properly” without their expertise, knowledge, and hand-holding or they skip directly to offering security in the purchase of what many sellers call “complete” or “balanced” meals. Some do both. As far as the newcomer is concerned: certainly those holding the knowledge of whether a food item is safe or not are also the best sources for a “complete” food, right? They’re just grateful to be told they’re doing something right for a change

and gratitude can come in the form of sales and allegiance. (*EXHIBITS BY, AH, AI, AG - Figures 1, 6-8*)

17. Other shop owners/social media entities share informational links because it helps their followers in general, indicates a non-competitive and cooperative relationship with other sellers, conveys the species itself as a priority over profit, “likes” boost algorithms, and/or it reinforces the safety of their ingredient listngs.

(*EXHIBITS AJ, BV, AK-Figure 3*)

18. To be clear, there are no defined-by-science nutritional guidelines laid out specifically for land hermit crabs (Coenobita species) and pet food industry standards in labeling terms like “complete” and “balanced” as determined by the Association of America Feed Control Officers (AAFCO) have absolutely no meaning or formal regulated definition with regard to hermit crab food. Applying the words (as already defined by AAFCO) to any food and its description is a fraud in the absence of a laboratory analysis compared to a nutritional guideline specific to the species (something that does not exist). This is evident in the *lack* of the use of words like “complete and balanced” by big name licensed companies that provide the commercial feeds declared by so many as “toxic”, even as they provide the laboratory analyses required by the US FDA and the Departments of Agriculture in nearly every State for pet food licensing.

19. There are rough guidelines keepers would be wise to be aware of when feeding - as observed and recorded by the hobbyists who have contributed to the “hobby” for decades - but otherwise the “feed only this one food for the lifetime of the animal and it meets all their known biological needs” kibble like is assumed in the dog food industry does not exist for the Coenobita species. It leaves a lot of unregulated room for interpretation in what have become fluid subjective marketing terms within the land hermit crab food sales venue. The lack of licensing and governmental oversight amongst the hobbyist food sellers (ironically also the only ones promoted as having non-toxic food) makes the market ripe for sellers with or without verifiable experience and expertise and next to no accountability beyond the limits of the seller’s own sense of self-responsibility. LHCOS does have an Approved Sellers program that, in theory, attempts to fill that void, but participation is voluntary and certain qualifications and standards for acceptance are required. In more recent years, some non-member shop owners have portrayed the program as irrelevant and cliquy, as well as created terms like “trusted seller” - more fluid, subjective, marketing terminology.

20. At any rate, having kept other species with various nutritional needs on homemade diets (something I recognize is not common and is atypical for the average pet owner), I did not seek to rely on suppliers of “complete” foods thereby relinquishing control over my hermit crab’s diet, but rather sought out a way to expand the list of what hermit crabs could eat as well as be more specific to each item as though it were growing in my backyard - which can often be the case depending on where one lives. I first wanted to know what I could confidently feed out of my fridge, pantry, and my own backyard... and then I wanted to create a resource that freed other members from feeling like they had to ask a group for permission or for a safety determination on common items before feeling comfortable enough to feed their own hermit crabs. I use some purchased meal mixes for the varied ingredients in smaller portions, but I am not dependent on them.
21. Throughout the years, I had compiled a three-ring binder with relevant care information for each of my species as well as any specific dietary considerations. My semi-aquatic turtles and my sugar gliders both have/had calcium to phosphorus ratio considerations when feeding fresh foods in addition to a “staple diet”. The initial concept of the “Work” was partly based on a previous publication I created in 2013 for sale through the RipdNTorn® Etsy shop — a pocket-sized food shopping guide with Calcium to Phosphorus ratios targeted to other sugar glider owners who may have also been juggling multiple food list pages at the grocery store like I did when trying to purchase my gliders’ next dinner. It is that same format I currently use for a “groceries for hungry hermits” publication I distribute with orders or through advocacy booths.
22. Hermit crabs, however, do not have an agreed upon “staple diet” beyond the attempt to meet a generally-accepted-by-mainstream-hermit-crab-groups “50% protein” guideline, a recommendation gleaned from a few studies and one book regarding farmed crustacean diets. To quote myself in the “Work”:
- Hermit crabs are wild animals and the challenge for any keeper of wildlife is to provide safe, nutritious foods in a captive diet while using a variety of available foods that are not necessarily from the animal’s native environment.*
23. In January of 2021, I had already written a few pages and had an outline in mind when I approached Stacy Griffith, President of LHCOS, with my all-in-one convenient food and foraging guide idea and asked for permission to use the LHCOS “safe and unsafe food list” as a foundational starting point for my project. My request for permission to use “the List” was my first direct communication with Stacy Griffith, during

which I also discovered that she had begun working on a database format for the food lists and had aligning interests in their expansion. It was a project I contributed to while researching the “Work.” (*EXHIBIT O, P*)

24. After receiving permission from Stacy Griffith/LHCOS, I approached three other well-respected, long-time hermit crab keepers of various backgrounds to become my “Contributing Editors”. I asked them to be willing to eventually review the content I was compiling for accuracy, to share their relevant experiences as it related to any additional “list items” for research, share any additional preparation methods, suggest things specific to the backyards in their geographic regions, and offer any unique observations with regard to their varied *Coenobita* species — essentially to fill in a few gaps where I knew their strengths exceeded mine.
25. The Food List available from LHCOS is designed for the average grocery-store-shopping hermit crab keeper and is relatively simple in its listings: “Apple (no seeds)”, meaning “apple is safe, but don’t offer the seeds.” For me, who has planted an apple tree, I wanted to know if the safety included the entire tree - the bark, the wood, the leaf, the blossom, and the stem... and I wrote the “Work” for me and for people like me. Aside from expanding the options available for my own hermit crabs, I wanted more confidence that the items used in my hermit crabs’ diet also made some scientific sense in addition to anecdotal and historical usage, a goal I happened to share with Stacy Griffith and her database project. I also wanted the convenience of “everything my hermit crab might be in contact with and put in its mouth” in one easy-to-read, easy-to-carry resource. I double check my calculator and, as such, I [and the Contributing Editors] double checked the original items and any new additions to “the List” — but through a much more specific, critical lens like considering that fruits come from a plant with a lot more plant parts - some of which cannot be extrapolated as also being safe for consumption, where sourcing can affect “safety” when the bioremediation capabilities of plants are taken into consideration, and how something is processed can affect eventual safety [if there could be long term, cumulative effects]. What if a common name for a “safe” plant is also used for a plant of an “unknown” safety or if there are frequent misidentifications for a species? Most would be surprised how many look-a-likes there are for what people will call a “daisy”.
26. Everything I included in my publication underwent additional scrutiny - by myself and my Contributing Editors - and botanical names were applied in almost all instances (though some were overlooked which

will continue to annoy me until I can publish a second edition). I spent countless hours researching one plant species that would become a single line entry in the “Work”, if included at all, often reaching out to a Contributing Editor to make sure my data interpretation was objective (*EXHIBIT E*). As the author, I can tell you where new items or annotations for various entries in the “Work” originated — which items stemmed from curiosity surrounding plants in my own backyard (e.g. mimosa), where the consideration regarding the tips of yucca leaves as a puncture hazard came from (Contributing Editor, Courtney Karr; further expanded for the inclusion of briars and thorns and other pokey plants), and why a banana peel was scrutinized more closely (Contributing Editor, Mary Akers), for example. While I published under a pseudonym and did not seek publicity by using my personal name, it angers me that someone else has taken credit for my work, my Contributing Editors’ contributions, and information learned from the authors’ works consulted and referenced throughout the creation of “the “Work.” My Contributing Editors were not paid for their assistance which is why information related to their enterprises is prominently displayed within the first few pages of the “Work” - and the information for the shop related to the “Work” is the very last page. There are plenty of other ways to use the “Work” to garner sales without actually using the literal contents of the “Work”. (*EXHIBIT BV*)

27. Because of a lack of formal scientific research regarding the *Coenobita* species in captivity, long-time keepers are looked to and responsible for much of the information available in the “hobby” today. The length of time one has kept hermit crabs as well as any perceived achievements and contributions adds to the perception of expert status and, therefore, whom you trust with the care advice and products you offer your hermit crabs. It was why I asked the individuals that I did to be my Contributing Editors back in 2021, though, in my case, my perceptions met reality.
28. The majority of [observed] hermit crab keepers keep the inclusion of living plants [with roots] in their habitats to a minimum, relying on purchased or foraged mosses or lichens. Roots are widely perceived as a danger to molting crabs. It makes sense to some extent that Jessica Valderrama selected the contents of the “Work’s” Appendices A and B, a listing of moss and lichen species publicly available no where else other than through database queries using the LHCOS/Crab Street Journal database, to transfer to her derivative “Moss.pdf” document. (*EXHIBITS AW, AX, AY*)

29. I do not have a logical explanation as to why Jessica Valderrama chose to copy and paste the “safe foods” from the free-for-personal-use, easier-to-copy online LHCOS/Crab Street Journal document and use it for her “Safe List Pdf” document while choosing to take what must have been a more time consuming approach to copy the portion of the printed “Work” that she did for her “Not Safe List Pdf” document. The content in the “Work” is more comprehensive and extensive regarding both subjects. Perhaps the answer is as simple as there are a lot more symbols (glyphs), some of which are custom graphics, on almost every line item in the “Work’s” “Generally Regarded As Safe (for hermit crabs)” chapter than in the portion of the “Work” used for her “Not Safe List Pdf” — and it is evident that the application used to translate the “Work” had difficulty interpreting even those much fewer symbols. (*EXHIBITS AR, AU - Evidence, page 91*).
30. I do not recall seeing the webpages related to the “SAFE & UNSAFE FORAGED ITEMS” links as seen in *EXHIBIT AG, Evidence page 57* so I cannot testify as to their actual content. The questions asked as well as the pages’ title in the responses received is indicative of additional content that is also represented in the “Work”. (*EXHIBIT AT*) Regardless, Jessica Valderrama demonstrated that her “Safe List Pdf”, “Not Safe List Pdf”, and “Moss.pdf” were sufficient enough, when used in tandem both on the websites and in “The Crabby Hermit... “ group, to represent the core of what she wanted to present to her audience with regard to food — which also happens to be at the heart of the “Work.” Had she taken the path of the very least resistance, I would not be writing these words today.
31. Incidentally, it is clear to me that an image to text converter of sorts was used during the process of the word-for-word reproduction of the “Work”. Because Jessica Valderrama’s lack of participation bypassed a Discovery process, I have no idea what Terms & Conditions she agreed to while reproducing my “Work” with whatever program. I intentionally avoid the use of AI in any of my writings or contributing to any AI training in the absence of broader copyright protections, including coding language in my websites to prevent its information from being used (by the more reputable AI training bots anyway). Once my Work was recreated digitally, a large amount of control over my creation and how it is used and manipulated went out the proverbial window and any related repercussions remain unknown.

32. Instead of apologizing for her various intellectual property thefts or demonstrating that a lesson has been

learned, Jessica Valderrama is actively rewriting her own history with regard to her length of time and experience as a shop keeper and with the Coenobita species itself. (*EXHIBITS Y, Z* versus *EXHIBITS S, U, V, W, X*). There is no need to lie about how long one has kept hermit crabs or how long a business has been in operation unless one feels it lends to a perception of credibility or experience that may help sales.

33. From a consumer standpoint, I do not know what level of deception is considered acceptable to entrust a supplier of food and/or information with the care of my species. For me, the answer is “none”. I can provide no logical rationale from my perspective, other than to offer the conjecture that the emotional response and the individual’s perception of a “nice” online personality that demonstrates acts of performative kindness seems to outweigh any ethical concerns that appear so clearly to me when seen outside that lens. As a business owner, it does not seem to me as though it would be a sustainable business practice, but has thus far seemed to prove otherwise.

34. There was no logical reason to send “The Crabby Hermit (Hermit Crab Care and Education) ‘TM’” Facebook group members already in a husbandry group outside of that group for care information held on a shop website — unless it may help sales. It wasn’t until December 27, 2024, nearly three months after the plagiarized information was published on the Land Hermit Crab Edu Center’s websites, that the same files were uploaded to the care and husbandry-oriented “The Crabby Hermit...” Facebook group. If the sole purpose for reproducing the documents in question was to provide a service to members specifically in a care-related group, then is it not logical to assume that the files would have first been disseminated in that care and husbandry group?

35. Though I have been a member of “The Crabby Hermit...” group since 2021 (except for a few days in February 2025), I have not been an active member assisting other members since perhaps 2023. It is not a group I ever visited for care information for my own hermit crabs as they had always linked to LHCOS information prior to a Rules change in 2025. Had I been more active in that group, perhaps I may have noticed the linking to plagiarized files earlier. I had other priorities at the time and, unfortunately, I did not.

36. A private group created by Jessica Valderrama in February 2025, now named “Land Hermit Crab Edu Center (The Crabby Hermit Care and Education)”, describes itself as:

Here at Land Hermit Crab Edu Center we make, handmade safe enrichment items and treats designed to bring joy and comfort to land hermit crabs. Our mission is to create products that not only meet their unique needs but also inspire their natural instincts to explore, forage, and thrive. Our team's main goal is to help and educate proper care so your crabs can thrive.

indicating that it may at some point in the future evolve from a sales-based group into another husbandry care group — where files may at some point in the future be disseminated. It is improbable that comprehensive husbandry advice can ever be given without also addressing diet and individual foods and impossible to provide a comprehensive listing of common foods (safe or unsafe) ethically without linking to the originating sources or gaining permission to reproduce the content. (**EXHIBIT BI**) One of the Admins in “The Crabby Hermit...” is also an Admin in the “Land Hermit Crab Edu Center (The Crabby Hermit Care and Education)” group. The difficulty in dispensing husbandry information in the absence of permission to use original documents or an allowed linking policy is seen by that same Admin in **EXHIBIT BP**.²

37. This Claim has never been about money. I rather thought it might prompt some self-reflection and an overall change in behavior - a healthier result from which the entire community could benefit. I was far more amicable to a simple public apology, any logical, truthful alternative explanation as to the “why?”, active assistance in the request to destroy downloaded and saved documents, and a reassurance that a similar infringement on “the Work’s” copyrights would not occur in the future — a year ago. A settlement for the fees involved in this Claim and the Service in addition to the aforementioned may have even been discussed eight months ago. However, after a year’s worth of forced hypervigilance, evidence collection, and no indication that this pending Claim has had any affect on Jessica Valderrama’s business tactics - other than to perhaps postpone actions pending its conclusion - I am no longer amenable to anything less than the fullest extent of the statutory damages as deemed fit by the Copyright Claims Board (CCB) and in an amount suitable for the deterrence of a repeat act in the future.

38. It is evident to me that Jessica Valderrama copied a significant portion of my “Work”, the intellectual property of Stacy Griffith and other authors represented in the Crab Street Journal library, the content of the Madsen

² “The Crabby Hermit...” current rules disallow linking to any entity other than the Land Hermit Crab Edu Center. They can rewrite those rules at any time and resume linking to authentic public articles at any time. (**EXHIBITS BF, BL, WS-4 Evidence page 189 - 190**)

family's Crab Central Station YouTube channel, and the artists whose images were cropped, copied, and pasted into a book she represents as her own "beautifully illustrated" creation (*EXHIBIT BS, BT*). Rather than contribute to the "hobby" in any new or meaningful ways, her behavior as witnessed online shows a propensity to mimic and replicate and I am not the only one to recognize this pattern. (*EXHIBITS BW, BX*)

39. Every single time I have reflected on whether or not I want to endure the aftereffects of following through with this Claim, that I have a moment of hesitancy, Jessica Valderrama displays yet another act of disregard for original creation and originator rights. Even as I worked on this Witness Statement, she launched a coloring pages product using other artists' images without attribution (January 17, 2026). (*EXHIBIT BR*)

40. What is not known is whether she intends to resume her unchecked behavior with regard to the "Work" after this Claim is completed, though her recent activities and the description of her group suggest it is not unlikely. We are, to some degree and without a conscious effort to change, creatures of our habits and patterns, are we not?

41. In a physical court of law, I would be submitting paper copies of the documents Jessica Valderrama uploaded as well as sharing the physical book for comparison. I made every effort from the "Work's" inception to prevent theft through digital dissemination as seen by the methods in which I worked with my Contributing Editors as well as postponing an originally intended eBook release. (*EXHIBITS M, Q, R*) In the online eCCB venue, re-uploading the digital files I had to issue multiple DCMA notices to have removed from public viewing seems counterintuitive and an unfair requirement that once again devalues my printed "Work". While I understand the need for transparency, I do hope that the photos of the Compare & Contrasts offered in *EXHIBITS AL through AY* are sufficient to make a fair determination. If not, and the CCB feels it necessary to request the digital versions without the protections from Public dissemination and download, then I request the right to reassess and amend my actual damages to the maximum amount allowed in the Small Claims venue. I will lose more than just the hundreds of hours I have already spent in this process attempting to protect my "Work" and its future editions from further violation. As is obvious from the number of Downloads that increased according to at least one webpage's counter, between the morning of January 11th when Jessica Valderrama was publicly "outed" as a plagiarist, and late on the

evening of January 12 when the downloads became unavailable (*EXHIBIT WS-2 Evidence page 173-174*), there is a certain segment of the online “community” in which the “Work” is relevant where some may rush to download unauthorized, stolen content. It is not unlikely to expect the same would occur once this Claim becomes known - only the files would be available on the eCCB in perpetuity. This process should help me as the copyright holder, not recreate the initial harm.

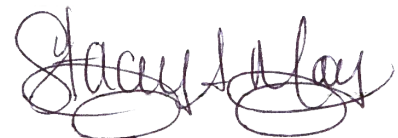
42. While likely irrelevant to this Claim though significant to the “Work” and its related brand, My Hungry Hermit®, I will most likely lose word-of-mouth referrals (the *only* advertising of the “Work” in husbandry-related Facebook groups) and future sales when this Claim becomes publicized. In all my years of working in the Arts, a more common place for intellectual property theft (or at least I thought), I have never quite witnessed the bizarre response that makes the creator the “bad guy” and a bully for defending their intellectual property as I have seen in various instances in the Facebook “hermit crab community” this past year. In one example, when the replication of a product became the focus of a Facebook post in defense of the original creator, several people “unfollowed” the page, rallied around the new seller in the form of “follows” and “likes”, and an onslaught of what I call “pity purchases” ensued, effectively launching the new Etsy business in terms of sales that have not since diminished. The general consensus was that the seller had been bullied instead of being held accountable for the poor judgement involved in launching a business built upon the creations of another. To that new seller’s credit, I suppose, she didn’t actually attempt to deceive the public by claiming to be the inventor of the product... she just does not see anything wrong with devaluing the originator’s item and continuing to duplicate it for profit.

43. When I had the audacity to defend my [and Stacy Griffith’s] copyrights in that single Facebook post on February 11, 2025, it affected the “Work” and, by extension, the My Hungry Hermit® brand negatively. (*EXHIBIT BM*) Some long-time, repeat, regular customers have not returned, but their names were prominent amongst the early public reviews on the “Land Hermit Crab Edu” Etsy shop that was started shortly after in March 2025. These reactions in spite of facts are truly mind-boggling — and demoralizing. These observations have contributed to the reasons why I have disclosed this Claim to very few individuals as of yet and did not solicit additional “Witness Statements” from others with or without related businesses.

44. Despite any social media-related repercussions, it became clear that I had to defend this first edition of the “Work” if I am to dedicate more time to the already thousands of hours of work invested in the research and creation of its successor. I had no wish to be placed in this position. I would rather my legal copyrights had been respected and the integrity of the research and my publication and its brand be allowed to stay unblemished in the first place. Notwithstanding the incredible learning experience provided by engaging in this Claim’s process, I do not wish to have to repeat it again in the future... at least not any time soon.

I, Stacey A. May, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is accurate, complete, and truthful to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: February 15, 2026.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stacey A. May". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.