

BOOKMARK



Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland

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Potpourri

NEWS FLASH! My latest book, *Sweet Justice* is now available on **Kindle** (Amazon.com) and on **Nook** (BarnesAndNoble.com). I'm excited about this, since many of you prefer the electronic format.

SECOND NEWS FLASH! Friday, June 8, marks the beginning of Thomas County Public Library's **Adult Summer Reading Program**. This year's theme is "Between the covers." These lunchtime programs will run through July 13, and I've been asked to discuss my novels on June 8. I encourage those who are local to attend and support your newly renovated, absolutely beautiful library!

Just returned from a trip to **Rome, Italy**, a pleasure trip with friends. I was fascinated by the mixture of ancient and modern structures within the city: the Pantheon amid apartment buildings; our modern hotel next to an ancient wall. I saw the Colosseum, the Forum, the Vatican, the Trevi fountain, and other things I had only read about. Of course, there was food (lots of it!), wine, music, and even a singing waiter. Also, Rome has the craziest jumble of traffic I have ever seen! It was a wonderful vacation, and my travel buddies were the best! I'll post a picture in the next issue.

**Janet Litherland's books
are available at:**

Amazon.com
and other online stores.

Reviews

Catch Me (Lisa Gardner, 2012). Just when you've figured out "whodunit," you haven't. You know, then you don't. Charlene "Charlie" Grant asks Detective D.D. Warren for help. She believes she will be murdered in four days. Each year on January 21st a woman has died, each in a different part of the country. All were Charlie's childhood friends, and she's the only one left. But Charlie is smart and tough—she can shoot, fight, and run with great skill, which makes Detective Warren wonder: Is Charlene Grant the next victim, or is she the perpetrator? A thoroughly satisfying mystery with a great ending.

Die Trying (Lee Child, 1998; reprinted in paperback, 2008). I'm a big fan of Lee Child's "Jack Reacher" novels. In this one, Reacher stops to help a woman who stumbles on the sidewalk. Immediately, they are surrounded by three armed men intent on kidnapping the woman. Because Reacher is there, he gets snatched up with her. And the kidnappers get a whole lot more than they ever wanted, as Reacher strives to protect the woman and uncover the motive for kidnapping her. Fast-paced, explosive!

Lethal (Sandra Brown, 2011). Unless you're a super sleuth, you won't figure this one out until the very end—it is excellent! This author began her career as a romance writer, then evolved to a suspense writer. Her later books are the good ones. In *Lethal*, a 4-year-old girl tells her mother there is a sick man in their yard. But when the mother goes to help him, he springs up, holding a gun on her. He is the man wanted for murdering seven people the night before. He promises that she and her daughter will not be harmed, if she helps him find something he is looking for, something only she can locate. He is desperate, and you will be too—desperate to solve this mystery!

Legacy (Danielle Steel, 2010). I recall reading a Steel novel many years ago and vowing never to read another. Now I remember why. The author tells me more than I need or want to know, then tells it again and again. And again. I decided to read this book because the story is spurred by genealogical research, something that interests me greatly. I have researched my family and the families of both my late husbands. I traced my mother's Irish roots to my great-grandmother's homeplace in County Cork, which I then visited. So the premise of Steel's story—combining past and present—appealed to me. (If you've read my books, you understand.) When the plot finally takes off (page 68), it shows promise, becomes interesting. Still, I found myself flipping through the repetitious chatter. Beyond that, it's a good story about two pairs of lovers—one in the past and one in the present. The pace is slow, gentle, and loving. After all, this is *romantic* suspense, not a fast-paced thriller. And, yes, it ends "happily ever after." I know many of you are Danielle Steel fans. I'm happy for you. For me, however, reading *Legacy* was not relaxing. It was hard work.

Books for Aspiring Writers

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS FROM
JANET LITHERLAND



I love to hear from my readers!

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Writing a book is not as easy as one might think. It takes more than just making up a story based on an idea. It takes time, thorough knowledge of the subject and setting, research (lots of it), and perseverance. I recommend the following—all available at Amazon.com—to help you turn your idea into a real book, one you can be proud of. (Yes, it's okay to end that sentence with a preposition!)

Basic Writing Tips for Emerging Writers. Tim Morrison
Writing Secrets: Essential Steps to Discover How to Start. Tim Morrison
Some Writers Deserve to Starve! Elaura Niles (Inside the publishing industry)
The Associated Press Stylebook. (Grammar, punctuation, usage, etc.)
The Plot Thickens: 8 Ways to Bring Fiction to Life. Noah Lukeman (One of the best literary agents in the business) Also by Lukeman, **The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide to Staying Out of the Rejection Pile.**

From Writer's Digest Books:

Writer's Guide to Character Traits (Profiles of human behaviors/personalities)
Writer's Guide to Places (Profiles of 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 51 North American cities)
Writer's Market (A marketing tool)

To inspire you:

Famous Failures: Hundreds of Hot Shots Who Got Rejected, Flunked Out, Worked Lousy Jobs, Goofed up, or Did Time in Jail Before Achieving Phenomenal Success. Joey Green

Want to read a "thriller" about writing and publishing? Steve Martini's novel, **The List**, will keep you on the edge of your seat while showing you more than you probably want to know about agents and publishers. What "list" is it all about? The Best-Sellers List of course!

Language: What's Bugging You?

Kay in Atlanta gets **frustrated** when people say **flustrated!** And I'm frustrated by the phrase, "**The reason why**," as in: "That's the reason why I read that magazine." As opposed to the reason **how**? Or the reason **who**? Only one of those words is necessary. Either "That's the reason I read that magazine," or, "That's why I read that magazine."

Joy in Georgia objects to the use of nouns as adjectives: "We had a **fun** time!"

Mispronunciations: MisCHEEveeus (mischievous); FebUary (February), probably comes from vocalists who sing the *Shine on Harvest Moon* lyrics as: "I ain't had no lovin' since JanUary, FebUary, June or July." Unfortunately, that one has pushed its way into the dictionary as a second choice.

Worth repeating: If the "h" is silent, "It's an honor to be here" is correct. If the "h" is spoken, "It's a historic event" is correct. We would never say, "He teaches an history class," or "It's a honor to meet you, Mr. Prime Minister."

Is anybody out there bothered when people—usually young people—talk so fast you cannot understand them? I am!

Here's a new word for you: **Ratiocinate** (as in a detective story, for example). Look it up!

Read back issues of *Bookmark* online at: www.janetlitherland.com/newsletter.htm



Bookmark
Janet's Book News

Janet's Ratings: Scaled 1 - 5 ★=OK, ★★★★★=Fantastic!

Quinn (Iris Johansen, 2011) **NO STARS** (Unresolved ending)

Past Perfect (Susan Isaacs, 2007) ★★

The Keepsake (Tess Gerritsen, 2008) ★★★★★

Janet Litherland, author of 10 nonfiction books and six novels, also is editor emeritus and former owner of Write Choice Services, Inc., a book-development company that aspiring authors can find at: www.writechoiceservices.com.