

# BOOKMARK



## *Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland*

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### Potpourri

Just a bit late with *Bookmark* this month—end-January rather than the first week—but please let me use the holidays as my excuse! I had a wonderful Christmas with my son and his family in Atlanta; even hung around for New Year’s Day and the weekend beyond. I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year every day during 2015!

In the last issue I asked a question: What do these words have in common? *Banana, Dresser, Grammar, Potato, Revive, Uneven, Assess*. Here’s the answer: Move the first letter to the end, and you have the same word spelled backwards!

Now a request. If you have enjoyed my books—any of them—would you please consider posting a review on Amazon? It can be short, just a couple of sentences, or as long as you like. If you’re reluctant to put your name out there, you can post anonymously with a pseudonym. Reviews are very helpful to me (especially the good ones!). They boost my credibility in the writing world and spur me onward. If you need a re-cap, I’ve listed the eight novels on the next page. I do appreciate YOU, my readers!

A lovely quote from Oscar Wilde:  
“With freedom, books, flowers, and the moon, who could not be happy?”

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

Amazon.com  
and other online stores.

### REVIEWS

*Night* (Elie Wiesel, 1958—new translation 2006). This is a nonfiction book by a man who survived the Nazi death camps as a teenager. Since then, he has spent his life speaking out for those who died. Wiesel explores the Holocaust—what it was, and what its legacy might be. Describing his emotions with every step forward, he writes so well that the book reads like a novel, one you won’t want to put down. During his terrible ordeal he questions God: “Where are you?” And he decides, finally, that “God is there in the suffering.” Wiesel was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, has served as Visiting Professor at Yale University, and holds the position of Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University. A remarkable man; an extraordinary book.

*W is for Wasted* (Sue Grafton, 2013). I own Grafton’s entire alphabet collection so far—“A” through “W”—and have looked forward to all of her Kinsey Millhone adventures. This one was a huge disappointment. There is a double plot, following two dead men who can still influence Kinsey’s life. The switching back and forth, boring details and tedious descriptions were so unlike Grafton’s previous novels that I found myself flipping pages just to get to the end. Since I want to complete my collection, I’ll be purchasing books X, Y, and Z as they’re available. Let’s hope Grafton gets back to the smart, punchy style I (and other Grafton fans) have admired over the years!

*Mean Streak* (Sandra Brown, 2014). A female pediatrician and marathon runner disappears on a mountain trail during a training run. She has been injured, and when she awakens, she is being held captive in an isolated cabin by a man who won’t tell her his name. Her husband, with whom she’d recently quarreled, is suspected of having a hand in her disappearance, but how could that be possible, considering the distance from their home to a lonely spot in the mountains of North Carolina? Who is the mystery man? Kept me guessing!

*All the Light We Cannot See* (Anthony Doerr, 2014). This literary novel is very long and must be read slowly because it’s all about the characters, not the plot. Marie-Laure, a blind French girl, and Werner Pfennig, a German orphan, are trying (separately) to survive the devastation of World War II. Their paths eventually cross in occupied France toward the end of the book. Very short chapters are a plus. However, the author moves the story back and forth in time, which is a bit confusing. This book presents a beautiful study of people affected by the war—their thoughts, dreams, actions and reactions. I liked it.

*Sycamore Row* (John Grisham, 2013). If you want to know everything there is to know about court procedure, Grisham gives it to you in 637 pages of detail—none of it boring! A wealthy man dying of lung cancer hangs himself. But before he does, he hand-writes a new will that cuts off his family and leaves everything to his maid. The maid is confused. Why did he do this? The family also wants to know why, and they contest the will. Big court battle, big mess! And a *very* interesting outcome!

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS  
FROM JANET LITHERLAND



*I love to hear from my  
readers!*

Send me an e-mail:  
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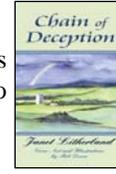
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## JANET'S NOVELS



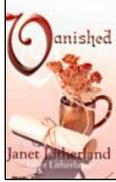
### **Discovery In Time**

A modern woman searches for evidence of a child who disappeared in the 1890s.



### **Chain of Deception**

Family secrets hidden in Ireland for many years are now unearthed.



### **Vanished**

Ben Cason, listed MIA during WWII, may have survived. If so, why did he vanish?



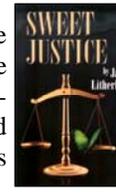
### **Song of the Heart**

Susan Evans travels to Wales and London in search of her first love, a Welshman who disappeared 21 years ago.



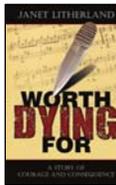
### **The Long Road Home**

As Rachel delves into the past, Mary reaches to the future from the 1800s, hoping to heal a century-old heartache, and their paths cross.



### **Sweet Justice**

A woman receives a letter that lay undiscovered for 35 years, exposing the shameful truth behind her family's fortune.



### **Worth Dying for**

Hannah Rosse, a retired CIA agent, wants to prove the innocence of a close friend. But is he really innocent?



### **Forever...**

### **Is a Long, Long Time**

Sara finds a journal that was hidden for more than a century. It will change the course of her life!

## Language

Do you know what hirsute means? Covered with hair. Hmmm.

According to the Huffington Post, many of the words in Webster's 1828 dictionary are now obscure. Here are four: cyclopede (the circle of human knowledge); obambulate (to walk about); vernate (to become young again); and packthread (a strong twine for wrapping packages). Actually, packthread appears in my current Webster's, but I've never heard anyone use it.

Something that bugs me—and I see it often in print—is the use of impossible verbs. Examples: “I love my new dress,” she smiled. “You, too, can feel empowered,” beams Anne. *You cannot “smile” or “beam” a sentence!* Correction: “I love my new dress,” she said with a smile. “You, too, can feel empowered,” Anne says, her face beaming with encouragement.

A few parapsydokians (look it up) for your pleasure: \*If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong. \*Some people cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go. \*I didn't say it was your fault; I said I was blaming you.

**Read back issues of *Bookmark* online at: [www.janetlitherland.com/newsletter.htm](http://www.janetlitherland.com/newsletter.htm)**



**Bookmark**  
Janet's Book News

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

*Deserves to Die* (Lisa Jackson, 2014) ★★★★★

*The Target* (David Baldacci, 2014) ★★★★★

*The Dead Will Tell* (Linda Castillo, 2014) ★★★★★

Janet Litherland, author of 10 nonfiction books and eight 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](http://www.writechoiceservices.com).