

BOOKMARK



Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland

Volume 13 • Issue 1
January 2018

Potpourri

This issue begins the 13th year of *Bookmark*. I have toyed with the idea of giving it up altogether, but many of you have encouraged me to keep going. I get lots of comments about the language column, and many say, “Keep the reviews coming.” Okay, we’ll give it another year. I’m also considering giving up writing. Last year I started my ninth novel—wrote the Prologue and first chapter—and stopped. That novel takes a ride down old Route 66. I don’t have “writer’s block.” I’m just tired. My sister, who lives near the end of Route 66, wants me to finish it. Maybe I should. Maybe I will. I’m still thinking

I had a wonderful Thanksgiving **month!** First, my sister arrived from Arizona. Then, for a special treat, her two daughters joined us from New York for a fun-filled weekend. Next, my son and his wife appeared; then my other son arrived. It was wonderful seeing my two “boys” toss a football back and forth! So much to be thankful for. Christmas with my son and daughter-in-law in North Georgia was very special. Their two kids (all grown up now) joined us for a wonderful holiday celebration. It was truly a Merry Christmas!

Now, I wish all of you, dear readers, a very Happy New Year!

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

Amazon.com
and other online stores.

REVIEWS

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” —Jane Goodall

NONFICTION: *The Magnolia Story* (Chip and Joana Gaines, 2016). For all of you out there who love watching *Fixer Upper* on HGTV—you will be absolutely enthralled by this book. Not only is it the story of Magnolia, the business, it’s the story of Chip and Joanna’s lives, complete with color photos. I like the way it’s structured. Joanna “talks,” then Chip talks back (to her and to us). It’s like you’re there in the room with them, sharing their experiences. Great book!

The Bookshop at Water’s End (Patti Callahan Henry, 2017). A woman in her early fifties reunites with a childhood friend from a small South Carolina town. Along with Mimi, the bookshop owner, they try to untangle buried secrets, including a long-ago disappearance and lost loves. The story also explores the power of forgiveness and the power of books to change lives. A slow but enjoyable trek through time.

Don’t Let Go (Harlan Coben, 2017). I really like Coben’s thrillers—all with wonderful plots and characters. This one has all of the elements of suspense; however, it was confusing, because the narrator kept “talking” with his deceased twin brother, which made it difficult (for me) to follow the storyline: His brother had been found dead on the railroad tracks, but why had he been there? What was the real reason behind his death? Hmmm.

The Midnight Line (Lee Child, 2017). This is another excellent novel in the author’s Jack Reacher series. Reacher, while strolling through a small town, sees a 2005 West Point class ring in a pawn shop window. A West Point grad himself, he wonders why the ring is there. West Point rings are earned over four hard years. This one is tiny, a woman’s ring, and her initials are engraved inside. He decides to find her and return the ring. The long journey pits him against dangerous criminals in the Wyoming wilderness. Turns out, the woman he seeks is a Purple Heart recipient with a facial wound. How did that happen? What other problems does she have? Can Reacher help her solve them?

Hardcore Twenty-Four (Janet Evanovich, 2017). This is the latest entry in the author’s “numbered” series that began back in 1999. I have enjoyed the entire collection—until now. Stephanie Plum is a bounty hunter whose escapades have always been hard-to-put-down, funny, and a bit naughty. This time, however, I was truly bored. The plot, which involves make-believe zombies—yes zombies!—(too many of them) actually dragged, and the naughty scenes (too many of them also) were more than a “bit” naughty. I’m sad to report that this series, which I’ve enjoyed over the years, has come to an end for me.

BODY - MIND - SPIRIT

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS
FROM JANET LITHERLAND



*I love to hear from my
readers!*

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BOOKMARK ON THE WEB!
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The YMCA has a logo containing the above three words. Those words are very important to me and should be important to everyone. Good health in each area is crucial to a happy, fulfilled life.

We *must* take care of our bodies. Attending the AIM (Adults In Motion) class three times a week at my local YMCA for the past 15 years has kept me healthy—physically (the activity), mentally (having to *think* about what I’m doing), and spiritually (social and prayerful interaction with friends and acquaintances). Being a Christian organization, the YMCA’s logo, of course, comes from scripture—I Thessalonians 5:23: “I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless until the coming of our Lord.”

Walking is a wonderful, healthy activity, even if it’s just circling your yard or your block, or your living room! To keep the brain sharp, AARP suggests crossword puzzles and other pencil-and-paper games. I also like “Word Finds” and especially “Bent and Wigglys,” which are more difficult. For the spirit, prayer and meditation work wonders. Try walking in nature with stops to bask in its beauty and to express thanks.

Stay healthy! Stay happy! Remember, “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.” (Proverbs 17:22)

Language

Ever been to the Caribbean? How do you pronounce **Caribbean**? kara-BE-en, or ka-RIB-ean? The preferred is kara-BE-en. Natives of the area pronounce it that way!

Now that the spooky season is over, I can fuss about the pronunciation of Halloween. The word is short for “All Hallows Eve,”—the eve of All Saints’ Day, when children collect treats or play pranks. **Halloween**. For me, saying “**Holloween**” just doesn’t get it.

Have you ever read an **incunabulum** book? I have not. It’s one that was printed before 1501.

Interesting word: **Wherewithal**. First used in the year 1534, it combines “where” and “withal,” an obscure word that meant “by means of which.” Now, wherewithal refers to money or resources. I do not have the wherewithal to purchase a new Bugatti Chiron! Don’t know what that is? Look it up.

Recently read this in a British publication: “I hied me in a fiacre to the gendarmerie.” Translation: “I hurried to the police station in a hired coach.”

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!

Unintended Consequences (Stuart Woods, 2013) ★★

An Expert in Murder (Nicola Upson, 2008) ★

Bomb Shell (Catherine Coulter, 2013) ★★★

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.