

BOOKMARK



Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland

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REVIEWS

Potpourri

Just about a year ago I joined a bowling team. Yes, bowling. Yes, ME! We bowl once a week, and I really look forward to it. Good fun, good exercise, and good people to be with. This is in addition to my three-times-weekly aerobics class, AIM (Adults In Motion). I hope you—my readers—are getting some form of exercise (other than flipping the pages of a book!). It's uplifting. Good for body, mind, and spirit.

The "Keenagers" from my church (of which I am one) recently attended the Peach State Summer Theater production of one of my favorite musicals, *My Fair Lady*. What a wonderful evening! The show was beautiful to watch, and I truly enjoyed listening to the music. Next month we'll be going to see *Forever Plaid*, which showcases music from the 1950s—my era! Good music and good friends, a special treat. (By now you've guessed that a Keenager is an active older person!)

"When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young." —Maya Angelou

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

Amazon.com
and other online stores.

"Imagination is the highest kite one can fly." —Lauren Bacall

Vendetta (Lisa Harris, 2015). This one held my attention all the way through but let me down at the end. Special Agent Nikki Boyd was determined to find her sister, who vanished 10 years ago. She solved other missing persons cases—very exciting "solves"—but never found her sister. Can't recommend this one.

The Wrong Side of Goodbye (Michael Connelly, 2016). This is a nail-biter with two plot lines. Harry Bosch, a former detective is now a private investigator. He is hired by a reclusive billionaire who is nearing the end of his life and wants to know if he has an heir. When he was very young, he had an affair and the girl became pregnant—but she disappeared. Did she have the baby? If so, what became of it? He wants his estate to go to the child, if it exists, but other people want to cash in too! Bosch also volunteers to help a tiny police department track a serial rapist who is evasive and dangerous.

Private: Gold (James Patterson with Jassy Mackenzie, 2017). Patterson's PRIVATE series follows an investigation firm with offices around the world. All of these books are written "with" someone else. This one is a "Book Shot," which is what he calls his very short (fewer than 150 pages) novels that are "story-driven, no fluff." In October of last year I reviewed two of them in this newsletter—I liked them both. Not this time, however. This one has plenty of fluff, which bored me into yawning..... Can't recommend it.

Growing Up Only (Emily Pritchard Cary, 2017). This is a captivating memoir by a woman who grew up "only"—as an only child—during the Great Depression and WWII. Prior to the stock market crash in 1929, large households were the norm; however, with the huge economic downturn, more families opted for having a single child. The patriotism inspired by WWII gave hope that circumstances could, and would, be better. The author documents life in the 1930s and 1940s with amazing insight and detail. In her own words, "While I was growing up, my parents' worries about finances, illnesses, and deaths of loved ones, coupled with their devotion to God, country, and their fellow man, despite unwelcome personal trials, set the standards I grew to expect of myself." The text is enhanced along the way with engaging family photos. If you have an interest in this period of our history (as I do), this is a book to savor!

Over the past 12 years we've explored the works of many authors in these pages. Some of my favorites: Ian Rankin, Peter Lovesey, J.A. Jance, Kate Morton, Michael Connelly, John Hart, Anne Perry, and ... Janet Litherland! ☺

Elizabeth Cochran (or Cochrane) aka Nellie Bly

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS
FROM JANET LITHERLAND



*I love to hear from my
readers!*

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Nellie Bly—a *classmate*? Uh ... no. Though we attended the same college, she was 80 years ahead of me! We both walked the floors of John Sutton Hall, but back in 1879 my alma mater was called Indiana Normal School, which defined it as a teacher-training institution. Later it became Indiana State Teachers College, then Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), from which I graduated in 1960. Unfortunately, Nellie—then known by her given name, Elizabeth Cochrane (she added the “e” to Cochran because it seemed more dignified)—dropped out after one semester for financial reasons. Ten years later, as a reporter for the *New York World* and using the pen name, “Nellie Bly,” she became famous writing about tough issues such as politics, corruption, sweatshops, and women’s suffrage. Then one day she had a totally different idea. As an admirer of Jules Verne’s novel, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, why not circle the globe herself and *beat* the fictional record set by Phileas Fogg? Her publisher, Joseph Pulitzer, told her to go for it—and she did! When she returned, she wrote a book about her great adventure. *Around the World in Seventy-Two Days* became a best-seller and even earned her a congratulatory telegram from Jules Verne!

(Many thanks to my IUP Magazine for reminding me of this wonderful story.)

Did you know? Edgar Allen Poe died in Baltimore, where his famous poem, *The Raven*, was so revered that the city of Baltimore named their football team after it. Yes, the Baltimore Ravens!

Language

An odd word: *Comeuppance*. We all know what it means—a justly deserved punishment. But how did it originate? The Oxford English Dictionary suggests that *comeuppance*, first appearing in the mid-nineteenth century, originally meant to “come up” before a judge or court. Yes, he’ll get his comeuppance! Makes sense to me.

Here are two more. These were suggested by Wynn in Tallahassee: *Brobdingnagian*. It means enormous. The word comes from Brobdingnag, a country of giants in Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. And, *ineluctable*, meaning impossible to avoid or evade; inevitable.

A big bug for me is the use of “like,” as in: *I was, like, no!* For me, it’s: *I said no!*

Association. Do you pronounce it asso-see-ation? Or asso-shee-ation? (The first is preferred.)

This parapsydokian was sent to me by Debbie in Thomasville: “To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.” (Yes, it’s a *parapsydokian*! Look it up.)

Overheard on a street corner: “I usually always miss it.” Okaaaaay.

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



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Janet’s Book News

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

Twilight at Blueberry Barrens (Colleen Coble, 2016) ★★★★★

Night School (Lee Child, 2016) ★★★★★

A Great Reckoning (Louise Penny, 2016) ★★★★★

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.