



BOOKMARK



Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland

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MY NEW NOVEL — JUST RELEASED!

Potpourri

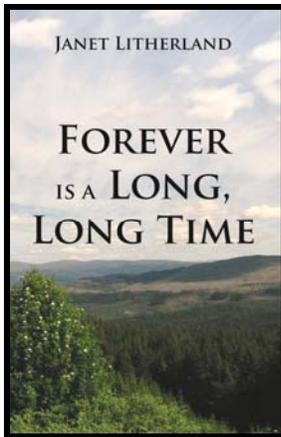
Last month, the Thomas County Public Library and The Bookshelf in Thomasville, Georgia, co-hosted a “Reader meet Writer” event. Twenty-two regional authors each presented their latest work to a full house of interested readers. The catch? We (yes, I was one of the presenters) were given just three minutes to talk before being cut off by the dreaded “gong”! We learned that a lot can be said in three minutes! I presented my new Scotland novel, *Forever Is a Long, Long Time*, profiled in the adjacent column. It was great fun and the audience was wonderful. They must have liked what they heard, because a lot of books were sold, not only mine but those of the other authors as well. Great event!

Besides reading, what do you do to keep your brain sharp? Some of my favorites—jigsaw puzzles, crosswords, Wordfinds, and the extremely challenging Bent & Wigglys (Kappa puzzle books). I don’t do Sudokus because numbers make me crazy. I like words!

Okay, so what do these words have in common? Banana, Dresser, Grammar, Potato, Revive, Uneven, Assess. Just testing your brain! (Answer will appear in the next *Bookmark*.)

Janet Litherland’s books are available at:

Amazon.com
and other online stores.



This book was inspired by a recent trip to the Scottish Highlands. I snapped the cover photo along the “A87” on the way to the Isle of Skye, after leaving Loch Ness (sorry, no sighting of the monster). The scenery was some of the most beautiful I’d ever experienced—the lakes of Glen Garry, the Five Sisters mountain range—what a peaceful pleasure! For my “Forever” story, I settled on the area in and around the town of Oban, farther south. It seemed the perfect place for both history and mystery—active in the 1800s and still active and charming today. Oban holds enchantment for both of my heroines—Seona Blair in the far-distant past, and Sara Brady in the present. When Sara finds Seona’s hidden journal and packet of letters, she is drawn into a life frighteningly similar to her own. Inspired by Seona’s courage and determination, Sara decides to solve the mystery of her own fiancé’s disappearance twenty years ago. She will no longer accept “forever.” It’s just too long! I hope you enjoy reading *Forever Is a Long, Long Time* as much as I enjoyed researching and writing it! This novel will be available on Amazon as a paperback and as an e-book within a few days/weeks.

REVIEWS

The Girl Who Came Home (Hazel Gaynor, 2014). THE BEST BOOK I’VE READ THIS YEAR! I love novels that blend fact, especially *historical* fact, with fiction. This one was inspired by the true story of 14 people from a small village in Ireland who sailed on *Titanic* to find a better life in America. We all know what happened to *Titanic*. Set in 1910 and 1982, the story of 17-year-old Maggie Murphy and her friends captured my attention and my heart. Maggie, one of the few survivors, vows never to speak of the horrific experience, nor of the sweetheart she left behind in Ireland. But 70 years later, she decides to share her story with her great-granddaughter, a decision that leads in an unexpected direction—to reunions with those thought lost long ago. Beautiful story!

Skinny Dip (Carl Hiaasen, 2004). Chaz Perrone is a marine biologist who makes money the wrong way—covering for a business that illegally dumps fertilizer into the Florida Everglades. When he thinks his wife, Joey, is onto his scam, he takes her on a romantic cruise and pushes her overboard at night. What he doesn’t know is that she does not die. An expert swimmer, she survives until rescued by Mick Stranahan, a former cop. Joey decides to stay “dead,” and she and Mick devise ways to toy with Chaz, turning him into a paranoid crazy man. Interesting and funny.

MORE REVIEWS

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS
FROM JANET LITHERLAND



*I love to hear from my
readers!*

Send me an e-mail:
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Deceived (Randy Wayne White, 2013). This excellent novel was written by an author I had never heard of (I'm ashamed to say), though he has written 36 books, including 20 "Doc Ford" novels. *Deceived* is the second book in his new series featuring Hannah Smith, a fishing guide and part-time private investigator. The setting is in and around Sanibel Island, Florida, where the author actually lives and works. This "in" gives the story's background a wonderful ring of authenticity. Hannah discovers that her elderly neighbors are the victims of a scam so intricate and powerful that an entire community could be wiped out. She will not let that happen! I enjoyed this book.

Mistress (James Patterson & David Ellis, 2013). This is, without a doubt, the most *annoying* book I've ever read. Clearly, the only thing Patterson had to do with this is loan his name to the cover. The story's narrator, Ben Casper, spends too much time (and wastes mine) quoting lines from movies and reciting Presidential trivia, losing the plot line in the process. Picture this: Ben is riding a *bicycle*, chased by men in a black SUV who are *shooting* at him, and he's telling us—the readers—about Natalie Portman in *Closer* and Jessica Alba in *Sin City*! Distracting, annoying, and stupid!

Storm Front (John Sandford, 2013). Sandford, author of 25 "Prey" novels, also writes two other series—"Kidd" novels and "Virgil Flowers" novels—all in the thriller genre. In this one, Flowers is chasing an ancient relic stolen from an archeological dig in Israel. He has to deal not only with bad guys, but also bad gals—lots of them—from both sides of the Atlantic. Sometimes confusing, but always fascinating.

Check out the [three excellent books](#) in the Ratings section below!

*I recently found this poem, which I wrote 40 years ago
on an old Royal typewriter. The memory made me smile.*

My little corner has mountains and trees,
White fluffy clouds and blue grass.
It has lizards and rocks and tobacco fields,
And lakes as clear as glass.

Wish you could see it as I see it now,
Feel Life Itself in the air.
Experience my corner—I give it to you,
To live, to love, to share.

What's in your corner so different from mine?
Skyscrapers, lights and a train?
They are beautiful, too, if treated with love.
There's joy in sounds and rain.

Care for your corner and share it a bit,
Treat it with kindness and love.
We're keepers of Earth; it's entrusted to us
By God in Heav'n above.

Language

It has been said that the vowels missing from the Welsh language were sent to Hawaii by mistake. Nevertheless, *mae Cymru yn wlad brydferth!* (Wales is a beautiful country!) *Cymru* = Wales

English can be confusing to foreign visitors, especially when we have such things as "noses that run" and "feet that smell."

Do you know what *gloaming* is? "As I sat alone in the gloaming ..."
I'll let you look it up!

How about *prodigality*? Okay, it's extreme wastefulness.

Seen in a magazine: "Burglarious intent" (planning to burglarize) Duh.

From the Internet via Scott in Tallahassee: Shortest distance between two jokes = a straight line. Get it?

**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!

Stay Close (Harlan Coben, 2012) ★★★★★

Touch & Go (Lisa Gardner, 2013) ★★★★★

Accused (Lisa Scottoline, 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.