

BOOKMARK



Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland

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Potpourri

Book-to-Movie: *The Lincoln Lawyer* was originally a book by Michael Connelly (2005). I liked the new movie version, because it is true to the book. Mickey Haller (Matthew McConaughey) is a seedy lawyer, operating out of the back seat of his old Lincoln. He's a scoundrel who negotiates and manipulates, but you can't help liking him, especially when he finally achieves justice.

Stage Production-to-Movie: *Mamma Mia!* was originally a stage musical performed in London's West End (1999). Last month I had the privilege of seeing the Broadway touring company's production and I loved it! The singing/dancing was incredible! In 2008 that show (music by ABBA) was adapted to film, which I also saw. The movie was good, but the live stage show, was spectacular!

Recently, The Bookshelf in Thomasville, GA, hosted a successful book-signing for my newest novel, *The Long Road Home*. I deeply appreciate all of the folks who took time to stop by and chat a while. It was an enjoyable day!

Did you know? Edgar Allan Poe was expelled from West Point for "gross neglect of duty" and "disobedience."

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

Amazon.com
and other online stores.

Reviews

The Enemy (Lee Child, 2004). This is a prequel to *The Killing Floor*, the first of 15 novels in the author's Jack Reacher series. If you've never read a Reacher book, this would be a good place to start. And, once you start, I guarantee you'll read all 15! Reacher is an elite military cop and a loner—tough, honest, caring, and fair, everything you'd want in a hero. Lots of action and suspense. Couldn't put it down!

Vermilion Drift (William Kent Krueger, 2010). This author has written several books and won numerous awards, but this is the first of his that I've read. I liked it very much. Not only has he created a fascinating plot, he's peopled it with characters a reader can actually care about. The hero is Cork O'Connor, a retired sheriff who is hired as a security consultant by owners of a mine where people are protesting. On his first day, Cork stumbles onto a secret room containing 50-year-old skeletons of murder victims. Set in Minnesota, this novel provides an endearing portrayal of the Ojibwe Indians (Chippewa).

The Winter Sea (Susanna Kearsley, 2008, 2010). If you like history, particularly Scottish history, and if you're a romantic at heart, you'll like this book. But I must stress—you have to enjoy history. Otherwise, you might get bogged down before you reach the end, which is page 527! Yes, it's long, but I was captivated throughout. Two stories run simultaneously, one in the present and one in the 1700s; and, they are connected. This is not a "beach read," but it is definitely a "curl up with a cup of tea" kind of novel.

The Last Surgeon (Michael Palmer, 2010). Between the pages of this book lurks the coldest, cruelest, meanest villain I've ever encountered in fiction. A doctor, trying to find his best friend who disappeared four years ago, stumbles onto a murder-for-hire scheme that is as complicated as it is frightening!

In the Company of Others (Jan Karon, 2010). This is the latest offering in Karon's Father Tim Kavanaugh (Episcopal priest) series. This time, he and his wife, Cynthia, leave Mitford and travel to Ireland for vacation and a look at the land of his ancestors. I always enjoy Karon's familiar characters and easy pace—*except*, this time the author gets swept up in Irish dialect and old journals to the point of boredom. I found myself flipping pages, wondering what happened to the *story*! It all comes together, eventually. Finally. *Whew!*

Deception (Jonathan Kellerman, 2010). Kellerman has written many novels, including his highly acclaimed Dr. Alex Delaware psychological thriller books—25 of them. A teacher is murdered at a fancy prep school where nothing bad ever happens. You believe that? "Deception" is an apt title for this Delaware book because the characters practice it from beginning to end, keeping the reader (me) wondering, guessing, and carefully turning (not flipping) the pages!

Inspiration

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS FROM
JANET LITHERLAND



I love to hear from my readers!

Send me an e-mail:
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WWW.JANETLITHERLAND.COM

From *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff... and It's All Small Stuff* (Dr. Richard Carlson)

- Read articles and books with entirely different points of view from your own, and try to learn something.
- Be grateful when you're feeling good and graceful when you're feeling bad.
- Think of your problems as potential teachers.
- Cut yourself some slack.
- If someone throws you the ball, you don't have to catch it.

From *The Purpose-Driven Life* (Rick Warren): "The best use of life is love. The best expression of love is time. The best time to love is now. ... Why is now the best time to express love? Because you don't know how long you will have the opportunity."

Have you written your memoir? It's time. Do it for *yourself*, and you will enjoy the process. Do it for future generations, and they will enjoy reading it—they will appreciate *you*! Find help in the following back issues of *Bookmark* online at:

www.janetlitherland.com/newsletter

- July 2006
- October 2007
- April 2008
- April 2010

Language: What's Bugging You?

Does *anyone* know the difference between a podium and a lectern? Once again, in a television report, someone "stepped up to the podium" to deliver a speech. I'm glad he didn't place his notes on the podium. If so, he would not have been able to see them—they would have been at his feet! A podium is a platform. A speaker steps **ONTO** it and places his notes on the *lectern*. Yes, that careless mix-up bugs me!

Last month I saw a very nice, attractively designed newspaper ad introducing a professional person's move to a new business. Only one thing wrong with it: It stated she was "formally with (previous place of employment)." *Formally*? In an evening gown, maybe?

Ever hear people repeat something and say "quote, unquote"? *News flash*: Once it's quoted, it can't be unquoted. Rather say, "quote, end quote."

Another bug: "He is a friend of my father's." My father's what? Dog? Cat? Technically, the possessive form is redundant because possession has been indicated by *of*. "He is a friend of my father." Exception: If the object is a pronoun, the redundancy is inescapable. "He is a friend of mine." I prefer, "He is my friend."

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!

Live to Tell (Lisa Gardner, 2010) ★★★

The Presence (Heather Graham, 2004) = **Do you see any stars here? No, not even one!**

Without Mercy (Lisa Jackson, 2010) ★★★

Janet Litherland, author of 10 nonfiction books and five 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.