



# BOOKMARK



## *Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland*

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### REVIEWS

#### Potpourri

St. Patrick's Day marks one of my favorite celebrations. My mother's family (O'Sullivan) came to America from Ireland in the mid-1800s. In 2004, I was privileged to go to County Cork and visit the old homestead. All that remains are ruins, but I stood there on the property, looking around, and shed a few tears. I also went inside the church my great-grandmother attended and sat for a few minutes on one of the straight-back wooden pews. What a wonderful experience! Now, on St. Patrick's Day, I remember and am grateful that my family emigrated safely. This year, as every year, I dressed in my favorite color—green—lots of it!

I am fortunate to live in a small town with a wonderful book store and library that jointly present special events. In March, the "special" was *Reader Meet Writer*, which offered 10 authors from around the region—some multi-published and some first-timers. Each author gave a brief overview of his/her book. Then the attendees were invited to meet the authors and discuss their works. Of course, books were also offered for sale. At a previous *Reader Meet Writer* (a few years ago) I was a featured author, but this time I was there as an attendee, and I enjoyed it very much!

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

Amazon.com  
and other online stores.

*"Life's like a movie. Write your own ending. Keep Believing!"* —Jim Henson

*American Heiress* (Jeffrey Toobin, 2016). Nonfiction. Billed as "The Wild Saga of the Kidnapping, Crimes and Trial of Patty Hearst," this subject has interested me for many years, ever since Hearst's kidnapping in 1974 by the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA). Her wealthy family tried in vain to secure her release; and, in the meantime, Patty joined her SLA captors, took the name of "Tania" and began her new adventure by wielding a machine gun during a robbery. From there, her involvement escalated, and she spent the next year running from authorities. What caused the change in her? Subsequently, what became of her? These questions and more are answered in this detailed and thoroughly documented report. The book also includes interesting photos.

*Thin Ice* (Irene Hannon, 2015). This is Book 2 in the author's "Men of Valor" series. Christy Reed's parents die in a terrible car accident. Then her sister dies in a house fire. Grieving, Christy receives a note in the mail, claiming her sister is still alive—and the envelope is addressed in her sister's handwriting! FBI Special Agent Lance McGregor is assigned to re-open the case. Lots of twists and turns in this one, plus a bit of romance. Some references to prayer and trusting in God make this a Christian novel, but it is never "preachy." I liked it!

*A World of Deception* (Bill Raiford, 2012). Sub-titled "The Memoirs of 'Philipp Devon,'" this novel of intrigue and adventure follows a secret agent as he searches for killers, counterfeiters, and drug smugglers across several countries including many exotic locations. Arlene, the love of his life, also an agent, is killed along with Francisco, Count de Bollo, a fellow agent. Philipp ("with a double p at the end") is determined to find their killers, even as he progresses with work assigned to him by the Agency. This is an excellent book with a rare peek into the real lives and missions of secret agents, from an author who's been there and knows what he's talking about. Very interesting!

*Sight Unseen* (Iris Johansen and Roy Johansen, 2014). Kendra Michaels, blind from birth, has received experimental surgery that gave her sight. Because her other senses were highly developed while blind, law enforcement makes good use of her powers of perception. In *Sight Unseen*, Kendra realizes that a traffic "accident" is really a murder scene. She quickly alerts police before crucial evidence can be destroyed. The plot swings into high gear as the police, with Kendra's help, search for a copy-cat killer. Iris Johansen is the author of many novels. Roy Johansen, her son, is also a prolific author of mysteries. Good book!

## F. SCOTT FITZGERALD, author of *The Great Gatsby*

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS  
FROM JANET LITHERLAND



*I love to hear from my  
readers!*

Send me an e-mail:  
janet@janetlitherland.com

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WWW.JANETLITHERLAND.COM

A few weeks ago my son, Mark, and daughter-in-law, Peggy, visited the Fitzgerald Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. It is located in the last home still in existence, where the Fitzgeralds lived as a family. Mark and Peggy found it very interesting, and I am passing on to you Peggy's notes and impressions which I, too, found very interesting!

"The Fitzgeralds were not rich. They had come from money but lived life as gypsies, never living anywhere more than months at a time. What I found more interesting was their relationship. It is almost like they were in competition with each other, writing thinly veiled life stories (of their own lives) as *novels*. Zelda was also a painter. Art Deco. Sadly, Zelda suffered from mental illness and Scott was an alcoholic which, ultimately, took a toll on their marriage. Scott died of a heart attack (1940), and Zelda died in a mental hospital (1948). Their only daughter, Scottie, made it her life's work to have her parents remembered."

F. Scott Fitzgerald's first novel, *This Side of Paradise*, was published in 1920.

Other novels:

*The Beautiful and the Damned*, 1922.

*The Great Gatsby*, 1925.

*Tender Is the Night*, 1934.

*The Last Tycoon*, 1941 (published posthumously).

In 1922 his short story, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, was published. In 2008 it became a movie starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett.

## Language

"Jan-u-ary, Feb-u-ary, June and July!" Yes, the old jingle got it wrong! It's **Febru**ary. Do you pronounce it correctly?

Here's another one: Homage. It's *hom'-ij*, not the fancy *oh-mahzh*. Means special honor or respect.

This bugs me: *I will try and remember. Please try and pick it up*. Instead, try to remember. Please try to pick it up!

Some new words for you. (Or, maybe you already know what they mean. I had to look them up!) Have fun: morganatic, prestidigitator, pusillanimous, comestible.

Remember when I fussed about people who begin their comments with "So ...."? Well, it's even worse now. Just turn on the TV and you'll hear it happen over and over. So... what's wrong with that? Nothing. It's just irritating!

When quoting someone, do you ever say "Quote, unquote"? It should be: "Quote, end quote." Don't unquote them!

**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!

*The Forgotten Room* (White, Williams & Willig, 2016) ★★★ (Confusing Layout)

*Devil's Bridge* (Linda Fairstein, 2016) ★ (Boring)

*The Secret Life of Bees* (Sue Monk Kidd, 2002) ★★★★★

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).