

BOOKMARK



Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland

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REVIEWS

Potpourri

NOTE: If you have been sending email to janet@janetlitherland.com, I may not have received it. That address doesn't always work, and we can't get it fixed. So, please change to jlith@mchsi.com. It always works!

Last month I was privileged to attend an excellent high school production of *Oklahoma!* Yes, I said excellent; and, yes, it was high school. Those teenagers performed like professionals—singing and dancing. I know, because waaaaay back in the day, I was a professional performer, and one of the productions I took part in was *Oklahoma!* Ah, the memories: *The Music Man*, *Gypsy*, *Brigadoon*, *Showboat*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and others. My favorite “job” was playing Ann Rutledge in *Young Abe Lincoln* with the New York touring company. I was in my early twenties—just a kid. Good memories!

A bit of wisdom: Don't depend on other people to make you happy. You are responsible for your own happiness. Don't “have a good day.” Instead, *make* it a good day! One way to do that is to make someone else happy. In turn, you will feel uplifted. Sometimes, all it takes is a smile. Maya Angelou said it best: “Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud.”

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

Amazon.com
and other online stores.

“It's not what you look at that matters; it's what you see.”

—Henry David Thoreau

Deep Freeze (John Sandford, 2017). This is the latest entry in Sandford's Virgil Flowers series. Flowers is an agent with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. In this story a woman is found dead, frozen in a block of ice, and Flowers is searching for the person (or persons) responsible. This is a different twist on the “who done it,” because we (the readers) already know who did it—we were told in the first chapter. Can Virgil Flowers figure it out? Sure he can, but it's interesting to see how he goes about it.

The Whistler (John Grisham, 2016). This story begins with a crooked female judge and efforts by the BJC (Board on Judicial Conduct) to prove her guilt. During the investigation, a slew of co-conspirators are discovered—all who have stolen millions of dollars and committed murder in the process. The lead investigator is Lacy Stolz, a fearless young woman who is following clues left by an unknown “whistler.” Who is the whistle blower? Is he or she being truthful? Is Lacy safe in her pursuit? The setting was familiar to me—Tallahassee, Panama City, the Gulf Coast, even a brief visit to Valdosta, Georgia. I did enjoy this novel, though the *denouement* (the conclusion, where all pieces of the plot come together) dragged on much too long.

Seeing Red (Sandra Brown, 2017). Having not read a Sandra Brown novel in a few years, this new one reminded me of what I really like about her work—and what I really don't like about her work. The story is excellent, a can't put-it-down whodunit about a hotel bombing and a little girl who survived it, thanks to a retired military hero. The girl, now grown, is a respected TV reporter. The hero's son is an ex-ATF agent determined to find out who was responsible for the bombing that killed more than 100 people. That—the plot—is what I liked from start to finish. Excellent! I did not like the gratuitous sex between the TV reporter and the hero's son. Too many scenes, and totally unnecessary. I flipped and flipped those pages without reading, just to get on with the story!

The Other Daughter (Lauren Willig, 2016). Working in France, Rachel Woodley learns that her mother has died in England. When she returns to her childhood home, she discovers among her mother's things a magazine clipping with a photo of her father, who has supposedly been deceased for many years, and his “daughter,” a woman close to Rachel's age. Determined to discover the truth, Rachel takes on a new identity and tracks down her father, learning that he is a British nobleman, and that the woman in the clipping is Rachel's half-sister. I enjoyed going with her, seeing her destroy the web of lies, and come to a satisfactory conclusion. Good book!

QUIET TIME

FICITION AND NONFICTION NEWS
FROM JANET LITHERLAND



*I love to hear from my
readers!*

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In the last issue I discussed the importance of Body, Mind, and Spirit—in staying healthy in each of those areas of life. Now I want to share with you a little book that gets my *spirit* going every morning. It's a collection of daily devotions by Sarah Young, titled *Jesus Calling*. Each one is dated, from January 1 to December 31, and I am on my second journey through the book. Each devotion cites the scriptures on which it is based, and each one speaks to the heart in plain English. For example, here's an excerpt from the April 1 page: "Accept each day just as it comes, and find Me (Jesus) in the midst of it all. Talk with Me about every aspect of your day, including your feelings. Remember that your ultimate goal is not to control or fix everything around you; it is to keep communing with Me." (Proverbs 3:6)

Imagine my surprise when in a recent issue of *First For Women* magazine, featuring TODAY co-host, Kathie Lee Gifford, she referred to the same devotional book as part of what prepares her each morning so that she is, as she says, "ready to do everything else I need to do."

Find something to refresh your spirit each day. Take a "time out." *Quiet* time, that is. You'll be glad you did!

I am grateful to my friend, Fran, who gave me this little book as a Christmas present two years ago. I treasure it.

Language

I picked up a book the other day, turned just past the title page, and saw this: FORWARD. Ouch! Should have been FOREWORD. Yes, the "word" that comes before the text. The introduction.

Did you ever have a matutinal headache? That's one that occurs early in the morning. I sure hope it didn't last all day!

Speaking of "sure"—how do you pronounce that word? Do you say it to rhyme with purr? (I shurr hear that a lot.) Or do you pronounce it as shoor? The latter is correct.

Going to a party. In fact, it's a big GALA. Pronounce it with a long A, not the short one as in "My Gal Sal."

In the line above, I placed the period inside the quotation marks, which is the American way. In Britain it would go outside. Rule: Comma and period go inside quotation marks, and colon and semicolon go outside.

From Wynn in Tallahassee: Since there is no time like the present, he decided it was time to present the present!



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Janet's Book News

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

Two Kinds of Truth (Michael Connelly, 2017) ★★★★★

16th Seduction (James Patterson & Maxine Paetro, 2017) ★★★★★

Look for Me (Lisa Gardner, 2018) ★★★

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.