

# BOOKMARK



## *Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland*

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### Potpourri

Lots of folks attended my “signing” at The Bookshelf in Thomasville, GA, on Nov. 19. It took place during the weekend of the annual “Wildlife Arts Festival,” and I had the pleasure of meeting new people from all over Georgia and North Florida. Thanks to Katie, Scott, and Carrie for hosting! If those of you living outside the area have not yet seen/read *Sweet Justice*, check my website or Amazon.com.

I love reading books! The *real* ones, that is, the kind you hold in your hands and manually turn the pages. There’s nothing more comforting on a cold winter evening than curling up in my favorite chair with a cup of hot tea or cocoa and a *real* book. I do have a Kindle and I like it very much, but for another purpose entirely. On it, I have several collections of short stories. Since I often “lunch out” alone, my Kindle is the perfect companion. I can use my hands for eating and just tap the button on the Kindle when I need to turn a page. It’s nearly impossible to keep a real book open *and* turn the pages while eating! Why short stories? Because one story is just the right length for one meal. And my *real* book is ready to pick up again where I left off. Yes, I like my Kindle; and I love my real books!

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

Amazon.com  
and other online stores.

### Reviews

*An Irish Country Doctor* (Patrick Taylor, 2004). Taylor, a doctor himself, grew up in Northern Ireland (not to be confused with the Republic of Ireland), so this book, set in the 1960s, reflects country life as it was then, when the author was “a very junior doctor.” This is NOT Patrick Taylor’s life story—it’s fiction. A young doctor moves to the country to work with an old country doctor who is both gruff and gentle. The young doc learns many things he was never taught in medical school. The story is rich with Ulster dialect, Irish rationalization, and people who are delightfully stubborn. I liked it!

*The Valcourt Heiress* (Catherine Coulter, 2010). I am a huge fan of Coulter’s FBI series featuring Agents Savich and Sherlock. She also writes historical romance. I bought this book because I wanted to see what it was all about. If you like historical romance, you’ll definitely like this one. It has all the elements of medieval intrigue, with a dashing hero and a mysterious heroine. Personally, I don’t care for the genre. I’ll stick with the FBI series!

*Smokin’ Seventeen* (Janet Evanovich, 2011). In the last issue of *Bookmark*, I gave this author’s *Sizzling Sixteen* two stars out of five, commenting, “Not up to her usual standards.” With this book she’s back to the funny/naughty style that defines her numbered series. *Seventeen* is laugh-out-loud hilarious, thanks to the antics of Grandma Mazur and Lula. However, this book—unlike its predecessors—goes beyond “naughty,” and is much too graphic for my taste. I hope the author tones it down in number Eighteen!

### Books to Movies

Speaking of Evanovich (author referenced above), Her first numbered book, *One for the Money*, is now a movie starring Katherine Heigl as Stephanie Plum. It’s set for release on January 27. I’ve seen the preview and it looks terrific. For those unfamiliar with the series, Stephanie is an amateur bounty hunter who works for her cousin Vinnie. In this book she gets her first assignment—catch Joe Morelli, a former cop running away from a murder charge. Of course he’s not guilty; of course he’s gorgeous, and of course he’s hard to catch. The story is peopled with crazy characters—Stephanie’s parents, her loony grandmother who packs a pistol and loves to attend viewings, and Lula. Well, Lula defies description. I’ll be first in line at the theater!

John Sandford’s *Certain Prey*—the 10<sup>th</sup> of 21 novels in his “Prey” series—became a made-for-TV movie that originally aired in November on USA Network. Mark Harmon is excellent as deputy police chief Lucas Davenport, who pursues two female killers—a lethal assassin and a bloodthirsty lawyer. I’m predicting there will be other “Prey” movies starring Harmon, and *Certain Prey* will no doubt be available in TV re-runs. Watch for it!

## A “Novel” Idea!

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS FROM  
JANET LITHERLAND



I love to hear from my readers!

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*No Rest for the Dead* – the best “book-money” I spent in all of 2011! Who wrote it? They did. And this is NOT an anthology. They are 26 of the best mystery authors in the business, most of whose books I have on my shelves. To name a few: John Lescroart, Diana Gabaldon, Tess Gerritsen and Thomas Cook, with a wonderful intro by another of my favorites, David Baldacci. This is a complete start-to-finish fantastic mystery novel with each author contributing a chapter. What is amazing is that each writer maintains his/her own style, yet the story moves seamlessly from one chapter to the next, as if it were written by one person. And, as Baldacci says in the intro: “There’s not a weak spot in the bunch.”

The premise: A deceitful, ruthless museum curator in San Francisco is murdered, and his decayed body is discovered inside a torture chamber in a museum in Germany. His wife is tried, convicted, and *executed* for the crime. But was she guilty? The detective who originally handled the case has agonized over it during the 10 years since and is now determined to uncover the truth, not only for his own peace of mind but also for the children who never believed their mother killed their father.

The idea for this collaboration was conceived, pulled together, and edited by Andrew F. Gulli and his sister, Lamia J. Gulli, editors of *The Strand Magazine*. I enjoyed reading chapters by some of my favorite authors, but a “plus” was discovering authors unfamiliar to me. Now I want to read more of them, including Andrew F. Gulli who was also a contributor. I read this 252-page novel in two days because it was nearly impossible to put down. Of course, I was on vacation at the time!

## Language: What’s Bugging You?

Pam in Pennsylvania is bugged by the insertion of the word “whole” inside of “another,” as in “It’s *awholenother* story.” Yeah, that bugs me, too. And Scott in Florida is still bugged by misuse of the word *myriad* (see *Bookmark*, October 2011). He recently saw it used incorrectly three times in one newspaper! Where were the editors?

“**Please RSVP**” is incorrect. The letters stand for the French phrase *Répondez s’il vous plaît* (Reply, please). The added “please” is unnecessary.

From a devoted reader: “You know what *megahertz* means? A million aches and pains!”

Speaking of aches and pains, many folks describe a certain ailment by saying that “Arthur” has come to visit, but please don’t spell it Arthritis!

*The Washington Post* “Style” section runs a weekly humor contest about writing (words, sentences, stories). Word Play might call for moving a letter, adding a letter, etc. Here are two word-play winners that I particularly like:

**Giraffiti**—Vandalism spray-painted very, very high. **Sarchasm**—The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn’t get it!

**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!

*Live Wire* (Harlan Coben, 2011) ★★★

*Tough Customer* (Sandra Brown, 2010) ★★★★★

*The Woods* (Harlan Coben, 2007) ★★★★★

Janet Litherland, author of 10 nonfiction books and six 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).