



BOOKMARK



Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland

Volume 9 • Issue 1
January 2014

REVIEWS

Potpourri

Bookmark begins its ninth year this month! Sharing books and thoughts with you, and putting the newsletter together is most enjoyable; but one more year will probably be enough. “Time takes its toll!”

My “escape” reading leans toward mysteries, thrillers, and humorous fiction, so that is chiefly what I review on these pages. I don’t read romance novels or science fiction, so I apologize to those who do, for ignoring your interests; however, I firmly believe there is something for everyone—just READ! That’s what’s important. I do enjoy good nonfiction and, occasionally, a literary novel, if it has a *plot*. In the past few weeks I started reading three novels and discarded each of them before reaching page 50 because they had not yet addressed the promised plot. Descriptions, thoughts, and feelings pounded me with boredom and impatience.

Ever hear of “**Steampunk**” fiction? It combines recent science fiction with a historical period, such as Medieval, Victorian, American West., etc. Imagine cowboys playing with an iPhone in a Wild West saloon, or someone in a space suit bouncing along Victorian London streets. It’s meant to be fun, adventurous, and weird!

Janet Litherland’s books are available at:
Amazon.com
and other online stores.

The Girl Who Disappeared Twice (Andrea Kane, 2011). Two kidnappings and twisted family connections feed this gripping page-turner. When the six-year-old daughter of family court judge Hope Willis goes missing, Hope’s terror from 32 years ago returns with force. Determined to find and rescue Krissy, she hires a team of renegade investigators who skirt the law and also have personal reasons for solving the crime. Though I had it figured out at the halfway mark, I kept reading furiously to see if I was right! (Yes!)

Charley’s Web (Joy Fielding, 2008). This book was so boring that I gave up before the end of Chapter 3! I had anticipated loving it, because I’d really enjoyed Fielding’s *Still Life* (2009), one of the best thrillers I’d ever read. (See my review in the archives, October 2009.) Part of the problem with *Charley’s Web* was that I didn’t like Charley. Beginning on page 1, she was obnoxious. I had no sympathy for her. None.

Evidence of Mercy and *Justifiable Means* (Terri Blackstock). These are the first two novels in Blackstock’s “Sun Coast Chronicles,” written in the late 1990s. They are Christian mysteries that provide exciting plots without smutty scenes and curse words. Blackstock says her books are about “flawed Christians in crisis and God’s provisions for their mistakes and wrong choices.” There are references to faith and scripture, but never does the author “preach” to the reader. A friend loaned me the set, and I’m ready to read number three, *Ulterior Motives*.

The Final Cut (Catherine Coulter, 2013). Talk about a book I couldn’t put down—wow! I breezed right through its 449 pages. I have long enjoyed Coulter’s FBI series starring husband and wife team, Savich and Sherlock. Now she presents a new series hero, Nicholas Drummond of New Scotland Yard; and Savich and Sherlock have been skillfully worked into this story, ensuring a successful launch. New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art is exhibiting Britain’s crown jewels under heavy guard; yet, somehow, the center diamond is stolen from the Queen Mother’s crown by a cunning thief known as The Fox. And the chase is on! Highly recommended.

Notorious Nineteen (Janet Evanovich, 2012). Stephanie Plum, bond enforcer, is back with her collection of zany friends and relatives—Lula who is afraid of “cooties,” gun-toting Grandma Mazur, “hot cop” Joe Morelli, and Ranger who dresses in all black and drives only black vehicles. In this adventure, Stephanie is tracing felons who have disappeared from a hospital after having surgery, and she finds herself in a pile of trouble all her own. I’ve enjoyed all 19 books in this laugh-out-loud series. Number 20 is now available in hardcover, but I’m only collecting the paperbacks. So I’ll wait, not too patiently!

SELF-INDULGENCE: LOOKING BACK

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS
FROM JANET LITHERLAND



*I love to hear from my
readers!*

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It's been 36 years since the publication of my first serious piece of writing. *Fanny, the Fisher's Daughter* (1977) was a musical melodrama that earned one publisher's respect and a contract for a whopping \$150—wow! That was a lot of money back then for a first-time writer, and it gave me the courage to try again, and again, and again. I look back with gratitude for my family, my friends, and my life. Writing makes me happy. I've never shut myself into a room and said to the world, "Go away! I'm writing." I write in bits and pieces, here and there—whenever I'm *not* doing something else. I've never sought "fame and fortune," nor have I acquired either one. I'm not a "serious" writer in that sense.

I'm particularly grateful for my 20-year association with Meriwether Publishing, Ltd., whose executive editor *asked* me to write *The Clown Ministry Handbook* (1982), my first book. Many works later (books, play scripts, musicals), I gave up nonfiction and turned to fiction. I was ready and eager to "make stuff up!" My first novel, *Discovery in Time*, was published in 2003, followed by *Chain of Deception* (2005), *Vanished* (2006), *Song of the Heart* (2008), *The Long Road Home* (2010), *Sweet Justice* (2011), and *Worth Dying For* (2013).

Anything new? Yes, I'm working on one more novel. The "working title" is *Forever*, though that may change. As with my other novels, this one involves two locations and two time periods. *Forever* visits 19th Century Scotland, specifically Oban, near the Isle of Skye. The story is anchored in present-day Georgia, northeast of Atlanta. It's a "search" story—searching for a person, and searching for answers. There will be plenty of history, lots of mystery, and even a bit of romance!

Language Bugs

From Grammarly via listverse.com: OUGH can be pronounced eight different ways. This sentence demonstrates all: "A rough-coated, dough-faced ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough, coughing and hiccoughing thoughtfully." From Janet: I only count seven, since dough-faced and Scarborough sound the same.

Wynn in Tallahassee reminds us that "I could care less" is meaningless. The correct phrase is, "I *couldn't* care less," which means I don't care at all.

The word is *association*. How do you pronounce it? Asso-see-ation OR Asso-shee-ation? Are you correct?

The difference between less and fewer: Less traffic; fewer cars. Less cash; fewer coins. Less food; fewer bites. Bad supermarket sign: "Speedy checkout—10 items or less." Correct: 10 items or fewer. Yea, Thomasville Publix!

Bulletin: A thief who stole a calendar got 12 months!

Another great British word from my *British Heritage* magazine: "Collect maps, brochures, and all the bumph on what's going on!"

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!

The Boys in the B-17 (T/Sgt. James Lee Hutchinson, 2011. Memoir) ★★★★★

The Silent Girl (Tess Gerritsen, 2011) ★★★★★

Gone, But Not Forgotten (Phillip Margolin, 1993) ★★★

Janet Litherland, author of 10 nonfiction books and seven 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.