



BOOKMARK



Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland

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REVIEWS

Potpourri

Hard to believe that *Bookmark* begins its 12th year this month! Can I keep it going to number 13? I'll give it a try!

I hope that the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons were a blessing to each and every one of you. I do feel blessed and take nothing for granted. When someone asked me: "What did you do on Thanksgiving Day?" My reply: "I gave thanks!" Same for Christmas. Thank you, Lord, for giving us Christmas, for Your birth!

RANDOM THOUGHTS

I'm really a creature of habit. Wherever I go—grocery store, book store, restaurant, the gym—I always park in the same place (or very near to it). Hey, I can always find my car! Can you find yours? Speaking of restaurants, I always order the same items from the menu. No sense of culinary adventure. Also, I don't have to worry about whether I'll like the food!

According to a USDA study, a woman's purse should never weigh more than 2.2 pounds!

Did you know that volleyball, invented in 1895, was originally called minnetonette?

Question: Were there dinosaurs on Noah's Ark? Hmmmm.

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

—C.S. Lewis

THE BOOK, A Cover-to-Cover Exploration of the Most Powerful Object of Our Time (Keith Houston, 2016). Nonfiction. For everyone who loves books, this is a book about books, a complete history of how books came into being, evolving through papyrus, parchment and paper, to early writing, printing, binding and illustration. Yes, it's about the invention of the printed word, without which our history would not have been recorded. I learned about molds, machines, wax tablets, and that there's really such a thing as a "bookworm," sort of. Fascinating, but very detailed (331 pages, plus another 61 pages of "notes"). Best read—and savored—in small doses.

No Man's Land (David Baldacci, 2016). This novel follows John Puller (the author's answer to Lee Child's Jack Reacher). Special Agent Puller is a combat veteran and a persistent investigator. When he was just a boy, his mother vanished, and that mystery was never solved. Now, his father—a legendary three-star general, who is sinking into dementia—has been accused of her murder. John Puller doesn't believe it for a minute, and he intends to find out the truth, even after 30 years have passed. Hard to put this one down!

Dreams That Should Have Been (Daniel Gaultney, 2016). This author has published three other novels, most recently, *It Only Took a Look*, which I reviewed in the October 2015 issue of *Bookmark*. He knows that I am not "into" science fiction but that I am curious about time travel. And that's what this book is all about. Jason has agreed to take part in time-travel experiments engineered by one of his friends who is a physics professor. Brief flashes from his past soon turn to alternate versions, which are long, dark, and scary. Scariest of all: Jason may not be able to return to reality! If this is your kind of story, give it a try. Gaultney's well-written book will surely appeal to you.

Silent Night (Mary Higgins Clark, 1995). This is "an oldie but goodie," perfect for the Christmas season (any year). Catherine Dornan and her two young sons travel to New York City, where her husband is having a life-saving operation. To keep the boys from worrying too much, she takes them to see Rockefeller Center's famous Christmas tree. While there, 7-year-old Brian sees someone take his mother's wallet, which holds a precious St. Christopher medal. Since the medal saved his grandfather's life in WWII by stopping a bullet, Brian believes it will also save his father's life. He follows the thief but ends up being kidnapped. Despite the danger and nail-biting suspense, this story is about courage and faith—renewed and rewarded—and is certainly heart-warming.

Janet Litherland's books are available at:

Amazon.com
and other online stores.

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FROM JANET LITHERLAND



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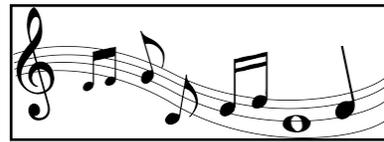
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Ever attempt to read a book while eating lunch alone? Of course you have, and it isn't easy managing a knife, fork and spoon while holding the book open. But it IS easy to turn pages by pushing a button. That's why I have a Kindle. I load it with short-story collections. One story can be completed during one lunch! This is the only reading I do on a "device," because I prefer to hold and enjoy a REAL book when I settle in with a lengthy undertaking. Here are three of my favorite short-story lunch adventures:

The Library Fuzz Megapack by James Holding. The "fuzz" is a detective hired by the library to track down overdue books. Each of his assignments is truly an adventure!

Female Sleuths Megapack by Baroness Orczy. Three Victorian-era women—Amelia Butterworth, Loveday Brooke, and Lady Molly of Scotland Yard—solve mysteries, each in her own way. Engaging and delightful!

Catch and Release by Lawrence Sanders. More mischief from the master of comedy-crime.



If you can read this, thank a music teacher!

Language

Are you one of those people who claim to have a "hot water heater" in the house? Does it do a good job of heating your hot water? Or do you have a "water heater" that makes your water HOT? Think about it!

"Here's the thing..." Yes, this is the new "go to" phrase; and, here's the thing—I'm getting tired of it!

Solipsism: The theory that the self is the only thing that can be known and verified; that the self is the only reality.

"That is the reason why I'm here." "That's the reason why I went to the gallery." WHY is unnecessary. That's the reason I posted these sentences!

Question: Do you "wreak" anything other than havoc?

Did you ever drive your car over the curb? If you were in England at the time, you drove it over the kerb.

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!

A Fine Summer's Day (Charles Todd, 2015) ★★★★★

Home (Harlan Coben, 2016) ★★★★★

Nemesis (Catherine Coulter, 2015) ★★★

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.