

Observation

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS FROM
JANET LITHERLAND



I love to hear from my readers!

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BOOKMARK ON THE WEB!
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We live in a wonderful country. It's beautiful with myriad interesting places to visit, which is why—this time—I chose a scene from the USA for our travel-photo contest on page 1. In addition to being beautiful, our country also is *new*. There are no 500-year-old castles to be seen, even in ruins, nor 400-year-old intertwining rock walls that seem to go nowhere for no reason. There are no pubs that were built in the 1600s still pouring ale for customers, nor ancient cathedrals still offering comfort to parishioners. When I travel abroad, these are the kinds of sights that interest me most—*old* places, older than anything we have in America. In Great Britain, the National Trust protects these old buildings, villages, gardens, and other things of historical significance. This is good. Imagine Bodnant Garden in Wales being destroyed to make room for a multi-level parking garage, or Winston Churchill's beloved home in England chopped into condominiums. I do hope and pray that we Americans will have the foresight to protect our newer places of interest as they age. For those of you who might be curious, here are some websites where you can see a few of my favorite *old* places in Europe, places I've written about in my books:

Conwy Castle, Wales: www.castlewales.com/conwy.html

Bodnant Garden, Wales: www.greatorme.org.uk/Bodnant.html

The Rock of Cashel, Ireland: www.cashel.ie/attractions/rock.htm

Bunratty Castle, Ireland:
www.guide-to-castles-of-europe.com/bunratty-castle.html

Westminster Abbey, London:
www.sacred-destinations.com/england/london-westminster-abbey.htm

Inspiration

Take responsibility for tomorrow and every day from this point on. Don't blame others; don't find excuses; and don't depend on others to give you what you must go out and earn. Seek new answers to old questions. Take new action and never give up. If you don't succeed, take different action. Ask better questions; study consequences; and don't allow anyone or anything to compromise your values or your character. Set the bar high and spend time on those activities that will enrich you, empower you, and enable you to achieve all that you are capable of. Be a hero to yourself and to those you love! (Excerpt from *Inspire*, by Jay Block)

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## Language: What's Bugging You?

"The ATM machine is broken." The letters stand for Automated Teller Machine. The extra machine is redundant.

"He'll soon revert back to his old ways." Back is unnecessary. Should be: "He'll soon revert to his old ways."

"Let's go to the theatre." That spelling is fine in Great Britain. In America we spell it theater.

Often misspelled words: accommodate, category, existence, grateful, maneuver, noticeable, relevant, perseverance.

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**Bookmark**  
Janet's Book News

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

*Long Lost* (Harlen Coben, 2009) ★★★ (Coben usually gets 5 stars; not this time)

*Darling Jim* (Christian Moerk, 2007) ★★★ (Interesting but weird)

*Dead Irish* (John Lescroart, 1989) ★★★ (Trivia: Lescroart is pronounced *less-kwah*)

Janet Litherland, author of 10 nonfiction books and four novels, also is editor emeritus and former owner of Write-Choice Services, Inc., a book-development company that aspiring authors can find at: [www.write-choiceservices.com](http://www.write-choiceservices.com).