

BOOKMARK



Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland

Volume 9 • Issue 3
July 2014

Potpourri

Several of you have asked about my forthcoming novel, now titled, *Forever Is a Long, Long Time*. As I reported in the January issue, this novel involves two locations and two time periods, 19th Century Scotland and present-day Atlanta. It is a “search” story—searching for a person and searching for answers. Here is a short description of the plot:

Sara Brady, intent on reupholstering her newly acquired antique sofa, finds a small bundle of letters and a journal hidden inside the cushions. They were written by Seona Blair in Scotland during the 1800s. How did Seona’s journal and letters end up more than 4,000 miles away, nearly 150 years later? Reading, Sara soon finds the author’s life parallels her own, including references to a lost love. Sara’s love, Jamie, “set her free” twenty years ago—disappearing forever. Believing Seona’s personal papers came to her for a reason, Sara decides that “forever” is just too long. She is determined to find Jamie!

Look for publication details in the October issue of **BOOKMARK**.

~~~

I hope all of you (y’all) are having a wonderful summer! Take time (make time) for family and friends. Enjoy!

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

Amazon.com  
and other online stores.

### REVIEWS

*Daddy’s Gone A Hunting* (Mark Higgins Clark, 2013). This author has written 32 suspense novels, plus other books, during her long career. I had read, and enjoyed, many of her early novels but this new one was the first I’d tried in a long time. Frankly, I was curious. At 86 years of age, does she still have the touch? Oh, yes, she’s got it! An explosion, three murders, a woman in a coma, and a fascinating group of characters kept me reading far into the night. If you like a good, *clean* story, this one’s for you!

*Never Isn’t Long Enough* (F. Diane Pickett, 2014). This is a first novel from a Georgia author, presenting a fascinating view of Southern history through the lives of one Georgia family. The patriarch is a fearsome gospel preacher who “came down from the mountains” following the Civil War. Through his descendants we experience the contrast between life on a rural farm and the enticements of big-city living—automobiles, moving pictures, store-bought clothes and more. This is a *narrative* account—very little dialog. Even so, the story is so well told that I was eager to know the fates of all of the characters. If there’s a soft spot in your heart for the South, you will truly enjoy this book!

*A Circle of Wives* (Alice LaPlante, 2014). If ever there were an *implausible* plot, this book has it. A respected plastic surgeon is married to three different women. One of them knows about the other two, but the others find out only when they read his death notice in a newspaper. How could the general public not suspect? He’s well known, for heaven’s sake! This novel has been described as a “literary character study.” Bored, I found myself *scanning* through to find out who murdered the guy. Very predictable ending.

*Fatal Judgment* (Irene Hannon, 2011). This novel’s genre is “inspirational romantic suspense,” and it meets all three criteria. U.S. Marshal Jake Taylor is assigned to protect Liz Michaels, a federal judge whose sister was mistaken for her and murdered. Jake not only wants to protect Liz but also needs to find her sister’s killer before the man returns to claim his original target. Inevitably, an attraction develops between Jake and Liz. And, there’s prayer involved. Thus, inspirational romantic suspense. It’s a good mix and a very good story.

*The Lightkeeper’s Daughter* (Colleen Coble, 2009). I had never read (or heard of) this author until reading this novel, loaned to me by a friend. I was captivated! Historical fiction, early 1900s, a terrific mystery, and a tiny bit of romance—the old-fashioned kind. For 23 years, Addie Sullivan has lived a quiet life in a lighthouse and its surrounding community. Her father is dead, and her mother is a bitter woman who directs her resentment at Addie. One night a storm brings an injured stranger with a dark secret to her door, insisting she is not Addie Sullivan but Julia Eaton, the long-lost daughter of a wealthy family. Is it true? Where’s the proof? Excellent, well-written novel.

## RELAXATION AND REFLECTION

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS  
FROM JANET LITHERLAND



*I love to hear from my  
readers!*

Send me an e-mail:  
[janet@janetlitherland.com](mailto:janet@janetlitherland.com)

**BOOKMARK ON THE WEB!**  
[WWW.JANETLITHERLAND.COM](http://WWW.JANETLITHERLAND.COM)

A few weeks ago my family took me with them to St. George Island for eight days of sun, sand, sea, and relaxation. What a wonderful time I had—doing absolutely nothing! Well, almost nothing. I don't care much for swimming with the fish or "cooking" in the hot sun; but I do enjoy walking barefoot along the shoreline, or sitting on the beach under an umbrella, sipping on a cold drink and reading, or simply people-watching. One of our nearby neighbors anchored a "ghost kite" and flew it each day (very pretty) and sometimes at night (really spooky!). I did manage to read two excellent books while there—John Sandford's *Silken Prey*, the latest in his Prey series, and Kevin O'Brien's *Tell Me You're Sorry*, a white-knuckle thriller that was perfect for reading while the ghost kite flew overhead! Now I'm home and back to work on my Scotland novel.

Here are two of my favorite photos from Scotland: Urquhart Castle, overlooking Loch Ness, and Eilean Donan Castle sitting on its own little island near the Isle of Skye.



## Language Bugs

Remember "try and" from the last issue of *Bookmark*? Here's another one: "How long do you plan on sleeping?" I prefer: "How long do you plan to sleep?"

Did you know that William Shakespeare created the words **eyeball** and **leapfrog**?

Speaking of Shakespeare: From the last issue's Language column, did you find the 46<sup>th</sup> word from the beginning of the 46<sup>th</sup> Psalm and the 46<sup>th</sup> word from the end of it (not counting Selah, King James Version)? Patty from Georgia was the first one to let me know she found it (him)!

Here are some \$100 words for you to chew on: **Avidity** = Eagerness or excessive desire. **Incentivized** = Provided incentive to. I really like this one: **Bloviating** = Endless talking, pompously.

Confused about whether to use Capital or Capitol? Capital is the city or town serving as seat of government. Capitol is the building in which a state legislature or the U.S. Congress meets.

Heard on the national news: "There were people laying on the sidewalk." Laying what? Eggs?

**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!

*Deadline* (Sandra Brown, 2013) ★★★★★

*Ready to Die* (Lisa Jackson, 2013) ★★★★★

*We'll Always Have Parrots* (Donna Andrews, 2004) ★

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](http://www.writechoiceservices.com).