

# BOOKMARK



## *Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland*

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### REVIEWS

#### Potpourri

Recently in my inbox was a note from Amazon, touting the new Kindle release of *The Circular Staircase* by Mary Roberts Rinehart. Were they kidding?? I rushed to my shelf of antique books, and there it was—with tattered cover and darkly yellowed pages! Copyright, 1908. My copy is the 1941 edition; and, no, I didn't read it in 1941. I've probably owned it for about 35 years. So, I curled up with the book and a cup of tea and began to read (re-read). Good story, but understandably dated—lots of fainting spells; no cell phones; and calling a car the “machine.” Still, I was impressed. A mystery novel, re-released after 107 years!

May 2 was “Independent Bookstore Day” across the country, and our own “indie” bookstore—The Bookshelf in Thomasville, GA—observed the day in grand style. There were many activities and treats for visitors—arts, crafts and cupcakes! And I was there to discuss some of my favorite authors (David Baldacci, Catherine Coulter, Kate Morton). Also signed copies of my own most recent novels: *Worth Dying For*, and *Forever Is a Long, Long Time*. Great fun!

“You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.” (Dr. Seuss)

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

Amazon.com  
and other online stores.

*Killers of the King: The Men Who Dared to Execute Charles I* (Charles Spencer, 2015). —Reviewed by Scott Gifford, Tallahassee, FL. Just finished reading this book by Charles Spencer (Princess Diana's brother). Excellent historical read about the trial and execution of Charles I and the 59 regicides (“king killers”) involved in his trial and execution. But that's just the first part. After the restoration of Charles II a few years later, Spencer details the search and various ends of the regicides over three continents. Wonderful historical detail with all the dirty laundry of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Non-fiction that reads like a political thriller, which, I suppose, it was.

*The Escape* (David Baldacci, 2014). This is the third novel in Baldacci's “John Puller” series. I reviewed the first one, *Zero Day*, in the July 2013 issue of *Bookmark*. Number 2 is *The Forgotten*. All three are excellent thrillers, and I do mean thrillers! Puller is a tough military man and special agent with the Army's Criminal Investigation Division. This time he wants—needs—to clear his older brother who was convicted (wrongly) of treason and has recently escaped from prison. Puller's duty, which he takes very seriously, is to find his brother and take him back to prison. But can he clear him first? I was cheering for him through all 470 pages! Excellent book.

*Gone, but Not Forgotten* (Phillip Margolin, 1993 and re-issued in 2012). Several affluent housewives have disappeared in Oregon. In each case, a black rose and a note, “Gone, but Not Forgotten,” are left behind. Ten years earlier in New York, an identical series of disappearances and clues occurred; but the killer was caught and the case closed. When a police detective from the New York case arrives in Oregon to investigate, she, too, disappears. Did they get it wrong 10 years ago? Is the killer still out there? Or is this a copycat murderer? Fast-paced, spine-chilling read!

*Yehuda's Revenge* (William Shelley Gwynn, 2014). I liked this book very much. The author did an excellent job of turning a memoir into a book that reads like a novel. It was interesting, enlightening (and frightening) to experience first-hand, through Yehuda, the horrors of the Holocaust and learn of the tremendous effort it took to survive. That Yehuda's son requested the book be written makes it even more special.

*Remains of Innocence* (J.A. Jance, 2014). Jance is one of my favorite mystery/suspense authors. Her Investigator J.P. Beaumont series is set in Seattle, and her Sheriff Joanna Brady series is set in Arizona. This one is a Brady novel, and it's a nail-biter with dual story lines. While Sheriff Brady copes with the suspicious death of a beloved disabled man, the local medical examiner is found murdered. Plot twists abound, sending all of Cochise County into shock.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS  
FROM JANET LITHERLAND



*I love to hear from my  
readers!*

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There are many types of thrillers—fast-paced stories with lots of action and suspense. They have heroes (or heroines) who must overcome savvy villains. Here is a partial list with author-examples for your consideration:

- Spy thrillers. Robert Ludlum, Jack Higgins, Ian Fleming.
- Medical thrillers. Robin Cook, Tess Gerritsen, Michael Palmer.
- Forensic thrillers. Kathy Reichs, Patricia Cornwell, Jeffery Deaver.
- Legal thrillers. John Grisham, James Grippando, John Lescroart.
- And just plain thrillers! Harlan Coben, John Hart, Joy Fielding.

Here are three grammar/style books for those who want more:

Newest on the market is *Between You and Me* (Yes, that's correct—not “between you and I.”) by Mary Norris, 2015. The “more” in this book is *entertainment*. It's fun to read, but if you're seeking answers to specific questions, forget it. Chapter 1: “Spelling Is for Weirdos.” Chapter 6: “Who Put the Hyphen in *Moby-Dick*?” (Answer: A copy editor!)

Equally entertaining and perhaps more helpful is *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* by British author, Lynne Truss, 2003. This one zeros in on punctuation. Chapter 2: “That'll Do, Comma.” Chapter 4: “Cutting a Dash.”

Finally, the king of all such books, *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White. It made good sense when first published in 1920 and still makes sense today. Among other topics, it deals with punctuation, form, words, and style. And, it's easy to find what you're looking for ... unless you're looking for entertainment.

## Language

The amanuensis is lazy: A secretary employed to take dictation or copy manuscript.

His rodomontade is annoying: Boastful talk or behavior.

That will be fine for the nonce: For now; or, for the time being.

Felicitate and facilitate: One is to make happy; the other is to make easier. I guess if someone makes your life easier, that would also make you happy!

Yesterday I lost my equilibrium and stumbled. Does that mean I need to have my librium equalized? And then I became discombobulated. I feel better today—I'm all combobulated! (Just kidding!)

Here are a couple of puns from a Tallahassee friend via *Grammarly*: “A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.” “He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.”

**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!

*A String of Beads* (Thomas Perry, 2015) ★ (Don't bother)

*Unbecoming* (Rebecca Scherm, 2015) ★ (Ditto)

*Top Secret Twenty-One* (Janet Evanovich, 2014) ★★

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