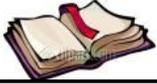


# BOOKMARK



## *Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland*

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### REVIEWS

#### Potpourri

Some very welcome “old” friends visited me recently from Atlanta, Dr. Tim Morrison and his wife, Marta. Tim now owns the business I started back in 1995 in Tallahassee, FL, Write Choice Services, Inc. (I am now *editor emeritus*—no longer active). WCS is a book-development company, also providing professional resumes and other writing services. I first met Tim when I was teaching high school music (yes, *music!*) and he was one of my students in the 1960s! We reconnected in the 1980s when Tim, visiting a book store, recognized my photo on the back of one of my books and gave me a call. By then, he’d married Marta and we, along with my late husband Jerry Litherland, all got together. Tim, an excellent writer and writing coach, has “grown” the company tremendously over the last 20 years. I’m proud of him! Check out: [www.writechoiceservices.com](http://www.writechoiceservices.com)

Did you know that massaging your feet before bedtime will help you get a good night’s sleep?

A much needed word from *Parade Magazine*: **Slippenknickers** (*noun*). Trousers that fail to perform their function, especially in the rear!

**Enjoy your summer!**

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

Amazon.com  
and other online stores.

*“Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.”* —Neale Donald Walsch

*A Chance to Live* (Pieter Kohnstam, 2006). This is a fascinating memoir of the Holocaust, written by the author’s father and presented by the author who, at age six, survived along with his parents after a full year of one terrifying escape after another. In Amsterdam, the Kohnstams had lived in the same apartment building as the Franks—Otto, Edith, Margo, and Anne. Anne Frank was young Pieter’s babysitter. As the war raged and conditions became impossible, the Franks decided to hide, inviting the Kohnstams to join them. Pieter’s family, however, chose to flee, which ultimately saved their lives. The Franks were caught and sent to concentration camps. At that time, no one knew that “The Diary of Anne Frank” would become known throughout the world. This is a can’t-put-it-down memoir, and I highly recommend it!

*The Stranger* (Harlan Coben, 2015). Coben has been one of my favorite authors, but I cannot recommend this novel. It meanders all over and chats on and on about things that don’t feed the plot. I even suspected Coben had written it “with” someone else, as many authors are doing these days—lending their names to often inferior work—but there is no indication that this was the case.

*The Melody Lingers On* (Mary Higgins Clark, 2015). After nearly a half-century of writing novels, this author still has “it”! This book about tracking down a hedge fund manager and the \$5 billion he stole from his clients (hmm) is excellent. Is he—Parker Bennett—still alive? Was his son, Eric, involved in the scam? Must say, the ending surprised—make that *shocked*—me!

*15<sup>th</sup> Affair* (James Patterson/Maxine Paetro, 2016). You know I don’t usually like it when authors have someone writing “with” them, and give the supporting author very little credit. However, Maxine Paetro contributes tremendously to Patterson’s series, “The Women’s Murder Club.” It’s obvious to me that her feminine point of view is crucial to this series. Lindsay (police officer), Claire (medical examiner), Cindy (crime reporter), and Yuki (lawyer) join forces to investigate a criminal plot that reaches around the world—and right into Lindsay’s back yard!

*Most Wanted* (Lisa Scottoline, 2016). First, I read three chapters and gave up, believing the premise could not hold my attention. Then, the friend who loaned me the book convinced me to pick it up again and read the whole thing. “It’s *really* good!” she promised. So I did. And it was—*really* good! Christine and her husband cannot conceive, so they decide to use a sperm donor. But one day a couple of months after conception, they see a man on TV news who is arrested for a series of murders, and he looks very much like photos of their donor. A serial killer? The biological father of their baby? Is he actually the donor? Christine is determined to find the truth.

## WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS  
FROM JANET LITHERLAND



*I love to hear from my  
readers!*

Send me an e-mail:  
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A NEW Agatha Christie book? One featuring Hercule Poirot? But Christie died in 1976. How can this be? Even Poirot was given an obituary in the *New York Times* after his last case, *Curtain*, was published in 1975!

Well, it's true. Poirot has been resurrected. The new book is *The Monogram Murders*, and Christie's name appears prominently above the title. It is the first Hercule Poirot mystery—actually written by Sophie Hannah—to be sanctioned by the Christie estate. Christie's grandson, Mathew Prichard, was impressed by Hannah's passion for his grandmother's work and felt that "the time was right for a new Christie to be written."

Reviewers' comments run the gamut, from compelling and right on target, to wordy and downright boring. I found Poirot's demeanor, his "detecting," and his French words and phrases true to the original character and enjoyed reading this novel. I stayed with it (almost) to the end. The plot is quirky and interesting, but the ending, (*denouement!*) was strung out too long for me—I started flipping pages, because I'd had enough. Still, if you're a Christie/Poirot fan, give it a try!

### MORE "SHAKESPEAREAN SLANG" FROM BBC AMERICA

"Disfurnish" From: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*  
Translation: To remove or deprive someone of their belongings.

"Fustilarian" From: *Henry IV Part 2*  
Translation: A smelly old woman.

## Language

I may have an ulterior motive in asking this question: Can you pair the word ulterior with any word other than motive?

Last issue I asked if anyone knew a word that rhymes with orange. Here's one from Adam Sorkin via Scott in Tallahassee: Floorange—an orange that has been dropped on the ground, but before the 5-second rule has expired!

Recrudescence. A new word for me. Means to happen again, after a dormant or inactive period.

Recently heard a mentor's student referred to as a "mentee." Does that mean a tutor's student is a "tutee"? (Or would that be spelled "tootie"?)

This one's for Richard R.: Forthwith! At once! Right now! Immediately!

Do you know how to pronounce the name of the fish that swims upstream? Some folks say sal'mon. Wrong. The little guy's name is correctly pronounced sam'mon! Yeah, my mom could really make sammon patties! Yummy!

Heard on Good Morning America: "NO is a complete sentence." I agree.

**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!

*Crash & Burn* (Lisa Gardner, 2015) ★★★

*The Lost Key* (Catherine Coulter "with" J.T. Ellison, 2014) ★ (Boring book!)

*The Inn at Ocean's Edge* (Colleen Coble, 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](http://www.writechoiceservices.com).