



BOOKMARK



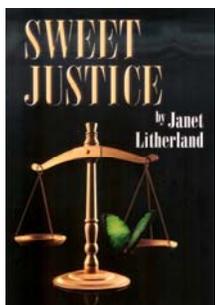
Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland

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Reviews

Potpourri

New Novel—Book Signing!



My sixth novel, *Sweet Justice*, is ready! I will be signing copies at **The Bookshelf** in Thomasville, GA, on Nov. 19, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. just in time for Christmas.

Books make great gifts, and I believe you and your friends will enjoy this one! Here's a peek:

In 1946, Clem and Mary Ann Perkins discover “pretty stones” on their small Tennessee farm, unaware that the stones are natural rubies. Simon Laramore, who owns the general store, recognizes the raw gems immediately—but he doesn't tell Clem and Mary Ann. Instead, he hatches a deadly scheme to acquire their farm so he can develop a ruby mine for himself. Decades later in Atlanta, Simon's great-granddaughter, Chris, receives a letter that lay undiscovered for 35 years, exposing the shameful truth behind the Laramore fortune—*her* fortune. Chris returns to Tennessee, determined that the Perkins descendants shall have justice, finally.

Janet Litherland's books are available at:

Amazon.com
and other online stores.

Back to the Garden: The Goal of the Journey (Jackie K. Cooper, 2011). This memoir is a collection of very short vignettes—reminiscences—by a Georgia writer. In this, the sixth in his “Journey” series, Cooper continues sharing memories of his life in the South. Those who read these stories will catch glimpses of themselves and their own situations—I certainly did. I especially enjoyed *Return of the Children*, *Keeping in Touch*, *The Safety of Home*, *Friends are a Necessity*, and *Enjoy the Possibilities*. A delightful collection!

Naked Heat (Richard Castle). Actually, “Heat” is Nikki Heat, a New York City Police Department detective, and she isn't naked. Also, Richard Castle is a fictitious author. This novel and its predecessor, *Heat Wave*, are the creations of ABC Studios and are based on that network's hugely successful show, *Castle*. Like the character, Castle, in the show, Jameson Rook is a journalist who “rides along” with Detective Heat, taking notes for his books. Of course, he helps solve her cases. In *Naked Heat*, they solve the murder of a gossip columnist who had attracted a slew of enemies. These books are fun to read!

Refuge (Dot Jackson, 2006). I should have stopped reading this book after Chapter 26 (page 261), but I had invested a lot of time in what—up until then—was a wonderful story of hope, love, and survival. So I continued reading as characters died, hope was lost, and faith was destroyed. Sort of like reading a Nicholas Sparks novel (which I don't anymore).

The King of Lies (John Hart, 2006). In January and October 2010 I reviewed this author's second and third books and liked them very much. This one is his first. A little different, a little slower, but still excellent. *The King of Lies* has been called a “literary thriller” and maybe it is. As a literary novel it delves deeply into the story's characters, making the reader really care about each one. As a thriller it presents a nail-biting scenario—the almost certain conviction of an innocent man for the murder of his father.

Re-Reading a Classic

Looking Backward: 2000—1887 (Edward Bellamy, 1888). That publication date is not a mistake. My copy is a reprint from 1986 (when I read it for the first time) and the book is still being reprinted. This is the story of Julian West, a young man who awakens after more than a century of sleep. I skipped the too-long introduction because I wanted to get right to Bellamy's “take” on what life would be like in the 21st Century. It has now been 124 years since he imagined life for *us*—you and me. What did he imagine? Bellamy actually predicted credit cards and something akin to radio. In his new world, everyone is happy. He believed that by the year 2000 the industrialized society of 1887 would have become a *socialist utopia controlled by a humane and efficient government*. If this subject interests you, and if you can endure the old-style writing (wordy, not much dialog), it might be worth a trip to the library.

Novels and Short Stories

Books by Ian Rankin

My first mention of Ian Rankin in *Bookmark* was in the July 2008 issue (re-read it at the Newsletter page on my website), where I discussed author Anne Perry, her books, and the movie, *Heavenly Creatures*, based on Perry's own teenage years, when she and a friend were convicted of murdering the friend's mother in New Zealand. Ian Rankin, a popular author and personality in the United Kingdom, interviewed Perry for UK TV in 2002. Rankin is a Scotsman who writes mysteries set in and around Edinburgh. Since I visited Scotland last summer and spent time in Edinburgh, I have really enjoyed immersing myself in stories within that familiar area. The novel, *Set in Darkness* (2000) was written while the new Parliament building was under construction and a (fictitious) body was found in the old walls being torn down to make way for the new. *Fleshmarket Close* (renamed *Fleshmarket Alley* in America, because "close" in Scotland means "alley") is set in an older part of the city. Both are "Inspector Rebus" mysteries. I also have *The Complete Short Stories of Ian Rankin* (2005), which includes 20 Inspector Rebus stories as well as 15 others. Sometimes a short story is all I want to read—just enough to absorb during lunch on my own! If you're attuned to the Scots' way of thinking and speaking, you'll find Rankin's novels and stories very interesting.

Other collections of Short Stories I've enjoyed

Peter Lovesey (*Do Not Exceed the Stated Dose*) and Jeffrey Archer (*A Twist in the Tale*) are award-winning British authors, each with many novels to their credit. These two collections of short stories are excellent!

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS FROM
JANET LITHERLAND



I love to hear from my readers!

Send me an e-mail:
janet@janetlitherland.com

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WWW.JANETLITHERLAND.COM

Language: What's Bugging You?

Did you look up *patronymic* after reading the last issue of *Bookmark*? It's a name received from a paternal ancestor, especially one formed by an attachment, such as Richardson (son of Richard). In my ancestry there are Larsons from Denmark. My great-grandfather, Frank Larson, was the son of Lars Rasmusson. Lars was the son of Rasmus Anderson. And on backward it goes—but no further forward than Frank Larson. When my family came to America, Larsson (Lars's son, with 2 Ss) became Larson, and the patronymic naming stopped there.

I see the word *myriad* misused in print so often it makes my teeth hurt! Examples: "a myriad of problems," "a myriad of opportunities." Myriad is NOT a noun; it is an adjective. There are myriad problems and myriad opportunities. To check yourself, change *myriad* to *many*. You would never say "There are a many of problems," or "a many of opportunities." No, you would say "There are many problems and many opportunities." Tell people – myriad people!

What's the point in using a little-known word when a familiar one is available? To confuse people? To show off? Here are some examples: *Mendacity*, when a simple *insincerity* will do. *Multifarious*, which could be replaced with *diverse*. *Concatenation* is just a *series* of things; and *conundrum* is merely a *riddle*. A word often heard these days is *hubris*. It means, simply, *arrogance*. Could mendacity possibly breed hubris in writing? Ah, it's a conundrum!

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!

Hell's Corner (David Baldacci, 2010) ★★★★★

Tough Customer (Sandra Brown, 2010) ★★★★★

Sizzling Sixteen (Janet Evanovich, 2010) ★★ (Not up to her usual standards)

Janet Litherland, author of 10 nonfiction books and five 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.