

# BOOKMARK



## *Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland*

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### REVIEWS

#### Potpourri

Something special happened in my local community during September. It was called “One Book 2016”. Our library, partnering with five other entities, encouraged everyone in our region to read one particular book, and several events were sponsored to raise enthusiasm for the project. This year’s book (yes, it’s happened in past years) was *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* by Janisse Ray. The author grew up in a junkyard along a highway, yet found beauty in people and in nature, particularly in the forests of longleaf pines. “One Book” events included a documentary film, *Longleaf: The Heart of Pine*; a wagon tour of Tall Timbers Research Station to observe the importance of fire ecology; a panel discussion on nature; and a program presented by the author. One Book projects have served to bring our community together in a unique way. Just one more reason I’m glad I live here!

I love puzzles—jigsaws, crosswords, word-finds—anything not involving numbers (sorry, Sudoku). Good for the brain. My favorite is called “Bent & Wiggly.” It’s a word-find, but the words aren’t found in a straight line. They go every-which-way—they’re bent & wiggly! Try one; challenge yourself; have some fun!

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

Amazon.com  
and other online stores.

*“Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.”*

—Helen Keller

*Mean Streak* (Sandra Brown, 2014). Very interesting thriller with lots of twists and a couple of big surprises. However, keep in mind that this author began her career as a romance writer (Harlequin Silhouette, Candlelight Ecstasy, etc.) and she can’t resist tossing in some erotic love scenes—for me a distraction from the excellent plot. I skipped over them. A female pediatrician disappears in the mountains of North Carolina and is held captive by a man who will tell her absolutely nothing about himself, not even his name. He said he found her on the trail, injured with a gash on her head. She doesn’t remember how it happened or how she got there, wherever “there” is. The weather makes it impossible for her (or him) to leave. Who will come looking for her? Friend or foe?

*A Test of Wills* (Charles Todd, 1996). Yes, this is an older book. But it’s the first in a series, and I wanted to start at the beginning. The story takes place in 1919, following World War I. It’s a real “detective” story, because there is no access to forensics, no DNA, nor other modern means of solving crimes. Ian Rutledge of Scotland Yard is tasked with solving the murder of a popular retired military officer. Unfortunately, the chief suspect is a much-decorated war hero and a friend of the Prince of Wales. I enjoyed trying to solve this crime along with Rutledge.

*Guilt* (Jonathan Kellerman, 2013). Good story, but I had to plow through a lot of yak-yak that didn’t move the plot, only caused confusion. I usually like Kellerman’s novels, but not this one.

*X* (Sue Grafton, 2015). Hard to believe Grafton has worked her way through 24 letters of the alphabet. Only two more to go! I have the entire set, beginning with *A is for Alibi*. The current entry is the only one that isn’t “for” something, just plain *X*. This one is about a serial killer who leaves no trace of his crimes. It’s up to Kinsey Millhone to find him. For me, not as exciting as some of the others in the series, but I did enjoy reading it.

*Buried Prey* (John Sandford, 2011). As a block is being razed in Minneapolis, the bodies of two young girls are found beneath the rubble of an old house. They had been kidnapped 25 years earlier and their fate was never known. This cold case has haunted the chief investigator all these years. Now he has another chance to solve the crime, and he does not intend to fail. A real page-turner!

*At the Edge of Summer* (Jessica Brockmole, 2016). A beautiful literary novel of lost love—found again after many years. Takes place during World War I with its devastating consequences.

## WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS  
FROM JANET LITHERLAND



*I love to hear from my  
readers!*

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**BOOKMARK ON THE WEB!**  
WWW.JANETLITHERLAND.COM

James Patterson has a new gimmick. It's called "Book Shots," billed as "lightning-fast stories, novels you can devour in a few hours, impossible to stop reading." The books are small, each one running about 115 pages. I've read two of them, both excellent. However, all of the Book Shots are written "with" someone. Hmmmm. Did Patterson really write them? Or is he just lending his name for the benefit of all? *The Trial* is a "Women's Murder Club" book with Maxine Paetro (see *15<sup>th</sup> Affair* reviewed in the July issue of *Bookmark*). *Chase* is with Michael Ledwidge, who writes the Detective Michael Bennett series. No matter who wrote what, the two books I read were good, fast, and inexpensive!

**Ever want to say "I love you" in another language? Try these:**

Danish – Jeg Elsker Dig (Sounds very romantic, doesn't it?)  
Swahili – Ninapenda wewe  
Moroccan – Ana moajaba bik

**Or, a bit easier on the ears:**

French – Je t'aime  
Italian – Ti amo  
Spanish – Te amo  
(I'll stick with English – I LOVE YOU!)

## Language

Are you still pronouncing the word often with the "t" sounding? Actually the "t" is silent. Also, I "ofen" hear "tr" words, such as "tree" pronounced as "chr," like "chree." So, do you climb a tree? Or do you climb a chree? The guy on the Trivago commercial sounds to me like he's saying Chreevago.

Saw this one in print *again* recently: "The car was green in color." As opposed to what? Green in size?

From a recent magazine article: "He stood behind the podium and picked up the microphone." Nice trick. A podium is an elevated platform, something to stand **ON**. I believe he stood behind the lectern.

A good pun from Wynn in Tallahassee: "I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down!"

Heard on TV: "Teachers return back to school." And, a cooking show host to the cooks: "Please return back to the kitchen." Back is unnecessary!

Ever hear someone say, "Bob's your uncle!" and then walk off? That's British slang for "It's done! All sorted out! Finished!"

**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!

*Smoke Screen* (Sandra Brown, 2008) ★★★  
*Sycamore Row* (John Grisham, 2013) ★★★★★  
*Make Me* (Lee Child, 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).