



BOOKMARK



Fiction and Nonfiction News from Janet Litherland

Volume 1 • Issue 2
April 2006

Reviews and Notes

Dear Readers,

I am not a fan of novels written in the present tense, a current trend:

Emily is wearing cotton shorts and a halter top because it is hot and humid outside. She spots her neighbor in the next yard. "Why are you wearing cords on a day like this?" she asks. "None of your business," he says.

The technique is supposed to achieve "immediacy." To me, it's annoying. How do you feel about it? E-mail me.

Memories are Made of This

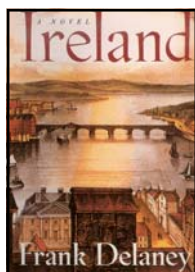
Start right now and you can have a collection of your memories ready for Christmas giving. Your friends, and especially your family, will be grateful. Don't you wish your great-grandmother, your grandfather, or even your parents had recorded their memories for you? Think about stories and incidents rather than dates and places—simple memories of times gone by. Write them down, and in the next newsletter I'll help you organize them.

All of Janet's books are available at:

Amazon.com
BarnesAndNoble.com
BooksAMillion.com

I enjoy reading several different kinds of books, fiction and nonfiction and, in fact, usually have two or three going at the same time. Several years ago, my personal library had grown so large that I had to make some tough decisions: which books to keep, which to get rid of. I decided to keep only the books I felt were worth reading a second time. That meant discarding some tomes that others consider "important," including a Pulitzer prize winner that put me to sleep before page 50! Since clearing the book shelves all those years ago—incidentally, I parted with more than 1,000 books—my criteria for even *finishing* a book is: Does it hook me within the first 50 pages? If it does not, I won't finish reading it, and I certainly won't keep it in my library.

With that criteria in mind, I'm going to present some books (fiction) and authors I *do* like. I realize that we don't all have the same tastes; therefore, I'll try to make my descriptions very clear so that you can make informed choices.



First on my list is Frank Delaney's *Ireland*, a superb combination of history, legend and blarney. At 576 pages in hardcover, this is a book you'll want to savor over a period of time, perhaps reading a couple of short books ("fast reads") as you pick this one up and put it down. Nine-year-old Ronan O'Mara is captivated by an itinerant storyteller and his tales of Ireland—the architect of Newgrange, St. Patrick and the snakes, creation of the Book of Kells, and many more. When the storyteller mysteriously disappears, Ronan leaves home to search for him, a search that lasts many years, as he travels his country gathering more stories until he, too, becomes a storyteller. Absolutely breathtaking in concept and delivery!

If you like medical thrillers and have read all of Robin Cook that you care to, try Tess Gerritsen's books. Gerritsen left a successful practice as an internist to devote herself to her children and her writing. Her ideas are fresh and her style is can't-put-it-down exciting! I highly recommend *Body Double* and *Vanished*.

For books that will have you laughing out loud, read anything by Janet Evanovich but particularly her Stephanie Plum series, numbered, as in *One for the Money*, *Two for the Dough*, etc. Plum is a bounty hunter with attitude and a host of weird friends and relatives including her colorful (overweight and in neon spandex) sidekick, Lula (who is a former "ho") and Grandma Mazur, whose idea of a night out is attending "viewings," whether or not she knew the deceased. The dialog gets a bit naughty at times but never vulgar.

Books by Delaney, Gerritsen and Evanovich—three totally, absolutely, *completely* different types and styles of writing! Your choice. Want to comment on one of them? Send me an e-mail: <janet@janetlitherland.com>.

FICTION AND NONFICTION NEWS FROM
JANET LITHERLAND



I love to hear from my readers!

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

BOOKMARK ON THE WEB!
WWW.JANETLITHERLAND.COM

Janet Litherland is the author of 10 nonfiction books and two novels, *Chain of Deception* and *Discovery In Time*. Here is an excerpt from her upcoming novel, *The Lost Years*, ©2006:

I was thirty-four years old when I learned that my grandfather, Ben Cason, who was listed MIA—Missing In Action, World War II—was not missing at all. Where had he been all those years? Was he still alive? ... I wondered. I worried.

I had buried Nana Rose, my grandmother, two weeks before I found her telltale letters. She'd never mentioned their existence. Not to my mother, Amanda Lee, not to my husband Jonathan whom she adored, nor to me. Though she'd often talked about Grandpa Ben, she spoke in vague, yet oddly cheerful terms, patting my head or shoulders in dismissal; and she'd continued to do so, long after I'd become an adult. Irritating habit, though I'd dearly loved her.

"His plane went down," she'd said long ago, holding me on her lap, remembering the man she had loved so much, "but I don't know where it happened. The wreckage was never recovered." She was always willing to talk about him, to answer my questions as best she could. "Oh, Kelly, he would have loved you very much!" she'd said many times. "I wish you could have known him." It was obvious, even to a little girl, that Nana Rose had been deeply in love with her husband. The letters I found after her death proved it. They also proved she'd been lying about Ben's whereabouts for nearly sixty years.

Dearest Rose,

I'm sorry I couldn't talk very well on the phone last night, but honest, honey, my throat would just stop up and my eyes get a little damp. I am really glad you were on the front porch with Amanda Lee when I left. That's the way I'll remember my girls. ...

Janet Litherland
P.O. Box 5736
Thomasville, GA 31758



Bookmark
Janet's Book News