



I don't blog: I brag, celebrate, and shamelessly advertise!!!

Greetings! Great things are happening for me and my writing friends. Share the link to this newsletter with your friends. Remember: If quoted, follow the rules of professional conduct & good manners.

You know, or should know by now, I'm dyslexic and this is the director's cut of my newsletter for my fans and writing friends. It's not edited.

Happy New Year! Here we go again! There are 365.25 days of writing ahead. Wow! What a life! **Happy NEW Year!**

Kathryn & Co. News Briefs: Just to bring everyone up to speed, Kathryn is the main character of Kathryn's Beach, High Tide, & Atonement. The "& Co." are the rest of the cast of this trilogy. These are the people who get Kathryn into or out of trouble.

These are indie books. They aren't the novels you'll find on the NY Times bestseller list—ever. I'd love it, but these aren't going to be selected for books-to-movies. That's the way the system works...most of the time.

What is Katey's appeal? Why do we talk about her as if she is a real person? I don't know the answers, but it's an honor to have written her story; whatever its purpose. She makes me feel special. She makes me feel possessed (when I write for her)! She makes me feel like writing every day, and that is my good fortune.

Reviews: Spoiler warning!

Kathryn's Beach:

www.readerviews.com/ReviewLamanKathryns.html

Here's the High Tide review:

www.nadinelamanbooks.com/pdf/HighTideLamanReview.pdf

KATHRYN'S BEACH & HIGH TIDE are available through my website Amazon shop, which is at the bottom of every page, disguised as the word (are you ready for this?) Amazon. In related news: Upon request, Amazon.com promptly corrected the spelling of High Tide, and sent a nice e-notice to me. Thanks Guys!

Nadine's Book List:

Kathryn's Beach 05 & 06

High Tide (Kathryn #2) 06

Atonement (Kathryn #3) 07

In the this is really cool department:

Indie authors wanted!!! Let's pool our collective energy and experience! Contact Phil Harris and get up to speed on his pilot project's formation. One for all and all for one! Let's band together. Sundiskhermit@yahoo.com

www (Wonderful Web Wizard),

Joyce, the genius behind my website, and I are developing a new format for my website, www.NadineLamanBooks.com. Watch for the new look later this month! Remember to refresh the page every visit to catch the new items.

What's Next? With me, one never knows, do they? Sign up at the lower left side of my website home page for notice of each edition of this free newsletter.

In the that's enough about me department...let's celebrate each other!!!

As much as I love books, **film** is undeniably my first love. Film moves me with visuals and music I have never found books.

This story was a last minute addition to the Dec. newsletter: An inspired life became a book, and now a movie by **Tara Golden**. I hope you took

the time to click through the links last month. Now, here's the spotlight Tara Golden deserves. www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHi32mKjkSo

Years ago, there was a woman who walked across the US for peace. She walked alone most of the time. She lived in simplicity, though I wouldn't call it poverty. She made an impression on people's hearts.

Now her ideal lives on in the work of **Tara Golden**. In Tera's words: "**Peace Walker** is the story of a creative journey to the UK to make a film about world peace. Originally inspired by Peace Pilgrim, a woman who walked for peace for 28 years, director Tara Golden conceived of the idea of a film that would combine a narrative story line and a documentary journey. The idea was an attempt to create a new genre in filmmaking by mixing the powerful story of a man who does a peace walk with the real life adventure of walking every step of way through Scotland and England. The plan was to meet interesting local characters along the 1100 mile hike and to integrate them into the story, and it worked, up until a point." (From Tera's website) www.doornumberthreefilms.com

Something every writer should know; there'll be a pop quiz on this when you least expect it: www.JeffRivera.com/JERRYSIMMONS.wav used with permission from Jerry Simmons, of course!

Hold the press, this is really BIG:

These books **are available now!** Contact authors for signed copies of their books.

Joining this month's list of featured authors are: Rusty Clark, Nolan Lewis, and Irene Watson.

Rusty Clark, US, historian/artist/author of Stories Carved in Stone. Graveyard Series: Agawam, ME; Holyoke, ME; and Enfield CT. This is history and folk art. Great photos at this link. <http://storiescarvedinstone.com/coppermine/> for book orders. www.dogpondpress.net/stone.html

Nolan Lewis, US, Author, Clouds Are Always White on Top, WW2 Air War; Mauled, a fun mystery; IONE, Circa 1930 Memories of a small town. World War II history buffs will love this aviator's believable fiction. Complete with maps & historical photos. www.pendoreillepress.com

Irene Watson, US memoir author of The Sitting Swing. Irene Watson's work as a therapist could go no further until she faced her own past; her fearful, highly sheltered years growing up as an only child to Ukrainian immigrants in 1940s Alberta, Canada. www.irenewatson.com/index.html

June Austin, UK author of Genesis of Man June is busy, watch her site for her upcoming appearances in bookstores; including Borders UK. This is a very fascinating book. If you like alternate history, ancient wisdom & spirituality, get this book. Also on amazon USA.

www.JuneAustin.co.uk

Krissy Brady, Canadian author's debut poetry collection Title Wave from a Canadian small press. Watch for book signings and other appearances. Poetry is IN, catch Krissy at www.krissybrady.com

Thomas Brown, US author of Men Bleed Too, and She Taught Me To Laugh Again expects Laugh in Feb. Tom writes articles regarding breast cancer from the husband's perspective! Tom's website www.ThomasBrownBooks.com Here's the REVIEW of Men Bleed Too. www.readerviews.com/ReviewBrownMenBleedToo Interview with Tom, get the backstory here www.readerviews.com/InterviewBrownThomas

Kip Cossom, US artist/writer, Ned Visits New York. Kip is rapidly becoming one of the most famous NY street vendors. WOW! Kip sold over 1,000 copies of his self-published children's book in one month! You're not in NY? Book and children's wear available at www.KipKids.com

Ray Derby, US, new release Clouds of Deception. Also from Ray, Shadow Government and Bradley's Ghost and is working on book #4. Ray writes great gov conspiracy/terrorist novels. Ray is a recognized expert in homeland security. I can't put his books down! Get all three books from Ray at www.RayDerby.com

Philip Harris US, last minute change of plans for A Maine Christmas Carol. The publisher closed, yet Phil's book came out on the original release date! How's that for resourcefulness! It's a new twist to a well known classic. TJ is visited by his father who was killed in the Iraq war. Will the three spirits penetrate TJ's drug clouded life? www.christmascarol.bravehost.com

Philip Harris and Brian Doe, US authors who started a NEW GENRE **Spiritual Thriller** with their book Waking God. Philip and Brian have a second book in the works. This book is getting great reviews, here's one of them. www.bookpleasures.com/Lore2/idx/0/2139/article/Waking_God.html Other reviews and info here www.WakingGod.com

Andrew Revels, US author of Games Poor Kids Play. (Language warning.) It's a collection of short stories, slices of Americana, and hilarious childhood antics. Thank God he wasn't my kid! Andrew has an incredible novel in the works, Belly of the Beast. Andy is a bright up & coming young writer. www.andrewrevels.com

Coming in 2007! in alphabetical order...

Frederiko Aguilar, US author of The Desert Has No King, his debut Las Vegas novel. Think gambling, mafia, corruption, beautiful women, and all things Las Vegas. Fred sent a peek of the cover art. Great looking! Thanks Fred! www.TheDesertHasNoKing.com

Aurora Collins, US author, her debut end time thriller, Shadow Walk releases from the small press, Tiger Press. Good news from her editor, they want to make this a two book deal! www.freewebs.com/auroracollins/index.htm

Jeannine Garsee, US author of BEFORE, AFTER and Somebody in BETWEEN, Bloomsbury USA, June 07. Jen is in the "class of 2007" debut YA authors' group. Jen is writing her next book, Say the Word. Jeannine's website is finished. www.jeanninegarsee.com See Jen's blog at...Jen, you are soooo funny! www.onegrapeshy.livejournal.com.

Betty Landon, US children's author debuts with The Feather From the Sky. Waiting for a book's release is sooo hard ~ especially the first book you write...isn't it, Betty?

Jerry Simmons, US author of INSIDE The Business of Publishing – What writers Need to Know. Second book coming, What Writers Need to Know About Publishing. Jerry worked 20+ years in NY at a BIG time, real-deal publishing house. www.WritersReaders.com

Coming in 2008! Nothing like looking ahead with anticipation!

Carleen Brice, US author is adding fiction to her long list of writing credits: journalist, nonfiction author, editor. Carleen has sold her first work of fiction, Orange Mint and Honey Ballantine Books 08. Congrats Carleen! Her books to date are Lead me Home, Age Ain't Nothing but a Number, and Walk Tall. Something is coming for Walk Tall, watch Carleen's blog for the up to the minute news. www.pajamagardener.blogspot.com

In the lovely land of rewrite & edits:

These new kids on the block are working on their first book. Just gotta love their fresh voices. I've been lucky enough to preview bits and pieces of many of these works. **Note:** this section shortened for this issue.

We wish each of you God's speed with your writing projects...

Andy of Beaux-reflets, French author & freelance artist, has several works in progress that keep him busy. www.Beaux-reflets.com

Karin Carstens, US novel, Far From Forever.

Cathy Cole, North Ireland mystery author, Where There's Smoke.

Leah Collins, US novel, Bay Window.

Jean Marie, US novel, Under the Dryer.

Jennifer McDonald, US novel, Out of Habit.

Anya Page US, fantasy, Turn of the Lykoi.

Rebekah Vandergriff, US nonfiction, What Day Is It?

Now a word from our **shameless advertising dept.** (That would be me.)

A word about loaning books: It seems eleven people have loaned their copies of my books, then, well, they email to say they didn't get the book back. I'm not sure what is expected from me here. Haven't you heard, "never lend a book"? Signed books have a way of not coming back to their owner. If you want the book, hang onto it.

I get...the LAST WORD! (Naturally!)

You do know this stuff is only my opinion, however that doesn't mean I'm wrong. Right?

Few writers make a living wage from writing fiction. Yet, it is a billion dollar industry. Each piece of the book industry makes money from our talent. They need us, but some think we are a dime a dozen simply because there are so many of us. A few refer to writers as their "stable." What? Stable? How rude! Some people have forgotten that without writers there would be no books. Let us never forget—without readers there would be no need for books.

What would happen if writers banded together regardless of how our books are published, or what genre we write, or where we live, or the language we speak?

There is plenty of silliness in this industry: Bookstore's buyers have more voice about book covers than authors; Good ol' boy practices between agents and publishers; Spoon fed reviews; phantom 'best selling' ranks; POD companies with no interest in selling books; forums that tear down rather than assist; (is there anyone I've failed to offend on my list?)

It would be quite dangerous if authors refused to line up in indie and non-indie camps. That is all the industry has to keep us divided. Why buy into it? We're all writers. We share common goals and struggles. There is room for all of us. There is value in our uniqueness and sameness.

What would happen? Well connected people who write crap wouldn't get million dollar advances. Good writing would be more important than flash commercial success. Readers would have choices, rather than what a hand full of people decide to produce.

What would happen? There would be room for experimental writing, formatting, publishing. Creativity could flourish. The stigma would be reversed, and mundane would be wrong. Writers for large and small publishers would be liberated. Indie writers would be accepted.

We are cautioned not to write anything too edgy or unconventional. Yet, that is exactly what some writers are doing. They cannot help but do it, and it scares the entrenched. Many POD companies discourage creative deviations from the norm. Stick to templates, follow the rules.

No one likes Times New Roman, 10pt, but we continue to use it. Are we afraid to try new

things? Indie writers must ignore criticism citing them as "amateurish." Maybe an unconventional format is perfect for the content. These books are works of art; liberated, fresh voices; and very necessary if we are going to be whole as an industry and a society. Indie "errors" in format aren't from ignorance, but from genius.

Recently, someone I admire called an indie book "unPODlike." I know there was no malice in the comment, but in less clear terms, it also said that being PODlike is not good. I disagree. There is a freshness in indie books that NY can't afford. Nor can we afford to silence.

There are authors well suited for the traditional arena. They are brilliant writers, yet barely paid compared to the advance given celebrities who don't even write their own book. Where's the justice in that?

There is room for both, traditional and indie writers. We need to stand together. www.writersreaders.com/blog.php?thebid=130 Jeannie (Bloomsbury USA, 07) writes in her Dec 26, '06 blog about being a writer. www.onegrapeshy.livejournal.com/

We need to build bridges between writers. Fences shut people out or hold them captive inside the confines of small mindedness. The *spirit* of free speech isn't in the publishing of a book, but in the hearts writers.

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This little darlin' of a ride is a '53 Jaguar XK. The first time I saw this car, it was in buckets and heaps in my not-yet-husband's garage. Like writing, it's a matter of seeing the possibilities...



Imagine the possibilities. I know you can do this masterful thing. Write *your* BEST BOOK! Let's stick together. **Happy NEW Year!**