

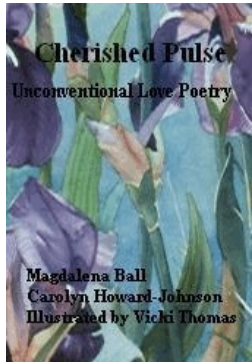


I don't blog: I brag, celebrate, and shamelessly advertise!!!

Welcome! Great things are happening for me and my writing friends. [Share the link to this newsletter with your friends.](#) You know, or should know by now, I'm dyslexic and this is the director's cut. It's not edited.

♥ Happy Valentine's Day! Yep! I'm L♥ving this writing gig. ♥ Wow! ♥ What a life! ♥ ♥

Special!!! Valentine offer from Carolyn Howard-Johnson and Magdalena Ball, authors of [Cherished Pulse](#), an eBook of unconventional L♥ve poetry, are holding a **drawing for a free copy** of their eBook in time for **Valentine's Day 07!** FIVE free copies will be awarded from a random drawing. Send an email to Carolyn at: HoJoNews@aol.com with the subject line: **Valentine Gift Drawing**. Here's an excerpt from this lovely eBook...



Dreaming Lilacs
It's you who had me dreaming lilacs, breathing April's sweetest tears, tasting sugared lemon rinds, hearing bougainvillea's fuchsia song, taking...

www.compulsivereader.com/html/images/cherishedpulse.htm

I'm thinking these roses might go nicely with an eBook of poetry. I haven't tried them, but maybe someone I live with will send them my direction to go with my copy of the book...hint, hint, CL!♥
www.helengrace.com/eShop/stores/InnisbrookA/detail.cfm?solus=1813

There is a free book contest going on at [Planet Revels](#). WIN A BOOK scavenger hunt. www.andrewrevels.com

Indie writers: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, scripts! Writers forming a community/guild/alliance whatever to sell their books & writing. Info here! www.writersreaders.com/blog.php?thebid=139

Kathryn & Co. News Briefs: Yes, true. Kathryn does some really dumb things. I'm sure they seem the right decision at the time. Sometimes she really cracks me up. But, ya gotta love her. What a heart that girl has!

Some readers (still) slip and call me Kathryn while reading [Kathryn's Beach](#). Kathryn is haunting. Admit it. I know it's true. Just for the record, I am not Kathryn. No, the story isn't a fictionalized memoir. It's fiction: lies, all lies!

What about Maggie? You know she and Dave set up Katey with that dinner party, right? I'm not buying their innocence. That was NO accident.

What are we going to do about Joseph? Love him? Hate him? Geeze, he's a lawyer! What did you expect? Should we cut him some slack? Will we fall prey to his toothy grin and charming Irish accent? He can dance, that counts for something, right? He kisses good, too. Tall, dark, and handsome, what more is there? Hmmmm...

In [High Tide](#), I do hope you go to **Ann Zimmerman's** website and listen to her song, "Absolute Zero" while you read about it. It was very nice of Ann to give permission to use her song and likeness in [High Tide](#). Cool, eh?

Get the all three of Ann's CDs and have your own **Valentine's ♥ Day** concert. Ann will autograph the CDs for you! www.AnnZimmerman.com

When is [Atonement](#) coming? I was tempted to list everyone who asked that question since [High Tide](#) came out in Nov. 06. We need to have that little talk. The one you should have had from your parents. You know the one. Yes, about how books are made. You do know books don't grow in bookstores. Here's the [Atonement](#) scoop.

The first draft is written, but don't expect the book out next month. Writing the story is the easy part. Now comes the work: polishing it; tweaking this and that; putting my pre-readers to work; rewriting again and again; a couple more tweaks and line edits. Then the layout, the cover design, the proof book...it's a process.

Let's talk about the problems with Atonement. **First is the title.** There is another book with the same title that is somehow associated with the word "plagiarism." Not to mention, how confusing it would be to find two Atonements on Amazon. Titles aren't US Copyright protected, so it's no problem to have the same title, but still....

It has been pointed out to me that Kathryn's Beach and High Tide both: a) have something to do with the beach/ocean in the title; b) both have two word titles. I don't know if we want or need to consider that or not. For the record, if I did book # 4, it is titled, Resurrection. That kind of goes with Atonement, but since Atonement's title is out, (or is it?) so is Resurrection, if I decide to write that one.

Looks like Beta readers will get to submit title suggestions. You did a great job selecting the cover art for High Tide, next step seems to be title suggestions. Who knew readers were allowed to get involved in the writing of a book?

Actually, anyone who has read both Kathryn's Beach and High Tide is welcome to send an email with a new title suggestion to me at NadineLaman@aol.com, subject line "Title Suggestion". We'll take a vote: Keep or replace?

You know, there ARE other non-Kathryn books in progress. After Atonement it might be time to publish something totally different. Don't want to get stuck in a rut, right? Maybe when the time comes, I'll let you all vote whether I finish Act Like You Mean It or Red Planet Revolt first.

How many other authors let readers vote like I do? If you aren't having fun, it's your own fault.

Reviews & Interviews: **Spoiler warning!**

Kathryn's Beach review:

www.nadinelamanbooks.com/pdf/KathrynsBeachLamanReview.pdf

Here's the High Tide review:

www.nadinelamanbooks.com/pdf/HighTideLamanReview.pdf

And, the interview:

www.readerviews.com/InterviewLaman.html

The **Writer's Digest contest results** have arrived. I don't remember entering this, but I must have. Writers might like to know that they actually read the books in this contest. Imagine that! Kind of makes me wonder why they all don't do the same, especially if there is an entry fee. (I wonder???)

No, I didn't win. If you know me at all, you know I don't really care about stuff like that...not to be disrespectful to anything I have won or been awarded. What I **do** have is the judge's comment sheet. (I added the sections in blue).

Title: Kathryn's Beach (**first edition**)

Category: Genre Fiction

Judge: # 22

Key: 1 = poor; 5 = excellent

Score sheet:

Plot: 4

Grammar: 4 (**better than I expected**)

Character development: 5

Cover Design: 4 (**I'm hoping it was the back they didn't like; it doesn't flip my cookie either**)

Judge's Commentary:

1. What did you like best about this book? I liked the look inside the way the child protection services function, and why they sometimes don't. Kathryn grows throughout the novel and becomes a better stronger person. The settings are well done and easy to visualize. (**Ah, thanks!**)

2. How can the author improve this book? The opening with Kathryn in the bar is interesting, but suddenly she decides to go home and we don't know why she left, much less why at this point she suddenly decides to return. I think a bit more development is needed there, it interest the reader in why she's returning home and what she hopes to achieve.

My comments: Well, they **do** read the entries! I'll give them points, big **FAT** points, for that. The thing of value to me was the Judges' sheet. Next deadline to enter is 5/15/07. There are other ongoing contests at Writer's Digest. See the details here: www.writersdigest.com/contests

~

Another contest: I know nothing about this one, but take a look and decide for yourself.

www.commonties.com/blog/submit-a-story

~

The big contest lately: Winner is published by a Simon & Schuster imprint. My only concern is that the contract must be signed within 5 days of

winning and I don't see the contract posted for review before entering. Agreeing to a contract you haven't seen? Read the comments; other concerns are discussed. S&S, WOW!
www.gather.com/viewArticle.jsp?articleId=281474976881664

In the **this is really cool department:**

Karen Dionne, US thriller writer, was in a BOOKSTORE when she received word that her ms sold! WOW! www.karendionne.net Karen is the co-founder of Backspace www.bksp.org She came to Phoenix for the thriller conference during the hottest week last summer. She presented at the San Diego writer's conference last month and will be in NY in the spring...
www.backspacewritersconference.com

Thomas Brown's *She Taught Me To Laugh Again* (a real life love story) is available in time for Valentine's ♥ Day. It's so brand new it isn't even on amazon.com yet! Get a copy here!
www.ThomasBrownBooks.com

This is **the nicest complement** a writer could get from another writer. From Andrew Revels. (Isn't he a sweet ♥ kid?)

"I'm about halfway through *Kathryn's Beach*. I like it. You are a very talented writer. It's kind of inspiring. When I read a little of your book, sometimes I have to put it down to go write mine. Not that I'm copying you, but reading your book puts me in the mood to write."

My appreciation to **Mr. Grumpy Old Bookman** for the mention on 01/16/07. Rated one of the top 10 literary blogs worldwide for 2005. (Guardian) It still is tops in MY BOOK!
www.kingsfieldpublications.co.uk
www.grumpyoldbookman.blogspot.com

Something every writer should know; there'll be a pop quiz on this when you least expect it:

www.JeffRivera.com/JERRYSIMMONS.wav
Of course, used with Jerry Simmons' permission.

Industry news:

[What Authors Are Missing](#) – get the real story.

Jeannie Garsee sent this...

www.classof2k7.com/issue_01_spring_2k7/both_sides.php#more

There is this:

www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1127&urltitle=The%20Untouchables

And this:

101 Writing Mistakes...

www.writestreet.com/writestreet/common_writing_mistakes.aspx

A word about blogs:

www.writersdigest.com/articles/weinman_blogged_and_burned.asp

This cracked me up:

www.redenginepress.com/Y&W/jan07page6.jpg

(Excerpt from here:

www.redenginepress.com/january_2007.htm)

US Tax time coming...Save all your writing related expenses and let your tax guy sort out what is deductible and what is not.

www (Wonderful Web Wizard) Joyce, the **genius**, and I have a **new look for my website**. And Video! I made this! Joyce made it play on my website! **CHECK it OUT!** ♥ ♥ ♥
www.nadelamanbooks.com/video ♥ ♥ ♥

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. www.NadineLamanBooks.com

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

Hold the press, this is really BIG:

These books **are available now!** Contact authors for signed copies of their books. How cool is that! Don't be shy. ♥

Joining this month's list of featured authors are:

Celise Downs, Irving Karchmar, and Carolyn Howard-Johnson.

Celise Downs, US YA writer of *Dance Jam Productions* and *Secrets and Kisses* (creative format in this book). I swear, I do not remember school being like this. These are fun reads.
www.celisedowns.com Check out her blog www.geminiwisdom.blogspot.com

Irving Karchmar, US writer of *Master of the Jinn: A Sufi Novel*. As I remember the story, Irving's friend in Russia is the cover artist. I love this cover. Also, see his beautiful website. This English language indie book was translated into Russian, Bahasa (Indonesia), and soon in Turkish! He's at work on his second novel, a sequel entitled *Tale of the Jinn*. eBook project 1/21 blog entry. www.darvish.wordpress.com **If you do nothing else I mention in this newsletter, please go to Irving's blog and read his Jan 8th entry.** Website: www.MasteroftheJinn.com

Carolyn Howard-Johnson, US author of This is the Place, Tracings, a chapbook of poetry, Harkening: A Collection of Stories Remembered, and The Frugal Book Promoter: How to Do What You Publisher Won't, and the poetry eBook, Cherished Pulse, co-written with Australian poet, **Magdalena Ball**. Catch Carolyn's blog here: www.sharingwithwriters.blogspot.com
www.carolynhoward-johnson.com

June Austin, UK author of Genesis of Man June's book has been added to the UK Border's Mind, Body, Spirit list. Watch her site for her upcoming appearances in bookstores. This is a marvelous book. If you like alternate history, ancient wisdom & spirituality, get this book. www.JuneAustin.co.uk

Krissy Brady, Canadian author's debut poetry collection, Title Wave, about solidifying an identity. From a Canadian small press. Watch for book signings and other appearances. Contact Krissy at www.krissybrady.com

Thomas Brown, US author of Men Bleed Too, and She Taught Me To Laugh Again is hot off the press! 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 story here: www.readerviews.com/InterviewBrownThomas Another note here: www.thecancerblog.com/2007/01/15/men-bleed-too-one-mans-struggle-to-help-his-wife-fight-breast/

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

Kip Cossom, US artist/writer, Ned Visits New York. Kip is rapidly becoming one of the most famous NY street vendors. **WOW!** Over 1,200 copies sold of Kip's self-published children's book in 6 wks! Kip did a reading at school in TX to 80 students! Booksigning in Texas sold 40 books! Not in NY (or Texas)? Book & children's wear available at www.KipKids.com

Great interview:
www.independentpublisher.com/department.php?page=1128&urltitle=Crazy%20Book%20Marketing%20Idea%20of%20the%20Month

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

Philip Harris, US author had a last minute change of plans for A Maine Christmas Carol. The publisher suddenly closed just weeks before his book released, yet Phil's book came out on the original release date! Great story about this. His eBook was in production at Write Words, Inc. Since his book had been vetted for the eBook, their print book division, Cambridge Books, expedited vetting the book for print format. A Maine Christmas Carol is 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.dickens111.tripod.com or 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: www.bookpleasures.com/Lore2/idx/0/2139/article/Waking_God.htmlwww. Other reviews & info here: www.WakingGod.com

Nolan Lewis, US author, Clouds Are Always White on Top, WW2 Air War (World War II history buffs will love this aviator's believable fiction. Complete with historical photos.); Mauled, a fun mystery; IONE, Circa 1930 Memories of a small town. Get books here: lewnolan@yahoo.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!** He turned out nice. Andrew has an incredible novel in the works, Belly of the Beast. He is also co-writing a book with his grandfather! Andy is a bright up & coming young writer. www.andrewrevels.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

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. **The book has arrived!** Ta-Da! ♥ www.TheDesertHasNoKing.com

Aurora Collins, US author, her debut end time thriller, Shadow Walk releases from the small press, Tigress 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 finished the first draft of her next book, Say the Word, its at 107k word count now! Her website is finished. www.jeanninegarsee.com
Jen's blog www.onegrapeshy.livejournal.com

Betty Landon, US children books author debuts with The Feather From the Sky. This book is getting down to the wire. Should be released soon! Yeah! Hip, hip, hurray!

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, journalist, 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 rewrites & 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.

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 Butts, US writer, Far From Forever, Beyond the Shadow of Death, a romance, and her work in progress (WIP) is Ice Princess.

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? Bekah came out of a coma to tell this story.

Now a word from our **shameless**

advertising dept. (That would be me.)

You can buy books anywhere ... internet, bookstore, whatever, but all the writers I've listed will sell you a **signed copy** of their book. Now that is really special! There is a huge variety listed, if you can't find something to read from this list, you simply aren't trying.

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. They are available through Infinity Publishing too. Infinity ships FAST! Toll free (US) 877.289.2665

Nadine's Book List:

Kathryn's Beach 05 (limited first edition) & 06
High Tide (Kathryn #2) 06
Atonement (Kathryn #3) 07

I get...the LAST WORD! (Naturally!) You do know this stuff is only my opinion, however that doesn't mean I'm wrong.

A good book, is a good book. It is that simple. Who the publisher is doesn't make a book good. No one buys books based on the publisher. It does help to have a big publisher, if they have a nice advertising budget slated for your book.

This is a very odd industry. The system is a MBA student's worst nightmare, but it continues

despite all of its glaring flaws, and we flock to it as moths to a torch. Our desire to write makes no sense in light of the realities of the industry, yet writers are what make books. We each have stories no one else can tell in our voice. They possess us with their desire to take form beyond ourselves in poetry, scripts, and books.

Writers need to stand together. There is no good reason to take pot shots at writers who write dynamite query letters and land an agent, or those who don't. We have a lot in common. That's the part I like the best. ♥

By the way, the latest marketing fad: I think the message of don't sell your book as a book and don't sell yourself as a writer is insulting. I'm proud to be a writer and I'm not going to disguise myself as something else.

I saw one POD company is encouraging their authors to follow that fad. I just want to say one more time: marketing fiction is different from marketing nonfiction in most ways. If you see anyone who disagrees with that, check to see if they wrote an indie fiction book. Chances are they wrote a nonfiction book, or a book about marketing. I'm not saying they aren't experts. I'm saying they aren't the all powerful OZ.

Being an indie writer is not the easy way out. I happen to like it, but keep in mind, there is no agent, editor, publisher, PR rep, marketing dept keeping the writer from doing stupid things and falling desperately for some gimmick.

On the positive side of the equation, you can have your book your way. The more you understand the industry and the accepted practices, the better you can decide which rules are bendable. (And which shouldn't be bent.)

Writing is a marvelous thing. ♥ Let nothing stop us. If there isn't a big market for your ms, look for alternatives. If you're busy, get organized (even more) and find the time to write. Don't let anything or anyone stop you from writing.

Each month I think I will shorten this newsletter. Who has time to read six pages of my ramblings? I work on it from 30 to 60 days in advance. Cut, Nadine, cut! ♥ But there are so many good writers and good books. Exciting news comes or a great newsletter or article I want to share, and the cutting gets harder. There are great books to share with my readers. Books you might not otherwise find. Indie books are fresh and unique. And I want to tell you about all of them. ♥ ♥

I find the news from other writers exciting and inspiring. Think of it: Tom's love story debuts in time for Valentine's Day, Karen's agent calls when she is in a bookstore, Phil's book comes out on the scheduled date even though his publisher went out of business, Andrew and Karin (worlds apart) are writing maniacs, Fred is probably still pinching himself that his book arrived, June's book is in bookstores in the UK... Isn't this a great gig?

This kind of excitement brings us together. Jerry Simmons is creating a place for indie writers, poets, screenwriters to gather our wares. He is looking for 200 writers to test the program. Get info here: jerry@writersreaders.com

I loved this cover the first time I saw it about a year ago. The website corresponds brilliantly. This beautiful work of art is the cover art for **Irving Karchmar's** book, Master of the Jinn: A Sufi Novel. Beautiful! Simply beautiful. ♥



It is all a matter of seeing the possibilities... www.212movie.com Dream. I know you can do this masterful thing. Write your BEST book! ♥ ♥ ♥