



Page Turners

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This newsletter will also appear at: <http://www.joanuptonhall.com/pageturner.htm> with authors' photos

The authors' cooperative, Page Turners, welcomes you to this free, monthly newsletter. We encourage you to forward it to others you think would enjoy it, print it to share with friends, and invite them to subscribe by emailing us. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Contact: PageTurnerHome@aol.com Editor: Joan Upton Hall

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Need a speaker? Check websites below for a writer near you.

Meet our Staff: Authors whose pages you must turn!

M.D. Benoit	http://www.mdbenoit.com	Science Fiction Mystery, Alternate Reality
Mayra Calvani	http://www.mayracalvani.com	Horror Dark fantasy, Satire, YA, Children
David Ciambrone	http://www.davidciambrone.com	Mystery, Technical management, News column
Diane Fanning	http://www.dianefanning.com	Mystery, True Crime, Suspense
Jackie Griffey	http://www.jackiegriffey.com	Cozies, romantic suspense, horror, historical
J.C. Hall	http://www.jc-hall.com	Fantasy, Nonfiction
Joan Upton Hall	http://www.joanuptonhall.com	Fantasy, Paranormal, Travel/History, Editing advice
L.C. Hayden	http://lchayden.freesevers.com	Mystery, Inspirational, Horror, Children
Joan Neubauer	http://www.wordwright.biz	Novels in various genres, Writing advice
Gloria Oliver	http://www.gloriaoliver.com	Spec Fic, Fantasy/SF/Horror, YA
Sylvia Dickey Smith	http://www.sylviadickeysmit.com	Mystery suspense
Cheryl Swanson	http://www.cherylswanson.net	Contemporary thriller, self-help nonfiction

MAIL BAG – READERS WRITE

Have questions you'd like to ask any of these authors? Comments about their books? Their favorite desserts? What pets they have? Write to Page Turners at the email address shown in the masthead. Be sure to state which author you are addressing.

Dear Editor,

Don't know if I'll be able to make the Writers' League of Texas con [conference where PT authors, **Diane Fanning & Joan Upton Hall**, will be speaking (see "Author Sightings" last page)]. Life lately has my head spinning—since 2003! ha!...If I don't make it to that con, I'd REALLY appreciate it if you'd make a con-report. I do it for my friends when I've gone to a con and they couldn't. It helps us all stay connected :)

KC Heath

Thanks for the idea, KC. I'll try to do that. And since you are going to Denver for the World Science Fiction convention in early August, we'd love a con-report from you too.
Editor, Joan Hall

Editor's note:

KC is an author and book reviewer, who has recently struck out on her own to do reviews. After she has time to get her site up, we hope you'll visit: <http://www.kcheathescapetime.com>.

Have a new publication to announce? Tell us about it. Here's all you need to do:

1. Mention PageTurners newsletter (something specific you like about it would be nice — but isn't required).
2. Announce the title of your book (or whatever), a short blurb about it, and where it can be purchased.
3. A short blurb about you as a writer and your website if you have one.

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH: Cheryl Swanson

Lives in: Kauai, Hawaii

Writing genres: suspense/thriller; self-help non-fiction

Years as full-time author: 6 years; over 100 articles and 4 books,

Her non-fiction has been translated into multiple languages.

Website: www.cherylswanson.net

If you like authors who write out of what they've personally experienced, you'll appreciate **Cheryl Swanson's** life story. This thriller author is a breast cancer survivor, a former relief worker in Guatemala, a surfer, a medical technology expert and a first time mother at fifty (when she adopted a girl from Guatemala). Her first mystery came out of her experiences as a child advocate in San Francisco—where she worked with the juvenile court representing at-risk teenagers living in extremely dangerous environments.

Swanson's second novel, (not yet released) is based on her recent work on a major movie shoot (**Tropic Thunder**, starring **Ben Stiller** and **Tom Cruise**). She currently lives with her husband and daughter in a pole house on the north shore of Kauai. Slated for release next year is her cancer survivor's guide: **BUSTING THROUGH: SURVIVING CANCER WITH JOY AND PASSION**.

Book of the Month:

DEATH GAME by Cheryl Swanson

ISBN: 1554103258 300 pages - \$14.95

“There's a fine line between games and reality and most of the time it is only the most disturbed people who cross that line—although they occasionally take the innocent with them.”

That's how **DEATH GAME**, the debut mystery of this month's featured author was recently described in a review in prestigious **Foreword** magazine. **Death Game** introduces computer graphics expert Cooper O'Brien in a tale of international intrigue that rates as a top-quality thriller.

In *Death Game*, Stephen Ludlow, the son of a wealthy and powerful businessman, has been murdered, shot by someone caught on a surveillance camera. When the killer is identified as Cooper's younger brother Jimmie, Cooper refuses to believe it. Though Jimmie's had some emotional problems, Cooper is convinced, despite the evidence, that he couldn't be involved in murder. As she begins to untangle the threads that led Jimmie to be on the Ludlow yacht the night Stephen was murdered, she discovers a terrorist operation that threatens the lives of thousands of people in the San Francisco Bay area.

GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT

(Other Releases & Successes)

New Book—And an Offer to Readers

by L.C. Hayden

Got a new book coming out this fall, *Bell Shaped Flowers*. WordWright is releasing it, and they're small publishers, so I know I won't have any ARCs. However, I am collecting reviews and blurbs. If you'd like to review it or blurb—or both, I can send you a copy of the manuscript.

It's not a full length novel (it's only 25,000 words) and is very different than my other works. This one is an inspirational along the lines of Hallmark Hall of Fame. It's for WordWright's One Night Reader series, a set of books intended to be read at one seating. It's for those who are very busy or are reluctant readers. This young adult novel will appeal to everyone, so if you'd like to try it, please email me at lchauthor@yahoo.com and I can send it to you. If you don't have a place to review, there's always Amazon.com once the book is listed there.

Editor's note: In case you didn't notice, WordWright is the company co-owned by PT's own **Joan Neubauer**, and their One Night Reader series is worth a look on the website: <http://www.wordwright.biz>

Fanning Truly Knows Crime from Diane Fanning

My latest book, **THE TROPHY EXCHANGE**, will be released in the US by Severn House on July 1. In a starred review, Kirkus wrote: “Fanning has produced an exciting, emotionally intense story with a complex heroine whose future adventures will be widely anticipated.”

Be sure to check out the blogspot I share with sixteen other incredible women—prosecutors, defense attorneys, profilers, police officers and more: <http://www.womenincrimeink.blogspot.com>

Good News - Bad News by Jackie Griffey

The good news first: My **SPANISH EYES** which came out from Five Star in September is also scheduled to come out in a large print edition in November, 2008. Also the first of Maryvale cozy mysteries will come out June or July of 2009.

Now the bad: Had a book signing set up with a local independent bookstore who likes mysteries, but alas-the owner just couldn't make ends meet and went out of business. Our economy is really in the toilet. For goodness sake, go vote—whoever you think will be best—just vote!

Book Sellin', Searchin' & Signin' Shenanigans

(Or: A funny thing happened on the way...)

How to Mix Business with Pleasure? by Diane Fanning

At the WLT Agents & Editors Conference in Austin on Saturday June 21. (see “Author Sightings”) I'll be celebrating my birthday with a breakout session, Facts for Fiction, on Saturday, June 21, at 10:15 a.m. I'll share the research tips I've learned along the way to help you get the background information you need to write your novel. At 3:30, I'll be sitting on the Birth of a Book panel with an agent, an editor, a publicist, a publisher's rep and a bookbuyer.

On Monday, June 30, I will be at Curves in New Braunfels from 7 am till 1 pm for the launch of my newest book **THE TROPHY EXCHANGE**.

Join me for this pre-release event and celebration. All of my other titles will be available, too. Stop in, check out my books and check out the newly redesigned space for Curves, now open under new ownership at 139 N. Casteel Avenue in downtown New Braunfels.

Coachmen, Beware! by L.C. Hayden

Been busy fighting Coachmen. The camper, which was only three years old, is falling apart—literally. The shelves are collapsing and Coachmen refuses to help as it is past the one year warranty. I feel that after paying almost \$80,000 for a new unit, it should last longer than three years. I blogged about it and wanted to invite you to visit my blog at <http://lchayden.com> just click on blog.

FUN STUFF, CONTESTS & OFFERS

By Mayra Calvani

The book launch for *The Slippery Art of Book Reviewing* has started and my first guest was **James A. Cox**, editor-in-chief, **Midwest BookReview**. If you have the chance, stop by and leave a comment for the interview of that day. There will be a drawing on **July 2nd** and the prizes will be:

1st: A **Virtual Book Tour** with **Pumpm Up Your Book Promotion Book Tours** (coordinated by publicist **Dorothy Thompson**) OR, as an alternative to a non-author, a **\$50 B&N gift certificate**.

2nd: One year subscription to **Foreword Magazine**.

3rd: A T-shirt with the cover art of *The Slippery Art of Book Reviewing* on the front.

Here's the link: <http://blogcritics.org/archives/2008/06/01/202918.php>

The winners will be announced on **The Slippery Book Review Blog**.

Free Offer for Book Discussion Clubs Continuing from: **Joan Upton Hall**

I love it when a book discussion group picks one of my books. I have especially enjoyed it when several groups, within easy traveling distance, have invited me to join them for their discussions. Unfortunately, I realize that distance makes such a thing unfeasible for most of you. I have, however, developed various materials for each of my books by listening to the study groups.

If you have a group that wants to find out what freebies I offer, I would be delighted to “show & tell” you if you just ask and state which title you are interested in. Check out my book list at <http://www.joanuptonhall.com/books.htm>, and send me an email: jmuhall@aol.com.

If you go to that website, please notice my newest book, **SHADOW OF EXCALIBUR**. I'm as proud as a new mama!

Readers Ask Authors—HOT SEAT

(as last issue's Featured Authors)

David Ciambrone on the HOT SEAT

The winning reader question came from: a woman in his mystery class
(we'll call her "Jane Doe")

Jane Doe asks: In your books, is Virginia Davies based on a real person? Are there any real people in your books. In some early books you refer to Virginia posing as a center page foldout of a college engineering department magazine. Where did that come from?

Dave answers: I get asked this a lot. Virginia is not a real person. She's based on a number of women I've known. She's spicy, amorous, loveable, adventurous, intelligent, inquisitive, loyal, a good sport and fun. So were these ladies. There is one girl I knew in college who was a lot like Virginia. The engineering department at our college DID have a monthly glossy paged magazine they put out, and it had a center page foldout girl: Miss Engineer for each month, who posed nude. The girl was a coed and usually one of the engineering students' girl friends. The magazine sold out every month and they made a bundle on it. The girl I knew that is a lot like Virginia was the center page girl three times. So it ended up in the books. I like Virginia and will be having more of her books coming out.

Sylvia Dickey Smith on the HOT SEAT

The winning reader question came from Michael

Michael asks: I live in Orange, so I know your setting in DEADLY SINS DEADLY SECRETS. What I don't know is how you can make me see and hear your characters talking? How do you do that?

Sylvia answers: Great! That's exactly what I hope to do for my readers. I want to take them to Southeast Texas and let them experience the beauty of the culture, the cadence of the language, and the sub-tropical climate.

For one thing, Orange, Texas and its surroundings are in my DNA. I was born and reared there and still have strong ties with family and friends. Orange is unique. It's like it lives in an insular bubble away from the rest of the world. As I develop my characters, I hear them talk inside my head. I listen to the lilt in their voices, their often incorrect verb tense, their phraseology, and their view of the world. But not only do I hear them, I see, smell and feel them in the room with me, getting inside me, being me. It's scary sometimes, especially when it's the bad guy! Afterwards I must remind myself that I am not that person.

Then there is the humorous character. Southeast Texas has a lot of natural humor among its folks. Even though my mysteries can at times get dark, there is always the other side, and that's where the beautiful humor comes in. And me? I don't want to spend a day without laughter.

HOT SEAT

People are always asking us, “Where did you come up with (such-and-such character, idea, place, etc.)?” Okay, so here’s YOUR chance to find out. Each month, we’ll put the previous month’s Author of the Month on the hot seat to come up with a short answer.

This month’s featured author is **Cheryl Swanson**, so she’ll be next.

Check out the bio & book review in this issue (or better yet, read one of her books) – and she’s all yours for next month, dear readers! Send your question (**and a sentence or two about you if you want to include that**) to: PageTurnerHome@aol.com or to the author directly through her website shown on Page 1. **If your question is chosen, we’ll credit you.**

Please send your question 2 weeks before 1st of next month (**July**, in this case).

FOR YOU READERS WHO ALSO WRITE

How-to Advice a Few Clicks Away

ONGOING COLUMNS for WRITERS:

Neubauer's Nuggets: a regular column of writing advice by author/publisher, **Joan Neuabauer**, in **Inkwell Newswatch** (<http://www.fwointl.com>).

Ask the Book Doctor: Freelance editor, **Joan Upton Hall**, answers writers’ questions. Past issues, first published in various newsletters, also appear on her own: <http://www.joanuptonhall.com/bb.htm> (scroll down and click the link for “Ask Doc” Q&A’s).

Editor’s note: Since no one else sent me an article this month, here’s one from my own “Ask the Book Doctor” column.

Skunked Terms & Hypercorrection

by Joan Upton Hall

Dear Doc,

Our critique group gets into hot debates over whether certain expressions are correct or incorrect. What worries me is that, even after we come to an agreement, won’t readers also stumble over a perceived mistake?

Here are examples we’ve debated:

“A number of his fans (was, were) offended.”

“She wrote to Jim and (I, me, myself).”

“Scientific data (show, shows) an increase...”

“The virus totally (decimated, obliterated) the population.”

What should we do?

—Sign me: Critical in West Texas

Dear Critical,

No wonder these examples have raised questions. They involve “skunked terms” and “hypercorrection.” Both problems arise from evolving usage, and whatever you choose may raise the hackles of either **Reader A** (who’s hide-bound to traditional usage) or **Reader B** (who accepts new usage

as it becomes common). Worse is **Reader C** who, without any valid reason, thinks he knows. I advise that you change a questionable wording unless it's either necessary or in a character's dialogue. Thus you can avoid interrupting the reader's involvement in your story or article. And isn't that your aim more than teaching grammar?

Hypercorrection (as in 1 & 2) occurs when people, striving to use correct grammar, apply mistaken notions about it.

1. "A number of his fans (was, were) offended." Technically speaking, the singular subject-verb would be "number was." However, according to Bryan Garner's *Dictionary of Modern American Usage*, "a number of" has come to be paired with the plural noun closest to the verb. This follows the linguistic principle, SYNESIS (pronounced: SIN-uh-sis), grammatical agreement according to meaning rather than strict syntax. Suggestion: rather than explaining this to your reader, change the sentence to read something that will go down smoothly like, "Several of his fans were offended," or better in active voice, "This offended several of his fans."
2. "She wrote to Jim and (I, me, myself)." You need the objective case pronoun here for the object of a preposition ("to me"). Many a hyper-corrector would choose "Jim and I," or if they recognized that used the nominative case wrongly, would erroneously use "myself," a reflexive pronoun, to avoid choosing. Suggestion: Go ahead and write the correct choice. Informed readers will approve. The error comes chiefly when the uninformed grow self-conscious while speaking. It's time they get used to hearing it correctly.

Skunked Terms (as in 3 & 4) come about while terminology is in transition. Give it 10 to 100 years to settle into agreed usage. In the meantime, avoid terms that make either Reader A or B hold her nose unless you're prepared to defend your case.

2. "Scientific data (show, shows) an increase..." Technically plural, "data" is more and more commonly being considered a mass noun requiring a singular verb form. Whichever form you use may bring on sneers unless it's in a character's dialogue. Suggested revision: "Scientific research shows..." because "research" isn't a skunked term.
3. "The virus totally (decimated, obliterated) the population." Since the word "decimated" historically meant "killing one out of every ten" (as in prisoners or hostages), the word "totally" would make no sense. Current usage has come to mean "destroying a large part," so your readers may be confused as to which definition you mean. Either leave out "totally" and say "ten percent of the population" or choose an unskunked term like "wiped out" or "obliterated."

A few other skunked terms are: *hopefully*, *enormity*, *fulsome*, and *transpire*, so be careful how you use them—or wait until the next 100 or so years before you use them at all.

—Be hypercorrected & skunked no longer! – Joan Hall

Have an article about writing or book groups? If it would interest our readers, we'll be happy to print it. We can't pay at this time, but it will serve as a published clip with your byline. Reprints accepted with notice of first publication. Submission guidelines:

1. Send as an attached Word document.
2. About 500-1,500 words (If editor condenses it, you will have a chance to approve before printing)
3. A short blurb about you as a writer and your website if you have one.
4. Email to: PageTurnerHome@aol.com or jmuHall@aol.com with subject line: "PT submission"

HEADS UP FOR AUTHOR SIGHTINGS

June through early July - If you're in the area, stop and see us!

(For private appearances, such as small book clubs, check with author)

Sylvia Dickey Smith

June 14-15, 2008, Hardboiled Heroes & Cozy Cats Mystery Conference, Dallas, Presenting: Setting-Catching the Flavor

June 21, 2008: Panel Moderator at Agents and Editors Conference, Austin, Texas

June 28, 2008: The Bookworm, 3245 Main Street, Frisco, Texas 11-1 p.m.

June 28, 2008: Hastings Bookstore, Denton, Texas 5-7 p.m.

David Ciambrone

June 14-15, 2008, Hardboiled Heroes & Cozy Cats Mystery Conference, Dallas.

L.C. Hayden

June 14: Workshop on Creating Characters With Character, Doris Van Doren Library, El Paso, TX, 2-4.

If you'd like to book me as a speaker, remember, I am available. Contact me at lchauthor@yahoo.com

Gloria Oliver

June 6 - 7 Sooner Con Oklahoma City, OK <http://www.soonercon.info>

Jackie Griffey

June 14, 11:00 am-1:00 pm: Arlene Cherry Library, 506 N. Grant St.. Cabot, Arkansas

July 12, 11:00 am-1:00 pm: Marjorie W. McCreary Library, 204 E. 2nd St., Lonoke, Arkansas

Diane Fanning

June 21-22: Presenting at Writers' League of Texas Agents & Editors Conference, Austin, Texas.

<http://www.writersleague.org/events/2008-agent-conf.html>

June 30, 7 am - 1 pm: pre-release celebration of THE TROPHY EXCHANGE at Curves, 139 N. Casteel Ave., New Braunfels

Joan Upton Hall

June 7, Sat., noon to 2 PM, Hill Country Bookstore, Georgetown, Texas; presenting new novel: The Shadow of Excalibur.

June 21-22: Presenting at Writers' League of Texas Agents & Editors Conference, Austin, Texas.

Topic: "Ready, Set, Publish: Self-editing that Works"

<http://www.writersleague.org/events/2008-agent-conf.html>