



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 Ciabrone <http://www.davidciabrone.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.freeservers.com> Mystery, Inspirational, Horror, Children
 Gloria Oliver <http://www.gloriaoliver.com> Spec Fic, Fantasy/SF/Horror, YA
 Sylvia Dickey Smith <http://www.sylviadickeysmith.com> Mystery suspense
 Cheryl Swanson <http://www.cherylswanson.net> Contemporary thriller, self-help nonfiction
 George Wilhite (website under construction) Mystery/Detective, Western, Speculative, Noir, 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 PT,

My name is **Gaylon Greer**, and here is a brief description of my first novel, **The Price of Sanctuary**:

Accustomed to a life of privilege, **Shelby Cervosier** now finds herself running for her life. Accused of killing an American Immigration agent, Shelby has undertaken a mission on behalf of a secretive American espionage agency in exchange for a promise of legal amnesty and political asylum in America. Now, however, the agent who coerced her into accepting the assignment wants her dead to cover up the bungled mission. Two hit men compete for the bounty that has been placed on her head.

Shelby and her younger sister flee into America's heartland in search of a safe haven. They find only fear and danger, however, when they are captured by one of the assassins, Hank.

Prepared to do whatever it takes to keep her sister safe, Shelby cooperates with her capturer. Deciding that his feelings for them are more important than bounty money, Hank takes the sisters under his wing and secrets them away to his hideout: a farm in a remote corner of Colorado. They become a part of his extended family; they have finally found sanctuary.

Their safe new world is shattered when the second hit man, a relentless psychopath, captures Shelby's little sister and uses her to lure Shelby and her lover into a middle-of-the-night showdown on an isolated Rocky Mountain battleground.

Please visit my website for more: <http://www.gaylongreer.com>

— **Gaylon Greer**

Editor's note: Congratulations on the new novel, Gaylon. Sounds quite suspenseful!

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: Diane Fanning

Lives in: New Braunfels, Texas

Writing genres: Mystery, True Crime, Suspense

A Slice of Diane's Life

Books on the way:

MOMMY'S LITTLE GIRL, Diane Fanning's tenth true crime book from **St. Martin's Press**, hits the shelves on November 3, 2009.

When news broke of nearly three-year-old Caylee Anthony's disappearance from her home in Florida in July 2007, there was a huge outpouring of sympathy across the nation. The search for Caylee made front-page headlines. But there was a huge question mark hanging over the case: the girl's mother.

No matter how bad the mother, every young girl is **MOMMY'S LITTLE GIRL**.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY, (working title) the third mystery novel in the Lucinda Pierce series.

I am racing toward the finish of this manuscript. I expect to send it to my editor in three weeks. Lucinda handles two bodies, a death in her own family and a man with multiple aliases and even more women.

BLACK WIDOW, (working title) the true story of the 76-year-old Betty Neumar who was charged with murder in the death of the fourth of her five dead husbands.

I've started the research and laying the groundwork for this book. I'll focus on it as soon as I complete the third Lucinda book.

Handling a bad experience

Warning to all: Since the end of June, I've been harassed by a Cyber-bully. She is the editor of a on-line crime blog which would lead you to expect a degree of professionalism.

You'd be very wrong in this case. She's said I look "like a prison dyke" and called me a hack so many times I'm beginning to like the term. Worst of all, though, she's actually put my IP address, the identification number for my computer, on public forums on the internet along with mentions of sites I have visited.

The good news, though, is that I have an array of internet security features up and running—and you should, too. Make sure your firewall, spyware and anti-virus software is installed and up-to-date. You just can't be too careful out there.

In addition to my website, you can find me on-line at:

www.twitter.com/DianeFanning

www.facebook.com/Diane.Fanning

www.myspace.com/DianeFanning

www.womenincrimeink.blogspot.com

Book of the Month: A POISONED PASSION by Diane Fanning

A POISONED PASSION

September 1, 2009

St. Martin's Press

ISBN: 978-0312945077

\$6.99

Michael Severance survived five tours of duty with the Air Force in the war torn Middle East. But he could not survive five months of marriage to this woman.

Wendi Davidson was a young veterinarian in the isolated city of San Angelo, Texas. She decided the solution to her problem was to give her husband a lethal injection.

Excerpt:

He saw his sister's 2001 red Chevrolet Camaro first, then, he saw her standing by the grave of their grandfather. Wendi was obviously agitated as she paced over a tiny circular patch of ground like a high-strung race horse.

He walked toward her, looking around for any sign of another person or vehicle but none was in sight. "Who's following you? What's up?"

"No. Nobody's following me. It's just that, you know, I mean I got something that I need to say, but I'm going to wait till mom and dad are here."

"No," Marshall said, a bit irritated at being put off by Wendi after he'd raced over to come to her aid. "Something's bothering you this much, so what is it?"

"Look, nobody's going to believe me..." Wendi began.

Marshall shifted his weight from one foot to the other waiting for her to continue.

“I didn’t kill Mike, but, you know, I did find him dead and I moved his body to the tank.”

“You did what?”

“I took him to the tank at Terrell’s. I was just like freaking out.”

“Why?” Marshall asked. “Why, why would you do something like that?”

“I don’t know,” she wailed. “I just found him dead there, and, you know, it’s—one of the doors, normally you have to use a key—or, you know, it locks from the inside, so you use a key to get it—you know, check it to see if it’s unlocked anyways. I went in there, and all the doors were locked up and he was—you know, he was laying there in the bed, and, you know, dead or whatever. And I freaked out, and the first thing that came to my mind is somebody I know had to do it, you know? How did they get in the clinic if they didn’t?”

“The door was locked?”

“I assumed it was,” Wendi answered.

“Why?”

“I didn’t really check. I just put my key in and turned it. They had to have a key. Maybe it was Nanny”, she said referring to their dying grandmother. “She had a key.”

“Nanny? You think Nanny killed Mike?” Marshall thought of his dying grandmother and knew the suggestion was absurd.

“I don’t know who did it but I didn’t,” she snapped. “Nobody liked him, you know?”

“That’s no reason to kill somebody.”

“I didn’t kill him. They’re going to think I did. That’s why I moved the body.”

Keep your eye on www.dianefanning.com for the arrival of the complete first chapter, book trailer video and updates on the appearance calendar.

GET ‘EM WHILE THEY’RE HOT (Other Releases & Successes)

Raw Sample Chapters by Gloria Oliver

Gloria Oliver has posted raw sample chapters for her novel *Price of Mercy*, due to see release by Zumaya Publications in 2010. Also she will be a guest speaker at Armadillo Con (www.armadillocon.org) August 14-16, 2009, in Austin, TX.

New Romance and Mystery on the Horizon by Jackie Griffey

I just got a contract for a historical romance which will be scheduled for some time in 2010. The novel, *Merrywinds*, takes readers on a dowry girl’s adventure where businessmen in the new world pay passages for girls if they marry within a set time and settle here in America to keep their employees from leaving and going back to Europe.

Stranger In Paradise is recently out (HC from **Five Star** March, 2009) a romance/suspense. You’ll find mystery, fun, and a kidnapping all because Laura finds her handsome Prince Charming and can’t talk to him!”

Good News to Come Home To by L.C. Hayden

Last Friday I got home to a blinking message on my answering machine. It was **Books-in-Motion** wanting my email address. They plan to release *Why Casey Had to Die* as an audio book. Woohoo! I've never had any of my books come out as a CD so I'm anxiously awaiting its release. I wonder who they'll get to read it.

Book Sellin', Searchin' & Signin' Shenanigans (Or: A funny thing happened on the way...)

The Making of a TV Interview 48 Hours: An Odyssey Lasting 2100 Minutes by Diane Fanning

I knew this wasn't an ordinary business trip when a long, sleek, black car pulled into my driveway and a black-suited, capped gentleman rushed to the front door to take my bag on Tuesday, July 14. It was a treat to sit in the back seat while someone else battled the remnants of morning rush hour traffic.

Arriving in the Orlando Airport, I was greeted by man holding up a sign that read: "Diane Fanning." Another first—I could get used to this kind of treatment. He whisked me away in another serious shiny black sedan and delivered me to the Marriot on the outskirts of the downtown area.

I went to my room and called the *48 Hours* producer **Taigi Smith**—the one who beckoned me to Orlando for an interview about the **Caylee/Casey Anthony** case. She told me to relax and order room service. They'd want me upstairs in about an hour and a half.

Ordering from room service was easy—those Southwest Airlines peanuts did more to stimulate my appetite than to fulfill it. But the relaxing part—that was difficult.

How do you relax when you're facing an interview with *48 Hours*? It has a reputation as being one of the best shows of its kind and longest one on the air—second only to 60 minutes in both categories.

I did try to chill out but I was haunted by the fear that I'd forget everything I knew once I sat under the lights. At the right time, I left the room and entered the elevator. On the way up to the suite, I felt like a nervous bride standing by her father at the back of the church. What lay ahead might be terrific or it could be the biggest mistake of my life.

The room was filled with equipment and at least seven people—three producers, audio techs, camera crews. Every one of them immediately set to work making me feel at ease.

What I thought was about a half-an-hour later, we were done. They turned out the blazing hot lights, I realized two-and-a-half hours had passed since I entered the room.

I agreed to meet the three producers—Taigi, John and Ira—in fifteen minutes and to go out to dinner at a restaurant of my choosing—and I wanted Sushi. That night, I discovered I was a sake barbarian. I only knew there was one kind of sake—I quickly learned otherwise, sampling every variety they ordered. I enjoyed them all over a fascinating night of conversation, highlighted by Ira's recollections of the early years of *48 Hours*.

The next morning, bright and early, I headed out with producer John Leach and a camera crew to shoot B roll. We stopped for our Starbucks fix and then headed to gorgeous Lake Eola park. The sun sparkled on the water rimmed on the far end by the skyscrapers of downtown Orlando.

Over and over and over again, I walked down the same piece of sidewalk—different angles, different start points, different instructions. It had seemed like a beautiful morning, but after walking back and forth in the sunshine, the high humidity grew a bit oppressive. We then shot footage over at the playground before departing for the upside down house. It hadn't been turned over but it was built to look as if it was. I kept looking for the ruby slippers as I walked where I was told and when I was told.

Next stop, the courthouse—I strolled, typed on a laptop and texted on my iPhone. Time and time again. We caught a lot of stares even in that media-drenched environment.

Finally, time for lunch. All morning long, John had promised to get me back to the hotel no later than 1:15. We didn't quite make it. We arrived at 1:30. I was 15 minutes late and, of course, the driver was 15 minutes early.

I apologized for the delay, raced upstairs, changed out of my humidity-limp dress and hurried back down just seven minutes later—not bad. When I landed at the San Antonio airport, another gentleman, holding a sign bearing my name, whisked me off we drove through the peak of afternoon rush hour. I was home just before 6:30 on Wednesday, July 15—about 34 ½ hours after I departed. Exhausted but warmed by memories of new friends, good times and a whirlwind adventure.

Editor's note: Diane expects this program to be aired in the fall (possibly October) but will keep us posted.

FUN STUFF, CONTESTS & OFFERS

Invitations: Next Cruise, Free Subscription, and/or Prize by L.C. Hayden

I would absolutely love it if you joined me on the Oct/Nov. 2009 Celebrity Cruise through the Panama Canal. We catch the ship in San Diego on October 24 and disembark in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on November 8. Let me know if you'd like to join me as Celebrity told me they would be willing to discount your cruise—not by much but every bit helps—so come sail with me!

I would like to expand my mailing list. If you know someone who would like to receive my newsletter, please send me their names and email address (with their permission, of course). Please send the names to: lchauthor@yahoo.com. The person who sends me the most names will have a choice of prize: a copy of *Why Casey Had to Die* (hard cover, or large print edition or the CD when it comes out. It is also out as a paperback so if the winner would rather get the paperback, that's fine too. Or maybe the winner would rather receive the hard cover of my next Harry Bronson book, *When Death Intervenes* scheduled to be released April 2010. The winner can also choose to be one of my characters in a future book.

READERS ASK AUTHORS

Joan Upton Hall on the **HOT SEAT**

(as last issue's Featured Author)

A nonfiction book discussion group asks: Since you write historical nonfiction and travel articles, we were wondering if any of this ever connects with your fantasy and sci-fi books?

Joan answers: Definitely for locations and “characters” I meet along the way. My novels are mostly set in real places that I know well—even though I may invent different time periods and situations. Because Texas has been my playground for nonfiction, its locations, as well as other places I’ve been, seem right. There’s no shortage of scenic variety: piney woods to deserts, seacoasts to mountains, and urban to rural. As for history, Texas abounds with colorful characters I can borrow for my fiction.

Recently, when I interviewed an expert on hazardous materials for my current project, he asked if he could be a character in my book (Book 3 of the *Excalibur Regained* series). Since he definitely *is* a “character,” it won’t be a stretch at all to make this fellow “colorful.”

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.

Diane Fanning is our Featured Author for this month, so check out her website and books and ask away. **Of all questions received, we’ll draw one. Please send your questions by the middle of next month.**

Send your question (**and a sentence or two about yourself if you desire**) 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.

FOR YOU READERS WHO ALSO WRITE

Cures for Writers’ Block by David Ciambrone

Having written a number of books, I find writers’ block no stranger. I have found that sometimes you need to back away and re-look at what you’re doing. Maybe your mind tells you what you are writing is wrong! Maybe this doesn’t really fit the story, or maybe it isn’t right for the characters, or maybe you just shouldn’t be writing it because you either don’t really know the material well enough, or you are doing something wrong. Backing away can offer new perspectives and maybe the answer. Then there are a lot of other reasons, and the ways to handle them are shown below. Yes, they work but which ones are best depend on YOU!

Having writer's block in the middle of your story? Or just don't know where to begin? Sometimes you need to do something different to start the creativity pumping through your brain. And often it's something really simple that does the trick. We all have this happen from time to time. The following ideas from “**Top Easy Ways to Jump Start Your Creativity**” by **Cristine Grace** are practical and actually work. Try one— or all— of them:

1. Take a break and do something creative that isn't writing — cook, paint, work in the garden. Sometimes one kind of creativity sparks another.
2. Keep a notebook with you at all times to jot down ideas throughout the day. Sometimes the best story ideas come when you're eating lunch or riding the bus home from work. Cut pictures out of magazines of possible heroes and heroines, clothing styles, furniture, kitchens, houses, etc. Once you get a visual of these characters, where and how they live, then you can begin writing about them.
3. Can't start at the beginning? Start at the end! If you've got a killer ending idea for a novel, work backward! Once you write your ending, then ask yourself what you need to say prior to that ending in order to get to that point. You can also start in the middle and work forward or backward.
4. Read, read, read! When reading books you like, jot down what you like about them. (For example, this made me cry; I can really relate to that.) Ask yourself, "Why was this book bought by an editor and published?" When you know what you like as a reader, you can become a better writer. You can choose from all kinds of great romance novels at [Buy Books](#).
5. Take away the mental roadblock of "I can't." We all know the reasons why we can't write — we're too busy, not creative enough, etc. Write down 10 reasons why you *can* write. For if you *think* you can, *know* you can, you *will*. [Yes, this is important]
6. Do something childish. Children are naturally creative, and when we get older we lose some of that spontaneous creativity because we're so bogged down by reality. Get in touch with that creative child— play on a swing set, finger paint, cut the sandwich you made into four neat little squares. [This one is really helpful.]
7. Reward yourself. Set a realistic goal, such as five pages a week. If you make your goal, give yourself a small reward — some chocolate, a new cooking gadget, some perfume. We spend an awful lot of time punishing ourselves for not doing what we should, why shouldn't we reward ourselves, too? Writing is a lot more fun if there's a treat at the end of it! [Chocolate!]
8. Write it, even if you think it's terrible. Don't prevent yourself from jotting down a word, phrase, or paragraph just because it "isn't quite right" or "it won't work." Maybe it will, maybe it won't, but it's better to write it down— you can always edit later. And you don't want to stop yourself before you even get started! The point isn't to use everything you write. You can't be expected to pop out perfect prose your first time out! Write now, edit later. [You can always do it over.]
9. Observe people and situations around you throughout the day and ask yourself, "What if?" For example, if you see a woman gazing longingly into a jewelry store window, ask yourself, "What if once upon a time she was so rich that she could buy those diamond earrings 10 times over but now she's so poor she can't even buy a dime-store pair?" Then ask yourself more questions, like, "Well, how did she go from being rich to poor?" or "What could she do to become rich again?" The next thing you know, you've created a story! [Fun to do and you have a good excuse for the police.]
10. Can you write a chapter but not a whole book? Then write a bunch of chapters — even if they don't fit together perfectly right now. You can rearrange them and work on transitions later. [One step at a time]

How-to Advice a Couple of Clicks Away

ONGOING COLUMNS for WRITERS:

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).

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. Up to 800 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

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

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

L. C. Hayden

Presenting a set of workshops through the University of Texas at El Paso, Texas's Continuing Education Department.

Aug. 4: "Everything You Wanted to Know About Publishing But Were Afraid to Ask"

Oct. 24 – Nov. 8: Author-in-Residence at the Panama Canal Cruise in Celebrity's Infinity. Join me!

Gloria Oliver

Aug. 14-16: Guest speaker at **Armadillo Con** (www.armadillocon.org) in Austin, TX.

Dave Ciambrone

August 4, Tues.: North lake Landowners Association National Night Out.

Diane Fanning

Sept. 10-12, Sat.+: Round-up on the River, National Federation of Press Women 2009 conference at El Tropicana Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, TX. I'll be speaking on Saturday at 2:30 about making the transition from journalism to fiction writing.

Oct. 3, Sat.: Dr. Eugene Clark Library. I'll be one of eight authors: Evening with the Authors event Lockhart, TX.

I'll have a few book store signings thrown in the mix, dates to be confirmed soon. Just keep an eye on the calendar page at www.dianefanning.com

(continued next page)

Joan Upton Hall

Aug. 3, Mon., 7 PM: “Hico – in Just Visitin’ Old Texas Jails” book, presentation to Hico Historical Preservation Society, Hico, TX.

Sept. 4, Fri., 4 PM: “How I came to Write my Urban Fantasy series, *Excalibur Regained*,” Georgetown Library Author Series, Georgetown, TX

Sept. 11, Fri. all day: Word Wrangler Book Festival, Giddings, TX.

Sept. 25-26, Fri.-Sat.: East Texas Historical Association Fall Conference at historical Fredonia Hotel, Nacadoches, TX.

**Sylvia Dickey Smith’s
Schedule for Blog Talk Radio’s
MURDER, SHE WRITES**

The following guests are set to talk about their books, their writing, and how they do what they do best, write mystery!

3-Aug: Suzanne Alleyn

10-Aug: Judy Reveal

17-Aug: Linda Faulkner

24-Aug: Marilyn Kemp

31-Aug: Maryann Miller

Tune in to www.blogtalkradio.com/murdershewrites