



Vol. 1, No. 10, June 7, 2019

In this issue:

- Historical Fiction for Juveniles
- Author Spotlight: LeeAnne James
- Reading Roundup: Books from the 1900s/1910s

From the Editor

Research, research, research. Will we ever know enough?

Don't get me wrong. I love researching. I often joke that if I could figure out how to get paid to just sit and research all day I'd be happy. But I don't think we can ever get comfortable with the knowledge we have. Yes, at some point we need to stop and just start writing. We can't learn it all before we begin our tales or we'd never get anything written. But I'm always finding parts that I need to learn more about.

Many of my short stories are set in the 1930s and early 1940s. Occasional references to old jalopies chugging to a stop find their way in the story. I use the pictures of Grandpa's old Chevy as inspiration.

This past weekend I was reading *Sold on a Monday*, by Kristina McMorris. She had a short paragraph in the scene that had me envious.

As soon as he reached his old clunker, he tossed the camera inside, a little harder than he should have, and retrieved his jug of water. He refilled the radiator and prepared the motor by adjusting the levers and turning the key. Back at the hood, he gripped the fender for leverage and gave the crank a hearty jerk. Thankfully, a second attempt revived the sedan.

Four little sentences and she told so much. I realized that although I can picture the image of the vehicles and place them in my own scenes, I'm still lacking some details that add so much more depth. Granted, in the acknowledgments at the end of the book, Kristina McMorris thanked Terry Smoke and Neil Handy "for such great input on Model T's, radiators, and all that jazz." She didn't necessarily know all this before writing her book. So, she searched out the experts and learned enough to add just a few embellishing words, putting me as the reader right there on the road standing beside Ellis as he fiddled with his car.

Kudos to Kristina McMorris for a well-written book that I devoured. And for also showing me a few additional areas where I need to deepen my knowledge so that I can gradually improve my own writing, pages at a time.

Trisha

texastrishafaye@yahoo.com

Historical Fiction for Juveniles

Juvenile – because historical fiction is for kids too, not just adults. How many of us grew up immersed in the past via Laura Ingalls Wilder’s Little House on the Prairie books? Or *Island of the Blue Dolphins*? Or...

Two popular contemporary series are the American Girl novels and the Magic Tree House series. Many of the popular current works contain elements such as time travel or historical fantasy. My own thinking is – if it enthalls the reader and keeps them reading, I’m all for it.

[What Do We Do All Day](#) has a terrific post with 25 books to read after – or instead of – Little House on the Prairie books. They’ve compiled an excellent list of other historical tales to entrance young readers.

Here is a site with [recommended historical fiction picture books](#). I’m long past the picture book reading phase, but so many look interesting that I’m making a list to take to my local library. I foresee an afternoon in my future where you’ll find me camped out in the children’s section basking in a pile of historical picture books.

[Chambers County Library](#) compiled a nice list of historical fictions books for younger readers. The list has the title and author, along with a brief blurb about the book. I’m printing this one out and taking to my own local library because I found too many on there that I’d love to read myself.

Now – the difficult task. Trying to get my young grandsons off those video games they’re seemingly connected to for life, and into the pages of a book. Although, last weekend, my nine-year-old grandson admitted that he liked the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. It’s a start...it’s a start.

[Get Pages of the Past delivered to your inbox every Friday!](#)



Fortunately for me, I have a dear friend that’s a voracious reader. She also loves to support new authors, local authors, and her favorite authors. So when Cindy met a new to her author at a book signing at her local bookstore, she shared LeeAnne’s new book with me too, and I too learned about LeeAnne James.

Murder at Gatewood is LeeAnne’s debut historical mystery. She joins us today to chat a little about her writing journey and her new book. Welcome, LeeAnne!

Hi LeeAnne. *Murder at Gatewood* is your first novel – a mystery set in the late 1800s. What drew you to write in this era?

I had actually had the idea for the book for quite a few years but didn't know what era to place it in. I also didn't want to make it overly complicated, and I knew that if I placed it in today's world, the reader might look to have the mystery solved with forensic science. I finally came up with the idea of having the story take place during the Victorian era, and the pieces just fell into place.

Which did you choose first – the mystery storyline, or the time and setting?

Actually, I had the ending first and then decided on the time and setting. I wanted the setting to revolve around the upper class where there were servants in the household and help in the fields. One of the main characters, the Duke, is miserable because he wants to work in the fields, to cultivate the land, and literally see the fruits of his labor. Unfortunately, a man of his station did not do manual labor, and it left him unhappy and angry.

Do you have any favorite methods you used to research this time period?

Google. Anything can be discovered using Google. I researched everything from the homes they lived in during that period to the clothes they wore and the traditions that they practiced. I even researched the name Gatewood to make sure there wasn't a real duke or estate by that name.

What challenges did you find in writing a story set in the past?

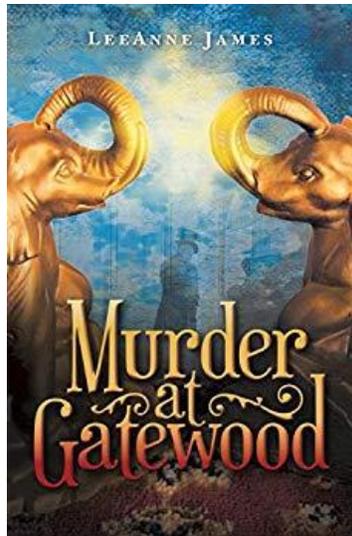
I really didn't have a lot of challenges, other than doing the research on what things were like back then. I would look at pictures and combine them with what I had in my mind, and then tried to describe it in the hopes that the reader would picture the image as I did.

Were there any unexpected surprises you discovered on this writing journey?

Yes, indeed. There were a few unexpected surprises, the first one being that it was accepted by the publisher. Granted, it was "self-published", but I think that term is deceiving. A publisher could reject the book just the same as if I had a literary agent. I think the other surprise was how long it took to take the book from manuscript to printed page. It took a long time, about nine months, but there were a number of steps that had to be completed before I could move on from one to the next.

Are you working on any other projects we should look for in the future?

I am currently working on a modern-day murder mystery, but it's much more extensive than *Murder at Gatewood*. Once the character gets arrested and goes to trial, I'm trying to make it accurate according to today's legal system, so there is a lot more research involved. It's also been suggested by a number of people that I write a sequel to *Murder at Gatewood*, so that may become my third book.



You can find Murder at Gatewood here:

Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Murder-at-Gatewood-LeeAnne-James-ebook/dp/B07JMLSG5V/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3SPYGSZMKBO88&keywords=murder+at+gatewood&qid=1558996968&s=gateway&srefix=Murder+at+Gatewood,aps,196&sr=8-1

Barnes & Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/murder-at-gatewood-leeanne-james/1129603090>

Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/18568050.LeeAnne_James

Google Play books:

https://play.google.com/store/books/details?pcampaignid=books_read_action&id=sGI0DwAAQBAJ

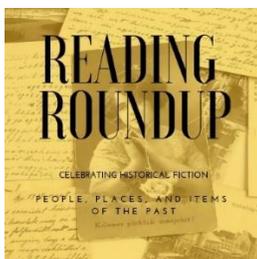
Kobo: <https://www.kobo.com/us/en/ebook/murder-at-gatewood>

You can find LeeAnne here:

My website: <https://www.leeannejames.com/>

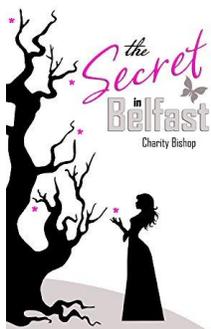
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LeeAnne-James-Author-1120548051436133/?modal=admin_todo_tour

BIO: I grew up in Central New York, reading Little Golden Books, Disney, The Bobbsey Twins, and Nancy Drew. After graduating from college with a Journalism degree, I worked for over ten years at a typesetting firm as a proofreader and makeup/layout artist. After the birth of my son, I returned to the workforce, this time as a clerk at a town court and then as a clerk in the local police department. Nowadays, I'm still working at the police department, but as an Administrative Clerk and I still live in Central New York with my husband, my son and our family dog.



The 1900s/1910s

The Secret in Belfast Charity Bishop

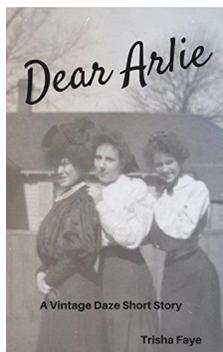


The city of Belfast in 1911 bustles with activity. The RMS Olympic is about to set out on her first sea voyage, and the RMS Titanic is sliding off her dry dock into the channel for the first time.

However, Lord Pirrie and Thomas Andrews have other things on their mind... a robbery without anything missing, a mysterious child with a sadistic gift, and a secret hidden for decades threatens to overshadow the success of the shipyard. And when a dockside accident amid the roar of the watching crowd reveals a greater threat among the workers of Harland & Wolff, they have no choice but to rely on an old friend for assistance.

Richard Pierce falls into an unimaginable world of spiritual intrigue and ghosts from the past that may force him to bring his own secrets to light, as he haunts the shipyard in search of answers, confronts the demons of his past, and faces an eventual journey across the icy North Atlantic.

Dear Arlie Trisha Faye



Arlie Shinkle is turning 20. She enjoys spending time with her friends - but George is what's really on her mind. Step back to 1911 as we peek in on Arlie's life to see if she does indeed get the man she has her eye on. This Vintage Daze Short Story is inspired from a collection of real-life postcards sent from Pauline Washburn to Arlie Shinkle, along with photographs from Pauline's scrapbook.

Authors: Do you have a historical fiction book or short story that you'd like featured in Pages of the Past? Email me at texastrishafaye@yahoo.com to see about scheduling your book or short story in a future issue.

[Get Pages of the Past delivered to your inbox every Friday!](#)

Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184527085517941/>