



Vol. 1, No. 19, August 9, 2019

In this issue:

- New Release: The Kings Players
- Story
- Historical Fiction Facebook Groups
- Reading Roundup: Books from the 1930s

From the Editor

This week I was reading an article on She Writes and found myself chuckling. The blog was: [Iris Johansen on Letting Characters take the Lead and Expanding Her Craft](#). It was a roundup with snippets of other interviews to take a look at how Johansen “shapes her tales, characters and craft.”

In one of the quotes they used from Book Browse, Johansen shared:

“A perfect character is like a beautiful, placid lake,” she said in an interview with Book Browse. “You can admire it, but eventually you look away and try to find a little action. Flaws are human and it gives a character something against which to struggle. However, it can be hard to balance,” she admits. “In one book I reached almost the halfway mark and realized my male protagonist was too noble. I was in a terrible dilemma because the plot wouldn't permit a change in character. There was only one solution: I killed him. (Fortunately, I had a satisfactorily flawed secondary character hanging out just waiting to be promoted.)”

I was laughing because as writers, we can do that. You mess with our plot – Bam! You're gone. We can write in a replacement so fast our characters heads must spin. Ah, the joys of writing fiction!

At lunch with two friends today, I found out some interesting tidbits that unbeknownst to them ties in with a short story I started earlier in the year. I started the story around a vintage postcard of The Grotto, in West Bend, Iowa. I worked on it in a weekly online writing group (Tuesday Tales) from about January to May – then stopped to work on another tale. Iowa came up in our conversation as one of the ladies just returned from there. The story's more involved to share all here, so I'll tell you all about it next week. Let's just say that I was so excited about how the conversation turned that I rushed home and totally forgot the other errands I was going to do! Next Friday I'll tell you all about it.

Thanks for joining us this week!

Trisha

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New Release

The King's Players

Charity Bishop



One year ago, Suffolk gave King Henry the slip. His mistress also disappeared. No one has since seen her, not even her best friend, Edda. The talented seamstress works for Lady Keelyn, wife of Sir William, Suffolk's younger brother. As she sews delicate loops into an expensive new gown for her mistress, she frets at what the future may hold. For the king is on his way to Suffolk Hall. He has not said why, but she suspects it's to arrest Sir William. The rest of the town share her fear, including her father, the local woodcarver. Sir William hopes his exquisite throne may soften the king's heart, but they know nothing can alter the intentions of his ruthless enforcer, Sir Thomas Lovell. Many want to seek their fortunes at court. News of the king's coming brings a theatrical troupe desperate to find a patron. The playwright, Tristan, has misgivings... but knows if they cannot secure a position before winter, they may starve. The king's arrival sparks a series of events, from a shipwreck to an assassination attempt, and a mysterious figure in the cemetery. They are all about to discover Suffolk Hall is more than it first appears.

Story

There's so much to learn about writing, not only the pieces about writing in general, but also the nuances that go with each genre. To me it's almost like something along the lines of one step forward-two steps back. For everything I learn about writing, I find two more pieces that I don't know. And if I'm not learning, it's the practice-practice-practice method. Looking at the masters, the ones we idolize and adore their written prose, it's easy to some days feel that I'll never quite reach their pinnacle of success. But as long as my goal is to be a little bit better from week to week and month to month – then I suppose I can live with not being at the Barbara Kingsolver or Stephen King place on the writing journey.

In this course of learning, there's a lot of reading taking place right alongside the practice component. I was reading an interesting post a few weeks ago – [The Seven Elements of Historical Fiction](#). In it, M.K. Tod states:

“All writers of fiction have to consider seven critical elements: character, dialogue, setting, theme, plot, conflict, and world building. While every story succeeds or disappoints on the basis of these elements, historical fiction has the added challenge of bringing the past to life.”

She then proceeds to briefly discuss each of the seven elements and how they relate to historical fiction. It’s all great information. But what I especially liked was something she closed with. She wrote:

“A closing thought from well-known historical fiction author Bernard Cornwell: “The most important thing, the all-important thing, is to get the story right. Write, rewrite, rewrite again, and do not worry about anything except story. It is story, story, story. That is your business. Your job is not to educate readers on the finer points of Elizabethan diplomacy or Napoleonic warfare, your job is to divert and amuse people who have had a hard day at work. What will get you published? Not style, not research, but story. Once the story is right, everything else will follow.”

Will that stop me, or slow me down on trying to make sure I’m historically accurate? No. Will I stop reading about the eras I’m writing in? No. Will it reduce my research time? No. But what it does is emphasizes that the greatest impact must be the story. The historical brush that we use to paint the accents is not what will keep people reading. The story will keep them turning the pages.

43 ST. NICHOLAS ADVERTISEMENTS

Hello Boys!

Two Boys Building an 8-foot-high Skyscraper with Erector

44 ST. NICHOLAS ADVERTISEMENTS

ERECTOR

THE TOY LIKE STRUCTURAL STEEL

“Just Look at the Big, Strong Models You Can Build!”

With Erector you can build strong models that are regular “giants”—skyscrapers 8 feet high, bridges 21 feet long.

There’s a lot of fun in building these big Erector models; they’re not flimsy and weak like the models built with flat strips.

Notice the square columns of this model—they’re exactly like the columns and beams of actual skyscrapers. Erector is the easy construction toy with girders like real structural steel.

There’s no end to the models—both large and small—that you can build. Skyscrapers with running elevators, bridges with third-rail cars, machine-shops, sawmills, battle-ships, aeroplanes, derricks, and hundreds of others. The electric motor, free with most sets, runs many of the models. It lifts 100 pounds and certainly makes things fun.

FREE BOYS’ MAGAZINE AND BOOK

I want to give you St. Nicholas as a reader, absolutely free, a 3-month subscription to my boys’ magazine, *Erector Tips*, including the big holiday special extra, *World of Wonders* magazine.

Read the exciting story, “How I Invented Erector,” and the model-making hints and ideas you experience as a World’s Champion Builder. These issues of *Tips* also explain how to do magic tricks; give full details of my \$1000 offer of automobile, motor-cycle, motor, camera, etc.

Send me for the “giants” information—also a free copy of my new 14-page illustrated book which shows thousands of great Erector models. There’s not any money or stamps. I want to present all this to you absolutely free!

It’s easy to get *Erector* for Christmas. Write me now and I’ll send you a free *Erector* for Christmas. Don’t miss your chance!

It’s only 85¢ postpaid. Book order No. 4 for 85¢-the most popular set out.

A. C. GILBERT, President
The Minto Mfg. Co., 130 Fox St., New Haven, Conn.

Book order No. 4 for 85¢-the most popular set out.

ERECTOR TIPS
130 PAGES
FREE

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Historical Fiction Facebook Groups

This week, instead of an author spotlight, we're sharing some of the Facebook groups that revolve around historical fiction. Yes, I was selfish and put Pages of the Past on top of the list, but there are some other wonderful groups out there too. I've learned a lot from the other groups. I've discovered new books that I'd never heard of. I've met some fantastic authors and fans of historical fiction. You may be in a few (or many) of these groups yourself. But if not, I hope that I've been able to share something new with you today. (Rather than comment on each group, I've just shared what their 'About Us' states.)



Pages of the Past

Welcome to Pages of the Past: celebrating historical fiction, where authors and readers can interact and delve into the past. Readers: Feel free to share your favorite books and opinions. Share information and fun tidbits about the past. Recommend books and discuss them. Brief descriptions are preferred. Please, no spoilers. Let's have fun! Authors: Authors are welcome to share your work, but please no spam. Feel free to share snippets, promos, new releases, behind the scenes, interviews...whatever you'd like related to historical fiction.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/184527085517941/>

The 1920s Book Club

This is a group for readers and authors of stories set in the 1920s with forays into the adjacent decades (1910s-1930s). Any genre, any incarnation is welcome. My favour goes to mystery and fantasy, but I like to be surprised and to discover new stories. I hope you do too!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/The1920sBookClub/>

Historical Novel Society

This is the official Facebook group for members, fans, and friends of the Historical Novel Society (www.historicalnovelsociety.org). Founded in 1997 by Richard Lee, the HNS promotes the enjoyment of historical fiction in all its forms.

Our group is set up as a forum for the discussion of HNS-related activities, historical fiction, history, and closely related issues such as writing, reading and publishing historical fiction. General writing and off-topic posts will be deleted. Author announcements about new releases are acceptable once on the day of publication of first format.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7739864930/>

Historical Fiction Lovers Book Club

Welcome to Historical Fiction Lovers! This is NOT a drop promo's and run site. There are dozens of those where you can do that. (And yet people are still dropping them. Please read on.) This group is for those individuals (not Pages) who love to read of people who have lived in the past. It's also for authors of historical fiction to post an editorial review, interview, or an article by a book blogger about their books. Do NOT post customer reviews. No Contests, please. Posts from publicists will not be approved. Authors, help us grow by encouraging your readers to join and post. Also, Authors, if you have not hired good

professionals for your covers and text, your posts will not be approved. Please indulge me and read the second sentence once again. Cheers!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1478073635551912/>

Second World War Club

Welcome to the Second World War Fiction Club, for readers who enjoy historical fiction set in this period. We also include First World War fiction. This is the place to find out about your favorite authors' latest releases, find new authors, discuss your favorite books and join exclusive contests. Please read the group rules carefully!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/962085267205417/>

Historical Fiction Book Lovers

Welcome to BookBub's historical fiction group, where we'll share the BookBub blog's historical fiction recommendations, deals, giveaways, and more! We encourage group members to discuss their favorite reads within the genre, share reviews, and to connect with fellow readers. Please see our rules below, and check out all of BookBub's current historical fiction deals here: <https://www.bookbub.com/ebook-deals/historical-fiction-ebooks>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/122673731818386/>

Historical Fiction

A place where authors and readers of historical fiction can come together for the exchange of writing tips, research links and general posts about the art of creating historical fiction for the discerning reader.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/24144537635/>

Historical Fiction Fans

A forum for discussing the best in historical fiction, from the beaches of Normandy to the interior of The White House. HISTORICAL FICTION (noun): "The genre of literature, film, etc., comprising narratives that take place in the past and are characterized chiefly by an imaginative reconstruction of historical events and personage" (Dictionary.com).

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2009736469067891/>

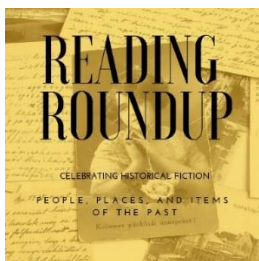
Historical Fiction Appreciation

For those who read, love and 'appreciate' historical fiction novels/biography. Definition of what Historical fiction is - it is a literary genre in which true and fictional actions takes place in the past. Historical fiction refers in particular to long prose narratives and settings drawn from history, and often contain historical persons of note. Writers of works in this genre portray the manners and social conditions of the persons or time(s) presented in the story, with attention paid to period detail. In general terms HF is considered Historical at 100 yrs or more in the past. Contemporary HF (debatable) 50yrs in the past.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2338082256/>

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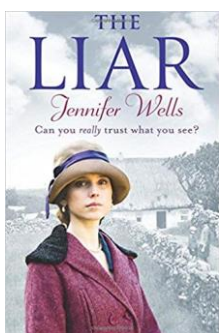
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The 1930s

The Liar

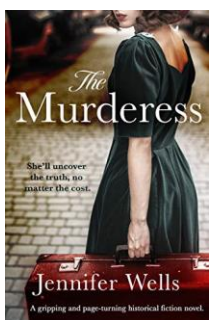
Jennifer Wells



1935. A mother's journey to find out what really happened to her only daughter. Complex and intriguing, full of twists and turns. Perfect for the fans of Lesley Pearce. What would you do if you saw a girl in a crowd whose face had the same, identical birthmark as your only child? A child who, nearly ten years ago, you were told died? It's 1935 and housewife Emma glimpses a face in a crowd – a little girl with a very unique birthmark. Transfixed by the sight of a stranger; Emma becomes convinced that the girl is her long-lost daughter taken from her at birth. There is only one problem: Emma's daughter is dead. So who is the stranger? *The Liar* follows Emma's journey as she tries to find out what really happened to her daughter - a journey that unearths secrets from the past and ends in obsession. . .

The Murderess

Jennifer Wells



1931: Fifteen-year-old Kate witnesses her mother Millicent push a stranger from a station platform into the path of an oncoming train. There was no warning, seemingly no reason, and absolutely no remorse.

1940: Exactly nine years later, Kate returns to the station and notices a tramp laying flowers on the exact spot that the murder was committed; the identity of the victim, still remains unknown.

With a country torn apart by war and her family estate and name in tatters, Kate has nothing to lose as she attempts to uncover family secrets that date back to the Great War and solve a mystery that blights her family name.

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.

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