



Neil Turner Books Reader's Club

Greetings!

People tell me we're into the last few weeks of winter. Has anyone in the Northern Hemisphere thought to tell Mother Nature? I hope everyone is doing well. I have a little writing news and a book to tell you about, and Deano is agitating to get on with things, so let's jump right in.

The Latest Tony Valenti Thriller News

Hot Off the Press

The release date for book five of the Tony Valenti Thrillers, *Scared Silent*, will be March 21st or April 6th. It should be in pre-sale within the next week or two. In the interim, let me tip you off on a couple of February promotions. Book two, *Plane in the Lake*, has been selected as Book Bub's International Featured Deal for February 18th. The novel will be on sale for 99 cents, the lowest price ever for a Tony Valenti novel! Kobo is including *Plane in the Lake*, *A Case of Betrayal*, and *A Time for Reckoning* as part of a 30% off promotion from February 17th through February 28th. I'm going to match that offer with a coupon offer on Barnes & Noble that will apply to all four published Tony Valenti thrillers. I'll have more to say below about coupons and promotions.



Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin

Books & Authors

Go Tell It on the Mountain is a fascinating novel on many levels: a literary masterpiece; a nuanced coming of age story; powerful and illuminating social commentary; and a fascinating



character study. The novel takes place over the twenty-four hours of John Grimes's fourteenth birthday, yet covers seventy years of family history. Mr. Baldwin brilliantly not only puts events in context and gives us an understanding of not only who these people are at the time of the story, but touches upon the societal influences that shaped them: racism, religion and sexuality, as well as family expectations and dynamics. As he interweaves the stories of the characters, switching between extended points of view of John, his parents, and his aunt, the

author explores family dynamics and what makes us human in all our glory and fragility. Mr. Baldwin was an extraordinary writer who, as do most of the writers I truly admire, explored what it is to be human and shine a light on the injustices—both the big societal ones and the smaller ones we inflict on a personal level—that shape us. While all of Mr. Baldwin's novels are terrific, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* stands as his most iconic and well-known work. I encourage you to read all his books, but if you only read one, you can't go wrong with this extraordinary novel.

Canine Wisdom

Deano's Corner

What's with canine clothing, folks? I mean look at this poor mutt. Is this a happy dog? I think not. I see shame, embarrassment, and perhaps a touch of humiliation. Now, while I understand that less evolved species such as humans require assistance to deal with the elements, the fact is that canines have evolved to near perfection. When was the last time any of you saw a wolf in the arctic prancing around in a coat, boots, or—heaven forbid—a hat of some



sort? We have coats that grow thicker for winter and shed for warmer weather. (As an aside, allow me to express my utter befuddlement about human shedding. How does it make any sense to *permanently* shed all the hair from your head? I'm looking at you, gentlemen.)

Dressing itty bitty little dogs might make sense on some level, but real dogs such as myself resent being dressed up like a child's toy. Please don't. I beg of you! Hmm. Begging. I like that! Treat, anyone????



Win a FREE book!

Reader's Q & A

What's on *your* mind? Submit a question. I'll answer one reader question in every Reader's Club Update. If I choose yours, I'll send you a free copy of my next book! Please send your questions via the *Contact* page on my [website](#) or send an email to info@neilturnerbooks.com. If

you send an email, please type *Reader's Club Q & A* in the subject line. Thank you!

Here's the question and answer from January.

Q: Why don't you have book sales or promotions everywhere at the same time?

A: An excellent question. The answer has to do with publishing on multiple platforms, each of which has unique promotional and pricing quirks and limitations. Amazon offers no promotions unless an author makes their work available exclusively through Amazon, which is not the path I have chosen. Kobo offers quite a few promotions that I take advantage of, and Barnes and Noble permits a fair amount of latitude. Apple Books and Google Play are light years behind when it comes to marketing assistance for independent authors. I adjust pricing at times to match other retailers, but there aren't many other options. Both platforms claim they wish/plan to be more inclusive, but they remain well behind other book retailers in this respect. I wish it were otherwise.

That's it for this month. Thanks for being a member of our Reader's Club!

Take care, be well, and happy reading,

Neil



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332 - 900 Greenbank Road, Ottawa

Ontario K2J 4P6 Canada

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