



Neil Turner Books Reader's Club

September 2021

Uh oh!

Summer seems to be drawing to a close, which means shorter days and cooler weather on the horizon. The bright side? Prime reading weather is almost upon us! Time to start loading up on books to curl up with in front of a roaring fire. I'll recommend a great one in a minute.

It's been a relatively slow month for writing news (they don't call August the dog days of summer in the writing world for no reason!), so this month's Reader's Club Update will be relatively brief. That said, things are picking up again. *A Case of Betrayal*, the third Tony Valenti Thriller, enters wide release in eBook format today, and the paperback has now been out for a few weeks.

Book Four, *A Time for Reckoning*, is nearing the finish line. The cover is being worked up and final proofreading is underway. I should have the cover image in time for next month's Readers Club Update, along with the initial pre-order date. I'm planning a longer pre-order period for this book.

The initial draft of Book Five in the series is coming along nicely toward its scheduled release date of March 1, 2022. At this stage, it is rather unimaginatively titled "Book Five." I should probably do something about that...

Speaking of which, time to run to my desk and get back to work!

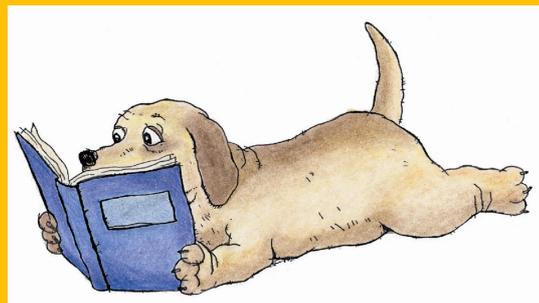
Horse Heaven by Jane Smiley

What's On My Bookshelf?

Jane Smiley is a terrific writer whose work I've enjoyed for many years. A hallmark of her writing is that every time you open the cover of a Jane Smiley book, you'll find a tale that is

unique, well researched, and richly told. In *Horse Heaven*, Ms. Smiley weaves a nuanced, often amusing, and enlightening story populated by a rich cast of characters that are all too human. The horses—at least—know who they are what they're supposed to do... even if they sometimes wonder *why*. It's a treat to get a glimpse into the world of thoroughbred horse racing through the eyes of those involved, including one of the horses!

As she always does, Ms. Smiley takes a deep dive into the psyches of her characters and treats each of them with compassion and understanding. The milieu certainly doesn't lack for variety in terms of characters, including the millionaires who own the horses, the minimum wage earners who care for the animals, and everyone in between. Ms. Smiley understands that, just as in real life, humans act out of a jumble of often confusing and contradictory



motivations that are, as often as not, not necessarily in their best interests. Nonetheless, we dream away, perhaps none of us quite so vividly as those who are inextricably drawn to the world of horse racing. Enjoy!

Add This to Your Travel Itinerary

Show Libraries Some Love!

To celebrate a Kobo eBook promotion in Australia and New Zealand that I'm participating in this week, let me put a bug in your ear to add the State Library Victoria in Melbourne, Australia to your list of great libraries to visit. Melbourne is certainly on my list of places to see—along with a thousand or so other places. When I do make it there, this will definitely be on my list of “must see” local attractions. I understand that the library has something like 52 linear kilometers' worth of off-site storage. Imagine what you might find inside the library itself! A great place to learn about the unique history and quirks that make Australia, well, Australian. (I can hear Brittany exclaiming “Lame, old man!” to Tony in response to cheesy line like that). Just looking at this picture fills me with wonder. What a great place to read a comic book!



Hmm, now that I think about it, spring is coming to Australia. Time to head south?

Photo by [Finn Whelen](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Reader's Q & A

Win a Book!

What's on your mind? Submit a question. I'll answer one reader question in every Reader's Club Update. If I choose your question, I'll send you a free copy of my next book. Send your question via my website contact page [here](#) or send an email to: info@neilturnerbooks.com Please include Reader Q & A in the subject line if you send an email. Thanks!



Here's the question and answer from August:

Q: What do you like best about being an author?

A: Wow. That's a tough one, especially as I still consider myself something of a neophyte writer, but I'll take a crack at answering anyway. There's the whole playing “God” concept to shape the world to my liking, but that's not really all that appealing to me. That said, I suppose I like having the ability to take

situations and send characters on a journey to an outcome that suits me. But, truly, I love the process of writing, creating something from nothing, and spinning a tale out of whole cloth *without* being reprimanded for lying! It's an immensely satisfying experience. There is also something truly magnificent in hearing from readers who have enjoyed one of my books. I know how much I treasure devouring a good book, and the idea of providing that experience to others pleases me to no end. In fact, it's magical.

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

Take care, be well, and happy reading,

Neil

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