



Happy (Almost) Summer!

I'm a day late, but Happy Mother's Day to everyone who fits the bill! I hope this finds all of you well. We have plenty of news this month, including a new book! It's all below.

Do you have travel plans this summer? I'll be kicking off my travel season at the end of the month with a trip to New York City to attend the International Thriller Writers' ThrillerFest XVIII. This year's honorees include Walter Mosely and Michael Connelly, among others. I'm very much looking forward to this year's event and will do my best to post a few times from NYC on my social media channels. I'll tell you where else I'm off to next month.

With all this talk about big news and travel, people might think I live an exciting life. I don't. ☺ Now, let's get right to it. Read on!

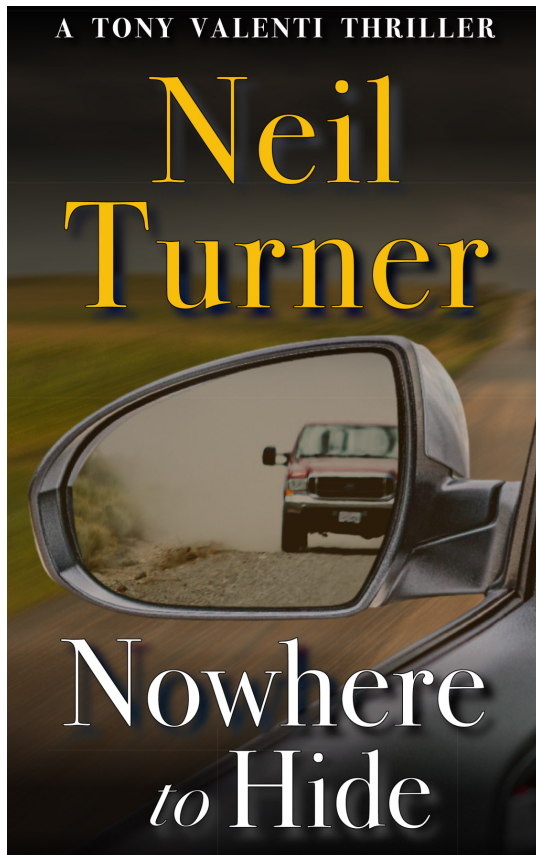
A peek behind the curtain

Behind the Scenes

People sometimes ask where I write and if there is a special place that inspires me to create stories. For example, coffee shops seem to be popular writer haunts. I don't do well where there are that many distractions, so I write at my desk. It looks reasonably tidy and organized today, but that's not always the case. I shredded around 1,500 pages of manuscript a couple of days prior to this picture being taken. It was a *big* pile, with more flotsam and jetsom scattered in the vicinity. There's a wealth of contradictory evidence about what the state of one's desk says about a person. Thank goodness for that! When my desk is a mess, I buy into the theory that this is the mark of a creative person, and even signals



above-average intelligence! When it's clean, I favor the suggestion that it points to a well-organized, focused individual. How about you? Clean desk? Aftermath of a hurricane? Anyway, for those of you who were wondering, this is where most of my work gets done. Pretty darned unimpressive, isn't it?



Nowhere to Hide

A New Book!

The wait is almost over. The seventh Tony Valenti Thriller, *Nowhere to Hide*, will be released on May 16th ... tomorrow!!!! Those of you who have been paying attention may have noticed that the paperback was published on May 5th. Judging by presales, there seem to be quite a few folks waiting for the eBook version of the novel. Amazon should deliver them to your e-readers on Tuesday morning. The story structure of this book is bit of a

departure from the previous books, but is something I felt I had to do in order to tell the story well. It was fun to do something a little different. If you want to learn more about the novel, click on the cover image. I hope you enjoy *Nowhere to Hide*!

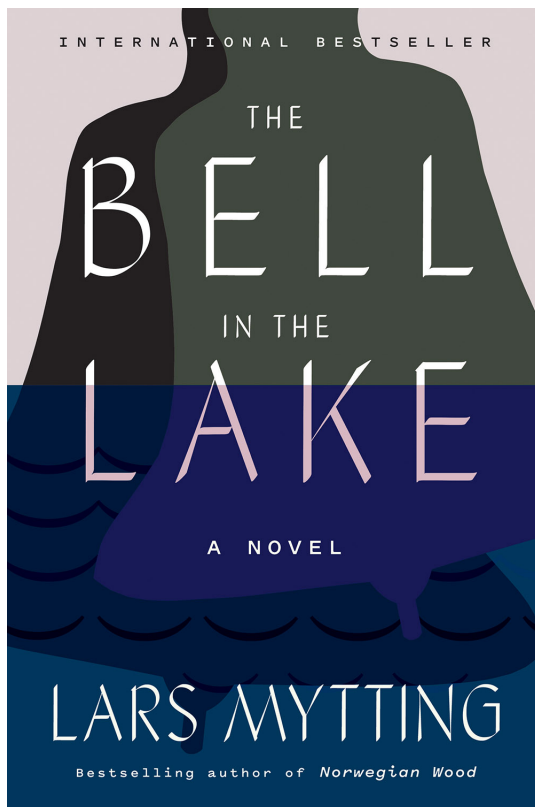
Today's your last chance to enter the Goodreads Giveaway to win a free eBook copy of *Nowhere to Hide* [here](#).

The Chicago Tribune Tower

Where in the Book?

This iconic Neo-Gothic skyscraper opened in the 1920s on Chicago's North Michigan Avenue. Isn't it beautiful? So much more character than most of the modern glass and steel structures that followed. Since the tower first appeared in a

Tony Valenti Thriller, it's been sold and is being converted into condos. Sadly, the Howells and Hood restaurant we visited in *A House on Liberty Street* is now closed. Which character in the Tony Valenti Thrillers worked in this building?



The Bell in the Lake

What's Neil Reading?

The Bell in the Lake is the first book of a trilogy by Norwegian author Lars Mytting, one of the bright lights of Norwegian literature. The story is a historical novel with a mystical twist, centered on a little town and its stave church and its role in village life over the years. The church itself is a fascinating glimpse into Norway's past; its fate a powerful statement on the price we pay to bulldoze our way to modernization. The

characters are engaging and multi-faceted, the story is sprawling in its ambition, yet the author draws you tightly into the milieu of the little mountain village at the center of events. In about as large a compliment as I can pay to a historical novel, *The Bell in the Lake* brings to mind Ken Follet's masterpiece, *The Pillars of the Earth*—high praise indeed!

I'd be remiss not to mention the excellent translation by Deborah Dawkin. I often explore European works and sometimes find myself pausing to puzzle out the meaning of a passage. It takes a rare

talent to produce a smooth, flowing translation that readers don't notice. That has certainly been accomplished here.

Win a free eBook!

Monthly Q & A

Q: Some chapters begin with a new section of the story, however, a lot keep going with the same subject, so why start a new chapter? Is this the author's decision or editorial board?

A: I can only answer from my perspective as a writer. I approach chapters in much the same way as scenes are framed in the performing arts. Before I begin a chapter, I establish why I'm writing the scene, paying particular attention to how it advances the story. Then I write the chapter as a microcosm of how an entire book is constructed: beginning, middle, and end, and there needs to be tension and/or conflict of some sort. Finally, the chapter should propel readers into the next chapter. In my world, this is an author decision, although editors can certainly weigh in.

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!



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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