



# Neil Turner Books Reader's Club

## August 2021

Mid-summer greetings!

I hope everyone is enjoying summer. My heart goes out to everyone suffering through the effects of the crazy weather so many areas are experiencing. We've been lucky in my corner of Ontario, so far.

I've decided to push back the release date of the third Tony Valenti thriller, *A Case of Betrayal*, until September 15th. I'll explain why in the Hot Off the Press feature below. Advance Reader Copies have already gone out and the novel will hopefully be in presale sometime this week.

Read on to find out what's happening in Tony's world, have a chance to win a book, marinate in a little canine wisdom, and discover a Cedar Heights mystery.

### The Latest Tony Valenti Thriller News

#### Hot Off the Press!

As I said in the opening, *A Case of Betrayal* will now launch on September 15th. What went wrong? Nothing. I'll be taking a brief vacation at the end of August. Yes! A Vacation! ☺ I expect everything to go smoothly



with the book launch, but I don't want to risk allowing the publishing gremlins to get loose when I'm not around to wrestle them into submission. Cliché time: better safe than sorry, don't tempt fate, etc. I'm also expanding distribution beginning with this release, adding Barnes & Noble and a few other outlets, which adds additional layers of complexity to the process. I'm hoping to offer Readers Club members an exclusive three-day window near the end of the pre-sale period to purchase the novel at a discount, but the logistics are proving challenging. If I can't make the special pricing happen, at least this is the longest of the novels to date, so hopefully everyone will get their money's worth! I'll let you know how things turn out.

### A Mystery Solved!

#### Behind the Curtain

Where the heck *is* Cedar Heights? I felt bad last month when someone spent considerable time trying to hunt it down. Oops! The truth is that Cedar Heights exists only in my little

author brain. (Well, also in the pages of my books). It's a fictional southwest suburb of Chicago in the general area of real-world Cicero. "So, why make up a suburb?" you might ask. Simple, really. This allows me to portray the village, its government, its police department, and anything else without a) being forced to render everything precisely as it actually exists, or b) the possibility that readers will erroneously think I'm referring to real-life individuals, organizations, establishments, or locations. All that said, Cedar Heights is imagined to be within Cook County, which allows me to use the familiar milieu of Chicago as the larger setting for the novels.



## 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@neiltturnerbooks.com](mailto:info@neiltturnerbooks.com). Please include Reader Q & A in the subject line if you send an email. Thanks!

Here's the question and answer from July.

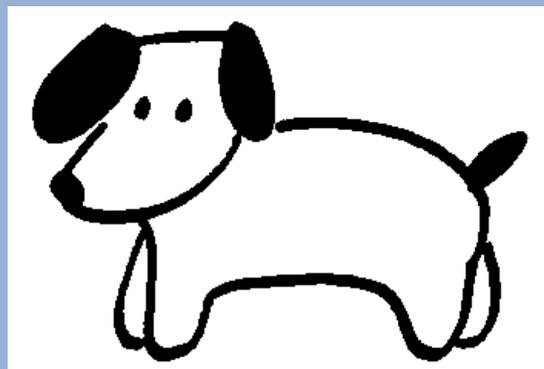
Q: Must the Tony Valenti Thrillers be read in order?

A: This is a tricky question. It's a significant challenge to write each series novel to stand on its own without weighing it down with too much backstory from previous books. This can slow things down for those who have read earlier books. Then again, not enough backstory runs the risk of leaving new readers somewhat adrift when it comes to character motivations. This is an extremely delicate balancing act. As Tony's stories are written with overarching character and story arcs that unfold over the course of the series, I suspect they are best read in order.

## Dealing with Special Humans

### Deano's Corner

*Elderly humans* (all material vetted by my aged creator). These very nice people suffer maladies similar to those experienced by aging canines. They tend to be somewhat fragile—handle with care! Some are hard of hearing, causing them to miss subtle



canine communications such as whimpers, moans, and groans. Bark loudly as needed and use your snout as a prompt for attention. This class of humans are occasionally forgetful. The catastrophic potential downside here is a missed doggy meal. The upside is that sometimes these nice folks forget that they've already fed you, so coaxing a bonus meal out of them may be possible! Push your food dish around and gaze at them expectantly if you suspect this to be the case.

*Human puppies.* Always appear happy to see them. Never growl or snap, no matter how annoying the little devils get. Mommy and Daddy will appreciate your forbearance, hopefully showing their gratitude with doggy treats. Remember, the puppies will eventually grow into productive little humans who love dogs, shower us with love, and spill food *everywhere!* Patience is a virtue.

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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[Neil Turner Books](#)

332 - 900 Greenbank Road  
Ottawa, Ontario Canada K2J 4P6



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