



# NEIL TURNER READER'S CLUB

Autumn Greetings,

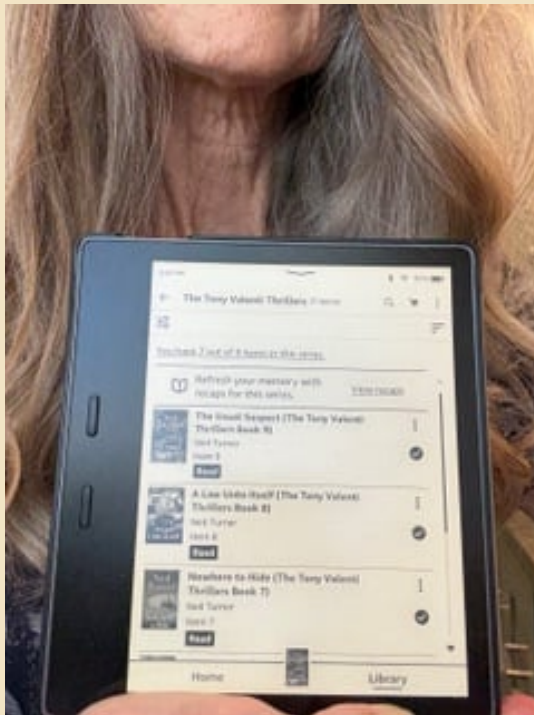
I hope this finds everyone well. We're experiencing more bizarre weather up here in Ottawa—not that I'm complaining about wearing shorts and basking in the October sun—who even knew there was such a thing? I imagine the golfers are reveling in this while the brows of skiers and other (clearly insane) winter outdoor enthusiasts are knitted in concern as they wonder ... *will there be any snow at all between now and spring?* Am I being a little overdramatic? Perhaps, but it's my job to be!



Photo of Rideau Hall Grounds in Ottawa by Huu Dinh

Congratulations to the winners of last month's draws, the "FROSTY" and "Reading Tony" contests. My goodness, but aren't you a shy lot? While there were plenty of entries into "FROSTY" (congratulations to winner Brian J), only two—yep, count them, *two* of you—were brave enough to enter the "Reading Tony" sweepstakes, leading me to believe that either most of you are painfully shy or don't actually *own* a Tony book to be pictured with! 🤖 You may recall that we planned to have two winners ... one random draw from all entries,

and a second for the person who came up with the most imaginative way to hide their face in the photo. Here are our winners, Laurie L and Mary E. Congratulations!



## The Latest Tony Valenti News

## Hot Off the Presses

You know we like to tell you about deals in the “Hot Off the Presses” feature. This month we have another audiobook deal happening. *Plane in the Lake*, book two in the series, is on sale through our audio publisher, Tantor Audio. The novel is on sale for 50% off through November 2nd. You may recall me mentioning that they tend to celebrate release date and other anniversaries every month or two, so this is a good time to jump on board with the audio series. I keep hearing great things from listeners about the outstanding job Gary Bennett did narrating the stories. As you might guess, I’m also a big fan of Gary and think he makes Tony and friends (and their adversaries) sound pretty darned good. There are even rumours that he makes my prose palatable. Give him a listen. Get 50% OFF [here](#)!



In other news, having my tail glued to a chair in front of my computer doesn't generate all that much news, y'know? And that's where my butt has spent most of the time between Reader's Club Updates this time around. If you'll recall my progress chart from last month, I was at 50% of the anticipated 100,000 words that my



novels generally average. Well, I'm past that mark and still going, so this might end up being an extra-long Tony book. Then again, I might take a hatchet to it when I set my editor's hat atop my head. One thing is for sure: the draft will be done and well into editing when you next hear from me. A few people have asked when to expect the book to go into presale. That's a good question that I can't answer just yet, but I'm busy trying to sort it out. Stay tuned. All that said, I'm very excited about this one and hope you'll enjoy reading it as much as I'm enjoying writing it.

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**HELP!!!!**

## Behind the Curtain

After writing this month's feature, I decided to subtitle it: *HELP!* Read on to find out why ... and stick with me if you don't want to miss anything, shall we

say, gift-card related.

Speaking of things that are behind the scenes, October's arrival means the Holiday Season is approaching, and *that* implies that gifts and other goodies are in the offing, correct? (just try to ignore the snow, frigid weather, and other horrors of the upcoming season) Trying to work out how to celebrate that with my loyal readers is a challenge. I considered flying you all to Ottawa and treating you to a Christmas dinner party with turkey and all the trimmings—perhaps with live music, dancing elves, and prancing reindeer (they do, after all, live nearby). Sadly, I must report that my financial folks have informed me—rather firmly, I might add—that this is out of the question. So, we're on to Plan B, whatever that might be. In years past, I've steered Reader's Club members to a short story I wrote about a little Christmas morning shenanigan I got up to as a wee Neil. That will remain available for those who haven't seen it, but I think it's high time for something new. But what? I'm leaning toward another short story or a piece of Christmas-related writing that is *not* poetry-related (there will be no repeat of last year's cringeworthy "Twas the Night Before Christmas Dream" fiasco). Yeah, yeah, I heard all those gasps of relief. Here's the catch: I need help deciding what kind of Christmas story to go with. Pure fiction, something I just make up out of whole cloth in whatever genre strikes my fancy? Something Tony-related? Parody? Something Neil-related again? Might I ask you to weigh in on those options, or something entirely different (that the afore-mentioned financial

folks won't blow a gasket over)? Come on folks, give me a hand here. Just hit the reply button to weigh in with your thoughts.

## Win a Gift Card

### Did Someone Say Contest?

One of the challenges (and pleasures) of the Reader's Club is trying to keep it interesting and engaging. I can't think of a good gimmick to have a gift card draw this month ... maybe because I've been applying my limited brain power to the new book. But, c'mon now, do we really *need* a gimmick? I suspect not. So, let's have a draw ***just for the heck of it***. In fact, why don't we call it what it is? Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, will be to figure out what the name of the draw is and then send an email to [info@neilturnerbooks.com](mailto:info@neilturnerbooks.com) with the appropriate ***subject line***. I'm confident that all you Sherlock Holmes types out there will solve the word (and font style) puzzle above, thereby affording yourselves the chance to win a gift card. But let's *not* get cutthroat about it, okay? As SpongeBob says, it's all about the fun. *Riiiiight*. Please tidy up after yourselves, remove corpses, mop up bodily fluids, and take your weapons with you along with your gifts cards. Thank you.



## Win a FREE Book!

### Reader's Club Q & A

What's on your mind? Ask away! I'll answer one reader question in every Reader's Club Update. If I choose yours, I'll send you a free eBook copy of one of my novels! Please send your questions via the *Contact* page on my [website](http://neilturnerbooks.com) or send an email to [info@neilturnerbooks.com](mailto:info@neilturnerbooks.com). If you send an email, please type *Reader's Club Q & A* in the subject line. Thank you!

Here's this month's question and answer, and it's an interesting one, at least to me.

Q: Which one of your books is your least favorite?

A: Well, well, here's a novel question to ask an author! We're all supposed to like our little book babies equally well, but who are we kidding? This brings to mind a silly joke I've seen several times in

which a parent is asked: *Who's your favorite kid?* After answering, the parent is surprised by the indignant reaction to their choice and defensively replies: *You didn't tell me I was supposed to pick one of mine!* Seriously though, let's take a shot at this. I can't decide between Book Two, *Plane in the Lake* and Book Four, *A Time for Reckoning*. I don't hate them, and reader reviews are overwhelming positive, if a touch below the average, but in hindsight I would have written them somewhat differently. There's material in each that was quite delicate to handle. I considered the topics appropriate and necessary to the story (and still do), yet I've second-guessed myself about whether I might have managed those moments better.

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

Take care, be well, and happy reading (or listening!),

Neil



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