



Happy New Year!

For the first time in several years, I was still awake at midnight on January 1st to usher in the new year. How about you? And how *about* that 2025 so far? I'm a little annoyed at the lack of warm, summery days, so I've booked a Caribbean vacation for next month ... and before anyone asks, I've already been inundated with requests to "maybe take me along?" There simply isn't any extra room in my airplane seat. Sorry! If you want to book your *own* trip to St. Martin, maybe we can meet up for an adult beverage on the beach. Moving on from being my usual curmudgeonly self, I have some fun news concerning the contests we ran last fall. Congratulations to Jodi W., whose entry won our Christmas tradition contest, and to Melissa V., who donated to her community food bank and gets to name a character in a future book—we can never go wrong helping to feed our less fortunate neighbors. Kudos also to Joy L. for her winning entry in our November Food Fight feature with ... wait for it ... a *healthy cookie* recipe! Who knew there was such a thing??? Thanks to everyone who participated!

I also have some exciting book news that doesn't include Tony. *The Legal Limit* is the first book in a brand-new legal thriller series featuring a husband-and-wife defense attorney team tackling high-stakes cases in Philadelphia. Written by Amazon bestseller Larry A. Winters (author of the Jessie Black Legal Thriller Series, which I know many of you enjoy), *The Legal Limit* features great characters, exciting courtroom action, and surprising twists and turns that will keep you turning pages late into the night. Check it out [here](#). This month, we have some exciting audiobook news and deals, a little tease about Tony's upcoming book, a contest even an amoeba could win if it had opposable thumbs, a survey to help name a book, and an interesting Reader's Club Q & A feature. Read on!

Hot Off the Presses

The *Nowhere to Hide* audiobook is on sale now and there are great deals to be had. As always, Gary Bennett has delivered a superb performance narrating the story. You can check it out (including a free sample) [here](#).



Speaking of audiobooks and deals, how many of you would be interested in receiving a code to download a free Tony Valenti Thriller audiobook in return for a review after you listen to the story? With each release, I receive a limited number of codes through my audiobook publisher that are redeemable on audiobooks.com. I have codes for each of the audiobooks currently on sale except for *A House on Liberty Street*, but I can request more of those if folks want them. If you're interested in listening to any of the audiobooks, please ask for a code by shooting an email to info@neilturnerbooks.com. Still speaking of audiobook deals, the fun continues as Recorded Books and Tantor Audio celebrate *Plane in the Lake's* first audiobook birthday with a terrific 70% off deal for a limited time. You'll find it [here](#). But wait! I just received word (while proofreading this issue!) that our audiobook publisher is launching a 60% off deal for a couple of weeks on [The Secrets She Buried](#). Click on the book title to see the deal. Wow! Oh, and there may be a teeny, tiny bit of book news tucked away later in this month's issue... Read on!

#9 is on its way to the book title dustbin



Help Name That Book!

Sometimes book titles just come to me out of the ether (or perhaps the frightening, bubbling morass known as my subconscious, but let's not go *there*. Bubble, bubble, toil and trouble, and all that. Nothing good comes from

thatcauldron.) At any rate, I've burned through dozens of title ideas for the upcoming book, with only one of them seeming to sizzle with a "You Gotta Pick Me!" vibe, and that's *The Usual Suspect*. Problem is, I'm waffling between liking it one day and finding it cringeworthy the very next morning, which suggests I've totally lost the plot on the matter. So, who better to turn to for help than our dear and

intrepid Reader's Club members? In a nutshell, the book title is meant to foreshadow a plot in which the police have quickly zeroed in on a murder suspect ... perhaps the wrong suspect???? I know—what an inventive plot device—heck, you'd think someone would have thought of this before... Your mission, should you decide to accept it¹, is to answer the simple survey question below, which I hope will put my mind at least somewhat at ease with my choice ... or send me careening off the cliff edge...

¹For those of you who recognize my cheesy inclusion of the Mission Impossible verbiage above, rest assured that the addendum about being maimed or killed while undertaking your mission probably isn't something you need to worry about while ticking the survey box. I say "probably", because my legal beagle (pictured here with the author some time ago)—insert photo of Molly and me in the wild west—insisted that I do so. But, c'mon ... really, folks, what are the odds that a bolt of lethal electricity will shoot from your mouse finger directly to your heart—stopping it instantly!—when you click on a selection? Be brave, live a little; thumb your nose at the fates!

What do you think of the title "The Usual Suspect"?

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE it!

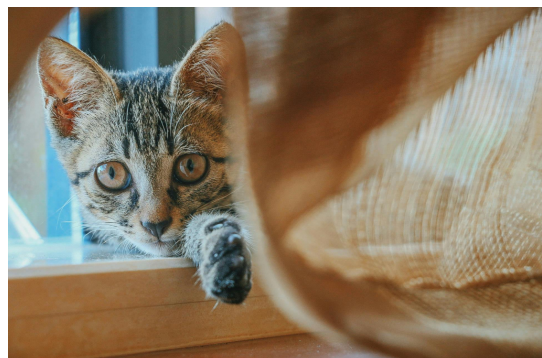
Surely you're not serious?

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A Peek Behind the Scenes

Behind the Curtain

Social media update: I've always thought major social media platforms are at heart massive advertising and propaganda platforms, but as things there continue to deteriorate, it's all become a toxic waste of my time. It's a rare day when I don't have some troll messaging me to peddle



products and services or attempting to lure me to whatever dark corner of the web they inhabit. Who has the time or patience for that? My *X* account is going away this month ... I think maybe as a birthday gift to myself! Instagram is also on the bubble for the same reasons—I really don't have time to bat aside the trolls trying to connect with me to peddle an agenda—be it commercial, political, or whatever. I use my Facebook author page as the social media face of my writing business, both for commercial purposes and as a means to connect with readers, alongside my website and our Reader's Club. I plan to continue with my Facebook author page but will be terminating my author social media accounts.



Win a free eBook

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](#) 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 this month's question and answer:

Q: "Where the heck is Book #9?"

A: Ah, yes ... the mythical Book 9. I assume the interrogator is referring to the ninth Tony Valenti Thriller, *formerly* known as Book #9? What's happening besides the tardy tale finally maybe possibly getting a title? Maybe a release date? Maybe a proper progress report on what Tony and company are up to and with who? Who the heck *is* Van Booker anyway? Is it true that Tony's personal life might be upended? Will they all *die*??? ☹️ Look for answers to these questions and more in next month's Reader's Club Update. Well, maybe not overly in depth answers—I don't want to be accused of giving away the ending even before the novel is published! Regardless of what my family and friends may say, I'm not quite *that* big of a killjoy. Does that answer your question? Kinda sorta? Stay tuned.

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!),



Something for nothing, you say???

A contest for ... well, just for the heck of it!

You're *still* with us here at the very end of my prattling on and on and on? There oughtta be some sort of payoff for such dedication and perseverance (self-abuse?), don't you think? Why? Because I love my readers, that's why. How much do I love you? Two Amazon digital gift cards are up for grabs (I wish there were more and in larger amounts, but hey, I'm a small fry in the publishing world). Here are the official entry rules: Send an email to info@neilturnerbooks.com with the subject line: *I Wanna Win!* That's it. We'll do a random draw from all entries and notify the winners.

And this really is the end! Caio! ☐



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