



NEIL TURNER

READER'S CLUB

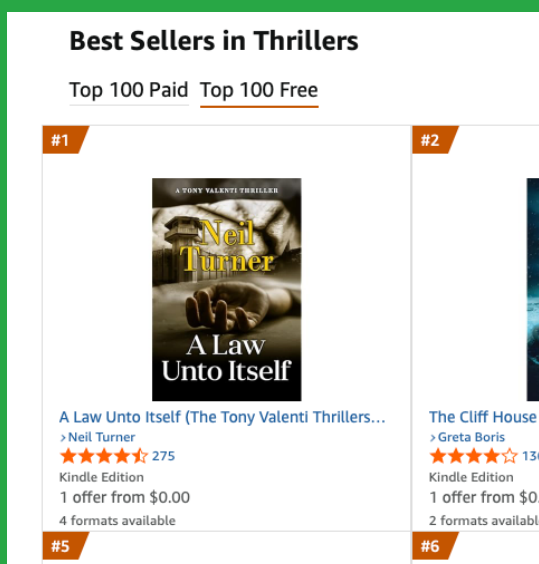


Season's Greetings,

"Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas!" from someone who looks a little more like that Claus guy with each passing year, so I may as well emulate him and hand out a Reader's Club gift! The lucky winner this month will receive a holiday basket consisting of a free Tony Valenti eBook, an Amazon digital gift card, and your name included as a character in a future story (details TBD). Hit reply and type "Holiday Basket" to enter. Good luck! Speaking of draws and winners, congratulations to Karen M., the winner of last month's Gift Card draw.

Some of you may have noticed a couple of things going on over the past few weeks. I've resumed adding to my Facebook and Instagram author pages; I post a couple of times each week and try to keep it interesting. Suggestions are welcome! In the wake of the Relay Publishing experiment, I'm leaning into promotions to get the Tony train back on the tracks. We will be running Kindle Countdown deals every week until the new book launches next month, so a Tony Valenti Thriller will be on sale every week! *A Law Unto Itself*, the eighth Tony Valenti Thriller, was a BookBub Free Featured Deal recently and spent a little time at the top of the free charts—and not just for legal thrillers. It was the number one free thriller of any sort in the American and Canadian Amazon stores. Excellent exposure,

and it helped put *A House on Liberty Street*, *The Usual Suspect*, and the Box Set back into the top 100 books on the best seller charts. Pretty cool stuff!



We have plenty of book news this month, including a release date for the upcoming Tony Valenti Thriller, *Swamp Justice*. You'll find more on that below. We'll also take a little peek behind the scenes, visit our monthly Q & A, and provide a link to a little Christmas freebie I make available every holiday season. As I noted last month, my plans for a new goodie this year fell by the wayside, but

cross your fingers for something new in 2026. Read on!

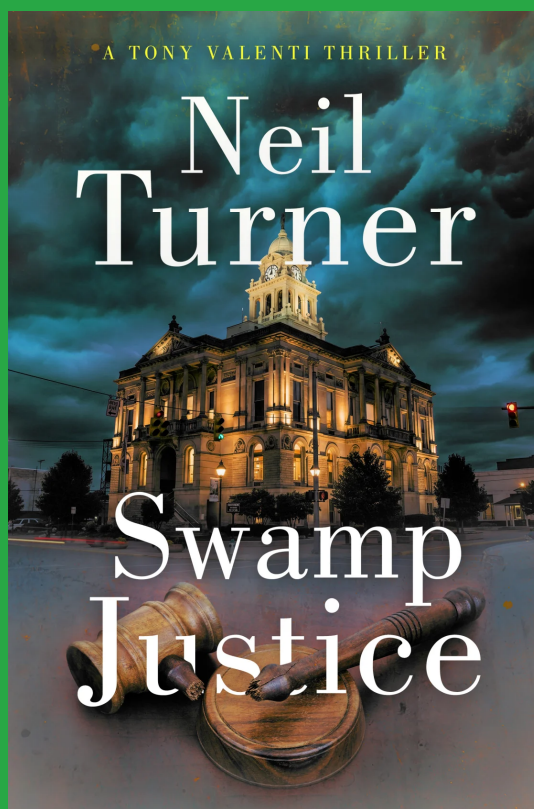
The Latest Tony Valenti News

Hot Off the Presses!

Look at that cover, will you? I really like this one. This is why I don't make my own covers. *Swamp Justice* will be coming on January 29th. Presales are now open; reserve your copy [here](#). I'll be running another Goodreads Giveaway promotion—look for details in next month's Reader's Club Update or my Facebook author page. At the very end of this month's issue, you'll find a little snippet from the first draft of *Swamp*

Justice that I enjoyed writing but had to cut in editing—one of many passages and scenes that were reluctantly pruned in the interests of length. Speaking of editing, that is going smoothly—although my eyes are crossed, I have a nervous twitch or two or three, and I awaken in the middle of the night wondering if I remembered to fix the spelling of all the Cowens into Cowans after I realized I had used both spellings. Or was it Cowans to Cowens? ☺

I mentioned last month that this promises to be a longish book, and even after extensive editing it remains so. Expect something along



the lines of 150,000 words when all is said and done—which horrifies me somewhat. Hopefully, you'll agree that I couldn't make it any shorter and still tell the story the way it deserves to be told. □



A Peek Behind the Scenes

Behind the Curtain

As I brought the books back in-house, I undertook a thorough review of the entire catalogue as it appears in the Kindle store. I decided to make some changes, particularly with the Books 1-3 Box Set, which received a new

cover and a revamped book page. The books themselves haven't changed. I also updated a couple of book descriptions on their Amazon pages and redid what is known in the Kindle world as the A+ promotional material on my books pages. Here's a peek. Tell me what you think ... and yes, I did do it myself!!!

Tony Valenti may be known to the locals as a “Lawyer to Little People and Lost Causes” but the cases and odds he takes on are anything but small.



“Neil’s writing gripped me from the first page.”
Larry Winters,
bestselling author

THE TONY VALENTI THRILLERS

“Tony Valenti is a brilliant character. Each book is a masterpiece.”

Perfect for fans of John Grisham, Michael Connelly, and David Baldacci

“Thoroughly riveting high-stakes legal thriller from master of the genre Neil Turner.” Bonnie Traymore,
bestselling author

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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!

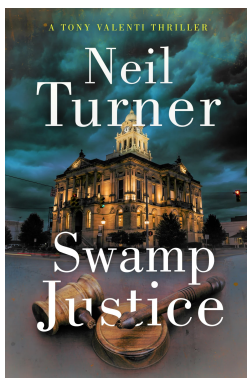
Here's this month's question and answer:

Q: Do you plan to write a Christmas book?

A: I do not. Plenty of authors do, and I realize that some of them sell quite well, but the idea holds no appeal for me. Never say never, I suppose, but I don't see it happening. In the meantime, enjoy all those other people's Christmas stories! Speaking of which...



I wrote a short story about a cherished memory of young Neil getting up to a little early morning Christmas mischief, a story I make available as a free gift to Reader's Club members every year. You can pick it up [here](#).



Here's the excerpt from *Swamp Justice* that I mentioned above, which should give you a little flavor of Tony's time in the South. In this scene, Tony and a lawyer named Harper Baudry are in Jackson for a hearing at the Mississippi Supreme Court. They have a little time to burn, so they decide to go for breakfast. The snippet ends with an example of the literary trivia my research occasionally unearths—moments that warm my wee little writer's heart! ☺

And, with Tony being a lawyer and all, he insisted that I insert this little bit of legalese: Copyright Neil Turner 2025 © Now, let's get on with the storytelling:

Harper leads us past the court building. "Plenty of time for breakfast. There's a place a couple of blocks away."

No argument from me. We turn onto High Street, walk west a block, and then turn south on Lamar Street. We slow in front of a classic 1960's-era bright yellow, stylized sign that wouldn't have

looked out of place on the Las Vegas Strip back in the day. It's emblazoned with the title Downtown Sun-n-Sand Motor Hotel.

"In here?" I ask.

Harper nods and leads me inside the Hen & Egg restaurant. We look around while we wait to be seated. There's a sign on the wall in the shape of a skillet with the name of the restaurant beneath a picture of a chick popping out of an egg. A tagline, *Slow Food, Served Fast* is printed below.

I point at it. "I like that!"

"This place is fairly new and I've been itching to try it," Harper says. "It's part of a state business enterprise program that sets aside space for a legally blind vendor to operate a food services business in a government facility."

"That's downright enlightened," I say.

"Well, we can surprise you Yankees now and again," she quips with a wink.

A hostess greets and seats us, leaving behind coffee and menus.

"What's with the motel sign outside?" I ask.

"The Sun-n-Sand Motor Hotel dates back to the nineteen-sixties—"

"You don't say!" I exclaim. There's a sixties vibe all over the place.

She smiles. "I do. It was the place to stay for folks from out of town who had business at the State Capitol. It was also a meeting place for civil rights activists. The motel was about to be torn down a few years back, but ended up being designated a Mississippi Landmark after a public outcry. They still demolished a lot of it, but the sign survived."

"And now we have a nice place to eat breakfast," I say as I peruse the menu.

"See anything you like?" Harper asks a minute later.

I make a point of looking at my watch. "I do, but we don't have time for me to work through all of them. You?"

"Same, but I'm gonna go with 'Which Came First.'"

I'm also tempted by the chicken and egg breakfast sandwich—if only because of its playful twist on the age-old chicken and the egg quandary—but I opt instead for "THEE Breakfast", which more closely resembles the carb-loaded monstrosities of eggs and sausage and toast and potatoes I'm partial to ... and which may well be the death of me. This being the South, they've added a helping of something called Delta Cheese Grits to the mix. I'm still a little on

the fence when it comes to grits, but with cheese added, I'm not about to quibble. Everything is better with cheese, right?

We place our orders and add some sweeteners to our freshened coffees.

"Fun fact about the Sun-n-Sand," Harper says. "John Grisham wrote *A Time to Kill* while living in the motel. He was a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives at the time."

And that's it for this month. Thanks for being a member of our Reader's Club! I wish one and all a happy, safe, and fulfilling holiday season filled with plenty of love, fellowship ... and yummys!

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

Neil



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