



NEIL TURNER READER'S CLUB

Greetings,

Happy August, folks! It's been a busy one for me, but things are finally settling into a more reasonable pace. We have plenty of news this month, plenty of deals, plenty of goodies, and a free book or two up for grabs. But let's start with a bit of an explanation as to why things have gotten a little off track over the last couple of years, at least in relation to the book output and the communication frequency of prior years. I've had a few health challenges over the past couple of years that include, in no particular order, back surgery, a heart attack, a serious shoulder issue, hip problems, and a degenerative eye condition ... plus a few chronic conditions that hardly seem worth mentioning. Luckily, the eye issue is only affecting one eye so far, so I still have one good eye and there are plenty of low vision aids to keep me going. So all good, but with yet another body part turning defective every month or two, we can only hope that at least a couple of fingers remain active so I can keep pecking away on the keyboard! The good news is that everything is being managed and I hope this month's issue will get us back on track.

We'll get started with the latest news on the latest book, *The Usual Suspect*, some very exciting publishing news, a little recap and some pictures of our Nordic adventure, giveaway news, and we'll be handing out goodies like it's Halloween! Read on!

The Latest Tony Valenti News

Hot Off the Presses

The Usual Suspect ran into a hiccup right out of the gate with an incorrect version being sent to some readers. I still haven't figured out how many people



this happened to, but I've seen at least one review that noted it. Thankfully, the reader was generous in still giving the book a four-star rating. Thank you! Otherwise, the novel has been very well received with stellar ratings and nice sales numbers. Thank you to everyone for giving the book a good shove out of the starting blocks! Here's a few greatly appreciated reviews:

"A meticulously plotted and thoroughly riveting high-stakes legal thriller from master of the genre Neil Turner. Another winner for his acclaimed Tony Valenti series. Don't miss it!" – **Bonnie Traymore, bestselling author of *The Stepfamily*. ★★★★★**

[5.0 out of 5 stars Great legal thriller!](#) *"When Van Booker is accused of a horrific crime, Tony Valenti knows this might not be the best case to take on, for many reasons. In true Tony fashion, he does it anyway. This is a meticulously plotted and thoroughly riveting high-stakes legal thriller with expert courtroom drama and well-timed splashes of humor. Another winner for the acclaimed Tony Valenti series. Don't miss it!"*

[5.0 out of 5 stars Awesome Series](#) *"I have loved this entire series. How long will I have to wait for the next one?"*

[5.0 out of 5 stars Book holds your interest throughout.](#) *"The entire Background series is riveting and can't wait for number 10."*

For something of an answer to those questions about Book 10, see our Behind the Curtain feature below.

The nice folks at Written Word Media have published an interview with me in which I discuss the origins of *The Usual Suspect* and answer several writing-related questions. If you're interested, you'll find it [here](#). Did I mention giveaways? Why, yes I did. The Goodreads giveaway to win one of ten free copies of *The Usual Suspect* ends on Monday, August 18. Get your entries in! Enter [here](#).



A Peek Behind the Scenes

Behind the Curtain

Book 10 is on the drawing board! I've just come to terms on a licensing deal with Relay Publishing that promises to do a whole lot of great things for me,

Tony, and readers too! Win-win is so *passe*; we're talking about win-win-win! My partnership with Relay will streamline the writing and

publishing process considerably, and they'll also take on the heavy lifting of marketing, advertising, and such. The series will get a makeover with updated covers. If you're familiar with the legal thriller author Peter Kirkland, you're familiar with Relay Publishing ... even if you didn't know it! Relay is based in London, England, so perhaps we'll have to arrange some face-to-face meetings between author and publisher. ☺ With the sales and marketing in Relay's capable hands, we hope to grow Tony's audience well beyond what I've been able to manage on my own. Why do you care? For starters, more books, released faster. We're discussing getting the next Tony Valenti Thriller into your hands for Christmas! Stay tuned. Is there any other reason for you to care? How about a trio of Amazon gift cards? We'll be giving away one to each of three lucky winners. To enter, send an email to info@neilturnerbooks.com with RELAY GIVEAWAY in the subject line. We'll contact the winners at the email address you use to enter.

The Nordic Countries

Where in the World?

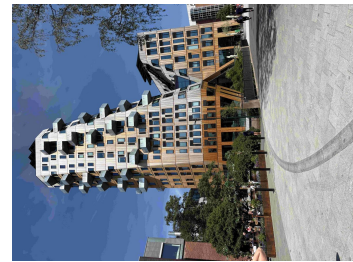
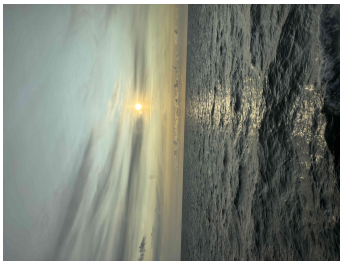
I've been a little tardy with the recap of our Nordic vacation. We left home on June 1st and returned in the early hours of June 22nd. We spent our first week in Copenhagen, Denmark, which is an extraordinary city in too many ways to list here. There's a term plastered all over the city: Hygge. You can find plenty of definitions for this word, but the one I prefer is this: If you've ever wrapped yourself up in your favorite blanket, with a good book and a warm cup of tea on a rainy day, then you've experienced hygge. What a wonderful state of being for an entire city to aspire to! I've never seen so many bicycles on the road and parked at transit stations. I'm creating this in an email program template, so the options for pasting in a bunch of photos are somewhat limited, hence you'll see that some will appear sideways. It's the best this seriously technology-challenged writer could do!

Copenhagen left to right: Rosenberg castle and gardens, a metro stop with hundreds of commuters' bikes parked for the day, Tivoli Gardens Amusement Park—opened on this date, August 15, 1843. Happy 182nd Birthday!

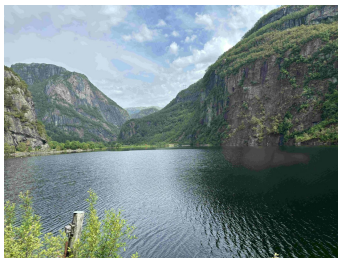




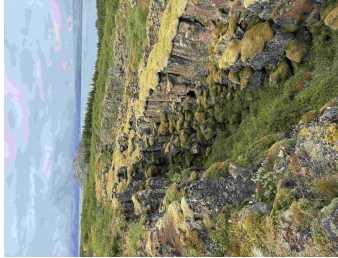
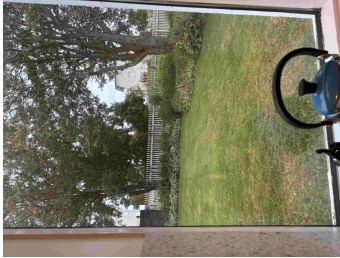
From Copenhagen, we took an overnight ferry to Oslo, Norway. Oslo was somewhat similar to Copenhagen, but a little less laid back. I was taken with some of their striking architecture. Pictures from left to right: The sun low in the sky over the Skagerrak, a Stave church, a funky apartment building.



We took a spectacular train journey across Norway to the west coast city of Bergen. The weather in Bergen wasn't ideal, but we enjoyed the journey and the city. The pictures from left to right: crossing the mountains by train, scenery from the train, a fjord near Bergen taken from the water.



We ended our trip with five days in Iceland. What a spectacular country! We arrived just after Summer Solstice, so we were able to experience nighttime without the sun setting. Crazy stuff! The first photo was taken out our window at 1:30 A.M. 11:30 P.M. looked exactly the same! The second photo is the geologic fault line between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates that runs through Iceland. Thankfully, they didn't choose that moment to slip! The last picture is the Gullfoss waterfalls, which are larger and more spectacular than the photo can capture.



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](#) 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 This question comes from an aspiring writer. I thought the answer might be of interest to others, as well.

Q: What's the hardest part of indie publishing?

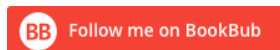
A: That's a timely question, and an impossible one to answer definitively. I would give different replies at different stages of the journey, and these would be informed by an individual author's own goals and objectives. I'm going to answer this from the perspective of an indie writer who has been fortunate enough to experience some small measure of success in the grand scheme of things, which is about where I sit on the spectrum of writers. For me, the toughest thing has become the endless effort to keep all the balls in the air: writing, publishing, marketing and advertising. While it would be nice to think that there comes a point where you've worked it all out and can coast a little on your hard-won knowledge and experience, it simply doesn't work that way. The publishing landscape is constantly evolving, forcing us to be nimble as we adapt to the changes. What worked in the spring may not work by summer, and on and on. It isn't for the faint of heart. Finding balance is tricky and burnout is a definite risk. Now that I've made the whole concept sound positively ghastly, there are also substantial rewards to accomplishing a measure of success—people deriving enjoyment from your creation being chief amongst them. Aside from selling any copies, simply completing and publishing a novel is an accomplishment relatively few people manage to do. I guess my point is to go into this with your eyes open. It's a long and difficult road, but one that can be very rewarding.

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

PS - What the heck, let's give away another gift card for those of you who hung in here with me all way to the end of this rather lengthy missive. To enter, send an email to info@neilturnerbooks.com with the subject line THE END. Now, isn't that fitting? Caio!



Neil Turner Books

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