



Page Turners

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**This newsletter will also appear at: <http://www.joanuptonhall.com/pageturner.htm>
with PageTurner authors' photos**

The authors' cooperative, Page Turners, welcomes you to this free, monthly newsletter. We encourage you to forward it to others you think would enjoy it, print it to share with friends, and invite them to subscribe by emailing us. You may unsubscribe at any time. Simply email us and say "Cancel."

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Vol. 1 No. 3

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Links to authors whose pages you must turn!

- M.D. Benoit <http://www.mdbenoit.com> Science Fiction Mystery, Alternate Reality
Mayra Calvani <http://www.mayracalvani.com> Horror Dark fantasy, Satire, YA, Children
David Ciambrone <http://www.davidciambrone.com> Mystery, Technical management, News column
Diane Fanning <http://www.dianefanning.com> Mystery, True Crime, Suspense
Jackie Griffey <http://www.jackiegriffey.com> Cozies, romantic suspense, horror, historical
J.C. Hall <http://www.jc-hall.com> Fantasy, Nonfiction
Joan Upton Hall <http://www.joanuptonhall.com> Fantasy, Paranormal, Travel/History, Editing advice
L.C. Hayden <http://lchayden.freesevers.com> Mystery, Inspirational, Horror, Children
Joan Neubauer <http://www.wordwright.biz> Novels in various genres, Writing advice
Gloria Oliver <http://www.gloriaoliver.com> Spec Fic, Fantasy/SF/Horror, YA
Sylvia Dickey Smith <http://www.sylviadickeysmit.com> Mystery suspense
Cheryl Swanson <http://www.cherylswanson.net> Contemporary thriller

Collective blog of several members of the above: "It's a Mad Mad World" <http://madten.wordpress.com>

MAIL BAG – READERS WRITE

Have questions you'd like to ask any of these authors? Comments about their books? Their favorite desserts? What pets they have? Write to Page Turners at the email address shown in the masthead. Be sure to state which author you are addressing.

Characters Break Out from their Book Covers!

Dear PageTurners:

I like your new newsletter. This is for all of you who care to answer. Recently I saw on the news how a bully knocked down a little old lady to steal her bag of groceries. Pick any two characters from one of your novels, and tell me what would they say or do in this situation?

--Just wondering,

Frannie

Dear Frannie,

Glad you like the newsletter, and our characters had fun breaking outside the covers of our books. And if you want to read more about them within the books, check out each author's website shown on first page. Here goes:

Jackie Griffey (RECYCLING HUMANITY) answers:

Frannie: I can't believe it - this did happen in my book. My character, **Martin** (doctor who lost his chief of surgery job to a conglomerate which took over his hospital), has a well equipped clinic in the apartment where this happened on the front steps.

He and his wealthy friend, who funds the clinic, rescue the lady, grab the attacker, and use him for a blood donor! It's just one of the hilarious things they do to 'recycle humanity' that all of us would probably do if we had the nerve, know-how, and money.

BTW I've turned this into a script, so if you know any script agents let me hear from you.

Love,

Jackie

M. D. Benoit (JACK METER CASE FILES) answers as **Jack Meter**, detective, along with his reluctant sidekick, **Claire Foucault**:

The kid, twice as big as the old lady, yanked the grocery bag from her hand and pushed her to the sidewalk. I pointed at the running thief. "Go get him, Fred. I'll take care of her."

Fred glanced up at me, flicked his tail, and sat down to wash his paw. I sighed. Why couldn't a dog have adopted me?

"Jack, go after him!" Claire shouted. "I'll take care of the woman."

"He's too far already."

"You gutless wonder," she said, bending over the old woman, "I should've known you'd balk at helping anything but yourself."

I grimaced. She'd nag me until snow fell in the seven hells of Dante, if I didn't go after the punk. I broke into a run.

Gloria Oliver (VASSAL OF EL) answers:

Torren, mercenary, seeing the incident, would pick up a stick and throw it, thus tripping the perpetrator so he could be caught. Then, as he shook his head, he would help the old lady to her feet, muttering under his breath, "Lander scum!"

Governor of Caeldanage would say, "Oh my! How rude!" dab a scented kerchief to his brow, then wave to one of his attendants to help up the old lady. A description of the perpetrator would then somehow make the rounds and the city guard would make sure someone learned a bit more respect for their elders with no credit going back to the governor, of course.

L.C. Hayden (WHY CASEY HAD TO DIE) answers:

Harry Bronson, my series detective, is a very polite, gentle man. However when it comes to thugs, that's another story. He stayed with the little old lady to make sure that she was okay. But while tending to her, he picked up two of the tomatoes that had fallen. He threw them at the escaping thug's path. The bully slipped and fell, hitting his head hard on the cement. The bully was still passed out cold when the police arrived at the scene. - That's my Bronson!

Cheryl Swanson (DEATH GAME) answers:

Cooper O'Brien (protagonist) heard a cry like that of a rabbit being lifted by the talons of a hawk. She and the grocery clerk looked out the door where a mugger had just knocked an old lady down. He yanked away her bag of groceries, tossed her wallet in with it and walked off. His gait was easy, unhurried, certain he had gotten away with it.

Cooper felt something twist inside her; her fist clenched slightly. She picked up a can of spray paint her daughter Heather had asked her to buy for one of her endless art projects.

"I'll be right back," Cooper said as she ran out the door and after the mugger.

She popped off the top of the spray paint, took aim...

Back in the store, she told the clerk to call the police.

He shrugged. "A dozen old ladies get robbed in this city every day. They'll never catch the guy."

"Tell the police this mugger they can positively identify. He's got a big yellow 'T' painted on his back." She walked out of the grocery store, laughing. Cooper needed that moment of levity. At home, her teenage brother **Jimmie** had gotten lured into a brand new way to commit murder.

Joan Upton Hall (ARTURO EL REY) answers:

Arturo's wise advisor, **Nilson**, hobbles to the lady as soon as the bully runs away. "My dear lady, let me take you to a safe place where you won't be accosted by marauders." Keeping vigil over his shoulder, he guides her into the little group's hideout, an underground library.

Arturo's enemy, **Eddie Reeves**, blasts a hole in the bully's forehead. "I'll do the bullying around here!" He retrieves a Snickers bar from the bag, chomps off half of it in one bite. Then riffling grimy fingers through his Mohawk roach of hair, he swaggers back to his laughing gang, the "Hellions."

Sylvia Dickey Smith (DANCE ON HIS GRAVE) answers:

The little old lady is "**Aunt Annie**," (protagonist) **Sid's** meddlesome aunt. After the bully knocks her down, she grabs his ankle and bites while he's tugging on the bag of groceries, still clutched tightly in Annie's fist—half the contents spilled on the street. Screaming, he lets go, holding his ankle.

"You hoodlum, your mama'd be ashamed of you!"

"Mama's dead, you old bag."

"Probably died from shame."

The bully staggers backward.

George Léger (Sid's Cajun mentor) strides over, grabs the bully's arm and says, "Young man, you better stop while you're ahead. Now, help this woman pick up those groceries, else you'll live to regret it."

Bully spits. "Yeah? You and what army's gonna make me regret it."

"An army of one," George says as he watches Annie crawl to her feet and draw back her over-sized purse.

(More on Smith's characters with her book release announcement (see "GET 'EM...HOT")

And our Contest Winners are...

For the March contest, "Read and Ebook Week," sponsored by the blog, "**It's a Mad Mad World**" (who are also Page Turners as noted on p. 1), contestants read an excerpt of one of our books on the blog each

day, answered questions, and won the drawing to earn the ebook version of the novel of the day. Congratulations to winners:

Cheryl Swanson's DEATH GAME & Joan Upton Hall's ARTURO EL REY

— both won by **Jenny**, owner of blog: <http://bratsweetnothings.blogspot.com>

J.C. Hall's LEGENDS OF THE SERAI – won by Cathie Caffey.

Mayra Calvani's EMBRACED BY THE SHADOWS – won by C. Gwynn.

Winners of Cheryl Swanson's April Contest

Congratulations to the two winners of a free copy of Page Turner author's mystery, DEATH GAME!

PageTurner readers **Debbie in Connecticut** & **Judy Cox in Louisiana**

Please contact Cheryl Swanson at: cherylaswanson@gmail.com and leave the address where you want the book to be sent. Expect a delay of two-three weeks to allow for shipping. (Cheryl lives in Hawaii.)

HOTLINE NEWS

Sleuthing out Great Mysteries

Golden Gate Mysteries, the brainchild of UC-Berkeley Library, prides itself on discovering great new mystery titles. PageTurner author **Cheryl Swanson** is one of their latest discoveries, with her thriller DEATH GAME up front and center at the site at: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/~rbrandt/sfmystery>

Death Game is published by Zumaya Publications and the cover artist is Martine Jardin. Golden Gate Mysteries is maintained by Bancroft Library principle cataloger, Randal Brandt, and is widely respected as the authoritative site on mysteries in San Francisco and environs.

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH: LC Hayden

Lives in: El Paso, Texas (or wherever their motor home takes them)

Writing genres: Mystery, Inspirational, Horror, Children

L. C. Hayden has penned five mystery novels. Hayden's most recent release, *WHY CASEY HAD TO DIE*, is garnishing great reviews and followed *WHAT OTHERS KNOW*, a Left Coast Crime nominee for the prestigious best mystery award. Hollywood legend, Anne Francis of the *HONEY WEST* fame, optioned Hayden's third mystery, *WHERE SECRETS LIE*, for a movie. Hayden's previous novel, *WHEN COLETTE DIED*, was an Oprah On-line Reading Café selection. The first, *WHO'S SUSAN?* made the Barnes & Noble Top Ten Bestseller List. Besides mysteries, Hayden is also the author of the WordWright Best Seller inspirational, nonfiction book *WHEN ANGELS TOUCH YOU*, a spiritually uplifting book that deals with miracles and angels. *THE DRUMS OF GERALD HURD* is a horror novel that promises all the punch of a first-class horror story and the sensitivity of a romance. Besides being an accomplished author, Hayden is a popular speaker who is often in demand. She has done workshop and school presentations, has spoken to clubs and organizations, and was recently hired by several cruise lines to speak about writing while cruising all over the world. Mystery Writers of America recently asked Hayden to host their live talk show *MURDER MUST AIR*. Hayden, who taught high school English for twenty-six years, retired in May 2001. Although she calls El Paso, Texas, her home, her husband and she spend a vast amount of time on the road in their motor home, promoting books, attending and speaking at conferences,

or doing presentations. Hayden holds a Master's Degree in Creative Writing from the University of Texas at El Paso. She is member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, and Texas Authors Coalition. She also enjoys being a member of Mystery Babes and DorothyL, Internet mystery discussion groups.

When not writing, Hayden enjoys drawing, reading, traveling, and scuba diving. In addition to her novels, Hayden has published fiction, non-fiction, and poetry since 1975 in various periodicals. To date, she has sold over 400 pieces

Book of the Month: **WHY CASEY HAD TO DIE by LC Hayden**

A few review blurbs:

Anne K. Edwards – If you enjoy mysteries with twists and characters who will beckon you farther and farther along the road of intrigue, you will really enjoy this tale by talented author L. C. Hayden. An unexpected villain and twists in the plot offer a fun read to any mystery buff.

A fresh, well plotted tale peopled with characters you will enjoy meeting, even the baddies. After reading this book, you will be looking for other tales by this talented author. I know I will. Enjoy.

Jessica Powers – *Why Casey Had to Die* fits squarely into the mystery book genre, plot- and character-wise. Bronson fits the image of "hard-boiled" detective so commonly found in mystery books, yet he is so much more than that, largely because of his interaction with his wife. And his wife is a delight, both what you would expect and what you wouldn't expect- kind of like Harry Bronson himself. I was surprised by the ending and the book kept me up late one night just so I could finish it. In my life, that's always the sign of a good read.

Lillian Cauldwell – Look out Nora Roberts, here comes L.C. Hayden. *Why Casey Had to Die* is a twisted, roller coaster murder mystery ride that will take you over the river and through the woods before the reader ever understands who's going down and why. Five stars.

Clara Johnson – Who is Harry Bronson? He likes to ask questions but very rarely answers them. He likes his coffee and loves his wife, Carol. If you haven't read *What Others Know*, do yourself a favor. Read it first. Upon completion, you will need to know *Why Casey Had to Die*.

As I read this mystery, I did not want to stop and knew that if the phone rang, I would not answer it. I wanted *no* interruptions. It has been a long time I have been this invested in such a well-crafted book; I literally could not put it down. I await the next Harry Bronson installment.

Bill Crider – A retired cop, a cold case, and murder at a convention honoring Dorothy L. Sayers. Entertainment guaranteed. What more could a mystery fan ask for?

At the end of each chapter, I told myself that I would read one more chapter and then put the book down. After a few chapters, I didn't bother to tell myself I would put the book down. I was hooked and couldn't stop until I found out *Why Casey Had to Die*.

Read 1st chapter at <http://lchayden.freesevers.com/novel.htm>

GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT **(Other Releases & Successes)**

PT Authors' Book Releases **Springing up Like Wild Flowers in May!**

Jackie Griffey's RECIPE FOR TROUBLE is the third in the Maryvale cozy series and it's a tale that starts off with a bang! First, author Mattie Carrington's kitchen blows up when she starts writing her second cookbook. Then when she rents a cabin to work uninterrupted, someone poisons her, and the whole project is beginning to look like a recipe for trouble. Jackie says, "I don't call myself a paranormal writer, but some characters in the series are: a psychic, a medium, a healer, and (in the next book) a young, beautiful, fun witch—like Samantha. Ha!"

Sylvia Dickey Smith's DANCE ON HIS GRAVE (The Third Eye mystery series, L&L Dreamspell) will be available this month at book stores and Amazon.com. Sidra Smart is not your ordinary rookie private eye. A recently divorced preacher's wife, she inherits a detective agency and plunges into the surreal world of danger and intrigue where passion burns as hot as the memories of child abuse, arson, and murder. Interaction among Sid, her meddlesome Aunt Annie, and Cajun-speaking, rot-gut drinking mentor, George Léger, forms the core of this character-driven novel. Readers are transported to the alligator-infested swamps where Texas and Louisiana meet, and Cajuns and cowboys are king.

Sylvia invites you to view the book trailer at: www.sylviadickeysmith.com or <http://sylviadickeysmith.blogspot.com> (scroll down)

Joan Upton Hall's second book on hoosegows, JUST VISITIN' OLD TEXAS JAILS (State House Press of McMurry University), will debut early in May. The classic game of Monopoly doesn't include a jail in its town for nothing. Whether you call that institution "hoosegow," "calaboose," "slammer," or "correctional facility," everyone would rather be "Just Visiting." Well, today you can do just that. These formidable buildings, once threatened with demolition for being too inhumane for modern use, have been turned into museums, libraries, restaurants, hotels, and even a home or two.

Diane Fanning's THROUGH THE WINDOW will be re-released as a True Crime Classic, May 29. It includes an update. Watch for more on this next month.

David Ciambrone has signed yet another contract with a publisher in Houston – this one is for a mystery novel, LEFT AT GEORGETOWN.

Try Following this Act!

PT author **Mayra Calvani** has a daughter, Melisa Eyuboglu, following in her mom's footsteps, having written and illustrated a book, ANGEL IN A BUBBLE. What's more, Guardian Angel Publishing, of St. Louis, MO has published it! Yes, this publishing house has opened a new imprint, "Angel to Angel" books written and illustrated by children under twelve years of age. Melisa is only nine. Check it out at: www.guardianangelpublishing.com

FUN STUFF, CONTESTS & OFFERS

Win a Free Book for Mother's Day

from **Confessions of Ten Mad Authors** blog <http://madten.wordpress.com>

Visit our blog each day during **May 7-11**, to see what one of the following authors will post: an excerpt and one or two questions. Contestants will have a chance to win any of the following books:

DEATH ON DELIVERY by Diane Edwards

ARTURO EL REY by Joan Upton Hall

LADY OF THE LAKE, J. C. Hall's latest fantasy

DEATH GAME by Cheryl Swanson

IN SERVICE OF SAMURAI by Gloria Oliver

Keep trying and you'll increase your chances to win!

Contest winners will be announced on **Mother's Day, May 13th!**

Want to Be a Character?

LC Hayden says: "If you'd like to be a character in my next book (one of my characters has the same name you do), drop by my website: <http://www.lchayden.freeservers.com>. After you hit enter, it'll take you to the opening page which contains a cup with an unusual tea bag hanging out of it. What's in the tea bag? Answer correctly and drop me an e-mail: lchayden@myeweb.com. I'll put the names in a box and draw the winner's name. We'll do this for the **April & May newsletters** so you'll have plenty of time to hit my website—and while you're there, please sign my guest book.

Give-aways

(last month for these 3 offers from this newsletter!)

Sylvia Dickey Smith offers a coffee mug with her logo for THE THIRD EYE mystery series on it. Email her for details: sylviadickeysmyth@austin.rr.com.

Jackie Griffey's blog, "Breaktime With Jackie" offers 'sweet nothings,' recipes that diabetics and weight-watchers can eat and enjoy — especially the Chocolate Latte :-)

Joan Upton Hall says: "Book Clubs discussing ARTURO EL REY asked me: 'After a worldwide plague, it's a new dark age. What do characters eat in a world without supermarkets?' To answer them, I put together a mini-cookbook of favorite foods that 7 characters mentioned in the book." To get your FREE copy, send a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to: Joan Upton Hall, PO Box 179, Hutto, TX 78634.

NEW FEATURE

FOR READERS WHO ALSO WRITE

How-to Advice a Few Clicks Away

The Mad Techno-Guide, M. D. Benoit, has just started a weekly column (new posting every Wednesday at: <http://madten.wordpress.com>) designed for people who know little about computers, the internet, blogging, html code, net etiquette, use of resources, website, podcasts, videos, and internet tracking systems such as SEO, RSS, CSM.

The Mad Word Doctor, AKA freelance editor, **Joan Upton Hall**, answers writers' questions on the same blog as above (new posting last week of each month). Her column, otherwise known as "Ask Dr. Joan" or "Ask the Book Doctor," also appears in various newsletters and websites and in her own: <http://www.joanuptonhall.com/bb.htm> (scroll down and click the link for "Ask Doc" Q&A's).

Also on Joan's **Bulletin Board** page ([link just above this](#)), see invitation for submissions that fit the topics therein: King Arthur, Ghosts, Restoring the Past. PLUS an occasional contest with Joan's email link handy. Just look for the flaming envelope at the bottom of each page.

AUTHOR SIGHTINGS TO WATCH FOR

May & early June

(NOT LISTED: Appearances closed to the public, such as area book clubs; check with author)

David Ciambrone

May 5: San Gabriel Writers' League annual Writing Smarter Workshop, Books by Members display

May 18, 4:30 PM: Mystery Author Panel: Thirsty Mind Bookstore at Lakeway, Texas.

May 12: Hill Country Book Store in Georgetown, Texas.

June 3: Art in the Park, part of the annual Festival of the Arts in Georgetown, Texas.

Sylvia Dickey Smith

June 3: Art in the Park, part of the annual Festival of the Arts in Georgetown, Texas.

June 9, 2 - 4 PM, signing at Hill Country Book Store, Georgetown, TX, signing for DANCE ON HIS GRAVE

Jackie Griffey

last of May, date TBD (check her website): speaking for Fiction Writers of Central Arkansas

June 2, Sat., 8-3 PM: signing at Little Rock, Arkansas, Arkansas Writers Conference.

Joan Neubauer

May 19: 2:00 pm, Debut of NOBLE GENERATION III, Barnes & Noble, Round Rock, TX

May 20: (same place), Book Signing Details TBD

Joan Upton Hall

May 5, Sat., all day: Georgetown Public Library, Georgetown, TX. Joan will be coordinating the San Gabriel Writers' League annual "Writing Smarter Workshop"; also part of Books by Members display

May 15, Tues., noon, Abilene Public Library, 202 Cedar St., Abilene, TX: "Texas Author Series" discussing her book, JUST VISITIN' OLD TEXAS JAILS

May 17, Thurs., time TBD, Buffalo Gap, TX: State House Press publisher release party, for JUST VISITIN' OLD TEXAS JAILS

June 1, 6:30-8:00 PM, signing at Hill Country Book Store, Georgetown, TX, signing for JUST VISITIN' OLD TEXAS JAILS.

June 16, 2 PM, Barnes & Noble, La Frontera Shopping Center, 2701 Parker Rd., Round Rock, TX, signing for JUST VISITIN' OLD TEXAS JAILS