



Busy Month

I know I'm sending out my February newsletter on the first day of March, but, as my daughter is fond of saying, "In my defense I have no defense." I do have excuses, though. The first one is that February is a short month.

The second one, which might be more pertinent, is that I've done a lot of traveling this month.

First I spent Valentine's Day Weekend at Boskone, a science fiction convention in Boston, Massachusetts. My husband turned me on to science fiction conventions the first year we were married, and we attended as a couple several times over the years, finding babysitters for the kids. In 2019 we brought the kids with us, and now it's become a much-anticipated family trip. We rent them their own adjoining room in the hotel so we all have some privacy, and then we all go off and do our own thing during the day. My

husband attends a few panel discussions but mostly hangs out in the dealer room (book store) or the hotel room, reading his newly acquired books. My son splits his time between the gaming room, the con suite (free snacks!), and the hotel room when he needs to not people. My daughter attends some of the panel discussions, makes frequent visits to the con suite, and spends a lot of time looking at the original art for sale. She usually buys a figurine or a pin, or both. And me? I attend panel after panel, barely coming up for air.



Then last weekend I took my daughter to New York City for several days. She loves cities, so we stayed in midtown Manhattan. We walked through Times Square (she wanted a real-life ad-blocker), Greenwich Village (home of the best allergen-friendly bakery EVER), Central Park (totally awesome), and visited the Cloisters (a peaceful haven in the midst of chaos).



We took taxis to and from the train station, the subway to and from the Village and the Cloisters, and walked over 23 miles in the course of four days.

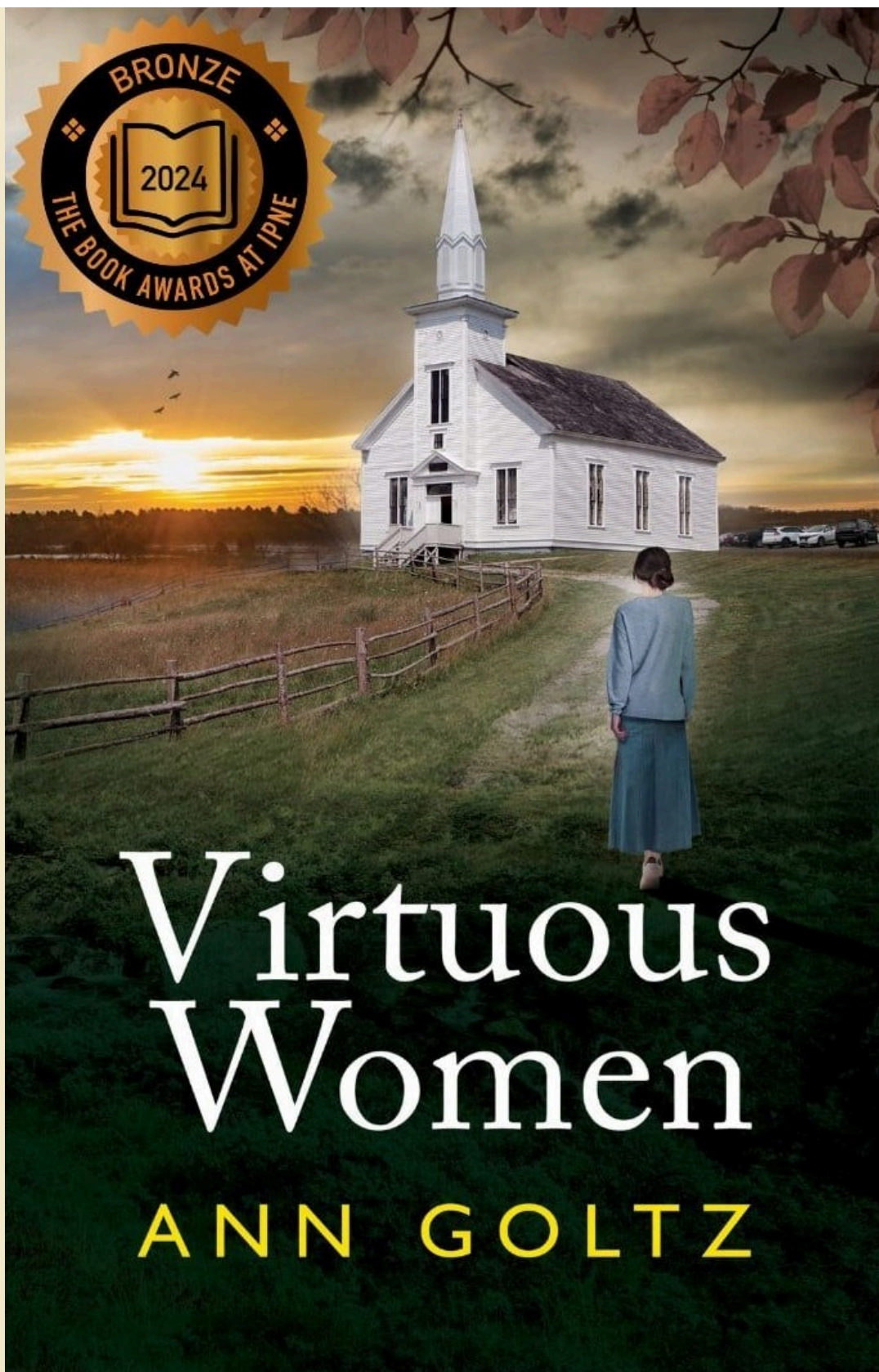
And she loves the theatre, so this was the highlight of our trip.



I'll be honest; I wasn't expecting to like *Hamilton*. I don't usually listen to hip-hop or R&B, and I didn't think I'd find the subject matter all that interesting. But it's the show my daughter most wanted to see, and this weekend was about her. I'm happy to say that I was very pleasantly surprised. The show was phenomenal (and so were our seats, as you can see from the picture), and I'm really glad I got a chance to see it. And even though I've been to professional plays in Boston and Chicago, there is something special about seeing a show on Broadway.

So, between three days at Boskone and four days in New York all around the time that I'm supposed to be sending out this newsletter, I fell a little behind.

Sorry, and thanks for understanding!



[Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)* (paperback)

[Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) (paperback/ebook)

I've decided to reduce my reliance on Amazon for sales. My books will still be there for those who prefer that retailer, but I'll be removing the ebook version of *Virtuous Women* from Kindle Unlimited at the end of its current run (April 23). After that, the ebook will still be available for purchase on Amazon, but it will also be available on Google Play, the iStore, and Kobo. The paperback is already widely available, and I've used Ingram Spark as my distributor from the beginning. That means that Amazon only makes money from my books when you buy from Amazon.

I'm also looking into a way to do direct sales from my website for both the ebook and the paperback. Stay tuned for more information about that!

Book Review: House on Fire by D. Liebhart



If you've read (or are considering reading) *Virtuous Women*, then you probably enjoy stories with complicated family dynamics. In that case, D. Liebhards award-winning debut is one you won't want to miss. From Goodreads:

HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO KEEP A PROMISE?

Bernadette Rogers swore she'd never put her father in a nursing home. Does that include euthanizing him to keep her word? Her mother thinks it does. Bernadette isn't so sure. And even if she were, it's not like you can walk into a drug store and buy Nembutal.

As an ICU nurse she's no stranger to the blunt realities of death, but her mother's request to help her father—who's disappearing into the abyss of dementia—go "peacefully" blindsides her. Her mother thinks it's assisted suicide. Bernadette knows better. Even if they do it for all the right reasons, it would still be murder.

Surrounded by conflicting voices, Bernadette doesn't know which way to turn. Her self-righteous sister insists it's a sin. Her magnanimous ex thinks her mother will try it alone. Then her best friend offers to help. What was supposed to be a relaxing two-week break becomes an emotional rollercoaster as Bernadette is forced to make an agonizing decision about her beloved father and figure out just how far she's willing to go for love.

For fans of Jodi Picoult and Lisa Genova, *House on Fire* is an unforgettable story of family, friendship, and the promises we aren't sure anyone should honor.

This book kept me guessing until the very end. As a reader, I was agonizing over the will she / won't she / should she / shouldn't she questions right along with the main character. Bernadette was highly relatable, and part of the reason I identified with her so deeply was because she had a whole other life requiring her time and mental energy on top of this latest crisis with her parents. So often in fiction it seems like the main character's life just

goes on hold while she deals with the main story arc, which isn't how real life works. I prefer books that show characters dealing with the whole human experience, and this one definitely delivered.

Obviously, *House on Fire* deals with sensitive end-of-life issues, and not everyone wants to read about that. If that's you, give this one a hard pass. Future giveaways of mine will deal with less controversial subjects, and you may find those more enjoyable. Life's too short to read books you don't like!

Book Giveaway

Yes, I said giveaway! D. Liebhart is offering a signed paperback to one lucky reader of Ann's Tea Room. As always, just reply to this newsletter with your name and where you are in the world, and you'll be entered. Please reply by Monday, March 10. (Sorry for the short turnaround time, but it's shaping up to be another crazy month for me, and I'd like to get March's newsletter out before April.)

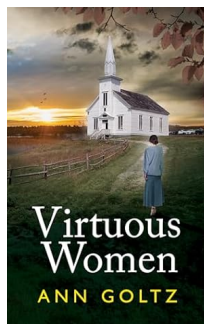
Last Month's Giveaway Winners



Goodreads Giveaway

Want another chance to win a free ebook version of *Virtuous Women*? I'm giving away 100 of them during my Goodreads Giveaway! Sign up any time during March (though do it sooner rather than later so you don't forget).

Goodreads Book Giveaway



Virtuous Women
by Ann Goltz

Giveaway ends March 31, 2025.

See the [giveaway details](#) at Goodreads.

Enter Giveaway

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Ann Goltz

131 Daniel Webster Hwy. #876,
Nashua, New Hampshire
United States of America



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