



In This Newsletter

Non-Halloween Costume

Quote for the Month

Latest on Substack

Writing Updates

Events/Contests

What I've Been Reading

Non-Halloween Costume

There are two types of events my family enjoys attending together year after year. One is a particular Science Fiction Convention each winter--I just booked our tickets and hotel rooms for that, and will probably talk about it in a future newsletter. The other is Renaissance Faires.

(Yes, we are a very nerdy family. And PROUD of it!)

For the past couple of years we've attended the New Hampshire Renaissance Faire and had a blast. This year we decided to give King Richard's Faire in Massachusetts a try, as well. We'd attended King Richard's several years ago, but the kids were too young to enjoy it and the day was a bust, ending with two small children crying over the fact that their parents wouldn't buy them real swords.

They're now old enough to have real swords, and, indeed, each purchased one at the New Hampshire Renaissance Faire two years ago (with their own money--there are limits!). Last year my oldest also purchased a dagger. My youngest and I each got cloaks. And, for the last New Hampshire Renaissance Faire, I also purchased a dress off Amazon. The cloaks and blades are top quality (and the blades are--and will remain--unsharpened).

The dress was the cheap piece of crap you'd expect it to be.

But I found a much better costume at King Richard's Faire.



(Tom and me at King Richard's Faire, after I purchased my new costume. My husband had his cloak long before he met me!)

I bought a new bodice, skirt, and undershirt. First I'd tried an actual corset, but, despite the amazing things it did to my figure, I couldn't breathe in the darn thing. The bodice was a much better choice for me, and I love the colors! My oldest let me borrow his dagger for the day, and I peace-tied it to the belt I acquired after buying my new clothes (along with a belt pouch). I'm not wild about the belt and will look for a new one next time, one that actually buckles and can support the weight of the pouch and dagger. And my eldest has informed me that the loan was a one-time thing, and I should buy my own dagger. I intend to, because it went great with my new costume!

I doubt I'll don it for Halloween, but I'll definitely wear it to future Renaissance Faires!

I also purchased a new journal for my collection.



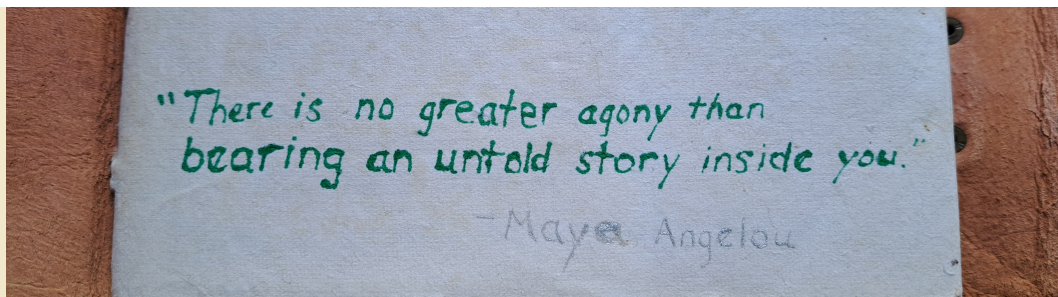
I absolutely adore the owls, and I had to have this, even though my kids say I already have too many journals (as if there could be such a thing!)



I love these kinds of journals because they remind me that words themselves can be art, regardless of how they're strung together into sentences. For regular journaling (which I do occasionally) I use regular journals, but I use these for poetry, Calligraphy, and meaningful quotes. I often use a quill pen and ink jar, rather than the Calligraphy markers that are so much faster and easier. I think there's value in slowing down and really considering what you want to put on paper.

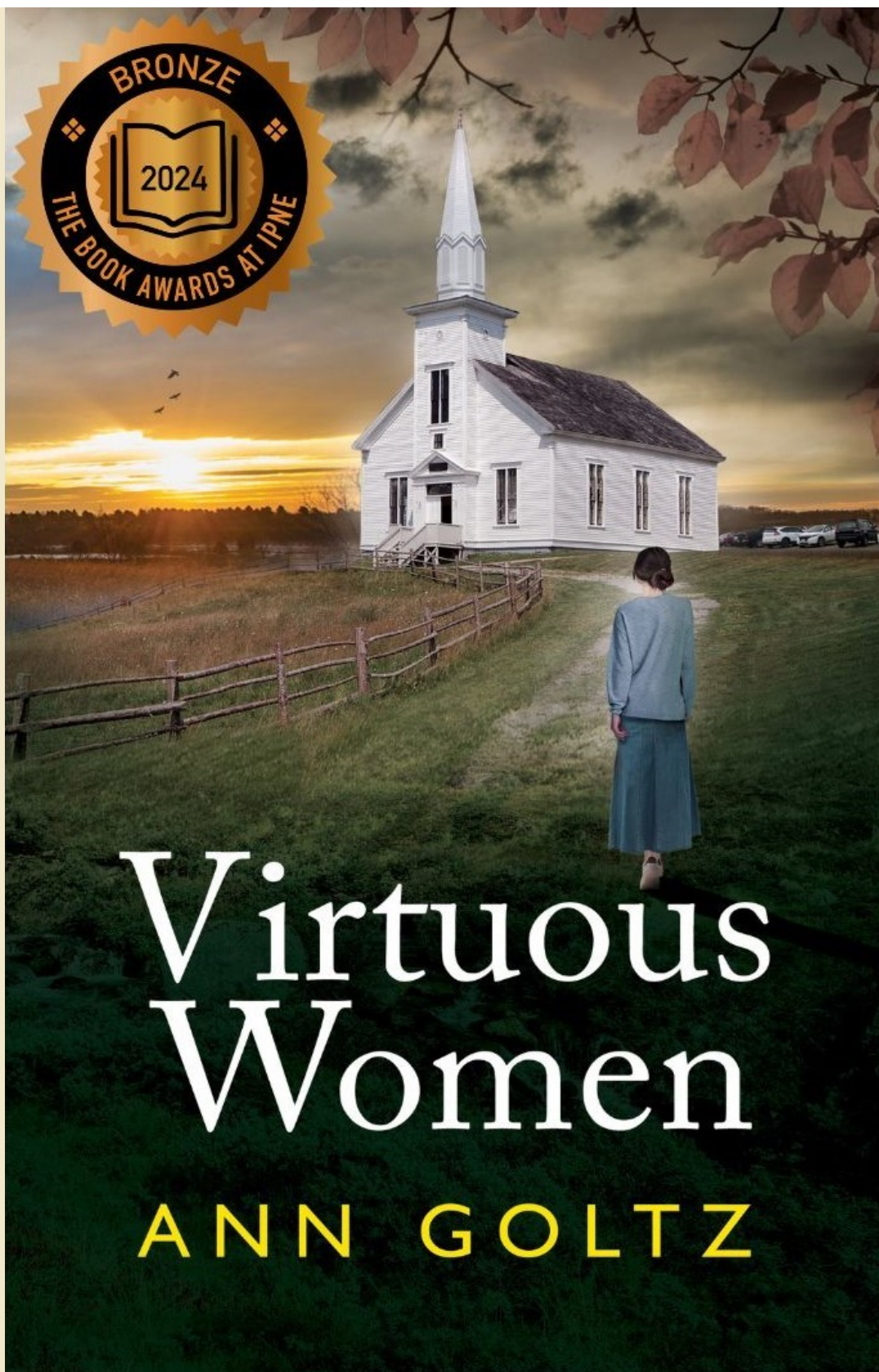
This month's Quote of the Month can be found on the first page of the large, greenish-brown journal pictured above, first penned by me in 2014.

Quote of the Month



Latest on Substack

Thank you to those who responded to my survey about future Substack blogs. There doesn't seem to be a lot of interest in the Truth in Fiction book club, which, honestly, would probably be more than I could handle at this point in my life anyway. I may start up my Bearing Witness Substack in a month or so, which will be mostly religious, political, and cultural in nature. I'll post a link here when there's something to see.



[Bookshop.org*](#) (paperback)

[Amazon](#) (paperback/ebook)

Reader reviews mean so much to authors like me! If you've read *Virtuous Women*, please give it some stars and a few comments on Amazon and Goodreads. It doesn't have to be fancy--just a couple of sentences about what you liked. Even if you didn't buy the book from Amazon, you can still leave a review in most cases.

Thanks!

Leave a review on [Amazon](#).

Leave a review on [Goodreads](#).

Writing Updates

I've received feedback from two of my beta readers, and am waiting to hear from a few more. Overall the feedback has been positive, and I only need to tighten up a couple of things. I've begun researching cover designers, and will soon begin learning how to format my own books. I paid to have someone else do that for *Virtuous Women*, but that was only because I had so many other things to learn at the same time. My plan was always to do my own interior formatting. I'm also beginning to think strategically about marketing. There was so much that I didn't know I didn't know last time!

And, of course, I'm still working on the sequel to *Virtuous Women*. That one's going to take some time, but I want you to know that it's in the works!

Events/Contests

Don't forget to support authors at their events!

Between now and December 31, 2025, **email me proof that you attended an author event, and I'll put your name in a drawing for a \$20 gift card to Bookshop.org.** It can be a picture of you with the author (please have a copy of their book in the picture, too), or a picture of you inside the bookstore (or other venue) holding a flyer announcing the event. If you buy the book (NOT a requirement), send me a picture of the book, your receipt, and the flyer. If you attend a virtual launch, send me a screenshot from the event with the author and the date it happened. Or it could be some other proof I haven't thought of. Yes, theoretically you could cheat and just take a picture of the flyer without actually going to the event, but I'm going to trust you.

For each event you attend, you'll get one entry. The more author events you go to, the better your chance of winning.

And even if you don't win, know that you will totally make an author's day by being the stranger who cared enough to listen to them talk about their book.

Events I've Attended Recently

I've been getting more involved with the Independent Publishers of New England (IPNE), and attended three of their events. On September 10 I helped staff the IPNE table at the New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA) conference in Manchester, NH. On September 20 I was at their table at Town Day in Arlington, MA. And on October 27 I helped staff their table at the New England Library Association (NELA) annual convention in Newport, RI. It was great talking with booksellers, librarians, readers, and other writers and publishers.



I also attended the New Hampshire Writer's Project Literary Awards Ceremony on October 18. *Virtuous Women* was a finalist for their Award for Fiction. Alas I didn't win, but it was an honor to be nominated.

What I've Been Reading



So much has been going on lately that I've fallen behind on my reading. In November, however, I plan to catch up. I'm participating in a book sale promotion from November 1 - 29, and there are several titles on that list alongside *Virtuous Women* that look interesting. Here's the description and requirements to be part of this promotion:

"Everything changes. For some, it's a sudden, blinding flash. For others, it's a slow, steady evolution. Change must take place in your story. Romance is welcome if change occurs, but no bare chest covers."

So that's what you can expect. The link won't go live until November 1, but I'll send out a reminder when it does. I'll also include it here, in case you want to refer back to this newsletter for it.

<https://books.bookfunnel.com/season-of-change/wdwpeatbp9>

*Disclosure: I am an affiliate of Bookshop.org and I will earn a small commission if you click through and make a purchase.

Ann Goltz

923 Elm St. Unit #339
Manchester, NH 03101
United States of America



I don't want to be your spam! If you'd prefer not to receive these updates anymore, please click the link below to unsubscribe. I'm sorry to see you go, but no hard feelings!

[Click here to unsubscribe.](#)