



**August / September 2026
update from...**

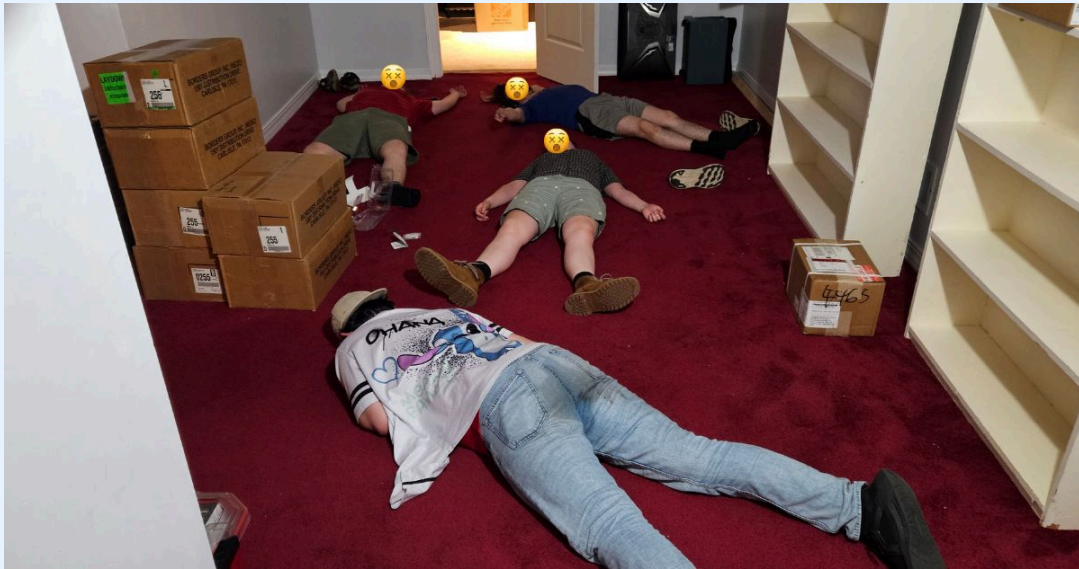
**Ann Goltz,
Author**

Summer Fun (and a bit of unfortunate reality)

First off, I'd like to welcome the new subscribers who signed up at the Indie Author Book Fair at the Mall of New Hampshire in Manchester. It was great meeting you, and I hope you'll enjoy this bi-monthly newsletter.

It's been an eventful summer so far. A few days after I sent out my last newsletter, we began moving to our new rental home on the other side of town. Remember that picture I showed last time of all the book boxes and empty book shelves in my old house? Well, we hired my two teenagers and two of their friends to move the 3,180 books that filled those book shelves. (Yes, that is a real number, pulled from the

database we use to organize our physical books. Yes, we use a database to organize our books, because you have to when you have over three thousand of them!) The kids definitely earned their money, but I don't think they'll be so eager to do it again when we move again next year.



We're still unpacking, because the unfortunate reality I had to face is that I'm *still* not fully recovered from the Infamous Kidney Stone Incident of 2026. While I haven't had any more infections or associated problems, I'm still weak from the two and a half month ordeal. I can unpack two, maybe three boxes before I have to sit and rest for an hour. There will be some boxes that remain packed for the next year, but we're taking out all the things we need to make this house feel like home (like books).

In mid-July, my husband, kids, and I went to see Weird Al in concert at the Boston Garden. (I don't care who sponsors the building now. I'm a born-and-bred Bostonian, and it will always be the Boston Garden, or just *the Gah-din*.) After all the stress and chaos of the last year and a half, we needed something fun as a release. Weird Al definitely delivered.





Finally, my kids and I went to visit family in northern California (me for a week, them for two). I was too busy relaxing, swimming, and attempting to wakeboard to take any pictures, but my eldest did capture this gorgeous sunset off the side deck. Pretty much every night looked like that. Heaven!



Virtuous Women Giveaway Winners

In my last newsletter I offered two paperback and two ebook copies of my award-winning debut novel *Virtuous Women*. Congratulations to the following winners:

Ebook

- Carolyn from Whitby, Ontario, Canada
- Mary from Dothan, AL

Paperback

- Sandy from Spokane, WA
- Renee from Pocatello, ID

More Free Books



No contest this month, but I'm participating in another free book giveaway through BookFunnel. Click below to see what books are available FREE for the month of August. Clicking on the link will not put you on anyone's mailing list; that will only happen if you download one of the books. There are a lot of great stories here, and I encourage you to take a look. My prequel novelette *Needing Hope* is there, but you should already have it. (If you don't, let me know. There's no reason for you to sign up for my newsletter a second time!)

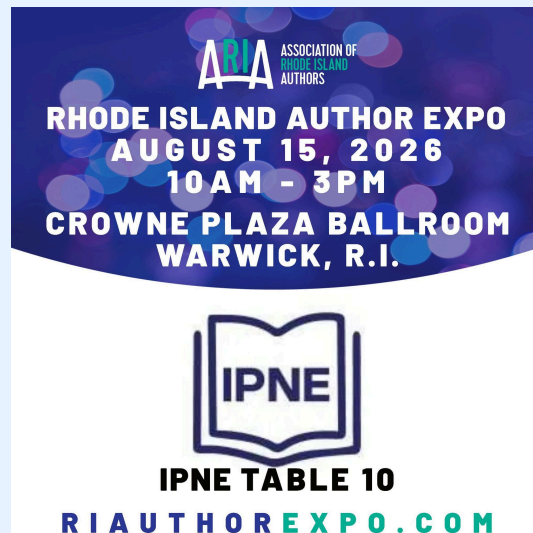
Author and Publishing Events (Recent and Near-Future)



On July 11 I attended the BookThinkers Live Conference, which was more focused on nonfiction than fiction. It was informative, however, and I learned some helpful tips for if I branch out into my religious nonfiction endeavors. I found myself representing [Independent Publishers of New England \(IPNE\)](#) more than myself as an author, but that was valuable, too.



On July 25 I attended the Indie Author Book Fair in Manchester, NH. (Hello again lovely new subscribers!) It was a great day where I sold books, met readers and writers, and reconnected with an author I first met almost 10 years ago at a New Hampshire Writers Project event.



THIS SATURDAY I'll be representing IPNE at the Rhode Island Author Expo in Warwick, RI. If you're a book lover in the area, this looks like a great place to go and discover new writers. Charlotte Pierce of [Pierce Press](#) (another IPNE member) will be selling copies of *Virtuous Women* at her table, along with books published by her publishing house. If

you can't make it in person, check out the Pierce Press books at her website.



I'll also be selling books and talking to readers at the Beals Memorial Library in Winchendon, MA. If you're local and would like to attend, click [here](#) for more information.

Future Events

I've got two more events later in the year. On October 16 I'll be at the IPNE table at the [Boston Book Festival](#), and on November 14 I'll be part of the Voices of the Valley Book Festival at the Apollo Sunrise Center in Newburyport, MA. More details about those events will be in my next newsletter, scheduled for October 10.

About That Next Book

What Happened to Zinnia is scheduled to launch on May 26, 2027. Yes, I've set a date and am creating a publishing/marketing calendar to make sure I hit that deadline. Right now I'm revising based on feedback from my beta readers, and I'll send that draft to my copy editor

towards the end of this month. Once I send it off to her, I'll get to work with my cover designer.

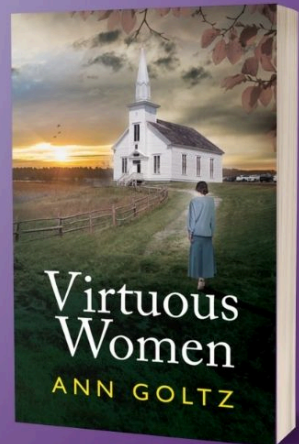
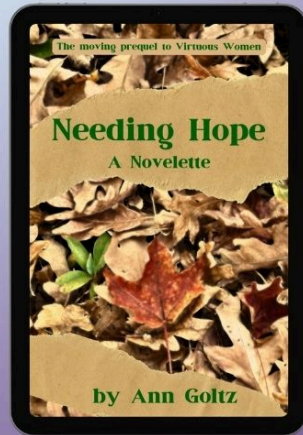
What's the book about? Here's my (current) blurb. If you have advice on how I can make it better, I'd love to hear from you!

How far should you go to protect someone you love?

Harmony McIntyre is barely holding it together. Between raising her four children, caring for her aging parents, and keeping her marriage alive with a husband who constantly travels for work, all Harmony wants is a little peace in her life. She believes the only way to achieve that is by making sure everyone she loves is happy.

Harmony's fragile hold is shattered when she discovers that her mother was the driver in a fatal hit-and-run accident. To protect the woman who taught her the value of self-sacrificing love, Harmony must give up even more of herself than she had before. But what if shielding her mother endangers everyone else Harmony loves?

Subscribers to this newsletter will have the inside scoop before everyone else. You'll be the first to see the cover, the first to read the opening chapters, and I'll offer subscriber deals prior to launch that won't be available elsewhere. Stick with me for the journey!



Buy your copy today!

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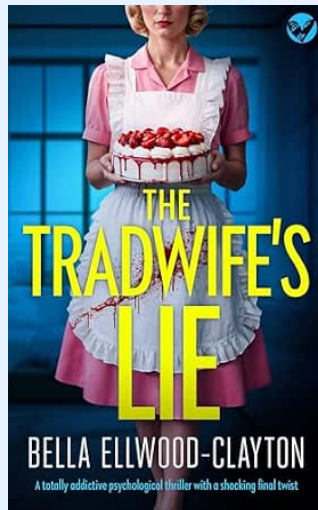
What I've Been Reading

Looking over my Goodreads list, it seems I've read quite a bit since my last newsletter went out. To save space and mental energy (yours and

mine) I'm just going to provide a list with my star rating and a short comment, rather than full reviews.



I finished books 4-9 of the Wheel of Time series between February 11 and June 10. I finished books 10-13 since June 11, and am about to start the last book in the series. Books 7-11 were a bit of a slog (2-3 stars), the rest were 4 stars.



Now that 'trad wife fiction' is an actual subgenre, I'm reading as much of it as I can to see how *Virtuous Women* stacks up. I gave this one 5 stars.

<https://bookshop.org/a/8565/9781805734956>



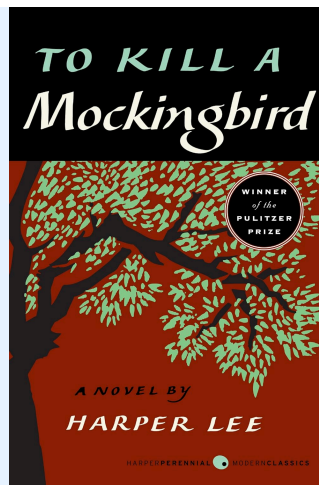
This one is another 5 stars. I had the privilege of getting my hands on an Advance Reader Copy of this, so I've already written a review. I'm copying it here so you don't need to click on yet another thing.

In her sophomore novel, Zelly Ruskin once again delivers an emotional gut punch that leaves her readers stunned.

Sterling has dedicated most of her adult life to cultivating the perfect family. Born wealthy and benefiting from a trust fund, married to her handsome college boyfriend, and raising their three children to adulthood, Sterling has gone to great lengths to hide the fact that her marriage is a sham. While she'd initially married for love, the same could not be said for her husband, Keith. And now Sterling's trapped in a marriage she can't end without losing everything she holds dear.

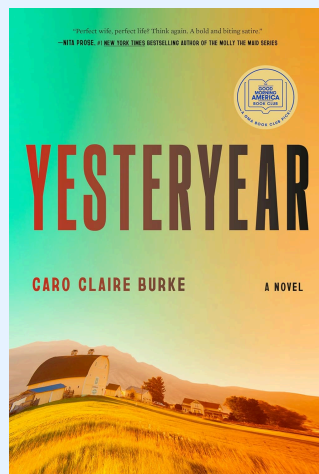
This psychological thriller begins with a slow burn, but the pace increases as the story moves forward, bringing the reader on an emotional roller coaster ride of despair, hope, fear, triumph, and everything in between. The characters are relatable and fully fleshed out, and the narrative flows easily and keeps the reader guessing until the very end.

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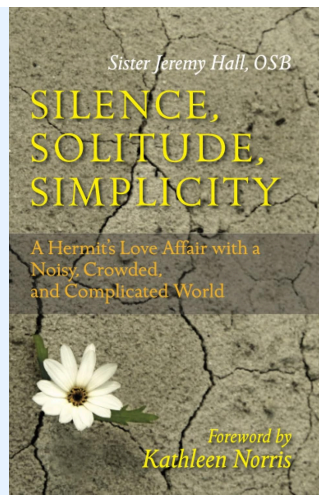
My youngest read this in English class last year and absolutely loved it. It's always been on my list, and I've been a bit embarrassed that I haven't read it. I've rectified that now. 5 stars.

<https://bookshop.org/a/8565/9780060935467>



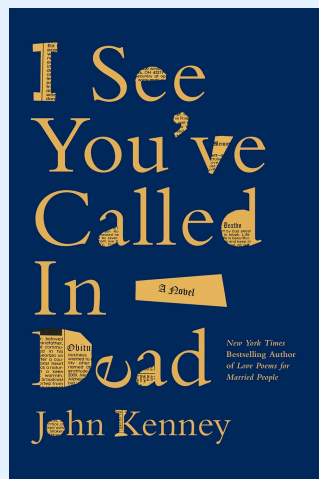
More trad wife fiction. One of my writer friends said I might be able to use this as a comp for *Virtuous Women*, so I read it before my book event in Manchester, NH. It does have some similarities, so I now advertise my book as "*Yesteryear* meets *Handmaid's Tale*." That said, I'm not entirely sure how I feel about this book. 4 stars.

<https://bookshop.org/a/8565/9780593804216>



I spend a little time each morning doing devotional readings to try and start my day peacefully (because goodness knows it doesn't stay that way long!). 5 stars.

<https://bookshop.org/a/8565/9780814631850>



This one started off well, and finished well, but sort of dragged in the middle. 3.5 stars.

It's written by a man and has a male protagonist, but I shelved it under women's fiction. Why? Because the defining quality of women's fiction is that it's about the character's emotional journey, regardless of the gender of that character or the author. This one definitely qualified.

<https://bookshop.org/a/8565/9798989923021>

That's it for me. Got any recommendations? I'd love for you to share them!

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