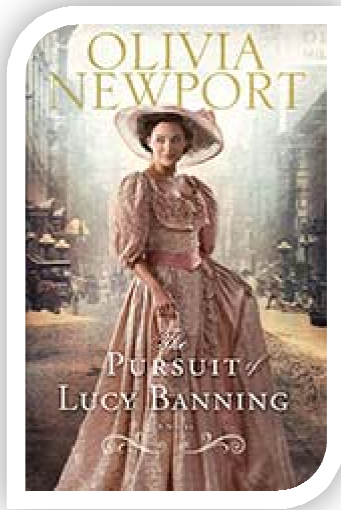


Readin' & Writin' with Lauraine- June 2012

June has busted out all over. That song won't leave my head. I know, I made a slight change in the lyrics, but perhaps the song is so old, many of you won't recognize it anyway.



We have an abundance of lizards at our house this summer, due to the disappearance of our two roadrunners. I miss them. Haven't seen any quail chicks yet, but we should any day now. I do so enjoy all our wildlife, and it has been cool enough to be able to sit outside and read, while delighting in my flowers.

Last winter, I endorsed a novel by a new author, who is actually a pair of writers. One of these writers used to be an editor who bought my first and subsequent short romances. Olivia Newport is their pen name, and they've written a historical series set in Chicago in the heyday of the glitz and glamor of the 1890s.

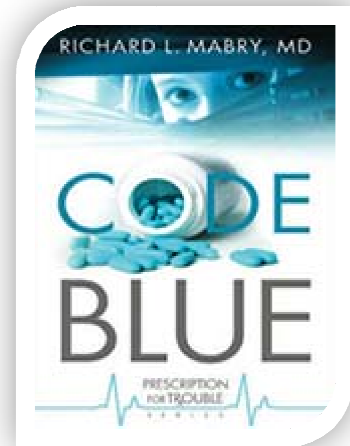
The cover of the first book is gorgeous, and I loved the story of Lucy Banning, a daughter of wealth, living on prestigious Prairie Avenue, the domain of stately mansions and clearly prescribed behavior for young women.

I loved Lucy because she does not want to conform to the strictures of Victorian society. She would rather teach children of the less advantaged, but you guessed it, the man her father wishes her to marry wants his wife to fit into the role their rank demands.

Enter a young architect, Will, who is working on the designs for the Chicago World's Fair. These characters grabbed my heart and did not let go. They are real people set in a time of high society. I would never have fit in there, but would I have had the courage of Lucy Banning to try to break free? *The Pursuit of Lucy Banning* is the perfect read for a summer's afternoon.

Flip to my second book for this month, a medical thriller by Richard Mabry, M.D. *Code Blue* is the first in a series titled *Prescription for Trouble*.

I used to love medical suspense, why do I not read more of them? Oh, I know, too many of the suspense novels today are just too dark and gory for my tastes This one wasn't.



I rarely read reviews before reading a book, but I did this time. And talk about conflicting sentiments! I usually figure my opinion of a book will fall somewhere in the middle.

The opening line: “A black SUV barreled out of nowhere, its oversized tires straddling the center line,” hooked me.

Cathy is a young family care doctor, who is coming home to a small town in Texas. Obviously someone in the SUV does not want her there (or is it just an accident?). The suspense builds, with a cast of possible villains. I kept reading beyond the time I had allotted, thinking “just one or two chapters more before I turn out the light.”

I'm looking forward to reading more of Mabry's books and was excited to discover there are four more installments in this series. Good-by, sleep.

My news? *Reunion*, a contemporary novel filled with family secrets, will come out in July.

Installment two in the *Wild West Wind* series is titled *Whispers in the Wind* and comes out in August. I am just finishing the manuscript of book three, *A Place to Belong*. Yes, Cassie Lockwood is still the star, but a bull buffalo named George shares the arena. Wait until you see what George does in this one.

Preteen girls will love the *S.A.V.E. Squad* series. *Dog Daze*, the first book is now in bookstores. Coming in September is *The Great Cat Caper*.

Hope you can find time to read this summer. Publishers label books as "beach reads", but reading in the mountains works great too. Enjoy reading and perhaps some of you will be writing too. It's never too late to start.

Until next time,

Happy readin' & writin' from Lauraine