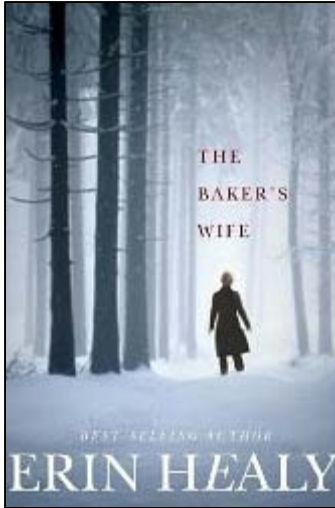


## Readin' & Writin' with Lauraine- May 2012



So, has spring finally come to Tehachapi. You might get the idea if you talked with me that I am rather tired of snow. And I've been gone for several of the storms. But, I love my lilacs in the spring, the candytuft that fills one bed, and the daffodils that have now bloomed and gone. I saw a house finch feeding her baby the other day in the pine tree outside my office window. And heard a mockingbird singing during the night. Now how long since I've heard that?

With all that going on outside, it makes me want to be out there. But here I am getting my column together and have I got news for you. I discovered a new author that sure kept me glued to the pages. Her name is Erin Healy.

I first met Erin a few years ago when she edited my novel, *The Healing Quilt*, (which is still selling well enough to keep in print---always good news). But recently someone told me Erin is writing her own novels now, and they raved about her book, *The Baker's Wife*. I downloaded it to my e-book reader, so I could read it easily at night.

The baker's wife was a pastor's wife until her husband was drummed out of the church by an angry elder. They loved baking bread, so bought a bakery. Audrey has the gift of sensing when other people are in pain and goes to help them, any way she can.

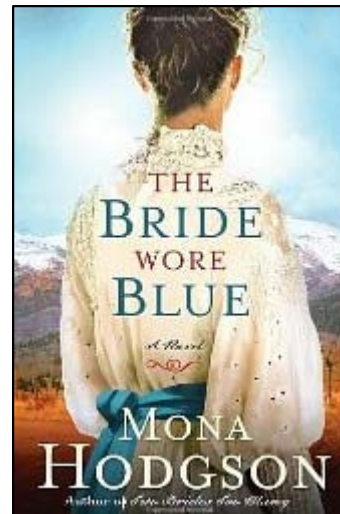
One morning, Audrey is driving to work with her son Ed in the car. In the dense Tule fog of the San Joaquin Valley, she hits a motor scooter in an intersection in town. There is

blood under her car, but no victim. The scooter belongs to the wife of, you guessed it, that same elder, who is also a rather self-righteous police detective. And now his wife has disappeared.

I tried to put this book down, I really did. But--- after a late night reading and an entire afternoon, (good thing I read fast) I got to the rampaging end; never sure how many bodies were going to show up.

I cannot recommend this story highly enough and now I want to go back and read Erin Healy's other two books, *The Promises She Keeps* and *Never Let Go*.

The other book I so enjoyed this month is *The Bride Wore Blue* by Mona Hodgson, a historical novel set in a Colorado mining town. In the third installment in the *Sinclair Sisters of Cripple Creek* series, Vivian, the third sister, finally arrives in Cripple Creek.



Vivian dreams of becoming a fashion designer and while Cripple Creek is no fashion mecca, she desperately needs a job, any job, now that no man will want to marry her. And her sisters must never find out the truth; for she knows it will destroy their relationship.

The Sheriff is fighting to keep a gang of bank robbers away from his town and doesn't need any distractions, but how on earth did that little bitty woman manage to apprehend one of the thieves on the train? Keeping Vivian out of trouble gets to be quite a challenge for him, for Vivian is one of those people, who wants to do the right thing but

something always goes wrong. But she sure is enticing. A delightful laugh-out-loud read, well in keeping with the Mona's earlier two stories. Can't wait for book four!

Now you know some of what I have been reading and maybe next month I will tell you about *The Canary List*. What a tale. You might check into books by Margaret Brownley.

So take a break from weeding, cleaning windows and all those other spring chores and pick up a book or your e-reader. Lots of good things going on in the publishing world.

My next release, *Reunion* will be out in mid-July and two of my earlier romances, *Song of Laughter* and *Race for the Roses* will release on June first as e-books.

Busy summer as *The Great Cat Caper* by Kathleen Wright and me (our second tale in the S.A.V.E squad series for young girls) will be out in August.

Until next time,

*Happy readin' & writin' from Lauraine*