

Readin' & Writin' with Lauraine- September 2013



I don't know about the rest of you, but I seem to read genres in cycles. Right now I am in a suspense mode. I tried reading historicals, but switched gears to suspense, so both this month and next I plan to review contemporary suspense novels. Mainly because one of my favorite authors has a new book out and I want to shout to the world how good it is.

I am cheering about my friend and former student, Janice Cantore. I have reviewed her books before, so I hope many of you are as hooked as I am.

Janice had to retire from the Long Beach police force a few years ago, due to an on-the-job injury. She had dreamed of becoming a writer, wrote manuals and other things for awhile, but decided it was time to put her hard-earned police skills together with her dream of writing fiction. She came to my week-long class and presented me with a very police-report-sounding manuscript that had real possibilities due to good plot and characters.

The question became how to turn what she had written into a gripping, publishable story. Janice has always been very teachable, and she puts what she learns into practice almost immediately. In these past few years, she has worked diligently to make this

happen. When she signed her first publishing contract, this teacher/mother/coach celebrated loudly. Our dreams for her were on the way.

I have the honor of reviewing her latest book *Avenged*. We've met the characters—Carly and Nick—before, as they struggled through betrayal, distance, fear and a possible recommitment to their dissolved marriage. What an ongoing story that has been.

You might want to go back and read or reread *Abducted* and *Accused*. Well worth the doing. The prologue of *Avenged* opens with Carly finding three young gang members shot, execution style. If that doesn't grab a reader's attention I don't know what would. The who, what, why, when and where questions instantly leaped to my mind.

The police department's first conclusion is that someone is trying to start a gang war. But Carly refuses to accept that answer. There is something more going on, and she has a feeling whatever it is, is far more dangerous than a simple gang war.

The ups and downs and twists and turns in *Avenged* kept me turning pages. In fact, I started on Sunday afternoon, read continuously into the night, and finished it first thing Monday morning. When I closed the book, I felt like I'd been on a roller coaster with Carly and Nick and the rest of the well-drawn characters. Janice Cantore is an author to grab up when her books come out. By the way, *Visible Threat* is due out in early 2014. She gets better with each book, the goal of all good authors.

My news? I just returned from a two-week promotional tour through five Midwestern states, where I met many wonderful people. On September 1, *A Pioneer Christmas* was released. It is a collection of novellas by nine authors. My contribution is called *The*

Cowboy's Angel. Also in September *No Ordinary Owl*, the fourth installment in the youth series *The S.A.V.E. Squad* was released. Plus, later this month *An Untamed Heart*, Ingeborg's story of life in Norway before she emigrated to America, will be in bookstores. Definitely been a busy month.

You can always find me on Facebook and check my web site for updates, including where I'll be next. Blessings on your days.

Until next time,

Happy readin' & writin' from Lauraine