

Jumble News

Writer's Markets, New Authors, Pet Tips, Recipes and More!

2011 Begins With a Bang!

January 2011
Volume 2, Issue 1

Greetings All!

I got the editor's notes on my first manuscript for the *Frankie Chandler, Pet Psychic* series.

There were a lot of line notes (smaller changes) but the one big note said that I needed to start the mystery earlier.

I think I'm a victim of the Golden Age fiction I read. Those stories took a while to heat up while the author laid out the characters and set up

the murder. Apparently, people aren't willing to give a book that long to get going these days.

That means getting rid of some scenes I love. Maybe I'll be able to use them in a future book.

I've got the teacher's guide finished for *Logical Larry*. It's my hope that home schooling parents and teachers will be able to use the exercises, and that the kids will enjoy the book.

And I'm rewriting *Family Matters* for the final time. I hope to publish that book this year.

Enjoy 2011,
Jackie Vick



Available at
Wicked Ink
Press.

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This Month's Market

Woman's World

They take short fiction in both the mystery and romance category.

Romance: 800 words, ontemporary,

down- to-earth characters, be humorous, and involve real life situations.

Mysteries: 700 words (This includes both the narrative and the

solution.) No gore, violence, or ghosts!

Fiction Editor, Woman's World, 270 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632. Indicate Mini Mystery or Romance on the envelope. Include #10 SASE.

An Author You Should Check Out!

I've fallen in love with the writing of Dr. Kwei Quartey. Born in Ghana, Dr. Quartey is an urgent care physician in Pasadena, CA.

His detective, Darko Dawson, is contemporary in his beliefs, but he runs into village superstitions as he attempts to solve a current murder and find his own closure to an old mystery.

His protagonist has flaws--a

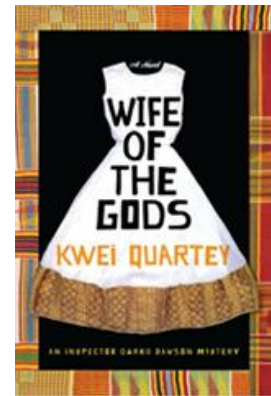
liking for marijuana and a temper.

Quartey weaves the pragmatic and the mystical together and into a believable story. The characters' dialogue reflects both their education and their origins in a way that brings each one to life on the page.

Dr. Quartey returned to Ghana to research his book and brings us a picture of that country that

is both beautiful and haunting.

The Children of the Street comes out in 2011.



Marketing Ideas

When I self-published *Logical Larry*, I didn't have a marketing plan in mind. I wanted to write the book, and I did.

One way to market children's fiction is to find the broadest age group your book will cover. My book can be read by advanced second graders as well

as 5th graders who are underperforming. One reason is the story doesn't talk down to kids, and I made the vocabulary

"Many successful authors do at least one marketing step per day."

challenging.

Finally, I wrote a teacher's guide that included CA standards. This makes the book appealing to adults as well, especially since I offer the teacher's guide for free!

January Events

I don't really have any January Events lined up, but I will be blogging at A Writer's Jumble.

Here are some blogs that I regularly check out:

Crispin Guest, the hero of Jeri Westerson's medieval mysteries, blogs at

<http://www.crispinguest.com> .

She offers tantalizing tidbits about the past.

Do you have a positive or negative experience with self-publishing? Email me! I'd like to hear about it.

JA Konrath always has something interesting to say at the Newbie's Guide to Publishing. Find him at <http://jakonrath.blogspot.com> .

I'm a recipe junkie, so I regularly visit The Mystery Lover's Kitchen at www.mysteryloverskitchen.com

Pet Corner - Cone of Shame



Buster tore his dew claw--on January 1st, of course, when there was one emergency vet open in all of Santa Clarita. After a 2 ½ hour wait, an

emergency came in, and we decided to return on Sunday. Though the “quick” was exposed, the vet didn’t remove the claw. Instead, Buster was required to wear the Cone of Shame to keep him from licking his injury.

I was surprised when the vet explained that dog’s mouths are not clean. I believed the myth that dog saliva practically had antiseptic properties.

I purchased the flexible cone as I thought he would sleep better in it. *I* didn’t sleep well, because Buster kept running into things. He assumed that he could fit through the same tight spots with the cone on.

By the time we got the all clear from the vet, the cone was so bashed up it that I don’t know if we can save it. Hopefully, we won’t need it again.

Inspiration

I recently discovered 980 AM. This station is completely positive with helpful shows that give you useful information.

One of the hosts is motivational speaker Les Brown. I’ve never smiled so much as the first time I listened to him. The subject matter is politics-free (hurrah!)

and focuses on what makes people successful.

Without going into detail, Mr.

**Email me with any thoughts or
opinions!
jvickwriter@gmail.com .**

Brown overcame difficult obstacles to become one of the nation’s top speakers.

I leave you with a quote:

“Most people don’t fail because they aimed too high and missed, but because they aimed too low and hit.”

Recipe Corner

For anyone who loves White Castle sliders, here’s a recipe you’ll love.

Simple Bierocks

1 lb ground beef or turkey
1 small cabbage chopped
1 small onion - optional
Optional - 1 TB garlic salt or salt and pepper to season
Frozen roll dough

American cheese slices

Take frozen rolls out and let them defrost and rise.

Brown beef. Drain. Add a touch of water (for steam) and the cabbage and cook until wilted.

Either roll out individual rolls to a 3x3 inch square or simply depress center of dough with

your thumb. Stuff with filling, top with ½ slice of cheese and seal edges. If rolling out, make a triangle and seal. If using thumb, simply pinch top to seal.

Place on greased cookie sheet with seam on bottom. Let rise in a warm place.

Bake at 350 degrees until brown--about 20 minutes.

Jacqueline Vick

Web: www.jacquelinevick.com

E-mail: jvickwriter@gmail.com

Blog:

www.jacquelinevickauthor.blogspot.com

Links from this Newsletter:

www.lesbrown.com

www.kweiquartey.com

www.womansworldmag.com

Please share this with your friends!

Email me to unsubscribe.

*Making you laugh, one
page at a time.*

Just a
Thought

Mini Book Review

The Chinaman by Friedrich Glauser

Written in 1939, *The Chinaman* takes place in a Swiss village and revolves around the death of a man known by Sergeant Struder of the Bern Cantonal Police as The Chinaman. Four months earlier, Struder met the man in a chance encounter, and The Chinaman predicted his own murder.

The body is discovered on the grave of a recently deceased woman who died from gastric influenza, and the local doctor assumes it's a suicide brought on by grief. That theory--dismissed by Struder--doesn't explain how the man managed to shoot himself and then put on a clean set of clothes.

This is a straight forward mystery with a lot of atmosphere. The author spent time in and out of sanitariums for opium and morphine addictions and schizophrenia. One wonders how much these afflictions influenced the author's vivid descriptions.

The Secret to Happiness

I was listening to the radio and heard an interview with a journalist who has traveled the world in search of the secret to happiness.

The top secret is to surround yourself with happy people. Happiness, like the common cold, is contagious.

Since you are a nice person, (I can just tell) you want to be sympathetic to friends who are going through difficult times. This is fine.

But do you find that every conversation revolves around them and their problems? Do you feel drained after seeing them?

As much as you like them, they are vampires, and they are draining your happiness supply!

What if it's a family member or someone you can't get away from?

Limit the amount of time

you'll allow them to complain. Set the timer. "You have five minutes."

Setting boundaries is healthy. And make sure you're not the one complaining!

