



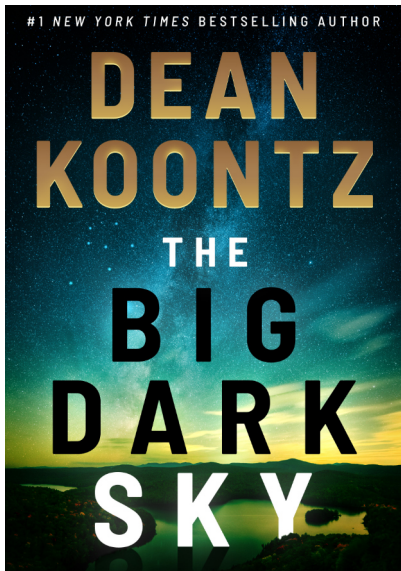
# The INKSLINGER

Sail On



HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC  
*Inspiring a Community of Writers*

JUNE 2022



## HDCWC WILL HOST DEAN KOONTZ ON ZOOM JULY 26TH

Prolific author Dean Koontz has generously agreed to meet with California Writers Club members via Zoom on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 4pm hosted by the High Desert Branch of the CWC. This special event is presented at no charge to CWC members. Links to the meeting will be distributed to CWC presidents for distribution to their branch membership.

In coordination with the release of his latest novel, *The Big Dark Sky*, Koontz will discuss his writing career. Those wanting specific questions answered may submit them via email to [hdcwc@aol.com](mailto:hdcwc@aol.com) by June 30, 2022. Write in the email subject line Dean Koontz Question. Identify yourself and your branch and submit your questions. They will be compiled for Dean Koontz and submitted to him for review prior to the Zoom meeting.



With a track record of many of his 150 books on the *New York Times* Best Seller list and at least sixteen of his novels made into movies, Koontz is on the short list of America's most prolific and successful writers. 🚢

## MIKE APODACA SLATED TO SPEAK

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, our own vice president, Mike Apodaca, will be representing the HDCWC at the morning Coffee Break at the High Desert Chamber of Commerce. The address is at 7:00 am at the Desert Valley Senior Wellness Center, 19181 Town Center Dr., Apple Valley, CA 92308.

Mike will present his PowerPoint explaining the importance of the HDCWC and introducing the club to the community. Please come and show your support and enjoy free coffee and donuts. You can also donate one of your books for the morning raffle.

This is just one of the many efforts our branch is making to get a higher profile in the High Desert—we're also working with the public library in Hesperia and are now included in the current events and activities booklet sent out by the Apple Valley Park and Rec department.

We are also doing public events like the book signings at Town's End where we often meet other aspiring writers. There are writers out there who need our club to help them. But they won't know about us unless we spread the word. 🚢

# WRITERS ARE READERS

## THE HEALING 100: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO TRANSFORMING YOUR BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT

REVIEWED BY MARY LANGER THOMPSON

Author Cherie Kephart was a speaker a few years back and had just published her memoir, *A Few Minor Adjustments: A Memoir of Healing*. Even though filled with pain, struggle, and suffering, her book was hard to put down as Cherie described her attempts and failures at finding a diagnosis. She had served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia and returned home with a mysterious illness. Hers was and is a memoir of healing and endurance.

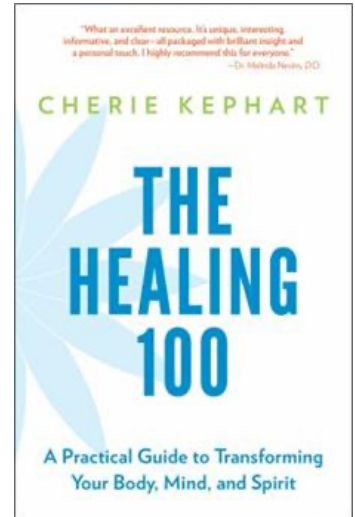
Cherie has written a book of poetry and another book since her visit to the High Desert: *The Healing 100: A Practical Guide to Transforming Your Body, Mind, and Spirit*. In it she draws from her memoir and her time with a chronic illness that caused hallucinations and having to be spoon-fed. This book describes her top 100 healing tools that she believes kept her alive. She invites her readers to try these tools. She favors a holistic approach to healing and discusses life lessons in her writing. She wants this book to be a companion guide to her award-winning memoir. Kephart even sprinkles humor throughout. Her philosophy: “Even the worst parts of our lives can become something meaningful.”

Although Kephart tried anything and everything people suggested, *The Healing 100* are the core remedies and strategies that she believes kept her from dying or losing her mind. Try one or all of them, she says, and remember that different things work for different people.

The author lists her 100 treatments alphabetically, beginning with “Acupuncture and Acupressure,” “Affirmations,” and “Air Purifier” and ending with “Water,” “Wellness Words” and “Whatever Works.” Some I had never heard of before: “Oil pulling,” “Laughter Yoga,” “Grounding,” and “HUA.”

This is an easy-to-read, not very long book (64 pages) that can be kept by your bedside. The back of the book contains the first two chapters of *A Few Minor Adjustments*. Cherie Kephart has a Masters in Medical and Cultural Anthropology.

You can reach her at [CherieKephart.com](http://CherieKephart.com). 🚩



*Cherie Kephart, Author*

*"It ain't whatcha write, it's the way atcha write it."*

*—Jack Kerouac, WD*

# DIANE NEIL - A FOND FAREWELL

By Dwight Norris

We wish a fond farewell to our beloved member, Diane Neil. For health reasons Diane needed to move up north where she could stay with her daughter.

Diane will be remembered by her many friends and fellow members for her kindness and thoughtfulness. For many years she prepared greeting cards to honor birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions. She also made it possible for us to keep track of those who were not feeling well as she provided get well cards and well wishes for those under the weather.

I will always be grateful to Diane for preserving her grandfather's manuscript, *Jack London in Boyhood Adventures*. Diane's grandfather was Frank Irving Atherton, a true boyhood friend of Jack London's. Fortunately for the world, Diane's grandfather could handle a pen too, and he proved it by sharing with all of us his own writing masterpieces. While Jack wrote *The Call of the Wild*, Frank filled his own space with *The Call of the Wood*.

Thank you, Diane, for your innumerable acts of kindness visited at your hand on the members of our club and for your countless cheers and acts of encouragement as you served our members near and far. We hope we shall see you again before too many days have come and gone.

God bless! 🚢





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dwight Norris*

### Out of Thin Air

How do you get your ideas on what to write about? Let's suppose you have an article due in two days for a literary publication. The topic is completely up to you, but you feel kind of dried out and barren of ideas. How do you regenerate?

There are ideas all around you, but you have to be able to see them. Let's take a problem-solving approach to a practical issue. Biblical knowledge can be applied to modern times and be very effective in finding solutions. Consider this verse from Proverbs.

"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." (Prov 15:1) You could run either way with this one. Create a conflict where a wise person responds with respect, allowing the other person to retain their dignity. The soft answer has preserved the peace. Or go the opposite way. Let two people use harsh words and see what conflict will ensue.

Remember what Walt Disney accomplished? When he graduated from art school, he discussed with a classmate how he was going to pursue art for his career. The classmate's position was that you can't make any money with art. Walt Disney said, "Well, I'm gonna give it a shot!"

You could animate animals. Let them speak to you and to each other. Who would not be delighted with a talking rabbit named *Thumper*? Animate fish. Animate food. Let the hamburger smile as you move it close to take a bite. Animate dinosaurs like in *Jurassic Park*. Animate inanimate objects. Now your mind is moving into creativity.

Much of your awareness comes from perspective. To see things differently, change your perspective. You are sitting at the table with a sandwich and a can of Raid. A fly is buzzing around your head and you reach for the spray can. Suddenly, you change your perspective to that of the fly. You strain forward to gain altitude. Suddenly, you hear the spray of the can, but you are pleased to note that you are faster than the propulsion that has been unleashed on you. You land on the edge of a high shelf out of sight of the human. You recoup your wits and dive bomb from up high, landing on the white bread like a raisin in a glass of buttermilk. Your creativity is intact.

I should write about something I know about and can find out more. I must use my imagination. I must question authority and keep an open mind. Sometimes, I must do things the opposite way or even backwards. I must read the Bible, and newspapers, and magazines. I must keep the question *what if?* in the forefront of my mind. This will allow me to have fun and alter the outcome of my conscious mind as I delve into the depths of my creativity. 🏠

## Something Different



*Michael Raff*

## NEW BOOK *By Michael Raff*

### Something Different by Michael Raff

Young Billy Radek learns about life, love, and fulfillment.

To save himself, a writer must intrigue Death with a story.

Maggie Addison pays dearly for her former husband's abuse.

Battling cancer, the survivors of the "Doomsday Club" seek paradise.

Chris Graham returns from death possessing healing powers he cannot control.

An anthology of seventeen stories, ranging from heart-rending to all out laughter.

Features, "Donnie Sharp," "The Salvation of Edward Wilson," and "The Second Greatest Escape."

All but one non-horror!

Available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), June 7, 2022. 🏠

# I Cannot Levitate

*By Mike Apodaca*

Seated on a padded bench, talking with my daughter, Nikki, on the phone from the waiting area in the hallway at the hospital, I suddenly felt I should scoot over, moving closer to the corner, sheltering my voice away from those trying to get some rest. I was staying in the hospital, helping my mom and her husband deal with a very difficult and painful health crisis.

As Nikki continued her story, I leaned to the right and shoved a bun. Unfortunately, I had misjudged the size of the bench. It ended up being far shorter than my scoot. For a fraction of a second, I hovered in mid-air, then crashed to the carpet, landing on my right arm and shoulder. Realizing I wasn't injured, I scrambled back onto the bench before anyone happened by. Best of all, I didn't miss a beat with my daughter. As of this writing, she still doesn't know I toppled during our conversation.

Thinking on the incident made me aware of how important it is to make sure there is significant support for the things we write. As we weave tales, we often mention things that we believe (sometimes because it is what we have heard or it is the common understanding), but we haven't any real proof of their veracity. Wouldn't it be fascinating to discover the millions of things we believe because of hearsay, things that are more myth than truth and have no basis in reality?

I just read Richard Zone's latest chapter of the book he's working on. He mentioned Ben Franklin and his kite experiment. He was careful to say that electricity moved down the kite's string to the jar but does not mention lightning. Researching, I discovered it is doubtful that lightning was involved in the experiment—it would have electrocuted Ben, most likely killing him. The electricity he gather was the ambient charge in the air during a storm.

Huh? Every picture I've ever seen of this event shows Ben and a lightning bolt. Another urban legend.

We have many writers in our club who are experts in research. Just spend some time with Jenny Margotta or Marilyn King or Anita Holmes or Mary Ruth Hughes and

they'll happily explain the importance of research far better than I can.

This is another reason to be a part of a good critique group. My group tells me when I'm trying to levitate, when I have nothing underneath me, nothing supporting my arguments. Some of the time I find I'm simply repeating things I know—although in many cases I can't tell you why I know them. Other times I'm saying things that I think but, again, cannot back up with facts. Being in our critique group has forced me to do more research. It's helped me discover the limits of what I know and even what may be knowable. It has shown me that I have much more to learn—a very exciting prospect.

Writers need to be voracious information gatherers, fascinated by just about everything. This is good because we never know what we'll be researching next and we need to be in the process of continuously reconstructing our mental database, replacing the many modern mythologies and misinformation with facts.

My hope for us all is that we always have a bench beneath us. 🚧



*June Birthdays*

Fran Savage June 9<sup>th</sup>

Henrietta Williams June 27

# Cornflakes and Peanut Butter

A Book By *Gary Layton*

## Dash Cam Videos

I get a big kick out of watching the dash cam videos on YouTube. People get themselves into the darndest predicaments. I get the biggest kick out of their comments as they are spinning around on ice. I can relate to that; I have done a lot of spinning around on ice myself.

It is amazing what they say when a collision is imminent and there is no way they can avoid it. I didn't realize people can turn a one syllable word into three syllables.

Most people get into trouble because they are not paying attention or they have really slow reflexes. I was watching one dash cam video of a guy driving down the road, and you could see the cars stacking up on the road about a block in front of him. Cars were crashing into each other with pieces of the cars' debris flying in the air. It would be hard to miss seeing all those cars stacking up like cordwood., and even though they were only a block in front of him, he didn't even slow down. He just continued on straight down the road and plowed right into them.

Intersections seem to be the biggest problem, especially, left turns. People are turning without looking and plow into each other. The only explanation I can come up with is that they are probably concentrating on the road that they are turning onto and not watching the oncoming traffic. I have had a few friends badly injured by drivers making left turns into their lane from intersections. To be safe, I never enter an intersection with someone making a left turn in front of me if they are not looking at me. I have been very lucky after 66 years of driving without a serious accident.

Some people get into trouble driving too fast in bad weather conditions. People just can't seem to slow down. I see dash cam videos with people driving at high speed in knee-deep snow or pouring rain. Next thing you see is them spinning around and crashing into each other. Most of the time it's some poor guy that's trying to be safe and driving slowly that they are plowing into.

I did learn something helpful while watching one of these videos. People that know me realize that I am kind of a perfection nut when it comes to my vehicles. I replaced the brake pads, rotors and all the sensors on my BMW. When testing the brakes, I noticed the right rear wheel locks up when you panic stop. I took every thing apart. I disassembled the antilock pump and cleaned it out, checking the valves and springs. I checked all the sensors and cleaned the plates and sensors. I bled everything and cleaned and polished the calipers, making sure nothing was sticking. I bled everything to perfection but I couldn't find a problem. I finally gave up in desperation. I was watching a dash cam video one day and I saw a BMW the same model as mine lock up his brakes with the right rear wheel locking up just like mine. It must be the nature of the beast!

I have to admit that I'm hooked on dash cam videos. Not only do they provide me with entertainment, but they allow me to see the all-too-human foibles on display in all their glory. 🚗

**WRITING SALONS RETURN JUNE 28!**

June 28th. Limited space . First come first served.  
Contact Loralie LoreleiKay7@gmail.com or Richard Zone (retiredzone@gmail.com)

# Open Mic May 14 Meeting a Smash Hit!

*By Bob Isbill*



In a well-attended meeting on May 14, the HDCWC had outstanding readers previewing excerpts from their latest works. The meeting, shortened by a previous commitment for the venue but not short on quality, could best be described as a very popular event. Jenny Margotta, Mike Raff, Rusty LaGrange, Judith Pfeffer, Anita Holmes, Jim Grayson, Roberta Smith, Mary Langer Thompson, Ann Miner, Aileen Rochester, and Dwight Norris were the readers. Diane Neil's work was read in her absence by Rusty LaGrange. 🚩



# HDCWC ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 11, 2022 AT HESPERIA LIBRARY

By *Bob Isbill* - Nominating Committee Chairman

The HDCWC annual election of officers is to be conducted on Saturday, June 11, 2022 at the Hesperia Library Community Room. The meeting will begin at 10 am as usual. Our regular venue of the Community Church Jess Ranch is not available to us on that particular date. The slate of officers so far is:

**President**     **Dwight Norris**  
**Vice President**     **Mike Apodaca**  
**Secretary**     **Joan Rudder Ward**  
**Treasurer**     **Jenny Margotta**



Anyone wanting to stand for election for any of these offices may be nominated at the time of election or contact Bob Isbill, Nominating Committee Chairman, for further information. Call 760.221.6367 or write to him at [risbill@aol.com](mailto:risbill@aol.com) 🏠

## WRITING THE STORY YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO TELL



(left to right) *Jim Grayson, Jenny Margotta, Dwight Norris*

The HDCWC, that normally meets at the Community Church at Jess Ranch, will hold their June 11, 2022, meeting at the Hesperia Library Community Room, 9650 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Hesperia. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 am. Note that the annual elections for HDCWC officers will be conducted during the June 11 meeting.

The program will include HDCWC published authors Jenny Margotta, Jim Grayson, and Mike Apodaca teaching elements of how to tell the story you have always wanted to tell. The public is welcome and invited to attend at no charge. HDCWC President Dwight Norris will moderate the event. Follow-up workshops are scheduled for three Monday evenings in July, August, and September from 5pm to 7pm on July 25, August 29, and September 26.

Subsequent regular meetings will continue to be held on the second Saturday of each month at the Community Church at Jess Ranch in Apple Valley. For more information, please visit [www.hdcwc.com](http://www.hdcwc.com) 🏠





*Jenny Margotta*

From an Editor's Desk

## The Parts of a Book

After editing a manuscript, I am often asked to format the book. Many authors do not realize there is a very specific order to that formatting. Following is what the *Chicago Manual of Style, 17<sup>th</sup> Edition*, suggests. As I have mentioned before, I almost always defer to CMOS, as they are the Number 1 reference source for editing and formatting books.

Traditionally, books are presented in three major sections: the **front matter** (or preliminary matter), the **text**, and the **back matter** (or end matter).

The **front matter** includes the book's title, author, publisher, copyright information, acknowledges the efforts of others, may include a table of contents or other lists (such as illustrations or tables), a dedication, an introduction, and/or any other introductory, acknowledgment, or navigational matter.

The **text** proper is the narrative—including arguments, data, illustrations, and so forth—and is often divided into chapters and other organizational/navigational sections.

The **back matter** provides (when necessary) source citations or source notes, appendixes, and other types of supporting documentation. And it often includes a section about the author.

Following is the guideline provided by CMOS for the order of pages within a traditional book. Few books, especially works of fiction, contain every element on the list, and some books have components that aren't listed. Each defined section should start on a right-hand page. If a particular section is only a single page in length, then the back of that page is left blank. I have shown the optional pages in [blue font](#).

### FRONT MATTER:

- Half title page (just the title, and subtitle if there is one).
- [Series title, other works and frontispiece](#). (A frontispiece as it relates to a book is defined as *an illustration that faces or immediately precedes the title page of a book, book section, or magazine*.)
- [Endorsements](#)
- Full title page (title, subtitle, author's name)
- Copyright page (This is the exception to each section starting on a right-hand page. The copyright page is traditionally on the reverse side of the full-title page. It can, sometimes, be longer than one page.)
- [Dedication](#)
- [Epigraph](#) (a quotation at the beginning of a book, chapter, etc., suggesting its theme)
- [Table of Contents](#) (sections from here down may include Roman numeral page numbers)
- [List of Illustrations](#)
- [List of Tables](#)
- [Foreword](#)
- [Preface](#)
- [Acknowledgments](#) (if not part of the preface)
- [Introduction](#) (if not part of the text)
- [Abbreviations](#) (if not in the back matter)
- [Chronology](#) (if not in the back matter)

### TEXT:

The main body of the book. This can start in several ways:

- [PART I](#) (always on a page by itself with the reverse side blank) or [CHAPTER #/NAME](#) (on a page by itself, reverse side blank). This page and subsequent PART/CHAPTER pages set up in this manner are not numbered.

OR

- The first page of full text. Chapter numbers and/or names in a novel are optional and are a matter of author preference. This first page always starts on a right-hand page and starts with Arabic numeral 1.
- [Conclusion](#)
- [Epilogue \(or Afterword\)](#)

*Continued on page 10)*

## BACK MATTER

- Acknowledgments (if not in the front matter)
- Appendix/Appendices
- Chronology (if not in front matter)
- Abbreviations (if not in front matter)
- Glossary
- Notes (if not footnotes or chapter endnotes)
- Bibliography or References
- List of Contributors
- Illustration Credits (if not in captions, cited on the Copyright page, or noted elsewhere)
- Index(es)
- About the author (if not on back cover or elsewhere)

## WORD OF THE MONTH

**adscititious** (adsɪˈtɪʃəs/) adjective (archaic) Synonyms: *additional, incidental*  
 Forming an addition or supplement; not integral

EX: Adscititious material may be found at the end of the book. 🚩

## ARE YOU TURNING INTO MR. MAGOO?

*By Rusty LaGrange*

Face it. We're getting older and many of us here are finding that our eyesight is very slowly leaving us, forcing us to adapt. I now have some eyesight problems that have dramatically made me frustrated. That is partly why I decided to resign from my digital magazine duties for *The Bulletin* and our newsletter, *The Inkslinger*.

Reading online is one of them. So I dug deep to see how I could enjoy reading websites and online content articles.

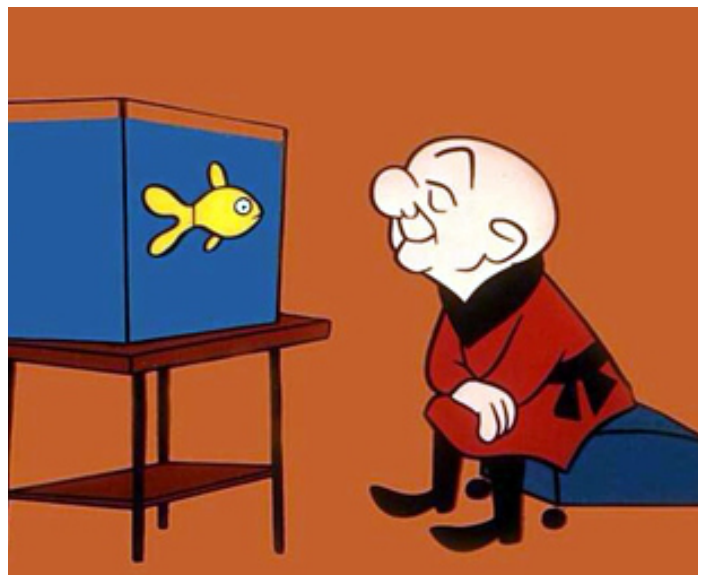
Technology has given us more options than the traditional "reading glasses" draped around our shoulders. And I hate trying to use a handheld magnifying glass to chase letters around.

One online trick... if you know this, Congrats!... is to move your mouse to the upper right corner of your website screen to find the **3 horizontal lines**. Click it and a menu drops to reveal more options.

Scroll down to the word Zoom (this has nothing to do with Zoom Rooms) and you'll see a "minus sign" a "percentage sign" a "plus sign" and a symbol box with arrow. To expand your viewing area, click on Percentage and find a level that is comfortable to read. You can bump it up as large as you want. Try it. I expanded my view to 500%

The box with arrow symbol will allow you to view the entire page without clutter in "Full Page view". It's a toggle switch so just click on it to return to regular viewing.

Most websites will show this dropdown menu. I've only come across a few that refused to work.



When you leave the page, that setting may stay active on all pages you access. When you leave the page and/or shut down the internet connection, then the settings go back to normal.

Other software programs designed for diminished sight are out there to choose from, and you'll find just as many prices. So shop carefully. If you are a member of Microsoft 365, you'll find a magnifier option. That subscription will cost \$99 a year.

In this article, I don't plan to shop and share with you, but be aware that having problems viewing computer screens, tablets, cellphones, and many other reading devices can be augmented by an array of new tech options available today. 🚩

## BOB ISBILL FEATURED SPEAKER AT SWIM



On May 19 2022, Bob Isbill spoke to the Seniors With Inquiring Minds(SWIM) at the Percy Bakker Community Center in Hesperia. The title of his speech was “Are You Planning to Go to Prison? Five Things I Learned in Federal Prison”. Bob’s speech recounted the time our HDCWC did 24 months of creative writing workshops at the Victorville Federal Prison Complex in Adelanto.

The audience of approximately 40 people at SWIM seemed to appreciate Bob’s presentation,” and they had follow-up comments at the end of his speech. Some of the audience told about incidents of their own either in prison as volunteers or in some other capacity serving the community. Bob was selected through the On-topic Speakers for You program from our website [WWW.ontopicspeakers.com](http://WWW.ontopicspeakers.com). Since the website’s launch in March of 2022, we have secured seven speaking engagements for our author members. The seniors with inquiring minds (SWIM) meet every Thursday at 1:00 PM at the Percy Bakker Community Center, 9333 “E” Avenue in Hesperia. 🇺🇸

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

*By Diane Neal*

Lately, we’ve been inundated with garbage messages on the internet, accompanied with pictures of crudely drawn cartoons supposedly the thoughts of the sender. We know they’re not, though, because different people send the same one. There must be a vast internet catalog of such messages people can click on covering whatever they want to express. “I’m angry!” “I’m happy today!” “The whole world is f\*\*\*\*d up!”

When I was 18 and just out of high school, I worked for a year at the book bindery—Foster and Futernick in San Francisco. I was a typesetter. We would get big shipments of books from schools and libraries all over the country. My job was to open each book and select letters from vast trays to form the title and author, sometimes a date, and hand it to Lester, a man who would then emboss the data on the cover. Then I would unite the book with its new cover and pass it on to a woman who would glue the cover back on its spine. It wasn’t a hard job, but it was frustrating for me. As a voracious reader, I didn’t dare even browse a book. But I usually had time to read the quotes most authors put at the beginning. I kept a little notebook in my pocket to scribble my favorites. Later, at home, I would type them up. Imagine my surprise when, after seventy years, I came across five pages of these quotes. Here are a few of the most notable:

**“I early found out that when I worked for myself alone, myself alone worked for me, but when I worked for others also, others also work for me” - Benjamin Franklin**

**“Talent alone cannot make a writer. There must be a man behind the book.” — Emerson**

**“And, when the stream was passed away, a consciousness remained that it had left, deposited upon the silent shore of memory, images and precious thoughts that shall not die, and cannot be destroyed.” — Wordsworth**

**“Life is a great adventure and the worst of all fears is the fear of living.” —Theodore Roosevelt**

**“The end of birth is death. The end of death is birth. Thus it is ordained.”— Bhagavad-Gita 🇮🇳**



## THE MOST FAMOUS AUTHORS OF ALL TIME

By Michael Raff

### F. Scott Fitzgerald (Part 2)

Fitzgerald worked on his second novel, *The Beautiful and Damned*, in the winter of 1921. Zelda gave birth to their only child, Frances, (or “Scotty”) in October of that year. *Metropolitan magazine* serialized his new book, and Scribner published it in March of 1922. It did well, as well as his anthology of stories, *Tales of the Jazz Age*. He felt his short stories were worthless except for “Winter Dreams,” which he described as his first attempt at his Gatsby idea. When not writing, he and Zelda partied and drank. His attempt at playwriting failed.

In 1924, Fitzgerald and his family moved to Europe. He started working on his third novel, *The Great Gatsby*. During this time, he and Zelda fought, and she overdosed on sleeping pills. *Gatsby* was released in April of 1925 to favorable reviews, and even T. S. Eliot praised it. Its plot was extremely familiar to Fitzgerald: the unfairness of a poor man not able to marry a rich girl. However, *Gatsby* turned out to be commercial failure.

Fitzgerald met Ernest Hemingway in 1925, and they became fast friends. They were both part of the “Lost Generation.” Hemingway disliked Zelda, called her “insane,” and thought she would ruin his friend’s writing career. After two years of bitter fights, affairs and accusations, Fitzgerald and his family returned to America. They lived in Hollywood, where he tried his hand at screenwriting and had an affair with a young actress. With their marriage in ruins, they moved to Delaware.

Progress on Fitzgerald’s fourth novel proved slow because of his alcoholism and poor work habits. While vacationing in Europe, Zelda grabbed their car’s steering wheel and attempted to drive them and their daughter off a cliff. She was diagnosed with schizophrenia in 1930, and underwent treatments in Switzerland. When they returned to the United States, she was hospitalized. Fitzgerald was forced to write magazine stories to pay for her treatments. Finally, in 1934, *Tender Is the Night* was published, but it received mixed reviews. During the Great Depression, his works were considered elitist and materialistic. His alcoholism began deteriorating his health, and he also suffered from financial problems. From 1933 to 1937, he was hospitalized eight times. On a trip to Cuba, when he tried to break up a cockfight, spectators attacked him.

Returning to Hollywood, he wrote screenplays for MGM, made more money than ever, but had to spend it on Zelda’s treatments and for Scotty’s education. He became estranged from his wife, attempted a reunion with Ginevra, and began



living with gossip columnist Sheilah Graham. He attempted sobriety many times and worked on his next book, *The Last Tycoon*. During the last year of his life, Fitzgerald attained sobriety, and he and Graham enjoyed happiness. He died of occlusive coronary arteriosclerosis in December 1940. He was 44 years old, had died considering himself a failure and his work forgotten. He was denied burial at Saint Mary’s Cemetery by the Roman Catholic Church, but his daughter, Scotty, successfully petitioned otherwise, and he and Zelda, (who died in a mental hospital fire in 1948) were buried there. Edmund Wilson, his lifelong friend, completed *The Last Tycoon* a year later, using Fitzgerald’s notes.

Said Fitzgerald, “It has been my greatest credo in my life that I would rather be an artist than a careerist. I would rather impress my image upon the soul of a people.”

Said Hemingway, “His talent was as natural as the pattern that was made by the dust on a butterfly’s wings.”

But this wasn’t the end of Fitzgerald as a writer. 🍷

(To be continued)

## MORE THAN A COINCIDENCE?

*By Diane Neal*

I have no idea what the odds might be, but I'm sure they must be quite slim.

Oh, well, I'm getting ahead of myself. I'm Molly Atkins, and I'm 79 years old. I'm in good health and keep fit with a sensible diet and regular exercise. I never smoked and do enjoy an occasional glass of wine. I love chocolate but try not to indulge.

Back to the coincidence. My husband, Frank, had a heart attack two months ago and nearly died. He's been in the Sunny Acres Nursing Home since then, and I come to visit him every day. He's not a very good patient and complains about everything. The first roommate he had, old Harold Maginnis, died, and that shut him up for a while.

But then he got a new roommate, and when I saw his name on the chart over his bed, I couldn't believe my eyes. Ronald Arlington! He was sleeping, and I thought surely it must be a different Ronald Arlington. But then he woke up, and I saw those deep brown eyes and knew it was him. My first love. My heart skipped a beat.

The two men had never met, nor did Ronnie know my married name. I didn't think He'd recognize the old woman I have become. About the third day, Frank said, "Call Tatian marks Molly, would you flush my pillow"? Ronnie's hearing must be sharp because he stared at me, and I knew he saw the girl I used to be. Ah! the one who refused to marry him because he never wanted children.

So I married Frank instead, and we had five. We've had our ups and downs but overall had a pretty good life.

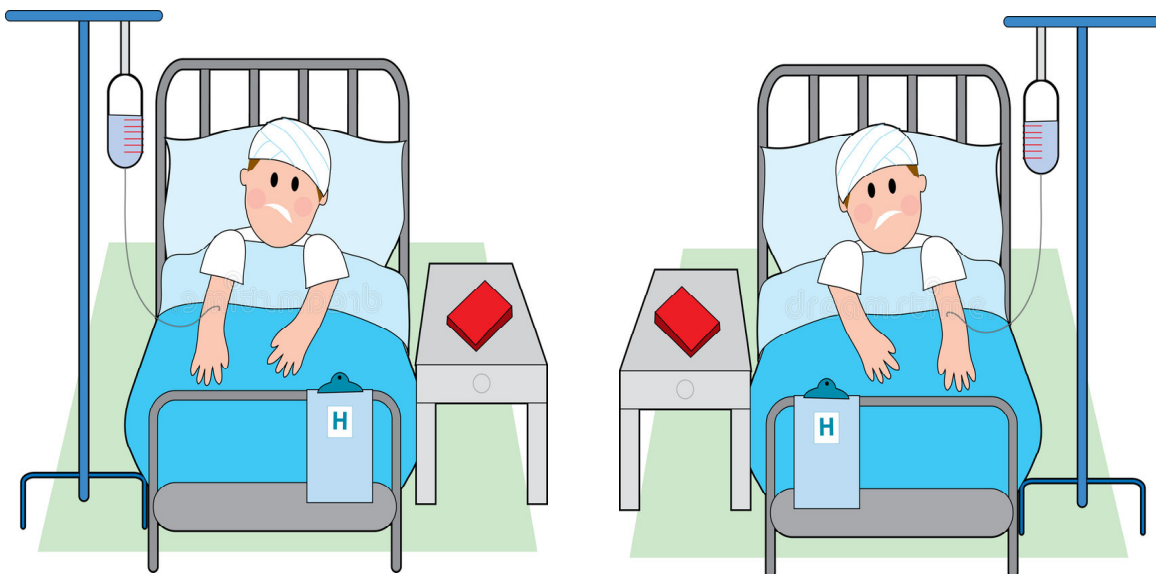
On the weekend, Ronnie had visitors, a son and two daughters, the children he swore he'd never have.

I've heard that the decisions we make at 20 are not the ones we make when we're older. I don't know who said it, but I know it's true.

Frank died a month ago, but I still come to Sunny Acres every day. Ronnie is getting better and may be able to go home soon. We're friends for now, but who knows what the future holds?

Today, I'm going to show him the brochure for the "cozy winter holiday" at the luxury resort in Flagstaff, Arizona, that our children gave Frank and me on our 50th anniversary. We never got the chance to use it, and I had planned to give it to one of them.

But now it seems it could be the perfect honeymoon for my first love in the winter of our lives. 🍷



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## Quote of the Month

By *Michael Raff*

"Good fiction creates empathy. A novel takes you somewhere and asks you to look through the eyes of another person, to live another life." - Barbara Kingsolver, novelist, essayist, and poet

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