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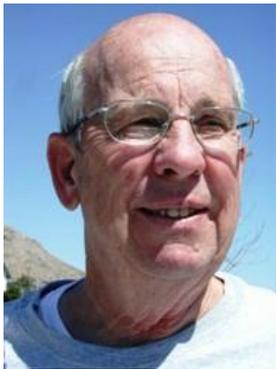
INKSLINGER

HIGH DESERT BRANCH CWC

SAIL ON

Vol. 26, No 15, June 2011

The California Writer's Club (CWC) shall foster professionalism in writing, promote networking of writers with the writing community, mentor new writers, and provide the literary support for writers and the writing community as is appropriate through education and leadership



The
President's
POV
Bob Isbill

because you never know how soon it will be too late" as a reminder to all of us to be kind to one another. We don't know when we won't have another chance to do so. I think that's what Emerson meant.

I'm going to take that thought to heart as more new people take their places in our club.

The High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club had a mixture of expected joy and unexpected sadness as we attained a membership of 100 on March 23, 2011, and then tragically lost two of our dear members on March 24 and April 2, 2011. Coming from an association of only fourteen members of record as of January of 2009, growing in enthusiasm, quality and professionalism, to a branch of 59 in January of 2010, to 83 in January of 2011, and to 100 on March 23, 2011, we were excited and proud of how far we had come.

And then the tragic and unexpected happened. Tom Saunderson, a relatively new but very talented and well-liked member of our branch, suddenly passed away following surgery. Then Emily Pomeroy, an asset to our club, passed away from pancreatic cancer. We mourn the heartbreaking loss of these people for their families and for us.

Tom Saunderson and Emily Pomeroy would be excited and happy for our positive growth and the potential to bring the study of the craft of writing and marketing to a new level and to more and more writers on the high desert. Each had a lot to offer other writers and producers.

I am fond of quoting Ralph Waldo Emerson's "It is never too soon to do a kindness

DR. THELMA T. REYNA HDCWC 5/14/2011

By Frances Smith Savage

Dr. Thelma T. Reyna loved writing since she was a young child and in high school she worked on the school paper. Then with her demanding career, first as an English teacher, an administrator, and then a professor, her dream of being a writer was put on hold until she took early retirement. Only then did she devote her time for her great love and, "Got back to writing." She loved teaching and her favorite was short stories because of the varied genres.



She decided to self-publish her book, The Heavens Weep For Us and Other Stories, because she didn't want to wait to find an agent, or a publisher. She didn't want to wait and then go through rejections, and she wanted her book to see the light of day in a few months. Because of her age she felt she didn't have a lot of time and she wanted to make the important decisions herself. Her publisher got everything together, and the cost to her was \$500.00 and that included her ISBN

number, copyright, and Library of Congress among other things.

She advised the HDCWC never to throw anything away, "Keep everything you write. Sometimes the day is not right for that piece, but someday there will be a day that it is right. Dust it off, freshen it up, but don't throw anything away."

Dr. Reyna said, "Keep lifting yourself up and put yourself into the arena. Go to "pw.org" - they list contests galore, and some are free, others charge a minimal fee from \$30.00 to \$100.00 for each entry. Those fees cover their costs."

She was a semi-finalist with her first poetry collection. "When you put yourself into that arena, and come out with an honorable mention that's a feather in your hat. Some of those poems are thirty years old."

Someone asked if by self-publishing she made the money back? She wasn't sure about the cost, but her personal gains were worth it. With POD (Print on demand) she gets a discount from her publisher whenever she orders more books, and receives a lot more royalty when she sells those books.

"I know I'm preaching to the choir," she said, "You give up your Saturday mornings to be with other writers, but you can't always network in the flesh. You should know hundreds of writers. Have an e-mail friendship with someone in New York. You must network and support other writers."

She has had requests from other authors to review their books, and will often exchange her review with theirs. She is on line with a group of writers, one is by invitation only. "The bigger the network, the more you learn," she said, "Google to find an online group of writers. Once you're in the public eye, there are going to be detractors, you have to learn not to let that get you down."

Someone asked: "When you review someone's work, how do you deal with the author when you have to be critical of their work?"

She replied, "I've never reviewed any books that I thought were really really poor. If I didn't care for it, I would keep the review brief, and focus on the very positive. Never be dishonest."

In writing her stories or poetry she mixes truth with fiction with an unusual ending. Her imagination takes her to different places, and certain themes come back to her. She always liked the idea that people are not like they seem, nor are things. "Don't judge a book by its cover, try to delve into who the person is and why are they like that. One little thing can trigger a story."

Her good advice and common sense gave us the instruments to go home and follow her lead. Thanks Dr. Reyna.

FOLLOW-UP E-MAIL FROM THELMA REYNA

Hi, Bob. Thank you very much for this. I had such a wonderful time meeting you and learning more about the CWC. You've done amazing things for them, from all I hear! Congratulations on your successes as a leader. The venue for our event yesterday was lovely, comfortable, and perfect for a large group such as yours. I truly enjoyed being there. You made Vic and me feel totally welcome and...like royalty! :-)

We also enjoyed the lunch. Your colleague, our "guide," was wonderful company, along with Judy Holton, her friend Mary the spiritual healer, and a few other ladies who showed up. All in all, I had the greatest time, Bob, and I thank you so much for having invited me. Thanks, also, for the \$30 honorarium, the news clipping, and all the PR you put out in my behalf. I can tell you honestly (and Vic can vouch that I said this to him on our way home!) this was my all-time favorite reading. I'm telling everyone about you and CWC.

Continued success to you and CWC. You have a great group there!

*Sincerely,
Thelma*

AND THEN THIS EXCITING NEWS...

Hi, Bob. I just want to share a bit of good news I just found out in my email: My book, Heavens Weep, just picked up its fourth award: one of 4 finalists in the 2011 National Indie Excellence Book Awards. The results were just posted today online. My book was recognized in the Multicultural Fiction Category. You're only the third person I share this with.

Thanks for all your wonderful supportiveness, and take care. I plan to stay in touch with your CWC through the great list of emails I got in my guest book yesterday!

*Sincerely,
Thelma*

HDCWC ANNUAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 11, 2011

The Two Members Vying For The Office Of Vice President Offer Their Statements:

CANDIDATE STATEMENT - **FREDDI GOLD**

I would be delighted to help in the progress of the High Desert California Writers Club as the next



Vice-President. When I joined about a year and a half ago, the first meeting had very low attendance and I didn't go for a couple of months because I was

concerned about the enthusiasm of the members. Since then under the guidance of Bob and Curt and all the board members they have made this club one to be proud of and the huge increase in membership shows that.

I think a lot of you are somewhat familiar with me, but for those who aren't, I'm a published writer and about to publish my first non-fiction book. At this time in my life I feel as though I am re-inventing myself and am so excited about becoming an author. I am a licensed psychotherapist, but I practice as a Life and Wellness Coach. I've been teaching Communication Studies at VVC and Chaffey, primarily on line, for 21 years. I had my own shows on radio and television, and have degrees in Theatre and Psychology. I'm pretty tech savvy unless you asked me to set the clock in my car.

I have an affinity with dogs and have always had at least three at a time and a cantankerous cat just to keep things interesting. I have a good deal of experience with speaking, so for me it would be great fun and a real delight to introduce guests with enthusiastic relish. I look forward to creative ways to help our membership benefit with our endeavors to publish and write. I truly enjoy getting to know everyone better each time I come. Our club is bound to continue to be an exciting place to be! Thanks for your consideration.

JENNY MARGOTTA is unopposed for the Treasurer's position. Bob Isbill, President, and Naomi Ward, Secretary, will continue in their current offices.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT - **STEVE MARIN**

I was born in Fontana, California, in 1973 and moved to the High Desert with my family in 1980. I attended Hesperia High school and graduated in 1991. I attended Victor Valley College and Cal State San Bernardino. I have a Master's degree in Political Science with a concentration in national security studies and a Bachelor's in US history from CSUSB.



I have been a member of the High Desert Branch of the California Writers' Club since February of 2011. My first contact with the HDCWC was the 2010 "Howl at the Moon Conference" at the Lone Wolf Colony in Apple Valley. I have been publishing since 2004. I have four non-fiction articles published with ABC-CLEO in Santa Barbara on military and intelligence related subjects.

My first published work was as a co-author on a bibliography of a now defunct South African mercenary firm called Executive Outcomes, published with Professor Robert Bunker in 1999 for the US Army's Foreign Military Studies Office at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

I have co-written two unproduced screenplays and write short stories. In the fiction genera my interest includes science fiction, horror and suspense. Literary influences include Stephen King, William Gibson, Stephen Ambrose, Robert Heinlein, Chuck Palahniuk, Graham Greene, Howard Phillip Lovecraft, Edgar Allen Poe and Tom Clancy. As a writer, I find the process of getting ideas to the page the most fascinating aspect of the art of writing. This Club allows me to explore that process with the various guest speakers and members of the club.

I am currently working for Victor Valley College as an Associate Professor of Political Science and also work for an office supply retailer in Rancho Cucamonga. I have been teaching at VVC since August 2001. I have also worked for Chapman/Brandman university.

FEDERAL PRISON TOUR FOR INTERESTED PARTIES

We have scheduled a tour of the Federal Prison in Adelanto for Saturday, June 11, 2011 after the regular membership meeting for our arrival at the facility at 1:30 p.m.

All those who are interested in touring the facility which will include the educational department as well as other parts of the prison need to complete a NCIC Background Check form which is available on www.hdcwc.org Events Page as a pdf form. You simply open the file, complete the information and print it out. You cannot save the information on your computer so if you need to keep a copy, print a second one.

Sign the form and email or fax it to:

Melana Placker
mplacker@bop.gov
760-246-2541 Fax

Please remember that this is simply for a tour of the institution to satisfy whatever questions or concerns you may have about the project, or to just see the facility. Your purpose does not matter. There is not commitment attached to the tour.

We have been asked to consider giving writing workshops for the prisoners, and this is the reason the tour has been arranged. However, again, if you choose to go and take a look at the prison, it does not commit you to be a part of any project.

Please note, IF you want to participate in the tour, you MUST complete and return the information on the NCIC form to the above named person on or before June 1, 2011 to allow time for the background check which will be to check for serious crimes that could affect the internal security of the Federal Prison.

So please act soon if you want to be included. If you have any questions, please email me at risbill@aol.com. I would also like to be notified if you do complete and fax or email the form so that I can keep track of those who intend to be going. If you do not want to go, no response to this email is requested or needed.

Bob Isbill
President/Publicity
www.hdcwc.org

Welcome to new members

Molly Lucia
Glenda Bayless

We hope you enjoy the CWC !

HELLO CWC MEMBERS

July 1, 2011 is just around the corner. Why is this significant? It is the beginning of our fiscal year and that means it is almost time to renew your membership in the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club

Cost to **renew** is \$45.00 for the year (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012). Please make your check out to HDCWC and mail it to

HD CWC
20258 Hwy 18 Ste 430-PMB 281
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Or you can give your check to Roberta Smith (membership chair) or Anne Fowler (treasurer) at the club's business meeting. Your check should be received by June 30, 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact Roberta at cwrlsmith@verizon.net or call (760) 240-4822.

FROM THE EMAIL THIS MONTH.....

My name is Tom Adair and I am a retired, internationally recognized, forensic scientist/CSI from Colorado. I have recently launched an informative blog

<http://forensics4fiction.wordpress.com>)

I think your members will be interested in. I make an effort to explain the basics of forensics for crime writers. I will also be adding some fun categories for the science fiction and fantasy/paranormal writers as well. I would love to answer questions from your members about forensics and law enforcement in general. I have just completed my first novel so I have an idea of the challenges many writers face.

I was hoping that you could post a link to my blog on your website and tell your members about me. I would also like permission to post a link to your group on my site. Interested writers can also bid on 10 hours of consulting time through Brenda Novak's annual diabetes auction
http://brendanovak.auctionanything.com/Bidding.taf?function=detail&Auction_uid1=1961147

Thanks for your consideration.

Congratulations to **Dr. Robert E. Kirk** on the publication of his book of short stories, *Warriors at 500 Knots*. For viewing of further information, visit

<http://www.authorhouse.com/Bookstore/BookSearchResults.aspx?Search=warriors%20at%20500%20knots>



CELEBRATE VETERAN'S DAY WITH A VETERAN

In honor of the veterans on Memorial Day, the Phelan Memorial Library will host **Robert F. Kirk**, author of *Warriors at 500 Knots*, a historical account of the men who flew the F-4 Phantom II in the Vietnam War.

The event will take place on Saturday, May 28, 2011 with author readings from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The reading is sponsored by the Friends of the Phelan Memorial Library.

MORE MAY HAPPENINGS

One of our members, Leo J. Du Lac has two Book Signing Events coming up. His book is called *The Hungry Detective*
You are invited to attend.

Event Date: Saturday, May 21st

Event Time: 11-1pm

Event Location: Bodacious Bundts
17051 Main Street, Hesperia, CA 92345

and....

Event Date: Saturday, May 28th

Event Time: 1-3pm

Event Location: One of Lifes Perks Coffee Hs
18375 US Highway 18 # 3

Apple Valley, CA 92307-2218

Event Date: Saturday, May 28th

Event Time: 1-3 pm

Event Location: One of Life's Perks Coffee House
18375 US Highway 18 # 3
Apple Valley, CA 92307-2218

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON AUGUST 13TH?

U.S. Bank has generously donated 24 tickets for the August 13, 2011 Mavericks game to the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club!

How about spending an exciting evening with your writing friends at Stater Brothers' Stadium in Adelanto, the home of the High Desert Mavericks? Baseball, hot dogs, fireworks and publicity for our High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club what could be better?

We'll have our own section reserved where our club members (and guests) are together to cheer the night away with our club advertised on the scoreboard!

How do we determine who gets the free tickets supplied by U.S. Bank? The same way we did it last year on July 4, 2010: Everybody buys the amount of tickets they need to go to the game with their family and friends by sending a check for \$7.50 per ticket to the HD CWC.

Then, for every ticket you purchase, you get a chance to draw a free one. For every free ticket you draw, you get your \$7.50 back in cash! It's that easy.

If there are only 24 people wanting to go and participating, do the math. EVERYBODY goes free. If there are 30 people, for example, 24 get free tickets and we have the cash to buy 6 more tickets so that you are guaranteed a seat within the HD CWC section.

So buy your tickets between now and July 9, 2011 at the latest and be in the pool for a refund. **Only those people whose tickets have been paid for by July 9, 2011 will be in the drawing to be held on July 9, 2011 at our general membership meeting.**

Don't miss out on this really fun event. Talk to anyone who spent July 4th last year with the HD CWC at the Maverick's game. It was a blast! After July 9, you may still be able to buy tickets to that game on August 13th, but you are not guaranteed to be seated in our club's section and you will not be eligible for the refund drawing. The drawing will be held at our July 9, 2011 meeting. For every ticket you buy, you get one chance to win a free ticket! Just mail a check for \$7.50 per ticket with "Baseball" in the memo to:

Baseball Tickets

20162 Hwy 18 Ste 430 PMB281

Apple Valley, CA 92307 ALL tickets must be paid for before the drawing at our July 2011 meeting. And again, thank you U.S. Bank!

LOCAL AUTHOR LANDS IN NEW YORK BOOK EXPO

by LuckyCinda Publishing

Ridgecrest author Lucinda Sue Crosby's multi-award winning first novel has been chosen as an exhibit at BookExpo America in New York May 24 through May 26.

Crosby's literary creation, "Francesca of Lost Nation," will be featured as one of the new titles on display at the Jarvits Center during the three-day showcase attended by book buyers, librarians, editors, publishers, agents and big-name authors.

"BookExpo America is North America's largest gathering of book trade professionals and I am excited and a little amazed that my book has been selected to participate in the event," said Crosby. "It's quite an honor."

BEA is organized with the support of association partners including the Association of American Publishers (AAP) and the American Booksellers Association (ABA). BEA is recognized for the media attention it brings to upcoming talent as well as for the notable authors it attracts to the convention itself.

"Francesca of Lost Nation," is the winner of two book awards: Hollywood Book Festival Honorable Mention and Independent Book Publishers Prize for General Fiction.

The story takes place in 1947 small town Iowa on an apple farm where Francesca and 10 year-old granddaughter Sarah share the adventures of a lifetime.

Sarah becomes entangled with eccentric characters and her world opens up as she and daring, unconventional Francesca, her best friend, enchant barn storming pilots, win a county fair car race, pilot a plane with World War II flyboys and confront a wanted felon. The two also stumble across the centuries-old secret of how the town got its name.

The title character is based on Crosby's flesh and blood relation. "All in all, my grandmother's true life, her unusual, graceful and admirable persona made her the perfect catalyst for a book," Crosby said. The author currently works as a water conservation education coordinator at the Indian Wells Valley Water District in Ridgecrest.

Please include the following write up on our upcoming June workshop in your club newsletter or on your club's website. Hopefully, it is in your May newsletter. I sent the info out last month as well; I'd love for it to be in your June newsletter as well. It's also attached.

SOUTH BAY WRITERS PRESENTS:
A Workshop Led by Nina Amir

How to Write a Book *Fast!* 4 Ways to Compile & Publish a Manuscript in Record Time

June 25, 2011
9:00 am – 2:30 pm
Lookout Restaurant
605 Macara Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94085

Registration @ 8:30; workshop begins promptly at 9:00; continental breakfast and lunch included.

Students w/ID (up to age 25), anytime \$25 Early Bird (before June 10, 2011)

CWC members: \$35
Non-members: \$45

After June 10 and at the door

CWC members: \$45
Non-members: \$55

Do you want a published product to sell while you build your platform by speaking?

Do you have tips you'd like to put into a full-length book but no time now to write it?

Would you like to write your book quickly?

Do you have blog content you'd like to recycle into money-making published products?

If you answered "yes" to even one of these questions, you'll find the information you need at this workshop. Learn how to write and publish tip books, booklets (short books or condensed versions of full-length books), blogged books (manuscripts written while blogging), and booked blogs (books created from blog posts). Discover how to repurpose your written material while producing salable products. You'll leave with outlines, written material, plans, how-to info, and tons of ideas (+promotion tips) for writing a variety of books fast.

About the presenter:

Nina Amir, Your Inspiration-to-Creation Coach, inspires writers to create the results they desire—published products and careers as writers and authors. An author, journalist, freelance book

editor, and writing, blogging and author coach, she has 5 blogs, including [Write Nonfiction NOW](#) and [How to Blog a Book](#), and writes 2 on-line Examiner.com columns. She is the founder of Write Nonfiction in November, a [blog](#) and challenge. Find out more about her at [www.NinaAmir.com](#). With **Nina** you...Achieve **More Inspired Results!**

Register and pay by credit card (Paypal) at
www.southbaywriters.com

"HOW SWEET IT IS"

This is from a Alice Gerety, a friend of Ann Heimback's in Santa Barbara, who read through our anthology and loved it:

"I have finished "Howl at the Moon", and it's a completely professional piece. Some of the stories 'bothered' me, some mystified me 'til the very end, and some made me laugh - and almost cry. So the book has a little of everything. I'm putting it on the night stand in the guest room."

Thanks for passing it along, Ann.

"What an author likes to write most is his signature on the back of a cheque." - Brendan Francis

TWO GOOD WOMEN

By Ann Heimback

Once upon a time there were two women. Two good women, honest and true.. They worked hard, loved hard. They stood tall beside their men, because they were their women. The women imparted wisdom to their men.

The two men were great men, honest and true. They worked hard, loved hard. They stood taller because their women stood by them. The men imparted knowledge to their women...and to other thousands.

The men finished their work. They left. Suddenly. Gently. They were gone.

The women stooped. Slumped. Fell to the ground and wailed. They had to carry on. To follow through. To stand tall now for two. Gradually, they stood again, and lent their knowledge - so graciously added to by their men - to others, that they might also stand - tall.

A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR THE PANTRY?

OKAY, so you want o help replenish our "Pantry" shelves! Just remember, your submission should be:

- . 300 to a (rare) max of 800 words
 - . Single spaced
 - . Arial, 11 point, font
 - . Titled and attributed properly
- And no political or religious stories or articles, please.

YES, DEAR

By James R. Elstad

"...and furthermore, I don't think you're paying attention to me!"

I sighed, and took a deep breath, "Yes Dear, I've heard every word you said for the past forty-five minutes. To summarize, you don't think I spend enough time with you, and I don't spend enough money on you. You have half a mind to just go out and buy everything that you want just to get back at me."

"Humph, just because you can summarize what I say doesn't mean you listened to every word. If you loved me half as much as you say you do you'd give me your undivided attention. I..."

She rambled on for another thirty minutes and I finally had enough of her drivel. I calmly looked up from my paper, muted the TV and said, "But, if I didn't love you, would I've bought you a Dyson?"

On Juniper Lane

By Linda Bowden

On Juniper lane,
They lie in sleep,
Amongst hills of green
And graves of deep.
Little ones, they rest
And sleep
On hills of green,
And graves so deep.
Lives cut short,
And tears do stain,
The family court,
So lost in pain.
On Juniper Lane,

We call them dear,
The sky is blue,
The weather clear.
All the days they spend so long
Clasping hands no more to roam.
On Juniper Lane,
It sounds so sweet,
On Juniper Lane,
They wait to greet.

*(Jenny Margotta's loving tribute is appropriate for
Memorial Day, May 30)*

THE NEARLY FORGOTTEN

Dedicated to my father, Water Tender 2nd class,
USS Coghlan.

This is a story of a little ship that doesn't have the notoriety of the infamous aircraft carriers Enterprise, Yorktown, or Hornet. She did not earn the immortality of the battleships Arizona or Missouri, or the fabled PT-109. This is the story of one of hundreds of now nearly forgotten ships that provided the backbone of the US Navy during World War II. This is the story of the USS Coghlan, DD606.

Coghlan, commissioned in February, 1942, was the 19th of thirty Benson class destroyers built between 1938 and 1942. Only 341' long and a mere 36' wide at her widest point, she nevertheless carried a crew of 276 men, as well as 127 mm guns, half-inch guns, torpedoes and depth charges. Among the giants of Naval ships, she was small, fast and very fierce. She is seldom mentioned in history books, but the progression of the war across the vast Pacific Ocean can almost be plotted by her movements. During her five years of service, she earned eight battle stars.

According to the Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships, Coghlan was initially assigned to convoy duty and general patrol. From October, 1942 through June, 1943 she fought in the Aleutians campaign, participating in the US Army landings on Amchatka and in the sinking of a Japanese merchant ship at Chicago Harbor. The Naval force of which she was a part preyed upon Japanese shipping, prevented the reinforcement of Japanese-held Attu Island, caused the Japanese to retreat during the Battle of the Komandorski Islands and protected US military landings on Attu in May and June of 1943.

Coghlan was then assigned to the task force supporting the raids on Baker and Tarawa Islands, the attack on Wake Island, and the assault on the Gilberts. She was part of the carrier screens giving air coverage during the landings in the Marshalls, escorted shipping to Majuro, then moved on to Eniwetok to join the flotilla bound for the invasions of Saipan and Tinian. After refurbishing in Pearl Harbor, the valiant little ship sailed for the Philippines, where she provided escort protection in the battles of Leyte Gulf, Ormoc Bay - coming under heavy kamikaze attack where fate alone saved her and sank the ship fighting next to her - and Lingayen Gulf. Coghlan saw her last battle action while participating in the battle of Okinawa, after which she carried passengers, mail and freight between Okinawa and Japan during the occupation of Japan. USS Coghlan was decommissioned and placed in reserve in Charleston, SC in March, 1947.

The men assigned to her crew came to know her intimately; the stench of diesel from her engines, the strong smells of oil and machinery below decks, the smell of chow from the galley, the ever-present cigarette smoke, too much salt water and too little fresh for bathing and laundry, all quite often overlaid with the odor of anticipation and, often, fear. Her crew is mostly nameless to us now, after more than 60 years. None of them earned a Medal of Honor or became President of the United States. The History Channel hasn't filmed a special series about her and few, if any, know her name who aren't ardent World War II history enthusiasts or family members of her crew.

There were literally hundreds of ships who carried men to the fighting, fought valiantly on the world's oceans and who, like the USS Coghlan, were discarded, destroyed and forgotten in the aftermath of the war. But she should be remembered, if only as the representative of all the nameless ships and their brave crews. For every John F. Kennedy or USS Yorktown, for every hero or famous ship deified in the history books, the world should remember the hundreds of little ships that provided support, cover and backup. One ship or one man alone could not have won the war. A multitude of valiant ships and a generation of brave men could. And did.



EXCERPT FROM "SPECIAL"

Chapter 2, pages 41-42.

By Mike Raff

Without the moral support of either Larry or Rubin, I stopped by Mark and Carrie's after work. It was another hot afternoon. This time Jill was wearing a bathing suit, an extremely conservative one piece, and along with Jennifer and Dawn, were splashing around in the water. Unfortunately, I neglected to bring my trunks. Carrie, who could be every bit as tenacious as Larry, insisted that I'd borrow a pair of Mark's. They were a little large on me but I accepted anyway.

Looking forward to a refreshing swim, I stepped onto the diving board. Springing into the air, I completed a perfect dive into the pool. But much to my dismay, I felt Mark's trunks slip all the way down to my ankles. Struggling, I did some quick maneuvering and brought them back up again. Thank God I was facing downward! It all happened so fast, I was hoping no one had noticed.

After surfacing, I glanced around the yard. Jill was looking the other way. Jennifer however, was giggling to herself. Dawn was off in a corner, playing with a doll. So what was the verdict? Did any of them catch an eyeful?

With one hand holding onto Mark's trunks, I climbed out of the pool. Composing myself, I acted like nothing happened. Jennifer, with her hands over her mouth, ran inside the house. This was not a good sign. Yet, curiosity was overcoming me. I had to know the truth. Sopping wet and trying to be nonchalant, I strolled over to Jill. As I cleared my throat, she turned toward me, smiling as always.

"Say Jill, you didn't see anything unusual a minute ago, did you?"

I avoided looking directly at her by staring at my feet. But when she didn't answer right away, I glanced up and caught a revealing glimpse. Her smile wavered and her eyes narrowed. "No, not at all," she answered.

"You didn't see anything a minute ago?"

"No, I didn't," she returned innocently, which was not a stretch for her. But Jill was a terrible liar, and I saw it in her eyes. Furthermore, it was extremely odd that she wasn't the least bit curious in regards to what I was referring to.

"Well, never mind," I muttered. "We'd better go inside. I've had enough excitement for the day."

Jill smiled and agreed. So clutching onto Mark's trunks, I followed her inside. Although deep down I felt otherwise, still I could only hope that no one had witnessed my little mishap.

"Hello, sweet cheeks," Carrie greeted as I strolled into work. Sitting at the break table, she sported no award winning smile this time. Instead, there was this bemused sparkle in her eyes.

It's just a coincidence, I reassured myself. Just a horrible coincidence.

"The bakery just delivered some buns," she announced, "care for a peek?"

THERE THERE NOW

By Linda Bowden

I listened with intense listening ears,
And as the sadness of his words entered, I felt,
I felt the sadness in my own heart,
I wanted to cradle,
In my best mother bosom,
To see a wrinkled forehead,
Relax as I stroked with my best mother voice.
There, there now,
Such melancholy words,
From one so young with all your life ahead,
Your chosen one beside you.
Shhh, I whispered, in my best whisper,
As I continued to cradle,
In my best mother bosom,
I heard him sigh,
As if to erase the sadness,
That so prevailed a moment before.
I rocked as I held him close,
In my best mother bosom,
Stroking his forehead,
Sweet, silent whispers,
There, there now.

HDCWC OFFICERS

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