

## **Surfing, for Mystery Writers: Part IV -- The Noose, issue of April 08**

By Peter J. Watson

Each month, I chop the Internet into bite-sized pieces. The preference is for sites that aren't overloaded with marketing, but if I happen to know the people from the MWA, I might toss their URL's into the mix anyway. Here, you'll find a grab bag of blogs and sites that are generally concerned with writers, writing and publishing. But it's a little more subjective than that, so you'll also see a couple of random entries. Please don't spend too much time on them. (I do.)

[bookbitch.blogspot.com/](http://bookbitch.blogspot.com/)

Belying the stage name, Bookbitch seems like a nice person. Her content is enthusiastic, funny and visceral. Apparently, she's a voracious reader who spends a lot of her life creating this blog, which is filled with news, reviews and contests. She's also conflicted about the inordinate amount of time that she spends in keeping her site interesting. We love over-achievers.

[poesdeadlydaughters.blogspot.com.](http://poesdeadlydaughters.blogspot.com.)

This is a group-produced blog for mystery lovers, featuring the combined talents of Sandra Parshall, Lonnie Cruse, Elizabeth Zelvin, Sharon Wildwind, Julia Buckley, and Darlene Ryan along with guest blogs and interviews. Topics range from the travails of writing to the joys of reading. Named "one of eight top mystery blogs" by Library Journal.

[www.cronaca.com/](http://www.cronaca.com/)

The webmaster/head honcho here is a personal friend who lives in Providence, RI. David Nishimura deals in antique writing instruments, e.g. pens and such. His blog has a bias towards art history and archaeological matters and is a treasure trove of the arcane. Unique and stimulating, the site is always surprising and fun to visit.

[mediabistro.com/galleycat/](http://mediabistro.com/galleycat/)

Galleycat covers the publishing biz from an insider's point of view, and one often finds more scoop here than one does in the conventional press. It's not particularly snide and the writing is authoritative. As with all of the sites I list, you can find links to other smart blogs.

[blogs.guardian.co.uk/books/](http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/books/)

Nice. English. Well-designed and informative, the books section is about contemporary culture and book marketing. The Brits just know how to do this journalism thing right, don't they? Grab a cup of tea and a chocolate *bicky* and you can access audio pieces from the BBC's Radio 4, provided your computer has RealPlayer.

[www.sarahweinman.com/](http://www.sarahweinman.com/)

Also known as Confessions of an Idiosyncratic Mind: Crime Fiction, and more), this highly rated site is the home of Sarah Weinman, a New York writer and columnist who has a Masters degree in Forensic Science. She provides exceptional coverage on wide-ranging panoply of dark subjects. If you have time to visit only one of my references, make it this one.

[livescience.com](http://livescience.com)

So what if you didn't get the high school physics prize? You can make up for it now. This site is a rich repository of scientific facts, trivia and news, all in one. Their Top Ten lists are cool. Lately they've installed more ad banners in place, but you can easily skip these by clicking aggressively.

[detectivesbeyondborders.blogspot.com/](http://detectivesbeyondborders.blogspot.com/)

Peter Rozovsky, a copy editor in Philadelphia, must have ink-stained hands. The site discusses the work of a host of international crime writers in considerable, thought-provoking detail. It's depressing how many fantastic books are being published every day by great writers, especially if you're trying to live, read, be a civilized human being, pay the bills and write a few books of your own. But if you visit places like this, you'll find the things you like, faster.

Next:

Sites that show some of the newer types of book marketing, from book trailers to community-building MySpace sites. Reactions or suggestions to [Peter@WatsonCrime.com](mailto:Peter@WatsonCrime.com)