

Surfing, for Mystery Writers: Part III -- The Noose, issue of March 2008

By Peter J. Watson

Every month I list a selection of websites that might be of interest to mystery writers. At these sites you'll find intelligent content that changes often. If you surf, you'll find what you want. In this month's entry, we focus on sites to do with publishing and media. Some are diary-like blogs, some are newsmagazines and others are purely informational. All are worth a visit.

agentquery.com

Aimed at writers who are seeking agents, and vice versa, this site has useful advice and links for authors or the pre-published. One great feature is a free database that lets you search for agents by genre, detailing their submission preferences. The invaluable advice on query letters seems to be contemporary, and the voice is both fun and authoritative.

slushpile.net/

The slushpile is a stack of unread manuscripts: a dusty tower that one supposes is leaning ominously against the desk of every editor. As might be expected, the website is a compilation of news items and insider opinions about publishing and writing, with exclusive author interviews.

petrona.typepad.com/petrona/writing/index.html

Englishwoman Maxine Clark's blog provides an eclectic home for tasteful book freaks. Both thought-provoking and warm, the site has good links to eurocrime and covers a wide spectrum of topics about writers and their work.

bookslut.com/blog/

Here we find interviews with writers and book reviews, packaged together with comments and critiques voiced in a nice, smartass, Chicagoan way. The bloggers feature edgier books.

gawker.com/

New York to the brim, gawker.com battles the media business on all fronts, from celebrity reports to media events. Hard-to-please, scathing and full of twisted, truthful insights, the site has a wicked sense of humor.

moreintelligentlife.com/

I'm growing tired of using the word, "eclectic." Can we throw in, "erudite?" The Economist's online magazine comes with superior coverage of contemporary issues, from hamburgers and opera to global politics. Well-designed and easy to look at, the site leaves me certain of one thing – there are quantities of people who are smarter than I am.

anthony-bourdain-blog.travelchannel.com/

Who doesn't admire Anthony Bourdain—restaurateur, excellent cookbook author, gourmet, mystery writer ("Gone Bamboo" is a good one), world traveler and television host. This guy is not only well rounded, he's enthusiastic and acerbic. Read his blog entry on Jamaican cave crawling. If you're not laughing, you may well be suffering from depression.

erotica-readers.com/

I don't know how I stumbled upon this site. I really don't. But it's the perfect place to brush up on things that people do in bed, in cars, in shackles, etc. Check out the discussion threads under the "Inside the Erotic Mind" section. Next time you're writing a sex scene, you can speak dominantly.

Next:

Sites with a focus on crimewriting. Reactions/suggestions?

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