

## **Surfing, for Mystery Writers – Part V -- The Noose, issue of May 2008**

By Peter J. Watson

Spring should always bring good news.

On the menu this month are more high-quality blogs along with introductions to new sites that use the power of the web to reach out to readers.

### **WendyCorsiStaubCommunity.com**

What does it take to be a bestselling author? One rapidly arrives at the conclusion that these people must be spun from exceptionally rare genetic material. Wendy Corsi Staub writes under two names, in three categories, and has occupied the top slots of the prestigious bestseller lists, oh, countless times. On April 29, she releases not one, but two, suspense books – *Dying Breath* and *Lily Dale: Believing*.

She has been nice enough to grant me a sneak preview into her brand new social networking website. When you see it, you'll realize that the site gives her fans a value-added sense of being included in something special.

Readers who sign in (easy and free) will enter a secure universe where they can share experiences with others, catch up on news, learn about Wendy's favorite causes, and gain access to writing created exclusively for the online audience. I don't think it's overstating the case to say that the site is a true glimpse into the future of book marketing. Check it out immediately, and be impressed.

### **BookTours.com**

This site is not hard to use and joining up is free. Authors can input their live reading schedules and members of the public will receive a weekly email bulletin containing a list of readings at bookstores and libraries in their locales. In the greater New York area, there's an embarrassment of riches to be found. During the week I write, you can see Tobias Wolff, Richard Price and Alexander McCall Smith, along with at least a small vanload of MWA member writers, including both Higgins-Clarks in a mother/daughter tag team. What an excellent notion: one list, in one place.

### **InternationalNoir.blogspot.com**

Any site that has good Icelandic coverage is OK with me. When your taste runs this way, and many of us enjoy dark international mysteries, you'll like it here. In the tradition of the best blogs, the reviews are rather lengthy and opinionated.

### **wordswithoutborders.com**

Not at all mystery-oriented, this worthy website provides extensive coverage of international works of literature. The venue is almost like a U.N. cultural heritage site dedicated to freedom of speech. It's a good place to look at exciting book cover art, too. Ultra-literate reviews.

### **CrimeAlwaysPays.com**

Author interviews and reviews with a chatty, Irish feel. Not surprising when you consider that it's run by chatty Irish people. Crime writing and baby pix? Somehow it all seems to fit delightfully together. Doesn't it just make you feel like spendin' a pot o' gold on Irish detective books?

### **TheRapsheet.blogspot.com**

Nostalgic crime, contemporary, noir and even “future noir” are well represented here, with perhaps an emphasis on the hard-boiled. You’ll find a staggering number of author links. Really, you could become current in the whole category of crime fiction by visiting the Rapsheet for a few minutes.

### **cozychicksblog.com**

The writers who populate this site are primarily women. In fact, they’re all women. What’s kind of cool is that they write about things like balancing family life with writing mysteries. One could learn a lot here about wine, love, recipes, the horse world, antique collecting and other assorted pursuits. Might be the perfect warm antidote if you’re getting nightmares from all those cold Nordic procedurals.

### **TheCWA.co.uk**

On a personal note, I’m pleased to report that my new (as yet unrepresented) novel, *All the Wrong People*, has been shortlisted for the UK’s 2008 Debut Dagger Award, given by the Crime Writers’ Association. The July 10<sup>th</sup> dinner in London is something that my wife and I must attend, because A) there would be a murder if I didn’t and B) the perpetrator wouldn’t be much of a mystery (Kathleen, my wife, would be the sole suspect) and C) London is fun, exchange rate notwithstanding. I will almost certainly write a column covering the event. And yes, I’m seeking an agent and would appreciate suggestions.

Questions/comments to:

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