

Joyce's Journal

A monthly dispatch from Joyce A. Miller, Writer



A ONE-STAR REVIEW! OUCH!

I got my first one-star review for **Mrs. Gari Melchers** a few months ago. From Trudy in Stafford, VA. She said, "Couldn't finish this. Perfect example of why you should avoid self-published works." I had to sit with this for a while. Right off the bat, it wasn't self-published, but I would put my self-published books up against traditionally published books any day. A one-star review isn't ideal, but it tells me something: someone picked up my book and is paying attention. My book isn't for everybody. It shouldn't be. Trudy is not my ideal reader and that's okay. I'm going to remind myself of the readers who did connect with Corinne's story and I'm going to celebrate that!

On a brighter note, I went to a folded book workshop on May 17 at Tales and Tails Book Café in Fredericksburg, VA. A folded book is an upcycled art form in which the individual pages of a hardcover book are measured, marked, and folded to reveal a 3D image on the outer edge of the book. I folded the word, Read, into my book. While there, I dropped off a copy of **Mrs. Gari Melchers** with the owners of the store to see if they would be interested in doing a book signing and reading there in the future. Then on Tuesday, May 19, I went back to Fredericksburg to visit Andie Ayers at Novel Bookstore to talk to her about doing a book signing there. So, hopefully sometime this summer, you can come and visit me at one of these great independent bookstores.

A GLIMPSE OF WHAT'S INCLUDED:

**Chance to win a
stencil-edged copy
of Mrs. Gari Melchers!**

On Sunday June 27th, I'll be joining Amanda Creasey and Dawn Deiman for a 2-hour creative writing and mindfulness workshop where we'll be exploring the sense of smell. This workshop will be co-hosted by two de-scented skunks, Frick and Frack, as animal ambassadors who will help us with this exploration. The workshop will be held at Possum-Bilities in Fredericksburg, VA. Admission is \$30 pre-paid along with a donation of an item in need for the wildlife rescue. Join me and sign up here:

<https://risingdawnstudio.taramala.com/classes/events>

June is my birthday month, and I have updated the "About Me" page on my website. I decided to go with a list of 67 facts about myself as I turn 67. What a coincidence that this is the 67th issue of my newsletter!

With birthdays in mind, as a bonus for this newsletter, I'd like to give one of you a gift! I'm going to give away a special, stenciled-edge copy of **Mrs. Gari Melchers** to one of my newsletter subscribers. This is open to the US only. All you have to do is tell me your favorite book in the historical fiction genre within the next two weeks. You can do this by emailing me or sending me a direct message through Instagram or Facebook. Good luck!

I live in the Church Hill section of Richmond, VA with my husband and my retired racing greyhound. Before I started writing, I worked for 30 years at a nuclear physics research laboratory.

Do what you came here for!



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