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Joyce's Journal

A monthly dispatch from Joyce A. Miller, Writer



POSTCARDS & A PRIZE-WINNING NOVEL

The last weekend of September I attended the James River Writers Conference at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. I got to see some old friends and meet some new ones. I volunteered to help with the agent one-on-ones, and I enjoy eavesdropping on some of their conversations to see how the pitches are going. One of my favorite sessions is "First Pages" where the agents critique some first pages provided anonymously by conference attendees.

I want to congratulate my friend Amanda Sue Creasey who was honored at the writers conference. Her book, **The Good Curse**, was announced the 2026 James River Writers/Richmond Magazine: Best Unpublished Novel! The first two chapters are available to read in the September issue of **Richmond Magazine**. She's querying agents now and I'm looking forward to reading the whole novel when it's published.

On Sunday October 11th, I'll be holding my own workshop called **Postcard Prompts** at SCRAP RVA in Richmond. I was inspired by Amanda's "A Writer's Friend" workshop that I told you about in last month's newsletter. **Postcard Prompts** is a creative workshop where we'll draw storytelling inspiration from the image on a postcard. Learn how to edit so the complete narrative, memoir or poem fits with the physical card. Practice how to slow down. It costs $15 for the two-hour class, and you can sign up here: https://events.humantix.com/postcard-prompts-10-11

A GLIMPSE OF WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Link to a short story: A Practical Love by Marilyn Paolino

On Saturday October 17th, I'll have a table at the Queen City Word Fest in Staunton where I'll be selling and signing copies of **Mrs. Gari Melchers.** The Queen City Word Fest is a celebration of the written word: the magic of words, the joy of reading, and the power of storytelling. Meet the Authors event will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 110 W. Beverley St., next to The Book Dragon Shop. The event is free, so come and see me.
https://www.thebookdragonshop.com/queen-city-word-fest

As a bonus for this month's newsletter, I'm including a link to my friend Marilyn Paolino's short story, **A Practical Love**, that was published in the September 24th issue of **The Milkhouse.** It's free for three weeks; after that, you'll need a subscription, so read it soon!
https://www.themilkhouse.org/a-practical-love-by-marilyn-paolino/

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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