

Updates from the **ANIMAL KINGDOM**



I can feel the brisk coolness when I wake up in the morning. I enjoy this gradual shift to autumn, but I worry that winter may be as BRUTAL as last year's winter. Nooooooo! Have mercy on the horses, weather gods, I beseech you!



I'm wrapping up my Summer Book Tour, and when I saw this sign during our road trip, Alice and I just HAD to get out of the car and walk like an Egyptian (in Egypt, MS!). Am I crazy or what? Oh, shush. As if YOU wouldn't be tempted!

Dear Friends and Readers,

Lot's of things shaking at Casa Carolyn. We are surviving the horrid, humid, hot summer (how's that for alliteration?). There is a hint of fall early in the morning just as dawn breaks, but it is mighty slow in coming. I am ready for cool weather, but please, weather gods, no winter like the last. Miss Scrapiron and I had a rough time.

School started this week at the University of South Alabama. New students, returning students —another busy year looms.

BONES OF A FEATHER is on the way to Kelley at St. Martin's. I hope she loves it! And I'm halfway through my Southern gothic chiller. I hope to finish by Christmas and see what I've created.

I want to thank all of you who trusted my recommendation and bought Miranda James's book [MURDER PAST DUE](#). The book hit the NYT extended list at #26. I am so proud I could pop! This is a major big event in a writer's career, and Dean (Miranda is a pen name) has worked very hard for many years. Thank you.

Jeannie's book is also doing well. Several of you have written to tell me you enjoyed reading [BLOOD LAW](#). I'm proud of Jeannie, too.

Now for some exciting things. My little factory in Zinnia has cranked out a couple of items. I want to give them away in a contest. And since I once forced my critters to give book reviews (through manipulative lip synching!) in this [video](#) I posted a while back, I just knew I had to explore this route again. But THIS time, I want YOU to post a self-made book review of [BONE APPETIT](#) in the form of a video clip (if you've read it. of course).



My little factory in Zinnia has cranked this out! It's a little tote bag and I'm giving it away as a prize in the contest. Remember, e-mail your video clip submissions to SarahBoothDelaney@yahoo.com



Gloria made this prototype t-shirt (navy with gold lettering). She has mastered the embroidered logo! This shirt is a size Large (and too small for me!) and will be the second prize offered! Tell me that logo is not the coolest thing you've ever seen! Stephanie Ryan created it!



This is the lobby of the Gulf Hills Resort. Come away with me to Ocean Springs. Where else can you vote in a BIG DADDY competition? Ha! Ha!

read by, of course).

I figure since a lot of cell phones (and digital cameras) have camcorder capabilities, it would be the perfect contest. You can be creative and fun and use puppets, pets, foreign accents, etc. Or you can post a candid review! Your choice.

Then I want you to e-mail it to: SarahBoothDelaney@yahoo.com
The top two entries will get the prizes! If you're on Facebook, click on this direct [contest](#) link.

Really big excitement—the dates for the first annual Daddy's Girl Weekend are set for March 11-13 at the [Gulf Hills Resort](#) in Ocean Springs. [Sarah Bewley](#), who organized the highly successful Writing the Region seminars in Gainesville, Florida, is in charge of this event. Our plans are to have two tracks—writing and reading. So there will be some writing classes for those of you who are interested in that. And some sessions will focus on readers and the books they love.

And there will be much mischief! We are going to have a competition for **Big Daddy!** Already I am lining up the candidates who will do whatever is necessary to win your vote for Big Daddy. We'll announce the candidates later, and as we get the schedule firmed up, we'll post it on my website and other places.

Gulf Hills (I used to live near it) is a small, cozy resort, so this will be very intimate. And we already have our Guest of Honor from Germany, Carmen, lined up to attend. We haven't even started and we're already an international event!

Thank you all for the tremendous support you give me. You inspire me to think up crazy events like Daddy's Girl Weekend. I know it's nutty, but what could be more fun than writers, books, readers and ...well, more about that later.

My book signings have gone very well. [Alice Jackson](#), who has a story in [DELTA BLUES](#), did a lot of traveling with me, and we had fun tormenting each other across the state of Mississippi. One thing I learned from Alice: *If something crosses your path and you can't eat it—then damn well iron it!* That woman is a demon with a steam iron!

Thank you again for your support of [Good Fortune Farm Refuge](#)



That's Sarah Bewley with Rosie. I had to separate Rosie and Zelda, my Siberian Husky. Those two dogs started out as best friends, but after one incident, they became vicious enemies. You see, Zelda accidentally bit Rosie just above her eye. It could have been really serious but wasn't. Rosie is so happy living with Sarah, and all is well again.

or [Good Fortune Farm Rescue](#).

Remember you're free to post any stray animals you rescue. It's very hard to find loving homes for so many animals, so if you have any space, I urge you to take in a dog or cat.

And get your pets neutered. So many of us have more "things" than we could ever need, so consider giving the gift of a spay or neuter to family and friends or as a donation in someone's name. It's a great thing to do and prevents untold suffering. I'm trying to get some grants for neutering companion dogs. It's a slow process because I have to work on it when I can find the time. But I'm inching forward!

Later — and do enter the video contest!

Love,
Carolyn

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