



Keeping Warm, stylishly so.



Pawing at a foreign ground.



Isn't this shot gorgeous? The snowflakes were gentle at that very moment.



Ground Zero Blues Club. I can't believe I agreed to perform in the music band!



Dear Friends and Readers,

The big snow came and went. We survived. While the fluffy flakes were beautiful, I fretted a lot for my old mare, Miss Scrapiron. We are both of an age where frivolities like freezing rain and pelting slush are more annoyance than joy. But it was pretty while it lasted.

Don't forget I'll be in Vicksburg 6 p.m., Feb. 19, at the Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation for a delightful skit of the Bones characters presented by the Vicksburg Theater Guild--and then I'll give a talk and Lorelei Books will host a signing for me. On Feb. 20, from 10a.m.-noon, I'll give a writing workshop in the SCH Academy Building. And remember to stop by Lorelei Books. Great bookstore! <http://www.loreleibooks.com/>

The launch for DELTA BLUES draws steadily closer. The Blues Muse Band (featuring the authors and also a surprise guest keyboard player!) will perform at 6 p.m., March 27 at Ground Zero in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Ground Zero is a great blues club, and our band will be followed by Blind Mississippi Morris at 9 p.m.

This whole event is growing bigger all the time. Friday, March 26, the Mississippi Writers Guild and their Delta chapter have arranged a tour of Parchman prison. Parchman is a world unto itself. I believe, if my memory is correct, the "Farm" as it was once called, is comprised of 22,000 of the most fertile acres in existence. It was at Parchman and in the cotton fields of the Delta where the blues were born. Check our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/event.php?eid=332936158267&ref=mf>) for more information and details on how to sign up.

Also, please check my Facebook pages (<http://www.facebook.com#!/notes/carolyn-haines/interview-with-alice-jackson/309393144893>) for interviews with the participants of the DELTA BLUES. They are also posted on the University of South Alabama Fiction Writing page. Priya, my assistant, and Emily Bingham, a graduate student, are doing a bang-up job interviewing these interesting writers.

Rolling into April, I'll be at the 13th Alabama Writers Symposium at Alabama Southern Community College in Monroeville, home of Harper Lee. The award luncheon will be held



Harper Lee in the Monroeville courthouse, 1961.



For every book sold at the launch party, Tyrus Books is donating 40% of the proceeds to Morgan Freeman's Rock River Foundation.

Friday, April 30. I'll also give a public reading in the wonderfully historic courthouse on Saturday. Check the web for the full schedule and other authors who will be there. This is a super event—I try to go every year.

Just saw the cover flat for Jeannie Holmes's debut novel, *BLOOD LAW*, which will be out in June. It's a fun cover, and the book is great. Jeannie worked on this book when she was my student at University of South Alabama. You can see the cover and learn more about Jeannie at her website www.jeannieholmes.com. We'll have more updates on this as the launch draws closer. I'm thinking we need to have some kind of vampire "do" here in Mobile. You know I LOVE this kind of thing.

The Siamese twins are still with me. Lord knows, I guess they're here to stay. Now I have 10 cats. Counting the animals makes me crazy—so I won't. I just need a bigger lap for those who like to snooze there.

Warm thanks to those who donated to www.goodfortunefarmrefuge.org. You've made a big difference in the care and lives of pets.

There are lots of good things stirring. While there are some hard and sad things going on, we'll try to keep the focus on the brighter side. Enjoy the snow photos—and hope to see you soon in Vicksburg, Clarksdale, or Monroeville.

Best,
Carolyn

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