



Jitty never wore a sock monkey hat! Sarah Bewley, our fearless [DG Weekend](#) leader, is trying to pull a fast one and declare this is a legitimate WWJW costume!

Dear Friends and Readers,

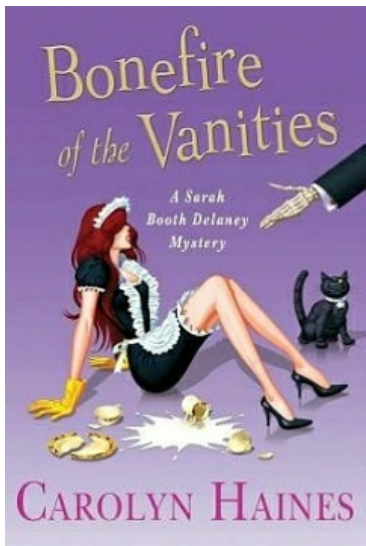
Another Christmas has come and gone—more of the three F's--wonderful friends, family, and food. 2011 has been a year of ups and downs for me and almost everyone I know. I've lost some dear friends this year and two of my four-legged family. It's hard not to miss them, particularly as the year closes out. But lots of good things occurred in 2011.

On the book front, I'm working over the holidays to finish the line edits on [BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES](#), which will be released June 19. The cover is gorgeous and purple and lots of fun. In the world of synchronicity, Dresden artist Franziska Franke finished the portrait she painted of Jitty. Purple is definitely the theme for the Bones this year! Isn't it gorgeous?

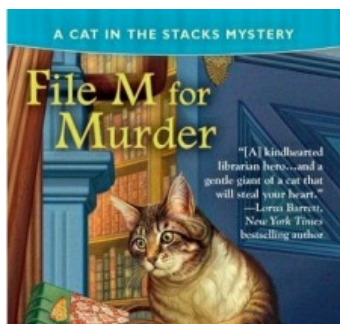
[Tyrus Books](#) reissued [TOUCHED](#), [SUMMER OF THE REDEEMERS](#), and [SHOP TALK](#) (which was originally written under the pseudonym Lizzie Hart but will now bear my name late last fall. Tyrus had previously reissued [PENUMBRA](#), [FEVER MOON](#), [DECEPTION](#), and [JUDAS BURNING](#). So now all of my novels are currently available. These are in e-reader form, but will be print books soon.

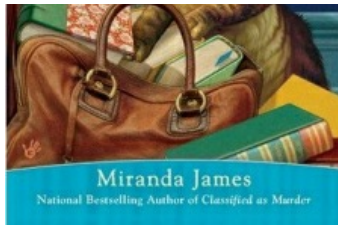
I e-published [SKIN DANCER](#), a mystery set in South Dakota. The world of publishing is changing, and technology is a vital component. Of course, this is not something I'm greatly competent at, but I am trying to learn. I think about when I started writing on a portable Smith-Corona electric typewriter, which was such a big improvement over the manual Royal typewriter at the newspaper office. Who would ever have dreamed of computers and file conversion and digital content able to fly around the world in a matter of seconds.

Over the year, I fostered several lab/retriever dogs and worked with [Lab4Rescue](#) to place them in wonderful homes. I got a letter from the people who adopted Hope (now Willow). She is loving the snow in Maine and her new family. Renfield is thriving. I believe all of the dogs that passed through [Good Fortune Farm Rescue](#) are doing great. There are still so many to place. If you have room in your home for another pet--cat or dog or horse--I can likely help you find exactly what you're looking for. There are numerous horses up for adoption because the economy is so bad that many people can't afford to feed them. Drop me an e-mail and I'll match you up, or do my best to put you on the trail of the rescue that can help

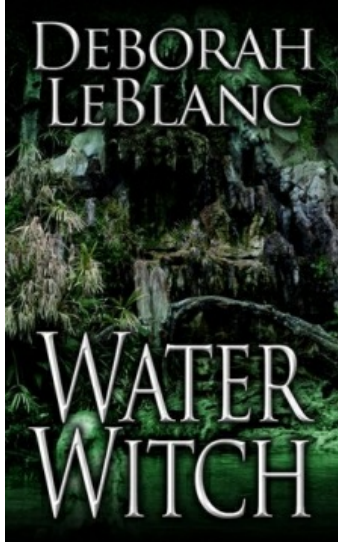


Do you like the cover for [Bonfire of the Vanities](#)? I'm so pleased they included Pluto on the cover. He's one feisty kitty!

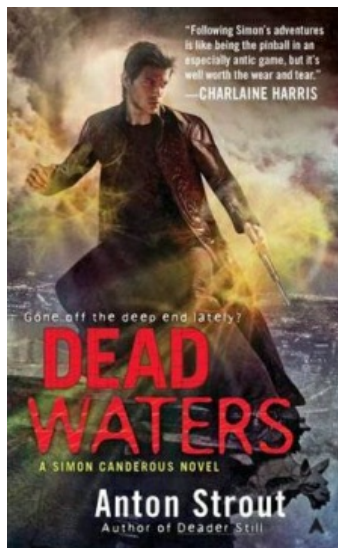




[Dean James](#) is the reigning BIG DADDY and his latest book drops on January 31. Enjoy it - I know I will.



Please welcome author [Deborah LeBlanc](#) to Daddy's Girl Weekend. She is a business owner, a licensed death scene investigator, and has been an active paranormal investigator for over fifteen years.



[Anton Strout](#) is a fabulous writer and he can't wait to meet you all and run for Big Daddy. So we have a gigantic treat coming up for you in April!

you.

A little news on Daddy's Girl Weekend, set for April 13-15, at the Malaga Inn in Mobile, Ala. [Anton Strout](#), [Deborah LeBlanc](#), and [Dean James](#) will be with us for the craziness. Check out their books to see what a treat we have in store.

Dean is the reigning BIG DADDY and his second book hit the NYT bestseller list last spring! See, being a BIG DADDY has some perks. And Dean's new book (writing as Miranda James) [FILE M FOR MURDER](#) goes on sale Jan. 31 in the new year. I can't wait! It's another Cat in the Stacks mystery.

We have a wonderful trio of contestants for this year's contest. More on that later. Remember, the theme for the costume contest this year is *What Would Jitty Wear*—Dean came up with this and I think it's brilliant. You can find more information on DG Weekend on my website. (And check out the [YouTube](#) videos from last year. I watch them and just laugh and laugh!)

[BONES OF A FEATHER](#), my book for this year, was listed by [SUSPENSE MAGAZINE](#) as one of the best mysteries of 2011. This is just a big "wow" to me. I'm still basking in the glow of that.

I want to take a moment at the conclusion of the year to thank all of you, my friends and readers, who have given me another year and another book. While writing for me is the joy in my life, it is also a business. If no one buys my books, the publisher can't afford to edit, print, e-pub, and distribute them. I've had such wonderful support this year, from the crazy, near-heat-stroke-inducing book launch and ghost tour in Natchez to the [fun and mischief on Facebook](#). You have been with me every wild step. I am such a fortunate writer to be able to share my characters with you in this very personal way.

As the calendar moves to 2012, I have to look back on 2011 and see so many good times and so much laughter, as well as loss. Thank you all, my friends. The journey continues. Now let's find some trouble to get into!

Happy 2012!

Carolyn



The talented [Franziska Franke](#) has finished her portrait of Jitty. I think it is fabulous! She has captured the ethereal quality of Jitty with a hint of naughtiness.

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