



Book Lovers Dispatch

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Fall 2019

The Courage of a Memoirist



Vivian Fransen, Author

Photo by J.R. Bale

Unless an author is already famous, most memoirs don't attract broad attention. This oversight can be a mistake. While some may be boring, bragging or self-indulgent, others demonstrate courage in the face of adversity. An excellent example is Vivian Fransen's *The Straight Spouse: A Memoir*. Fransen, a happily married woman, was snacked with a major curve ball on St. Patrick's Day 1990. Her husband, who she has loved since they attended Bible college, reveals he harbors same-sex feelings. This truth throws her life and self-esteem into a tailspin. (Continued on Page 2)

New Providence Book Festival

On **Sunday, September 22, 2019**, 9 AM to 4 PM, the Salt Box Museum will host, on its grounds, the New Providence Book Festival. Approximately 16 New Jersey authors, across genres, will be on hand to discuss and sign their books. All are invited to attend this cultural event. A raffle will be held. Refreshments will be available. The Salt Box Museum will be open to all visitors free of charge. The rain date is September 29th. Learn more at www.newprovidencebookfestival.com.



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Books: Delicious Slices of Sanity

In a world of text messages, sound bites and tweets, where people are forced to process information at such accelerated speeds, there is little time to hear one's own thoughts. In such a world, reflection, and therefore personal growth, almost becomes a lost luxury.

This trend has been growing over time. Newspapers condensed information to fit in fewer column inches. Ironically, web pages which had no such space restrictions, required abridging text even further to accommodate shorter attention spans. Today people are sucked into their ironically named "smart phones" become oblivious to the world around them. The data fed to people and the delivery methods employed create a societal equivalent of Attention Deficit Disorder.

However, reading a book allows us to slow down, foster greater attention spans and exercise more thoughtful reflection. Books are slices of sanity, a hopeful prescription for a saner world. Read books. Give books as gifts. Discuss books you've read with friends and family. Consider it a public mental health service we can all provide one another.

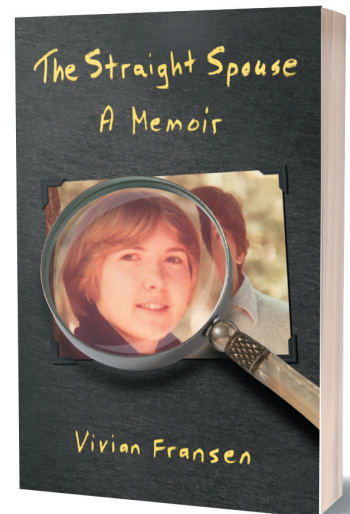
Courage of a Memoirist (Continued from Page 1)

Feeling devastated and clueless, her life becomes a roller coaster as she tries to cope with her husband's new lover and her own love life, as well as being blindsided professionally.

This book is not a gay-bashing tantrum. It's a story of a woman struggling, surviving and ultimately triumphing. This memoir shares how Fransen grappled with her new and unfamiliar reality.

"I did what I've always done when I feel doomed," she explains. "I began my quest for relevant books for guidance. But I could find no books in the early 1990s on the subject of what to do if your husband turns out to be gay."

Vivian is not just an author, but also a great book lover, so we can all relate to her on that level. "Books are my friends," she says, "and I spend a great deal of time reading and rereading those books that open my mind and heart to the experiences of others."



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2019 Fall Book Giveaway!

Periodically, *Book Lovers Dispatch* gives away books to subscribers. This autumn season, we will offer a choice of the following books to the winner of the 2019 Fall Book Giveaway: *Cognition Chronicles: The Redstone Legacy* by J.R. Bale, *The Pharm House* by Bill Powers or *Soul Search* by Reyna Favis.

If you're not a subscriber yet, you can sign up before October 31, 2019 to qualify.

Encourage your book-loving friends to sign up too. If they win, maybe they'll loan you the book to read too.



Upcoming Book Events

September 7 & 8, 2019
Saturday & Sunday

Belvidere Victorian Days (Authors Grove)
Belvidere, NJ
www.belvidereheritage.com

September 14, 2019
Saturday

Princeton Children's Book Festival
Princeton, NJ

September 22, 2019
Sunday, 9AM - 3PM

New Providence Book Festival
Salt Box Museum, New Providence, NJ
www.newprovidencebookfestival.com

October 5, 2019
Saturday, 10 AM - 4PM

Collingswood Book Festival
Collingswood, NJ
www.collingswoodbookfestival.com

October 11 & 12, 2019
Friday, Saturday

Morristown Festival of Books
Morristown, NJ
www.morristownbooks.org

October 12, 2019
Saturday, 1-3 PM

Indie Author Day
Springfield Library, Springfield, NJ
www.sfplnj.org

October 12 & 13, 2019
Saturday & Sunday

Bucks County BookFest
Doylestown, PA
www.bucksbookfest.org

October, 25-27, 2019
Friday-Sunday

Easton Book Festival
Easton, PA
www.eastonbookfestival.com

Indie
AUTHOR DAY

On October 12th, 2019, many libraries across America will celebrate independently published books of many genres with author readings, talks and signings. While many local events are listed at **indieauthorday.com**, some are not. So check to see if your local library is hosting an event.

Additional events are listed at **www.bookloversdispatch/book-events**

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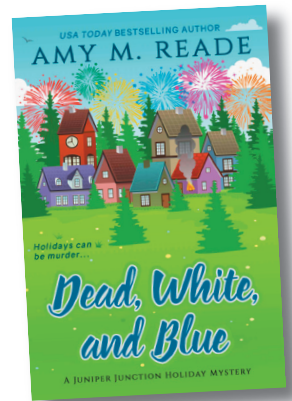
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Recent Book Releases

Dead, White and Blue (Book 2 in the Juniper Junction Holiday Mystery series)

There's a firebug on the loose, the townspeople are nervous, and Lilly Carlsen, single mom, has even more to worry about. She's in charge of the Independence Day celebration, her mother's mental health is declining, and her son is getting ready to leave for college. But things are about to get even hotter when a bistro owner dies at the celebration and Lilly's best friend is charged with murder. It's up to Lilly to help clear her friend's name while at the same time dealing with her mom's worsening forgetfulness as well as a coming-of-age issue under her own roof. Learn more at amymreade.com.



The Red Hand

Someone is experimenting with death. Rookie detective Frank Nagler has barely had time to arrange his desk, when a new homicide case is assigned to him. Could a serial killer be stalking his hometown of Ironton, NJ? One by one the bodies pile up. Nine victims are killed over several months, all from different walks of life and different parts of Ironton. Each killed in a different way, forming no clear pattern, as might be expected from a single killer. *The Red Hand* is the prequel to *The Swamps of Jersey*, the book that launched the Frank Nagler Mysteries.

Learn more at michaelstephendaigle.com

And the Gods Feared

This is a compilation of three fascinating stories of mythological gods, three books in one: *Forbidden Goddess*, *Imaginary Friend* and *Last Eternity*. Each story shows that a god's life isn't as simple or easy as one would think. Learn more at kristinagarlick.com.



"A book? It's like a tablet, but doesn't need batteries.
And it won't crack when you drop it.
It's a revolutionary technology!"



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