



jcannonbooks

Because everybody  
needs an editor . . .

and a newsletter

## A graphic account

Did a blast of professionalism stab you in the retinas when you looked at the jcannonbooks website recently?

A modern, attractive logo is now in place [at the top of the home page](#). My son Jake surprised me by designing and building this artwork. I did not even realize that the amateurish logo I had made needed replacement until I saw Jake's creation.

However, should you miss the old logo, I have left it at the top of this newsletter, at least for now. Feel free to compare, contrast, and stand astonished at the skills of these kids today.

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## It's alive!

The experiment last month of including a copy of the jcannonbooks blog post in this newsletter shows signs of success, and this update is for those of you who were worried. The trial drew more reaction, in the form of emails, than any earlier blog post. Therefore, the February blog post is included in this newsletter (see below), although if you go to the website to read the blog, as we continue to recommend, you get the fancier, illustrated version that allows commenting.

By the way, at least one loyal reader has tried to post comments about various blog items, but the Disqus system has not allowed her to do so. The technical staff here at jcannonbooks has not succeeded in unraveling this problem for her. Are there readers of this newsletter who can offer advice on how to do so? Is there a secret trick to signing up for Disqus so that comments can be made?

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## Semi-literate

Many things arise in our lives that lead to anguish, revulsion, and eventual condemnation. The semicolon should not be among them. For those who have long admired this bit of punctuation but reasoned that speaking out in its favor would mark you as punctilious, a holder of narrow interests, or odd, I offer you this link: [Click right here in this sentence that has differently colored type.](#)

This one short piece has made me an instant fan of its author, Lauren Oyler. She has just published a novel; I shall have to read it. You can learn more [about her here.](#)

In other syntax-related news: I had never used the word punctilious in a sentence until I wrote this item. It felt good.

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## New blog item for the click-averse

[\(You can click here to read this on the jcannonbooks website.\)](#)

The thing about some dreams, especially that one you have all the time about a raccoon chasing you with a purple carburetor, is you know they're imaginary. But some dreams are more than bizarre wisps. On a wondrous day not long ago, a person who has spent considerable time and energy placing 75,000 words in just the right order learned that her dream is reality.

Readers, meet Pat Broderick, who will soon place the word published in front of the word author when asked about her occupation. Her mystery, *Dead on My Feet*, will be published later this year.



She generously agreed to a question-and-answer style interview with jcannonbooks to tell us How She Did It. This interview was conducted via email, and no pandemic regulations were violated.

Pat is from Manchester, New Hampshire, and graduated from the University of New Hampshire. She and her husband, Ray Huard, a graduate of St. Anselm College in Manchester, have had parallel journalism careers, although Ray stuck to print and Pat tucked some broadcasting work at public television stations in between the newspaper gigs.

After a few years of working in New Hampshire, they decamped to North Florida, where Pat worked as a reporter, producer, and documentarian at the PBS station in Jacksonville. Six years later, they were off to South Florida. She was named editor of *Millionaire* and helped launch the national lifestyle magazine in West Palm Beach. In 1989, Pat and Ray moved to San Diego, where her jobs included business editor for the *La Jolla Light*. She found inspiration for *Dead on My Feet* in the upscale coastal community. Pat and Ray have two daughters, one an artist and the other in law school.

Her book follows Nellie Bly and her plucky colleagues at a weekly Southern California newspaper as they work to understand murderous events in their normally placid (and scandalously rich) seaside town. Yes, Nellie knows the [provenance of her name](#). And yes, her landlord, Dame Cavendish, is a fabulous secondary character. Dame C seems to prefer the term landlady, by the way. And she wouldn't consider herself secondary.

The book is expected to be available in mid-June. [You can pre-order here](#).

**Q:** Pat, you have written a cozy mystery. For those who may not be familiar with all the types of mysteries, can you tell us what makes it a cozy? And why you decided on that approach?

**A:** A cozy mystery is the opposite of the hard-boiled detective genre, with fists flying and guns blazing. While I enjoy the latter as a reader, I find it more comfortable to write in the cozy style. I enjoy humor and this genre is especially conducive to witty banter among the characters—at least I hope it's witty.  
(*Editor's note: It is.*)

**Q:** What was your reaction when you learned CamCat Publishing had accepted *Dead on My Feet* for publication?

**A:** Following a very arduous submission process, I was contacted by Sue

Arroyo, publisher of [CamCat Publishing](#), and we exchanged a few emails. She then scheduled a phone interview, and I had no idea what to expect. I was so excited as I waited for the call. My husband, Ray, was with me, every bit as anxious. During the interview, Sue talked about the company and what they had to offer, and I was so impressed. Then she made me an offer, and I nearly fell off my chair. Ray ran into our daughter's room with the good news. I was on my way to a new chapter in my life. I had spent years working as a journalist, and now I would soon be a published author.

**Q:** How did you find CamCat? Do you have a literary agent?

**A:** I learned about CamCat from an issue of [Writer's Digest](#) focusing on independent presses, some of which did not require a literary agent to make submissions. Landing an agent is not easy, as many have very limited lists, so the competition can be fierce. I thought I'd give it a try on my own. I am so grateful that, as a first-time novelist, I managed to find such a quality publisher.

**Q:** You grew up in New Hampshire, worked in Jacksonville, Florida, then South Florida, and then San Diego. What is it with you and oceans?

**A:** All that salt air stimulates my brain!

**Q:** Who are some of the authors whose work you have enjoyed during your life?

**A:** Among my favorite authors, I'd name James Lee Burke, Sue Grafton, John Grisham, Michael Connelly, Lee Child, Karin Slaughter, Robert B. Parker, Jeffery Deaver, George Pelecanos—so many more. Before the shutdown, browsing at a bookstore was a favorite pastime for Ray and me.

**Q:** Are you an outliner or someone who tends to build the story as it spills out of your brain and onto the page?

**A:** I find it easier to just let the story spill out onto the page rather than do an outline. For *Dead on My Feet*, I had no idea how it was going to end. I find that exciting.

**Q:** What is something you did not expect about the journey from writer to published author?

**A:** I had a journalism professor who told us, "Writing is rewriting." With fiction, that is especially true. I keep refining and polishing my manuscript, and I have been working with an excellent editor, Helga Schier, at CamCat. Of course, this journey started with you, John, and I am forever grateful for your guidance and

good humor, especially when it comes to my overuse of certain words—like briny and stink eye. Exclamation points, too. *(Editor's note: jcannonbooks neither solicited nor expected this favorable mention but appreciates it greatly.)* What is also challenging for me is self-promotion and getting up to speed on social media. With the help of my millennial daughter, Becky, I now have a Twitter account and am in the process of creating a web page, a daunting task.

You can follow Pat on Twitter [@PatriciaBWriter](#)

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**Kind regards,  
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