



## **Bell's Books and Blog**

Hello!

Well it appears that those of us on the West Coast have survived Winter 20203-2024!

Tune in next week when I will discuss my current Work in Progress (WIP for those in the author biosphere). I have some exciting news, so stay tuned!

For now, please this mid-March update including pictures below!

Much love to you and happy reading!

Jane



# Winter Whispers Goodbye: Transitions and Lovelinesses

As the winter months begin to fade, the world outside our windows began to stretch and yawn and think about waking from their winter slumber.

This is a magical time of transition, when the long, cold, dark nights give way to noticeably longer days. The birds and the bees and a lot of other things are all out and about for their spring flings.

I remember as a little girl my grandmother always pointing out the flowering quince as one of the first signs that spring is almost here. Here in the Central Valley of California, the almond orchards have already dropped their blooms and turned green. The pink peach and nectarine blossoms are now in full bloom all over the valley. Soon cherries and apricots will be the fruit for the year, stay tuned!

This is one of my favorite times of the year...at least until the vampiric mosquitoes return from hell where they actually belong,...but I digress. This is a time when people's hearts and homes glow with warmth just like the longer, sunnier days.

The energetic vibe of nature is infectious. It's definitely a time to be outside in nature.

What do you especially love about Spring?

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I'm the type of person who likes to have dirt under her fingernails this time of year. It's a primal need to ground myself with the earth. I crave my dirt therapy like a junkie needing a fix.

Even pulling weeds doesn't seem so bad when the sun is shining and the SF Giants are on the radio. I like to start my tomato seedling in early January so they are nice and hearty by the time the weather is right for them to be put in the ground.

Right now I have broccoli, cabbage, spinach and two kinds of lettuce growing, with sugar snap peas and other stuff just waiting for their moments in the sun.



**Who knew lettuce was so fun?**

So one of the lettuces I have growing right now, (Yes, I admit that I bought the seeds purely because of the name) is called Drunken Women Frizzy Headed Lettuce...lol!

How could one not put some of those in their cart? I was pleasantly surprised to find the DWFH Lettuce both beautiful and delicious.

I've never been much of a flower gardener, but this year I'm thinking about growing some nasturtiums. They are pretty and edible, and many bugs prefer them than the vegetables I usually grow for myself and the family to eat.

So how does your gardens grow this time of year?

What do you have growing, (or are planning to grow)?



# The Blizzard that was a dud and magnificent lovelinesses!

A few weeks ago, I went with some friends to their cabin up in the Sierras east of Sonora, California. Their place has always been a life-long favorite of mine and sits at about 5,000 feet elevation. The bummer was that Old Man Winter had been hitting the snooze bar up there instead of doing his job. Since then, he seems to have finally gotten his act together...including the “blizzard” forecasted by the National Weather Service two weekends ago that really was a nothing-burger.

It reminded me a lot of the boy who cried wolf to be honest.

The place is beautiful regardless; however, snow makes the area absolutely magical.

While the lack of snow was a bit of a bummer, I did find something amazing! While out on a walk, I stumble upon a loveliness! For those of you who don't know, a loveliness is a swarm of ladybugs!

It is said that ladybugs bring good luck, and who doesn't need more of that? Ladybugs remind us to make a wish and count our blessings whenever we see these wonderful little red and black little beetles.

What a sweet reminder to be grateful for all the blessings in our lives!

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## Yesterday's Ruin

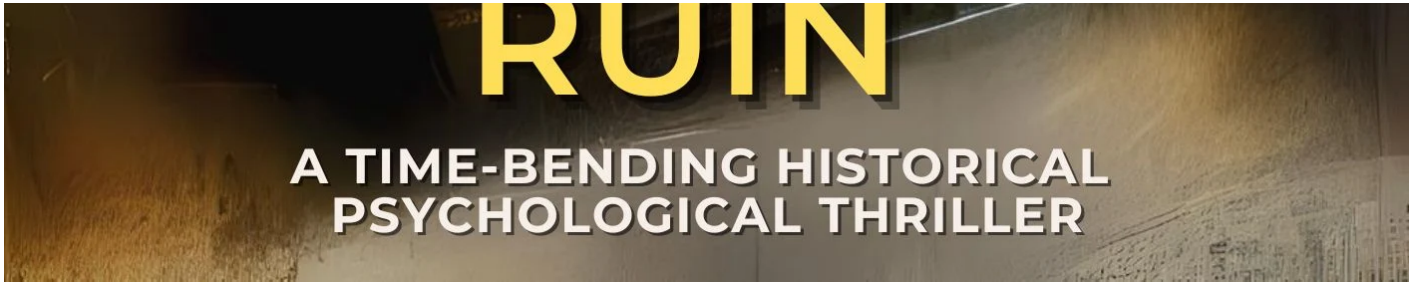
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