



NEIL TURNER READER'S CLUB

Greetings!

Happy summer! Well, almost ... except in the Southern Hemisphere ... and maybe Ottawa? I'm happy to report that *A Law Unto Itself*, the eighth Tony Valenti thriller, has done very well since we sent it out into the world two months ago. Thank you! The ninth book, which still bears the rather unfortunate title of #9, is taking shape. As I mentioned last month, I paid a visit to Calgary, Alberta and quite enjoyed myself visiting with old friends and seeing how the city has changed over the years. Then it was off to New York City for ThrillerFest, which was a blast, as always. I was able to visit with some familiar faces and made some new writer friends. Now I'm home for a couple of months before the big trip of the year, which will be almost three weeks in Europe. There will be a quick visit to Toronto in July for a family picnic with the extended clan of relatives from my mother's side of the family. That promises to be fun! In writerly news, the audiobook front is hopping, one of my favorite author friends has a terrific new book for us to enjoy, and you can read my thoughts on audiobooks in a guest interview with my friends at Written Word Media. In the monthly Q & A, I'll address a topic that seems to be on the minds of more than a few readers. Read on!

**Blood Oath by Larry A.
Winters - Jessie Black Legal
Thrillers #12**

What's Neil Reading

Congrats to my writing buddy, Larry Winters, on the release of *Blood Oath*, the 12th Jessie Black legal thriller. I was lucky enough to get a sneak peek, so

I'm not surprised to see it rocketing up the charts. Here's my 5-STAR review: *Blood Oath*, the twelfth novel in Larry Winters' outstanding Jessie Black legal thriller series, sees Jessie running to have the interim tag removed from her District Attorney title. The election campaign is a fresh twist that adds an unaccustomed bit of political flavor to this story, but fans of the series need not worry that the novel will stray from the well-established formula that makes these books so consistently enjoyable. As well as running for election, Jessie is up to her neck prosecuting a chilling homicide case involving the leader of a cult who once beat a murder charge at Jessie's expense. The killer and his attorney blindside Jessie with an ingenious defense gambit that may see him beat the rap yet again. Jessie desperately fights back with the able assistance of series stalwarts DA investigator Mark Leary and Philadelphia PD Detective Emily Graham, who leave no stone unturned in their hunt for the crucial piece of evidence that will allow them to win the case. Winters ratchets up the tension and leads us through numerous twists and turns as the clock ticks down on Jessie's election chances and the risk that a wicked predator will be turned loose to kill again. *Blood Oath* adds another satisfying chapter to a terrific series. Click on the cover image or [here](#) to have a look.



A Peek Behind the Curtain

Behind the Scenes

When we're not attending writer's conferences in backwoods locales like New York City, authors occasionally take time out of our scribbling schedules to talk books with other writers, readers, and anyone else with an interest in our thoughts. For example, I mentioned earlier that I recently shared my thoughts on audiobooks from an author's perspective in a New in Books interview. You might find my

perspective interesting (and you may not!). You can read it [here](#). When we're not having fun (which includes crafting new stories!), we can often be found immersed in the grim business of marketing our books. Aside from the parts where we get to engage directly with readers, this is decidedly *not* the fun part of being an author. That said, I find myself learning how to do new things now and again. For example, making little promotional videos for ads and such. Check out my latest effort [here](#). **WARNING: This is not a professionally made video. ONE WARNING ISN'T ENOUGH?** Clicking the link will take you to the Vimeo website to watch the video, so if you receive a warning about being whisked away into the ether, don't be afraid! If we're still speaking after you view the video and you have a spare moment, please let me know what you think. I'm tough, I can take a little abuse. 😊

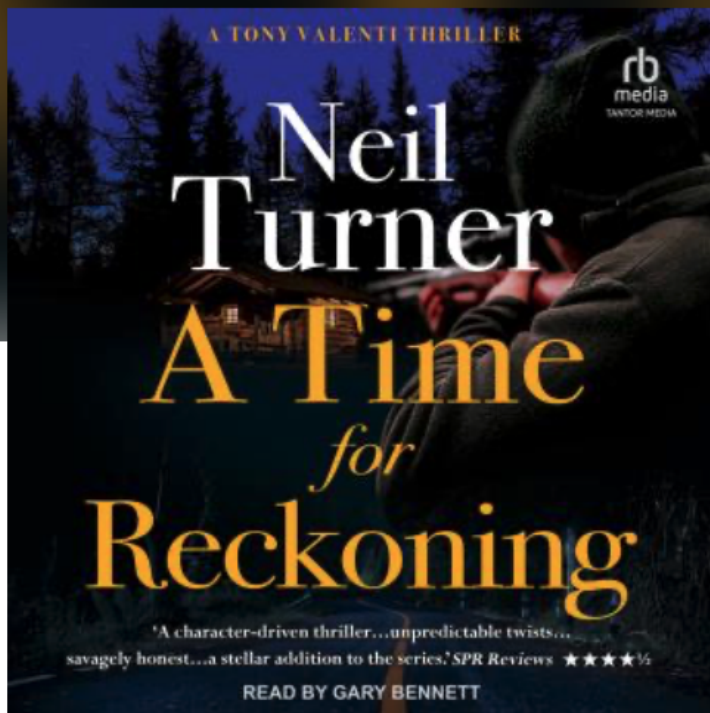
The Latest Tony Valenti News

Hot Off the Presses

June is Audiobook month, so I'll lead off with some audiobook news—*after* I salute the marvelous actors who lend their incredible talents to the performance of the stories we authors cobble together. Trust me, *if.you.had.to.listen.to.me.read.my.book*, you'd be unconscious within the first two minutes (or less! Heck you might even come looking for me with torches and pitchforks!). We've been blessed with the exceptional voice talents of Gary Bennett to perform all of Tony's books. Lucky, lucky us! Tantor Audio has set release dates for the final two audiobooks in the Tony Valenti series (so far!), *Nowhere to Hide* and *A Law Unto Itself*. Look for them on December 21st, 2024 and February 25th, 2025, respectively. *Scared Silent* is next up on August 6th. We received another sparkling editorial review for the audiobook of *A House on Liberty Street*. You can read the review [here](#) if you're interested.



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If you send an email, please type *Reader's Club Q & A* in the subject line. Thank you!

Here's this month's question and answer:

Q: I asked for your opinions on several aspects of the Reader's Club Update last month and am going to use an answer from reader Sue as the *Q* in this month's Q & A. Sue told me she likes the interactive nature of this feature, then added that she'd like to get to know me a little better as a person, and not just as a writer. "I'd like a little more backstory" is how she put it, which is a very writerly way to phrase it!

A: The question of how much to share is an interesting topic that presents something of a quandary for writers, and is something many of us struggle with. For my part, I'm a relatively private

person, so I've consciously chosen to limit how much to reveal (and the events of my life aren't exactly spellbinding). Sue's comments prompted me to rethink the issue. There's no harm in me sharing some of what's going on in my world, such as travel and the like, but family has been off limits and will, for the most part, remain so. The members of my family never signed up for this gig, and so I choose to allow them their privacy. Not all other writers are so circumspect, which is fine; it's just not my style. Sue suggested that I could reveal a little more about myself, such as hobbies, other jobs I've held, and general info about family, which I think I'm comfortable with. Perhaps a new feature: Neil: *The Autobiography* - subtitle: *All the Numbingly Boring Details You Wish You'd Never Heard!* So, perhaps I'll start showing a little author ankle now and again as we go. Not too much, but maybe a little. 😊 Stay tuned.

Thanks for being a member of our Reader's Club!

Take care, be well, and happy reading (or listening!),

Neil



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