



NEIL TURNER READER'S CLUB

Greetings,

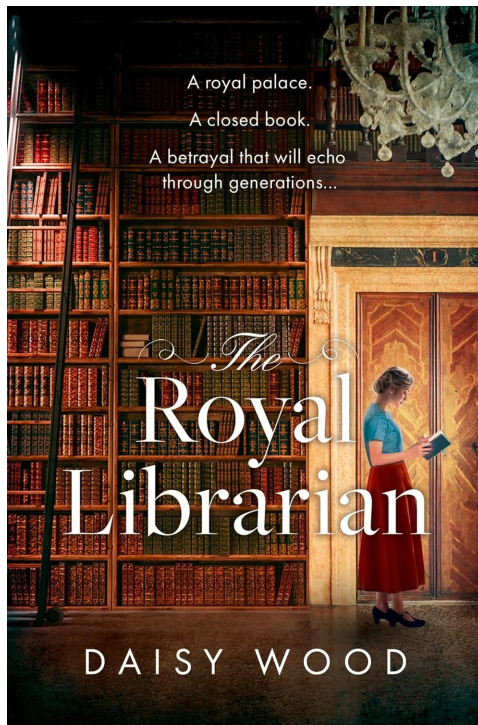
We're a day late reaching your inboxes, and I apologize if anyone noticed. There's a story behind that, but it isn't an interesting one, so we'll dispense with it. I hope this month's missive finds everyone well. Did any of you see the stunning displays put on recently by the Northern or Southern Lights? I slept through them the first night they were visible in Ottawa and found myself looking at a sky full of clouds the next time. Argh! At least we can see the leaves putting on their autumn show even when it's cloudy. In this month's Reader's Club Update, we have some book news to share, a spiffy new contest (does anyone besides me still use the word *spiffy*?), a review of a novel I read recently, and a chance to win a free book in our monthly Q & A. Read on!

The Latest Tony Valenti News

Hot off the Presses

The next Tony Valenti Thriller is inching along as I wrestle with several plot twists and characters who are proving to be somewhat problematic. Let's hope all this effort proves worthwhile! I'm actually feeling pretty good about how this is shaping up ... I just wish it was doing so more quickly! Stay tuned (and note the contest below for your chance to be involved in the new book!) In news about books I managed to complete, the audiobook of the sixth Tony Valenti Thriller, *The Secrets She Buried*, is scheduled for release on November 19th. Keep an eye on my Facebook page for information regarding pre-order specials, the details of which I'm expecting to receive next week. While we wait, the audiobook of *A Time for*





The Royal Librarian by Daisy Wood

What's Neil Reading?

I'm always reading, and I tend to read fairly widely: thrillers, mystery, and suspense (of course!), but also a lot of biography, history, and politics, so it should come as no surprise that I have a soft spot for historical fiction. Here's my review of a novel I read recently and quite enjoyed:

Daisy Wood's *The Royal Librarian* is a World War Two historical novel with an interesting, imaginative premise. The author deeply immerses us in the context of the times, placing plausible characters in horrific circumstances that offer a glimpse into people and events of historical importance. *The Royal Librarian* takes us from the horror of a disintegrating family being terrorized in Nazi-occupied Vienna to a comparatively bucolic Windsor castle in wartime. Two sisters are separated while escaping Vienna, never to see one another again. Years later, a daughter of the younger sister comes across a mysterious letter from Windsor Castle that leads her on a quest to finally solve the mystery of what became of the older sister. Author Daisy Wood weaves an intricate tale that is exciting and deeply touching, not least in its portrayal of Queen Elizabeth late in her life and as a charming, serious young princess in time of war displaying the dignity and sense of duty that would come to characterize her future reign. The story is well researched and well crafted. Readers who enjoy a good historical story—particularly one set during World War Two—will appreciate this novel.

Kill them or keep them?

Name a Character

Many authors ask readers to donate or contribute to a charity or cause chosen by the author in return for the opportunity to have a character in the next



book named for them. I like this conceptually, but given that our Reader's Club members reside in quite a variety of countries, limiting the donations to a registered Canadian charity of my choice doesn't feel quite right. My favorite contest along these lines is Lisa Gardner offering her readers the chance to have the person of their choice bumped off in one of her upcoming novels. Adds a little spice, doesn't it? And what fun ... all without the need to plan and get away with an actual crime (not to mention all the messy cleanup)! As you may have guessed by this point—amateur sleuths that you all are—I'd like to offer readers a chance to name a character in the story I'm writing. Nominate yourself, a relative, neighbor, or co-worker, and let me know if you'd like us to celebrate that person or if you'd like them to meet their demise between the pages of a novel. For the more bloody-minded amongst you, feel free to suggest how your non-favorite relative, pesky co-worker, or annoying neighbor might make their exit. No promises about my ability to work your suggestion into the story, but I'll do it if I can. NOTE: as many times as I've chuckled at cartoons showing pianos falling on the unsuspecting from windows and cliffs, this won't be happening in one of my novels. Well, probably not. ☐ To enter, donate to a local charity of your choice (minimum \$25/£20) and let us know what charity you've selected. Due to privacy considerations, I'm not comfortable asking for proof of payment, so you'll be on the honor system with those details. Now, what kind of an offer would this be if I didn't mention *BUT THAT'S NOT ALL, FOLKS!!!!* In July, I floated the idea of spicing up our contest awards and the consensus was to offer Amazon digital gift cards. So, here's the incentive over and above the warm fuzzies you'll get from doing some good in your community. We'll select a winner from among the entries. The winner can choose from one of:

- a \$20 or £15 digital Amazon gift card
- a free audiobook for any published eBook in the Tony Valenti series
- a free eBook of any one of the Tony Valenti Thrillers (including Book 9 when it *finally* releases)

Please send your entries via the *Contact* page on my [website](#) or send an email to info@neilturnerbooks.com.

Win a free eBook

Reader's Club Q & A

What's on your mind? Ask away! I'll answer one reader question in every Reader's Club Update.



If I choose yours, I'll send you a free eBook copy of one of my novels! Please send your questions via the *Contact* page on my [website](#) or send an email to info@neilturnerbooks.com. 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: Do you think Gen-AI will be analysing previous books by an author and writing new books with similar style shortly (inside 2 years)? If yes, who would be the IP/copyright owner? (For those of you who aren't keeping track of tech terminology and acronyms, Gen-AI refers to generative artificial intelligence.)

A: That's a great question! It's already happening, but the most disturbing immediate development to me is how often I hear from other writers that their books have simply been plagiarized using AI to make minute changes to character names and titles as well as a change or two within each chapter. The books are then marketed on major retailers, usually with a new cover image. Authors are sometimes successful in having the books taken down, but they promptly reappear with new covers and titles. It's like a game of whack-a-mole you can't win. As for IP/Copyright in the circumstance you posit, the question of IP and copyright regarding AI generated content is currently being litigated, so there isn't yet any clarity on the matter. I'd like to think that in the example above, the copyright holder would prevail, but there has been one decision holding that whoever tasked the AI tool with "creating" the content holds the copyright. That will, of course, be challenged, but I suspect this will eventually be settled according to the wishes of big tech, who have the resources to keep litigating until they get the result they want. Sorry if that sounds cynical, but that appears to be how far too many recent corporate vs. individual legal matters have played out.

And that's it for this month. Thanks for being a member of our Reader's Club!

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

Neil



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