



Choices, my Valentines. Choices.

February 2022

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Dearestreader,

It's Winter Olympics time here, and I am in awe of the athletes of the world. The skiing is always my favorite, (no big surprise to those of you who've read [TEAR ME APART](#)) but the ski jumping and snowboarding have also wormed their way into my heart. Especially the girls catching big air, flying backward down the hill to fling themselves off the jump, the halfpipe daredevils...man, it blows my mind. Badass flying acrobats doing death-defying stunts, that's what they are. Add in the ice skating, and the downhill and slalom, and all the rest, watching these young athletes who have spent their whole life for this moment...the triumph and the heartbreak, the personal stories, the shock upsets...I am here for all of this. It's pretty much two weeks of heaven. It's also a fabulous way to build character names. I have already changed a character name in my next standalone based on one of the athletes.

This would be a great place for a lovely metaphor about how writing and completing a novel, and another, over and over, parallels the endurance and dedication of these athletes, but let's be honest, equating a sedentary intellectual pursuit to the level of athleticism that's needed to make it to the Olympics does these folks a disservice. Instead, I will tip my hat, refresh my hot cocoa, make some more room on the sofa for the kitties, and revel in this precious moment. I wish it happened more than every 4 years. I really do.

Speaking of novel writing... a creative update: I have four projects in various stages of completion.

- Editorial: Standalone 2023 (notes from my editor this week)
- Revision: Jayne #2 [Master of Shadows](#) (Draft 2 of manuscript coming late February, cover reveal soon!)
- Drafting: Taylor Jackson #9 (3/4 of the way through)
- Proposal: Standalone for 2024 (nearing completion)

Each book is in a different moment in its life-cycle, and none are competing, which is lovely. When I was publishing two books a year, I was always working on

three books at once—drafting one, editing another, promoting a third. Now I'm doing a couple of solo books and one co-written book a year, and while the schedule is similar, I have more control over what happens when.

I know this gives some of you hives, but for the moment, it's a perfectly balanced juggling act. Trust me, it will probably all go to pot in a couple of months...

□ A WORD ON WORDS is back!

Some fun news: A WORD ON WORDS season 7 has launched, and we're welcoming a new co-host to the family, the divine [Alka Joshi](#). I interviewed Alka last year for her wonderful book [The Henna Artist](#). The nice thing is, even though this show broadcasts here in Nashville, you can watch all the episodes and read the interview transcripts on the [website](#) or on our [YouTube channel](#).

WATCH A WORD ON WORDS

□ Read All About It...



[BEHIND HER EYES](#) by Sarah Pinborough

OK. Y'all. I am SO late to this book but it was absolutely astoundingly good. And the Netflix adaptation is even better. It's rare that I like an adaptation as much as a book, but this was just top-notch.

[THE OVERNIGHT GUEST](#) by Heather Gudenkauf

Heather G is one of our finest suspense authors, and I can't wait for you to read this! Deliciously good.

[THE WIFE STALKER](#) by Liv Constantine

The winner in the winter of my TBR discontent, I was sucked in from the very first page and didn't stop until 1 in the morning. Who can you trust???

[ONE STEP TOO FAR](#) by Lisa Gardner

Every time I open a Lisa Gardner book, I feel like I've come home. Her new Frankie Elkin series is intense and visceral and totally perfect for those dark nights when you want to be right on the edge of your seat.

And a bonus read: [A DEEPER DARKNESS](#), the first book in the Samantha Owens series, is on sale all month!

☐☐ February Recipe: Avgolemono



It's cold, and darn it, we need soup. This family favorite is getting a reboot. There is nothing tastier than a little Avgolemono on a chilly winter night. It sounds complicated, but it's so easy, and so worth it...

[I'M COLD AND I WANT SOUP](#)

You can find all of my recipes [here](#). And if you want some wine to go with the meals, [The Wine Vixen](#) has you covered.

Note: In an attempt to make the recipes a little easier to search and print, we (and by we I mean Rachel, right hand and designer extraordinaire) are doing a massive reworking of the recipes page. It will now live on the Wine Vixen

website, and you'll be able to search for anything you're interested in by category. The Wine Vixen has been in abeyance for a few years and some links are broken on a few pages. We're aware and are working to get things fixed. In the meantime, enjoy the food and the wine!

□ Contest

Every month, I draw a name from those of you who open the newsletter and send that lovely person a \$30 gift card to the bookstore of their choice. It's my way of saying thanks for being here. Congrats to last month's winner: Lisa R!

And don't forget to enter this month's drawing below!

[I WANT THAT GIFT CARD!](#)

That's it from me. Enjoy your weekend, wish my mum a big fat happy 85th birthday, and in return, a very happy Valentine's Day to all of you! ♥

Peace and hugs,



Are you still here?

Here's a kitten for your troubles!



Did you like this newsletter? Share it with a friend!



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