



The Taylor Jackson news you've been waiting for

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Hello GentleReader,

Wow wow wow, what a month it's been! I knew June was going to be exciting with the release of [TOMB OF THE QUEEN](#), the first novel in our new urban fantasy series, but I also finished my newest standalone, and got to have a small vacation as a reward. I'm back to work now on the revision. I assume this book will be out around this time next year—more on that later. And then I'm turning my energy to...wait for it... the next [Taylor](#) story!

I left the series ([WHERE ALL THE DEAD LIE](#)) in a good pausing place, and then added a novella to the mix, [WHITEOUT](#), which picked up after the events in Scotland. This new story will take place post-WHITEOUT, and I have all sorts of fun ideas for what's going to happen. It's been a blast getting back into Taylor's world. It's like putting on your favorite jeans, having a great hair day, seeing best friends, falling in love, and getting the promotion you've worked for your whole career – all in one. I've missed my girl, and I know you have to.

Picking up a series after a lengthy absence means some hefty front-end work. Namely, reading the previous books to get a sense for what's happening, where the story can be teased apart, what threads were left out in the open. I read several of the books to prep for the [print re-release of books 5-7](#) and have been listening to WHERE ALL THE DEAD LIE, read by the incomparable Joyce Bean.

I'm not putting any pressure on this. Pressure is the death of art. So no dates to share, no details about story length, etc. But it's going to be a lot of fun, and a nice palate cleanser after gestating what's been a tough, deeply personal standalone. It's now the summer of Taylor Jackson. I like the sound of that.



Speaking of Taylor... How's this for fun news—we have brand new packaging rolling out for the Taylor Jackson series! First up is the first book in the series, [ALL THE PRETTY GIRLS](#). Do you like? I'm always curious how readers feel about their favorite books getting new window dressing...

Preorder your copy!

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Does your summer need a thrilling, thought-provoking read? One of my more intensely personal novels, *TEAR ME APART*, is on sale for \$2.99! *New York Times* bestselling author Lisa Gardner called it “perfect stay-up-all-night, bite-your-nails-to-the-quick suspense.”

Get your copy!

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□ Smatterings

You knew I couldn't stay away from this too long... here are a few of the things that caught my interest this month.

[Whose Story is This? Classic Tales Cleverly Retold.](#)

Is imitation the sincerest form of flattery? The brilliant Hank Phillippi Ryan digs in.

[Her Book Doesn't Go Easy on Publishing. Publishers Ate It Up.](#)

I really enjoyed my conversation with Zakiya Harris for [A Word on Words](#), too.

["I tested out the writing routines of 5 famous authors to see which would make me the most productive."](#)

I loved this because I am always looking for a better mousetrap.

[Freedom Matters: The Juggle, Modern Writers and the Truth about Productivity – Joanna Rakoff.](#)

Such a fabulous conversation with Joanna Rakoff on the Freedom podcast. Loved the balance and honesty she brings to her work and life.

[Productive Procrastination for Writers.](#)

Because who doesn't want to be productive while they're procrastinating???

□ Read All About It...



[THE STRANGER IN THE MIRROR](#) by Liv Constantine

True story: I went to Thrillerfest on crutches, and one half of Liv Constantine (the adorable Lynne) approached with great sympathy, got me tea, and complimented my shoes. I was already a fan, but now I am a DEVOTEE – and I can't WAIT for this new story.

[PEOPLE WE MEET ON VACATION](#) by Emily Henry

Really, I'll read anything Emily Henry writes, but I have been saving this one for my vacation. Sure enough—it's perfect. I keep setting it down because I don't want it to end. Funny, romantic, with depth of heart and soul. Can't recommend more.

[THE PLOT](#) by Jean Hanff Korelitz

I've seen so many good reviews of this book, and I started it yesterday. So far, I am utterly entranced—beautiful writing, collegiate setting, a sense of menace. Plagiarism is a hefty theme this year (see below...)

[KILL ALL YOUR DARLINGS](#) by David Bell

I'm a longtime fan of David's work, and I'm so excited that I get to do an in conversation with him virtually at Poisoned Pen during his release festivities. Another plagiarism story, this is David's best book to date. So fun watching him get better and better!

☐☐ July Recipe: Margarita Shrimp and Peppers



Like writing, in which I spend my days making things up, the fun of cooking for me is making up recipes. It's especially easy to do in the summer, when the ingredients are fresh and plentiful and I simply wander to the fridge, look inside, and pull together the makings of a meal. This is my latest favorite, it's absolutely scrumptious! And healthy, yay!

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.

□ 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: Patricia S.

To enter this month's giveaway, click on the survey below!

**Do you want to be entered in this month's
giveaway?**

Yes!

No thanks

SUBMIT

That's all for now. Have a glorious start to your summer, travel safe, buy a book from your local indie, and I'll see you next month!

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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