



# NEWSLETTER

**Page 1:  
Author of the Month**

**Page 2-3:  
Carolyn Howard-  
Johnson Article**

**Page 4:  
Cindy's Tips**

**Page 5:  
Visitor's Choice  
Award & FREE  
Contests Info**

**Page 5:  
BIS Authors**

**Page 6:  
Service Providers**

**Page 7:  
Our USA  
Veteran Authors**

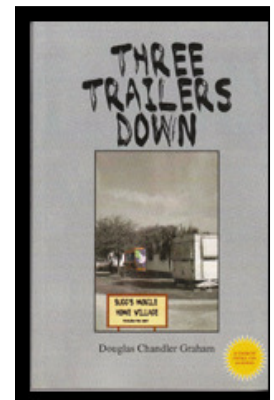
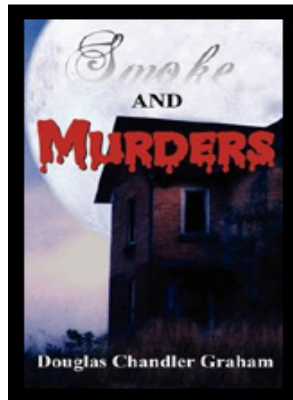


**Don't Miss A  
Thing In The  
Books In Sync  
Newsletter!**

**Douglas Chandler Graham** grew up in rural Virginia close to Lakeside Amusement Park. He worked summers at this park from the age of twelve until he was eighteen when he joined the U.S. Army Air Force. Honorably discharged from the military, he became a street cop in Roanoke, Virginia. Over the years, he has been a bill collector, salesman, and postman. After retiring from the Postal Service, he became a certified private investigator and bodyguard. He has lived in Florida since 2000.

His first book 'Smoke and Murders' is a fictionalized story of the murder of the Hodges family as discovered in the small town of Vinton, Virginia, on August 29, 1994. Most of the characters are composites of people known to the author and, except for the murders; most of the situations are made up. Fascinated by the sequence of events as they unfolded, the author could not get the crime off his mind, and over the years, Smoke and Murders evolved. Urged by family and friends to finish the story, the author hopes that it will spark some interest in the real story of a man he believes was falsely convicted.

*Books In Sync Honors Douglas Chandler Graham  
For Service To His Country In The United States Air Force*



## **Smoke and Murders** by Douglas Chandler Graham

This is a fictionalized story of the murder of the Hodges family as discovered in the small town of Vinton, Virginia, on August 29, 1994. Most of the characters are composites of people known to the author and, except for the murders; most of the situations are made up. Fascinated by the sequence of events as they unfolded, the author could not get the crime off his mind, and over the years, Smoke and Murders evolved. Urged by family and friends to finish the story, the author hopes that it will spark some interest in the real story of a man he believes was falsely convicted.

**Three Trailers Down** by Douglas Chandler Graham is the extended story that began in Smoke and Murders.

*Continued on page 2...*

## Third Year Authors 2011

Cindy Bauer

Hywela Lyn

J. W. Thompson

M. J. Prado-Daley

## Second Year Authors 2011

Carl David

Richard W. Morris

## First Year Authors 2011

Angie Skelhorn

Carlynn Cooler

Carolyn Howard-Johnson

Lauren E. Smith

Lila L. Pinord

Mary Jo Nickum

Vanderbilt Brabson III

Bainy B. Cyrus

**Thank You For  
Allowing Books  
In Sync To  
Promote You &  
Your Book(s)**



Carolyn  
Howard-Johnson

Although this may be regarded as a sequel, it is a complete novel. After the small town of Vinyard is about to settle down after the murders of an entire family, new problems arise to keep the gossip pot boiling.

The story follows the Lieutenant that ran the Vinyard police department and was caught and fired for multiple criminal offenses.

Intrigue, murders, sex and money drive just about all the characters in Three Trailers Down, at least, the more sophisticated ones. The rest take life as they find it.

Douglas Chandler Graham tried to get dozens of organizations to look at the arrest and trial of Earl Bramblett in the five years after his trial while on death row. All were overloaded with other cases they were working, which should give some indication of justice in America, or the lack thereof. High profile cases give the impression every fact is checked and all evidence is examined. In the dark courtrooms of America “justice” is whatever the court determines, the law be damned. A prime example of this is on the ten-year-old website allamosa.com.

There was no justice in that trial and it cost Bramblett his life.

### Douglas Chandler Graham's Websites:

<http://threetrailersdown.com>

<http://smokeandmurders.com>

<http://allamosa.com>

<http://llumina.com/store/smokeandmurders.htm>

### Douglas Chandler Graham Author's Pages At Books In Sync:

<http://booksinsync.com/douglaschandlergraham.html>

### Douglas Chandler Graham's E-mail:

[graham.doug@gmail.com](mailto:graham.doug@gmail.com)

### Editing IS Marketing: Boning Up on First Impressions

*by Carolyn Howard-Johnson, author of the multi award-winning  
'How To Do It Frugally' series of books for writers.*

First impressions are important. We all are aware of that as we brush our teeth and try to unknot the rat's nests from the back of our hair each morning. In fact, first impressions are part of our marketing efforts, too. Whether we authors are trying to get an interview or a TV appearance or marketing our books using e-mail or social networks, editing is an essential part of that first-impression effort. Generally, that first effort is a query letter or proposal. Thus editing equals great first impression. That makes it an integral part of a marketing campaign.

*Here are a scattering of helps gleaned from my books...*

### *Five Editing Myths Waiting To Trip Up Your Campaign to Market Your Work*

- If your English teacher told you something is OK, it is.  
(Nope. Language rules and style guidelines have changed since you were a sophomore.)

*Continued on page 3...*

## Second Year Authors 2010

A. Colin Wright

A. Hansely Jr.

Alberta Sequeira

Allen Epling

April Lewis

Behcet Kaya

Brenda Craig

Brenda J. Weaver

Celina Star

Charles Johnson

Cindy Bauer

Cindy Tuttle

Cliff Ball

Deirdre Kelley Hall

Dorothy Cosey

Douglas Chandler  
Graham

George Wilhite

Ginger Simpson

Hywela Lyn

J. A. Hunsinger

J. W. Thompson

John Howard Reid

Joyce Keller Walsh

Julie Hodgson

Kathi Wyldeck

K. M. Daughters

Linda Fossen

M. J. Prado-Daley

Marcia Cole

Margaret Tanner

Metha Metharom

Patricia Perry

Paulette Harper

Rita Hestand

Robert J. Saniscalchi

Roland Hughes

Rosaine Thomas

Steven Nedelton

Susan Whitfield

Sylvia Dickey Smith

Terry Fulgham

Thomas Palfy

Tim Baker

Yvonne Mason

**Below on Left...  
New Books Added  
In February**

- If a manuscript or query is grammar-perfect, you'll make a great first impression.

(No! Lots of things that are grammatically correct will annoy publishers, agents, and other gatekeepers like feature editors.)

- Always use your Spell and Grammar Checker.

(Maybe. Some well-known editors suggest you don't use it at all, but The Frugal Editor gives you dozens of ways to make it your partner instead of your enemy.)

- Your publisher will assign a top-flight editor so you don't need to worry about your manuscript.

(Maybe, but don't count on it. Besides, you can be a better partner for an editor—whether she is assigned to you by your editor or you hire one for yourself-- if you know something about the process; you'll know better when to nix her suggestions! In any case, I suggest hiring an editor of your own before you submit your manuscript.)

- Formatters and editors will take care of the hyphens, ellipses, and all the other grungy little punctuation marks that English teachers avoided teaching because they didn't know how to use them either.

(Chances are, you'll catch even great formatters and editors in an error or two if you know your stuff!)

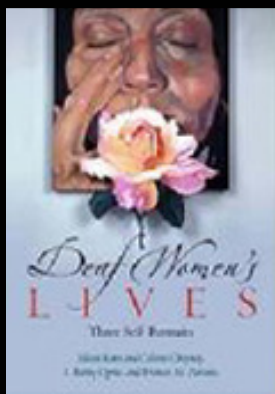
### *Five Things to Avoid for a Pristine Query Letter*

We are selling our work when we approach any gatekeeper, an editor, an agent, a contest judge. Here are five little things to avoid so you'll look like the professional you are.

- Don't tell the gatekeeper you always wanted to write. You can think of something more pertinent to your cause (and something more original!) than that.
- Don't use the verb "quote" when you want the noun "quotation." Some stylebooks will tell you that it's OK, but agents can be a picky lot. Use zero-tolerance grammar rules for your queries.
- Don't pitch more than one book at time. You want to give just one your best shot.
- Don't call your novel a "fictional novel." By definition, a novel is fiction.
- Don't overdo exclamation marks, question marks, or the use of sentence fragments. (Yes, fragments are acceptable when they're used for a good reason.).

*Here's one last suggestion for fiction writers 'cause they're so often neglected when it comes to marketing...*

- Avoid using italics for internal thought in the synopsis sections of your marketing tools or in the sample chapters you must include. Italics are being used more and more these days, but using them often becomes a crutch that enables writers to avoid writing great transitions and point-of-view. The best agents and publishers will recognize it as such.



**Deaf Women's Lives**

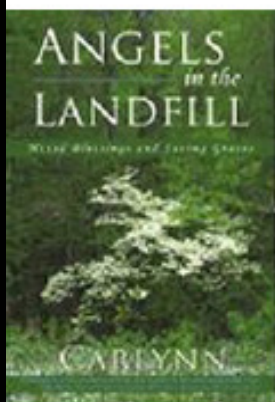


**The Gatekeeper**

ALL EYES



**All Eyes**



**Angels in the Landfill**



## Cindy's Tips



### The Dreaded Comma Dilemma By Cindy Bauer

I've dubbed this topic "the dreaded comma dilemma" from my experience while working for a daily newspaper. Trust me; I was confused at first as well. The late Kay White Miles was the publisher for many years and a close friend. She often had the final say in an article prior to publishing and thus, the "dilemma" begins. Leave it in or take it out? We had a reporter who consistently put commas in everywhere. And Kay, inevitably, would mark her article to take out most of the commas. Thus the office joke - "the dreaded comma dilemma".

When I attended school, we were taught to use a comma before the word "and". However, I was taught at the newspaper that the "and" actually replaces the comma, thus the comma is not needed. I've found visual aids are often better when explaining something. Here's an example:

**The box contained some thread, needles, straight pins, and scissors.  
The box contained some thread, needles, straight pins and scissors.**

Technically, both are acceptable. However, if I were to edit your writing I would remove the comma before the "and". You can also use a comma to break up a sentence or indicate a "pause". But be careful not to have a run-on sentence with too many commas. And keep in mind that a semi-colon might be the correct way to go. We'll get into that in a minute. Here's an example of using a comma to break up a sentence:

**She climbed the stairs to the second floor and entered the room where she had last seen it, and wished there were an easier way to find it.**

Notice I've left the comma in before the last "and". This is not a sentence using description as the sample above. It's a long sentence with more than one "and" so therefore, the comma before the last "and" is acceptable and helps to break up the sentence. On to the subject of using a comma before the word "but". This one is often a toughie for writers and better explained with another example for visual aid. You do not always put a comma before the word "but".

**What else could she do but give in?**

**There is another way you could get that to them sooner, but you'll have to drive there instead.**

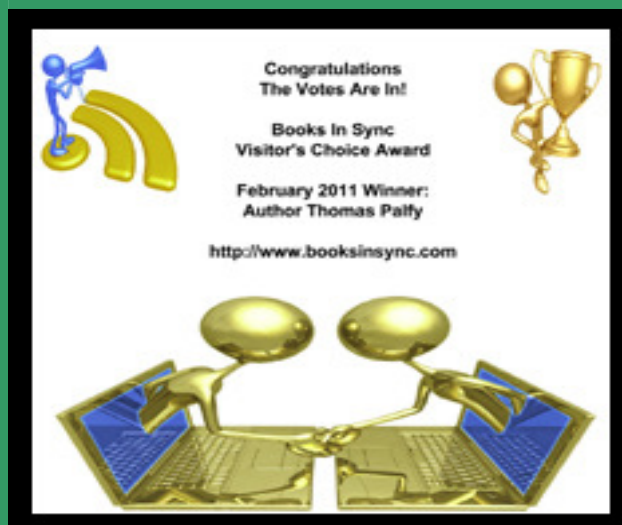
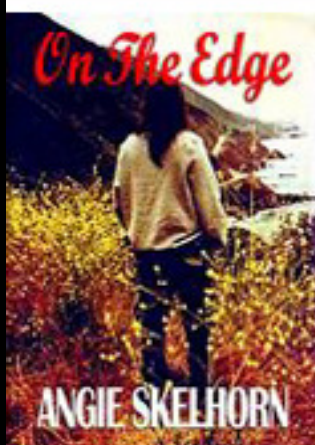
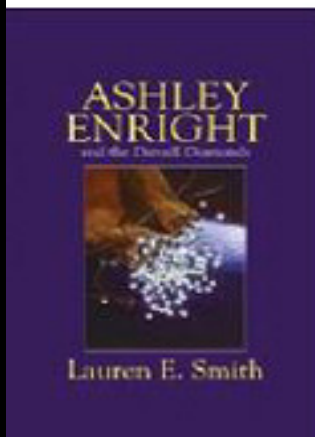
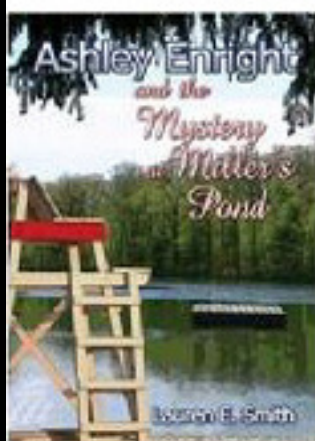
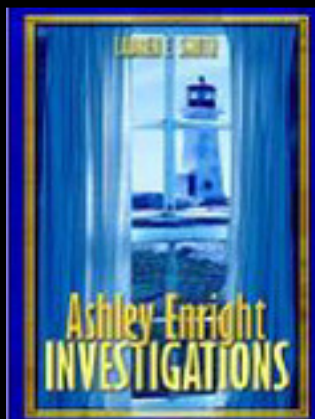
When editing someone's writing, I often run across improperly placed commas and semi-colons. When do you use the comma and when do you use a semi-colon instead? Commas are used between words in sentences where the remainder of the sentence is not a sentence, whereas semi-colons are used in place of a comma if the remainder of the sentence can be considered a sentence. So here's another "visual aid" to help you understand better:

**"Yes, he invited me to go, but I turned him down."**

**"Yes, he invited me to go; I turned him down."**

\*\*\*

# Visitor's Choice Award Thomas Palfy - February 2011!



<i>Contests Information</i>
February-March Book Cover Recognition Contest Voting Begins March 1, 2011
February-March Book Trailer Recognition Contest Voting Begins March 1, 2011
February-April Poetry Contest - Held Over Until April 1, 2011
February-April Short Story Contest - Held Over Until April 1, 2011

<http://booksinsync.com/freecontests.html>

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*Our Sincere Gratitude To Our Service Providers...*




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*Debi DeSantis' Author & Designer*



Reading Frenzy Book Review




LuAnn Morgan  
[reading\\_frenzy@yahoo.com](mailto:reading_frenzy@yahoo.com)



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**Red  
Robin**  
Writing Services



Mary J. Nickum, Editor  
All Things Editorial



Sylvia Dickey Smith & Blog Talk Radio's

**Writing Strong Women**

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*A Book and A Dish*



Upcoming Authors their books, reviews and favourite recipes

Cooler in the Shade



Carlynn:  
angelsinthelandfill@gmail.com

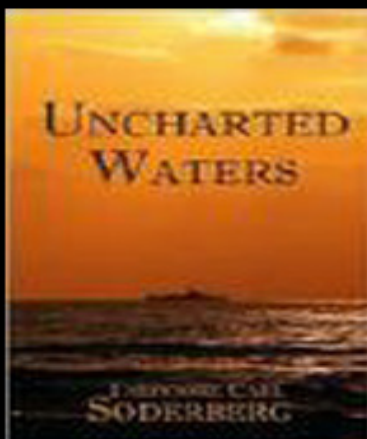
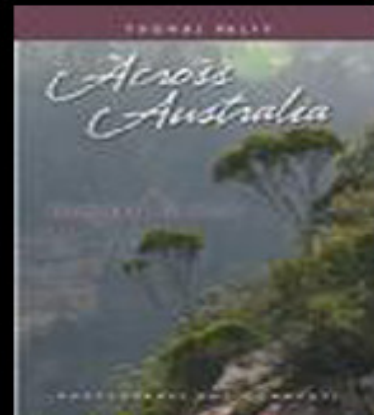
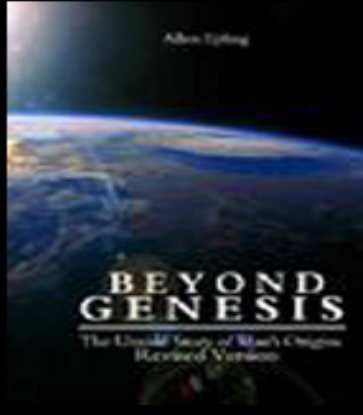
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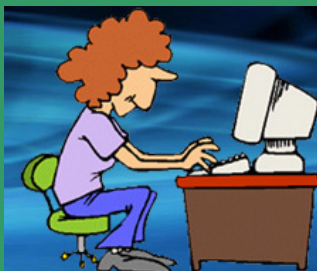
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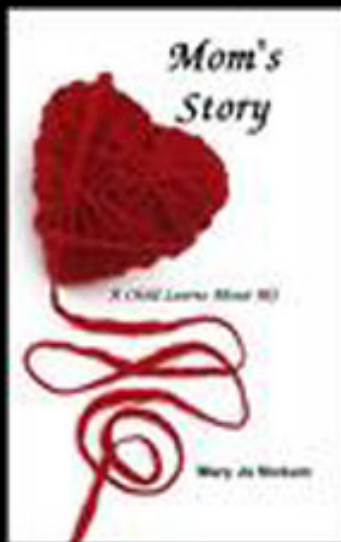
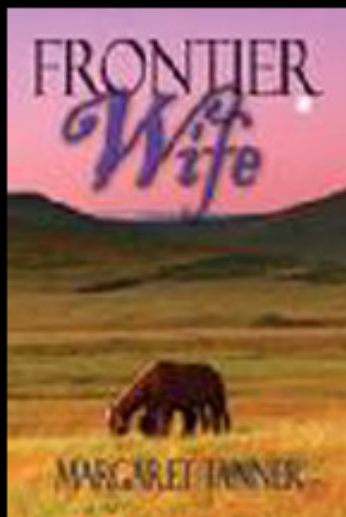
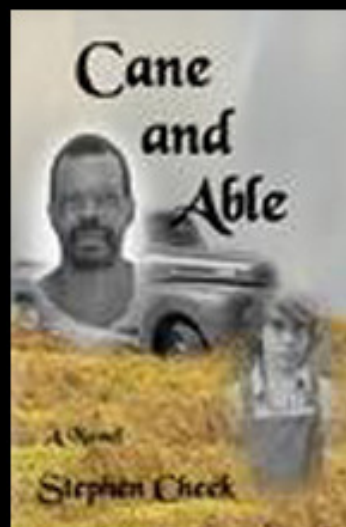
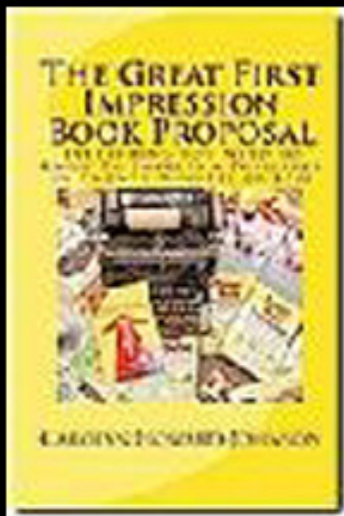


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