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June 2023 Newsletter

The month of May has been a delight! We traveled Vancouver Island from end to end. First, we headed north, for the book reading in Port McNeill. Thank you to everyone who came, laughed, and asked questions - such fun!

We spent two days meandering down island. It was a gorgeous weekend with peaceful nights and good food in Qualicum and Lake Cowichan. Then we went south for a morning of research at the Royal BC Museum Archives in Victoria.

We live in a lovely part of the world. Wherever you are right now, get outside and find a piece of nature to enjoy!



INSIDE NEWS

On research and writing...

This photo is from an early morning writing session on a dock in Lake Cowichan. I'm wrapped in a fuzzy blanket in an Adirondack chair on a dock. And because I had no wifi, I actually got some words on the page. Bliss!

I'm falling in love with research. Often, I come across unexpected gems as I'm spiraling down a rabbit hole about something completely different.

Did you know the only Stanley Cup not awarded was in 1919 because the teams caught the Spanish flu? Or how the

telephone system in Seattle worked in 1924? So many nuggets to include in passing in my next book!

The next draft is coming along well - I hit 50,000 words a few days ago!

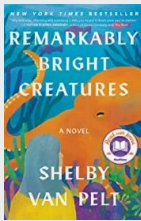


Maybe home is a person who never judges you for who you are."

- unknown

Books I loved...

Here are a few books that have stayed with me in the past few months:



Remarkably Bright Creatures

by Shelby Van Pelt

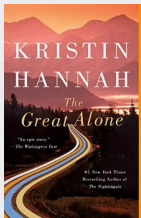
Refreshing, unique, fun



Before We Were Yours

by Lisa Wingate

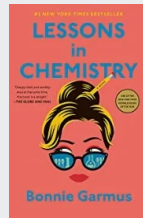
Heartwrenching and beautifully written



The Great Alone

by Kristin Hannah

A hard story in a beautiful setting



Lessons in Chemistry

by Bonnie Garmus

A strong female read in a surprising and fun story

FREEBIE

Mint Syrup

When your mom tells you to be careful planting mint, because it's invasive, you should listen. The silver lining is that I have a jungle of mint to make this delicious summer syrup. Enjoy!

[Download the Recipe](#)



Name a character in the my next!

I'm struggling to rename this character, and would love some help! Here's his background:

He was born in Vancouver in 1897 and was working as a gill netter out of Sointula in the summer of 1917 when he was conscripted and left for WW1. When he returned, almost two years later his fiance had married another man. He's now working at the Camp 2 logging camp as a bull-cook or chore boy.

What he saw during the war, and his return to his unfaithful woman have made him a bit miserable... but the story will turn him around.

Give me a first and last name - and some distinguishing features about his looks!

Name that character!



Sylvia Bourgeois

North Vancouver

British Columbia, Canada

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