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Aliens & Alibis Books

CAT SCRATCHINGS

December 12, 2006

Time seems to be flying by. Hanukkah starts December 16 which is almost here. Christmas is about 2 weeks away. You and I are, of course, prepared for the holidays (right!) but we all know people who procrastinate -- the friend, the relative, the significant other.

Many times this procrastination leads to the giver approaching a panic state and buying a gift that one would never think of at any other time. That's why a lot of men get gifts like the ties that play "Here Comes Santa Claus" with the reindeer that light up (batteries included) and a lot of women get gifts such as a puce-colored sweater that is 3 sizes too big. (In case you don't know what color puce is -- which I didn't -- it's a dark brownish purple colour.)

But there is help. We, at Aliens & Alibis, have come up with a list of excellent holiday gifts for readers. You can print this email, circle the gifts that you want and leave the list in a conspicuous place for your friend, relative or significant other to find. And in the end all are happy -- the friend, relative or significant other can complete holiday shopping easily and painlessly and, most important, you get what you really want -- unless you like weird ties and puce-colored sweaters.

When you've had enough of the crowded stores and the parking lots where you can't find a place to park, come to Aliens & Alibis. Browse to your heart's content. Sit in one of our recliners and put your feet up for a while. And, if it's the weekend before Christmas, have one or more Christmas cookies and a cup of coffee.

Don't forget that we are open Thursdays from noon to 8 PM with regular hours Monday through Wednesday and Friday through Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 1 PM to 5 PM.

Deb and Gary

For Mystery Readers

We have a couple of books that help the mystery reader find new authors. One is

THEY DIED IN VAIN: OVERLOOKED, UNDERAPPRECIATED AND FORGOTTEN MYSTERY NOVELS. The books were selected by various mystery booksellers and include a short synopsis. A similar book is **100 FAVORITE MYSTERIES OF THE CENTURY** which is also a collection from mystery booksellers with a synopsis. It's divided into decades which, in my opinion, makes it even more fun to read.

Mystery reference books are also popular. We have the latest editions of the four-volume set of **MYSTERY WOMEN:AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LEADING WOMEN CHARACTERS IN MYSTERY FICTION.** The books are broken down by year. It's a fascinating set of books that lets a reader see the changing role of female characters through the years starting in 1860 and going up through 2001.

DETECTA-CROSTICS is a volume of word puzzles with mysteries as the subject. A lot of fun for the puzzle-loving reader.

Finally, there's **MYSTERY MUSES: 100 CLASSICS THAT INSPIRE TODAY'S MYSTERY WRITER.** I was fascinated with the selections that my favorite authors made. Each selection contains a short piece by the author to explain how the classic had affected their writing.

For Science Fiction and Fantasy Readers

A boxed collection of the **THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA** books is a great gift for the C. S. Lewis fan. We also have an audio drama of .

We also have a boxed Tolkien set which includes all three of **THE LORD OF THE RINGS** and **THE HOBBIT** A nice companion to that is **THE ATLAS OF MIDDLE EARTH** which includes the geography of all of Tolkien's books.

A beautiful science fiction art book is **THE WORLDS OF TOMORROW: THE AMAZING UNIVERSE OF SCIENCE FICTION ART.** This is just one of one many art books and graphic novels that we carry.

Don't forget the TEMERAIRE by Naomi Novik -- **HIS MAJESTY'S DRAGON, THRONE OF JADE** and **BLACK POWDER WAR** (\$7.50 each). This would appeal to the fans of the dashing Brits-on-ships genre perfected by Patrick O'Brian.

For Any Reader on Your List

A delightful book for the gardner on your list is **THE CHINA BAYLES BOOK OF DAYS** by Susan Wittig Albert who is the author of the China Bayles mystery series set in a small town in Texas. In the book, each day has wonderful information on gardening and the use of herbs.

A calendar is always a good gift. We have a few:

- **Bad Cat Page A Day**
- **Brain Teasers, Mind Benders and Puzzles Page A Day**
- **Insights from the Dalai Lama Page A Day**
- **Book Lovers Page A Day**

Bookmarks are always a nice gift -- especially when you habitually misplace them as I do. We have great magnetic book marks (\$1.99 ea) that don't fall out of books. We have cartoon- like page toppers such as a vampire, a dead body, etc. My favorites are the Book Jewelry -- pretty bookmarks with colored ribbon and a charm.

BookMate book covers are a great gift, especially for anyone who has arthritis or other joint problem in their hands and has trouble holding a paperback -- I can't read without one. The covers hold the book rigid and the clear plastic that goes across the middle of the book holds the book open. Wonderful for reading while you eat or holding a book open while you take down information from it. We have the mass market paperback size for \$10.50 and the trade paperback size (the larger paperbacks) for \$11.50 My mom says BookMates are also good to use for hiding the book cover when reading a 'bodice- ripper' romance. (grin)

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Next time you are in the store (which we hope will be soon), ask for a copy of **Pages** magazine. On page 15 is a regular column called **ASK AN EXPERT**. In that column you will find some book recommendations that we made and a picture of the store interior. The copies are **FREE** but the number of copies we have is limited.

This issue of **Pages** has a gift guide that can give you some book ideas for the holidays. Remember that you can order most books through us.

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