

DECEMBER MUSINGS

SHARON VIRTS



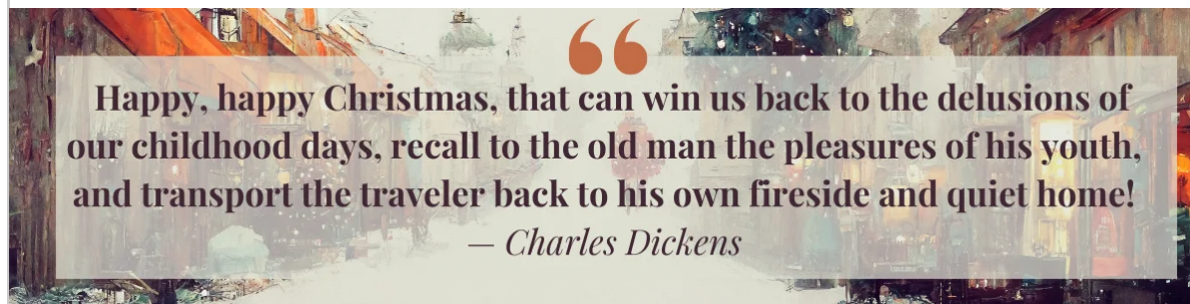
How Holidays Illuminate Time, Place, and Tradition in Historical Fiction

Holidays have always served as a touchstone of tradition, celebration, and memory. For historical fiction authors, these moments offer more than festive color—they are a means to anchor stories in their time, providing rich context that illuminates the values, customs, and spirit of a bygone era.

In my writing, I use Christmastime celebrations as a lens through which the reader can view of the joys and challenges of my characters as well as the historical tapestry of their lives.

In *[Masque of Honor](#)*, the Twelfth Night party is one such example. This holiday affair celebrating the epiphany and the end of the Christmas season was once a significant event in the social calendar of the 19th century but now is largely forgotten. In my story, the Twelfth Night party serves as a vivid setting for an emotional turning point in the lives of Jack and Lucinda. Against the backdrop of candlelit revelry, their relationship faces a pivotal and emotional turning point, fueled by a misunderstanding about Jack's actions. The Twelfth Night tradition, with its music, feasting, and masked intrigue, transports readers to a world both familiar and distant, where relationships unfold under the weight of strict social codes.

Similarly, in *[The Grays of Truth](#)*, Christmas takes on a pivotal role. For Jane Gray, the holiday becomes forever entwined with a life-altering moment ... [<Read More at my Blog>](#)



Holiday Special - Exclusive Author Edition Trio



For a limited time, I am thrilled to offer a special **Author Edition Trio** of my three best-selling historical fiction novels—*Masque of Honor*, *Veil of Doubt*, and *The Grays of Truth*—all together for **just \$49.00** (plus shipping).

If you love rich historical detail, compelling characters, and stories that weave mystery into the fabric of America's past, this exclusive trio is a must-have addition to your library and a great gift for the bibliophiles on your list!

Don't miss this chance to own these **first edition, personally signed best-sellers**.

BUY NOW FOR \$49.00

***The Grays of Truth* in the News!**




Midday Maryland (WMAR Channel 2 – Baltimore) - [Watch Here](#)



 Virginia This Morning (WTVR – Richmond, VA) - [Watch Here](#)

 Having Read That (KSCJ Radio – Sioux City, IA) - [Listen In](#)

 True Crime Authors and Extraordinary People with David McClam - [Listen In](#)

 The Writing Corner with Authors' Alcove with Agnes Wolfe - [Listen In](#)

The Grays of Truth is Ready to Fly with You!

The Grays of Truth is on sale at fifty airport bookstores across the country! From LaGuardia to LAX.

- Spot it, snap a pic, and tag me!
- Purchase it for yourself or a friend
- Register your purchase
- Get a bookmark & book plate
- Enter to win Grays SOCKS

Register Your Purchase



Enter to Win 40 Books!

The contest is open until Friday, January 10th at noon.

***The Grays of Truth* is a "Bets On" selection for 2024!**

The Bookreporter.com is doing their big Year-End Contest where one lucky winner will receive all 40 of the Bookreporter "Bets On" selections, while ten other readers will each win four books!

If you love to read, this contest is for you ... you'll find everything from historical fiction to psychological thrillers, to mysteries, memoir and fiction!

Christmas At Selma

On Sunday, December 15th we opened our home for a fundraising event for the Loudoun Museum. Guests got a glimpse of the holiday décor, including seven "Sharon-designed" Christmas trees and one "Wicked" themed tree, and enjoyed an elaborate dessert buffet and open bar. From now until Christmas, a different tree will be featured on my social media and the link to the entire photo gallery will be posted this Friday. So follow me on [FaceBook](#) or [Instagram](#) to see it all!





BOOKPLATE GIVEAWAY

Sign up for an Autographed Bookplate

Christmas with the Queen Giveaway

One of our favorite **#ReadWithSharon** authors wants to give you a Christmas gift!

If you have purchased Heather Webb's new book *Christmas with the Queen* and would like a signed book plate from Heather, simply fill out the form at the link and we'll pop one in the mail to you. Offer ends on Christmas!

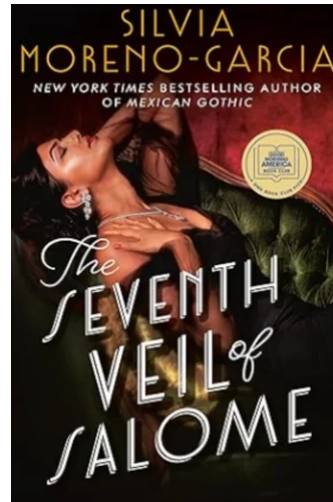


#ReadWithSharon

Historical Fiction Book Club

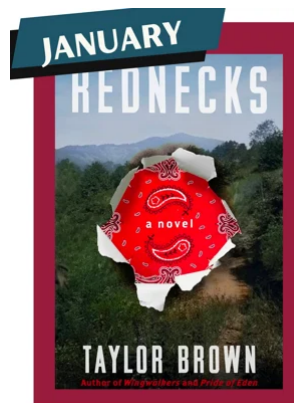
Get ready for an awesome line up in my **#ReadWithSharon** book club. On Thursday, December 19th at 7pm eastern, we will discuss our December read, *The Seventh Veil of Salome* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia.

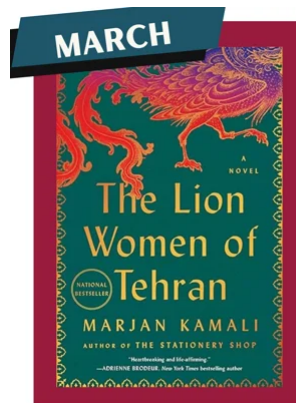
The #ReadWithSharon book club only reads current



release (within the last year) historical fiction and I do my best to pre-read every selection before making the pick. Most months, the author joins us via zoom and you are able to ask questions during the discussion. Meetings are the fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm eastern (except for November and December to avoid the holidays), and never go longer than an hour. For meetings you miss, you can access our zoom discussions with the authors on my [YouTube Channel](#).

If you love stories from the past, this club is for you. You can sign up for free [HERE](#)





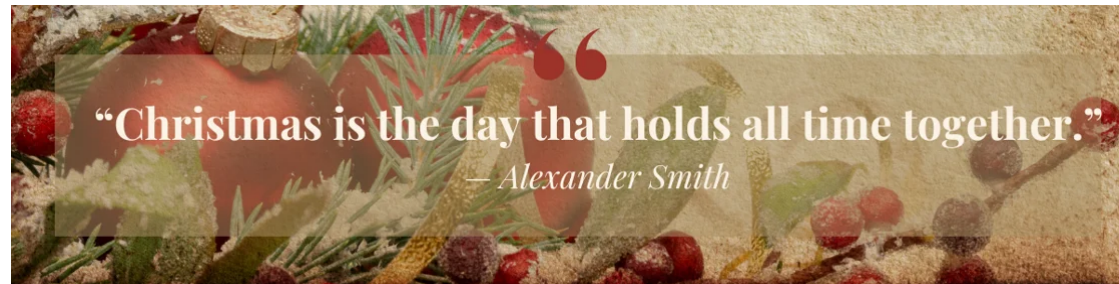
"Caption This" Content Call

For years, you've wowed me with your witty one-liners and hilarious takes on my weekly "Caption This" feature. **Now, I want to showcase YOUR photos!**

Send me your most fun, quirky, or curious snapshots, and I'll feature a new one each week for the community to caption—and win prizes. **Let's keep the laughter rolling!**



Upload Photos Here



Hope you have a wonderful Christmas!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.



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