

JANUARY MUSINGS

SHARON VIRTS



A Presidential Election that Changed the Country

As we step into 2025, marking 200 years since the pivotal events of the 1824 presidential election and the 1825 "corrupt bargain," my next novel invites readers to revisit one of the most contentious and transformative periods in American history.

A sequel to *Masque of Honor*, my new story (based on real-life events) delves into the political and

personal complexities of a rapidly evolving nation. While Jack McCarty remains a central figure who somehow finds himself back on the dueling field, my new book

shines a spotlight on other characters from *Masque of Honor*, revealing their unique perspectives and roles in shaping the story against a backdrop of dramatic political change and personal struggle.

The book starts at the end of 1821, and it's not long before Jack finds himself in the midst of a number of controversies including the infamous "[corrupt bargain](#)" that shook the foundations of our young republic. The election of 1824 was hotly contested among four major candidates: Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, William Crawford, and Henry Clay. When no candidate won a majority of the Electoral College votes, the decision fell to the House of Representatives...

Interested in more? ... [Read On!](#)



“What does the election of 1824 tell us ...as much as the times seem to change, the more they remain the same.”

— *Sharon Virts*

Special Offer Extended - 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!

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

BUY NOW FOR \$49.00

***The Grays of Truth* Reviews: I NEED YOUR HELP!**

Call for reviews on Amazon and Goodreads

If you've finished reading *The Grays of Truth*, I'd be so grateful if you could take a moment to share your thoughts with others by leaving a review on Amazon or Goodreads. Your review helps other readers discover the book and helps improve the book's position in Amazon and Google algorithms (which makes my publisher very happy!).

Amazon Review

Goodreads Review



New Release Winter Reading

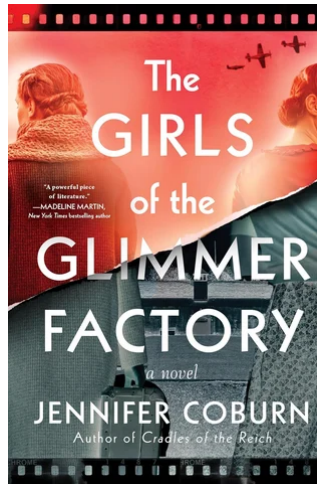
Winter is a perfect time to settle into a great book!❄️ Check out some of the new releases in historical fiction that have just hit bookstore shelves.



The Stolen Queen by Fiona Davis

4.2★ on Goodreads

In 1936, anthropology student Charlotte Cross can't believe her luck when she gets the opportunity to work at an archaeological dig in Egypt's Valley of the Kings... but then circumstances go horribly wrong. In 1978 New York, Annie Jenkins is assisting *Vogue* fashion editor Diana Vreeland with the production of the Met Gala when an artifact goes missing from the famous museum — and an ancient curse appears to have been unleashed.



The Girls of Glimmer Factory by Jennifer Coburn

4.5★ on Goodreads

Hannah is a Jewish prisoner at Theresienstadt, where the Nazis create propaganda videos to convince the world that the Jews are being treated well in the ghettos they have created all over Europe. Though Reich member Hilde knows support for the Nazi cause is failing in Germany, she's determined to help the party with their documentaries... and taking advantage of an old friendship with Hannah, who has vowed to disrupt the filming and derail the increasingly frequent deportations to death camps in the east.



Ace, Marvel, Spy by Jenni Walsh

4.2★ on Goodreads

At seventeen, Alice Marble has no formal tennis skills and no coach. What she does have is an ability to hit the ball as hard as she can and a strong desire to prove herself. With steadfast determination and one sacrifice after another, Alice plays her heart out on the courts of the rich and famous, at national tournaments, and—the greatest of them all—at Wimbledon, rising to be one of the top-ranked players in the world. But then war breaks out in Germany and her world falls apart.

“The way a crow shook down on me the dust of snow
from a hemlock tree - has given my heart a change of
mood - and saved some part of a day I had rued.”

— Robert Frost

Journaling Challenge

January is a great time to start the year fresh with a new journal! For those of you who journal regularly, starting your January journal is a breeze. But for those of you who don't journal regularly or at all, taking the first step is often the hardest.

To help you along, I'm taking a page from the journals from yesteryear...literally!



Almost every old journal I have read, the writer focused on five (5) basic topics in their entries. The 5 Ws, as I call them:

- the WEATHER
- WHO they were with
- WHERE they were and WHAT they did
- WORRIES they have
- WISHES for the future

Unless there was a significant event that occurred on a particular day, that's pretty much all she wrote! And on most days, the entries were short and didn't address all five topics.

If you are just getting started or would like to begin journaling, today is a perfect chance to do so. What's the weather today? Who are you with and where are you? What worries did you have today? And what wish do you have for tomorrow, this week, this month, this year?

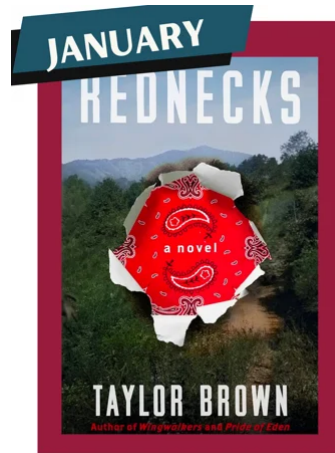
It's as easy as counting to five!



#ReadWithSharon

Historical Fiction Book Club

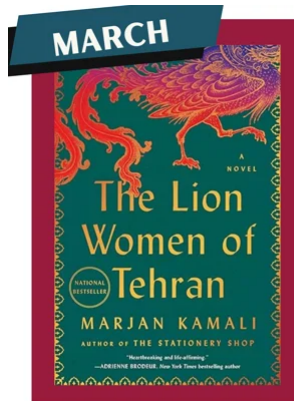
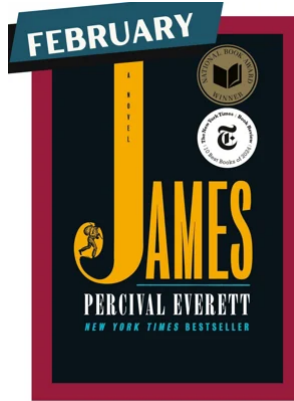
Get ready for an awesome line up in my [#ReadWithSharon](#) book club. On Thursday, January 23rd at 7pm eastern, we will discuss our January read, **Rednecks** by Taylor Brown -- a historical drama based on the Battle of Blair Mountain, pitting a multi-ethnic army of 10,000 coal miners against mine owners, state militia, and the United States government in the largest labor uprising in American history.



Also, please note a change to our line up for February. I have swapped out *The House of Eve* for **[James](#)** by **[Percival Everett](#)** due to author availability issues. Both books are fantastic and we will attempt to get *The House of Eve* in the line-up later in the year when the author is available.

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, 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



Time to Thrive in 2025!



WWW.SHARONVIRTS.COM



Sharon Virts, Selma Mansion, Leesburg, VA 20176, United States, www.sharonvirts.com

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