

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
J.T. ELLISON



Greetings from Scotland! NO ONE KNOWS is almost here...

September 2019 Newsletter
Vol. 210

Hi, Gentle Reader!



This month's missive comes to you from the wilds of Scotland, where I am currently doing research and working hard on the new book. Well, at the moment, I'm having a wee dram of whisky, but you get the idea. Ironically, the new book takes place in Italy, so the research is for a future story, but no matter. Research is research, and I am a fan of doing mine first-hand. I like knowing how things smell, taste, feel, sound. I can only get so much from Google Earth. Being in my settings adds a layer of complexity to the story. I miss my kittens, though. It's truly the only drawback to all the traveling I do, having to leave those fuzzy little beasts behind. When we're in the continental US, and going for more than 10 days, I generally pack them up and bring them with. Two hours on a plane is one thing – I wonder what they'd make of an 8 hour flight overseas??? I doubt we'll ever know. They dig the short hops, though.

Back to Scotland, shall we? It is tied with, perhaps even edging out, Italy for my favorite country to visit. Italy has the food and the wine, but speaking in a foreign tongue for days on end is difficult. Scotland has the food and the Scotch, and English speakers, but the weather isn't as great. Personally, I was thrilled to trade my bathing suit for jeans and sweaters and boots a little early. It's been chilly here, but not cold. The weekend was glorious, actually, with tons of sun. We visited a number of Speyside distilleries, learning their histories, tasting the whisky, walking the grounds. This is a special place. Just like wine country, every distiller has a story to tell. And I, a professional storyteller, find nothing more entrancing than listening to the history of the highlands. I have a lot of Scots in my blood, and in this land. Knowing what my people went through is vital to me.

And here's a fun story. We ended our third day in the highlands at Balmoral, a place I've always wanted to visit. Because the Queen is in residence, we weren't allowed on the grounds, but there's a lovely wee bridge and some trails leading to the gates, so we hiked around. And lo and behold, who should we see...but the Queen herself. She and Prince Charles were walking up the golf course just across the river from us. I admit to going all sorts of fan girl, taking pictures and squealing a bit. I mean, come on. Not only has she dedicated her life to her people, Elizabeth is a very powerful person in the midst of a massive struggle. The fate of her nation, her very legacy, depends on what the Brits do over the next few weeks. It's a fascinating time to be in the UK, trust me. Knowing the PM had just left, one

can only imagine the conversation she was having on her walkabout.

We also bumped into Ludacris at the Macallan distillery. So it's been quite a trip. I don't think I'll ever forget riding through the Cairngorms listening to "Money Maker" blasting through the speakers.

The first leg of this trip started in Canada. I had two amazing days with Team JT at the new Toronto offices, having meetings, lunches, and dinners, seeing the plans for **GOOD GIRLS LIE** and my future books, deepening relationships with my team. We also had a celebration and signing for GGL, with a cake that was insane. The details were mind-blowing, all parts of the book—the ivy, the swallow, the gates, the tie—have you ever seen anything so cool? I was so touched, so overwhelmed. MIRA has been my home for a very long time for a reason. It's a great place to be, and I love working with everyone.



I spent the next day at the Toronto film festival, in the media room, being interviewed about the new book. 75 interviews, to be exact. I honed my elevator pitch of GGL to a sharp edge—Jane Eyre meets Gossip Girl—and that went over well. It was an amazing day, and I met some incredibly cool people, many of whom I am still in ready conversation with. I was so hyped up, I didn't sleep on the plane over to Scotland, which means I went a solid 32 hours before I had a wee nap. I'm still catching up, will be for a while, probably. Reverse jet lag isn't my friend.

Also, while I was away, I received the fabulous news that Publishers Weekly **gave GGL a starred review!** Talk about exciting! A stunning way to kick off my new baby.

But what about the new book, you ask? It is humming along. I kind of like it, kind of hate it—pretty typical for this stage in the game. I have a relatively quiet fall ahead, minus **Southern Festival of Books** and **Bouchercon**, so getting it drafted up properly is my priority.

And with that, let's talk about what's happening in two weeks...

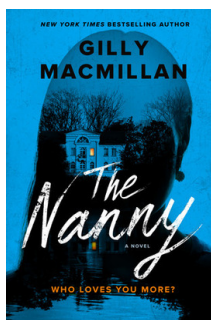
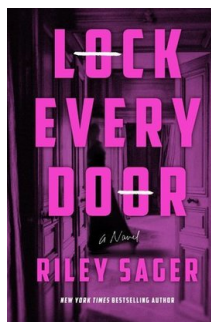
□ **NO ONE KNOWS** mass market is almost here!

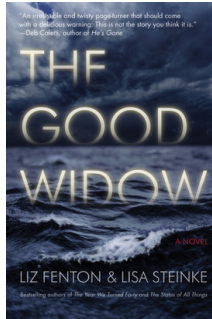
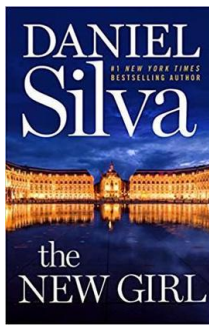


NO ONE KNOWS was my very first standalone and wound up being a SIBA Okra Pick, a April 2016 Book Of The Month selection, the She Reads Book Club spring selection, and Modern Mrs. Darcy included it in her Summer Reading Guide. Now here we are, three years later, and it's about to release in mass market paperback on September 24. Best of all, it has the original ending that had been edited out for the hardcover edition! I love this book, love Aubrey and Josh and Chase, and I think you will, too. And [Goodreads is giving away 100 copies](#) (US only) so be sure to enter, but best pre-order it, just to be safe 😊.

I WANT THIS!

▯ What I'm Reading





Click the covers to learn more!

LOCK EVERY DOOR by Riley Sager

Riley Sager is doing a lot of great work lately, and LOCK EVERY DOOR fits well into his canon. Echoes of Ira Levin's ROSEMARY'S BABY are clear, and The Bartholomew is a character unto itself. A satisfying thriller with a great twist.

THE NANNY by Gilly Macmillan

Gilly Macmillan is an outstanding writer, but The Nanny is a step above. Complex, intriguing, scary, devastating, and so lyrically written I got out my "I'm not worthy" kneepads, you are going to go ape for this one.

THE NEW GIRL by Daniel Silva

Silva never disappoints. After last year's outstanding THE OTHER WOMAN, I was worried about how he would top it. This follow-up is classic Silva, with a topical storyline and twists galore. Many outstanding questions are answered. Highly recommended.

THE GOOD WIDOW by Liz Fenton and Lisa Steinke

I've had this stellar suspense by Lisa and Liz on my TBR for ages. I have several of their books from Thrillerfest, but I wanted to go to the beginning of their suspense journey, and boy am I glad I did. I totally missed the twist coming, which I attribute not to sloppy reading on my part but a subtle, insidious plot device on theirs. So bravo!

Cool Things From the Internet

The most anticipated thrillers of fall 2019. I was blown away to see GGL included on this list with such great company! So many amazing books coming...

Here's The "Harry Potter" Road Trip Every Fan Needs To Do ASAP. I'm game! I've done Oxford and most of the Scotland spots so far...

50 Ways to Live On Your Own Terms. Brilliant advice. As a matter of fact, I'm refilling my teacup and rereading right now.

Books and Ink: The Literary Tattoos of NYPL Staff. I love a good literary tattoo.

39 Ways to Your Deepest Clean Yet: The Ultimate Fall Cleaning Checklist. Who doesn't like to clean in the fall? This is a thorough guide to getting your house/flat hygge ready!.

September Recipe: Sticky Toffee Pudding



In honor of my sighting of the Queen, and since I don't get to have it properly very often, I'm resurrecting a recipe from a few years back that is one of my all-time favorites. I actually had it in Edinburgh for the first time several years ago, and I'm a total hound for it. This recipe can be easily adapted for GF, too!

STICK IT TO ME

You can find all of my recipes [here](#).

That's it from me! Take a nice walk and think about life, make yourself a lovely pudding, have a wee dram with it (what's your favorite whisky?) and I'll see you next month. Oh, and please do grab a copy of **NO ONE KNOWS!** It is truly a book of my heart, and I'd love to share it with you.

peace and hugs,

To ensure delivery of these missives, please add jtellison@jtellison.com to your address book so you always receive them.

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Are you still here? Here's a kitten for your troubles!



Let's be friends. I don't bite!



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