

JANET ROBERTS

ONE WRITERS WORLD

Each month I'll share with you a bit of my travels, my writing projects, books that I recommend, and a cybersecurity tip!

December 2024



Football Rivalries and Elections

The last couple of months in the U.S. were rough. We were bombarded with TV, email, text, and phone ads and solicitations by the various political campaigns. Every day we heard we're a "divided nation". I learned that, historically, book sales are low during an election year. Seriously? What better way to escape tension, anger, and pressure year round?

I'm the child of a mixed football marriage. My late father was a die-hard Cleveland Browns fan. My mother comes from a Pittsburgh Steelers family. If you live in Ohio or Western Pennsylvania you'll instantly get what this means. Everyone else can easily Google it.

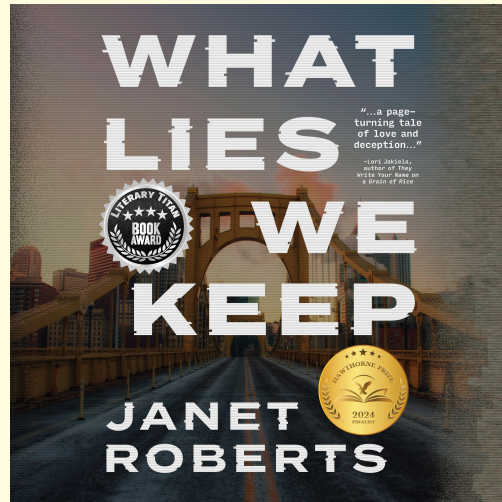
We're used to watching the teams slug it out, often in a blizzard, honoring the age old rivalry of 2 cities in 2 states less than 2 hours drive from each other. But my family is not a "divided family". We love each other, we concede loss, we congratulate victory, and we hope to win the next battle.

Americans once handled elections the same way. Let's take any ugly emotions and read more books! My wish—hopefully it's not a fantasy—is that we escape into a good story and emerge a little wiser, a little kinder, a little more relaxed as a nation.

What's Up Next?

Love Audio Books? It's Almost Ready!

The audio book version of *What Lies We Keep* will be available on Audible (ACX) soon! Stay tuned...



Author Confessions: The Facts Behind Fiction.

Get a peek into my thoughts when writing *What Lies We Keep* in Linden Stewart's [Author Confessions](#) column. I had a great time answering her questions.

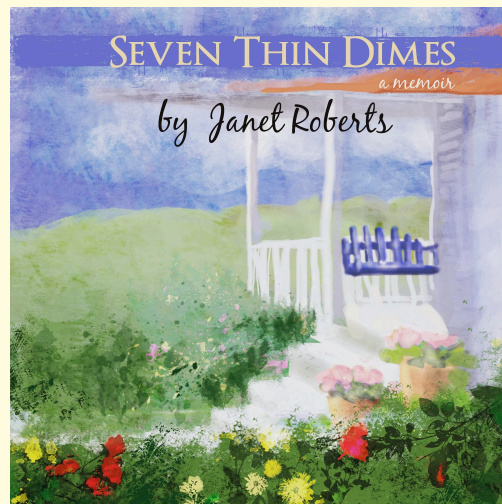
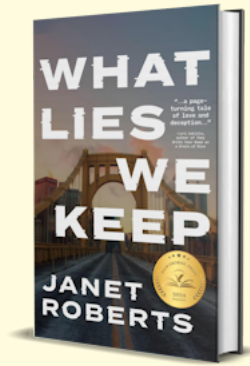


Missed the November newsletter? [Click here](#) to read it. Watch for updates on my work-in-progress in January!

Where can you find my books?

What Lies We Keep has been a finalist or winner of 6 awards and is available online at [Amazon](#), [Bookshop.org](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), & [Ten 16 Press](#). In Western Pennsylvania, you can find hard copies at [Stay Gold Books](#) (Regent Square, Pittsburgh); [Riverstone Books](#) (Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh); or [Werner Books](#) (Erie).

I rarely promote my little memoir, *Seven Thin Dimes*. Based on memories of my grandmother's house in McDonald, PA., it's a 2017 Honorable Mention recipient from Pittsburgh's "The Author Zone". I'm always surprised how many people say it takes them back in time to their own grandmother. It's available on [Amazon](#).

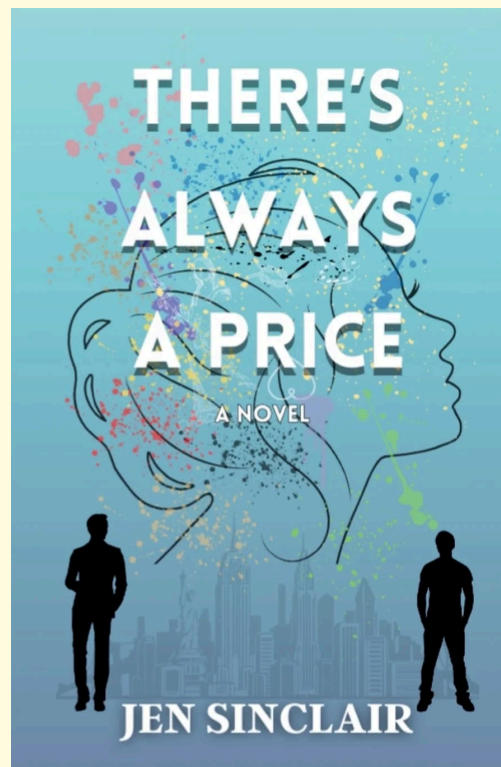


The [audio book version](#) on Audible/ACX is narrated by Lisa Hicks. There are a few phrases spoken in the Belgian Walloon dialect that she mastered really well. :)

Awesome Book Shout Out!

Indecent Proposal meets the Exit Strategy in ***There's Always a Price***, Jen Sinclair's exciting, page turner debut novel. I know a book is really good when I'm sad it ended and I want a sequel ASAP! :) I really want to see what happens with Lucas!

The Night We Lost Him by Laura Dave is a beautiful love story wrapped in a tense whodunnit. It explores the love of a daughter for her father, and finding true love by releasing old fears. I liked it but I didn't love it as much as "The Last Thing He Told Me".



Cybersecurity Tip

As you give this holiday season, remember that amidst the joy of giving are cybercriminals working to enact fraud. Here are a few tips for charity donations:

Smart Steps 4 You

Don't follow unsolicited web links or attachments in email messages. They may lead you to a fake website that mimics an established charity.

Never make cash donations.

Do a little research.

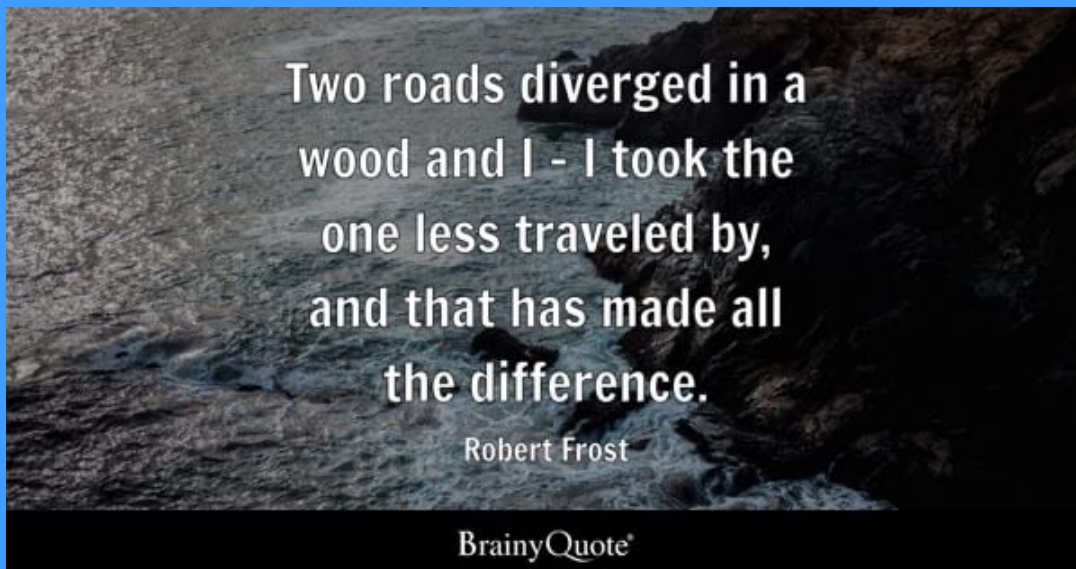
Legitimate charities will gladly send you written information when requested. There are non-profit watchdog groups that evaluate a charitable organization's performance in a number of areas, such as:

- [Charity Watch](#)
- [IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search](#)
- [Charity Navigator](#)
- [Better Business Bureau](#)
- [California Registry of Charitable Trusts](#)

Always make your checks payable to the organization, not to the individual soliciting.

Call organizations directly.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be a representative of a particular agency, hang up, look for the organization's number, then call—confirm the person contacting you is legitimate.



Books By Janet Roberts

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