

Kaki's e-Newsletter

April 9, 2011

A light-hearted e-newsletter designed with my fans, fellow authors, and anyone thinking about writing someday, in mind. I'll be chronicling what it's like to promote my books (eek!), providing tips on how I got published (finally!), and keeping you posted on how I'm surviving as a published author.

**Check out my
NAME THAT GUY!
Contest, details
below...**

**Heartbreak Creek,
the first book in
my new trilogy,
The Runaway
Brides, is coming
out in July!**

**[Click here to read a
5 page excerpt](#)**

Remember me? I hardly do either.

I've been holed up for so long trying to get Book 2 of the *Runaway Brides Trilogy* done—COLORADO DAWN—I wouldn't have known spring was springing if I hadn't been blinded yesterday by an incredibly bright orb outside my window. I think it's called the sun. It didn't stay long. Has this been the weirdest winter, or what? But it looks like it's about over, thanks to good ole global warming—although it was a little slow getting here this year, I must say.

But I've learned a lot over this winter of writing.

- 1.) All those pounds everybody else happily loses will find your butt if you sit on it at a computer 16 hours a day.
- 2.) My husband is becoming a fine cook—if only he would figure out that fat/sugar/carb ratio-thing. (See #1).
- 3.) Al Gore is a dog-ass liar about global warming. At least at my house.
- 4.) Snow scenes stop being pretty after the 4th month.
- 5.) Christmas trees can stay up a lot longer than you think—you just quit seeing them after a while.
- 6.) Thinking to liven up your stories by injecting characters from foreign countries is beyond clinically stupid.*

*Remember PIECES OF SKY? No? Then go buy it. You'll like it, I promise. Anyway, I thought, hey, we're in New Mexico. It should have at least a few Spanish-speaking characters, right? Of course. So I dredged up the few Spanish words I know (mostly food items) and augmented that with a Spanish-English dictionary, and a substantial dirty word list—thanks, Clara—and typed away.

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Kaki's books?

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OPEN COUNTRY. Same characters, fewer dirty Spanish words, but then this crabby Scotsman shows up with an entirely different accent and speech pattern and some weird phrases of his own. Hello, internet. But that wasn't as hard as trying to learn about medical procedures and patent medicines in 1870 without nauseating myself. But I persevered, because I'm just that kind of person.

CHASING THE SUN. Some Spanish, a little Scots Gaelic, and just for the helluvit, let's toss in some Catholic nun stuff. (Those folks have a lot of rules. Just so you know). But I was learning.

Then comes the next trilogy, The Runaway Brides (hmm...now where have I heard of that? Oh, yeah. Everywhere. No matter.). But in a fit of rampant idiocy, I decided to perk things up in Book 1, HEARTBREAK CREEK (coming out July 5th), with a Southerner (not too hard, since I'm sorta from Louisiana), a Yankee (not that hard either, since they're all over the place), and...wait for it...wait for it...a Cheyenne Dog Soldier! YEA! So now I have to study up on them (a tough group for sure), the Sun Dance Ceremony (Gads!) and the language itself (do you know how many vowels those guys use? In a seven letter word there might be three a's in a row: Haaahe=hello. Try saying that three times without laughing).

And now Book 2, COLORADO DAWN, where I have entered a whole new realm of insanity by adding a Scottish cavalryman (language AND military stuff), more on the Cheyenne, and more than I ever wanted to know about photography (back then), Colorado statehood, and mining. And BTW, thanks Katrina for helping me with the Scottish dirty word list. I could be a sailor, I swear. Heck, pretty soon, I'll just write gibberish and call it a whole new language. But it's been fun. Mostly.

Got some good news along the way too: PIECES OF SKY was named Best Historical Romance 2010 at [Blue Moon Reviews](#). And that's French, mes amis, which pretty much makes me almost nearly semi-famous in 2 (that's TWO) entire countries! HA!

PIECES OF SKY was nominated for Best First Historical at RT Book

Reviews, and is a Best First Book RITA Finalist. Meanwhile OPEN COUNTRY is a Best Historical RITA Finalist. I know. It made me tear up, too.

But wait. There's more! Berkley is re-releasing all the Wilkins brothers books in mass market in October, November, and December of this year. To celebrate the new covers (no nekkid guys) I'm having a "Name That Guy Contest", along with free books and my usual foolishness. It'll be a hoot. The contest starts today and runs through next Sunday, 4/16. Here's the skinny: I'll be unveiling the new heartthrob covers by posting them to my [Facebook](#) page and [my blog](#) and I need your help coming up with some, ahem, stage names for these boys. There will be three winners, one for each book, and they will each receive a signed copy of CHASING THE SUN just in time for Mother's Day! The funnier and more offbeat the names, the better. **So bring it! Click here to see the covers and *Name That Guy*!!** [Facebook](#) or [my blog](#)

So other than the fact that I have the cutest grandchildren on the planet, that's about it from the Great Northwest. So how have you weathered the winter? Ready for spring? I sure as hell am.

Later,

K

Read what reviewers are already saying about *Chasing the Sun*!

"A+ Nearly Perfect. A keeper!" --[Once Upon a Chapter](#)

"The new year begins with the end of a sweeping trilogy." --[Heart to Heart: The Barnes & Noble Romance Blog](#)

"8.5 stars, very good" --[The Season of Romance](#)

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