



I'm reading a book on anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.



CONGRATULATIONS to Deborah Simpson for publishing her first novel. Deborah worked as a registered nurse for 40 years in Hartford, Connecticut, before moving to Florida, where she has found her writing community. Before moving, she took many creative writing and poetry classes at the Olli Institute at the University of Connecticut. Her first murder mystery, *Murder on Palm Island*, is set on an island off the north coast of Florida. A hurricane strikes, a murder occurs, and it is eventually solved. This quick read is perfect for packing in your bag for vacation.

Amazon Reviews

By Billie Jean Glenn

I used to think writing and self-publishing my first book was the most challenging thing I would ever do. I was wrong! Getting reviews on Amazon is even more challenging! I get it...I've never been one to take the time to write a review, even if I *loved* the product. And to ask my family or closest friends to write a review was *not* something I wanted to do.

However, the day I tried to find my book on Amazon, I panicked when it didn't come up! I took a few deep breaths and typed in my name and found it. Whew! From watching my Dashboard on Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing, aka KDP, I knew that after three months of good sales probably everyone who knew me and wanted to purchase my book had bought it. I expected sales to slow down since I'm an unknown author to the general public. But, I *didn't* expect my book to *not* come up on the website after doing a SEARCH using its title. That took the wind out of my sails. I had to figure out what I needed to do to fix it.

I decided to seek advice from KDP since I published through them. Their Facebook site indicated I was not alone with this dilemma, but all I found were posts from authors who required payment to acquire their wisdom. No thanks! Seeking the internet, I found what appeared to be unscrupulous avenues to obtain reviews, including *buying* them. A big NO THANKS! At that point, I aborted trying to find my solution on the internet and went directly to a source I knew I could trust. By consulting experts in my local literary community, I learned it is *absolutely* necessary to ASK FOR REVIEWS, and to ask readers to click on the Amazon heart icon and put my book in their Favorites or Shopping List—even if they may have no intentions of buying it. Bottom line: ACTIVITY on my account is crucial for Amazon's algorithms to keep my book's info flowing in their system.

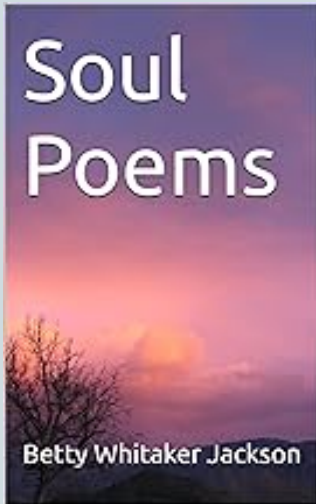
After receiving just 8 reviews, my book easily came up on Amazon's SEARCH using its title. *And, it's selling again!* To keep momentum, I plan to solicit reviews via personal emails with the goal of 2 reviews monthly. Of course, 5 star reviews are the best, but I was told that *any* review is helpful to keep activity and algorithms ongoing.

I'm a firm believer in learning from my mistakes, and as a first time author, I'm happy to share with fellow writers what I have learned. If this article helps you, please let me know via Facebook or Messenger.

Wishing you successful sales and *many reviews*, Billie Jean Glenn, author of *Little George's Amazing Adventures - (With thanks to advisors Cynthia Hall and Lynda DuBois)*

New local author Books Available on Amazon.

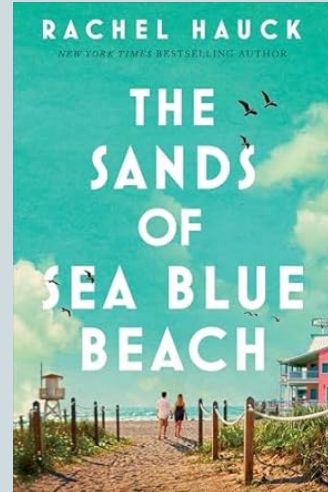
Your latest book could be displayed here. Send cover to Cindy
brevardauthorsociety.1@gmail.com



happy 85th birthday!



linger at the edge of
the page



a sweet and swoony
love story about
facing old wounds

When you step into a library, you're not just walking into a warehouse filled with books. You're entering into a cathedral of dreams come true.

- Jenny Lundquist

Joanne Fisher is this month's Featured Author at Addison Village AND Moon River Cafe this month. Visit her in the [Addison Village Community Center 8150 Stadium Pkwy, Viera, on August 8th from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.](#) Attend her workshop at [Moon River Cafe, 728 E. New Haven Ave. Melbourne, August 9 at 3:00 p.m.](#)

Joanne Fisher is a Canadian-Italian-American author. Her "Christmas In..." series continues to enchant readers with Italian-style romantic stories and delectable recipes. Spice up your life with "Her Spanish Doll" and the *With All of Me* saga. All have fantastic reviews on Amazon. History anyone? *Good Things Always Happen in Springtime*, a WWII romance and "Magnolia Blossom", a forbidden romance in the mid-19th century, are exceptional historical fictions. Ah! Mystery and murder! Joanne has written 3 magnificent novels: *Vendetta in Viera*, *The Melbourne Connection* and *The Devil of St. Gabriel*. All with winning reviews. Don't travel until you've read *Traveling Boomers* travel guides. These guides will help you to become an expert traveler, no matter how old you are! *Baker's Dozen Anthology* is a collection of 13 short stories: all about love and one is a true story.

She lives in central Florida with her husband Dan and her beloved doxie Wally.

IN OTHER NEWS...

Skull and Books Vr - 8 N. Brevard Ave. Cocoa Beach is accepting local author books for consignment, see Will, 321-450-2140, <https://skullandbooksvr.com> - At Skull & Books VR,

we've brought together two of our greatest passions—books and gaming—to create a space where imagination knows no bounds.

The Forgotten Bookshop - 1024 Hwy A1a, #140 Satellite Beach, Rebecca Christophi is opening a bookstore in Satellite Beach in August, selling used and new books as well as hosting writer's workshops, book clubs, and children's story hour, and will even feature local writers. Grand Opening August 9th 5-7 p.m. Contact Rebecca for more info at theforgottenbookshop@yahoo.com

Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest - Sponsored by Winning Writers, our 23rd annual contest will award \$3,500 for the best poem in any style or genre, and \$3,500 for the best poem that rhymes or has a traditional style.

Submit published or unpublished work. Length limit: 250 lines per poem. No restriction on the age of the author. Entry fee: \$25 for each submission of 1-3 poems. Submit as many entries as you like. Deadline: October 1.

Winning Writers is one of the "101 Best Websites for Writers" (Writer's Digest, 2025). Submit [online](#) via Submittable. [Click to learn more about our guidelines and past winners.](#)

Space Coast Writers Guild has announced their Call for Submissions to their 2025 Short Story Anthology. This year's theme is "Odyssey". For submission guidelines, visit scwg.org.

Florida Writers Association **Create . Craft . Connect**

Florida Writers Con 2025

October 17-19, 2025, Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs

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There is no friend as loyal as a book. - Ernest Hemmingway

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