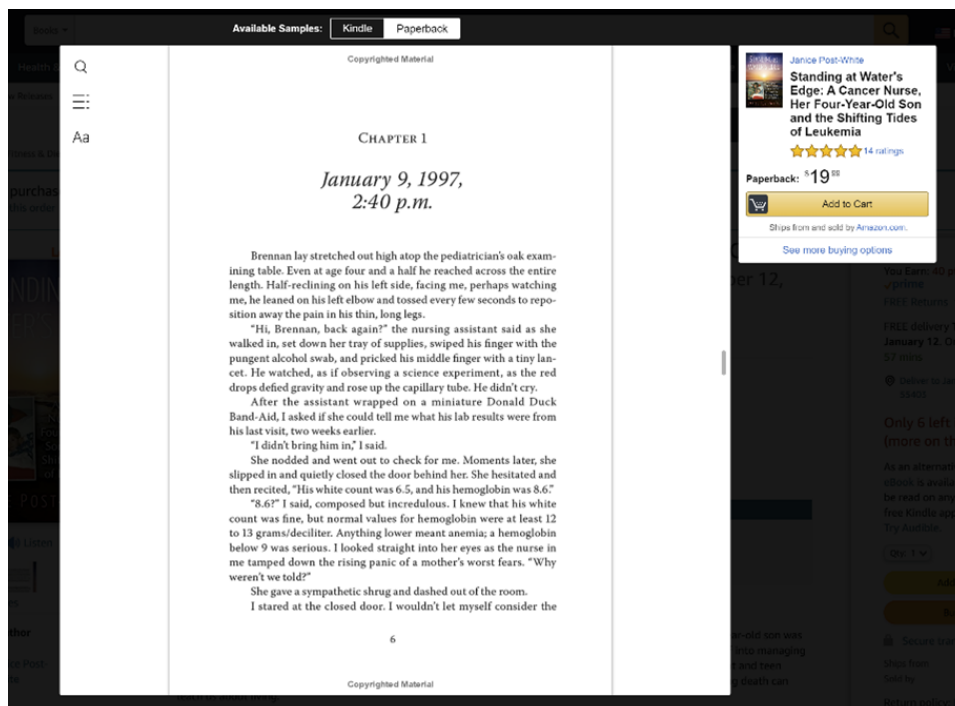




It's been one year since *STANDING AT WATER'S EDGE* was published and 26 years since my son's diagnosis of ALL. Anniversary memories...



Write a review to get it noticed!

Book Update

Also, this month, *Standing at Water's Edge* was awarded **First Place** in the prestigious American Journal of Nursing (AJN) **Book of the Year Award** in the category of Consumer Health and **Third Place** in Creative Works. Over the past year, it was a **Finalist** in Health/Cancer in the American Book Fest Best Book Awards, the International Book Awards,

and the Eric Hoffer Book Awards. It also received **five-star reviews** (or the equivalent) from Kirkus Book Reviews (10% get “starred”), US Review of Books, Readers Favorite, and Reedsy Discovery Reviews. I’m honored by the enthusiasm of expert (and critical) reviewers and grateful to them for choosing to read my story.

The greatest honor, however, is hearing from readers who can relate to and benefit from my words and my family's experience. Alison, a mom of a 7-year-old daughter with ALL, posted (in part) on Amazon:

"I so appreciate people who share their accounts with us through writing as we parents who are currently struggling need these stories to help us connect and help us through. This book is a great support."

Reaching readers is an ongoing effort among millions of published books, and personal reviews make a difference! When you like a book you have read, consider writing a sentence or two to boost Amazon’s algorithm and get the book seen by others (50-75 reviews is the alleged triggering target). To review *Standing at Water's Edge*, [click here](#) to leave a sentence or two about what you liked or what you think readers will appreciate.

Thank you for supporting *Standing at Water's Edge* and your favorite authors!



Events & News

Goodreads Giveaway!

In honor of this month’s anniversaries, you can sign up for a **free print copy** of *Standing at Water's Edge* through the Goodreads Giveaway program (open January 9-31). (You need to have a Goodreads account to enter). Winners are randomly selected by Goodreads and the book will be mailed to the 10 winners February 1. [Just click here to enter](#) and then click on the “Enter Giveaway” box to the right of the book cover.

While there, check out the 1100 [other giveaways](#) currently listed on Goodreads! Search by genre and/or format (ebook or print) to find books you’d like to read for free (if lucky enough to win). Good luck!

Nibbles...and novels

What are you reading this month? Do you have a preferred genre? Nonfiction revenue increased 22.8% since 2014, although pandemic reading favored a return to “escapist” novel. [Find more stats here.](#)

I typically read 2 to 3 times more memoirs and nonfiction than fiction, but back pain-induced bedrest this month re-engaged me with the distraction of a good story. Two favorites were [Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow](#) by Gabrielle Zevin (such depth and broad coverage of real-life issues), and [Misery](#) by Stephen King. I even watched the *Misery* movie to see how the screen adaptation captured my favorite elements--the protagonist’s writing insights and reflections (it didn’t). Read on to see my awe of this character...



Monthly Musings

I don’t make New Year’s resolutions, but I do set intentions for the year. This year’s mindset is, by necessity, to remain flexible and adaptable given my ever-changing health circumstances. It’s hard to write when flat on your back and in pain from a fractured vertebra. If interested, you can read more about adapting to illness and my latest crises on [my blog](#). It’s taken two months, but I now can sit (most days) at my computer in one or two half-hour bursts. This is why I related to Stephen King’s novel, *Misery*, so intently! Have you read it? Oh, the barriers the main character overcomes to crank out an unplanned sequel to his 8-book romance series when his captor demands that he bring *Misery* back to life! The consequences of not writing were powerful motivators for the novelist. But how the heck did he do it?

Unlike the main character, Paul, no one is threatening my life if I don’t write. I have only internal motivations--writing allows for creative expression, which brings me joy and gives my life purpose and meaning. As a nonfiction writer, it helps me make sense of my limitations and gives me insights into new ways of adapting.

I have even greater respect for Stephen King when he suffered years of pain and disability after being hit by an SUV while walking in his neighborhood. He wrote *Misery* (1984-6) before his accident (1999), but he’s still able to ensnare the reader into feeling the intense pain, fear, and drug-induced blurriness that the main character has to overcome to generate new ideas and get the letters onto the page (with a manual

typewriter, nonetheless). I looked up the dates because I wondered if King's personal experience made the writing so graphically real or if it was his incredible skill in scene writing and dialogue that effectively captures his experience (the latter, in this case, although he does write about illness in characters based on his personal experience in *Lisey's Story*). I'm in awe of his skill and his stamina.

Whether your barriers to writing or reading are external or internal (I am thankful for audiobooks when I can't hold and turn pages), I hope your motivations are stronger than the barriers, but not life-threatening...Happy reading and writing!

Thank you!

Thanks for being a part of my writing wanderings.

In my quarterly newsletters, I share book updates, a behind-the-scenes peek at writing and publishing, and tidbits on my latest lessons learned in life, writing, or publishing. Please share with your interested friends!

Sign up for my newsletter



✉ janice@janicepostwhite.com

Happy reading & writing, thinking & bemusing

Janice

Share this newsletter!



Janice Post-White

P.O. Box 3887, Minneapolis
MN 55403 United States



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