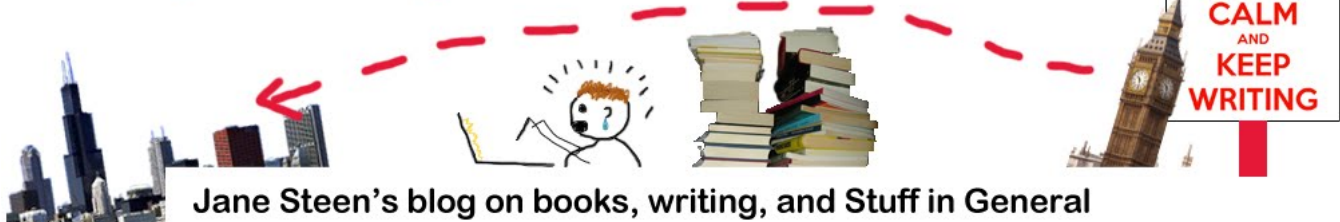


Keep Going You Fool!



Jane Steen's blog on books, writing, and Stuff in General

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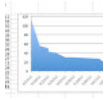
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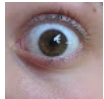
Lazy/Scared/Utalented to Write a Novel...

...but I did it anyway. Yes, friends, the Secret (not a secret at all if you follow me on Twitter!) is out. Yesterday I wrote "THE EN..."



The economics of self-publishing: post-promo sales and piracy

I promised I'd blog about my post-KDP-promo sales for you, so here it is. For those of you who are new to this blog, I put my novel The ...



Scared to write a novel? Here's why you shouldn't be

It never fails to amaze me that the most popular post I have written on this 'ere blog is the one about how I'm too lazy, scared a...

Book Review: Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel

Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel My rating: 5 of 5 stars Where I got the book: my local library. Oh, by the thrice-beshitten shroud of Lazar...

Book review: The Casual Vacancy by J.K. Rowling

The Casual Vacancy by J.K. Rowling My rating: 5 of 5 stars Where I got the book: my local library. It took me a while to decide to rea...



Scoop.It! for Writers - A User Review

I'm not sure how I came across Scoop.It! but I'm glad I did. I'm a big collector of information - I read a lot of blogs, in ot...



A Historical Fiction Book Blogger Tells All

Well, not ALL. But I do love an eye-catching title. I met book blogger Sarah Johnson on Twitter, and (as I do) immediately hopped over ...

It's GIVEAWAY time! Win a \$30

Friday, May 3, 2013

Indie Book Review: Tell a Thousand Lies by Rasana Atreya



Tell A Thousand Lies by **Rasana Atreya**
My rating: 5 of 5 stars

Where I got the book: copy supplied by author.

Whoops! This was supposed to be my April indie review but yeah, I got a bit behind. This was one of those occasions where an author cold-pitches me and I'm immediately intrigued by the setup, but I had NO IDEA of the directions this novel was going to go in. It starts quietly: because Pullamma's dark-skinned and tall and therefore not attractive by the standards of her corner of rural India, she is allowed to be present at her sister's bride-viewing party (she won't distract the future bridegroom's attention from her sister). So straightaway you have this sketch of what life is (was?) like for a woman without dowry or beauty: pretty bleak. I loved the way Atreya put me straight into India; unfortunately I've never visited the country but I got a vivid picture of the scene, the attitudes of the villagers, Pullamma's own drily humorous resignation to her lot. And all this in flawless English that wasn't any the less Indian for being correct.

So I wasn't expecting the stranger who throws himself at Pullamma's feet, a dead child in his arms...

Which neatly introduces the second theme, that of superstition. Pretty interesting, because I was sure at the outset that it would be Pullamma's dark skin (equating to unattractiveness) that would limit her options as a woman, but in fact it's the superstitious gullibility of the villagers that both traps and frees her. Pullamma's newfound status as a goddess makes her, for the first time in her life, useful, but unfortunately the man she's useful to is the unrelievedly evil Kondal Rao who exploits her for his political aims. The drastic action that she's forced to take to escape Rao's influence frees her from the limitations she's imposed upon herself, while causing her heartbreak worthy of Bollywood drama at its best.

And that's how I ended up seeing it: as a Bollywood story, full of improbable coincidences and tragic sobs. The melodrama lessens its effectiveness as a novel from a Western viewpoint but wow, what a story. I'd love to see it made into a movie.

[View all my reviews](#)



Labels: [Book review](#), [Indie book review](#), [Rasana Atreya](#), [Tell a Thousand Lies](#)

Reactions: funny (0) interesting (0) cool (0) boring (0)

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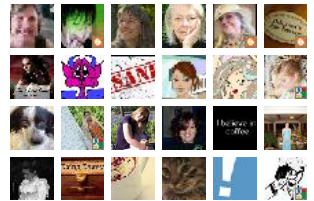
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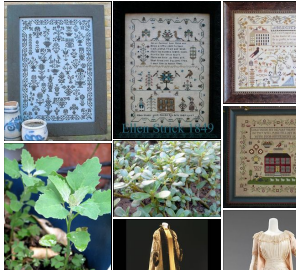
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 Jane has read 32 books toward her goal of 75 books.

32 of 75 (42%)

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2013 Reading Challenge

 Jane has completed her goal of reading 75 books in 2013

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2012 Reading Challenge

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101 of 85 (100%)

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