

POTPOURRI
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NEW RELEASE!

The Copper Box:
A Cozy Mystery

By: Suzanne Bratcher

Available at Amazon.com

Amazon.com eBook June 6
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The Story Behind the Story - Sneak a peek behind the scenes to find out what went into *The Copper Box*: from the history of the largest ghost town in America to Suzanne’s summer getaway to the Jerome Grand Hotel; from the idea that generated the plot to the spark that gave life to the main characters.

Remember, this feature is only available to readers who preorder and send a screen shot of your receipt to me. Preorder today! eBook Preorder Link: [The Copper Box by Suzanne Bratcher](#)



MY WRITING LIFE . . .

Has entered a new phase

Is on a steep learning curve

Feels like a dream come true

GAMES CATS PLAY (and the lessons we learn)

I've never had two cats before. I've had either a dog and a cat or one or the other. It took a neurotic kitty named Shimmer who had captured my heart to convince me to try opening my home to two cats at once. What started out as a foster arrangement with Scamp has now become permanent. I'm laughing a lot and learning just as much, so "Games Cats Play" may become a regular column for this newsletter. FYI: Scamp is the blond; Shimmer is the gray.



Paws Under the Door

Equipment: One door. A swinging door is best, but a pocket door will work.

Number of Players: Two cats

Rules of Play:

Both cats must be in the room.

Cat 1 "hides" behind the door. *Tip*: Cat 2 must be watching or the game won't begin.

Cat 2 "hides" on the other side.

Both cats lie on their sides, pretending to be resting.

Cat 1 slides a paw under the door.

Cat 2 bats the paw until Cat 1 withdraws it.

Cat 2 slides a paw under and Cat 1 bats.

Play continues until one cat walks off.

The Lesson: All it takes to have fun is imagination and a little co-operation.



WHAT I'M READING: *THE ROBE*

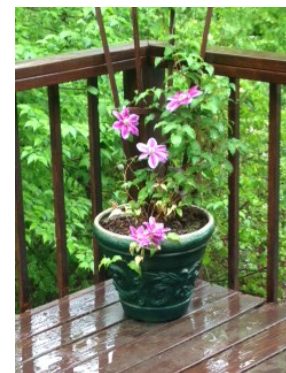


The Robe by Lloyd C. Douglas is a Christian classic, so you may have read it. Or then again, you might not have: it was published in 1942, before most of us were born. In 1953 the novel was made into a movie starring Richard Burton in one of his early roles. Though it's an old book, it's not hard to find. Reprinted in paperback in 1999, it's available on Amazon.

I read *The Robe* when I was in high school and went on to read the rest of Douglas's fiction. At the Good Friday service as the scripture passage (John 19:23-24) the soldiers gambling for Jesus' clothes at the foot of the cross as Jesus was dying, I suddenly remembered *The Robe*. Why? Because the inciting incident (as writers call the scene that introduces the main conflict of the plot) in *The Robe* is that dice game. Douglas names the soldier who won Jesus' robe Marcellus Gallio and makes him a young tribune in charge of the gruesome crucifixion. I won't tell you more of the plot because I hope you'll read the book. The characters are compelling and run the gamut of society, all the way from crazy Tiberius, the Roman emperor, to proud Demetrius, a Greek slave.

At the beginning of the story Marcellus is so disturbed by his role in the crucifixion that he suffers from what we call PTSD. Whenever he's in the grip of a flashback, he asks everyone he meets, "Were you out there?" After reading the book, I can almost say, "Yes."

WHY ARKANSAS—A Spring Tour of My Yard



A dogwood seems to float in the woods behind my house.

A pileated woodpecker (largest woodpecker in N. America) comes regularly to the suet feeder.

A lilac clematis vine blooms in a pot on my back deck.