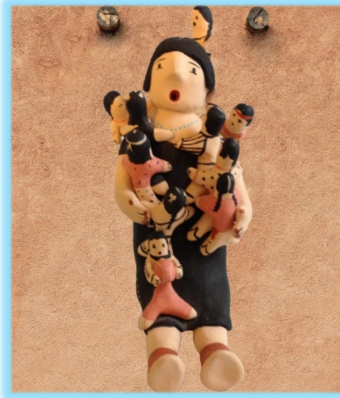


STORYTELLER



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Motto: God's grace is all I need, for God's power is greatest when I am weak. (From 2nd Corinthians 12:9a, GNT)

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Past issues: <http://suzannebratcher.com/newsletter-archives/>

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WIN FREE BOOKS!

Have you read my novel, *The Copper Box*? Between 12/8-12/13, you can win a Kindle edition of my book plus 19 more eBooks by other authors. Genres include mystery, romantic suspense, historical and contemporary romance. Whether you win the contest or not, you'll get freebies from participating authors just for entering. Watch for details about how to enter later this week.

MY WRITING LIFE

While I plot out the next mystery in my Jerome series, I have another book to complete. My WIP (work-in-progress) is *Guardians of the Canyon*, a romantic suspense novel. After I finished it (about a year ago) my agent submitted it to *Love Inspired Suspense*, the publisher it seemed right for. An editor liked it but she suggested some revisions that would make my story move faster. Among her suggestions was moving the action that happened in the middle of

the book to the end of chapter three. At first I resisted because that seemingly simple change would toss out approximately half of the chapters I'd written. Still, she was an editor I respected. Once I calmed down, I considered what the revised story would look like. A little begrudgingly, I admitted she was right. The story would be much better. I took a deep breath and went back to the drawing board (literally to the chapter outline). I identified chapters that would have to go and new chapters I would need to write. Then I sat down in front of my computer and went to work.

I was about two-thirds done with the new version when Mantle Rock Press offered me a contract for *The Copper Box*. Thus began deadlines, updates of my website, new business cards, and the demanding world of book promotion. In mid-October, I finally got back to *Guardians*! When I left Kate and Dan to fend for themselves, they were in a helicopter headed for Las Vegas. I got the copter onto the helipad, and even before they disembarked, they were in trouble, but with great courage they completed their journey. I'm at the editing stage now, working over the sentences. By the first of the year, I should be done (again) with *Guardians of the Canyon*. Then we'll see what the editor has to say!

WELCOME PEARL, MAINE COON MIX

August 14, 2017, Mayflower Animal Shelter

Monday, August 14, Pearl Maine Coon mix was adopted from the Mayflower Animal Shelter. She will make her new home in Hot Springs Village, a town about an hour from her birthplace. She was named because of the white spot on her chest reminiscent of a pearl broach. She joins brother Scamp, American butterscotch tabby, in a two-cat household. We know she will be well-loved and happy in a house filled with cat toys.



Pearl now has a new name: Mini Pearl! She got that name because she's so tiny. If you remember "Minnie Pearl" from the Grand Ol' Opry (the lady who wore a straw hat with the price tag still on) you'll catch the pun-intended.

Christmas Gift for the Mystery Lovers in Your Life

Looking for a gift for the mystery lovers in your life? How about giving them a copy of *The Copper Box*? If you're giving a paper copy, I'll be glad to send a personalized book plate with an inscription. If you're giving an eBook, I'll write them a personal email. Send your details to me at suzanne@suzannebratcher.com.

SCRIPTURE for REFLECTION

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. [John 1: 1-5]



1. As readers and writers, we love words. Why do you think John chose the title "Word" for Jesus?
2. Why do you think John wants his readers to know Jesus was with God in the beginning?
3. What time in your life was Jesus a light shining for you? What was the darkness that did not overcome His light?



Christmas Blessings,
Suzanne

Write to me at suzanne@suzannebratcher.com