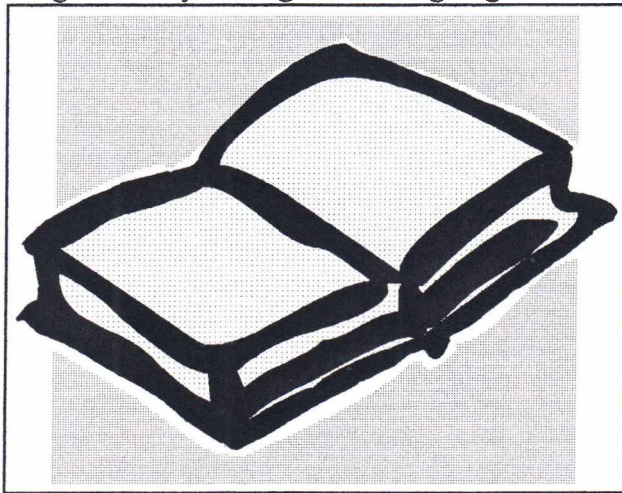

Guilty Pleasures 18



PIRATE'S PRICE is on sale at Daylight Dreams, a division of Dreams Unlimited (www.daylightdreams.com), and so far I'm encouraged by the responses I've been getting from readers. No one has yet said "I couldn't barf enough". In April I'll be the guest author in CompuServe's Romance writing forum (<http://go.compuserve.com/romance>) and I'm looking forward to a stint in the hot seat, talking about my writing and writing in general.



Other People's Books:

The St. Johns--A Parade of Diversities--James Branch Cabell--

Every now and then I hit the stacks at the library for research and I'm always thrilled to find something special. THE ST. JOHN'S is very, very special.

Back in the 30's and 40's there was a series of books published called The Rivers of America featuring writers like Edgar Lee Masters on the Sangamon, August Derleth on The Wisconsin, and Branch Cabell on the St. Johns.

This book is hysterical. I kept laughing out loud as I would read his witty, pithy and scathing comments on the Founding Fathers of Florida. He saves some of his finest vitriol for Andrew Jackson. Here's what he had to say on Jackson's illegal foray into Spanish Florida where he massacred Indians and hanged two British subjects without trial:

"In bare time to prevent a Congressional investigation of his disregard for every known rule of international law, he allied himself with pirates and routed the English at New Orleans...and through this double outrage became his country's idol, exalted very far beyond any criticism by common sense."

Or this, on Jackson's stint as military governor of Florida:

"Andrew Jackson, that idolized heckler for the unshaved frontier, who was now beginning to dominate the United States as an epitome of their national failings, was sent by President Monroe to make Anglo-Saxon the Floridian peninsula--after,

it so developed, somewhat the primal methods of Horsa and Hegist.”

I love this book. By the time you read this I should have my own copy in hand after doing a search of the used book sites.

This Heart of Mine--Susan

Elizabeth Phillips--Now, I'm not a football fan, but I am a fan of the Chicago Stars. The Stars are the fictional football team in a series of funny romance novels by Susan E. Phillips, starting with *IT HAD TO BE YOU* back in the 80's. That book introduced Phoebe Sommerville, owner of the Stars and Dan Calebow, the Stars coach. There was also Phoebe's brainy and bratty little sister Molly who lived with Phoebe. Since then there have been three additional Stars books and now Phillips concludes with the story of the all grown up Molly and Kevin Tucker, the Stars quarterback first introduced in *NOBODY'S BABY BUT MINE*.

Molly writes children's books and there are lots of comments on children's book writing and timely cultural references--Molly and her nieces and nephews call people they don't like "slytherins". The love story is entertaining, but for me the best part was the snippets of Molly's books about Daphne the rabbit and her friend Benny the badger at the beginning of each chapter, for Daphne and Benny paralleled what was happening in Molly's life with Kevin. Without the sex, of course.

It's a cute book and a fun read and breaks Phillips into the ranks of romance writers published in hardcover. I'd recommend it, but only for hardcore romance fans--others may find Molly and Kevin's hijinks a bit too far beyond believability.////###

Movies!

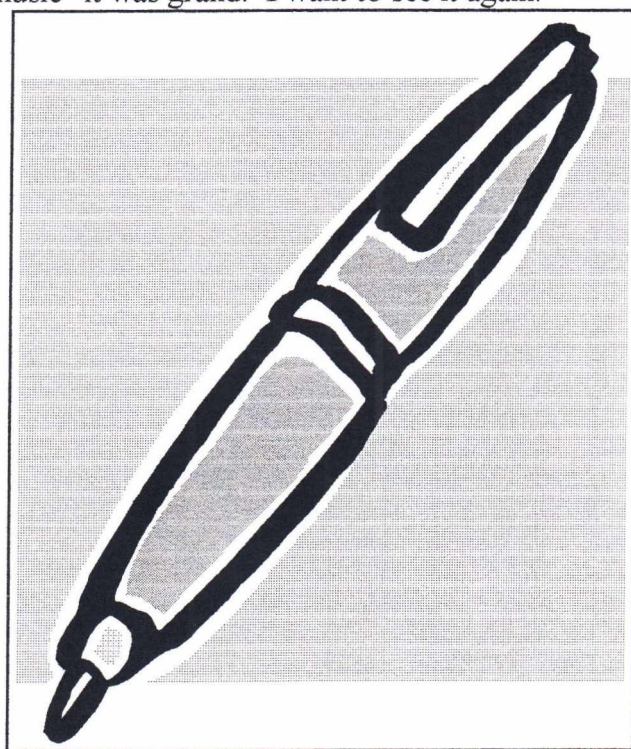
O Brother, Where Art

Thou?--A sweet, strange little retelling of the Odyssey with great music and George Clooney looking foolish as all get out. There's little logic but a lot of fun in this story of three escaped

convicts trying to get a cache of treasure before a Mississippi valley is flooded for hydroelectric power. Naturally, I got the CD. I was surprised at how many of the songs I recognized--"I'll Fly Away, Big Rock Candy Mountain, Man of Constant Sorrow" and more. Very well done and it reintroduced classic American folk and country music to a new generation. Micah loved it.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden

Dragon--Possibly the best movie I've seen this year. It was all wonderful--the strong heroines, the cinematography, the costumes, the music--it was grand. I want to see it again.



Mailing

Comments, SFPA

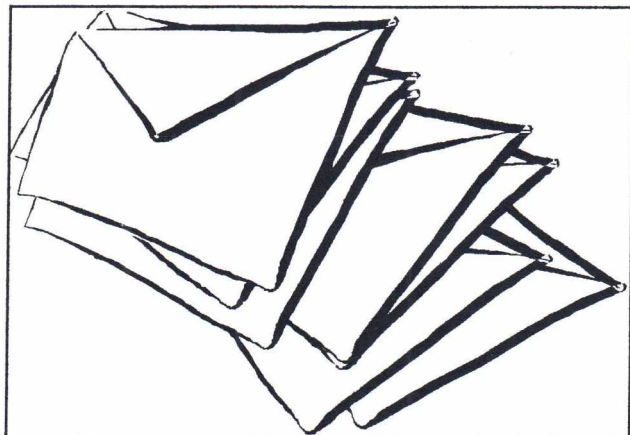
219:

Brooks--Ct. Schlosser--There was an interesting news article last week on hybrid cars,

saying they posed special dangers to occupants and rescue workers. Apparently the cars can release toxic chemicals from their batteries if the battery is damaged in a crash.//

Ct. Robe re: Gifted children: Our state legislature in its wisdom decided that if they want to save money, the place to take it from is the hugely successful Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs. In other words, by depriving the state's best and brightest of a quality education in our public schools we'll drive them off to private schools and that will fix the problems in our public school system, by golly!

Or as Howard said to some friends, "since when did it become a tenet of the Republican party that we no longer reward competence?" Fortunately the cuts were removed when Tallahassee got flooded by e-mails and letters from local school boards, elected officials, parents, teachers and students saying "Are you nuts?!"
//####



Lynch--Ct. Me: I used a pseudonym for PIRATE'S PRICE because it's a romance novel. If I ever write a SF novel I'll want to keep "Eve Ackerman" in reserve for that one, because my name (heck, even just the *Ackerman* part of my name) is well known enough that I can get more mileage out of it there. In genre fiction it's not a good idea to confuse the readership. There are lots of people who love "J.D. Robb" police procedural futuristics who wouldn't be caught dead reading a Nora Roberts romance. If someone picks up an "Amanda Quick", they know it's a historical, a "Jayne Anne Krentz" is a

contemporary and a "Jayne Castle" is a sf romance--but all are written by Jayne Anne Krentz.

And if my next book is in print, the "M" books get shelved in the middle, which is better product placement than the "A" books.<g>//####

HLAVATY--Re: Giants spilling their seed, once again you've managed to amuse me with football humor. Thanks!//####

Hughes--Extremely cool wrist camera! Dick Tracy would be so jealous!//####

Schlosser--You gave Kay a 1/4 carat engagement ring? And she hasn't poisoned you yet? Brave man.//Glad parts of your New Orleans trip were all you expected them to be. I have to admit, I like Cafe Beignet's product better than Cafe du Monde, but I may have just been at du Monde on an off day the last time I was there.//####

Lillian--Um, I wouldn't get my hopes up too high, Guy, about being cast as the lead in PIRATE'S PRICE. But there's a gay pirate who doesn't bathe very often--would you like to play him?// Regarding the wedding invitation, at this point I hope to be off that week with my husband celebrating our 25th year of wedded (mostly) bliss. But if our plans change, I'll let you know. Thank you for the invitation though. I'd love to be able to join you and Rosy celebrating your special day.//####

cleary--I'm sorry about the health problems, but as you said, it could be an opportunity to kick start a weight loss program. Right now I'm trying to break through another weight "plateau" and I know it's going to take cutting back to smaller portions, something I was

hoping to avoid. But I don't feel comfortable adding to my exercise program right now, so I don't have much choice if I want to take off the additional weight and keep it off. Hang in there! If you take off a substantial amount of weight you'll look at yourself in the mirror, feel how comfortable you are with your new body and wonder why you didn't do it sooner.//

On the Ga-Filk logo, is that a Darwin Fish with a kazoo? It looks very cool.//###

Brown--Cute kid.// Sorry about the flu and the diet problems. As I mentioned to Randy, it's the pits when you hit a weight plateau and you have to do something drastic to break through.// "Tropic Magazine" no longer exists? What replaced it?// As always, The Lower Case is very much appreciated.//

A small correction in your ct. To J. Copeland: "AVC" (Americanism vs. Communism) was a Florida required course, not a US required course. Only the Florida State Legislature in its wisdom could have conceived of such an abomination and made it mandatory.//###

Gelb--Funny you should mention THE GRAND ELLIPSE. You're the second person to recommend it and I just got it from the library. Now I'm really looking forward to it.// Ct. Me: Micah has now seen "Ferris Bueller" and is getting the cultural references. I tried to explain to him that it was a cult movie of his generation, but I'm not sure he sees that yet.// Regarding a Theater Degree, I may send Raphi's teacher flowers. She told the class "people who go to college to become actors spend a lot of their time saying 'these are today's specials...'. People who get tech degrees in sound, set design, and lighting are constantly in demand." Raphi was listening and said it made sense to him, so he may yet go for some kind of tech/science degree and combine it with theater arts.//

I agree with you about Joan Wolf jarring the reader out of the 12th Century milieu. One of the things I like so much about Carla Kelly is she is very good at keeping the reader's head in the

Regency era. BTW, did you ever see the "Horatio Hornblower" series on A&E? A friend loaned me the set of videos and they were very well done, and Ioan Gruffudd as Hornblower is very easy on the eye.//

As always the New Yorker cartoons are a treat.//###

It's almost April, which

means it's time to start panicking now for Passover. This year my mother-in-law won't be joining us. She thought the trip down from the nursing home would be too difficult, so we will travel up to see her during the week. But it won't be the same. This holiday, more than any other, is the time one has family gather together. However, my brother and his wife will be driving up from West Palm, so that will help, and we'll have our usual crew of people who come to our house.

In the meantime I'm trying to finish the first draft of my WIP, CAPTAIN SINISTER and I'm finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Events are picking up, stuff is happening and if I can get my act together I might actually have this puppy ready to send out before WorldCon, which would be a big relief. So I'll see you all in 60, and here's the colophon stuff I didn't put at the beginning of the 'zine:

Guilty Pleasures #18

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