

# Passages #14

Produced by Janet Larson, 1659 Huntsman Drive, Aiken, SC 29803-5237  
Phone (803)642-3227; email [jdlarson@bellsouth.net](mailto:jdlarson@bellsouth.net).  
For SFPA #228

It's 2 days before the deadline, and I'm at home, but the mailing is on my desk at work, where I accidentally left it. So, despite my best intentions, I guess I'm not going to be able to do mailing comments again. Unless I can find a little time tomorrow..... So I'm going to try to type something legible in the next few minutes.

A Voyager rerun is on UPN, I can't remember the title, (I think it's "The Killing Game" or something similar) but it's part 2 of a two-parter, in which the Herogians, a race of hunters, take over Voyager in order to turn the holodeck into hunting games. I get tickled by the new UPN commercials, and the paradoxical shows that are on the network; Enterprise follows Blind Date and Shipmates. Voyager reruns follow WWF Smackdown. I watched Buffy for the first time, because of all of you touting its virtues. It's definitely a quirky show; it was the episode about Buffy going to work for a fast-food restaurant to make money, and uncovering some supernatural goings on, and a particularly nasty monster, who is reminiscent of the "Where's the Beef?" lady. By the way, I have been enjoying Enterprise. I know it probably seems fairly primitive to most of you, but I get a kick out of the tension of exploring the unknown, which none of the other Star Treks seemed to have been able to carry off as effectively.

Being parents of twins involves a lot of sleep deprivation. Most parents of single children complain of lack of sleep; you can more than double that with twins. Every time they are cutting a tooth, catching a cold or a flu bug, or seeing monsters in the dark, they're up in the middle of the night. Add that to being on call every other night for pregnant women, and their propensity to labor in the night, and the sleep deprivation is quite intense. Fortunately, since our new doctor started July 1, I will have 2 out of 3 nights and weekends off. I think I've figured out why Haydon has been waking up every night for the last 3 weeks; he's developed a fear of the dark. I've been leaving the babies' door open and the hall light on, and he has slept through the night for 2 nights in a row!

By the way, have I discussed the reason why our species has a tendency to deliver babies in the wee small hours? I believe it's because our traditional predators were diurnal, that is, hunted during daylight, such as saber tooth tigers. So the best time to deliver is during the darkness, but at least 2 hours before dawn, so that the mother has time to clean up the blood before the tigers wake up. Horses, by the way, are able to suppress their labors, and can deliver within a 30-minute time-span, with the baby capable of getting up and running from the predator within an hour of birth.

I have been trying to ride my horse more. It's my main exercise (I keep hoping I can drop 15-20 more pounds left over from the babies!), and also the main way I recharge

my psychic batteries to keep myself going. I have gone to 3 horse shows this spring, in May and June, and I won one championship in my division. I'm starting to feel more confident in my riding skills; the little voice that kept screaming "You're going to die" whenever I would try to canter has been quiet for several months now, and I have done a little jumping. I'm learning how to use my balance as a lever to make the horse use her body properly. The biomechanics are fascinating. My cardiologist says that every doctor needs a second career, a dream or a vision of their life that can keep them going after they retire. Since doctors tend to be such workaholics, if they don't have something productive after stopping the practice of medicine, they tend to wither and die when they retire. I would like to run a riding academy after I retire, so I envision my riding lessons now as a training program for my future career. I've been looking at farms that would be a base for my riding academy but also a place where we can live for my working career. Also, the real estate should be a good investment.

I have read a few books lately. Ring of Fear, by Ann McCaffrey, was copyrighted in 1971, and published in 1999. It's a mainstream romance novel that was intriguing to me because the heroine and her love interest are horse trainers, and they meet at a horse show. The Fear in the title refers to a murder mystery, the heroine's father was murdered, and the killer is coming after her. The references to the timeframe the novel was written, the late 60's, are amusing. I enjoyed the book.

I also read Freedom's Ransom, the latest in McCaffrey's Catteni/Botany series. I can't be completely objective since I love everything McCaffrey writes, so let me just say that I enjoy the series, and I hope there are more. This most recent novel shows more of the post-apocalyptic Earth, and she goes into what happens to coffee drinkers after the collapse of the industrial infrastructure, which is particularly terrifying to me, since I am one of the biggest coffee addicts I know. Frightening.

I can't remember if I talked about listening to Michael Crichton's Timeline on tape; I listened to it about 6 months ago, and really enjoyed it. Of course, since 12<sup>th</sup> century France is the setting of the book, since that was my era when I was active in the Society for Creative Anachronism, I was bound to love it. I really wish some Hollywood studio would pick it up; it would be a dynamite movie. Schwarzenegar would be perfect for the lead, if he's not getting too old.

We're going on vacation August 3-10, to Destin, on the Florida coast. I love the Gulf coast with the white beaches, and the babies should have a great time. I can't wait.

I guess that's all for now; need to get ready for FedEx.....