



# From the Writer's Desk

e-Newsletter

September 2010

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## House of Cleaving sneak peek!

As promised, here is your sneak peek at House of Cleaving due to be released spring 2011. Click below to view the first chapter.

[http://www.melissanewman.net/?page\\_id=325](http://www.melissanewman.net/?page_id=325)

All feedback is welcome.  
E-mail me at [melissa@melissanewman.net](mailto:melissa@melissanewman.net)

## Quick Links

[www.melissanewman.net](http://www.melissanewman.net)



## Writer's Block

Thank you for signing up to receive my e-newsletter. This is my first edition, with many more to come.

I call this section "Writer's Block" not because I have it -- I have been very blessed to have never had it -- but because I thought it might be a clever section header for this column. It was a very spur-of-the-moment decision. So, if any of you have ideas for a better one, I always welcome your input.

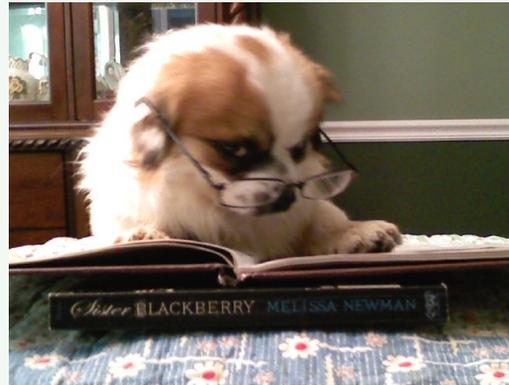
It has been a very exciting summer for this writer. Along with promoting Sister Blackberry through book events and reader visits and working on a screenplay, I have been actively seeking a publisher who will offer national distribution for my work. The good news is I have found such a publisher. The contract signatures are in the works now.

This means that whether my readers live in Seattle or Miami or anywhere in between, they will be able to go into their local bookstore and ask for House of Cleaving and get it! I love Amazon, Barnes and Noble online and all the other e-outlets who so graciously distribute Sister Blackberry, but sometimes readers just want to go to a bookstore to buy their books. House of Cleaving will also be offered through all public library resources.

With this new higher-level distribution comes even more marketing responsibility for this writer -- more book events, discussions and appearances. The bad news is that House of Cleaving will not be available this fall as I had hoped. The new release date is spring 2011 -- April, May or June.

You will find the winners of the Traveling With Sister Blackberry summer contest in this e-newsletter below. Those winners will still receive a free copy of House of Cleaving but will have to wait until Spring 2011 to get their prize. By late winter I will know an exact date for release.

As promised your sneak peek of the first chapter of House of Cleaving can be found on my Web site. Click here [http://www.melissanewman.net/?page\\_id=325](http://www.melissanewman.net/?page_id=325) or on the link to the left under the column heading "House of Cleaving sneak peek" you will be directed to my Web site where you will see the first chapter. I hope you love reading it as much as I loved writing it



### Traveling With Sister Blackberry Winners Chosen!

Winners from the Traveling With Sister Blackberry Summer 2010 Contest have been chosen. We had eight winners in

all.

The pictures submitted by loyal Sister Blackberry fans while on vacation, or in some cases just doing their day to day, were absolutely wonderful! Winners will receive their free copies of House of Cleaving when it is released spring 2011.

Winners are: Billie Hayes, Pam Smith, Jeree Koehler, Barbara Trevor, Diana Mills, Ivadean Gibson, Malena Jones and Maxine Myrick. To view the winners' submitted photos click here [http://www.melissanewman.net/?page\\_id=43](http://www.melissanewman.net/?page_id=43)



### Upcoming Events

I have two wonderful upcoming book events. The first one is at Art Circle Public Library in Crossville, Tennessee. I have been invited to be the keynote speaker for a fundraising event for the Friends of the Library on Thursday, October 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The other event is the Kentucky Book Fair in Frankfort on Saturday, November 13 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Kentucky Book Fair is Kentucky's premier literary event and one of the largest of its kind in the nation. It is sponsored by The State Journal, the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives and the University Press of Kentucky. The book fair is held each year

at the Frankfort Convention Center. For more information about either of these events, click here [http://www.melissanewman.net/?page\\_id=295](http://www.melissanewman.net/?page_id=295)

## Sister Blackberry screenplay progress

The initial stages of the screenplay for Sister Blackberry are now in the works. The skeleton (pardon the pun) has been built and now the flesh is ready to be added. We (the writers) know where we want to go and now have the program to take us there -- Final Draft -- a screenwriting software tool set. Writing a screenplay is not more difficult than writing a novel but is very different.



I am enjoying the learning process of this most exciting visual medium. I read recently in Script Magazine that only one percent of all screenplays written ever make it to film. But much like my characters in Sister Blackberry and House of Cleaving, I've never been one to fear a longshot. Even if Sister Blackberry never sees the big screen or the small one, it's the learning experience I value most. I have so many story ideas that may not warrant writing an entire novel. This is a good medium for those stories so they do not go untold. I'll keep you posted on our progress.

## Thank You

I want to take a moment to say thank you to my loyal readers. I hope to take you with me wherever I go in this business of book publishing and more.

A writer's work is never finished until someone reads it. So really you are the most important element of my work.

If any of you have questions, would like to talk about a personal appearance at your book club or library, or just wish to make general comments, I can be reached at [melissa@melissanewman.net](mailto:melissa@melissanewman.net)

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