

Hello from Barbara Kyle
November 2009



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

My husband and I live aboard our sailboat Speedwell on Lake Ontario for half of every year, May to October. (For the nautically interested, she's a 46-foot ketch.) We've just



hailed her out for the winter, and each time we do this I envy the boaters in southern latitudes who enjoy life on the water all year 'round. Ah well, our summers are glorious.

I always like spotting intriguing names on boats. Some favorites noted in a previous newsletter were Kinship, Two If By Sea, Stress Management, and Summer's Lease. Recently I spotted Sol Mate and Jamaica Me Crazy.

Here's a story a sailor friend told me. He was puttering on his foredeck in the marina one day and noticed a classy sailing yacht coming in to dock near him. The name painted on its hull was:

Mist . . .

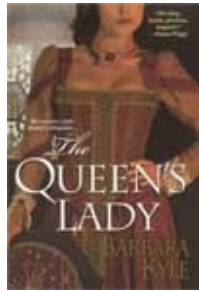
Now, Mist is a pretty name for any boat, my friend thought, but those three dots trailing after the word, what was that about? He sauntered over to greet the new arrival, as sailors will do, and asked the skipper about the dots. Turns out the skipper was an obstetrician-gynecologist and his boat's name was a nifty phonetic rendering of:

Missed three periods

I guess this doctor had enough patients who'd missed three periods that he could afford the classy yacht.

NEW "THORNLEIGH" NOVELS

The first two novels in my Tudor era "Thornleigh" series, *THE QUEEN'S LADY* and *THE KING'S DAUGHTER*, have brought enthusiastic responses from readers. It's always a joy to get email from people who've loved these books.



THE KING'S DAUGHTER, released nine months ago, has sold so briskly it's gone into its third printing. My agent continues to sell foreign rights to both books, most recently to Hungary and Portugal. And my publisher will bring out a mass market paperback edition of *THE QUEEN'S LADY* in December 2009 – just in time for holiday gifting!

What's ahead? I recently finished work on book #3 in the series and sent the manuscript to my publisher. Titled *THE QUEEN'S CAPTIVE* it features the young Elizabeth Tudor.



Elizabeth Tudor at age fourteen.
(This is not my book's cover, but it's an appealing portrait.)

THE QUEEN'S CAPTIVE begins in 1554 when twenty-year-old Princess Elizabeth is imprisoned in the Tower of London by her half-sister Queen Mary (this is historical fact) and Elizabeth is sure she will be executed for treason. But Mary releases her to house arrest (also true) and waits for her to make a false move to condemn herself – which is where my fiction takes over. Sir William Cecil calls on Honor Thornleigh to return from exile in Antwerp and help Elizabeth in the fight of her life.

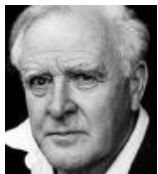
The stakes intensify for the Thornleighs when Honor's husband Richard enters parliament to battle the Queen's heretic-hunting policies, and their seafaring son Adam falls passionately in love with Elizabeth, and she with him – all while Honor plays a

dangerous game as a double agent, aware that a false move of her own will uncover her past as a condemned heretic. To save herself, her family, and Elizabeth, Honor must turn the headstrong princess into a queen before “Bloody Mary” destroys them all.

THE QUEEN’S CAPTIVE will be published in August 2010.

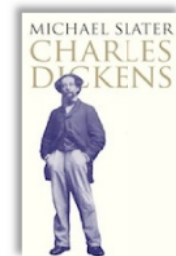
Many readers who enjoyed THE KING’S DAUGHTER wrote to ask me to continue the story of Isabel Thornleigh (Honor and Richard’s daughter) and the mercenary soldier Carlos Valverde as they brave the New World. I’m happy to report that I’ve just started work on book #4 in the series – untitled as yet– and it will feature Isabel and Carlos.

WHAT I’M READING



John LeCarré is always an elegant master of writing craft, and in his new novel A MOST WANTED MAN he’s also a voice of outraged compassion for the victims of our international paranoia in the “war on terror.” I found this book very moving.

A recent review of Michael Slater’s new biography of Dickens, focusing on his writing life, made me want to rush out and buy the book. (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2009/oct/10/charles-dickens-michael-slater-review>)



Speaking of Dickens, I’m halfway through Matthew Pearl’s rollicking novel THE LAST DICKENS. This cunningly intricate mystery is an adventure tale that brings the great Victorian writer to life as vividly as one of his own creations.

Happy reading!

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