

MAY - JUNE 2024
ISSUE 11.0

LITERATE-LY MAGAZINE

FROM REVIEWS TO LITERARY NEWS
FROM HISTORY TO HER-STORY
BUILT TO EDUCATE AUTHORS

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ZOLA BLUE

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ZOLA BLUE

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GIL SNIDER

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Gil Snider & Judy Snider

Literate-Ly Magazine: In three words, describe yourself.

Judy: funny, kind, curious

Gil: intellectual, funny, empathetic

Literate-Ly Magazine: How many books have you written? How many of those are published?

Judy: 2 award winning children's books (one with my sister) and three suspense (Back-to-back thriller series) and my newest suspense, Betrayed, with my husband I write quick read suspense with strong women.

Gil: Three suspense books have been published-Brain Warp, The Last, and Betrayed with my wife Judy.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Tell me about how you come up with your titles for your stories. Do you create the title before or after you write the book, and does it ever change from the initial title?

Judy: I love to come up with the title before I write the book. It is as if someone whispers the name to me. I Love You, Be Careful, the book I did with my sister came to be when we were on a call and she said to her husband as he was walking out the door, I Love You, Be Careful. That book became a Mother's Day type of book for grownups...Mom's Choice Award Book.

Gil: For The Last, although the protagonist is Dr. Anne Mastik, an Infectious Disease consultant with multiple sclerosis, I wanted the reader to focus on Ruth Morehouse, a teenager with a



terrible weight of history on her shoulders and how she matures as a character. As for Brain Warp, I didn't realize that the title would make people think of it as a non-fiction book about the brain. I wish I could change it.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What is the title of your last published book? What's the title and when was it published?

Betrayed, April 1, 2024

Literate-Ly Magazine: Out of all your characters in all of your books, who/what (sometimes a setting can also be an important "character") do you think is the most interesting and why? Judy:

Judy: I like Maggie in my first suspense book, Too Late To Run. I like Amy in Betrayed. I like strong, sensitive females in my books.

Gil Snider & Judy Snider con'td



Gil: I had the most fun writing Scorpion, a malevolent enforcer for the Russian Mafia with a dark past, in Brain Warp. Sociopaths are always fun to write, but they never change. I think Dr. Anne Mastik, in The Last, had the most character development, having to deal with her disabilities and difficult past while she protects Ruth and deals with the dangers in the present.

Literate-Ly Magazine: I know your story is fictional, but what inspired writing it?

Judy: The Donation Man came from a friend who had someone very upset when she said no to a donation call. The Donation man is also set in New Orleans, a city I went to school in, and still love the city...and the food. I love suspense books/film/TV, and a friend said even if I wrote

children's books I could do suspense. Initially I said "No I can't", but finally I tried. Now I have children's books submitted, and I have my publisher, World Castle Publishing, for suspense. I plan to continue to write both. I do not do gore, or violence/sexual in my suspense books. I hope they are picked up for film/tv someday. I will read it over again every once in a while, and it scares me.

Gil: For Brain Warp, I now realize that there was a deep subconscious need to connect with my father and his Ukrainian heritage; most of the characters were strongly impacted by the relationship they had with their fathers. The Last was inspired by an NPR story about communities in the Middle East that were isolated from the surrounding society because they spoke ancient Aramaic. My first thought was "Wow. That's 2000 years of inbreeding!" and my next thought was "What if this brought out a genetic mutation that had commercial value?" and I took it from there.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What sub-genres do you currently write in?

Judy: Suspense/Children's

Gil: Medical suspense

Literate-Ly Magazine: Without quoting your back cover blurb, tell me about the last book you published.

Gil Snider & Judy Snider con'td

Judy and Gil: Betrayed: a woman gets a routine mammogram and a mysterious piece of metal is found in her breast. What is it, how and why did it get there?

Literate-Ly Magazine: Quote your favorite line from one of your stories. Indicate the line, and then the book title.

Judy: Actually, the introduction of Betrayed...a poem, Nighttime has a way of falling upon us, like a friend needing shelter.

Gil: "What people believe is written can be more important than what is actually written."- The Last

Literate-Ly Magazine: Tell me something about yourself that is separate from writing.

Judy: I am a member of The Cat Writer's Association, have a 17-year-old cat, Bailey, have a great group of woman friends, fun family, and I like to laugh a lot.

Gil: I'm a neurologist by profession, and I still enjoy working, although at a greatly reduced work load. I have recently taken up bonsai as I have more free time.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Who are your top THREE favorite authors?

Judy: Too many to choose....



Gil: None in particular. Although I write fiction, I tend towards reading non-fiction, with a broad range depending on my mood and my interests at that time.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What is the last book that you read? (Not counting anything you wrote)

Judy: Love You Always, a picture book by Eileen Spinelli

Gil: The Jesus Dynasty, by James Tabor

Literate-Ly Magazine: When writing, do you have a system or something you plan, or do you just write?

Gil Snider & Judy Snider con'td

Judy: Just write...computer, chocolate and our cat beside me.

Gil: For Brain Warp, I started with a detailed chapter summary, and finished the book's first draft in 9 months. The Last was more of an evolutionary process over time.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Why do you write?

Judy: Have written my whole life. In third grade wrote the "Mystery of the Green Hand"

Gil: What I told my sons: "When you read books, you learn about others. When you write books, you learn about yourself."

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you read your own work a lot? If so, what does it do for you?

Judy: I love to read my children's books. Goldy's Baby Socks, and I Love You, Be Careful. When kids laugh at Goldy's Baby Socks which is in English and Spanish it makes me happy. I used to work after my social work career in a school library and love to read to kids!

I am a member of Hampton Roads Writers, James River Writers, Cat Writers, associations currently.

Gil: Sometimes, I will go back and read passages that I enjoyed writing. I try not to do that too much, because even in spite of repeated re-editing I occasionally think "Gee, I wish I had done it a different way." Of course, now I'm a different person, and it's a different world, than when I wrote it.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Do you listen to music when you write? If so, what genre or artist/band do you listen to?

Judy: I listen to music when I write, and depending on the setting or mood of the story depends on what I listen to. To shamelessly promote Gil and I have songs we wrote and had produced at Pearl Snap Studios. We do not sing, or play the instruments, but had great demo singers. They are all available to listen to and on YouTube. My favorite is Invisible which I hope Kelly Clarkston does someday. I love Ed Sheeren and play his music all the time. I saw him with our son last year, and I play his music and of course Motown I love.

Gil: Absolutely. Almost always Classical (in the broad sense). I prefer Bach, Gabrieli, Vivaldi and Beethoven. Music with singing lyrics distracts me unless it is in a foreign language. Sometimes for a change-up I'll listen to Boogie Woogie piano, like Otis Spann, Memphis Slim or Preacher Jack.

Literate-Ly Magazine: As an author, I find that the hardest thing to write (for me) is the blurb that will be on the back cover or book's description. When you write, what is the hardest line to write, the first line, the last line or the synopsis for the book?

Judy: Synopsis

Gil: Definitely synopsis, especially for The Last.

Gil Snider & Judy Snider con'td

Literate-Ly Magazine: What does it mean to be a “successful” writer?

Judy: Having my books out and people enjoying them.

Gil: To be able to get your deepest thoughts out to the world.

Literate-Ly Magazine: What do you want to accomplish, so when you look back at your life, you can say “I did this”.

Judy: I want to be remembered that my superpower is love and hugs and that I was funny, and kind to and appreciative of my family.

Gil: To know that I’ve changed some people’s lives for the better.

Literate-Ly Magazine: Any final thoughts that you want to give to your fans or even future authors?

Judy: Life can get hard at times, so surround yourself when you write with people who bring you joy. Write what you enjoy reading. Enjoy writing. Take your time...you don’t have to write a book in a day. Everyone has a book or more inside them. I had to use an editor and can’t draw, so I found illustrators that fit my children’s books.

Gil: Just what I said before: “When you read books, you learn about others. When you write books, you learn about yourself.”

