



# Wildflower

- A True Story is Published
- Paprika and Prose
- Story Tellers Share Their Secrets
- March Line Up at Prana Coffee Bar



*In 2008 I was thrilled to have my short story, [Sweet Dreams](#), published in [New Mystery Reader Magazine](#). Over a year later it is still billed as one of their best.*

*Cool!*

*New Mystery Reader published another one of my stories, a wintry tale as true as it is chilling.*

## THE VISIT

Mom left on time for her 7:20 bus, but I knew it would be late. So late she wouldn't be at work until

## Chilling & True

after the school had finished making its calls to parents of truant teens like me. I wasn't really sick, just a scratchy throat. That didn't stop me from playing it up as she got ready for work. Mom said a hot cup of tea with a splash of lemon juice would do the trick. Lemon meant I had to add a few extra teaspoons of sugar to cancel out the sour. Turned out four was the magic number.

I knew she expected me to drink the tea then head off to school as usual, but why tramp my way through a blizzard when I could curl up under a warm comforter? I'd read a little, then brush up on my upcoming

French test by watching *Sesame Street*. After lunch I'd practice my math skills with the contestants on *The Price is Right*. Grade seven sucked: new neighbourhood, new school, new kids. Thanks to cable, I'd learn more by staying home.

[Read more...](#)



### Inside this issue:

Chilling & True	1
Paprika and Prose	1
Book Reviews	2
In Conversation with Story Tellers	2
Celebrate Story Telling at Prana Coffee Bar	2

## Paprika and Prose: Writers Know How to Spice Things Up

January can get a little chilly. By the end of the month we can get lost under all of our layers. Hibernation takes its toll on our social skills.

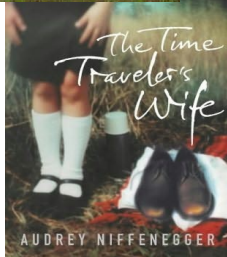
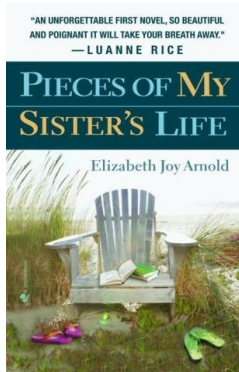
Lucky for me Jennifer Bushman came to my rescue. I left my wintry den and headed south to Oakville—a whole three tenths of a Cel-

sius degree warmer—and joined fellow writers Kimberly Scutt ([Travel Addict on a Budget](#)) and Karin Weber ([Images Inspirit](#)).

Kimberly spent part of her summer in Hungary. As guest chef on Jennifer's blog, [Eat Planet, Discover the World](#), she whipped up a

batch of Chicken Paprikash while Jennifer made the spaetzel. (They let me stir.) Karin, God bless her, brought a Hungarian wine, Mm. Wine.

March will feature fare from Liechtenstein and a possible visit from the health inspector—I'm cooking!



## Book Reviews

New writers are on the look out for opportunities to hone our craft. We also read, read, read to see how other authors 'do it', to see what is hot in the market, or as a way to spend a lazy Sunday afternoon.

Reading the jackets of books is an opportunity to daydream of the day when someone will pick phrases like 'thrill-a-minute page-turner', and 'intoxicatingly good read' to describe our work.

In an online course I took in January, one of the assignments

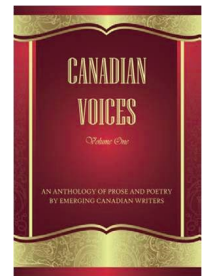
was to write a review for my work in progress. The class has ended, but I have a sticky note stuck to the edge of my computer screen reminding me daily of this incomplete assignment. The thought of reviewing my own novel terrifies me.

Without knowing it, Brian Henry gave me the perfect opportunity to prepare for this assignment, which I will finish. Someday.

Quick Brown Fox, a literary newsletter with 5,000 subscribers, now features book reviews.

I answered the call to review a couple of my favourite reads: *Pieces of My Sister's Life* by Elizabeth Joy Arnold, and more recently, *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger.

What goes around comes around. I recently came across an encouraging review of *Canadian Voices*. What a thrill to find that I, along with a select few of the other 58 authors and poets, had been centered out for praise!



"I have no problem starting writing projects. With the novel, I proved I could finish."

-Nancy Kay Clark

Featured author, Prana Coffee Bar, February 2010

## In Conversation with Story Tellers

Linda Torney entered the world of writing "ass-backwards". She didn't start out writing short stories or articles "like you're supposed to do" but jumped right into writing a novel. Short stories evolved as a response to calls for submissions and the lure of publication those calls represented, whether for anthologies, *Canadian Voices* being one, or for contests.

Growing up on the west coast, the Halifax Explosion amounted to no more than a blurb in her eighth grade history book, yet it piqued her curiosity. Her grandmother had lost her adoptive family to the disaster. The curiosity followed her to adulthood, Linda felt compelled to write about this moment in Canadian history, and while she has "no idea how people survive making

a living at writing, it certainly makes life as a retiree interesting. It's a thrill to be doing this."

[Read more...](#)



"It's a thrill to be doing this"

-Linda Torney

## Celebrate Storytelling at Prana Coffee Bar

Remember story time? The feeling of adventure as the words carried you to far off places? At Prana Coffee Bar you can stir

your imagination while you stir your latte, taste adventure while you sip gourmet coffee from exotic lands.

Every month Prana encourages new authors to share their work surrounded by a network of fellow writers.

Prana. Where lovers of the written word meet.



[www.pranacoffee.com](http://www.pranacoffee.com)

Featured March Authors

Alison Bruce  
Elizabeth Copeland  
John Corvese  
Patricia Faithfull  
Susan James  
Donna Kirk  
Elizabeth McGregor  
Kimberly Scutt  
Brandon Pitts  
Karin Weber