

# RICHARD TYLER JORDAN

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

### A COZY BRITISH NOVEMBER

There's something quietly wonderful about November in England. The clocks have gone back, the light fades by mid-afternoon, and the world seems to slow down just enough for another cup of tea. Fires crackle, wool jumpers (that's *sweaters* to those of you back in America) are unearthed from the back of the closet, and the faint smell of bonfire smoke lingers in the air.



For an American expat like me, November is also the month when the ghost of Thanksgiving Past starts to rattle its drumstick. I don't miss the endless football games on TV, or my father's yearly oration on the Great Depression, which always began "When I was your age..." and ended with "You kids don't know how great you have it..." (FYI, he was right.) According to Dad, he walked to school uphill both ways in the snow, barefoot, carrying a single bean for lunch — while we, ungrateful wretches, enjoyed the moral decay of instant mashed potatoes.

I've adopted a far more British approach to Thanksgiving since moving here: I sit by the fire with a pot of Earl Grey, a good book, and the smug satisfaction of knowing I won't be trapped at a table where someone inevitably brings up politics. There's always that moment — you can feel it coming — when a relative clears their throat and says, "Now, I'm not one to stir up controversy, but..." And that's when I start mentally mapping the nearest emergency exit.



Still, I celebrate Thanksgiving in my own way and have so much to be thankful for this year: good health, loyal readers, American family and friends who visited throughout the spring and summer — and the publication this month of Polly Pepper's latest mystery, ***Murder in Mint Condition***.

I'm also enormously thankful to *Library Journal* for their generous review of the book. Not to boast (well, maybe just a little), but they wrote

*"This marvelous new entry in Jordan's engaging Polly Pepper comedic murder mystery cozies (following Murder and a Missing Manuscript) is particularly robust thanks to a very strong cast of characters and suspects...VERDICT: Jordan produces another winner with this fast-paced, funny, and clever cozy mystery."*

Thank you, *Library Journal*! You really know how to make an author's November brighter.

### 🏠 NOVEMBER CONTEST: RELIC OR RUBBISH?

To celebrate the release of *Murder in Mint Condition*, I thought we'd play a quick round of Relic or Rubbish — Polly Pepper style!

Here are two items:



Your task: Simply reply to this email and tell me which one you think is the relic (the valuable treasure) and which is rubbish (the worthless pretender). Vase or ducky? You've got this! I know you do!

My stalwart cleaning lady, Flora Scrubb, will draw one winner from the correct guesses to receive a signed copy of *Murder in Mint Condition* — plus bragging rights as an honorary appraiser for Thistlethorne Lodge.

(FYI, I'll be traveling through Asia for most of the month, but I promise to respond to your contest entries and messages the moment I return.)

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving! We'll catch up again next month!

*Richard Tyler Jordan*

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