

RICHARD TYLER JORDAN

June Newsletter

"Poolside Reading, Murderous Antique Dealers, and That Dreadful Duke"

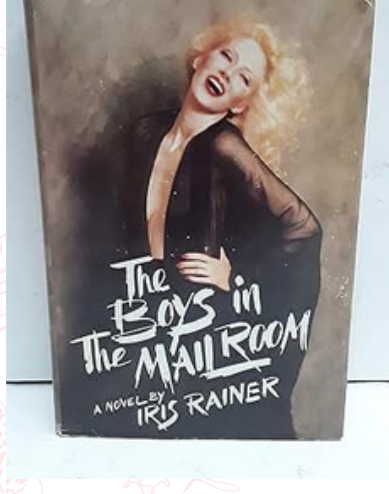
Summer Reading & Sentimental Favorites

There's something magical about summer reading—those long, lazy afternoons when the sun turns everything golden, the air smells faintly of cut grass and SPF 30, and the world collectively agrees that doing absolutely nothing is a valid lifestyle choice. It's the perfect time to pour something cold and lose yourself in a book. While I'm always up for discovering something new, some days simply require the comfort of an old favorite.



For me, that book is *The Boys in the Mailroom* by Iris Rainer. Long out of print (published in 1980), I've read it—no exaggeration—at least twenty times, possibly more. It's just such a damn good story! Four ambitious guys trying to claw their way out of the mailroom at Hemisphere Studios (I'll let you guess which real Hollywood studio that might be...), each with stars in their eyes and complicated dreams. It's bold and heartfelt, and it never fails to remind me why I fell in love with storytelling in the first place.

A dear friend recently surprised me with the UK edition, and it felt like being handed a beloved piece of my own past. There's no better company for a hammock nap or poolside escape than a book that already knows your heart, your quirks, and your preferred cocktail.



Your turn: what book would you gladly get sunburned rereading? I'm collecting answers and possibly stealing recommendations.

What I'm Up To This Summer?



Between rereading an old favorite and trying not to melt into a puddle of sunscreen and iced tea, I'll be spending this summer juggling several fun (and slightly chaotic) adventures. First and foremost, I'm wrapping up ***Murder in Mint Condition***, the newest Polly Pepper mystery set in the glamorous, backstabbing world of antique appraisals. Think priceless clocks, hidden compartments, and genteel experts who smile sweetly while plotting a colleague's murder. Polly's in her element—and I'm up to my elbows in vintage teacups, dubious valuations, and one antique dealer who may or may not have committed murder while clutching a mahogany walking stick and a grudge. Look for *Murder in Mint Condition* sometime in the autumn



When I'm not muttering to myself about murder weapons and red herrings, I'll be on a Rhine River cruise with friends! Castles, vineyards, and storybook villages. And just to keep things interesting, we're also hosting American visitors throughout the summer—which means brushing up on our “no, we don't have air conditioning” speech and hiding the good gin. It promises to be a summer full of deadlines, sightseeing, laughter, and at least one frantic editing session on a boat somewhere between Rudesheim and Basel.

Caption the Duke!

And now, for a little fun at the expense of a fictional character. (Yes, fic-tion-al, as in not real. Well, maybe just a teensy-weensy bit.) Say hello to His Grace, the Duke of Droitwich—narcissistic, entitled, and thoroughly disagreeable. This month, I invite you to help put him in his place. Here's another portrait of the dude (looking—as always—like he's just smelled a footman), and your challenge is to write the perfect caption. Make it snarky, sharp, or savagely hilarious. Think Jane Austen with a hangover.



Example:

“Posture: impeccable. Personality: deeply unfortunate.”

The winning caption will receive an autographed copy of a Polly Pepper mystery of their choice—*A Corpse in the Castle*, *Shadows at Midnight*, *Murder and a Missing Manuscript*, or the upcoming *Murder in Mint Condition*—and will be featured in next month's newsletter (where we will continue to mock the duke as is tradition). Sharpen your quills and aim for his jugular.

The Duke Wants a Word First:

“Ahem. I should like it known that I do not sneer. I merely allow my face to reflect my superiority.”

🎉 **Congratulations to Daryl Smith**, winner of our May caption contest! Daryl tell me his muse is an adorable kitty named Miss Sarah, who no doubt provides constant inspiration—and probably occasional attitude. That's it for this June newsletter, my friends! We'll chat again next month. In the meantime, I wish you all a happy and safe summer! Make time to read!

Richard Tyler Jordan

P.S. Stay in touch.

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