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RICHARD TYLER JORDAN

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

DEAR READERS!

Happy New Year — or at least a gentle, cautiously optimistic New Year!

January always feels a bit like standing in the kitchen in your slippers, wondering what on earth you came in for and what, exactly, you're supposed to do next. *Oh, right, make tea!* (Or pour wine. I'm not one to judge!) But there's something about the start of a new year that reliably reminds me of beginning each new novel: it's a fresh calendar, a blank document, a head full of good intentions — and the absolute certainty that there's plenty of time.

Until there isn't.



Time really does fly. When I stop to think about it, I'm slightly astonished to realize that over the past twenty years I've written eighteen novels (a couple must have been total stinkers because my agent couldn't sell 'em. Hey-ho.). Even more astonishing to

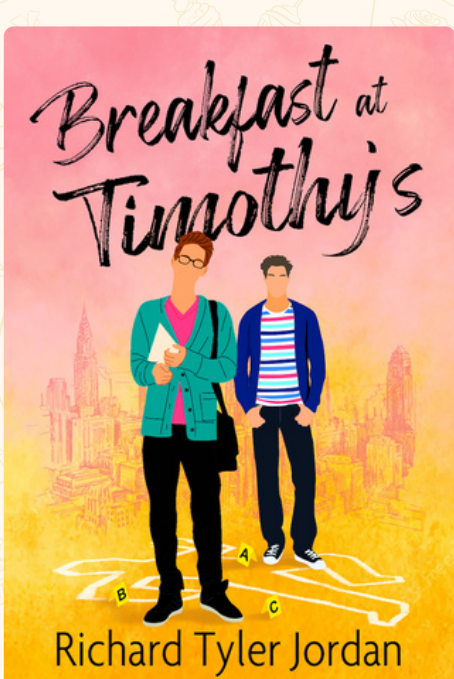
me is that the four most recent Polly Pepper mysteries were written in just over the past two years. Somehow, one book quietly led to another, pages piled up, and entire worlds came into being while I wasn't paying too much attention to the calendar.

And that's what I've learned: that progress in anything rarely announces itself with trumpets. It sneaks up quietly, one ordinary day at a time. The tortoise almost always beats the hare, not because it's faster, but simply because it keeps going. That's me. I keep going...

A dear friend here in England thinks I'm a wee bit bonkers because I work on my writing every day. But let's face it, books are rarely written during grand bursts of inspiration. It's mostly about showing up. Sitting down. Doing the job regularly — even on the days when enthusiasm has wandered off to walk the dog and never wants to come back.

So whatever you're hoping to do this year — write a book, move to another country (as I did), change direction, or begin anything new, keep putting one foot in front of the other. Steady, imperfect effort really does count. More than we often realize. I promise!

Which brings me neatly — and without too much drama — to my *next* book.



I'm very happy to say that **SUITE CHARITY** will be arriving in stores (or wherever you get your books) sometime in late spring. **Suite Charity** (clever title, eh?) is the second book in my Timothy Trousdale mystery series, following *Breakfast at Timothy's*. It finds our beloved aspiring writer hero, Timothy Trousdale, entering a whole new world of glamour, wealth, and danger.

This time, while trying to finish the novella he optimistically began in college, Timothy lands a temp internship at a powerful arts charity foundation in New York — and is promptly swallowed

whole by a world of impeccable manners, curated generosity, and fake smiles sharp enough to draw blood.

Beneath the polished veneer of philanthropy lies ambition, rivalry, and secrets no one is meant to notice — least of all a broke aspiring writer answering phones and fetching coffee. There's sharp comedy, sweet romance, and the unsettling realization that not everyone at the foundation believes charity should begin — or end — at home.

And of course, spoiler alert, someone winds up dead.

As soon as I see the cover design I'll share it with you!

CONTEST!

Because January needs tiny pleasures.

Just tell me: **What's your favorite setting for a mystery?**

A country house? A funeral home? A workplace (don't we all have a colleague or two we'd like say goodbye to—forever)?

Reply to this email with your answer, and my ever-faithful house cleaner, **Flora Scrubb** (after she's finished polishing the silver, of course), will pick a winner at random. You could win a **fabulous** prize. Or an autographed copy of *Murder in Mint Condition*.

That's it for now, my friends. As always, thanks for reading and for sticking with me through another turn of the calendar. I'm very glad we're here together. And again, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Richard Tyler Jordan

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