

Here's what the writers are reading

MOST WRITERS are voracious readers. So, when I recently asked several area writers if they'd read any good books lately, I wasn't surprised to hear that the answer was a resounding "yes." If you're curious about recent favorites, read on.

LINDA BARTELL, author of "Britanny" (Avon) and other romance novels:

"I'm reading a historical romance, 'Seize the Fire' (Avon), and I think is absolutely wonderful, and also happens to be written by a friend of mine, Laura Kinsale. I'm about seven-eighths of the way through the book, and I've actually put it away for awhile because I don't want it to end for me, although I've never done that with a book before. It's set in the 1820s in Europe and the Falkland Islands.

"I'm also reading Anne Rice's 'Interview with the Vampire' (Ballantine), which Laura Kinsale recommended. It's very different, very strange, but has really held my interest from the beginning."

LOREN ESTLEMAN, author of the newly-published "Peepers" (Bantam) and the popular Amos Walker detective series:

"Right now, I'm into 'Queen of the Damned' (Knopf) by Anne Rice. It's really quite a good (novel), set in ancient Egypt, about a woman who

'founded the vampire movement.' I've read all of Rice's vampire books, and really like her (work) a lot. She opens up a whole new world, and really draws you into it.

"I also just finished an extremely well-written biography of Clark Gable, 'Long Live the King' (Helmman), by D.H. Bluney. I read biographies often. I think they're become high art."

MAIDA PORTNOY, area freelancer: "I'm just getting started with 'A Summons to Memphis' (Ballantine) by Peter Taylor, and I love it so far. I haven't read any of Peter Taylor's books before, and I'm planning to go back now and read others. I bought the book several months ago, but my husband, Bob, got to it before I did, and recommended it to me. It's beautifully written."

JULIA GRICE, author of "How to Find Romance After 40" (Paperbacks), and "What Makes a Woman Very Sexy" (Dodd-Mead), plus "Love-Verne," a best-selling historical romance, "White Palace" (Bantam) by Glenn Savaris. It's a romance with characters who are alive and wonderful. I'm even recommending that some of my writing students read it.

"I think writers should read to keep up with their craft, and I'm reading 'How to Write Mysteries' (Writer's Digest Books) by Shannon Coek. How to plot, how to develop



book break Victoria Diaz

(characters), all about 'red herrings' — she puts it all in very simple terms.

CORINNE ABATT, editor of the Creative Living section, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers: "The 'O. Henry Awards (Doubleday). That's always one of my favorite books to read during the year. I write short (fiction), and I love to read short stories."

DON BELTON, author of "Almost Midnight" (William Morrow): "I'm really enjoying a book, which is a first novel. The title is 'A Visitation of Spirits' (Grove Press) and it's written by Randall Keenan. It's a really courageous book in terms of form and content. He sort of plays around with both, and really succeeds. Exciting things are going to be happening in the '90s in terms of gay men telling the stories of their lives."

"Another book, 'Sisters of the Spirit' (Indiana University Press), is simply incredible. These are 'religious memoirs,' written in the 1800s for a

religious audience, by three black women who were evangelistic preachers. They were free, well-educated women: Jarena Lee, Zilpha Elaw, and Julia Foote, and the writing is very powerful. Much of the book is involved with stories of the journeys these women took in those days. The language is beautiful, and the book has really meant a lot to me. It really inspires."

TIM KISKA, Detroit News columnist and author of the recently-published "Detroit's Powers and Personalities" (Momentum): "I'm reading Thomas McGuane's 'Keep the Change' (Houghton Mifflin). I've read pretty much everything he's written. His settings are places like Florida and Montana, and I enjoy reading stories set against those backgrounds. You don't have to live in New York or Los Angeles to write a good book. His books are always tightly-erammed with great stuff. In fact, he makes me want to smash my fingers and throw my typewriter away."

briefly speaking

• POLISH HERITAGE
Madonna College, in honor of Polish Heritage Month, will present a Polish exhibit in the library wing on the college campus through Tuesday, Oct. 31.

Sponsored by the Polish Centennial Club, the exhibit will feature a tapestry of the Black Madonna (Our Lady of Czestochowa) along with native costumes, dolls, jewelry in crystal and amber, handcrafted wood and leather items plus Polish books, records, pictures and greeting and post cards.

Madonna is at 1-96 and Levan Road in Livonia.

• PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT
The loan collection of Professional Photographers of America will be on display in Laurel Park Mall, Newburgh and Six Mile roads, Livonia, on through Friday, Oct. 30. Sponsoring the exhibit will be LaMoore Photography of Livonia.

The loan collection is a series of top-scoring photographs chosen from the PPA's annual international print competition. The photographs represent the best of professional photography in portrait, commercial, industrial, wedding and unclassified (scenics) work. The prints were among only 250 selected for the col-

lection from approximately 5,500 entries submitted for critique by qualified professional juries.

• SINGERS NEEDED
Singers are needed for a performance by the Christian Community Chorus of Handel's "Messiah" at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10 in Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Farmington. Rehearsals will be every Sunday from 3-5 p.m. starting Sunday, Oct. 22 at Our Lady of Sorrows, 23615 Power Road. Solo auditions will be 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5 and 12 at Sorrows church. For more information, call John Stenson, 476-5133.

• POTTERS GUILD
A reception at 8 p.m. Saturday will kick off the opening of an exhibit by the Potters Guild of Ann Arbor at the Homestead Gallery, 136 S. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. The exhibit will continue through Sunday, Nov. 5. For more information, call 669-8980.

• PARKFAIR
A metropolitan festival of art, will be presented 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28 in the North Rosevale Park Community House, 18415 Scarsdale at Glastonbury roads, Detroit. Featured will be jewelry, sculpture, pottery, oils, watercolors, prints, photography, woodcraft and other items.

Use brass accents to tone down orange

Q. Our family is really caught up with Halloween. We have Jack-o-lanterns in our dining and family rooms. My problem is I can't stand the color orange and am looking for ways to minimize the rustic look in favor of something more elegant. What would you suggest? And, by the way, what does the rejection of the color orange mean?

A. The way you can offset orange or any other bright color is to use other more powerful colors and textures to overwhelm the color. In this instance, I would suggest brass or copper accessories on a bold scale. You can easily find animal sculptures and candlesticks for both your dining and family rooms.

Incorporate brass or copper plate liners for your table setting. They'll look dramatic with white plates. Add pheasant feathers and grey-colored foliage, such as eucalyptus to your dried flower arrangements. Avoid any further use of orange, or even apricot. Shift into deep brown-cast

reds, greens and whites for the tablecloth or any other item you care to introduce into these rooms. In this way, the brightest orange will become a mere accent.

Your dislike of orange usually signifies that you want to achieve serious goals and will not indulge in feelings for their own sake. You are also suspicious of people with overly friendly faces.

Q. In a 38-year-old male with grey-blue eyes and reddish brown hair. Because I'm outdoors a lot, my complexion is quite ruddy. I've heard about special colors for women to enhance their looks. Can any of these principles apply to men? My business and need any type of competitive edge available.

A. Most color advice for women is based on either enhancing existing color of the complexion, eyes and hair or compensating for the lack of flattering color. For men, the color principles are somewhat different. Above all, you must avoid the



all about color Helen Diane Vincent

colorful look, especially in a competitive business environment. This doesn't mean you should look drab either.

Try to strike a balance. In between the two extremes. Because you have reddish brown hair and a ruddy complexion, avoid greens because they exaggerate warm colors by contrast. Also avoid yellow and yellow ochre. Stick to blue, grey, black, cool beiges and a grayed brown called taupe.

An ideal outfit for you would look something like this:
A navy blue, fine pin-striped suit either in a single, or double-breasted

style, coordinated with a white dress shirt, accented with very fine pencil stripes in blue. The tie should be a bright navy color for a real power look, or in a blue-cast, deep red with a small pattern. Don't experiment with the extra wide tie sizes or unusual patterns.

Make sure your cap-toed shoes are not in a too heavy style and that your socks are of a fine knit. Select a trench coat or a fine camel hair that isn't too warm in its color, but possesses a grayed or cool cast beige or taupe. Don't forget that impeccable grooming is the finishing touch that says you are to be taken seriously.

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