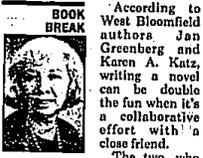


Literary duo pens romance/suspense novel



BOOK BREAK
VICTORIA DIAZ

According to West Bloomfield authors Jan Greenberg and Karen A. Katz, writing a novel can be double the fun when it's a collaborative effort with a close friend.

The two, who met each other 12 years ago at their children's nursery school, are celebrating the fruits of their collaboration this month as their first novel, "Something Borrowed, Something Blue" (Doubleday), makes its debut in bookstores across the country.

Already, "Something Borrowed, Something Blue" — written under the pseudonym, Jillian Karr — has made an appearance on the Detroit Free Press bestseller list. In October, Cosmopolitan magazine excerpted the novel. And CBS-TV has recently optioned the story, with an eye toward making it into a movie of the week.

Not surprisingly, Greenberg, a prolific romance novelist (who writes as Jill Gregory), a painter and former journalist, are hard at work on a second novel. Like "Something Borrowed, Something Blue," it will be a "romance/suspense/thriller."

The writing of the first novel came about after the two had collaborated two years ago on a non-fiction book entitled, "What Does Being Jewish Mean?" The book, co-written with Rabbi E.B. Freedman and published initially by Prentice-Hall, has since been brought out by Simon & Schuster's Fireside Books. "We had such a good time writing the first book, we sort of looked at each other one day and said, 'Why not try fiction?'" recalls Greenberg.

Not long after, the two friends were meeting every afternoon, usually in Greenberg's at-home office. With scratch pads and plenty of coffee at hand, they began brainstorming ideas for the story they would write, and also started to develop characters for that story.

"We were both definitely interested in writing women's fiction," says Greenberg. "And we came up with this idea of writing a story about four strong, dynamic women — all brides-to-be, but all distinctly different."

Each of the future brides in "Something Borrowed, Something Blue" — a New York model, an actress, an editor of a bridal magazine, and a Livonia hairdresser — harbors a dark secret that she must face down as her dreamed-of wedding day approaches. Prepublication notices called the partially-set-in-Michigan romance "a sizzling tale of four weddings, four women, and four lives on a collision course with violent passions and dangerous desires."

Not all the "writing" of the book involved sitting at a desk. To research the character of the actress and the world of moviemaking, for instance, the novelists traveled to Toronto, where they ended up making an appearance in the recent movie, "Used People."

"My brother, John Tintori, was the editor on the film, and we asked him if we could just watch the making of the movie for a few days," says Katz. "Then, when we went to Toronto, we spent two or three days working as extras — about 14 hours every day. It was fantastic. And we actually ended up on the screen, too — in the wedding scene toward the end of the film."

Other research included a day-long visit to the offices of Detroit Metropolitan Woman, where they met with editor Alice Steloff. Katz also scouted background locales in Los Angeles (especially Rodeo Drive), the streets of Chicago and the exclusive neighborhoods of Georgetown in Washington, D.C., where much of the action in the novel takes place.

In writing "Something Borrowed, Something Blue," they also discovered themselves experiencing a genuine marriage of the minds. As one writer sat at a computer typing the story each day,

the other always literally at her side, they recall that, after awhile, they found themselves suddenly coming up with the same words, or the same set of words, at the same time, and often finishing each other's sentences, down to the last word.

They usually spent about five hours a day together, working on the book, and then often telephoned each other after hours to work on leftover ideas. On days when they couldn't get together, they worked over the phone. But, despite all the togetherness over the 11 months it took to complete the novel, they can recall no arguments, not even a cross word in the course of events.

"When we started this together, we put our egos aside," says Katz. Together, they will be meeting readers and signing copies of "Something Borrowed, Something Blue" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at Barnes & Noble, Maple and Telegraph, in Bloomfield Township. Fans can also meet the two authors at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27 at B. Dalton Bookseller, Westland Mall, Wayne and Warren.

Victoria Diaz of Livonia, a long-time member of Detroit Women Writers, tracks the books and literary industry for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

This is an average of prices based on an independent survey of Metro Detroit area Lincoln-Mercury Dealers on October 12 through 13, 1993. Some prices higher, some lower. Title and taxes extra. See your Metro Detroit area Lincoln-Mercury Dealer for his price and details. *93 Villager GS with PEP 692A MSRP \$30,104 and '94 Sable GS with PEP 451A MSRP \$19,365 excludes title, taxes, license fee. Lease payment based on 93.35% of MSRP for Villager and 94.69% of MSRP for Sable for 24-mo closed end Ford Credit Red Carpet leases purchased in the Great Lakes Region for the period of 9/92-9/93. Some points, higher, some lower. See dealer for preconditions. Lessee may have the option to buy vehicle at lease end at a price negotiated with dealer at signing. Lessee responsible for excess wear/tear and mileage over 39,000 at 5.11 mile. Credit approval/insurability determined by Ford Credit. Total amount of monthly payments is \$7,176 for Villager and \$5,976 for Sable. For special terms take over retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/10/94. *Excludes title and taxes. Always wear your safety belt.

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OU begins deterrents

Oakland University has installed seven panic buttons on campus to alert police in the event of an emergency.

The buttons, which connect the user to police 911 operators, are part of 10-foot poles with flashing blue lights on top and the word "Emergency" printed on the side.

Each of the emergency poles cost \$2,000 to install and are situated along the sidewalk in various outdoor settings.

OU has also increased lighting between campus buildings and started bicycle police patrols to deter crime on campus.

Social Security book on sale

The 11th edition of the Social Security Handbook is for sale. The book explains how the system works, who is entitled to benefits and how to get benefits. Books cost \$20 each. A 25-percent discount applies to orders of 100 copies or more. Call 202-783-3238 to order.