



Hi, Everybody!

It is my sincere wish that, in the midst of the stress and struggles of our lives, the things we do from our heart and creative spirit, will make everyone's life better. That is the hope I have for this newsletter, that it is a bright spot in your day. Having said that, here's what's new:

- My launch party was a huge success and lots of fun. Thanks to everyone who attended. Your presence meant a lot to me. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. Included in this mailing, is the recipe from our dinner that night: Chicken Pozole.
- Book signings in Lompoc and Solvang were lots of fun. I got to meet new people from all over the world. My favorite was a girl who shared her dream of being a writer and asked me for tips on how to go about it. That made my day. She was *my* inspiration, reminding myself why I take a chance and put myself out there in writing books. When you follow your heart and honor your dreams and your gifts, you never know who might be

inspired to do the same. Speaking of dreams...

- Book Four of my Pine Valley series, *The Valley of Dreams*, is nearly ready for the publisher. Stay posted on publication date and availability!

Here is a little something to ponder, from my Little Black Book of Wisdom:

“If it be true that the meek shall inherit the earth, then it shall be the victims who must lay aside their mantels of grief and take up their swords of truth and of righteousness, thus becoming leaders to guide the suffering masses forward toward their destiny.

So, leaders, hear me! Seek out the lowly! Lift them up and let them see into your compassionate eyes the hope, love, and forgiveness that is theirs. Let them follow you that they may always be reminded that freedom from suffering, from hopelessness and despair shall be theirs always.

Look homeward, angel! Lead the people so they, too, may at last rest their heads and know peace. It is their birthright, their destiny, as it is thine. It is their consequence, the ultimate outcome of their lives and of their quest!”

About *The Valley of Dreams*:

Jim Hart has died. Sylvia's father was murdered and she leaves town. The newspaper office shuts down and Tucker Stewart's own father dies. Faced with the tumultuous change these events present, Tucker can either embrace change or

fight it. Which will he choose? Hint: He's going to fight it, of course. Nevertheless, with the passing of the old ways, comes surprising opportunities to let go of the past and instead appreciate the good things in life coming his way.

Sneak peak into *The Valley of Dreams*:

Despite previous misgivings about going there, Tucker stood in place, looking all around and listening. Soon, what he had feared began to unfold. It came upon a cold draft of air. He placed his arms around Aurelia, drawing her near to him to keep her warm and to protect her. What he had begun to experience when he and Katie had first attempted to clear the weeds and grass from the white quartz headstones, swiftly returned once nightfall arrived. It was something heavy he was not prepared to face back then. It drew him downward, as if into death, as if the blood in his body was sinking downward and pooling at his feet. A strange howling or whooping sound emanated from the trees around them.

“What's that?” Aurelia asked him. She turned her head to look for what might have made that sound.

“It's the ghosts of the massacre,” said Tucker...

Well, that's about it! Stay tuned for further updates. Check my website for new stuff, like poems and other news. Until next time!

Sincerely,
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