

BRAVO! SASKATOON!

3:16 PM PDT, May 27, 2009

May 27, 2009 - For any authors out there, I would highly recommend starting off any book tour with a hometown launch. Last night I launched the newest Russell Quant mystery, *Aloha, Candy Hearts* at McNally Robinson in my home city of Saskatoon.

The evening started off with a bang with a tradition that began April 2003, with the launch of my first book, *Amuse Bouche*. A few years earlier I'd left my career as a chartered accountant with Ernst & Young, and that night, my former boss, Shelley Brown, threw a sort of Ernst & Young alumni reunion/pre-launch party for me. It was awesome. And that equally awesome Shelley has thrown the same party for every book ever since.

Last night it was at the Saskatoon Club with Shelley and Murray, Rhonda, Gail, Karren, Debbie, Janet, Laurie, Bev, Shaye, Nikki, Sherri Lynne, Herb and myself...gosh I hope I didn't forget anyone...with lots of good wine and food and a lei for everyone. As I said last night, at some point these people changed from being 'people I used to work with' to simply friends of mine...like family. Love 'em.

Then it was on to McNally Robinson. Going with the Hawaiian theme, they had a Tiki hut set up for the speakers. leis were everywhere. Some people even came dressed up in grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts. Aggie was the costume winner! There was a two and a half foot tall tropical fruit kebab tree, pina colada ice cream, ahi tuna in shells, and jugs of mai tais. The room filled up and before we knew it, it was standing room only. We had two up and coming local poets, Taylor Leedahl and Wes Funk performing 'Random Acts of Poetry' for the guests to start and end the evening. The bookseller said she had to re-order the book because the stock she had for the launch had already sold out.

Our special guest was hubby Herb - who at 40-50 trips to Hawaii - is the most Hawaiian thing I know in Saskatoon. He did an incredible job doing the first reading beginning with the first line of the book "Russel Quant will you marry me?" People ate it up.

Then I did a couple of readings and basked in the kindness and generosity of the guests in the sign up line for a long time. People kept on saying, your arm is going to be tired tomorrow - but no way - I couldda done it all night.

Every year I think, okay, this is the year, no one is going to come. And then they do. Drove of them. Even though they know that chances are good that they're going to have to stand for the 40-50 minutes of the presentation and then even longer in the sign up line. But they come. What incredible support I feel from these people. THAT is what writing is all about. THAT is what makes what I do the best job in the world. From my former chemistry teacher to neighbours to my mom and sisters and nieces and aunts and cousins, to people from my gym, old friends, new ones, high school students to octogenarians, people who came for the first time and those who've been every year. It really is incredible.

I feel very lucky. And happy. And pumped to get on a plane tonight to start eleven days of touring, starting with New York for the Lammie awards, then on to Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa for the Bloody Wrods mystery conference, then back for an event in Saskatoon, then Regina. Nothing could have started me out better.

Home sweet home.

[Comment](#)

Coming to a city near you?

2:32 PM PDT, May 24, 2009

May 24, 2009

Canadian Tour Dates

(US release - October 2009)

Anthony Bidulka, author of the Lambda Literary Award winning Russell Quant mystery series, will be reading and signing his newest book, Aloha, Candy Hearts in a city near you:

SASKATOON-Tuesday, May 26-7:00 pm-McNally Robinson
WINNIPEG-Monday, June 1-7:30 pm-McNally Robinson Grant Park
TORONTO-Tuesday, June 2-7:00 pm-Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
OTTAWA-Friday, June 5-6:30 pm-Marriott Hotel Lower Level
SASKATOON-Monday, June 8-7:00 pm-McNally Robinson (Pride Event)
REGINA-Saturday, June 13-2:00 pm-Book & Brier Bookstore

See more details at www.anthonybidulka.com

Everyone welcome! Pass this on to anyone you think might be interested. Hope to see you in a city near you!

[Comment](#)

The Kindness of Readers

9:58 AM PDT, May 19, 2009

May 19, 2009

I had to share this. This past weekend I was in New Orleans attending the terrific-as-usual Saints & Sinners Literary Festival. Unfortunately, I came down with a cold about as soon as I landed, that stayed with me the entire weekend. This is something that is bound to happen now and then

when one travels, and I tried my best to get lots of rest and focus my energy on my panel responsibilities and readings. (My social responsibilities sorely suffered as I was in bed by 7 every night).

A reader, Louis, attended one of my sessions. Knowing I was under the weather, he was waiting for me when I came offstage with a large glass of orange juice, telling me that a nice jolt of Vitamin C would do me good.

What uncommon thoughtfulness and kindness and generosity. Especially since I had to dash off to do a reading in another building - I couldn't stay to chat or visit - but that OJ gave me the boost I needed to finish the day.

I always knew Russell Quant readers were the best kind of people. Louis is a true example of that.

As is the ever wonderful Nowell, another reader and a fine writer and editor too, who, along with his partner Roland, showed me a wonderful evening of southern hospitality a few days earlier in Atlanta. Not only did they have me to their handsome home in Druid Hills for cocktails, but then took me out to the excellent Watershed restaurant for a superb meal.

How did I get so lucky?

Comment

Favourite RQ Location - Poll results in:

1:24 PM PDT, May 10, 2009

May 10, 2009 - Some surprises in the last poll, where we asked what was your favourite exotic location visited in a Russell Quant Book.

I really thought the winner would be France or Africa, as those locations were featured in two of the more popular books. But this is the way the votes went:

France - 14%

New York City - 11%

Barcelona to Rome - 44%

The Arctic - 14%

Africa - 17%

So the Spain to Italy cruise in Tapas on the Ramblas beat the other choices by far. I wonder if it was because of the cruise aspect? Or the particular storyline? Or maybe the Mediterranean is that popular.

Go to www.anthonymbidulka.com to vote the new poll:

Question What is your favourite part of a Russell Quant book?

Answer 1 When he first meets a client

Answer 2 When he's hanging out alone at home with the dogs

Answer 3 When he's travelling

Answer 4 When he's with friends

Answer 5 When he's chasing bad guys (or gals)

Answer 6 When he solves the case

Comment

It's HERE!!!!!!!

8:12 AM PDT, May 7, 2009

May 7, 2009 - Bookstore owners I know are reporting the first sightings of the newest Russell Quant, Aloha, Candy Hearts on their bookshelves. My hometown McNally Robinson bookstore reported today that after only one day on the shelves, the book had already made the week's top ten bestseller list. David Rimmer of the awesome After Stonewall bookstore in Ottawa has already read the book and proclaimed it the best of the series. And me? I am smiling so much it hurts.

If any of you are creators of, well, of anything, you might know the feeling of assessing something you've made after you've declared it finished. I am a tough adjudicator of my own work. You might find me wincing as I read, or inwardly wishing I could go back and re-write a section, or hitting my head against cement wondering how a spelling error got through our exhaustive editing process.

I just finished re-reading Aloha, Candy Hearts (first time read as a real, bound book), and I am glad to report I am still smiling so much it hurts. After Sundowner Ubuntu, which was a more serious book, I wanted this one to be a happier, more joyful, romantic book. I think - I hope - I accomplished that. Perfect for this new spring release date. Even the cover - with its vivid blues and blue-greens and palm tree swaying in a light tropical breeze you can almost feel - is an invitation to take a load off for a few hours of enjoyable reading. I dunno, I guess the proof will be in the pudding. But my fervent hope is that readers really have fun with this book, and each time they go to pick it up they allow themselves to sit back and just enjoy the experience.

Now back to draft one, chapter two, of book seven.

2 Comments

Reminder - Atlanta - May 12th - Everyone Welcome!

7:04 AM PDT, May 6, 2009

May 6, 2009 - Just a reminder to all of you in Georgia or who know people in the area of Outwrite Books in Atlanta, I'll be appearing there with my colleague Neil Plakcy:

Reading & signing

Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse

991 Piedmont Ave

Atlanta, GA

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

7:30pm

Everyone Welcome!

[Comment](#)

Toronto Date Added to Canadian Tour

7:25 AM PDT, May 2, 2009

May 2, 2009

I'll be coming to Toronto in June to launch the newest Russell Quant book.

It should be a fun evening, including a joint reading and signing with wonderful Montreal author, Nairne Holtz.

Hope to see you there! And please forward this along to anyone else you think may be interested in attending.

Thanks!

Anthony Bidulka, author of the Lambda Literary Award winning Russell Quant mystery series will be launching Aloha, Candy Hearts at:

**Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
12 Alexander Street, Toronto, ON
(map at: www.artsexy.ca/location.cfm)**

With Nairne Holtz, winner of the Alice B. Award

Tuesday, June 2, 2009 – Doors Open at 6:30 pm
Cash Bar • Book Sales by Glad Day Bookshop
Please visit: **www.anthonymbidulka.com**

[Comment](#)

NOTICE - Florida Events Cancelled

3:24 PM PDT, April 30, 2009
April 30, 2008

I regret to announce that due to travel complications arising from widespread swine influenza concern, the below noted events in Florida for authors Anthony Bidulka and Neil Plakcy have been cancelled.

We apologize for any inconvenience, and we're very sorry not to be seeing you in Fort Lauderdale and Delray next week.

Fort Lauderdale Borders Bookstore
2240 E. Sunrise Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304
Sunday, May 3, 2009
4:00 pm

Murder on the Beach Mystery Bookstore
273 Pineapple Grove Way
Delray Beach, FL 33444
(561) 279-7790
Monday, May 4, 2009
7:00 pm
[Comment](#)

Florida, Atlanta, New Orleans - Ready or not...

7:08 AM PDT, April 30, 2009
April 30, 2009 - Starting tomorrow I'm on the road.

At 6:37 am we'll catch a flight that eventually will put us down in Miami at 4:30 pm. We've rented a car and will drive down to Fort Lauderdale. For those of you in the Fort Lauderdale area, what nicer way is there to spend a Sunday afternoon than to check this out :) :

Joint Reading and signing, with author Neil Plakcy

Fort Lauderdale Borders Bookstore
2240 E. Sunrise Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304

Sunday, May 3, 2009
4:00 pm

It'll be nice to see Neil again, who I've toured with a few times and saw most recently at the Left Coast Crime writers convention in Hawaii a couple months ago where his book was voted a fan

fave. Neil has a terrific series featuring a gay Hawaiian detective named Kimo Kanapa'aka who makes a cameo in my next book, Aloha, Candy Hearts.

Then on Monday night we'll toddle down to beautiful Delray Beach:

Joint book reading and signing, with author Neil Plakcy

Murder on the Beach Mystery Bookstore
273 Pineapple Grove Way
Delray Beach, FL 33444
(561) 279-7790

Monday, May 4, 2009
7:00 pm

After this, we're spending about a week in Puerto Rico, then I fly off to Atlanta where I'll meet up with Neil once more at:

Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse
991 Piedmont Ave
Atlanta, GA

Tuesday, May 12, 2009
7:30pm

I haven't been to Outwrite for two or three years, so it will be nice to see the place again and catch up with owner Philip Rafshoon. Our Saskatoon friend Ted is doing a residency in Atlanta, so hopefully he can make it down for the event too.

The next evening, my friends Nowell and Roland will be taking me out for some southern hospitality (which they have kindly been promising me since the last time I was there). After cocktails at their place, we'll drive down to Decatur to Watershed Restaurant which is in part owned by one of the Indigo Girls. Ironically enough, the hotel I'm staying at in Atlanta is called the Indigo. Go figure.

After Atlanta I head to sultry, saucy, sexy New Orleans for the annual Saints & Sinners Writers Festival. Always a nice festival to go to to catch up with friends and colleagues, learn a thing or two, and get in some good dining - this time, Bayona with Bill Holden, and Muriels with Michelle, Ted, Robert and Jess.

Now if only everyone stays healthy and that darn swine flu would just go away. What uncertain times we live in.

[Comment](#)

Old Poll Closed - New One Open!

11:08 AM PDT, April 17, 2009

April 17, 2009 - The polls have just closed on the latest Russell Quant website poll (www.anthonybidulka.com):

I would like to see Russell Quant:

Stay single - 10%

Date a lot more - 15%

Get a serious boyfriend - 15%

Get engaged - 2%

Get married - 21%

Be happy, whatever it takes - 37%

Overwhelmingly - and mightily kind I might add - most just want Russell to be happy, however that happens. Happiness not reliant on being coupled somehow? I think that's a wise decision. However, if you pool the other categories that include some level of involvement with another person, 53% think Russell needs to get a main squeeze, or at least date more. Does that mean being alone = being unhappy? Interesting perspectives. Thanks to everyone who participated. Love the input.

Next poll is up: As we move out of the winter getaway season into the summer vacation season, this poll turns its eye on travel locations and asks:

Which is your favourite Russell Quant exotic location:

1. France (Amuse Bouche)
2. New York City (Flight of Aquavit)
3. Barcelona to Rome (Tapas on the Ramblas)
4. The Arctic (Stain of the Berry)
5. Africa (Sundowner Ubuntu)

I'm curious to know - let your voice be heard at www.anthonybidulka.com - poll now open!
[Comment](#)