

March 2006 - I'm going to be doing a reading in Calgary at McNally Robinson on Friday, March 31 at 8 pm. Everyone welcome - I'd love to see you. Pass the message on to anyone you know who might be interested. It's a terrific store, cool place to just hang out, or maybe take in a bit of entertainment after dinner or before you go out for the night.

March 2006 - The time has come to start making decisions on how the new book is going to look on the outside: author bio, author photo (see some of the new shots with ace photographer Kevin Hogarth in the Photo section), blurb describing the story in frighteningly few words, font, and, most importantly, the image for the front cover. I meet this challenge with a mix of excitement and trepidation. I know one shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but first impressions are important. The cover is something I will have to live with forever; I want to be proud of it, I want for it to make sense, I want for it to reflect the personality of the book's content, I want to LOVE it. Not much pressure, right? I've just spent several hours creating a concept document which I sent to my publisher which we will use as a starting point for what the cover image will eventually become. The ideas ranged wildly from three little pigs to fireworks...and I am confident that the end product is going to be fantastic! I love the memory from last year when we were driving down Santa Monica Boulevard, in Los Angeles for the first time, and passed by a bookstore window blazing red from the multiple copies of Flight of Aquavit (featuring a red apple martini) they had displayed. That's a wonderful moment for a writer. Sure, most of my talent (I hope) is inside the book, but hey, if parents can take credit for a cute baby...:)

March 2006 - A big hello and warm thank you to the wonderful folks who are making donations as part of the Russell Quant mystery contest. Every dollar makes a difference.

March 2006 - I just wanted to send out a special thank you to Deborah, who recently kept our wine glasses topped in exchange for a signed copy of Tapas on the Ramblas during a wonderful flight back from sunny Ixtapa. And speaking of which - to all those Air Canada employees who met my publicist Michele while on some fabulous cruise ship in February, I hope you enjoy Russell! And gracias to Pat and Lynne for the wonderful mojito memories.

March 2006 - I've just seen the cover proof for the mass market paperback version of Flight of Aquavit that is coming out this spring. Even though it isn't a great deal different than the original trade version, it still sent thrills down my spine. And speaking of covers, time is coming soon for me to begin conceptualizing the cover for Stain of the Berry - it must be on my mind because I couldn't get to sleep last night thinking about it. I think I have an idea...

February 2006 - I'm taking my mother to Las Vegas for a quick weekend getaway - during which she will no doubt keep me up way past my bedtime and we'll laugh A LOT.

February 1, 2006 - I'm very excited to be introducing two new sections on this website that perhaps you or someone you know might want to be a part of. The first is the Book Club Offer whereby I can visit your book club by phone or email. The second is an exciting contest that may see your name in the next Russell Quant mystery. The contest only runs until May 1, 2006. More details are available on the appropriate pages on this website, just click your way over and check it out.

February 1, 2006 - I want to send a special thank you to Paul and Jan for the Korean Onion Rings; my grandmother would be so pleased! I certainly am! And for all of you sending e-mails-you make my day, every day. Thanks.

February 1, 2006 - My editor and I had our first editorial meeting about the newest Russell Quant book, Stain of the Berry, this week. As it is our fourth book together we marveled at the smoothness of the process (so far) compared to the first time we met about Amuse Bouche. Guess we've both learned a thing or two in a few years. Even still,(and we haven't made the final decision yet) look for a section with Russell and Jared and a UFO in the Deleted Scenes section of this website in coming months.

February 1, 2006 - There continues to be much activity behind the scenes in the Russell Quant movie/TV series world, although little that I can formally report, but it's a fascinating thing to be a part of regardless of the outcome. And, I have to say, I'm feeling a little paternal about Russell and proud that he and his friends are being considered for this.

February 1, 2006 - Plans are coming together for my more book touring in May 2006. I'll keep you posted. But I am committed to attending Saints & Sinners Writers conference in New Orleans in May, Book Expo Canada and the Bloody Words Mystery conference in Toronto in June, and Bouchercon Mystery conference in September in Madison, Wisconsin.

January 2006 - There is so much to look back on in 2005 to be grateful for - what a year - and 2006 is going to be terrific. There's a lot to be done. The paperback version of Amuse Bouche will be joined by the new release of Flight of Aquavit paperback version in March. There will be some further touring with Tapas on the Ramblas - probably in May and/or June. The fourth Russell Quant is on its way back to me from my editor with the intention to have it released in October, and I've just written the last words of the first (and very rough) draft of

the fifth Russell Quant adventure and will be working this year to finish it with the hope of a fall 2007 release. I plan to attend the Saints & Sinners writers conference in New Orleans in May, Bloody Words Mystery conference and Book Expo Canada in Toronto in June, Bouchercon Mystery conference in Madison, Wisconsin in September. There'll be some travels to Mexico, Las Vegas, France and England too. And I hope to meet a lot of you too. Let the joyous whirlwind begin!