

Sandy Reay, Author
November 2022 Newsletter

The word for this month is gratitude.

And turkeys.

I'm grateful for turkeys.



What's New?

Last month I scanned photos from eight photo albums and brought back memories.

The car that saved my life



I bought this used Ford Fiesta from a friend in August, 1982. It was safe, economical, and reliable for the entire time I owned it, with one exception. I drove from my house in Denver to that friend's house in Boulder for dinner. When I left to go home, the car wouldn't start. We popped the hood and saw no reason for the problem. I tried starting it again. No luck. We went into his house to get out of the cold and talked about potential causes (none likely, except—maybe—the cold) and symptoms I might have missed (none).

"I'll give it one more try." The car started. I drove home via the divided highway that ran from Boulder to northwest Denver. When I topped the hill and looked toward Broomfield, I saw a flash of light and heard a loud explosion. By the time I reached Broomfield, the police had the southbound lanes closed and rerouted us onto surface streets with no explanation.

It took longer to get home. I found a message on my answering machine from my friend. "Are you okay? Call me as soon as you get this."

He told me about the explosion: two trains had a head-on collision under the bridges that carried the highway across the railroad tracks. Both bridges burned. If my car had started, I would have been on the eastbound bridge when the trains collided.

I drove that car for several more years. It started every time.

An Opportunity

For you, my friends, fans, alpha readers, co-writers, editors, anyone who has expressed interest in my stories, and a few brave strangers who signed up. I'm writing ***The Sinister Umbrella***, a story about a young woman whose life is destroyed in a car accident and her struggle to build a new life. It's a young-adult horror story.

Last month, I attended a horror/comedy writing workshop hoping to get tips on how to write humor. For some reason, people tell me I'm funny, but I have no idea how to add humor to my horror story. Talk about clueless: I didn't even realize I was writing a horror story until I attended that workshop.

I rewrote the first chapter from a different point of view. I need your help, to see what's working and what isn't. And I need help to add humor to Version 2. Puns, old jokes, references to fictional characters and/or real people.

You'd have your choice of reading the horror version or the horror/comedy (I hope—at least, snarky) version, or both. You can tell me what you like, make suggestions for improvement, and provide humor/puns/? for the second version, and get your name in the credits. If you'd like, we could do a chapter each month.

Click here to [download the PDFs](#).

Check out some of the inspiration for [The Sinister Umbrella](#).

Looking for a Gift?

My story [Damn the Dream](#) was included in this anthology. I feel honored to be part of this book along with so many talented writers. It's available in print and eBooks, from Amazon, Apple, Barnes & Noble, Books2Reay, Goodreads, Kobo, and PubShare.

This is a monthly email (I hope).

I know. It's the November newsletter and more than half of November is gone. There's a reason my obituary will refer to me as "the chronically late Sandy Reay."

If you wish to unsubscribe, please reply and put "unsubscribe" in the subject or text, before the next email. I won't send another. Unless you reply after the next monthly email, which should be in December and earlier than this one. I hope. Oh, look. It's snowing.

Necessary blah blah

I add content to my website when the inspiration strikes and mention what's new on the home page. You could check out [my author website](#) more than once a month. And for those of you who are worried about the "Not Secure" message at the top: that means I didn't pay for a certificate because I don't do online commerce. All my websites display information. I don't collect or save your information **unless you choose to email me**. (I've been building web sites since 1998; I keep 'em simple and watch out for suspicious files on my server.)

[Sandy Reay, Author](#) – ideas to encourage creativity, where to find inspiration, short stories, micro & flash fiction, true stories, and a memoir (in progress for a decade—don't hold your breath)

[Colorado Sandstorm Music](#) - songs and poems written and co-written by Sandy Reay and Friends, and an online Cowboy Poetry Book: [Another Horse to Saddle](#)

[Colorado Sandstorm Productions](#) – info about all the other websites plus concerts and songwriting workshops by national touring songwriters

[AcousticByLines](#) - when and where you can hear musicians, co-writers, and find Sandy (sometimes)

[YouTube Sandy Reay and Friends' songs and poems](#)

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