

**Sandy Reay, Author**

## **April 2023 Newsletter**

**Spring**

**Cleaning, planting, and a song. “When It's Spring Time in the Rockies,  
I'll be Coming Back to You” means “Goodbye Forever.”**



### **Sunbathing and Bats**

Thirty years ago, a friend invited me to a hot springs in in the mountains of southern Colorado on Memorial Day weekend. That was my first time in a natural hot springs, my first sweat lodge, and my first nude sun bath. My friend took the picture of me lying on a beach towel, reading. A co-worker once called me “a plant”—I thrive in sunlight.

As the sun set, my friend led me to a large communal hot spring. We sat in water up to our chins. My long hair floated around me.

My friend said, “Whatever happens, don't move.”

Flying things blackened the sky and darted down and around us. Bats. Dozens of bats, feeding off the insects attracted to heat from the water and our faces. No bat touched me, but the air from their wings cooled my face. They darted to my hair in the water, but not one got tangled. Mosquitoes love me, but not one survived to bite me.

Dusk faded to black, and the invisible flyers disappeared. That night, I believed in magic and fell in love with bats.

Ten years ago, I had my house covered with concrete board that looked like wood. The workers found a bat sleeping under the sun porch. I got home in time to keep them from hurting the little critter. Just past sunset, it flew away. The next morning, it was back with a friend. At dusk, they flew away: two bats swirling toward the gold fading clouds.

## **The Sinister Umbrella**

I'm writing **The Sinister Umbrella**, a novel 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, with a touch of humor and a twist (or three). There's more info on my website. Just click on the link above.

I'm about to write the chapters in which my main character becomes enchanted by an old black umbrella that looks like a bat.

It's not too late to become an alpha reader. If you haven't read the first eight now-critiqued chapters and want to, reply and tell me "I want to read SU." I've also got 4 more chapters still in first-draft form. You're welcome to read them, too. Then you can tell me what to write and why. Critique comment after all 12 chapters: **I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed this! I am now reading it for a second time. I can't wait to read more!**

## **My monthly (I hope) email.**

Whatever day of the month is still monthly. You might not know I'm a songwriter; I'm Spring cleaning, and I just found lyrics I wrote in 2020. They're a parody of "Comfortably Numb."

Hello  
Is there anybody in there?  
Just yell if you can hear me  
Is there anybody home?  
Come on now  
I had to find my shoes  
Tried to comb my hair  
I hear you laughing in there  
I had to give the dogs medicine  
Then the phone rang just as I reached the door  
And the traffic coming through in waves  
We would move, but the drivers just kept stopping  
Now I've got that feeling again, I can't explain  
You would not understand. This is not who I am  
I have become chronically late  
I checked the clock, but it was gone  
I cannot put my finger on it now  
I dried my hair and then I ate  
I have become chronically late  
One day, my obituary will state  
"She had become chronically late"

**If you wish to unsubscribe, please reply and put "unsubscribe" in the subject or text.** I won't send another. Unless you reply after the next monthly email, which should be around the time of the Mother's Day Spring blizzard. **If you want to read past newsletters, check out [Archives](#).**

**Necessary blah blah**

I add content to my website at random intervals. Check out [my author website](#) to see what's new on the home page. 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've been building web sites since 1998; I keep 'em simple and watch out for suspicious files on my server.) I don't collect or save your information **unless you choose to email me** and even then, I only keep your name and email.

[Sandy Reay, Author](#)—ideas to encourage creativity, where to find inspiration, short stories, micro & flash fiction, true stories, The Sinister Umbrella blog, and a long-overdue memoir, *You Are the Road That Led Me Home*

[Colorado Sandstorm Music](#)—songs and poems written and co-written by “Sandy Reay and Friends” with 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, including Buddy Mondlock and Dan Navarro. Hint: Buddy and Dan will be back this summer for concerts and songwriting workshops. Keep watching this site.

[AcousticByLines](#)—when and where you can see/hear musicians: friends and co-songwriters, and (maybe) Sandy

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

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