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Topicality & Fiction Prediction & Same Sex Marriage

As a reader, I like to learn something new from the background of any fiction, whether it's about a period, a place or someone's job or even about changing social attitudes. Nordic Noir has enabled me to read about socio-political issues in Scandinavian countries as well appreciating the climate as a character. (I wear a jumper when reading Nordic books).

As a writer, I also like to learn from the research needed for a novel. But since most books are 1-2 years in the creating, often social changes become history rather than current affairs for the reader. And may cause a plot to change.

The recent Same-Sex Marriage legislation and discussion has co-incided with the release of my adult mystery 'Celebrant Sleuth: I do...or die'. Two years ago, I'd been intrigued by the idea of a versatile sleuth who was a celebrant because that enabled moving into different cultures and ceremonies such as weddings, funerals and name-days. But also I could learn about the job of a celebrant and gather humorous anecdotes even if I were writing a murder. Part of my plot

revolved around a commitment service but that suddenly became dated when legislation changed allowing Same Sex marriage. Many authors face the dilemma of an event or even upgraded technology affecting the reasoning behind a clue in their plot. Or even affecting a motive of a character.

Options are to leave the setting as historical or rewrite even at galley proofing stage. So I found myself changing clues in the final proofs to make the story logical for today. On the very date parliament passed the legislation.

Loved the co-incidence that my cover-designer was also a part-time celebrant. Unique viewpoint.

Fiction prediction is when an author researches and then says 'What if?' , creates the plot and then it happens in real life. It isn't just being blatantly topical to increase readers.

The bonus for me has been finding that many personable people are drawn to the role of celebrant. And I've interviewed a lot of them. Plus I've created an asexual celebrant sleuth who is still a romantic. Fiction but based on fact.

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