

HYGIENISTS IN PRINT=HEAVY DENTAL=FICTION & NON-FICTION- January 2012

[[AUTHORS'S ANSWERS]]

NOTE: CONTEST: Author Gayle Trent (AKA Amanda Lee) said [[“I'd love to do a giveaway for your readers in which two of them could win sign copies. Two readers who e-mail me by the deadline February 15 will receive a signed copy of both *Killer Sweet Tooth* and the first book in the series, *Murder Takes the Cake*. Entrants will be assigned a number based on the order in which the entries are received, and then a random number generator will choose the two winners.. **Her email is gayle@gayletrent.com** To check out her website go to <http://www.gayletrent.com>

KILLER SWEET TOOTH—Gayle Trent== Daphne Martin owns Daphne's Delectable Cakes business decorating & making cakes & cookies in the small town of Brea Ridge, VA. Business is slow so she also sells her “goodies” on consignment to the local grocery store. She operates the business from home. Saturday night Daphne has invited her neighbor Myra Jenkins over. Myra takes 1 bite of Daphne's home made cashew brittle & loses a filling. Daphne calls **Dr. Bainsworth**, who says he will meet them in the office in 45 minutes. When they get there Dr. Bainsworth is dead. They hear a noise & think the killer may still be in the office, so they root out weapons to protect themselves—a big plastic toothbrush & a big plastic molar. Before they can even call 911, they hear sirens. The cops arrive & take them in to probe for answers. Who would want to polish off a **DDS** before he fixed her tooth? Did someone come looking for drugs or was this personal?

When Daphne gets home from the police station, there's an Elvis at her door wanting to place an order for a pink Cadillac cake for the EIEIO (Elvis Impersonators' Evangelical Interdenominational Outreach) convention this coming weekend. These are Elvis impersonators who help a national charity organization. Only 2 DDS practice in town. Dr. Bainbridge is in the processing of getting a divorce. His **secretary** thinks Dr. Bainbridge can do no wrong, even though he has had an affair with his **RDH**, & hits on a number of his patients. He didn't lose patients because he was a great **DDS**.

NOTE: Gayle dedicated the book to her DDS who's a woman. This is how the story came to be: [[One Saturday when my son had braces, he broke a wire & it was poking him in the cheek. I called the orthodontist's emergency number & learned that she was on her way back home from a funeral in a neighboring state. She said she could meet us at her office at ten p.m. As we sat around the kitchen table playing Texas Hold 'Em & biding our time before leaving for the orthodontist's office, I asked, "Wouldn't it be awful if we arrived at her office to find her dead?" Because I'm a mystery writer, these kinds of questions are common at my house! :) Anyway, when we arrived at the orthodontist's office, my son told her about my question. She laughed & said that before she renovated the space she's now using for her office, it was frequently used by homeless people. She said, "We had to put locks on the back doors to keep vagrants from wandering in." That "what if" made me think about Myra (my most off-the-wall character) & how she'd be more concerned about herself than the dentist should a similar situation arise.]] How she come up with the dental people's names? [[I have to be careful because I have two ongoing series--the cake decorating mystery series written under Gayle Trent, & an embroidery mystery series written under the name Amanda Lee. I usually come up with names & then try to make sure I haven't used them before. I probably got Dr. Bainsworth from the yellow pages!]]

SOUR TIDBITS: Note-Almost every page has something dental. Here are a few 1. [[“Actually, that was meant to be a tip of the hat to the strides being taken in small Southern towns (or, at least, *some* small Southern towns) to be more progressive. At one time, a person might've automatically assumed a dentist in a rural town in SW Virginia was a man. In the book, Daphne says *him* only because she knows the two dentists in town are men--it isn't because she's making an assumption.”]] “Owwwww my tooth...my filling...fell out!” She shoved her fingers in her mouth trying to retrieve the metal filling.”... “Who's your **DDS**? I'll call him & ask if he can meet you in his office.” Don't think I was being sexist when I said “him.” There were only 2 DDSs in Brea Ridge, & they were both men.” 2. [[“I was discussing the story with a friend before doing any plotting, & she said, "Oh, I can see it now. They'd pick up a giant toothbrush or something." And it just fit. :”)]] “Whoever did this to **Dr. Bainsworth** is still here.” “We have to find something to defend ourselves with.” I stepped into the examining room & grabbed a huge plastic toothbrush.” “Myra armed herself with a model of a molar so big she could barely hold it. She raised it up to eye level so she'd be ready to strike someone with it if need be.” (There's more with the toothbrush & molar.) 3. When Myra hears from the cops that the DDS is dead, she cries. “It's gonna be okay, the younger office told Myra...I called the station & we have a doctor on call who happens to be there right now. We had a patient fall against his toilet & chip a tooth, so we called in the **DDS**.” “Since we need to take you to the station for questioning so Crime Scene can go over Dr. Bainsworth's office, you get some free dental work on behalf of the Brea Ridge Police Department.” 4. [[**Why Gayle put in the Butter nickname**= “Like the entire concept behind the book, this, too, sprang from a conversation with my son. He was griping one day about doctors & how they invade your privacy when they examine you. I said, "Be glad you're not a woman. The first thing they do when you go for a physical is feel your boobs." He looked thoughtful and said, "That sounds like a perfect job for Chase." That made me think about how horrified I'd be if I was ever in an exam room & looked up to see one of his classmates come in! I mean, like the song says, "The children are our future," but I'd prefer not to be examined or operated on one whose nose I once wiped! ;)]] “Officer Kendall said Dr. Huffington would fix Myra's tooth while they were interrogating me.” 5. “Hey, Mrs. Jenkins! Remember me? Mark Huffington?” “Myra's eyes widened. ‘Butter?’ “Yeah!’ He laughed ..Back in the day, Myra's son Carl Jr. & the other kids called me Butter—you know, short for butterfingers’-because I couldn't hold on to a football or a basketball to save my life.... Better hope I'm not as clumsy with a drill, eh, Ms. Jenkins!” 6. “They questioned me, then waited for Dr. Huffington to fill Myra's tooth & for her anesthesia to wear off so they could talk with her alone & understand what she was saying.” 7. “Who would want to hurt Dr. Bainsworth?” “I wanted to hurt him lat year when he did a root canal on 1 of my teeth. But I got over it.” 8. p. 36 “I don't know him(Dr. B) that well. I go to Farmer-the other DDS.” “I did an article on him when he moved his practice into a new building-where it is now- because it was in the historical section & he was remodeling. I also spoke with him about the mission trip he took a couple months ago.” “A mission trip? He wasn't an EIEIO, was he?” “I don't think so. He was doing dental work for the poor, which was really magnanimous of him given his circumstances at the time.” “What circumstances?” 9. “Well, his wife had left him a few months prior & was in the process of taking nearly everything the 2 of them had.’ Ben said.” “That doesn't seem very fair.” “He was cheating on her,’ Ben said. ‘Angela, his wife, caught him with 1 of his **RDHs**.” ... “Or

since he was cheating on his wife, perhaps the other injured party—the **RDH's** husband or boyfriend—had gone to the office to confront Dr. Bainsworth...” “What if 1 of Dr. Bainsworth’s patients told him something while under anesthesia? What if the DDS confronted the patient about it later & the patient got angry?” 10. “There was the handsome DDS’ face plastered on the front page with the headline **POLICE SEARCH FOR DDS’ KILLER.**” 11. [[See below for Jill’s description—Jill was basically everything Dr. Bainsworth’s wife wasn’t. Plus, they were together every day. I think their affair was a matter of convenience—at least, to him—more than anything else.]] “Wait. You said the 1st affair.’ I said. ‘There was more than 1?’ “Oh, yeah. After the **RDH** he was seeing left her husband thinking she was destined to be the next Mrs. Bainsworth, Jim started dating someone else—a patient, I believe.” ... “I mean, she had to have heard all the gossip about Jim & the **RDH.**” 12. “My thoughts turned back to **Dr. Bainsworth.** I tried to picture what he must have looked like when he wasn’t lying on his white tiled examination room floor with a small puddle of blood stemming from a head wound. He’d been tall—I imagine he was over 6 feet—he had an athletic build, & he had thick, dark brown hair. He looked youngish, I’d have taken him to be in his early 30’s.” 13. “He told me the police are going through **Dr. Bainsworth’s** files & are talking with his staff & patients.” “They’re going through his files?’ Juanita asked. ‘But why? I mean, what would someone’s dental records have to do with the **DDS’** death?’” 14. “Maureen once patronized **Dr. Bainsworth’s** office, but he behaved abominably to her & she transferred to **Dr. Farmer.**” 15. “And after we speak with the dry cleaners, let’s talk with some of the people who worked with the **DDS.**” “But the office is closed,’ Myra said. ‘The police are going through the files & records & everything. I don’t even know if they’ll open the office back up at all without another **DDS** to come in & take over the practice.” 16. “Sounds like **Dr. Bainsworth** was a real jerk.’ I said.” “He was, in a lot of ways. But in other ways, he could be sweet & caring.’ China said. ‘And he was an excellent **DDS.** **Dr Farmer** will have a hard time measuring up in my book.” 17. “Plus, we can feel out **Bunni (Dr. B’s** secretary who is on a few more pages) & see how willing she is to talk with us. Some of those **secretaries** take that confidentiality stuff was too seriously you know,’ Myra said.” 18. “I nearly took off right then, but a desire to stay out of jail & not have Butter Huffington as my **emergency DDS** kept my feet glued to the salon’s linoleum.” 19. “It’s true that he & 1 of the **RDHs** had taken to meeting in Bristol or Kings port now & then for drinks or for dinner, but the poor man had no one else. I’d have helped him work out his problems, of course but he refused to burden me (**Bunni**) with them. .He needed someone to talk to, that’s all.’ :Couldn’t he talk to his wife? Myra asked.” “**Bunni** scoffed. ‘His wife was the reason he needed someone to talk with According to Jill, the **RDH,** Angela was dreadfully mean to **Dr. Bainsworth.**’... “Well, it’s good **Dr. Bainsworth** had **Jill** there to help him pick up the pieces after his divorce, right? I asked. Didn’t she leave her husband for **Dr. Bainsworth?**” “She did’ **Bunni** said. ‘because she completely misunderstood the nature of their relationship She wanted more than friendship, & **Dr. Bainsworth** didn’t.” “how could Jill get such a wrong idea? Myra asked.” “She was delusional.” **Bunni** nodded. “That’s why **Dr. Bainsworth** had to let her go.” 20. “It wasn’t **Dr. Bainsworth’s** fault that **Jill** mistook his attention for something more than friendship. Jill had mental problems.”... “It’s a shame that her mistake cost her everything.” “It was a sad situation,’... ‘At least **Dr. Bainsworth** was good enough to give her some severance pay & a letter of recommendation.” 21. “I mean I’ve heard of people breaking into **dental offices for the nitrous oxide,** but **Jim** didn’t even use gas anymore. His patients who preferred sedation dentistry went over to Dr. Farmer.” 22. p. 141 :His appointment book & desk calendar were gone. I figure they, like the files, had been taken to police headquarters.” 23. “I moved onto the exam room. It gave me the willies. All those nasty tooth & gum pictures, the smell of dental stuff, the drill, remembering the sound made by the drill...”... “I mean, who’d hide whatever it was we were looking for in a dental exam room? We didn’t even know for sure that the Elvis—or the **RDH’s ex, or the RDH, or Bunni,** or 1 of **Dr. Bainsworth’s** many other women—had even been looking for anything that night.” 24. “**Jill Fisher** was bony with thick black glasses, a hawk nose, & a flat mouth. She wore her dark auburn hair in a severe bun, & she was wearing a shapeless ankle-length dress. I couldn’t help but compare her to **Dr. Bainsworth’s** ex-wife, Angela, who was beautiful. Why on earth would the DDS have cheated on his wife with this woman?” 25. p. 175/6 “I have a job interview at 11.” “A job interview? Myra asked. ‘Were you still working for **Dr. Bainsworth** before he died?’ “No.’ **Jill** said, ... But I’ve been on unemployment or working for temp agencies since I left his office this past fall. It’s hard. No one wants to hire a home wrecker.” “But that’s discrimination,’ I said. ‘How could they even know about your affair with **Dr. Bainsworth** anyway? Did he give you a bad recommendation?’ “**Jill** scoffed. ‘This is Brea Ridge, Daphne. Everybody knows—or thinks they know—everything. **Dr. Farmer** wouldn’t hire me—I said he wasn’t hiring **RDHs** at that time but would let me know when he needed someone. But he never called, even though I know 1 of his **RDHs** is on maternity leave. And I wasn’t able to secure a secretarial position anywhere in this town either.” “What about Bristol or Kingsport?’ I asked. Did you apply for work in dental offices in either of those cities?” .., “It’s too far for me to drive.” 26.:[[“Because I figure everybody gets their teeth cleaned every six months, right? Or, at least, they should I have to admit, though, that after talking with my favorite dental hygienist just before she got started on me one day, I learned a LOT. For instance, now not only do I make sure to floss & brush before a dental appointment, I’m careful about what I eat. She said that people sitting in her chair in the morning with sausage & egg breath nearly make her gag! Plus, people will say the most outrageous things to their hygienist!”]] “You’re stunning, & you haven’t been in town all that long. Maybe you went in for a **cleaning,** Jim liked what he saw, & the 2 of you hooked up.” 27. “A person who couldn’t pay his dental bill? “ 28. “In fact, it’d be safer to say she (**Jill**) was as ugly as homemade soap & as dreary as old gym socks.” 29. If we talk about dentistry, everyone will be uncomfortable.” 30. “Like Myra & me, she couldn’t figure out why her husband would cheat on her with the ugly duckling **Jill.**”

MURDER TAKES THE CAKE—Gayle Trent=Daphne Martin is taking a cake to customer Yodel Watson, the town’s leading gossip. When Daphne arrives, she confirms Yodel is dead. The rumor inlaid is Yodel was poisoned. Belinda Fremont hires Daphne to make cakes for Guinevere’s party & her friends. Guinevere is 1 of Belinda’s Satin Peruvian guinea pigs, who lives better than most humans. Daphne discovers a family secret her sister Violet Armstrong knew, but no 1 told her about.

BAKED TIDBITS: 1. P. 18 “He squeezed the snake’s head & a stream of thick venom flowed from the snake’s fangs into a small glass jar on the counter.” 2. p. 100 “Using unwaxed, unflavored dental floss, I cut the dough-floss somehow cuts it more neatly than a knife.”[[Gayle says,[[“It IS true! Works with cakes too. :)]]]

DEAD PAN-- Gayle Trent-- Daphne Martin is just delivering, 1 of her cakes to the Brea Ridge Pharmaceutical Christmas party. Suddenly most people there get sick. Daphne is told by reporter Cara Logan that her boyfriend Dr. Holloway gave them all a special vaccine the company is working on. It works except for 1 man who dies. Later someone else gets the same all-of-a-sudden flu like symptoms when with Daphne. She is fine.

ALIVE TIDBITS: 1. p. 3 “But by the time they’d gone over me with a fine tooth comb, I even go to have a CT scan.” 2. p. 62 “Did you break a tooth on the phone or something?” [“No reason (for this line), just the crunching sound in Violet’s ear might’ve sounded like it to her.”] 3. p. 95 “I don’t think I would be if I hadn’t received a call from Doc Holloway.” “Visions of a tough but sickly Val Kilmer came to mind. No, wait that was Doc Holliday.”

THREAD RECKONING—Amanda Lee ==Cassandra Wainwright, who turns out to be a bridezilla, comes into Seven-Year Stitch with her mother’s wedding dress that she’s planning to wear. She wants Marcy to embroider her mother-in-law’s fake jewels on it to fix it up. The dress brings back memories of her almost wedding. Her fiancé David Frist never showed up but now deposits himself in town wanting Marcy back. Very early in the A.M. the cops instruct Marcy to come to the store. Cassandra’s mother-in-law Francesca Ortega has been stabbed behind the shop. She was bringing the stones. They’re missing.

SEWN TIDBITS: Note: Because this is an embroidery store, there are all sorts of floss mentioned. 1. P. 27/28 “He humiliated you in front of 300 guests & then shows up today like he simply missed a dental appointment.” [“I put that in because most people would simply call to reschedule if they forgot their appt rather than feel deep remorse--unless, of course, they were billed for the appt. anyway! ;)] 2. p. 171 “I gave him the bone that was supposed to clean his teeth & freshen his breath.” 3. p.177 “Angus returned with the remnants of his breath-freshening bone . . .” 4. p. 313 “...Angus growled & showed his teeth.” In MURDER TAKES THE CAKE on p. 100 you write, “Using unwaxed, unflavored dental floss, I cut the dough-floss somehow cuts it more neatly than a knife.” Is that true-you are not talking to a baker!

THE BOTTICELLI SECRET -Marina Fiorato Historical Mystery in Florence Italy, plus. Young, prostitute Luciana Vetra is approached by young novice Buido della Torre to take a brochure to help her. One wealthy lover has sent her to the artist Botticelli to pose for a special painting. When done, she steals a drawing & leaves della Torre’s paper which gets him involved in her problem. Because of her theft, people are dying. She teams up with the novice to try to solve the painting’s secret & save lives.

VIEWING TIDBITS: 1. “His big pearls were used in jewelry, & the little ones ground down for toothpaste.” 2. “It was built for giants, with the huge loggias, toothsome palaces, & massy pillars, yet the Florentines are a tiny people & scuttle around the plinths like brightly dressed pygmies.” 3. “I counted my heartbeats, then all my teeth with my tongue.” 4. -“Shanties & shacks cramp together, grays & browns, assorted in size & shape like a grin of bad teeth.” 5. “tiny octopus with 2 tiny front teeth” 6. “I had washed my nether parts with rose water, & drawn a silken thread through my teeth to cleanse them from the feast.” 7. -“He smiled a bloody toothless smile. His mouth resembled that of a monstrous toddler who had shed his 1st teeth, but not yet gained his 2nd .” 8. “I looked up at the toothsome tower of the Medici palace & felt we were entering the lion’s den.” 9. “Set in the middle of the loggia were 2 pillars that differed in color from their snowy neighbors, like wine-darkened teeth after a glass of good red.” 10. “I spat neatly in his face, an instant before his captain fetched him a ringing slap. The 1st mate turned to spit out a tooth, . . .” “The Capitano sucked on a hollow tooth, . . .” 11. “as far as I could see he had absolutely no teeth at all. . .I envied this toothless sailor,” 12. “The sailor gave a toothless whistle,” 13. “Ronaccorso sucked in his gums, the air whistling through his lack of teeth.” 14. “Saint Ambrose was missing 1 of his eyeteeth,” 15. “war machines with teeth like dragons.”

SILENT AUCTION Jane Cleland= Josie Prescott owns Prescotts Antiques & Auctions in Rocky Point, New Hampshire. Josie has been hired by millionaire Guy Whitestone & wife Maddie to appraise their world famous marine art & artifact collection that they have in the lighthouse in Rocky Point, their weekend residence. Housekeeper Ashley Morse & caretaker Frankie Winterelli dwell on the property in their own cottages. When punctual Frankie doesn’t show up at their confirmed time to give Josie the alarm code & key, she’s worried. She tracks him down at the lighthouse & finds Frankie dead. She splits when she hears the doorknob rattle. Soon after the murder, Josie checks the lighthouse inventory.& discovers a very expensive scrimshaw tooth done by Myrick is missing.

DIE FOR DENTAL because there’s a scrimshaw tooth & a couple of other scrimshaw teeth throughout. The famous scrimshaver Frederick Myrick is real. [Cleland-“I grew up on a Massachusetts beach; I was pretty surprised to learn that everyone didn’t know about scrimshaw! It’s omnipresent on the MA coast.” 1. “Sure, I said, feeling as if I were volunteering for a root canal, “noon’s good.” [“Marathon Man - that finished me when it came to root canals!”] 2 I caught my bottom lip in my teeth,” 3. “turning on a five-hundred-watt smile. “Hairline cracks commonly appear as ivory ages. 19th-century scrimshander wouldn’t work on a damaged tooth—there was no need to do so since plenty of undamaged ones were available.” Lots of fake scrimshaw teeth, new ones being carved in more ways than one appear throughout along with the Myrick ones would take 27 hours to scrim a tooth in the 19th century.

OLD DOGS Donna Moore- Two 70 year-old ex-prostitutes plan to rip off a pair of golden dogs from a museum. They aren’t the only ones with the same idea.

DENTAL BITES= 1. It smelled minty. Not drugged then-probably Steradent or something.” 2. “Raymie grinned. Dunk wondered if he should tell his pal it wasn’t a good look. Raymie was addicted to deep-fired Mars bars, especially after he’d been on the weed. His teeth looked as though a psycho dentist had been at them, with a blow torch. And his breath was boggin’. A mixture of seet & sour, & day-old skittery shite.” 2. “Raymie grinned. Dunk wondered if he should tell his pal it wasn’t a good look. Raymie was addicted to deep-fired Mars bars, especially after he’d been on the weed. His teeth looked as though a psycho

DDS had been at them, with a blow torch. And his breath was boggin'. A mixture of sweet & sour, & day-old skittery shite.”

[[Donna said there wasn't a reason for the psycho DDS “apart from the fact that deep fried Mars bars rot your teeth .”]] 3.

“Victor had taken the opportunity of the enforced bed rest to have extensive dental surgery. Again, no records existed. He had made sure of that.” **[[The dental surgery exists** “Just to emphasize the fact that he has gone to great lengths to try & wipe out any clue as to his real identity - plastic surgery & painful teeth extractions! Surely no-one would go through that unless they really HAD to!”]] 4. “Well...he just wanted to know what would happen if the body had, like...gold teeth or summat.” 5.

“Those lazy wee shites are onto us,’ Armitage had said. ‘They started quizzing me about gold teeth & melting stuff down in the ovens.’ “You think they’ve seen us removing the jewelry & the gold fillings?” **[[The gold teeth & fillings are there** “Just that it could be a lucrative way of getting a bit of extra income if you run a crematorium.”]] 6. “The journalist turned & smiled at him, his perfect white teeth sparkling like a toothpaste advert.”