

HYGIENISTS IN PRINT—RDHs RULE--FICTION & NON-FICTION- SEPTEMBER 2011 [[AUTHORS'S ANSWERS]]

CARIBOU ISLAND—David Vann [[He exposed that some story parts are factual from his family's life. His answers bridge both CARIBOU ISLAND & LEGEND OF A SUICIDE=STORIES. Both his father & grandfather were **DDSs**. His real father didn't think of being a DDS but the idea of the profession got sealed because of his father being a DDS. His real father committed suicide in the 80's. He also broke up marriages due to his infidelity. His stepmother was a **RDH** who had worked for his father which is how they met.]] I had to laugh because the DDS's name is Jim Fenn. Maybe it's stretching it, but the name isn't too far off from Vann's. [[You'll notice only the professionals had last names-DRs & DDSs because people usually call them by their last names.]]. Probe into their lives. Gary & Irene met when he was about 25 & working on his dissertation. They got married & moved to Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. It's been a big mistake for over the 30 years they have lived here. Neither has been or is happy which has spilled out to their 2 children. Mark runs a fishing boat & the Coffee Bus with his live-in girlfriend Karen. They grow some pot. Rhoda, 30 years-old works for a vet & lives with her 41 year-old boyfriend Jim Fenn, DDS. He's her ticket to a good life, she believes. Irene, a school teacher, is unhappily retired.

Its late fall. Irene has been having horrible headaches, & no 1 can figure out why. Gary wants to get a cabin built on Caribou Island before the winter comes. Irene hates the idea. They both go, even with how she's feeling. This is a desolate area with no modern conveniences. All I can say is YUK! Can you imagine using an outhouse in way below zero weather? Boy/ girl friend Carl & Monique are in Alaska for the summer. Jim's on his way back to the office when he stops at the Coffee Bus & is introduced to Monique. See #2. He's scheming how he can get into her pants, as the old saying goes, in his house, even though he & Rhoda live together. He succeeds, but it is costly in many ways.

FROZEN TIDBITS: DDS Jim Fenn appears throughout. 1. And since she was expecting a raise, & expecting also to marry a DDS, she didn't think she'd have to wait very long." 2. "Monique, this is Jim. Jim's a DDS, fastest drill in the west." "Maybe you can tell me, Monique said. You're a DDS. I have a tooth that feels cold sometimes & hurts a little if I've been in the cold. It hurts today, for instance. She rocked her jaw a bit, feeling it. Is that a cavity, or just something else?" "Could be, Jim said. I'd have to take a look to know for sure. Jim checked his watch. "Actually, I could take a quick look now before 2 if you're free." ...OK." "So Jim drove her to the office. No one else back from lunch yet. He flipped on the lights & took her to 1 of the chairs in the back. Oh, maybe I should have given you a tour first." "That's all right, Monique said, sitting back in the chair. [[The ducks on the ceiling materialized because he saw in it a dental office.]] Lovely ducks on your ceiling. Jim had glued the undersides of rubber ducks up there, webbed orange feet paddling around midair as if the office were underwater." For the kids, Jim said." Jim turned the light on them asked her to open her mouth wide, & probed around her teeth & gums for a while. Just the small beginnings of 1, he said. We should take a couple films, & if we need to, we can do a quick job on it, preventative mostly." "Uh, she said, & he pulled his fingers out so she could talk." "I'm concerned about cost." "It's on me, Jim said. And he waited until the others arrived, had the X-rays done, & put a small filling in right the, though it shot his afternoon schedule all to hell. Don't tell anyone, he said after he had finished & as bringing up the chair. She was taking off her bib."... "She managed eliminate the possibility of any other woman & seemed to imply wealth, also, though she was dressed like a hippie & probably couldn't afford this filling if he had asked her to pay." 3. "But I'm 41 years-old, a DDS. I'm in my own house, & I'm having a glass of Harveys after work." 4. "Which reminds me, by the way. I may have found a new partner for the practice. A **DDS** out of Juneau, named Jacobsen, & I was thinking I'd have him over for dinner tomorrow to talk about specifics." 5. "My father was a DDS also. 6. "But after they had waited at the desk & rung the bell, 1 of his patients came out & smiled & said, Hello, Dr. Fenn." 7. [[He included the **RDH** inclusions because his experience the **RDH** is the core of an office. She is the 1 to have more patient contact. So she had a right to be "pissed off" when her schedule is blown.]] "Jim canceled his appointments for the day, which pissed off his secretary & the RDH. 8. "He didn't know how he'd explain to Rhoda, but maybe he could say he had to take a trip to meet that potential partner for the practice." 9 "Jim was in Juneau meeting with his potential new partner for the practice, a DDS named Jacobsen."...After work, she drove over to Jim's office & was surprised to see his Suburban in the lot. She knocked on the office door & a few moments later, he opened it, looking tired." 10. "I've got an unhatched 1 myself. A DDS named Jim." 11. [[He had Rhoda meet Jim as his patient since it was easy to meet without her being sick.]] "How did you meet?" "I was a patient." 12. "He'd be all right. He was a DDS, after all."... "He could continue cheating. There was no way to stop it once it was possible. He would find other women, most likely his patients. Or his staff. He could advertise for another **RDH**, another secretary to help with the front office. He could tell Rhoda he was doing this instead of bringing in another partner. A way to expand. But he'd be having an affair." 13. "Left me for a DDS. An old guy 40 or something." 14. [[Rhoda wanted to marry Jim for security & money & a DDS so that's why it's in the book, plus a DDS has respect. Jim is a DDS because it represents the highest 1 can go in the middle class.]] "A DDS, with money & respect." 15. "He had a new **receptionist**, & she spoke like that, so maybe it was rubbing off."

[[When I emailed David my dental questions, he said he no longer does written interviews but would be glad to speak to me. He was in Australia & called me when it was morning there to do the interview. That was a 1st for me.]]

LEGEND OF A SUICIDE-STORIES -David Vann— Jim Fenn, DDS, a man with big problems & his son Roy, whom you have to feel sorry for, are injected in all the stories. His 1st wife Elizabeth & daughter Tracy only in some.

DEPRESSING DENTAL: ICHTHOLOGY:-1. p. "My father was serving 2 years as a **DDS** in the Navy;" 2. Still wearing his dental smock beneath his jacket, he launched the boat late on a Friday afternoon as we cheered from shore." 3. "Shortly after this, when I was nearing 5 years old, my father began to believe that he, too, had made steps in the wrong direction, & he set out in search of the kinds of experience he felt he had been denied. My mother was only the 2nd woman he had ever dated, but to this list he now added the **RDH** who worked for him." 4. "He had never enjoyed dentistry, & felt now that perhaps fishing was more what he wanted to do." 5. "He sold his practice, ordered a beautiful, expensive, 63 -foot aluminum commercial fishing boat,..." 6. "This correlation between my father's predictions & actual success was rare.....& his relationship with his **receptionist**-turned-

fiancée.” 7. “An hour later, I failed my after-breakfast oral-hygiene exam. ‘Number 6 & 11 still need work,’ said my father the DDS. ‘And your gums are bleeding again. You know what that means.’” *A LEGEND OF GOOD MEN*: 8. “In the bathroom, a single purple toothbrush hung from the wall. ... This woman’s teeth were brittle or else she ground them together at night, because in that same cupboard she had both Sensodyne toothpaste & a plastic piece for sleeping.” *SUKKWAN ISLAND*: 9. “His father had been a DDS in Fairbanks.” 10. “He sold his practice & his house, made his plans, & bought their gear.” ... “The top of the hillock was overgrown to the point that Roy wasn’t tall enough for a clear view on all sides, but he could see the inlet like a shiny tooth sprung out of the rougher water outside & the extension beyond to another distant island or shore. & the horizon, the air very clear & bright & the distances impossible to know.” 11. “He didn’t look anything like a DDS anymore, or really even like his father.” 12. “As it snowed & blew outside & occasionally rained, he bent over the shoes like the DDS he was, sewing them up carefully & inspect them with prodding fingers.” 13. “... & not to have been a DDS...” 14. “He’d worked on too many patients in his dentistry. He knew how brutal surgery was, & the terrible risks.” 15. “He had done his work & bought things & talked on the phone & seen prostitutes & had dinner a few times with other DDSs or orthodontists & their wives, but that was about it.” 16. “He walked downtown to his old office. They had redone the front of the building. It looked more modern now & was a dark green. Gold lettering on the window with the DDSs’ names, 2 of them. I could have stayed there, he said. If I had not cheated & broken everything up. ... He wasn’t sure what to do with this office. He turned away from it, finally, crossed the street & headed down the other side toward the canneries.” 17. “After a long drive home very late, during which I slept, my father would rise again early to drill out the tiny infected nerves of teeth, fill cavities, make molds, instruct & squint & see his whole life reduced to something cramped & small.” ... “Though we hadn’t been introduced, I knew who this man was; I had been in Ketchikan 3 weeks now & looking for a way to meet him, because his wife was the **receptionist** my father had slept with, a kind of turning point, I thought, in all our lives. Her name was Gloria Sills, though she had married him & taken his name, & his Bill Douglas.” (Gloria is mentioned more times.) 18. “He might have been down in the county building on 3rd Street, with Doc Iverson & some other DDS.” 19. “I couldn’t believe this was the receptionist my father had slept with. I had always imagined her with a wide smile in red lipstick, a brassy, obnoxious voice, & no brain.” *THE HIGHER BLUE*: 20 “Hunched & dim-sighted, bent over tomes of anatomy, periodontics, endodontics, & other dental sciences, clenching a jaw that was understood but underused, locked in realms of fluorescence & linoleum, dreaming only of sunny wilderness, of rod & gun & clomping of trail-worn boots, this creature inspired pity in a woman who herself had no domestic talents but had the sense, at least, to eat out occasionally.”

THE BAKE-OFF = Beth Kendrick = Normal child Amy Bialek Nichols’ sister Linnie Bialek was the genius who went to college at 15 & dropped out at 16. Now she’s a blackjack dealer in Vegas. Amy is a **RDH** married to **DDS** Brandon Nichols with 2 year-old twins. The sisters don’t speak to each other. Long story. Grammy Syl summons Amy & wants her to enter the delicious Duet Dessert Competition with her. Linnie rooms with platonic friend Kyle. He had a video games Olympic in their apartment while Linnie was working. When she comes home, it’s a mess. The valuable brooch Grammy Syl gave her is missing. Kyle admits his married, broke brother Derek found it & pawned it & is on his way back to California with the money. If Linnie calls the cops, Kyle will say he took it. The brooch is very precious to Linnie, but she doesn’t have \$30,000 to retrieve it. Grammy Syl tells Amy she forgot she had a cruise scheduled. Amy & Linnie will have to do the contest since Amy already signed the contract. They acquiesce. It’s off to NY. The prize is \$100,000. Linnie needs the money to get the brooch back. PS-the girls are not bakers.

[[You know, I actually got the idea to make Amy a **RDH** while I was in my dentist's chair. I was thinking about how the **RDH** can really make or break your dental experience--the good ones are so skilled & calming. I think they're more important to retaining patients than the actual **DDS**. The **RDHs** are the ones who do most of the hands-on care & calm nervous patients, & I thought this career would be a good fit for Amy's outgoing, nurturing tendencies. Also, I wanted a secure, stable, less "flashy" career to contrast with Linnie's job as tarted-up casino dealer.]]

TASTY TIDBITS: Amy Bialek Nichols, **R.D.H.** appears throughout- (YES!) & her husband Brandon Nichols, **DDS** appears quite a bit. [[“I actually got the idea to make Amy a dental hygienist while I was in my dentist's chair. I was thinking about how the hygienist can really make or break your dental experience--the good ones are so skilled and calming. I think they're more important to retaining patients than the actual dentist. The hygienists are the ones who do most of the hands-on care and calm nervous patients, and I thought this career would be a good fit for Amy's outgoing, nurturing tendencies. Also, I wanted a secure, stable, less "flashy" career to contrast with Linnie's job as tarted-up casino dealer. I agree that hygienists are underrepresented in popular fiction. Rock on, hygienists!”]] 1. “My point is, this looks like a pretty big project for somebody who got up at 5:30, hit the gym, spent 8 hours charting gum pockets, & lecturing about flossing, skipped lunch, & hasn’t had a moment’s peace since she walked through the front door.” 2. “She’d been aglow from the rush of playing a gig at a university coffeehouse when she first met Brandon, a soft-spoken **dental student** with a maturity beyond his years who’s been drawn to her spark & boundless energy.” “Now she had an SUV littered with granola bar wrappers, a 10 p.m. bedtime, & a closet full of blue scrubs that she wore to her job as a **RDH** in Brandon’s dental practice.” “And though she might never be lead-singer material, **she had other talents; she could scrape off the plaque around an exposed tooth root with a dexterity that just couldn’t be taught.**” 3. “The next day at noon, as she drove the 4 miles from the dental office to the day care to take advantage of the center’s drop-in police & eat lunch with Chloe & Ben...” 4. “You better get to stepping-you have to fit a temporary crown at 7:30,” Amy reminded him.” 5. “So she clenched her molars together...” 6. “But actually, I have spent the last few years of my life being completely reasonable & responsible: “Put on sunscreen, send your mother a birthday card, eat your vegetables, don’t forget to floss.” 7. “He smiled, revealing perfect, even white teeth.” 8. “Linnie had always envisioned Amy marrying a rock star or an international art dealer; it came as a shock to the whole family when she announced she was settling down with a DDS. But once Granny Syl declared Brandon to be ‘a fine young man’ worthy of her darling granddaughter, everyone welcomed him with open arms. Brandon was the kind of guy-sweet, successful, & slavishly devoted-...” 9. “I’m a **RDH**...” “Nothing helps me unwind after a long day at the dental office like firing up the food processor & knocking out some lemon-raspberry tarts.” 10. “He’ got to be at the office tomorrow by 7.” 11. “**That’s because you have the perfect life.**” “**Are you kidding me? I’m a RDH. People**

loathe & fear me. I have 1 patient who has to take Ativan before he can even sit down in my chair.” 12. “Marrying a DDS was the most I could aspire to, in her eyes. Success by association.” 13. “Some’ women’s magazine we had in the waiting room of the dental office.” 14. “Amy knew this was directed at Linnie, but she closed her eyes, too, & did a quick flip through her memory’s greatest hits;...kissing Brandon in the dental school parking garage until his car windows fogged up,” 15. “Do you want me to come into the city & drive her home?” he offered. “I can cancel my last 2 appointments & leave now.” 16. “No, but you already work full-time, your’ raising twins, you have a dog & a home & husband with whom you’re trying to open a dental practice.” 17. “And if worse comes to worse, Brandon & I have been saving money for his dental practice.” 18. “And I’ll throw in a **free teeth cleaning.**” 19. “I could pay my tuition; you could buy Brandon a dental practice.”
[[I agree that hygienists are underrepresented in popular fiction, & I’m flattered that you’re going to include the book in your newsletter column. Rock on, hygienists!]]

DEAD AIR—Deborah Shlian and Linda Reid =Reporter Sammy Greene is at Ellsford College in VT hosting her controversial talk radio show The Hot Line. Sammy has already gotten in trouble for going after Reverend Taft & his Youth Crusaders & is not stopping because she just knows he & his group are going to be involved with the protest at the college & it isn’t going to be good. Trying to get information on this & some other issues, she goes to interview Dr. Conrad, 1 of the school’s better professors. She goes to his house to interview him & leaves her purse & tape recorder. Going back the next day to retrieve those items, she finds him dead. Evidentially a suicide. Sammy can’t accept that, especially after what he said to her. Also there have been some other student suicides that just happened & a missing student. There are almost valid reasons, according to the dean & others why they did commit suicide.

There is also Dr. Palmer, who with being a doctor at the school’s student health center, is doing corporate funded research on a secretive on campus facility. Throw in politics, a school psychologist who wants to help Sammy with her guilty feelings, a campus cop who has had to deal with Sammy before, & a medical intern boyfriend for Sammy.

ALIVE TIDBITS: 1. “The animal peeled back its gums in a yellow-toothed grimace...” 2. “Takes good teeth & plenty of wind.” “Beg your pardon?” “To play it well. You need to have good teeth & plenty of wind.” 3. “I don’t have time to play with toothpicks & tissue paper.” 4. “Sammy found a worn toothbrush in a stained water glass on the cracked sink...” 5. “Right now she knew there was still a gaping hole in her hypothesis-like a smile with a missing tooth.”

DEVIL WIND—Deborah Shlian & Linda Reid== Sammy Greene is now a talk show hostess for a small L.A. radio station. The story takes place in Dec. while everyone is worrying about Y2K. Ana Pappajohn & Sylvie are roommates, high class hookers for Madam Kaye, sometimes dress alike for work & even look alike. Sylvie has secretly been keeping track of their well-known clients. At a high class “party” are Senator Neil Prescott & Fahim al-Harbi who have contracted with Madam Kaye for Ana & Sylvie’s services. Sylvie goes off with al-Harbi with Ana’s purse. In their room, al-Harbi catches Sylvie taking pictures of his stuff. He seals her fate with a punch & dumps her body which is found by people who call 911. Prescott, driving Ana to his other home in L. A., has a possible heart attack. Ana deposits him at the hospital. Sylvie dies in the hospital. The problem is they think she’s Ana because of the switched purses. At work Sammy gets a call about the burned body. She discovers it’s Ana, She & Ana’s father, ex-cop Gus Pappajohn, delve into what happened to Ana. Sammy gets controversial on her show, seeming to be stepping on Senator Prescott’s toes.

DANGEROUS TIDBITS: [[The reason for the jaw/TMJ inclusions: “We needed an injury that might indicate assault & could be picked up while the doctors were doing CPR in the ER, & yet not be grossly visible.”]] 1. “Looks like her jaw’s fractured, too.” 2. “The victim bought herself an autopsy now that the doc had mentioned head trauma & a displaced jaw along with the burn.” 3. “Except for toothpaste, toothbrush, antiperspirant, & a tiny bottle of makeup that appeared to be a sample, the shelves were bare.” 4. [[Jeffrey came from a poor environment & had not taken care of his teeth in his youth. The difference between the Jeffrey that Sammy had known when his resources were limited & her father now would be striking. Veneers, whitening, etc. Cosmetic dentistry is miraculous.]] “Jeffrey looked up & flashed a smile that Sammy guessed to be the expensive handiwork of some Beverly Hills cosmetic DDS.” 5. “Only 1 item caught Sammy’s eye. Michelle’s comment that Ana had “temporomandibular instability.” 6. “So if they rushed, they might have missed something?” “Like what?” “TMJ dislocation.”... “The jaw dislocation & the skull fracture could be related to her fall.” 7.. “However unlike the ME, Michelle had also documented a TMJ dislocation, buccal mucosa lacerations, & zygomatic arch instability, which, she wrote, “may have been caused by impact trauma, possibly secondary to assault & battery.” 8. “I’m so sorry, Gus. The autopsy record doesn’t mention the jaw injuries the resident noted on the police report & the chart. Or the loosened teeth, or the cuts on the inside of Ana’s mouth.: 9.. “Nothing about jaw looseness, teeth embedded in the cheek, fracture of the um, zygomatic arch.” 10. p 205 “Honestly, though, the ER doctor never said anything to me about loose teeth.” “See if he can reexamine your daughter’s face & teeth.” 11. “Once the smelly tobacco had burned down a half inch, he carefully positioned the unfiltered cigarette inside Gharani’s sagging lips to allow smoke to settle into the dead man’s oral cavity.” 12. “Man, I could use \$10,000,” laughed a toothless woman in a ragged housedress seated next to her shopping cart.” 13. “Got any breath freshener?” Courtney asked, as she ran a wet finger over her teeth.”

The authors added: “The focus was more medicine in this one, but you’ve given us the wonderful idea & inspiration to consider writing a Sammy Greene story with a dental plot. We’ll “chew on it” We’ll have to review our other books to check (to see if there’s dental in other books). But in general, we would like to have wonderful smiles at the end of all our books.”]]

BELONG TO ME= Marisa de los Santos. . Cornelia Brown & husband Teo move to the peaceful NY suburbs. He has no trouble getting a job as an oncologist. She dropped her PhD studies but hopes to pick them up again. After a miscarriage, she can’t get pregnant. Next door neighbor Piper Truitt is anything but welcoming, letting her know they were hoping people with

kids would move in & throws hints her lawn & empty flower boxes need help.

Cornelia finds solace & a friend in Lake Tremain, a waitress whom she meets in a grocery store when buying ingredients for her favorite meal she can't find in town. Lake informs her the restaurant she works in has it, but only for its employees. She might be able to get invited to lunch. She & her teenage son, a "genius", just moved there. A CA psychologist got Dev into a special school that caters to kids like him. She isn't the only 1 with secrets. Piper, with 2 young kids, is busy helping best friend & neighbor Elizabeth Donahue & her family since Elizabeth is dying. Piper's husband tries to let her know he isn't happy. She has no time to deal with his problems.

TEARFUL TIDBITS: The main dental comes in with the mention of how Lake & Dev had spent some Thanksgivings. Lake turns down Cornelia's Thanksgiving invitation explaining that Dev looked forward to being just with her. When Dev hears his mother tell that lie, he feels that it makes him "sound like the world's whiniest mama's boy. Back home in CA, holiday dinners tended to be pretty informal, but usually there was a crowd: Lake's restaurant friends; Principal Levy & her husband Brewster; wayward neighbors: some guy Lake was dating, even people like their mail carrier or the oral hygienist who cleaned Dev's teeth. Anyone who didn't have a lot of family nearby or any family at all. 2. Tom's explaining to Piper that he had to use Abby Lau instead of her sister Lauren because Lauren broke a tooth while playing tennis. Tom contemplates how 1 could break a tooth playing tennis, & Piper answers, "I cannot imagine." 3. Piper hands over some "healthy" snacks for her kids to Cornelia. Piper tells her "After 2, kids can get plaques." Cornelia asks, "Really. On their teeth?" "Arteries," said Piper. 4. Piper notices Elizabeth is angry. "Usually the anger spattered out like grease from a pan & could be directed toward anyone" One person was Tom when he bought "the wrong fruit (tangerines instead of clementines), the wrong sheets (carded percale instead of mercerized sateen), the wrong small bottled waters (plain instead of fluoridated). 5. Piper feels lust when Tom touches her. "Still, as she turned off her bedroom light, her last thought was that it could have been anyone who set her off. For what seemed like forever, she had been touched by men, Kyle, her hairdresser, her DDS—in entirely predictable ways." 6. Piper's son Carter grinned "up at her with his tiny, square tile white, symmetrical teeth. Ever ahead of the pack, Emma, Elizabeth's daughter, had lost her 1st tooth a week ago & refused to put it under her pillow. Instead, she tucked it into the very back of her ballerina jewelry box "to keep for Mommy." 7. "When asked a direct question, Piper was fundamentally incapable of lying to her children. It was not that she believed in a strict adherence to the truth—she played the Santa Claus/tooth fairy/Easter bunny game like everybody else—it was that when caught in the clear blue beam of their gaze & asked, lying felt so utterly counterintuitive that she never managed to eke 1 out." 8. Although I am not a waxer myself (when I told Piper this, she gave me the sort of look you'd give someone who claimed not to brush her teeth), I could imagine that even a hotshot cell phone used like Piper would prefer not to have a conversation while hair was being systematically ripped from her body."

SHOULDER BAGS AND SHOOTINGS Dorothy Howell = Haley Randolph basically hates her life. She works part time at Holt's Department Store in the LA area. She's going to school, & dating her boss Ty Cameron, whose family owns Holts, which is not a Nordstrom's. Haley's passion is handbags so she & friend Marcie have started a purse party. Fellow employees Rita & Tiffany stole their idea & are doing better than they are. Haley's life got better when she got to go to London for 2 weeks with Ty & came home with his grandmother Ada. Haley needles Ada to use her car. After leaving Holt's she finds Tiffany's body in the trunk. There are two other threads running throughout which are bridged together leading to danger for some people. Haley confirms that she & Marcie "moved beyond being simply compulsive, obsessive, crazed designer bag lovers to being full-fledged handbag whores."

BAG THESE TIDBITS: 1. "You've been following him to the mall, to the dentist-everywhere," Mom said." 2. "Oh, crap. I did see Doug at the mall, & he must have been going to the dentist that day I saw him outside of Starbucks." [Howell had 2 reasons for the DDS part "1, He seemed like the type of guy who would know the importance of regular dental check-ups. I thought it fit his character. 2nd, a dental visit seemed like a good reason for Doug to be away from his job during working hours, which was important to that particular scene.]]

CLUTCHES AND CURSES- Dorothy Howell= Haley arrives at Holt's to be told she is to expose their new product, Bolt, a drink. While walking around supposedly handing out samples, she avoids answering any customer questions. An older, foreign woman asks Haley to help her with a bathrobe. Haley puts her off. The lady ends up putting a curse on her. It seems like the curse is real when things start happening to her. When her sister cancels out, Haley's mom texts her that she's to come to a spa for a week with her for a mother/daughter trip, with other beauty-pageant queens & their pageant daughters. Haley immediately volunteers to go to Henderson, NV, outside Vegas, to help set up the new Holt store, which she originally avoided doing. Her friend Marcie goes on Facebook & finds Courtney Collins, 1 class mate who lives there. The curse seems to have followed her to Henderson. Haley gets to the store, finds some red stuff by the handicapped changing room & thinks it's Bolt. She discovers it's Courtney's blood. There's a problem at the motel where Holt is putting up the employees helping with the new store. The manager, who isn't a nice person.. Haley meets Maya, who bakes the motel's muffins & befriends Haley. There is another murder.

CARRIED TIDBITS: [|"The idea about lip waxing before a dental visit came from my daughter. She mentioned one day in casual conversation that she was going to the DDS & needed a lip wax. Apparently, she & all her friends wouldn't dream of going to the DDS without 1st getting a wax. This was news to me, & it seemed so "Haley" I just had to include it."]]

1. This is something I haven't seen before- "I got a DDS appointment," Monica was saying when I walked up." "Are you getting a lip wax?" Kay asked." "Monica grinned. "You bet." "Not exactly the flip-flop-matching-beach-bag talk I'd expected, but this was just as good." "Everybody-except for men, for some reason-understood the importance of a lip wax before a dental appointment. DDSs ranged from not-so-hot, to hot, to way-hot, & if you were a new patient, you didn't always know which you'd get. Regardless, it was no time to look like you had a Chia Pet growing on your upper lip. It was hard enough to look attractive squinting under a florescent light, wearing a paper bib, with a suction hose hooked over your lip like a bass at a fishing derby." "I was just about to chime in with a my-DDS-is-way-hot contribution to the conversation when my cell phone vibrated in my pocket."

