

HYGIENISTS IN PRINT=RDH SPOTTINGS=FICTION & NONFICTION—Lois Foster Hirt

2010 Author's answers in [[]]

JUST A REMINDER, TERRI BRISBIN, RDH, IS STILL WRITING NOVELS.

Three by Stieg Larsson=

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO==—[[Unfortunately, Larsson passed away before the books were published. It would have been great to know why a Swedish author had 2 different uses of a RDH.]]

In Sweden, financial journalist Mikael Blomkvist went after financier Hans-Eric Wennerstrom, got trapped for libel, got a prison sentence & a fine. Lisbeth Salander, 24 year-old free-lancing writer/computer hacker, has an affliction. Is her photographic memory part of her disease? She's been a state ward since she was 13. Her basic job is free lance deep background investigations for Dragan Armansky. After prison, Blomkvist gets hired by wealthy, retired industrialist Henrik Vanger to write the family history, but he actually wants Blomkvist to discover who killed his great niece, Harriet Vanger, who disappeared close to 40 years ago. Blomkvist hires Salander. They discover other women have been murdered over the years.

Some dental is linked with Blomkvist going to Martin Vanger's house for a talk. Martin introduces him to Eva, his lady friend & his DDS, who practices in Hedeby. "She was a warm, sociable, & entertaining woman. Blomkvist found her extraordinarily attractive." 2. "She chewed some of his toothpaste to get rid of the taste." 3. "Most people would give an eye tooth to have such a gift." 4. "I just brushed my teeth with ice water. It makes my fillings hurt."

THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE –DENTAL TIDBITS: 1. "From the brass nameplates on Bjurman's floor they noted that his nearest neighbors were a dentist, Dr. Norman, a company called N. Consulting, & Rune Hakansson, a lawyer." 2. "She wondered if her teeth marks were still visible on the knuckle of his little finger." 3. "...& I put her in the ring with him, headgear & mouthpiece & everything." 4. "He had lost a tooth on the left side of his upper jaw. His mouth was full of the taste of blood."

THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST =Lisbeth Sander goes hunting for her horrendous father. She finds him & a step-brother Ronald Niedermann she didn't know existed. They try to kill her. She wounds her father, & Ronald gets away. She is shot in the head, & things get turned around due to an old conspiracy. She is taken to the hospital as a prisoner, & is to go on trial after her recuperation. Niedermann in order to throw police off kidnaps a RDH.

DENTAL PROBINGS START ALMOST AT THE BEGINNING: (This is a RDH for you—we ploy ahead no matter what—) 1. The police get a call, "about a missing person in Alingsas. A dental hygienist by the name of Anita Kaspersson left her home by car at 7:30 this morning. She took her child to day care & should have arrived at her place of work by 8:00. But she never did. The dental office is about a 150 yards from the spot where the patrol car was found. 2. "Anita Kaspersson, a dental hygienist who lived in Alingsas, was shaking all over as she stumbled through the woods. She had severe hypothermia. She wore only a pair of wet pants & a thin sweater. Her bare feet were bleeding. She had managed to free herself from the barn where the man had tied her up, but she could not untie the rope that bound her hands behind her back. Her fingers had no feeling in them at all. She felt as if she were the last person on earth, abandoned by everyone. She had no idea where she was. It was dark, & she had no sense of how long she had been aimlessly walking. She was amazed to still be alive. Then she saw a light through the trees & stopped. For several minutes she did not dare to approach the light. She pushed through some bushes & stood in the yard of a one-storey house of grey brick. She looked around her in astonishment. She staggered to the door & turned to kick it with her heel." 3. "News. Anita Kaspersson has been found. "Where?"..... "She turned up at a house on the outskirts of Serglora." "She what?" "She knocked---" "You mean she's alive?" "I'm sorry; I'm not expressing myself clearly. The Kaspersson woman kicked on the door of a house at 3:30 this morning, scaring the hell out of a couple & their kids, who were all asleep. She was barefoot & suffering from severe hypothermia. Her hands were tied behind her back. She's at the hospital in Boras, reunited with her husband." "Amazing. I think we all assumed she was dead."..... "She's made it plain she wants you to rush over to Boras to interview the woman." 4. "That sounds fishy," Modig said. "But he's being sought for the police murder in Gosseberg, for aggravated assault on another officer, for the attempted murder of Salander, a& for aggravated kidnapping and assault of the dental hygienist Anita Kaspersson, as well as for the murders of Svensson & Johansson." 5. "There was the morning memo, the lunchtime memo, three emails from Fredriksson updating her on developments in the day's lead story, one from her accountant, who wanted a meeting to discuss the implications of her move from *Millennium* to *SMP*, & a message from her dental hygienist suggesting a time for her quarterly visit. She put the appointment in her calendar & realized at once that she would have to change it because she had a major editorial conference planned for that day." 6. "I took a few punches. I still have all my teeth, but my middle finger's hurt." 7. (Niedermann) "He had changed cars in ALingas, put the terror-stricken dental hygienist, Anita Kaspersson, in the trunk, & driven towards Boras. He had no plan. He improvised as he went. He had not reflected on Kaspersson's fate. It made no difference to him whether she lived or died, & he assumed that he would be forced to do away with a bothersome witness. Somewhere on the outskirts of Boras it came to him that he could use her in a different way. He turned south & found a desolate forest outside Seglora. He tied her up in a barn & left her there. He reckoned that she would be able to work her way loose within a few hours & then lead the police south in their hunt for him. And if she did not manage to free herself, & starve or froze to death in the barn, it did not matter; it was no concern of his." 8. Throw in toothbrushes & broken jaws & jaw use.

Rosemary Harris' **DEAD HEAD** == Paula Holliday owns Dirty Business, a landscape/plant business. Caroline Sturgis will buy an abandoned nursery if Paula will go into a partnership with her. Even with Caroline putting up the money & business being slow, she isn't rushing in to anything. Then Caroline is arrested for being an escaped convict from when she was 16. Caroline is a married mother & respected member of the community. Her husband wants Paula to clear her name.

DELIGHTFUL DIRTY DENTAL—I got a kick that she thought the good looking guy with the good teeth was probably an OK guy since one of the men being hunted had bad teeth. Never judge a book by its cover can turn into Never judge a guy by his teeth especially with all the modern technology we have. 1 “He smiled, revealing a set of alarming bad teeth. 2. “You know, everyone didn’t go to prep school,” Babe said, “and maybe he doesn’t have a meaningful relationship with his dentist.” Paula replies, “I’d had a crush on my dentist when I was little—until he hired that big blond dental hygienist, Barbara. I think her name was. I was only eight, but I was no fool. I knew what was going on and I hated her.” 3. “Identity theft was another thing I rarely thought about that had surfaced lately, along with convict labor, backsplashes, and my old dentist.” 4. He’d even gotten a laugh out of her, which was the first time I’d ever seen her teeth,” 5. “He had a cleft lip?” 6.-“And how many of them could have had a cleft lip?” 7. “...if I got to the Zs and didn’t see a guy with a cleft lip....”Hi, do any of your truckers have a scarred or cleft lip?” 8. -“I inhaled three slices of pizza and washed them down with copious amounts of diet soda guaranteed to ruin my teeth and the lining of my stomach. 9. -“Okay, he had bad teeth...” 10. “He may have used an alias—scruffy guy, plaid shirt, down vest, bad teeth?” 11--“but Hop really did have a nasty set of choppers.” 12-“He’s got a nice smile, don’t you think? I said. Babe confirmed that Kevin Brookfield had beautiful teeth.” 13. “The night before, in her quiet, methodical way, Mama Warren had given me Coach Hopper’s dental history. The poor man had had teeth like a broken comb. At some point he’d gotten cut-rate implants and they all got infected and had to be pulled. The last time she saw him, he just had nubs. ‘Like candy corn’, she said, ‘that had been sitting out in the rain.’ 14—“I turned around slowly, struggling to keep my balance, and saw a very handsome but toothless man pointing a gun at me. In his other hand were two hunks of plastic and porcelain. ..”They have excellent dentists in Chicago when you have enough money. Once Caroline gives me my money, I’m getting implants. Good ones. ...“ He slipped the dentures back into his mouth and all I could think of was how I’d like to knock them down his throat.” 15--“Kicked out my last few good teeth, too.”...“...his dentures slipped.”

Harris’ PUSHING UP DAISIES mentions a root canal, fangs and good teeth.

Joan Hess’ **MUMMY DEAREST**= Claire Malloy owns a bookstore. We haven’t been invited to her & policeman Peter Rosen’s wedding, but we’ve been invited on their all expense-paid-for honeymoon to Egypt along with her 17 year-old daughter Caron & Caron’s best friend Inez. Peter is on a secret government mission but won’t tell Claire what its about. After Caron & Inez go shopping, they tell Claire a man has been following them. They all go on a dig, & 2 people involved in the dig are murdered & a wealthy, young, beautiful, ditz blonde American college student is kidnapped while on a tour

DIGABLE TIDBITS:-1. The four are on a cruise with all the other characters. Peter starts to follow the girls outside for fresh air and Claire grabs him to stay. She doesn’t want to be left alone with the others. She feels “being at the bottom of Magritta’s excavation would have been preferable-or in a portable toilet on a busy street or even in a dentist’s deceptively benign recliner.” 2. Peter is clenching so hard Claire’s worried that his might hurt his adorable molars. 3. One of the men who’s working on the dig states, “forty back-breaking years, and we haven’t found a mummy. It wouldn’t have to have been a royal. I would have been happy with a dentist or a priest.”

[[Hess commented: “I’m glad MUMMY amused you. I mentioned the dentist in the tomb because everyone (including me) assumed that pharaohs were the only ones who got any attention.”]]

THREE ROYAL EGYPTIAN DENTISTS graves, hidden for thousands of years, were discovered when tomb robbers were caught doing their own dig in 10/06. Were they in a group practice? This is from CNN: “It describes “two hieroglyphs — an eye over a tusk which appear frequently among the neat rows of symbols decorating the tombs. He said those hieroglyphs the men as dentists.”

Joan Hess’ **THE MERRY WIVES OF MAGGODY**==Maggody, Arkansas, chief of police is Arly Hanks who’s 2 months pregnant & believes Jack, the sperm donor, will marry her. The town is having the 1st Maggody Charity Golf Tournament for golf widows. Don’t ask. The prize for the 1st hole in 1 is a \$40,000 bass boat everyone’s drooling over. People are coming in from all over for this. How the prize came to be in the possession of the donor is probably something he wishes he didn’t have. During the tournament a body is found in the boat prize. That can present problems, since it has to be impounded. Another dead person is discovered.

A MYRIAL OF DENTAL 1-When she tried a come-hither smile, she noticed a smudge of lipstick on a front tooth.” 2-Darla Jean’s limp brown hair never swished, but at least she didn’t have crooked teeth like Heather.” 3-“Do you know that sows can grind their teeth?””They can not,” Ruby Bee said.” 4-“She always had a sweet tooth for peppermint schnapps.” 5-“My eyeballs were grainy, and my mouth felt as if I’d been chewing straw.” 6-“And while you were on the course yesterday, this creepy man with more fingers than teeth came over to me and asked if I wanted to ‘waller’ with him” 7-“The bathroom was a disaster, his shaving gear in the sink and his toothbrush on the floor,” 8-“Her teeth were white and even.” 9 -Who would I want to meet-some toothless redneck?” 10-“I always travel with an old toothbrush so I can get off every bit of dirt.” 11-“The idea of being on amiable terms with him made my teeth ache.” 12-“I called over there, and whoever I talked to said that Mrs. wicket is in her mid-nineties, has outlived three husbands, wanders the halls wearing nothing but pearls, and lusts after Mr. Abelmeister, who resides across the hall and still has his teeth.” 13-“I flipped the mirror back and studied the contents of the medicine cabinet” a grungy tube of toothpaste, bottle of mouthwash and Pepto-Bismol, a box of condoms, a razor, and an aspirin tin.” 14 “Why don’t you pack your pajamas and toothbrush?” 15 “She is so devastated that she’s apt to confuse her mascara with her toothbrush.” 16-“As was his prominent gold tooth.” 17-My kid got braces....” 18-An ugly little man with big ears and crooked teeth.” 19- “You want the details of his abscessed tooth?” 20-“Dental records don’t help when the guy had no teeth.) 21-And take down the tent, said a boy with blinding braces.”

Sara Paretsky's **HARDBALL**==When a homeless man collapses in front of V.I. Warshawski, P.I., she helps save his life. At the hospital the lady pastor asks her to help 2 African American lady senior citizens find 1 of their sons. He left at Dr. King's time & hasn't been seen since. A young African American lady at the King march was murdered & a man went to jail for that. Not everyone wants her looking for him. V.I. 's cousin comes to Chicago to work on a political campaign.

[[Paretsky deposits this: "Thanks for your letter. I have terrible teeth, have had 17 root canals. My endodontist once told me he'd had to treat a dentist who tried to perform his own root canal, with predictably disastrous results, & it seemed like such a horrible thought that it's stuck with me all these years. (Although I floss & brush obsessively, or perhaps compulsively & go to my hygienist 3 times a year, I'm dealing with the residue both of genetic problems, bad childhood dentistry, & lack of fluoridation in our water, so I suppose sore tooth images come readily to mind.) And my grandmother & her sisters had false teeth, which used to fascinate me as a child when I'd visit them. It is startling to me to see how many dental references there are in my books!"]]
SOME POLISHED DENTAL TIDBITS are 1. "Or was it just that the gleam had worn off my winning smile?" 2. "On the way home though, I kept worrying about my father, & Larry Alito, & Steve Sawyer, the way you do with a sore tooth. 3. {talking about his wife} "When I went to look for her jewelry to give to Ruthie, I found I'd put all kinds of things in boxes, even her false teeth." 4. "In my dreams, though, a saber-toothed tiger was charging me." 5. "What's with you and my trunk" I demanded. "Do you think there are going to be false teeth or rubies or something?" 6. "All I found were rubies, his false teeth, & the secret plans for the invasion of Canada." 7. "I was sorry in a way that I'd kept them out of Lotty's place, but if they were uncomfortable inhaling one another's bad breath, which the woman from OEM had to a remarkable degree, they wouldn't stay long." 8. "The woman from OEM leaned over spraying me with her fetid breath, & grabbed the pictures." 9. No drugs in the bathroom, but her electric toothbrush & Waterpik were still in their stands. Her tube of Tom's Toothpaste was carefully rolled from the bottom up." 10 "Dentists shouldn't drill their own teeth and detectives shouldn't cut their own hair."

Toni P. Kelner 's **WHO KILLED THE PINUP QUEEN**==Tilda Harper is a freelance entertainment reporter in Boston. She writes about what's happening in former stars' lives & for Entertain Me! Magazine. A Western-themed resort owner wants to know what's happened to the stars of *Cowtown*, a very successful TV series. They'd like these actors to come to its grand opening. She confirms some of these actors are tied to the series she's writing on former pinup queens & 1 pinup queen's body.

KILLER DENTAL—1. Talking about Stickler Syndrome—"It's a genetic condition caused by mutation in the collagen system." "That sounds bad." "It can be. It can affect the eyes, ears, joints, bones, & often causes cleft palates." 2. "It could mean he didn't like garlic or it could mean he was trying to keep his breath pleasant for other activities." 3. [[My character Cooper was trying to sneak out during office hours, & a dentist appointment is important enough that his officious co-worker Nicole wouldn't try to talk him out of it. Yet it's such a natural part of life--or should be--that she wouldn't immediately think he was making it up. Now if he'd said he was zipping out for a bit of foot surgery that would have raised suspicions.]] "I better get going if I'm going to make it to the dentist's office." "I don't remember you saying anything about a dentist appointment," Nicole said. 4. [[Since the character Quentin was a doctor, I wanted him to dress up as some famous Western doctor for a cowboy-themed party, but there really weren't that many to choose from. Doc from *Gunsmoke* & *Doctor Quinn, Medicine Woman* were the first that came to mind, but Doc wasn't particularly attractive & while Doctor Quinn was quite comely, she was also female. But Doc Holliday? Val Kilmer in *Tombstone*? That's more like it, even with the consumption. The dental mirror was there for fun, because most people don't realize that Doc was a dentist.]] "Tilda checked out his outfit: a black frock coat & hat, & a clearly artificial bushy mustache. She was at a loss until she saw the dental mirror sticking out of his vest pocket. "Doc Holliday?" "It's thematic, but a dentist?" "It was either that or Doc from *Gunsmoke*, & I thought Holliday was sexier." 5. Smiley the librarian

Kelner deposits this (to answer questions): Never too busy for this. (Or for the dentist. I go twice a year, & take my daughters twice a year each. Plus orthodontia for both, starting in about a month.) I asked, "Have you written anything else with dental in it?" [[Off hand, I can't think of anything else. I do have a bit of a plot point from my hygienist that I want to sneak into some book someday, & I'll let you know if I do. May do more with a cleft palate at some point, too, since my daughter had one & I know quite a bit