

Me? Host a book launch party?

It had started to feel real. I published a novel. I actually sold some and even signed some. It was time for a book launch party at my house!

When party day arrived, for the thousandth time in this whole novel-writing process, I felt tons of gratitude for the supportive community that surrounds me. I would like to list a few of the people who helped me pull off this super fun event.

First of all, thanks to my sister (aka “seester”), best friend, and housemate Ronna, for everything from editing my invitation, to getting the house ready, to arranging for fresh fruit arrangements, to taking photos, etc. etc.



I appreciate my daughter, Sarah, for flying in from Cleveland just for this event, and to my son-in-law Jay for holding down the fort while she was gone. Sarah helped me plan (and simplify) the food, greeted guests, prepared and restocked food, and sold my books at the event! She is truly the “hostess with the mostest”.

My son, Brian, took the train from Chicago for the weekend. He set up tables and chairs, played Elsie and Sam’s Spotify playlist during the party, and helped with clean-up

afterwards. Here is a picture of my two precious adult kids and me. The rest of my t-shirt says, “I am a Writer. Anything you say or do may be used in a story.” Truth.



I have several long-time friends who loaned me tables, chairs, serving dishes, etc. because I rarely entertain more than eight people at a time!

It was so fun seeing folks from the different realms of my life milling around in my backyard together (church friends, writing friends, work friends, and family). I am truly blessed.

Last but not least for the weather angels or whoever kept the rain away. My house is not big enough for a crowd!



Many people rose to the challenge of dressing like one of my characters. Several dressed from head to toe in one color, like Sylvia. There were many funny t-shirts displayed (like Sam and Tony). Examples include: “Measure once. Cut once. Measure again. Get

distracted. Start another project”, “I do all my own stunts”, “Sawdust is man glitter”, and “The Rotation of the Earth. It really makes my day”. LOL!

I received several gifts, from wine to an emergency creative writing pack (legal pads and pens!). Here is a picture of an antique quill pen that a writer friend found when cleaning out a relative’s house. So special! Also, check out these chocolates. Works of art! (Yummy, too.)



Stay tuned for next month’s newsletter to hear my reflections on family vacations!

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Thanks!!!

Julie