

**My First Newsletter!** Please reply with your feedback and ideas.

**Question of the month** (Email me your answer. I really want to know!):

What was your favorite scene of Elsie's New Season? Why?

### **My first writers conference as a published author**

Oh, I've been to a few writers conferences and many workshops and courses (most of them online), but this was different. It was an in-person, stay in a hotel, get a swag bag, actual conference.

I registered for the Between the Pages Writers Conference in Springfield, Missouri, and booked my hotel room. I just missed the deadline to enter the book cover contest, as my book was published 6/1 and the deadline was 5/31. Maybe next year. I wasn't sure I would be able to sell my books at the conference book fair because table reservations were full, and I hadn't even received my author copies yet. The conference chair put me on a waiting list in case someone didn't show up to sell their books.

Turns out I got my author copies on Thursday (see photos) and left for the conference on Friday! My cat, Miles, of course had to chew on the strings on the box.



I drove three hours with my writing friend, through the Ozark Mountains, from St. Louis to Springfield. On Friday afternoon, we barely made it on time due to lots of rain and a long shopping spree at The Candy Factory, a popular stop along route 44. I loved browsing the old favorites, like Bit O'Honey, Necco wafers, Zotz, Charleston Chew, candy buttons, and the not so old Pop Rocks.

When we arrived, I went straight to the book fair room and discovered there was a half table open. I ran back to the car to get my books, the framed picture of my book cover, my bookmarks, and a legal pad for people to sign up for my mailing list. I arranged everything on the table, then found the meeting room to hear the keynote speaker.

I can honestly say I had a wonderful and inspiring weekend. Many of the workshops were very timely for me, as they covered many ways to promote a book and run an author business. There were several buffet meals, meet and greets, and an adorable and skilled bluegrass band with performers who looked barely older than teenagers. The best part by far was meeting and getting to know so many interesting and warm fellow writers.

During breaks and lunch, I sat at my book fair table, chatting with authors at nearby tables, and eagerly describing my book to those perusing all the choices. It was a bit surreal when I sold my first book, and especially when I signed it. My first customer readily agreed to commemorate the moment with a photo and even agreed to allow me to post it on my author Facebook page (thanks, Sue!).



Icing on the cake was the chance to spend time with my writer friend from St. Louis who accompanied me on the trip. So fun. Can't wait for the next one!

**Thanks for reading my first newsletter!** If you've already read *Elsie's New Season*, I hope you liked it! (If not, grab the ebook or paperback at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0F9KPJ1RV>).

If you'd like to spread the word, here's five ways you can help:

- Leave a review on Amazon or Goodreads
- Ask your local library or bookstore to stock it
- Choose it for your next book group (I have created a book club kit with discussion questions, a club poll, and a playlist that Sam and Elsie would love)

- Follow my Facebook page ([Julie Berman Author](#))
- Tell a friend or give as a gift!

**Coming soon in my next newsletter:** hosting my first book launch party!