

# Jude Willhoff

*Writing stories that touch the heart*

*Get Hooked!*



2014 Newsletter #2

August 2014

## Fan Update From The Foot of Pikes Peak

Hello everyone! Finally, it's summer time in the Colorado Rockies. There's a little snow left on the top of Pikes Peak, but that doesn't mean much because it can snow up there year round. Down here, I'm enjoying our Colorado blue skies, warm sunshine and the smell of the honeysuckle in my garden. Every time I walk out to my back deck that marvelous scent surrounds me. Mother Nature is amazing.



It was wonderful to see so many of my readers for the first time in person at the RomCon reader's conference in Denver. Thanks for stopping by my booth to visit and introduce yourselves. It was so much fun meeting you all and making so many new friends. And it was a thrill when I sold out of my books. You humble me. Thank you! Also, to my Dallas ladies, thanks for sharing your stories of what it's like to attend the circuit of reader conferences throughout the United States. I wasn't aware of those conferences. That was great information and I plan to attend many more of those types of conferences in the future. I couldn't wish for better readers. You all are the best! I am blessed to have each of you in my corner! Thank you for all you do for me, the reviews, the kind words on Facebook and Twitter and your fabulous support with social media everywhere. I am truly grateful!

I want to take this time to thank everyone who entered my last contest, and to announce the \$50 winner. My granddaughter pulled your name from the group. Ta Da! And the luck winner is: Ms. Kathy Miller of Denver, Colorado. Thank you for participating. Your gift card has been sent. And now for the rest of you, I'm looking for early readers for my next book, *Visitations*. I would love to send you a free ARC to read before my official release date. All I ask is that you post an honest review on Amazon on my release date and, at that time, your name will be entered in my next \$50 contest drawing. It's as easy as that. Contact me at [jude2@prodigy.net](mailto:jude2@prodigy.net) if you would like a copy before it's released. Thank you! Have an awesome summer!

## What's Happening in My Life

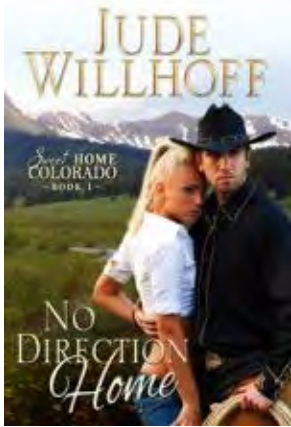
Health-wise, I am happy to say I'm doing great! I'm continuing my 90 minutes of water aerobics at the pool three times a week and working on eating healthy. I've always hated exercise until I found this program. It has changed my life. I am off my blood pressure meds, several other meds, and losing weight, but the big thing is how much better I feel and having so much more energy. It's amazing. I highly recommend the low impact water aerobics program at the YMCA.

Summer is a very busy time for me with work, family and friends. I'm a Realtor by day, author by night, and June through September are our busiest months. This time of year, real estate is a 24-7 job. Sometimes there just aren't enough hours in the day for everything, which means I have to be very organized. Work and my writing life have been very good to me this summer. Work is fun work, writing is my joy, and family always comes first.



Also, as many of you already know, I am a member of the Colorado Indies. This is a writing group that supports each other in writing, marketing, and friendship. I'm happy to announce our newest member to the group, Cate Rowan. Many of you may know her as the co-creator of the IndieRomanceInk group. Cate writes about Fantasy romance in magical worlds. We're thrilled to have her in our group. In this

## What's Happening with My Writing



I am blessed! Several very good things have happened to me over the last few weeks that I am humbled and grateful for and I'm thrilled to tell you about them. Important things in my life always seem to happen in threes. I wonder, does that occur in your lives? The first thing that happened was in the month of June. My first book in the Sweet Home Colorado series, *No Direction Home*, was promoted by Amazon as deal of the day in literary and fiction--not once, but two times in the same month. That made me smile.

And the second thing was a complete fluke. At the RomCon conference I was in the Vendor Room talking to Sharon Cramer. She was there promoting

her book, *The Execution*, and showing her book trailer. I used to do hair, make-up and wardrobe for films so we were talking about where it was filmed, who did the make-up, and how she got the actors for the book trailer. Then she told me her book was going to be made into a movie. I proceeded to tell her how happy I was for her, and then I began to ask her questions about how that happened for her.

Sharon shared her writing journey and then she asked me about what I like to write. I told her all about my Sweet Home Colorado series and my Star Traveler series and my Lilly Dale series that's coming. Little did I know, but her Hollywood agent was sitting at the next booth over listening to every word I said. I feel angels were on my shoulder at that conference leading me to amazing people. Anyway, JD Dewitt, agent extraordinaire, introduced herself to me and we talked more about my books.

JD procedures for Hallmark, Netflix and several other producers. She thinks my Sweet Home Colorado series would be perfect for Hallmark, and she's also interested in Starseed. She actually hand-carried my books back to Hollywood with her. And the neatest thing was that a couple of other ladies from my Indie authors group had pitched to her as well. At the end of the conference I heard through the grapevine from someone in the know that JD only took 5 projects back to Hollywood with her. I'm thrilled to say that 3 of those projects came from my Indie group. Ladies, you all rock! Anyway, no matter what happens, *No Direction Home* has been a great book for me. Can you imagine my Sweet Home Colorado series as Hallmark movies? I can. Wouldn't that be something?

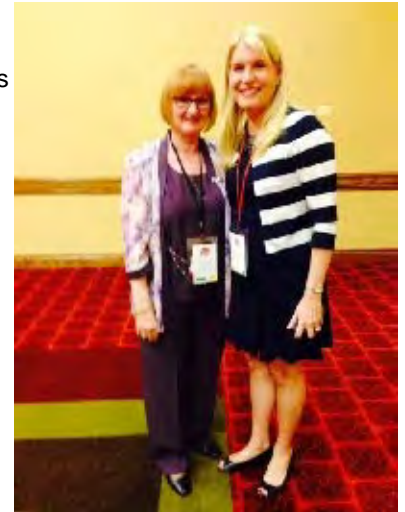
And then there was that third thing--last, but far from least. This goal has been on my bucket list since I became a writer and lived in downtown Denver. I've always loved visiting the Lodo Tattered Cover book store. It's my all time favorite book store. One day when my husband went with me to the Tattered Cover, he made the remark that I would know I was an author when my books were on the shelves of the Tattered Cover. To make a long story, short, the Tattered Cover book store has requested to carry all six of my current titles in all three of their Denver stores. So, yes, honey, I know I am an author and after seeing my royalty checks, so do you. I will be doing future book launches and signings at the Tattered Cover. I'm over the moon about this news. It's sweet to be able to say those words. Like I said, I have been blessed this month and I am grateful!

May you all have a wonderful summer! I'm working on getting the box set of my Sweet Home Colorado series ready for release this fall and I'm also working on *Visitations*, which will be released this fall as well. As you can see from this picture, I'm conducting interviews with those from out of this world so this book is taking on a whole new meaning.

picture of us at RomCon, Cate is the one with the purple hair. Can you tell that purple is our favorite color? Good times ahead for our Colorado Indies group!

And another awesome thing that happened to me this month was meeting Debra Holland. Debra is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author and one of the authors who wrote *The Naked Truth About Self-Publishing*. She also writes sweet romance and has her Montana Sky series and many other books out there. I was fortunate to attend her workshop at RomCon and chat with her one on one after the class. She invited me to spend the day with her and Courtney Milan and 9 other writers at the UnCon, the day after RomCon. It wasn't a workshop. It was a brainstorming session. We were able to ask all the questions we wanted about writing, marketing, review teams, anything we wanted to know about, a fabulous opportunity.

When Debra, Cate, and I went to lunch that day we took my car. I remarked that my car was older but paid for and I didn't want any more payments. Debra said, "Stick with me and you can go and pay cash for your new BMW." I'm sticking...very close. Debra is a very generous person with all her knowledge and willing to share her way to success with the rest of us. She's a very special lady and I feel fortunate to know her.



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# Visitations

## Star Traveler Series ~ Book Two

### Visitations

#### Chapter One

The insistent buzzing of a cell phone woke Izzie Norris out of a deep sleep. Only after several times did she realize the irritating sound wasn't part of a dream. Blindly, she fumbled for the bedside lamp. In the instant brightness, she squinted at her caller ID fearing the worst. It read "Blocked," same as before. *Damn. Her friend's numbers would've come up.* Dread seeped into her bones as she pushed the covers back and sat on the edge of the bed. It had to be Nigel. That's what she'd nicknamed the oddly clipped robotic voice who kept calling her in the wee hours of the morning. At first it was like a game. Now it made her skin crawl.

With nerves tight as a violin string, she gritted her teeth. Earlier in the day she'd hiked the land nestled against the Colorado mountainside. This was her home and she wouldn't let that strange voice chase her away. No way in hell. When her last nerve snapped she grabbed the obnoxious phone. "Hello," she growled.

"Be safe." the familiar voice said. "Go to your front window." The message clicked off. She stared at the phone as frustration surged through her. The voice had spoken. She had the wildest desire to throw it against the wall. Forcing her hand to stop trembling she balled it into a fist and pressed it against her mouth. She had to get a grip. This was ridiculous. There was nothing out there.

For months, on and off, the same sing-song message had come from that odd voice--*the answer my friend is blowing in the wind, the answer is blowing in the wind.* The same mysterious lyrics from an old Bob Dylan song would play over and over in that robotic tone. She shivered. Tonight, Nigel had changed his tune and actually spoken to her. Why? What did it mean? It was a warning. *God, what if there was something out there?* Her heart nearly pounded out of her chest as she pulled her robe close and walked toward the great room. Her fingers tightened around her cell phone.

She didn't think the caller meant her any harm, but what if he did? Another chill ran across her body. She glanced around looking for a weapon and grabbed the fireplace poker. As she neared the large picture window in the living room the full moon shone brightly through the skylights. Taking a deep breath, she gathered her courage and pushed one of the drapes aside. Through the narrow crack of the sheer curtain she could see to the yard and beyond.

Allowing her eyes to adjust, she searched past the redwood deck. There, barely twelve feet away stood a tall naked man. With his back to her, he danced in circles under the glow of her motion-activated security lights. She leaned toward the window. He turned his gaze in her direction. An indrawn breath caught in her throat. Her heart hammered dangerously. Could he see her? What if he tried to break in? She gripped the poker, holding it close, ready to strike and quietly moved away from the picture window.

Taking a deep breath she calmed her frayed nerves, and once more peeked out to make sure her mind wasn't playing tricks. He was there, his back to her and his arms stretched toward the heavens. He seemed agitated and appeared to be chanting something. From this distance she couldn't distinguish the words, but he was big, much bigger than her.

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