

Tea-Totaling With Earlene

July 1, 2010

A Newsletter From Earlene Grey®

Volume 7, Issue 3

New From the World of Earlene Grey®

By James Patterson



Let us talk cards for a moment. As you can see from the photos, Earlene has introduced a new series of four note cards. I know what you are thinking, "Oh goody, just what we need another note card". Ordinarily I would agree with you but I have to say that I love these cards. If you have been paying attention at all, you can probably guess that these new note cards are the collaborative effort of Earlene and her poetry, and the artistry of Susan Laird.

Each of the cards has a tea theme and they were first presented to the public at the World Tea Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada last month. On the first card Ms. Laird has cleverly woven Earlene's poem *Higgledy-Piggledy* through a collection of brightly colored footed teapots. In the second card, Earlene's poem is about a special connection between a teapot and a teacup. As for cards three and four, one provides you with guidance regarding the optimum number of cats to have as household pets...this, of course, comes from one who knows...and the other encourages to slow down and smell the tea leaves.

The cards are blank on the inside waiting for your invitation or special message to business associates, friends or family. Just to make sure Earlene's poetic message gets through, the poem on the front of the card is also printed on the back.

These unique cards are very reasonably priced at \$2.00 each and if you would like to know more about them or any of the other Earlene Grey® products you may do so at www.EarleneGrey.com ...and for now Earlene will pay the postage.



Tea 101: Oolong Teas

By James Patterson

For most of us tea is black...that is its name, its color before brewing and its color after brewing. Some try to change things by adding milk, cream or half & half but the tea we know is still black.

All tea, however, is not black. Besides black teas there are white teas, yellow teas, green teas and oolong teas. Although the cultivation, processing and consumption of tea can be very complex there is also a more simplistic side to tea. *Continued on page 3...Tea 101: Oolong Teas*

World Tea Expo 2010

The World Tea Expo in Vegas was grand! Like many of our readers, it is often our one chance in the year to meet teatime friends, both old and new alike. Thank you for stopping by the booth and taking a look at our products. But more, thanks for the hugs and the pictures and the stories and the friendship. We treasure all of our customers as friends. eg

Tea Poetry Contest

Earlene's Tea Poetry contest has begun and will continue until September 30, 2010. You still have plenty of time to submit your entries. You will find all the contest information and complete contest rules at www.EarleneGrey.com.



Tom and Irma

By Earlene Grey

You know, I hardly read the newspapers or listen to the television news any more. I used to. I used to read almost the whole paper and be very current with the latest news, especially that of a political nature. Now I am taking a bit of a rest. I am insulating myself from the dead of war and the living horrors of our world. I know that this is a dangerous dodge of reality, but that's what I am doing for a little while anyway.

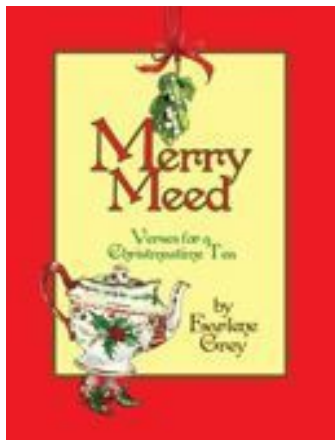
Indulge me, however, to talk for a bit about something else and then I'll come round again to today's concerns. I would like to tell you about my parents. They were Tom and Irma Traise, born in 1909 and 1912, respectively. My father's family came from Cornwall, England. We don't know from where my mother's family hailed, but as the story goes, Mom's father was quite the scallywag and ran illegal liquor over the Canadian border. Neither Dad nor Mom was well educated, but both were extremely bright. Both died instantly while they were working.

My father was a logger. He quit school at the age of 14 and went to work in the logging camps in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Tom could tell you how many board feet were in a tree just by looking at it. He could run his finger down a column of two or three digit numbers and add them instantly as his fingers moved down the column. And he could play any instrument he picked up.

My mother worked taking care of people all her life. She came from pretty rough circumstances and she survived by taking care of others. Irma nursed people and cleaned for them and befriended them. She also was a wonderful cook and she too learned her craft in the logging camps. She cooked for hundreds of sturdy hard-living men who burned off more calories before 10:00 am than most people eat in a whole day. People depended upon Irma. She knew what they needed. She was a good friend to many during her life journey.

Continued on page 3...Tom and Irma

Coming Soon From Earlene



Merry Meed is coming back with an entirely new look. *Merry Meed* is a chapbook containing five original poems about Christmas and the holiday season by Earlene. *Merry Meed* is ideal as a card for the holidays, a thank you card or a hostess gift at your holiday parties. Watch

for *Merry Meed* on www.EarleneGrey.com.

And for those of you who are thinking that *Merry Meed* is about happy beer, it is not. Beer or ale is spelled m-e-a-d. The definition of m-e-e-d is reward or recompense. So, *Merry Meed* is a happy reward.

The Delicate Matters of Life

To what does this refer?

*Goings on which we secretly enjoy,
But dare not speak of aloud?
Pieces of life so tender that
Giving voice would harm?
A bold statement declaring
The fragile is of substance?*

Whatever the reference,

*When we hear talk of
Delicate matters,*

We must pay close attention.

*That which may be quietly fine,
Could also be a consummate command.*

~Earlene Grey~

Tom and Irma...continued

Tom and Irma always, always tried to do the right thing. That's what I learned from them. They would stop and offer to help someone broken down on the highway. They took in strays. They donated to the veterans. They bought encyclopedias for their children. They didn't sue anyone. They didn't fight. Tom and Irma did nothing great in this world. Just a whole bunch of good little things.

So now back to today. Haiti, Iraq, Afghanistan. Poverty, hatred, war. What to do? Throughout history many have donated huge amounts of time or money to just and good causes. I am so impressed and humbled by those who make big differences.

Most of us cannot make big and bold differences in this world. Ours is to be like Tom and Irma. Making small differences in our own small worlds. Any number of unknown small efforts can change the universe. I'm counting on that. I'm counting that Tom and Irma's lives made an impact.

There is so much we do wrong in this world. Some say it is because of incarnate sin. Some say it is because of stupidity. Probably it is a little of both. However, I believe that we are better today, not worse than yesterday, and better yet to be. Yes, we do make mistakes, but we do get things right sometimes as well. And so a poem.

Not a Total Loss

Each of us has the ability
To help humanity grow.

This is true because
Every once in a while
We do things right.

Every once in a while
We take in a stray.
Love the wretched.
Care for the weak.
Give a little grace.

Every once in awhile,
We bend a bit lower
To raise the bar
A little higher.

Every once in awhile,
We get things right.

So, to all of you from Oregon City, this is Earlene thanking you for getting it right and wishing you happy tea times.

Editor's Note: This piece originally aired on Radio Kinver... www.RadioKinver.co.uk ...on January 24, 2010.

Tea 101: Oolong Teas...continued

Since it is a complicated world we will stay on the simple side. First, all tea is made from the tea plant. If what you are drinking is not made from the leaves of the tea plant...*Camellia Sinensis*...it is not tea. Once plucked (picked) the leaves will begin a process where the end product will be one of the different types of tea.

The deciding factor for different teas is the amount of oxidation that the tealeaf undergoes. Oxidation occurs when the leaves are rolled, which breaks down the cell walls of each leaf and exposes the plant juices to the air thus causing the leaves to turn brown. This is the same process that causes an apple to turn brown when you cut it in half.

If after plucking, the leaves are not allowed to oxidize, the end product will be a green tea. If, however, the leaves are allowed to oxidize completely, they become a black tea. Oolong teas fall in between green teas and black teas...oxidized as little as 8% and as much as 70%.

Because of this wide range of oxidation levels oolong teas present the tea lover with a vast assortment of flavors, aromas, appearances and colors.

If you are a black tea drinker do yourself a favor, back up a step and try the oolong teas. There is more to experiencing tea than a black tea, a splash of milk and a good scone. May I recommend the Ti Kuan Yin.

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Produced in England, Radio Kinver comes to you via your computer. Enjoy a wide variety of music, poetry, think pieces and Earlene, all with a little newsy chat by producer Edmond Preston.

www.RadioKinver.co.uk

*Tea-Totaling With
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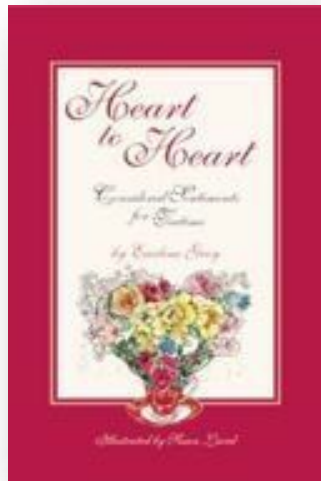
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Now Available:

Heart to Heart~

Considered Sentiments for Teatime



Heart to Heart~ Considered Sentiments for Teatime is a unique hardbound collection of original tea poetry by Earlene Grey®. Easy to understand and enjoy, each 5" X 7" book consists of 38 poems and more than twice as many one line Earlenisms about the life, its complexities and of course, Earlene's favourite subject, tea.

From its rich red cover, through its handsomely illustrated pages, *Heart to Heart* offers wit, intelligence and thoughtful reflections about what is most important in life. It is the perfect gift for you, a friend or even a client. We invite you to sit down, with your cup in hand and enter the world of Earlene Grey®. Each copy of *Heart to Heart* is \$18.00 US. S&H included.

Also, you can take this opportunity to have your own copy of Earlene's first book, *Musings With a Cuppa*, on compact disc. The entire book comes on one CD with each poem being read by Earlene herself. The price of the CD is only \$10.00 US with the S&H included. To order your copy of *Heart to Heart* or *Musings...* or to see other Earlene Grey® products visit Earlene's website at www.EarleneGrey.com.



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