

# Happy Easter!

April 2010

Volume 3

Issue 4

## ~~~WELCOME~~~

### Welcome to April!

Spring is in the air! Easter is nearly here—or will have come and gone by the time this newsletter is released...and most importantly Sterling Wayne Gordan (anyone else see images of superheroes pop into their minds when reading that name or is it just me? One of my best buds says I'm channeling Batman...\*shrugs\*) arrived on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:46 am! He weighed in at 8lbs 1oz and 19 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches long! Big Sissy kept racing to the nursery window shouting "MY Baby! MY Baby!" to anyone and everyone who would listen. She also calls him "MY Gerling!" Pretty good for a 26 month old! I only have a couple of pix to share at this time. Trust me, I'll have more before you know it! LOL

Well, enough bragging about my little ones how about I move on with the news?

## ~~~BOOK NEWS~~~

My publisher, *Resplendence Publishing*, has made a major announcement!

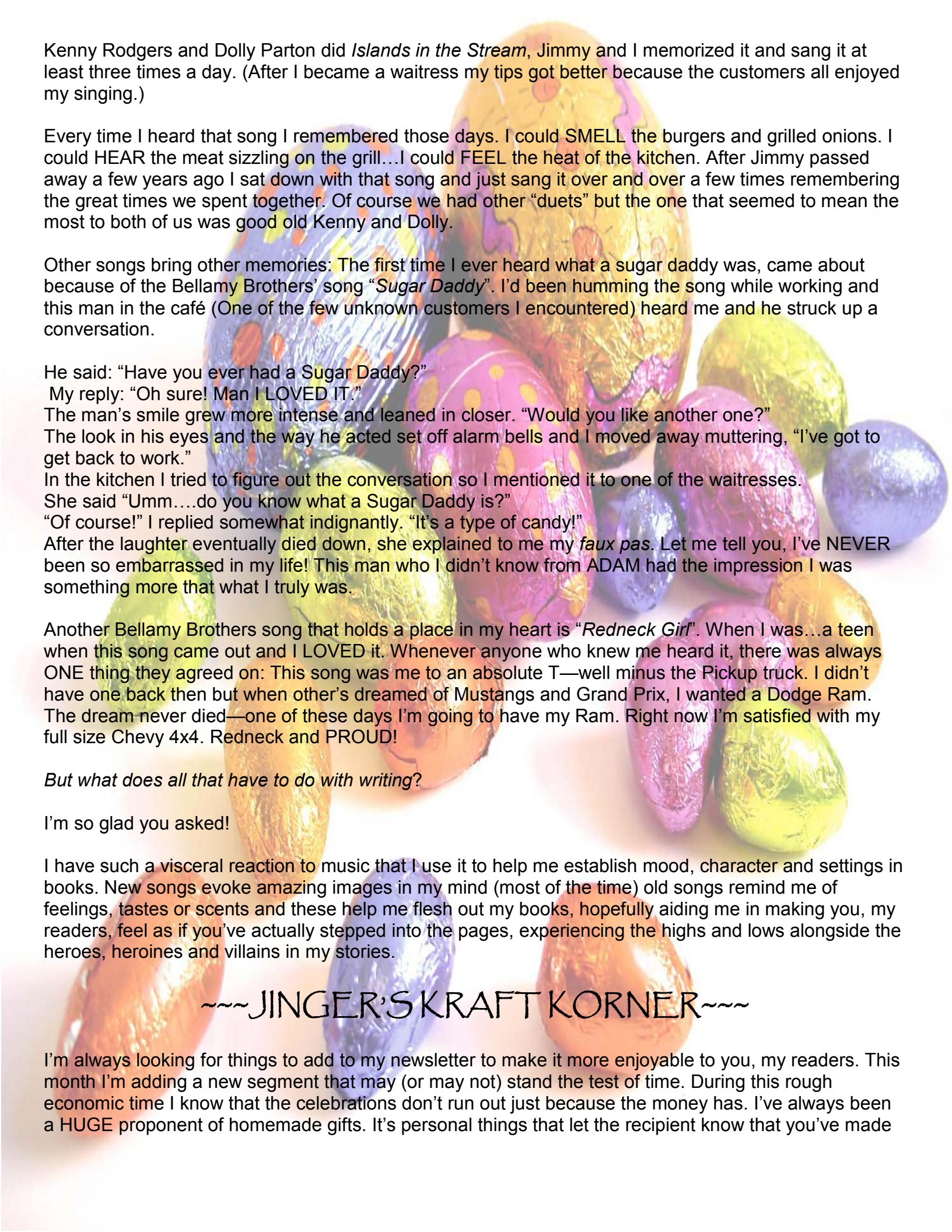
NOW **Beyond Death** (as well as ALL of their print titles) IS AVAILABLE at **BARNES AND NOBLE Bookstores!** Isn't that AWESOME?!?!?!? Next time you're in the store browse the shelf. If you don't see it there, ask one of the employees to order it for you.

**Demon's Fall** is still hovering in the world of floating release dates but we are getting closer! I'm so grateful for the patience while we wait for the release day to finally arrive! I've not done much in the way of writing lately. I truly hope things turn around soon because I'm just about ready to yank out my own hair and scream at the top of my lungs! I need to be creative but right now I feel fairly stifled.

Usually popping in some music has helped but lately that isn't the case. Of course it doesn't help that DD has introduced me to some interesting music. So far it's not helping me write, but it does make me laugh. I've heard of Toby Keith years ago but the songs she's shared are songs I haven't heard before: *I'll Never Smoke Weed With Willy Again* and *The Taliban Song*. HEHEHEHE ! They're great for entertainment purposes, not so great for inspiring me to write.

You know what I've noticed is how strongly music is tied to memories. (Like that segue? LOL) I have always had certain songs that triggered very detailed memories for me: (i.e.) when I was a teenager my first job was working at a little hole in the wall café.

In the beginning I worked only Saturdays first as a dishwasher/busperson then eventually graduated to waitress. There was a man who worked as the cook during my shift. He was AMAZING. I mean just the sweetest man in the world. He and I passed the day by singing to and with each other. The year that



Kenny Rodgers and Dolly Parton did *Islands in the Stream*, Jimmy and I memorized it and sang it at least three times a day. (After I became a waitress my tips got better because the customers all enjoyed my singing.)

Every time I heard that song I remembered those days. I could SMELL the burgers and grilled onions. I could HEAR the meat sizzling on the grill...I could FEEL the heat of the kitchen. After Jimmy passed away a few years ago I sat down with that song and just sang it over and over a few times remembering the great times we spent together. Of course we had other “duets” but the one that seemed to mean the most to both of us was good old Kenny and Dolly.

Other songs bring other memories: The first time I ever heard what a sugar daddy was, came about because of the Bellamy Brothers’ song “*Sugar Daddy*”. I’d been humming the song while working and this man in the café (One of the few unknown customers I encountered) heard me and he struck up a conversation.

He said: “Have you ever had a Sugar Daddy?”

My reply: “Oh sure! Man I LOVED IT.”

The man’s smile grew more intense and leaned in closer. “Would you like another one?”

The look in his eyes and the way he acted set off alarm bells and I moved away muttering, “I’ve got to get back to work.”

In the kitchen I tried to figure out the conversation so I mentioned it to one of the waitresses.

She said “Umm....do you know what a Sugar Daddy is?”

“Of course!” I replied somewhat indignantly. “It’s a type of candy!”

After the laughter eventually died down, she explained to me my *faux pas*. Let me tell you, I’ve NEVER been so embarrassed in my life! This man who I didn’t know from ADAM had the impression I was something more than what I truly was.

Another Bellamy Brothers song that holds a place in my heart is “*Redneck Girl*”. When I was...a teen when this song came out and I LOVED it. Whenever anyone who knew me heard it, there was always ONE thing they agreed on: This song was me to an absolute T—well minus the Pickup truck. I didn’t have one back then but when other’s dreamed of Mustangs and Grand Prix, I wanted a Dodge Ram. The dream never died—one of these days I’m going to have my Ram. Right now I’m satisfied with my full size Chevy 4x4. Redneck and PROUD!

*But what does all that have to do with writing?*

I’m so glad you asked!

I have such a visceral reaction to music that I use it to help me establish mood, character and settings in books. New songs evoke amazing images in my mind (most of the time) old songs remind me of feelings, tastes or scents and these help me flesh out my books, hopefully aiding me in making you, my readers, feel as if you’ve actually stepped into the pages, experiencing the highs and lows alongside the heroes, heroines and villains in my stories.

## ~~~JINGER’S KRAFT KORNER~~~

I’m always looking for things to add to my newsletter to make it more enjoyable to you, my readers. This month I’m adding a new segment that may (or may not) stand the test of time. During this rough economic time I know that the celebrations don’t run out just because the money has. I’ve always been a HUGE proponent of homemade gifts. It’s personal things that let the recipient know that you’ve made

it JUST for them! ANY one can run into a store and buy something but making it says you put more thought into it.

The graduation season is rapidly approaching and everyone is hunting for the perfect gift for the graduate. I like to give gift baskets. (But I love to make gift baskets for almost every occasion so...) Anyway—what to do for the graduate?

I pick up a nice looking metal tin that is or can be used as a trash can. Inside I put a sheet set on the bottom and then I fill it with the basics. Stationary and envelopes (don't think they're just for the girls! Guys need that too—of course for them I usually create a letterhead logo for the particular guy and print up stationary that way) I also include pens usually a pack of each color, red, blue and black, some pencils, a stapler set, and other odds and ends—gift certificates with no expiration to fast food places, theaters or movie rental places and bags of microwave popcorn and some other little snack items. I also enclose a stack of single subject spiral notebooks just to get them started you know?

After I've got it filled with the items of your choice, depending on the size of the container, I place it inside a pillowcase that matches the sheet set then I tie the pillowcase with a ribbon and that's how I present the gift to the graduate. Now I know that it sounds like I spend a great deal of money and that's not really the case. Back to school sales, dollar stores, yard sales, Goodwill, any of those places are great and can provide a lot of what you're looking for.

## ~~~STERLING WAYNE GORDAN~~~



## ~~~IN CLOSING~~~

I want to thank y'all for once more sharing time out of your month with me! It means a lot that you're hanging about and reading the newsletters with interest.

The rest of April and into May is going to be a truly busy time for me. With the new baby, Easter plans to tend to, then it's onto COUNTDOWN TO GRADUATION in May.

HAPPY EASTER and may y'all enjoy peace, health and joy this month and the rest of the year through!

Hugz  
JJ