

Dear Archer Mayor,

I just finished re-reading all 33, plus two short stories, taking my time for about two years. Thank you and congratulations on your body of work. Joe Gunther stands as a monument to American police work, and a tribute to both your research and imagination.

I launched through a thorough re-read in search of Willy and Joe's wild ride past our former Gelting A-Frame on Hobby Hill Road in Newfane. During our brief correspondence roughly 20 years ago, you couldn't recall which book. It's Fruits of the Poisonous Tree 1994 and our heroes' pursuit of Bob Vogel from Jamaica to West Bratt via Hobby Hill and Baker Brook Roads.

An interesting part of tracking down the old books was where they all came from, through interlibrary loan. I live in Minot, North Dakota and our City library has everything after your nimble change in narrative perspective at the point of Sniper's Wife 2008. Here is a partial list of libraries loaning early Archer Mayor books to Minot: Brookings and Rapid City, South Dakota, Bismarck and Fargo, North Dakota and Taneytown, Maryland. I'm an aspiring cheapskate, approaching retirement, else I'd have bought all these.

I'm glad you let Joe's anger loose at the end of Snowblind 2012. The obvious pathos in some of these stories takes its toll. He is an effective negotiator and Gunther's interrogation skills are as good as Lieutenant Porfiry Petrovich in Dostoyevsky's Crime and Punishment 1866.

I heartily congratulate you. We are proud of you and think of you as a native son of Vermont.

Sincerely,

Jack Gelting

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Minot, North Dakota

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