

*There once was a narrator named Janice,
who looked both left and right, like Janus.*

(You know, that Roman God with two heads?

No worries, you pronounce them almost the same.)

*she tries to stay calm, & write with aplomb,
and not say anything too heinous.*

(But if she does, it's not her fault.

We will just blame that Janus character.)

Janice grew up in central Illinois as a 4th-generation farmer. She taught public school music in Indiana and Vermont and, after earning a DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, came to the University of LaVerne, where she was a voice professor and the director of choral music from 1978 to 1983. She made a mid-life career course correction and trained with EF Hutton, becoming a fully registered investment advisor in 1984. After fleeing two companies for malfeasance (EF Hutton and Prudential-Bache) for the next 25 years, she sat at the same desk in the same building on Foothill Boulevard, Claremont's claim to Route 66. During that time, while the financial services industry morphed through various booms and busts, her business card changed from Shearson to Smith Barney to Citibank to Morgan Stanley. Then, she retired and became a writer.

She writes flash auto-fiction. Her pieces are rarely longer than 700 words (hence, the moniker Flash), and although she draws heavily from her life experiences, that's the autobiographical part. She has a vivid imagination and an imperfect memory, so that's the fiction part, as you never know what is the gospel truth and what is embellished for effect, or she simply doesn't want you to know all of her secrets.

[Janice Hoffmann writes Stories by Janus](#) on [Substack](#) where you can read and/or listen to her read her stories to you. If you subscribe, you will receive a flash feelgood moment in your inbox most Saturdays. She also has written for the Courier for many years, first as a financial advisor, and since 2020 as a free-lance contributor, broaching subjects as whimsical as [The Cost of Digital Notifications](#) or [An Open Letter to the CA Black Bears](#), or as serious as [Appreciating Public Art in Claremont](#) or [Remembering the Windstorm of 2022](#).