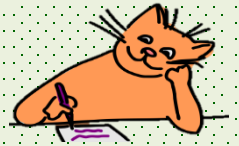




**JAY BRENNER**  
**[HTTPS://AZKATZ.NET/](https://azkatz.net/)**  
**WINTER 2025**



Ever feel like you're in a slump or fell in a rut and just can't seem to get out or up? Thinking about doing something different where scattered thoughts are stuck in a lethargic mind that refuses to squeeze out a creative thought. My characters have gone into hiding, my sleuth work keeps falling between the cracks and when I do finally retrieve, I let it land on the back burner – the one that's holding the promise of finishing another book.

So, in light of it being a brand-new year, I'm not making that resolution I'll most likely not keep – the one where I'm going to get in shape – heck being a little pudgy is a shape, so I'll be keeping mine. (I think this is called reality). Instead, I'll set forth for myself an easier challenge. One that I can take baby steps toward. It's past time to 'get back in the saddle' and go back to doing talks and book signings - a must to put back on my agenda.

The plan is to start with the Ruidoso NM Library in March as well as Carrizozo and Capitan. It's always fun to meet new people and there's no better way to find out what people are reading (yes, I know, romances are still #1). The next challenge is to be available for book clubs – I'd made myself available for this venue just as COVID reared its ugly head and everything came to a halt.

As of January, I'm no longer copy-editing manuscripts, designing interiors or covers. It's great work, but I've found this distraction takes me away from doing my own writing and for a change I'm going to put my writing first. I like it when my characters tell me their stories and use me as the catalyst to tell their tales.

Speaking of telling tales, after I swore I'd never do another trilogy, I've just finished my first draft of *Under the Desert Sun*, which took way too long to write. This will be number two in my White Sands murder mysteries. (I'm blaming COVID for distracting me for three years). Although I'm waiting for input from those who are kind enough to read my draft and give me opinions, it seems number three is calling. This is the first time I've broken a "Never say never." Hopefully it won't take three years to finish *Under the Desert Moon*!

May all of your days bring you good health, new friends, and peaceful days.

Hasta la próxima,  
Jay